

Independence Day Celebration!

“commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward for evermore.” *John Adams, July 3, 1776*



Cannons speak at the July 3 Independence Day celebration held at Double B Ranch Resort near Harper. Photo Dawn Keller

Double B Ranch Celebration/Fundraiser

The Double B Ranch and Resort off Fiedler Road near Harper held a July 1 combined Independence Day celebration, and fundraiser for the Harper Public Library. People came to enjoy a golf tournament, Dachund race, a sack race, water balloon toss, a 3-legged race, silent auction cake walk, door prizes, baseball, croquet, freeze tag, face painting for the children, a county band, and a fireworks display.

The first event of the day was a parent/child golf tournament. Five teams Teed off in the scramble format, where both members of a team T off, and they take the better of the two shots. Winners received a plaque. First place

was Michael Alonzo and daughter Kayam of Deer Park, second place went to David and David Hernandez of Mason, and third place was earned by Carl and Kelly Burns. Following the tournament

ment was a Dachshund race. With a rain storm moving in, and the first drops starting to fall, two contestants, McLavsh and Pita lined up at the starting point while their owners, Alicia Mae of Rally and Melissa Hopkins of Fredericksburg, waited at the finish line. When the starting signal was given, the race devolved into a chase, with one dog tailing the other. The dogs weaved in and out of the spectators before Pita finally dashed across the finish line. Perhaps Pita's finish was inspired by the prize--a 25 pound bag of dog food.

As rain fell harder, everyone clamored into their vehicles and headed for Beaux Hickey's Pavilion, the site where the remainder of the festivities and fundraising were to occur.

Sack racing lead the events, as the light rain was finishing, but parents were surprised to learn that they would be the first ones racing. Having watched their parents hop to the finish line, the children eagerly suited up, and then merrily bounced their way to the waiting parents.

With no recovery time allowed, events proceeded to the balloon toss. The older and bigger children definitely had an advantage, however the

younger and smaller pairs held their own. The balloon toss ended with busted balloons and wet tossers, but not too many dampened spirits, and a 3-legged race was the next order of the day. The winning pair--a father and son--had clearly practised this skill before, leaving the other teams in a proverbial cloud of dust, which could only figuratively happen because of the rain.

For the next couple hours some settled down to eat, while others played baseball, croquet, fished, or sat around enjoying the cool thunderstorm-fresh air. Every half hour a door prize was awarded to some lucky recipient, who chose a book donated from the Harper Public Library's collection of duplicate books.

The cakewalk and silent auction concluded the Harper Public Library's fundraising efforts. The combined events earned an estimated \$500 to \$1000.

Culminating the entire day was a near half hour long spectacular fireworks show. Rockets and mortar shells launched from a spot near the water, and from a high cliff overlooking one of the Perdenales' tributaries. *Continued on page 3.*



Fireworks at the Double B Ranch Sat.

Appraisals up 15%--Will Your Taxes Follow?

Overall appraisal values are up 15% this year, according to David Oehler, Chief Appraiser for The Gillespie Central Appraisal District. Does that mean you will have a 15% tax increase? Only if the taxing boards say so. Property taxes are not solely determined by appraisal values, or solely by the tax rates set by the taxing boards. They are calculated by the appraised value of your property times the tax rates. Since appraisals have gone up, the taxing boards can proportionally reduce their tax rates. In so doing, they will maintain the average amount paid by taxpayers, and the taxing entities will have more or less the same amount of income as they had the previous year. The taxpayers won't be stuck with more taxes to pay, with appraisals taking all the blame. Plan on attending the budget hearings now, when the taxing boards determine how much of your money they plan to spend. Then attend the meetings where they present their proposed tax rates. If you wait until the tax bills come out in October to protest tax increases, you waited too long.

Oehler Explains Appraisals



Mayor Hoover July 4th parade in Fredericksburg: "Thank our veterans; honor our heros"

Fredericksburg July 4 Parade

The 2006 annual July 4th Parade kicked off with a large assortment of floats, vehicles marchers, musicians, politicians, veterans, young folks and old folks, those riding and those walking, and a number who were passing out necklaces, fans, pamphlets, seeds, and whatnot.

When the parade ended, many wended their way to market Platz, where the military was honored.

Veterans who were present were asked to stand or raise their hand. A color guard offered a 21-gun salute in honor of those fallen in wars. Members of Company A of the Texas Army National Guard were present, and were honored. Lt. Col. Michelle Little (TANG) gave a presentation about her involvement in the military, including how she led her troops into danger.

Ted Conerly's Sentimental Journey Orchestra played songs from the era of WWII, wearing WWII era clothing, and singing were the Memphis Belles.

More photos are on the back page.

Ps 60:4 Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth. Selah.



July 10. To help everyone understand the appraisal process, we interviewed David Oehler, the Chief Appraiser for the Gillespie Central Appraisal District, located in the bottom floor of the Gillespie County Courthouse. The Appraisal District does not collect taxes, that's Leola Broedbeck's job--but they appraise property that is taxed by the following taxing entities: Fredericksburg Independent School District, Harper Independent School District, Doss Consolidated Common

Tax appraisal notices have been sent out, and those unhappy with their appraisals must file their protest by

School District, city of Fredericksburg, Gillespie County, Hill Country Underground Water (Conservation) District, Gillespie County Water Control & Improvement District, Stonewall Water Control & Improvement District. The areas covered by the Appraiser extends beyond Gillespie County for those school districts extending beyond the county line into Mason, Kimball, Kerr, Kendall and Blanco counties. This area is covered by approximately 5 appraisers, which means that not everyone's property can be personally inspected by our appraiser each year. To manage the load, the appraisers evaluate properties by category, location and quality of the house.

The state requires each property to be re-appraised each year. There is actually not a requirement for how often an appraiser must inspect your property, therefore, it is up to the property owner to make sure the appraised value is close to its actual market value.

ue. The state requires that appraisals be accurate within 5% of a property's market value, but the appraisal office doesn't always hit the numbers right. To encourage the Appraisal District to hit their target of 5% of market value, the state audits the district with what is called a Property Values Study. An appraiser from the state pulls random sales and evaluates them. If the District's appraisals fail state guidelines, the state could withhold money from the school. Oehler referred to this as the state's attempt to "equalize local effort," so that no district is contributing less than any other.

