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THE KNOX COUNTY NEWS

PROUDLY SERVING THE KNOX COUNTY AREA

8 PAGES PLUS INSERTS
VOLUME XXIX

KNOX COUNTY, TEXAS
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2010

75 CENTS
NUMBER 58



Seen here: KCVFD fights through the daunting blaze to defeat the fire at the Haskell gin on Thursday, Thanksgiving Day. On the left, several modules suffer damage from the flames.

Courtesy photo from the Haskell Free Press

Knox City Fire Department fighting fires throughout holiday weekend

By Tamara Smart

While most people throughout Knox County were sitting at home, enjoying their annual Thanksgiving holiday with family, feasts and fellowship; the Knox City Volunteer Fire Department was busy fighting fires from Knox to Rochester to Haskell.

On Thanksgiving Day, The men were called out twice, once to aide the Haskell Fire Department with a fire at the Haskell Gin, and then once again they were called to squelch a fire on Fm 1292 and CR 1225 in Knox City.

Only two days later, on November 27, the Firemen were

called out twice more for a gasoline break in O'Brien on Hwy 6 as well as a fire ¼ mile East of Rochester at FM 617 and CR 136.

On November 29, The KCVFD responded to another fire 2 mile west of O'Brien.

The fires which have had their point of origin pinpointed were

started by a welder and a cast off cigarette.

The fire hazard is great these days, because of the dry weather and the high winds. The forecasts have no rain in the upcoming weeks, nor will the wind stop blowing for several days. The National Weather Service has issues a fire warning for

our area, although no burn ban has been put into place. Fires will easily get out of control in this weather and the KC Firemen can only respond to so many at once.

Domingo Garcia, the KC Fire Chief, warns: "Be aware, no rain is in sight and the conditions are only going to get drier."

B&P BBQ reopens after damaging fire



By Tamara Smart

One month after a fire ravaged B&P BBQ in South Knox City, they are open for business again.

Last Wednesday, Billy reopened the doors, offering his vast menu- even adding a hot dog option for the kids.

Bobby Strickland did the repair work, and worked in

both a timely and efficient manner.

Billy Young, owner and manager of B&P BBQ had this to say about the time without the restaurant and now reopening again so soon:

"If you believe, God will provide. B&P is open normal hours.

Knox City to get new sidewalks

If you think back a few years, Knox City was supposed to get new sidewalks and water drainage. Finally that is going to happen this next year, 2011.

TxDot has been working on the plans. They have been up and down the streets measuring and marking in preparation for the job ahead.

There are detailed maps of the project at City Hall, posted on the wall for everyone to look over. TxDot will go out for bids in August, if not before, with work scheduled to start in October.

The sidewalk project will go from city limits to city limits on Hwy 222 (Main Street)

and thru the downtown area for two blocks each way from the intersection, north and south, on Hwy 6 (Central Ave).

This is what the Citizens of Knox City need to help do NOW. If Knox City is to have attractive textured sidewalks, then YOU must let them know your wishes. If this desire is not conveyed to TxDot from a substantial number of our citizens, the sidewalks will be built in a "plain vanilla" style.

Please write or email: TxDot- Gary Meizer, P.O. Box 39, Munday, Texas 76371 or gmeizer@txdot.gov with your wishes to see Knox City become the home of textured, attractive sidewalks.



As the live music played in the background, Easton Barnhill of Lubbock sat on Santa's lap at the Christmas in November festivities last Saturday evening. Easton whispered his wishes for a jack-in-the-box to be under his tree on Christmas day. The Knox City Chamber of Commerce sponsored "Christmas in November" was a hit, as always. Winners of the Santa Dollars were Betty Trimble, Estelle Skiles, Katie Trimble and Joe Nelson.

Courtesy photo by the KC Chamber of Commerce

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LOOKING AHEAD

The Knox County Retired School Personnel will have a Christmas luncheon on Tuesday, December 14th, in Fellowship Hall of the First Baptist Church in Munday. The meeting will begin at 12:00 noon. District President, Lou Jagers, will bring a short update on TRTA business to the attendees.

Members should bring a covered dish for

the luncheon, two gifts for the nursing homes and book donations for the book drive. Please also remember to begin closing the year with the number of volunteer hours from each member and the number of steps for the year. Host and hostess for the meal will be Jackie and Homer Lowrance. We look forward to a good turnout from our members and guests.



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 Jerry Vincent, Pastor
 Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 10:55 a.m.
 Sunday Evening Worship at 6:30 p.m. • Mid-Week, Wed. at 6:30 p.m.
 FBC Sunday School, and the worship services at 10:55 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. are telecast live on Classic Cable, channel 6 in Knox City and O'Brien

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - Knox City
 Timothy Trimble, Pastor
 Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m.
 No Sunday Evening Service

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

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

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

LIBERTY COMMUNITY C.O.G.I.C. - Knox City
 Gene Ward Jr., Pastor
 Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Morning Services - 11 a.m.
 Monday Evening Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH - Rhineland
 Father Charles Gorantla • Deacon Jim Novak
 Monday through Friday mornings, 8 a.m. Mass
 Saturday Mass at 5 p.m. • Sunday Mass at 10:30 a.m.

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

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

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST - Benjamin
 Bible Study at 9 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 10 a.m.

THE BELIEVERS' CHAPEL - Highway 222
 W.O. Smith, Pastor
 Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. - Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.
 Mid-Week, Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

O'BRIEN BAPTIST CHURCH - O'Brien
 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

Gary Schnable

Foursquare Church

Mary's Encounter With God

To those of us who have grown up in church the story of Mary's encounter with God has been told by countless plays, hymns, & songs. I have played a part in plays, sung in choirs & cantatas as a child & adult about this wondrous event that changed the world. Though I have witnessed amazing retellings of this encounter, it is not until you encounter it for yourself that you will truly experience the fullness of what God did through Jesus Christ.

Mary's encounter and the surrounding events give us a little glimpse into the purpose for why God came in human flesh. It was more than an event. It was THE epic event that impacted the heavens and earth. We know this by the events that surrounded the Christ child from the prophecies about Him to their fulfillment with odds that only heaven could make happen!

"In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. Gabriel appeared to her and said, 'Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!' Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. 'Don't be afraid, Mary,' the

angel told her, 'for you have found favor with God!' You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name Him Jesus" (Luke 1:26-31 NLT)

Mary was a teenage Jewish girl who was faithful to God. She lived in a small town of 400 among the poor peasants. She, along with the other girls of the village, learned how to make linen, prepare meals & press oil from olives. Oh yeah, she was also engaged to a carpenter; looking forward to marriage as most normal young brides to be.

Suddenly, in the midst of a normal day's activity a messenger from God meets her! Imagine how this young teenage girl must have felt... the scriptures tell us she was "confused and disturbed". In other words she was troubled trying to get her mind around what she was hearing and being told!

Imagine having an angel of God, Gabriel to be exact, show up in the midst of a normal day. Then he proceeds to tell you some great plan God wants to use your life to carry out. Now rushing through your mind is this plan that may cause others to think wrongly about you (Out of wedlock pregnancy in a small town), an angel visitor speaking to you (now you've really lost your mind) or God has chosen an ordinary peasant girl for a world changing plan (Why you)?

As the angel Gabriel

calmed Mary's fears, he told her that she had found great favor with God. This word raised her self-esteem because God had noticed! God had noticed her faithfulness to Him even as a young woman! In the ensuing questions of "why and how" going back and forth between her and Gabriel she became convinced of the calling on her life. Then with her questions answered; Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her" (Luke 1:32 NLT)

Most of us know the truth of the rest of the story. We know that Jesus came to reveal the Father's heart of love to a world with broken relationships, the greatest of broken relationships with Him because of our sin. He came to reveal the lies and set the record straight that He wasn't mad at us, but that He loved us each personally. How? God sent His son as our greatest Christmas gift that could eventually restore our relationship with Him by His Son Jesus dying in our place. What other god will do that for us?

Mary reveals that ordinary people like us can and will encounter God! He will meet us in a small town setting, during the ordinary events of our day and that He will use us to touch a world that has a broken relationship with Him and others.

You can have an encounter with God that will change

your life too...for the best! What do you have to do? Just ask God to visit you and be ready to respond to His love for you!

If you love God and it has been a long time since you have really experienced His presence; maybe like a marriage that's lost it's fire because of drifting into selfishness, or you have not been seeking time with your spouse so you feel empty. You may have gotten caught up in the busyness of life and now miss the amazing joy of His presence. Yes, you may need a fresh encounter with God that is life changing!

Whatever your situation this Christmas, whether you are far, far away or that you have just drifted into the blahs of life, my prayer is for you to have an encounter, a fresh encounter with God that will impregnate you with new life! One that will rock your world with changes, but they will be awesome changes that will make life sweet again...the way God meant it to be!

Yes, there will be those like Herod who will try to mess up what God has begun in you. But when you encounter God may you say what Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." I promise, what God said about you He will make it come true if you let Him and it will be awesome!

God's ready to do a Christmas miracle in you! Are you ready???

