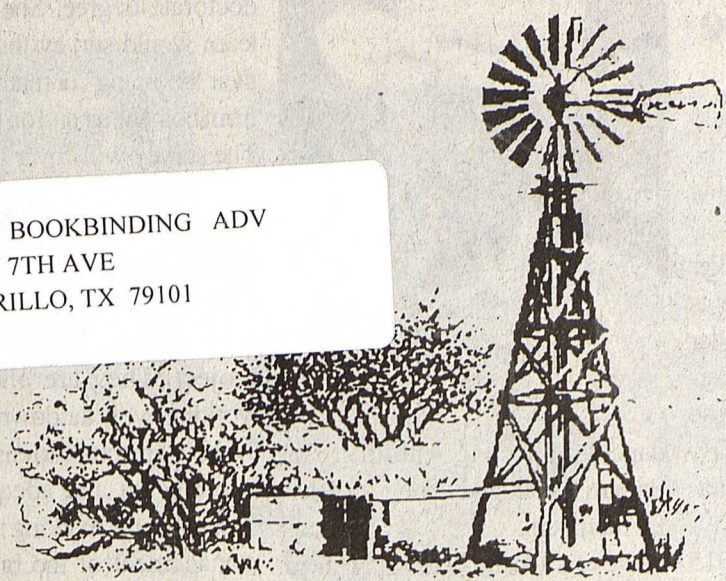


Cowboy Country News

Published each Wednesday in the county seat of Yoakum County, Plains, Texas Volume XII, Issue 28, March 29, 2006

BAZE BOOKBINDING ADV
514 W 7TH AVE
AMARILLO, TX 79101



Western Peanut Growers Annual Meeting Slated

Western Peanut Growers Association will be hosting their Annual Membership Meeting Thursday, March 30, 2006 at the Gaines County Civic Center, 402 NW 5th Street in Seminole, Texas. Lunch will be served beginning at 11:45 AM, followed by the program of activities. All members are encouraged to attend this informative meeting.

State Issues Consultant, Gary Walker and Washington D.C. Attorney Mike McLeod will be

giving updates on a number of legislative issues which may directly affect peanut producers.

Business to be conducted will include reading of the minutes, a financial report, and an election to fill two expiring director terms. Texas Delegate Roger Neitsch will provide an update on National Peanut Board activities. Members are encouraged to invite new peanut producers and friends of the industry.

District Court Cases

Two felony cases were heard in District Court February 23, with District Judge Kelly G. Moore presiding and Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark representing the court.

Robert Torres pled guilty to a third or more DWI, third degree felony. An 8 year prison sentence was suspended and probated 8 years. He was fined \$1500, must pay \$343 court costs and \$25 time payment fee. A cause of assault with bodily injury/family violence was adjudicated. He must serve 160 hours community service, spend nine days in jail, and complete a 30 day outpatient treatment program. His license will be suspended 180 days, he will complete the DWI repeat offender program, and must complete a batterers program. Barry Crutchfield was his attorney and Deputy Inoe Valdez was investigating officer.

Joseph Manuel Martinez had probation revoked from a prior state jail felony of DWI with child under 15 years of age. He will remain in jail up to 180 days or until space is available in the Ray D. Anderson Community Corrections Facility at Brownfield, for not less than one month or more than 24 months. He will be responsible for all debts and expenses during his incarceration, and after successful discharge from CCF must participate in any aftercare programs as directed.

Lap Of Hope Begins American Cancer Society Relay For Life

The American Cancer Society *Relay For Life* is a unique fundraising event in which volunteer teams of participants take turns walking or running the track for 12 hours in an effort to raise donor funds to fight cancer. Teams camp-out, eat and play games. This year's *Relay For Life* will take place at the Denver City ISD Mustang Stadium at 5 PM May 19, 2006.

The message of the event is, Cancer Can Be Conquered. This theme of hope is ignited as the ceremony begins with a cancer survivors lap around the track at 6 PM. This emotional lap honors the courage of all who have defeated cancer. Each survivor is introduced, and then all will walk, run or wheelchair the opening lap - united in victory and in hope.

The atmosphere of *Relay For Life* is one of camaraderie and celebration, providing an opportunity for cancer survivors to pass the torch of hope on to those still battling cancer or those who might be touched by cancer in the future.

If you or anyone you know is a cancer survivor and would like to take part in *Relay For Life*, please call Michelle Benson, Survivorship Chair, 806-592-7031 or Stacey Meece, *Relay For Life* Chair,



The Relay starts with the Survivors Lap. This Survivor gave a grandchild a ride on her wheel chair.

806-592-5169. All survivors attending receive a *Relay For Life* T-shirt.

For more information on cancer, call the American Cancer Society's 24 hour hot line, 1-800-ACS-2345 or visit the web site www.cancer.org.

The American Cancer Society is the nationwide, community based, voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives, and diminishing suffering from cancer through research, education, advocacy and service.



Plains Survivors in the 2004 opening lap of Relay For Life

Chopper In Quest Of Chickens



Helicopters stopping off at the local county airport are not exactly a novelty - the one in the above photo was the second to land here last week. Pilot Andy Williams reported he was the "driver" for Hope Woodward, conducting a research project for Texas Parks and Wildlife

Department on health of and habitat for lesser Prairie Chickens.

Both pilot and professor are graduates of Texas Tech. Woodward is conducting the research project as a stepping stone to earning her

TURN TO PAGE 2, CHOPPER

Commissioners speed thru long agenda

Fifteen business items were listed on the March 27 court session, but business concluded in less than one hour.

Valincia Criswell was promoted from second deputy to first deputy in the auditor's office, and both promotion and salary were approved. Her former position was taken when employment and salary for Kasey Stephens was approved.

In another personnel item, the employment of Herbert Strawn at the Yoakum County Golf Course was approved.

The court accepted the resignation of Sharon Welsh Boyd from the County Child Welfare Board.

Yoakum County Hospital Administrator Clay Taylor addressed the court on five agenda line items, three of which concerned various types of hospital insurance coverage. Recent action approved by the hospital board should save the

Turn To Page Two, COURT

Judge Brewer honored for 20 years service



Yoakum County Judge Dallas was honored recently at the West Texas Judges and Commissioners Conference in Wichita Falls. The conference members include judges and commissioners from 117 West Texas counties. The current Conference President, Oldham County Judge Donnie Allred made the presentation. On December 31, 2006, Judge Brewer will retire after 20 years service to county residents. Asked about plans in retirement, he replied, "I won't be looking for a job. I intend to play a little golf... then some more golf."

