

The News-Dispatch

Volume XXVII No. 35

Serving Western Hays County since 1982

• Thursday, June 11, 2009

LAGNIAPPE

ROCCAFORTE BACK HOME

Wimberley City Councilman and recently elected Mayor Pro-Tem Charles Roccaforte is back home recovering from open-heart surgery and an operation to open his carotid artery last week. Roccaforte spent several days in the intensive care unit but is improving, according to a spokesman for the city. He is receiving a minimum number of visitors, but cards, thoughts and prayers are welcome.

DSISD TO HOLD PUBLIC FORUM

Dripping Springs ISD invites the public to a forum to discuss the proposed budget for the 2009-2010 school year. The public forum will take place Tuesday, June 16, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room at the DSISD Central Administration offices at 510 West Mercer Street.

"MY FAIR LADY" TWO MORE WEEKENDS

Production of the classic *My Fair Lady* opened June 5 with the presentation of poem written for the occasion by Wimberley's poet laureate Oda Lisa Roberts. The show continues on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings through June 21. EmilyAnn favorite Juli Dearington will melt your heart as Eliza, the Cockney flower girl turned lady with the help of the cavalier instructor Henry Higgins played by Carl Galante. Also featured in this 34-member cast are Ian Green as the fun-loving Alfred Doolittle, Dan Stephens as the charming Freddy Hill, and Dan Williams as the beloved Colonel Pickering. From "With a Lit-

See Lagniappe, pg.2



TASTE TESTING

Chefs from Rolling in Thyme and Dough prepared gazpacho, tomato-mozzarella tarts and a variety of macaroons for last Thursday's Dinner by the Bite Summer Bites affair at Wilson Appliance to benefit PAWS Shelter & Humane Society. Other restaurants serving food were Creek Road Café, Gourmet Gals & Guys, Moonshine Bar and Grill and Silver K Café.

News-Dispatch staff photo

Eco-Day 2009 set in Henly Sat. June 20

HENLY-Local citizens are urged to mark their calendars for Saturday, June 20, when Eco-Day 2009 will be held at the Henly South Fire Station on FM 2325 at Plainview Road, across from Hill Country Ranches (the White Rabbit). Sponsored by Hill Country Ranches Property Owners, the second annual Eco-Day will feature one-hour presentations from 10 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Informative booths will be on display and demonstrations will be held throughout the day, including watershed and aquifer models, and a Rainfall Simulator. Firefighters will be attending the fire truck and giving out stickers.

Bryan Davis, Natural Resource Agent in San Antonio, will talk about oak wilt and wildlife rainwater collectors. He will assemble one of his own "guzzlers" on site, which will be given away as a door prize.

Peter Pfeiffer, a nationally acclaimed architect in Austin, will speak on green building. Clips from his appearances on The Today Show and This Old House can be seen on his website: www.barleypfeiffer.com.

Billy Kniffen, nationally acclaimed rainwater collection specialist with Agri-Life Extension Service, will take the mystery out of

See Eco-Day pg.8

Will run in Republican primary

Cutler announces sheriff candidacy

Gary Cutler announced his candidacy for Hays County Sheriff June 8 on the steps of the County Courthouse.

Cutler holds a Criminal Justice degree from Sam Houston State University. He started his criminal justice career with the Travis County Sheriff's Office as a Jail Corrections Officer.

During his 26 years with Travis County, Cutler worked many different details including uniform patrol, fugitive warrants, detective and a Captain for more than four years. As a captain, he was responsible for many different details: detectives, narcotics, fugitive/SWAT, mental health, crime lab, evidence, courthouse security, victim services, training academy as well as overseeing and managing a multimillion dollar operating budget.

After retiring from Travis County, he worked three years as a Lieutenant over the Major Crimes Unit at the Williamson County Sheriff's Office.

He is currently in his sixth year as a State police officer with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) assigned to the Special Investigations Unit. He continues to excel in law enforcement and was recently nominated for Employee of the Year for TABC.

Cutler said he feels his experience and knowledge in the criminal justice system will greatly benefit Hays County and its citizens.

During his tenure at the Travis County Sheriff's Office and Williamson County Sheriff's Office he was involved with the Child Advocacy Center, Amber

Alert Program, and Co-Chairman of several all-police benefit rodeos. He was a charter member of Homicide Investigators of Texas and is a member of the Texas Municipal Police Officers Association.

