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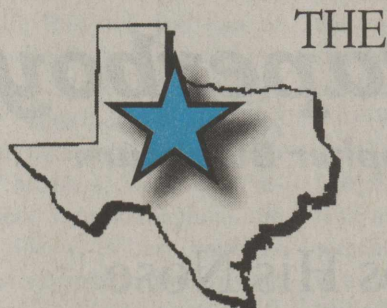


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# THE KNOX COUNTY NEWS

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8 PAGES PLUS INSERTS  
 VOLUME XXXVIII

KNOX COUNTY, TEXAS  
 THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2009

75 CENTS  
 NUMBER 32

## Megan Suarez is Sworn In as County Attorney For Knox County

By Tamara Smart

Last Tuesday, May 26, 2009, Megan Suarez became the official County Attorney for the Knox County. The name "Megan Suarez" may already look familiar to many citizens in Knox County, though.

Many may recall that after the last County election in November, when Bobby Burnett was re-elected, he promptly announced his retirement from this position which he had held for many years. He felt it was time to let a younger person take the reigns and in being re-elected and announcing his future retirement, Burnett was able to get the Commissioners Court to approve hiring an "Assistant County Attorney" who he would be able to mentor as his predecessor through a transitional period. With that, Knox County had the pleasure of meeting and employing Megan Suarez.

Megan is a graduate of Trinity University where she received her undergraduate degrees in Political Science and Spanish, then

went on to achieve her Juris Doctorate degree from Texas Tech Law School. While in Law School, Megan kept her options open. She knew there were many opportunities to practice Law that weren't associated with being in a big office in Dallas... This is how she came to find out about Knox County's needs.

As per requirement to the County Attorney position, Megan had to live in Knox County for 6 months, becoming a legal citizen, before actually being able to become a County Official. When Knox County News enquired about what feelings Ms. Suarez developed concerning Knox County during that trial period, she said with a smile and a nod, she "likes it a lot" and "plans to stay forever" if possible. Working in the Knox County judicial system has been thus far an awesome experience for Ms. Suarez... according to her, everyone works well with each other; from the police troops, to the courthouse proceedings.

How is it that the name "Megan Suarez" is so known from

Munday to Benjamin, though? Megan did not drag her heels as she entered her Assistant County Attorney position (nor has she as THE County Attorney). She was quick to realize that the businesses in Knox are very open, helpful and understanding... which is why hot checks were becoming an issue. Most stores have Megan's county-wide memo displayed near a register in an attempt to thwart the passing of hot checks over their counters. Megan is concerned with protecting locals and seeing to it that individuals "can't take advantage of business owners".

While Ms. Suarez has neither agenda nor vendetta; she does take issues with a few beliefs which she has marked feelings towards. Megan has NO TOLERANCE for domestic violence.

Also, Megan has already started the "Pre-Trial Diversion Program" in Knox County. This is a program through which college

See SUAREZ Page 8

### LOOKING AHEAD

#### G-FORCE

Abundant Life Christian Fellowship will be having G-Force all summer along at the Church. Kids from 4th grade graduates to 8th grade graduates are all encouraged to come and participate in fun, food and fellowship, while learning the amazing and wonderful truth about God and Jesus Christ. Every Wednesday night from about 6 p.m. to 7:30 (we sometimes run late!) For more information call Brandy Wise 940-658-1060 or Tex Cox 940-657-4146.

Knox County Singles and Singles Again will be meeting at the Knox County Aging Center on Friday June 5th at 7p.m. The dress is casual and there will be refreshment and games, along with wonderful fellowship.

Benjamin Ranch Rodeo Fri and Sat June 12th & 13th 7 p.m. & Benefit Donkey Roping to benefit the Benjamin Fire Department on June Sat June 13th, Books at 9 a.m. and the roping begins 10 a.m. Concession stand will be hosted by the Benjamin Senior Class of 2010. Followed by ad Dance Saturday June 13th 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Music by Kody Crouch Band from Abilene Texas, for more information call 256-0074 or 459-2009.



Megan Suarez was officially sworn in as Knox County Attorney May 26



Photo by Tamara Smart

Summer officially hit Knox City as City Pool opened in its annual "Splash Day" on Sunday, May 31. Kids of all ages turned up to enjoy the cool waters as the outside temperature stayed in the mid-90's most of the day. Pool hours for the duration of the summer will be 1pm-5pm Tuesday thru Saturday and 2pm-6pm Sunday (closed Mondays). Although on Splash Day the pool was free to the public, the daily regular admission price is \$2/person over 3 years of age. Season passes can be purchased at \$50 for a single or \$100 for a family season pass.

### Plans Underway for Festival

Plans are underway for the 21st Annual Donald Johnson Memorial Seedless Watermelon Festival to be held July 24th and 25th.

The Knox City Chamber of Commerce is seeking volunteers to help plan, organize and work the festival.

The Chamber Directors are committed to this event, but the question is how committed are you?

This Festival has become a great tradition for both current and former Knox City citizens, but this event takes lots of work, lots of manpower, lots of money, and

lots of sheer determination!

Decisions are being made regarding a parade, do you want one, will you participate, and do we want it on Friday evening or Saturday morning?

Do you have any ideas or suggestions for the Festival weekend? Community participation is needed in order to continue with this great tradition. Please address any comments or thoughts regarding the Festival for this year to the Chamber of Commerce, 658-3442 or any Chamber Director. Last year's festival was bigger and better than ever, and much enjoyed by all. Will there be one this year?

### Houndettes Bound For State Track Meet

After a strong showing at the Class A Regional Track Meet held in Abilene a couple of weeks ago, it is now time for the Houndettes to head to Austin, Texas.

The State Track Meet will be held June 5th and 6th, with the running to begin at 12 Noon on Saturday, June 6th.

The Houndettes will be competing in the 400 Meter Relay against teams from around the different regions in Texas.

These young ladies have inspired and im-

pressed us this season with the dedication and determination they have shown as they climbed their way to success. Show your support of the Houndettes and Hounds by purchasing a State Qualifiers T-Shirt (\$15) from the Superintendent's office on Main Street beginning Thursday, June 4th.

Get your Shirt and see ya in Austin! thank you for your support of me and my girls this year. Best of luck in the future!



The Knox City Band is shown performing in their last performance on the school year May 17 at their Spring Concert at Baker Auditorium.

### KC Pride Band Rests - Dreams of State Victory in their Futures

By Tamara Smart

In a final moment of thunderous applause, the Knox City Pride Band took their last bow for the 2008-2009 school year on Sunday, May 17th at their Spring Concert at Baker Auditorium. This final bow acted as punctuation to an extraordinary year for the KC Pride Band.

This was the band that brought the "Sweepstakes" award back to Knox City after a year without. This award is the result of three "superior" ratings in three different contests in which the band participated throughout the year; three judges per contest, making nine different judges, and nine different "superior" ratings.

These contests consisted of a marching contest in the Fall (the theme of the 2008 marching season was of a "Western" persuasion) and a "sight reading" & "concert" judging in the Spring months. Mr. Tucker, Band director and Jr. High prin-

icipal, said that the "shining moment" for him this year came as the band completed their sight-reading contest.

According to Mr. Tucker, as they finished their sight-reading piece, the whole band knew. They knew that they had just won the much sought-after "Sweepstakes" award.

In reflection about the 2008-2009 year, Mr. Tucker smiles and says, "We had an outstanding year, and we're looking forward to next year."

"Looking forward to next year" may be a little bit of an understatement, though. Already preparing with the theme of "Fall of Troy" by Barry Hurt,

Mr. Tucker can't wait to hit the Marching scene again. This is the year that State competition takes place (which only happens every other year) and Mr. Tucker plans to be ready to compete armed with his army of musicians.