Services held for Jesse Hale

Services for Jesse James Hale, 91, of Boswell, Oklahoma were held Sunday, March 19, 2006 at the Boswell First United Methodist Church. Bro. Herb Bridgewater officiated, assisted by Helen Baker and Tracy Bearden. Arrangements were under the direction of Miller & Miller Funeral Home with interment at Restland Cemetery. Jesse went to be with his Lord and Savior March 17, 2006 after a courageous battle with cancer.

Jesse was born January 26, 1915 in Boswell to Tom and Annie Hale. He was the oldest of nine children. He attended school in Boswell and farmed with his father. He married Viva Thompson November 13, 1937. They moved to West Texas in 1941 and farmed until 1948. Jesse was employed as maintenance supervisor of the Texas Highway Department in Yoakum and Gaines County, retiring after thirty years. Jesse and Viva lived in Plains and Seminole before returning to Boswell in 1981. They were married 68 years and enjoyed square



dancing, traveling with their Air Stream trailer, and caring for family members.

Jesse was a member of First United Methodist Church, Masonic Lodge and Eastern Star. He was preceded in death by one sister, Marie, and three brothers, Jerry, Kenneth and A.J. He is survived by his wife; two sisters, Sally Stubbs of Hugo, Oklahoma, Tela Barick, Mesa, Arizona; two brothers, Charles of Norman, Oklahoma, and Don, Yukon, Oklahoma.

Pallbearers were Kenneth Burnett, Ricky Bearden, Charles Cain, Scotty Thompson, Craig Zant and David Zant.

FROM PAGE 1, CHOPPER

doctorate degree. She said their team would survey the birds and their 'booming', or mating grounds from both the air and on the ground. The survey will cover a large area of the South Plains, several New Mexico eastern counties, as well as prairie chicken territory in the northern panhandle of the state. TPWD is funding the research project. They are also closely working with landowners where the birds are found, to ensure habitat is protected and adequate. The department is working to improve management of the birds which once numbered in many millions, almost disappeared and are now making a comeback. The pilot and professor started their work this month, the seasonal period the prairie chickens are most active. Their work will probably be over near the end of April. Woodward described most booming grounds as slightly higher areas, with very little high brush or shrubs and short grass for the the birds mating ritual 'dances'.

From Pg. 1, Court

hospital up to \$250,000 over the next ten years. Taylor said constantly increasing insurance premiums on personnel and liability coverage could be countered by the hospital's plan to self-insure the coverages through a number of procedural changes. The court approved the plans. Taylor also requested approval of a Medical Studies Scholarship Recruitment agreement, a method to assist obtaining new physicians for future employment at the hospital.

Bruce Lester served as spokesperson for a group of land owners seeking continuation of right-of-way existence on County Road 225 along property lines of sections

98.99, 126, 127, 158 and 159. Lester verified existence of the property on an official county map. The court approved the request. Property owners included Guetersloh, Lester, Blundell and Grisham families.

Terry Howard, City of Plains Administrator, reported to the court the final cost of the city firetruck had been received. In earlier action, the court had agreed to pledge ten percent of

the final sales price of the truck, now set at \$118,800. Pct.3 and Pct.4 Commissioners Ty Earl Powell had agreed to budget funds for their Pct. share of the purchase price, \$11,880. The new unit should be delivered sometime in April.



Stevens Johnson Syndrome (SJS) and other skin disorders like erythema multiforme (EM) and toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN) may be caused by exposure to common drugs. These disorders usually involve severe rashes, and in some cases the skin peels off. Mortality rates vary, but at times people with these diseases develop severe infections or die. Should you or a loved one have one of these serious conditions, call us for professional insight.	EXPERIENCE COUNTS Lawyers with over 75 years combined expertise and staff with over 80.
	Ryan A. Krebs, M.D., J.D. Doctor-Lawyer in Full-time Law Practice Richard A. Dodd, L.C. Craig W. Brown, P.L.L.C. Timothy R. Cappolino, P.C. <small>Board Certified Personal Injury Trial Law and Civil Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization NO FEE FOR FIRST VISIT Cameron, TX</small>
1-800-460-0606 www.defectivedrugsllaw.com	

NOTICE AVISO

EARLY VOTING BY PERSONAL APPEARANCE TEMPRANO VOTANDO POR PERSONAL APPEARANCE

FOR THE APRIL 11, 2006
PARA DE ABRIL EL 11 DE 2006

DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN PRIMARY RUN-OFF ELECTION
ELECCION PRIMARIA DEMOCRATICA Y REPUBLICANA DE LA SALIDA
 WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE
 LA VOTACION ADELANTADA EN PERSONA SE LLEVARA A CABO DE LUNES AVIERNES EN:
COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE, IN THE COURTHOUSE AT PLAINS AND THE DENVER CITY BRANCH TAX OFFICE, AT 122 W. 4TH ST.

Beginning: Monday, April 3, 2006

Principio: Lunes, de Abril el 3 de 2006

Ending: Friday, April 7, 2006

Conclusion: Viernes, de Abril el 7 de 2006

VOTING WILL BE CONDUCTED WEEKDAYS ONLY,
8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

LA VOTACION SERA CONDUCTIDA LOS DIAS LABORABLES SOLAMENTE
8:00 MANANA.-5:00 P.M.

Any qualified voter is eligible to vote early by personal appearance.
Cualquier votante cualificado es elegible votar temprano por aspecto personal.

EARLY VOTING BY MAIL

Under certain conditions (see below) qualified voter is eligible to vote early by mail. Application forms for ballot by mail, may be picked up at the Denver City Branch Tax Office, or at the County Clerk's Office, Courthouse, Plains. An application for ballot by mail must be received in the County Clerk's Office on or before April 4, 2006 to be eligible to vote in the Democratic and Republican Run-Off Elections.

Conditions for voting by mail:

1. Voter is or expects to be **ABSENT FROM THE COUNTY** of the voter's residence on election day.
2. Voter has a **SICKNESS OR PHYSICAL DISABILITY** that prevents him/her from appearing at the polling place on election day.
3. Voter is **65 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER** on election day.
4. Voter is ***CONFINED IN JAIL**.

* For more information on the above conditions for voting by mail, call the County Clerk's

Office at 806/456-7491 ext. 294.

