



Governor Perry with local John Kuker who was there representing the Gillespie County Board of Realtor's

Governor Perry Visits Fredericksburg

by Nadine Starks

On September 16, Governor Perry rolled into town on his hill country "Proud of Texas" tour. At Hondo's restaurant on Main, he was met by a polite crowd of supporters and onlookers. Walking through the crowd, shaking hands and taking pictures, Perry awaited his moment on the podium. Introduced by John Graham, Air Force veteran, and merit winner of six distinguished flying crosses, Perry took to the stage and began his address. Through accolades of gratuity to his supporters in Gillespie county, Perry enumerated his standing as Governor of Texas. He reminded those in attendance that he has done in office what he said he would do on the campaign trail.

On Jobs-More Texans have jobs than ever, 360,000 in the last three years, with Texas rating top in the American job climate. Texas also has the ability, due to the Enterprise Fund, to draw jobs from out of state.

On Taxes-Home owners and businesses will reap the benefits of lower school taxes with the recent

1/3 tax cut.

On Spending-With the use of the line item veto, Perry says he has cut two and one half billions worth of government spending. He stated that was more than six times that of all governors since 1978. It was also remarked that he is the only governor since WWII with a budget which spent less state money than the year before.

On Education-School funding is up 9 billion on the whole with tax payers receiving benefits as the governor has asked that 65% of funding be spent in the classroom instead of on the bureaucracy. With education as a priority and higher class standards, more students than ever are attending college. A \$2000.00 dollar a year pay raise has been passed for teachers and a performance pay program has been implemented.

On the Border-Perry emphasized that you cannot have Homeland Security without border security. Six months before the President requested it, he sent National Guard troops down to help secure the border. With millions of dollars from the state capital, Texas is putting more resources in the hands of those local law enforcement officers who need it. The Governor is asking for 100 million dollars to fund operations until Washington lives up to its responsibilities.

Near his closing, Governor Perry stated:
"The issue of this election is crystal clear, whether Texas will forge ahead on the path we find ourselves on today, on that high road of opportunity, the high road that will take us towards prosperity and security or whether we are gonna' take the low road, the low road of those who care more about sound bites than they do about solutions. I say Texas has come too far, we've come way too far to turn back. My question to you is are you ready to turn back or are you ready to keep going forward..."

Perry asked for help from his supporters during these last 52 days of the campaign and stated that no one would be outworking him or the first lady. He closed with his thanks.

Renewable Energy Roundups Resources

by Nadine Starks

On September 22nd thru the 24th big crowds poured into Market Platz, downtown Fredericksburg, to learn about green building, renewable energy, alternative fuel vehicles, and organic gardening just to name a few. The fair provided booths with innovative technologies and scheduled talks on everything from harvesting rainwater to wind power generation.

Can't on p. 9, Green

Deer Season Soon

Deer hunting season will soon be upon us.

Buddy Mills, our neighbor and local game warden, filled us in on some pertinent details. (For more information, you can go by the Law Enforcement Building on E. Main/290W for a Texas Parks and Wildlife brochure, or you might find one at your local sporting goods store.)

First, we'll discuss the special seasons. The youth have two seasons all to themselves, October 28-29, and January 20-21.

White tail deer bow hunting runs September 30 to October 29. Of course, you can bow hunt all the way to the end of the regular season, but as a bow hunter, you'll have the field exclusively from September 30 to October 29.

Gillespie county no longer has a black powder season.

Regular deer hunting season with modern firearms begins November 4 and ends January 7, and that is followed by a late season for spikes (which count as a buck) and does January 8 to 21.

White tail deer limits for all seasons combined, for Gillespie County, are 5 deer, with no more than 2 bucks, including spikes.

Archery turkey season runs September 30 to October 29,



Game Warden Buddy Mills

either sex.

The regular turkey season is the same as the regular hunting season: November 4 to January

7. March 31 to May 13 is a special season for gobblers only. The total number of turkeys that can be taken all season is 4.

Axis deer and other exotics may be hunted year round, but you are still required to obtain a hunting license, which is good September 1 to August 31. Buddy adds with a chuckle, if you buy your license on August 30, your permit will only be good for 1 day!

A few other miscellaneous notes include, don't put your deer feeders close enough to the fence line to irritate your neighbor. There isn't a legal requirement, but as the good book says in Proverbs: "A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city." Try to keep your neighbors as your friends.

One more item from Buddy, a new law just went into effect that requires you to keep your hunting projectiles on your side of the fence, including shotgun projectiles. As those who live around here know, it's important to give your neighbor a little grace in these matters.

After hunting season begins, send us your pictures, or your hunting stories, and we'll print them! If you wrote an essay for your hunter's education class, send it in. I wrote a humorous one for mine, and it is elsewhere in this issue.

Plant Wild Flowers Now

John Thomas of Wild-seed Farms said that October is prime time for planting wildflowers. The optimal day was October 10. Planting now gives the flowers the opportunity to germinate. Contrary to popular misconception, the plants do not start growing in the spring. He said as long as the plants are at least ten days old before a freeze, they are winter hearty. John said that, actually, the best time to plant

is before a rain, but you never know when it is going to rain, so just sow them now, and the seeds will catch the rain when it comes. Or, you can water them until they germinate, which takes about a week, but he recommends watering for one week small areas that do not require moving the sprinkler. Otherwise, if you move the sprinkler and try to water a large area, by the time

Can't on p. 9, Flowers



Send Us Your Tax Stories!

We've heard complaints from a number of people about taxes and appraisals, but no one has offered to let us publish their stories. If you would like to give us the opportunity to publish your tax and

appraisal woes, or if you had a good experience, and you don't mind sharing it with us, and you won't be offended if we verify your story before printing it, please contact us.

The Green Living & Sustainability Fair



Erik & Sarah with their VW converted to electric. Photo Nadine Starks

Events Calendar

(Thanks to Fbg PD, Ralph Poth, and Fbg C of C. For details visit C of C website: www.fredericksburg-texas.com)

October
16 Concordia Univ. Program
16 Fbg Community Magazine
16 Stagecoach Theater Movies
20 FBSD School Board Meeting
20 Dracula - The Musical?
20 Fredericksburg Trade Days
20 Texas Wine Passport Trail
21 Fall Dance Fest
21 Luckenbach Harvest Classic
22 KoFC Pancake Breakfast
23-Nov 3 Early voting
26 Central US Swift Fly-In
27 Dracula - The Musical
26 Central US Swift Fly-In
27 Fbg Theater Co.'s Dracula
28 F'burg Food & Wine Fest
28 Texas Gun & Knife Show
31 Hallelujah Night 6-8pm

November
02 Elegant Elephant Sale & Silent Auction
03 Fbg Theater Co.'s Dracula
04 Glockenchor
04 Luckenbach's Hunter's Ball
05 German Chorale Concert: Harvestfest
07 Election Day
10 Die Kunstler Fine Arts Exhibit
10 2006 Contemporary Masters Invitational Art Show & Sale
10 Art Past Dark 2006
10 Artisans at Rocky Hill
11 F'burg Fall Antiques Show
11 Johnny Nicholas' Texas All-Star Big Band Bash
11 Nimitz' Veterans Day Ceremony
11 Art Guild "Before Dark" Show
11 Art Past Dark Gala

If the paper is missing from the above locations, please call us: 830-997-6110
Contact us if you would like us to leave you some extra copies.

Letters to the Editor

Legal Discrimination

Dear Editor:
Clever, well hidden inserts into huge appropriations bills are just one example of how corrupt our U.S. Congress is these days. An example of legal discrimination may be inferred from Section 552 of the Fiscal Year 2002 Defense Authorization Act. Apparently it

applied only to Jewish and Hispanic war veterans who served in World War II or later wars, and gave such veterans one year to apply for a Medal of Honor or other Medal if they felt that discrimination in some form had prevented award during a war. Apparently Section 552 excluded white, black, and Indian races etc. It would be interesting to know how many Medals of Honor were

awarded during the one year authorization. I question that it is or was the policy of wisdom to award any medal fifty, or sixty years after a war has ended. Most war veterans may feel as do I that such awards are apt to be undeserving and political in nature. Political connection has always been rampant in our military services. For example a Captain J. Pershing was a fine looking officer but not

outstanding, otherwise. About a year after he married the daughter of the Chairman of the Senate Armed Forces Committee he was jumped to the grade of Brigadier-General over almost one thousand senior officers. He lacked honor in accepting the undeserved promotion.

Sincerely,
R.C. Corbyn, Amarillo

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@kctc.com with the subject line:

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Editorials

Making Their Own Decisions

by Curt Littman

As time goes on, it seems to many of us that the quality of life becomes poorer. It is easy to compare modern times to, for example, the early 1800's or late 1700's, and conclude that life is far more complex, faster paced, and perhaps a great deal less satisfying. In comparing history to modernity, we often like to stack our children up against those of another time period, say the 1950's.

One conclusion quickly made is that our kids know how to use technology that was beyond the imagination of teens in the 1950's. However, while many kids in the 1950's had kits with which they built radios, kids today are not

building computers or cell phones from components. While most teenage boys in the 1950's could do rudimentary repairs on their cars, few teenagers today can do any more than pump gas into the vehicle. How many high school girls today know how to use a sewing machine to make an outfit? How many are competent chefs? Have we lost something along the way?

Yes. What we have lost is the time that parents used to take to teach their kids life skills. Instead of taking our children by the hand, and directing them toward an activity that will enlighten them, or perhaps teach them a skill, or clue them about a good book to read, we sit and say, "I am trying to let Johnny and Susie make their own

decisions."

That is all well and good---if Johnny and Susie are in their twenties. But what child at the age of 5, 10, or 15 years has the wisdom to make good decisions about what they should be doing to better themselves? What experience do they have that would influence their decision on whether to raise a calf, join Boy Scouts, go out for cheerleader, try out for a sport, enter a writing contest, or take a five mile hike? A generation of parents, generally between the ages of 20 and 35, are echoing the sentiment "I'm trying to let my kids make their own decisions."

What is the human tendency? It is to lethargy unless there is some sort of pretty big reward to exert

one's self. This human tendency toward lethargy instead of enterprise creates couch potatoes, overweight 8 year olds, lazy teenagers, and kids whose sole recreation and physical exertion is changing the television channel or manipulating the controls on an X-Box. We must conclude that the tendency of children, when given a choice of whether to engage in calorie burning endeavor, or just sit and watch TV and play video games, is to do the latter. And guess what? That makes parents plenty happy because they have no driving to do to take the kids to activities, their evenings in front of the TV are not disturbed, and it does not cost anything to let the kids stay at home and watch TV or play video games on the X-Box.

