

Cowboy Country News

BAZE BOOKBINDING ADV
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Published each Wednesday in the county seat of Yoakum County, Plains, Texas

Volume XII, Issue 25, March 8, 2006

..... starting to gain momentum

Relay For Life Number Two



Front row: Jamie McPherson, Wells Fargo Bank; Diana Patterson, Mustang Station; Lesa Wood, Mustang Station; Janice Smith, U.S. Cable; Melva Ramos, U.S. Cable; Sue Anne Goehry, Danny's Service Co.; Glenda Gray, Kizer Insurance; Rosa Gutierrez, Wells Fargo Bank. Back row: Mara Fortner, Denver City Press; Lisa Roden, Mustang Station; Dag Azam, Denver City I.S.D.; Brooks Brouard, Sundown State Bank; Doug Brown, Sundown State Bank; Tony Durham, Danny's Service Co.; Gary Dyer, Cowboy Country News.

We apologize to all readers for the brevity of this issue of CCN. Last week we had our main computer cough, hiccup, gasp and then die, graveyard dead. Our friends at the *Lovington Leader* have applied a number of patches and tourniquets to allow us to produce this Pigmy size edition until things return to normal. Readers should be aware; normalcy at CCN is *NOT* the type normalcy most of you know.

Medina sentenced for wreck causing deaths of three teachers

In an emotional two-plus hour session of District Court March 3, Judge Kelly G. Moore sentenced Guadalupe Medina to three 24 month sentences in State Jail for the deaths of three Denver City school teachers in a horrific wreck last December. Medina was the driver of a truck which failed to heed a stop sign at the intersection of state highways 213 and 1780. The rig plowed into a van carrying the teachers to a nearby meeting, and all died at the scene. Medina had earlier been convicted of criminal and negligent vehicular homicide.

Prior to Judge Moore's decision, testimony was heard from Texas DPS officers Sgt. Mike McClure and Mark Matlock, and Carlos Howell, TxDOT maintenance supervisor. They all testified the intersection was more than adequately marked with warning and stop signs at the scene, and there was no indication Medina had made an attempt to stop his rig prior to the collision.

Medina's present and past employers and a fellow worker testified he was a good employee they would not hesitate to hire again and work with again. A daughter told the court he had been a good family provider, and a good father.

Criminal District Attorney Clark pointed out Medina had never satisfactorily admitted his guilt, and it was his-alone decision not to obey the stop sign, a terrible choice resulting in the death of three young women.

When testimony ended, Judge Moore addressed the defendant, saying the day was a tragedy for him, the victims, the families and friends present. It would be impossible to bring the victims back, but now was the time for appropriate punishment for the crime he had committed and was found guilty of. Judge Moore pronounced 24 month state jail sentences for each of the deaths, to run concurrently.

"Why would we want to give up a proven winner"? Meece told CCN she is well pleased with preparations to date. "We are receiving donations to be used in raffles and drawings, Relay teams are coming in from civic organizations, business firms, churches and schools.

We are really excited about the interest in the Relay". The event is scheduled for Friday, May 19, 6 PM, and will close at 6 AM Saturday.

Meece said this year testimonials from survivors or their friends and family members will be read at the luminaria ceremony. Another new feature will be the participants breakfast the next morning after the Relay. "We are going to have the funds this year to feed our hard working participants and generous donors as a way of showing our sincere gratitude."

2006 Relay For Life committee members are; Stacey Meece, Chair & Team Coordinator, Mendy Johnson, Co-Chair; Melissa Howell, Publicity-Marketing, Sheri Curry, Stan David, Janie Durham, Karen Tovar, Michelle Benson, Vanette Cochran, Becky Sandlin, Gene Boyer, Chris Dougherty, Martin Enriquez, Bill Helwig. Plains members are; Beth Ann Cain, Debbie Rushing, Vicki Blundell and Jan Parrish.

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Miss Texas 2005 guest of Tsa Mo Ga Club, Plains High

By Renetta O'Quinn.

Lamesa native Morgan Matlock, Miss Texas 2005, spoke to members of Plains High School's graduating class at the annual Senior Dinner hosted by Tsa M Ga club February 27.

