

Ranch Rodeo not just for the birds!



The annual Sacred Heart Ranch Rodeo wasn't just for the birds. Ruth Ann Eddleman's attempts to "round-up" this chicken took awhile, as she helped make this year's fundraiser a success. See story pg. 6. *Enterprise photo*

Gordon Russell Merit Award bestowed on Lynn Heller

By Janet Felderhoff
C. Lynn Heller, Muenster Memorial Hospital administrator, attended the Texas Organization of Rural and Community Hospitals (TORCH) conference held April 5-7 in Dallas. As the 2006 recipient of the Gordon Russell Merit Award, he brought home a plaque and numerous accolades of his contributions to rural health care and TORCH.

This award was established to recognize outstanding achievement by rural and community hospital administrators for their leadership and dedication to the profession. The award's namesake, Gordon Russell, served as administrator for Hi-Plains Hospital for more than 40 years.

Theron Park, CEO at Moore County Hospital District in Dumas, nominated Heller. In part, Park's nominating letter read, "Lynn's leadership and easy-going style has endeared him to many of his colleagues. The development and subsequent success of TORCH can be traced back to his passion for the success of rural health care."

It was during his time as administrator of Bowie Memorial Hospital that Heller helped to start TORCH. He served as administrator there from 1984 to 1994. Prior to that he had been assistant administrator there. Heller began at MMH as the CFO and accepted the position of administrator after the resignation of Richard Arnold in January 2005.

Heller was chairman of TORCH from 1990-1994. He's held the positions of consultant, IPA director, health plan administrator, and assistant

administrator of affiliated services for Wise Regional Health System. Heller filled leadership positions with AHA, THA, and TMA, as well as with various state agencies and local organizations. He also served 10 years in the Army Reserves.

Heller accepted the award on Thursday, April 6 during a luncheon held at the Inter-Continental Hotel in Dallas. Heller's wife Anna accompanied him along with his daughters and their families, Angela Kleinhons and Avere and Conley Lynn, and Sommer and Zack Smith. Also a number of personnel and Board directors from Muenster Memorial Hospital attended. They included Board members and their spouses, John and Carol Aytes, Angelo and Laverna Nasche, and from MMH Dick Teter, Danny Lovelace, Adelia Wilson, Lillian Taylor, Karel Calvert, Renate Pagel, former MMH administrator Richard Arnold and wife Jan, and Muenster Mayor Henry Weinzapfel and wife Janie.



Muenster Memorial Hospital Administrator Lynn Heller and his wife Anna display the Gordon Russell Merit Award he received. *Courtesy photo*

MMH lands grant for Radiology upgrade

By Janet Felderhoff
Grant writer Michael Kent's diligent work applying for a grant has paid off once again for Muenster Memorial Hospital. Last week, he was notified that the Hospital had received the \$50,000 Capital Improvement Grant from ORCA (Office of Rural and

Community Affairs). It will be used to purchase a Computer Radiology system and PACS (Patient Archive Computer System). Radiographs will be on a digital image. Kent noted, "This will give a better quality image and faster interpretation." Eventually they will have the ability to get a radiologist's reading at any time of the day or night, seven days a week.

With the grant funding being a certainty, Kent said he is now able to negotiate with the various vendors to find

the best deal. The Hospital Board committed to the required 10% matching grant and will pay at least up to an additional \$5,000 for the equipment.

The Hospital is allowed to apply for the ORCA Capital Improvement Grant every two years. Two years ago MMH received grant funding that was used to purchase laboratory equipment.

Kent is a resident of Sanger. He has been director of Radiology at MMH for four years.

DA grant request fails in Commissioners Court

By Janet Felderhoff
It was the goal of the Cooke County District Attorney's office to obtain grant funds from the Governor's office for crime victims in Cooke County. Assistant DA Martin Peterson was at the Monday, April 10 Commissioners Court meeting to ask for the Court's required approval, the final step before filing the grant application.

Peterson said that the Court must sign it because they would be responsible for any loss or misuse of the funds. Also, he noted that there had been some concern expressed that the DA's grant application would compete with a similar request made by the Friends of the Family, which is another victim's service agency. There is also competition among entities in Grayson and Fannin Counties for the same grant funds and a Board at Texoma Council of Governments (TCOG) will make the determination on how the funds from this grant are allocated.

"If we can secure some of these grant funds, that would assist the District Attorney's office in complying with our mandatory duties under Articles 56.04, 56.05, and 56.08 of the Code of Criminal Procedure," said Peterson.

The amount the DA requested is \$87,360 and Cooke County would pledge a 20% match of either cash or volunteer service hours. "I'm a real advocate of Friends of the Family," commented Judge Freeman. "These people do a wonderful job in counseling, in assisting victims, and if there is any chance that they could lose money, maybe I'm wrong in saying this, but I don't simply want to take money away from Friends of the Family and put it in another agency in the County, when I know this agency works very well.

They do wonderful things." He added that he didn't want to discourage the application for grants, but taking money out of one pot and putting it in another pot could hurt the services, especially for the services we don't know how are going to be provided."

Sarah Sommers, Crime, Justice, and Emergency Planning coordinator for TCOG, attended the meeting at Judge Freeman's request to answer questions about the grant situation. Sommers said that she could not speak to any specific applicant because they run the scoring process and that wouldn't be appropriate.

Sommers explained that they don't know how much money is coming into the region to be divided up. When that was first announced she said that the planner, herself included, stood up and said that it was taking away local. "A lot of these funds are designed for victim services. Part of the mantra of the victim services agencies doing a good job is to work on coordinated community response between multiple players, the courts, the victim services agencies, the judges, everybody working as a team.

"When you pit people against each other in such a fierce competition without knowing what the outcome might be or how much money we have, it destroys services. It does not support them. We're disappointed that we're having to make the process go forward in that way and everyone is in an uncomfortable position. It is just not a good situation at this point in time."

Alicia Woodard with Cooke County Friends of the Family said that the County is providing the mandated services to victims by funding Friends of the Family. The County pays \$22,500 of the

Friends of the Family's budget. Woodard said that they have submitted for \$75,000 through the VOCA grant this year.

Judge Freeman inquired how the group was affected by the loss of another grant this past year. Woodard said that their full-time counselor's hours were cut to part-time. Loss of more grant money would result in cutting more services.

The grant applicants were scheduled to be scored the following day. If Commissioners Court, as the DA's governing body, didn't approve the grant application, it would not be considered.

Commissioner Al Smith wondered where King Solomon was when they needed him.

Commissioner Virgil Hess said that he didn't want to ruin anything for Alicia's group, but made a motion to approve the grant application with changes such as putting all the names of the Commissioners Court members.

Commissioner Bill Cox expressed concern that Friends of the Family would be hurt by the DA's grant. No second followed and the motion died on the floor.

With the completion of the Cooke County Justice Center, it's moving time for a number of County offices. County dispatchers and the Cooke County Sheriff Mike Compton and his office staff have already made the move and are operating out of their new spaces.

Justice of the Peace Precinct #1 Dorothy Lewis said that her staff would begin packing as soon as the Commissioners Court meeting was over. Judge Lewis will have her office and courtroom in the new facility.

Commissioner Al Smith announced that a grand opening is planned for the new facility on Monday, April 17 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. "We will be dedicating the mason's cornerstone and dedicating the building for County use," he said. Although special invitations have been mailed to county civic leaders in adjoining counties, the general public is also invited.

"If anyone wants to see the jail, this will be about the only time that they will have an opportunity to," noted Judge Freeman. Sheriff Compton plans to begin moving prisoners in a week after the open house, and once the prisoners are there, it is closed to the public, he concluded.

"There is another way you can see it," quipped Commissioner Smith.

Judge Freeman said that there would probably be arrows to guide people around the facility and people will be placed throughout the facility to answer any questions. The goal is to allow people to tour at their own speed, but to avoid congestion from people going back.

"I would encourage the public to attend. This will be their only opportunity to see how \$10 million of their money was spent on this facility. I think it is a very nice facility and I would love for everyone to get the opportunity to look at it," said Freeman.

District Judge Janelle Haverkamp introduced Shelly Saunders as the new county auditor. She said that she had just sworn her into that position Monday morning before the Commissioners meeting.

Saunders lives in McKinney. She has 14 years experience with the Collin County auditor's office. Eight of those were as first assistant. She most recently served as Parker County auditor. Saunders said that she



Michael Kent, director of Radiology at Muenster Memorial Hospital, looks over the letter confirming a grant award of \$50,000. *Janet Felderhoff photo*

Vogel starts scholarship



Investing the initial principal of \$10,000, Bill and Ruth Vogel of Denton (at left) have established an endowment, The Vogel Endowed Scholarship Fund, for Sacred Heart Catholic School. Principal Chad Riley accepts the donation. The purpose of the fund is to provide tuition assistance to students of Sacred Heart Catholic School. The fund is to be preserved in perpetuity. To ensure its growth, a percentage of the annual earnings is to become part of the corpus of the fund each year. Anyone can contribute to the fund, with more contributions naturally accelerating its growth. The Vogels envision the fund growing to assist many families in providing a Catholic education for their children. *Enterprise photo*

TTC-35 steps closer to realization

A multi-use transportation alternative to the heavily congested Interstate 35 corridor could lie slightly to the east while incorporating the interstate's southern half, according to a 4,000-page draft environmental impact statement for the Trans-Texas Corridor-35 that was released April 4.

The report's findings show a narrowed study area from Gainesville to Laredo to be generally 10 miles wide and within close proximity to I-35 and metropolitan centers, except where it is centered on I-35 south of San Antonio to Laredo.

"The Trans-Texas Corridor will provide unprecedented trade opportunities, a faster transportation system that moves freight and hazardous materials out of city centers, and thousands of new jobs," Gov. Rick Perry said. "Today we take an important step toward realizing this goal."

The report's findings are not final and will be subject to more than 50 public hearings along the I-35 corridor this summer.

The narrowed study area was identified as the preferred corridor alternative because it best supports the purpose and need for TTC-35 and incorporates the most miles of existing highways and rail - 195 and 214 miles respectively.

These findings are part of the TTC-35 draft environmental impact statement prepared by the Texas Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration.

The draft report also examined population and traffic demand within the I-35 corridor and concluded that increased freight traffic and growing congestion compound the need for additional transportation alternatives within the I-35 corridor.

"After more than two years of analysis, the question regarding the need for TTC-35 is now well documented," said

Michael Behrens, TxDOT executive director, referring to a section of the draft report on why the project should be built. "We have to stay focused on the ultimate goal - making a positive impact to the I-35 corridor and improving statewide mobility for the next 30-50 years."

"Texas has a transportation problem and we have a plan to solve the problem," said Ric Williamson, chairman of the Texas Transportation Commission. "Our strategic plan contains long-term, mid-term, and short-term tactics. Building TTC-35 is one of our long-term tactical decisions to reduce congestion, enhance safety, expand economic opportunity, improve air quality, and preserve the value of IH-35."

Already, approximately 45% of the 21 million Texans live within 50 miles of I-35. With this significant portion of the population centered around I-35, the corridor is no longer an efficient option for intercity and freight travel but rather has become a commuter route, particularly in the urban areas.

Even with planned improvements to I-35, traffic demand will reach or exceed capacity by 2025. In addition, the draft report documents previous studies that indicated I-35 would need to be expanded to 16 lanes in metro areas and 12 lanes through Central Texas to meet the corridor's future traffic demands.

"Our next mission is to make absolutely certain that our regional leaders understand the full value of the Trans-Texas Corridor. I know my hometown of San Antonio is excited to learn more about the opportunities of linking its city center to this powerful new system," said Hope Andrade, a member of the Texas Transportation Commission.

Transportation models also indicate commercial truck traffic in Texas will grow dramatically. By 2025, freight

traffic will grow 132%, which translates into an average of 260,465 commercial trucks each day on Texas roads. Already, 20-38% of current traffic on I-35 is from commercial trucks and a significant portion is due to international trade.

In addition to determining the need for TTC-35, other factors were also analyzed to identify the narrowed study area. These included land use, engineering and design, traffic flow, and potential impacts on environmental factors, such as wetlands, farmland soils, cultural resources, and socioeconomic issues. Public input from 117 public meetings was also considered.

"Looking at both the study area revealed recently and last week's rail proposal, it's clear that Texas will be the trade corridor for this hemisphere," said Commissioner Ted Houghton, referring to last week's announcement that the state had received a proposal to build a new 600-mile grade-separated freight-rail line from Dallas/Fort Worth to Mexico.

