

Apples of Gold
MEEKNESS—It is with narrow-souled people as with narrow-necked bottles... the less they have in them the more noise they make in pouring it out.

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The Winters Enterprise

Serving Winters and North Runnels County

Volume 8, Issue 4

Thursday, January 23, 1997

Winters, Texas

50¢

Winters nurse shares \$34.3 million lottery winnings

State lottery to be split between two local winners

Frank Smith won the lottery and didn't even quit his day job. But he did quit his night job. Smith is a 50-year-old registered nurse who has worked the night shift at North Runnels Hospital in Winters for the past two years. Smith and his friend and landlord, Debbie Chance of Ballinger, had the only ticket that matched all six numbers in last week's \$34.3 million Lotto Texas drawing. Chance, a 44-year-old clerk at BYOB Water in Ballinger, will split the winnings with Smith, who rents a room in Chance's home in Ballinger. The couple have been friends for years and have played the lottery together since it began, said Donald Alsobrook of Hurst, Chance's brother. The ticket was purchased by

Smith at Pic-N-Pac in Ballinger, according to Doug Robinson, son of the store's owner. The store will get 1 percent of the winnings — approximately \$342,813. Robinson said Chance and Smith were regular Lotto ticket buyers. Robinson said Smith bought three Quick Picks and two sets of his own numbers. One of the Quick Picks had the winning numbers 26, 27, 35, 36, 39 and 50. The couple had always agreed that if one or the other won the lottery, they would share equally in the proceeds. Smith had almost forgotten to buy a ticket, but remembered to stop by Pic-N-Pac and buy the ticket the evening of January 15. Smith was in the living room of the home he and Chance share when the numbers were drawn and he made a note of them. When

he began to check the ticket, he first thought he had four of the correct numbers, but upon re-checking, nearly fainted when he discovered their ticket had all six numbers. Payout on the winning ticket, before taxes, is a little over \$1.7 million for each of the next 20 years. Chance and Smith left for Austin about 4 a.m. the following morning, but were advised to make legal and financial arrangements before collecting their first check. They have been unavailable for comment since verifying their winning ticket. Speculation is that they have remained in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area where Debbie's parents and brother live. Thursday afternoon Smith called Larry Suit, administrator. See "Lottery" pg. 8



INCOMING CHAMBER DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS are (seated, left to right) Steve Esquivel, treasurer; Bill Spiller, vice president; Kay Sharpes; Ann DeBerry; Irene Simpson; and Pat Fenter. Serving a second year as directors are (standing) Julie Springer, secretary/manager; Jim West, president; Leslie Pruser; Sherry Kurtz; Phyllis Boles; and Janet Cason.

Rock around the clock — at least at 7 p.m. — for Chamber of Commerce banquet Sat.

Splish! Splash! Better take your bath this Saturday night for the 'Nifty Fifties' Chamber of Commerce banquet at 7 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Julie Springer, Chamber Manager, encourages everyone to drag out the 50's clothes and get ready to enjoy a bobby sox step back in time. Theme for this year's banquet will include music and entertainment to make your ponytail stand on end.

The always delightful Elementary Select Choir will perform some 50's favorites. Special appearances will be made by popular radio personalities from KEAN in Abilene. 'Fearless' Fernandez and 'Dangerous' Damon Ray will provide some unique entertainment with a "couple of surprises up their sleeves," according to Julie. Tickets for the banquet are \$8.00 and are available from the

Chamber office at 118 W. Dale, any Chamber director, or at the door. Advance ticket purchases are encouraged. The menu consists of a deluxe, homemade, all-beef hamburger, french fries, onion rings, Coke floats, and tea. Highlighting the banquet will be the naming of the Woman of the Year, the Man of the Year, Rural Farm Family of the Year, and an added award for Senior of the Year.



WISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES include (from left) Ronald Presley, Allen Andrae, Jack Davis, Jr., Bob Prewit, Debbie Sudduth, Joe Pritchard and Rodrick Bredemeyer.

WISD trustees part of School Board Recognition Month

Governor George W. Bush has proclaimed January, 1997, as School Board Recognition Month. "For more than 200 years, local school boards have governed and guided local schools in accordance with the will of the people. They have ensured that citizens control and are accountable for the schools in each community," he said. The trustees of the Winters Independent School District are elected for three year terms with no limit to the number of terms each may serve or be re-elected. Bob Prewit, Place 4, was first elected in 1988 and currently serves as president. His term expires this May. Allen Andrae, Place 1, is vice-president. He was first elected in

1995 and his term will be up in 1998. Serving on Place 3 is Ronald Presley, who was first elected in 1985. He is currently secretary of the board and his term is up in May, 1997. Joe Pritchard, Place 7 at-large, was elected in 1992; term expires in 1998. Three trustees were elected in May, 1996, and their terms expire in 1999: Rodrick Bredemeyer, Place 6 at-large, Debbie Sudduth, Place 5; and Jack Davis, Jr., of Place 2. The Winters school board is a member of the Texas Association of School Boards. TASB is a voluntary, nonprofit organization established nearly 50

years ago to serve local Texas school districts. It includes 1,048. See "Trustees" pg. 8

Wheel crashes through Main Drug Store

Only a beautiful Boston fern and a large plate glass window were damaged in a potentially dangerous freak accident Friday night. James and Diane Cross, owners of Main Drug store, were summoned from the basketball game about 8 p.m. to the site of their business where a runaway pickup wheel had crashed through a front window. A Dodge Ram Charger driven by Bobby Gray of Winters was traveling from West Dale to East Dale. As the truck went through the dip in the intersection, the right front wheel came off and traveled across the street, going up the handicapped ramp and into the glass window. A large fern sitting on the floor inside the drug store apparently stopped the wheel. The store was closed and there were no injuries reported. No charges were filed in the accident.

Local Pizza Hut closes

While most businesses are excited just to make a profit, Pizza Hut, Inc. apparently wanted more from their Winters establishment. The local Pizza Hut at 710 N. Main closed on Wednesday, January 22. A Pizza Hut source said that the Winters store always made a profit and quoted a 16.8 percent profit of \$2,170 for a four-week period which ended 12-25-96. This is with nine employees on the payroll and in spite of the fact that the local eatery has no dining area or buffet. Local manager Kay Hagle said that she and the former manager, Sandy Hamrick, have tried in vain to persuade the owners to build a dining area for customers. "I worked in the Ballinger Pizza Hut before the dining room was added there," reports Hagle. "When they (owners) added the dining area, business doubled. We've tried to tell the people in charge. Sandy even bet her job on it — that business in Winters would double if they'd add on a place for customers to sit down and eat."

The Winters Pizza Hut opened in June of 1986, as a franchise operation owned by an individual from Amarillo. Carolyn Kraatz served as manager. She is now the Ballinger Pizza Hut manager and said she is very sad over the Winters closing. "This is like losing part of the family to me," she said. In 1991, the franchise was sold back to the Pizza Hut corporation with headquarters in Wichita, Kansas, and Dallas, Texas. Hagle said that Pizza Hut management has promised to "make

room" for all the Winters employees at other locations. Some will transfer to Ballinger or Coleman. Some will leave the company altogether. When asked about her customers' reactions to the Winters closing, Hagle was quick to say, "They don't like it one bit. People are really upset about it and keep asking what they can do to keep us open." Officials from the Winters Area Business and Industrial Corporation and Chamber of Commerce have tried to work with the Pizza Hut corporation to keep the eating establishment open. Carolyn Kraatz further added that she didn't think that much

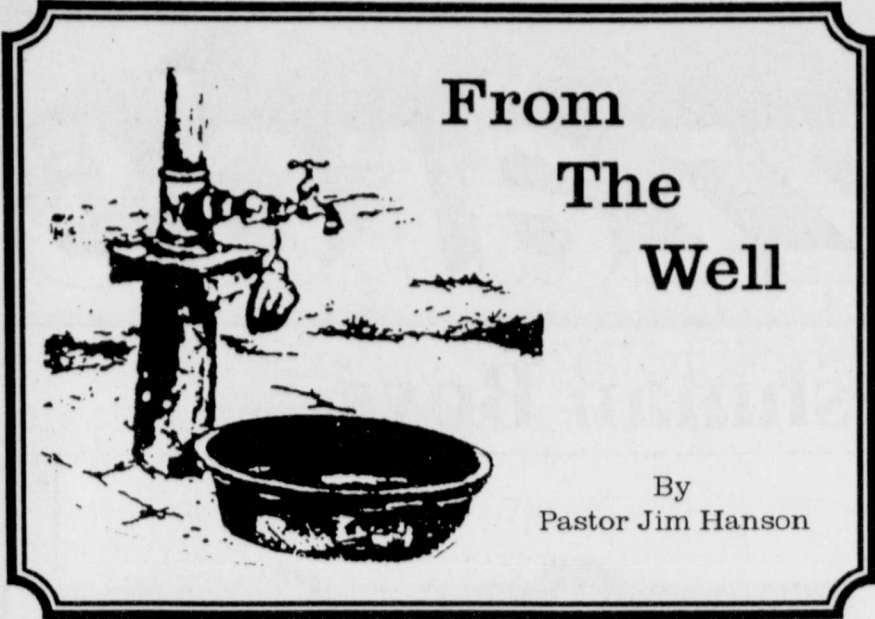
Super Bowl Sunday Bar-b-que to benefit Christmas in April

For the third year, St. John's Lutheran Church is proudly sponsoring a bar-b-que to benefit Christmas in April, a community service project. Bar-b-que will be served on Super Bowl Sunday, January 26, at the Winters School Cafeteria starting at 11:30 a.m. The bar-b-que plate will have brisket and all the fixin's. You may also pre-order a brisket from Nancy Spill for \$20. If

you are interested in pre-ordering a brisket, please call Nancy by January 22 at 754-4073. On Super Bowl Sunday, you may come to the school cafeteria and eat, or you may get plates to go. Persons who partake of the bar-b-que are asked to give a free-will offering. Come and support Christmas in April and at the same time enjoy a wonderful meal.