Filed: 3-14, 2006 at 9:00 o'clock A.M.



Elect Tim Addison



County Commissioner Precinct 4

The Commissioners Court is responsible for a budget in excess of \$10 million. Decisions made by the court determine where this money is allocated. The plan developed by the court must prioritize the needs of the county and expend these funds appropriately. Strict adherence to the budget is essential, and a conservative approach to spending is imperative.

Early voting from April 3rd through April 7th

Political Advertisement paid for by Tim Addison

Plains Family Health Clinic



The professionally trained and dedicated staff of Plains Family Health Clinic are available and ready to meet the medical needs of the community

Prescription Assistance Friday, 1:00 - 4:00 PM

For more information call 592-2121, EXT 521 or

592-2121, EXT 506, or the Plains Clinic

Please call 806-456-6365

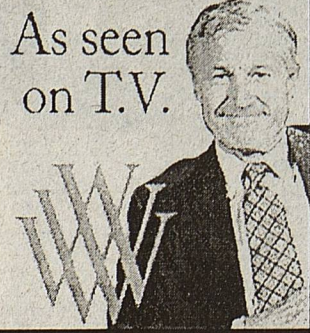
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456-2788

Jim Brown, Agent
CELL - 896-215-1054
Home - 806-592-3490

Jeff Lowrey Assoc.
CELL 806-592-1319
Home 806-456-3195

Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation

NOW HIRING!

Seasonal Positions Available
Field Technician

Team environment, outdoor work. Must be at least 18 years old. Must have valid driver's license and be insurable under the Foundation's fleet insurance policy. No experience necessary. Ag background helpful.

For more information, apply in person:

Plains Brownfield Seminole
1179 CR 305 Old Union School 11 04 Hobbs Hwy

www.txbollweevil.org
Pre-employment drug testing required
Equal Opportunity Employer/Drug-Free Workplace

Cowboy Country News

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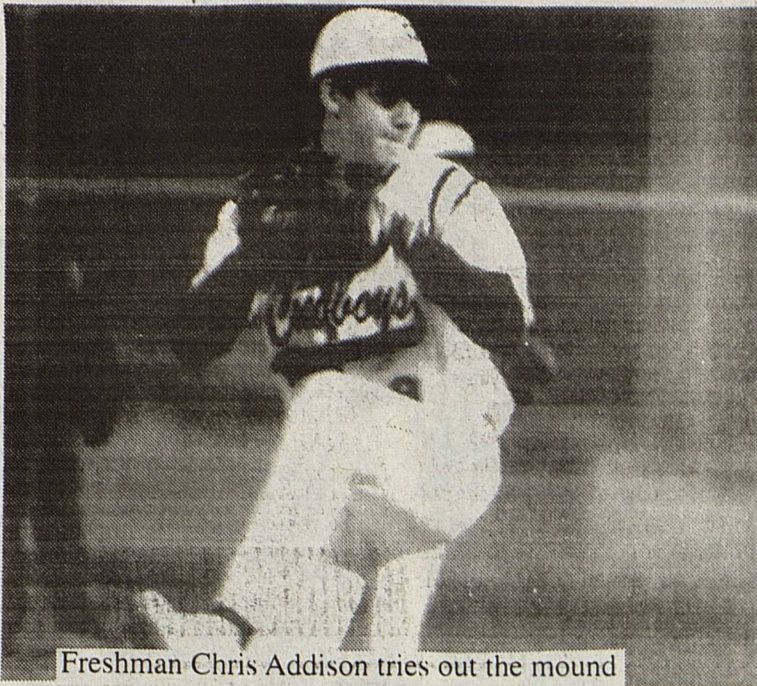
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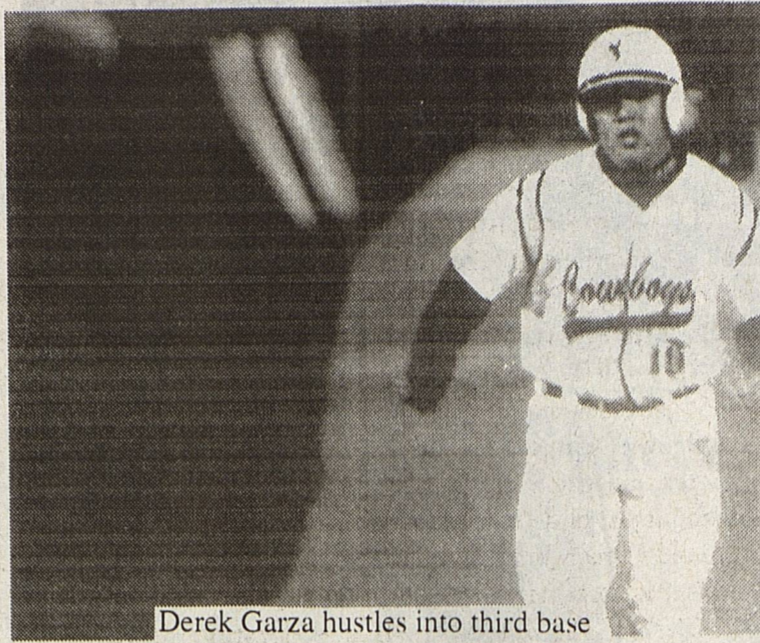
E-Mail us at ccn@crosswind.net

ID # 017574 Ph. 806-456-8451 Fax 806-456-2010

Action shots from Cowboys 21-1 win over Seagraves



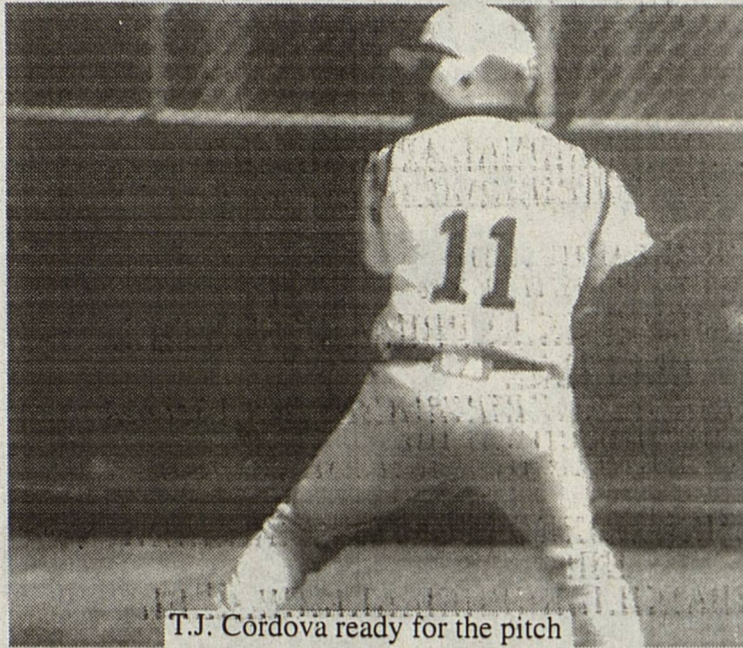
Freshman Chris Addison tries out the mound



