

SHEPHERD COMMUNITY NEWS***HLSR makes \$720,000
commitment to
Area Go Texan Counties***

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo's educational program is a significant part of the Show's mission – benefiting youth, supporting education, and facilitating better agricultural practices through exhibitions and presentation. Since that first scholarship in 1957, the Show has committed more than \$100 million in direct educational program support.

Because college is only a dream for so many students, the Show has made an extraordinary impact on the lives of countless young men and women in its quest to benefit the youth of Texas and support them through education.

In 1957, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo celebrated more than its 25th anniversary. That same year, the organization presented its first educational scholarship, launching what would become a major multimillion dollar educational program supporting Texas young people.

Today, the Show's mission is still defined by the thousands of your people who annually receive financial support from the organization. Since the scholarship and educational program began, more than \$100 million has been committed to Texas students for their education. In the fall of 2006, 1,935 students were enrolled at 92 Texas colleges and universities on direct Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo scholarships.

All students must attend a Texas college or university, but may major in any field of study leading to a bachelor's degree.

Each of the 60 Area Go Texan counties is guaranteed a four-year, \$12,000 college scholarship for an eligible student from their respective areas.

Deadline: Applications to be received by the Show scholarship office no later than January 19, 2007.

Applications may be picked up from local High School Counselors, County Extension offices or Agriscience teachers within participating counties. You also can download an application with Adobe Acrobat Reader (.pdf) from the website. Downloaded applications may not be submitted to the Show electronically. Hard copy applications, with accompanying documentation and original letters of recommendation, must be submitted.

The 2007 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo begins Tuesday, February 27, and wraps up Sunday, March 17. San Jacinto County Salute Night is Friday, March 16 with the entertainer to be announced at later date. The 2007 show marks the Show's 75th anniversary. Visit rodeohouston.com for more information on educational programs and a schedule of events.

4-H training scheduled

By Tiffany Goodman

On January 11, 2007, from 4pm - 5pm we will have a training session on 4-H Record Books at the San Jacinto county Extension office. If you already have a book started please bring it and if you have not started one we will help you get started. We will have several trainings throughout the Spring time also.

On January 30, 2007, from 4pm – 7pm we are going to have a 4-H Officer Training session at the Extension Office. We ask that each club send its officers to attend this training. The material being offered will be valuable to your club. If you are an officer and unable to attend, please contact our office ahead of time.

***City Councilman
James Dees to address
Chamber membership***

The Greater Shepherd Chamber of Commerce welcomes Mr. Dees as our first Featured Speaker of the New Year. Please join us as we plan for the future of our community.

Tuesday, January 16, 2007, 12:00 Noon
Shepherd Community Center
Sandwich will be provided.
We look forward to your participation!
(936) 628-3890

Computer Usage at the Library

By Pam Whitmire, Director

Over the last month, Nov. 27 thru Dec. 27, we have had 601 computer users. Isn't that amazing? They logged a total of 344 hours doing various things, such as surfing the Internet, applying for jobs, doing resumes, going to college, doing homework and assignments, etc.

The library has seven computers and a cable Internet connection so it is quite fast. To use the computers, you must sign up for an account, unless you are an out-of-towner – then we put you on as a guest for one session. The computers are run by a program called PCCop which allows time and printing to be monitored, as well as giving us better control over the computers, their users, and the sessions.

Besides the computers, our library offers varied reading selections and services. If you are not a patron (member) please stop by and check us out!

MISSING! 2 white Pitbull dogs, 1 is white with a brown ear and a brown spot on her head. Other is a little smaller, completely white. These dogs ARE NOT mean, they are inside dogs. Please call 936-628-2291 and leave a message. Thank you.

County officials take oath of office on January 1

Having been duly sworn in to their re-elected offices, Commissioner of Pct. 2, Royce Wells, County Treasurer Charlene Everitt, and Pct. 2 Justice of the Peace Harris "Red" Blanchette gathered under the San Jacinto County logo for a picture.

On Monday, January 1, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. in the district courtroom of the county courthouse, newly elected and re-elected officials repeated the oath of office and swore to faithfully execute the duties of their office, and to the best of their ability preserve, protect and defend the constitution and laws of the United States and of this State.

