

The Winters Enterprise

Serving Winters and North Runnels County

Volume 14, Issue 11

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Winters, Texas

50¢

NEWS glance

Pearls of Wisdom

Encouraging your children to become unique, productive individuals is a more worthy occupation than hanging around with supposedly important people.

Pastor's Points

Pastor Barry Taylor reminds everyone how important it is to tell your loved ones how you feel now since you never know whether you will have another chance.

page 3

WHS U.I.L. teams take top honors

Winters High School Journalism and Math teams placed first at the Bangs Invitational UIL Academic Meet. District 9-2A academic competition is set for March 24 & 27 at Coleman. Go Blizzardards!

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Winters Track Meet results

The Breezes and Blizzard relays were held last weekend at the Winters Track Field. Complete listing of results published here.

page 5

Oncor to support the Amber Alert Program

Oncor (TXU) has announced plans to participate in the Amber Alert Program. The state-wide program was implemented to locate abducted children through use of the news media and early notification to the public.

page 6

National Agriculture Week

Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs has announced that March 16-22, 2003, will be recognized as National Agriculture Week to honor farmers, ranchers, and many other agricultural professionals.

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A sign of the times —



(photo by Jean Boles)

A HOST OF VOLUNTEERS and avid track and field fans concentrate on their timing duties for another race during the Blizzard Relays last Saturday. On hand were (bottom row, l-r) Kody McCuistion, Coach Bryan Green, WHS Principal David Hale, Michael Mostad, Jerry Sims, Jan Sims, Puny Whittenburn, Gary Bear, Zanny Slimp, Paige Sanders and Chelsy Lipsey. Standing on platform are Larry Walker, Deb Pritchard and Lanny Bahlman. Approximately 65 volunteers worked the meet at the Winters Track Complex. Meet results are listed on page 5.

Commissioners approve purchase of pump; accept Abilene's agreement on reimbursement for damage

Runnels County Commissioners, at their regular meeting on Monday, voted to purchase and set a pump in the water well drilled on City property in Southeast Ballinger recently.

Commissioners decided to set the pump and let the well run for two or three days to be sure it will keep up the 20-25 gallons per minute flow as it tested. Following that test, a

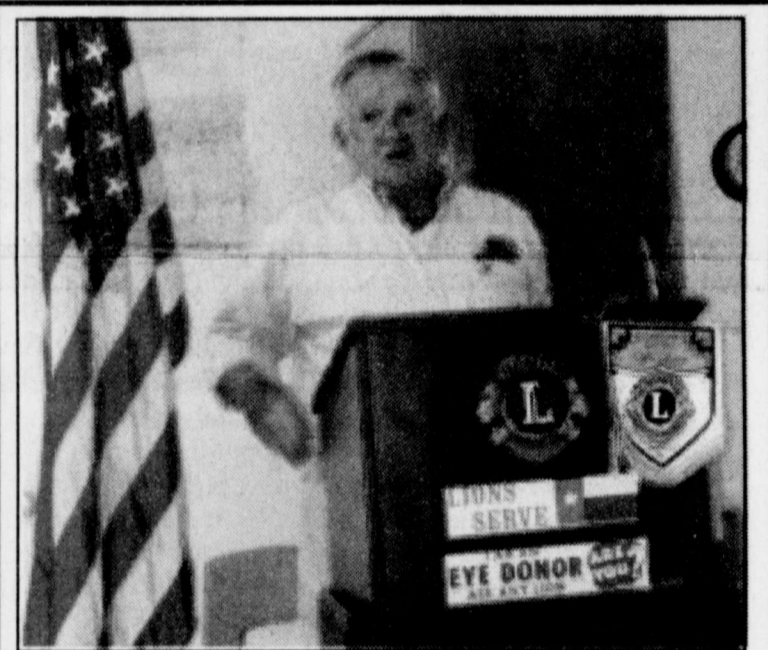
slab will be poured, pressure tank set, and pump house built.