WHAT'S HAPPENING ?

- Jan. 23-Noon, 39+, First United Methodist Church 6-9 p.m., GED/ESL Classes, WHS
- Jan. 24-11:30 a.m., Senior Citizens Meal
- Jan. 25-7 p.m., Chamber Banquet, School Cafeteria 7:30 p.m., Winters Squares, Community Center
- Jan. 26-11:30 a.m., St. John's CIA Bar-b-que, School Cafeteria
- Jan. 27-9:30-10:30 a.m., SS Rep, Winters Housing Authority 11:30 a.m., Senior Citizens Meal 6 p.m., City Council 6-7:15 p.m., 4-H Meeting, Catholic Church 6:30 p.m., Winters Squares, Community Center 7 p.m., Wingate Masonic Lodge
- Jan. 28-Noon, Lions Club 6-9 p.m., GED/ESL Classes, WHS 7 p.m., WVFD WVFD Auxiliary
- Jan. 29-11:30 a.m., Senior Citizens Meal
- Jan. 30-6-9 p.m., GED/ESL Classes, WHS 6:30 p.m., Public Hearing, Elementary Library 7 p.m., Athletic Boosters, Blizzard Stadium



From The Well

By Pastor Jim Hanson



Pastor Jim Hanson

It's cold outside! It is really truly cold! And it isn't just here. It's all over the great Plains, that thousand mile square of territory east of the Rocky Mountains and west of the Mississippi River. Snow, ice, wind chill down to -80 degrees

up north. And, plenty cold down here, too.

The air fills with sleet and snow, and the ice, which is nothing more than quite cold water, changes everything. It slows us down, and realigns our life. It takes us longer to get going. And, once we are out of bed and mobile, we have to wear more clothes. We have to walk slower, lest we fall. Our cars creep carefully along — we don't want to slip off the road, or, worse, to slide into another car.

Power lines are down. Church meetings are postponed. Schools are closed. The wind is cold, sometimes bitter. People who describe life on the prairie say that "the weather is trying to kill us." It's really not an idle saying. When I was a boy living in Brookings, South Dakota, we had a horrible blizzard that came in on Armistice Day, 1941. That day my brother Rolf and the members of the Brookings High School football team were scheduled to play Madison High at 2:00 p.m. that afternoon. He went to the school to get ready for the game at noon. One and a half hours later, he barely made it home — a walk of about six blocks. That storm lasted for four days, and there were people stranded in the snow and some who never made it home.

Sometimes folks use the expression "hotter than hell." Up north they say, "colder than hell." Maybe that same thought struck Dante when he wrote the "Divine Comedy." In this classic, one section, the "Inferno," describes hell and the sufferings of the damned. The very worst part of hell, according to Dante, is not the infernal fire. Rather it is the place of the pride-filled, who are frozen into a lake — and the Devil's wings are fanning a breeze to keep them freezing forever.

It used to be that with the fields too frozen for cultivation, and folks had to spend more time indoors, the cold of winter was time for education. School went on when farming didn't. Up in northern Minnesota where we lived, there was the "Northwest School." It was a boarding school for young people of high school age who lived in the country. The school lasted but six months, late in the fall to early spring. The courses were accelerated so they got nine months of school done in that shorter period of time. And then could go home for spring work in the fields. They also had projects to work on while home on the farm.

The winters were long. We often had snow on the ground for six months — and saw no green at all during that time. To help break up the monotony of "day after day cold," they established "winter shows" in the town where we lived. It really was a great time, and for about eight days we had stock shows, arts and crafts, western musicians, good lectures and workshops, machinery displays, and an indoor rodeo. They elected a King and Queen, a farm couple from the area, and there were banquets and lunches every day.

You could almost always be sure that a storm would come up just before or during "winter shows." But, they never shut down.

Cold goes with the winter. And it's not all bad. It doesn't hurt any of us to shut down once in a while, and take time to read a book or to write some letters. And, ever so often to look out the window. The skies are really clear at night, and the moon shines brighter — it seems. And sometimes the white snow covers the ground, and ice coats each evergreen needle with a stunning cloak. And a drab scene has been turned into a winter wonderland.

God is so good. Even in the bleak of winter, we get glimpses of bright and shiny scenes. Like the occasional visions that come to people, reminding them of another world and the hope of heaven. We earth-bound creatures need a lift once in a while, a light shining in the darkness. When we see it, and appreciate it, all we can do and say is, "Praise God." Even in the bleak mid-winter we can sing a song of spring time. And our well is refreshed. And we didn't have to do a thing except accept, receive, and give thanks.

Rural hero nomination deadline Feb. 3

The search is underway for the rural hero for 1996, according to Ben Bullard, president of the Texas Farm & Ranch Safety Council, which presents the annual rural heroism award.

The 1996 recipient will be announced March 17, 1997, at the 58th annual Texas/Southwestern Safety Conference and Exposition to be held at the Adams Mark Hotel, Houston, Texas.

Deadline for submitting 1996 entries will be Feb. 3, 1997, Bullard said. Send all nominations to the Texas Farm & Ranch Safety Council, Box 2689, Waco, Texas, 76702-2689.

To qualify for the honor, a candidate must have performed an heroic act of human-lifesaving within Texas during 1996. Preferably, it should be related to farming and ranching, Bullard said.

The 1996 winner was Ray Robinson of Santo, Texas, who is credited with saving the life of Mark Ivy from a 1,500 pound round bale of hay that rolled from the bucket loader, pinning him on the tractor seat.

A letter of nomination should include a written account of the incident and the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all persons involved. Newspaper clippings and photos should also accompany when available, Bullard said.

Bullard is a field safety representative for the Texas Farm Bureau Insurance Companies' Safety and Underwriting Division.

Sr. Citizens Nursing Home News

By Billie Ruth Bishop

Monday was Red, White, and Blue Day at the nursing home. Some of our residents are involved in the Presidential Inaugural Address on TV. The afternoon activity was a Red, White, and Blue party. We had trivia questions about past Presidents.

We will be making cookies on Thursday and playing bingo afterward. Brother Mitchell will make his weekly visit on Thursday evening, with his guitar, singing their favorite songs. The residents look forward to his visits.

Mrs. Stella White and Ms. Frances "Frank" Campbell are new residents. We welcome them. Their room numbers are 109B (Mrs. White) and 112B (Ms. Campbell).

Johnny Williams and Louise Reding are currently patients in San Angelo Hospitals. We hope and pray for them that they might soon be having better days.

Chamber Memo

By Julie Springer, manager

The annual Winters Chamber of Commerce banquet will be held Saturday, January 25, at 7:00 p.m. sharp. The banquet will be at the Winters ISD cafeteria.

The theme for the banquet is "Nifty 50's".

The Winters Elementary Select Choir will perform following the welcome and introductions. The kids and directors have worked really hard on this program that we promise you will enjoy! This will be the first time that anyone has seen this latest show performed by the choir.

Man/Woman/Rural Couple and/or Family of the Year, as well as a new category of Senior of the Year, will be named at the banquet.

To top off the evening, two Abilene DJs for KEAN radio, "Fearless" Fernandez and "Dangerous" Damon Ray, will provide some lively entertainment.

If you would like to see the choir's program, be present for the naming of People of the Year, and enjoy a step back in time to the great 50's, you can purchase a ticket in advance at the Chamber

office or from any Chamber director. Tickets may be purchased at the door; however, a better count for amount of food needed can be tallied from early ticket sales.

I received the news last week that the Winters Pizza Hut is closing. I was told that the Pizza Hut appreciated all the calls and letters that we sent, but it just needed more business to stay open. It closed Wednesday, January 22. This really affects our family. We enjoyed stopping by there to get pizzas for snacks or when we ran out of time between meetings or practices. I know it will affect a lot of you too.

I cannot stress to you how important it is for us to shop in Winters and the area which includes Wingate. We certainly cannot lose any more businesses. This affects everyone, not just in losing the tasty pizzas, but losing tax money and sales tax revenue.

I hear gripes all the time that we don't have anything here in Winters. The things that we do have are not getting shopped as much as they should. Come on everyone—let us hang in there

and keep our businesses. Even if you do have to pay a few cents more sometimes, isn't it more important to keep the business in town? Think about it! I don't mean to be on a soap box, but remember we owned a business here before. I know how important it is to have the local business.

