

Apples of Gold
 LOVE—God regards the greatness of the love that prompts the man, rather than the greatness of his achievement.

Happy Valentine's Day

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The Winters Enterprise

Serving Winters and North Runnels County

Volume 12, Issue 6

Thursday, February 8, 2001

Winters, Texas

50¢

Davis, Kidwell named Man and Woman of the Year at banquet

In a somewhat unique fashion, Jack Davis, Jr., and Fran Kidwell were honored as Man and Woman of the Year at the annual Chamber of Commerce banquet Saturday evening.

Davis's surprise award was presented by last year's honoree, Pastor Jim Hanson. Davis has been a resident of Winters for 45 years, graduating from Winters High School in 1973. He has been employed by the City of Winters for the past 24 years and is currently serving as Water and Wastewater Superintendent.

In his tribute to Davis, Pastor Hanson reminded the audience of the terrible drought our area has been experiencing, and how the efforts of Davis have kept the local water supply flowing.

He is a member of the Winters Athletic Booster Club and Winters Chamber of Commerce, serves on the board of trustees for the Winters ISD and is a director for the North Runnels Hospital.

Davis has been a member of the Winters Volunteer Fire Department since August, 1977, and has held numerous offices including current Chief. Twice Davis has helped save the life of a fire victim. He has coached Little League baseball for over 17 years, and has been active in Boy Scouts.

He and his wife are members of St. John's Lutheran Church. They are parents of Jennifer, a junior at Texas Tech University, and Brandon, a WHS sophomore. He is the son of Jack and Frances Davis of Winters.

Winters Elementary Music Teacher Fran Kidwell was honored as Woman of the Year. Last year's honoree, Jean Boles, made the presentation with some entertaining assistance from Kidwell's music students. "Rappers" Luke England, Tad Martin, Bryant Mikeska, Ty Cason and Don Davis, all sixth graders, danced and rapped the announcement, bringing a very surprised Mrs. Kidwell up from the audience. Rachel Davis and Kinsey Airhart then sang a tribute to their beloved teacher.



JACK DAVIS, JR., and FRAN KIDWELL were honored as Man and Woman of the Year Saturday evening at the annual Chamber of Commerce banquet.

Mrs. Kidwell graduated from Dickinson High School in 1960 and attended North Texas State University, receiving a degree in Elementary Education and a minor in music. She married Charles Kidwell on August 17, 1963, and is the mother of Brandy Kidwell Payne and Sam Travis Kidwell, both of Dallas.

Her first teaching job was in 1963 in Carrollton, then she and Charles moved to Duncanville in 1979. She was employed at Alexander Elementary School until 1990. While at Alexander, she received the Teacher of the Year Award.

After moving to Winters in 1990, she taught first grade for four years before becoming the

music teacher.

As presenter Jean Boles said, "music teacher" seems inadequate to describe Fran Kidwell. In addition to her regular music classes for all elementary grades, she has organized and directed the Winters Elementary Select Choir for the past six years. This choir, which usually numbers around a hundred voices, has performed in places all over Texas including Dallas, Waco, Austin and San Antonio.

Kidwell was also instrumental in starting the after-school program called TIPS (Terrific Intermediate and Primary Students), which offers after-school care and homework tutoring to students

See BANQUET, page 6

Audit continues in Justice of the Peace office

A routine audit has turned into a lengthy process regarding monies paid to the office of Justice of the Peace of Runnels County, Precinct 2, Joyce Weems, prior to December 1, 2000.

According to sources, cash, checks and money orders dating back as far as four years were found in the office occupied by Weems during a routine audit by District Attorney Steve Smith in October, 2000.

Smith said, "It's simply a matter of somebody not doing their job. I don't believe there was ever any criminal intent."

According to Smith, bank accounts belonging to the county have to be the same as the county depository. Because Weems, along with several other county officers, had different accounts in the area, former County Attorney John McGregor ordered Weems and the other county officers to move the accounts to a bank in Ballinger. It was at this time that discrepancies were noticed.

Smith, along with officers from

the Runnels County Sheriff's office, and auditors searched Weems's office located at 114 S. Church in Winters, locating numerous checks and money orders,

in November, and assumed his duties on December 1, 2000. Bredemeyer says that since he took office, he has spent "probably 80%" of his time fielding phone calls from disgruntled citizens complaining of checks — some as old as 4 and 5 years — being cashed recently. Other calls have come from citizens whose requests

in Small Claims Court had not been filed.

Bredemeyer says, "I have absolutely no access to previous records (prior to December 1, 2000). I have no authority or control to fix any of these problems, and am asking anyone with questions about checks deposited, case filings, records, tickets, warrants or anything pertaining to matters previously handled by this office, to contact District Attorney Steve Smith at 365-3739."

This is an unfortunate situation that may have been going on for several years," Bredemeyer adds, "so it will take a while to fix."

"I have no authority or control to fix any of these problems . . ."
 current Justice of the Peace
 Bill Bredemeyer

cash, docket books and other records. McGregor had apparently received complaints from individuals who had been issued warrants for their arrest because their payments for tickets or fines had not been recorded.

Weems, who had served as Justice of the Peace since January 1, 1991, retired at the end of November, 2000, citing "health concerns."

Smith added that a complete audit of books and accounts is standard procedure when there is a changeover of officers.

Bill Bredemeyer was appointed new Justice of the Peace



GETTING REALLY CLOSE to the drop-off slot at DeeTee's Video & More is Berta Ochoa who said she put her car in drive instead of reverse, causing her to jump the double curb, graze the car parked in front of her, and stop just inches from the front door of the video store at 135 N. Main, on Friday, Feb. 9, about 3:00 p.m. There were no injuries in the mishap.

— Legislative session and reception Feb. 21

"Texas Midwest Day" in Austin available to local citizens

The Winters Area Business and Industrial Corporation will support "Texas Midwest Day" in Austin on Wednesday, February 21, 2001, with a contingent of business and community leaders who are planning to attend.

Hundreds of folks from the Texas Midwest will converge on Austin to demonstrate the strength of partnering and networking in rural Texas.

"Texas Midwest Day" during the 77th Legislative Session will offer residents from the region an opportunity to visit the House and Senate as a unified delegation to take pictures on the Capitol steps with elected officials and attend the "Texas Midwest Tailgate," an evening reception to which all

See MIDWEST DAY, page 6

Fort Chadbourne receives \$379,000 in grants

The Dodge Jones Foundation recently awarded the Fort Chadbourne Foundation in Bronte a \$374,000 grant to stabilize historic buildings at Fort Chadbourne. The Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Texas Heritage Trails Program also recently awarded the foundation \$5,000 to produce an educational video about Fort Chadbourne and other forts located in the Texas Forts Trail Region.

"Grants like these tell me my project is a worthwhile project, that Fort Chadbourne is worth being restored. The THC has always been supportive of what we're trying to do out here, but the money says we believe in you and what you're doing. Eventually

we hope to raise enough money for a visitor's center, museum, and research facility," said Garland Richards, president, Fort Chadbourne Foundation.

Although the grant from the Dodge Jones Foundation will pay for labor costs associated with stabilizing all 10 buildings, the Fort Chadbourne Foundation still needs to raise \$50,000 for materials to finish the process.

"What a success story. In a short amount of time, Fort Chadbourne has gone from having zero facilities for visitors, to a heritage tourism site where adults and children can experience history for themselves," said Janie Headrick, program director of THC's Texas Heritage Trails

Program.

Fort Chadbourne will use the Texas Heritage Trails Program grant to produce a video about Fort Chadbourne and the Texas Forts Trail Region. The video will educate junior high school students about frontier life at the forts.

The THC offers free travel guides highlighting Texas's heritage trail regions. Currently, the Texas Forts Trail Region and the Texas Independence Trail Region are available.

Visit <www.thc.state.tx.us> or call the Texas Historical Commission at 512/463-6255 or e-mail thc@thc.state.tx.us for a free copy.

Senior class offers fajita meal, hotel vacation

The senior class of Winters High School is sponsoring a drawing for a chance to win a one-night stay at Embassy Suites Hotel in Abilene. Chances are \$1.00 each or six for \$5. The drawing will be Sunday.

Also on February 11, the seniors will be hosting a fajita luncheon from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the school cafeteria. Cost is \$4 for one fajita or \$6 for two. The meal includes a choice of beef or chicken fajita, rice, beans, dessert

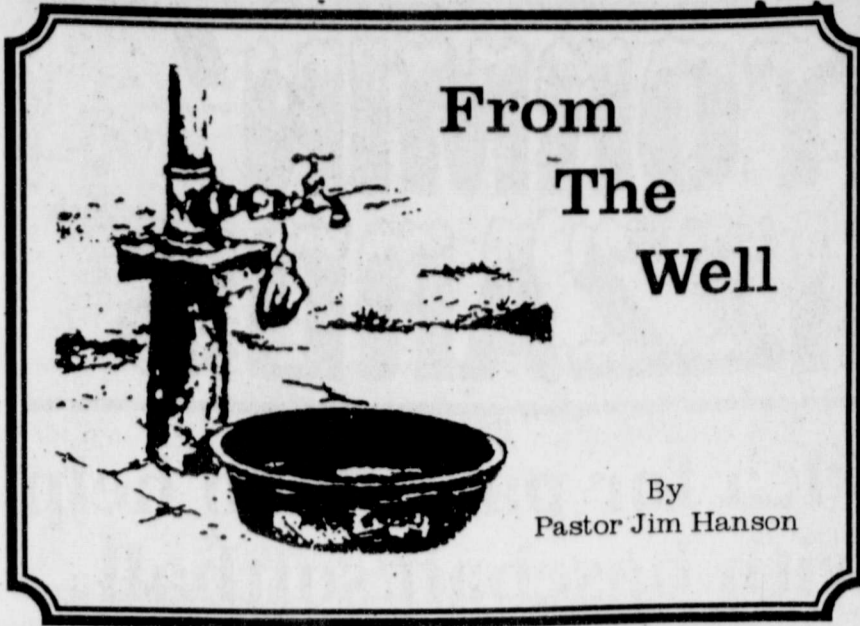
and drink.

Proceeds from these events will benefit Project Graduation 2001. For more information, contact any senior, senior's parent, Kim Jackson at 754-4339, or Shelia Paschal at 723-2697.

WHAT'S HAPPENING ?

