

The Winters Enterprise

Serving Winters and North Runnels County

Volume 14, Issue 22

Thursday, May 29, 2003

Winters, Texas

50¢

NEWS at a glance

Pearls of Wisdom

A little boy, age eight, gave a profound definition of parenthood: "Parents are just baby-sitters for God."

Letters to the Editor

Wife writes about recent attack on husband by killer bees—warns neighbors and friends. Another applauds the apologies of incarcerated locals.

page 2

Tennis Camp June 2-6

Registration deadline is Sunday, June 1, for the "Shoot to Chill" Tennis Camp offered at Winters High School. Students in grades 4-9 are eligible to participate.

page 3

Sixth graders receive Presidential Award

Eleven Winters Elementary sixth graders were recognized with academic achievement awards by President George W. Bush.

page 4

Vacation Bible School

VBS begins at the First Baptist Church on June 9, at the First United Methodist Church on June 16, and at St. John's Lutheran Church on June 23.

Swimming Pool mania

The city pool is open Monday-Saturday 1-6 p.m. and Sunday 2-5 p.m.



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Large audience enjoys WHS Graduation '03

by Jean Boles, editor

Under beautiful clear skies, fifty-four members of the 2003 graduating class of Winters High School received diplomas in ceremonies Friday night at 8:30 p.m. at Blizzard Field.

Master of Ceremonies was David Hale, Principal of Winters High School, who introduced Reverend George Orr, of the First United Methodist Church. Pastor Orr gave the baccalaureate devotional prior to speeches by Salutatorian Leslye Geistmann and Valedictorian Stacey Walden.

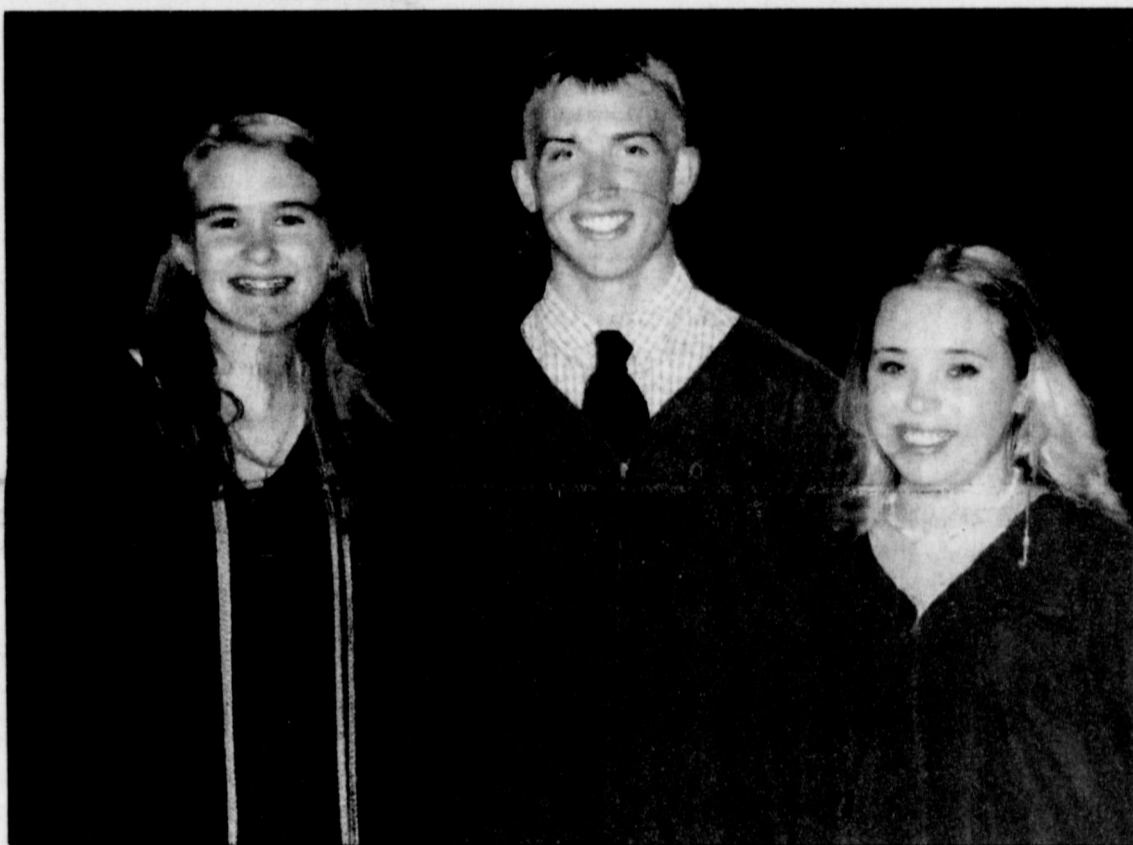
Receiving special recognition were members of the National Honor Society including See GRADUATION, pg. 2



(photo by Jean Boles)

2003 WHS GRADUATES pause to say the Pledge of Allegiance before a large audience of families and friends during ceremonies Friday, May 23, at Blizzard Field. Fifty-four graduates received diplomas from Winters High School.

Special honor graduates



(photo by Jean Boles)

SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARD RECIPIENTS named during graduation ceremonies Friday evening were (l-r) Stacey Walden and Guy Slimp, who received the Jake Joyce Memorial Awards for Outstanding Girl and Boy, and Stefanie Davis, who received the Floy Hood Hodge Scholarship. Walden also received the Pearl Jackson Memorial Scholarship. More award winners will be published in upcoming issues.

Council plans to pave all of city's dirt streets

by Jean Boles, editor

During the regular meeting of the Winters City Council on Monday, May 19, residents George Beard and wife Eris thanked the Council for the City's approval and participation in the planting of the crepe myrtle shrubs in front of Parklane Street.

Speaking on behalf of the Beautification Committee, Mrs. Beard said, "This (project) is a dream that has turned into a reality. You've done a beautiful job. Your city employees have worked so diligently and with such pride. We, and many other residents, certainly appreciate all you've done."

The shrubs were planted in the center of the property between Parklane and Hwy. 83, with the help of city employees Charles Grenwelge, Felix Gonzales, Cotton Hubbard and Pete Gray.

George Beard, who spearheaded the project which started more than two years ago, also expressed his appreciation to the city employees, the Council, City Administrator and Mayor.

Mayor McGuffin asked Dr. Hassan to address the public and analyze the situation concerning paving all the city's dirt streets. Hassan said the Street Superintendent Charles Grenwelge feels he should be allowed to fill the vacancy in the street department which now has only three full-time employees. He said approximately one-fourth of his department's manpower and equipment is used in maintaining the dirt streets.

Hassan further reported that the City could borrow \$200,000 to pave the dirt streets and make most of the loan payments from the See COUNCIL, page 2

North Runnels Hospital receives \$50,000 grant

by Jean Boles, editor

Rick Rickard, Administrator of North Runnels Hospital in Winters, has confirmed receipt of a grant confirmation of \$50,000 from the Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA).

"We're very excited and grateful for this money," said Rickard. "This is definitely a shot in the arm for our facility and will help us obtain some much needed and mandated equipment."

North Runnels Hospital was one of 21 rural hospitals throughout the state to receive a total of \$959,667, through the agency's Capital Improvement Loan Fund. The monies are to

be used for making capital improvements to existing health facilities, constructing new health facilities, or purchasing capital equipment, including information systems hardware and software.

"The purpose of the fund is to improve the health services and healthcare infrastructure of Texas' rural communities," explained Mike Easley, Director of ORCA's Rural Health Unit, which administers the program. "The program is designed to assist rural facilities that do not have many funding source options or are often overlooked in other grant awards."

