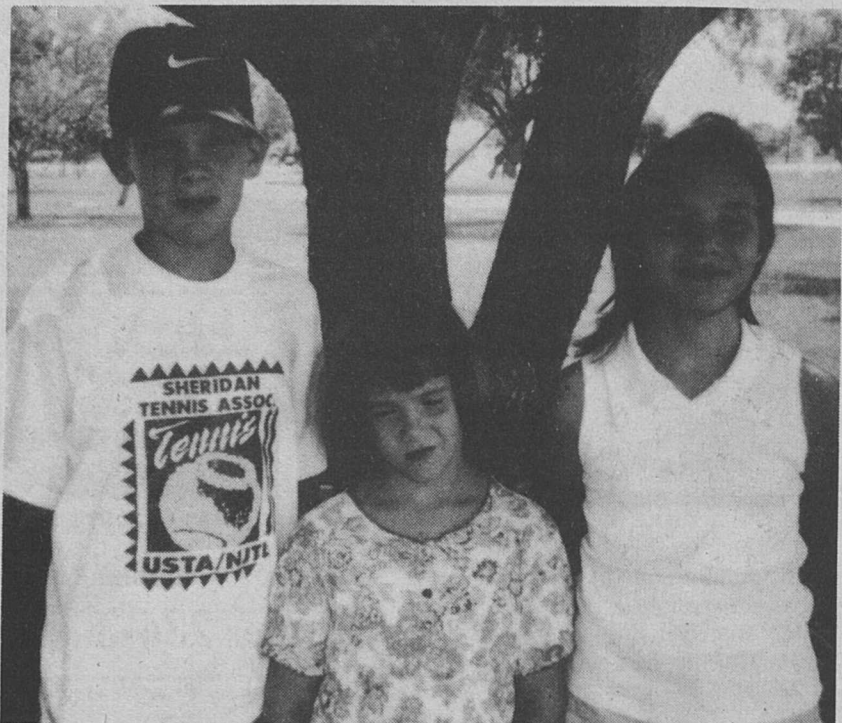




Varleys participate in AAU track

Andrew, Kimberly and Tiffany Varley (pictured above) participated in the AAU summer track program this year. All are children of Larry and Darnell Varley of Sheridan. The youngsters took part in the qualifier's meet held at Memorial High School in Houston. Tiffany qualified in the long jump for the National Track Meet to be held at Charlotte, N.C., Aug. 6. The family, along with Betty and Dean Varley of Sheridan (aunt and uncle), plans to travel with Tiffany to the meet.

Photo Courtesy of Larry Varley

Sign up for new conservation program

Farmers and ranchers may apply for the new Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) through Aug. 1.

The new conservation program, a result of the 1996 Farm Bill, offers a limited number of producers who have serious soil, water and other natural resource problems with technical, financial and educational assistance.

According to John P. Burt, State Conservationist for USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), "EQIP" is not like the Great Plains Conservation Program (GPCP) or Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP). It is extremely limited and is for persons engaged in livestock or agricultural production who would provide the greatest environmental benefits at the least cost to the program.

"Applications will be prioritized after Aug. 1, according to specific criteria," Burt continued. "After Farm Service Agency (FSA) determines producer eligibility, NRCS conservationists and the producer will make an inventory of the natural resources, identify natural resource problems and concerns, determine treatment needs, and agree upon the land management and structural practices the producer will install."

Burt added that the extent of the conservation practice, fields and acres to be treated, and cost-share rate and incentive payment levels the producer will accept, as well as the total program payments, are included in a ranking formula.

Twelve Geographic Priority Acres (GPA), encompassing 167 counties, are the primary target for over \$8.7 million EQIP funds allocated to Texas. Each GPA has similar natural EQIP funds allocated to Texas. Each GPA similar natural EQIP Sign Up resource problems and concerns which EQIP can address. Water conservation, excessive wind and water erosion, limited water supply and brush invasion are a few of the specific resource concerns identified in the GPAs.

Producers in counties outside of a GPA are also eligible for the remaining \$4.7 million EQIP funds provided it will solve identified statewide natural resource concerns, such as excessive erosion and ground and surface water quality.

Each application will compete with other applications in their GPA, while those outside of the GPAs will compete against each other.

"Contracts will be awarded based on their ranking, regardless of loca-

tion," cautioned Burt. "That means some counties may not have any contracts, even though they are located inside a GPA," he said.

