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KNOX COUNTY NEWS

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NEWS FOR KNOX COUNTY AND KNOX, TEXAS - THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2012

Wells' thrilled to purchase 'hometown' paper

The *Knox County News* will have a few new faces in old familiar places soon.

Tommy and Patricia (Pattie) Wells will assume control of the historic Knox County newspaper from Blackburn Media Group, effective Feb. 1.

A 25-year veteran of the newspaper industry, Tommy Wells will serve as co-publisher and editor of the publication, along with his wife. The *Knox County News* was originally established in 1981 and has operated continuously since then.

"We are thrilled to have the opportunity to purchase the *News*," said Wells, the president of the *News*' parent company, Wells Publishing. "This is a dream come true for my wife and I. We have always dreamed of owning the paper here."

The Wells family currently owns three other publications, including the *Throckmorton Tribune* and *Strawn News-Miner*. The couple also owns *Six-Man Illustrated*, a national pre-season football magazine for the sport of six-man football.

A native of Pasadena, Wells attended high school and college in Ranger before serving in the United States Navy aboard the U.S.S. *Manitowoc* (LST-1180) and the U.S.S. *Boulder* (LST-1190). He began his newspaper career in high school by serving as sports editor for the *Ranger Times*.

He later served as publisher of the *Quad City Messenger* in Palo Pinto County, Texas, before leaving to serve as editor at daily newspapers in Kansas and North Dakota.

He also served as managing editor for the *Russell Daily News* in the late 1990s, before leaving to work Alaska.

"I look forward to working with everyone in the Knox City area," said Wells.

Joining Wells at the helm of the *News* will be his wife, Pattie. She will serve as business manager for the Knox City paper as the couple's other papers. A native of Knox City, she has more than 11 years experience in the newspaper business.

By purchasing the paper, the couple said they ended a 20-plus year dream of owning the paper.

"This is my wife's hometown," said Wells. "This is something special for us."

Pattie Wells is the oldest daughter of former Knox City residents Mary (Collins) Christian and her husband, Raymond. She is also the granddaughter of the late Claud and Ruby Lee Collins.

The couple has four children, including Whitney, 23; Tommy Jr. (Bubba), 20; Kayme, 18; and Bobby 17. They also have two grandchildren, Mallorie, 4, and Dominic, who was born on Jan. 17.

Wells said his children will help with the paper whenever possible. Kayme, an award-winning columnist in Oklahoma, will be a regular contributor.

A graduate of Strawn High School, Tommy Jr. is attending Ranger College. Bobby, a junior at Strawn, is a running back/spreadback. Kayme graduated from Strawn last year and plans to attend Howard College in Big Spring to become a nurse.

"We are looking forward to getting started in Knox City," Wells said. "We are excited about the opportunity to meet the people and experience everything Knox County has to offer."



Courtesy Photo

Tommy and Pattie Wells will assume the reins of The Knox County News on Feb. 1, 2012. The couple also own and operate newspapers in Throckmorton and Strawn.

"We believe a local newspaper is important to every community, and are anxious to contribute what we can to Knox City and the entire county," he added.

Wells said the newspaper will have an "open door" policy to its readers.

"We encourage local input, stories and photo submissions from our readers," he said.

Getting to know those who serve

Knox County Jr. Livestock Show Results



Photo by Sherry Reid

Fireman Bud Reynolds and wife, Sequoyah.

in Knox City was very different", he explained. Bud felt it was important to take an active part in the community and being a fire fighter was just part of that. He added, "Someone had to do it".

The fire station was where it remains today, built by the firemen at night after they got off work. When someone came running in with information about a fire (there were no sirens at that time), the fire truck would leave the station, turn left, and drive slowly down the street in front of numerous businesses in downtown Knox City at that time. The business owners would come running out of their stores, hop on the fire truck or into their vehicles, and off they would go to fight the fire. Bud continued, "Back then, nearly every businessman was a member of the volunteer fire department. There were about 30 members with a waiting list of those who wanted to join.

Bud went on, "The only "excused absence" from fighting a fire was a death in the family." They met once a month and were trained in all aspects of fire fighting. They didn't have fire-fighting gear. Everyone fought the fires dressed "as they were" and many times, their clothes were ruined when it was all over. "But that was just the way it was then", he said.

The worst memory for Bud was a fire which took the life of a man who lived in the gin barracks of the Brazos Valley Gin where the Basic's office is now located. One of the largest fires he fought was when "about half of Knox City burned", he remembered. Lowrey's Department Store, the Chamber of Commerce building, the video store, café, barber shop and movie theater were destroyed. It was never known how the fire started.

The other large fire that he remembers was when the grocery store, located where the Mini Mall is now, and the drug store burned. Then there was the fire that destroyed Lewis Paint and Body Shop and the memory of exploding cans of paint that could be heard all over town.

He then recalls the cotton warehouse fire. Several hundred bales of cotton burned for a long time.

Bud & Sequoyah seemed to enjoy describing the yearly "fire conventions". Firemen and their families from many surrounding counties would gather for different types of contests involving the fire fighting equipment and each team's ability to handle it. Sequoyah described the events as "getting together with one big family and having

THOSE WHO SERVE
 continued on page 5

JANUARY 21, 2012

POULTRY SHOW

Class 1 Broilers

1. Lyndon Baty
2. Chance Baty
3. Sheldon Baty
4. Christian Abila
5. Brady Finley
6. Zachary Rodriguez

Class 2 Broilers

1. Lyndon Baty
2. Sheldon Baty
3. Chance Baty
4. Christian Abila
5. Zachary Rodriguez
6. Laquita Roberson

LAMB SHOW

Market Lamb

1. Kristen Kuehler
2. Kristen Kuehler

GOAT SHOW

Class 1 Market Goat

1. Parker Finley
2. John Shaver
3. John Shaver
4. Haley Erickson

Class 2 Market Goat

1. Carson Lewis
2. Parker Finley
3. Cason Lewis

SWINE SHOW

Lt. Wt. OPB

1. Reylee Ledesma
2. Elissa Sepeda
3. Melissa Rogers
4. Laquita Roberson

Hvy. Wt. OPB

1. Kristen Kuehler
2. Jordan Ruiz
3. Skylin Ledesma

LIVESTOCK RESULTS
 continued on page 5

Attention-Knox City Shoppers

Even though the barricades downtown say, ROAD CLOSED, you may drive into the business area and park as usual. If you don't feel comfortable doing that, the driveways behind all the stores have been resurfaced, and there is a large parking area available to be used. There is also a parking area behind The Pizza Place with entry through their back door. You may even find rear entrances to some of the businesses even easier to get to. So come one, come all and keep supporting our local businesses during this time of improving our downtown area.



