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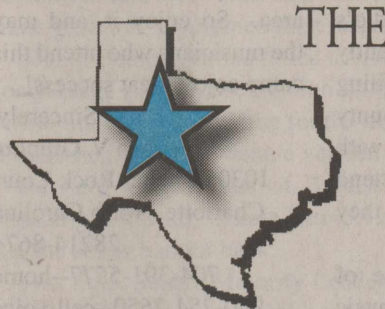
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# THE KNOX COUNTY NEWS

PROUDLY SERVING THE KNOX COUNTY AREA

8 PAGES PLUS INSERTS  
VOLUME XXIX

KNOX COUNTY, TEXAS  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 2010

75 CENTS  
NUMBER 41

## Knox county schools get 2009-10 accountability ratings; KCHS gets 'exemplary' rating

By Tamara smart

Once a year, the 3 school districts that make up the school system in Knox County get that tale-telling rating that lets them know how their students did the school year before on the Tacks. This rating, which is given by the TEA (Texas Education Agency), is extremely important to school districts. According to the TEA website: "The two key responsibilities of the Texas Education Agency are assessing public school students on what they have learned and determining district and school accountability ratings. TEA provides an array of reports based on the results of student testing and other assessments. Another key function of the

agency involves testing and certifying educators to make sure they are prepared to deliver high quality education to the state's schoolchildren." These accountability ratings are based off the student's average of the prior school year's TAKS tests. These ratings can mean the difference of having an accredited school system, being eligible for state funds, or being able to put a sign on their front stoop declaring them "Academic Acceptable, or even better, "Recognized," or the best of all, "Exemplary."

Benjamin Schools yet again were "Recognized" with their scores on the Taks. This is the second year for them to get this honorable rating.

Munday CISD was also "Recognized" in both the Munday Secondary and Munday Elementary, giving their district also a recognized rating.

Knox City made strides, though, in the last year. In 2009, the KC high school was recognized- this year; they have been marked as "Exemplary," which is the highest mark a school can get. The Middle School and the Elementary School were acceptable and recognized (respectively), and the district rated as "Recognized".

For more information on TEA ratings go to <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/perfreport/account/2010/static/AZ.html>

## Knox citizens slice into some excitement at the 22nd Annual Watermelon Fest



Photo by Tamara Smart

By Tamara Smart

The best remedy for a hundred plus temperatures is a nice slice of cool watermelon... followed by homemade ice cream... and a ride of a mini-Ferris Wheel... followed by a stop at a temporary tattoo shop... followed by a free dip in a pool... next, maybe 18 holes of golf... and, of course, then the subsequent need for some more watermelon.

Last Saturday, July 31, that is exactly what most people in Knox City did for not only heat wave fighting intentions, but because it was the 22nd annual Don Johnson Watermelon fest in Knox City.

Every year, for 22 years now, the Knox City Chamber of Commerce has hosted the Seedless Watermelon Festival on the last Saturday in the month of July. Until only a few years ago, the watermelons were grown locally and were a big economic staple in the Knox Community. Now, with the aforementioned watermelon patch no longer a prevailing source of income in Knox, the lasting effect of it's

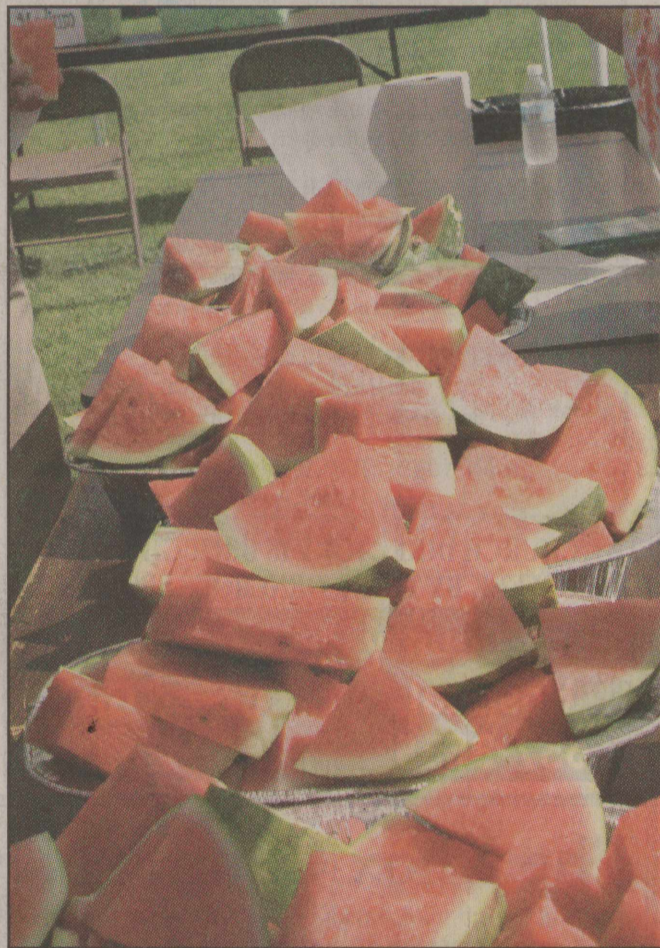


Photo by Tamara Smart

presence for all those years still looms with events like the Watermelon Festival.

Every year, Watermelon Festival weekend kicks off with a parade where

anyone can enter- only one requirement: whatever (or whoever) enters must have a watermelon on them or See WATERMELON on Page 8

## From the county clerk's office

THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF KNOX  
BE IT REMEMBERED  
on the 12th day of July,  
2010, there was conducted a  
REGULAR Meeting of the  
Honorable Commissioners'  
Court of Knox County, Texas,  
at the Courthouse thereof, in

the City of Benjamin, Texas,  
for the purpose of transacting  
any and all business that may  
lawfully be brought before  
the same.

The court met at: present:  
1:38 P.M. On the 12th day of  
July, 2010 County judge  
County clerk

Knox County Judge  
Travis Floyd, called the  
Regular Meeting to order at  
1:38 P.M. Commissioners  
Johnny Birkenfeld, Jimmy  
Urbanczyk, Dan Godsey,  
and Johnny McCown were  
present. Also attending were  
County Attorney Megan  
Suarez, County Clerk  
Annette Offutt, County  
Sheriff Dean Homstad,  
County Treasurer Rosie Ake,  
County Tax Assessor and  
Chief Appraiser Mitzi Welch,  
911 Director Pam Reed and  
County Court Coordinator  
Michelle Esquivel. The Court  
considered the following  
matters as posted and filed  
for Record in the office of the  
County Clerk July 7, 2010.

There were no Public  
Comments.

Commissioner McCown  
made the motion seconded  
by Commissioner Godsey to  
approve the minutes of the  
Regular Meeting held June  
14, 2010. The motion passed  
five to zero.

Commissioner Birkenfeld

made the motion to accept  
the bid of \$100.00 made  
by Jon Wiegand for Parcel  
# 5327, Block 3, West 1/2  
Original Town site City  
of Munday and Parcel #  
12318, Blk 3, East 1/2 Original  
Town site City of Munday,  
Commissioner Godsey  
seconded, all agreed.

Commissioner Godsey  
made the motion to accept  
the bid of \$300.00 made  
by Stephen G and Karen K  
Shahan for Parcel # 6946,  
Block 114, South 1/2 of Lot  
10, Reeves & Musser, City  
of Munday, Commissioner  
Urbanczyk seconded, all  
agreed.

Commissioner Urbanczyk  
made the motion seconded  
by Commissioner Birkenfeld  
to accept the bid of \$300.00  
made by Allen E. And Phyllis  
A. Shahan for Parcel # 3689,  
Abstract 1801, Blk 2, See 56  
D & W RR, Knox City, All  
agreed.

Commissioner Urbanczyk  
made the motion to accept  
the bid of \$194.00 made by  
Stephen G. and Karen K.  
Shahan for Parcel # 6945,  
Blk 114, Lot 9, Reeves &  
Musser, City of Munday,  
Commissioner McCown  
seconded, all agreed.

