

Houston Munson District Attorney

"KNOWS HARD WORK"

Born into a ranching family 48 years ago, Houston Munson learned the basic values of farm and ranch life — the long, hard hours required to earn a living on the land. At the same time, he learned to appreciate the virtues and benefits from this upbringing. He chose to raise his own family with these ideals. He is dedicated to maintaining the moral standards of a hard working, honest, law-abiding way of life.

This is why he is fighting so hard to combat crime and drug traffic in our communities. He wants our way of life preserved for his children's generation, so that they might be able to appreciate the lesson taught through hard work.



Left to right — Jimmy Condel, Ranch Foreman, Houston, III and Houston Munson.

Re-Elect

Houston Munson District Attorney

PH. ADV. BY HOUSTON MUNSON, P.O. BOX 99, GONZALES, TX 78029

Raider Review

Continued from page 11

Raiders slide in for a victory

By: Rachelle Hunt and Bryan Bubela, 1 hit. Bubela was also the winning pitcher with five strikeouts. Coach Mark Faldyn commented, "We played with good intensity throughout the season." Nevertheless, Coach Faldyn ended with a positive note by saying, "We have improved in our hitting and have showed some bright spots defensively." The Raider Review staff would like to congratulate the Rice High School baseball team on their victory.



Fred Grahmann presents Willie Fitzgerald with a plaque for his service of thirty-eight years at Rice CISD.

Fitzgerald retires after 41 years of service

By: Karen Kocurek The 1983-84 school year has brought about the retirement of a vocational agriculture teacher at Rice High School — Willie L. Fitzgerald. This man has truly dedicated his life to teaching and helping to produce young men and women that are ready to accept their roles as responsible adults. Through his efforts, his students have attained many honors and awards that will certainly be a challenge for future students to equal. This man has made numerous personal sacrifices over the years in order to give his students what he thought was necessary. Even his family has made sacrifices in order to share him with others that also required their love, understanding and guidance that this gentleman so freely provided. It is with deep regret that the students and the faculty of Rice High School must bid this fine man a farewell. Nevertheless, we also wish him a long, fruitful and successful retirement. No one that we have had contact with deserves retirement more than Mr. Fitzgerald. Mr. Fitzgerald should be commended for his outstanding performances and numerous awards throughout his career. He has taught for thirty-one years with thirty-eight at Rice High School. He is a resident of Columbus.

Benge selected as final FTA'er of the school year

At the final Future Teachers' meeting on Thursday evening, April 26, Valerie Benge was selected as the April FTA'er of the month. Her contributions to the club were giving a monthly program, bringing a covered dish to the final meeting, furnishing cups for the evening meal, and running and being elected to the office of vice president for next year. Other candidates eligible for this award were Lori Hoffmann, Sonia Hernandez, Monica Lopez, Monica Pieprzyc, Sandra Kornek, Audrey Williams, Vicky Hernandez, Laura Appelt and Tina Grahmann.

Rice school menu

Thursday, May 3: baked turkey, dressing, gravy, buttered spinach, applesauce, hot rolls.
 Wednesday, May 9: hamburgers, French fries, catsup, hamburger salad, ice cream.
 Thursday, May 10: fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, English peas, cherry jello, hot rolls.
 Friday, May 11: beef and cheese tacos, pinto beans, pickle sticks, sliced peaches, raisin bread.

Top FTA awards go to Genz and Pieprzyc

For outstanding achievement in the Future Teachers of America chapter, Michelle Genz and Monica Pieprzyc received the top trophy awards. Both members were actively involved in FTA activities during the school year. Runner up was Lisa Corman, who received a rainbow bag. Representing the chapter as Miss Rice FTA was Vicky Hernandez, who received a plaque. Four of the most active members in their respective classes were awarded gold trophy cups: ninth grade, Wendy Herman; tenth grade, Colette Williams; eleventh grade, Rachelle Hunt; and twelfth grade, Roxanne Ripper. Medals were awarded to involved FTA'ers. They were Elizabeth Young, Laura Appelt, Monica Lopez, Vicky Hernandez, Valerie Benge, Connie Przak and Lisa Corman. For selling 37 jugs of popcorn, the top seller was awarded a rainbow bag, which went to Monica Lopez. Other members who sold a case of popcorn or 12 jugs received a free jug of popcorn. They were Vicky Hernandez, Roxanne Ripper, Colette Williams, Monica Pieprzyc, Valerie Benge, Renee Dierschke, Michele Genz, Susan Kaluz, Lisa Corman, Connie Przak and Melinda Stiles. Reserving seats for Benge's selected Future Teachers Program. For her service to Mrs. Suzanne Chiu, Michele Genz received a trophy cup. Officers received trophy cups for their service to the 45 member club: Julia Rosprim, president; Kristine Carpenter, vice president; Vicky Hernandez, secretary; Linda Kornek, treasurer; Roxanne Ripper, historian, and Lisa Corman, parliamentarian.