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GOD'S PROMISES

Reconciled for Love

By Tex Cox
Pastor, Abundant Life Church
Knox City, Texas

This week I wanted to share something with you the Lord recently blessed me with one morning. Here are His Words exactly as I wrote them down as I woke up one morning.

"We are not reconciled with God just

to be in a relationship with Him. We are reconciled to love God and to love others.

Not so that God can love us.....after all, God already **proved** His love towards us in that while we were yet sinners God so loved the world that Christ died for us.....God **IS** love - - - - our reconciliation allows Love back into us.

We were created to love; it is **natural** to love.

God is love, love is in us to be shed abroad.....let the love of God be shed abroad that we might love God and love others. We are born again to **LOVE**.

Faith worketh by love. We have been given all things (Love) that pertains to life and godliness.

His Love is all we need. God's agape kind of love is what we need for life and godliness."

My prayer is that these words will bless you the way that they blessed me as I meditated on them throughout the day. May His Love shine through you!

Remember - - - - **YOU ARE BLESSED!!!!**

Wichita Brazos Museum and Cultural Center Annual Barbeque

The Wichita Brazos Museum and Cultural Center was made a reality by past and present Knox County residents, friends, and the families of Knox County pioneers through such events as the annual barbeque now set for February 5, 2012, at the Benjamin Memorial Building. The barbeque is one of the longest held events, which helped build and now operate the historical museum, to preserve the history of Knox County from the time it was covered by a salty sea to the present.

There are fundraisers

scheduled each year in Benjamin, Knox City and Munday, and special programs throughout the year at the Museum. In September 2011, Clark Hitt spoke to a large crowd about the Texas Sante Fe Expedition, which came through the "Narrows" in 1840. The main exhibits change each year with new things to learn about each of the eight communities in Knox County. Plus, the museum houses many genealogical books and records for those searching for Knox County family histories. Yes, these are some of the reasons

we have these fundraisers and appreciate your support.

Come and enjoy the meal on February 5th, get in lots of visiting, bid on a silent auction item, and maybe take home some barbeque to eat while you're watching the Super Bowl. For more information, call 940-459-2229.

Knox City/O'Brien Elementary PTO Potato Supper

On Tuesday, January 31st from 5-7 PM, the elementary school PTO will lay out all the trimmings and traditional toppings such as chili and ham, for a fund-raising potato supper. This will also include homemade desserts and will be served in the school cafeteria. Proceeds from the supper will supply books for the library, an end-of-year picnic for the students and their families, "place ribbons" for field day, rewards for TAX tests, and teacher appreciation gifts, among other items. The student from each grade who sells the most tickets receives a T-shirt, and the student who sells the most tickets overall will be presented with a "razor" self-propelled scooter.

The PTO also reports that the Christmas Basket Auction went really well and they pass along their gratitude to each and every person who contributed to that success.

So please mark your calendars for the Tuesday evening potato supper of the 31st, so you won't miss out on an evening of family fun, fellowship and a worthy cause.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Abundant Life Church youth are having a **Krispy Krème Donut** sale Saturday, Feb. 4th, beginning at 6 am at Penman's and Allsup's. If you would like to preorder, please call 256-2256.

Annual Barbeque & Fundraiser for Wichita Brazos Museum, Sunday, Feb. 5, 2012, 11 am to 1:30 pm-Benjamin Memorial Building-Benjamin, Texas.

Drive Magazine, a national magazine that is located in Haskell, Tx is looking for articles on Agriculture Heros. If you would like to submit a story to the magazine, please do so by January 25, 2012. They welcome submissions from all age groups. Submit your story of 300 words or less by January 25th, at <http://drivelivestock.com/magazine>.

The local **Alzheimer's Support Group** meetings will resume their regular 4th Monday meetings on Monday, January 23rd at 3:00 p.m. at the Haskell County Extension Office located at 101 S. Avenue D in Haskell. Caregivers, family members and friends of individuals with Alzheimer's or a related dementia, should consider attending these meetings that are open to anyone in Haskell County or the surrounding area. The monthly meetings offer a confidential environment where participants can share their concerns, support each other, and learn ways to cope with the challenges associated with long-term care giving.

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

The **Knox County Visioning Group** will meet January 19th in Truscott at 4 p.m. at **Brine Lake**. If you've never been to the lake, it is truly a site worth seeing.

Childress Basketball Little Dribblers Tournament will be March 22-24, 2012. Boys and girls division \$65 per team. Deadline to enter is March 11. To sign up or if you have any questions, call Lisa Darter, 940-674-5401.

The **Knox County Retired School Personnel** will meet Tuesday, January 24, 2012 at 2:30 P.M. at the Knox City Methodist Church. The program will be presented by Lorri Coop. Hosts: Joanne Delgado & members.



Talk to your neighbors, then talk to me.

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PINK LADIES

By Billie Walker

Please use the back entrance in the alley to come into the Thrift Store while the construction is in progress. You must not block the alley traffic or you will get a ticket. The store will continue to be open 10 am to 5 pm, Mondays and Fridays with a closed lunch time from 12 to 1 pm. On Wednesdays, the store will be open 1 to 5 pm.

We appreciate the donation of six new bikes from Academy. Twelve members and guests met at Kathie and Jack's for a luncheon meeting Jan. 18, then most of the members attended Peggy McGaughey's memorial service. Thank you donors for keeping us busy. You and our customers are the life of the Thrift Store. Last year, the store's gross sales came to \$25,000.00. It was spent to help the fire department and to help buy an ambulance.

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

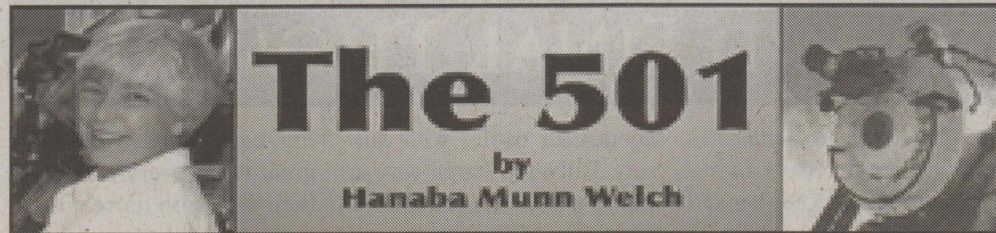
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KCN OFFICE HOURS
Monday - Wednesday • 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. • Closed Thursday • Friday • 9 a.m.-4 p.m.



Anonymous always has been an elusive character. Now he's reinvented himself.

I used to picture him as a little bald-headed cartoon figure with a fat fountain pen, a stray drop of ink hanging in the air as if he had slung it there. He wrote a lot of poetry and stuff that was fairly good - just not good enough to make it into our English literature textbooks. You could always understand what Anonymous wrote. That's what set him apart from the weightier writers of verse and prose - the ones who required some interpretation and merited footnotes.