Commissioner Urbanczyk  
made the motion seconded  
See COUNTY on Page 8

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**Hit the Trail at VBS!**  
O'Brien Baptist Church  
August 7 - 9am to 6pm  
Closing Worship Rally at 5pm  
Hamburger Supper for the Whole Family at 6pm  
Swim/Pizza Party Registration  
Knox City Pool 6-7:30pm August 6

## LOOKING AHEAD

All Knox City High School students are invited to attend a POOL PARTY from 6-8 on Wednesday, Aug. 5 at the Knox City pool.

O'Brien Baptist Church will have a day long Vacation bible School on August 7th, starting at 9 a.m. and not closing until after a Worship rally at 5 p.m. After the VBS is over, that evening at 6 p.m there will be a hamburger supper for the entire family. Registration will be on Aug. 6, the day before the all day VBS, from 6- 7:30 at the Knox City Pool.

VBS- Knox City

Community Vacation Bible School is scheduled for Aug. 1-5.

This year, the First Baptist Church will host the weeklong "Round-up" for Christ. Aug. 1, VBS will begin at 5:30 at the Knox City Park, with registration & hot dogs, followed by Parental Supervised Swimming. The rest of the week, the round-up will assemble at the First Baptist church of Knox City from 6 p.m- 8:30 p.m.

Knox City Elementary School (Grades PK-4)

Registration will begin at 1 p.m., Aug. 18 in the

Main Building on campus. Registration will end at 3. Please bring any record of updated immunizations.

O'Brien Middle School (Grades 5-8)

Registration will begin at 1 p.m., Aug. 18 in the Main Building on campus and will end at 3. Please bring any record of updated immunizations.

Knox City High School (Grades 9-12)

Registration will be held Aug. 18 in the High School Library. Please bring any record of updated See LOOKING AHEAD on Page 8

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# KC AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - Knox City**  
 Jerry Vincent, Pastor  
 Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 10:55 a.m.  
 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**  
 Rob Harrison, Pastor  
 Sunday Morning Worship at 11 a.m.

**MUNDAY CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
 Adrian Fletcher, Pastor

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## Obituaries

**Grady Murry**  
 Grady Elmer Murry peacefully passed into the loving arms of his Savior and Lord on July 23, 2010 surrounded by his family. Services will be held at 10:30 A.M., Monday, July

26, 2010, in the Sanctuary of First Baptist Church in Plainview, with Dr. Travis Hart officiating. Burial will be Monday afternoon in O'Brien Cemetery under the care of Kornerstone Funeral Directors of Plainview.

## God's Promises

By Gary Schnable  
 O'Brien Baptist Church  
 God's saying to us, "Humor Me!"

"...Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it" Malachi 3:10b

Often when I buy something I will give more money than needed to make the change back easy for the cashier. Many times the cashier will say, "Sir you gave me too much" and I will reply just try it or "humor me". Sheepishly they will do what I have asked and then marvel that it comes out to an easy amount to count back.

Well, our Heavenly Father many times will ask us to do something that seems odd to our thinking too. His

response? "Humor Me" or "Test Me".

Church attendance for God is not optional to His kids. So, when He asks us to faithfully attend church... saying, "Humor Me and then watch what I'll do for you this week because you honored Me!"

When you tithe (1<sup>st</sup> tenth of all our earnings); are you afraid to? He says, "Humor Me" then watch what I will do to your finances over time... you will be amazed!

Did you know respect for parents has a promise of long life; or giving the best on your job, love your neighbor (even the grouches), etc? God's saying, "Humor me... Honor my wish... just trust Me and watch Me pour into your life more blessings than you ever thought possible. We'll you "Humor Him"? He will amaze you with His response of blessing!

## 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 kcnnews@valornet.com

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

National Public Radio's Morning Edition recently broadcast a story profiling this camp in the Knox County town of Goree, along with the musicians who attend the camp and the music they perform.

Western swing is one of those special types of music that you don't hear too often on the radio--and can't get enough of either. But when you hear it, it stays in your mind forever.

You are very fortunate

to have this music in your area. So enjoy it, and may the musicians who attend this camp enjoy great success!

Sincerely,

Stephen V. Gilmore  
 10305 Shelter Rock Court  
 Charlotte, North Carolina  
 28214-8674

704-391-5577--home  
 980-254-2650--cell/voice

mail  
 e-mail: [stephenvilmore@yahoo.com](mailto:stephenvilmore@yahoo.com)  
[steveactuary@yahoo.com](mailto:steveactuary@yahoo.com)

Dear Editor,

On Friday July 23rd, my sons girlfriend was in pink ladies and put down her purse (which was stupid) anyway someone took all my son's money. I just want the person that took it, to know that they not only took from my son, but also took the money that would of bought food for

my granddaughter and the stuff she needed. I just hope you really needed the money. I know my granddaughter is doing without, because someone was not an honest person.

Toni Sanders

P.O.Box 80

Knox City, Texas 79529  
 940-658-1090

## Knox City and O'Brien registration, Aug. 18

**Note - All students new to the district will need to bring the following documents:**  
 (1) Current Immunization Record (2) Certified Copy of Birth Certificate (3) Social Security Card (not the number but the actual card) (4) Previous School Information

**Knox City Elementary School (Grades PK-4)**  
 Registration will begin at 1:00, Aug. 18, in the Main Building on campus. Registration will end at 3:00. Please bring any record of updated immunizations.

**O'Brien Middle School (Grades 5-8)**  
 Registration will begin at 1:00, Aug. 18, in the Main Building on campus

and will end at 3:00. Please bring any record of updated immunizations.

**Knox City High School (Grades 9-12)**

Registration will be held Aug. 18, 2010 in the High School Library. Please bring any record of updated immunizations.

Seniors	1:00-1:30
Juniors	1:30-2:00
Sophomores	2:00-2:30
Freshmen	2:30-3:00

If you have any question please call:

Marsha Quade, Elementary Principal @ 657-3147  
 Mark Tucker, Middle School Principal @ 657-3731  
 Rick Moeller, High School Principal @ 657-3565

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Thanks for Reading!

## Classifieds Get Results

## Connect to Customer Choice

AS THE ELECTRIC DELIVERY COMPANY that has been serving south and west Texas for more than 90 years, AEP Texas knows a thing or two about energy conservation. That's why we would like to share some low or no-cost tips with you on how to keep cool during these hot summer months.

One of the best ways to lower higher electric bills is to shop around for a less expensive retail electric provider (REP). Finding different offers can be done quickly and efficiently.

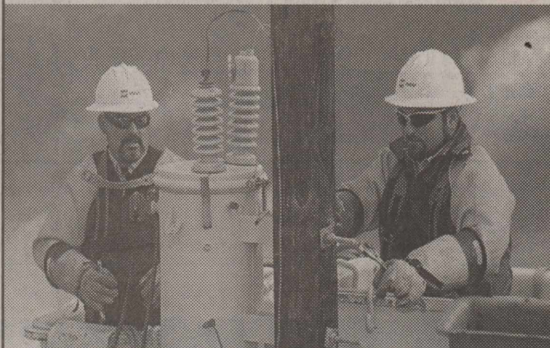
- 1) Visit the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) electric choice website at [www.powertochoose.org](http://www.powertochoose.org). If you don't have access to a computer, you can call the PUCT's Electric Choice hotline at 1-866-PWR-4-TEX (797-4839).
- 2) Use the information you receive to contact different REPs to collect more information on various services and offers. Also contact your current REP at the number listed on your electric bill for other offers that may be available. Ask about contract terms and prices and be sure to look at the REPs' Electricity Facts Labels to make a good comparison.

### Need some help?

Customers having trouble paying their electric bills and wishing to avoid disconnection should discuss their concerns with their current retail electric provider. All REPs are required to offer deferred payment plans to eligible customers who express an inability to pay. Many REPs also offer balanced billing plans, which allow eligible customers to pay an average amount each month year-round.

Additionally, many community action agencies may be able to help with electric bills or energy efficiency programs. For more information, contact the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) at 1-800-525-0657, e-mail at [info@tdhca.state.tx.us](mailto:info@tdhca.state.tx.us) or visiting one of the following websites.

