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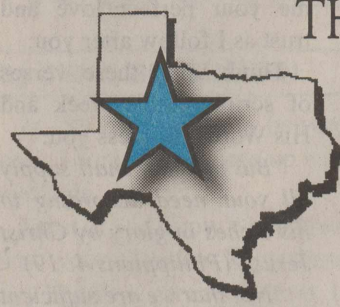
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THE

KNOX COUNTY NEWS

PROUDLY SERVING THE KNOX COUNTY AREA

PAGES PLUS INSERTS
VOLUME XXIX

KNOX COUNTY, TEXAS
THURSDAY, JULY 15, 2010

75 CENTS
NUMBER 38

Knox County saturated with precipitation



A truck traverses through the running water on Canal Street in Knox City after Friday's rain left an official 5 inches of rain on the ground.

Photo by Sid Smart

By Tamara Smart

With two weeks of gloomy weather; this last week, Knox and King counties finally saw the climax of days of ominous clouds and teasing showers. On Wednesday, July 7th, the rain finally began to fall. Although in disturbed patterns, Wednesday only brought half an inch of rain, marking the mere commencement to the build up of flash floods, the

overflowing river, slick dirt roads and mud everywhere that would be seen over the next three days.

Friday was the most profitable in participation, bringing almost 5 inches of straight downpour from the skies (when the wind wasn't blowing erratically from west to east, that is). People from Taylor County northward were warned to stay indoors because of the severe possibilities of flash floods throughout the surrounding 15 counties.

In a period of only 6 days, Knox County officially reported 7.71 inches of rain... 10 inches for the month of July already, and it isn't even halfway over.

This is a far stretch from where the county stood a little over a year ago, when farmers and oilmen alike were tired (and worried) about the super dry conditions. It was only last summer that Knox County commissioners put into effect a "burn ban" county wide because of the severely dry

conditions brought on by the drought.

And although this amount of torrential precipitation might waylay some industries, in Knox it kept some farmers from having to dole out money on costly irrigation post harvest, almost helped the oil field workers stay working, seeing as more than a few men were called into several sites in order to move rigs from the rising river (which is usually pretty shallow, now looks very majestic and full).

The City of Knox was well prepared for the storm, having the drainage ditches cleaned out and ready for a surplus of gushing water. Although Canal Street truly emulated its namesake for several hours on Friday, it wasn't long until that water drained into surrounding country areas and was no longer a hazard to the townsfolk (or those brave enough to be driving through).

The rain finally came to a halt on Sunday, although the mud lingers on. Drivers are

cautioned when navigating muddy dirt roads. Red dirt when it becomes impacted with water to the degree that it has is almost the same consistency as quicksand.

The forecast appears dry for the next week, although another lingering effect of the rains from last week will haunt as well. Humidity is high and the heat index is rising. One can only be left to wonder, if April showers bring May flowers; what do June floods bring?

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Kristi King
Owner/Stylist
Kristikssalon@yahoo.com

Knox City city council decides to take no action on stubbing out cigarettes

By Tamara Smart

For months, the possibility of Knox City becoming a "smoke free" city has been thrown around the City Council table. The issue was first brought to the agenda of the City Council when Cody Pack joined the board. He was concerned about the lack of restaurants and "family atmosphere" in Knox City because of the cloud of smoke that lingered in most places which public gathers.

Soon after the first discussions about Knox City

passing a "Tobacco Burn Ban", the restaurants in town hopped on board before legislation was necessary. Bud's Café and Kathie and Jacks soon put up signs to let their costumers know that they could no longer light up in the establishments.

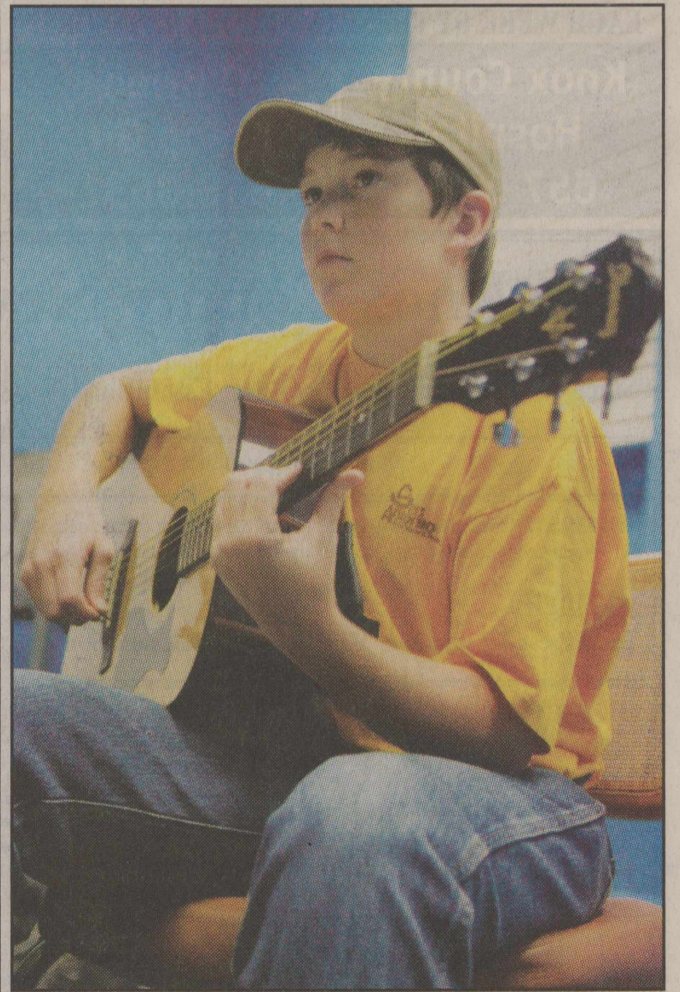
Yet, the council continued with their talks about snubbing out smoking Knox Citizens in public. Legally, to pass such a demanding sanction, a few hoops had to be jumped through, including getting public opinion on the

proposed law. Last month, a referendum was issued and the citizens of Knox City were invited to share their feelings with the council about such a law becoming a reality on this small North West Texas town.

The ballot was widely advertised and the box was open for voting for a week at City Hall.

This last Thursday, July 8, 2010, the box was opened, and the votes were counted. It didn't take long to count

Continued on Page 8



Munday resident Shannon Reeves, beginning guitar student, listens closely to his instructor Monday at the Bobby Boatright Western Swing Music Camp at Goree. Reeves' older sister, Sarah, is taking fiddle. The camp is in its 10th year, but this year marks the first time for the camp to be held at Goree.

Photo by Vikiann Gunter

Story on Page 8

LOOKING AHEAD

The Harvestime Adventure is coming to the United Methodist Church July 18 and 19. Dr. Tom Fuller, evangelist, will focus entirely on evangelism, bringing with his a series of lessons on winning people to Christ by developing relationship and meeting needs, describing principles and programs that can work in any church. All are invited to attend these sessions on Sunday July 18 at 11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. and on Monday, July 19th at

6:30 p.m.

The Knox City First Baptist will host an all summer long program for the youth of Knox. From 10 am until noon, children from 1st to 6th grade are invited to the basement of the church to engage in arts, crafts, story time and life lessons to learn more about God's Love. The basement will reopen on Thursday for the older kids, Jr. High through High School. For more information, call

Jerry or Monette Vincent at 657-3141.

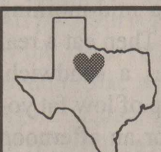
It's time for the Go Kart tract to heat up again with roadsters of all kinds. The next Go Kart race at the Knox City Track will be July 24th.

It's almost Watermelon Festival time again! Mark your calendars for the last weekend in July- The big Watermelon fest day will be July 31st.

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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
 Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m.
 No Sunday Evening Service

ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP - Knox City
 Tex Cox, Pastor
 Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.
 Sunday Evening Classes 5:00 p.m. • Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Prayer Warriors 6:00 p.m.
 "Discovering God's Word" radio broadcast Sunday mornings on AM 1400 The River 8:20 - 8:50 a.m.

FOUR SQUARE CHURCH - Knox City
 Gary A. Schnable, Pastor
 Sunday Morning Worship at 10:50 a.m.
 Sunday Evening Worship at 6 p.m. • Mid-Week, Wed. at 6:30 p.m.
 Mens Prayer Breakfast 6:00 am. Wednesday Morning

SANTA ROSA CATHOLIC CHURCH BILINGUAL - Knox City
 Father Charles Gorantla • Deacon Ben Vasquez
 Sunday Mass at Noon

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
 Saturday Mass at 5 p.m. • Sunday Mass at 10:30 a.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - Benjamin
 Sunday School at 10 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 11 a.m.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - Benjamin
 Timothy Trimble, Pastor
 Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m. • Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.

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.

WEINERT FOURSQUARE CHURCH
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MUNDAY CHURCH OF CHRIST
 Adrian Fletcher, Pastor

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Obituary



Amie Joe Flye, 80, of Knox City, went to be with her Lord and Savior, July 9, 2010. A Funeral Service was held 2:00pm, Tuesday, July 13, 2010 at the First Baptist Church, Knox City.

Burial followed in Knox City Cemetery under the direction of Mansell-Smith

Funeral Home.

