

PAGE ONE

A QUICK READ OF THE NEWS

Explosive collectible

A live, World War II-era hand grenade discovered among the collections at the High Point Museum during a routine inventory may have been in the collection for more than 10 years without anyone knowing, museum officials said. Curator Eve Weipert of High Point, North Carolina found the device Tuesday but doesn't know how the grenade wound up in the collections. She said she believed it might have been an explosive because it felt heavy when she picked it up. Members of Greensboro's police bomb squad collected the grenade and detonated it. No one was hurt.

It's raining dope

A couple in Winchester, Virginia found 116 pounds of marijuana worth more than \$250,000 near a wooded area by their home, the sheriff's office said. Frederick County Sheriff Robert T. Williamson said his best guess is that the pot was dropped out of an airplane Friday. The packages, neatly wrapped in plastic and labeled by weight in kilograms, were scattered over a 50-foot area, authorities said. Williamson said the unexpected bundles are not as uncommon as one would imagine. He recalled at least two occasions in the past 10 years when marijuana literally showed up on someone's lawn.

Classic burglary gone awry

David Billings, 39 of Wilkinsburg, Penn., was in the Alleghany County Jail on Tuesday awaiting a hearing Friday on Burglary charges. Pittsburgh police, firefighters and paramedics freed Billings on Saturday morning from a chimney of the Super Bowl restaurant after an employee heard him yelling for help. Billings told police he "just wanted to steal some liquor," a police report said.



Drawing date: Saturday, April 6
Winning numbers: 3-25-27-41-50-52
Estimated jackpot: \$34 million
Winners: 1
Next drawing: Wednesday, April 10
Estimated jackpot: \$4 million

On this date in history

April 9 — General Robert E. Lee surrendered to the Union Army at Appomattox (1865).

LOCAL WEATHER

Muleshoe received .23 of an inch of rain last Saturday. Maple and Enochs reported 1/2 inch each. The AK Ranch at Three Way reported .16. Ten miles east of Muleshoe there were reports of 3 to 4 tenths of an inch. As of Tuesday, the National Weather Service was predicting Thursday to be partly cloudy. A chance for showers on Friday and light rain on Saturday. Morning lows are expected to be in the upper 30s low 40s with Friday's high reaching about 69 but the rest of the period to be in the low 70s.

Editor Ronn Smith can be reached at 272-4536 or ctyankee@fivearea.com

Missed your paper? Call carrier Yolanda Martínez at 272-4536 during business hours, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Board votes for repair and renovation grant

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Muleshoe Independent School District Board of Trustees, after lengthy discussion, Monday night, voted to spend \$641,000 on repair and renovation of the District's buildings.

The board was presented recommendations for their consideration by Superintendent Gene Sheets. The projects were developed by Assistant Superintendent Don Woods and Director of Maintenance Sam Whalin.

Money to be spent includes \$457,272 in grant money received by district from the Texas Education Agency for Repair and Renovation program. A \$135,000 will be spent out of the District's funds including \$49,000 budgeted this year for building repair and the balance to come from the District's fund balances.

The projects include remodeling Watson Junior High office, \$145,000; DeShazo Elementary restrooms, \$31,000; Dillman Elementary gym restrooms, \$57,000 and computer lab, \$24,000; High School restrooms, \$37,000; fire alarms and new public address system in all schools, \$80,000; new doors and locksets at Watson Junior High, \$65,000; air conditioning dressing rooms at the High School, \$23,000; new windows on the north and south sides of Dillman Elementary, \$90,000; extra electrical outlet on all campuses, \$10,000; light fixtures, \$10,500; and sanding and refinishing the High School gym floor, \$9,000.

Sheets told the board, "We are in great shape financially" and recommended all the grant money be used, combined with District funds to do the rest of the work. He said long before he came to Muleshoe, the

District had always maintained its buildings and he wanted to continue the tradition. Sheet said the District would have spent more money out of fund balances if they had not received the grant.

Wardrup Construction was the low bidder on the construction. The firm will be under a \$500 a day penalty if the work is not completed on time. Part of the renovation will be completed by the District Maintenance Department.

The board members expressed hope the District would be able to complete the ad-

ditional projects next year, including windows at Dillman, remodeling of the Watson School art room and the Dillman office, which were all in the recommendation list. The windows selected for the first phase of replacement at Dillman will be on the side of the building that receive the most sun.

In other business, the Board adopted an ordinance to cancel the May 4, Trustee election. Incumbent Trustees Cindy Purdy,

see **SCHOOL** on page 2



Journal photo: Beatrice Morin

Reflecting on what's new

Heat reflective windows will be installed at Dillman Elementary to help improve the heating and cooling of classrooms. Each class will have one window that will open and will not require the use of blinds.