[www.aeptexas.com](http://www.aeptexas.com)



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## The Knox County News

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**TAMARA SMART**  
 Reporter  
 Sports Writer  
 Advertising Manager

**DEADLINES** - The deadline to submit news and advertising is 5 p.m. on Fridays. Exceptions may be granted only by permission from the Editor.

### 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.

### SUBMISSION POLICY

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.

### PHOTO SUBMISSION POLICY

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.

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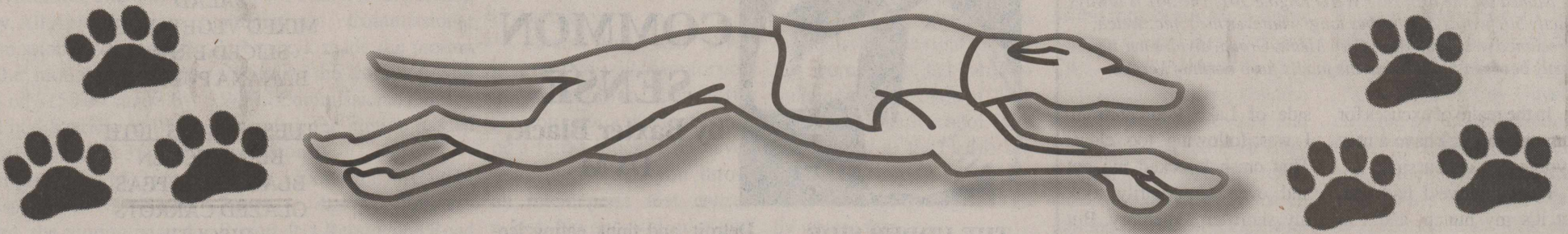
Any erroneous reflection upon the character, reputation or standing of any individual, firm or corporation will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the editor.

### KCN OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Wednesday • 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. • Closed Thursday • Friday • 10 a.m.-5:00 p.m.



# KNOX CITY SPORTS



Knox City Greyhounds line up for the second day in the gruelling 2-a-day process.

Photo by Tamara Smart



June Tankersley putts on in.

Photos courtesy Linda Abila

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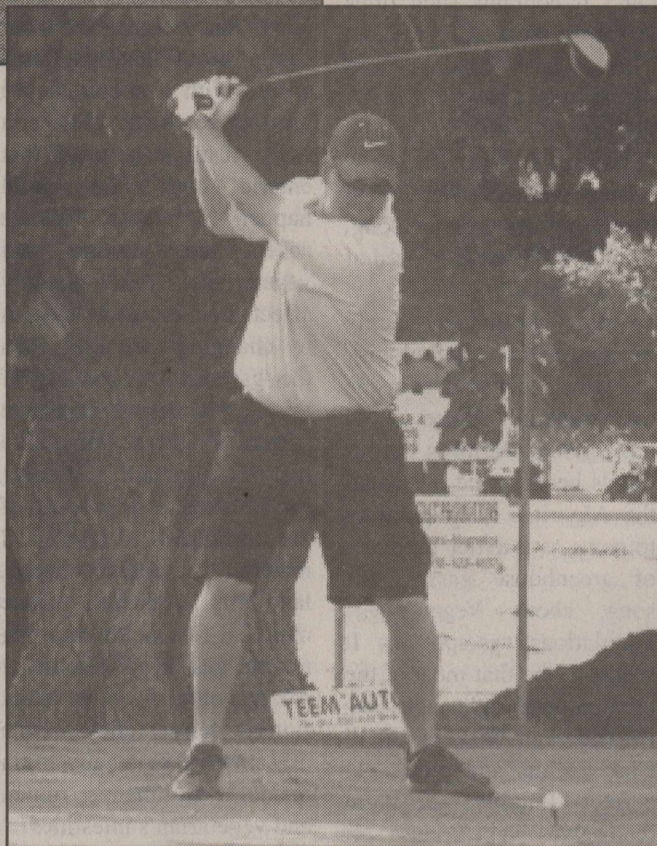
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Cody Manning splices a golf ball into the fairway.  
Photos courtesy Linda Abila

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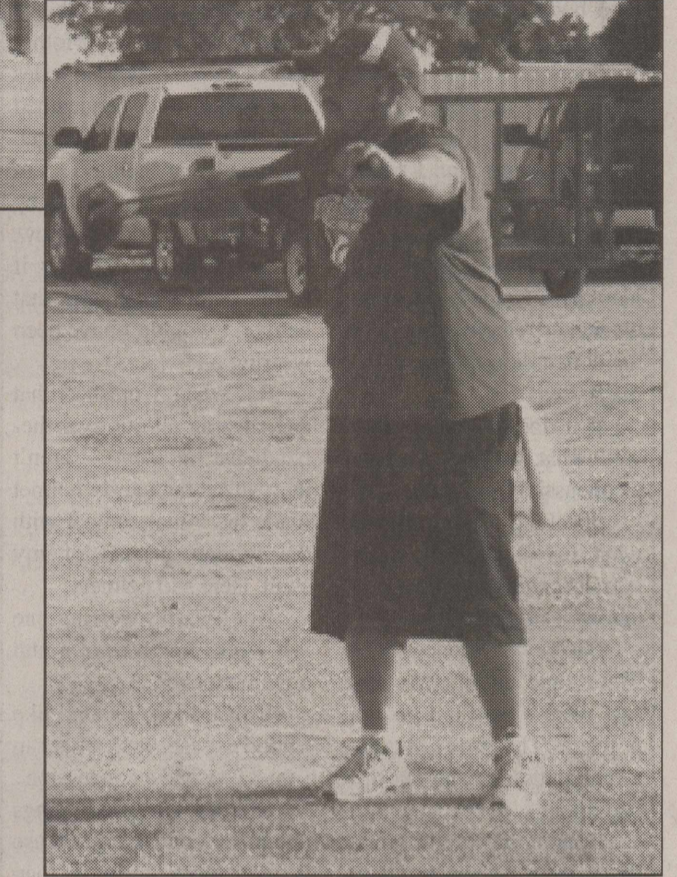
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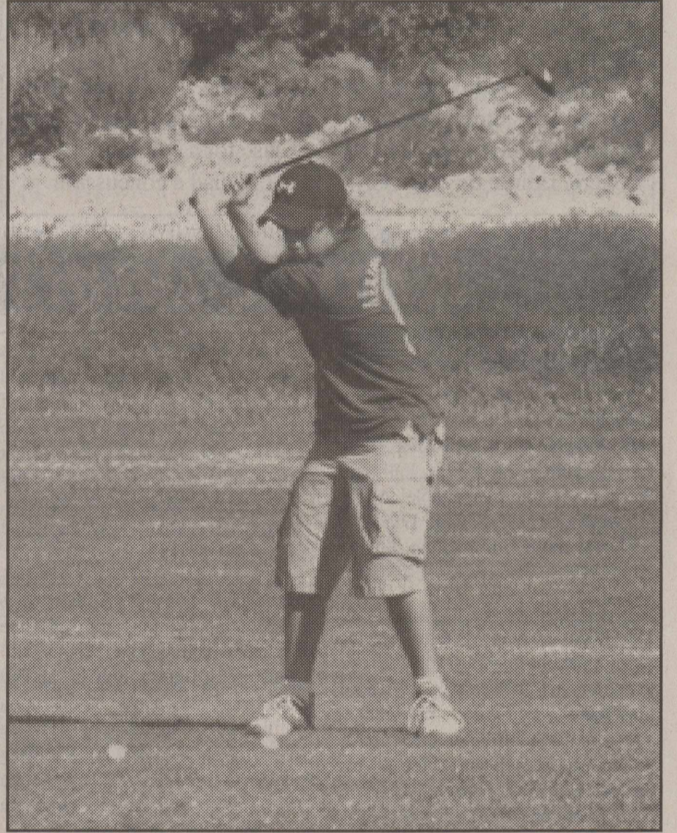
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658-3389

Knox City mayor Jeff Stanfield commentates the tourney from his golf cart.  
Photos courtesy Linda Abila

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2010 Fall & Fall I Registration  
Campus Connect Registration Now - August 11  
Vernon Registration August 17  
Wichita Falls Registration August 18 & 19  
See schedule for registration times.  
Classes begin August 21  
Vernon College — the best connection you'll ever make!



