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The KNOX COUNTY NEWS

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THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2012 • 30TH YEAR, NO. 46 • KNOX CITY, TEXAS • PRICE 75¢

City won't move to Stage 2

TOMMY WELLS
The Knox County News

The Knox City City Council received a bit of disturbing news on Tuesday evening. They didn't, however, feel the need to spread the bad news to Knox City residents ... yet.

Council members decided not to elevate the city's drought contingency status to Stage 2, meaning city residents won't face stricter water conservation rules. Currently, the city is in Stage 1 of the Drought Contingency Plan.

According to Knox City City Administrator, Stage 1 calls for a voluntary reduction of water consumption by 10 percent from each city customer.

The North Central Texas Municipal Water Association brought the issue to a head by writing the city council a letter recommending the city's governing body examine its drought plan.

Knox City and Munday are in relatively good shape as of now. The two communities are in the first of the five stages in the state's drought plan. The two communities receive their water from Miller Creek.

Other area communities haven't been as lucky. The City of Throckmorton is at Stage 3 (alternating days of watering at restricted times). With Lake Throckmorton at just 28 percent of its capacity, the city is nearing a point which it will have to blend water purchased from Graham.

The City of Crowell is also under water restrictions, as is Rule, which instituted Stage 1 recently.

In other business, the city council reappointed Dr. Zeke Duke as Mayor Pro-Tem, and reappointed Joe Barnard to the NCTMWA board. The council also approved the police department's new policy manual.

The council also voted to renew its employment contract with Roberts, who has served as city administrator for the past year. Roberts' contract was extended two years.

See COUNCIL on Page 3



The sale of alcoholic beverages became a reality in Knox City last Friday when Penman's Services received a shipment. The sale of alcoholic beverages for off-premise consumption was approved by local voters last month.

BOOZE BOOM

Alcohol sales spur sales at local store, could lead to growth in jobs

TOMMY WELLS
The Knox County News

If anyone had any doubts whether the city's approval of off-premise alcohol sales would help local business, they don't need to wonder any more. They definitely help.

"They (sales) have been good," said Penman's Services manager Roland Marion. "It has definitely increased the sale of other things. People usually don't just come in to purchase beer, they buy other things so it's been good for us."

Penman's Services was the first Knox City business to obtain its alcohol sales permit from the state.

The business received its license last Wednesday and received its first truckload of alcoholic beverages on Friday morning.

Marion said he was thankful the alcohol sales issue passed. The economy had slowed sales, so the ability to add alcohol sales was a welcomed revenue stream.

"Our survey indicated it (alcohol sales) would increase the sale of other items," he said. "I'm just glad the people here, and the churches, realized this was something that would help."

The sale of alcoholic beverages was approved by Knox City residents last month in the primary election.

The increased activity could lead to another huge gain for the local economy. Marion said increased sales

have Penman's officials looking to add employees.

"Hiring some more people is something we are looking to do," he said. "We have five employees right now and they all worked overtime last week. I feel we will add more employees because of this."

Penman's Services will be expanding its alcoholic beverage selection even more in the coming days. Lindsey Penman said the business had received its license to sell wine, and will begin offering it for sale on Friday.

"We're looking forward to offering it to our customers," said Penman. "It's something we think will help the business."

A second Knox County business (Allsup's) is expected to obtain its license later this week.

C of C seeking sponsors for Watermelon Festival

TOMMY WELLS
The Knox County News

Here's a news flash for you. There's going to be a huge party in Knox City next month. And the Knox City Chamber of Commerce is looking for a few good people to help pay for it.

The chamber has kicked off its preparations for the 24th annual Donald Johnson Memorial Watermelon Festival, and is currently seeking sponsors to help fund the event.

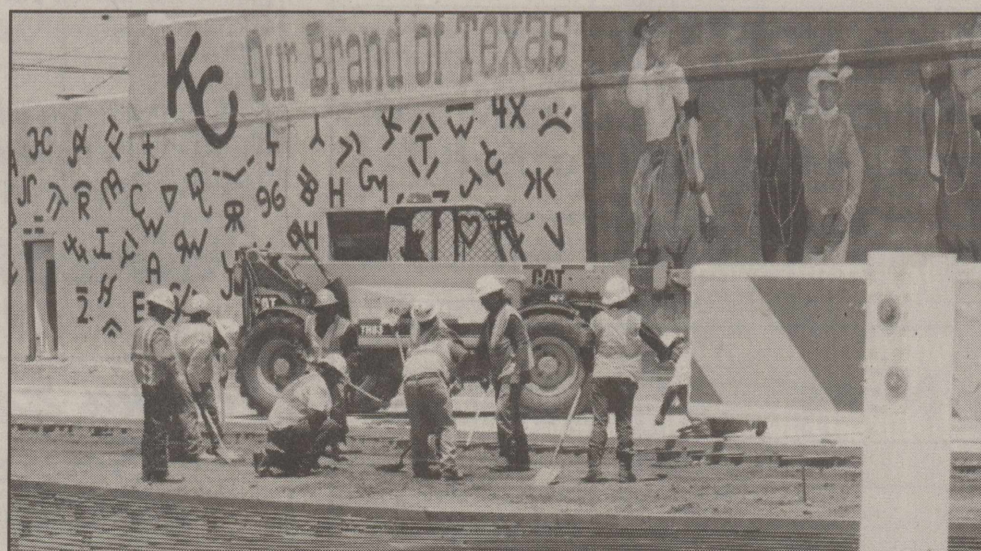
"The Knox City Chamber of Commerce is getting ready and very excited, hoping to have a great festival this year. But, of course, we need sponsors to help

