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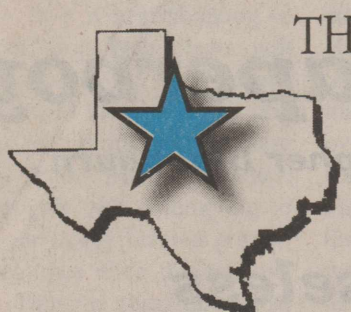
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# THE KNOX COUNTY NEWS

PROUDLY SERVING THE KNOX COUNTY AREA

8 PAGES PLUS INSERTS  
 VOLUME XXXVIII

KNOX COUNTY, TEXAS  
 THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2009

75 CENTS  
 NUMBER 38

## KC Celebrates Large's '57 Heaven In Conjunction With 21st Watermelon Festival

By Tamara Smart

No matter where you are in Knox City, a short travel down the road and toward the center of town, at the corner of Central and Main, you will find a building. Labeled with fading paint naming the structure "Egenbacher", the building doesn't look like much from the outside.

Knox City locals rarely even pay attention to this historic building as they pass through town, as it has been there since seemingly the beginning of "Knox City time". Through the years, this building has been an economic source for the town- at one time a mechanic shop; for a spell, a goose plucking factory; some remember the auto parts store that once operated from in the doors. In recent years, the building has stood as an abandoned and dilapidated reminder of the rich history of Knox City.

Glen Dell Large changed that this past year or so. In the later part of 2008, there was a buzz throughout town as the old black drapes and boards were taken off the huge picture windows on the old Egenbacher building. People began to notice several older cars finding residence in the shop shortly after that. Glen Dell

Large, a lifetime resident of Knox City (except "for the two years when Uncle Sam had me," he clarifies with a laugh), bought the old building and has made it his dream garage which he endearingly calls "'57 Heaven". Today, one can drop by the red brick structure and find Glen Dell tinkering on this car or that car... almost all of the vehicles '57 Fords, and find an amazing conversation rich with history, humor and an all-around knowledge of "junk".

Large worked at the Egenbacher building during his youth in Knox City. From 1959-1967, he drove to that garage in his 1957 Black and White Ford car to spend countless hours mechanic-ing and honing his expertise in "junk".

Glen Dell says he "grew up with junk, learned about junk, liked junk, so [he] stuck with it." What is amazing is what Mr. Large has created with that proverbial "junk" he has collected over the years. His "garage" (which is more like a museum) has 7-8 cars on display or being worked on... one of which is the 1957 black and white Ford that he drove 40 plus years ago back and forth as an employee at the Egenbacher building (the car has since been



Photo by Tamara Smart

Large and his still running and captivating '57 black and white Ford are captured in photograph taken in 1959. This was the car Glen Dell drove as a young man when he first worked at the Egenbacher building.

restored, repainted and is a shoo-in at local car shows). He has two restored police cars which were used in the 1992 Disney movie, "The Earnest Green Story". One of these cars is the only one in his garage that is NOT a 1957 model Ford... it is a 1952 that was originally sold in Knox City & still has its tags from the Knox City dealership 57 years ago. Also, Glen Dell has cases displaying motor parts, arrow heads, license plates, funny old school cartoons, and awards he has won

over the years with his so-called "junk". The walls are bordered with countless ball caps that Mr. Large has collected.

As the days approach for the 21st Annual Donald Johnson Memorial Seedless Watermelon Festival, people are running around town with last minute preparations and plans. But alongside with all the watermelon eating, horseshoe throwing and carnival activities, there will be another event that most people are looking forward to

just as much, if not more, than the sticky faces and the gourd gorging at Knox City park.

In conjunction with the Watermelon Eating on July 25, Large has partnered up with the Knox City Chamber of Commerce, Bailey Toliver Chevrolet- Cadillac out of Haskell and O'Reilly Auto Parts to put on the 10th Annual "Sizzlin' Summer Classic Car Show". They will be blocking off hwy 222 from the Glen Dell's garage ("57 Heaven" as Glen Dell calls it) going west and parking the cars alongside the street. Glen Dell expects about 100 entries, and plans to have his garage open that day for lookers-on to peruse his "junk", cool down in front of

his fans and maybe "get a sip of water". Haskell's Bailey Toliver Chevrolet- Cadillac and KC Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring the "Top 21" cars (because it's the 21st Watermelon festival). '57 Heaven (Glen Dell Large, himself) and O'Reilly Auto Parts are sponsoring the "57 Plaques Presentation" which features awards for "best engine", "best interior", "best motor" and "best of show".

To enter a car in the show, pre-registration is available with Glen Dell for \$20; or registration is available the day of the show at the Gazebo in Merchants Park for \$25. There are free dash plaques for the first 100 entrants and a free meal ticket and t-shirt for all entrants.



Photo by Tamara Smart

A banner proclaiming Mr. Large's garage "'57 Heaven."



Photo by Tamara Smart

A red and white '57 Ford Mr. Large restored.



Photo by Tamara Smart

Two cars Glen Dell Large restored were used in the 1992 Disney movie "The Earnest Green Story". The cars remain in the same condition as they were used in the film and are on display at Glen Dell's garage on Central and Main in Knox City.

## USDA Provides Funds to Rehabilitate Damaged Farm and Ranch Land

WASHINGTON, D.C.— The United States Department of Agriculture today announced that funds will be available to farmers and ranchers in the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) to repair farm and ranch land damaged by natural disasters

that occurred in 2008 and 2009. Approximately \$1.8 million will go to Montague, Clay, Jack, Archer, Young, and Wheeler counties.

