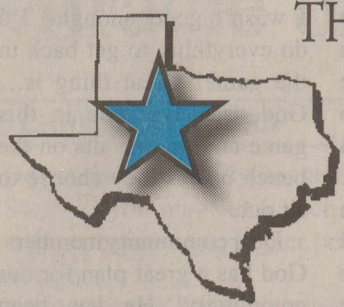


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THE

KNOX COUNTY NEWS

PROUDLY SERVING THE KNOX COUNTY AREA

8 PAGES PLUS INSERTS
VOLUME XXIX

KNOX COUNTY, TEXAS
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2010

75 CENTS
NUMBER 45

Dove Season Opens

Tamara Smart

In a county where hunting is one of the big economic abundances, the season of wealth has begun. Dove season brings groups of men a women flocking to one of the many hunting outfitters and tour guide groups in Knox so they can

band and bag their limit (15 doves). The hunts go out in the early morning, wait until at sun up and the fun begins.

The first day of dove season, as agreed upon by many local hunters (professional and amateur alike) is the most popular

day of hunting in the year. By Sept. 1, the rifles are ready and the birds, if they knew what was impending, should be scared.

Duck season opens on Oct. 23, Deer and Goose season, also a major attraction to Knox County, opens Nov. 1.

Walking Path around the Golf Course in Knox City is finished



The finished product of the walking path that encircles the golf course at the Knox City Country Club.

Photo by Tamara Smart

Tamara Smart

The Knox County Pedestrian and Bike Path idea came to fruition back in 2001, when the County Judge at the time, Honorable David Neal Purdue, jumped through the hoops to get the grant, then chose to put it around the Knox City Golf Course. Unfortunately, Judge Purdue passed away before seeing the project completed.

After Judge Purdue came Honorable Greg Klontz, who then took the project and had a firm in Abilene draw up plans before he stepped down from office.

Several years ago, current Knox County Judge, Honorable Travis Floyd, found this project stuck up on a shelf in his office- long forgotten about. He then gave it to the Commissioner representing Knox City at the current moment, who then, in turn, laid the project in the hands of Barbara Rector, Knox City City Administrator. Mrs. Rector has been working on it every since.

The problem became that the money allocated by the TxDot grant in 2001 was set at the going rates for such a project 9 years ago, when the moneys were awarded. Things are more expensive

in 2010 than they were in '01. Several bids had been received to complete this once County project, turned City project. They were all been too expensive until the Bronte Brothers construction was finally received which was within the grant price range. TxDot helped by providing the road base for the path and some city workers helped complete the path to keep the cost down.

Nine years and a lot of hoop jumping later, Knox City Country Club is the home of a beautiful new "Hike and Bike Trail". The federal Inspector meet with Barbara Rector on Aug. 25 (which he found Barbara's record keeping to be meticulous), the Bronte Bros Construction Agency finished paving on Aug. 26, and the path was officially finished on Aug. 27, with the departure of the Bronte Bros.

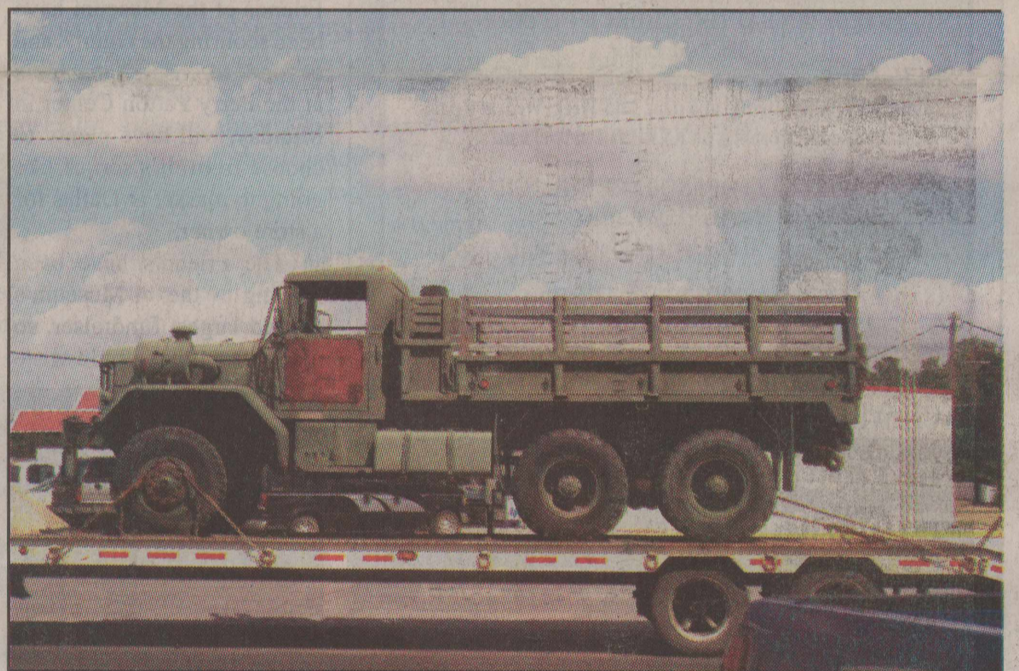
The path is open for everyone to enjoy, although, Barbara Rector warns, "you walk at your own risk." The path does circle a golf course, so there are balls to watch for; as well, being next to a pasture, one needs to consider wild animals before their walk/run/bike on the new path.

KCVFD Gets new Equipment



Jerod Oaks of the Forestry Division hands over the keys and the rights to the newly acquired Military 5 ton GI to KCVFD Fire Chief, Mingo Garcia.

Photo by Tamara Smart



After two years, a grant came through from the forestry Division give a used Military 5-ton GI to the KCVFD for fighting brush fires. It arrived on Monday afternoon. Photo by Tamara Smart

Tamara Smart

On Monday, Aug. 30, the Knox City Volunteer Fire Department received a new Military 5-ton G.I. truck from the Forestry Department out of Lufkin, Texas. This was a long

awaited arrival, as the grant to get this vehicle was put in a long two years ago.

The 5-ton GI will be used to put out big grass fires, haul water, and assist in any need of the KCVFD or Forestry Department. First,

though, the truck needs to be painted and eventually a big tank needs to be mounted on it.

In exchange, the forestry department took an older truck that is out of commission from the Fire Hall.

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LOOKING AHEAD

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

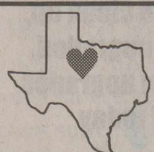
Ranchers in the Knox County area can attend a free Cattlemen's Field Day hosted by the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA). The field day will take place Thursday, Sept. 9 at the Wooden Nickel Activity Center in Knox City, Texas.

Knox City First Baptist Church will host singing group, "New Direction"

on Sunday, Sept. 12 during their morning service. All are invited to attend.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Truscott, Texas on Saturday, Sept. 4 for the HOMECOMING festivities. See the article on this page for more info.

Foursquare Church is hosting the Prophetic and teaching ministry of Bill and Ida Ford on Sept. 26-29.



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 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

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 Sunday Mass at Noon

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 Monday Evening Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - Benjamin

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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - Benjamin

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GILLESPIE BAPTIST CHURCH - Gillespie

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 Sunday Evening Worship at 6 p.m. • Mid-Week, Wed. at 6 p.m.

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 Mid-Week, Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

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 Sunday Mornings on KVRP 97.1 at 9:05 a.m.

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God's Promises

By Gary Schnable
 O'Brien Baptist Church
 Are You Ready For Some Football???

"When Jesus came near, he spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.' So wherever you go, make disciples of all nations: Baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to do everything I have commanded you. And remember that I am always with you until the end of time." Matthew 28:18-20 (GWT)

Yeah, it's that time again! When the men take up a ball with points on the end (Boy God has a sense of humor!). Yes, it's that time again when folks will put up with crazy weather to cheer their favorite teams. They might even put up with the masses of flying crickets at a midnight practice to cheer their boys on!

This game of football in my short almost 52 years has drastically changed. Gone are the days of leather helmets and run over you offenses. Some of these dramatic changes came with the bold, slashing and smooth running of the likes of Gale Sayers breaking open the game. He opened the doors for OJ Simpson, "Sweetness" Walter Payton, Barry Sanders and the many fine offensive threats in today's game.

These slashing runners changed the game of football

opening up the passing lanes out of fear of these great runners. This led to backs like Marshall Faulke and Reggie Bush adding a greater dimension to catching passes out of the backfield for big gains.

Yes, last year yielded the "Wildcat offense" and now this year the new defenses of using four defensive tackles on passing downs is the new rave. This game of football continues to expand and become more creative leading to more excitement and possibilities of the dreams of winning coming true. Who could ever forget the dream of the Rams Kurt Warner (A deep man of faith bagging groceries rising to Super Bowl MVP with a high scoring offense.)

Wait a minute! What does this have to do with God, the church or anything else? Good question! Here's where I am going with all of this:

A young man was presented with the question of why he wasn't in church that Sunday. The reply came back, "Oh man I don't know. I'm not really sure, but you know." Then the question was asked if he would miss or be late for school or football practice. "No, man that has consequences with the law or the coaches if I don't show up!"