Don't get burned on the holidays

By Steve Bills

The holiday season is right around the corner. As families begin to plan festivities and coordinate travel arrangements, it is important to consider some fire safety tips that can help ensure a safe holiday with loved ones.

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, fires during the holidays claim the lives of more than 400 Americans, injure 1,650 and cause more than \$990 million in damages. In addition, the National Fire Protection Association notes that Christmas trees are involved in more than 400 fires annually, which highlights the importance of safety practices during the upcoming holiday season.

Christmas Trees

Christmas trees provide a beautiful focal point for many homes during the holidays, but can also pose a danger. It is important to select a tree that will help prevent fires from spreading rapidly throughout a residence. A lack of knowledge on how to correctly pick a Christmas tree and safely decorate your home can be costly and even harmful.

When picking a cut tree, make sure the needles are fresh—they should not easily break if the tree has just been cut. Bounce the tree trunk on the ground to check if it is a fresh tree. If too many needles fall to the ground, the tree is a potential fire hazard. If a flocked tree is your choice, make sure the flocking is fire retardant and non-toxic.

When placing a tree in your home or business, keep it away from heat sources such as fireplaces and heater vents, as the dry air from these sources will dry out the tree quicker. It is best to keep the Christmas tree for no more than two weeks, but you can extend the freshness of your tree by mounting the tree in a stand that can be filled with water. When the tree is ready to be disposed of, take it to a recycling center or have it picked up by a service.

When lighting your tree,

make sure to use low wattage bulbs and decorations. These produce minimal heat and lessen the sources for an ignition. Never use candles or other flames on or around a tree. At bedtime or when leaving the tree unattended for extended periods of time, it is best to turn off the lights.

If you are going to display a tree for a long period, an artificial or metallic tree is preferred, but make sure it is flame retardant to lessen the chances of a fire.

Holiday Lights and Decorations

While preparing to beat the neighborhood competition with the best light display, it's important to check the holiday lights each year. Before putting up lights, keep an eye out for loose wires, broken sockets or excessive wear and tear. Never overload electrical outlets, and periodically touch the wires to check the temperature—they should not be warm.

When selecting extension cords, pick the one designated for exterior use. These cords use heavier wiring and will be less likely to overheat. Avoid stringing lights and electrical cords through areas where water can collect and submerge the wiring.

When choosing holiday decorations, ensure the label

indicates that the decoration is nonflammable or flame retardant. Also, never dispose of wrapping paper in a fireplace as it may emit dangerous sparks and large embers.

Candles

The increased use of candles during the holidays can pose a fire hazard. It is best to avoid lighting candles, but if they are lit, employ safety practices to keep your loved ones away from harm. Make sure that candles are in stable holders and cannot be easily knocked down by pets or children. Never leave candles burning alone in a residence, and make sure candles are located within sight.

Keep candles away from combustibles such as Christmas trees, curtains, clothing or decorations. Do not use candles in sleeping areas and extinguish them before going to sleep.

The holiday season is a time to enjoy some quality time with your loved ones, but it's also a great chance to educate your family on fire safety. Test your smoke alarms and review your home escape plan in case of an emergency. Most importantly, employ safety practices to ensure a safe and joyous holiday season for you and your loved ones.

The Knox County News

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

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

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

NOTICE

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

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Monday - Wednesday • 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. • Closed Thursday • Friday • 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

COWPOKES®

By Ace Reid



"Naw, I ain't scared...I always ride leanin' to the right."

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SAMMIE'S KNOX CITY CORNER AND FINAL THOUGHTS

Sammie Oilfield
 We are having so much fun working in this Thanksgiving dinner. It's a great feeling to know you will make someone happy and loved.
 Diana Vasquez had a car accident on Friday evening. The other vehicle was at fault, but she's doing good with minor aches and pains.
 Well all our families have returned each back to their own homes safely. Rachel Vasquez has decided to stay with her kids during this long healing process.
 On Tuesday, I drove to Grapevine to see my doctor and schedule my surgery. It was a wonderful day to travel. The weather was great. I will return to Grapevine on Monda morning. Hope I get a chance to talk to you all before I leave. Keep me posted on your news.
 I hope that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving Day. Here lately, there has been so much to be thankful for.
 Alfredo Abila has started a new round of chemo again.

We pray that this one goes well.
 Danny Reece is doing good- he's got a long road ahead of him, but he's cheerful.
 I talked to Sandra Day; Linda Abila's mom is in therapy at Hendricks.
 I'm sorry the last couple of weeks have been short, but I will get back into the groove of things. I was just drained after the funeral.
 Thursday Morning Jonnie and Dewayne Bradford had Thanksgiving with her children, Angela and husband as well as Ruben, Patty and Aubri were home doing their Thanksgiving. They spent time together and. Of course, the men were stuck to the TV for football.
 Thursday evening, I called the Burkham's and they were so happy and pleased to see that everyone was so appreciative about the community Thanksgiving dinner. It was a blessing to all to visit with neighbors and new friends. The Burkham's were a little tired after a long

day.
 Fred Pepper is having a bad spell of health. I spoke with Steve and he said his Papa just had to stay home these days but he's doing ok.
 It was wonderful to see lots of new faces downtown Saturday evening at the Christmas in November celebration/ While sitting in our truck and listening to the wonderful live music, I could almost recall every business which has taken residence in the Downtown strip and who ran it. The history of this small town is so amazing.
 I understand that Frank Garcia is home I hope to visit him before I go for my Surgery.
 Today I got news that Tommie Gonzales' dad passed away. He was a good friend of Eddie Oilfield. I.B> Mayes used to be from Hamlin. More details were in the Abilene paper. Our prayers and thoughts are with the family at this time of need.
 It's getting pretty cold

in KC and the pecans are falling off the trees and everyone is picking them up. The price on them is great this year. I guess you have seen the sign where Mr. Dillon is buying pecans, which saves a trip out of town for locals.
 Also Bobby Strickland has moved back to KC with his brother Rocky.
 Louise Burthas been transferred to KC hospital for further recovery. She is doing good.
 Pat Grimsley is doing good from her heart surgery recovery at home also.
 Monday morning and I'm our doing my last minute errands before leaving to Grapevine fso I can check in on Tuesday morning for my surgery. Hopefully I will return soon to recover at my home.
 Betty Starnes is home also recovering from foot surgery and is doing great.
 Hope to see you all soon. May God bless you and I hope you enjoy my column next week.



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.

One thing led to another.
 You can drive that tractor right over that hydrant. No problem.
 No need to hook onto that dead tree with a chain. You can push it down with the front-end loader.
 Septic tank? What septic tank?
 If Abbott & Costello didn't make a farm movie, they should have.
 But the tractor didn't crash into the septic tank. What luck! I'd forgotten the septic tank was there. After all, we haven't worked on it for months. Out of sight, out of mind. Indeed, that expression could have been coined for septic tanks. I used to think it applied to boyfriends.
 The old dead tree went down on cue.
 As for the water hydrant, think of it as an old soldier standing guard over the backyard at my late grandmother's house. It's what I'd call a gypsy hydrant, somewhat encrusted in white gypsum.
 Alas, my computer doesn't believe "gypsy" is a word. So what if I made it up? The acceptable word, it seems, is "gyp" - short for gypsum. "Gyp" works as an adjective to describe gypsum-laced water - the kind of well water that clogs pipes, ruins coffee pots, voids water heater warranties and gives diarrhea to the uninitiated. I still think "gypsy" is a better word for gyp-plagued hydrants. I digress.
 The tractor did indeed clear the hydrant, but the chain we didn't use to pull up the tree snagged the stalwart hydrant and left it askew. More than askew.
 The next morning, a foot of watercoveredtheunderground water cutoff valves adjacent to the tilting hydrant - a big underground leak. The water level went down only when the overworked well pump quit pumping. Not good. My friend-renter Terri and I dug down, found the broken rusty hydrant pipe and unthreaded it from its moorings.
 Meanwhile, my husband, atop scaffolding and using his admirable carpentry skills to repair the roof eave, didn't mind letting us girls go to the far corner of the pasture to brave barbed wire and black locust thorns to descend into the varmint-ridden pit that houses the workings of the well. Unskilled underlings tend to get jobs that involve spiders.
 Long story short, Terri's diamond nail file worked nicely to clean off the burned points on the pressure switch for the pump. Hum! The pump sprang back to life.
 Meanwhile, back at the house my husband noticed water bubbling vigorously at the site of the leak. By the time I thought to call him on his cell phone, he'd found the cutoff.
 Advice: If you want to get a well going again, leave a pipe uncapped. It's sort of like carrying an umbrella to keep it from raining.
 A gypsy ending: Minus boyfriend and husband, respectively, Terri and I installed another hydrant. We didn't fret about the tiny drip at the base. By the next day gyp had sealed the leak.
 Moral: In defense of gyp, it would be like the proverbial ill wind if it didn't stop drips. But it does.