The next step in the tiered environmental process is to continue gathering public comments. Numerous hearings are planned this summer throughout the study area. Final approval by the Federal Highway Administration on a narrowed study area could happen by next summer, however it would not authorize construction.

If federally approved, the environmental process would continue with Tier Two focusing on the narrowed 10-mile wide study area. It is within this study area that a final project route would be determined for roads, rail, and utilities. If approved, the Tier Two studies would authorize construction.

"Today's announcement validates the strength of this concept. Our next big opportunity is rapidly taking shape, and that's Trans-Texas Corridor 69," Commissioner

John W. Johnson said. In December 2005, Governor Perry instructed TxDOT to partner with the private sector to develop an interstate-quality highway corridor with additional rail freight capacity that connects the Lower Rio Grande River Valley to I-37 and continues along the south and east portions of Texas from Corpus Christi through Houston all the way to northeast Texas.

The complete draft environmental impact statement for TTC-35, including a map of the narrowed study area, is available on www.keeptexasmoving.org.

accepted the position of Cooke County Auditor for the challenge and exciting position as county auditor.

In other business Commissioners Court:

- Approved change orders for Cooke County EMS substations as follows: install lighted exit signs over doors \$1,296; changed from carpet to vinyl in 756 square foot living areas \$1,324 compared to \$2,620; at Rice Avenue to connect with sewer lines to the city \$2,550.

- Approved request by Woodbine Water Supply, at their expense, to install a two inch casing for a three quarter inch fresh water line running east and west across CR 187 approximately 2/10 of a mile south of FM 2896.

Approved in Precinct #2 Friends of Hemming Road north from 922 to Lone Oak Road for approximately 3.65 miles.

- Approved in Precinct #2 The Woods Property Owners Association to adopt County Roads 2261, 2262, and 2263 in The Woods Subdivision for approximately 1.64 miles.

- Approve Woodbine Water Supply, at their expense, to install a 12 inch casing for an eight inch water line running east to west across CR 182.

- Held an executive session, but took no action afterwards.

Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit enrollment deadline coming soon

by Mac Thornberry

I am sure most of you have heard something about Medicare Part D, the new prescription drug coverage for seniors. All Medicare beneficiaries are eligible for it. It is a voluntary benefit. No one is required to take it. However, an important deadline is coming up for those who would like this coverage.

The first enrollment period for Medicare Part D ends May 15, 2006. If you are currently on Medicare - and you want to add this benefit - you must enroll by that deadline to avoid a possible penalty. Those currently eligible for the benefit could be charged higher premiums if they sign up after May 15.

Almost 28 million people across the country are already enrolled and receiving the new prescription drug benefit. In our congressional district, approximately 60% of those eligible have signed up for the benefit.

The Department of Health and Human Services estimates this coverage will

save seniors an average of \$1,100 a year on the cost of their medicines. Some retirees will save significantly more than that average. But, Medicare Part D does not give enrollees all of their medicine for free. And, it is not a typical "one size fits all" government program. It is insurance provided by private companies with part of the cost paid by the government. Like other insurance, there are premiums, deductibles, co-pays, and other costs.

Medicare Part D could be a big help for those with very high drug expenses. Under the standard plan, once a beneficiary's out-of-pocket drug expenses for one calendar year reaches \$3,600, they will be required to pay just 5 percent (or a small co-payment) for the rest of their drug purchases that year. All of their other drug purchase costs will be covered by the plan.

There is also extra assistance available for those with a low income. For Medicare beneficiaries who meet the eligibility guidelines, the savings on drug purchases will be substantial. Millions of low income Medicare beneficiaries could pay no more than \$5 per prescription.

The prescription drug benefit will help many people, but it is still important to remember that it is not mandatory. You may decide you do not want it. You may already be receiving good coverage through another

source such as an employer or a union.

If you decide to accept this benefit, you will need to find a coverage plan that is right for you. About 20 organizations have been approved by Medicare to sell plans in Texas. Companies offering this insurance must meet certain requirements such as covering all medically necessary drugs. But, these companies are also competing with each other on things like prices and how benefits are packaged. People looking for the plan that is right for them will need to carefully examine what is offered. In most cases, beneficiaries will be able to change plans once a year.

If you need more information about this new coverage, there is a good website at www.medicare.gov <<http://www.medicare.gov>>. You may also call Medicare's toll-free number, 1-800-MEDICARE. The May 15 deadline is important, but there is still plenty of time to do the research necessary to make the best decisions. Family and friends can help you.

I also encourage you to call my office if I can help provide you with information.

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LIFESTYLE

KMB takes steps to reduce cigarette litter

"Cigarette butts are the most littered item in America, representing nearly 30% of all items documented in our cleanup initiatives," said Keep America Beautiful President G. Raymond Empson. "Many smokers and nonsmokers believe that the butts are biodegradable. In fact, the filter is made of cellulose acetate - a plastic that does not easily degrade under normal conditions." Cigarette butts cause big problems: they are an eyesore. They are a significant fire hazard, especially during drought. They are dangerous to children and wildlife. They clog municipal storm water filters where they collect after rain.

In an effort to support Keep America Beautiful's Cigarette Litter Prevention Program 2006 Keep Muenster Beautiful initiated its own cigarette litter prevention program. Keep Muenster Beautiful Board member Gary Fisher presented City Manager Stan Endres with four cigarette butt cans. The cans will be placed at City Hall, the library, and at City Park in hopes of reducing cigarette butt litter in town. The cans were donated by Keep Muenster Beautiful and the sand donated by Community Lumber Company. Flyers about cigarette litter were placed at the library, City Hall, and the Chamber of Commerce to help educate the public.



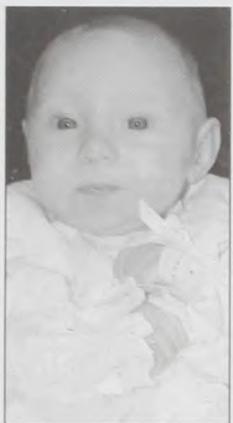
Gary Fisher, at left, presents Muenster City Manager Stan Endres with four cigarette butt cans as part of Keep Muenster Beautiful Cigarette Litter Prevention Program. KMB photo

BAPTISM

Fleitman

Alisha Marie Knauf Fleitman, daughter of Jody and Tanya K. Fleitman, was baptized on March 19, 2006 at noon in Sacred Heart Church, officiated by Rev. John Ohner, OSA. Serving as Godparents were Chad and Debbie Fleitman. Alisha wore a long white cotton gown decorated with ruffles and lace, made by Tillie Otto. For sentiment she wore her mother's gold scapular necklace that was a gift to her mother from her mother's Godparents and worn by her mother at her baptism.

great-grandmother Joan Bauer Huffine, great-grandparents Louise and Ed Knauf, and many other family members and friends.



Alisha Fleitman

Lunch of ham, German sausage, and trimmings was served after the ceremony at the Robert Knauf home and prepared by Alisha's parents and grandparents. Dessert was a special baptismal gown cake made by Betty Rose Walterscheid.

The ceremony and luncheon were attended by Alisha's grandparents Robert and Michele Knauf and James and Nita Fleitman.

Exhibit brings Arctic Alaska to Fort Worth

Ancient rhythms of time and space endure in Alaska where native peoples still call the Arctic Refuge home. They call this landscape "Vadzaih gogui vi dehk'it gwanlii," or "The Sacred Place Where Life Begins." A photography exhibit about this land, The Place Where Life Begins: Endangered Landscapes of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, will be displayed at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History from May 13 through Sept. 4.

stand the importance of this area to the people and wildlife that still live there today. This is a beautiful and unseen world that could one day disappear at human hands if people don't do something to help.

The Museum is located at 1501 Montgomery Street in Fort Worth's Cultural District. For more information, call 817-255-9300 or visit www.fortworthmuseum.org.

Lightning

Twin brothers Robin and Rolfe Radcliffe explored the Wildlife Refuge over several seasons to chronicle this fragile region with large-format cameras, much like Ansel Adams trekked through his beloved Sierras. The Radcliffes' large-format images capture the spectacular and hidden beauty of Alaska's north slope in intricate detail.

There are an estimated 25 million cloud-to-ground lightning flashes each year. While lightning can be fascinating to watch, it is also extremely dangerous. During the past 30 years through 2003, lightning has killed an average of 66 Americans and injured another 300. The number of Americans killed by lightning typically exceeds the number of deaths resulting from both tornadoes and hurricanes.

"We hope the exhibit helps Americans experience a place that most will never go," said Robin Radcliffe. "The images allow the viewer to feel like they are there, and under-

TXU Electric earns award for protecting environment

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has recognized TXU Electric Delivery with the ENERGY STAR Sustained Excellence 2006 Award for its continued leadership in protecting our environment through energy efficiency. TXU Electric Delivery's accomplishments will be recognized at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C.

TXU Electric Delivery an ENERGY STAR partner since 2001, was honored for its long-term commitment to the ENERGY STAR program and the more than 46,000 customers who have participated over the four years of the program. Across the U.S., top companies and organizations are discovering the value of promoting energy efficiency through participation in ENERGY STAR. Last year alone, with the help of ENERGY STAR, Americans saved \$12 billion on their energy bills and enough peak energy to power 28 million homes. Through those savings they avoided greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those of more than 23 million vehicles.

"For TXU Electric Delivery protecting the environment

through our Energy Star continues to be a major priority," said Tom Baker, chairman and chief executive officer, TXU Electric Delivery. "As an ENERGY STAR partner for many years we see the great value of energy efficiency and so do our customers. ENERGY STAR is a cornerstone of our organization and a win for the planet."

Weather fact

Texas is affected by thousands of thunderstorms every single year. However, the most dangerous thunderstorms are classified as severe and occur mainly in the spring and fall. Severe thunderstorms can produce damaging winds, large hail, and tornadoes. A thunderstorm is defined as severe when it produces winds of at least 58 mph, hail 3/4 of an inch in diameter or larger, or a tornado.

NOAA info
Each Weather Service Forecast Office produces a daily fire weather forecast. Each office website can be accessed from the following web site at: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov>

Benefit auction set for Morton Museum May 5

The 23rd Annual Cooke County Heritage Society Auction, benefiting the Morton Museum of Cooke County, will take place Friday, May 5 at the Gainesville VFW Hall.

This is the Museum's largest fundraiser. Donations are now being solicited and the Heritage Society would appreciate your support of an item, service, or cash to make this year's auction another success. The proceeds will be used to support the programs and services that the Museum continues to provide as the staff strives to promote local history.

Tickets are \$10 each and include the cost of a barbecue dinner. They may be purchased at the Morton Museum or from any Heritage Society member: Patty Haayen, Angela Antonetti, Carole Yarbrough, Mary Jo Graham, Kay George, Kay Wallace, Patti Wallace, Harriett Dickson, Mary Bartush, Wally Cullum, G.C. Ellis, Charlotte Winter, and Lynda Southworth.

For more information or to purchase a ticket, call 668-8900. So, buy your ticket and do not let your friends outbid you!

Museum to present program on Cooke County Courthouses

The fifth program in the Morton Museum of Cooke County's Spring Series "A Ramping Bull, a Colonel, and a U.S. Senator: Cooke County Courthouses" will take place at noon on Monday, April 17 at the Museum in Gainesville.

As the Cooke County Courthouse undergoes a major restoration, take part in this retrospective look at the history, not only of the current courthouse but of the

previous three courthouses, is examined. What do a rampaging bull, a colonel, and a U.S. Senator have to do with the courthouses? Come and find out!

Handouts will be provided. Seating is limited. For members of the Cooke County Heritage Society the cost to attend is \$3 and for non-members the cost is \$4. To reserve a seat or for more information, call the Museum at 940-668-8900.

NEW ARRIVAL

Reiter

Philip and Amanda Reiter of Lindsay joyfully announce the birth of their daughter Elaina Katherine Reiter. She was born at North Texas Medical Center on Friday, April 7, 2006 at 12:50 p.m. weighing 6 lb. 12 oz. and measuring 19 inches in length.

Elaina is welcomed by her sister Jessalyn Elizabeth Reiter, age 2. Grandparents are Rosalie Reiter of Gainesville and the late Gerald Reiter, and Don and Donna Schad of Lindsay. Great-grandmothers are Margaret Reiter Schmitt and Adeline Sicking, both of Muenster, and Louise Schad of Lindsay.

