



Weather

Thursday AM Rain, H 50, L 37
 Friday Partly Cloudy, H 58, L 30
 Saturday Partly Cloudy, H 44, L 29
 Sunday Mostly Cloudy, H 53, L 31

TRI COUNTY LEADER

Staff

BILL WOODALL.....Publisher
 CHARLOTTE SMITH.....Editor
 SUZANNE LOUDAMY.....Staff Writer
 SUZANNE LOUDAMY.....Advertising

SERVICE DESK

Contact Us

Our Mailing Address:
 P.O. Box 1067
 Whitehouse, TX 75791

Our Physical Address:
 304 Hwy. 110 North
 Whitehouse, TX 75791

Our Telephone
 903/839-2353

Our Fax
 903/839-8519

Our Web Address:
 www.tricountyleader.com

Hours of Operation

Normal business hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mail slot is in door for after-hours use.

Our Email

News
 news@tricountyleader.com

Sports News
 sports@tricountyleader.com

Advertising
 ads@tricountyleader.com

Billing or Circulation
 circ@kilgorennewsheald.com

General Correspondence
 news@tricountyleader.com

Deadlines

Advertising:
 Normal deadline: noon Monday for publication that week. When a major holiday occurs on Monday or Tuesday, the advertising deadline is noon on Friday.

News and Sports:
 Community news deadline is 5 p.m. Friday.
 Sports deadline is noon Monday.
 Letters deadline is noon Friday.

Circulation

Call 903/839-2353:
 ▶ To order or renew subscription.
 ▶ To ask about your account.
 ▶ To have us refill a news rack.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES
 Smith, Cherokee and Rusk Counties \$20.
 All other places in U.S.A. \$25.

TRI COUNTY LEADER (USPS 002752) is published every Thursday by Bluebonnet Publishing Company at 304 Hwy. 110 North in Whitehouse, Texas 75791. Periodical postage paid at Whitehouse, Texas.

Copyright 2006 Tri County Leader.

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to Tri County Leader, P.O. Box 1067, Whitehouse, Texas 75791.



Yoko Mikami and Gail Shaw visit Denali Park in 1986 during Mikami's first visit to Alaska. Mikam recently visited again with her son, who may stay with Shaw and attend the University of Alaska.

PEN PALS

Continued from Page 1A

American to help her learn English, as well as understand the differences in culture.

Shaw had signed up with the pen pal group as an optional assignment for a sophomore English class; the association matched the two girls together, and they began writing to each other about school life, sports, grades and family.

Mikami remembers thinking that both Gail and her mother, Mary Shaw, were very beautiful. Gail's mother still lives in Troup, along with two of her three brothers and her father and stepmother, Don and Jo Shaw.

They also enjoyed sharing photos and special gifts, such as the Japanese foods, chocolate and art that Mikami sent.

Mikami has saved all her letters; Shaw has saved some of the letters and all of the "inedible" gifts. She still displays in her home the first photo she received of her friend's son, Hiroshi.

Of their early correspondence, Mikami remembers her initial image of Texas was that it was famous for western movies, and she recalls being surprised that Shaw

could drive a car at 16 because one has to be 18 in Japan.

"The most surprising thing to me about Japan that I learned from Yoko is the small size of their living space," said Shaw. "I remember Yoko's first visit when I lived in a condo that had less than 1,000 sq. ft. She thought it was enormous and I thought it was so small."

Mikami has warned Shaw to be prepared for other size differences when she visits Japan, such as smaller cars and food portions.

In writing about their different cultures, the pen pals found that language was not a problem.

"While the grammar was sometimes a little different, it didn't detract from the meaning of Yoko's sentences," said Shaw. And if Mikami didn't understand something Gail wrote, she consulted a translation dictionary.

"We are both able to laugh with each other when we don't understand something or when we have trouble communicating something to each other," said Shaw, who thinks Mikami has a wonderful sense of humor and has

shared her culture in a very endearing way.

