

In mandated review . . .

# FISD compares favorably

Fairfield schools score as well as, and in some instances exceed, state averages over a number of education indicators.

An annual summary report mandated by Texas Education Agency was presented to Fairfield Independent School District trustees last week by superintendent Katie Ryan.

The report covers the 2008-09 school year.

FISD is made up of 62 percent white, 20 percent African American and 17 percent Hispanic students, and is rated as a "recognized" district by TEA. The rating is the second highest given by the state agency.

The district exceeds state averages in its drop-out rate, a low .3 percent compared to 2.2 percent in Texas, college bound students (56 percent), a student-teacher ration of 12.3 to one and serious offenses, none compared to 2.4 percent throughout the state.

Attendance is slightly lower than the state average, 95.3 percent compared to 95.5 percent, SAT scores are one point lower at 986 and ACT scores are 0.4 points lower at 19.5.

The district also trails the state average in Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills test results, barely in most subjects but by six percent in science.

FISD trustees started work this year to bring teacher salaries up to the state average of \$47,159, but have not gotten there yet. The average teacher salary in Fairfield is \$44,441.

"We will work on the number of Gold Medal performance awards we receive," Ms. Ryan says. "We also will continue to increase and pass the state average on ACT and SAT scores."

Last year the district received five TEA Gold Medal performance awards at the senior high school, two at the junior high and one at the elementary school.

A bright spot in the

annual summary is wide range of student accomplishments in University Interscholastic League academic competition, athletics, band, agricultural science and other extracurricular activities.

"That shows you have a well-rounded school system. That is what pleased me the most about the report," Ms. Ryan says.

The report also shows that the district ran its finances in the black by \$1 million.

Board members approved Contrax Furnishings of Dallas to provide all furniture for the new intermediate school, a contract estimated at \$400,000.

Contrax is part of a state buying cooperative which eliminates the requirement of the district to seek bids for furnishings.

The superintendent reports that administrators and teachers will look at

samples, such as for desks, science laboratory equipment and cafeteria tables, and submit an order to the company. Final price will be determined after the order is submitted.

Recognized for service to the district is the board of trustees, in keeping with January as School Board Recognition Month in Texas.

In a separate called meeting last week, the board reviewed performance by Ms. Ryan over the past year and approved a 2-year employment contract extension.

The superintendent was hired in 2010 under a 3-year contract that pays a salary of \$115,000 and provided for vehicle mileage reimbursement.

Board members left the salary unchanged but changed the vehicle mileage reimbursement to a \$200 monthly mileage allowance.

## City

Cont. from p1-a

ously served by Schick, will be filled after a new director is hired.

A timeline has not been released for filling Rossiaky's job, and the selection of the economic development director is still up in the air after the city narrowed it last month to three finalists: Joanna Fritz, Dawn Newman and Liz Thornton.

The council did, however, plan to meet on Wednesday this week to continue that selection process.

Employment issues could be discussed at a mayor/council out of town retreat approved by the council last week. A retreat offers the officials a chance to discuss city problems without much expected in the way of an audience. While the retreat would have to be open to the public to be in compliance with the State of Texas Open Meetings Laws, it would be reasonably expected that not many city residents would be able to attend, making the meeting legal, but not very "open".

A date and location for a retreat has not yet been named.

Also at last week's meeting, New Leash on Life president Cindy Phillips spoke to city officials at length about the animal shelter, its problems and its needs.

"We don't have enough money or enough volunteers," she said. "We will use up our funds by the end of February."

Mrs. Phillips pointed out that Freestone county has given the shelter \$20,000 this year and last year, and that the funds have been greatly appreciated, however, "It costs us about \$5,000 per month for food, litter, medicine, vet visits, maintenance and repairs of the kennels and part time help, and we are very frugal," she added.

Councilmen agreed to

set a special meeting Feb. 9 at 5 p.m. to further discuss the animal shelter, and come to some kind of decision regarding its future.

New "welcome to Fairfield" signs are on the agenda for the city, beginning with the water tower on I-45. "To a city as nice as Fairfield, it's an eyesore," councilman Joe Kirgan said last week. "I'd like it to say something like 'Fairfield, Home of the Eagles' meaning the Fairfield Eagles and the eagles at Fairfield Lake," he added.

Kirgan made the motion to look into costs of repainting the water tower and any other appropriate welcome signs in the city. The motion was seconded by Luke Ward, Jr. and unanimously approved.

In lieu of a fine issued by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the city will clean up unauthorized trash dumps around town.

"We have a huge problem (with illegal trash dumping)," city administrator Jeff Looney admitted. The TCEQ will allow the city to conduct the cleanup as a "special environmental project" instead of paying the \$9,000 fine, which was issued for wastewater non-compliance issues.

Also at the meeting, councilmen approved a letter of agreement with Bojorquez law firm in Waco concerning future consultations as needed, approved a slight reroute of the WH Day #1 pipeline, and approved a permit for a standard archeological site survey at the location of a Walnut Creek plant radio tower.

**The Fairfield Recorder**  
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# On the Edge of Common Sense

By Baxter Black, D.V.M.



## HARK THE HERALD ANGEL MOMENTS

There is a frequently told story by cowmen and veterinarians since herds-men discovered fire. As I listened to a Georgia farmer recount his own personal version, I found myself imagining how the cow would feel?

"I was grazing down by the creek. Something I do every day, I think? My short term memory is going. I know I have calves. I'm not sure how many, but who keeps count. I guess they grow inside me. Maybe I eat something, or an insect bites me or it has something to do with the moon? Anyway...where was I?"

