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OCTOBER 5, 2007



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Bring on the sausage

St. Lawrence Fall Festival is Sunday

By **BILL MCCLELLAN**
News Editor

For 50 years, people across West Central Texas have been making their way to the Garden City area for good music, games and great food. This year is no exception as parishioners from St. Lawrence Church will hold their 51st annual Fall Festival Sunday.

Homemade German sausage — available in plates, sandwiches or uncooked by the pound — is what draws many people to the festival, but others come for the games, music, Bingo or just the overall experience.

“Oh it’s the sausage, definitely,” said Martha

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HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
State Representative Joe Heflin discusses the legislative year with members of the audience during a town hall meeting Thursday night. Heflin was joined by State Senator Kel Seliger, as the pair discussed education and a number of other topics with those in attendance.

Focus on education

State leaders discuss TAKS, retirement, teachers and funding

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Education was the topic of choice Thursday evening for State Sen. Kel Seliger and State Rep. Joe Heflin, as the pair held a town hall meeting on the Howard College campus.

The duo touched on issues ranging from the elimination of the TAKS (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills) test from Texas schools to current legislation that could take a tremendous bite out of the state’s community colleges in several years. The meeting was

“I always try to keep a very open office because you’re the people I depend on.”

—State Rep. Joe Heflin

held at the Hall Center for the Arts.

“A little over a year ago, before the 80th Legislature, I was talking to a group of school teachers about what I thought the flaws were in the TAKS test,” said Seliger.

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AG AWARDS

From left: Marcus Phillips, a local long time ag producer, accepts the Ag Producer of the Year Award during Thursday afternoon’s Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce sponsored Ag Appreciation Luncheon at the Dorothy Roberts Community Center. Right, Kelly Newton Tucker of Kelly Newton Insurance Agency, which was named the Ag Business of the Year, walks from the stage alongside last year’s winner, Wendell Walker of Big Spring Co-Op Gin.

HERALD photos/Thomas Jenkins



Phillips, Tucker earn top awards at expo luncheon

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Marcus Phillips and Kelly Newton Tucker were the top honorees at the 16th annual Ag Expo Appreciation Luncheon

Thursday at Dora Roberts Community Center.

Phillips was named Agriculture Producer of the Year, while Tucker, of Kelly Newton Insurance Agency, won

the award for top Ag Business of the Year.

The luncheon, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and a host of local businesses, gives the community a chance to

salute and recognize the importance agriculture pays to this area, organizers said.

“Many people don’t realize that agriculture is a very big and irreplaceable part of the

Texas economy,” said State Sen. Kel Seliger, who, along with State Rep. Joe Heflin, served as main speaker at the

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Moore finalizes revisions to Settles pact

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Moore Development board of directors, hoping to move forward with \$3 million in funding for the Settles Hotel renovation effort, completed

revisions Thursday for a performance agreement with the Settles Hotel Development Company.

“The revisions have been made and a copy of the performance agreement will be

sent to (Brint) Ryan,” said Terry Wegman, Moore Development executive director. “The board approved a motion that would allow the board president, Frank Parker, to sign off on the

agreement without another meeting if Ryan and his attorneys agree with the revisions that have been made.” Wegman said he feels good

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SAUSAGE

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Schwartz, publicity chairman for the event. "It's made by the men of the community on Saturday, so it is fresh for Sunday. They'll make up about 10,000 pounds."

If you'd like, you are invited to Mass at 9 a.m. The festival itself gets under way at 10:30 a.m. on the church grounds. Booths offer a variety of games and include Spin A Wheel, Bean Bag Toss, Plinko, Coke Ring Toss, Golf, Pan for Gold, Christian Corner and a petting zoo made up of local farm animals.

The Kountry Kitchen will feature homemade baked and canned goods as well as local handicrafts. Artists and crafters from the area will be displaying and

offering their goods for sale on the church lawn. Polka music and the sounds of the country group 2 Grand Band will fill the air, generated from the church patio area.