Never a class to be considered shy, Miss Texas was asked by one male member of the class if she would "consider dumping your boyfriend," and also asked by another if she "would be busy May 13," the night of the junior-senior prom.

Twenty-five seniors attended the 'fiesta' dinner and heard



Manuel Mendoza embraced by Miss Texas

Feral hogs draw TDA attention

Land owners, ag producers and ranchers around the state, and most definitely in the immediate South Plains area, have become increasingly aware of the damage feral hogs are causing. In Yoakum County there is talk among producers and landowners of organizing numbers of armed participants in "hog drives", a team effort to put a dent in the population of the prolific breeding critters.

The following is from a news release from the Texas Department of Agriculture which could be encouraging information;

Turn To Page 2, HOGS

Grand Jury returns six indictments

The Yoakum County Grand Jury returned six true bills of indictment on five defendants February 21, 2006. All bonds for felony indictments are set by District Judge Kelly G. Moore. The state was represented by Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark.

Jamie Dwayne Bell was indicted for possession of methamphetamine, less than one gram, a state jail felony. A \$2500 bond was met by Freedom Bail Bond.

Kevin Dwayne Kennemur was indicted for intoxication manslaughter with vehicle, second degree felony. His attorney was Warren New. Defendant was in jail.

Rodrigo Roman Lopez was indicted for criminal mischief, more than \$1500, less than \$20,000, a state jail felony. Bond was \$2500, by Jerome Head. He was also indicted on another criminal mischief cause, with another \$2500 bond met by Jerome Head.

Buffie Rivera was indicted for possession of less than one gram methamphetamine, state jail felony. \$5000 bond was met by Jerome Head.

Kyle Dean Burkholder was indicted for intoxication manslaughter

Turn To Page 3, Grand Jury

Neugebauer rated one of top congressional conservatives

Washington, DC-- The United States House of Representatives consists of 435 members and Congressman Randy Neugebauer comes in as one of the top House conservatives, according to a leading publication that covers Congress.

National Journal magazine gave Neugebauer a "composite conservative score" of 95.8 out of 100, tying him for first with four other House members.

His strong conservative rating comes as no surprise to Neugebauer. "It is my job to be the voice in Congress for the constituents of the 19th District," Neugebauer said. "Folks across the South Plains and the Big Country possess traditional, conservative values, and I am proud to support those values in the U.S. House of Representatives."

In addition to the composite score, National Journal gave each House member a separate score for his votes on key economic, social, foreign policy issues during 2005. According to the magazine's study, Neugebauer is more conservative than 97 percent of his House colleagues on economic issues, and more conservative than 89 percent on both social and

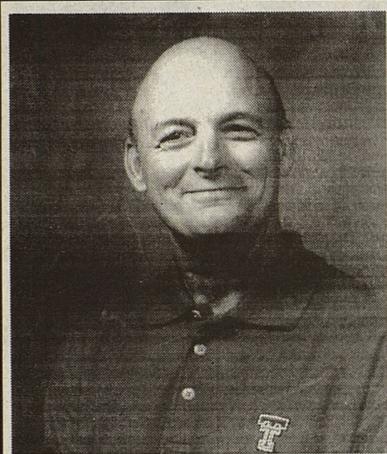
foreign policy issues. Neugebauer was more liberal than zero percent of his colleagues in all three categories.

Key votes on economic issues include supporting the permanent repeal of the Death Tax (H.R. 8), curbing spending by \$40 billion over five years (H.R. 4241), and extending tax relief (H.R. 4297).

Votes on social issues in the study include support for strengthening enforcement of immigration laws (H.R. 4437), increasing the fines for broadcasting indecent material over the airwaves (H.R. 310), and prohibiting the transportation of a minor girl across state lines to obtain an abortion without parental notification (H.R. 748).

On the foreign policy front, Neugebauer supported increasing funding for U.S. military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan (H.R. 1268), reducing U.N. funding (H.R. 2862), and authorizing U.S. military personnel to aid border security efforts (H.R. 1815).

"I will continue to support policies that strengthen national security, protect traditional values, and reduce the tax burden on working families," Neugebauer said.