- Feb. 8-10 a.m., Triple L Club, First Baptist Church
- 11:30 a.m., Sr. Citizens Meal, Sr. Citizens Activity Center
- Windbreak Trees Arrive at RSWCD
- Feb. 9-11:30 a.m., Sr. Citizens Meal, Sr. Citizens Activity Center
- 12:25 p.m., Fellowship of Christian Athletes, School Science Lab
- 6 p.m., Winters Area Baseball Registration, School Cafeteria
- 7:30 p.m., Cowboys for Christ, Drasco
- Feb. 10-Plan something special for Valentine's Day!!
- Feb. 11-Project Graduation 2001 Fajita Dinner and Embassy Suites Giveaway, School Cafeteria
- Feb. 12-11:30 a.m., Sr. Citizens Meal, Sr. Citizens Activity Center
- 2:30 p.m., Retired Teachers, First United Methodist Church, Ballinger
- 7 p.m., VFW & Auxiliary, Post Home
- Feb. 13-9 a.m., Winters Ministerial Alliance, First Baptist Church
- 11:30 a.m., Sr. Citizens Meal, Sr. Citizens Activity Center
- Noon, Lions Club, Sr. Citizens Activity Center
- 7 p.m., WVFD
- 7:30 p.m., Eastern Star
- Feb. 14-HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY
- 7 a.m., Industrial Board, Chamber Office
- 9 a.m., Glacier King & Queen Candidate Introduction & Class Honors, WHS Auditorium
- 11:30 a.m., Sr. Citizens Meal, Sr. Citizens Activity Center
- 8 p.m., Glacier King & Queen Coronation, WHS Auditorium
- Feb. 15-11:30 a.m., Sr. Citizens Meal, Sr. Citizens Activity Center





From The Well

By
Pastor Jim Hanson



Pastor
Jim
Hanson

Quick to criticize. That's what seems to be happening all over the land. Even in churches. It's part of our culture. It's part of the put-down syndrome that is done with a smile in our sitcoms. And, late night Lenos and Lettermans. The game is "gotcha," and folks

seem to really enjoy it, especially if you are on the giving side. It's not so great at all if you are on the receiving end. Especially if you are doing your best to do something for others. And, especially if it's in church.

Our oldest son Nathan writes a column for his church newsletter. When I received his latest just yesterday, I found his perspective very helpful... to the point and to a solution. The title of his column was "Lift-Off." I will share with you much of what he wrote.

"When you are hired to clean a church, the position is bigger than cleaning the building. When you hire on to mow a cemetery, the position requires more than mechanical aptitude. Teaching Sunday School or chairing a meeting can demand all of your patience.

"What am I talking about here? Aren't all these jobs around the church rewarding and uplifting? Aren't these 'positions' opportunities for serving God, and even, making a little money? Well, they may be just that. But it isn't unusual to find people cringing with the prospect or even fleeing before they are asked.

"In each and every case, there is this huge balloon. It sits suspended, hovering over each and every gathering of believers. There is no tether to this balloon. It sits, because there is no movement against it... not even a puff of wind to blow it off its perch. It sits in other places, above other gatherings, too. Like athletic events and polling places. You find it everywhere there are people willing to work for other people. Were you to name it, I suspect its title would be 'criticism.'

"There is a wind that can blow this balloon out of any assembly. This wind has to be more powerful and bigger than the assembly itself. In the church, we have such a wind available to us. The same wind that was present in Creation. And at Pentecost. And this Spirit comes when any assembly says in prayer and from the heart, 'Come to us, Holy Spirit.' And, when they do, the balloon either deflates or flies away. Strangely enough, churches often have great difficulty in mustering to say such a prayer. Maybe it's because they are unwilling to turn the meeting over to the Spirit. Control is often best exercised among us by criticisms, and who wants to give that up?

"Fact is Jesus never coddled criticism. He would have us give it up altogether. To be critical is not something Jesus wants us to refine, teach, or practice. We are to be encouraging in our routines, uplifting those who are in our lives. Teachers, highway patrolmen, coaches should hear good things from us. So also the nurses, the waitresses, the custodians, and ones who deliver the mail. Certainly parents and children. A good word with a smile will brighten another's day. And left them up... not put them down.

"When you see someone who isn't 'measuring up' in your eyes, do what Jesus did. Grab a mop, a broom, a shovel, a piece of chalk, or whatever it takes. Lend a hand and join the work party. Zip your lip (unless you have something good to say) and roll up your sleeves. It's what Jesus does for us every day. Our Friend serves us and expects us to do the same for others."

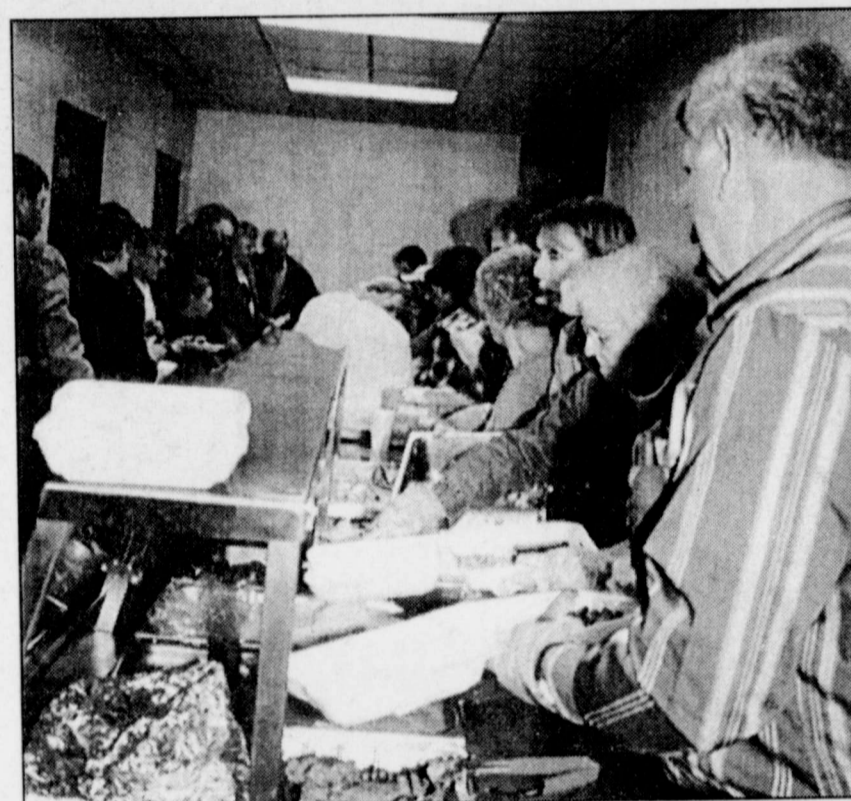
And, like the writer of Hebrews wrote in 10:24, "Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." When that Day comes, I sure don't want to be caught criticizing. And since Ramona and I have just written our wills and appointed one of our kids to be executor and to have "power of attorney" in anticipation of the day which will be the Day for us, I am grateful to God for a timely word from the Word, and hope you will receive these words the same.

Roaring Twenties Solution:

1. Alicia	11. Jean
2. Andrea	12. Jessica
3. Angela	13. Michelle
4. Bonnie	14. Nancy
5. Carrie	15. Rachel
6. Catherine	16. Rebecca
7. Connie	17. Sarah
8. Elizabeth	18. Stephanie
9. Eileen	19. Susan
10. Erin	20. Theresa



PASTOR ARTHUR GOETZ (right), enjoys a light-hearted moment with Mary Beth and Ted Ahrens during the annual Super Bowl Sunday celebration hosted by St. John's Lutheran Church. Funds from the luncheon are matched by two Lutheran organizations and will be donated to the "Christmas in April" project.



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH MEMBERS stayed busy serving more than 350 hungry people at the Super Bowl barbecue on January 28. The annual event will bring \$4,200, which includes matching funds from Lutheran Brotherhood and Aid Association for Lutherans, to benefit the "Christmas in April" renovation project.

In Appreciation

Card of Thanks

The CIA Board of Directors would like to extend their sincerest gratitude to St. John's Lutheran Church for once again sponsoring the Super Bowl BBQ Dinner with proceeds benefiting the Winters Christmas In April program.

We would also like to thank the Lutheran Brotherhood and Aid Association for Lutherans for generously matching the funds raised from the dinner.

We would certainly be remiss if we did not express our appreciation to the members of this community who supported the meal by attending and so willingly contributing their freewill donations.

The board is extremely thankful for this major fund-raising project for Christmas In April. Your generosity enables us to work on a number of houses in this community which are so badly in need of repair.

Again, to everyone involved, we thank you for this tremendous financial boost. We look forward to each of you lending a helping hand on Saturday, April 21, for this year's workday.

With Many Thanks,
The 2000-01 Christmas In April Board of Directors

Card of Thanks

Thanks to God and Dr. Lee for bringing me back to life. Also thanks to the wonderful nursing staff and cooks at North Runnels Hospital.

May God Bless each and everyone of you.
Yours truly,
Becky Torres & Family



Letter to the Editor

Justice of the Peace unable to "fix" old problems

Dear Editor:

On December 1, 2000, I took the Oath of Office for Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2, Runnels County. Since that time several questions have arisen pertaining to this office.

Any previous actions or current actions taken or made concerning matters occurring prior to December 1, 2000, ARE NOT, NOR HAVE BEEN under my custody or control.

Should you have questions or concerns about revenues received by this office prior to December 1, 2000, that have been recently deposited, case filings, records, tickets, warrants or ANYTHING pertaining to matters previously handled by this office, with permission contact District Attorney Steve Smith at 365-3739.

Respectfully,
Bill Bredemeyer
Justice of the Peace
Precinct 2, Runnels County

Reader thanks "Oil Bidness" writer for Spindletop story

I would like to express my surprise and appreciation to Reg Boles for his column about Spindletop.

Beaumont had a big celebration on Jan. 10, 2001. There were people dressed in vintage clothing. A derrick was built and gushed forth water just like when oil gushed forth 100 years ago. Beaumont school children were out of school and were able to join with adults to see history come alive.

The oil business is still alive and well in South East Texas. I work at a chemical plant in Beaumont that makes plastic. My mother, Alta Belfiore, gets *The Winters Enterprise* and we enjoy reading it from the first page to the very last.

What a surprise to read about Spindletop in a small weekly West Texas paper.

Hats off to the Boles family! Thanks again.
Gayle Walker
Orange, Texas

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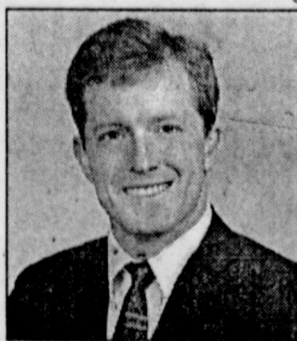
Troy L. Carter, M.D.