While there are those who would point to our young men and women in uniform and say that they have turned out pretty well, a closer look reveals that the military is being very selective these days, and rejecting many young folks for a variety of reasons. Many of the reasons have to do with the perceived narrowness of the young man or woman's life experiences. The military wants young men and women who can think and do under extreme and stressful conditions. They want reliable individuals who will take the high road, and the hard road. Are you raising such a child? Or are you letting your children "make their own decisions?"

Columns

Foley Scandal

(October 5, 2006)

Gary Bauer,

Campaign for Working Families

In the decades I have spent in Washington "fighting the good fight," I don't think I have ever seen politics sink to this cesspool level. It is becoming clearer by the day that a cadre of leftwing "hit men" and "slash and burn" organizations intend to destroy the Republican Party, the pro-family movement and anyone who stands in their way of getting power this November. The Foley scandal was round one.

In spite of his immediate resignation when his perverted behavior was uncovered, the Left, with the help of their big media allies, have managed to dominate the airwaves for a full week of attacks on Republicans in Congress. Some good conservatives believe that if Speaker Hastert would just resign too, the controversy would end. Nothing could be further from reality. New attacks are being planned - regardless of what Hastert does.

Homosexual rights groups have compiled a "target list" of GOP congressmen and Capitol Hill staffers who they claim are hiding their homosexual orientation. These leftwing activists intend to

release this list sometime soon to destroy political careers and in the hope that millions of pro-family voters will stay home on Election Day, thus delivering the House and Senate to the party of Ted Kennedy and Hillary Clinton and Barney Frank.

(As an aside, these are the same leftwing groups that claim Al Qaeda suspects have a right to privacy when it comes to wire taps, but they are willing to "out" closeted homosexuals for political gain.)

This isn't the first time there has been an effort to use the "gay issue" by the Democrat Party in an effort to drive religious voters out of politics. In the last presidential

debate in 2004, John Kerry mentioned Vice President Cheney's daughter in one of his answers, in effect announcing on national television her sexual orientation.

Why did he do it? Because Kerry and his operatives believed most conservative Christians did not know about her sexual orientation, so he "outed" her in front of a national audience. The audience gasped, the pundits said he crossed a line, and the tactic was widely seen as backfiring.

They tried it again in 2005 against President Bush's first nominee to the Supreme Court, John Roberts. The media released stories that Roberts had worked on

a case that was a major high court victory for the homosexual rights movement. Only later did we learn that Roberts merely volunteered to play the part of a "Scalia-like" justice for a few hours in a mock court setting.

Here is the bigger picture. The Left is increasingly consumed by its hatred of all things conservative and religious. They despise the president and they despise you and me. I regularly go to leftwing websites to review the postings and what I read there is deeply disturbing. We are routinely called fascists, bigots, the Christian Taliban, and worse. Veiled threats of violence are not uncommon.

Global Warming

(Globaloney)

US Senator Inhofe

http://epw.senate.gov/speechitem.cfm?party=rep&id=263759)

Monday, September 25, I took to this floor for the eighth time to discuss global warming. (epw.senate.gov/speechitem.cfm?party=rep&id=263759) My speech focused on the myths

surrounding global warming and how our national news media has embarrassed itself with a 100-year documented legacy of coverage on what turned out to be trendy climate science theories.

Over the last century, the media has flip-flopped between global cooling and warming scares. At the turn of the 20th century, the media peddled an upcoming ice age -- and they said the world was coming to an end. Then in the 1930s, the alarm was raised about disaster from global warming -- and they said the world was coming to an end. Then in the 70's, an alarm for another ice age was raised -- and they said the world was coming to an end. And now, today we are back to fears of catastrophic global

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warming -- and again they are saying the world is coming to an end.

Today September 28, I would like to share the fascinating events that have unfolded since my floor speech on Monday.

CNN CRITICIZES MY SPEECH

This morning, CNN ran a segment criticizing my speech on global warming and attempted to refute the scientific evidence I presented to counter climate fears.

CNN's O'Brien falsely claimed that I was all "alone on Capitol Hill" when it comes to questioning global warming.

Mr. O'Brien is obviously not aware that the U.S. Senate has overwhelmingly rejected Kyoto style carbon caps when it voted down the McCain-Lieberman climate bill 60-28 last year -- an even larger margin than its rejection in 2003.

CNN's O'Brien, claimed that

my speech earlier contained errors regarding climate science. O'Brien said my claim that the Antarctic was actually cooling and gaining ice was incorrect. But both the journals Science and Nature have published studies recently finding -- on balance -- Antarctica is both cooling and gaining ice.

CNN's O'Brien also criticized me for saying polar bears are thriving in the Arctic. But he ignored that the person I was quoting is intimately familiar with the health of polar bear populations. Let me repeat what biologist Dr. Mitchell Taylor from the Arctic government of Nunavut, a territory of Canada, said recently:

"Of the 13 populations of polar bears in Canada, 11 are stable or increasing in number. They are not going extinct, or even appear to be affected at present."

CNN's O'Brien also ignores the fact that in the Arctic, tempera-

tures were warmer in the 1930's than today.

O'Brien also claimed that the "Hockey Stick" temperature graph was supported by most climate scientists despite the fact that the National Academy of Sciences and many independent experts have made it clear that the Hockey Stick's claim that the 1990's was the hottest decade of the last 1000 years was unsupported.

So it seems my speech struck a nerve with the mainstream media. Their only response was to cherry pick the science in a failed attempt to refute me.

ABC NEWS PROMOTES CLIMATE HYSTERIA

I have been engaged in this debate for several years and believe there is a growing backlash of Americans rejecting what they see as climate scare tactics. And as a result, global warming alarmists are becoming increasingly desperate.

Perhaps that explains why the very next day after I spoke on the floor, ABC News's Bill Blakemore on Good Morning America prominently featured James Hansen touting future scary climate scenarios that could / might / possibly happen. ABC's "modest" title for the segment was "Will the Earth Become Too Hot? Are Our Children in Danger?"

The segment used all the well worn tactics from the alarmist guidebook -- warning of heat waves, wildfires, droughts, melting glaciers, mass extinctions unless mankind put itself on a starvation energy diet and taxed emissions.

But that's no surprise -- Blakemore was already on the record declaring "After extensive searches,

Con't on p. 8, Warming

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SPECIAL REPORT:

Parental Rights Challenged by Germany in International Court...US Moving in the same direction?

This article is an indepth analysis of dissipating parental rights. In the first section we deal with a ruling by the European Human Right Court—an International Court—against parents.¹ The second section deals with our Supreme Court's growing penchant for international law.² The third section analyzes the US court system's movement against parental rights. We conclude with some disturbingly plausible possibilities.³

Part I: European Human Rights Court upholds Nazi law against parents¹

A September 18 ruling from the European Human Rights Court has affirmed Germany's Nazi-era (1938) ban on homeschooling, concluding that society has a significant interest in preventing the development of dissent through "separate philosophical convictions."

The Strasburg-based court addressed the issue on appeal from a Christian family whose members alleged their human rights to educate their own children according to their own religious beliefs are being violated by the ban.

The specific case addressed in the opinion involved Fritz and Marianna Konrad, who filed the complaint in 2003 and argued that Germany's compulsory school attendance endangered their children's religious upbringing and promotes teaching inconsistent with the family's Christian faith.

The court said the Konrads belong to a "Christian community which is strongly attached to the Bible" and rejected public schooling because of the explicit sexual indoctrination programs that the courses there include.

The German court already had ruled that the parental "wish" to have their children grow up in a home without such influences "could not take priority over compulsory school attendance." The decision also said the parents do not have an "exclusive" right to lead their children's education.

The family had appealed under the European Convention on Human Rights statement that: "No person shall be denied the right to education. In the exercise of any functions which it assumes in relation to education and to teaching, the State shall respect the right of parents to ensure such education and teaching is in conformity with their own religious and philosophical convictions."

But the court's ruling said, instead, that schools represent society, and "it was in the children's interest to become part of that society."

"The parents' right to education did not go as far as to deprive their children of that experience," the ruling said.

"Not only the acquisition of knowledge, but also the integration into and first experience with society are important goals in primary school education," the court said. "The German courts found that those objectives cannot be equally met by home education even if it allowed children to acquire the same standard of knowledge as provided for by primary school education."

"The (German) Federal Constitutional Court stressed the general interest of society to avoid the emergence of parallel societies based on separate philosophical convictions and the importance of integrating minorities into society," the ruling said.

The court noted it was a similar argument that arose in Holland earlier, where a politician, Ayaan Hirsi Ali, sought to close down all religious schools because only the state could properly teach children "tolerance."

The U.S.-based Home School Legal Defense Association has confirmed that nearly 40 homeschooling families are embroiled in

legal battles over the issue in Germany. The group said the German families are facing persecution for trying to educate their children in a Christian atmosphere without exposing them to the state's harmful secular values, especially sex

‘society has a significant interest in preventing the development of dissent’

education.

Ian Slatter, a spokesman for the HSLDA, said it was launched after a mother was arrested and jailed on criminal homeschooling counts.

A report in the conservative Brussels Journal said Katharina Plett was arrested and ordered to jail while her husband fled to Austria with the family's 12 children.

A website for the Practical Homeschool Magazine noted one of the first acts by Hitler when he



An "unspoiled" youth in the hands of the Führer.

moved into power was to create the governmental Ministry of Education and give it control of all schools, and school-related issues.

In 1937, the dictator said, "The Youth of today is ever the people of tomorrow. For this reason we have set before ourselves the task of inoculating our youth with the spirit of this community of the people at a very early age, at an age when human beings are still unperverted and therefore unspoiled. This Reich stands, and it is building itself up for the future, upon its youth. And this new Reich will give its youth to no one, but will itself take youth and give to youth its own education and its own upbringing."

The German embassy can be reached by e-mail through its website (www.globescope.biz/germany/reg/index.cfm), by telephone at 202-298-4000 or by mail at:

“over time we will rely increasingly, or take notice at least increasingly, on international and foreign courts in examining domestic issues.”
Former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor

Wolfgang Ischinger, Ambassador, German Embassy, 4645 Reservoir Road NW, Washington, DC, 20007-1998.

