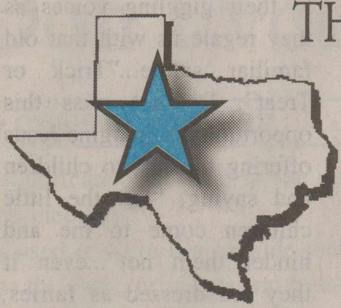
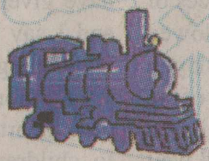


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THE

# KNOX COUNTY NEWS

PROUDLY SERVING THE KNOX COUNTY AREA

8 PAGES PLUS INSERTS  
VOLUME XXIX

KNOX COUNTY, TEXAS  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2010

75 CENTS  
NUMBER 53

## Local elections: Godsey and Griffith vie for County Commissioner, Precinct 2



As an oversight, Knox County News left out pictures of the 2010 Homecoming Football hero and band beau. Pictured here is Zackery York with 2010 Football Sweetheart, Regan Clark.

Courtesy photo



The 2010 Band Beau, Landon Lynn, is flanked by 2010 Band Sweetheart Kaley Ainsworth and runner up Makayla Harrington.

Courtesy photo



Charles Griffith



Dan Godsey

### Tamara Smart

With the elections quickly approaching on November 2, people are inundated with state-wide and national contingents vying for congressional, senatorial, and gubernatorial seats as soon as they turn on their televisions. The question on many voters minds maybe weighing the odds of Bill White or Rick Perry. Perhaps those voters are more concerned about the country as a whole, wondering more about the democrat versus Republican federal government. Yet, there is one more thing for voters in Northern Knox City, Benjamin and Truscott to consider. The County Commissioner seat that serves that area (also known as Precinct 2) is up for grabs and two local men are contending for it.

While many people know both Dan Godsey and Charles Griffith as they are both lifetime locals of this area, what they may not know is their reasoning behind why they wish to serve Knox County as Commissioner, their thoughts and plans for Knox County's future and why they believe that

are the best man for the job. Allow this article to better introduce you to the men who are your choices for County Commissioner, Precinct 2.

Dan Godsey, the current incumbent, is 46 years old and a graduate of Knox City High School. Godsey has lived in Knox City all his life and currently co-owns Godsey Brothers Farms with his brother, Joe, where he helps the world's population survive with his growth of wheat, cotton and cattle.

Godsey began his public service career after being requested to serve on several boards. With that Godsey says that "[He] has always been asked to serve, and [he] has the abilities and the willingness to serve." Since his first being asked to serve, Godsey has been a member of the Knox City City Council, the FSA, Knox County USDA Committee, is currently the President of the EDC type A Board of Knox City, and is the secretary of the board of directors for the O'Brien Co-op gin.

During his tenure thus far as commissioner, Godsey really thinks

that the creation of the Visioning Committee is a step in the right direction. He believes the coming together of all the Knox County communities can only allot for more growth as a county, especially with programs like the workforce grant for the youth and the grants that were given to the schools.

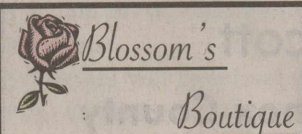
In the next four years Godsey plans on continuing to see forward progress in the county. Godsey plans on helping find ways to make the local economy grow, encourage people to live here, the youth to stay here and to continue help run the county business in an effective and ethical way.

Charles Griffith, father of 3 Benjamin high graduates, grandfather to 10 amazing grandchildren (some of whom attend Knox City schools), wishes to return to his county what it has given to him as a lifelong resident. Griffith is himself a BHS graduate, as well received his Bachelors in Art from Texas Tech in the field of Agronomy. He is retired from the Environmental Health

and Safety Department at Texas Tech University as an Asbestos Compliance Specialist, who because of his retired status, plans on being able to be a full time commissioner, if elected.

Mr. Griffith has a plethora of public service on his resume. Griffith served on the BISSD school board for 17 years (as the president for 4-5), served on the Knox County Appraisal district, the Knox County Water Board. He spent time putting back into the county farming community by service on the Knox County Farm Bureau, the Knox County Livestock committee, and the Knox County Beauvevil association and is currently an advisor for the Ag Extension Agency. Griffith's history of service dates back so far, that he even recollects serving on the last Draft board.

Service is so important to Griffith, that it is one of the many values he and his wife, Linda, instilled in their children, who all now have found work giving back to humanity rather than taking from it (they are a professional teacher, See ELECTION on Page 8



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## Job fair cancelled

The Knox County Visioning Group has cancelled the job fair that was scheduled for November 8, 2010 in Munday, Texas at the Munday Events Center. Due to an unforeseen accident, this business and entrepreneurial showcase has been postponed to a later date. More information coming later.

## Knox City Volunteer Fire Department Presents it's annual HAUNTED HOUSE

Opens Thursday October 28 at 7:30 pm through Monday November 1 (Closed on Sunday, October 31) Admission will be \$3 per person all ages welcome.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Benjamin Fall Festival will be Saturday October 30th @ 5:30-7:15. Coronation @ 7:30, program and bingo following. All the classes are selling chances this week on various items. If you have any bingo prizes you would like to donate contact Kim Moore or you can leave them at BJ's. Come out and enjoy the fun and support the classes and our PTO.

The Junior Youth Group of St. Joseph's in Rhineland will hold its

annual Halloween Carnival on Saturday evening, Oct 30th in the Rhineland Gym. The Carnival will once again be home to tons of great food, bewitching games, and spooktacular prizes. A costume contest will start the evening at 6:15 pm sharp with several age groups competing for cash prizes. Booths like the Cake Walk, Soda Ring Toss, Ghostly Golf, and Fishing Booth will be available to play once again for a small fee. A full concession stand featuring hotdogs, burritos,

chicken salad sandwiches, cookies, peanut brittle, peanut patties, caramelized apples, popcorn balls, and funnel cake will be open all evening long. Then about 8:30 PM, BINGO will kick off. Great prizes, as well as some cash prizes will be offered.

Knox County veterans will be honored Thursday, November 11, 2010 at 11:00 AM. If you are a veteran please be sure to make plans to attend. This year as in years past the See HEART on Page 8



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

## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - Knox City

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

## ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP -

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

## FOURSQUARE 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

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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# God's Promises

Marq Brockett  
Gilliland Baptist Church  
Yes, the holiday season is quickly approaching. A time to open our hearts and homes to friends, family and even strangers. A time to show the value of grace and love. A time to rediscover the warmth and joy of giving of yourself. Wait a moment Am I jumping the gun a little? October is not even over yet. You may think that I am talking about Thanksgiving or Christmas, but it's actually Halloween that congers up images of children and giving.

For too long we have let darkness and fear run rampant on this day. Christians are labeled as intolerant anyway, so let us not tolerate letting the devil have a day to himself. Scripture says, "This is the day the Lord has made, I will rejoice and be glad in it." Leave the fear over the evilness of Halloween behind and let us see the joy and fun in our children's faces. As an innocent child I remember Halloween as a time of fun, laughter, and treats. Satan or Lucifer or the devil... whatever you want to call

him, was unimportant. By giving in to the influences of the world, we have allowed Satan to win. Let me ask you this...On what other day of the year will groups of children come to your home and wait for a word of encouragement and love offered freely and wrapped in treats. One of our local churches had the most magnificent haunted houses. The pastor even made a pretty good Dracula. At that time there was never a thought that evil was being promoted. Since those days, we have let the darkness creep into our own

lives and in so doing, we have given God's day away and I say let's take it back. I encourage you to turn on your porch lights...open your hearts and your doors to children and enjoy their innocence and glee. Listen to their giggling voices as they regale us with that old familiar salute..."Trick or Treat". Do not miss this opportunity to imagine Jesus offering himself to children and saying, "Let the little children come to me and hinder them not"...even if they are dressed as fairies, princesses or pirates.