"Improving access to medical care in rural Texas is one of ORCA's primary goals," said ORCA Executive Director Robert J. Tessen, M.S. "We recognize that rural hospitals have strong needs for upgrades and physical plant improvements. This grant offers the support these facilities need to provide care in their communities."

Funds from the program are available to eligible rural health facilities for projects of up to \$50,000, and require a 10 percent match. Eligible applicants include rural public and non-profit hospitals located in counties of less than 150,000 Texans.

Administrator Rickard said the Board of Trustees of NRH approved the \$5,000 in matching funds during their meeting in February, and were notified they had been awarded the \$50,000 the end of April.

North Runnels Hospital will use the money to purchase a new telemetry system since replacement parts are obsolete for the present system, according to Rickard. "We have also replaced the fire alarm system as required by law," he said.

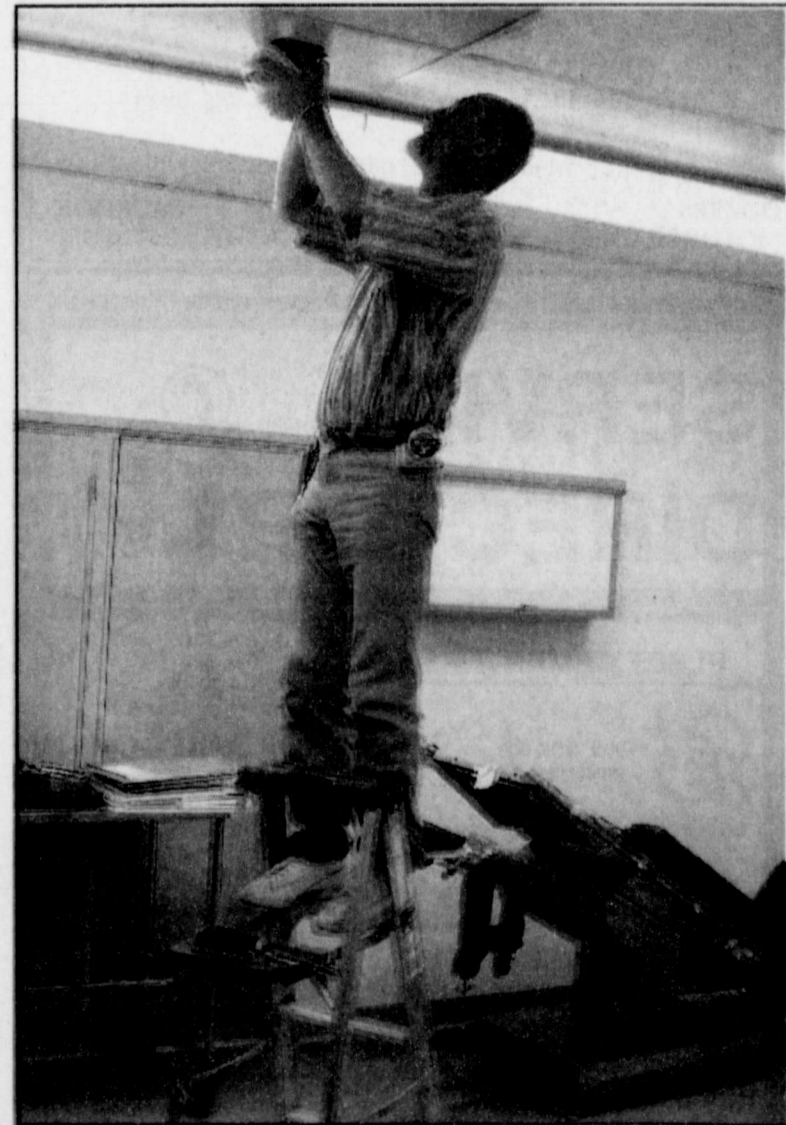
ORCA was created by the 77th Legislature to facilitate and focus the State's health, economic development, and community development programs targeting rural communities in Texas.

ORCA's programs and ser-

vices support health care delivery in rural Texas, and address rural community planning activities, and housing and public facility needs such as sewer, water system, road, drainage improvements, and

disaster relief funds.

ORCA also administers programs designed to improve the leadership capacity of rural community leaders. ORCA is the door to Texas government for rural citizens.



(photo by Deb Pritchard)

INSTALLING THE NEW FIRE ALARM SYSTEM at North Runnels Hospital is Walt Pattee of INCA Fire Alarms in Abilene, thanks to ORCA grant funds. See related story.

The City of Winters
welcomes tourists

Visit our
lake parks.

Editorial

Oil Bidness

by Reg Boles © 2003



I just have to take one more stab at the idea that we can eliminate imports of petroleum by conserving.

While it sounds good, it is inherently contradictory to free-market thinking.

We currently import almost 60% of our petroleum. Of that, most is produced cheaper than the domestic U.S. production. In the U.S., it costs an average of \$5-8 per barrel to produce oil, and many stripper wells average more than \$10 per barrel. Many more make only a slim profit even at \$25 per barrel prices.

If we collectively reduce U.S. consumption, oil prices will not stay unchanged—they will go down. At any price, the cheapest oil will make its way to our refineries. The highest-cost oil will be shut-in first.

In many of the countries from whom the U.S. buys oil, the average cost per barrel to produce oil can be well below \$5 and some sources approach less than \$1. And, these figures are after adding in transportation to our shores.

There is no security blanket under which the refineries and consumers in the U.S. operate. We all want to pay the lowest price for fuel and, by that normal instinct, we influence the world price of oil. Any con-

sumption of fuel will cause a market pulse across the globe for the lowest price.

When we reduce consumption, our own stripper oil will feel the pinch and be replaced by cheaper oil from outside of our borders. When an operator can't make a profit on a well, he will shut it in. If outside market forces push oil prices down, the low-cost producer wins.

The U.S. is NOT a low-cost producer. Our international competitors/producers are the low-cost producers.

It doesn't have anything to do with skill, experience, or inherent ability. It's all about field sizes, well capacities, maturity of producing provinces, and being in the right place, right now, for oil production.

So, while there may be many other benefits to cutting consumption (we won't argue those here), the idea that foreign producers will be cut out of the deal is not a viable position. Those foreign sources would like grow in influence in a world where consumption is cut below current levels.

I welcome any conflicting views on this topic to share with the readers of this column.

HIGHLIGHTS OF AREA DRILLING ACTIVITY
(Returns in June)

Wingate Baptist Church Revival in progress

Revival services are in progress at the Wingate Baptist Church. Services began Wednesday, May 28, and will continue through Sunday morning, June 1. The evening services are at 7:30 p.m. and the Sunday service is at 10:55 a.m.

Speaker for the revival is Rev. Ferris Akins of Ballinger,

who is pastor of the Hopewell Baptist Church.

Music director is Bill Jones of Lovington, New Mexico.

Pastor Kenneth Jones issues an invitation to members and former members of Wingate Baptist Church to attend. Friends of Rev. and Mrs. Akins are cordially invited also.

Letters to the Editor

Resident warns of killer bees

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

When we bought the Helms farm, honey bees resided in a hole in an old oak tree. We didn't bother them. They didn't bother us.

Within the past two weeks, Africanized wild bees moved into the tree, killing the good honey bees.

Sunday, my husband Jerry was cutting grass around the tree. He was attacked and stung at least 50 times. His face, ears, arms and hands were covered with those angry bees. They attacked our dogs also.

Jerry ran to the water hose and began using his hands to sweep them off his head, face, and arms. He managed to get into his van, killing those bees that entered with him. Later he tried to leave the van and enter the house, concerned about our back door being open. He didn't want the bees to get into our house, and he wanted to get our dogs inside.

These bees were extremely aggressive.

If you have regular honey bees, watch for these African bees seeking to invade.

