

Lindsay holds workshop on new gym construction

By Janet Felderhoff
Another round of give and take took place Monday night when the Lindsay ISD Board of Trustees met with the architect firm of Callahan and Freeman to discuss plans for construction of a new gymnasium. Estimated costs were presented and those present exchanged ideas on how things might be changed to save money.

A proposed design plan was presented to the Board and public present at the regular January Board meeting. Suggestions gleaned from this meeting were considered.

The regular February

Board meeting was changed from Feb. 16 to Feb. 23 due to no school on the 16th. Callahan and Freeman will present a plan and more accurate cost estimates at that time. After considering the new plan and costs, the Board will consider calling a bond election. Superintendent Jerry Metzler noted that if they are still unsatisfied with the cost estimates, they will meet again in early March to discuss a possible election.

In other business at the Feb. 9 meeting, the Board hired Brandy Dieter as elementary teacher for the remainder of the school year.

Republication Party honors Sacred Heart

Cooke County Republican Party has scored again and is ready to let the "Good Times Roll" with their Lincoln Day Luncheon that is to be held Wednesday, Feb. 18 at 11:30 a.m. in the Gainesville Civic Center at 311 S. Weaver Street in Gainesville.

Senator John Cornyn will be speaking to the interests of Cooke County, which includes oil, gas, farming, interstate roads, transportation, and the President's programs. Senator Cornyn may be the junior Senator, but he is making senior moves. Senate Majority Whip Mitch McConnell, the second highest Republican in the Senate, tapped U.S. Senator John Cornyn to join important leadership team, as a Deputy Whip, who under McConnell's team helps gather support for and deliver votes on major issues. This team is responsible for mobilizing votes and support on key issues in the party's agenda.

Cornyn also serves on four of the Senate's most powerful committees: Judiciary Environmental and Public Works, Armed Services and Budget. Senator Cornyn chairs the Judiciary Committee's subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights. "For a junior Senator, we have seen him taking on some powerful people in the Senate, and making important inroads on controversial issues," said Pat Peale. "We've known John

Cornyn as our outstanding Texas Attorney General, and now we welcome him as our outstanding junior U.S. Senator."

The program will also include recognition of State Football Champions Sacred Heart Tigers, TAPPS 2-A, and Gainesville Leopards, UIL 3A-1. These schools and teams have brought tremendous honor to Cooke County and to their schools, and everyone is proud of them and wants to honor them in their achievements.

"I am truly honored that Senator Cornyn has agreed to be our guest here in Cooke County," Cooke County Republican Chairman Byron Berry stated, "His service to our state as a District Judge, State Supreme Court Justice and Attorney General gives him background and ability few legislators have. This is an event that these young people from Muenster and Gainesville should really treasure for the rest of their lives. We hope the crowd will rival the one we had when Governor W. Bush was governor."

To live up to the festivities with the knowledge that we are going into Lent, the great Cajun music entertainment will be The Zydamax Band.

There are table sponsor tickets of Platinum \$750, Gold \$500, Silver \$350, and tickets of \$35 a piece. Make your reservations at Republican Headquarters 665-8683.

MMH pays of operating note



MMH Board President Kenny Klement signs documents to pay off the Hospital's line of credit. The line was set up to provide interim financing until the hospital's reimbursements began coming in after the facilities change to a "Critical Access Hospital." The hospital had drawn \$250,000 on the line. Pictured left to right are: Robert Weinzapfel, Richard Arnold, Kenny Klement, Lynn Heller and John Yates.

Photo by Janie Hartman

Study says time for "new jail"

By Janet Felderhoff
Norris Fletcher of the firm Burns, Fletcher, Gill Architects, presented Commissioners Court with the results of the recently completed study of the Cooke County Jail. Fletcher was at the meeting of Commissioners Court on Monday, Feb. 9.

"To make a long story short, the jail that you are operating now is technically obsolete, operationally difficult, and operationally dangerous to operate," revealed Fletcher. He referred them to page seven of the Jail Study Report. "You've basically got two options as we see it. You can add 28,522 square feet of new space to the 22,470 feet of existing space, at a cost in the range of \$7,000,000. ... You will have 175 total beds. You will have no parking on site. All of the buildings will have to be remodeled. Due to site and structural constraints, the facility will continue to be staff intensive, dangerous,

and inadequate relative to administration and support functions.

"The other option is to construct a new jail for approximately a half million dollars more money. It will house 160 inmate beds, be readily expandable to 212 beds and be safe, secure, and sanitary. With that said, it is our recommendation that Cooke County proceed with the building of 160 bed capacity jail."

The current jail facility can be expanded to no more than 175 beds, said Fletcher. "At some point in the future you are going to face an even larger problem than you have today," he advised.

Judge Freeman remarked, "The jail is just barely functional now. It's a functional facility, but if any renovation were done to that facility now, we would be required to fix all of the discrepancies that we are operating under grandfather clauses. Is that correct?"

Fletcher agreed it was. Fletcher added that there are some building code violations that exist that he is unsure could be fixed. Also it would have to be renovated to meet handicap accessibility rules.

"All of those things piled on top of each other, you're getting awfully close to the cost of a new facility," Fletcher observed. A new facility would be more efficient, he said.

"We've got to do something to stop the bleeding," concluded Judge Freeman. "The County is bleeding (because) the tax dollars are leaving the County and going out west to support another county. This court has the judiciary responsibility to at least let the taxpayers know what's happening and let them tell us how to fix it." It costs \$37.50 per inmate per day in dickens county and \$30 per inmate per day in Montague County. The number Cooke Can keep is limited by the Texas Jail Commission on Jail Standards.

To hold a bond election in May, the County would have to know the cost of the proposed jail in March to call the election.

Commissioners voted unanimously to allow Burns, Fletcher, Gill to proceed with the schematics and design phase of a new 160-bed jail facility at a new location.

The Court noted that with a new facility, they would then have the old facility to use for other purposes such as storage or possibly office space. "The County is in need of more secure storage space for things like deed records.

Judge Freeman declined to say where the new jail might be located. "If you narrow yourself down to one piece of property, you narrow your flexibility," he said. He said they wanted to purchase enough land so that they wouldn't get caught in a land-locked situation as they are in now.

Commissioner Bill Cox inquired as to how much was spent monthly on plumbing repairs for the jail. It could be very high at times replied Sheriff Compton.

Judge Freeman said that he, Commissioner Jerry Lewis, and Fletcher had toured the jail after the last meeting. "It was the first time I've been through the jail in

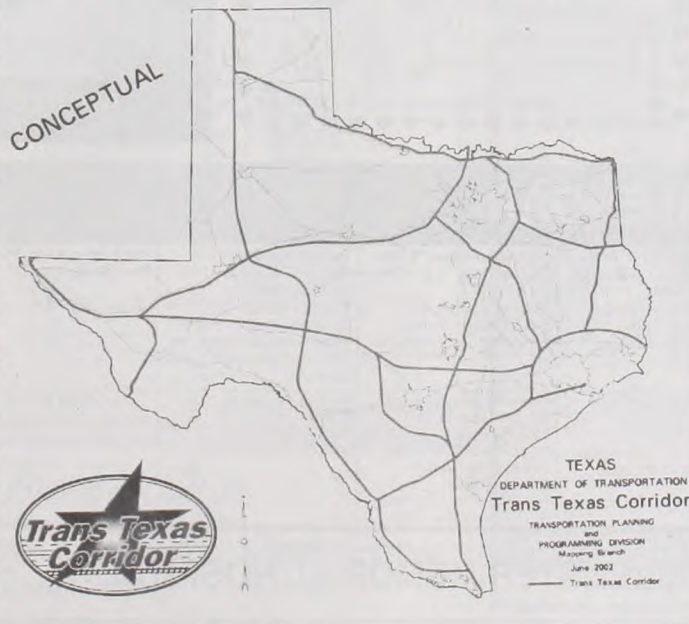
See Jail Page 2

Who's in the Path of the Trans-Texas Corridor

The Texas Department of Transportation will hold series of public hearings throughout the state in February regarding the Trans-Texas Corridor to gather public comments and opinions on possible routes for the Trans-Texas Corridor.

A hearing will take place in Cooke County on Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 6 p.m. in the Gainesville Civic Center, 311 South Weaver Street.

A network of roads, rail, and a dedicated utility zone called the Trans-Texas Corridor will be built to move people, goods, utilities, and even ideas throughout the state safely and faster than ever before. Construction will be funded over several decades through tolls, bonds, and other innovative financing tools. Likely starting points for this corridor will be high population areas of the state. Eventual features of the corridor could include separate lanes for cars and trucks, separate passenger, commuter, and freight rail lines as well as a dedicated utility zone that includes water, electricity, natural gas, petroleum, fiber optics, and telecommunications.



Abduction attempted

By Janet Felderhoff
The school bus arrived just in time to save a 15-year-old Montague County girl from possible abduction and harm. According to a report released by Gary Studebaker of the Montague County Sheriff's Department, the incident occurred at approximately 7:30 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 9 at a school bus stop located on FM 1749 north of Sunset.

The report indicated that a white male driving a red Chevy, possibly a Cavalier, equipped with fog lights on the bumper, approached the girl at the bus stop. The suspect was attempting to get the girl into his vehicle. The school bus approached at that time and the bus driver observed the incident. The male then returned to his vehicle

without the girl and drove off at a high rate of speed. He was last seen traveling northbound on FM 1749 toward the Forestburg area.

The bus driver and the girl both described the suspect as a white male, approximately five foot six inches tall, in his early 20s. He was wearing a blue ball cap, orange shirt, and blue jeans.

The Montague County Sheriff's Office encourages anyone with information on this suspect, vehicle, or similar occurrences to contact the Department at (940) 894-2871.

Area schools were notified and notes were sent home with students to make parents aware of the potential danger.

Jail.....Continued from page 1

years, except the front part," remarked Freeman. "It is at best probably a dangerous facility to work in for our employees. It's not a very good facility."

Commissioner Phil Young described deterioration that he's observed when doing plumbing repairs there.

Sheriff Compton said, "It's both sides, the jail side and the administrative side. We have absolutely no room. We have two and a half file cabinets left that we can put files in and when those cabinets are full, the next file cabinet will go in the area I use as an office."

"The building is very difficult to work in. The only thing that makes that building work is the people working there, the jailers and staff."

EMS is currently housed in a cinderblock building that was once a Laundromat and has been added on to several times, said Freeman. It has some problems with leaks and at times there are problems getting to the east side of the County due to having to wait on trains or go out of the way around the tracks.

Judge Freeman proposed

adding another proposition to the ballot in May. He would like to see a new EMS building be considered. He said he was advised that it must be kept separate from the jail and the jail issue. That was not an agenda item for Monday's meeting. Judge Freeman said there is a special meeting to be called for Friday, Feb. 13 at 9 a.m. At that time Commissioners Court will discuss and possibly approve authorizing Burns, Fletcher, Gill Architects to proceed with schematics and design phase of an EMS building to be located next to the new jail.

Precinct #2 Commissioner Bill Cox said that for a long time he's been hoping to come to an interlocal agreement with Denton County for road maintenance on roads that were cut off from the counties with the creation of Lake Ray Roberts.

In the agreement Cooke County will maintain two miles of Denton County's roads and Denton County will maintain one mile of Cooke County's roads. Cox said that the agreement saves a 26-mile trip to grade the one-mile

of road. The two miles that Cooke County will maintain for Denton County will require no additional travel. Commissioners were unanimous in their approval of the Interlocal agreement. It becomes effective 15 days after Denton County approves it.

