

SHEPHERD COMMUNITY NEWS

Black History Month continues... Our Churches

By Pat Jennings

The following is an old document that was given to me to print as history.

"Pleasant Valley Missionary Baptist Church" (As we were told.)

"About the year of 1865, parts of two or three families freed from slavery, settled in the town of Shepherd, Texas, San Jacinto County. They found the love and contentment for home life and a church home.

The first church for Negroes was organized by the Pastor of "Old Hopewell Baptist Church" of Coldspring, San Jacinto County, Texas. All knew him as Cousin App Lee.

The first location was east of the railroad station on the north side of town. As the years passed on, the present location was desired and the land was given by Richard and Bettsey Johnson for a church worship place on the east and a cemetery on the west.

The lumber for the building was given by R. C. Miller, owner of Napier Sawmill and Miller Lumber Company.

The building was designed and built with free labor by two gifted architects, John Burrell and Lewis Punch, both deacons of Pleasant Valley Missionary Baptist Church.

In a course of time, the membership grew spiritually and numerically under the leadership of the following pastors:

Rev. J. P. Paxton, Rev. Joe James, Rev. (Little) Joe James, II, Rev. R. B. Canady, Rev. Johnny Harris, Rev. Wash, Rev. I. H. Harris, Rev. E. Dawson, Rev. A. Reed, Rev. A. D. Holcomb, Rev. Smith, Rev. H. C.



Ross Rev. A. L. Harper and the present Pastor, Rev. Ell Lee."

After speaking with Wortha Tee Canady May, daughter of the Rev. R. B. Canady, and a long time member of Pleasant Valley Church, we know the names of some of those founding families. Her great grandparents were Bailey and Ann Burrell.

Bailey was a deacon. Thomas Hart and his wife Lucy, and Shack Sanders and his wife Lucy were also founding members of the church. Other early names of church members are Julia Adams, John and Mary Jane Burrell, George and

Mariah Burrell, and Ima Burrell Canady.

Wortha now lives in Houston, but most Sundays she drives up to Shepherd to attend Pleasant Valley Church. Her sister, Estherine Canady Evans chides her about this saying, "You and your long distance religion!" Wortha just nods and smiles – she loves her church.

Pastor Ell Lee has ministered to Pleasant Valley Church for the past 23 years. In 1990 the building was in bad shape and many thought they should fix the holes in the roof and repair the church as best they could, but Rev. Lee thought they should build a new church. Money was tight. How could they do it? Rev. Lee said that they would do it with God's help. With money they had saved over the years, blessings from God in the form of supplies, carpet, and craftsmen who came and worked without pay, the church was built. It was a time of faith and love. One of the church members at that time describes Rev. Lee as a 'pastor who loves everybody.' Love can get the job done.

SJC places in Houston Livestock Competition

By Rachel Mitchell

JoDaniel Everitt, Shelby Mitchell and CB Bullock went to the Great Southwest Equestrian Center Saturday, February 9, 2007, to represent San Jacinto County in the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Go-Texan Team Penning Event. There were 49 other Area and Metro Go-Texan Jr. Teams (under 18) representing Houston suburbs and surrounding counties. Of these 49 teams we are proud to report that the San Jacinto County team placed 3rd. That is

quite an accomplishment considering we are one of the smallest and least populated counties involved. We are very proud.

Also, proudly representing out county in the Adult event were Wade Hues, Daniel Landers and Tully Wilson.

These events are sponsored by the HLSR Committee and participation by these individuals is one of the ways we earn scholarship dollars for our county's students.



JoDaniel Everitt, CB Bullock and Shelby Mitchell placed 3rd in the Houston Livestock Go-Texan Penning Event.



Wade Hues, Daniel Landers and Tully Wilson represented San Jacinto County in the adult Penning competition.

