

SHEPHERD COMMUNITY NEWS

Pirates Play First Home Football Game This Friday!

The Shepherd Pirates team is expected to have a great football season this year! They will play their first at home game this Friday, September 7th against Diboll. Last year the Pirates defeated the Lumberjacks in an exciting come-from-behind game 47-46.

The Pirate team's opening game last year was a big win over Tarkington; however, midway in their next game the starting quarterback, Seth Keith, was seriously injured and out the remaining season. The pirates did not win another game. This is a new year and hopes are high! With a healthy quarterback and armed with nine offensive and seven defensive starters among a fine 23 lettermen team, it should be an exciting, successful season!

Among the nine returning offensive lettermen are quarterback Keith, all district running back Chaz Addie, who rushed for over 1200 yards last year, all-district guard Karl Koether, and junior tackle Brandon Coogler who was an honorable-mention all-district player.

Others being counted upon are wide-receiver Keandre 'KiKi' Shaw, wide-receiver Jared Wilson, tight-end Jordan Wood, center Robert Smith, and guard Scott Hoard. The projected defensive team includes Curtis Lane, Kelley O'Brian, Michael Walulik, Clint Riddle, Cody Lane, Lee Riddle, Bryan Wells and Raghib Ellis.

See you at the stadium!

Annual San Jacinto County Trail Ride Notice of New Location and Route

The San Jacinto County trail riders will host their annual trail ride on Wednesday, September 26, 2007. The ride will start in Shepherd at the ball park area at 9:30 am. Riders will ride a circle ride that will end at the Shepherd Community Center next to the ball park. Everyone is responsible for their own lunch and drinks during the day.

There will be a barbecue after the ride at the Shepherd Community Center starting at 5:00 p.m. 'til 7:00 p.m. The dance will start at 8:00 p.m. and last until midnight at the pavilion next to the Community Center. Price of the tickets is \$15 for 13 years old and older. Twelve years old and younger 'ride only' tickets will be \$8.00. Everyone is invited out for a good time.

For more information call (936) 628-6835. Notice: All horses are required by the state to have a Coggins test.

Craft Fair/Health Fair

The Shepherd Chamber of Commerce will be sponsoring a Craft Fair/Health Fair on November 17, 2007 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, to be held at the Shepherd Community Center. We are in need of crafters and also anyone in the health field, such as Eye Doctors, Dentists, Doctors, Chiropractors, Home Health, Hospice, etc. Anyone wishing to have a booth in the fair, should contact Darlene Moore at (936) 628-3890 or more information. Get your space reserved early.

Pancakes for breakfast!

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin, 5 and Ryan, 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw an opportunity for a moral lesson. If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, "Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait."

Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"

Commissioner's Corner

By Royce Wells



Commissioners' Court has been working hard the last few months to get everything ready to begin jail construction. The jail expansion is underway and should be completed in approximately 8 to 10 months.

I want to let you know about some of the grants that your commissioner has been working on for Precinct 2. We have been awarded several grants that will be beneficial for Precinct 2. One of the grants will provide generators to many of the water systems throughout the county. This will eliminate water shortages like the ones experienced during the last hurricane. This grant is approximately \$400,000, and will be used county wide. The City of Shepherd got approximately \$48,000 for a generator to be used in their water/sewer system.

The second grant was money received for damage to Precinct 2's building, fence around the compactor and approximately 1200 feet of roadway damage from falling trees during the hurricane. This grant amounted to approximately \$10,000. The third grant was recently awarded to San Jacinto County for flooding damage. Precinct 2 will receive approximately \$92,000 that will be used for several streets in Cherry Creek Subdivision damaged by flood water. It also includes money to replace a 60 inch culvert in Lake Tejas.