Sheriff applies for video cameras and vests

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Bailey County Commissioners meeting in regular session, Monday, authorized newly appointed Sheriff Richard Wills to apply for a grant from the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program to purchase bulletproof vests for members of the Sheriff's department.

Will defeated incumbent Sheriff Ron Kemp in the March Republican Primary Election. Kemp resigned and the commission appointed Wills as

Sheriff effective April 2. Will does not have an opponent in the general election.

The grant would pay for one half the cost of the new vests which would cost \$600 each without the grant money. The total cost to the county for the six new vests would be \$1800 with the grant money.

Wills told the commissioners he would require his officers to wear the new vests most of the time they are on duty. Will said the sheriff's office had several of the old style "flak" jackets

that are worn on the outside of the uniform. The new vest would be worn under the officers' shirts.

The Sheriff and County Judge Marilyn Cox informed the commissioners they had applied for a grant from the Texas Department of Public Safety to purchase video cameras for all of the sheriff's department patrol vehicles. The commission was told the deadline for the grant application was in January. Sheriff Wills had placed a call to the department explain-

ing that he was new and the previous sheriff had not applied for the grant. He was told to send in the application immediately and the department would try to accommodate Bailey County.

Judge Cox said she signed the application because of the urgency and did not have time to discuss the grant with the commissioners. The grant pays a 100% of the cost of the cameras. Among the many uses of

see **SHERIFF** on page 2

Parkers circulate petition on police issue

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Larry Parker of Muleshoe said Monday that he and his wife, Kristy, have collected 200 signatures on petitions protesting police actions in Muleshoe.

He said they will schedule a public meeting at which these issues will be discussed.

He said some people who

signed the petitions said they have photographs of bruises and other marks inflicted by police. "They tell us, 'We'll be at the public forum and tell about it,'" Parker said.

Parker has threatened legal action against the Muleshoe Police Department for what he says is harassment of his son, Chad, over a period of years.

He has approached both City Manager, David Brunson and former City Manager, Rick Hanna about his concerns, and both said they had no problem with police behavior in Muleshoe.

The conflict between the Parkers and local police dates back several years. The latest confrontation stems from an

incident last year in which police alleged they found the remains of a marijuana cigarette at Chad Parker's home.

The Parkers contend that if marijuana was found there, the drug was planted by a police informant who visited the house just minutes before Officer Rodney Stevens and others showed up.

RC&D announces grants

The Wes-Tex Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area, Inc. has announced the availability of \$8,000 in the 2002 Matching Grant Program. Janet Claborn, Bailey County Board of Director, says "Our goal is to make these funds available to the communities and organizations in our sixteen county area for local projects."

The RC&D program is authorized by USDA and administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The individual RC&D councils direct the program to the needs of the local communities.

The county RC&D council or Board of Director must approve the submitted grant application. Grants will require an equal match of local contributions or donations and will be limited to \$500. Applications will be due in the Wes-Tex RC&D office by May 31, 2002.

see **GRANTS** page 2



Courtesy photo

Now that's corney

Rudy Gonzales (left) with his son Michael. Rudy lost a bet to his son at last Saturday's Junior High District track meet and paid the price by having to wear corn-row braids.

AROUND MULESHOE

Blood drive to help local family

A Muleshoe Community Blood Drive in memory of Delfina Ruvalcaba will be held Thursday, April 25 at Calvary Baptist Church, 18th and W. Ave. C, Muleshoe. The hours of the drive are 12:30 until 7 p.m.

Mrs. Ruvalcaba was in a fatal auto accident in Muleshoe on March 15, and the community would like to show the Ruvalcaba family they care by honoring her memory with this upcoming blood drive.

Freshman class plan fundraiser

Muleshoe High School Freshman class is currently conducting a Gourmet Frozen Cookie Dough and Cheesecake fundraiser. The cookie dough comes in eight flavors. Tubs sell for \$10. The cheesecakes come in six flavors. Each cheesecake sells for \$10. Sale ends Mon., April 15.

Cookie dough and cheesecakes will be delivered approximately two weeks after the end of the sale. To order your cookie dough, contact any freshman class member or any of these sponsors: Debbie Conner, Alice Liles, John Gulley and April Smith at the high school, 272-7303.

Public calendar

April 15-19 — National Library Week and Annual Book Sale. Paperbacks will sell for 10 cents, and hardbacks for 25 cents.

April 16 — 7 p.m. Hub Cowboy Fellowship and Worship Service at Hub Community Center. Speaker will be Larry Harvey.

April 17 — Mammograms at Parmer County Community Hospital, 1307 Cleveland Ave., Friona. By appointment only; (800) 377-4673.

April 18 — Deadline for farmers to apply for the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program. Appointments: 272-4538.

April 23 — 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Annual program of the Spanish-language practical parenting classes; presenter to be announced. In the high school cafeteria.

