

# Balas Appointed To LCRA Board

AUSTIN - Gov. Rick Perry appointed five to the Lower Colorado River Authority. The 15 member board oversees activities of the authority which delivers electricity, manages water supply and

protects the quality of water for the Lower Colorado River and its tributaries.

Steve K. Balas of Eagle Lake is a pharmacist and owner of Eagle Lake Drugstore Inc.

He is also owner and manager of a rice farm in Eagle Lake. He is a board member of the First National Bank of Eagle Lake and United Drugs, a national pharmacy co-op.

Additionally, Balas serves on the board of the Rice Medical Foundation and the Wintermann Foundation.

He is a past board member of

the Texas Rice Producers Association and the U.S. Rice Producers Association.

Balas is also advisory director of The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, and member of Region K Water Planning Group.

He received a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin. His term expires Feb. 1, 2011.

**St. Mary's - Nada**  
**VARIETY SHOOT & YOUTH FALL FESTIVAL**  
Sunday, November 11, 2007  
Nada Community Center

**VARIETY SHOOT • 1:00 TO 4:00 PM**  
*(Variety of prizes; includes women's - children round)*

**HAMBURGERS & CHILI, PASTRIES & OTHER REFRESHMENTS from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m**

**CAKE WALK • SILENT AUCTION**  
**• GAMES FOR THE KIDS • BINGO**

The evening will conclude with a  
**RAFFLE DRAWING 7:00 P.M.**  
*Proceeds to benefit Christian Education Youth Activities*

## Texas Crop Weather Report

Colder temperatures and dry weather conditions continued across the state.

Small grain planting continued in some areas while producers in other areas continued to wait for rain.

Cotton harvest continued throughout most of the state as fields continued to defoliate.

Good corn yields were reported in the Northern High Plains as harvest neared completion. Good sorghum yields were reported in the High Plains.

Peanut harvest neared completion in the Northern Low Plains as harvest continued in South Central Texas.

Pecan harvest continued in the Cross Timbers, Blacklands, and South Central Texas.

Soil moisture was short to adequate across the state.

There was no rainfall observed for the entire state of Texas.

Livestock continued to be in good condition across most areas of the state as producers began supplementing their feed and feeding hay.

Hay harvest continued in East Texas and South Central Texas.

Most ranges and pastures in the state were partly green but continued to dry up due to lack of rain and colder temperatures.

**Field Crops Report**  
Small Grains: Winter wheat fields in the Panhandle continued to be in need of rain.

Winter wheat planting continued in the Blacklands.

Wheat crops were in need of rain in South Central Texas.

Dry conditions halted dryland wheat planting in South Texas.

Some oats were planted in the Blacklands.

Wheat condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

Oats condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

Cotton: Cotton harvest continued to progress in the High Plains with excellent yields reported. Producers continued to defoliate and harvest cotton in the Low Plains.

Harvest continued in the Blacklands. Cotton harvest was in full

swing in the Trans-Pecos.

Cotton harvest continued to progress in the Edwards Plateau.

Harvest was virtually complete in South Texas, South Central Texas, and the Coastal Bend. Cotton conditions were mostly fair to good statewide.

Corn: Good yields were reported in the High Plains as corn harvest neared completion.

Statewide, corn conditions were mostly fair to good.

Sorghum: Grain sorghum continued to do well in the Northern High Plains as harvest was winding down. Good yields were reported in the Southern High Plains.

Sorghum conditions were mostly fair to good statewide.

Peanuts: Peanut harvest neared completion in the Northern Low Plains.

Peanut harvest was in full swing in South Texas.

Peanut conditions were mostly fair to good statewide.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Pecan harvest continued in the Cross Timbers with mixed reports on quality.

Pecan harvest was underway in the Blacklands.

Pecan producers were preparing for harvest in the Trans-Pecos.

Pecan harvest neared completion in the Edwards Plateau with good yields reported.

Pecan harvest continued in South Central Texas.

Spinach, onions, and other greens were being planted in South Texas.

Fall vegetable crops were progressing well in the Lower Valley.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Livestock continued to be in good condition across most areas of the state with some producers starting to supplement their feed and feed hay.

Most all hay baling was completed in the Blacklands.

Hay harvest continued in North East Texas and South East Texas.

Hay harvest neared completion in South Central Texas.

Most ranges and pastures in the state were still green but continued to dry up due to lack of rain.

Range and pasture conditions were fair to good statewide.



Pictured above is Katie Hassin with her daughter Haylie Miller trick or treating on Halloween.