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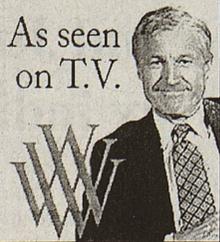
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From Page 1, Hogs

AUSTIN -- The Texas Department of Agriculture has awarded \$500,000 in grants to Texas A&M University and Texas Tech University to launch research efforts on the state's feral hog problem. Funds for the pilot program were appropriated to TDA by the Texas Legislature during the 79th legislative session in 2005.

"Texas has the dubious distinction of being the feral hog capital of the United States, with an estimated 1.5 million to 2 million hogs. This is a serious problem, with the hogs destroying pastures and spreading disease to livestock statewide," said Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs. "I am pleased that A&M and Texas Tech will be tackling this issue head-on and using their research to formulate possible statewide solutions." The efforts will be conducted by Texas Cooperative Extension's Wildlife and Fisheries Unit and Wildlife Services. The results will be distributed to landowners and the general public through workshops and field days following the project's completion.

TDA awarded \$109,500 to Texas Tech University to develop pheromone and odor combinations that can be used to attract feral hogs to traps and other control locations. The grant will also be used to research reproductive control methods. The long-term goal is to apply these methods on a large-scale basis in Texas. With their high reproductive potential and very few natural predators, feral hog populations have rapidly increased over the last 25 years. Feral hogs wreak havoc on property, livestock, crops and pastures across the state and have frustrated landowners across the state due to their destructive nature. Texas cooperative Extension estimates that statewide annual economic damage caused by feral hogs is \$51.7 million.

"With their destructive feeding habits and danger to livestock, feral hogs have long been a thorn in agriculture's side," Combs said. "I am pleased our lawmakers have taken this issue seriously, and I am confident that the innovative research projects planned by A&M and Texas Tech will help agricultural producers better manage the feral hog problem in Texas."

From US Senator

Kay Bailey Hutchison

R. Texas

Texas Pride Has Deep Roots

People learn quickly when someone is from Texas, usually right after they learn that person's name. We're proud to introduce ourselves as Texans. It is a badge of honor we wear with pride, and it is as much a part of our identity as any other element of our background.

I meet a lot of non-Texans who just do not fully appreciate what it means to be a Texan. I explain to them Texas Pride is more than just a phrase. We are proud of our heritage because it reveals a lot about our character and vision. Our early fight for independence says something important about who we are today.

Texas' march toward freedom became an all-out stampede on March 2, 1836, with a declaration of independence from Mexico. Texas residents were no longer willing to live under Mexican rule, and they were determined to do whatever it took to establish self-governance.

A 54 member delegation signed the original declaration, including my great-great grandfather Charles S. Taylor. The signers of the Texas declaration, like those who signed the American Declaration of Independence in 1776, risked their lives and families when they took that bold step. Since Texas was Mexican territory, they were considered traitors, but the threat of death did not stop them because they were willing to pay any price for the freedom of Texas.

In the battle for independence, General Sam Houston and the Texas Revolutionary Army defeated Santa Anna and his Mexican forces in less than two months. While victory was achieved at the battle of San Jacinto, the siege of the Alamo was a defining moment for the spirit of Texas. Though the Texas army suffered a defeat in San Antonio, their courageous stand gave General Houston valuable time to marshal his forces at San Jacinto.

Commander William Barret Travis commanded the badly outnumbered Texas forces, who fought valiantly until the bitter end against a Mexican army that outnumbered them at least 10-to-1. Despite overwhelming odds, Colonel Travis swore in a letter to the "People of Texas and all Americans in the world" that "I shall never surrender or retreat." He closed the letter with the promise, "I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible and die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor and that of his country - victory or death." In the end this heroic group of 89 Texans inflicted nearly 600 casualties on Santa Anna's Mexican forces. To this day, their valiant stand is a model for schoolchildren of how to remain brave in the face of adversity.

Word of the Alamo spread quickly throughout the state, rallying Texans behind the fight for independence. Just over six weeks later, the war was over with Texas standing tall and victorious at the battle of San Jacinto - but not before another group of brave Texans gave their lives for the cause. At the battle of Coleto, a group of Texas soldiers led by James W. Fannin were overwhelmed and he surrendered his command to Mexican forces according to the customs of war. After his troops were disarmed and had peacefully entered Mexican custody, Santa Anna gave an order executing them all, and all 342 men were lost at Goliad.

