

The Winters Enterprise

Serving Winters and North Runnels County

Volume 13, Issue 35

Thursday, August 29, 2002

Winters, Texas

50¢

NEWS at a glance

Pearls of Wisdom—
Do what you love and love what you're doing, and you'll never work another day in your life.

—Unknown

Labor Day

Monday, September 2

Drasco Homecoming set Monday

The Drasco community will hold their annual homecoming on Labor Day at the former Drasco Baptist Church.

page 2

BKB plans dates with "mom & dad"

The Blizzard Kid Boosters have set dates for their annual "Dads and Doughnuts" and "Muffins with Mom." Plans are also being made for fundraisers to benefit a second playground area on the west side of the school.

page 4

Elementary teachers say no gifts please...

Winters Elementary teachers request "no gifts" during the 2002-03 school year. They offer alternatives for those who wish to honor them anyway.

page 4



'Byrd' season opens Friday

Blizzards vs. Menard at Blizzard Stadium

page 5

Dove season opens this Sunday

Dove season opens Sunday, September 1. TPWD Biologist Ralph Suarez gives the area's outlook while Dr. Jimmy Smith and others suggest precautions against West Nile Virus when hunting.

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City proposes 3¢ tax increase

Public hearing Sept. 9

With two votes for and one against, the Winters City Council voted Monday night for a proposed 3¢ tax hike.

Approving the proposed increase were Councilmen Tommy Russell and Steve Esquivel. Jimmy Butler cast the lone opposing vote. Councilman Mike Meyer was absent and Hank Bourdo left the meeting at 6:15, before the vote was taken.

"We've got to provide certain services and I don't think we're being exorbitant," said Russell.

Butler countered with, "I think we can better utilize the funds we have now."

Butler also reminded his peers that the Hotel Occupancy Tax and the increase in appraised property values already generate \$28,000 per year.

Randall Conner of the Winters Area Business and Industrial Corporation asked the Council where the Hotel Occupancy Tax is spent. City Manager Aref Hassan answered that he spends it on "tourism and promotion," — specifically benches throughout the town and also improvements at Lee Colburn Park at Elm Creek Reservoir.

A public hearing on the proposed tax increase will be held Monday, September 9, 2002, at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

The current tax rate is 75¢ per \$100 valuation. The new rate will increase to 78¢ per \$100

valuation. Under this proposal, taxes on the average homestead would increase by \$8.40 or 4 percent, compared with last year's taxes.

Each penny of tax generates \$5,000 in revenue for the City.

Charles Grenwelge, Supervisor of the City Street Department, addressed the Council with his needs in the way of equipment and manpower.

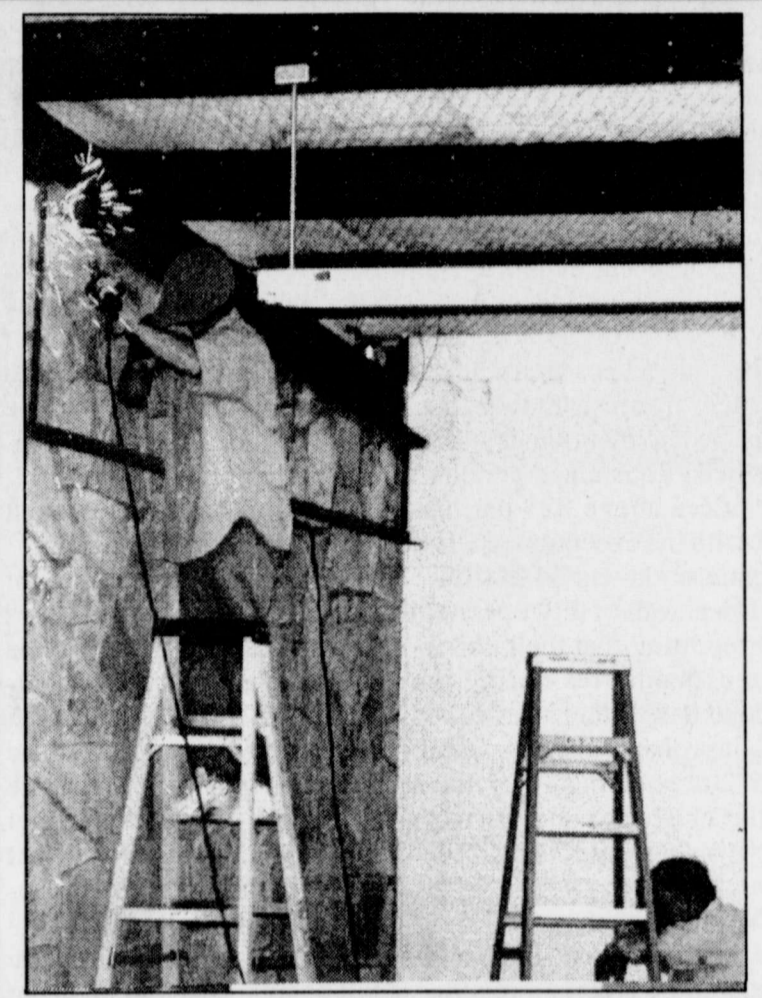
"We're stretched out too thin, going to too many places. We're mowing all over the place—including the cemeteries—and working at the Community Center. Right now, we're able to devote only about 10 percent of our time on street improvements."

Dr. Russell asked Dr. Hassan what, with the current budget, can and cannot be done. Dr. Hassan said the airport improvements, Community Center remodeling, and insurance can be paid. New police vehicles, a new loader, and new employees cannot be funded, according to Hassan.

"I know there are a lot of retired people here who can't or don't want to increase taxes," said Russell. "But if the quality of life is improved, I don't see why citizens would complain (about the tax increase)."

Also at Monday night's meeting, Alderman Tommy Russell received a presentation of proclama-tion for his 42 years of service as a dentist

See CITY, page 6



DAVID BOWEN, of Straight Line Construction of Winters, Abilene and San Angelo, welds beams in the ceiling of the Winters Community Center as part of a major reconstruction project expected to be completed in about three weeks.

Winters PD to join Labor Day Crash Crackdown

Effort to save lives during the holiday

During the Labor Day weekend, Winters Police Department will join other law enforcement agencies in a crash crackdown on Interstates 10, 30, 35, 40, and their feeder routes in the states of Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and many Indian Nations, according to Chief Brian McGonagill.

"Our officers will be patrolling and ticketing drivers who ignore traffic laws for occupant protection use (seatbelt), drinking and driving, aggressive driving, and exceeding speed limits," said Chief McGonagill.

This multi-state law cooperative law enforcement effort, "Operation Blue TALON 4: Crash Crackdown," will begin at 6:00 p.m. Friday, August

30, and run until midnight Monday, September 2. Municipal police, sheriffs, state police, and tribal law enforcement agencies will participate.

"With this multi-state crackdown on violations that annually account for many injuries and deaths, we hope to make the roadways in our area safer for all holiday travelers," according to Chief McGonagill.

"The chance of getting stopped for ignoring speed limits, drinking and driving, and violating occupant protection laws will be high this holiday weekend. If our officers don't stop you, another agency most likely will. By working together we are increasing the odds that travelers will get home safely," said Chief McGonagill.



CONSTRUCTION WORKERS with Texas Commercial Fence, Inc., of Burnet, Texas, subcontracted by Texas Department of Transportation, drill into the sidewalk at the corner of Main and West Dale in preparation for moving another state traffic sign. The project is part of a state-wide mandate to improve safety.

Project "down the road"

NRWSC may receive more than \$3 million for improvements

In a continuing effort to provide better service to existing customers as well as providing water to new customers, North Runnels Water Supply Corp. (NRWSC) is considering entering into an agreement with the USDA Rural Utilities Service Water and Wastewater Program.

Last week, this USDA department announced that more than \$18 million in loans and grants have been allocated to provide rural areas with safe, dependable water and modern sewage systems.

NRWSC has the opportunity to receive approximately \$3,100,000 of this money. This

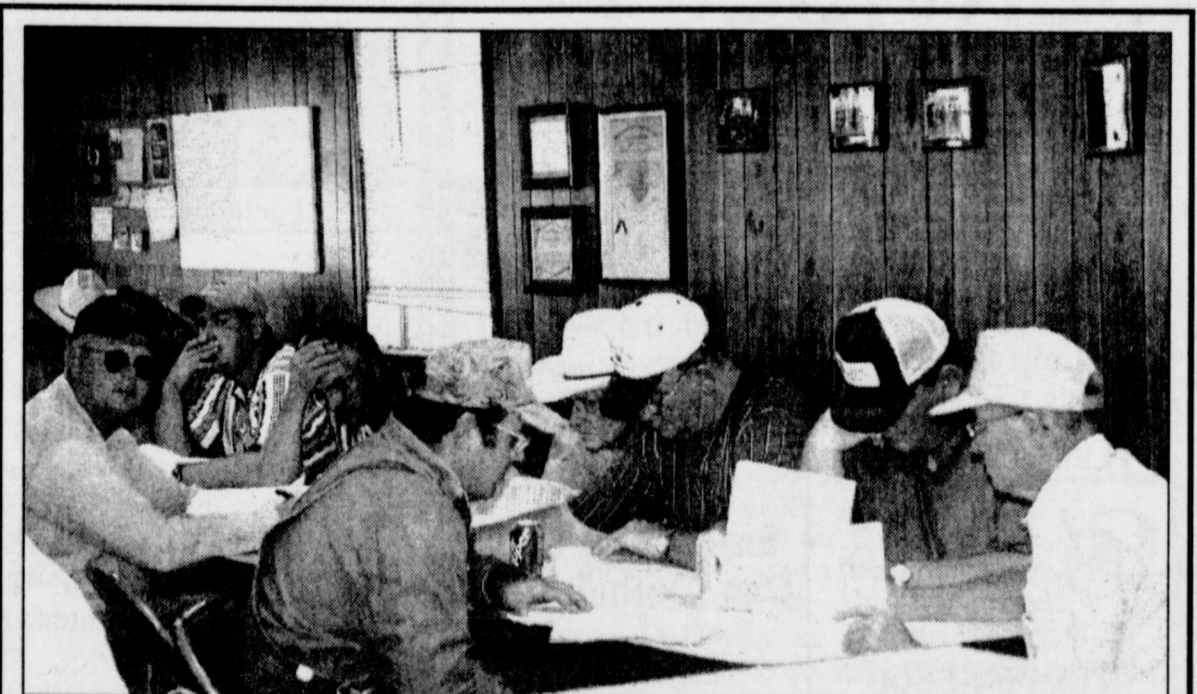
amount reflects \$2,200,000 in a grant plus \$900,000 in loans.

