



# NEISD WHEELS



## FROM THE DRIVER'S SEAT...



This edition serves as the mid-year issue of publishing the "NEISD Wheels" for the third time since it was reactivated. The department has much to be proud of and several employees will be featured in this issue.

Even though we started this year with less than the desired number of drivers, our drivers, mechanics, and office personnel stepped up to support 210 regular routes while servicing 70 special needs and 61 mid-day routes and runs, respectively, at school's start. Now, due to the district's population growth and capping of some

schools, the regular number of routes has since increased to 215.

The "Headlights Section" will once again highlight accomplishments of several of our employees in various capacities outside of normal duties. There is also a wealth of varied information in this issue along with an update of the massive undertaking in meeting the recently mandated requirements of HB 3190, "School Bus Evacuation" training.

Please sit back and have some good leisure time reading and seeing a different perspective of the NEISD Transportation Department . . .

*Mr. A*

## HEADLIGHTS ON...

**Rose Marie Siebenhausen:**

*With A Stroke of the Brush . . .*

Rose Marie has had experience as an elementary teacher and also a high school teacher over thirteen years in the private school sector. Additionally, she taught one year at Judson High School before transitioning to the NEISD Transportation Department. She has taught Art Classes at Fort Sam Houston at the Craft Center starting some years ago in the Community Education Programs for San Antonio College and NEISD. Her other teaching venues were classes for The Institute of Life (time learning) and for the San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department.



Additionally, she worked at San Antonio Express-News in the Classified Advertising Department and the Real Estate and Automotive Division. Through the years of continuing education, she earned a B.A. degree in Fine Arts from Incarnate Word University, took classes in Advertising Art at S.A.C. and later involved herself in an Architectural Class at UTSA.

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## Headlights On Rose Marie (Cont'd from page 1)...

Rose Marie completed three paintings of the historical Mission San Jose some years ago. These paintings were on exhibition when the Missions were under the State's supervision. She had also received a T.F.A.A. Citation for one of her paintings. She's been the recipient of numerous awards won through competitions throughout the years.

She has spent two years taking care of her mother and has been with NEISD Transportation for 19 years so far. Rose Marie, we are proud of your accomplishments in art, and she's equally proud to be one of our special need bus drivers.

## Headlights on... Dave Ruhaak

—Another Triumph for Our Marathon Man  
(Parts reprinted from Prime Time Newspapers)



Students who take the bus to Bradley Middle School and Hidden Forest Elementary School see a familiar face every day. Dave Ruhaak has been their driver since he moved here from Galveston ten years ago. What many of them may not know is that Dave is also a marathon runner, gearing up for the most famous one of them all, the Boston Marathon.

Several things make Dave remarkable. First off, he is now 66 and didn't actually run his first marathon until he was 40! He has run 20+ marathons since that time, including the Chicago Marathon, the Dallas Marathon, the Houston Marathon and the Galveston Marathon. "I've run the last two several times as I lived locally," says Dave.

What truly sets Dave apart is his desire to help others. He'd actually hung up his training shoes and turned to another passion of his, golf, as he had injured his back some time back with all the running. Then he heard about Kelly Scott, a physical education teacher at Lopez Middle School. She is a breast cancer survivor and wanted to run to commemorate her battle and subsequent victory. Dave told her he'd train with her and one other friend, Jennifer Beudet. Dave never cut the girls any slack on anything. . . Age, aching muscles, running in the extreme cold — there was just never an excuse when it came to running and training.

They ran the 2007 Austin Marathon, training for months beforehand. The three of them finished together hand-in-hand. It was only later the ladies discovered that Dave was hoping to qualify for the Boston Marathon but missed the qualifying time by seven seconds. "That's the kind of guy he is," Kelly enthuses. Dave sees it differently. "It would have been nice to qualify, absolutely, but that wasn't my reason or focus for running the (2007) Marathon. It was to support two incredible ladies."

Dave will have his chance this year with the Boston Marathon (in April) since he qualified in February at the 2008 Austin Marathon. Best of luck Dave!!!

More information about our organization is available at [www.neisd.net](http://www.neisd.net) by clicking on "Transportation" or "Bus Route Information"

## Wellness Hints!

Norbert De  
La Vega is

active and stays healthy by using a variety of daily menu plans. He's agreed to share a recipe for a Weight-Loss Healthy Shake:

6-10 ounces distilled water

2 Tablespoons apple cider vinegar

1 Tablespoon Safflower Oil

1 Tablespoon Flaxseed or Fish Oil

1 scoop Lindberg Protein Blend powder

2 scoops Optimum Nutrition Pro Complex protein powder

1 teaspoon MSM powder

1 teaspoon Glutamine powder

6-8 frozen strawberries

1/4 cup blueberries

1/2 cup bananas

1 packet non-caloric sweetener

If desired, add a few ice cubes and blend until smooth.