If you're cutting grass and you have any tree on your property with a cavity in it, fill it with cement.

We hope the EPA will be out to our house to get the bees out of the tree. We don't want anyone else to experience what Jerry and the Pattons experienced. Please take precautions. It is God's grace those bees didn't kill Jerry. God bless you.

Lola Scott

Reader applauds apologies

Dear Editor:

Regarding Mr. Gehrels and Mr. Frazier's letters, both men have learned a valuable lesson about honesty, integrity, and taking responsibility for your actions.

Bravo! Well done. We should all wish them well.

Joe Eckels

GRADUATION, continued

Jena Bahlman, Leah Bredey, Shane Colburn, Stefanie Davis, Kala Hagle, Lacey Meyers, Priscilla Ontiveros, Stephanie Parsons, Lydia Rocha, Guy Slimp, Stacey Sneed, Stacey Walden and Laci Walker.

Hale then announced Guy Slimp and Stacey Walden as winners of the Jake Joyce Memorial Award for Outstanding

Boy and Girl, respectively, of WHS. Stacey was also awarded the Pearl Jackson Memorial Scholarship. Stefanie Davis received the Floy Hood Hodge Scholarship.

Following graduation, seniors were treated to a special evening of fun, games, contests and prizes at Project Graduation, the all-night, drug-free and alcohol-free party.

COUNCIL, continued

money saved by not filling the fourth position in the Street Department. He said this would "make it fair to the citizens in that the property tax would not have to be increased to pave the streets."

However, Grenwelle has expressed concern about the lack of manpower in his department at previous Council meetings and how he and his small crew could handle such a big project.

Hassan also told the Council that he is not planning to fill the fifth position in the Police Department either. He said this will enable the City to save enough to make the payments on the two new police cars and, "if the savings are enough, we may be able to lower the taxes by three cents."

He said the City could refund its revenue bond and sell new bonds with lower interest. Hassan also mentioned the possibility of saving enough money in the Water Department to lower the water rates by three cents.

Hassan asked the Council to "please think comprehensively" to possibly approve a resolution to authorize him and George Williford of First Southwest Company in Dallas to sell \$220,000 Certificate of Obligation bonds. Once approved, Hassan said he would call Williford and then prepare paperwork for the June 30 Council meeting.

He added that he hopes the County crew will help with the physical labor of paving the streets, and that volunteers may be asked to pitch in to pave one section at a time.

Alderman Steve Esquivel made a motion to approve paving the dirt street with Certificate of Obligation funds as indicated above and the motion was approved.

Hassan further explained if the new bonds were sold at a lower interest rate as previously done, and the existing revenue bond was refunded, the City might be able to save enough money which

could be used for capital improvement for the Waterworks Enterprise Fund as well as lowering the water rates by three cents.

The motion carried to refund the bond indebtedness.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Jimmy Butler issued the oath of office to Mayor Dawson McGuffin who, in turn, issued the oath of office of Mayor Pro-Tempore to Jimmy Butler.

Mayor McGuffin also read and presented a Proclamation to Gary Moore, Municipal Court Judge, for his professional job performance. Moore was also presented a bonus check for \$60.00.

Dr. Hassan gave a status report on the Lake Ivie pipeline project. The Council was against borrowing money from the Texas Water Review Board; however, they supported the STEP grant for the pipeline project to connect Winters into the pipeline from Ivie Reservoir to Abilene.

The following correspondence was included in the Council binders:

- Proclamation for nursing facilities
 - Letter from Tony Torres requesting transfer from Water Department to Street Department
 - Letter from McCreary law firm to Chris Richter for delinquent taxes for 2001.
 - Letter to Jeremiah Cortez regarding dog kennel.
 - Letter to Sharon Hicks, City Attorney for City of Abilene regarding Emergency Raw Water Supply Agreement.
 - Letter to Chris Ozbirn on evacuation of city-owned house at 705 Wood.
 - Letter of resignation from Police Officer Gary Heberling.
 - Letter to Honorable John Cornyn on Historic Preservation Grant for the Scout Hut.
- Present for the May 19 meeting were Alderman Steve Esquivel, Jimmy Butler and Mike Meyer; Mayor McGuffin; City Manager Dr. Hassan; and City Attorney Ken Slimp.

NOTICE OF GAS RATE INCREASE REQUEST

TXU Gas Company (the "Company"), in accordance with the Gas Utility Regulatory Act as set forth in the Texas Utilities Code, hereby gives notice of its intent to implement a new schedule of rates for natural gas service to be charged to all of the customers served by the Company in the incorporated municipalities and unincorporated areas in the Company's statewide gas utility system (the "System"). The proposed revisions to the respective rate schedules will impact all classes of service and all fees and charges presently being assessed by the Company on its transmission and distribution systems. As of the filing date of the Company's Statement of Intent to change rates, the proposed rates are expected to approximately produce a \$69,524,311 or a 7.24 percent increase in the Company's annual revenues from customers in the System. The proposed change will affect approximately 1,344,030 residential, 125,603 commercial, and 1,441 industrial sales and transportation customers in the System. The proposed change constitutes 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 customers, depending on consumption and current applicable rate schedules. The proposed changes in rates will not become effective for environs customers until similar changes have become effective within the nearest incorporated city or town. A residential customer receiving a bill for 6 Mcf will see a bill of approximately \$41.69, which would constitute an average increase of approximately \$3.59 per month or a 9.4% increase. A commercial customer receiving a bill for 30 Mcf will see a bill of approximately \$173.04, which would constitute an average increase of approximately \$13.91 per month or a 8.7% increase. The effect of the proposed changes to rates and services for industrial sales and transportation customers, which may be significant for individual customers, will vary depending on type of service and consumption. The proposed change would constitute an increase of \$0.00 or a 0% increase in annual revenues to the Company for industrial sales and transportation customers. A complete copy of the Statement of Intent, filed with the Railroad Commission of Texas and all of the System cities and towns on May 23, 2003, is available for inspection in the Company business office located at 1601 Bryan St., Dallas, Texas 75201. Persons with specific area questions or who want information about this filing may contact TXU Gas Company at 1-800-460-3030. Any affected persons located inside of the city limits of a municipality served by the Company may file written comments or protest concerning the proposed change in rates with their respective municipality. Any affected persons located outside of the city limits of a municipality served by the Company may file written comments or protest concerning the proposed change in rates with Docket Services Section of the Legal Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711-2967, but have a limited time to do so. Pursuant to the Rules of the Railroad Commission of Texas, Title 16 of the Texas Administrative Code Section 7.230, any affected persons may file written comments or a protest concerning the proposed change in the environs rates with the Docket Services Section of the Railroad Commission of Texas, at any time within 30 days following the date on which the change would or has become effective. The Company is proposing to have these proposed rates become effective on June 27, 2003.

Este es un aviso para informar a los clientes de TXU Gas Company (la "Compañía") que la Compañía está solicitando un aumento en la tarifa de gas. Este aumento afectará a todos los consumidores de gas de la Compañía en el estado de Texas. Si usted tiene alguna pregunta con respecto a este aumento, por favor llame a TXU Gas Company al 1-800-460-3030.

SUMMER HOURS

June 1 thru August 31

**OPEN 8 AM - 4 PM
MONDAY - FRIDAY
SATURDAY 8 - 11 AM**

Winters Flower Shop & More...

Janice Pruser, Owner

Yes! I'd like to light the way to a cure!

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Address _____

Phone (Day & Evening) _____

I'd like to purchase a luminary IN HONOR OF: _____

I'd like to purchase a luminary IN MEMORY OF: _____

Please make your check payable to the American Cancer Society. Return this complete form(s) with your \$5 donation(s) to:
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MEMBER WINTERS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEMBER ABILENE

Did you know?