All appointed members of the Lake Ray Roberts Planning and Zoning Board recently resigned. There has been a good deal of controversy concerning a proposed tower in that area. A lawsuit is a possibility. Members of that Board consist of the mayor of Valley View or a representative appointed by the mayor; three are appointed by the County Judge; and one by the Commissioner of each precinct involved in that zone (Precinct #2 is the only one, so Precinct #2 commissioner appoints two).

Commissioner Cox outlined the requirements of anyone appointed to the Board. Cox said the person must own land in Cooke County and be in Precinct #2.

Pat Crawford, a rancher living south of Mountain Springs, and Jim King, an executive with Chrysler Cor-

poration, were the two Cox recommended. Judge Freeman recommended Brad Sheppard and Bud Smith who live in the Ranch Subdivision, and Robert Victor who lives on Blackjack Road. They were unanimously appointed by Commissioners Court. Carl Kemplin, Valley View mayor agreed to serve.

An Executive Session lasting about an hour was held to consult with council about possible litigation against the County. No action was taken as a result of this Session.

During the Public Comments portion of the Agenda, Richard Laughlin requested that the Court consider sending all public notices via e-mail to citizens who request being placed on the list. Judge Freeman informed him that it was a possibility. They are very close to being able to post meeting agendas on the County's website. He hopes that they will be able to post all public notices there also.

Wayne Dodson returned to

offer corrected figures regarding information he's shared at the Jan. 26 meeting. He said he was trying to figure how many houses were in each precinct. He feels that the equal four-way division of the County's Road & Bridge Fund is not a fair division.

Dodson requested being placed on the agenda to allow him more than five minutes to explain his ideas. Judge Freeman said that agenda items deal with things requiring action. The time to discuss Road & Bridge Funds would be at the Budget hearings that take place in June and July.

Bob Henderson of Callisburg asked which of the four subchapters under Chapter 252 of the Texas Transportation Code does Cooke County operate under. Judge Freeman said he would have to check on it and would let him know that afternoon.

In other business Commissioners Court:

- Appointed Renada D. Henderson to Position 8 on the Cooke County Child Welfare Board.

- Approved resolution for the Texoma Council of Governments FY 2004/2005 Regional Solid Waste Grant. This enables Cooke County to fund an environmental officer.

- Approved preliminary plat for Liedtke Hill Subdivision, Lots 1-3 located at the intersection of CR 108 and CR 127 in Precinct #1.

- Approved Callisburg's request to install a new six inch water line across CR 1133, approximately 10 feet north of CR 124 to run a new water line down CR 124.

- Approved preliminary plat for Southridge of Lindsay Section 3, Lots 236-47, located off of CR 3631 in Precinct #3.

- Approved bonds for Dudley Ivie, bailiff; Robert Dillin and Donald Tooley jailers; Wesley Wood, Michael A. James, and Richard Norie deputy sheriffs.

Workforce Texoma hosts economic workshop

Workforce Texoma will be hosting a workshop featuring internationally known Dr. Ernesto Sirolli, founder and CEO of the Sirolli Institute. Dr. Sirolli, is a dynamic and engaging lecturer who speaks with passion, wit, and wisdom about entrepreneurship and its vital role in local economic development. In 1985, he pioneered Enterprise Facilitation, a unique approach to local development based on facilitating the transformation of good local ideas into viable businesses. Since that time, Enterprise Facilitation has created hundreds of businesses in dozens of communities on

four different continents. Enterprise Facilitation is known for its effectiveness and for its grass roots, person-centered approach to community development.

Civic leaders, community and economic developers, investors, and elected officials are encouraged to attend this exciting session to discuss the possibility of bringing Enterprise Facilitation to the Texoma area. The session will be held Thursday, Feb. 19 at the Center for Workplace Learning on the campus of Grayson County College. The cost of the workshop is \$15. For registration information, contact Bob Rhoden or Tammy Holland

at 903-957-7408, or e-mail bob.rhoden@twc.state.tx.us.

Ernesto Sirolli acquired a Laurea di Dottore in Political Science from Rome University in 1976, which included extensive work with international aid agencies in developing nations of Africa. He later went on to further post-graduate studies at Stellenbosch University in Cape Town, South Africa and at Murdoch University in Western Australia. Sirolli has published *Ripples from the Zambezi*, a book about Enterprise Facilitation, and is currently working on a new book focusing on his theory of entrepreneurial management.



Superintendents of Cooke County Schools receiving Weather Radios from CCEC Representative. Left to right: Dr. Charles Holloway, Clyde Steelman, Kathy Boone, Kit Mason, and Gordon Taylor. Inset: CCEC Representative Kathy Boone presenting Jon LeBrasseur a weather radio for Sacred Heart School.

CCEC donates weather radios to local schools

The Fort Worth/Dallas Forecast Office of the National Weather Service established a weather radio transmitter near Muenster on November 20, 2003. The transmitter was placed 290 feet high on the 400 ft. tower owned by Cooke County Electric Cooperative, approximately 2 miles east of Muenster.

To show appreciation to schools in the CCEC area, the Electric Coop purchased Emergency Alert Weather Radios for the 15 schools

districts. The Board felt it was important to get a Weather Radio into the hands of school administrators who need current information concerning road conditions, storm warnings and storm watches to help make the best decisions regarding the safety of students, faculty, and other school personnel.

CCEC Member Services Representative Kathy Boone met with superintendents Charles Holloway of Callisburg, Clyde Steelman of Muenster, Kit Mason of

Era, and Gordon Taylor of Valley View and presented each with a Weather Radio following the Superintendents' Special Education Co-op Meeting in January.

Boone also met with Interim Principal Jon LeBrasseur and presented a weather radio to Sacred Heart School. Other area schools receiving weather radios are Collinsville, Forestburg, Gainesville, Lindsay, Nocona, Prairie Valley, Saint Jo, Svirrell Bend, Walnut Bend, and Whitesboro.

Clear Creek Watershed Authority elects Directors

In connection with a called special election, six candidates have been elected without opposition as Directors of The Clear Creek Watershed Authority: Albert J. Testa of Sanger, president; Neil M. Bowie of Saint Jo, vice president and secretary; W.E. "Bill" Buckalew of Forestburg, treasurer; Harroll J. Cain of Forestburg, director; J.F. "Jim" Raney of Era,

director; Nick Van Tol of Sanger, director.

The CCWA is a governmental agency of the State of Texas, created by the legislature in 1959 to control, store, preserve and distribute storm and flood waters in the Clear Creek watershed of Denton, Cooke, Montague, and Wise Counties.

The CCWA operates, inspects, and maintains 52 major flood control dams, 13 smaller dams, and 16 erosion control improvements built in the 1960s by the USDA NRCS as part of the National

Small Watershed Program. To learn more about the CCWA, visit their website at www.ccwa-tx.org.

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2-WEEK EVENTS CALENDAR

<p>Sunday, February 15, 2004 Muenster Museum Open 1-4 PM Dessert Theater In the Round, SH Community Center, 7PM</p>	<p>Monday, February 16, 2004 VFW Auxiliary meeting, 8PM Muenster ISD-NO CLASSES SHS In Service-NO CLASSES President's Day - FLY FLAGS Muenster Lady Hornets vs Bland @ Aubrey, 7PM</p>	<p>Tuesday, February 17, 2004 Exercise Class, 10:30-11:30, S.N.A.P. Center MMH Board meeting, 7PM Tigerettes vs. Central TX Christian, 6PM, SH Gym</p>	<p>Wednesday, February 18, 2004 Exercise Class, 10:30-11:30, S.N.A.P. Center Religious Ed Class, 7PM Beef Cattle Improvement Association, 7PM, Fairgrounds</p>	<p>Thursday, February 19, 2004 Exercise Class, 10:30-11:30, S.N.A.P. Center Muenster Museum Open 1-4PM Gainesville League of Women Voters Candidate Forum, 7PM, First Christian Church, Gainesville</p>	<p>Friday, February 20, 2004 Muenster Museum Open 1-4 PM</p>	<p>Saturday, February 21, 2004 Cooke County 4-H Livestock Show, Fairgrounds</p>
<p>Sunday, February 22, 2004 Muenster Museum Open 1-4 PM</p>	<p>Monday, February 23, 2004</p>	<p>Tuesday, February 24, 2004 Exercise Class, 10:30-11:30, S.N.A.P. Center Marketing Club meeting, 7PM, Gainesville Farm Bureau</p>	<p>Wednesday, February 25, 2004 Exercise Class, 10:30-11:30, S.N.A.P. Center Religious Ed Mass, 6:30PM SHS Advisory Council meeting, 7:30 PM Farmer/Rancher Symposium, NCTC Theater, 8AM-3:30PM</p>	<p>Thursday, February 26, 2004 Exercise Class, 10:30-11:30, S.N.A.P. Center Muenster Museum Open 1-4PM</p>	<p>Friday, February 27, 2004 Muenster Museum Open 1-4 PM</p>	<p>Saturday, February 28, 2004</p>

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Dialogue open by NCTC student government

The lines are open - lines of communication, that is - between students and members of the North Central Texas College governing board and administration. Manning those lines with renewed vigor are members of the college's Student Government Association (SGA).

SGA officers met on campus recently with representatives of the NCTC governing board and Dr. Ronnie Glasscock, president.

It was the second such meeting in recent weeks, and all parties said that the initial sessions have proven so productive and helpful, that others definitely will be scheduled on a regular basis throughout the academic year, not only on the Gainesville Campus but at Corinth and Bowie as well.

"I'm so proud of these students for initiating this effort," said Ann Kemplin of Valley View, one of the regents who met with SGA officers on campus. "It was their idea, and it's very clear that they are committed to establishing an effective line of communication that works in both directions."

Also participating in this week's meeting with SGA representatives was regent Claude Walter of Muenster. Both said they welcomed this opportunity to dialogue directly with students.

"I'm confident that I speak for all the other members of the board in saying that we place the highest possible value on what our students have to say," Walter commented. "After all, serving the needs of students is what this college is all about. Who can better communicate those needs to us than the students themselves?"

Both Walter and Kemplin said they believe it is not just important, but essential, that the administration and board actively encourage and carefully listen to student input on all issues facing the college, whether through student membership on various committees and task forces or through these kinds of meetings with SGA and other student organizations.

"If we're going to claim to represent the views of the students," said Dawayne Helm, president, "We have to have a way to voice their concerns to those who have the power and authority to do actually do something to address them. It doesn't do much good to just get together and discuss the issues among ourselves."

Helm, a freshman criminal justice major from Alex, Oklahoma, said he and the other SGA officers appreciate the eagerness of

the Board and Administration to meet with them, not only to hear what the student representatives have to say, but also to answer their questions and talk to them directly about all the different decisions that have or will be made that affect students at NCTC.

"But we don't want to be just a forum for complaints and gripes either," said Paul Mauer, SGA vice president. "We want to feel free to criticize if we think it's warranted, but we definitely want any such criticism to be constructive."

Among other issues discussed at Friday's meeting was the need, expressed by Jaye vanAcht, sophomore business major from Bowie and SGA secretary, for more "gathering places" for students on all three

Joining Helm, Mauer, and vanAcht as SGA officers for 2004 are Emily Lamb, treasurer, a sophomore pre-med major from Gainesville and Elisa Endres, parliamentarian, a sophomore music education major from Gainesville. Lamb said her office of treasurer is a new one, created by vote of the SGA senators at their general assembly in December.

Helm told the regents and Dr. Glasscock at the meeting that one of the top priorities of SGA for the coming year is "to promote unity and pride" and to broaden representation among all students at NCTC and at all campuses. Currently, SGA senators are representatives of each of the various registered student organizations at the college, as well as each of the athletic teams.

