

# Lexington Leader

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## Lower Student Enrollment Hard on LISD Budget

The Lexington I.S.D. Board of Trustees held their regular meeting on Monday, October 19.

In the Superintendent's report, Dr. Chuck Holt reviewed the 2009-2010 budget following the end of the first six weeks. He reported that student enrollment is not adequate to generate state funds

to meet the budget. When asked by the Leader to clarify, Dr. Holt said, "It's not as bad as it sounds, but I wanted to let the board know early in the year so that we can be prepared for the future."

He continued, "We're usually ahead of the budget. It's very unusual for us to get behind, but

enrollment is down about 20 students this year and, since we're paid by the student [from the state], we have to contemplate cost saving measures now."

In 2005, LISD's student enrollment hit its high at 1046. This year's enrollment is almost 100 kids less than that, the cause of which

could be a combination of the economy, sub-contractors no longer working at Alcoa and students moving out of the district. Dr. Holt said for the past 20 years, LISD's enrollment has averaged a 3% increase each year. However, this year, enrollment was down.

During the board meeting, Dr. Holt said administrators will continue to review the budget to find cost saving measures for the school year if enrollment does not increase.

In other board news, the minutes of the September 21, 2009 regular meeting, board financial report,

quarterly investment report and levy roll were approved.

The audit report for year ending August 31, 2009 was presented by Trey Moses with John R. Pechacek, Certified Public Accountant, and was accepted as presented.

English Language Arts textbooks are up for adoption for all grades. The committee, as recommended by administrators and approved by the board, will consist of teachers from each campus. They will begin reviewing texts and attending book fairs in order to recommend the most suitable textbooks for each campus.

The Quarterly Curriculum and Instruction Report was presented. To meet the newest health TEKS, a sexuality curriculum must be taught to secondary students. The curriculum entitled "Big Decisions" was found to be the most appropriate for our students. This curriculum like any sexuality curriculum in Texas, offers parents the option of excluding their child. Katharine Bricker reported on the research and recommendation of this curriculum. The Board voted to approve the "Big Decisions" curriculum.

The Board of Trustees convened in closed session to discuss a teacher's letter of resignation, effective immediately, which was received via fax.

In open session, the members of the board voted 5-0 on a motion to propose the termination of the contract of Mara McDowell on the basis of the abandonment of her contract with the District. McDowell has 15 days to appeal the board action to the commissioner.

The board agenda items for the November meeting were reviewed.

Board trainings are scheduled for November 9th and February 22, 2010.

## Snow's Gets More National Recognition

To be Featured on United States 2010 Census Website

Pictured at the left are members from the creative team helping to produce a new website for the US Census. They are (seated) Victor Romero with the US Census, (standing left to right) David Berenbroick, Bailey Kindlon, Josh Hilliard and Kevin Dreyfuss, all with Draft FCB in New York City. Below are Tootsie Tomanetz and Kerry Bexley with Snow's.



A representative from the US Census Bureau and members of a creative team from New York City were in Lexington last Wednesday to shoot a video and take still shots of Kerry Bexley and Tootsie Tomanetz with Snow's BBQ. Their efforts will be incorporated in the Census' new website

www.2010census.gov. Draft FCB from New York City is the creative agency working with the Census Bureau, helping to put together an interactive website that will educate the general public about the Census.

The group of photographers, videographers and web techs,

along with Victor Romero, Public Information Officer with the United States Census Bureau, have already traveled to Washington DC, Chicago and Miami visiting with "everyday people" who represent a good mix of locations throughout the country. The group will head to Austin, San

Antonio and Portland, Oregon after they leave Lexington.

The website is up and running now, but Snow's exposure will be uploaded later in November.

Most Lexington locals will remember that Texas Monthly named Snow's BBQ the Best Barbecue in Texas in their June

2008 issue. Since that time, the Saturday-morning-only business greets hungry crowds who have traveled from all over Texas to try their "now famous fare". But that's not all, Snow's also serves "regulars" from California and New York, as well, which may be how the US Census found them.

## Giddings Man Gets Concurrent Sentences

On October 20, 2009, during the 21st Judicial District Court of Lee County, with the Honorable Terry Flenniken presiding, Kenneth Jobbor Simpson, 31, of Giddings was sentenced for charges stemming from an 11+ hour manhunt. He was charged with Burglary of a Habitation-Assault, Repeat Felony Offender and Aggravated Kidnapping. On the burglary charge, he was sentenced to 25 years confinement in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice plus \$750 in fees and court costs. On the kidnapping charge, he was sentenced to 20 years confinement in TDCJ, plus \$750 in fees and costs.