Stuff written by Anonymous was always fitting - by virtue of its length if nothing else. Anonymous got published in things like church bulletins and funeral programs. Yep, if you needed to fill a space, Anonymous could do it.

Now that the Internet makes it so easy to track down sources of prose and verse, Anonymous is no doubt finding it harder to get credit here and there in print.

Why ascribe something to Anonymous when a Google search might well reveal the writer's real identity? Why risk getting sued for not giving credit?

But don't feel sorry for Anonymous. He's managed to get himself a whole raft of pen names. Or you could say he's got many ghostwriters. Maybe, like me, you're one of them.

Try participating in some sort of online forum without using a made-up user name. If you want to say anything, you've gotta have a fictitious handle. In a way, it's a throwback to CB radio days.

Do those things still work? One came with our used diesel pickup. At least it doesn't have a four-track tape player.

I digress.

If you've still got your ears on, here's the latest on Anonymous. He's everywhere. The Information Age by any other name is the Age of Anonymous. Paradoxically, while video cameras capture footage of us in all sorts of places and paper trails show where we've spent our money and cell phones can be like black

boxes in airplanes, we get to hide behind pseudo identities as we express ourselves to the entire world via the Internet.

I'm not exactly complaining. Anonymity provides a good cloak for hiding from stalkers and others of their ilk. I guess that's why I had to make up a name just to participate in an online dictionary discussion site. Really.

That said, it's often the dark side of human nature that Anonymous reveals, whatever name he's using, when he gets a turn on an Internet soapbox. It's as if he's turned from writing light and innocuous poetry to venting his spleen, using language that puts him at risk of getting his mouth washed out with soap at the hands of his grandmother, if Anonymous has a grandmother. Anonymous seems to have lost his penchant for rhyme and developed one for bad grammar and misspelled words - a trick in itself when computers check both.

Anonymous, if only you cared about your reputation, I'd tell you it's slipping.

New deadline for fafsa priority filing for the University of Texas At Austin

January 18, 2012 - Austin, Texas - The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) priority filing deadline for The University of Texas at Austin has been moved to March 15 in an effort to help students maximize opportunities in their quest for educational funding.

The FAFSA priority filing deadline is the date by which financial aid applications must be filed with the United States Department of Education for students to be assured they will receive the most favorable financial aid package, including as much grant and scholarship funding as possible. The guidelines allow students to apply as early as Jan. 1 if they have obtained all tax and other information that is requested on the FAFSA forms.

Tom Melecki, the university's director of student financial services, said the new FAFSA priority filing deadline will affect about 25,000 prospective and current students seeking financial aid to attend classes in the summer and fall semesters of 2012, as well as the spring semester in 2013.

"The deadline previously had been later in March," said Melecki. "It was moved to March 15 because that matches the date on which the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board requires qualifying resident students to file and ensure 'priority status' for Texas' Top 110 percent scholarships." He said 74 percent of the enrolled freshmen who came from Texas high schools were admitted under Senate Bill 175 (the modified Top 10 Percent Law). About 58 percent demonstrated financial need and therefore qualified for the scholarship in fall 2011.

Melecki said the new priority filing deadline falls on a day when most high schools in Texas are on spring break, a time when families can focus on completing the FAFSA without school-based activities conflicting.

Students who already are enrolled at The University of Texas at Austin may continue to take advantage of on-campus FAFSA completion seminars, which will

be offered throughout the spring semester, prior to March 15.

Contact: Jamie L Brown, Student Financial Services, 512-475-6282.

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2011 Weekly Weather Report

Date	Temperature (F)		Rainfall inches
	Low	High	
01/16	43	78	
01/17	28	56	
01/18	20	61	
01/19	37	73	
01/20	29	84	
01/21	26	51	
01/22	36	70	
Total Rainfall for month			.56
2011 Rainfall (ytd)			.56



The Paperboy

By CHRIS BLACKBURN

Here's something that should get your attention. If it doesn't, then please continue on as if nothing is happening.

Since October 1, 2008, our federal government has spent \$5.2 trillion more than we have taken in.

Does that register with you? Do you know how much money that is?

Right now, our national debt is \$15.2 trillion. That is the equivalent of 15,251 billion dollars ... or one million dollars multiplied 15,251 million times. And the debt it is growing daily.

Wow!

It is hard to imagine that the country who led the world for over a century is so close to the brink of collapse. Even harder to imagine is that there are simple solutions which could actually get this country on track. However, these solutions are only discussed in columns like this or blogs.

For instance, what would you think if our government decided to make it a mandate that after 2015, we will no longer import oil? All oil we consume will come from the United States.

Do you have any idea what that one move would do to the economic climate of this country? And yes - we do have that much oil. Of course, the majority is either on federal land or protected land.

What would you think of your government if they decided to impose a tax on China and other countries for selling their goods in the U.S.? Do you have a clue how much money we'd make if we charged other countries to sell their goods and services in this country? They do it to us, so why shouldn't we level the playing field?

What would you do if your government decided to sell federally owned lands to raise money? The United States government has direct ownership of almost 650 million acres of land. That's almost 30 percent of its total territory. That's much more land than all of Mexico. Surely you didn't think all of the government owned land was National Parks and military bases.

We live in a country where just over half of the workforce pays federal income tax. In this same country, we have more retiring than we do entering the workforce. So, the status quo cannot continue.

If we don't look at our problems and face them head on then this country will suffer the same fate as the Roman Empire. And when it gets bad, what happens when Texans and Oklahomans grow tired of footing the bill for defunct states like California, Michigan and New Jersey?

I'm not trying to sell you doom and gloom. This is the reality of the country we live in. A country on the brink because of the collective greed of our elected officials and very poor management and leadership.

Unfortunately, there may not be enough people who understand or care to make a difference. Take a look at your children or grandchildren and decide what kind of future you want for them. If that future includes any semblance of the American Dream, then it's time you rise and make a difference.

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

KC AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

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Thomas Carter, Pastor
406 2nd Street • 658-3517
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Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m. Evening Bible Study - 7 p.m. Monday, Breakfast Bible Study 6:30 a.m. Tuesday, Morning Bible Study 10 a.m. Wednesday, Youth Fellowship 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Worship Team Rehearsal 7 p.m. Wednesday, Outreach Lunch 12 noon every 3rd Sunday
No Sunday Evening Service

ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP - Knox City
Tex Cox, Pastor
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Classes 5:00 p.m. • Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Prayer Warriors 6:00 p.m.

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

SANTA ROSA CATHOLIC CHURCH BILINGUAL - Knox City
Father Charles Gorantla • Deacon Ben Vasquez
Sunday Mass at 11 a.m.