# Truscott News

**Clara Brown**  
Rain came last week but the northwest corner of Knox County did not get the rains some other places got. No hail or tornados on China Creek. Not much visiting in the past weeks. Mrs. Nora Moya had knee surgery last week. She may be in the hospital longer than planned due to a fall a few days after surgery. November 2 we will be having Election Day. Gilliland and Truscott will both have voting, at home at the Truscott and Gilliland Community Center. A lot of wheat has been sown but some still have more to do. News has been low this week. Debbie Shaw says her sister and brother-in-law, Marla and Gary Cot of Dallas, visited Saturday. Michael and Geraldine Tomanek attended an insurance lodge meeting at

Stamford Saturday. The Wichita-Brazos Museum is getting ready for it's annual Veterans Day exhibit. Every Knox County veteran and veteran's family is asked to bring a picture. The picture and veteran maybe in uniform or in civilian clothes, medals, uniforms and souvenirs of military service are welcome for the exhibit. You can take in an item, or items, anytime from now to November 11, Veteran's Day. On Veteran's Day, items can be brought from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Be sure to sign a loan form for a temporary loan, or a gift form if you wish to give an item to the museum. This helps te museum to get the loans back if you forget to, or can't pick up an item and helps to identify who owned or donated the item. War time letters to come home are welcomed. The museum can make a copy of the letter for the exhibit, so

you can keep the cherished letter. Any information about a veteran is welcome from the names of places (Pacific, Atlantic, Germany, Japan, etc) to comments about what was happening where the Veteran was. The museum has honored a Gold Star veteran from every county community and is choosing the name of Richard Albus as the second honored from Rhineland among those names carved on the arch at the Veteran's Memorial of those killed in action. Letters to his family helped tell his wartime story that will be printed before November 2. Also, al Veterans albums at the museum will be displayed on tables. Be sure to look up the information about your family and neighbors. If you have information not yet in a veteran's record, tell someone at the museum. And, of course, if no picture is in that veteran's record,

offer to bring one or notify someone who has a picture. Veteran's albums can be examined anytime, but are usually shelved in the archives where a museum employee or volunteer will pull it for you. During Veterans Day week, you can easily wander from one (heavy) book to another in the Veterans Album exhibit. Donations of information and items are what are making the Wichita- Brazos a favorite place to visit for Knox County residents and their company. It's your museum, please use it, and please help make it better. Also, books about Texans and Americans at war will be available for browsing Nov. 12. A book of applications for Texas Civil War pensions will be on hand for searching ancestors names. Forms for applying for information on your civil war veteran will be given away.

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# Obituary


## Gary Pack

Memorial services for Gary Pack, 58, of Liberty City are scheduled for 1:00 p.m. Friday, October 8, 2010 at First Christian Church with Rev. Bill Blanks officiating. Mr. Pack passed away Tuesday, October 5, 2010 in Tyler. Mr. Pack was born March 6, 1952 in Knox City, Texas. He worked for Plains America as a Transport Driver and served in the US Army during the Vietnam War. Mr. Pack will be missed by all of his loving family and

friends he leaves behind. He is preceded in death by his father, William Earnest Pack. Mr. Pack is survived by wife of 37 years, Linda Pack of Liberty City; son, Gary Pack of Kerrville, Texas; daughter, Crystal Johnson of Las Vegas, Nevada; and daughter and son-in-law, Amber and John Browning of Lindale; mother, Lela Mae Pack of Knox City, Texas; brothers, Don Pack of Houston and Randy Pack of Odessa; grandchildren, Christian Bell, Jayden Bell, Trenton Bell, Aaron Browning and Carter Pack.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
**Vote**  
**Dan Godsey**  
County Commissioner  
Precinct 2  
Current Incumbant  
Serving North Knox City,  
Benjamin, and Truscott  
Republican working to make Knox County  
a better place  
Pol. Ad. Pd. for by Dan Godsey  
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**SAMMIE'S KNOX CITY CORNER AND FINAL THOUGHTS**

**Sammie Oilfield**  
This week, Sandra Chambers is in North Carolina to visit her children and enw grandson while, in the meantime, Jodi Chambers is on a cruise.

Alfredo and Amanda Abila are adjusting to being home with their little one. They are getting ready for his last trips to Abilene for chemo. With God's help and our community donation, prayer, phone calls and encouragement, we know they will get through this.

Ester Grindstaff has been transferred to Abilene after a nasty accident and has a broken pelvis. I stopped by Friday evening and she was sleeping but the staff at the hospital said she was doing well.

Thursday morning we got to say our final goodbyes to Brandy and Thomas Wise as Tex Cox and his families were giving them their final hugs. The night before, I had been at the Abundant Life Christian Church for Brandy's going away party, and I saw first hand what helping our young generation

is all about; not just from Brandy, but from everyone who is connected with that church. As the band called "3 Kord" played their worship music, the kids praised and worshipped God in a whole different way. I'd say their way was awesome.

As I visit around town with business and with people, I found out how much this little community means to people that have been here all their lives, or have returned back to retire. The community is working together to help two wonderful families in need of praise and fundraising for some expenses for health concerns.

The Fire Department and Police Department and Ladies Auxiliary have come together to help these families; which is awesome. Just think, no matter how little gift, it's how big your heart is.

To my surprise, I woke up Friday morning to some wonderful rain. Our little town needed it; but to listen to the news and see what happened up in South Plains, I sure am sorry about the

damage to their crops and around their homes.

Friday morning as I was in Bud's Café for coffee, some of us got together and had a Birthday Breakfast for Evelyn Balis for her 83<sup>rd</sup>. Evelyn's health has been a little under the weather, but hopefully she'll get to feel a little better soon.

Saturday afternoon I went out to attend the pee wee football games. To my surprise, I found the mothers setting up their concession stand in front of the existing stand. I asked these ladies why they weren't inside. Well, it was the ladies understanding that our school superintendent decided not open the inside concession stand because he didn't think the games benefited the school. I thought that everything about the school property is ours for any use for the kids. Our tax money and our government funds to school benefit are for the greater good. Now, I see why some of our residents have been taking their kids to school somewhere else. I'll have to attend another

board meeting- These kids are our schools future and the school would be better off to be preparing them now for what's ahead.

Saturday evening, Bud Reynolds celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. 80 years is usually when you say that someone is older than dirt. Bud had a wonderful time- his family was so proud of him and you could tell that he was just as proud of each and every one of them as they attended church with him on Sunday morning.

Sunday evening we were headed to the Racetrack one more time for our little car races. We had a wonderful timewatching the kids having an even better time. But by the end of the night, Amy, Shane, Eddie and I were ready to put it all up until next year!

Monday morning starts a new week and everybody is back on their regular routine. Look for my column every week and I'll try and keep you updated on what's happening in Knox City.

If you have news, call me.



*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.*

My first car was a 1946 Chrysler Windsor Deluxe club coupe. I still have it. For all I know the radio still works. It was working when we parked it, which is more than I can say for the engine.

That radio changes colors. It goes from a rosy color to yellow when you change the tone from "mellow" to "voice," or vice-versa. Something like that. I don't remember the details. But what I do remember from high school days, back when I was driving that old car and listening to that radio, is that a whole array of AM radio stations came through loud and clear, especially at night, from one end of that glowing dial to the other - not that my friends and I listened to anything other than 1520, KOMA, Oklahoma City. KOMA played rock 'n' roll and had the kissing tone.

If you don't know about the kissing tone, it was the 1963 version of texting -- something you shouldn't do while driving. If you are kissing someone when you run over a curb, or vice-versa, it's unsettling.

I digress.

Anyway, what's happened to AM radio over the last four decades? Are FM-sized waves sabotaging AM-sized waves? Are radio manufacturers being paid by the FM people to be sure AM receivers are bad? Has the federal government forced AM stations to back off? Are cell phone conversations jamming the airwaves? It doesn't take an oscilloscope to know something's haywire.

Why do I care? I'm trying

to follow Texas Rangers baseball on the radio. It's wild. I keep having to point my car in different directions, mostly east-west. Is that fair?

Baseball is a new interest for me, part of the marriage contract. We watch the Rangers. It's a soap opera. Some characters have been on a long time. Some have not. Sometimes things get tense. There's theme music. Some of the guys are cute.

When the Rangers made the playoffs, I was on the farm and couldn't get them on television. It would have made me nervous to watch them anyway.

Once I found the Rangers on AM radio, I strained my eardrums to keep up with the action though static and interference of swelling and diminishing proportions. I listened for whether the seemingly pro-Texas announcer was excited - a good sign, as long as he was excited in a positive way. When you catch only a word or two here or there, you develop a sixth sense for all the nuances.

I could have called my husband, but he was watching the game.

Via my phone I found some sort of running Rangers-Yankees Twitter conversation, but they weren't giving the score. Then they got distracted by a streaker. Great.

I wanted to Tweet them all and ask the score. But I don't Tweet. Guess I'll have to learn that next.

Life was so simple when all we had to listen to was AM radio and all we had to decide was whether to ignore the kissing tone.

**Pink Ladies News**

The Knox County hospital feted the Hospital Auxiliary Pink Ladies with "Wild About Pink Ladies" themed banquet on October 18. The food was prepared by the hospital staff, and was both bountiful and

delicious. A slide show of the Pin Ladies and hospital staff was interesting. The individual Pink Ladies received their bar of hours worked plus an animal print with wild pink detailed tote as a "Thank You" for

volunteer hours. We are happy to have two new volunteers, Maria Chilcoat and Karen Ferguson. Our new "pink man", Danny, is having some health problems and needs our prayers.