Surgical & Medical Diseases of the Eye

Dr. Troy Carter, a member of Texas Midwest Eye Center in Abilene, has joined with North Runnels Hospital and Dr. Mike Bacigalupi to offer cataract surgery in Winters. Patients can now be evaluated, have surgery with complete post-op care, and never leave Runnels County.

Please call North Runnels Hospital to schedule an eye exam and cataract screening today.

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Troy L. Carter, M.D.
Ophthalmologist
Cataract & Laser Surgery

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HERE COME THE STORMIN' BLIZZARDS

CAFETERIA MENU February 12-16 Subject to change* Breakfast Monday-Feb. 12 Breakfast Pizza Cereal Juice Tuesday-Feb. 13 Pancakes Cereal Juice Wednesday-Feb. 14 Biscuits Sausage Juice Thursday-Feb. 15 Cinnamon Roll Toast Cereal Juice Friday-Feb. 16 Toast Cereal Juice Lunch Monday-Feb. 12 Spaghetti/Meat Sauce Green Beans Peach Half Hot Roll Tuesday-Feb. 13 Steak Fingers Mashed Potatoes Corn Mixed Fruit Hot Roll Wednesday-Feb. 14 Chicken Fajita/Cheese Flour Tortillas Red Beans Salad Apple Crisp Thursday-Feb. 15 Baked Ham Mashed Potatoes Broccoli/Cheese Jello/Fruit Hot Roll Friday-Feb. 16 BBQ Sandwich French Fries Lettuce/Pickles Fruit Milk Served With All Meals *Due to commodity conditions served with meals.

Bedford-Norman Insurance Agency P.O. Box 155 • Winters 754-4515 George Mostad

Table with columns: Player Name, Points, Rebounds, Steals, Assists. Includes players like Jeremy Mendez, Jose Hernandez, Jeff Martinez, etc.

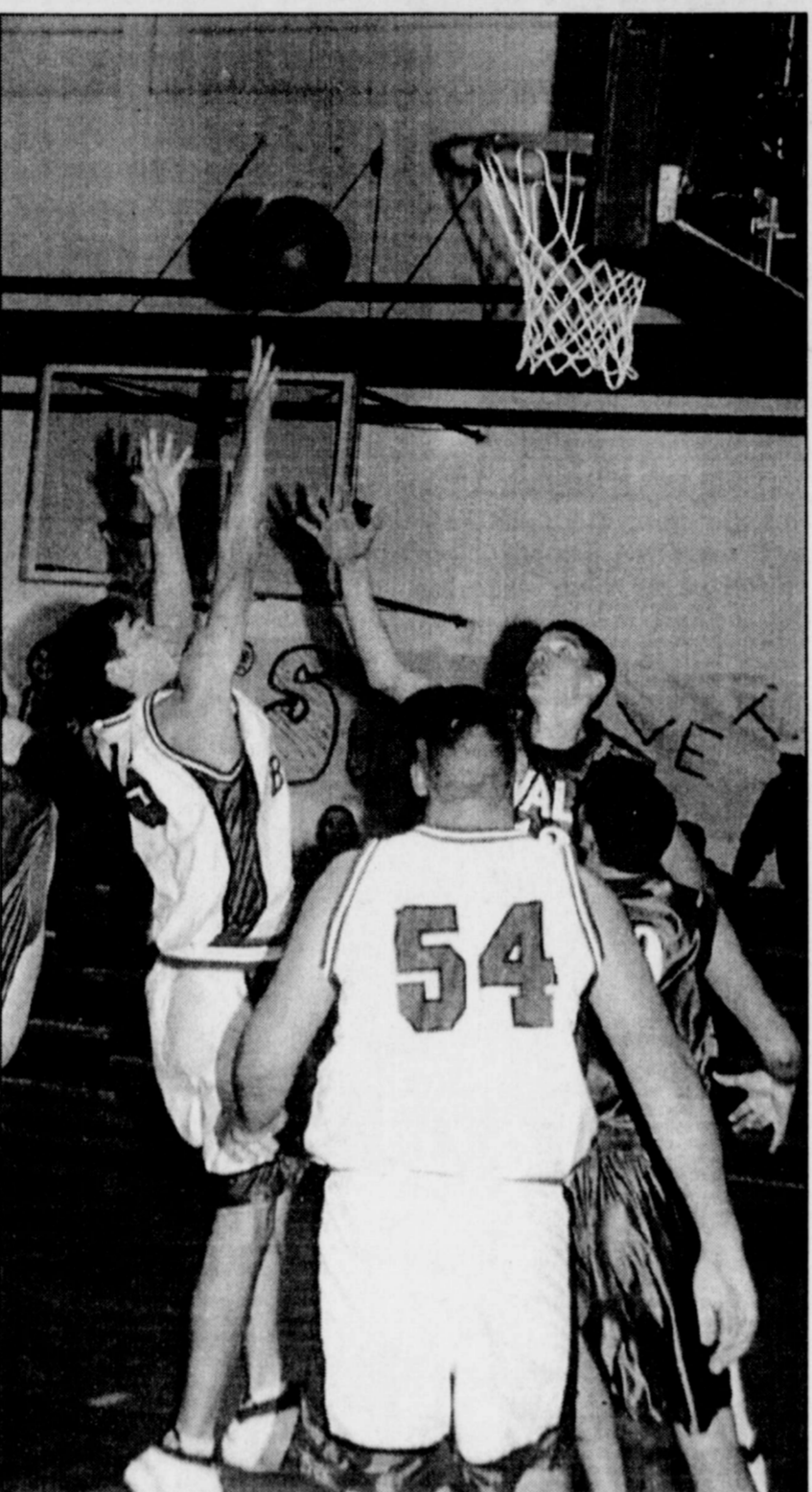
Table with columns: Player Name, Points, Rebounds, Steals, Assists. Includes players like Jennie Hines, Amber Lopez, Kelsey Atchard, etc.

Table with columns: Player Name, Points, Rebounds, Steals, Assists. Includes players like Kendra Esquivel, Nathanael Hally, Amber Lopez, etc.

Table with columns: Player Name, Points, Rebounds, Steals, Assists. Includes players like Jessica Barton, Macy Harmon, Suzanne Jones, etc.

Table with columns: Player Name, Points, Rebounds, Steals, Assists. Includes players like Jennifer Barton, Macy Harmon, Suzanne Jones, etc.

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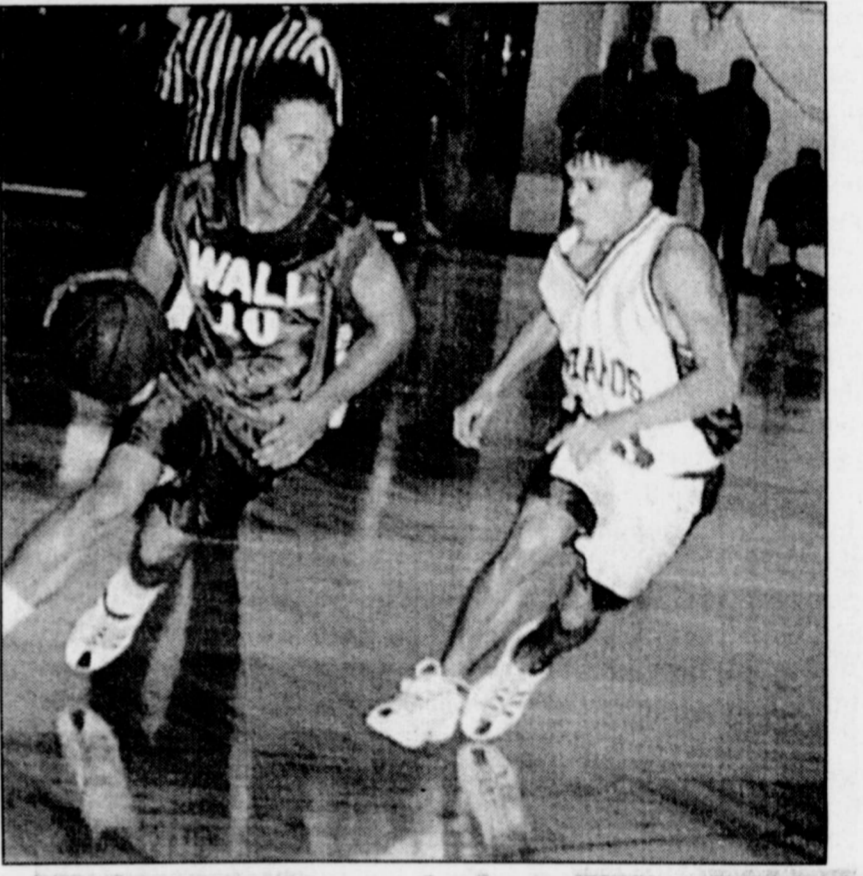
AARON PRITCHARD puts up the short jumper during varsity Blizzard action as teammate Samson Jackson closes in to help.

Basketball Hoopla

Statistics for various basketball teams including Freshman Boys, 7th Boys White, Varsity Girls, and Junior Varsity Girls, with columns for points, rebounds, steals, and assists.

Plea for parents to help with baseball/softball

Dear Editor: Is baseball dying in Winters? Parents, we need to ask ourselves this question. Every year the organization of our baseball/softball league depends on a few volunteers. It takes a lot of work to get to the point when you have the kids on the field playing. We are having our first registration Friday, February 9, 2001, at the Winters school cafeteria. Sign up will start at 6:00 p.m. and then there will be a parent meeting at 7:00 p.m. The fee to play is \$40 for the first child in a family and \$35.00 for each child in the immediate family thereafter. We need a copy of the birth certificate for each child. Volunteers are needed for the boys' board of directors, concession stand, umpires, coaches and team parents. This is not a babysitting service. The parents need to get involved this year! Dawn Green Winters Area Community Baseball



TONY AGUERO stays step for step with the Hawk during the varsity Blizzards' contest with Wall.

DISTRICT 9-2A VARSITY BASKETBALL STATISTICS GIRLS BOYS. Includes team names like Cisco, Eula, Hawley, Winters, Jim Ned, Coleman, Bangs with Win/Loss records.

Brown on Baylor University 2000 fall Dean's List Linsey Nicole Brown of Winters was among 2,011 students named to the Dean's Academic Honor List for the 2000 fall session at Baylor University. To be named to the Dean's List, a student must be an undergraduate with a minimum grade point average of 3.7 while enrolled in a minimum of 12 semester hours. Linsey is the daughter of Charles and Laura Brown of Winters.

