

SHEPHERD COMMUNITY NEWS

TxDOT Releases List of State's Structurally Deficient Bridges

4 Percent of Texas Bridges Meet Federal Funding Category

Editor's note: I went to the Txdot website and looked at the list of the State's structurally deficient bridges. On page 57 of 92 pages I learned that San Jacinto County only has two bridges listed as deficient. One is on Winfrey Road crossing a tributary of McCombs Creek near FM948, and the other is on Gray Road crossing Whitfield Branch near Jenkins Cemetery. The website assures us that all bridges open to traffic on Texas public roads are safe.

AUSTIN - After careful review of state and federal regulations governing the release of infrastructure data, the Texas Department of Transportation released a list of the state's 2,024 structurally deficient bridges today. TxDOT's decision was reached after examining rules that strictly limit the release of bridge information collected for federal reports and additional homeland security constraints on the publication of data regarding the state's critical infrastructure.

TxDOT's records indicate that 4 percent of the state's bridges are listed as structurally deficient. The Bureau of Transportation Statistics reports that in 2006, 12 percent of the nation's bridges were identified as structurally deficient. TxDOT's aggressive program to inspect all 50,000 of the state's bridges and rehabilitate and replace bridges that require improvement is producing results. In 2002, Texas was home to 2,928 structurally deficient bridges. The current figure is a 31 percent reduction in structurally deficient bridges.

The term "structurally deficient" is a technical term that has recently been used in news accounts and public discussions to describe a bridge that is unsafe or presents an imminent danger to the driving public. It is a term used by the Federal Highway Administration to classify and prioritize bridges for federal funding. Structurally deficient bridges receive priority for limited rehabilitation on replacement funds from the federal government. Bridges that are unsafe or present an imminent public danger are closed to traffic.

Of the state's bridges classified as "structurally deficient," 445 are on the state highway system and 1,579 are off-system structures. 282 bridges classified as structurally deficient are currently under contract to be

rehabilitated or replaced. Another 1,303 bridges classified as structurally deficient are under development as part of the state's Unified Transportation Plan. The state's remaining 439 bridges classified as structurally deficient are not currently scheduled for rehabilitation or replacement, and no funding has been identified for them.

Improving safety is TxDOT's most important goal and is a sacred obligation to the state's driving public. TxDOT will continue to monitor the state's bridges through its aggressive bridge inspection program. In addition to enhancing safety, TxDOT is committed to reducing congestion and expanding economic opportunity, improving air quality and increasing the value of the state's transportation assets.

The challenge for Texas is that as the state's transportation system ages, demand is increasing. TxDOT is committed to maintaining the safety of the state's roads and bridges, but as the department has said before, it will not be easy.

Recognizing this goal, TxDOT staff reported in June that more than \$6 billion would need to be transferred from new construction to routine maintenance to ensure the safety and quality of the state's highway system over the next five years.

The situation points to the need for balancing two important goals: maintaining the existing highway system and reducing traffic congestion. Finding just the right balance is tough. Texans deserve both a well-maintained highway system and the ability to get where they want to go in a timely manner.

The list of the state's structurally deficient bridges is available on the department's website: www.txdot.gov

Lady Pirate Volley Ball Gears Up For Season

By Coach Mark Meng

On Tuesday, August 14, 2007, Pirates vs Love-lady, the 9th grade lost in 2 games, Junior Varsity won in 2 games, and Varsity won three straight games. On Thursday vs Corrigan 9th grade lost in 2 games, and JV lost in 2 games. Varsity lost the 1st game 18-25, then won the next 3 games by scores of 25-13, 25-22, 25-12. The team was led by hitters Alicia Ross and Meagan Whitmire and libero* Jodie Chreene. Next game is against Groveton in Shepherd on Tuesday, August 21.

Footnote: *Libero is a special position that is beginning its 3rd year in volleyball. The libero can play for any player but cannot play on the front row. She must wear a different color jersey because her coming and going out of the game does not count as substitutions.

The Shepherd Lady Pirates Volleyball team defeated Groveton Tuesday night in Shepherd. The Lady Pirates won the match by scores of 25-19, 17-25, 25-22 & 25-23. Players having great games were Alicia Ross, Meagan Whitmire, Samantha Swan, Kim Garcia, Jodie Chreene and Erica Bell.

Chris Jennings Found Dead In Jail Cell

Chris Jennings, charged with killing his common-law wife, Terri Smith, was found dead in his cell at San Jacinto County Jail on Wednesday, August 8, 2007.