If you are unhappy with your property's appraisal you must file a protest with the Appraisal District by July 10. A formal protest will come before the Appraisal Review Board, *Continued on pg 3*

Events Calendar

(partly from Fbg Police Dept.)

- July 2006**
- 10 Tax appraisal protests due
 - 14-15 Night In Old Fredericksburg
 - 14-16 Fredericksburg Trade Days
 - 15 Texas Fest Concert and Dance
 - 16 Bundes Vor Schuetzenfest
 - 22 Roots Music Concert
 - 28-30 Auto Swap Meet
 - 28-30 Dr Pepper Junior Tennis Tournament
 - 29 Blacksmithing at the Sauer-Beckmann Farm
 - 29-30 Bundes Schuetzenfest

- August 2006**
- 6 Harper Library Benefit
 - 12 Cory Morrow Outdoor Show
 - 18-20 Fredericksburg Trade Days
 - 18-20 Harvest Wine Trail
 - 19 Billie Pride Blast Off
 - 19 Roots Music Concert
 - 19 Doss Community Fair
 - 24-27 118th Gillespie County Fair
 - 24 Country Music Showdown
 - 25 Gillespie County Fair Parade
 - 26-27 Grape Stomp
 - 27 Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast
 - 27 LBJ Birthday Observance

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If you enjoy this second edition of *Fredericksburg Conservative*, and if you would like to continue receiving it, please subscribe with us. The cost of a 1 year subscription is \$20.00, a 6 month subscription is \$12.00.

While we mailed several thousand copies of both the first and second issues, we will not do so any more except for special occasions. We will continue to put them out at various stores, and we will publish their locations. We will also continue to throw them in yards in Fredericksburg as often as possible, but that method of delivery is not guaranteed.

To ensure that you receive a copy of the paper, please subscribe today. Send a check or money order to: David Treibs; 1141 Metzger Road; Fredericksburg, Texas 78624.

In the next few weeks we will produce an online version of the paper, at www.fredericksburgconservative.com

At the very least, the website will list the places where you can pick up a copy of the paper.

- Where To Find Fredericksburg Conservative**
- Fredericksburg:
- HEB, the west entrance in the red, free rack by the business office, bottom shelf;
 - Walmart's, customer service counter
 - Fritz Family Gas Station (Llano & Travis)
- Harper:
- Longhorn Cafe
 - Daunas
 - Stonewall:

Editorial Section

Letters to the Editor must be signed, and must have contact information so we can verify who wrote the letter.

Keep your letter under 500 words. Longer pieces may be considered, but space is limited at this time.

If at all possible, please type your letters to avoid any confusion.

Mail your letter to:
LETTER TO THE EDITOR
1141 Metzger Road
Fredericksburg, Texas 78624

If you can, we prefer you send your letter by email to: sirdavid@ktc.com with the subject line:
LETTER TO THE EDITOR



Michael New is the American Soldier who was Court Marshalled during the Clinton Administration for refusing to wear a UN uniform at the order of a foreign general.

If employees were as arrogant as some taxing boards they might write a letter like this...

Dear Boss,

I'm writing to inform you that I am planning to spend 15% more this year than I spent last year, and I'm expecting you to give me a raise to meet my projected spending.

Enclosed you will find my budget details.

As you know, we had a baby--diapers, wipes, all that new baby stuff is expensive. Our car is way too small now. We need a bigger behicle so the kids don't have to double seatbelt. Might as well buy something we like, even if it is a bit expensive. After all, out neighbors are driving really nice SUVs.

Oh yeah, we have a plumbing problem in the kitchen, and the wall is moldy. Since we have to replace the wall--we might as well redo the whole kitchen. Of course, since I work so much for you, I don't have the time to personally do it, so we need to hire a first rate kitchen remodeler.

I know you suggested in our meeting that we cut our spending and save for such problems. One thing you suggested was cloth diapers, but those are a lot of work for the wife, not to mention the smell.

Plus, we've had trouble with the washing machine this year, meaning, it needs to be replaced.

Also, most babies use disposable diapers and we really don't want to make our baby feel different from all the other children, which we are sure have those things.

While I certainly appreciate the an assigned direct ground combat mission.' (emphasis added) When a ground-combat unit actually engages the enemy, the women (who are slated to be roughly 10 percent of the forward-support companies) will have to be evacuated from the battlefield.

"How many ground and air vehicles, and how many extra men, will this ridiculous plan require? Will the enemy hold his fire until the evacuation is complete?"

Mrs. Schlafly concludes her article by saying: "No country in history ever sent mothers of toddlers off to fight enemy soldiers until the United States did this in the Iraq war. We hope this won't be the legacy of the Bush Administration."

We decided to look into some of the research dealing with women in combat, and we found the following information maintained by Fred Reed of www.fredoneverything.net. While he comes across as rather eccentric, sometimes crude and obnoxious, etc,

Show Me Your Papers! Comes to the Post Office

by Jim Lowe

FREDERICKSBURG, Tex., June 23-- You know the clerk, and the clerk knows you. You know who you are, and so does he. You have often handed him, and other clerks, a check for around \$60 to \$80 worth of stamps, once a month, just about every month for a half-dozen years or so. No check has ever "bounced," they're even pre-printed except for the amount, and the post office makes a quick, clean sale.

But on June 21, suddenly the check was no good without something else. "I need to see your driver's license," said the clerk.

Well, you were riding with someone else that day, didn't have any sort of "papers" along, and the clerk, who knows your name and doesn't need to see any paperwork to know who you are, has to apoletogically decline to make the sale. He's obviously following orders, at the expense of his own discretion.

What's going on here? Obviously, Big Brother has simply issued another decree. Personal relationships are out, and Show-me-your-papers! is in. BB isn't interested in individual thought or responsibility, only in control. And, of course, he wants previously free Texans, even Yankees and others, to get used to showing their papers on demand.

The would-be customer on June 21 had years of experience traveling Europe, including trips behind the old Iron Curtain in the days of Soviet control, and attests that the only time he ever had to "show his papers," consisting of an American passport, was when crossing borders between countries.