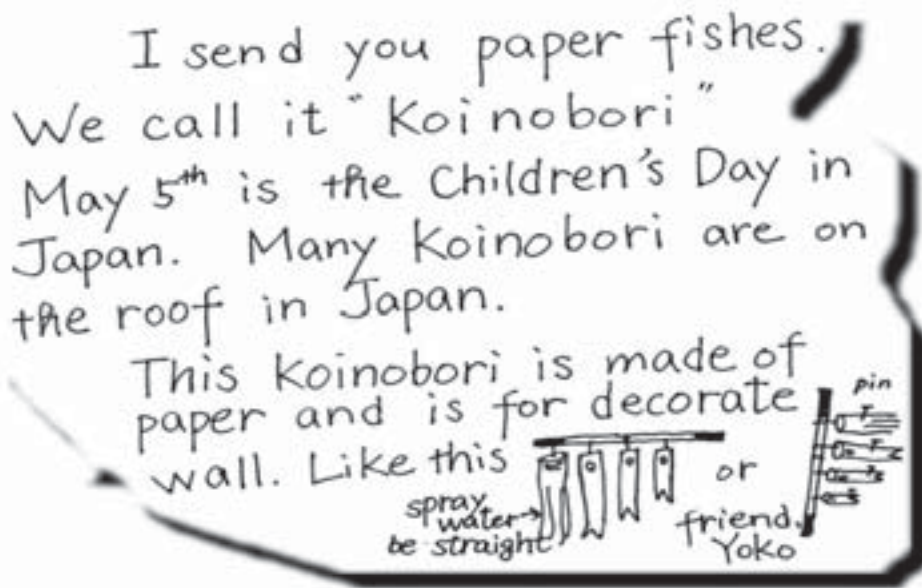
If the first stage of their correspondence was primarily based on the differences in their cultures, the second found the pen pals on common ground.

"We both attended college to become elementary teachers, so our interests were quite similar," said Shaw, who remembers sending American coins to Mikami's class to help them learn about U.S. money.

Mikami has taught elementary school in seven different schools and currently teaches special education at Asahikawa Daisam Elementary School. Shaw taught briefly at Deer Park Elementary and Coyle Middle School before going to Alaska.

These days the friends occasionally email or talk on the phone, but their primary mode of communication is still letters.

"We currently write one to two times a year, usually on our birthdays and at Christmas," said Shaw. "We corresponded more when we were younger and had fewer responsibilities."



An excerpt from one of Yoko Mikami's letters, dated April 2000.

WHS sports banquet tonight

Honoring athletes and trainers in football, volleyball and cross country, Whitehouse High School's annual Fall Sports Banquet is scheduled 6:30 p.m. tonight.

Tickets for the event are \$10. The banquet will be held in the WHS cafeteria and auditorium.

Mavs mascot at Friday's game

The Dallas Mavericks mascot will perform his amazing dunks and acrobatic routines during the varsity basketball game on Tuesday, Feb. 2.

The Mavs Man will entertain fans of all ages before the game and at halftime.

The freshman basketball game starts at 5 p.m., followed by the JV. The varsity begins around 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$3 for adults and \$2 for students at the door.

Come support the teams and enjoy the Mavs Man's unique brand of high-flying entertainment.

AGREEMENT

Continued from Page 1A

Whitehouse. The annual cost to Whitehouse is \$150,000 for a term of 10 years, with Troup paying Whitehouse \$37,500.

The Troup city council was scheduled to consider the water option contract last Thursday, but did not have a quorum present. That same night, they heard a presentation from consultant Dan Jackson, who laid out a five-year plan to increase the city's water rates and fees.

The rate hike is necessary to pay for the Lake Striker contract, as well as an anticipated \$2 million capital improvements project to the city's current water system. The city currently spends more providing water than it receives in fees.

