

## Kosse Fall Bazaar Auction & Raffle

The 29th annual Fall Bazaar and Auction, hosted by the Kosse First Methodist Church, will be held on Saturday, Oct. 3rd. This year's bazaar will help you make unusual and in keeping with the times, practical gift choices. You might choose a beautiful pot plant or some home-canned goods from our Country Store that are pretty to at and delicious to eat. To supplement our local gardens, friends of the church from Arkansas are sharing their abundance to give us a wide variety to choose from.

Super buys from the White Elephant Tables always provide thrifty and unusual choices. Our Arts & Crafts & Gifts Tables will tempt you with hand-embroidered pillow cases and dish towels, aprons, fall and Christmas decorations, hand-painted gourds and some delightful surprises. Choices for men might include several tool kits in the silent auction or winning an 18 V. cordless drill and saw set or one of several gift cards in the raffle. Then there are Bobby Joe Suttle's mouth-watering smoke chicken and brisquets. These are sure pleasers and can be bought whole if ordered in advance, or just enjoy a BBQ sandwich at the Bazaar. Don't forget to check out our Bake Sale or sign up for a free door prize.

Our Live Auction is an experience you won't want to miss. Watch for more details in the coming weeks. Meanwhile start your gift and wish list and mark Oct. 3rd on your must list.

## Kosse 4-H Roundup

On Sept. 12, at 7 p.m. at the Kosse Community Center there will be a sign up day for the Kosse 4-H and officer elections. Positions open are President, V. Pres., Secretary, treasurer, reporter and parliamentarian.

If you would like to become a 4-H volunteer you are welcome to this meeting to sign up.

For more information, call Kevin or Cindy at 375-2735.

## Kosse City Park

Calling all volunteers - on Sept. 19th we will have a clean up day at the Kosse City Park.

Starting at 7'ish, bring your mowers and weed eaters!

Friends of the Park thank you.

## :Reward:

Missing child; bronze type statue taken from Kosse City Park.

Reward for its safe return; no questions asked.  
375-9696 or 645-0429.

## State Capital Highlights

AUSTIN -- Gov. Rick Perry and challengers released statements following the death of U.S. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., who died Aug. 25 after battling brain cancer. "Senator Kennedy carried on his family's tradition of service to our country, devoting his life to the causes that mattered most to him," Perry said. "We can all admire and should respect a life lived with such consistent adherence to a deeply-held set of beliefs. Anita and I extend our sincere condolences and prayers to his family and friends."

U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, who is competing with Perry to be the Texas Republican Party's nominee for governor in 2010, said, "While Ted Kennedy and I disagreed on many issues, we were strong allies in the fight against cancer. The Kennedy-Hutchison cancer research bill is a tribute to his determination that the battle against this dreaded disease continue. Cancer may have claimed his life; it did not dampen his spirit or his will."

Tom Schieffer, Democratic candidate for governor, said of Kennedy, "Throughout his long and illustrious career, he was the strong voice for education, fairness and compassion in our society. That voice is quiet now but his legacy will continue to speak to all those who believe that government can make a positive difference in people's lives."

Kennedy, 77, was buried near his slain brothers, President John F. Kennedy and U.S. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in Arlington National Cemetery on Aug. 29.

## Deadline for shots is extended

Parents have more time to get their children vaccinated in accordance with state rules for school attendance.

The Texas Department of State Health Services extended until Oct. 1 the deadline for kids to get vaccinated for meningitis, tetanus-diphtheria-whooping cough and chicken pox.

Without the time extension, full immunizations would have been required beginning the first day of school.

**Panel briefed on Swine flu**  
The Senate Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security met on Aug. 20.

Dr. David Lakey, Commissioner of the Texas Dept. of State Health Services, said there have been at least 5,000 cases of H1N1 "swine" flu in Texas over the summer, with probably many more unreported.

Lakey said the current pandemic has been much milder than anticipated and that this has given the state time to learn more about the disease and be prepared for additional outbreaks in the fall.

## Suehs named to top spot at HHS

Gov. Rick Perry named Thomas Suehs of Austin executive commissioner of Health and Human Services, effective Sept. 1, for a term to expire Feb. 1, 2011.

