

**Weekend Edition**

SATURDAY • SUNDAY • MONDAY • TUESDAY

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\$1

## KISD plans \$40 million bond issue

The Kingsville Independent School District board of trustees authorized KISD administrators to proceed with a bond election of \$40 million at a special meeting held Friday morning.

The bond election has been set for May 8, and if the bond is voter approved, the funds will be used for a new high school.

KISD Superintendent Emilio Castro said a facilities exploratory committee will be designated and meetings are planned throughout the city to share information.

KISD is in the process of scheduling meetings at each school campus and KISD departments beginning this week.

Karen Griffith, KISD Chief Administrative Officer, explained that 43 percent of the \$40 million bond would be paid through state funds from the state's Instructional Facilities Allotment.

This would leave 57 percent of the cost to taxpayers of the district, yielding an average tax increase of 17 cents per \$100 property valuation.

This would mean a tax increase of about \$161 per year to the average homeowner.

"In listening to our community over the last eight months, it has become an important priority to ensure the students of Kingsville have their needs addressed," Castro said.

The current state of our high school is one of those key priorities.

"In 2007, a facilities study was conducted, revealing that the high school, built in 1963 has become functionally obsolete," Castro said.

"We have the opportunity to address this need with substantial state assistance," Castro said.

## Constable Arnold Arguijo retiring for health reasons

Precinct 1 Constable Arnold Arguijo has announced his retirement effective Feb. 28. He is retiring for health reasons. He has served as constable for 17 years and also worked three years with the Kleberg County Sheriff's Department.

During his tenure as a constable he worked with three JPs, a bailiff with the Justice of the Peace court and served as a civil processor. He created a drug forfeiture fund in 1994 and used the proceeds to buy equipment for the office and hire part time personnel at no cost to the taxpayer. He worked interdiction on the highway and assisted the Sheriff's Department.

Arguijo said he is going to miss helping people in need.

"I wish to thank the people who supported me throughout the years, and all my family and friends," he said Tuesday.

"I especially want to thank Willie Garza who encouraged me to run for office in 1992," Arguijo said. "He was instrumental in getting me involved in politics and helping me win my first election."

He is also appreciative of Adan Munoz, former Kleberg County Sheriff, who gave him the opportunity to work in law enforcement in 1989.

Arguijo, a 1982 H.M. King High School graduate, holds advanced law enforcement certifications.

He still plans to be involved in the community.

**Color Comics — Page 6C**

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**Inside This Issue**



Soybean Ink



**GROOMING TO PERFECTION** — Austin Silva, a member of the Riviera Starzz 4H Club, takes care of final grooming tasks on his show lamb before leading it into the arena for judging. Austin was one of hundreds of youngsters who took part in the 59th annual Kleberg-Kenedy County Junior Livestock Show, which concluded Saturday with the annual auction of livestock exhibits. Show results and grand champion photos will be published once auction tabulations are completed.



**Local dignitaries led by KISD Superintendent Emilio Castro, Mayor Sam Fugate and County Judge Pete De La Garza were on hand for the Douglass Community Center renovation project groundbreaking.** (Photo by Erika Hernandez)

## Douglass renovation a reality

A groundbreaking ceremony for the Douglass Community Center renovation project was held Friday with local dignitaries on hand to celebrate.

The Douglass Community Center, which has been

attempting to be renovated for the past 15 years, will begin a six-month renovation project by K.J.M. Commercial Inc. through the efforts of the City of Kingsville, Kleberg County, the Douglass Center Board

of Directors, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, and the Kingsville Independent School District.

"This is the eve of a new era," Rev. Jerry Miller said. "To be here today to (See Douglass, Page 8A)



**Members of the Santa Gertrudis ISD Board of Trustees recently were honored during a celebration of School Board Recognition Month.** Pictured, left to right, front row, are Flo Falcon, trustee; Carrie DeLaney, trustee; Rhonda Silguero, board vice president; Alexandra Feild, board president; Noela Garcia, trustee; back row, Jesse Garcia, trustee, and Bob Kinnan, board secretary.

## Santa Gertrudis ISD celebrates School Board Recognition Month

Last month Governor Rick Perry proclaimed January as School Board Recognition Month to build awareness and understanding of the vital function an elected board of education plays in our communities, and the

Santa Gertrudis Independent School District joined with other districts throughout the state to thank board members for caring about the future of every child enrolled in public schools.

attended the SGISD board meeting on Jan. 20 and read a proclamation dedicated to the school board members.

The proclamation urged all citizens to join in recognizing the hard work of local school (See SGISD, Page 8A)

## Junior high coach guilty of molesting a child here

A junior high school coach has pleaded guilty Tuesday to molesting a child.

Jesus Gutierrez, 46, pleaded guilty to two counts of the second degree felony, indecency with a child by touching, and received eight years probation.

"A majority of our educators are great people, dedicating their lives to our young people," District Attorney John Hubert said, "however, when one commits a crime like this, he or she must be held accountable and kept away from the rest of our children."

As a condition of the probation, he received 90 days in jail.

Gutierrez will be required to register as a sex offender during the time of his probation and for 10 years after it concludes.

Gutierrez worked as a coach in a local middle school and began a relationship with one of his students under 15 years of age.

"This was painful on everyone else involved — the victim, her family and even the school and the defendant's family," Hubert said.

"One of the reasons this wasn't worse was the involvement by the parents," the DA noted.

"The mother of the victim was there for her child," he said.

If Gutierrez violates his probation, he may be sentenced for up to 20 years in prison, Hubert said.

## Man who beat his girlfriend going to prison

Willie James Lewis, 26, was sentenced Monday to 15 years in prison after pleading no contest to a second degree felony of a burglary of a habitation and second degree felony of aggravated assault causing serious bodily injury.

He pleaded to the court without a plea agreement.

After the pleas and testimony by witnesses, Lewis asked for probation while the prosecution asked for 20 years in prison.

The judge assessed 15 years on both counts, to run concurrently.

The underlying offense occurred on May 17, 2009 when the defendant entered the apartment of a former girlfriend.

Upon seeing someone else there, he ordered the other person to leave and proceeded to beat his girlfriend.

He then drug the victim by her hair to the truck where he proceeded to assault her as he was driving, according to (See Assault, Page 8A)

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