Hot Shots
Winners crowned at KC's Free Throw Championship.
See Page 9



School news
Check out all the latest news from our local schools.
See Page 6-7



Playoff run?
C-City, Westbrook boys continue to roll along.
See Sports, Page 8

Bale Count
Wed., Feb. 1, 2006
Mitchell Co. Gin.....13,000
Producer's Co-op....28,200
Loraine Co-op...23,314
Total.....64,514
Last year
Feb. 1
46,116

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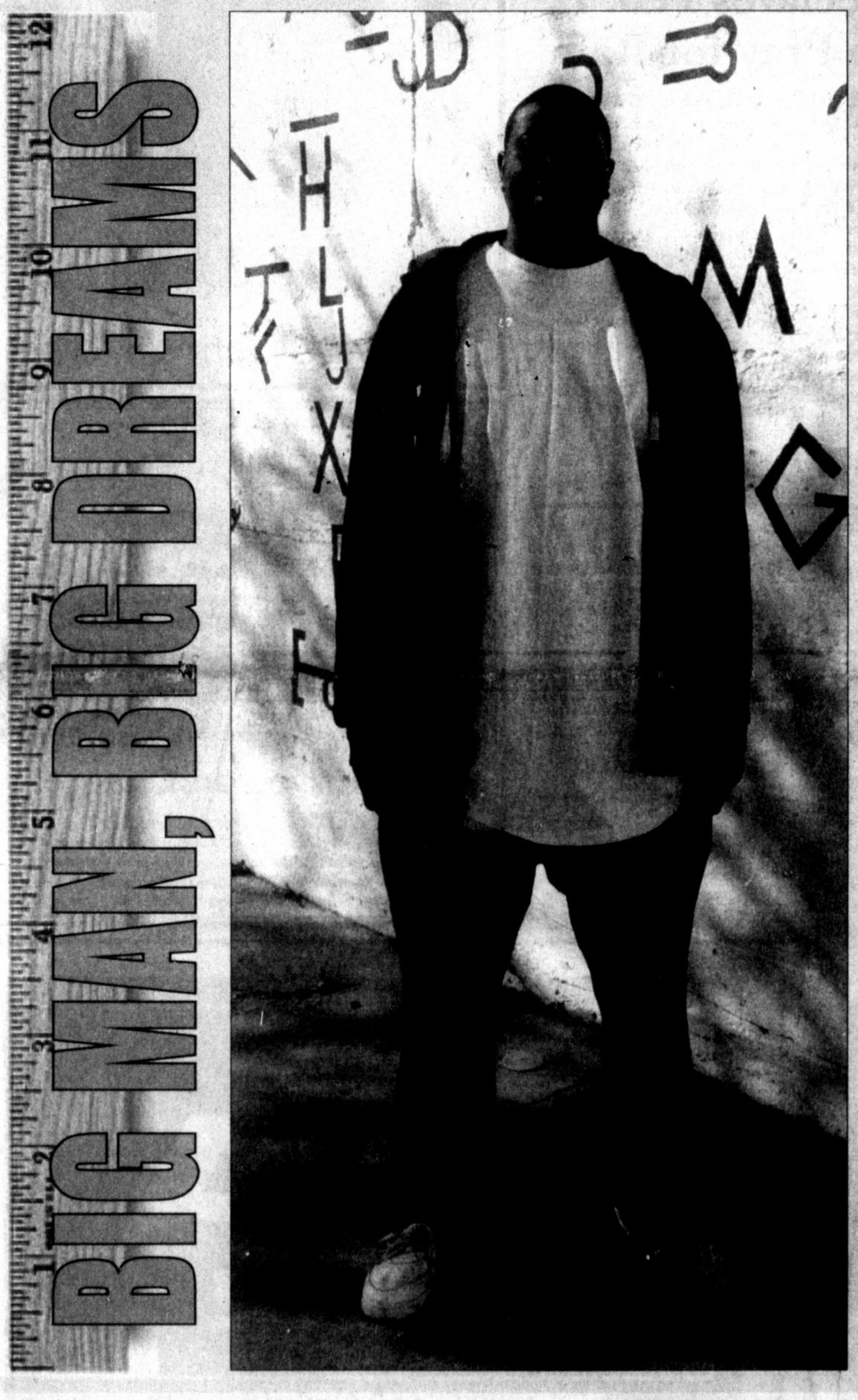
Colorado City Record

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12 Pages in 1 Section

'The Poppy Mallow Capital of the World'



Colorado City native looking to make leap to the NBA

By Carl Graham
Colorado City Record

Ryan Randle is living out a boyhood dream of playing professional basketball.

The only problem is it's still not at the level that he hopes to reach — the National Basketball Association.

Randle, a former resident of Colorado City, attended Kelly Elementary and Hutchinson before his family moved to the Dallas Metroplex.

He said he attributes his uncle Victor for getting him interested in basketball.

"I remember playing basketball in the Little Dribblers' program," said Randle. "That's when I began to enjoy playing. We had some pretty good teams. I also remember playing baseball with the Mets."

When he was in the third grade he moved to Dallas with his family, attending Dallas Carpenter elementary where he continued to play basketball anywhere he could find an open court.

In the sixth grade, he attended Mark Twain Junior High School where he remembers playing on one of the school's first championship teams.

When he got to high school age, Randle attended Duncanville High, a school that is noted for having very good basketball programs.

Randle fit right in, quickly becoming one of the Wildcats' top

See DREAM, Page 3

Record Photo/Tommy Wells

FORMER COLORADO CITY RESIDENT (above) Ryan Randle is attempting to become the first Mitchell County native to break into the National Basketball Association. The 6-foot-9 standout is currently playing overseas.

3,500 pounds of marijuana seized in stop

By Tommy Wells
Colorado City Record

A routine traffic stop turned into anything but routine for two Mitchell County district attorney investigators last Friday afternoon near Loraine. The stop led to a drug bust that netted nearly two tons of marijuana.

Investigators Ronnie Stiller and Billy Sides, while working Interstate 20 near Loraine, stopped a 2002 Peterbuilt tractor-trailer at approximately 3 p.m. The truck was headed east with a large load of lava rock.

After stopping the vehicle near mile marker 225 and talking with the driver, Stiller and Sides asked for, and were given permission, to search the truck and trailer.

The two escorted the truck behind Browne Brothers and began searching the truck and trailer.

"When they were unloading the trailer, they saw some bags in the rock," said Mitchell County Sheriff Patrick Toombs. "In these duffel bags, there was marijuana."

Not a little bit, either. The two investigators uncovered approximately 3,500 pounds of the illegal drug – the largest amount ever seized in Mitchell County.

"This is probably the biggest one I'm aware of here in Mitchell County," said Toombs.

The driver, Edmundo Ramos Jr., 47, of El Paso, was arrested and taken to the Mitchell County jail to await arraignment on Monday in Abilene on federal charges. Ramos, who was transferred

See BUST, Page 2

Charter to increase its local cable rates

By Tommy Wells
Colorado City Record

The cost of home entertainment is about to get a bit higher in Mitchell County.

Charter Communications officials announced recently that it will increase the base rate for cable television service in Colorado City beginning in March.

"Effective with the March 2006 customer billing statements, Charter Communications will be making a price adjustment to the standard cable service product we offer in your community,"

See RATES, Page 3

USDA, NRCS donate eight computers to Wallace school

By Tommy Wells
Colorado City Record

Only weeks after graduating its first-ever class, Wallace Accelerated High School received a bit more good news last week.

Better make that a byte more.

The United States Department of Agriculture and the Natural Resource Conservation Service teamed to donate eight computers to the Colorado City campus to help the students and teachers at the at-risk facility. The computers will enable students to have addi-

See COMPUTERS, Page 2



Record Photo/ Tommy Wells

RILEY KITCHENS PRESENTED (center) eight computers to Wallace school principal Melinda Alexander (right) and MCEDC Director Sue Young last week. The computers were from the USDA and NRCS.

MSAB to discuss First Lady's tour, bylaws at Feb. 2 meeting

The Main Street Advisory Board will have a full slate of topics to discuss when they convene at 6 p.m. on Feb. 2 for a meeting in the City National Bank Board Room.

Among the items to be discussed is the plans for the visit of Anita Perry, the wife of Gov. Rick Perry. She is scheduled to tour the community on March 1.

The board will also discuss establishing bylaws for the board.

Around Town

Happy belated birthday **Petra Aguilar** & **Adrian Salazar** (Jan. 30)... **Robin Senter** wants to share a funnel cake... Happy 10th birthday **Ricky Cantu** (Feb. 3)... Happy birthday **Bobby Sanchez** (Jan. 28)... **Tyler Plagens** wins a blue ribbon in Fort Worth... **Chris Vondra** taking a long nap...

Obituaries

Carl Howk, Merkel
Donald Green, Leakey
Blondie Hamilton, McKinney
Queetie Ausbie, Big Spring

Answerline

Q. When was Don Maynard elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame and did he catch a TD pass in Super Bowl III?
A. He was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in August of 1987 and, no he did not catch a TD pass in Super Bowl III.

Briefs

Girls Softball Meeting
Anyone interested in being a coach or umpire for Mitchell County Girls Softball or have already signed up will need to meet, Thurs., Feb. 2 at 6 p.m. at the Civic Center. Please bring a copy of your driver's license.

Benefit Dance
There will be a benefit dance at the Civic Center on Feb. 4 from 8 pm to midnight. Tickets cost $10.

Softball Sign-Ups
Mitchell County Girls Softball will have signups on the following dates: Sat., Feb. 4 at the Roundballers game at Kelley gym, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Thurs., Feb. 9 at Kelley gym, 6-7:30 p.m.; Mon., Feb. 20 at Civic Center, 6-8 p.m.; Thurs., Feb. 23 at Civic Center, 6-8 p.m. Children must be 4 years old by Jan. 1. and first time players must bring copy of birth certificate.

Super Bowl Bash
There will be a Super Bowl Bash Feb. 5th for all 7th-12th graders. It will start at 3:15 p.m. with flag football at Wolf Stadium, then continue by watching the game on the bitg screen at Firt Baptist Church gym. Lots of free food and door prizes.

Lake Levels

(as of Dec. 6, 2005)
Lake Colorado City...2068.09'
Full at 2070.3'
Down 2.21'
Lake Champion...2041.72'
Full at 2083'
Down 41.28'
Levels courtesy of United States Geological Service

LOCAL NEWS

OBITUARIES

Carl Howk
1936-2006



Carl Howk, 70, of Merkel, died Saturday, January 28, 2006 in a local hospital. Services were held Monday at Starbuck Funeral Home Chapel with Reverend Jimmy Griffith officiating. Burial followed in Rose Hill Cemetery with military honors.

Carl was born January 4, 1936 in Mt. Vernon to Percy and Bertha Mae Wells Howk and spent most of his childhood in Colorado City. He married Addie Klas on March 25, 1956 in Colorado City. Carl was a Baptist. He served eight years in the U. S. Navy and 16 years in the Air Force, retiring in 1977. He was a trucker for 18 years. Carl worked for General Dynamics for several years and attended school for machinist technology. His hobbies were carpentry and plumbing. He was proud of his children and grandchildren. He loved his cats, fishing and golf.

Survivors include his wife, Addie Howk of Merkel; three sons, Nathan Howk and wife, Ann of Merkel, Theodore Howk and wife, Becky of North Pole, AK, Henry Howk and wife, Jeana of Payson, UT; a brother, Lyle Wayne Howk of Mt. Vernon; two sisters, Frances Truax of Cedar Hill, Peggy Joann Cannon of Mt. Vernon; 10 grandchildren; several nieces and nephews; and friends.

Carl was preceded in death by his parents; a step-father, Luther Howk and a brother, Carvel Emmett Howk.

Memorials may be made to Hendrick Hospice Care, P. O. Box 1922, Abilene, TX 79604 or Merkel Cemetery Association, 201 Edwards, Merkel, TX 79536.

Donald Mose Green
1956-2006

Donald Mose Green, 69, of Leakey, died Jan. 13, 2006, at his home after a lengthy illness. He was born Jan. 17, 1936, in San Angelo to Dewey and Ora Mae Green. He married Bertha Lou Eckler on Dec. 7, 1956 in Houston. He was a former longtime resident of Colorado City.

Graveside services were held in the Leakey Cemetery under the direction of Nelson Funeral Home on Mon., Jan. 16, 2006. Long time friend and pastor Ray Miller led the services.

He was self-employed and enjoyed a full life with his children and grandchildren. He served in the National Guard and was a Baptist. He loved camping, fishing, traveling and most of all his family.

He is survived by two daughters, Lulu Boyd and husband, Jerry of Colorado City and Linda Martin and husband, Monty of Leakey; one son, Dustin Green and wife, Paula, also of Leakey; one sister, Bernice Grosshans of Brownwood; 12 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Bertha Green in June 2004 and one son, Donald Glenn Green in October 2004. He was also preceded in death by his parents and three brothers, Merlin Green, Delbert Green and Billy Earl Green.

Wanda "Blondie" Hamilton
1924-2006

Mrs. Wanda "Blondie" Hamilton, 81, of McKinney, formerly of Loraine, died Wed., Jan. 25, 2006, in a McKinney hospital. Graveside services were held Saturday in the Loraine Cemetery with John Horton officiating, under the direction of Kiker-Seale Funeral Home.

Mrs. Hamilton was born to Alfred and Nora Hallmark Richey on Nov. 15, 1924, in Loraine. She married Charles H. "Ham" Hamilton on June 8, 1944 in Loraine. She worked many years in civil service and as tax collector for Loraine ISD. She was a member of the First Baptist Church in Loraine and attended church at Oak Baptist Church in McKinney.

She is survived by her husband of 61 ½ years, Sgt. Major Charles Hamilton USMC Ret.; one daughter, Charla and husband, Danny Cain of Westminster; grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Crystal and husband, John Hewitt of Des Moines, Iowa, Cara Wallace and son, Avery of Clinton, Tennessee, Coral and husband, Danny Cooney and children, Matthew Clark and Shelby of Little Elm, Texas, Charity Cain of Westminster; step-grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Peter and wife, Denise Cain and children, Nick, Zack and Haley of Westminster, Tessa Seals and children, T.J., Braxton and Sarah of Iowa Park, Derrick and wife, Sheri Cain and children, Thomas, Justin and Adam of Burkburnett; one nephew, John and wife, Virginia Horton of Atlanta; two nieces, Linda Baker of Navasota and Glenda Cary of Stamford; and one niece-in-law, DeAnna Cary of Rockdale.

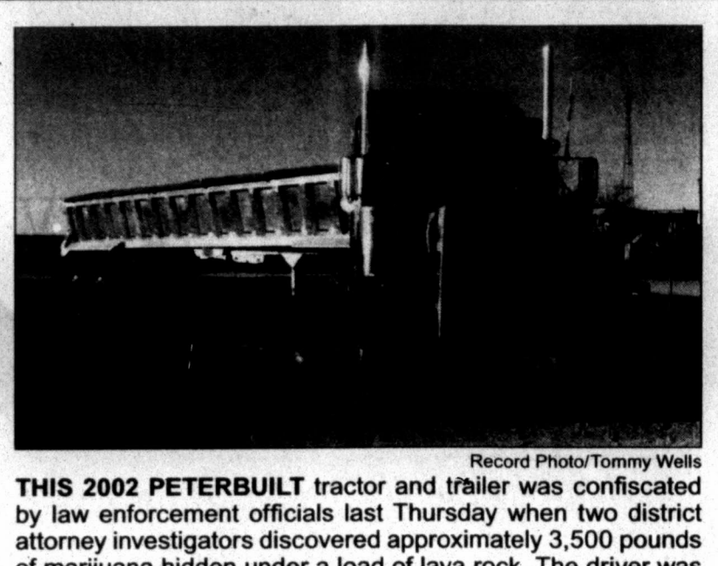
She was preceded in death by her parents and two sisters, Alma "Amy" Richey McKee and Helen "Biddy" Ruth Richey Jones.

Queetie Ausbie
1935-2006

Mrs. Queetie Ausbie, age 70, of Big Spring and formerly of Colorado City, died Sun., Jan. 29, 2006, in a Lubbock hospital. Services will be held Friday in the House of Hope Church in Colorado City with Rev. H.H. Lee and Terrilyn Faye Ross officiating. Burial will follow in the Mitchell County Cemetery, under the direction of Kiker-Seale Funeral Home.