Sheriff Lacy Rogers said that Christopher Allen Jennings, 46, died of natural causes in his cell about 9:30 p.m., shortly after refusing sleep medication.

"The jailer saw Jennings alive at about 9:05 p.m. and 20 minutes later noticed that he was not breath-

ing. 'Jennings apparently had a medical condition that no one knew anything about,' said Rogers. Jennings' body was taken to the Jefferson County Medical Examiner's Office in Beaumont for autopsy.

Jennings was charged in the July 23, 2007 shooting death of Terri Ann Smith. She died in her home in Shepherd after suffering a 12 gauge gunshot wound to the chest.

Have You Ever Seen A Water Bridge Over A River?



Even after you see the picture of this water bridge in Germany, it is hard to believe! What a feat! It took six years, 500 million euros and a lot of engineering. The water bridge is 918 meters long (just shy of a kilometer), and used as a channel bridge over the River Elbe to join the former East and West Germany. Built as a part of the unification project, it is located in the city of Magdeburg, near Berlin. The photo was taken on the day of inauguration.

The water bridge will enable river barges to avoid a lengthy and sometimes unreliable passage along the Elbe. It will connect Berlin's inland harbor with the ports along the Rhine.

Here is a puzzle for you armchair engineers and physicists. Did that bridge have to be designed to withstand the additional weight of ship and busy traffic, or just the weight of the water? (Answer may be found at the end of the classified ads.)

Few Changes Seen for Shepherd ISD

In an effort to start the year with minimal changes, Shepherd ISD is ready to get things rolling for the 2007-2008 school year. Efforts have been made to keep changes to a minimum, but three issues have been addressed during meetings held over the summer and approved by the Board of Trustees. They are as follows:

Boys Hair Hair shall be kept clean and well-groomed. Boys' hair must be clean, neat, out of the eyes and not exceed the collar line, and boys will not be allowed to wear ponytails, rattails or any type of hairstyle that is disruptive to the educational process. Sideburns must be kept clean, neatly trimmed and not extend past the lobe of the ear. A neatly trimmed mustache is the only facial hair permitted.

Shoes High School - Students must wear appropriate shoes at all times. House slippers and shoes with cleats or similar type shoes are not permitted because of safety considerations as students travel steps and hallways. For Safety Reasons, some courses (Ag, Building Trades, etc.) may require students to wear shoes that offer more protection. While Flip-flop type shoes may be appropriate for informal situations, they will not be allowed to be worn at more formal occasions such as awards ceremonies, banquets, graduation exercises, etc.). Safe walking should be the guide for slippery surface shoes and

high heels.

Shoes Primary, Intermediate, and Middle School - Students cannot wear platform shoes that are deemed unsafe for school activities. For safety and health reasons, flip-flops and house slippers are prohibited on these campuses.

Transportation Students assigned to the Shepherd Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) will not be allowed to use district transportation services or ride district buses. Parents and/or guardians will be responsible for transporting students to and from school if they are assigned to the DAEP.

Superintendent Dozier said, "I hope everyone comes to school observing the new policies mentioned above. Campus Administrators will be ready to ensure that the new rules are implemented and followed. There are other minor changes that have occurred due to legislative action or federal laws, but for the most part, things are just like last year." He added, "We are anxious for our students to return and get started. We are going to capitalize on the academic momentum we built last year on our campuses, as well as begin the building program made possible by the passage of the school bond. Look for great things to come from Shepherd ISD this year."

4-H Gold Star Banquet Celebrates Achievements Of Members

The annual Gold Star Awards Banquet for San Jacinto County 4-H members was held on Saturday, August 18, 2007 at the Shepherd Middle School.

Major award winners were Brody Smith, Gold Star Award, Andrea Revilla and Justin Shrader, Silver Award winners, Tullina Wilson and Travis Rerich, Bronze Star Winners, and Jarrett Robison who received the I Dare You Award this year.

The Meritorious Service Award was given this year to Jim McClain who has exhibited a level of support to many youth organizations. Outstanding 4-H Leader of the Year Award was presented to Mrs. Jan Robison, whose dedicated service helped to make the 4-H program a success this year. The Rookie Leader of the Year Award was given to Tammie and Scooter Felton. This particular award celebrates volunteers who take on leadership roles.

The Busy Bee of the Year Award went to Monica Shrader, a volunteer leader who continually helps out in many areas of the 4-H program.