Easter Egg Hunt

When: Saturday, April 15
*Rain day: Sunday, April 16
Time: 3:30 PM
Where: Muenster City Park
Three Age Groups: 0-2 years, 3-5 years, & 6-10 years

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The Easter Bunny plans to attend, so don't forget your cameras!

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Cooke County marks Child Abuse Awareness Month

CASA of North Texas recognized April as Child Abuse Awareness Month. On April 4, the Gainesville City Council recognized April as Child Abuse Awareness Month and recognized the efforts of CASA and its volunteers in speaking out for the needs of the children. Cooke County Commissioners Court did the same on Monday, April 10.

CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates. CASA volunteers are trained and then appointed by the district judge to serve the interests of these children in court. CASA volunteers conduct their own investigation into each child's situation. They talk to the family members, teachers, neighbors, law enforcement, and any other individuals that might have important information regarding the child's case. They often also form very special bonds with the children. Unlike state case workers, CASA volunteers are not governed by red tape or stacks of state policy. Their sole mission: to make common sense recommendations to the court about what they think is best for the child's future.

The CASA office in Gainesville currently is run by just three people, Director Vicki Robertson, Volunteer Coordinator Patricia Doughty, and Case Manager Kristie Becker. It operates on a small budget and a network of 25 volunteers. Muenster CASA volunteers include: Janie Weinzapfel, Carol Ayles, Ann Green, and Billie Fleitman.

But more support is needed if CASA is to continue its record of representing every Cooke County child placed in the court system. Robertson says the office is always looking for new volunteers, but can also use donations, as well as help around the office. To become a volunteer, make a donation, or help in other areas, contact Robertson at 665-2244.



Muenster was well represented at the TORCH Annual Awards Luncheon last Thursday. MMH Administrator Lynn Heller received the Gordon Russell Merit Award at the event. Courtesy photo

AREA EVENTS

Parkfest Car Show and Cruise

The Iowa Park Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring Parkfest to be held on Saturday, May 6 in downtown Iowa Park. Parkfest will include a Street Festival featuring food, games, and entertainment for the entire family from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. A car show will be held from noon to 6 p.m. and cruise from 7 to 10 p.m. This will be followed by a Street Dance from 10 p.m. to midnight.

To register for the car show and/or cruise, or for more information on the Festival, call the Iowa Park Chamber of Commerce at 940-592-5441.

Classic Car Cruise and Rock & Roll Concert

Step back in time in Bridgeport for a Classic Car Cruise and Rock & Roll Concert on Saturday, April 22. The car cruise sign-up will begin at noon, with the cruise at 3 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by the Fabulous

50s Band and Alan Price and his Golden Oldies, along with various fun contests for those who attend. The event kicks off the Wise County Antique Auto Club's Cruise Nights on the Courthouse square held the first Saturday of the month May through October (excluding July). The first Cruise Night will be Saturday, May 6 at the Courthouse Square in Decatur.

Montague Italian Dinner

An Italian dinner and bake sale sponsored by the Saint

William Altar Society of Montague will be held April 23. Serving is from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the parish hall in Montague. Tickets are \$6.50 for adults, \$3 for children ages 6-12, and free for under 6 years of age. The menu includes Italian sausage, salad, spaghetti, homemade Italian bread, tea, and cobbler. You may pre-order fresh sausage by calling Patricia Vicari 704-5787; Maria Bujard 872-1880; Mary Masiello 894-2614; or Paulette Fenoglio 894-2641.

Lightning facts

Follow the 30/30 lightning safety rule when thunderstorms threaten your area. Go indoors if after seeing lightning you cannot count to 30 before hearing thunder. This method may be too difficult if lightning from an approaching storm is very frequent and thunder is nearly

constant. Just head indoors. Then stay indoors for 30 minutes after hearing the last clap of thunder. Do not prematurely resume outdoor activities as the storm moves away. Following these guidelines will contribute greatly to your safety from the deadly beauty of lightning.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

When: April 23, 2 pm

Where: St. Peter's Church
Lindsay, Texas

A FIRST CLASS RELIC WILL BE PRESENTED AND VENERATION OF BLESSED IMAGE DURING SERVICES.

Saint Faustina was a Polish nun and from 1931-1938 our Lord appeared to the nun and asked her to establish a Feast of Divine Mercy on the Sunday after Easter. Our Lord promised "I will pour out an ocean of grace upon souls who approach the font of my mercy." "Let no soul fear to draw near to me even though his sins be as scarlet."

Our Lord also asked St. Faustina to paint an image of Him with the words "Jesus I trust in you." "By means of this image I shall grant many graces."

Our Lord also asked for a novena 9 days prior to the Feast starting on Good Friday along with a Chaplet of Divine Mercy. "Tell ailing mankind to draw close to my merciful heart and I will fill it with peace... Mankind will not find peace until he turns with confidence to my mercy." Never in the history of the world have we needed the mercy of God as much as we do today.

Novenas booklets may be obtained at all entrances of St. Peter's Church in Lindsay and nearby churches.

ALL ARE WELCOME!



Jesus I trust in you

NEEDED

Members, old and new, active and inactive, for the Muenster Memorial Hospital Auxiliary.

Re-organized in January 2003, the Auxiliary is in its fourth year. The support and leadership of individuals and businesses throughout the community has been tremendous this past year. It made possible numerous things that add to the comfort of those using the Hospital facilities.

During the past year some of the Auxiliary's projects were:

- Provided funds for the patient patio
- Provided new blinds for the windows in patient's rooms
- Provided goodies for Hospital week and employees
- Held the Second Annual Trunk or Treat, which provided a safe place for about 500 children to celebrate Halloween
- Decorated the Hospital for the Christmas holiday season
- Maintained flower beds in front of the Hospital
- Hosted meet and greet for Dr. Hewes
- Greeters at the 2005 health fair
- Pampered patients with pillow corsages
- Maintained gift shop in foyer
- Supplied coloring books, stuffed animals, and novelty items for children



Your Support is needed to allow the Auxiliary to continue to provide these and many other services to the hospital, patients, and staff.

A minimum contribution of \$5 make you an official member of the Muenster Memorial Hospital Auxiliary. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm in the Hospital's meeting room. Members vary in age, interests, and amount of time volunteered. There is a place for everyone. Please join.

Contributions/dues may be dropped off at MMH Nurses Station or sent to:

Muenster Memorial Hospital Auxiliary
C/O Danna Hess - Treasurer
P.O. Box 565
Muenster, Texas 76252



CASA director Vicki Robertson, at left, listens as District Judge Janelle Haverkamp praises the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). Judge Haverkamp said that they are very valuable in helping her do her job. Janet Feiderhoff photo



Last year, 103 children were removed from homes in Cooke County due to abuse or neglect. There were 103 children from St. Mary's School who stood on the Courthouse steps Monday, symbolizing those children. Pictured with them at the top are CASA staff and volunteers. Janet Feiderhoff photo

APRIL bargains of the month

Great Low Prices!

By combining the buying strength of thousands of True Value stores, you get great low prices on quality top-name brands.

4.99 Your choice
Less \$2 Mail-in Rebate
2.99 Final Cost After Rebate

Bow Rake or Shovel
Rake with welded-steel head. Shovel has power collar. Both with fiberglass handle.
L 296 889, 482 163 B6 Limit 1. Consumer responsible for taxes. While supplies last.

4.99 GreatThinks
32-Oz. Grass & Weed/Spot Weed Killer Value Pack
Includes 32-oz. Grass & Weed Killer and 32-oz. Spot Weed Killer.
L 624 306 B6 While supplies last.

9.99 GreatThinks
3-Pc. Pruning Set
Includes bypass lopper, hedge shears and pruner. Alloy steel blade with nonstick coating. L 623 134 B6 While supplies last.

Find many more items on sale and fast, helpful service.

Community Lumber Company

True Value

Highway 82 • Muenster
759-2248

START RIGHT. START HERE.



Jared and James Dangelmayr



Jacob Hess and Koby Hogan round up the "herd".



Josh Biffle and Austin Miller



Keith Bayer lassos a "steer."



Michael Fleitman and Jacob Walterscheid



Annie Anderle and friend



Morgan and Kelsie Hennigan

Jr. Hi track continued from pg. 11

Long Jump: 2, Shirley Hess, L, 14'; 3, Jackie Klement, M, 13' 9.5"; 5, Delana Sicking, M, 13' 5".

High Jump: 1, Kristin Martin, L, 4' 4"; 5, Delana Sicking, M, 4'; 6, Alex Cooney, L, 3' 10".

8TH GRADE BOYS

2400m: 2, Matt Dieter, L, 8:59.93; 3, Mitch Dieter, L, 9:06.88; 5, Josh Womble, M, 9:15.07.

800m: 2, Toby Dyess, M, 2:36.41; 3, Dax Fleitman, L, 2:47.41; 4, Ryan

Kendall, L, 2:50.42.

100m: 6, Blake Hunter, L, 13.63.

400m Relay: 2, L, Josh Mueller, Ross Jones, Ryan Haverkamp, Austin Reiter, 50.72; 3, M, Steven Valliere, Allen Fette, Corey Sicking, T.J. Acuna, 51.52.

110m Hurdles: 1, Chris Valliere, M, 18.27; 2, Eric Hellman, M, 19.17; 4, James Kelley, L, 20.45; 5, Levi Trubenbach, M, 20.63.

400m: 4, Austin Reiter, L, 1:04.65; 5, Eric Hellman, M, 1:04.70.

300m Hurdles: 1, Ryan Haverkamp, L, 46.11; 2, Chris Valliere, M, 48.38; 3, Levi Trubenbach, M, 50.26; 6, Blake Hunter, L, 55.60.

1600m: 1, Matt Dieter, L, 5:39.08; 2, Mitch Dieter, L, 5:41.19; 4, Josh Womble, M, 5:58.63; 5, Toby Dyess, M, 5:59.11; 6, Dax Fleitman, L, 6:05.93.

Shot Put: 4, Corey Sicking, M, 33' 11.25".

200m: 2, Josh Mueller, L, 26.71.

1600m Relay: 2, L, Josh Mueller, Ryan Haverkamp, Ross Jones, Colton Hermes, 4:15.81.

Discus: 4, Jeremy Lutkenhaus, M, 108' 6.5".

Long Jump: 4, Levi Trubenbach, M, 16'; 5, Austin Reiter, L, 15' 11"; 6, Josh Mueller, L, 15' 10".

High Jump: 1, Eric Hellman, M, 5' 4"; 2, Ryan Haverkamp, M, 5' 4"; 4, Allen Fette, M, 5'; 5, Josh Mueller, L, 5' 1".

800m Relay: 2, M, Steven Valliere, Allen Fette, Corey Sicking, T.J. Acuna, 1:50.13; 3, L, Ross Jones, Austin Reiter, John Block, Colton Hermes, 1:52.09.

Triple Jump: 1, T.J. Acuna, M, 36' 1.25"; 3, Levi Trubenbach, M, 34' 4"; 4, Ryan Haverkamp, L, 33' 7".

Pole Vault: 3, Blake Hunter, L, 7' 6"; 6, Steven Valliere, M, 7'.

Record numbers attend Sacred Heart Ranch Rodeo

Record numbers tuned out for the Annual Sacred Heart Alumni & Friends Buckaroo and Ranch Rodeo April 2 at Circle A Arena. Buckaroos ages 2 years old to 5th grade filled the arena Sunday morning, April 2, ready to show their skills in goat milking, roping and branding, pony express racing, and chicken sorting.

The Alumni hosted over 100 buckaroo teams in the morning and 27 big cowboy teams that afternoon. A big hit this year was a new event for the parents to get involved in the action with their little buckaroos. The parent/child division had 32 teams, as well as:

Toddlers Division: 1, "Buckaroo Buddies", Joseph Cochran and Shane Sicking; 2, "Rocking K Cowboys", Keith Bezner and Koby Hogan; 3, "Buckin' Bulls", Collin Knabe and Garrett Bindel.

around the barrel and back. Lots of laughs and hootin' and hollerin' were heard from inside the arena during this event! Next, the adults had to help with the chicken sortin'. The adults also had to show their branding skills once their child partner roped a dummy calf.

Goodie bags were given to all participants. Belt buckles, money, and t-shirts were awarded to the top three teams in each division. The kids enjoyed two calf scrambles before the 1:30 Ranch Rodeo began.

The Buckaroo winners are as follows:

9 a.m. K-5th grade: 1, "Wild 'n Willy", Grant Springer and Kason Reeves; 2, "Cowgirl Buddies", Leah Knabe and Macie Pagel; 3, "Rote!", Adrienne Rohmer and Shyann Bartel.

