

The Winters Enterprise

Serving Winters and North Runnels County

Volume 14, Issue 9

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Winters, Texas

50¢

NEWS

Pearls of Wisdom

When Mother Teresa received her Nobel Prize, she was asked, "What can we do to promote world peace?" She replied, "Go home and love your family."

Letters to the Editor

Former Winters resident disputes Pastor Edge's view on abortion, while another enjoys Loehman's article on love.

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Doug Wheat new company president

Bob Loyd LP Gas restructures company leadership as father passes presidency to son.

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Schedules, activities & more

WHS Class Favorites and winners of the Runnels SWCD poster contest are featured. In addition, important dates-to-remember are listed and Secondary G/T nominations are being accepted.

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Blessed Daze

Rose-colored glasses may be the next order for Editor Jean Boles.

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Legislation News

Rep. Harvey Hilderbran, Senator Robert Duncan, and Congressman Charlie Stenholm file legislation to better assist the needs of rural communities.

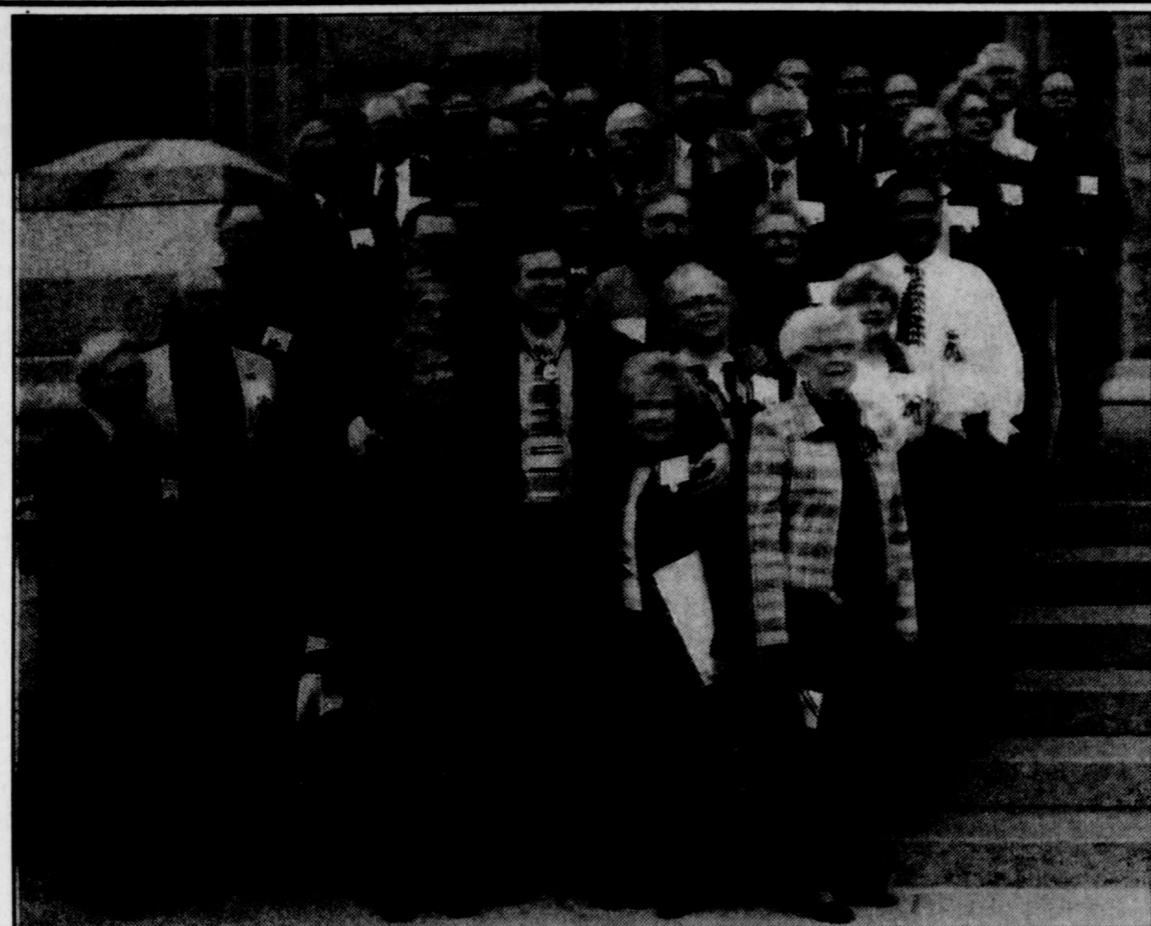
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Texas Wheat Producers pleased

The Texas Wheat Producers Association is pleased with recent disaster assistance legislation passed by Congress.

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RUNNELS COUNTY LEADERS from Winters and Ballinger attended Texas Midwest Day in Austin on Feb. 19 & 20. Front and center is Representative Harvey Hilderbran.

Winters leaders attend Texas Midwest Day in Austin

by Randall Conner, Director of Economic Development
Winters Area Business & Industrial Corporation

Twenty-eight people from Winters attended Texas Midwest Day in Austin on Wednesday, Feb. 19. The group was joined by twelve community leaders from Ballinger.

The group arrived at the Capitol to see the House and the Senate in session. At noon, the Winters group joined several hundred people from the Texas Midwest to take pictures on the Capitol steps with Gov. Rick Perry and legislators.

During the afternoon, the Winters contingent visited representatives and senators in their offices and then attended the Texas Midwest Tailgate Reception for legislators and

state officials.

The highlight of the day was the "Winters Night in Austin" Wednesday evening. The group from Winters was joined by several Winters folks now living in Austin and several state officials.

Fifty-nine people enjoyed a Texas barbeque meal, which was followed by a short program.

Charles Bahlman, president of the Winters Area Business and Industrial Corporation, recognized three Winters High School graduates and two former representatives. Mr. Bill Little (WHS '60), Assis- See TEXAS MIDWEST, pg. 7

State budget cuts hurt school, library, hospital

by Jean Boles, editor

The wheels of technology may come to a grinding halt at Winters Independent School District and other area entities due to budget cuts by the government.

The state has frozen \$221 million in grants that are awarded by the nine-member Telecommunications Infrastructure Board (TIF).

In late January, Gov. Rick Perry announced that he would freeze the grants that help fund public schools, libraries, universities and health-care facilities.

Perry ordered the freeze after a recently grim budget report by State Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn, who said Texas is facing a \$9.9 billion shortfall.

According to WISD Business Manager Jimmy Butler, the school district has received \$285,161,000 since 1997. The first grant enabled the district to connect to the internet. Butler said the school was also able to buy 200 computers and then network all the classrooms and all the campuses.

"The \$285,000 we received over the past six years comes to about \$47,500 annually, which is about 5.25 cents of our tax rate," said Butler. "In other words, if we hadn't received this grant money, this amount would have been added to the tax rate."

Butler further explained that the freeze will also affect other entities. In Runnels County See GRANT CUTBACKS, pg. 7



PATRICIA BUTLER (center), Community Development Specialist with the USDA Rural Development office of Brownwood, presents a Certificate of Award for \$3,100,000 to Lanny England, President of North Runnels Water Supply Corporation. Also present for the ceremony on Feb. 20 were (l-r) Lewis Wade, Field Employee; Brenda Anderson, Secretary; Keith Martin, Manager, and Rhonda Cook, Project Coordinator.

NRWSC receives over \$3 million for long-awaited water project

by Jean Boles, editor

Customers of North Runnels Water Supply Corporation are another step closer to completing a project which began in 1998.

Bryan Daniel, State Director of the Texas USDA Rural Development, has announced that NRWSC was awarded a \$3,100,000 loan and grant through the agency's Rural Utilities Service Water and Wastewater program.

Patricia Butler, Community

Development Specialist with the USDA Rural Development office of Brownwood, presented a certificate of the award to Lanny England, President of NRWSC, during ceremonies on February 20, in the Winters office.

The funds are part of USDA's national program to help provide rural areas with safe, dependable water and modern sewage systems.

"One of the goals of USDA

Rural Development is to provide water and wastewater treatment programs that target public health benefits and provide economic opportunities to America's rural communities," said Daniel. "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 will be used to See NR WATER, pg. 7

Go Figure—



THESE WINTERS ELEMENTARY STUDENTS perform a "Figure 8 Chain" during halftime of a WHS Lady Blizzard basketball game. The group is part of the PIP (Players In Progress) program which reinforces coordination, motivation, and self-discipline while learning basketball skills. The group of 40 students is under the direction of Sherri Mikeska, Jonna Busher, Theresa Gerhart, and Donna Guy.

WISD spring band concerts March 4

Phil Mooney, Director of Bands at WISD, invites the community to attend the Spring 2003 Concerts on Tuesday, March 4, beginning at 7 p.m. in the school auditorium.

The Blizzard Band, comprised of grades 8 through 12, will open the evening's entertainment with music from their concert competition, as well as selections from "Lord of the Rings."

The 70-member high school band will end with a special "rock tunes" arrangement featuring electrified instruments including electric, bass and acoustic guitars, drum set and band accompaniment.

The 7th grade band will then perform, followed by the 6th and ending with the 5th grade students.

There is no admission charge for the concerts.

Editorial

Oil Bidness

by Reg Boles © 2003



Not available this week

Thunderstorms and tornadoes a part of spring's severe weather

March 2-8 designated as Severe Weather Awareness Week in Texas—

Spring means more than house cleaning, home improvement, yardwork, and garden planting. With spring comes severe weather, particularly in West Texas. Each spring, Texas experiences numerous outbreaks of severe weather. Many of these outbreaks are deadly.

Over the past few years, the National Weather Service's capability to warn people of impending hazardous weather has improved dramatically. But early warnings are useless unless people know how to react to impending severe weather.

On Wednesday, March 5, the National Weather Service in San Angelo will issue a practice Tornado Warning through NOAA Weather Radio and the Emergency Alert System (EAS). The purpose of this drill is to give everyone an opportunity to practice their tornado procedures. The practice Tornado Warning will be issued at approximately 9:00 a.m., and a follow-up cancellation Severe Weather Statement will be issued at around 9:15 a.m.

The typical thunderstorm is 15 miles in diameter and lasts an average of 30 minutes. Despite their small size, all thunderstorms are dangerous.

Every thunderstorm produces lightning, which kills more people each year than tornadoes. Heavy rain from thunderstorms can lead to flash flooding. Strong winds, hail, and tornadoes are also dangers associated with some thunderstorms.

The NWS considers a thunderstorm severe if it produces hail at least 3/4" in diameter (about the size of dimes), wind gusts to 58 mph or higher, or tornadoes. In West Central Texas, the most active months for severe weather are April, May, and June.

Though severe weather tends to peak during the spring months, thunderstorms and their accompanying severe weather can occur at any time of the year.

In order for thunderstorms to develop, three ingredients must be present: moisture, unstable air, and lift. Active cold fronts from the north and west collide with warm, moist air from the Gulf of Mexico during the spring bringing these three ingredients together over West Central Texas.

Thunderstorm Safety Checklist

Before the storm...
 ✓ Check the weather forecast before leaving for extended periods outdoors.

✓ Watch for signs of approaching storms.

✓ If a storm is approaching, keep a weather radio or AM/FM radio with you.

✓ Postpone outdoor activities if thunderstorms are imminent.

As thunderstorms approach...
 ✓ If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to the storm to be struck by lightning. Go to safe shelter immediately!

✓ Move to a sturdy building or car. Do not take shelter in small sheds, under isolated trees, or in convertible cars.

✓ If lightning is occurring and a sturdy shelter is not available, get inside a hardtop automobile and keep the windows up.

✓ Get out of boats and away from water.

✓ Get to higher ground if flash flooding or flooding is possible. Once flooding begins, abandon cars and climb to higher ground. Do not attempt to drive to safety.

If caught outdoors and no shelter is nearby...
 ✓ Find a low spot away from trees, fences, and poles. Make sure the place you pick is not subject to flooding.

✓ If you are in the woods, take shelter under the shorter trees.
 ✓ If you feel your skin tingle or your hair stand on end, squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet. Make yourself the smallest target possible.

Tornado Safety Checklist
 Before the storm...
 ✓ Develop a plan for you and your family for home, work, school, and when outdoors.
 ✓ Have frequent drills.
 ✓ Have a weather radio with a warning alarm tone or listen to radio and television for information.

If a warning is issued or if threatening weather approaches...
 ✓ In a home or building, move to a pre-designated shelter, such as a basement.

✓ If an underground shelter is not available, move to an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor and get under a sturdy piece of furniture.

✓ Stay away from windows.
 ✓ Get out of automobiles.
 ✓ If caught outside or in a vehicle, lie flat in a nearby ditch.

✓ Mobile homes, even if tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes and should be abandoned.

✓ In schools, develop a severe weather action plan and have frequent drills.

