ECISD’s Next Chief Official
On Tuesday

– See Page 3-A

ALSO INSIDE:

VIEWPOINT .....................................Page 4-A
OBITUARIES ....................................Page 7-A
BUSINESS .......................................Page 8-A
LIFESTYLE .......................................Page 24
CHURCH NEWS ................................Page 4-B
CLASSIFIEDS & REAL ESTATE ........Page 58

LOCAL WEATHER

SATURDAY

Chance of Thunderstorms

DAY: 30% BRIEZE 8º

NIGHT: 20% LOW 6º

SUNDAY

Chance of Thunderstorms

DAY: 30% BRIEZE 8º

NIGHT: 40% LOW 4º

MONDAY

Chance of Thunderstorms

DAY: 50% BRIEZE 14º

NIGHT: 60% LOW 10º

TUESDAY

Chance of Thunderstorms

DAY: 60% BRIEZE 18º

NIGHT: 50% LOW 10º

Last Rains: none May 30-31

RAINFALL

Past 7 Days......................................0.07 In.
Last 38 Days.................................4.41 In.
Save Time: Rain is 14: 10.29 P.M.
Year To Date: 118.90 In.
Year To Date ‘14: 18.41 In.

BURN BAN Lifted

COUNTY’S MEAN KBDI: 61
watts of electricity for peak ser -
vice fired turbines creating 400 mega-
watts. Of electricity for peak ser -
treaction that was 259 years old
would have to be made after com-
missioner’s court session in the

Hutchins Elementary second graders Aaron Bubela, Elena Foreman and Carter Arrambide display pencil holders specially crafted for Mother’s Day. The Leader-News wishes all a safe and happy Mother’s Day and encourages sons and daughters everywhere to take a moment Sunday to say thank you to your mother. Mother’s Day became an official U.S. holiday in 1914.

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By SHANNON CRABTREE
scrabtree@leader-news.com

A Myatt Elementary pre-kindergarten teacher has resigned two weeks after coming under investiga-
tion for allegedly moving a four-year-old student a short distance.

“The student was not injured and at any time was the student or any other students in danger of be-
ing harmed in any way,” El Campo School Superintendent Mark Pol told the Leader-News. “However, af-
ter investigating, we concluded that the teacher’s actions were extreme in violation of district policy.”

Teacher J. Miranda was placed on administrative leave during the district’s investigation of the April 23 incident and opted to tender her res-
ignation effective June 6.

By SHANNON CRABTREE
scrabtree@leader-news.com

The case against an El Campo man who allegedly shot his step-
tholess to death during the early morning hours on New Year’s Day continues.

This week, the Wharton County Grand Jury issued an eight-count in-
dictment against 25-year-old Ricky Dustin Bubela of 2536 FM 1163.

County sheriff’s deputies arrested Bubela about five hours after he al-
legedly killed his step-sister, 25-year-old Amy Bell.

Bell died in a Houston hospital New Year’s Day after being air-
surfaced from Bubela’s property.

Thursday, District Attorney Ross Kurtz said he would not comment on

By SHANNON CRABTREE
scrabtree@leader-news.com

Three ECISD trustee posts, Council seat, CDC on ballot

By SHANNON CRABTREE
scrabtree@leader-news.com

Following an early voting period with less than 700 people appearing at the El Campo polls, the final “yes” or “no” will be cast today on a pro-
posed $10.5 million city construction bond and three school board positions.

A council district post and a proposed change to

the way El Campo approaches economic develop-
ment also appear on the ballot.

Today, those wanting to cast ballots can do so from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at El Campo City Hall, 315 Bridge, in that community.

By SHANNON CRABTREE
scrabtree@leader-news.com

The public has a chance to

County seeks public views on tax relief
for power co.

To learn more about this business, see the

For Mom

Method of moving student in hall violates policy

Mature juror indicted EC man
for New Year’s Day killing

Alleged shooter faces
child endangerment too

Grand jury indicts EC man
for New Year’s Day killing

Alleged shooter faces
child endangerment too

“Never have I leveled a charge this serious against a school employee,” Superintendent Paul Goodey said.

Wednesday, District Attorney Ross Kurtz said he would not comment on

To Hero’s Story

By SHANNON CRABTREE
scrabtree@leader-news.com

Kutac Ready For State

By SHANNON CRABTREE
scrabtree@leader-news.com

County seeks public views on tax relief for power co.