American Diabetes Fund Raising Event at Intermediate School



Shepherd Intermediate School held its annual American Diabetes fund raising event on January 31st and February 1st of 2007. The event was a huge success allowing the students to raise a little over \$2,300. All donation received are being sent to the American Diabetes Association in order to help researchers develop a cure for the disease and educate the public. Students participated in a free throw game called Knockout, either a three point contest or a free throw contest, jump rope competitions and hula hoop competitions.

Organizers of the event appreciate everyone who donated to the fund raiser and all the teachers who helped run the events and donated prizes. A special thanks is being sent to Sonic for donating several gift cards. Shepherd may be a small district, but participants have shown how they can make a big difference.

Beef/Forages Field Day

By Aaron Sumrall

The annual Beef and Forages Field Day will be held on Saturday, February 17, 2007, beginning at 9am. in the Extension office in Shepherd. There will be many good topics addressing beef and forage issues. However, if you have some specific topics you would like to have included into the program, let me know and we will see that it is addressed. There will be 3 CEU's available at the end of the event. There will be a \$10.00 fee to cover refreshments and materials. Seating is very limited, don't delay in your RSVP to (936) 628-6407.

Timber Management Workshop

By Aaron Sumrall

Timber and timber exempt landowners mark your calendars for Tuesday, February 27, 2007 at 6pm. There will be a timber management workshop held at the Extension office in Shepherd. This event is open to everyone. If you have a specific issue you want to be addressed, please let me know ASAP, so I can work it into the agenda of the meeting. There will be a \$10.00 fee for the event to cover refreshments and materials. There will be 2 CEU's available at the end of the event. Seating is limited so don't delay with your RSVP to (936) 628-6407.



From the Pct. 2 Constable's Desk

2 pictures - Jerry and drug bust stuff

Caption: Pictured is evidence taken from the residence of Joan Gray of Shepherd. Shown in picture are illegal prescription pills, large bags of marijuana and several thousand dollars which is being seized by the Constable's Department.

The Pct. 2 narcotics program is once again in full swing. Daniel Adams, formerly of Polk County is attempting to clean up San Jacinto County, starting with Shepherd, Texas. Constable Adams worked in Polk County under the direction of the late Sgt. Boe Gallaway who was killed in the line of duty on September 15, 2005. We are proud to have Deputy Adams, and look forward to continuing what Sgt. Gallaway started.

January 1st – Deputy Constables led by Deputy Adams arrested Derek Lewis and Artis White of Shepherd after going to a residence on Galilee in response to an assault call. At the residence several baggies of cocaine were located on the pool table in the front room.

January 3rd – Deputy Adams arrested Nathan Phillippi of Maryland after finding 3 ounces of marijuana on a traffic stop.

January 4th – Constable's Department led by Deputy Adams went to the residence of Joan Gray in Shepherd to speak to her regarding narcotics activity. At the residence deputies located a felony amount of marijuana and several hundred prescription pills

(See Picture). Gray was arrested and charged with Possession of Marijuana and Controlled Substance with intent to deliver. The Constable's Department has turned in paperwork to seize Gray's home and several thousand dollars located at the residence.

January 8th – Deputy Pippin responded to an assault call on Oak Forest. At the residence Joshua Amburn was arrested and charged with assault family violence.

January 11th – the Pct. 2 Constable's Department led by Deputy Adams arrested David Bennett, William Bennett and Rhonda Gammons at their residence on Beeson St. At the residence several ounces of marijuana was located with packaging material for distribution, along with some illegal prescription pills.

January 11th – the Pct. 2 Constable's Department led by Deputy Adams arrested Melinda Brown of Lake Tejas in Shepherd. Brown was arrested after several ounces of marijuana were located at her residence.

January 14th – Deputy Pippin arrested Eugene Castoreno of Elgin, Texas after finding marijuana in his vehicle on a traffic stop. Castoreno was also charged with Prohibited Substance in a Correctional Facility after Deputy Pippin located several Xanax bars on him in the jail.