✓ Make special provisions for those in portable classrooms
 ✓ Gymnasiums, cafeterias, and auditoriums offer no protection from tornado-strength winds.

✓ Move students quickly into interior rooms or hallways on the lowest floor. Have them assume the tornado protection position — kneeling on the floor with arms and hands protecting the head.

Letters to the Editor

Former resident commends Loehman for his message on love

Dear Editor:

I read the wonderful article in Pastor's Points of your February 13 edition. I commend him (Terry Loehman) for his honesty and good message on love.

I love Winters, too. I was born and raised there before leaving for college in 1953.

Benny Mayo
 WHS Class of 1953

Letter is response to Mark Edge's Pastor's Points article on Jan. 23

Dear Editor:

Responding to Mark Edge's article "Why I am Pro-Choice" (Jan. 23, 2003) —

Mr. Edge's approach to the subject of abortion trivializes the dynamics of the decision which a pregnant woman may have to make. His statement, "let the kid make the choice" is, of course, absurd. Yes, I know that the author of that statement meant it to be an eye-catcher so folks would read on. No, I do not think that he would use it in counseling a woman who was contemplating an abortion. Or would he? Perhaps he already has done so by publishing it in a paper which may be read by someone who thinks she needs an abortion.

To be fair to Mr. Edge, I must point out that he did try to move away from the trivial and find some kind of scriptural support for his position by quoting a small portion of Psalm 139 as well as Luke 1:44.

Yes, Mr. Edge, I agree with you. These scriptures "were not written as primers on the issue of abortion" and do not directly nor indirectly support your position. Perhaps you should have not brought them up.

It is true that the decision to abort an unwanted pregnancy is traumatic, but the decision to continue the pregnancy may be more traumatic in the long run. It should be a decision made by the individual woman without unwanted outside interference. Consideration should be given to the woman's life which might literally be saved by an abortion. Consideration should be given to a young woman's future which might be greatly improved by being able to get an education before becoming a mother and therefore increase her ability to provide for her child. She does deserve a future.

The reference to forty million abortions and the potential loss of athletes, artists and singers to entertain us, as well as inventors to make things for us to enjoy is a good send-off on a guilt trip that a parent should not have to make. Some of those forty million would most assuredly end up in prison or worse because of being raised in abject poverty.

Roe vs. Wade is the law of the land. I hope that it will be there in the future for those who need it.

Respectfully,

Ronald Huddleston,
 former Winters resident

Support group meeting planned

Family and friends of residents of the Senior Citizens Nursing Home are planning their first support group meeting.

The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 4, 2003 at 4:30 p.m. at Senior Citizens Nursing Home.

For more information contact Margie Wheeler at 554-7415.

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 e-mail: wintersenterpriz@aol.com

Jean Boles Editor/General Manager
 Deb Pritchard Assistant Editor
 Susan Ripple Production Manager
 Jennifer Riffe Officer Manager

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Obituaries

Patti McDaniel McNutt

LEWISVILLE—Patti McDaniel McNutt, 74, died Thursday, February 20, 2003 at Cross Timbers Care Center in Flower Mound.

She was born September 26, 1928 in Fort McKavett to Mark and Myrtle Wright McDaniel. She was an accomplished poet, a former columnist of "Patti's Chatter" in the Lewisville Advertiser and a member of the Lewisville Chamber of Commerce.

She was married to Dale McNutt for 42 years.

Survivors include her daughter, Cindy Ferguson and her husband Ed of Coppell; her sons, Terry McNutt and his wife Michelle of Flower Mound, and Jason McNutt of Lewisville; one sister, Melvena Gerbert of Winters; one brother, Jack Wright of Ballinger; four grandchildren and Dale McNutt.

Services were held Monday, February 24, at Northview Baptist Church with Reverend Kenneth Wells officiating. Grave-side services were held in the Oakwood Cemetery in Comanche. Burial followed under the direction of Mulkey-Mason Funeral Home.

Rosa R. Guzman

DEL RIO—Rosa R. Guzman, 89, died on Wednesday, February 12, 2003 in Kingsville.

She was born in Uvalde on September 4, 1913.

Mrs. Guzman was preceded in death by her husband Maximo Guzman, and two brothers, Juan Reyes and Ramon Reyes.

Survivors include, three sons, Nick & Belia Guzman of Falfurrias, Carlos & Maricella Guzman of San Antonio, and Manuel Reyes of Del Rio; five daughters, Mrs. Mary Workman of Falfurrias, Federico & Gregoria Espinosa of Del Rio, George & Carmen Villarreal of Winters, Alfonso & Sara Conchas of Falfurrias, and Mrs. Gilda Moreno of Winters; one brother, Narciso Reyes of Abilene; one stepbrother, Ramiro Reyes of Fort Worth; five stepchildren, 26 grandchildren, 30 great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral Mass was held Saturday, February 15, 2003 at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church with Father Jose De La Cruz Longoria Gomez, M.N.M. officiating. Burial followed in the San Felipe Cemetery of Del Rio.

Pallbearers were Raul Conchas of Del Rio, George Villarreal Jr. of San Angelo, Richard Moreno of San Angelo, Gerald Espinosa of San Antonio, Maximo Guzman of Falfurrias and Nick Guzman of Del Rio.

Funeral arrangements were under the direction of Don's Funeral Chapel of Del Rio.



Shirley Louise Cole Richey

PARIS—Shirley Louise Cole Richey, 83, died Thursday, February 20, 2003 at West Houston Medical Center in Houston.

Shirley was born on November 10, 1919 in Winters to William H. & Emma Williams Cole. She graduated from Abilene Christian University. She married John Frazier Richey in Virginia Beach, VA in 1943. During WWII, she served as a naval officer's wife and worked as a control tower operator. She was a member of the Church of Christ serving as a Bible Class teacher and elder's wife. Mrs. Richey taught public school in Littlefield for 17 years. She was a business owner in Littlefield where they reared their family. After moving to Paris, Texas, they ranched and worked as real estate brokers. Shirley was also supportive of Lubbock Christian University serving as a LCU Associate. She was active in ranching in Red River, Lamar, Runnels, Taylor, and Lamb counties. Her greatest joy in life was that of wife, mother, and grandmother. She will be greatly missed by all.

Mrs. Richey was preceded in death by her parents William and Emma Cole, her husband, John Frazier Cole on April 11, 1994; one granddaughter, Kristina Lynne Olson; and one brother, Douglas Robert Cole.

Survivors include one son, John Frazier II & Barbara Richey of Houston; three daughters, Marilynn & Chris Richey of Waynoka, OK, Bonnie Lou & Ron Patterson of Lucas, and Billie Ruth & Alan Wonders of Kingsport, TN; one sister, Juanita Spurgers of Abilene; nine grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews, and many friends.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. Saturday, February 22, 2003 in the Fry & Gibbs Funeral Home chapel in Paris with Patrick Cannon officiating. Interment was in Evergreen Cemetery.

Pallbearers were grandsons, Clinton Harrison Olson, Cullan Frazier Olson, Ronald Benjamin Patterson, Justin R. Richey, John Frazier Richey III, and Grant Richey.

Funeral arrangements were under direction of the Fry & Gibbs Funeral Home of Paris.

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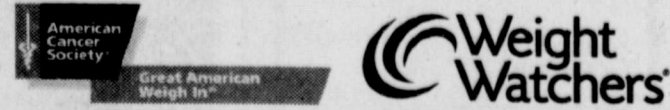
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Community

Pastor's Points

Editor's Note: This column will feature a different Winters minister each week in no particular order. Comments may or may not reflect the opinions or views of *The Winters Enterprise*.

Welcome Home...

by Reverend Georgia Orr

As I arrived in Israel the first thing I saw on the airport terminal was a sign that said, "Welcome Home". I thought this was very strange because it certainly was not my home. I almost resented the thought. We left there and went on to Tel Aviv, Cana, Nazareth, Sea of Galilee, Jericho, Masada, Bethlehem, and Jerusalem.

As we traveled to each place, I began to feel that I was truly walking where Jesus had walked. All the scenes of the Bible began to come to life. Guess what? I began to feel at home. All the years that my parents had spent reading to me about the life and times of Jesus began to make sense. Suddenly, I knew that I was at home. After all, the very roots of everything I believe were planted here.

What does being at home mean? We may think it is where we grew up, where our family is, where we now live, or where we feel safe, secure, and comfortable. All of these are definitions that I have used to define home. But, my real home is in Jesus Christ.

He is where I place my foundation, where I grow, where I feel safe and secure. Matthew 7: 24-25 reads, "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on a rock; and the rain descended, the floods came and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall for it was founded on the rock."

I want my home built on that solid foundation to protect me through the storms of life. As I left Israel, I knew I was leaving home. I had been reminded that my home has its foundation in Jesus Christ. Just as I thought I left home in Weatherford, to move to Winters, my real home is with me, because my foundation is secure in Christ.

Descendants of Bill & Lena Mae Wheat host family reunion

The family of the late Bill & Lena Mae Bryan Wheat met January 4, 2003 at the Hospitality House of Harris Avenue Baptist Church in San Angelo for a family get together.

The day was spent talking, laughing, and eating with everyone enjoying the day. There were 54 in attendance.

Those attending were, Gene & Jeanie Wheat, Doug, Amy, Avery, and Zack of Winters; Erica & Josh Layano of Winters; Bryan & Julie Green and Kaden of Winters; Bill & Julie Wheat and Lauren of Arlington; Arley & Joy Wheat of San Angelo; Larry & Kathy Wheat and Anthony of Garden City; Tiffany Wheat of Stephenville; Debra Sanders of Big Spring; Londale & Barbara Briley of Odessa; Bryan & Tina Briley, Mari-Angela and David of Midland; Ron & Ruth Briley and Regina of Kerrville; Russel & Sandra Briley, Connor and Caleigh of Lockhart; Ronnie & Katie Briley and Reagan of San Angelo; Joe & Sherion Briley, Kolson and Trace of San Angelo; Katherine Pittman of San Angelo; W.F. & Gladys Matthews, Rnady, Kathy, Mason, Brian, Tommy, Christi, Mickey, Bradley, and Dillon of San Angelo.

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

Doug Wheat named President of Bob Loyd L.P. Gas Co.

The Board of Directors of Bob Loyd L.P. Gas Company is happy to announce that Douglas E. (Doug) Wheat has re-



Gene and Doug Wheat

cently been promoted to President and General Manager of the company.

Doug is a 1987 graduate of Winters High School and a 1991 graduate of Baylor University with a BBA degree in Finance.

His wife, Amy, is also actively involved in the business as bookkeeper and receptionist. Doug and Amy have four children. Erica and Joshua

Lujano, who attend Winters schools, and seven-month-old twins, Zachary and Avery. The family attends the First Baptist

Gene adds, "Doug is highly capable of handling all phases of its operations. He likes people, has a pleasing personality, and has earned the respect of the many customers and people he deals with on a day-to-day basis."

Doug is also community-minded and serves as a board member of various community organizations.

Bob Loyd L.P. Gas Company is a marketer of quality gasolines, diesel fuel, Shell lubricants, filters, batteries, and propane over a multi-county area surrounding Winters, Ballinger, and Abilene. They de-

liver fuels to farms, ranches, oilfield, manufacturing, trucking, government, and other business firms. They have qualified, friendly personnel to serve you at their office and warehouse locations. They also have several card-operated and key-operated self-serve fueling locations conveniently located to serve you.

Gene & Jeanie Wheat continue to be with the firm on a daily basis. Jeanie capably serves as Office Manager and Vice-President and upon Doug's promotion, Gene has assumed the role of Chairman of the Board and Treasurer.

Nursing Home News

by Billie Ruth Bishop



SENIOR CITIZENS NURSING HOME residents celebrated Valentine's Day by crowning a King and Queen. The royalty included King Isaias Fernandez and Queen LaRue Bryan.

Senior Citizens celebrate Valentines Day and February birthdays

The Valentine King and Queen were crowned on Friday, February 14, followed by a party.

LaRue Bryan was crowned queen with Isaias Fernandez named king. Congratulations to both!

Darlene Sims led the group in singing Valentine songs. Refreshments of punch and cookies were served to the res-

idents and guests. On Thursday, February 20, we celebrated our monthly birthdays with a party at 3 p.m. The Sew & Sew Club of Wingate hosted the party. Charlene Craven had the only birthday in February.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Nona Burns who passed away February 15 at the Nursing Home.

In Appreciation

Card of Thanks

We want to thank everyone who helped with the Valentine benefit dance and a special thanks to Officer Angie Pacheco.

We also remind everyone to get their registration forms turned in immediately.

Winters Soccer Association

Card of Thanks

Thank you to all the friends and family who attended services, sent flowers and cards and called, upon the passing of our honored and beloved mother, Erna May Marks. Our special thanks to Mike Meyer and his staff.

