

# COMMUNITY/OPINION

## Concord News

The Concord News is written this week with a heavy heart due to the closing of the Jewett Messenger. According to the Texas History Archives, there was a weekly named the *Independent Farmer*. It became the *Jewett Messenger* in 1885. That is when John S. "Jack" or "Uncle Jack" Robinson started the paper. He was known for his "colorful and creative" stories and the slogan, "Picked up and Printed Regardless." When "Jack" died in the mid 1940's his only daughter Annabelle Robinson Pettey took the helm. She operated from the same Messenger office, that stood under the two old cottonwood trees on Highway 79 near the old baseball field and present day Jewett Flea Market. At Annabelle's death in 1964, her only child, Leonard D. "Dub" Petty and his wife, Carolyn, ran the paper from their home in Waco. In the early 1990's they built a home near Jewett and continued publishing from there, also maintaining an office in town. In 2000, the Petteys sold the paper to Peggy Robinson and retired. Peggy sold the business to David Clute in 2011. (*Information provided by Peggy Robinson Estep*)

As a child I can remember my grandparents receiving the *Jewett Messenger* each week in their Route 2, Jewett, mail box. The paper was only one large sheet of newsprint- front and back so it was 4 pages. Everyone in the house who could read would read the paper but my grandpa was always the first. I also remember it being rolled up and used to start the fire in the fire place. Mrs. Ber-



June 1, 2000, sale of Messenger from Carolyn and Dub Pettey to Peggy.

tha Burke (Mrs. Edith Lagrone's mother) was the first one that I remember writing the Concord News. After her death, my mother Ruby Lee Speer wrote the news until her death in 2003. Next Mrs. Edith Lagrone and I were co-writers until her death in 2020. Now in 2021 you are reading the final copy of The Jewett Messenger!

The Marquez Volunteer Fire Department had the best fund raiser ever on Saturday, November 6, 2021. Community support and pocketbooks were wide open totaling over \$35,000 in donations. One hundred twenty five items were donated for the auction and three guns were raffled. Winners of the gun raffle were: Paxton Hammond, Wayne Johnson and Ronnie Elledge. Wayne Johnson was also awarded a Henry 22 Rifle for spending the most money at the auction. Everyone had a great time and the VFD

would like to thank everyone for coming and helping to support this most worthy cause. Special thanks to everyone who donated items for the auction, workers at the auction and all of the buyers.

The first Murder Mystery Dinner Theater was held at the Jewett Civic Center in Jewett on Saturday, November 6, 2021 with over eighty participants. Those who attended from Concord and reported a great time were Connie Spence and Carmen Foley. Cindy Sitton provided the delicious meal.

Good luck to the Leon Lady Cougar Volleyball team as they continue the play off games that lead toward championship titles!

Thanks to David and Gail Clute for all of their hard work and making the *Jewett Messenger* one of the best! I have enjoyed writing the Concord News and being allowed to be at that special location at the top of page 3!



## Pieces by PATRICIA SCHMIDT

pieces\_pschmidt@yahoo.com

No one saw that coming.

Americans get sorted out every day, by every demographic. Color, ethnicity, gender(s), political leanings, religion, education, finances. The democrats and republicans greedily pander to whatever their next audience consists of most.

Remember presidential candidate Hillary Clinton meeting privately with all the Wall-street bankers? Then doing a theatric version of "I don't feel no ways tired" in a black church? Pandering.

Gather together a march in Washington of women wearing obscene pink hats and the rhetoric is different than that of Martin Luther King.

We like the news media if we agree with them, we change the channel if we don't. We are each, our own version of our demographic.

What no one expected, no one had acknowledged, was a group encompassing a massive number of like-minded human beings rising and changing the trajectory of a gubernatorial election. Parents. Parents! There's a demographic for you. You have some or you are one. It doesn't matter if you are from Chicago or New Orleans. California or Alabama. If you

are a parent you (mostly) desire that your child learn to be successful, independent.

The education controversy began small. Covid opened parents' eyes to what their children were being taught. Some schools demanded that parents not be present for the remote learning sessions. Zoom classes occasionally became a surveillance of the child's surroundings. CRT became recognized for what it was. Parents saw what their elementary children were being taught in sexuality, watched as schools approved allowing 'trans' students into the bathrooms and dressing rooms.