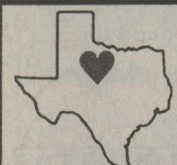
As per UIL guidelines,

Summer Band Camp cannot begin until August 1st; at which time, the KC Pride Band will get together once more and begin learning a whole new musical score and marching routine.

The first football game where a KC Pride Band fan can go cheer them on will be August 28th. The first contest on the path to the "State" level Marching Band contest is October 17th.

Yet, a fan does not have to wait until the end of the summer to start supporting next year's band. They are currently selling Band calendars which must be pre-ordered and are already marked with all the athletic events and band events for Knox City in the 2009-2010 year (and even feature a picture of the band on the top of the calendar).

To order a calendar, see Mr. Tucker on June 5th in front of Baker Auditorium or call the school.



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# OPINION

## Don't Forget About Pelosi

Just one week ago, Congress top Democrat and Washington's most powerful woman, Nancy Pelosi, was up to her neck in hot water.

Upon getting caught in a boldfaced lie regarding when and how much she knew about the CIA's enhanced interrogations during the Bush administration, Nancy Pelosi scrambled. Her constantly changing stories and alibis, along with her shameless condemnation of the CIA as liars, kept her front and center where she should have been.

And then - with much fanfare - another liberal woman rose up and stole the headlines when Barack Obama took to the podium with Sonia Sotomayor in tow.

With a smile from Mr. Obama and a compelling story from Judge Sotomayor, the nation is captivated and this shiny, new story has filled up the radio waves and occupied TV screens across America. Meanwhile, Nancy Pelosi has become an afterthought.

Although Sonia Sotomayor deserves her share of criticism and intense scrutiny, now is not the time to acquiesce on Nancy Pelosi. As many on the right have noted, Sonia Sotomayor's

looming confirmation to the Supreme Court - much to the dismay of those who look for more than mere "empathy" in their justices - is all but inevitable. Nancy Pelosi's continuing role as Speaker of the House (and second in line for the Presidency, for that matter) is anything but inevitable.

After all, Mrs. Pelosi is precariously teetering on the edge of a political chasm. According to a recent Rasmussen Reports survey, the Speaker's favorability ratings have reached a critical low: a mere 35 percent of Americans approve of how she is doing. On the contrary, 63 percent of Americans view the CIA - the very people whom Mrs. Pelosi has condemned as liars - as favorable.

It's fairly obvious she is on the losing side.

On the brink as she is, all that's needed is a push to displace her from the lofty post of Speaker of the House.

In a climate where conservatives have garnered few victories - disregarding those in California - Nancy Pelosi is low-hanging fruit ripe for picking. Those who dislike the Speaker - 63% of the country, that is - could use the sustenance.

And even if she refuses to be removed from her position as Speaker of House, it certainly would not hurt to keep one of the most powerful, visible, and disliked Washington Democrats in the headlines day after embarrassing day.

Those putting the pressure on Speaker Pelosi must not let off - especially when smelling blood in the water. As ALG News Bureau reported last week, a number of top conservative leaders - including former Attorney General Edwin Meese and Americans for Limited Government President Bill Wilson - signed a letter demanding the Speaker's resignation. As Mr. Wilson said:

"If there is a shred of dignity left in her, she will do the right thing and step down."

The only chance conservatives like Mr. Meese and Mr. Wilson have of getting Nancy Pelosi to step down is by keeping her under the spotlight and in the hot water. They must do what they will with Sotomayor, but neglecting Speaker Pelosi and taking their eye off the ball - especially now that they've got the ball rolling - would be a bad decision.



## The Paperboy

By Christopher Blackburn

### Kim Jong-il Thumbs His Nose

I'm of the opinion that our president, and many of his supporters, actually thought the citizens of the planet would join hands and sing "We Are The World," upon his election.

I've got news for President Obama, the world was full of crazy dictators long before he took office and will be long after he's gone.

So when will his "new diplomacy" take effect? Never? North Korea and Kim Jong-il have shown us several times over the past week that it has no problem displaying the growing military might of that country.

A nuke test, missile launches ... what more do you need? Take a stance for goodness sake! I'm no nuclear physicist, but if you have nuclear weapons, and you have missiles, now throw in a crazy dictator ... the math is pretty easy. Put a nuke on a missile and boom - massive amounts of people are dead and things are looking bleak across the globe.

I think some on the left forget there have been insane people running countries forever. Believe it or not, George W. Bush did not invent dictators. However, he did get one killed (Saddam Hussein) and got another (Muammar al-Gaddafi) to surrender Libya's weapons of mass destruction.

After reading liberal blogs and opinion pieces this weekend, many liberals are shocked that such things can happen under Obama's watch. Talk about rose-colored glasses...

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates says the U.S. is awaiting the outcome of current six-party talks. An American team is traveling this weekend to see if Japan, South Korea, China and Russia can work out a unified approach on how to deal with North Korea.

Knowing the track record of Russia and China, they'll want to take it before the United Nations Security Council where North Korea will once again be sanctioned.

The reality is, being sanctioned by the U.N. is like being grounded for a week by a mom who let's you off the next day. They don't have a leg to stand on because they don't enforce anything. Some of you may be thinking of Blackburn is a war monger. You might be wondering if I'm thinking we should go to war with North Korea.

Of course not. Fact is, North Korea has us and the rest of the globe over a barrel. Money and resources are scarce and few countries would ever take this one by themselves.

So what are the options? What do you think Obama and his team are working up? What would you do?

Negotiations have done very little to curb Kim Jong-il's appetite for destruction. North Korea has a huge army, so an invasion would be extremely messy.

Bombing strategic points of interest would help temporarily, but doesn't get to the root of the problem - Kim Jong-il.

The reality is the U.S., Russia and China must work together to get North Korea, Iran and Venezuela under control. You can get whomever you want involved, but those three countries are crucial because if you can get them on the same page and working together, then that is indeed formidable.

Back it up with some unified force from the three and you'll have dictators all over the world running for cover.

President Obama has his work cut out for him regardless of what he decides to do. One thing is clear though, the silent treatment is not scaring anyone.

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Christopher Blackburn is the president of Blackburn Media Group, owner of this publication. Feel free to comment on The Paperboy at <http://thenewbastion.blogspot.com/>.

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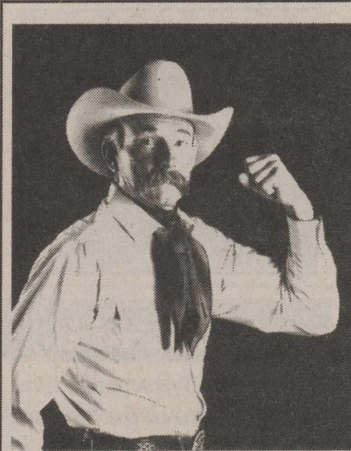
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**ACROSS**

- TXism: "I \_\_\_\_\_" (I declare)
- Robert de \_\_\_\_\_ starred with TX Helmond in "Brazil"
- TXism: "short as an \_\_\_\_\_ eyebrow"
- Pilot Point FM before it was KZMP
- TXism: "slippery as an \_\_\_\_\_"
- fashionable resort
- TXism: "faster than a prairie fire with \_\_\_\_\_ wind"
- Valley acquisition: \_\_\_\_\_ oranges
- TXism: "get while the \_\_\_\_\_ is good"
- TX Triple Crown winner in '46
- Martha, Shirley, or Connie to TX Willie
- TXism for an untidy place
- horse male parent
- TXism: "busier than \_\_\_\_\_-armed cook in a truck stop"
- TX Dale Evans sang "Happy \_\_\_\_\_"
- elec. measurements
- TX Gary Morris' "One Fall Is \_\_\_\_\_ Takes"
- TXism: "if \_\_\_\_\_ he'll crow"
- TX Charley Pride's "(I'm So) Afraid of \_\_\_\_\_"
- Tex-Mex treats
- TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ a windy" (lie)