The deadline for items in Around Muleshoe is 5 p.m. Monday for Thursday and 5 p.m. Thursday for Sunday editions.

SHERIFF

from page 1

the video cameras is as a defense against racial profiling. The commissioners agreed with the grant.

The commissioners approved making Tuesday April 9 a county holiday because of the run-off elections to be held that day.

An easement was granted by the commissioners to Neal Caswell to bury a water line under County Road 139.

In other business the commission approved the soil conservation worksheets, approved paying \$61,644.94 in monthly bills and a bond for Sheriff Wills and reviewed the county treasurer's report for February. Dawn Merriott was designated to sign contracts on aging programs. Merriott will become program director for the County Office of Aging.

GRANT

from page 1

Claborn says, "We feel that this is an excellent way to leverage federal dollars and improve our communities."

Congress appropriates funding yearly for the RC&D program. Claborn also says, "Our U.S. Senators and Representatives have been tremendous supporters of the RC&D program; Congress appropriated over \$48

million for the program in fiscal year 2002. This is a \$12 million increase in two years."

For more information and to obtain grant applications, contact your local USDA-NRCS office, or RC&D Board of Director or by calling the Wes-Tex RC&D office at (806)266-5067. Applications may also be obtained from the web site

'Mayor of 214' popular with his constituents

By JOLINE FRANKLIN
Journal correspondent

People up and down Texas highway 214 just north of Muleshoe have named a little red dog called Willie as the honorary mayor of their neighborhood.

They have even talked about making sure he's a candidate in the next election.

Willie is friendly, and he knows almost everyone. He goes up and down the highway to visit and see how all the dogs and neighbors are doing.

One of the residents commented, "Lonnie and Nelda Merriott are his owners, and you know they have given him a good home and a good upbringing."

About three years ago, Willie was looking for a home and must have liked what he saw in the little community.

He stayed around, first on one side of the highway and then the other.

One day he came to the Merriotts' home, and Nelda Merriott says he stayed there for several days before they decided to keep him.



Free Willie

Willie spends his time roaming the neighborhood, visiting neighbors.

She said she first saw Willie when he was running up and down the highway — sometimes so fast it was hard to tell what he was. He looked like a "little red dot."

One of the Merriotts' neighbors, Nancy Kidd, also is fond of Willie. She says he's "jaunty."

At first, the Merriotts wondered if Taffy, their other dog, would accept Willie and whether Willie would accept the house rules.

One of those rules is that Taffy comes in the house and Willie stays outside, but

Willie seems to understand and accept that.

He also isn't allowed to play with Taffy's toys; she has been collecting those since she was a small puppy.

But Merriott says the two dogs have become fast friends, spending more and more time together.

Benny and Georgia Peña are neighbors eight doors down from the Merriotts.

One day when Benny Peña came to visit Lonnie

Merriott, he was astonished to see Willie there.

"Why, that's the little dog I was telling you about that comes to my house!" Peña said.

Willie still gets around the neighborhood, but not as much as he did before he found a home and family.

But there's that next election for mayor, and Willie might soon be busier than ever — out campaigning for votes.

SCHOOL

from page 1

Precinct 2 and Nick Bamert, Precinct 5 are unopposed as is Rene Torres who is running in Precinct 5 for the seat currently held by Sergio Leal. Leal declined to seek re-election. The state allows the board to cancel elections when the candidates are unopposed.

In closed session the Trustees conducted the regular oral quarterly evaluation of Superintendent Sheet.

The next regular scheduled meeting will be April 29. The meetings are open to the public.

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3:30 pm Classic Equine No Turn Dyno Bell Boots
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County primary votes counted

A total of 53 Democrats and 12 Republicans took time to vote in their respective primary elections Tuesday in Bailey County.

In the Democrat primary Ron Kirk defeated Victor Morales 36 to 17, the state wide winner will face Attorney General John Cornyn in the November general election.

In the Republican primary runoff for Sureme Court, Dale Wainwright defeated Elizabeth Ray 6 votes to 5.

In the races for State Criminal Appeals Court, Tim Craft defeated Tom Price 8 votes to 4 votes, David Richards lost to Paul

Womack 6 votes to 3, Cathy Cochran defeated

Guy Williams 6 votes to 3 votes.

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ENGAGEMENT



STEPHENS-FISHER

Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Stephens of Farwell announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Kaci Denee' of Barrow, Alaska to Brad Allen Fisher of Eagle River, Alaska, son of David A. Fisher of Anchorage, Alaska and Cathy Fisher of Stanwood, Washington.

The bride-elect is a 1991 graduate of Farwell High School and received her B.S. and M.A. in education from Baylor University. She presently teaches in the North Slope Borough School District in Barrow, Alaska.