Knox County Market Place

Help Wanted
 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 940-256-2458
 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 cal 940-658-3313. EOE
 Certified Nurses Aide position is currently available. Please apply in person at 605 S. Ave F, Knox City

4331. City of Munday is and EOE. Applications will be taken through December 10,2010.
 The City of O'Brien is accepting applications for City Secretary position Call 940-657-4263 or 940-658-1144 for an application.

Legal Notice
 COMBINED NOTICE
 NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS
 Date of Publication: 12-2-10
 City of O'Brien
 P.O. Box 38
 O'Brien, TX 79539
 940/256-3612

certification was not, executed by the Certifying Officer or other officer of the City of O'Brien approved by the Department; (b) the City of O'Brien has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the project have committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by the Department; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR 58) and shall be addressed to the Texas Department of Rural Affairs, P.O. Box 12877, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711. Potential objectors should contact the Department to verify the actual last day of the objection period.
 Richard Garcia, Mayor, City of O'Brien
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 O'Brien, TX 79539

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REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS
 On or about December 20, 2010, the City of O'Brien will submit a request to the Texas Department of Rural Affairs for the release of Community Development Block Grant Funds under Section 104(f) of Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, to undertake a project known as the O'Brien Community Development Program, for the purpose of constructing a new WWTP holding pond, yard & irrigation piping, irrigation equipment/pumps, meter & vault, plow & seeding at the wastewater treatment plant, approx. 0.6 mi. north of town.

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Finding of No Significant Impact
 The City of O'Brien has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at City Hall, O'Brien, TX and may be examined or copied weekdays from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

House For Sale
 4 bedroom, 2 bath in Rochester on Corner lot. Living room, dining room, pool room. Fenced in Yard. Low price. The Call 940-743-3452 and ask for Bobby for more information.

Public Comments on Finding
 Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments for consideration by the City of O'Brien to the Office of the Mayor. All comments received by December 17, 2010, will be considered by the City of O'Brien prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

Miscellaneous
 Now buying pecans. Drop off station, Knox County Cleaners. \$.80 for #1 pecans.

Release of Funds
 The City of O'Brien certifies to the Texas Department of Rural Affairs that Richard Garcia in his capacity as Mayor consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The Department's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows the City of O'Brien to use Program funds.

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Classifieds get results!

Objections to State Release of Funds
 The Texas Department of Rural Affairs will consider objections to its release of funds and the City of O'Brien certification received by January 6, 2011, or a period of fifteen days from its receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the

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Residential
 • Newly on Market- In country, 2 acres with 2 houses. On Pavement. Quiet Setting near O'Brien.
 Nice brick country home on 1.48 ac. Storage building & large modern metal barn. Fenced yard w/ large trees. Possible extra acreage available. 3.5 mi East of Rochester on CR 165 - Reduced
Farms/Land
 • Haskell Co.
 805 AC., near Rule, 600 Ac. Cult.
 • 781 AC., near Rule, Tanks, Hunting
 • 654 AC., Irrigation Pivots, CONTRACT 290 AC.
 • 324 AC., 1/2 irrigated, 1/2 CRP
 • 300+ AC farmland. Irrigation and side roll and 165 ac. Some fenced. Two ground tanks, dove, quail, deer & turkey. Off Hwy 6- South of Rochester. Excellent for peanuts, wheat, cotton or cattle.
 • 434 acres, 160 cultivated, fenced, set of cattle pens, 2 tanks, on Hwy 84. Call for details
Commercial
 • Commercial Real Estate and Equipment- Knox City- \$55,000.
 • Nice Modern Restaurant, recently built. Also could be used for hunting lodge- Weirnt, TX
 • Commercial warehouse on Hwy 6 w/office & living quarters on 24,000 sq ft. Call for details *****
 Commercial warehouse 24,000 on Hwy 6. Call for deals

KNOX COUNTY AGING SERVICES
MENUS FOR DEC. 6TH TO DEC. 10TH

Monday Dec. 6th Steak Fingers/Gravy Mashed Potatoes California Blend Biscuit Gingerbread	Thursday, Dec. 9th Stew 7 Minute Cabbage Mexican Cornbread Cobbler
Tuesday Dec. 7th Chicken/Stir Fry Vegetables Rice Salad Garlic Toast Bread Pudding	Friday, Dec. 10th Pork Chops/Rice Pinto Beans Salad Cornbread Dessertd

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..

Find us on Facebook!

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

2010 Weekly Weather Report

Date	Temperature (F) Low / High	Rainfall inches
11/22	46/84	
11/23	35/68	
11/24	47/84	
11/25	23/58	
11/26	18/58	
11/27	21/65	
11/28	33/69	
Total Rainfall for month		0.40
2010 Rainfall (ytd)		36.43

Thanks for Reading!

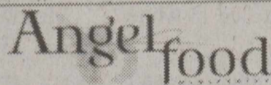
Pray for our troops!

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December Menu

Bit O' Blessing Box \$21	
2 lb. Oven-Ready Meat • 20 oz. Pot Roast or Meatloaf • 20 oz. Supreme Pizza • 1 lb. Hot Dogs • 7 oz. Fully Cooked Breakfast Link Sausage • 1 lb. Carrots • 1 lb. Corn • 1 lb. Sweet Peas • Dessert	
Bread of Life - Signature Box \$31	
1.5 lb. Lean Hamburger Steaks (4 x 9 oz.)	1 lb. Sliced Beef Sausage
1.5 lb. Tray Pack Chicken Breast Fillets	3 lbs. Waffle Fries
2 lb. Breaded Chicken Breast Bites	40 oz. Mac & Cheese (4 x 10 oz.)
2 lb. Mac & Beef Entrée	1 lb. Boil-In-Bag Potatoes
1.5 lb. Sausage, Egg & Cheese Breakfast Wraps (8 ct.)	1 lb. California Lima Beans
1 lb. Lean Ground Beef	1 lb. Sliced Carrots
	1 lb. Frozen Mixed Vegetables
Bountiful Blessing Box \$41	
2 lb. Choice Beef Roast	1 lb. Lean Ground Beef
1.5 lb. Tray Pack Chicken Breast Fillets	1 lb. Sliced Beef Sausage
1.5 lb. Lean Hamburger Steaks (4 x 9 oz.)	1 lb. (avg.) Ham Steak
2 lb. Frozen Fully Cooked Rice and Chicken Soup	5 lb. Waffle Fries
2 lb. Breaded Chicken Breast Bites	40 oz. Mac & Cheese (4 x 10 oz.)
2 lb. Mac & Beef Entrée	1 lb. Boil-In-Bag Potatoes
1.5 lb. Egg, Cheese & Sausage Breakfast Wraps (8 ct.)	1 lb. California Lima Beans
	1 lb. Sliced Carrots
	1 lb. Frozen Mixed Vegetables
Fast and Flavorful Cuisine \$28	
Convenience meals great for seniors and people on the go! New perfectly seasoned, individually balanced, fully-cooked meals - just heat and serve. Each meal has been developed with dietary needs of senior citizens and people on the go in mind.	
Spaghetti and Meatballs • Salisbury Steaks • Fish Steaks • Country Herb White Chicken • Turkey and Gravy over Bread Dressing • White Chicken Cauliflower • Boneless Pork Patty • Fettuccini Alfredo • Beef Stew • White Chicken Tetrazzini	
Just 4 Me - After School Box \$24	
2 lbs. Breaded Chicken Fingers • 1.75 lb. Fully Cooked Breaded Party Wings • 1.5 lb. Corn Dogs • 14 oz. Stuffed Pizza Breadsticks • 4 ea. (2.8 oz.) Peanut Butter & Jelly Jamwich • 2 ea. Charbroiled Cheeseburgers (Twin Packs) • 2 ea. (2.2 oz.) PBJ on Graham Wafers	
Gluten Free Allergen Free Food Box \$25	
1 lb. Breaded Chicken Breast Nuggets • 1 lb. Breaded Chicken Tenderloins • 1 lb. Breaded Breast Fillet Patties • 1 lb. Breaded Boneless Chicken Wings • 1 lb. Breaded Cubed Steak	
Angel Food Specials	
S1 - Special #1 \$25	S2 - Special #2 \$35
Ribeye Steak Special (4 lb.)	Online Seafood Special
4 lb. Ribeye Steaks (8 x 6 oz.)	Limited Quantities! Available online only! Please see our website for details.
S3 - Special #3 \$23	S4 - Special #4 \$36
Premium Fresh Fruit and Veggie Box	Christmas Box - for December delivery
3 lb. Sweet Potatoes, 3 lb. Idaho Potatoes, 2 lb. Yellow Onion, 1 ea. Stalk, Steamed Celery, 1 ea. Butternut Squash, 1 lb. Cello Carrots, 1 ea. Golden Ripe Pineapple, 3 lb. Oranges, 2 lb. Rome Apples, 4 ea. Navel Oranges, 2 ea. Pink Grapefruit, 6 ea. Lemons, 6 oz. Bag of Shredded Coconut, AFM Fruit and Veggie Recipe Sheet	7.5 lb. (avg.) All Natural Perdue Roasting Hen, 3 lb. Boneless Marbled Ham Roast, 12 oz. Corn Bread Stuffing Mix (2 packages) x 6 oz. = 12 servings, 1 lb. Frozen Cranberries, 12 ct. Mini Corn Cobettes, 2 lb. Green Beans, 2 lb. Diced Sweet Potatoes, 12 ct. Whole Wheat Dinner Rolls, 1.7 oz. Brown Gravy Mix (2 packages) • 87 ct. = 2 cups gravy, Dessert, Recipes and Cooking Instructions
S5 - Special #5 \$18	S6 - Special #6 \$26
Christmas Meat and Cheese Special	Assorted Christmas Fruit Special
Limited time! Order while supplies last!	4 Extra Fancy Washington State Red Apples, 4 Extra Fancy Washington State Golden Apples, 4 Extra Fancy Extra Large Rome Apples, 4 Washington State Granny Smith Apples, 5 Fancy Washington State Red Pears, 6 Tree-Ripened Navel Oranges, 4 Tree-Ripened Tangerines, 4 Super Sweet Tangos, 6 Super Sweet Juice Oranges, 5 Ruby Red Grapefruit
3 (9 oz.) Sausage Variety (1 beef summer sausage, 1 beef salami, 1 summer sausage), 3 (7 oz.) Wisconsin Cheese Bars (1 cheddar, 1 swiss and 1 smokey)	