Class of 1962 looking for members The Winters High School Class of 1962 is looking for information about the following classmates: Larry Clark, Donald Clanton, Roy Clark, Coylene Riddle Crowe, Pam Bedford Curtiss, Marta Davidson Dunn, Betty Lou Thomas Fields, Marcene Pritchard Gerheart, Jimmy Johnson, Shirley Liddell, Dean Mass, Jean King Powers, Edward Pope, Collier Randolph, Forrest Shade, Bob Shoemaker, and Donna Waldrop. If anyone has an address or other information about any of the above classmates, please call Bryan Webb at 915-767-2163, or write Linda Davidson at HCR Box 100-B, AR 72624, or e-mail at mistymtn@yournet.com.

Basketball '01 Catch the Action Feb. 9—Jim Ned*, TBA, There, JVB, VB Feb. 9—Practice Playoff Game, TBA, VG Feb. 12—Coleman, 5 p.m., Here, 7B, 8B, 9B Feb. 13—Bi-District Playoff, TBA, VG Feb. 13—Open, VB Feb. 16—Area Playoffs, TBA, VG Feb. 16—Boys' Practice, TBA, VB

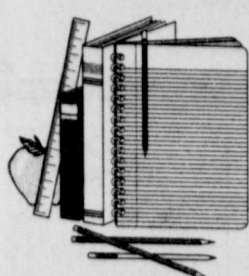
REPORT UNDERAGE ALCOHOL VIOLATIONS CALL 1-888-THE-TABC

MENTOR... and make a difference! Contact Winters Elementary at 754-5577 to volunteer your time.

The Winter yearbook annual K... 2001, in t... rium. The m... the studen... a.m. Class... be present... agers. Vol... lowing the... 9:00 a.m. Senior... Holly Wo... Hernande... dates are... Joeris; sop... Priscilla C... Cuevas; an... are Brian... Lopez. Also... ctivities, ch... nounced. The cro... Queen w... p.m., also... honorees... nized. Evenin... the public... the door... evening w... book staff

KINDY... Lady Br...

Y & R...



ON THE FIELD AND IN THE CLASSROOM



Glacier King and Queen coronation February 14 Class honors to also be announced during morning assembly

The Winters High School *Glacier* yearbook staff will host their annual King and Queen Coronation on Wednesday, February 14, 2001, in the high school auditorium.

The morning ceremonies for the student body will begin at 9:00 a.m. Class royalty candidates will be presented by their student managers. Voting will take place following the morning activities at 9:00 a.m.

Senior class candidates are Holly Woffenden and Gabriel G. Hernandez; junior class candidates are Isha Lara and Joey Joeris; sophomore candidates are Priscilla Ontiveros and Stephen Cuevas; and freshman candidates are Briana Parramore and Eric Lopez.

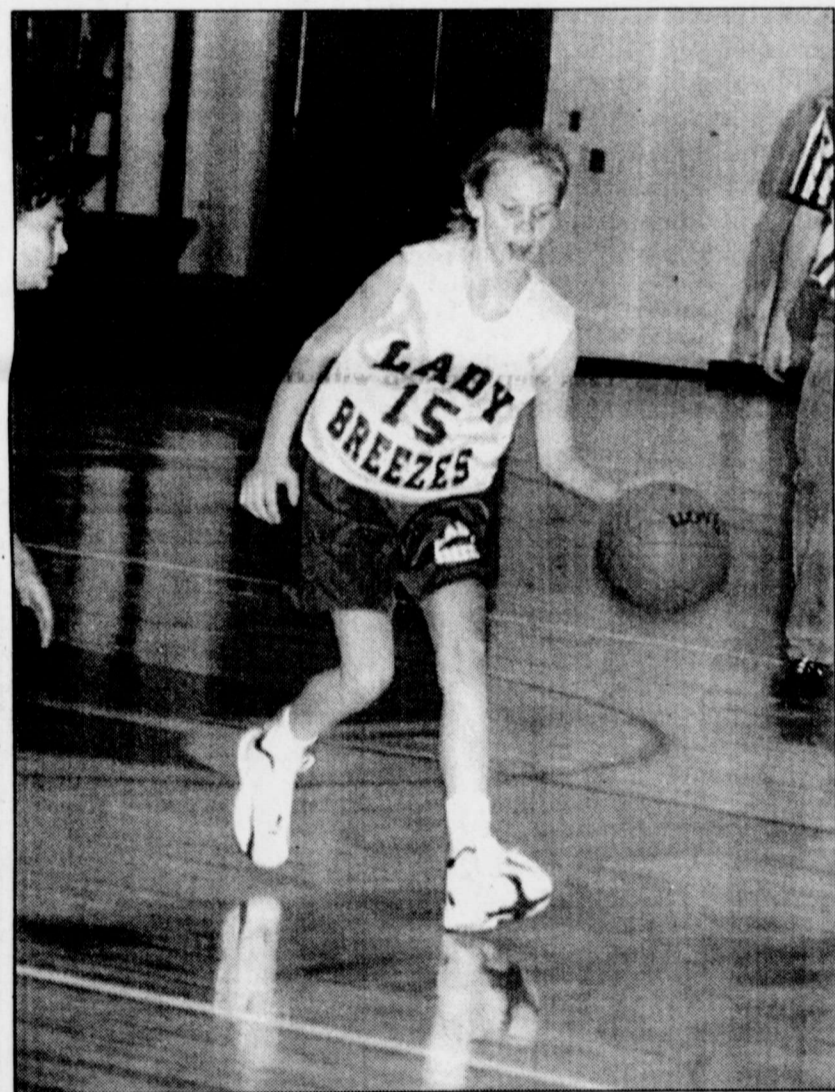
Also during the morning activities, class honors will be announced.

The crowning of the King and Queen will take place at 8:00 p.m., also in the auditorium. Class honorees will again be recognized.

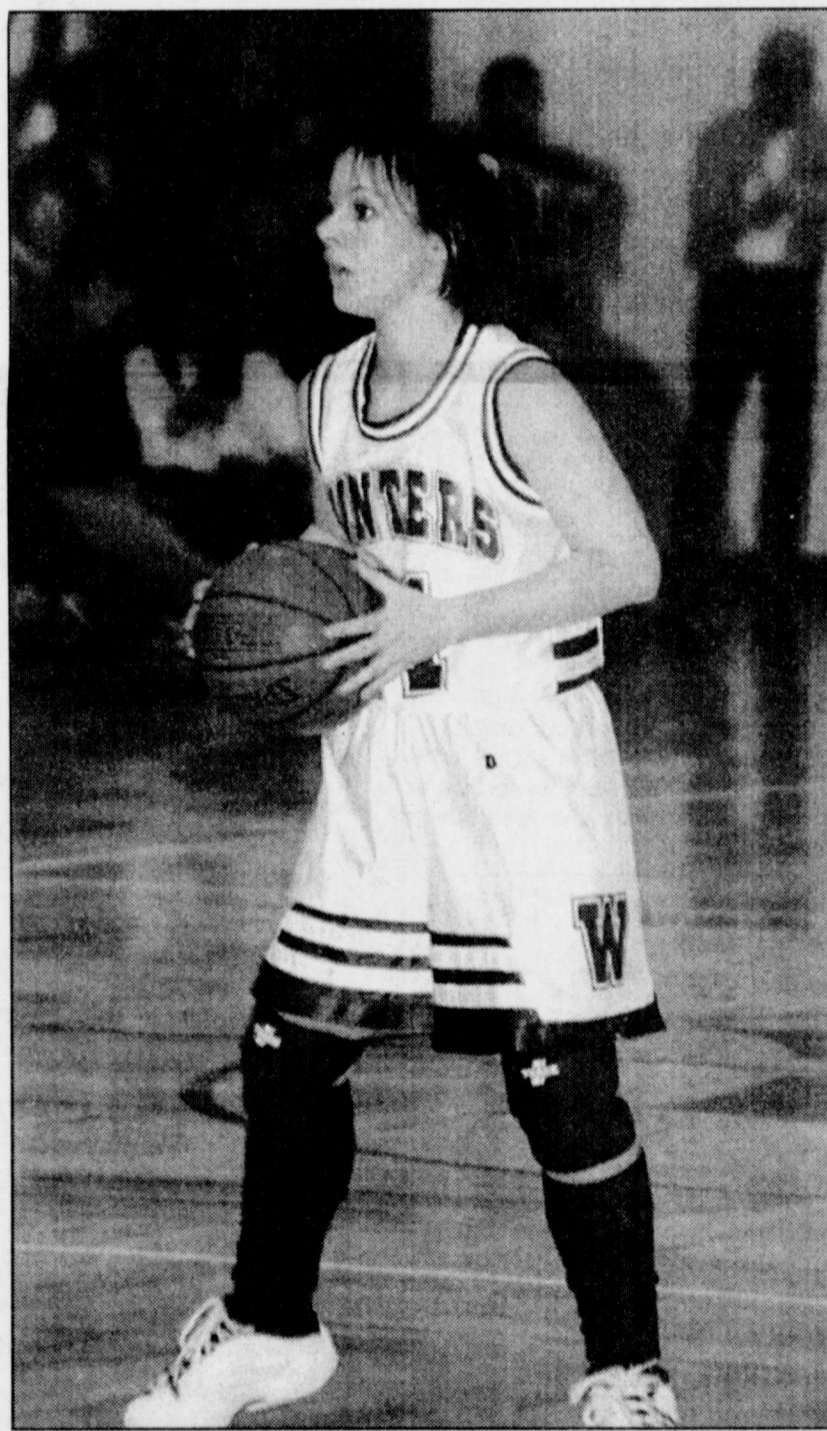
Evening activities are open to the public. There is a \$2 charge at the door. Proceeds from the evening will go toward the yearbook staff's operating budget.



WHS GLACIER ROYALTY CANDIDATES include (l-r) senior candidates Gabriel G. Hernandez and Holly Woffenden, junior candidates Joey Joeris and Isha Lara, sophomore candidates Stephen Cuevas and Priscilla Ontiveros, and freshmen candidates Eric Lopez and Briana Parramore. Candidates will formally be presented at 9 a.m. in the auditorium on February 14, after which time the student body will vote for Glacier King and Queen. The crowning will take place at 8 p.m. that same day. Admission to the coronation is \$2 per person and is open to the public.



KINDY WALKER brings the ball down court for her 7th grade Lady Breezes team.