Parents started showing up at school board meetings, voicing their opinions, asking for accountability. They were met with derision, dismissed, or even arrested. Enough so that the Justice Department - after receiving a letter from the National School Boards Association - tasked the FBI to investigate parents and determine whether they were domestic terrorists.

Parents, who want some accountability of what their child is learning, who pay the taxes that pay the salaries, wanting a say in their

child's education? That can't happen! Parents are not the professionals here. They have no rights in the classroom.

Then, in Virginia, a shoo-in election of the old guard was turned upside down and won by a virtual unknown. Who made the difference? The demographic that no one had recognized. Parents.

There was backlash in the media. "We can't let the republicans claim to be the party of 'parents'! The democrats must promote being the party of 'parents'!" So, we get sorted out again.

Problem is, parents come from every demographic. And their children's education is not about democrat or republican. It is an issue that can't be massaged and put into sound bites. Parents can see what is happening. And the trajectory is that we are going to do something about it. Democrats and the Teachers Union can't hide behind their progressivism and secretly indoctrinate the children. Not anymore. It will become a losing battle for them. The old, heretofore unrecognized, massive demographic has been awakened. Parents. We hold the power and it's time we used it.

### Advertisement from 1957 Jewett Messenger

## LET'S REMINISCE

By Jerry Lincecum

### VAPOR STORMS ARE THREATENING PEOPLE AND PROPERTY



The summer of 2021 was a glaring example of what disruptive weather will look like in a warming world. In mid-July, storms in western Germany and Belgium brought up to eight inches of rain in two days. Floodwaters ripped buildings apart and propelled them through village streets.

A week later a year's worth of rain—more than two feet—fell in China's Henan province in just three days. Hundreds of thousands of people fled rivers that had burst their banks. In the capital city, commuters posted videos showing passengers trapped inside flooding subway cars, pushing their heads toward the ceiling to reach the last pocket of air above the quickly rising water.

In mid-August a sharp kink in the jet stream brought torrential storms to Tennessee that dropped an incredible 17 inches of rain in just 24 hours; catastrophic flooding killed at least 20 people.

None of these storm systems were hurricanes or tropical depressions. Soon enough, though, Hurricane Ida swirled into the Gulf of Mexico, the ninth named tropical storm in the year's busy North Atlantic season. On August 28 it was a Category 1 storm with sustained winds of 85

miles per hour. Less than 24 hours later Ida exploded to Category 4, at nearly twice the rate that the National Hurricane Center uses to define a rapidly intensifying storm. It hit the Louisiana coast with winds of 150 miles an hour, leaving more than a million people without power and over 600,000 without water for days.

Ida's wrath continued into the Northeast, where it delivered a record-breaking 3.15 inches of rain in one hour in New York City. The storm killed at least 80 people and devastated a swath of communities in the eastern U.S.

What all these destructive events have in common is water vapor—lots of it. Water vapor—the gaseous form of good old H<sub>2</sub>O—is now playing an unprecedented role in fueling destructive storms and accelerating climate change. As the oceans and atmosphere warm, additional water evaporates into the air.

Warmer air, in turn, can hold more of that vapor before it condenses into cloud droplets to create flooding rains. The amount of vapor in the atmosphere has increased about 4 percent globally just since the mid-1990s. That may not sound like much, but it is a big deal to the climate system.

A juicier atmosphere provides extra energy and moisture for storms of all kinds, including summertime thunderstorms, nor'easters along the U.S. Eastern Seaboard, hurricanes and even snowstorms. Additional vapor helps tropical storms like Ida intensify faster, too, leaving precious little time for safety officials to warn people of danger.

Scientists have long anticipated that climate change would create more airborne vapor, fueling what might be called "vapor storms" that are unleashing more rain and snow than storms did only a few decades ago. Measurements now confirm that heavy-precipitation events are hitting harder and occurring more often across the U.S. and the globe. Since the late 1980s about one third of U.S. property damage caused by flooding—\$73 billion—has been attributed to increases in heavy precipitation.

It's time we began to expect more vapor storms that damage people and property.

Jerry Lincecum is a proud graduate of Leon High School (class of 1960) and Texas A&M (class of 1963) who retired from the English faculty of Austin College in Sherman. Contact him at [jlinccum@me.com](mailto:jlinccum@me.com)