According to Lanny England, President of NRWSC, the project is still a long way down the road.

"The Board (of NRWSC) has not closed on the loan yet," said England. "Several things must still be done including obtaining easements and completion of engineering studies."

He says that if the board approves and signs the contract, it may be one to two years before construction starts, then probably one to two more

See NRWSC, page 6



LOCAL FARMERS look over paperwork giving an update on the new Farm Bill and the interpretations of this bill by the Runnels County Farm Service Agency, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and the Texas Cooperative Extension Agency. The groups met Thursday, August 22, at the Wingate Lions Club Building.

WHS cheerleaders to host Annual Hamburger Supper before football game tomorrow night

The 2002-03 WHS Cheerleaders and Blizzard Mascot invite the community to their annual Hamburger Supper on Friday, August 30, from 5-7:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

The menu will include fresh grilled hamburgers with all the fixins', French fries, dessert, and tea. Tickets are available in advance from the cheerleaders at \$4.50 per plate. Plates

may also be purchased at the door. Takeouts will be available.

All proceeds will go toward the cost of uniforms, equipment, and camp for the new squad.

Cheerleaders for the 2002-2003 year include seniors Stacey Sneed, head cheerleader, Jena Bahman, Kirby Hatler, Heather Martin, jun-

iors Jessica Pritchard, Briana Parramore, Macy Hopson, and Kari Walker. Lydia Rocha will once again serve as Blizzard mascot.

Everyone in the community is encouraged to support the cheerleaders by attending the hamburger supper before cheering the Blizzards to a victory over Menard.

Opinion

Oil Bidness

by Reg Boles ©2002



Don't look now, but a basic law of nature is being violated!

Right in there with "what goes up must come down" and "two wrongs don't make a right", there is a basic rule in the oil patch that always holds true: "when oil and gas prices go up, oil field spending goes up."

But, these days, it's as if the sky wasn't blue and fish didn't like water.

Recent mid-year polling of operators finds many planning on spending less the rest of this year and in 2003. This despite some of the strongest product prices in recent memory. Oil prices are hovering near \$30 per barrel and gas prices are exceeding \$3 per thousand cubic feet in most trading markets. Not to mention that there has been a sustained period of oil prices above \$25 per barrel, with the exception of a few months at the end of 2001.

Despite all of this, operators are reporting that their collective expenditures during the second half of this year will be 5% less than last year. And, most are planning on cautious outlays for next year, with most surveys showing a 5 to 10% decline year over year.

What gives? I am not sure, but there seems to be a certain mistrust of current price markets underlying the psychology of it all.

If you study the discussion from many oil field pollsters, you find that operators are discounting current prices. And, if you just get out and talk to those working in the oil patch, most are just plain nervous.

It makes sense if you think about it. How many times have those in the oil and gas business been burned by spending a bundle during good times only to be crushed when prices

fell off a cliff? Wells have been drilled, equipment has been purchased, and hands have been hired, but the oil and gas markets didn't care. Wild swings and roller-coaster changes have made many gunshy, it seems.

Those making spending decisions are saying that current prices won't last long enough to get their money back, so they are being cautious-or even downright stingy.

But, are they being reasonable?

After all, even if prices do fall, what's the payout on that workover? Six months or less? How about that well--one, two, or three years? Odds are that an operator willing to spend money would make a little money and you just might make a lot, prices be damned!

Isn't this business all about taking chances?

Prices may fall from recent highs, but look at the record over the last few years. The new benchmark is \$25 per barrel for oil and \$3 for gas. It used to be \$20 and \$2. The long-term trend is up, and there is a reasonable expectation (not guaranteed, I understand) that prices at those levels will remain as an overall average.

I think somebody out there will begin to step out and take more chances if prices hang in there for very long. I could be wrong, but this business has seldom disappointed when it comes to those willing to take a chance.

HIGHLIGHTS OF AREA

DRILLING ACTIVITY

Note: Due to a change in information supplier, stakings and completions will be unavailable until September.

St. Mary's Church to host Fall Festival & Fajita Dinner

St. Mary's Church in Ballinger is holding their Annual Fall Festival and Fajita Dinner on Sunday, September 8, from 11:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m., with the auction beginning at 1:00 p.m.

A traditional Mexican beef fajita dinner will be served. Costs of plates are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. A drive-thru will be located at 5th and Crosson with to-go plates costing \$5 each.

Bingo, children's games, a

fancy stand, and a homemade quilt raffle will be held at the festival.

Chances for winning a gourmet gas grill, patio furniture, or a 19" color television/DVD combo may be purchased for \$1 each at Buddy's Plant Plus in Ballinger or from any member of the congregation. In Winters, tickets may be purchased from Joe and Nadine Delacruz.

For more information, call St. Mary's at 365-2687.

In Appreciation

Card of Thanks

We are grateful for the wonderful expressions of sympathy and kindness on the death of our father, Buford Baldwin. Dad loved Winters and we are blessed to have grown up in a place with so many wonderful, caring friends and neighbors.

We thank you for your prayers, cards, the lunch provided by First Methodist Church, the help of Mike Meyer, and the visits we had with all of you at the service. It meant a lot to us and to our families.

Barbara Baldwin Pearce and Bill Baldwin

Card of Thanks

The Winters Volunteer Fire Department would like to thank everyone for their support of the Annual Fish Fry on August 18.

The firemen and ladies of the auxiliary served 500 meals. They are also very appreciative of the \$600 they received in freewill donations as well.

Funds raised from the event will go towards the upkeep and maintenance of equipment and purchase of new equipment.

Again, we Thank You!
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Obituaries

Emily Parks

WINTERS—Emily Parks, 96, died Saturday, August 24, 2002, in a local nursing home.

She was born July 24, 1906 in Trickham and also lived in Santa Anna before moving to Winters as a young girl. She graduated from Winters High School in 1925.

She was a homemaker, farmer, and rancher along with her husband Carl. She was a member of First United Methodist Church in Winters.

She was a great artist who loved painting pictures. All her family members and friends have paintings to remember her by.

She was preceded in death by her husband Carl, a brother, and five sisters.

Survivors include a son, Carlton Parks and wife Deloris of Glen Cove; two daughters, Marie Stephens and husband Euel of San Antonio, and Oneta McKnight and husband Troy of Winters; nine grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren; and seven great-great-grandchildren.

Services were held at 10:30 a.m. Monday, August 26, at the Winters Funeral Home Chapel with Reverend Georgia Orr officiating. Burial followed in Northview Cemetery under the direction of Winters Funeral Home.

Memorials may be made to First United Methodist Church Alter Fund or Hospice of the Big Country.

L.O. "Tooter" Foster, Sr.

CARTHAGE—L.O. "Tooter" Foster, Sr., 67, of Carthage, died Saturday, August 24, 2002.

Larry O. "Tooter" Foster, Sr., was born December 16, 1934 in Taylor County to Solomon J. and Cary Virginia Gardener Foster. He spent his lifetime as a truck driver and enjoyed fishing in his spare time.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Bill Foster and a grandson, Brett Decker.

He is survived by three sons, Larry Foster and wife Beje of Oxnard, California, Mark Foster and wife Anita of Carthage, and Scotty Foster and wife Alana of Carthage; a daughter, Shannon Murray and husband Jeff of Carthage; three brothers, Eudean Foster and wife of Abilene, Troy Foster and wife Billie of Novice, and Don Foster and wife Mary of Buffalo Gap; 14 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews; and a host of friends.

Graveside services were held at 2 p.m., Tuesday, August 27 at Northview Cemetery in Winters under the direction of Winters Funeral Home.

The family suggests memorials be made to the Crisis Center of Carthage or Hospice of Longview.

Donald Ray Fulton

WEATHERFORD—Donald Ray Fulton, 57, died Thursday, August 15, 2002, in Jacksboro.

He was born January 12, 1945, in Hatchel. He grew up in Runnels County and graduated from Ballinger High School. He married Brinda Keck on November 14, 1983, in San Angelo.

Mr. Fulton was an entrepreneur, working in cattle, construction, and with race horses. He was a Baptist.

Survivors include his wife, Brinda Fulton of Weatherford; four children, Melissa Ann Anthony and husband Melvin of Ballinger, Donald Brantley Fulton and wife Rhonda of Midland, Kyle Darby Prastik and wife Leslie Lynn of Midland, and Leslie Gayle Brock and husband Dick of San Angelo; his mother-in-law, Louise Eaton of Fort Worth; one brother, Ellis Fulton of Odessa; two sisters, Frances Stevens of Fort Worth and Ava McWilliams of Big Lake; and five grandchildren.

Services were at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, August 18, in the Winters Funeral Home Chapel with Reverend Kent Berry officiating. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery, directed by Winters Funeral Home.

Norma Lucile Aupperle

BALLINGER—Norma Lucile Aupperle, 92, died Thursday, August 22, 2002, at Ballinger Memorial Hospital.

