

Python Visits Garwood Memorial Library

The Garwood Veterans Memorial Library has been very busy during the months of June and July. We welcomed a new librarian, Sheryl Carnes, to our library.

During the month of June on Mondays and Wednesdays our summer reading program "Reading -- the Sport of Champions" was well attended.

Toddlers through third grade children listened to stories read by Sheryl Carnes the librarian.

Jennifer Peacock and Monica Mattoon entertained the children with activities including making picture frames, fishing poles, soccer balls, and beach sports.

Singing was part of the activities also. During the last week of June, Kelli Cook from El Campo had the children make sports and

dinosaur doorknob hangers. The last Wednesday of the summer reading program the children listened to stories about America.

After these stories they made patriot wind socks to be flown during July 4. A special thank you to those who served refreshments after each session and to the volunteers during the month.

July was an unusual month with Jennifer Jeffrey, a WCJC Biology Instructor, informing and entertaining the children about science. On Monday, July 10, children had the opportunity to see and hear about several different animals.

While some of the critters were familiar others such as the hagfish, sea cucumber and laniprey were new.

Mrs. Jeffrey discussed the food preferences, habitat, and interesting characteristics of each animal while the children observed preserved and dried specimens.

The following Monday, July



Erin Fucik poses with a ball python she brought to the Garwood Library during their summer reading program.

17 the children learned about amphibians and reptiles. They observed preserved examples of frogs, toads, salamanders and a Cecilia as well as reptiles like lizards, snakes, and turtles.

However, it was the living reptiles that the children were most fascinated with. Erin Fucik, a Biology major from El Campo, entertained the crowd with her Ball python while Brandi Krpec and her daughter MacKensie shared their chameleon, leopard gecko and bearded dragon.

The children loved handling these unusual reptiles. Monday, July 24, the children had a hands-on opportunity to learn about the human body.

Erin Fucik began the program by asking trivia questions about the body and Mrs. Jeffrey followed by discussing parts of the body and why each is important.

Children had the opportunity to touch real bones, assemble a life-size torso model and hear their own heartbeat using stethoscopes.

A special thank you to Jennifer Jeffrey, Erin Fucik, Brandi and MacKensie Krpec, and all the volunteers during the month of July.

The Garwood Veterans Memorial Library greatly acknowledges the following memorials to the library: In memory of Ann Williams Olson by Mr. and Mrs. M.G. Lanier and Family, Iris Danklefs, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Bunge, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Berger, Clara A. Gold, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Becak, Minnie Lee Conner, LaVerne Stienke.

Other contributions to the library with books and monetary donations are: Bucksag Hunting Club, Janie Phillips, Laurie Valchar, Dorothy Schiurring, Margaret Bunge, Ruby Gideon, Maureen Brady, Cecilia Kallina, Virginia Balusek, Colorado County Retired Teachers, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Pavlu.



Mrs. Carey Rutledge

Gore, Rutledge Wed In Richmond

Carey Elizabeth Gore of Sugar Land and Jack Douglas Rutledge, Jr. of Pasadena were united in marriage on Saturday, April 8, 2006 at seven o'clock in the evening at the Richmond House in Richmond.

The double ring ceremony was officiated by Reverend Charles Anderson. Music was provided by a string quartet of JLM Chamber Music.

A reception followed inside the Richmond House, a 109-year-old three-story plantation-style home, located in Richmond's historic district.

The beautiful house was made even more so by a number of flower arrangements designed by the in-house floral designers and selected by the bride's mother.

Many of the arrangements were accented by ribbons in the bride's chosen color palette of peony pink and spring green. The wedding was directed by Jacquelyn Ditsler, owner of the Richmond House, and Vicki Beard. They were assisted by Verlarne Moreland and other members of the Richmond House staff.

A DJ provided music and the event was documented by photographer Rae Wheelis of La Grange. Earlier in the day, Virginia Fair Wells, grandmother of the bride; Julia Lawhon and Jane Crawford, aunts of the bride; and Dianne Tucker, Godmother of the bride, hosted a brunch at Sugar Creek Country Club.

The bride's father also hosted a lunch for the groom at the Live Oak Grill in Stafford. On the eve of the wedding, the groom's parents hosted a rehearsal dinner at Karl's at the River Bend in Richmond.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Thomas Gore of Sugar Land. She is the granddaughter of Virginia Wells and the late Robert R. Wells, Jr. of Eagle Lake, as well as the late Mr. and Mrs. John Wallace Gore of Arp.

She graduated from Dulles High School in Sugar Land and received a bachelor's degree in speech communication from Meredith College in Raleigh, North Carolina (NC). She teaches Pre-Kindergarten ESL at Colony Meadows Elementary in Sugar Land.

Given by her parents and escorted by her father, the bride wore an elegant couture gown designed by Melissa Sweet. The

strapless gown of diamond white embossed silk organza featured a drop-waist bodice with satin ribbon detailing.

The A-line skirt fell softly into a chapel-length train. To complement her angel wing veil, which was edged in satin ribbon, the bride wore an elegant pearl and crystal comb.

She carried a stunning bouquet that featured peonies, tulips, sweet peas, cymbidium orchids, ranunculus, roses, calla lilies, and hydrangeas in varying shades of pinks and greens. Tucked inside her bouquet was an embroidered blue and ivory handkerchief, which was purchased in Belgium and carried by her mother during her own wedding.