10 a.m. K-5th grade: 1, "XX Double Trouble", Isaac Walterscheid and Alec Hudson; 2, "Two Stooges", Andy Flusche and Kason Reeves; 3, "Kickin' & Screamin'", Kaitlyn Hesse and Devin Henry.

11 a.m. adult/child: 1, "B&B", Katy Bell and Bill Schroeder; 2, "Donut eaters", Drew and Kate Springer; 3, "River H", Katy and Rusty Howard.

The school children sold a record number of pre-ticket sales this year. Over \$4,000 was brought in by the elementary students. Each class was vying for 1st place in sales to win a day of fun at the Dangelmayrs' Hopp

Ranch. The 6th grade came in 1st with a total of over \$1,300 in sales. The 7th grade was 2nd with over \$1,000 in sales, which won a pizza party and a day of swimming. The 5th grade took 3rd place with over \$750 in sales. They will be treated to an ice cream party and swimming. The 3rd grade gave a good show, coming in 4th place with over \$575 in sales. A popsicle party at their recess will be awarded to them.

Twenty-eight four-member teams competed in the Ranch Rodeo in the afternoon. Winners of each event were:

Double Mugging - Bridwell Ranch of Henrietta, Justin Coleman, Jake Murray, JB Miller, Kyle Lewis, time 0:41.94.

Cow Un-decorating - Young Ranch of Weatherford, Jerry Williams, Clay Brown, Bud Lowery, Chance

Hutchins, time 0:25.53.

Team Sorting - Need More Cattle Co. of Muenster, Richard Parker, Ron Abner, Jimmy Abner, Scott Klement, time 0:41.94.

Team Roping - Young Ranch of Weatherford, time 0:11.53.

Overall winners: 1, \$400 (belt buckles and t-shirts), Bradley Ranch, Electra, Jim Tackett, JB Miller, Benton Easter, Johnny Miller, time 2:34.72; 2, \$350, Post Oak Ranch, Forestburg, Eddie Tompson, Garret Johnson, Jared Sikes, Ty Hare, time 2:44.46; 3, \$300, B Bar B, Lipan, Brian Bingham, Troy Bradshaw, Jeff Long, Ross Cullum, time 2:57.61; 4th, \$250, Creek Side Farms, Blue Ridge, Chi Selby, Jason Johnson, David Lewis, Rusty Gonzales, time 2:58.00.

Team Roping - Young Ranch of Weatherford, time 0:11.53.

Overall winners: 1, \$400 (belt buckles and t-shirts), Bradley Ranch, Electra, Jim Tackett, JB Miller, Benton Easter, Johnny Miller, time 2:34.72; 2, \$350, Post Oak Ranch, Forestburg, Eddie Tompson, Garret Johnson, Jared Sikes, Ty Hare, time 2:44.46; 3, \$300, B Bar B, Lipan, Brian Bingham, Troy Bradshaw, Jeff Long, Ross Cullum, time 2:57.61; 4th, \$250, Creek Side Farms, Blue Ridge, Chi Selby, Jason Johnson, David Lewis, Rusty Gonzales, time 2:58.00.

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Play in the Fourth Annual Benefit Golf Tournament for Turtle Hill Ministries...

When: Saturday, April 22, 2006
Where: Turtle Hill Golf Course
Time: Registration: Begins at 10:00 AM
Driving Range Privileges: 10:00 - Noon
Putting Contest: 10:30 AM - PRIZES
Lunch: 11:30 AM (early-bird prizes awarded)
Shotgun Start: 12:30 PM
Dinner and Fun Awards Ceremony: 5:00 PM

Team Prizes in each flight, prizes at every hole - celebrity players, door prize drawings at lunch and dinner - come and enjoy the fun.



Special player's rate when you sign up at Turtle Hill Golf Course --\$75 per person--includes two meals, tournament entry, great prizes, range balls, goody bag and much, much more!

For more information call, (940) 759-5088.

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Full Surface Lab 1-2 Hour Service Plastic Lens Only

1 FREE trial pair (disposals Lens and follow up visit included)

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311 East California St. • Gainesville, TX

Open M-F 9am - 5:30pm • Sat 9am - 1pm



Dinos on exhibit - above, Alison Morris shows Cassie Wright, Carrie Nasura, and Macie Pagel her project. At right, Maddie Serna and Amy Luttmier view Cassie Horsman's dino art. Below, Sawyer Sanders and Dawson Anderle can't get over Trevor Lancaster's display. Bottom photo, Mitchell Hendricks explains his project to Brennan Binder. MISD photos



Muenster 2nd Grade studies dinosaurs

The 2nd grade classes at Muenster Elementary have recently completed their Changes Over Time - Discovering Dinosaurs Science Unit under the direction of their teachers Kim Budish and Lisa Pagel. Kristen Yosten, a student teacher from Midwestern State University, also assisted with the unit.

Each student became the resident expert in their classroom on a particular dinosaur by researching facts on the computer, completing a book report, and creating a special project at home on that particular dinosaur.

The file folder reports and

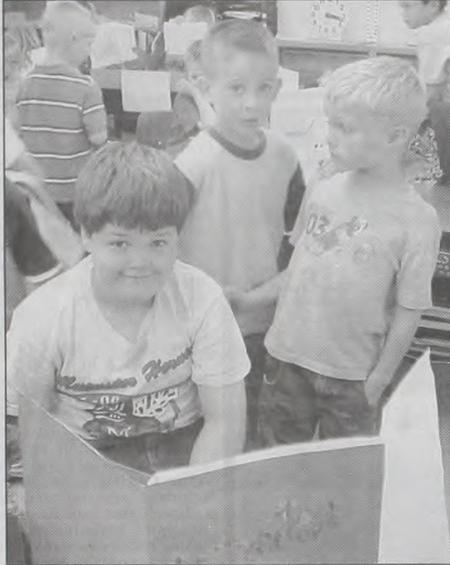
Registration deadline set for ACT

The next nationwide ACT test date for college-bound high school students is Saturday, June 10. Students must register online or have their paper registrations postmarked by the end of the day May 5. Late registration postmark deadline is May 19 (an additional \$18 fee is required for late registration after May 5).

The ACT includes an optional Writing Test. Most colleges do not require a writing score, so students should check the admissions requirements of colleges they're considering before registering for the ACT. The cost is \$29 without and \$43 with the Writing Test.

Students can receive registration information from their high school guidance counselors or they can register online at www.actstudent.org. The website also features test tips, practice tests, an online test prep program, and a database for students to find out if a prospective college requires a writing score.

projects were displayed at the annual 2nd Grade Dinosaur Museum. Many other classes visited the Dinosaur Museum, where the 2nd grade students shared the knowledge they had learned throughout the unit.



About lightning

Most lightning-caused deaths occur during the spring and summer months when the frequency of thunderstorms and outdoor activities peak. During the past 40 years, Texas ranked second in the country behind Florida in total number of lightning fatalities.

By definition, all thunderstorms produce lightning. During a thunderstorm, each flash of cloud-to-ground lightning is a potential killer. Although some victims are struck directly by the main visible lightning stroke, most are affected by nearby strikes as the current moves in and

along the ground. Because of these indirect strikes, most victims survive, though often with lifelong painful effects. While virtually all people take some protective action during a thunderstorm, many unknowingly leave themselves vulnerable.

LUNCH MENUS

WEEK OF APRIL 17 - 21 MUENSTER ISD

Mon. - Hot dogs w/chili, macaroni and cheese, pinto beans, carrot sticks, pears, blueberry muffins.

Tues. - Popcorn chicken, creamed potatoes w/gravy, corn, peaches, hot rolls.

Wed. - Chicken patty sandwich, lettuce, tomatoes, chips and salsa, oranges, cookies.

Thurs. - Chicken fried steak, creamed potatoes w/gravy, green beans, pineapple, hot rolls.

Fri. - Hamburgers w/cheese, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, onions, oven baked French fries, carrot sticks, applesauce, ice cream.

SACRED HEART

Mon. - No School.

Tues. - Chicken nuggets, potatoes, gravy, carrots, oranges, bread.

Wed. - Salisbury steak w/brown gravy, potatoes, fruit jello, bread.

Thurs. - Ham, black-eyed peas, green salad, applesauce, bread.

Fri. - Hamburgers w/trimmings, French fries, trail mix, pudding cups.

LINDSAY ISD

Mon. - Soft tacos w/trimmings, refried beans, Spanish rice, applesauce.

Tues. - Barbecue on a bun, pickle wedges, potato chips, fresh fruit, peanut butter brownie.

Wed. - Oven fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, peaches, bread.

Thurs. - Lasagna, green beans, lettuce salad, mixed fruit, bread.

Fri. - Chicken on a bun w/trimmings, oven fries, ice cream.

ERA ISD

Mon. - Chicken patty or steak fingers, mashed potatoes, gravy tossed salad, fruit mix, hot roll.

Tues. - Frito chili pie, shredded cheese, corn, tossed salad, pineapple tidbits, chocolate chip cookie.

Wed. - Chicken spaghetti or mini corn dogs, green beans, sliced peaches, tossed salad, breadstick.

Thurs. - Crispy taco, trimmings, strawberry applesauce, pinto beans, cornbread.

Fri. - Barbecue sandwich, potato wedges, pickle spears, ice cream.

Community Wide Easter Egg Hunt



Come One Come All To

Saint Richards Villa to hunt Easter Eggs

& take pictures with the Easter Bunny!!!

All Children ages toddler thru 7 years of age are welcome

When: April 14 - Good Friday

When: 2:00 P.M.

Where: Saint Richards Villa

Parking Lot

Cost: Free to Public

For additional information please contact

Zula Lawyer, Administrator

at the Facility at 940-759-2219

15336 Hwy 82

Muenster, Texas

PRIZES! FUN! ENTERTAINMENT!

COOKE COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Annual Membership Meeting

Thursday, April 20, 2006

North Central Texas College Gymnasium

Registration and Meal 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Entertainment 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.

Business Session 7:00 p.m.

ENTERTAINMENT



Cooke County's own Lori Hart will be entertaining at the Cooke County Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting.

ATTENDANCE PRIZES

- 27-inch Color TV
- Vacuum Cleaner
- VCR & DVD
- Small Power Tools
- Small Appliances
- Power Bill Credits
- ...and many more!

Muenster Memorial Hospital Rehabilitation Program



Our Rehabilitation Staff: front (l to r) Leslie Brezing and Heather Edwards; back (l to r) Karine Klement, Andrea Wolf, and Amber Hammer.

Our Swing Bed Program provides Skilled Nursing Care and Rehabilitation Therapy that may benefit patients in the following areas:

- Post - Acute IV Therapy
- Post - Surgery Therapy for patients with an orthopedic surgical procedure requiring physical or occupational therapy
- Post - Stroke Therapy
- Pneumonia Recuperation
- Heart Problems

Therapists provide Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Speech Therapy
Contact Adelia Wilson (940) 759-2271

Special Texas legislative session called for April 17

State lawmakers will head back to Austin for a special session on April 17, following the announcement by Gov. Rick Perry in mid-March.

Specific issues facing the Legislature will be announced at a later date, but no doubt, school finance will top their agenda.

The Texas Supreme Court ruled the current finance system unconstitutional after observing that most school districts around the state had reached the maximum \$1.50 per \$100 valuation tax cap, a levy the courts later determined was necessary to fund state-mandated curricula, and left school districts without reasonable discretion of their tax assessments at the local level.

Given so many districts had reached the cap, the courts ruled, it broke the state law forbidding a statewide property tax. Lawmakers now have until June 1 to come up with another plan.

"This special session provides legislators of both parties a rare opportunity to significantly reduce property taxes, make substantial reforms to the franchise tax so it is fairer and broader, and ensure our schools have a reliable and constitutional stream of revenue," Perry said.

Texas Farm Bureau State Legislative Director Billy Howe said legislators will have 30 days in which to find a solution or face the prospect of missing the court-stipulated June 1 deadline.

While legislative leadership remains at odds over the best solution to the school finance problem, Howe said the most likely course of action comes in the form of revenues raised by an increase to the state sales tax.

Remember the three Rs?

Remember those three 'Rs'? The first two - reading and writing - may be the keys to a child's future success. But that third 'R' - arithmetic - is the key to his or her financial future, said a Texas Cooperative Extension specialist.

