

The Luling Newsboy & Signal

Vol. 136 • No. 37

• THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2015 •

\$1.00



BOOK OFFERED - R. Gaines Baty discusses his book with Luling residents Frank Clark and Ginger Robbins. The publication, about former Luling coach Burl Baty, includes comments and quotes by former Luling players.

Publication addresses the legacy of Coach Burl Baty

Most of us are fortunate enough to grow up in a family with both our parents - for others that was not a reality. For R. Gaines Baty growing up with his father did not occur. Coach Burl Baty was killed in a motor vehicle accident when his son was only four years old.

So, for almost 10 years, R. Gaines has been getting acquainted with his father through the legacy Coach Baty established in his short life (1924-1954). That research has resulted in a recently released book - *Champion of the Barrio*.

The author was in Luling before Thanksgiving, to visit with former Eagles who played football under Coach Baty, and to offer copies of his book.

Coach Baty was a standout football player at Paris High School, under Coach Raymond Berry, and then went on to A&M College, where he played under head coach Homer Norton in the 1940s. He was a star quarterback there.

He was drafted by the Detroit Lions in 1947, but opted to begin his coaching career instead. His first job was at Luling High School, in 1949. He then became the head football coach in El Paso, at Bowie High School.

The author said that he met with 100s of people as he did research for his book. He said that the interviews were re-

warding experiences, and they reinforced his opinion that his father was a great man, and a great leader. He has done interviews with radio stations throughout the U.S. and Canada, and his book was one of those featured at the Texas Book Festival.

He explained that the publication is "sort of" about sports. It is filled with great quotes and fun stories from men his father coached, and a lot of great locker room psychology.

"It has been inspiring and humbling to get to know my father through the eyes of others," Baty said. He added that his mother and a number of his father's friends and former players passed away before he finished the book.

"I learned a lot about my father, and I learned a lot from him - through the eyes of others - including life lessons, especially from those he coached in Luling and El Paso. He taught them how to be men, citizens, and winners," the author said.

His time in Luling is highlighted in the publication, with quotes and comments by former Eagles.

"My parents were happy here," he said.

In El Paso during 1950 there were a lot of problems with discrimination. "My father taught his players that they were the same as everyone else. He helped them rise above discrimination - before it was popular, or legal, to do so.

"Some of those guys didn't realize that things should be different until they saw him arguing for them," he said. "They developed character, heart, and leadership - traits that made them men, and helped them rise above racism and bigotry."

Baty said that besides writing the book so he could learn more about his father, he wanted his children to know who he was, and learn the lessons that he taught and the things that he did. "Those lessons are relevant today in this broken world we live in."

Copies of *The Champion of the Barrio* have been placed in the Nickells Memorial Library, and in the Luling High School Library.

The publication is also available at book stores, or from the Texas A&M University Press.

The author has an executive search business, or is a "corporate head hunter" in the technical field. Owning and operating his own company has afforded him added time to do research, to write,

11-month rainfall tally is over 44"

November's rainfall total, 1.95 inches, brings the 11-month total for 2015 to 44.03 inches - just under the 11-month high (since 2000) of 44.73, recorded in 2001, and the high for this century of 55.23 inches, in 2004.

The November total is higher than normal, despite the four months that got less than an inch - .76 inch in February, no rainfall in July, .08 of an inch in August, and .42 of an inch in September. The top monthly tally so far this year was the 11.98 inches of rain-

fall in May. The area received 8.65 inches in October, and 8.08 in April, to level things out.

The historic high rainfall total for the 11th month, 12.45 inches, was recorded in 2004, and the all-time low total, .02 of an inch, fell in 1970.

The high temperature last month was 88 degrees, which has been the high November temperature since 2000. That high was also noted in 2002, 2003, and 2005.

The average daily high for the month was 71.7 degrees,

which falls in the normal range.

Low for the month was 29 degrees, with an average daily low of 51.5 degrees. THE ADL is higher than normal, with most Novembers, since 2000, recording ADLs in the 40s.

The historic high for the month is 92 degrees, which was recorded in 1989, and the all-time low was in 1900, when the low reading was 19 degrees.

Caldwell County designated for federal disaster assistance

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced in late November that federal disaster assistance has been made available to the state of Texas to supplement state tribal and local recovery efforts in the area affected by severe storms, tornadoes, straight-line winds, and flooding during the period of October 22-31.

This action, by the president, makes federal funding available to affected individuals in Bastrop, Brazoria,

Caldwell, Comal, Galveston, Guadalupe, hardin, Harris, Hays, Hidalgo, Liberty, Navarro, Travis, Willacy, and Wilson Counties.

Assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

Federal funding is also available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures statewide.

See *DISASTER* page 12

38-year-old man dies from smoke inhalation

A 38-year-old Caldwell County man lost his life in a residence fire on November 26.