Well, being part of the church is just like the football team. And there are consequences to missing practice...you might miss the Super Bowl of Heaven. You see God is the owner of the team, Jesus is the coach

and the Pastor/Priest is the quarterback. God our team owner is like Jerry Jones, He will give unruly players a second chance if they follow all the rules. Jesus the coach expects us to run the plays He calls.

Wait, but how do we know what God and Jesus want us to do in this game of life? WE have to go to practice!!! Yes, church can be like practice sometimes... boring. Like when you run the play over and over and over again in practice. We think in our mind, "Come on coach, we've done this over and over again...lets do something else!"

What the player does not know is that the coach and owner know the enemy's team and all his new/old tricks. When we go to practice/church He is preparing you for the real test...THE GAME! God has a game plan that will always out fox that ole fox! Yet, if we have not been in practice all week how can we know the plays to win?

Some of you may be asking why go to church on Sundays and Wednesdays? There are hypocrites there... YES! Did you know most coaches cannot do what they ask the players to do...I can't always! Others say, "Those people are tough and expect too much time and effort"...I hope you never say that to your coach...can you say water boy!

Yes, there are hypocrites in church, but not one pastor/priest/parishioner can save you...only Jesus Christ

saves you!

Yes, we will ask you to use your talent because if you have made a "Covenant relationship" with Christ you are part of His team. Sorry, but I hated sitting on the bench at the times when I wasn't good enough...I'd do everything to get back in the game! Great thing is... God uses everyone in this game and no one sits on the bench unless they choose to sit out.

Dear community members, God has a great plan for our community! He has been limited by those who are showing a real interest in the team or in His practices. Could you imagine how amazingly different our community, state or nation would look if everyone went to practice Sunday morning, Wednesday night and special team meetings?

You know, I don't know too many coaches that would let even the star player play if he's missed all the practices with the new plays. So "Are you ready for some football?" Come on; get back to practice this week! God's got an awesome game plan for your life next week, but you got to be at practice to get it, to get to play and to win!

Remember this game of life our God continues to expand our lives and life becomes more creative leading to more excitement and possibilities of our dreams of winning coming true. Remember...God, Family Football! Now let's go win one for the Gipper

Museum News

A few more weeks to go before the annual Wichita Brazos Museum garage sale on Saturday, Sept. 11. Friends of the Museum have been scouring the county, and beyond, to ensure customers at the Perry Patton Center in Munday, will have plenty to choose from. It's sort of like going to market at Dallas for a store owner.

The Friend's have been holding the Museum's second largest fundraiser, so many years they could write

a book, one Friend says. One example: at the last meeting all present were ask,(or was it ordered) to bring plastic bags because the checkout line almost ran out of sacks for customers last year. Also, the cookie and brownie committee said, last year the sweet snacks sold so fast and so early Saturday morning, that they had to hide cookies in order to have some to sell at the grilled hamburger lunch on the center's front porch, translated that report

seemed to say, "bake more cookies and brownies too".

On sale day there will be pick-up and car loads of items coming in at 8 a.m. even as the first customers arrive. It may be a get-rid-of-it object to the donor, but it may become someone else's treasure that they can't live without, even though they only realized they needed it upon spotting the object as it came through the door.

The garage sale at Munday helps pay for

museum operations and improvements. It's an opportunity for everyone to help the Museum, so be a good citizen, clean out clean out your closets, pull out that dusty box in the back corner of the garage and donate what you find to the sale.

But save the box, you'll need it to carry home something you can't live without.

Questions? Call the Wichita Brazos Museum at 940-459-2229.

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COWPOKES®

By Ace Reid



"Now the front end of this ranch is black dirt and running water but back here it's just put together with odds and ends"

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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.

People generally fall into one of two categories, don't they? You don't know what I'm going to say next, but you're probably ready to agree.

I don't even know what I'm going to say next. I seldom do.

There you have it. Either you're somebody who thinks before writing or speaking, or you're a blurter like me.

Writing, traditionally, has gone smoother for the non-blurters than the blurters. Back in the old days, nobody - not even me - did much writing without thinking, not even in pencil much less on a typewriter. Errors meant trouble.

Once I was a secretary. Really. Thinking was less the challenge than making no typos. The memory of correcting three carbon copies is what I'd most like to erase.

My next job, newspaper reporter, thankfully involved no carbons. Typing was how stories got written, but the typewriter paper was unglamorous newsprint, apparently cut from the big rolls. Errors and cross-outs were OK. That cheap paper even begged to be crumpled and tossed into commodious newsroom waste cans. To delete and rearrange paragraphs, big scissors did the job. With cheap tape, we put our scissor-mangled verbiage in order. Mine was the most mangled. A keypuncher took the pieced-together scribbled-on compositions and keypunched them to a printer that miraculously produced flawless (yeah, right) copy to be shot by a camera to burn the metal plates for the press to print all the pages. Voila. A little ink and the daily edition hit the streets. Something like that.

That era was a transitional time between linotype machines and computers. For me it was a happy escape from stiff stationery and dratted carbon copies. Never mind that my most grievous reporting errors are in print and on microfilm forever, including a regrettable story that assumes Will Rogers visited Doan's Crossing because he's quoted on a marker at the site. I also misidentified Fran McGee's mother. Sorry Fran. Only the shallowest researchers will be misled by those errors, but nowadays, thanks to the Internet, that's most of us.

Speaking of shallow, some thinkers think deep thinking per se is a dinosaur. We don't even dig diligently for facts, if we ever knew how; we lazily Internet surf and scoop up whatever we encounter, minimal bending required.

Is deep writing correspondingly endangered?

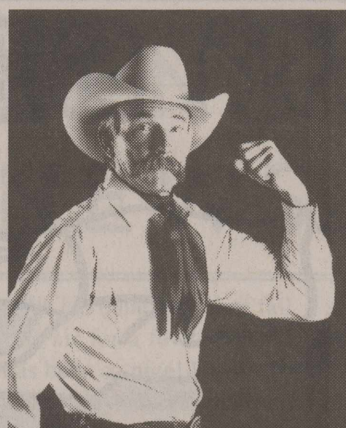
Gone is the age when dipping quill in ink gave needed pause for reflection. Who chews a pencil, trying to think what to write next? Does anyone sit with fingers poised over a keyboard, wiggling digits to cope with nervous tension but waiting for a sure signal from the brain before hitting a key?

Not me, the blurter-perfectionist. It's blurt first and then delete, cut, copy, paste and rewrite until the perfectionist me approves the blurring.

Sometimes the process takes a long time - like six hours to crank out 471 words.

I guess I could try thinking. But to do that I might need an old Royal typewriter and some sheets of cheap blank newsprint.

Maybe as a last resort.



**ON THE
EDGE OF
COMMON
SENSE**
by Baxter Black,
DVM

PIGS; LITTLE SQUEALERS

I worked for a big cattle company in the northwest and we kept "cookhouse pigs" for the crew. Every spring 30 or so little weaner pigs were brought from the sale barn and put in our pig facility, a long steel Quonset hut.

I knew enough to vaccinate them for Erysipelas, but I put off castration until the summer help, my annual veterinary student, arrived. As soon as he got settled in I put him together with a strong Basque shepherd named Juan Garay and led him to the Quonset.

I would stay long enough to demonstrate on the first one, then I left the eager student with Juan to finish the job. You could hear the ruckus two miles down the road! It must have stuck in my mind because years later I found myself describing my first big rock concert as "A cross between Cape Canaveral and castrating pigs in a metal building!"

Which brings me to my Wyoming friends, Louie and Ann and their experience with squealing shoats. Louie's hired man wanted to raise some feedlot pigs for his freezer. Louie worked at the sale barn so the next Thursday he brought home five little piglets weighing in at 10 lbs each. The hired man was pleased and said he could take couple more if they came available.

Next Monday for the special feeder cattle sale Louie's wife, Ann, came along to help with the books. Since it was bitter cold they took the good truck because the heater worked better. During the day a cattleman showed up with a little piglet he had caught running wild in his feed bunks. Louie thought, how fortuitous! He gave the man five bucks. The hired man would be pleased.

They started home at the end of the day. It was dark, snowing, blowing and -35 degrees! Ann couldn't hold the wiggling varmint so she drove. After much experimentation Louie managed to squeeze the squirming swinelet between his knees, the curly tail-end at the edge of the seat. It was 32 miles home, although it seemed longer. The-piggy squealed all the way home! Every squeal piggy shot out a stream of all-natural, porcine-origin pungent effluence! It hit up under the dash and ran down onto the floor mats!

To survive the lusty ear-splitting caterwaul and the accompanying colonic expulsions, Ann hung her head out the driver's side window! Snow stinging her eyes, hands frozen to the wheel, she persevered by trying to think up names for the piglet. Louie sat in the wind tunnel with grim determination, hands locked on the stink bomb, trying to think up names for the hired man.

On arrival Louie had to be pried out of the cab with a tamping bar. They tried chopping his clothes but it was hard to do without hurting the piglet, so they let them thaw in the old pump house. Eventually they were both hosed off and sprayed with Lemon Pledge. Man and pig survived, although the next summer they burned down the pump house!