She was born November 22, 1909, in Croft, Kansas. She married Wendell Aupperle at Newkirk, Oklahoma, on July 18, 1936.

Mrs. Aupperle was a teacher. She was preceded in death by her husband; her parents; one sister, Nellie E. Walker (Monse) of Oklahoma; and one brother, Randal E. Walker of California.

Survivors include two sons, Leon W. Aupperle of Baxter Springs, Kansas, and Sid W. Aupperle of Austin; one daughter, Wilma D. Wear of Enid, Oklahoma; four grandchildren, four great-grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Visitation was from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Saturday, August 24, at Rains-Seale Funeral Home Chapel in Ballinger. Graveside services were at 10:00 a.m. Monday, August 26, at Newkirk Cemetery in Newkirk, Oklahoma.

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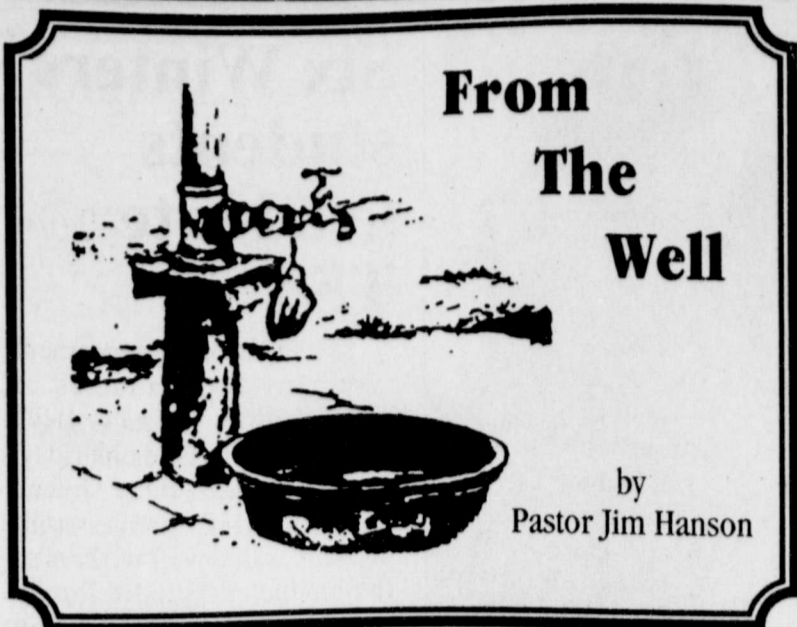
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Community



From The Well

by
Pastor Jim Hanson



Pastor Jim Hanson

It is easy to become offended. We get offended over the tiniest things. I remember the time a woman became offended because I had grown a beard. She said, "It isn't natural." If it had not been my mother so offended, and that the comment made me chuckle inside (what is unnatural about a beard, or natural about a shave?), I might have in return.

That's the way it works. You offend me. I return the favor. It cause splits in the best of relationships. Marriages, families, churches, communities split. Over offenses. What can be done about it?

Our son Nathan wrote a piece for his church paper. I think it deals with the problem. I share it with you:

"Going from the parking lot into a movie theater is easy on the eyes. Entering a cave in the high desert can soothe, initially, a body altogether. Casinos, bars, and restaurants mute their lighting for a reason. They afford shadows that allow for anonymous passages, for secrecy. The lights come up when the janitors need to see to clean up everything.

"Funny thing about darkness: you don't always know you're in it. Marriages can rust from "happiness" to "despair" unconsciously. Teams can move from "contender" to "also ran" unwittingly. A soul can shift from "contented" to "desperate" in a word wrongly taken.

"Shadows can slip into our lives, then over them, without our awareness. We carry unresolved guilt or shame, and feel we aren't forgivable. Our repentance is hollow because we've never really come clean with God. We feel the debt we owe Christ Jesus is too great to overcome. This leads to cynical appraisals of others, and demands perfection. We begin to broker God's grace, raising the stakes for other's performances. They need to change, to correct their walk, to pay up in their shortcomings.

"Have you noticed the first to be attacked? The ones living with us, the "bloods": your spouse, the children, the in-laws. How can the flower of love in Christ degenerate into weedy, hurtful words? How is it that the best that Christ offers is overwhelmed by our assessments?

"Creepy, clever, and insidious is this critical and cruel nature. Some insist that humankind is good at the core, and salvation a just reward. The way we mince others who love us should, in itself, belie this ruling. God is not fooled by our glossy public life and posturing. God is not impressed by our "drive for the faith" when we cut down others. Neither is God ignorant of our self-deceit. Jesus himself warns against unforgiving hypercritical souls in Matthew 18.

"Are you imprisoning others by your self-pity, your unreasonable demands? Can you accept the grace of God yourself...enough to forgive others? Reconcile with God, and with those you've wronged, or have wronged you. Let Christ reign in your inner space, that others might know of His good grace."

"But you are chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." I Peter 2:9.

Integrity is not a 90% thing, not a 95% thing; either you have it or you don't.
—Peter Scotese



FABULOUS FAJITAS were the main focus of these volunteers who cooked and served a "Welcome Back" meal to all WID personnel. The event was hosted by the Winters Area Business and Industrial Corporation, the Chamber of Commerce and the Rock Hotel Association. Cooks include (l-r) Rick Rickard, Harold Josey, Hank Bourdo, George Mostad, Ken Slimp, Jim Lincycumb and Lanny Bahlman.

Sr. Citizens Nursing Home News
by Billie Ruth Bishop, Activity Director

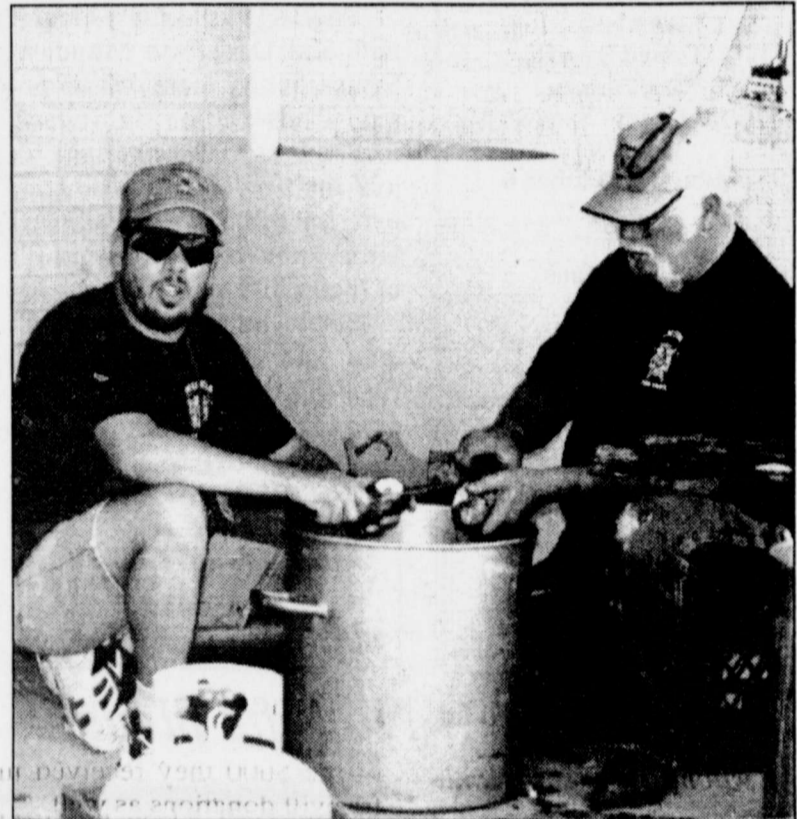
Back-to-School party planned for September

We will soon be starting into a new month with activities. Since we all remember September as the month for school to start, we are having a Back-to-School party in a couple of weeks.

One of our volunteers, Lori Knight from Abilene, will be here to provide fun and games—and of course we'll have a sack lunch of sausage and biscuits, cookies, and a piece of fruit.

Our local musicians will be here on Thursday evening at 6 p.m. Come and join in the good music and fun.

Our sympathy is extended to the families of Emily Parks and Butch Ummelmann. We will miss them from our midst.



VERY 'AP-PEELING' FIREMEN, René Woffenden (left) and his dad, Clayton, share some special bonding time while peeling spuds for the annual Firemen's Fish Fry on August 18. The Volunteer Firemen host the event as a fundraiser for new equipment.

Country Club Corner

by Sharon Kennedy, Ladies Golf Association President

The Tuesday evening ladies game included husbands.

Winning Team: Mel and Sharon Kennedy, and Jerry and Jan Sims.

Closest to the pin: Jerry Sims (who donated his winnings to the ladies association.)

Wednesday's ABC Winning Team: Bill Hall, Rick Barrow, Larry Walker, and Robin Lowe.

Closest to the pin: Aref Hassan.

The ladies were treated to a swim party at Linda Dry's home on Thursday evening. Fun was had by all with good swimming and fellowship.

Classifieds Get Results.

Senior Citizens Activity Center Menu
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Sept. 2 thru Sept. 6
Subject to change

Monday, Sept. 2: Closed for Labor Day holiday.
Tuesday, Sept. 3: Steak & gravy, mashed potatoes, corn, rolls, cobbler.
Wednesday, Sept. 4: Chicken spaghetti, peas, tossed salad, garlic bread, cake.
Thursday, Sept. 5: Salmon, tomato salad, asparagus, cornbread, glorified rice.
Friday, Sept. 6: Hamburger, French fries, fruit salad, pickles & onions, dessert.

WHAT'S HAPPENING ?