Children of Erna Marks & their families
Jerry Marks, Robert Marks, Wanda Dendy
Ernestine Chipps, Don Marks, Mozelle Pridgen

Senior Citizens Activity Center Menu

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March 3 through March 4
Subject to change

Monday, March 3: Chicken -n- Biscuit, asparagus, carrot rasin salad & lemon bars.
Tuesday, March 4: Spaghetti w/meat sauce, tossed salad, green beans, garlic bread, & cake.

Wednesday, March 5: Liver & onions, parslried potatoes, greens, cornbread, & rice pudding.

Thursday, March 6: Salmon, tomato salad, cheese noodles, cornbread, peanut butter bars.

Friday, March 7: Mexican cornbread, pinto beans, coleslaw, chips, dessert.

Meals are served at 11:30 a.m. daily. Anyone who does not take the meals regularly are asked to reserve a lunch by contacting the Activity Center at 754-4205 by 10 a.m.

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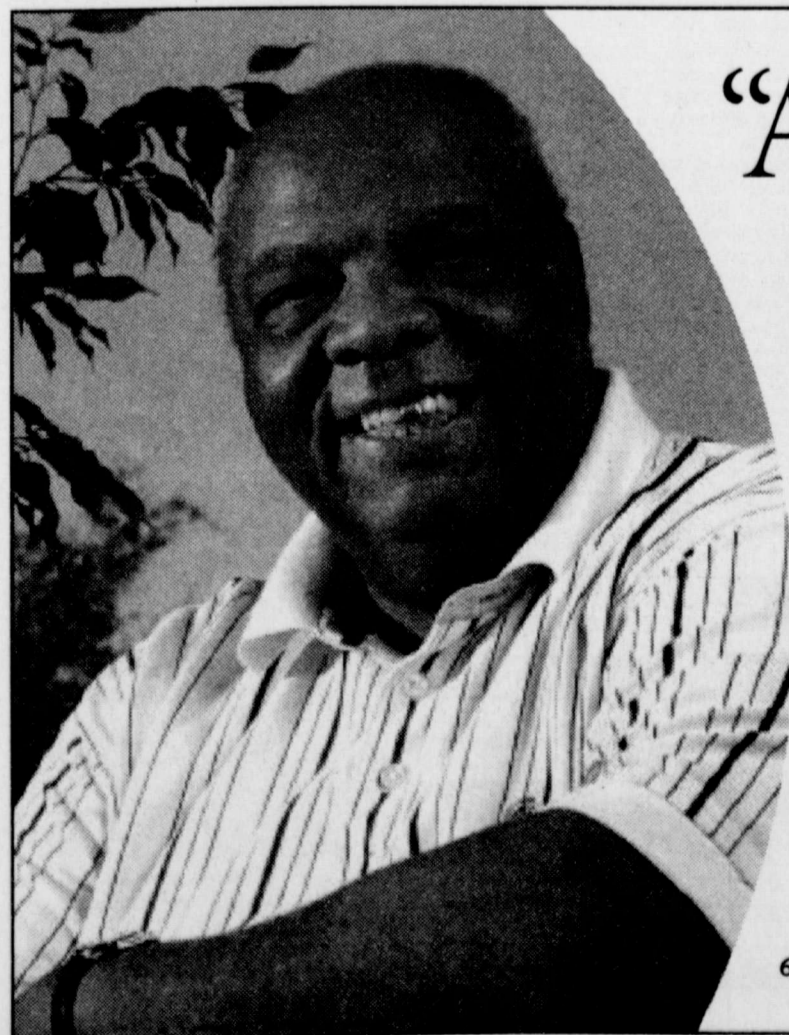
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WHAT'S HAPPENING ?

- Feb. 28-11:30 a.m., Senior Citizens Meal, Sr. Citizens Activity Center 7:30 p.m., Cowboys for Christ, Drasco
- March 1-9 a.m., Varsity Girls, JV & Varsity Boys Track Meet, Roscoe 9 a.m.-3 p.m., SKYWARN Weather Watcher Session, ACU Softball Tournament, San Angelo Team Tennis, San Angelo
- March 2-Attend the church of your choice.
- March 3-9 a.m. - Ministerial Alliance, School Cafeteria 11:30 a.m., Senior Citizens Meal, Sr. Citizens Activity Center 12:45-3:30 p.m., Jr. High & High School Cheerleader Tryouts 4 p.m., JV Baseball vs. Jim Ned, Winters Baseball Field 7:30 p.m., Ballinger Masonic Lodge
- March 4-11:30 a.m., Senior Citizens Meal, Sr. Citizens Activity Center Noon, Lions Club, SCAC 3 p.m., Friends of Hale Museum, Rock Hotel 4 p.m., Softball vs. Wall, Winters Softball Field 4 p.m., Varsity Baseball @ Wall 4:30 p.m., Sr. Citizens Nursing Home Support Group Meeting Varsity Boys Golf, Robert Lee 7 p.m., WVFD Drill, Fire Station 7 p.m., AA, FUMC 7 p.m., American Legion, Post Home 7 p.m., Spring Band Concert
- March 5-7 a.m., Industrial Board, Windmill Enterprises Office 11:30 a.m., Senior Citizens Meal, Sr. Citizens Activity Center
- March 6-10 a.m.-Noon & 1:30-3 p.m., Immunization Clinic, TDH 11:30 a.m., Senior Citizens Meal, Sr. Citizens Activity Center 6 p.m., Chamber Directors

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CAFETERIA MENU

March 3-7
Subject to change*

Breakfast
Monday-Mar. 3
Breakfast Pockets
Juice
Tuesday-Mar. 4
Biscuits & Sausage
Juice
Wednesday-Mar. 5
Cinnamon Rolls
Cereal
Juice
Thursday-Mar. 6
Banana Nut Muffins
Cereal
Juice
Friday-Mar. 7
Pigs-in-a-Blanket
Cereal
Juice

Lunch
Monday-Mar. 3
Layered Enchiladas
Refried Beans
Corn
Fruit
Chips
Chocolate Cake
Tuesday-Mar. 4
Comdog
French Fries
Pork & Beans
Peaches
Monster Cookies
Wednesday-Mar. 5
Sliced Turkey & Gravy
Mashed Potatoes
Broccoli w/Cheese
Hot Rolls
Banana Pudding
Thursday-Mar. 6
Chicken Spaghetti
Tossed Salad
Peas & Carrots
Garlic Bread
Apricot Cobbler
Friday-Mar. 7
Cheeseburger
French Fries
Lettuce, Tomato & Pickles
Fruit
Chocolate Chip Cookie
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Milk Served With All Meals
*Due to commodity conditions served with meals.

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George Mostad

WHS team wins first in journalism competition

Winters High School UIL participants placed in several events while competing in a practice academic meet at Bangs on Saturday, Feb. 15. The journalism team took top honors at the event.

Winters swept the first three placings in feature writing with Lacey Meyer-first, Stephanie Parsons-second, and Leah Bredemeyer-third. Briana Paramore placed fourth in editorial writing. Leah Bredemeyer placed fifth in headline writing while Stephanie Parsons finished sixth.

Erica Lujano earned second place honors in news writing while Stephanie Parsons finished fourth. Winters placed first as a team in journalism.

In mathematics, Brian Pritchard placed fifth in number sense.

Winters will compete in one final practice meet before district, this Saturday at Abilene Cooper.



MAKING SPECIAL DELIVERIES from Pizza Hut on Feb. 18 are Theresa Gerhart (left) and Kim Stewart of the Blizzard Kid Boosters, as part of a fund-raising effort. BKB members have raised enough money to purchase new playground equipment for the elementary school. Phase I of the equipment for the west side of the school will be installed by WISD personnel as soon as weather permits. Cost for this equipment and shipping totalled \$3,498. BKB members are hoping to raise an additional \$4,598 plus shipping for Phase II equipment.



WEATHERFORD'S COLT HYNES (seated right) signs a letter of intent to play baseball at North Central Junior College in Gainesville. He is shown with (l-r) Weatherford High School Athletic Director Mike Sneed and Assistant Athletic Director Philip O'Neal, WHS baseball coach Lew Prestidge, and his parents Julie and Randy Hynes and brother Spencer. As a pitcher, Hynes was 4-0 last season with one save in five starts and seven total appearances. His ERA was 3.21. Colt is the grandson of Ken and Patty Rosson of Winters.

Marcie Pritchard graduates HSU

Hardin-Simmons University announces that Marcie Pritchard of Wingate was among approximately 264 students who received degrees during the fall commencement exercises on Saturday, December 14, 2002.

Pritchard received a Bachelor of Behavioral Science degree in Broadcasting with a Business Administration minor.

Marcie is the daughter of Joe and Donna Pritchard.

Yul Gibbs earns two gold medals at Water Valley

Winters High School senior Yul Gibbs was the lone Blizzards to compete in the Water Valley Relays, bringing home two gold medals last Saturday.

Gibbs won the triple jump with a leap of 42'6" and the long jump with a measurement of 20'9".

Gibbs will join his varsity teammates along with the JV boys and varsity girls teams at the Blackland Divide Relays in Roscoe this Saturday.

Field events and the 3200M Run are scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. Running prelims are set for Noon followed by running finals at 3 p.m.

Winters Junior High will compete at Roscoe on Friday evening. Field events will begin at 3:45 p.m. followed by the 2400 M Run at 4 p.m. Running finals begin at 6 p.m.

Steen earns Doctor of Pharmacy

Crystal Steen, daughter of her PharmD. and graduated Calvin and Judy Steen of Tuscola, graduated December, 2002, from Southwestern Oklahoma State University School of Pharmacy at Weatherford, Oklahoma, with academic honors.



She graduated Cum Laude, Rho Chi, and was hooded Doctor of Pharmacy at a Graduate Recognition Ceremony. She received

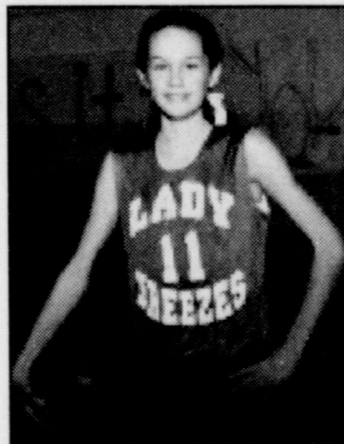
Crystal is currently employed by Kmart Pharmacy in Abilene.

Worry is like a rocking chair— It gives you something to do, but doesn't get you anywhere.

Students of the Month

Each month the junior high teachers select students from the 7th and 8th grades to be Boy and Girl of the Month. These selections are made on the basis of academics, leadership, and citizenship.

Kyli Knight has been selected as "Girl of the Month" for February 2003. She is the daughter of Kelly and Michelle Knight.



Kyli Knight
February Girl of the Month

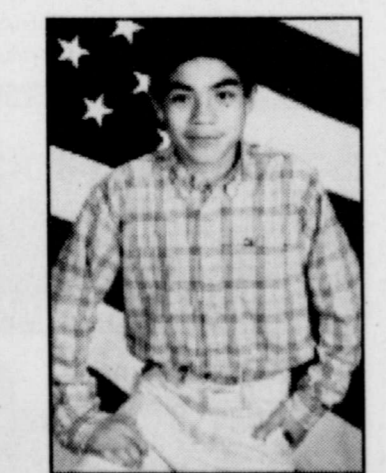
Kyli, 14, is in the seventh grade and enjoys science.

Her honors include being a 7th grade cheerleader.

As a hobby, she spends time with her friends and family, shops, and plays on the computer.

Her duties include feeding the animals, taking out the trash, keeping her room clean, and watching her little sisters.

Her future plans are to attend college on a basketball scholarship. She most admires her parents.



Anthony Ramirez
February Boy of the Month

Anthony Ramirez has been chosen as the "Boy of the Month" for February 2003. He is the son of Becky Cortez.

Anthony, 13, is in the eighth grade and enjoys science, English, and history.

His honors include achieving the highest points in science and being named Most School Spirited and Boy of the Month.

His hobbies include reading and collecting comics. Pastimes are playing video games and basketball.

His duties include throwing out the trash, feeding the cat, helping with the laundry, mowing the lawn, and watching his kid brother.

