

Suit filed to block 'intelligent design' theory from schools_11005

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Suit filed to block 'intelligent design' theory from schools

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Two civil-liberties watchdog groups have filed the first known lawsuit to prevent public schools from teaching the theory of "intelligent design."

Investigation pending into Southeastern Seminary finances_11005

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Investigation pending into Southeastern Seminary finances

By Steve DeVane

North Carolina Biblical Recorder

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (ABP)—The Wake County District Attorney has asked the State Bureau of Investigation in North Carolina to look into finances at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

UMHB students collect toys_11005

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University of Mary Hardin- Baylor students Jason Moore, Dustin Swaim and Jesse Holmes participate in a toy drive.

UMHB students collect toys

Braving the cold and the wind, members of the Sader Sports Medicine Association held their final push for toys by providing a drive-thru drop-off at the Andersen Field House at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor.

All the toys being collected by the group will go to the U.S. Marine Corps, which holds an annual toy drive county-wide in Bell County.

According to the group's sponsor, Trevor Swift, this is a relatively new organization on campus, just formed in 2000, but they have exceeded other organizations in delivering toys for the annual drive.

"We were the most per location last year, and we have already collected more this year than last year, in fact, we filled our third drop box today," said Swift.

The 20 students involved in the organization this year are primarily exercise and sports science majors.

Many of them want to go into sports medicine. This was the first year for junior

Jesse Holmes to be involved in the drive.

"It's good to see people come out and bring toys.

I've been surprised to see so many toys, and it's always nice to help someone out," said Holmes.

News of religion, faith, missions, Bible study and Christian ministry among Texas Baptist churches, in the BGCT, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and around the world.

Profile: India's billion people have a booming economy, enormous needs_122004

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As many as 30 million pilgrims flooded the Hindu holy city of Ujjain to seek spiritual cleansing in the sacred Shipra River. India alone is home to 14 "super-mega" people groups with more than 10 million members each who are currently "unengaged" by a church-planting movement strategy. (Matt Jones Photo)

'As India goes, so goes the Great Commission'

By Erich Bridges

International Mission Board

MUMBAI, India (BP)-What country is home to thousands of millionaires and nine of the world's richest billionaires, makes more movies than Hollywood, boasts the world's largest democracy and is home to 24 million Christians, including 19 million evangelicals?

Around the State_122004

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Pastor Corey Webb
looks on as
Everyday Christian
Fellowship in
Schertz prepares to
break ground on a
17,0000-square-foot
multipurpose
facility. At the end
of the ceremony,
bags were passed
out so that
everyone could
scoop up a bit of
the dirt to take
home as a prayer
reminder. Since the
church's start in
2001, more than
400 people have
prayed to receive
Christ through its
ministry, and 120
have been baptized.

The day of the
groundbreaking,
the church baptized
10 people,
including a family
of three.

Around the State

♦ **Ronnie Kidd** has been re-elected president of the the Hardin-Simmons University Alumni Association. **Linda Perkins** will serve as president-elect. Other leaders include **Andrea Howey, Larry Moss, Karen Johnson, Erin Maddox, Karen Gurganus, Debbie Young, Deborah Ashmore, Ann Scargall, Pat Kelley, Billy Bob Neff, Janis Altom, Vance Cooksey, Dean Taggart, Donald Tittle, Dorothy Kiser, Debbie Harruff, Bea Shackleford** and **Fred Ewing**.

♦ Twelve East Texas Baptist University students participated in a model United Nations conference in Chicago. Representing the Marshall school were **Amanda Bishop, Ben Bryan, Clarissa Knabenshue, Ginna Hobbs, Hollie Klumpp, Jay Carriker, Jon Roach, Keith Guthrie, Mark Jackson, Paul Potter, Ryan Abt** and **Ryan Fason**.



South Texas Children's Home and the Baptist General Convention of Texas hosted a day of inspiration and dove shoot for South Texas pastors and staff at the STCH Boothe Campus north of Beeville. More than 50 guests participated in a Bible study and fellowship led by Ed Rogers of Georgetown and Homer Hanna of Beeville followed by a dove hunt and barbeque meal. Enjoying a laugh about the doves that got away are (back row, left to right) Greg Taylor, pastor of First Church in Beeville; David Nabors, CFO and treasurer of the BGCT; Bill Fowler, pastor of First Church in Pleasanton; Mike Flanagan, pastor of First Church in Pharr; Jim Furgerson, BGCT South Texas regional office associate; Michael Murphy, pastor of First Church in Smithville; and Jad Hubbard, deacon at First Church in Smithville. Front row from left, Ross Chandler, pastor of First Church in Hondo; Jerry Haag, president and CEO of STCH; Charles Wade, executive director of the BGCT; Lee Bevly, pastor of First Church in Skidmore; and Ruben Perez, deacon at First Church in Pharr.