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Knox County is accepting applications for a clerk in the Justice of the Peace. This position requires good computer, organization, and communication

skills, as well as, good people skills. Applicants must pass an extensive background check and possible drug test. Application may be picked up at the Knox County Courthouse and must be returned by September 13, 2010.

For Sale

For Sale: WE have residential and commercial properties, farm/ranch lands for sale. We have buyers looking for land. Call Counts Real Estate (940)658-3390.

For sale: Used International Harvester Deep freezer & Westinghouse Refrigerator. Run well. \$50 each. For more information call (817) 454-7658 and ask for David.

For sale: 80 acre irrigated Costal Bermuda Grass farm. Located in NW Haskell County. Reasonable priced. 940-742-4367.

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3 Bedroom, 1 bath house for sale by owner. Needs work. Call 657-3196 after 3 pm.

**Classifieds
get results!**

Found

Old Grey Mare found on Hwy 222 close to Shapparaal Beer Store. Contact 940-459-3581 or 940-256-3628 with any information

Public Notice

Notice Of Public Meeting
To adopt the city of Benjamin's 2010 - 2011 budget
And the 2010 effective tax rate
The city of Benjamin will hold a public meeting on Wednesday September 8th, 2010 at 12:00 p.m.
The purpose of this meeting is to adopt the city of benjamin's budget and to set the effective tax rate of 0.63807 Which has decreased from last years tax rate by .17229

Public Notice

Notice Of Public Meeting
The north central texas municipal water authority
Will hold a public meeting on September 14th, at 7:00 p.m. At 135 north Munday avenue at Munday Texas.
The purpose of this meeting is to adopt the 2010 effective tax rate of .10 Per 100 dollars of value which decreased from last years tax rate by 0.08 Per 100 dollar value.

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2009 Weekly Weather Report

Date	Temperature (F) Low / High	Rainfall inches	Snow inches
8/23	73/107		
8/24	76/92		
8/25	68/89		
8/26	66/91		
8/27	60/95		
8/28	66/97		
8/29	65/98		
Total Rainfall for month		0.51	
2010 Rainfall (ytd)		27.33	6.6



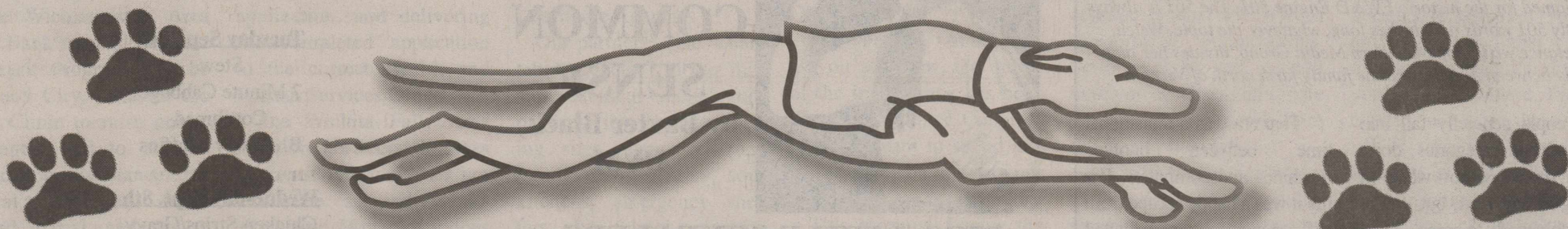
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KNOX CITY SPORTS



Hounds offense lines up to take on greenvilles defense last Saturday afternoon. The Hounds beat the ex-state champs 32-28.

Photo by Michelle Stanfield

Hounds varsity football executes the Eagles

By Jeff Stanfield

Football is back and so are the Hounds. The season kicked off with Greenville Christian Academy at Trent. It was hot! You could cook a biscuit in your drawers by the end of the 1st quarter. It started out ugly for the Hounds, with a fumble on the 1st play of the game. By the 1st series we had 3 plays from scrimmage, 2 fumbles and the Eagles had 1st down on our own 8 yd line.

This is where the Hounds showed what will become this year--- the strength of this team, HEART! Faced with a 1st and goal, the Hounds stopped the Eagles on 4 straight plays. It was all about stepping up and that is what they did. That is when Zach York made his 1st big play. On 1st and 10 from the 5, he hit Blake Jones in stride.

The Big Ol' country boy outruns the city boys to make it 6-0. T.J. Moore then makes the 1st of all of his extra points to make it 8-0.

The Hounds then kick off, and again it comes down to a big defensive play to stop an Eagle drive. On 4th and goal, T.J. Moore made a huge stop behind the line of scrimmage, with a one-handed tackle in the backfield. Both teams

struggled with any kind of consistent offense, until right before half, with 8 seconds left on the clock it struck York time again. York hits Ryan Ledesma on a 40 yd toss with a nice over the shoulder grab. Moore tacks on the extra point, 16-0 hounds at halftime.

The start of the 3rd quarter was more defense. The Eagles stripped Zach Shaver of the ball and returned it for a TD. This changed the momentum of the game. This was when Coach Steele, the gentle Giant exploded, The whistle should have blown. One of the linesmen had even marked the spot for forward progress, but he forgot to whistle. After some confusion they called it a strip and a TD for the Eagles. Steele was not happy and the linesman seemed nervous, as Steele was looking at him like he was a Crispy Creme Doughnut.

This changed the Eagles whole attitude. As they stopped the Hounds with a 3 and out, and then on the 1st play they took it right up the middle to pay dirt. This made the score 16-15 Knox City. After struggling for both teams, the eagles then have another long T.D. after converting a couple of key 4th downs. This gives them a 23-16 lead and a big confidence boost. In the 4th quarter, the Hounds were tight on offense and then the next big play for York. Except this time he is on the bad end of a hard hit and coughs up the ball on a blind side hit. Out comes the

ball, which is scooped up by an Eagle player and takes it to the end zone. Then Shaver blocks the extra point to make it 29-16.

With 4:58 remaining it looks like it is going to be a long bus ride on the yellow hammer back to KC. Steele then challenges his seniors to step up and do something. After a short kick out of bounds, 1st play Ledesma goes 45 yards for a score. Moore hits the extra point for a 29-24 Eagle lead. Again, before kicking off, Steele challenges the Defense and his seniors to step up. The Eagles return the ball to their own 38 yard line. On the 1st play Shaver returns the favor and strips the Eagle player of the ball and Jones recovers.

Once again, we turn to York's arm and he finds Brandon Bradley for a 31 yd TD pass and Mr. Automatic Moore hits another extra point to give the Hounds a 32-29 lead.

Then it is time for the defense to step up, and they do, as they stop the Eagles and walk out of Trent with the win. This was a huge win, as The Eagles were the defending State Champs and have won State 4 out of 6 years.

It has been a long time since the Hounds came back after being down late in a game. They responded to Steele's challenge and started the season 1-0. Next week the #8 Hounds play on the road against # 3, Ira.

Players of the game are chosen by the coaching staff. I will choose fan of the week.

See HOUNDS on page 6

Hounds JV

Hounds JV this week beat Wichita Christian 20-13. They were led by Josh Schnable on offense with 3 TDs, and Brandon York with some big catches. The defense was lead by Ty Baker, Heath Ham, Tylene Eaton and Kyle Harrington.

Stanfield's stand-outs

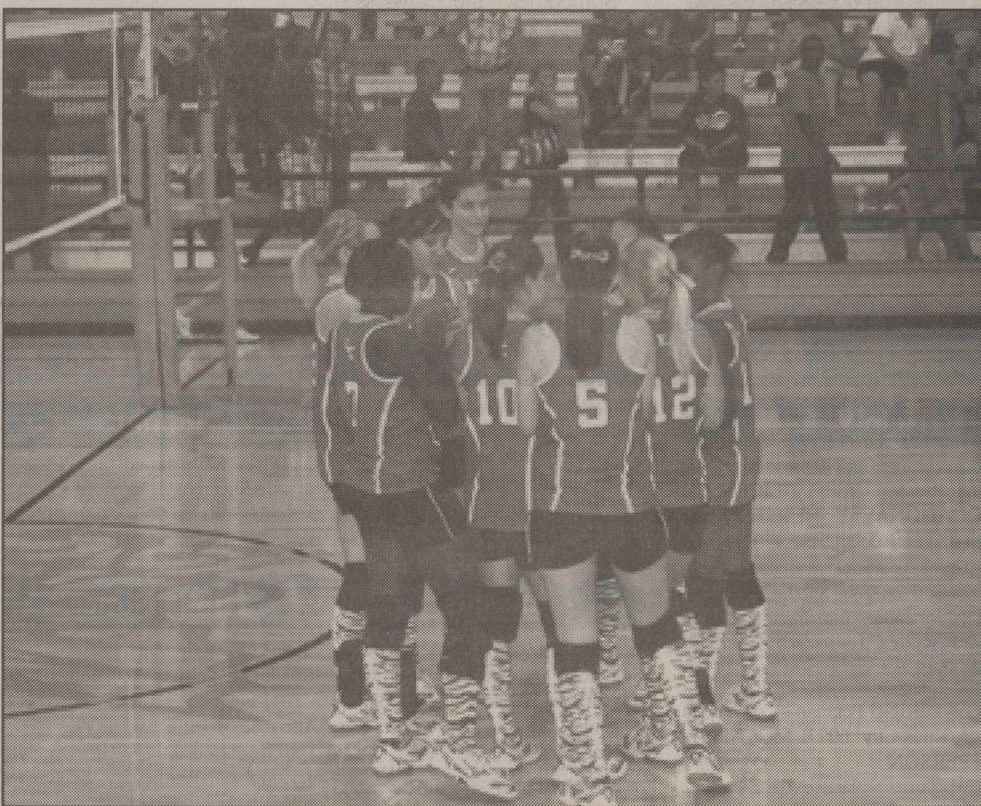
In Texas, football is king, and if the Dallas Cowboys can't figure out how to run the ball, the Kings will be the Houston Texans. Romo led offense has only scored 1 TD this pre-season. They have about as much game as the class nerd with the cheerleaders. It's going to be a long year for Jerry Jones, who wants his boys in the Super Bowl, since he is the host.