Recently, Commissioners' Court changed the percentages that are used to disburse tax money to each of the Precinct's Road and Bridge. Precinct 2's amount was raised by one percentage point. This will give additional money to Precinct 2. These are just a few of the many things that I work on to help

Shepherd ISD Welcomes New and Returning Staff

On August 16, 2007, Shepherd ISD welcomed 37 new instructional staff members. An orientation program was presented, and district and campus administrators provided useful information to the new staff members about policies, procedures, and best practices affecting students. On August 20, 2007, all Shepherd ISD staff members returned to work, beginning their day with a southern breakfast served by the administration, before attending the first planned session presented by Karen Bowles from the Flippin Group. She spoke of "Capturing Kids Hearts," and building champions. Bea Ellis of Livingston spoke to the group about how they can get involved in a local organization, F.A.I.T.H. Military Support Group, and help local members of the military in Iraq. Beginning with that session, the Onalaska ISD staff joined the Shepherd staff for the week-long staff development program revolving around implementation of the highly recommended, "C-Scope" curriculum program. A wide variety of additional informational training sessions were also presented and attended by personnel from both districts throughout the week.

As fund raising activities, various district organizations including the SISD Child Nutrition staff, the SHS Cheerleaders, the Shepherd Athletic Boost-

ers, the Shepherd Band Boosters and the Shepherd Drill Team Boosters provided a noon meal for the staffs. And the Onalaska ISD cheerleaders made available snacks for attendees to purchase between sessions. "I feel strongly that our staff members have received information that will make them even stronger teachers, and certainly benefit our students. I also think the networking across the two districts during the week as been beneficial to both staffs," remarked Jeff Dozier, Shepherd ISD Superintendent.



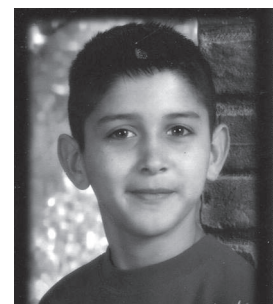
Teachers and instructional paraprofessionals participated in quality training sessions.



Jackie Joyner, Shepherd ATPE Vice-President gave out 52 door prizes at the 'Welcome Back' breakfast on August 20th. Shepherd's chapter of the Association of Texas Professional Educators provided the gifts.

There is an e-mail movement to have everyone fly a flag - any size - on 9-11. Tuesday, September 11, 2007. Every home, apartment, office, store in the U.S.

Shepherd Student Accepted Into Academic Program



Chad Alaniz, son of Joel Alaniz, and Shepherd Middle School student, has been accepted into the People to People World Leadership Forum. Chad will join a select group of students in Washington, D.C., September 10-16, 2007 to earn high school

credit while studying leadership and exploring some of the United States' most prominent monuments and institutions.

Alaniz was nominated and accepted for the honor based on outstanding scholastic merit, civic involvement and leadership potential. Forum delegates will experience first-hand how successful leaders develop strategies, make decisions, build consensus, and foster change.

The program is coordinated by People to People Student 'Ambassador Programs to fulfill the vision Dwight D. Eisenhower had for fostering world citizenship when he founded People to People during his presidency in 1956. For additional information please visit www.wflleaders.org.

Chad thanks John Wisenbaker, Jr. of Wisenbaker Builder Service, and Richard Shephard and family for their support.

GED Classes to be Offered in Shepherd ISD

If you have been putting off getting your GED, now is your opportunity. Shepherd ISD is offering classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning September 11, 2007.

The classes will be held from 6:00-8:00 p.m., at Shepherd Middle School, Room J304. Register on site - no fees will be charged.

Darrell Bain Wins Book Award



While attending the Armadillocon convention in Austin Texas on August 11, 2007, Darrell Bain of Shepherd was awarded the Dream Realm Award for best science fiction e-book of the year for his novel, Warp Point.

Earlier this year Mr. Bain was also a double EPPIE Award Winner for best young adult science fiction novel and best action/adventure novel of the 3-book industry.