"It's weird," says Jim Lowe, editor of the monthly Parish Notes newsletter from St. Luke's for which he intended to buy stamps. "Over there, people were still independent, even behind the old Wall. A Volpo (Volkspolizist, a "People's Policeman" of the Soviet zone) laughed when I asked if I could take a few Red propaganda magazines as souvenirs. "So viel Sie wollen" was his smirked remark, as much as to say, "That garbage? The quicker it's gone, the better." In Prag, a salesmean from Bratislava (Pressburg) spoke freely for an hour or so with Jim about his disgust with the Communist regime--in a public restaurant, never once looking over his shoulder. "Life seems to have been freer in the Communist bloc than it looks to be getting here," says Lowe. "The friend of a lady I knew in Bamberg (Germany) went to visit relatives in the old Soviet occupation zone in central Germany. She made a side-trip, outside her allowed area of travel, to get some info from church books in a village where some of my grandparents were born. A Commie Volpo boarded her bus, informed her she wasn't

allowed to travel there, and she berated him for bothering a lady going to visit a church. The Volpo relented, the lady went on her way, and I got the info. Even under Communism, that Volpo still had his own mind and made an independent decision. And he didn't even know the lady."

Upshot of the post office event here: 33 years ago, Lowe admits he had to make a decision--give up drinking or give up driving. He opted for the latter, and hasn't had a driver's license since. So, two days after the nixed check, he returned to the Show-Me-Your-Papers place with cash.

Just in case, he brought along his Army discharge, good Conduct Medal, DD-214, VA card, membership cards from the Nat'l. Geographic Society, Arbor Day Foundation, Staunton Military Academy Alumni Association, American Guild of Organists, German-American Police Association of Philadelphia, Disabled Vets' Commander's Club card, Texan card, old staff ID from Stevens Institute of Technology, and his Parish Notes business card.

Nothing at all had to be shown before he could buy stamps with paper notes printed on the presses of the Federal Reserve. Mr. Lowe quipped, "Jim Lowe has zero debt. The Feds owe about \$10 trillion. And this outfit takes their paper quicker than mine? Duhh."



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10% increase you gave me last year, it doesn't cover this year's budget. I don't care if business hasn't been too good this year. I don't care if your expenses (like gas, shipping, cost of goods, etc) have increased. I don't care if you don't like my spending.

To be honest, I think my spending is absolutely essential and I'm just not willing to cut any where in by budget.

Besides, I'm doing this for you. You can show your gratefulness for all my services.

If you don't, I'm going to take your house, and if you resist, I'll put you in jail.

Sincerely,
Your humbled servant and employee

PS. I'll be back next year with a new budget, and I suspect my expenses will be up again.

he has covered the topic of women in combat in some detail, both statistically, and anecdotally. Perhaps he is one of the few gutsy enough to cover the topic. If you would like a gentler approach, visit the Center For Military Readiness at www.cmrlink.org. Meanwhile, following is some of the information from Fred. (edited)

Statistical evidence.

The following are from documents I found in a closet, left over from my days as a syndicated military columnist ("Soldiering," Universal Press Syndicate). Note the dates: All of this has been known for a long time.

From the report of the Presidential Commission on the Assignment of Women in the Armed Forces (report date November 15, 1992, published in book form by Brassey's in 1993): "The average female Army recruit is 4.8 inches shorter, 31.7 pounds lighter, has 37.4 fewer pounds of muscle, and 5.7 more pounds of fat than the average

male recruit. She has only 55 percent of the upper-body strength and 72 percent of the lower-body strength... An Army study of 124 men and 186 women done in 1988 found that women are more than twice as likely to suffer leg injuries and nearly five times as likely to suffer [stress] fractures as men."

Further: "The Commission heard an abundance of expert testimony about the physical differences between men and women that can be summarized as follows:

"Women's aerobic capacity is significantly lower, meaning they cannot carry as much as far as fast as men, and they are more susceptible

to fatigue.

"In terms of physical capability, the upper five percent of women are at the level of the male median. The average 20-to-30 year-old woman has the same aerobic capacity as a 50 year-old man."

From the same report: "Lt Col. William Gregor, United States Army, testified before the Commission regarding a survey he conducted at an Army ROTC Advanced Summer Camp on 623 women and 3540 men. ...Evidence Gregor presented to the Commission includes:

"(a) Using the standard Army Physical Fitness Test, he found that the upper quintile of women at West point achieved scores on the test equivalent to the bottom quintile of men.

"(c) Only 21 women out of the initial 623 (3.4%) achieved a score equal to the male mean score of 260.

Continued on p 4, Women

Embryo Killing Research

Thankfully, Texas continues to hold the line on funding of embryo-killing research. During last spring's special session, proponents of embryonic stem cell research pulled a provision of a bill that would have allowed university buildings built with taxpayer funds to be used for such research. Passage of the bill was unsure, and would have faced a likely veto by pro-life Governor Rick Perry.

Now, the US Senate is poised to take up the issue of government funding for stem cell research, and groups on both sides expect the Senate to approve a House-backed measure that would overturn President Bush's limits on funding it. If the Senate approves the bill which the House has already passed, we will be counting on President Bush to make good on his veto threat.

Please take the time to urge Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison and Senator John Cornyn to vote pro-life by calling (202) 224-3121. Ask them instead to support adult stem cell research as the proven and ethical alternative. We're all for stem cell research, just don't kill the donor!

Kyleen Wright, President, Texans for Life Coalition

Fredericksburg Conservative

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Advertising Rates

This paper will not succeed without advertisers, and we want to give advertisers incentive to advertise with us by offering great deals.

Given sufficient funds, we plan to print at least 8,000 copies of each edition, and distribute them throughout Gillespie County. With enough advertisers, we will print more.

We are offering the paper free to gain readers, but we are offering subscriptions to guarantee delivery, and to help us with distribution.

We are offering the following introductory rates:

Full page black and white \$580, full color is \$100 more (When you buy full page ads in 4 consecutive issues, full color is only \$50 more)

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Quarter page black and white \$150, full color is \$50 more

\$6.00 per column inch.

Classified ads, 10 cents per word!

Deadlines, tentatively will be Saturday, so we can print Monday, but the printing day might change.

Good luck! with this new voice of freedom of speech & opinion.



Jim Lowe
EDITOR, PARISH NOTES MONTHLY

Glück auf! mit dieser neuen Stimme der Rede und Meinungsfreiheit.