"Our area was hit hard by wildfires this past spring, and this announcement by the USDA will hopefully aid farmers and ranchers in getting their operations fully functioning again," Congressman Thornberry said.

The money made available to farmers and ranchers in our area is to be used for fence restoration. The USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees will determine land eligibility based on on-site inspections of damage, taking into account the type and extent of damage.

"This announcement will help provide funds to supplement

the efforts of the men and women who came out to aid the victims of the fires," Congressman Thornberry said. "Folks helped out in a lot of ways and this will increase the fruit of their labors," Congressman Thornberry concluded.

A fifth generation Texan, Mac Thornberry has strong ties to the people he serves in the U.S. House of Representatives. Mac is a lifelong resident of the 13th District of Texas. His family has been ranching in the area since 1881 - a family business in which Mac remains actively involved.

Mac shares the values of the people he represents and continues to fight for the things that are important to them. He is a long-time advocate of lower taxes and limited government.



Photo by Tamara Smart

A few of the trophies Glen Dell Large has won with his car restoration projects. Large, a lifetime resident of Knox City, bought the old building and has made it his dream garage which he endearingly calls "'57 Heaven".

### LOOKING AHEAD

Jordan Carter will be playing at the All Star 6 Man Basketball Tourney in Lubbock on Saturday, July 18 at 4 p.m. The Competition will be at the LCU Riv Griffin Gym. Coach Webb will be coaching at the event.



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# OPINION



## The Paperboy

By Christopher Blackburn

### Letters to the Editor Policy

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## Blue Dogs Draw Straws

By Robert Romano

The Blue Dog Democrats claim they have 40 members who are at least hesitant to vote in favor of government-run health care. That would be enough to kill the legislation currently being proposed in the House that will effectively take away private health care options from the American people.

At the very least, the alleged Blue Dog opposition would be enough to slow the bill down, making it much more likely that it will eventually be killed. But now with breaking news that the proposal is to be unveiled today, it is hard to believe that the Blue Dogs are doing anything but howling at the moon.

The truth is, the Blue Dogs have to prove that they're not just drawing straws to see who gets to vote against the proposal in order to cover themselves on a bill they already know is likely to pass. In everything from the trillion-dollar "stimulus" to the Waxman-Markey climate change bill, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has not lost an important vote all year long, despite occasional Blue Dog bleating of discontent.

A large part of the reason for this is that the so-called "conservative" Democrats—the

self-proclaimed Blue Dogs—always seem to come up just shy of the votes needed to block the House Majority's Big Government agenda.

The fact is, the Blue Dogs look more like lap dogs, yelping in protest—while willingly heeling in submission to the House Speaker's adjustable leash.

So now, to quote Blue Dog icon John F. Kennedy, "sincerity is always subject to proof."

On Thursday, 40 members of the House Blue Dog Democrats caucus issued a letter against proposed legislation that would forever socialize the nation's health system. A list of the 40 House members can be viewed here.

Congressman Mike Ross (AR-CD4), chairman of the Blue Dog Health Care Task Force, stated that if the House Majority brings their bill to the floor as proposed, an "overwhelming majority" of his 52 member coalition would vote against it.

In the letter sent by 40 members of the Blue Dog coalition in the House of Representatives, members demanded that any House proposal on health care be deficit-neutral, protect small businesses, and that the legislation "must be

available to all Members and the public for a sufficient amount of time before we are asked to vote for it."

The letter also required that "sufficient time" would be needed for "any amendments or changes to the bill" stating that "We need time to review it and discuss it with our constituents. Too short of a review period is unacceptable and only undermines Congress' ability to pass responsible health care reform that works for all Americans."

The Blue Dogs' letter hardly put a damper on Nancy Pelosi and Steny Hoyer's plans ram the bill down the throats of the American people with its expected introduction today. House leadership had wanted to unveil the legislation last Friday, get it out of committee this week, and have it on Barack Obama's desk in time for the August recess.

So, the Blue Dog buying apparently had little effect—and now Nancy Pelosi apparently has the legislation back on schedule.

But, even with the slight delay—while the Blue Dogs "negotiated" with Democrat leadership and Barack Obama eve talked about delaying the

See BLUE page 8

## Common Senseless

Michigan, along with most of the states, is bankrupt. The unemployment of the state is also spiraling out of control and may now reach 20 percent

California has a \$26 billion budget shortfall.

Currently, forty-one states in the U.S. are facing budget shortfalls.

Welcome to Europe.

I wonder if it's a coincidence that the states in the worst financial shape are big-time union states and impose a state income tax?

Right to work states which are more friendly to workers, corporations, land owners, etc.... are faring much better than their counterparts.

However, as job seekers finally leave states like Michigan, you can bet they'll be headed all over the place looking for jobs, which will raise the unemployment level of other states.

Meanwhile, we have Congress and the White House spending more money than ever while also borrowing more money than ever. And when I say more money than ever, I mean in the history of mankind.

Why?

What good is it doing?

People in towns experiencing growth of any kind should be on their knees thanking God and praying it continues. No one knows how this will play out, but I suspect growth of any kind while maintaining reasonable unemployment rates is impressive.

With the economic gloom hanging around and the government breaking it's neck trying to "fix" everything, questions are finally being asked about support for small businesses. As a small business owner trying to keep his head above water, this interests me greatly.

While everyone agrees that small businesses are "the backbone" of the economy, they've only been mentioned at a minimum by the Obama Administration.

Outside of some interest-free loans from the Small Business Administration, many of these businesses, which are usually not in the business of wanting or needing government assistance, are just as deserving as the larger business up the food chain in which they depend on.