LIBERTY COMMUNITY C.O.G.I.C. - Knox City
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Monday Evening Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

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Saturday Mass at 6 p.m. • Sunday Mass at 9 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

O'BRIEN BAPTIST CHURCH - O'Brien
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship at 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship at 6 p.m., Mid-Week, Wed. at 6 p.m.
Sunday Mornings on KVRP 97.1 at 9:05 a.m.

WEINERT FOURSQUARE CHURCH
Rob Harrison, Pastor
Sunday Morning Worship at 11 a.m.

MUNDAY CHURCH OF CHRIST
Adrian Fletcher, Pastor

THE CHURCH DIRECTORY IS BROUGHT TO YOU EACH WEEK BY THESE GENEROUS SPONSORS:

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SAMMIE'S KNOX CITY CORNER AND FINAL THOUGHTS

Monday has come and gone and people in our small town are enjoying the weather and hoping that the new construction downtown is well underway.

Diana's mom was in Abilene, and Wednesday was moved to Hospice and passed away on Saturday. Diana and her husband returned home and she went on to Munday on Sunday to make arrangements for her mom, Mrs. Dominga Ramirez services. They were held Tuesday morning at 10:30 am in Rhineland at St. Joseph's Catholic Church and burial followed at Munday cemetery. May God be with them at this great time of need. Our prayers and thoughts are with them.

Dionisia Estrada is staying with Diana, her daughter, in Brownwood. The chemo

treatments have made her ill, so it is better for her to remain there and not have to move around so much. Our prayers remain in full force for her and her family as we hope these treatments will lead to her recovery. My prayers are constantly with her and her kids. She's always on my mind. Hope to see her home soon.

Ray Rodriguez has had a wonderful week. He received a great report from his doctor this last Wednesday. He's on his way to more fun days ahead. The best thing was to meet his granddaughter in Abilene for lunch. She couldn't wait to see her Pipa. Her mom and step-dad are abroad in Turkey while he is in the service. She'll be visiting Roy & Railey hopefully in the next week or so before she returns back to Turkey

with her stepfather. He will be coming to take her and her step-brother back home. They still have 2 years before they will hopefully be transferred back to the states. Believe me, I've never seen Roy so happy and excited to see such a little girl wrap him around her little finger. Thank you God.

Please keep Amanda and Alfredo Abila in your prayers. Time has taken a toll on that family. We pray for God to remove the health issues.

Evelyn Balis has been having a very hard time getting around, but she is scheduled for more tests in the near future. Hopefully they will find out why she's having so many problems and may she return home feeling much better. She was telling me that her granddaughter has

developed Stage 2 diabetes at 5 years old. She's such a brave little girl. Keep her and her family in your prayers.

Mrs. Kemletz was also in Hendrix hospital last week. As I visited with her caregiver Imelda Bernal, she was returning home Wednesday of last week to recover at home. They both returned home safely.

James and Jimmie Klutts are still having a hard time with their health. Hopefully this weather will straighten out soon and it will help lots of people feel better.

This week we missed Mr. & Mrs. Reynolds at church. Apparently they were not feeling well and we pray they both will be feeling better soon.

Sunday, I had a long, nice time to sit and drink coffee and listen to two guys talk

about their battles with cancer. Billy Joe Large was so funny and at the same time, so loving of his family and thankful for life itself. Billy Joe is still undergoing chemo and taking it one day at a time. He enjoys his wife, Linda, the boys and grandkids so much.

Then there is Ray Penman who has been cancer free for some time now. He really looks good and says he feels great.

Let me tell you, all the stories I have listened to and shared with lots of people in this small town has made me realize what life is really worth. So to live one day to its fullest and to take things one day at a time really makes sense. That is what's so great about going to have coffee at Bud's every morn-

ing, cause I know there's a great story every time I fill their cup with more coffee. I'm glad they have really picked up where my dad left off, cause their stories are so intense sometimes, I can almost see what they are talking about. You'll laugh and you'll cry, but its all worth it in the end.

I hosted a dinner in our home and lately I have been doing as much of it as I can with out kids and friends, because there's so much to share. It's so much fun and so relaxing that at the end of the day, it's all just great.

If I have missed someone or something special, please call me and let me know.

Have a wonderful week and be safe.

God Bless our Troops
And each one of us.

Sammie

Iphone/Ipad Workshop, an Asset for Farmers

LUBBOCK - iPhones and iPads may not be new to the younger set, but to many older farmers they can remain a mystery.

To overcome this "fear of the unknown," the Texas AgriLife Extension Service has launched a new educational project aimed at teaching farmers iPhone and iPad agricultural applications.

Four hands-on workshops with the same curriculum are scheduled from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in January.

Dates and locations are:
- Jan. 23, Lubbock, Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center, 1102 E. Farm-to-

Market 1294.

- Jan. 27, Plainview, South Plains College, 1920 W. 24th St.

- Jan. 30, Amarillo, Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center,
6500 W. Amarillo Blvd.

- Jan. 30, Dumas, Holiday Inn Express, 1932 S. Dumas Ave.

"We want our AgriLife Extension team to train producers to use these apps so they can best manage risks in their business and improve their financial bottom line," said Dr. Jackie Smith, AgriLife Extension economist at Lubbock. "They'll learn to access mar-

ket data to help evaluate pricing strategies, while improving their knowledge of costs and break-evens through use of the Cost of Production app our team developed."

Smith said other apps will relate to crop insurance, marketing plans; optimum irrigation water allocation, time-saving calculators and other tools.

Each workshop participant will have access to iPads with apps already installed, Smith said. They'll use case studies to improve their price and production risk management skills.

Workshops will be restricted

to 30 participants. Husband-and-wife participation will only require one registration fee. Registration is \$50 to be paid at the door by check.

For more details on each workshop, go to <http://SouthPlainsprofit.tamu.edu> and click on iPhone/iPad Workshops.

To reserve a spot in any of the workshops, call the Lubbock center at 806-746-6101 and ask for Viki. An Apple iPad 2 donated by a sponsor interested in encouraging farmers to participate in these educational programs will be given away at the last workshop in a drawing of all the workshops' participants, Smith said.

Children Using Cell Phones as Toys Pose a Problem for 9-1-1

By Nicki Ivie Ledesma

Knox County 9-1-1 Supervisor

In recent months, we at the Knox County 9-1-1 Central Dispatch office have noticed an increase in the number of calls we are receiving from **disconnected cell phones**. Although these phones are disconnected from regular service, a caller still has the ability to dial 9-1-1 from the phone.