**DOWN**

- TX "Babe": Mildred \_\_\_\_\_ Didrikson
- this Dian wrote "Cattle Kings of Texas"
- TX Billie \_\_\_\_\_ Estes
- TXism: "rug rats"
- TXism: "hard as putting up \_\_\_\_\_ in a windstorm"
- TXism: "chew \_\_\_\_\_ awhile (think about)"
- this Craven directed TX Lisa Hartman in "Deadly Blessing"
- chews persistently
- this Scala was in "Ride a Crooked Trail" with TX Audie
- April deadline agcy.
- org. for some TX teachers (abbr.)
- TXism: "a dead \_\_\_\_\_"
- TXism: "hotter than \_\_\_\_\_-dollar pistol"
- in Runnels Co. on 83
- where you won't find a nude model at Baylor (2 wds.)
- TXism: "he's always huntin' something to meddle in"
- \_\_\_\_\_ de La Salle led 1st French expedition to TX
- TXism: "hard as \_\_\_\_\_ a tornado"
- rear of the boat
- TXism: "coon's \_\_\_\_\_ (long time)"
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fair"
- TXism: "hotter than \_\_\_\_\_"
- TXism: "you can write \_\_\_\_\_ ink"
- TX Willie wrote "Night \_\_\_\_\_"
- martial art: \_\_\_\_\_ chi chuan
- dir. to Quanah from Post (abbr.)
- showman Barnum
- TX Willie's dad
- bile
- TXism: "fly boys"
- this Moreno went on 6-hour murder rampage in TX ('83)
- TXism: "come hell high water"
- Yo \_\_\_\_\_ Digo Creek
- TXism: "I aim \_\_\_\_\_"
- Bissinger book: "Friday Night Lights"
- TXism: "we're seein' \_\_\_\_\_ eye" (agree)
- TXism for "good-bye"
- TX "tall \_\_\_\_\_" (lies)
- SMU course (abbr.)
- overwhelming defeat
- Astro's leag. (abbr.)
- 49ers city (abbr.)
- TX Ginger's dancing partner Fred
- dog gullets
- TXism: "if he \_\_\_\_\_ dog he wouldn't wag his own tail" (lazy)



## ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

by Baxter Black, DVM

### THE ART OF DRIVING

Most farm kids learn to drive early on. It's part of the responsibility given along with daily chores. They learn to drive from parents or siblings because it makes them more useful on the farm, though it creates some odd occasions. When my daughter was 13 we were having a barbecue at the house. Andy had parked his big 3/4 ton GMC 4x4 pickup with B&W turnover ball in front. We needed it moved.

"Okay if Jennifer moves your truck?" I asked.  
 "Sure," he said, "The keys are in it."  
 "Jennifer, go move Uncle Andy's pickup...put it by the hay barn."

She raced to the big rig and climbed in. I saw her examining the gauges and knobs. Abruptly she jumped out and came running over. "I can't drive it, Dad," she said, "It's an automatic!"

My son has been driving increasingly since he was 10; jeeps, tractors, trucks, etc. Then came time for the driver's license test. He borrowed Mom's Buick Submarine. He flunked the test twice because he couldn't back it into a perpendicular parking space. Apparently, you're not allowed to run over the yellow lines and hit a tree! He finally borrowed Becky's small Chevy and passed the test! On the way home he was jubilant. Mom suggested he gas up Becky's car as a way to thank her. He inserted the nozzle, ran into the store for a Monster pop, returned, jumped behind the wheel and took off...ripping the gasoline hose off at the pump!

"Course, he didn't have Aunt Effie's coaching. Back when I was a teen I was visiting my Okie kinfolks. We'd been to a fiddlin' and they were letting me drive back to the farm. We'd come in their only vehicle, a 1953 Chevrolet long bed pickup.

It was rainin' buckets as we took the back way on the old section line roads, up and down the hollers, then up and down again! Out of exhaustion, I guess, the right side windshield wiper quit working! The lights cut tunnels into the streaming darkness. Aunt Effie was in the middle but nearly on my lap trying to see out the swiping fan of the left wiper! It was like looking through the porthole!

I was barely able to see the road over her staring and pushing to get a better view! She was giving a 'play-by-play' of our location, driving instructions and chances of survival in a never-ending broadcast!

"Aunt Effie," I shouted over the pouring rain, "Can you reach the brakes from there?"

"Bax, honey, you know I can't drive! Bear to the right at the top of the hill! I believe that's the Slaughterville Road!"

## The 501

by Hanaba Munn Welch

Named for the historic FW&D Engine 501, The 501 is always exactly 501 words and dashes long, whatever the topic. Welch, a freelance writer for Blackburn Media Group, divides her time mostly between Abilene and the family farm north of Vernon.

A book on how to write a column, price 70 cents. Why not? Sure, the seller wanted \$3.99 for shipping, but I still couldn't pass it up.

Nothing against the book and its wisdom, but it's a good thing I didn't read it sooner. Otherwise, this 501-word weekly train of thoughts might never have left the station for its first trip to points beyond.

By the book, a columnist is someone who knows something about something and writes about it regularly. So maybe I'm not writing a column after all, and you're not reading one. Hmmm.

Really. Nowhere in the column-writing book did I find a category for this brand of musing unless we humor me and call it humor. But on a scale of one to knee-slapper, I'm a one. When I shove my column under my husband's nose and asked him to read it while I watch the right corner of his mouth for movement, I usually get one twitch. A real humorist could probably make him smile.

Oh well, the book on column writing said everybody wants to be a humorist. Who wants to be what everybody else wants to be? It's too crowded.

Another thought occurred to me. Since my aim is truth, maybe this column is philosophy. In plain old Greek, a philosopher is a "lover of wisdom." How hard can that be, to love wisdom?

So, at the library I checked out a behind-the-scenes tell-all recorded book on the life of a waiter - something else I've always wanted to try and,

in keeping with my aspiration du jour, I chose a recorded book about Baruch, alias Benedict, de Spinoza, 17th-century Portuguese Jewish Dutch philosopher. I popped the Spinoza book into my CD player. An expert explained his logic. I went to sleep. I was driving. That experience made me think I don't have what it takes to be a real philosopher -- not even a Spin-off. (Sorry, but that's level one.)

Maybe I could try waiting tables instead, but the guy who wrote the waiter book already writes a column on that profession. Clever guy. A real columnist.

Back to Spinoza. Right before he put me totally to sleep, a roadside park, alias rest area, appeared. I wheeled in, parked, shielded my eyes from mid-morning sun and snoozed. Not until I heard the gentle rumble of an old 350 engine in a pale yellow Chevrolet pickup did I awake. My best roadside park instincts immediately told me the guy was an ax murderer. They drive old Chevrolet pickups.

I reached quickly for the ignition key to start my own car and flee.

Dead battery. In my philosophy-induced stupor, I had left something on, either the left blinker or Spinoza, and the tired old battery had lost its charge while I slept.

"Got any jumper cables?" I asked the ax murderer.

They were nicer cables than what I would have expected from an ax murderer.

No wonder there's not a name for this kind of column.

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### MUSEUM NEWS

The Wichita Brazos Museum and Cultural Center at Benjamin will celebrate the realization of a dream of many decades with a grand opening on Saturday, June 27, 2009. All persons with a Knox County connection, present or past, are invited to attend.