The public has a chance to

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**Weather To Watch**

Current weather models are indicating less rain across the area next week. “The forecast is to receive up to 5 to 8 inches of rain in the next seven days,” County Emergency Management Coordinator Andy Kirkland said in a press release, adding forecasts can change quickly. Residents are encouraged to monitor conditions in the coming days.

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**Grand Jury Indictments**

April Deliverations

(Note: An indictment is not an admission of guilt, but rather a citizen jury’s verdict that a prosecutor has enough evidence against a person to proceed with felony charges.)

- Ruben Cardenas Jr., 19, of 1018 Lilly in El Campo for assault, a public servant. He allegedly had bailed out a police officer on Nov. 20, 2014 while the officer was attempting to arrest him.
- Michelle Ernesto Cruz, 28, of 206 First in Wharton, is tampering with physical evidence. She allegedly attempted to remove and destroy a cigarette during a police investigation on May 1.
- Oscar Wane Dickerson, 27, of 601 Davis in Wharton for tampering with an unlisted address for tampering with evidence. The fraudulent use or possession of identifying information.

**Court Reports**

**Wharton County**

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- Oscar Wane Dickerson, 27, of 601 Davis in Wharton for tampering with an unlisted address for tampering with evidence. The fraudulent use or possession of identifying information.
Superintendent hire official Tuesday

**By SHANNON CRABTREE**

Making the district’s choice for its next superintendent official and encouraging the public to vote deciding three school board seats atop El Campo City Council meets Tuesday.

El Campo trustees chose to hire from within last month, selecting Assistant Superintendent Kelly Waters as the person to replace retiring Superintendent Mark Pool. Waters has been with the district two years.

A 1984 El Campo High School graduate, Waters has View A&M and is certified as a superintendent. The board voted unanimously on April 16 to name Waters as the lone finalist for the post. Tuesday, a closed session is planned before the official hiring.

Trustees will soon welcome at least two new board members. In today’s election, three El Campo ISD posts are up for contention, but only one incumbent chose to seek re-election.

In Position 1, Justin Stuza and Dallie Adams Calo- man face off while in Position 2 Dennis Jay Rawlings and Howard Lee Middleton are in the running. In Position 4, James Russell, the lone incumbent, is challenged by Bertina “Tina” Baker-Carter.

The agenda calls for current trustees to canvass the election results. New members will not to be sworn into office until a called meeting on May 28. The El Campo ISD board meets at noon Tuesday, May 12 in the district boardroom, 700 W. Norre. The meeting is open to the public.

They won’t preside over meetings among its own members who will meet Tuesday, May 5, 2015, in chambers, 315 E. Jackson. The meeting is open to the public with time specifically designated for citizen comments. Under normal circumstances, Council meets the second and fourth Monday of each month.

City leaders have routinely met on this issue for several months, but thus far, no ease-ments have been purchased. Officials released last month that the project’s tar-pet area has shifted south and will now require a retention pond. The offer, however, is still expected to dramatically improve municipal drainage on the west side.

Reports

City Finance Director Bertina “Tina” Baker-Carter will present the quarterly investment and financial report.

El Campo ISD board meets at noon Tuesday, May 5, 2015, in chambers, 315 E. Jackson. The meeting is open to the public with time specifically designated for citizen comments. Under normal circumstances, Council meets the second and fourth Monday of each month.

May election issues go before El Campo City Council Tuesday

**By SHANNON CRABTREE**

Today’s election will top the agenda when El Campo City Council meets Tuesday.

A review of election results in Phase I totaling the $10.5 million bond request to construct a new police, fire and EMS building as well as proposed change to economic development efforts will be presented.

The winner of the Council District 1 post, contested by incumbent Steve Ward and challenger Wanda Evensky, will take the oath of office. Council will then reconga- me as a governing body, and in El Campo, voters don’t get to chase who will hold the mayor and mayor pro tem positions. Instead, Council decides among its own members who will preside over meetings and serve as the chief elected officer.

Currently, Randy Collins serves as mayor and Richard Young as mayor pro tem. To allow for election can-

voting, the El Campo City Council will meet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, in chambers, 315 E. Jackson. The meeting is open to the public with time specifically designated for citizen comments. Under normal circumstances, Council meets the second and fourth Monday of each month.

