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# THE KNOX COUNTY News-Courier

THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2013

KCNEWSCOURIER.COM

75 CENTS

## Aging Center faces steep budget cuts

By Caleb Hudgens  
 The Knox County News-Courier

Total federal and state funding to the Knox County Aging Center will decrease from \$59,000 to \$22,000 for the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

"The budget cuts to the upcoming fiscal year are substantial. It's more than half," Knox County Judge Travis Floyd said. "We're going to do all we can locally to provide these services and make up for federal funding reductions."

A little more than 66 percent of the 2012-2013 center's budget came from the West Central Texas Council of Governments, whose federal dollars for such programs decreased two years ago.

"We were able to internally absorb the budget cuts from last year, so the effect was minimal," the organization's executive director, Tim Smith, said.

"But this year our 19 centers in the area are going to feel the cuts."

The council uses funding from the U.S. Administration on Aging, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Texas state general revenue and local funds to plan, coordinate and direct a services and opportunities to help older people live healthy, dignified and independent lives.

Specifically to Knox County, the council uses funds to buy congregate and home-delivered meals to senior citizens.

"Last year we were able to buy \$39,095 worth of food for Knox County seniors for congregate and home-delivered meals," Smith said. "This next year we will be limited to \$17,612."

With current levels of funding, the Aging Center provided 2,460 congregate and home-delivered meals in May alone.

See CUTS, Page 8



Caleb Hudgens/The Knox County News-Courier  
 Amy Bruce closes the lid on one of the 100 plus meals the Knox County Aging Center provides to senior citizens, both at home and in their dining room. Bruce has worked at the Aging Center for 12 years and has helped prepare more than 350,000 meals.

## Knox Notes

Events are listed free of charge for nonprofit civic organizations, schools and community events. Submit listings at least two weeks ahead of the date. Listings will run through the date of the event. Emailed submissions are preferred to kcnewscourier@gmail.com.

### All-star football

Twenty-nine recent high school graduates from around the state will play their final six-man football game as part of the Brazos Bowl at 7 p.m. Saturday in Knox City. The all-star showcase will include concessions, and everyone is invited to come and show their support. Call Athletic Director Charles Steele at 940-507-0090 for information.

### Summer reading

Join the Munday City-County Library for this year's summer reading program, "Dig Into Reading." The library will host a weekly story time with activities and snacks from 10 to 11 a.m. Wednesdays through July 17. This is a free program provided for children. For information, call the library at 940-422-4877.

### FUNDays in Munday

Trade Days will be from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at the Munday Events Center. Vendor spaces are still available, electric \$17 and non-electric \$12. Reserve your space now, call the Munday Chamber of Commerce at 422-4540.

### Class reunion

The Knox City High School Class of 1978 invites all alumni and the community to a class reunion from 5 to 11 p.m. July 6 at the Community Center. A golf tournament is planned, as well as a barbecue and dance with live music. All proceeds benefit the group's scholarship fund for high school seniors. Enter the golf tournament by RSVP'ing to Jimmy Don Moore at 813-629-1331. Cost is \$100 for the two-person scramble. Tickets to the barbecue and dance cost \$10; contact Michelle Stanfield at 940-256-0318 or Patti Lain Currie at 325-721-3001 for information.

### Aging services

The Knox County Aging Center will have a chicken-fried steak fundraiser, including drink, sides and dessert, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 14 at its KC location to raise donations for its services. Cash and check donations will be accepted for dine-in or carry-out plates. Call Cassandra Sheedy at 657-3618 for information.

## Corrections

If you spot an error of fact, contact Editor Wayne Hodgin at kcnewscourier@gmail.com.

## News on the go



Use your smartphone to scan the quick response, or QR, code to visit us online.

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 USPS 439-620



## Farm bill's failure riles area wheat farmers

By Wayne Hodgin  
 The Knox County News-Courier

Wheat farmers and industry officials throughout the region expressed disappointment this past week in the U.S. House of Representatives' rejection of legislation commonly known as the farm bill.

As the country's primary agricultural and food policy tool of the federal government, the House version of the bill became mired in partisan politics when a last-minute, GOP-backed rider concerning the federal food stamp program was tacked into the bill, drawing sharp criticism from Democrats and a threat of a White House veto.

Rodney Mosier, executive vice president of the Texas Wheat Producers Association in Amarillo, said this vote was not the first letdown for farmers hoping for a five-year farm bill.

See BILL, Page 8



File Photo  
 Knox County is the Big Country's top wheat producer.

## KC class reunion event to benefit scholarship fund

The Knox County News-Courier

KNOX CITY — The Knox City High School Class of 1978 is asking other classes to work in tandem with the alumni association to help boost its scholarship fund for graduating seniors.

The class will host a reunion for all former Knox City High School students July 6.

All KCHS classes, past students and the whole community are invited to attend. In conjunction with the reunion, there will also be a golf tournament.

The reunion event will begin at 5 p.m. at the new Knox City Community Building. Billy Lerma will provide the barbecue, and The Heather Roberts Band will be playing live music. There will be a silent auction with lots of good prizes, a raffle and lots more fun and socializing.

All proceeds will be earmarked for college scholarships for a few 2014 Knox City High School graduates.

Organizer Jimmy Don Moore, Class of 1976, said in future years the goal is to work with other KCHS classes as they have their reunions and raise even more scholarship money for KCHS graduating students.

See REUNION, Page 8

## Adventure Days



Caleb Hudgens/The Knox County News-Courier  
 Participants in the annual Knox County Adventure Days last Saturday search for names on the memorial wall at Veterans Park in Benjamin during the Amazing Grace Race. Participants worked in groups of two in this scavenger hunt game and competed for a \$100 prize. The event was part of the annual Adventure Days hosted by the Knox County Visioning Group as a way to bring awareness to the county's unique history and heritage.

## Longtime journalist, former KC resident honored for service

By Wayne Hodgin  
 The Knox County News-Courier

HOUSTON — His newspaper career began at the age of 8 in Knox City, and J. Tom Graham remembers he was offered a quarter for a day's work, pulling papers off the press, which, at the time, seemed like far better money and less work than his toil in the cotton fields.

Graham, now owner and publisher of The Frankston Citizen, about 25 miles south of Tyler, was honored Saturday with the Texas Press Association's Golden 50 Award in recognition of five decades of service to journalism. The

honor came during organization's annual summer retreat for editors and publishers at the Hyatt Regency Houston.

"I spent some of my most formative years in Knox County, and still have some family and many friends and memories there," said Graham, whose father, Jeff, and grandfather, L.W., ran a dairy farm about a mile and a half north of Knox City near where the airport is today.