This massacre only cemented the determination of Texans not to rest until victory was achieved. Anything less would dishonor the memory of the men who had already paid the ultimate price fighting for Texas. When General Houston's 900 member force overpowered Santa Anna and his 1,300 man army to end the war at San Jacinto, the soldiers cried, "Remember the Alamo! Remember Goliad!" in the name of those who had fallen.

Today, Texans are still aware of the debt we owe to those who died in the fight for independence. Because of our gratitude for their sacrifice, we guard our freedoms fiercely. Santa Anna's capture was met with calls for his execution in retribution for his heinous actions during the war. Gen. Houston, however, did not extract vengeance on his Mexican counterpart; instead he showed generosity after his great victory. Such magnanimity is also a trait defining the Texas character.

For his leadership during the revolution, Sam Houston was elected the first president of the Republic of Texas, and he established March 2 as Texas Independence Day in 1842 during his second term as president. As we celebrate our past, the legacies of revolutionaries such as Houston and Travis continue to inspire Texans today, just as they did many years ago in their fight for Texas' Independence.

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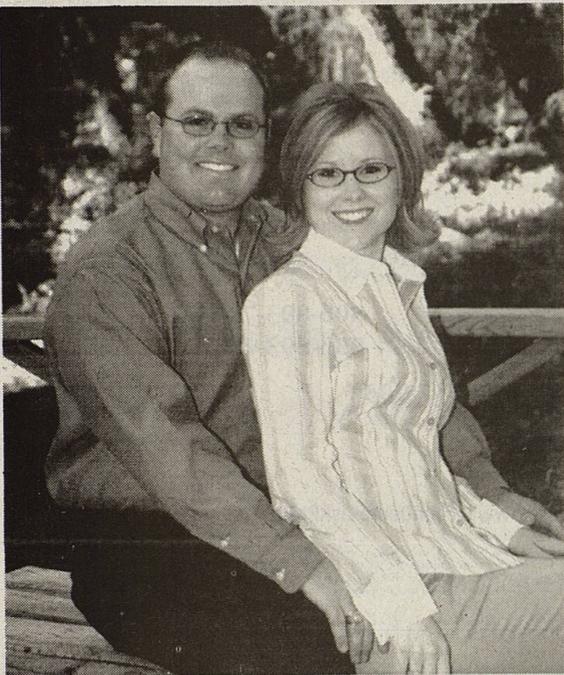
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Individuals, businesses and organizations are urged to contribute to the second Relay. You may contact any of the Committee Members listed in the front page article about the Relay. The Underwriter and Sponsorship deadline is April 10, 2006.

Wedding Plans



Billy and Jane Rash of Willis, Texas and Dennis Adams of College Station, Texas, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Carrie Lynn Adams to Kelton Kale Mason, son of Larry K. and Sara Mason of Plains.

Carrie is a 2000 graduate of Willis High School and 2004 graduate of Texas A&M University. She will complete her Master's degree in Meat Sciences from Texas A&M in May of 2006. Kelton is a 2000 graduate of Brownfield High School and also a 2004 graduate of Texas A&M University. He will receive his Master's degree in Animal Science from TAMU. Kelton is employed as Operations Manager for Bolen Farms in Chrisman, Illinois. The couple has a wedding date of April 29 in College Station.

A Concert For All Seasons

Nicole Burns of Denver City has been selected an Ambassador of People To People, and will be visiting England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. She will earn a high school credit and college credit, and a lifetime of memories. She is inviting you to her piano concert at 7 PM Saturday, March 25 at the JW Jones Auditorium in Denver City. Admission is free and donations will be GREATLY APPRECIATED! Call 806-592-5233 for information.