Noe Macias stretches out in order to prepare for the 18 holes in the grueling heat.  
Photos courtesy Linda Abila



Payne Stanfield shows great form on his back swing.  
Photos courtesy Linda Abila

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**COWPOKES** By Ace Reid  
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"Yeah, I've been lookin' fer a job...well 'til eight o'clock this mornin' they ain't one!"

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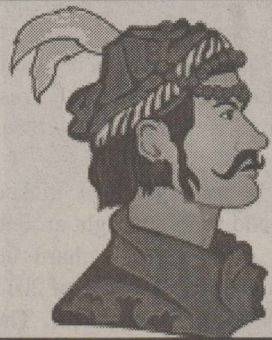
**BENJAMIN ISD** Announces the  
**PREKINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP**  
For the 2010-2011 School Year Starts Now  
Registration at Benjamin ISD Administration Office  
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
REGISTRO SE COMIENZA EN BENJAMIN ESTE MES PARA LOS NIÑOS 4 ANOS DE EDAD,  
8:00-4:00  
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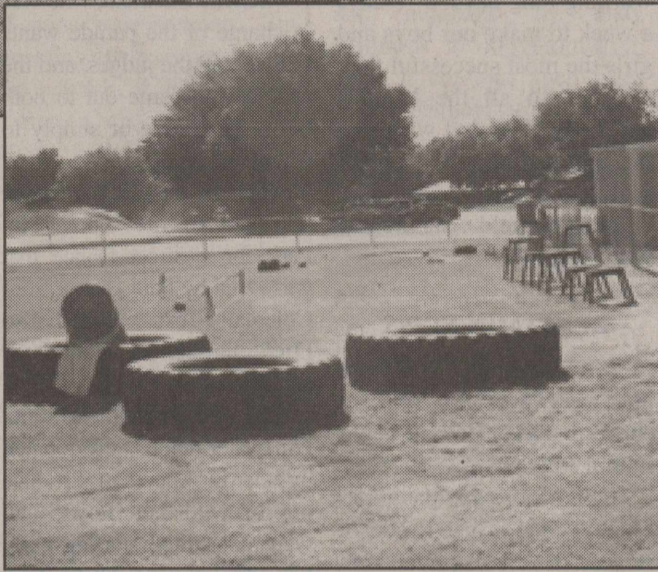
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# Monday Moguls



Seen here (top and right) is the Munday Practice football field laid out for the 2-a-day practices to ensue. The tires are used for flipping and muscle building, the ropes for kinesthetic training, and the coolers are for the much needed hydration in this 100 degree weather.

Photo by Tamara Smart




Only Four Mustang Men showed up for the first day of 2-a-day practices. But, NEVER FEAR MUSTANG FANS! The friday lights will shine, as more Mustangs are expected to turn out as the season progresses.

Photo by Tamara Smart

## BENJAMIN NEWS

By Gladene Green

Summer is here! We have hit 100+ for a few days and the high humidity it has been plenty uncomfortable. With 2-a-days beginning today (Mon) we can sure feel for the boys and their coaches as they prepare for another football season- (which is right "around the corner") Activity will pick up as the school days near.

There is encouraging news regarding our ill friends. David Milson had his first chemo treatment last Wed. and did great- Matter of fact, after the treatment, he walked a mile! His latest scans show no change in the cancer- It has not grown any so hopefully these treatments will take care of it. That really the first big change since his diagnosis- The change being no change. Such wonderful news and I urge everyone to keep David and his family in your prayers.

Gloria west had cataract surgery last Tues. She's doing great and is excited about being able to see better.

Corrine Parrish is a little better- Still has pain in her back but hopes with time (and rest) it will improve so she can get back into her regular routine.

According to family, Jonnie Williams is doing pretty well- She loves to hear from friends so maybe a card or phone call to her can fit into your day. She's not out anymore (except to go to the Dr.) so company is good for her.

Good news concerning Mike Young's eyesight. Several months ago, he had cataract surgery on one eye, but suffered a stroke shortly

there after, which left him what drs. call legally blind. But he had the other eye done, anyway, and now has good vision in both! Drs. are saying it's a miracle and we know it's proof that prayers make a difference.

We received word last week that Sharon Patterson Bivens was to have surgery today in Lubbock- Not sure to

what extent the surgery will be but hopefully we will hear soon and I'll pass the word on. We do pray for Sharon during this time.

### Here 'N There

The cheerleaders for BHS coming school year went to camp last week in Munday, learning new "yells" and routines. The cheerleaders are Valerie Mendoza, Kim Patterson and Amber Wilson.

Shelby Russell is Giddy-up, The Mustang Mascot- Melissa Everson is their sponsor.

Debbie and Mike See BENJAMIN NEWS on page 6

## Just Jeff

### "The Soak"

Sometimes we are given opportunity and experiences that that only come once in our lifetime. One of these experiences comes about this time, each year, on a Monday morning. This is a ritual passed down from one generation to the next. The things you will remember are fewer than things that you will forget.

Dreams, failures, coaches and (of course) parents all play a part in this ritual. It starts out in every small town and big city across this great state. Hopes, dreams, and inevitable heartbreak will fill every stadium across the Lone Star State. Whether it is injury or loss, it all hurts the same. I am talking about the hero's of all the young, who wear your numbers every Friday to school, who pretend they their idol are under some grandstand at each football game, who they will buy tattoos and will want to carry your helmets after every game. They may be the neighbor hood brat, your little brother or the shy quiet kid who will be the future star.

The old ones will remember the single wing of the '60's, or the run and gun of the early '90's. They are people who remember the team who got beat in the semi's or the bad call that helped the rival win on a last second field goal. They could be your dad, uncle or postman; it does not matter who they are, they would trade it all for one more shot.

Remember the sound of the cleats, the feel of the track underneath as you walk to the field. The way the fresh mowed grass smells, or the click' click of the water sprinklers as they turn. The songs in the field house on the radio, and OHHH- that over powering smell you will never forget .Remember the sound of pads as your teammates run, the grunts of lineman and the heavy breathing of the 4th and 5th sprint, followed by the bark of a coach.

Some may have already forgotten how you felt that very 1st day when they were a freshman. That morning when mom drove them to their 1st practice, and as a skinny kid they ma have been afraid to talk. They may have forgotten how they did not want to be noticed and prayed the coach

would not call their name. How about all the times that you where thirsty, but afraid to be the 1st to get a drink.

But you could never forget being a tackle dummy for all those weeks and carrying pads, garbage cans and whatever else needed, getting stronger with each task.

Dreams youth have undoubtedly had; like making the game winning catch, scoring the last minute touchdown, or saving the day with a shoestring tackle on the last play. Getting to brag about a district championship or even wearing a state ring. Making all district, region and maybe even state. Walking to your hometown crowd knowing you are the reason everyone is so proud.

Failures will come along with the glory- some will throw an interception on a Hail Mary pass, others will fumble and it may even be

you that drops a touchdown pass. You will miss tackles and assignments each Friday night, and hopefully it will not cost you a game. You will finish the season with a loss- unless your one of the chosen ones. Rankings and predictions will not mean a thing; injuries and grades will pick the team.

Teammates are always for life, no matter where you go they will always be a teammate. You will share history, tears, laughter and pain. No matter how old you are you will never forget about Thursday meals and all of the pranks. So look at every one of them and remember you only are guaranteed 10 weeks so make the most of them.

Coaches will always be your leaders, no matter what happens you will always call him "Coach". He has made you run, swatted your rear end and pushed you to the end. See JUST JEFF on page 6

### NOTICE

- The Benjamin Independent School District offers career and technology education in programs in Agricultural Science, Computer Applications, and Business Education. Admission to these programs is based on grade level and desire of the student.
- It is the policy of the Benjamin Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap in its vocational programs, services or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.
- It is the policy of Benjamin Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or age in its employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.
- Benjamin ISD will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs.
- For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator, Olivia Del Hierro Gloria, at P.O. Box 166, Benjamin, TX 79505; telephone-(940) 459-2231.