Mrs. Ausbie was born June 1, 1935 in Colorado City to William Madison and Monnell Lawson Booker and had been a resident of Colorado City most of her life. She graduated from the W.D. Wallace School in 1953 and married James Ausbie in Colorado City. She was a Certified Nurses Aide and Laundry Supervisor for Root Valley Fair Lodge and was a Baptist.

Survivors include four daughters, Marilyn Williams of Big Spring, Rosa Thompson and Della Ausbie, both of Colorado City and Shajarkel Wilbert of Houston; six sons, James Ausbie, Vernon Ausbie and Cornell Ausbie, all of Colorado City, Alton Ausbie of Fort Worth, Paul Ausbie and Tracy Ausbie, both of Big Spring; two sisters, Dorothy Walthall of Midland and Patty Sue Swann of Fort Worth; two brothers, Rev. William W. Booker of Austin and Duane Booker of Dallas; a special friend, Richard Hayes; two special nieces, Sharon Castille and Terrilyn Faye Ross; 30 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



Record Photo/Tommy Wells

THIS 2002 PETERBUILT tractor and trailer was confiscated by law enforcement officials last Thursday when two district attorney investigators discovered approximately 3,500 pounds of marijuana hidden under a load of lava rock. The driver was arraigned on federal charges Monday.

BUST

from page 1

to Lubbock after being arraigned, could be charged in several ways, including smuggling or transporting an illegal drug with the intent to distribute – both first-degree felonies.

After discovering, Stiller, Sides and members of the Mitchell County Sheriff's Department notified U.S. Customs officials in San Angelo of the bust. Customs law enforcement officers traveled to Colorado City and took control of the drugs.

The bust was not the largest for Stiller or Sides. Sides had seized a 6,000-pound shipment a few years ago near Callahan County. Stiller had previously landed an 8,000-pound bust.

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Church declares Feb. 12 as 'Day to Pray for Rain'

West Texans are their request for rain to a higher power. God himself.

At the urging of the Diocese of San Angelo, Colorado City joined several other communities within the 29 counties that encompass the diocese's district, in declaring Feb. 12 as a 'Day to Pray for Rain.'

Colorado City Mayor Jim Baum announced Colorado City's intention to seek divine intervention to end a lengthy drought in West Texas. Baum signed a proclamation on Jan. 31 recognizing the diocese's request.

"With humility and confidence we need to pray for rain which is a wonderful gift that is much needed for our lives, nature and to prevent more fires," the city proclamation said.

"There is an urgent need for rain in our West Texas area, and we are told by Christ that if we ask our Heavenly Father for any good gift in His name, then we will receive it," wrote Bishop Michael Pfeifer of San Angelo. "All of us, with humility and confidence need to beg our God for this wonderful gift."

COMPUTERS

from page 1

tional access to on-line courses.

"We're thrilled they have done this for us," said Wallce principal Melinda Alexander. "Our biggest battle here is having enough computers. It's like being without a vehicle. Without one, you can't do very much. This will allow us to do so much more, and make it possible for us to keep moving forward if we have one go down."

As part of the donation, Big Country Resource Conservation and Development representative Rile Kitchens presented Alexander and Mitchell County Economic Development Director Sue Young with four Dell computer towers and four portable laptops.

"Education is one of our main things," said Riley, who noted his Sweetwater office could present the school with an additional 10 printer.copier/scanner units in the future. "We serve 12 counties and Mitchell County is one of those. When we saw we could help by donating these computers, we were more than happy to do it."

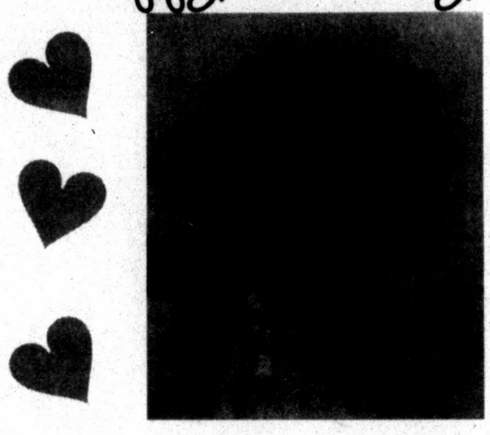
Loraine City Council slated to meet Feb. 9

The Loraine City Council is scheduled to hold its next meeting on Feb. 9 at Loraine City Hall.

The meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

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CALL 728-3413 TO SELL YOUR UNWANTED ITEMS!

Happy Birthday Bea!



Love, Mom & Dad

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Saturday, February 4
12 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Sweetwater Country Club
1901 Country Club Dr.
Sponsored By: Sweetwater Reporter CSC

If you're planning a wedding, quinceñera, a prom, or are fashion conscious, get a jump on planning this season's fashion by participating in this day of fun and information. Planned to be the ultimate fashion event of the year, numerous businesses from Nolan, Fisher, Mitchell and Taylor counties will be highlighting their merchandise and services.

No Admission Charge!

What's happening at the fair?
• Drawings will occur every 30 minutes during the show
• A free special bridal keepsake section will be provided for each attendee by the *Sweetwater Reporter*
• A fashion preview from participating vendors will be from 3 to 4 p.m.

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LOCAL NEWS

Westbrook ISD lands $151,300 grant from Novell

When it comes to computer technology, Westbrook Independent School District is at the head of the class. And, guess what, they're willing to share.

Westbrook recently landed a $151,300 grant from Novell -- 1,488 copies of SUSE Linux operating systems -- were donated to the school district for distribution to area high schools, colleges and universities.

Westbrook Director of Technology Dirk Dykstra, in collaboration with West Texas Telecommunications Consortium and West Central Texas Tech Prep Consortium will create a distribution program for students and staff interested in exploring the SUSE Linux product.

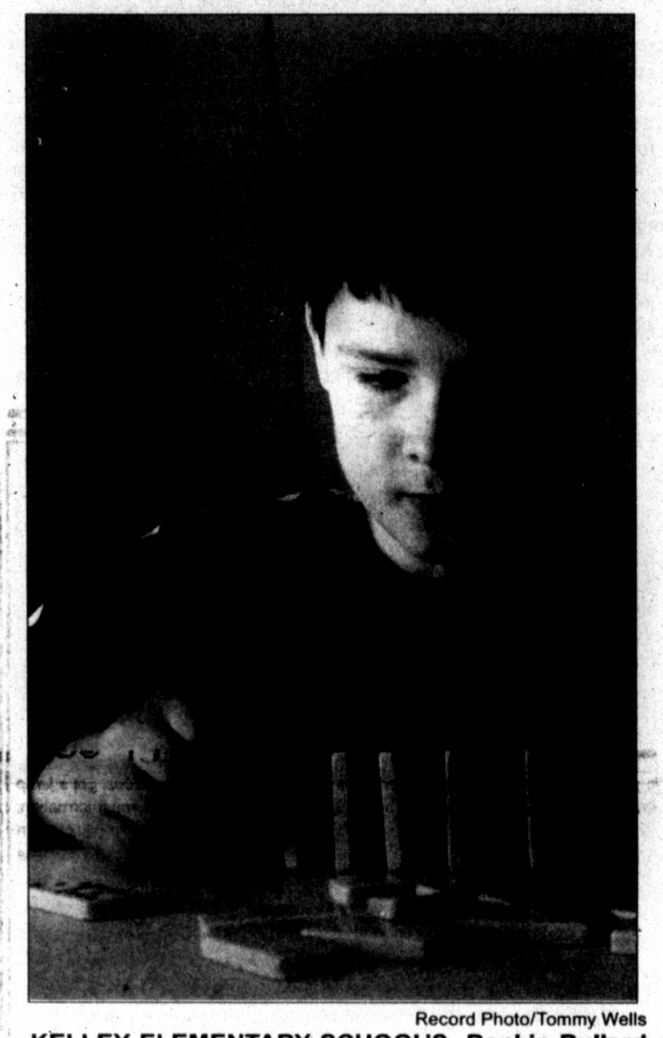
One of the goals of the grant is to provide the opportunity for as many students as possible to experience Linux in the most in-depth manner possible. The full, working copies are designed to encourage students to explore Linux at home and school, deepening their experiences while relieving some of the stress students experience when using school equipment. This software also allow students who need additional times outside the normal school hours to pursue their studies.

School officials plan to reserve some of the copies for distance learning between the smaller high schools. The operatinh system will allow students in those schools to network classes without additional expense to the school.

As part of the grant, Dykstra said WISD is offering the software to students who are interested in Linux, but do not have the courses available or the time in their schedule to take a regular class. Interested students can contact their computer teachers, principal or technology director.

Area schools interested in the Linux programs can contact Dykstra at Westbrook ISD at P.O. Box 99, Westbrook, TX 79565, or by emailing him at dirk.dykstra@westbrookisd.com. The can also contact Steve Simoneau, the director of West Texas Telecommunications Consortium at ssim@esc14.net or Michael Zemcik, the representative for West Central Texas Tech Prep at michael.zemcik@abilene.tsc.edu

Among the Texas educational districts already involved requesting the software are Rotan ISD, Corsicana ISD, Education Service Center Region 18, Crane ISD, Culberson County-Allamoore ISD and Colorado ISD.



Record Photo/Tommy Wells

KELLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S Rankin Bullard lines up dominoes during activities the students went through at the Railhead Building recently as part of their celebration for reaching 50% of their Accelerated Reader goal.

DREAM

from page 1

players. In 1999, Randle helped the Wildcats be considered one of the top teams in the state.

"We were blessed with some very good athletes," said Randle. "I knew we had a chance on going a long way into the playoffs in 1999."

Duncanville did go a long way. They won the Class 5A state basketball championship.

Randle's efforts didn't go unnoticed.

Lots of offers came in asking him to take his talents to a higher level. In fact, current University of Texas basketball coach Rick Barnes watched him play in the state basketball tournament and was impressed.

Not enough, however, to offer him a scholarship.

"He suggested that I attend Alleghany Junior College in Maryland where a good friend of his was the head coach, and after two years there he said he would bring me to the University of Texas," said Randle.

"Of course that didn't happen, but the University of Maryland offered me a chance to play for them after I finished my two years of junior college. I just wanted to play for any college in the ACC (Atlantic Coast Conference) and I had received about 50 letters from them (Maryland) so that's where I wanted to play."

After arriving at Maryland, he began to think he may have made a mistake.

"They already had three big men on the team," said Randle. "Guys like Chris Wilson, Lonnie Baxter and Taj Holden, who all had great careers at Maryland. I thought 'Man, I think I made a mistake here.'"

In the end, however, it turned out to be anything but a mistake. Wilson opted to turn pro after a stellar sophomore season, giving Randle the opportunity he needed to earn a starting job his senior year.

"I really looked forward to getting my senior year started," said Randle. "I knew I was going to get a lot more playing time, and that we had a team that could go all the way despite losing Chris. We still had so much talent."

Maryland defeated Indiana 64-52 in the NCAA finals to polish off a season in which Randle averaged 12.9 points and nine rebounds per game. His best game was a 23-point output against a strong Kansas team. He also grabbed 17 rebounds in one game.

After graduating from college, Randle was invited to try out with the Dallas Mavericks in 2002, but was told by the coaching staff he should consider playing basketball overseas in a professional league to better prepare him for the rigors of the NBA. He took their suggestion.

For the past two seasons, the former Colorado City little league baseball standout has been playing with the Poland Slasks. The experience, despite taking him far from his family, has been one Randle has enjoyed.

"There can only be two Americans on the team, and the rest of the team is made up of their native country," he said. "We travel to other countries in Europe. It's a lot of fun.

Randle hasn't fallen off the NBA radar either. Several NBA franchises have shown an interest in the 6-foot-9 standout.

"The Cleveland Cavaliers are continuing to follow my progress," he said. "I still feel I can play in the NBA one day."

Randle also has an inkling of what he would like to do when his basketball days are over. He would like to go into coaching.

"When I'm finally through with basketball, I have thought about going into coaching," he said. "That might be fun ... mentoring young players. I guess we will see when the time comes though."

Until then, however, Ryan Randle is still looking to reach his NBA dream.

Editors Note: To the best of our knowledge, Randle is the only male athlete from Mitchell County to play professional basketball. Former Loraine athlete Michi Atkins was a member of the Texas Tech Lady Raiders' NCAA women's championship team. She tried out for the Charlotte Sting of the WNBA.

RATES

from page 1

said Charter Communications General Manager Kevin Rice in a memo to city officials.

Rice said letters were also being mailed to all of its cable customers in the community, notifying them of Charter Communications' plan to increase its base rate to $51.99. The new rate will represent a $12.60 increase over Charter Communications' yearly rates.

Currently, customers are playing a base rate of $50.94 for cable service.

Rice said the Charter would also be increasing its unregulated fees in regard to Internet services in March. The company's lowest speed Internet service will increase by $5 per month. It's high speed service will increase by $2.

"Charter Communications is committed to providing excellent cable service and products to the communities we serve," said Rice.

Residents with questions about Charter Communications' new rates can contact the company's home office by calling (281) 362-6010.

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LARGE 3 TOPPING + BREADSTICKS
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Coupon expires Feb. 28, 2006

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Offer valid at Pizza Pro, Colorado City, TX
Coupon expires Feb. 28, 2006

15 PC. FRIED CHICKEN
9.99 + tax
Offer valid at Pizza Pro, Colorado City, TX
Coupon expires Feb. 28, 2006

STEAK SANDWICH, POTATO LOG + Fountain Drink
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Coupon expires Feb. 28, 2006

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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

Public Meeting Notice

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) will conduct a public meeting regarding the intent to propose for listing the Rogers Delinted Cottonseed Company site on the Texas Superfund Registry and proposes a commercial/industrial land use.

The Rogers Delinted Cottonseed Company site is located near the intersection of Interstate Highway 20 and State Highway 208, in Mitchell County.

The meeting will be held to obtain public input and additional information regarding the facility relative to its eligibility for listing on the Superfund Registry, to identify additional potentially responsible parties, and to determine the appropriate use of land on which the facility is located.

Meeting Date and Time:	February 9, 2006, 7:00 p.m.
Meeting Location:	Colorado City Civic Center 157 West 2nd Street Colorado City, Texas

The Superfund registry is a listing of those facilities which may constitute an imminent and substantial endangerment to public health and safety or to the environment due to a release or threaten release of hazardous substances into the environment.

A portion of the TCEQ's records regarding Rogers Delinted Cottonseed Company has been placed at the Mitchell County Public Library, 340 Oak Street, Colorado City, Texas. Copies of the complete public record file may be obtained at the TCEQ Records Management Center, Austin, Texas. For more information, please contact Mr. John Flores, TCEQ Community Relations, at 1-800-633-9363.

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OPINION & COMMENTARY

TUMBLEWEED SMITH

The tough people of Cross Plains



As I approached Cross Plains on Highway 206 I started noticing the black, charred ground. Partially burned fence posts hung from loose strands of barbed wire. It was like this for a couple of miles before I reached the city limits. When I got to town, the scene was horrible. Mounds of ashes were the only remains of blocks of houses. I went to see my friend David Estes at Texas Heritage Bank. He told me two people had died, 116 houses had been totally destroyed, and 39 more damaged. That's about 25 percent of the housing in and near town. The home of Robert E. Howard, the author of Conan and other fantasy works, was not damaged, although fire burned the lawn.

The fire started around noon on Tuesday, December 27 about three miles west of Cross Plains. The temperature was 80 degrees and the wind was blowing toward the east at 30 miles an hour. By 3 o'clock the blaze turned north and headed into town. Thirty-one fire departments fought the blaze and stayed around until Friday putting out flare-ups on trees and bales of hay.

As soon as news of the fire spread, donations of food, clothing, furniture and money poured in from Texas and states as far away as Minnesota and North Carolina. The First Baptist Church became a command center. The First Methodist Church was the only public structure completely destroyed. Flames got close to the school, but it was spared.

The cleanup continues. City and county are clearing the lots at no charge to the residents. The people affected by the fire are amazing. David and Bethany Parker and their children, Amber and Taylor, are excited about the new home they're designing. The Parkers were out of town when the fire burned their house. Bethany saved all her photos to disc and had them with her in her laptop. Before she went digital, she had duplicates made of her pictures and sent them to family members, who are now making copies and sending them back to the Parkers.

