



COURTESY PHOTO

Winning bird watchers

The Laughing Gals receive their second place award (with 112 species) at the Great Texas Birding Classic awards lunch on Sunday, April 22, at Plantation Suites in Port Aransas. They competed in the Roughwings Division against other teams up and down the Texas Coast and were sponsored by Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce-Tourist Bureau. Team members are, from left, Lily Cartwright, Kelsey Bigelow, Kelsey Abel and their trainer and chaperone, Joan Holt. The other team sponsored by the chamber, the Port Aransas Spoonbills, came in third in the Big Sit competition with 116 species. Team members were Scott and Joan Holt, Chris Tubbs, Francis Stokes, Ann Vaughan, Tony Amos and Bobby Sherwood. All funds raised during the week long classic are used to increase appreciation, understanding and conservation of birds along the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail.

PASTOR'S PEN

Never alone



with the unity and community of this campus drawing together to grieve and encourage one another, and the drawing together of an entire nation in mutuality and support. Counter his rage with the quiet dignity of those students who spoke on national news programs and of their poet/professor who raised them to their feet with words of grace and truth. So, where is God in all of this? With mature faith we have long since put away the childish ideas that God is going to place us in some kind of protective bubble to isolate us from the threat of the real world. Jesus' crucifixion in itself shows us the un-

truth of the idea that only good things happen to good people. What God does promise is that we will never face this evil alone. We already have seen the spirit at work as past survivors of similar attacks have been reaching out to the Virginia Tech students to let them know that they will survive, even thrive, past this pain. So many family members, friends and strangers are reaching out simply to touch those whose lives have been touched by tragedy. And, beyond the comfort that human hands can provide is the ultimate promise of our faith. A creed of the United Church of Canada begins: "We are not alone, we live in God's world," and concludes, "In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God." Richard Safford is pastor at Community Presbyterian Church.

Threat puts school on alert

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

they did a real good job." On Thursday morning, April 19, police arrested a PAHS student for allegedly writing a note threatening to detonate a bomb at the school. Police identified him only as a boy under 17 years old. A custodian found the note the previous day on the floor of a janitorial supply room, said Travis Longanecker, principal of PAHS. Longanecker said the unsigned note read: "I'm going to blow up the high school Friday." That day - Friday, April 20 - was the eighth anniversary of the Columbine High School massacre in which two students killed 12 classmates and a teacher in Colorado. The bomb threat also roughly coincided with the anniversaries of the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Building in Oklahoma City and the burning of the Branch Davidian Ranch near Waco in 1993. In addition, a student shot to death 32 people and wounded 29 on the campus of Virginia Tech in Blacksburg Virginia on Monday, April 16. Longanecker said he believed the student was not motivated by any of those events specifically but by a conglomeration of all of them. "I do believe this (PAHS bomb threat) was a copy-cat style threat to disrupt school," he said. Nationwide, hundreds of schools received bomb threats in the wake of the Virginia Tech shootings. In Port Aransas, the bomb threat came during the week when students were taking Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills tests, or TAKS - state-mandated testing. That too may have been a motivation for the threat, Longanecker said. In fact, he said, the note was written on the back

of a TAKS schedule. Longanecker said he believes the student slipped the note under the door to the janitorial supply room - located in an alcove that doesn't see heavy foot traffic - in order to make sure the note was found but also to avoid getting caught. A custodian found the note just after classes were out for the day on the afternoon of Wednesday, April 18. "Immediately, we had suspects in mind," Longanecker said. "I'll just say there was some student scuttlebutt." In addition, writing teachers found "uncanny" resemblances between the handwriting on the note and the handwriting of a certain student, Longanecker said. After being questioned by school officials, the student admitted he wrote the note, according to Billy Wiggins, superintendent of PAISD. "He said it was a joke and didn't mean it," Wiggins said. "But, you know, you have to take these things seriously in today's world." Longanecker temporarily suspended the student from school. He later had the student put in DAEP - District Alternative Education Placement. Students in DAEP get their instruction in one classroom away from the PAHS campus and remain separated from the rest of the student body throughout the day. The student accused of writing the note will have his case reviewed by school officials after 45 school days to determine whether he should be allowed back in regular classes, Longanecker said. Those 45 days will extend into the next school year. If he is not put back in regular classes after 45 days, he will remain in DAEP for another 15 school days,