Matron of honor was Emma Jane Tatum of Smithfield, NC, college friend of the bride. Mrs. Tatum wore a soft pink satin scoop-neck bodice top that featured an asymmetric wrapped drape and coordinating floor-length, A-line chiffon skirt.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Douglas Rutledge, Sr. of Pasadena. He is the grandson of Ruth Evelyn Rutledge of Pasadena and the late Jack Lufkin Rutledge, as well as the late Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Bonura of Port Arthur.

He graduated from Faith Christian Academy in Pasadena and received a bachelor's degree in business management from Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tennessee (TN). He works in sales for Foster Fence Corporation of Houston.

Best man was Jonathon David Duvall of College Grove, TN, college friend of the groom.

Serving as ushers were Jeffrey Wells Gore of Eagle Lake, brother of the bride, and Brian David Ford of Pasadena, brother-in-law of the groom. Christa Thea Parker, cousin of the bride, acted as guest book attendant. Jessica Leigh Ford, niece of the groom, was program attendant. Readings at the ceremony were given by Tania Marie Gardina, friend of the bride, as well as the groom's sisters, Lori Lynn Ford and Renee' Elaine Yeakey.

Special guests in attendance included Mr. and Mrs. Frank Oliver of West Hagle, England, and Mr. and Mrs. Gary Pine of Boulder, Colorado.

After a Honeymoon cruise to Mexico, the Rutledges are making their home in Pearland.

Hay Delivery Restrictions Suspended

Gov. Rick Perry has directed the Texas Department of Transportation to temporarily waive certain trucking restrictions to allow the emergency delivery of hay to Texas farmers and ranchers harmed by on-going drought conditions.

In a letter to Ric Williamson, chairman of the Texas Transportation Commission, Perry said the U.S. Department of Agriculture has estimated a 77 percent loss in hay production in Texas, and Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs and the Texas Farm Bureau have asked for help in expediting delivery of hay to Texas.

"Hay importation from neighboring states less affected by drought will help Texas producers survive the final hot months of the year," Perry wrote.

His letter directs TxDOT to suspend the permitting requirements and legal height restriction for round hay bales, and associated permit fees, for carriers transporting round bales of hay.

The suspension of those requirements will expire Oct. 31.

To ensure the safety of the traveling public, Perry said TxDOT must require loads exceeding 14 feet in height to contact TxDOT's Motor Carrier Division to receive expedited routing.

All other legal requirements, including licensing, registration, insurance, and safety, remain in place.

Perry earlier this year issued a similar directive for emergency hay deliveries, but that expired on April 30.

County Tax Rate May Drop

Continued from front page the owner of a residence valued at \$79,866 will pay \$11.11 a year more in taxes than the owner of an average residence last year.

The court scheduled public hearings concerning the proposed tax rate Aug. 28 at 9:15 a.m. and Sept. 1 at 9 a.m.

The commissioners also put the finishing touches on a proposed budget before the hearing.

They approved salaries for elected officials, with most officials receiving 4 percent pay increases.

That is the same amount the commissioners have tentatively earmarked for employees, based on performance.

And exception is all constables will receive \$1,000 raises and jus-

tices of the peace will all receive \$25,584 annually.

The proposed budget has \$11.4 million projected for spending, a decrease from \$12.3 million in the current budget.

Much of the reason for the decrease, Kana said, is because the juvenile detention center has ceased operation.

However, the budget still envisions taking approximately \$1 million from reserves to balance expenses with income.

The budget also provides two additional dispatchers in the sheriff's office and \$50,000 for a document imaging system for the

sheriff's office.

The budget for next year also includes \$160,000 for ceiling repairs to the district courtroom.

An additional \$25,000 is included as a contingency for a future emergency medical services building in Weimar.

Increased income from property taxes is estimated at \$513,000.

Kana said of that amount, approximately \$100,000 will be allocated to the county precincts for road maintenance.

Projected spending by precinct includes: Precinct 1, \$690,000; Precinct 2, \$670,000; Precinct 3, \$800,000; Precinct 4, \$552,000.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Rice Consolidated Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:00 pm August 21, 2006 in the Board Room of the Administration Building Altair, Texas. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$ 1.30034 /\$100	(Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	\$ 0.07013 /\$100	(proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and operations	11.50000	% increase	or	0.00000	% (decrease)
Debt service	0.00000	% increase	or	0.00000	% (decrease)
Total expenditures	11.00000	% increase	or	0.00000	% (decrease)

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 522,238,665.00	\$ 613,831,909.00
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 3,428,091.00	\$ 3,781,150.00
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 467,369,360.00	\$ 554,654,975.00
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 3,267,491.00	\$ 3,405,470.00

* "Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
 ** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.
 *** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$ 1,345,000.00

* Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$ 1.42138	\$ 0.07648 *	\$ 1.49876	\$ 5,736.00	\$ 2,063.00
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 1.26034	\$ 0.07013 *	\$ 1.33047	\$ 5,882.00	\$ 2,059.00
Proposed Rate	\$ 1.30034	\$ 0.07013 *	\$ 1.37047	\$ 6,055.00	\$ 2,248.00

* The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 48,491.00	\$ 52,204.00
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 34,290.00	\$ 37,849.00
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.49786	\$ 1.37047
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 513.62	\$ 518.71
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 5.09

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 1.37047. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.37047.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 3,648,113.00
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 56,000.00