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Toll (940) 459-2041  
Fax (940) 459-2016

FILED FOR RECORD  
22 Day of July 2010  
District & County Clerk, Knox County, Texas  
Sheriff's Office

**ESTRAY**  
NOTICE OF IMPOUNDMENT OF ESTRAY  
On the 21 day of July, 2010  
I impounded the following estray:

Kind of Animal/or Fowl CATTLE  
Breed Angus  
Color Black  
Sex Bull  
Age 3-5 year  
Size 1700 lbs

Brand, Marks, Identifying Characteristics  
Diamond F-Left Shoulder yellow ear tag - At ear  
and, on the 22 day of July, 2010,  
I filed a Notice of Estray in the Estray Book of Knox County, Texas.

I have made a diligent search of the register of recorded brands in Knox County, Texas, for the owner of said estray, and contacted local owner of exotic fowl but the search did not reveal the owner.

Notice is hereby given that, if the ownership of said estray is not determined by the 9th day of August, 2010, said estray will be sold at public auction/sheriff's sale at Dinwiddie & North Stewart Street, Benjamin, TX.

Witness my hand this 22 day of July 2010.  
Dean W. Homstad  
Sheriff of Knox County, Texas

Notes:  
1 copy Newspaper 1-copy Bulletin Board  
Prepare in 4 copies: 1-copy County Clerk 1-copy Sheriff's File

COUNTY

by Commissioner Godsey to reject the bid of \$51.00 made by Glenn Crawford for Parcel # 5778, Blk 44, Lot 10, Lee Addition, and City of Munday. All Agreed.

Commissioner Birkenfeld made the motion to accept the bid of \$150.00 made by Gregg Fix & Patricia A. Wild for Parcel #3571, Blk 35, Lots 1&2, Original City of Goree, Commissioner McCown seconded, the motion passed five to zero.

After considering two bids for Parcel #3672, Blk 12, East 1/2 of Lots 1&2 Reeves & Musser Addition, City of Munday. Commissioner Urbanczyk made the motion to reject the bid of \$60.00 made by James Hill and to accept the bid of \$250.00 made by Floyd Reed; Commissioner Birkenfeld seconded the motion, all agreed.

Upon discussing the proposed changes to the Policy Manual Commissioner Urbanczyk made the motion seconded by Commissioner McCown to leave the Sick Leave, Personal Day and Vacation Accumulation Policy as is and to change one sentence in the Bad Weather

Policy. The motion passed five to zero.

The Court considered the issue concerning the contract with WTU as well as possible alternatives. Commissioner Urbanczyk made the motion to renew the contract with WTU; Commissioner Godsey seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

The Extension Activity Report, Aging Services Report, 911 Report, and Road and Bridge Report required no activity.

County Tax Assessor & Chief Appraiser Mitzi Welch gave the KCAD Year to Date Report.

Commissioner Birkenfeld made the motion to approve Financials, Budget and pay the bills for June, 2010; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Urbanczyk, the motion passed five to zero.

There being no further business to come before the Court Commissioner Urbanczyk made the motion to adjourn seconded by Commissioner Birkenfeld, all agreed. The meeting of the Court was ADJOURNED.

APPROVED this the 9th of August, 2010

BAXTER

by going 'vegan.' Each of their clever commercials and celebrity endorsements would have to contain warnings. Produce departments would be required to label each fruit and vegetable with the amount of greenhouse gasses you would emit per serving. In the end Al Gore would be selling them carbon credits

from Rendezvous Barbecue, Memphis, TN.

Blaming others when your own house is not in order is a slippery slope.

"I refuse to take all the heat, there are some folks that don't eat meat."

The air is blue or is it green, they are the real gas machine." Judy Williams, rancher.

As you get older something's will never change. If you are successful in life you will always be proud to see him, but ashamed if you fail.

Parents they will never give up, they will cheer for you no matter what. They never see you miss a tackle, fumble or a failed block. It is never your fault when you throw an interception that causes a loss. No one will miss you more when you walk off that field after the last score. Tears will follow that last Friday night, memories of you will go with them until their final days. Remember this you will always be a Senior to them on a Friday night. So when the whistle blows after the last game, remember: it is them that feels the most pain.

You were blessed by God make him proud by doing your best, make sure you always give 100 percent. If you will take this same process and apply it to life, you will never be embarrassed to see coach on any Friday night. . . . .

Well what a hot weekend! I played golf with Terry Utley and Payne in the tournament on Saturday. It must have been 120° out there, we did not play as well as possible but we had a great time. Anytime you can spend with Terry is a good time, he is heck on the ears but he sure is lots of fun. Jennifer is one lucky woman, to get a piece of eye candy like that.

We were paired with Brian Williams, Gilbert Casillas and Jim Daniels. They were a great bunch to play with. We had lots of laughs and it was a great experience for Payne.

Being around men like that is always good for any young person. The more you expose your kids to life, the more they will get out of it. Watching Mario Abila hit a golf ball is about as funny as it gets. Have you ever seen

JUST JEFF

someone have a seizure? It was about as ugly as it gets. It kinda reminded me of Forrest Gump running with braces on.

Two-a-days have kicked off and school is right around the corner, it is hard to imagine that the class of 2011 is about to start school. The years seem to fly by. To the Seniors, a word of advise, let each day sink in they will go by way to fast.

I was fortunate enough to get to visit with a bunch of troops this week who were returning from Iraq. We all forget how lucky we are and the sacrifices these young people make so we can live with our freedoms and rights. Say a prayer for our troops and remember to thank God we live in the U.S.A.

My citizens of the week this week are our teachers, and all the coaches who will start working long days, 6-7 days a week to make our boys and girls the most successful they can be. To all the Hounds and Lady Hounds I wish you the best and hope for a great season and long playoff runs.

Jeff Stanfield jstanfield@windstream.net

BENJAMIN NEWS

Moorhouse and Will were in Sweetwater for Will to enroll in TSTI. He will begin school Aug 31.

Kim Moore and daughter, Shelby, are in Ruidoso, NM for a few days vacation before school starts. She said on Sun., the temp was 65° about mid afternoon- Sounds good to me!

This maybe a little early to mention, but there will be a revival at First Baptist Church here beginning Sept 12 (morning service) and going throughout Wed. nite-15th. Dan Bullock, pastor of FBC Weinert, will bring the messages. You have 6 weeks to plan and we hope to see lots of our friends there for any or all of the service.

their "float." This year, before 6:30 (half an hour before the parade was to begin, there was nary a parking place nor standing room along the sides of the road down Main Street and up Central Ave in Knox City. As the local football players, cheerleaders, children of all ages, classic cars and mini-ponies made their way through the parade route, candies were flung into the on looking crowd, cheers came up through the gathered spectators as their favorite float, neighbors or friends passed by. The award winning entrants to this years parade were: "Best out of Town"- Munday Nursing Center, "Most Outrageous"- KC Hospital for their decorated golf cart they named "Its so fluffy", "Best Car"-Mary Murphy's Photography, & "What were they thinking" was won by the KC Alumni Bunch.

Michelle Stanfield, who was in charge of the parade wants to thank all the judges, and the people who came out to both be in the parade or simply to watch and enjoy it.

After the parade, the crowd relocated to the Knox City Park for a Street Dance that was DJed by Paul Bedell from Coleman, Texas. Bedell also DJed throughout Saturday's activities as well.

This year, four pallets (about 250) watermelons were donated by Dero Anderson Produce out of Midland, Texas, and were consumed starting early Saturday morning. Throughout the day, Melon Money dollars were drawn for (sponsored by local commerce) with Alex Florez won the \$25 Melon Money prize, Donna Wojick won the \$75 prize, and Melissa Espinoza won the \$100 Melon Money prize.

