

Bullard school district wins safety award

Claims Administrative Services (CAS) announced last week that Bullard ISD, one of more than 470 school districts participating in the CAS workers' compensation Association Plan, recently received the Best 3-Year Loss Ratio Award for achieving an average loss ratio of 0 percent.

Bullard ISD Superintendent, Jim Wright was recognized by CAS at its

17th Annual TASA Mid-Winter Luncheon in Austin.

The award, a \$500 scholarship that the district can assign to a worthy student, was presented for success in implementing safety programs designed to prevent employee injuries in the workplace.

The CAS workers' compensation program has assisted Texas Schools in preventing more than 22,200



employee injuries since 1991, and CAS estimates that participating districts have saved more than \$288 million in claim costs during that time.

CAS President, Bill Costanza, commented, "Bullard ISD should be congratulated for their commitment to workplace safety and cost control."

"We at CAS are truly thrilled that clients like this

who have participated in our program have seen such a dramatic reduction in injuries and claims cost. At CAS, our number one priority is providing the safest possible workplace for district employees while keeping costs at a minimum.

"Every dollar that a district saves is a dollar that can be used to improve a campus or enrich the learning experience in a classroom."

TJC sets free 'adult student workshop' for March 19

Information about starting college for the first time - or returning after a long absence - will be provided by Tyler Junior College Support Services during a free Adult Student Workshop.

The workshop will be held from 8:30 a.m. to noon Wednesday, March 19, in Apache Rooms 3 and 4 of the Rogers Student Center, located at the corner of Baxter Avenue and Lake

Street on the TJC campus.

Adult Student Workshops are open to anyone 21 years or older who is interested in returning to college.

They are designed for those individuals with a high school diploma or General Educational Development (GED), who may be the first in their family to attend college, and who may lack financial resources for tuition,

fees, books and childcare while attending college.

This might include single parents, displaced homemakers, recently laid-off workers or other adults who need retraining for a new career.

The college admissions process, registration procedures, testing requirements, financial aid and other services available to students will be discussed, as will

promising career fields for future students.

Workshop speakers will include representatives from the offices of admissions, testing, financial aid, support services and distance learning, as well as the counselors from each TJC academic school: Allied Health & Nursing, Applied Studies, Continuing Studies and University Studies.

Reservations are recommended.

To register for the workshop, call the TJC Support Services office at 903-510-2395 or email Dr. Vickie Geisel at

vgei@tjc.edu.

Long-distance callers may reach the TJC switchboard toll-free during regular business hours by dialing 800-687-5680, ext. 2395.

Group fights Trans-Texas Corridor

On Monday, American Land Foundation, Stewards of the Range, and TURF held an all-day workshop at the Lufkin Pitser Garrison Civic Center on how to stop the Trans-Texas Corridor-69.

Thousands of Texas citizens have voiced their opposition to the TTC-69 in public meetings held by TxDOT, but no one believes they are being heard or that they can keep the massive superhighway from being built, organizers said.

However, there are four cities and their school districts that have found a way to force TxDOT to "coordinate" with them on the TTC-35 and it's working.

"Utilizing Chapter 391 of the Texas Local Government Code, four rural towns in Bell County formed the Eastern Central Texas Sub-Regional Planning Commission (ECTSRPC) forcing TxDOT to come to them," said Fred Grant, attorney and president of Stewards of the Range.

Grant has been helping the four cities and school districts for

the past six months.

Since forming last August, the ECTSRPC has held two coordination meetings with TxDOT and one with Region 6 of the Environmental Protection Agency, where they have had more than 10 hours of open, in-depth discussions about the local concerns.

"We discuss our bus routes, re-routing water lines, the disruption of our emergency services, and the taking of 3,500 acres of prime farmland away from our local economy," said Mae Smith, mayor of Holland and president of the ECTSRPC. "Before we formed our commission, we couldn't get five minutes with

anyone at TxDOT. Now, they are working with us because they are required to under Chapter 391."

Several members of the Commission attended the workshop to answer questions along with the team that put the strategy together.

"If we can get commissions established up and down the I-69 Corridor we have a real shot at stopping this monster," said Hank Gilbert, Director of TURF and one of the speakers at the workshop.

PLEASE HELP!

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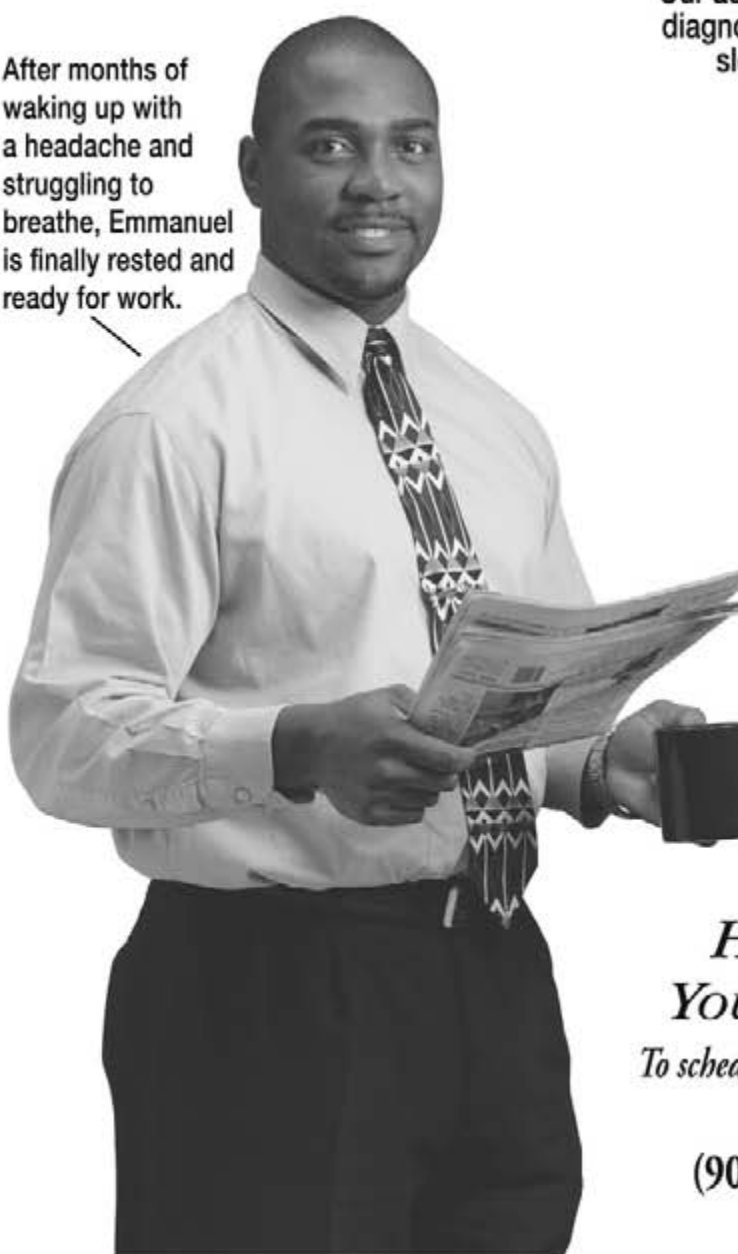
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