This weeks picks:
Knox City over Ira
Stamford over Anson
Texas Tech over SMU
T.C.U over Oregon State
Virginia Tech over Boise State

2010 Knox City Greyhound Football

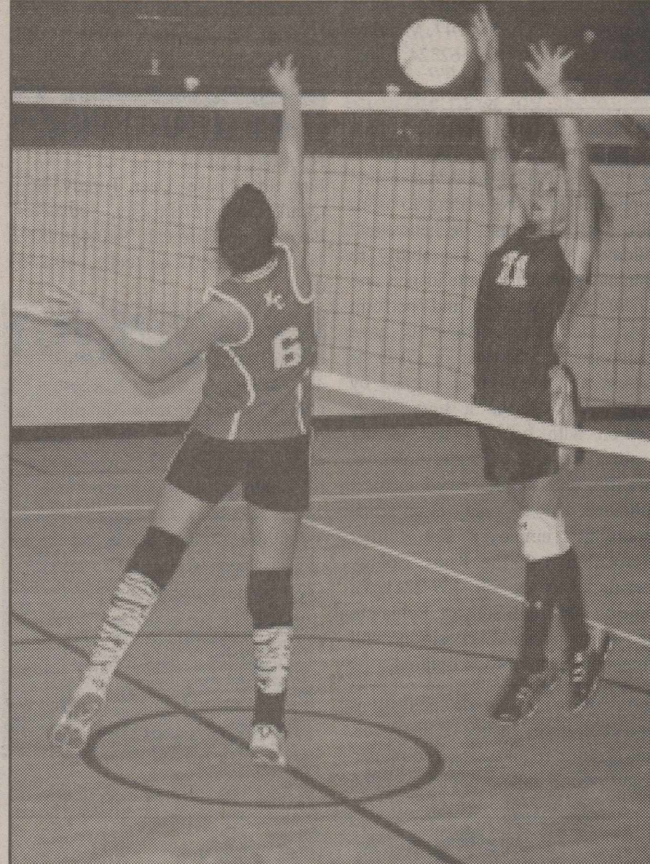
2	HEATH HAM	RB/DE	9
4	RYAN LEDESMA	RB/LB	11
6	TY BAKER	RB/NG	11
7	TYLYNNE EATON	TE/DE	9
8	JOSE ESPINAL	QB/S	10
9	ZACH SHAVER	RB/LB	12
10	ZAKERY YORK	TE/DE	12
11	BRANDON YORK	TE/DE	11
12	MARCELL LEWIS	RB/DE	12
14	AUSTIN VALIMONT	C/DE	12
17	ZACK CARTER	TE/DE	9
20	KYLE HARRINGTON	TE/LB	11
22	CHAGO ESPINAL	TE/S	12
23	AUSTIN KING	TE/DE	9
24	JAREK WILDE	RB/LB	11
31	BRANDON BRADLEY	TE/S	12
32	JOSH SCHNABLE	RB/LB	11
33	TJ MOORE	QB/DE	11
36	SANTOS ESPINAL	TE/DE	12
44	BLAKE JONES	TE/DE	10
63	RILEY RODRIGUEZ	C/DE	12
75	TYLER CLARK	C/DE	9

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The Houndettes get pumped for the game against Paducah. They won 3-0.
Photo by Daveine Clark

Tiffany Esquivel goes head to head with Paducah player on Tuesday night.
Photo by Daveine Clark



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2010 Mustang Football Roster

#	Name	Class
3	Tyler Kinnibrugh	11
5	Bryston Pierce	9
7	Jonathan Rodriquez	10
20	Cody Propps	12
22	Taylor Cantrell	12
25	Matthew Acree	10
27	Stran Jackson	9
28	Jonathan Rainwater	10
	Justin Patterson	9
	Gerrad Brachwitz	9

Head Coach: Bob Sprinkles

Asst. Coach: Ben Grill

Cheerleaders: Valerie Mendoza, Kim Patterson

Mascot: Shelby Russell

Sponsor: Melissa Everson

Supt.: Olivia Del Hierro Gloria

Vernon College GED test dates for 2010

Vernon College has scheduled GED test dates which will enable individuals to earn their high school diploma equivalency. The test will be given on the Vernon campus Sept. 8, Oct. 20, and Nov. 17. Testing will begin at 8 a.m. in the Testing Center, Room 213, in the Wright Library.

Pre-registration is required at least one week prior to the test date. Seating is limited, so early sign up is encouraged.

A Texas resident who is at least 18 years old (17 years old with signed parental permission), who has not graduated from high school and is not enrolled in high school, is eligible to take the test. Everyone taking the GED test must provide a Texas driver's license or Texas state issued picture ID, and social security card at registration and at each testing session. If a driver's license or Texas ID is not available, a person may obtain one through the Texas Department of Public Safety Driver's License Division.

GED Testing Service has developed a new series of the GED tests which will be released on Jan. 1, 2012. All

GED examinees should be advised that scores earned on the current 2002 series or previous tests will not be able to be combined with those earned on the new 2012 series. By Dec. 31, 2011, examinees must have taken and earned minimum scores on all five content area tests and earned the minimum total passing standard on the 2002 series, or they will need to take the entire 2012 series test battery.

The cost for the full battery of tests is \$75, and a re-test for an individual section is \$15. Cash, checks, or money orders in the correct amount made payable to Vernon College are acceptable. Prices are subject to change. Payment for testing must be made at the time of registration in the Testing Center on the Vernon campus during regular testing center hours. The Vernon campus Testing Center is open Wednesdays from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. and on Thursdays from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Classes are available if a review is needed before the examination. GED classes meet on the Vernon campus only. Classes meet from 6 - 9 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday in the Biggs Arts & Science Center Room 308. Participants will register the first night they attend class, but there is no charge for attending. Instructor is Leslie Taylor.

For further information regarding the GED examinations or special accommodations, please contact Sharron Shelton at 940-552-6291 ext.2317 or register in person at the Testing Center in Room 213 of the Wright Library, on the Vernon campus.

BENJAMIN NEWS

By Gladene Green

We have had a hint of fall in the air for a few days and it has been so nice! However, warmer days have returned but maybe they won't stay around too long... let's hope that's the way it will be.

Regarding Our Ill

Mike Young is much better after his latest problem. A second stroke followed by a clot in his arm kept him hospitalized for several days, but he's out now and is here for a few days visit with his parents, Dutch and Imagean, and other relatives and friends.

Jacky Young is in Houston at M.D. Anderson awaiting more testing. He will have a biopsy on Sept. 8 to determine just what the Drs are dealing with and what treatment will be used. He's holding his own and if things continue as they are, he may plan to be back in Dallas this next weekend for a family get together at his brother, Butch's, home. If you wish to send Jacky a card, his address is:

Jacky Young
c/o Jessie ones rotary House
1600 Holcomb Blvd.
Houston, TX 77032-4012
I'm sure he would like to hear from home.

Corrine Parrish is better with her back problem. She was able to be in church Sunday after being out several weeks. It's good to see her out and about again.

Others who have health problem are doing pretty well and that's always a good report.

Sympathy this week to JoAnn Graves and her family. JoAnn's daughter, Jackie, passed away early last week

after several years of failing health. She lived in Lubbock. Her funeral was Saturday at Gillispie Baptist Church.

Here 'N There

Judy and Randy Barnett returned home Friday after a two-week vacation trip to Alaska to visit his son and family. They got in lots of salmon fishing, among other things while away.

Lots of kids are off to school. Some for the first time and others are returning for another term. I don't have near all the local kids who are away but do have some and will continue next time:

Leah and Jessica Vanderpol are at McMurray in Abilene. Sarah Clowers will be attending Hardin Simmons, also in Abilene. Lisa Siemens is in Nursing school in Vernon, Terri miller is in nursing school in Seymour. David Clower is at Texas Tech. Will Moorhouse is going to TSTI in Sweetwater. Nafessa Ebraheim is at MSU and Devon Jones is at Texas Tech.