High fat diet in moms affects offspring

HOUSTON —Your body marches to a circadian rhythm — a daily cycle of light and dark orchestrated by several genes.

In studies in primates, a group of researchers led by those at Baylor College of Medicine (www.bcm.edu) found that a high fat diet in mothers can upset this circadian cycle, which may lead to obesity in the offspring. Researchers from the University of Utah (<http://www.utah.edu/portal/site/uuhome/>) and the Oregon National Primate Research Center of the Oregon Health and Science University in Beaverton (www.ohsu.edu/xd/research/centers-institutes/onprc/) were also instrumental in this research that appears in the journal of The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (www.fasebj.org).

“We have continued to build on our earlier findings exploring the effects of obesity and high fat diets during pregnancy. In this study, we discovered that the genes in the fetal liver responsible for orchestrating circadian (or light and dark cycle) rhythms with appetite and food intake are significantly altered in offspring from moms on a high fat diet,” said Dr. Kjersti Aagaard (www.bcm.edu/obgyn/index.cfm?pmid=11856), assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at BCM and the paper’s senior author. “We have found that one of these genes, called Npas2, appears to be a key organizer of the circadian system with the metabolic circuitry. What is perhaps most intriguing is that the expression of this gene (as well as other

genes in the fetal circadian system) is actually regulated by changes in the fetal histone code (the core set of proteins around which DNA wraps itself). The writing of this histone code in the offspring is regulated by the maternal diet, and a notably abnormal code is written when moms eat a high fat diet. In this way, we believe the fundamental steps to ‘reprogramming’ fetal appetite satiety and circadian rhythms with metabolism may be significantly influenced by what a mom eats during pregnancy.”

However, what was especially notable in Aagaard’s study was that improving the mother’s diet—or that of the offspring—can restore, at least in part, the circadian machinery and reduce the threat of obesity in their futures.

In the study, she and her colleagues evaluated the offspring of the pregnant primates in three groups. One received a high fat diet; a second group ate a normal (or control) diet and a third were fed a high fat diet for five years and then switched to a normal diet. The mothers that were or had been on the high fat diet became obese within two to three years.

Aagaard and colleagues have shown in previous published studies that infants of mothers on the high fat diet developed non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, which predisposes them to conditions that lead to obesity and diabetes. They also showed that the mother’s high fat diet, but not her obesity, changed the histone code — the core

set of proteins DNA is wrapped around. In other work, Dr. Aagaard and her group had observed that the mom’s high fat diet (and to again a much limited extent, obesity) also alters the fetus’s metabolome or metabolic profile.

They found that exposure to the high fat diet in the uterus altered the levels of the gene Npas2 in the liver of the fetus. This effect on the gene is reversible in the fetuses of mothers who had been fed first the high fat diet and then later changed to a normal diet.

Aagaard said the finding have three implications:

- The machinery to regulate circadian rhythms exists in the fetuses of primates and is regulated by the diet of their mothers.

- A maternal high fat diet alters the regulation of this system (an epigenetic event) during development, resulting in non-alcoholic fatty liver disease.

- Improving the diet of the mother or the infant after birth can help restore, at least partially, the circadian rhythm.

“Taken together, these findings suggest that in primates the maternal diet is a powerful orchestrator of fetal metabolism with the circadian cycle,” said Aagaard. “When well harmonized, these systems appropriately regulate appetite satiety (satisfaction). When the histone code coordinating these systems is rewritten, such as with a maternal high fat diet, disharmony and lack of synchronization ensues. By improving the diet, either prenatally or postnatally, there is the potential to reverse

these changes, even in the presence of ongoing obesity in the pregnant mom.”

These studies suggest that while a maternal high fat diet leading to obesity may play an important role in regulating whether a child is more prone to obesity and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, it is not the sole factor, Aagaard said.

“Improving the diet partially reverses some of these changes and may lessen the risk of childhood diseases both including and related to obesity,” she said. “It is one more step in understanding this critical window of time when the foundation for healthy lives is set. We are merely describing the key molecular ingredients for a lifelong recipe of health.”

Others who took part in this research include Melissa Suter, Philip Bocock, Lori Showalter, Min Hu and Cynthia Shope, all of BCM, Robert McKnight and Robert Lane of the University of Utah, and Kevin Grove of the Oregon National Primate Research Center.

Funding for this work came from the National Institutes of Health Director’s New Innovator Award (<http://nihroadmap.nih.gov/newinnovator/>), the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (www.nichd.nih.gov/), the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (www.niddk.nih.gov/) and the National Institutes of Health Institutional Research Award for Career Development and Advancement REACH (Research Education and Career Horizons) Program.

View your paper online too!

Thank you to each and everyone who were so helpful during our family sorrow. It is so great to have so many wonderful people surrounding us!

- The Vasquez Family & The Rodrigues Family
Eddie & Sammie Oilfield

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Study: social media strengthen social ties

AUSTIN, Texas — Contrary to popular opinion, Facebook is making us more social, albeit in ways unique to the digital age, according to new research at The University of Texas at Austin.

While the social network site — the most visited site in the world — is helping to close the social media generational gap, it’s being used differently by men and women, and by current college students versus recent

college graduates.

The study, led by S. Craig Watkins, associate professor of radio-TV-film, is the first to examine the distinct ways in which engagement with Facebook is evolving into a multi-faceted social experience. Radio-TV-Film doctoral candidate H. Erin Lee helped with the survey design and data analysis.

“Our findings indicate that Facebook is not supplanting face-to-face interactions among friends, family and

colleagues,” said Watkins. “In fact, we believe there is sufficient evidence that social media afford opportunities for new expressions of friendship, intimacy and community.”

Watkins surveyed 900 current college students and recent college graduates across the country to find out what and with whom these Facebook users communicate, the influence of gender and age, and the role of news, information and entertainment (for example, quizzes, games, photos, etc.).

Whether it’s a wall post, photo, comment or news link, young people’s engagement with Facebook is driven primarily by a desire to stay connected and involved in the lives of family and friends who live near and far, or have recently entered their lives.

When asked to choose the top three activities most engaged in on Facebook, 66 percent of respondents listed “posting status updates,” 60 percent listed “posting comments/likes to my profile” and nearly half,

49 percent, listed “posting messages and other content to friends’ profiles.”

When asked about the type of communication they engage in on Facebook, 47 percent of survey participants cited their communication with friends who live in a different state or country as “very important,” while 28 percent cited communicating with friends who live in the same city as “very important.” Thirty-five percent of survey participants cited communicating with family members, such as parents, aunts and uncles, as “very important.”

“Using Facebook to strengthen familial ties indicates that boomer parents are now quite active, leading us to believe that the generational gap in social media use is closing,” said Watkins.

While men and women use Facebook in equal numbers and agree it’s an important tool to stay in touch with friends, they engage with the social media platform differently.

See STUDY on Page 6

To all who helped make our fund-raiser such a successful event for the expense of the Abila family. Both the meal and the golf tournament were great successes in raising money for their needs. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts and may God Bless you always. If we can do anything for you please call.

Sincerely,
The Alfredo Abila Family
Sammie & Eddie Oilfield

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A great big Thank you to the community Thanksgiving Day Meal and to all who contributed so that everyone in our community could have a wondering day! God Bless you and thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

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BENJAMIN NEWS

By Gladene Green

The Thanksgiving weekend is over. I hope everyone had an enjoyable one. My family did and now it's the big rush toward Christmas. What a busy few weeks lay ahead of us. But I bet we get through it. The homes and businesses in the area are beginning to show signs of the holidays. Folks are decorating their yards, houses, trees, and bushes. Just everything that makes us realize it's that time of the year. The county courthouse has lit stars on all the sides and lights around the top. And the Cartwright family and friends have once again decorated the courthouse lawn with the late Dub and Jo Cartwright's family lad figures that stood in their yard year after year. Again, I say, it's such a nice gesture of their family to allow us to continue to enjoy their handiwork.