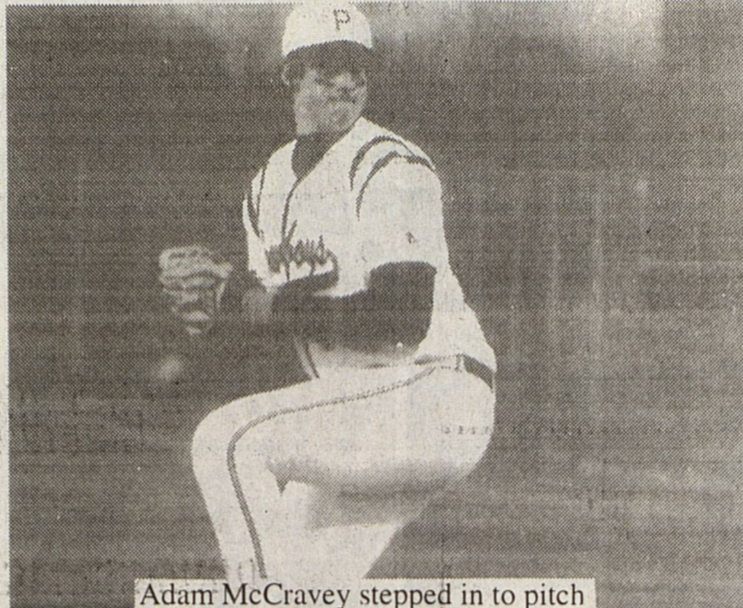
Derek Garza hustles into third base



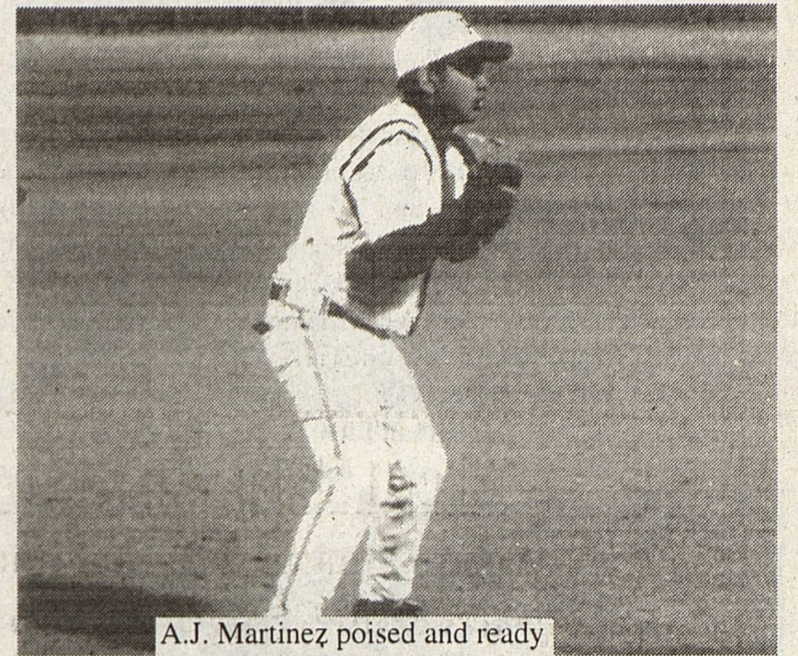
Landon Craft gets sign from Coach



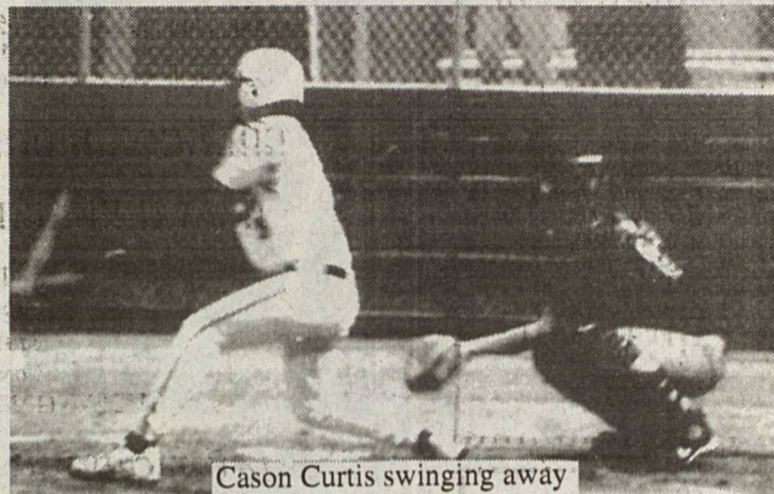
T.J. Córdoba ready for the pitch



Adam McCravey stepped in to pitch



A.J. Martinez poised and ready



Cason Curtis swinging away



Coach Bartley holds strategy session

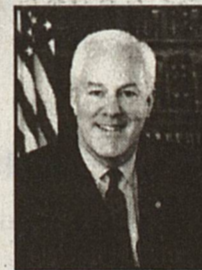
PHS One Act Play

"Little Women" was performed here March 25 in zone competition and was named alternate play to the district competition. The cast is Allison Friesen, Skylar Keese, Amber Friesen, Jordan Williams, Lauren Hise, BJ Lester, Jacob Rivera, Maretta Trent, Colby Ortega and Skyler Sainz. Crew is Angelica Mendoza, Nick Curtis, Steven Dominguez.

Individual awards include Amber Friesen, honorable mention All Star Cast, All Star cast Lauren Hise and Jordan Williams, and best actress was Allison Friesen.

"Little Women" will be performed for the public Monday evening, April 3 at a 'Dessert Theater' starting at 6 PM in the school cafeteria.