JIM LOWE
Precinct 4 Delegate to the 2006 County Republican Convention

Continued from page 1, **Double B**

Two cannons used in the latest Alamo movie, intermittently thundered and belched

flames, while a firetruck siren wailed occasionally.

Independence Day at the Double-B-Ranch near Harper, Texas was indeed “solemnized ... with shows, games, sports, guns, ... and illuminations,” as John Adams said so long ago in 1776.

New Harper Public Library

The Harper Public Library opened April 2, 2006. On January 1, 2007, they will be moving to larger facilities in the heart of downtown Harper, where they will serve as a library and a focal point for the Chamber of Commerce. They will have several extra rooms, one of which will house the Harper News, and the other which will be a meeting room for public use.

Presently the library has 4500 items on the shelf, and 3500 items waiting to be categorized and labeled. Once they have 10,000 items, they will be entitled to big discounts on books, grants and important information.

They have 3 computers; they are staffed entirely by volunteers, including Jean Ross, a retired professional librarian who is donating her expertise.

The Harper Public Library needs donations, and they have various plans, including one that automatically deducts money from your bank account. Donors who give \$1000 are charter members who will receive public recognition, and their name engraved on a plaque in the library.

Of course, all donations will be very helpful and are gratefully appreciated, and are tax deductible.

Library hours are 3 - 6 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday; and 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. Saturday.

Contact George Keller at 830-792-4232, or call the library at 830-864-4993.

Ease Status of Michael New

NEW petition to US Court of Appeals: Independence Day 2006

PRESS RELEASE - 4 July 2006

exclusive to the Fredericksburg Conservative

Contact: MNAF Project Manager Daniel New: ddnew@danielnew.com website: www.MikeNew.com

(District of Columbia) - Attorneys for former Army Specialist Michael New have filed a petition in the US Court of Appeals in Washington on the Fourth of July, for an en banc hearing on his recent dismissal by a three judge panel from the same court. New was convicted in a 1996 court martial for refusing to obey a lawful order, but was not allowed to introduce any evidence to the “triers of fact” (the jury) that the order was unlawful.

The unusual legal move was prompted by the fact that the recent appellate court ruling of the three judges against Michael New reversed over 40 years of legal precedent, which had been established by this very appellate court. (An en banc hearing is one in which all twelve judges will review the decision made by a panel of their own judges.)

In the original court-martial of 1996, the military judge,

LTC Gary Jewell, ruled that no evidence would be allowed in the trial, that the order was lawful in his opinion, and that the only question allowed the jury was whether or not the order to SPC New to wear a United Nations uniform was obeyed or not.

On February 16, of this year, the court verbally challenged lead attorney Herbert Titus to present them with a constitutional issue upon which they could rule, and then found none. One of their arguments

“Can military personnel be forced to serve under United Nations commanders against their will?”

was that there was no evidence!!!

The reason there was no evidence is because the military courts would not permit any. That has been the basis of New’s legal complaint from the beginning. A fair trial was impossible in a military setting, and Judge Jewell confirmed it with his ruling. This court has ruled for years that a fair trial requires a full consideration of the facts, but now these three judges have reversed their own court.

So for eleven years now, the courts have been arguing over jurisdiction and over technicalities, argues legal observer Joseph Dale Robertson, and the courts (both military and civilian) have been unable to look at the merits, the evidence which proved conclusively that (a) the uniform was unauthorized; (b) the chain of command was unconstitutional; (c) soldiers are forbidden to accept pay or emoluments from any foreign power; (d) the deployment into Macedonia was illegal in the first place.

The court will probably rule within a matter of weeks on whether they will entertain the petition, which would be an interim step on the way to the Supreme Court, which may or may not hear the case. In 1995, US District Court Judge Paul Friedman invited New to return to the court after the “military remedy” had been exhausted. The Army argued in military courts that all soldiers must obey all orders, and those courts ruled that “evidence is not a fundamental element of the defense,” thus stripping all military personnel of the right to introduce evidence unless the prosecution wants to see it.

At stake is whether American military personnel can be forced to serve under United Nations commanders against their will. A bill is now introduced in the House of Representatives that would prohibit such mandatory deployment in the future, but would not prohibit the use of volunteers. H.R. 4797 is authored by Texas representative Ron Paul.

A Soldier's View

Letter From Gordon Gipson,

(Gordon is an officer with the Fredericksburg Police Department. He is currently away from his job and family, serving in the military in Kosovo. This letter is printed with his permission.)

David,

Good to hear from you. How are things with you and your family? I hope good. The last time I was home before heading to Germany, I went up to the range to shoot a little. It was looking good.

As for my job here in Kosovo, I am a member of the LMT Section (Liaison Monitoring Team). Our job is to spend time in the villages and get to

know the people, allow them to get to know us, and to evaluate the “pulse” of the populace. We spend a lot of time talking with the populace. We gather information, but not intelligence, that job belongs to someone else. We do not conduct security patrols.

The people are a lot like the people found in Mexico. Most are very hardworking and honest people. About 90% of the population are non-practicing Muslims and the other 10% are either Catholic or Orthodox Catholic. The majority of the people I have talked to believe that most people will move toward Christianity in the near future. The Albanians are descendants of the Illirian people, who were some of the first followers of Christ. The people feel that Islam was forced upon them during the Ottoman Empire occupation and that they will return to their original religion.

The people are very poor and the liv-

ing conditions are pitiful. The jobless rate is at near 80%. This is due to the fact that there are no jobs available. The UN has spent a lot of money in this province over the last seven years, but I have had a very difficult time finding where this money went to. The people here have a large dislike of the UN due to this problem. They have seen many high officials get very rich, while the majority suffer. The people love the US and US personnel. They have a very high respect for the United States and especially soldiers.

David, I hope this will give you a decent picture. I must get to a meeting, but I will email you with some photos this afternoon. I would have sent them a couple of days ago, but we have had some troubles with our internet.

I will talk to you later. God bless you and your family

Gordon

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Our new public 18-hole golf course officially opened August 2004. Hours of operation are from dawn to dusk everyday except on Tuesdays in which we open at high noon. Featured in the Golfers Guide (www.golfersguide.com) & Official San Antonio Golf & Leisure Map (www.mysagolf.com), our course is more than 6200 yards course with enchanting water features and stunning elevations.