The event down by the creek.

"Oh, yeah, I was grazing down by the creek. Ya know I do have a childhood memory. It was very dark and snug. I was in my sleeping bag. It was squeezing me! I don't know how long it lasted. I don't know how long is long?"

"Then a hand gripped me! I remember a shiny bracelet which came tight,

## H1N1 virus shot clinic is this Thursday

Fairfield area residents can get their free H1N1 vaccination this Thursday from the Texas Department of State Health Services.

TDSHS is holding the clinic from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. at Fairfield Civic Center located at W.L. Moody Reunion Grounds.

Vaccinations are available in mist and injectable forms.

Another clinic is set for Friday, Jan. 22, at Buffalo Civic Center, 941 N. Hill Street.

TDSHS will hold an H1N1 vaccination clinic Tuesday, Jan. 26, at Mexia Civic Center, 101 S. McKinney.

nearly pulled my front legs out of their socket! And then I burst into the light! I never thought about eyes....or seeing. Maybe I thought I was a star-nosed mole or a potato? But the light was overwhelming! I had one of those "Hark the Herald Angel" moments!"

Back to the creek. "What creek?"

Where you had the event.

"What event?"

The one down by the creek.

"Oh, that one. Well, I was grazing and began to feel a little acid reflux...then I realized cows can't get acid reflux, they wouldn't know it the way they regurgitate all those cuds all the time.

Anyway...where was I?"

Down by the creek.

"Yes. I had terrible stomach pains, a shortness of breath, then I slipped on the bank and went down! Next thing I remember the two-leg-ged, ball-faced upright giant frog walkers who come and disturb us now and then, were man-handling me! One had a big rubber tube and he was forcing it down my throat! It was dark. I felt dizzy. I couldn't see! I thought I was back in my sleeping bag!"

"I couldn't understand their frog talk but one was bawling and hollering and suddenly the other one's five-fingers front leg caught on fire! There was a terrible explosion! I imagined I was a dragon or an F-16 or an industrial strength weed burner! The sky lit up!"

"And that's all I remember, my second Hark the Herald Angels moment. That, and the bawling frog walker baptizing himself in the creek!"

## Buffalo Livestock

On Saturday, January 16, 2010, Buffalo Livestock Commission sold 1,189 head. There were 167 sellers and 58 buyers.

<b>Slaughter Cows:</b>	
Cutter cows	48-57.50
Fat cows	52-55.50
Canner cows	35-53
<b>Slaughter Bulls:</b>	
Heavy Bulls	58.50-64.50
Light Bulls	52-57
<b>Cow/Calf Pairs and Bred Cows:</b>	
Choice Pairs	None
Good Pairs	810-910
Plain Pairs	550-700
Bred Cows 3-6 yr.	450-770
<b>Steer/Bull Calves and Yearlings:</b> Some plainer, hard to place calves below these figures.	
150-200 lb.	110-150
200-300 lb.	110-135
300-400 lb.	108-137
400-500 lb.	97-123
500-600 lb.	94-116
600-700 lb.	93-101
700-800 lb.	81-93
<b>Heifer Calves and Yearlings:</b> Some plainer, hard to place calves below these figures.	
150-200 lb.	85-120
200-300 lb.	85-117
300-400 lb.	89-110
400-500 lb.	85-105
500-600 lb.	85-101
600-700 lb.	80-91
700-800 lb.	72-83

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**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**  
 Proudly sponsored by:  
**The Fairfield Recorder**  
**MONDAY, JANUARY 25**  
 ►VFW Bingo, 7:30 pm, VFW Post 5872  
 ►AA, 6:30 pm, FUMC Fairfield  
**TUESDAY, JANUARY 26**  
 ►Rotary Club, noon, Big Cedar Country Club  
 ►AA & NA, 8:00 pm, Trinity Lutheran Church Fairfield  
 ►AA, 7:00-8:00 pm, Lakeside United Methodist Church Annex, 515 FM 416  
 ►Wortham Chamber of Commerce Board, 6:00 pm, Chamber Office  
 ►Free Blood Pressure & Blood Sugar Check, 10am-noon, Fairview Healthcare  
**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27**  
 ►Weight Watchers, 5:00 pm, Calvary Baptist Church  
 ►VFW Bingo, 7:30 pm, VFW Post 587  
 ►Blood Pressure Check, 11:00 am, Fairfield Senior Center  
**THURSDAY, JANUARY 28**  
 ►Children's Story Time, 10:30 am-11:00 am, Mary Moody Northern Library  
 ►Out & About Christian Singles, 6:30 pm, First Baptist Church of Wortham  
 ►AA & NA, 8:00 pm, Trinity Lutheran Church Fairfield  
 ►AA, 6:30 pm, FUMC Fairfield  
 ►Women's Book Club, 6:30 pm, FUMC Fairfield  
**FRIDAY, JANUARY 29**  
 ►AA, 7:00-8:00 pm, Lakeside United Methodist Church Annex, 515 FM 416  
**SATURDAY, JANUARY 30**  
 ►Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous, 8pm, Trinity Lutheran Church, Fairfield

To list calendar items, call 903-389-3334 or e-mail advertising@thefairfieldrecorder.com.

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- Sausage Balls • \$12.00 doz
- Spicy Hot Wings • \$12.00 doz
- BBQ Cocktail Wieners • \$8.00 pt
- Swedish Meatballs • \$8.00 pt

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