

## Centerville's First Baptist prepares for Christmas

The music and drama ministry of First Baptist Church, Centerville, has begun preparations for their Christmas cantata, "The Love of God at Christmas". Please

make plans to join us on Sunday night, December 6, as we begin the Christmas season with this wonderful musical celebration of the birth of Jesus.

## Leon County Tea Party Patriots Meeting and Pot Luck Supper

The Leon County Tea Party Patriots will meet and enjoy a pot luck supper on Monday night, November 2nd at 6 p.m. in the Jewett Civic Center in downtown Jewett. Bring a favorite covered dish for everyone to enjoy and the plates, eating utensils, iced tea and water will be provided.

The featured speaker will be Toby Marie Walker, president of the Waco Tea Party group. According to Toby Marie, "Six months ago I was just a ticked off American, but now, I am a political activist in the Tea Party Movement and I only want my country to prosper!"

Walker will discuss recent activities of the Waco Tea Party group as well as some upcoming events that the local Tea Party Patriots can get involved in. One event is the Tea Party Express national bus tour, beginning in San Diego, California on October 25th and traveling eastward, making stops in several cit-

ies before reaching its final destination at a giant rally in Orlando, Florida on November 12th. In Texas, Tea Party Express rallies will be held on the steps of the state capitol in Austin on Friday, November 6th at 5 p.m. and in Houston on Saturday, November 7th at Sam Houston Race Parkway.

Leon County Tea Party Patriots is a non-partisan, non-profit political group. Its mission is to organize, inform and inspire fellow Leon County residents to unite with a goal of making a difference in public policy in ways consistent with the core values upon which this nation was founded. For more information about LCTP, send an email to lctp@windstream.net.

Call, or pick up your neighbors and friends, bring a covered dish and join the Leon County Tea Party Patriots on Monday, November 2nd at 6 p.m. in the Jewett Civic Center.



Actors preparing for "The Love of God at Christmas": Steven Rappolee, Aaron Cook, Kenneth Schroeder, Dan Parker, Amanda Blaylock, and Jamie Ferguson. *Contributed photo*

## The Best Prescription For Health Care Reform

By U.S. Sen. John Cornyn

Earlier this year, I began soliciting input about health care reform from Texans from across the state and from every walk of life. I sent personal letters to roughly 300 physician groups, medical societies, and chambers of commerce to solicit their feedback on specific health care policy proposals under consideration in Congress. From Odessa to Tyler to San Antonio, I visited non-profit clinics, workplaces, hospitals, and chambers of commerce. I met with doctors, insured and uninsured patients, hospital

administrators, and employers and employees of large, mid and small-sized businesses.

Many Texas families have seen the cost of their private insurance skyrocket. Many are worried about losing their coverage altogether. Seniors in Texas are concerned about the future of Medicare. The overwhelming majority of these Texans told me they believe our health care system needs reform, but they did not want to see a full-scale government takeover of our health care system. I couldn't agree with them more.

I believe health care reform should focus on lowering costs, which have more than doubled over the past decade. We can lower costs by realigning incentives for providers, so they focus on value instead of volume. We can create incentives for patients to make healthier choices. In

Austin, I hosted a roundtable discussion with Whole Foods executives and employees who explained the benefits of their unique consumer-driven health insurance plan, which has lowered their health care costs and opened the doors to quality coverage and more options. Employees shared how the innovative plan has improved their access, saved them money and encouraged them to lead healthier lifestyles.

We can reform the private insurance market in every state to encourage greater competition and more choices, without denying anyone coverage because of a pre-existing condition. We can lower costs by cutting waste, fraud, and abuse in our current entitlement programs. In College Station, I hosted a discussion on Medicare's role for future generations at Texas A&M University. I invited experts like Dr. Thomas Sav-

ing, Director of the Private Enterprise Research Center at Texas A&M University and former Trustee of the National Medicare Trust Fund, to discuss with local young professionals the current state of Medicare and the need for immediate reforms to safeguard it for future generations of retirees who are already investing in the program.