District Judge Robert Hill Trapp delivered the oath to County Judge Fritz Faulkner, Criminal District Attorney Bill Burnett, and District Clerk Rebecca Capers, and Commissioner Pct. 2 Royce Wells.

***How many miles did you
walk in 2006?***

When J. V. and Lucy Thomas totaled up the miles they walked in 2006, they were even surprised. Since we all know preachers don't lie (nor do preachers' wives), the miles per year for J.V. was 1,072 and for Lucy 1,029. Lucy said, "We hope we can do better next year!"

All us slackers need to get busy – buy our pedometers at Wal-Mart and see if we can do better in 2007!

***Shepherd ISD Warehouse
Bid Sale***

Various surplus items for sale will be displayed January 15, 2007 through January 17, 2007 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Shepherd ISD warehouse facility located on the Shepherd Middle School Campus.

Interested buyers can view the items, and submit sealed written bids on site. Bids will be opened on January 18, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building. Awarded items must be paid for and picked up on or before January 22, 2007 at 2:00 p.m.

Available items include desks, file cabinets, computer desks, tables and table tops, bulletin boards, a wood lathe, a drafting plotter, a belt sander, a planer/jointer, a projection screen, chairs, doors, partitions, magazine racks, a popcorn machine, retired computers to be used for parts, and other items.

Questions concerning the sale can be addressed to Diane Hopkins at (936) 628-2186.

***Shepherd Receives Grant
for High School Redesign***

The efforts of the staff of Shepherd ISD have paid off. The high school campus received word December 20, 2006, that it will be the recipient of a \$300,000 High School Redesign Grant from the state of Texas.

"This project will provide Shepherd High School an opportunity to create and implement restructuring efforts for school improvement. While we wrote the grant to focus on improvement in the math and science area, the entire campus will benefit from this grant," Assistant Superintendent, Diana Kelm stated.

Shepherd ISD is one of only 15 schools in the state of Texas to receive this grant. Some of the project activities include working in close coordination with the Dana Center on Math and Science, an organization in Austin, Texas, and Agile Minds, a company that supplies schools with innovative ways to teach math concepts to all students. The grant will fund several technical improvements, too. Each high school class will have a data projector installed in order for all teachers to utilize video streaming in their lessons and other graphic representations of various subject content provided by United Streaming.

Jody Cronin, Shepherd High school Principal said, "I am excited about all of the possibilities these grant funds will open up for our students and staff. These funds will allow us to do many things we have wanted to do, but lacked funding to accomplish."

A Redesign committee was formed in the development of the grant and has already attended trainings in Houston and San Antonio during the past few months. Other trainings have been scheduled for the months of January and February.

County Judge Fritz Faulkner delivered the oath of office to Mark Nettuno, Commissioner of Pct. 4, Angelia Steele, County Clerk, Charlene Everitt, County Treasurer, Beth Sewell, Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1, Harris "Red" Blanchette, Justice of the Peace, Pct. 2, Randy Ellisor, Justice of the Peace, Pct. 3, and Greg Magee, Justice of the Peace, Pct. 4. James Washburn, re-elected County Surveyor, was not present.

Refreshments were served in the Courthouse Rotunda following the ceremony.

Private Applicator Training

Thursday, February 1, 2007 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. there will be a Private Applicator Training session held at the Extension Office in Shepherd. The fee for the course is \$30. Immediately following the training, Eugene Hinze, TDA Field Inspector will give the exam. This license is a great tool in management options for your property.

After attaining the license, you will be able to purchase state-limited-use and restricted use pesticides and regulated herbicides. This ability will save time and money by not being forced to use diluted formulas resulting in additional applications of chemical to control a pest.

There is limited seating for the training so don't delay in reserving your seat. Please RSVP to (936) 628-6407 by January 30, 2007.

Attention***Shepherd 4-H members!***

By Andrea Revilla, Shepherd 4-H Club Reporter

Just a reminder for the Shepherd 4-H Club members! Our next club meeting will be January 16, at 6:30 for Clover kids and 7:00 for 4-H members at the County Extension Office. We will be discussing the upcoming events for the New Year.