As a native Texan, he was raised in the small community of Hutchins in Dallas County and for the last 22 years has been a resident of Hays County. In 1987 he and his wife of 35 years, Carol, moved from Austin to Buda with their two sons Travis and Trevor. Both sons are graduates of Hays High School and Texas Tech University. Gary and Carol currently reside in Driftwood where they enjoy hill country living.

Cutler said he is committed to continuing his law enforcement career by serving the citizens of

Hays County and ensuring their safety. He firmly believes in planning for the future growth of the county. Hays County currently is one of the fastest growing counties in the United States. Being next to such a large metropolis, Hays' growth opportunities are endless. Cutler says he understands the growth will not only lead to new business and provide more educational opportunities, but also will bring more responsibility to the Hays County criminal justice system as well.

His long-term outlook is to enforce all statutory laws with an innovative approach and work on critical overcrowding jail issues, which often burden many sheriffs' offices, other elected county officials and the taxpayers as well. He said he



GARY CUTLER

will ensure the citizens that violators of the law will be properly incarcerated and he will work closely with the Texas Commission on Jail Standards to keep the jail facility in compliance.

See Candidate pg. 8

DS resident chosen for Miss Texas Teen pageant June 28, 29

Eyes money for college

DRIPPING SPRINGS-a 17-year old resident of Dripping Springs, has been selected by National American Miss to participate in their Miss Texas Teen pageant June 28 and 29 in Houston.

Amanda lives and works at One Iron Horse Farm in Dripping Springs with her mother Karen Johnson and stepfather Tom Tower. Her father, Steven Wager, lives in Round Rock.

Amanda is also one of the top Junior hunter riders in the state and is gaining national visibility this year as she competes in USHJA (United States Hunter Jumper) and USEF (United States Equestrian Foundation) recognized shows. In 2008, she made it to the USHJA Zone 7 finals, comprised of six states with her now-retired horse, Austin-tacious. They finished eighth in the Junior Rider category, and Amanda is on track this year to finish even higher. Several local businesses helped sponsor her for the 2008 finals.

According to her mother, Amanda's burning desire for a college education was the primary motivation to



AMANDA WAGER

enter the pageant.

"The invitation letter promised scholarship and award money," her mother, Karen Johnson, said. "She told me she'd sell any other prizes she won - including a car - to put the money toward college. All of her efforts the past few years have been geared toward paying for college. She loves the equestrian competitions, but is also intent on channeling that toward equestrian scholarships."

Amanda plans to pursue advanced degrees in Chemical Engineering, and spent several months last summer researching

See Pageant pg. 6

News of Wimberley

Blue Hole bike trail nears completion

CABLE APPOINTED AS INTERIM MUNICIPAL JUDGE

Andy Cable, Precinct Three Justice of the Peace, was appointed interim municipal judge for Wimberley by the city council. Judge Cable will preside over municipal court until a permanent replacement can be found for Judge Don Campbell, a local attorney, who resigned

from the position last month.

BLUE HOLE HIKE, BIKE TRAIL NEARS COMPLETION

An 1,800-foot long hike and bike trail on the property of the Blue Hole Regional Park is expected to be complete this week. The 10-foot wide trail will run from the park entrance near Blue Hole Lane and the old Baptist Church parking lot to

the eastern part of the property. Plans call for the trail to connect with the Winters Mill Parkway trail planned for construction by Hays County. When both trails are complete, they will form a trail from the entrance of Blue Hole Park to the intersection of the Parkway with Ranch Road 12. Meyers Construction Company of Wimberley is

CONSTRUCTING THE BLUE HOLE TRAIL BUILDING PERMIT ACTIVITY IS DOWN FOR '09

The City of Wimberley issued three residential building permits during the first quarter of 2009. That number is down from six issued during the same period for 2008. Commercial

See Wimberley pg. 8



WIMBERLEY VFW POST NEW OFFICERS

Immediately following this year's VFW Bull Riding and Rodeo to be held July 2-3-4, a new group of officers will be leading the Wimberley VFW Post until next July. All have been heavily involved in bringing this year's event into the arena. From left, front row are: Adjutant Tom Gill, Post Commander Jack Tatum, Senior Vice Commander Tom Huth, Junior Vice Commander Chris Albertson, and Quartermaster Larry Merkin. Back row, l-r: Trustee Crow Wilson, Trustee Larry Morris, Judge Advocate Darrel DeLong and Trustee Wayne Skaggs. Not pictured are Surgeon Roy Byers and Chaplain Rodger Parker.