Aug. 29- 11:30 a.m., Sr. Citizens Meal, Sr. Citizens Activity Center
5 p.m., Hale Museum Board, The Rock Hotel
6:30 p.m., JV Blizzards at Menard
Aug. 30- 11:30 a.m., Sr. Citizens Meal, Sr. Citizens Activity Center
5-7:30 p.m., Cheerleader Hamburger Supper, Cafeteria
7:30 p.m., Cowboys for Christ, Drasco
8 p.m., Blizzards vs. Menard, Blizzard Stadium
Aug. 31-Purchase your hunting license!, Alderman-Cave Feeds
Sept. 1-Worship at the church of your choice.
DOVE SEASON OPENS
Sept. 2-LABOR DAY
10 a.m., Drasco Homecoming, Drasco Baptist Church
The Winters Enterprise closed.
Sept. 3-11:30 a.m., Sr. Citizens Meal, Sr. Citizens Activity Center
9 a.m., Winters Ministerial Alliance, School Cafeteria
Noon, Lions Club, Sr. Citizens Activity Center
3 p.m., Friends of the Hale Museum, The Rock Hotel
5:30 p.m., Ladies Golf, Winters Country Club
5:30 p.m., Class of 2003 Parents Meeting, Elementary Library
6 p.m., Blizzard Kid Boosters, Elementary Library
7 p.m., Athletic Booster Club, Blizzard Fieldhouse
7 p.m., American Legion, Legion Home
7 p.m., WVFD, Fire Station
WVFD Auxiliary
7 p.m., AA, First United Methodist Church
7:30 p.m., Genealogical Society, San Angelo
Sept. 4-7 a.m., Industrial Board, Windmill Enterprise Office
11:30 a.m., Sr. Citizens Meal, Sr. Citizens Activity Center
5:30 p.m., Mixed Scramble, Winters Country Club
Sept. 5-10 a.m.-Noon & 1:30-3 p.m., Immunization Clinic, TDH
11:30 a.m., Sr. Citizens Meal, Sr. Citizens Activity Center
5 p.m., 8th Grade Breezes vs. Cross Plains, Blizzard Stadium
6:30 p.m., JV Blizzards vs. Cross Plains, Blizzard Stadium

Labor Day Specials

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The couple will be honored to accept your attendance as a treasured gift and respectfully request no other.

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Dawn Killough, Administrator
Shirley Hall, RN, Director of Nursing

School

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Winters City Manager says

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CAFETERIA MENU

September 2-6
Subject to change*

Breakfast
Monday-September 2
School Holiday
Tuesday-September 3
Pigs-in-a-Blanket
Cereal
Juice
Wednesday-September 4
Pancake Puppies
Cereal
Juice
Thursday-September 5
Pop Tarts
Cereal
Juice
Friday-September 6
Breakfast Bars
Cereal
Juice

Lunch
Monday-September 2
School Holiday
Tuesday-September 3
Chili Dogs
French Fries
Peaches
Chocolate Chip Cookies
Wednesday-September 4
Chicken
Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans
Hot Rolls
Banana Pudding
Thursday-September 5
Goulash
Tossed Salad
Peas/Carrots
Grilled Cheesé Sandwich
Cobblers
Friday-September 6
Tacos
Corn
Refried Beans
Hot Sauce
Brownies

Milk Served With All Meals
*Due to commodities conditions served with meals.

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BLIZZARD KID BOOSTER members (l-r) Melissa Rodriguez, Sherri Mikeska, Brendan Mikeska, Donna Guy, and Theresa Gerhart fill small cloth bags with bluebonnet seeds donated by Walden Wildflower Seeds. The gifts were presented to elementary teachers in appreciation of their efforts to "sow the seeds of knowledge" in Winters youth.

Blizzard Kid Boosters plan "Doughnuts and Dads" plus "Muffins with Mom" for September 9 & 10

Purchasing equipment for upper-level playground on west side of school

The Blizzard Kid Boosters are asking elementary school parents to mark some important dates on their calendars for early September.

The BKB will host "Doughnuts and Dads" on Monday, September 9, from 7:30-7:55 a.m. Dads and/or significant male others are encouraged to join their children for doughnuts, juice, milk or coffee in an effort for dads to show support of their child's education.

Not to be left out, mom's may join their children for "Muffins with Moms" the next morning, Tuesday, September 10, from 7:30-7:55 a.m.

The BKB will hold their

monthly meeting, the first Tuesday of the month, September 3, at 6 p.m. in the elementary library.

Items for discussion will include purchasing playground equipment for the west side of the elementary school where children in grades 3-6 spend time before and after school as well as following lunch and other specified times of the day.

Currently, the area is only a grassy courtyard, with most of the grass worn off from the children playing. The BKB plans to discuss age-appropriate options in outfitting this

play area.

Other items for discussion will be the possibility of sponsoring a "Pumpkin Patch" in early October, as well as a fundraiser involving pizzas.

BKB officers for the 2002-03 school year include Sherri Mikeska, president; Jonna Busher, vice-president; Donna Guy, secretary; and Theresa Gerhart, treasurer.

All elementary parents and teachers are encouraged to become involved with the Blizzard Kid Booster organization in an effort to support the WISD education system and their children.

Teachers say...No gifts please!

Offer worthwhile alternatives instead

Winters Elementary faculty and staff would like to inform parents and guardians they request no gifts be bought for them during the 2002-03 school year.

While faculty and staff are very appreciative of each family's thoughtful gestures during Christmas, Valentine's Day, and other times of the year, they realize this can be a financial burden.

However, if a family feels strongly about honoring elementary personnel, it is suggested a donation be made to the Blizzard Kid Backers to be used to purchase playground equipment for the west side of

the school.

Families may also choose to purchase a gift for a child in need during the holidays (in honor of their teacher) or donate to a fund to buy such gifts.

In lieu of gifts, anyone wishing to recognize a teacher or staff member by contributing to the playground fund may send a donation to the Blizzard Kid Backers c/o Winters Elementary School, 603 N. Heights, Winters, TX 79567.

Families desiring to help a family in need during the holidays may contact Mary Wilkerson, elementary counselor, at 754-5577.

Winters Secondary Schools revise Friday schedules for pep rallies

Winters secondary students will attend a revised class schedule on Fridays to accommodate for late afternoon pep rallies.

Homeroom will be rescheduled from early morning to afternoon so eighth period classes will not be effected.

The revised Friday schedule on football game days is as follows:

1st period...8-8:45 a.m.

2nd period...8:49-9:34 a.m.

3rd period...9:38-10:23 a.m.

4th period...10:27-11:12 a.m.

JH lunch...11:12-11:42 a.m.

HS 5th period...11:16 a.m.-12:01 p.m.

JH 5th period...11:46 a.m.-12:31 p.m.

HS lunch...12:01-12:31 p.m.

6th period...12:35-1:20 p.m.

7th period...1:24-2:09 p.m.

8th period...2:13-2:58 p.m.

Pep Rally...2:58-3:16 p.m.

CALENDAR KIDS...Susan Sneed and Wiley Guy created the pictures featured in the 2002-03 Winters ISD school calendar which students should be receiving soon. The WJHS seventh graders were presented monetary awards for their efforts last spring.

Winters Public Library
120 N. Main
Monday-Thursday 1-6 pm
Saturday 10 am-Noon

Six Winters students graduate TSTC

The annual commencement ceremony for graduates of Texas State Technical College West Texas was held on Friday, August 16, 2002, at the Abilene Civic Center Auditorium. Close to 2,000 well wishers of the graduates included family members and friends, faculty and staff from TSTC West Texas locations in Abilene, Breckenridge, Brownwood, and Sweetwater were in attendance.

Graduating from the Abilene campus of TSTC were T.J. Meyer and from the Sweetwater campus were Amy M. Fine, Kenny Dale Green, Cole T. Hogan, Andrew L. Medina, and Anthony Lee Walden.

A reception for the graduates, their family and friends, and TSTC employees was held following the ceremony.

WJHS & WHS—"Meet the Teachers" set September 10

The Winters Secondary Schools will host "Meet the Teachers" on Tuesday, September 10, beginning at 7 p.m.

Parents of Winters Junior High and High School students should meet at the WHS Auditorium for a brief introduction before visiting all eight classrooms.

Class visitation will be shortened from years past to accommodate the increased period schedule. Parents should bring a copy of their child's class schedule to follow for the visitation.

Class of 2003—Parents to meet Tuesday, Sept. 3

The Class of 2003 parents will hold a meeting on Tuesday, September 3, 2002 in the Winters Elementary Library. The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss fundraisers for Project Graduation in May.

Anyone unable to attend may contact Cheryl Sneed at 767-3977 or Teresa Davis at 754-5422 with fundraising ideas.

Soccer deadline September 6

The registration deadline for the fall soccer league is Friday, September 6, 2002. Applications are available in Winters by contacting Melissa Rodriguez at 754-1814. Forms may be returned to the elementary school or Rodriguez.

BLIZZARD ACTIVITIES
AUGUST 29-SEPTEMBER 5, 2002

Thursday, Aug. 29—6:30 p.m. JV at Menard
Friday, Aug. 30—2:58 p.m., Pep Rally, New Gym
5-7:30 p.m., Cheerleader Hamburger Supper, Cafeteria
8 p.m., Blizzards vs. Menard, Blizzard Stadium
Monday, Sept. 2—NO SCHOOL, Labor Day
Tuesday, Sept. 3—6 p.m., BKB, Elem. Library
7 p.m., Athletic Booster Club, Blizzard Fieldhouse
Thursday, Sept. 5—5 p.m., 8th grade vs. Cross Plains & 6:30 p.m., JV vs. Cross Plains, Blizzard Stadium

Cheerleader Hamburger Supper
Fresh Grilled Hamburgers with all the fixins' French Fries, Dessert & Tea
Friday, August 30
5-7:30PM
School Cafeteria **\$4.50** per plate
Before the Menard game. Take Outs Available

TIPS still has openings in supervised after-school care & homework assistance program

—Seeking increased enrollment, taking donations—

The Winters Elementary after-school student care program, Terrific Intermediate & Primary Students (TIPS), is underway for the 2002-03 school year with 39 children enrolled.