Clayton Conner of Lubbock visited relatives here on Friday.

Word was received today of the death of Eula Redwine Brown. She was a former resident though had been away several years. Graveside rites will be here at the Benjamin Cemetery tomorrow (Tuesday). We extend sympathy to her family.

The Mustangs were in Harrold on Friday night for the first game of the season. The final score was 56-6- Harrold being the victor. Maybe this week things will be better.

Parent - Child Night Out offered by Cancer Services Network

ABILENE - Cancer Services Network and Cook Children's Specialty Clinic Abilene are hosting a *Parent-Child Night Out*, for parents, children and siblings living with a pediatric cancer diagnosis on **Thursday, Sept. 9**. The purpose of the group is to help children with cancer and their families by providing education and emotional support.

Lisa Bashore, RN and Jan Finch, LCSW will discuss the Cook Children's Life After Cancer program. Mimi Schultz, a Certified Child Life Specialist with Cook Children's Specialty Clinic, will facilitate a fun activity for the children and siblings. The meeting will begin with dinner at 6 p.m. at Hillcrest Church of Christ located at 650 East Ambler Avenue. Please RSVP by calling 1.325.672.0040 or by emailing acolley@

cancerservicesnetwork.org at your earliest convenience. There is no charge associated with the support group. However, registration is preferred for an accurate count for dinner and materials. This program is made possible in part by a grant from the Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas.

Cancer Services Network, an agency of the Brown County United Way, is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization that provides emotional and financial support to cancer patients and their families in a 19-county area of West Central Texas, including: Brown, Callahan, Coleman, Comanche, Eastland, Fisher, Haskell, Jones, Kent, Knox, Mitchell, Nolan, Runnels, Scurry, Shackelford, Stephens, Stonewall, Taylor and Throckmorton.

Improvements to crop insurance programs for organic crops

WASHINGTON, Aug. 30 - The U. S. Department of Agriculture Risk Management Agency (RMA) said today it will offer an organic price election for four crops during the 2011 production year. In conjunction with that decision, RMA today released three reports that provide the framework for improvements to crop insurance programs that are available to producers of certified organic crops.

"USDA is working to provide producers of organic crops with improved opportunities and resources," said agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. We are taking aggressive action to improve delivery of our programs, with impressive results for our customers. The release of these reports and RMA's announcement of the price election mark another step in that continuing effort."

RMA is preparing to issue organic price elections for the 2011 crop year for cotton, corn and soybeans, as well as processing tomatoes.

The reports issued by RMA compile research into data that support a price election for organic crops. They also provide a comparative analysis of loss experience for organic crops and conventional crops produced in the same counties during the same crop years. The reports were prepared under the provisions of the Food, Conservation,

and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill). In preparing the reports, RMA contracted for research to develop a pricing methodology using available data. RMA will continue to evaluate data available upon which to develop organic price elections for other insured crops.

RMA is also eliminating a current 5 percent surcharge for organic crops insured under ten crop insurance programs. Affected programs are Figs; Florida Citrus Fruit; Florida Fruit Tree (Pilot); Macadamia Tree; Nursery; Pears; Peppers; Prunes; Texas Citrus Tree; Texas Citrus Fruit. The agency will continue to accumulate data that will allow for more precise rating of other organic crops.

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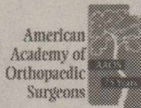
A SHORT STORY ABOUT GROWING UP WITH AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE.

POLIO.

As one of the last American children to contract polio, Jeffrey Galpin grew up in a world of iron lungs and body casts, alone with his imagination. His story would be dramatic enough if it was just about his battle with this dreaded disease.

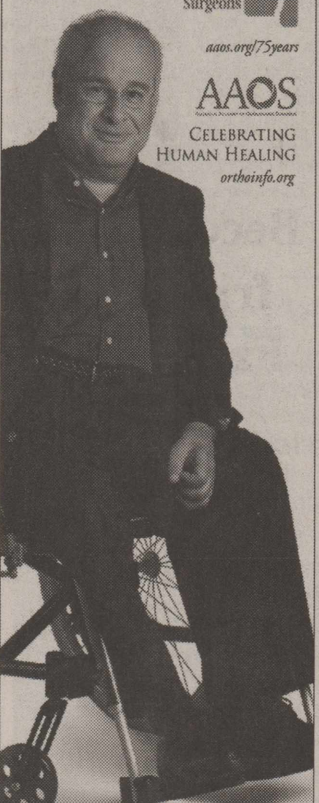
But Jeffrey Galpin did more than survive polio. He went on to a list of achievements in medical research—including being the principal investigator in applying the first gene therapy for HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Galpin actually credits his own incurable condition for giving him the focus that made him so passionate in his research. His story leaves us with two of the most contagious messages we know. Don't give up, and remember to give back. If Dr. Galpin's story inspires just one more person to make a difference, then its telling here has been well worth while.



aaos.org/75years

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Wichita Falls Outreach Program coming to Knox City

The Wichita Falls Area Food Bank's Social Services Outreach Program will be in Knox City, Texas at the WIC Clinic to raise public awareness and to provide application assistance for several different state-funded social and health services such as Food Stamps, Medicaid, Women's Healthcare Program, CHIP, and TANF.

The Food Bank's Social Services Outreach Coordinator, Rachel Wachsmann, will be setting up an Application Completion Center at the WIC Clinic on Tuesday September 7th, 2010 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The Center will offer hassle-free sign-up which includes assistance in filling out the

application, and delivering the completed application to the correct Health and Human Services Office.

The Wichita Falls Area Food Bank's Social Services Outreach Program does not determine an individual's eligibility. However, it does make sure the applicants have information on the assistance programs available to them, assures necessary paperwork is completed thoroughly and correctly, and turns the applications in to the correct office.

The Wichita Falls Area Food Bank (WFAFB) is a nonprofit, central clearinghouse which secures, stores and distributes food in 12-north Texas counties. Our Mission Statement is "Feeding the Hungry through

Charitable Agencies."

Our partners - the "charitable agencies" in our mission statement - include food pantries, low-income housing sites, senior citizens, family crisis centers, soup kitchens, emergency shelters, after school programs, low-income day care centers, rehabilitation facilities and disaster relief agencies.

WFAFB recovers or receives food from local grocers, dairies, bakeries, farmers, ranchers, individuals, Feeding America, reclamation centers, other Food Banks who share their surplus, USDA commodities and through food and fund drives. Nearly 3 million pounds of food is distributed annually through our partners for their hungry clients.

Just Jeff

This would be the perfect speech from President Obama:

My Fellow Americans, as you all know, the defeat of the Iraq regime has been completed. Since Congress does not want to spend any more money on this war, our mission in Iraq is complete.

This morning I gave the order for a complete removal of all American forces from Iraq. This action will be complete within 30 days. It is now time to begin the reckoning.

Before me, I have two lists. One list contains the names of countries which have stood by our side during the Iraq conflict. This list is short. The United Kingdom, Spain, Bulgaria, Australia, and Poland, are some of the countries listed there.

The other list contains every one not on the first list. Most of the world's nations are on that list. My press secretary will be distributing copies of both lists later this evening.

Let me start by saying that effective immediately, foreign aid to those nations on List 2 ceases indefinitely. The money saved during the first year alone will pretty much pay for the costs of the Iraqi war. THEN EVERY YEAR THEREAFTER, IT WILL GO TO OUR SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM SO IT WILL NOT GO BROKE IN 20 YEARS.

The American people are no longer going to pour money into third world Hell Holes and watch those government leaders grow fat on corruption.

Need help with a famine? Wrestling with an epidemic? Call France. In the future,

together with Congress, I will work to redirect this

money toward solving the social problems we still have at home. On that note, a word to terrorist organizations. Screw with us and we will hunt you down and eliminate you and all your friends from the face of the earth.

Looking for a gutsy country to terrorize? Try France or maybe China. I am ordering the immediate severing of diplomatic relations with France and Russia. Thanks for all your help, comrades. We are retiring from NATO as well. I have instructed the Mayor of New York City to begin towing the many UN diplomatic vehicles located in Manhattan with more than two unpaid parking tickets to sites where those vehicles will be stripped, shredded and crushed. I don't care about whatever treaty pertains to this. You creeps have tens of thousands of unpaid tickets. Pay those tickets tomorrow or watch your precious Benzes, Beamers and limos be turned over to some of the finest Chop Shops in the world. I love New York.

A special note to our neighbors: Canada is on List 2. Since we are likely to be seeing a lot more of each other, you folks might want to try not making us angry for a change.

Mexico is also on List 2. Its president and his entire corrupt government really needs an attitude adjustment. I will have a couple thousand extra tanks and infantry divisions sitting around. Guess where I am going to put 'em? Yep, border security.

Oh, by the way, the United States is abolishing the NAFTA treaty, starting now.

We are tired of the one-way highway. Immediately, we'll be drilling for oil in

Alaska -which will take care of this country's oil needs for decades to come. If you're an environmentalist who opposes this decision, I refer you to List 2 above. Pick a country and move there.