The well was drilled to provide water for the trees on the courthouse square. For the past several summers, Commissioners have had to haul water to the courthouse to keep the trees alive. A water line from the well to the courthouse will provide water for the trees and eliminate the water hauling.

In other business, Commis-

sioners voted to accept a Letter Agreement from the City of Abilene providing reimbursement of \$4,680 Precinct 1 spent on replacing cattle guards damaged by trucks of the contractor for the Ivie-Abilene pipeline. An additional \$10,000 will be placed in escrow for Precinct 1 to rebuild and repair damaged county roads.

See COMMISSIONERS, page 8



(photo by Jean Boles)

SCOTTY DANIEL, retired Air Force fighter pilot and pilot for Braniff Airlines, speaks to the Winters Lions Club on March 4 regarding U.S. wind energy potential and his wind farm at Rotan.



(photo by Jean Boles)

DANNY PRADO, (seated center), was honored with a farewell reception on March 6 by co-workers at the Runnels County Mental Health Center in Winters. Prado, who has been with the Center for the past ten years, is taking a new position in social work at a facility in Ballinger. Honoring Prado were (seated) Davis Wilson, Center Program Manager, and Rita Harless, Care Manager; and (standing, left to right) Cookie Van Zandt, Clerk, Jan Jordan, Case Work Assistant, Elma Bernal, Rehabilitation Provider, Lisa Nitsch, Service Coordinator, and Brandy Craft, Rehabilitation Provider.

Prado leaving Runnels County Mental Health Center in Winters

by Jean Boles, editor

Danny Prado, who was a driving force in obtaining the new Mental Health Center in Winters last year, has resigned to accept a new position in social work at a facility in Ballinger.

He was honored with a reception given by his co-workers on Thursday, March 6, at the Center.

Prado, has been with Run-

nels County MHC for the past ten years. During that time, he has been responsible for building child and adolescent programs, served as the county's primary mental health professional, and served in many capacities including case manager, Center program manager and crisis response. Along with Randall Conner and Keith Col-

lom, Prado worked diligently in securing the building and overseeing the renovation for the present facility located on State Street, site of the old post office building.

The Mental Health Crisis Hotline for West Texas Centers for MHMR is 1-800-375-4357. For services, contact the Mental Health Center in Winters at 754-5591.

Winters High School One Act Play to perform for the public

Members of the Winters High School One Act Play will be holding a town performance of this year's play entitled *The Cave Cat* on Wednesday, March 19, 2003, at 8:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

The Cave Cat, by Ford Ainsworth, is a drama concerning the struggle of youth to surmount the established conventions of a society which divides all cats into three rigidly maintained categories.

The Winters High School One Act Play members and director Dottie Loudermilk cordially invite the public to attend.

On Thursday, March 20, the one act play cast will travel to Brownwood for the U.I.L. performance scheduled at 2:00 p.m.

Youth baseball/softball tryouts scheduled for Monday & Tuesday

Winters Community Baseball will hold boys and girls tryouts on Monday and Tuesday evening, March 17 & 18. All tryouts will take place at the ball diamonds in Winters City Park.

Baseball tryouts for boys will begin at 5:30 p.m. Monday for the Midget Division (ages 7, 8 & 9) followed by Freshmen Division (ages 10, 11 & 12) at 6:30 p.m., and Junior Division (ages 13, 14 & 15) at 7:30 p.m.

Girls' softball tryouts will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday

See TRYOUTS, page 8

Thursday, March 20—

Winters Elementary Select Choir to perform Spring Musical

The Winters Elementary Select Choir will perform their Spring Musical on Thursday, March 20. The program will begin at 7 p.m. in the WHS Auditorium.

This year's presentation is a collection of two-part harmony and descants including a variety of songs from fun rock-n-roll to classical folk. The group, under the direction of Fran Kidwell who is assisted by Sherry Kurtz, will be well choreographed and include a delightful encore which the students will sign as they sing.

As always, admission is free and the community is graciously invited to attend.