Also, the County 4-H Clubs are collecting books for the Ben Taub Children's Center in Harris County. We are looking for books which are new or slightly used to give to the children who are ill and in need of treatment. This allows the children to take their mind off worries and keeps them busy during their treatment. Anyone who would like to donate books can drop them off at the Extension office, 4-H club meeting or any 4-H club member.

Myths about thermostats

The following information came from Sam Houston Electric Energy Guide.

Your home's thermostat controls how long your heating or cooling system operates. You can save energy and money by learning how this simple device operates.

One common myth is that the higher you set your thermostat when you return home, the faster your furnace will heat up your house. This isn't true since most furnaces deliver heat at the same rate no matter how high the thermostat is set. So just set your thermostat at the temperature you'd like, and your furnace will heat your home as fast as it can.

Another myth regards the efficiency of setting your thermostat down when you don't need heating or cooling such as at night or when no one is home. This myth states that a furnace works harder than normal to heat your home back to a comfortable temperature after the thermostat has been set back resulting in little or no savings. This is not true, as has been proven by years of research and field observations. The longer your house stays at a reduced temperature when heating – or at an increased temperature when cooling – the more energy and money you'll save.

This is because your heating or cooling cost depends mostly on the temperature difference between indoors and outdoors. When you adjust your thermostat down in the winter – or up in the summer – you reduce this temperature difference. If you set your temperature back 10 to 15 degrees for 8 hours while you're asleep or at work, your energy savings can be 5% to 15% on your energy bill.

By the way, you can install a setback thermostat that automatically adjusts your home's temperature at set times. But you can achieve the same savings if you faithfully remember to change your thermostat whenever you leave home or go to bed.

Quiz for people who know everything

Editor's note: These are absolutely true and excellent questions with legitimate answers. There are nine questions. If you think you qualify as a person who knows everything, I give you a week to come up with the correct answers. If you can't wait until next week and it is driving you crazy call me at 628-6878.

1. Name the one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends.
 2. What famous North American landmark is constantly moving backward?
 3. Of all vegetables, only two can live to produce on their own for several growing seasons. All other vegetables must be replanted every year. What are the only two perennial vegetables?
 4. What fruit has its seed on the outside?
 5. In many liquor stores, you can buy pear brandy with a real pear inside the bottle. The pear is whole and ripe, and the bottle is genuine; it hasn't been cut in any way. How did the pear get inside the bottle?
 6. Only three words in standard English begin with the letters "dw" and they are all common words. Name two of them.
 7. There are 14 punctuation marks in English grammar. Can you name at least half of them?
 8. Name the only vegetable or fruit that is never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked, or in any other form except fresh.
 9. Name 6 or more things that you can wear on your feet beginning with the letter 'S.'
- I will print the names of the people who really do know everything!

2006 Brand New Citizens Duly Recognized and Celebrated!

Editor's note: It was brought to my attention that in looking back over the events of 2006, I did not recognize our newest citizens. Herewith I am.

On January 12, 2006, Dixie Lee Kirksey was born to Donald and Jennie Kirksey. On January 13, 2006, Paige Morgan Falls was born to Kenneth and Patricia Falls. On January 30, 2006, Cody Ray Kyle was born to Jessica and Casey Joe Kyle.

On February 7, 2006, Eli Nickolas Ryan Holman was born to Jeromy and Elissa Holman. On February 27, 2006, Landen Anthony Billingsley was born to Bart and Ashley (Ballard) Billingsley.

On March 9, 2006, Isabel Hannah Brooke Robbins was born to Joshua and Lauren Robbins. On March 16, 2006, Sheldon Khordel Ferguson was born to Bobby and Angela Ferguson. On March 29, 2006, Kaylee Marlene Jones was born to Will and Krychele Jones.

On May 31, 2006, Brookelynn Marie Cornet was born to Daddy and Mommy Cornet.