Mr. Bain's first hard cover novel, Savage Survival, is available for pre-order now at book stores, www.amazon.com and www.barnesandnoble.com. It will be issued in September 2007. He is author of three dozen other novels in the thriller, action/adventure and science fiction categories, all still in print.

this county in general and Precinct 2 specifically to be a better place to live.

The County's budget will be aired in public hearing in the next few weeks. This is required by law. The budget highlights are listed: jail expansion from 54 beds to 144 beds, pay raise for county employees, additional deputies for the Sheriff's Department, and normal increases for all departments due in large part to rising insurance and fuel cost. As for Precinct 2, I will continue to provide as much funding as possible for road construction, upgrading our facilities and equipment, and employees' salary increases.

Commissioners' Court Passes Tax Abatement Plan

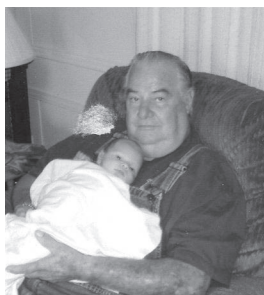
The first county tax abatement was passed by the San Jacinto County Commissioner's Court on Tuesday, August 14, 2007 to assist Agri-Tex Wood Shavings Co., LLC. with a \$2.5 million initial expansion. The tax abatement plan and guidelines were researched and initiated last year by the Shepherd Economic Development Corporation (SEDC).

Agri-Tex, located on Industrial Boulevard in Shepherd, Texas, was established to enter into the wood shavings market for the Southwestern United States. The company introduced their SunCoast Bedding products into the market and they have enjoyed an ever increasing demand for their products. Since the company's inception in the fall of 2004, they have grown

to the point where an expansion was necessary to keep up with the demand. Agri-Tex anticipates having 43 employees by 2009 (current employment is 23). The commissioners and county judge are enthusiastic about the abatement which will encourage new businesses into the county and will assist existing businesses with facility improvements. The plan offers abatements for up to five years which are set up in tiers with increasing investment amounts ranging from \$50,000.00 to \$10,000,000.00. Interested businesses may complete an application which will be considered by the proper governing body. A public hearing will then be held and a feasibility study will be prepared. If you have questions regarding the Shepherd Economic Development Corporation or the tax abatement, please call 936-628-1271 or visit the office in the Shepherd City Hall located at 11020 Highway 150, Shepherd, Texas.



Pictured on the steps of the Courthouse are David Sparks, Precinct 2 Commissioner Royce Wells, Raj Dahwadi, High School Principal Jody Cronin, Agri-Tex Owner Mike Webb, SISD Superintendent Jeff Dozier, County Judge Fritz Faulkner, Precinct 4 Commissioner Mark Nettuno, Jay Estes (SEDC President), Glen Daigle, and Precinct 3 Commissioner David Brandon.



**Happy 1st Birthday,
Chance Taylor
Ramsey
"Little Taylor"**
Love you,
PaPa and Nay Nay,
Colton and Blake

Happy Birthday, Deborah Haring

August 30th
Your family loves you!

Community Classifieds

FOR SALE: Rascal Heavy Duty Scooter original cost \$6,000. Burgundy with wood grain design, like new, asking \$1200. Call (936) 628-3239 - if no answer please leave a message and number.

FOR SALE: Nearly new Josie motor chair. Run's great. \$750. Call James (936) 365-4766 or Jerry at (832) 247-5107.

WILL CLEAN your home to perfection, also private sitter for your loved ones. I have references. Call Glenda at (936) 628-0254 or (936) 232-3294.

CAR FOR SALE: 1986 Oldsmobile - new motor, excellent air conditioner, inside very clean. \$1300 or better offer! Call: (932-248-0483 or (281) 622-9685.

FOR SALE: 1980 Ford F-350, 4x4, 4 speed, 37" Mickey Thompson paddle tire. Needs motor \$750. Call Cindy (932) 606-1864.