In other words, if your business makes GM specific auto parts and Government Motors is no longer buying from you because of measures THEY took, what recourse do you have?

Government intervention in the business world has repercussions we'll be feeling for decades. Talk about a lack of an exit strategy.

Anyhow, back to small businesses: the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) originally had \$700 billion appropriated. Of that amount, the SBA has the authority to provide \$17.5 billion in loans for 2009. Through June, the SBA had loaned \$6 billion.

Of course the vast majority of small businesses have received no funds and will probably never receive any. Many may not want it.

What most small business owners are concerned about is taxes on their bottom line. That's certainly what will help determine the number of employees I have.

Businesses are taxed in a variety of ways. With the overall tax burden on a small business as high as it is, it evaporates the profit margin. Throw in large jumps in the minimum wage and a poor economy, and something has to break.

In 2005, a study concluded that individuals and businesses spent an estimated 6 billion hours and \$265 billion dollars complying with their tax obligations. Compliance costs are predicted to grow to \$482.7 billion by 2015.

As more Americans turn to entrepreneurship to start a new career or to boost their incomes, our 3.7 million word tax code is brutal for small businesses and home-based enterprises that operate on thin profit margins.

Which brings me back to my original thought: A huge government really does not solve much. It is expensive and continues to get in the way of itself.

Right now, at this moment in history, what we need is a thrifty government which operates lean and efficiently and sees a smaller tax burden as a sound investment leading to job creation and lower jobless rates.

Officials try and blame lack of oversight as one of the problems leading up to the collapse of the economy. I don't think it was a lack of oversight. It is probably because imbeciles like Barney Frank were doing the overseeing.

Democrats continue to Blame President Bush for the economy. That's fine and dandy. But, they have been in power in both the House and Senate since 2006. If Bush is to blame, so are the parties in power.

I think it's time like these where common sense is supposed to prevail. I'm guessing the one who coined that phrase was probably thinking the majority of our national elected officials had some to begin with

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Christopher Blackburn is the president of Blackburn Media Group, owner of this publication. Feel free to comment on The Paperboy at <http://thenewbastion.blogspot.com/>



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<b>ACROSS</b> 1 Cowboy starts: kick- 5 TXism: "couldn't buy hay _____ nightmare" (poor) 6 ex-Cowboy Aikman 7 showy actors 8 agcy. that monitors air of TX cities (abbr.) 9 feathery scarf 12 TXism: "if any better the sheriff wouldn't allow it" 17 TXism: "couldn't hit the _____ barn" 19 Corpus Christi: "The Sparkling City by _____" 21 TX Indians used this flower to make dye & jelly 22 Tony Romo toss 23 historic Washington Co. site: _____ Houston House 28 homemade brew: sour _____ 29 call meat 30 TXism: "_____ shave" (near miss) 31 ex-Cowboy _____ "Tall" Jones 35 steamed rice dish 36 "State Library _____ Commission" 42 accommodation at Day's Inn (2 wds.) 44 Las Colinas Mandalay waterway 46 coffee additive 48 TXism: "_____ as a lamb"	<b>DOWN</b> 1 TXism: "they're eatin' out _____ bag" (associated) 2 TXism: "buying _____ pearls" (wasting money) 3 TXism: "wouldn't know him _____" 4 "Simon _____" 9 TX tree: _____ d'arc 10 "Bridge _____" over the Panama Canal 11 Andrews H.S. class 12 TXism: "call _____ day" 13 Telegraph & TX Register was "_____ the TX Revolution" 14 TXism: "_____ seeing eye to eye" 15 it's bigger than TX 16 the state _____ has a 5-pointed lone star 18 historical period 20 Mr. Neiman of Neiman-Marcus 23 Gov. "_____ Ferguson was 1st female gov." 24 ex-Ranger Palmeiro (init.) 25 TXism: "_____ pickings" 26 Tex Beneke sang these for Glenn Miller 27 TXism: "weak _____ -day-old kitten" 32 _____ Pepper 33 "best little puzzle in TX" (abbr.) 34 express surprise 36 displayed at TX museums 37 Sir _____ Coward 38 contributor 39 White of the "Wheel" 40 get in the contest 41 TX lake: La _____ del Rey 43 Houston _____ the army at San Jacinto 45 Pepe _____ Pew 47 to make over 48 TXism: "I'm _____ to know you" 55 Waller of film "Bandit King of Texas"
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## BRIGHT IDEAS

By Alex Mills

President Obama and the leadership of the U.S. House and Senate could learn a lot by listening to the French and Brits regarding energy policy.

While the liberals in Washington want to persecute and drive the domestic oil and gas industry out of business, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and French President Nicolas Sarkozy realize that there needs to be serious cooperation between energy producers and consumers.

Brown and Sarkozy, writing in The Wall Street Journal on July 8, that the world community needs to work together to solve energy problems.

"More immediately, we as consumers must recognize that abnormally low oil prices, while

providing short-term benefits, do long-term damage," Brown and Sarkozy wrote. "They diminish our incentives to invest not only in oil production but in energy savings and carbon-free alternatives.

"Upstream investment worldwide is already down by 20% over the past year. And with some sources of supply in decline, such as Alaska and the North Sea, the resources we will all need as the economy recovers is being developed in neither an adequate nor a timely way.

"There are no easy solutions, and any progress must be made with the full cooperation of the world community and the oil industry," the two leaders wrote.

A key theme to the article was to point out that crude oil price volatility is bad for

consumers and producers.

"For two years the price of oil has been dangerously volatile, seemingly defying the accepted rules of economics," they said.