Though the day was hot, the festival/carnival hopped into action all day on Saturday. Volunteers cut melon after melon, after melon... after melon. The Wichita Brazos Museum had their booth with their renowned Homemade Ice Cream. There were booths full of the flavors of Mexico, alongside Cajun delights, BBQ, fried "stuff on sticks," and... well... watermelon.

S&J Amusements came to Knox City again this year with their fun inflatable for the kiddo's amusement. And when the kids (or adults) got tired of the inflatable fun., the City Pool opened for free swimming at 1 p.m.

Knox City's Chamber of

Commerce, who host the festival had a few thank yous to the community, including (but not limited) to: Joe Barnard and Anthony Adkins and Lynn Electric for the use of their bucket truck to hang and take down banners at the red light.

City of Knox City Guys for cleaning up the park, trimming trees, providing barricades, and getting extra dumpsters, they always work really hard to make the park look extra special for the festival.

Michelle Standfield for organizing the parade. She did such a fantastic job - everybody was in his or her place, and it ran so smoothly.

FourSquare Church for cutting up watermelons all day long - that was a huge help and very much appreciated.

Gary Schnable, Don Hawkins, David Albus and everyone that helped put up and take down tents.

Dero Anderson Produce from Midland for donating the watermelons.

Steve Pepper for going to get the watermelons.

Barbara Barnard for helping in the chamber booth all day long in the heat and for helping clean up the park afterwards.

Game Warden Jim Daniel & friend for seeing how tired we were after being in the heat all day and helping us unload tents and tables at the chamber office.

Clayton Monogramming from Stamford for the making of the T-Shirts.

Our Sponsors for the festival were: Santa Rosa Telephone \$500, Citizens Bank \$300, and Tri-City Electric \$200

The merchants for participating in the Melon Money.

Anyone else that we have failed to mention, we thank you. We appreciate all the volunteers that stepped up and helped us with this event!

The Watermelon Festival is the biggest event of the year in Knox City, bringing commerce and exterior economic funds into Knox City. It is something for kids and adults alike to enjoy and one of those memorable times in a small town where you remember why you love to call Knox City home.

Next years Don Johnson 23rd Annual Watermelon festival will again be held the last Saturday in the month of July, 2011.

LOOKING AHEAD

High School Library. Please bring any record of updated immunizations.

Seniors 1:00-1:30  
Juniors 1:30-2:00  
Sophomores 2:00-2:30  
Freshmen 2:30-3:00

Summer is winding to a close- Knox County schools all reconvene for the Fall Semester on August 23rd

The St. Paul Baptist Church will be collecting funds for their new building through a can collection drive. Anyone with cans can donate them to the cause by simply dropping your cans off at 308 SW 4th Street in Knox City. There is also a raffle going on through the end of August, please see a St. Paul member for more details.

Looking forward to the Liberty Church 16th Homecoming/ 85th Anniversary Celebration will take place Sept. 4 and 5. At the Liberty Church at 302 Aspen Street. The festivities will include Games, a Musical, Church anniversary Service, Fellowship, and much more. Make sure you mark your calendar- everyone is invited to attend.

Classifieds get results!

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON KNOX COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT BUDGET

The KNOX COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT will hold a public hearing on a Proposed Budget for the 2011 fiscal year.

The public hearing will be held on August 9, 2010 at 5:30 p.m., at the Knox County Appraisal District, Knox County Courthouse, Benjamin, Texas.

At 5:45 p.m. on August 9, 2010, at the Knox County Appraisal District, Knox County Courthouse, Benjamin, Texas the Proposed Budget will be Adopted.

A summary of the Appraisal district Budget follows:

The total amount of the proposed budget	\$187,010
The total amount of increase over the Current year's budget	\$ 0
The number of employees compensated Under the proposed budget will be equivalent)	4-1/2 (full time equivalent)
The number of employees compensated Under the budget is	4-1/2 (full time equivalent)

The appraisal district is supported solely by payments from the local taxing units served by the Knox County Appraisal District.

If approved by the Knox County Appraisal District Board of Directors at a public hearing, this proposed budget will take effect automatically unless disapproved by the governing bodies of the county, school districts and cities and towns served by the appraisal district office.

A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection in the office of each of these governing bodies. A copy is also available for public inspection at the appraisal district office.

KNOX COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT  
P.O. BOX 47 BENJAMIN, TEXAS 79505-0047  
PHONE: (940) 459-3891

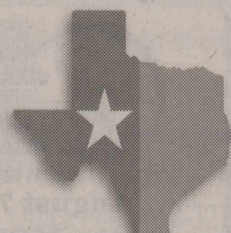
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- Minor Emergencies Suturing, Splinting, Casting
- IV Therapy for Hydration & Antibiotic Treatment.

# OPINION

## The Return of the States Bailout

By **BILL WILSON**

Not less than a week after a \$26.1 billion bailout to bankrupt states like New York and California was stripped from a must-pass war supplemental, it has returned.

Senate Democrats had failed to muster the 60 votes needed for passage of a House version of the war supplemental — which included the funding for the troubled states. So, instead the House passed the Senate version that did not.

But, not to deny one of Barack Obama's top domestic spending priorities, Senate Democrats are once again bringing the states bailout back.

This time, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid is attaching the \$10 billion for state public teachers unions and \$16.1 billion for state Medicaid spending to tax legislation that will enable the government to double-tax U.S. companies that do business overseas. The bill will limit the use of the Section 956 foreign income tax credits for profits generated overseas.

According to a U.S. Chamber of Commerce letter to Congress, Section 956 "allows companies to repatriate cash to the United States in a tax efficient manner." This prevents companies from paying taxes overseas on profits, then repatriating those profits and having them taxed again by the federal government. The Chamber says that the Section has been "particularly beneficial during the recent economic downturn and ensuing credit crunch when it was necessary for American worldwide companies to repatriate significant funds in order to meet the financial needs of their U.S. businesses."

As reported by the Hill, closing the foreign income tax

credits would raise \$9 billion. But, says the Chamber, "The revenue raising estimate for this provision seems to assume that taxpayers would simply bear the additional cost of the provision. However, the Chamber believes that most taxpayers, given the choice, would choose simply to not repatriate the earnings."

Another obvious result is that many U.S. companies will simply become foreign companies, where they won't be subject to this sort of double-taxation. Either way, profits made overseas will not be repatriated, leaving the nation with even less capital to help improve the weak economic recovery.

The National Association of Manufacturers does not like the provision either, writing in a letter that the "limitation on the use of Sec. 956 loans removes a greatly needed source of U.S. cash for worldwide American companies".

Promote America's Competitive Edge (PACE), a business coalition, agrees, writing to Congress, "A steep corporate tax hike on worldwide American companies will hinder our ability to protect and create American jobs and will slow our nation's economic recovery."

Not only would the legislation make the U.S. less competitive, the revenue raised is being used to save a scant number of jobs. Out of the estimated 3.3 million public school teachers nationwide, teachers unions are only expecting 160,000 layoffs this year — just 4.8 percent of all teachers. 38.1 percent of those layoffs are centered in just three states: 9,000 in New Jersey, 16,000 in New York and 36,000 in California.

Of course, these are the states with the most dire budget pictures, the ones that most need to make necessary cuts now to bring spending down in accordance with revenue. Califor-

nia currently faces a \$20 billion shortfall. On the east coast, New York faces a more than \$8 billion deficit, and New Jersey too faces an \$11 billion deficit for 2011.

According to the National Association of State Budget Officers (NASBO), state spending grew from \$945.3 billion in 2000 to more than \$1.5 trillion 2008, almost a 58.7 percent increase during the 2000's, where revenues were generally rising because of inflated property values. It was a bubble in which state politicians made the same bad bet investors of mortgage-backed securities made — that property values would never come down.

When the bubble popped, the drop in state revenues was entirely predictable. Nonetheless, state spending still grew by about \$100 billion in 2008, the year the market crashed.

These 160,000 state jobs being "saved" are "bubble jobs." They came about because of the housing bubble, which was the government's fault through its easy money and mandatory loose lending policies. Now they must be cut because the revenue that came from the economic distortion government caused is not coming back.

