Texas German Language Project Featured At Library This Saturday

Meeting open to anyone interested in project designed to document fading language.

At the beginning of the 20th century, the three major languages spoken in the Lone Star State were English, Spanish & German. A unique dialect known as "Texas German" was spoken by more that 100,000 Texans. Today, it is estimated that less than 8,000 speakers of Texas German remain, most of whom are 60 years or older. Since this unique language is not being passed on to the younger generations, it will become extinct within the next 30 years.

"With the loss of Texas German, we will witness the end of a very special way of life that has had major impacts on Texas culture, history, and traditions for the past 150 years," said Hans Boss, a professor at the University of Texas who has started a project to document this language.

The goal of the Texas German Dialect Project is to interview as many of the remaining fluent speakers of Texas German as possible.

The Fayette Public Library will host an informative presentation about the project on Saturday March 4. The program will begin at 3 p.m. in the Library Meeting Room.

The presentation by Boss describes several aspects of the activities of the Texas German Dialect Project, which is housed in the Department of Germanic Studies at The University of Texas at Austin. The goals of the Texas German Dialect Project are (1) to preserve the Texas German dialect as it reflects the rich cultural and linguistic traditions of its resistance; (2) to gather basic research information about linguistic diversity in order to understand the nature of language variation and change; (3) to provide information about language differences and language change for public and educational interests; and (4) to use the material collected in research projects for the improvement of educational programs about language and culture.

At the center of the project's current activities is the creation of the Texas German Dialect Archive, an on-line archive of interviews with native speakers of Texas German that have been recorded since 2002. Over the past four years, project members have interviewed more than 180 speakers across central Texas. The recordings are subsequently transcribed, translated, and stored in the digital on-line archive to be preserved for future generations (see http://www.tgdpa.org).

The project is currently working on the development of the Texas German dialect during the 20th century, which will be published in late 2006 or early 2007.

Everyone is invited to attend this program sponsored by the Luck & Lessig Collection Trust and the Friends of the Fayette Public Library. Light refreshments will be served. For more information call Kathy Cutter at 979-968-3765.

Round Top Legion Post 338 Supports St. Mark's

La Grange Mayor Joanne Little Art Show in La Grange was held in appliquéd wall hangings past weekend at the First United Methodist Church. More pictures of beauty and excellence were on display than ever before.

Flatonville Hearings

Request for development of new housing at the old textile mill in Flatonville was held on Feb. 13. Britt Burbidge presented the plans and showcased assignments of assignments to employees of the old mill and new workers in the new jobs. Florin also presented the new community plan which will be presented to the public on Feb. 20 at the Round Top-Carmine Independent School District board of trustees meeting.

RT-C Looks At St. Mark's Date Of Aug. 3, 2006

The Round Top-Carmine Independent School District board of trustees held a meeting on Monday, Feb. 13 at 6:30 p.m. to have a public hearing on the school on Aug. 3. The board moved to change the school start waiver with the exception of the school start waiver for the 2006-07 school year.