Kathy Chesshir put her family photos in the backseat of her car as flames approached her home. She punched in the garage door opener and the door opened. When she drove out and punched it again to close it, there was no electricity and the door remained open. Kathy says she doesn't have to worry now about which of her possessions to keep or pass on to family members. She says she feels a sense of freedom from stuff, most of which doesn't mean anything.

Cross Plains residents are helping each other cope with what has happened. Kathy is helping fire victims make inventories of their losses. Bethany says just about everybody in town was affected by the fire, but the town will be better because everybody is pulling together like never before.

As I left Cross Plains and headed west on Highway 36, I passed about five miles of black, burned fields. The smell of smoke and ashes was still in the air.

Being a husband is a hairy job!

OFF THE BEATEN PATH...
By TOMMY WELLS
EDITOR



Haircuts by there very nature are a torture for children. Five billion itches and twitches develop the moment a child realizes they have to sit still for an eternity while someone you don't know chops off what wasn't really bothering them in the first place.

When I was a child, I would have rather fought a bear with a twig than have to sit still 15 minutes to get my haircut. It was cruel and inhumane punishment, I thought. Especially torturous was after the barber had freed you from the choke collar and turned you free. As soon as you stepped off the chair, you just knew the mother unit would have to pinch your cheek and tell everyone how much better you looked.

It's amazing how much better a child looks when the blood flow is allowed to return to their heads. Of course, they "look better" because, regardless of what anyone says, blue is not a good color for heads.

Now that I'm larger, the haircut thing has become a bit easier. I get to stay at home to do it because She-Who-Must-Not-Be-Made-Mad recently purchased an online version of "Get Rich Being a Hollywood Barber" program. In just a few short weeks, she can achieve international fame and fortune ... at least that is what she said right before she asked for practice subjects.

It's amazing how quickly a house can clear out. The boys suddenly remembered they had promised to help a friend mow their yard. The girls received an unexpected call from a friend who had fallen ill and needed a heart, kidney and brain transplant. Even O'Malley, our cat, and Prissy, the dog, left and took with them the poor goldfish who was swimming around in his tank with signs reading "Will work at sushi bar for freedom."

"Babe, can I cut your hair?" She asked.

"No way," I said. "I need my ears. Why don't you go sneak up on that fuzzy coat your mother gave you last winter. Just be sure to clean it up because I don't want the SPCA to think we're torturing animals or something like that."

I was serious. There was no way I was going to turn a rookie 'cutter' lose on my locks - especially since the Big Hairmaker In The Sky seemed to think I didn't need that many anyway.

I told her that, too ... even as she made sad eyes and pouty lips.

I'm a sucker for sad eyes and pouty lips.

"All right, I'll let you do it," I said, taking off my glasses and sitting down.

What's a little hair for my spouse?

"All I want you to do is put on that 1-inch blade and go over it," I said, stressing the 1-inch blade by specifically putting my finger on it. "Remember, I have to work with the public."

There was a buzzzzz here. A buzzzzz there. Hair flew this way. A little skin leaped that way.

"Oh baby, I think it looks great!" She blurted, with an extremely happy look spreading across her face like the bubonic plague through the European countryside in the Dark Ages. "What do you think? I know you're going to like it."

"I think you look just like Fabio ... with less hair, a few less muscles and a tan, of course," she said.

"You have to give me my glasses," I said, making my way to the mirror. "Let me go see what you've created. Who knows, maybe you have a knack for this.

AAUUGGHHH!

"Holy cow!" I exclaimed. "Look what you've done! It's ..... it's ..."

"Do you like it?" She asked. "I like it. It wasn't really that hard, either!"

Seeing the excitement on her face kind of took the sting out of the face staring back at me. Really, it wasn't THAT bad, I guess. I mean, if I just tell people that having my left sideburn about two inches above my ear was a new European style it might work. Perhaps I could even say I had taken a side job as a model at a sheep shearing convention.

"Hey, this is pretty ... unique," I said. "But you know what, I kind of think it might still be too long. I think I'm going to have to go back to your Hollywood hair salon and get it trimmed."

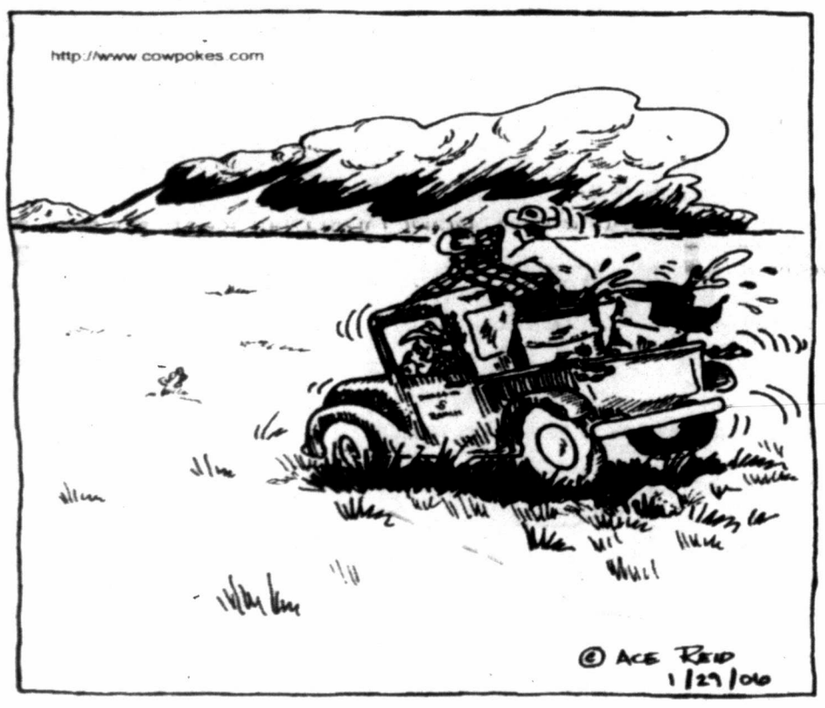
"Really?" she asked. "You want me to trim it some more?"

"Which blade do you want me to use?" she asked.

"You don't need a blade. Just use the clippers and cut it as short as you can," I said.

Being a husband is a tough job.

COW POKES® **By Ace Reid**



"Fer years, I hired rainmakers to git some grass, now I'm gonna hafta git a fire department to keep it!"

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An erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any firm, person or corporation in the columns of this newspaper will be corrected when brought to the attention of the publisher.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Letter to the Editor,

For those who call about Abundant Life Church, it is still being considered to be built on property in Loraine. It will be awhile before we can have services. We need donations to help with supplies to put in the building. All donations are tax exempt and a tax-exempt receipt will be given.

Wayne P. James
Asst. Pastor

By Deroy Murdock, Columnist with Scripps Howard News Service

Drip, drip, drip.

Drop by drop, isolated news stories and emerging documents erode the popular myth that Saddam Hussein was clueless about terrorism. These revelations undermine war critics' effort to whitewash Baghdad's ancient regime – such as when Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid of Nevada declared: "There was no terrorists in Iraq." Likewise, Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., describes a "nonexistent relationship between al-Qaida and Saddam Husein."

Reid, Levin and others who dismiss the Baathist-terrorist nexus would struggle to do so if the Bush administration unveiled the evidence tying Saddam to Osama bin Laden and other extremists. President Bush immediately should release papers discussed in the Jan. 9 Newsweek and the Jan. 16 Weekly Standard.

A declassified 2002 Pentagon presentation obtained by Newsweek's Mark Hosenball offers fresh details on a suspected April 2001 meeting in Prague between Sept. 11 ringleader Mohamed Atta and Iraqi Intelligence Service (IIS) Station Chief Ahmed al-Ani.

"No other intelligence reporting contradicts that (deleted) report," the heavily redacted document states. It adds: "al-Ani ordered IIS finance officer to issue funds to Atta," before concluding that documents U.S. troops captured in Iraq prove that "the former Iraqi regime of Saddam Hussein trained thousands of radical Islamic terrorists from the region at camps in Iraq over the four years immediately preceding the U.S. invasion."

Hayes reports, "Secret training took place primarily at three camps – in Samarra, Ramadi and Salman Pak – and was directed by elite Iraqi military units." Al-Qaida-affiliated fanatics, such as Algeria's GSPC and the Sudanese Islamic Army, were among the 8,000 or so murderers instructed between 1999 and 2002.

Handwritten notes, computer discs and other "exploitable items" confirm Saddam's philanthropy of terror, Hayes says. But America has translated only some 2.5 percent of this huge cache. Federal officials barely discuss what they have learned. Even unclassified papers remain unavailable. Absurd.

Having studied some of these artifacts, one intelligence expert says: "As much as we overestimated WMD (weapons of mass destruction), it appears we underestimated (Saddam's) support for transregional terrorists."

Asked by Rep. Peter Hoekstra, R-Mich., to release some texts, National Intelligence Director John Negroponte reportedly told the House Intelligence chairman: "I'm giving this as much attention as anything else on my plate to make this work."

Meanwhile, Dick Cheney gave Hayes a boost Wednesday. As the vice president told radio host Tony Snow: "Steve Hayes is of the view – and I think he's correct – that a lot of those documents that were captured over there, that have not yet been evaluated, offer additional evidence that, in fact, there was a relationship that stretched over many years between Saddam Hussein and the al-Qaida organization."

To its enormous detriment, the administration has been nearly silent about Saddam's decades of collusion with Islamic terrorists. The worry, White House aides tell me, is that revealing these ties would generate media criticism and anti-war catcalls.

Pentagon spokesman Larry DiRita told Hayes that some reporters might discover exculpatory material among these papers, then "we'd spend a lot of time chasing around after it."

Hayes remains among the few journalists excavating this huge, deliberately concealed story. Now Newsweek has nibbled at the Iraq-terror connection.

SUBMITTED BY
DORIS McCLELLAN

PUBLIC RECORDS

FILED WITH COUNTY CLERK

Jose Rodriguez to Mary Jane Gonzales, Child Support Lien.

Carol G. Johnson to Terry L. Belt Ttee, Marsha Ginzel, Deed of Trust.

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Swartz & Brough Inc., David Justice Vice Pres to Mary A. Hernandez, Warranty Deed.

Mary A. Hernandez to Robert Klemme Ttee, Swartz & Brough Inc., Deed of Trust.

Swartz & Brough Inc., David Justice Vice President to Bayview Loan Servicing LLC, Asgmt of Lien/DT.

Swartz & Brough Inc., David Justice Vice President to Bayview Loan Servicing LLC, Asgmt of Lien/DT.

Swartz & Brough Inc., David Justice Vice President to Bayview Loan Servicing LLC, Asgmt of Lien/DT.

Westco Family Limited Ptrship, Stephen R. Henson Pres, Westco Energy LLC Gen Ptr to Jase Minerals LP, Conveyance.

Mary Lou Alfaro, Ricky Salazar, Marsha Monroe Sub Ttee to Westridge Mortgage Ltd., Sub Trustee Deed.

Pat Peterson to Les Watson, Warranty Deed.

Michael Alan Everett to First National Bank Colo City, Mark A. Waldrip Pres & CEO, Extension of Lien.

Kenneth Sean Smith, Lavinda Smith to Texas National Bank, Liz Howard Ttee, Deed of Trust.

Noble Royalties Inc. dba, Brown Drake Royalties, Scott A. Noble Pres to Whann Family Ptrship an Alaska Ltd Ptrsh, Corrected Quit Claim Deed.

Jolam Enterprises LLC, John Lomeli Manager to Abilo Inc LLC, Warranty Deed.

Abilo Inc. LLC, Isaac Johnson Mgr to Mac A Starnes Ttee, Jolam Enterprises LLC, Deed of Trust.

Ruby Grace Cannon, Kathy Matlock Atty in Fact to Spencer Allen Cannon, Contract for Deed.

Powell Family Ptrship Ltd, Frank B. Powell Ranches Inc Gen Ptr, Frank B. Powell Pres to George Lay Powell, Warranty Deed.

Powell Family Ptrship Ltd, Frank B. Powell Ranches Inc Gen Ptr, Frank B. Powell Pres to Don Lewis Powell, Warranty Deed.

Wells Fargo Bank NA fka, Wells Fargo Bank Texas NA Suc Ttee, Lou Ann Lester Mgmt Trust, McLaughlin Vice Pres & Trust Officer, Mayra Wiggins Trust Asset Admin to Douglas Warren Lester, Lou Ann Lester, Deed.

Yvonna Cox Deceased to Doug Kendrick Ind Executor, Public, CC Probate.

Yvonna Cox Deceased to Bennie Cox Affiant, Public, Affidavit Heirship.

Robert M. Nichols Deceased to Edith J. Nichols Ind Executrix, CC Probate.

Credit Suisse fka, Credit Suisse First Boston Collateral Ag, James Moran Managing Director, Gregory S. Richards Assoc to Alon USA Inc., Release of Lien.

Veterans Land Board of Texas, Jim Darwin Asst Exec Secy to Robert Galvan, Deed.

Robert Galvan to Jesse L. Rivera, Irma Rivera, Warranty Deed.

Wanda G. McDonald to Brian Keith Raff, Warranty Deed.

Brian Keith Raff to Texas Savings Bank SSB, Jeffrey Martin Ttee, Deed of Trust.

First National Bank Colorado City, Tx., Mark A. Waldrip to Pat McPhaul, Shirley McPhaul, Release of Lien.

Roscoe State Bank, John W. Jay Prs, M&R Cotton to First Bank of West Texas, Transfer of Lien.

Mike Gage, Regina Gage, M&R Cotton Prtship Ltd. to Bill Crockett Ttee, First Bank of West Texas Loraine Deed of Trust.

Albert DeLoera to Terry Allison, Claudia Allison, Warranty Deed.

Terry Allison, Claudia Allison to Albert DeLoera, David Cotton Ttee, Deed of Trust.

Kenneth L. Carter, Lezlie Rae Carter to James Dennis Murrell, Jacqueline K. Murrell, Warranty Deed.

Americo Oil & Gas Production Co. Ltd., Acproduction FP LLC, Ardeshir Tajvari Representative to Jonathan Gregory Ttee, Texas Capital Bank NA FBO, Deed of Trust.

Dept of Treasury Internal Revenue Serv., Susan Hansen For, Theresa Harley ACS, Internal Revenue Service to Daniel Silva, Federal Tax Ln.

FILED IN COUNTY COURT

Ramiro Escamilla, 1-23-06, driving while license suspended.

Michael Chris Jones, 1-26-06, speeding.

David Wayne Thedford, 1-26-06, speeding.

ARRESTS

Alexis Marie Kulinski, 21, THP, Intoxication, Asslt, 1-22-06.

Richard Franklin Dyer, 27, MCSO, Class A Assault, Family Violence, 1-22-06.

Coy Dale Pickett, 28, MCSO, Class A Assualt, Family Violence, 1-22-06.

Eric Roy McDonald, 22, THP, POM o/2oz – u/4 oz, 1-22-06.

Edward Cory Horton, 19, THP, Poss of Drug Para., POM u/2oz/

Mark Allen Keller, 17, MCSO, Warrants x3 city, Warrants x2 county, 1-25-06.

Alvin Asa Ruth, 33, CCPD, Assault Family Viol, 1-26-06.

Lucas A. Campos, 41, MCSO, Court Committal, DWI (F), 1-26-06.

Arthur Garcia, 29, DAO, Parole Violation, 1-26-06.

Edmundo Ramos, 47, DAO, Federal Hold, 1-27-06.