On February 5, at The Shed in Wingate, the Chamber of Commerce will host a Nature Tourism Workshop sponsored by Texas Midwest Network. Please make plans to attend. If you need further information, contact me at the Chamber office at 754-5210.

Deadlines

General News
Noon Monday

Retail Ads
Noon Monday

Classified Ads
5 p.m. Monday

Have no friends not equal to yourself —Confucius

A tradition continued or a new one started?

Raymond Kurtz, deceased, made it a practice for many years to buy a big peppermint stick each Christmas. It was broken and usually eaten by family and guests before the new year.

In 1977, he was sick and not able to continue his practice, so his son RC decided to buy a peppermint stick. RC could not find a stick and asked Lee Tischler at the Red Top station if he would order one. Mr. Tischler ended up with a 3-1/2 pound peppermint stick and sold it to RC for \$3.77, though the box was marked \$4.25.

Raymond died before Christmas, and the candy cane was not broken. It eventually ended up in the deep-freeze.

The stick of candy was taken out and put back whenever the deep-freeze was cleaned. When the old deep-freeze was replaced with a new one, the stick was again placed in the (new) deep-freeze. It was looked at each Christmas, but no one really cared that much for peppermint so it was put back.

This year, its caretaker, Mary, informed RC that his grandchild

dren Keegan, Camille, and Catlin loved candy canes and maybe it was time.

The 19-year-old stick was cracked and part of it consumed at the family Christmas. About

1-1/2 pounds was put back into the deep-freeze.

Now the problem is where to find another peppermint stick by 1998 if the tradition is to continue.



ENJOYING PEPPERMINT STICK, as the Kurtz family had traditionally done for many previous years, are (left to right) Catlin, Grandpa RC, Camille, and Keegan Kurtz.

"NIFTY FIFTIES"
Chamber of Commerce Banquet
Sat., January 25 7:00 p.m.
School Cafeteria

Birthday girl is Dominga Uresti.

Celebrate Life!

With an HONOR GIFT from the American Cancer Society

Birthday Anniversary Christmas? Any special occasion? An HONOR GIFT from the American Cancer Society is a thoughtful expression of caring and can help support vital programs of cancer research, education and patient assistance.

When you give an HONOR GIFT, a card is sent to inform your loved one that you care. And you receive an acknowledgment card and receipt.

Show the special someone how much you care with an HONOR GIFT from the American Cancer Society.

For more information, contact your American Cancer Society.

(1-800-221-9897)

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY TEXAS DIVISION, INC.

Leaning Toward New Furniture!
Now Is The Right Time—Come To Spill Bros.
GIGANTIC ANNUAL CLEARANCE
Jan. 2nd - Jan. 31st
Storewide
(Excluding Floor Covering)
Some Merchandise Reduced Up To **40%**
Instant Financing Available With Approved Credit
SPILL BROTHERS CO.
131 South Main, Winters 915-754-4511
Free Delivery Free Gift Wrapping

I'm Aching & Feverish.
Could This Be the Flu?



Help is Just a Call Away.
SAME DAY APPOINTMENTS ALWAYS AVAILABLE

- ✓ Appointments For:
 - Acute Illness
 - Chronic Illness
 - Immunizations
 - Sports Physicals
 - Injuries
- ✓ We Welcome:
 - Medicare
 - Medicaid

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OF TUSCOLA
A Service of Hendrick Medical Center
225 Garza Street
Open when you need us most
Monday & Friday 8:30am-12:00 - 1:30-4:30pm

making Goals in '96 - '97

Project Graduation '97 Mexican lunch plans underway; tickets to be sold

By Brenda Burton

The next meeting for Project Graduation '97 will be Wednesday, February 19, at 6:30 p.m. in the WHS Media Center. All seniors' parents/guardians are urged to attend.

Please make every effort to be at the February meeting. This is a VERY IMPORTANT MEETING. The final plans for the Mexican lunch fund-raiser to be held on Sunday, February 23, 1997 will be discussed.

Tickets will soon be distributed to the seniors to give to their PARENTS for the PARENTS to sell. Each parent MUST do their part and sell the tickets so that the after-graduation party will be a success.

The previous meetings have had a very poor attendance. With 58 seniors in this class, there is a possibility of 116 parents who COULD be there. Yet, it seems to be the SAME few who always come, always do the work, are always willing to do their part.

These are YOUR CHILDREN!! DO YOUR PART!! Don't just sit by and let someone else have all the fun and satisfaction of producing a successful and rewarding event. Be there...join in...there's so much that needs to be done. We need everyone's cooperation to ensure that come graduation night, there will be some place for the graduates to go that is safe, fun, and drug and alcohol-free. REMEMBER.....Project Graduation is for ALL WINTERS GRADUATES OF 1997.

Everyone has something to offer.... collecting donations, planning decorations, planning a fund raiser, planning what food to serve....then, once those plans are made, someone has to carry-out the plans.....YOU.....make it work!

For more information, please call: Gwen Andrea, 754-4014; Barbie Bishop, 767-3788 or 754-4513; Laura Brown, 754-5169; Brenda Burton, 754-4958 or 754-5439; Cindy Cathey, 743-6777; Linda Connor, 754-5602; Donna Donica, 754-4360 or 754-4424; Judy Fowler, 754-4475; Dinell Jacob, 754-4893; DottieLoudemilk, 754-4834; Rhea Parramore, 754-4422; Cookie VanZandt, 723-2040; Melanie Wade, 754-4385 or 754-5025; or contact Elvia Gann or Tammy Cruz.

Be there, your kids depend on you.



GOOD CONDUCT AWARD WINNERS for the third six weeks at Winters Elementary School were (left to right) Jennifer Yates, Mrs. Bearden's 2nd grade; Shane Colburn, Mrs. Shackelford's 6th grade; Aaron Colburn, Mrs. Smith's 3rd grade; Jorge Garcia, Mr. Brewer's 4th grade; Elementary Principal Terry Wyatt; Briana Parramore, Mrs. Airhart's 5th grade; Luis Flores, Mrs. Tekell's kindergarten; and Cassi Mendoza, Mrs. Colburn's 1st grade. Names of all students achieving citizenship, dependability, honesty, and positive effort are submitted by teachers every six weeks. One student, chosen by draw, from each grade receives the honor of dining on Pizza Hut pizza in the kitchen lab.

FHA News

WINTERS PUBLIC LIBRARY HOURS
Monday-Thursday 12 Noon-5 p.m.
Closed Friday

FHA to prepare Spaghetti Lunch Sunday, Feb. 2

The Winters High School Chapter of Future Homemakers of America will be holding its annual fund-raiser Sunday, February 2, 1997.

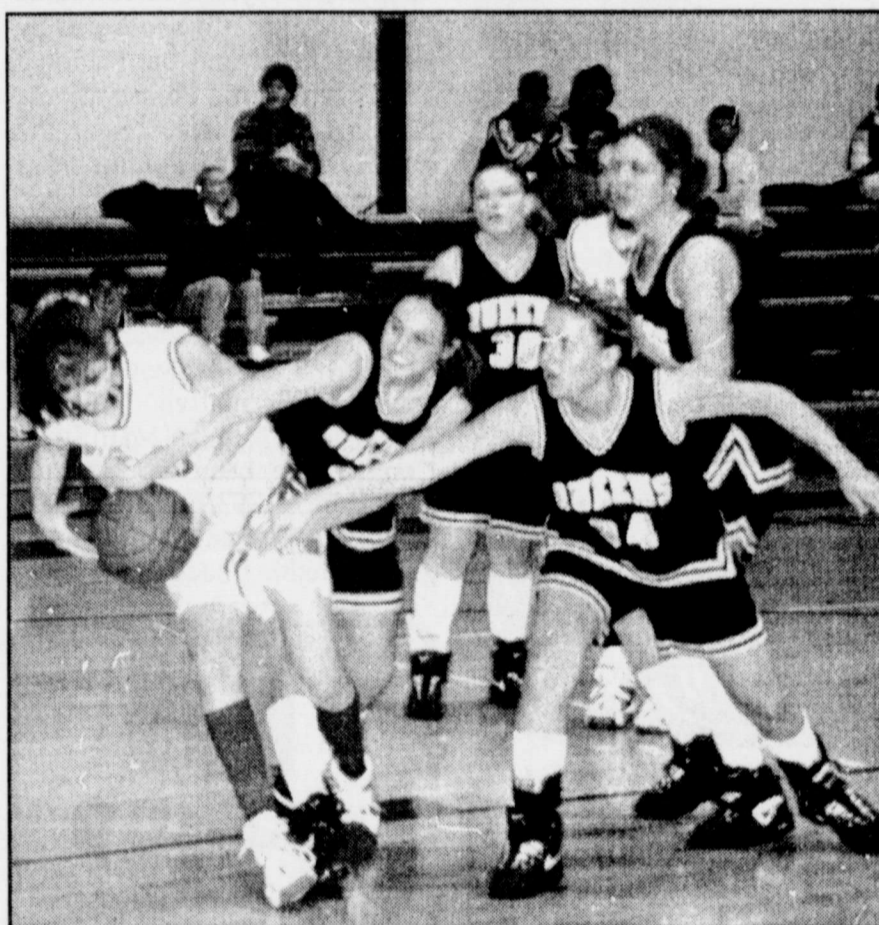
Members are hosting a Spaghetti Luncheon at the high school cafeteria from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Tickets are \$5.00 and can be purchased at the door or in advance from any FHA member.

