



The Prairie Edge Juniors recently received a donation from SAMS Club to help with an upcoming production. Pictured from left are: Rick Molitor (SAMS Club Katy business manager), Val Loveday (PJs' Director), and Maria Hall (SAMS Club Katy Community Development Coordinator).

PJs Receive Donation From SAMS Club

PJs' director Val Loveday accepted a generous gift from SAMS Club to assist the group for its upcoming production "Dick Whittington and His Cat."

Maria Hall, Katy SAMS Community Involvement Coordinator and Rick Molitor, Katy SAMS Business Manager came to Eagle Lake Tuesday afternoon for the presentation.

On hand to witness the presentation were Museum Curator

Bill Harrison Sr., Museum Docent Lucy Contreras, Board President Joe Wendel, Board Member Helen Craig, and Kenneth Craig.

The theatrical production will be given in February 2007.

Currently 30 children are busy rehearsing every Sunday afternoon.

Scheduled dates for performances are Friday, February 16 and Sunday, February 18, 2007.

Blinn Signs Transfer Agreement With Texas A&M

Blinn College students who meet specific course and grade requirements will be automatically admitted to Texas A&M University under the Pilot Transfer Agreement signed by the presidents of both institutions.

The agreement uses as its model previous articulation agreements between Blinn and Texas A&M including the Blinn TEAM program.

TEAM (Transfer Enrollment at A&M) is a guaranteed transfer program that allows automatic admission for students who complete 15 hours at Texas A&M and 45 hours at Blinn over two years

with a minimum 3.0 GPA.

"Blinn College has set the standard in this state for transferring students to leading universities. This agreement further solidifies our commitment to student success," Blinn president Dr. Donald Voelter said.

The Pilot Transfer Agreement streamlines application and admission for transfer students from Blinn and a small number of other Texas community colleges going into Texas A&M's colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Education and Human Development, Engineering, Geosciences, and Science as well as programs

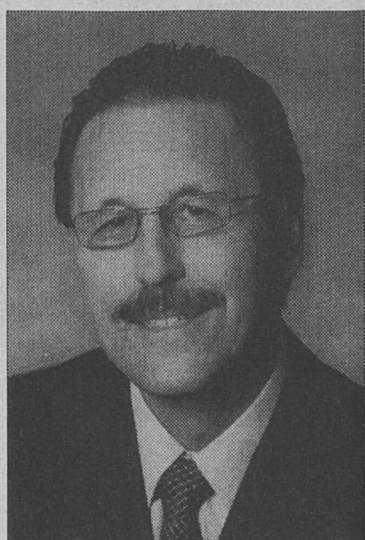
at the Galveston branch campus.

"The primary goal is a mechanism for transfer admission that is clear and easily understood by prospective students," TAMU president Dr. Robert Gates said. "This process is designed to provide certainty in the student's academic planning."

Under the new agreement that becomes effective for the Spring 2007 semester, a student

must complete 24 credit hours at Blinn (not including college credits earned in high school) and have a minimum 3.0 GPA among the classes in a specified degree plan.

Texas A&M will also, with the student's permission, report back to Blinn any courses that may assist in the completion of the student's associate degree.

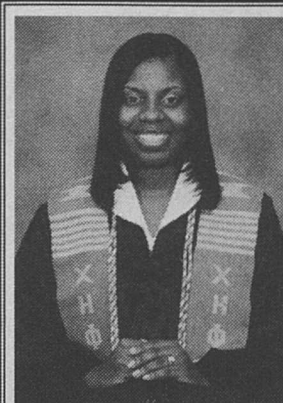


Wayne Becak

Becak Named Bank President

Wayne A. Becak, a native of Garwood, has been named Central Texas Division President of Broadway Bank in San Marcos. He has 33-years experience in commercial and retail lending.

Wayne is a 1967 graduate of Garwood High School and a 1971 graduate of Texas A&M University. He and his wife, Robin, reside in San Marcos. His parents are Frank and Jo Becak of Garwood.



Congratulations to Erica Dunmore of Eagle Lake. She will be graduating with honors on Dec. 9 from Prairie View A&M University with a Bachelor's of Science degree in nursing.

Erica is a member of Sigma Theta Tau National Nursing

Honor Society and Chi Eta Phi Nursing Sorority.

She will be graduating with a 3.5 GPA. She has accepted a position at Parkland Hospital in Dallas on the Labor and Delivery Unit.

We are proud of you!

Love,

Your Mother, Edna Spears, siblings, Michael & Annicia, and the rest of your Family and Friends.

Texas Crop Weather Report

Agricultural Summary

Most of the Panhandle received precipitation totaling from 0.10 to 0.25 inches.

Isolated showers brought over 1.5 inches to some of the more fortunate localities.

The Cross Timbers and Blacklands received mostly 0.10 to 1.5 inches of precipitation, with certain sections receiving over 2.0 inches.

North East Texas received 0.5 to 1.5 inches as spotty showers brought about the same amount to areas of South Central Texas and the Upper Coast.

The Southern Plains and the remaining areas of the eastern half of Texas received mostly 0.01 to 0.25 inches of precipitation.

The Lower Valley, Coastal Bend, and small sections of the Trans-Pecos area only received traces of precipitation.

The remaining section of the Trans-Pecos, The Edwards Plateau, and South Texas mostly remained dry.

Many producers experienced very low temperatures and snow for the first time this growing season.

