

NEXT WEEK

A 46-page section highlighting Houston...It's Progress '97...detailing our community.

INSIDE

Road Work

■ A statewide committee issues a report that includes U.S. 63 and possible improvements. Details in The Messenger.



SECOND FRONT

Hamiltons Featured

■ An area couple raises wildflowers and prairie grasses. Find out more about their operation. Inside today.



HOUSTON HERALD

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120th YEAR OF SERVING TEXAS COUNTY, NO. 6

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Beef Tour

The 1997 Missouri Beef Tour was Saturday in Texas County. Organized by University Extension, the event featured stops at four beef operations. Here, attendees at Yellow Cow Farm, Yukon. Below, participants at a barbecue hosted by the Texas County Cattlemen's Association.



Jobless Rate Shows Improvement

Texas County's jobless rate dipped to the lowest level in recent memory in May. However, it is still nearly twice the statewide figure of 3.8 percent. The report comes from the Missouri

Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. The figure was 7.2 percent, a decrease of 1.1 percent from a month earlier. A year ago, the rate was 11.3 percent.

Area counties and their jobless rates: Howell, 5.5; Shannon, 5.4; Phelps, 4.0; Dent, 5.1; Douglas, 11.5; Laclede, 6.6; Pulaski, 4.8 and Wright, 8.9.



Habitat Riders

A group of about 25 college students — raising funds and awareness for Habitat for Humanity — passed through Houston last week. The Yale University students began pedaling May 31 with a destination of San Francisco. The county chapter of Habitat hosted an evening meal.

County Ranch Receives Name; Deer Changes Implemented

Members of the Missouri Conservation Commission announced a name last week for a large acreage it acquired earlier this year in southern Texas County.

The 11,404-acre area will be known as Gist Ranch Conservation Area.

Texas County deer hunters won't be faced with waiting in line for deer permits next year.

Commissioners received a report, "Committee Report on Deer Program Issues Related to Point of Sale."

The report recommended changes in distribution of 1998 deer permits, designed to avoid long lines and computer problems that were experienced Feb. 1 of this year. Changes to be implemented include abandoning the "first-come, first-served" concept, providing over-the-counter sales for units with unlimited permits, reestablishing a random drawing for units with limited permits, beginning deer permit sales on July 1, issuing separate deer and turkey hunting permits that include transportation tags and liberalizing the availability of landowner quota permits.

(Turn to the next page)

Lawns Judged By Organization

Winners for June in the Houston Garden Club's lawn contest were announced this week.

Annette Smith and Rita Ruckert, 505 Hawthorn, took first place. Other winners: John Jones, 212 E. Steffen, second; and Bob and Nancy Davis, 610 Hamrick, third.

The business award went to Texas County Bank, 1458 S. Sam Houston Blvd. Recognition for their flower barrel went to the \$1 Shop, 219 N. Grand.

Patrol Issues 4th Warning

The Fourth of July holiday weekend is a peak time for travel in Missouri with motorists taking advantage of the long weekend to head to one of Missouri's many lakes, theme parks, baseball stadiums or just down the road to a local park or swimming pool.

No matter how Texas Countians plan on enjoying the July 4 holiday, the Missouri State Highway Patrol asks that motorists do so safely and responsibly.

Last year 11 people died in 1,906 traffic crashes on Missouri roadways; an additional 1,018 people were injured. That was one person killed or injured every 5.9 minutes during the 1996 Fourth of July holiday.

To help raise travelers' awareness to the importance of traffic safety, Missouri State Highway Patrol officers will be participating in Operation C.A.R.E. (Combined Accident Reduction Effort) during the July 4 holiday beginning at 12:01 a.m., Thursday, July 3, and ending at 11:59 p.m., Sunday, July 6.

Motorists who need assistance or who witness criminal activity while traveling on Missouri's roadways can contact the nearest Missouri State Highway Patrol troop headquarters by calling the patrol's emergency assistance hotline at 800-525-5555 or *55 on a cellular phone.

School Board Members Discuss '97-'98 Budget

Members of the Houston board of education approved a tentative \$7.2 million budget for the upcoming school year on Monday.

Superintendent Duane Widhalm, who officially assumed the top post Tuesday, said the budget reflects a conservation approach to projected revenues.

Ratification is expected July 14.

