

Poster gallery



Kristen Nutt, a junior business major, looks through the posters available in front of the Memorial Student Center Tuesday.

Teens destroy memorial

PORT ARTHUR, (AP) — Nine young people must watch Saving Private Ryan and read The Greatest Generation after pleading guilty to vandalizing a veterans park.

District Judge Charles Carver also ordered the nine to write 1,000-word essays due Dec. 7, the anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

The punishment was handed down Monday as part of a plea bargain worked out in cooperation with local veterans.

Carver said he hoped the teens ultimately would learn about "the sacrifices of American soldiers in defense of your freedom."

"We didn't want to destroy these kids' lives by sending them to the penitentiary, said Herb Stafford, a Veterans of Foreign Wars post commander. "We wanted to show them we are a compassionate generation, too."

More than \$45,000 in damage was done to Golden Triangle Veterans Memorial Park during February, including the removal of plaques carrying the names of veterans who served during World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Desert Storm.

Eleven of 14 concrete benches in the park were toppled, and a pane of glass in the top of a fighter-jet cockpit was shattered. A window was broken in a helicopter, and its door was torn off and stolen. Most of the damage has since been repaired.

Pleading guilty in July to criminal mischief charges were Seth James Hanson, Brian Andrew Rogers, Robin Lee Middlebrooks, Brendi Olene Barnes, Brad Edward Wiegand, Curt Alan Lucia, Eric Ridley, all 18 years old, and Justin Ridley, 17 and Mark Adam Segura, 19.

F-16 crashes in pasture

TULIA, (AP) — F-16 pilot Steve Simons always let his family and friends in Tulia know when a flight pattern for the Air Force reserves would take him over their tiny Panhandle town.

It didn't happen often, but before a Monday solo flight, he called them to say he would be guiding his fighter jet nearby about 6 p.m. So a few residents of the small town, including Simon's father-in-law, Cletus Dobbs, gathered to watch him fly by.

But as the jet cruised overhead, according to Simons' family,

something happened and the plane suddenly seemed to lose power as its pilot tried to turn around for a second pass.

Moments later the F-16 had plummeted to the ground, bursting into flames and leaving scattered debris and a damaged hog shed, the father-in-law said. Simons, 41, died in the crash before the eyes of his family and friends.

"Me and my wife were out in front of the house and he rode that plane down to keep from hitting us or the house," Dobbs said. "He gave his life for us."

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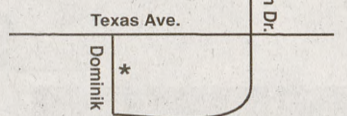


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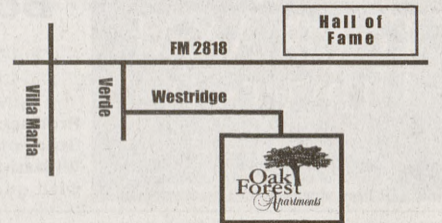
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