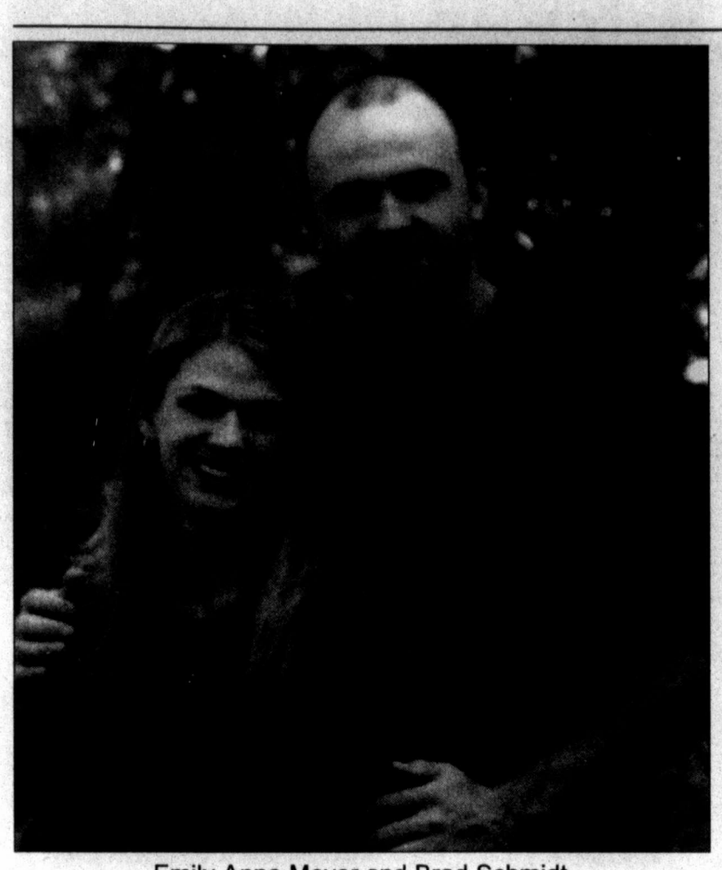
Larry G. Tarplay, 46, THP, Warrants, 1-28-06.

Elias Martinez, 22, MCSO, Burglary of a Habitation, 1-28-06.

Norma Felicia Cordona, 27, THP, DWLI, 1-29-06.

Mario Casares, 24, DAO, IBCx5, Capias x5, 1-30-06.

SOCIETY



Emily Anne Meyer and Brad Schmidt

Engagement announced

Richard Meyer and Jan Meyer of Austin announce the engagement of their daughter Emily Anne Meyer to Brad Schmidt of Dallas.

Emily is the granddaughter of Adele Ginzel, formerly of Colorado City. She is a graduate of Texas A&M University, has a master's degree from Texas State University and practices physical therapy in Dallas.

Brad is a graduate of Texas A&M University and is employed by EDS, Inc. in Plano.

An April wedding in Austin is planned.



Emma Martinez and Mike Sanchez

Engagement announced

Emma Martinez of Big Spring and Mike Sanchez of Loraine would like to announce their engagement and upcoming wedding.

The bride is the daughter of Minnie Hernandez of Big Spring and late Albert Martinez. The groom is the son of the late Tanis and Hope Sanchez.

The couple will marry Feb. 18, 2006 at 5 p.m. in Big Spring.

Masters of Memory program reoffered by extension office

By Mary Pate McMullen, CEA-FCS

Staying active and healthy is important as you begin to plan for retirement and as you retire. Memory health is also affected by your physical health, mental health and staying active. Work with your doctors and make sure you see your doctor regularly, get a flu shot, have regular blood tests and screenings, monitor your blood pressure and women should have an annual mammogram.

Staying physically active will help prevent both physical and mental disabilities as you age. Walking is one of the best forms of exercise. Exercise will improve your ability to remember. This exercise will help you climb stairs, carry groceries, prevent falls and speed in your recovery from injuries and illness as you age. As always, if you are not already in an exercise program be sure to consult your doctor before starting any new type of physical activity.

It is never too late to make changes in your physical health. Neither poor health nor memory loss is an inevitable consequence of aging! Healthy lifestyles, exercise and nutrition and hydration can improve both your physical and memory health at any age.

Texas Cooperative Extension, Mitchell County is pleased again to offer Masters of Memory Program. Please call 325-728-3111 to register for this Memory Improvement Class.

For more information and to RSVP, please contact your local county Extension office.

The Texas Cooperative Extension Service will seek to provide all reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities for any of our programs. Please contact your Extension office as soon as possible to advise of auxiliary aid that will be required.

Educational programs conducted by Texas Cooperative Extension serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, handicap or national origin.

Garden Club discusses Friendly park lighting

The Colorado City Garden Club met Jan. 13 in a Colorado City restaurant. After a delicious meal Margaret Rees introduced Stacie Goswick, owner and operator of Stacie's Creations, local floral shop. She has been in the flower shop business for 20 years and 10 years in Colorado City. Mrs. Goswick taught club members techniques on arranging cut flowers, especially those we might have in our yards. She gave three arrangements as door prizes. Billie Marie Long, Margaret Rees and Bobbie Steakley won the arrangements.

During the business meeting, Wilma Reynolds, chairman of the Friendly Park committee, brought before the club a proposal that Friendly Park be lit at Christmas time. Club president Judy Bridgford will be researching where to purchase a lighted angel like one she has previously seen and report back to the membership. The club will also check with the owner next door at Dandy's Diner, who pays the electric bill, to see if arrangements can be made. After Thanksgiving next year club members will decorate the park with lights.

Margaret Sparks, chairperson of the crape myrtle drive, suggested that next year the club sell bulbs instead of crapes. The garden club would plant them in Friendly Park and places around town. Margaret Rees stated that she had seen this done in Graham and it was very showy and pretty. A committee will be appointed to plan this project. Faye Nell Herm reported on the crape myrtle fund which will be used the fund the bulb project.

Leslie Scott informed the club that she no longer serves on the child welfare board. She had taken the money the club collected to the right people. The donation was much appreciated. Nikki Shiller and Jinny Rivera are now serving on the board.

The hostesses of the day were Bobbie Johnson, Erna Lou Burt, Glenda Marcom and Charlene Reily. There were 21 people present, including one new member, Joan Merket. The next meeting will be Feb. 3. Hostesses will be Sally Neff, Leslie Scott and Margaret Latimer.

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Lone Wolf Groundwater Conservation District

NOTICE TO WELL OWNERS

Lone Wolf Groundwater Conservation District is in the process of mapping all registered and unregistered water wells in Mitchell County.

A technician will be physically locating each well with GPS equipment and gathering information at the well site.

This is beneficial to the landowner and the District as we gather data that will help us better understand the aquifer and its characteristics.

If you have questions about this project, please call the Lone Wolf Groundwater Conservation District office at 728-2027.

SCHOOL NEWS



STUDENTS OF THE WEEK AT HUTCHINSON are Cassie Sutton, Haley Maxwell and Elsa Garcia.

At Hutchinson

Students of the week named

Students of the week have been chosen at Hutchinson Elementary. They are Cassie Sutton, Haley Maxwell and Elsa Garcia.

Cassie, a third grader in Mrs. Jones's class, is the daughter of Lisa and Shawn Rees. She plays softball as a hobby, and science is her favorite subject. She really enjoys P.E. because she likes playing games.

Haley, daughter of Andra and Richard Maxwell, is a fourth grader in Mrs. Matlock's class. Science is her favorite subject, and she enjoys spending time with her dog, Ginger. She especially enjoys all the activities at Hutchinson.

Elsa, a fifth grader in Mrs. Gainey's class, is the daughter of Cecilia and Rudy Garcia. Social studies is her favorite subject, and she enjoys taking care of her dog, Oscar. The teachers are her favorite thing about her school.

CHS perfect attendance

Colorado High School has released its list of students with perfect attendance for the third six-weeks of the school year.

Freshmen: Briana Archuleta, Brittany Beck, Amber Campos, Lance Espinoza, Daniel Gainey, Manuel Garza, Cheyenne Guelker, Serena Guerrero, Randon Hawthorn, Samantha Herrera, Kimberly Hickson, Christina Leanos, Tamara Lekek, Stacy Little, Donald Marsh, Nathan McCright, Ashton Raschke, and Esperanza Salinas.

Sophomores: Diego Albarran, Alyssa Arredondo, Mario Atkinson, J.D. Clay, Ricky Davila Jr., Toni Diaz, Catherine Dolan, Armando Flores, Carina Flores, Kolby Free, Xavier Garcia, Celena Gonzales, Billy Gonzales, Ryan Graham, Tia Huff, Lacresha Johnson, Kelly Lindsey, Alyssa Martinez, Lucas Martinez, Valerie Martinez, Jordan Powell, Zulema Ramirez, Lucas Salazar, Nathan Slater, Sarah Smith, Clifton Toombs and Isabel Ventura.

Juniors: Michelle Arispe, Charles Beddingfield, Lori Denson, Dustin Espinoza, Donnica Fowler, Alexander Garza, Roxanne Hernandez, K'Leigh Jackson, Megan Lopez, Robert McGuire, Paige Newby, Lana Perez, Stuart Ponko Jr., Jeremy Quiroz, Sonya Rocha, Erick Roman, Marisol Salazar and Angel Sosa.

Seniors: Adrian Arellano, Cody Avalos, Logan Boyd, Ruben Cantu Jr., Naneki Collins, Brittney Farquhar, Felicia Forbes, Nolan Frizzell, Calli Haltom, Eric Harbour, James Hoagland, Dara Kelly, Kinsey Kirchner, Brik McGuffin, Courtney Pharis, Lacey Reyes, Roland Rivera, Edgar Roman and Megan Tolle.

Honor rolls released by CHS for third six weeks

Colorado High School has released its honor roll lists for the third six-weeks of the school year.

All A Honor Roll

Freshmen: Cheyenne Nichole Guelker, Morgan Marie Maddox, Lauren Ashleigh Munoz and Clint Cooper White.

Sophomores: Marina Diana Arispe, Cheyanne Lee Cearley, Justin Darnell Clay, Catherine Anne Dolan, Valerie Marie Martinez and Sarah De Ann Smith.

Juniors: Charles Lee Beddingfield, Tanner James Cox, Cheyann Belle Fain, Kelly Shea Morris and Ashlea Kay Sowa.

Seniors: Felicia M. Arredondo, Sagan Anne Everett, Mario Pedraza Flores, Felicia June Forbes, Kyson Brik McGuffin, Jodi Michelle Owens, Courtney Elaine Pharis, Roland Michael Rivera, Krista Jean Stubblefield and Megan Elizabeth Tolle.

A/B Honor Roll

Freshmen: Emily Jean Atkinson, Jesica Rene Bradley, Amber Rae Campos, Hannah Grace Chaney, Corey J Foster, Tamara Michelle Lelek, Kari Dane Matlock, Nathan Ryan McCright, Esperanza Salinas, George Samuel Shrode and Dieshia Nicole Smith.

Sophomores: Elizabeth Kate Dannheim, Tia Marie Huff, Alexia Monique Ornelas, Zulema Ramirez, James E. Smith, Crystal Nichole Stewart, Shelbi Dawn Turner, Christa Alexandra Valdivia and Isabel Medina Ventura.

Juniors: Stephanie Renea Freeman, Roxanne Hernandez, Axel Kyle Lewis, Kirby Dale Matlock, Lana Jill Perez, Stuart David Ponko, Rianna Elizabeth Rivera, Sonya Amanda Rocha, Erick Alonso Roman, Sean Marcos Velasquez, Edgar Ismael Ventura and Richard Zane Whitesides.

Seniors: Adrian Lee Arellano, Daniell Mari Arispe, Raquel Eugenia Arispe, Timmy Wayne Atkins, Cody DeLeon Avalos, Kimberly D. Bell, Logan Reid Boyd, Michael Wayne Chamber, Mallory Ann Espinoza, Brittney Anne Farquhar, John M. Frizzell, Emily Denee Gardner, Calli Jill Haltom, Cody Lee Hubbard, Victor Lopez, Micheal Jacob Luera, David Miguel Martinez, Anissa Ann Pineda, Miracle Miranda Ramirez, Henry Jessie Reyna, Krisha Marie Rivera, Edgar Roman, Kenneth Cole Scott, Nathan Eugene Smith, Elida Gonzales Sosa, Julianne Elise Thompson, Virginia Leslie Tovar, Jose Valenzuela and Sara Catherine Warren.

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Property owners have certain rights that may reduce their property tax burden.

HOMEOWNERS

Persons who own their residence on January 1, 2006, may claim their home as a residential homestead. The filing of this document is only necessary if the homeowner has changed homesteads since January 1, 2005, or has become eligible for additional exemptions since last year. Homeowners may also defer the portion of the tax on their residence homestead if the value of the home was raised more than 5% above the previous year. Although the tax collection is deferred, interest continues to run on the unpaid portion of tax at a rate of 8% per annum and the deferred tax remains a lien on the property. To apply for the deferral, the owner should contact the appraisal district which appraised the property in question and complete an application.

DISABLED PERSONS

Persons who are disabled under Social Security law are entitled to additional exemptions on their residential homestead. Disabled applicants must apply with the appraisal district and furnish a determination letter from Social Security. Disabled persons now receive all benefits on their home that are available to over 65 persons (see below)

PERSONS WHO ARE OVER 65 YEARS OF AGE

Persons who are over 65 years of age or disabled persons may file for additional exemptions and a ceiling on school taxes for their residential homestead. They will receive a prorated amount of the exemption amounts for the part of the year that any owner is 65. Over-65 persons should apply for this exemption at the appraisal district office in their area. Over-65 persons are also eligible to defer paying the tax on their residential homestead is they wish. The taxes continue to accrue during the deferral along with an interest rate of 8% annually, but no attempt will be made to force payment during the deferral. Details and an application may be obtained from any appraisal district or the State Comptroller.

DISABLED VETERANS

Persons who have been declared disabled by the Veteran's Administration are eligible for additional exemptions on property they own. The declaration letter from VA is mailed annually, but the appraisal district only needs a copy in the first year of eligibility or if the percentage of disability changes.

FARM AND RANCH OWNERS

Farmers and ranchers may be entitled to receive an alternate method of appraisal determined by the farm income to the property. This method is available to farms and ranches commercially raising crops or livestock or which are used as a wildlife habitat under State guidelines. An application for agricultural use value and additional information is available from your appraisal district. Re-filing is only necessary if requested to do so by the Chief Appraiser.

EXEMPTION APPLICATIONS

Exemption applications for all property tax exemptions including total exemptions for charitable, religious, and other total exemptions may be obtained from an appraisal district nearest you or through the State Comptroller's Office at 1/800-252-9121.

MITCHELL COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT
2112 HICKORY COLORADO CITY, TEXAS
325-728-5028

Coffee Cup Cafe
is now taking reservations for the
2nd Annual
Valentine Date Night
February 14, beginning at 7:00 p.m.
On the menu:
Smoked brisket or chicken, salad,
beans and baked potato with rolls.
A special Sweetheart Dessert for "Two"
There will be drawings and giveaways and lots of fun. The ladies will receive a long stem rose, the gentlemen a special treat. Join us for all the fun!
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT!
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We are now taking orders for Homemade Fudge, Valentine Boxes, Cookies, Champagne Glass, Jelly Beans and our Specialty - Chocolate Covered Strawberry Bouquets.
WE WILL DELIVER!
CALL TODAY 728-2762

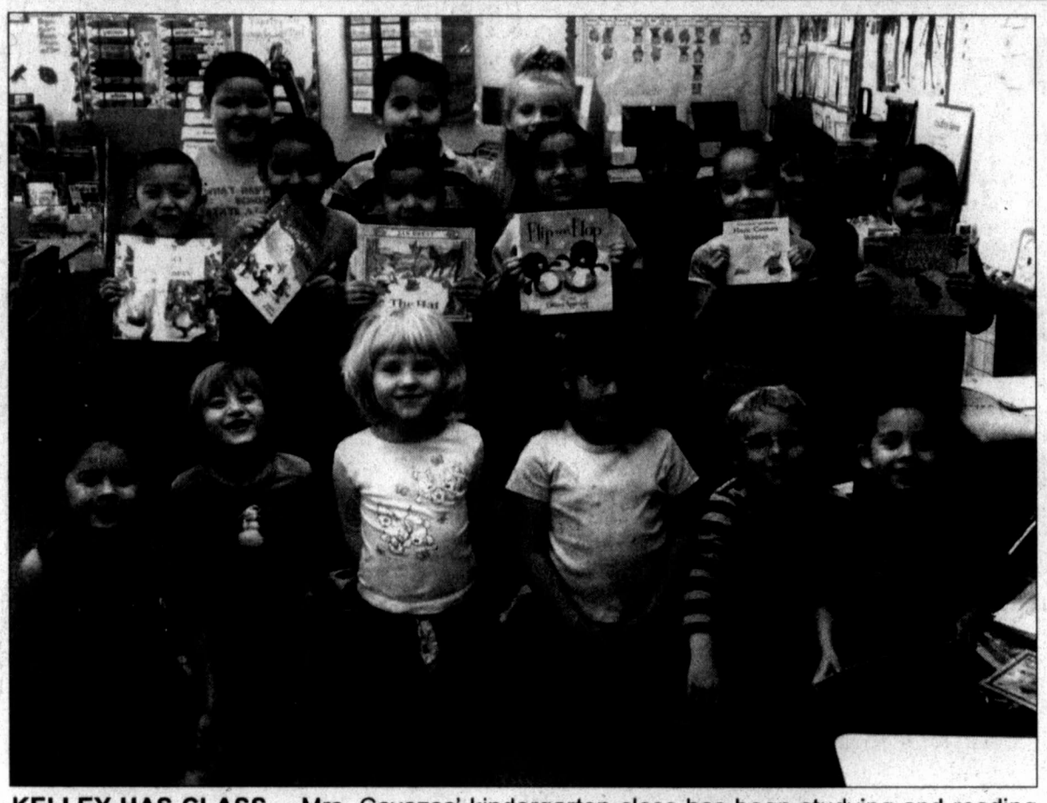
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SCHOOL NEWS