The price spikes of last year hurt the global economy, and if a new period of volatility occurs in the near future, it could undermine the confidence people are feeling about a recovery.

Brown and Sarkozy called upon world leaders from producing and consuming nations to discuss the volatility issue at a conference of the International Energy Forum. "Producers and consumers are closer now than at any time in the past 30 years to recognizing the huge common interest in giving clear and stable signals to long-term investment," they wrote.

They called upon the International Organization of Securities Regulators to improve transparency and supervision of the oil futures markets in order to reduce damaging speculation.

As Brown and Sarkozy were making their statements, the Commodities Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), the main U.S. futures-market regulator, announced possible changes that would decrease market volatility. The modifications would decrease the influence of speculative investors such as hedge funds and investment banks by limiting how much money any single trader can bet on any one commodity at a time.

Meanwhile, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee continued its attack on fossil fuels as it debated the climate change issue and implementation of a cap-and-trade program. The leadership of the Senate committee, like the leadership of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, fail to recognize that fossil fuels will be the primary energy source for decades to come. Their solution raises energy prices, creates more volatility, and puts government in the middle of this very complicated business. Energy producers and consumers beware. The approach of this administration and Congress will create many unintended consequences.

## God's Promises

By Jim Reid, Pastor  
O'Brien Baptist Church



Several years ago I was counseling a church member about the anger she had with her husband over an argument they were having. She was absolutely livid and refused to give in and forgive him. I shared a scripture from God's Word in the hope of calming her down before more hurt was done. I shared with her, Ephesians 4: 26, 27. "Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity" (NASB). Her reply was, "It's not sundown yet Pastor".

Well, fortunately her reply broke the icy chill of her disposition and we were able to talk and resolve the issue that had created so much anger. Anger is a vicious tool of the devil. He loves to incite rage through any situation and then fuel the reaction of that rage with temptation and sin. Many of us react out of anger instead of responding with reason to cool the anger.

God will always speak with us in our moment of anger to give us the opportunity to resist the devil and listen to God. He can tell by the expression on our face whether we are listening or ignoring Him.

In the story of Cain and Abel, Cain became very jealous and angry with Abel and God when God was not pleased with his offering. Listen to what God asked Cain, Cain became very angry and his countenance fell. Then the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it." (Genesis 4: 5-7 NASB). Cain then rose up against his brother and killed him.

The devil uses anger to instill all motivation to sin. Don't let him master you. In the book of James 4: 7 the Lord speaks, "resist the devil and he will flee from you". This is not a "maybe so" this is a promise of God.

I pray today that God's Word has blessed you and that you will experience His marvelous presence in your life.

## Local Kids Get To Experience Youth Christian Camp for the First Time in 40 years

By Tamara Smart

Most people know the Abundant Life Christian Fellowship Church that sits on the northern side of Main Street as an ever evolving place to worship God. Through the years, this church has gone through several preachers, and various name changes. One thing has never changed, though, the amazing faith of the people that call that church "home". Through the ever present evolution, one thing got left behind the better part of half a century ago. Whether the need was not warranted for a while, or moneys became sparse; about forty years ago was the last time that any of the youth who attend Abundant Life Christian

Fellowship got to attend Church Camp together.

This year a new evolution begins. The church's youth group, also known as "G-Force", a ministry lead by Brandy Wise, will attend Camp in the beginning of August. Two groups of youths will be attending; six "older" (ages 12 & up) youths will attend camp first from August 3<sup>rd</sup> -6<sup>th</sup>, and four "younger" (ages 11 & down) youths will then go to camp from August 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup>. These ten youngsters will be lead by Brandy Wise and Tex Cox to

See YOUTH page 8

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7:00 PM	Rodeo	Food Booths
7:30 PM	Street Dance at City Park	Free Swimming
		Free Watermelon Slices
		Melon Money Give-a-Ways
		Kids Activities
		Live Music Featuring the "CLASS OF '57" Band Playing 50's & 60's Music & Classic Country

**SATURDAY**

8:00 AM	Classic Car Show downtown registration at Gazebo.	<b>SATURDAY EVENING</b>
8:00 AM	Motorcycle Poker Run registration downtown at gazebo	7:00 PM Go-kart Races begin
8:00 AM	Golf Tournament at the Country Club	7:00 PM Rodeo
10:00 AM	Watermelon Festival begins (booths open - City Park)	

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# BENJAMIN NEWS

By Gladene Green

Been hot enough for you? It sure has for me- Certainly hasn't been "fit" weather to be outside especially from mid-morning til night. Guess it will cool down one day soon but right now, all I can think of is that we have the rest of July & all of August ahead of us!

Because of the extreme heat, seems lots of folks are staying home therefore not much news to report. Still very thankful for no real serious illness in the community (that I am aware of). That's always good news.

Here N There  
There has been a little visiting & coming & going taking place. But it has been very slow this past week.

Michelle Brown, Emily & Kelsey spent last week in Ft. Worth with their sister (and aunt) Debbie Goforth & daughter, Megan. They did a lot of fun things including a trip to Six Flags. I bet it was hot but when your young, fun makes you forget being uncomfortable.

Several from here were in Colleyville during the week-end for the wedding of Michael Clower & Megan Sherman. She wedding was Friday evening. Attending were Michael's grandmother, Gloria West, & aunt, Lorene Powers, Ricky & Kathy Acevedo (Ricky was a groomsman) &, of course, Michaels mom & sister, Debbie and Sara. Debbie had a little misfortune while there- she broke her foot! Made her kinda slow getting

around to all the "pre-wedding" doings but she made it & is back home- recuperating. The Jackson family had their annual reunion this past week-end. The crowd was small but the visiting (& food) was great- that according to various family members? The group enjoyed a Mexican food mean Sat. nite & a potluck buffet at noon Sun. They ate at the Methodist Church. Visiting Betty & Roger

Bohannon during the weekend were Kathy & Joe MacDonald, Brooklyn & Joey of Canyon & Rex & Tish Bohannon of Knox City. They also attended the Jackson reunion.