According to TIPS coordinator Fran Kidwell, the program in past years has had as many as 160 students, and would be ideally suited for 75-90 students at this time.

Students are provided a nutritional snack immediately following the close of school before being taken to grade appropriate classrooms for help with their homework.

After completing their

homework and having the assignments checked by staff for errors and corrections, students have the opportunity for supervised outdoor recreation or play activities inside the building as well as videos. Parents are asked to pick their children up no later than 5:30 p.m.

Kidwell encourages any parent who has not already enrolled their children in the after-school TIPS program to do so, stressing the importance of structured supervision and staff initiated homework assistance.

"We would really like for the parents of these Winters Elementary students to utilize the TIPS program for the well be-

ing of their children," said Kidwell. "We can make sure the kiddos are receiving a nutritious snack as well as getting their homework finished and done right."

Cost of the program is based on whether the students are on the regular or free/reduced lunch program.

The TIPS program is also accepting donations from local businesses, organizations, and individuals. Donations may be monetary or could include food items, videos, or other extracurricular activity material.

For more information or to make a donation contact Winters Elementary at 754-5577.

School

RIGHT, LEFT, RIGHT, LEFT...



PHIL MOONEY, (second from right), leads the WHS Blizzard Band through an early morning marching practice. The band has increased from around 20 students last year to approximately 55 marching members this year, and will include eighth grade band students. Assisting Mooney this year will be his wife, Karen.

Booster Club to meet Tuesday evenings during football season

The Winters Booster Club will meet every Tuesday during football season at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Blizzard Fieldhouse.

Discussion of fundraisers and the concession stand will be followed by a viewing of the previous week's game film.

Directions to Menard Field

Football fans traveling to Menard in support of the Winters teams may find the following information useful.

From Eden on U.S. Highway 83 as you enter Menard, keep traveling south until you come to the red light (only one in town). At the red light, continue approximately four more blocks. See "Super S" Grocery on right. At store, turn right onto Travis Street. Stay on road approximately 1 block to parking area.

As a final reminder, of course, if all else fails: Look for the high stadium lights.

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Main Drug
100 N. Main • Winters, TX
754-5557
James Cross, R.Ph.

EDDIE'S WELL SERVICE
Eddie & Kim Jackson, owners
Big Blue comin' at you!
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Winters, TX 79567
(915) 754-4339

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Box 137 • Wingate 79566 • 743-6550
Box 460 • Buffalo Gap 79508 • 573-3316

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Winters, TX 79567

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after 8 PM 754-4971



BENJI VALLES of the varsity Blizzards gets some close instruction from Coach Bryan Green during the scrimmage against Mertzon. The Blizzards open the regular season Friday night in non-district play against the Menard Yellowjackets at Winters. Kickoff is at 8 p.m.

"Memories 96.1 FM" — KORQ radio to broadcast all Blizzard football games

KORQ Radio will once again be the voice of Blizzard football for the 2002 season. Bruce Campbell, co-owner and manager of the stations says, "We are excited to be able to offer full coverage of the Blizzards' season."

Mark Edge and Randall Boles will be doing play-by-play commentary. Campbell said he was pleased to be able to arrange for local announcers to call the games. "We will

cover both the in-town as well as the road trip games," said Campbell.

Twenty-five local sponsors are proudly backing the Blizzards during the broadcast.

KORQ, which is dubbed "Memories 96.1 FM," broadcasts 24 hours daily with 50,000 watts from a tower site north of Winters near Lake Abilene. Its music format consists of soft hits from the 60s and 70s.

Will meet Menard tomorrow night Blizzards overcome jitters to win scrimmage

Perhaps the Winters coaching staff needs to pipe elevator music into the bus on road trips or practice deep breathing techniques in an effort to calm down the jitters that seem to follow the Blizzards into the start of a game situation.

Maybe that's a little drastic, but Coach Chuck Lipsey said of last Friday's scrimmage against Mertzon, "After the first six plays, I was ready to get on the bus and go home." Lipsey's statement was in reference to an opening offensive blast by the Hornets which resulted in a touchdown on the first play of the scrimmage, followed by several significant yardage gains by Mertzon.

"After that (the first six plays), I was really proud of them (Blizzards)," said Lipsey. "Once the offensive line settled down, we played well. After the first offensive series the defense played well too and shut 'em down."

During the final series of the scrimmage, "I thought our fourth quarter situation was the best we played all night," said Lipsey. "We ran a two-minute offense and scored in five plays. After we shut them down on defense we scored again and won 3-2. It would have been 4-2 if we hadn't dropped a pass in the end-zone."

As for Menard on Friday night, Lipsey and his staff know former Blizzard coach Robin Byrd will come to Winters well prepared. The Bliz-

zards defeated the Yellowjackets by one point in the season opener last year giving Lipsey his first win as a head coach.

Lipsey acknowledges Menard lost a lot of good skill kids. "But they have a good throwing quarterback," he said. "We need to get to him and not let him pick us to death. We need to put a lot of pressure on their

quarterback and if we can do that, we can beat them."

As for the Blizzard offense, Lipsey summarizes, "We don't want any turnovers and we need to keep getting better on our blocking."

The junior varsity travels to Menard tonight for a 6:30 p.m. start. The Blizzards will host the Yellowjackets tomorrow night at Blizzard Stadium with an 8 p.m. kickoff.

ON THE AIR

Winters Blizzards vs. Menard Yellowjackets

Live Broadcast this Friday from Blizzard Stadium

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Texas Fuel 24/7
Texas OxyCare
Winters Funeral Home
Winters Secondary School,
The Winters Enterprise

with play-by-play hosts
Mark Edge & Randall Boles

Memories
96.1 FM KORQ

Let's back the Blizzards!

All tickets \$5 at gate— Advance game tickets on sale

Advance tickets for students and adults for Friday night's football game will be available at the WISD Business Office from Wednesday morning until Friday at 3:30 p.m.

Tickets will also be sold in the secretaries' offices of the elementary and secondary schools. Advance tickets are \$3 for students and \$5 for adults. All tickets at the gate will be \$5.

The first home game of the season will be against Menard, in a good natured rivalry with former Blizzard Coach Robin Byrd, on Friday, August 30, at 8:00 p.m.

GOOD LUCK Breezes & Blizzards
from your fans in Wingate
Al & Donna Jackson

2002 Fearless Football Forecasters Last Week Overall					
	Brilla Magee	René Woffenden	George Mostad	Randall Conner	Mike Neal
	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Winters vs. Menard	Winters	Winters	Winters	Winters	Winters
Cross Plains vs. Robert Lee	Cross Plains	Cross Plains	Cross Plains	Robert Lee	Robert Lee
Mason vs. San Saba	Mason	Mason	Mason	Mason	San Saba
Wall vs. Jim Ned	Jim Ned	Wall	Wall	Jim Ned	Wall
Bangs vs. Comanche	Comanche	Bangs	Bangs	Bangs	Bangs
Goldthwaite at Early	Early	Early	Early	Early	Early
Coleman vs. Brady	Brady	Brady	Brady	Coleman	Brady
Ballinger vs. Mid. Greenwood	Ballinger	Ballinger	Ballinger	Ballinger	Ballinger
Wylie at S.A. Lakeview	Wylie	Wylie	Wylie	Wylie	Wylie
Hawley at Roby	Hawley	Hawley	Hawley	Hawley	Hawley

Life

CITY, continued

for the community of Winters. Mayor Dawson McGuffin presented Dr. Russell with a plaque of recognition, and the Councilman was given a round of applause from the Council and guests.

Winters Police Chief Brian McGonagill reported to the Council on the dire need for new vehicles for the police department. He said the department recently spent approximately \$8,000 on maintenance of two police cars which both have well over 100,000 miles. No action was taken by the Council.

Joe Gerhart, owner of Milton's Auto at the corner of Main and Tinkle Street, addressed the Council with a suggestion to make the first block of Tinkle Street a one-way avenue. He, as well as Dr. Hassan, said they have been contacted by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) about the potentially dangerous intersection. TxDOT asked that no parking be allowed within 20 feet from the corner in front of Milton's. Gerhart said he is sympathetic to the problem but said he doesn't think preventing parking in the 20-ft. area will alleviate the problem. Police Chief McGonagill agreed with Gerhart and said that parking is always prohib-

ited within 15 feet from any corner and that banning five additional feet "will not do much good."

The Council tabled the agenda item until a formal written request is received from TxDOT. Michelle Harper, representing Cox Communications, addressed the Council regarding service to Winters. As in the past, she explained that Winters cannot receive more service at this time due to insufficient infrastructure.

"At this time, Cox cannot get the capital to provide upgraded service," said Harper.

Other agenda items included the following:

- Winters Police Officer Doug Butler was appointed part-time Animal Control Officer by the Council;

- No bids were accepted on leasing the City Farm which will be put out for re-bid;

- Proposing bids for weather-related damage of City property was tabled;

- A resolution for fiscal year 2002-03 Capital Improvement Project for Winters Municipal Airport was approved;

- Bills and minutes were approved.

The next regular scheduled Council meeting was moved from September 30 to September 23.

NRWSC, continued

years before the project is completed.

England says an informational meeting will be held sometime in the fall for NRWSC directors to hear opinions and concerns from its members.

"As a board, we hear both sides. We're debt free right now and I understand some customers are concerned about going into debt. We're committed to try to do what we can for our customers."

England also points out the tremendous benefits of the project.

"We may never get this opportunity again. It will allow us to improve all our pump stations and increase our line extensions," he adds.

Four stages of improvements were planned as far back as 1976 but only three were

completed due to lack of interest and lack of money, reports England. Many of the outlying areas have 2-inch pipe which is too small to service additional customers.