The Caldwell County Sheriff's Office received a 911 call about a house, located at 2036 St. Johns Road, in Dale, being on fire, and emergency personnel were dispatched around 2:20 a.m. for a structure fire.

Deputies and members of the Chisholm Trail Volunteer Fire Department arrived at the scene and began to attack the fire.

Mutual aid was requested from the Maxwell, McMahan, Mid County and Bastrop County Volunteer Fire Departments.

The body of the man, identified as Jose Gonzales, was later discovered in the home.

The Caldwell County Sheriff's Office and the State Fire Marshall's Office will continue to investigate this fire. Preliminary findings indicate that the fire was accidental and that the victim died as a result of smoke inhalation.

Annual Blue Santa projects are underway

Luling Police Department is hosting its annual Blue Santa fund-raising event at Blake's Cafe on Tuesday, December 8th, from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. This is a rare opportunity to see your local police officers in action, serving up meals instead of citations. They will be working for tips, and accepting monetary donations, as well as new, unwrapped children's toys.

Families can be referred for Blue Santa by completing an application. Applications are available at all Luling ISD schools, Luling City Hall, the Luling Police Department at 1800 East Pierce Street, and may also be requested via e-mail at: bluesanta@cityofluling.net. Applications should be turned in to Dispatch no later than December 11.

To be eligible for the 2015

Blue Santa program, families must meet the two requirements: They must live in the Luling Independent School District; and be available at their residence on Saturday, December 19th, between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m., to accept delivery of gifts.

Anyone wishing to help with the program, is asked to contact bluesanta@cityofluling.net for more information.

Volunteers will gather at Blue Santa Headquarters December 14-18, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. to wrap and organize packages for delivery.

Packages will be delivered on December 19, beginning at 7 a.m.

The Blue Santa 2015 program is a continued endeavor of the Luling Police Department. This program is an open request for families with children who attend the Luling

November			
	Temperature High	Temperature Low	Rainfall Inches
1	77	55	0.00
2	81	55	0.00
3	82	58	0.00
4	81	64	0.00
5	88	64	0.16
6	78	60	0.26
7	63	54	0.09
8	69	51	0.00
9	77	52	0.00
10	75	64	0.00
11	88	59	0.00
12	71	58	0.00
13	65	56	0.00
14	66	53	0.02
15	75	54	0.00
16	77	66	0.22
17	76	43	0.65
18	74	43	0.00
19	80	44	0.00
20	77	48	0.00
21	66	34	0.04
22	57	30	0.00
23	63	29	0.00
24	67	49	0.00
25	77	63	0.07
26	78	69	0.12
27	78	41	0.29
28	45	41	0.00
29	47	43	0.03
30	53	45	0.00

ISD and need assistance with providing toys and gifts for their children between the ages of two and 14.

Early deadlines for the holidays

Due to early printing schedules this month, deadlines for the December 24th and December 31st issues of *The Newsboy* are being changed.

The deadline for stories, ads, pictures, etc. for the Christmas issue, December 24 - including Letters to Santa, is at 5 p.m. Friday, December 18; and the deadline for the December 31st issue is 5 p.m. Monday, December 28.

Churches and civic groups that are planning special holiday programs and/or services are asked to get the information in by 5 p.m. December 14.

The Luling Newsboy & Signal is available at:
 H-E-B Food Store
 Jud's
 Valero's
 Dismukes Pharmacy
 Kool Korner
 P.J. Mart
 Luling Mini Mart
 E.B. Davis Gift Shop
 Warm Springs Hospital
 Circle K
 or on the web at
www.lulingnewsboy.com

The burn ban has been lifted!

Luling is NOT under WATER RESTRICTIONS at this time



See *BATY* page 12



HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS - H-E-B invites everyone to Home for a Holidays Event on Saturday, December 12, from 1-3 p.m. There will be sample stations set up throughout the store so that customers can sample the many flavors of the holidays - including prime rib, tortilla soup, homemade Hershey Kisses cookies, and holiday ice cream, just to name a few. The event offers plenty of ideas for planning holiday gatherings. The store will undergo a "produce remodel" on December 8th. "We will have all new fixtures, many new items, and an entire new format that will be quite impressive," said Store Manager Tad Forbis.

Disaster

Kevin L. Hannes has been made as the Federal Coordinating Officer for federal recovery operations in the affected area. Hannes said additional designations may be made at a later date if requested by the state and warranted by the results of further damage assessments.

After disaster survivors have registered for federal disaster assistance, FEMA will ask them to provide information on disaster damage, proof of identity and residence, insurance and other documentation, to determine eligibility.

As a first step, a FEMA contract inspector will contact applicants to make an appointment to view disaster damage. It is important to provide good contact information at the time of registration and keep the appointment to keep the application moving forward.