Saw Nafeesa Ebraheim on Fri. She said she & her roommate, Sadie Benson were home for the summer.

They are in school at M.U. Also said they had had a little bad luck- Had their apartment

broken into- Several items taken but had gotten some, if not all, back- I'd say they were very fortunate.

Also saw Francine redder this past week- remember she was in school here several years ago.

She lived in the Decatur-Bridgeport area & has one little girl about 12 years old (Of course, I can't remember her "married" name). It was good to

see her. Her parents are Herman & Mary.

Jessica Moorhouse of Abilene was a weekend visitor with her family, Mike & Debbie & Will.

As I said in the beginning, news is scarce this week. If you have anything to report, call me at 459-3551- I thank you & your friends will, too- Everyone wants to know what's going on in other's lives!

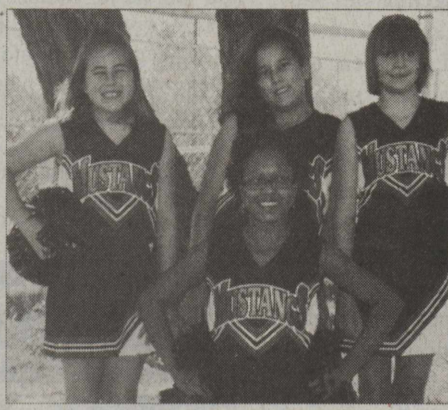
## 2009-2010 Benjamin Jr. High Cheerleaders hold Raffle

By Tamara Smart

Many young girls dream of one day putting on a shirted outfit made of their school colors, carrying pompoms, and having the prestige of a megaphone emblem displaying their name on the side of a football field or basketball court as they cheer their school to inevitable victory. But, as recent movies like "Bring It On" have shown, cheerleading is more than a pipe-dream or a young girls' attempt at popularity as it once might have been labeled. Today the stigma of prissy cheerleaders has been shed and people realize more and more that cheerleaders are fine athletes who are also a walking expression of loyalty to one's school.

The 2009-2010 Benjamin Jr. High cheerleaders hope to embody that last feeling of pride with their cheer style. Under the direction of Shana Heard, the

four BJHS Cheerleaders will task at hand, though, these girls will attend a cheer camp the last week of July. To help fund this camp, the girls will be having a fund raiser raffle sponsored by the Supply House in Knox City. They will be raffling off a 3-room family tent



that sleeps 6 people, a 148 piece crescent wrench toolset with box, & a 9 foot rustic star windmill. They will be selling raffle tickets individually, at BJ Country Store, and at the Watermelon Festival. The drawing will be at the Festival as well. Tickets will be 1 for \$2 or 10 tickets for \$6. For more information about the raffle or for any other way to support the cheerleaders, please call Benjamin school.

To prepare for the cheering raffling off a 3-room family tent

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- I feel sad and/or irritable.
- I don't enjoy the things that once gave me pleasure.
- My appetite and/or weight has changed.
- My sleep patterns have changed, and I now sleep too much, or not enough.
- I am tired all the time and have no energy.
- I can't concentrate, remember things, or make decisions.
- My friends have noticed that I am restless or that my activity has decreased.
- I often think about death, or have even tried to commit suicide.

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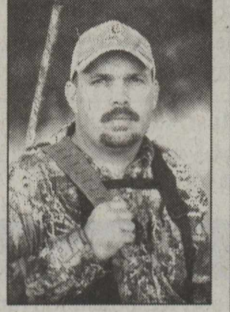
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## Russell Graves Outdoors My Home Away From Home



By Russell A. Graves

I was going to name this column "Blog Cabin" because I thought I would be able to post images and updates as the construction slowly took place. However, building began while I was away and so my brother Bubba kept me updated on the swift construction progress.

A few months ago, my wife and I decided it would be a good idea to build a small cabin on our land close to where we both grew up in Northeast Texas some 250 miles from where we live in the Texas Panhandle. Call our pending lifestyle bi-residential if you will.

While the cabin is a place to stay when me and my gang goes to visit our family and friends, it will also serve as a cool photo prop. When complete the cabin will feature:

- a rustic look perfect for hunting and/or fishing camp shots;
- a country-inspired interior for rural lifestyle photos;
- ample windows for plenty of natural lighting;
- and a broad east-facing front porch for great morning light.

Anyway, while getting started on the construction was painfully slow, it went blazingly fast once the framing crew began.

It isn't a big place but big enough for sleeping quarters. If you've ever stayed in a hotel suite at a Residence Inn, the place is roughly the size of those room. By no means big enough to make a permanent residence but perfect for sleeping and hanging out.

Since "going green" is all the rage, I decided to incorporate some green ideas in the design and construction of the place. After all, it gives me something to write about.

The walls are framed with recycled lumber pieces finger-jointed together. Ample windows allow plenty of natural light and eliminate the need for using a bunch of electricity during the daylight hours.