Amie Joe was born September 13, 1929 in Benjamin, Texas the daughter of the late Charley Terry and Amie King Terry. She was a member of St. Paul Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents and husband Lewis Flye. Mrs. Amie's Kids are Alexander, William, Jerry, Eddie Bo and wife Glenda, Robert. Ray, Jo Ann, Mary Ann, Adina, Marie, Rena, Verna Dean, Nell and Charlotte "Neice".

She is also survived by a host of grandchildren, great grandchildren and many dear friends.

Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters should be no more than 200 words and can be mailed to the Knox County News 110 N Central Ave, Knox City, TX 79529. Please include your street mailing address (no P.O. boxes), daytime phone number and full name with signature. Our e-mail address is kcnews@valornet.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letter to the editor;

I grew up in KC, as did my mother, grandmother, aunts & uncles and have always been proud of this town. I recently came to kc to visit the cemetery, and what a disgrace it was to me and the people that are there. I realize the weather has been a factor, but this has happened before. If you haven't driven out there, I urge you to and see

how it has been taken care of. I was told that city hall is suppose to be taking care of it, but it looks like they are not doing their job. Go out and take a look for yourself and let city hall know what you think.

Sincerely
 Charlotte Perdue Seay
 2812 Ave W
 Snyder, TX 75901
 325-573-9564

Sheriff's Report

Pursuant to you open Records request, here is a list of those arrested within the indicated time and processed through the Knox County Jail:

July 4th, 2010 through July 12, 2010

Fobbs, Denise
 7/6/10
 Criminal Mischief (M-B)
 Baylor County

Silva, Steven
 7/7/10
 Stalking (F-3)
 Baylor County

Reyes, Raul Jr.
 7/7/10
 MTR/DWI 2nd (M-A)
 Baylor County

Butler, Damon
 7/8/10

DWI 3rd or more (F-3)
 Knox County (arrested in Iowa)

Randall, Ashley
 7/10/10
 10 day hold for
 Rehabilitation Assignment (F-3)
 (Knox County)

Ramirez, Danny
 7/11/10
 Assault/ Family violence (M-A)
 Knox County

Grimes, Clifton
 7/11/10
 Public Intoxication (M-A)
 Drug Paraphernalia (M-A)
 Baylor County

-Submitted by Dean Homstad, Sheriff Knox County

God's Promises

By Jim Reid, Pastor
 O'Brien Baptist Church

Can I trust you? We have that question enter into our lives in many different ways. We may be thinking of a stranger, an employer, or perhaps even a loved one. Trust is a rare attribute today. Trust is truth and truth is not truth if it contains any lie. We all desire to trust and to be trusted. Can we trust God? As a nation we say with all confidence, "in God we trust". What is it that we want when we say, "can I trust you?" We want assurance that whatever we're about to share we can be confident that others will not use it to bring harm or hurt.

Many people are afraid to trust God. God can be trusted every time and with everything! Trusting God is to believe that He knows all things and that He has

complete understanding. We can't know all things and understand all things. When we say that we trust God we're saying, "Jesus take my life and lead me in your wisdom." Teach me to follow after you and show me your perfect love and trust as I follow after you.

Think upon these verses of scripture this week and His Word will bless you.

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4: 19)

"Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God." (II Corinthians 3: 5)

Trust His love today and prove Him to be God. He will provide all your needs and remove all your fears. I pray that you experience the love of God in every way every day.

AgriLife to host food protection management course/exam

Food establishments, permitted by Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and handling, preparing, or serving exposed potentially hazardous foods, must employ a certified food manager. The food manager certification is obtained by passing a DSHS approved certified food manager examination. Texas AgriLife Extension will be hosting a Food Protection Management Course and Exam on **Thursday, August 5, 2010** at the Aspermont Community Center in Aspermont. The course will begin at **8:30 a.m.** and conclude around 4:00 p.m. The state certification exam will be administered immediately following the course.

The Food Certification Training and State Food Manager examination will not be offered again in our

area for at least a year. To participate you must register by **July 20** by completing and submitting a registration form which is available by contacting the Haskell or Kent County Extension Office. Cost of the one day course and exam is \$100. This includes the course, certification examination, coursebook, and all course materials.

For more information or to obtain a registration form contact: Jane Rowan, Haskell County Extension Agent at 940-864-2546 - jrowan@tam.u.edu -or- Shirley Long, Kent County Extension Agent a 806-237-3345 - s-long@tam.u.edu

Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin.

Swimsuit or sweets?

There's nothing like ice cream or popsicles on a hot summer day. Americans love sweets so much that they are less than resolute when it comes to passing them up, despite the potential toll on their summer swimsuit look.

One in five Americans call themselves "failures" when it comes to sweet temptations, according to a survey conducted by the Corn Refiners Association (CRA). In fact, 28 percent refuse to choose between looking trim in a swimsuit and enjoying their favorite foods, according to the study. And 40 percent of the women questioned would opt for less revealing swimsuits rather than give up sweets, while just 35 percent said they would try to cut back on summer treats.

Fortunately, there is a simpler, healthier solution: maintain a healthy lifestyle and enjoy sweets in moderation.

"You can enjoy sweets if you consider your total calorie picture for the day. Think about what you're choosing to eat based on how much physical activity you'll be getting," says Kristine Clark,

Ph.D., R.D., and Director of Sports Nutrition at Penn State University. "Try hard to eat well balanced meals and exercise 30 minutes a day. Then if you feel like a sweet, enjoy it!"

Here are some tips from Dr. Clark on how to have your popsicle and your swimsuit, too:

* Calories always count. Don't think a bite here or there doesn't matter. The calories in "itty bitty bites" could add up to 500 or more, depending on their frequency.

* Sugar is sugar. Since calories count, when you want something sweet, budget for it and enjoy. But remember, no matter where sugar comes from -- corn, cane, beets or bees -- the calories are the same and the body handles these sugars the same.

* Pretend saving calories is saving money. If you don't go out for lunch today you might save money and 500-700 calories. By bringing lunch instead, you control calories, can add more fruits and veggies, and save cash.

* Think of calories in exercise equivalents. For example, if you know eating a second serving of pasta is 400 calories and you also know 400 calories can be burned by walking or jogging four miles, then you might decide not to have the extra serving. You might opt for an extra serving of salad for an exercise cost of only 150 calories or 1.5 miles of walking or jogging.

* Don't starve yourself or under-eat to the point you're grouchy. Eating is important, even when losing weight. Eat sensibly in the morning, allowing for a mid-morning veggie snack. Then eat a real lunch, such as a sandwich, fruit, and a cup of low fat yogurt. Allow for an afternoon fruit snack and always eat dinner.

The Knox County News

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Knox County News welcomes letters to the editor on any subject. All letters must be signed and will be published with the name of the writer. Letters must include an address and telephone number to allow verification. Please keep letters to a reasonable length. The editor reserves the right to edit any letter for any reason and to reject letters for publication for any reason. Letters deemed libelous and/or not for the public good will be rejected. Letters to the editor reflect the opinion of the writer and not necessarily that of The Knox County News.

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The Knox County News reserves the right to reject unsolicited submissions for any reason. Articles and news items submitted are subject to be edited by KCN staff. Article and photo reprints submitted from other publications require the KCN to get permissions from copyright holders and owners. Such articles will be printed in the KCN dependent on time and space requirements.

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The KCN reserves the right to reject unsolicited photographs for any reason. Photographs submitted to the KCN will kept in the KCN office for no longer than one year past the date submitted. Photographs can only be returned to submitter if a self-addressed stamped envelope is provided.

NOTICE

Any erroneous reflection upon the character, reputation or standing of any individual, firm or corporation will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the editor.

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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.

Once in a lifetime everyone should go to one of those Japanese restaurants where charismatic chefs with circus-level skills perform magnificent food tricks right before your eyes, tossing eggs over their shoulders, catching them in their chef's hats, slicing things in mid-air, building volcanoes out of chopped onions and never missing a clever toss. That's how I remember it. I could be wrong. I'd like to see it all again. So would grandson Cutter, age 3.

The Fuji chef experience was a life-changer for him. No, my husband and I didn't take Cutter. His parents have only themselves to blame.

Speaking of blame, if you name a child Cutter, don't be surprised if he shows a natural affinity for knives.

Right now it's a toss-up as to whether Cutter fancies himself to be Iron Man or Iron Chef. Both fit his multiple personality syndrome.

Last night Cutter joined me in the kitchen to help prepare what was supposed to be a simple meal of spaghetti and salad. Amazingly no one got hurt. He tipped over his stool and crashed to the floor at least twice. I lost count. But none of his fingertips and none of mine ended up in the salad. I helped him grate a carrot and cut up a tomato and part of a green pepper. Together we watched the bubbles form on the bottom of the pot as the spaghetti water began to boil.

It's a whole new world when you're 3. And sometimes when you're 63.

After the meal he reverted to chef mode. It

was Grandad's idea that upside-down swim trucks could be his Fuji chef's hat. I myself found the legs a bit disconcerting. Not Cutter. He manned the barbecue grill and served us some impressive chunky mesquite-flavored steaks on the patio. How do I know they tasted like mesquite? They were mesquite.

That's the good thing about playing with a 3-year-old. You don't really have to eat imaginary food. Pretending suffices.