The prospective groom is a 1990 graduate of Dillingham High School, attended the University of Alaska in Anchorage and is employed by B.P. Explorations as well as owns and manages Prime Time Entertainment.

The couple will exchange vows at 6 p.m. on July 6 at Historic Saint Paul of the Plains in Lubbock.

Protein failure linked to cardiomyopathy

SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL
HOUSTON — The failure of dystrophin, one of the building blocks that literally holds heart muscle cells together, can cause dilated cardiomyopathy, according to researchers at Baylor College of Medicine in a recent report in the journal *The Lancet*.

Cardiomyopathy is a condition in which the pumping chambers of the heart enlarge and cannot pump adequately.

However, allowing the heart to rest by using a mechanical device called a ventricular assist device or VAD allows dystrophin to resume its function and restores the heart to more normal pumping, said Dr. Jeffrey Towbin, professor of pediatrics and cardiology at Baylor and the senior author of the report.

Dystrophin is probably best known for its relationship to Duchenne and Becker muscular dystrophy, diseases in which the muscles weaken, the child requires a wheelchair and dilated cardiomyopathy occurs.

A mutation in the dystrophin gene causes these diseases. However, in the case of dilated cardiomyopathy alone, the end portion of the dystrophin protein loses a critical connection between the cell's contractile apparatus and the cellular membrane.

As a result, the heart cannot contract adequately, said Drs. Jeffrey Towbin and Neil Bowles, also a member of the Baylor research team.

Towbin and his colleagues

took samples from 10 patients with ischemic (disease of the coronary artery) and 10 patients with non-ischemic dilated cardiomyopathies resulting from different causes who were awaiting heart transplants.

Samples also were obtained from six patients with dilated cardiomyopathy who were being treated with these ventricular assist pumps.

They compared the patient samples to normal samples taken from transplanted hearts and found the abnormality in the dystrophin of roughly 90 percent of all the patients with cardiomyopathy.

There are two theories

about why the protein becomes disconnected.

One is mechanical. As the heart pumps harder and harder over a number of years, it weakens the connection to the cell membrane.

"The harder and faster the heart beats, the more likely it is to destroy the infrastructure of the myocardium (heart muscle)," Towbin said. "You put the heart to rest and it reconnects the end of the dystrophin molecule to the membrane."

A second possible cause of the problem is that a chemical produced by the process of heart failure might target that portion of the dystrophin

attached to the contractile apparatus and cell membrane, literally severing it at that critical link, suggested Bowles and Towbin.



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- 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) is the National Domestic Violence Hotline. It's open 24 hours with English & Spanish speaking attendants.
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DOWN THE STREET

By JOLINE FRANKLIN
Journal correspondent

When I called Terome Clemmons recently, he gave me a good report on how he is recovering from his recent accident.

He said he is able to walk now and push a shopping cart, with the help of his therapist. He said he appreciates all the prayers and cards sent to him.

Eddy and Gayle Morris say they also appreciate all the ways they have been remembered since his leg surgery last month in Dallas.

He recently remarked that he would be able to drive now — he could just throw his left leg over the dash and take off in his pickup!

A blood drive is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. April 25 at Calvary Baptist Church, 18th and Avenue C. The event is in memory of Delfina Ruvalcaba.

Newcomers to Muleshoe are Grover and Lisa Humphreys from Indiana. They have a daughter, Cailey, and a son, Miles.

Three-year-old Cailey is the conversationalist of the family. She likes to talk about "Sesame Street" characters, pretty dresses and shoes.

Cailey also enjoys giving family and friends bouquets of the yellow flowers that grow in their yard. This is one bouquet that hopefully will never go out of style!

Molly Davis has long been a collector of greeting cards, saving every one she gets. She has the last Valentine she received in school, as well as all the Mother's Day cards she has received and all the Father's Day cards her husband received.

Sending a card to her assures that the card will be treasured and added to one of the many

boxes that hold her collection.

While sitting in a Lubbock hospital lobby recently, I looked up to see two familiar faces from Muleshoe — Willie and Laverne James.

The first thing she asked was, "Joline, what are you doing here?"

If I had thought quickly enough, I could have answered, "Just waiting for you and Willie."

Dawn Merriott has succeeded Andrea Kemp as head of Bailey County Aging Services. Among the programs she oversees are the county's transportation van that takes passengers to Lubbock, Amarillo, Plainview and Clovis. She also heads Meals on Wheels and services for veterans.

She and her husband are former Muleshoe residents who have moved back from Amarillo.

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Deadline for nominations is Monday, April 15, 2002 at 5 PM.