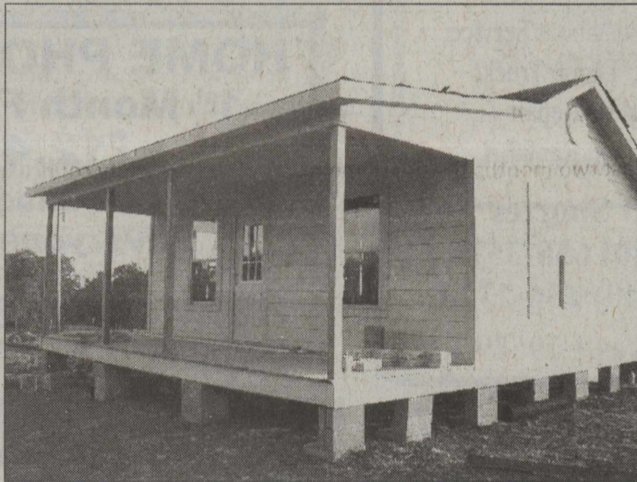
The water system, which in my opinion is the most interesting part of the construction, will consist of roof-captured and filtered rainwater and held for later use in a black poly tank. From the tank, a pump and pressure tank supplies a low-flow shower head, toilet, and kitchen and bathroom faucets. With the square footage of the roof, an inch of rain will yield about 280 gallons of water. The area where the cabin's built sees an average of about 43-inches so chances are, we'll always have an ample supply of water without a monthly bill.

Furthermore, we're installing an R-panel, Galvalume roof which will direct more heat away from the ventilated attic space. We've wrapped the house in a Tyvek-type material and will insulate the attic with a blow-in insulation to further reduce the energy expenditures to heat and cool the place.

The cabin's exterior is lapped Hardiplank siding stained with a cedar stain for an authentically rustic look.

It should be a really cool place when finished.

Any questions or comments? Contact Russell at russell@russellgraves.com or visit his website at www.russellgraves.com



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# Lets Talk Plants

The Texas heat is hard to beat. During this time of the year, we have to wonder how anything can survive the 100+ degree days. Isn't it heartbreaking to see our crops and plants wilt in the heat of the day? Have you noticed how slow the dog moves in the afternoon? Here at the Plant Material Center, we struggle with attempting to keep our newly planted grasses and legumes alive through this heat. This can seem like a lost cause, especially on those days where the wind is howling and the dirt is blowing. Have you ever stopped and thought about how crucial and valuable water is to everything around us? Truly water has to be one of our most important resources. We all see the growing need to protect our water and ensure that many generations to come have the ability to enjoy fresh water. Small steps today can bring big results later. First, avoid overwatering. Determine the amount of water needed to

accomplish your goal. Water needs vary not only by crop, but also by growth stages of a crop. Plants will take in only the amount they need. Everything else is just wasted. Second, water only what needs watering. Too many times, irrigation systems overshoot their target areas and water runs into roads and ditches. Finally, if possible, water during the cool parts of the day. Avoid watering during the hottest part of the day, where more water will be lost to evaporation. This is extremely difficult to do when dealing with large acres, but there are other options when watering through the heat of the day. Large producers as well as urban homeowners can use subsurface irrigation, drag hoses, or sprinklers with larger droplet size to help minimize the amount of water lost to evaporation. Rainwater harvesting is becoming a popular method for homeowners to capture water in tanks for use around their homes and shops. Another idea for

collecting rainwater is to place flowerbeds in areas where water runs during rains. Lucky for us, plants are remarkable organisms that have the ability to take care of themselves and survive the heat. Just remember, it will not be long before we will be ready for it to warm up again.... We invite you to come and see us anytime. The NRCS Field Office staff can assist you in planning all the conservation needs on your land. Or, give us a call at the plant materials center (940-658-3922), we would be happy to visit with you about our plant material releases and research projects. We also welcome groups large or small to come out and tour our center. Let us know when you want to come and we will have someone available to show you around. We are open Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. We look forward to seeing you.

Brandon Carr, Soil Conservationist

# Here comes the parade....

21st Annual Donald Johnson Memorial Seedless Watermelon Festival  
"Experience our brand of TEXAS!"

It's time once again to start getting ideas rolling for your parade floats! We are striving for a bigger and better festival this year, and it all begins on Friday night, July 24th with our downtown parade beginning at 7 p.m. The Chamber of Commerce invites and encourages everyone in Knox City and in the surrounding areas to participate in this year's parade and other Festival Activities.

Please have your float, decorated vehicle, golf cart, go-cart, bicycle or body in front of the High School by 6 p.m. for registration. We are asking that everyone bring something written about your float; what is on the float and why, who you are representing, or an interesting thought or statement about your entry. This will give us something to provide for the announcer as each float is introduced. Remember this is a Watermelon Festival, so each entry must incorporate a watermelon in

some way, whether a picture, a drawing, or the real deal!

We will put out every effort to slow the pace of the procession through town so that everyone will have time to really see each entry.

So round up your friends and family, the members of your Church groups, youth organizations, sports teams, businesses, classmates, or Class reunions...set some friendly challenges and enter a float in the parade! Get ready, get creative, get competitive, get busy and get down to the High School Friday night, July 24th with your entries. With your involvement and participation, this can be the best and the biggest parade Knox City has ever seen! Help us make it worthwhile for everyone to come out and watch, and more importantly, show that our community pride and support are still very much alive!

