

Governor Announces \$255 In Hurricane Aid

Gov. Rick Perry announced Texas is making \$255 million available to help victims of Hurricane Rita and low-income families across the state purchase a home of their own. The program is expected to assist 2,300 Texas families.

"This is the largest amount of homebuyer funds ever released by the state. And more than 40 percent of it, or \$108 million, is coming here to help Southeast Texans recover from Hurricane Rita," Perry said.

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) will make the funds available to provide low interest rate mortgages and mortgage credit certificates to qualifying families. Homebuyers in Southeast Texas will be able to get loans with an interest rate under 6 percent, as well as grants to help cover the down payment. Those in the 22-county region of Southeast Texas impacted by Hurricane Rita don't need to be a first-time homebuyer to benefit

from the program. "Owning a home has always been an essential part of the American dream. For families, homeownership is not merely a source of pride, it is often the first step on the path to prosperity. And for our communities, homeownership provides an important source of stability," Perry said.

"Research studies show that when a majority of families own the home in which they live, you end up with safer neighborhoods, greater economic opportunities and a stronger sense of community."

According to the US Census, 65.9 percent of all Texans own the home in which they live, which is higher than a few years ago, but a few points lower than the national average. Perry said making homeownership more affordable is "one of the best long-term investments government can make." The benefits of homeownership include increased math and read-

ing scores for schoolchildren, and strengthened community bonds.

"This is a remarkable opportunity for anyone who has dreamed of owning a home but felt that finances put it beyond their reach. And for those who lost their dreams last year to Hurricane Rita, this is an opportunity for a new start on the road to a better tomorrow," Perry said. "I know there is a sense in Southeast Texas that Rita is the storm no one in Washington seems to remember. But Texas remembers. And in Texas, we take care of our own. The funds we are announcing today are just part of our commitment. And the state will continue to see that commitment through until life is back to normal for every one of our friends and neighbors in Southeast Texas."

The program has 35 participating lenders operating more than 300 branch offices throughout the state. For program details and more information on how to qualify, visit the TDHCA website at www.tdhca.state.tx.us.



Happy 4th Birthday!
Alexander Toriz
August 2
We Love You!
 From: Daddy, Jennifer, Momo (MaryAnn), Popo (Goyo)

THC Seeking Historical Award Nominees

Do you know someone who just succeeded in raising funds to refurbish the local theater?

Did you recently read a moving article about restoring the historic county courthouse?

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) encourages you to nominate your local historic and preservation devotee for one of the major awards presented at the agency's annual historic preservation conference held each spring.

The THC honors both individuals and organizations dedicated and active in salvaging the treasures of Texas' rich history.

Categories include: excellence in media that promotes an awareness of the state's historic and prehistoric resources, outstanding leadership of a county historical commission, significant contributions towards museum education and efforts made in the protection and maintenance of Texas' architectural heritage to mention just a few.

Two awards worthy of note include the Ruth Lester Lifetime Achievement Award and the George Christian Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award.

The Ruth Lester Lifetime Achievement Award is given to one recipient to recognize an individual who has made a significant, long-term contribution to historic preservation in Texas.

The award is named in honor of deceased Ruth Lester of Jeffer-

son, whose visionary efforts in her hometown helped attract tourism to an otherwise overlooked area.

She valued the town's potential and was instrumental in organizing the Jefferson Memorial Pilgrimage—a tour of historic buildings that bear markers thanks to Lester's efforts.

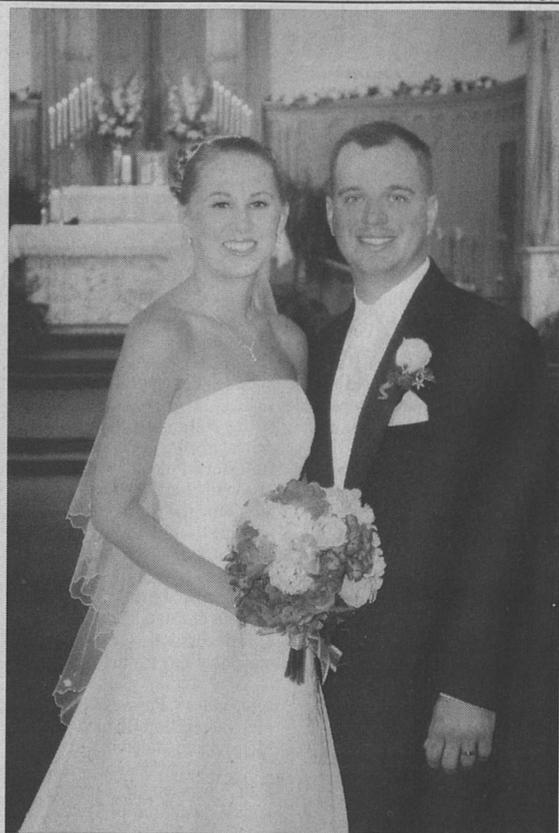
The George Christian Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award, also given to one recipient, honors an individual for outstanding volunteer service to historic preservation. George Christian, who died in 2002, was an Austin political consultant and former THC chair who was White House press secretary to President Lyndon B. Johnson from 1966 to 1969.