Keep Benjamin Beautiful has begun a contest and each week through December 20, a "best decorated yard" of the week will be selected. The first week's winners were Janet and Gray Reed. I congratulate them. Who knows- next week, your yard maybe selected (I'm sure mine won't).

Sympathy to the family of LaRue Reeves today. La Rue passed away Wednesday after failing health for a few months. She was a lovely person and her death leaves a void in so many people's lives. Her funeral was Saturday in Munday. Also sincere sympathy to the family of Joan Cude Hutchinson, who lost her life in a tragic farm accident on Saturday. Her funeral is Tuesday, also in Munday.

Here 'N There
Lots of visiting has taken place the past weekend. I have a lot of it, but I know I have missed some, also. Just can't seem to catch everyone at home during this busy time.

Imagean and Dutch Young had their Thanksgiving dinner on Wednesday with their kids, Leann Lamb, Anthony and Jessica Lamb and Mike Young. On Thursday, Anthony and Jessica had lunch with her family in Seymour.

Jack Sheedy had his family on Thanksgiving Day for their annual get together. Enjoying the wonderful meal and lots of visiting were Johnny Bob Turner, Mike and Kay Sheedy and Brittney and Justin Coker, Creed and Keely (all of Knox City), Misty and Clint Jones and family of Crowell, Ray and Mary Ham and family of Abilene, Shaw and Mitzy Welch, and Heath, Steve and Cassie Sheedy, all of Benjamin.

Bobby and Courtney Sharrard had their daughter and family; Kaycee, BeJay, Kooper and Kenlee Wright of Canton for the Thanksgiving

weekend. Charlie and Reba Morrill were at their daughter (Leslie) for the holiday. On Thanksgiving Day, they joined other family members at Reba's nieces home near Waco for a lunch and visiting. While away for a few days, Reba and Charlie enjoyed a trip to Fredericksburg, which is always fun.

Reba said her eye is not any worse (she has retina problems). She has had one treatment and probably will have a couple more and see what progress is being made. She says it's not any worse and she's very thankful for that.

Chad and Kathy Rainwater and sons, Jonathan and Justin, spent Thanksgiving with her parents, Tommy Joe and Patti Bufkin at Roanoke.

Wes and Erika Holmes, Jayden and Jaycee had Thanksgiving with his parents, Alan and Jennifer, near Rochester.

Keith Conner and Casey Conner both of Midland were over here during the day a couple of days last week to visit Bud Conner and Hazel Stockton. They were in from Rule for Thanksgiving with relatives (Keith's wife, Pam, and family).

Will and Keith Kendrick enjoyed Thanksgiving Day with his grandmother Mary Powell the rest of the family at Iowa Park.

Sue and Dave Terry and children of Dallas spent Thanksgiving with his parents, Jane Gideon and Weldon Gideon. Also enjoying the day with the family were Lana and Ronnie Hale and family of Benjamin and Lana's son, Colton Caldwell who is living in Seymour and finishing his senior year at SHS.

Randolph and Judy Barnett and Corrine Parrish had Thanksgiving with her sons, Jeff and Jim Bob Conner in Lubbock and Slaton.

Kemp and Beckie Jones and family returned home Sunday from a four day trip to Taos, NM. The kids skied and I think, Kemp and Beckie rested and really enjoyed it.

Bill and Sue Roberts of Driftwood were here for a few days visit with his parents, Kenneth and Jessie.

Gathering at the home of Debbie Clower for Thanksgiving were:

Michael and Megan Clower og Bedford, Sarah Clower of Abilene,

Betty Parker and Chelsia of Aspermont, Samuel and Sabra Turner of Ulyses, Kansas, Steve Powers of Midland, Robert Clower of Electra and Lorene Powers, Gloria West and Kynn Patterson of Benjamin.

Tib Burnett had Thanksgiving lunch with other family members at the home of Bobby D. and Judy Barnett in Munday.

Roger Bohannon returned

home early last week from a several day visit with his daughter, Bonnie Howell and family in Nebraska. Visiting Roger and Betty and having Thanksgiving dinner with them were grandsons, Chase and Chance Bohannon of Eastland. Also Janice Bohannon and family and Lonnie Bohannon were there for lunch.

Jan and Fred Carver had a houseful on Thanksgiving and Jan said they had a wonderful time. Visiting were John and Patti Carver of Taft, Laura Ann Carver of Austin, Virginia and Isabel Sneed of Canton, Justin Laird, Callie Antilley, and Ryder of Winters, Tyler Collins of Lubbock, Macy Snyder of Seymour, Stacia and Gary Antilley of Wingate, Dorothy Carver and Cody Wainscott of Knox City, Jacy, Jara, Talon, and Lexie Collins of Munday and Mike and Tammy and Cassie Lyles of Benjamin.

Several members of our family were at Liz and Nathan Herrings in Munday for Thanksgiving. Having a full day of food, fun, and fellowship were Jessica Moorhouse and Brendan Hutchinson of Abilene, Jessica and Jacob Agnew also of Abilene, Beckie Keys, Randi and Dillon and a friend, Chris flores of Amarillo, Bobbye Moorhouse of Seymour, Ruth Gladden of Munday, Will Moorhouse of Sweetwater, Mike and Debbie Moorhouse of Benjamin and Gladene Green of Benjamin.

On Friday, Mike and Debbie were in Seymour for Thanksgiving with his family and on Saturday, they and I went to Amarillo for yet another wonderful lunch at her son, Cody's home. His sister Beckie and her family were there, also. Ahlee Evens of Childress (Diane and Mike were unable to go for prior plans), So Ashlee went with us. Another fun day for everyone... and lots of food, again.

Jackie Jr. and Cindy Young of Round Rock were Thanksgiving guests of Mary Young and Debbie Neill, who is still here from Boca Raton, Florida. Debbie plans to return home this week after being here several months during her dad's illness and after his death.

And it's continues congratulations to the Purple and Gold. Good luck against Windthorst. They are good, but even the best can be beat. Let's hope for a victory again this week.

I had a pleasant surprise Monday night when my dear friend, Jonnye Matthews Yandell called "just to talk". In their days of busy times, it makes one feel special when a friend takes time to call. She's special to me. She lives in San Antonio.

Just Jeff

Ho, Ho, Ho, it's December; that means time to get the tree up- check; lights up- check; stockings hung- check- going to Walmart- heck no. Can you imagine waiting in line to save \$20- yes, maybe. But how anyone can go shopping at 3 am is beyond me.

These people mark their spots like an Alpha wolf during mating season. I thought that the crazy people are women buying school supplies, cheerleader mom's and of course those women who put their 3 year old daughters in beauty pageants. Those women are unstable and crazy, but they are just trying to help their kids. At Christmas, people get down right nuts over a \$199 TV.

They get in fights, arguments and lawsuits over a silly christmas present. There's nothing like telling grandma you love her by purchasing a TV. Just think of the conversation as you sip eggnog. I can hear it now, " See that flat screen right there. Well let me tell you this, I left Uncle Joe's after midnight and pulled into Wally world. Yep right between the Budlight and footie pajama's they had 4, yep count 'em 4 of them there 42 inch flat screen for \$199. I just had to get one for Ma, she will love watching her stories on that picture. No more rabbit ears and tin foil."

"So first thing I do is stake out next to the TVs and wait for 'em to pull back the shrink wrap. Well heck, you know me, I start pondering what are they gonna do if I just cut the shrink wrap myself, not like they wont sell me the TV.

So... Bam! I cut the tape and that's when the fun started, there where 6 of us and 4 flat screens. Yep I could take 2 of them boys, but that lady who works down at the foundry , you know the one with the tattoo on her forehead rolled me up like a booger and that is where I got this scar on my nose. But after I made bail , Grandma got a \$199 TV."

The sad thing is that is probably pretty close to a true story, only in a Walmart. Target is a better class of shoppers. Being a male who is married to a beautiful woman I am more of a Walmart man (I hate to admit that). But Target is not a place for men without their wives. They do not sell hunting or fishing products. No guns (liberals) , but they sell lots of girly men things candles, cleaning products and the newest Nicholas Sparks books. I think they check for estrogen at the door and if you are not with a lady they give you a shot of it!

I hope everyone will go by and check on Romain, I am sure she is in need of a some time at a spa, the poor lady is just a few years over 50. But I know she is in some serious pain. She has to have a bad back from carrying Shea and the kids around all Thanksgiving. Romain loves them grandkids, you boys and little Shea need to tell her how special she is.

Remember Danny Reece in your prayers this week. He is still in the hospital in Abilene. There is not a nicer man than Danny he is a great Christian and we could use a lot more people like him in our community.

I thought I would give you my wish list this year, I joke around on most of my columns and I really enjoy making fun of myself and just people in general. But I am all serious on this. I really love kids and I want to make sure all of them have a warm winter. If you know of any kids that need a warm coat, or shoes (not new \$100 Nikes) but really have a need please e-mail me . I would also appreciate anyone out there who would buy, or donate coats, gloves, etc to contact Michelle or myself. Lets make sure all of our kids are warm this winter.