Hidden Springs takes advantage of the God-given beauty. The front 9 challenges the skill of any player and the beauty tunes aesthetic awareness. The back 9 is open and forgiving – a perfect way to spend the day. Hospitable staff welcomes any player. Stay & Play packages for groups, families available.

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For more information and monthly specials, call 830-990-4122.

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225 Living Water Ranch Road; Harper, Texas 78631

Continued from pg 1, **Oehler**

which consists of 5 citizens who are appointed by the Board of Directors, undergo mandatory training from the state, and serve two year terms. This board reviews the evidence provided by the taxpayer and the appraisal district. They have full authority to adjust the district’s values. They can lower a value or even raise a value if that is what the evidence shows. All protest meetings are open to the public. If you are unhappy with the Board’s decision you may file in District Court, and so may the Appraiser.

Mr. Oehler said that most people who protest are unhappy about the taxes they pay, but they are glad their property is increasing in value. He said the average overall increase in appraisal value is 15% for the 33,000 properties they appraised this year.

Oehler attributes the majority of the increase in property values to buyers mostly from Austin, Dallas, Houston, and California. He said someone from California might think they have a steal if they pay \$200,000 for a house here that would cost over a million dollars in California. The problem is, the price they pay is much higher than anyone here would pay, resulting in inflated value for the purchased house and the surrounding properties.

Rising appraisal values, plus new construction are the two major factors contributing to an increase in the tax base, which is the total amount that can be taxed. The uncertified assessed value is almost 2.3 billion dollars this year.

The total yet uncertified market value in the Appraisal District surpasses 5 billion dollars. Various exemptions account for the difference between 5 billion and 2.3 billion, the largest of which is agriculture exemption, followed by homestead, over 65, disabled, and veterans exemptions, and last are the fully exempt properties such as religious, charitable, and government properties for public use.

Agricultural property is appraised on its production value--the value of the crops and animals--not the value for which it could be sold. The government devised this method in the 1960’s to keep as much land in production as possible.

Property under construction is appraised based on a percentage of how much of the work is completed.

The date of appraisals for all property is January 1st, meaning you will be taxed on how much your property is worth as of January 1, no matter how its value changes throughout the year. If your house burns down January 2. you will be taxed on what your house was worth on the first, still standing.

In August and September after the protests over appraisals are settled, the taxing entities will determine how much money they need to meet their budgets. They will then hold public meetings where they are supposed to consider what taxpayers think about their budgets and tax rates. The taxing boards will finalize their budgets, hold one more public hearing, and then in October, Leola Brodbeck will tell you how much tax money you owe. January 31 is the deadline for paying the piper.

If you wait until the tax bills come out in October to protest tax increases, you waited too long.

Attend the budget hearings now, while the taxing boards are determining how much of your money they plan to spend. Then attend the meetings where they present their proposed budgets and tax rates, and attend the meeting where they officially adopt their tax rate.

Joh 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Youth Speak

Tough Break: *Lantana horrida* by Hannah Treibs

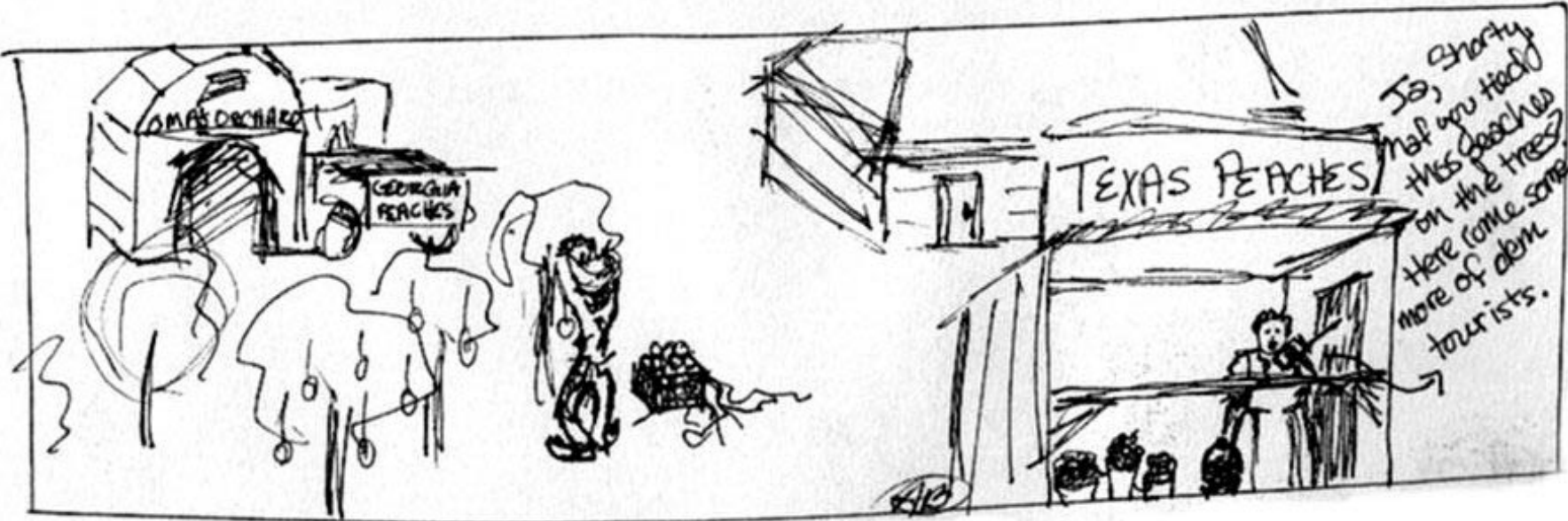
Texas is hot, and where I live it can get very hot. At my house, not only are the temperatures high in the summer, but the dirt is also not the best. In fact, it is mostly clay and caliche. Because of this, my family has to look for plants that are tough. Lantana is tough and nearly a perfect plant. It is heat resistant, thrives in bad soil, and deer and sheep avoid it. I love Lantana. The roadside leading to our house has many Lantanas dotting the fences.

Over a period of months, I began to notice how beautiful the bright flowers were and how graceful the plant was, with the arching sprays flowing over the curb or blowing in the breeze. I also admired how glorious the colors appeared inspite of the terrible summer heat. My heart was finally captured when my father purchased a deep red and orange Lantana for me. I planted it near the house and it is flourishing today. Once I saw how truly wonderful Lantana was, I began desiring a pastel pink and yellow one like the ones I saw growing on the side of the road.