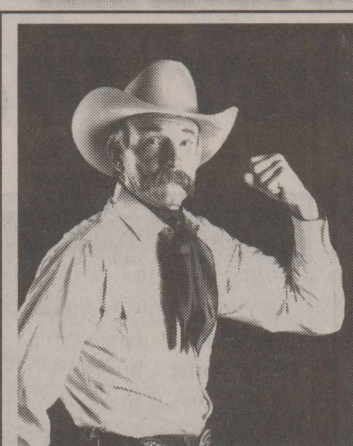
It's good for grandparents to spend time imagining and pretending with grandchildren. When the next stop is old age, a working imagination comes in handy. It's a tough go without one.

Imagine yourself in the rest home. It's a day-in, day-out existence that can be tediously dull. No wonder some residents depend on delusions to spice things up. They imagine someone is stealing their clothes or that they're just there for the night and they'll be leaving the next day. Works for me.

I'm wondering if Cutter will visit me when he's 33 and I'm 93, widowed and living in a place stuffed with Baby Boomers. I may be the only one not hallucinating. After all, I didn't even inhale in the '60s.

But I am counting on a few delusions.

My main concern is whether there'll be half-and-half for my morning coffee. Maybe it'll be time for me to grow up, embrace reality and drink it black. Or maybe not. I really can't think of a worse time to grow up.



ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

by Baxter Black, DVM

4TH OF JULY 2010

What a country! July 4th, Independence Day 2010! As dissent and malaise fill the headlines, and bitter diatribe and blame mongering flood the airwaves, the question we should each ask each ourselves is, "Where would we rather be?"

Would I have a happier life if I took my family and moved to Taiwan? Or Brazil? Or France? I look at the Irish-Americans who celebrate St. Patrick's Day and sing good old Irish songs. But how many O'Malleys and Kellys and Kennedys would repatriate if they could? Wait a minute, they can! But they don't.

African Americans whose ancestors were slaves and are still trying to better their lot, don't dream of returning to Liberia or Somalia or South Africa.

The descendents of Chinese railroad coolies and Japanese internment camp prisoners may honor the old country, but go back? Not on your life!

What about all the Mexican Americans who celebrate Cinco de Mayo and wave the Mexican flag? Do you think for one minute they would switch places with their relatives back in Mazatlan, Michoacán, or Ciudad Juarez?

The answer is No. Neither I, nor the vast majority of Americans who can trace their roots back to faraway places, would give up our precious United States citizenship. Our country is officially 235 years young. In world history we are relative newcomers and the melting pot is still stewing.

As we absorb more Vietnamese, Cubans, Koreans, Ukrainians, Indians, Pakistanis, Iraqis, Chinese, Africans, Irish, Europeans, Kiwis and Mexicans into the Native American base, the flavor of the soup changes. Sometimes it boils over but eventually we become homogenized.

I cannot think of a country that offers more opportunity for individuals to succeed. Just ask any green card Guatemalan strawberry picker, New Delhi medical doctor, Chinese math student, Australian singer or Peruvian sheepherder who is among us. Even during the recession they are pouring across our borders because of what we have to offer...hope.

America stands for freedom. A word that never sounds trite to immigrants. They know its true meaning, the chance to be the best you can be. And to those who have always known freedom, immigrants remind us not to take it for granted. They know America does not guarantee happiness or success. It offers an even greater gift; the freedom to pursue it.

Am I proud to be an American? You better believe it! After all, where else could a cowboy poet make a living telling frivolous stories and writing a silly column for 30 years. That's right friends, this column began July 4, 1980. Only in America. God bless us all.

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KNOX COUNTY AGING SERVICES MENUS FOR JULY 1ST TO JULY 23RD

Monday July 19th Steak Fingers/Gravy Salad Mixed Vegetables Biscuit Fruit Crunch	Thursday July 22nd Meatballs/Macaroni Salad Ranch Style Beans Garlic Toast Cookies
Tuesday July 20th Baked Chicken Pea Salad Glazed Carrots Hot Rolls Cake	Friday July 23rd Bbq On A Bun Cole Slaw Chips Dessert

We could use volunteers!!
New serving time is 12 noon (in Knox city only) alternate desserts for diabetics
Please call in your orders by 10 a.m. To 657-3618 orders cant be taken after 10 a.m. And need to be picked up after 11 a.m.

Legal Notice

MBD Enterprises LLC, 3008 Jacksboro Hwy, Wichita Falls Texas, 76302 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas.

The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Tannehill sand, Burnett Estate lease, Well numbers #18 & 18A. The proposed wells are located 5 miles northwest of Knox City in the Bobby B (Tann) field in Knox County, Texas. Fluid will be injected in strata in the subsurface depth interval from 2255 to 2275 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas. Requests for public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil & Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capital Station, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone: 512/463-6792)

Check us out at knoxcountynews.com

Knox County Market Place

Help Wanted

Brazos Valley Care home is accepting applications for: LICENSED VOCATIONAL NURSES or REGISTERED NURSES. Full and Part-time positions available. Apply in person or call Sandra Logsdon, DON for more information. 605 S. Ave F. Knox City, Texas 79529 (940) 658-3543.

Knox County is accepting applications for Extension Secretary. This position requires good computer skills and proficiency in Microsoft Office. Must have good organization skills, communication skills, and possess good people skills. Applicants must be able to work hours other than 8:00 to 5:00, Monday through Friday. Applicants must have valid Driver's License and MUST pass an extensive background check. Applications may be picked up at the Courthouse in Benjamin in the Extension Office or the Judge's Office. Applications will be accepted until 5:00 PM on July 23, 2010.

Lonesome Dove Transports need experienced Vacuum Truck Drivers Must have Class A CDL + Tanker Endorsement Must be 25+ years old = Good Driving Record Health, Dental, & life Insurance Benefits 60 Day Merit Increase Paid Vacation after one year Cal or Apply in Person at: 1270 State 222 West, Knox City Texas 940-657-4307

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House For Sale

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1103 SE 2nd, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, New AC unite, newly remodeled cedar

closet, storage building, 2 carports, Excellent condition- Available June 1st. Call Diana @ 940-256-2634 for more information.

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• NEW! Nice, brick, country home on 1.48 ac. Storage building and large modern metal barn. Fenced yard with large trees. Possible extra acreage available. 3.5 miles east of Rochester on CR 165.
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Commercial
• Commercial Real Estate and Equipment- Knox City- \$55,000.
• Nice Modern Restaurant, recently built. Also could be used for hunting lodge- Weinert, TX

Miscellaneous

New Business - Vernon Motorcycle & ATV now open in Vernon. Repair all types of motorcycles & ATVs. Factory parts dealer. Located at 304 E. Wilbarger Street in Vernon. (940) 552-0353.

Garage Sale

Moving sale. Friday and Saturday July 16 & 17 starting at 7:30 am both days 904 Grand Central (O'Brien Baptist Church parsonage) Storage House 12x24, Tools-hand/power/yard, Furniture, toys, PS2 Games, Dishes, MUCH MUCH more

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609 S. Ave E: Split Level 4 BR,3 Ba, Brick home. CH/AC, Fireplace, Master Suite, basement, pool, fenced yard, great location!

1109 SE 4th St.: 2BR frame home. CH/AC, Siding, corner lot.

1202 SE 4th St: 2 BR frame home, new roof, steel siding.

604 SE 4th St: 3 BR, 2B, Brick home, CH/AC, garage, great location. Needs work! Make an offer!

501 SE 3rd St.: Large brick home located on corner lot. CH/AC, 2 or 3 BR, 2 ba. Detached garage, fenced yard.

200 South 2nd St.: Large 3BR, 3 Ba, Brick home. This home features 2 master Bedrooms! Walk in Closets, CH/AC, 2 Living areas, fireplace, covered patio, plus size 2 car garage, water well, fenced yard, new paint, lots of space, lots of storage! Great neighborhood.

904 Central Ave: 3Br, 1.5Ba brick home.CH/AC, bonus room, large kitchen, storm shelter.

Grand Central Avenue O'Brien: 1800+/- sq.ft brick home. CH/AC, 2 living areas, 4 BR, 3 Ba, large carport, fenced yard, cellar, great closets!

1101 E Main St: Large commercial bldg, 4000 +/- sq.ft, CH/AC, new roof, lots of parking, kitchen, bathrooms, ADA compliant, and more. Lots of potential for different uses! Ready for occupancy!

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600 +/- Acres Prime Hunting land: Approximately 1 mile of Brazos river frontage, fences, corrals, water well, electricity, good roads and lots of wildlife! Motivated seller!