STACI BISHOP, WHS junior, looks carefully before making the pass during varsity action for the Lady Blizzards who wrapped up their season against Coleman on Feb. 6.

Kids and coach say "thanks" to high school students

The elementary kids and Coach Whittenburg would like to thank these high school students for helping with the Little Dribblers and making it a success. About 155 third through sixth graders participated in the games.

Thanks to Kendra Hope, Kemari Hale, Jena Bahlman, Laci Walker, Staci Bishop, Stacey Sneed, Lacey Meyer, Aaron Pritchard, Wade Parramore, Josh Minzenmayer, Colby Walker, Lauren Hogan, and Holly Woffenden.

Also Michelle Paschal, Kari Walker, Maegan Schwartz, Artemio Lopez, Samson Jackson, Brian Pritchard, Shane Colburn, Stacey Walden, Ali Calcote, Tony Agüero, Kacy McCuiston, Jeremy Hope, Briana Parramore, Jeremy Hope, Will Blaine, Leslye Geistmann, Michelle Paschal, and Rusty Jackson.

Retired Teachers to meet Feb. 12

The Runnels County Retired Teachers Association will meet Monday, February 12, at 2:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Ballinger.

Mrs. Sally Lehr of San Angelo will review the book entitled "Clara Driscoll: Her Life Story Through the Clothes She Wore."

Mrs. Lehr has a bachelor of science degree from McMurry University and a master of education degree from Abilene Christian University. She received a supervisory certification from Texas Tech and administrative certification from Angelo State University. She retired as Director of Elementary Instruction for San Angelo Independent School District.

Marthiel Russell, president of the Runnels County Retired Teachers Association, will discuss the latest on health insurance from the legislature.

Everyone is invited to attend this meeting.



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Winters Area Baseball Association

Youth Baseball & Softball Registration

Friday, February 9
6 pm Sign-up
7 pm Parent's Meeting

Winters School Cafeteria

Bring birth certificates. \$40 for first child & \$35 for each additional child in immediate family.

"The heart of a fool is in his mouth, but the mouth of a wise man is in his heart."
— Benjamin Franklin

Project Graduation 2001

Fajita Supper

Sunday, February 11, 2001
11 AM - 1 PM
School Cafeteria

\$6 for two fajitas ~ \$4 for one

Price includes Choice of Beef or Chicken Fajita, Rice, Beans, Dessert, and Drink

Wingate Gin Corp.

Here's to a great season!

743-6453

BANQUET, continued



CLASSIC TRADITION, a barbershop quartet from Abilene, provided entertainment at the annual Chamber of Commerce banquet Saturday evening at the Community Center.



WINTERS SPECIAL 'RAPPERS' made a surprise appearance to announce Fran Kidwell as Woman of the Year. The young performers are (l-r) Ty Cason, Don Davis, Bryant Mikeska, Tad Martin and Luke England.

whose parents work. This program has had a definite impact on TAAS scores and in turn, brought financial assistance for Winters schools.

She currently serves as pianist and choir director for Elm Valley Church.

Mayor Dawson McGuffin welcomed everyone and introduced Mike Harris, outgoing Chamber president. Mr. Harris then introduced the current and continuing directors as well as the new directors added for the next three years, including Dale Montgomery, new Chamber president.

Other officers include Gail Williams, vice-president; Saam Geistmann, treasurer; and Carolyn Scarborough, secretary.

A special recognition was given to Dr. Alicia Wyatt and her computer students of McMurry University in Abilene for their assistance in developing the new web site for the City of Winters.

Banquet attendees feasted on a delicious meal prepared by J.C.'s Catering, then enjoyed the entertainment of "Classic Tradition," a barbershop quartet from Abilene.



RACHEL DAVIS (left) and **KINSEY AIRHART** lend their voices in tribute to their longtime music teacher, Fran Kidwell, who was named Woman of the Year during the banquet.

MIDWEST DAY, continued

elected officials have been invited.

This session of the Legislature, which began in January, will be very important to rural Texans. Water issues, redistricting after the census, and legislation which affects the future economy of our area will be of special interest.

The Winters Area Business and Industrial Corporation did not have enough people to sign up to

charter a bus. However, a group will depart in automobiles from the State National Bank parking lot at 6:00 a.m. on the 21st, and will plan to return about 11:00 p.m. The cost of registration and the tailgate reception is \$25.00.

The Industrial Board encourages everyone in Winters to attend. For more information, call Randall Conner at 754-4542.

Crews News

By Hilda Kurtz



Hilda Kurtz

I've learned, that if you are still talking about what you did yesterday—you haven't done much today.

The Saturday night supper crowd was small but everyone had a good time at the gym. Dale and Linda Duggan were hosts.

There was no Bible study on Monday morning. Brother Herman Lancaster and wife gave the Hopewell Baptist Church service again on Sunday while Pastor Ferris Akins and Ramona are still on vacation.

Brother Herman Lancaster and wife Marie of Abilene were dinner guests with Selma Wilkerson after church services on Sunday.

Connie Bryant of Ballinger died on Saturday, February 3. She was buried on Monday in Ballinger at the Old Runnels Cemetery. Our sympathy goes out to the Bryant family.

Mr. and Mrs. Maloey Bryant and family of Abilene spent Sunday with Doris Wood. Doris visited her sister Louise Walters in Ft. Worth during the week.

Visiting with Helen Alexander one day were Reba Groshana and Merrill Owens of San Angelo. Joe and Betty Pierce came by and visited Selma a while on Sunday evening.

S.K. Alexander and two friends of Austin came by a while on Sunday to visit Helen also.

Visiting Fairy and Wilbert Alcorn a while were Abe and Pat Giles of Brownwood. Brett Gorman of Houston and his two sons stopped in for a visit.

My kiddos came out Saturday, Calvin, Harold, and son Nicholas and their friends of San Angelo all spent the day clearing off trees in my feed lot and carried home a double trailer load and pickup full of sawed firewood.

Enjoying dinner on Thursday with Adeline Grissom of Ballinger were Katherine, Steve and Penny Grissom.

Joe and Betty's sister Dorcas Brooks of Wharton and Brownwood passed away on Wednesday. About 20 relatives came from out-of-town. The Pierces want to thank all the ladies of Hopewell Baptist Church for the food and prayers.

Eileen Cartwright and Tiffany Parter went shopping on Tuesday in Abilene. Tiffany took her granddaddy Noble Faubion out cruising the countryside. The Faubion family had dinner on Sunday at Noble's. People who attended were Tanya and Wayne and Jeremy Prater came down Saturday and visited also. The whole family cut wood on Saturday for their heaters. Can't wait for spring to get here.

And sure can't forget this morning, Noble Faubion and Eileen and Tiffany came and visited their dear friend Hilda Kurtz and brought their Crews News for this column.

Linda Duggan and Susan Mansell were in Dallas on Wednesday and visited their cousin. Dale and Linda attended the Saturday night supper and meeting.

Brenda Jacob from Midland was home over the weekend to visit with family and friends. On Friday night, Beverly VanZandt, Brenda and Margie Jacob, and Carol and Mike Kozelsky went out for a fish supper at Coleman. On Saturday, Brenda and Beverly attended the dedication of the new monastery in Christoval. On Sunday, Justin and Kristi Busenlehner, Brenda and Margie Jacob, and Sharon and Jerry Engler had lunch at the Hord's Creek Cafe.

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Tradition claims that one of the reasons Valentine's Day is celebrated on February 14 is that it's the day the birds choose their mates.



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Then 1951



**Mr. & Mrs. George Pruser, Jr.
honored with 50th wedding
anniversary celebration**

*Celebration hosted by children
and grandchildren*

Mr. and Mrs. George Pruser, Jr. of Winters celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Sunday, January 21, 2001, with a reception held in their honor at the St. John's Lutheran Church Educational Building in Winters.

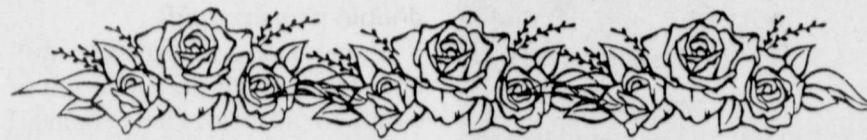
George Washington Pruser and Margaret Hattie Minzenmayer were married on January 23, 1951, at the St. John's Lutheran Church in Winters.

The Prusers have one son, Howard Pruser; one daughter, Laurie Stockman; and seven grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Pruser have lived in their rural home near Hatchel since their wedding.

He is a self-employed farmer, and she is a homemaker, retired from working at North Runnels Hospital for many years. They are members of St. John's Lutheran Church.

Hosts for the occasion were their son Howard and his wife, Jacalyn, and children, Kayla, Kaci, Cody, and Karri; and their daughter Laurie and her husband, Ricky, and children, Matthew, Daniel, and V.J.



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Town Crier

Garrett Lee York

Lura Lee Garrett of Winters is pleased to announce the birth of her great-grandson, Garrett Lee York. He is the son of Lura Lee's granddaughter Elizabeth and husband Rob York of Weatherford. Elizabeth is the daughter of the late George Lee Garrett.

Garrett Lee was born Wednesday, January 24, 2001, at 2:46 a.m. in Campbell Hospital in Weatherford. He weighed in at 6 lbs. 12 1/2ozs. and was 19 inches long.

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**Cookies are here!
Girl Scouts should
deliver by March 5**

You don't have to wait much longer! Girl Scout cookies have been delivered to the girls, and the girls of Heart of Texas Council have from now until March 5 to deliver cookies. Please be patient.

Although girls try their best to deliver cookies to everyone who ordered them, sometimes people are not home when the girls come by. If you do not receive your cookies by March 5, you can call the Girl Scout service center at 800-346-3215. They will put you in contact with a local person or supply you with the cookies you ordered.

If no one came by your home, watch for booth sales at local merchants. Girl Scout troops always have extra cookies to sell.

Remember that you are buying much more than a box of cookies. You are providing the girls with unlimited possibilities to reach their goals and gain the skills they will need for the rest of their life. Where else could you provide young people with such opportunities for only \$3 and get a great box of cookies to enjoy!