Photo courtesy VFW Post 6441

DSISD news DSMS closed

DRIPPING SPRINGS-Dripping Springs Middle School (DSMS), located at 940 Highway 290 West, will be closed for the summer effective Mon-

See DSMS pg. 8

New web site open

DRIPPING SPRINGS-Ready your computers and get back to bookmark the new Dripping Springs ISD Web Site. DSISD has worked with ePowered Schools to de-

See Web site pg. 8



Thinking Out Loud

Stan Weinberg

“You’re either with us or against us”

through tax breaks and subsidies.

After some years of success, the enterprise sold the team, and because they liked Bush, the good ole boy, his borrowed \$800,000 investment grossed him between 12 and 16 million dollars. And thanks to his father’s friends at the IRS, Bush got away without paying taxes on some of that money, which was earned income and taxable.

The next step for Bush was politics. He had already failed in at least one attempt to run for congress. But the governorship of Texas seemed appropriate for him. Once again good and powerful friends supported him. Ironically, he was a fair governor and practiced bipartisanship. Unfortunately, he forgot to carry that quality to his next elected office-president of the U.S. I suspect Dick Cheney and other influential extreme conservative Republicans found Bush an easy mark to sell the “give no quarter, you’re either with us or against us” political philosophy.

Although his incompetence as president is inexcusable, I’ll give him this—he has the commonsense to respect his former position and resist insulting and attacking the current president and his administration like his sorry vice president and big mouth Limbaugh. What he may think or say among the privacy of his friends and in his home is his business. But perhaps he learned how to be a gentleman from his father.

Finally, the three columns I have written about Limbaugh, Cheney and Bush in no way is an attack on their right to free speech. However, in Limbaugh and Cheney’s case it is their obnoxious character and outlandish lies which I object to and find a ruthless insult to America.

By Stan Weinberg

In two previous columns I wrote about Rush Limbaugh and Dick Cheney. I have reached the third of the trio that left us with unbelievable and unconstitutional methods they purposed to govern our country. In Limbaugh’s case, I discussed how he thinks the country should be run.

George Bush was perhaps one of the worst and most incompetent presidents this nation has experienced. Bush was to the manor born. The Bushes of Connecticut were and are one of the wealthiest and well-connected families in the U.S. Two of their sons—George and Jeb were governors—Jeb in Florida and George in Texas. I’ll not discuss Jeb’s career except to say as governor he lowered taxes by millions, which sounds good, but then put Florida in debt by borrowing as much or more money that taxpayers had to use their money to pay it back.

As a younger man and with money borrowed from his father’s friends, the younger Bush went into the oil business in West Texas and was a complete failure. Later, he got involved in a Texas professional baseball team and with borrowed money (about \$800,000) he joined the business enterprise. With little or no business success behind him, Bush became the team’s publicity and backslapper guy, a post suitable to his limited talents.

Bush is an amiable guy and has a personality that can influence people. The enterprise did well. It bought the baseball team for a relatively low price and then convinced Arlington’s business and political powers to use taxpayers’ money to help pay for the stadium and team operating costs

It’s your American right

Columnist responds to readers

By Stan Weinberg

I recently heard from the publisher of *The News-Dispatch* that he received at least three communications from three readers. Thank goodness someone is reading the column and I can compete with the reality programs on television.

One e-mail was most complimentary and two, according to the publisher, were not happy with one or more of my columns. Good for those readers. It’s their American right to do so.

Remember, we are still a free country and still have free speech. That works both ways.

The publisher said one of the readers who complained used the word “vitriolic” in describing their discontent. Since I didn’t personally speak with those readers I don’t know what they meant by the word in defining their attitude about one or more of my columns.

I thank them for responding to what I wrote. Now comes the kicker. Just as I have the right to

voice my opinion they can voice theirs. So why don’t they put it in writing by sending their response to my columns (s) to the editor/publisher. Let him know what upset you. Or what you might have liked.