FOR SALE: 1998 Pontiac Sunfire, 4 door, new tires, nice car. Needs motor \$600. Call Cindy (832) 606-1864

FOR SALE: 1999 3 bedroom 2 bath mobile home on 1/2 acre. No water. No septic, \$7500. Call Cindy (932) 606-1864/

AHOY PIRATES!

At all the home games, Pirate football fans will receive give-a-ways from Athletic Booster Club and Cheerleaders.

1st game 1st 100 people receive Rally Towels

2nd game 1st 100 people receive Thunder Sticks

3rd game Wear Royal Blue and receive a free raffle ticket to win Pirate Treasure; 1st 100 people will receive Shakers

4th game 1st 50 people receive \$2.00 off coupons for Anastacio's Pizza plus there will be a drawing for one large pizza at halftime!

5th game 1st 100 people receive Victory Bracelets

Obituaries

Alice Murry

Alice Murry, Mother, Grandmother and Great Grandmother passed from this life on August 23, 2007. She was preceded in death by her husband of 60 years, D. A. Murry.

She is survived by her daughter Sharon Carter and husband Nick, and her son D. A. Murry, Jr. and wife Linda; brothers Cleo Vann, Loyd Vann, Horace Vann, A. J. Vann; and sisters Faye Lilly, Mattie Richards; 9 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren.

Alice was a Sunday School Teacher for over 50 years, an avid deer hunter and a great cook with love as her main ingredient. She became a counselor to many wishing to examine the bible for a deeper meaning and a way of life. Her wish was that all of her family would participate in church and know Jesus as their Savior.

She mothered all who needed a mother's love and made all feel special. Dedicated to 2 churches, Hibbard Memorial Baptist Church and Bear Creek Baptist Church in her lifetime. She served on the NFISD School board, as a beautician, and as a secretary/bookkeeper until retirement. She took the position as bookkeeper for Bear Baptist Church in her later years until her illness. Mother was always there when needed.

The family wishes to thank the staff, nurses and technicians of Nexus Specialty Hospital in Shenandoah for the professional and loving care they provided.

Funeral Services were held at Pace Stancil Funeral Home in Cleveland, Texas, at 11:00 am, on August 27, 2007. Interment followed at Bear Creek Cemetery.

Pallbearers were her grandsons: Chris Cates, Dee Cates, Kevin Murry, James Murry, Kevin Carter, Paul Murry, Jack Kutzer and Matt Dennis. Honorary Pallbearers were Jason Carter, Jake Murry, and Devon Cates.

Karen Lee Evans

July 2, 1942 - August 21, 2007

Karen Lee Evans, age 65, of Wells, Texas, passed away at Woodland Heights Medical Center in Lufkin, August 21, 2007. Karen was born in Houston, Texas on July 2, 1942.

Survivors include her fiancé, David Tolman, her children, Butch Phillips and wife, Linda, Sandra Kay Davovich, Terry Kelly and husband, Gordon, Jerry Phillips and wife, Sonya; grandchildren, Tammy Samuelson, Christopher Daniels, Grace and Trace Kelly, Anastasia Davovich, C.G. Phillips, Mary Helen Phillips, Mariah Phillips, Nichole Phillips; her great-grandchildren, Madalynne Samuelson, Brandon Lee Lujan; her brother, Ronnie Butler and wife, Terry; also her special pal and devoted friend, her dog, "Nicki." Many other loving family members and caring friends mourn her passing.

A memorial service was held at 10:00 a.m., Friday, August 24, 2007 at Pace-Stancil Funeral Home Chapel, Cleveland, Texas.

We Don't Need Any More Of This Kind Of Booming Business

By Joy Stephenson

Editor's Note: This article by Ms. Stephenson was published in the Navasota Examiner. She was kind enough to give permission for us to use it in the Community News. Joy Stephenson lives in Grimes County.

New industry in Grimes County is almost always welcome and there is a new cottage industry blossoming right here. But, the Chamber of Commerce was not called upon to deliver welcome packages to executives and business owners for this enterprise. The Commissioner's Court was not asked to offer tax incentives to encourage this business to move to Grimes County. The commerce just appeared and, in time, boomed and continues to grow, becoming an accepted part of the county culture.