In fact, so important is this knowledge, that beginning with the 2006-07 academic year in Texas, "all high school students will be required to take a course that includes personal finance education as a condition for high school graduation," said Nancy Granovsky, Extension family economics specialist. The law, House Bill 492, passed the Texas Legislature and was signed by the governor in 2005.

"People need to know about money and how to avoid mistakes, establish financial goals, live within their means, and build wealth," she said.

And since financial literacy should begin at an early age, April has been designated Financial Literacy for Youth Month.

Learning to save isn't always easy, Granovsky said. "They have to determine how to use their money to meet their needs," she said. "What are their needs and what are their wants? How do they get the most bang for the 'bucks' they do have? They have to make their money last to meet their needs and not just their wants."

Opening a savings account can help. "If they determine what their future goals are, a savings account (is a good way) to start saving toward that goal - maybe college, a vehicle, car insurance, or a class trip."

Savings accounts are not the only way young people can learn about managing their own money, she said.

"An increasing number of younger people have checking accounts as well," Granovsky said. "They can be an effective tool in helping manage finances. The idea is for young people to start seeing that their money is something they can plan the use of. They can plan what it is for, how it is spent, the results they get from spending it. They are in command of their money, it is not in command of them."

Young people old enough to have paying jobs - whether full- or part-time - might want to consider opening a Roth IRA with part of their job earnings, she said.

"But make sure the teen has received a W-2 or Form

Upping the sales tax will allow the state to effectively buy down the school finances and allow local districts more discretion in their tax rate scenarios. By doing so, the state eliminates the court's concern over the constitutionality of the school finance system. However, it will only provide a short term fix, Howe said.

Broader reforms may have to wait until the next regular session of the state legislature set to convene in 2007, when lawmakers won't face the limited time constraints of a special session.

MISD honorees for March



Muenster ISD teachers of the month for March are high school Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) teacher Joni Sturm, and fifth/sixth grade Social Studies teacher Jim Van Vleet. Students of the month are sophomore Ricky Grewing, 7th grader Lindsay Kelley, and 4th grader Destin Fleitman. Pictured are, from left - Jim Van Vleet, Curtis Eldridge, JH/HS principal, Ricky Grewing, Destin Fleitman, Joni Sturm, Lindsay Kelley, and Lou Heers, elementary principal. Courtesy photo

CAPITOL COMMENT



U.S. SENATOR
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON

Reading is a key to success

When you teach children to read, you give them one of life's greatest gifts. Children who unlock the world of the written word gain access to unlimited opportunities for learning and discovery.

Sadly, many children do not have access to books at an early age. Millions of children are growing up

without books because their families have limited means or do not have ready access to appropriate children's books. Some parents, themselves, were not read to as children and find it difficult to start the habit with their own kids. Unfortunately, getting a late start in reading can contribute to continuing the cycle of poverty.

Teaching children to read at an early age helps break that cycle. Early readers enter school ready to succeed academically. When children love reading, they do better in school and they enjoy their courses more. Reading is the foundation for learning, and excellent reading comprehension facilitates studies in other subjects, such as math and science.

As a parent, I recognize the value of literacy and the importance of promoting it at every stage of a child's life. Every night at bedtime, my husband and I read a story to our children. Reading stories with children teaches them about the world and shows them how fun reading can be at the same time.

Many children dislike going to the doctor because they relate a visit to the doctor with being sick or getting a shot, but a national literacy program is changing that. Since doctors have regular contact with young children and their parents, these visits are valuable opportunities to share information about reading.

Reach Out and Read is a nonprofit organization that trains pediatricians to advise parents about the importance of reading aloud to children. It also gives new books to children at pediatric checkups from the age of six months to five years.

If there is one thing children love, it is getting gifts. There is always a look of joy on a child's face when opening presents at a birthday party or during the holidays. Associating this same feeling with reading is invaluable. Now, instead of dreading a trip to the doctor, a child can look forward to acquiring a new book.

Founded in 1989, Reach Out and Read serves more than 2.1 million children each year and distributes over 3.4 million books annually. Reach Out and Read also has volunteers who read aloud to children in clinic waiting rooms and provides parents with ideas about how to get the most out of reading with their children.

I am proud to support Reach Out and Read programs in Texas and nationwide. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I help secure funding for worthwhile programs such as Reach Out and Read. For our country to remain competitive in a global economy, it is essential that our children are well educated; and the best education starts with early reading. Supporting educational programs remains a top priority for me in the Senate and, last fall, Congress approved over \$9 million to fund Reach Out and Read which has programs in all 50 states.

I recently visited some Reach Out and Read programs in Texas. Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene established Texas' first Reach Out and Read program for children on a military base and I was honored to have the opportunity to read to children there. I also recently had the privilege to read to children at Reach Out and Read clinics in Amarillo and Odessa. These are just a few of the 180 Reach Out and Read programs in Texas. Each year they serve over 200,000 Texas children and distribute more than 250,000 books to the youngsters in the Lone Star State.

We are fortunate to have the generous people at Reach Out and Read providing books to children so they can build their own libraries at an early age. When children develop a sense of ownership in books, they begin to cherish them. This makes a huge difference in their level of interest and it helps them acquire skills that benefit them the rest of their lives.

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This is National Work Zone Safety Week

The Texas Department of Transportation's Work Zone Safety campaign asks motorists to use caution and heed warning signs in construction areas. TxDOT joins the American Traffic Safety Services Association, the Federal Highway Administration, and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials to commemorate National Work Zone Awareness Week, April 3-9. For more information about Work Zone Safety, see <http://wzsafety.tamu.edu/>.

Facts on Work Zone Safety in Texas
• About 125 people died in work zone traffic crashes in

Texas during 2004.
• 80% of those killed in a work zone are motorists and their passengers.

• On any given day, there are more than 1,300 work zones on more than 79,000 miles of Texas roadways.

State law requires you to obey all signs in work zones. Fines for moving violations can be as much as \$400 in construction or maintenance work zones marked with signs indicating that fines double when workers are present.

How to Stay Safe in Work Zones

The number one cause of work zone crashes is excessive speed, followed by

the failure to remain alert while driving. As a result, one in three work zone crashes is a rear-end collision.

• Observe work zone warning signs.

• Keep a safe distance between your vehicle, other vehicles, barriers, workers, and equipment.

• Be extra cautious when driving through an active work zone at night.

• Pay attention to flaggers directing traffic.

• Merge at the first notice of a lane closure or change.

• Avoid distractions. Don't use your cell phone, drink, eat, or change radio stations or CDs.

SPORTS

District 14A track and field meet held last week at Alvord

The District 14A Track and Field Meet was held April 5 and 6 at Alvord. Ten schools participated in varsity and junior varsity, girls and boys divisions. Field and pre-lim running events were held Wednesday, with running finals Thursday afternoon.

Muenster advanced three girls and seven boys to Area, which was held Wednesday, April 12 at Chico.

In varsity girls action, the Lady Knights dominated the meet, running up 166 points. Alvord followed with 106, Windthorst 100, and Valley View 53.5. Muenster settled for 5th place with 50 points, Era 40, Petrolia 38.25, Collinsville 38, Archer City 24, and Saint Jo 4.25.

The Valley View Eagles won the varsity boys division with 170 points. Lindsay followed with 101, then Muenster in 3rd with 93 points. Windthorst finished 4th with 75, Alvord 56, Archer City 42, Collinsville 37, Era 33, Saint Jo 7, and Petrolia 0.

The Valley View junior varsity girls won their division with 118 points. Era followed with 103, Alvord 83, Muenster 54, Lindsay 51, Windthorst 25, and Collinsville 20.

Collinsville boys won the JV competition with 210 points, followed by Valley View, Alvord, Era, Muenster 13, Windthorst, Lindsay 8, Petrolia, and Saint Jo. Most schools did not field a "team" in JV.

First place varsity finishers, and Muenster and Lindsay results were as follows:

VARSITY GIRLS

Long Jump: 1, Jacé Koelzer, M, 16' 9"; 4, Sam Endres, M, 15' 10.5".

Triple Jump: 1, Chelsea Hermes, L, 34' 11"; 2, Brittany Anderle, L, 34' 2.5"; 3, Autumn Murrill, L, 33' 5"; 6, Sam Endres, M, 32' 4".

Shot: 1, Elizabeth Neu, L, 37' 7"; 4, Christina Eckart, L, 32' 10.75".

Discus: 1, Whitney Veltenheimer, W, 107' 6"; 2, Christina Eckart, L, 99' 5"; 6, Hillary Swirczynski, M, 87' 10".

High Jump: 1, Chelsea Hermes, L, 5' 4".

3200m: 1, Megan Liss, P, 12:13.76; 2, Rose Hermes, L, 12:40.97; 4, Katelyn Brewer, L, 12:55.70; 6, Laura Zimmerer, L, 13:39.10.

400m Relay: 1, Alvord, 52:57; 2, L, Autumn Murrill, Karissa Reiter, Amber Nortman, Brittany Anderle, 52.74.

800m: 1, Chelsea Hermes, L, 2:31.72; 2, Rose Hermes, L, 2:34.19; 6, Alli Copeland, L, 2:45.21.

100m: 1, Chelsie Steinberger, W, 12.50.

110m Hurdles: 1, Jacé Koelzer, M, 14.93.

800m Relay: 1, Windthorst, 1:53.42; 2, L, Autumn Murrill, Karissa Reiter, Brittany Anderle, Stephanie Neu, 1:54.17.

400m: 1, Jaqi Trice, A, 1:03.94; 4, Jacé Koelzer, M, 1:05.27.

300m Hurdles: 1, Rachel Wolf, W, 48.92; 2, Jacé Koelzer, M, 49.16; 6, Beverly Knabe, L, 54.45.

200m: 1, Amanda Blaylock, VV, 26.26; 2, Stephanie Neu, L, 26.32.

1600m: 1, Chelsea Hermes, L, 5:25.12; 3, Katelyn Brewer, L, 5:44.98.

1600m Relay: 1, L, Karissa Reiter, Rose Hermes, Chelsea Hermes,

Stephanie Neu, 4:12.43; 5, M. Sandy Endres, Laura Heers, Sam Endres, Melissa Cox, 4:30.80.

Pole Vault: 1, Kellie Delka, C, 9'; 3, Jenna Feldehoff, M, 7' 6"; 5, Abby Endres, M, 7'; 6, Jessica Hermes, L, 7'.

VARSITY BOYS

Long Jump: 1, Dylan Schindler, VV, 20' 9.25"; 4, Alan Trammell, L, 19' 6.25".

Triple Jump: 1, Dylan Schindler, VV, 41' 6.5"; 6, Collin Walterscheid, M, 39' 1.75".

Shot: 1, Ronnie Knox, VV, 46' 7.5"; 2, Gary Anderle, L, 45' 4.5"; 6, Adam Kasparek, L, 43' 9".

Discus: 1, Adam Kasparek, L, 143' 75".

High Jump: 1, Schenk, W, 5' 10"; 4, Joey Block, L, 5' 6".

3200m: 1, Josh York, VV, 10:42.03.

400m Relay: 1, M, Jordan Walterscheid, Justin Ferguson, Dustin Wimmer, Derek Endres, 45.14; 3, L, Josh Jones, Keith Hermes, Travis Endres, Alan Trammell, 45.91.

800m: 1, Williams, VV, 2:10.96; 3, Jason Metzler, L, 2:15.27; 4, Chris Steelman, M, 2:15.47; 5, Mason Ward, L, 2:16.56; 6, Brad Endres, M, 2:18.99.

100m: 1, M Grgurich, VV, 11:10; 2, Jordan Walterscheid, M, 11.15.

110m Hurdles: 1, Hoff, W, 15.71; 2, Nathan Martin, L, 16.55; 4, Adam Kasparek, L, 17.09; 6, Tanner Herr, M, 18.45.

800m Relay: 1, M, Michael Faries, Jordan Walterscheid, Derek Endres, Justin Ferguson, 1:33.84; 3, L, Josh Jones, Keith Hermes, Travis Endres, Alan Trammell, 1:36.98.

400m: 1, Justin Ferguson, M, 53.38.

300m Hurdles: 1, Small, E, 42.28; 3, Nathan Martin, L, 44.29.

200m: 1, Dustin Wimmer, M, 23.08; 3, Michael Faries, M, 23.32.

1600m: 1, Josh York, VV, 4:42.60; 4, Johnny Green, M, 4:57.98.