The manufacturing companies in Runtels County together are the largest users of rolled steel in Texas.

(source: Winters Area Business and Industrial Corporation)

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MEMBER 2003
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Free Annuity Review

Changing interest rates and market conditions may affect the return on your investments, including your annuity. That's why it's important to periodically review your annuity to ensure it is working to meet your financial objectives.

If you have any questions about your annuity's performance, call or stop by for more information. Be sure to bring your contract and most current statements.

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Community

Pastor's Points

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

Give me strength

by Pastor Georgia Orr, First United Methodist Church

This spring I have enjoyed looking out my office window and watching a family of bluebirds building a nest on the porch light fixture. Unfortunately, they do make a mess. If you are privileged to see the baby birds as they grow, you see them peek over the side of the nest. They suddenly see the very large, open, unexplored world around them.

At first they may look out at that large open area and shrink back to the familiar safety of their nest. Perhaps their small, untried wings are all that will keep them from falling and they know how weak their wings are.

I have read how the mother eagle takes her young away from the nest and drops them, letting them fall for a distance and then flies under them, catching them on her wings and carries them back up and drops them again—repeating this procedure until they learn to fly. They soon learn that the air and movement of their wings support them.

How often do we let unfamiliar situations and circumstances overcome us and become threatening? Our imagination can lead us into believing all kinds of terrible things. Sometimes when we look at circumstances that are outside of our familiar "nest" we, too, may feel like the baby birds. We take a look at our own weakness and we may want to turn around and go back into our safe nest.

In times of crisis, either real or imagined, what is it that God has called us to do or to learn? He may be trying to push us out of our nest and "stretch our wings" so we can grow in our faith.

When Peter saw the Lord Jesus walking on the Sea of Galilee, he cried out, "Lord, if it is you, tell me to come to you on the water." Jesus replied, "Come." Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. But he took his eyes off Jesus and began to be afraid, listening to the winds and he began to sink.

We tend to take our eyes off Jesus and allow fear to take over, causing us to sink. When we look to our own resources, thinking we can do it on our own, we may get a "sinking" feeling. We need to remember to keep our eyes on Jesus, when we feel uncertain, weak or afraid.

Jesus will always be there for us just like the mother eagle, to catch us within His wings.



PENNY PRITCHARD (center), an associate from Ballinger Wal-Mart, presents \$100 each to **John Heathcott** (left), treasurer of Winters 4-H, and **Cody Pritchard**, president of Winters Future Farmers of America. The donations were made by Wal-Mart in honor of Mrs. Pritchard who has donated more than 15 hours during a quarter to each of the local clubs. Mrs. Pritchard has graciously volunteered her time quarterly to FFA and 4-H through Wal-Mart's Volunteerism Always Pays (V.A.P.) program for the past several years.

Summer tennis camp set for June 2-6 at WHS tennis courts

A "Feel the Chill" Tennis Camp will be held from June 2-6, 2003, at the WHS Tennis Courts.

Boys and girls, entering the fourth through ninth grades, who have not been enrolled in Winters High School, are eligible to attend.

Cost of the camp is \$20 per camper and includes instruction, use of facilities, and camp T-shirt. A discount will be offered for families with more than one child participating in the camp.

The daily camp will be divided into two sessions with those entering the fourth through seventh grades from 8-10:30 a.m. and those entering the eighth and ninth grades from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Registration forms may be obtained by calling Coach David Acevedo at 754-1121. Registration deadline is Friday, June 1, 2003.

The purpose of the camp is to instruct young tennis players in the basic fundamentals of the game and to develop some positive habits towards becoming a better tennis player. Winters High School Head Tennis Coach David Acevedo will direct the camp.

Country Club News

by Brenda Clough, Ladies Golf Association President

The ladies met on Tuesday, but opted not to play due to the weather. Discussion was held regarding the work schedule and serving lunch for the workday this Saturday, May 31.

Wednesday night scramble winning team was Mel Kennedy, Sharon Kennedy, Alfred Yates, Aref Hassan, and Katch Katchmazenski. Closest to the pin was Alfred Yates.

A Memorial Day tournament was held on Monday with a very good attendance. A covered dish luncheon was served following the tournament.

Winners of this tournament were:

1st place: Connie Mac Gibbs, Sharon Kennedy, Martin Martinez, Jerry Whitlow, and Gary Schwartz

2nd place: Bill Hall, Jan Sims, Jim Ventress, Van Spill, and Aref Hassan.

Dickie Clough won closest to the pin.

Everyone is reminded of the workday on Saturday, May 31, and the annual Industrial Tournament scheduled for June 6-7.

Senior Citizens Activity Center Menu

Proudly Presented By:
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North Runnels Hospital
A Small Hospital With A Big Heart
HWY. 153 EAST P.O. BOX 185
WINTERS, TEXAS 79567 (325) 754-4553

June 2 through June 6
Subject to change

Monday, June 2: Burrito, coleslaw, Spanish rice, chips & hot sauce, and peanut butter bar.
Tuesday, June 3: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, corn, hot roll, and peach cobbler.
Wednesday, June 4: Liver & onions, parslid potatoes, greens, cornbread, and banana pudding.
Thursday, June 5: Chicken spaghetti, peas, tomato salad, garlic bread, and cake.
Friday, June 6: Hamburger, pickles & onions, French fries, fruit salad, 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.

Fritz-Bredemeyer Family Reunion

Sunday, June 8, 2003

Winters Community Center

Something new!!!
Silent Auction
Item donation appreciated

Brunch at 9 a.m. & covered dish lunch at 12:30 p.m.

For more information contact Kay Tomlinson at (915) 366-7374 or e-mail kaytomlinson@grandecom.net

Fourth Annual Relay for Life planned for June 20-21

Local organizers for the Fourth Annual Winters/Runnels County Relay for Life have announced plans for the event scheduled for June 20 & 21 at the Winters Track Complex. A fund-raising effort for the American Cancer Society, Winters' third relay held last June raised \$12,500 for cancer research, prevention, and education. The local Relay has raised over \$30,000 the last three years.

The Relay for Life is a national fund-raising project for the American Cancer Society which is sponsored in communities all over America. Other local relays are scheduled in

Abilene, San Angelo, Brownwood, and Comanche, to name a few.

The event involves teams of 10 to 15 members each, from throughout the community and surrounding areas, who are encouraged to commit to raising a minimum of \$25 per team member for the American Cancer Society.

Decorated "tent cities" will be erected around the track's perimeter by each team. A host of entertaining activities will take place throughout the night.

As one local businessman commented after the first Relay, "This is the best commu-

nity-wide event we've had in a long time—for any reason. Everyone is together...young and old...just having a really good time. It's great!"

NOW is the time to begin organizing teams for this worthwhile community event. Team captains need to register and receive packets by contacting Shanna Bear at 754-4505 or 754-4625.

Luminaries may be purchased in advance by contacting Amy Wheat at 754-4882.

Anyone wishing to be a part of the Survivor's Lap held to open the event should contact Belinda Schwartz at 754-5606.

Hale Museum conducts annual Membership Drive

The Z. I. Hale Museum is conducting its annual membership drive. Membership and donations are the primary support for the operation and activities of the Museum. The Z. I. Hale Museum Association was formed in 1978 to preserve the history of the area and to show the unique heritage of this part of Texas.

The Museum Complex consists of the Z. I. Hale Museum, The Rock Hotel Heritage Center, the Gus Pruser Agricultural Exhibit, the Drummer House, and the Caboose. The Museum is open Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 1:00 - 5:00 pm. Genevieve Spill is the Museum manager and works hard to maintain current exhibits and to show visitors the many displays.

Family membership dues are \$15.00 per year; business membership is \$40.00 per year, and lifetime membership is \$125.00. Dues and donations for the operation of the museum or for restoration projects can be sent to Z. I. Hale Museum, P.O. Box 211, Winters, Texas 79567.