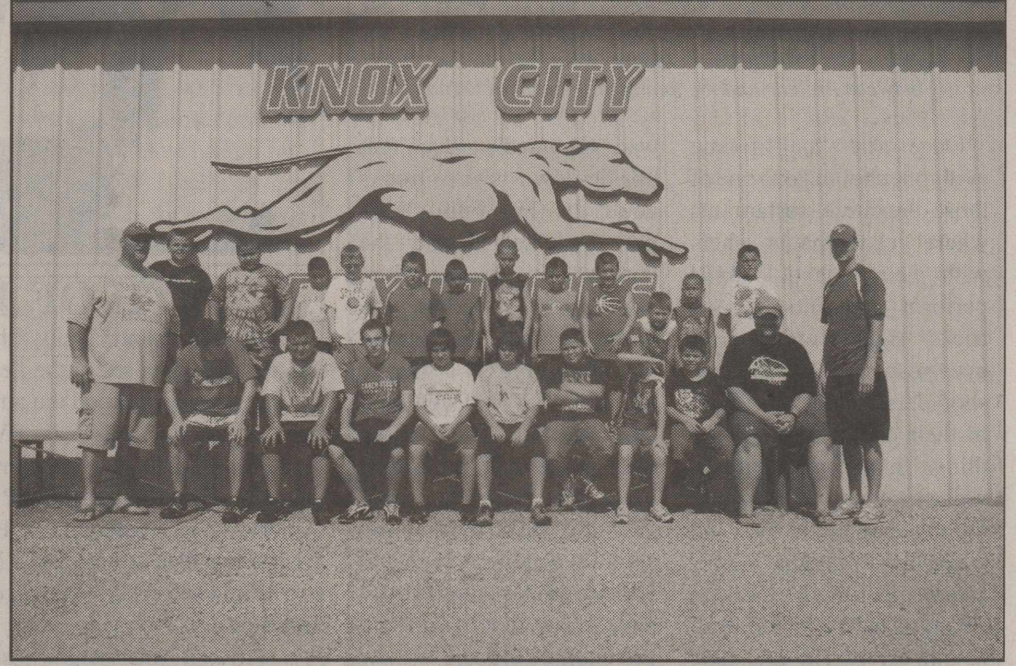
New Listing! 377+/- Acres with Brazos River frontage, Hwy frontage, HUNTING, farm house, some minerals.

Munday, TX: 4 BR, 2 Ba, Metal roof, covered patio, front porch **Contract Pending** water well for the yard, nice storage bldg. \$31,000

New Listing! 1106 SE 2nd Street. 3 BR, 1 Bath home. Central H/AC freshly painted interior, updated bathroom, fenced yard, exterior storage, storm cellar, covered parking. \$27,500.00

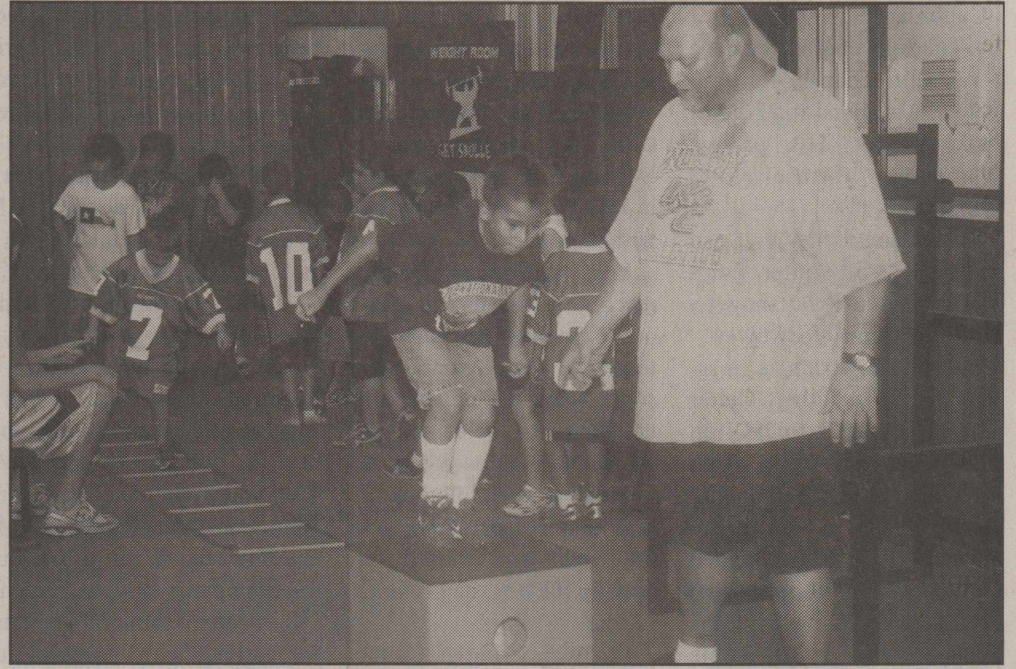
If you would like to place your classified under the Knox County Market Place Please Call 940-657-3142

Greyhound summer football camp



The participants in the 2010 Greyhound Summer football camp held last Wednesday through Friday. The camp was held for first graders through incoming freshman. The participants underwent a boot-camp style crash course over the game of football, ran offense and defense drills, did physical fitness exercises and learned what it was to become a member of the Greyhound football team. Although the scheduled scrimmage on Friday was rained-out, the boys who came out for the camp all left winners, knowing more than they had 3 days prior about the great sport of football.

Photos by Jason Smart



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Hardin-Simmons Announces President's List

ABILENE, TX (07/07/2010) The following students were among the 219 students named to **Hardin-Simmons University** President's List for the Spring 2010 semester. Students on the list carry 12 or more semester hours and have a perfect grade point average. Matthew Brockett of Knox City, Texas. Tiffany Wilde of Knox

City, Texas. For the 18th year, HSU guarantees students a tuition rate that does not increase as long as they maintain full-time enrollment in consecutive fall and spring semesters. HSU provides an academically challenging undergraduate education based on a liberal arts foundation. Combining a

commitment to academic excellence with a concern for the development of the total person, Hardin-Simmons provides *An Education Enlightened by Faith*. With its 14:1 student-to-faculty ratio, students enjoy personal attention as they pursue over 70 fields of undergraduate study, 20 fields of graduate study, and seven pre-professional programs.

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2010 Weekly Weather Report

Date	Temperature (F) Low / High	Rainfall inches
07/05	73/86	.01
07/06	75/93	
07/07	72/92	.48
07/08	71/86	2.18
07/09	71/81	4.80
07/10	74/89	.24
07/11	73/93	
Total Rainfall for month		7.71
2010 Rainfall (ytd)		27.12

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BENJAMIN NEWS

By Gladene Green

Gladene Green
Well, it's been a rainy few days here on the Knox Prairie but it has been everywhere else as well- Not sure of just how much we have had but it has been a lot! And it's cloudy today (Mon). Looks like it could start back anytime. It's nice, but a few days of "dry" would be great at this point- But I've been taught always not to complain about the rain & I guess that's a pretty good rule to follow.

About Our Ill
Jonnie Williams is having some "not so comfortable" days right now. She tires our real easily and just doesn't fell very well but maybe a few days she will begin to feel more like her old self. Someone is with her all the time & that makes it easier for her. Drop her a card and I bet it would cheer her up.

Had a nice visit will Bo Milson on Sat. She returned home from Dallas on Friday after several days there with her son, David, and his family. David had some surgery on Wed. for removal of some nodules on his thyroid. The nodules were benign & that was a relief, indeed, for all of his family. On Wed., this week, he will have 2 heart stints put in, then hopefully if nothing else happens, he will begin chemo in about a month. She says he is doing pretty well- Is in good spirits most of the time which is good for him & his family. Bo's daughter, Kathy Wooley of Spur made the trip to Dallas with her. So also said she enjoyed and appreciated the retirement party given for her by her bosses, co-workers and Friends on Wed., June 30. She retired after 28 years as secretary for the County Extension personnel. Special guests for the party were Bo's children, Kathy, Shane, & David. Her daughter, Kelly, was unable to be here.

Jack Weldon, former resident of Benjamin, now living in Knox City, has been very ill in a Wichita Falls Hospital suffering from viral meningitis. He is home now, and feeling much better- according to family members, he still has a good way to go before he is completely recovered but any improvement now is encouraging. I sure Jack and Kathie would appreciate the well wishes.

Another former resident, Henry Rogers has been quite ill in an Abilene Hospital. He had surgery about 2 weeks ago, but is back at home in Rochester now & doing lots better. His son told me he wouldn't be back "up to par" for 4 or 5 months, tho. I urge everyone to pray for all these friends.

Here N There
Linda and Charles Griffith attended a Ranger baseball game wed. in Arlington. The Rangers won & I think have lost every game since then- We may have to send the Griffiths back to see if things might change. This past weekend, Charles and Linda attended the Griffith reunion in Abilene.

Betty and Roger Bohannon spent last weekend with relatives in Brady- Enjoyed couple of days resting & getting in some fishing, which Roger sure enjoyed. This past weekend they all enjoyed the Jackson reunion. Two days of visiting, eating, more visiting & more eating were enjoyed by those attending. Among the out of town guests here were Joe & Cathy MacDonald of Canyon, Mary Belle Ratliff & her daughter & son-in-law of Llano, Bonnie & Craig Howell, & family who live in Nebraska & Micky Jackson of Munday. Betty said tho the crowd was smaller than usual, they all had a great time.

Nancy McGreger returned home Mon. after several weeks visit with her son Chris & his wife, Nancy, in Germany. Nancy told me about the things she did while there plus a 5 day visit to London, England. Sounds to me like she had a full schedule all the time she was gone & did get to see and so a lot of things. And tho it was fun & the visit with her kids was great, Benjamin surely did look good to her when returned home.

Alex and Kate Roesler & family will be leaving next Sun (18th) for Boston, Massachusetts where they will make their home for a year. Alex has received a National Security Research fellowship to Harvard University. (This has something to do with the Defense Dept, but I'm not exactly sure what it is) but a good opportunity for these young folks so they decided to go with it. Kate and Alex have lived in Albuquerque, N.M. for several years & plan to keep their home there so it will be ready for them in July 2011 when they return.