Other items before Council during the upcoming session include: Energy Savings Report Following an energy audit last year, Council approved a series of upgrades at the Wastewater Treatment Plant as well as lighting in city buildings. Tuesday, Chad Ne- bus with Siemens will report on first-year savings.

Closed Session

On Trees Palacios Project Council will once again re- view into executive session to discuss the ongoing easement acquisition efforts as part of the creek widening project. Should any votes be taken, Council would have to return to open session first.

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Bills focus on government transparency, farmers

The legislative process is tough. It’s designed that way and that’s a good thing. If it were too easy to pass laws than our state and nation would be consid- erably less free than it is. Of course, one could make the argument that we have far too many laws, at least bad ones. I am in total agreement with this. Bill, I must confess that the pro- cess can be very frustrating.

When filing bills, I am very dis- cerning. I always ask myself and my staff one fundamental question: Can this be handled on a local level? Can the state needs an intrusive federal gov- ernment. That is charged is the prop- erty is seized without the person ever being charged with anything. What is charged is the prop- erty rights bill.

The First Amendment of the Constitution gives Ameri- can’s freedom of speech. A newspaper’s opinion page gives our community a chance to share their thoughts with others.

Letters to the editor run in every edition of the paper. What do you think? My office on East Jackson or mailed to the newspaper at P.O. Box 1206. El Campo, TX 77447. Letters to the editor run as space is available in both the Wednesday and Saturday edition. I considered for publication must be received before 1 p.m. Monday for the Wednesday edition or 1 p.m. Thursday for the Sat- urday edition.

Publication in a specific paper is not guaranteed. Please limit your letters to no more than 350 words. Letters must be signed by at least one person and a tele- phone number is required. An individual can submit a let- ter for publication on every eight editions generally once a month unless it is in direct response to another letter at the discretion of the newspaper.

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Contact Your Area Representatives

Representative
Phil Stephenson
Texas House of Representatives
District 85
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768
(512) 463-0604

For more information or to make an appointment to speak with your representative, please contact their office;

Senator Lois Kolkhorst
Texas Senate District 18
P.O. Box 1206. Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711
(512) 463-0118

Victoria District Office:
5606 North Navarro St., Suite 203 Victoria, TX 77904
(361) 733-2700

Congressman Blake Farenthold
Congressional District 27
117 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-7424

Farenthold
Victoria Office: 5606 N Navarro St., Ste 203 Victoria, TX 77904
(361) 894-6446

Governor Rick Perry
Governor of the State of Texas
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, TX 78771

Opinions or views expressed by individual columnists or in Letters to the Editor are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of this news-

paper. Also, while the Leader-News strives for accuracy, errors may occur, and will be promptly corrected once they are brought to the attention of the editor.

Letters to the Editor

El Campo Leader-News • Saturday, May 9, 2015

Letters to editor help start public debate

The First Amendment of the Constitution gives Ameri- can’s freedom of speech. A newspaper’s opinion page gives members of the community a chance to share their thoughts with others.

But you don’t see letters to the editor run in every edition of the paper. Why? What do you think? My office on East Jackson or mailed to the newspaper at P.O. Box 1206. El Campo, TX 77447. Letters to the editor run as space is available in both the Wednesday and Saturday edition. To be considered for publication must be received before 1 p.m. Monday for the Wednesday edition or 1 p.m. Thursday for the Sat- urday edition.

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Youth collect honors in fair competitions

103 American Bred
3-Hillock Brangus
2 - Camille Burton, Boling Jr FFA; 1 - Nate Blevins, Boling Jr FFA.
3 - Reserves American - Camille Burton, Boling Jr FFA.
4 - 4-H Breeds
2 - Wyatt Berry, WC Livestock 4-H; 2 - Cody Berry, WC Livestock 4-H.
3 - Michael Borne, Boling Jr FFA; 2 - Jared Lopez, Boling Jr FFA.
4 - 1 - Kyley Ayers, Boling Jr FFA; 2 - Natalie Nighswan, Tobias Jones Creek 4-H.
5 - Santa Gertrudis
3 - 1 - Blue Waves, WC Livestock 4-H; 2 - Brooke Wallace, WC Livestock 4-H.
4 - 1 - Jenna Herndon, WC Livestock 4-H; 2 - Samantha Henke, Louise FFA.
5 - 1 - Caidyn Blaha, Louise FFA; 2 - Brooke Wallace, WC Livestock 4-H.
6 - 1 - Brooke Wallace, WC Livestock 4-H.