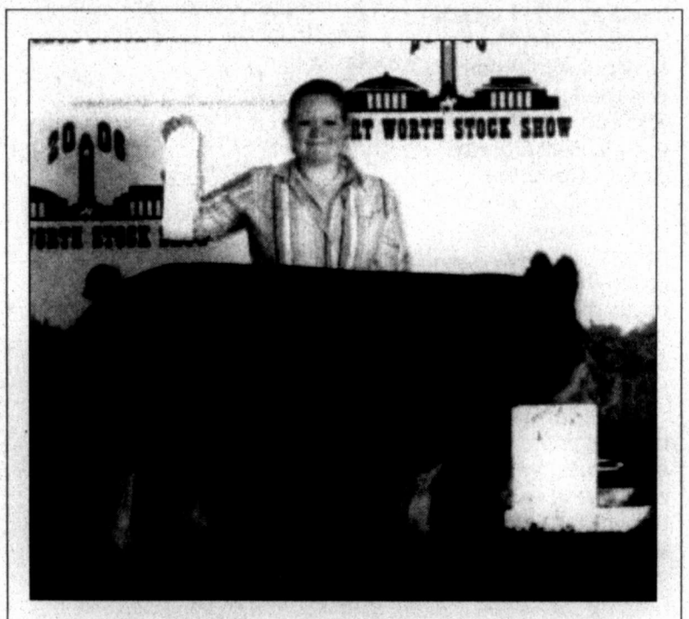
KELLEY HAS CLASS... Mrs. Cavazos' kindergarten class has been studying and reading books about winter. Students in the class are Ashlei Burrola, David Andrade, Alexxus Haag, Greg Gaona, Miriam Hernandez, Moises Leanos, McKinna Komppa, Nicholas Macedo, Megan Vasquez, Adrian Matos, Deanna Wooddell, Jay Patel, Gabby Ousley, Johnathan Sosa, R.T. Bishop, Jordan Morgan and Barrett Stephens. Kiah DelaCruz is not pictured.

ASU dean's list contains several Mitchell Co. names

The Dean's List of the 2005 Fall semester has been announced at Angelo State University in San Angelo.

To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must be enrolled full-time and maintain a 3.25 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

The honorees, along with their majors, include the following from the Colorado City area: Emily Ruth Arthur, undeclared; Diana Bueno, Spanish/secondary certification; Jacob Paul Burnett, animal science; Crystal J. Costabile, history/social studies certification; Bradly Joe Graham, kinesiology/teacher certification; Sandra Marie Leija, criminal justice; Christopher J. Matlock, kinesiology/teacher certification; Jared A. Matlock, accounting; Andra Gail Maxwell, interdisciplinary child development and learning; Alicia Leanne McNeal, interdisciplinary child development and learning; Anthony James Munoz, animal science; Amanda Nicolasa Ponko, pre-nursing; and Codi Dawn Waldrep, kinesiology/teacher certification.



COLORADO ISD FFA member K'Leigh Jackson placed third with her Black OPB gilt at the Fort Worth Stock Show on January 23. K'Leigh is the daughter of Barry and Sandra Jackson of Dunn.

SCHOOL MENUS

CISD Head Start Breakfast Menu
Feb. 6-10

Monday – dry cereal with toast, chilled juice, milk.
Tuesday – scrambled eggs, toast, chilled juice, milk.
Wednesday – biscuits and jelly, chilled juice, milk.
Thursday – oatmeal with toast, chilled juice, milk.
Friday – sausage with toast, chilled juice, milk.

CISD Head Start Lunch
Feb. 6-10

Monday - grilled cheese sandwich, glazed carrots, apple half, milk.
Tuesday – beef stew, cornbread, chilled fruit, milk.
Wednesday – spaghetti with meat sauce, sweet peas, Texas toast, chilled fruit juice, milk.
Thursday – corn dog, golden corn, chilled fruit milk.
Friday – wolf burger on a bun, French fries, pickle chips, apple half, milk.

Kelley, Hutchinson, CMS
Breakfast Menu
Feb. 6-10

Monday – dry cereal with toast, chilled fruit juice, choice of milk.
Tuesday – powdered French toast, chilled fruit juice, choice of milk.
Wednesday – waffles and jelly, chilled fruit juice, choice of milk.
Thursday – cheese toast, chilled fruit juice, choice of milk.
Friday – sausage with toast, chilled fruit juice, choice of milk.

Kelley, Hutchinson Lunch Menu
Feb. 6-10

Monday – pizza, glazed carrots, green beans, chilled fruit, choice of milk.
Tuesday – hot dog on a bun, pork n beans, pickle spears, chilled fruit, choice of milk.
Wednesday – chicken pot pie, mashed potatoes, hot roll, chilled fruit choice of milk.
Thursday – nacho grande, pinto beans, Spanish rice, chilled fruit, choice of milk.
Friday – wolf burger, French fries, lettuce cup, pudding, choice of milk.

CHS Breakfast Menu
Feb. 6-10

Monday – dry cereal with biscuit, sausage and biscuit, chilled fruit juice, choice of milk.
Tuesday – dry cereal with biscuit, sausage and biscuit, egg and potato burrito, chilled fruit juice, choice of milk.
Wednesday – dry cereal with biscuit, sausage and biscuit, chilled fruit juice, choice of milk.
Thursday – dry cereal with biscuit, sausage and biscuit, pancake on a stick, chilled fruit juice, choice of milk.
Friday – dry cereal with biscuit, sausage and biscuit, breakfast sandwich, chilled fruit juice, choice of milk.

CMS & CHS Lunch Menu
Feb. 6-10

Monday – taco salad, tasty rib basket, slice of pizza, French fries, green beans, chilled fruit, choice of milk.
Tuesday – chef salad with chicken, sloppy joe on a bun, birdie on a bun, pork n beans, pickle spears, chilled fruit, choice of milk.
Wednesday – chef salad with ham, birdie on a bun, bbq chicken, peas & potatoes, hot rolls, chilled fruit, choice of milk.
Thursday – chef salad with bacon, burrito with cheese, tamale pit, pinto beans, tossed salad, chilled fruit, choice of milk.
Friday – garden salad, wolf burger, French fries, lettuce cup, pudding, choice of milk.

Westbrook ISDBreakfast Menu
Feb. 6-10

Monday – pancake pups, cereal, fruit juice, milk.
Tuesday – donuts, cereal, fruit juice, milk.
Wednesday – blueberry muffins, cereal, fruit juice, milk.
Thursday – sausage & bacon, biscuits, cereal, fruit juice, milk.
Friday – oatmeal, toast, cereal, fruit juice, milk.

Westbrook ISDLunch Menu
Feb. 6-10

Monday – sloppy joes, corn, pickles, onions, ½ orange, milk.
Tuesday – steak, gravy, mashed potatoes, broccoli w/cheese, peaches, milk.
Wednesday – spaghetti w/meat sauce, okra, black-eyed peas, garlic bread, applesauce, milk.
Thursday – burrito w/chili & cheese, tossed salad, pear halves, milk.
Friday – cheeseburgers, French fries, salad fixings, cherry cups, milk.

Loraine ISD Breakfast Menu
Feb. 6-10

Monday – cereal, toast, fruit, milk.
Tuesday – oatmeal, toast, fruit, milk.
Wednesday – eggs, biscuit, juice, milk.
Thursday – sausage roll, hashbrown, milk.
Friday – honey bun, toast, juice, milk.

Loraine ISD Lunch Menu
Feb. 6-10

Monday – nachos, jalapenos, beans, salad, Spanish rice, orange, milk.
Tuesday – spaghetti with meat, sliced peaches, potatoes, sweet peas, bread sticks, milk.
Wednesday – chicken nuggets, corn, mixed fruit, green beans, ketchup, bread, milk.
Thursday – vegetable soup, sandwich, carrot sticks, pickle halves, apple, milk.
Friday – barbeque on bun, pears, chili beans, fries, ketchup, milk.

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COLORADO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2005

Data Control Codes		10 General Fund	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
	REVENUES:			
5700	Total Local and Intermediate Sources	$ 3,291,076	$ 130,005	$ 3,421,081
5800	State Program Revenues	4,244,914	155,089	4,400,003
5900	Federal Program Revenues	-	1,414,895	1,414,895
5020	Total Revenues	7,535,990	1,699,989	9,235,979
	EXPENDITURES:			
	Current:			
0011	Instruction	4,106,638	759,726	4,866,364
0012	Instructional Resources and Media Services	111,815	5,338	117,153
0013	Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	21,095	43,550	64,645
0021	Instructional Leadership	140,916	67,122	208,038
0023	School Leadership	315,506	32,712	348,218
0031	Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	156,965	47,031	203,996
0032	Social Work Services	5,375	8,295	13,670
0033	Health Services	52,443	500	52,943
0034	Student (Pupil) Transportation	201,857	9,979	211,836
0035	Food Services	-	442,700	442,700
0036	Cocurrricular/Extracurricular Activities	525,803	346	526,149
0041	General Administration	377,084	500	377,584
0051	Plant Maintenance and Operations	969,053	27,514	996,567
0052	Security and Monitoring Services	492	-	492
0053	Data Processing Services	178,148	9,778	187,926
0061	Community Services	20,672	175,594	196,266
	Debt Service:			
0071	Debt Service - Principal on Long Term Debt	115,561	-	115,561
0072	Debt Service - Interest on Long Term Debt	12,273	-	12,273
	Capital Outlay:			
0081	Facilities Acquisition and Construction	1,703,419	-	1,703,419
	Intergovernmental:			
0093	Payments to Fiscal Agent/Member Districts of SSA	145,652	-	145,652
6030	Total Expenditures	9,160,767	1,630,685	10,791,452
1100	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	(1,624,777)	69,304	(1,555,473)
	OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):			
7912	Sale of Real and Personal Property	425	-	425
7913	Capital Leases	1,145,850	-	1,145,850
7949	Other Resources	29,769	-	29,769
8949	Other (Uses)	(29,184)	-	(29,184)
7080	Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	1,146,860	-	1,146,860
1200	Net Change in Fund Balances	(477,917)	69,304	(408,613)
0100	Fund Balance - September 1 (Beginning)	2,868,294	91,010	2,959,304
1300	Prior Period Adjustment	(95,000)	-	(95,000)
3000	Fund Balance - August 31 (Ending)	$ 2,295,377	$ 160,314	$ 2,455,691

SPORTS

Sports Briefs

C-City team schedules alumni game

Colorado Wolves head baseball coach Scotty Bruington has scheduled an alumni baseball game for Saturday, Feb. 18 at the Mitchell County Sports Complex.

The game, which will pit current high school players against former members of the Wolves baseball teams, is slated to begin at 2 p.m.

Some former Colorado High School standouts that have committed to play in the contest are Tino and Fidel Silva, David Salazar, Oscar "Sonny" Martinez and Anthony Matos.

Other alumni interested in playing should contact Bruington at 728-3693.

WJHS ends season with loss to Cards

The Westbrook Junior High School boys and girls basketball teams ended their 2005-2006 seasons on a sour note Monday night.

The WJHS girls suffered a tough 32-29 loss to Hermleigh. The Westbrook boys also lost.

MC 'Ballers to end 2006 season Sat.

The Mitchell County Roundballers teams will close out their 2006 regular season this Saturday with games at the Kelley Elementary and CISD Administration gyms.

The action will begin at 8 a.m. with the Passion facing the Razzle Dazzle and the Lady Spurs facing the Hot Shots.

The Roundballers' championship tournament is scheduled to begin next Thursday.

Loraine JH cagers end '06 season

The Loraine Junior High girl's basketball team lost their final district game of the season Monday to Ira, 33-31.

Megan Oliver led Loraine with 11 points while Catelyn Johnson, Raven Limones, and Ariel Bailey each kicked in six points each.

The LJHS "B" team lost, 63-5.

On Tap

The following is a look at upcoming action in Mitchell County.

Jan. 31

C-City vs. Hawley G....6:30 p.m.
C-City cs. Hawley B.....8 p.m.
C-City JV vs. Hawley G....4 p.m.
C-City JV vs. Hawley B....5 p.m.
Loraine at W'brook G.....6 p.m.
Loraine vs. W'brook B. 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 3

Stanton vs C-City G....6:30 p.m.
Stanton vs. C-City B .....8 p.m.
Stanton vs. C-City JV G G4 p.m.
Stanton vs. C-City B ...5:15 p.m.
W'brook JV vs. Ira G.....4 p.m.
W'brook JV vs. Ira B ...5:15 p.m.
W'brook vs. Ira G.....6:30 p.m.
W'brook vs. Ira B.....8 p.m.

C-City sprints to District 4-2A lead

By Carl Graham
Colorado City Record

The Colorado Wolves took control of the District 4-2A race last Friday night after defeating the Anson Tigers, 64-52, at "The Pit." With the victory, the Wolves moved into sole possession of the district lead.

Going into the game, Colorado City and Anson were tied for the lead with identical 4-0 records.

Earlier in the week, the Wolves defeated Stamford on the road by a score of 73-59 to set up the showdown with rival Anson for the 4-2A top spot.

The Wolves turned in an outstanding shooting performance. The team put up eight treys in the contest -- four by Nolan Frizzell, three by Kenneth Scott, and one by Brik McGuffin.

Stamford took an early 15-12 first quarter lead, but the Wolves managed to get hot in the second quarter and battled their way back. Colorado City scored 23 points in the frame and grabbed a 35-27 halftime cushion.

The Wolves' defense limited Stamford to just 12 points in the second quarter.

C-City sealed the win by outscoring Stamford by a 38-32 margin in the second half of play.

Frizzell led the team offensively with 25 points. Scott and Henry Reyna also reached double figures in the win, scoring 15 and 13, respectively.

District 4-2A Basketball Standings Boys

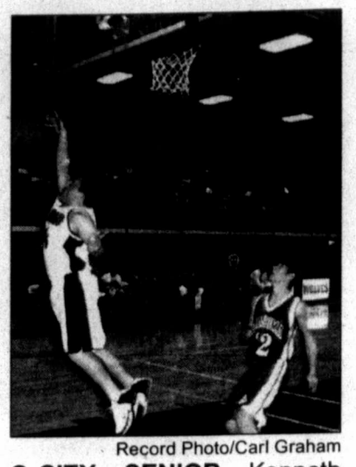
Team	Season	Dist.
Colorado City	13-14	5-0
Anson	12-12	4-1
Stanton	10-14	3-2
Hawley	9-16	2-3
Coahoma	8-17	1-4
Stamford	14-9	0-5

"This was a huge win for the Wolves on the road," said CHS head coach Danny Keeton. "We snapped out of our outside shooting slump in a big way. Kenneth (Scott) got it all started in the first half with two treys, and Nolan (Frizzell) got hot in the second half, hitting three treys. We also continued our tough defense by holding Stamford to 59 points, seven below their district average."

Stamford won the JV game by a score of 58-55.