The man who gave him that first newspaper job, pulling papers off an old Babcock press, Publisher Jimmy Branch, would later allow

See RESIDENT, Page 8



Special to the News-Courier  
 J. Tom Graham accepts the Texas Press Association's Golden 50 Award for five decades of service to journalism from TPA President Russel Skiles, publisher of the Lamesa Press-Reporter. The award was given Saturday during the TPA's annual summer retreat at the Hyatt Regency Houston.

# RANCHFEST 2013

Thrift Store Cowboys ~ Charla Corn & Trent Willmon

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It is the mission of this newspaper to promote the rights of individualism in the American Declaration of Independence. The right of life, liberty and the ownership of property are the cornerstone of freedom. Government's sole purpose is to enhance our liberty and freedom. Therefore, we hold every elected and appointed agent of government accountable to that standard.

**DEADLINES**  
Advertising: 5 p.m. Fridays  
Editorial: Noon Mondays

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**  
\$30 a year in the county  
\$35 a year outside the county



## Deaths

### Mary Elaine Gulley

Mary Elaine Gulley, 96, passed away Wednesday, June 19, 2013, in Munday, TX. Elaine was born September 15, 1916, in DeLeon, TX to Calvin and Victoria Smith. She and Thurman Gulley were married September 4, 1936 in Haskell.

Elaine was a member of First Baptist Church of

Munday.

Elaine was preceded in death by her husband, four sisters and five brothers.

Elaine is survived by one son, Danny Gulley and wife, Susan, of Munday; daughter Mary Herring and husband, C.H. Jr., of Breckenridge; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren;

and two great-great-grandchildren.

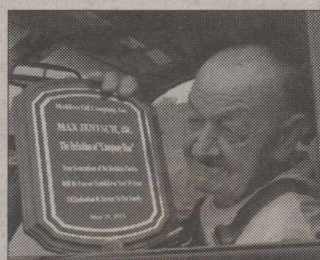
Services were at 2 p.m. June 21 at First Baptist Church of Munday with the Rev. Dr. Pete Bradfield officiating. Burial was in Johnson Memorial Cemetery under the direction of McCauley-Smith Funeral Home of Munday.

### Max Jentsch

Max Jentsch, born November 6, 1927, to Herman Max Jentsch and Alma Hellbush Jentsch of Archer County, died peacefully in his sleep at his home on June 18, 2013. Max and Dolores married on September 27, 1952 and were married for 49 years at the time of her death in 2001. Funeral services were June 21 at Morrison Funeral Home Chapel in Graham. Burial was in Pioneer Cemetery under the direction of Morrison Funeral Home.

Max was a farmer until he joined the Army and became a part of the Military Police stationed at Fort Jornada del Muerto, New Mexico. After the Army, he returned to Archer County where he worked for Norris Brothers Lumber Company, then became a roustabout for the oil industry. He celebrated 54 years of employment with the Medders Oil Corporation and officially retired on June 6, 2013.

From 1997 until June 2013 he lived in Guthrie, Texas. Those who knew him well and worked with him de-



MAX JENTSCH

scribed him as a "company man." However, he was first of all a friend, especially to those in need.

While living in Archer County, he would help with grass fires, bailing hay, mending fences, fixing automobiles; anything that anyone needed assistance with. Although in recent years he has not been able to provide physical help because of his health, he would find a way to help.

Survivors include daughters Sharon Kenner and husband, Jimmy, of Archer City, TX and Debbie O'Daniel and husband, James, of Plano, TX; five grandchildren, Courtney O'Daniel Baugh and husband, Jeff, of The Colony, TX, Crystal O'Daniel of Plano, TX, Ray Sanders

and wife, Holly, of Richardson, TX, Amanda Reeve and husband, Chris, of Archer City, TX, and SFC Clint O'Daniel of Fort Riley, KS; eight great-grandchildren, Jeffery Reeve, Lori Baugh, Sarah Baugh, Erin Baugh, Zane Baland, Gracie Reeve, Ellie Reeve, and Leighton Sanders; brother, August Jentsch of Wichita Falls, TX; brothers-in-law, Homan Miller of Llano, RLee and Zelma Jones of Katy, TX, and sisters-in-law Pat Jentsch of Wichita Falls, TX and Doris Jones of Seymour, TX. Many nieces and nephews, as well as many friends, co-workers, and oil field brothers.

Max is preceded in death by his wife, Dolores, parents, Herman and Alma Jentsch, sisters, Pauline Armbricht, Clara Ray, Martha Unfried, Louise Simons, Inez Miiller, and brother, Oswald Jentsch.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Rathgeber House, Wichita Falls, or The Wounded Warriors Project. Family visitation will be held Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

## 11-County Camp offered for area youth

The Knox County News-Courier

**BENJAMIN** — Preparations are underway for the annual 11-County Camp for youth in Knox County and portions of the surrounding region.

Children ages 9-18 who are residents in Briscoe, Hall, Motley, Cottle, Dickens, King, Kent, Stonewall, Foard, Childress and Knox counties are invited to participate in a day full of fun and recreation July 9 in Roaring Springs.

Those wishing to attend are asked to register by Monday.

The camp begins at 10 a.m. with registration. There will be interesting workshops on exciting topics such as wildlife/reptiles, emergency preparedness, team-building and communication skills.

Following the workshops and lunch, everyone will head to the Roaring Springs Country Club to go swimming at the Springs.

Hotdogs will be served that evening with music provided by a live DJ. The day concludes at 9 p.m.

The cost of the camp is \$20 per camper, which covers two meals, snacks and swimming. All youth are welcome to attend and are asked to bring a swimsuit, towel and signed medical release form that is available at the Extension office.

For information about the camp, or to register, call the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Knox County at 940-459-2651.

Adult chaperones are also welcome and appreciated.

## Letter to the editor

### Hospital staff makes stay more pleasant

I want to say a few words about the wonderful medical and health services available to us here in Knox City. I just had a knee replaced, and I went to Knox County Hospital to do rehab. I went home and got a very serious blood infection and wound up back in the hospital. I can't say enough about the people who make things work at the clinic and the hospital. Thank you one and all for the care I received.

The staff at Knox County Hospital is the most dedicated. I know I'm a pain as a patient, and these nurses and the whole staff there worked hard to make things work. They are at a dead run all day and night. They spend the rest of the time cleaning. I watched them working day and night and they were non-stop working.

All I can say is thank you all for the wonderful attention. Even the management was right in the middle of the work. And the doctors and lab people, you are all great. Our community is so blessed to have such a facility and staff. Thank you one and all for everything.