**On April 1
Spring
Forward,
Zanna!**



TEXAS ☆ TIMES

John Cornyn

UNITED STATES SENATOR • TEXAS

My father spent 31 proud years in the U.S. Air Force. That included four long months interned in a prisoner of war camp after the bomber he piloted was shot down over Germany near the end of World War II.

Like many veterans, my dad didn't talk a great deal about his war experiences. But when he did, it was often to mention how much he and other servicemen appreciated the support they received from people at home. It was a great comfort to him, particularly in the hard days when he was a prisoner.

I was reminded of that recently when I heard a story about another young Texan, Vavette Blevins, who listened to her grandfather talk about World War II, and the support he and his fellow Army troops felt from their fellow Americans. The grandfather said that during a train ride to the Army's First Special Service Force training camp in Montana, local citizens turned out at rail stops with food and coffee to make sure the soldiers never got too hungry.

Those stories stayed with her. And when Blevins returned home to Texas from a tour in Operation Iraqi Freedom, she started an organization to help ensure that her fellow soldiers know they are held in the same esteem as her grandfather.

Blevins, no longer on active duty but now working as a military contractor, created an organization called "Support a Soldier," and it's based at Ft. Hood in Central Texas. Support a Soldier has already sent well over 2,000 care packages to U.S. service men and women abroad - and the number continues to grow. Blevins has recruited Texans to "adopt" more than 200 Texan soldiers deployed in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo and Bahrain.

Across the state, I know countless of our fellow citizens like Blevins are helping Texas service men and women know we appreciate their sacrifices more than they can ever imagine.

We all know that freedom is not free. It must be fought for, and then defended vigorously. Sometimes, force or the threat of force is the only way to achieve a lasting peace. Texans have known this from the very beginnings of the state's history.

It's often been said that "Texas defends America." One in every 10 men and women in uniform call Texas home. We're accustomed to military installations in our communities, and

having soldiers, like my dad, in our families, or living in our neighborhoods.

We're proud of our role in fighting for and defending liberty.

When you stand outside the Alamo in my hometown of San Antonio, or visit the memorial in Goliad, you can't help but marvel at the sacrifices of the brave men who helped achieve the freedom we now enjoy, through sacrifice that we can only imagine.

Across the country, more than 100 formal organizations are showing support for our military families in creative and meaningful ways. We can all do something - from donating frequent flyer miles and phone cards to providing scholarships for military children and care packages for our troops abroad. Or, we can simply write a letter of encouragement. It means a great deal.

Whether the signals we send are big or small, I guarantee they are noticed - and appreciated. I hope everyone will consider doing their part to show our fellow Texans deployed abroad that we all support and appreciate their sacrifices.

Blevins told us she has more soldiers waiting to be adopted than folks signed up to adopt them. If a soldier isn't immediately adopted, she makes a care package on her own and relies on donations to help offset the postage expenses.

No doubt Blevins's grandfather would be proud of her if he could see what she's doing now. I know I am. And her husband, Sergeant Major Lee Blevins of the 4th Infantry Division, would probably be helping her in her endeavors, but he's pretty busy at work these days at Camp Liberty in Baghdad.

Please send Blevins an email at www.supportasoldier.org if you'd like to join her team. Or write to her at Support a Soldier, P. O. Box 5384, Fort Hood, Texas, 76544.

[For more information on the many worthy volunteer activities sponsored by Texans, you can visit the Department of Defense's website, www.Americasupportsyou.mil]

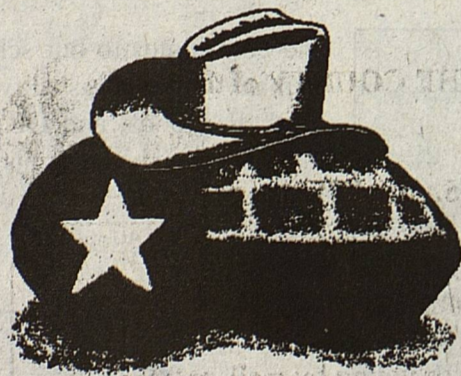
Sen. Cornyn is a member of the following Senate Committees: Armed Services, Judiciary, Budget, Small Business and Entrepreneurship, and Joint Economic. He is also the chairman of the subcommittees on Immigration, Border Security and Citizenship and Emerging Threats and Capabilities.

ANNUAL MEETING

OF

WESTERN PEANUT GROWERS

ASSOCIATION, INC.



THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2006

12:00 NOON

GAINES COUNTY CIVIC BUILDING
402 NW 5th Street Seminole, Texas

WPGA Members and Friends:

Please make plans to attend your annual meeting. State Issues Consultant, Gary Walker and Washington Attorney, Mike McLeod will be giving updates on a number of issues that may directly affect area peanut producers. Lunch will be served beginning at 11:45 a.m. followed by the updates and business meeting.

Tentative Agenda

Welcome.....	Ted Higginbottom, President
"Austin Update".....	Guest Speaker: Gary Walker, State Issues Consultant
"Washington Update".....	Guest Speaker: Mike McLeod, Washington Attorney
Call Business Meeting to Order.....	Ted Higginbottom, President
Minutes and Financial.....	Jimbo Grissom, Secretary/Treasurer
Election:.....	The membership will be nominating and electing directors to fill the positions of three expiring terms.
National Peanut Board Update.....	Texas Delegate, Roger Neitsch
Other Business	
Adjourn	

Jr. High Track Action



Jonathan Lira



Alan Lara



Margarita Gomez



Stephanie Addison



Jasmine Mares



Peter Neudorf



Brandon Craft

PHS shines in Academic Meet

Ten math/science students placed second overall out of 22 statewide teams in the academic meet in San Antonio March 18. For his efforts senior David Alldredge won an \$800 scholarship in the meet. Freshmen- Chris Addison 15th NS, 14th calculator, 5th math, 19 science.