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

Churchill HS Early Release:	Mar 24/25
NEISD Job Fair (Serna ES)	March 29
Special Olympics:	April 15
CENTEX Road-E-O (BAC):	April 19
Battle of Flowers Holiday:	April 25
Memorial Day Holiday:	May 26
High School Early Release:	June 3 & 4
Last Day of School:	June 4
First Day of Summer School:	June 11

## Locks of Love

Before the holidays, Maria Hagan, Bus Assistant, donated her long hair to make a wig for a Cancer Patient. Her hair use to be down below her waist, but her hair is now shoulder length! Thanks Maria! And shorter hair will feel great this Spring!

## Congratulations to our Most Recent Retirees:

“Time slowly passes, but easily slips away.” However, their accomplishments, many hours, dedication and loyalty will be greatly missed. Our most recent retirees include:



Joe Apolinar



Ben Carter



Norm Clark



Jack Irwin



Carolyn SantaCruz



Raul Zarazua

Thank you, gracias, and we wish you the very best as you begin your new lives.

## A Bus Driver’s Prayer—Author Unknown Submitted by Tim Cassler

Please, Lord, watch me this day.

Please help me remember to watch all five mirrors, two dozen windows, eight gauges, six warning lights, six dozen faces, three lanes of traffic and to keep a third eye open for wobbling bicycles and daydreaming pedestrians, especially teenagers wearing headsets who are in another world.

Please Lord, help me hear all train whistles, truck and automobile horns, police sirens and the two-way radio.

Please also let me hear when one of my students calls for me, and just needs a listening ear.

Please Lord, give me a hand for the gear lever, the steering wheel, the route book, the radio microphone and the turn-signal level, while being able to hand out Kleenexes, pencils, or other things the kids may need.

And Lord, please grant me the self-control to keep my hands away from Johnny’s neck when he’s pinching and biting Billy, while trying to keep everybody in their seat, and reminding them that sticking their head outside the window is not safe.

And one more thing, dear Lord, please don’t let Mary be sick all over the bus.

And finally Lord, please watch over us all so that we can do it again next year. AMEN!

## Supervisory Positions Filled:



Patrick (Pat) Cassidy was recently selected as our new Special Needs Supervisor. Mr. Cassidy leaves his former position, Assistant Supervisor Special Needs, after serving nearly two years. Since September 4, 2007, Pat has managed/supervised the Special Needs Department on an interim basis until his selection as Supervisor. He previously drove buses for two years before assuming the assistant supervisor’s duties and responsibilities in 2006.

Pat retired from the Air Force in 1992 after serving 26 years. He transitioned and started working for the QVC company in San Antonio over 12 years where he served as a customer service representative, trainer, supervisor, shift manager, and a top manager. In view of Pat’s interim performance in managing/supervising Special Needs transportation, he’s coming into the position with a “full steam ahead” attitude and expects a lot of good things to come in the near future.

Congratulations Mr. Cassidy and with your persona and leadership, the program for Special Needs pupil transition will exceed expectations.



It was an honor and pleasure to announce the official selection of Juan Vega as the new Assistant Supervisor Special Needs, effective February 25. Mr. Vega has been with the department since August, 2001, as a former bus driver for about two years and camera helper/trainer for an additional four years. He was employed in industry and served in a supervising capacity for several years before he started working in the public school system.

A panel of three individuals from both executive and senior management levels of the department interviewed several individuals, and the selection process was keen and very competitive. Congratulations to Juan and we look forward to your continued professionalism, hard work, and support to assist moving the Special Needs program to another level.

## BAC Garners Another PTA Life Membership:

This past December Karen Morgan was selected to receive one of the highest honors than can be bestowed by the Texas PTA: the Texas Congress of Parents and Teachers Honorary Life Membership. Karen earned this distinguished achievement through her hard work at many schools, including the one sponsoring her nomination—Lopez Middle School.



Karen joins three other recipients of this prestigious award at BAC: Amanda Kuykendall, Paul Robel and Delbert Hayes.

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**Drivers and Assistants with Perfect Attendance:**

We are fortunate to have many drivers and assistants working towards Perfect Attendance this school year. Since school began on Aug 27th through the end of Feb NEISD has had nearly sixty individuals whom have not missed a run (AM or PM).

As we all know, no one knows a route as well as the regular driver and assistant. There are also less behavioral problems on the buses when the regulars are present.