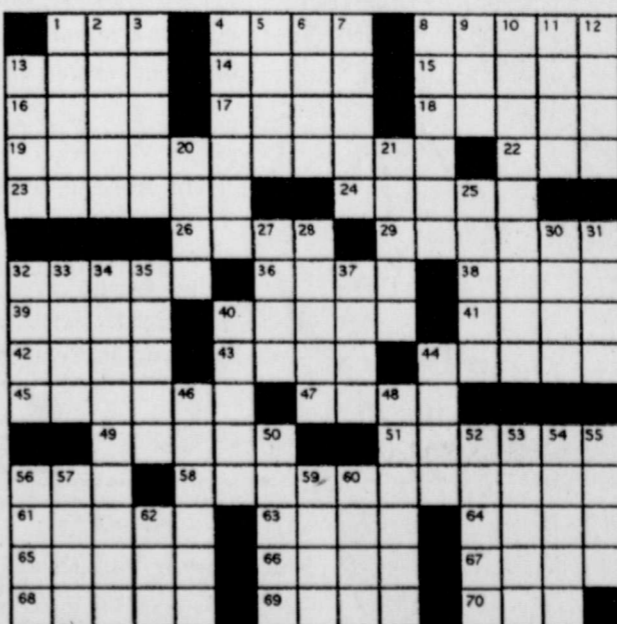
Future plans are to go to college to become a pediatrician. He most admires his mom because "she means everything to me."

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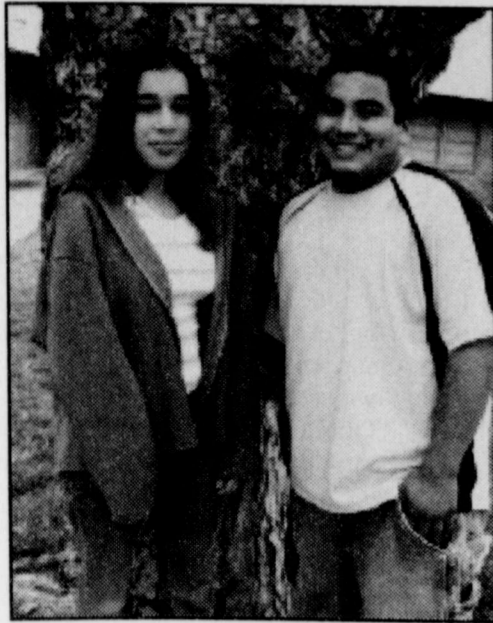
ACROSS

- Opening trio
- Nunn and Sneed
- Joke with
- On ___; equivalent
- Urgent request
- Went completely around
- Behindhand
- Stroll aimlessly
- Consent
- Owners
- Ms. Blyth
- Part of an address
- Taurus and Topaz
- One in bondage
- Indefinitely large number
- Classroom visual aid
- Dog food
- Enthusiastic
- Work by Verdi
- Baby with colic
- Musical Home
- Nudge
- Opposite of borrowed
- Quarrelsome
- Attack with gunfire
- Toothed wheel
- Midwest, Northeast, etc.
- Easiest to control
- Piece of legislation
- Vacuum cleaner pieces
- Hard as ___
- Exasperate
- Met number
- In progress
- Yemeni seaport
- One who gets things accomplished
- Shelters for outdoorsmen
- Dictionary descriptions: abbr.
- Consonants
- Divided
- Ulan ___, Mongolia
- Filled pancake
- Beverage
- African bloom
- Protein source
- American ___
- Warm and cozy
- Work unit
- Scouring pads
- Spotted
- Peace Barbara
- Peaks
- Musical symbol
- Unconfirmed report
- Papal veil
- Cooked, but not for very long
- Brief love affair
- Contraction
- 88, decades ago
- Tops
- Trumpeter Al
- Homage
- Civil War general
- Register
- Filthy places
- Former rulers' title
- Study of the body's structure: abbr.
- Place to get a bite to eat
- Helping hand
- Musical symbol
- Peace of land



School

2002-03 WHS Class Favorites—



Seniors
Priscilla Ontiveros & Mark Moreno



Juniors
Faye Johnson & Will Ahrens



Sophomores
Shawn Kraatz & Della LaBedelle



Freshmen
Kori Martinez & Bryce Wilkerson

Winters Secondary School G/T nominations due by March 28

by Charles Murphy, Secondary School Counselor

The Texas State plan for the education of Gifted/Talented students requires that school districts provide services to students identified in one or more of the following academic areas: Math, Science, Social Studies, and Language Arts.

Due to this State requirement, Winters Junior High and High School will assess all nominated seventh through eleventh grade students. This assessment will occur in the spring of the school year.

If you believe your child might benefit from a Gifted/Talented program in one or

more of these academic areas, we welcome your nomination.

The identification process includes a parent nomination, a teacher nomination, a general intellectual abilities test, and an achievement test. Nomination does not necessarily mean acceptance into the program; however, it will initiate the identification process.

Nomination forms must be completed and returned to the counseling office by Friday, March 28. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Charles Murphy at 754-5516.

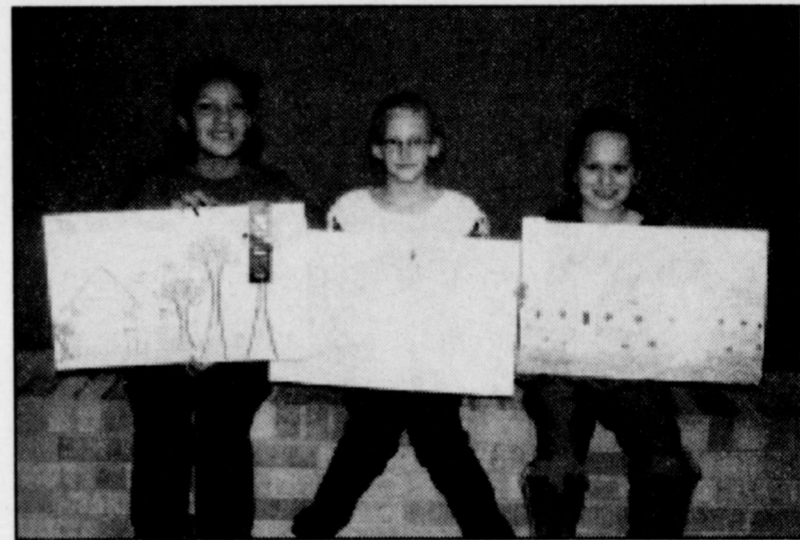
Runnels SWCD announces poster winners

Each year, the Runnels Soil & Water Conservation District (Runnels SWCD) is proud to sponsor the Conservation Poster and Essay Contest for area students. The themes for the poster contest were "The Gift of Trees" and "Food for the Future". In all 191 conservation posters were received from students in the Ballinger, Winters, Olfen and Miles school districts. Winters Elementary fourth grader Ashley DelaCruz placed third overall in the contest.

Ribbons were awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each grade level at each school district. Other deserving posters were given Honorable Mention ribbons. In addition, posters from each grade level from all the schools were combined and judged to select the overall district winners.

Cash awards of \$25, \$15, and \$10 respectively were presented by the Runnels SWCD to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place overall district winners. Also, the 1st place overall district winner, Deborah Gutierrez, a Miles fourth grader, will represent the Runnels SWCD at the Area Awards Banquet to be held in March. At the banquet Deborah will receive an engraved plaque signifying her accomplishments in conservation education. This winning poster will be forwarded to compete in regional competition.

This year the Runnels SWCD honored the teacher of the student with the winning poster, Mrs. Linda Day, a fourth grade teacher from Miles, with a \$25.00 gift certificate.



FOURTH GRADE WINNERS at Winters Elementary in the Runnels County SWCD poster contest were (l-r) Ashley DelaCruz, first and third overall; Zannie Slimp, second; and Haley Kaczyk, third.



WINTERS ELEMENTARY sixth graders placing in the RCSWCD poster contest were (l-r) Brandi Hill, second; and Sandy Esquivel, third. Aaron Rodriguez, first, is not pictured.

In the Essay Contest, Clayton Binder, of Miles High School, was the first place winner and will represent the Runnels SWCD at the Area Awards Banquet to be held in March. Clayton will receive an engraved-plaque signifying his accomplishments in conservation education. His winning

essay will be forwarded to compete in regional competition.

The Runnels SWCD would like to thank the many administrators, teachers and students who helped make this year's poster and essay contest educational and fun for all those who took part.

Winters ISD announces these dates-to-remember

Parents of Winters ISD students and community members will want to mark their calendars for the following dates:

CHEERLEADER TRYOUTS—Monday March 3, High School @ 12:45 p.m. followed by Junior High, WHS Gym;

ALL-BAND SPRING CONCERT—Tuesday, March 4 @ 7 p.m. in the WHS Auditorium;

3RD NINE WEEKS FINAL EXAMS—Wednesday, March 5 during 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 7th periods. **Thursday, March 6** during 2nd, 4th, 6th, and 8th periods. Secondary Schools only.

VARSITY BASEBALL—will not play in the Grape Creek Tournament on March 6-8, but will play in the Rockfield Tourney at Hamlin instead;

BREEZES RELAYS—Friday, March 7 @ Winters Track Complex; 3:30 p.m. Field Events, 4:30 p.m. 2400M Run, 5:30 p.m. Running Finals;

BLIZZARD RELAYS—Saturday, March 8 @ Winters Track Complex; 8 a.m. Scratch Meeting, 9 a.m. Field Events, 11 a.m. 3200M Run followed by Running Prelims, Running Finals are one hour after Running Prelims end;

SPRING BREAK—March 10-14, Classes resume @ 8 a.m. on Monday, March 17.

Softball Scoreboard

Team: Lady Blizzards
Coach: Edward Poehls, Becky Airhart
Date & place of game:
Feb. 22, 2003—Sweetwater Classic
Opponent: Sweetwater
Winning pitcher:
Losing pitcher: Jackie Ledbetter
Winning catcher:
Losing catcher: Rachel Davis

	Runs	Hits	Errors
WINTERS	9	8	5
OPPONENT	12	4	4

Do it big, do it right,
and do it with style.
—Fred Astaire

Team: Lady Blizzards
Coach: Edward Poehls, Becky Airhart
Date & place of game:
Feb. 22, 2003—Sweetwater Classic
Opponent: Colorado City
Winning pitcher: Jackie Ledbetter
Losing pitcher:
Winning catcher: Amber Green
Losing catcher:

	Runs	Hits	Errors
WINTERS	15	12	0
OPPONENT	0	0	3

Team: Lady Blizzards
Coach: Edward Poehls, Becky Airhart
Date & place of game:
Feb. 22, 2003—Sweetwater Classic
Opponent: Colorado City
Winning pitcher: Jackie Ledbetter
Losing pitcher:
Winning catcher: Amber Green
Losing catcher:

	Runs	Hits	Errors
WINTERS	7	10	4
OPPONENT	6	8	2

4TH SIX WEEKS ELEMENTARY HONOR ROLL & PRIMARY GRADE PARADE

Winters Independent School District 2002-2003

FIRST GRADE

Ty Black
Lauren Bredemeyer
Missy Calcote
Destiny Chavis
Alanna Cooper
Destiny Doty
Kaly Drake
Christopher Gerhart
Katie Gray
Austen Green
Kara Heathcott
Kara Kraatz
Jonathan Lambert
Katie Lara
Corey Pritchard
Jaymee Pritchard
Audrie Reyes
Emily Reyes
Taylor Riffe
Vanessa Sanchez
Zachary Schwartz
Iesha Tamez
Tamron Tamez
Justin Ventress
James Wilkerson
Sierra Woffenden

SECOND GRADE

Michael Alatorre
Zachary Benivamondez
Jordan Busher
Ashley Doty
Junior Espino
Kolton Garcia
Lane Gibbs
Brittany Gray
Teri Hagle
Lupe Hernandez
McKenzie Hooper
Justice Hubbard
Hannah Johnson

Amanda Lambert
Anthony Lara
Heather Lincoln
Katelyn Lindley
Ryan Luera
Veronica Luera
Daisy Martinez
Elisha Mata
Tanner Mayo
Bryce Mikeska
Sabrina Oswalt
Joanna Perez
Nicolas Perez
Alicia Reyes
Nathan Rodriguez
Andrew Silva
Shelly Soto
Haley Stewart
Edmund Tamez
Darian Tanner
Hannah Wade
Randa Watson
Billy Weatherford
Megann Willborn

THIRD GRADE

"A"
Nikolas Kraatz
Michelle Kruse
Caitlyn Kurtz
Camille Kurtz
Sarah Lara
Archie Mills
Riley Ripley
Sterling Sanders
Madelyn Tounget

FOURTH GRADE

"A"
Kelton Bredemeyer
Sarah Campos
Lisa Dees
Shelby Gehrels
Haley Kaczyk

FIFTH GRADE

"A"
Hayden Bergman
Chelsy Lipsey

SIXTH GRADE

"A-B"
Sybil Bridgeman
Justin Childers
Jacie Frierson
Kevin Jackson
Shelby Knight
Braden Mikeska
Ronak Patel
Coltyn Pritchard
Rosie Ramirez
Devon Rodriguez
Manuel Roman
Nicky Sanders
A.J. Tamez

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after 8 PM 754-4971

Life

McGallian & Ditmore plan June 28 wedding in Abilene

Don & Cindy McGallian of Abilene are proud to announce the engagement of their son, Justin Craig McGallian, to Courtney Paige Ditmore, daughter of William Ditmore of Abilene.

