

Talking Book Program Offers Free Services

The Texas Talking Book Program is a free library service for people who cannot read standard print because of visual physical, or reading disabilities, says Sally Garrett, County Extension Agent - Family & Consumer Sciences. All equipment and services are free, including postage.

By tradition and law, veterans receive priority service.

The program is a division of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission and a member of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress.

Currently the Program has 20,000 readers and sends out 3500 books every week. Many of the readers are over 65 years old. There are even 61 who are 100 years old or older. Research shows that 1.4% of the total population is eligible. With 23 million Texans in 2004, it is believed there are more than 300,000 additional

Texans eligible for this service.

Various people participate in this library service. One is a retired man in his 80s who has macular degeneration. He reads westerns by using cassette books. Another person is a woman a bit over 60, who can't hold a book. She reads short stories by using recorded books. A third person is a veteran who is blind yet still serves as the treasurer of an organization and reads Braille books for pleasure.

Books are available in recorded cassettes, large print, and Braille books. Cassette players are loaned. They may be plugged in or operate on batteries. Adaptive devices to help readers use the cassette players are also available. The program is now testing digital books and machines and will convert to digital books on flash memory cards beginning in 2008.

Nearly all books and maga-

zines come from the National Library Service. Books are also produced locally. Volunteers have recorded 82 books this year, including seven in Spanish. Volunteers in Austin and Midland also record three magazines: Texas Monthly, Texas Highways, and Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Readers may select from the 80,000 books and 80 magazines mailed free directly to their home. Staff is available to suggest books and answer questions. Some of the staff speaks both Spanish and English.

Applications are in both languages and some books and magazines are available in Spanish. The collection has both fiction and non-fiction such as: mysteries, westerns, science

fiction, romances, history, biography, how-to books, and nutrition. Readers can be referred to other organizations that offer textbooks and newspapers.

The Program also operates the Disability Information and Referral Center. It refers people to appropriate sources to answer questions such as (1) How can I get financial aid for adaptive equipment? (2) My father is losing his eyesight. Where can he get help? (3) Where can I learn sign language? I have a student in my class who is deaf.

To get started, please call toll-free: 1-800-252-9605, or visit the web site: www.TexasTalkingBooks.org, or e-mail the program at: tbp.services@tsl.state.tx.us

\$13.4 Million Tabbed For Hurricane Relief

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) awarded a \$13.4 million National Emergency Grant (NEG) to aid Hurricanes' Katrina and Rita victims with needed workforce services. The grant gives Texas initial funding toward a \$104 million NEG request and helps assist about 7,000 of the 37,500 families still in need of services.

"I'm encouraged by DOL's rapid response to our request for much-needed funds," said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chair Diane Rath. "I'm grateful to Senators Cornyn and Hutchison for their extraordinary efforts to secure funding for the thousands of hurricane victims still seeking jobs."

According to the latest Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) registration numbers, nearly 480,000 hurricane victims still live in the state today. Many are still out of work.

TWC and local workforce development boards have thus far assisted over 80,000 hurricane victims but more is needed. Critical DOL funding helps insure such essential services as tem-

porary employment, housing and food, financial aid, child care, vocational training, job search assistance, and crisis and financial counseling.

The NEG award brings temporary relief as Texas already faces an anticipated loss of \$34.6 million in DOL funds from the Workforce Investment Act in Fiscal Year 2007. If that occurs, the state can expect to eliminate service to 11,000 Texans, 1,100 Texas employers and the possible closure of as many as 35 workforce centers across the state.

"Over the past 10 months, the State of Texas has worked tirelessly to help our neighbors and affected Texans," said Rath. "We appreciate this unexpected and early funding toward our requested \$104 million grant."

The TWC is a state agency dedicated to helping Texas employers, workers and communities prosper economically. For details on TWC and the programs it offers in unison with its network of local workforce development boards call 512-463-8556 or visit www.texasworkforce.org.



Mrs. Ashley Grahmann

Amy, Grahmann Exchange Vows

Ashley Elizabeth Amy and Joshua Fred Grahmann exchanged marriage vows July 15, 2006 at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Grand Coteau, LA. Bishop Charles V. Grahmann of Dallas, uncle of the groom, conducted the 2 p.m. double-ring ceremony and nuptial Mass.

Kyle and Beulah Amy of Opelousas, LA are the parents of the bride. The groom is the son of Fred and Sharon Grahmann of Rock Island.

The scriptures were read by Tina Stavinoha, Shari Koch and Michelle Hays. Bringing up the offering gifts were Rebekah Prudhomme and Ray Hernandez.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride wore a strapless ivory Dupioni silk gown, designed by Pronovias, with a horizontal ruching design of irregular pleats. The ruching effect was repeated in the A-line skirt, which formed a graceful chapel train.

To complete her ensemble, she chose a handmade silver and pearl headpiece with an attached cathedral-length English silk illusion veil which gently cascaded in a fold over waterfall design. The veil was banded in ivory silk and lightly dusted with Austrian

crystals. She carried a hand tied bouquet of ravel roses, chocolate and dark pink mini call lilies, green hypericum berries and lillie grass finished with a French knotted satin ribbon handle with Austrian crystals.

