

WTC News

WESTERN TEXAS COLLEGE

Happenings

in PUS

Aug 1-14 Freshman Preregistration (by appointment)	August 22 Registration for Fall Semester
August 15-16 Faculty Workshops	August 24 WTC Fun Day
August 19 Fall In-Service Begins	August 26 Fall Semester Classes Begin
August 21 Dorms Open	June 6-August 22 "Ready to Roll" Exhibit Scurry County Museum

Weekend, Aug. 10-11, 2002

Western Texas College, 6200 College Ave. Snyder, TX 79549

Let's See What Develops



By
Dennis Noblett,
Director of
Development

"Not too long ago" says Pastor Bill Strayhorn, "we received a memorial gift to the church. There was a short note written on a beautiful little card that described whom the memorial was for. It said the usual thing, 'Enclosed you will find a check to be used as a memorial for...'"

"Unfortunately, the person who sent it forgot to sign the note AND to enclose the check. And to top it all off, the card had been purchased from the Alzheimer's Foundation."

Speaking of memorials...

Someone reading this page is either looking for, or knows of someone is seeking, an opportunity to:

- (1) Honor someone living or deceased; and
- (2) Do so in a fashion that would be of a long-term benefit to people.

That opportunity is the naming rights of our new WTC Sports Complex and also includes the individual naming of both the softball and baseball fields.

This translates to three naming opportunities (instead of one) for a gift of \$500,000 over a period of five years (instead of the usual minimal designation of \$1,000,000).

This could be a memorial for a spouse, a child, parents, a whole family, a company, or a town or city.

Not only would those named be honored, but, area citizens would benefit having another high-quality sports facility in town bringing in thousands of people from outside this area for games. This brings cash infusion to our local economy from which everyone directly or indirectly benefits.

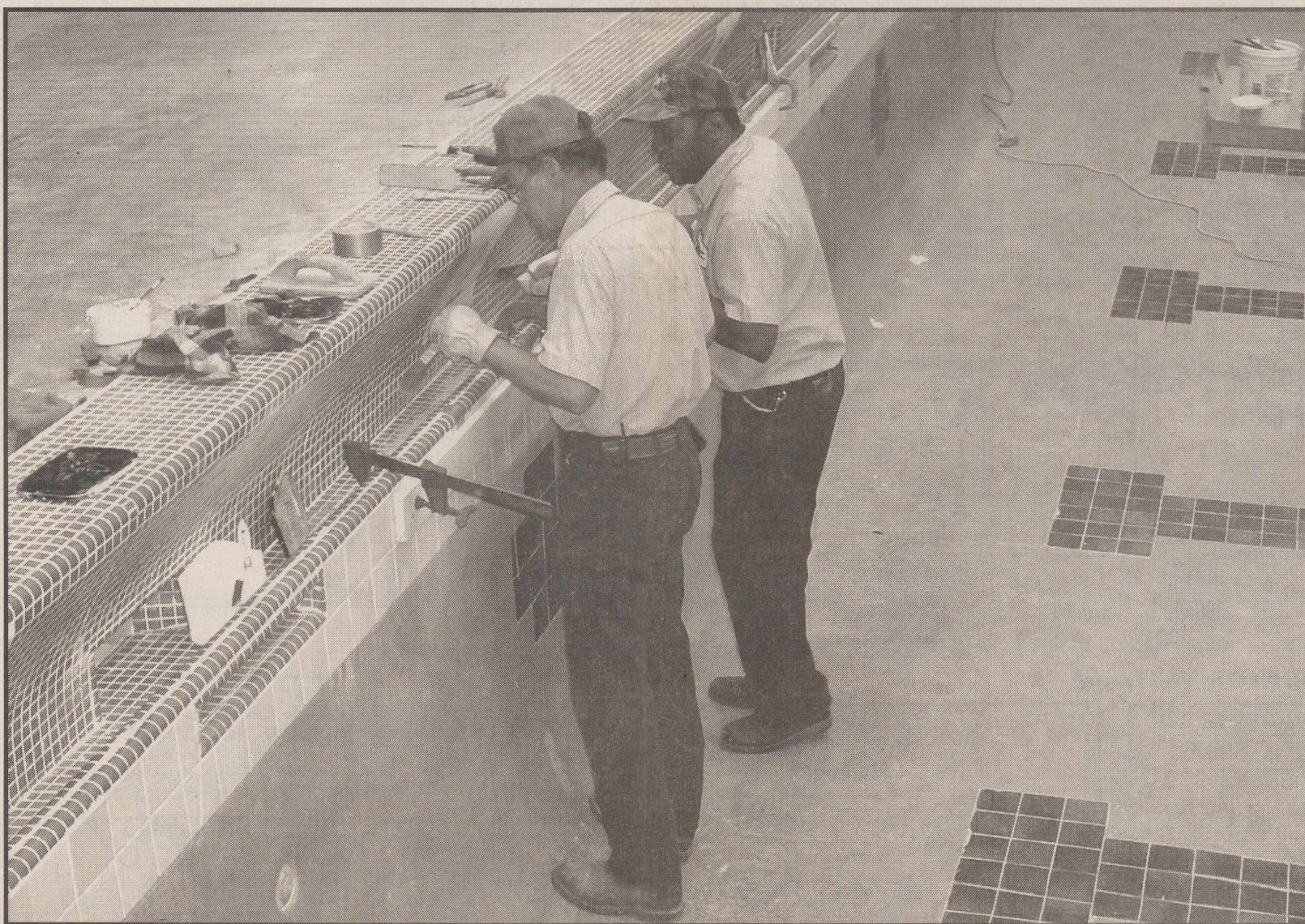
Western Texas College students would also benefit in that this gift would free the school to utilize funds for new or improved programs, scholarships, or facility and campus enhancements, among other projects.