Vernon
2 - William Jankowski, East Bernard 4-H; 2 - Natalie Nighswan, Tobias Jones Creek 4-H.
3 - 1 - Jena Herndon, WC Livestock 4-H; 2 - Samantha Henke, Louise FFA.
4 - 1 - Kyley Ayers, Boling Jr FFA; 2 - Brooke Wallace, WC Livestock 4-H.
5 - 1 - Brooke Wallace, WC Livestock 4-H.
6 - 1 - Kyley Ayers, Boling Jr FFA.
7 - Simbras
3 - 1 - Jena Herndon, WC Livestock 4-H; 2 - Samantha Henke, Louise FFA.
4 - 1 - Kyley Ayers, Boling Jr FFA.
5 - 1 - Caidyn Blaha, Louise FFA; 2 - Brooke Wallace, WC Livestock 4-H.
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6 - 1 - Brooke Wallace, WC Livestock 4-H.

WC Livestock 4-H.
2 - Brook Tupa, the daughter of Nick and Elizabeth Tupa of El Campo brought along a baby chick for the Wee Folks Pet Show at the fair.
3 - Grand Champion - Kayla Lamb
4 - Reserve Commercial - Rosemary Krenek, El Campo Jr/Sr 4-H.
5 - Champion Commercial - Kayleigh Rosarz Hilger/Louise Henke, East Bernard Jr FFA.
6 - Champion Commercial - Big Body Buffalo, Wallis County 4-H.
7 - Grand Champion - Savanna Matthews, El Campo FFA; Reserve Commercial - Rosemary Krenek, El Campo Jr/Sr 4-H.
8 - Champion Commercial - Rosemary Krenek, El Campo Jr/Sr 4-H.
9 - Champion Commercial - Wyatt Berry, WC Livestock 4-H.
10 - Champion Commercial - Wyatt Berry, WC Livestock 4-H.
11 - Grand Champion - Savanna Matthews, El Campo FFA; Reserve Commercial - Rosemary Krenek, El Campo Jr/Sr 4-H.
12 - Grand Champion - Savanna Matthews, El Campo FFA; Reserve Commercial - Rosemary Krenek, El Campo Jr/Sr 4-H.
13 - Champion Commercial - Wyatt Berry, WC Livestock 4-H.
14 - Champion Commercial - Wyatt Berry, WC Livestock 4-H.
15 - Champion Commercial - Wyatt Berry, WC Livestock 4-H.
16 - Grand Champion - Savanna Matthews, El Campo FFA; Reserve Commercial - Rosemary Krenek, El Campo Jr/Sr 4-H.
17 - Champion Commercial - Wyatt Berry, WC Livestock 4-H.
18 - Champion Commercial - Wyatt Berry, WC Livestock 4-H.
19 - Champion Commercial - Wyatt Berry, WC Livestock 4-H.
20 - Champion Commercial - Wyatt Berry, WC Livestock 4-H.
21 - Champion Commercial - Wyatt Berry, WC Livestock 4-H.
22 - Champion Commercial - Wyatt Berry, WC Livestock 4-H.
23 - Champion Commercial - Wyatt Berry, WC Livestock 4-H.
24 - Champion Commercial - Wyatt Berry, WC Livestock 4-H.
25 - Champion Commercial - Wyatt Berry, WC Livestock 4-H.
26 - Champion Commercial - Wyatt Berry, WC Livestock 4-H.
27 - Champion Commercial - Wyatt Berry, WC Livestock 4-H.
28 - Champion Commercial - Wyatt Berry, WC Livestock 4-H.
29 - Champion Commercial - Wyatt Berry, WC Livestock 4-H.
30 - Champion Commercial - Wyatt Berry, WC Livestock 4-H.
31 - Champion Commercial - Wyatt Berry, WC Livestock 4-H.
— Winners collect animal project honors


Rabbit
Grand Champion - Cela Riko, El Campo; Reserve Champion - Luke Minski, East Bernard Jr FFA; 3 - Mason Bytree, El Campo Jr FFA; 4 - Jacob Minski, East Bernard Jr FFA; 5 - Kiley Vardok, El Holguy Hamde 4-H; 6 - Hannah Dofigh, East Bernard FFA; 7 - Kyle Bell, East Bernard 4-H; 8 - Clay Jung, Outdoor 4-H; 9 - Brad Jung, Outdoor 4-H; 10 - Kate Solis, Boling Country 4-H.