Yesenia Loya 4th calculator, 15th math
 Sophomores- Lauren Davis 8th calculator, 26 math, 26 science
 Kurt Alldredge 3 number sense, 3 math, 32 science
 Amber Friesen 9 number sense, 3 calculator 12 math, 24 science
 Seniors- BJ Lester 15 number sense, calculator 9, math 11, science 9
 David Alldredge 1 number sense, 19 calculator, 9 math, 7 science
 Michael Crump 6 science
 Allison Froiesen 20 number sense, 11 calculator, 18 math, 20 science

PISD SPORTS

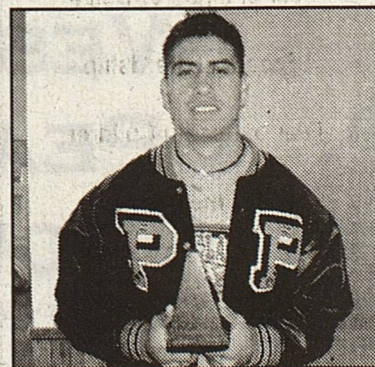
Jr. High Boys Track:

Competing in the Sundown Roughneck Relays last week the 7th Boys finished first with 256 points over second place Sundown with 154 points. The 8th Wranglers were second with 126 points to Sundown's 264 points. 8th grader Federico Villegas set a record of 5:29.08 in the 1600 run, the record previously set by his brother Jose.
 7th grade individual results:
 Peter Neudorf 2nd 1600 & 2400 meters.
 Alan Lara 3rd shot & 1600 meters, 4th 2400M
 Hunter Welch 5th 2400.
 Jose Corrales 6th Shot
 Edward Valdez 1st discus, 100 meter, 800 relay, 2nd relay.
 Eric Delgado 3rd discus
 Christian Caraseo 5th discus
 Mychal Sainz 5th long jump, 3rd triple, 2nd 800, 4th 400
 Kevin Gass 6th long jump, 6th 400.
 Federico Villegas 2nd triple jump, 1600 relay, 1st 800 and 1600 meters

Cody Friesen 6th triple jump
 Kameran Loya 1st pole vault & 400, 2nd sprint relay & 1600 relay
 Robert Reyna 2nd pole vault & 300 hurdles
 Dylan DeBusk 1st 800 relay, 2nd sprint relay, 5th pole vault
 Chase Ortega 2nd sprint relay, 3rd 100, 5th 300 hurdles
 Theodore Cordova 3rd 800
 Martin 1st 800 relay, 2nd 200, 5th 100
 Forrest Booth 2nd 1600 relay, 5th 200
 8th Grade:
 Jason Durham 3rd 400, 1600 relay
 Benjamin Marquez 1st high jump, 800 relay, 3rd 400 relay, discus, 1600 relay
 Cruz Marquez 2nd discus, 3rd 400 relay, 1600 relay, 1st 800 relay
 Jose Gallegos 1st 100, 800 relay, 3rd long jump, high jump, 400 relay
 Jacob Brink 4th 110 hurdles, 5th 300 hurdles
 Arturo Ruiz 1st 800 relay, 2nd 200, 3rd 400 relay

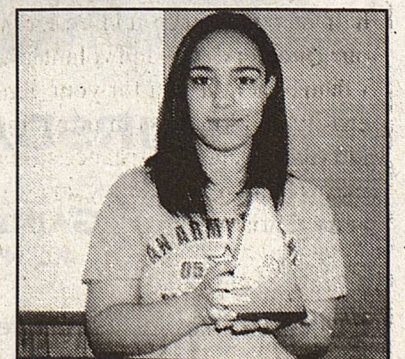
Blake Longoria 7th 200
 Robert Davis 6th 2008th 100
 Justin Taylor 7th 100
 Jonathan Lira 1st 2400, 3rd 300 hurdles, 1600 relay
 Nathan McCravey 9th 100
 Troy Parrish 2nd 800, 4th shot, 6th 400
 Kenyon Powell 5th 400, discus

PHS Student of the Week



March 7 Student of the Week is Ramiro Martinez, a senior and the son of Francisco and Guadalupe Martinez. He was nominated by Ada Jones, who said, "He fits the mold of the old saying, 'speak softly but carry a big stick'. See him play baseball and you'll know what I mean. In class he doesn't say much but gives the maximum effort every day. He is involved in sports, UIL and other activities."

and contributes to our school in many ways. He is active in football, woods, and UIL. In his spare time he helps his dad on the farm. He is a positive example for our school and community."



March 27 Student of the Week is Maria Andazola, a sophomore and the daughter of Gregorio and Marisol Andazola. She was nominated by Mrs. O'Quinn, who said, "Maria could be a representative for the quote by Henry Beecher: 'Hold yourself responsible for a higher standard than anyone expects of you.' She strives everyday to demand the best of herself, and she usually reaps what she sows...Excellence."



March 20 Student of the Week is Michael Crump, a senior and the son of Brad and LeAnn Crump. He was nominated by Jennifer Everitt who said, "He's an outstanding student

**The March 31
 Cowboy
 Relays
 Have been
 canceled**

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Lifelines & Styles

A Letter From The Director Of Women's Protective Service

Dear Friends,

Christmas at WPS is always a very special time for the women and children we serve, and our Board, staff and volunteers. The weeks leading up to Christmas keeps the shelter abuzz with activities including a surprise visit from Santa, Christmas parties for the women and children and a Christmas dinner hosted by Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church. I am always overwhelmed by the generosity of our community at large who ensure our families are honored with such bountiful gifts.

This generosity towards our women and children extends beyond the walls of WPS. A week before Christmas, a formerly battered woman who had lived in our shelter three years earlier, contacted our office to ask for a few limited household items if we had enough to share. We learned she was living in an efficiency apartment with only a few items of clothing, a set of dishes and a set of clothes. She had no furniture and slept on the floor with a sofa throw for her blanket. Using donations from community supporters, we were able to deliver five vehicles carrying a bed, living room furniture, kitchen supplies, household items, linens, clothing, food... even a TV donated from a family in Tennessee!

The sweet woman was overwhelmed and very grateful for the gifts. Each of our staff involved in the "house warming" agreed we had been blessed with an early Christmas ourselves. Our opportunity to help this woman would not have been possible without the help of the community. On behalf of our women and children, our Directors, staff and volunteers, I thank each of you for your generosity and kindness in providing gifts and financial assistance so our moms and kids can enjoy an awesome Christmas!

In Peace,
FRITZI CATES
Executive Director

Women's Protective Services
PO Box 54089
Lubbock, TX 79453
1-806-748-5292

Counties Served

by WPS:
Bailey
Cochran
Crosby
Dickens
Garza
Hockley
King
Lamb
Lubbock
Lynn
Terry
Yoakum

Did You Know...

Every 9 seconds a woman is battered in the United States.

Domestic violence will occur at least once in 2/3 of all marriages.

Of men who batter, 70% also batter their children. 37% of obstetric patients are abused during their pregnancy.