**RON STANFIELD**  
Knox City

## Knox County Aging Services

### Menus for July 1-5

**Monday:** peas, green beans, corn-bread.  
Salisbury steak with gravy, mashed potatoes, cauliflower and broccoli mix, whole-wheat roll, apricots.

**Tuesday:** Rigatoni with meat sauce, lima beans, salad, garlic toast, peaches.

**Wednesday:** Pork chops, black-eyed

**Thursday:** Closed for the July 4 holiday.

**Friday:** Turkey sandwich with tomatoes, lettuce and pickles, broccoli and raisin salad, pineapple delight.

## Farm briefs

### NAP coverage available for 2014 annual forage crops

Special to the News-Courier

The Texas Farm Service Agency will offer Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance for 2014 crops that are planted annually and used for livestock feed or fodder.

The Risk Management Agency recently announced a pilot program that offers a Rainfall Index-Annual Forage Insurance Plan to producers in Texas, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

Because there is limited time for producers in these states to transition from NAP to the new RMA pilot program, an exception was made that will allow the states to continue offering NAP coverage for 2014. However, NAP coverage will not be available for 2015 annual forage crops.

Eligible producers can apply for 2014 NAP coverage at their local FSA office. Producers must file the application and service fee by the Sept. 1 deadline for small grains. The service fee is the lesser of \$250 per crop or \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1,875 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

Only producers who meet the definition of a limited resource farmer or rancher can request a waiver of the service fee.

For more information about NAP, contact your local FSA office or visit fsa.usda.gov.



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**Service Times:**  
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Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.  
Worship: 11:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m.  
**Wednesday**  
Awanas, Pre-K to 6th grade:  
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
Youth: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

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Cortney Vaughn & Kyle Kittley

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**SATURDAY  
JUNE 29, 2013**

DOORS OPEN AT 8:00 am  
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**UNITED WE STAND**



# Filibuster, protesters jeopardize abortion vote

By Wayne Hodgins  
The News-Courier

Gov. Rick Perry's plan to regulate abortion in the state of Texas hit a snag on the Senate floor Tuesday when a Fort Worth Democrat embarked upon a 13-hour filibuster to delay voting on the measure in order to miss a crucial midnight deadline.

The abortion issue was thrown onto a list of legislative items Perry called for in a special 30-day session that originally was only supposed to revise redistricting maps.

Drawing the House floor spotlight through Sunday night and early Monday morning was Senate Bill 5, relating to the regulation of abortion procedures and providers. After a number of stalling tactics by House Democrats, the bill passed and was sent back to the Senate late Monday morning.

About 11:18 a.m. Tuesday — more than 24 hours after reaching the Senate floor — a pink sneaker-clad Sen. Wen-

dy Davis, D-Fort Worth, embarked on a 13-hour filibuster that would have delayed the vote in order to miss the midnight deadline when the special session by law must end.

About 10 p.m. Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst (R) ruled Davis' discussion meandered off subject, and after only 11 hours into her filibuster, Davis was escorted off the Senate floor.

A crowd of protesters inside the Capitol immediately staged a sit-in. Among the bedlam and with 12 minutes to go before the special session's end at 12 a.m., Sen. Leticia Van De Putte, D-San Antonio, from the floor asked, "At what point must a female senator raise her hand or her voice to be recognized over her male colleagues?", soliciting screams and loud cheers from the throngs of protesters.

Early Wednesday morning, it was unclear whether Senate Republicans were able to vote on the measure before the

midnight deadline.

Republicans, who control both the Senate and House, would probably have another chance at passage. Perry could call a second special session and tell lawmakers to consider the bill again.

The legislation proposes to amend the Health and Safety Code and the Occupations Code regarding regulation of abortion procedures, providers and facilities, prohibiting abortions at or after 20 weeks post-fertilization and adding a violation related to abortions performed after the same time window to the list of prohibited practices by physicians or license applicants.

Included is an exception that allows an abortion in the physician's reasonable medical judgment that so complicates the medical condition of the woman, to avert the woman's death or substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function, other than a psychological

condition.

The legislation also directs the Texas Medical Board to assess penalties on physicians for improperly distributing or prescribing abortion-inducing drugs. And, the legislation would create a new minimum standard for abortion facilities licensed by the Department of State Health Services. Such a facility would be required to meet the new standards by Sept. 1, 2014.

Throughout the special session, Republican members, leveraging a 40-seat majority of over Democrats, moved bills forward to comply with the wishes of Gov. Perry, but Democrats brought their arguments to the fore through proposed amendments, although all failed on votes to table them.

Two among many arguments were the adverse and disproportionate effects of the great distances women from rural and remote areas would have to travel to get to one of five facilities that

currently could be qualified to perform abortions under the bill and that 26 percent of Texas women do not have health insurance.

### Other special session items

The House on June 24 preliminarily passed SB 23, relating to the punishment for a capital felony committed by an individual younger than 18 years of age. The bill proposes to allow a 17-year-old offender serving a life sentence the eligibility to apply for parole after serving 40 years.

The House also tentatively approved SJR 2, a proposed constitutional amendment to change how dollars are moved from the state's general revenue fund to the so-called rainy day fund on transfers based on oil and natural gas production taxes.

Votes on the preponderance of special session legislation have been along party lines, with Democrats voting

in opposition.

Some lawmakers who challenged bills said that ultimately the abortion-regulating legislation would not stand up to scrutiny by the courts, nor would bills revising certain redistricting maps and limiting a jury's ability to mitigate parole in capital murder convictions of certain juveniles.

One bill already on its way to the governor's desk is SB 3, relating to the composition of Texas House districts.

Tentatively approved by the Senate earlier in the week, the bill came back to the Senate with several amendments passed to allow certain Democratic members in abutting House districts to tweak boundary lines in small and mutually beneficial ways.

In a vote on final passage, the Senate accepted the changes adopted by the House.

Ed Sterling contributed to this report.

## RanchFest June 29 in Childress

CHILDRESS — RanchFest 2013. It's the buzz in Childress and across West Texas and Southwest Oklahoma.

Childress' first Red Dirt concert, hosted by Childress Theatre Company, will be staged lakeside in historic Fair Park Saturday, June 29, from 4 p.m. to midnight.

Proceeds from the family-friendly event are dedicated to the restoration of The Palace Theater in downtown Childress.

The party will have all the facets of a country music festival—first and foremost, the entertainers. Coming to Childress for your entertainment are Charla Corn, Zach Edwards, Thrift Store Cowboys, and Trent Willmon, all dynamic stars on the contemporary country music scene.