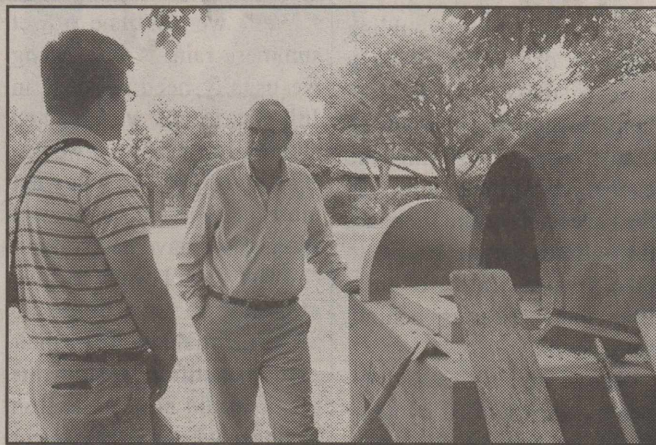
Her sister, Diandra, will be living there while they are away. Kate is the daughter of Ben & Belle Grill. Another couple with ties to Benjamin will be leaving about the same time for Boston where he will be at MIT- Reed & Rene Underwood said Sun. there were sure glad someone they knew from home will be there so they won't feel completely alone. Reed taught English here last year- His parents are CH & Linda. I wish all these folks well in their new surroundings.

And the coach we had here last year is also leaving us. Doug McCollough has accepted a position with the Graford school- We hate to see him go as they were an asset to the community but certainly wish them well as they move on.

Clayton Conner of Lubbock was a Benjamin visitor this week, visiting his mom & her husband, Janet and Gary Reed, his sister, Michelle Barrientez & family & other relatives and friends.

Note: I apologize for errors in spelling and omissions that occur once in a while in this column. Nothing intentional- Just reminds us again, we are all human and make mistakes every now and then.

Three Rivers Foundation making a difference



Dr. Fred Koch (center) discusses the future of Texas towns.

Photo by Hanaba Welch

by Shane Melton

Dr. Fred Koch, pronounced CAW, is a retired medical doctor and businessman. He has a grand vision not just for Quanah, but the entire area. Koch dreams of a region where communities can thrive, not one where communities can disappear just by having a highway built around them- the case in so many of Texas' small towns.

Koch believes that creating new businesses locally is the catalyst for that dream.

"Most of the food that we eat in Quanah comes, on average, from 1,500 miles away," says Koch. "We can teach people to eat healthy, and grow more food in the region."

One thing that interests Dr. Koch is the growing of grapes and olives, due to the rocky soil in the area, which is ideal for the growing of grapes. Koch is using his business knowledge and vision to entice more businesses to the area.

"Small towns' competitive disadvantage is that they're in the boondocks," says Koch. "but their competitive advantage is ... that they're in the boondocks. If we have entertainment and education going on, and places to stay and eat, then we could get people to come. Maybe not for a vacation, but we would like them to come for a long weekend."

"It is absolutely crucial," Koch says, "that we think of ourselves in regional terms."

One of the big draws for the area is Koch's Three Rivers Foundation (3RF) Comanche Springs Astronomy campus.

"We have a billion dollar sky," says Koch. "If Dallas wanted our sky, how much would it cost?"

Comanche Springs, which will be the subject of an article in this series, hosts star parties and other events

throughout the year. It is part of 3RF's goal to expand the sciences and educate young people.

"In grade school you grow beans in a jar to see the roots. In junior high it's mostly reading and in high school, hormones take over and they're just not interested," says Koch. "Our goal is to get more people interested in sciences and education in general. But, it's not enough to just get people interested in education, we want to foster a spirit of entrepreneurship. A true incubator isn't an office and a water fountain."

Koch's vision is to find those people who have talents and can start businesses locally by offering a community network to foster their talents. His Comanche Springs Astronomy camp is still very driven by volunteers. If a volunteer comes in with a specialized talent, the camp uses that talent to its advantage.

One of Koch's other plans is to build community ovens, a practice still used in many European villages.

"Students would run the ovens and donate bread," says Koch. "It's very easy, and would improve the quality of life in our town."

Koch, himself, comes from a background of entrepreneurship. His grandfather came to America from the Netherlands, ending up in Michigan. From Michigan, he moved to Galveston and in 1890- the year the railroad reached Quanah- moved to Quanah and immediately saw a need. He started a newspaper that would stay in Koch's family until 1978, when the Quanah Tribune-Chief was sold to a paper in Vernon.

"The community involvement in the newspaper got me interested in starting 3RF," says Koch.

3RF started out helping the state park with their "Star Walk" events, and eventu-

ally evolved into what it is today. However, Koch says, the Foundation is more about education, and "astronomy is really just the vehicle."

Comanche Springs Astronomy Campus sits on about 700 acres outside of Crowell. Fifty of those acres are fenced off and the campus is starting to take shape. 3RF plans to add more buildings as the camp starts to branch out to other sciences.

"[The land] is not good for wheat, marginal for cattle, but it's fantastic for boy scouts," says Koch.

In today's age of technological progression, it is surprisingly easy for the amateur astronomer to get started. CCD telescopes are revolutionizing astronomy, and the telescopes available to amateurs are very advanced. Koch says that 3RF is not trying to compete with professional astronomers, but that for amateurs they have some impressive instruments. The showpiece of the camp will be a large refractor telescope. During the summer, when stargazers are looking towards the center of our galaxy, the location of Comanche Springs can lead to some magnificent stargazing.

"Most people don't realize the diversity of space," says Koch. "All these stars are different."

3RF also operates a campus in Australia, where Koch spends about half of his year. The Foundation uses the camp to further the training of their personnel and give them a "southern sky experience." Koch hopes that one day the campus at Comanche Springs will offer not only teacher workshops, but student workshops as well. Koch would also like to open a campus in Latin America.

"That's way down the road, but that's the sort of thing that we'd like to do," says Koch. "In our inner cities we have potential Einsteins, Beethovens and Shakespeares."

3RF recently funded a Quanah sixth grade class to go see the King Tut exhibit in Dallas. Koch says that some of the children were more impressed by the Dallas skyline, or eating at the Japanese steakhouse they were taken to.

"Hopefully," says Koch, "some of these kids had the experience of a lifetime."

3RF's goal is to partner up with different places in the area, such as the wildlife

refuges, to expand children's awareness of science.

"I'm old enough to remember Sputnik," says Koch, "and the national panic and what came from that."

Four years ago, Koch attended the International Association of Planetariums biannual meeting in Melbourne, Australia.

"It convinced me of the importance of esthetics in invoking the emotions in sciences to get people interested," Koch says. "I really believe there is a strong overlap."

This led Koch and 3RF to start buying historic buildings in downtown Quanah, restoring them and turning them into places useful for education. The Moses 5 and 10 has now become the 3RF Ballroom. The important thing is that all of the buildings be used for some educational purpose. The Foundation has been able to procure five buildings on one block of downtown Quanah, all in an effort to lure more business to small Quanah.

"Lots of people would probably love to move here," says Koch, "but how do they make a living?"

Koch attributes the success of 3RF to the fact that his management style "consists of staying 10,000 miles

Editor's note:
Three Rivers Foundation for the Arts and Sciences (3RF) is a private foundation that's making a difference in two small West Texas towns -- Crowell and Quanah.

In this issue, an interview with 3RF founder Fred Koch is the first of a Blackburn Media Group series of installments about the foundation and its exemplary impact on the two communities.

In Quanah, home to 3RF Arts and home to Koch, several 3RF-owned buildings in the downtown historic district are in various stages of rehabilitation for various uses in the realm of the arts.

In Crowell, headquarters for 3RF Science, astronomy is at the heart of 3RF activities.

Comanche Springs Astronomy Campus lies amid rugged ranch land west of town, where the dome of the observatory gives a surreal touch to the landscape.

The story of 3RF demonstrates how a private foundation with solid resources and support and a vision can enhance life in small town America.

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Reduce stress in your life **Just Jeff**

You don't have to be a corporate executive or firefighter to get stressed. Stress accumulates from situations at work and home and can lead to destructive behaviors if not recognized and addressed.

Taking the right steps to cut stress can help you navigate life with a more-relaxed bounce in your step. Recognize Symptoms

Many people don't know how to identify stress, which makes it difficult to start the battle against it. Fatigue, loss of appetite and anxiety over social situations are common symptoms that should

be noted. If not handled properly, they can potentially lead to compulsive behaviors, including drug and alcohol abuse.

"We're a society that is swimming in anger, always about to snap," says Leonard Scheff, whose new book, "The Cow in the Parking Lot: A Zen Approach to Overcoming Anger," addresses the issues of stress and anger. "Once we identify our unmet demands, we can dissolve the anger. Once we understand our 'buttons,' we can change what happens when they're pushed." Take Control

One of the troubling aspects of stress is how it can make people feel helpless and beat down. In many cases, mustering the energy to combat stress is the hardest part. But there are little things people can do to take greater control of their lives and leave stress behind, say experts.

Stress can be caused by being overwhelmed by daily tasks. By approaching these tasks in an organized way, you can feel more relaxed. Keep a daily calendar or use lists to jot down tasks and deadlines. Referencing these lists and avoiding procrastination will

Well, we continue a wet summer, rain is something we usually need anytime in July; but I think we have had enough for at least 2 weeks. By August 10th, we will want more of the same cool, wet weather we have had so far.