According to England, the process for this improvement project was started in May, 1998, when NRWSC asked for feedback from its customers and because of numerous requests by area residents asking for water.

The Department of Health mandates the number of customers on each line, and requires NRWSC to guarantee 35 pounds per square inch.

"We initially had to have three customers per line to get water to them," he said. "While we, by law, cannot deny water to any customer, many times the cost makes it not feasible for the customer."

With the new project, NRWSC will be able to add at least 175 meters, England says.

The area covered by NRWSC, which now services 727 active meters, extends from Ballinger to Pumphrey to north of Bradshaw, past Shep, to Wilmeth and Norton, and to Crews—almost to the Coleman County line.

Bryan Daniel, state director, Texas USDA Rural Development, says, "Rural residents can utilize our programs to help provide essential public services that will enhance the quality of life for all rural residents."

The funds for these projects come as a result of the 2002 Farm Bill which provided \$360 million nationwide for water and wastewater projects in addition to Rural Development's 2002 funding of more than \$1 billion nationwide.

Open your heart; open your home to a child

Every month there are hundreds of cases of child abuse/neglect reported in Texas.

You can make a difference in the life of a child.

For further details on fostering and adopting, you are invited to attend an information meeting to be held Tuesday, September 3, 2002, at the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services at 3610 Vine, Abilene, from 6:30 p. m. to 8 p. m. Call 691-8100 for more information.

Avoid the crowd. Do your own thinking independently. Be the chess player, not the chess piece.
—Ralph Charell

Legal Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Winters will hold a public hearing on the General Fund and Waterworks Enterprise Fund budgets for Fiscal Year 2002-2003 on Monday, September 9, 2002, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 310 S. Main, Winters, Texas.
13-35(1tc)

Mr. & Mrs. David Coffman to celebrate 70th anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. David E. Coffman of Novice will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary with a reception from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, August 31, 2002. The event will be held in the Coleman County State Bank Club Room at 118 West Pecan in Coleman.

David Coffman and Kathryn Longacre were married in Lawton, Oklahoma on August 31, 1932 by David's brother Burton Coffman. They moved to Novice in 1939 and have ranched in the area ever since.

Mr. Coffman is a retired school teacher and preacher. He taught in Oplin, Potosi, and Vincent prior to 1961. In 1961 he began teaching at Albany High School where he taught Algebra, World and Texas History, Latin, and Spanish.

The couple left Albany in 1969 to return to their permanent home in Novice so Mr. Coffman could teach at Winters High School until his retirement in 1975.

Mr. Coffman preached for the Rockwood Church of Christ and the Novice Church of Christ for many years. He also preached on KSTA radio from January 6, 1959 to the latter part of January, 1979.

Mrs. Coffman has been an aggressive community worker, a devoted housewife, mother, and grandmother.

Hosting the reception will be their children Bob and Ozaine Coffman of Silver Valley and Nell and Arnold Lefevere of Coleman.

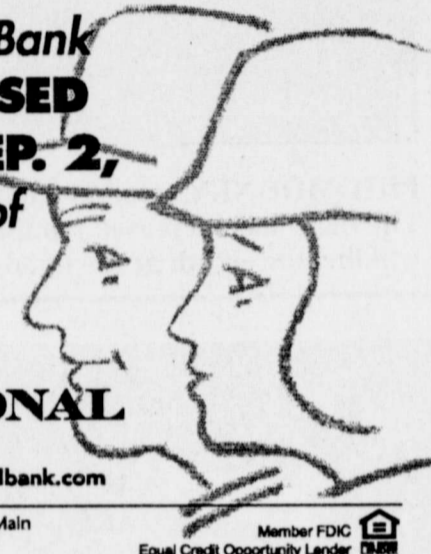
All friends and relatives are cordially invited to the reception. The couple will be honored to accept your attendance as a treasured gift and respectfully request no other.

State National Bank
WILL BE CLOSED
MONDAY, SEP. 2,
in observance of
Labor Day.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

The City of Winters will hold a public hearing on a proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in the preceding year by 9.5 percent. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

The public hearing will be held on Monday, September 9, 2002 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

FOR the proposal: Dr. Tommy Russell and Steve Esquivel
AGAINST the proposal: Jimmy Butler
PRESENT and not voting: None
ABSENT: Mike Meyer and Hank Bourdo

The following table compares taxes on an average home in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average home this year. Again, your individual taxes may be higher or lower, depending on the taxable value of your property.

	Last Year	This Year
Average residence homestead value	\$28,000	\$28,000
General exemptions available (amount available on the average homestead, not including senior citizen's or disabled person's exemptions)	\$-0-	\$-0-
Average taxable value	\$28,000	\$28,000
Tax rate	.75/\$100	.78/\$100
Tax	\$210.00	\$218.40

Under this proposal, taxes on the average homestead would increase by \$8.40 or 4 percent compared with last year's taxes. Comparing tax rates without adjusting for changes in property value, the tax rate would increase by \$0.04 per \$100 of taxable value or 4 percent compared to last year's tax rate. These tax rate figures are not adjusted for changes in the taxable value of property.

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Mike Meyer, Mgr. Linda Dry, Sec.

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Presents

ACROSS

- 1 Cola
- 5 TXism: "a piece" (distant)
- 6 TX Henley's "Life in the Fast"
- 7 TX Trini's "If ___ A Hammer"
- 8 not a gentleman
- 9 LBJ's dogs
- 16 actor Harlan of "The Texans"
- 18 actor Jack of TX-filmed "Terms of Endearment"
- 21 TXism: "chompin' the bit"
- 22 Glen Campbell is a TXn in "True ___"
- 23 female sheep
- 24 TXism: "attacked like grandma ___ chicken snake"
- 30 direction to Austin, from San Antonio
- 34 dir. to Dallas from Palestine (abbr.)
- 35 this Harry was in "Heaven With A Gun" with TX Carolyn Jones
- 36 winter garment
- 37 Amarillo's "Big Texan" has ___ steak
- 39 TXism: "___ for" (crave)
- 43 ___ Tuck
- 44 joyful
- 45 1st TX forest named after ___ Siecke
- 46 this Robb was a TX Ranger, now a S.F. Giant
- 47 type of sleep (abbr.)
- 48 TXism: "tight ___ (miser)"
- 50 TXism: "could wear his work ___ a church social" (lazy)
- 53 dir. to Bryan from Waco
- 54 ___ Grange, TX
- 55 TXism: "leaning ___ handle" (gooling off)
- 56 increase in intensity
- 59 grasped
- 60 TX Charley's "Where ___ Put Her Memory" Gov. Richards
- 61 Gov. Richards
- 62 UT board member (abbr.)
- 14 ___ Campo, TX
- 15 dir. to Marlin from Waco
- 17 in Wilson co. on 87
- 19 TXism: "the paddles his ___ (independent)"
- 20 more recent
- 24 TXism: "grabbin' ___ straws"
- 25 TX O. Henry story "A ___ in Stanton"
- 26 TXism: "just ___ whoops and a holler away" (near)
- 27 goes in
- 28 caminos ___ (royal roads)
- 29 Fats sang "Ain't That ___"
- 31 ___ v. Wade case started in Texas
- 32 TXism: "hot as ___ road ___ in July"
- 33 ___ other cheek
- 38 this "Pete" is '02 candidate for TX house dist. 74
- 40 TXism: "tall hog ___ the trough" (VIP)
- 41 TXism: "quick as a ___ York minute"
- 42 boxing rule? (2 wds.)
- 49 Remington's ___ for the Timber"
- 51 TXism: "brains ___ box" (computer)
- 52 TXism: "rug ___ (child)"
- 57 ___ Hill, TX
- 58 how TX Howard Hughes died

DOWN

- 1 1st TX flag was made of this cloth
- 2 TXism: "at the drop ___"
- 3 Hemphill Co. seat
- 4 TXism: "mad as ___ eyed cow"
- 9 TX golf legend
- 10 Byron (init.)
- 10 decade of baseball labor disputes
- 11 unit of TX land
- 12 old VW
- 13 TXism: "___ Karmann ___"
- 13 TXism: "___ breathing room"

The Original TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
Copyright 2002 by Orbison Bros.

Solutions for this puzzle appear in this issue.

Outdoors

Back-to-School, too...



...RUNNELS COUNTY FARMERS hit the books to learn about the particulars of the recently passed Farm Bill. Byron Bauerlein, Runnels County Farm Service Agency (FSA) representative, explains to area farmers what options the new legislation contains concerning United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs. The presentation was offered to better inform farmers about the bill so they return can decide the best options for their families and farms. Approximately 60 area farmers (shown above) attended the presentation in Wingate last Thursday morning, while representatives reported similar sized crowds in Rowena and Miles later in the day.

Dove hunting forecast good

by Ralph Suarez, TPWD Biologist, Ballinger

The hunting forecast for dove this year is very good. Dove surveys conducted earlier this summer indicated dove numbers were as high or higher than they were last year.

We expect better than average hunting this season. Dove may be scattered over a larger area this year due to an abundance of water and food sources. Due to recent rains, stock tanks are full and will allow dove to water almost anywhere. The rains have also helped produce lots of grain sorghum in this area and also produced some very good sunflower fields.

The best hunting will be found over mature sunflower fields and other food sources. Water may also provide some good hunting if things start to dry up.

We are also seeing lots of white winged dove in our area. Hunters would be well advised to have a white winged dove stamp or purchase a super combo license while hunting for dove in our area.

The season opens on September 1, 2002, (Sunday) and runs through Oct. 29, 2002. The bag limit is 12 dove per day.

Pest Management News

by Richard Minzenmayer, Extension Agent-Entomology

General Situation

It is definitely summertime. Hot, dry, and windy sums it up for this week in the Concho Valley. Insect pressure is way down and cotton has really responded to these hot, dry, weather conditions we have experienced the past two weeks.