Event hosts guarantee there will be dancing in the park to the "WOW!" sounds of these exciting bands. Attendees are invited to bring yard chairs and "rear back" in the 7-acre park for hours of entertainment.

The stage will sit on the north side of the park, ad-

acent to the covered bridge that stretches across the century-old lake where Col. Charles Goodnight watered his herds, decades before the park was created.

There will be a variety of food and soft drink vendors, as well as a first aid station, excellent security, and convenient parking at Bobcat stadium.

No outside food or drink will be allowed.

Attendees will be issued bracelets and will be free to come and go throughout the evening.

Advance tickets, at \$25,

can be purchased locally in Childress at the Chamber of Commerce office, at Preston Insurance & from Kay House at Farm Bureau. At the gate, tickets will be \$30.

Tickets can be purchased online from EasyTix, www.myeasytix.com and by phone at EasyTix, 1-877-840-0457.

Information about The Palace and RanchFest 2013 can be viewed on their Facebook page "RanchFest 2013" and on The Palace website, www.rememberthepalace.com

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COUNTY OF KNOX

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In the name and by the authority of the State of Texas

NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of forty-two days, the same being the 15 day of JULY, 2013, a default judgment may be taken against you."

TO: ANNA WITHERSPOON, ADONELL MASSIE LINK, and R. T. EVANS, Defendants, and THEIR HEIRS, UNKNOWN HEIRS, and LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Original Petition for Appointment of Receiver and Order for Receiver to Execute Mineral Lease at or before ten o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after the expiration of forty-two days, the same being the 15 day of JULY, 2013, before the Honorable 50<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court of Knox County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County in Benjamin, Texas.

Plaintiff's petition was filed in said court, by Bobby D. Burnett (Attorney for Plaintiff), whose address is P. O. Drawer 390, Munday, Texas, on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2013, in cause numbered 9573 on the docket of said court, and styled, KPK RESOURCES, LLC, PLAINTIFF VS. ANNA WITHERSPOON, ADONELL MASSIE LINK, AND R. T. EVANS, AND THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, SUCCESSORS, ASSIGNS, AND PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OF SUCH PERSONS, DEFENDANTS.

The names of the parties to this cause are as follows:

ANNA WITHERSPOON, ADONELL MASSIE LINK, and R. T. EVANS.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit:

Plaintiff requests the appointment of a receiver of the undivided mineral interests owned by Defendants in:

All of Section No. Seven (7), G. C. & S. F. RR Company Survey, Abstract No. 542, in Knox County, Texas, and Abstract No. 1228 in King County, Texas, and containing 320 acres of land, more or less.

and an order of the Court authorizing and directing the receiver to execute and deliver to Plaintiff an oil, gas and mineral lease covering the undivided mineral interest of Defendants in the real property described above, as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's petition on file in this suit.

The officer executing this writ shall promptly serve the same according to the requirements of law, and the mandates thereof, and make due return as the law directs.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION PAGE 1 OF 1

Issued and given under my hand and the Seal of said Court, at office in Benjamin, Texas, this the 30 day of May, 2013.

CLERK OF THE COURT

[Signature] ANNETTE OFLOT, District Clerk of Knox County, Texas  
Knox County Courthouse  
100 West Cedar  
Benjamin, Texas 79505

*We would like to thank everyone who made phone calls, sent flowers, visited our mother in the hospital, and provided food for our family during Mother's hospital stay and the funeral after her passing. We especially want to thank all those who prayed for her and us. Your kindness is a comfort to us in our sorrow.*

*May God richly bless each and everyone for your thoughtfulness and kindness to our family.*

The family of  
Bertha Wilde  
Betty Wilde  
Sandra Schulte  
Grandchildren  
Great-grandchildren

**HBO**  
Summertime  
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During the Fourth of July Weekend, JULY 4 - JULY 7, enjoy a FREE HBO Preview.

View the new, additional HBO Suite channels, including HBO Latino, HBO Family, HBO Comedy, HBO Zone and more all weekend! Additionally, throughout the month of July, subscribe to any premium channel and have the standard connection fee waived.

Don't want to miss anything on your new premium channels? Subscribe to DVR service or whole home DVR service and SRTC will waive the standard installation fee!

Some restrictions may apply. Services where available. Premium Channel and DVR promotion valid July 1 - 31, 2013 only.

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ask@srcaccess.net

# BMG paper garners statewide acclaim with awards

The Knox County News-Courier

HOUSTON — The Post Dispatch, a sister publication to the News-Courier, won three awards in the Texas Press Association's 2013 Better Newspaper Contest on Saturday, including first-place honors in editorial writing among similar-sized weekly newspapers throughout the state.

In addition, the Dispatch garnered second place in column writing and fourth place in feature writing.

Publisher Christopher Blackburn, CEO of Blackburn Media Group, said the awards culminate a great rebuilding season for the nearly 90-year-old publication.

"Over the last year, we've strived to bring high-quality journalism back to the pages of the Dispatch," Blackburn said. "In doing so, we're re-establishing this publication as the No. 1 source of community news and information for residents throughout Garza County and for those friends and family members throughout the region and nation who still enjoy

ties to their hometown."

The Dispatch's first-place award in editorial writing came from an entry of two submissions, one of which included a July 20 viewpoint questioning the White River Municipal Water District board's decision to increase the district's drought status from stage 2 to stage 3. The editorial also questioned the timing of the decision that opened the district up to receiving about \$2.5 million in state disaster aid based on a report paid for by the board that stated White River Lake could be dry by February.

The second submission included a viewpoint published Oct. 5 urging members of the Post City Council to appoint a replacement for resigning Mayor Thressa Harp with someone not already serving on the council. That particular protocol, the editorial argued, would retain true democracy and effective electoral representation.

Both editorials were penned by Editor Wayne Hodgkin.

The contest's judge remarked,

"It is good to see editorials that go beyond presenting problems and actually offer solutions. Well done. Too many editorials simply restate a news story or — even worse — turn into a rant. Both of these are what an editorial should be."

Other publications in the top four, respectively, included the Clarendon Enterprise, Muleshoe Journal and Ozona Stockman.

The Dispatch's second-place award came in column writing by regional favorite Hanaba Munn Welch. The commendation came from Welch's "great sense of humor ... and good flow," in addition to the column's "strong headlines," the judge stated.

Other winners in the category, respectively, included the Bullard Banner News, the Eldorado Success and the Clarendon Enterprise.

Hodgkin also took fourth place in feature writing for an entry of two articles, including a story published March 23, 2012, and headlined "The Power of Prayer." The article focused on local student Adam Smith who was celebrating his 18th birthday with a communitywide party to bring awareness to childhood stroke victims while thanking the faith community for its support during his illness and recovery.