In order to raise rates by March 1, council must have an ordinance ready for its February meeting. Members are favoring an inverted block scenario that would give lower rates to customers who use less water. The major impact of this rate would be on high-volume users.

Under that proposal, a customer using less than 5,000 gallons a month would see a \$3 increase in the monthly bill; a 10,000-gallon customer's bill would increase by \$5, and a 20,000-gallon one by \$28.

WATER WELL

Continued from Page 1A

and on-line before the summer is out, helping the city through the periods of greatest demand.

"It's called a tax note because the city will pledge its taxing authority to guarantee the debt; however, it will actually be repaid from water system revenues," said Dillingham. "The

tax note is good for short term financing. Think of it as interim construction financing."

The city plans to restructure the note for the long term, probably 20 years, within a year.

The projected debt service payments will be about \$75,000 annually for 20 years.

NOTICE OF TIME CHANGE:

EFFECTIVE IN APRIL 2007,
 THE WHITEHOUSE
 CITY COUNCIL
 MEETINGS WILL BEGIN
 AT 6:00 p.m.
 INSTEAD OF
 6:30 p.m.

**CITY OF TROUP, TEXAS
 ORDINANCE NUMBER 2006-1206-07**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TROUP, TEXAS, CHANGING THE PRIMA FACIE SPEED LIMIT ESTABLISHED FOR VEHICLES TRAVELING ON COLLE STREET UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF TEXAS TRANSPORTATION CODE SECTION 545.356 WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF TROUP, AS SET OUT IN THIS ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR STOP SIGNS AT THE INTERSECTIONS OF COLLE STREET AND N. GEORGIA AND ARP DRIVE UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF TEXAS TRANSPORTATION CODE §544.033; PROVIDING A PENALTY OF A FINE IN AN AMOUNT NOT LESS THAN ONE DOLLAR (\$1.00) OR MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$200.00) FOR THE VIOLATION OF THIS ORDINANCE.

PASSED AND APPROVED at a duly called meeting of the City Council, City of Troup, Texas, held on the 6th day of December, 2006.
 John Whitsell, Mayor
 City of Troup, Texas

Pharmacy & Your Health
 Doug Mullins, R. Ph.
TROUP PHARMACY
 501 W. Duval • Troup • 903-842-3074

Drugs that Reduce Angina Pain
 Angina occurs when the heart muscle does not receive a sufficient amount of oxygen in blood, which typically results in chest pain. This discomfort characteristic of angina may also feel like indigestion. Angina is a symptom of the most common type of heart disease, coronary artery disease. This condition develops when plaque buildup occurs in the coronary arteries, which is known as atherosclerosis. The plaque buildup leads to narrowing and stiffening of the arteries, thereby causing a reduced blood flow to the heart. The result is a decrease in oxygen supplied to the heart.

Nitroglycerin is the drug used most often in the treatment of angina. This medication works by easing the workload of the heart. Nitroglycerin also works to relax the coronary arteries, which increases the supply of blood to the heart. Beta blockers work in the treatment of angina by lowering blood pressure and slowing the heart rate. Calcium channel blockers work to reduce the pain associated with angina by relaxing blood vessels, which allows more blood to flow to the heart. Ranolazine (Ranexa) is a new medication used in the treatment of angina. One early study showed that it significantly reduced the frequency of angina attacks and the need for supplementation with nitroglycerin tablets.

The Hot Spot
 A Full Service Salon & Fitness Studio

- Hair Cut and Color Services
- Facials
- Tanning Beds
- Airbrush Tanning
- Massage

Gift Baskets ~ Jewelry ~ Gift Certificates
 Come see our new line of custom T-Shirts!

Premiere Salon for RIVAGE
 NEW RIVAGE skin care products now available.
 Book a Mud Mask facial with us.

New Hours: Mon.-Thu. 10-8, Fri. 10-5:30, Sat. 10-3
 206 West Duval • Troup, TX
 903-842-2050