WHAT'S HAPPENING ?

- May 29- 11:30 a.m., Sr. Citizens Meal, Sr. Citizens Activity Center
5 p.m., Hale Museum Board of Directors, Rock Hotel
7:30 p.m., Wingate Baptist Church Revival Services
- May 30- 11:30 a.m., Sr. Citizens Meal, Sr. Citizens Activity Center
7:30 p.m., Cowboys for Christ, Drasco
Runnels County Farm Bureau Contests Deadline
7:30 p.m., Wingate Baptist Church Revival Services
- May 31- 7:30 p.m., Wingate Baptist Church Revival Services
Winters Country Club Workday
- June 1- 6:55 a.m., Wingate Baptist Church Revival Services
Last day to order fish from RSWCD
- June 2- 8-10 a.m., Tennis Camp, 4th-7th grades
9 a.m., Ministerial Alliance, School Cafeteria
11:30 a.m., Sr. Citizens Meal, Sr. Citizens Activity Center
6:30-8:30 p.m., Tennis Camp, 8th-9th grades
7:30 p.m., Ballinger Masonic Lodge
- June 3- 8-10 a.m., Tennis Camp, 4th-7th grades
11:30 a.m., Sr. Citizens Meal, Sr. Citizens Activity Center
Noon, Lions Club, Sr. Citizens Activity Center
2:30-3:30 p.m., Summer Reading Program, Public Library
3 p.m., Friends of Hale Museum, Rock Hotel
6-7 p.m., Ladies Swim Night, Winters Pool
6:30-8:30 p.m., Tennis Camp, 8th-9th grades
7 p.m., AA, First United Methodist Church
7 p.m., WVFD, Fire Station
7 p.m., American Legion, Post Home
- June 4- 7 a.m., Industrial Board, Windmill Enterprise Office
8-10 a.m., Tennis Camp, 4th-7th grades
8:30 a.m.- 4 p.m., Farm Safety Day Camp, ASU, San Angelo
11:30 a.m., Sr. Citizens Meal, Sr. Citizens Activity Center
6:30-8:30 p.m., Tennis Camp, 8th-9th grades
Fish delivery to RSWCD
- June 5- 8-10 a.m., Tennis Camp, 4th-7th grades
10 a.m.-Noon & 1:30-3 p.m., Immunization Clinic, Tx Dept. of Health
11:30 a.m., Sr. Citizens Meal, Sr. Citizens Activity Center
6 p.m., Chamber Directors, Chamber Office
6-7 p.m., Ladies Swim Night, Winters Pool
6:30-8:30 p.m., Tennis Camp, 8th-9th grades

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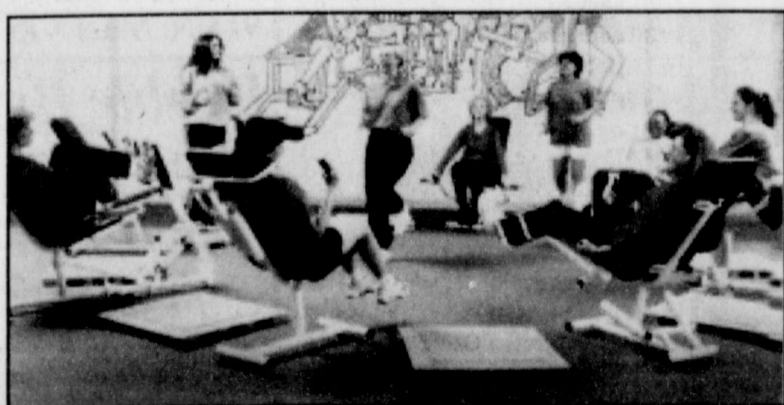
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CAFETERIA MENU

June 2 through June 6
 Subject to change

Breakfast
 (served 7:30-8 a.m.)
Monday-June 2
 Donut
 Juice
Tuesday-June 3
 Cereal
 Juice
Wednesday-June 4
 Pig in a Blanket
 Juice
Thursday-June 5
 Cereal
 Juice
Friday-June 6
 Cinnamon Roll
 Juice

Lunch
 (served Noon-1 p.m.)
Monday-June 2
 BBQ on Bun
 Chips
 Pickles & Onions
 Beans
 Peaches
 Banana Pudding
Tuesday-June 3
 Pizza
 Tossed Salad
 Green Beans
 Oatmeal Cookie
Wednesday-June 4
 Ham
 Macaroni & Cheese
 Fried Okra
 Cornbread
 Pears
Thursday-June 5
 Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce
 Tossed Salad
 Green Beans
 Garlic Bread
 Chocolate Cake
Friday-June 6
 Burrito w/Chili & Cheese
 French Fries
 Corn
 Ice Cream

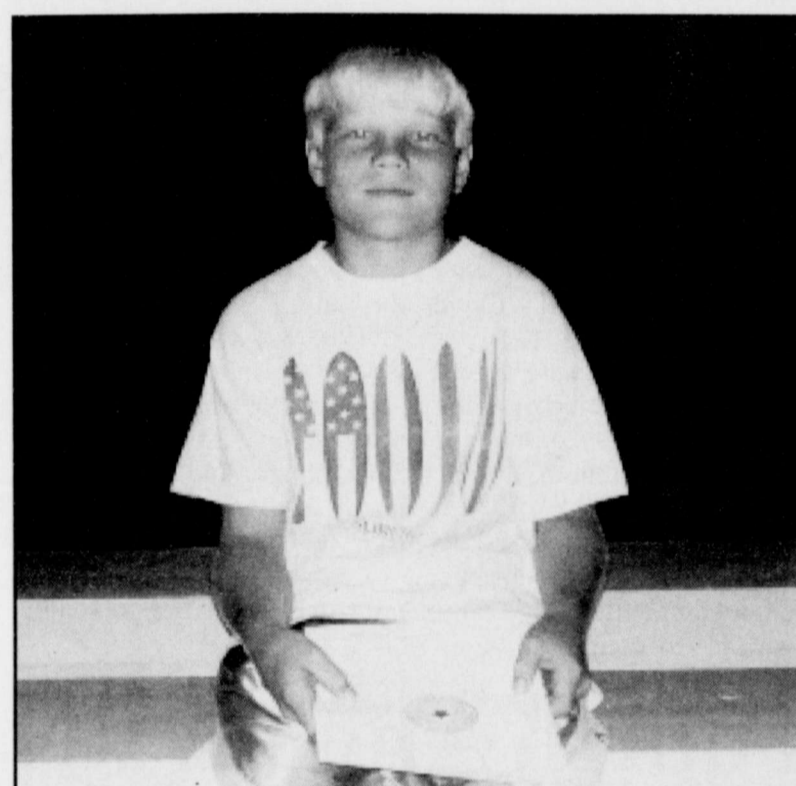
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PRESIDENTIAL AWARD WINNERS named from among Winters Elementary sixth graders were (l-r) Heather Pope, Linda Trevino, Camille Kruse, Colby Pritchard, Julie England, Corey Fenwick, Alexandra Torres, Kevin Bredemeyer, Sonia Armendariz, Jacob Wade, and Sandy Esquivel.
 (photo by Deb Pritchard)



PERFECT FOR ANOTHER YEAR in his attendance record is Garret Nitsch, 13-year-old son of Larry Nitsch and Lisa Nitsch. Garret, who just finished the seventh grade, has managed to not miss a single day of school since he began kindergarten.
 (photo by Jean Boles)

Sixth graders honored with Presidential Awards

Academic Excellence

Eleven of 54 Winters Elementary sixth grade students have been recognized by President George W. Bush for their academic accomplishments in the classroom. They received a letter from the president, a certificate, and a pin.