fund the festival," chamber officials wrote in a flier that was distributed to local businesses.

The festival is scheduled for July 27-28.

According to the chamber, there are several sponsorship packages available to businesses. Businesses can become a full sponsor by pledging \$500 or more. The sponsorships can range from \$50 to \$400.

To reserve a sponsorship package send a copy of your company logo and business information, along with the check for whatever amount you choose, to the KC Chamber of Commerce at P.O. Box 91, Knox City, Texas, 79529, or call (940) 658-3442.



Work on the road at the main intersection in Knox City continued to move along this week. TXDOT employees have put down one strip of concrete and are preparing the rest of the road for paving.

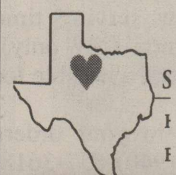
June brings welcome rain to county

The month of June has been kind to Knox County through its first 17 days. Very, very kind.

Knox County has received almost one-third of its total precipitation during the first half of the month, taking in 2.96 inches.

For the year, Knox County has accumulated just 9.79 inches.

The bulk of the rainfall in the county came on June 14 when a storm dumped 1.04 inches of precipitation. Just over half an inch fell on June 12 and June 13, bring the three-day total to more than 1.5 inches.



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Class of '62 ...

Members of the Knox City High School Class of 1962 held a reunion during the recent KC-O'Brien School Reunion. Attending the reunion were (front row, left to right) Charlotte Perdue Seay, David Denton, Charles Reeves, and Joe Tidwell, (back row) Earline Lewis Rister, Doris Marion Duke, Nellie Reyes, Jackie Givens Snailum, Donna Verhalen Albus, Sandra Wilson Abbott, and Frances Perez Munoz.

SAMMIE'S KNOX CITY CORNER AND FINAL THOUGHTS

Monday morning and my week has started as always ... busy and traveling to Abilene and back. I'm tired but I wouldn't do anything else.

Monday evening God called Linda Espinoza home in a peaceful sleep. God did not let her suffer. The services were held Thursday morning and as you looked around, you could tell she was loved. Her services were absolutely beautiful. For such a wonderful woman, wife, mother, grandmother and sister to know that God has called another angel home, it was beautiful. May her family have peace in their hearts and a lot of memories. She wouldn't want it any other way. God bless you all and our prayers will always be with you.

Roy Rodriguez came home from the hospital in Abilene with the results of his test. Everything was good and he is doing much better. I was very thankful for everything that was done from the bottom of my heart. Now it is time for him to recover at home and take care of himself. You cannot imagine the praise and worship that is done every minute of every day all over the world. It is awesome. Our God is an awesome God.

Ila Pack also went home with our Heavenly Father at the age of 94. She had three sons and one daughter. One of her sons, Gary Pack, preceded her in death. Her other sons are Don Pack and Randy Pack, and a daughter, Our prayers go out to them. May God bless you all.

Ila was a wonderful nurse and a great friend to many. She was very proud of her children and her children were just as proud of her. She was living in Midland but was brought here to Knox City for burial. May God be with you all.

Alfredo Aviles is still coping with his health and doing a good job. May God bless them all.

Tim Watson has entered into God's gates and another angel has gone home. As we express our deepest condolences to the

families and pray for them. Our loved ones are important to us, but we understand this is part of our lives and the journey we all travel but the last one is all you could ever have and never hurt. No more sadness, anger or being hurt by anyone else. It is over here in this world and the beauty began and the chain links start coming together at home forever. I guess you all noticed the fundraiser set out for Tim's family. If you haven't seen it and need some information I will be glad to provide that to you.

Also, I visited with the girls at Texas Tans and saw a picture by Alex Ledesma that is being used as a fundraiser for an employee of Jeremy Eaton's that became ill and has no insurance. His wife has gone to work, but they are in need of our help. The young man has had to have surgery for something to do with his brain stem. It will be a long road ahead.