NOMINATION FORM — Man of the Year

MAN OF THE YEAR: _____

WHY RECOMMENDED FOR MAN OF THE YEAR: _____

NOMINATED BY: _____

NOMINATION FORM — Woman of the Year

WOMAN OF THE YEAR: _____

WHY RECOMMENDED FOR WOMAN OF THE YEAR: _____

NOMINATED BY: _____

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Do Not Feed The Alligators





Journal photo: Beatrice Morin

She can fly

8th grader Ashley Dickson, sole female pole vault competitor for Muleshoe's junior high track team, takes flight at a meet held here last Saturday. Dickson cleared 8' 3", which broke her own personal record and demolished Muleshoe's high school record of 8 ft. Dickson is coached by Chad King.

7th grade Lady Mules make good show at home meet

By Delton Wilhite
Journal sportswriter

The seventh grade Lady Mules honed their track skills in the delayed Muleshoe Relays on Saturday March 23. Kate Lepard placed first in the high jump by clearing four foot six inches and Shayla Hall was fifth with 4-0.

Lepard also took first in the long jump with a leap of 13-8 1/2 and Jamie Hall

was fifth in the triple jump with a distance of 26-2. Kaitlyn Geissler took fourth in the 2400-meter run with a time of 11 minutes 46.86 seconds.

The 400-meter relay team of Chelsi Hawkins, Lily Ruiz, Lepard and Cecilia Reyna were fourth in the time of 64.51. Brittini Torres, Madison Myers and Brittany Ambriz competed in the 800-meter run with

times of 3:04, 3:19 and 3:27.

Hawkins and Myers placed second and sixth in the 100-meter hurdles with times of 18.73 and 20.31 and Kindra Pruitt turned in a time of 21.16. Cecilia Reyna and Brittany Villa placed second and fourth in the 100-meter dash with times of 14.05 and 14.48 while Kelly Dale ran a 15.6.

The 800-meter relay team of Jamie Hall, Abby Lawrence, Carter and Hawkins placed first in a time of 2:07.44. Lepard and

clearing 8-0 and 7-6.

Eric Washington and Rodriguez were third and sixth in the long jump with leaps of 15-4 and 14-5 3/4. Conner and Washington placed third and fourth in the triple jump with distances of 32-1 1/2 and 32-1.

Cantano was second in the discus with a throw of 98-3 3/4 and D.J. Robertson and Brant Hamilton were third and fourth in the high jump by clearing 4-8 and 4-6. The 400-meter relay team of Conner, Rodriguez, Hamilton and Washington were first with a time of 51.3 seconds.

Ramirez and Rodriguez

took first and second in the 2400-meter run with times of 9:14.97 and 9:15.30. Robertson took first in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 20-23 and Washington was second in the 100-meter dash with a 12:59.

Hamilton and Jason Mendoza were first and second in the 400-meter run with times of 60.73 and 63.98. Mendoza and Cantano placed fourth and sixth in the 200-meter dash with times of 28.55 and 28.76.

The 1600-meter relay team of Conner, Mendoza, Washington and Hamilton were second with a time of 4:18.15. The young Mules

compete Saturday April 6 in the District 2-3A meet to be held on the Mules home track. Preliminaries start at 9 a.m.



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Lady Mules take silver at Bulldog track meet

By Delton Wilhite
Journal sportswriter

The Lady Mules continue to prepare to "four-peat", as District 2-3A track champions. The district meet will be held Thursday, April 11, at Shallowater. The Lady Mules placed second in the Plainview Bulldog Relays Friday, April 5 with 167 points.

Levelland took first with 232 points, Frenship was third with 105 1/2, and Plainview had 77 1/2 followed by Tulia with 29 points.

Gradee Adrain got the Lady Mules started with a sixth place finish in the 3200-meter run with a time of 13 minutes and 53 seconds and was followed by Cassandra Gonzales with a 15:20.

Annie Cox, Minerva Martinez and Mylissa Thompson placed second, fourth and sixth in the shot put with tosses of 32 feet five and a half inches, 31-11 and 26-11.

Shani Rasco and Thompson were second and fourth in the discus with throws of 106-0 and 90-0 followed by Martinez with a 66-0.

Kayla Glover, Jessica Carpenter and Amber Cowart were second, fifth and sixth in the long jump with leaps of 15-11 1/4, 15-4 1/4 and 15-1 1/2.

Sara Benham, Je. Carpenter and Glover placed first, third and sixth in the triple jump with distances of 35-9, 31-5 3/4 and 30-4.

Benham and Rasco both cleared 4-10 in the high jump with Benham taking second and Rasco third because of the number of misses.

Britni Gartin's 7-6 in the pole vault was good for

first place and Jodi Hawkins was third by clearing 6-6.

Tiffany Flores, Jamie Carpenter, Jessica Carpenter and Gartin teamed up to take third in the 400-meter relay with a time of 52:29.

Marlie Black, Lilia Flores and Hawkins competed in the 800-meter run with times of 2:41.50, 2:43.80 and 2:44.70.