I don’t plan to respond to your comments, after all, they’re yours. I hope the editor/publisher runs your remarks, space permitting. Phone calls or e-mails are nice but unless the readers write and send their letters to the paper only a small number of other readers will have the opportunity to read their thoughts. Writing a letter is much easier with a computer. Just think if you had to write a letter with a quill like our forefathers and foremothers did. There would be a lot fewer letters written and the post office would go broke, which they say they all ready are. Can’t wait for the next increase in postage.

Have a good life whether you agree with me or don’t, we look forward to hearing from you.

FORMER SHERIFF

SPEAKS

Retired Hays County Sheriff Don Montague, now Executive Director of ALERRT (Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training) at Texas State University was featured speaker at Tuesday’s meeting of the Rotary Club of Wimberley. Montague explained the ins and outs of law enforcement response to such emergencies as Columbine.

News-Dispatch staff photo



“Scramble fore Kids”

Benefit golf tourney July 11

WOODCREEK-Retired Hays County Sheriff Don Montague and Sheriff Tommy Ratliff will host their annual “Scramble fore Kids” benefit golf tournament Saturday, July 11 at Quicksand at Woodcreek golf course. All proceeds from the event will go to support county 4-H and FFA clubs this year.

Proceeds from past tournaments have provided scholarships for graduating seniors from Wimberley, Dripping Springs, Hays CISD and San Marcos High School graduating seniors. The tournament also has benefited CASA (Court Appointed Advocates for Abused and Neglected Children).

Tournament sponsors are now being sought as well as golfers to participate in the event.

Platinum, gold and silver

sponsorships are available for \$2,500, \$1,000 and \$500, respectively. Platinum and gold include two team entry fees. Silver includes one team entry fee.

Hole sponsorships also are available at \$150 and include one entry fee.

Other benefits come with each sponsorship commensurate with the amount.

Individual players may play for \$75 per person. Mulligans will be two for \$10.

The entry fee will include a golf cart, green fee, long drive contest, closest-to-the-pin contest, lunch and lots of door prizes.

The format will be a four-man teams-Florida Scramble (A,B,C & D) players.

Registration will be from 7-8:15 a.m. with tee off time at 8:30. The event will be limited to the first 120 entries and promises to fill up fast.

The famous Manchaca Fire Hall offering all-you-can-eat catfish and trimmings will cater lunch.

Awards and prizes will be made after lunch.

Make checks payable to “Scramble for Kids” Fund and mail your entry to: Hays County Sheriff’s Office, Attn. Yvette Johnson, 1307 Unland Road, San Marcos, TX 78666. Include your team contact, address, city, state, zip, contact # and players names and average score (required). Note if you are requesting a team or individual player.

For more information, please call: Don Montague, 512-738-2151 (e-mail montague@alerrt.com), or Yvette Johnson, 512-393-7808 (e-mail Yvette_johnson@co.hays.tx.us).

Wimberley Chamber Luncheon

Seton Medical Center Hays to present program June 17

The Seton Family of Hospitals will present a program outlining their plans for expansion and for their new hospital in Kyle at the Wimberley Chamber of Commerce’s luncheon Wednesday, June 17.

All Chamber members are invited to hear about Seton’s exciting plans for healthcare in Hays County.

Chamber luncheons are an outstanding opportunity for members to introduce themselves and their business to fellow Chamber members. Face-to-face introduction is your most effective marketing tool, and it doesn’t cut into your advertising budget.

The luncheon is at the Wimberley Community Center from 11:45 a.m. until 12:45 p.m. MetLife is the sponsor of this month’s luncheon, and the cost is \$6.00 for a buffet style meal with your choice of sandwich, green salad, pasta, and cookies and \$1.00 for a beverage.

Please R.S.V.P. so they can serve all members who attend. Because they are continuing to offer you this delicious lunch at a very reasonable price, if you reserve a space and are unable to attend, you will be expected to pay for the reservation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Citizen urges PEC members to reclaim their co-op

Dear Editor

I am responding to the letter from some “independent” candidates for the Federales Electrical Cooperative’s (PEC) board of directors that was recently sent to multiple newspapers. I want to address some of the misleading allegations directed to me—albeit not by specific name—and to set the record straight.