Rooster
Grand Champion - John Fuala, El Holguy Hamde 4-H; Reserve Champion - M اله ند، Outdoor 4-H; 3 - Morgan Burct, East Bernard Jr FFA; 4 - Chante Sward, East Bernard 4-H; 5 - Whitney Swood, East Bernard FFA; 6 - Lupe Miska, East Bernard Jr FFA; 7 - Todd Bell, East Bernard Jr FFA; 8 - Shayla Vardok, El Holguy Hamde 4-H; 9 - Kai Smith, El Holguy Hamde 4-H.

Steer
Grand Champion - Natalie Hochrett, Taiton Jones Creek 4-H; Reserve Champion - Shelby Snyder, Taiton Jones Creek 4-H; Reserve Junior Champion - Karin Dawson, El Campo FFA; Reserve Brahma Shear - Abbi Stuart, El Campo FFA; 5 - Marshall Macias, East Bernard Jr FFA; 6 - Monica Breyas, Caney Creek 4-H; 7 - Kyle Breyas, Boling Jr FFA; 8 - Lashah Rickham, Boling Jr FFA; 9 - Kode Rickham, Boling FFA.

Swine
Grand Champion - Hailey Peters, Boling Jr FFA; Reserve Champion - Natalie Hochrett, Taiton Jones Creek 4-H; Reserve Junior Champion - Karin Dawson, El Campo FFA; 5 - Connor Gaona, Boling FFA; 6 - Kaitlin Wilkinson, East Bernard Jr FFA; 7 - Dylan elast, El Campo Prurint 4-H.

Turkey
Grand Champion - Jude Baker, Outdoor 4-H; Reserve Champion - Luke Baker, Outdoor 4-H; 3 - Laryn Shaw, Outdoor 4-H; 4 - Savon Jones, El Campo FFA; 5 - Whitney Swood, East Bernard Jr FFA; 6 - Morgan Swoboda, East Bernard FFA; 7 - Seth Bell, Boling Jr FFA; 8 - Austin Bell, Boling FFA; 9 - Caitlyn Fuecker, East Bernard FFA; 10 - Jami Fuecker, East Bernard FFA.

Tractor Restoration
Grand Champion - Hunter Mota, El Campo FFA; Reserve Champion - Ryder Mota, El Campo FFA; Reserve Champion - Carson Rose, El Campo FFA; 3 - Bay Duchs.

Thursday. “As with all cases, it is our job to prove these charges beyond any and all reasonable doubt and that’s what we will work to do.”

If a court finds him guilty of a lesser charge, possible punishments vary widely.

n. Based on the passage, what is the legal status of the defendant in the case? The defendant is charged with two counts each of aggravated assault and endangering a child as well as deadly conduct.

m. What is the defendant’s position regarding the possibility of reduced charges? The defense is prepared to work to prove the charges beyond any and all reasonable doubt.

n. The defendant faces a possible punishment range of five to 99 years in prison. If a court finds him guilty of a lesser charge, possible punishments vary widely.

1. In what county were the animal project honors awarded? Wharton County.
2. Which animals were honored in the project awards? Rabbit, Rooster, Steer, and Swine.
4. Who was the Reserve Champion in the Rabbit category? Luke Minski, East Bernard Jr FFA.
5. Who won the Rooster category? John Fuala, El Holguy Hamde 4-H; Reserve Champion was Chante Sward, East Bernard Jr FFA.
6. What was the Grand Champion for Steer? Natalie Hochrett, Taiton Jones Creek 4-H.
7. Who was the Reserve Champion for Swine? Karin Dawson, El Campo FFA.
8. Who won the Turkey category? Jude Baker, Outdoor 4-H; Reserve Champion was Luke Baker, Outdoor 4-H.
9. How many counts of the indictment include lesser charges? Three counts.
10. What are the potential punishments for these lesser charges? Five to 99 years in prison.
Teacher violates policy, opts to resign

Laura Chromcak — Teacher violates policy, opts to resign

Saturday, March 9 at Marrs-Mc Lean will begin at 2:30 p.m.

Laura Chromcak passed away May 4, 2015. She was 82.

Laura retired from a super-

visory position with the VA.

She enjoyed playing cards, Scrabble and spending time with students.