Prior to heading for Washington, Christian served as press secretary to Texas governors John Connally and Price Daniel.

Dedicated to preservation efforts, he was referred to as "the wisest person in Texas politics," and received many awards himself, including the Harvey Penick Award for Excellence in the Game of Life.

Start thinking now about people, projects and organizations you might nominate for THC award recognition.

The deadline for 2007 nominations is Dec. 8 at 5 p.m. For a complete listing of awards offered, specific information and guidelines for submissions, visit the THC web site at www.thc.state.tx.us or call the THC's History Programs division at 512/463-5853.



Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Blake Wied

Engstrom, Wied Married July 8

Lana Elizabeth Engstrom and Douglas Blake Wied were united in marriage at 3 p.m., July 8, 2006 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Nada. Father Gary Janak performed the sacrament of marriage.

The bride is the daughter of Truman and LaNelle Engstrom, Jr. of Garwood and the granddaughter of Mary Lou Will of El Campo and the late Walter V. Will, the late Edgar Popp, and the late Truman and Charlene Engstrom.

Parents of the groom are Wm. Mark and Jane Wied of Garwood. He is the grandson of Eldin L. Wied of Garwood, the late Evelyn Wied, Dorothy Reeves of Wharton and the late J. W. Reeves.

Church decorations on the main altar featured two arrangements of white gladiolas and roses, Bells of Ireland, green buttons and raspberry lilies.

Ferns adorned each side of the main altar and the side altars. Bouquets of roses were placed at the statues of St. Theresa and Mary and Jesus in memory of the bride's and groom's grandparents.

Music was provided by the organist, Janice Cox, and soloist, Samantha Labay. Selections included, "One Bread One Body", "Wherever You Go", "I Can Only Imagine," "Pachelbe's, Canon in D," "Wedding Song," "Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring," "El Shaddai," "Trumpet Voluntary," "We Give You Thanks," "How Beautiful" and "Trumpet Tune."

The bride was escorted by her father. She wore a strapless chiffon A-line gown with a draping of fabric along the side, which was adorned with beaded metallic embroidered lace at side and along hem.

Her headdress and fingertip-length veil featured beaded flowers along the hemline. Her bouquet was a hand-tied spring mix nosegay filled with pearly white hydrangeas with raspberry tips, white and raspberry roses and bibernium with peridot ribbon weaved through the bouquet as an accent.

Bridal attendants were the maid of honor, Laura Engstrom of Garwood, sister of the bride; and bridesmaids, Jennifer Peacock of Garwood, sister of the groom; Shelley Boenisch of Garwood, friend of the bride; Erin Gold of Garwood, friend of the bride; Kayce Wilkerson of Eagle Lake, friend of the bride; Kristin Thompson of Nada, friend of the bride; and Leah Gonsalves of Pasadena, friend of the bride.

Attendants wore a strapless ruched satin embroidered ballgown in peridot.

Their hand-tied bouquets were a spring mix nosegay filled with pearly white hydrangeas with raspberry tips, raspberry roses, bibernium with peridot ribbon weaved through the bouquet as an accent.

Flower girl was Madelyn Peacock, niece of the groom. Ring bearer was Samuel Peacock, nephew of the groom.

Groom's attendants were the best man, Bryan Rees of Garwood, friend of the groom; and groomsmen, Shea Swoboda of Garwood, friend of the groom; Wesley Leopold of Garwood, friend of the groom; Chad Fucik of Nada, friend of the groom; David Peacock of Garwood, brother-in-law of the groom; Michael Higgins of Houston, cousin of the groom; and Lee Higgins of Austin, cousin of the groom.

Ushers were Jacob Engstrom of Garwood, brother of the bride; Jeffrey Leopold of Victoria, friend of the groom; and Clint Krenek of Eagle Lake, friend of the groom.

Altar server was Chad Bittner. Witnesses were Laura Engstrom and Shea Swoboda. Ariel Barker and Anna Mendoza were program attendants. Other participants were Dan and Cathy Holub, gift bearers; Betty Schiurring, lector; Edward Korenek, Eucharistic minister; and Rudy and Sharon Till, grand march leaders.

A reception followed at the Knights of Columbus Hall in El Campo.