Each of these 17 groups elects its representative to serve as SGA senator, according to Kim Brown, who as director of student life supervises NCTC's residence halls, coordinates student activities and serves as SGA advisor.

Among other spring semester activities in which SGA will be involved are "Mardi Gras Day" on Feb. 27; a health fair and fun run on May 1; a voter registration drive; employee appreciation activity prior to Valentine's Day; hosting of a TJCSGA Region II intramural sports contest; and an end-of-year student organization banquet.

In addition, SGA is coordinating a new "Adopt-A-Spot" program whereby various student organizations will adopt various locations at all three campuses to improve, beautify, and keep clean. Each "spot" will be designated with signage specifying the group taking care of it.

Advisor Brown said the SGA is always eager to receive input from students on any issue of concern to students. She said students who wish to ask questions or make suggestions may speak directly to any SGA officer or senator, or they may direct them to her, and she will pass them along. Brown can be reached at 940-668-7731, ext. 414, or by email: kbrown@nctc.edu.



At NCTC meeting from left, Emily Lamb, SGA treasurer; Ann Kemplin, regent; Claude Walter, regent; Dawayne Helm, SGA president; Kim Brown, director of student life and SGA advisor (standing); Paul Mauer, SGA vice-president; Jaye vanAcht, SGA secretary. Courtesy photo

campuses. She said she is particularly hopeful that more outdoor spaces - with benches, picnic tables, possibly a gazebo - can be provided to allow students a pleasant place to get together socially between classes and even to study.

The student representatives also proposed that the Board and Administration give serious consideration to construction, within the next few years, of a separate "rec center or student union type building" on the Gainesville Campus.

"We think the renovation and beautification of the campus that's going on right now is going to be of tremendous help," Helms said. "As a student who lives in the residence hall, I'm really excited about the amazing improvements that have been made there. Now it feels more like home."

All of the SGA officers said they are excited about the proposed new performing arts center and reported that the association plans to contribute to the "Best Seat in the House" fund raising campaign to raise scholarships.

From My Side of the Fence by Ed Cleer

When my folks moved into Muenster after having lived on a farm about two miles east of town, they made a house owned by the Lukes our home. After the water well was changed or redrilled to a better water supply, everything was fine.

I remember a flight of blackbirds, such as I had not seen before, and never since. I was a kid of three or four, and I can remember the blackbirds flying north in a steady stream, arching to the east and then to the west. As I recall, the flight was about one to three hundred feet in width, and I

stood and watched them. Regardless of their wavering, they flew north.

I finally grew tired of standing, and lay down on the grass. It was comfortable and I soon went to sleep. When I awoke the birds were still coming out of the south, and disappearing in the north. Later in the evening, I went out and the birds were still in flight.

Since then, over the years, I have seen swarms of blackbirds, moving generally north at times, but never a flight such as that.

Red Cross receives donation

The Texoma Area Red Cross has received a grant of \$7,500 from The Home Depot Foundation for a local Senior Adults Disaster Preparedness Initiative.

The grant will allow the local Red Cross chapter, serving Cooke, Grayson, and Fannin counties, to train 350 senior adults in disaster preparedness and response, as well as CPR and First Aid. Additionally, the Red Cross will conduct preparedness programs for approximately 1,750 senior adults through group presentations.

"With over 35,000 people over age 60 in our tri-county service area, we hope to provide advanced training to one percent of this population, as well as basis disaster preparedness education to five percent," Sharon Watson, executive director of the Texoma Area Red Cross said. "The Home Depot Foundation grant is a welcomed jump-start for our preparedness initiative."

The Red Cross also hopes to recruit an additional 50 volunteers from this pool of trainees to become Red Cross disaster volunteers. Many of the chapter's current disaster volunteers are in this age group.

The Red Cross plans to work with local organizations who have members in this age group, churches, and individuals.

Kelly Caffarelli, executive director of The Home Depot Foundation noted, "One of our goals is to help ensure that disaster preparedness training is accessible to everyone. We are delighted to assist the Texoma Area Red Cross in this important initiative to help ensure senior adults get the training they need to respond appropriately in the event of a disaster."

For information on the Red Cross Senior Adult Disaster Preparedness Initiative contact the Texoma Chapter at 903-465-1330.

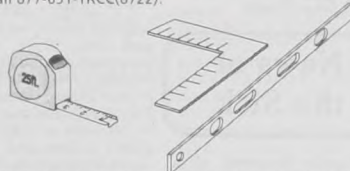
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For more information, go to <http://www.trcc.state.tx.us/> or call 877-651-TRCC(8722).



SOURCES: Carole Keeton Strayhorn, Texas Comptroller (www.window.state.tx.us/) and the Texas Residential Construction Commission.

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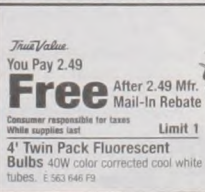
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Lifestyle



Kristin Michelle Hardin and Leslie Ryan Cler will marry June 26, 2004 at the Renaissance Hotel in Dallas. Following the ceremony, a reception will be held there. Kristin is the daughter of Dan and Jean Hardin of Livermore, California. She graduated from the University of California in Los Angeles and now attends the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas. Leslie is the son of Charles and Alyce Cler of Lindsay. He graduated from Texas Tech University and now attends University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas. The couple plans to honeymoon in Cancun and live in Dallas.

ABBA to feature Mr. Charles Thornton at annual banquet

ABBA Women's Center, a crisis pregnancy center serving Cooke County and surrounding areas, will host Charles Thornton, noted Christian comedian and speaker, for the annual fundraising dinner, to be held Saturday, Mar. 6, at 6:00 p.m. at the Centennial Hall in Lindsay.

His sister led Charles to Christ when he was 26 years old. He was a successful computer salesman at the time. At the age of 28, he left the secular business community to become the minister of evangelism of First Baptist Church of Euless, where he has served for the last 20 years. In addition to his responsibilities at First Baptist Church of Euless, Charles speaks at revivals, retreats, and motivational seminars throughout the United States. God uses his down home humor and wit to communicate the Gospel in a practical way that is appealing to those searching for the truth, as well as mature Christians.

Charles and his wife of 18 years, Pat, have three

children: John 16, Jenilee 14, and Caroline 10.

ABBA's resale store, which opened last year, will present a style show that will acquaint people with the quality merchandise available at the store.

Donna Hertel of Miss Olivia's will cater dinner. Tickets are on sale now and seating is limited. Please call ABBA, (940) 668-6391, for ticket information.



Charles Thornton



Mr. and Mrs. Randy Reiter of Era announce the engagement of their daughter Kerri Lynn to Michael William, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Hitt of Searcy, Arkansas. The bride-to-be is a 2003 graduate of Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee, and is a Clinical Laboratory Scientist at Huguley Memorial Medical Center in Fort Worth. The future groom is a 2003 graduate of Southern Adventist University and is the owner of Madisonville Directories. Kerri and Michael plan to make their home in Madisonville, Kentucky. They will exchange their wedding vows at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Gainesville on March 20, 2004 at 6:15 in the evening.

Texoma Red Cross plans "Red Hot & Ready" event

The Texoma Area Chapter of the American Red Cross launches its "Red Hot & Ready" barbecue cook-off and garage sale on Saturday, Mar. 20. The fundraising event will include upscale garage sale items, a silent auction, and a barbecue cook-off among fire departments from the three counties the Red Cross chapter serves - Cooke, Fannin, and Grayson.

The event will be at the Morton Street Plaza, 2300 W. Morton Street, Denison from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

In preparation for the event, the Red Cross is accepting donations of furniture, household items, tools, toys, etc., for the garage sale. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by the IRS. Donations of clothing and shoes will not be accepted. Items may be dropped off at the Red Cross office in Denison at 2527 Highway 691 and the office in Gainesville in the basement of the county courthouse. The garage sale will be from 8 a.m. until noon. A special children's corner will be on display at the garage sale. A silent auction follows from noon to 4 p.m. Barbecue cook-off will be judged at 2 p.m., with samples available thereafter. Judges for the cook-off will be representatives from county

government from the three counties.

Contributions of gently used or new stuffed animals and bottled water to assist families and emergency workers in a disaster will also be appreciated.

For more information you can contact the Red Cross at (903) 465-1330 (Grayson County); (940) 665-4365 (Cooke County) or (903) 664-0067 (Fannin County).

All Red Cross disaster assistance is free, made possible by voluntary donations of time and money from the American people. You can help the victims of tornadoes and floods and thousands of other disasters across the country each year by making a financial gift to the Texoma American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund, 2527 Highway 691, Denison, 75020.

New Arrival

Fleitman

Bobby and Mallorie Fleitman of Denton announce the birth of their first child, a daughter, Megan Malena Fleitman was born on Thursday, Jan. 22, 2004 at 12:48 a.m. in Denton Community Hospital. She weighed 6 lb. 6 oz. and measured 18 inches in length. Grandparents are Hershell and Judy Hanks of Garland and Annette Fleitman of Lindsay and the late Henry Fleitman. Great-grandmother is Ila Hanks of Hobbs, New Mexico.

News of the Sick

Frances Stratton is a patient at Harris Methodist Hospital. She is the daughter of Bonnie Hess of Muenster. Cards and letters will reach her at Harris Methodist Hospital, Frances Stratton, Room 406, 1301 Pennsylvania Ave., Fort Worth, TX 76104.

Free poetry contest open to Muenster residents

The International Library of Poetry has announced that \$58,000.00 in prizes will be awarded this year in the International Open Poetry Contest. Poets from the Muenster area, particularly beginners, are welcome to try to win their share of over 250 prizes. The deadline for the contest is May 31. The contest is open to everyone and entry is FREE.

To enter, send ONE original poem, any subject and any style to: The International Library of Poetry, Suite 1919, 1 Poetry Plaza, Owings Mills, MD 21117. The poem should be 20 lines or less, and the poet's name and address should appear on the top of the page. Entries must be postmarked or sent via the Internet by May 31. You may also enter online at www.poetry.com.

Meeting Notice

Diabetes Support Group meeting will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 17, at 7:00 p.m. at Gainesville Memorial Hospital Culwell Conference Room. Jerry Meece, RPH, FACA, CDE will present the topic Dialogue, Discussion, & Update of Diabetes Developments. Individuals with diabetes and family members are encouraged to attend this free program. Door prizes are to be awarded. For more information, call Joan at (940) 759-2395.

Angelic A'Cappella hosts Dessert Theater Feb. 15

Valentine's Day Weekend will not be complete without attending the upcoming Angelic A'Cappella Valentine's Dessert Theater, to be held in the Community Center on Sunday, Feb. 15. Doors open at 6:45 p.m., and the program will begin promptly at 7:15 p.m.

The audience may choose from a wide variety of delicious desserts while enjoying an evening of

romantic music provided by the Angelic A'Cappella Choir. With well-loved songs by Hoagy Carmichael, Richard Rogers, and other well-known composers, the program will feature performances by the entire choir, solos, trios, quartets, and choreographed songs.

Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children and students and may be bought at the door. All are welcome.

Baptism

Swirczynski

Seth, Thomas Swirczynski, son of Amy and Glen Swirczynski, of Forney was baptized on Friday, Jan. 23, 2004 at 6 p.m. by Fr. Kyle Walterscheid in Sacred Heart Church. Godparents are aunt Laurie Walterscheid and uncle Paul Swirczynski. Seth wore the baptismal gown made by his great-grandmother, Theresa Felderhoff and worn by his mother Amy, and also Danny, Laurie, Greg, Eric, Alexandra, Hilary, and Isaac Walterscheid at their baptisms.