# Quartz Mountain Music Festival Approaching

Enthusiasm runs high in the quaint town of Granite as the entire community prepares to host the first-ever Celendonio Romero Guitar Institute and the two-day Oklahoma Outback Art Festival; the events are planned in conjunction with three fabulous days of chamber, orchestra and classical guitar music at the 4th Annual Quartz Mountain Music Festival in Quartz Mountain State Park.

hospitality by providing lunch and dinner for the students; Microtel Inn and Suites of Altus will offer discounted housing and breakfast, and Western Oklahoma State College will supply bus transportation. Oklahoma State Reformatory personnel will provide manpower for cleanup and other jobs; and through

See FESTIVAL page 8

Celebrating the Romeros family's 50th year of performing classical guitar, Pepe Romero (2008 music festival guest artist) returns July 21-26 with three other members of the Romero guitar family as faculty for the 1st Celendonio Romero Guitar Institute. For the first time, the Romeros will teach master classes and private one-on-one lessons in classical guitar for up to 20 collegiate-level and pre-professional fellows from across the nation and abroad.

David Palmer, Quartz Mountain Music Festival executive/artistic director, performed with Pepe Romero in Europe. "The Romeros are known as the 'Royal Family of Guitar' and are revered the world over. Everywhere we stopped, about 50 people were there to greet him and he knew most of them by name," Palmer said. "When they come to Granite, you can expect that they will get to know people here as well."

The Romeros, who have dazzled countless audiences and won the raves of reviewers worldwide, will also conduct discussion forums open to the public in Granite during the institute. In a free public student recital at 3 p.m. Sunday, July 26 in Quartz Mountain's air-conditioned Robert M. Kerr Performance Hall, the audience will hear the fruit of the students' labor. For more information or institute registration, call 580-649-7596 or visit www.qmmf.org.

"After working all week with the Romeros, the students will share what they've learned; and the Romeros will talk with the audience from the stage and carry on a dialog about art," Palmer said.

The guitar institute will utilize the Granite School facilities for instruction and Camp Kate Portwood, a rustic Girl Scout Camp in west Granite, for afternoon practice and leisure time. Beautifully located in the shadow of Headquarters Mountain and Mt. Walsh, the camp contains an assortment of air-conditioned and non-air-conditioned meeting places, wide-open spaces, swimming pool, climbing wall, hiking trails, tennis court, natural amphitheater and an inviting wooded area with a bridge over a creek.

Throughout the week, members of Granite's churches will demonstrate small-town

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## Legal Notice

CITY ORDINANCE FOR ANIMAL CONTROL

For the last two months the board members of the Knox City council have been going over the city ordinance for animal (livestock) control. This ordinance covers many different subjects that concern the citizens in Knox City. This ordinance (Article 2.100) covers all definitions of animal (livestock) control. The first line of the ordinance states: it shall be unlawful for any person to violate any of the following regulations and sanitation requirements. Under this ordinance it explains the disposition of litter and droppings, storage of feed, exceptions to the article, permit procedure, approval or rejection, fees, inspection, penalty provision and no permit conditions. There is an annual permit fee of \$50.00 per animal which expires on December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. (Ordinance 1105, adopted 8/14/1984, Section 1-12)

Article 2.200 Dog and Cat Regulations under this ordinance consist of: license fee, issuance of tag, impoundment fees and the list continues. Section 2.202 Prohibiting Dogs Running At-Large Without City Tag and Rabies Tags. This section states that all dogs must be securely contained within a fence providing a minimum of 100sq. feet per dog. This section was updated on 8-14-2003. Under this section article 2.400 Limitation on number of animals states no more than three (3) dogs and/or cats over the age of six (6) months shall be kept on their owner's premises within the city limits.

The City police department has received numerous complaints of livestock and the dogs/cats within the city limits. It is mandatory that all citizens of Knox City comply with this ordinance. The complete ordinance can be read at the City Hall in Knox City. If you are subject to this ordinance you are required to pay the appropriate fees and follow the requirements.

## Legal Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT

Novo Exploration Corporation, P.O. Box 2157, Hurst, TX 76053  
(Company Name / Address)

is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation that is productive of oil or gas.

The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Tannehill (Formation)

Zersell (Lease), Well Number 3. The proposed injection

well is located 2.5 miles SE of Knox City (Direction/ Mils. to Nearest Town)

in the Prayer of Jabez (Tannehill) (Field) in Knox County.

Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 2156 to 3168 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Underground Injection Control Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P. O. Drawer 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711-2967 (Telephone 512/463-6792).

[UPDATED 7/90]

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

**State Capital HIGHLIGHTS**



By Ed Sterling

**More Bad News for the State Budget**

State Comptroller Susan Combs has said tax collections in June were more than 11 percent below collections in June of last year. That could translate into a budget shortfall of \$550 million if the economy continues to falter, with only two months left in the fiscal year.

About half the state's general fund budget is derived from sales taxes on consumer spending,

and Texans aren't spending like they have in recent years. Cities across the state also are wrestling with falling revenues.

Combs said the biggest decline in revenue was from the oil and gas industry, which benefited last year from higher prices and more drilling activity but which has since fallen off.

**Lampasas Publisher to Head State Board of Education**

Gail Lowe has been named chairwoman of the controversial State Board of Education. Gov. Rick Perry selected Lowe, co-publisher of the Lampasas Dispatch Record, after the Legislature refused to confirm Bryan dentist Don McLeroy, the previous chairman and Perry's first choice.

Lowe is solidly in the conservative camp on the divided board, but she has remained largely in the background during bruising fights over evolution and teaching the Bible in public schools in Texas.

Board members are already braced for another fight over the social studies curriculum. A curriculum reviewer named by Lowe has said the Bible and religious beliefs should be emphasized in history and government classes.

Board members, elected from 15 districts around the state, select textbooks and set curriculum standards for Texas schools.

**UT Poll Shows Perry Ahead in Governor's Race**

A new poll by researchers at the University of Texas at Austin has Perry ahead of Republican challenger U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison among voters who plan to vote in the March 2010 GOP primary. Perry was the choice of 38 percent of those who responded to the pollsters, while Hutchison was the preference of 26 percent.