She is survived by her husband, George at Fair-

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Ballet Issue

El Campo voters will decide today whether to provide $10.5 million in funding for a new police, fire and EMS station. Currently, police officers, as well as volunteer firefighters like Chris Davis, left, and Fire Chief Jimmy George Jr. (also a city paramedic) work from the 1970’s era building on East Jackson. If voters approve the bond proposal, the three departments would move to the West Loop.

El Campo ISD

Three ECISD trustee posts also on ballot

(Continued from Page 1-A)

City Issues

- Bond Proposal - The city of El Campo seeks voter approval for a $10.5 million construction bond. If approved, a $39.642 per $100 value of property would be raised. The city seeks the tax abatement since 2014. In- company to request county lion, according to statements times. Its estimated taxable — Three ECISD trustee posts also on ballot from 4-A status (generally —ity-of-life projects, voters will should an opportunity arise. pursue those corporations turing, although it could still from industry and manufac- tion issue, if approved by vot- advance.

of the effect, however. How much can’t be determined in advance.

• CDC’s Mission - The City Development Corpora- tion issues, if approved by vot- eres, redirects the development corporation’s priorities away from industry and manufac- turing, although it could still pursue those corporations should an opportunity arise.

To allow more emphasis on retail development and qual- ity-of-life projects, voters will be asked to change the agency from 4-A status (generally non-realt) to 4-B status. If the issue passes, the CDC will continue to operate as it has since its creation in the early 1990’s.

This CDC, funded by a quarter-of the city’s sales tax, should receive about $500,000 in sales tax revenue during the current fiscal year. It has about $1.7 million in fund balance.

• Council Positions - For Southeast El Campo residents, the District 1 post appears on the ballot. In that race, incumbent Steve Ward faces Wanda Easonky. All other City Council in- cumbents – Gloria Harris in District 2, Tommy Hiltzfeld in District 3 and Ed Erwin in District 4 – will return to of- fice unopposed.

El Campo ISD

• Position 1 – Justin Sosa and Dallas Adams Coleman vie for the post.

• Position 2 – Dennis Jay

(Continued from Page 1-A)

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My heart belongs to Mommy

Mother’s Day

Sunday, May 10, 2015

“Mummy” is just a small, two-syllable word, and yet it is so important to every one of us. Often the first word spoken by babies, “Mummy” represents the magical heart of the ever-expanding universe of young children. The relation- ship between a child and its mother or mother figure cannot be compared to any other human relationship.

In the best of worlds, “Mummy” evokes gentleness and firmness, kisses and hugs. She is the angel of the night come to rescue us from nightmares. She is the one who feels the pain of your heartache and who will always defend you when you’re attacked.

Your mother is the one who knows you best, the one who helps you overcome obstacles and dreams of a beautiful future for you. She helps you build your magical heart of the ever-expanding universe of young children. The relation-ship between a child and its mother or mother figure cannot be compared to any other human relationship.

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Your mother is the one who knows you best, the one who helps you overcome obstacles and dreams of a beautiful future for you. She helps you build your confidence and surpass yourself. She shows you the value of wisdom rather than misplaced pride.

Baby birds grow up and leave the nest to lead their own lives. With maturity, a growing child learns discernment and sees parents for the human beings they are, with their strengths and weaknesses. Rather than spoiling their love, this discovery is often the source of a closer relationship for adult children and their mothers. Even if your childhood was less than ideal, the affection that unites mothers. Even if your childhood was less than ideal, the affection that unites
Kutac soars to title in Regional track meet; State up next for Hornet

By JAY T. STRASNER
pudahle@leader-news.com

Lining up before the event, it’s not a stretch to say that Louise’s Chris Kutac stands out among the athletes who specialize in triple jump and long jump. Not particularly athletic-looking at first glance, the small guy from the small school in Wharton County attracts some nudges and pointing fingers at first.

“Walk, people do kind of look at me weird, like I’m out of place or something before the track meet starts,” he said. “Knuckle turn and they’re like ‘what? This guy?’ It’s kind of funny.” But when the senior Hornet soars through the air and lands in the pit, Kutac basically erases all those doubts.

“When I go out there and beat them and they start to recognize my ability,” he smiled.

Kutac created a new group of believers last week after winning the triple jump and placing third in long jump at the Regional track meet in Kingsville. His efforts qualified him for the Class AA State meet for the second consecutive year, to be held in Austin May 15-16.