It is time for America to focus on its own welfare and its own citizens. Some will accuse us of isolationism. I answer them by saying, "Who Cares?"

Nearly a century of trying to help folks live a decent life around the world has only earned us the undying enmity of just about everyone on the planet. It is time to eliminate hunger in America. It is time to eliminate homelessness in America. To the nations on List 1, a final thought: Thank you guys. We owe you and we won't forget.

To the nations on List 2, a final thought: You might want to learn to speak Arabic.

God bless America! Thank you and good night!

If you can read this in English, thank a soldier.

My citizen of the week is all the moms who had to send off their little ones to school this week. Maybe it is their last year or their first year. May each of you realize how much you mean to your kiddos and how blessed they are to have you in their lives.

This last week we had a Booster Club meeting. If you have a kid (boy or girl) in high school sports, it would be nice for you to attend these meetings. We need more parents to get involved. If you read this and you have a high school student, then I am talking to you!!! THE BOOSTER MEETINGS ARE AT 6:30 AT THE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY ON MONDAYS.

Cattleman's Field Day in Knox City

Ranchers in the Knox County area can attend a free Cattleman's Field Day hosted by the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA). The field day will take place Thursday, September 9, 2010 at the Wooden Nickel Activity Center in Knox City, Texas.

Experts will present programs focused on testing animals who are persistently infected with Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus (BVDV-PI), fetal programming and sustained nutrition, vaccination management, and new marketing programs for cattle producers.

A complimentary beef lunch will be served at noon. The program begins

at 1 p.m. and will conclude at 5 p.m. All participants with pesticide applicator licenses will receive two Continuing Education Credits (CEUs). Participants will also receive one beef quality credit.

Participants should RSVP to Stacy Fox at (800) 242-7820 or Anthony Munoz at (940) 459-2651. For more information, please visit www.tscra.org and click on Calendar.

The sponsors for the event include, Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc., Dow AgroSciences, Gold Standard Labs, IDEXX Laboratories, Purina Mills, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, the Texas Beef Council and TSCRA.

The Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association is a 133-year-old trade organization. As the largest and oldest livestock association in Texas, TSCRA represents more than 15,000 beef cattle producers, ranching families and businesses who manage approximately 4 million head of cattle on 51.5 million acres of range and pasture land, primarily in Texas and Oklahoma. TSCRA provides law enforcement and livestock inspection services, legislative and regulatory advocacy, industry news and information, insurance services and educational opportunities for its members and the industry.

HOUNDS

Offensive player	Zach Shaver	Fan of the week would have been Marilyn but she did not bring any Oatmeal and Raisin Cookies, or get a blue
Defensive	Jarek Wilde and Ryan Ledesma	
Hit of the week	Zach	

streak dyed in her hair, like she promised at booster club. So I am going with the crazy blond-haired mom with all the bling, Michelle Stanfield.

Unexpected benefits for pet owners

(StatePoint) Owing a pet is about more than just having a furry friend around. Pets actually can benefit your health, both physically and mentally.

There have been many studies suggesting that pets can help their owners live longer, reducing their daily stress and helping to lower blood pressure. And owning dogs, in particular, can be good for human health - especially for seniors. Research indicates that walking a dog affords many older Americans much-needed exercise.

"We've all heard about how owning a dog can be good for our physical health. But there are many unexpected benefits, as well. Dogs can provide some great life lessons that help us to become better

people and better enjoy our daily lives" says Doug Kuktavy, author of the new book "The Legacy of Beezer and Boomer: Lessons on Living and Dying from My Canine Brothers."

Kuktavy never even wanted a dog until he and his wife adopted two sibling black Labrador retriever dogs, Beezer and Boomer. Beezer developed kidney disease five years ago and Boomer was stricken with bone cancer just a year after Beezer's passing. Feelings of guilt and fear ruled Kuktavy regarding medical treatment, life extension, pain reduction and the anticipated loss of his best friends.

But Kuktavy learned some important life lessons from his dogs during this time, like how to be less of a control freak, how to relax, and how to appreciate life and handle grief when a loved one dies.

"In my case, the dogs' illnesses exposed how badly out of balance I had been during this time. Always quick to forgive others, I was mercilessly tough on myself. This created constant self-doubt and guilt," he says. "The dogs taught me that the love I showered upon them was the same love I withheld from myself. They deserved that love, but so did I. I'm very grateful for those lessons."

To learn more about the lessons Kuktavy says you can glean from your pets, visit www.BeezerAndBoomer.com or read his new book, The Legacy of Beezer and Boomer.

And while ownership affords the most joy, there are plenty of pets out there simply looking for a good foster home. If you're interested in adopting a pet, check PetFinder.org.

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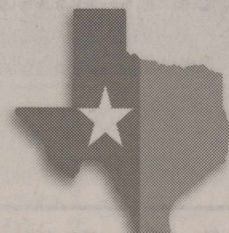
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2010

Property Tax Rates in

BENJAMIN CITY

This notice concerns 2010 property tax rates for BENJAMIN CITY. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year's tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year's effective tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year's rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

Last year's tax rate:	
Last year's operating taxes	\$ 29,159.00
Last year's debt taxes	\$
Last year's total taxes	\$ 29,159.00
Last year's tax base	\$ 3,598,233.00
Last year's total tax rate	\$ 0.810360 /\$100

This year's effective tax rate:	
Last year's adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property)	\$ 28,764.00
+ This year's adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property)	\$ 4,507,990.00
= This year's effective tax rate	\$ 0.638070 /\$100

(Maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings.)

OPINION



The Paperboy

Miracle or coincidence?

By CHRIS BLACKBURN

Do you believe in Divine intervention? Some of you may think such a notion is silly. Perhaps you don't believe in a higher power, which is well within your rights. For the record, I think a miracle occurred Friday night between the towns of Childress and Wellington. It's beyond comprehension the amount of tragedy good people and a small town avoided. There was a major accident involving three vehicles and 12 people (14 counting the two unborn babies) following Friday's football game between the Wellington Skyrockets and Childress Bobcats. One young lady suffered a broken leg. Cuts and bruises, pretty minor in nature, were the only other injuries. Among those in the accident were a pregnant employee of mine, the Childress High School Principal, the school system's technology wizard, the Childress County Judge's secretary, a family nurse practitioner and several students. The wreck also occurred very near the Bobcat Bus, filled

with football players. I'd like to know the odds of such a wreck happening at night involving that many people and that many vehicles (including one airborne) with no life-threatening injuries, not to mention no fatalities. The impact such a tragedy would have had on this small town would have been overwhelming. Instead, there is joy. At the ER of Childress Regional Medical Center, dozens of shocked and concerned friends and family huddled together as everyone was checked out. It was a surreal setting, because it should have been so much worse. Was it a miracle? Was it pure coincidence? Maybe 14 people just got real lucky... After listening to the description of the accident and witnessing the damage to the vehicles involved, I have no doubt the good Lord was watching over all concerned. As a journalist in 2010, perhaps I should avoid making such claims. Well, I'd be lying if I said otherwise. Besides, this is not a news story, it is an opinion column and in my opinion, God has intervened before...

I believe God saved my son's life when my wife backed over him three years ago. I believe God saved my wife's life last year when her colon ruptured. And, I believe God spared several lives Friday night. But it works both ways. If I believe that God protected those mentioned in the instances above, I must also believe that he did not intervene in other instances. So I take away this from Friday night: Be thankful and appreciative when friends and loved ones remain with us despite incredible odds. Be understanding when they pass under similar circumstances. According to scripture, we are not to question, just accept. Normally I shy away from such professions of faith in this space. Faith is personal in nature and in all probability, no two opinions are exactly alike. In this instance, I feel compelled to share these feelings.

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

Other Opinions

The Real "Radicals"