When a call of this nature is received, the dispatcher is able to see that the call is coming in from a disconnected cell phone. In most cases, the exact location of the call is also given. It is the duty of the dispatcher to determine whether the person calling is in need of assistance or not. This can be difficult if the caller is a child playing with the phone. Often times, the child does not understand when the dispatcher asks to speak with Mommy or Daddy. The child may also fear getting into trouble. The adult may hear the child talking to someone but simply dismisses it as the child talking to an imaginary

person on the phone. The dispatcher is unable to call the number back due to the phone being disconnected. Therefore, it becomes necessary to dispatch a law enforcement officer to the location to see if there is an emergency situation. During all this time the 9-1-1 phone line, the dispatcher, and the law enforcement officer are tied up for what, in most cases, ultimately turns out to be a non-emergency situation. This is not simply a matter of inconvenience, as it is possible that it could delay response to someone who is truly in need of emergency assistance.

Knox County 9-1-1 Central Dispatch receives, on average, 30 calls of this nature per month. We ask that the public assist us in eliminating this problem. Please remove the battery from cell phones before storing them or allowing children to play with them. This will help ensure that our emergency services are not tied up unnecessarily and are free to aid those in need of emergency assistance in a timely manner.

Extension offers youth veterinary program

AMARILLO - Texas AgriLife Extension Service's Potter County 4-H and Youth Development program is sponsoring a program that will help youth begin a career in veterinary medicine.

An orientation workshop to introduce the program will be held at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 27 at the AgriLife Extension office for Potter County, 3301 E. 10th Ave., Amarillo.

The meeting is open to area youth ages eight to 16 years, said Brandon Boughen, AgriLife Extension agricultural and natural resources agent

for Potter County.

Students who sign up for the program will be committed to a five-year study course and apprenticeship that is career-oriented, job-trained - meaning throughout the program they will work directly toward a career in veterinary medicine, Boughen said.

While completing the curriculum of 100 lessons and 50 activities, students will focus on the major careers of veterinary medicine: veterinary assistant, veterinary technician, and veterinarian, he said.

The classes are geared

to the grade level of the students, Boughen said. High school students will have the opportunity to accelerate the time frame of the curriculum to two, three or four years.

The students will be placed in a setting to work under the supervision of veterinarians and are expected to complete hours of observation and a minimum of 500 hours of clinical skills on the job, usually in the veterinary clinic, he said.

Students who successfully complete the study course and apprenticeship of clinical

skill hours will receive a certificate of completion and the classification as a veterinary assistant, Boughen said.

The students will be qualified to apply for certification by examination as a certified veterinary assistant through the Texas Veterinary Medical Association, he said. Students planning to become a veterinary technician or a veterinarian will be counseled to pursue the required college degree programs.

To RSVP for attendance or more information please contact Boughen at 806-373-0713.

Classifieds get results!

Knox County Market Place

For Rent

Knox City Housing Authority (KCHA) has 1, 2, and 3 bedroom apartments available for immediate occupancy to eligible applicants in both HUD and USDA-Rural Development programs. Rental assistance is available for most units. Applications for housing may be picked up at 203 SW 4th Street in Knox City, Texas or call 940-657-3612 for more information. It is the intent of KCHA to offer vacant units to income ineligible (high income) applicants when there are not income eligible (very low or low income) applicants on the waiting list. KCHA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Help Wanted

Full time, second shift, LVN. Apply in person, Mon-Fri, 9am to 5pm-Haskell Health Care Center, 1504 North First St.-Haskell, or call Administrator at (940)864-8537

Licensed vocational nurse positions available. Please apply in person at Brazos Valley Care Home, 605 S. Ave. F, Knox City.

Wanted full time LVN's. Contact April, Roby, RN, Director of Nurses, at Gibson Care Center, Aspermont, TX 940-989-3526.

Now hiring, Penman's Convenience Store, Knox City. Apply in person at 609 E. Main St.

Knox County is accepting applications for a full time Rotan position. Applicants must be willing to work four, 10-hour days, Monday thru Thursday. Must have a valid drivers license and be willing to obtain CDL within one year of hire date. Applications may be picked up at the courthouse in Benjamin in the treasurer's office. Applications will be accepted until 5 pm Jan. 27, 2012.

Quick easy money for helping put an older person in Knox City into bed. Takes about 15 minutes. Flexible time, 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm. REFERENCES, BACKGROUND CHECK. (940) 658-5054.

Knox County is accepting applications for a full-time road hand position. Applicants must be willing to work four 10 hour days, Monday through Thursday. Must have a valid driver's license and be willing to obtain CDL within one year of hire date. Applications may be picked up at the courthouse in Benjamin in the Treasurer's office. Applications will be accepted until 5:00 pm, February 3, 2012. (0202c)

For Sale

2 bedrooms, 1 bath, large back yard, detached single garage, 308, S. 3rd, KC, call 1-806-543-3131.

Miscellaneous

Application for Local Option Election Petition to Legalize the legal sale of beer and wine for off-premise consumption only, in the City of Knox City, Texas.

It is the hope, purpose and intent of the applicants whose signatures appear hereon to see legalized the sale of alcoholic beverages referred to in the issue set out above. Pat Gonzales, Kimberly Gonzales, Donna Wojcik, Stan Wojcik, Stacy Hedgecohe, Tommy Mangis, Danny Lewis, Betty Johnston, Chad Roberts, Roland Marion. Date Published, January 19, 2012. This application will be filed with Chad Roberts, City Clerk, City of Knox City, Texas.

I Shari Shelton am making application to the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a package store permit and a wine and beer off premises permit located at 3102 FM 222, Knox City, King County, Texas 79529, The Shaparral.

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The Knox City Housing Authority (KCHA)

has decreased the flat rent rates

New flat rent monthly rate are:

\$200 for efficiency or 1 bedroom apartment

\$250 for 2, 3 or 4 bedroom apartment

KCHA apartments have new windows, doors, and screens. All apartments have central heat and air conditioning, large closets, and family units are available. Call 940-657-3612 for more information or come by 203 SW 4th Street in Knox City, Texas to pick up an application.

Eligible applicants may choose income based rates or flat rent at move-in. Income based rent could be even lower than the preset flat rates! Water, sewer, and garbage is included in rent.

It is the intent of KCHA to offer vacant units to income ineligible (high income) applicants when there are not income eligible (very low or low income) applicants on the waiting list. KCHA is an equal opportunity provider.

KNOX COUNTY TAXPAYERS SAVE

PAY YOUR 2011 PROPERTY TAXES BY JANUARY 31ST, 2012 BEFORE PENALTY AND INTEREST ARE ADDED. TEXAS LAW REQUIRES 7% PENALTY AND INTEREST BE ADDED ON FEBRUARY 1ST, 2012 AND THEN 2% EACH MONTH UNTIL JULY 2012 WHEN PENALTY AND INTEREST IS 8%. INTEREST CONTINUES TO ACCRUE AT 1% PER MONTH THEREAFTER. ON JULY 1ST, 2012 AN ADDITIONAL 20% OF THE TOTAL DUE IS ADDED TO DEFER COLLECT COST.