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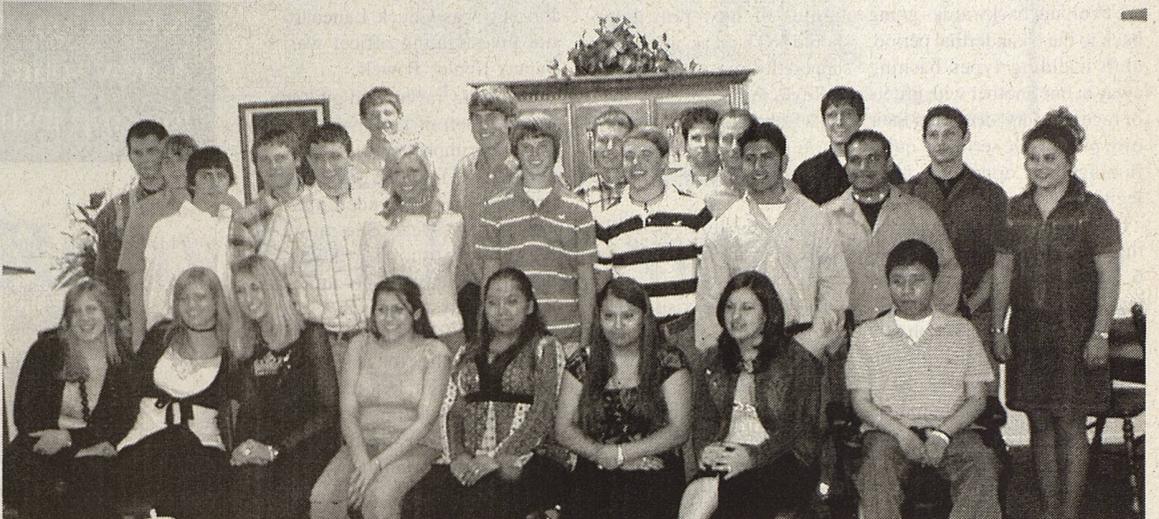


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Miss Texas 2005 and PHS graduating seniors at Tsa Mo Ga dinner

Miss Texas say they need to "dream big and surround yourself with people who believe in you and people who want the best for you. Only spend time with encouragers."

She encouraged them to get an education and find their 'passion' and realize sometimes they might be able to accomplish one goal through their first.

Her personal example is it took competing five times in the pageant before she

achieved her dream of becoming Miss Texas. "The scholarship money was a big thing. I was accomplishing one goal and another was happening as well. I will finish school because of this other goal."

She challenged the students to "Reach for goals outside the box. You will change your mind. Seek advice from those close to you, from church, from counselors. Set goals but be flexible. Don't be dead set. Sometimes the Lord has a jour-

ney equally rewarding. It's important you know the things you want to happen can happen."

Miss Texas will return to Texas Tech as senior when her reign is over in July. She plans to major in psychology and minor in English. She hopes to teach English on her way to becoming a school counselor. In January she was a top ten finalist in the Miss America contest in Las Vegas. She travels all over the state speaking to school students. "No two days are exactly

alike."

Special guests at the Tsa Mo Ga dinner included her mother and grandmother, Kelli Matlock and Mrs. Charles Warren, and aunt and uncle Teresa and Jerry Howard.

She spoke the next day at the high school, where she presented her platform, "Putting an end to verbal abuse." She left Plains for Denver City to speak and sing for the student body.

Booster Club Meeting

The Plains Athletic Booster Club will meet Wednesday, March 8 at 8 PM in the Heritage Room of the Yoakum County Library. Officers and members will begin making plans for the end-of-year banquet to honor athletes and their accomplishments. Anyone with ideas to help plan and organize the banquet is urged to attend. All members and interested Cowboy and Cowgirl fans are encouraged to join us !!

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From Page 1, Grand Jury

ter, a second degree felony. His attorney was Chuck Lanehart, and a \$10,000 bond was met by Jerome head.

All bonds for felony indictments are set by 121st District Judge Kelly G. Moore Range of punishment for a state jail felony ranges from

confinement in state jail for no more than two years or less than 180 days, with optional fine up to \$10,000. A second degree felony calls for confinement in state prison for not more than 20 years or less than two years, and optional fine up to \$10,000.

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From The Hack

Is it my imagination, slowly withering like my rapidly wrinkling body, or is it true - state elections in the Lone Star state are evolving backwards - going back to the Neanderthal period, club wielding types bashing away at one another with grunts of rage and fury, declaring their own piety while seriously questioning their opponents birth legitimacy?

