

REMEMBER WHEN

Youth organizes airplane club

10 YEARS AGO

SEPT. 25, 2003

Uvalde's Toyota group settles on 'Grow Uvalde' – Since they're hoping to help Uvalde grow, members of the economic development task force informally known as "the Toyota group" said it just made sense to officially adopt "Grow Uvalde" as their name. The committee was formed earlier this year to explore ways to attract Toyota supply companies to the area. The automobile manufacturer is opening a plant in San Antonio, which is scheduled to begin production in 2006. "We're trying to identify what Uvalde has to offer to potential new businesses," said Dan Eason of the Uvalde Area Development Foundation.

Rodriguez stays busy with youngest students – Antonio R. Rodriguez Jr. has been the crossing guard at Dalton Early Childhood Center for four years. He said he worked for the City of Uvalde for 41-1/2 years, then six months after he retired, Police Captain Ray Romo called and offered him the crossing guard position. Rodriguez also supplements his retirement income by doing some janitorial work at the police department and the Janey Slaughter Briscoe Grand Opera House. He said he likes the crossing guard work. "It's pretty good. I control traffic; I don't control kids crossing the street."

SEPT. 28, 2003

Uvalde youth organizes model airplane club – A 15-year-old Uvalde boy has formed a group of model airplane enthusiasts that meets every other week at Garner Field. Conrad Huffstutler said he has been interested in the hobby for years. "My dad was always into this," he said, referring to his father, Mark Huffstutler, founder of Sierra Industries, a Uvalde-based aircraft modification company. "The year I was 8, he bought me my first model airplane for Christmas. I've been flying them ever since then," said Huffstutler, who is also the son of Kerry Huffstutler. The group flies gliders and aircraft powered by electricity and gas.

Austin hired by city as new economic development director – Tom Austin brings enthusiasm and years of experience to his new position of Economic Development director for the City of Uvalde. "We have a lot of opportunity here, especially in the area of tourism," Austin said. "I've been involved in rural tourism development since 1990." He began as a volunteer with the Alamo Area Council of Governments, working in rural tourism development, while living in Pleasanton. In 1997, Austin moved to Uvalde to serve as director of the Convention and Visitors Bureau. With the Bureau, he helped establish the local Tourism Council.

50 YEARS AGO

OCT. 3, 1963

Uvalde School District's Tax Assessor-Collector retires – Mrs. Guy D. Dean, Uvalde Independent School District's Tax Assessor-Collector, made her final entry on the tax rolls Sept. 30, and began enjoying a richly deserved retirement. Friends came and went throughout the day wishing her well. The other office workers in the County Courthouse "chipped in" and presented her with a nice piece of luggage. Later on in the day the trustees from the school dropped by with a hand bag as a token of their high esteem for her unflagging effort in the tax office. "I may be retiring from my work here, but not from life. I plan to do many of the things I have wanted to do but not had time," Dean said.

Four Uvalde Boy Scouts receive Eagle Awards at Court of Honor – Four Uvalde Scouts received their Eagle Award at a joint Court of Honor for four Scout Troops. This presentation was the highlight of the evening in which 189 awards were presented to 80 different Scouts. The four new Eagles are Gary McNell, Rickey McNell, Sumner Hunter and David Horner. Their presentation was made by Vincent Hobbs, Scout Executive of the Concho Valley Council, who resides in San Angelo. The badges were pinned by on the Scouts by their parents.

OCT. 6, 1963

Briscoe named co-chairman of Farm-City Week – National Farm-City Week activities in Texas, Nov. 22-28, will be spearheaded by Dolph Briscoe Jr. of Uvalde and Calvin Pigg of Dallas. Briscoe and Pigg will serve as co-chairman of the special week which each year is marked by many activities designed to encourage better understanding and neighborliness between rural and urban residents. Briscoe, a South Texas rancher and banker, is widely known in agricultural circles. He is currently president of the Southwest Animal Health Research Foundation.