The second entry, published June 15, 2012, and headlined "The Road Less Traveled," was a feature story on 70-something-year-old longrider Gene Glasscock, who was passing back through the area on his 5,000-mile return journey from the West Coast to the East Coast and back in a covered wagon pulled by two mules.

Leading the division in features was, respectively, the Liberty Hill Independent, the Big Lake Wildcat and the Presidio International.

Results were announced Saturday at the Hyatt Regency Houston during the Texas Press Association's annual summer retreat for newspaper editors and publishers. The 2013 contest was judged by the Arkansas Press Association as part of the annual

Better Newspaper Contest swap.

This year, 148 newspapers submitted 1,505 entries in the Texas Better Newspaper Contest. The contest is broken down into 10 divisions in which newspapers compete against papers of similar circulation size.

Also at the weekend's conference, Greg Shrader, publisher of The Lufkin News, was elected to serve as the 136th president of the Texas Press Association.

Shrader, who had served the organization's board as first vice president, replaces Russel Skiles, publisher of the Lamesa Press-Reporter, who becomes the chairman of the board.

The Post Dispatch is owned by Blackburn and his wife, Sharon, as part of the Blackburn Media Group family of newspapers, which also include The Stonewall Courier, The Knox City News-Courier, the Floyd County Hesperian-Beacon, the Hall County Herald, the Wellington Leader, the Hollis (Okla.) News and the Childress Index, the company's flagship publication.

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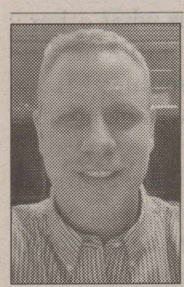
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# The Paperboy

## Small businesses getting short end

While back, in one of our communities, we had a woman set letters to Santa for us. She worked for a few hours, and we paid her for her time. Pretty simple, right?



CHRIS BLACKBURN

Flash forward to now, and guess what? We had to pay unemployment on her.

Despite the fact she committed fraud, and we brought this information forward in our appeal, the Texas Workforce Commission actually sided with her and we had to pay.

In instances, we've had to pay on people who've quit. We've had to pay people who've quit while working a very short time. We've had to pay part-time employees who've quit. We've had to pay people who've been terminated for sufficient reasons well within the TWC guidelines.

Blackburn Media Group is not a large corporation. We have around 15 full-time employees and some part-time help, but over the course of years, even with gradual turnover, the numbers can add up.

Here's the deal: Unemployment fraud is running rampant, and small businesses are being victimized. The Texas Workforce Commission is an accomplice to this, plain and simple.

We go through the proper hoops and communicate exactly what happened regarding a former employee, and it doesn't matter. They usually side with the employee even

when the person filing violates the law.

I understand and accept the system on principle. What I don't accept is getting worked over by a state agency when we've done everything legally and they openly allow fraud to continue.

You may be asking how any of this concerns you?

It concerns all small businesses. It is very disturbing when you can't trust the very agencies you must deal with by law.

In speaking with other business owners, we're not the only ones getting this treatment from the TWC. In fact, the agency has been sued on these same grounds, yet the fraud and abuse continues. It is obviously systemic, which is very troublesome.

As I wrote a couple of weeks ago, when institutions start messing with the very livelihood that allows them to exist in the first place, where are we as a society? Where are we with trust? Nowhere.

I've lost all faith in the TWC. They have messed with my bottom line. Honestly, they make me question why we're even in business. Why not close, get a high-paying sales job, quit that job and file for unemployment — then get another job and continue the process? I imagine such an endeavor could be very lucrative indeed.

Apparently the TWC has taken a page out of the playbook of other now notorious agencies such as the IRS, FBI and NSA. Only the TWC is a Texas agency. I expect more.

Christopher Blackburn is publisher of The Knox County News-Courier and CEO of Blackburn Media Group.

# The 501

## Best tornado shelter is under the bathroom

If you're redoing an old bathroom and you have to go under the house to fix the plumbing, don't despair. Call it a tornado drill.

Until our cellar gets dug, under the house is where I'm going if a tornado bears down on our farmstead. Lately I've been through the trap door in the closet enough to get it down to a fine art. It'll take a tornado to get my husband to join me in the spidery netherworld.

Topside (only someone who has been under the house a lot would refer to everywhere else as "topside"), I'm tackling the renovation of a half-bath that looks pretty much like it did when George VI was king of England.

The last person who did any significant work on the little bathroom was my father back when he put it in. When he spread newspaper on the floor to catch paint drips, King George's picture was in the spread.

Daddy told illiterate me the king had just died. I knew about royalty from nursery rhymes and fairy tales, but King George was the real thing! I was surprised I'd not heard of him before.

Since we didn't keep newspapers long in our household, my memory likely dates from very early February 1952. It makes sense my father would have tackled the project in midwinter when farm work was less demanding. All he had to do was milk two cows, slop hogs and be sure the chicken water didn't freeze. Mother

helped him some. She took skim milk to the hogs. I digress.

As for the bathroom re-do, it all started with just a little leak around the commode. One thing led to another. With advice from my husband, I soon found myself removing fixtures, wallpaper, linoleum and the pseudo-tile cardboard Daddy had installed like wainscoting and painted white.

A tiny bathroom is a good starter project for anyone inspired by quickie television renovations and advertisements from pros who promise they can renew your bathroom in one day.

Two words come to mind: Yeah, right.

As for my husband's role in the whole undertaking, an unspoken agreement prevails. I'm the worker. He's the adviser. Nothing happens unless he's off-site — meaning 150 miles away at our city house.

And so it was I installed the cement board on the floor upside down. With any luck, the intaglio brand name will be readable through whatever floor covering we install. Oh well.

The beauty of making your own mistakes is you've got only yourself to blame. I rather like it that way.

If we'd hired the quickie re-do company, we might have felt compelled afterward to post our dissatisfaction on the website established for complainers. A burdensome task. (Not that the official website doesn't have glowing comments contradicting all 96 disgruntled customers.)

Ultimately, when you do the re-do yourself, you know the significance of a framed and matted crumbling fragment of pink swan and pink water lily wallpaper. I'm hanging it right next to King George.

Hanaba Munn Welch is a columnist and contributor for Blackburn Media Group newspapers.

# Benjamin News

By Gladene Green

We were very pleased Wednesday as the rain clouds moved in and in a short while the downbursts had dropped about 3.5 inches of much needed moisture on our parched area. Some places had as much as 5 to 5.5 inches.