These entrepreneurs are real marketers. They spend no money on advertising. Their product and their phone numbers are known by word of mouth. They have no office, no suit, no tie. Few of them finished high school. They pay no taxes to operate their businesses or, for that matter, on the money they make. Their activity requires no education, no background check, no license. They sell drugs.

There is a tier of people who see no harm in peddling marijuana and a few simple little pills, maybe a little crack, some coke and a smattering of meth-amphetamines. Mix these things with alcohol and those who survive have a really good time for a little while. The families of the drug users are not having such a good time. They become familiar with the county jail system and meet a lot of law enforcement people, all of whom are extremely polite but do little besides haul offenders to jail. Jail is where they dry out for a few days before they start all over again.

Families spend a lot of money on rehabilitating these folks but the counseling rarely works. The drug taker returns from jail, the sellers know his or her release date and will be calling early on that day. They will pick him or her up at the jail if a ride is needed and throw in a joint to be smoked on the ride home.

The blame for all this does not lie solely with the sellers of this garbage. They would be quickly out of business if the users could or would give up their habits. This is difficult in an area where drug use is accepted behavior and where little money is committed by government to fight the scourge. Drug use seems to be epidemic among many of the county's young people. If we had an outbreak of a deadly disease, money would be appropriated to fight the attack. Drugs, however, seem to be an accepted fact of life and little is done in our county to oppose it. Law enforcement people cite lack of funding as a part of the problem.

Our commissioners turn a blind eye to funding a program to combat this problem while they endlessly ramble on about how to save a few dollars on the cost of gravel or go into executive session to endlessly deal with personnel problems.

Meanwhile, the problem grows more serious daily. Each day more young people are caught in this web. It is not wholly the fault of law enforcement, it is a societal, cultural problem of great proportions. The county, the state, the country and the world could do much better without this kind of cottage industry but gee, we could make a little effort.

Little King, Queen Contestants Sought For Annual Pageant

The 15th annual San Jacinto County Fair and Rodeo Little King and Queen Contest will be held Friday, September 21st at the San Jacinto County Fairgrounds in Coldspring.

Sponsored by the Shepherd 4-H Club, the event is for children under the age of one and up to the age of four. A \$20 entry fee will be charged at registration time which is from 6:00 to 6:45 p.m. The contest will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Applications can be picked up at the San Jacinto County Extension Office in Shepherd, Shepherd Auto Parts, Peoples State Bank and First State Bank in Shepherd.

Contestants will be judged on personality, attire and presentation. Western wear is recommended. Presentation should be introduction to judges. There will be no talent competition.

A first place boy and girl will be selected from each of five age categories. The king and queen will be selected from first place winners of each category.

Each contestant will receive a ribbon as well as a photo. The winner of each category will receive trophies. The king and queen will receive a crown, trophies and a photograph.

For more information please call (936) 628-6407 or (936) 365-3145. You may pre-register by mailing an official entry form and \$20 to Shepherd 4-H, Attention Baby Contest, 1201 Trinity River Ranch Road, Shepherd, Texas 77371. The contest is open to all San Jacinto County residents under the age of one, or one through age 4.

MARK YOU CALENDAR!

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**San Jacinto County
Fair & Rodeo
will be here**

September 24 - 29!



I love 'happy endings' and want to tell you about one. Scott Greenhouse was diagnosed on August 28, 1997 with ALL (Acute Lymphoma Leukemia). He and his family celebrated what they call his "Still A-kickin'" 10th anniversary this week. His mom, Betty Greenhouse, cooked all of his favorite dishes - Chicken Fried Steak, Turkey and Dressing, Red Beans and Dirty Rice, and Brownies for dessert! We all share in their joy.