Donations have snowed us under and we do thank you for them. Some have come from as far away as Amarillo and Lubbock. What great support you give our community.

-Billy Walker, Reporter

Check us out online at [knoxcountynews.com](http://knoxcountynews.com)

**Knox County Market Place**

**Help Wanted**

The Knox County Sheriff's office is currently accepting applications for the position of Jailer/dispatcher. Applicants must be willing to work shift work including weekends and holidays. Must have the ability to maintain satisfactory attendance and punctuality standards and perform other duties as assigned. Must have a high school diploma or GED or possess a current jailer license by TCLEOSE. This is a high-energy position with being a fast learner a plus. Benefits include holidays, vacation, and supplemented medical insurance. Knox County is an equal opportunity employer. For further information, call the Knox County Sheriff's office at 940-459-2211, or come by 104 south Stewart, Benjamin for an application. Position will remain open until properly filled.

Driver needed- Must have a Class A CDL and clean background. Oilfield experience is a plus. Benefits and Pay according to experience. Call Wendal at (432)209-7774

Experienced Operators needed for pipeline project. call 800-657-9190 and ask for Wade

The City of Knox City Administrator, Barbara E. Rector, gave notice of retirement to the Council with the effective date of April 30, 2011. The City is now accepting applications with resume for this position and will continue until the position is filled.

The position requires management and public skills, with excellent finance and grant knowledge. More information can be obtained at City Hall, 902 E. Main or call 940-658-3313. EOE

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Monday Nov. 1st Meatballs/Macaroni Salad Steamed Broccoli Wheat Roll Cookies	Thursday, Nov. 4th Chef Salad Baked Potato Crackers Blueberry Crunch
Tuesday Nov. 2nd Chicken Strips/Gravy Mashed Potatoes California Blend Biscuit Jello/Fruit	Friday, . Nov. 5th Hamburgers/Cheese Slices French Fries Lettuce, Tomato, Onions & Pickles Dessert
Wednesday Nov. 3rd Fish/Tartar Sauce Cole Slaw Pinto Beans Cornbread Cake	New serving time is 12 noon (in Knox City only). Alternate desserts for diabetics. Please call in your orders by 10 a.m. to 657-3618. Orders can't be taken after 10 a.m. and need to be picked up after 11 a.m..

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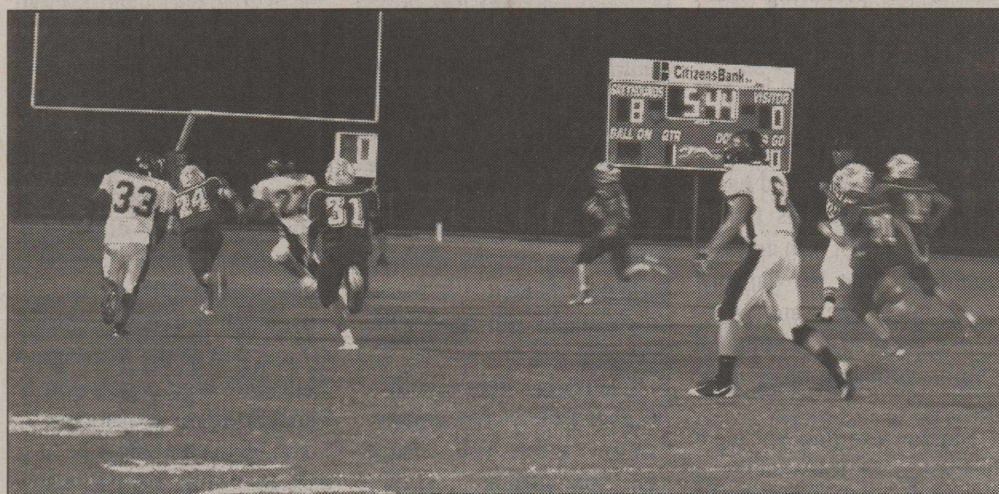
United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
James E. "Bud" Smith Plant Materials Center  
Knox City, TX

2009 Weekly Weather Report

Date	Temperature (F) Low / High	Rainfall inches	Snow inches
10/18	55/87		
10/19	57/79		
10/20	56/83		
10/21	56/86		
10/22	59/78	0.9	
10/23	59/69	0.1	
10/24	55/83		
Total Rainfall for month		1.01	
2010 Rainfall (ytd)		36.03	6.6



# Hounds grind Gordon 54-8



**Jeff Stanfield**  
The Greyhounds got it done in a businesslike manor on Friday night. The boys took on the Gordon Longhorns and taking care of business

in a 58-8 win. It was all Greyhounds, all night. The 1st play of scrimmage Ryan Ledesma takes it 45 yds for a 6-0 lead, followed by a TJ Moore extra point. 8-0 Knox

City. After a 3 and out for Gordon, Knox City takes over and on the 1st play of scrimmage Zack York throws a 41 yd pass to

Blake Jones. Two plays and two touchdowns leaves the scoreboard declaring Knox City's lead: 14-0. Gordon gets the ball and moves into Knox City territory, and with 5:33 remaining in the 1st quarter, Zach Shaver strips the ball and takes it back 76 yards for a touchdown, Moore's extra points are good 22-0 Hounds.

Then after another 3 and out for Gordon on the second play of scrimmage, Marcell Lewis takes it 32 yards and after TJ "Auto" Moore adds the 5th of his extra points for a 30-0 Greyhound lead as the 1st quarter ended.

The second Quarter started out the same as the

1st, as Ledesma hit York on a 12-yard pass, for a 38-0 lead with 9:21 to go in the 4th. The Gordon Longhorns got on the board, following a Shaver fumble, with a 26 yd run to cut the lead to 38-8.

After the Longhorns tried to onside kick, Lewis took it 54 yds on the 1st play to make it 46-8. Another 3 and out and York hits Jones on a 19 yd pass to make it 44-8 and that score stayed there until halftime.

After the award winning Greyhound Pride Band put on another great performance, folks did not even had enough time to get back to their seats before Ledesma took it 25 yds for a

54-8 final. The players of the game where Offense Zach York, Defense Ryan Ledesma and Marcell Lewis. Special teams player of the week was Blake Jones and hit of the game went to Zach Shaver.

The Hounds ran the ball 11 times for 220 yds and had 3-4 passing for 72 yds. On defense they held Gordon to 48 yds on 27 attempts. It was an all around great night for the Hounds.

The next game is a big one as the Hounds take on T-Rock for the district championship

Good Luck Hounds and lets bring back a Championship.

## Bulldogs beat by Longhorns

**Jeff Stanfield**  
The JV and the Jr High both took it on the chins on Thursday in Obrien. In Jr High action, it was The Gordon Longhorns strapping it on the

Bulldogs. The final was 41-18 as Gordon played a really tough game and took advantage of many Bulldog turnovers. The Longhorns used the spread offense to their advantage with many

long runs and a few passes. The Bulldogs where lead on offense by Isreal Rodriguez and on defense by Nick Short. The Bulldogs will pay at home against T-rock on Thursday.

## Coaches make a difference

**Jeff Stanfield**  
I have seen many high school coaches, and I am friends with many of them. I am telling you when you see someone who really cares about your kids, and your neighbor's kids, you need to let it be known. Coach Steele is an old friend of mine I have known him since he was in Jr. High. He is a great guy who has a wonderful family and now his sister and her husband, Terry and Julia Clark, and son Tyler have relocated to Knox City.

This family has been a huge part of my kid's lives and will most of yours, if you have kids in school. Coach Steele not only coaches High school and Jr. High, but he helps with the young kids in elementary. I saw firsthand

how he touches the young kids lives. He asks them about their football games and is just friends with many of them. If you ask any of the young kids who Coach is, they will not only know him but he will know them. The man may never win a state championship, but heck only 2 coaches a year do. What he will do though is make your kid feel special and they will know they are loved and cared for. That in the long run is what is important. Thanks for caring Chuck, we are very fortunate to have the coaching staff we have. Each and every one of you do a great job, you are underpaid and overworked. I want you to know you are appreciated.

Another special thing that came to my attention, I am

a University of Texas fan no doubt, even after taking it on the chin to a Iowa State Team on Saturday (which is embarrassing), Mack Brown did a really great thing. Adam Smith the 16-year-old son of Steve Smith the head football coach of Archer City has had 3-4 strokes and has been in ICU for 2 weeks at Cooks Children's in Ft. Worth. It has been very touch and go for him and has been fighting for his life. Lots of prayers have been answered so far but still a long way to go. Well my feel good story is that Coach Brown sent a personal letter and pictures to Adam at Cooks, and he also has called to check in on him. That is very classy coach and I am proud you are the coach of the Horns.