Those with perfect attendance so far this year are:

**Central Drivers:**

Dori Bayer, Lupe Botello, Susan Brewer, Cheryl Carson, Mike Castaneda, Don Cornell, Jerold Edwards, Bruce Frederickson, Jack Fuentes, Stanley Jefferson, Bernard Ladson, Wiley Milner, Al Miranda, Aurelio Perez, Renee Schubert, David Stehling, Clara Vazquez, Robert White, Dawn Zera, Howard Zingg, and Charles Zinnel.

**BAC Drivers:**

Gladys Bishop, George Burdine, Lamont Burt, Kari Ekwurzel, Roy Garcia, Delbert Hayes, Robert Hopkins, Blanca Martinez, Bob Mercado, James Netts, John Ramirez, Gil Saldana, David St. Clair, Tony Vasquez, John Wilkerson, and Irene Zamora.

**Special Needs Drivers:**

Herb Carlson, Willie Floyd, Anira Golden, Tina Grayson, Don Macaulay, Gary Roe, Jonnie Smith, and Gloria Zepeda.

**Special Needs Assistants:**

Aline Armke, Mickie Avila, Jeane Falcon, Pennie Floyd, Maggie Gonzales, Maria Hagan, Sandra Marks, Mary Ortega, Willie Smith, Mary Talamantes, and Rosalie Troutz.

**Driver Recognizes Assistant's Knowledge and Response**

At approximately 7:50 a.m. a middle school student boarded the bus but began shaking when he reached the third step. He fell to his knees and was aided to his seat by my assistant, Mrs. Laura Moten, where she began to ask him some questions.

Assuming clumsiness on the part of the student, as he had some falling spells where, on one occasion several weeks ago he broke his

right wrist at school, I began to "drive off".

Ms. Laura insisted I stop—she wanted me to back the bus up so she could get off to talk to the student's mom. As they both approached the bus and the student was starting to exit the bus, Ms. Laura sat him down on the steps. He was having a second seizure!

His mom immediately called 911 for help. She stated he had never had seizures be-

fore and was now convinced Ms. Laura was correct in her diagnosis. By the time the ambulance showed, he had had a total of four seizures.

Thanks to Ms Laura's experience and knowledge, added to observation and quick response. She may have alleviated serious injury to the student. I am so honored to have her as my assistant.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anna Melton

I am sending this e-mail to give credit where credit is due. Vincent DePaola has been caught doing something good. He is a McKinney bus driver. The majority of his students either come from outside districts to us to attend school or go from our district to other schools. This week we have the early outs and his middle school students who live outside NEISD are suppose to receive a "taxi voucher"

from the attending school. Mr. DePaola was informed he did not need to pick up these middle school students since they would be taken care of.

On Monday afternoon Mr. DePaola checked with all his students to make sure they had received their vouchers. The result: two did not know anything about it and the third had his waiting at school for him. The end re-

sult was the parent of one student was making other arrangements for pickup.

The third student would have been "left behind" had Mr. DePaola not checked to ensure the safety and well-being of his students. The "taxi voucher" had not been delivered to the school to ensure the student's transportation during the three days of "early outs".

**The third student would have been "left behind"...**

Submitted by Special Needs Clerk,  
Charlotte Graf



### Festive Occasions

The department made up for lost time and festive events this past winter and during the Black History Month Celebration at both terminals since the traditional Thanksgiving luncheons could not occur because of the bus evacuation training schedule.

Both terminals celebrated a tamale luncheon before the winter break. BAC was treated with the keyboarding and vocals of our own Larry Williams, with Jeff Hodges on guitar, and Bill (friend) on accordion while Central terminal grooved off

the radio's seasonal tunes. And during the Black History Month Celebration, both terminals had volunteers and committees to plan and provide for the luncheons—with Central terminal adding its traditional skit and songs. First, grace was provided by Carl Roth and the assorted soul, Tex-Mex, Creole dishes were served and well consumed. A song composed by Farrell Kay Woodruff set the stage for the luncheon when she sang "Let's Pray Together" in tribute to the aftermath of "Katrina".

Those helping with parties: **BAC Winter Break:** Becky Ruiz (organizer), Barbara Hilt, Linda Mora, Yolanda Garcia, Kathy Kilday, Virginia Gutierrez, Blanca Martinez, Bruce Miller, James Netts, Stanley Edwards and Fred Arreche.

**Central Winter Break:** Chris O'Connor, Susan Torres, Ron Amos, Elwin Russell, Earl Stewart, Karen Hoening, Franki Whitbeck and Gloria Howarton.