♦ Eleven University of Mary Hardin-Baylor students were accepted into the 25th annual Central Texas Art Competition. Top awards were earned by senior art majors **Katherine Salter**, **Paula Smith** and **Brian McClure**. Other UMHB students accepted into the competition were **Tabitha Lovelace**, **Dean Youngblood**, **Nancy Holder**, **Katy Seals**, **Lea Wulbrecht**, **Hope Greeley**, **Melinda Hawkins** and **Karen Burgess**. One hundred sixty artworks were chosen from 400 entries.

BaptistWay Bible Series for Dec. 26: Christians should invest in eternal treasure_122004

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BaptistWay Bible Series for Dec. 26

Christians should invest in eternal treasure

Matthew 6:19-34

By Todd Still

Truett Seminary, Waco

BaptistWay Bible Series for Jan. 2: Jesus offers nuggets of wisdom to his disciples_122004

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BaptistWay Bible Series for Jan. 2

Jesus offers nuggets of wisdom to his disciples

Matthew 7:1-27

By Todd Still

Truett Seminary, Waco

Voting faculty nix Baylor president; supporters find fault with referendum_122004

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Voting faculty nix Baylor president; supporters find fault with referendum

By Ken Camp

Managing Editor

WACO—A majority of Baylor University faculty who voted in a nonbinding referendum on the leadership of President Robert Sloan believe he should be dismissed.

Church guides visitors through interactive journey to Bethlehem_122004

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Jim
Vickroy, a
member of
Western
Oaks
Baptist
Church of
Springfield,
Ill.,
portrays
Zechariah
in the
church's
interactive
Christmas
drama.

Church guides visitors through interactive journey to Bethlehem

By Michael Leathers

Associated Baptist Press

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (ABP)—With just a portable heater as defense against the cool night, Kendra Jackson waits for the next group of Christmas celebrants to arrive. The 30-something mother of two daughters is portraying Anna in the interactive Christmas drama produced by Western Oaks Baptist Church.

Governance committee named to draft new bylaws for Baptist General Convention of Texas_122004

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Governance committee named to draft new bylaws for Baptist General Convention of Texas

By Ferrell Foster

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS-Twenty-one Texas Baptists have agreed to serve on a governance committee to develop new bylaws for the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Baptist Briefs_122004

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Baptist Briefs

Mercer president announces retirement plans. Kirby Godsey, Mercer University's longest-serving president, announced he will retire in 18 months, and trustees expect to start the search for his successor as early as spring. At a recent trustee meeting, Godsey, 68, revealed his plans to step down June 30, 2006. Mercer trustee and Augusta attorney David Hudson will head the search committee, which will begin work in the spring. Godsey went to work for the historically Baptist university in 1977 as executive vice president and dean of the College of Liberal Arts. Previously he was vice president and dean of the college at Averett College in Danville, Va. When Godsey became president in 1979, Mercer had an enrollment of 3,800 students, an endowment of \$16.5 million and a budget of \$21.3 million. It grew under his leadership to become Georgia's second-largest private university, with an enrollment of 7,300 students, an endowment of more than \$176 million, a budget of \$173.8 million and 665 faculty members.

BGCT president to address CBF assembly. Baptist General Convention of Texas President Albert Reyes has been added to the list of keynote speakers at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship general assembly, June 29-July 2 at Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center in Grapevine. Reyes, who also is president of Baptist University of the Americas in San Antonio, will speak during the Thursday evening session. Online registration and hotel reservations for the general assembly can be made at the Fellowship's website, www.thefellowship.info.

Baptist chaplain honored. The Chapel of the Four Chaplains recently presented its Legion of Honor award to Cooperative Baptist Fellowship-endorsed chaplain Keith Ethridge. Ethridge is acting deputy director for the National Chaplains Center for the Department of Veterans Affairs. A former U.S. Navy chaplain, Ethridge has been a clinical pastoral education supervisor 17 years. The Chapel of the Four Chaplains, a national nonprofit organization established to encourage cooperation and promote unity without uniformity, annually recognizes individuals from all walks of life who render selfless service. Dedicated by President Truman in 1951, the chapel was inspired by the courageous acts of four U.S. Army chaplains serving aboard the U.S. troop carrier Dorchester, which was sunk by a torpedo off the coast of Greenland in 1943. The chaplains-Catholic, Dutch Reformed, Jewish and Methodist-went down with the ship after surrendering their own lifejackets to servicemen aboard.

Pastor launches support network for other military families_122004

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Pastor launches support network for

other military families

By George Henson

Staff Writer

BROADDUS—Aaron Barth always has had his dream firmly in sight. From his earliest days, his mother and father can remember Aaron and his brother, William, playing army with sticks they found in the yard.