The couple will be married on Saturday, June 28, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. at The Grace Museum in Abilene.

The bride-elect is a 2002 graduate of Wylie High School and is currently employed with Continual Oil & Gas Inc.

The future bridegroom is a 2002 graduate of Wylie High School.



Justin Craig McGallian & Courtney Paige Ditmore

RURAL RIDES, continued

Coleman. The CTRTD provides services in Brown, Callahan, Coleman, Comanche, Eastland, Runnels, Shackelford, and Stephens counties.

"This is a serious and critical situation for all transit agencies," said Salazar. "City and Rural Rides has attempted to absorb previous cuts in state funding, but cannot afford to continue to do so."

According to Salazar, the result of additional state funding cuts will force CARR to reduce service levels, reduce staff, and increase fare cost to local passengers in an attempt to maintain some form of transit service.

"We are extremely concerned about the potential loss of rural public transportation funding," said Salazar. "Many of our riders do not have another transportation source."

Salazar said 41 rural and 28 small city transit agencies are supported through state funds.

At present, CTRTD of Coleman has 30 drivers. According

to local Winters driver Bob Jones, these drivers covered about 833,000 miles from September, 2001, to August, 2002. The other driver from Winters is Shirley Minzen-mayer, who is the main driver for the Headstart Program.

Jones said most of the Winters driving is either to Abilene or San Angelo, primarily for medical appointments, but shopping trips are frequently requested.

"With the lack of taxi service in town, we're the next best thing," said Jones. "Most of our passengers are elderly or disabled but we'll take anybody if we're able to, time-wise and service-wise. We service 'demand response', door-to-door for a nominal fee."

He added that the drivers are not allowed to pick up passengers in Abilene or San Angelo because those cities have their own transit systems.

Howard Childress, Chairperson of the CTRTD Board of Directors, stated, "We need support from rural community partners and from our riders to



Steve Esquivel & Rochelle Belew

Steve Esquivel and Rochelle Belew to wed March 14

Rochelle Nicole Belew of Sweetwater and Steve Esquivel of Winters are pleased to announce their engagement. Rochelle is the daughter of Mike & Gail Redden of Abilene and Steve is the son of Sal & Beatriz Esquivel of Winters.

The couple will be married

on Friday, March 14, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Winters.

The bride-elect is a 1983 graduate of Sweetwater High School and a 1984 graduate of Texas State Technical College of Sweetwater as an LVN with an Associates Degree. She is currently employed with R.L. Adkins Corp. of Sweetwater.

The future bride-groom is a 1976 graduate of Winters High School. He attended Texas Tech University where he received a BBA in Finance in 1981 and a BBA in Accounting in 1982. He also a 1989 graduate of the University of Texas at Arlington with an MBA in accounting. Steve is currently employed with the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts as a Senior Tax Auditor.

ensure our ability to continue to provide much needed service to the residents (of these counties)."

Childress is asking for help from community members by contacting the proper state legislators to support this transit program.

Some suggestions from Childress include the following:

- Use a real life story. Be honest and personalize your needs for public transportation in our area.
- Explain what will happen if service has to be cut in your area.
- Keep your letter simple, limited to one page, and avoid jargon.
- After you write a letter, follow-up with a phone call to a legislator. There is a chance you will be speaking with a member of the legislator's staff. Remember they have the ear of the legislator and they are an important part of the process. Treat them with respect and always thank them for their time.

Blessed Daze

by Jean Boles

I 'long' to see you—

Well, it happened. For some strange reason, I thought I had tricked Father Time. But apparently Mother Nature won out and put me in the "How Did My Arms Get Too Short" club.

I remember watching older folks (and I use that term now with the utmost respect) hold their reading material at arm's length, straining to get some unnatural extension on their fingertips while squinting to see the small, and not so small, print.

I had read this affliction occurs around age 40-45, and since I have skipped right past that age by just a year or six without the need for reading glasses, I thought, "Ah Ha! I'm not going to need reading glasses after all."

What's that saying about "Pride goeth before the fall?"

Somehow, it seems like just overnight, my arms got way too short for my eyes to focus.

How does that work?

Being just a bit on the vain side, I tried to be cool about being "blind." When eating at a restaurant, I'd read the menu of the person sitting across from me. This was a little tricky when I had to ask them to turn the page — especially when it was a person in the next booth and I didn't even know them.

I also resorted to just staring at stuff I was handed to read, pretending I could see it and then saying, "Hmmm. What do you think about this?"

I've worn contact lenses for about a hundred years and never had any problems. Until now. Since I was not quite ready for the school-marm-glasses-on-the-end-of-my-nose-look, my eye doctor suggested I try wearing one contact lens for near vision and one lens for far vision.

That sounded like a good idea to me and I'm pretty much willing to try new things. Besides, how difficult could this be to adjust.

Plenty difficult.

I found myself looking at people with one eye (my eye, not people who have one eye), then snapping my head sorta sideways to try to use the other eye. I looked like I was always shaking my head "no" and even felt the need to take Dramamine if I were in a crowd of people. Not a pretty sight (sorry for the pun).

Basically, I became pitiful. So I swallowed my pride and took the plunge into the world of bifocals. Not just ordinary bifocals. I got the no-line kind that make you tilt your head up and down like one of those bobbing dogs in the back window of a car. The eye doctor instructed me to learn to "look with my nose." I laughed. That just sounded funny to me but, lo and behold, it worked. Peripheral vision is tricky and reminds me of those funhouse mirrors at the fair. So I'm learning to do the "nose looking" thing while I wear my bifocals.

Problem solved, right? Oh no. Things are never that simple.

You see, I still prefer to wear contact lenses for distance correction. But if I have my contacts on, I have to wear reading glasses for close vision. If I don't have any glasses or contacts on, I can read just fine but can't see ten feet away. On lazy days, I just wear the bifocals and do the head nod thing.

And my sweet hubby is in the same boat, rowing blindly.

Thus, my backpack. I've decided I need to carry my bifocal glasses and the clip-on sunglasses, my contact lenses plus reading glasses, plain sunglasses to wear with my contacts, and now I have sunglasses that have a correction bifocal part just for reading.

Whew! With my luck (and age), I'll throw my back out from carrying the heavy load of glasses. Oh well, I guess we'll SEE what happens.

Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Let the day's own trouble be sufficient for the day. —Matthew 6:34

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<p>2003 AVALANCHE</p> <p>SAVE \$7,000</p>  <p>Six #287</p> <p>5300 V-8 AUTO, P/W, P/L, AM/FM, CD, KEYLESS REMOTE, POWER SEAT</p> <p>MSRP \$31,920 DEALER DISC. \$3,000 REBATE \$4,000</p> <p>\$24,920 +TT&L</p>	<p>2003 CAVALIER 2-DOOR</p> <p>\$229 MONTH</p>  <p>Six #219</p> <p>AC, CRUISE, TILT, AUTO, CD, REAR SPOILER</p> <p>AMT FINANCED 72 MOS. @ 1.9% +TTL, W.A.C.</p> <p>\$15,571.27</p>
<p>2003 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN</p> <p>2.9% FOR 60 MO.</p>  <p>Six #460</p> <p>MSRP \$37,470 DEALER DISC. \$3,750 REBATE \$2,500</p> <p>\$31,220 +TT&L</p>	<p>2003 S-10 REG. CAB</p> <p>\$219 MONTH</p>  <p>Six #526</p> <p>AC, AM/FM, 5-SPEED, 4-CYLINDER</p> <p>AMT FINANCED 72 MOS. @ 1.9% +TTL, W.A.C.</p> <p>\$14,891.30</p>
<p>2003 1/2 TON EXT. CAB L/S</p> <p>SAVE \$5,700</p>  <p>Six #613</p> <p>V-8, AUTO, ALUM. WHEELS, WOL. TIRES, P/W, P/L, KEYLESS REMOTE, AM/FM, CD & CASS.</p> <p>MSRP \$27,627 DEALER DISC. \$2,700 REBATE \$3,000</p> <p>\$21,927 +TT&L</p>	<p>2003 CHEVY IMPALA</p> <p>\$18,647</p>  <p>Six #999</p> <p>PS, CUSTOM TRIM, CD</p> <p>MSRP \$22,961 DEALER DISC. \$1,314 REBATE \$3,000</p> <p>\$18,647 +TT&L</p>

USED CAR

'02 BUICK CENTURY, 29k miles	\$12,275	'00 CHEVY 1/2 TON EXT. CAB LS, 56k miles	\$15,900
'01 CHEVY MALIBU, 22k miles	\$10,500	'00 CHEVY Z71 EXT. CAB, 47k miles	\$19,950
'01 CHEVY LUMINA (2)	\$9,550	'99 CHEVY LUMINA, local trade	\$8,500
'01 OLDS ALERO, 30k miles	\$10,500	'99 TOYOTA COROLLA	\$8,995
'01 CHEVY CAVALIER	\$8,995	'98 HONDA ACCORD, loaded, 43k miles	\$13,995
'00 OLDS BRAVADO, leather, 55k miles	\$15,900	'97 FORD MUSTANG, extra clean, 57k miles	\$7,995
		'96 CHEVY S-10 EXT. CAB V-6, auto, loaded, 62k	\$7,995

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(photo by Randall Boles)

CHARLES BAHLMAN, President of the Winters Industrial Board, accepts a Certificate of Recognition from Geoffrey Connor, Assistant Secretary of State, during Texas Midwest Day in Austin on Feb. 19. Connor is a 1981 graduate of Winters High School.



(photo by Randall Boles)

FORMER WINTERS RESIDENTS now living in Austin joined the Winters group for a special evening of visitation and barbeque at the Texas Midwest Day. Left to right are Geoffrey Connor, Susan White, Mike Magee, Shirley Heath Kivell, Bill Little, Sylvia Moore, James Hardy Bryan, Judy Smith Daugherty, Thomas Chapmond, and Sean Byrne.

TEXAS MIDWEST, continued

tant Athletics Director at the University of Texas; Mr. Thomas Chapmond (WHS '70), Executive Director of the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services, and Mr. Geoffrey Connor (WHS '81), Assistant Secretary of State, were honored and presented with a framed picture depicting Winters landmarks. Former Representatives Jim Keffer and Bob Turner were also presented pictures.

Senator Robert Duncan and Representative Harvey Hilderbran were recognized as the current representatives for

Winters. Most of the Winters group toured the Bob Bullock Texas State Museum on Thursday, then returned home that afternoon.

The Winters delegation included George Mostad, Lanny Bahlman, Sharon Kennedy, Rick Rickard, Randall Conner, Hank and Jane Bourdo, Charles and Jeanie Bahlman, Bobby and Dolly Airhart, Betty John Byrns, Ouida Nichols, Selma Dietz, Bob and Barbara Jones, Randall Boles, Theresa Patterson, Aref

Hassan, Dawson McGuffin, Jimmy Butler, Wes Hays, Jr., Steve Esquivel, Tommy and Marthiel Russell, and Marlene Smith. Tony and Renee Williams from Coleman also attended.

Attending the meal in addition to the honorees were Gail Chapmond, James Hardy Bryan, Nicki Harle, Lori Dodd, Sylvia Moore, Judy Fort, Shirley Heath Kivell, Susan White, Mike Magee, Judy Smith Daugherty, Sean Byrne, Kingsbery Otto, and several legislative staff members.



(photo by Randall Boles)

GOVERNOR RICK PERRY (center) visits with Marthiel Russell of Winters during the Texas Midwest Day in Austin. Also pictured are Geoffrey Connor (top, left), former Winters resident and now Assistant Secretary of State, and Bob Jones (far right with beard), pastor of Winters Assembly of God and a driver for the City and Rural Rides. Jones and other members of the Winters group addressed the governor and other legislators with concerns of budget cuts which will affect Winters and other small, rural communities.

GRANT CUTBACKS, continued

alone, \$870,109,000 went to school districts; \$49,861 to libraries; and \$990,000 to hospitals. The City of Miles received a Community Network grant of \$525,000 to aid the entire community.

He said the grant cutbacks will not affect Winters schools this year, but may cause problems next year.

"We've got a Special Project Grant in effect right now and we will still get that money as we close out that grant which goes through April 30," said Butler. "We'll still receive that money but as it stands right now, there will be no future grants."

This Special Project Grant is being used for staff development and purchasing software, a new file server for the

junior high, and a mobile cart with a computer and large screen monitor to be used in various classrooms. The school has also bought a high speed switch which sped up the network in the junior high.

When asked what options are available to compensate for the missing TIF money, Butler said, "With the current budget crunch we just won't be able to do anything further."

Rick Rickard, Administrator at North Rannels Hospital, said the grant money (approximately \$350,000-\$400,000) allowed the hospital to purchase eight computers and monitors and connect to high speed internet for two years. This enabled the hospital to send x-rays via internet.