By BILL WILSON

There was a time in the not-too-distant past — 234 years ago to be precise — when the ideas articulated by the tea party movement would have rightly been considered "radical." Not just radical in their ideological composition, either, but radical in the more "irrational" sense — in that advancing these ideas was a good way to wind up dead. And that's exactly what happened to more than 25,000 American Revolutionaries — patriots who gave their lives in order to provide the liberty we enjoy today (and which we now aspire to pass down to future generations). From its founding documents to the blood that was shed on its battlefields, the American Revolution was by definition "radical." According to Merriam-Webster, that means it was "marked by a considerable departure from the usual or traditional," and "tending or disposed to (making) extreme changes in existing views, habits, conditions, or institutions." It was also quite clearly "advocating extreme measures" to bring about a new "state of political affairs." And the "radical" idea succeeded — not only in casting off the yoke of Eighteenth Century imperialist oppression, but in forg-

ing an entirely unique model of democratic governance. This new nation, "conceived in liberty" two-and-a-quarter centuries ago, followed the blueprint laid out by its Founding Fathers and within a few short generations became the richest, strongest, most freedom-loving nation the world has ever seen. Meanwhile, nations which were built on counter-ideologies of collectivism, government control, censorship and command economic planning have failed spectacularly — at a tremendous human cost. In recent decades, however, politicians of both parties in Washington, D.C. have inexplicably abandoned America's founding blueprint and embraced many of these failed ideologies. Thanks to this fundamental ideological shift, the primary source of America's strength, wealth and freedom — its people — has been greatly diminished. Now the final "radical" offensive — the one that threatens to bring down our democracy once and for all — is being implemented by Barack Obama and his socialist hordes. In the name of "Wall Street reform," the federal government has taken over the financial industry (while conveniently ignoring its own starring role in the most recent economic collapse). In the name of "health care reform" it has socialized medicine and mandated that Americans either purchase insurance or pay

huge fines to the government. In the name of "environmental protection" it has proposed the largest energy tax increase in American history. And in the name of "economic recovery" it has spent trillions of dollars to grow government while small businesses are going under by the thousands and families are struggling to make ends meet. As a result of these policies, America's debt and deficit are at record levels. Meanwhile, millions of Americans remain unemployed with another major economic contraction looming — a "double-dip" recession that will only deepen when dozens of tax increases take effect in 2011. While both Republican and Democratic politicians have led us here — sacrificing American freedom and prosperity on the altar of government's insatiable appetite for more money and more power — there is something especially sinister about Obama's machinations. Like master propagandists of old, Obama has not only veiled his anti-American agenda under the generically-comforting banners of "hope" and "change," he has also sought to create a foil — a group of antagonists that he can label as the "real radicals." In fact, in Obama's world these "real radicals" are the very people who are fighting to restore fiscal sanity, common sense principles, fundamental fairness and founding

wisdom to our government. "The White House has tried to link the Republican Party with the fledgling conservative-libertarian tea party coalition — and demonize the combination as too extreme for the country," a recent Associated Press article noted. Indeed, a full-court press has been initiated by the Obama administration with the goal of portraying the tea party as outside of the American "mainstream." Several establishment Republicans desperate to hold onto their seats at the taxpayer-funded table have joined the chorus, too. And perhaps Obama — for once — is correct. Not in an ideological sense, obviously, but perhaps our overreaching federal government and its legacy media apologists have successfully branded supporters of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" as the real "kooks" in this country. If that's the case, then the definition of "radical" has truly come full circle — and the only difference between today's tea partiers and those who gathered in Boston Harbor in 1773 is the source of their oppression. Such a movement may seem "radical" to Obama and his media elites, but in truth it is not only entirely consistent with American values — it is the last, best hope for their survival.

Standing On Principle or Battling America's Will?

By DAVID BOZEMAN

According to the latest Democrat propaganda points, President Barack Obama is not out of the mainstream, he is simply standing on principle. Well, we can't even give him that, at least not on the mosque controversy, as he now won't back up his earlier statements in support of its construction. But they're running with it, anyway. When a conservative Republican takes an unpopular stand, he or she is just... unpopular. Democrats and the press loved quoting President George Bush's basement-level approval numbers and slamming his hard-headedness for staying the course in Iraq long after the American people had soured on our presence there. But did anyone ever praise him for standing on principle? In Obama's defense, yes, presidents often do have to take unpopular stands. Acting in the best interests of America against the overwhelming tide of public opinion requires a strength of leadership not found in those who enter public life merely to be important people, as opposed to doing important things. Americans tend to understand this and other perils of the presidency. Whether Obama is motivated by principle or narcissism

matters little to the condition of this country (and he probably is motivated by some of both). But when a leader finds himself too frequently justifying his clashes with the majority of Americans, the question bears asking, whose side is he on? In a mere twenty months since his inauguration, Obama has pushed through a hugely unpopular health care reform bill, he has sued Arizona for an anti-illegal immigration law supported by about 70% of American voters, and, against the wishes of Gulf states, he has enforced a moratorium on offshore drilling. And then we have his economic policies, considered a failure by more than half of all Americans, depending on the poll. Which brings forth the other Democrat talking point: they now remind us that President Ronald Reagan, at the same point in his first term, was also burdened by soaring unemployment rates and dwindling poll numbers. Indeed, Reagan was not always popular even with his own base. He signed occasional tax increases into law, and, toward the end of his presidency, he stunned the conservative movement by making minor concessions to Gorbachev and appearing to make nice with the Soviet leader. Occasional policy differences are part of the governing process, but love of freedom endures. Reagan staked his

presidency on the belief that a cut in top marginal tax rates would spur economic growth and, in turn, job creation. Reagan consistently invested his faith in the American people as the source of economic growth and national greatness, unlike the current administration that has invested \$13 trillion in debt, and nationalized entire segments of the private sector. But true, at this point in 1982, many Americans disapproved of Reagan's apparent failures, but not his principles and not his worldview. Unlike Reagan, Democrats today must explain away Barack Obama's 20-year relationships with America-bashing preachers and home-grown terrorists. They cannot write an inspiring legacy on his partial term as a U.S. senator, with abysmally low and even single-digit ratings from the National Taxpayer's Union, Americans for Tax Reform and the US Chamber of Commerce, contrasted with 100 percent ratings from the National Association of Government Contractors and — surprise, ACORN! Barack Obama coasted to the presidency by playing rock star to a groupie media and on the good will of Americans who thought it was time to give a new guy a chance. Now, without George W. Bush as a whipping boy, Democrats must defend an agenda that, however principled, is far beyond America's mainstream and is clearly not Reaganesque.

'Human Rights' in America

Previous U.S. administrations have tended to give a cold shoulder to the U.N. Human Rights Council, which usually includes as member states such paragons of virtue as Angola, Communist China, Cuba, Libya, Pakistan and Uganda. But the Obama administration decided to take a different approach. On Friday, Hillary Clinton's State Department submitted a 29-page report on the United States to the council. And it's a doozy. The report notes that although the United States now has an African-American president and women and Hispanics have achieved greater progress, large segments of American society suffer from unfair policies and practices. High unemployment rates, hate crime, poverty, poor housing, lack of access to health care and discriminatory hiring

practices are among the challenges the report identifies as affecting blacks, Latinos, Muslims, South Asians, American Indians and gays and lesbians in America, according to Mrs. Clinton's State Department. Really? Compared to China -- where Tibetan nuns regularly die in captivity and executions of political dissidents are hurried up so their organs can be harvested -- blacks, Muslims and Asian-Americans are far more likely to die outside an American emergency room because they're refused treatment based on their race or religion? Yes, economic conditions on America's Indian reservations are often still lamentable -- though surely we need not weep for the Mohegan Pequots -- but poor Americans are regularly made to live in dirt-floored shacks with no indoor plumbing

simply because of their race or sexual preferences? Gays and lesbians who are open about their sexuality fare worse here in the states than in, say, Nigeria or Arabia? In 2010? Who'd have thunk it? The report even apologizes for Arizona's new state law attempting to enforce America's immigration law, already one of the most permissive in the world. This administration has spent nearly two years apologizing for America. This report is just more of the same drive. What on Earth is the purpose of delivering such a "we sure stink" critique to the cynical dashiki-clad kleptocrats of the United Nations? Does Mr. Obama think he can dig up some more Democratic votes this election cycle in Djibouti and Burkina Faso?

Ag Oil Golf Tournament Results

By Tamara Smart

At the recent Ag-Oil Golf Tournament at the Knox City Country Club, with many in attendance, only a few left as victors. In two tournaments (one in the morning, one later in the afternoon), several teams composed of local oil field executives, mid-management and on-site laborers came together to drive, putt and work together in a way that had nothing to do with oil.

In the morning

tournament, Alex Flores Team won first place. There was a tie for second and third places between the Mingo Garcia team and the Bob Bowen team. The teams split the prize.

Luis Flores had the morning's longest drive.

Mingo Garcia, Robert Arismendez and Eddie Baldwin got "closest to the pin".

The two morning wild card teams were Charles packs team and Jeff Stanfield Team.

In the afternoon, a whole new group of guys hit the course, Baker Chemical showing the rest of them up as the winners, followed closely by J.D. Garcia's team and the Homer Rolston team.

Lee Allen got the afternoons longest drive; and Tate Thompson, B. Wofford, and Bo Davis were "closest to the pin". Afternoon Wild Cards were Air Ag and Paul Meador teams.

First Texas Wildlife Short Course hailed as a success

COLLEGE LANDOWNERS were eager to learn about wildlife management and property tax valuation from experts at the recent Texas Wildlife Short Course in Bryan.

Application details were provided for this type of valuation and qualifying land management activities, said Dr. Jim Cathey, Texas AgriLife Extension Service wildlife specialist.

"The trend is growing for wildlife operations across the state where landowners blend livestock and wildlife management," Cathey said. "Those in attendance had a lot of questions about how to get into this type of business."

The short course, sponsored by AgriLife Extension and held at the Brazos County Exposition Center, had more than 100

in attendance who came from all parts of the state, including Laredo, Utopia, San Antonio, Encino, Lampasas, Cross Plains and Arlington, Cathey said. It catered to both new and seasoned sportsmen, providing up to date information on all aspects of wildlife management.

Short course topics included assessment of intensive deer management by biologist Bob Zaiglin. It also addressed pond management, brush management, understanding how to legally plant and manipulate fields for doves, feral hog control, and marketing wildlife.