Its not just the kids either, we have many people who could use some assistance and lots of us have coats and jackets that have been collecting dust for years. Its not the same being cold out hunting, or warming the car up. But being cold all winter when so many of us could help someone have a more comfortable life.

My citizen of the week is Bill Stewart. He is the most honest insurance man I have ever been around. He is tighter than Louis Baty (which is hard to believe) , smokes more than Dusty Bradley, and don't ever get caught talking with him and Ski. No seriously- he is a great business man, very civic minded and the most important thing is if you call and need something at work, Diana will answer and she has all the answers. Thank You to Bill and Diana for all you do for us.

Jeff Stanfield
jstanfield@windstream.net
God Bless

Annual Cowboy Ball to be held Friday, Dec. 17

Goree, Texas - An all-star band of Western Swing musicians will play for the Annual Cowboy Ball on Friday, December 17th, in the KPEC -- the Knox Prairie Events Center in Goree, Texas. The repertoire will feature Bob Wills' music.

Vocalist Leon Rausch, steel guitarist Bobby Koefer and other performers who once played with Wills will be on stage to honor his legacy as King of Western Swing.

"The evening of dance music will feature the music and sound made famous by

Bob Wills and performed by members of the Bob Wills' Texas Playboys," said Wendell Sollis, master of ceremonies.

Ginny Mac, singer and keyboardist, will blend her talents into the mix under the direction of Western Swing icon Tommy Allsup, lead guitarist and band director, for an evening of excellent music and entertainment.

Other musicians in the line-up are Jimmy Young and George Uptmor, fiddles; Steve "Hambone" Ham, trombone; Ronny Dale Shultz, trumpet;

Terry Thompson, drums; Ron Ellis, bass, and Sollis, banjo and master of ceremonies.

"The recently repurposed Goree School now dubbed the Knox Prairie Events Center, is a great and nostalgic location, but the number of tickets we can sell is limited," said Bob Cude, a local contact for the event, "It will be an evening to attend. One should buy tickets early."

For tickets and information: 940-422-5306 or cityofgoree@srcaccess.net.

Support your local area Chamber of Commerce!

Thanks for reading!

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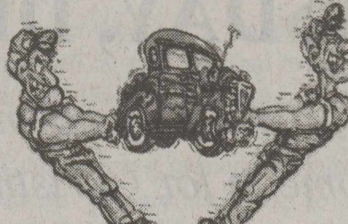
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South of I-20, state is dry to droughty

By: Robert Burns

COLLEGE STATION -- South of U.S. Interstate 20, agricultural producers were experiencing either abnormally dry weather or in a moderate drought, with pockets of severe drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

Although the dry weather promoted the finishing of cotton harvesting in many areas, reports from Texas AgriLife Extension Service county agents detailed the stress on other agricultural sectors. The agents reported dried out topsoils, stressed pastures and rangeland, dropping stock-tank levels and the implementation of burn bans.

"With the dry weather, abundance of forages from earlier rains and the recent winds, wildfires are a threat to landowners," said Ryan Martin, AgriLife Extension agent for Motley County, which lies about 50 miles northeast of Lubbock.

Martin said one Motley County rancher had a fire last week that burned 200 acres before he knew it.

"Little has changed during the Thanksgiving break," said John R. Senter, AgriLife Extension agent for Mitchell County, Colorado City. "Cattle producers are facing virtually no grazing at a time when cattle should be on wheat and making rapid gains. No grazing is taking place in 95 percent of wheat fields due to very poor performance of wheat. Rainfall is now at the critical stage to offer some relief for cattle-men."

"The county is extremely dry," said Norman Fryar, AgriLife Extension agent for Pecos County, Fort Stockton. "Relative humidity is low with high winds. These conditions will promote growth and spread of any wildfires that start."

"Recent showers have provided surviving winter forages with some much-needed rainfall," said Aaron Low, AgriLife Extension agent for Cherokee County, south of Tyler. "Stock ponds and creeks continue to go dry causing some producers to liquidate herds."

"Very cold nights last week, but temperatures rose above freezing quickly," said Russell Kott, AgriLife Extension agent for Kimble County, northwest of San Antonio. "It's continued to be dry and windy. There's not much hope for winter wheat unless it starts raining."

"Water quantity was declining fast," said Larry Perez, AgriLife Extension agent for Jim Hogg County, about 100 miles south of San Antonio. "There was no precipitation this past week. Most stock tanks in Jim Hogg County that depend on rainfall for recharge are very low."

AgriLife Extension district reporters compiled the following summaries:

CENTRAL: The drought continued. High winds desiccated topsoils. All small-grain growers were concerned about the future of their crops. All cattle were being fed. Land was being prepared for spring planting, and growers were discussing their options given low-moisture conditions. Pecan trees continued to drop nuts.

COASTAL BEND: Most of the region received a frost or freeze. Lack of soil moisture delayed planting of winter forages. With the dry conditions, some farmers fertilized cropland for the 2011 season. Pastures were in fair to good condition in most counties. However, pastures were beginning to show signs of stress. Livestock were in good condition with producers providing some supplemental feed.

EAST: A few areas re-

ceived rain but much of the region still needed of (delete of) moisture. Cherokee County reported that stock-ponds and creeks were continuing to dry up, causing producers to liquidate herds. Producers were fertilizing winter pastures. Hay supplies were very limited. Livestock were in fair to good condition with producers feeding hay and supplements. Feral hogs were active.

FAR WEST: There was no precipitation with high winds and a very high wildfire danger. Several wildfires were reported across the region. The cotton harvest was wrapping up. The chile and paprika harvests were complete. The pecan harvest was expected to start this week. The first freeze occurred the weekend after Thanksgiving, which will help speed up the pecan harvest.

NORTH: Soil moisture ranged from short to adequate. Most small grains and winter annual pastures have emerged. Wheat looked very good with no reports of insect or disease problems. The same held true for winter pastures, which were growing thanks to good soil-moisture levels at planting. The somewhat dry weather lately slowed the progress of winter pastures slightly. Ryegrass and other cool-season forages were beginning to provide limited grazing in some pastures. Producers began winter feeding, and the hay supplies appeared to be adequate for some, maybe a little short for others, but enough to get through a normal winter. Livestock appeared to be in good condition going into the winter. The corn, sorghum and sunflower harvests were complete. The cotton harvest neared completion. Rangeland and pastures ranged from poor to good condition.

PANHANDLE: The region was dry and windy. Soil-

moisture levels ranged from very short to adequate with most areas reporting short. The cotton harvest continued. Wheat ranged from very poor to good condition, with most counties reporting fair. Rangeland conditions ranged from very poor to good with most areas reporting poor. An abundant supply of dry grass, no precipitation and high winds created a high potential for wildfires. Cattle were in good condition, with producers supplying supplemental feed.

ROLLING PLAINS: Conditions remained dry and windy. The winter wheat crop began to suffer from lack of moisture. Late-sown wheat had not developed a root system in the dry soil. Cattle have been turned out in most wheat fields that will be grazed for winter and spring. Winter grazing was not expected to be as much as most producers would like. The cotton harvest remained in full swing. With the dry weather, an abundance of forages from earlier rains and the recent winds, wildfires became a threat. Some landowners were cutting firebreaks around pastures in hopes of preventing fires. Ranchers were also concerned about low nutrient value in forages and were beginning to feed supplements on a daily basis. Livestock were in good to excellent condition. The pecan harvest was ongoing in Parker County and the crop's condition was reported as "fair."

SOUTH: Days were very warm with nights cool. The continual lack of rainfall resulted in high fuel loads in rangeland and pastures. Many counties have burn bans in effect, and producers are being asked to keep an eye out for wildfires. Livestock producers increased supplemental feeding due to the declining quantity of

grazing. Cattle body-condition scores dropped a little with the change of rangeland and pasture conditions, but remained mostly fair to good. In the eastern parts of the region, the peanut harvest was charging ahead with peanut hay being baled. In the western parts of the region, irrigation costs increased for spinach, cabbage, carrot, onion and small-grain producers, but is a must for the development and potential yield of these crops. Also in that area, cabbage, processing spinach and fresh-market spinach harvesting was very active. In the southern parts of the region, fall vegetables progressed well, and the harvesting of citrus, sugarcane and vegetable crops continued.

SOUTH PLAINS: Temperatures across the region continued to drop. Daily highs were in the 60s and overnight lows were near or below freezing. Soil-moisture levels were short to adequate. The harvesting of most crops was complete with the exception of a few remaining cotton fields. Gins were running continuously, and it appears they will continue ginning into early 2011. Winter wheat was in fair to good condition and continued to need moisture. Pastures and rangeland were in fair to good condition. Cattle were in good condition and supplemental feeding continued.

SOUTHEAST: Madison County needed rain. Rangeland was in fair condition but would be improved by some moisture. In Liberty County, spotty rains improved wheat and pastures. The ratoon rice harvest was 95 percent complete and should be completed soon. Weather permitting, wheat planting was expected to be completed within a week. Hay feeding was in full swing. Ryegrass pastures

were in only fair condition due to the shortage of rain and overstocking. Producers began preparing fields for spring plantings.