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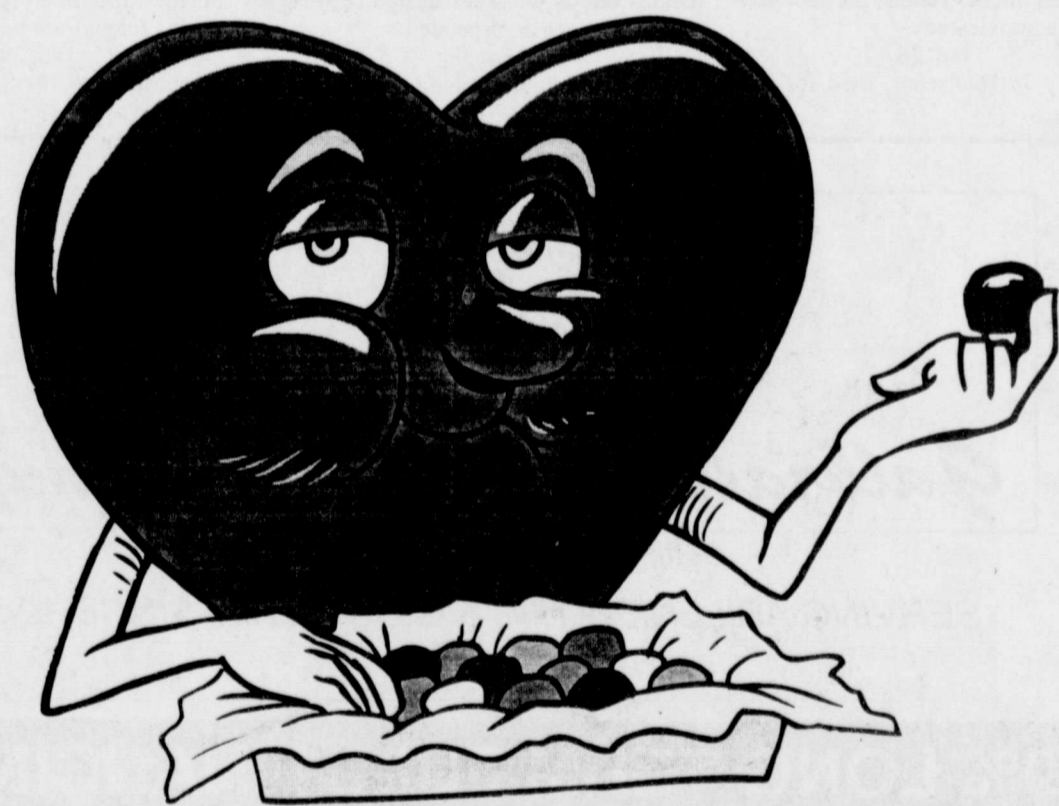
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Logos and emblems make up unique quilt

by Jean Boles, editor

Frances Bryan's latest quilt "caps" off almost three months of dedicated work.

But the unique quilt has actually been in "the works" quite a bit longer.

When Farmers Seed & Supply closed in March, 1999, Frances' husband, Dewitt, asked owner Randall Conner if he could buy the large collection of caps on display at the store. Dewitt brought home the caps, some of which had been hanging on a wall for many years, and asked Frances if she would make a quilt using the emblems and logos from the caps. She agreed and began the painstaking job of removing the logos.

"Then there was the job of getting them clean," she says. "Whew! That was really a job. Some of those caps hadn't been touched in years and may not have been new when they were hung up in the first place."

Using strong solutions of bleach and various soaps, she managed to bring out the best in the logos and then planned her quilt.

Needing a background of blocks for the quilt, and wanting to keep the agricultural theme, she hit upon the idea of using Dewitt's old bluejeans. So she cut 143 squares and began sewing the emblems and logos on the squares.

A variety of colors and company names make up the definitely one-of-a-kind treasure. Some of the logos are from Germany, Mexico, CBS Sports, the Lions Club, U.S. Navy emblem, U.S. Post Office, Halliburton, Suvern O'Dell's Wingate Farm & Ranch Supply, Winters Young Farmers, Alderman-Cave, Mueller's, and Congressman Charles Stenholm.



FRANCES BRYAN stands beside her unique quilt made from old cap logos and emblems and blocks from her husband's old jeans.

She's not certain, but thinks the oldest label, "Kow Kandy," may be the oldest of the bunch.

But the "row of honor" of which Frances is most proud includes emblems representing schools, colleges and universities of her seven grandchildren — Lance Feldhausen from Texas A&M University, Flint Feldhausen from Southwest Texas State, Susan Bryan Hamilton from Northwood University in Dallas, Angela Bryan from Texas Tech University, Shauna Nitsch Mchacha from Angelo State Uni-

versity, Jason Nitsch from Texas State Technical, and Aaron Nitsch from Sonora High School.

Frances says she's sewn all of her life, and has made quilts for her three children, Gary Bryan, Marsha Powell and Kendra Nitsch, as well as for all her grandchildren, nieces and nephews — probably forty quilts so far.

The "cap quilt," however, belongs to Dewitt, Frances explains. "He's never said much about me making quilts for all the kids, but he did say that this one is dif-

ferent — that I finally made one for him. So I guess there's no question about who it belongs to."

One of her most prized works is a beautiful hand-stitched yo-yo quilt. Using scraps from the Joni-Lyn Blouse Factory in Bronte, Frances cut and stitched for more than two years. She hit what could have been a major snag in her plans for this quilt when she was told there was no more of a specific fabric. Frances need just a little more of this particular piece to complete her pattern.

What to do? Being the creative thinker she is, she simply called around to stores which carried Joni-Lyn blouses until she located a shirt made from her much-needed material. She then bought the blouse, cut it up, and even had a little fabric left over after using what she needed to complete the double-bed size quilt.

Frances says she loves to quilt and sew, and her part-time job of caring for an elderly lady (Frances is a very young 73) allows her time to do handwork that will certainly be treasured for generations to come.

Police Beat

The information below is taken from reports on file with the Winters Police Department. Some of the information is provided to police by citizens, and in some cases, police have not finished investigating the reports. These reports make up a small percentage of the total calls the Department receives and responds to each week.

Winters Police Department reports received and/or investigated from Sunday, January 28, 2001, through Saturday, February 3, 2001. Winters Police Officers:

- received a report of a burglary in the 400 block of E. Pierce Street. A 20-year-old male of Winters alleged that his car was found unlocked and the trunk was open. Between the hours of 12:00 p.m. Saturday and 6:00 p.m. Monday, a Roadplayer compact disc player was removed from the vehicle. No other items were taken, and no forced entry was detected on the vehicle. This case is under investigation as burglary of a motor vehicle.

- received a report of a domestic disturbance in the 600 block of Majestic Street. A 19-year-old female, a 44-year-old male, and a 44-year-old male, all of Winters, alleged arguing with the other regarding the welfare of an infant child belonging to the younger female. The argument escalated into a physical altercation with all parties claiming injury. A separation was made with the infant child being left with the grandparents. No charges are pending at this time.

- received a report of an animal bite victim at North Runnels Hospital. A 55-year-old male of Winters reported being bitten by either his pet cat or dog while attempting to separate the two for fighting. The male didn't initially report the incident as he was afraid his animals would be taken from him, but was forced to seek medical aid when his hand became infected. The animals were quarantined.

- received a report of a warrant subject at City Hall in Winters. The subject was contacted and identified as Robert Medina Jr. of Winters. Mr. Medina was arrested for failure to appear in Winters Municipal Court and was taken to Runnels County Jail. Another warrant subject was located at her residence in the 400 block of S. Rogers Street. Modesta Vidaurri of Winters was arrested for Winters Municipal warrant for animals at large and taken to Runnels County Jail.

- received a report of an assault in the 200 block of Jones Street. A 16-year-old female alleged a 17-year-old female had struck her about the upper body and head several times. Injuries were observed on the younger female, and charges are pending for assault causing bodily injury against the 17-year-old female.

- observed a 1992 Chevy pickup behind the old Dry's stamp shop on N. Melwood Street. After stopping the pickup, officers learned that a 19-year-old female of Winters was operating the vehicle while consuming alcoholic beverages. The female was issued a citation for driving under the influence of alcohol, and the pickup was released to the owner who was a passenger in the pickup.

- stopped a 1978 Datsun passenger car on N. Heights Street for a traffic violation. After a driver's license and insurance request, the driver, a 16-year-old male of Winters, stated he had no driver's license or insurance. A computer check confirmed this. The male was issued a citation for no driver's license and no insurance, and the vehicle was impounded.

- received a report of a domestic dispute in the 800 block of E. Truett Street. A 22-year-old female alleged being struck in the head by a 22-year-old male related to her. Officers observed injury to the female and further observed the male to be intoxicated. Witnesses confirmed the female's allegation and the male was arrested for assault causing bodily injury (family violence) and was taken to Runnels County Jail. After arresting the male, all parties, including the victim, refused to provide officers with statements.

Runnels County Crimestoppers offers a cash reward for information which leads to the grand jury indictment or conviction of offenders and the caller does not have to give his or her name. To give a Crimestoppers tip, call your local law enforcement agency at:

Winters Police Department—754-4121
Ballinger Police Department—365-3591
Sheriff's Department—365-2121

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Official Records

County Court Dispositions

Elvis Wayne Florence, driving while intoxicated, pleaded nolo contendere, sentenced to six months in county jail probated to nine months, fined \$750, plus \$210.25 court costs.

Debra Richey, two counts of theft by check, both dismissed, restitution paid.

Francisco Ortiz, possession of marijuana, pleaded guilty, sentenced to 90 days in county jail probated to six months, fined \$1,000 plus \$235.25 court costs and 30 hours community service.

Criminal Cases Filed

James Kevin Grant, filed for driving while intoxicated (subsequent offense)

Shelisha Sherlie Helms, filed for driving while intoxicated

Jan. 25

Stefany Jo Hoelscher, filed for con-

sumption of alcohol by a minor (appeal from Justice of the Peace Precinct No. 1)

Jan. 29

Joseph Gabriel Reyes, filed for driving while intoxicated

Robert Clifton Cauthen, filed for driving while license suspended

Stephen Paul Gaiza, filed for driving while intoxicated

Delbert Ray Bradshaw, filed on three counts: driving while intoxicated, driving while license suspended, and possession of marijuana

Ricardo Jesse Gonzalez, filed for driving while intoxicated

German Ignacio Montano, filed for driving while license suspended

Pedro Ortiz Gonzalez, filed on two counts: driving while intoxicated and driving while license suspended

Jan. 30

Sam Tony Ramos, filed for assault

Richard Ochoa, filed for assault

Jan. 31

Charles Wesley Cravens, filed for assault

District Court Divorces Filed

Jan. 26

Esther Gonzalez King vs. Stephen Ryan King

Jan. 30

Mary Katherine Scates vs. Tommy Wayne Scates

Jan. 31

Teresa Chavez vs. Stephen Wayne Chavez

Civil Cases Filed

Jan. 26

Mueller, Inc. vs. Max Ellison and Pro Ag, Inc., foreclosure lien

Jan. 29

Tempest Recovery Services, Inc. vs.

