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Water issues rise at RRC Commissioners meeting

County postpones resolution

By Bryan Giguere

In front of a large crowd, the Red River County Commissioners postponed a resolution supporting completion of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers feasibility study at a regular meeting Monday morning.

The court heard presentations from three citizens including Clarksville Mayor Ann Rushing, John McConnell of Bogata and Gary Cheatwood, a Northeast Texas Regional Water Planning Group Region D member. Approximately 50 citizens were in attendance.

The court felt there was no need to support the Sulphur River Basin Authority study when one is already conducted.

"It's already in the works, what's the point," Donnie Gentry, Precinct 1 commissioner, said.

After all three presentations, Richard Harvey, Precinct 3

commissioner, thought it was the best interest to postpone this resolution until the study is complete. The court unanimously approved the motion.

Rushing first spoke and asked the court to pass the resolution supporting the study, which includes a review of strategies and reservoir projects including Marvin Nichols, Wright Patman and Parkhouse sites, in order to gain an understanding of the impacts both positive and negative that any of these projects produce, as well as continue support of Marvin Nichols.

"I knew the resolution that would go before the Commissioners Court would be somewhat different than the city's request but the resolution that went before the court was considerably condensed," Rushing said. "The message we were trying to convey just was not in the revised resolution. Regardless, the court opted to postpone at this time. Maybe in time, they will bring our resolution back for consideration."

In 2005, the county passed a resolution asking Region D and the Texas State Water Development Board keep Marvin Nichols in the Region D plan as a potential reservoir until studies can be conducted.

The Clarksville City Council gave its support of the SRBA study last month.

"The City Council wants to continue to show support of all future studies, keep our resolutions updated, keep options open and acknowledge the fact that the Marvin Nichols could be very good for this area. But, we must have factual information on issues such as the mitigation, dam location, compensation and etc upon which to base our decisions; factual information from a basin wide perspective. Why would anyone object to the study and gaining additional knowledge?"

Rushing noted that Red River County is designated as an economically disadvantaged community and citizens are

moving out and not coming back. She compared Red River's population to Titus County.

"I remember Red River and Titus Counties had nearly the same population, but since the 1970s, Titus County's rate has increased dramatically thanks to the construction of Lake Bob Sandlin," Rushing said.

McConnell, who is opposed to the reservoir, then asked the court to read into the study carefully.

"I just hope you all will read carefully and understand the impact of this before you make a decision," McConnell said.

Cheatwood followed by saying every five years, each regional water district in Texas has to draft a water plan to address water needs in their region for the next 50 years.

Cheatwood said the draft for the 2011 Region D water plan has strong language opposing any new reservoirs on the Sulphur River.

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Wild hog hunt a success

Chris Harvey of Clarksville helps weigh in a wild hog Saturday in the final day of the first annual wild hog hunt. Hundreds turned out at the Fairgrounds for barbeque and witnessed the weigh-ins of each hog. For more on winners, see page three. Times photo by Bryan Giguere

Hall questions energy secretary on security

From Staff Reports

Washington, DC — In a hearing of the House Science and Technology Committee featuring Energy Secretary Dr. Steven Chu, U.S. Congressman Ralph Hall (R-Rockwall), ranking member, questioned the research and development (R&D) priorities in the Administration's fiscal year (FY) 2011 budget request.

Skeptical of the Administration's approach to pursuing energy security, Hall questioned the Administration's decision to zero out all funding for fossil fuel research.

"While I recognize and generally support efforts to advance energy efficiency and renewable energy sources, any serious approach to strengthening American energy independence must be comprehensive and include all energy resources such as nuclear, solar, wind and other alternatives, which should be complemented by a comprehensive effort to expand traditional sources of domestic energy, primarily oil and natural gas."

"Unfortunately," Hall continued, "this budget proposes dramatic tax hikes on domestic energy development and aims to eliminate the fossil energy R&D programs, including the proven and successful Ultra-Deep program that I helped to establish in the Energy Policy Act of 2005. We're eliminating a program that can produce 850 million barrels of oil and 3.8 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, while also limiting areas for domestic exploration."

In questions to Secretary Chu, Hall expressed concerns that "this very type of exploration is going to happen in Brazil with American technologies and dollars, as is evidenced by the recent \$2 billion loan to Brazil for ultra-deep exploration." Hall called this "counter to the goal of achieving domestic energy independence."

