

Republicans, Democrats pass resolutions at conventions

Republicans

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secure national borders, end the economic incentives for illegal immigration and reject any form of amnesty for illegal immigrants.

The resolution also calls for placing a moratorium on temporary worker and guest worker legislation until illegal immigration has been controlled.

In addition, the measure calls for defunding or repealing any government program or agreement such as the North American Free Trade Agreement, which the resolution states will lead to the creation of an open-border North American Union and eliminate American independence.

•Comprehensive immigrant worker program reforms

The resolution outlines nine reforms, including the elimination of taxpayer-funded benefits such as free medical care, food stamps and free education to illegal immigrants. It also calls for criminal sanctions, increasing in severity with each infraction, for illegal immigrants and recommends increased penalties for employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants.

Other proposals include halting the issuance of driver licenses to illegal immigrants, increasing the number of Border Control agents and withholding fed-

eral funding for jurisdictions that refuse to cooperate with enforcement of federal immigration laws.

•Textbooks vs. laptops

The resolution states opposition to replacing textbooks with laptop computers in public school classrooms.

Replacing books with computers, the resolution states, would burden taxpayers, cause Texas to lose its considerable clout with textbook publishers and generate no academic improvement.

•County appraisal boards

Elect all members to appraisal districts' board of directors. Taxing entities currently appoint board members.

•Support for Boy Scouts

The resolution condemns efforts to force the Boy Scouts of America to admit openly homosexual scoutmasters, remove a statement of belief in God from the organization's pledge or admit girls into the Boy Scouts.

The resolution concludes, "The Republican Party of Texas recognizes the incalculable positive contributions that the Boy Scouts of America has made to the United States and honors them for the commitment to character building in young men."

Democrats

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a woman requests from her doctor."

All medical records should remain private and unavailable to the government, and the government should "adequately fund universal family planning and gynecological services, including abortion procedures, to all women needing government assistance."

•Public education

The resolution calls for a series of reforms, including universal pre-kindergarten and kindergarten -- paid for by federal, state and local tax money and "private dollars" -- for all three- and four-year-old children; increased national and state funding for college financial aid; and national core curriculum standards.

Other reforms include repeal of the No Child Left Behind Act and a significant reduction in the number of standardized tests administered each school year.

•Homosexual rights

Proposals include recognizing same-sex marriages; making available to homosexual couples "all benefits and legal entitlements available to heterosexual couples;" strengthening and enforcing hate crimes laws and ending the ban on "openly gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered individuals" serving in the United States armed forces.

The resolution also calls for laws to allow homosexuals and bisexual and transgendered individuals to adopt, make medical decisions for their partners, receive inheritance from their partners and obtain insurance benefits through their partners.

•Repeal the USA Patriot Act

The resolution states the law abridges citizens' rights by allowing the FBI to search private medical or library records without a warrant or probable cause.

•Foreign intervention

Urges Congress to refuse permission to deploy American troops or send weapons to another country unless that nation poses "an unquestionably imminent and deadly threat" to the United States.

•Border wall

Opposes the building of a wall or fence along any section of the Rio Grande.

•Death penalty

Calls for the abolition in Texas of the death penalty, which the resolution says disproportionately targets minorities and does not deter violent crime.

•Iraq

The resolution calls for a timetable, flexible to conditions in Iraq, for withdrawal of troops and contractors. Congress should refuse to allocate any more funds for military operations in Iraq other than what is needed for withdrawal.

•Impeachment

President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney should be impeached "for high crimes and misdemeanors against the people, the laws and the Constitution of the United States of America."

The resolution says Bush advocated war in Iraq by citing "trumped-up information about Iraq's weapons capabilities" and "falsely implying that Iraq sheltered terrorists."

The resolution also charges that Bush and Cheney have violated international law by waterboarding terrorist suspects.

•State income tax

The Texas Legislature should place a referendum on the state ballot to allow voters to consider amending the state constitution to establish a progressive state income tax "covering natural persons and business entities."

•Landfills/recycling

The Texas Legislature should require trash facilities to renew their permits -- which currently have no time limits -- every 10 years. The legislature also should promote recycling, promote the development of "green" jobs and businesses, conserve natural resources and "reduce the creation of climate-changing gases."

•Alternative energy

Calls for the promotion of hydropower and wind, solar and geothermal energy, along with promoting the development of ethanol and biodiesel.

The resolution also calls for policies to educate and encourage students to pursue careers in the alternative energy industry.

Hearing on docket for murder suspect

A pretrial hearing is set April 18 for John Robert Martinez, 28, of Copperas Cove for capital murder.

Martinez is charged in the death of 31-year-old Copperas Cove resident Hidi Gower, whose body was discovered last July at the Kempner VFW in east Lampasas County.

He remains in the Lampasas County Jail on a \$1 million bond.

Mrs. Gower was the victim of an alleged murder-for-hire plot instigated by her husband, Donald Dean Gower, 39, of Copperas Cove, who also is charged with capital murder.

In other court action, Terry Jack Ayers, 50, of Holiday was sentenced to seven years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Institutional Division for intoxication assault. He also was ordered to pay \$360,000 in restitution. Ayers was credited with jail time served.

Also receiving a jail sentence was

Brandon Lloyd Broach, 26, for violating probation on a possession of a controlled substance charge.

Broach was given 18 months in state jail.