Pioneer families of Knox County were urging early in the 20th century that a museum be established to preserve the history of Knox County. Hilory Bedford, often called "the father of Knox County" included that call in his book, "Texas Indian Troubles", published in 1905.

With the Texas Governor's establishment of the County Historical Survey committees, in 1964, and the publishing of the Knox County History in 1966, the Knox County Historical Commission took steps which led closer to the building of a museum, by establishing a museum fund.

In 2001, the Friends of the Knox County Historical Commission was organized with the mission of establishing a museum for the preservation of Knox County History. It became the focal point of an intense effort to raise funds and donations of time, skills, and materials for the beautiful 50' x 100' building which will be celebrated on June 27.

The Friends of KCHC operates the museum through a board of 28 directors from all over Knox County. It meets monthly, or more, to ensure that the museum continues to meet its organizational mission- telling of Knox County people and Knox County land, past and present.

The outdoor program on June 27th will begin at 10 A.M., on the north side of the museum building, with Dr. Scott White, Curator of Arts for the National Ranching Heritage Center at Lubbock, TX, as guest speaker. The museum will be closed until after the program, except for an east side entrance for restrooms. Following the program the museum will be open until 5:00P.M. Also following the program, a hamburger meal will be served at the Benjamin Memorial Building by the Benjamin senior class.

## A rose of any color may soon be green

COLLEGE STATION - The rose breeding efforts of two men who met decades ago -- one a horticulturist and the other a hobby gardener -- may join to create more environmentally friendly varieties, according to a Texas AgriLife Research rose scientist.

A large collection of roses from long-time California nursery owner and breeder Ralph Moore may find crosses with rose stock bequeathed to the program from the late Robert E. Basye, whose rose breeding hobby yielded numerous roses now on the market. Basye's collection was given and the chair in rose breeding endowed at Texas A&M University in 2002. Moore donated to Texas A&M's horticulture department more than a year ago.

"About 60 percent of the Moore roses are now growing in our experimental field to see how adaptable they are for humid Texas weather," said Dr. David Byrne, AgriLife Research rose breeder.

"The goal of an environmentally friendly rose is a goal that Ralph Moore has always stressed," Byrne added. "The diverse collection now with AgriLife Research greatly increases the likelihood for such varieties to be developed."

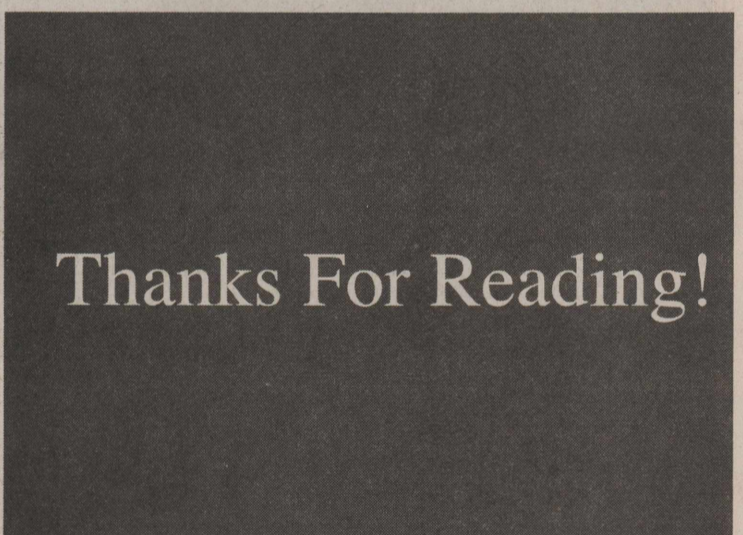
Byrne, who is holder of the Robert E. Basye Endowed Chair in Rose Breeding at Texas A&M, said the Moore collection is a "wonderful match" because the current rose breeding effort stems from Basye's work using wild roses to develop disease-resistant breeding material. Crossing these with Moore roses may provide increased sustainability of garden roses.

Roses have a long-standing reputation for being persnickety in the garden, requiring various special treatments to do well. Byrne said that has changed with the introduction of many varieties that do not require as much fertilizer or pesticides to yield loads of healthy flowers. His breeding program aims at creating varieties that are more suitable for eco-friendly production in home landscapes.

Moore is credited with developing more than 300 varieties of miniature roses from the time he opened his nursery in 1937, according to the American Rose Society. Although he is best known for miniature roses, only about half of his collection were in that category, according to Byrne.

"He did groundbreaking work in developing shrub roses as well as his work to develop striped roses, halo roses, Hulthemia roses, rugosa hybrids, moss roses and crested roses," Byrne said. "He is well-known for his creativity and willingness to share."

Moore, 102, closed his 71-year-old Sequoia Nursery in Visalia, Calif. April 2008. All of his stock - several hundred varieties and 300 rose selections never commercially released - were moved to Greenheart Nursery in Arroyo Grande, Calif. for maintenance and evaluation, said Byrne, who still is collaborating with Moore.



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## Benjamin Vegetable Taste Test Winners Announced

By Tamara Smart

Before the end of the 2008-2009 school year, the student's grades preK-8th at Benjamin School got to receive one last educational seminar on nutrition from David Lindsay, Benjamin Schools Food coordinator. With the help of Modern Way grocery store, and IGA's undying support, David rounded up 15 different vegetables for a blind taste test and took them into all the classrooms for sampling. The colorful list of veggies ranged from celery to poblano peppers, baby carrots to green onions (white onions and red onions were also on the menu), yellow squash to zucchini. The youth also got to taste tomatoes, radishes, eggplant, mushrooms and asparagus.

Like the fruit taste test that Mr. Lindsay conducted earlier in

the year, the children were scored on two factors: they scored one point for bravery in trying a veggie, one point for correctly identifying it. A boy winner and girl winner were announced after two days of vegetable tasting.

The winners were: Dal Everison and Lez'leigh (PreK-Kinder), Abraham and Hallie (1st and 2nd grade), Emily Brown and Brooke Jones tied for the girl winner in 3rd and 4th grade and Benjamin won for the boys, Alyssa Casillas and Elias (5th and 6th grade), and Jonathon Rainwater and Chasity (7th and 8th). Knox City Florist donated a corsage to the winner as well.

Hopefully these kids will take these new flavors and implement them into their healthy diets this summer.

## BRIGHT IDEAS

By Alex Mills

The U.S. Congress is considering a change in the oil and gas tax code that will have a \$20 billion price tag on it over the next four years.

The changes were proposed by President Obama in his proposed 2010 budget. By abolishing seven tax provisions and adding a new excise tax to oil and gas produced in the Gulf of Mexico, he will generate some \$31 billion to pay for research and development of wind and solar energies.

The tax code changes will hurt small, independent producers and leave so-called Big Oil untouched.

Tom Pauken, chairman of the Texas Workforce Commission, said on May 27 that "these massive tax increases would be a job-killer for Texas and a huge setback in our overall efforts to lessen our dependence on foreign oil."

In a study release the day before Pauken's comments, the Texas Alliance of Energy Producers estimated that approximately 70,000 Texans will lose their oil and gas jobs if the tax provisions become law. Currently, 221,200 Texans work in the exploration and production sector of the industry. By the end of Obama's term of office in 2012, only 150,000 would be employed.

"Raising taxes on our domestic energy industry is the worst possible idea at a time when we so badly need to encourage

the creation and preservation of good private-sector jobs here in the United States," Pauken said.

"Besides I thought there was a national consensus in favor of reducing our dependence on unstable sources of foreign oil," he said.