This week I want to give a thumbs up for people who take time to really make their yards beautiful. To start this off, it would have to be Ron Risinger whose yard is nicer than some golf courses I have played. Ron's yard is edged and is well manicured.

Todd and Missy Lewis have a awesome collection of antiques, windmill, a well-kept yard and plants and shrubs. The secret to the Lewis's yard is the backyard. Todd and Missy have created a complete get away from life when you step out back. They have old signs, a fire hydrant, street signs and, my favorite, an old telephone pole with wire.

Ray Penman his yard is always well-mowed, beautiful grass and landscaped. I walk by his place nightly and I doubt it has ever needed to be mowed. It is always perfect and a great example of the way a yard should be cared for.

Bulldog and his wife Silvia Vasquez have put a ton of work into their yard. They have beautiful plants everywhere, they seem to enjoy working in the yard. They always add something new and every year it seems to expand.

I know I have left out many but those are the ones that stick out in my head.

If I had to give a 1st place for well managed yards, I would give it to The Corley House, a Bed & Breakfast owned by Steve and Kay Pepper. The Pepper's have really made that block set itself apart. With their own home and the B&B, the yard is great they have beautiful flowers and knick-knacks. I love the old wagon and the nighttime lighting. These are the things that really make a town stand up and be noticed. These are the things that our neighbor's notice when they come in for the Watermelon Festival, which takes place annually the last weekend in July. So, citizens of Knox City, let's try in the next 2 weeks to get our town looking as good as possible.

A few notes from City Hall, The City of Knox City has taken over the upkeep

of the cemetery. We are in the process of spraying the weeds and stickers. This task was thrown in the lap of the City years ago. It will take some time but we will get the job done. Any outside help is appreciated. We are also going to step up notices for city ordinance violations for weedy lots and junk. Please, keep your lots mowed and your junk picked up.

Guess what? Two-a-days start in 3 weeks! The Greyhounds are ranked #8 in the preseason poll by Dave Campbell's "The Bible of Texas High School Football". I am ready for some Football. The Hounds return a lot of experience and should be a very solid team this season.

My citizen of the week is Lyndon Baty, I have never meet a young man with as much heart and courage as he has. He has juggled school, sports and band with many hospital visits. Lyndon is a great example of the will to do what you want no matter what.

God Bless you Lyndon and the whole Baty family.

Remember American by the grace of God and Texan by choice!

Knox County hosts first Jury trail in 20 years - 'Lives in Infamy'

By Sheriff Dean Homstad

July 8th was said to be a day that would live in infamy. Well, probably not that extreme, but pretty cool anyway. A jury hearing was scheduled in the Justice of the Peace Court officiated by Vonnie Ivie, Knox County J.O.P. Why would this day go down in history as that of infamy? Well, what happened on July 8th, 2010, something happened that hasn't occurred in, what "old timers say" quite a long time (in this case, 20 years or more).

What started out as just being a hearing, got quite interesting. You see, the sheriff (that being me- and in this case myself and Chris Medoza) were given the task of rounding up 20 citizens off the street to serve as a jury panel. Now, let me tell

you, 20 citizens in Benjamin, being located with enough time to get to the courthouse by 10 a.m. is quite a feat in and of itself, unless there are free coffee and doughnuts offered. Although most said they had something else to do, they went along with the summons and were very lighthearted about the whole thing.

Now, I'm not going to bore you with details of the court trial itself, except to say that it is quite an experience for anyone the first time; and in this case, Justice Ivie did a very good job not to be fooled by some pretty smart cookies (that being the attorneys representing both sides).

Anyway, we started looking to pick volunteers shortly before 8 a.m., Thursday morning, starting at BJ's

Country Store in Benjamin, then went to Penman's Station and finally to the Post Office area. At BJ's store, I found several of our citizens sitting around talking and drinking coffee, and after a friendly conversation, those eligible indicated that they would be willing to do, as Buddy Tolsen said, "Do my duty," and show up for the panel.

Since it had rained nearly everyday for about a week, and was raining on this particular day as well, there was kind of a lull in what can be accomplished in the farming and ranching business, not to say there is nothing to do because there is always something to be done. 20 citizens were summoned from the Benjamin area, with

Continued on Page 8

Come celebrate Eva Flores 80th Birthday
When: Saturday July 17th
Where: St. Isabel Hall-Santa Rosa Church
Time: 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Legal Notice

CITATION BY PUBLICATION - Rule 114 & 101 - Rules of Civil Procedure

CLERK OF THE COURT

Annette Offutt, Clerk
 50th District Clerk
 Box 196
 Benjamin, Texas 79505

Attorney: DAVID W. HAJEK
 50th District Attorney
 Box 508
 Seymour, Texas 76380

THE STATE OF TEXAS

NOTICE TO RESPONDENT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorneys do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of forty two days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you."

To: Miriam Estrada, Respondent, Greeting:

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Petitioner's petition at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. of the first Monday after the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance of this citation, the same being Monday the 16th of AUGUST, 2010, at or before 10 o'clock a.m., before the 50th District Court of Knox County, at the Courthouse in Benjamin, Texas.

Said Plaintiff's Petition was filed on APRIL 8, 2010 in this case, numbered 9300 on the docket of said court, and styled THE STATE OF TEXAS VS. THIRTEEN THOUSAND SIX-HUNDRED FIFTY-THREE DOLLARS (\$13, 653.00)

The names of the parties to the cause are as follows: THE STATE OF TEXAS are Plaintiffs and MIRIAM ESTRADA are Defendants.

A brief statement of the nature of the suit is as follows, to-wit: PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL NOTICE OF SEIZURE AND INTENDED FORFEITURE as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit.

Issued and given under my hand and the Seal of said Court, at office in Benjamin, Texas, on July 2, 2010.

ATTEST: Annette Offutt, District Clerk
 Knox County, Texas

By: Shannon Propps, Deputy
 Shannon Propps



THIS COPY OF POSTING
 WAS POSTED ON
 THE 5 DAY OF JULY 2010
 SHERIFF, KNOX COUNTY, TEXAS

Legal Notice

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
 2010 SEAL COAT STREET IMPROVEMENTS
 CITY OF KNOX CITY, TEXAS

Separate sealed bids for the construction of 2010 Seal Coat Street Improvements will be received by THE CITY OF KNOX CITY, TEXAS, until July 30th, 2010 at 9:00 A.M. at the office of Jacob & Martin, Ltd., 3465 Curry Lane, Abilene, Texas and then publicly opened and read aloud. The project consists of the furnishing of all materials, tools, equipment, transportation, services, labor and superintendence necessary for the seal coat project of certain streets and paved areas for the City of Knox City, Texas.

The Contract Documents, consisting of Advertisement for Bids, Information for Bidders, Bid Proposal, Bid Bond, Contract, Performance and Payment Bonds, General Conditions, Notice of Award, Notice to Proceed, Plans, Specifications, and Addenda (if any) may be examined at the following location:

JACOB & MARTIN, LTD., Consulting Engineers
 3465 Curry Lane, Abilene, Texas 79606

Bids will not be received from contractors who have not obtained original plans and specifications from Jacob & Martin. Bids shall be submitted on original documents and the entire specification book must be returned with bid. No faxes or copies of bid sheets will be accepted.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any or all bids. Bids may be held by the Owner for a period not to exceed 60 days from the date of bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the qualifications of Bidders prior to awarding of the contract.

Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained at the office of JACOB & MARTIN, LTD., located at 3465 Curry Lane, Abilene, Texas 79606 (325/695-1070) upon payment of \$20.00 for half size plans and specifications, (non-refundable). Checks should be made to the order of Jacob & Martin, Ltd.

A certified check or bank draft, payable to the order of Knox City, Texas, negotiable U.S. Government bonds (at par value) or a satisfactory Bid Bond executed by the Bidder and an acceptable surety in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid shall be submitted with each bid.

KNOX CITY, TEXAS

By: Jeff Stanfield
 Mayor

Date: July 12, 2010

OPINION



The Paperboy

Score one for Dad!

By CHRIS BLACKBURN

In the battle of wits between a father and two young sons, I sometimes come up with some decent and effective methods.

Most of you know what it feels like to reach critical mass with your children. Regardless of how we may individually handle a given situation, I think we can all agree that when we reach our boiling point, when we've just HAD IT, rational thought sometimes escape us.

I remember clearly not reading the warning signs and pushing my parents to the brink. I generally paid the price by receiving an abundance of rather swift love pats on my behind via belt, wooden spoon, hand ... whatever was handy. I remember getting spanked with a slingshot on one occasion.

Do I think I was abused as a child? Not at all. My parents were very patient with me and their punishment generally fit the crime and varied depending on the offense I committed.

As a Dad, I was in a situation not long ago where Jackson, 7, and Sutton Hawk, 4, had been instructed to carry out some relatively easy chores involving their playroom.

I checked in on them on occasion, and the results were pitiful. I administered thunderous warnings of their impending doom, but the only action I received was lip service.

Jack is a natural pleaser and has leadership potential. He

loves for Mom and Dad to be proud of him, and it absolutely breaks his heart if he hears, "Son, I'm disappointed in you." That statement pierces his heart, and he rarely hears it as he's a good boy.

Sutton is not as eager to please. He starts to daydream and the next thing you know, he's playing with his imagination running wild. Let's just say the temptation of Star Wars characters and Legos sometimes outweigh Daddy's direct orders. However, Sutton does follow the lead of his older brother.