In the 100-meter hurdles Cox and Cowart placed second and fifth with times of 16.1 and 18.53.

Ja. Carpenter and T. Flores were second and fifth in the 100-meter dash with times of 13.50 and 13.59.

The 800-meter relay team of Cox, Eva Pylant, Gartin and Benham were third with a time of 1:49.29.

Lindsey Wood placed sixth in the 400-meter run with a time of 66.96 followed by Jo. Hawkins with a 68.31 and Glover had a preliminary time of 67.73 but did not make the finals.

Pylant, Cox and Cowart placed first, third and sixth in the 300-meter hurdles with times of 47.37, 48.41 and 53.62.

Benham and Je. Carpenter finished first and sixth in the 200-meter dash with times of 27.37 and 29.03 and T. Flores had a preliminary time of 28.68.

L. Flores took fourth in the 1600-meter run with a time of 6:07.71 and Megan Barrett ran a 6:16.21.

The 1600-meter relay team of Glover, Pylant, Wood and Benham took second with a time of 4:23.56.

Preliminaries begin at 9 a.m. in Shallowater on Thursday April 11 and the field events begin at 11 a.m.

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Water gardening is going mainstream

By RONN SMITH
Editor

For the increasing numbers of people interested in water gardens, Texas Cooperative Extension has some advice:

• **Location** — Sunlight will be needed for any plants that are included (though the required amount varies somewhat based on the plants you choose).

Other than the light consideration, the location is mainly based on aesthetics — where it looks the best.

• **Size** — This is up to you and the space available. Half whiskey barrels (and even smaller containers) can make very attractive water elements, especially with a small pump to circulate water in a small "fall." The sound of moving water is very soothing.

At the other extreme, if you have the space and the inclination, a half-acre pond is nice.

If fish are going to be in the water garden year-round,

Extension recommends having one spot that is 3 to 4 feet deep in order to give the fish a cool place in summer and a non-freezing place in winter. An 18-inch depth probably would take care of the freezing, but would still get pretty warm in the summer.

Some cities may require a permit for a structure more than 18 inches deep, so check before you dig.

• **Type** — The simplest use plastic liners, either built in certain shapes or in big sheets so you can form your



own shape. The rigid liners can be quite large and require a truck for hauling — and, of course, it's easier to dig the sizable "pit" with excavation equipment.

You might want to use concrete for a fairly large pool, and that half-acre pond can be lined with clay to keep the water from soaking into the ground.

• **Shape** — The shape can be as formal or as whimsical as you like. "That's probably the nicest thing, and why people are so excited about water gardens — the creativity it brings out in people," said Michael Masser, Extension aquaculture specialist.

• **Proper construction** — If you're buying a ready-made liner, then of course you don't need to worry on this point. Just don't punch a hole in it during installation. (The rigid liners are tough as a rhino, so you won't need to worry there at all.)

If it's a very extensive project, you might get your city building inspection office to go over the plans.

• **Water quality** — Poor water quality not only makes the pool less attractive, Masser points out, but also can harm the plants, fish and other animals that live in the water. One prob-

lem is that we like plants and put in too many of them, cutting off too much of the sunlight and making the water a little more prone to becoming stagnant.

A fountain or aerator can help there, of course, by keeping oxygen levels higher.

• **Fish** — This is pretty much a matter of taste. Goldfish and koi are extremely colorful, and most of them are very cold-hardy as long as there is a section of water that doesn't freeze. (Some of the fanciest goldfish are not as tough.)

Another popular choice are the tiny gambusia or mosquito fish, which feed on mosquito larvae. The common kinds have no color at all, but groups of the tiny fish can be fun to watch. (They resemble small guppies, but without the bright colors of male guppies.)

If you want to get really elaborate, there are semi-tropicals that are smaller than goldfish and equally as colorful but will require some heating of the water in winter.

• **Plants** — Water lilies are probably the most elegant, but they do require some water depth — 18 inches for the standard sizes, maybe as little as 12 to 14 inches for the dwarf types, and up to 3 feet for the really big ones.

Make sure you select hardy water lilies, as there are many tropical ones that won't take any cold at all.

The selection of aquatic plants seems to grow every year. Dwarf cat-tails are

interesting (though they don't provide shade for fish); there are flowering species such as pickerel weed and a multitude of foliage plants.

If you're thinking of spring pruning and other seasonal yard work . . .

This item comes from England, but is doubly good to remember in America.

A columnist for *Gardens Illustrated* reported getting a letter from a group of "solicitors" (that's lawyers to us) warning about loaning garden tools to neighbors.

"In the event of an accident, if it can be proven that the appliance lent was in any way defective, the owner could be found to be negligent," he wrote.

He stated that the letter even went so far as advising that if you do lend a lawn mower or even a pair of pruning shears, you should give them a formal warning about the possible defects of the item and that they are using the tool at their own risk.