The Alliance study revealed that in 735 million barrels of crude oil will be prematurely plugged resulting in more than \$36 billion going to foreign countries to pay for additional petroleum imports that could have been paid to U.S. producers and enhanced the U.S. economy and paid billions of dollars in taxes to local, state and federal governments.

Additionally, the State of Texas will lose more than \$3 billion in sales, property and severance taxes. The state's Permanent University Fund, which helps fund the University of Texas at Austin system and the Texas A & M system, and the Permanent School Fund, which provides funding for public schools, will lose approximately \$750 million in royalties, lease bonuses and other revenues during the first four years of implementation.

"Overall, the negative economic impact to the State of Texas alone would be about \$20 billion over the next four years," the study noted.

For a complete list of the tax proposals, go to [www.texasalliance.org](http://www.texasalliance.org) and click on "Government Relations" and click on "2010 Tax Proposals."

## Thinking About Welcoming an Exchange Student?

Sharing daily life with a teenager from another country and culture is a rich and rewarding experience, and it's a wonderful way to bring more understanding into the world. If you've ever thought about welcoming an exchange student into your home and family, now's the time to learn more. AFS, the leading international high school student exchange program, needs families in our community to host high school students for an academic year or six months. Students arrive in August.

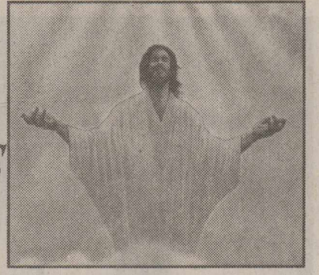
All kinds of families can host—two-parent households with young children or teenagers, single-parent families, families with adopted children, foster parents, as well as couples and single people who do not have children or who have grown children. One of the most important characteristics of a host family is being eager and excited to share your life and activities while providing the same kind of care, support, and

comfort as you would to your own child or family members.

AFS students come from more than 40 countries and represent many different cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds. Local AFS Volunteers enroll students in high school and support students and their families to help both gain the most from their experience. In addition to host families, AFS needs people who are interested in becoming volunteer liaisons to work locally with families and their hosted students. Anyone interested in learning more about hosting or volunteering with AFS should visit [www.afsusa.org/hostfamily](http://www.afsusa.org/hostfamily) or call 1-800-876-2377. AFS Intercultural Programs/USA is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization. The mission of AFS is to work toward a more just and peaceful world by providing international and intercultural learning experiences to individuals, families, schools, and communities through a global volunteer partnership.

## God's Promises

By Jim Reid, Pastor  
O'Brien Baptist Church



There are so many people who feel so alone today. You don't have to be alone to feel alone. People can live separate lives even when they live together. These may be some of the loneliest people. Others who are by themselves feel very alone also.

There are people who feel so weak today. They feel incompetent in their work and without the power to change their situation. They believe there are too many circumstances to overcome for their life to ever be changed for the better.

There are people who feel so unknowing. They seem to never be able to figure out a better way or a way out. They can't seem to get done what is necessary for them to accomplish. They don't understand many things happening in their life; why is it happening and how can I change it?

Knowing God can resolve all the situations above. You can actually see your life completely change for the better when you know God and His person. There are three wonderful attributes to God's character. He is omniscient, He is omnipresent and He is omnipotent.

Omniscience means that God is all knowing; there isn't anything that God doesn't know.

*"You are those who justify themselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God."* (Luke 16: 15 NASB).

Omnipotent means that God is all powerful. There isn't anything or anyone that He can't overcome. *"but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;"* (Acts 1: 8a NASB)

Omnipresence means that God is always present everywhere. You are never out of God's mind, sight and love. *"That the nations may tremble at your presence! When you did awesome things which we did not expect."* (Isaiah 64: 2c-3a NASB)

God's omniscience, omnipotence and omnipresence are for you, so that He may protect you, provide for you and make His ways known for your good. Invite Him into your heart today and let Him reign in your life as your God.

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Sunday Evening Worship at 6:30 p.m. • Mid-Week, Wed. at 6:30 p.m.  
FBC Sunday School, and the worship services at 10:55 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. are telecast live on Classic Cable, channel 6 in Knox City and O'Brien

### FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - Knox City

Timothy Trimble, Pastor  
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No Sunday Evening Service

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"Discovering God's Word" radio broadcast Sunday mornings on AM 1400 The River 8:20 - 8:50 a.m.

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Gary A. Schnable, Pastor  
Sunday Morning Worship at 10:50 a.m.  
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### SANTA ROSA CATHOLIC CHURCH - Knox City

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### LIBERTY COMMUNITY C.O.G.I.C. - Knox City

Gene Ward Jr., Pastor  
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Morning Services - 11 a.m.  
Monday Evening Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

### ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH - Rhineland

Father Charles Gorantla • Deacon Jim Novak  
Monday through Friday mornings, 8 a.m. Mass  
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### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - Benjamin

Sunday School at 10 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 11 a.m.

### FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - Benjamin

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### GILLESPIE BAPTIST CHURCH - Gillespie

Matt Harrington, Pastor  
Sunday School at 10 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 11 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Worship at 6 p.m. • Mid-Week, Wed. at 6 p.m.

### CHURCH OF CHRIST - Benjamin

Bible Study at 9 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 10 a.m.

### THE BELIEVERS' CHAPEL - Highway 222

W.O. Smith, Pastor  
Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. - Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.  
Mid-Week, Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

### O'BRIEN BAPTIST CHURCH - O'Brien

Jim Reid, Pastor  
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 11 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Worship at 6 p.m., Mid-Week, Wed. at 6 p.m.  
Sunday Mornings on KVRP 97.1 at 9:05 a.m.

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Classifieds Get Results

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Garret Smethers is the son of Sandy Stubbs & Gary Smethers of Collinsville, Oklahoma, and the Grandson Romain Day Stubbs & the late Jack Stubbs of Knox City, Texas. Garret graduated May 22, 2009 from Owasso High School. The Commencement Ceromony was held at the Oral Roberts Auditorium in Tulsa Oklahoma, following with a party celebrating his achievements hosted by his parents at their country home in Collinsville, Oklahoma

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# The Classifieds

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2009 Weekly Weather Report

Date	Temperature (F)		Rainfall inches
	Low	High	
05/26	63	88	1.19
05/27	58	81	
05/28	59	89	
05/29	57	87	
05/30	60	89	
05/31	63	91	.13
06/01	63	89	.03
		Total Rainfall	1.35
		2009 Rainfall (ytd)	5.41

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# BENJAMIN NEWS

By Gladene Green

It's been a very long week for everyone as the school year ended for most in the area. Our Jr. High graduation was Thurs night at the Ex-Students building. Four graduates took the step into High School. Matthew Acree was valedictorian with an average of 94+ and Jonathon Rainwater was the salutatorian with an 88+ average. Other graduates were Jonathan Rodriguez & Chasity Tolson. Keith Pierce, a 1978 B.H.S. graduate spoke to the class reminding them the choices made will influence their lives from now on. Supt. Olivia Del Hierro Gloria presented the 2 honor students trophies & Board President Dicky McCanlies assisted her in presenting their diplomas. Ushers were Stran Jackson, Kellen Loftis, Bryston Pearce & Heath Welch.

Proceeding the Jr. High graduation, 5 "kindergartners" graduated into first grade. They gave a short program & sang a couple of songs before receiving their "diplomas". Graduates were Carson Wright, Wesson Ham, Grace Estrada, Madison Barrientez & Leslie Brumley. Shanna Heard is their teacher.

A reception honored all graduates after the program.