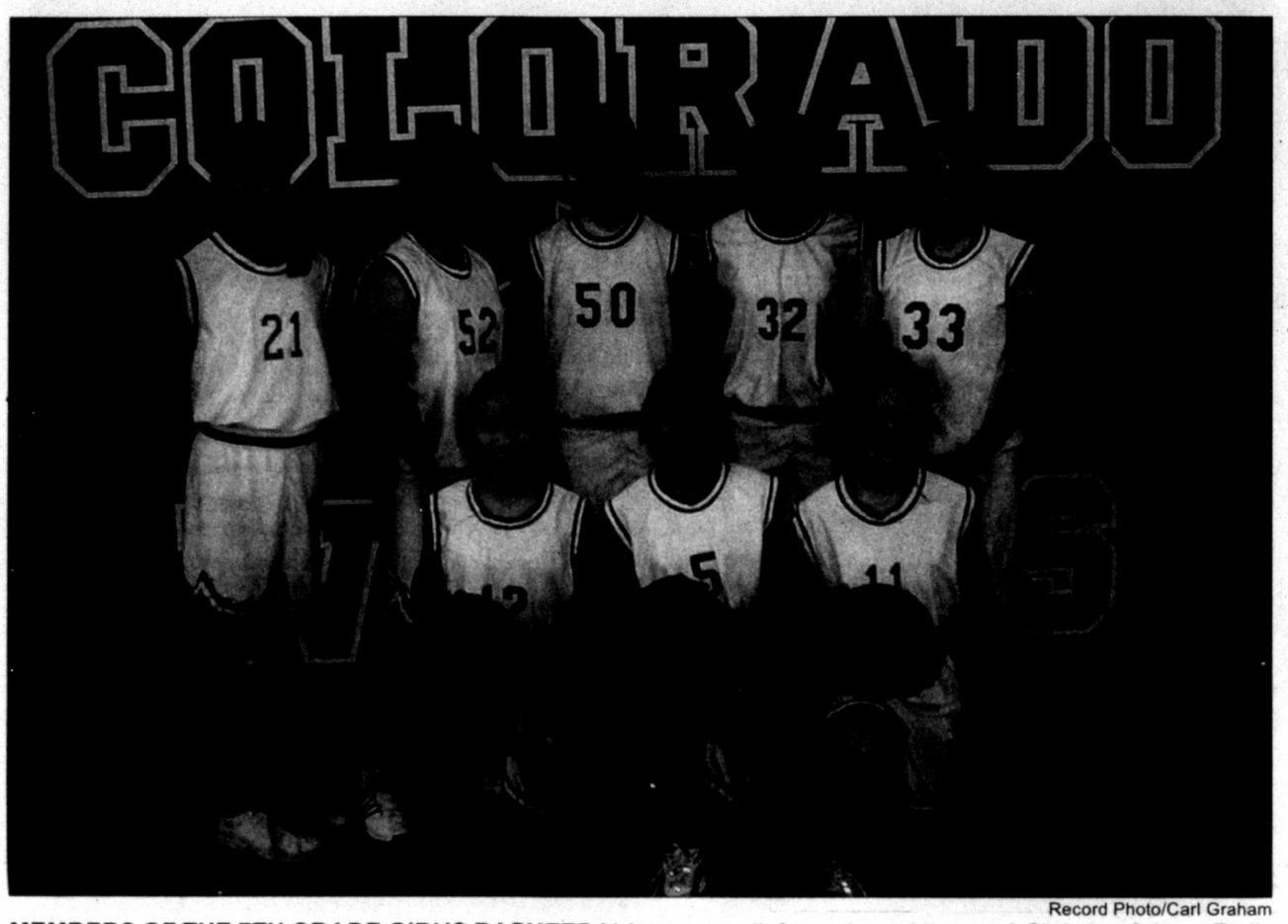
On Friday, the Wolves fell be-

See BOYS, Page 9



Record Photo/Carl Graham

C-CITY SENIOR Kenneth Scott drives in for a shot in recent play. The Wolves host Stanton Friday.



Record Photo/Carl Graham

MEMBERS OF THE 7TH GRADE GIRL'S BASKETBALL team are (left to rebound, top row) Christina Arispe, Emily Hicks, Courtney Sutton, Ava Macedo and Amanda Arispe. Bottom row: (I to r) Sarah Campos, Emma Leanos, and Brooke Bruington.

C-City KOs Anson, stays in the 4-2A playoff hunt

By Carl Graham
Colorado City Record

Despite owning a 3-22 season mark and a 2-5 slate in District 4-2A play, the Lady Wolves still have life ... and a shot at the Class 2A state basketball playoffs.

Colorado City, with a key win last week, kept its hopes of capturing the district's third-place playoff berth.

The Lady Wolves won their second district game last Friday night by defeating the Anson Lady Tigers, 56-52, in front of a large crowd at "The Pit."

Colorado City head coach John Starcher said the victory was a complete team effort.

District 4-2A Basketball Standings Girls

Team	Season	Dist.
Coahoma	16-11	6-1
Stamford	16-8	6-1
Hawley	9-18	3-4
Colorado City	3-22	2-5
Stanton	13-13	2-5
Anson	5-19	2-5

"No doubt this was a team effort with everyone on the team playing a key part to the win," said Starcher. "This was one of their best efforts of the season. We have been playing very good basketball our last four or five games. If we get on a roll here we still have a chance at the third playoff spot."

Junior Jessica Castillo turned in an awesome game, putting up a season-high 23 points. Castillo was supported by Lecreasha Johnson, who finished with 13 points, and Brittany Hill, who pumped in 12.

The two squads stood toe-to-toe trading punches through the first 16 minutes of the contest. Despite several clutch shots from Anson, Colorado City battled its way to a 12-12

See GIRLS, Page 9

Junior high girls turn heads during challenging campaign

CMS 'A' and 'B' teams shine in recent outings

By Carl Graham
Colorado City Record

The Colorado Middle School seventh grade girls "A" and "B" basketball teams have been busy the last few weeks, playing in tournaments and on Monday nights.

"I know these girls have had a tough season," said CMS coach Krissy Morris. "Almost all of our games have been won or lost by a two- or three-point spread, so it's been a great experience for them in pressure situations. Everyone they have played this year has been practicing basketball since August."

On Monday, Jan. 16, the CMS "A" team squad lost to Forsan, 15-13. Emily Hicks scored six points to lead CMS, while Courtney Sutton added five.

The girls posted a 2-1 record at the recent Coahoma tournament, defeating Coahoma by a score of 26-25. They lost a game to Stanton, 18-16, before coming back to defeat Coahoma again by a score of 17-16 margin to take the runner-up honors in the tournament's final standings.

Sutton scored 12 points in the first Coahoma game, while Hicks added six in the 26-25 win. In the 18-16 loss to Stanton, Sutton and Hicks each put up four points.

Hicks led the team with six points in the 17-16 win over Coahoma.

In other action, the girls lost to Stanton by a 14-7 margin with Sutton, Michelle Billingsley, and Christina Arispe each scoring two points in the game.

At the Eula Tournament held last Friday, the CMS "A" team lost to Jim Ned by a score of 22-14. Hicks scored six points in the contest, while Sutton and Arispe each had four. The team took consolation honors in the tournament with a solid 34-7 win over Merkel. Amanda Arispe, Sutton, and Hicks all scored eight points in the win.



Record Photo/Carl Graham

MEMBERS OF THE 7TH AND 8TH GRADE GIRLS "B" BASKETBALL TEAM are: (Top row, left to right) Andrea Castillo, Kathryn Hickson, Erin Graham, Autumn Martin, Rebecca Perez, and Valerie Vera. (Middle row) Ashley Coronado, Olivia Ornelas, Marissa Lara, Samantha Miller, and Tiffany Martinez. (Bottom row) Inez Salinas, Brittany Valdivia, Tonya Vera and Macall Maddox.

> *"I'm very proud of them for the patience and work ethic that is shown to everyone that watches them. It says a lot about their character."*
>
> **Krissy Morris**
> **CMS coach**

On Jan. 23, the team lost to Stamford by a score of 35-11.

Sutton had four points while Hicks contributed three in the loss.

On Jan. 16, the CMS "B" team lost to the Forsan "B" squad by a score of 7-4.

Rebecca Perez and Valerie Vera each notching two points to lead the CMS cagers.

The girls lost to Coahoma by a score of 19-14 later.

Martinez garnered six points in that contest.

The seventh and eighth grade "B" teams combined last Monday against Stamford, losing by a score of 32-9.

"We have done real well for picking it up after volleyball ended in November and trying to play catch up with fundamentals along the way," Morris said. "I'm very proud of them for the patience and work ethic that is shown to everyone that watches them. It says a lot about their character."

Westbrook stays atop 13-A race with pair of wins

By Carl Graham
Colorado City Record

The Westbrook Wildcats remained tied with Roby for the top spot in the District 13-A, Division II standings despite defeating both Trent and Blackwell in basketball action played last week.

Last Tuesday, the Wildcats defeating Trent soundly, winning by a 56-40 margin. Josiah Hannonhad 19 points to key the WHS attack. Freshman Tate Burleson added 13.

District 13-A, Div. II Basketball Standings Boys

Team	Season	Dist.
Westbrook	19-4	9-1
Roby	15-10	9-1
Ira	9-12	6-4
Highland	8-14	5-5
Loraine	N/A	4-6
Trent	N/A	4-6
Blackwell	7-13	3-7
Hermleigh	5-18	0-10

After taking a slim 10-6 lead in the first quarter, Westbrook hit stride in the second. The Wildcats outscored Trent by a 17-10 margin in the ensuing eight minutes and took a comfortable 27-16 cushion into the half.

Westbrook's advantage grew to 46-22 in the third.

Trent outscored Westbrook in the final quarter, 18-10.

Last Friday, the Wildcats defeated Blackwell by a 76-53 margin.

With the victory, Westbrook upped its dis-

See LEAD, Page 9

SPORTS

Colorado City, Westbrook and Loraine will find alignment fates this Thursday

By Carl Graham
Colorado City Record

The best kept secret on the planet will finally be released on Feb. 2.

The University Interscholastic League's biennial realignment process will be released Thursday at 9 a.m. by officials in Austin.

The new alignment could lead to some sweeping changes for teams in West Texas.

In Class 5A, the number of schools will remain locked in at no more than 245 -- which dispels the rumor of the UIL possibility adding a 6A classification.

The UIL, however, plans to put as many teams in 5A as possible. After 5A, the UIL will aim for approximately 200 schools in each classification. Helping raise the overall numbers in 5A is the fact there are approximately 20 new 5A schools ready to join. Many of the schools did not play football – or even exist -- two years ago.

The cutoff for six-man schools such as Loraine and Westbrook will be 99.9, although schools are not mandated to play six-man if they fall below the cutoff. Last season, Hermleigh played 11-man football despite having an enrollment of approximately 60. The Cardinals, after their two-year experiment, will return to six-man football this fall.

The big news for six-man schools is the UIL's decision to break the division into two classifications based on enrollment. The decision will mean many traditional rivals could find themselves in different divisions.

Depending on where the 5A cutoff is, there will likely be some sweeping changes come Thursday for those schools that have been on the bubble. For instance, Abilene Cooper has predominately been the smallest school in District 3-5A. During the last realignment process, the school turned in an enrollment of 2,177 -- almost half the size of Odessa High, which had an enrollment of 3,922.

Speculation abounds that Cooper will become either be one of the smallest 5A schools for the next two years or that the Abilene school will become one of the larger 4A programs.

District 4-2A will almost undoubtedly be disrupted as the cutoff is expected to be near 225 – a number that would cause Colorado City to lose two long-time foes in Stamford (197), and Anson (203). Both would, if the 225 enrollment number is used, would move to Class A.

Should the number increase to 250, Hawley (237) and Coahoma (240) could also move down to Class A.

CHS baseball team begins '06 workouts

SPEAKING OF SPORTS...
CARL GRAHAM
SPORTS EDITOR



Greetings to all of you sports fans!

You know spring must be just around the corner as members of the girl's softball and boy's baseball team from Colorado High School started working out on Monday. That is everyone that is not still involved in basketball. We are looking for big things from both squads.

Of course, several members of the boy's basketball squad play baseball, but we expect the Wolves to be playing basketball for some time to come.

Congratulations to the Wolves and Lady Wolves powerlifters on an outstanding performance this past weekend. The CHS powerlifters did well at the Coahoma meet last Saturday.

I understand the track team is looking good as they prepare for another season. We lost a good one in Hann Ollison, who is now running for McMurry University in Abilene, but the Wolves appear to have some good talent coming back. Among those to watch are Roland Rivera, Frankie Arguijo, Tony Salazar, and Cody Avalos. Logan Boyd should also be a strong contender in the discus. Ray Ryan and Adrian Arellano should also be solid performers.

Nolan Frizzell is expected to soar to new heights in the high jump.

I am looking forward to a good girl's softball team this year. I truly believe we have the players on the team that can make a run at the state playoffs.

I also understand CHS officials have found someone to take over the softball program for coach Jerold Epperson. The position hasn't been officially filled, so I guess we'll all have to wait to see who gets the honor of guiding the Lady Wolves this year.

This Sunday is Super Bowl Sunday, and I think I will officially go on record as picking the Pittsburgh Steelers to win the game.

Have a great week, and remember, be a great sport in everything you do!

Wolves, Lady Wolves do well at Coahoma Powerlifing Meet

By Carl Graham
Colorado City Record

The Colorado Wolves and Lady Wolves powerlifting teams fared well at last Saturday's Coahoma Powerlifting Meet. The CHS boys finished second out of 10 teams, while the girls took third.

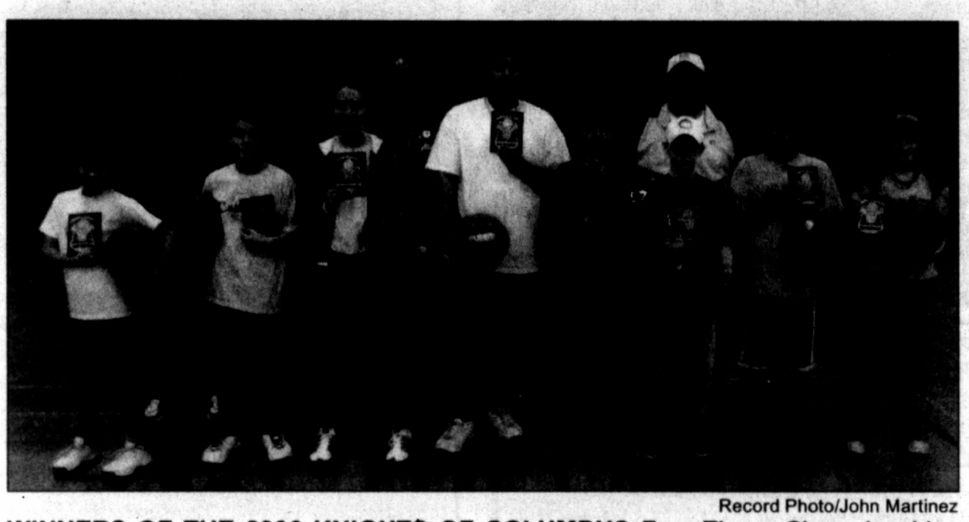
Alfredo Ventura finished first in the 132-pound division, setting a new meet record in the squat with 315 pounds.

Michael Luera placed second in his weight class, as did Logan Boyd. Mario Atkinson placed fifth in his classification.

Krystal Molina came away with a first-place ribbon in her weight class, while Veronica Beltran and Donnica Fowler each placed second in their divisions. Fowler was also awarded the "best lifter" award on the girls' light platform.

Beltran set a new meet record in the dead lift.

The solid finishes added to C-City's resume. The Wolves also finishes in the top 3 at its own tournament.



Record Photo/John Martinez

WINNERS OF THE 2006 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Free Throw Championships pose with their awards after Saturday's competition at the CHS gym. The winners will advance to the district tournament . Among the local winners were Rankin Bullard, Eli Farrell, Ronald Aoyama, Derek Gainey, Aaron Rivera, Megan Bullard, Stephanie Grisson and Allison Burrola.

LEAD

from page 8

trict record to 9-1.

Burleson and Cory Morton each had a three-point shots in the contest while Dustin Luttrull added another.

Five Westbrook players scored in double figures in the game, including Colton Nobles with 16. Cory Morton tallied 14, while Hannon, Luttrell and Burleson contributed 15, 13 and 10, respectively.

The Westbrook Lady Cats also emerged with two wins, downing Trent, 57-45, and Blackwell, 79-38.

Lady Bulldogs drop decisions to Roby, Trent

By Carl Graham
Colorado City Record

The Loraine Lady Bulldogs lost both of their contests played last week, falling to Roby, 59-19, before dropping a 58-44 decision to Trent.

Against Roby, the Lady Bulldogs ran into the District 13-A, Division II-leading Lady Lions. Roby took an early 17-5 lead and never looked back.