January 19th – Deputy Adams arrested Leon Blum of Houston on a traffic stop after finding traces of cocaine and illegal prescription medication. The Pct. 2 Constable's Department has started the process of seizing the vehicle.

January 20th – Deputy Pippin went to Oak Forest on an assault call. At the location it was found that

two males allegedly assaulted a female and her boyfriend. Both were taken to the emergency room and treated for several deep cuts. Warrants were issued for Joshua and Jason Amburn of Shepherd for Aggravated Assault.

January 22nd – Deputy Adams and Deputy Pippin arrested William Bennett again at his residence on Beeson St. Deputies were at the residence to serve a warrant on him when they found Bennett to be in possession of more marijuana.

January 22nd – Deputy Adams arrested Kyle Wedgren of Shepherd at a residence in the Pine Hollow Apartment for possession of marijuana.

January 24th – Deputy Messinger arrested Taylor Hopkins, a student at Shepherd High School, after marijuana was found on the student, while on campus.

January 25th – deputies from the Constable's Department with assistance from the Sheriff's Department went to Oak Forest to serve a warrant on Joshua Amburn. At the residence Mary Caruthers was arrested for hindering apprehension after getting in the way of deputies trying to arrest Joshua Amburn. Amburn was found hiding in the shower fully dressed. He was then taken into custody and placed into the back of a patrol unit. Deputies were awaiting the arrival of CPS when Amburn escaped out of the back of the patrol unit and was tackled by a citizen who happened to be watching. Amburn also faces a felony escape charge resulting from that incident.

January 26th – Deputy Adams arrested Timothy Perkins of Zavalla after a traffic stop on highway 59. Perkins was a passenger in the vehicle and was taken into custody after 2 small bags of marijuana were located in his shoe.

January 27th – Deputy Adams made a traffic stop on a suspicious vehicle on Loop 424. Delvin Davis of Leggett was taken into custody after a search produced approximately 13 rocks of crack cocaine and also two hundred marijuana filled cigars (GLUNTS). And several hundred dollars in cash. Mr. Davis was charged with possession with intent to deliver on both counts. The Constable's Department has filed for seizure of the money.

January 30th – Sgt. Stitt responded to a possible intoxicated driver on highway 59. Sgt. Stitt located the vehicle and arrested the driver Jerry Stephens of Cleveland after finding a pill bottle with several controlled substances in the driver's seat.



Happy 8th Birthday, Heather!

We love you,
"Daddy David", Mama and
Megen.

Happy Birthday, Paige Falls!

Paige turned 1 year old on
January 13, 2007.

We love you,
Mommy, Daddy, and KJ



Happy Birthday, Little Miss B. Breeanna Marie Thornton,

was three years old on December 10, 1906. Miss B. is not a baby any more – she is a little lady with a mind of her own. She had a "Dora" birthday party at her home in Deer Park.

Her parents are Brandon Thornton and Deer Park and Cathleen Dixon of Deer Park. Grandparents are Lisa Ward of Deer Park, and Linda Renfro of Cedar Valley. Her adopted grandmother is Karen Renfro of Cedar Valley. Her great-grand-parents are Linda Thornton and Linda Little of Cedar Valley.

Happy Birthday to the Seniors Born in February!



Seniors gathered around and sang a rousing birthday song to Dorothy Watkins, Arlis Williams, and Bill Rudolph. Dorothy is one of our favorite people because she is one of the cooks who prepares the delicious lunches for us.

The remodeling is still underway and our lunchroom grows larger as they take in porches and closets. If you are still eating at home you should come down and see what is going on with the Shepherd Seniors!

Shepherd ISD to Host Study Sessions

Mr. Jerry Heasley, Instructional Specialist with Shepherd High School, announced Wednesday that he and other teachers at the high school would begin offering SAT preparation sessions and TAKS Math improvement sessions this month.

