

Brandon House getting ready for Homes Tour

The Senftenberg-Brandon House Museum and five private homes in Columbus will be open Friday, Dec. 5, from 6 to 9 p.m. as part of the festivities of the Christmas on the Colorado celebration. The homes are on the Candlelight Christmas Homes Tour and will look beautiful with candles in the windows welcoming visitors to stop by and visit.

The 1867 Senftenberg-Brandon House Museum will be adorned in Christmas greenery and authentic 1900 holiday decoration for this year's Candlelight Homes Tour. The Columbus Garden Club will once again decorate the home. After being completely refurbished this last year, it is only fitting that this wonderful historic house museum be given a new look for this Christmas season. The tour includes a Victorian and early 1900s toy exhibit in the basement. The St. Anthony School choir will treat guests with music at 6 p.m.

The 1887 Ilse-Rau home, 1100 Bowie Street, is an elegant nine-room home that has hosted governors and generals. It was restored in 1969 in an

Empire and Victorian manner and features three fireplaces with marble mantles and a 24-candle lighted chandelier. Laura Ann Rau and Gary Guthrie will be showing the home to guests.

Chuck and Marian Rankin will welcome visitors to their 1882 Simpson-Williamson-Rankin House, 630 Milam. This home, the hospitality house for the tour, will be shown by costumed docents and have wassail and cookies available for guests. Columbus High School musicians will play Christmas music at 7 p.m. as visitors enjoy touring this beautiful home.

The 1861/88 Merline, 236 Preston, is the home of Merrill and Elaine Luman and will be shown by costumed docents. This home includes a collection of nativity scenes from all over the world. The First United Methodist Church Bell Choir will furnish continuous music.

Carolyn Hastedt will welcome guests to her home, the historic Steiner-Hastedt home, 1336 Milam. The Columbus High School musicians will provide Christmas music at 8 p.m.

The 1885 Smahlik-Haluska Home,

1503 Milam, will be decked in holiday decorations and will feature music by St. Paul Lutheran Church Bell Choir and singing by Die Deutsch Sanger (German singers). Jerry and Kathryn Haluska will welcome guests to enjoy the festivities.

Saturday, Dec. 6 there will be excitement at the Heritage Christmas Homes Tour that includes three house museums and the Mary Elizabeth Hopkins Santa Claus Museum. Texana Living History characters Sam Houston, Deliens Rose, a German immigrant spinner, and Columbus' own Dilue Rose Harris and the Texas Historical Shootists will be telling their stories and re-enacting historical events at the Stafford Opera House, the Senftenberg-Brandon House Museum, the Dilue Rose Harris House Museum and

the Alley Log Cabin.

The dinner theatre at the 1886 Opera House will be open in the evening for the performance of "Run for Your Wife" by the On Stage Theatre Company. Social hour is at 5:30 p.m., dinner is served at 6:30 and the curtain opens at 7:30.

Sunday, Dec. 7, there will be a special family production of "The Christmas Carol" at the Opera House at 2 p.m. This is a one-act play by Damien Gillen of Austin that both children and adults will enjoy. This production is free.

The Columbus Historical Preservation Trust, a non-profit organization, is sponsoring these tours and events. For information or tickets to these events, call 979-732-5135 or toll free 877-444-7339 or visit www.columbus-texas.org.

Sts. Cyril & Methodius declared an Historic District

The Smith McMillan Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the parish members of St. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church in Dubina hosted a commemorative ceremony Saturday, Nov. 8. Cathy Chaloupka, a Smith McMillan chapter member and church member, devoted many hours to the research and documentation of the Dubina site. She subsequently submitted it to the Texas Historical Commission for possible inclusion as a Texas Historical Site.

The Commission decided to present the package to the National Park Board for consideration as an addition to the National Registry of Historic Sites. Because of the historic prominence of the site as a place of worship, school, residence for the sister instructors, community meeting hall and cemetery, it was declared an Historic District - the only painted church in the State of Texas with such a prestigious designation.

Mrs. Chaloupka is the daughter of Charles and Emily Moore and has been a member of the Smith-McMillan

DAR Chapter since 1997. She and her husband, David, live near the church. The fact that her ancestor was a founding member with other settlers of the Dubina community was a great surprise for Cathy when she began her research.

The ceremony was attended by representatives of the following: state and local DAR members, congressional district representatives, county officials, Texas Historical Commission members, Fayette County Historical Commission members, many local parishioners and other guests.

Father John Bily delivered the invocation. A group welcome was extended by Mrs. Shirley Crain, DAR Regent. Mrs. Charles Pyburn, former Chapter Regent, led the Pledge to the U.S. flag. Mrs. Margie Lovett, Honorary State Regent, led the group in singing the Star Spangled Banner. Martha Barras, representing Senator Armbrister, presented a proclamation from the Senate. State Rep. Robby Cook presented a proclamation from the State of Texas.