For more information, please contact Lori Smith at 754-5516 or Robyn Parramore at 754-4422.

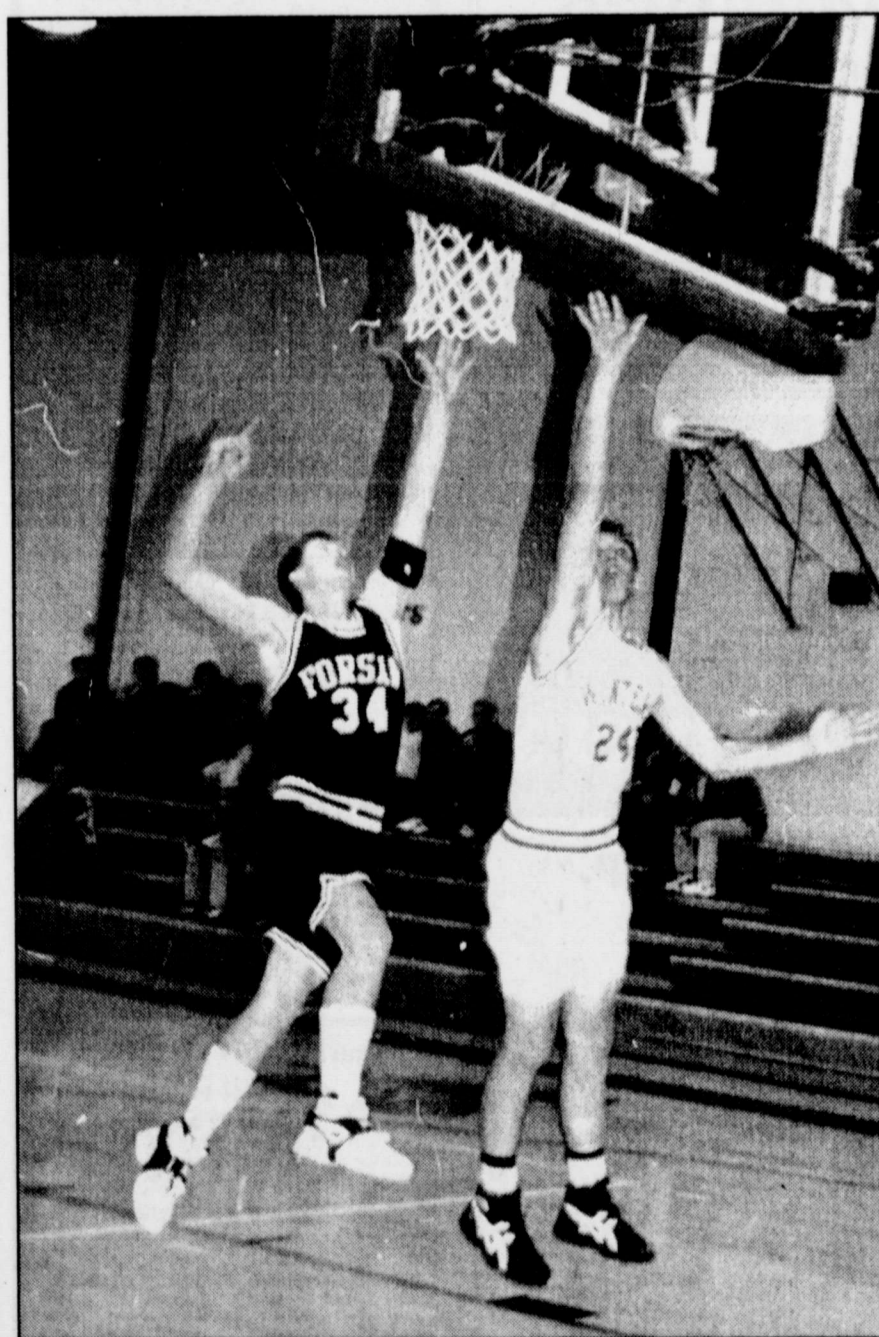
Athletic Boosters to meet Jan. 30

The Athletic Booster Club will meet Thursday, January 30, at 7:00 p.m. at Blizzard Stadium.

Members should report to the field house.



TANGLED LEGS don't seem to stop Lady Blizzard Monica Parramore as she takes the ball from the Queens.



COREY VAN ZANDT out-jumps a Forsan player to score two more points for the Varsity Blizzards.

'97 LADY BLIZZARDS SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Feb. 3	Clyde JV & V(Scrim)	There	5:00
Feb. 7	Abilene JV (Scrim)	There	4:30
Feb. 11	Abilene Freshman	There	5:00
Feb. 14	Ballinger	Here	4:30
Feb. 18	Coleman Varsity	Here	5:00
Feb. 21 & 22	Abilene JV Toumey	There	TBA
Feb. 28	*Jim Ned	There	4:30
March 3	*Hawley	Here	4:30
March 7	*Anson	Here	4:30
March 17	*Panther Creek	There	4:30
March 21	*Eula	Here	4:30
March 24	*Jim Ned	Here	4:30
March 27 or 28	*Hawley	There	4:30
April 1	*Anson	There	4:30
April 4	*Panther Creek	Here	4:30
April 7	*Eula	There	5:00

*Denotes District Games

visit the winters public library something new each week

1ST SEMESTER HONOR ROLL Winters Independent School District 1996-1997

THIRD GRADE

"A"
Amanda Blackshear
Angelica Campos
Aaron Colburn
Raysha Garcia
Paige Geistmann
Krystal Gibbens
Luke Hale
Jessica Hamilton
Miranda Lara
Erica Lujano
Tod Martin
Jessica Meyer
Rebecca Morrison
Armando Nava
L.J. Nitsch
Amanda Polk
Jordan Sanchez
Elizabeth Sartor
Vickie Santoya
Amber Toten
Marcus Tubbs
Ashley Vasquez
Kindy Walker
Eric Wyatt
"A-B"
Chad Briley
Jennifer Barrientes
Lucia Chavez
Jennifer Esquivel
Justin Fenwick
Israel Guerrero
Randy Jackson
Jessica Kay
Jonathan Meyer
Angelica Nava
Frank Perez
Angel Ramirez
David Seates
Matt Tekell
James Vasquez
Manuel Vega
Trey Weed
Bryce Wilkerson

"B"

Ana Diaz
Jessica Kay
Angelica Nava
Priscilla Vara

FOURTH GRADE

"A"

Kinsey Airhart
Jacob Bridgeman
Aaron Cook
Rachel Davis
Shyla Garza
Amber Green
Peter Griffin
Kathryn Hatler
Laura Jackson
Claudia Llanas
Jeremy Mendoza
Marc Paschal
Christina Perry
Brenda Rodriguez
Skye Salinas
Lydia Sanchez
Alecia Sudduth
Katy Wilkerson
"A-B"
Scott Bryan
Flor Cordia
Thomas Doty
Adam Escalona
Esmerelda Espino
Kendra Esquivel
Mario Esquivel
Adam Fine
Jorge Garcia
Andrian Hernandez
Jacob Hernandez
Lorenzo Herrera
Kenneth Kline
Shawn Kraatz
Amber Leverett
April Leverett
Rebecca Lockstedt
Carolyn Marshall
Angelita Moreno

FIFTH GRADE

"A"
Will Ahrens
Timothy Fenwick
John Heathcott
Chance Hogan
Joe Jackson
Briana Parramore
Rebekah Sartor
Maegan Schwartz
"A-B"
Jessica Barron
Wacey Cason
Danielle Clark
Jennifer Hagle
Monica Navarro
Jessica Perry
Tanya Price
Jessica Pritchard
Raquel Rios
Basilio Rocha
Jessica Rodriguez
Michael Roman
Richardo Sanchez
Francisco Santos
Benjie Valles
Kari Walker

SIXTH GRADE

"A"

Jena Bahlman
Shane Colburn
Stefanie Davis
Leslye Geistmann
DeAnna Goff
Lauren Hogan
Justin Lange
Heather Martin
Lacey Meyer
Priscilla Ontiveros

"B"

Cody Pritchard
Adrienne Reyna
Amanda Ripple
Ashley Santoya
Amanda Weed

FIFTH GRADE

"A"

Jared Airhart
Carissa Bailey
Leah Bredemeyer
Ashley Burson
Allison Calcote
Dana Clough
Brandon Davis
Michelle Dexter
Amy Esquivel
Veronica Flores
Aaron Gann
Jacob Goetz
Kayla Hagle
Kemari Hale
Kirby Hatler
Rusty Jackson
Doris Johnson
Charity Lancaster
Joshua Leverett
Elizabeth Martinez
Timothy Medina
Matthew Meyer
Mark Moreno
Dustin Palmertree
Amy Patterson
Matthew Price
Brian Pritchard
Raquel Retana
Savanna Reyna
Tia Santoya
Vanessa Santoya
Kimberly Sartor
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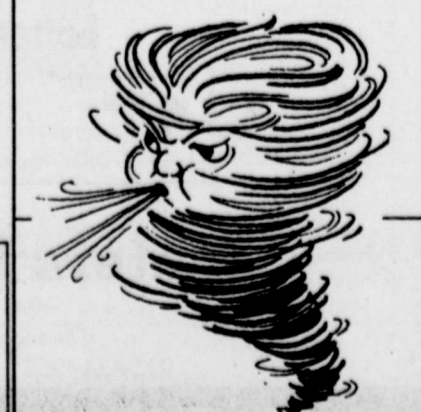
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Crews News

By Hilda Kurtz



Hilda Kurtz

The trouble with trouble is that it always starts out as fun.