The Lady Lions extended their lead to 30-9 at the half.

At the end of three quarters, the game was no longer in doubt with Roby leading 43-14. Heaven McGrael was the high-point scorer for the Lady Bulldogs, finishing with nine points – six of which came via two three-point shots. Lucy Rico also had a trey.

The loss dropped the Lady Bulldogs' district record to 2-8.

Last Friday, Trent used a 16-11 first quarter run to salt away its win.

Heather Sheppard was the high-point scorer with 24 points.

BOYS

from page 8

hind early in their game when Anson. The Tigers went on an 11-2 run in the early minutes of the matchup.

Colorado City managed to fight its way back with a run of its own later in the frame and pulled to within 24-19 at the end of the first quarter.

The Wolves took the lead in the second quarter, outscoring Anson by a 16-7 clip. Colorado City took a slim 35-31 advantage into the locker room.

Colorado City continued to pull away in the third quarter, pushing its lead to 49-40 with a 14-9 run.

Most of the Wolves' points came by way of the charity line in the fourth quarter. Cyrus Goodman was almost perfect at the free throw line, putting up a 10 of 12 shots. Overall, the CHS senior scored 24 points on the night.

Frizzell also was in double figures with 19 points -- hitting three treys along the way.

GIRLS

from page 8

draw at the end of the first period.

The two teams matched each other point-for-point in the second and headed into the half with the score tied at 26-26.

The Lady Wolves finally managed to grab the upper hand in the third. Colorado City outscored Anson by a 16-12 clip and took a 42-38 lead into the final frame.

Last Tuesday, the Lady Wolves took one on the chin from Stamford, losing 73-39.

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Error Responsibility – Please Read
Customers are asked to check their ad immediately after it appears in the paper and report at once any error found. The correction will be made in the next issue. The *Colorado City Record* is responsible for an incorrect ad only the first time it runs, so please check your ads carefully.

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The *Colorado City Record* reserves the right to reject any and all classified ads considered by the publisher to be objectionable in subject matter, phraseology or opposed to the public interest or policy of this newspaper. No fraudulent, dishonest or misleading ads will be knowingly published. Each advertiser who submits classified advertising shall be responsible to indemnity and hold harmless the *Colorado City Record* for any cost, injury or liability imposed upon it because of the content of any ad so submitted.

CALL 325-728-3413 AND GET RESULTS • FREE SIGN WITH ADVANCE PAYMENT OF GARAGE SALE ADS!

BID NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
Mitchell County Commissioner's Court will receive sealed proposals at the office of the County Judge or County Auditor until 9:00 a.m., February 13, 2006, for an insurance consultant for all risk management/insurance needs except for group health care. Commissioner's Court reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids and/or waive any and all formalities.
Susan Buckalew
County Auditor

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Mitchell County Commissioners Court will receive sealed proposals at 349 Oak, Colorado City, Texas 79512, until 9:00 a.m. on February 13, 2006, for: All materials and labor necessary for the complete installation of sports field lighting for the softball field located at the Mitchell County Sports Complex in Colorado City, Texas. Design guidelines may be obtained at the office of Economic Development, 131 West 5th Street, Colorado City, Texas. Proposals will be opened at the Commissioners Court Monday, February 13, 2006. The Mitchell County Commissioners Court reserves the right to accept or reject and all proposals and/or waive any and all formalities.
Issued by:
Sue Young, Mitchell County BOED
P.O. Box 1001
Colorado City, TX 79512
January 24, 2006

LEGAL NOTICES

FILING NOTICE
Board of Directors
Region XIV Education Service Center
Candidates for Place 1 (Mitchell and Scurry Counties); Place 3 (Haskell, Jones, and Shackelford Counties) and Place 5 (Callahan and Taylor Counties except Abilene Independent School District) may file between February 1 and February 20, 2006, either in person at 1850 State Highway 351, Abilene, Texas between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday – Friday, or by certified mail to the executive director, Region XIV Education Service Center, 1850 Highway 351, Abilene, Texas 79601. There is no filing fee.
Eligibility requirements, further information and filing forms may be received from Ronnie Kincaid, Executive Director, Region 14 Education Service Center.

NOTICIA DE REGISTRACION PARA
La Junta Directive de
Region XIV Education Service Center
Candidatos para el Lugar 1 (los condados de Mitchell y Scurry), y para el Lugar 3 (los condados de Haskell, Jones y Shackelford); y para el Lugar 5 (los condados de Callahan y Taylor menos el districto escolar de Abilene) pueden registrarse entre las fechas del primero de febrero hasta el veinte de febrero, 2006, en persona en las oficinas del Region XIV, en calle 1850 State Highway 351, Abilene, Texas, desde las ocho de las manana hasta las quarto de la tarde de Lunes a Viernes; o por carta certificada dirigida al director ejecutivo, Region XIV Education Service Center, 1850 Highway 351, Abilene, Texas 79601. No hay cobro para registrarse.
Mas informacion sobre las formas de registracion, y sobre los reguisitos necesarios para estos puestos pueden ser obtenidos de Ronnie Kincaid, el director ejecutivo, Region XIV Education Service Center.

LEGAL NOTICE:
These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will close on March 2, 2006. You have until August 29, 2006, to redeem any tickets for these games: #448 WEEKLY GRAND ($2) overall odds are 1 in 4.56, #459 MONEY MONEY MONEY ($10) overall odds are 1 in 2.74, #507 HOLIDAY MILLIONS WISHES ($30) overall odds are 1 in 2.17, #540 INSTANT BINGO ($2) overall odds are 1 in 4.28, #550 MUSTANG MONEY ($3) overall odds are 1 in 4.36, #554 MAGIC WHEEL ($5) overall odds are 1 in 3.39, #562 LUCKY DIAMONDS ($1) overall odds are 1 in 4.90, #563 $500,000 CASH BONANZA ($10) overall odds are 1 in 2.42, #565 POWER 7'S ($7) overall odds are 1 in 3.14, #569 I LOVE LUCY® ($2) overall odds are 1 in 4.25, #571 HOT 7'S ($1) overall odds are 1 in 4.75, #575 MULTI-MONEY ($3) overall odds are 1 in 4.49, #591 TRIPLE 3'S ($3) overall odds are 1 in 4.48, #595 CASHWORD ($3) overall odds are 1 in 3.20. The odds listed here are the overall odds of winning any prize in a game, including break-even prizes. Lottery retailers are authorized to redeem prizes of up to and including $599. Prizes of $600 or more must be claimed in person at a Lottery Claim Center or by mail with a completed Texas Lottery claim form; however, annuity prizes or prizes over $999,999 must be claimed in person at the Commission Headquarters in Austin. Call Customer Service at 1-800-37LOTTO or visit the Lottery Web site at www.txlottery.org for more information and location of nearest Claim Center. The Texas Lottery is not responsible for lost or stolen tickets, or for tickets lost in the mail. Tickets, transactions, players, and winners are subject to, and players and winners agree to abide by, all applicable laws, Commission rules, regulations, policies, directives, instructions, conditions, procedures, and final decisions of the Executive Director. A scratch-off game may continue to be sold even when all the top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 years of age or older to purchase a Texas Lottery ticket. Play Responsibly. The Texas Lottery supports Texas education.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
All persons having claims against Opal Jo Blair are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. All claims should be addressed in care of Larry and Ronnie Blair, 5190 N FM 644, Loraine, TX 79532.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT
Energen Resources Corporation, 3300 North "A" St, Bldg 4, Ste 100, Midland, Texas 79705 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas.
The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Clearfork formation, Westbrook Southeast Unit, Lease, Well Number(s) 222W, 737W, 884W, 1730W, 1865W, 1866W, 1867W, 366WL, 348W & 349W. The proposed injection well(s) is located 10-12 miles West of Colorado City, in the Westbrook Field, in Mitchell County.
Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 2300 to 3500 feet.
LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.
Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P. O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512/463-6792).

CARD OF THANKS

Card of Thanks
Thank you to family and friends for all your prayers, cards, flowers, food, love and support during our loss of Opal Jo "Granny" Blair. A special thanks to Mitchell County Hospital doctors, nurses and staff. Your care and concern speaks volumes. Thank you to the churches of Loraine for delicious food. A special thank you to Jeremy Strain for sharing God's words of encouragement. Also thank you to Danny Butler, Ina Vay McAdams, Martha Anderson and Patricia Gillespie. The music was beautiful. We celebrate Granny's 82 years. She loved her family and friends, just as we do.
The family of Opal Jo Blair

Card of Thanks
The family of Raye McGregor would like to thank all the friends that blessed us with calls, cards, food and flowers.
A special thanks to the First Baptist Church, Family Medical Clinic and Heart of West Texas Home Health Care for always being there for her and the family. May God return our blessings from you two fold.
Pat & Shirley McPhaul
Ricky & Tracy McPhaul
Randy & Kelly McPhaul
Julie & Ronnie Rogers

Garage Sale ads start at $4.75!
Call us for more info!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mitchell County Hospital District, dba, Mitchell County Hospital, Valley Fair Lodge, Mitchell County Home Health, Mitchell County Ambulance Service and Family Medical Associates is an equal opportunity employment health care facility. Employment offered to qualified persons without regard to race, color, sex, age, national origin, handicap, or religion.

JOBS WANTED

Bullard's Backyard Basics.Leaf raking... Yard waste & junk hauled off, minor tree trimming. Call Rick Bullard, 728-8242, 242-0747.

Handyman for hire - Mowing, weedeating, minor tree trimming, leaf raking, etc. Call 728-5466.

HELP WANTED

Now accepting applications for:
1. RN - Mitchell County Hospital 7 am to 7 pm
2. CNA - Mitchell County Hospital 7 pm to 7 am
3. LVN - Wallace Prison Medical Clinic - 3 pm to 11 pm
4. Cook - Dietary Department at Mitchell County Hospital
These are full time positions with benefits.
Contact Human Resources at (325)728-3431, ext. 7105.

No retirement got you blue? Go gray!
Be a Correctional Officer.
Check out our pay raises, Homes for Heroes program and other great benefits!
TDCJ
Correctional Officer
Hiring Seminar
on Thurs., Feb. 16 at 7 pm
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Concho Valley
202 Henry O. Flipper St.
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936-437-4098
Equal Opportunity Employer

MW Builders of Texas, Inc.
Construction Managers
for the New Snyder Elementary School Project
Now taking applications for the following positions: Carpenters, Rod Busters, Concrete Finishers, Laborers
Please apply at MW Builders project offices, 3601 El Paso Ave.
Scaled Wages E.O.E Drug Test Required

Part-time attendants needed to assist elderly and disabled clients with personal care and light housekeeping in Colorado City area. Contact Ashley at 877-885-7056.

Experienced farm worker needed. Full-time position involving all types of farm and ranch work. Salary DOE. Promptness required. Call Carl Guelker, 728-5476 after 8 p.m.

Livestock operation manager needed. Full-time position. Must have reliable transportation, preferably a pick-up. Must be healthy, honest, dependable. This is a good job for the right person. Day (325)728-6600, Night (325)728-5600.

HELP WANTED

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Contact our Job Center
432-268-7341 or
432-268-7298

Big Spring State Hospital
1901 North Highway 87
Big Spring, TX 79720

Positions open for PRN LVN and weekend RN, great support staff. Contact Stephanie Potter, DON, Valley Fair Lodge, 325-728-2634.

Transportation/Nursing Aide and Nurse Aides applications are now being taken to expand our current staff. Apply in person to Terri Owens, Kristi Lee Manor, 1941 Chestnut, Colorado City, Tx.

Need extra money? Work at home. Make 50%. #1 Beauty Co., 325-573-4850.

Nurses Unlimited, Inc. needs attendants to assist with personal care, meal prep and light housekeeping. Part time basis. Call M-F, 8A-5P, EOE.1-888-859-0640.

Sonic Drive In is now accepting applications for all positions, day-time & night-time. Apply in person.

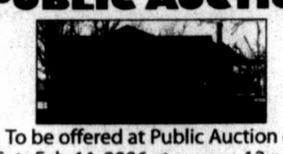
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2002 Mustang GT Convertible, low miles. Perfect condition. 728-3951 or 728-8205.

Buy it! Sell it! Rent it! Call 728-3413.

AUCTIONS

PUBLIC AUCTION

To be offered at Public Auction on
Sat., Feb. 11, 2006 at approx. 12 noon
A 2 bedroom, 1 bath, brick home with living room, kitchen, dining area, open porch, storm windows, detached storage. Kitchen is only room not carpeted. Close to middle school. Property is located at 1129 Locust St. in Colorado City.
Directions: From I-20, take Exit #216, then south on Hickory St. to 12th St., then west 1 block to Locust St., then south on Locust to auction site. Watch for auction sign. This property is subject to prior sale.
Property will be sold subject to sellers acceptance.
For more information or to view this property, please call 1-325-728-8292 or 1-325-242-0172.
Auctioneer: Grady W. Morris TXs-6785

ESTATE AUCTION
Living Estate of Myrtle Walker & Others
Sat., Feb. 4th 7:00 p.m.
Preview 12 noon till sale time
Super nice appliances - Whirlpool side-by-side refrigerator, Whirlpool washer & dryer, electric stove, 50's dresser & bed, nice patio set, coffee table, end table, piano, TV's, card table & chairs, Pyrex refrigerator dishes, Frankoma, McCoy planter, Carnival glass fruit bowl, lots of nice misc. glassware, Piano rolls, linens, Boy Scout items, brass swans, walking sprinkler, chlorine tablets, yard cart, garden, yard & hand tools, boxes of baskets, arts & crafts. Items too numerous to list!
Crossroads Auction Co.
Located at 6607 N. Service Rd., 2 miles east of the refinery at Exit 184, Big Spring, TX. The building with all the old signs.
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FOR SALE

Artistic Memorials ...for your loved one. Our company stands behind our product. No high pressure selling. See display at 505 E. 2nd. For more information call 728-3468, 325-242-1158 Joy Dockrey.

Ethan Allen matching chair and sofa. Also, 1998 34' motor home. Great condition, great fun, great price! Call 325-728-3877.

For sale: Weight bench, new, assembled. Body by Jake. Some attachments. 737-2606.

$149. Full size mattress and foundation. Never used, full warranty. In plastic. 806-549-3110

Bargain! KING PILLOWTOP Mattress and box, warranty, still in package. $299. 806-549-3110

Used furniture & appliances. Buy & Sell. Lots of good, used Dearborn heaters left. Sparks Trading Post, 204 Locust, 242-1752.

Metal Detectors by Whites Electronics. New and used. 728-2494

WANTED

LOOKING FOR DEER LEASE for 4-6 hunters, approx. 1,000 acres, water & electric preferred or house. 817-915-6722.

LIVESTOCK

For sale: My daughter's gelding horse, $1200. Call J.O.728-2542 Dockrey, weekdays.

GARAGE SALES

GARAGE SALE
1008 E. 12th
Saturday
8-1
Too much to mention.

GARAGE SALE
1225 Cedar
Saturday
8-?
Gas stove, Bow Flex, lots of children's clothes, misc.

GARAGE SALE
1398 LCR 248
Saturday
9-2
Golf clubs, household items, dishes, misc.

GARAGE SALE
1129 Locust
Colorado City, Texas
Sat., Feb. 4
Sat., Feb. 11
8:30-5
Due to other commitments we will have this sale on 2 weekends (Saturday of each week). Lots of items.
Full-sized bed, oak dresser, mapole chest of drawers, recliner, console TV, loveseat, maple lamp tables, dining table, nearly new Whirlpool gas range, Whirlpool washer, electric dryer, microwave, vaccuum cleaner, sheet music, dishes, pots & pans, sheets, pillows, curtains, nice lamps, electric sewing machine, student desk, plus many more items.

GARAGE SALE
102 E. Hughes
Westbrook
Sat., Feb. 4
8-?
3 pc. living room set, computers, printers, dishes, pictures, some clothing, plus much more.

THE *RECORD* REAL ESTATE PAGE

728-3413 or fax 728-3414

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TOWN & COUNTRY REAL ESTATE
724 Hickory • Colorado City • 728-5879
Flo McKenney, Broker
Janet McCright, Sales Associate 728-8898 • 242-0082

RESIDENTIAL
Large 3-1, older home, Needs some work. 1620 Hickory St., $18,000.
2-1 house, central heat/air, 1145 Elm, $14,000.
1 acre of land on 10th Street, $5,000.
2-1 home, central heat/air, fenced backyard, 616 E. 17th, $28,500.