"It is beyond belief that Germany is still enforcing a law that was written for one reason only – to

be used by Hitler to control and indoctrinate German youth. It had no other redeeming value," said Shoshona Bat-Zion on a blog.

The Pletts are part of a group of seven Baptist homeschool families who have been targeted frequently by authorities. Two families have left Germany and five others have enrolled their children in a Christian school, but their court cases remain pending.

Pari II: The Supreme Court's growing Penchant for International Law.²

The European Human Rights Court has already influenced the outcome of several key cases in American courts. If a number of Supreme Court justices have their way, that and other non-American courts will reshape our US courts and rights.

Before she retired, Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said that American courts need to pay more attention to international legal decisions to help create a more favorable impression abroad (at an awards dinner in Atlanta in 2003. She has since been replaced by Judge Samuel Alito by President George Bush).

"The impressions we create in this world are important, and they can leave their mark," O'Connor said, according to the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*.

The justice and some of her high court colleagues have made similar appeals to foreign law, not only in speeches and interviews, but in some of their legal opinions.

She made a number of noteworthy remarks during the presentation to her of its World Justice Award in 2003, sponsored by the Atlanta-based Southern Center for International Studies.

O'Connor told the audience, according to the Atlanta paper, the U.S. judicial system generally gives a favorable impression worldwide, "but when it comes to the impression created by the treatment of foreign and international law and the United States court, the jury is still out."

She cited two Supreme Court cases that illustrate the increased willingness of U.S. courts to take international law into account in its decisions.

In 2002, she said, the high court regarded world opinion when it ruled executing the mentally retarded to be unconstitutional.

American diplomats, O'Connor added, filed a court brief in that case about the difficulties their foreign missions faced because of U.S. death penalty practices.

In the *Lawrence v. Texas* case, the Supreme Court relied partly on European Court decisions in its decision to overturn the Texas anti-sodomy law.

"I suspect," O'Connor said, according to the Atlanta daily, "that over time we will rely increasingly, or take notice at least increasingly, on international and foreign courts in examining domestic issues."

Doing so, she added, "may not only enrich our own country's decisions, I think it may create that all important good impression."

In July, 2003 O'Connor made a rare television news show appearance with Supreme Court Justice Stephen G. Breyer in which they were asked whether the U.S. Constitution, the oldest governing document in use in the world today, will continue to be relevant in an age of globalism.

Speaking with ABC News' "This Week" host George Stephanopoulos, Breyer took issue with Justice Antonin Scalia, who, in a dissent in

the Texas sodomy ruling, contended the views of foreign jurists are irrelevant under the U.S. Constitution.

Breyer had held that a ruling by the European Court of Human Rights--the same court that just ruled against the German parents--that homosexuals had a fundamental right to privacy in their sexual behavior showed the Supreme Court's earlier decision to the contrary was unfounded in the Western tradition.

"We see all the time, Justice O'Connor and I, and the others, how the world really – it's trite but it's true – is growing together," Breyer said. "Through commerce, through globalization, through the spread of democratic institutions, through immigration to America, it's becoming more and more one world of many different kinds of people. And how they're going to live together across the world will be the challenge, and whether our Constitution and how it fits into the governing documents of other nations, I think will be a challenge for the next generations."

While Justice O'Connor is no longer with the Court, her views still prevail there to varying degrees with the majority of Justices.

Part III: American Courts seem to be moving towards international law, away from the Constitution³

In First Amendment and related cases, where someone claims that their rights have been violated (including parental rights cases), according to the current Supreme Court, there are a series of questions that are supposed to be answered in the proper order. Think of the process like a series of hurdles to determine if indeed their rights have been violated, and if the courts need to intervene. If a parent fails to clear the first hurdle in the case, the case ends right there.

whether ... our Constitution ... fits into the governing documents of other nations...will be the challenge Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer

The first hurdle is the "burden" test. This test is essentially designed to answer the question: Are the plaintiffs' rights even arguably violated? A claim can be considered so remote or insubstantial that it fails on this threshold

issue. If your rights are not "burdened," your case is over immediately without any need to consider the remaining hurdles.

If a parent does clear the "burden hurdle" there remains the compelling interest test—which is a balancing test designed to determine how important your rights are in this situation compared to the importance of the government's goals and purposes. But if the parent does not clear that initial barrier of demonstrating that his rights are arguably violated, the court never reaches the balancing test.

The implication of failing to clear this first hurdle signals that the government's power is essentially absolute in the particular area. If the court holds that a parent's rights are not burdened when a public school forces a child into a sex education course without the parent's permission, this establishes a very broad rule. It means that no matter how egregious the sex education program may be, parents' rights are not implicated at all. The court will only balance the importance of the particular program

against the parents' claims of right after the parents have proven that their rights have been burdened.

Thus, if a court says that parents' rights are not burdened when the public schools force children to take instruction that is contrary to their religious faith, that is a categorical ruling. It does not matter whether the public school's program is tangential or central to the curriculum. It does not make a difference if the religious objections are numerous or few. It certainly does not matter if the parents believe that the school has invaded their religious convictions as opposed to their religious preference. If there is no burden on parents' rights or religious freedom when the schools force children to learn secular material that violates the parents' faith, this ruling is absolute for all parents of all faiths.

This background helps place an incredibly alarming decision made in 2005 by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in its proper context.

In 2001, the Palmdale School District in California decided to give a survey to students in its elementary schools. Included in this psychological survey were a number of sex-related questions.

Parents were outraged that this survey was conducted without a proper disclosure to the parents. But the court's decision did not rest upon the district's previous superficial disclosure to parents.

The Ninth Circuit held: Although the parents are legitimately concerned with the subject of sexuality, there is no constitutional reason to distinguish that concern from any of the countless moral, religious, or philosophical objections that

Can't on p. 4, Parents

South Texas Republicans presents:
September 20, 2006
In this MegaVote for Texas' 11th Congressional District:
Recent Senate Votes
SAFE Port Act - Vote Passed (98-0, 2 Not Voting)
The Senate approved this bill that would require nearly all of the foreign cargo entering U.S. seaports to be checked for radioactive materials.
Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison voted YES
Sen. John Cornyn voted YES
Recent House Votes
Secure Fence Act of 2006 - Vote Passed (283-138, 1 Present, 10 Not Voting)
The House authorized building 700 miles of double-layer fencing along the 2,000 mile U.S.-Mexico border.
Rep. Mike Conaway voted NO
Earmarking reform resolution - Vote Passed (245-171, 17 Not Voting)
The House passed this internal rule change requiring Members to identify the special projects they insert into tax, appropriations and authorizing legislation.
Rep. Mike Conaway voted YES
Upcoming Votes
Secure Fence Act - H.R.6061
The Senate is scheduled to take up this House bill that would authorize building 700 miles of fencing along the U.S.-Mexico border.
Federal Election Integrity Act of 2006 - H.R.4844
This House bill would require people registering to vote to provide proof of U.S. citizenship.
Border Tunnel Prevention Act of 2006 - H.R.4830
This House bill would make it a crime to build or finance a tunnel between the U.S. and Mexico or Canada.
Community Protection Act of 2006 - H.R.6094
This House bill is intended to combat alien gang crime and would give the Department of Homeland Security the authority to detain illegal aliens.
Immigration Law Enforcement Act - H.R.6095
This bill would affirm the authority of state and local law enforcement agencies to enforce immigration laws.

Con't from p. 3, **Parents**

parents might have to other decisions of the School District—whether those objections regard information concerning guns, violence, the military, gay marriage, racial equality, slavery, the dissection of animals, or the teaching of scientifically-validated theories of the origins of life. Schools cannot be expected to accommodate the personal, moral or religious concerns of every parent. Such an obligation would not only contravene the educational mission of the public schools, but also would be impossible to satisfy.

The court went on to make it entirely explicit that once children are left at the public school's front door, all parental control over the child's education ceases.

In sum, we affirm that the Meyer-Pierce right does not extend beyond the threshold of the school door. The parents' asserted right "to control the upbringing of their children by introducing them to matters of and relating to sex in accordance with their personal and religious values and beliefs," by which they mean

the right to limit what public schools or other state actors may tell their children regarding sexual matters, is not encompassed within the Meyer-Pierce right to control their children's upbringing and education.

The Ninth Circuit has a reputation for being the most liberal in the nation. In this instance, it simply sided with the vast majority of recent federal court decisions.

The First Circuit Court of Appeals made a similar outlandish ruling in *Brown v. Hot, Sexy and Safer Productions, Inc.* (1995). This case involved a mandatory, school-wide assembly that contained offensive and suggestive sexual material. The First Circuit said that while parents have the right to choose alternative forms of schooling, they have no constitutional right to direct their child's education inside the public school. Consider how broadly the First Circuit characterized these rights:

The first instance involves the state proscribing parents from educating their children, while the second involves parents prescribing what the state shall teach their children.

The court did not use the term

our opinion does not give parents "a substantive due process or privacy right to control ... the information that public schools make available to their children."
Fields v. Palmdale
5-17-06

prescribe correctly in this case. Parents were not prescribing what the public schools had to teach their children. They were seeking to proscribe the kind of instruction they wanted left out of their children's public school education: they just wanted to opt out of sexually explicit material.

So, if we correct the use of this

term, what the First Circuit said was this: Parents cannot be told by the state to stop teaching their children, but parents cannot stop the state from teaching those children just because the parents do not like what is being taught. None of the cases just described were decided with a balancing test. Every case held that parents' rights had not been burdened or implicated at all. In fact, according to the courts, parents' rights to control the education of their children completely stop at the schoolhouse door.

What is the implication?

First, if any parents still believe that they have a constitutional right to direct their children's education inside a public school, these cases demonstrate that such a view is a fantasy. It should not be this way. Parents of public school students should be able to decide to remove their children from sex surveys and assemblies, but according to the federal courts, they have no such right.

Second, saying that the state can force children to learn explicit sex education material if they are enrolled in public schools is a short step from saying that the state

can force all children to receive such instruction. If we do not take alarm when the rights of parents of public school students are treated so badly, we should not be surprised when all parents' rights are invaded. Note in particular the wording used by the First Circuit: "Parents may not prescribe what the state may teach their children." Although the context of this case was in a public school, the actual wording used is a very broad claim of state power over the minds of all children.