Marcus O. Guerrero and Julia Guerrero, promissory note

Jan. 31

In re: Order for foreclosure concerning: Mario R. Fuentes and Debra J. Fuentes and 1500 Avenue B, home equity foreclosure suit

Justice of the Peace Precinct 1 Criminal Cases Filed

Jan. 11


Carey Foster, filed for hunting without a valid hunting license

Jan. 26

Walter Lee Wright Jr., filed for disorderly conduct

Jan. 30

David Lee McMullan, consumption of alcoholic beverage on license premises



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23 TXism: "high ___ ___ back" (costly)
28 Whitman & Oswald
30 Waco's Bledsoe sang "___ Man River"
31 TXism: "hitched to ___ ___ double harness" (married)
32 this John founded Houston (init.)
33 De Leon H.S. class
35 TXism: "write slow 'cause can't read fast"
36 TX Roy Orbison hit
40 TXism: "___ you a new hat size"
43 TX gunfighter: John ___ Hardin
44 Ft. Worth's Roger Miller hit: "Dang ___"
45 TXism: "that'll ___ nicely"
46 Houston has ___ nautics admin.

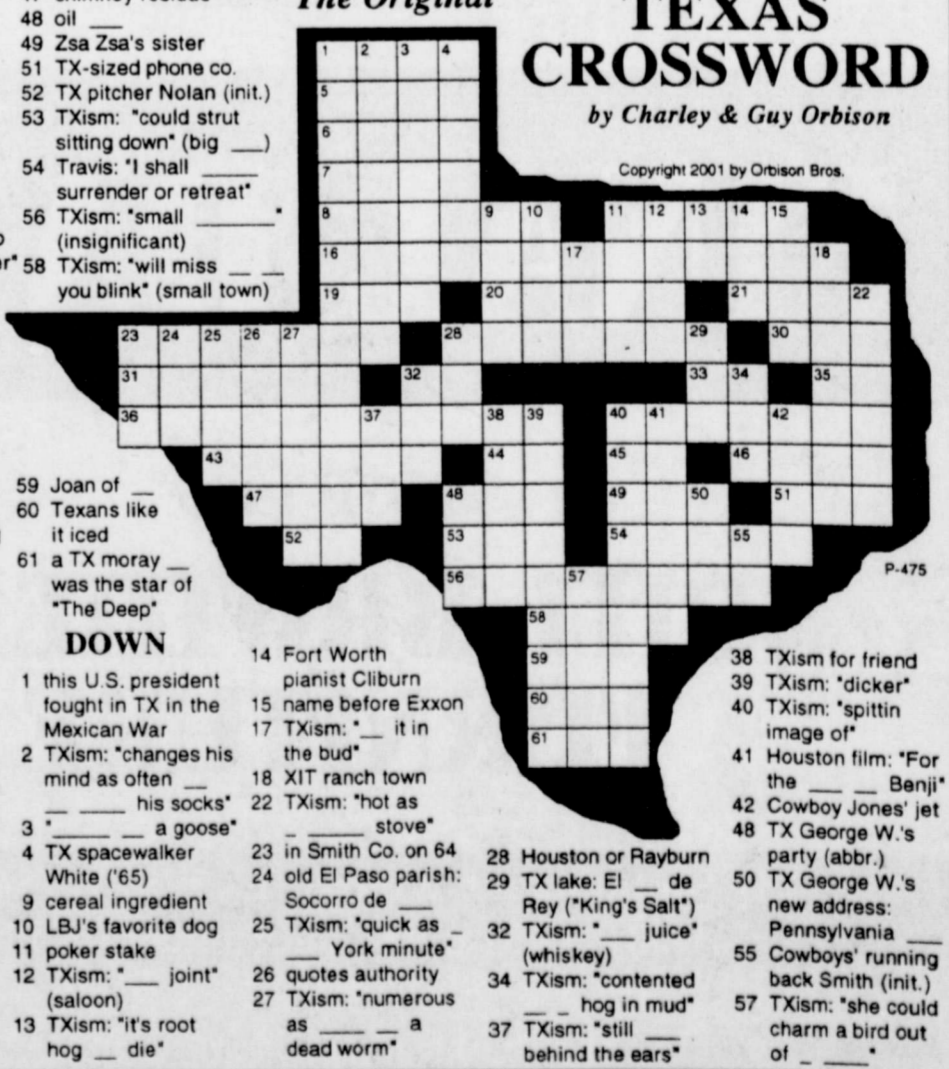
DOWN

14 Fort Worth pianist Cliburn
15 name before Exxon
17 TXism: "___ it in the bud"
18 XIT ranch town
22 TXism: "hot as ___ stove"
23 in Smith Co. on 64
24 old El Paso parish: Socorro de ___
25 TXism: "quick as ___ York minute"
26 quotes authority
27 TXism: "numerous as ___ a ___ dead worm"
28 Houston or Rayburn
29 TX lake: El ___ de Rey ("King's Salt")
32 TXism: "___ juice" (whiskey)
34 TXism: "contented ___ hog in mud"
37 TXism: "still ___ behind the ears"

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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Solutions for this puzzle appear in this issue.

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Happy Valentine's Day!



79¢
15 oz.

WOLF BRAND CHILI

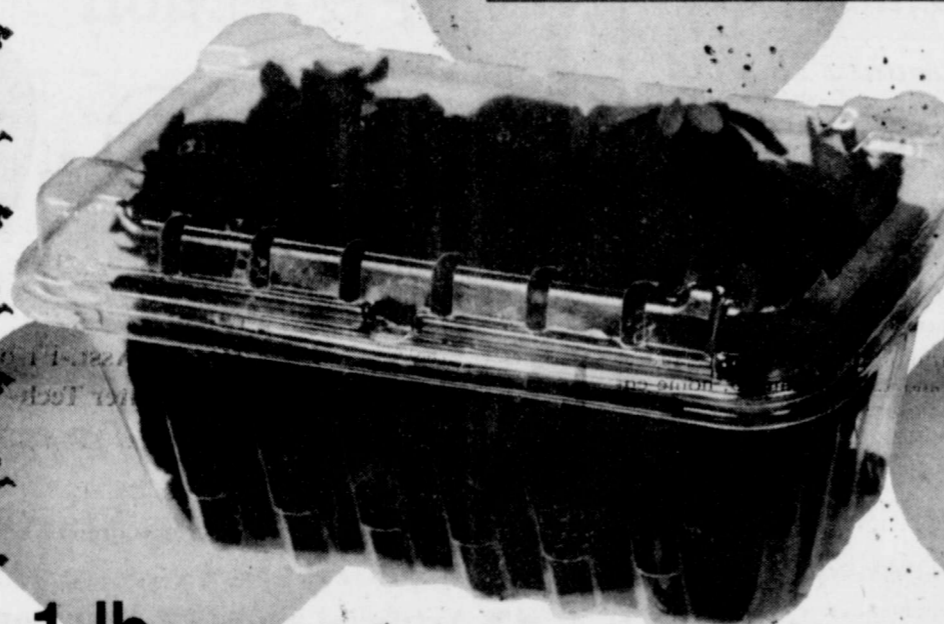
Without beans or with beans



89¢
1 lb.

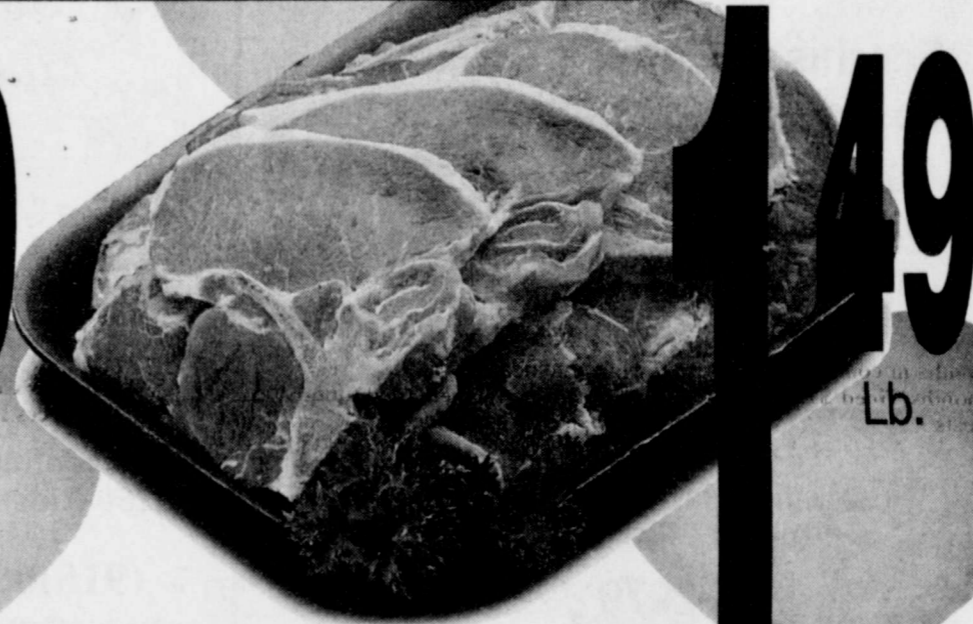
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1 lb. STRAWBERRIES
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Ea.



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SUGAR FROSTED FLAKES 20 oz.
CORN POPS 15 oz.
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BEST YET PIZZAS
6.5 OZ PEPPERONI • COMBO • SAUSAGE • CHEESE

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13.5 oz TOSTITOS

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Long After
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For this Valentine's Day,
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A dinner for two at

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By Reservation Only
Reservations taken until noon
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potato, salad, bread
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Only 2 days left! Order by
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Open Valentine's Day
STEAKS WILL BE AVAILABLE!
Walk-ins welcome — Reservations encouraged

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Lunch served Saturday & Sunday

Offer Good
Friday thru Wednesday
February 9-14

"HIZ-N-HERZ"
Filet Dinner for 2



Valentine's Special

- Grilled-to-Order
- ♥ One 8 oz. Filet
- ♥ One 6 oz. Filet
- ♥ Four side items
- ♥ Basket of our Fresh Homemade Rolls
- ♥ Dessert

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Deals**

75% off Cottage Collectibles
Prices good thru Feb. 17

New items throughout the store

20% off all heart-shaped items (jewelry, gifts, etc.)