However, our family was very busy and never seemed to have time to stop for a few minutes to pull up a rooting. One afternoon when my mom and dad came home, Mother handed me a lovely branch of the desired pink and yellow plant with a section of the root still attached. Mother later said that it was extremely difficult for my father to pull this small root section out of the ground. As we had some very important things to do for the day, I placed my new Lantana in water to await planting. The following morning, I planted, watered and then promptly forgot all about it. Two days

later when I checked on my new plant, it presented a pitiful sight. The leaves had withered and died. The stem had dried up and looked just like an ugly stick one of my little brothers had buried in a muddy hole. Mom decided to pull up my Lantana with hopes of planting another some day. However, a good friend advised us not to pull it up, but to water it and wait. So I watered and waited. And waited. Then about a month later, green leaves began unfurling on the not so dead stick. We were all excited, and I especially hoped it would continue to grow a little, but alas, someone

in their haste stepped on the branch, snapping it off with only a few very tiny leaves left. It was a tough break. I know that it will grow again and become a beautiful mound of color. Texas natives are known to be tough and hardy. Since Lantana horrida is no exception, I know mine will not be a disappointment. I hope.
Hannah Treibs is Texas born, and the oldest of 8 children. Some of Hannah's interests include: rocks, insects, native Texas plants, and writing about these wonders of God.



“Ja, Shorty, haf you tied thos[e] peaches on the trees? Here come some more of dem tourists.” Sixteen year old Allie Billings lives in Hico, and is already a fan of Fredericksburg Conservative newspaper. She said she hopes no one is offended by the cartoon

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Cont. from p. 2, **Women**

“(d) On the push-up test, only seven percent of women can meet a score of 60, while 78 percent of men exceed it.

“(e) Adopting a male standard of fitness at West Point would mean 70 percent of the women he studied would be separated as failures at the end of their junior year, only three percent would be eligible for the Recondo badge, and not one would receive the Army Physical Fitness badge....”

The following, quoted by Brian Mitchell in his book Women in the Military: Flirting With Disaster (Regnery, 1998) and widely known to students of the military, are results of a test the Navy did to see how well women could perform in damage control -- i.e., tasks necessary to save a ship that had been hit.

The tests are listed as follows, with failure rates ranging from 6% failure in the Fire hose test, to 99% failure rates in P250 Pump carry down test, and the Remove SSTO pump test:

Stretcher carry, level; Stretcher carry/up, down ladder; Fire hose; P250 pump, carry down; P250 pump, carry up; P250, start pump; Remove SSTO pump; Torque engine bolt.

Also from the Commission’s report: “Non-deployability briefings before the Commission showed that women were three times more non-deployable than men, primarily due to pregnancy, during Operations Desert Shield and Storm. According to Navy Captain Martha Whitehead’s testimony before the Commission, ‘the primary reason for the women being unable to deploy was pregnancy, that representing 47 percent of the women who could not deploy.’”

My friend Catherine Aspy graduated from Harvard in 1992 and enlisted in the Army in 1995. Her account was published in Reader’s Digest, February, 1999, and is online in the Digest’s archives.

She told me the following about her experiences: “I was stunned. The Army was a vast day-care center, full of unmarried teen-age mothers using it as a welfare home. I took training seriously and really tried to keep up with the men. I found I couldn’t. It wasn’t even close. I had no idea the difference in physical ability was so huge. There were always crowds of women sitting out exercises or on crutches from training injuries.

“They [the Army] were so scared of sexual harassment that women weren’t allowed to go anywhere without another woman along. They called them ‘Battle Buddies.’ It was crazy. I was twenty-six years old but I couldn’t go to the bathroom by myself.”

Women are going to take on the North Korean infantry, but need protection in the ladies’ room. Military policy is endlessly fascinating.

When I was writing the military column, I looked into the experience of Canada, which tried the experiment of feminization. I got the report from Ottawa, as did the Commission. Said the Commission:

“After extensive research, Canada has found little evidence to support the integration of women into ground units. Of 103 Canadian women who volunteered to joint infantry units, only one graduated the initial training course. The Canadian experience corroborates the testimony of LTC Gregor, who said the odds of selecting a woman matching the physical size and strength of the average male are more than 130-to-1.

From Military Medicine, October 1997, which I got from the Pentagon’s library:

(p. 690): “One-third of 450 female soldiers surveyed indicated that they experienced problematic urinary incontinence during exercise and field training activities. The other crucial finding of the survey was probably that

13.3% of the respondents restricted fluids significantly while participating in field exercises.” Because peeing was embarrassing.

Or, (p. 661): “ Kessler et al found that the lifetime prevalence of PTSD in the United States was twice as high among women...” Depression, says MilMed, is far commoner among women, as are training injuries. Et cetera.

The military is perfectly aware of all of this. Their own magazine has told them. They see it every day. But protecting careers, and rears, is more important than protecting the country.

To summarize the statistical data, what do these physical differences mean for society outside of the military? Almost nothing. A woman doesn’t need strength to be a surgeon, professor, senator, journalist, or CEO. But weak women will get men killed in war. War isn’t abstract, and getting men killed to appease feminists isn’t cute.

Anecdotal evidence

Letter 1

My last tour was during Desert Storm, [which was] basically the first real test of females in a combat zone and, in my opinion, failed miserably.

For example, an effort was made to reunite the females in our outfit with their husbands that were serving in different units to celebrate Thanksgiving together. The result was that 3 females evacuated due to pregnancy following these “conjugal visits”. Furthermore, one of the girl Sgts decided to cash in on her gender and amassed quite a sum of money in her off hours.

During convoy “rest stops”, any males found to be on the curb side of the vehicles were punished under Art. 15, UCMJ, for “spying on the ladies” while the “ladies” were relieving themselves. Now a vehicle must be

checked during stops: oil, tire air pressure, trailer hitches, etc. How can one do it when they are limited to the road-side only?

Upon arriving at our Saudi Arabia / Iraq border containment area tents were erected. Of course you know who was detailed to erect the female tents! Right, the males!

Then there was the issue of latrines, you’ve seen them with the cut off 55 gal. barrels to catch the dung. Guess who was not detailed to the s- -t burning detail? Right again, seems the decision was made to keep the girls away from such a common task.