In fact, the 2002 decision of a Texas federal district court in *Barrow v. Greenville Independent School District* shows how close these cases come to invading the freedom of those attending private or home schools. In *Barrow*, a public school teacher sought a promotion to the rank of assistant principal. She was denied this promotion solely because her children were enrolled in a Christian school. The federal court held that neither her religious freedom nor her parental rights were at stake. Public employees who are denied promotion because they refuse to participate

Con't on p. 5, **Parents**

Local Press Releases and Announcements

Hallelujah Night

Fifth Annual Hallelujah Night
Tuesday, October 31, 6-8 pm.

Marketplatz, Downtown Fredericksburg

Hallelujah Night is once again Shining Light on a Dark Night. The purpose of this annual event is to give glory to God rather than the forces of evil emphasized on Halloween. It is an opportunity for the body of Christ to come together in unity to celebrate and share the love and light of Christ on a night normally filled with mischief and wickedness.

Hallelujah Night will be occupying all three pavilions at Marketplatz this year. There will be something for kids from 2 to 62 including carnival type games, face painting, and a station to draw a picture or write an encouraging note to soldiers from the area. The brightly lit West pavilion by the playground will have games for young kids, preschool-early grade school. The center pavilion will have games and activities for older kids and the East (largest) pavilion will provide a place to enjoy entertainment, food, and beverages. Musicians will be filling the air with upbeat, encouraging music. The event is free to all, and families are encouraged to come. For information on volunteering, sponsoring, or being a part of this celebration of light, please contact:

Joe & Sharon Grimes
830-990-8858 or 830-990-9515
kairos@ctesc.net

Life Chain

Sunday October 1

This year's San Antonio Life Chain will take place Sunday, October 29, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Lining both sides of several miles of San Pedro Avenue, thousands of pro-life citizens will peacefully and prayerfully proclaim the sanctity of human life. The signs we hold will state publicly "Abortion Kills Children," "Adoption: the Loving Option," "Jesus Forgives & Heals," "Abortion Hurts Women," "Pray to End Abortion," and "Life: the First Inalienable Right." One of the signs, literally a prayer, simply reads "Lord, Forgive Us and Our Nation."

Participating in Life Chain is one way to "speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves." (Proverbs 31:8) Would you be willing to stand for one hour to pray for an end to America's abortion holocaust? Join us October 29th!

Brenda Taylor

Chamber of Commerce Announcements

UTILIZE YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE -- If you haven't registered to vote you need to request an application from the voter's registrar by Oct. 10.

For voter registration information call the Gillespie County Tax-Assessor at 997-6519. Early voting is from Oct. 23 to Nov. 3 at the Gillespie County Courthouse. In addition to weekdays, early voting is available on Saturday Oct. 28 from 9 am-2 pm and on Sunday Oct. 29 from 1 pm-3 pm.

Voters over age 65, disabled, or planning to travel away from their county during the election are eligible to vote early by mail. Call the County Clerk's office at 997-6515. Election Day is Tuesday Nov. 7.

Important: The last day to



Young participants in 2005's San Antonio Life Chain

register to vote is Oct. 10th! Applications to vote early by mail must also be submitted by Oct. 10th. For ballots by mail to count, they must be postmarked AND received by Oct. 31st. You can only vote in the county where you're registered to vote. If you've moved to a new county, you need to register again! If you moved within the same county where you are currently registered, you must file the new address information in writing with your voter registrar. The last day to make a change of address that will be effective for the November 7, 2006 election is October 10, 2006. If you miss this deadline, you may return to your

old precinct to vote, but you will be required to complete a "statement of residence" confirming your new address in your new precinct.

SUPERINTENDENT CERTIFICATION -- School administrators interested in earning superintendent certification can prepare in the Hill Country while continuing to work. The 15 credit hour Superintendent Professional Certification preparation program is offered by Texas Tech University (TTU) College of Education. Students can attend classes at any of these sites: TTU at Fredericksburg or TTU at Highland Lakes, both recognized higher education teaching sites, or

TTU Center at Junction. Contact the nearest academic advisor at: Fredericksburg, (830) 990-2717; Marble Falls, (830) 798-9548; Junction, (325) 446-2301. Application deadline is Dec. 1.

APPLY NOW FOR SPRING CLASSES -- Apply now to attend spring classes offered at the Hill Country University Center. Various undergraduate programs are available at Texas Tech University at Fredericksburg, Texas Tech University at Highland Lakes and Texas Tech University Center at Junction. Contact the nearest academic advisor at: Fredericksburg, (830) 990-2717; Marble Falls, (830) 798-9548; Junction, (325) 446-2301.

FISD Board Meeting

Notice is hereby given that on Friday, October 20, 2006, at 12:00 noon the Board of Trustees of the Fredericksburg Independent School District will hold a special meeting at the FISD Central Administration Building (234 Friendship Lane). The subject(s) to be discussed are: Tax Rolls, Personnel.

Preparedness expo

Saturday, Oct 28, 10am -9pm; Wingate Inn, 1209 N. IH35, Roundrock. Reservations 800-605-5868, admission: \$20 advance, \$25 at the door; couples \$25 advance, \$30 at the door.

Deep Regrets Abortion Memorial

The Deep Regrets Abortion Memorial is for the millions of unborn babies who have died from abortion. It will be held in Washington, DC Labor Day Weekend. email rhglass@juno.com subject: Deep Regrets; call: 618-593-1467.

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Local flavor

Local Coffee House with International Awards



Chris Nixon behind the counter helps Ben Large serving customers.

Ben Large is the owner of Fredericksburg Gourmet Coffee & Tea at 338 West Main Street in Fredericksburg. Ben's coffee house offers several specialties, including coffee, tea, fruit smoothies, and baked goods.

A number of Ben's coffees and blends are so good they have won awards. In 2000, the Tasting Institute of America chose five coffees as the best.

In 1993, a six bean blend won a tasting contest in New York, beating New York chefs known for excellent coffee and even topping some coffee makers from Italy.

The secret to making superior coffee is both in the selection of the coffee bean and the bean roasting.

Ben's coffee beans are all class I specialty grade beans, chosen from plantations at their highest elevations with soil perfectly suited for coffee beans, and with near perfect weather conditions.

The other secret to Ben's gourmet coffee is the roasting, both the man who does the roasting-Timothy-and the method he uses. A number of years ago, Ben and Timothy worked together. Due to circumstances, Timothy started his own roasting business by putting a roaster in his barn. Ever since then-fifteen years and counting-Ben has been selling coffee from his friend who only slow roasts small batches. Ben compares his coffee to large chain coffee houses, and says those large chains necessarily roast their coffee in large batches, which makes for bitter coffee. Ben says he doesn't think he has a single bitter coffee in the house.

To further augment the availability of fresh gourmet coffee, on October 8, Ben will be attending a training class to learn how to operate a new roaster he is purchasing. Ben showed me the corner in his dining area where the roaster will set. Customers will be able to watch Ben take raw beans and transform them into the splendid gourmet coffee for which he is well-known. He assured me he will not stop carrying the coffee roasted and blended by his friend, Timothy. To start, Ben plans on roasting Sumatra, Nicaragua, or Guatemala coffee beans.

Some of the coffees at Fredericksburg Gourmet Coffee & Tea include the award winning Bubba's Texas Brew, Texas Velvet Hammer, and Black Gold Decaffeinated. Another favorite with both men and women is Pecan Decaffeinated. South Texas Pecan is also well liked.

The House Blend is a dark roast, extremely smooth coffee, and Ben has never found anyone who doesn't like it. He says this blend is served at Cotton Gin, Behrens Creek, Kelly's Cafe, and Rathskeller, as well as a number of Bed and Breakfasts.

French Roast coffee has a distinct taste that not everyone appreciates, but Trois Estates serves and is a big fan of Ben's French Roast.

You may buy any of Ben's coffees at Fredericksburg Gourmet or you may buy it online at www.fredericksburg-coffee.com. Purchases online will be shipped directly from the roaster on the same day it is roasted, assuring the freshest coffee possible. You can buy in bulk, or you can purchase a packet good for one pot.

The easiest way to sample Ben's coffee is to go by 338 West Main and pour yourself a cup from one of the sealed air pots. These air pots maintain the coffee's temperature at 174 degrees for hours without any heating. Ben explained that some restaurants put their coffee in an open glass container and set it on a burner, continuously cooking the coffee. After fifteen minutes of exposure to heat and the air, the coffee is ruined.

In describing the best way to make a cup of coffee, Ben demonstrated a French press, which he also sells.

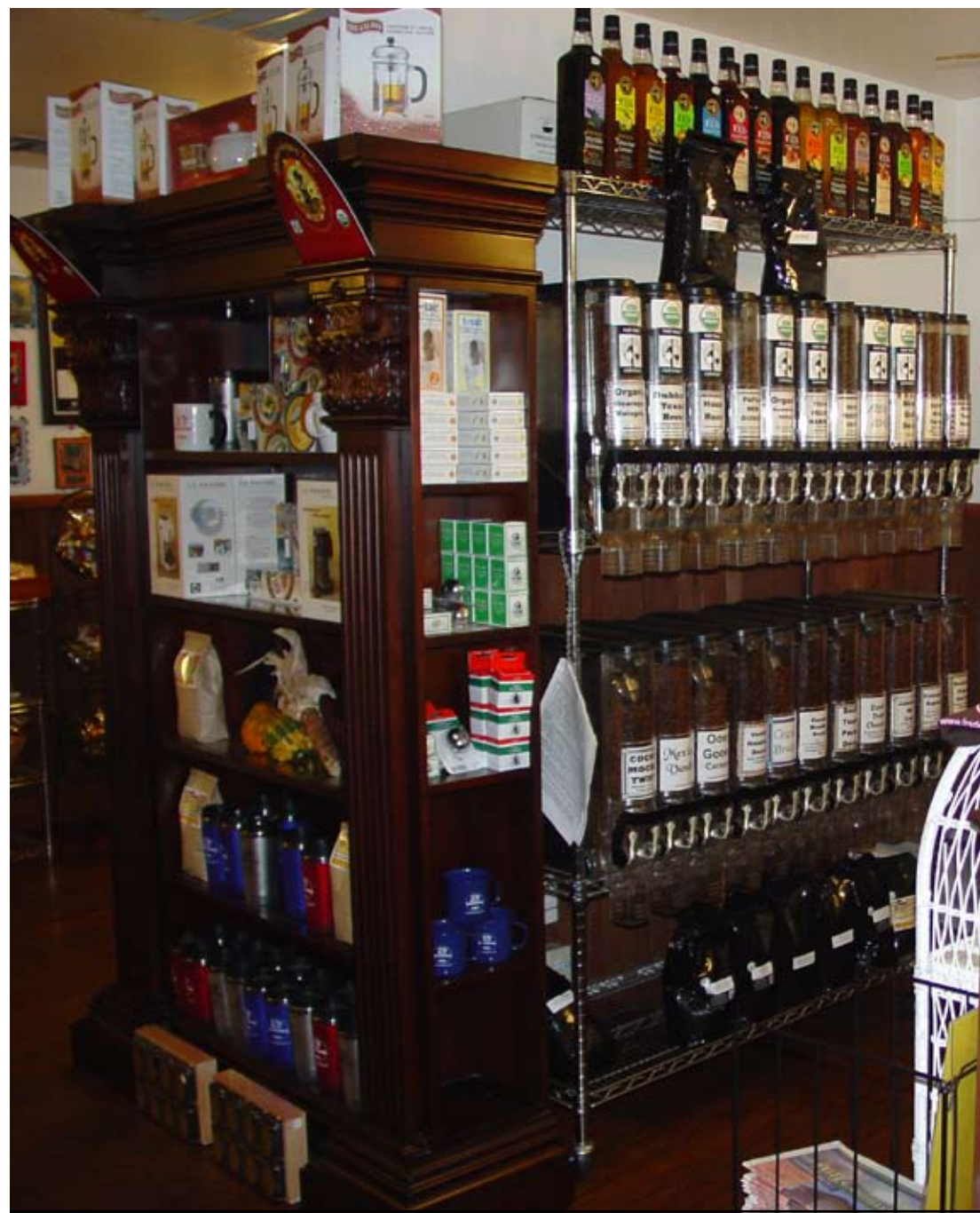
Some of the certifications on the coffee and tea include "organic," and "Fair Trade." The certified Fair Trade products mean that the families producing these crops are paid a fair price that provide them better health care, education, and training.