Battering accounts for 1/5 of all medical visits by women and 1/3 of all emergency room visits by women in the US.

70% of men who abuse their wife or girlfriend will also abuse their children.

What a Victim Faces when They Leave

Fear of Injury or Death

Economic Hardship

Fear of Losing Children

Fear of the Unknown

What you can do?

Become informed
Lend a Sympathetic ear
Be a Friend
Help develop a safety plan

Sisters thinking of others



Kennedy Earnest, 6, and sister Riley, 9, display the pony tails they recently clipped and donated to LOCKS OF LOVE. Their hair will help make wigs for children who have been through cancer treatments. The sisters are hoping to inspire and encourage others to support the LOCKS OF LOVE program.

Special Directory For Seniors Arrive

The 2006 Golden Resource Directories have arrived and will be distributed throughout the region during the months of March and April. This special telephone directory lists services, businesses and programs with emphasis on seniors' needs and interests. The South Plains Association of Governments (SPAG) Agency on Aging staff are in the process of delivering thousands of the directories to libraries, hospitals, senior citizen centers, long term care facilities, retirement homes and home health agencies.

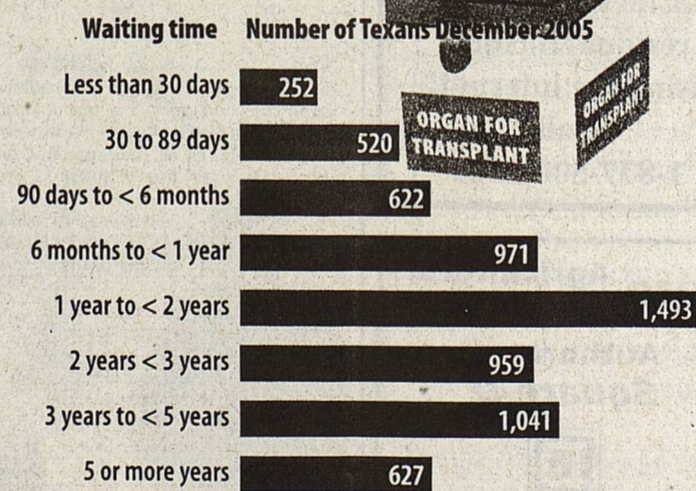
The directory, now in its sixth year, was compiled by Area Agency on Aging staff and printed by Word Publication. A need for print information for seniors convinced the Aging staff to research and locate the most important programs and businesses in the region. The directories are free to the general public.

If you would like an individual copy mailed to you or need a large number distributed to your business or agency, please contact the Area Agency on Aging, 1-806-687-0940, or 1-888-418-6564.

Waiting for a miracle

The national waiting list for organ transplants is managed by the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS). When an organ becomes available, a computer program generates a list of potential recipients and ranks them according to how close of a match the patient is medically for the organ; the urgency of the patient's condition; how long the person has been on the waiting list; and how close the person is geographically to the organ.

Some patients receive organs quickly, while others must wait years for a suitable organ.



Source: Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network.

Health insurance IS available for low-income children

AUSTIN - Good deals are hard to come by. If you're raising children who don't have health insurance, Children's Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) may be one of those deals you've been looking for.

"These programs are designed to meet the needs of low-income Texas families who cannot afford health insurance for their children," says Texas Health and Human Services Executive Commissioner Albert Hawkins. "Parents want their children to have access to quality medical care. Children's Medicaid and CHIP make that goal a reality for many families struggling to make ends meet."

The two programs provide coverage for children in families who earn up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level. That's \$38,700 a year for a family of four. A family's enrollment fees for CHIP are based on income and range from no fee to \$50 every six months. That's quite

the bargain when the average cost of private health insurance for Texas families exceeds \$900 per month.

Children's Medicaid and CHIP currently provide coverage to one out of every three children in Texas, cover pre-existing conditions and offer a choice of doctors. Services include doctor visits, immunizations, hospital care, surgery, X-rays, physical, speech and occupational therapies, prescription drugs, vision services, emergency services and transplants.

Families don't need to determine which program they may qualify for. Once an application is submitted, the state will review the information to see if the family qualifies for either CHIP or Children's Medicaid. To start an application or get more information on Children's Medicaid or CHIP, call 800-647-6558. Assistance is available in English and Spanish from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Central Time Monday through Friday.

Texas Yes!

Texas Department of Agriculture

Forging Trails to Future Growth

By Agriculture Commissioner

The pioneering spirit of the desert west on which Van Horn was founded in the 1800s lives on today in this small West Texas town of just 2,500. Once a life-sustaining water stop on the Old Spanish Trail, the thirst for a better life still drives Van Horn as it forges new trails in economic development all across the Big Bend Region.

In a town where just a few new jobs can create a measurable economic impact, no success is too small to celebrate.

Community workshops first identified internal strengths, created a collective vision for the future and determined priorities for development. Regional partnerships were leveraged to grow tourism, attract employers and address community needs, including after-school programs. Despite its small size, Van Horn has taken a lead role in mar-

keting the Texas Mountain Trails Region, even authoring a travel blog.

The Texas Yes! community of Van Horn is readying itself for the future in beautification, tourism, community development and job growth. We salute Van Horn for living up to its slogan: "Opening Windows of Opportunity on a Bright Tomorrow."

Texas Yes! is a member-based program sponsored by the Texas Department of Agriculture for rural communities, businesses and organizations.

For more ideas about how your rural community can benefit from creating your own masterplan, download the March edition of the Texas Yes! infoletter at www.TexasYes.org, or call (866) 4TEX-YES to have an infoletter mailed to you.

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9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship
10:45 A.M.
Evening Program
6:00 P.M.

From The Hack

I just read that walking and chewing gum lowers ones acidity, thus reducing heartburn. Researchers say while walking is beneficial, it doesn't last very long. Which may be just as well.....

I have heard all my life of women who simply can't chew gum and walk at the same time.

That said, I now realize some females may take offense at my gaffe, so I will hastily add, there are BILLIONS of men who can't master the trick either

The following is simply too good for me to resist stealing, again from friend Stephen Henry in Levelland;

This male party said;

I was sitting down in a bathroom stall when I heard a voice from the other side saying, "Hi, how are you?"

I'm not really the type to start a conversation in the restroom, and I really don't know what got into me, but I answered, somewhat embarrassed, "I'm doing just fine!"