Guests toured the Church and County Judge Ed Janecka gave a brief history of the Church community. Judge Janecka was instrumental in initiating and spearheading the completion of the church restoration. This unified effort by the parish members was accomplished over a period of several months. Following the program, Mrs. Margie Janecka, Church musician, sang "America" in Czech, honoring the community and church heritage.

Guests assembled outside the church as Mr. Peter Ketter, Texas Historical Commission, unveiled the Historic District Plaque followed with Mrs. Chaloupka reading the inscription. Mrs. Kim Patrick Joost, Chapter Chaplain, delivered the benediction.

The Smith-McMillan DAR Chapter and ladies of St. Cyril and Methodius hosted a luncheon in the KJT hall following the ceremony.

Texas Recycles Day is Saturday, Nov. 15

Texas Recycles Day (TRD), the statewide, public awareness campaign to encourage Texans to start recycling or increase their recycling efforts, will be held Saturday, Nov. 15. With this year's theme of Texas Recycles Every Day, co-sponsors Keep Texas Beautiful and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality hope to raise awareness and encourage Texans to make recycling a part of their daily lives. Events focusing on reduce, reuse, recycle and rebuy are being held now through Nov. 17 in communities across the state.

This is the 11th year for the event. TRD was the nation's first statewide recycling campaign, which served as the model for America Recycles Day. In celebration for America Recycles Day, everyone is invited to pledge to recycle and buy recycled more, or support the America Recycles Day recycling event on, or leading up to, Nov. 15.

By pledging to begin or renew their commitment to recycling, participants are automatically entered into a drawing. Nationally, eight prizes will be awarded, including a 2004 Ford Focus PZEV (Partial Zero Emission Vehicle), five aluminum Trek Model 4300 24-speed bicycles and spa vacation packages.

All pledges must be submitted no later than midnight Nov. 15, 2003. For details to enter the contest, visit www.americarecyclesday.org.

Any individual, group or company can participate in or hold a TRD event. To participate in TRD events, download publications, or to learn more about recycling, go to www.texasrecyclesday.org. TRD is an on-going program to promote the economic and environmental benefits of waste reduction and recycling.

Sheridan PTS says carnival was a success

The Sheridan Halloween Carnival held recently was deemed a great success. Thanks to all who made it so successful. Below is a list of the prize, donor and winner.

Splashway family season pass, \$25 HEB gift card, Sheridan PTS, Rebecca Hicks; pumpkin pie plate pot holders and \$20 gift card, Home Design Studio, Penny Dodd; \$25 HEB gift card, Audrey Dupree, Donna Kocurek; 2003 silver dollar (uncirculated), Harold Coins, Rebecca De Luna; 54-quart Rubbermaid cooler, MG Feed, Lynn Cook; Ty Beanie Baby Gorilla Rumbles, Birdies Doll House, Kelsey Andrejczak; dinner for two, Taco Tony's, Harold Haynes; rice gift basket, Eagle Lake Rice Dryer, Ardis Boone; etched glass lamp, Furniture Shoppe, Delores Kutach; case of soda, Hoffer's Drive In, Larry Varley; jug of soda, Morton's Drive In, Pat Karstedt; fire extinguisher, Bluebonnet Insurance, Preston Callander; two frog lanterns, Geri Vandemark, Arthur Arming; hair cut, Hair on the Square, Jeanette Nance; \$15 gift certificate, Kountry Bakery, Roy Cloath; two-shelf lockermate, Lavaca County Office Supply, Jim Jamail; designer candle, Designs by Donna, Shane Burrell; angel garden stake set, Geri Vandemark, Henrietta Janacek; Dirt Devil Scorpion cordless vac, Royal Dry Cleaners, Jerry & Lola Greek;

\$20 gift certificate, Grahmann's Tru Value, Stephanie Botard; uncirculated silver dollar, Wallis Sate Bank, Hunter Brewer; bath fragrance basket, Peggy's Beauty Salon, Kelsey Andrejczak; \$25 gift certificate, TRE House Embroidery, Kayla Machart; \$25 gift certificate to Sonntags, Sonntags Service Station, Matt Lloyd; \$25 Luzier gift certificate, Helen Brisco, Courtney Sims; \$25 HEB gift card, Bill & Lillian Gohlke, Travis Beck; \$25 HEB gift card, Wayne & Natalie Dupre, Jimmy Jamail; \$25 Wal-Mart gift card, Sheridan Dairy Delite, Kylee Beyer; \$25 Wal-Mart gift card, Herbert Hinze Memorial, Tony Janish; \$25 Wal-Mart gift card, Brandenburg Buildings, Mikayla Mayes; \$30 Dairy Queen ice cream tab, Dairy Queen, Billy Lovess; \$30 Wal-

Mart gift card, Mitchell's Place, Ruben Perez; bird bath, Class Concrete, Lynda Spencer; microwave, Bo Martinez, Clemente Cruz; candle basket, Doris Owens, Gene Garza; DVD player, Hanson Materials, Leah Jump; \$50 savings bond, Lavo & Ruth Brisco, David Zajicek; \$50 savings bond, Franklin Walker, Shannon Smith; \$50 savings bond, Jean & Zeldia Walker, John McDonald Jr.; ATV rental, Dirt Dog's, Butch Machart; ATV rental, Dirt Dog's, Douglas Carlin; RCA five cd changer/stereo, Eagle Lake Drugstore/Radio Shack, Carol Kazmir; \$100 savings bond, Colorado Butane, Shannon Smith; \$100 Wal-Mart gift card, Cspino Processing, Kathy Botard; \$100 Wal-Mart gift card, Grek Fencing, Jan Jamail; \$100 Wal-Mart gift card, B&D Services, Bonnie Jones.