Can you imagine being in a Hummer on a cross country ride in the middle of the desert and it comes time for a potty break? There are no bushes, trees, rocks, just miles and miles of sand. The female has to go #2 and refuses to go behind a sand dune because there might be somebody watching from a distant dune.

When suggested that she lean up against a tire on the passenger side, she refuses because she might get her clothes dirty leaning against the wheel. When given a shovel to dig a “cat hole”, she gets offended.

The bottom line is this, for each task the “girls” could not or would not do, a male was diverted to accomplish the mission, a Captain dug her a hole and instructed her how to use it, pathetic.

MSG,

US Army (Retired)

Letter 2

I was perhaps one of the first commanders to have women in a combat command (the 3d Bde, 2nd Armored Div, called “Brigade 75”) in Grafenwoehr, FRG, between April 1975-February 1977. In the Order of Battle Section of the MI Detachment which I commanded, the three enlisted intelligence analysts

were unquestionably competent in technical skills and surpassingly adept in camp administrative tasks. They gave convincing briefings and, in a brigade which had no women dependents because of its six-month rotation of maneuver battalions (from Fort Hood and back), I never had any problems in getting men to pay attention to them.

However, in field settings, they invariably wore out after 24-36 hours of steady maneuver operations. Small in frame and of typically delicate musculature, I could not assign them to clamber up the 577 tracked vehicle, to string the razor wire around the tactical ops center perimeter, nor to engage in the rapid physical actions required to set up and tear down the gear during our frequent shifts of position. They had to sleep longer hours, to be worked around, and sheltered from harm during times of frenetic activity.

I’m sure that you know the end of the story. The brigade chain of command turned a deaf

ear to my professional judgment that women had no place in combat support units. These officers were all veterans of Viet Nam, as I was. It was therefore a paradox to me that men whose professions had caused them to risk themselves in warfare, and who might one day might be called upon to sacrifice themselves and the lives of those they led for the good of the Nation, would demonstrate such cowardice in the face of their senior leadership.

Simms Anderson, LTC, USAR, Rtd.

Letter 3

To buttress Mr. Reed’s observations, there is an excellent video out by PBS of all places called Politics and Warriors: Women in the Military. The footage of the trainees would put to rest any notion of “gender equity” -- the film shows men flying over logs, leaping over walls, ripping through obstacles courses and women pathetically floundering. Small, weak women demurely approach a dummy and say in a high pitched, sweet voice, “kill,” while lighting tapping its “head” with the butt of a rifle, while men aggressively tear at the thing and charge on to the next target.

While a feminist General says in a voice-over that women can carry men, albeit maybe 2-4 women are needed but that women can get the job done, incredibly damning footage reveals the contrary. On the one hand, men with great ease jump on top of a horizontal pole and carry a heavy rubber casualty on a stretcher over it, while a group of women flounder pathetically at the same task (albeit a lower pole if one is observant). The stretcher is pushed against the pole at an angle, since they can not push it over, and the casualty slides off of the thing. As the women discuss what they should be doing, one of them says over and over “We’re losing the casualty, we’re losing the casualty.” Seeing is believing! And this video is well worth it.

Best, Kate Aspy [Aspy recently served in the enlisted Army: Fred]

Letter 4

Your article “The Realities of Women in Combat” really struck a chord with my experience in the Air Force. I was a shop chief with the 28th Avionics Maintenance Squadron in the 1980s. There were two women assigned to my shop. One was really sharp at her job, but she couldn’t change an RT-274/APN-81 without male assistance. The other couldn’t even carry her own tool box to the flight line!

Supposedly, we supervisors were assured by the brass, these women were screened before being allowed into avionics maintenance by having to pass weightlifting standards. Yeah, right. They had to be able to lift 50 pounds. An RT-274 weighed in at 125 pounds plus. ...

End of letters, and Fred’s materials. There is more, but suffice it to say that our military, our security and our liberty, are best served when decisions are not made on Political Correctness, but on what has proven to work.

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IN CONGRESS. JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. Such has been the patient suffrage of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to

tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us. He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy of the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our Brittish brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They

too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of

the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dis-

solved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

Texas Atty. Gen. Denies Records Request

In our previous issue we covered the Gillespie County Republican Party Convention, where actions occurred that appeared to violate certain laws and rules. Part of researching and appealing those questionable actions was to access the records from the preceding conventions, the precinct conventions held in March.

The County Republican Party Chairman refused to turn over the records, so we filed an Open Records request,

which the County Chairman forwarded to the Attorney General of Texas for a ruling, ID#253320.

The Attorney General ruled: “We have no evidence before us establishing that the GCRP is supported in whole or in part by public funds. Based on the information provided, it is our opinion that the GCRP is not a government body subject to the Act. Therefore, the GCRP is not required to respond to this request.”

Local Youth Earns Coveted Music Honor

Audri Vernier, 15, of Fredericksburg, was named a recipient of one of the full-scholarship Fellowships awarded to five outstanding young musicians chosen to participate in the Young Artists Program of the Cactus Pear Music Festival.

The Young Artists have formed a string quintet, called “Rococo,” and are currently participating in an intensive training and performing schedule during the CPMF. Rococo will perform one musical movement during the CPMF’s concert in San Antonio this Saturday, July 15, at 7:30, at Travis

Park United Methodist Church, at 230 E. Travis Street. Tickets are \$22 for adults, \$10 for students. For more information, visit www.cpmf.us.

In addition, the Young Artists will perform an entire program the following day, Sunday, July 16, at Mission San Jose Church. The concert will begin at 2:30 pm and is free and open to the community. Mission San Jose Church is located at 701 E. Pyron Avenue in San Antonio. The program will include chamber music works by Schubert, Ravel, Gershwin, Mozart, and Boccherini.

CACTUS PEAR PERFORMANCE “PICKED TO PERFECTION” PLEASES PATRONS

by Mrs. Gari Vernier

Fredericksburg lovers of classical music were treated to an enthralling chamber music concert this past Friday evening given by a select group of world class musicians, as part of the 10th annual renowned Cactus Pear Music Festival (CPMF). The concert was held at the First United Methodist Church and featured master musicians from here and abroad. The concert was entitled “Picked to Perfection”, as all the instruments, with the exception of the flute, could be plucked.