Community

Pastor's Points

Editor's Note: This new 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*.

Just to say "I love you"

by Pastor Barry Taylor, First Baptist Church of Winters

His name was Watson. He had been a member of our church in McCloud for about a year when he was diagnosed with inoperable cancer. With a very supportive wife and family he had managed to face the reality with both strength and dignity. After many hours of prayer and discussion, they had decided to give his body to medical science after his death in order that others might be helped in the future.

I was with Watson and June on the day he was to go to the hospital for the final time. When he got me alone he said, "Preacher, I want to ask two favors of you." "Certainly", I said. "What can I do to help?" He said, "First, I want you to preach my memorial service, and don't make it mushy or sad. I have lived a good life and God has blessed me in many ways." My only answer was a shallow, "Sure Watson, whatever you want, we'll do." He then made a second request. "I want you to do one more thing. I want you to tell my children that I love them." Once again I said, "Sure, I promise that I will tell them just what you said."

That was a Monday afternoon when we all left their home. Watson and June went to Shreveport to the hospital, and I went back home. On Saturday morning about 5:00 a.m., the phone rang and it was the hospital telling me of the passing of Watson. As I drove the five miles to let June know of his death (Watson had not wanted her to be alone when she got the news) I strangely remembered his request, "Tell my children that I love them."

We set the memorial service for Wednesday. The church was full. Watson had many friends in both Shreveport and Texas. His wife June, along with their three children, Scott, Debra, and Mary Ellen, were all sitting on the front pew as we remembered the life of Watson Hodges. We did as he and the family requested. There were many songs of praise, thanksgiving, and celebration, and even though Watson was gone, he seemed to be with us in the service.

As I came to the conclusion of the service, I looked at his children-remembering the final request-"tell my children I love them"-and said to them, "Your father had one last request, he wanted me to tell you that he loved you very much." As those words came from my mouth, I could see the looks of pain, confusion, and wonder on their faces. My thought would be that they would affirm this his last request, with joy and delight, but I did not know that during their entire lives - Watson had never told his children, "I love you."

There are three lessons I took from that experience. First, I told myself if that were to ever happen again, I would say to the person making the request, "They would much rather hear it from you," and they would. Second, I understand that things are not a substitute for hearing of our parents love. While Watson was a good man and a great provider, and a dear friend, there comes a time when his children needed to hear the words, "I love you very much." The first indication of the worth of our lives comes from our parents. While we are certain of our love for them, they are not as assured and as confident as we believe. Third, these three words are not much of an investment, they don't even take long to speak, but have the potential to reap more lasting blessings than all of the trips to the mall we can make.

No revenge is more honorable than the one not taken.
-Spanish Proverb

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, McCaulley, 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 enviros 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.

World Day of Prayer—



(photo by Jennifer Riffe)

THE ANNUAL WORLD DAY OF PRAYER was held in Winters on Friday, March 7, 2003 at Mt. Carmel Catholic Church. This year's theme was "Holy Spirit: Fill Us". Many people attended the gathering that featured a noon meal, a slide show, a speech by Jo Tucker (center), and a prayer service. World Day of Prayer (WDP) is an international event that unites women and men 179 countries in prayer. Throughout the day, from the first sunrise to the last sunset, prayers follow the sun's path around the globe. This year's services held special emphasis on Lebanon and the Christian work being performed in that country.

In Appreciation

Card of Thanks

We would like to thank all of the friends and family who attended the service, sent flowers, and cards, and supported us with your visits and calls.

Thank you to Pastor Dittmer for a beautiful service, to Mike Meyer and Linda Dry for their compassionate care, and the ladies of the First United Methodist Church for the wonderful lunch and a time of fellowship for the family of Katie Onken.

G.W., Helen, Ralph & their families

Card of Thanks

"This is my commandment that ye love one another as I have loved you." John 15:12

We would like to thank everyone who has done just that.

We know we have not lost another family member, but moved him to a much better location. We will all be reunited, but some just go earlier to prepare for the celebration!