Service Club 'Hook-Up' Contest to spark Fire Prevention Week – Raincoats should be worn in the vicinity of the Uvalde Fire Station on Monday night when 6-men teams from the Rotary Club, the Lions Club, the Kiwanis and Optimists, help kick off the local Fire Prevention Week activities by having some fire hose hook-up contests. Other Fire Prevention activities during the week will be the poster contest among students in the city schools and demonstrations at each school by the fire department. During the week members of the department will visit various schools to show the students how the department works with equipment.

COMPILED BY JESSICA CHAVEZ
from Leader-News files



MARIO RODRIGUEZ

Stephanie Urbina Jones, Gabe Garcia, Augie Myers, John Arthur Martinez and accompanying musicians perform on stage at the Janey Slaughter Briscoe Grand Opera House on Sept. 21, to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. The concert Viva Texicana also featured the college mariachi band, Los Vaqueros de SWTJC.

Old Texas Tornado still whirling

Going into last Saturday's Viva Texicana concert at the downtown opera house I really had no idea what to expect. About all I knew was that music was to be performed in some form or fashion and that legendary Texas musician Augie Myers would be one of the guests. What was to occur outside of that was left to my imagination.

"Do you think it'll be all music or maybe some skits or little dramatic performances in between?" I asked my wife, fully aware that she was just as clueless as I about the event.

"Not knowing, I couldn't say," she replied curtly, borrowing an oft quoted line from former Leader-News editor Carol Kothmann.

So it was into the old playhouse and up the broad staircase we went, finding our seats as the anxious thrum of the audience died along with the lights. What followed was two hours of pure delight.

"How ya'll doin' tonight?" Stephanie Urbina Jones, a San Antonio-based singer/songwriter, beamed from the stage. And from the

sound of the reply, it seemed that our crowd was doing just fine. (In fact a good number of people seemed to be in a rather expansive mood, which probably had more than a little to do with a tequila tasting that was conducted immediately before the show).

Jones was soon joined onstage by the Southwest Texas Junior College mariachi band, Los Vaqueros, and the group plowed through a number of songs with professional aplomb. After that she was joined onstage by former Nashville Star contestants Gabe Garcia and John Arthur Martinez to trade songs and stories. The trio swapped tunes and the anecdotes behind them while three session players backed them up.

While the added bass and acoustic guitar work was a nice touch, it was the fiddle player that I felt really injected the most life into the numbers. An old pro that

formerly toured with the band Lonestar, Kurt Baumer alternated between string-shredding solos, soft, sweeping accents and plucky little mandolin-like staccatos. Between his lively virtuoso playing and a head so bald and shiny it looked like it had been buffed, it was hard to take one's eyes off the guy.

That was, however, until Augie Myers took the stage.

"It's good to be here in...where is this... Uvalde?" he (I think) joked. I say I'm not sure if he was kidding because (a) Myers, like a majority of touring musicians, sees so many places that it's often hard to keep track of just where that night's show is and (b) the guy is pushing 74. All I knew about Augie leading up to the concert is that he used to play with the Texas Tornados and that he used a Vox organ to create his signature sound. What I discovered that night is that he tends to gesticulate wildly with his large hands and that he really, really likes women.

Just about every song started out with "There was this lady..." and just about all of them fea-

tured some form of food and/or sexual innuendo: making guacamole, eating enchiladas, or just plain out-and-out whoopie, as in "Who Were You Thinkin' Of?" And in between songs Myers proved to be a consummate showman, riffing off the audience's reactions and letting fly with a couple of pretty funny jokes.

Perhaps the greatest thrill of the evening was when Jones, Garcia and Martinez all joined Myers onstage for a rendition of the old Tornados' standard "(Hey Baby) Que Paso?" It was truly magical to see a rock and country legend join forces with a talented group of contemporary artists to recreate something so familiar yet fresh.