Interested parties may contact me, Dennis Noblett, at the Office of Development at 573-8511, ext. 248. In this situation, everyone benefits.

A Final Word on Memory...

During a marital disagreement, the wife tells her husband, "You live so much for golf that you don't even remember our anniversary!"

"Yes, I do," countered her husband. "It's on the same day that I sank that thirty-foot putt."



WTC Pool repair near completion

WTC maintenance staff members, Edwin Galyean and James Smith apply grout to newly replaced tile around the edges of the college swimming pool.

The work is part of routine summer maintenance on the pool to replace steel rebar and tile in order to prevent water seepage around the pool's gutters.

Current plans are to have the pool ready to open by the first class day for the fall semester, which is August 26.

Each summer, general repairs and maintenance are scheduled to allow work to be completed prior to the beginning of the fall semester.

Following repairs, the pool will be available for swimming and aqua aerobics classes, faculty and student swimming, and use by the general public.

Small Engine Technician program targets industry labor shortage



In response to the shortage of qualified technicians in both the Golf and Landscape industry and the equipment and engine industry, Western Texas College is offering a Golf and Grounds Equipment Technician certificate. Approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the 36-credit hour certificate will include six small engine courses as well as courses in welding, computers, and turfgrass maintenance and horticulture equipment management. WTC believes this new certificate will strongly

enhance employment opportunities for its graduates while meeting the needs of business and industry. At a recent industry meeting, one equipment manufacturer indicated that its dealers were short more than 2,500 technicians to service its products. Throughout the industry, the shortage runs close to 30,000 nationwide.

The certificate courses are open to anyone interested in small engines, whether they choose to pur-

sue the certificate or just want to brush up or acquire new skills in small engine repair and maintenance. Offerings this fall will include Small Engine Tuneup and Diesel Engine Testing and Repair. All courses will be taught at night, and individuals will have the option of taking the courses for credit or noncredit.

For further information about course offerings or the certificate program, please contact the Vocational Instruction Division at (915) 573-8511 ext. 250, or email VoCareers@wtc.cc.tx.us.

Watch for our
FALL CLASS SCHEDULE
in the August 17 edition
of the Snyder Daily News,
or visit our website at
wtc.cc.tx.us

for the latest
information on classes
and registration procedures.