**BAC Black History:** Committee: Tracey Lewis (organizer), Flora Harris, Bruce Miller and Maggie

Lathom. Helpers: Jacque Starks, Diane Gilmore, and Barbara Hilt.

**Central Black History:** Committee: LaJune Crockett, Jeannette Lee, Marva King and Alice Smith. Helpers: Angelique Daniels, Sherry Dukes, Tina Grayson, Carl Roth, Susan Torres, Alice Armstrong, Laura Moten, Farrell Woodruff and Cynthia Clark.

Also, thanks to all the people who brought food and/or donated money towards the luncheons.



Can you say "Food"???

There's never a shortage of good food or good companionship whenever the Department has their luncheons!!!



Special thanks to Bruce Miller who deep fried all the catfish at the BAC terminal in observance of Black History Month.





## Emergency Bus Egress / Evacuation Training Mandated

House Bill 3190 received legislative approval this past August requiring all districts statewide require students, regardless if they are current bus riders, teachers, and other school personnel who travel with students on buses to receive bus evacuation training twice a school year: once each semester.

Susan Torres, Operations Manager, states "Sonny Sturgill, our Safety Specialist, devised a schedule and from Nov 14 through Jan 16 we conducted the first round during the fall semester. 58,546 students and 4,760 campus personnel, using 10-12 buses for an elementary school, 12-15 buses for middle schools and 25-30 to accommodate each high school, were involved."

Arrangements were made where students and the personnel received classroom instruction by viewing a video tape before an evacuation was conducted. Fall semester training included procedures of departing the bus using the front door; identify various safety equipment on the bus, such as the fire extinguisher, first aid and body fluid kits; and how to open and escape from the buses using the side windows, rear door and escape hatches on top of the bus.

"We have already started and completed part of the spring semester training with elementary schools, and this time students will evacuate the buses from the rear door" says Chris O'Connor, Director of Transportation. "We couldn't have done this without the full and outstanding cooperation and cordial hospitality of the campus administration and teachers . . . and we are truly grateful."

Here are the professionals (drivers, support staff and managers) who started and kept the wheels turning as they should. We salute their loyalty and dedication:

**Drivers:** Don Alvis, Leigh Ball, Dori Bayer, Annette Beatty, James Bell, Gladys Bishop, John Brand, Sherry Brewer, Daniel Brink, Emily Cardona, Ed Clark, Claudia Del Real, Jerold Edwards, Bruce Frederickson, George Freemyer, Joaquin Fuentes, Norman Fulkerson, Jose Gallegos, Theresa Hendricks, Derrick Heslep, Barbara Hilt, Lon Jarvis, Stanley Jefferson, Ed Kennedy, Owen Kilday, Bernard Larson, Kim Lopez, Mary Lopez, Dain Matthis, Virgil McClendon, Wiley Milner, Al Miranda, Robert Moore, Linda Mora, Heather Morgan, Karyn Mullins, Elizabeth Murry, Irene Navarro, Agnes Paul, Gerry Perales, Andy Ramirez, Otila Reyes, Rudy Rossano, Rebecca Ruiz, Mary Sanders, Abel Santana, Tony Sepulveda, Delvin Session, Christopher Shipp, Kim Simmons, Jacque Starks, Lisa Tabler, Clifford Thompson, Richard Turano, Patricia Turner, Regine Turner, John Valles, Tony Vasquez, Clara Vazquez, Vicki Warren, Martin Werner, Derek White, Robert White, Dawn Zera and Charles Zinnel.

**Support Staff:** Stanley Edwards, Amanda Kuykendall, Joe Smartt, Ron Troutt, and Ed Williams.

**Managers:** Ron Amos, Chris O'Connor, Elwin Russell, Ken Gay, Sonny Sturgill, Susan Torres, and Franki Whitbeck.

## Maintenance Technicians Show Their Skills by Earl Stewart

On March 15th the Texas Association of School Bus Technicians (TASBT) held the first ever statewide Technicians competition.



Wayne Sibley and Tom Hilbig represented NEISD at the competitions. They were able to use their years of experience and vast knowledge of school bus maintenance to represent North East very well at the state level. Wayne competed in the inspection competition while



Tom competed in the troubleshooting competition. Tom placed 3rd in his competition and will be recognized at the state conference to be held in Corpus Christi on June 14, 2008. I would like to personally thank Wayne and Tom for their professionalism and dedication they have shown over the years. Thanks guys and keep up the excellent work.



*Tom Hilbig and Wayne Sibley: two of our excellent mechanics who keep the wheels turning and the fleet of 372 school buses in top condition.*

**Our daily mission is providing safe, reliable, economical and courteous school bus service to all eligible students.**