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SUNDAY
January 23, 2005
\$1.50

CORPUS CHRISTI

Caller Times

Caller.com



53°/38°
CHILLY
8B

Quickread

HOLA

A&M-CC student is pretty in purple

Desiree Castro, 20, who recently made the Corpus Christi Hammerheads cheer-leading squad, likes to shop in Houston and San Antonio for clothes in her favorite color. **Page 10 (Inside Sunday Homes)**

LOCAL

Kunkle's latest date with death this week

Convicted killer Troy Kunkle will face the ultimate punishment for the sixth time Tuesday, when he is scheduled to die for the 1984 shooting death of Steven Wayne Horton. **1B**

Pages mean prayers for 12-year-old girl

Venessa Santos Garza writes about Banquete Junior High student Katie Warnecke, whose pager goes off constantly, reminding her that people are praying for her to beat cancer. **1B**



IN

People magazine a bad omen for celeb couples

There is one magazine, more than all others, whose cover stories on newly formed match-ups of Hollywood A-listers means the couple is all but doomed. **Page 55**

BUSINESS

Oil prices fuel rush to hit more wildcats

High oil and natural gas prices haven't just fueled frustration from consumers, but afforded a number of industry players a payoff for drilling more wells, digging deeper or taking on more risk. **1D**

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IN

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Friends recall Marine's sense of humor

Flour Bluff grad's attitude buoyed those who knew him



Paul C. Holter III was killed Jan. 14 in Ramadi, Iraq.

BY MATTHEW STURDEVANT
Caller-Times

The photograph of Cpl. Paul C. Holter III inside the funeral home gave a glimpse of his life story. His Paul Newman eyes accentuated his good looks, and his round cheeks were a reminder of the weight he lost to get into the Marines, framed by the square jaw of a seasoned veteran.

More than 500 people attended a funeral and reception Saturday for the 21-year-old Flour Bluff graduate who helped take his Navy Junior ROTC drill team to nation-

al championships.

Holter was with the Sierra Battery, 5th Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division when he died Jan. 14 in Ramadi, Iraq, said Master Sgt. Faustino Lopez Jr. The military has not released details of his death. However, Holter's best friend, Steven Heist, said Holter did not suffer.

A photo of Holter in his dress uniform was propped at the front of the chapel at Seaside Funeral Home beside an American flag folded into a triangle with the stars showing. Hundreds of people packed the pews, lined up along the walls, overflowed into and

Please see **HOLTER 5A**



A Marine detachment marches past the mausoleum at Seaside Memorial Park where Marine Cpl. Paul C. Holter III was laid to rest Saturday.

Helen L. Montoya/Caller-Times

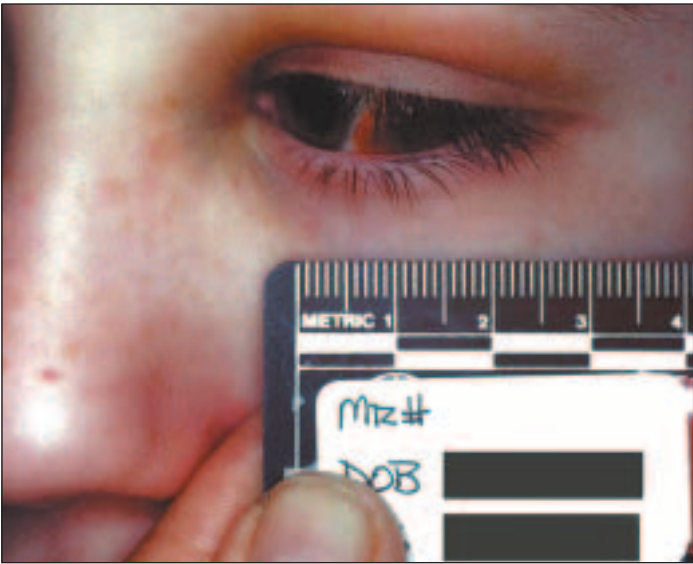


Photo courtesy of Child Protective Services in Nueces County

This child, physically and sexually abused by his parents, has been in and out of foster homes and currently is in a group treatment facility. The 14-year-old suffered the eye injury in a fight with another child in the group home, according to CPS records.



Michelle Christenson/Caller-Times

Susan Dobie, an investigator for Child Protective Services for the past eight years, reviews a case earlier this month. In 2004, 14 out of every 1,000 children in Nueces County were victims of abuse or neglect.



Photo courtesy of Child Protective Services in Nueces County

This 9-year-old boy was choked with a clothesline by an older sibling, according to CPS reports. CPS required parental classes and safety plans for his mother and father. The boy remains with his parents and the case was closed.

SYSTEM NEGLECTED

Part 1 of 4

- **Today:** Child Protective Services attempts to protect some of the most vulnerable victims in Nueces County.
- **Monday:** One CPS investigator in Nueces County walks the line between parents' rights and children's protection.
- **Tuesday:** When the only experienced investigator is unavailable, two novice investigators deal with a baby born addicted to drugs.
- **Wednesday:** An investigator's caseload takes her to a jail and a hospital on the same day.

CPS on radar in Austin

Nueces County's ratio of abused, neglected kids 43% above state average

BY NANCY MARTINEZ
Caller-Times

In an office lit by a computer monitor and desk lamp, Susan Dobie works a piece of tape between two fingers.

Other investigators at the state's Child Protective Services department on Greenwood Drive tease her for the nervous habit. But to Dobie, who's put in 8 1/2 years and seen enough heartbreak to fill a novel, the tape rolling and an office that's dark even when the sun is shining go unnoticed.

Dobie's dreams are haunted by her days of untangling a web of child abuse in Nueces County that never has spun so wide. But when it really hits her is when she sees happy children.

Please see **CPS 8A**

CPS STATS

2004 Nueces County neglect and abuse victims:

87,508

Child population in county

1,244

Confirmed victims

1,108

Children removed from their homes