Three Friend of 4-H Awards were given this year to individuals who have given generously of their time and expertise to the 4-H program as well as other youth and community organizations. Receiving the award are Susan Bailes, Katy Gibson and Michelle Moss.

Members receiving special awards were: Junior Leaders Constance Gould, Aubrey Wallace, Peyton Ferguson, Travis Rerich, Tullina Wilson, Jordan

Pierce and Brook Hale.

Teen leaders receiving special recognition were Kris Mott, Meagan Whittleman, Jarrett Robison, Brody Smith and Krista Pierce.

Special recognition in Food and Nutrition are Tullina Wilson Travis Rerich, Krista Piece, Jay Pierce and Jordan Pierce. Horse and Horse Judging Awardees are Alana Porter, Stacy Johnson, Krista Pierce, Jay Pierce, Jordan Pierce, Brook Hale, Jerry Harrell, Justin Harrell, Courtney Capers and Sarah Cronin. Photography awards went to Kelsie Sweeten and Colton Bowen. Archery award went to Rebecca Hopson. Awards in Forestry went to Dusty Conroy, Brandon Cronin, Alex Krieser, Joe Stover, Brody Smith, Ryan Webb and Aubrey Wallace.

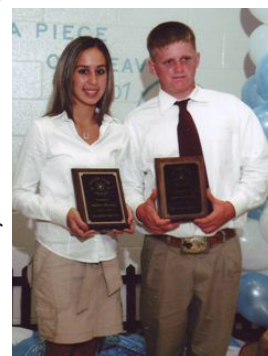
Receiving awards for livestock were: Beef Justin Shrader, David Taylor, Ethan Lowe, Jarrett Robison, Michael Sims, Jr., Caitlin Vann and Jason Scott. Goats Shadow Jones, Colton Lilley, Brandon Cronin, Jordan Pierce and Krista Pierce. Poultry Billy Cronin and Kyle Tidwell. Rabbits Daniel Largent, Peyton Ferguson and Elizabeth Christian. Sheep Kaly LaCombe and Brandon Cronin. Swine Douglas Lilley, Andrea Revilla, David Taylor, Josh Provost, Jason Scott and Casey Scott.

Citizenship awards went to Constance Gould, Amy Johnston and Brody Smith. Community Service awards went to Joshua Felton, Shelbie Caughman, Tyler Caughman, Shelby Mitchell, Savannah Blake and Garrett Robison. Leadership awards went to Lisa McGurk, Scotty Salisbury, Amy Johnston and David Taylor. Livestock Judging awards went to Todd Coogler, Travis Rerich, Tullina Wilson, David Taylor, Jarrett Robison, Jason Scott, Ethan Lowe and Garrett Robison. Dairy Judging awards went to Brody Smith and Jarrett Robison.

Bronze star winners are Tullina Wilson and Travis Rerich.



Brody Smith was named Gold Star member of the year.



Silver Star awards went to Andrea Revilla and Justin Shrader.



Congratulations Kenneth W. Scott

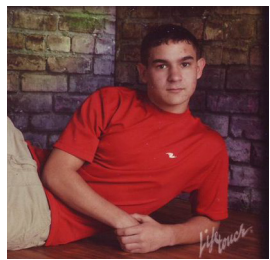
On August 17, 2007, Kenneth Scott graduated from Navy Recruit Training Command at Great Lakes, Illinois as DIV-274. Kenneth is a Shepherd High School graduate, Class of 2004. He will serve in the submarine field of the Navy.

Congratulations from your loving family, Mom, sister, brother, niece and lots of aunts and uncles, family members and friends.



Announcing the Birth of Charles Devon Minton!

Charles was born August 15, 2007, weighing 9 lbs, 20ozs, and 21 inches long. His proud parents are Charles and Michelle Minton. His proud brothers are Dakota and Garrett.



**Happy 16th
Birthday
David Haring**
August 29, 2007
Love you,
from your

In Memoriam

Luther J. "Sonny" Charles

September 22, 1928 - August 28, 1906



That glorious warmth of love,
as we shared life's joy and tears,
and thoughts of you stay close to me,
as I love you through the years.
Your wife, LaVerne
Family and Friends

Community Classifieds

FOR SALE: Camper shell fits 60" x 88" \$100; bumper for \$10 or GMC Sonoma PU \$125. Call Martha (936) 628-3489.