Regarding Fredericksburg Gourmet's tea, Ben says he has about fifty loose teas

of the best quality. He also carries Zhen's Gypsy Tea, a line of Fair Trade teas, the owner of which contributes part of her profit towards "women's causes."

Some of the other specialties carried by Fredericksburg Gourmet Coffee & Tea include fruit smoothies with no fat yogurt, Frapachino that is twice as good as that carried by a large unnamed coffee house chain, Huevos Rancheros made with Hatch, New Mexico green chilies flown in by Federal Express, Mocha caramel made with frozen yogurt, and Koppers brand gum balls from New York.

While conducting the interview, your editor had the opportunity to sample the peach fruit smoothie. It was creamy, smooth and had a marvelous rich aroma of fresh peaches. I would highly commend the smoothies and the other fine products of Fredericksburg Gourmet Coffee & Tea to our readers.



Some of the coffees and other items available at Fredericksburg Gourmet Coffee & Tea

The Real New Orleans Style Restaurant

Found on marblefalls.info

--Had dinner last night at the Smokin' for Jesus' Real New Orleans Style Restaurant in Round Mountain. Food was absolutely WONDERFUL, and the service was excellent! Certainly worth the trip! 8-19-06

--Had supper there last night and it was wall to wall people. There was even a wait list. The secret is out and if you like New Orleans style seafood, this is a must.

The gumbo is delicious and is a meal in itself. The menu is large and varied and a treat for the palate. Place this location in your favorite's category and if you go on a Saturday, come early or be prepared to wait. Either way, you're in for a treat.

--We had dinner at the The Real New Orleans Restaurant in Round Mountain a few weeks ago. The food was excellent! ... The entree was very ample and fantastic! 9-25-06

---...now our new find is new orleans cafe over in round mountain...worth the 9 miles over they are wonderful located at the red eye truck stop...i think i heard someone refer to it as red eye stop....their ribeye was ok and fair price for sure...but don't stop there the finest in new orleans food around we are lucky to have them open...very well priced fro a budget i feel 7-17-06

Rep Tancredo concerned over North American Union

Washington, D.C.) - U.S. Representative Tom Tancredo (R-CO) today asked Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez in a letter to suspend plans that would further a proposal known as the "Security and Prosperity Partnership," or SPP until Congress has a chance to examine its goals and determine whether or not they are consistent with those of the Congress.

"I know the administration has given assurances that the SPP is not a veiled effort to create a 'North American Union,' nor an effort designed to dilute American sovereignty by entering into a European Union-like arrangement with Canada and Mexico," said Tancredo, Chairman of the Congressional Immigration Reform Caucus. "Unfortunately, however, [the SPP's] 'recommendations' seem to be at odds with those assurances."

Tancredo concluded, "As such, I would ask that you consider suspending Commerce Department participation in this tri-lateral effort."

Several alarming "recommendations" from the U.S. component of the "North American Competitive Council" (NACC) suggested that the U.S., Canada and Mexico "Work toward acceptance of equivalent standards, objectives,

surveillance and enforcement."

In the section on pandemic control, the Council recommends that "...all borders and major roads remain open...to allow the unimpeded flow of domestic and international commerce."

The most troubling recommendations appear in the section entitled "Improving Cross-Border Mobility (Goods / Services / People)." In that section, the NACC recommends that "the governments evaluate moving customs processes further inland...to take the pressure off the border," and to examine "harmonizing commercial processes for clearance of commercial shipments."

The NACC goes even further by recommending that "The Secretary of DHS...set up a limited short term pass program or otherwise facilitate people who come to the border without documents," and that "...a reasonable grace period should be established at border crossings during which time people without documents are educated about their options and allowed to pass."

http://www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=52063 is an excellent article detailing the North American Union on World Net Daily.com

Con't from p. 4, Parents

in government education for their own children are being given a choice of losing a job or losing a constitutional right to control the education of their children.

This case suggests that we are on a very dangerous path.

Unless parents' rights are treated on a par with other fundamental rights, the government will continue to demand more and

more authority over our children. As the courts increasingly look to international courts, such as the European Human Rights Court, it is very likely that, in the words of Justice Breyer, "the challenge [will be]...whether our Constitution...fits into the governing documents of other nations." Clearly, it does not, and parents with "idiosyncratic" views will find their parental rights stripped in favor of the govern-

Con't on p. 8, Parents

An Invitation

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Gonzales Celebrates Come and Take It Festival & History

This past weekend the town of Gonzales celebrated the 171st anniversary of the events surrounding the "Lexington of Texas," the start of the Texas revolution against Santa Anna back in 1835.

The town celebrated with many events, including a parade, car show, a battle re-enactment, a historical program, tours, a carnival, a cannon firing, a memorial service for the Immortal 32, and lots of good food. But, the most important achievement of the entire festival was to prompt us to remember; to bring to mind the sacrifice and the bravery of those who stood for the town; to remember the treachery of those including General Santa Anna and the troops under his orders who marched against the town; to remember the struggles in the state of Texas initiated on October 2, which culminated on the plains of San Jacinto, where Sam Houston defeated the tyrant General and his forces; and to remember the freedoms that were won by the heroic efforts of all those involved. It is in this spirit of remembrance that we would like to present to you a fairly detailed history of the events that the Come And Take It Festival seek to enshrine every year.

Historical Events Surrounding October 2, 1835

Santa Anna's Growing Threat

Under the leadership of General Santa Anna, the government of Mexico was transformed into a military dictatorship (see the letter by S. F. Austin, p. 85, Texas and the Texans), ignoring the Constitution of 1824, which had cost many lives and had secured liberties not previously enjoyed by the people. The state of Coahuila did not cooperate with Santa Anna's plans, and the state of Zacatecas rebelled, but was brutally crushed by the military. One of Santa Anna's "reforms" was to reduce the number of the militia to one soldier for every five-hundred inhabitants, and to disarm the remainder. This arbitrary decree was a sufficient justification of Texas for her subsequent acts. **Every one who knows the Texans, or who has heard of them, would naturally conclude that they never would submit to be disarmed. Any government that would attempt to disarm its people is despotic; and any people that would submit to it deserves to be slaves!**

Stephen F. Austin was jailed in Mexico City, accused of fomenting revolution. In early 1835 Santa Anna re-opened the Customs House at Anahuac. He again slapped duties on the colonists. He sent a new man, Captain Antonio Tenorio, to Anahuac to see that the Texans paid up.

The local legislature at Monclova was gone--closed down by Santa Anna after it tried to raise money by selling four hundred leagues of Texas land to hungry U.S. speculators. Most Texans were opposed to this step too--and no one liked being governed from Monclova--but Santa Anna's solution left them even worse off. They now had no government at all, and their representatives were under arrest.

Along the coast Mexican garrisons stepped up their campaign to stop smuggling and collect customs duties. At Galveston they seized the Texas schooner Martha, loaded with supplies for the colonists. A message taken from a careless Mexican courier hinted that even more troops were on the way. Angrily the settlers burned some lumber ordered by Captain Tenorio at Anahuac.

Travis Takes Premature Action

William B. Travis had a better idea. Late in June he raised a company of twenty-five men and marched on Tenorio's headquarters. He dramatically gave the Mexicans fifteen minutes to surrender or be 'put to the sword.' Tenorio quickly capitulated.

The colonists couldn't adjust that easily. They were shocked at Travis' audacity. This wasn't merely a case of smuggling, dodging customs collectors, or playing a practical joke on Colonel Bradburn. This was throwing out the garrison commander. Practically open rebellion. Few were ready to go that far.

Apologies...regrets...stern words for Travis. Repudiated, he lapsed into one of his moody spells. He published a note in the Texas Republican asking people to 'reserve judgment.' He morosely wrote a friend that he felt ashamed.

Santa Anna Moves To Destroy Those Who Took Action

At this point, Santa Anna overplayed his hand. Deeming Travis' setback a sign of weakness, he decided that this was the time to finish off his enemies. During August he poured more troops into Texas and told his brother-in-law, General Martin Perfecto de Cos, to take personal command. Cos ordered the arrest of Travis and several other Texas troublemakers.

Texans Rally On The Side Of Their Brethren, No Longer Conciliatory

The Mexican leaders completely misinterpreted the situation. The Texans' real goal was to build a secure future without outside interference. They rebuked Travis because he seemed to be inviting a fight. Now they saw an infinitely greater threat--martial law, military occupation, the arrest of good friends. Almost overnight the pendulum swung the other way, and the people of Texas turned violently against Santa Anna.