## JV Hounds lose to Spur 41-35

**Jeff Stanfield**  
The JV Hounds played a heartbreaker with Spur and lost on the last play of the game with a pass, run around and lateral touchdown as

time expired. Final was Spur 41- Knox City 35. This was game of missed tackles and too many turnovers. This was the first loss for the JV and it was a team they have already

beaten once on the year. Next week the Hounds will play for the district championship against T-rock. Come out and support both the Hounds and Bulldogs.

## Taking care of you too

The West Central Texas Area Agency on Aging (AAA) is hosting the sixth annual family caregiver conference, Taking Care of You Too! on Tuesday, November 9, 2010, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Abilene Civic Center. In observance of National Family Caregivers Month\*, this conference is designed to provide support, recognition, and encouragement to family caregivers across the 19 county West Central Texas region.

The Presenter at this year's conference will be

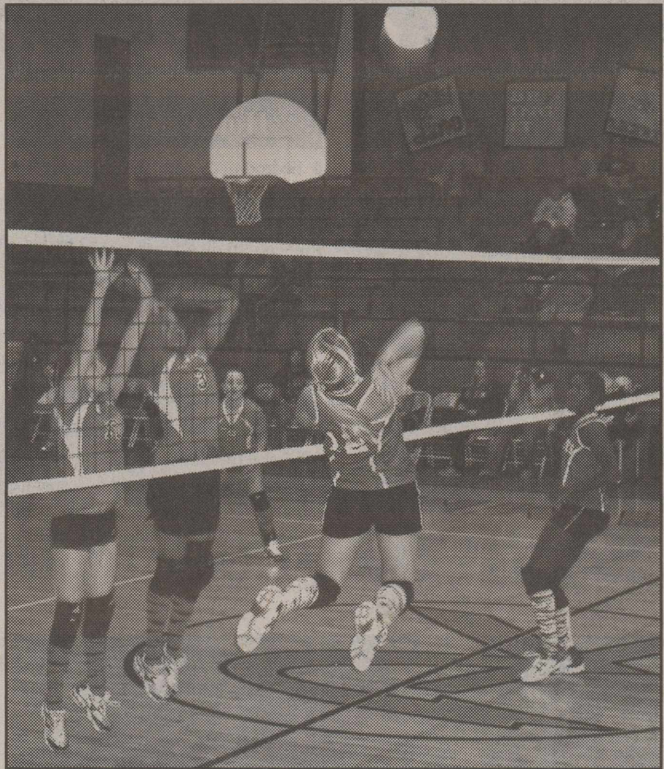
television talk show host and experienced family caregiver, Johnnie Lou Avery Boyd (www.jlavery.com). Since Mark White, every Texas governor, except one, has either appointed or reappointed Johnnie Lou Boyd to a State Board or Commission. She has received three Presidential/Congressional appointments. Included in this list was appointment as a voting delegate to the White House Conference on Aging due primarily to her work on the Board of the Permian Basin Area Agency on Aging, and in her community work with aging issues. One of her Governor's appointments was Board Chair for Nursing Home Administrators' State Licensure. She served on that Board for 9 years.

Johnnie Lou has seriously worked to understand the aging process, the importance of health and fitness, and the role of the caregiver. Her informative presentations cover topics that are of vital importance to family caregivers. Johnnie Lou's keen understanding of the issues family caregivers face as well as her positive and entertaining delivery style will provide all in attendance with an uplifting day of revitalization and encouragement!

There will be exhibitor booths from several caregiver-related businesses and organizations and numerous opportunities for caregivers to win door prizes. Continuing Education Units (3.5) will be offered for Social Work, LSW, and LPC MFT. There will be no charge to attend but pre-registration is encouraged, lunch will be provided.

For more information or to register for the conference call Kim Gurganus or Cay Collins at 325.672.8544 or 1.800.928.2262 or send email to ccollins@wctcog.org. Respite assistance can be provided to family caregivers who are caring for a loved-one age 60 or over and who register prior to November 4.

## Houndettes Playoff bound



After a long season and all of district play, the Houndettes earned the three seed in the playoffs.

Photo by Daveine Clark

**Tamara Smart**  
After a grueling loss at Rotan this past Saturday, the Houndettes have secured themselves as the number three seed in the district for playoff play.

The game at Rotan, which secured the second seed in District, beat the Houndettes in a series of three- the final scores being 26-24, 25-27, 25-13.

In the first game and second games, the high scorer for the Houndettes was Lacey Peirce, who scored 5 points and 3 points respectively.

Support your local Hounds this Friday!

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for  
County commissioner Pct. 2

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# BENJAMIN NEWS

By Gladene Green

After 2 or 3 days of rain, much cooler weather and just plain ole gloomy weather, today (Sunday) has been a gorgeous fall day. As I have said many times- This is my favorite time of year!

Everyone over here is getting ready for the annual PTO sponsored Fall Festival at the school Saturday night. It's the big fundraiser of the year so you know every bit of the money you spend will go to a good cause. There are booths of all kinds, a cake walk, and dunking booth among many other things that make for an enjoyable evening. Also, a food both is available, so plan to have your evening meal there. It's all fun- a good place to "meet and greet" folks you may not have seen for a while.

### Here 'N There

Linda Griffith was in Lubbock Saturday night for her granddaughters, Ashley and Kate Tyson, piano recital. Like all grandmothers, she said they did really well and I'm sure they did. The girls' parents are Amy and Vince.

Gloria West was a bit "under the weather" this weekend. Was thinking she may have that dreaded stomach virus and that's no fun.

Saturday, Imagean Young's family honored her with a surprise family birthday party to celebrate her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, which was Friday. Enjoying the get together with her were her children, Mike young and DeAnn Lamb, grandson and wife, Anthony and Jessica Lamb, her sister, Jane Gideon and Sister-in-law, Mary Young.

Mary Jane Young told me Sunday that Jackie was feeling pretty good I saw him a few days ago and he was doing o.k. Enjoys visiting and as she said, has had lots of company, both local and out of town, and lots of phone calls, all which

they appreciate so much. She also said several have brought food by and that helps a lot when you're busy taking care of someone who is ill. Meal preparing doesn't always seem to fit into a busy schedule. They are so grateful for ever act of kindness.

I had a visit with Patsy Bateman of Denton last Sunday. She was enroute home after being in Lubbock to help her brother, Jim Robinson, celebrate his birthday. She always asks about her Benjamin friends. I always enjoy seeing her.

Peggy Shropshire, the former Peggy Atkinson, and former Benjamin resident, was a Benjamin visitor one day last week. She and her husband, John, love at New Deal and he has recently had heart by-pass surgery. Was doing o.k. and that's sure good news. He had his surgery in Lubbock.

Don't forget to vote on Tuesday if you haven't already. This is a very important election and every vote cast is very important. I'll see you at the polls!

And I'll be "glued" to my T.V. "rootin'" for the Rangers as the World Series begins on Wednesday. It's been a long time coming, but they are there and I am ready.

Oh yeah, and Jeff, your choice of "Citizen of the week" was a fine one indeed! Though Becky still lives in Benjamin, we'll let you praise her as she does deserve it. Knox City School' gain was definitely our loss. And she and Kemp have 2 beautiful daughters in school, but don't forget about daughter Devon, who is in Tech (second year), she's pretty too (and we think Blake is also right cute)

Now you know we all read your column every week and enjoy it! Keep up the good work.

## Just Jeff

Once upon a Hallow's Eve in Knox City, it was a cold, dreary, foggy, misty night on South 3rd. The decorations where arranged with the greatest care, that someone might get scared so bad that they would pee themselves. You see it is a Stanfield tradition that we will get you! So come brave, loud and with your friends because we will give out candy bars, and lots of treats. But beware a Fat Man is loose on this street- where will he be?

My greatest memories of this great holiday: Koko Thompson, he always had a smile on his face and candy in his bag. The boy was 4 ft tall and had size 20 feet, he weighed more than the average child and was not the fleetest of foot. Koko come a-calling with the rest of Thompson clan (there was about 20 if I recall), he was dragging this king size pillowcase and it was loaded down. Koko was not the bravest child so he was real timid about hitting up the Stanfield House. We had lots of spooky stuff and he was not all about that. As his brothers and sisters made there way up on the porch, Koko was looking for Zach's mom and he finally had her spotted out. But he could not locate me (the aforementioned Fat Man). See, this particular year I was blended into the yard as just another scary monster. I put myself in a great spot next to the stairs where you could not pick me out unless you were really looking for

my eyes. Koko was scanning everywhere but the yard, he kept saying, "I see Zach's mom, but not Jeff. Where is Jeff? Where is Jeff?" he would ask.