FOR SALE: Sony computer with 19 inch screen has Windows XP, CD burner, canon printer, and computer stand. \$300. Also have a 16 inch computer screen for \$15. Call (936) 628-3577.

FOR HIRE: Tractor for hire, dirt leveling, brush hogging, etc. free estimates! Call Aaron at (832) 579-4760.

VOLUNTEER HELP NEEDED: Shepherd Senior Center would appreciate volunteer help in the kitchen mornings. They cook on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. If you are handy in the kitchen then lend a hand to the seniors. You need not volunteer for all three days. Any help will be appreciated.

FOR RENT: 2 bedroom, 2 bath w/porch overlooking a large front yard. Central air and heat, new carpet and wallpaper. Available immediately Call Joe at (281) 432-9121.

ANSWER TO BRIDGE QUESTION: It only needs to be designed to withstand the weight of the water. Why? A ship always displaces an amount of water that weighs the same as the ship, regardless of how heavy a ship may be loaded!

Obituaries

Christopher Allen Jennings

April 13, 1962 - August 8, 2007

Christopher Allen Jennings died Wednesday, August 8, 2007 in Coldspring. He was born April 13, 1962 in Waterloo, New York.

He is survived by his father and step-mother, Lawrence Francis Jennings and Sandy Jennings of Shepherd; his mother Rebecca Allsbrooks of Bullard; his son Jesse Charles Jennings of Grand Prairie; his sister Susan Haynes of Grand Prairie; step-brothers Troy Beckner of Shepherd and Terry Rinehard of Houston.

Memorial services were held Saturday, August 18, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. at Cochran Funeral Home in Livingston. Burial will be held in Romulus, New York.

William Earl Drummond

November 11, 1921 - August 16, 2007

Born in Jacksonville, TX on November 11, 1921 and laid to rest in Cleveland, TX on August 16, 2007. Earl was survived by his wife Dorothy Drummond, son Bruce Drummond, daughter Kandy Martin, brothers Jerrel and Bill Drummond, and five grandchildren: Chris, Jason, Eric, Katelyn, and Grace.

From 1942 to 1950 Earl served his country in both the Marines and the Air Force. He was sent overseas with the 3rd Marines, 5th Amphibious during the battle of Guadalcanal and was involved in Okinawa and Saipan.

Memorial services were held Saturday, August 18, 2007 4:00 p.m. at Pace-Stancil Funeral Home Chapel, Cleveland, Texas. There will also be a memorial service for Earl held at the VFW Romayor Post 8953 on September 1, 2007 at 4:00 p.m.

Randal O'Neal Watson

January 1, 1957 - August 12, 2007

Randal O'Neal Watson, 50, of Shepherd, Texas, passed away Sunday, August 12, 2007. He was born in Sayder, Texas on January 1, 1957 to Floyd O'Neal and Bonnie Joyce Watson. He is preceded in death by his mother. He is survived by his loving wife, Rebecka Elizabeth Watson; and his son, John William Watson and wife, Kresten; his parents, Floyd O'Neal Watson and wife, Mary and so many other loving family members and caring friends.

Graveside services were held Saturday, August 18, 2007, 2:00 p.m. at Farley Chapel Cemetery, Shepherd, Texas.

Shepherd C of C Welcomes New Members

By Darlene Moore

It is our pleasure to welcome three new members to the Shepherd Chamber of Commerce.

Backyard Oasis is a business located in Livingston. It is a full service pool and spa company and your best source for backyard accessories. Their goal is to make your backyard an oasis for fun and relaxation. Stop by and talk to Patte Jones about your needs and concerns. They are located at 2200 Hwy. 190 West in Livingston, and their phone number is (936) 327-2531.

Another new member this year is Wenchell Ventures of Goss Water Well. If you are having questions or concerns about your water well or the integrity of your water, they are the ones to call. They can replace your old pump, or dig your well deeper. Located in Splendora, you may call them at (281) 689-7050.

Deep East Texas Workforce is another new member this year. If you need help in finding a job, or need a refresher course to help you find that perfect job, then Peggy Muckelroy is the one to call for help. You can reach her at (936) 639-8898.

Retired Teachers to Meet

The San Jacinto County Retired Teachers Association will meet at 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 4, 2007 at the Senior Center in Coldspring. Retired teachers and staff members are encouraged to join us for the latest information on retirement benefits, musical entertainment, and a covered dish dinner.

Members are reminded to bring children's books for our Helping Hands and Care Share giving programs. For further information, please call Jo Ann Bain at (936) 653-5281.

