

Habitat For Humanity 'Raises The Roof'

"Did they raise the roof?" I overheard an inquisitive shopper ask her friend as they were leaving the local grocery store.

This was days after the Rice High School graduation and apparently the two ladies were discussing whether the new graduates had raised such a noise and decibel level as to warrant the expression of "raising the roof". I heard it was a great graduation night, so hopefully the graduates rightfully and deservedly celebrated, but apparently to the joy of parents/administrators/teachers/guests it was all under control and accomplished without elevating the cover of the building.

When my daughter related to me some of her crazy, colorful college antics during her eventful years at Texas A&M, I think the words "raised the roof" may have

appeared at times somewhere in her vocabulary. And it would occasionally frighten me.

The on-line "Urban Dictionary" informs the reader that the most updated definition for "raise the roof" involves: "...dancing motion where participant pushes both hands up in the air, hands open, facing up towards ceiling, usually done in groups". Yeah—that's probably what my daughter was proudly participating in at College Station, in between happily attending all her classes. But that was a few years ago and she has successfully procured her diploma since then.

A recent local event that included "raising the roof" took place at 305 Mills Street, the future home of Angelia Gonzales and her two daughters, where Habitat for Humanity

(HfH) workers have been coping with heat, humidity and (little) rain to complete that home for the anxious family.

As of this date, the "roof has been raised" and the siding is partially completed. I spoke with volunteer Bill Harrison recently, who said the siding should be completed by this

Saturday and then interior work will start. Volunteers have been working Saturdays and some Wednesdays to complete the house.

I have seen several documentaries about the Amish people as they help each other build their homes, barns and outbuildings. It's a real sense of community spirit, and the Habitat workers are able to feel that same sense of joint pride and accomplishment. The sight of the Amish men pull-

ing up the sides of a building and "raising the roof" are memorable. It's a joyous occasion of accomplishment.

One could write a number of words and phrases about the personal satisfaction that

Amish people and Habitat workers must feel, but sometimes the simplest words say the most, such as the sign erected in front of the construction site on Mills Street:

"This simple, decent house built in partnership with Angelia Gonzales family and volunteers from Colorado County Habitat for Humanity."

Habitat workers are "raising the roof" twice this year in Eagle Lake and that is both "simple, decent" and profoundly extraordinary. Drive by and take a look... or volunteer.



Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary
Earnest and Marie
From, Your Family



Happy 1st Anniversary,
Tamra
We've fit ten
years into one.
I love you, Chris

TCC Presents Award to Kleinschmidt

Austin, TX — the following statement may be attributed to State Rep. Wayne Christian (R-Center), President of the Texas Conservative Coalition, regarding the presentation of the TCC Courageous Conservative Award (CCA) to State Rep. Tim Kleinschmidt (R-Lexington).

"In the 81st Legislature, State Representative Tim Kleinschmidt worked tirelessly to advance and defend conservative principles. Based on his adherence to principles and his spirited defense of conservative values, I am pleased to recognize Tim as a Courageous Conservative."

"Tim is a member of the Texas Conservative Coalition (TCC), the conservative caucus of the Texas Legislature. He has exhibited a strong dedication to the four guiding LIFT principles on which TCC operates:

- Limited Government
- Individual Liberty
- Free Enterprise
- Traditional Values

"Conservative principles served as the cornerstone of Tim's policy actions in the 81st Legislature. Tim was a determined advocate for small businesses in Texas. In the course of the floor debate on the Entergy bill (House Bill 1657), for example, he stepped up and spoke against the legislation that would have damaged our state's business

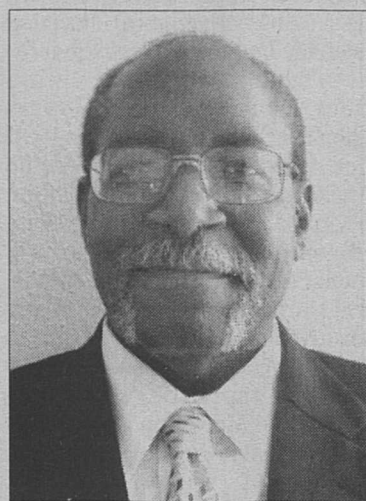
climate and increased costs for small businesses across Texas.

"Tim also authored and co-authored a number of significant bills that were enacted, including:

- HB 2291, which limits property tax rate increases;
- HB 3613, which requires property tax appraisals to consider the residential value of a property rather than potential commercial value;
- HB 4765, which increases the franchise tax revenue exemption;
- HB 469, which creates incentives for clean energy projects; and,
- HB 51, which establishes a funding mechanism for more Tier One research universities in Texas.

"Tim proved himself to be an exceptionally bright and hard-working member of the Legislature this session. In fact, like Tim, each one of our freshman members has proven themselves to be a strong and thoughtful conservative who is willing to fight for conservative principles."

"Tim Kleinschmidt is a Courageous Conservative with a bright future, and we are proud to count him as a member of the Texas Conservative Coalition. We look forward to continuing to work with him to promote and defend conservative principles."



Rudolph M. Henry

Henry to Speak at E.H. Reunion

The E.H. Henry Alumni and Ex-Student Association will hold its semi-annual school reunion on July 17-19.

The reunion will begin with a musical and reception on Friday night, July 17 at 6:30 p.m.

On Saturday, July 18 the day starts with registration beginning at 9 a.m.

The day will be filled with activities and fun for the entire family.

The celebration continues Saturday night with a banquet followed by a dance.