Serving as matron of honor was Stacy Kennedy, sister of the bride.

Bridesmaids were Yen Ngo, Tiffany Porter and Kimberly White. Alicia Grahmann served as the junior bridesmaid.

Serving as flower girls were Amelia Stavinoha, Camille Grahmann and Emma Grahmann.

Chris Jackson served as best man. Groomsmen were Michael Grahmann, brother of the groom, Mark Kubecka and Matthew Amy, brother of the bride. Robert Stavinoha was the honorary ring bearer.

Escorting guests to their seats were David Leavell, Richard Kennedy, James Cross and Matt Mayfield.

The Townhouse in Lafayette, LA was chosen for the reception in honor of the newlywed couple.

Following a wedding trip to Italy, the couple will make their home in Houston.

Sheriff's Report

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an autopsy to determine the cause of death. After the autopsy was performed by the Travis County Medical Examiner, the cause of death was ruled natural. Case closed.

At 8:05 pm, Deputy Mieth spoke with a complainant over the phone about a child custody issued that occurred in Rock Island. A report was filed and the case will be closed.

At 8:45 pm, Deputy Mieth spoke with a complainant over the phone about a possible theft that occurred over the internet (ebay). After an investigation, the incident was determined to be a civil matter. Case closed.

Friday, June 16

At 8:44 am, Deputy Pardo and Deputy Cranek responded to a residence on CR 103 for a death investigation. After the investigation, the death was ruled from Natural Causes by Justice of the Peace Pct. 3, Francis Truchard. Case closed.

At 11:07 am, Deputy Cranek responded to Hwy 71 and Kleimann Lane near Columbus in reference to an abandoned vehicle. The vehicle had been abandoned for several days and was removed from the location by Colorado County Towing. Case closed.

At 12:10 pm, Deputy Pardo met with a complainant from Rock Island at the Sheriff's Office in reference to a possible Internet Scam. The complainant did not suffer any monetary loss as a result of the scam. A report was filed and the case is closed.

At 4:50 pm, Deputy Pardo responded to a residence on FM 333 near Garwood in reference to a subject who was bitten by a stray cat. The cat was taken to a veterinarian and tested for rabies. The rabies test came back negative. Case closed.

At 5:21 pm, Deputy Hudson responded to a residence in Sheri-

dan in reference to a child custody matter. The complainant was informed that the incident was a civil matter. A report was filed and the case is closed.

At 11:07 pm, Sgt. Edman responded to FM 102 and Senior Bridge Road in reference to a possible accident. During the investigation, there was no evidence of an accident and the vehicle was determined to be a road hazard. After an investigation, the owner couldn't be located and the vehicle was impounded at Delgado's Wrecker Service.

Saturday, June 17

At 10:15 am, Deputy Pardo responded to a residence at Lake Sheridan in reference to a child custody dispute. After further investigation, it was discovered that the suspect had been issued a previous Criminal Trespass Warning on 03-13-06. After an investigation, a warrant was obtained and Harry Payton Carter Jr, 39 of Sheridan, was arrested for Criminal Trespass. Case closed.

Sunday, June 18

At 2:35 am, Deputy Thumann responded to the Columbus Community Hospital ER in reference to an assault that occurred in a pasture near FM 949 and Frelsburg Lane. The information was taken and a report was filed. There is only a description of the suspect at this time. Case is pending further information.

At 12:03 pm, Deputy Pardo responded to the IH-10 west bound rest area at the 692 mile marker in reference to a suspicious pipe in the parking lot. After further investigation, the US Army Explosive Ordinance Disposal Unit responded to the location and the suspicious pipe was determined to be a bomb. The device was detonated in a safe area and the evidence was collected and turned

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COLUMBUS YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE SIGN-UP SATURDAY, JULY 22

Montezuma Baseball Park, Columbus 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

First through Sixth Grade
\$80 per player

Fees and copy of birth certificate required at sign-up

Information: Joel Lopez-979-732-3892 or Joseph Reyes-979-733-9913

Pd for by Tim Kleinschmidt Campaign, Thomas O. Kleinschmidt, Treasurer.

WHO DOES ROBBY COOK REALLY REPRESENT?

IT'S AS SIMPLE AS 1...2...3...

1...

State Representative Robby Cook's 2004 campaign ads promised that he would "work hard to ensure that our water stays right here."

2...

Robby was the author of the legislation allowing a reservoir to devastate our area and for Colorado River water to be sold to San Antonio.

3...

Robby was then hired by a utility company to perform "community relations".

CAUGHT YA', ROBBY!!!
WE NEED A NEW STATE REPRESENTATIVE.
WE NEED TIM KLEINSCHMIDT.



Tear off and return to Tim Kleinschmidt Campaign • 3596 CR 405 • Lexington, TX 78947

Tim, we need someone who will keep his word and represent us. Let me know how I can help.

Signature _____ Printed Name _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____ Email address _____