In order to further support all energy resources, Republicans on the Committee urged Secretary Chu to eliminate regulatory

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Patrick McGlade, center, of Virginia, is shown with Diane Peek, left, Historic Red River County Chamber of Commerce office manager, and Cheryl O'Brian, owner of the Bed and Breakfast Courthouse Inn. McGlade spent a night in Clarksville as part of his journey across the country to raise awareness and a cure for juvenile arthritis. Times photo by Bryan Giguere

Running for a cure

Virginia man running across U.S. to spread awareness in fight against juvenile arthritis

By Bryan Giguere

Virginia man Patrick McGlade has done so much running the past couple years his body can take any challenge, even run across the United States in winter weather.

McGlade made a stop in Clarksville on March 4 during his journey to spend the night at the Bed and Breakfast Courthouse Inn, owned by Perry and Cheryl

O'Brian of Clarksville. McGlade is running across the country to spread awareness and raise money to help fight juvenile arthritis.

"Children could get arthritis just as much as adults can," McGlade said. "I've had parents e-mail me their stories. Juvenile arthritis can get so bad to where it can kill the children."

McGlade has raised \$13,000 toward his cause so far and his goal is to reach \$50,000.

The 21-year-old marathon runner began his journey in Huntington Beach, Calif., on Jan. 2 and is expected to complete the run on April 23 in Tybee Island, Ga. He first starting running in 2008 while in college and ran his

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Former football stars inspire CISD students

By Bryan Giguere

Former football star Keith Davis has enjoyed making trips around the world speaking to youth about making the right decisions for the future and loves bringing his football friends along to help out.

Davis, who played professional football for the New York Giants and won a national championship at the University of Southern California, returned to Clarksville Monday for the first time since the beginning of the school year and this time he brought fellow motivational speaker Clarence Lee, who also won a national championship at Florida State University, to speak to Clarksville Independent School District students and community members.

Davis has spoken at more than 3,000 schools worldwide and has done motivational programs in 47 states and 40 countries.

The two football stars began the day speaking at the middle school followed by a presentation at the high school and then the elementary school. The two then spoke at a community meeting later that night.

"I love to come to Clarksville because all the people here are full of potential," Davis said.

Each time Davis came to CISD, he always shared one of his football memories at USC where his team was losing badly in the first half of

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Clarence Lee, former college football star, carries Kelvin Jefferson, assistant principal at Clarksville Elementary School, on his back as part of an illustration Monday as Keith Davis, former New York Giant, and other students look on. Times photo by Bryan Giguere

Red River Valley Veterans Memorial chairman seeks support from RRC on project

By Bryan Giguere

The Red River Valley Veterans Memorial has received positive feedback from Northeast Texans and organizations, but still needs more support.

Doug Weiberg, chairman and originator of the memorial, visited Clarksville and held a meeting at the Italian Bistro restaurant in Clarksville on March 4 in front of a small group of Red River County citizens and asked for the county's help in support of the project.

Weiberg said he is looking for volunteers, donors or those who wish to purchase a paver to honor a loved one who served or currently is serving in the military.

"There will be six different sections in the memorial representing each county," Weiberg said. "We need to get people to buy into this."

The memorial has been created to honor all veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of the U.S. military and is dedicated to all who served in the military in a six-county area that includes Red River, Lamar, Delta and Fannin Counties in Texas and McCurtain and Choctaw in Oklahoma. Groundbreaking for the project took place last Memorial Day.

The memorial will be located next to the Eiffel Tower in Paris on a 126' x 300' plot of land donated by the City of Paris. The memorial centerpiece will be the Ring of Honor, an elevated ring of granite walls containing the names of all the six-county veterans who died from injuries sustained while in the military from the Texas Revolution to the War in Afghanistan. Inside the Ring of Honor will be an illuminated American flag and surrounding the Ring of Honor will be double-sided granite walls etched with information and graphic depictions of each of these wars and conflicts.

Weiberg said he got the idea of creating a memorial while visiting his hometown of Rochester, Minn., where his brother and uncle have their names on a paver.

Primary funding for the project will be accomplished through the sale of 2' x 1' granite pavers purchased by and for veterans, which will contain the name and military branch of the honoree veteran and the war in which they served or the years of service. These pavers which cost \$300, will form the walkways for the memorial and will serve as reminders of their service and sacrifice. The memorial is expected to hold more than 2,300 pavers.

At the meeting, citizens who had served in the military expressed an interest of being a part of the memorial and asked for applications

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Your Local Weather

Wed 3/10	Thu 3/11	Fri 3/12	Sat 3/13	Sun 3/14
69/44 A few thunderstorms possible.	63/42 Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the low 40s.	55/44 Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the mid 40s.	56/37 Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the upper 30s.	58/39 Sunshine. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the upper 30s.

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