Longanecker said. After the note was found Wednesday afternoon, a police officer and school employees searched the high school for a bomb. School employees searched again early Thursday morning. At 6 a.m. Friday, police, firefighters and school employees performed a sweep through the high school to make sure there were no explosives in the school. "We searched through every nook and cranny of the school," Longanecker said. That meant going through every locker and desk, pulling books off the library shelves and more, he said. All students were required to enter school that morning through one door, and every fifth student's backpack was searched as they entered school. Longanecker said he believes the student never intended to actually plant a bomb but to disrupt school. Still, the principal was saddened by the turn of events. "Emotionally, it has been trying," he said. "We feel like we have this nice little island community, and yet violence can happen anywhere - or there is a threat of violence everywhere." At 2:30 p.m. Thursday, the entire PAHS student body was called to an assembly in the gym, where students were informed about the threat and given notification letters to take home to their parents. Longanecker also took questions from students. Longanecker warned "potential copy cats" during the assembly that student freedoms such as off-campus lunches could be curtailed for the entire student body if a similar incident happens again. Port Aransas Police Chief Sam Russell said he was "very pleased" with how school and police reacted to the threat. Port Aransas police met with school officials earlier this school year and made plans for how they would handle situations like bomb threats, Russell said. Similarly, drills designed to prepare students and employees for how they should react if an intruder starts causing trouble in a school building have been held. The boy who was arrested later was released, but Russell said some sort of charge - probably a misdemeanor - will be filed. At press time, the investigation still was in progress. Longanecker said all but one of the comments he received were supportive of how the incident was handled.

Deaths/Funerals

Mendoza

Yolanda L. Mendoza of Port Aransas died Sunday, April 22, 2007, in a Corpus Christi hospital after an 11-year battle with kidney disease. She was 63. Mendoza was born to Adan and Elida Castellano on Aug. 9, 1943, in Falfurrias. The family moved to Corpus Christi in the 1950s, and Mendoza attended Ray High School. In 1971, she and her husband, Julio Mendoza, moved to Port Aransas where she was a housewife. In addition to her husband of more than 46 years, she is survived by her children, Fidel (Jeanette) Mendoza of Corpus Christi, Gloria (Rene) Recio of San Antonio, Ruben



YOLANDA L. MENDOZA

Mendoza of San Antonio, and Javier (Stacey) Mendoza, Raul Mendoza, Yoli Mendoza and Yvette Mendoza, all of Port Aransas; grandchildren, Julian and Joseph Mendoza of Corpus Christi, Gabriel and R.J. Recio of San Antonio; Timothy, Christopher and Lisa Templeton of Port Aransas and Michael Mendoza of Port Aransas; and great-grandchildren, Hannah, Jerry and Ethan Templeton of Port Aransas. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brother, Rene Castellano, and her sister, Belinda Garza. A Rosary will be recited at 7 p.m. Friday, April 27, at Memorial Funeral Home, 3442 Holly Road in Corpus Christi. A funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 28, at Holy Family Catholic Church, 2509 Nogales, Corpus Christi, with Monsignor Rory Deane officiating. Burial will follow at Memory Gardens, 8200 Old Brownsville Road.

Lenamon

Todd Lenamon, brother of Christy Watkins of Port Aransas, died Thursday, April 19, 2007. He was 43. Lenamon was born in Baytown on Sept. 25, 1963. Other survivors are his mother and step-father, Sharon and Henry Weir of San Antonio; father and step-mother, E.G. and Stephanie Lenamon of Livingston; grandparents, Blanche Todd of San Antonio and Marie Haynes of Livingston; a niece, a nephew, numerous aunts and uncles. A funeral service was held at Sunset North Funeral Home in San Antonio on Monday, April 23, with his aunt, Jeanette Cole, officiating.

Obley

June Wachholz Obley of Anthony, Kan., and Port Aransas, died Saturday, April 21, 2007, in Anthony. She was 77. Obley was born June 18, 1929, to Frank L. and Agnes (Haley) Wachholz in Anthony. She graduated from high school in Anthony in 1947 and earned a bachelor of science degree in education from Emporia State Teachers College. She and her husband, Ted Obley, made their home in Wichita, Kan., until his death in 1957. She continued her teaching career in Germany, and returned to the United States where she earned a masters degree in guidance and counseling from the University of Connecticut and an administrative certificate from Wichita State University. She was a school counselor and administrator in Wichita and Connecticut, retiring after 38 years in education. She and close friend Elsie Fisher worked in the Wichita council of Camp Fire. After retirement, they moved to Anthony and divided their time between Anthony and Port Aransas. She was a member of Sigma Kappa Sorority and the Anthony Christian Church. Survivors include her brother, Frank (Carol) Wachholz; two nieces, two nephews; seven grandnieces and nephews, six great-grand nieces and nephews, and Fisher. Funeral services were held Tuesday, April 24, in the Anthony Christian Church. Memorials may be given to either the Christian Church of the First Baptist Church in Port Aransas.