"I think that it is fantastic that Texas landowners add to their knowledge base to make changes on the landscape that benefits wildlife," Cathey said. "There were also a slate of activities designed

just for young people, and three continuing education units for private pesticide applicators were provided."

The second day featured educational activities merged with the arrival of 400 additional people who honored landowners and hunters for their stewardship of natural resources as part of the Texas Big Game Awards Sportsmen's Celebration.

Cathey noted that this will be an annual event and plans are already underway for what will be the second annual Texas Wildlife Short Course. Financial sponsors of the first event were Producers Cooperative, Stay-Tuff Fence, Coufal-Prater Equipment and Frontier Land and Wildlife Management.

For more information regarding the Texas Wildlife Short Course, contact Cathey at 979-845-0916.

Texas marks 10 years, \$30 million in State Wildlife grants federal funding

AUSTIN — Texas will celebrate Teaming With Wildlife Week Sep. 4-12 to mark the 10th anniversary of the federal State Wildlife Grants (SWG) program. Since 2000, this funding source has provided more than \$30 million for Texas to help fish and wildlife and their habitats, including species that are not hunted or fished.

Nationwide, the program has provided federal funding for conservation projects totaling more than \$573 million to state agencies such as Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, which has received about \$3 million per year for Texas conservation in the past decade. Since TPWD has had to match federal grant dollars by at least 35 percent, total on-the-ground conservation funding for Texas is actually more than \$40 million since 2000.

In Texas, SWG has made possible diverse conservation efforts involving almost every conceivable creature in every type of habitat — birds, mammals, fish, prairies, forests, rivers, bays (see complete project list online). Examples include the lesser prairie chicken on West Texas prairies, black bear in East Texas forests, ocelot on South Texas plains, and freshwater mussels signaling water quality in rivers across the state.

"We're talking about dollars here, but this is really about touching the lives of people and the power to make a difference for the wildlife of Texas," said David Braun, CEO of Plateau Land and Wildlife Management company and leader of the Teaming with Wildlife Texas coalition. "Most people probably don't know where the money comes from for wildlife conservation in Texas. But we want them to know our broad grass-roots coalition of diverse interests works very hard to support this federal funding, which is critical for all Texans alive today and for generations to come."

"Texas is blessed with an extraordinary diversity of native plants and animals that encompass our state's natural heritage," said Carter Smith, TPWD executive director and national Teaming With Wildlife committee chair for the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. "I take great pride in the fact that our many non-profit conservation organization and private landowner partners involved with the Teaming with Wildlife Coalition are working so diligently and effectively to ensure that these special wildlife resources continue to flourish."

For many decades, North American game animal conservation has been paid for through

hunting and fishing license sales and federal excise taxes on hunting and fishing equipment. In 1938, Congress created the Pittman-Robertson/Wildlife Restoration federal aid program. In 1950, federal lawmakers followed up with the similar Dingell-Johnson/Sport Fish Restoration program. This highly successful effort has made possible the restoration of deer, turkey, game fish and a host of other game species, many of which have since come back from severe depletion to record abundance.

In 2000, Congress recognized a need to support states' actions to prevent federal threatened and endangered listings under the Endangered Species Act. The SWG program helps support conservation and recovery of non-game wildlife before they become more costly to protect.

In 2005, Congress required states and territories to create conservation action plans to strategically guide the use of SWG funding. These plans focus state efforts to conserve wildlife and the lands and waters where they live for future generations of Americans. By working with stakeholders and communities, wildlife agencies translate pressing conservation needs into practical actions and on the ground results. The Texas plan is currently being revised and will be renamed the Texas Conservation Action Plan. More information about these plans is online.

A nationwide grassroots coalition of more than 6,300 organizations and businesses known as Teaming with Wildlife has helped champion the value of SWG funding each year. The coalition's Texas chapter is made up of more than 100 nonprofit groups and businesses, comprising a who's who of wildlife conservation and environmental organizations in the state.

The Texas Teaming with Wildlife coalition is hosting a series of four briefings and tours for elected officials and news media in early September to showcase how SWG funds have been used in various Texas regions. These will take place Sep. 2 for Dallas-Fort Worth at White Rock Lake, Sep. 8 for San Antonio at Mitchell Lake Audubon Center, Sep. 8 for South Texas in Kingsville and Sep. 9 for Northeast Texas in Clarksville.

Among other projects, SWG funds have supported TPWD urban wildlife biologists stationed in Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, Austin, San Antonio, El Paso and the Rio Grande Valley. These unique experts have one foot in the Texas rural wildlife tradition and the

other in fast-growing urban zones where most people now live. Their work focuses on "nongame" wildlife species that are not hunted or fished, and it connects with conserving open green space and water quality for people and wildlife. From 2001-2008, SWG provided \$3.6 million for urban wildlife work in Texas cities.

Through the urban wildlife biologists, SWG funds have also provided essential support for the Texas Master Naturalists program, which has more than 4,500 highly trained volunteers in 38 chapters statewide. In 2007, the value of their service was estimated at more than \$10 million. Their work has stretched across more than 80,000 acres of land and reached more than 100,000 youth, adults and private landowners each year.

SWG funds also sustain the TPWD Wildlife Diversity program, which focuses on "species of concern" in Texas and recommends strategies to reverse declines before animals become threatened or endangered, such as the lesser prairie chicken in the Panhandle, and freshwater turtles and mussels in East Texas. Since 2001, SWG has provided \$4.1 million for wildlife diversity science in Texas.

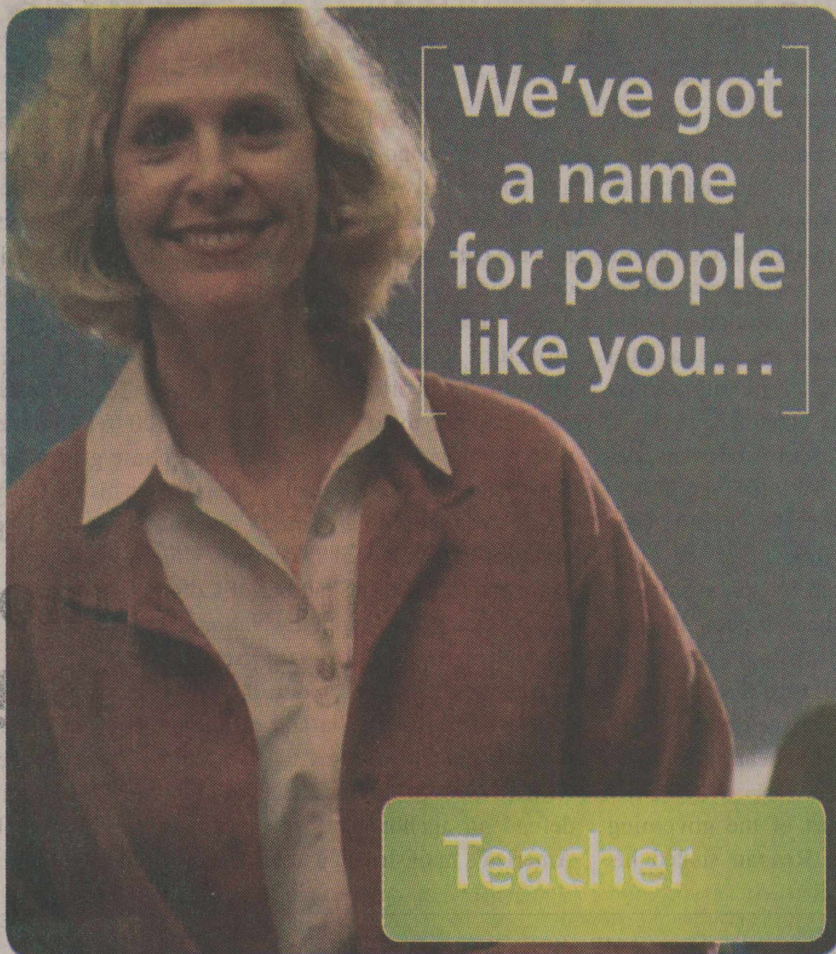
SWG funds have made possible TPWD's Landowner Incentive Program, providing grants for private ranchers and others to restore and protect habitat for rare species. Such efforts are critical, since more than 95 percent of the Texas landscape is privately owned.

SWG dollars support a wide array of Texas research projects, including ways to detect and respond to toxic golden alga that has killed millions of fish, plus research and monitoring for pronghorn antelope, black bear, ocelots, alligator gar, striped bass and many other species and habitats. Since 2003, SWG has funneled close to \$2.4 million for Texas harmful alga research alone, and close to \$1 million for wildlife research.

On the Texas coast, SWG funds have helped conserve five species of sea turtles and establish a secondary nesting colony of Kemp's ridley sea turtles at Padre Island National Seashore, plus projects to protect and restore seagrasses.

All dollar amounts listed above represent the federal share of SWG grants. The value of these dollars is leveraged to greater benefit by required state matching funds.

A list detailing Texas conservation projects funded by SWG in the past decade is on the TPWD website News Roundups page.



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