On June 11, 2006, Ethan Daniel Tolar was born to Jenna Nathanson and David Tolar. On June 14, 2006, Bradley Mark Davison, Jr. was born to Billie Williams and Brad Davison. On June 26, 2006, Colton Eric Bailey was born to Shannon and Nicole Bailey.

On July 18, 2006, Hannah Grace Handeland was born to Kevin and Michelle Handeland. On July 24, 2006, Garrit Morgan Burton was born to B. J. and Rhiannon (Ballard) Burton. On July 26, 2006, Ryan Alexander Patton was born to Jessica Chreene and Richard Patton. On July 26, 2006, Jayce Allen Ward was born to Josh and Heather Ward.

On August 8, 2006, Chance Taylor Ramsey was born to Denice Mize and Rex Ramsey.

On September 7, 2006, Sara Elizabeth Ebarb was born to Joshua and Julie Ebarb, III. On September 27, 2006, Baylee Rayann Windt was adopted by Robert and Regina Windt. On September 27, 2006, Elizabeth Rene Whitmire was born to Chris and Angela Whitmire.

On October 5, 2006, Thomas Kadin Gene Greg-

Obituary

Larry Dean Watson

August 3, 1957 – December 30, 2006

Larry Dean Watson passed away on Saturday, December 30, 2006 at his home in Shepherd, Texas. He was born August 3, 1957 in Houston, Texas to Don and Shirley Watson.

Larry is survived by his wife, Beverly Watson, and parents Don and Shirley Watson; his daughter Tabatha Capps and husband David; a son, Raymond Harrison, III, and wife Trish of Houston; two brothers, John Watson and wife Tammy of Shepherd and Mike Watson and wife Alice of Shepherd; two sisters Linda Willaims of Shepherd and Donna Brock and husband Earl of Shepherd; his sister-in-law Debby Mlcak and husband Melvin; five grandchildren Michael Harrison, Hallie Harrison, Hannah Harrison, Justin Capps and Montana Capps.

Services for Mr. Watson were held at Big Creek Baptist Church on Wednesday, January 3, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. with Bro. Paul Morehouse officiating and interment following at Farley Chapel Cemetery in Shepherd.

Kathryn Patrick

December 31, 1923 – December 28, 2006

Kathryn Patrick, age 82 of Coldspring, Texas, passed away on Thursday, December 28, 2006. She was a lifelong resident of Coldspring and was an SHSU graduate, schoolteacher, and community leader. She and her husband Jack operated Patrick's Landing for many years.

She was born December 31, 1923, to Julian and Kate McMurrey Browder. She is survived by her sons, Michael Patrick and wife Grace and Jack Patrick and wife Trish; and her daughter Martha Blume and husband Michael.

Funeral services were held on Sunday, December 31, 2006, at 3:00 p.m. at Coldspring Methodist Church. Dr. Don M. Shannon officiated with inter-



Portrait of a Cowboy

Editor's Note: The following was taken from Bro. J. V. Thomas' words spoken at the Memorial Service for Collis Bill Everitt. I print them today for all who did not have the pleasure of knowing this young man. I hope that reading this will help us all to love and understand young Collis Bill.

1. He was born out of his time: He would have made a good old-time-cowboy. He did not like a lot of rules and regulations. He would have been happy to have made his living a-top of a good horse. He would have enjoyed San Jacinto County before bob-wire fences, before dirt roads were replaced with highways. He thought the deer were to be hunted when he wanted to – no matter the calendar date or whether it was day or night.

2. Simple: He did not want fancy things. He was happy with old blue jeans with holes in them, dirty boots. He judged folks by what they were rather than outward appearance. If you were his friend – he expected you to do for him – the same as he would do for you. If you needed the tires off his truck he would give them to you! If he wanted the tires off your truck to see if they would cut a donut better than his – he expected you to let him. For him life was simple.

3. Home Body: He didn't want to get too far from Big Creek. He stayed home until he was seventeen years old. He decided it was time to move out and see what the world was like – he moved across the yard to live with his sister Candy. He loved to stay at Candy's house. She would get him up in the morning – most of the time this could take an hour. If he was staying with a friend, Candy would call and tell that person, "It's time to wake Collis up!"