The district's assessed valuation increased slightly from the previous year, which means a small increase in local tax money. On the state level, monies will increase slightly because of increasing numbers of students during summer school. Federal funding will remain unchanged.

Other budget highlights: •Certified staff salaries are based on a \$400 step increase to the existing salary schedule. Non-certified staff will also receive a step increase in pay.

•The budget reflects an additional nickel to the debt service fund,

which is used to pay principal and interest payments on the district's bond indebtedness.

•The board will set the school's levy this month. The proposed levy is \$3. The current one is \$2.95 per \$100 assessed valuation.

•The board also approved raising breakfast and lunch prices by a dime.

In other matters, members:

•Accepted the resignation of Tom Sawyer effective Aug. 31. He works in the district's transportation department.

•Heard from a group of parents who were displeased with a coaching position assignment for the coming school year.

•Discussed the year-end recap of the past year's budget. Widhalm said revenues were less than expected and expenditures more. He noted a final \$40,000 payment under the Safe Schools Act had not been received for inclusion in the '96-'97 budget.

Addition Planned

Progressive Ozark To Consolidate To U.S. 63 Facility

Progressive Ozark Bank is expanding its South Sam Houston Blvd. location in a move that will eventually lead to one location for the institution.

Officials said last week that a 3,000 square foot building addition and the consolidation of operations would allow it to improve customer service, efficiency and effectiveness.

The addition to the building, constructed in 1986, will double the size of the facility. A new ATM will be on the north drive-up lane.

Completion is slated by the end

of the summer. J.L. Friend Construction of Licking is the contractor.

Progressive Ozark Bank has assets of about \$68 million. Other facilities are at Salem and Hartville.

Progressive says its downtown Houston location on Oak Street won't remain empty. One option under discussion would convert the building for use by a public entity that has not been publicly announced. "We are very optimistic that it will remain in productive use for the community of Houston," said Charles Maledy, president.

Prison Committee Tours Licking

Members of the Joint Committee on Correctional Institutions and Problems visited Wednesday afternoon in Texas County.

The 12-member panel — working to select two communities to host two new state prisons — arrived by aircraft at the Houston Municipal Airport and traveled to Licking, one of four communities earlier named as finalists.

On Tuesday, members toured

Lewistown and Trenton in northern Missouri. The panel arrived here after earlier in the day visiting at Charleston in the Bootheel.

The Licking field trip included a stop at the proposed site northwest of the city, which is west of U.S. 63 and north of Highway 32.

They later attended a reception at Intercounty Electric with gatherees from across the county and south-central Missouri.

Hospital Hires Surgeon

A new surgeon was hired last week by Texas County Memorial Hospital.

Dr. Charles R. Mueller of Tucson, Ariz., finalized negotiations with the county facility and will begin a full-time surgical practice beginning Sept. 1. Dr. Mueller's practice will be located in The Professional Building on the north side of the hospital campus. Internal medicine specialists Dr.

Henry Davis and Dr. Tom Reinbold also practice at this location.

The 39-year-old Mueller received his medical degree from the University of California-Irvine in 1987. Post-graduate training included a one-year general surgery internship followed by a five-year general surgery residency at Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland, Ore.

(Turn to page 3, this section)

DEATHS

Mark Fockler
Mark Stephen Fockler, 39, son of Rodney and Omanez Fockler, was born Nov. 8, 1957, at Kansas City General Hospital in Kansas City. He died June 26, 1997, at Texas County Memorial Hospital from complications due to AIDS.
He graduated from Houston High School where he was an honored art student and drum major and worked at the Houston Newspapers.
He attended Kansas City Art Institute and William Jewell

College. He lived in Kansas City, Seattle and Tucson before returning to Houston.
Surviving are his parents of Houston; a sister, Susan of Springfield; a brother, Paul, of Tulsa, Okla.; and his grandparents, Ralph and Blanche Mueller of Houston.
A memorial service is planned for later in July. A celebration in Mark's memory is planned for August.

At A Glance

AGENDA

A representative from Congresswoman JoAnn Emerson's office will be in Houston on Thursdays from 1 to 3:30 p.m. at the Houston Area Chamber of Commerce office on North Grand Avenue.

TOPS chapter 1067 of Houston meets at 6:30 p.m. Thursdays at the First Free Will Baptist Church in Houston.

Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon meeting is 8 p.m. Thursdays in the parish hall of St. Mark's Catholic Church in Houston.