Top FTA award winners were Monica Pieprzyc, left, and Michele Genz, center. Lisa Corman, right, was runner up.

Fairness and Justice for ALL

Shelby Sharpe:

"I believe the Texas Supreme Court belongs to all Texans, not just the millionaire lawyers who have given more than half a million dollars to my opponent."

Get the big-bucks judge, C. L. Ray, off the court VOTE FOR SHELBY SHARPE, Place 2, Texas Supreme Court, in the Democratic Primary, May 5

Paid for Shelby Sharpe Committee, Kleber C. Miller, Treasurer 220 First City Bank Tower, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-3191

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Raider Review

The RAIDER REVIEW is published by the journalism department of Rice High School, and the opinions reflected are of the students and not the administration, or the Eagle Lake Headlight, unless so stated.

Assembly in the dark

By: Vicky Hernandez on First, the Student Council president candidate for the 1984-85 school year, Derrick Williams, was introduced. He presented his nomination speech to the student body, and jokingly added that the evident darkness was due to Mr. Grahmann's neglect to pay the light bill. Tina Grahmann, student council vice president candidate, then followed with her nomination speech. The president of the Student Council for 1984-85 will be Derrick Williams and vice president will be Tina Grahmann.

Coach Dolly Johnson then proceeded with the introduction of the cheerleader candidates for the 1984-85 school year. They were Audrey Williams, Janice Hyek, Rachelle Hunt, Carol Rhodes, Beverly Rucka, Tina Grahmann, Paula Baumgarten, Bertie Garcia and Becky Kutzer.

The cheerleaders for the 1984-85 school year will be Rachelle Hunt, Bertie Garcia, Beverly Rucka, Carol Rhodes, Janice Hyek and Becky Kutzer. Mr. Grahmann then made some end-of-school remarks such as the need of all seniors to continue applying themselves until their day of graduation. He then gave some instructions regarding the unlighted conditions throughout the school. The assembly then came to an end — a dark end.



Cheerleader candidates, from left to right, were Tina Grahmann, Beverly Rucka, Becky Kutzer, Paula Baumgarten, Janice Hyek, Rachelle Hunt, Audrey Williams, Carol Rhodes and Bertie Garcia.

I, senior, do bequeath....

By: Cheryl Ross Truck. La Donna Dancy: I, Donna, leave to my friend who is very close, but who doesn't know it, a box full of courage, because he's going to need it the way 'The Wizard of Oz.' Take care friend, you know who you are. The Little Red Truck. Monica Pieprzyc: I, Monica Pieprzyc, will my government book with all my notes underlined to help you learn to operate a computer and write a program efficiently. Good luck, Rachelle! Roxanne Ripper: I, Roxanne Ripper, being of sound mind and body do will my seat on the steps of the Commons to an underclassman that wants to enjoy the scenery.



Derrick Williams, left, was nominated as president of the Student Council for the 1984-85 school and Tina Grahmann, right, was selected as vice president.

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Criminal trials rare for district attorney in Gonzales