Shepherd ISD Classes Have Begun

Students in the Shepherd Independent School District began classes on Monday, August 27, 2007.

Students attending Shepherd Primary School will begin classes at 8:00AM each day, with a tardy bell to ring at 8:05AM. Car riders will be dismissed at 3:10PM, and bus riders will begin departure at 3:15PM.

Classes at Shepherd Intermediate School will begin at 7:55AM, with the tardy bell ringing at 8:15AM. Intermediate students will dismiss at 3:15PM.

Shepherd Middle School will start classes at 8:00AM, ring a tardy bell at 8:05AM, and dismiss at 3:30PM.

High School students will begin their classes at 7:55AM, with a tardy bell ringing at 8:00AM, then dismiss for the day at 3:30PM.

Update on Ethelda Nelson

When Ethelda came home from the hospital after her heart surgery, she was only able to stay four days before she had to go back because of a severe wound on her back that would not heal. They performed debridement surgery on August 22nd.

The heart surgery was very successful and she is expected to make full recovery as soon as this infectious wound is under control. St. Luke's Hospital has set up a website where updates on Ethelda may be read, and messages for her may be written. Here is what you do: type in www.carepages.com and when you get there you must register (which is practically painless). Then it will ask you for the name of her page which is EtheldaUpdate.

Business News

RAJ MEDICAL CENTER is proud to announce the joining of a new doctor, Joanna Smiechowska! We have same day appointments, 5 days a week. Walk-Ins Welcome. We are accepting new patients, and welcome all insurances. Please call and make an appointment with our new doctor! RAJ Medical Center is located at 1321 S.Byrd in Shepherd. (Beside El Taquito and Shepherd Insurance at the four way stop.)

MIRACLE MAIDS CLEANING SERVICE will clean commercial and residential. No job is too big or too small. Call for free estimate and also check out our great prices on shampooing carpets. Call Leslie at (936) 628-6850 or Artie at (832)718-8484. Another number is (936) 628-6033.

Special Need Citizens of San Jacinto County

By Wanda Langley, SJC First Responders

San Jacinto County First Responders, Inc.(SJCFR) and Shirley Brandon with Emergency Management have been working together for the last two years on obtaining information for SPECIAL NEED citizens of San Jacinto County. SJCFR has a computer data base set up to track citizens that have special needs. We need help locating these people.

Hurricanes, acts of terrorism and floods are all clear in the minds of everyone today. Even though you may know what can happen, are you prepared? Disaster can strike quickly and without warning. Planning in advance is very important. Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster, but they cannot reach everyone right away. You could get help in hours, or it may take days. The first 72 hours will be the most demanding on the county emergency personnel.

After Hurricane Rita the State sent in medical help but we did not have the information needed to locate the people with special needs. We did the best we could but in case of another disaster or emergency we want to be better prepared. As of today we have about 200 people in the data base. This information is given only to Emergency Management and the First Responders. If we have another emergency, Special Need information will be given to the First Responders in each area to check on these people. We will try to call if possible or go to the residence. But we need information. SPECIAL NEED FORMS are available at any fire station, Commissioners Office, Doctor Offices, Pharmacies, Elaine's Restaurant or Emergency Management office. Please pick up a form or call Wanda Langley, SJCFR 936-377-2484 or Shirley Brandon 936-653-3395 and we will mail you a form.

The forms may be mailed back to the address on the bottom of the form. Information we are looking for is name, address (not P.O. Box) phone numbers, emergency contacts (family or friends), Special need such as Medical problems (diabetic, heart problems, etc), special equipment (wheel chair, oxygen machine, hospital beds, etc.) and the area you are in (Camilla, Bear Cheek, 980 North, etc.) including all the different areas of the county.

A lot was learned during and after Hurricane Rita. More generators were purchased, the fire departments are better equipped, and the first responders have oxygen



Old friends gathered at the First Baptist Church fellowship hall to celebrate Fae Page's birthday and catch up on the lives of those who have moved away. Ronnie and Betty Corn looked fit and happy. Terry Strickland, a grand-son-in-law, drove in from Ogalala, Nebraska for the occasion. Sherry and Doug Woodruff came from Simonton. We were glad to see the Jansen's and it looks like retirement to the farm is agreeing with him. Alvin and Edith Campbell came from Crockett. He was pastor of First Baptist in the 1960's. Wilma Wyatt and her son came from China Springs. I don't have a clue where that is. They assured me it was in Texas. I can't help but believe they are all sorry they moved away from Shepherd. In fact, I think I heard Betty Corn say those very words! I say, "Make new friends, keep the old, one is silver, the other is gold!"