As all of little brother's got their candy it was too much for Koko he wanted that king size snickers and that finally pushed him through! So as Koko goes up the stairs one of the yard decorations move and grabs his ankle. Have you ever seen a 4 ft tall kid with size 20 shoes jump 12 feet (I have) with a king size pillow full of candy? He would have made Kobe Bryant jealous, he did a complete 360 in mid-air. His brother, Dominic, may have been a all district tailback, brother Kenyon All State, but neither had Koko's speed; he did the whole block in 3 seconds. He dropped his bag halfway down the driveway and you could hear him say, "Jeff that just ain't right, that just ain't right." (And by the way his candy was tasty!!)

You see Koko was not the 1<sup>st</sup>, nor will he be the last; Alma Jimenez and Lexi got theirs last year, as did Ronnie Gass and Tandy McGaughey (somebody wet themselves). This year who will it be? And you do not have to be here for trick or treat do you, Bandy Moeller? A few years ago the boys (football team) came to our house to watch the "Strangers" and we had a little fun with them. The Strangers is a very scary movie about these sicko's in Halloween / clown/ cheap

1950's mask. The boys where scared and it was time to go home. We had put one of Michelle's scarecrows in Bandy's backseat. We walked all the tough boys to there cars (Jordan Carter was ghost white). Bandy did not notice his backseat passenger until he started driving off. He slammed the brakes and turned on his dome light and jumped out.

Halloween is so big at our house that we gave up tickets for the World Series. I had a good friend give us some seats behind the Ranger's dugout. They where so good that Michelle could have seen that Josh Hamilton is not nearly as muscular as he looks. TV adds 20 lb. of muscle, and for the record, he does stink when he sweats- so Michelle could have seen Josh is just eye candy on TV and not in person.

Around Knox City Jennifer Utley had a false alarm and is not knocked up! She is not even moody she is just a wonderful lady and mother. Her husband, Terry, did have one of my favorite sayings ever. We were at a city council meeting when someone asked him about vacation. He told us Jennifer was on his rear about going on vacation he told her if she wanted a vacation to go in the kitchen.

My Walmart pet peeve of the week: have you ever noticed how they have 40 registers but only 3 work or seem to be open? And they even have the self-checkouts but they are always closed

or nobody there to operate them. But that is the small part of my Walmart hemorrhoid; the bigger part is the "going green re-usable bags" they sell. The nice lady at Walmart tried to get me to purchase these eco-friendly bags, instead of the cheap o plastic bags that hold less than 2 lb. before you have a carport full of pickles.

She told me that Walmart was trying to help the environment. I call "Bull Hockey" on that. They could care less about the environment. If they really cared they would not sell these bags but give them to their customers instead of selling us a bag for \$1 that they have made in some sweat shop in India or China for 3 cents by a second grader. In the future you watch you will have to scan your stuff before you put it in the cart and then your cart will be scanned and you will be responsible for bagging it at your car. Walmart and Obama what a mess!!!

My Citizen of the week Chance Beatty, what a fun little bundle of energy he is. Chance you always make me laugh with your spirit and spunk. He always has a smile on his face, a hug for your neck and he is brutally honest whether you're talking about your bald uncle, your fat friend (me) or anyone else. God Bless you Chance and thanks for being my friend.

God Bless  
Vote On Tuesday

## 4-Her's Participate in King County Fair

On Saturday, October 23 the town of Guthrie, TX was taken over by stock show exhibitors from King, Childress, Cottle, Dickens, Foard, Hall, Hardeman, Haskell, Kent, Knox, Motley, Stonewall, Wilbarger, and Crosby counties. Exhibitors from these counties came together to exhibit their steer, heifer, lamb, and goat projects in the King County Fair. The King County Fair is an excellent show to allow participants to get

their animals out into a show ring situation, as well as, getting the shower some ring experience. Exhibitors from Knox County participating in the King County Fair this year were Ryder Cude, Brylee White, Brogan White, Parker Finley, Brady Finley, Austin Smith, and Jasmine Lerma.


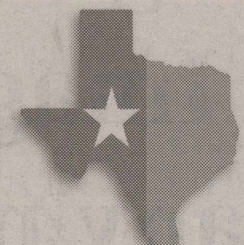
In the goat division Brylee White had a 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> place in Class 9. Brogan White had a 4<sup>th</sup> place in Class 3 and a 5<sup>th</sup> place in Class 9. In

Class 6 Parker Finley had a 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> place, and in Class 7 he also had a 4<sup>th</sup> placing. In Class 5 Brady Finley came out with a 5<sup>th</sup> place. Austin Smith had a 1<sup>st</sup> place in Class 4 and a 6<sup>th</sup> place in Class 5. Jasmine Lerma had a 10<sup>th</sup> place in Class 1 and a 9<sup>th</sup> place in Class 6. In the British Heifer division Ryder Cude had a 2<sup>nd</sup> place with his Angus heifer. All of these exhibitors and their animals did a tremendous job at the show and should be well

prepared for the shows ahead. Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in a meeting or program are encouraged to contact the Knox County AgriLife Extension office at (940) 459-2651.

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## Museum News

The tenth annual 2010 Knox County Veterans Day program will be held Thursday November 11, 2010 at the Knox County Veterans Memorial in Benjamin at 11:00 am.

The sixth grade students from Benjamin, Knox City, and Munday will be presenting their winning speeches.

Our Eleventh Year Gold Star Honoree is Pfc. Richard F. Albus from Rhineland Texas. Mr Albus was born on October 9, 1924 and attended school where he graduated at the St. Joseph Catholic

School in Rhineland. After he graduated he worked on the farm and at the family store in Rhineland. He joined the Army on December 10, 1943 at Ft. Sill Oklahoma at the age of 19. In July 1944 Richard was shipped to Italy then went to France, he was then assigned to Company E, with the Seventh Army Infantry, and then on to the battle of the bulge. Mr. Albus bravely fought the Germans in France while looking across the Rhine at Germany and firing motar rounds at the Germans. On January 23,

1945 Pfc Richard F. Albus age 20, was killed in action. He was buried first in the military cemetery in Epinal, France.

Reburial services were

held on May 15, 1948 at the St. Josephs Catholic Church in Rhineland, Texas. Richard served for 13 months and 13 days and was awarded the Purple Heart.

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## Hail, heavy rains hit some South Plains cotton fields

COLLEGE STATION -- Hail and heavy rains struck some South Plains cotton on Oct. 22, but it's too early to get a handle on the extent of the damage, said a Texas AgriLife Extension Service expert.

"The bottom line is that we had quite a bit of rain in some places, perhaps 4 inches or greater depending upon where you go," said Dr. Randy Boman, AgriLife Extension cotton agronomist based in Lubbock.

There were also heavy hail storms mixed with rain, he said.

Boman said the hardest hit areas started near Plains and followed State Highway 380 to Brownfield, and stretching as far south as the small town of Loop, a strip about 50 miles long and 15-20 miles wide.

The hail followed this path as well, but "skipped out," according to reports he had heard, Boman said.

That doesn't mean all cotton fields in the band of storms were damaged, Boman said. First, the hail wasn't constant throughout that strip, and second, quite a bit of cotton had already been harvested in those areas, about 15-20

percent. "It was bad, of course, if you were under it, and had cotton still out," he said. "A lot of fields were completely stripped by the hail. Other fields still had leaves because they hadn't had harvest aids applied, and those might not have been as badly damaged."

Boman was planning to attend a regional cotton advisory group meeting on Oct. 29 where he expected to learn more from the gin operators as to what may have been lost.

"The damage is going to be hard to access, and I don't know if we'll ever really know what we lost," he said. "A lot of that cotton had been harvested in these areas, especially the dryland."

The rest of the South Plains received from 1 inch to 3 inches but no hail, as did the Rolling Plains area, according to regional reports.

AgriLife Extension district reporters compiled the following summaries:

**CENTRAL:** Dry weather hurt small-grains crops. Some wheat growers were waiting for rain before planting.

Ranchers were feeding hay to livestock. Cotton yields were good. The pecan harvest was going well. Hay producers are completing the final cutting for the year.

**COASTAL BEND:** A warming trend and month without rain dried out soils and caused producers to hold off planting cool-season grasses or legumes for winter pastures. Growers completed cotton stalk-destruction. Many producers were harvesting hay with good yields, which may offset the delay of planting cool season grasses. Pastures began to show signs of drought stress and over-grazing. Only a few early maturing pecan varieties have been harvested to date. Livestock were in good condition.