First of all, we are actively engaged in only the second open, democratically conducted election in PEC history. We owe this opportunity to reform groups that successfully fought to bring an end to the self-perpetuating abuses of old-guard leadership at PEC. If members of the PEC4U Steering Committee and other committed PEC members, like David Hall, had not dared to challenge the old regime, PEC would still be controlled by the Fuelberg/Burnett machine.

This year as last, PEC4U and other groups such as Clean Water

Action invited all candidates to respond to their on-line questionnaires. Of the current 11 candidates, seven candidates actively sought endorsements by responding to the questionnaires (Boone, Landaker, Rogers, Mayfield, Cox, Jenkins and Clement.) The four that chose not to respond had the right to remove themselves from consideration. In the end, each organization endorsed three candidates: Clement, Landaker and Cox.

Now, those un-endorsed or “independent” candidates are complaining. Now they want to muddy the waters and cast sinister doubts on the very organizations that four of them actively sought endorsements from, the very organizations that only last year, successfully broke down the PEC barriers to open elections. Further, they want you to believe that “endorsed” candidates by PEC4U or others must be untrustworthy zombies.

No group has ever claimed, as alleged to have “exclusive rights” to determine what is best for PEC. Nowhere in the process was I asked to check in my brain, my business acumen, or my integrity

See more letters page 8

Lagniappe.....from page one

tle Bit of Luck” to “I Could Have Danced All Night” the music in this charming story offers fun and romance that the entire family will enjoy.

30 days. Also, as a reminder to Woodcreek residents, there is free mulch available for pickup behind City Hall.

NEED HELP FINDING A JOB OR EMPLOYEE?

The Barnabas Connection of the Wimberley United Methodist Church has developed a free online job posting resource. It allows employers to post job opportunities and people looking for work to post information about their skills and contact information. The information is purged every 30 days, unless otherwise requested, so the information should always be current. The form can be accessed at <http://www.wimberleyumc.org/jobPost.htm>. A direct link will also be available shortly from the home page of www.wimberleyumc.org.

TRIP TO DEVIL’S RIVER RAFFLE

The Rotary Club of Dripping Springs has a three-day, two-night giveaway for the nature lover, hunter, and fisherman at Devils River. The proceeds from the sale of raffle tickets will go for the Knights of the Guild Program for Rooster Springs and Dripping Springs Elementary that builds Character and promotes drug resistance. For more information, please go to the club’s new web site www.drippingspringsrotary.org.

CAMP BEN REUNION SLATED JUNE 19-26

The 113th Annual Camp Ben McCulloch Confederate Reunion will be held June 19-26 at Camp Ben McCulloch in Driftwood, Texas. Everyone is welcome to come and join us for family fun and entertainment. Throughout the eight day Reunion you can enjoy music, dancing, camping, swimming, food, a carnival, bingo, games, washer pitching, and plenty of time to catch up with friends and family. On the banks of the beautiful Onion Creek, Camp Ben McCulloch is an ideal place to enjoy the outdoors year-round. For more information, call 512.858.2084 or go to www.campbenmcculloch.com.

SINGERS SOUGHT FOR JULY 4th PERFORMANCE

Wimberley Community Chorus July 4th Concert to be held at Blue Hole July 3. Rehearsals are being held at 7:00 p.m. every

Monday evening in June at Chapel in the Hills. Come one...Come all...and join in the fun, patriotic, and very moving program of festive singing.

Renew old friendships and make new ones as the chorus members welcome all singers in the Wimberley area. This year’s program promises to be something really special so come sing with us. For more information, contact John Bowman @ 847-2265.

INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE ENTRY FORMS AVAILABLE

This year’s Independence Day Parade and Jubilee Friday, July 3 in Wimberley promises to be packed with the usual fun and patriotism and a few surprises. The theme for the 2009 parade is “I thank my lucky stars I live in Wimberley, Texas.” Parade entry forms are now available at the Wimberley Visitor Center.