Church visitors at Hopewell Sunday were the Mike Boatwrights of Winters. Carolyn Kraatz carried her mom, Harvey Mae, to church Sunday.

Weekend visitors with Marqué and Bill Mathis were Marqué's parents, Charlotte and Alvin Whaley of Denton. On Friday, they all attended the Winters basketball game. Their niece and nephew Allison and Cole Whaley of Denton spent the day.

Desiree Mathis' friend, Shane Stone, of DeLeon, spent the weekend. Karen Oats of Winters spent Saturday night. They all enjoyed the brisket dinner.

Enjoying Sunday lunch with Doris Wood were Bobbie, Larry, Wes, and Aaron Calcote, and a friend, Lacy Key.

The Crews community welcomes the Butch Kendrick family who is making their home in the Milton Gerhart house.

Mission study ladies met in the home of Dee Faubion Monday morning. Those studying together

were Netha Kerby, Mildred Morrison, Melvena Gerhart, and Nila Osborne.

Ruth Pape came home Wednesday after being iced and snowed in at Kerens, Texas, for more than a week with her daughter, Debbie Horn and family.

On Sunday, Ruth received a phone call from daughter Elaine Kennedy in Tampa, Florida. Everything was frozen there and they lost their strawberries and garden.

Those enjoying steak and visiting at the new home of Penny and Steve Grissom in Ballinger Saturday evening were Sharon and Bill Grissom of Colorado City, Wanda McLarty of Crews, Luke and Katherine Grissom of Crews, Adeline Grissom of Ballinger, Stephanie Grissom and her friend of Fort Worth.

Hildegard Asbury and a friend, Calvin of San Angelo spent Sunday with me. They came to fish, but the fish were too smart. She also did some odd jobs for me.

Harvey Mae and Noble were in Coleman to see Carl Faubion who is recuperating from a fall. Noble had a doctor's appointment in San Angelo Tuesday. Harvey Mae had her checkup by her doctor in San Angelo. Both had a good report.

The Faubions had lunch with Walter Pape and Gladys Cotton in Santa Anna Sunday after church services.

Mildred Morrison spent Thursday night in Sweetwater with her daughter and family.

On Friday, she kept her great-granddaughter, Sara.

On Saturday Selma and Viron Wilkerson of Bangs came by Mildred's on their way to the Judy Cooke and Lee Harrison wedding.

Rev. Ferris Akins and Ramona of Ballinger had lunch with Mildred after church services Sunday.

Spending Thursday and Thursday night with Melvena and Marvin Gerhart were their grandsons Bryant, Braden, and Bryce Mikeska of Wingate.

CIA house captains begin planning

The house captains for this year's Christmas in April project met Saturday, January 18, to review each of the eight houses selected by the CIA board for assistance.

A home was selected by each captain and specific needs reviewed for repair on that home. Captains visited the homes to begin preliminary planning.

Cheryl and Gary Bryan and

Fire department elects officers

On January 14, the Winters Volunteer Fire Department elected officers for 1997 as follows:

- Jack Davis Jr. Chief
- Mark Briley First Assistant Chief
- Robert Cook Second Asst. Chief
- Mark Bridgeman President
- Steve Grenwelge Vice President
- Raymond Lindsey Secretary-Treasurer
- Rodrick Bredemeyer Recording Secretary
- Bill Sherman Chaplain
- Mike Meyer Training Officer

- Jerry Mac Jackson Captain Co. #1
- Wayne Green Asst. Captain Co. #1
- Kenneth Doty Captain Co. #2
- Tonya Grenwelge Senior Sponsor
- Crystal Grenwelge Junior Sponsor
- Allen Green Mascot
- Darci Lindsey Sweetheart.

Other members include: Bobby Blackwood, Leonard Bowden, Chuck Cravens, Jack Davis Sr., Robert Doty, Richard Hamilton, Curtis Jackson, Bob Kelly, Bob Lindley, James Lange, Bobby Staggs, and Ralph Whittenberg.

Literary & Service Club hears Randy Pope, investment representative

The Winters Literary and Service Club met at the home of Eris Beard on Thursday, Jan. 16, at 5:30 p.m. to hear Randy Pope of Edward D. Jones Investment Corporation.

Mr. Pope talked about (1) Life-savers, (2) Diversification - Reduce Risk and Increase Return, (3) EDJ Investment Pyramid and The Ten Risks of Investing, and (4) Save Regularly To Achieve Your Retirement Goals.

Brenda Burton presided over the business meeting. Mary Jane Blackshear led the collect. Betty Thomason led the Federation Creed and Ruth Cooper, the flag pledges.

Ruth Cooper was elected as treasurer. Discussion was heard on several items, and the meeting adjourned.

Hostesses Eris Beard, Eula Mae Kruse, and Noma Eoff served delicious stew, combread, peach cobbler, and ice cream to 14 members and 2 guests.

Members present were Eris Beard, Mary J. Blackshear, Brenda Burton, Ruth Cooper, Linda Dry, Noma Eoff, Pat Fenter, Betty Grenwelge, Bobby Jackson, Eula Mae Kruse, Emily Pendergrass, Betty Thomason, Joyce Weems, and Alicia Wyatt.

Guests were Norma Butler and Randy Pope.

The next meeting will be Feb. 20 at the home of Emily Pendergrass.

Edward Jones co-sponsors the 1997 Great American Main Street Awards

The third annual Great American Main Street Awards competition is in full swing for 1997, with 92 applicants vying for five awards of \$5,000 each. Co-sponsored by Edward Jones and the National Trust for Historic Preservation's National Main Street Center, the awards recognize communities that have successfully revitalized their downtown commercial districts.

"It's exciting to see our town in the running for these awards," said Jud Powell, the Abilene Edward Jones representative. "Edward Jones and the National Main Street Center have been working together since 1993, and the awards have been a great way for us to give something back to the com-

Janet Cason prepared a wonderful bar-b-que lunch for the house captains to enjoy.

The gentlemen who have volunteered this year to be house captains are: Donald Wade, Bob Lindley, Phil Colburn, Rudy Lara, Tony Catalano, Larry Walker, Dale Montgomery, and Garland O'Dell.

If you would like to join any team, contact Maggie Scates or Debbie Sudduth at 754-4571.

munities where we live and work."

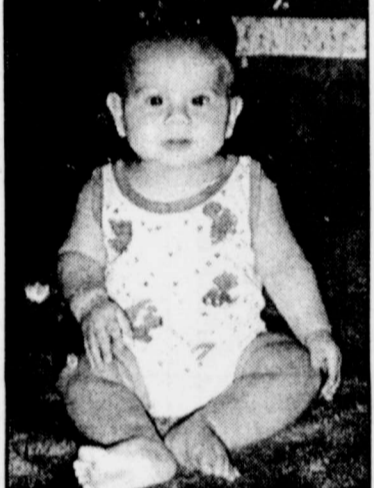
Judging of applications will be based on public and private participation, broad-based community support, positive impact on the economy of their central business district, and the restoration and adaptive use of key historic buildings. Twenty semifinalists will be announced in January, and from these applicants, five winners will be chosen. The 1997 Great American Main Street Awards finalists will be announced at the National Main Street Center's annual conference in Portland, Oregon, on April 28.

"The application process is challenging. It's more than filling out a form and submitting it," said Kennedy Smith, director of the National Main Street Center. "I've seen the applications as they've come in this year, and the quality across the board is amazing." Since 1980, the National Main Street Center has provided technical assistance to more than 1,200 downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts, helping them to restore and reuse their historic resources as part of an overall strategy to restructure and reinvigorate downtown economies. Through these efforts 115,000 net jobs have been created, \$5.87 billion have been reinvested in Main Street commercial districts, 33,000 net new businesses have been opened, and participating communities have generated an average of \$30 in new investment for every dollar spent on the community revitalization effort. Edward Jones serves more than 2

million individual investors from more than 3,300 offices across the United States and through its Canadian affiliate. Plans are underway to expand to 10,000 offices in the next decade.



Happy 3rd Birthday



Love,
Mom, Dad, & Brother

Identity of birthday boy is revealed elsewhere in this issue.

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Staffing for this unit is made up of a Unit Coordinator experienced in Alzheimer's care and a hand picked group of specially trained individuals who have demonstrated the skills required to care for the residents of this unit.