Thanks again for all the love and kindness.

The family of Winford Reel

What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

Senior Citizens Activity Center Menu

Proudly Presented By:
North Runnels Home Health Agency
106 N. Main, Winters, Texas 79507
(915) 754-4141 • (800) 687-3305 (Toll Free)

North Runnels Home Health Agency
A Small Hospital With A Big Heart
HWY. 153 EAST P.O. BOX 185
WINTERS, TEXAS 79507 (915) 754-4553

March 17 through 21
Subject to change

Monday, March 17: Burrito, Spanish rice, coleslaw, chips & hot sauce, and peaches.

Tuesday, March 18: Turkey & dressing, mashed potatoes, peas, cornbread, and pumpkin cake.

Wednesday, March 19: Swiss steak, parried potatoes, peas, cornbread, and apple crisp.

Thursday, March 20: Ham & cheese sandwich, soup, chips, fruit salad, and pecan bar.

Friday, March 21: Tator tot casserole, corn, pear salad, bread, and 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.

Winters VFD Auxiliary to host meal

The Winters Fire Department Auxiliary will be hosting a Chicken Fried Chicken Meal on Sunday, March 23, 2003 from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Winters ISD Cafeteria.

The menu will include chicken fried chicken, creamy mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, green beans, hot rolls, and your choice of peach or cherry cobbler.

The price is \$5.00 per plate, with carry-out plates available. Delivery will also be available for those who are unable to attend. (Please call in advance for delivery.) Tickets may be purchased in advance from any auxiliary member or at the door.

For more information or to request delivery, you may contact Jennifer Cravens at 754-4958 or 754-3220 or Debbie Lange at 743-6550.

WHAT'S HAPPENING ?

- Mar. 14- 11:30 a.m., Senior Citizens Meal, Sr. Citizens Activity Center
7:30 p.m., Cowboys for Christ, Drasco
- Mar. 15- 8:30 a.m., Track Meet, Roby
- Mar. 16- 9:30 a.m., Financial Management Seminar Begins, First Baptist Church
National Agriculture Week begins
- Mar. 17- **HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY**
WISD Classes Resume, Beginning of 4th Nine Weeks
11:30 a.m., Senior Citizens Meal, Sr. Citizens Activity Center
4 p.m., JV Baseball vs. Grape Creek, Winters Baseball Field
5:30 p.m., Boys Baseball Tryouts, Winters City Park
6:30 p.m., School Board Meeting
- Mar. 18- 11:30 a.m., Senior Citizens Meal, Sr. Citizens Activity Center
Noon, Lions Club, SCAC
4 p.m., Varsity Baseball at Coleman
4:30 p.m., Varsity Softball at Sonora
4:30 p.m., Library Board, Winters Public Library
Girls Softball Tryouts,
5:30 p.m., CIA Board/House Captain, Bear Home
7 p.m., WVFD Drill, Fire Station
7 p.m., AA, FUMC
7 p.m., Band Boosters, Band Hall
7:30 p.m., Eastern Star
- Mar. 19- 7 a.m., Industrial Board, Windmill Enterprises Office
9 a.m. - 4 p.m., WIC, Winters Housing Authority
11:30 a.m., Senior Citizens Meal, Sr. Citizens Activity Center
8:30 p.m., One Act Play Dress Rehearsal, WHS Auditorium
- Mar. 20- District U.L.E. One Act Play, Brownwood
11:30 a.m., Senior Citizens Meal, Sr. Citizens Activity Center
7 p.m., Elementary Select Choir, WHS Auditorium
7 p.m., Women's Service League

GREAT NEW INCENTIVES

Ask about extra \$1,000 loyalty discount. If you own any GM car or truck take an extra \$1,000 off any new Chevy price!