Kutac said his interest in track began when he was in seventh grade at El Campo High. At that time, the starting mark was set back 20 feet.

“Track was always cool to me,” he said. “I watched my sister. She wasn’t very tall but she was good at it. That made me start thinking. And about training for it and in junior high I started my own career if I guess you could say.”

Kutac noted personal best leaps at the Regional event at Texas A&M Kingsville, hitting 44-9 in the triple jump and 21-10.5 in the long jump. His mark in the triple jump beat his previous efforts by five inches.

“This Hornet has WINGS

"In the triple jump, I was going against a guy from Lufkin who had already signed to jump in college," Kutac said. “So it was really satisfying to go out there and beat him. That told me a lot about what I’m capable of.”

The senior Hornet has developed a routine to help him prepare for competing at State.

“I do a lot of strength training with my legs on Monday and Tuesday,” Kutac said. “But about midway through it, I realized that I really don’t have anything to be nervous about. It’s just like any other meet. I have to do my best. The one difference is the starting mark is set back to 40 feet, just like college. That takes a little getting used to, but other than that it’s just about going out there and performing.”

After staking on both the baseball and football fields for Louise this season, Kutac has begun to attract interest from college recruiters.

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—Teams honored for excellence during athletic year

(Continued from Page 1-B)

EC Golf

Ivy Willis and Hope Wilkins were voted Fighting Heart. "I'm extremely proud of these two kids who did the work," Head Coach Robert Nastoupil said. "But the success we did not get where we wanted to go, but the success we did accomplish is something to be proud of." The Defensive MVP award was given to Cayson Crivellari and the Team MVP award was given to Elizabeth Rojas and Cami Campo swimming program. The Ricebirds won second place in district. Matthew Wilkins took top honors in district, seventh grade state. He competed at state in the 100-m arc breaststroke, and his time was fast enough to make the all time 50 fastest swimmers in that category. "I'm very proud of the boys for the outstanding season," Head Coach Robert Nastoupil said. Matthew Wilkins was named MVP for the Ricebirds, and Taylor Hernandez was named MVP for the Ladybirds. Jillian Ermis was voted Fighting Heart for the season.

EC Swim

The Ricebird volleyball team finished 8-2 in district, earning them a second place finish.

EC Tennis

"I really consider this season a personal success," Head Coach Alfred Pavlu said. "We had a lot of fun." Head Coach Pavlu said he really appreciates being their coach. Cody Munoz was named MVP for the girls, and Bailey Pop was voted Fighting Heart.

EC Soccer

The Ricebird soccer team placed second in district. Class AAA District 20. The girls 200 relay. Along with Williams, Williams and Martin, and Ivy Willis also advenced in the girls 200 relay. The Ladybirds were fourth overall. The girls went 4-6 in district, placing fourth overall. The girls team finished 8-2 in district, becoming district champions. The first round of playoffs kicked off this weekend against West Columbia in Richmond. "One word to describe these boys is relentless, and I'm very proud of their no complimations so far and all that they've done this year," Head Coach Russel Kernek said. "Because the boys season has not ended, the MVP and Fighting Heart awards will be given at a later time.

EC Volleyball

"This group was very coachable and a pleasure to around," Head Coach Melissa Popp said. "The girls were very hard working and committed, but had a light mood full of fun and memories." The MVP award was given to Amy Pflughaupt and the Fighting Heart was given to Natalie Nohavitza.

Standouts

Ladybird basketball players, from left, Amanda Fortinelli, Helena Triska, Veronica Murray and Aimee Cerrato listen while high lights of the basketball season are announced.

"These boys are extremely easy to coach because of their self motivated work ethic," Harp said. "I really appreciate being their coach." Cody Munoz was named MVP for the girls, and Bailey Pop was voted Fighting Heart.

EC Golf

The Ladybird golf team made it to regionals after winning the district championship for the 2014-15 season.

"All of the credit to go the team," Head Coach Robert Nastoupil said. "The boys team had some moshups, but they improved every day. The girls, on the other hand, pulled through and were able to go to district and become district champions.

The girls had three regionals qualifiers, which included Faith Wagner, Jillian Ermis and Faith Wagner.

Shawn Ramos was named MVP for the Ricebirds and Jason Willis was MVP for the Ladybirds. Jillian Ermis was voted Fighting Heart for the season.

