



Presenting Junior Commercial Steer Committee jackets on February 9 at Reliant Park - Houston are left to right David Boothe, Troy Krenak, B.J. Boothe, and Don McAllister.

Locals Recognize Houston Buyers

With the approach of the 2006 version of the Houston Livestock Show, several Colorado County volunteers recently participated in the recognition of David and B.J. Boothe of Baytown.

David is the outgoing Committee Chairman of the show's International Committee. During the 2005 Show the International Committee hosted over 1700 visitors from 52 countries.

Chairman Boothe and his wife, B.J., are also major contributors to the show's Junior Commercial Steer Auction each year.

Their participation in the commercial steer auction makes it possible for exhibitors to expand their high school agricultural programs and gives them added monies to attend college.

The Boothe's are true examples of

the Houston Livestock Show's mission to support youth and education.

In recognition of their many contributions, the Boothe's were awarded Junior Commercial Steer Committee jackets, during the Feb. 9 general meeting of the 530 member International group at Reliant Park. Presenting the jackets on behalf of the Commercial Steer Group were Troy Krenak of Garwood and Don McAllister of Altair.

William T. Krenak of Tomball served as spokesman for the event. He brought remarks of high praise to the Boothe's as well as other contributors from the distinguished group of International Committee volunteers.

He then introduced Krenak and McAllister for the presentation of the jackets.

Current and former Colorado County citizens that volunteer during the Junior Commercial Steer Show are Al Mahalite, Steven Mahalite, Wayne Corman, Harry Corliss, Michael Trefny, Russell Trefny, Chris Jackson, Oscar Bunge, Joshua Grahmann, Doyle L. Moore, Troy Krenak and William T. Krenak.

The 2006 version of the Houston Livestock Show's International Days began on Feb. 28 and ran through March 8.

The Junior Commercial Steer show competition began March 6 and culminated with the Blue Ribbon Meats Awards Banquet on the evening of March 8. The auction took place at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 7 in the Reliant Arena Sales Pavilion.

Texas Schools To Receive Katrina Funds

Additional funding is now on the way to Texas for costs incurred by schools educating students displaced or impacted by Hurricane Katrina and Rita. U.S. Sen. John Cornyn announced recently. The funding was authorized by congressional action in December through the Hurricane Education Recovery Act. The first quarterly payment for educating displaced students will be \$35 million. The latest funding is paid through the Temporary Emergency Impact Aid for Displaced Students program. Cornyn also applauded the Department of Education for fully funding its commitment to repair and rebuild Texas schools damaged by Hurricane Rita through the Restart Aid program.

The Impact Aid provides emergency funding to the state for local educational agencies, including costs of students displaced by the hurricanes during the 2005-2006 school year. Funding for future quarters will be determined by the number of displaced students still enrolled in Texas schools.

In addition, more than \$28 million is now on the way to fully fund the efforts to repair and rebuild Texas schools. The first installment of Restart Aid, \$50 million, was paid to the state last month.

"Texas voluntarily accepted and placed students from states damaged by Hurricane Katrina, meeting an enormous challenge. And now the federal government is beginning to live up to its end of the bargain, ensuring the education of evacuees won't come at the expense of funding Texas schools," Cornyn said. "I'm also encouraged by the funds to rebuild our damaged schools. This is a sign that 'Rita Amnesia' may not be afflicting Washington after all."

The funding was part of the Department of Defense appropriations bill which passed by the Congress in December.

In September, Sen. Cornyn visited Frederick Douglass Elementary School in Houston to see first hand the ability of Texas schools to open their

Footlitters To Host Red Carpet Evening March 18

Strut your stuff on the red carpet and pose for the paparazzi at the Community Theatre of Wharton's Second Chance Prom: "Stars at Night on March 18 from 8 p.m. to midnight at Hungerford Hall.

You must be at least 21 to attend this night of Hollywood glamour because the Footlitters will have a cash bar for beer and set-ups as well as spiked punch.

Come stag or drag, in clothes from the attic, the resale shop or your cousin's wedding. Dance (or listen) to music from the 'forties through the 'eighties.

Pick out a corsage or boutonniere

at the corsage bar, pose for prom pictures, and vie for awards such as Tackiest Tux, Gaudiest Gown, Written in the Stars (longest married) or Limbo Champ.

Tickets, which are \$15 single, \$25 double or \$100 for a table for eight, include discounts for dinner before the prom at three local restaurants.

For reservations or additional information, call 979-282-2970 or visit www.whartonplazatheater.org.

The event is a FUNd raiser for the restoration and expansion of the historic Plaza Theater on Wharton's downtown square.

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Egg Production Up Four Percent

January egg production in Texas totaled 421 million eggs, up four percent from January 2005, and down three percent from December 2005, according to the monthly report released by the Texas Field Office.

The number of layers during January averaged 18.6 million, up three percent from last year but down one percent from December 2005.

Egg production per 100 layers averaged 2,269 eggs, up two percent from last year but two percent below last month.

Texas hatchery production of broiler-type chicks totaled 56.8 million, up four percent from last year.

United States egg production totaled 7.72 billion eggs during January 2006, up one percent from a year ago.

Production included 6.62 billion table eggs, 1.03 billion broiler-type hatching eggs and 66 million egg-type hatching eggs.

Nationally, the total number of layers averaged 349 million during January 2006, up slightly from a year ago.

Production per 100 layers was 2,211 eggs, up one percent from January 2005.

The U.S. monthly hatch of egg-type chicks totaled 35.4 million, down seven percent from January 2005.

The hatch of broiler-type chicks, at 804 million, was up one percent from January of last year.

The leading U.S. breeders placed 6.83 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during January 2006, up six percent from January 2005.

Boll Weevil Program To Continue

The Texas Department of Agriculture announced today that cotton producers in the Upper Coastal Bend Boll Weevil Eradication Zone have voted to continue program operations.

Final results were 660 voting "for" and 136 voting "against" continuation.

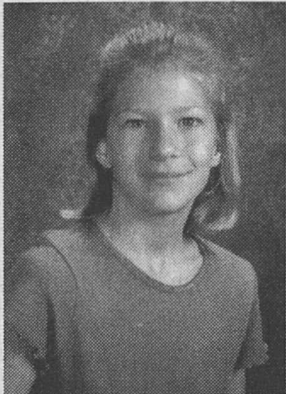
TDA issued 1,977 ballots to cotton producers who were eligible to vote in the referendum.

A total of 796 valid ballots were postmarked by the Feb. 20 deadline and counted.

In addition to deciding that the program be continued in the zone with a maximum annual assessment of \$20.20 per land acre of cotton, voters elected Keith Bram of Wharton County to represent the zone on the statewide board of directors for the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation Inc.

The Upper Coastal Bend Zone includes all of Austin, Brazoria, Colorado, Fort Bend, Jackson, Matagorda and Wharton counties, and that part of Waller County south of Highway 159 from the Austin County line north and east to Hempstead, then east on Highway 6/290 to the Harris County line.

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Stevens Nursing and Rehabilitation,

a 190 bed licensed facility, provides 24 hour nursing care and comprehensive rehabilitation services. The facility emphasizes physical, occupational, speech, IV, wound and respiratory therapies to promote strength and independence. Many of the residents have been able to return home after receiving rehabilitation therapy.

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