2003 1/2 TON EXT. CAB L/S
SAVE \$5,200
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DEALER DISC. \$2,700
REBATE \$2,500
\$22,427
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2003 AVALANCHE
SAVE \$6,000
5300 V-8 AUTO, PW, PL, AM/FM, CD, KEYLESS REMOTE, POWER SEAT
MSRP \$31,920
DEALER DISC. \$3,000
REBATE \$3,000
\$25,920
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2003 CAVALIER 2-DOOR
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\$15,571.27
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2003 S-10 REG. CAB
\$219 MONTH
AC, AM/FM, 5-SPEED, 4-CYLINDER
S1K #228
\$14,891.30
AMT. FINANCED 72 MOS. @ 1.9% +TT&L, W.A.C.

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DEALER DISC. \$1,314
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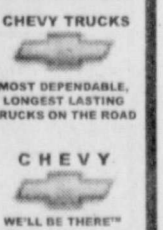
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Seventh grade girls take first place in Winters track meet

Winters seventh grade girl Breezes took overall top honors at the Winters Track Meet last Friday night.

The seventh grade boys, and eighth grade girls and boys all placed fifth overall.

The Blizzard Relays were held Saturday, March 8, with the JV girls placing fourth and the JV boys second. Varsity girls came in sixth and the varsity boys walked away with second place overall.

Last weekend's individual event results are as follows:

JV LADY BLIZZARDS

Shot Put
4th, Kendra Esquivel, 21' 5.75"

LADY BLIZZARDS

Discus
1st, Jessica Bear, 96' 9"
5th, Erica Buckelew, 73' 6"
High Jump
1st, Laci Walker, 4' 10"
Long Jump
6th, Ashly Santoya, 14' 4.5"
Shot Put
5th, Kemari Hale, 27' 6"
6th, Jessica Bear, 27' 5.5"
Triple Jump
6th, Laci Walker, 28' 10"
3200 M Run
6th, Briana Parramore, 13:53
800 M Run
6th, Kari Walker
100 M Hurdles
1st, Laci Walker, 15.56
300 M Hurdles
2nd, Laci Walker, 48.18
1600 M Run
4th, Briana Parramore, 6:20.17

JV BLIZZARDS

High Jump
1st, Pete Griffin, 5' 4"
Long Jump
3rd, Michael Liggins, 18' 3.25"
Pole Vault
4th, Jonathan Meyer, 8' 6"
Shot Put
2nd, Jacob Bridgeman, 41' 4"
Triple Jump
1st, Michael Liggins, 38' 1"
400 M Relay
3rd, (Pete Griffin, Francisco Perez, Randy Jackson, Michael Liggins), 48:40

800 M Run
5th, Jose Cruz, 2:28.26
100 M Dash
2nd, Michael Liggins, 11.94
3rd, Josh Cavanaugh, 12.21
5th, Randy Jackson, 12:23
800 M Relay
3rd, (Josh Cavanaugh, Francisco Perez, Cody Pritchard, Jacob Young), 1:43.16

400 M Dash
5th, James Vasquez, 1:01.13
300 M Hurdles
4th, Marcus Tubbs, 54.20
200 M Dash
3rd, Pete Griffin, 25.69
5th, Jacob Young, 26.42
1600 M Relay
2nd, (Jose Cruz, Michael Liggins, James Vasquez, Shawn Kraatz), 4:02.34

BLIZZARDS

Discus
1st, Rusty Jackson, 136' 11"
High Jump
4th, David Scates, 5' 6"
Long Jump
4th, Yul Gibbs, 19' 6.5"
Shot Put
2nd, Rusty Jackson, 49' 11.75"
3rd, Jerry Hord, 44' 5"
Triple Jump
2nd, Eric Lopez, 40' 8.5"
3rd, Yul Gibbs, 40' 4.5"
4th, Benji Valles, 39' 11.5"