Committees of Safety sprang up in every town. The highly influential Telegraph and Texas Register hammered away for liberty and freedom. Travis discarded his moody gloom; his letters now sang of 'the hour that will try men's souls.' Then on September 1 came an electrifying development--Stephen F. Austin suddenly reappeared from Mexico.

Next week a thousand people jammed the banquet given in his honor in Brazoria. The Room fell silent as the trusted leader rose to speak. He had always preached moderation; after a year in Mexican jails, how did he feel? He left little doubt. Santa Anna was destroying the people's rights.... And on the question of Mexican troops in Texas, Austin was even more specific. The people had a strong moral sense that 'would not unite with any armed force sent against this country; on the contrary, it would resist and repel it, and ought to do so....'

Santa Anna Tries To Disarm The Resistance

A week later General Cos landed at Copano with 400 men. 'WAR is our only recourse,' thundered a broadside from Austin. Unfazed, Cos headed for San Antonio. Here the garrison commander Colonel Ugartechea had his hands full, **confiscating weapons...searching houses...disbanding suspicious groups that re-formed as fast as he broke them up.** Mexican policy was to seize arms and military stores in Texan hands before real trouble started.

The Military Moves In To Confiscate Heavy Weapons, Held Off By A Few Brave Men Who Stand In The Gap

Word had just come of a serious problem at Gonzales. The colonists there were shining up a small cannon given them years ago to ward off Indians. Ugartechea, acting under the decree disarming citizens, sent a file of cavalrymen riding to Gonzales with an order for the surrender of the gun. Andrew Ponton, the Gonzales alcalde, received the order and

stalled for time. He sent a message stating he was absent. He demanded an order from the political chief of the Department of the Brazos before releasing it. The noncommissioned officer in charge of the Mexican cavalry left his men camped at Gonzales and rode back to San Antonio de Bexar for further instructions from Colonel Ugartechea. Meanwhile, Ponton buried the cannon in a peach orchard and sent runners to the surrounding area for armed assistance.

Not long after, the Texans shed all pretense of ever surrendering the cannon. Joseph D. Clements delivered the message to the Mexican army: "I cannot, nor do I desire to deliver up the cannon... and only through force will we yield."

Meanwhile, word was spreading that the Texans at Gonzales needed help. Following is a letter written by Stephen F. Austin when he heard of the impending conflict:

The Committee of the Jurisdiction of Austin has received the communication directed to the Committee of Safety of Mina by you, in the name of the people of Gonzales, under the date of the 25th inst., stating that Colonel Ugartechea had made a demand for the piece of cannon at that place, and that the people, in a general meeting, had refused to give it up. You state that, "from every circumstance, and from information, the people are justified in believing that this demand is only made to get a pretext to make a sudden inroad and attack upon that colony for marauding and other purposes;" in consequence of which those people request assistance to aid in repelling an attack, should one be made.

The present movements of the



people of Texas are of a popular and voluntary character, in defense of their **constitutional rights**, which are threatened by military invasion of an **unconstitutional** character. The people are acting on the **defensive**; and, therefore, there cannot be a doubt that it was correct in the people of Gonzales, under this principle, to detain the piece of cannon which was given to them by the authorities of a **constitutional** government, to defend themselves and the constitution, if necessary.

On this principle, the people of this, and of every other section of the country, so far as this Committee is informed, are ready to fly at a moment's warning to the defense of those people, should they be attacked. Companies of volunteers have already marched, and more are in readiness, should they be needed, to repel an attack.

This Committee beg leave to suggest that inasmuch as the position taken by the country up to the present time, is **purely defensive**, it is very important to keep this principle constantly view, and **to avoid making attacks unless they should be necessary as a measure of defence.**

Yours, respectfully, S. F. Austin, Chairman of Committee. G.W. Davis, Secretary of the Committee of Gonzales.

The eighteen men in Gonzales, willing and able to conduct an organized fight, removed all boats from the Guadalupe River, and hid the ferry in a bayou north of town. Next they captured the handful of Mexican soldiers waiting near town--but one man escaped, and

rode hallooing back to Bexar.

Meanwhile, volunteers responding to the call to arms rushed to the scene, and the little Texan force of 18 mushroomed to 150 on September 30...167 on October 1. *[editor's note: accounts differ on the numbers]*

Also at this time, Sara Seely DeWitt and her daughter Evaline made the flag, back then referred to as the Old Cannon Flag, now called the Come and Take It flag. Depicted on a white cloth was a cannon with a lone star above it, and the words "come and take it" beneath the cannon. It was Texas' first battle flag, and first lone star flag.

On October 1, 1835, Captain Francisco Castaneda arrived from San Antonio with something less than two hundred men. Ugartechea intended a show of force. Castaneda, blocked by the Guadalupe, demanded the ferry be restored, and the cannon handed over. There was some parleying, a demonstration by the Mexican cavalry near the town, and considerable yelling and taunting by the Texans, who dared the Mexicans to "come and take it!" echoing the words emblazoned on their newly created flag flying in the breeze.

With The People Of Texas Behind Them, The Texans Moves Against The Enemy

That night the Texans silently slipped across the Guadalupe and formed a defensive square. Rev. William P. Smith rode into the square and addressed the Texans:

Fellow-soldiers: To cap the climax of a long catalogue on injuries and grievances attempted to be heaped upon us, the government of Mexico, in the person of Santa Anna, has sent an army **to commence the disarming system. Give up the cannon, and we may surrender our small arms also, and at once to be the vassals of the most imbecile and unstable government on earth. But will Texas give up the cannon? Will she surrender her small-arms? Every response is No, Never!** Never will she submit to a degradation of that character! Fellow-soldiers, **the cause for which we are contending is just, honorable and glorious--our liberty! The same blood that animated the hearts of our ancestors of '76 still flows warm in our veins.** Having waited several days for the Mexican army to make an attack upon us, we have now determined to attack them on tomorrow morning at the dawn of day. Some of us may fall, but if we do, let us be sure to fall with our face toward the enemy. ...

Fellow-soldiers, let us march silently, obey the commands of our superior officers, and united as one man, present a bold front to the enemy. Victory will be ours! We have passed the Rubicon, and we have born the insults and indignities of Mexico until forbearance has ceased to be a virtue. A resort to army is our only alternative; we must fight and we will fight. In numerical strength, the nation against whom we contend is our superior; but so just and so noble is the cause for which we contend that the strong arm of Jehovah will lead us on to victory, to glory and to empire. With us, everything is at stake--our firesides, our wives, our children, our country, our all! Great will be the influence over the colonies resulting from the effort we are about to make. We must sustain ourselves in the contest. This will inspire confidence in the minds of our countrymen.

Fellow-soldiers, march with bold hearts and steady steps to meet the enemy, and let every arm be nerved, while our minds are exercised with the happy

reflection that the guarding angels are directing our course. Let us go into battle with the words of the immortal Patrick Henry, before the Virginia house of Burgesses, deeply impressed upon our hearts, when, with army extended towards heaven, and with a voice of thunder, he exclaimed in the most patriotic manner, Give me liberty, or give me death!

After Smith's address, the Texans resumed their advance toward the Mexican camp in the fog shrouded dawn of October 2. They were sure Castaneda planned to attack this day; they might as well hit him first. Quietly, very quietly, they edged through the fog. With them was the cannon, dug up from the peach orchard where Albert Martin had buried it. It was loaded with chains and scraps of iron.

The Texan militia blundered into the Mexican pickets, but in the dark and fog there could be no war. Everyone drew back and waited until daybreak.

The fog lifted suddenly as a curtain, showing both forces drawn up on an open prairie. With the Come and Take It flag flying, the Gonzales cannon fired, and Captain Castaneda immediately requested a parley, asking why he was being attacked.

Colonel Moore, commander of the Texans, explained that the Captain had demanded a cannon given to the Texans for 'the defense of themselves and the constitution and the laws of the country;' while he, Castaneda, 'was acting under orders of the tyrant Santa Anna, who had broken and trampled underfoot all the state and federal constitutions of Mexico, except that of Texas,' which last the Texans were prepared to defend.

Castaneda answered that 'he was himself a republican, as were two-thirds of the Mexican nation, but he was a professional officer of the government,' and while that government had indeed undergone certain surprising changes, it was the government, and the people of Texas were bound to submit to it.

Moore then suggested to the Captain, if he were a republican, he should join the revolution against tyranny by surrendering his command, and join them in the fight. Captain Castaneda replied stiffly that he would obey his orders. At this, Moore returned to his own lines and ordered the Texans to open fire. There was a brief skirmish, and the Mexican force immediately abandoned the field and rode back toward San Antonio.

Thus commenced the Texas revolution for independence from Mexico.

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HARPER YOUTH BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

The annual Harper Youth Baseball Association's Public Board meeting will be OCTOBER 18, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the Harper ISD Cafeteria.

Anyone interested in baseball for the youth is encouraged to attend. **THIS IS NOT REGISTRATION!!!!** Any questions please call Amber (Boatright) at 830-864-4225 or Ava (Jones) at 830-864-5915

Harper 5th and 6th grade cheerleaders keeping the crowd rowdy. Photo Amber Stivers



Center #2 Hikes ball to #11 who pivots and hands off to #10.



Miles Menzies runs it down to the 10 yard line - Photo Todd Stivers



The centers prepares to hike the ball to his quarterback as the two teams look on with serious game faces. photo-Amber Stivers

Y.M.C.A. Pee-Wee league: Raiders v. Titans

by Amber Stivers

Saturday morning was an exciting day for Raiders and Titans fans. Kerrville /Harper Y.M.C.A. Pee-Wee league flag football fans that is. The two teams battled it out behind Tivy High School in Kerrville. The Titans won the toss and were able to score on the 2nd down, thanks to the lightening speed of the Titans running back #10 Colt. This gave the Titans a 6-0 lead. Colt went for the extra

point and it was good.

The Raiders were able to return the favor during the second quarter with a touchdown. A valiant effort was made by the Raiders running back but he was unable to score the extra point. The two teams left the field for halftime and took a much needed snack break. After a brief rest and some discussions of the upcoming plays the teams returned to the field. The intense rivalry and seriousness of

this close game could be seen on the players faces.

Now it was the third quarter and the Titans maintained only a razor thin lead. They knew they must act quickly. So, they again turned to their fearless running back #10 Colt. Sammy Stivers #2 centered the ball and hiked it to # 11 Brandon. Brandon pivoted and handed it off to Colt who ran nearly 40 yards for the Touchdown. He attempted the

extra point and it was good. This brought the score to 14-6.