What is the Talent Search Grant, and how will it benefit the college and the community?

by Jim Clifton
Dean of Student Services

While much ado has been made about Western Texas College being awarded a federal educational grant for \$960,000 over the next five years, many may still wonder exactly why the college received the grant, what it is supposed to do, and what factors contributed to the award. I thought it might be appropriate to take an opportunity to offer some insight on the project, and give the general public an overview on the nuts and bolts of what this is going to accomplish. I emphasize this relationship to the public because that is precisely who will benefit from the effort.

This type of grant was created many years ago to assist educational service areas that fit specific characteristics. It is a socioeconomic fact that low income, lack of opportunity, high rates of teenage pregnancy, substance abuse, and high school drop out rates are all tied to achievement, or lack thereof, in education and in life. Back in the 50's a high school education was the entry-level ticket to a decent job. With the advancements of technology and the whole knowledge industry, a college education, or at least some post-secondary level of education to advance skills and proficiency, has become the bottom line.

While it's true that many have done well for themselves with a minimal high school education, these are the exceptions rather than the rule. It reminds me of all those hopeful high school athletes who are so very sure that they are professional sports material, invest their time, health, and emotions into a sport, then have nothing to show for it when they become part of the real world. As only about 1% of all high school athletes ever have an opportunity to earn a single dollar as an athlete, a high school drop out, or someone who doesn't take advantage of a higher education, is relegated to salaries at least 30% less than those with some college education.

Western Texas College hopes to provide an opportunity to expose students as early as the sixth grade to information about college, insights into their own abilities, and methods to overcome environmental barriers that might hold them back. The Talent Search grant will serve middle schools and high schools in Crosby, Garza, Scurry, Fisher, Jones, Mitchell, Nolan, and Rannels counties. Recognizing the potential of children in school, regardless of their economic circumstances, is of paramount concern for this effort. How many children have you known, your own included, who have the ability, but perhaps not the means, to be so much more. This grant will identify 600 students in these counties, assist with counseling, tutoring, and financial aid information, and offer cultural events that allow them to gain a greater appreciation of their social responsibility, and encouragement that creates value in their personal potential.

WTC was awarded this grant because it is located centrally in an area that has a high number or percentage of low-income families. This area is also characterized by a low

percentage of individuals who have little or no college education, a higher than national level of high school drop outs, and a very low rate of high school graduates who even enroll in post-secondary schools. Counselors at these schools have very little opportunity to do much counseling at all after testing, filing, and managing all of the mandatory reports required by the state. Your children deserve academic advising that opens the world of possibilities and helps them make informed choices that will affect the rest of their lives. This type of grant embodies an ethical imperative we have as adults to make the most of available resources, provide direction and opportunity for our children, and encourage those who have dropped out to "drop back in".

- The grant contains seven goals that will help accomplish these imperatives.
1. Of the 600 students, 2/3 will be both low income and first generation participants, while the other third will be either low income or first generation students.
 2. The grant will provide 100% of the participants with academic advisement and individual assessment resulting in 85% of the 6th through 11th grade students moving on to their next grade.
 3. This project will identify at least 50 high school drop outs and motivate at least half of them to re-enter education to attain their GED by the following year.
 4. At least 75% of each 9th grade class of freshmen is expected to graduate.
 5. One hundred percent of the participants will be provided with age and grade appropriate financial aid, admissions, and enrollment application assistance.
 6. The grant will provide assistance and services that will motivate 75% of the college ready participants to enroll in post-secondary education by the beginning of the next fall semester.
 7. During each project year, a minimum of 50% of the middle school students, 30% of the high school students, and 75% of the re-entry participants will be engaged in technology workshop activities.

It is the most sincere hope of Western Texas College that students in the service area, regardless of their choice of college or degree, will take advantage of this grant project. This is an opportunity to have a personally tailored educational plan made for a participant, with all of the assurances of community support, academic input, and federal money to help them realize their aspirations. This effort will be in place for the next five years, and following successful levels of participation, for many years afterwards. With this bit of information in mind, and our desire to give our children more than we had, I encourage you to seek out WTC representatives on these campuses and let them help guide the students to successful academic and social attainment.

Vocational Nursing Graduation and Pinning Ceremony



7pm
August 22
First United Methodist Church