The wild card, of course, is the huge undecided vote. Fully 34 percent of respondents said

they were undecided or planning to vote for someone else. Still, it was good news for Perry after a Rasmussen poll released in May showed him and Hutchison in a dead heat.

**Science Curriculum Progressing at UT System Campuses**

A program to ramp up science classes at University of Texas campuses around the state has been praised as a great success. The UT System plugged about \$3 billion into the effort, which began in 2006. So far, the plan has resulted in 89 new science faculty members and more than 800,000 square feet of new laboratory, clinical and research space, according to system officials.

While only \$74 million was spent on hiring and retaining faculty members at the system's 15 academic and health sciences campuses, those hires have produced millions more in research grants, officials said.

**Gonzales lands at Texas Tech**

Former U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales has been appointed a visiting professor at Texas Tech University in Lubbock. Gonzales, who resigned as attorney general in 2007 after a stormy tenure as head of the Justice Department, will teach a course in contemporary issues in the executive branch.

Gonzales previously served as President George W. Bush's general counsel in the White House and as a Texas Supreme Court Justice before being confirmed as the country's first Hispanic U.S. attorney general. He will earn \$100,000 at Tech.

**Steroid Testing Continues to Find Few High School Abusers**

Only eight cases of steroid use among Texas high school athletes were confirmed among the more than 16,200 tested from January through May. Since

testing began in early 2008 after the Legislature approved the \$6 million measure, more than 45,000 students have been tested for steroid use, and only 19 cases have been confirmed.

Last session, the Legislature cut funding for the program to \$2 million over the next two years.

**Child Drownings Concern Health Officials**

With 63 cases of children drowning in Texas so far this year, health officials are warning Texans to take precautions and never leave children in a pool alone.

Dr. Pat Crocker, chief of emergency medicine at Dell Children's Medical Center in Austin, said children younger than 4 should never be more than arm's length from a watching adult. Swimming pools should be covered and fences locked. Children over the age of 13 should learn CPR.

**YOUTH**

Columbus, TX on these days to participate in the "Discovery Camp". During their stay at the camp, the children will be able to participate in water events, horseback riding, go karts and, of course, have a limitless opportunity to get in touch with God through nightly worship services.

In order to pay for these camps, G-Force is raising money where ever possible. On Friday morning, July 17, they will be selling Krispy Kreme doughnuts in front of Penman's Conoco. The prices will be \$6/doz and \$10/ two dozen. The group will also have a carwash on Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup>. Any other contribution is appreciated. For more information, please feel free to call Brandy Wise at 657-3142 or call Tex at the church at 658-3384.

**FESTIVAL**

the reformatory's Faith Based Program, inmates will give back to the community by creating murals, posters and artwork for the event.

Granite Mayor Tony Scarborough considers the rustic Camp Kate Portwood "a feather in the town's cap." He believes the guitar institute and art show will "put us on the map and put our community's name on peoples' tongues. It will promote the area and hopefully create an atmosphere where we can preserve some of our history and save our downtown. You've got to progressively go after new things; otherwise you stagnate and go backwards."

Culminating the week-long guitar institute, Los Romeros (the guitar quartet) will perform with the Quartz Mountain Music Festival Chamber Players at

8 p.m. July 24 and with the Quartz Mountain Music Festival Orchestra at 8 p.m. July 25, both at the Robert M. Kerr Performance Hall in Quartz Mountain State Park. Purchase \$28 advance concert tickets online at www.qmmf.org (\$15 for students, \$33 at the box office) or call the Altus Chamber of Commerce at 580-482-0210.

The Altus Chamber is also selling festival T-shirts, 2008 festival CDs and raffle tickets for four guitars painted by Oklahoma State Reformatory inmate artists. The drawing for the guitars occurs at the Saturday performance, when the Romeros will autograph the guitars and pose for photos with the winners.

In future years, the Quartz Mountain Music Festival will continue the guitar institute and add four other institutes. According to Dennis Williams of Mangum, Quartz Mountain Music Festival marketing director, "The guitar institute is the first stone in the foundation and will be expanded block by block so that it includes music institutes in different instruments, hosted by cities surrounding Quartz Mountain. As the festival institutes expand, it's going to increase the revenues in the cities. It will all be focused on Quartz Mountain, but each town will get its own piece of the pie; and we have a tremendous potential to fill the arts vacuum in southwest Oklahoma with world-class performance."

**BLUE**

August recess—there is every reason to believe that now that an apparent compromise has been worked out that the House is simply returning to the frightening, lightning pace that it has been moving legislation into law.

For example, the Waxman-Markey energy tax legislation was introduced on May 15th of this year, discharged by the relevant committees on June 19th, and passed on June 26th.

The final version was 1,428 pages long, and it's clear nobody read it before they voted on it. Because they couldn't. A 300-page amendment was proposed at 3:47AM in the morning on June 26th, which was approved by 11:22AM, leaving no time for the amended version to be distributed when the final vote occurred later that same day at 7:17PM.

So, you wonder, the Blue Dogs would want to pretend they are dragging their heels at least a little on socialized medicine.

"We need to slow down and do it right," said Congressman Ross. Or better yet, Mr. Ross, not at all.

The fact is, nobody is

going to believe that the "fiscal conservative" Blue Dog Democrats stand for anything if they cannot, in fact, stop anything. Now, more than ever, they have a high-profile chance to prove to their constituents whether their bite is as good as their bark—or whether they've just been dogging it all along.

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