Undaunted, the Raiders continued to play hard. They prevented the Titans from scoring again. During the last few seconds of the game the Raiders ran it in for 6 points and managed to kick the extra point. With a score of 14-13 time ran out and the Titans were victorious. It was a close well played game. A good time was had by all-coaches, players and fans.

The pee-wee league is played by four and five year olds. If you think they can't catch, pass, run or learn plays...think again. These kids are awesome. I would encourage everyone to go support these teams. For more information call the Y.M.C.A. Kerrville at 896-8000

Rocksprings Billies vs. Harper Longhorns

by Amber Stivers

Saturday's game between the 5th and 6th grade Rocksprings Billies and the Harper Longhorns was a defensive battle. Harper put together a few good drives but they were unable to score. The game remained scoreless until the third quarter.

During the 3rd quarter Number 41 of the Rocksprings Billies managed to avoid a tackle by # 45 Cash Bowlin and # 50 Austin Noah.

He ran it all the way for the T.D. The Billies then attempted a two point conversion which was thwarted by a swift thorough tackle delivered by # 44 Caleb Stivers.

Harper drove the ball with a couple of good runs from #4 Guy Stevenson, #3 Miles Menzies and # 45 Cash Bowlin but were unable to punch it into the end zone. The game ended with a score of Rocksprings 6 Harper 0.



Rocksprings avoids tackle by # 45 and # 50 Photo by Todd Stivers



Above: Another great Harper tackle- photo Amber Stivers



Above: Harper surrounded by Billies-photo Todd Stivers

44 Caleb Stivers pulls a Billie to the ground, preventing the 2 point conversion. (He's on the bottom of the pile. He pulled the guy on top of himself, but it worked) Photo Todd Stivers



Hunting Season. Anecdotes. Stories. Humor. Etc.

Why Do I Hunt?

by David C. Treibs © all rights reserved
(Note: I wrote this as part of my hunter education program just before I went elk hunting in Wyoming several years ago. Unfortunately, I didn't bag anything. This essay was ment to be entertaining, and if you should find yourself or your philosophy resembling that of one of the characters in the story, please don't be offended. If it really bugs you, write your own story from your own perspective, and we'll print it here.)

While donning my hunting gear and camo clothes and loading my rifle (in the magazine only, you understand), my mind started to wander, as it usually does. What would I say if someone asked me why I hunt? Heck, I dunno, I answered, almost out loud. What would I say?

Of course I was late in heading to my blind, as usual, and if I didn't stop dawdling around, it would be dark and the deer would already be on the field and then it would be too late to shoot. Quit daydreaming and hurry, I told myself. Tying the laces on my combat boots, I glanced at the clock: 30 minutes late, it silently declared. I finished tying the boots and rushed out the door.

Between my cabin and the field where the deer waited to be shot lay an expanse of pristine wilderness, or so I occasionally imagined it. Unfortunately, the wilderness area abruptly halted to my left, where a row of houses ran down the entire length of the fence line to the field. I always walked near the fence line to be sure any spooked deer would run deeper into my portion of the pasture, er, wilderness, instead of into my neighbors' back yards. That way I might have a chance to bag them later.

It was fun to sneak down the fence line and stalk the deer. Nobody in their right mind would just walk the fence line. It was almost like being on a patrol; and there I was, sneaking along...listening for that dull thump of a huge buck stomping it's foot...or a rustle of leaves as he nervously shuffles his feet, dreading the approach of the Great White Hunter, that being me, of course.

Sneak. Sneak. Sneak. Maybe I couldn't see anything, but I could almost smell those deer, those magnificent racks, hundreds of pounds of meat, lean and mean, dreading my approach. It was like being somewhere near a bee's nest: you can hear it and sense they are around, but you're just not sure where. The tension in the air thickened with every quiet, precisely placed step. Not a leaf crunched; not a stick snapped, not even a tuft of grass crumpled under my sneaky footsteps. Slowly, ever so slowly, I stalked those hapless creatures, my muscles taunt as a steel-springed trap, ready to strike at a moments' notice, ready to fly into action. Inhaling deeply I drew the cool evening air into my lungs. Was that a scent of deer hide that drifted past my nose? And what was that noise? A buck grunting in the

It was fun to sneak down the fence line and stalk the deer. Nobody in their right mind would just walk the fence line.

rut? It sounded a bit more familiar than that, and as my piercing gaze swung slowly around to where the sound came from, I froze....

It was my neighbor, Bob, standing on his side of the fence, leaning on a fence post, looking like he was trying to figure something out, only he was looking at me. The sound I heard was apparently Bob clearing his throat. So much for rutting mountains of buck meat.

Trying not to notice that I was still semi-crouched, somewhat like Rambo when he sneaks up to an enemy battalion, Bob casually asked: "What are you doing? Did a bunch of Sandinistas para-troop into your pasture?"

"Uh..." trying to straighten out without looking too sheepish, "Naw, I'm goin' huntin'," I said, trying to act like I hadn't been sneaking right past Bob without noticing him watching me the whole time.

"Hunting?" he said. "Now why would you want to do that?"

"Bob," I answered, "you know how good that deer meat is, and how expensive meat is in the store. Did you already forget the jerky I gave you last year? Wouldn't you like some more?"

Bob laughed. "What I remember is you carrying that bag of jerky while wandering around in the pasture and eating half of it before you finally gave it to me. But hey, if you pay attention to where you're going long enough to actually find you blind, yeah, I'd be grateful for some more jerky."

"Now Bob," I said, drawing myself to full height, having finally straightened up from my sneaking, stalking position, "you know I have to provide for my family first, but if any's left, I'll share my bounty with beloved friends like yourself. That's the way good neighbors take care of each other."

With that I took an exaggerated look at my watch, mumbled something about the time and being late, told Bob goodbye, and continued walking down the fence line, too embarrassed to sneak any more, especially since I knew Bob was still watching me out of the corner of his eye and trying not to laugh.

Doggone these fence line neighbors, they were a motley assortment, no doubt about it, and they were so nosy. Always watching me as I hunted or worked the fields or ventured in the vast wilderness stretches and wild woods, finding adventure and excitement....

I was just about to drift off into another mental adventure in the dark forest when suddenly I saw darkness enough: my scowling neighbor Patty. She must have belonged to every group of idiots you could imagine: People Recently Escaped from Metal Wards, People for the unEthical Treatment of Everyone Except Me, the Earth Society, Tree Huggers Unanymous, Bugs Before People, Private Property Control, Inc, Global Coalition to Eliminate Modern and Western Culture, Confiscate All Guns And Toothpicks, National Socialists of America, and so on, ad nauseam.

Patty never minced words, and today was no exception. She gave my camo clothes, boots, and gun the once over and remarked

with a sneer, "Joined the militia, did you?" She didn't give me a chance to respond, and continued: "I feel so safe knowing you are stepping on the back of our dear Mother Earth with those ugly boots, shooting holes in her loving animals so you can stuff your mouth and feed the faces of that horrible crew of offspring of yours."

That riled me a bit. "Ma'am," I said, trying to make sure I didn't trip on anything and look real dumb, "the Good Lord tells us to provide for..." She cut me off with a disgusting wail, and if she had rolled her eyes any further back in her head I'd a thought she was having a stroke.

"You religious nuts have poisoned all of

You are short circuiting the whole scheme of things! We can't move on to the next phase of our evolutionary consciousness ascendance with people like you around!

our beloved Mother with your non-sense!" It occurred to me that there was plenty of non-sense in the area, but it wasn't emanating from my side of the fence. Maybe another approach would be more effective. Doing my best to act half wildlife biologist, half Indiana Jones I cocked my hat and swept my arm dramatically across the wilderness zone, er, pasture, and stated matter of factly with a knowing nod, "Ma'am, I know how important for you it is that these animals be treated properly. Now, if you can just imagine how things would be if they all started starving to death because of over-..." she cut me off again: "That's what they told us during the Vietnam war! They had to destroy the village to save it!! Killing animals doesn't save them! It's savagery!" Well, I thought, maybe I should try to approach her from her perspective, so I ventured to say, "Well, since you believe in evolution, you must know that the survival of the fittest dictates that the stronger and smarter will eat the weaker, and that's how things advance." Not knowing what else to say, I waited for her response.

She looked at me for one second. "You don't believe that. You think you are supposed to subdue the earth and use it for your benefit! You are short circuiting the whole scheme of things! We can't move on to the next phase of our evolutionary consciousness ascendance with people like you around! You pollute the minds of everyone around you as well as our Beloved Mother!"

"What do you expect me to do, starve to death and let my kids starve?" I asked her, half expecting her to say yes.

With a funny look in her eye she said, "Death is part of the scheme of things, after all."

I didn't know how to take that statement and didn't really want to talk any more, and I could see that she didn't either, so we broke off our discussion. She stormed huffily back to her things, and I ambled away in the general direction of the field, trying to refocus my thoughts on the hunt that previously

I had started so eagerly.

As it was, Joe, several houses down from Patty's, had been eaves dropping on our tiff, and had a few comments of his own, which he shared with me, unsolicited, as I walked past his back yard.

"Don't take it so hard. She's really not that bad. Actually, you two believe in the same basic principles, you're just going about it from different angles."

I had to stop and think about that one. I looked around, preparing to make a few grandiose sounding statements about the glories of hunting, and the traditions of our forefathers, and what not, when I realized fire ants were crawling on my boots. Probably because I was standing in the middle of their nest.

As most normal folks would, I jumped out of the nest and started stomping and kicking my feet, trying to knock the little buggers off before they made it inside my pants legs. From somewhere in the distance I heard Bob stifle a burst of laughter. Knocking off the ants took awhile, and gave me time to re-think my response to Joe's comments. I took a little extra time wiping imaginary ants off my pants legs and boots so I could further think it through.

"No, Joe, that's not true. I hunt because the Good Lord said I could provide for myself and my family by hunting. I use a rifle because the Good Lord gave me the right to own it and use it, and he gave me lots of other rights, too. Patty, on the other hand, she doesn't believe in the good Lord at all, but in her mumbo jumbo about Mama Earth, and that we aren't anything special, and we can't use anything that's here without defiling her precious Earth, and we don't have any rights at all except whatever these dirt clods give us, which is none."