It fell fast, and the lakes and tanks did catch a good bit. It was not too widespread but right here we were very happy with what we got. We did have a little wind and some hail with the thunderstorm, but no damage except for a few limbs broken off some trees.

### Sympathy Extended

I send my sincere sympathy to the family of Elaine Guley today. Elaine passed away Wednesday after failing health for quite some time. I had known her all my life, and she was a lovely person. She will be missed by so many family and friends. Her funeral was Friday in Munday.

I have not had any late word on Doug Brown's condition. Hopefully, no news is good news. Our hope is that he's continuing to improve, and although it's slow, any progress is

good. Please continue to pray for him and his family.

Bud Conner spent last Tuesday night in United Regional Hospital in Wichita Falls. Doctors put in a pacemaker and kept him overnight to observe and see if all was going well. So far so good. Of course, it's not completely "settled in" yet, but each day it's better. Guess it takes a while for that sort of thing to get adjusted and for one's body to adjust to it. Hopefully, it will help him with some of his problems that have bothered him so long. He goes back Friday to have the stitches removed.

### Here and there

Gloria West and Cathy Tomlinson of Denton were here during the weekend for the Conner Reunion. The reunion was on Saturday at the Ex-Student Building. About 40 from all parts of Texas attended the annual get together. From the reports I got, everyone had a great time. An auction in the afternoon brought in a good bit of money to help with the expenses. Some stayed overnight and left for home on Sunday morning.

My family also had our reunion at the Cape

Cod Community Center at Providence Village, Texas, on Saturday. About 50 attended, which included my two sisters and myself, our families, and lots of other nieces and nephews and their families. A lot of visiting, swimming, plenty of good food, and just a good day was enjoyed by everyone.

Folks came from Amarillo, Allan, Eastland, Winnsboro, Ponder, Arlington, Audrey, Haskell, Knox City, Munday, Childress, Providence Village, Saginaw, North Richland Hills, Reed College in Oregon (I have no idea what town it's near), Denton, and Benjamin.

Also an exchange student from Brazil who has been in the home of a niece was there. She enjoyed it as much as anyone. She's been here two years but is returning to Brazil in July to graduate next year. It was a good day, and we are already looking forward to the next one! My daughter, Diane, and her daughter, Ashlee, of Childress spent Saturday night at my sister, Glenda McNeely and her husband's home in Aubrey and returned home Sunday afternoon.

Lexie, Katy, and Blaze Taylor returned to their home in Amarillo Sunday after a two-weeks' visit here with grandparents, Mike

and Debi Moorhouse and other relatives and friends.

Mary Young returned home the last of the week after several days' visit with her daughter, Debbie Niel and her family in Boca Raton, Fla.

I learned this week that Fred Carver's mom, Dorothy, has been moved from the Knox County Hospital to the Munday Nursing Center to continue her rehabilitation process. She has the effects of a couple of strokes earlier in the spring and hopefully things will continue to improve for her.

Mary Tom Bohannon and daughter, Brandi, of Wolfforth spent Saturday night with Judy and Randolph Barnett.

Jeff Conner, Cheyenne, and Cayden of Wolfforth were here Saturday for the Conner reunion and spent Saturday night with his aunt, Corrine Parrish.

Corky Barker of Plano was here Saturday. He had a good visit with his sister, Mary Tom and did some things at his mom's (Johnnie Barker) house.

Gladene Green is the longtime Benjamin correspondent for the Knox County News-Courier.

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# The Idle American

## The ultimate fixer-upper

Many folks wind up in tears upon realizing they really aren't up to challenges posed by "fixer-upper" houses. Whimpering, they move on, spirits dampened and dreams shattered.

Sometimes, though, there are unique individuals who march to different drums

— rare souls who see life differently. They dream big, committed to baby-step beginnings, even if decades in the taking.

It's one thing when "dad and lad" are in conventional businesses together. But owners of a ghost town? That's the ultimate "fixer-upper"—and for a time, the late Rex Ivey and son Bill bid against each other to purchase "ghost town"

Terlingua, Texas.

Growing numbers of tourists now visit the West Texas town, as well as Study Butte and Lajitas. The three communities are on the Rio Grande about 100 miles south of Alpine, county seat of Brewster, the state's largest county.

One visitor claims if the earth were square, Terlingua would be one of the corners.

The world had little use for Terlingua after World War II. Its Chisos Mining Co. was the world's foremost producer of mercury for some 30 years. With diminished need for mercury in bombs, when they no longer dropped, the market did. And the vertical mines — already Texas' deepest — became hot water steam pits.

Sadly, a majority of the community's 2,000 residents vanished to work in other locales, almost overnight.

A 1979 graduate of Texas A&M University, Bill learned that "ghost town" was for sale — again. And Rex, who folks say bought and sold half the land in Brewster County — some of it twice — hated the prospect of the land cut up in postage stamp parcels. So, he also was a prospective buyer — for the second time.

Not knowing his dad's plans, Bill rallied some Houston Aggie alums to bankroll his bid.

Luckily, father and son learned they were bidding against each other. So Rex worked out the deal, scratching out details with a pencil on the hood of his car. Leaning on a fender, a lawyer drew up the papers from the hood scratches, and Dad instructed his son to "get after it" in what

would be a long restoration process.

As a Terlingua youth, Bill loved the majestic mountains, flowing river, abundant wildlife and most of all, the people. He still does.

First-time visitors can hardly believe they still are in Texas. Though "ghost town" has only about 50 permanent citizens, others come in to work during tourist season.

It now has a store in a building once the largest between Del Rio and El Paso. In the old theater next door is the Starlight Theater Restaurant and Saloon. There's also the Holiday Hotel and community church, plus scads of ruins located "a few miles beyond the end of the world." Now about 90 percent restored, the church is back in use for worship, weddings and funerals.

Admittedly, there isn't a Starbucks, Walmart, McDonald's and no doctors or undertakers; they're 100 miles away. The road has been paved a few decades, but no longer are high school students bused to Alpine — 200-plus roundtrip miles. Terlingua, nestled in the middle of 120 acres, now has a high school.

They get satellite TV, and radio signals reach them at night; most residents have Internet.

Though bona fide owner of Terlingua, Bill doesn't flaunt it. In fact, he works shoulder to shoulder with others as needed, including at his gift shop in Alpine.

Big Bend National Park is a sight for wide eyes. Sunsets are big there, as are chili cook-offs, music and art. And visitors are "gaga" over Marfa, with its famous lights and artsy scenes.

Movies are being made in the area. One day, Bill was asked by an Englander if "ghost town" has a mayor. Ivey admitted to ownership, but joked that politicians aren't really welcome in Terlingua. Too late. He asked the visitor, "What do you do in England?" Turns out he is mayor of London.