Therapeutic social and recreation activities are part of the 24 hour plan of care for the residents of this unit.

For more information please contact Jesse Sias, Administrator or Stacey Franke, Director of Nursing.

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JANICE and ROBERT PRUSER

Prusers honored on thirtieth anniversary

Robert and Janice Pruser of Winters were honored from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Sunday, January 19, 1997, on the occasion of their 30th wedding anniversary. The celebration was hosted by their children and held at St. John's Lutheran Church in Winters.

He was born September 2, 1932, in Winters. He served in Korea and is a farmer.

She was born April 16, 1939, in Winters and is a florist. She owns and operates Winters Flower Shop.

Robert and Janice have known each other all of their lives and both have attended St. John's Lutheran Church since a young age. They were married January 16, 1967, at St. John's Lutheran Church, Winters.

The Prusers are lifelong residents of Winters. Their children are John Pruser and wife Melody of Dallas and Leslie Pruser of Winters. They have two grandchildren, Robbie, age 4, and Samantha, 1-1/2.

Police ask residents to lock up

In light of a recent run of burglaries of homes and automobiles, the Winters Police Department reminds everyone to use caution and help make Winters a safer place to live. Residents should keep doors and windows locked at their homes, and always lock car doors, no matter where you park.

We can't all be heroes because somebody has to sit on the curb and clap as they go by.
—Will Rogers

Winters Squares to dance Jan. 25

The Winters Squares will host their monthly dance session on Saturday, January 25, at the Winters Community Center. Country and line dancing will begin at 7:30 p.m. followed by square dancing at 8:00 p.m. Tracy Dowell will be the caller.

Letter to the Editor

Traveler thanks folks for their help after sliding off icy road

Dear Sir or Madam:
On Jan. 7, 1997, I had the good fortune to be passing through your fine city when I unexpectedly hit some ice on the highway (coming) from Coleman, Tx. My car slid out of control into a culvert, bending both passenger side wheels.

After I had stopped shaking, I stepped outside the car to survey the damage. A moment later a nice man and his wife stopped. "We saw the whole thing," the man said. "Are you okay?" I assured him I was not injured, thanked them. They drove off.

My car was still operable, though wobbly; so I drove slowly toward Winters, some 17 miles away. My right rear tire went down about a half mile up the road. The collision had knocked a hole in it.

While I stood with the trunk lid up, pondering the situation, another couple drove up. I walk with a cane — I had hip surgery in March '96 so I knew operating a car jack would not be easy!

Before I even got the jack on the ground this nice fellow took it and changed my flat for me!! An

employee of the gas company also stopped and talked.

As I stood outside my car at a convenience store in Winters, the wife of the first couple drove up. "Just wanted to see that you made it okay. God bless you and have a better day," she said.

I inquired at several places of business. Nobody in Winters had '84 Cadillac wheels.

Finally, I had Larry, at Larry's Auto Express, call a place in Abilene.

They sent them to Larry by UPS the next day, Jan. 8, 1997. I stayed overnight at Motel Winters, operated by a nice, friendly lady.

By 4:15 p.m. on Jan. 8, I was on my way home to Plainview, Tx. I just wanted you to know what wonderful, helpful people you have in Winters. Please use your newspaper to thank them again for me. I'm sorry I didn't get anyone's name, except Larry, so I can't properly thank them by mail.

I'll always remember — with fondness — my overnight stay in your city.

Sincerely,
Joe H. McWilliams

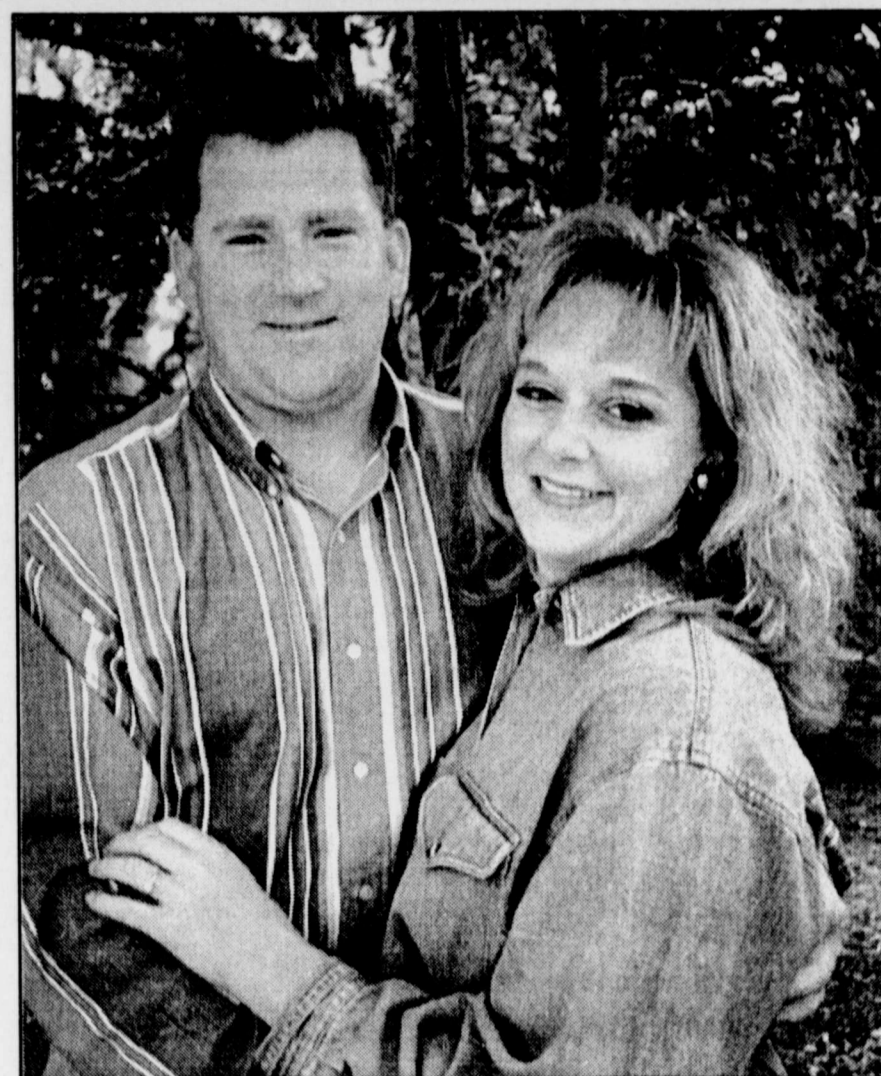
Auction, dinner, and music presented Feb. 4 by Abilene Opera Association

Abilene Opera Association's Opera Dinner on Tuesday evening, February 4, at 7:00 at the Abilene Country Club will prelude its summer opera "Um Ballo In Maschera" (A Masked Ball) by Giuseppe Verdi. An exquisite silent auction orchestrated by Arlissa Murphy will welcome guests as they arrive. An elegant seated dinner...menu by Maggie Guitar and Carol Whitten...will be served. Pianist Susan Petty will

play dinner music. Exuberating news will be announced and entertainment will begin.

Cost for the evening is \$30 per person. All proceeds from the auctions and dinner will be used to bring a splendid opera this summer. Reservations are required early, as it is limited seating. Chairman of this glamorous evening is Shea Woodard. Kindly mail reservations and remittance to Abilene Opera Association, P.O. Box 6611, Abilene, Texas 79608 by February 1, 1997.

For more information, call 676-2839 or 695-8437.



JOE RITTERHOUSE and GINA PRIDDY

Priddy, Ritterhouse announce engagement

Jeryl and Caroline Priddy, Linda and Mike Conner, all of Winters, announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Gina Nicolle Priddy, of San Antonio, to Joseph Andrew Ritterhouse. Joe is the son of Bill and Mary Ritterhouse of San Antonio.

An April 5, 1997, wedding is planned at 6:00 p.m. at Windcrest United Methodist Church in San Antonio.

Gina is a 1989 Winters High School graduate and received her Associate of Applied Science degree in nursing from Angelo State University in 1993. She is a registered nurse and office manager of Diagnostic Clinic in San Antonio.

Joe graduated from New Braunfels High School in 1990 and attended Angelo State University. He is employed as a benefits provider for Texas Benefit Services.

Still So Beautiful!
Happy 60th Birthday



Love The Girls
Gloria, Terry, Becky, & Julie

Identity of birthday girl is revealed elsewhere in this issue.

I'm Aching & Feverish. Could This Be the Flu?