Two awards were given, one recognizing academic achievement for outstanding growth and effort, the other for academic excellence. Those receiving academic excellence awards have achieved a straight "A" grade point average, and excelled on TAAS math and reading tests since the fourth grade.

Those earning Academic Excellence Awards were: Sonia Armendariz, Kevin Bredemeyer, Julie England, Sandy Esquivel, Corey Fenwick, Camille Kruse, Heather Pope, and Colby Pritchard.

Receiving Academic Achievement Awards were: Alexandra Torres, Linda Trevino, and Jacob Wade.

ASU announces Spring graduates

Four Winters students were among 484 to receive degrees at Angelo State University during its 2003 Spring commencement exercises Saturday, May 10, in San Angelo, Texas. Ceremonies were held in the Junell Center, Stephens Arena, with Dr. James Hindman,

president, conferring degrees. Susan A. Ripple, received both a Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A.) and Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) in Accounting, and graduated with cum laude honors.

Robbie Morrison Bishop received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.); Jerry Henry Esquivel, a Bachelor of Science in Business and Professional Studies; and Mandy Renee Mostad, a Bachelor of Science in Education.

BKB SCHOOL SUPPLY SALE
 Take care of next Fall's school supply needs today! Each Wrap Pack of school supplies is custom packed according to the exact requirements of teachers in each grade. For your convenience, the Wrap Packs are delivered directly to the school for distribution to the students. Avoid the back-to-school rush by ordering today. PROCEEDS BENEFIT "BLIZZARD KID BACKERS"

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| Grade | Qty | Price Each | Total |
|----------|-----|------------|-------|
| PK | | \$9.37 | |
| K | | \$17.32 | |
| 1 | | \$20.53 | |
| 2 | | \$24.03 | |
| 3 | | \$16.04 | |
| 4 | | \$25.00 | |
| 5 | | \$21.19 | |
| 6 | | \$33.24 | |
| Jr. High | | \$25.00 | |

Include name, address, phone number, and student's grade level.
 Pick up at Meet the Teacher Night, August 12
 Drop by Elementary School Office or mail to BKB, c/o Sherri Mikeska, P.O. Box 205, Wingers, TX 79566

Feel the Chill Winters Summer Tennis Camp
 June 2-6, 2003
 WHS Tennis Courts

Session I: 8 to 10:30 am
 Students entering 4th, 5th, 6th, & 7th grades
 Session II: 6:30 to 8:30 pm
 Students entering 8th & 9th grades

Registration deadline June 1
 Call 754-1121

\$20/student (discount for families)
 Each camper will receive a camp T-shirt

"WIN-TEX" BASKETBALL CAMP 2003
 June 30-July 3, 2003
 Winters High School Gymnasium

Session #1 Ages 6-7-8 1-2:30 PM
 Session #2 Ages 9-10-11 2:30-4 PM
 Session #3 Ages 12-15 4-6 PM

\$35/child (For boys & girls ages 6-15)
 For more information contact:
 Coach Deb Whittenburg at 754-4470 or 754-5574 ext. 121
 OR Coach Zach Boxell at 754-2157 or 754-5574 ext. 120

TIME TO SIGN-UP!!
REGISTRATION DUE BY TUESDAY, JUNE 10.

Retired Teachers to install officers
 Runnels County Retired Teachers will meet Monday, June 9, 2003, at 1:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church in Ballinger. New officers will be installed. A salad luncheon will be enjoyed by attendees. Members please bring a copy of your recipe for the dish you prepare. Linda Blackwell, Gayle Vancil, Mildred Bigby, and Lela May Shelburne will serve as hostesses.

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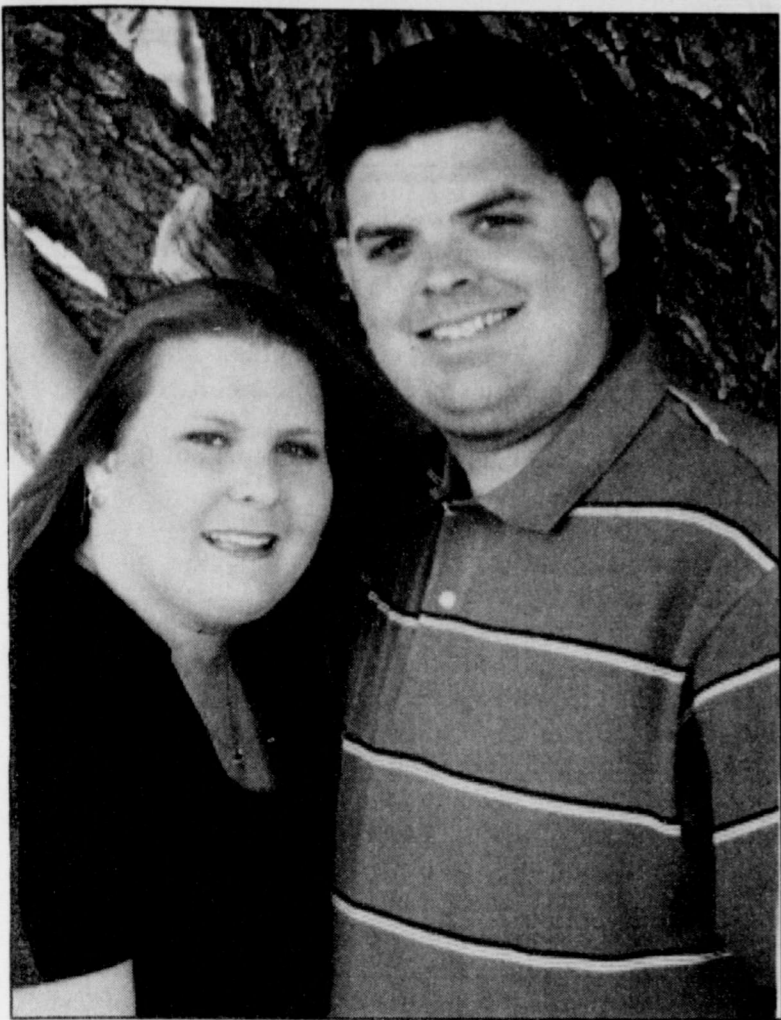
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Life

Ag Talk

by Congressman Charles Stenholm



Brandi Gray & Brent Jacob

Gray, Jacob announce July wedding plans

Roy Gray of Winters and Connie Gray of Burkburnett announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Brandi, to Brent Jacob. Brent is the son of Gary and Dinell Jacob of Winters.

The wedding is planned July 5, 2003, at two o'clock in the afternoon at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Ballinger.

The bride-elect is a 1996 graduate of Winters High School and received a bachelor of science in nursing from Angelo State University. She is a registered nurse at Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock.

The prospective bridegroom is a 1997 graduate of Winters High School and received a bachelor of science in agronomy from Texas Tech University. He is an irrigation specialist with Netafim USA in Lubbock.

Changes made to CRP program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) published the interim rule for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to reflect changes made to the CRP as a result of the 2002 Farm Bill.

One of the major changes that will be of interest to producers in the 17th District will be the role of managed haying and grazing on CRP acreage.

This is in addition to the emergency haying and grazing that has been allowed during emergency situations such as the most recent drought.

Wind turbines generally have a limited impact on the environment due to their small footprint of approximately one-tenth acre. They are non-polluting sources of energy and generally have a limited impact on wildlife.

Based on surveys of CRP participants, the managed haying uses could potentially affect about 25% of eligible CRP grassland acreage.

Haying and grazing will be limited to no more than once every three years, depending on conservation plan guidelines.

All haying or grazing activities will be conducted only after a detailed conservation plan has been developed according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) for haying and grazing standards.

