

Tech lab students do it all

MICHELLE A. FOX
NEWS-SUN

Sarah Callaway is learning to fly an airplane — inside a Hobbs High School classroom. Using the latest equipment complete with a simulated cockpit, Callaway could someday use this knowledge to become a pilot.

For Callaway and the other students in Ron Haggerton's tech lab class, each computer holds a different skill for them to master.

"Tech 1 is modular," Haggerton said. "They have an eight-day rotation on each module."

After testing on the module, students are given two days to work on a project related to the lesson.

Callaway has made her way through most of the modules, which include computer assisted drafting, video editing and virtual reality. Her favorite so far has been the virtual makeover station.

"It was fun," Callaway said. "You can take people's faces and put girl hair on them."

And while Callaway does not have any career aspirations based on the what she has learned in the technology lab, Isaac Espinoza sees the class as fitting into his career dreams.

"I am going to be an engineer, and learning how to design things like the professionals do makes it easier than having to learn it later," he said.

According to Espinoza, he enjoys the music module because it allows him to express his creativity.

"I am really into music," he said. "It is fun. You get to make your own beats and hear them played back through the computer."

Fellow student Justin Roberts spent one class period walking through the hallways of a building on the virtual reality machine.

Students working through that module can build houses or other buildings and then walk through them — which is what Espinoza likes about it.

"You put the headgear on, and it is like you are walking through your house or whatever," he said.

It is hard to imagine that less than a decade ago, the tech lab used to house the wood-shop classes.

Now one of the main functions of the pristine-looking classroom that the whole school and community gets to see is the Eagle news, which shows on cable Channel 15 and the closed circuit station on the high school campus.

The news is the yearlong

project of the tech 2 class. The students work with state-of-the-art equipment that includes a video room complete with a green screen.

This current school year, the second-year students are learning digital video production. Next year, Haggerton hopes to add digital audio pro-

duction to the curriculum.

"My kids have done everything from filming the president coming to homecoming, prom, graduation and all kinds of things like that," Haggerton said. "That is what tech 2 is all about."

For the most part, Haggerton says, the students who take his

technology courses do well with the material.

"I have kids who could never pass a math or an English class, but they ace my class," Haggerton said. "It is because it is hands on. They can see the results of what they are doing."



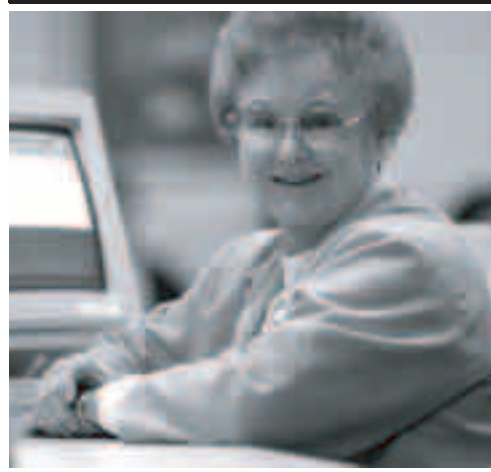
Jessica Rodriguez of Hobbs High School practices being a news broadcaster in the technology lab while Isaac Espinoza practices his camera work. The Eagle 1 News on cable Channel 15 is produced on campus.

MICHELLE A. FOX/NEWS-SUN

Pride



In Our Community



At Lea Regional Medical Center we take pride in our training, our professionalism and our commitment to excellence.



We're proud to be here and a part of this community and we take our mission to provide quality healthcare seriously.

2004 was a great year for Lea Regional and our community — the hospital began the renovation and expansion of the outpatient surgery area and the emergency room which will help improve patient satisfaction, privacy and work flow. The total cost of the two projects was approximately \$11 million.

It is our responsibility to be good community partners. With that in mind, Lea Regional touched more than 500 people through community health education and health screenings. We also completed a new physician medical office complex to give the doctors a good place to practice medicine.

Lea Regional Medical Center

- Admitted **5,397** patients
- Delivered **867** babies
- Cared for **16,463** ER patients
- Performed **1,366** Inpatient Surgeries
- Performed **4,127** Outpatient Surgeries

Local Taxes Paid By Lea Regional Medical Center

• Sales Tax	\$1,417,020
• Property Tax	\$149,519
Total Local Taxes	\$1,566,539

Charitable Contributions / Public Service

• Local Civic & Health Improvement Organizations	\$25,300
• Public Service / Education Activities	\$10,550
Total Charitable Contributions / Public Service	\$35,850

Economic Impact

• Total Employees	477
• Salaries / Wages / Benefits	\$22,100,216
• Capital Funds Reinvested	\$4,997,282
• Local Vendor Purchases	\$1,095,373
Total Impact On Local Economy	\$28,192,871

Charity / Uncollected / Discounted Care

• Charity Care And Uncollected Debt For Services	\$12,344,749
• Discounts For HMOs, PPOs, Etc.	\$14,148,012
• Contractuals For Government Programs	\$62,889,495
Total Charity / Uncollected / Discounted Care	\$89,372,256

Medical Auxiliary

• Total Donated Hours	9,305
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Lovington construction projects add labs, heating and cooling

NEWS-SUN STAFF REPORT

Lovington Municipal School District has had several construction, renovation and improvement projects during 2004-05.

The district expended about \$1.4 million on those plans.

The largest ventures during the year were the addition of technology labs at Lovington Junior High School and Taylor Middle School, according to information provided by the district.

Crews were also installing heating and cooling systems at Jefferson Elementary School, Gann Cafeteria and Taylor Middle School.

The majority of the work at Taylor was completed by July 1, but all the heating and cooling jobs were not finished until early August.

Some of the remodeling projects, which consisted of new paint and tile work, were also wrapped up in August. Those projects were implemented at Ben Alexander Elementary School, Lea Elementary School, Yarbro Elementary School and Lovington High School.

Lea Elementary School also had a new parking lot surface completed this year.

No additional information was provided by LMS, and requests for comments were not returned to News-Sun staff.



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From January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2004