"This was the only way the hospital had of getting this type of equipment," said Rickard. "We didn't have and won't have the funds to replace this equipment."

Rickard said his understanding is the state wants to cap the funds, not take it all away.

"We urge the people in power to leave the grants alone because this not only impacts the hospitals but schools and other institutions," he said.

"The purpose of this money was to get internet to rural areas and it has done so. But the funding needs to continue because, in essence, it will fall apart with the grant money. Local communities simply don't have funds to maintain these services without this state relief."

NR WATER SUPPLY, continued

install new pumps, a new 4000-gallon pressure tank, a new standpipe and pump station, and two-inline pressure booster stations. Population served by this project is 850 meters (approximately 2,500 individuals), according to Daniel.

In 1998, NRWSC asked for feedback from its customers as well as receiving requests from area residents asking for water. Wheels were set in motion for NRWSC to apply for grant and loan monies. Funds for this project 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.

"We received one of the highest grant percentages in the Big Country area," said England. "Seventy-one percent of this project was funded through grant money, and we're very thankful."

"I know it seems like a long time since we started (the project) in 1998, but we're very much on schedule," said England. "These things just take time."

England also added that the funds received on Feb. 20, are just another step in the process.

"Things are progressing very well as far as obtaining all the easements," he said. "After the final engineering plans are complete, we'll be ready to close the loan and start the project. This is especially good news in light of the serious

drought of the past two years. Some folks who have had water for years and years have been without (water), so we're anxious to help everyone we can."

The area covered by NRWSC extends from Ballinger to Pumphrey to north of Bradshaw, past Shep, to Wilmeth and Norton, and to

Crews — almost to the Coleman County line.

Present for the February 20 ceremony were other NRWSC employees Keith Martin, Manager, Lewis Wade, Field Employee, Brenda Anderson, Secretary, and Rhonda Cook, Project Coordinator; England and Butler.

War, Terrorism and Your Investments

Edward Jones is pleased to welcome highly-decorated, four-star **Army General Barry McCaffrey** (retired) for an in-depth conversation on war and terrorism.



Please join us as General McCaffrey and our panel of financial experts explore:

- What's next for America's military forces?
- Our nation's progress toward homeland security
- Should war impact your investment decisions?

This free one-hour program is part of the Edward Jones "Face to Face" investor-education series. To reserve your seat or for more information, please call or stop by today.

Tuesday, March 11, 2003
5:30 p.m.
719 Strong Ave.
Ballinger, TX 76821

Jim Woodruff
719 Strong Ave.
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We didn't feel we needed to write anything else down here, but a lot of people like to look at the really fine print. So, we thought this would be a good place to remind you that the 4.00% interest rate is not just the introductory rate for one year, but that 4.00% is guaranteed to be the minimum possible interest credited to your account as your interest income for the rest of your life. Also don't forget that your money is insured, and your money is guaranteed by Western United Life Assurance Company.

Law & Order

Official Records

County Court Dispositions

Guadalupe P. Lopez, theft of food by check, pleaded nolo contendere, fined \$100, plus \$211 court costs, \$602.11 restitution and \$123 hot check fees

Lisa M. Vandevanter, theft of service, case dismissed, another defendant accepted responsibility in the case

Shane T. Vandevanter, theft of service, pleaded nolo contendere, fined \$100, plus \$211 court costs and \$281.91 restitution

Kimberly Yvette Nolan vs. William Roger Nolan, Jr., temporary protective order granted until March 10

Darlene Marcia Ortiz, driving while intoxicated, case dismissed, defendant convicted in another case

William D. Shore, theft of

merchandise by check, pleaded nolo contendere, fined \$100, plus \$211 court costs, \$38.67 restitution, and \$25 hot check fees

Steven Flournoy, Jr., driving while license invalid, case dismissed, insufficient evidence

David Tucker Ferguson, terrorist threat, case dismissed, defendant convicted in another case

Criminal Cases Filed February 14

Danielle Collins, filed for theft (appeal from Justice of the Peace Court No. 1)

Anthony Rodriguez, filed for driving while intoxicated

February 18

Melissa Medina, filed for assault

February 20

Jeffrey Anthony Willborn, filed on two counts, for driving while intoxicated and for resisting arrest

Benny Ray Renfro, filed for failure to appear

Tony Joe Perez, filed for failure to appear

Elsa Ann Hegedio, filed for failure to appear

Ernest Bishop, filed for failure to appear

Juan Ramon Ponce, filed for driving while license invalid

Sandra Jean Salinas, filed for criminal mischief

Civil Cases Filed February 18

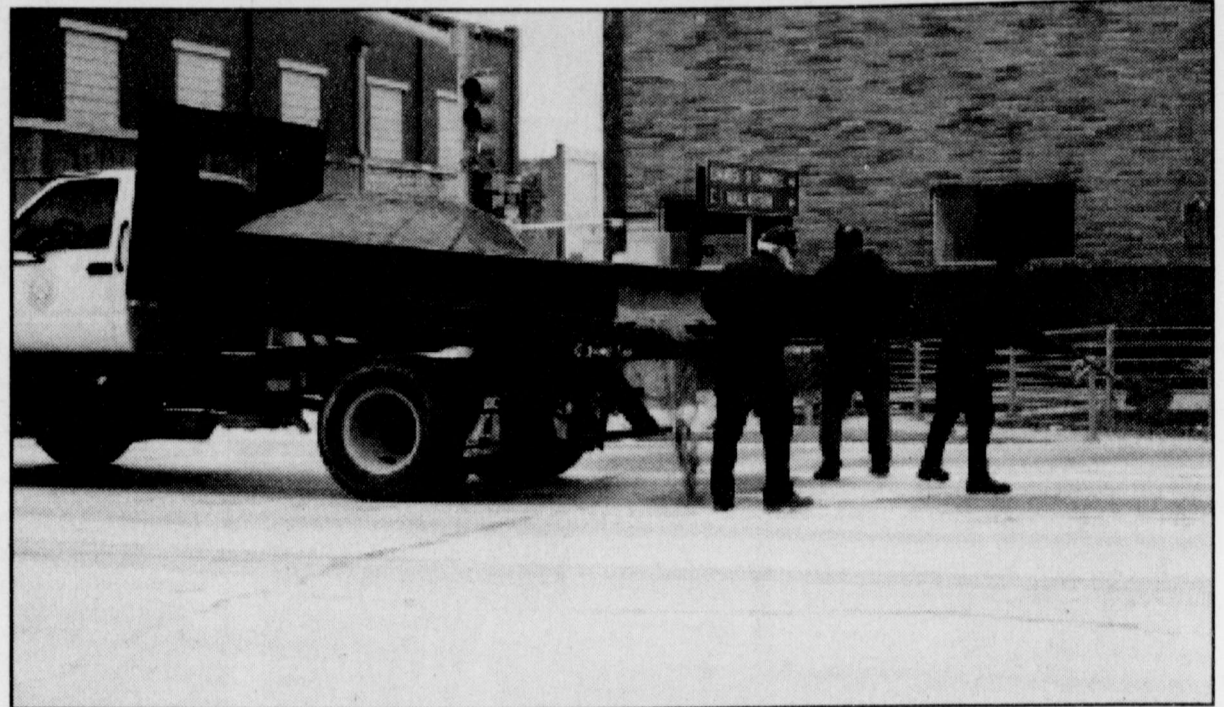
Kimberly Yvette Nolan vs. William Roger Nolan, Jr., application for a protective order

District Court Divorce Cases Filed February 17

Howard Vernon Hoelscher vs. Rebecca K. Cole Hoelscher

February 18

Carl Lynn Squires, Sr., vs. Prula Kay Squires



JOHNNY-ON-THE-SPOT are (l-r) Pete Gray, Charlie Grenwelge and Felix Gonzales as they rush to distribute sand at the intersection of Main and Dale Monday afternoon. Temperatures plummeted into the teens with sleet and snow falling throughout the day.

Senator Duncan files legislation to establish a state commission on building standards

Sen. Robert Duncan, R-Lubbock, has filed Senate Bill 383 to establish a state commission on building standards that will benefit both homebuyers and homebuilders.

The Texas Residential Construction Commission will be a self-funded agency created to settle disputes between homebuyers and homebuilders, as well as adopt standards for residential construction. The nine-member state commission, composed of industry and public members, would effectively regulate how homes are built and then hold those who build the homes accountable for their work. The resolution process would settle disputes without the need for expensive and time-consuming litigation.

SB 383 will provide enormous benefit to Texans. The bill provides uniformity in residential construction in two ways: 1) by adopting building standards that will provide objectivity in solving problems

and 2) by resolving disputes between the homeowners and homebuilders. Duncan said, "This process should be an efficient and objective evaluation of disputes — a reasonable way to avoid the pain and expense of litigation."

Duncan said the uniform standards for every residential building construction should help minimize or end mold problems, as well as placing more accountability in the homebuilder and homebuyer relationship.

Hilderbran files bill to consolidate election dates & locations

Representative Harvey Hilderbran, R-Kerrville, has filed House Bill 714 which will consolidate election dates and locations.

Under House Bill 714, the Election Code is amended so that each general and special election in the state are held on either the second Tuesday in March or the second Tuesday in November. Under current law, elections may be held on four dates: the second Tuesday in March, the first Saturday in May, the second Saturday in September or the second Tuesday in November. House Bill 714 eliminates two of those dates as options for

cities, school boards and water districts.

"Consolidating election dates will not only save the state money, but it will also help to increase voter participation in lower profile elections," Representative Hilderbran said.

House Bill 714 also requires all political subdivisions to hold elections in the same polling locations as used for the general or primary elections. Exceptions to the consolidated election dates include runoff elections, elections to resolve a tie vote and emergency elections granted by the governor or those to fill a vacancy in the legislature.

Congressman Stenholm announces bill intended to improve patient access to care by reducing malpractice costs

Congressman Charlie Stenholm joined in announcing a bill intended to improve patient access to care by holding down malpractice costs incurred by physicians across the country. Stenholm is an original co-sponsor of the bill, H.R. 5, referred to as the HEALTH (Help Efficient Accessible, Low-Cost, Timely Health Care) Act.

"West Texans are faced with rising health insurance costs and fewer physicians to provide their care. Reforming the medical liability system is one part of the solution to those problems," Stenholm noted.

The HEALTH Act safeguards patients' access to care through the following common sense reforms:

- Limiting the number of years a plaintiff has to file a healthcare liability action to ensure that claims are brought while evidence and witnesses are available.
- Allocating damages fairly, in proportion to a party's degree of fault.
- Allowing patients to recover for economic damages such as future medical expenses and loss of future earnings while establishing a cap on non-economic damages, such as pain and suffering, of \$250,000.

Placing reasonable limits on punitive damages to be the greater of two times the amount of economic damages awarded or \$250,000.

The HEALTH Act was deemed a priority of President Bush's in his State of the Union address. Last year, the HEALTH Act (H.R. 4600) passed the House on September 26, 2002 by a vote of 217-203 but was not taken up by the Senate.

Stenholm emphasized the importance of working within the legislative process to ensure success in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. "I'm not interested in a political issue; I am interested in a solution that protects patients across the country. That's why I think this bill is a good starting point and I hope that the House Leadership will keep an eye out for ways to get malpractice reform signed into law as we deal with the other body."

According to the Texas Medical Association, increases in physician malpractice insurance rates in 2002 ranged from 30% to 200%. Specialists and physicians deemed to practice in high-risk settings often pay the highest insurance

premium. In Texas, obstetricians/gynecologists and surgeons routinely pay more than \$100,000 a year for \$1,000,000 coverage. Some are paying more than \$200,000.

"Understandably, a physician facing these premiums is more likely to practice defensive medicine, order extra tests and use only procedures that limit risk," Stenholm commented. "Unfortunately, it is the health care consumer who ultimately bears this extra financial burden."

Many advocacy groups representing the country's physicians, hospitals and patients have come forward to support this legislation, including the American Medical Association, American Hospital Association, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American Osteopathic Association, American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, Health Care Liability Alliance and the National Medical Liability Reform Coalition.

"This bill alone will not resolve our health care cost or access challenges but it is one part of the solution and will help stabilize the nation's shaky medical liability system," Stenholm concluded.

Public Notice

NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION (AVISO DE ELECCION GENERAL)

To the Registered Voters of the City of Winters, Texas:

(A los votantes registrados del Ciudad de Winters, Texas):

Notice is hereby given that the polling places listed below will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., on May 3, 2003, for voting in a general election to elect Mayor, City Council Members for Districts 1 and 3 of the City of Winters. (Notifiquese, por las presente, que las casillas electorales sitados abajo se abrirán desde las 7:00 a.m. hasta las 7:00 p.m. el 3rd de mayo de 2003 para votar en la Elección General para elegir ciudad concejal para zona 1 y 3 y mayor.)