4. Loved Children: He had a special attachment to "Luke" and "Hanna." Luke was his boy and Hanna was his girl. He couldn't have loved them more if they were his own children. Children got his attention. Example: When Regina Windt of Happy Days Restaurant had the wreck during Thanksgiving, it was Collis who went for the children and pulled them out.

5. Honesty: He would tell the truth whether it hurt or not. If he liked you – you would know it! If he didn't like you – you would know it!

6. Trucks and Horses: He loved them both and as his Uncle Jerry said, "He rode them both wide open all the time. He loved his truck!"

7. Rebel: When asked to describe Collis, Sandy said, "He was my rebel son." You need to know that a 'rebel' from a Mother or Dad's perspective is all together different from society's view point. Collis just didn't like being told what to do, or what he couldn't say. He lived with the philosophy that a man who couldn't say damn, wasn't worth one.

Collis Bill Everitt was a young man whose life was ended too soon. The way he lived his life was his own way, and he left his family and many friends who loved him to carry on in this life – remembering Collis.

ory was born to Cody and Brittany Gregory. On October 12, 2006, Aireanna Justice Harrison was born to Tom and Christina Harrison. On October 20, 2006, Tamra Lynn Campbell was born to Christopher and Tina Campbell. On October 24, 2006, Kaylin Marie Davis was born to Josh Davis and Stacy Cleveland.

May each one live "Happily Ever After."

4-H members still have a few bags of pecans left!

Just a reminder that the 4-H members still have a few pecans left to sell. They are \$8.00 per lb., and they are halves. Please help the 4-H out by purchasing a bag or two. Thanks for al the support you have given to them.

ment at Oakwood Cemetery in Coldspring, Texas.

Michael Anthony West

April 23, 1971 – December 23, 2006

Michael Anthony West, 35, of Coldspring, Texas, passed away Saturday, December 23, 2006. He was born in Liberty, Texas to Shannon Boyd West and Cheryl Ann Lee on April 23, 1971.

He is survived by his parents; sons, Aaron West and Brandon West; one brother Joseph West with many aunts, uncles and other loving family members and caring friends.

Dr. Don M. Shannon conducted memorial services on Saturday, December 30, 2006, 10:00 a.m. at First Baptist Church of Coldspring.

Wallace Gene Mizell

February 20, 1937 – December 27, 2006

Wallace Gene Mizell of Livingston, Texas passed away Wednesday, December 27, 2006. He was born in Cleveland, Texas to William Griffen and Hazel Marie Smith Mizell on February 20, 1937.

He is survived by his wife, Evelyn Mizell; daughter, Stephine Fisher and husband, Robert; son Thomas Mizell; grandchildren, Cody Blake, Shayla Brooke, Kaitlin Bryce Fisher; sisters Mary Jan Whitmire and LaRuth McCalmert, Kitty Bowen and husband, Leon, Gracie Stalnaker and husband, Lee, Betty Chow and husband, Al; brothers Dayle Mizell and wife, Joy, Curtis Mizell and wife, Dorothy, Stanley Mizell, numerous nieces, nephews and loved ones and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Hazel Mizell, brother, Royce and Joel Mizell; sisters Lillian Roesner and Julietta Robison.

Graveside services were held Sunday, December 31, 2006, 1:00 p.m. at Magnolia Cemetery, Cleveland, Texas.



"When Harry Met Sally" is becoming a classic movie to be played every New Years Eve. In my view, it is a movie about conversation between two people with Harry questioning everything and Sally just wanting to get on life. In their News Years Eve segment Harry says, "I mean, 'Should old acquaintance be forgot'?" Does it mean that we should forget old acquaintances, or does it mean if we happened to forget them, we should remember them, which is not possible because we already forgot?" That statement pretty well sums up the movie.

"Auld Lang Syne." What does it really mean? I looked it up in my 1970 New World Webster and sure enough it explains the Scottish literal translation to be: old long since! It went on to read: old time, the good old days (of one's youth, etc).

