



Buffalo Press reporter Morgan Anderson.

photo by Dana Anderson



The Big Island and the Kilauea Volcano.

photo by Morgan Anderson

Buffalo Press reporter's seventeenth birthday in Hawaii, more pictures and story on page 2A

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Oakwood Man stabbed at Freestone County Fair

by Vanessa Goodwyn

A county fair is an event intended to entertain area residents with fun and games, and the only screams SHOULD be those on the roller coaster. On Monday evening, June 15th, however, a stabbing occurred at the Freestone County Fair during the horse-shoe tournament at the W.L. Moody Reunion Grounds in Fairfield. At approximately

10:10 p.m., Mike Crockett of Oakwood (40) was attacked by Adrian Inderman (51) of Teague. Inderman was disarmed by people in the large crowd of witnesses to the incident, and then arrested by Fairfield police. The stabbing reportedly followed an argument related to Crockett and an ex-family member.

Crockett's injuries included cuts to the left side of his face and body. He was

treated first in Fairfield at the East Texas Medical Center and later taken by helicopter to ETMC Tyler. On Tuesday morning his condition was reported as stable and he was released from the hospital later in the week.

Inderman was also taken to the Fairfield hospital for treatment of a cut on his finger, then incarcerated at the Freestone County Jail under charges of Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon, according to Fairfield Assistant Police Chief William Rogillio. The incident is under continuing investigation.

Inderman bonded out on Wednesday, June 17.



Van'Go'photo

How I spent my summer vacation... Buffalo High junior Jordan Nix (right), referees a finger jousting match in his role of Activity Director for last week's Kids Camp at The Abiding Place Retreat Center. See page 8A for more pictures of BHS teens' summer activities.

A challenge....

Looking for something to do this summer? Why not get a jump on things and start planning a float for this fall's Buffalo Stampede Parade? Chamber of Commerce organizers are really trying to grow this event, and this year's Stampede promises to be a good one. The success of the parade, however, depends on the community's support, and frankly, in recent years the pickins have been pretty slim.

How about organizing your local club, band, neighbors, or business to put together a fun float? Decorate a truck, ATV, golf cart, or flat bed trailer. Does your family put the FUN in dysFUNCTIONal? Show 'em off! Spotlight your handsome horse, or decorate your bike. The Stampede brings a lot of visitors to our city -- let's show them the best of Buffalo.

This year's Stampede parade will take place on September 19th. Call the Chamber of Commerce at 903-322-5810 for details.

Texas unemployment at 7.1% is far below U.S. rate

AUSTIN —Texas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose in May to 7.1 percent and continued to trend well below the national rate of 9.4 percent. The Texas unemployment rate was up from a revised 6.6 percent in April when the U.S. unemployment rate stood at 8.9 percent.

Texas' seasonally adjusted nonagricultural employment fell by 24,700 jobs

in May. Texas has recorded a net loss of 222,600 jobs in the past 12 months, compared with job losses of 5.4 million in the United States during the same period.

"The Texas unemployment rate continued to follow the national unemployment rate's upward trend," said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chairman Tom Pauken. "Few industries were

spared in May as Texas employers continued to report job losses. Continued unemployment claims increased in Texas as well."

Texas saw broad industry losses in May. Hardest hit were Manufacturing with a loss of 12,800 jobs over the month, followed by Construction with a loss of 10,400 jobs.

"Texas workers are facing a tight job market as employers across most industries reported job losses in May," said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. "Job search assistance is available from TWC and 28 workforce boards across the state."

Education and Health Services remained a bright spot in the Texas economy with an additional 5,800 jobs in May for a gain of 59,600 jobs over the year. The Other

Services industry, which includes automotive, electronic, and commercial repair and maintenance, grew by 5,200 jobs this month.

"While our unemployment rate rose in May, it does remain 2.3 percentage points below the national rate, and Texas experienced job growth in education and health care," said TWC Commissioner Representing the Public Andres Alcantar. "TWC and the workforce centers around the state remain focused on helping Texans find jobs."

The Lubbock Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) experienced the lowest unemployment rate in the state at 4.6 percent (not seasonally adjusted). The Amarillo MSA recorded the second lowest unemployment rate at 4.7 percent. The College Station-Bryan MSA was third lowest at 4.9 percent.

Grant fund news brightens BISD meeting

by Vanessa Goodwyn

Good news about grant funds was a highlight of Monday evening's BISD School Board meeting. Academic Coordinator Tracy Gleghorn reported on three sources of available funds.

First, negotiations are underway for a Pre-K expansion grant from TEA. Last year, Buffalo's elementary school offered two half-day Pre-K sessions, and will have to turn students away this fall if that does not change. If the Pre-K grant application is fully approved, money will be available to fund payroll to add another teacher and expand the program to three half-day sessions, with the option for a fourth session if needed. (NOTE: If you have a child who will be four years old on September 1, contact the elementary school to learn more about the pre-K eligibility criteria.)

Each BISD campus was approved to receive a third

of \$75,000 dispersed through the Region VI Service Center. The funds are earmarked for instructional technology hardware. Committees at each campus determined the equipment to be purchased.

Third, some of the government's stimulus program funds are being made available in grants through a program called Target Technology in Texas. BISD is collaborating with other districts in Region VI to apply for a share of this money. Gleghorn expressed optimism that the district will see some of these funds.

More good news was announced when Superintendent Jackie Thomason reported on several recent audits. The TEA audit of the 2009 TAKS test administration showed that the district was in procedural compliance, with no findings. The TEA financial audit of the district for 2007-08 was accepted and approved, and the district received a "Superior Achieve-

ment" rating -- the highest possible -- on the preliminary FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas) audit.

Engineering consultant Jim Hanks presented another slide show on the progress of the district's new construction. Several board members commented on the amount of light coming in through the high windows featured in the hallways, and Hanks confirmed, "The way the building is oriented, you catch a TON of light." He concluded, "Everything's moving along pretty well out there." Before leaving the matter, the board made some fabric sample decision needed to allow the auditorium seats to be ordered.

The Board met with district administrators earlier in the month in a goal-setting meeting. At Monday's meeting the superintendent reviewed the items which came out of that meeting, including: accountability to ad-

dress areas of concern at each campus, facility improvements including a master plan for athletics facilities at the new high school (weight room/dressing room, a track, a stadium, concession stand/restrooms, and baseball and softball fields) and parking lot improvements. Long-range goals were also discussed. Mr. Thomason concluded, "I thought it was very productive, to see where you'd like to see us go and to hear our (administrators') side."

The Board received a copy of the Board Operating Procedure Review which will be coming up in July. At that time they will also review their Code of Ethics, which Superintendent Jackie Thomason described as "a reminder on how we are to act and interact."

Six of the school board members attended conferences earlier this month.

SEE School Board, page 5A

Crash near Fairfield claims one life, one other injured

A one-car rollover crash on I-45 near Fairfield on Sunday evening claimed the life of one Houston woman and injured one man.

Thirty-one-year-old Roxana Gutierrez was pronounced dead at Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center in Waco at 9:53 p.m. on Sunday, about two hours after the crash. McClennan County Justice of the Peace Kristi DeCluitt ordered the body

sent to Southwest Institute of Forensic Science in Dallas for autopsy.

The car's driver, Ernesto Aguirre, also of Houston, was in stable condition on Monday with head injuries.

Texas DPS troopers stated that the vehicle was headed south on I-45 when Aguirre lost control and overcorrected. The vehicle rolled several times and landed on its top.