After the baptism, everyone gathered at the home of Seth's grandparents Sylvan and Theresa Mae Walterscheid. Others present were grandparents Tom and Paulette Swirczynski, great-grandmother Clara Endres; Paul Swirczynski of Denton; Laurie Walterscheid of Lewisville; Greg, Julie, Eric, Alexandra, and Hilary of Highland Village; Danny, Nannette, and Isaac Walterscheid; Fr. John Ohner; Fr. Kyle Walterscheid of Arlington; and Lisa Hamric of Fort Worth.

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Thirty-eight receive confirmation at Sacred Heart Church on Feb. 1

Thirty-eight young people from Sacred Heart Church received the sacrament of Confirmation at the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Feb. 1. Kyle Koesler, a confirmandi, received the Eucharist for the first time at the Mass as well. Since Bishop Joseph Delaney was unable to be there due to his health, Fr. John Ohner, O.S.A., presided at the Mass and conferred the sacrament.

Those receiving the sacrament were: Paul Bartush, Rose Bartush, Jacqueline Bauer, Daniel Cochran, Andy Davis, Donald Dickerson, Russell Endres, Derek Felderhoff, Dustin Felderhoff, JoAnna Felderhoff, Christine Fetsch, Lana Fisher, A.J. Fleitman, Katie Flusche, Sean Fuhrmann, Carrie Grewing, Shannon Grewing, Stephanie Henscheid, Kristen Hess, Todd Hess, Travis Hess, Chris Hoedebeck, Stevie Klement, Jessica Knabe, Kyle Koesler, Stephen LaChance, Justin Landers, Whitney Landers, Clint Miller, Thomas Otto, Michelle Pagel, Jon Pels, Alex Sicking, Tara Swirczynski, Clayton Truebenbach, Jeff Walterscheid, Mindy Walterscheid, and Justin Wolf.

The confirmandi and their sponsors processed up

during the gathering song, "The Spirit Is A-Movin'." Music ministers for the Mass were Ruth Felderhoff, Pam and Dave Fette, Christy Hesse, Emily Klement, and Jack White. After the Gloria was sung, Jacqueline Bauer did the First Reading. The Responsorial Psalm was "Lord, Send Out Your Spirit." Sean Fuhrmann did the Second Reading.

After the Gospel, Billie Becker presented the candidates for Confirmation to Father John. After the homily, Father John led the confirmandi in a renewal of their baptismal promises and prayed for the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit to descend upon them through the laying on of hands. Then each one was presented to Father by the sponsor, anointed with chrism (oil), and given the sign of peace.

General intercessions were read by Jon Pels. The gifts were brought forward by Daniel Cochran, Lana Fisher, and Shannon Grewing. The preparation song was "Send Us Your Spirit." Communion songs were "Servant Song" and "Alleluia." The commissioning song was "Send Us Out." During the commissioning song, Father John, the newly confirmed and their sponsors

processed out. After Mass the newly confirmed posed for a group picture with Father John.

Servers for the Mass were Zach Bartush, Isaac Davis, Dylan Flusche, Craig Grewing, and Jordan LaChance. Eucharistic ministers were Beth Bartush, Mary Bayer, Billie Becker, Ramona Felderhoff, Jacqueline Flusche, Linda Eggleton, Barbara LaChance, Barbara Rohmer, Christina Weinzapfel, and Margie York. Helpers who handed out booklets before Mass were Lisa Felderhoff, Mitch Felderhoff, Jordan Henscheid, and Thad and Cathy Otto.

The newly confirmed have been preparing for the sacrament since October through special Confirmation sessions and a day-long retreat. Members of the Confirmation team are Barbara Rohmer and Billie and Michael Becker. The newly confirmed have now received all three sacraments of initiation Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation and take their place as full-fledged members of the Catholic Church. Through the sacrament of Confirmation they receive the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit to be witnesses of Jesus Christ.



Cub Scouts enjoying a tour of the Muenster Enterprise recently were, from left, Zachary Truebenbach, Zakary Ford, Trevor Cheaney, Scott Wood (publisher), Karl Haubold (den leader), Blake Haubold, James Dangelmayr, Zachary Pollard, JT Smith, Parker Sicking, and Jeremy Hess. Deborah Wood photo

St. Mary's to host four day Pre-Lenten renewal Feb. 15-18



John Schweisthal

Saint Jo Opry set for Feb. 14

The Saint Jo Opry will be held in the school auditorium at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 14. Guests scheduled to appear are Billy Gilmore and his daughter Lilly from Waurika who have appeared on the Opry several times in the past. Billy always performs some classic country songs on the show. Also appearing is musician and singer Jeff Clarkson from Henrietta. He will be doing some blue grass numbers.

Roger Watson from Burkburnett will return on the steel/vocals. Audiences enjoy his Ray Price songs and style of music. Mark McCall from Nocona is scheduled to be on drums. Elizabeth Nowell, 17 year old Nocona high school student, will sing the National Anthem.

In the event of any form of freezing precipitation or hazardous driving conditions, the show will be canceled.

For more information or to reserve group seating, call 940-995-2443 or 995-2586 during office hours.

St. Mary's Catholic Church in Gainesville is hosting a Pre-Lenten week of renewal, Feb. 15 - 18. This four-day mission is open to all parishioners and visitors. There is no registration fee, only a free will offering will be taken.

John Schweisthal, the presenter from Good Ministries out of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, has conducted almost 400 missions in 25 states and three foreign countries. As a Roman Catholic Evangelist, Schweisthal's talks are to encourage the laity to enter a deeper walk of faith. His topic is "Dare to Live the Gospel." One may wish to bring their bible to the sessions.

There will be evening sessions at 7 p.m., as well as morning sessions at 8:30 a.m. so that one can choose to come to one or all of the sessions. There will be a total of 14 different talks given during the mission week.

After the evening session on Monday and Tuesday, the local priests will offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation. There will also be coffee and cookies in the rectory at the evening sessions for fellowship and hospitality.

This mission is open to all. The Catholic Community of St. Mary's Church invites you to come and bring your friends with you.

Cub Scouts participate in Pinewood derby

Cub Scout Pack 664 held their Annual Pinewood Derby on Jan. 18. The Scouts built their cars at den meetings and pack meetings, being careful to meet the weight and dimension specifications of the race. The top three finishers in each den were awarded a trophy. The top three overall also received trophies. Awards were given for Best Craftsmanship and Most Original.

The Overall winners were: 1, David Hutson; 2, Ryan Felderhoff; 3, Josh Biffle.

The winners in the Tiger Cub den were: 1, Trevor Cheaney; 2, Parker Sicking;

3, Blake Haubold. David Hutson was the 1st place finisher in the Wolf den, followed by Cole Walterscheid in 2nd, and Eddie Sweeney in 3rd.

Michael Weinzapfel won 1st in the Bear den. Second place went to Austin Hennigan, followed by John Paul Hesse in 3rd.

Top finishers in Webelos I were: 1, Josh Biffle; 2, Blake Voth; 3, Luke Crabtree.

Webelos II winners were: 1, Ryan Felderhoff; 2, Zack Pierce; 3, Spencer Nielsen. The award for Best Craftsmanship went to Hunter Klement. Zack Pierce won the award for Most Original.



VISTO Board members, from left, Mark Loewen, Renee Gregory, Ned Newman, JoAnne Ring, John Hare, Marti Bassette, Nancy Darwin. Not pictured are Catherine Bezner, Jimmy Cantrell, Sharon Dill, Laurie Sawyer, Susan Metzler, and Trina Wood. Courtesy photo

Visto receives Workforce Texoma award

Michelle M. Baldwin, Executive Director of Volunteers In Service To Others (VISTO), attended an award presentation and celebration sponsored by Workforce Texoma in Denison. VISTO was among several groups to receive awards, and was the only Cooke County entity noted.

VISTO received Workforce Texoma's Community Partner award, which is given to "local agencies or businesses that make a significant contribution to the workforce system, participate in quality initiatives and social responsibility, or demonstrate a commitment to the development of work-ready professionals."

VISTO teams with

Workforce Texoma to identify those shared customers who might be able to work. Workforce Texoma says Baldwin and her team "have developed a tracking and approval process for work eligible VISTO customers allowing them to update the information on their Workforce Texoma applications to maximize their job search efforts."

Additionally, Workforce Texoma says, "VISTO has established a budgeting class for their Workforce Texoma STAR (Self-Sufficiency To Achieve Results) and Youth Services Customers. The budgeting class provides basic financial awareness and financial discipline training for customers who struggle

with day to day living expenses."

Baldwin says that VISTO and Workforce Texoma make for a natural partnership because they have similar goals: to improve the lives of their customers through self-reliance. She is grateful to the local Gainesville Workforce office for nominating VISTO for the award. "It's encouraging for VISTO's work to be recognized, particularly by such a vital organization to our community as Texoma Workforce," says Baldwin.

Right now, VISTO is especially in need of chili, cornbread and brown papersacks. Also, watch for the upcoming Boy Scouts food drive; contact Sparky Flint at 665-1303 for dates, or VISTO at 668-6403 for more information on volunteering or making a donation.

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School

Students think love is...

The kindergarten students at Muenster Elementary have been reading many stories about Valentine's Day. They recently completed the sentence Love is.....

Mrs. Ledbetter's Class

- Kyle Klement** - Love is when my dad lets me go to the farm with him.
- Lane Serna** - Love is when my brother fixes stuff for me.
- Kimber Walterscheid** - Love is when my dogs kiss me.
- Devon Hacker** - Love is when they help you get your stuff together so you can go outside.
- Emily Fette** - Love is when your mom or dad gives you a rose.
- McKenna Proffer** - Love is when my cat Cuddles plays with me.
- Zachary Flusche** - Love is when my brothers play with me.
- Natalie Walterscheid** - Love is when Natalie Rose helps me clean my room.
- Dalton Williams** - Love is when my sister helps me tie my shoes.
- Alison Morris** - Love is when my mommie helps me clean up my room.
- Alaina Reiter** - Love is when my dad gives me a kiss.
- Kelsie Sicking** - Love is when my grandma gives me cookies.
- Natalie Fangman** - Love is when my brother and dad play with me.
- Jacob Cler** - Love is when my brother hugs me.
- Colton Morris** - Love is when my cat kisses me with his tongue.
- Cassie Hogan** - Love is when my mommy hugs me.
- Mrs. Ledbetter** - Love is when God blesses you with super students.

Mrs. Fredrick's Class

- Dalton Bartel** - Love is sometimes playing with other people!
- Roman Bayer** - Love is being with your family!
- Jordan Buddy** - Love is whenever you send a Valentine card to someone!
- Mitchell Hendricks** - Love is hugging your dad!
- Dalton Hess** - Love is kissing your mom & dad!
- Zane Kemp** - Love is my cat White Socks rubbing on me!
- Trace Klement** - Love is hugging my baby sister Hillary!
- Zachary Klement** - Love is playing Nintendo with mom & dad!
- Trevor Lancaster** - Love is your mom taking care of you when you're sick!!
- Abby Lutmer** - Love is when my mom makes me a big pink heart!
- Katie Pagel** - Love is giving flowers to your mom & dad!
- Nicole Rains** - Love is giving your mom a card or flowers!
- Claire Schneider** - Love is Cindy, my dog, coming in the house for me!
- Reagan Weger** - Love is kissing your mom & dad!
- Mrs. Fredrick** - Love is having an AWESOME Kindergarten Class!