SOUTHWEST: The region has been very dry for about 65 days with total fall rainfall since Aug. 1 less than 40 percent of the long-term average. Producers were preparing fields for 2011 plantings. Pastures and rangeland entered into winter dormancy due early to the dry spell and a Nov. 27 frost. Forage availability was rapidly declining except for irrigated pastures seeded with small grains and annual ryegrass. Winter vegetables were making excellent progress under heavy irrigation. Green beans that were planted especially for the Thanksgiving market were harvested before the frost, and their quality was reported to be excellent. The harvesting of pecans, peanuts, cabbage, spinach and lettuce continued, with the peanut and pecan harvests nearly completed.

WEST CENTRAL: Dry, windy conditions continued. Burn bans were in effect in many counties. Wheat and small grain fields were suffering from lack of moisture. Some producers were dry sowing wheat, hoping for moisture to get the crop up and going. Rangeland and pasture conditions continued to decline as did stock-tank levels. Grazing was limited, and producers increased supplemental feeding of livestock. Cattle remained in fair to good condition. Producers continued harvesting cotton harvest (delete harvest) and reported good yields. The grain sorghum harvest was mostly complete. The pecan harvest was in full swing with good yields

Colder temperatures and your health

HOUSTON -- Some people pile on the sweaters, socks and blankets during the colder months and still can't seem to get warm. A Baylor College of Medicine (www.bcm.edu) physician says this only rarely signals a larger health issue.

"Most of the time when patients come in my office complaining of feeling cold, it's just how they are and there is nothing wrong with them," said Dr. Brian Reed, vice chair for community health and an associate professor of family and community medicine (www.bcm.edu/familymed/) at BCM. "Sometimes, however,

we may order some lab tests based on our clinical judgement."

Some of the health issues that could be related to this include:

Endocrine/Glandular disorders

Underactive thyroids, or hypothyroid, can slow down metabolism, and the body produces less heat. Blood work can determine if this is the cause of the chills. A disorder of the pituitary gland, which is found in the base of the brain and controls hormones, is even more rarely the culprit.

Anemia/Low blood count
Anemia, a condition in which the body does not

produce enough red blood cells, as well as other disorders and diseases that cause low blood count, may cause a person to feel cold frequently. Again, this can be detected through a simple blood test.

Low body weight

Many times people who are too thin are frequently cold.

Conversely, there are also conditions that can make a person feel warm. Hyperthyroidism, or an overactive thyroid, and excess body weight are two conditions that can make a person feel too warm.

Who's at risk during cold weather?

There are groups of people who have trouble regulating their body temperatures and are more at risk of during colder months -- young children, the elderly and people who suffer from chronic illnesses.

"The young are still developing and may need more layers of clothing to stay warm," said Reed. "The elderly may have a different set of problems. The systems in their bodies that regulate body temperatures may have started to deteriorate."

Additionally, inside cold, unheated houses during winter cold blasts seniors may not be able to gauge

how cold their body is getting and do not realize they need more coverage, he said. As hypothermia develops a person may not shiver as a result of exhaustion. As their body temperatures drop they can become confused more easily.

"Over half of those who come into the emergency room suffering from hypothermia are over the age of 65," Reed said.

The winter season is peak flu and cold season, which can further compromise the immune systems and make someone from these risk groups more susceptible to the cold. In addition, infants

are at risk for RSV during the winter months.

"If a person is already has chronic medical conditions such as asthma, emphysema or heart disease, coughing and wheezing will add to the problem," Reed said.

There are a few important reminders during this time of year, Reed said. Make sure to get the flu vaccine and take other precautions, like washing hands, to stop the spread of viruses. People need to be careful when using space heaters. He also adds that it is important to check in on elderly family, friends or neighbors to make sure they are staying warm.

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OPINION



The Paperboy

Keeping secrets secret

By CHRIS BLACKBURN

I wonder how many people will be killed as a result of the latest WikiLeaks bombshell?

Because of a breakdown in national security, a simple memory stick, smaller than your little finger, has resulted in the largest diplomatic blow in U.S. history.

When President Obama promised transparency when he was running for office, I don't think this is what he had in mind. The 1.6 gigabytes of text files on the memory stick from, or to, U.S. embassies around the world, contains 251,287 documents in all, from more than 250 embassies and consulates.

The data reveals how the government deals with both allies and enemies. Negotiating, pressuring and even denigrating foreign leaders - it's all out now.

Who's to blame? WikiLeaks? The U.S. Government? Bradley Manning?

Manning, 22, a soldier, is the alleged perpetrator. He has been held in solitary confinement for seven months and is facing a court martial in 2011. Manning, a former intelligence analyst, is charged with unauthorized downloads of classified material while serving on an army base outside Baghdad. He is suspected of taking copies not only of the state department archive, but also of video of an Apache helicopter crew gunning down civilians in Baghdad, and hundreds of thousands of daily war logs from military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Here's how he did it according to the published chat-log of a conversation Manning had with a fellow-hacker: "I would come in with music on a CD-RW labeled with

something like 'Lady Gaga' ... erase the music ... then write a compressed split file. No one suspected a thing ... [I] listened and lip-synched to Lady Gaga's "Telephone" while exfiltrating possibly the largest data spillage in American history." He said that he "had unprecedented access to classified networks 14 hours a day 7 days a week for over eight months".

According to Manning, "Hillary Clinton and several thousand diplomats around the world are going to have a heart attack when they wake up one morning and find an entire repository of classified foreign policy is available, in searchable format, to the public ... Everywhere there's a U.S. post, there's a diplomatic scandal that will be revealed. Worldwide anarchy in CSV format ... It's beautiful, and horrifying."

So I would say Manning, at the very least, committed treason. He will now face a court martial and, if found guilty, he should be executed.

The government, particularly the Department of Defense, is to blame as well. The people in charge of how information is disseminated and safeguarded were sloppy. It should be impossible for anyone without proper clearance to access classified files.

Thankfully, America's most sensitive "top secret" and above foreign intelligence files cannot be accessed from SiproNet, the defense department network involved. Hopefully, such information is being protected from the best hackers.

Australian former hacker Julian Assange and WikiLeaks are also responsible. Assange says all information, regardless of origin or sensitivity, should be in the public domain.

Perhaps in a perfect world. Assange can hide behind his beliefs, but make no mistake, he's in it for the money and the fame. What he's done can never justify the harm he's done.

Assange is wrong. As long as there are bad guys in the world, there will need to be secrets. Frankly, how the government approaches its diplomacy should be classified. Our government officials have to be able to communicate openly.

There is one more aspect of this story which needs to be touched on: The fact that publications like the New York Times insist on publishing sensitive information. I'm a newspaper man and I believe in freedom of information, but not to the extent that American lives are endangered.

To me, there is a difference between the public's right to know and a news organization posting government secrets just because it now has access to them. It's a poor judgement call, but not surprising given the NYT's recent track record regarding protecting those fighting for our country.

This story is far from over. For that matter, there are more sensitive documents to be released by Assange and WikiLeaks. Personally, I hope the government can plug their security holes and make an example of Manning to the degree that copycat crimes are limited in this regard.

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

Other Opinions

Calling A Shamrock A Shamrock

By HOWARD RICH

As the European economy grapples with yet another bailout of a bankrupt sovereign state, a storyline is emerging that seeks to frame this latest instance of government interventionism along deliberately disingenuous lines. According to this misleading narrative, Ireland's abysmal fiscal condition did not come as a result of chronic state overspending, but is instead due to the island nation's comparatively-low corporate income tax rate.

Sound like a familiar song? On both sides of the ocean there appear to be plenty of Keynesian apologists who believe that economic downturns are always caused by greedy capitalists — never by greedy politicians and government bureaucrats.

Now several European nations — led by France and Germany — are insisting that Ireland raise its 12.5 percent corporate tax rate as a prerequisite for receiving a Eurozone loan that would pump tens of billions of Euros into its banking system. Such a tax increase aims to bring Ireland in line with corporate tax rates in France (33 percent) Germany (30 percent), Spain (30 percent) and Great Brit-

ain (28 percent) — but it would also stifle productivity and job growth at a time when Irish citizens need their economy to be firing on all cylinders.

While it certainly makes sense for Europe's sovereign nations to minimize their financial exposure — it would make even more sense for them not to expose their taxpayers to such risks in the first place. Of course under "continental rule" it is often difficult for these nations to distinguish their own interests from those of the "collective." This creates an additional disincentive for sound sovereign financial management — as if European governments needed another excuse to act in a fiscally reckless manner.

But consider this: Why would one nation watch out for its bottom line when it can simply pass the buck — or in this case, the Euro — on to another nation's taxpayers?

Obviously, the solution that makes the most sense in all of this is for sovereign governments to confine themselves to a very narrow list of core functions on behalf of their own citizens — and then to perform these functions with maximum efficiency and transparency. Clearly such a rational view of government was long ago abandoned by Europe's

welfare statisticians, just as it has been cast to the curb in recent years by socialist-leaning politicians in the United States.