Houston Lions Club meets at noon on Fridays at the Lions Den north of Houston on U.S. 63.

GED classes are 8 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday; 4:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays; and 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays at the Houston Senior Center on Grand Avenue.

Genealogical library is open 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesdays on the second floor of the Texas County Courthouse in Houston.

Houston Area Chamber of Commerce meets at noon on Tuesdays at Pizza Express on South Sam Houston Blvd. The July 8 meeting is at 6 o'clock at Golden Hills Trail Rides. Make reservations by calling the chamber office at 967-2220.

The Stottlemire/Stallcup family reunion is Sunday, July 6, at the lower pavilion of Emmett Kelly Park in Houston with a basket lunch at 1 p.m.

Plato Lodge #469 AF and AM meeting is 7:30 p.m. Monday, July 7.

Roby Fire Department Auxiliary meeting is 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 8, at the Roby Fire Station.

American Legion Post 890 and Auxiliary potluck is 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 8, at the Raymondville Community Building followed by the meeting.

The Texas County division of the American Heart Association board of directors' meeting is 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 8, at Pizza Express. Call Carol Seaman at 417-967-1254 for more information about the American Heart Association.

Summersville Schools board meeting is 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 8, in the high school library.

Fraternal Order of Eagles #3911 meeting is 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 8, at the aerie south of Houston on U.S. 63.

Texas Lodge #372 I.O.O.F. meeting is 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 8, at the lodge hall on Grand Avenue in Houston.

Houston Area Chamber of Commerce board meeting is 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 9, in the chamber office on North Grand Avenue.

Vollmar Cemetery Association board meeting is 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 9, at the Texas County Bank community room in Raymondville.

OWLS — Widows Support Group meeting is 6 p.m. Thursday, July 10, at Pizza Express on South Sam Houston Blvd.

Twin River Trail Riders meeting is 7 p.m. Thursday, July 10, in the upper pavilion of Emmett Kelly Park in Houston.

Surgeon

(From Page One)

He served from 1983 - 1993 in the U. S. Air Force Reserve. In 1993, he took on full-time surgeon duties as a major in the U. S. Air Force Medical Corps. He was based at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson. The last two years Mueller has served as chief of surgery.

Professional affiliations of Dr. Mueller's include the American

College of Surgeons, Diplomate of the National Board of Medical Examiners and a Diplomate of the American Board of Surgery.

Dr. Mueller and his wife, Ann-Marie, will reside in Houston with their two sons, Jay, 12, and Brendan, 7. Dr. Mueller is the nephew of Rodney and Omanez Fockler of Houston and the grandson of Ralph and Blanche Mueller of Houston.

County Beef Producers Host Successful Tour

Nearly 250 beef producers from 33 Missouri counties ventured to Texas County on Saturday to see how four area cattlemen operate. The tour, sponsored by the University Extension Commercial Agriculture Program, the Missouri and Texas County Cattlemen's Association, Texas County Extension Council and area businesses, was successfully completed with a complimentary barbecue hosted by Texas County Cattlemen at the Houston Area Chamber of Commerce Fairgrounds.

Producers attending Beef Tour '97 visited Yellow Cow Ranch, Dave and Carolyn Freeman, Yukon; Tannenbaum Ranch, Marty and Ute Martinez, Houston; Lybyer Farm, Rhea and Mike Lybyer, Huggins; and Sheeks Land and Cattle, Cabool. The stops highlighted management practices unique to each of the producers.

The beef tour is an annual event coordinated by University Extension Commercial Agriculture and the Missouri Cattlemen's Association and held in various locations. Texas County cattlemen John Beltz serves as president of Missouri Cattlemen's Association.

Related photographs appear elsewhere.

TCMH Adopts Four-Year Strategic Plan

A new four-year strategic plan for Texas County Memorial Hospital was officially adopted by the board of trustees at its June 24 meeting. Ground work for the plan and its implementation began in January by gathering input from department heads, physicians and board. The previous five-year plan, set into action in 1992, has been completed with all eight primary goals accomplished.

In other business, the board: — Reviewed sealed bids on LP gas for the hospital. The bid was awarded to Rees Oil Co. of Houston.

— Voted unanimously to hire surgeon Charles R. Mueller, M.D., of Tucson, Ariz. Tentative start date will be Sept. 1. (See related story).

— Discussed the impact to TCMH on proposed national health care budget cuts based on statistics provided by both the American Hospital Association and the Missouri Hospital Association.

