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The Marshall NEWS MESSENGER

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Homeless shelter celebrates early success

By LISA JACKSON DUKE
News Messenger

City Commissioner Martha Robb said A Way Out homeless shelter exists today because of the religious-based commitments of many to help those in our community who have fallen on hard times.

"It is out of Christian faith and compassion to bring the home to reality," she said. "It is a lot of work. I salute you."

The shelter held its open house yesterday afternoon at its North Bolivar and Burlington streets house.

Gene Strahan, shelter president and chairman of the board, welcomed guests to the ceremony and introduced special guests, including keynote speaker Robb. Mrs. Robb told the crowd the facility

was made possible by generous donations and a pursuit led by God. She said through commitments and planning of everyone involved, coupled with human compassion from organizations such as Citizen Services Enterprise, the program began.

Urging everyone to reach into their own pockets, Mrs. Robb reminded the group that the facility was financed through various organizations.

"This is not funded by the government," she said. "There must be a number of people of means to help out with the home. All of us as members of this community can give from time to time. We are reaching out and up, sometimes we need to reach down. He (the Lord) expects our society to reach down to the neediest."

William D. "Buddy" Power said the home, thanks to several donations, would be able to remain neat and clean in appearance, which would add to the self-esteem of the residents of A Way Out.

Board secretary Peggy Utley informed the group of the future possibilities of the shelter.

"We are excited about the future," she said. "We would like to add an adult day-care center and literary classes ... and of course Bible study. We dream of having another shelter for homeless and abused women."

Dr. Bud Seibenlist, Marshall Regional Medical Center, announced that residents of the shelter would receive drug and alcohol screens and medical care from the

local health facility.

Marshall police Chaplain Eddie Nichols said he makes background checks on possible residents.

"I look for violent behavior and make sure no one has any arrest warrants," Nichols said. "Buddy is a genuine man. He is not doing this for his own self, he is doing it for God."

He told the story of how he'd been taken by a con artist, a woman who preyed on his kindness. Feeling disgusted he related to the audience what Power had told him. "You can't let one person ruin it for you. You have to keep on doing it," Nichols continued. "This gives us an outlet. We are giving them a way out."



MARTHA ROBB, Marshall city commissioner, and William D. "Buddy" Power, Citizen Service Enterprises, spoke at the open house ceremonies of A Way Out homeless shelter yesterday.

Ancestral Caddo Indian site unearthed

Cox East Texas

JEFFERSON — What was probably the last major village inhabited by Caddo Indians in their ancestral homeland has been discovered in eastern Marion County, according to archaeologists and representatives from the Caddo Tribe.

"Sha-Childni-ni," or Timber Hill, is located near James Bayou on land owned by International Paper, officials from the Cypress Valley Alliance and the Texas Historical Commission said during a news conference Tuesday at the Alliance office in Jefferson.

According to historical accounts, the Caddo lived at Timber Hill from 1790 until 1840, when they were forced to move to central Texas before being relocated to a reservation in Oklahoma, said Dr. James Brueth, director of the Department of Antiquities Preservation at the Texas Historical Commission in Austin.

Several hundred Caddo Indians lived at Timber Hill, which was a series of small hamlets, each made up of five or six households, Brueth said.

"The Caddo were in Texas for thousands of years. This site represents the end of a culture in its homeland," he said.

Avocational archaeologist Claude McCrocklin — who found the site — said he notified Caddo leaders in Louisiana and Oklahoma once he knew from the artifacts that Caddos had lived there.

Vernon Hunter, chairman of the Caddo Indian Tribe of Oklahoma, and Rufus Davis, chief of the Caddo Adai Tribe of Robeline, La., visited Timber Hill this week.

Before settlers from European countries and then the United States arrived, the Caddo lived in what is now northeast Texas, northwest Louisiana, southwest Arkansas and southeast Oklahoma.

Their communities ranged from isolated farmsteads to villages and large ceremonial centers, marked by ancient mounds. They hunted wild game and raised crops of corn, beans and squash. The oldest Caddo sites date from 1,000 to 1,200 years

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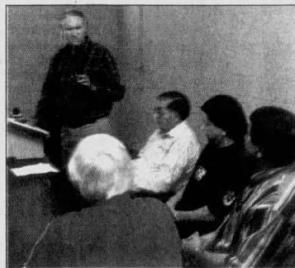


Les Hassell/News Messenger

INTERNATIONAL PAPER REGIONAL MANAGER

Robin Richerson and Duke DeWare of the Cypress Valley Alliance, above, examine artifacts discovered on land believed to be the site of a Caddo Indian community near Caddo Lake before a Tuesday morning press conference in Jefferson announcing the find.

At right, Louisiana archaeologist Claude McCrocklin speaks to Vernon Hunter, tribal chairman of the Caddo Indian Tribe of Oklahoma, Rufus Davis, chief of the Caddo Adai Tribe of Louisiana, and representatives of the International Paper company.



Commissioners vote to resume night meetings

By JEFF LEHR

News Messenger

For the second time in less than a year Harrison County commissioners Tuesday rejected a proposed change of policy on public input at their meetings, but unanimously agreed to return to the practice of conducting some meetings at night.

The two issues were put to votes of the full court following a presentation by Karnack-area resident Paul Fortune.

Fortune was seeking a relaxation of the court's rule requiring citizens to arrange speaking time at commissioners' meetings prior to notice of agendas. The state's open meetings law mandates that government bodies provide public notice of non-emergency agenda items 72 hours in advance.

Fortune said the law does not intend for the court to pass that requirement on to citizens by forcing them to prearrange time to express their views on court issues. He asked that some time be set aside on each meeting's agenda for public comment.

"For this to work effectively, the public input must be at the beginning of each meeting," Fortune said, reading from a prepared statement.

He suggested that each person who wishes to speak at the start of a meeting be given three minutes.

The same majority of the court that had spurned a proposed change of policy in May of last year — County Judge Rodney Gilstrap and commissioners Charles Bennett and Jeff Thompson — did so again Tuesday. They believe the current policy — which has been in place in Harrison County for more than 20 years — accomplishes a

► Court approves Caddo Lake resolution.
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smooth flow of business without denying the public an avenue to express opinions.

County Commissioner James Mooney, who made the motion to change the policy, said he was not surprised that County Commissioner Glen Hobbs was the only other member of the court to join him in voting for a change. Mooney said most, if not all, other counties provide open speaking times at meetings.

"It seems to me the ones that have a problem with it are attorneys," Mooney said, taking a jab at Gilstrap.

Asked if he is likely to try to put the matter to another vote of the current court, Mooney said he probably will not. But the issue seems unlikely to disappear in the months ahead.

Jack "Puzzy" Harmon, a Republican running against Gilstrap for county judge in the November general election, was at the meeting Tuesday and indicated he will continue to push it as an issue.

"People have got about nine months and they'll be able to speak when I get elected," Harmon said.

None of the commissioners expressed any reservations about Fortune's other request — the court's resumption of occasional night meetings.

"If it affords people an opportunity to be here that wouldn't otherwise get the chance, that's fine. I'm all for it," Gilstrap said.

Consequently, the court will hold

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