Applicants unable to be present for the inspection can designate someone in the household over 18 years of age who was living at in the household prior to the disaster. If an inspection cannot be made, FEMA cannot continue to process the application. Applicants should contact FEMA if they have not heard from an inspector within one week of reg-

istering.

The inspector is thoroughly trained and uses specialized software to verify disaster damage quickly. The inspection may only last 10 or 20 minutes. The inspector does not make decisions on eligibility; FEMA will notify applicants in writing of its decision.

Home owners may use FEMA housing assistance grants to repair or replace:

- Key systems such as plumbing, electrical and heating;
- Structural components such as roofs, outside walls and foundations;
- Windows, doors, floors, walls, ceiling, cabinetry
- Septic and well systems
- Mobile home resetting and anchoring, and reconnecting utilities

Renters and home owners may qualify for grants for other disaster-related necessary expenses and serious needs, such as clothing, child care, room furnishings and appliances, medical and dental costs, specialized tools, heating fuels, vehicles and moving and storage expenses.

Both home owners and renters should be able to provide identification and proof of occupancy, such as a lease, rent receipt or utility

bill. Additionally, homeowners will be asked to provide proof of ownership, such as a property deed or title, mortgage payment book, property insurance policy or tax receipts.

Important documents destroyed in the disaster may be duplicated with help from outside sources, such as a county clerk's office, insurance agency, or utility company.

Although there are other legitimate inspectors in the field, beware of people posing as FEMA inspectors or "FEMA approved" repair contractors. FEMA makes no such endorsements. In a disaster, scammers abound; be cautious with strangers, especially those from outside the area.

Legitimate FEMA inspectors will have the applicant's nine-digit case number assigned at registration. Inspections are free; inspectors are not authorized to ask for personal financial information other than to verify information provided at registration.

Individuals and business owners who sustained losses in the designated areas can begin applying for assistance by registering online, at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or by web enabled mo-

bile devices at m.fema.gov.

Disaster assistance applicants who have a speech disability or hearing loss and use TTY, should call 1-800-462-7585 direction, for those who use 711 or Video Relay Service (VRS), call 1-800-621-3362. The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week until further notice.

Maxwell to hold trash collection

A Caldwell County Collection Event will be held December 12, in Maxwell. There will be roll off dumpsters on site from 8 a.m. until they are full, or 12 noon, whichever comes first. The event site is 9675 Hwy 142 Maxwell, the Precinct 3 office

The event is free to all citizens of Caldwell County to dispose of waste. No hazardous waste will be accepted. You must be a Caldwell County citizen to participate. Auto tires will not be accepted.

For a list of what you can and cannot bring is located at the Environmental/Code Department 405 East Market St. or call Mike Bitner at 512-398-1836, or look on the Caldwell County web page.

Farmers concerned about ice

by Robert Burns
Some farmers were concerned about the recent ice and rain in the High Plains causing deterioration of cotton grade and quality, according to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service reports.

However, Dr. Gaylon Morgan, AgriLife Extension state cotton specialist, College Station, said past studies have shown one such event usually does not adversely affect grade or quality to any significant degree.

Morgan cited a study done Dr. Randy Boman and Mark Kelley in 2001 that showed weathering can impact fiber quality over time.

Boman, now with Oklahoma State University, is the past regional cotton agronomist based in Lubbock. Kelley is the current program specialist for AgriLife Extension's South Plains region.

"There's no doubt that over time, fiber quality does decrease, but it's a gradual process," Morgan said. "And I don't think the rain and ice storm is going to make a dramatic impact on fiber quality."

Also, a single storm is not going to seriously delay the typical harvest time of cotton in the Texas High Plains or Rolling Plains, and that's a factor that should be taken into account, he said.

"Now if we were get-

ting into January or February, then yes, the quality does progressively go down over time. But given the storm happened at the end of November, we do not expect this one event to affect quality much."

The intensity of such a storm can also be a factor as well, Morgan said. An extremely heavy rain can literally pull the lint off the plant.

"But it is my impression that most of this precipitation was not intense," he said.

If several ice and rain storms follow, further delaying harvest, then over time, bark content would be expected to increase for stripper harvested cotton. Leaf grades would typically increase, while strength, length and color would diminish, which can result in substantial discounts, Morgan noted.

Book

Continued from page 1
and to promote his book.

He has traveled to Luling, El Paso, Austin, Houston, College Station, Paris, San Antonio and other areas, doing research and interviews.

Baty grew up in the Dallas area, and played football at Texas Tech. He enjoys playing golf, fly fishing and spending time with the kids.

He and his wife, Keri, have two daughters - Ryan and Jacque, and a son, Robbie, and two grandchildren.

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