1600m Relay: 1, Valley View, 3:31.01; 2, L, Josh Jones, Keith Hermes, Travis Endres, Alan Trammell, 3:32.18; 5, M, Michael Faries, Micah Flusche, Chris Steelman, Paul Crabtree, 3:47.64.

Pole Vault: 1, Chad Dieter, L, 12' 6"; 2, Dustin Neu, L, 9".

JUNIOR VARSITY GIRLS

Shot: 4, Heather Odell, L, 27' 6".

Discus: 4, Elizabeth Dieter, L, 72'

2.5"; 6, Brandy Dangelmayr, M, 65' 2".

3200m: 3, Jordanne Hellman, M, 14:24.66; 4, Kendall Neu, L, 14:41.92;

2.5"; 6, Brandy Dangelmayr, M, 65' 2".

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3200m: 3, Jordanne Hellman, M, 14:24.66; 4, Kendall Neu, L, 14:41.92;

Sacred Heart golfers advance to Regional

Sacred Heart hosted the TAPPS 2A District 1 Golf Championship on April 5 at Turtle Hill Golf Course. Eight boys and five girls teams participated. The teams played in 80 degree temperatures and 20-25 m.p.h. southerly winds.

In the boys division, Midland Classical took the championship with 338 strokes.

The Tigers of Sacred Heart finished 2nd with 348, followed by Amarillo San Jacinto 353, Fort Worth Hill School 388, El Paso Immanuel Christian 394, Colleyville Covenant 398, Amarillo Holy Cross 434, and Abilene Christian 440.

Mitch Sellers was the top individual, scoring a 78. Nolan Hartman was 9th at

87, and Colby Richey 10th at 88 strokes. Other Tigers were Tyler Rohmer 95, and David Walterscheid 107.

Sacred Heart Tigers participating individually and their scores were Clay Knabe 94, Theo Otto 98, Dylan Flusche 106, Kirk Felderhoff 110, and Ben Walterscheid 123.

The Tigerettes settled for 3rd place with a score of 431. Abilene took the championship with 395, followed by Midland with 410. Holy Cross and San Jacinto ended with 468 and 496.

The top individual girls score was 94. Joelle Fuhrmann finished 3rd with 98, and Diana Knabe 8th with 100. Other Tigerette results had Shannon Hartman scoring 112, Hannah Hess 121, and Charlotte Bartush 130.

The top four teams and top 10 individuals will advance to the Regional meet to be held April 18 at Turtle Hill.



Muenster Hornets participating at the District golf tournament were, from left, Taylor McGrew, Collin Walterscheid, Jordan Walterscheid, Lee Walterscheid, Noah Barnhill, Brad Endres, Garrett Hennigan, Derek Endres, Zach Swirczynski, and Tanner Herr.



Playoff bound - Muenster Lady Hornet golf team advancing to Regionals are, from left, Megan Dangelmayr, Noel Barnhill, Brandy Dangelmayr, Mara Erickson, and Jenni Luke.

300m Hurdles: 1, Lindsey Watson, M, 1:01.00.
200m: 1, Jessica Hartman, M, 29.26; 2, Krystal Arend, L, 29.29; 3, Charlotte Bartlett, L, 29.71; 6, Jordan Ledbetter, M, 31.54.
1600m: 3, Kendall Neu, L, 6:32.76; 5, Jordanne Hellman, M, 6:41.98.
JUNIOR VARSITY BOYS
Triple Jump: 5, Craig Grewing,

Lady Hornets advance to Regional golf meet

On Monday, April 3, all three Hornet golf teams traveled across the Red River to participate in the District 14A Golf Tournament held at Falconhead Country Club.

The Hornet Varsity Boys placed 3rd in the District with a team 387. A very good score on a very hard golf course, according to Coach Eddie Green. Jordan Walterscheid led with an 87. He was followed by brother Lee with 99.

Derek Endres posted 100. Tanner Herr had a 101, and Zach Swirczynski carded a 114. Jordan's 87 was good enough to place as 3rd best score, so he will be advancing to the Regional Golf Tournament.

The Hornet Varsity Girls came through with a team 520, which was good enough to place 2nd in District. This outing will enable them to travel to Abilene as the runner-up team to compete at the Regional Golf Tournament. The scores were: Mara Erickson 118 (good for the silver medal), Noel Barnhill 130, Jenni Luke 133, Megan Dangelmayr 139, and Brandy Dangelmayr 142. Petrolia took 1st place with a score of 507 and had three of the top six medalists. Lindsay was 3rd at 525.

The Hornet JV boys scored 422. Collin Walterscheid led with 102, Noah Barnhill and Brad Endres had 106 each, Taylor McGrew 108, and Garrett Hennigan carded a 114.

"It has been a fun and successful year for all the Hornet golfers, especially for the six who are advancing," commented Coach Green. The Regional Golf Tournament will be held at Maxwell Golf Course on Monday and Tuesday, April 24-25.

"Of the 15 golfers on the 2006 team, only four are graduating. Jordan, Derek,

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Collin Walterscheid



Mara Erickson



Megan Dangelmayr



Garrett Hennigan



Nolan Hartman



Derek Endres



Jenni Luke



Zach Swirczynski
District golf and track action



Justin Ferguson receives the stick from Jordan Walterscheid



Megan Felderhoff



Dustin Wimmer



Chase Serna



Cassie Hale and Sam Endres



Chris Steelman



David Walterscheid



Charlotte Bartush



Hannah Hess



Joelle Fuhrmann

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Junior High District Track

The Junior High District Zone Track and Field Meet was held Monday, April 3 at Collinsville. Competing at the meet were Muenster, Lindsay, Era, Valley View, and Collinsville.

The Muenster 8th grade boys finished in 2nd place, with the 7th and 8th grade girls and 7th grade boys setting for 3rd.

Results for Muenster and Lindsay were as follows:

7th GRADE GIRLS
2400m: 1, Kelsey Hermes, L, 9:34.52; 2, Bethani Eberhart, L, 10:57.63; 3, Amelia Wyrick, L, 11:51.50.

800m: 1, Kelsey Hermes, L, 2:38.34; 2, Bethani Eberhart, L, 2:43.86; 3, Jacy Steelman, M, 2:45.42.

100m: 1, Jessica Block, L, 13.65; 2, Macy Perry, L, 15.32; 5, Alley Trubench, M, 15.71.

400m Relay: 1, L, Kailyn Gum, Jessica Block, Katie Nortman, Carol Ann Dickerson, 57.46; 3, M, Cathy Aston, Taylor Klement, Michelle Henscheid, Tiffany Teafatiller, 1:02.90.

100m Hurdles: 1, Taylor Reiter, M, 18.92; 2, Hayley Hess, M, 19.26; 4, Vanessa Hess, L, 20.68.

800m Relay: 2, L, Carol Ann Dickerson, Allison Metzler, Vanessa Hess, Katelyn Weber, 2:12.99; 4, M, Cathy Aston, Taylor Klement, Briana Bindel, Tiffany Teafatiller, 2:17.02.

400m: 1, Jacy Steelman, M, 1:06.12; 4, Taylor Klement, M, 1:15.42; 6, Michelle Henscheid, M, 1:21.08.

200m: 1, Katie Nortman, L, 28.24.

1600m Relay: 1, L, Jessica Block, Bethani Eberhart, Katie Nortman, Kelsey Hermes, 4:35.60; 3, M, Hayley Hess, Taylor Reiter, Michelle Henscheid, Jacy Steelman, 5:03.83.

300m Hurdles: 3, Taylor Reiter, M, 56.37; 4, Hayley Hess, M, 57.71; 6, Vanessa Hess, L, 1:00.78.

1600m: 1, Amelia Wyrick, L, 6:46.75.

Shot Put: 2, Tiffany Teafatiller, 23' 7.5"; 4, C.J. Harrison, M, 21' 7"; 6, Vanessa Hess, L, 20' 11".

Discus: 1, Vanessa Hess, L, 64' 11"; 4, Tiffany Teafatiller, M, 53' 6.5"; 6, C.J. Harrison, M, 50' 4".

Triple Jump: 1, Katie Nortman, L, 28' 3"; 2, Jessica Block, L, 26' 5"; 4, Michelle Henscheid, M, 25' 2.5".

Long Jump: 2, Jacy Steelman, M, 13' 3.25"; 3, Jessica Block, L, 13' 2.75"; 4, Bethani Eberhart, L, 13' 2.25"; 5, Taylor Klement, M, 13' 2".

High Jump: 1, Jacy Steelman, M, 4' 4"; 2, Kelsey Hermes, L, 4' 2"; 5, Katelyn Weber, L, 3' 10"; 6, Macy Perry, L, 3' 6".

7TH GRADE BOYS

2400m: 2, Austin Hermes, L, 9:29.51; 3, Thomas Rohmer, L, 9:53.84; 4, Shane Pressnal, M, 9:54.16; 6, Tanner Silmon, M, 10:40.81.

800m: 4, Christopher Klement, L, 2:52.41.

400m Relay: 3, M, Phillip Vogel, Jason Luke, Spencer Nielsen, Tyler Acuna, 56.50; 4, L, Will Taylor, Kyle Johnson, Madison Parkhill, Thomas Rohmer, 58.42.

110m Hurdles: 2, Robert Arend, L, 19.35; 5, Kyle Johnson, L, 23.29; 6, Todd Bezner, L, 24.81.

400m: 3, Garrett Walterscheid, M, 1:05.88.

300m Hurdles: 1, Robert Arend, L, 51.63; 4, Todd Bezner, L, 58.60.

1600m: 2, Austin Hermes, L, 6:13.76; 3, Shane Pressnal, M, 6:16.56; 4, Thomas Rohmer, L, 5:23.88.

Shot Put: 2, Madison Parkhill, L, 31' 2.5"; 4, Garrett Walterscheid, M, 27' 1.5".

200m: 6, Cole Erickson, M, 33.24.

1600m Relay: 3, M, Phillip Vogel, Jason Luke, Dillon Bayer, Tyler Acuna, 4:43.18; 4, L, Robert Arend, Madison Parkhill, Will Taylor, Austin Hermes, 4:47.84.

Discus: 5, Sean Willard, L, 71' 2".

Long Jump: 2, Robert Arend, L, 15' 5".

High Jump: 1, Robert Arend, L, 5'; 2, Austin Hermes, L, 4' 10".

800m Relay: 1, M, Phillip Vogel, Jason Luke, Spencer Nielsen, Tyler Acuna, 1:59.63; 2, L, Todd Bezner, Tyler Hundt, Madison Parkhill, Christopher Klement, 2:07.85.

Triple Jump: 2, Tyler Acuna, M, 30' 3"; 4, Jason Luke, M, 28' 5.25"; 6, Austin Hermes, L, 27' 1".

Pole Vault: 5, Phillip Vogel, M, 6'.

5TH GRADE GIRLS
2400m: 1, Shaina Felderhoff, M, 11:24.11; 2, Jessica Luttmr, L, 11:50.80.

800m: 1, Shirley Hess, L, 2:34.40; 2, Leah Smith, M, 2:49.62.

100m: 4, Andie Faulkner, L, 14.79.

400m Relay: 2, M, Amanda Dangelmayr, Lia Heers, Erin Endres, Jackie Klement, 57.90; 3, L, Andie Faulkner, Kristin Martin, Abby Anderle, Alex Cooney, 58.01.

100m Hurdles: 2, Alex Cooney, L, 19.52; 5, Natalie Valliere, M, 20.66.

800m Relay: 2, M, Amanda Dangelmayr, Lia Heers, Shaina Felderhoff, Jackie Klement, 2:07.41; 6, L, Devin Hennen, Cammi Neu, Abby Anderle, Haley Hughes, 2:10.72.

400m: 1, Shirley Hess, L, 1:05.66; 5, Leah Smith, M, 1:11.91.

200m: 5, Lia Heers, M, 30.70.

1600m Relay: 2, L, Andie Faulkner, Kristin Martin, Shirley Hess, Alex Cooney, 4:45.05; 3, M, Shaina Felderhoff, Leah Smith, Jackie Klement, Erin Endres, 4:56.01.

300m Hurdles: 1, Kristin Martin, L, 53.05; 3, Erin Endres, M, 58.29.

Shot Put: 2, Katie Dieter, L, 27' 1.75"; 4, Bianca Velasquez, M, 24' 11.5"; 6, Delana Rohmer, M, 24' 7".

Discus: 2, Bianca Velasquez, M, 62' 11.5"; 3, Cammi Neu, L, 62' 2"; 4, Jodi Abner, M, 60' 1"; 6, Katie Dieter, L, 58' 10.5".