We should also reduce costly defensive medicine by reforming our medical liability laws like Texas has done. In Houston, I visited the Kelsey-Seybold Clinic to see firsthand how the clinic has used \$25 million in savings from malpractice reforms to implement an electronic-records program that has directly improved patient care. I also met with physicians there who have relocated to Texas from other states as a direct result of Texas' medical malpractice reform law enacted in 2003.

## Flood warnings in Leon County

By Sherry Matney

Could it be only a few weeks ago that most of us were whining about the drought. Creeks were barely trickling, grass was burned and brown, stock tanks were almost empty and nary a cloud in the sky.

Not so today. The past weekend brought several inch-

es of rain and Monday night flood warnings flashed across the TV screen all the while "Dancing with the Stars" was airing.

Depending upon where you get your information, rainfall over the past few weeks has been anywhere from 8 to 15 inches. Buffalo Creek on

FM 831 is out of its banks and some county roads are impassable. Grass is green again and the stock tanks are full. Life is good.

The 10 day weather forecast has a few more showers on Thursday and Friday this week but a clear cool Halloween.

## Vote

from page 1A

als process, which many Texans find confusing and unfair. They result from hearings across the state at which home- and business-owners alike demanded tax appraisal reform. These changes were overwhelming supported in the Legislature by both parties as necessary improvements to the current system.

**Proposition 2** would require homestead property taxes to be based on a property's value as a residence - not a commercial property. By requiring values based on 'actual use' rather than 'best use,' homes would be appraised based on their current value - not on what they would be worth as an office or business. Proponents claim Proposition 2 protects against inflated residential property tax appraisals, while opponents worry that it will lower local tax revenue.

**Proposition 3** would allow the state to create uniform property tax appraisal standards and procedures - currently set by counties and widely varied across Texas. Proponents claim that property should be appraised equitably in the state, while opponents argue that county appraisal district should continue to set local procedure.

**Proposition 5** would allow two or more adjoining appraisal districts to form a single appraisal review board. Smaller counties may decide to consolidate to increase the speed and efficiency of the appraisal review process. Pro-

ponents believe Proposition 5 will streamline appraisal district appeals, especially in rural areas; opponents worry that it will reduce local control.

**Propositions 6 and 8** tackle another important topic: services to the approximately 1.7 million veterans living in Texas. Legislators voted unanimously in support of these changes, which attempt to streamline and improve veterans' services across the state.

**Proposition 6** would grant the Veterans' Land Board increased bonding authority to continue financing land purchases and home mortgages for Texas veterans at lower-than-market rates. If approved, the VLB would no longer have to seek voter approval to access funds for veterans' benefits.

**Proposition 8** would authorize the state to contribute to veterans' hospitals in Texas. If approved, the state could work with the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs to establish more veterans' hospitals in Texas, possibly in the Rio Grande Valley region.

**Proposition 4** results from the conclusion in the Legislature that students would benefit from the expansion of the top-tier university system in Texas. Currently, many high-achieving students are opting to attend private or out-of-state universities due to the relatively few elite public universities in the state. Proposition 4 would establish the

National Research University Fund (NRUF) to assist the state in the development of public universities into national research universities. The NRUF would be funded by transfers from the long-dormant permanent Higher Education Fund (HEF) endowment and would not affect the current state budget. Proponents hope that that Proposition 4 will increase the focus on expanding the number of top-tier universities in Texas beyond UT and A&M.

Propositions 1, 7, 9, and 10 deal with relatively minor changes to the Texas constitution.

**Proposition 1** would allow cities and counties to buy land around military institutions. It is motivated by residential and commercial growth around military bases like San Antonio's Camp Bullis, where new homes and schools threaten the base's ability to perform its duties.

**Proposition 7** would allow members of state military forces, such as the Texas State Guard, to an additional paid civil office.

**Proposition 9** would expand the Texas constitution to include the right to use and access public beaches. It would not change current practices as it is already a state law.

**Proposition 10** would allow members of a governing board of an emergency services district to serve terms of up to four years, rather than two.