By now I was feeling like Cicero or Napoleon, standing there with my gun, dispensing words of great, swelling wisdom. I concluded my remarks with, "No, Patty and I don't have anything in common, and if she has her way, we'll all be put out to dry with nothing to run around in but our birthday clothes, and nothing to carry but a few sticks, but only if they naturally fell off the trees, 'cause we won't be allowed to cut any off unnaturally."

Joe wasn't one to let a fellow have the last word, and seeing that I had bested him with my answer, he figured he'd better say something to the same effect that I'd said, only a little bit better, so he summed it all up: "I guess hunting is really sort of an indication of a much deeper thing, almost philosophical like. It tells what a fellow thinks about the universe and how he thinks it operates. A fellow hunts because that's the right thing to do."

"I guess so, Joe." That was about the best I could do, considering I was fresh out of ideas, and didn't have too much daylight left for my hunt, either. We said goodbye.

As I made my way past the last of the houses, and headed for the field, I recounted the details of this "hunt." I'd been looked at, laughed at, screamed at, and lectured to, but still hadn't done what I came to do: shoot a big deer. At least now I would be able to answer the question that was bugging me when I was dressing to leave the cabin. I knew why I was hunting, only by this time, it was too late to shoot.

Texas Att. Gen. Issues Opinion Regarding SBOE and Textbooks

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott issued several opinions last month, one of which overturns a prior AG ruling from years past, that had been used to justify ignoring content problems with Texas textbooks and leaving that up to textbook publishers and the Texas Education Agency. Abbott found that a former Texas AG, Democrat Dan Morales, had misapplied Texas legislative intent. Mrs. Terri Leo, (R-Spring) requested the ruling with Mrs. Geraldine "Tincy" Miller (R-Dallas) on behalf of the Texas State Board of Education. Mrs Leo, reacting to the ruling, said,

"I have always contended that since the [Texas Education Code] specifically addresses this area dealing with textbook content, it should remain in the Board's rules. It has been a long and hard-fought battle. I am thrilled with the Attorney General's opinion. The SBOE now has clear authority

to reject textbooks by majority vote that do not foster 'the continuation of the tradition of teaching United States and Texas history and the free enterprise system."

Mrs. Miller added separately that,

"Texas continues to lead the nation in the best review and adoption of textbooks and instructional materials. Quality instructional materials are critical to student learning. Our teachers and students deserve the best. This ruling helps maintain the high quality instructional materials that Texas is known for."

Conservative Texas political analyst Will Lutz termed it a "victory" for the "elected board of education", while the far-left, ultra-liberal, pro-abortion, pro-homosexual agenda Texas Freedom Network (whose founder, Cecile Richards, is now president of the national Planned Parenthood Federation of America) tried to downplay the

importance of the ruling.

A January 2006 press release by Texas Freedom Network used the term "censorship" when referring to the SBOE's ability to reject textbooks. The organization's communications director, Dan Quinn, said "State Board of Education members should not be allowed to edit textbook content based on their personal beliefs."

At the very least, Abbot's ruling strengthens the elected State Board of Education's ability to ensure textbooks are accurate and reflect the values of Texans who elected them.

Con't from p. 3, Parents ment's power to forcibly "integrate minorities into society."

Attorney and parent's rights advocate Mike Farris suggests: "it is time to put parents' rights into the text of the United States Constitution."

International Court upholds Nazi-era ban on homeschooling; September 29, 2006; © 2006 World-NetDaily.com

O'Connor: U.S. must rely on foreign law; October 31, 2003 © 2003 WorldNetDaily.com

A Dangerous Path: Has America Abandoned Parental Rights? By Mike Farris; July 7, 2006; www.hslda.org/docs/news/200607070.asp

Con't from p. 2, Warming

ABC News has found no such [scientific] debate" about manmade catastrophic global warming. (http://abcnews.go.com/US/print?id=2374968)

You have to be a pretty poor investigator to believe that. Why would 60 prominent scientists this last spring have written Canadian Prime Minister Harper that "If, back in the mid-1990s, we knew what we know today about climate, Kyoto would almost certainly not exist, because we would have concluded it was not necessary." (http://www.canada.com/na-

tionalpost/financialpost/story.html?id=3711460e-bd5a-475d-a6be-4db87559d605)

On Tuesday's program, the ABC News anchor referred to Blakemore as "passionate" about global warming. "Passionate" is one word to describe that kind of reporting, but words like objectivity or balance are not.

I believe it's these kinds of stories which explain why the American public is growing increasingly skeptical of the hype. Despite the enormous 2006 media campaign to instill fear into the public, the number of people who believe that weather naturally changes -- is increasing.

A Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg poll in August found that most Americans do not attribute the cause of recent severe weather events to global warming, and the portion of Americans who believe that climate change is due to natural variability has increased over 50% in the last five years.

Given the diminishing importance of the mainstream media, I expect that trend to continue.

I hope my other colleagues Con't on p. 9, Warming

Iwo Jima Re-enactment Revisited



Above, Near the base of Doss' Mt. Suribachi, Mike Lebens, Curator for Nimitz Museum discusses the B-29 Stratofortress Bombers which landed on Iwo Jima when they were too damaged to make it back after bombing Japan.

Right photo: a group of students take their turn in raising the flag on the top of "Iwo Jima"



In 2005 the Nimitz Museum sponsored a re-enactment of the World War II battle for Iwo Jima on a hill resembling Mt. Suribachi near Doss owned by Henry Welge. The re-enactment was probably one of the most extensive and realistic re-enactments ever undertaken, with many WWII vehicles, weapons, and re-enactors with original or like-original equipment, and plenty of pyrotechnics. There were also 40 Japanese re-enactors representing the farm boys and others who comprised the Japanese soldiers. A group of students wishing to study the history of the Iwo Jima battle, and wishing to climb the hill representing Mt. Suriba-

chi, met on September 25 for just such an undertaking. Mike Lebens, Curator of Collections with the Nimitz Museum gave a talk on the battle of Iwo Jima, then the students, part of a home school group, undertook the arduous task of climbing the steep hill, lead by Mr. Welge. At the top, everyone kept out a close eye for rattle snakes, and re-enacted the flag raising. According to Mr. Lebens, the Doss hill is about half the size of the original Mt. Suribachi. Detailed information can be found at www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/USMC/USMC-M-IwoJima/index.html

St. James Lutheran's Education Building

by Amber Stivers

St. James Lutheran Church in Harper held their Bible Adventures grand opening on September 17th in the newly decorated Education Building. Bible Adventures is a rotational Sunday School program where the children study the same Bible lesson each week for six weeks. After six weeks a new lesson is begun. The lessons are applied in several multi-sensory techniques; drama, storytelling, computer, art, science and cinema.

The classes were attended by a record number of students. Thirty smiling, eager

faces greeted the Sunday School teachers on Sunday morning. All of the children seemed to really enjoy their colorful, Bible themed surroundings and unique learning experiences.

The congregation of St. James, led by Pastor Willfred Bigott, is determined to provide an exceptional learning environment for the youth of the community. Everyone is encouraged to bring their children and see it for themselves. It is a lot of fun and more importantly, after six weeks your children will have a real understanding of the Bible lessons they have learned.



Students act Daniel in the Lion's den on the first day in the St. James Lutheran's new Education Building.

Left: solar panels at the Sustainability Fair;

Below, John Thomas at Wildseed Farms.



The Rising in 1776 Thomas Buchanan Read

Out of the North the wild news came,
Far flashing on its wings of flame,
Swift as the boreal light which flies
At midnight through the startled skies.
And there was tumult in the air,
The fife's shrill note, the drum's loud beat,
And through the land everywhere
The answering tread of hurrying feet;
While the first oath of Freedom's gun
Came on the blast from Lexington;
And Concord, roused, no longer tame,
Forgot her old baptismal name,
Made bare her patriot arm of power,
And swelled the discord of the hour.
Within its shade of elm and oak
The church of Berkely Manor stood;

There Sunday found the rural folk,
And some esteemed of gentle blood.
In vain their feet with loitering tread
Passed 'mid the graves where rank is naught;
All could not read the lesson taught
In that republic of the dead.
How sweet the hour of Sabbath talk,
The vale with peace and sunshine full
Where all the happy people walk,
Decked in their homespun flax and wool!
Where youth's gay hats with blossoms bloom;
And every maid with simple art,
Wears on her breast, like her own heart,
A bud whose depths are all perfume;
While every garment's gentle stir
Is breathing rose and lavender.
The pastor came; his snowy locks
Hallowed his brow of thought and care;

And calmly, as shepherds lead their flocks,
He led into the house of prayer.
The pastor rose; the prayer was strong;
The psalm was warrior David's song;
The text, a few short words of might,-
"The Lord of hosts shall arm the right!"
He spoke of wrongs too long endured,
Of sacred rights to be secured;
Then from his patriot tongue of flame
The startling words for Freedom came.
The stirring sentences he spake
Compelled the heart to glow or quake,
And, rising on his theme's broad wing,
And grasping in his nervous hand
The imaginary battle brand,
In face of death he dared to fling
Defiance to a tyrant king.
Even as he spoke, his frame, renewed
In eloquence of attitude,

Rose, as it seemed, a shoulder higher;
Then swept his kindling glance of fire
From startled pew to breathless choir;
When suddenly his mantle wide
His hands impatient flung aside,
And, Lo! he met their wondering eyes
Complete in all a warrior's guise.
A moment there was awful pause,---
When Berkeley cried, "Cease, traitor!
cease!
God's temple is the house of peace!"
The other shouted, "Nay, not so,
When God is with our righteous cause;
His holiest places then are ours,
His temples are our forts and towers,
That frown upon the tyrant foe;
In this, the dawn of Freedom's say,
There is a time to fight and pray!"
And now before the open door-
The warrior priest had ordered so-

The enlisting trumpet's sudden roar
Rang through the chapel, o'er and o'er,
Its long reverberating blow
So loud and clear, it seemed the ear
Of dusty death must wake and hear.
And there the startling drum and fife
Fired the living with fiercer life;
While overhead, with wild increase,
Forgetting its ancient toll of peace,
The great bell swung as ne'er before;
It seemed as it would never cease;
And every word its ardor flung
From off its jubilant iron tongue
Was, "War! War! War!"
"Who dares?" - this was the patriot's cry,
As striding from the desk he came,-
"Come out with me, in Freedom's name,
For her to live, for her to die?"
A hundred hands flung up reply,
A hundred voices answered, "I!"