For the most part, the cold

front had a negative effect on agricultural activities in the state of Texas but did actually improve insect problems.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Planting of wheat progressed slowly in the Northern High Plains due to low temperatures and over 4 inches of snow.

Growers in the High Plains irrigated as needed in order to increase moisture levels. In South Central Texas, oats were also in serious need of moisture.

Oat condition was mostly good to fair while wheat condition was mostly fair to poor statewide.

Cotton: Harvest was slowed in the Northern High Plains as most producers experienced snow for the first time; however, grades and yields continued to be good.

Heavy winds and extreme cold weather had much of the same negative effects on many of the un-harvested cotton fields in the Northern Low Plains.

Producers expect harvest to be at a stand still for about a week.

Peanuts: Although activities were slowed, harvest is still ex-

pected to be completed by next week in South Texas.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Harvest of cabbage and spinach continued in the Edwards Plateau. Heavy irrigation activities continued in South Texas cabbage and spinach fields as harvest continued. Carrots also progressed.

Pecans: The majority of pecans in the Trans-Pecos area have already dropped and the remaining is expected to do so quickly.

Low pecan yields are expected due to this being an alternate bearing year for most of the trees in the region.

Harvest neared completion in the Edwards Plateau and all was completed in South Central Texas.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

In the High Plains, high winds and low temperatures caused stress to livestock. Supplemental feeding continued in the Southern Low Plains as livestock experienced much of the same problems as the High Plains.

A hard freeze occurred in the

Cross Timbers and sent most warm season annual perennial grasses into dormancy.

These conditions placed additional pressure on winter pastures to provide both quality and quantity grazing to livestock herds.

Livestock water was still a major issue in the Blacklands. Heavy frost destroyed most of the remaining warm season forages in South East Texas.

Previously planted winter pastures progressed. In the Trans-Pecos area, producers were concerned about livestock as hay remained in short supply with high prices.

Range conditions declined in the Edwards Plateau as increased moisture levels were needed to promote winter weeds and cool season grasses.

Livestock markets were steady in volume but prices declined in South Texas.

Supplemental feeding of livestock also increased due to decreased forage quality and lack of forage for grazing. Statewide, range and pasture land was mostly fair to very poor.

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Home Heating Safety Tips And Information

As temperatures drop outdoors and people take steps to warm their homes, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) urges the public to be mindful of the risks associated with home heating which is second only to cooking when it comes to causes of home fires.

Along with the colder temperatures that accompany winter, there is an elevated risk of dying from fire during this season with December, January and February generally being the deadliest months for fires.

According to a newly released NFPA study, heating equipment was involved in an estimated 53,000 reported home structure fires in the United States in 2003. The study includes fires associated with chimneys and chimney connectors, space heaters, central heating, fireplaces, water heaters and heat tape.

These fires accounted for 14% of all home fires and were responsible for an estimated 260 deaths, roughly 1,300 injuries and \$500 million in direct property damage.

Although space heaters, excluding fireplaces and chimneys, were responsible for one-fourth (26%) of home heating fires in 2003, they were the most deadly, accounting for three-fourths (73%) of the fire deaths related to home heating.

Space heaters also were responsible for three out of every five injuries (58%) in home heating fires in 2003 and half (51%) of the associated property damage.

According to the report, space heaters present a greater fire risk than central heating systems. Space heaters tend to be closer to household combustibles and the people occupying the home, and they tend to require a more direct role by occupants in fueling, maintenance, and operation.

Even so, any widely used heat-

ing device can be used safely, if the rules of safety are followed.

For more information or a copy of the report Home Heating Fire Patterns and Trends, visit NFPA's Web site <http://www.nfpa.org>.

NFPA suggests the following for safe heating:

Maintain a 3 feet (or 1 meter) separation between things that can burn and heating equipment.

When buying a new space heater, make sure it carries the mark of an independent testing laboratory and is legal for use in your community. (Some communities do not permit portable kerosene heaters, for example.)

Install your stationary (fixed) space heater according to manufacturer's instructions or applicable codes or better yet, have it installed by a professional.

Plug your electric-powered space heater into an outlet with sufficient capacity and never into an extension cord.

Use the proper grade of the proper fuel for your liquid-fueled space heater, and never use gasoline in any heater not approved for gasoline use. Refuel only in a well-ventilated area and when the equipment is cool.

In your fireplace or wood stove, use only dry, seasoned wood to avoid the build-up of creosote, an oily deposit that easily catches fire and accounts for most chimney fires and the largest share of home heating fires generally.

Use only paper or kindling wood, not a flammable liquid, to start the fire. Do not use artificial logs in wood stoves.

Make sure your fireplace has a sturdy screen to prevent sparks from flying into the room.

Allow fireplace and woodstove ashes to cool before disposing in a metal container, which is kept a safe distance from your home.

Turn off space heaters whenever the room they are in is unoccupied or under circumstances when manufacturer's instructions say they should be turned off.

Portable space heaters are so easy to knock over in the dark that they should be turned off when you go to bed, but make sure your primary heating equipment for bedrooms is sufficient to avoid risks to residents from severe cold.

Do not use your oven to heat your home.

Make sure fuel-burning equipment is vented to the outside, that the venting is kept clear and unob-

structed, and that the exit point is properly sealed around the vent, all of which is to make sure deadly carbon monoxide does not build up in the home.

Inspect all heating equipment annually, and clean as necessary.

Test smoke alarms monthly; install a carbon monoxide alarm in a central location outside each sleeping area.

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