Splitting Up

B	O	S	S	C	A	P	O	D	E	E	D	S		
B	A	L	E	A	D	I	N	E	N	T	R	Y		
C	H	A	R	M	U	L	E	A	C	T	O	N		
U	M	B	R	E	L	L	A	G	R	O	U	P		
A	R	T	R	E	D									
M	A	L	A	G	A	S	H	O	E	T	A	L		
E	T	A	I	L	S	H	O	P	S	I	D	A		
U	L	T	R	A	V	I	O	L	E	T	L	A	M	P
S	A	T	N	A	M	E	D	A	U	R	A	S		
E	W	E	S	D	I	D	A	R	C	A	N	E		
I	C	E	E	V	E									
U	N	D	E	R	C	O	V	E	R	C	O	P		
A	T	O	L	L	O	V	E	R	H	O	U	R		
C	A	D	E	T	P	E	N	S	E	Z	R	A		
C	H	E	S	S	A	N	T	E	X	E	R	S		

Sudoku Solution #1600-M

9	7	5	8	6	1	4	2	3
1	3	8	2	4	9	7	5	6
2	4	6	7	5	3	8	9	1
4	6	9	5	7	2	1	3	8
8	2	3	9	1	4	5	6	7
5	1	7	6	3	8	2	4	9
3	9	2	4	8	7	6	1	5
6	8	4	1	9	5	3	7	2
7	5	1	3	2	6	9	8	4

## Pokladnik named National Honor Student winner

The United States Achievement Academy announced today that Eric Pokladnik from Pleasanton, TX has been recognized for academic achievement as a United States National Honor Students Award winner. Eric Pokladnik, who attends Pleasanton High, will appear in the United States Achievement Academy's Official Yearbook which is published nation-

ally. "Recognizing and supporting our youth is more important than ever before in America's history. Certainly, United States Achievement Academy winners should be congratulated and appreciated for their dedication to excellence and achievement," said Dr. George Stevens, Founder of the United States Achievement Academy.

The USAA National Honor Student Awards provide honor students with many benefits and services and is a great tribute to a student's dedication, talent, and ability.

Eric Pokladnik is the son of Roy and Esther Pokladnik of Pleasanton, TX. The grandparents are Carolyn and Rich-

ard Papp of Oakwood, TX and the late Frank and Olga Pakladnik of La Marque, TX.



Eric Pokladnik

## Police

from page 1A

myself and my son were not treated right. We were handcuffed and taken to jail, right there in the parking lot with all my customers watching, and we were gone from work for three hours while people were bringing in their cattle. My other son (Cody) handled things there, but ... it's just the fact that one police officer... Well, something's got to be done. He's gonna cost the City."

No one was available for comment at the Buffalo Police Department on Tuesday morning. Mayor Royce Dawkins was contacted and stated that, under advisement from the City Attorney, he was not at liberty to discuss the matter beyond confirming that "an investigation is going on."

## Dunnam

from page 1A

Stimulus Act monies were also discussed, which led to frank questions on the State's finances. Rep. Dunnam admitted that while the State's budget for this year was adequately funded, there are "significant problems" longer term and he fears that "we're looking at California-type deficit" that he sees as "optimistically, it's four years off." "Texas has a structural deficit, and you can't fix it unless you drastically reduce spending or increase taxes,"

he concluded. "The hopeful thing? I think it's going to be So bad we can't help BUT fix it."

The propositions on the upcoming Constitutional Amendment election were reviewed and discussed.

Dr. Russell Jonas asked Rep. Dunnam to direct the county toward any grants or funding available to help develop the Leon County Expo Center, and Rep. Dunnam agreed to look into that.

No. 5717

IN THE ESTATE OF  
MARLYENE LOUISE WEST,  
DECEASED

: :  
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IN THE COUNTY COURT  
OF  
FREESTONE COUNTY, TEXAS

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Marlyene Louise West, Deceased, were issued on September 22, 2009, in Cause No. 5717, pending in the County Court of Freestone County, Texas, to: Lee Roy West.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Lee Roy West  
c/o: Gayle Wilson Ray  
Attorney at Law  
119 N. Center Street  
P.O. Drawer 340  
Buffalo, Texas 75831

DATED the 21 day of October, 2009.

*Gayle Wilson Ray*

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Attorney for Lee Roy West  
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