The executive commissioner oversees the operations of five health and human services agencies with a combined annual budget of \$30 billion and staffed by more than 50,000 employees.

Suehs succeeds Albert Hawkins, who Perry appointed to lead the agency in January 2003. Hawkins announced his retirement in May.

## Note sale will help state budget

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs announced Aug. 25 that the state's sale of \$5.5 billion in tax and revenue anticipation notes achieved an interest rate of 0.48 percent, the lowest rate the state has ever received on its annual sale of short-term notes.

"We had an impressive sale and an excellent interest rate — the best Texas has ever had," Combs said.

Texas will use the proceeds of the sale to distribute state funding to public schools early in the upcoming fiscal year and manage its cash flow between the start of the fiscal year and the arrival of tax revenues later in the year. The notes will be repaid Aug. 31, 2010.

## More road projects are possible

The Texas Transportation Commission on Aug. 27 gave preliminary approval to the state department of transportation for more mobility projects that may be covered under the federally funded American Reinvestment and Recovery Act.

It all depends on whether funding becomes available as a result of "under-runs" on the previously approved mobility projects. Funds would be spent on projects in the region of the state in which the under-runs were generated.

## Parks agency approves grants

More than \$9 million in competitive parks and recreation grants for city and county parks and other sites across the state was approved by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission on Aug. 27. The grants support the acquisition, development and beautification of city and county parks.

Of the total, the Dallas, Austin, San Antonio and El Paso areas were awarded a combined \$3.8 million from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Urban Outdoor Recreation Grants program. San Antonio also was awarded \$1 million from the agency's Indoor Recreation Grants program.

## World's Smallest Horses arriving soon

Alvarado — The excitement is building as the arrival time for the "World's smallest Horses" is approaching for the grand city of Ft. Worth. The Will Rogers Event Center will be the host and all are invited to attend at no charge. Even the well-situated parking is complimentary. This is a great family outing for all.

Starting September 26th with the youth competing for 32 world champion honors in 15 equine events. This event is free for all spectators, and begins daily at 8:00 a.m. The show schedule includes classes such as Jumping, Showmanship, Country Pleasure Driving and Roadster just to name a few of the categories.

The closing moments will be the evening of October 3rd with the parade of all the Grand Champions of this 10 day equine extravaganza.

Contact information  
Teri Collins 254-913-7476  
Nancy Grizzaffi 713-805-4877  
The American Miniature Horse Association at www.amha.org

## This Week in Texas History

### Texas replaces gallows with newfangled electric chair

by Bartee Haile

With the modern and presumably more humane electric chair due to replace the gallows at midnight, an overflow crowd packed the courthouse square in Angleton on Aug. 31, 1923 for the last public execution in Texas.

The first dose of "manufactured lightning" was administered in 1890 to a convicted wife murderer in New York. But the much-heralded debut of the newfangled death dispenser was something less than an unqualified success.

The warden cut off the current after just 17 seconds on the advice of the attending physicians, who felt sure the subject must have expired. Upon closer examination, however, the doctors discovered the man was still very much alive and called for a second jolt.

This time the warden took no chances. Sixty seconds at full power not only finished the job but filled the execution chamber with an eerie white vapor and the ghastly stench of cooked flesh.

Despite this inauspicious start, electrocution was soon accepted as the most efficient and least painful method of capital punishment. By 1920 more than a dozen states had changed from the rope to the hot seat.

Denouncing county-seat executions as a barbaric relic of the frontier past, L.K. Irwin launched a one-man campaign to bring Texas in tune with the times. The state legislator converted many to his cause with the argument that public hangings harmed society almost as much as the condemned.

Irwin insisted executions usually degenerated into bloodthirsty carnivals that did nothing to instill in spectators a respect for the law. All too often untrained local officials made the spectacle even more gruesome, when the drop failed to snap the victim's neck. On those occasions, he slowly strangled in full view of females and impressionable children.

In the 1923 session of the Lone Star legislature, Irwin introduced the Electric Chair Bill. In addition to doing away with the gallows, the proposal relieved county sheriffs of the responsibility of the carrying out death sentences. Future executions would be held behind closed-doors inside the Texas Department of Corrections.