Closing in on 30 years of restoration, Bill with wife, Lisa, is "living his dream." They have four sons, one a Terlinguan adopted at age 11, is preparing for his Texas bar exam. Maybe some of the sons will want to extend the dream.

The geography, history and people are unique. The work ethic remains strong.

The website, ghostowntexas.com, says "Come on down." And we intend to.

Don Newbury, former chancellor of Howard Payne University in Brownwood, is a humorist and motivational speaker.



DON NEWBURY

# Dixie Divas

## What people think matters to Southern mamas

A major New York publisher sent a review copy of a much-touted novel called "If Jack's In Love." Because I write about the South and because this book had won the Willie Morris Award for Southern Fiction, the book's publicist followed up with an email.

I decided to give the book a look in deference to the Southern literary legend native to Yazoo City, Miss. Surprisingly, it was the author's biography that caught my attention rather than the sprawling words between the pages. I must share it with you:

A high-school dropout, Stephen Wetta, grew up in the '60s and '70s, drank, used drugs, got in financial trouble, and spent far too much time reading and writing. He knocked around for years at different jobs, didn't like any of them, and got sober without wanting to.

Somehow he wound up with a Ph.D. and worked for 10 years as an adjunct. His academic career was singularly undistinguished, and he was eventually hired full time by a school that couldn't get rid of him. Shortly afterward he was jailed for tax evasion.

"If Jack's In Love" is his first novel.

This is the bravest, boldest, most original biography of any kind I've ever read, especially for an author. Usually author bios, especially those of literary writers, are buttoned-up and scholarly. I applaud a man interesting enough to compose a bio like this. However, I doubted its truth. I figured it was another product of good fiction writing.

The director of publicity for the book's publisher, Berkley, is an acquaintance so I emailed him and asked, "Is this true? Was he really jailed for tax evasion?"

Yes. My admiration for his honesty about his dishonesty grew. But I have this to say: His mama must not be alive.

Wetta, raised in Richmond, Va., is

Southern, so I assume his mother was, too. And, this much I know: Southern mothers care deeply about what other people think about their children.

One of the great philosophies Mama raised us by was, "What will people think?"

If she ever thought we were contemplating something untoward, she would put her foot down and say, "No, you're not. What will people think?"

One Sunday when I was about 15, we were going out to lunch after church. For some reason, we stopped by home first. I headed toward my bedroom, saying, "I'm going to change clothes. I'm gonna put on pants."

Oh my. Mama hit the ceiling. She charged into my room and said, "No, you're not. You leave your dress on. Do you hear me? You're not changin' into pants."

I was completely puzzled. "Why?"

Hers was Southern motherly logic.

"Because everyone who sees you will think you haven't been to church."

Women and girls did not wear pants to church in those days.

"I care what people think."

"Well, I don't. I've been to church, I know I have and that's what matters."

That is what my mama called "sassing," and it, like wearing pants to church, was not permitted. I stayed in my dress, and Mama left the room, mumbling, "What will people think?"

A few years ago when I appeared on a television segment about Southern women, I told a funny Mama story. I thought nothing about it until I saw the segment on the night it ran. It didn't seem as funny as it did when I said it. "Uh oh," I muttered. I called Mama, who, too, had seen it.

"I'm gonna pinch your head off," she said, half teasing, half serious. "I can't believe you said that on television." She paused. "What will people think?"

Knowing how Southern mothers are, I just don't believe Mr. Wetta's mama is still alive. If she is, though, I am clapping and cheering for him.

He's even bolder and braver than I thought.

Ronda Rich is a Southern humorist, storyteller and best-selling author. Her latest book, "There's A Better Day A-Comin'," is available



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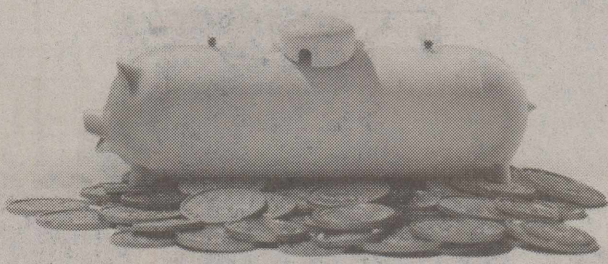
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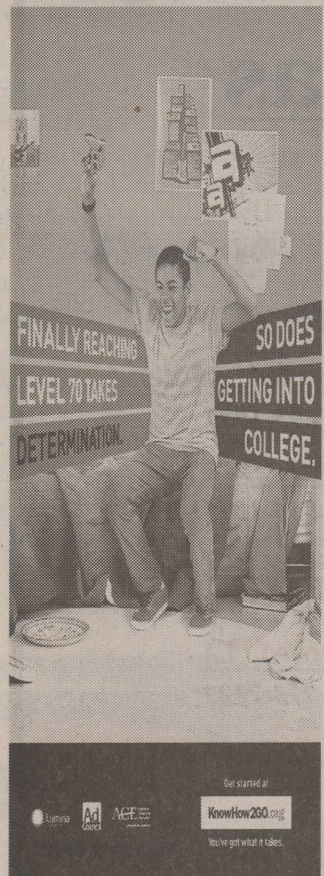
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**CUTS**  
From Page 1

Smith said two factors influenced the reduction of funds, the first being a new formula to determine the amount of federally allocated funds for seniors. "Funding is based on the number of seniors over 60 in a given area, and with the new census in 2010 came a new formula for calculating funding for aging services," he said. "Even though in places like Knox County the number of seniors stayed relatively the same, our funding is based on the 19 countywide population numbers. And it reduced as a whole."

The second factor affecting funding is the across-the-board federal budget cuts. According to a report by the federal Office of Management and Budget, the Administration of Aging

will see 5.2 percent and in some cases 5.3 percent of funding cut from each of its programs. "I hate it. I'm a huge supporter of this program, but numbers are numbers," Smith said. "We're trying to find creative ways to meet our demand, and I know the aging centers are too."

The Knox County Aging Center schedules several monthly fundraisers to boost local donations, said Cassandra Sheedy, the center's director. A chicken-fried steak fundraising lunch will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 14. Plates include sides, drinks and desserts. A covered garage sale also is being planned at 507 S. Central, Knox City, the Saturday of the Watermelon Festival.

"We're trying to do everything we can," Sheedy said. The Aging Center also hosts a musical fundraiser the first Monday of each month.

"We do very well with the musical," Sheedy said. "People come from all over with their musical instruments and others will bring dishes. We make about \$1,600 a month from the musical from donations. It's wonderful."