Muenster High School Hornet Marching Band member Jennifer Tune received a superior rating at district band competition Feb. 7 at Hirschi High School in Wichita Falls. Jennifer performed Allegro by Antonio Vivaldi, by memory. Allegro is a class one solo. Jennifer will participate in the State Solo and Ensemble in San Marcos May 29-31.

Janie Hartman photo

How 60 minutes of physical activity a day keeps you healthy

Studies have indicated that children aren't getting physically active. Instead, they're spending their free time watching TV, playing video games, and using computers - trends that have added to children's sedentary lifestyles for more than two decades. In response to these growing statistics, VERB has partnered with communities across the nation to help children get moving. Experts recommend that children get at least 60 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity every day. Children who participate in physical activities can decrease their risk of Type 2 diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, and other chronic illnesses.

Additionally, children who are involved in physical activity programs also are more exposed to learning teamwork, self-discipline, sportsmanship, leadership and socialization skills.

Community based organizations, such as YMCAs (www.YMCA.com); 4-H clubs (www.national4hheadquarters.gov); parks and recreation centers

(www.digitalcity.com/bestpractices); and Pop Warner Little Scholars

(www.popwarner.com), offer a variety of programs to get children physically active.

To help children get on the healthy track of physical activity, VERB™, a national, multicultural campaign sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), encourages tweens (ages 9-13) to find their favorite physical activities, also known as VERBs, and do them every day. VERB has partnered with educators, media groups, and national organizations to help children get active by offering alternative healthy activities for tweens in schools and communities and by hosting national VERB events.

Tweens can learn new activities or new tricks for their old ones, find a list of community organizations and record the time they spend being physically active by visiting the VERB website, www.VERBnow.com.

Gardening health tips

Dig for Your Bones - There's good news for green thumbs. According to a 2000 University of Arkansas study that compared many forms of exercise, yard work is most significant for preventing osteoporosis in women age 50 and older. Researchers compared yard work to bicycling, aerobics, dancing and weight training. Yard work and weight training were the only two activities shown to be significant for maintaining healthy bone mass. (Compliments of ARA)

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New activities for children on VERBnow.com

The VERB™ campaign has added some new features to its children's website, www.VERBnow.com, including My VERB Recorder, which allows children to track the time they spend being physically active and enter for chances to win prizes.

"We've added more resources, My VERB Recorder and rewards to the website to help children get involved in physical activities throughout their communities," says Dr. Janet Collins, acting director, Division of Adolescent and School Health for the CDC's Chronic Disease Center.

Tweens (ages 9 to 13) can record their physical activity time every day on My VERB Recorder, which gives them chances to win new prizes, such as a new bicycle and helmet, scooter

and helmet, virtual reality snowboard, and different types of sports balls. VERB also offers chances to win overall sweepstakes prizes for tweens who record their time. Some of the prizes have included a trip to Orlando, Florida for four people and a skateboard kit.

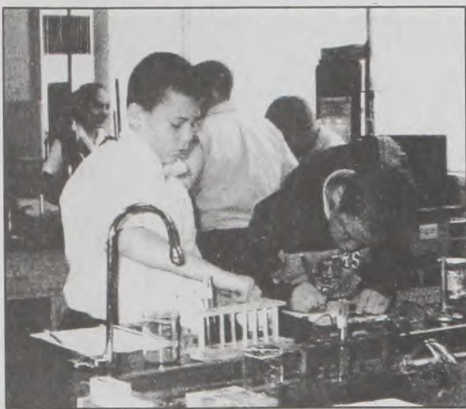
To help tweens track more activities on My VERB Recorder, the website offers new physical activity ideas, a "how to" guide to help tweens improve their favorite games, new skateboarding and bike tricks to teach their friends, and an activity finder to locate community organizations. Tweens can take part in cool polls and quizzes about activities and find recreation areas and events in their communities where they can VERB. VERBnow.com hosts a variety of pages where tweens can find new

VERBs, improve their old VERBs and much more.

Parents should encourage their children to check out the tween website, www.VERBnow.com, to find new activities, trendy games, and interesting activity tips. The activity finder is a great way to find places to get active in your community and discover new VERBs to try.

The VERB website, www.VERBparents.com, is a valuable resource for busy parents who want to learn

more about the VERB campaign and the importance of physical activity. The site includes an activity finder for parents to learn about new activities and resources to find those activities in their communities. And for an overview of the VERB campaign, campaign activities, partners, physical activity resources, the campaign press room, and to look at the latest advertising, log on to www.cdc.gov/VERB.



Ryan Firth and Ryan Bartush get hands-on experience in the lab.



Sacred Heart 7th graders Don Stalling and Tom Torcellini, experiment in a weekly morning lab.



Natalie Endres and Kaitlyn Felderhoff experiment with fractional distillation.

Students thoughts on Catholic schools

By David Walterscheid

I believe that there are many benefits to going to a Catholic school. I go to a Catholic school, but not just any Catholic school, Sacred Heart School. I am a sophomore here at Sacred Heart and have been going here all my life and I would never go anywhere else.

One benefit of going to a Catholic school is that we can pray whenever we want to or go to Mass during the school day. We also get to have religion class as a part of our daily schedule. Another benefit is that our school board can choose the curriculum since we are not funded by the State.

Of course there are some disadvantages of going to a privately funded school. We are faced with the rising costs of tuition every year and always faced with the constant lack of funds.

Because of this, we are required to have many fundraisers for the extra-curricular activities we participate in. Although, we are not the richest or the best school ever, I would never go anywhere else.

By Paige White

Attending a Catholic school is a gift that few children are blessed with. Going to a Catholic school offers a religious-based, one on one education for children. The benefits reaped by this are numerous. There is less room for discipline problems, getting left behind in a large class, and bullying. The environment provides ideal learning conditions for those looking to find their identity and self confidence. This is made possible by a strong faith that is generated throughout the student body. A key contributor to the amazing experience that a Catholic school presents is the teachers; they have given up the rich and glamorous life that is possible in America to share their knowledge and life lessons with young boys and girls that want something more out of life. What these same boys and girls get out of life is entirely up to them. There is no better place than a small Catholic school to try one's wings and test the possibilities of life. No where will you find a more encouraging and helpful faculty and staff than at a school where the individual student is the number one priority.

Myths about women and heart disease

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Lunch menus

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- SACRED HEART**
 Mon. - No school.
 Tues. - Oven fried chicken, potatoes, gravy, green beans, bananas/strawberries, bread.
 Wed. - Beef spaghetti, green salad, peaches, garlic toast.
 Thurs. - Sausage, sauerkraut, potatoes, corn, applesauce, bread.
 Fri. - Hoagies, chips, salsa, cookies.
MUENSTER ISD
 Mon. - No school.
 Tues. - Burritos, Spanish rice, beans, pears, banana nut bread.
 Wed. - Sub sandwich, lettuce and tomatoes, chips and salsa, oranges, cookies.
 Thurs. - Baked ham, creamed potatoes w/gravy, corn pineapple, hot rolls.
 Fri. - Barbecue sandwich, pickles, onions, french fries, beans, applesauce, ice cream.

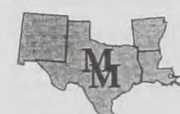
- LINDSAY ISD**
 Mon. - No school.
 Tues. - Burritos, refried beans, lettuce, tomato, applesauce, pineapple, bread.
 Wed. - Chili dogs, baked beans, broccoli and rice, peaches, bread.
 Thurs. - Pizza, salad, corn, peas, bread.
 Fri. - Hamburger w/trimmings, french fries, ice cream.

- ERA ISD**
 Mon. - Chicken crispito, pinto beans, peaches, tossed salad, cornbread, sugar cookie.
 Tues. - Chicken fried steak or barbecue wieners, mashed potatoes, gravy, tossed salad, fruit mix, hot roll.
 Wed. - Corn dog, french fries, tossed salad, strawberry applesauce, Missouri cookies.
 Thurs. - Ham and cheese hot pocket or steak fingers, tossed salad, green beans, pineapple tidbits, jello.
 Fri. - Grilled ham and cheese sandwich, potato chips, pickle spears, fresh apple, ice cream.

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Sports

Tigerettes win bi-district

The Sacred Heart Tigerettes took an 80-31 bi-district victory from Texas Christian of Arlington Monday night to advance to area competition in the TAPPS basketball playoffs.

The Tigerettes will play Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 6 p.m. against Central Texas Christian of Temple in Sacred Heart's gym.

"This is a good win to open the playoffs," noted Tigerette Coach Jon LeBrasseur. "Everyone got plenty of floor time and I like how we have our focus."

A 22 point lead in the 1st quarter set the pace for the game. Texas Christian didn't get into the game until the final quarter when they were allowed to score 15 points.

Jayna Biffle's 20 points led the Tigerette scoring. Jacqueline Bauer added 10, with Whitney Wimmer and Karen Gehrig each getting 9. Stephanie Henscheid dropped in 8, Maggie Farrell 7, Shannon Hartman 6, Courtney Hartman 5, Diana Knabe 4, and Hannah Hess 2. The Tigerettes dropped in nine of 11 free throws, with their opponents hitting only three of 10.

Defensively Knabe and Gehrig each got five steals, with Biffle pulling down 11 rebounds.

SH	27	20	20	13	80
TC	5	5	6	15	31

Last Friday, the Tigerettes had a warm-up game with Pantego, getting their 16th straight win 52-40. "The more experience this team gets, the better they will be," LeBrasseur said, commenting that the Tigerettes were a little flat after the first four minutes.

The game's scoring was tighter than what Sacred Heart has been playing, with the Tigerettes holding the lead throughout the game.

Bauer and Biffle were high scorers in the game with 13 points each. Bauer also pulled down 16 rebounds for Sacred Heart. Gehrig added 8 points and took seven steals. Henscheid and C. Hartman each added 6, Wimmer 4, and Katie Flusche 2. The Tigerettes hit 44% of their free throws.

SH	16	10	9	17	52
P	11	10	7	12	40



Jacqueline Bauer and Courtney Hartman put pressure on a Texas Christian player allowing Hartman to tie the ball. The Tigerettes easily took a bi-district victory to advance further in the TAPPS playoffs. Janie Hartman photo



Tigerette Whitney Wimmer puts in an easy lay-up in Sacred Heart's bi-district win Monday night. Janie Hartman photo

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Playoff Action

Monday, Feb. 16
Muenster Lady Hornets
 vs
Merritt Bland Rubrey HS, 7 pm

Tuesday, Feb. 17
Sacred Heart Tigerettes
 vs
Central Texas Christian Sacred Heart, 6pm

Tuesday, Feb. 17
Lindsay Lady Knights
 vs
Celeste to be announced

Tigers win one, lose one in playoffs

After settling for District 4 runner-up, the Sacred Heart Tigers pounced into round one of the TAPPS basketball playoffs Friday night. The Tigers hosted Joshua Christian Academy, the 3rd place finisher from District 3, in sub-bi-district action, and took a 73-42 victory to advance to the bi-district level Tuesday night.

The Tigers, coached by Keith Barrick, came out strong the 2nd quarter to take a 35-13 halftime lead. Scoring evened out in the 2nd half, with the Tigers gaining nine more points.

All 10 Tigers put balls in the basket. Clayton Truebenbach and Jared Zimmerer led the scoring with 14 points each. Chris Hoedebeck added 11, Zach Barnhill 9, Tony Koesler 7, and 6 apiece by Paul Bartush and Adam Taylor. Thomas Otto, Andy Davis, and Wes Wimmer each scored 2.

SH	14	21	19	19	73
J	8	5	15	14	42

The Tigers advanced to bi-district, taking on Waco Christian, champions of District 8, in Waco Tuesday night.

