

Museum starts member drive

Freestone County Historical Museum, located on E. Main Street in Fairfield, invites area residents to join the museum during its annual membership drive just launched.

The museum is a non-profit entity, counting on memberships and assistance from Freestone county and the City of Fairfield to operate.

Many of the exhibits and the museum office are located in a new building paid for by private donations.

The exhibits building has attracted the attention of Texas Historical Commission and Texas Museum Association which have provided some grant money to the organization.

Memberships and donations are needed, though, for projects such as restoring the Carter log cabin built in 1845 and the old jail building.

The cabin is the oldest structure still standing in the county and is one of the

largest of its kind in Texas. It was donated to the museum in 1967, moved to the grounds and received a Texas Historical Marker in 1969.

Estimated cost to restore the cabin is \$130,000, of which the City of Fairfield has budgeted \$80,000.

All donations to the museum are tax deductible.

Membership levels are: \$15, individual; \$25, family; \$100, Silver Friend; \$200, Gold Friend and \$300, Platinum Friend.

Silver level donors receive a copy of "Two Stars in the Southern Sky" by David B. Carter, gold level receives an afghan depicting Freestone county landmarks, and platinum level receives the choice of an afghan or book, and their name on a donors plaque.

Memorial donations may also be made to the museum, for which the family of those honored receive a thank you card.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

The school board in its hasty, and unprecedented, refusal to honor a legal and binding bid on the proposed park site has perpetrated what amounts to a slap in the face to both young and old of the Wortham community.

The parks board consisting of Shirley Libhart, Joe Butcher, Mary Meyers, Norris Buchmeyer and Don Allen offer this as a documented record of what in our view is a travesty of justice against the citizens of Wortham.

We presently have in excess of \$152,000 ready to put into the park, with additional donations earmarked that would provide a facility that this community deserves and has a right to expect.

If the school board had honored our bid and sold us the land, Sheila Fautt, EDC Coordinator, and I would have immediately had a conference call with TPWD (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department) which is in charge of the grant. They then tell us how to proceed and we are

required to report to them quarterly as to our progress.

Because of the board's previous vote which, in my opinion, smacked of a predetermined decision we are almost back to square one.

We have money, but must have a piece of land with clear title that will be approved by the TPWD and Historical Commission. The legal process dictates that the Historical Commission has the final word on any park we build.

Your unprecedented decision puts us in a position of finding suitable land, have it surveyed and appraised (another costly, time consuming effort. In addition, we need a history of said land drawn up, new plans and a new grant submitted to TPWD.

We could have broken ground this summer, but the school board's action forces the City of Wortham to be denied the amenities of a park until sometime in the future.

Thank you,
Mary Meyers, President
Wortham Park Project
Committee



WORTHAM BULLDOGS CAGER Jake Jones goes up for two of the 30 points he scored in a 90-66 win over the 16th ranked Hubbard Jaguars in the District 21-A opener. Also in double digits were: Brandon Lansford, 18; Cooper Warren, 17; and Seth Reed, 11.

FHD

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Also, hospital rooms are being designed larger, which remodeling the inpatient area will address.

Under his design, Polanchek explains that the hospital will be divided into three distinct areas, medical clinic, emergency department and inpatient rooms.

He also notes that the highest priority in the plan is to enlarge and remodel the emergency department.

When completed, the emergency department will be about 5,200 square feet, about three times its current size, and include a larger waiting area and nine patient treatment rooms, Fitzpatrick reports.

Most of the emergency department expansion area comes from taking over what are now hospital administrative offices.

The new clinic will be built on the west side of the hospital where an existing clinic stands—the existing clinic will be razed to make room.

Planned for the new clinic building, which will be 20,000 square feet, is space for eight medical practitioners, hospital administrative offices and outpatient services.

A new wing of 10 inpatient beds is planned for construction before the existing wing is remodeled

in stages. The new inpatient wing will provide space during remodeling of existing patient rooms.

Leighton breaks down estimated costs as \$9 million for the emergency department and new clinic, \$4.5 million for the inpatient wing and remodeling, and \$1.5 for infrastructure.

"We are trying to combine at least the emergency department and medical office building into one phase," Leighton says.

He expects that construction drawings will be completed in May and construction should start in July, with completion of the emergency department and medical building taking about 24 months. Adding the 10-bed inpatient wing and remodeling existing

areas should take about six months.

"Our plan is to proceed as we have been. If y'all have any recommendations, please let us know," Leighton says.

ETMC has about \$4 million committed to the Fairfield project and FHD administrative assistant Larry Ivy says he is in hopes that ETMC provides an additional \$4 million.

That would leave about \$7 million to be financed to complete the whole program, most likely funded by the hospital district.