That sounds like a sure-fire way to upset a neighbor, but I guess it's better than having them sue you over their own carelessness.

Happy planting!
Questions and comments can be directed to Garden Writer, 571 County Road 1018, Muleshoe, Texas 79347, or e-mailed to ronnsmith@hotmail.com.

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OBITUARIES

NELDA MULLINS

Services were held April 5 at 16th and D Church of Christ for Nelda Mullins, 75, of Muleshoe. Curtis Shelburne and Charles Hamilton officiated. Burial was in Bailey County Cemetery.

Ellis Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Mrs. Mullins was born March 11, 1927, in Eden, Texas. She died March 30 in Reno, Nev.

She married Winford Mullins on May 21, 1944, in San Angelo.

They moved to Muleshoe in 1950. She was a homemaker and member of 16th and D.

Mrs. Mullins is survived by her husband; a son, Borden Mullins of Beaver, Okla.; two daughters, Wynetta McCay of Lubbock and Faye Burkhart of Battle Mountain, Nev.; a sister, Rotha Williams of Eden; a brother, Wendell Brandon of Lubbock; 11 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a son, Dewaine Mullins, on Nov. 4, 1998, and two grandchildren.

TRINIDAD RAMIREZ

Services were held Monday at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church for Trinidad Ramirez, 85, of Muleshoe. The Rev. Alfonso San Juan was the celebrant. Burial was in Plainview Memorial Cemetery.

Ellis Funeral Home handled arrangements.

Mrs. Ramirez was born Sept. 24, 1916, in Uvalde, Texas. She died Friday in Lubbock.

She married Alberto Ramirez Sr. on April 14, 1938, in Hondo, Texas. He died in 1992.

She moved to Muleshoe in 1991 from Plainview. She was a member of Muleshoe Rebekah Lodge No. 114 and Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, where she served in the Guadalupanas.

Mrs. Ramirez is survived by two sons, Pablo Ramirez of Slaton and Albert Ramirez Jr. of Muleshoe; four daughters, Alex Flores, Ernestina Gomez and Gloria Ybarra, all of Plainview, and Modesta Mojica of San Marcos, Texas; two sisters, Narcissa Vela of Hondo and Paula Castillo of Loveparks, Ill.; two brothers, Domingo Corona of Hondo and Juan Corona of Tennessee; 25 grandchildren; and 33 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a son, Armando Ramirez, in 1994 and a daughter, Sulema Garcia, in 1979.

The family suggests memorials to the Muleshoe Rebekahs or the Guadalupanas at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church.

ROGER SANDEFER

Services will be held at 2

p.m. April 11 in the First Missionary Baptist Church of Morton for Roger Sandefer, 50, of Valdosta, Ga. The Rev. James Pope will officiate. Burial will be in Morton Memorial Cemetery with an honor guard from Cannon Air Force Base presiding.

Ellis Funeral Home of Morton handled arrangements.

Mr. Sandefer was born May 26, 1951, in Morton. He died Friday in South Georgia Medical Center at Valdosta.

He was a 1970 graduate of Morton High School and a member of First Baptist Church of Morton.

He served in the U.S. Air Force for 20 years and was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He retired in 1990 and became a civilian employee, working in Saudi Arabia and at Moody Air Force Base in Valdosta.

Mr. Sandefer is survived by a son, Eric Sandefer of Hawaii; a special friend, Jackie Naylor of Valdosta; five sisters, Ruby Pugh of Midland, Helen Bunn and Pat Davis, both of Amarillo, Rose Nichols of Enochs and Verniece Stevens of Morton; and two brothers, Bryant Sandefer of Columbia Falls, Mont., and Kenneth Sandefer of Dodge City, Kan.

He was preceded in death by three brothers, Walter Sandefer, Leroy Sandefer and Stanley Sandefer.

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Mules snap back against Littlefield Wildcats for big district win

By Delton Wilhite
Journal sportswriter

After dropping their fourth road game the Mules bounced back for their third win in a row at home.

The Mules traveled to Lubbock Cooper Tuesday April 2 and jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the first inning but could not hang on as the Pirates scored the next nine runs to defeat the Mules 9-1.

Friday, April 5 the Mules spotted the Littlefield Wildcats eight runs in the first five innings before taking over the game and scoring five runs of their own in the bottom of the fifth.

The teams blanked one another in the sixth inning but the Mules picked up four runs in the bottom of the seventh to take their second district win of the season.

D. J. Dominguez reached first on an error by the Pirates short stop and scored on a single by Bryan King.

The Mules only had three hits in the game with Dominguez's single in the fourth and Ricky Rudd's infield hit in the sixth.

Dominguez gave up seven runs on five hits while recording three strikeouts and surrendering four bases on walks in the five innings he pitched.