BENJAMIN NEWS

By Gladene Green

It is certainly true, isn't it? If you don't like Texas weather, stay around because it's gonna change and change it has. Sunday was a reminder of years ago with high winds and lots of sand. Then on Monday everything was much more calm and pleasant and now today (Tues.) there's a chance of rain. So if variety is the spice of life, then weather-wise, we have it.

REGARDING OUR ILL

Deann Lamb is a patient in Knox County hospital. She was admitted on Thursday after suffering a fall at her home. She is in a lot of pain, but hopefully it won't be long before she is feeling better.

Corrine Parrish was in Abilene one day last week for another shot for her

back. It has given her a lot of relief and therefore, she feels much better.

Tibb Burnett has been taking shots for his knee and they, too, are helping him. It's wonderful to have something that will ease our aches and pains (without surgery).

I saw Crystal Baldwin last week and she said her little son, Andrew, is doing great. Remember he had the heart surgery in August and stayed several days in Cook's Hospital in Ft. Worth and they surely did a good thing for him as he's as good as any little boy his age. He's about 14 months old, I think. Crystal also told me (and showed me a picture) of her sister, Becky's new baby boy. Becky lives near Monahans and the baby is not very old. His name is

Matthew.

Chad Tolson continues to improve and that's good news. He still has some problems but every day is a little better and for that, everyone is thankful.

A belated expression of sympathy to the family of Peggy McGaughey. Peggy passed away on Sunday, the 15th, after several months of failing health. Tho she's missed, her family knows she's in a better place and they take comfort in that.

HERE 'N THERE

Debbie Niel returned to her home in Boca Raton, Fla. last Tuesday after a couple of weeks visit here with her mom, Mary Young, and other relatives and friends.

Shelby Russell was home for the weekend after her first week at M.U. She's liking it real well and

is getting acquainted with the other students and getting more familiar with the campus.

Jimmie Kay & Don Liles who live near Longview were recent Benjamin visitors. Her daughter, Shannon Propps returned home with them for a few days visit.

I saw DeAnn Stamps on Sunday. She is the daughter of Dee and the late Mary Stamps and they are former residents of Benjamin living on the League Ranch. DeAnn lives in Lubbock. She said her dad still lives at Post and is doing well. It was good to see her.

Don't forget the museum benefit dinner coming up on Feb. 5. I'll be calling to get donations of pies or deviled eggs for the meal, so be thinking what you would like to make. It will be appreciated.

Sarah Clower of Benjamin Makes President's List

Abilene, Tx - January 23 2012 - Sarah Clower of Benjamin, Texas, has been named to the Hardin-Simmons University President's List for the fall 2011 semester.

The President's List is comprised of students carrying 12 or more semester hours who obtain a perfect GPA of 4.0. Congratulations to this area student!

LIVESTOCK RESULTS continued from page 1

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 4. Skylin Ledesma | Breed Champion |
| 5. Chase Wilson | Jr. Showmanship |
| 6. T. J. Moore | 2. William Patterson |
| Lt. Wt. Duroc | Reserve Breed Champion |
| 1. Alexia Jimenez | Sr. Showmanship |
| Reserve Grand Champion | 3. Kolby Brown |
| 2. Tori Everson | 4. Cassandra Ledesma |
| 3. Tanna Moeller | 5. Laquita Roberson |
| 4. Tanna Moeller | 6. Callie Cude |
| Med. Wt. Duroc | 7. Cassandra Ledesma |
| 1. Madison Thompson | Lt. Wt. Cross |
| Breed Champion | 1. Skylin Ledesma |
| 2. Tylynne Eaton | 2. Tanna Moeller |
| 3. Denise Havner | 3. Tyler Kinnibrugh |
| 4. Terri Romine | 4. Ty Baker |
| 5. Laquita Roberson | 5. Katelyn Brown |
| Hvy. Wt. Duroc | Lt. Med. Wt. Cross |
| 1. Elissa Sepeda | 1. Austin Valimont |
| 2. Christian Abila | 2. Kendal Thompson |
| 3. Ryder Dillard | 3. Christian Abila |
| 4. Jordan Eaton | 4. William Patterson |
| 5. Callie Cude | 5. Cassandra Ledesma |
| 6. Krystofer Campos | 6. Cassandra Ledesma |
| Lt. Wt. Hampshire | Med. Wt. Cross |
| 1. Kristen Kuehler | 1. Shannon Reeves |
| 2. Tori Thompson | Reserve Breed Champion |
| 3. Katelyn Brown | 2. Katelyn Brown |
| 4. Tylynne Eaton | 3. Kristen Kuehler |
| Lt. Med. Wt. Hampshire | 4. Sydney Thompson |
| 1. Reylee Ledesma | 5. Skylin Ledesma |
| 2. Kolby Brown | 6. Chase Wilson |
| 3. Jordan Eaton | 7. Kolby Brown |
| Med. Wt. Hampshire | 8. Sierra Boyd |
| 1. Kristen Kuehler | Hvy. Wt. Cross |
| Breed Champion | 1. Shannon Reeves |
| Reserve Grand Champion | Breed Champion |
| 2. Austin Valimont | Grand Champion |
| 3. Tori Everson | 2. Madison Thompson |
| 4. Tayler Wilson | 3. William Patterson |
| 5. Tyler Kinnibrugh | 4. Ryan Ledesma |
| 6. Jacob Gonzales | 5. Jacob Gonzales |
| Lt. Hvy. Wt. Hampshire | 6. Laquita Roberson |
| 1. Alexia Jimenez | STEER SHOW |
| 2. Ryan Ledesma | Lt. Wt. Steer |
| 3. Laquita Roberson | 1. Logan Groves |
| 4. Kelsey Vasquez | Grand Champion |
| 5. Raci Dilliard | Sr. Showmanship |
| Hvy. Wt. Hampshire | 2. Shannon Reeves |
| 1. Reylee Ledesma | 3. Ian Lagway |
| Reserve Breed Champion | Hvy. Wt. Steer |
| 2. Shannon Reeves | 1. Alexia Jimenez |
| 3. Kendal Thompson | Reserve Grand Champion |
| 4. Denise Havner | Jr. Showmanship |
| 5. Jacob Gonzales | 2. Trey Tidwell |
| Yorkshire | 3. Shannon Reeves |
| 1. Kristen Kuehler | 4. Grace Tidwell |

THOSE WHO SERVE continued from page 1

ing a wonderful time."

The first scanner the fire department received was in 1986. Bud has that scanner today and explained how people laugh when they see it. It's about the size of a cell phone. Today's scanners are larger, very technical and more sophisticated. The scanner back then allowed the firemen to go directly to the fire instead of reporting to the station, and that saved valuable time.