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ACROSS

- 1 book by TX game hunter Buck: "Bring 'em ___ Alive"
- 5 TXism: "liquid ___ (perfume)"
- 6 on the Gulf
- 7 Fort Worth's Cullen was found not guilty in death of this Farr
- 8 Heisman winner Brown from Dallas
- 9 Kelvin Martin left Cowboys in '93 for this Seattle team
- 17 hair cutting action
- 19 state raises revenue through ___ fees paid by racetracks
- 21 popular "emergency" TV show
- 22 this actor Busey was TX Buddy Holly
- 23 TXism: "couldn't find hide ___ hair of him"
- 24 TX Charlie Dunn was 1st to put ___ roses on boots
- 30 publication: Texas Farm & ___
- 34 Green Bay Packers' home state (abbr.)
- 35 TX Armstrong was youngest to race in ___ France
- 36 TX outlaw booty
- 37 it proved prejudice of Texico executives (2 wds.)
- 39 TXism: "___ as a coyote with a rubber chicken"
- 43 cheerleader cries

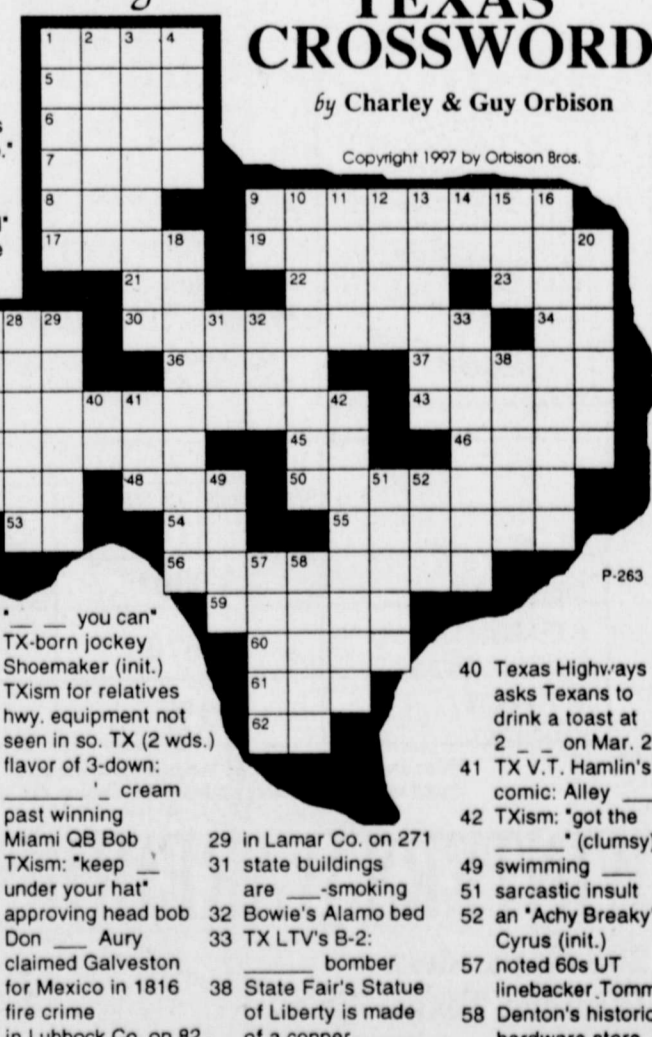
- 44 Congressman Ortiz (27th District)
- 45 TXism: "let ___ rip!"
- 46 Valley medicinal plant
- 47 neither's sidekick
- 48 football ___ rally
- 50 TX O'Connor: "Land does ___ away, dollars do."
- 53 Bevo's school
- 54 TXism: "___ broke I couldn't change my mind"
- 55 TX Willie's "Turn Out the Lights the ___ Over"
- 56 Road is a Dallas street
- 59 TX Orbinson's "That ___ You Feelin' Again"
- 60 "rad as a ___"
- 61 tax agency
- 62 Outman actress Sissy (init.)
- 1 bomb explosions
- 2 state capital
- 3 TX Blue Bell products are richer & ___
- 4 Abilene radio
- 9 Oliver Hardy's "partner" (init.)
- 10 San Jacinto battle lasted ___ minutes
- 11 TXism: "fits like ___ for Mexico in 1816"
- 12 TXism: "skeddadle out of ___"

The Original

TEXAS CROSSWORD

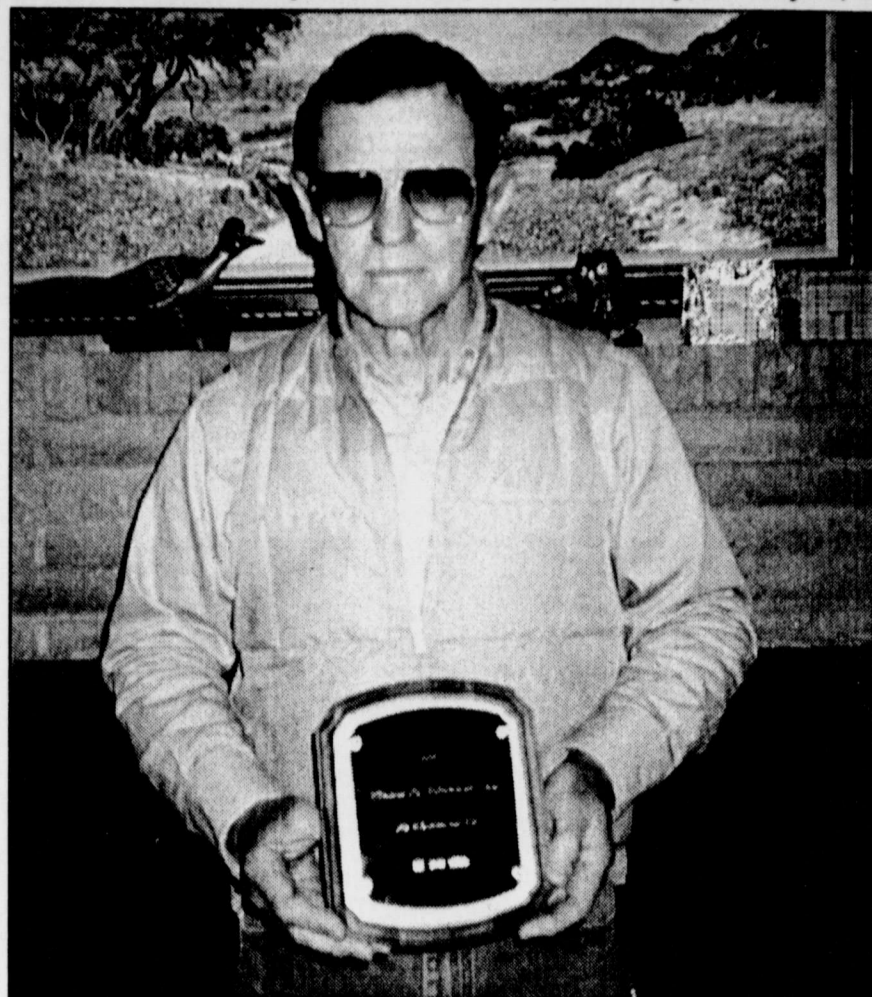
by Charley & Guy Orbinson

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- 13 "___ you can"
- 14 TX-born jockey Shoemaker (init.)
- 15 TXism for relatives
- 16 hwy. equipment not seen in so. TX (2 wds.)
- 18 flavor of 3-down: ___ cream
- 20 past winning Miami QB Bob
- 24 TXism: "keep ___ under your hat"
- 25 approving head bob
- 26 Don ___ Aury claimed Galveston sardines in ___
- 27 fire crime
- 28 in Lubbock Co. on 82
- 29 in Lamar Co. on 271
- 31 state buildings are ___-smoking
- 32 Bowie's Alamo bed
- 33 TX LTV's B-2
- 38 State Fair's Statue of Liberty is made of a copper ___
- 40 Texas Highways asks Texans to drink a toast at 2 ___ on Mar. 2
- 41 TX V.T. Hamlin's comic: Alley ___
- 42 TXism: "got the ___ (clumsy)"
- 49 swimming ___
- 51 sarcastic insult
- 52 an "Achy Breaky" Cyrus (init.)
- 57 noted 60s UT linebacker Tommy Denton's historic hardware store

Solutions for this puzzle appear in this issue.



BOB WEBB displays the plaque received in honor of the dedication of the 1997 Winters Junior Livestock Show.

Bob Webb honored by Junior Livestock Show Association

Bob Webb was honored by Winters Junior Livestock Show Association members at the 1997 Winters Junior Livestock Show held January 10 and 11. This year's show was dedicated to Bob for his work and assistance to young people.

Bill Cathey, announcer and WJLSA member, made the surprise presentation. A plaque was presented to Bob in recognition of his effort.

Bob served 18 years as the secretary-treasurer of the Winters Junior Livestock Show Association. He is a retired fireman of the Winters Volunteer Fire Department, serving 20 years. He also served on the Winters School Board for 12 years.

Bob is currently serving on the North Runnels Hospital Board. He is a member of the the Wingate Masonic Lodge #1042 and Eastern Star, and is trustee for the Mike Grantham Memorial Scholarship Fund. He serves as an Elder of the First Presbyterian Church of Ballinger.

Bob and wife Oleta have two children, Jim Bob Webb of Cisco and Vonda Grun of Ovalo. The Webbs have six grandchildren.

4-H to meet January 27

The Winters 4-H Club will meet on Monday, January 27, at the Mt. Carmel Catholic Church Hall from 6:00 until 7:15 p.m.

Melinda Hoppe will present a program on sewing.

Those helping with the program are Kari Walker, Maegan Schwartz, Jessica Pritchard, Rachel and Stephanie Davis, and Scott Bryan.

Good luck to all 4-H members that will be participating in major livestock shows.