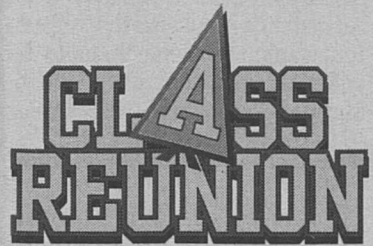
The banquet speaker will be Mr. Rudolph M. Henry, son of Eugene and Nova Lee Henry and the grandson of the late E.H. Henry and Mamie Henry, the late Namon and Lemmie Hurd.

The reunion will culminate

on Sunday, July 19 with church services at the Providence Baptist Church located at 1207 Seaholm St. where Rev. Coby Shorter is pastor.

The Association is asking and expecting all alumni and ex-students to attend these events.

For further information you may contact Elaine Henry Harrison at 979-758-3000 or Eurma Lemons Gordon at 979-234-3024.



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Caring For An Aging Family Member

"It is one of those things that happens to somebody else," says Keith Wolfard, a firefighter and husband.

Never in his wildest dreams did he imagine that he would become trapped as a full-time caregiver in his own home.

And yet more than 44 million American adults today — many of them men — are caregivers for family members or spouses. They face the constant challenges of juggling their loved one's daily needs and medical care while tending to their own lives and work.

"Few of us are ever prepared for the role of family caregiver, which today requires the combined skills of a practical nurse, business manager, and therapist," says best-selling author Gail Sheehy, AARP's Ambassador of Caregiving and a former caregiver herself.

Determined to help other caregivers fight the isolation and helplessness felt by so many, Sheehy traveled the country interviewing and filming caregivers and their families, posting the video interviews on AARP's Caregiving Web site (www.aarp.org/gailsheehy).

In Wolfard's case, both he and his wife refused to recognize signs of her creeping dementia.

This denial can mean families do not seek immediate medical intervention that might delay the progress of disease.

Also frustrating was that three different doctors dismissed the idea that Keith's wife had Alzheimer's, a difficult disease to diagnose.

It often is missed by doctors who say, "What do you expect, she's old?" But Keith's wife was only in her 50s.

"Older people generally fear that admitting to serious illness might lead to having their independence taken away, so they insist everything is normal," writes Sheehy.

She points out that depression, dehydration or a urinary tract infection can be confused with dementia, as can malnutrition and mismanaged medications.

This is just one example of

information many Americans need to be caregivers, according to AARP, the leading organization for people over 50 and the top resource and advocate for caregivers.

"Our loved ones may depend solely on us as the primary caregiver and resist help from others," said Sheehy.

* If you're loved one is refusing help from others, start by calling your local Area Agency on Aging to help you find a care manager.

This usually is a social worker who can be a neutral professional voice.

The care manager can assess the home situation, talk to the patient, and work with the caregiver to set up a treatment plan.

* Realize caregiving isn't a sprint. It's a marathon. You are living with a new uncertainty and you're not going back to the old normal.

You MUST take at least one hour a day to do something to nurture and refresh yourself.

* Collect your loved one's medical history, including all medications, vitamins and over-the-counter supplements the patient is taking.

This record will save you time in doctor's offices and gain you points from nurses and doctors.

* Don't think you must do it alone. It's ok to ask for help regardless of what the patient wants.

Let the care-manager be your advocate!

Don't be shy about asking for assistance from extended family, neighbors, coworkers or your community.

Something as simple as asking friends to add your loved one's grocery order or dry cleaning to their own can alleviate your burden.

For more useful ideas and to tap into a community of thousands of caregivers and learn from their stories, visit www.aarp.org/gailsheehy or www.gailsheehy.com.

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Wallis Oldtime
Fun Festival

SATURDAY & SUNDAY
JULY 25 & 26, 2009

American Legion Hall
330 Legion Road, Wallis, Texas

FREE STREET DANCE
Saturday Night 8:30 pm-12:30 am
BLUE NOTE BROTHERS
The Pavlock Brothers, Bryan, Cody and Shane
Playing Country and Blues

HAMBURGERS Saturday 12 Noon until 10:30 pm
SUNDAY BBQ DINNER
11 am-2 pm

BBQ Beef, Chicken & Sausage plates w/Trimmings
BBQ Sandwiches after 2 p.m.
BBQ Beef, Sausage & Chicken
Sold by the pound at pits after 10 am

Half & Half
Arts & Crafts

Ice Cold Beverages
Queen's Pageant
Fun and Games for all Ages

Kiddie Rides
Cake Walk

KULINARY COOK-OFF
Saturday, July 25th
BBQ COOK-OFF
Sunday, July 26th

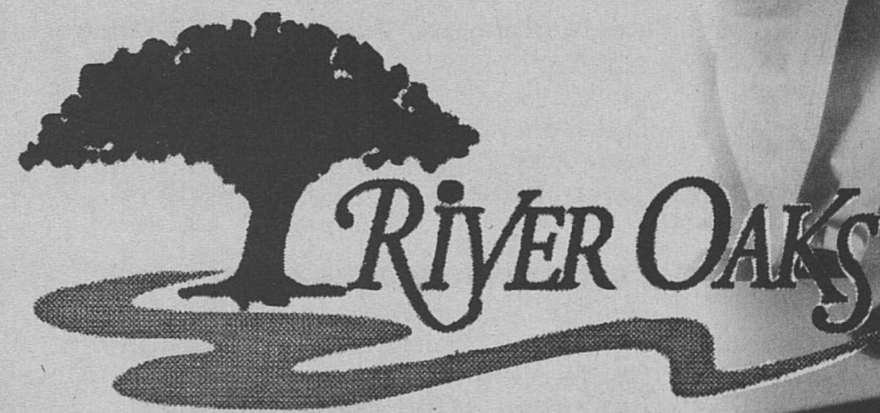
Drawing for raffle prizes, Half & Half and
Calf-a-Rama after Auction
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AUCTION
1:00 pm
SUNDAY

BENEFITING WALLIS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & AGRICULTURE
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