The next meeting is 6 p.m. July 22.

Letters

(From the preceding page)
counselors and coaches are some of the best in the nation.

Sometimes we neglect to think and tell them about the good things and focus only on the bad. As Lamar Alexander said in last year's race for president, "find the good and praise it."

I encourage you as taxpayers and students, to find that good and praise it! You don't know how much the Houston High School staff really does appreciate the good words.
So next time you're sitting at a football game, eating at a restaurant or shopping and you see a staff person, let them know how much you appreciate their work. It'll make you feel good and it will uplift them also! So "find the good and praise it!"

Matthew Evans, a 1997 graduate of Houston High School

To the editor:
The Texas County Library board of trustees expresses its appreciation and thanks for your recent support.

The library has recently experienced a major renovation project and expansion of services to include technology.

Your support in words and actions have greatly assisted in making this happen.

Again, thank you.
Sally Smith, Gwen Ross, Charles Van Zyverden, Don Fox and Madeline Miller

Note of Appreciation

I say thanks to my family, church family and special friends who expressed their love and concern before and after my recent surgery. The flowers, gifts, cards, calls, food and visits meant so much, and most of all, the prayers said in my behalf. God bless each of you.
Doris Montgomery



A Salem man was injured when this car ran off Highway C seven miles north of Licking at 11:30 Monday night. Tpr. Lowell Sanders said Delbert Sumpter, 45, was airlifted to St. John's Regional Health Center. The Licking Fire Department and Texas County Rescue Squad also responded.

—Licking News photograph

Patrol Reports Four Accidents in 12-Hour Period

Officers with the Missouri State Highway Patrol investigated four accidents Monday and Tuesday within a 12-hour time frame.

The patrol said a 2:45 a.m. accident Tuesday on Highway 137 four miles south of Licking injured a Eunice man.

Frederick Fromm, 44, swerved to miss a deer when his vehicle hit an embankment and overturned, said Tpr. Lowell Sanders.

Fromm was taken to Texas

County Memorial Hospital with moderate injuries.

A 8:05 a.m. Tuesday accident about 2.2 miles south of Yukon on Highway 137 injured a Willow Springs girl.

Tpr. Mike Carson said a vehicle driven by Douglas Sparks, 51, of Willow Springs, swerved to avoid animals in the roadway, went out of control, ran off the road and overturned.

A passenger, Jennifer Sparks, 14,

was taken to Texas County Memorial Hospital with minor injuries.

A 11:35 a.m. Tuesday accident on Carter Lane west of Tyrone injured a 15-year-old Willow Springs girl.

Rebecca Brummit's vehicle went out of control and struck a tree, said Carson.

She was taken to Texas County Memorial Hospital with moderate injuries.

Circuit Court

Associate Judge John S. Beeler granted the following dissolutions of marriage June 20 to: Tracy Lynn Stewart and Donald Lee Stewart Jr.; Eddie Lee Atchison and Patricia D. Atchison; and Monica Sue Stille and Robert Scott Stille.

Judge Beeler granted a dissolution of marriage June 26 to: Wanda Carlene Backues and Bobby Leroy Backues.

Too Late to Classify

Yard Sale: Friday and Saturday, 408 Ozark, Houston. Lots of everything. H6/1c

BOOKENDS

The 4th of July holiday always generates family picnics. Mother and grandmother will begin telling stories about the children after the noon meal. They seem to enjoy telling the embarrassing stories! Sooner or later these ladies will begin the quilt stories. Aunt Josie will tell about the baby quilt made from her son's shirts, and Grandmother will display her latest quilt in progress.

The library has a good selection of quilt books you will want to share with family and others. One of the largest books in the library is "America's Glorious Quilts". This book is at least 15 inches tall with a beautiful photograph of a crazy quilt on the book jacket. Other titles in the library include "Better Homes and Garden Patchwork and Quilting", "Quilting for Your Home", "Rags to Rainbows" and "Quilts of Illusion".

The Texas County Library will be closed July 4th, but will be open July 5th and observe normal hours.