Yet while America's own Keynesian interventionists — led by U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke — continue to blame other nations' debt crises for the ongoing sluggishness of the global economy, very few are willing to "call a Shamrock a Shamrock" as it relates to the Irish debt crisis.

One analyst willing to do so is Daniel J. Mitchell, a tax expert at The Cato Institute. In seeking the real culprit behind the Irish implosion — and for that matter the broader European debt crisis — Mitchell examined nearly three decades worth of Irish government expenditures and tax receipts. In doing so he found that from 1983-2006 both expenditures and receipts in Ireland were on similar upward trajectories — a regrettable result of the Irish government's insistence on spending every new dime that came into its coffers. Beginning in 2007, however, these lines began moving in opposite directions.

"When the financial crisis hit a couple of years ago, tax revenues suddenly plummeted," explains Mitchell. "Unfortunately, politicians continued to spend like drunken sail-

ors. It's only in the last year that they finally stepped on the brakes and began to rein in the burden of government spending. But that may be a case of too little, too late."

In addition to profligate spending, Mitchell points to the adoption of the Euro as another contributing factor in Ireland's decline.

"The one thing we can definitely say ... is that lower tax rates did not cause Ireland's problems," Mitchell concludes. "It's also safe to say that higher tax rates will delay Ireland's recovery."

Irish negotiators are holding firm thus far against European demands — making the case that if Germany and France want to recoup their investment in Ireland, they will not choke off the nation's economic growth.

Frankly, no European taxpayers — Irish or otherwise — should be forced to pick up the tab for this disaster. Similarly no European taxpayers should have been forced to bail out Greece earlier this year. Governments on both sides of the Atlantic must learn the hard way that they are to restrict themselves to core functions — a process that starts with telling the truth about how they landed in their current predicaments.

Other Views

Is 2011, the year when med mal reform finally comes of age?

By FRANK McCAFFREY

There will be a lot of heat generated in the first month of the 112th Congress as the newly elected Republican majority in the House of Representatives moves, as they should, to repeal the signature legislation of the Pelosi era — ObamaCare.

It is common knowledge that Harry Reid's Senate will not vote for repealing the law, so where should the Republicans head from there?

One answer is pass the single most important health care reform that the Pelosi-Reid Congress left off the table — medical malpractice reform.

This makes sense from a cost perspective as the Congressional Budget Office estimated that medical malpractice reform would save \$54 billion over the course of the next ten years.

Savings in the cost of insurance premiums doctors are forced to pay, coupled with savings from ending the defensive medical practices that result from fear of frivolous lawsuits which result in doctors ordering multiple expensive tests just to cover themselves.

Medical malpractice reform will not only save money for everyone involved in the delivery of health care, it will in-

crease the availability of health care overall.

Currently, the high cost of medical malpractice insurance is killing the ability of expectant mothers in many parts of this country from having access to pre-natal care. Those who are most affected are low income mothers to be where Medicaid reimbursements don't cover the cost of providing the services.

Lower the medical malpractice costs to these doctors, and they will be able to afford to provide care to those who can afford it least, but in many cases, need it most.

It isn't just poor mothers-to-be who are caught in the vice of the high cost of medical malpractice insurance, it is also patients who are attempting to see specialists in high risk fields like neurology.

The high cost of doing business in these high risk medical fields is a major contributing factor to aspiring doctors choosing other, less costly, fields of emphasis. This cost-based choice threatens to leave our aging population fighting over fewer and fewer trained professionals to diagnose and treat our ailments.

House Republicans have the opportunity to force Harry Reid's Senate Democrats to confront the harsh reality of the deal they have made with the nation's trial lawyers, and with some aggressive work by Senate Republicans, they would

have to make a choice.

In the past two years, the Democrats chose their big money funders in the professional lawsuit industry over the needs of patients to gain access to quality, affordable health care. Republicans, if they hold every vote in their conference, have the opportunity to force them to choose again. While getting 13 votes to invoke cloture may be a bridge too far, it will only require the votes of four vulnerable or already partially supportive Democrats like Ben Nelson of Nebraska, Jon Tester of Montana, Tom Carper of Delaware and Virginia's Jim Webb to force Reid into the uncomfortable position of opposing legislation that a majority of the Senate supports.

The imagery of Harry Reid and the Democrats turning their backs on African American expectant mothers who cannot find an obstetrician due to their acquiescence to the wealthy trial bar doesn't fit nicely into the ObamaCare narrative for the 2012 election, and so the Republicans should have some political leverage.

Who knows? Maybe 2011 will finally be the year when our nation's lawmakers deal with one of the key factors denying access to medical care and stand up to the powerful trial bar. At least one can hope.

Inauguration of the Three Rivers Ballroom



Bandleader Jimmy Burson plucks his fiddle while Lucy Record plays the keyboard on the Three Rivers Stage at the 2010 Lincoln County Cowboy Symposium at Ruidoso Downs, N.M. Burson and Record, perennial performers at Silver Dollar City at Branson, Mo., will perform together to inaugurate The Foyer to Three Rivers Ballroom on Saturday, Dec. 4. The duo will also lead Gospel singing at 9 a.m. Sunday morning, Dec. 5, at the old Trinity Church at 5th and Dubose streets. Others on the Three Rivers Stage, left to right, are Ronny Dale Schultz (partially visible behind Burson), Terry Thompson, Jimmy Young and Chet Cacote.

PHOTO BY HANABA MUNN WELCH

The official inauguration of the Three Rivers Ballroom Foyer will make history Saturday, Dec. 4 -- but not without a nod toward its past.

The building, most recently known as Freeman Jewelry, is part of the Three Rivers Ballroom complex, owned by Three Rivers Foundation for the Arts and Sciences (3RF).

When the front doors open at 6 p.m. for festivities before the annual Three Rivers Cowboy Ball, guests will walk into an elegant space that has served many different uses since the late 1800s. The reception is open to the public. Tickets are \$15, RSVP to Carolyn Wilson, 3RF Arts director.

Hearty hors d'oeuvres and special music are on the agenda. Among special

invitees are people who've had connections to the building in the last few decades.

"We want this event to honor everyone who's ever been a part of this building," Wilson said. "It has such a rich and varied history."

The Foyer holds special memories for Wilson herself.

"As a kid I remember Lega Richardson in the location," she said. "I think it was Richardson's Ready-To-Wear. I remember it as a very nice ladies' dress shop. You always received a warm greeting when you went in. Later Diane Waldo had a shop in the same location. Diane's was the place to shop. Then, of course, more recently it was Freeman Jewelry, until his retirement. We all miss

Mr. Freeman."

Music for the reception will be piano and fiddle.

"We're especially excited about this occasion to feature Lucy Dean Record, "Miss Lucy," on the Steinway grand piano. "And Jimmy Burson, who plays fiddle and sings, is among my favorite performers. Both of them perform on our stage every year at the Lincoln Cowboy Cowboy Symposium in Ruidoso, following their fall performances in Branson."

Record and Burson have a strong fan base.

"I first met them years ago at Bob Wills Days in Turkey, Texas," Wilson said. "She's from Lockney, and he's from Silverton. She's been teaching music in Lockney since the 1940s. Jimmy is the former Briscoe County

Judge. He's a true Southern gentleman and sings one of my favorite waltzes, The Bandera Waltz. People love to hear them."

Besides music and food, the appearance of the building, decorated for the holidays, will offer a striking visual experience. The basic decor of the building is classical in style, in step with the era when it was built. Fire insurance maps from 1892 produced by the Sanborn Company show that the location was a place to buy boots, shoes and clothing. Later Sanborn maps show other uses. By 1904, a confectionary and saloon were in business at the same location. By 1908, the front part of the building housed a bank, and a paint and glass business operated in the rear half.

In 1915, the same building was a place to see moving pictures. By the 1930s, the Sanborn Maps identify the space only as a store. The various uses of the building in the decades since then can still be recalled by many of Quannah's residents.

"Besides serving as the foyer to the ballroom, this building will be used for receptions, meetings, concerts, workshops and other educational and cultural activities in keeping with the 3RF mission," Wilson said.

Saturday night's reception will last from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. The ballroom will open at 7 p.m. Three Rivers Cowboy Ball is slated for 8 p.m. to midnight with Bobby Flores and his Yellow Rose Band on stage. Tickets for the ball are \$25.

A new event this year will be Gospel music at 9 a.m. Sunday morning at the old Trinity Church with Record on keyboard and Burson playing his fiddle and leading the singing.

"It will be a chance for anyone who misses Miss Lucy and Jimmy Saturday night to hear the wonderful way they play Gospel music," Wilson said. "Also, we will be honoring Gladys Wood, Barbra Hines and Cora Lee Lewis. They were the three remaining members of the church when it was given to 3RF. The church was built in 1913, and it's a true treasure to our community."

For more information about any of the 3RF events, contact Wilson at (940) 839-7332, carolynswilson@yahoo.com.