400 M Relay
2nd, (Eric Lopez, Benji Valles, Yul Gibbs, David Scates), 46.78
800 M Run
6th, Jose Hernandez, 2:15.89
110 M Hurdles
1st, Eric Lopez, 15.30
100 M Dash
5th, David Scates, 11.71
800 M Relay
2nd, (Eric Lopez, David Scates, Rusty Jackson, Yul Gibbs), 1:34.64
400 M Dash
2nd, Guy Slimp, 54.00
200 M Dash
1st, Yul Gibbs, 23.14
1600 M Run
5th, Jose Hernandez, 5:15.73

7th GRADE LADY BREEZES

Discus
1st, Addison Bergman, 62' 8"
5th, Erica Roman, 53' 9"
High Jump
1st, Shelby Walker, 4' 4"
Long Jump
1st, Kyli Knight, 13' 4.75"
Shot Put
4th, Katy Kitchen, 21' 8.25"
Triple Jump
1st, Shelby Walker, 29' 1.75"
3rd, Cassie Mendoza, 25' 11.5"
4th, Susan Sneed, 25' 7.75"
2400 M Run
4th, Cassandra Perez, 11:46
6th, Christina Guerrero, 15:06
400 M Relay
3rd, 1:01.82
800 M Run
4th, Lillian Garcia, 3:02.61
100 M Hurdles
1st, Shelby Walker, 20.42
2nd, Cassie Mendoza, 20.44
100 M Dash
6th, Natalie Rangel, 15.92
800 M Relay
1st, 2:07.78
400 M Dash
1st, Kyli Knight, 1:12.99
6th, Susan Sneed, 1:19.86
300 M Hurdles
1st, Cassie Mendoza, 58.34
2nd, Shelby Walker, 1:02.25
200 M Dash
1st, Araceli Flores, 30.50
1600 M Run
2nd, Cassandra Perez, 7:05.50
3rd, Asenette Vasquez, 7:06.85
5th, Christina Guerrero, 8:07.39
1600 M Relay
2nd, 5:08.46

8th GRADE LADY BREEZES

Long Jump
5th, Ashley Laird, 12' 10.5"
Triple Jump

5th, Ashley Laird, 26' 3.5"
400 M Relay
3rd, 1:00.45
100 M Hurdles
5th, Ashley Laird, 23.22
100 M Dash
5th, Ashley Gann, 15.26
400 M Dash
3rd, Patricia Carrillo
4th, Ashley Gann
6th, Yesenia Flores, 1:30.09

7th GRADE BREEZES

Discus
4th, Kevin Cook, 76' 4"
6th, Tad Martin, 68' 2"
High Jump
2nd, Andrew Blackerby, 4' 8"
Long Jump
3rd, Alex Harrison, 15' 5"
Shot Put
1st, Kevin Cook, 33' 2.75"
Triple Jump
5th, Tory Burns, 29' 3.5"
400 M Relay
3rd, 57.62
110 M Hurdles
5th, Andrew Blackerby, 22.61
100 M Dash
3rd, Alex Harrison, 13.13
800 M Relay
2nd, 1:58.33
200 M Dash
5th, Tory Burns, 29.36
1600 M Relay
3rd, 4:44.92

8th GRADE BREEZES

Discus
4th, Mark Scates, 96' 4"
Long Jump
5th, Mark Scates, 16' 1.75"
Pole Vault
4th, Alan Green, 6' 9"
Shot Put
2nd, Ty Cason, 39' .25"
Triple Jump
2nd, Mark Scates, 33' 2"
3rd, Don Davis, 32' 8"
2400 M Run
3rd, Javier Rodriguez, 8:35
400 M Relay
6th, 53.62
110 M Hurdles
4th, Luke England, 19.95
100 M Dash
2nd, Charlie Dillard, 12.30
800 M Relay
5th, 1:59.64
400 M Dash
2nd, Charlie Dillard, 58.50
300 M Hurdles
6th, Juan Hernandez, 53.82
1600 M Run
2nd, Javier Rodriguez, 5:28.21
1600 M Relay
5th, 4:32.03



ANDREW BLACKERBY, Winters 7th grader, takes a 2nd place win with a leap of 4'8" during the Breezes Track Meet on Friday afternoon.