Remember, God is watching over our every need. Help if you can ... and to have one of Alex's oilfield pictures would be awesome because I know how hard he works, and does a beautiful job. Sometimes we don't realize what talents we have and out of nowhere there it is. Only God knows. But it is awesome. Great job, Alex.

As I drive through town on a cool afternoon, I see some houses are under contract. I hope we get a chance to meet the new owners. Maybe they are new, or perhaps they are coming back to retire and enjoy the West Texas skies. There are a lot of homes still for sale and a lot that needs to be cleaned up. There are still some properties that need attention, but our city employees have their hands full with their work, but if you need some help I bet our chamber or city manager would be glad to have your information and pass it on. At least, that is where I would go if I needed help.

Hey kids, you want a few dollars? All you need to do is go out and ask and someone will need

you. I always said that was "just another dollar I didn't have."

It is great to have the Morrow and Ulety families back home. Our neighborhood was pretty quiet so it is great to see the kids home and doing great. We missed you all.

Tracy Carter and his family made it home after a week's vacation in Las Vegas and his nieces' wedding. They all had a great time. They probably came home to go to work and, as Eddie says, get some rest. Why Paula, Cassidy and Jack have gone to take them to basketball camp, they stopped by to visit with Khristy and Chris and the boys. While here, Jodi was visiting with Paul and Sandra and attended church on Sunday. It was great to see all of them.

James Klutts is still a little under the weather. He is having a hard time coming around. We have him, and all of the families in our community, in our thoughts and prayers. I know everyone can use our prayers.

Sonny and Brenda Corral have their daughter's two children home for some of the summer. I'm sure they are having a lot of fun.

Diana Casillas has been home for a few days after having a nasty fall at the KCCC pool. The cement was wet and she fell on it. That is why they always say don't run around the pool, and don't wear flip flops because they can be dangerous. She is still very sore, but I hope she gets better soon.

Ramon and Sandy Garcia are sure enjoying their grandson. He is as cute as a bug. Both the baby and his mom are doing great. He looks like Kayla ... and that is great.

Well, we have really enjoyed all of the rain. Thanks to God, and He can bring it on any day He wants and we'll take it.

Till next time, have a wonderful week.

God bless our troops and each of us,
Sammie

Alzheimer's support group sets meeting

The Haskell County Alzheimer's Support Group will meet on Monday, June 25, at the Haskell County Extension Office located

at 101 S. Avenue D in Haskell. The one-hour meeting will begin at 3 p.m. A short program on "Activities and the Person With

Dementia" will be presented. Caregivers, family members and friends of individuals with Alzheimer's or a related dementia, should consider attending this meeting that is open to anyone in Haskell County or the surrounding area.

The support group meets the fourth Monday of every month from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. The monthly meetings offer a confidential environment where participants can share their concerns, support each other, and learn ways to cope with the challenges associated with long-term caregiving.

For more information you may contact Jane Rowan, County Extension Agent/FCS at (940) 864-2546 or Alzheimer's Association North Central Texas Chapter at (325) 672-2907 or 1 (800) 272-3900.



Where: First Baptist Church O'Brien
Date: June 24th through 27th
Time: 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Pre-Registration: Registration will be held at a Pool and Pizza Party on Friday, June 22, at the Knox City Pool from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

If needed, ride to and from VBS provided. Includes children who have just finished pre-school to 6th grade

Have a News Tip for the KC News?
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Conditions 'normal': hot, dry with high winds

There's good news and bad news when it comes to vegetable and melon production in the Winter Garden area of Southwest Texas, according to a Texas AgriLife Extension Service expert.

"The crops are actually doing pretty good, though it's getting extremely dry again," said Dr. Larry Stein, AgriLife Extension horticulturist specialist, Uvalde.

"Our water tables are dropping, and some of our wells are pumping a bit of air," he said. "We need runoff to replenish rivers and reservoirs, although we will finish the spring and summer crops okay."

The situation is becoming reminiscent of last fall, when growers worried if they'd have enough water to plant and to get crops emerged, he said.

Two-minute MP3 Texas Crop & Weather Audio Report for June 19, 2012

Conditions varied widely in the rest of the state, according to weekly reports from AgriLife Extension county agents. Parts of North and East Texas were in excellent to good shape, with rains filling stock tanks and promoting crop growth.

Parts of the Panhandle, South Plains and Rolling Plains also received some rain, but in many cases it was accompanied by high winds and damaging hail. In Hale County, north of Lubbock, hail hammered about a quarter of the county's 400,000 acres of cotton.

East of Lubbock, Motley County had winds gusting near 90 mph. The winds, aided by hail, destroyed nearly all cotton in the county, according to Ryan Martin, AgriLife Extension county agent.

More information on the current Texas drought and wild-fire alerts can be found on the AgriLife Extension Agricultural Drought Task Force website at <http://agrilife.tamu.edu/drought/>.