Upon leaving the theater we eagerly began discussing possible upcoming shows and other artists that we would like to see perform at the opera house someday. Will we get more shows like Viva Texicana in the future? Not knowing, I couldn't say. What I can say, though, is that if they're anything like last week's we're all in for a treat.

GROUP: Southwest Texas Cattlewomen meet in Cotulla

FROM PAGE 4B

magnanimous in providing beef certificates for Big Springs Ranch, South Texas Children's Home, Medina Children's Home, and Sunny Glenn Home at San Benito. Dear Fredna Knaggs Wood was made an honorary member. Everyone was reminded about tickets to the Retama Races on Saturday, Oct. 5.

After a tasty ranch lunch around the outdoor kitchen, I took a tour of the LaSalle County Museum in

Cotulla, which has recently been enlarged. On the lawn is Mr. Gene Mangum's tractor donated by daughters Dorothy Kinsel and Jeanne Wheeler. Indoors you find yourself in a wooden frame home of the 1900s, all outfitted in period furnishings from living area to the kitchen.

Much to contemplate in the Museum, one needs several hours to study the photographs and memorabilia. Images of the Dull ranch, established in 1873, is where Sidney Porter

lived from 1882 to 1884. His pen name as O'Henry is famous. Many ranches had sturdy, stacked mesquite corrals, constructed by hand.

Amanda Burke is a famous character in LaSalle history; she is the only woman known to drive her own cattle up the trail. A photo on the porch of her La Mota Ranch depicts Mrs. Burke and George Saunders of the Livestock Commission Company in Fort Worth. Most probably they were

dickering over the price she wanted for her steers.

No visit to Cotulla would be complete without a stop at Ben's. The famous hat and boot shop where Ben Ludeman collected big deer racks and cattlemen's hats. There I spotted Mac's soiled Resistol, C.M. Bell, Buck Ramsey, Roy Hinds, Bub Wheeler, Celestrio Garza, Dudley Story Jr., Dan Kinsel Jr. and Genoveno Negrete's protection against the blazing South Texas sun, blue northers, and perpetual dust.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 4B

cherry-picked the questions they answered and didn't select any questions critical of Common Core.

After an hour of fake question and answers and a propaganda film on how good it was for the students, a man from the audience tried to ask a question about some of the bad parts of Common Core. He was told to sit down, and when he continued to ask his question a security officer tried to manhandle him out of the meeting.

Seeing the video of the encounter, I would judge the security officer to be guilty of assault. Apparently the secu-

rity officer was an off-duty policeman who arrested the questioner for assault on a police officer. I sincerely hope that the questioner doesn't accept a plea bargain for a lesser charge, or just allow them to drop the charges in exchange for them not being sued for false arrest.

One of the reasons our founding fathers gave the right to a jury trial by ones peers is so that jurors could negate bad law or bad charges by a finding of not guilty.

Even if they allege the questioner broke a law (doubtful), they can probably find a regulation that the questioner violated. If they do, it is

bad law/regulation based on the video shown and the jury should issue a judgment of not guilty no matter what the prosecutors say or the judge instructs.

The founding fathers recognized that sooner or later bad laws would be passed and that it was the jury's duty to nullify bad law.

I hope that the questioner files assault charges against the security officer who manhandled him. He is a better man than I am because as I viewed the incident he would have been fully justified in utilizing defensive measures.

I believe that that this showed up in Maryland first because it's almost

impossible to get a carry permit there. I grew up in Maryland and it makes me ashamed to see what the liberal progressives have done to the state.

On another front, Texas doesn't give illegal immigrants drivers licenses. In my opinion, this is a good thing. There are states that are trying to give licenses to illegals. In my opinion, Texas should refuse to recognize that state's driver licenses here in Texas. If you continue to allow some states to give illegals "rights" that they shouldn't have but take no action against those states, then your state is part of the problem.

Michael Martin
Uvalde