I attended the Gold Star Banquet Saturday night. Mr. Baker does an awesome job cooking steaks for all of us. The decorations were nice but I didn't see a gold star on the wall anywhere and I thought that was a requirement. In the 1960s, using a protractor, I could make a giant gold star out of butcher paper (taped together). As the gold star banquet leader, my only limitations were the dimensions of the wall and how much gold paint they would let me buy!

Our family 4-H activity was in the 60's. Those were good years for us. Well, except that Bubba was always fighting somebody. He and Tommy Hues got in a fight once at a 4-H gathering. I figured Tommy started it, (he was bigger than Bubba), but when I asked Bubba how the fight started he said, "Mama, the fight started when Tommy hit me back!" Of course, it is all in your point of view.

Soon after that I was baby sitting Molly and thinking about Bubba's fight when she asked me to tell her a story. I said, "What do you want to hear?" "Tell me about the 3 little pigs," she said. To entertain myself, I took different point of view.

"Once upon a time there were three pigs that went out into the world to make their fortunes. They were pretty selfish little jerks and two of them were lazy. Anyway, they left home - broke their mother's heart, and settled down somewhere between Coldspring and Point Blank.

"Also living in the neighborhood was a nice wolf family. One day the mother wolf said, "Harry, the babies are hungry again and I just don't want to give them any more rabbit because all that hair makes them sick." Harry said, "I'll go check the garbage at Kimone's." "No," said Mother, "I heard that some fat pigs have moved into town and one of them made his house out of straw. I just bet you can huff and puff and blow that house down."

"The littles wolf said, "Daddy, my stomach is awful empty!" So Harry set out to find that straw house. When he found it he knocked on the door politely and said, "Little pig, little pig, let me come in." The pig said, "Not by the hair of my chinny, chin, chin will I let you come in." (That lazy pig wouldn't even shave his chinny, chin, chin. The baby wolves ate well that night!)

"Next day Harry visited the house made of sticks and the wolf family feasted again. Of course all he got from the brick house was a burned bottom. The baby wolves laughed and laughed when mama put the burn medicine on!"

Molly said, "That's not how the story goes." And I said, "Who says, it's all in the point of view."

Quote of the week: "You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view." -Harper Lee "To Kill a Mockingbird"

4-H Fundraiser

Once again the San Jacinto 4-Her's are selling frozen cookies and desserts for a fundraiser. The money from the fundraiser helps send kids to leadership activities, different learning experiences and camps. See a local 4-Her to place an order or stop by the Extension Office in Shepherd and place your order. Orders placed by September 25th will be delivered by October 12th.

that can be used during a declared emergency. SJCFR can not sell or supply oxygen except in an emergency situation. Plans have been made to help people with their medication that needs to be kept cold. REMEMBER have your prescriptions filled, oxygen filled and any medical supplies that you may need. Also have your vehicles full of gas.

In the event of an emergency, Coldspring Senior Citizen Center will be set up as a shelter for Special Need Citizens only. Arrangements have been made with the local Doctors' offices and pharmacies for generators so they can stay open during an emergency. Remember shelters can not take pets so make arrangements now for your pets.

All the citizens of San Jacinto County need to prepare now for the possibility of a hurricane. When severe weather threatens, tune in to local radio, television or get information online from the National Weather Service. Learn the difference between a watch and a warning. A watch means that dangerous weather is possible. A warning means it's about to happen.

NOW is the time to prepare. Please pick up a SPECIAL NEED FORM and get it filled out and returned as soon as possible. San Jacinto County First Responders meet on the last Thursday of each month at Elaine's in Coldspring at 7 o'clock. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Editor's note: Due to space limitations, all of the information regarding this important notice could not be published this week. Future issues of Shepherd Community News will contain more information from the First Responders organization. I urge you to pick up, complete, and return the information if you or a family member fall into this 'special need' category. First Responders has a current membership of about 40 people. They cover Shepherd, Coldspring, Evergreen, Bear Creek, Waterwood, and Camilla.

For news or special events to be published in *Shepherd Community News:*

Drop off your information/picture at McClain's, e-mail to shepherdnews@samlink.com, or fax to (936) 628-2866.

Information may not be taken over the telephone. Include contact information on your request to have something published. Our deadline is noon Tuesday for the following week.