**EAST:** As of Oct. 23, the region remained dry. Stock ponds and creeks continued to recede. Producers struggled to find hay to buy. Pasture conditions continued to deteriorate. Many began to feed hay from low stocks. Burn bans were in affect for much of the region. In some areas, ranchers were planting winter pastures planting while others held out for rain. Feral hog activity increased. Livestock were in fair to good condition with some supplemental feeding.

**FAR WEST:** Pecan shucks were splitting. Cotton growers were treating fields with harvest aids and defoliants to prepare for harvest. Red chiles and paprikas were being harvested. Late-planted corn was at dough stage. Most wheat planting was complete, and some had already emerged.

**NORTH:** Some parts of the region received rain, high winds, hail and possible tornadoes. Soil moisture ranged from very short to adequate. Lack of soil moisture delayed winter-pasture growth. Some haying

continued, but the hay season is all but over. It was estimated that essentially 99 percent of winter pastures were planted. Producers continued to scout for armyworms in small grains and Bermuda grass pastures, but as of Oct. 25, there were no reports of major problems. Winter wheat was in fair to good condition. Cotton was in fair to good condition. A few producers were planting ryegrass to supplement limited hay supplies, while other producers are waiting for a good rain before planting. Some pastures were in poor condition, and some were overstocked. Producers were feeding hay and reducing their herd size. Livestock were in fair condition. Feral hog activity remained high.

**PANHANDLE:** Temperatures were near to above average for most of the week. Thunderstorms brought from 0.25 inch to 2.5 inches of rain with few isolated reports of hail. One hailstorm in Collingsworth County severely damaged cotton crops. Soil moisture varied very short to surplus with most reporting short to adequate. The corn and sorghum harvests were wrapping up, while rain halted the cotton harvest. Winter wheat was suffering from the lack of moisture, but the rains should help. Rangeland was in fair to good condition. Cattle were in good condition.

**ROLLING PLAINS:** Severe storms swept across the region, but damages were minimal. Rainfall totals ranged from 1.5 inches to 3 inches. Producers were happy they did not receive the hail that the Panhandle did. Although cotton farmers weren't too pleased with the moisture, it was expected to help wheat growers whose crops stalled out. The moisture also helped alleviate the danger of wildfires. Armyworms

continued to be a problem in Baylor County, especially in newly emerged wheat. Producers were spraying young wheat stands, hoping to give them a chance to outgrow the worms. Many producers were hoping for a hard frost to kill armyworms. Livestock were in good condition, and producers expected the recent rains to encourage enough forage growth to maintain livestock sustained through the fall.

**SOUTH:** Dry, cool weather, extremely low humidity and no rainfall reduced soil moisture throughout the region. In the region's eastern counties, soil moisture was 50 percent to 100 percent adequate. In the northern and western counties, it was reported to be 50 percent to 100 percent short. Rangeland and pastures were in fair condition, but were beginning to decline. Cattle were in good to fair condition despite the forage decline. In the northern counties, growers had nearly complete planting wheat and oats. In the eastern parts of the region, farmers were preparing fields for the winter. In the western parts of the region, producers were busy irrigating onion, spinach, cabbage and carrot crops, all of which were at a critical plant-development stage. Also in that area, the cotton gins were kept very busy. In the southern part of the region, onion growers finished planting, tomatoes were progressing well and hay harvesting continued.

**SOUTHEAST:** Many parts of the region needed rain. Hay harvesting was winding down. Producers were holding off over-seeding winter pastures until soil moisture levels improved. The condition of livestock worsened as pastures deteriorated under the dry conditions. Hay feeding to livestock was still at a minimum level.

**SOUTH PLAINS:** Thunderstorms brought 1 inch to 4 inches of rain along with some hail. Soil moisture was short to adequate. The corn harvest was mostly completed. The rain halted cotton harvesting, and significant losses were expected in fields that were open and ready to harvest. Though the rains did not come at a good time for cotton producers, they were timely for small grain growers. Also, the extra moisture was expected to boost rangeland forages and cool-season grasses. Winter wheat planting was ongoing. Livestock were mostly in good condition with producers providing light supplemental feed.

**SOUTHWEST:** The region had not seen rain for more than a month, but a cool, mild fall helped conserve moisture. However, high winds contributed to the desiccation of pastures and rangeland. Farmers completed a good hay and sorghum harvest. Winter vegetables made excellent progress under heavy irrigation. About 10 percent of the cotton crop remained in field-stored modules. The harvesting of sweet corn, green beans, peanuts and pecans was ongoing.

**WEST CENTRAL:** The region had warm days with cool nights. Heavy rains late in the reporting period benefited all crops and pastures. The cotton harvest began. Gins started up and were going strong. Yields were good. Some small grains were planted and began to emerge. The grain sorghum harvest was under way and was expected to be completed soon. The last hay harvest of the year was nearly ended. Stock-tank water levels remained very low. Livestock were in good condition. Respiratory problems increased in weaning cattle. The pecan harvest was expected to begin soon.

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# OPINION



## The Paperboy

### Don't vote just to vote

By CHRIS BLACKBURN

Americans will head to the polls Tuesday for the mid-term elections.

I used to have the attitude that everyone should recognize the right, privilege and freedom of voting.

I have changed my mind.

If you have not taken the time to educate yourself on issues or candidates, it would be best for everyone if you sit out this election. In my opinion, an ignorant vote is a bad vote.

Now, some of you are going to head out Tuesday (if you didn't vote early) and vote a straight ticket because that's what you do every election. Why is that? Can you honestly say that you are casting a wise vote?

Personally, I have no allegiance to any party. I've grown tired of politics as usual and neither major political party has demonstrated that they are in touch with the issues of rural Americans, which is what WE should be looking at.

In the next few days, study the candidates and issues and see how much attention is paid to rural America. Trust me, it won't take long because we are the forgotten 80 million and our voice is close to silent.

If you're confident your elected officials have your best interests at heart, by all means, vote for them. If there is a doubt, skip them or go the other way.

If you pay no attention to what is going on at the local, state or national levels, then don't vote.

It has occurred to me many times that a wise electorate will elect strong leaders while an ignorant electorate can do great damage to this country.

I'm enjoying many things about being in my 40's. One aspect I don't enjoy is losing family members and loved ones.

The older you get, the more people you lose. It's nature, but it doesn't make the void any easier to fill.

It's best to keep in touch and enjoy those around you because they will pass.

Every small town has certain residents volunteering their time for a multitude of things. These people are generally active retired seniors whose behind the scenes efforts go largely unnoticed until they either stop volunteering or die.

Sadly, many times there is a time gap in succession or

no succession at all. When that is the case, the entire community suffers.

I commend those of you who fit this bill and ask that you make sure that your shoes are at least partly filled ... just in case.

We are blessed with natural resources in our region. Wind, oil, natural gas - all have a growing presence. Add to that the infrastructure needed to support these things and you'll find several companies investing around the area.

When you encounter these "strangers" remember this: it's good politics and down right neighborly to be accommodating. The days of turning a cold shoulder to newcomers is over, or at least it should be.

It doesn't take any more effort to be friendly. Remember how you like to be treated and act accordingly. You never know how much mileage you will receive from being an ambassador for your community.

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

### Hiring Military Veterans is Good Business

By BILL WHITMORE

If your company's diversity recruiting strategy fails to include military veterans, you are missing out on working with some of our country's most outstanding men and women. Organizations that fail to recognize the extraordinary leadership qualities that veterans bring to the workplace pass up the opportunity to work with results-oriented employees that have a strong sense of accountability and responsibility. It is time for our country's corporate leaders to awaken to the reality that combat leadership and military discipline translate into dynamic employees who can enhance an organization's productivity.

While the national unemployment rate hovers around 9.7% for civilians, the unemployment rate for young male veterans, including those returning from Afghanistan and Iraq, is more than double the national average at 21.6% according to the Bureau of Labor Sta-

tistics. Isn't it time to shine the employment spotlight on the brave men and women who serve our country?

What essential set of life skills do military veterans bring to corporate America that makes them an indispensable pairing? The military trains our men and women to lead by example as well as understand the nuances of delegation and motivation. As General Douglas McArthur once said, "a true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others." Military veterans understand the value of teamwork, which they can apply in our country's offices and boardrooms. Veterans understand their role within an organizational framework and serve as exemplary role models to subordinates while demonstrating accountability and leadership to supervisors.