### THE GUM DISEASE CONNECTION

When you have gum disease, it's like having an infected, oozing hand. It's that big of an infection if its generalized throughout the mouth. Women with gum disease three to eight times more likely to have a premature baby than were women with healthy gums. The culprit: a labor-inducing prostaglandin (similar to the drug Pitocin) produced by their immune systems to combat the infection.

Chronic inflammation may also explain why some people who have heart attacks have no known risk factors such as high blood pressure or high cholesterol. Infection triggers inflammation, which, under normal circumstances, is part of the healing process. When inflammation is chronic, it can damage artery walls and make them more prone to fatty buildup. For more information, visit our website: [www.sealydentalcenter.com](http://www.sealydentalcenter.com).

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## WCJC Registration Information

Wharton County Junior College (WCJC) is currently registering for the Winter Mini-Term and Spring 2008 semester. Students may register on campus or on the web through December 13 for the Winter Mini-Term.

Students may register in person November 5 through December 13, 2007 and January 2-16, 2008 for the Spring semester.

On campus registration is held at the WCJC Fort Bend Technical Center, Sugar Land campus, and Wharton campus.

Students may register in person at the Bay City Campus, 4000 Avenue F, Ste. B on November 13 from 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Web registration will be held November 1, 2007 through Janu-

ary 16, 2008.

May Mini-Term classes begin December 17, 2007 and Spring classes begin January 14, 2008.

WCJC offers an associate in arts degree for those intending to transfer to a four-year institution, associate of arts in Teaching degree, associate in applied science degrees, and certificate programs.

Distance education courses are available through the web, interactive television, and video-cassettes.

For more information about programs or registration, call 800.561.9252 or 979.532.4560 for the Wharton campus, 281.243.8447 for the Sugar Land campus, or 281.239.1500 for the WCJC Fort Bend Technical Center.

## Oil Permits Stay Level On Year

The Texas Railroad Commission issued a total of 1,430 original drilling permits in September 2007 compared to 1,424 in September

2006. The September total included 1,227 permits to drill new oil and gas wells, 44 to re-enter existing well bores, and 159 for re-completions.

Permits issued in September 2007 included 272 oil, 346 gas, 775 oil and gas, 29 injection, zero service and eight other permits.

August Crude Oil Production

Texas preliminary August 2007 crude oil production averaged 833,372 barrels daily, down from the 882,757 barrels daily average of August 2006.

The preliminary Texas crude oil production figure for August 2007 is 27,384,527 barrels, a decrease from 27,581,157 barrels reported during August 2006.

September Oil And Gas Completions

In September 2007, operators

reported 303 oil, 686 gas, 10 injection and zero other completions compared to 356 oil, 650 gas, 26 injection and zero other completions during September 2006.

Total well completions for 2007 year to date are 10,460 up from 9,798 recorded during the same period in 2006.

Operators reported 637 holes plugged and three dry holes in September 2007 compared to 606 holes plugged and one dry hole in September 2006.

August Natural Gas Production

Texas oil and gas wells produced 493,582,988 Mcf (thousand cubic feet) of gas based upon preliminary production figures for August 2007, up from the August 2006 preliminary gas production total of 455,053,377 Mcf.

Texas production in August 2007 came from 138,580 oil and 80,297 gas wells.

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<b>PACKER COWS</b>			
Higher dressing utility & cutter cows	42-48		
Lower dressing utility & cutter cows	34-41		
Thin Cows	25-33		
<b>PACKER BULLS</b>			
Heavyweight bulls	54-63		
Utility cutter bulls	47-53		
<b>STEERS</b>			
	#1	#2	
150-300 lbs	128-145	110-127	
300-400 lbs	124-138	105-119	
400-500 lbs	116-128	95-110	
500-600 lbs	102-114	90-101	
600-700 lbs	95-104	83-91	
700-800 lbs	90-98	80-89	
<b>HEIFERS</b>			
	#1	#2	
200-300 lbs	120-135	100-118	
300-400 lbs	108-120	90-105	
400-500 lbs	102-113	85-95	
500-600 lbs	95-105	82-92	
600-700 lbs	90-98	80-89	
700-800 lbs	83-93	74-82	
<b>STOCKER COWS</b>			
Good Stocker Cow/Calf Pairs	850-950		
Medium Cow/calf Pairs	700-825		
Common Cow/calf Pairs	600-695		
Good Stocker Cows & Heifers	750-900		
Medium Stocker Cows & Heifers	575-745		