Compare that to the U.S. companies that operate overseas, which directly employ 22 million Americans. These companies create nearly half of all U.S. exports. They're the ones who are going to be hit with the limitation of the foreign income tax credits.

Sadly, Harry Reid thinks it's a good idea to put 22 million jobs and the capital flows generated by exports at risk all to save 160,000 bloated public sector union jobs that cannot be justified based on the budgets of the states involved.

## Reid's War on Dissent

By **ROBERT ROMANO**

Harry Reid just does not like dissent. Yesterday, the Senate Majority Leader failed to muster the votes necessary to proceed to the so-called DISCLOSE Act, which would impose burdensome restrictions on corporations and nonprofits that choose to engage in advertising for or against candidates for federal office.

In arguing for the bill, Reid blasted Senate Republicans for dissenting against major Democrat policy initiatives, in particular the \$2.5 trillion ObamaCare, the government takeover of the nation's financial sector, the \$862 billion "stimulus," and the \$34 billion extension of unemployment welfare benefits.

What Reid failed to acknowledge is that Senate Republicans were unable to stop a single one of those measures. They merely dissented against legislation that ultimately passed.

Perhaps that was the problem. Perhaps he would prefer unanimity in support of his legislative agenda. Or a one party system.

Nonetheless, that did not prevent Reid from labeling Senate Republicans who blocked the bill as being in the pockets of corporations and special interests. Only, the DISCLOSE Act, which Reid supports, is laced with special interest exemptions. The NRA, AARP, the Sierra Club, unions and others have all achieved privileged carve-outs that will allow them to make independent expenditures without any disclosure at all.

Media, too, maintained its decades-long exemption from federal election law. According to 2 USC 431 (9) (B) (i), the 1971 Federal Election Campaign Act: "The term 'expenditure' does not include any news story, commentary, or editorial distributed through the facilities of any broadcasting station, newspaper, magazine, or other periodical publication". This media exemption to campaign regulation is reinforced in the DISCLOSE Act's language on page 24.

To add insult to injury, Reid said, "Why would we let those who go through such great lengths to conceal their names, and those who try to protect them by blocking this bill, dilute or manipulate our voices?" What about the NRA, AARP, Sierra Club, unions, and media? Why does their protection from disclosure yield the excessive regulation of everyone else?

The mere presence of exemptions for anybody in this bill discredits the premise for disclosure — that there is something inherently corrupt about political speech. Never mind that that the freedom of speech and of the press is explicitly protected by the First Amendment to the Federal Constitution. Never mind that the Supreme Court struck down disclosure requirements in 1958 in NAACP v. Alabama.

The same Senators who keep quoting former Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis, who said, "Sunlight is the best disinfectant," are the same Senators who are supporting

legislation with disclosure exemptions for the privileged few. How is it that the possibility for corruption from anonymous speech exists for everybody except those so exempted?

It would merely be a theater of the absurd if its ramifications were not so far-reaching. Corruption is not prevented under the DISCLOSE Act. It is being institutionalized. In fact, Congress is giving out privileged speech licenses to the highest bidder.

Reid revealed his true motivation when he said, "Whenever the voice of the corporation is the loudest, the voice of the citizen is harder to hear." He's okay with businesses and nonprofits criticizing him when he runs for reelection, he says, he just wants to know who they are.

Perhaps businesses and other groups are afraid to speak out in the open for fear of federal intervention into their affairs. In fact, under the bill, express advocacy for a candidate running for federal office is an open invitation to opening up the books of even the minutest details of a business or nonprofit's activities.

The Act's disclosure requirements includes any expenditures in excess of \$10,000 of express advocacy for or against a candidate up to 20 days before an election and in excess of \$1,000 within 20 days before an election, which must be reported to the FEC within 24 hours. The disclosure requirements extend to 120 days prior to the first presidential primary or caucus, and 90 days before the first

Congressional primary or caucus, and extend through general election day.

Anyone who invests or donates in excess of \$600 to a company or organization that engages in express advocacy of a candidate, except for media organizations and other exempt entities, would have their names submitted to the FEC. The bill also requires that the highest ranking official of a business or nonprofit appear on camera to say that he or she is approving the message on the organization's political communication, and they must list the top funder of the ad and the top five donors of the organization.

The effect on political speech will be a chilling one. The message is, "Don't you speak out against candidates running for office, or we'll come after you. We'll show your books to the public. We'll destroy you." The intent here is to intimidate by making the costs of speaking out outweigh the benefits, all under the guise of disclosure.

Americans don't let the government spy on individuals in the ballot box, so why should they let government officials necessarily know who is criticizing them?

Dissent against government is supposed to be one of the highest forms of patriotism. But under Reid's regime, it will be a marker, a scarlet letter by which dissidents can be weeded out for government discrimination. This should be greatly alarming for all who value any legitimate, credible opposition in our political system.

## Mining for Jobs

By **REBEKAH RAST**

The Seven Dwarfs from the Disney movie wouldn't be singing "Heigh-Ho" on the way to their job if they were mining in the U.S. In fact, they would probably be out of work altogether.

An often overlooked but critical industry in America is mining. It's what many states are known for. The California Gold Rush moved many people West in hopes of becoming rich off gold-mining operations, the state of Arizona is mined for its vast amount of uranium and copper, and West Virginia has mined coal since the 1700s.

America could easily sustain herself with her own resources. Whether there is a need for minerals, aggregate, sand, gravel or oil, America has it all. This begs the question, why then is the country's mineral import levels so high?

"The U.S. exploration budget is shrinking," says Luke Popovich, spokesman for the National Mining Association (NMA). "We used to comprise about one-fifth of the world's exploration budget, now we only represent about 8 percent of all the money spent on exploration. Our import reliance is increasing."

It's interesting that at a time when our economy is suffering and nationwide unemployment rates are almost at 10 percent, the federal government is spending money to import materials America already has in plenty.

Dr. Madan Singh, director of the Department of Mines and Mineral Resources (DMMR) in Arizona, says that 56 percent of the total land area in the U.S. is not open to mining. Why?

"The environmentalist agenda of the Obama Administration is destroying one of the most important and functional industries in America," says Bill Wilson, president of Americans for Limited Government. "It is a waste to just leave the valuable resources we have sitting in the ground so the government can own more land while increasing our nation's debt through imports."

One mineral America spends a lot of money

importing is copper — yet plenty of it sits in Arizona. Singh says possibly one of the largest copper deposits — probably in the world — was found in Arizona. The problem is the land where the copper is located is owned by the federal government. A land exchange has been proposed by the mining operation for 2,200 acres of the copper-rich land in exchange for 5,500 acres of other land. So far the federal government is not accepting the deal.

One of Arizona's own elected Congressman is putting forth his best effort to stop all mining in the state. In H. R. 644, the Grand Canyon Watersheds Protection Act of 2009, Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ) has introduced in his legislation that approximately one million acres of land, including both federally protected land and beyond, be banned from any mining operations. Though the bill hasn't moved in Congress since last year, it is still being considered, Singh says.

Singh also states that last July, U.S. Department of Interior Secretary Ken Salazar ordered that the same area in Arizona be withdrawn from all mining operations for two years while they conducted environmental studies on the area. Singh knows there are important minerals in that area, but it doesn't matter. He knows of only one mining operation that was allowed to continue mining the area. Salazar and his team are waiting for the results of the environmental impact statement and once they see what the results are, they have the power to shut the area down for mining for up to 20 years.

"Many in Washington, D.C. want to keep more and more land from development and make it into parks, wilderness areas or scenic areas," Singh says.

Popovich agrees. "The enormous appetite to lock up federal land and empower the Secretary of the Interior to, at his discretion, ban mining operations on land even when the mining company has all the correct permits is wrong. Obama has taken away useful land."

Land and jobs. Singh says the average salary of a miner is about \$60,000 a year. When you begin taking those jobs out of America,

the economy will suffer even more. "It's a domino effect," he says. "If people are working then they will buy things and spend money."

He goes on to say that every time you don't let mining operations go to work then surrounding industries struggle as well. Miners will no longer buy trucks or the necessary equipment to mine, hurting those manufacturing businesses and putting more hard-working Americans out of work. This ripple effect can shatter a small town reliant on mining to pieces.