Texas Industrial Production Index seasonally changes

The Texas Industrial Production Index fell a seasonally adjusted 0.2 percent from October to November. November's level was 2.7 percent above the year-ago figure.

Changes in major components of TIPA between October 1996 and November 1996:

- Overall manufacturing output decreased 0.1 percent. Durable goods was unchanged. Non-durable goods decreased 0.1 percent.
- Mining decreased 0.5 percent.
- Utilities decreased 0.1 percent.

Changes in major components of TIPA between November 1995 and November 1996:

- Overall manufacturing output increased 3.1 percent. Durable goods increased 7.1 percent. Non-durable goods decreased 0.5 percent.
- Mining increased 4.1 percent.
- Utilities decreased 2.2 percent.



CANADIAN SNOWBIRDS EILEEN and LLOYD WINTERS visited Winters, Texas. The Winters family has plans to search history to see if there is a connection with the founder of the town.

Canadian Snowbirds land in Winters seeking family ties

Eileen and Lloyd Winters stopped in Winters on their way to Brownsville, Texas, recently.

The couple, from Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, travel each year during the month of January in the United States. They usually go to Phoenix, Arizona, but chose to come to Texas this year.

Lloyd's father, Norbert Winters, saw the name of the town Winters on the Texas map and suggested they go through the town, provided it wasn't too far off their route.

Lloyd's uncle and aunt, Mike and Joan Winters, plan to come through Winters with a travel trailer on their way to join Lloyd and Eileen in Brownsville. Mike's father's name was John Winters, the same as the founder of Winters, Texas.

The family plans to look into the family history to see if there is a connection with the Texas John Winters. Lloyd's Winters descendants migrated from Germany and England to Minnesota then to other areas in the United States and Canada.

Conservation News & Notes

By Kay Mansell, District Technician

Deadline to order windbreak trees is February 3

If you haven't ordered your windbreak trees, February 3 is the deadline. Over the past several years, residents have purchased evergreen and hardwood seedlings. These windbreak trees are well on their way to providing shade, beauty, and protection to their owners.

Evergreen conifers (12-inch) are sold in multiples of 20 for \$35.00, and hardwoods are priced at \$20.00 per 25 trees. Trees should arrive at the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office on February 13.

These seedlings, which are raised in the Texas Forest Service nursery near Lubbock, are healthy, viable seedlings that are well-adapted to the soil and weather conditions here in Runnels County.

For a list of trees that are still available, please call the NRCS office at 365-3415 or stop by and see us at 2000 Hutchings Avenue in Ballinger. Make the commitment—don't put it off again this year.

SPJST gives back to communities

"In 1995, SPJST lodges reported giving \$2,179,000 back to their communities by the way of fraternal acts, lodge events, and charitable contributions," says Howard B. Leshikar, Slavonic Benevolent Order of the State of Texas supreme lodge president.

According to Leshikar, that averages out to \$311,000 per SPJST District and approximately \$28,000 per community.

"The SPJST is having a Texas Size Impact on local communities by the support of each lodge and active lodge members," concluded Leshikar.

Nature Tourism can be profitable Workshop in Wingate set Feb. 5

There's money to be made in the nature tourism industry. At least that is what the Texas Nature Tourism Association is wanting to see happen.

Landowners, ranchers, and farmers looking for ways to diversify operations or supplement incomes may be surprised to learn about the opportunities in nature tourism.

Texas Midwest Community Network has arranged for experts in the nature tourism industry to present a workshop for this region. A one-day workshop has been scheduled in two locations so that folks in this region have a choice to attend the most convenient place. February 5th, the Nature Tourism Workshop will be held in Wingate at the Wingate Lions Hall and is being sponsored by the Winters Area Chamber of Commerce. February 6th, the workshop is set for the Aztec Theater in Albany. The schedule for each day is 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

A \$15 pre-registration fee which includes the cost for lunch must be mailed to TMCN, P.O. Box 605, Baird, Texas 79504 by February 1. Registration at the door is \$20.

Workshop topics include: "What is Nature Tourism and What Does It Encompass?," "Alternate Uses of Land to Generate Secondary Incomes," "What Liability Issues Are Involved?," "How To Get Started," "How To Market Your Business," and "Available State Agency Assistance."

IRS tax ruling may be costly to farmers

By the National Grain Sorghum Producers

With farm incomes up 19 percent from the average of the last six years and fixed payments going to farmers as provided by the 1996 farm bill, the Internal Revenue Service recently decided farmers should pay more taxes.

"Not taking into account that farm program payments have been reduced by more than 50 percent over the next seven years, IRS took it upon themselves to issue a new interpretation of an old tax law that has always allowed farmers to use various deferred pricing and payment of sales of grain as a means of transferring tax liability into the following tax year," said Dan Shaw, NGSP Washington Representative.

The practice of deferring income taxes has been a common risk management tool for many farmers who want to protect their farm income in a low income year. Other farmers are gambling that a Republican controlled Congress will change the tax code and lower the tax rates in 1997.

IRS took both of the above situations into consideration and decided on a course of action that would cancel the tax deferral provision and therefore make due the lion's share of these taxes in 1996.

Shaw said that in October, the IRS used a December 21, 1995, technical advice memorandum as authorization to treat deferred payments as income in the year that the contract to sell was signed—not when the actual income from the sale was received. Court cases in Washington and Iowa have recently upheld the IRS actions. This tax rate is 26 percent and payable in the 1996 tax year. The principal is still subject to additional tax liability which may accrue in 1997 depending on the calculation of regular income taxes due then.

These rulings were at the regional levels and not an IRS-wide ruling from the IRS office in Washington, D.C.

"These are just regional office pursuits of miscellaneous cases against farmers, but these rulings are spreading to other regional in other states, and IRS is going back three years in most cases," Shaw said. "We are extremely concerned about the interest and penalties and legal and accounting fees, not too mention the extra taxes, that will undoubtedly result from this recent interpretation."

Deferred tax liability has been practiced by many farmers for

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years and has become a standard operation for farm management. The elimination of this option is an injustice to those who have historically depended on this tax provision.

"Keep in mind," he said, "that this is not a new law; it is an IRS interpretation of existing law and regulations."

Washington state potato farmers have just filed suit against the IRS on this matter. Other challenges are bound to follow. If the IRS happens to prevail, it is very likely they will then try to eliminate the provisions that allow farmers to purchase inputs such as seed and fertilizer in one year to be used in the production of a crop in another year.

Shaw said that U.S. Rep. George Nethercutt (R-WA) recently hosted a strategy meeting for agricultural groups and House staffers to plan their assault on the new interpretation by the IRS on the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) provision. More than 30 people attended the meeting and all were quite concerned and disagreed with the IRS ruling on AMT for agriculture.

Nethercutt plans to introduce legislation next year that will explicitly exempt farmers from the AMT provisions.

In the late 1970's, this question surrounding the AMT was addressed by IRS. At the time, IRS ruled that if farmers were not entitled to immediate cash under the terms of a contract, they were not required to include the sale in their reported income. However, through a number of subsequent private letter rulings, the definition of "entitled" became subject to case-by-case interpretation. To settle the matter once and for all, Congress, in 1980, explicitly exempted farmers from the AMT for deferred payment contracts.

In 1986, during the debate over the 1986 tax reform act, farmers were not explicitly addressed in the AMT legislation even though the intent of the 1986 change was to repeal the installment means of payment for dealer sales and not farm sales or private sales.

On the Senate side, Sen. Charles Grassley (R-IA) will introduce the Nethercutt language in the Senate. He is joined by a bipartisan group of senators. Fifteen senators have signed a "Dear Colleague" letter. More than 19 agricultural groups have signed on to a letter urging the Senate Finance

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Call report of the Winters Volunteer Fire Department

Members of the Winters Volunteer Fire Department responded to 10 emergency calls during the months of November and December, 1996, as reported by Rodrick Bredemeyer, recording secretary for WVFD:

Nov. 3	7:00 p.m.	Tank battery heater fire on Carter lease, 7 miles southeast of Winters. Dispatched 2 trucks.
Nov. 16	2:40 p.m.	Hay fire 6 miles northeast of Winters. Dispatched 2 trucks.
Nov. 19	3:00 p.m.	Grass fire in lot behind Winters Manufacturing. Dispatched 1 truck.
Dec. 7	12:15 p.m.	Grass fire on Walter Adami's place, 8 miles east of Winters. Dispatched 3 trucks.
Dec. 9	5:06 p.m.	Grass fire at 305 Hamilton. Dispatched 3 trucks.
Dec. 15	4:00 p.m.	House fire at 507 E. Bowen. Dispatched 3 trucks and SWAT van.
Dec. 18	12:30 a.m.	Possible house fire called in by Taylor County from a home alarm system, 3 miles east of Winters on Hwy 2147. Dispatched 2 trucks.
Dec. 20	4:20 a.m.	Garage-storage shed fire at 411 Albert. Dispatched 3 trucks and SWAT van.
Dec. 23	1:30 p.m.	Grease fire on cook stove. Dispatched 1 truck.
Dec. 26	1:30 p.m.	Grass fire 3 miles south of Winters. Dispatched 1 truck.