The Tigers had a 2 point lead after the 1st quarter, then fell behind 1 point at halftime. The 3rd quarter was dominated by the Waco team as they outscored Sacred Heart 23-7 for a big lead that the Tigers could not close, falling 76-53.

Clayton Truebenbach was high scorer for the Tigers with 21 points. Zach Barnhill added 10, Chris Hoedebeck 6, Jared Zimmerer 6, Paul Bartush 3, Wes Wimmer 3, and 2 apiece by Adam Taylor and Tony Koesler. The Tigers hit three of six free throws.

SH	18	16	7	12	53
W	16	19	23	18	76

The Tigers finished the season 14-12, 5-2 in District, and 1-1 in the playoffs. Playing their last high school basketball game were seniors Zach Barnhill, Tony Koesler, Wes Wimmer, Adam Taylor, and Jared Zimmerer.



The Sacred Heart Tigers got a big sub bi-district win last Friday. Top photo, Chris Hoedebeck (14) and above, Jared Zimmerer put points on the board towards the victory. Scott Wood photo

Junior High Action

DISTRICT TOURNAMENT

The Muenster junior high girls took the District championship after winning the District tournament last weekend at Slidell.

Muenster 34 Collinsville 26

The Lady Hornets opened the tournament with a victory. After a low-scoring 1st period, Muenster gained points each quarter to take the win. Rebecca Grewing led Muenster with 13 points. Laura Heers added 7, Lindsey Watson 6, Alison Miller 4, and 2 apiece by Allison Tesatiller and Hillary Swirczynski.

M	7	11	6	10	34
C	6	4	9	7	26

Muenster 30 Lindsay 27

The Lady Hornets held on to their 3 point lead to win the tournament. Tesatiller and Heers were high point-makers with 9 points each. Grewing and Swirczynski each added 4, with Watson getting 3, and Miller 1.

Christina Eckart was Lindsay's leading scorer with 14. Chelsea Hermes added 8, Lauren Creed 3, and 1 point apiece by Emily Fuhrmann and Madison Burrows.

Muenster hit of 12 of 20 free throws, with Lindsay making five of nine.

M	4	7	10	9	30
L	8	4	6	9	27



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Red over gold in District 17-A

Tuesday night the Era Hornets invaded Muenster's Hornet nest and after eight periods of play, the Gold and Black tam went home with two defeats.

The Muenster Lady Hornets finished District play with a 42-20 victory over Era, ending regular play with a 23-4, 8-0 record for the District championship.

The Muenster girls begin playoff competition Monday, Feb. 16 at Aubrey against Bland, the runner-up in their district. Game time is 7 p.m.

The Muenster boys held on to their earlier lead for a 63-60 win. Playoff picks are still undecided for the District 16-A boys. Muenster will host the Lindsay Knights this Friday. If Muenster wins, the Hornets will be District champs and Slidell runner-up. If Lindsay wins, there will be a three-way tie for first. A tournament between Muenster, Lindsay, and Slidell will be the tie breaker. One team will get a bye. The winner of the 1st game will play the bye team to determine the District championship.

Tuesday's game between the Lady Hornets started slow. Era scored the first 4 points, then Muenster made the next 11. To keep Muenster from scoring, Era held the ball and passed it around, closing the score to 4 points with three minutes remaining in the 2nd quarter. At the halftime break the score was 17-9. Muenster picked up the pace in the 3rd, scoring 12 while holding Era to 2.

Brooke Endres was high scorer with 18 points, with Alisha Walterscheid and Melinda Walterscheid each adding 8. Tara Swirczynski and JoAnna Felderhoff put in 4 apiece for Muenster.

High point-makers for Era were Stevie Lee and Megan Hudspeth with 5 and 4 points.

M	9	8	12	13	42
E	4	5	2	9	20

The Era Hornets took the early lead in the boys game, but Muenster fought back in the 2nd for a 2 point halftime lead. Muenster stretched their lead to 8 going into the final period, but 3-point shots by Era threatened Muenster until the last seconds ticked off the clock.

Muenster made 24 points from the free throw line, 11 in the 4th quarter, to stay in the lead. Era hit only 5.

Russell Endres was high scorer with 27 points, which included 13 of 14 free throws. Sean Fuhrmann added 11 points, with Derek Endres and Justin Miller each getting 6. Clint Wolff put in 5, Chase Cain 4, and John Fredrick 4.

Scott Johnson, Cory Green, and Michael Hunter led Era with 25, 12, and 11 points.

M	15	15	17	16	63
E	17	11	11	21	60



Russell Endres attempts to get under the basket, defended by Era. Muenster won the game by 3 points to keep the district lead going into the final regular season game against Lindsay.

Scott Wood photo

District 17-A

Girls	
Muenster	8-0
Lindsay	6-2
Era	4-4
Slidell	2-6
Collinsville	0-8
Boys	
Muenster	6-1
Slidell	6-2
Lindsay	5-2
Era	2-6
Collinsville	0-8



District Champions - Muenster Junior High Lady Hornets - from left, back - Lindsey Watson, Alison Miller, Rebecca Grewing, Brandy Dangelmayr, Lydia Bezner, Coach Keisha Dil; front - Alison Teafatiller, Cassie Hale, Laura Heers, Samantha Endres, and Hillary Swirczynski.

Courtesy photo

Muenster teams lead District

The Lady Hornets and Hornets both took the lead in District 17-A basketball Friday night after Muenster boys defeated Slidell 82-71 in overtime competition. The Lady Hornets (7-0) clinched the District title, while the boys still faced Era and Lindsay in the battle for the playoffs.

Muenster out-scored the Greyhounds 19-8 in overtime to move into first place. The Hornets hit 10 free throws in the 5th period of play to boost the 63-63 tied game to a Muenster district win.

Muenster took an early lead, then allowed Slidell to get within one point at halftime. The Hornets tied the game going into the 4th quarter with the score tied

again at the end of regular play. Slidell had half their team foul out before the game ended, finishing with only four players.

Russell Endres was the game's leading scorer with 34 points. Endres hit 15 of 18 free throws and three 3-pointers. Sean Fuhrmann added 20, Justin Wolf 12, and Chase Cain 10. Clint Miller put in 4 and John Fredrick 2 points to round out Muenster's scoring.

The Hornets hit 28 of 44 free throws while Slidell was 15 of 28.

M	16	19	15	13	19	82
S	12	22	16	13	8	71

The Lady Hornets took a one-sided win Friday, 77-27, from the Lady Hounds, to keep their perfect district record intact.

Muenster took a 20 point lead in the 1st quarter, then held Slidell scoreless in the 2nd for a 52-7 halftime score. The Lady Hornets hit 75% of their free throws.

Alisha Walterscheid hit five 3-pointers and was high scorer of the game with 20 points. JoAnna Felderhoff added 18, Brooke Endres 12, and Melinda Walterscheid 11 to lead Muenster's scoring. Robyn Hermes put in 6 points, Kristen Hess 5, Kallie Gerstberger 3, and Deann Dangelmayr 2.

M	27	25	13	12	77
S	7	0	9	11	27

The Lady Hornets finished their regular season Tuesday night against Era.

Games Played	Points	Scoring Avg	Rebounds	Rebounds Per Game	Assists	Assists Per Game	Blocked Shots	Blocks Per Game	Steals	Steals Per Game	3pt Made	3pt Per Game	FTM	FTA	FT%
26	419	16.1	229	8.8	48	1.8	92	3.5	95	3.7	0	0.0	109	175	62%
27	272	10.1	163	6.0	46	1.7	34	1.3	105	3.9	8	0.3	46	64	72%
26	310	11.9	193	7.4	21	0.8	73	2.8	51	2.0	0	0.0	60	120	50%
27	280	10.4	103	3.8	35	1.3	31	1.1	88	3.3	58	2.1	12	20	60%
27	122	4.5	32	1.2	53	2.0	4	0.1	54	2.0	22	0.8	24	40	60%
27	51	1.9	21	0.8	10	0.4	4	0.1	18	0.7	6	0.2	3	6	50%
27	53	2.0	14	0.5	8	0.3	2	0.1	20	0.7	1	0.0	8	14	57%
27	10	0.4	14	0.5	2	0.1	0	0.0	5	0.2	0	0.0	4	6	67%
27	48	1.8	48	1.8	6	0.2	9	0.3	17	0.6	0	0.0	6	13	46%
6	3	0.5	3	0.5	1	0.2	1	0.2	1	0.2	0	0.0	1	2	50%
TEAM TOTALS	1568	58.1	820	30.4	230	8.5	250	9.3	454	16.8	95	3.5	273	460	59.3%

Junior Varsity Action

Muenster 46 Slidell 16
Poor free throw shooting (eight of 21) by the Lady Hornets didn't seem to change the outcome of this game last Friday night. Sandy Endres was the game's high scorer with 12 points. Jacé Koelzer added 8, Stevie Klement 7, Danielle Bindel 7, Megan Felderhoff 6, and Abby Endres 2.

M	13	10	11	8	42
S	2	6	4	4	16

Muenster 37 Era 20
The Muenster Lady Hornet junior varsity team took the District championship Tuesday night, ending the season with a victory. Kallie Gerstberger was high scorer with 10 points. Megan Felderhoff and Jacé Koelzer each added 7, with Sandy Endres and Danielle Bindel getting 4 apiece. Stevie Klement put in 3, and Abby Endres 2 for Muenster.

Kelly Crenshaw led Era's scoring with 13 points.

M	10	5	10	12	37
E	4	4	4	8	20

Muenster 65 Era 32
Muenster's JV Hornets took charge early in the game, building their points throughout for a big win. Jeff Walterscheid was the game's high point-maker with 19 points. Zach Swirczynski added 16, with Chris Steelman and Dustin Wimmer each scoring 7. Ryan Hennigan put in 6, and Jordan Walterscheid and Keith Walterscheid each got 5. Muenster was 11 of 24 at the free throw line.

Kyle Howard and Adam Coe led Era with 12 and 11 points.

M	18	12	18	17	65
E	8	8	7	9	32



Brooke Endres pulls down a rebound in the battle of the Lady Hornets Tuesday night. After a slow start, Muenster took a big win over Era to complete district play undefeated. Also pictured is Melinda Walterscheid (40). Janie Hartman photo

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Legal Notices

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS
AGAINST THE ESTATE OF EVA L. DULOCK,
DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that the original Letters Testamentary
for the Estate of Eva L. Dulock were issued on February 9, 2004,
in Cause No. 15,742, pending in the Probate Court of Cooke
County, Texas, to Eddie Dulock, Jr., who resides in Cooke
County, Texas, and whose mailing address is: Eddie Dulock,
Jr., 1701 Harris, Gainesville, Texas 76240.

All persons having claims against this Estate which
is currently being administered are required to present them within
the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 9th day of February, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/Eddie Dulock, Jr.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for
the Estate of Samuel David Humphrey, Deceased, were issued
on November 25, 2003, in Docket No. 15703, pending in the
County Court of Cooke County, Texas, to Jean Humphrey

The residence of the Executrix is P.O. Box 220, Whitesboro,
Texas 76273.

All persons having claims against this Estate which
is currently being administered are required to present them within
the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 3rd day of February, 2004.