Many fields are blooming out the top and it's evident that we have way more fruit set on the plant than we can hold. The cotton plants have begun reducing their fruit load by kicking off the small squares in the terminal and many 2-to-3-day-old bolls.

Grain sorghum harvest is well underway and dryland yields are ranging from 2,000 to over 3,000 lbs. per acre. Prices are holding around \$4.50 to \$4.65.

Cotton

Cotton has really matured

the past two weeks and is continuing to progress rapidly with the current weather conditions. The next bollworm egg-lay is not expected until around the first week in September, and if this holds true, much of this cotton will be very attractive to oviposition and small larvae will have a tough time surviving in the mature cotton.

One insect pest we do need to continue to watch closely is the cotton aphid. A few fields have required treatment for aphids this week. They can cause us problems right up until harvest.

If you have treated any cotton with a pyrethroid insecticide the past two weeks, monitor those fields especially close. Aphids could flare in some of these fields.

Bollworm larval counts are way down this week, as were the egg counts. With the cot-

ton maturing out and the persistent hot dry weather, bollworm larvae are going to have a difficult time surviving.

Natural enemy numbers are on the increase. This is probably due to cotton aphid numbers increasing and grain sorghum being harvested.

Cotton Tours in September

Cotton Tour dates have been set. The Runnels County Cotton Tour will be Tuesday, September 17 and the Tom Green County Cotton Tour will be Thursday, September 26. More information will be given as time draws near. Be thinking about attending.

The best way to have the last word is to apologize.

Dove hunters should not be alarmed, but encouraged to take precautions against West Nile Virus

The West Nile Virus has arrived in Texas and is probably here to stay. Birds are natural hosts of the mosquito-borne disease, and there are plenty of both here in West Texas.

When asked specifically about dove hunting concerns this past weekend, local veterinarian Jimmy Smith, confirmed what Texas Health Department and Texas Parks and Wildlife officials are suggesting.

While the chances of contracting the virus from handling dove during hunting season are quite slim, Dr. Smith is encouraging hunters to wear rubber gloves while cleaning and handling the birds.

Dove hunters should also use mosquito repellent containing Deet; wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants;

avoid birds exhibiting erratic behavior (infected birds don't like to fly or fly very slowly); and thoroughly cook the meat of the birds.

As Smith rationalized, hunters aren't going to be eating the brains or the spinal columns of

the birds, but taking precautions against WNV can't hurt.

Rubber gloves are cheap, and as a TPW director pointed out in a recent article, "wearing them should be common practice when handling and cleaning any game animal."

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Wheat	3.45/Bu

"I'll say this is a rough outfit, I've got more dirt under my fingernails than you have on the whole ranch!"

Law & Order

Financial Focus

by Jim Woodruff

Are you hanging on to expired savings bonds?

You can lose track of the time. You can lose track of your car keys. But you'd never lose track of your investments. Or would you?

Actually, many people do just that - at least when it comes to their U.S. Savings Bonds. In fact, owners failing to redeem their Series E, H and HH bonds are losing an estimated \$300 million a year in interest from matured bonds, according to the Bureau of Public Debt.

While you may not be sitting on \$300 million yourself, you may well have a few savings bonds sitting around the house. These bonds have long been popular as gifts, but, over time, people misplace them - or forget about them altogether. On the other hand, some people deliberately hold onto their savings bonds, believing that they'll keep earning interest forever.

However, that's not the case. Once your bonds mature, they're not going to pay you any additional interest, no matter how long you hold them.

Even so, you might think that it's no big deal to hang onto your bonds. After all, they're issued by the Treasury, so you know that you will be able to get your money someday. And that is true, of course, because the U.S. government is the most reliable borrower in the world. As one of its bondholders, you can be sure that you'll get your money.

But that's not really the point. By holding on to your matured bonds, you're depriving yourself of the interest that's due to you. And by not taking this money, you're missing out on

the opportunity to invest it elsewhere. Remember, even though your bonds are safe, they no longer earn you any interest. They now have a zero percent rate of return - and you don't have to look too hard to find investments that can probably do better.

Even if the money from your savings bonds doesn't add up to a great deal, it can still be a valuable asset. Before you invest it - in fact, before you invest any money, from any source - consider your individual needs, your risk tolerance and time horizon. Then, if you decide to keep the money in a fixed-income investment, you might want to consider an investment-grade corporate bond. While the value of this type of bond will fluctuate, it will likely earn a considerably higher rate than a savings bond. Or, if you already own some stocks, but you want to further diversify your portfolio, you might use the proceeds from your savings bond to buy a few shares in a high-quality company.

The point is to do something with the money. If you're going to achieve your long-term objectives, you'll need to maximize your resources.

So, get out those old savings bonds, bring them to your bank and cash them in. If you're not sure if your bond has stopped paying interest, visit the Bureau of Public Debt's Web site at www.savingsbonds.gov. In short, wake your bonds from their slumber - and put them to work for you.

Official Records

County Court Dispositions

Carlos Emiliano Diaz, failure to identify-fugitive from justice, pleaded nolo contendere, fined \$500, plus \$211 court costs

Mark Majalca, driving while license suspended, pleaded nolo contendere, fined \$250, plus \$211 court costs

Carlos Emiliano Diaz, driving while license invalid, case dismissed, defendant convicted in another case

Mark A. Madewell, theft by check, pleaded nolo contendere, fined \$100.25, plus \$211 court costs, \$33.75 restitution, \$25 hot check fees

Eric Majalca, violation of a protective order, pleaded guilty, sentenced to 60 days in county jail, assessed \$236 court costs

Jimmy Don Kile, driving while intoxicated, pleaded nolo contendere, sentenced to 15 days in county jail, assessed \$211 court costs

Criminal Cases Filed August 9

Daniel Gomez Portillo, filed for assault

August 19

Timothy Dwayne Hunter, filed for interference with an emergency telephone call

August 22

Leroy Garcia, filed for driving while intoxicated

District Court Divorce Cases Filed August 21

Charles Lynn Wilson vs. Natasha O. Wilson

Justin Edward Busenlehner vs. Kristi Hope Busenlehner

Brenda Charlotte Schuyler vs. Robert David Schuyler

Justice of the Peace Precinct 1 Felony Cases Filed

August 2

Sara Maria Islas, filed on three counts of forgery

August 7

Shawna Kay Rock, filed for possession or transport of certain chemicals with the intent to manufacture a controlled substance

Justin Wayne Warren, filed for possession or transport of certain chemicals with the intent to manufacture a controlled substance

Vernon Zachary Carson, filed for possession or transport of certain chemicals with the intent to manufacture a controlled substance

August 9

Daniel Arreola Sandoval, filed for assault with a deadly weapon

August 22

Jimmie Herring, filed for cruelty to animals

Criminal Cases Filed August 4

Chad Eric Kraatz, filed for public intoxication

August 12

Stephanie A. Roberts, filed for theft by check

John Sanchez, filed for theft by check

Karen K. Horton, filed for theft by checks

August 11

Dalton Dale Graves, filed for consumption of alcohol by a minor

August 20

Michael Sanchez, filed for theft by check

Georga Jones, filed for theft by check

Debra A. Dexter, filed for theft by check

Betty Estrada, filed for theft by check

August 21

William Stewart, filed for theft by check

The following are cases from the Winters Police Department. Some cases may still be under investigation. Information, reported through Crime Stoppers, leading to the close of any case could result in up to a \$1,000 reward.

The following information comes from Winters Police Department reports received and/or investigated from Sunday, August 18, 2002, through Saturday, August 24, 2002. Winters Police Officers:

- officers stopped a 1989 Ford Escort in the 100 block of S. Magnolia Street for a mechanical violation. A license check of the driver revealed his license was under suspension for failure to appear A.L.R. hearing. Joe Lozano of Winters was arrested for Driving While License Suspended and taken to Runnels County Jail.

- received report of a burglary in the 300 block of N. Murray Street. A 29-year-old Winters male alleged that sometime during the hours of 9 and 11 p.m. Sunday, person(s) unknown entered into his apartment and removed an electric guitar and amplifier. There were no signs of forced entry. A possible suspect has been named and this is under investigation as Burglary of a Habitation.

- officers observed a male subject in the 300 block of E. Parsonage Street who appeared to have difficulty walking. The male was checked and an odor of an alcoholic beverage was detected on his person. The male, Otis Liggins of Winters, was arrested for Public Intoxication and taken to Runnels County Jail.

- received report of a burglary in the 200 block of Circle Drive. A 35-year-old Winters male reported person(s) unknown attempted to remove a window screen from his home. No entry was made, but damage was also done to a wooden fence and concrete bench. This is under investigation as Attempted Burglary of a Habitation.

- received report of a theft in the 500 block of Quannah Street. A 29-year-old Winters female reported that a men's Roadmaster bicycle was removed from her yard. A neighbor witnessed the theft and a description of the suspect was obtained. This is under investigation as Class B Theft.

- received report of a burglary in the 200 block of Alvera Street. A 46-year-old Winters male reported that between the hours of 2 p.m. August 16 and 5 p.m. August 20 a door to his home was broken in and electronic items and jewelry were removed. Signs of forced entry were observed and witnesses were located giving a suspect description. This is under investigation as Burglary of a Habitation.

- received report of a domestic disturbance in the 300 block of N. Main Street. A 20-year-old Winters female alleged being assaulted by a 44-year-old female and a 50-year-old Winters male who fled the scene prior to officers arrival. As officers were taking the information the 44-year-old female returned. After hearing both sides officers determined the younger female, Erika Alvarado, was the assaulting party and she was arrested for Assault Causing Bodily Injury against a family member and taken to Runnels County Jail.