So then the other guy says, "So what are you up to?"

What kind of question is that?! At that point I'm thinking this is just too bizarre, so I say, "Uhhh... I'm like you, just traveling."

At that point I'm just trying to get out as soon as I can when I hear another question, "Can I come over?"

OK, that question is just too much, but I figure I can be half polite and end the conversation with, "No....."

I'm a little busy right now."

And then I hear this person say a little nervously, "Listen,

I'll have to call you back later. There's some kind of idiot in the next stall who keeps answering all the questions I'm asking you!"

If you have browsed in a bookstore recently you may have seen the yellow jacket series of books which started with *PC's For Dummies*, then *Mac's For Dummies*. They quickly added *Cell Phones For Dummies*, *Home Accounting For Dummies*, and the list goes on and on, sort of like the Eveready Bunny. It illustrates how astute business moguls quickly recognized the world was cram-packed with Dummies of all categories.

I was recently a bit astounded, however, when I was moving down an aisle at the local county library, and that familiar yellow bookcover just leaped to my eye... I re-read the title, but I was right the first read - Bible For Dummies. Absolutely true. It's on the north side of the first shelf as you walk down the center aisle.

Yes, I did pull it down from the shelf rather furtively, moving to a deserted area of the building - I knew if my preacher learned of this he would buy one, maybe a dozen, to pass out to me and other Bible dummies.

I hurriedly peeked inside, and one of the first pages I saw was entitled CHECK YOUR BIBLE I.Q. Here's a few examples of the questions;

Q. We got our word BIBLE from: A. Variation of Babylon, with extensive libraries. B. Hebrew word *biblius*, meaning 'scroll with no ending'. C. Greek word *biblion* meaning roll or book. D. An acronym for Boy, It's Big, Leather, and Expansive. My head began to ache by time I chose B as first place, reserving the right to pick C in case of error.

Another question made me more comfortable: Which of

the following are NOT books of the Bible? A. Haggai & Philemon. B. Zephaniah and Zechariah. C. 2 Chronicles & 3 John. D. Guacamole and Minestrone. Bingo!! I absolutely knew this one - Guacamole is that mashed up green stuff coming from an almost green thing covered with what looks suspiciously like small warts, and I had strong suspicions Minestrone was something associated with ancient Rome, maybe a gladiators helmet.

I quit after that. One out of two ain't bad, I'm sure my pastor would say..

Out of the mouths of babes:

Four year old Marc was engrossed in a young couple who were hugging and kissing in a restaurant. Keeping his eyes on the couple, he asked his dad, "Why is he whispering in her mouth?"

James, 4, was listening to a Bible story being read by his dad; "and the man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee from the city, but his wife looked back and was turned to salt." Very concerned, James asked, "What happened to the flea?"

Tammy, age 4, was with her mother when they met an elderly, rather wrinkled woman her mom knew. Tammy stared at her long moments, then asked, "Why doesn't your skin fit your face?"



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Yoakum Co. Relay For Life
May 19th & 20th, 2006
Denver City - Mustang Stadium

Cancer Survivor Registration

Please join us for the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life Celebration for Survivors. If you wish to register for the survivor activities, please complete all the information below and provide your signature twice as described below. Thank you for your interest!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone (H): _____ (W): _____

Email: _____

Cancer Type/Location (optional) _____ Years survived: _____ Age: _____

Privacy Statement: I understand that by providing my signature and participating in this public event my name, cancer diagnosis, and length of survivorship may be announced; my image and comments may be broadcast in various media formats without compensation; and the American Cancer Society may contact me about other Society programs and events including next year's Relay For Life. I may notify the American Cancer Society at any time if I do not want to be contacted again.

Privacy Statement Signature (required): _____

Waiver: In consideration for being permitted to participate in Relay For Life, I hereby for myself, my heirs, and personal representative assume any and all risks which might be associated with the event, and I further waive, release, discharge and covenant not to sue the American Cancer Society, its officers, members, sponsors, organizers or other representatives, or successors and assigns, for any injuries or damages of any kind whatsoever suffered as a result of taking part in the event and related activities.

Participant Waiver Signature (required): _____

T-Shirt size (select one):

S M L XL 2XL 3XL Youth: YM YL

My caregiver will be attending Relay with me.

I am on a Relay Team. Team Name: _____

I would like to be on the Survivor Team.

I would like to volunteer to help at Relay For Life.

I will need assistance getting around the track for the Survivor Lap.

I was invited to attend Relay by: _____ Team # _____

Mail Registration Forms To: Yoakum Co. Relay For Life

Michelle Benson
P.O. Box 444
Denver City, TX 79323

Texas Ag Week

Estimated Value Of Texas Commodities

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Cattle, \$7.9 billion | 11. Horses, \$310 million |
| 2. Poultry/Eggs, \$1.8 billion | 12. Oil Seeds, \$207 million |
| 3. Cotton (Lint and Seed), \$1.5 billion | 13. Hogs, \$89 million |
| 4. Nursery, \$1.4 billion | 14. Potatoes, \$76 million |
| 5. Milk, \$976 million | 15. Pecans, \$67 million |
| 6. Timber, \$715 million | 16. Sheep/Wool, \$64 million |
| 7. Feed Grains, \$711 million | 17. Sugarcane, \$51 million |
| 8. Food Grains, \$452 million | 18. Citrus, \$43 million |
| 9. Vegetables, \$366 million | 19. Fruit, \$26 million |
| 10. Hay, \$355 million | 20. Beans, \$10 million |

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Contact Stacy Franklin or Alan Bell at 806-456-6505

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Texas at a Glance
Blooming Industry
Texas isn't just ranchland and oil wells - it has a softer side, too. Texas ranks third in the nation in rose production and processing, trailing Arizona and California, according to Larry Burks, vice president of Certified Roses, Inc. The company is one of the largest wholesale growers and processors in the U.S.
Processing roses involves separating bundles of them, sizing them, then rebundling and shipping them to regional florists, florists and garden centers.
Smith County in Texas grows about one of every five commercial rose bushes in the U.S., and the region sells more than half of the nation's rose bushes, Burks said. Texas is so processed half the garden roses grown in the nation, he said.
The state processes fewer roses each year, Burks said, but it's because growers and processors focus on quality.

Rose bushes processed in Texas (in millions):
5.0 (2001), 4.5 (2002), 4.0 (2003), 3.5 (2004), 3.0 (2005)