The conservation plan will ensure the long-term viability of the stand, while protecting and enhancing the soil, water, wildlife, and other natural resources of the CRP acreage.

The conservation plan will require the control of noxious weeds and other weeds, insects, and pests.

The year 2003 will be considered "year one" of the management cycle for all CRP contracts in effect. For all new CRP contracts, the disturbance cycle will begin when the cover is established.

For contracts where all eligible acreage is already established,

year one of the disturbance cycle will begin during the first managed haying and grazing period after the CRP contract is approved.

Under existing emergency authority, any eligible CRP acreage may be hayed or grazed each year the county is approved.

Under the new rule, any CRP acreage eligible for emergency haying or grazing regardless of whether it was hayed or grazed in previous years under managed provisions or emergency authority.

However, any eligible acreage hayed or grazed under either managed or emergency provisions would not be eligible for managed haying or grazing for the next two years.

USDA announces Livestock Pilot Insurance Program

As part of the Risk Management Initiative to expand crop insurance coverage to other sectors, USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) has announced a pilot program that will extend in-

surence protection to feeder cattle in Texas.

The program offers coverage prices based on expected cash prices at the policy end date, with coverage levels ranging between 70 and 95 percent of the expected ending value. The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation will subsidize 13 percent of the producer's gross premium under the program.

The Livestock Risk Protection/Feeder Cattle Insurance Program is designed to insure feeder cattle inventory against decreases in price. Feeder Cattle refers to steers that will weigh 650-900 pounds at the end of the insurance period.

The insurance period will be in approximately 30-day increments from 22 to 52 weeks, and sales will begin June 9. The maximum number of feeder cattle that may be insured in any one year is 2,000 head.

Producers should contact a crop insurance agent for more information about their insurance options. A listing is available at your local FSA office or at the Risk Management Agency website.

Financial Focus

Creative ways to fund retirement plans

If you've got an IRA or an employer-sponsored retirement plan, such as a 401(k) or 403(b), you've already taken a big step toward achieving the retirement lifestyle you've envisioned. But if you're not fully funding these tax-advantaged accounts, you're missing out on a chance to accelerate the progress toward your goals.

Just how much money can you put into these plans? For 2003, you can contribute \$3,000 to a Traditional or Roth IRA; if you're 50 or over, you can put in an extra \$500. You can also put in up to

\$12,000 to your 401(k) or, if you work for a non-profit organization, to your 403(b). And if you're 50 or over, you can contribute an extra \$2,000 to these plans.

Of course, for most of us, these are good-sized sums of money - and it may seem hard to come up with the full amounts. After paying your monthly bills, you might not think you can afford to put away more into your retirement accounts. But there may be steps you can take to uncover, or at least redirect, financial resources you can apply to your retirement savings.

Here are a few ideas to consider:

*** Set up a bank authorization** - If you have a 401(k) or 403(b), you are probably automatically deferring part of your paycheck into your retirement plan. And you can follow the same basic mechanism to fund your IRA. By setting up a "bank authorization," you can have money

moved directly from your checking account, to your IRA each month. When you "pay yourself first" through this type of arrangement, you won't have a chance to spend the money on other things.

*** Put your raises to work** - If you receive an annual salary increase, consider raising the percentage of your 401(k) or 403(b) contribution. At the very least, increase your contribution enough to earn your employer's match, if one is offered. By not putting in enough to gain the match, you are literally walking away from "free" money.

*** Consider methods of "freeing up" funds** - If you can consolidate your high-rate credit cards into one lower-rate one, you may be able to free up money each month that can then go to your IRA. Also, if you're refinancing your mortgage, you may also come up with funds that can then go to your retirement accounts.

*** Get help from your Uncle**

Sam - Depending on your income level, you may be able to receive a tax credit for contributing to your IRA, 401(k) or 403(b). If you're married and file jointly, and your adjusted gross income is \$50,000 or less, you may be able to claim a tax credit ranging from ten percent to 50 percent of your IRA, 401(k) or 403(b) contribution. (The maximum contribution available as a basis for the credit is \$2,000). If you qualify, you can claim this credit in addition to any tax deduction you receive from your employer-sponsored retirement plan or Traditional IRA. To determine your eligibility for this tax credit, consult with your tax adviser.

By taking these steps, or others you may discover, you can put more money to work for you in your tax-advantaged retirement accounts. Take action soon - because the more time you have to build your savings, the better off you can be.

Reunion Time

Harter cousins reunion held in Mineral Wells

by Mamie Blaylock

On May 10, a cousin reunion was observed by 29 people who attended. This was the second cousin reunion for the descendants of Stanley and Ethel Harter.

Mr. and Mrs. Harter were longtime residents of the Wilmeth-Wingate area and are buried in the Wilmeth Cemetery. They had four daughters, Veldon Shackelford, Ima Freeman, Leona Chapmond, and Faye Campbell, and one son, the late J.S. Harter.

The reunion was held in Mineral Wells at the home of Mamie (Freeman) and Jody Blaylock. With the help of other cousins, a good time of food and visiting was enjoyed. Some out-of-town visitors spent Saturday night and

stayed Sunday also.

Out-of-town guests were Bill (Sonny) Shackelford and his three daughters, Karen, Karla, and Karey of California, granddaughter Cyndi of California; Thomas and Gail Chapmond of Austin; Jack, Lynell, and Rene Bruce of Levelland; Pat and Michael Wortman of Richardson; Faye and Mandy Campbell of Garland; Grant Wortman of Waco, Bruce and Patti Campbell of Lubbock; Kimberly Campbell, Paul, Elijah, and Isaiah of Lubbock; Mae Dean Harter, Clarice Uvick, Barbara and Dennis Rodgers, all of Tyler; Angie and Tracey Cryer, and Larry and Diane Bruce, all of Weatherford.

On Sunday, May 11, a special guest and her son came for a visit. Mary Louise (Miss Iley) and her son, Steve, visited with the group and spent time reminiscing with Bill and Mamie about their school days when Mary Louise was their first grade teacher at Wilmeth. Mary Louise recently lost her husband, Charles, of 58 years. The day was also spent taking lots of photos.

It is our hope that the cousin reunion will continue to be held and that we will all stay in touch. Grandparents Stanley and Ethel Harter, left us a great inheritance of "love and caring for one another," as well as a Christian heritage.

Thank you cousins for making this a special day!!

GEHRELS & ASSOCIATES



Craig & Kelly Gehrels
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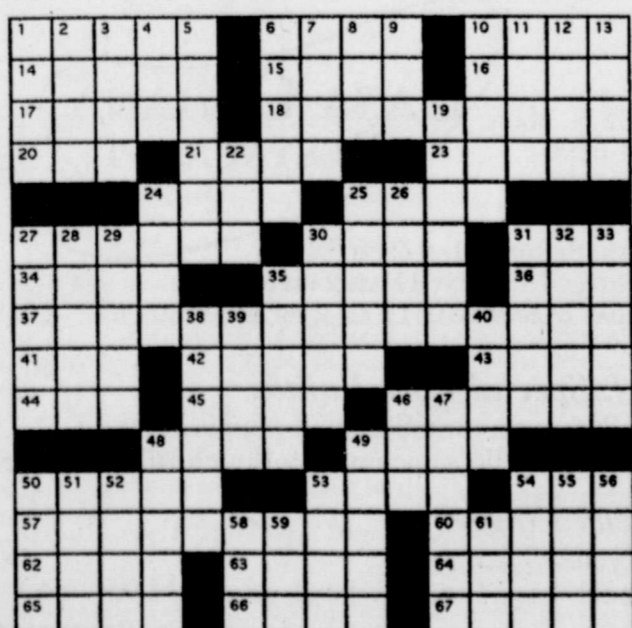
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- ACROSS**
1. Fan
 6. Presentation
 10. Hits a ball
 14. Cognizant
 15. Philip II, to Louis VIII
 16. Musical instrument
 17. ___ pole
 18. President Carlos Saúl Menem's land
 20. L.L.
 21. Sketching and singing
 23. Mammal that swims
 24. Baseball's Slaughter
 25. Bonehead
 27. Sunday newspaper supplement
 30. Floor covering, to a Brit
 31. Crumpets accompaniment
 34. Singing family
 35. Fats
 36. Light switch positions
 37. Get real!
 41. Are turned around
 42. Suggestions
 43. Answer to "Get it?"
 44. Comfortable area
 45. Go off track
 46. Fine abodes
 48. Piece of clothing
 49. Separate
 50. Old weapon
 53. Word with bird & sunflower
 54. Plane
 57. Frozen pellet
 60. Decay
 62. Field: pref.
 63. Malicious
 64. Of a branch of the armed forces
 65. Forest animal
 66. Rests
 67. Topic