According to the Texas Department of Public Safety website, Simpson has been in and out of jail since 1997.

For this most recent sentencing,

Simpson reportedly led four different law enforcement agencies and sixteen officers, along with one DPS helicopter, on a chase that lasted 11.5 hours. As reported in the Leader last September, a female victim told the Giddings Police Department she had been kidnapped from her home and was held captive. She said the abductor took her from Giddings to Bastrop and then to Lake Somerville before taking her to his home on FM 141 north of Giddings. She was later released and Officers with GPD and Lee County Sheriff's Office were dispatched to find her abductor.

A GPD officer went to speak with Simpson's neighbors and observed Simpson in the residence before he was able to escape. Officers canvassed the area and saw Simpson. A foot pursuit ensued. Simpson led

officers on a 2-mile chase where he was able to gain seclusion in a wooded creek area. He was not located.

DPS and the Texas Rangers were called to assist in the hunt. Later that afternoon the Giddings Fire Department was dispatched to the victim's residence where it was believed that Simpson had ignited a fire in a closet. A DPS Helicopter was requested, along with blood hounds from TDCJ.

The DPS helicopter saw Simpson on CR 117 at around 3:30 that afternoon and led officers to his location. A foot pursuit began with Simpson running from Texas Ranger Jimmy Schroeder. A physical altercation took place between Simpson and the Ranger. Other officers arrived and assisted with the apprehension. Simpson was transported to the Lee County Jail.

Also sentenced in the District Court proceedings were David Lee Watson, 29, of La Grange for Driving While Intoxicated - Subsequent; Wesley Gene Haney, 27, of Lexington for Burglary of a Building; Terry Lynn Tuttle, 46, of Giddings for Assault-Bodily Injury-Family Violence, With One Prior Conviction; Javier Pedreza, 20, of Giddings for Aggravated Assault With a Deadly Weapon-Bodily Injury; Andrew Dee Norsworthy, 18, of La Grange for Burglary of a Building-Engaging in Criminal Activity and Victoria Ann Martinez, 28, of Bastrop for Theft by Check - \$1500-\$20,000.



Pictured above are members of the Homecoming Court for Lexington High School. They are (left to right, front to back) Ashton Johnston, Rachel Edwards, Jodie Armstrong, Jessica Parish, Julien Clark, Keldon Wren, Chase Sunvison and Clinton Hutson.

## Election Day is Tuesday

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, 2009. The state of Texas will be considering 11 different constitutional propositions. A list of the polling places follows: Voting Pcts. 101, 102, 103 - Giddings Public Library, 276 N. Orange, Giddings; Voting Pcts 201, 202, 203 - District Court Building, 289 S. Main, Giddings; Voting Pcts. 301, 302, 304 - Wilson Boyd (Pct. 3) Building, 8871 Hwy

77N., Lexington; Voting Pct. 303 - Blue Fire Station, 4401 CR 309, Lexington; Voting Pct. 401- Dime Box Fire Station, 1010 Stephen F. Austin Blvd., Dime Box; Voting Pcts. 402, 405 - First Christian Church Parish Hall, 1008 CR 410, Lexington; and Voting Pcts. 403, 404 - Martin Luther Lutheran Church, 573 N. Main, Giddings. Polling places are open from 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

## LHS Homecoming This Friday

Lexington High School will present this year's Homecoming Queen and King this Friday night at Eagle Stadium during half time ceremonies. Kickoff is at 7:30 p.m.

This year's nominees for Queen are Ashton Johnston, daughter of Rhett Johnston and Kelye Johnston; Rachel Edwards, daughter of Grady Ray and Terri Edwards; Jodie Armstrong, daughter of Jim and Jane Armstrong; and Jessica Parish,

daughter of Richard and Helen Parish. Nominees for Homecoming King are Julien Clark, son of Richard and Jewel Clark; Keldon Wren, son of Byron and Karen Wren; Chase Sunvison, son of Deanna Allen and John Sunvison; and Clinton Hutson, son of Darvin and Kim Hutson.

Students at Lexington High School also chose Class Favorites last week, who will also be introduced during the half time

ceremonies. Junior Favorites this year are Angel Parks, daughter of Angela and Tony Stinnet and Spencer Taylor, son of Darrel and Lori Taylor. Sophomore Favorites are Brooke Tuel, daughter of Theresa and Kevin Tuel and Zane Kleinschmidt, son of Tim and Anna Kleinschmidt. Freshman Favorites are Marley Ross, daughter of Kevin and Lynn Ross and Kogan Garrett, son of Chad and Sandy Garrett.