



NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TSLAC ANNOUNCES NEW EXHIBITS, READING CLUB KICKOFF

AUSTIN – Visitors to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission’s Lorenzo de Zavala State Archives and Library Building may now view original draft pages from the Republic of Texas Constitution and a never-ratified Texas-Cherokee treaty as part of an exhibit focusing on early Republic of Texas leaders.

David G. Burnet, Sam Houston and Lorenzo de Zavala (TSLAC’s headquarters building namesake) each had a hand in creating the documents on display, which are being shown as part of the 175th anniversary celebration of Texas’ independence. They accompany existing displays illuminating aspects of Texas’ role in the Civil War, in recognition of the war’s 150th anniversary. One case contains the original Ordinance of Secession, adopted in 1861.

These artifacts may be seen weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the lobby of the Zavala building at 1201 Brazos St., along with a display highlighting TSLAC’s 54th annual Texas Reading Club program, which encourages students to maintain and improve their reading skills during summer vacations. The 2011 theme is "Dig Up a Good Book!" and features artwork created by Austin-based picture book author Keith Graves, winner of a 2011 E.B. White Award for his book, “Chicken Big.”

The 2011 Texas Reading Club officially kicks off Monday, May 23, at 10 a.m., with a performance by outgoing Texas State Musician Sara Hickman on the Texas State Capitol East lawn. Students from Dawson, St. Elmo’s and Zavala elementary schools will sing along with Sara as she encourages them to “Dig Up a Good Book!” They will return to class with Graves posters from TSLAC and books donated by Bookspring, an Austin organization that promotes early literacy. Bookspring and Friends of Libraries & Archives of Texas are co-sponsors of the event with TSLAC.

“We’re so pleased to be able to offer quality exhibits and programming to Texans of all ages,” says TSLAC Director and Librarian Peggy D. Rudd. “Texans are proud of their history, and we’re proud to share it. We’re also proud to promote reading among young Texans, and encourage them to become library users for life.”

Students may join the reading club or Texas Teens Read! club through their local libraries.

For those interested in learning more about the Texas revolution, TSLAC has prepared an online exhibit, "Texas 175," which may be seen by clicking on or typing the url www.tsl.state.tx.us/exhibits/texas175/index.html.

For more information about the exhibits or reading club kickoff, contact Lynne Margolis at (512) 463-5514, lmargolis@tsl.state.tx.us.

Images: Republic of Texas and Texas Reading Club lobby displays; Sara Hickman; Texas Reading Club poster art

Credit: Texas State Library and Archives Commission

ABOUT THE TEXAS STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES COMMISSION

Formed in 1909, TSLAC is committed to giving Texans access to information and programs they can use to improve their lives. We provide historical and genealogical search assistance, federal and state government documents, electronic research and library services to all Texans, including those who are unable to read standard print materials. For more information, visit www.tsl.state.tx.us.

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