On Friday night, seven seniors received their diplomas, also at the Ex-Students Building. Their program was as follows:

Processional- Sean Loftiss  
Invocation- Daniela Rivera  
Salutatory Address- Devon Jones- 4 yr average 95.39

Valedictory Address-  
Brittany Coop- 4 yr average 96.07

Introduction of Speaker-  
Gilbert Nevarez

Address- Gene Gloria  
Presentation of Awards-  
Supt. Olivia Gloria

Presentation of Diplomas-  
Dicky McCanlies

Benediction- Leah  
Vanderpol

Recessional- Sr. Slide Show  
& Rose Presentation

Other than those on the program the other graduates were Tabby Golden, & Dillon Loftiss.

Numerous awards were presented to a number of deserving students for the year- neither absent nor tardy- Caleb Barrientez (3rd grade), Elias Nevarez (5th grade), Matthew Acree (8th grade), Will Moorhouse and Jessica Vanderpol (11th grade). Those students maintaining a 90 or above for the entire school year are as follows:

(1st grade) Jalen Barrientez, Dylan Kuehne; (2nd Grade) McKenzie Gray, Brogan White; (3rd grade) Caleb Barrientez, Brooke Jones; (4th grade) Emily Brown, Devin Harris, Justin Rainwater, Benjamin Vanderpol; (5th grade) Ryan Heard, Elias Nevarez, (8th grade) Matthew Acree; (10th grade) Cody Propps; (11th grade) Chloe Batty, Dylan Benson, Mitchell Ham, Teri Miller, Jacob Siemens, Jessica Vanderpol; (12th grade) Brittany Coop, Devon Jones, Dillon Loftiss, Gilbert Nevarez, Leah Vanderpol.

High GPA Jr High for the year is Matthew Acree (94.29).

High GPA High School for the year is a tie Brittany Coop had 96.5 as did Devon Jones also a 96.5.

Supt. Gloria also recognized members of the National Honor Society- membership is based on service, leadership, scholarship and character. Sr. NHS members are Brittany Coop, Devon Jones, and Leah Vanderpol. The Jr. NHS member is Matthew Acree. Recognized for performance in every category on their TAKS tests were Caleb Barrientez, Brooke Jones, Emily Brown, Benjamin Vanderpol, Katelyn Brown, Ryan Heard, Matthew Acree, & Jessica Vanderpol.

Others who excelled in various areas on the TAKS tests were Cody Propps, Raquel Acevedo, Chloe Strickland, Dylan Benson, Mitchell Ham, Will Moorhouse, Derek Northrup, Jakey Siemens & Roberto Acevedo.

Have had a few with some minor problems but they have been taken care of. Walden Gideon was in Wichita Falls to see his Dr. Wed & got a good report. On Sat had a little "flare up" & was taken to the Knox Co. Hospital but not admitted. Drs. think he had a reaction to some new medicine.

Reports from San Diego are that little Aiden Crinion (son of Danny & Shannon Parker Crinion) is improved. Underwent some surgery Thurs for removal of some fluid build up in his hip socket. Has both legs in casts but hopefully that will be a short-term thing. This little one- 14 months old- has been a mighty sick little boy. Has had high fever off & on for several days but we pray for his progress to continue & solicit your prayers as well.

Misty Bohannon goes back to see her Dr. Tues & hopes she will be released to get back to routine "happenings". She's had a time of it & with 2 little boys, I'm sure she feels a great need to be up doing for them. Think tho, her husband, Lonnie, has made a pretty good Mr. Mom" while she's been down & that's wonderful.

### Here N There

Weekend guests of Chad and Kathy Rainwater & sons & attending Jr. High graduation on Thurs. nite were her mom & sisters, Patti Bufkin & Jessica of Roanoke & Amanda Bufkin of Grapevine & his mom, Mary Rainwater of Nocona & his sister Cathy & little girl, Destiny of Wichita Falls.

Attending graduation on Friday night & visiting their parents, Charles and Linda Griffith & their sister Becky Jones & family were Amy & Vince Tyson & daughters & Lori LaShomb all of Lubbock.

David Clower of Lubbock was a weekend visitor of his mom & sister Debbie & Sara.

Word received today is that Gaye Neal seems somewhat im-

proved. Tho still paralysed, she is showing some signs of thing getting a little better for her. That is good news.

Sympathy to the Skipper Hamilton family. Skipper passed away Wednesday after being burned several weeks ago. His gravesite rites were here on Sat. afternoon.

Visiting Dawn & Brent Vanderpol and family & attending the graduation of their granddaughter & niece, Leah, were his parents Bill and Bonnie Vanderpol of Klamath Falls, Oregon & dawn's parents, Tom & Billie Gilliland of Belton & her daughter & granddaughter Laura Watson & McKayla of Austin.

Dutch Young had a birthday Friday. He turned 80 years old so his family honored him with a family party Sat. nite at their home. Attending were Joy Yancey of Wichita Falls, Mike and Tina Young of Gainesville, Jessica & Anthony Lamb of Wichita Falls, Valerie & Lexie Mendoza of Seymour & Mary & Jack Young, Jane Gideon & Deann Lamb of Benjamin.

On Friday night Mike and Tina attended graduation exercises at Snyder High School. Their grandson, Dustin Brown was one of the graduates.

Olivia Gloria's father, Alfonso Del Hierro of Knox City has been a patient in Knox Co. Hospital several days. He was released on Thurs. and seems to be doing pretty well right now.

Samijo Russell attended commencement in Spur Friday nite. Being a former Spur resident, she had lots of friends graduating.

Think Donnie and Barbara Ryder are finally moved into their recently purchased house here. They had to do a lot of leveling & Re-modeling & it has taken longer than they expected to get it ready for occupancy but they are about there now & glad to be able to slow down some of the running back and forth to

Munday. In case you have forgotten, they brought the house formerly owned by Lucy Wood. We're glad they are over here with us.

Saw Jerry & Pat Lemley Sat. nite. They live in Louisiana & we don't "meet up" much but it's always good to see them. We never forget our childhood friends- They are our treasures!

Christy Flynn on near Chattanooga, TN visited her brother & uncle, Mark Brown & Bud Conner a few days last week. She returned home Wednesday.

One more thing I forgot to mention regarding the graduation program Fri. nite. Special

recognition was given Beckie Jones who has taught math here 10 years but is leaving to "go across the river". When school begins in the fall, Beckie will be the math teacher in Knox City. And folks, our loss is indeed your gain- We'll miss her and wish her well- We know she will do you a fantastic job!

Chance Propps recognized Beckie Fri. nite & presented her with the "problems solved" by covering them with snapshots of her students he had taken throughout the years. A fitting going away gift that I am sure she will always treasure.

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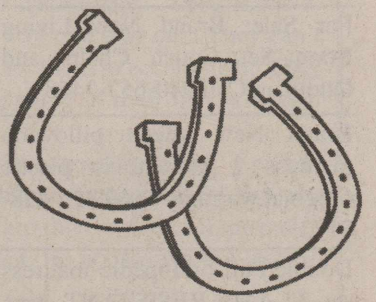
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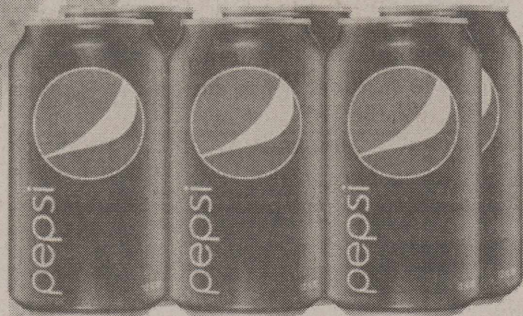
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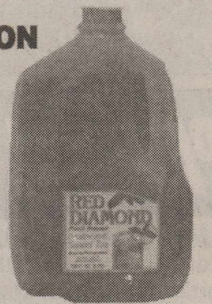
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# AgriLife Research wheat nursery helps identify rust disease issues

CASTROVILLE — Standing as a sentinel for rust issues that can affect wheat from South Texas to Canada is a field nursery operated by Texas AgriLife Research just east of Castroville.