Back to the situation: As the two continued to piddle around, I could feel my temperature begin to boil. I was reaching critical mass quickly when something occurred to me. I decided to give diplomacy a shot and use psychological warfare on my troops.

I called Jackson in and took him in the bed room. He immediately thought, "Oh man, I'm going to get it!" I could see the look of fear in his big blue eyes.

I dropped down to one knee to I could look at him eye-to-eye. I said, "Jackson, I'm exhausted and I'm sore and I really need your help. I need you to help me get Sutton motivated to get the job done. I need you to be a leader and a coach and prove to me you have what it takes to do this. It's important."

Jackson looked directly at me and said, "Yes sir! You can count on me Dad!" He then ran off to do as I had asked.

Sutton bought into Jackson's plan as his approach was very mature and brotherly. Less than 20 minutes later, the

job was done. They'd been working on it for the previous two hours.

I must admit, I was extremely proud of them. I was also fired up that the technique of talking to Jackson man-to-man and the results it garnered spared an eruption.

I now resort to the same technique more often. Not all of the time, but then again, I don't have to because Jackson knows it pleases me and he's all about that.

Parenting is a tough job. Communicating can be tough as well. I know this first-hand as I occasionally enter my wife's doghouse because there are times when my communication skills mysteriously disappear.

I encourage all of you parents and grandparents to study what makes your kids tick and use those gifts for the betterment of your relationship and family.

If your child is a leader, let them lead. If your child loves praise, help them earn it. If your child gets distracted by fun, make a game out of chores. I'm no expert on parenting, but I know enough to seek the easiest solution to a problem.

The good Lord knows the thankless hours we put in performing our most precious job. He's put us in situations to make a difference for the next generation. Might as well use every tool in the toolbox to accomplish the goal.

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Christopher Blackburn is the president of Blackburn Media Group, owner of this publication.

\$40,000 isn't enough for Scott Nicholson

By ADAM BITELY

A July 6th article in the New York Times should have been an eye opener for those that read it. This article tells the story of Scott Nicholson, a young college graduate from the suburbs of Boston who is unable to land his dream job. If the intent of the article was to make one feel sorry for Scott, or for the millennial generation (18-29 year olds) that is struggling as a whole in the Great Recession, the point was lost on this millennial generation reader.

Scott Nicholson is the epitome of a silver spoon fed child. Unable to find a job he "likes", he relies on his parents' goodwill for survival. While admitting he does the occasional odd job such as fence installation and lawn mowing, he hustles his parents to pay half his monthly rent (a sum of \$1,000) along with his cell phone bill aside from whatever other costs he incurs. His parents pay for this while Scott turns down a job that would have paid \$40,000. Had he been my son, I would have denied his next money request.

A graduate of Colgate College, Scott should have the common sense to get by without having to rely on others footing the bill. But alas, Scott has never known what it

is like to be independent. From his college, to his apartment, it has always been others that have funded Scott's lifestyle.

The millennial generation has been hit especially hard by the recession. Currently, 37 percent are unemployed or are not even seeking work, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. While the economy is bad, and finding a job is even worse, stories such as Scott's only damage the reputation of the millennial generation.

It is the millennial generation that is being relied upon for many important things in society. Many soon-to-be Americans will rely on this generation to fund Social Security. If they are not working, no one is paying in, and thus, no one will receive any payments out.

Also, it is the millennial generation for the most part that is fighting America's wars abroad. The millennial generation is an important part of society, and one that is often overlooked.

I, for one, know the value of independence and hard work. For instance, when I had trouble making ends meet, the last thing I sought was charity from family. I understood that taking a job I didn't like would allow me to make ends meet. And doing so was eventually rewarded richly. The last thing one should do

is turn down jobs that will pay the bills and allow you to save money; specifically you do not turn down a \$40,000 a year job.

Stories such as Scott's are fairly uncommon. No one that I associate with has acted with such unprofessionalism and immaturity. Every person has the power to determine their course in life. Scott has determined that as long as he is being handed everything, he should hold out for the next best offer.

The Scott Nicholson's of society should be looked down upon. These folks exist in all generations. But they are the exception and not the rule. The New York Times would have done better to dedicate its reporter to reporting on the many good things this generation does, not the rotten eggs that seem to become the poster figures of the group.

When jobs are hard to find, the core values of Americans shine through. I know of many folks that are doing jobs that they would consider themselves to be overqualified for. But we are in the middle of a recession and they understand that they are lucky to have employment at all.

After all, we are currently dealing with millions of people that are flocking to this nation to take jobs that pay far less than the one that Scott Nicholson turned down. Clearly

there are plenty of people that believe America is the best place to start a life and find a job, Scott just needs to be mature enough to realize that he will not become the CEO of a major corporation overnight. That dream job he is after only comes after much hard work, if at all.

The key to the American Dream is having a dream and pursuing it. This requires sacrifice, hard work, and a willingness to get your hands dirty.

The entitlement society that gives kids the expectation of a free education that leads to an un-earned "cushy" job without providing hard work along the way is a false hope perpetuated by a society that has taken the understanding that there are winners and losers away from America's youth.

Hard work pays off, even in jobs that are not considered to be "dream jobs". Through that hard work and determination, people end up where they want to. And most of the people in the millennial generation understand that.

Clearly Scott Nicholson believes he is above that, and he has been rewarded exactly as he should — as an unemployed beggar to his parents.

Distorting the Market Never Bodes Well for America

By REBEKAH RAST

The government must have a short-term memory.

In the late 1970s America was in the midst of an oil crisis. It wasn't out of the question for cars to be lined up at service stations for hours waiting to fill up their tanks. In response to this crisis, President Jimmy Carter pushed the government to spend billions of dollars on alternative fuel means like oil shale. As big oil companies began moving out to the northwest in states like Colorado to pursue creating alternative fuel, the market grew. New towns and houses started building up at rapid rates as the job market increased.

What President Carter and the rest of the government didn't expect was for the oil prices to go back down. Oil companies picked up and left these small towns as quickly as they had arrived. Houses were left vacated and towns made into ghost towns overnight. The housing market, job market and economy all took a huge hit.

Oh how history repeats itself.

As America's economy and housing market is still reeling from the financial crisis of 2007, the Obama Administration is throwing money and incentives at companies and individuals to invest in green energy and do it in a hurry.

One such program backed by the White House is PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy). This program encourages homeowners to upgrade their homes with more energy-efficient extras — like solar panels.

This program is backed by the Obama Administration, yet mortgage giants Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, which are run by the federal government, oppose it. It should be clear that this program is flawed when two different parts of the same federal government don't agree. Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, along with its regulator, the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA), say the program is too risky and could cause trouble for all involved.

Because of the way PACE is financed, it

has garnered a lot of support from local governments, green businesses and homeowners. PACE is funded through local counties selling municipal bonds. Loans are then given to homeowners with the repayment tacked on as a property tax, which can then be paid off over the course of 15 to 20 years. This is very beneficial for homeowners who want a solar system for their home, but can't afford the \$30,000 price tag to have one.

"This market distortion caused by the federal government encourages homeowners to take on more debt, which greatly increases the chance of them defaulting on their loan," says Bill Wilson, president for Americans for Limited Government (ALG). "At a time where we are facing an unprecedented housing crisis, this is an absolute wrong solution to the problem."

Gary Gerber, president and CEO of Sun Light & Power and President of CALSEIA (California Solar Energy Industries Association) disagrees. "This is fantastic for customers who can finance over 20 years. It can be a direct swap of payment from your utility bill to your loan."

The problem with this program that mortgage bankers and the FHFA have is the type of loan that is given to these homeowners. Because the loan is added as a property tax it qualifies as a lien loan, which takes precedence over any existing loans you have on your home. If a homeowner were to default on this loan and be forced into foreclosure, the first loan to be paid off would be the lien loan from PACE, then the rest of the mortgage. This creates problems for banks, Realtors and Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae.

"Because this results in a lien against property then that's a legitimate concern," says Lucien Salvant, managing director of public affairs at the National Association of Realtors (NAR). "If there is an attached lien that would result in the slow sale of a home and lenders wouldn't even go near it."

The Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA)

agrees. "While MBA supports energy efficiency in homes and financing for energy efficient improvements, we have concerns with the PACE loan program. We believe the program in its current form presents many obstacles to responsible lending including an absence of proper underwriting and approval processes that could cause borrowers to take out too much debt. In addition, when it is comes to selling the property with an outstanding PACE loan balance on the tax assessment, it will likely prove more difficult to find a buyer who is willing to take on that additional cost," says an MBA spokesperson.

Unlike a sidewalk or street assessment a home might receive, the type of property assessment given by local counties for PACE is voluntary and costly. Mortgage holders like Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac want to make sure that homeowners that are electing to use this program will benefit from it, or at least break even to prevent another crisis.

"This program alters how the private sector does business," says Alfred Pollard, general counsel at FHFA. "Many counties do not have underwriting standards that protect both the banks and homeowners. Some counties don't even ask if the person wanting the loan is employed."

Other counties, like Sonoma County in California, do check homeowners to make sure they are paying utilities bills and other loans properly, says Gerber.

The FHFA is working to create underwriting and consumer protection standards for programs like PACE to let homeowners and lenders know of the rewards and risks involved before they invest in any home energy-efficient incentive program.