The SAT preparation sessions began February 15, and will be held each Thursday from 3:45 – 5:30 p.m. in the Shepherd High School Library. Students in grades 6-12 are encouraged to participate, as are adults in the community who are preparing to enter colleges or universities. All phases of the SAT will be addressed including math, writing, and verbal components.

Sessions to help students be more successful on the TAKS Math assessments will be offered on Wednesdays and Fridays from February 21 through April 20, 2007. These sessions will be from 3:35 - 5.30 p.m. in the high school library and are offered for students in grades 8-12.

Questions concerning either program can be addressed to Mr. Heasley at jheasley@shepherdisd.net. There will be no charge for any of these sessions.

Church News

One Sunday morning the pastor noticed little Alex was staring up at the large plaque that hung in the foyer of the church. It was covered with names and small American flags were mounted on either side of them.

The seven year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the Pastor walked up, stood beside the little boy and said quietly, "Good morning, Alex."

"Good morning, Pastor," replied the boy, still focused on the plaque. "Pastor, what is that?"

"Well, son, it is a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service." Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque.

Little Alex's voice was barely audible, trembling with fear, when he asked, "Which service, the 9:45 or the 11:15?"

Chamber of Commerce Report

By Olene Reaves

Open since July 1, 2006, Shepherd Computing has seen a solid growth in its business. Shawn Bliss, owner and operator of Shepherd Computing wants to thank his customers and our community for their on-going support. Bliss said, "We at Shepherd Computing look forward to continuing to serve the needs of Shepherd and surrounding communities." This full-service computer shop already employs two community residents and is looking forward to expanding.

Shepherd Computing carries a wide range of items to meet your computing needs: monitors, keyboards, printers, modems, etc., as well as major replacement components, cables, connectors, surge protectors, paper and printable business card stocks. They also have pre-built computers IN-STOCK today and can custom build a computer to meet your exact specifications.

Shepherd computing offers desktop and laptop repair as well as very reasonable rates. They also offer a wide range of services which include home visits, video editing (VHS to CD/DVD, and can schedule training classes for different computing subjects.

Stop by Shepherd Computing today, or call them at (936) 628-6028. Answers to your questions are free. They are located in the old Bullock Air Conditioning Building at 10501 Highway 150 (near the ball park).

Shepherd Intermediate Students Compete



Saturday, January 20, 2007, Shepherd Intermediate School students traveled to Peach Creek Elementary in Splendora to participate in the district UIL competition. SIS had approximately 50 students entered in various UIL events sponsored by our dedicated teachers.

A very special "Congratulation" goes to the following contestants: For the third grade Bricia Garza won 4th place in Ready Writing and 5th place in Spelling; Megan Mathis won 3rd place in spelling; Kerri Kirchner won 4th place in Music Memory; Lane Reeves won 4th place in Music Memory, Trey LaCoste won 4th place in Music Memory; and LeAnn Evans won 4th place in Music Memory.

For the 4th grade Tyler Graham won 6th place in Ready Writing; Dia Banda won 6th place in Spelling; Kelsey Thompson won 1st place in Oral Reading; and Amelia Dean won 4th place in Oral Reading.

For the 5th grade Chasity Paxton won 5th place in Ready Writing; Dustin Landgraf won 3rd place in Spelling; Sierra Horvath won 1st place in Oral Reading; Kyle Clack won 3rd place in Listening; and Korra Stephens won 6th place in Listening. A fifth grade student won 1st place in Spelling. A fifth grade student won 3rd place in Number Sense and a fifth grade student won 6th place in Listening.

Open letter to baseball sponsors

Dear Sponsors and interested Sponsors:

It's time to get ready for our 2007 Baseball and Softball season. Those of you who have sponsored a team in the past; we really appreciate all the help you have given us to make this league possible for some 30+ years! If you have never sponsored a team, we hope you will consider this a good source of advertisement, this is an opportunity to help us shape today's children into tomorrow's adults.