Bud and Sequoyah begin to laugh as he recalls one night when the firemen heard about a house fire and all of them responded immediately. When they all arrived, no one had the fire truck.

When Sequoyah was asked how she felt about being a volunteer fireman's wife, she said when they were young, being a firefighter was just part of life. Bud was called out any hour of the night since he worked for WTU, so being called out to fight a fire just went along with everything else. She did say she would always pray for his safety.

Bud and Sequoyah lived away from Knox City for about five years before returning here. In 1960

they lived in Matador, then moved to Crowell for a year, beginning in 1964. Bud was a volunteer fireman in both these towns. In 1965 they returned to Knox City where they've lived since then for a total of 58 years of marriage.

Bud says of his time as a volunteer fireman, "It's an achievement just to have served". Even though he serves differently now, "it will always be a part of our life", he says. Bud spoke with great respect of Roland Martin and Bill Stewart who he said were such an important part of the fire department for so many years.

In 1997, Bud was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from the fire department which read; In recognition of the Distinction of 47 years of continuous service as a fire fighter for the Knox City Fire Department, Dec. 15, 1997. Another award reads; The Knox City Fire Department honors Tommie O. (Bud) Reynolds, 1950 to 2004. In appreciation for your dedicated service and heart felt love for our community. "Forever May God Bless You!" Thank You.

WIN 20,000 TO KICK OFF YOUR NEW BUSINESS!

January 20, 2012 - Knox County, Tx. - The Knox County Visioning Group announces the "Springboard Ideas Challenge" is back, giving anyone with a business idea in Knox County, including high school students, the opportunity to submit a Business Plan that may bring them \$20,000 to invest in their new business or expand their existing business. According to Jimi Coplen, Knox County Visioning Group Manager, "Don't turn down free money! This money will not always be around, and there are no other grants like this one!"

Coplen's announcement stated: The Springboard Ideas Challenge is a mini-business plan competition with the goal of providing aspiring entrepreneurs in Abilene and the surrounding West Texas Region an opportunity to get their business up and running with significant cash and in-kind prizes. Each team must submit a written mini-business plan for their concept, addressing the fundamental issues that would be of interest to potential investors. After a preliminary round of judging based on their written plans, finalists present their ideas to a live panel of judges, who determine the winning plans.

Important Dates for Springboard Ideas Challenge 2012:
Friday, February 24, Business Plan Class

Thursday, March 1 - Early Registration Deadline (\$10 fee)
Wednesday, March 21 - Final Registration Deadline (\$20 fee)

Wednesday, March 28 - Mini-Business Plan Submission Deadline

Tuesday, April 17 - Awards Dinner

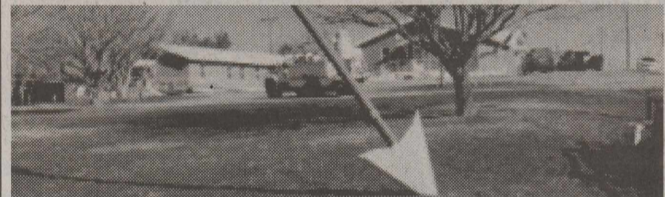
Check out the prizes and rules here: <http://www.acu.edu/academics/coba/griggscen/springboard/ideas/rules.html>

Check out the 2011 Winners here. Knox City Hometown Variety Store is on this list. <http://www.acu.edu/academics/coba/griggscen/springboard/ideas/winners.html>

Here is the full schedule and a class that will be hosted to help you write your business plan. It is Feb. 24th. <http://www.acu.edu/academics/coba/griggscen/springboard/ideas/schedule.html>

Coplen continued, "Pass this on to your friends in Knox County who may have a business idea. It's truly a great opportunity for cash and help flushing out an idea. If you decide to participate, please let me know, 940.459.4121".

GIANT ARROW LANDS JANUARY 26, 2012 AT BOYS RANCH at 11:00, and DALHART at 1:00.



Have you seen the 22-foot Giant Arrows that have been landing all over the Plains Trail Region? These historic arrows, courtesy of sculptor and artist Charles Smith of New Home, and the Texas Plains Trail Region in conjunction with the Quanah Parker Trail project, are being placed around the region to help develop a cultural and historical trail that uniquely highlights the region's history, and sets it apart from all other areas of Texas. The Giant Arrow honors the landmarks, sites, events, and artifacts that link our region to the story of the Native Americans who last roamed the Texas panhandle plains, known as, "The Last Frontier".

Quanah Parker not only posed a valiant last stand to defend the lands and way of life of his people, but he insightfully realized when surrender was necessary in order to save his people from defeat and death at the hands of the U.S. Army. Before he died in 1911, Quanah Parker returned frequently to towns and ranches of the Texas Plains Trail region. In this new role, he functioned as a diplomat, businessman and leader for his people to help all, both Native Americans and pioneer settlers alike, forge a bridge of understanding between the two cultures. Contact us if you would like more information or Visit the [TPTR/Quanah Parker Trail Website here.](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

Knox City, on State highways 6 and 22, Farm Road 143, and the Santa Fe Railroad, in a region known as Knox Prairie in southwest Knox County, was founded in anticipation of the arrival of the Kansas City, Mexico and Orient Railway, which began service in 1906.

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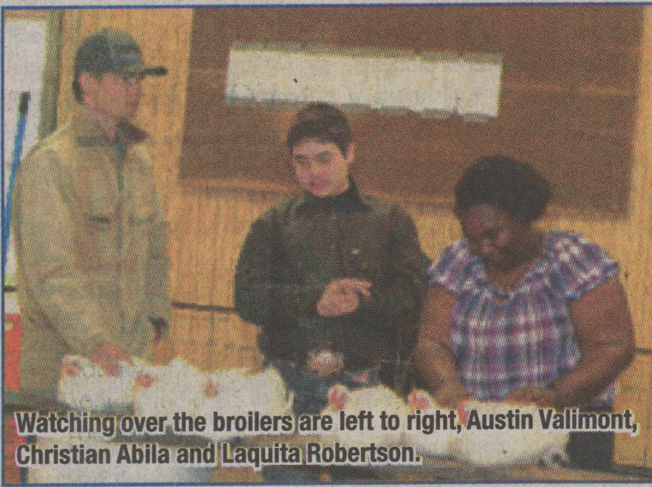
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Knox County Livestock Show



Watching over the broilers are left to right, Austin Vallmont, Christian Abila and Laquita Robertson.