Also at 10:30 a.m., uncooked German sausage will go on sale for \$4.50 a pound at the Sausage Haus, located north of the Parish Hall. Be aware, if you don't arrive until noon, you might miss out. The sausage goes very quickly.

For those who don't want to cook later, lunch will be served from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The meal consists of barbecue brisket, sausage, and all the trimmings. An assortment of homemade pies and cakes is available for dessert. Plates are \$7 for adults and \$5 for children. To-go plates are available. Then, beginning at 2

p.m., sausages sandwiches and barbecue sandwiches will be available for purchase at the concession stand.

Other popular activities include a silent auction from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Bingo from noon to 4 p.m. and a live auction at 2 p.m.

A handmade queen size quilt will be given away at the end of the year.

"It's beautiful," said Schwartz. "It's handmade and handquilted by the women of the church."

All of the funds go to St. Lawrence Church.

"It is our major fundraiser. We are in the process of building a new parish hall," explained Schwartz. "Hopefully, at this time next year, we will be in the new one."

St. Lawrence is located 10 miles south of Garden City off Highway 33. Turn west on Highway 2401 and go five miles.

AWARDS

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event.

Phillips is a third generation Howard County farmer who began his agriculture career shortly after graduating from Big Spring High School, said presenter Donnie Reid, the 2006 winner of the Ag Producer award.

Reid lauded Phillips' use of "cutting edge technology" in his farm operation.

"His farm shop is one of the most modern and well-equipped in Howard County," Reid said in his remarks. "As well as supervising his farm operation, he is involved in driving his own equipment and working alongside his employees."

Tucker received the Ag Business award from Wendell Walker of the Co-

Op Gin of Big Spring, the 2006 recipient.

After graduating from Texas Tech in 1994, Tucker has worked with producers throughout the area as head of Kelly Newton Insurance Agency.

But her influence doesn't end there, Walker said.

"She has worked to make Big Spring and Howard County and better place by supporting 4-H and (Future Farmers of America), Coahoma PTA, Boy Scouts, the Gregg Street flag project, the First Baptist Church, Ag Expo and the Howard County Fair," Walker said. "She prides herself on having a family-owned and operated business where farmers and ranchers are of utmost importance to her."

In his remarks, Heflin stressed the importance of agriculture.

"Family farms are the backbone of America," he said. "Life in rural areas is slower ... People care about their neighbors and they care about their neighbor's children."

"As a representative ... I can always spot children raised on a farm," Heflin added. "They are not afraid to speak to adults, they are more acceptable of responsibility; they are just more mature."

To Seliger, there is no question to the importance agriculture plays in his district.

"I consider myself fortunate to represent one of the most productive agriculture producing areas in the state," Seliger said. "Producers in my district raise everything from pork to beef, cotton, peanuts and feed grains."

"Agriculture is not just an industry, it's a way of life, a set of values," he added.

MOORE

Continued from Page 1A

about the agreement as it stands, but whether or not Ryan, who serves as manager of SHDC and the founder and CEO of Ryan & Company, will agree with it is up in the air.

"There are some things in the agreement that I think Brint is going to like," said Wegman. "However, there are also some things I'm not really sure about, so we'll just have to wait for him and his attorneys to look at it and get back to us."

The motion for Parker

to be able to sign off on the contract is contingent on Ryan's reactions to the agreement, according to Wegman.

"Frank can sign off on the agreement without us having to call another special meeting only if Brint and his people accept it as the board approved it," said Wegman. "If there are any revisions made to it at this point, it will have to go back to the board as a whole. The board is trying to move this project along as smoothly as possible."

The Moore Board has been in negotiations with

the Settles Hotel Development Company to develop a performance agreement since directors voted unanimously nearly a year ago to provide up to \$3 million to help the Dallas-based company renovate the historic Settles Hotel.

In December, SHDC announced plans for a \$12 million renovation project. According to SHDC officials, the project includes plans for commercial and residential use of the property, with retail space available on the first and second floors.



"Dios quiere que todos los hombres sean salvos y vengan al conocimiento de la verdad," 1 Timoteo 2:4.

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