Jean Humphrey

**ORDINANCE NO. 271
VECTOR CONTROL**

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Legal Notices

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS
AGAINST THE ESTATE OF WILLIAM B. HUDSPETH,
DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for
the Estate of William B. Hudspeth, Deceased were issued on
February 2, 2004, in Cause No. #15,745, pending in the County
Court at Law of Cooke County, Texas - Probate Division, to the
following named Co-Independent Executors whose mailing
addresses are listed below:

Nancy Anne Hudspeth Graves William Benton Hudspeth, II
P.O. Box 285 FM 922
Era, TX 76238-0285 Gainesville, TX 76240

All persons having claims against this Estate which
is currently being administered are required to present them within
the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED this 2nd day of February, 2004.

Respectfully submitted, (940) 665-1671
/s/Russell Duncan, P.C. Bar Card No. 06219000
P.O. Drawer 1219 Attorney for the Estate
Gainesville, Texas 76241-1219

**NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS
AGAINST THE ESTATE OF VAN PAUL DUMOND,
DECEASED**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for
the Estate of Van Paul Dumond, Deceased were issued on
February 2, 2004, in Cause No. #15,746, pending in the County
Court at Law of Cooke County, Texas - Probate Division, to the
following named Nancy F. Dumond Executrix whose mailing
address is listed below:

Nancy F. Dumond
1205 Hillside
Gainesville, TX 76240

All persons having claims against this Estate which
is currently being administered are required to present them within
the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED this 2nd day of February, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/Russell Duncan, P.C.
P.O. Drawer 1219
Gainesville, Texas 76241-1219
(940) 665-1671
Bar Card No. 06219000
Attorney for the Estate

NCTC seeks creative writing contestants

The 2004 Creative Writing Contests are now open at North Central Texas College, with a call for entries issued this week by William Hood of the NCTC English faculty. Hood serves as editorial director for NCTC's literary magazine, "The April Perennial," in which winning entries will be published. He said he is ready to accept entries from all amateur writers who would like to submit their work for judging in several different contests or divisions of competition. The deadline for submitting entries in all contests is Mar. 12. Hood said the annual competition, which usually draws 500 to 600 entries, encompasses six separate contests, with subcategories for poetry, short stories, and essays. Included are contests for both NCTC

students and non-students. Sponsored by the Communication & Fine Arts Department at NCTC, the Creative Writing Contests are open to all residents of Texas or Oklahoma who would like to submit entries. Middle school students in grades 6, 7 and 8 may submit entries to the "Jerry Simpson Memorial Poetry and Short Story Contest," while high school students in grades 9 through 12 may enter their work in the "Brad Dill Memorial Poetry and Short Story Contest." The "Regional Creative Writing Contest" for poetry and short fiction is open to any amateur writers in Texas or Oklahoma who are not NCTC students, Hood said. Contests for NCTC students include the "Jack Joyce Memorial Essay Contest," the "Layuna Hicks Memorial Poetry Contest," and the "Gerald Green Goforth McDaniel Memorial Short Story Contest." Hood said that writers may submit only one entry in each division of any contest for which they are eligible. Handouts detailing the guidelines and format requirements for each contest are available in the libraries on all NCTC campuses. This material also is available on the NCTC website. A link is provided on the main web page. Entries may be submitted by e-mail to LitContest@nctc.edu. Paper entries may be sent by regular mail in care of Professor William Hood, NCTC English Department, 1525 W. California St., Gainesville, TX, 76240-4699. Paper entries also may be submitted in person at the

Communication & Fine Arts office in Room 120 on the NCTC Gainesville Campus. All entries must be received by the stated deadline. The competition, noted Hood, will feature both expert judges and cash prizes for first, second, and third places in each division. Winners will be honored during a special awards ceremony at 11 a.m. on April 23 in the NCTC Little Theater. For more information, Hood can be reached by phone at 940-668-7731, ext. 392, or by e-mail at LitContest@nctc.edu.

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Pawpaw
Caleigh
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County Agent's Report

Wayne Becker
CEA - AG/NR



Above, Precinct 4 Commissioner Virgil Hess and District Attorney Janelle Haverkamp, candidate for District Judge, discuss agribusiness with Robert Klement after a Cooke County Farm Bureau breakfast last Thursday morning in Gainesville. At right, Cindy Stormer, candidate for Cooke County District Attorney visits with Albert Zmmerer. See County Agent report for story on National Food Check-out Day. Janie Hartman photos

Conservation Program Signup-Equip
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has announced the 2004 signup for conservation practices that will be implementing in 2005 in Cooke County. Cost shares will be offered at fifty percent (50%) of cost. The application period starts now and runs through April 16th. Due to limited funding only high priority practices that solve an erosion problem will be looked at. The practices in order of priority are:
1. Planting permanent grass on highly erodible cropland currently being

cropped.
2. Planting permanent grass on non-highly erodible cropland currently being cropped.
3. Shaping and planting permanent grass on waterways and construction terrace systems on land currently being cropped.
4. Planting permanent grass on abandoned cropland.
5. Planting permanent grass on field borders and filter strips.
To signup please call NRCS and make an appointment; (940) 668-7794 EXT. 3

Cooke County Beef Cattle Improvement Association

This month's version of the CCBCIA will feature a chili supper provided by Friedrich Breeding Service. They will present an educational program on the importance of AI and AI influence to the beef industry. They will discuss EPDs for both natural and AI service sires. Finally, synchronization techniques will be talked about. The meeting will be Wednesday, Feb. 18, at 7:00 p.m. in the Cooke County Fairgrounds.

National Food Check-out Day
Last Friday, Feb. 6, was "National Food Check-out Day". This is the date that the average wage earner has earned enough money to pay for all their food for the year. The local Farm Bureau Board of Directors celebrated the day by hosting a breakfast for the local officials.

At this breakfast, the economical importance of the agricultural industry in Cooke County, was showcased. Last year receipts from agricultural produce in the county exceeded \$80,000,000. The major agriculture commodities products in Cooke County include, beef, wheat, horses, dairy, hay, milo, corn, oats and pecans to name a few.

The United States has the cheapest and safest food source in the world. The average consumer spends approximately ten percent (10%) of their income on food. Out of every dollar that the U.S. consumer spends, only twenty-one cents (\$0.21) goes to the farmer. Using that number for analysis, if Feb. 5 is the National Food Check-out Day, then the U.S. consumer has the farmer paid by Jan. 9 of every year.

Dates to Remember
* Don't Forget the 4-H Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction Fundraiser this Saturday, Feb. 14, Whaley Methodist Church, 5 to 7:30 p.m.

* Feb 18 - Cooke County Beef Cattle Improvement Association; 7pm, Fairgrounds

* Feb 21 - 4-H Livestock Show; Cooke County Fairgrounds; CEU videos for Pesticide Applicators recertification will be shown from noon until 4pm if hours are needed.

* Feb 25 - Farmer & Rancher Symposium, 5.5 CEU hours, NCTC's Little Theater, 8am to 3:30 pm \$10 fee. Lunch will be served. For reservation call the Extension Office (940)668-5412.

* Feb. 24 - Marketing Club, 7pm, Farm Bureau Building



Ag Briefs

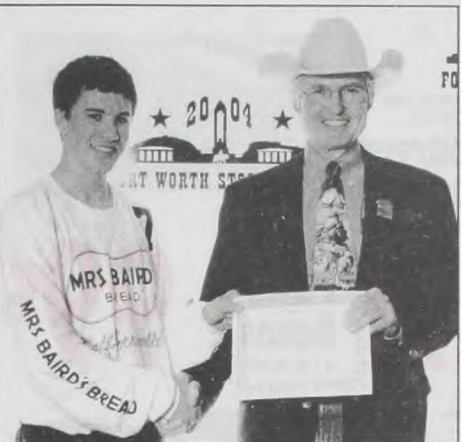
U.S. beef "held hostage on the high seas." The U.S. Meat Export Federation estimated that 1,800 to 2,000 containers of beef and beef products that left U.S. shores prior to the BSE announcement were stuck in transit. "These containers of highly perishable product are being held hostage on the high seas because our trading partners closed the borders at the moment of announcement," said Phil Seng, USMEF president and CEO. "As a result, an estimated \$200 million in beef inventories cannot be moved. This beef is safe and BSE-free by any definition. We ask the administration to make this its highest priority now — because time is running out for this product."
—U.S. Meat Export Federation

footage of a British Holstein cow with BSE stumbling around. There has been inordinate use of this footage, which is in no way representative of what is happening today. The footage is being offered for use as broadcasters see fit."
—National Cattlemen's Beef Association

The Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association gives these tips to help avoid losses to cattle thieves: Make sure the cattle are branded. Don't put pens next to roads where there is easy access. Don't feed inside pens. Keep your gates locked. Set cattle daily and keep a regular count.

Is feeding hay in the winter enough? Without good nutrition, cows produce unhealthy calves. Get your hay tested for nutrient value. Feed lower quality hay first - better hay before calving. With strip grazing, try to force cattle to eat last summer's grasses. Also try some alternative feed.

NCBA distributed recent video footage of U.S. cattle operations to national broadcast and cable stations. NCBA said, "We are calling on broadcasters to stop using the old and misleading



Colton Steelman (above) and Chris Steelman (below), both members of Muenster 4-H were among the winners in the Calf Scrambles at the Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show Rodeo. They are the sons of Clyde and Julie Steelman. Colton won on Feb. 1 and Chris in the Feb 8 scramble. Competitors are high school students out to catch and halter a calf with hopes of winning a \$500 purchase certificate that will help buy a registered heifer for a yearlong 4-H and FFA project. Winners must care for their animals throughout the year and return for the 2005 Stock Show to exhibit in the Junior Heifer Show. The program also offers Scholarship funds for college.



Farm Service Agency News

2004 FARM PROGRAM SIGN-UP

Sign-up for the 2004 Direct and Countercyclical Program (DCP) has begun. You will have until June 2, 2004 to sign up in the program. Participants are asked to call and schedule an appointment to sign up. One half of the direct payment may be requested in advance. Producers will be asked to indicate whether they want the advance payment and the month they would like the payment. As in past years, farm operators must have power of attorney on file in this office to be able to sign for their landlords.

In cash lease situations the operator must have either a power of attorney on file or bring cash lease statement signed by the owner. In the past, operators may have obtained a cash lease statement from this office to take to their owner for signatures. However we have been instructed not to provide cash lease statements any longer. Cash lease statements must be prepared by the owner or operator and signed by all owners on the farm. At a minimum the statement must indicate the person to whom the land is leased, the time period for which it is leased, and that the owner claims no share of the crop and/or the program payment for the 2004 crop year.

FARM DIVISIONS - COMBINATIONS - RECONSTITUTIONS

The designation by landowner method is the division of bases, allotments and quotas in the manner agreed to by the parent farm owner and purchaser or transferee. Remember signature requirements to enroll a resulting DCP farm following a reconstitution. Please let us know if you are making any changes in your farming operation.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES - PLANTING FLEXIBILITY

Producers are reminded that it is a violation to plant (FAVs) fruits and vegetable on DCP acres. You are required to report acres of FAVs. Failure to report will result in severe penalties. Pecan trees are classified as a FAV. Gardens for personal use of two acres or less are permitted but must be reported if on DCP acres. Cooke County is not a designated double cropping region.

HOLIDAY

This office will be closed on Feb. 16 in observance of George Washington's birthday.

ELECTION

Gene Schumacher was re-elected to serve a three year term on the County FSA Committee.

2002 Texas Agriculture Census

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) announced recently that preliminary demographic data from the 2002 Census of Agriculture - the Nation's largest agricultural information-gathering project - are now available at the state and national level.