Baseball and softball registration start on February 3 and will continue through Saturday, February 24, 2007. Opening Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 14, 2007. with our customary parade, cake auction, barbecue, and ball games. If you are unable to sponsor a team at this time, we would still like to extend an invitation to come out opening day and enjoy the fun.

A full sponsorship includes your company's name on the back of a team's shirt and an outfield sign for \$275. A partial sponsorship without the outfield sign (baseball shaped sign) will be only \$200. If a sponsor chooses to only sponsor and receive ONLY outfield sign the price will be only \$125. Any additional amount you can spare to sponsor the youth will be greatly appreciated. Our registration fees are \$75 per child for the 2007 season.

If you are interested in sponsoring a team, please contact Stacie Fontenot, cell phone (936) 328-0737. If you would like to sponsor a specific team or a division, we will do our best to be sure you get that team.

Once again, your support is greatly appreciated by each member of the Board of Directors. Without your help this youth league would not be possible.

Sincerely, Shepherd Youth League Board of Directors

Business News

NEW HAIR STYLIST IN TOWN! John Pancamo, owner/operator of Tops N Dewz Salon in Shepherd welcomed licensed Cosmetologist Sarah Ward on February 1, 2007. Services include cuts, any color technique, roller sets, perms, makeovers and special occasions. All ages welcome. Come and take advantage of our Special for the week of February 27 through March 3rd – 50% off hair cuts. By appointment only! Call (936) 627-3869 for appointment. Hours: Tues-Sat. 10am – 6pm.

TAN TRIM has moved and they want all of their customers to know where to find them! Their current address is 1291 S. Byrd Ave., next door to El Taquito. Their phone number is the same. (936) 628-1495.

ANASTASIO'S PIZZA has moved to 1280 Byrd Ave. @ Four Corners in front of A+ Donuts. Watch for their new grand opening soon. Their phone number has remained the same, (936) 628-3707.

Community Classifieds

FOR SALE: Maytag washer, heavy duty. Old but works good. Whirlpool dryer, six years old, works good. XLG capacity – 4 cycles. \$100 OBO (936) 628-6212

FOR SALE: Propane Gas Tank – 150-200 pound capacity. \$100. Some propane in tank. (936) 628-6212.

FOR SALE: 1996 Saturn SL-1, purple, AM/FM w/ CD, AC/AT/PS/ 4 door. New tires, battery, shocks, Ah., brakes, computer system. One owner. Well maintained! Looks and runs great. \$2,400. Seller did not include a phone number. Give us one and we'll run the ad again next week.

FOR SALE: Pro Form XP70 bike exerciser. \$75.00. GE Electric stove. Best offer. Call (281) 593-5529.

FOR SALE: Black 1998 Ford Contour SE, V6 1.5 Liter. A/C and heat work. Interior has a few stains but no tears. Water pump leaks but under warranty. About 2 weeks ago the car just started dying. Believe it is something to do with the fuel system. Fuel filter has been recently replaced. Call Bonnie (936) 827-6944.

FOR SALE: Two 18" Craftsman chain saws with cases. \$40 each. (281) 432-1915.

HOUSE FOR RENT: two bedrooms, 1 and ½ baths. Call (281) 592-7366 or (281) 592-4988.

FREE PUPPIES: to good home. 7 weeks old. Call (936) 606 8260 or (281) 592-4988.

FOR SALE: 1996 Chev. Beretta, 2 dr. sports epe, 4 cyl, automatic, cold AC, black, excellent condition, runs 30 MPG. \$2,450. (936) 628-1975 or (713) 591-1733.



AROUND TOWN

By: Pat Jennings

Some people thrive on competition – some can be crushed by it. I remember in the '60s, Shell Oil Company had a very long strike and the office employees were required to operate the plant in Deer Park. I think the term was 'scabs' when they crossed the picket lines. Eventually the strike was over and things got back to normal at Shell; however, the office workers had worked long hours and made quite a bit of money. We had a family meeting to decide what to buy with all that extra cash (it never occurred to us that we could save it or even a portion of it). Nossir! I voted for a swimming pool but I was definitely in the minority, and the rest of them voted to buy quarter horses. We did just that and it was the beginning of an era that we lovingly call the horse years.