Veterans generally enter the workforce with identifiable skills that can be transferred

to the business world and are often skilled in technical trends pertinent to business and industry. And what they don't know, they are eager to learn - making them receptive and ready hires in work environments that value ongoing learning and training. Veterans represent diversity and collaborative teamwork in action having served with people from diverse economic, ethnic and geographic backgrounds as well as race, religion and gender. Even under dire stress, veterans complete tasks and assignments in a timely manner as they have labored under restrictive schedules and resources on the battlefields and military installations that they've served.

Employers can find qualified veterans from a variety of sources including the Employer Partnership of the Armed Forces, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, Military.com, HireVeterans.com, and the Wounded Warriors Project. Employers can become true partners with selected veterans' organizations

and work with them proactively to ensure you are maximizing your ability to recruit from this extremely qualified talent pool.

Lest we forget, the men and women who have chosen to serve our country are patriots who have made enormous sacrifices to ensure our safety and freedom. By employing military veterans, we are saying, "thank you for your service" and for protecting us from terrorism and other threats.

About the author: Bill Whitmore is Chairman, President & CEO of AlliedBarton Security Services, [www.alliedbarton.com](http://www.alliedbarton.com), the industry's premier provider of highly trained security personnel to many industries including commercial real estate, higher education, healthcare, residential communities, chemical/petrochemical, government, manufacturing and distribution, financial institutions, and shopping centers.

### The Right Role for Insurance Exchanges

By PETER PITTS

In October, the Department of Health and Human Services closed its "comment period" for the new regional health insurance exchanges -- a major component of the Obama health reforms.

As state officials implement their plans, they should strive to ensure that these exchanges don't crowd out free market insurance mechanisms. While the options available on these exchanges will work well for many people, a substantial slice of the patient population will find them unsuitable.

Preserving a vibrant private insurance market in addition to the exchanges will maximize choice and enable people to find the insurance plan that best fits their particular needs. When the President said that people who are happy with their insurance "can keep it," we should keep him to his word. Choice is crucial.

The thinking behind the exchanges is sound. Large employers can negotiate good health insurance rates because they have a big workforce to spread risk. Individuals and small businesses don't have that advantage, and therefore they end up paying significantly higher rates than their larger counterparts.

Exchanges will help level the playing field. Participating insurers will offer a standard set of plans that must conform

to specific government standards. Groups of people that typically have difficulty finding affordable insurance, including the self-employed, unemployed, and smaller firms, can buy the standard plans through the exchange.

In this way, these groups can pool their purchasing power and get lower rates. The federal government will also provide subsidies for lower income consumers.

Exchanges go live in 2014. If a state hasn't started the process of establishing one by 2013, the federal government will take over the responsibility and run the exchange itself.

The healthcare law imposes an array of legal requirements on insurers that participate in the exchanges. Insurers must include a package of to-be-defined "essential" benefits in all plans offered. Insurers are also prohibited from charging deductibles exceeding \$2,000 for individuals and \$4,000 for families.

The exchanges only require insurers to offer two types of coverage. "Silver" plans covering 70 percent of all medical costs. And "Gold" plans covering 80 percent.

Many consumers will benefit from these newfound choices. But not everyone will find them suitable.

There are people who will want even more expansive coverage, say a "Platinum" plan covering 90 percent of costs. And there will be patients who want to risk higher out-of-pocket expenses for lower upfront charges, and are happy

with a "Bronze" plan covering just 60 percent of costs.

And still there are other demographic groups who won't find any of these options ideal. The young and healthy typical don't require much medical care, and just want catastrophic coverage in case of an emergency.

As is, the exchanges aren't required to offer these other options. And the federally mandated minimum benefits effectively prohibit the exchanges from offering cheap, stripped-down plans.

Healthcare coverage isn't one-size-fits-all. There needs to be an insurance market outside the government exchanges to ensure people with unique plan preferences can get the coverage they want.

The new insurance exchanges will reduce the number of insured, and should decrease the price of coverage for many patients.

But policymakers and private healthcare stakeholders need to work together to ensure that the exchanges don't become the only way to get health insurance. The more options patients have, the more likely they are to get the coverage that best fits their individual medical needs and financial means.

Peter J. Pitts is President of the Center for Medicine in the Public Interest and a former FDA Associate Commissioner.

### Forget Obesity, Fight Liberalism

By DAVID BOZEMAN

With the year winding down, many Americans are now receiving their health insurance renewal packets for 2011 and are reporting, with eye-rolling disgust, higher premiums. Employees and retirees on Medicare and Medicare-supplement plans are seeing, as well, in this age of ObamaCare, greater emphasis on lifestyle and behavioral issues such as obesity, with some information going so far as to define it as a disease.

Nanny-staters frequently gripe that the food choices of the obese and unhealthy drive up the cost of insurance for everyone. New York, of course, has all but banned trans-fats, the Institute of Medicine recommended earlier this year that the FDA limit salt content (a proposal, apparently, still under consideration), and, of course, McDonald's is facing increased fire from consumer advocacy groups for its Happy Meals targeted at children. Back in New York, Mayor Michael Bloomberg is suggesting that food brands not be payable for Coca-Cola and other sugary, fattening sodas.

The latter example may not define Nanny-statism but it reflects a prevailing mindset, and the din of voices calling for individual responsibility in food choices is growing louder (if

only the Left invoked individual responsibility in, say, sentencing guidelines and school choice). Yes, the war on obesity targets not just the makers of Twinkies, but the non-exercising, mass-consuming sofa-citizens, as well. Lest they miss anyone, Michelle Obama is taking it to the school children, and some, mostly elderly, Americans know their BMI (body mass index) numbers as well as their Social Security numbers.

So what is wrong with encouraging individual responsibility? Nothing, but the problem with government "persuasion" is what price are we willing to pay in freedom? Nothing written here is meant to encourage or condone obesity, only to submit that a market-oriented system based on competition and choice best promotes a culture of individual responsibility, with the warning that those who make dangerous choices will ultimately bear the consequences, thus lowering the price of health care.

Yes, premiums will likely always reflect the costs of someone's ill behavior, but only an enormous toll in human contentment and liberty will ensure uniform diet, exercise and lifestyle regimens.

To which an extreme advocate of the Nanny-state would reply, "So, what?" Who cares if a few over-consuming obese

divan-denizens are shamed and ostracized into sacrificing their Cokes and Twinkies for the sake of numbing down America's vibrant lifestyle to that of a somber, socialistic, shadow-of-its-former self, European sissy-state?

The goal of ObamaCare, and the future legislation upon which the current act is mere prelude, is equality of outcome and homogenization of behavior. They cannot rightly criticize capitalism for its inefficiency, so they condemn its so called excesses.

The prevailing wisdom is that we consume too much. They are always grouching that America consumes more than its share of the world's resources. Our greed is bad for the environment, thus the need for cap and trade legislation.

It is not the notion of America the bountiful that animates liberals, but disgust with Coca-Cola, McDonald's, Little Debbie and others who add fun, flavor and color to our lives. The risk of an inch or two to our waistlines is not worth ceding our liberty to killjoy bureaucrats at any level of government. If we are serious about cutting fat, forget middle America, why don't we just start in Washington?



## Teamwork and training decreases surgery mortality rate

HOUSTON — While medical teams and hospital staff do their best to prevent death related to surgery, it still occurs. Many institutions have implemented programs to decrease that number, but there is not enough data to fully explain the effectiveness.

A consortium of researchers from the National Center for Patient Safety, Dartmouth Medical School, The University of Texas Medical Branch Galveston, Baylor College of Medicine and the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston, focused on the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Medical Team Training program and found that through implementation, the death rate decreased by 18 percent.

"This is the first study to demonstrate a decline in surgical mortality through the use of this particular training program," said Dr. David H. Berger, professor and vice chair of the department of surgery at BCM and co-author of the retrospective study which appears in the current edition of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

The training program, which was first implemented in the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center, includes two months of preparation and training, a

one-day conference and one year of quarterly coaching interviews.

Some of the important aspects of the training program include creating a pre and postoperative checklist which includes formal briefings and debriefings before and after surgeries. Another important factor in training is instruction in teamwork and communication which includes identifying and challenging others when safety risks are known, recognizing "red flags," stepping back to reassess a situation and clinicians effectively during patient care transitions.

This was followed by four quarterly follow up structured interviews for one year to support, coach, and assess the program.

"What is important about this study is that there is a similar group that can be used as a control. We can look not only at the statistics from those hospitals involved in the training program, but we can also compare them to a similar group that has not yet gone through the training," said Berger, who is also chief of the surgical service at the DeBakey VA Medical Center.

Results showed an overall decrease in the mortality rate related to surgery among all facilities. However, those that had undergone the training program

decreased the mortality rate by 18 percent, while those that had not, decreased the mortality rate by 7 percent.