This mush is being composed the evening of Monday, March 6, one day prior to printing this rag Tuesday morning, March 7, the official Primary Election day. That said, those readers who can understand how our calendars are composed should be aware I do not have a rusty axe to grind nor a head to lop off because of election results - I was actually the very first voter in Plains to draw my tiny little oval mark on a real, trustworthy PAPER ballot the morning early voting started - I have had so much pure, unadulterated Hell with things electronic recently I'll take a paper choice whenever possible.

In all seriousness, it is a shame our District 83 State Representative race had to disintegrate into such warfare between the incumbent and fellow Republican challenger. I don't truly know who threw the first punch, but it did result in something a bit distant from Marquis of Queensbury rules - blood and money spilled every where.

And recall..... I am putting this together Monday evening, March 6, well before any of the results are known. Don't aim your 12 gauge at me if your guy lost - and I beseech you, don't hug me if you picked a winner with a finger up your nostrils!

I can't get off politics for some reason. It's like trying to get off Blue Bell after only three spoons full. I read a collection of noteworthy examples of how politicians should NOT speak, all of them supposedly true, and originated by Texas Pol's:

On a tight budget: "We think we've pretty well drained the turnip and there's no blood left."

On his re-election to the House - "I am filled with humility."

On a developing crisis- "This problem is like a two headed sword - it could grow like a mushing room."

On the need to move along with the state's business- "We need to move along and disperse with all the objections."

And then there was the personnel genius, who said "We should not fire people but accomplish it by employee nutrition."

I recall reading about a Baptist minister who served as the state senate chaplain years ago who opened a special session on opening day with, "Lord, may this special session adjourn at least ten minutes before the devil knows it's convened." He couldn't resist adding in an audible voice, "He already knows. He's the one who called it!"

Political finale; Molly Ivins, columnist who infuriates me but makes me laugh, on the Governor's office; "Texans do not hold high expectations for it. It's mostly been occupied by crooks, dorks and the comatose." And Ma Ferguson, who replaced her governor hubby Pa, who was impeached, replied to the question should kids speak English in public schools, "If the English language was good enough for Jesus Christ it's good enough for the kids!"

ing and criminal District Attorney Richard Clark representing the state.

Tony Gomez Jr. pled true and was adjudged guilty a state jail felony of criminal mischief, \$1500 or more but less than \$20,000. A two year state jail sentence was suspended and probated three years. He must pay \$323 fine, delinquent supervision fees of \$883, and other costs totaling \$1282. He will also spend three days in jail. His attorney was Chuck Lanehart and investigating officer was Deputy Kenley Powell.

Jode Lynn Craven pled guilty to possession of less than one gram methamphetamine, a state jail felony. A two year state jail sentence was suspended and probated five years. She must pay \$140 restitution to DPS, remain in county jail not more than 180 days until space is available in a substance abuse treatment facility for not more than one year or less than 90 days. Sheriff Deputy Curtis Coffman was investigating officer, and Jimmy Hammons was her attorney.

Texas Yes!

Texas Department of Agriculture
Resolutions for Rural Texas
By Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs

As the New Year begins, we pause not only to reflect on the successes of the past but recommit to our goals for the future. And the celebration wouldn't be complete without some resolutions. The Texas Yes! program presents these resolutions for rural Texas growth for 2006 and beyond.

Based on the best advice from other rural communities and hometown heroes, we hope these inspire you and your community to keep rural Texas growing.

1. Preserve the past, invest in the present and plan for the future.
2. Engage the community and local businesses in a continuous dialogue.
3. Celebrate, promote and preserve your community's natural resources.
4. Seek out expertise and funding.
5. Attract and retain diverse populations.
6. Identify and promote community assets.
7. Create clear strategies for growth.
8. Harness the power of partnerships.
9. Leverage technology, invest in marketing.
10. Take small steps - start something!

Texas Yes! is a member-based program sponsored by the Texas Department of Agriculture for rural communities, businesses and organizations to promote business development, job growth and tourism in rural Texas. There is no cost to join and the application is simple. For details, program information, guidelines and applications, call our toll-free line at (877) 428-7848. Information is also available at our Web site, www.TexasYes.org.

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121st District Court Cases

Two criminal cases were heard in District Court March 3, with Judge Kelly G. Moore presiding.

Grand Entry

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