Burt added that applications for a single conservation practice on an individual field addressing a single natural resource concern may not be competitive in a GPA," Burt said that applications for a single natural resource concern may not be competitive in a GPA or with the statewide natural resource concerns.

Acceptance into EQIP will require a 5 to 10 year contract, even if only one year of cost-share is needed. Contracts are for a maximum of \$50,000 with a maximum 75% cost-share. Though entire farms or operating units are not required to be included in a contract, the proposed area must include that portion with the identified resource concerns which meets the goals and objectives of the GPA or statewide natural resource concerns.

Producers may increase their

chances of acceptance by submitting a lower than maximum cost-share rate, enrolling entire operating units in the contract and by agreeing to fully meet treatment needs of all identified natural resource concerns on the farm or ranch.

For more information about EQIP, contact your local USDA-NRCS office, Soil and Water Conservation District office or FSA office in your county or call 817-298-1214.

York Foundation awards millionth \$1

The York Children's Foundation reached a milestone during the 1997 first quarter grant selection process with by awarding its millionth dollar to children's charitable organizations.

"The York Children's Foundation is proud to have made such a significant impact with the organizations that contribute to the well-being of our nation's most precious resource, our children," said David F. Beck, Foundation treasurer. "On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to thank the funeral directors, York distributors and the families who have made possible the 509 grants we have awarded since the Foundation was founded in 1992."

Twenty-three organizations were selected for grants during the first quarter of 1997, including the Boys Club, Buena Park, Calif.; Boys Club, E. Los Angeles, Calif.; Camp Hope Inc., Stevens Point, Wisc.; Carnegie Library of Homestead, Munhall, Penn.; Court Appointed Special Advocate of Muskogee County Inc., Muskogee, Okla.; Catoosa County Children's Fund Inc., Ringgold, Georgia; Children First Inc., Grand Prairie, Tex.; Children's Community School Inc., Waterbury, Conn.; Christ's Haven for Children, Keller, Tex.; and Exchange Club Center for Family Unity, Owatonna, Minn.;

Also, Exchange Club Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse of Madison County Inc., Anderson, Ind.; Hope Harbor Inc., Rochester, Minn.; Make A Wish Foundation of the Ozarks Inc., Springfield, Mo.; Mom's House Inc., Lancaster, Penn.; Moorehead Healthy Community Initiative,

Moorehead, Minn.; Neodesha Arts Association, Neodesha, Kan.; Pendleton Jr. Baseball Association Inc., Pendleton, Ind.; Prairie Edge Museum Inc., Eagle Lake; Rice Health Foundation, Willmar, Minn.; Sugar Creek Camp Inc., Oklahoma City, Okla.; Prevention Center of Child Abuse & Neglect of Central Virginia Inc., Lynchburg, Va.; The Dream Car Foundation Inc., Braintree, Mass.; and Simsbury ABC Program Inc., Simsbury, Conn.

When a funeral provider informs the Group that a family has selected a York casket, the Group and distributor make matching donations in memory of the deceased. The Foundation also receives monies from individuals and corporations as memorials.

Funeral service providers may nominate eligible children's charitable

organizations in their area, or the organizations may contact funeral service providers for sponsorship. To be eligible, organizations must be registered as 501(c)(3) non-profit entities and allocate at least 50% of their revenues to the service of children.

The York Children's Foundation Board of Trustees, representing all facets of the funeral service industry, reviews applications quarterly, awarding grants based on need and merit. How many grants and the total funds given each quarter is based on the amount received during that time. Grants are generally \$1,000 to \$2,000.

For more information about the Foundation, contact Nancy Christopherson, Manager of Corporate Communications, The York Group Inc., 9430 Old Katy Road, Houston, TX 77055; or call 713-984-5500.

FRIENDS

is Colorado County's mentoring program, modeled after Big Brother/Big Sister, where a youth is matched one-on-one with a "Mentor". A mentor is someone, 16 years or older, who is willing to spend a minimum of one hour a week with a youth to be a positive role model and friend.

FRIENDS

Sponsored by Colorado County Youth and Family Services
Funded by Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services

We Need People...

who would like to put Colorado County youth first and make a difference in a young person's life!

Volunteer your time — it is the greatest gift you can give a youth!

For more information, call or stop by.