"This program includes not just the surgeons but also the OR nurses and even administrative support staff," said Berger. "The care of each patient involves the entire team."

The nationwide program was put into effect in 2006 after three years of pilot programs. Within the VHA, there are 153 hospitals. Surgeries are performed at 130, but only 74 hospitals had implemented the training program when the current study began.

Others contributing researchers include: Julia Neily, Priscilla West, Drs. Peter D. Mills, Yinong Young-Xu, Brian T. Carney, Lisa Mazza, Douglas E. Paull, and James P. Bagian, all with the National Center for Patient Safety, Department of Veterans Affairs. Drs. Mills and Young-Xu are also with the Department of Psychiatry, Dartmouth Medical School. Dr. Bagian is also with the University of Texas Medical Branch Galveston and the F. Edward Hebert School of Medicine in Bethesda, Maryland.

Funding for this study came from the Veterans Health Administration National Center for Patient Safety and the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center.

## Project to Study 'Dark Energy' Receives \$8 Million

AUSTIN, Texas — A project to discover the nature of dark energy, a mysterious force causing the expansion of the universe to speed up, has received an \$8 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

The funds will be split among The University of Texas at Austin (\$3.6 million), Texas A&M University (\$3.9 million) and Penn State University (\$.5 million), to support their respective roles in the Hobby-Eberly Telescope Dark Energy Experiment, or HETDEX. The project will be carried out at The University of Texas at Austin's McDonald Observatory in west Texas.

"HETDEX is one of our gems within the university," said William Powers Jr., president of The University of Texas at Austin. "It's one of the projects being done here today that will still be talked about in a hundred years, the way we now read about discoveries by Newton and Einstein. This NSF grant is strong confirmation of the project's importance and our commitment to it."

Both of Texas' flagship universities will play a major role in the project.

"Collaborating on such an important project with our colleagues at The University of Texas at Austin and Penn State University speaks directly to the important role that flagship, tier-one research institutions have in unlocking the mysteries of the universe and developing new knowledge," said R. Bowen Loftin, president of Texas A&M. "With this grant, we are able to pull together many of the top minds in astronomy and physics for a project that will have a significant, historical impact."

One form of dark energy was described by Albert Einstein in 1917 in his theory of general relativity, but no one took the idea seriously until 1998. That year, two groups, one of which was co-founded by Texas A&M astronomer Nicholas Suntzeff, made precise measurements of the expansion rate of the universe showing that it was expanding faster than in the past — a total surprise, akin to throwing a ball into the air and realizing it is speeding up as it flies into the sky, rather than slowing down and returning. Scientists have dubbed the unknown cause "dark energy." Because dark energy makes up 70 percent of the mass and energy of the universe, understanding its nature has been called the number one problem in physics today.

"Removing our ignorance about 70 percent of the universe's make-up is a challenge that McDonald Observatory is delighted to assume," said McDonald Observatory Director David

Lambert.

HETDEX will upgrade the Hobby-Eberly Telescope (HET), one of the world's largest, to use a specially designed instrument, which over three years will make one of the largest maps of the universe to date.

The HETDEX survey will pinpoint the positions of one million star-forming galaxies between 10 billion and 11 billion light-years away.

This enormous map will measure accurately how the universe expands over time. Because acceleration in this expansion is because of dark energy, HETDEX will determine whether or not dark energy is a constant through time — a key element in understanding precisely what it is.

"I am delighted that the HET, and in particular the HETDEX team, has been recognized by the National Science Foundation as one of the leaders in addressing one of the most fundamental scientific questions of our time," said Daniel Larson, chair of the HET Board of Directors and dean of Penn State's Eberly College of Science.

The NSF funds will be administered over the next five years.

"The HETDEX project is a critical part of the coordinated, multi-agency response to the 2006 report from the Astronomy and Astrophysics Advisory Committee's Dark Energy Task Force, which recommended a multi-pronged approach to the enigma known as dark energy," said Dr. Nigel Sharp, Astronomy Program officer at the National Science Foundation. "NSF's Division of Astronomical Sciences is pleased to support the project, which will have broad impact and value well beyond the focus of dark energy."

"There are two areas the NSF money is going for," said project scientist Karl Gebhardt of The University of Texas at Austin. "To build the VIRUS spectrograph, which is the heart of the project, and also for the science — analyzing the data, theoretical work, post-docs and graduate students."

The VIRUS instrument will be assembled and aligned at Texas A&M University. This novel instrument comprises 150 copies of a single spectrograph, an instrument that gathers light from distant galaxies and splits it into its individual wavelengths, known as a spectrum. A spectrum reveals an object's chemical composition, its temperature and the speed it is moving toward or away from us.

The replication of this single unit makes it possible to build VIRUS

faster and cheaper than a single giant spectrograph with the same capabilities. The power of VIRUS is that it simultaneously captures spectra from 33,000 points on the sky simultaneously, using fiber optics developed for the telecommunications industry to transfer the light from the telescope to the huge replicated array of spectrographs.

"VIRUS is unique," said HETDEX principal investigator Gary Hill of The University of Texas at Austin. "It captures spectra from everything that falls on its fibers so we can survey a large area of sky very quickly. The powerful combination of the HET and VIRUS creates a unique survey facility that will allow us a new window on dark energy, and will also open up the study of dark matter and the formation of the Milky Way."

Darren DePoy, professor of physics and astronomy and holder of the Rachal-Mitchell-Heep Endowed Professorship in Physics at Texas A&M, said because VIRUS allows spectroscopic observations of a large number of objects simultaneously, it is well suited to measuring the subtle effects that dark energy has on the structure of the universe. The power of the new instrument also will enable a broad range of other astronomy projects.

"We are fortunate at Texas A&M to have both the high-quality lab space and excellent students and staff capable of building such instrumentation," said DePoy, a member of Texas A&M's George P. and Cynthia Woods Mitchell Institute for Fundamental Physics and Astronomy. "Our team includes undergraduate and graduate students from several science and engineering departments and research scientists and engineers in the instrumentation group. All of us are excited to be part of such a groundbreaking project."

The assembly and testing of the VIRUS instrument will be completed by DePoy, Jennifer Marshall and fellow researchers within Texas A&M's Charles R. '62 and Judith G. Munnerlyn Astronomical Laboratory, which is directed by DePoy.

"The production-line style of constructing 150 spectrographs will be a challenge," said Marshall, lecturer and research scientist in the Texas A&M Department of Physics and Astronomy, "because astronomers generally only build a single instrument for a particular scientific project. We look forward to the challenge and to the scientific results that the instrument will enable."

## Alzheimer's Association hosts community presentation

Are you so overwhelmed by taking care of someone else that you have neglected your own physical, mental and emotional well-being? If you find yourself without the time to take care of your own needs, you may be putting yourself and your health at risk. The Alzheimer's Association-North Central Texas Chapter is presenting "Grace Under Fire: Practical

Tips for Caregiver Stress" on Friday, November 5, 2010 at 10:30 A.M. at the Alzheimer's Association Regional Office. The office is located at 901 Indiana St. 350, Wichita Falls, Texas.

This free workshop will help families and caregivers of persons with dementia identify sources of stress, results of stress and tips for being healthier.

The mission of the Alzheimer's Association is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health.

For more information call Patty Taylor at 940-767-8800 or 800-272-3900.

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### ELECTION

physical therapist and an hospice nurse). As commissioner, Griffith wants to bring new business into the area. He thinks the explosion of wind energy through wind turbines would be an excellent additive to our economic health. He also thinks Bryan Lake is another local resource which can lead to much economic potential. Griffith wants

to provide more jobs for the younger people of the community to help build the population and economic stability of Knox.

Griffith also is concerned about the roadways in Knox County and would like to be instrumental in cleaning them up. Griffith says that "[he] lived 50 years on the muddiest roads in Knox County. [He] knows

the importance of the roadways for agriculture and oilfield."

Griffith says, "I sincerely believe these are crucial times for Knox County, and that Knox County needs a fulltime commissioner 'Working for you'."

Polls open at 7 a.m. and stay open until 7 p.m. on November 2 around Knox County.

### LOOKING AHEAD

sixth grade students of Munday, Knox City, and Benjamin will be participating in a poster contest. The students will be interviewing veterans to learn about their war experience and making a poster about the veteran. Then the student writes a

5-minute speech about that veteran. Each school sets a date for a contest at which posters are displayed at the schools. Both posters and speeches are considered in awarding first, second and third places in the school contest. The contest chair-

man Homer Lowrance, will pick up the posters and display them at the Wichita Brazos Museum in Benjamin. All first place winners from the three schools will deliver their 5-minute speeches at the Veterans Day Program.