— Jackie Thomas

Cabool Drury Evening College

Fall 1997

Monday

Dept	No	Loc	Sec	Cr	Title	Time	Inst
BADM	304	D	C	3	Organization Behavior	5:20-8:00 pm	Mushrush
BIOL	103	D	C	3	Biology Concepts	5:20-8:00 pm	Bradshaw
CRIM	360	D	C	3	The Judicial Process	5:20-8:00 pm	Garbrant
EDUC	207	D	A	3	Psyc Human Growth & Develop	5:20-8:00 pm	Decker
ENGL	150	D	C	3	Composition	5:20-8:00 pm	Jarrett
PSYC/							
SOCI	367	D	C	3	Family Therapy	5:20-8:00 pm	Pigg
ACCT	210	D	C	3	Management Accounting	8:10-10:50 pm	Hauschild
ENGL	160	D	C	3	Introduction to Literature	8:10-10:50 pm	Jarrett
ENGL	390	D	A	3	ST:Ozark Folklore/Culture	8:10-10:50 pm	Decker
EXSP	210	D	C	2	First Aid	8:10-9:50 pm	staff

Tuesday

CRIM	102	D	C	3	Intro to Criminology	5:20-8:00 pm	Bowersox
EDUC	200	D	C	3	Technology in the Classroom	5:20-8:00 pm	Marler
ENGL	370	D	C	3	Creative Writing I	5:20-8:00 pm	staff
HIST	202	D	A	3	U.S. History II	5:20-8:00 pm	Tyrrell
PSYC	230	D	C	3	Lifespan Development	5:20-8:00 pm	Trotter
SOCI	246	D	M	3	Intro to Social Work	5:20-8:00 pm	Austin
ARTS	260	D	C	3	Photo I	8:10-10:50 pm	Marler
ARTS	347	D	A	3	Native Arts & Culture	8:10-10:50 pm	Hartley
CRIM/							
SOCI	331	D	C	3	Advanced Criminology	8:10-10:50 pm	Bowersox
PSYC	100	D	C	2	Personal Adjustment	8:10-9:50 pm	Trotter

Wednesday

CHEM	103	D	C	3	Fundamentals of Chemistry	5:20-8:00 pm	Peterson
CRIM/							
SOCI	321	D	C	3	Deviance & Social Control	5:20-8:00 pm	Anthony
ENGL	150	D	C	3	Composition	5:20-8:00 pm	staff
MATH	101	D	C	3	Fund Math Concepts I	5:20-8:00 pm	Nevergall
MATH	227	D	C	3	Introduction to Statistics	5:20-8:00 pm	Townsend
ENGL	375	D	C	3	Land & Literature	8:10-10:50 pm	staff
PLSC	101	D	C	3	Government & Politics in US	8:10-10:50 pm	Brill
PSYC	234	D	C	3	Drugs and Behavior	8:10-10:50 pm	Ogletree

Thursday

BIOL	106	D	C	3	Conservation Theory & Mgmt	5:20-8:00 pm	Bradshaw
COMM	201	D	C	3	Interpersonal Communication	5:20-8:00 pm	Decker
EDUC	340	D	C	3	Educ of Exceptional Child	5:20-8:00 pm	Ault
HIST	202	D	C	3	U.S. History II	5:20-8:00 pm	Tyrrell
PSYC/							
SOCI	390	D	C	3	ST: Psychology of Law	5:20-8:00 pm	S Nickle
SOCI	390	D	C	3	ST: Sociology of Politics	5:20-8:00 pm	J Nickle
SPAN	101	D	A	4	Elementary Spanish I	5:20-9:00 pm	Petrus
BIOL	390	D	C	3	ST: Ethics & Issues	8:10-10:50 pm	staff
EXSP	220	D	A	2	Fitness for Life	9:10-10:50 pm	staff
GLST	201	D	C	3	Global Aware/Cul Diversity	8:10-10:50 pm	J Nickle
PSYC	101	D	C	3	Introduction to Psychology	9:10-10:50 pm	S Nickle

TBA

ENGL	199	D	C	1	Story Tell/Early Childhood	TBA	Cummings
PSYC	199	D	C	1	Psyc of Eating Disorders	TBA	MacGregor
PSYC	199	D	A	1	Self Awareness	TBA	Bryan
PSYC	199	D	C	1	Self Awareness	TBA	Bryan

Classes begin Sept. 2, 1997. Cabool registration is currently being held on each Monday and Thursday from 3-7 p.m. at the Cabool High School. Financial aid is available. Call 417-962-5663 during the listed office hours for an appointment or write: Box 526, Cabool, Mo. 65689.



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