Although the center caters to seniors, Sheedy said those younger than 60 can eat lunch too. "A lot of people think you have to be a senior citizen to eat lunch with us," Sheedy said. "We encourage everyone to come eat. The food is good, and it's only \$6 for people under 60."

Sheedy said cash and check donations can be picked up from a residence or delivered to the Aging Center at 107 N. Ave. E in Knox City. Household items, clothing, blankets, shoes and other items are accepted as well. All donations benefit the Knox County Aging Center.

**REUNION**  
From Page 1

"We have been getting lots of support, and everybody is getting ready to have a blast while also trying to do some good for the kiddos in the community," Moore said. "A bunch of us grads from out of town are going to be in Knox City on July 3 and make a long

weekend out of catching up with our old high school friends."

The two-person scramble golf tournament will begin 9 a.m. July 6 at the Knox City Country Club. Entry fee is \$100 per team. Contact Tommy Mangis (KCHS, 1978) at 940-256-2114 to enter your team.

To get your tickets to the BYOB reunion event, contact Michelle Stanfield at

940-256-0318. Tickets cost \$10 in advance and at the gate and include a barbecue dinner and admission to the dance. Take-out plates will be available.

"As most KCHS grads will tell you, there is something special about Knox City and the sense of humor we all have when we get together," Moore said. "It's just like we've been seeing each other every day."

**RESIDENT**  
From Page 1

Graham his own column in the newspaper during his high school years. "I called it Graham Crackers," he said. "I once wrote about how good our football team was doing one season but criticized our punt team for how bad of a job they were doing. That Friday night, the coach called me off the bench and stuck me in as the punter, telling me if I thought I could do a better job, he'd let me have at it."

"I, of course, was a miserable failure that night. I think film of that night is still on file at the library. Someone brought it out and played it one of the last times I was in town."

After graduation, he became the managing editor of the Gonzales Inquirer and then joined the Abilene Reporter News in 1966 and served as wire editor and later state editor before entering the Army in the fall of 1966.

In the Army, Graham served as chief of the Pacific Stars and Stripes' Korea news bureau and covered the North Korean attempt to assassinate South Korean President Park Chung-hee, and the Pueblo incident in 1968.

He also worked on Stars and Stripes in its Tokyo headquarters and as a correspondent in Vietnam.

After his two-year service in the Army, Graham traveled through the Far East and spent a year with two Australian newspapers before returning to the United States and re-joining the Abilene Reporter News in November 1969, where he worked his way up to assistant managing editor.

ing Del Rio, Burnet, Mineola, Lindale, New Boston and Pasadena.

Graham said he loved the challenge of getting community newspapers out of the red and making them relevant to their communities.

After taking the reins in Pasadena in 1998, he worked to merge ASP Westward and Houston Community Newspapers into one company, becoming the chief operating officer overseeing more than 60 newspapers in the Houston and Austin markets as well as throughout East Texas and Colorado.

Fully expecting to retire in 2006, the leisurely pace didn't sit well with Graham, who soon after retirement bought The Frankston Citizen in East Texas. He runs the paper along with his wife, Kathryn, and son Jay.

"They say once newspapering gets in your blood, it's hard to really do anything else, let alone retire," Graham said. "So here I am."

**BILL**  
From Page 1

After House leadership prevented the bill from floor consideration last year, a one-year extension of 2008 policy was hurriedly passed in January.

"The policy that came before the House last week was a product of several years of hearings, deliberations and compromise," Mosier said. "Getting everyone to achieve consensus again will be a challenge."

TWPA President Ben Scholz said wheat farmers across Texas were especially disappointed with the failure as they had great interest in policy items in the House version.

"Our association really favored the farm policy items in the House version," said Scholz, a wheat farmer from Lavon. "Right now we have a bill that has passed the Senate, but no obvious way forward in the House."

The final vote tally on the House bill was 195 ayes and

234 nays; 171 Republicans voted for the bill, including Texas Reps. Randy Neugebauer, Mike Conaway and Mac Thornberry, and 62 voted against it, including Texas Reps. Kevin Brady, John Culberson, Louie Gohmert, Jeb Hensarling and Steve Stockman.

Twenty-four Democrats voted for the bill and 172 voted against it, including Texas Reps. Joaquin Castro, Lloyd Doggett, Pete Gallego, Al Green, Gene Green, Ruben Hinojosa, Sheila Jackson Lee, E.B. Johnson, Beto O'Rourke and Marc Veasey.

Neugebauer, R-Lubbock, noted the bill would have reduced government spending by \$40 billion over the next 10 years.

"I think a good bill failed because it wasn't perfect," Neugebauer said. "Most Democrats didn't support it because they felt that \$20 billion was too much to cut from food stamps. On the other hand, some Republicans didn't think we cut enough. I think that view is short-sighted."

Farm-friendly members of

the House Agricultural Committee were largely responsible for the version of the bill that died. The package contained generous benefits to farmers, mainly in the form of subsidized crop insurance.

Scholz said the demise of the bill will be felt for a long time if new action is not taken prior to Sept. 30, when the current extension expires.

"Most agricultural practices demand a lot of forward thought and planning for the future," Scholz said. "Right now I am making decisions with no clear idea of what my risk management options will be next year."

Although it is not yet certain as to what exactly happens next, House leadership is considering all options and a plan could be revealed as early as next week.

The Senate has passed its own version of the farm bill, but it will remain in limbo until the House finishes its own work.

Meanwhile, American farmers and ranchers are now left wondering how to plan for next season.

Graham worked for what then was known as the Knox County Herald until he graduated high school in 1960. Later that summer, Branch took him to Denton and introduced him to the owner of the paper there, saying the young North Texas State University freshman would be an asset to that paper as well.

"Since I had the experience of running a press in high school, those skills helped put me through college and have served me well even all these years later as a newspaperman," Graham said.

Graham graduated North Texas State in 1964 with a journalism degree. While attending school, he worked his way up to the position of city editor of the Denton Record Chronicle.

Graham was named publisher of the Huntsville Item, where in 1974 he led a news team in covering the Carrasco hostage situation in the prison that later would earn the team a national press award and a nomination for the Pulitzer Prize.

While at the Item, Graham also began a series of articles that gained nationwide fame covering a weather-forecasting cow and the National Weather Service.

After leaving Huntsville, Graham served as publisher in numerous cities, includ-

Graham was recognized Saturday along with two others receiving the award, including Louis Stas, owner and publisher of The Wheeler Times and Wes Burnett, former publisher of The Post Dispatch, whose award was given posthumously. Burnett died unexpectedly in March, and at the time was owner and publisher of the Rockwall County News.

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