- DOWN**
1. Speed
 2. Gone without permission
 3. Persians
 4. Poet's word
 5. Insist upon
 6. Disagreements
 7. Pronoun
 8. Club: abbr.
 9. Minute
 10. Game of chance
 11. Sad paragraph, for short
 12. Jaw or hip
 13. Scorch
 19. Full of knotty swellings

22. Fish eggs
24. Comfort
25. Counts calories
26. Preposition
27. Stride up and down
28. Pisan passion
29. Provide with a new staff
30. Word with year or eclipse
31. Fragmentary statue
32. Direction in a play script
33. Trees
35. Gumdrop or cookie
38. Cousteau & colleagues
39. Anthology entries
40. ___ Misbehavin'

45. ___ West
47. Zealous
48. Courage
49. Strips
50. Fisherman's catch
51. Runner
52. Old name for a nation
53. Cut
54. By ___ I
55. Made up
56. Prefix for type & marketing
58. One, two, three and four
59. Products of a Latin hen
61. Cheerleader's word



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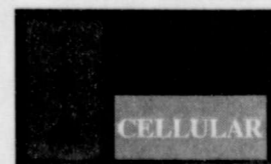
Getting good wireless service is tough some times. Geography has an awful lot to do with good coverage and good cell phone signals. In fact, if a cell phone company doesn't know the terrain, or if they just don't have enough transmission towers in the region, your phone will drop calls frequently. It pays to know your terrain and know your customers. If you have questions or problems with your cell phone service, it's also nice to know there's a Customer Service Representative or Mid-Tex Agent you can talk to face-to-face. That's not true of our competitors. Most often, you have to work through voice-mail at an undisclosed faraway location to solve a

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DOC & FAY PINEGAR ESTATE—204.5 acres located 2 miles E.E. of Wingate, Texas, with all of owners minerals. All cultivated land, eraced, no fences, bounded on two sides by county roads. Receiving bids until 05/31/03. Bids opened 06/01/03. Contact Pinegar Estate, c/o KHS, 30x 157, Winters, Texas 79567. (325) 754-5563. **14-17(6tc)**

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BACKYARD SALE: Thurs., Fri., & Sat., May 29-31. 612 Vancil. Some furniture, clothes, lots of baby items, misc., 8 a.m. to ? **14-22(1tp)**

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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. **New Listing—219 N. Church**—2B/2B, 2 living areas, lg. kitchen, covered patio, 2-car garage, RV carport. Needs work. 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.

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

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215 Paloma—3B/2B, 2 living areas, fireplace, carport, nice neighborhood. Possible owner finance!

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Outdoors

Pre-register by June 4—

Predator Awareness Workshop planned for June 10 in Paint Rock

The Texas Cooperative Extension Office has scheduled a "Predator Awareness Workshop" June 10 at the Concho County Show Barn in Paint Rock. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. and the program begins at 9 a.m.

Six Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) continuing education units will be offered toward pesticide applicator license re-certification.

The program is sponsored by the Extension, with assistance from the Sheep and Goat Predator Management Board, Texas Wildlife Damage Management Service (TWDMS), TDA, and the Texas Department of Health.

Pre-registration by June 4 is \$5 per person. Registration after June 4 and at the door is \$10 per person. The fee includes a catered lunch and coffee and cold drinks for the day.

To pre-register and for further information contact the Concho County Extension Office at 325-732-4304.



(photo by Jean Boles)

WE'RE OUTA HERE! . . . Says the class of 2003 as they jump for joy and celebrate their enthusiasm during graduation rehearsal last Friday morning at Blizzard Field. Fifty-four seniors received diplomas during ceremonies in the 8:30 p.m. program.

Pest Management News

by Rick Minzenmayer, IPM-Agent, Runnels & Tom Green Counties

GENERAL SITUATION—

Extremely hot dry conditions have been a norm for the past several weeks. These cooler temperatures and scattered rain showers is certainly a welcomed sight.

Wheat harvest has begun and, remarkably, the yields are generally a little better than expected. Producers have commented that the late freeze damage is very obvious in some areas of wheat fields. Bushel weights are generally good as well. Price of wheat went down this week.

Cotton planting has begun in some areas. Much of the irrigated cotton is in the ground and coming up to a stand. Dryland cotton acres will be going in the ground very soon.

GRAIN SORGHUM—Grain sorghum is progressing nicely with very few problems other than dry hot weather. Greenbug infestations remain low. Many producers have been applying last-minute herbicide applications to sorghum fields the past several weeks. We should finish those applications prior to the 7th leaf stage.

You should also be aware of any cotton which may be up in nearby fields. If 2, 4-D is applied at head differentiation (8th leaf stage or greater), it can cause blasted heads. Ally® tank mixed at low rates with 2,4-D works well and generally provides about 60 days or less control of many broadleaf weed species. Residual activity is dependent upon weather conditions. Remember, when applying a hormone-type herbicide such as 2,4-D during this time of the year, drift can be a problem. You are responsible if the herbicide drifts onto nontarget crops.

Recommendations to consider when applying 2,4-D:

* Use air-induction or drift reduction nozzles to help in reducing physical drift.

* Stay at least 1/4 mile from susceptible crops such as cotton.

* Use only Amine Formulations this time of the year.

* Ester Formulations is not recommended at all this time of year.

* Do not spray hormone herbicides when temperatures are increasing. It is best to spray when temperatures are decreasing or in the evening when temperatures are cooler and remain cool for 12-

14 hours.

COTTON—Many producers are going into a conservation-till type system. One very important management practice which should not be forgotten is the burndown of weeds at least 30 days prior to planting.

We are having some problems with false wireworm adults in cotton fields which are being planted into wheat stubble. The false wireworm adult is a small black beetle that has chewing mouthparts and a big appetite for seedling cotton.

Cutworms have been a problem in production areas south of here so check those fields closely.

Both of these insects feed on seedling cotton plants and can reduce your plant stand significantly. Pyrethroid insecticides have done a good job controlling these pests.

Cotton that is planted prior to wheat harvest and/or next to small grain fields is very susceptible to thrips damage. Most of the irrigated cotton was seed treated and that treatment should provide about three weeks control of thrips. Generally, seed treatments such as Cruiser® provides 3 to 4 weeks of protection from thrips and early season aphids. They will not control grasshoppers or false wireworm adults.

Producers are encouraged to inspect seedling cotton for thrips and plant injury (terminal leaf curling). Thrips normally pose a threat to cotton up to the 6-7 true leaf stage.

WHEAT, Hessian Fly Update—Well, what we originally thought was an isolated infestation of Hessian flies in Runnels County turned out to be much larger. Hessian fly infestations were also found in the Lowake, Wingate, and Winters areas of Runnels County. They were also found in Tom Green, