

# For MB House sidewalk . . . Commemorative bricks on sale

Custom engraved commemorative bricks that will decorate the sidewalks at the Moody Bradley House are on sale now for a limited time, and are offered this year as part of the 85th anniversary of the GFWC Fairfield History Club, owners of the historic home.

Bricks can be engraved with up to three lines to honor friends and family members. Each brick is \$100.

The commemorative bricks were last on sale about 10 years ago. Some 420 bricks sold at that time, and those now grace the sidewalks at the Moody Bradley House.

Sidewalks made of the bricks sold this year will continue around the house.

Members of the History Club keep a list of the honored names with a site map so that visitors can easily locate their paver.

The History Club's 85th anniversary is celebrated on March 19 of this year, and activities are planned throughout the year.

Proceeds from the sale of the bricks, benches, and pavers are used to fund maintenance of the 145 year old home.

Order forms can be picked up at various locations around Fairfield, including The Fairfield Recorder, or can be obtained by calling Sandra McLeod at 903-389-3873 or visiting her online at [sandra.mcleod@mac.com](mailto:sandra.mcleod@mac.com).



GFWC FAIRFIELD HISTORY CLUB member Doris Casey, with great-granddaughter Kennedy Lane, displays an example of the commemorative bricks on sale by the club that will make up the sidewalks at the historic Moody Bradley House.

## Cooking class planned by extension office

A Sweetheart Cooking Class is set Feb. 9 in Fairfield and will focus on tasty heart healthy snacks for the family, just in time for Valentine's Day.

Hosted by Freestone county extension agent Sara Mote, the class will be held at the Fairfield high school family and consumer science classroom.

Everyone over the age of five years is invited, but children under the age of 16 should be accompanied by an adult. Cost is \$5 per individual or \$10 per family and will include snacks and a cookbook.

Pre-registration is necessary. To reserve a spot, call the extension office at 903-389-3436.

## Internet

Cont. from p6-b

ment can feel anonymous, some youth become disinhibited. Teach kids that the internet is a public forum: anonymity is a myth. Help them be the good person online that they are when they're offline.

Once children understand these core risks, three simple guidelines will help parents provide a safe and healthy experience online:

Keep current with technology: You don't have to be an expert, but a little understanding goes a long way toward keeping your child safe online. Get basic technical training and learn about new products as they're released.

Keep checking your children's internet activity. Know where they go online. Let them know that you'll keep checking because you want them to understand that the internet is a public forum and never truly private.

Keep communicating with your children about everything they experience on the internet. Know their lingo, and ask when you don't understand something. Work to keep communication lines open.

## TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION



## State Capital HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling

AUSTIN --- A proposal to add a two-story addition to the Governor's Mansion has been abandoned by the State Preservation Board after a chorus of complaints.

Board Executive Director John Sneed said the proposed addition to the 153-year-old mansion has been withdrawn from consideration.

The Preservation Board was moving ahead with the expansion before the idea was greeted with a wave of protests.

House Speaker Joe Straus, R-San Antonio, recently objected to the 3,000-square foot addition. He joined earlier objections voiced by former Govs. Dolph Briscoe and Mark White, both Democrats. Straus is a member of the Preservation Board.

Gov. Rick Perry initially appeared to support the plan, but he backed off after it became a political liability. The mansion is undergoing renovation after it was heavily damaged by an arson fire in 2008. No one has been arrested in that incident.

make use of best policies in health care.

State Sen. Jane Nelson, chair of the Health and Human Services Committee, said, "As we monitor the discussions about federal health care reform, it is important that we examine the underlying challenges in our health care system, as well as our broader mission to protect the overall health of our citizens."

### Strauss looks at budget

House Speaker Joe Straus has named a select committee to study how to manage a strained state budget in a declining economy.

The House Select Committee on Fiscal Stability will assess whether the state budget is facing a shortfall in 2011 and what to do about it.

Straus named state Rep. John Otto, R-Dayton, to chair the committee, and state Rep. Sylvester Turner, D-Houston, as vice chairman. "Fiscally responsible work we do today will put Texas in better shape tomorrow," Straus said.

### Senate studies health care

In response to health care reform measures in Congress, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst has issued a charge to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee to study ways to make health care in Texas more affordable, accessible and efficient. The committee will take on that task in the interim before the 82nd Legislature convenes in January 2011.

"The problem with our health care system in America is not that we spend too little. The problem is that we don't spend our health care dollars effectively," Dewhurst said. "America actually spends more per capita than any other industrialized country in the world, often with poorer results."

Dewhurst said committee members will study the effects of any federal health care reform bill on Texas; recommend changes in the exchange of health care information statewide to improve care; examine ways to improve Texans' health; and study ways to

### Perry refuses race-to-top funds

Gov. Perry said Texas will not compete for up to \$700 million in federal education grants, calling it a sprint to "mediocrity." The Race to the Top grants, funded from the 2009 stimulus package approved by Congress, are to encourage education reform and innovation.

Perry said the grants are based on Texas developing national curriculum standards for math and English, which "smacks of a federal takeover of public schools."

Critics of Perry's position, noting that half the points toward the grants are based on past educational accomplishments, said the governor is admitting Texas cannot compete nationally.

Texas and Alaska are the only two states not participating in the development of national curriculum standards in math and English.

Perry's Republican primary opponent, U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, said she also would not have sought the grant money.

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