RACHEL DAVIS takes a big cut at the pitch during varsity softball action for the Lady Blizzards. Winters will play Grape Creek at Winters on March 17 at 4:00 p.m.



YUL GIBBS, WHS senior, edges out the Ballinger runner for a first place win in the 200 meter dash with a time of 23.14. Teams from nine schools participated in the annual Blizzard Relays last Saturday.

More track pictures to be published next week.

MAKE TRACKS
To The
Abilene
To See The
WHITE TIGERS
Now Through March 16

Runnels County Residents
Receive Half-Price Admission
691 Loop 312 and Highway 36
in Nelson Park
Open Daily 9 am - 4:30 pm
Admission: \$1.00 (includes Half-Price Discount)



New area code to begin April 5
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Outdoors



(photo by Jean Boles)

BLOOMS AND BUDS are abounding around the area, thanks to spring-like temperatures which have reached the low 80's. A spokesman for the National Weather Service in San Angelo says another freeze is unlikely but with crazy Texas weather, is always possible.

National Agriculture Week to salute Texas' agricultural legacy

Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs announced that March 16 to 22 is National Agriculture Week in Texas.

"Agriculture starts with the growing and harvesting of food and fiber and ends with almost everything we eat, wear, and use," Combs said. "This week we honor the hard work and dedication of Texas farmers, ranchers, and many other agriculture professionals in our state's food and fiber industry. These are the people who ensure that we have an abundant, reliable and affordable supply of food, natural fiber, horticultural, forestry, and other agricultural products."

Combs kicked off National Agriculture Week in Texas by signing a proclamation and presenting a display at the state capitol that recognizes more than two centuries of Texas agriculture and the families that are a part of that history. The display is a tribute to Texas' farm and ranch families who for generations have helped to cultivate the state's

rich agricultural heritage. On Friday, March 21, she will wrap up National Agriculture Week by honoring more than 130 of those families during the 28th Annual Family Land Heritage Ceremony.

"It is easy for us to take for granted our agricultural abundance, which is why it is important that we recognize the rich legacy that makes this all possible," Combs said. "These are the people who have worked hard to build Texas agriculture into the second largest industry in Texas. It is important that everyone is aware of their reliance upon farmers and ranchers whose stewardship ensures a substantial resource base for future generations."

"Texas agriculture plays a major role in health and nutrition as well as in our water conservation, rural economic development, global trade, and the preservation of the environment," Combs said. "National Agriculture Week gives us a chance to recognize the people

who consistently enrich our lives in so many ways.

"Whether you produce the food and fiber, prepare and deliver the finished products, or consume them," Combs said, "you are a part of Texas' agriculture heritage and should take pride in that legacy."

Open house at Higginbotham's March 17

The Winters Chamber of Commerce invites the public to an Open House at Higginbotham's on Monday, March 17, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

This "after hours" event is also a special invitation to business owners and employees who might otherwise have difficulty finding time to shop during regular working hours.

The Chamber directors will be on hand to greet guests. Punch and cookies will be served. Door prizes will be given but you must be present to win.

Sign-up for Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program requires pre-planning before visiting FSA office

Deadline is April 1, 2003

Dwaine Lange, County Committee Chairman for the Runnels County Farm Service Agency (FSA), reminds area farmers and ranchers to make an appointment to sign up for the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP). The deadline to apply for DCP is April 1, 2003. This date is outlined in legislation and no extensions or exceptions will be made.

"The new farm legislation is complex in nature," said Lange. "Maximizing benefits received from these programs will require producers to organize and plan ahead before visiting our offices," he said.

Lange commented that sign up for DCP is averaging at least one hour per farm. He encourages producers to avoid procrastinating and offers the fol-

lowing advice for preparing for a visit to FSA. If a producer is planning to update bases and yields, Lange encourages using the Base and Yield Analyzer Internet tool available at: <<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/farmbill/tools.asp>>.