Jerry Thomas taught my children to ride. He had a way of sitting the horse that they copied – a kind of easy slouch. They thought he was wonderful and knew everything about horses. We moved to Shepherd in December of 1961, and in September of 1962 Jerry had Susie ready to enter the SJC Queen's Contest. She won. That was just the beginning. We traveled far and wide and entered our horses in confirmation, barrel racing, pole bending – you name it we did it. Now, timed events make good competition – clear cut winners – but subjective judging was something else. Stay with me.

We had bought a beautiful gold stallion named King Strike. He wasn't a palomino but was truly 'gold' in the sunshine. We took him to a show. He won his class, but a young colt beat him for Best in Show. I did not take it well. In fact I became verbal, even loud, what my mother would have called 'showing myself.' Don and the children were O.K. I was not. Finally, when we had packed up and were heading for the trailer, an old cowboy stopped me and kindly tried to make me understand. I'll never forget his wise words: "Ms. Pat, you need to remember that you are taking home the same horse that you brought with you to the show today."

What he said put it all in perspective for me and I have used those words many times through the years when some competition didn't turn out to suit us.

UIL competition in Math is easy – you either get the answer right or you don't, but UIL competition in prose or poetry is subjective. When you compete you compare – and who is doing the comparing? Parents need to prepare their children for subjective judging. Small children should never leave a competition feeling inadequate, not pretty enough, not smart enough. They should always understand that when they leave that competition they are still the same person they were when they walked in. And that person is mighty fine. As they grow older they will begin to understand their limitations. For example, I push mediocrity to its absolute limits, but I'll never be that big winner in anything.

If you have little children who enter and don't win, take them to the Sonic and buy them a Coney and Tater Tots! Make sure they know that you think they are terrific.

Quote of the week: "If you can react the same way to winning and losing, that is a big accomplishment. That quality is important because it will stay with you the rest of your life" Chris Evert, Tennis Champion

Coming to McClain's Video

FLUSHED AWAY – Hugh Jackman, Kate Winslet – Children – PG.

THE [RESTOGE – Hugh Jackman, Christian Bale – Mystery-PG-13.

MAN OF THE YEAR – Robin Williams, Christopher Walken – Comedy-PG-13.

BABEL – Brad Pitt, Cate Blanchett – Drama – R.

CROSSOVER – Wayne Brady, Little AJ – Action-PG-13.

KEEPING MUM – Rowan Atkinson, Kristin Scott – Comedy-R.

SHUT UP AND SING – Natalie Maines, Emily Robison – Drama-R.

A GUIDE TO RECOGNIZING YOUR SAINTS – Robert Downey, Jr., Rosario Dawson – Drama – R.

Baseball Sign-ups

February 24th!

Shepherd Baseball Park

From 10:00 to 2:00 Saturdays

(Note: please bring a copy of your child's BIRTH CERTIFICATE and \$75 FEE to the sign up!)

Cut off date is February 24th

- No Exceptions! -

Sunday, March 4th will be the draft.

(This gives coaches, kids, parents and volunteers time to get the practice and uniforms complete and ready to go by Opening Day - April 14, 2007.)

Get ready for a great baseball season, kids!

Any questions please contact: President John Few at 628-6011. Candy Currie (281) 761, 9290, Tommy Reeves (713) 826-7549; Stacie Fontenot (936) 328-0737; Melinda Scott (281) 964-3977 or Jessie Whitmire (936) 760-9643.

Calendar

February 2007

20 Greater Shepherd C. of C. Noon

20 Friends of the Library 2:30 p.m.

March 2007

5 Band Booster Club 6:00 p.m.

5 Athletic Booster Club – Field House (All are welcome) 7:00 p.m.

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.