During the debate of the bill, an opponent put the sponsor on the spot. He offered to reverse his vote, if Irwin promised to be on hand for the initial execution. The lawmaker agreed, and the measure passed.

Most counties were happy to put their gallows in mothballs and immediately shipped prisoners under death decrees to Huntsville. Not so in Brazoria County, where officials decided to proceed with the Aug. 31 hanging of a convicted killer.

To avoid a replay of the recent mob scene at Waco, where ten thousand gave a mass murderer an unruly send-off, access to the Angleton execution was severely restricted. A high wall was hastily erected around the site in an effort to keep down attendance.

Nevertheless, 150 people squeezed into the 25-foot square while hundreds more searched for cracks in the wooden barrier that might provide a peek at the proceedings. At 11 o'clock in the morning, a wedge of deputies escorted Nathan Lee to the scaffold.

The confessed slayer of an elderly farmer reaffirmed his guilt and urged the sweltering spectators to learn from his fatal mistake. He hummed a church hymn as the traditional black hood was lowered over his head. Moments later, the sheriff released the trap door, and death by hanging became a part of Texas history.

While the electric chair was under construction in a prison workshop, the warden abruptly resigned rather than assume his

## Texas Challenge Academy is A Second Chance for "At Risk" Teens

SHEFFIELD -- The Youth Challenge Program sponsored by the Texas National Guard, provides second chances to young people in Texas every semester.

The Texas Challenge Academy located in Sheffield, Texas, is designed to reclaim the potential of at-risk youth by training them to become successful, responsible, productive citizens through a program of mentoring, education, physical fitness, and volunteer service to the community. The program is open to young people ranging from 16 to 19 years old who have either dropped out of high school or who are in danger of doing so.

Cadets stay at the Academy for five and a half months during the residential phase of the program. They may attain their GED or high school diplomas, but also learn leadership skills and followership. They are taught responsible citizenship, job skills, critical life coping skills, substance abuse awareness, and how to develop positive personal relationships. Additionally a large part of the program is focused on physical fitness and service to the community. After graduation cadets return home and meet with a mentor every week for 12 months to keep their resolve to change their lives for the better.

Academy's success rate is more than 70%. That is especially impressive when one considers that as many as 50% of high school students in urban areas like Houston, Dallas, and San Antonio drop out every year in Texas.

For more information about The Texas Challenge Academy, contact Mr. Mike Weir, Program Director at (432) 836-1516 or michael.weir@isisd.net/ The website for TCA is www.ngycp.org/site/state/tx.

new duties. "It just couldn't be done, boys," he told reporters. "A warden can't be a warden and a killer, too. The penitentiary is a place to reform a man, not to kill him."

A retired lawman volunteered to take his place. "I have hanged several men while I was sheriff," he noted, "and to pull the switch of an electric chair means no more to me than pulling the lever of the gallows."

But opening night for "Old Sparky" was a ghoulish ordeal even the experienced executioner found hard to stomach. Since no one had been put to death in several months, five executions were scheduled back-to-back.

After sending the fourth man to his doom, the shaken warden phoned the governor and pleaded with him to call it a night. Told to finish the job, he wearily ordered the guards to bring in the fifth and final inmate.

The numb witnesses stared at the five sheet-shrouded forms lying side by side on the floor next to the electric chair. Someone finally broke the strange spell by heading for the exit, and the rest followed in a stupor.

A newspaperman caught up with L.K. Irwin in the parking lot and pumped the politician for his reaction. "It was more humane," he argued lamely, "but at the next legislature I'm going to sponsor a bill to stop the death penalty."

"*Revolution & Republic: Texas 1832-1846*" — "Best of This Week in Texas History" collection available for \$10.95 plus \$3.25 postage and handling from Bartee Haile, P.O. Box 152, Friendswood, TX 77549 or order online at [www.twith.com](http://www.twith.com).

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 Rev. John Montgomery, Pastor

9:30 a.m. -- Sunday School  
 10:45 a.m. -- Morning Worship  
 5:30 p.m. -- Wednesday Bible Study

Everyone's invited to come and join us in our time of worship.

Super Crossword Answers