The analyzer assists producers in evaluating a farm's historic data and enables them to make educated decisions about their specific operations.

If electing to update yields, producers will be required to provide all production records for 1998-2000. For cash leased land, FSA requires a copy of the lease agreement if available and proof of lease payment. If no written lease agreement is provided, the landowner must sign for zero shares. Additionally, producers who

have dropped, added, purchased, sold or otherwise changed their farming operation need to be prepared to report these changes to the FSA office. Also, producers must certify any 2002 crop plantings or land use changes not previously reported.

"Gathering all necessary documentation and arriving at our office with a general idea of specific farm program goals, will insure accurate program decisions and better use of staff and customer time," said Lange.

For more information about DCP, FSA, or the farm bill provisions contact your local FSA office at 915-365-5757 or visit the national website at: <<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>>.

ELECTION, continued

paid a fee for a recount which took place on Nov. 15, which revealed 341-337 votes, still in favor of Collom.

Grohman said voters told him they had not been allowed to vote for Commissioner, Prec. 2, when they arrived at their polling place, and he believed the new redistricting boundary lines between Precincts 2 and 3 affected the outcome of the election.

According to Runnels County Tax Assessor-Collector Robin Burgess, on November 5, 23 voters were shown in the wrong precinct. Burgess said her office, "immediately corrected the error and sent new lists to the voting boxes, instructing voting

officials to let those people vote in the Commissioner Precinct 2 race."

However, Grohman claims that several voters had already been turned away from the polling place due to the error. The County Clerk's office determined 13 of 23 voters voted in the wrong precinct and the other ten of the registered voters either didn't vote or voted in the correct precinct.

Grohman filed a "contested election" suit against Collom on Dec. 18, 2002.

Following Tuesday's ruling, Grohman said, "We got to the truth and did what I wanted which was allow the voters to have their say."

Collom replied, "We can live with that."

Judge Connally declared "there was no malfeasance by the candidates or officials. Robin Burgess was not furnished accurate information (about voting precincts)."

Crepe myrtle project blossoming

To make donations, memorials or honorariums to the Crepe Myrtle Project along Hwy. 83, contact George Beard at 206 Parklane, Winters, Tx. 79567, or call 915-754-4596.

COMMISSIONERS, continued

Nine members of the county's salary grievance committee were appointed. Those appointed were Linda Bruchmiller, Ballinger; Jodi Busenlehner, Rowena; Ron Edington, Ballinger; Stacy Granzin, Miles; Roger Kruse, Winters; Robert Owens, Winters; Patti Robinson, Norton; Donna Smith, Winters; and Nancy Spill, Winters.

Other business and action taken included:

- approved placing used equipment in a public auction to be held in Rowena on April 12;
- adopted a resolution au-

thorizing County Judge Marilyn Egan, County Auditor Darlene Smith, and County Treasurer Margarette Smith as signatories for Texas Community Development Program Contract (Ivie Water Line Grant).

• approval was given for County Clerk Elesa Ocker to purchase plat book envelopes from the County Clerk RMO fund at a cost of \$305.40.

All commissioners, County Judge Marilyn Egan, County Auditor Darlene Smith, and County Treasurer Margarette Smith were present for Monday's 40-minute meeting.

TRYOUTS, continued

evening for ages 8 & under and 6:30 p.m. for ages 12 & under. Girls in the 10 & under division will be notified by phone if there are enough girls signed up for more than one team.

All registration fees must be paid by tryouts. A league officer will be available to take fees at the tryouts.

Players are asked to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to their scheduled tryout time in order to line up and organize each age division. All players should come prepared with ball gloves to field the ball as well as bat.



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Brownwood: Longhorn Feed & Supply 915-646-8966 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
Bange: Bob's LP Gas, Seed & Feed 915-752-6422 12:30-1:30 p.m.
Santa Anna: Simmons Feed & Supply 915-348-3168 2-3 p.m.
Winters: Alderman-Cave Feed 915-754-4546 4-5 p.m.

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