FHD board members have yet to talk about financing options, which could come from a property tax hike, and to give its approval to building the medical office.

Against Brownsboro . . .

FJHS boys split games

The Fairfield junior high school Eagles basketball teams split evenly last week in games against the Brownsboro Bears.

Fairfield hosted the Bears to start the second round of district action.

Eighth grade A Eagles took charge of the game from the opening tip-off, staking a claim to an 11-2 first period lead and holding a 24-4 advantage at half-time.

The quintet added 18 points the third period and six in the fourth, giving up two and six, to win decisively 49-12.

"It was a pretty solid game for us. I thought we played very good defense," coach Lynn Caffey reports.

He credits Bryson Gates and Danny Cockerell with good play on offense and rebounding.

Gates led scoring with 20 points and Cockerell kicked in 13 points.

Also scoring were: Larry Rose, 4; Cade Warren, 4; Coy Pierce, 4; Jacob Gallegos, 3; and Luke Rachel, 1.

Top rebounders were Gates, Cockerell and Rachel.

"I thought we played with good intensity, especially coming off some tough games in the Grapeland Tournament," Caffey says. "I was real proud of our whole team."

Fairfield seventh grade A cagers got off to a slow start against the Bears, trailing 2-17 at the half, rallied for 20 second half points, but came up just shy in a 24-25 loss.

"We started extremely slow the first half, scoring two points. The second half was a different story. It was like we arose from the dead," coach Clint Elliott says.

The Eagles, he reports, tied the game and then went ahead by a point with 1.4 seconds remaining, but the Bears made a shot at the buzzer to take the victory.

Scoring for Fairfield were: Keishaun

Cunningham, 7; Chance Carroll, 7; Michael Gibson, 7; Justin Morgan, 2; and Demarcus Taylor, 1.

FJHS eighth grade B cagers took a 6-4 lead in the opening period against Brownsboro and held a 13-8 edge at the half before turning up the heat.

The quintet scored 19 points the third period and added six for good measure in the final stanza, giving up five and four, to claim a 38-21 win.

"Offensively, we really came out in the third quarter and put up a lot of points," coach Michael Posey reports. "Defensively, we played good all night, not allowing double digit points in any one quarter."

Counting 26 points toward the win was Alex Ward.

Also scoring were: Chris Munoz, 6; Michael Smaghe, 2; Donald O'Brien, 2; and Calvin Gilliland, 2.

In seventh grade B action, the Eagles were blanked 0-22 the first half and managed just three points the second half in a 3-25 loss.

Scoring all three Fairfield points was Ben Wilson.

"It was a rough night, both offensively and defensively. The kids played hard all night and fought to the end," Posey reports.

The Eagles play at Athens this Thursday.

Lifters open '10 season

Fairfield senior student Lamar O'Brien was named "Outstanding Lifter" at a powerlifting meet Saturday in Moody.

O'Brien won the 181-pound class hoisted a total of 1,190 pounds, 455 pounds in squat, 280 pounds in bench press and 455 pounds in dead lift.

His total was 120 pounds more than the second place lifter in the class.

The Moody meet was the first for Fairfield powerlifters this season. On schedule are six meets, plus regional qualifier, region and state competitions.

Fairfield high school will host a meet on Saturday,

Jan. 30. In the 220-pound class, senior Fairfield senior Ryan Wilkinson totaled 1,130 pounds for third place.

Also claiming third place was Tulio Cordon, totaling 780 pounds in the 132-pound class. In the same class, Josh Dodds lifted 670 pounds for sixth place.

Fourth place in the 123-pound class went to Garrett Thompson for lifts totaling 665 pounds.

Freshman Cody Sell lifted 945 pounds to finish seventh in the 198-pound class.

In the 165-pound class, junior Jacob Cain lifted 885 pounds for 10th place.

New

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refill aldermen posts in May.

Only three aldermen of five aldermen and the mayor remain and, because of the shortage in numbers, the Teague council cannot presently hold any special meetings.

Up for election, and still serving, are Mayor Jacquelyn Utsey and aldermen James Monks in place one and Dickie Moore in place three.

Voters also must fill the remaining year of unexpired terms for places four and five on the council.

The Teague election was called Monday evening.

Wortham ISD has two seats, place three held by Brent Jones and place four held by Scott Spencer, up for election this year. The election will be called at the February trustees meeting.

Up for a vote in the City of Wortham are at-large council posts currently held by Albert Hall, Cliff Nesmith and Frank A. McLellan.

Fairfield Hospital District, which usually holds its election in May, is seeking approval from the U.S. Department of Justice to move the vote to November to coincide with the general election conducted by Freestone county.

Dew ISD made the move from May to April a couple of years ago.

The last day to register to vote in the May elections is April 8.

Early voting will be conducted April 26-May 4.



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