Come in Valentine's Day
Wednesday, February 14
and help celebrate Cheryl's birthday
with free cake and coffee

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Pest Management News

By Richard Minzenmayer,
Extension Agent-Entomology (PM)

CONCHO VALLEY COTTON CONFERENCE—The conference is set for March 27, 2001, at the San Angelo Convention Center.

The Tom Green and Runnels County Field Crops committees have put together a very informative educational program, and you are encouraged to participate in the conference.

More details later.
WHEAT MANAGEMENT—Wheat is all planted and up to stand. Much of the wheat planted in December was very slow to germinate and come up to a stand. I think the cold temperatures and the fact that a lot of the planted seed was of poor quality had a lot to do with the slow germination and poor plant stands.

Moisture conditions are adequate right now for the wheat, but rainfall will be needed in the near future.

I have had a number of calls on "What is an adequate plant stand?" That's a difficult question to answer.

Wheat that was planted in mid-December will not develop as many tillers as a wheat plant that was planted in September or October. That's why seeding rates have to be increased as the season progresses. You need at least eight plants per square foot, and ten plants per square foot is optimum for average yields.

Under ideal growing conditions, each plant could have three to four tillers. December-planted wheat usually will not have but a couple of tillers; therefore, seeding rates must be higher. Germination is also less the later you plant in the season.

I will discuss estimating wheat yield later in the season, but wheat yield is a function of three com-

ponents: heads per square foot, seeds per head, and seed size.

Greenbugs are being found in many wheat fields now, and producers are encouraged to get out and check your wheat fields.

Greenbugs are aphids which suck plant juice and inject toxins into the plants. They are pale green in color and have a distinct dark green stripe on their back.

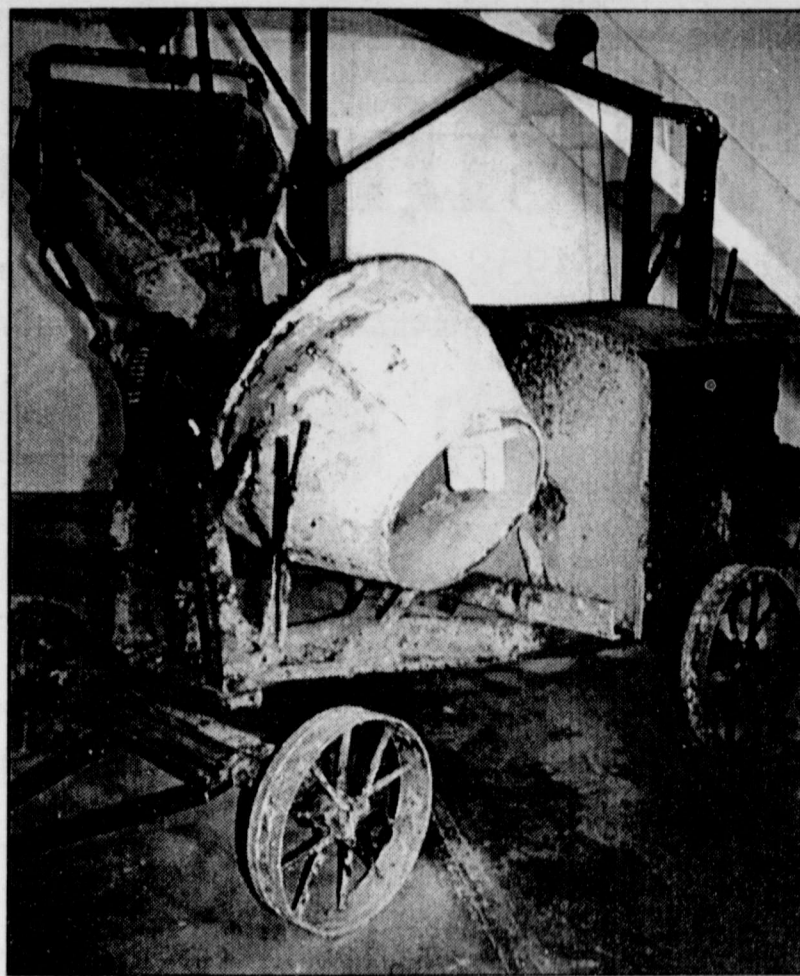
Greenbugs can develop rapidly under favorable weather conditions and can cause economic losses. Greenbugs reproduce rapidly at temperatures between 55° and 95°F. Natural enemy reproduction is much slower at temperatures below 65°F. That's why greenbugs can increase to large numbers during cool weather and natural enemy numbers multiply much slower.

To kill 99% of the greenbug population, the average temperature must be below 20°F for at least a week and that's with no protection from snow cover. Infested fields usually have yellowed spots with small, deadened areas.

The need to apply insecticide depends on the number of greenbugs present, the size and vigor of plants, the temperature, time of year, moisture condition, stage of plant growth, and effectiveness of parasites and predators.

Irrigated wheat can withstand greenbug populations than dryland wheat. Seedling wheat is very vulnerable to greenbug damage.

The appearance of dead plants caused by greenbug feeding in spots within the field also may indicate a need for treatment. Populations of 25-50 greenbugs per foot of drill row in young small grain plants may warrant treatment.



THE GUS PRUSER AGRICULTURAL EXHIBIT is a steadily growing addition to the Z.I. Hale Museum. One of over 20 larger items displayed is this antique cement mixer used by Pruser to construct the building housing the ag. exhibit as well as St. John Lutheran Church.

Seminar available to those interested in Wildlife Management Plan

There have been a few inquiries at the Runnels County Appraisal District in regard to qualifying for the Ag Appraisal using Wildlife Management. Chief Appraiser, Tylene Gamble, has information for a seminar sponsored by The Texas Leadership Institute.

It will be held March 8, 2001 at the LCRA Lake Buchanan Training Center, Buchanan Dam. The program will be from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at a cost of \$89 and includes lunch. Space is very limited and preregistration is required.

The Appraisal District, 406 Hutchings Ave., Ballinger, has the registration form or those inter-

ested may call the Institute direct at 800-776-5272. This seminar is very detailed and a good source of information for anyone seriously considering the Wildlife Management Plan.

There is significant information needed to submit a Wildlife Plan to the Appraisal District. To date, there are only two qualified properties in the county. Idle land, alone, does not qualify. Land must be currently used for Ag purposes. To convert to Wildlife management, you must submit your plan with a targeted species. The plan must also detail three of the seven management techniques.

Stewards of the Soil

By B.D. Davis
Biologist/Land Manager

Good bird — bad bird

by B.D. Davis, biologist/land manager

A songbird (good bird) is a joy to watch. It does so many things we humans cannot do. Its various songs are beautiful to hear. Folks spend a lot of effort and a lot of expense to erect feeders and birdhouses just so they can observe birds.

Runnels County songbird numbers are probably declining just as they are throughout most of the country. The reasons for the decline are varied. However, one of the main reasons is a bird called the brown-headed cowbird (bad bird).

Here in Runnels County, we have brown-headed cowbirds in abundance. Actually, we have them by the thousands. What are the reasons cowbirds have such a negative impact on songbird populations?

Mother Nature seemed to have evolved brown-headed cowbirds so they could follow buffalo herds. The cowbirds do not build a nest of their own but lay eggs in the nests of up to 225 separate bird species. Perhaps this was because buffalo did not usually stay in the same area long enough for the birds to complete their own nesting attempts.

The female cowbird can lay up to 70 eggs in a nesting season. She usually deposits one egg in the nest of a songbird then locates another songbird nest and deposits another egg and so on. She actually removes the existing

songbird eggs from the nest. The songbird does not seem to recognize the difference. Thus she will incubate the cowbird egg and feed the hatchling as her own. The cowbird chick will also root any songbird eggs or chicks out of the nest.

When Gene and I began our stocker cattle operation four years ago, we noticed very few cowbirds. However, last summer the numbers had grown to an estimated 3,000 to 5,000 birds. Let's assume there were 4,000 brown-headed cowbirds associated with just one cattle operation. Assuming 2,000 of these were females that could lay an egg in each of 36 to 70 songbird nests, we can begin to realize the impact.

The abundance of trees and shrubs in the cities of Winters, or Ballinger, or Rowena are ideal for nesting songbirds and thus for brown-headed cowbirds. These female cowbirds are "sneaky" little devils — a person usually does not notice them going about their business.

Ranching communities throughout Texas are beginning to erect cowbird traps to reduce their impact on songbirds. Perhaps those of us in the cattle business in Runnels County should think of doing the same.

By them shall the fowls of heaven have their habitation, which sing among the branches.
Psalm 104:12

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The following people have clothes which have been left at Busy "B" Laundry & Dry Cleaners for more than 30 days. If not claimed and paid by Friday, February 16, 2001, the clothes will be sold for the amount of the cleaning.

Chlora Boehlein	Albert Grohman
Brenda Anderson	Kelly Hubach
Mary Arredondo	Esther Johnson
Claudia Arroyo	Mark Nava
Hattie Belle Bishop	O'Neal
Erin Davis	Ginny Potts
Cliff DeLaCera	Margaret Rice
Robert Garza	Shelby Ruebush
Pete Gonzales	Joyce Weems
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THE LOCAL FORECAST—7 DAY OUTLOOK

THURSDAY FEB. 8	FRIDAY FEB. 9	SATURDAY FEB. 10	SUNDAY FEB. 11	MONDAY FEB. 12	TUESDAY FEB. 13	WEDNESDAY FEB. 14
Variable clouds, mild Hi 67° F Lo 36° F Winds: SSE 9 mph	Mostly sunny Hi 52° F Lo 30° F Winds: NNE 7 mph	Sunshine Hi 60° F Lo 39° F Winds: SE 5 mph	Partly sunny Hi 66° F Lo 44° F Winds: SE 5 mph	Cloudy Hi 65° F Lo 48° F Winds: N 7 mph	Cloudy w/showers Hi 60° F Lo 47° F Winds: SE 4 mph	Partly cloudy Hi 70° F Lo 47° F Winds: ESE 4 mph

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ROARING TWENTIES

In the grid below, twenty words can be found that fit the category for today. Circle each word that you find and list it in the space provided at the right of the grid. Words can be found in all directions— forwards, backwards, horizontally, vertically and diagonally. An example is given to get you started. Can you find today's 20 words?

Today's Category: **GIRLS' NAMES**

R E B E C C A I N U P M	1. Susan
J G (S U S A N) I M Y H I	2. _____
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C R A J E A J E N D Z L	7. _____
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