Members of the houseparty were Cynthia Boenisch, Paula Lanier, Janet Chanek, Kim Gold, Amber Mahalite, Tiffany Orsak, Peggy Wasicek, Janice Danklefs, Ashley Labay, Amanda Ishee, Kinsey Hoffman, Britany Cooper, Carol Alford, Susan Engstrom, Becky Lobpries, Sherry Hoffman, Sandy Schneider and Vic Hyek. Rehearsal dinner was hosted by the groom's parents Friday evening at El Cielo.

The bride is a 2002 graduate of Rice Consolidated High School. She is currently attending San Jacinto College where she will graduate with a nursing degree in December. The groom is a 1996 graduate of Rice Consolidated High School and a 2000 graduate of Texas State Technical College. He is a relay technician for the Lower Colorado River Authority in La Grange.

After a wedding trip to Jamaica, the couple will reside in Columbus.

Columbus I.S.D. Now Accepting Transfers

The Columbus ISD Board of Trustees approved a revision to policy FDA (Local) that will now allow students from area communities to transfer into the Columbus ISD.

A nonresident student wishing to transfer into the Columbus ISD shall file an application for transfer. These applications will be available at the campus principal's office or central administration office.

In approving transfer, the su-

perintendent shall consider availability of space and instructional staff, the student's disciplinary history, academic performance, and attendance records. No transfer shall limit the educational opportunities of resident students.

The district is not charging tuition at this time.

For more information, you may contact Randall J. Hoyer, Superintendent of Schools at 979-732-5704 or campus administration office.

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The salaries, expenses, or allowances of Colorado County elected officials will be set at a public meeting to be held at 9:00 a.m. on **August 14, 2006** in the County Courtroom located on the first floor of the Colorado County Courthouse, Columbus, Texas.

The salaries and allowances for the elected officials of Colorado County are proposed to be increased to the following in the 2007 Budget:

ELECTED OFFICIALS	SALARY-2006	PROPOSED-2007	INCREASE
County Judge	\$ 43,320.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 1,680.00
*Note (1)			
County Commissioner – each	\$ 41,280.00	\$ 42,936.00	\$ 1,656.00
County Clerk	\$ 38,562.00	\$ 40,104.00	\$ 1,542.00
District Clerk	\$ 38,562.00	\$ 40,104.00	\$ 1,542.00
County Tax Assessor/Collector	\$ 38,562.00	\$ 40,104.00	\$ 1,542.00
County Treasurer	\$ 38,562.00	\$ 40,104.00	\$ 1,542.00
Sheriff	\$ 43,200.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 1,800.00
Justices of the Peace			
Precinct No. 1	\$ 32,136.00	\$ 25,584.00	\$(6,552.00)
*Note (4)			
Precinct No. 2	\$ 22,080.00	\$ 25,584.00	\$ 3,504.00
Precinct No. 3	\$ 22,080.00	\$ 25,584.00	\$ 3,504.00
Precinct No. 4	\$ 22,080.00	\$ 25,584.00	\$ 3,504.00
*Note (2)			
Constable			
Precinct No. 1	\$ 7,944.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 1,056.00
Precinct No. 2	\$ 7,944.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 1,056.00
Precinct No. 3	\$ 7,944.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 1,056.00
Precinct No. 4	\$ 7,944.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 1,056.00
*Note (3)			
District Judge			
25 th Judicial District	\$ 2,358.00	\$ 3,400.00	\$ 1,042.00
2 nd 25 th Judicial District	\$ 2,358.00	\$ 3,400.00	\$ 1,042.00
*Note (5)			

*Note (1) The County Judge's proposed increase does not include juvenile board salary of \$4,800 annually and state salary supplements of \$15,000 annually. The County Judge did not take the salary increase proposed for 2006 of \$1,656.00.

*Note (2) In addition to the proposed increase, Justices of the Peace who handle weekend magistrations receive an additional salary of \$200 for each weekend worked.

*Note (3) In addition to the proposed increase, Constables who serve as court bailiffs receive a minimum allowance of \$50 per court session.

*Note (4) Justice of Peace Precinct #1 shows a proposed decrease.

*Note (5) The District Judge's proposed increase is for juvenile board supplement. The district judge's salary is paid directly by the State.

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PACKER BULLS
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STEERS	#1	#2
200-300 lbs	160-190	135-155
300-400 lbs	145-164	123-143
400-500 lbs	128-144	115-127
500-600 lbs	115-126	103-115
600-700 lbs	110-118	96-108
700-800 lbs	102-110	92-101

HEIFERS	#1	#2
200-300 lbs	145-165	130-144
300-400 lbs	125-143	115-126
400-500 lbs	118-136	110-118
500-600 lbs	110-117	98-109
600-700 lbs	98-110	87-97
700-800 lbs	90-101	83-89

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