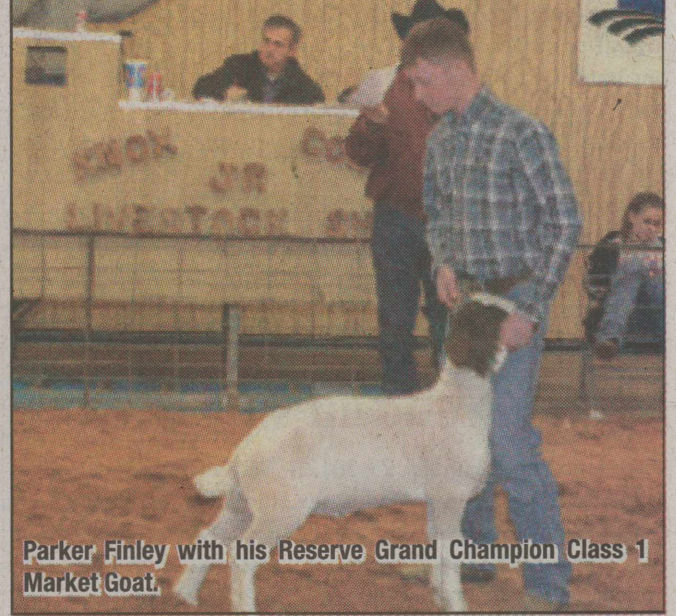
Chance Baty proudly holds up his red ribbon for Second Place, Class 1 Broilers.



Logan Groves with his Grand Champion Sr. Showmanship Lt. Wt. Steer.



Carson Lewis with his Grand Champion Class 2 Market Goat.



Parker Finley with his Reserve Grand Champion Class 1 Market Goat.



Loquita Roberson gets a helping hand while displaying her Class 2 Broilers.



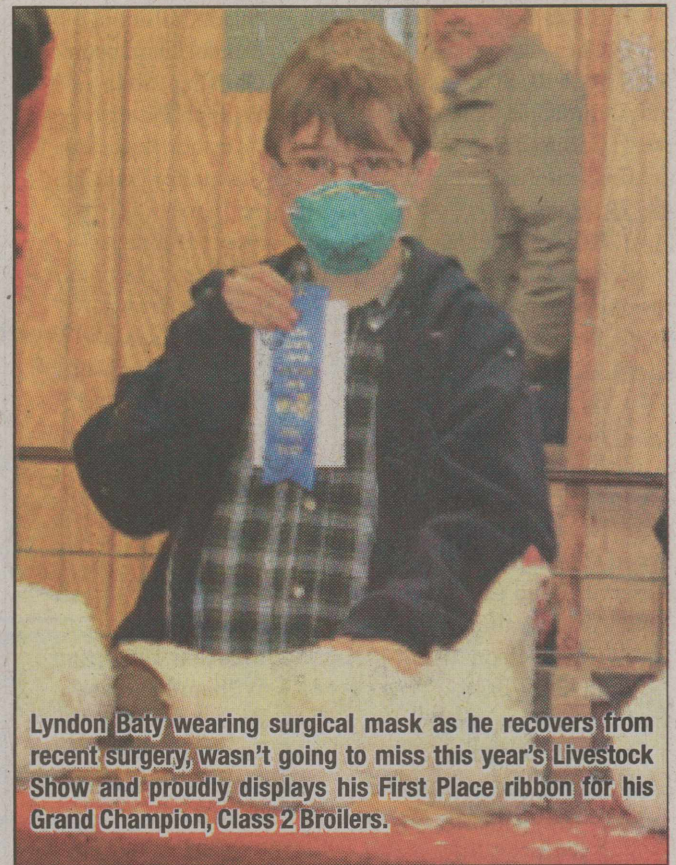
Sheldon Baty proudly holds his Class 2 Broilers, Reserve Grand Champion Ribbon.



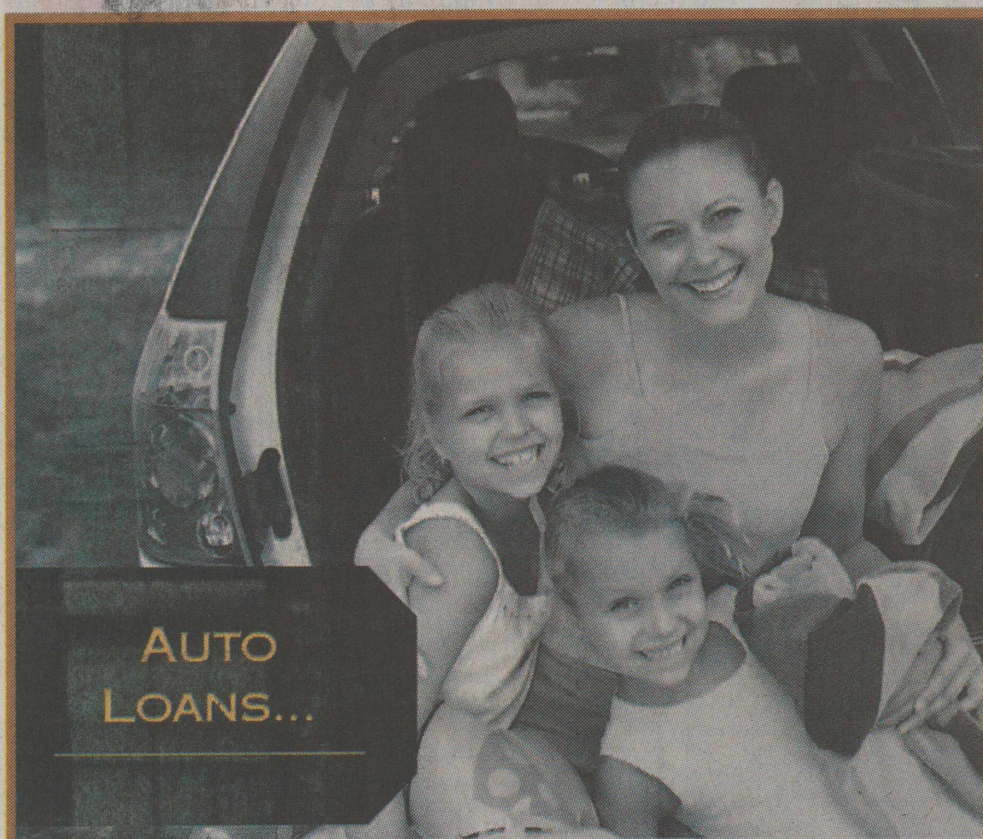
Kristen Kuehler with her Market Lamb, Grand Champion, Jr. Showmanship.



Alexia Jimenez with her Reserve Grand Champion Hvy. Wt. Steer.



Lyndon Baty wearing surgical mask as he recovers from recent surgery, wasn't going to miss this year's Livestock Show and proudly displays his First Place ribbon for his Grand Champion, Class 2 Broilers.



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Kayla Hunter proudly escorts her goat around the ring for the judge.