CenterPoint Energy forecasts higher winter bills

CenterPoint Energy is forecasting higher natural gas bills for its customers this winter. The company does not expect supply shortages this winter, but growing demand and a tight supply forecast are contributing to higher wholesale natural gas prices.

"The demand for natural gas continues to grow because of its positive qualities like efficiency and cleanliness, and electric companies are using more natural gas-powered plants to generate electricity and to supplement electric generation," explained Betsy Glaiser, Area Administration Representative. "However, natural gas continues to be the best energy value for your home even though price fluctuations will continue."

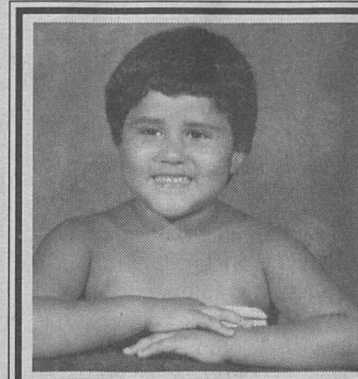
"Higher natural gas prices do not mean higher profits for CenterPoint Energy," Glaiser continued. "We charge the same amount that we pay for natural gas, so CenterPoint Energy does not profit from natural gas price increases. Our profits are earned solely from the distribution fee for delivering gas to our customers."

On average, the cost of gas makes up approximately 70% of a residential CenterPoint Energy customer's bill.

This expense is passed through to the consumer at the price utilities paid to acquire the supplies needed to serve its customers. Therefore, any increase in the cost of gas itself can significantly increase the customers' bills.

The remainder of the bill for natural gas service includes amounts for the distribution of natural gas, system maintenance, safety and inspection programs, customer service, metering, federal, state and local taxes, billing, employee payroll and benefit expenses and other costs.

(See Energy, Page 8)



Happy 25th
Birthday
"Comadre"
Kat

The Kinfolks



Attending the ceremony were, from left, Fayette County Judge Ed Janecka; State Rep. Robby Cook; Smith-McMillan Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution Regent Carol Crain; Texas Independence Trail Regional Co-ordinator Seneca McAdams; church and DAR member Cathy Chaloupka; Texas Historical Commission Historian Peter Ketter; Martha Barras, Senator Armbrister's office; Dianne Kile, Ron Paul's office; and Father John Bily, St. Cyril & Methodius. Photo Courtesy of Cathy Chaloupka

PAY NO SALES TAX Hurry In! Sale Ends Soon		
JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS! AFFORDABLE AND COMFORTABLE GUEST BEDS!		
 Twins From \$34 ea. pc. (Sold in Sets Only)		
Pay No Sales Tax Smooth Top \$179 Save \$205 Queen Set	Pay No Sales Tax Firm \$239 Save \$276 Queen Set	Pay No Sales Tax Pillowtop \$295 Save \$350 Queen Set
King Set \$227	King Set \$313	King Set \$449
MATTRESS 4 LESS 1801 Avenue H • Rosenberg • 281-238-5377 Hous: M-F 10-7 • Sat 10-6 • Sun Closed		
Corner of Hwy 36 & 90 By the new overpass Park In Rear		

Hard work pays off

Michael J. Cooper Jr., a 2003 graduate of Rice High School, has received official notification from the coaching staff at Stephen F. Austin University (SFA) that he has been added to the football roster for the spring, as well as the seven-on-seven team this summer.

Michael was a walk-on and was determined to make the team at SFA. His hard work has paid off.

Michael has vowed on graduation to have his diploma in one hand and an NFL jersey in the other (we'll see). Michael, we're all so proud of you. Keep up the good work.

Michael's family, Mike Sr., Terri, Theresa, Joe, Juanisha, Ashley, Marcus, Makayla and Grandma wish him the best of luck.

P.S. Michael sends a good luck wish to the Rice Raiders in their playoff bid. Go get 'em, Joe #59! Your brother, Mike.



Michael J. Cooper Jr.

SPORTSMAN'S RESTAURANT

201 Boothe Drive • Eagle Lake • 979-234-3071

Rib Eye Steak

Starting at

\$9⁹⁹

Hand Cut • Great Taste!

Really Hungry? Dive Into Our...

Seafood Platter

Catfish, Crab & Shrimp

\$9⁹⁹



In place of your "usual" try our...

Santa Fe Chicken & Shrimp

\$9⁹⁹

Grilled or BBQ Shrimp

\$9⁹⁹

Awesome!