Triple Jump: Kristin Martin, L, 27' 9.5"; 3, Shirley Hess, L, 27' 5.75"; 6, Amanda Dangelmayr, M, 24' 0.5".

Pole Vault: 1, Erin Endres, M, 5' 6".



The last hand off in the 1600m relay, Lady Knights Chelsea Hermes to Stephanie Neu.



Lindsay Knight Adam Kasparek clears the hurdle at last week's District meet.

Tigerettes handed losses

The Sacred Heart Tigerettes came up short in two non-conference games, falling 6-2 to Watauga Harvest on Monday, April 3, and 6-5 to Lindsay on Friday, March 31.

At NCTC on March 31, the Tigerettes scored four runs the 1st inning, then a run in the 3rd. Sacred Heart got seven hits, one walk, three strike-outs, and had five errors.

The Lady Knights scored six runs on two hits, having a total of five walks, three strike-outs, and two errors.

"Our pitching was a little off," noted Coach Beth Bartush. "Lindsay wasn't overpowering at the plate, but had good defense."

Shannon Hartman, Hannah Hess, and Stephanie Krawietz each got two hits, with Nicole Yosten getting one. Debra Bayner pitched five walks and three strike-outs. Bayer pitched late in the game.

The last inning of Monday's home game had the Tigerettes a loss, as Harvest scored three runs on three errors. "Defensively we're strong, but making too many mental mistakes, especially in the last innings," noted Coach Bartush. "We held them scoreless to the 3rd."

Sacred Heart had five hits, a walk, and five errors, while Harvest got seven hits, four walks, four strike-outs, and

no errors.

Bartush added that Sacred Heart had six runners on base, had a chance to score, but couldn't capitalize on it.

Hartman hit a home run, with Bayer, Hess, Krawietz, and Kristina Koesler all hitting singles. "Natalie Endres did an excellent job sacrifice bunting," Taylor Torcellini turned a double play, and Hannah threw two out at 2nd," noted Bartush.

The Sacred Heart Tigerette softball team fell to Bethesda on April 6 in Fort Worth. "Offensively it was our best game all year," said Coach Beth Bartush on the Tigerettes' 13 hits and eight runs. "Defensively, we fell apart."

Sacred Heart had four good innings, including three up and three down defensively in the 2nd and 3rd. Taylor Torcellini got an unassisted double play in the 4th. The Tigerettes were ahead 8-5 going into the 5th inning, but three dropped fly balls, four errors, and seven walks gave Bethesda 13 runs, for an 18-8 final score.

"We need to get our defensive game back," Bartush commented. "Need to keep it together the whole game."

Tuesday afternoon, the Tigerettes traveled to Wichita Falls in their final District game with the Notre Dame Lady Knights. Game results were not available at press time.

Lindsay boys golf is Regional bound

The two-team race Lindsay Coach Dan Hamric predicted last week between Archer City and Lindsay turned out to be a one-sided runaway. "We struggled from the get-go," said Hamric. "After several practice rounds of shooting in the 330 range, the wind and pressure of District play took its toll and we shot a dismal 372."

The good news however was that all nine other teams didn't play up to their potential either. Archer City finished on top with 349, well below their 315 average. Lindsay qualified for Regional by coming in a distant 2nd, nipping Muenster, who finished 3rd.

Individual results for Lind-

say saw Chris Dieter firing a 6th place 89, followed by Brad Arend and Josh Heilman shooting 90 and 92 respectively. Keith Hermes and Derrick Murray settled for 101 and 105.

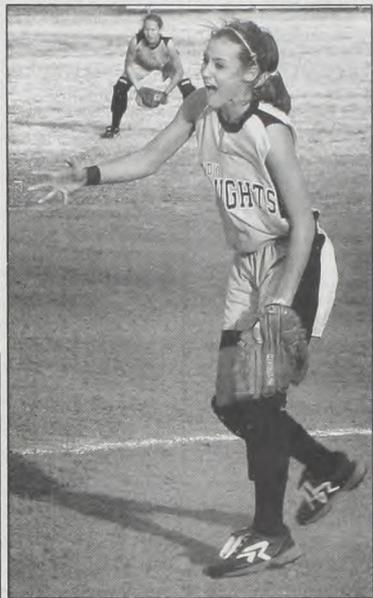
The Lindsay JV boys finished in 7th place out of the 10-team field. "I have some pretty good talent coming up from my young guys," noted Coach Hamric. Neil Jones, Dillon Ott, Hunter Loch, and Sam Faulkner all had some positive moments during their matches.

On the girls side of the bracket, the Lindsay girls once again got so close to qualifying for Regionals, but finished in 3rd place, five shots behind 2nd place Muen-

ster. The Petrolia girls won the District meet and will advance to Regionals along with Muenster.

The Lindsay team was led by solid performances by Krystal Arend and Lauren Creed. Krystal was low individual with a score of 107, taking home the District gold medal, and Lauren finished 5th overall at 126. They both are sophomores and will advance to the Regional Tournament in Abilene April 24-25.

Other members of the team were Liz Dieter 151, Christina Eckart 141, Emily Fuhrmann 156, and individuals Haley Skeans 150 and Danielle Hogan 139. All seven will be back next year.



Lady Knights in action - batting above left Hillary Ethington; pitching Emily Haverkamp; and batting at left Liz Neu. Janie Hartman photos

Texas State Park Guide available

With the publication of the 3rd edition of the Texas State Park Guide, Texans and others now have one less excuse not to get outside to enjoy spring weather and breathtaking scenery and learn about the state's colorful history.

Approximately 500,000 copies of the handy-sized booklet were printed by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and can be picked up free at any Texas state park, most TPWD law enforcement offices, the state's 12 Travel Information Centers, and at various chambers of commerce and convention and visitor's bureaus.

The booklet's State Park Directory, which is organized by the state's seven tourism regions, include vignettes about each park and historic site, as well as an address and telephone number.

Lady Knights softball team bound for the playoffs

As District competition ends, the Lindsay Lady Knights in their first year softball program, earned a playoff spot as District Runner-up. To add icing on the cake, the District is one of seven to get a Bi-District bye, advancing to the Regional quarter finals in May.

Coach Robin Hess noted that the District finished early because Slidell dropped out. April 24 ends District play around the state.

Collinsville won the District undefeated. Lindsay, 3-3, lost their first game to Valley View. First game jitters

and eight errors in one inning didn't help.

The Lady Knights' next meeting with the Lady Eagles ended with a 12-1 victory. Lindsay lost twice to Collinsville and beat Alford twice, the 2nd time was Monday night.

After being down 3-1, Lindsay tied the game 5-5 in the 5th and scored 2 in the 7th to get an 8-5 win.

Valley View ended the season 2-4 and Alford 1-5.

Lindsay's playoff bracket goes east, probably matching them to District 9 or 10 champions in their first round.

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Colorectal cancer, better known as colon cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States for men and women combined. Fifty six thousand men and women will die from colorectal cancer this year - by letting fear and embarrassment kill them.

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- Colorectal cancer usually starts from polyps in the colon or rectum. A polyp is a growth that shouldn't be there.
- Over time, some polyps can turn into cancer.
- Screening tests can find polyps, so they can be removed before they turn into cancer.
- Screening tests can also find colorectal cancer early. When it is found early the chance of being cured is good.

Some people with colorectal polyps or colorectal cancer do have symptoms. They may include:

- Blood in or on your stool (bowel movement).
- Pain, aches, or cramps in your stomach that happen a lot and you don't know why.
- A change in bowel habits, such as having stools that are narrower than usual.
- Losing weight and you don't know why.

The American Cancer Society recommends a screening colonoscopy at age 50.

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FARM & RANCH

Drought affects backyard wildlife

Dry gardens. Wildfires. Low reservoirs. These are all examples of how the drought is affecting Texas this year. State wildlife biologists say there is something land managers and gardeners can do to offset the drought's impact.

"Water is a vital resource for all life, including our backyard visitors," says Matt Wagner, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department director of wildlife diversity. "If the drought continues, it will be important for homeowners across the state to maintain water features that wildlife are using in our backyards."

Not only will water be needed for ponds and birdbaths, but the plants animals use in gardens will be struggling as the drought continues. Wildscapes, or landscapes that are designed with wildlife in mind, and supplemental feeders will become increasingly important, since food that birds, butterflies, and other animals depend on may be scarce from other natural sources.

For information on the Texas Wildscapes program, and other ways citizens can help birds, butterflies, and wildlife in gardens, see the TPWD Web site.

Nature is a mutable cloud, which is always and never the same, Ralph W. Emerson

What's their Beef

U.S. Senator John Cornyn

When it comes to cattle, Texans are a proud and possessive lot. I still remember reading about a public notice, first published in the *Tescosa Pioneer* in 1886: "Any person caught monkeying with my cattle without permission will catch Hell. Yours in Christ, Grizzly Calleen."

Many years later, Texas cattlemen are again being "monkeyed with" by a recurrent and unfair Japanese ban on U.S. beef exports. Any way you slice it, the beef ban is hurting Texas, its ranchers and families.

Texas accounts for about 15% of the total number of cattle and calves in America. Texas's leading agricultural export is live animals and meat. And prior to the ban, Japan was the largest recipient of U.S. beef.

The Japanese first imposed a ban on American beef in December 2003 after the first U.S. case of "bovine spongiform encephalopathy" or "mad cow disease" was detected in Washington state. Our inspection system is working well. Only two other U.S. cases have been identified — both in older cows not destined for the human food chain.

Texas's congressional delegation has fought this issue through diplomatic channels. I met with the Japanese Ambassador in February 2005 to try to inject some reason into the debate. We've contacted Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and U.S. Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns to express our concerns. Last year, I co-

sponsored legislation to put stiff economic sanctions on the Japanese if the beef ban continued.

On Dec. 12, 2005, the Japanese finally lifted the two-year-old ban on U.S. beef exports, but not before the ban resulted in an annual loss to U.S. beef producers of about \$1.7 billion.

Unfortunately, they reinstated it six weeks later after mistakes by meat plant and federal inspection personnel led to an errant shipment of veal to Japan. Several pieces of "bone-in veal" were sent, an inadvertent violation of our two-nation agreement.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) quickly investigated. USDA officials told me — bottom line — the shipment of bone-in veal to Japan posed no risk to human health. The shipment apparently resulted from a misunderstanding about types of veal eligible for shipment to Japan.

As a result, we have instituted additional mandatory training for our meat inspectors. We've made several other safety improvements to ensure our government complies with international trade pacts.

If anyone knows good meat from bad, it's a Texan. We'd be the first to halt any unsafe shipments. Texas has a long history of protecting the industry that helped put our state on the map.

In the 1850s, Panhandle cattlemen banned South Texas longhorns from passing through on their way to northern markets. The longhorns carried a tick that spread a disease called "Texas fever." During cattle drives, the ticks would hop off the South Texas longhorns — immune to the disease — and onto other cattle that quickly came down with Texas fever. The halt on shipments was enforced mostly inside Texas, but it also spread to Missouri for a time as well. It became known as the Winchester Quarantine, named for the weapon the Panhandle cattlemen used to enforce the ban.

The chairman of the veterinary school at the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, now known as Texas A&M University, Dr. Mark Francis, developed an immunization for the disease in 1899. And later, a dipping process was developed to rid cattle of the ticks carrying Texas fever.

Clearly, the Winchester Quarantine (enforced with a fine firearm, I would note) was a decision based on sound science. The Japanese ban is not.

Mad cow disease is not a public health risk in this country. No significant basis exists for the Japanese ban. It appears instead to be a protectionist response benefiting the Japanese beef industry.

We're pushing hard for a rapid Japanese response to the USDA report. If the Japanese continue to refuse to distinguish between sound science and an isolated, human error, then so be it. We will take action again in Congress. That said, I can't imagine the Japanese government would prefer tough American sanctions to tender Texas beef.

First quarter retail food prices up

Retail prices for food at the supermarket rose slightly in the first quarter of 2006, according to the latest American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) Marketbasket Survey. The informal survey shows the total cost of 16 basic grocery items in the 2006 first quarter was \$40.73, up just 3% or \$1.20 from one year ago.

After declining \$1.13 in the fourth quarter of 2005, the surveyed items increased \$1.90 in the first quarter of 2006, for a net gain of \$77 over six months. Of the 16 items surveyed, 11 increased and five decreased in average price compared to the 2005 fourth-quarter survey.