You'll never guess who wrote Auld Lang Syne! The Scottish poet Robert Burns – yes, the same one who wrote about the mouse and came up with the quote: The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry. And here he is again telling us we must not forget the people who made a difference in our lives or the events that changed us. Probably we have never heard them, but there are 5 verses to the song. Robert Burns said that the tune was traditional but many believe he had a hand in it.

For your enlightenment, I am including all the lyrics of Auld Lange Syne in an Anglicized translation directly following this column.

Robert Burns also wrote "Comin' Through the Rye." Poet, philosopher, song writer...just like Jim Croce and Roger Williams of our time!

Never mind what Harry said, we should not forget 'auld' acquaintances. In fact, I think we should take time out to watch a parade of our acquaintances and the events that shaped our lives. Just close your eyes. Look, there is the English teacher who saw more in me than I did in myself. And there! There is the grandmother who taught me to play the piano and sing. What a parade! Here comes my wedding – not a very big float but one of my better choices in life! And here comes the day my baby daughter was born! Don't cry, just watch the parade. It is a long one full of surprises. Oh, no! Look at the starched dress shirts I ironed for Don - there must be a 100 or more! And then, out of sequence, comes the minister who helped me put God in His proper place in my life. People and events! My mother always there for me. My father smoothing the way.

I recommend here and now, at the beginning of Double 0 – 7, watch your own parade and remember Auld Lang Syne.

Quote of the week: "Just smile and wave." The little penguin said it in Madagascar, the animated film.

Auld Lang Syne

By Robert Burns

Verse 1

Should old acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to mind? Should old acquaintance be forgot, and auld lang syne?

Chorus: For auld lang syne, my dear, for auld lang syne, we'll take a cup o' kindness yet, for auld lang syne.

Verse 2

And surely you'll buy your pint cup! And surely I'll buy mine! And we'll take a cup o' kindness yet, for auld lang syne.

Verse 3

We two have run about the hills, and pulled the daisies fine; But we've wandered many a weary foot since auld lang syne.

Verse 4

We two have paddled in the stream, from morning sun till dine; But seas between us broad have roared since auld lang syne.

Verse 5

And there's a hand my trusty friend! And give us a hand o' thine! And we'll take a right good-will draught, for auld lang syne.

Note: I spoke with Amy Gould, my expert on the English language, about the word 'draught' in the 5th verse. She said, "Each pub had a vat of ale underneath and they would 'draught' (pump) it up into the cups. So a 'draught' was like a portion of ale pumped from the vat. But even more than that it was a kind of ale...draught ale, bitter, mild, brown, light, to name a few - all with different vats under the floor. Sometimes a patron would want to combine; for example, "I'll have mild and bitter!"

Coming to McClain's Video

ILLUSIONIST – Edward Norton, Paul Giamatti – Drama – PG-13.

CRANK – Jason Statham, Amy Smart – Action/Adventure-R.

NIGHT LISTENER – Robin Williams, Toni Collette – Drama-R

BANDIDAS – Penelope Cruz, Salma Hayek – Drama – PG-13.

BROKEN BRIDGES – Toby Keith – Drama PG-13.

Community Classifieds

FOR SALE: 1999 Power Stroke Ford Diesel 4X4. Asking \$10,600 or best offer. Call (936) 653-4862.

Calendar

January 2007

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|----|---|-----------|
| 8 | City Council – Pct. 2 Courtroom | 7:00 p.m. |
| 9 | Commissioners' Court – Coldspring | 9:00 a.m. |
| 11 | Crime Stoppers Meeting – Pct. 2 | 5:30 p.m. |
| 15 | Shepherd ISD Board Meeting | 7:00 p.m. |
| 16 | Greater Shepherd C. of C. – Com. Center | Noon |
| 16 | Friends of the Library | 2:30 p.m. |
| 19 | Deadline for applications HLSR scholarships | |
| 26 | SJC Annual Go Texan Fund-raiser at Sundance | |

For news or special events to be published in *Shepherd Community News:*

Drop off your information/picture at McClain's, e-mail to shepherdnews@samlink.com, or fax to (936) 628-2866.

Information may not be taken over the telephone. Include contact information on your request to have something published. Our deadline is noon Tuesday for the following week.