Colorado County Youth & Family Services

Main office: 601 S. East Street
Weimar, Texas 78962

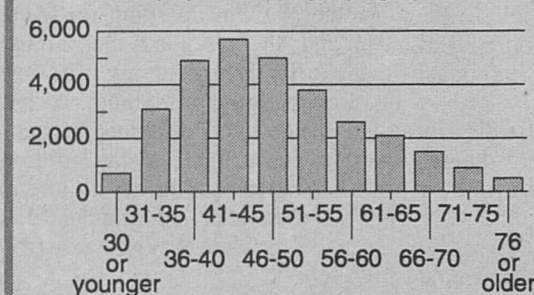
725-9500 (Weimar) 732-8355 (Columbus)
800-256-7321

Keeping an eye on Texas

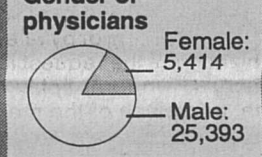
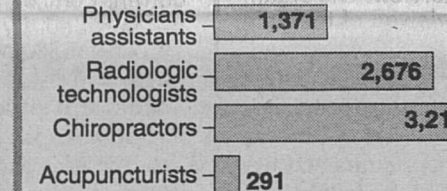
Anatomy of Texas health care providers

More than 30,000 physicians and other health care workers attend to a Texas population of 19 million in 1997. Most of Texas' physicians are male, and the biggest group is between 41 to 45 years of age.

Number of physicians, by age group



Number of other licensed health care providers



SOURCES: John Sharp, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, Texas State Board of Medical Examiners, and Texas State Board of Chiropractic Examiners.

Shoppa's

Continued from Page 7

and equipment.

The funds will be used specifically to construct a 29,000 square foot building in support of the company, resulting in the creation of 22 jobs for the community.

"The Texas Department of Commerce is working in partnership with local communities to retain and assist the businesses we have in Texas, as well as encourage expansions and relocation," said Commerce Executive Director Brenda F. Arnett.

State Representative Robby Cook praised the program, commenting, "We are proud that Shoppa's Farm Supply was chosen to benefit from this type of program."

"This award will be an important step in economic development for El Campo and the surrounding area."

The Texas Capital Fund, which is part of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant Program, promotes economic development in rural areas by providing financial incentives to cities and counties with a population less than 50,000 and 200,000 respectively.

These financial incentives support the relocation or expansion of businesses into the communities to create new, permanent jobs and/or retain existing jobs, primarily for low and moderate income persons.

Did You Know...

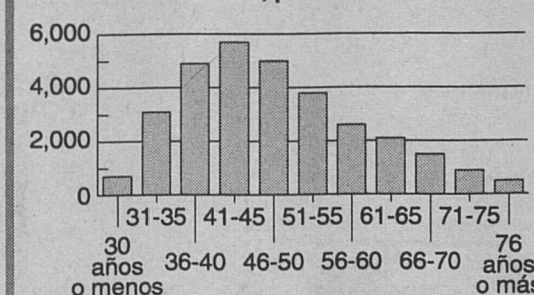
Most of the peppermint produced in the United States comes from Oregon and Washington.

Echándole el ojo a Texas

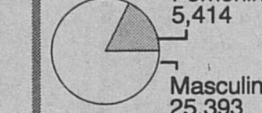
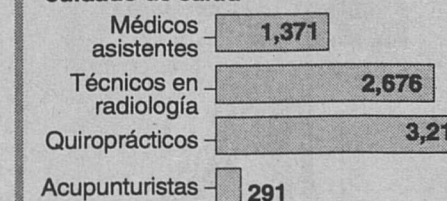
Anatomía de proveedores de cuidado de salud en Texas

Más de 30,000 doctores y otros profesionales del cuidado de salud sirven a una población estatal de 19 millones en 1997. La mayoría del los médicos en Texas son hombres, y el grupo más grande incluye doctores entre las edades de 41 años a 45 años.

Número de doctores, por edad



Número de otros profesionales del cuidado de salud



FUENTES: John Sharp, Contralor de Cuentas Públicas, Mesa Directiva de Examinadores Médicos, y Mesa de Examinadores Quiroprácticos en Texas.

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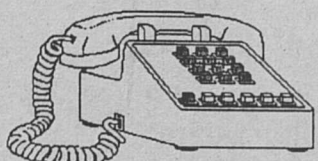
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