"We don't have good national energy retrofit standards," Pollard says. "How do we know what the return will be? We don't have those metrics or standards that allow people to see if putting solar panels on their homes will pay off. We need to develop background tests and data first that the consumers and lenders can

have to make sound decisions."

Garber doesn't think research is needed. He's seen solar systems going up on houses for the past 10 years and knows the savings that are produced. FHFA doesn't argue that making homes more energy efficient is bad thing. Nor do Realtors. Homes that have upgrades like solar panels can push up property values.

The problem lies in the unpredictability of energy costs and homeowners finding themselves upside down in their mortgages. "The government tends to push faster than the market goes," says Edward Pinto, who is currently an independent consultant involved in housing finance, and formerly was the chief credit officer of Fannie Mae. "The government tends to run on autopilot. If something works they say more, if something doesn't work, they say more."

ALG's Wilson agrees and adds, "The government needs to stop picking winners and losers. If this Administration continues to throw money at green energy programs it will hurt businesses, the job market and the economy." Because of the market we are in, it is not wise for homeowners to take out additional loans on their homes. Many lost their homes in the financial crisis and some homeowners are still upside down and paying more for their mortgage payment than what their house is worth. America cannot afford another crisis. History proves that when the government intervenes in the free market it will backfire. There have been enough examples of this in the past. There is no longer an excuse for ignorance for the Obama Administration.

Author's Note: These states have passed legislation approving of the PACE program: California, Oregon, Nevada, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Missouri, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, New York, Vermont and New Hampshire. Only certain counties in each state have launched the program.

JURY

18 actually showing up and six being picked out of that group. One of the panel, who was over the age limit and could have been excused, chose to remain on the panel.

From the first contact with the chosen volunteer to the end of the very long trial, which lasted until around 10 p.m., the air of the Benjamin citizens was light, lots of laughing and kidding around to make the task seem lighter and more interesting. Those 6 that were chosen to sit on the jury did a great job of hanging in there and "Doing their duty" to decide on the issues at hand. My hat is off to the 18

citizens that did show up for the Jury panel, to give up their time on such a short notice to serve and listen to someone else's problems. I am disappointed that the other two that were summoned chose not to be a part of the community, but that is also a choice.

Remember, the definition of a community, in part: a unified body of individuals, the people with common interests, living in a particular area, interacting population, various kinds of individuals in a common location, and so on and so forth. To us Knox County folks- hey- that's us! Thanks to all who participated in this endeavor.

STRESS

make getting through the day easier.

Once you're motivated, you also can start exercising during your down time, another positive way to combat stress.

Prioritizing your goals can help keep you from getting lost in life's small, nagging details. With your goals clearly in sight, you'll be able to shake off the small stuff and use your free time to pursue more relaxing and fulfilling activities, like soaking in the tub or watching the big game with friends.

Transform Anger

One of the most common byproducts of stress is anger. When you're angry, you often act irrationally, which is nearly always damaging in some way - it can even lead to violence. The key isn't to control anger, but to eliminate it by transforming anger into another emotion, says Scheff. "Laughing at ourselves

is a powerful early step in changing angry behavior," says Scheff, who is a practicing Buddhist. "Only you can make yourself angry. You can choose not to get angry in difficult situations."

Many of the outlets that help us relieve stress also help with anger, but the most important thing is to ask yourself "Why am I angry? What do I want that I'm not getting?" Asking and answering that question will immediately set you on a path to calmness. Whether the answer is serious or silly, you've taken a big step to reducing your anger.

For more tips on reducing stress and anger, read "the Cow in the Parking Lot," by Scheff and his co-author, Susan Edmiston.

Everyone suffers from stress, whether you're the head of a household or a major corporation. It's how we deal with it that ultimately can define how much we enjoy our lives.

SMOKING

the votes, seeing as only 20 citizens had felt it prudent to let their opinion be known. The referendum did pass, 14 to 6 (14 people wanting to Ban Smoking in Knox City), but that was not enough turnout for the City Council to take action on.

After the votes were counted and much deliberation, the Council decided to table the issue for now (a legal term for just letting the issue rest and taking no more action in order to get anything resolved). Because all the

local restaurants have decided (without legislation) to turn their businesses into Non Smoking Eateries, continuing talking about and trying to legislate the Non Smoking ban almost seemed like a waste of time to some of the Council members.

So, although the City of Knox City is not officially a Non Smoking town, because of a proposed ban of tobacco smoke, the town is breathing a little easier, tasting food a little better and is now just that much more healthy.



After all the rain, Canal Street was truly a canal through the middle of Knox City.

Photo by Sid Smart



Even after the rain finally stopped (for a moment, at least) the mass quantity of water that fell from the skies left the roads muddy and unpassable in places.

Photo by Sid Smart



Run off from the rainfall this past week puddled up in gullies, giving the usually dry vegetation a huge drink and leaving Knox very green with plant life.

Photo by Sid Smart



The Brazos River usually is no more than a mere stream. This week, though, after a series of flash floods mixed with down pour showers, the Brazos is FULL.

Photo by Sid Smart



The very full Brazos River last Friday afternoon.

Photo by Sid Smart

Thanks for Reading!

Music camps brings swing to Goree

Hanaba Munn Welch Regional Writer

GOREE -- A street dance Saturday night in Goree kicked off a week of lively activities in the little town. From downtown to campus of the old school, the town has been humming day and night to more than the huge compressor at Trainham Ice.

The 10th Annual Western Swing Music Camp, renamed the Bobby Boatright Music Camp this year, kicked off Sunday night with a presentation from Johnny Boatright, brother of the late fiddler, an icon of Western Swing music circles. Boatright talked about his brother's legacy and Western Swing. He categorized the genre as "jazz on combread," a complicated art form that is jazz played with Western instruments and attitude.

Students started classes in earnest on Monday. Beginners to accomplished players, the musicians are studying both fiddle and guitar.

"This music camp is a proving ground for whether we can handle an overnight event, retreat or conference," said Tammie Trainham, catching her breath Monday afternoon in the office of Trainham Ice & Meat. "So far, so good -- so very good."

The school is now the Knox Prairie Events Center.

"Wichita Falls has MPEC," she said. "We have KPEC."

Whether the recently closed school matches the expansive events center in Wichita Falls, 68 miles away, it's working well for Goree and the music camp.

The first event at KPEC was

the Cotton Pickin' Quilt Show in February. It drew over 100 quilt entries and even more viewers.

"It was awesome," said Trainham, wife of Kent Trainham, mayor.

She sees a connection between quilting and the art of playing Western Swing music, a skill that is on the endangered list.

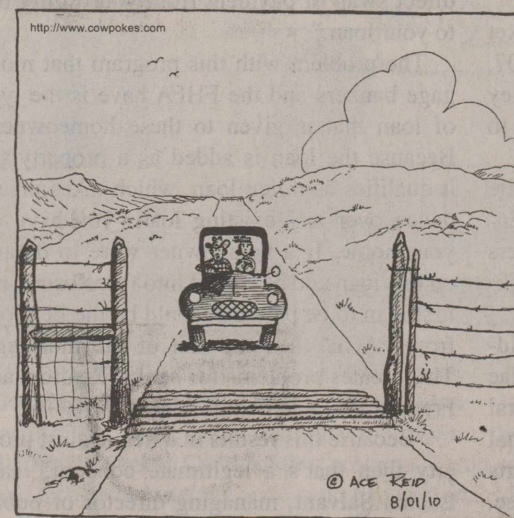
"Once again, people were passionate about an art that's almost withering away," she said.

Trainham is a member of the Knox County Visioning Group, an organization is developing Knox County for heritage tourism. She also works with GGGG, the memorable acronym for Going for Greatness in Goree Group. This week, it's happening.

knoxcountynewsonline.com

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By Ace Reid



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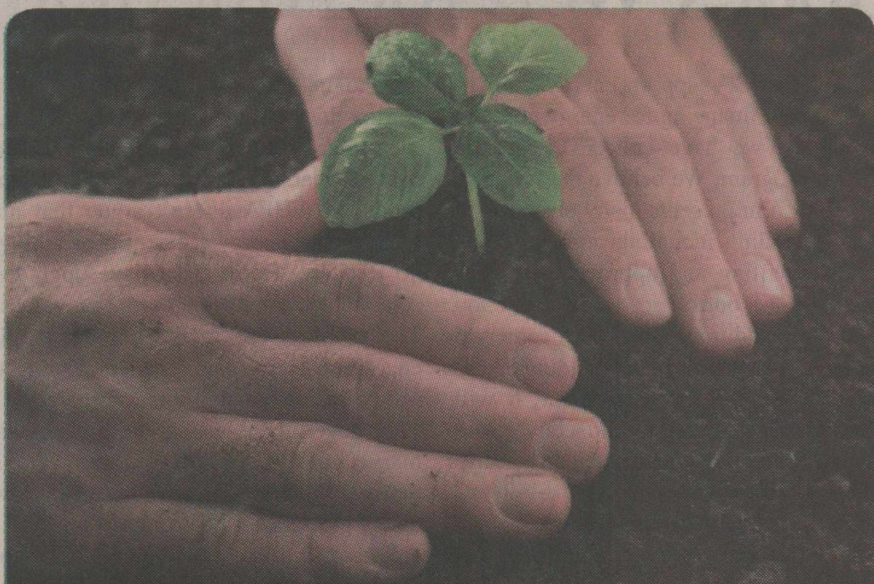
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