MARINES SLATE 55th REUNION

The Third Marine Division Association will hold their 55th annual reunion Aug. 24-30 in San Antonio. The Association is made up of anyone who is now, or ever has been in the Third Marine Division or attached to the Third Marine Division. Those Marines have served bravely wherever and whenever asked, from WWII, Korea, Viet Nam, Persian Gulf, Iraq, Afghanistan and peacetime. Members gather once a year to celebrate old friendships, make new ones, and thank God they are alive. For more information, please call Mike Sohn at 210-654-3310 or e-mail jumient2@hotmail.com.

Sheriff’s Report



WIMBERLEY

- Credit/debit card abuse-Bio-Link Scientific-2:44 p.m.-6/2
- Identity theft-1001 Mt. Olive School Rd.-6:26 p.m.-6/2
- Criminal trespass-1901 Longhorn Trl.-10:19 p.m.-6/2
- Criminal mischief-5606 Fischer Rd.-11:17 p.m.-6/2
- Criminal mischief-209 Wolf Trl.-8:39 a.m.-6/3
- Theft-103 Freedom Dr.-2:12 p.m.-6/3
- Credit/debit card abuse-2 Overbrook Ct.-6/3
- Criminal mischief-48 Cypress Point Dr.-3:44 p.m.-6/3
- Burglary/habitation-109 Buckaroo Cir.-5:29 p.m.-6/3
- Burglary/habitation-110 Buckaroo Cir.-6:35 p.m.-6/3
- Criminal mischief-Do It Best Hardware-5:03 a.m.-6/4
- Burglary/building-Dunforth Jr. High-9:37 a.m.-6/4
- Assault-19 Concha Canyon-11:51 a.m.-6/4
- Theft-3250 Wayside Dr.-11:43 a.m.-6/4
- Possession/marijuana-Brookshire Brothers-5:46 p.m.-6/4
- Major accident-RR 12 @ River Rd.-8:08 p.m.-6/4
- Criminal trespass-Wayside @ Old Glory Ranch Dr.-3:28 p.m.-6/5
- Overdose-113 Overlook Cir.-6:54 p.m.-6/5
- Aggravated assault-105 Overlook Cir.-6:03 p.m.-6/6
- Disorderly conduct/language-701 Winding Trl.-4:54 p.m.-6/6
- Criminal mischief-302 High Mesa Dr.-9:50 p.m.-6/6
- Theft-409 Leveritts Lp.-11:29 a.m.-6/7
- Counterfeiting-Subway-1:40 p.m.-6/8
- Theft-48 Cypress Fairway Vlg.-2:05 p.m.-6/8/9
- Failure to identify-14620 RR 12-12:08 a.m.-6/9
- Assault/family violence-35 Presidio Dr.-2:44 p.m.-6/9

DRIPPING SPRINGS

- Burglary/habitation-151 McDouglas Cove-6:41 p.m.-6/3
- Burglary/habitation-1006 Meadow Ridge Dr.-8:29 a.m.-6/4
- Burglary/habitation-1006 Meadow Bridge-8:27 a.m.-6/4
- Theft-Hill Country Outdoor Power-1:48 p.m.-6/4
- Burglary/building-12925 Nutty Brown Rd.-4:35 p.m.-6/4
- Narcotics-Mt. Gaimor @ Gaffin Creek Rd.-10:58 a.m.-6/5
- Burglary/building-427 Creek Rd.-6/5
- Assault-1835 Loop 165-3:56 p.m.-6/6
- Burglary in progress-8 Anglin Ln.-8:39 p.m.-6/6
- Physical disturbance-109 Spanish Oak Trl.-10:04 a.m.-6/6
- Theft-427 Creek Rd.-10:30 p.m.-6/6
- Criminal trespass-Buchanan Ranch-11:43 a.m.-6/8

DRIFTWOOD

- Theft-281 Kensington Trl.-3:10 p.m.-6/2
- Theft-301 Springwood Rd.-5:39 p.m.-6/3
- Major accident-1826 @ Shelf Rock-8:11 a.m.-6/4
- Major accident-FM 150 @ Hays City Store-9:26 a.m.-6/4
- Credit/debit card abuse-543 Shelf Rock-7:35 p.m.-6/4
- Assault-14415 Evergreen Cv.-4:11 p.m.-6/5
- Theft-1214 Bluff Woods Dr.-3:10 p.m.-6/9
- Arrest/warrant service-900 Hays County Acres 17 Trl.-3:34 p.m.-6/9