By JOHN C. HENRY and JIM PHILLIPS American Statesman Staff
 GONZALES — Before the first of the year, criminal trials rarely were held in the judicial district east of San Antonio where Gonzales lawyer Houston Munson has been district attorney for 13 years. Statistics compiled by the Texas Judicial Council show that more people are indicted by grand juries in Munson's jurisdiction than in other four-county districts in Texas. But Munson has taken to trial only one-third the number of cases tried in those other districts. The records show that in the past four years, Munson and his assistant district attorney, Paul Finley, have taken eight criminal cases to trial in the 25th Judicial District. More than 2,000 people were indicted during that time. IN ADDITION, court records indicate that despite state laws requiring him to handle appeals from the 25th Judicial District, Munson has never filed a legal brief to bolster the state case when a defendant appealed the conviction. "I don't have time to do that," he said. Several Appellate Courts have noted that Munson failed to submit arguments to support convictions, including a capital murder case and a burglary-with-intent-to-rape case. Both cases were overturned. In 1979, Munson's failure to file appeal briefs drew the attention of state Prosecuting Attorney Robert Huttash. Huttash wrote to Munson reminding him of his responsibility under state law to file briefs. The district attorney wrote back that he did not "have the time or the manpower to file briefs or to follow the cases on appeal." IN HIS correspondence with Huttash and in an interview, Munson argued that it was the state prosecutor's responsibility to follow cases on appeal to the interim district courts of appeals and later to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. Under state law, Huttash represents the state in the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. However, the law explicitly says that district and county attorneys must represent the state before the 14 interim appeals courts. The infrequency of Munson's appearances in criminal court — eight times in four years — has been criticized by his re-election opponent, Seguin attorney Bud Kirkendall. SINCE JAN. 18, the day Kirkendall entered the Democratic primary race, the district attorney has participated in five criminal trials. Records show that since Munson became district attorney in 1971, grand juries in the 25th Judicial District have returned more than 4,000 indictments. Although Munson says he has "tried hundreds of jury cases" in the past 13 years, records show that he and his assistant have taken 73 criminal cases to trial since 1971. State and county governments pay the salaries of Munson, a secretary and an investigator for the four-county district that stretches from Seguin to Columbus. OF THE FIVE trials since Munson drew an election opponent, one involved Kenneth Marlow Abbott, a San Antonio mechanic who was one of 102 people indicted in November under an organized crime statute for drug trafficking in Gonzales County. Abbott was convicted and sentenced last month to 99 years in prison. None of the other defendants has been scheduled for trial, but more than 24 have pleaded guilty in exchange for probation. Munson has practiced law in Gonzales County for 23 years, maintaining an active private practice in addition to his district attorney duties. The 49-year-old district attorney, who acknowledges that he spends most of his time practicing civil law, said the infrequency of criminal trials is an indication that he has done a good job as chief prosecutor.

"I GUESS I had to try 15 to 20 cases a year for the first several years until everybody tried us once," Munson said. "When they found out we'd win, they became a lot easier to bargain with." The annual report of the Texas Judicial Council indicates that Munson took six criminal cases to trial in 1972, thirteen in 1973, five in 1974, twelve in 1975, nine in 1976, five in 1977, six in 1978, one in 1979, two in 1980, three in 1981, two in 1982 and one in 1983. The same report and a search of court records indicate that in the 8th Judicial District — five counties in northeastern Texas — District Attorney James Chapman and one assistant have tried 43 criminal cases in the past four years. IN THE 33RD Judicial District, Blanco, Burnet, Llano, Mason and San Saba counties, District Attorney Louis Crump and his assistant have taken 25 criminal cases to trial in the same period. Both districts have less than half the population of Munson's district of Colorado, Gonzales, Guadalupe and Lavaca counties. Munson boasts that he has lost two jury verdicts in criminal trials. The records indicate that juries have acquitted eight defendants that he prosecuted. He said the numbers were unimportant. Instead of trying to build an impressive record statistically, Munson said, he has tried to use plea bargains to satisfy law enforcement agencies in the 25th Judicial District. "EVERY PLEA bargain we make is a consensus of what the police agency wants," he said. In Colorado County, where one felony case has gone to trial since 1978, Sheriff Jim Broussard said he has never had any trouble with Munson not taking cases to trial. "We call in juries sometimes and the defendant pleads guilty before the trial starts," said Broussard, who has been with the department since 1975. "You can't hold it against the DA if a defendant suddenly decides he doesn't want a trial."

Guadalupe County Sheriff Pete Kallies generally agreed, but said: "I'd be foolish to say I'm not disappointed that we don't get more cases to court." RECORDS SHOW that from 1978 through 1982, Guadalupe County grand juries returned 1,069 indictments. Five defendants went to trial, were found guilty and received prison sentences; 358 were placed on probation, and 142 received prison time in plea negotiations. Records indicate that an additional 603 cases were dismissed. Kallies said Munson and his assistant are too quick to offer plea bargains. "Maybe we don't have enough" evidence "to go to trial on," the sheriff said. "But not all of our cases are that way." Munson said he did not "see the necessity of trying someone who is willing to come in and plead." THE FOREGOING IS A COMPLETE REPRINT OF AN ARTICLE WHICH APPEARED IN THE AUSTIN AMERICAN STATESMAN ON MARCH 23RD, 1984.

Now Is The Time For A Change! You Can Do Your Part VOTE For W. C. "Bud" KIRKENDALL For District Attorney

Paid Pol. Adv. - Alice Scull Kirkendall, P.O. Box 509, Seguin, Tx. 78155

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