King came on in relief in the fifth and gave up two runs on one hit and two bases on balls.

When the Mules returned home after three road games, Roddy Spradling took the mound and faced 27 batters and gave up eight

runs on eight hits and only walked two while striking out five.

Lackluster fielding allowed the Wildcats to take an 8-0 lead after four and a half innings.

Littlefield scored twice in the top of the fifth to take an 8-0 lead over the Mules. But the Mules flipped a hidden switch and came alive in the bottom of the fifth to score five runs.

Brandon Mount led off for the Mules with a single to left but was forced out at second when Micah Ruthardt sent a grounder to third.

Tyrel Gear singled to right to move Ruthardt to second and Rudd was hit by a pitch to load the bases for the Mules. Landon Kerby held up on an outside pitch with a 3-2 count to walk in Ruthardt for the Mules first run.

Dominguez grounded to short stop but was safe on a throwing error that scored Gear.

After Spradling struck out, King was hit by a pitch to force Rudd home. Ryan Marricle blasted a ground ball past the third baseman for a single to score two more Mule runs.

The Mules had scored five runs on just two hits.

King came on in relief in the sixth and threw fly balls to Dominguez in center and Ruthardt in right. He got a called strike three to end the sixth inning for the Wildcats.

The Mules could muster no offense in the sixth and King took the mound in the

seventh with the Mules still trailing 8-5.

The first two Wildcats King faced in the seventh grounded out and the third and fourth batters reached base on Mule errors.

Spradling chased down an over the shoulder high fly from his short stop position that ended the Littlefield threat.

Spradling led off the Mules final at-bat with a single to right field, and King pulled an outside pitch over the left field fence to close the gap to only one run.

Mount hit a grounder to the shortstop and a fielding error allowed him to reach base. He stole second on the first pitch to Ruthardt who doubled down the left field line to knot the game at eight runs each.

Ruthardt moved to third on a throwing error. Gear hammered an infield hit to third but Ruthardt had to hold his position.

Gear stole second and Barry Morris hung tough at the plate after two strikes for a walk.

Kerby drove in the winning run with a blast between third and short to score Ruthardt and give the Mules a 2-4 record in district.

Mule baseball coach Donnie Scott told his charges after the game, "This was a tremendous come back you made tonight. You pulled out a game that most would have given up on."

When asked about his home run, King said, "It

was an outside pitch that I was able to pull down the line."

He also had good things to say about his teammates.

"When I came in I just tried to throw strikes and the guys made some really good plays behind me."

The Mules traveled to

Dimmitt Tuesday April 9 and return to their home field to battle the Shallowater Mustangs Saturday, April 13 at 1 P.M.

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Muleshoe Cattle Market

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2002

REPRESENTATIVE SALES

938 head of cattle, 204 hogs and 391 sheep and goats for a total of 1,533 animals were sold at the April 6th sale. Market stronger on choice light stocker calves weighing 2-450 lbs. Stocker and feeder cattle 500 lbs. and up sold steady to two dollars lower; this was caused by the still-lower trend in the future's market this past week.

The Muleshoe Cattle Market is brought to you each week by Muleshoe Livestock Auction, located east of Muleshoe on U.S. 84. Muleshoe Livestock conducts sales every Saturday, beginning with hogs, sheep and goats at 10 a.m. and cattle following at approximately noon.

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H-J Dairy, Farwell	22 Hol. Bulls	140 lbs. at \$125.00
Greenfield Dairy, Portales, NM	13 Hol. Bulls	153 lbs. at \$122.00
Pedro Marufo, Muleshoe	4 Hol. Bulls	203 lbs. at \$112.00
Luis Flores, Muleshoe	8 Hol. Strs	237 lbs. at \$108.00
Jay Brandenburg, Portales, NM	8 Hol. Bulls	243 lbs. at \$105.00
Kenneth Wilhite, Muleshoe	Bik. Bull Clf	per hd.	160 lbs. at \$245.00
D&A Cattle, Portales, NM	Bik. Bull	265 lbs. at \$121.00
Ronald Coleman, Morton	5 Bik. Bulls	373 lbs. at \$112.50
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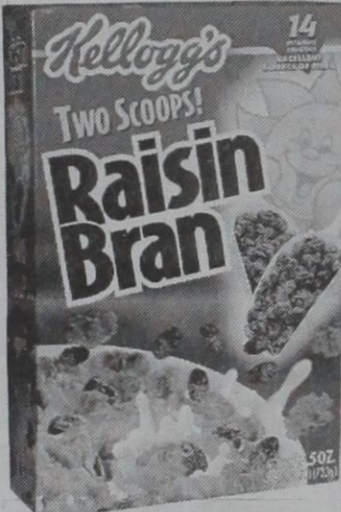
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