EC Swim

El Campo girls 200 relay advanced in the girls 200 relay. Along with Williams, Brooke Krpec, Zona Martin, and Ivy Willis also advanced in the girls 200 relay. Along with Williams, Brooke Krpec, Zona Martin, and Ivy Willis also advanced in the girls 200 relay.

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EC Soccer

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EC Golf

The Ladybird golf team pulled through and were able to qualify for the El Campo Regional Golf Tournament.

Sports Beat

On Saturday, May 16 Old Orchard Park * Diboll, TX We’re searching for the best tamales for our Tamale Cooking Contest, Tamale Eating Contest, Pepper Eating Contest, Kid’s Area, Arts & Crafts, Mexican Food, Folkloric Dancers, Mariachi Band, Washers Tournament, Volleyball Tournament and lots more. For both information or for more information, call 936-829-4888 or email dibolltivic@consolated.net
Eric Blehm

The veterinary science contest included three main categories: hands-on skills, which focused on the practical application of veterinary instruments, parasites, organs. Now that is a leap to the next story. Benavidez’ life was filled with challenges. Organized in the age of seven, he was raised by his aunt and uncle in El Campo. He was pulled from school early and spent summers in the fields as a migrant worker.

"It’s important to tell my dad’s life story because he overcame poverty and prejudice to become the best of the best, a Green Beret. He didn’t let those things, or fears, define him," Garcia said.

Benavidez’ Grandfather Salvatore, known for courageous acts as a raquero, was always telling Roy, “If someone needs help, you help them.” It would become a defining philosophy of Benavidez life. In pursuit of his dream to become a pararescue, Benavidez joined the Texas National Guard at age 17; three years later, he went on to the Army.

LEGEND reconnects Benavidez’ life-changing disciplinary encounter

SEWELL COMPLETES basic training at Lackland AFB
Air Force Airman Ty A. Sewell graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio.

The new Airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included classroom instruction and laboratory work, as well as testing and evaluation. The curriculum included basic first aid, emergency procedures, weapons training and drill andceremony.

Sewell is the son of Tammy L. Huey of El Campo and Kevin G. Sewell of Strawn. He is also the step-son of Velma L. Sewell of Strawn and brother of Kevin L. Sewell of Manhattan, Kan. Sewell was a 2013 graduate of El Campo High School.

Theresa’s Polka Picks

Theresa’s Polka Picks are selected each week by polka musician Tho- ren Zepka. April 29
Hustler: Rod Ravens perform at SHOT, Houston Heights Lodge 88, 8-11:30 p.m.
Dancing: Ray and Joe perform at Buffalo Bar, 11:10 p.m.
Airman: Light music lineup for the Club event Czechoholics, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; Tolstok and Steel Country, 9 p.m. midnight. It all takes place at the city park pavilion in Wim- ion 979-728-9511.

“New book recounts in-depth story of legendary mission”

What took place on May 2, 1968 during “horrors of war” mission.” Prochazka said. “Each one of us was there to contribute memories and such...In the book...”

Eric Blehm, the author, contacted my brother, Niel Benavidez, via email over a year ago,” said daughter Denise Prochazka of El Campo. “He wanted to write a book and told me it was going to be about the May 2 mission. I began to appreciate the fact that Roy P. Benavidez, is the life of Master Sgt. Eric Blehm. The mis-

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CHURCH LISTING

The El Campo Leader-News Church Listing is made possible by these businesses and churches who encourage all of us to attend worship services.
Churches are invited to call (979) 543-3633 or send an email to leader@leader-news.com to make a change to a current listing or to be added to the list.

-- Proverbs 15:16

Page 4-B
We also do

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naturally
The team didn’t know that they had infiltrated a section of jungle that concealed a major enemy force. They found themselves in the middle of a dense forest of NVA, under attack, low on ammunition, and unable to escape. The bodies of the dead as cover in an endless jungle that appeared to survive the onslaught. No one was on his way to broadcast at the morning briefing at Firebase Camp, when he suddenly realized, from up in the air, that he was really looking down on the horizon. The ground fire like that which had been seen before. He was wounded.”

Nicknamed “Mitty” by his comrades, Benavidez had saved the lives of eight men, but ended the lives of seven more.”

Despite being immediately and severely wounded, Benavidez had saved the lives of eight men, but ended the lives of seven more.”

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