Cheddar cheese showed the largest increase, up 50¢ to \$3.89 per pound. Other items that increased in price:

- * Ground chuck, up 30¢ to \$2.84 per pound;
- * Corn oil, up 25¢ to \$2.92 per 32-ounce bottle;
- * Mayonnaise, up 22¢ to \$3.28 per 32-ounce jar;
- * Sirloin tip roast, up 20¢ to \$3.85 per pound;
- * Flour, up 17¢ to \$1.73 per 5-pound bag;
- * Vegetable oil, up 16¢ to \$2.61 per 32-ounce bottle;
- * Pork chops, up 15¢ to \$3.39 per pound;

- * Apples, up 3¢ to \$1.10 per pound;
- * Bread, up 3¢ to \$1.43 for a 20-ounce loaf; and
- * Toasted oat cereal, up 2¢ to \$2.89 per 10-ounce box.

Items that decreased in price from the fourth quarter of 2005 were: Russet potatoes, down 6¢ to \$2.24 per 5-pound bag; bacon, down 3¢ to \$3.09 per pound; and large eggs, down 2¢ to \$1.08 per dozen. Whole milk and whole chicken fryers each dropped a cent, to \$3.16 per gallon and \$1.23 per pound, respectively.

"Higher energy prices did not appear to be a factor in retail food prices during the fourth quarter of 2005, but it appears that they are having an impact now," said AFBF Senior Economist Terry Francl. "For example, although farm gate prices for livestock, poultry and dairy moved downward during the first quarter of 2006, retail prices for beef and pork cuts are up in the survey, while milk and poultry products dropped insignificantly."

Retail prices for two items, bread and flour, tracked more closely with prices paid to producers. "The slight retail price increases for bread and flour do correspond with higher farm gate prices for

wheat that we're seeing now, due to drought in the southern wheat belt," Francl said.

The share of the average food dollar that America's farm and ranch families receive has dropped over time, despite gradual increases in retail grocery prices. "Going back 30 years, farmers received about one-third of consumer retail food expenditures. That figure has dropped steadily over time and is now just 22%, according to USDA statistics," Francl said.

Using that percentage across-the-board, the farmer's share of this quarter's \$40.73 marketbasket total would be \$8.96.

AFBF, the nation's largest general farm organization, conducts its informal quarterly marketbasket survey as a tool to reflect retail food price trends. According to Agriculture Department statistics, Americans spend just 9.5% of their disposable income on food annually, the lowest average of any country in the world. A total of 109 volunteer shoppers in 29 states participated in this latest survey, conducted during February.

COUNTY AGENT'S REPORT

WAYNE BECKER
CEA - AG/NR

Premises registration regulations "on hold" till 2007; voluntary registration continues

The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) will not address proposed regulations for premises registration at the upcoming May 4 TAHC meeting in Austin. Dr. Bob Hillman, Texas' state veterinarian and TAHC executive director, said the proposed premises registration regulations have been placed on "hold," and will not be considered by commissioners until the winter or spring of 2007.

Dr. Hillman said the TAHC will continue to promote voluntary, free registration of sites (premises) where livestock and fowl are held, handled, or managed. As of April 4, more than 10,000 premises have been registered in Texas; more than 213,000 have been registered nationally. Premises registration is the foundation of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS), which, when fully implemented, would enable animal health officials to trace the movement of diseased or exposed livestock or poultry within 48 hours.

Information and agendas for Commission meetings will be posted on the TAHC web site, filed in the Texas Register and announced through news releases. All TAHC meetings are open to the public. The TAHC's Austin headquarters may be reached at 1-800-550-8242, and the agency's web site can be accessed at <http://www.tahc.state.tx.us>.

Tips for Tomato Production

It is necessary to fertilize the garden before planting tomatoes. Apply the fertilizer again when fruit first sets. From that point on, an additional fertilization (sidedress) every week to 10 days is recommended. Plants grown on sandy soils should be fertilized more frequently than those grown on heavy, clay soils. A general sidedress

fertilizer recommendation is one to two tablespoons of a complete fertilizer scattered around the plant and worked into the soil. If using a fertilizer high in nitrogen such as ammonium nitrate or sulfate, reduce the rate to one tablespoon per plant.

Tomatoes should be supported. Whether you cage or stake them is personal preference. Regardless of the method, plants with foliage and fruit supported off the ground will produce more than unsupported plants. Caging has several advantages. It involves less work than staking. Once the cage is placed over the plant there is no further manipulation of the plant -- no pruning, no tying. The fruit are simply harvested as

they ripen. In many areas, staking and pruning of the plant to a single or multiple stem results in sunburn when the developing fruit is exposed to excessive sunlight. Other advantages of caging over staking include protection of fruit from bird damage by more vigorous foliage cover and less fruit rot. Caged tomato vines produce more fruit of a smaller size, but staked and tied plants produce less fruit which mature earlier yet are larger.

Dates to Remember:
May 7 - Parade of Gardens tour; Muenster Area 1 to 5 p.m., tickets \$7;
May 20 - North Texas Meat Goat Conference; NCTC, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Build your future in beef

For most college students, gaining hands-on experience in the working world is essential. Not only does this experience enhance and further develop skills, but it also provides guidance for future career decisions. The Texas Beef Council (TBC) offers just such training through the Event Marketing Internship.

This full time position gives one student each semester the opportunity to participate in marketing efforts for Texas beef including responsibilities at various festivals and events around the state, direct interaction with consumers, and experience in event marketing and promotions. The Event Marketing Intern will be exposed to other areas within the Texas Beef Council, such as health and nutrition, producer communications, consumer public relations, and food service and retail marketing programs.

The ideal candidate will have excellent communication skills, possess an interest in agriculture communication, marketing, or advertising, and have the desire to expand

their experience in a fast pace and friendly environment. This is a paid internship and a company car for travel and hotel expenses are provided. In addition, the student must be able to travel overnight independently.

For more information on the internship, contact Jennifer Matison at (512) 335-2333 or via email at jmatison@txbeef.org.

AG BRIEFS

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Only 3% of all rural residence and intermediate farms would have owed estate taxes last year, with 18% of the commercial farms (over \$250,000 annual sales) qualifying for the tax.

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Light Weight Steers and Heifers - \$3 to \$5 LOWER Feeder Steers & Heifers - STEADY to \$1 HIGHER Packer Cows & Bulls - \$1 to \$2 LOWER Bred Cows and Pairs - STEADY Sold at Friday's sale April 7 were 560 compared to 432 head of cattle the previous week. Sold at Tuesday's sale April 11 were 616 Goats, 135 Sheep, and 84 Hogs. The numbers from last week were 285 Goats, 103 Sheep, and 101 Hogs respectively. Results follow:
Feeder Steers (per lb.)
200-300 lbs. No. 1, 1.51-1.65; Nos. 2 & 3, 1.35-1.51, 300-400 lbs. No. 1, 1.38-1.55; Nos. 2 & 3, 1.20-1.38, 400-500 lbs. No. 1, 1.24-1.40; Nos. 2 & 3, 1.05-1.24, 500-600 lbs. No. 1, 1.21-1.32; Nos. 2 & 3, 1.05-1.22, 600-700 lbs. No. 1, 1.10-1.21; Nos. 2 & 3, 90-110, 700-800 lbs. No. 1, 94-105; Nos. 2 & 3, 85-94.
Feeder Heifers (per lb.)
200-300 lbs. No. 1, 1.35-1.45; Nos. 2 & 3, 1.25-1.35, 300-400 lbs. No. 1, 1.31-1.42; Nos. 2 & 3, 1.20-1.31; 400-500 lbs. No. 1, 1.22-1.34; Nos. 2 & 3, 1.05-1.22, 500-600 lbs. No. 1, 1.20-1.33; Nos. 2 & 3, 1.00-1.20, 600-700 lbs. No. 1, 99-111; Nos. 2 & 3, 80-99, 700-800 lbs. No. 1, 90-100; Nos. 2 & 3, 70-90.
Slaughter Cattle (per lb.)
Slaughter Bulls, Yield Grade #1-2, 1.200-2.050 lbs., 59-66; Slaughter Cows, #1-3, 48-54, Culler, 33-48.
Barrows & Gilts (per lb.)
US #1, 2.90-3.20, 40-48; US #2, 2.90-3.20, 30-40.
Feeders (per head):
100-175 lbs., \$35-80; 25-90 lbs., \$25-85.
Sows (per lb.)
Feeder, 400 or less, 25-31; Light wt., 400-500, 30-32; Med. wt., 500-600, 30-32; Heavy wt., 600+ NT.
Bears (per lb.)
300 lb. up, 45-075; 200-300 lbs., 10-15; Light wt., 20-25.
Sheep (per lb.)
Feeder lambs, 40-50 lbs., 85-110; Light lambs, 60-90 lbs., 50-95; Fat lambs, 90-120 lbs., 50-70.
Ewes (per lb.)
Stocker, 40-51; Thin, 25-40; Fat, 40-50.
Bucks (per lb.)
Thin, 35-40; Fat, 35-44.
Barbados (per head)
Lambs \$15-\$25; Ewes \$20-\$75; Bucks \$45-\$240.
Goats (per head)
Kids, 20-35 lbs., \$25-\$55; 35-55 lbs., \$30-\$70; 55-75 lbs., \$50-\$85.
Yearlings (per lb.)
75-120 lbs., \$75-\$120.
Nannies (per head)
Stocker, \$55-\$145; Milk Type, \$30-\$75; Slaughter, \$50-\$85; Thin, \$15-\$50; Fat, \$50-\$85.
Billies (per head)
120 lbs up - Breeders \$90-\$125; Slaughter, \$65-\$110.
Beer Goats (per head)
1/2 Nanny, NT; 3/4 Nanny, NT; Full Nanny, \$90-\$180; 1/2 Billy, NT; 3/4 Billy, NT; Full Billy, \$75-\$190.
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300-400 lb.: \$140 to \$165;
400-500 lb.: \$125 to \$140;
500-600 lb.: \$117 to \$125;
600-700 lb.: \$102 to \$117;
700-800 lb.: \$88 to \$102.
HEIFERS
300-400 lb.: \$120 to \$145;
400-500 lb.: \$107 to \$120;
500-600 lb.: \$98 to \$107;
600-700 lb.: \$92 to \$98;
700-800 lb.: \$87 to \$92.
PACKER COWS
Utility Boning: \$47 to \$50;
Canner/Cutter: \$42 to \$47;
Bulls \$57 to \$65.
Choice: \$850 to \$950;
Medium-Good: \$750 to \$850;
Medium-Poor: \$650 to \$750.
COW-CALF PAIRS
Choice: \$1300 to \$1410;
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Medium-Poor: \$900 to \$1100.

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PILGRIM'S PRIDE GRADE A WHOLE Cut Up Fryer LB.	\$1.00	COVERED WAGON Sliced Bacon 10 LB. \$10.00
FISCHER'S Knackwurst LB.	\$2.59	SHURFINE BONELESS, SKINLESS CHICKEN Breast or Tenderloins 2.5 LB. \$4.00
FISCHER'S MARKET SLICED Regular Salami LB.	\$2.39	JIMMY DEAN - SELECT VARIETIES Sausage 12-16 OZ. 2 \$5
PREFERRED TRIM BONELESS BEEF New York Strip Steak LB.	\$6.00	OSCAR MAYER ASSTD. REG. OR DELI STYLE Turkey Breast or Ham 6 OZ. 3 \$5
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SPARKLE Paper Towels 6 ROLL	\$5.00	WHOLE KERNEL OR CREAM STYLE Libby's Corn 15.5 OZ.	2 \$1
TOWN TALK SPLIT TOP Wheat Bread 24 OZ.	79¢	BETTY CROCKER ASSORTED SUPREME Brownie Mix 19.5-22.5 OZ.	2 \$4
STAR KIST Tuna 6 OZ.	69¢	BETTY CROCKER ASSORTED Fruit-by-the-Foot 4.5 OZ.	2 \$4
REGULAR \$2.49 SIZE Fritos® or Cheetos® 10 OZ.	3 \$5	KELLOGG'S - NO DRIP SPOUT Eggo Syrup 23 OZ.	\$3.00
FRITOS® ASSORTED Canned Dips 9 OZ.	2 \$4	SHURFINE PLAIN OR RIPPLE Potato Chips 11 OZ.	2 \$3
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FRESH BUNCH Cilantro	3 \$1
FRESH Jumbo Garlic	5 \$1
U.S. NO. 1 Russet Potatoes 5 LB.	2 \$3
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