Dr. Jackie Rudd of Amarillo and Dr. Amir Ibrahim of College Station, both AgriLife Research wheat breeders, work with researchers from throughout the Great Plains to test varieties for rust resistance, primarily on wheat.

While Ug99, a new stem

rust causing concern around the world, has garnered the most attention lately, leaf rust is actually with Texas producers every year, Rudd said. It was rated as the top disease affecting wheat statewide in a recent survey of producers.

"What we have here is a multi-state screening nursery for leaf rust, and we hope we don't have to use the same nursery for screening for stem rust, which is a serious disease that we've had a handle on for the past 50 years," Ibrahim said.

Ug99 broke that 50-year resistance record when it first appeared in Africa in 1999. The rust has followed a path predicted by scientists through east Africa and now is in Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Sudan, Yemen and Iran. This has led to concern that it might reach the U.S.

"We don't want to see it at our back doors, so we are developing a plan of action," Ibrahim said. "We have a proactive approach to deal with it."

He said they are working mainly through host-plant resis-

stance and developing lines with good resistance to it.

"We send lines to be tested in Kenya where the disease is," Ibrahim said. "We use molecular markers to screen against it. We have varieties in the pipeline that are resistant to Ug99, and they are under seed increase. So we are ready with those resistant varieties."

He said there also is a need to develop a fungicide application package and a plan of mitigation in case this race comes to Texas and in case that longtime resistance breaks at any time.

Different types of rust diseases attack under different environments in the various wheat growing regions, Rudd said.

For the last 10 years, leaf rust has caused an average of 5 percent yield loss every year in Texas, but it generally doesn't kill the entire crop, he said. It's very important to producers to grow resistant varieties, but it is not devastating in any one year.

Stripe rust is a disease Texas didn't even have until 2001, Rudd said.

"We started seeing it then, and 2003 was a bad year," he said. "In 2005, Texas producers lost almost 15 percent of their wheat crop due to that one disease."

Stem rust can be even more devastating, Rudd said. It's one that doesn't just cause yield reduction, but can destroy entire fields.

The nursery at Castroville is grown to identify varieties with resistance and susceptibility, he said.

Wheat varieties such as TAM 112 do great in the High Plains because that region doesn't get leaf rust every year, but it is not recommended in the rest of Texas because it is susceptible to leaf rust and stripe rust, Rudd said.

"On the other hand, TAM 203 is nice and clean with a very good resistance to all the rusts," he said. "The nursery in South Texas is important because that is how we are able to identify things like that, because every single year there is rust."

The significant thing about South Texas is that often rust that begins there will often move up with the winds and maturity of the crop into northern Texas and into Oklahoma and all the way to Manitoba, Canada within a single season's time, Rudd said.

"So Texas often gets blamed for causing epidemics throughout the Great Plains," he said. "We have to really work hard to keep a high level of resistance in Texas, not only to protect the Texas producers, but the entire Great Plains."

The nursery at Castroville

technology, he said.

"Stem rust demonstrates the on-going battle between breeders and pathogens," Rudd said. "We've had total resistance for the last 50 years, but with Ug99 that has changed. Now we have to change our focus."

"Since we don't have Ug99 in the U.S., we don't have stem rust, so we can't use a nursery like this," he said. "We use molecular markers and send material over to Kenya to screen for resistance, rather than bring the disease here. We don't have it here, and we don't want it here."

## Russell Graves Outdoors Bois d'Arc Creek - Part 1

By Russell A. Graves

I grew up in Northeast Texas on a small patch of rural ground north of Dodd City. Seven miles from town might as well be a million when you are young. Living in the country and going to school in a tiny town never phased me much - I wasn't as restless to break away to a big city as most of the kids and I was perfectly content living a rural lifestyle.

My parent's home lies on the boundary of two distinct Texas ecosystems. To the south is the vast blackland tallgrass prairie and to the north is the post oak savannah. Separating the two is a stream named Bois d'Arc Creek.

Bois d'Arc (pronounced BOW-dark) is a 60-mile long muddy creek surrounded by thousands of acres of old-growth hardwood bottomland trees like ash, huge burr oaks, bois d'arc, hickory, and countless other trees, shrubs, and plants that I've never took the time to identify.

It's interesting how we become connected to a place and how intricate connections become when you take the time to study them. Meaning "bow-wood," Bois d'Arc Creek was after the abundant tree found along the banks of the creek. In the early to mid twentieth century, a cottage industry arose around the creek as people collected the bright green "horse apples," collected the seeds, and then shipped them all over the country for hedgerows and wind breaks. Fast growing and hearty, the tree works well as fence posts, living fence hedges, and as a component of shelterbelts. Every time I pass a shelterbelt around Childress I wonder if the Bois d'Arc trees protecting an overgrown farm field from the wind is a progeny of a tree I've seen back home...

As a boy, day after glorious day, I'd spend time in or around the creek. I can trace everything I know about the outdoors to the blackland bottomlands around Bois d'Arc. I killed my first deer just a couple of hundred yards away from the tributary. I killed my first turkey on the creek's banks. Among the first pictures I ever took were around the creek. I'd fish, camp, raise cattle, hang out with friends, and overall, enjoy a slow-paced rural life on a 250-acre piece of land in which the creek bisected.

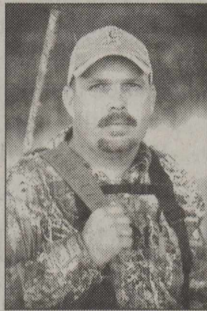
In a few short years, however, it will all be gone.

It seems that the creek is one of the last good spots in northeast Texas in which the North Texas Municipal Water Authority can build a lake. Ultimately, the reservoir will water the Dallas metroplex and associated suburbs. As of this writing, the condemnation process is in full swing and under the eminent domain guidelines, 16,000 acres of old growth hardwood bottomland is being logged and bought and if the schedule holds, flooded under a shallow, muddy water lake by 2016.

I have mixed feelings about the lake. I firmly believe in the maintenance of the economic engine of the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. However, to me it seems to be that water conservation needs to be more of a priority in an area that uses more water per capita than any other metropolitan area in Texas. Building lakes in rural areas around the megalopolis doesn't seem like the answer.

Any questions or comments? Contact Russell at [russell@russellgraves.com](mailto:russell@russellgraves.com) or visit his website at [www.russellgraves.com](http://www.russellgraves.com)

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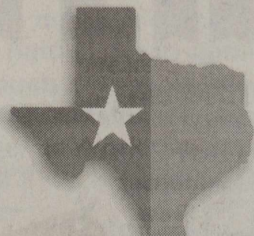


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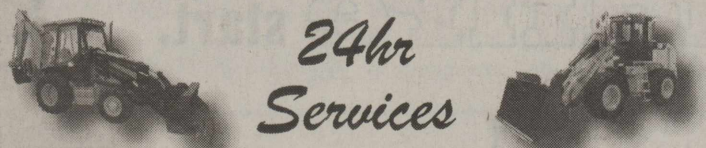
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State Capital HIGHLIGHTS



By Ed Sterling

AUSTIN — Lawmakers spent the last few days of the 140-day 81st regular session of the Texas Legislature maneuvering to get their bills passed before midnight, June 1.

House Democrats ate up enough of the clock with stall tactics to prevent final passage of the Republican-supported "voter ID" bill that originated in the state Senate.