LOCATION OF POLLING PLACES (DIRECCION(ES) DE LAS CASILLAS ELECTORALES)

Winters Elementary School
Library
702 N. Heights
Winters, Texas

Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted each weekday at (la votación adelantada en persona se llevará a cabo de lunes a viernes en) Winters City Hall, 310 S. Main, City Secretary's Office (sitio) between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. beginning on April 16, 2003 (entre las 8:00 de la mañana y las 12:30 de la tarde empezando y 1:30 and 4 de la tarde empezando el 16 de abril, 2002) and ending on April 29, 2003 (y terminado el 29 de abril, 2003). Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to: (las solicitudes para boletas que se votarán en ausencia por correo deberán enviarse a:) Aref Hassan, 310 S. Main (dirección), Winters, Texas 79567 (ciudad, zona postal).

Applications for ballot by mail must be received no later than the close of business on (Las solicitudes para boletas que se votarán en ausencia por correo deberán recibirse para el fin de las horas de negocio el) April 25, 2003 (25 de abril de 2003).

Issued this the 27th day of January, 2003 (Emitida este día 8th de enero, 2003).

Dawson McGuffin, Mayor (firma del Alcalde). 14-9(2tc)

NOTICE OF GAS RATE INCREASE REQUEST

TXU Gas Distribution (the "Company"), in accordance with the Gas Utility Regulatory Act, hereby gives notice of its intent to implement a new schedule of rates for natural gas service to be charged to all residential, commercial and industrial customers in the unincorporated areas in the vicinity of the West Region Distribution System ("Enviros Customers"). The West Region Distribution System includes the following cities: Abilene, Albany, Alvarado, Anson, Avoca, Baird, Ballinger, Bangs, Benjamin, Blackwell, Blanket, Blum, Bronte, Brownwood, Buffalo Gap, Carbon, Carlsbad, Cisco, Cleburne, Clyde, Coleman, Colorado City, Comanche, Covington, DeLeon, Desdemona, Dublin, Early, Eastland, Glen Rose, Godley, Gordon, Goree, Gorman, Granbury, Hamlin, Haskell, Hawley, Hermleigh, Hillsboro, Impact, Itasca, Joshua, Keene, Knox City, Lawn, Lipan, Loraine, Lueders, May, McCauley, Meridian, Merkel, Miles, Moran, Morgan, Munday, Novice, O'Brien, Olden, Osceola, Ovalo, Putnam, Ranger, Red Springs, Rhineland, Rio Vista, Robert Lee, Roby, Rochester, Roscoe, Rotan, Rowena, Rule, San Angelo, Santa Anna, Santo, Seymour, Snyder, Stamford, Stephenville, Strawn, Sweetwater, Sylvester, Talpa, Throckmorton, Trent, Truscott, Tuscola, Tye, Valera, Vera, Weinert, Whitney, Wingate, and Winters.

The proposed revisions to the respective rate schedules will impact Residential Service, Commercial Service, Industrial Sales, Industrial Transportation, Rate Adjustment Provisions (Gas Cost Adjustment, Tax Adjustment, and Surcharges), and Miscellaneous Service Charges (Connection Charge, Read for Change Charge, Returned Check Charges, Delinquent Notification Charge, Main Line Extension Rate, Excess Flow Valve Charge, and Certain Stand-by Gas Generators). The proposed new schedule of rates will also eliminate the Rate Schedule for Public Schools-N and Commercial Contract Public Schools Rate.

The proposed rates are expected to produce a \$357,845 or a 10.27 percent increase in the Company's annual revenues from residential, commercial and industrial customers in the West Region Distribution System. The proposed change will affect 3,494 residential, 475 commercial customers and 18 industrial customers. The proposed change may constitute a "major" change as that term is defined by Section 104.101 of the Texas Utilities Code. The proposed changes will have differing impacts on individual residential and commercial customers, depending on consumption and current applicable rate schedules. A residential customer receiving a bill for 6 Mcf will see a bill of approximately \$50.93, which would constitute a change ranging from a decrease of \$6.93 to an increase of approximately \$7.60 per month. A commercial customer receiving a bill for 30 Mcf will see a change ranging from a 14.71% decrease to a 15.39% increase. Information on the change in any specific area can be obtained from TXU Gas Distribution.

A complete copy of the Statement of Intent, filed with the Railroad Commission of Texas on January 31, 2003 is available for inspection in the Company business office located at 1601 Bryan St., Dallas, Texas 75201. Persons with questions or who want information about this filing, or a copy, may contact TXU Gas Distribution at 1-800-460-3030. Any affected persons may file written comments or protest concerning the proposed change in enviros rates by March 21, 2003, with Docket Services Section of the Legal Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711-2967.

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Presents

ACROSS

1 young fellas
5 "Welcome to Stanton, Home of 3,000 Friendly People And ___ Old Soreheads"
6 cows (archaic)
7 with 30-down, TXism for "good"
8 TXism: "stirred up"
17 Dallas ex-mayor Kirk
18 TXism: "___ duck in water"
21 care giver at Dallas Parkland (abbr.)
22 Texas ___ Univ.
23 Border Patrolters
24 TXism: "all ___ watermelon" (fake)
29 ___ is life"
30 hairless
31 "sudden death" for Cowboys (abbr.)
32 Globetrotter Lemon
34 assistant
35 anger
36 TXism for "amateur"
37 TXism: "he's holding all the ___"
38 TXism: "he could out run ___ legged bobcat"
39 outside suds area at New Braunfels Wurstfest (2 wds.)
41 TXism: "wouldn't hurt ___ (gentle dog)"
42 TXism: "take a ___ off" (sit)
43 ___ ville, TX

DOWN

1 State Park near Wichita Falls (2 wds.)
2 TXism: "jumped like ___"
3 city atop the "Golden Triangle"
4 Houston would not ___ allegiance to Confederacy
9 TXism: "the can stay neck ___ with a West Texas jackrabbit" (fast)
10 spice
11 non MWF class at 22-across

The Original TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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44 TXism: "knee high to ___ hopper" (short)
45 TXism: "I'll make your hair stand on ___"
46 birth mo. of TX Carol Burnett (abbr.)
47 "bye" so. of the border
48 one year old cow
50 TXism: "she could talk the legs off an iron ___"
51 TXism: "___ sheared like a spring lamb" (swindled)
52 TX "Spanky" TV show: "___ Gang"
53 Jim ___ Creek

12 TXism: "me casa es ___ casa"
13 Charlton Heston did these commercials (2 wds.)
14 ___ Pass, TX
15 snow slider
16 TXism: "___ his hide" (spank)
19 TX tales
20 TXism: "got a heart as big ___ (kind)"
22 shun (2 wds.)
24 this Vic was in "Roots" with TX Lynda Day George (init.)

25 that is (abbr.)
26 "Cat Ballou" singer ___ King Cole
27 fit to eat
28 TXism: "scarce as a honky tonk with ___"
29 drill instructor, familiarly

30 see 7-across
33 TX Kristofferson's "Why Me ___?"
34 did well on the exam
35 Padre Island 1st name: "Las Blancas"
37 worship or love
38 TXism: "nervous as ___ in a frying pan"
40 lassos
41 TXism for "against" obese TXns (2 wds.)
44 recommended for
47 in Wise Co. on 287
49 TXism: "rounder"

Solutions for this puzzle appear in this issue.

Classified Ads

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\$5.50 thereafter up to 20 words, 20¢ per word over 20 words

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General News/Display Ads
Noon Monday
Classified Ads
5 p.m. Monday

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LONESTAR ESTATES located on Hwy 83 north of downtown Winters. Beautiful 2BR with 2 Bath duplexes at affordable rates. Call **Joyce at 754-3331 today!** Ask about our move-in specials. **13-13(tfc)**

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ACE MINISTORAGE UNITS, boat and travel trailer storage. Contact Windmill Enterprises, 221 West Dale, 754-4542. **11-38(tfc)**

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WEST TEXAS CENTERS FOR MHMR has an opening for Mental Health Service Coordinator. Bachelor's degree in social, behavioral or human services. Salary \$26,832.00 annually plus \$7,500.00 benefit package. Hours 8-5 Mon-Fri. On call rotation. Applications may be obtained at 100 S. Main or by calling **JOBLINE (800) 687-2769**. www.wtcmhmr.org. EOE. **14-9(1tc)**

THE CITY OF WINTERS is accepting applications for Police Officer. TCLEOSE certified persons with a Basic Peace Officer License may obtain an application at City Hall, 310 S. Main, Winters, TX 79567, M-F, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., or by calling (915) 754-4424. Applications will be accepted until position is filled. **14-9(2tc)**

LVN'S, CNA'S, & A WEEKEND RN are needed at Heritage Oaks Estate. Contact Jenni at 2001 6th Street, Ballinger, or call (915) 365-5766. **14-9(2tc)**

Employment

Hiring CNAs
Full-time, part-time, and PRN
References required. Excellent pay and benefits. Options for advancements and wage increases through our career educational program. Apply in person to Pam or Sandra. Runnels County Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, 1800 N. Broadway, Ballinger, Texas 76821, 915-365-2538, EOE **13-**

Hiring RNs & LVNs
Full-time, part-time, and PRN and WEEKEND RN
for privately owned Nursing Home. References required. Excellent wages, 401K, fully paid health insurance (BCBS), paid holidays and vacation. Apply in person to Pam or Sandra. Runnels County Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, 1800 N. Broadway, Ballinger, Texas 76821, 915-365-2538, EOE **13-**

COLEMAN COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER is accepting applications for FULL-TIME, PART-TIME, and POOL registered nurses for the 7 p.m.-7 a.m. shift. Must be a graduate of an accredited school of nursing & currently licensed by the State of Texas. Full time positions will include benefits. For applications call (915) 625-2135, ext. 311. **13-**

WAITSTAFF NEEDED!!! Call 754-4155 or apply in person at Potbellies Restaurant, 135 N. Main, Winters.

WES • T • GO—Now hiring cashiers. Must be able to work days and some night shifts. Apply in person. 800 S. Main Street, Winters. **14-6(tfc)**

Real Estate

1105 CONCHO, 3 Bedroom, 2 bath home for sale. Approximately 1900 sq. feet. Carport with storage, storm shelter, and workshop (12ft. X 16ft.) with electricity. New floors in kitchen and bathroom. Large living room, den and dining room. Connected to city water and has great well in back for the lawn. \$63,000. Call 915-754-5433. **13-31(tfc)**

103S. PENNY LANE—Brick, 3 BR/2 BA, CH/A, basement, waterwell, storage shed, adjacent corner lot, and fenced backyard. 754-4981 after 5:30 p.m. **13-38(tfc)**

HOUSE FOR SALE—107 E. Trautt. Large living room/dining room combination, 2 large bedrooms, 1 bath. Completely remodeled inside. Garage, storage room, fenced yard. \$25,000. By appointment only. Call 754-4432. **14-6(4tc)**

Manufactured Homes

CUTE LITTLE HOUSE—Very affordable. Call 673-7353. **13-26(tfc)**

\$500 MOVE IN—Owner finance. Call Alex 725-1449. Habla Espanol. **13-26(tfc)**

BEAUTIFUL DOUBLEWIDE—Possible owner carry. Call Ron at 725-4133. **13-26(tfc)**

Lost & Found

LOST-3 LAB PUPPIES yellow and black. Last seen Monday, February 24, on Rodeo Road. Reward offered. Call 754-4081. **14-6(1tc)**

Special Services

WHY PAY FULL PRICE FOR ADDITIONAL PHONES when each extra phone service is only \$14.95 per phone, per month, and share those unused minutes. Angela at Ballinger Communications offers basic digital cellular for as little as \$21.95 per month for 70 free minutes. Agent for Mid-Tex Cellular, Ltd. 365-8910. **13-4(tfc/alt)**

DO YOU NEED AN ADDITIONAL PHONE for your children or your elderly parents? For \$14.95 per month with your existing Mid-Tex Cellular service extra phones are a reality, and use your excess minutes. Yes, we now have free phones! Call Ballinger Communications, agent for Mid-Tex Cellular, Ltd. 365-8910. **13-4(tfc/alt)**

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Competitive Rates
References Available
upon request.

