

OUR TURN

Toasts

To Austin Heights and SFA, county commissioners and O'Malley Alley Cat

To members of Austin Heights Baptist Church and SFA for cosponsoring the showing of the documentary "Switch," a film about the energy challenges we face today and will face in the future. The documentary is said to take a balanced approach, seeking input from the energy industry, academia and international leaders of government. "Switch" is part of the Switch Energy Project, which, according to its website, is a film, web and education program to build energy awareness and efficiency, and find practical, balanced solutions to our energy challenges. With energy being one of the most important issues of our time, we commend those behind bringing this documentary to the movie theater in the Student Center on campus. Check out "Switch" at 6 p.m. Oct. 13.

... to the Nacogdoches County commissioners who worked tirelessly on a budget that seeks to live within its means. In the face of two consecutive years with a \$2 million shortfall, some very tough choices had to be made during each budget cycle. Decisions to reign in spending are never easy. Nobody gleefully cuts services, jobs or raises taxes. Just as many families have to make sacrifices to make ends meet, so too does our local government.

... to the O'Malley Alley Cat Organization for its efforts to provide low-cost spaying and neutering for people who may not be able to afford having their pets fixed. The organization is holding fundraisers and will be applying for grants to bring a new clinic to fruition. O'Malley, which traps, neuters and returns cats to the territory in which they were trapped, already works with a veterinarian for spaying and neutering services. They will also have to fund a low- to no-cost vet for the new clinic, which they hope to have up and running by the first of the year, according to O'Malley's Diana Hensley. Any effort to slow down the overpopulation of unwanted pets in the county is an effort we all should get behind.