737 Hickory
OWNER FINANCE-
Central A/C & htg., new roof, 3 BR, easy terms. Call Jim at 325-518-8128.

You fix it! 3-2 with carport, 3 acres fenced. South 208, 1 1/2 miles, $50,000. 806-438-4083

For sale by owner: Owner financing provided. Low down payment. Low monthly. 2 bedroom, 1 bath at 1431 Pine. Call Kelly at 432-425-9994.

OWNER FINANCE - 975 E. 14th
Clean 2 BR, central heat, hardwood floors, carport. Easy Terms. Call Jim at 325-518-8128.

MUST SELL QUICKLY
OWNER FINANCE
• 102 E. 7th, large 2BR, formal dining room, corner lot with trees.
• 408 E. 17th, spacious older home on corner lot, garage, near hospital.
LOW DOWN - LOW MONTHLY
Call Tyler @
325-829-3276

List your house ad here. Ads start at $3.50. 728-3413

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600 Lightfoot, Loraine - Very nice, brick home, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 living areas, fireplace, corner lot, garage and patio.
1026 12th St. - Cute & clean, large utility room, 1-1, metal fence, $23,000.
920 Marcy - 3-2 with 2nd living could be 3rd bd, formal dining, vinyl siding, fenced yard, $29,900.
Country living - [CONTRACT PENDING] [SOLD] acres, shop & storage buildings, $50,000.
Lake Property - PDQ Road, 2-2 on deeded land, lots of updates, carport & storage, ch/ca, new paint & flooring, $68,000.
Lake house for rent - waterfront, dock, by the day, week or month. Call for details.

Owner financing available.
Easy terms & Low down payment.

HOUSES FOR SALE

Fleta Lewis Real Estate
123 W. 2nd, Colorado City, TX 79512
Office Phone: 325-728-3982
FAX: 325-728-3982
FLETA LEWIS, Broker — Home Phone: 325-728-3982
DANA LYNCH, Sales Associate — Home Phone: 325-728-8236
website: fletalewisrealestate.ws

RESIDENTIAL
Pretty 3 bd, 2 bath brick, central heat/air, large saltillo tile patio & large shop bldg. in back. **1220 E. 17th**, $82,000.
LAKE COLORADO CITY
2bd, 1 bath on deeded land, **594 CR 246**, $13,000.
LAND
220 ac. near Lone Wolf Mountain, grubbed, 4 pastures, w/2 irrigation wells & 2 stock wells, 1 w/windmill. **CR 442** $650/ac.
215 ac. in Valley View area, Lone Wolf Creek goes across land, 4 pastures w/abundant water, **CR 412**, $650/ac.
158 ac. pasture land, located on **FM1808**, water well, $650/ac.
77.15 ac. located on **FM 1982**, $650/ac., pasture land w/water well.
LORAINE
3bd, 1 bath, **204 Cemetery**, $15,000.

Owner financing:
943 E. 14th
4 bedroom, 2 bath 1,478 sq ft, new roof, new electric breaker & meter. $31,000 w/$2,500 down.
229 E. 8th
2 bedroom, 1 bath, 1,034 sq ft, central heat/air, new electric breaker & meter. $26,000 w/$2,000 down.
Toll-free 866-894-4591 or 325-650-5900

RENTALS

For rent: 2 bedroom, 1 bath trailer. Has den/ dining room combo and separate living area with attached utility room. Fenced yard, near lake. No pets. 728-5666 or 242-0819.

One bedroom duplex, nice, clean & secure. Large rooms, good neighborhood, no yard work. 242-1040, 728-2111.

House for rent: Mattie Woods Lane. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. References required. Call after 6 pm 737-2958.

RENTALS

For rent: 2 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, fireplace, total electric, covered parking. 140 E. 21st. References required. $400/rent, $200/ deposit. 728-2483, 242-2279.

Trailer house for rent. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, south of Gas 'n' Grub. Must have references. 325-242-0159.

Quail Run Apartments
1100 E. 10th St.
• Free Basic TV
• Total Electric
• Stove, Refrigerator Furnished
• Laundry Room
• Central Heating & Cooling
2 bedroom, 1 bath
Home owned & operated!
We care for our renters!
Kenneth or Joy Dockrey
728-3468
242-1158

MOBILE HOMES

Reduced price for quick sale. 3 acres land with 2 B, 2 B, mobile home, 2 storage buildings, water well and garage that was used as a shop. Call 325-207-1492.

RENTALS

Andrea Garden Apartments
928 Waco St. • Colorado City
NEW OWNER
(Proprietario Nuevo)
New Management
Completely Remodeled
(Completamente Modelados de Nuevo)
Call for Move-In Specials
325-242-0512

Erwin comes home with 'Down 1450'

Who says "You can't go home?" Colorado High School graduate Chet Erwin is living proof you can go home – even though the Texas Tech University senior doesn't get to return to his roots a whole lot.

Erwin will come home on Feb. 25. And he's and his four friends are looking to make some noise when they roll into the community with a large amount of sound equipment, plenty of musical instruments and a remodeled tour bus.

The drummer for the Lubbock-based band Chad Johnson and Down 1450, Erwin and his bandmates are scheduled to play at the Colorado City Civic Center on Feb. 25. The show will begin at 9 p.m.

Down 1450 began approximately four years ago when lead singer Chad Johnson and his friends began playing small shows while attending Tech.

Erwin, who expects to graduate from college this year,, joins bass guitarist Tayt Todd, Jared Smith and Bobby Bowlin, in the band.

Heart of West Texas begins 21st year



Courtesy Photo

THE STAFF AT HEART OF WEST TEXAS HOME CARE includes (front row, left to right) Mavis Greer, Penny Salmon, (back) Irma Rivera, Anne Henderson, Sandra Galyean, Denise Crawford, Sylvia Espinoza, Sandra LeCroy and Brenda Grimes.

Heart of West Texas Home Care has proven it can stand the test of time … and like the Duracell battery rabbit, it's still going.

Heart of West Texas Home Care and Mitchell County Hospital officials celebrated the agency's 20th year of serving the needs of area patients recently with a look back at its history and progess. Heart of West Texas Home Care, a department within the hospital, originally began operation in 1985.

Heart of West Texas Home Care provides home health services to Mitchell, Coke, Sterling, Fisher, Scurry, Nolan, Howard and Borden counties.

Heart of West Texas Home Care originally blossomed as Root Memorial Home Health Agency in October of 1985. When it first opened, Ray Mason served as the agency's administrator while Kris Riojas, a registered nurse, held the title of director

The Root Memorial name didn't last long. Just several months after opening, the agency changed its name to Mitchell County Home Health.

That name stood a little longer, lasting 11 years until the agency adopted its current name in June 1996.

During its 20 years of operation, Heart of West Texas Home Care has had remarkable stability. Only four registered nurses have served as director of the agency, including Riojas, Riojas, Mary Ann Williamson, Sue Dossey and Sandra Galleon.

Heart of West Texas Home Care currently has five nurses – Denise Crawford, Anne Henderson, Sandra Lecroy, Sandra Galyean and Brenda Grimes – on staff. The nurses are assisted by home health aides Sylvia Espinosa and Irma Rivera.

The office staff consists of Mavis Greer and Penny Salmon. Cliff Shiller provides physical therapy, while Nikki Shiller provides Occupational Therapy. Speech therapy is provided by Debbie Everett.

On of the best things about Heart of West Texas Home is its staff's ability to work with physicians to identify home care needs. Residents can recommend the agency to their physicians when home care is need.

To receive Medicare reimbursed home care services, the patient must be under the care of a physician, have difficulty leaving home and have a need for skilled nursing care, physical therapy or speech-language pathology services.

Please contact Heart of West Texas Home Care at (325) 728-2693 with any questions or visit their offices at Mitchell County Hospital. Persons can also visit the agency's website at www.mitchellcountyhospital.com.

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LISD STUDENTS OF THE WEEK are (l to r) Charlie Neeley, 2nd grade; Madeline Gibson, 3rd grade; Andy Limones, 7th grade; and David Huerta, 9th grade.

AG NEWS

EQIP funding application deadline is February 17th

The deadline for the USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to accept applications for 2006 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding is February 17, 2006. Applications for EQIP funds received on or before February 17, 2006, will be ranked and funded from the initial allocation to Mitchell County. Last year EQIP funding in Mitchell County totaled $296,000.

Farmers and ranchers can apply for Farm Bill conservation programs through the USDA-NRCS to make a sound decision regarding conservation practices before planting season begins.

Eligible producers may apply for cost share assistance on conservation practices that will address the identified resource concern recognized by the Local Work Group (LWG). Practices are implemented through EQIP offering cost share assistance to agricultural producers to implement on-farm conservation practices. The NRCS determines eligible land and eligible conservation practices.

EQIP was established to assist landowners with applying conservation plans to treat major resource issues. In Mitchell County, the LWG chose Water Quality/ Water Quantity on rangeland as the highest concern and Water Quality/Water Quantity on cropland as medium priority for the County Based Funds. Eligible conservation practices include brush management, range seeding, livestock pipelines, well, pond, water storage facility, cross fencing, terraces, and waterways.

Producers are also eligible to apply for the state concern of invasive species-salt cedar, which consists of chemical or mechanical control of salt cedar. Cost share rates at 50% for all practices under County Based and Ground and Surface Water funds, and the cost share rate for salt cedar control is 75%. For limited resources farmers and ranchers, the cost share rate is 90%.

NRCS, through the invitation of the local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), is the federal government's principal agency for conserving natural resources on private lands, while encouraging voluntary efforts to protect soil, water and wildlife on private lands. NRCS offers its services free of charge.

Those interested in signing an EQIP application should visit the NRCS office located in the USDA Service Center in Colorado City at 2302 N. Hwy. 208 or call (325)728-3473 ext. 3 or access the information on the Texas NRCS website at www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov.

Subscribe today! Call 728-3413

LORAINE NEWS

By Bessie Ann Vaughn, Loraine Correspondent

Greetings. We hope some of you had all the rain you needed. Loraine proper received four-tenths of an inch. Had the prayer service not happened, we might not have gotten any rain at all.

It is possible that some people prayed that it wouldn't rain until all the cotton was ginned. In that case, we all received a blessing since it didn't rain enough to hurt anything.

***

Methodist ladies and welcomed guests will meet Feb. 6th at 6 p.m. at church for lunch. Soup will be served.

Also, on Feb. 12th lunch will be served at the church beginning at 12:30 p.m. in honor of our firemen. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

***

Ray and Peggy Harmon are here from Greenville. They have a home here and we are always glad to see them.

***

Tom and Anne Palmer of Houston are also back in Mitchell County. We love having them visit around Loraine. They have a home in Colorado City. Tom is a former Lorainian.

***

Christene Britton is proud to announce that her granddaughter Christy and husband, Cole are the proud parents of a baby girl born Sun., Jan. 29. She weighed 8 pounds, 4 ounces, and her name is Chloe Christene.

Christy is the daughter of Mike and Rachel Britton. Christy and Cole live in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where she is an elementary school teacher and Cole is a Baptist minister.

***

Betty Chandler went to Abilene on Saturday. She and her grandson, Ran Kilpatrick went to eat Chinese food, then did some shopping.

The two had a fun day.

***

Attending the monthly men's breakfast at the Methodist Church last Saturday morning were 22 men from the community. They enjoyed a visitation and a short devotional before the meal.

Scrambled eggs, hot biscuits, orange juice, hot coffee, bacon, cream gravy and an assortment of fruit jellies were on the menu. It was reported that they enjoyed the meal and their time together.

***

Brian and Anna Teresa Butler hosted a birthday party for Danny Butler, Ronnie Roemisch, who is Anna Teresa's dad, and Gail Hayes, her grandmother.

Their birthdays are within a few days of each other. Refreshments were served to a large crowd of family member and friends.

***

Ruth Moore is improving every day. Her daughter, Wanda Bynum from Junction came to visit for a few days and brought her granddaughter Victoria from San Angelo.

They returned home on Saturday. Also, Ruth received word this past week that she has another great-granddaughter born in Gunter. Her name is Abigail Ruth. Pictures showed a beautiful newborn with lots of pretty black hair.

***

Mary McMullen, County Extension Agent, gave a monthly report to seniors on special diets. The main topics discussed included working with you doctor and utilizing community resources, how to contact your city health department and general advice.

***

We send our condolences out to the family and friends of Opal Jo Blair, a longtime Lorainian. Her husband, Dual Blair, preceded her in death some time ago.

Opal Jo is survived by two sons, Ronnie and Larry, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

***

Another good friend and longtime resident of Loraine, Blondie Hamilton passed away last week. I do think Blondie, or Wanda, was born here. She was an asset in the community and leaves many friends.

Our condolences go to her husband, Ham Hamilton, her daughter and other members of the family.

***

Joan Long has returned home after spending a week in Lamesa. She stayed with her 14-year-old grandson, Ryan Merket while his dad was on a cruise.

Joan said she and Ryan really enjoyed the time together and had fun.

***

Attendants at First Methodist Church enjoyed special music by a quartet of wonderful singers last Sunday. The quartet consisted of Don Richburg, Roland Graham, George Martin and Geory Martin. Rev. Keifer Cauble accompanied them on piano.

***

Fifth Sunday Singing was hosted by Loraine First Baptist Church last Sunday night. Attending were members and guests of the Baptist and Methodist churches. Also attending were members of New Life Ministries and guests.

After the wonderful singing, a fellowship and refreshment period took place. A very nice crowd attended.

***

Christene Britton's granddaughter, Jordan, along with her soccer team returned home recently from Florida. They were the top winners in a tournament there.

Jordan is the daughter of Jana, Christene's daughter. They live in Carrolton.

***

Billie Powell returned home last Wednesday to find an armadillo digging a huge hole in the yard. Since they don't have teeth, what was he digging for?

A roadrunner was watching the excavation and decided to steal the prize of the armadillo's effort, whatever it would be. Since he could outrun the armadillo, he would be safe.

A big black bird was also watching the digging and he planned to swoop down, steal whatever came out of the hole and fly away. Who could catch him? An armadillo can't fly.

A rabbit was watching but he could care less about the digging because the lady of the house put out salad fixings for him.

All of a sudden, the armadillo jumped in the hole and covered up. He is a burrowing animal. The roadrunner was so irritated, he called the armadillo a prehistoric midget in armor. The black bird called the roadrunner a coward. The rabbit thought, "Boy, I wish I could do that."

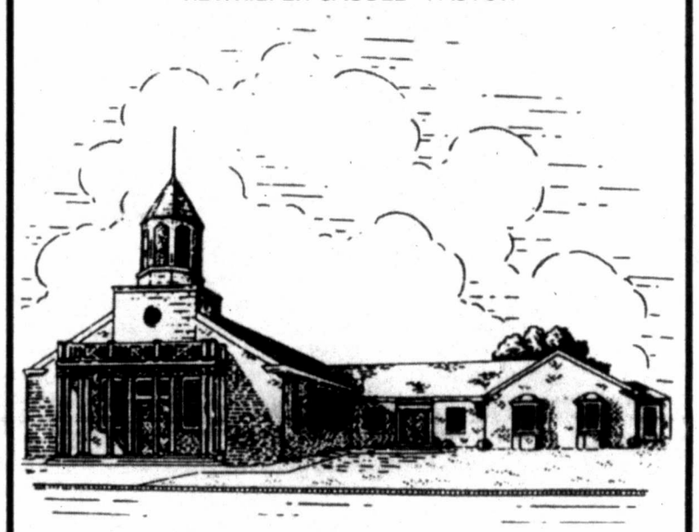
***

At the center Monday, the attendants played bingo and visited. On Wednesday, Debbie Mitchell and Judy Beasley played and sang. Everyone enjoyed a birthday dinner. Friday, Mary McMullen gave her monthly report.

Shots Treadwell's son, Butch Treadwell from Tampa, Florida visited the center last week.

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Special February Events

Feb. 6 Monday, 7 p.m. - Ladies Soup & Salad Dinner
Feb. 12 Sunday, 12:30 p.m. - After Worship Meal
Feb. 25 Saturday, 7 a.m. - Men's Breakfast
Feb. 25 Saturday, 5:30 p.m. - Game Night
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