COURTESY PHOTO

May vows planned

Ashley Korth of Port Aransas and Ross Juricek of Plano announce their pending wedding on May 11. The couple will exchange vows in Las Vegas at 3:30 p.m. Pacific Time. The ceremony can be seen live or archived at www.cupidswedding.com. The bride is the daughter of Cynthia Korth and Fred Waring of Port Aransas and the late Jeff Korth. The groom is the son of Susan and Mike Juricek of Plano. The couple will be at home in Austin after the wedding.

SOUTH JETTY CLASSIFIED ADS WORK
WWW.PORTASOUTHJETTY.COM

CHURCH DIRECTORY

- CHURCH OF CHRIST**
James Bruster, Minister
Sunday Bible Class 9 a.m.
Worship 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Wednesday Class 7 p.m.
205 Brundrett
749-5498...361-563-8232
- FAITH LUTHERAN**
James Sturgis, Pastor
938 W. Lott Ave., Aransas Pass
361-758-3145
Bible Study: 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
- ISLAND IN THE SON UNITED METHODIST**
Rev. Dixie L. Robertson
Sunday Service: 8:45 & 11 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:50 a.m.
12 miles so. of Port Aransas on Hwy 361.....361-438-2337
- CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS**
Paul Campbell, President
Sacrament Meeting: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:45 a.m.
Primary: 10:45 a.m.
Priesthood and Relief Society: 11:30 a.m.
3035 Hwy 35 N.
Rockport
(361) 790-5699
- FIRST BAPTIST**
William Campbell, Pastor
Sunday School/Bible Study - all ages 9:45 a.m.
Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship: T.B.A.
Wed. Prayer Service: 7 p.m.
200 N. Station.....749-6479
- ISLAND WORSHIP CENTER**
Pentecostal Sabrina Grubbs, Pastor
Sunday: 10:00 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study - 7 p.m.
1801 S. 11th.....749-5772
- COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN**
Richard Safford, Pastor
Sunday Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Church School 9:30 a.m. Sun.
Bible Study 4:00 p.m. Wed.
113 S. Alister.....749-5319
- FIRST CHRISTIAN (Disciples of Christ)**
Rev. David Dear, Pastor
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Worship: 11 a.m.
337 W. Nelson & Rife
Aransas Pass.... 758-3530
- ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC**
Father John Xaviour
Rosary 7:45 & Mass 8 a.m. daily
Sunday Mass: 9 & 11 a.m.
Saturday Mass: 5 p.m.
Holy Days 8 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Confession: 4 p.m.
100 N. Station.....749-5825
- 11TH STREET CHRISTIAN**
John Pritchett, Minister
Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Worship: 11 a.m.
11th & Nelson Ave.
Aransas Pass....758-5818
- TRINITY-BY-THE-SEA EPISCOPAL**
Rev. Al Leveridge, Vicar
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Sunday Eucharist: 10 a.m. & 7 p.m.
Adult and Youth Christian Education: Sunday 6 p.m.
Ladies Bible Study: Monday 7 p.m.
Wed. Eucharist: 9:30 a.m.
433 Trojan St.....749-6449



ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE



PORT ARANSAS FAMILY CENTER
416 S. Alister Street

Sea Isle Village Condominiums
Daily-Weekly-Monthly Rentals
1129 S. 11th St. Jessica Torres
Pt Aransas, TX General Mgr.
361-749-6281

TROPIC ISLAND
Apartments & Motel
361-749-6128

Advertise in the
SOUTH JETTY
(361) 749-5131

D. Nichols Insurance Agency, Inc.
361-749-7871

Souvenir City
100 E. White
749-6424

Mora Marine Service
749-5419
150 W. Cotter

Seafood and Spaghetti Works
710 Alister 749-5666

Happy 26th Birthday Shane
5/1/84 - 10/2/06

If tears could build a stairway and memories a lane, I would walk right up to Heaven and bring you back again.

We Miss You So Very Much! All Our Love
Mom, Bill, Joseph III,
Justin & Joseph IV
ST JOHN/MIGUEZ FAMILY