- received a report of disorderly conduct in the 100 block of W. Broadway Street. A 55-year-old Winters female alleged that a 24-year-old Winters female made an obscene gesture with her hand and shouted profane names to the victim female with no apparent reason given. The victim female stated she wished to pursue charges for Disorderly Conduct as she was offended by the acts of the younger female.

- received a report of a burglary in the 800 block of N. Heights Street. A 37-year-old Winters female alleged that between the hours of midnight to 4 p.m. on August 24 a cell phone and jewelry were removed from her vehicle which was left unlocked. This is under investigation as Burglary of a Motor Vehicle.

- officers observed several subjects in the parking lot of the Winters Community Center acting suspiciously near a parked vehicle. As officer approached the subjects were putting something into the trunk of the vehicle. Officers found the items were alcoholic beverages and the subjects all under the age of 21. The subjects, ages 15, 16, and 19, were cited for Minor in Possession of Alcohol and released to their parents.

- officers observed a male subject in the Winters City Park carrying an open container of an alcoholic beverage. Officers contacted the individual who was only 17 years old and due to mitigating circumstances the male, Justin Martinez of Winters, was arrested for Minor in Possession of Alcohol and taken to Runnels County Jail.



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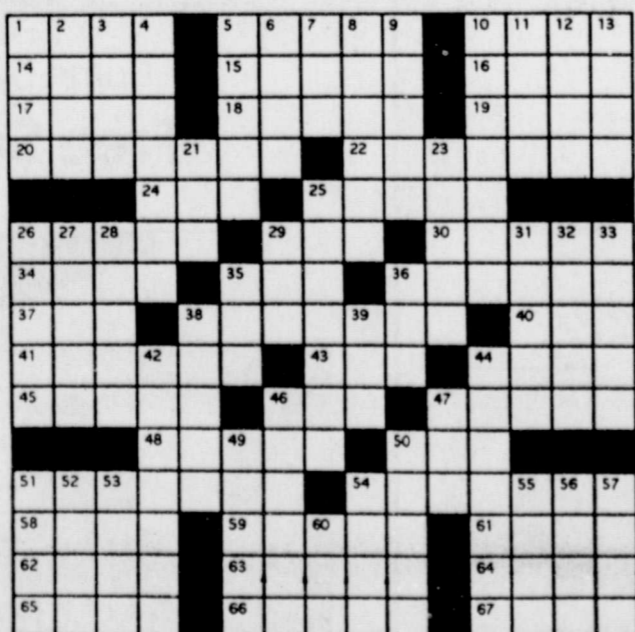
- Use a sieve
- Acts as a co-conspirator
- Reckless
- General Bradley
- Fix firmly
- Conglomeration
- Agrippina's famous son
- Obnoxious
- Helmsman
- Pastry
- Frankenstein's creation
- Appear drowsy
- Station
- Famous resident of León
- Caroline's uncle
- Concise
- Fencer's article
- Not-too-popular govt. agy.
- Highway division
- Sagebrush State: abbr.
- Great plains
- Stomach
- Nightmares
- Engine need
- Small insects
- Beetle Bailey character
- Suffix for Israel & graph
- Passenger
- Drizzles
- Chess pieces
- Harmonizes
- Military man
- En-lai
- Waterfowl
- Ms. Adams
- Mountain pool
- Venerable
- Ibsen heroine
- Rushed
- Okay to do
- Luge

DOWN

- Kids
- to St. Ives, ...
- Actor on M*A*S*H
- Defeat soundly
- Moved in a curved course
- Invoice
- One who raised Cain
- up; joined in
- cooperative activity
- Sharpening device
- Cooked
- Came to earth
- Word with way or out

- Gardener
- John
- C. D. E. F. G. A and B
- Amin and Qaddafi
- Remains unsettled
- Musical production
- Adamant refusal
- Italian numeral
- Inflexible
- Condiment
- "Come in"
- Common contraction
- Torme or Gibson
- Smudge
- Dessert order

- Ran ... : came on shore
- Trees
- Housebound
- Luth. or Episc.
- Noble principle
- Edible mushroom
- Behaves
- Fellow
- Center
- Poison remedies
- False deity
- Kilkenny's locale
- Peruse a paper
- Wooler



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Runnels County Appraisal District Budget

The Runnels County Appraisal District will hold a public hearing on a proposed budget for the 2003 fiscal year.

The public hearing will be held on September 9, 2002, 12 noon, at the Appraisal District office, 406 Hutchings Avenue, Ballinger, Texas.

A summary of the Appraisal District budget follows:

Total of proposed budget	\$289,000
Amount of increase over current budget	\$18,635
Number of employees under proposed budget	5 full-time 1 part-time
Number of employees under current budget	5 full-time 1 part-time

The Appraisal District is supported solely by payments from the local taxing units served by the Appraisal District. The budget increase will affect the taxing jurisdictions by the following amounts:

Runnels County	\$5,628	Ballinger Memorial Hosp.	\$950
Ballinger ISD	\$4,772	Ballinger City	\$876
Winters ISD	\$2,870	Winters City	\$801
North Runnels Hosp.	\$1,267	Miles City	\$130
Miles ISD	\$1,099	Lipan-Kickapoo WD	\$130
		Olfen ISD	\$112

If approved by the Appraisal District Board of Directors at the public hearing, this proposed budget will take effect automatically unless disapproved by the governing bodies of the county, school districts, and cities served by the Appraisal District.

A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection in the office of each of those governing bodies. A copy is also available for public inspection at the Appraisal District office.

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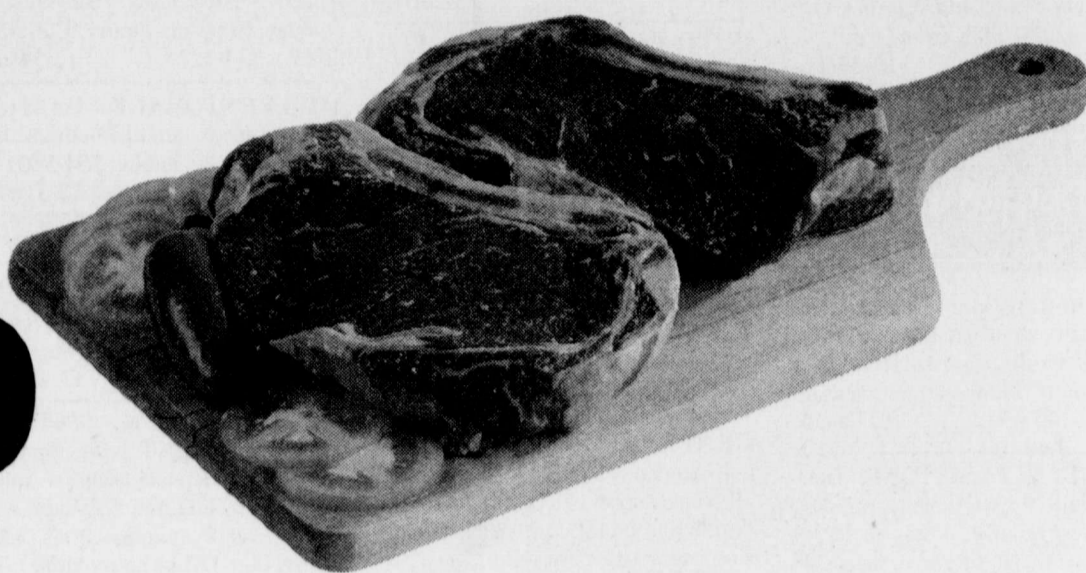
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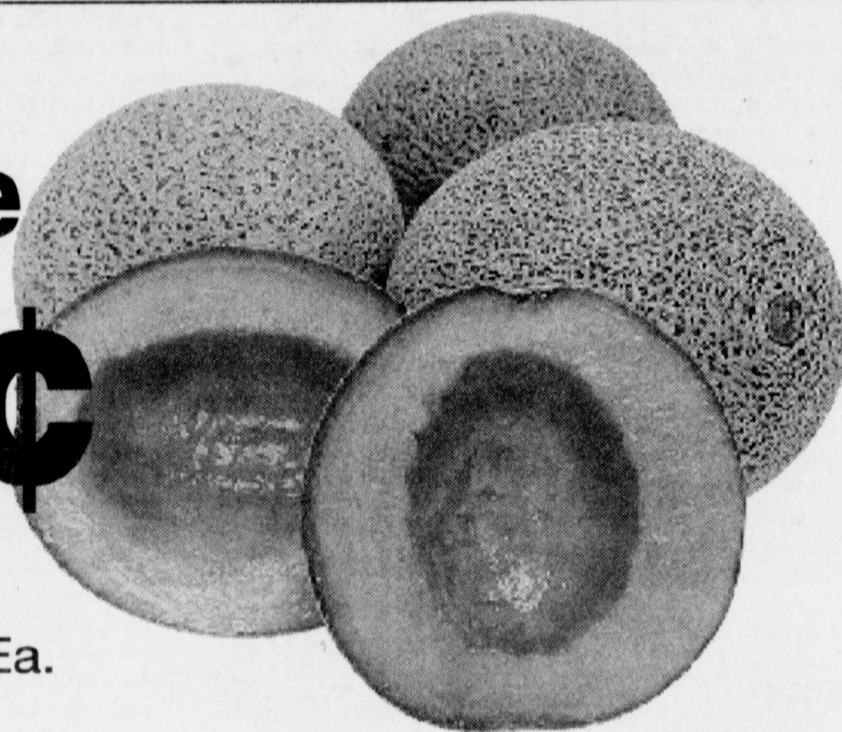
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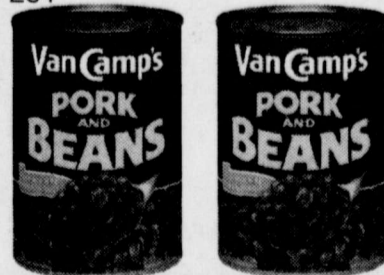
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