"Obama talks out of both sides of his mouth," says ALG's Wilson. "He talks about job growth to the American people but his actions drive up unemployment numbers and force small businesses to close."

Because of the harsh environmental regulations mining operations have to go through before they can even begin to mine, many of the smaller mining businesses have been forced to close.

"Permits take a long time to get and the environmentalists are constantly fighting against them," says Popovich. "This forces you to spend more money on environmental analysis before you make any money on mining." Popovich says it can take five to seven years to open a new mine, depending on the area of the mine and how many agencies are involved and how many lawsuits you have to face from green groups.

This is exactly why smaller mining industries can't survive anymore. Singh says you still might find smaller mining operations in the sand, gravel and aggregate field, but they are facing lots of red tape as well.

A larger mining operation has the opportunity to run global. Popovich says it can take six to seven years to get a copper mining permit in the U.S., but in Chile, it only takes about 18 months.

Singh has also seen some companies go overseas as well, but they still face obstacles. "Some mineral mining operations do go overseas, but it is more difficult because countries like China and India are grabbing up mining areas in South America and other popular

mining countries making them unavailable to the U.S."

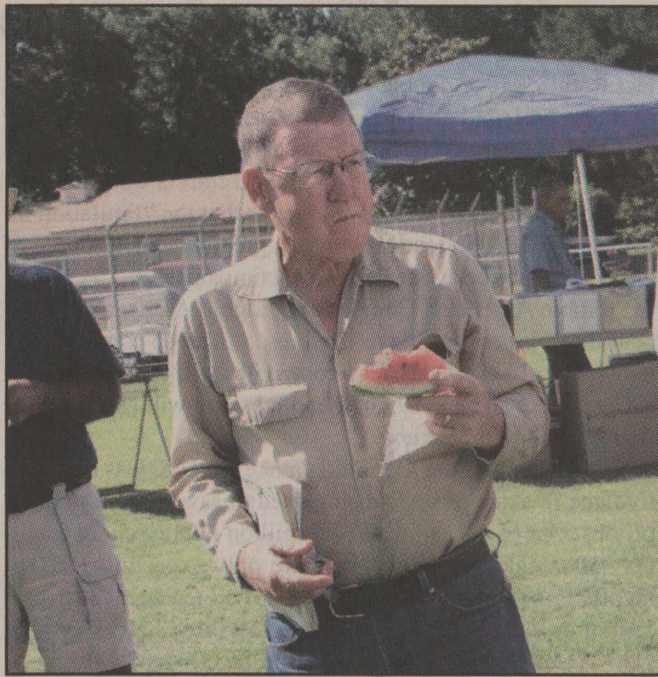
Aside from encouraging more spending on imports and depressing the job market further, the Obama Administration's actions toward the mining industry puts our nation at great risk.

By heightening our levels of imports the federal government is creating a national security problem. "If we are dependent on someone else and they no longer are willing to provide for us, then our supply line is interrupted and that's a problem," says Singh. "What if it is war time and we can't get the supplies we need?"

Another point Singh highlights is greed. What if countries we are dependent on are no longer willing to sell their resources? Singh gives this example: A mineral referred to as rare earth is used in high-tech materials, like television and computer screens and many military defense supplies. The U.S. used to mine this mineral, but was forced to stop because of all the environmental restrictions put into place. China now has well over 90 percent of all the rare earth used throughout the world and is beginning to restrict its exports of the material. Now the U.S. is in a rush to find the material other places. A mine in California, across from the Nevada border, used to be in operation and mined rare earth. There are efforts to restart this mine, but Singh says it will still take at least two years to get the mine running again.

America has not situated itself in a wise place. Uranium is another mineral we have an abundance of in Arizona, yet, Singh says we import 90 percent of the uranium we use for power plants in the U.S.

The federal government isn't helping America in any way by banning mining throughout the country. The mining industry is one of the most important, reliable and oldest industries in the nation. It is a critical part of America's past and has much to offer for its future. If Obama is serious about not being so reliant on other countries for imports then the answer is simple — let mining operations go to work.



# Watermelon, watermelon, and more watermelon



Photos by Tamara Smart

## American Beef

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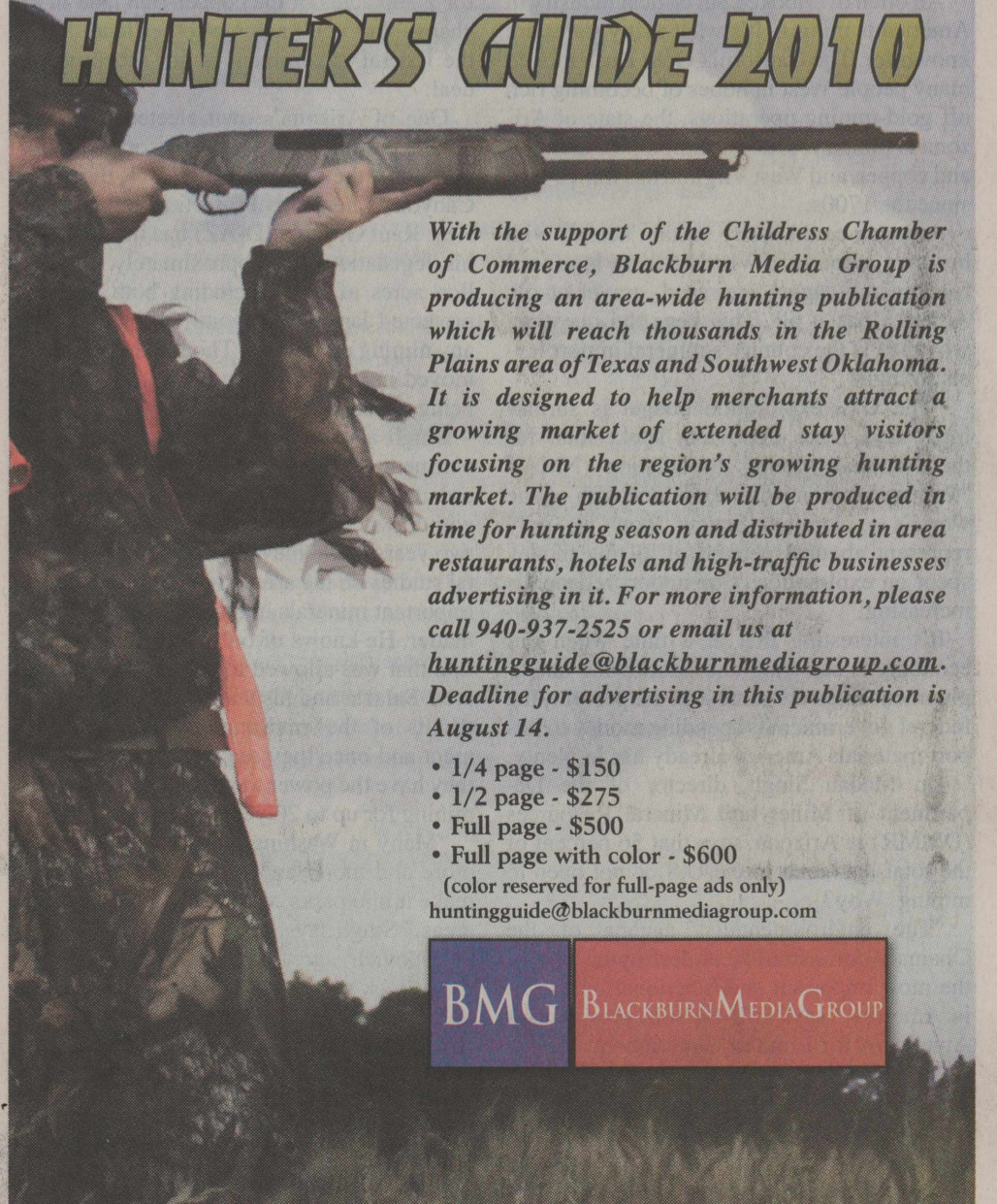
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