I've got a bee in my bonnet! Here it is: I think that everyone born in 1927 should celebrate together with a luncheon at Drew's Landing Café (I haven't talked to them yet but will as soon as I get your reaction). Paul Patrick wrote me a letter to say that he was born in 1927, and I got a phone call from Ruth Everitt with the same information. I knew about Ruth but, hey, I'm old and forgetful. Don Jennings and Ruth have the same birth date, Nov. 19th, but she and I share the same year! At this moment, the count is at five people. I know there are more of us Jazz babies out there. My number is 628-6878. Let me know if you want to be included in this celebration. My day off is Friday - what would you think of November 16, 2007? We would take a group picture, pay for our own lunch, and tell each other tall tales about how it was!

Sad to report that I have not received even one genius call. In his letter to me, Paul Patrick told of his two room school in Jackson County, Missouri where the students got by for the year with three #2 pencils and a pen staff used for cursive penmanship. I remember my desk having a small hole in the upper right hand corner to hold the bottle of ink. That must have been inconvenient for left-handed kids.

Sunday September 9th is Grandparent's Day. I identify with Lois Wyse's book "Grandchildren are so much fun, I should have had them first."

Molly Brown was born in 1968, and a strange thing happened there in the hospital corridor - everyone's name changed. Susie became Mom and Scooter became Daddy and Pat and Don were suddenly Papaw and Granny. I was a young and fetching 40 and actually thought the name Granny was whimsical. It never occurred to me it could be so nasal. Listen to the many nasal N's: "Grannnnny, there's no toilet paperrrrr!"

I was determined to be the best grandmother who ever lived. Even to the point of trying to learn to bake bread and cookies. Don's grandfathering took on an entirely different track - just as good with the grandchildren. They would scratch his head with a comb, rub his feet, and fetch constantly. I wrote a song about that and the 9 grandchildren sang it to him on his 70th birthday. He was always giving them money and they thought he was wonderful. You may not know this, but grandchildren can be bought!

Because of the world we live in now, our grandchildren are protected, watched, hemmed into careful circles of friends and activities. This is the way it has to be now, but children need some adventure in their lives, a feeling of independence, of being their own person. For this, I would take my grandchildren to the gully in Coldspring. It's a wild and tangled safe place. They could climb and investigate and test themselves. I would sit close by and pretend to read.

I believe that a child who has a grandparent has a softened view of life, the feeling that there is more to life than what we see, more than getting and gaining, winning and losing. There is a love that makes no demands. We are the recess from the demands that are made as they learn to live in a very confusing world.

Who's that lady on the treadmill? That's no lady, that's my Grandma! And it is true! I feel so young inside. There are still plenty of things for me to learn and do and see. We grandparents today are more active and busy doing our thing. We ride motorcycles, we jog (at least for sure we walk fast). Age is not a barrier, it is a support. Wise decisions are made by people of experience (learning from mistakes).

So, as we go speeding off into the sunset filling new roles, it does make one wonder who will fill the old cookie jar? (Shrug, eye-roll.) Bought cookies are great! Since I count myself a granny of the new millennium, I sign out now, Affectionately, Grani!

Quote of the week: *The reason a great-grandparent is not as close to the great-grandchildren is because there is that other woman in the middle who thinks she's the grandmother!* Pat Jennings (1927-)

Business News

MIRACLE MAIDS CLEANING SERVICE will clean commercial and residential. No job is too big or too small. Call for free estimate and also check out our great prices on shampooing carpets. Call Leslie at (936) 628-6840 or Artie at (936) 628-6033 or (832) 715-8484.

Calendar

September 2007

10, 7 pm	City Council at Pct. 2 Courtroom
10, 7pm	Shepherd 4-H at Extension Office
11, 9 am	Commissioners' Court at Coldspring
11, 5:30 pm	Crime Stoppers at Pct. 2 Courtroom
17, 7 pm	SISD Board Meeting-Admin. Office
18, noon	Shepherd C of C Meeting
18, 2:30 pm	Friends of the Library at the Library

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.