Lukasz Kuropaczewski, an extraordinarily talented young guitarist from Poland, was featured in all but two of the masterworks performed that evening. Kuropaczewski has been a first prize winner in the International Classical Guitar Competition in Krakow, Poland, and the International Guitar Competition in Castro Urdiales, Spain. His remarkable talent was displayed in a variety of settings, both as a solo player and in collaboration with other equally polished artists that evening. The audience delighted in hearing his sensitive and breathtaking interpretations of Tansman’s “Hommage a Chopin” and the exciting “Asturias”, by Albeniz, both for solo guitar.

Later in the program, Kuropaczewski teamed with flutist Stephanie Jutt, winner of the coveted Concert Artist Guild and Pro Musicis International

Soloists awards. Together they performed Robert Beaser’s “Mountain Songs,” a set of pieces inspired by ballads from the southern mountains of Appalachia. The first was the mournful ballad, “He’s Gone Away,” next, an original tune by Beaser, “Quicksilver,” followed by the rollicking and rousing minstrel song, “Cindy,” which brought the audience to its feet.

In addition, master musicians joined their talents to bring a both moving and dazzling performance of the Beethoven String Quintet in C, Op. 29: Violinist Stephanie Sant’ Ambrogio, Artistic Director of the CPMF, and Concertmaster of the San Antonio Symphony, Martin Chalifour, Principal Concertmaster of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Ara Gregorian, accomplished violist who founded and directs the Four Seasons Chamber Music Festival of Eastern North Carolina, Anthony Ross, Principal Cello of the Minnesota Orchestra and prize winner of multiple world wide competitions, and Emily Watkins, Assistant Principal Viola of the San Antonio Symphony and Co-Director of Camerata San Antonio.

Jutt, Sant’ Ambrogio, Watkins, and Beth Rapier, Assistant Principal Cello of the Minnesota Orchestra and founding member of the prize-winning Rosalyra String Quartet, performed with sensitivity, artistry and emotion

a beautiful divertimento entitled “Transparencias,” written in 1997, by the prolific and highly successful Mexican composer, Eduardo Gamboa.

The program ended with two stunning works performed by guitarist, Kuropaczewski, and Katarzyna Bryla, a brilliant young violinist, from Poland. “Aqua e vinho” by Egberto Gismonti and “Bordel 1900”, by the great Argentina tango master Astor Piazzolla, concluded a magnificent and immensely satisfying evening. The evenings’ performances resulted in many standing ovations given by a crowd obviously appreciative of the outstanding selection of gorgeous chamber music delivered with such artistry of the highest caliber.

Following every CPMF concert is a Meet-the-Artists reception. The Fredericksburg reception was generously catered by Chef Steve Howard of Bonterra.

The Cactus Pear Music Festival continues through June 16, and will include 3 different programs, to be heard in Boerne (July 12 at 7:00 pm), Kerrville (July 14 at 7:00 pm), San Antonio (July 13 and 15 at 7:30 pm), and Georgetown (July 16, 4:00 pm). For more information, visit the web site www.cpmf.us or call (210) 838-2218. Tickets are \$22 for adults, \$10 for students 18 years old and under.

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For more information, write:
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Standing at attention for the ceremonies at Market Platz in Fredericksburg Tuesdays, July 4 are members of the color guard: foreground: Sgt Williamson, USMC; behind him are Sgt Cox, USMC (left), and Spc Latorre, US Army (mostly obscured).



"Feathers of fire" explode over the waters of Double B Ranch, Saturday, July 1.



Friends and families are the anchors of Independence Day. At a private gathering after the parade in Fredericksburg, Ellen Vernier and Hannah Ogea present a Flag cake which they made.



Raelene Besier painting children's faces at the Double B Ranch July 1. She "clowns" in Kerrville, at nursing homes, in Special Olympics. She said we should give "Time, Talent, and Treasure."



Ted Conerly (right), leader of the Sentimental Journey Orchestra, with saxophonist Alex Ybarra at Market Platz in Fredericksburg, July 4.



Jason Davis of Harper is the high bidder for the lemon drop cake during the Cake Walk, to raise money for the Harper Public Library, Saturday July 1 at the Double B Ranch.



Young contestants in the sack race. Parents had to do it first. Saturday, July 1 at Double B Ranch.



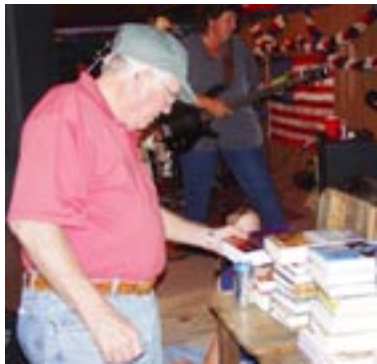
Daniel Salsman from Abilene, staying in Junction looks over some of the items in the silent auction to raise money for the Harper Public Library. Daniel came to "see the fireworks and everything," at the Double B Ranch.



The young lady on the left just caught her balloon in her hars; the others, well, the outcome is still up in the air, so to speak. Youngsters' balloon toss at Double B Ranch, Saturday, July 1, near Harper.

We at Fredericksburg Conservative would like to offer our deepest debt of gratitude to all those serving their country in the military, and their families. Without you, none of the happy moments in these pictures would be possible.

Right, John Rohm-feld selects his doorprize, a book donated by the Harper Public Library to help them raise money, July 1.



On your mark, Set... McTavish (left), owned by Alicia Mae of Rally, and Pita (right) at the Dachshund race at Double B Ranch..



Hey, wait a second, who's the cute little dog? Time out for visit. Josiah Treibs looks on.



Above, Pita clinches the prize: 25 pounds of dog food.

After a slow start, Pita demonstrates the winning run (upper photo), help proudly by her owner, Melissa Hopkins of Fredericksburg.

Firing a 21-gun salute in honor of those fallen in war is the joint color guard at Market Platz in Fredericksburg, July 4.
Seen here from left to right are:
SSgt David, USAF;
PFC Ruiz, US Army;
Sgt Cox, USMC;
Spc Latorre, US Army;
not seen are:
Pfc Rijo, US Army;
A1C King, USAF;



A1C DeLaGarza, USAF; and their leader, Sgt Williamson, USMC.



A young onlooker is silhouetted by a blast of light from fireworks the night of July 1 at the Double B Ranch near Harper.