The 2002 Census of Agriculture counted 228,827 farms and ranches in Texas, up slightly from 1997. Land in farms and ranches decreased 3 percent and the average size of farm was 569 acres, down from 587 acres in 1997. The official definition of a farm or ranch includes all places where \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold, or normally would have been sold, during the

year. Demographic data contained in the report include sex of operator, residence on or off the farm, days worked off farm, years present on farm, age group categories, race, and number of persons living in each household. For example, preliminary results show:

- Seventy-one percent of all Texas farms and ranches sold less than \$10,000 worth of agricultural products, compared to 70 percent in 1997 and 61 percent in 1992.
- Fifty-four percent of Texas operators considered farming their primary occupation, up from 40 percent in 1997.
- The average operator age was 57 years old, up 1

year from 56 years old in 1997.

- Twenty-nine percent of agricultural producers were women in 2002, the number of women who were principal operators increased 7 percent from 1997.

- The number of black principal operators increased by 7 percent and American-Indian principal operators increased by 40 percent from 1997 to 2002.
- Ninety-two percent of Texas' agricultural operations are still run by individuals or families.

Final 2002 Census of Agriculture data at the national, state, and county levels will be released on June 3, 2004. All reports from the 2002 Census of Agriculture will be available free through the NASS website at www.usda.gov/nass/. For additional information regarding the Census, call the Texas Agricultural Statistics Service at 800-626-3142.

Klement - Sicking attend Farm Bureau Leadership Conference Jan. 26-28

The Texas Farm Bureau Leadership Conference was held in College Station Jan. 26-28. At the meeting, the farm organization's policies and plans for 2004 were reviewed. Kenneth Sicking and Robert and Gloria Klement attended this conference.

"The annual Leadership Conference helps set the tone and clarify the mission we have in carrying out the policies that guide our organization," said Kenneth Sicking, president of the Cooke County Farm Bureau. "Our commodity groups and committees discussed the challenges

facing agriculture and ways to address them."

Organized Commodity groups represented by TFB include: Beef Cattle, Dairy, Sheep & Goats, Cotton, Wheat, Forestry, Horticulture, Nursery & Greenhouse, Citrus, Peanuts, Hay & Forage, Ratite, Rice, Feed Grains, Wildlife, Swine, Poultry and Horses.

Conferees also had the opportunity, while in College Station, to tour Texas A&M University's campus, as well as their Electronic Beam Facility and Fire Prevention School's Disaster City.

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Feeder Steers (per lb)
200-300 lbs.: No. 1, 1.15-1.33; Nos. 2 & 3, 95-1.15; 300-400 lbs.: No. 1, 1.15-1.30; Nos. 2 & 3, 95-1.15; 400-500 lbs.: No. 1, 1.00-1.20; Nos. 2 & 3, 92-1.00; 500-600 lbs.: No. 1, 94-1.03; Nos. 2 & 3, 80-94; 600-700 lbs.: No. 1, 86-91; Nos. 2 & 3, 75-86; 700-800 lbs.: No. 1, 83-88; Nos. 2 & 3, 73-83
Feeder Heifers (per lb)
200-300 lbs.: No. 1, 1.10-1.22; Nos. 2 & 3, 1.00-1.10; 300-400 lbs.: No. 1, 1.05-1.14; Nos. 2 & 3, 87-1.05; 400-500 lbs.: No. 1, 98-1.05; Nos. 2 & 3, 80-98; 500-600 lbs.: No. 1, 90-97; Nos. 2 & 3, 80-90; 600-700 lbs.: No. 1, 83-87; Nos. 2 & 3, 75-83; 700-800 lbs.: No. 1, 72-83; Nos. 2 & 3, 50-72
Slaughter Cattle (per lb)
Slaughter Bulls: Yield Grade 1-2, 1.200-2.050 lbs., 60-6550; Slaughter Cows: #1-3, 47-5350; Cutter, 28-47.
Stocker Cows (per head)
Pregnancy-tested, 3 to 9-year-olds - Large Frame, \$400-\$675; Medium Frame, \$400-\$675; Cow/Cal/Pairs w/calves under 250 lbs. - Large Frame, \$800-\$950; Medium Frame, \$600-\$800; Holstein/Bay Calves, \$20-\$65; Crossbreds, \$90-\$270
Barrows & Gilts (per lb)
US #1, 230-270; 52-56; US #2, 220-280, 48-52
Feeder Hogs (per head)
100-175 lbs. \$50-\$75; 25-90 lbs. \$30-\$50
Swine (per lb)
Feeder, 400-500, 27-32; Lightw, 400-500, 27-30; Med wt, 500-600, 27-30; Heavy wt, 600+ NT.
Boars (per lb)
300 lb-up, 02; 200-300 lbs. 25-30; Lightw, 25-35
Sheep (per lb)
Feeder lambs: 40-60 lbs. NT; Light lambs: 60-90 lbs., 95-1.01; Fat lambs: 90-120 lbs., 95-1.01
Ewes (per lb)
Stocker, 60-69; Thin, 30-45; Fat, 50-60
Bucks (per lb)
Thin, 35-45; Fat, 45-51
Barbados (per head)
Lambos, \$30-\$95; Ewes \$25-\$35; Bucks \$75-\$100
Goats (per head)
Kids: 20-35 lbs. \$25-\$45; 35-55 lbs. \$35-\$60; 55-75 lbs. \$50-\$70; Yearlings: 75-120 lbs. \$90-\$120
Stockers (per head)
Stockers: \$50-\$80; Milk Type: \$55-\$100; Slaughter: Thin, \$35-\$50; Fat, \$75-\$100
Billies (per head)
120 lbs-up
Breeders, \$75-\$100; Slaughter, \$50-\$100
Bred Goats (per head)
1/2 Nanny, \$75-\$90; 3/4 Nanny, \$75-\$100; Full Nanny, \$75-\$245
Bred Goats (per head)
1/2 Billy, NT, 3/4 Billy, NT, Full Billy, \$50-\$150
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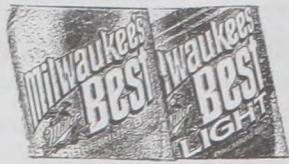
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SHURFINE CREAMY OR CRUNCHY Peanut Butter 18 OZ.	\$1.29	ASSORTED PASTA WITH MEAT Chef Boyardee 14.7-15.5 OZ.	99¢
ASSTD. 100 OZ. LIQUID OR 84 OZ. ULTRA POWDER Fab Detergent YOUR CHOICE	\$3.99	ASSORTED DISHWASHING LIQUID Ultra Palmolive 25 OZ.	\$1.99
BETTY CROCKER ASST'D. Cake Mix 18.5 OZ.	99¢	SHURFINE - 15.5 OZ. Carrots	3 FOR \$1
NESTLES Chocolate Chips 12 OZ.	\$1.99	DOLE ASST'D. Pineapple	\$1.09
LIPTON ASST'D. PKG'S. Pasta, Rice Sides	99¢	Viva Towels	89¢
KRAFT - 7.25 OZ. Macaroni & Cheese	2 FOR \$1	MARCEL - 400 CT. Napkins	\$2.69
SHUR SAVING Flour 5 LB.	79¢	SHURFINE - 15 1/2 OZ. Pork & Beans	3 FOR \$1
		CAMPBELLS - 10 1/2 OZ. Tomato Soup	59¢

HEALTH & BEAUTY CARE

WESTERN FAMILY TABLETS, CAPLETS OR GELCAPS Extra Strength Aspirin-Free 50 CT. PKG.	\$1.99	SUSPENSION Children's Advil 4 OZ.	\$4.99
		WESTERN FAMILY EFFERVESCENT Cold Relief 20 CT.	\$2.99
		ASSORTED SHAMPOO OR CONDITIONER Herbal Essences 12 OZ.	\$2.99

QUALITY FRESH MEATS

EYE OF ROUND
Roast
\$1.98
LB.



Fischer's

FISCHER'S SWEET Italian Sausage	\$2.19 LB.	FISCHER'S LEAN Chili Meat	\$1.79 LB.	FISCHER'S LINK Polish Sausage	\$2.29 LB.
AROUND 3 LB. Corn King Hams	\$1.59 LB.	CORN KING Sliced Bacon	12 OZ.	99¢	
WISCONSIN RED RIND CHEDDAR OR SHARP Cheese	\$2.19	DECKER All Meat Franks	12 OZ.	69¢	
SANTA FE YELLOW - 32 CT. Corn Tortillas	EA. 79¢	ECKRICH ALL VARIETIES Smoked Sausage	14-16 OZ.	\$2.19	
ALASKAN Pollock Fish Fillets	\$1.49 LB.	ARMOUR ALL VARIETIES Fun Kit Lunch Makers	10.6-11.6 OZ.	\$1.69	
FARM RAISED RAW Catfish Nuggets	\$1.39 LB.	CLAUSSEN ALL VARIETIES PICKLES OR Sauerkraut	20-32 OZ.	2 FOR \$5	

GARDEN FRESH PRODUCE

SPICY
Jalapeño Peppers
2 \$1
LBS.



WASHINGTON D'Anjou Pears	LB. 79¢	FIRM HEAD Green Cabbage	3 LBS. \$1
WASHINGTON EXTRA FANCY Red Delicious Apples	LB. 79¢	COLORADO Baking Potatoes	3 LBS. \$1
FRESH GOURMET ASSORTED Croutons 5 OZ.	2 FOR \$3	MPK Potato Toppings	1 OZ. 99¢
FRESH Jumbo Garlic	5 FOR \$1	TROPICAL Kiwifruit	4 FOR \$1
T. MARZETTI'S ORIGINAL OR FAT FREE Caramel Dip 18 OZ.	\$2.99	AVOMEX READY TO EAT Guacamole	1 LB. \$2.99
NEW CROP MEXICAN 1015 Sweet Yellow Onions	99¢	YELLOW OR ZUCCHINI Squash	LB. \$1.29
ROASTED OR ROASTED & SALTED Peanuts	1 LB. \$1.99	CELLO PACK Carrots	1 LB. 2 FOR \$1
GREENER SELECTION Dole Salads 10-12 OZ.	2 FOR \$3	FRESH Cantaloupes	EACH \$1.99
		FRESH BUNCH Green Onions	2 FOR \$1



Budweiser
or
Bud Light
\$8.99
2 - 12 OZ.

LIBBY'S WHOLE KERNEL Sweet Corn	2 FOR 79¢	LIBBY'S Sweet Peas	2 FOR 79¢
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FROZEN & DAIRY

ASSORTED ORIGINAL Blue Bunny Ice Cream 1/2 GAL. SQR. CTN.	\$2.99	SHURFINE DEEP DISH Pie Crust	12 OZ. \$1.59
		FICHELINA'S ASSORTED Frozen Entrees 8-9.2 OZ.	\$1.29
		BLUE BUNNY FUDGE BARS OR SWEET FREEDOM Sugar Free Pops 12 CT.	2 FOR \$5
		MARIE CALLENDER'S ASSORTED Fruit Cobbles 17 OZ.	2 FOR \$5
NEW YORK CHEESE Texas Toast 13.5 OZ.	\$2.29	BUTTERMILK, COUNTRY SWEETMILK OR TENDER LAYER Pillsbury Biscuits 4 PACK/7.75 OZ. CANS	2 FOR \$3
MARIE CALLENDER'S ASSORTED Pot Pies 15-17 OZ.	2 FOR \$5		

THRIFTWAY

Since 1927
We Wouldn't be 76 Without You!

SENIOR CITIZENS: No Amount of Purchase Necessary On Limited Sale Items! NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR PICTORIAL OR TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS.

Fischer's Meat Market

SINCE 1927

304 North Main, Muenster, TX • 1 (800) 259-7248 or 759-4211

DOUBLE COUPONS EVERY DAY



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FEB. 16 - 22, 2004