An arrest warrant was issued and bond increased for Shaun Keone Spencer of Killeen, who failed to show up for court. He is charged with possession of a controlled substance, cocaine.

Kempner resident Gerald Dee Brown, 42, faces arraignment Friday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance, methamphetamine.

Pretrial hearings are set April 11 for Armando Rosales, 29, for criminal mischief over \$1,500 and under \$20,000; and for Mark Anthony Lujan, 31, for aggravated assault/threat with a deadly weapon.

Pleas are expected to be entered

April 18 by Mary Lou Plumley, 46, for possession of a controlled substance, methamphetamine; and Zachary Bothof, 24, of Lampasas for misapplication of fiduciary funds, property code.

Ms. Plumley also has a revocation hearing on the April 18 docket for possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver.

April 18 pretrial hearings are slated for Mary Anne Curington, 53, of Burnet for possession of a chemical with intent to manufacture; and Lori Michelle Cumming, 32, of Lampasas for criminal non-support.

Pleas are to be entered May 9 by Thomas Edward Austerberry, 23, of Harker Heights for evading arrest with a vehicle; and for Joshua Steven Joswick, 19, for evading arrest with a vehicle. Presentence investigations were ordered.

Lampasas students to "be hungry" for children worldwide

Wars and natural disasters all over the world dominate the daily headlines but behind the scenes and far from the spotlight, hunger and preventable diseases claim the lives of 29,000 of the world's children each day.

Right now, more than 850 million people around the world don't have enough to eat. Annually, more than 10 million children under the age of 5 die from disease and malnutrition as a result of hunger.

But world hunger is preventable and teens from Lampasas are ready to be a part of the solution. On April 11, they will be joining the efforts of hundreds of thousands of young people all over the nation who will set aside the usual "stuff" that fills their daily lives. Instead, they will "Be Hungry," the theme for World Vision's 30-Hour Famine this year, by going without food for 30 hours to get a taste of what the world's poorest children and families face every day.

Prior to the event weekend, students raise funds with the knowledge that every \$30 they raise can help feed and care for a child for a month. Groups also were encouraged to perform hands-on service projects during the weekend in order to make a difference in their own community as well.

As part of the famine, local participants will be fasting for 30 hours beginning at 1 a.m. April 11. After school, local students will meet at First United Methodist Church to learn about the plight of African children, the AIDS pandemic and what they can do locally to impact hunger issues stateside.

During the fast, they will build a one-room house, which will be located in the Wesley Fellowship Hall, in order to bring education to the

community and congregation on exactly what is going on in Africa, from AIDS and orphans to child soldiers.

This is the third year First United Methodist has hosted this event and has opened it to all students who want to make an impact on the world around them.

"This is not about denomination -- this is about serving God," said Becky Jackson, youth pastor.

Students also will sleep in cardboard boxes on the front lawn of the church. Students must raise a minimum of \$30 to participate in the event -- all of which goes to World Vision to be evenly distributed to the needy.

"Believe it or not, the students love sleeping in the boxes," said Mrs. Jackson.

"I encourage our community to drive by during the event and check out what our students are doing."

The 30-Hour Famine has a lasting impact, not just on the children and families receiving life-changing food and care, but also on participants who view their own potential to affect change very differently afterward, said Debbie Diederich, national director of the World Vision 30-Hour Famine.

Funds raised by participants help feed and care for children in poverty-afflicted countries around the globe and they contribute to World Vision's response in areas where famine, conflict and other crises make children vulnerable to hunger and preventable disease.

Since 1992, 30-Hour Famine has raised more than \$100 million, representing countless saved lives. World Vision works in 100 countries, helping approximately 100 million people every year.

County road closure noted

County Road 2200 will be closed Monday beginning at 8 a.m. for approximately six hours while Burlington-Northern-Santa Fe Railroad replaces the railroad crossing.

Training set for applicators

Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Lampasas County is hosting a private applicator training April 15 at 8:30 a.m. at the Lampasas County Office Building conference room for those wanting to obtain a pesticide license.

A private applicator license enables one to purchase and use restricted-use pesticides and herbicides. Cost is \$35 per person, which covers instructional materials and a catered lunch.

A Texas Department of Agriculture representative will be on hand after lunch to give the test.

Registration deadline is Tuesday. Phone 556-8271 or stop by the Extension office to register and pick up materials.

WMA sets gathering

Donalson Creek Wildlife Management Association will meet Saturday at 10 a.m. at Gordon Chapin's ranch, two miles north of FM 580 West on County Road 1225.

Information on last year's accomplishments will be discussed, including increased antler size and conditions.

Door prizes will be offered from local businesses, and Mike Krueger with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will introduce the new biologist. Everyone who lives or hunts in the area of FM 580 West is invited to attend.

Downtown

Participating Courtyard Square merchants are staying open later on the first Friday of each month, offering live entertainment on the bandstand and in-store specials.

Tonight, D'Anne Willis will perform from 6-7:30 p.m., and customers may register for a \$25 gift certificate from participating stores.

Registration is from 5-7 p.m., and the winner will be announced at the conclusion of the concert.

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Groundwater district plans for meeting

Central Texas Groundwater Conservation District will hold a public hearing and board meeting Monday at 6 p.m. at the Burnet County Courthouse's main courtroom, second floor.

The hearing will be on proposed district rules, including the registration of water wells and other rules.

The regular board meeting will include a Groundwater Management Area 8 update, and election of unopposed candidates for director.

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