Hundreds of other bills died because of the slowdown, but end-of-session tactical slowdowns are nothing new.

Also, to revive a floundering bill, some members employed the tactic of attaching the bill's language in the form of an amendment to another piece of "germane" legislation. Amendments must be germane to whatever legislation they are attached. That is, they must relate to the general subject of the original proposition of a bill.

Senators and House members did accomplish their most important task. They put the finishing touches on and adopted Senate Bill 1, the state budget for 2010-2011.

The budget, an estimated \$182 billion, gives the Texas Department of Transportation \$17 billion with \$6 billion of that going for new road construction.

Health and human services increases 10 percent and includes funding to improve state schools and centers operated by the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services.

"We've made a historical commitment to assisting our citizens with intellectual disabilities," said Sen. Steve Ogden, chair of the budget-drafting Senate Finance Committee.

"It is significant that we are going, in this budget, to provide the funding necessary to reform our state schools and create many new alternatives, thousands of alternatives, for these most deserving citizens to receive the help and the treatment they need outside of an institutional setting," Ogden said.

The budget gives higher education a 7 percent increase in spending, \$450 million in new funds for cancer research and a 7 percent pay raise for correctional

officers over the next two years. Gov. Rick Perry has the final say. He can sign SB 1 into law as-is, send it back for reconsideration in the final day of the session, or call a special session for a heavy makeover.

Act aids wrongfully imprisoned Gov. Perry on May 27 signed into law HB 1736, the Tim Cole Act, legislation increasing lump sum compensation paid to victims of wrongful imprisonment from \$50,000 to \$80,000 for each year of imprisonment.

The bill also requires the state to make monthly payments to the exonerated individual for life, and pay up to 120 hours of tuition and fees at career centers or state institutions of higher education. Exonerates also qualify for state-provided services to ease re-entry and reintegration into society.

The bill was authored by Rep. Raphael Anchia,

D-Dallas, and sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Robert Duncan, R-Lubbock.

Forty Texas prisoners have been cleared of criminal wrongdoing based on DNA evidence. Dozens of others have been exonerated based on non-DNA evidence.

The bill is named in memory of Timothy Cole, who was serving a 25-year sentence after being wrongfully convicted for the rape of a Texas Tech student in 1985. Cole died in prison in 1999.

D-senators block SBOE nominee Don McLeroy, a Bryan dentist and self-described "creationist," lost his bid to be reappointed as chair of the State Board of Education.

A motion to reappoint him failed to get a needed two-thirds vote in the Texas Senate on May 28. The vote was party line, with 19 Republicans for McLeroy of 11 Democrats against.

Nominated by Gov. Rick Perry, McLeroy served as SBOE chair for two years, beginning in 2007. During his tenure, the board engaged in high-profile discussions over how the subject of evolution should be presented to Texas school children.

Speaker files for second term House Speaker Joe Straus, R-San Antonio, on May 27 filed papers with the Texas Ethics Commission signifying his intention to run for a second term as speaker.

His current term as speaker expires when the 82nd Legislature convenes in 2011.

Rep recovering from heart attack State Rep. Edmund Kuempel, R-Seguin, continues to improve after suffering a May 12 heart attack while at work in the state Capitol. Kuempel, 66, underwent surgery to implant a pacemaker. He has served as a House member since 1983.

SUAREZ

lege kids and younger are afforded another chance after having a run-in with the law. This program is based on the belief that one mistake can foul a persons record, haunting them for a lifetime, possibly preventing that person from employment, scholarships or grants for schooling, etc. Megan decides which offenders are eligible for the Pretrial Diversion Program and contacts them before their court-date. That offender must then provide the Court with an apology for their offense, college transcripts, letter of recommendation, pay some "hefty fines" and then do an allotted amount of community service hours. This is a program that is "hot" in Texas' bigger communities and Ms. Suarez has researched and brought to these smaller townships believing that it can be successful here as well.

Megan has beliefs about her actions as she carries out her position as an attorney as well as beliefs about legislative issues. As the "Knox County" Attorney, Megan's duties are to prosecute crime, advise law enforcement, advise the Commissioner's

Court, and handle civil orders (bail bonds, civil suits, protective orders, etc). Yet, Megan realized that her title is as "Attorney & Counselor". This means that she listens as much as she advises. Her door and her ear are always open to the public, in both her capacities as County Attorney and in her Family and Civil Law private practice. She says it is her duty to "listen when people need to talk and remedy what you can, if you can, with the law."

To meet the newest member of the County Team, one can find her easily. She spends a lot of time in her office on the 2nd floor of the Benjamin Courthouse, or you can call her for your legal needs at (940) 459-2241.

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36 Annual Stamford Art Foundation Preview Party Show And Sale To Be Held June 30

The Stamford Art Foundation is pleased year after year to host the world famous Art Show and Sale with proceeds benefitting the West Texas Rehabilitation Center. The Art Foundation is continually told it is one of the premier events of the area. This year 30 artists will be traveling from all over the great state of Texas to bring quality western art. Artists attending this year are: Barry Arthur, Gary Bailey, Bill Barrick, George Boutwell, Anthony Brown, R. Russell Brown, Garnet Buster, Hugh Campbell, III, Cary Clawson, Jimmy Dyer, Dane Ellsworth, Paul Friske, M. S. Hollis, Shirley Hullum, Mike Irvin, Melissa Kohout, Daniel Maldonado, Steven Napper, Tom Paulson, Doug Prine, Theda Rhea, Paul Cameron Smith, Kathy Tate, Herman Walker, Betty Ward, Gary Ward, Jim Ward, Roy Lee Ward, K. W. Whitley and Andrew Wilks.

The magnificent West Texas sky is the backdrop for the 36th Annual Preview Party Show and Sale held June 30 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the John Selmon Memorial Gallery located at the World Famous Texas Cowboy

Reunion Rodeo grounds in Stamford, Texas. Tickets for the event are \$37.50 each and features a delicious steak din-

Party can be obtained by contacting Dawn Ham, President at 325-773-9094.

Paul Friske, a full time

Painters of America. He shares his talent by teaching art workshops in Abilene and Haskell. The donated pastel is titled "Summer Skies" and is valued at \$1500.

The painting will be available for viewing at the following locations and dates: June 1-5 at American State Bank, 402 Cypress St., Abilene, Texas; June 8-12 at Haskell National Bank, 601 N. 1st, Haskell, Texas; June 15-19 at BBVA Compass Bank, 210 S. Swenson, Stamford, Texas; and June 22-29 at First National Bank, 610 Columbia St., Stamford, Texas.

The painting will also be available for viewing during the Preview Party June 30 and Art Show July 1-4. The tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20 and can be obtained from any Stamford Art Foundation Board Member or at the locations and dates listed above.

The drawing for the art work will be July 4th during the last performance of the Texas Cowboy Reunion Rodeo.

All the proceeds earned from the raffle benefit the West Texas Rehabilitation Center.



ner with "all the trimmings" from Joe Allen's of Abilene, a chance to mingle with the artists; watch the artists complete a painting in one hour for the legendary "Quick Draw Auction" and dance to Gary Miller and the Key West Band. It is always so exciting to have the large extended family gather for that one night each year. Don't miss out! Call early to purchase your tickets! Tickets for the Preview

artist living in Abilene, has donated the raffle painting this year. His art can be seen in galleries, art festivals, and juried shows all over Texas. Paul is a multiple award winning artist with the latest award "Best of Show" at Stars of Texas in Breckenridge. He is currently a Signature Member of the Pastel Society of America, Member of the Outdoor Painters Society and an Associate Member of Oil

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