Contact Audra
915-754-1181

For Sale

AMANA TOP FREEZER/REFRIGERATOR WITH ICE MAKER. Excellent condition. \$250.00. Please call 754-1782 for more information. **14-9(1tp)**

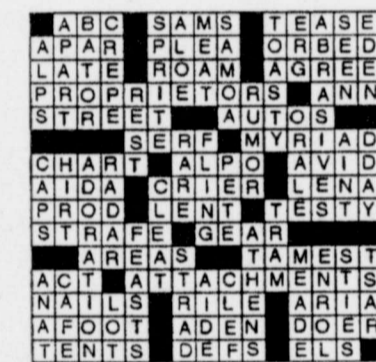
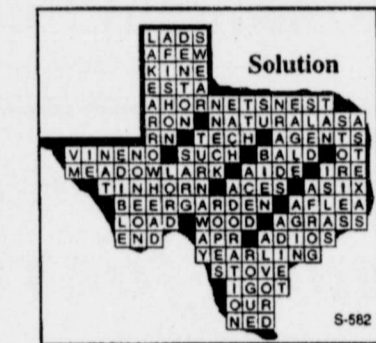
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Miscellaneous

DON'T FORGET to pick up your pictures or other related items that have been published in *The Enterprise!* **8-10(tfc)**

FREE-2 BLUE HEELER dogs approximately one year old. 754-5251 **14-9(tfc)**

BALLINGER, TEXAS LOOK FOR RAIN! Re-opening Elm Creek Flea Market. February 28, March 1 & 2, 401 Park Avenue. For more information call (915)365-6382 or (915) 365-2326. **14-8(2tc)**

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Cottonwood Real Estate
Mary Slimp, Broker

Call for Listings
Stephanie Pafford, agent 743-2170 mobile 660-9496
Monnie Davis, agent 754-5628 mobile 365-6404



208 Roberts—3B/1B, appliances included, lg. yard, big trees.

511 S. Magnolia—3B/2B w/formal living room & den, extra large corner lot, carport, large trees.

308 E. Pierce—Nice, new exterior, and at this price you can afford to fix up the inside anyway you like! 3B/1B. Nice neighborhood.

Fun, entertainment business in Winters—Miniature golf, batting cages, arcade, and concession stand. Water well. **PRICE REDUCED!**

11 Lots in Buffalo Gap—On Buffalo Run Street in the Oaks.

1145 W. Parsonage—2B/1-1/2B metal bldg. Great hunter's cabin. Can be moved. Reasonably priced with lots.

Charming country home five miles south of Winters—Two-story 2B/2B, 2 living areas, sunroom, C H/A, fully carpeted, fireplace with insert.

New Listing-215 Paloma—3B/2B, 2 living areas, fireplace, carport, nice neighborhood.

97 acres on Valley Creek & Fish Creek at Wingate. Excellent hunting. 40 acres CRP included.

New Listing-200 Paloma—2B/1B, fenced yard, corner lot.

516 Wood—Spacious 2B/1B with CHA & lots of storage, workshop, trailer garage, fenced yard, shade and fruit trees.

606 Wood—3B/1B w/enclosed garage/den, lg. yard w/metal storage bldg.

409 N. Heights—3B/2B, family room or 4th BR, lg. kitchen/dining, new C H/A, new hot water heater, new plumbing & insulation, new paint & carpet. Fenced yard. 20'x25' metal garage/shop.

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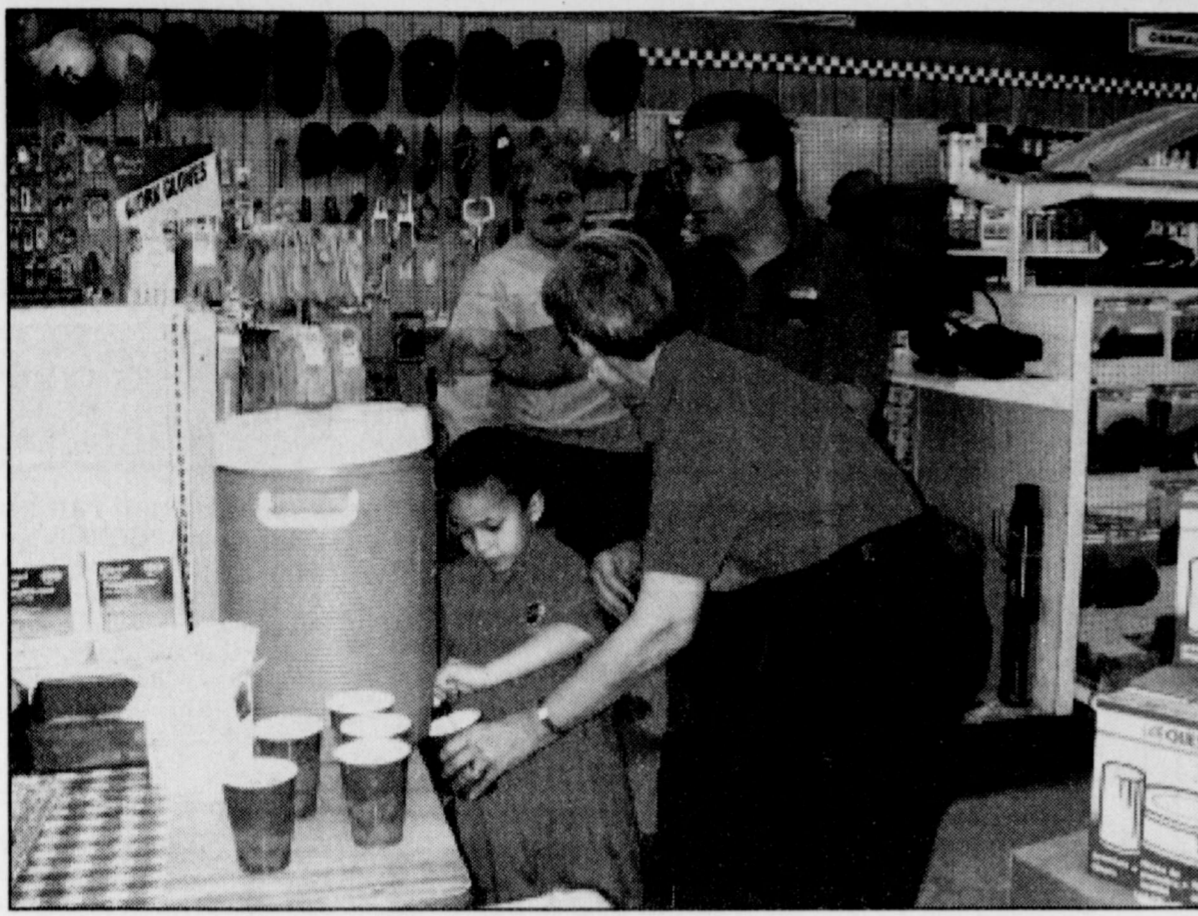
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412 Redtner • 2B/1B, corner lot, cellar & water well. \$15,000.
504 W. Dale • Newly remodeled, large open plan, 3B/2B bath. Must see to appreciate. \$40,000.

223 Circle Dr. • 4B/2-1/2B, lg. den w/cathedral ceiling, fireplace, greenhouse, storage room, & 3-car garage. Approx. 2400 sq. ft. \$65,000.
Out of City Limits • Country Charm close to town. Brick 3B/2B, double garage on .829-acre lot with large pecan trees. Approx. 1757 sq. ft. Workshop. \$105,000.
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Outdoors



DANIEL GERHART, age 5, helps his grandmother, Naomi Gerhart, and dad, Joe Gerhart, as the trio fill tea glasses during a busy Customer Appreciation Lunch and Open House at Milton's Auto Supply on Feb. 21. Eric Ray, in background, was one of 240 guests served during the celebration.

Texas Wheat Producers Association applauds passage of disaster assistance

When Congress passed the Omnibus Fiscal 2003 Appropriations bill late Thursday they included a much needed disaster assistance package for farmers. The package addresses the severe weather-related crisis that has gripped farm country across America for several years.

"Noting the key role played by Vice President Cheney in brokering the negotiations that allowed the disaster package to be included in the Omnibus Bill, the National Association of Wheat Growers President, Tommy Womack of Tullia, Texas said, "I want to thank the Vice President for taking a constructive interest in the farmers of the United States and we are grateful and pleased that our strong Congressional leadership in Washington, D.C. is helping us through this ongoing crisis."

The disaster proposal provides "such sums as are necessary" for producers who have suffered at least a 35% crop loss in either the 2001 or 2002 crop years, but not both. Payment may be received at a level

of up to 65% of their historic yield. Crop insurance payments received would be deducted from this amount as would the value of the crop that was not lost. Total payments would be limited to 95% of what the crop value would have been without the losses.

"We're headed for home after a long, hard fight for this assistance, and I'm real proud of our Texas association, as well as the agricultural disaster coalition that has made this a reality," added Womack. "The Texas Wheat Producers Association sent a delegation of wheat producers and a banker to Washington, D.C., the second week in January, and they left a lasting impression on our leaders. The farmers of Texas should be proud of the effort put forth by the

Texas Wheat Producers Association."

Current Texas Wheat Producers Association President David Moore of Dumas, Texas was particularly proud and grateful for the work of his area farmers and business leaders. "We are indebted to the resolve of many Texas farmers and agribusinesses who dedicated personal time to making phone calls, writing letters to their congressmen, and traveling to Washington, D.C., to rally support for this disaster assistance package. The wheat industry team has worked hard to bring a clear, credible message to Washington and the American people about this crisis and we can feel pleased that the wheat growers of Texas have been represented with a high level of success and dignity."

Financial Focus

Pay off mortgage early— or invest more for retirement?

As mortgage rates have tumbled to levels not seen in decades, millions of Americans have rushed to refinance their homes. Generally speaking, this is probably a good idea; if you can lower your rate, you'll have more disposable income each month. And if you invest this money, you'll really be putting your mortgage savings to good use. But what if you don't want to simply refinance a 30-year mortgage? What if you want to replace your 30-year loan with one carrying a shorter term, such as 15 years? Is this a good move?

It might be - but not necessarily from a financial point of view.

The question of switching from a 30-year mortgage to a 15-year one involves both financial and emotional issues - and, as such, there is no easy answer. Let's look at the points to consider on both sides.

For many people, changing from 30-year to 15-year is simply intuitive; It just feels better to have a mortgage paid off sooner, rather than later. For most of us, life without house payments sounds pretty good. And if you're already in your mid-forties to mid-fifties, you may be especially keen on having your mortgage paid off as you enter your retirement years.

Furthermore, you can save many thousands of dollars in interest by paying off your

mortgage early.

Clearly, you've got some intriguing reasons to go from a 30-year mortgage to a 15-year one. However, you can find some equally compelling factors for not making the switch. For example, it may be great to save all those thousands of dollars in interest payments - but, at the same time, all that interest was tax deductible. In fact, mortgage interest payments are the single biggest deduction that most people will ever have. So, once you've paid off your mortgage, you may need to find new ways to save money on taxes.

Also, every extra dollar you devote to paying off a mortgage early is a dollar you won't be able to invest. Of course, there's no guarantee on what type of investment return you might get from the money you might have put toward a mortgage. And yet, if you put these funds into a well-diversified portfolio containing high-quality investments, you could speed up your progress toward some of your important long-term financial goals, such as a comfortable retirement.

Building up your investments also may provide you with more financial protection than paying off your mortgage early. If you encounter a severe setback - disability, job loss, etc. - you can always fall back on your investments until you regain your financial foot-

ing. But if the bulk of your assets are tied to your house, you might be forced to refinance or look at other options, such as a home equity loan or line of credit. These aren't necessarily bad choices - your home equity loan or credit line may be tax-deductible and the interest rate may well be quite competitive. On the other hand, you have to be sure you can afford the payments on these types of loans, because you're essentially using your house as collateral.

So, there you have it: some sound reasons to pay off a mortgage early and some sound reasons to keep paying on a longer-term mortgage and invest the difference. There's no one "right" decision - but there's a decision that's right for you. Take the time to find it.

Only those who risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go.

-T.S. Eliot

Brown joins NRCS team

A division of the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Ballinger and Eden Natural Resources Team are pleased to announce the addition of Ebony Brown to their staff.

Ebony was hired on as a Soil Conservation Technician in September, 2002. She graduated this past August from Texas Tech University with a degree in Environmental Conservation of Natural Resources.

Ebony was raised in Lamesa where her parents currently reside, and she is the youngest of four children. In her spare time, she enjoys painting and shopping. She has already begun to make herself feel at home by volunteering within the community.

Brown says, "The people I have met thus far have welcomed me with open arms. I am looking forward to meeting and working with more new people."

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Concho Valley Cotton Conference set March 25 in San Angelo

The Texas Cooperative Extension's Concho Valley Cotton Conference will be held from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 25, 2003, in the San Angelo Convention Center.

Topics include: herbicide resistance, weed management, weather modification and conservation tillage cropping systems. The Southern Rolling Plains Cotton Growers Association will conduct their annual meeting in conjunction with the conference.

To preregister call (915) 365-5212, 365-2219 or 659-6522. Registration after March 21 is \$10 per person.

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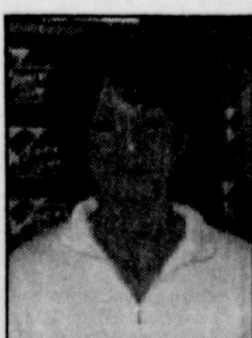


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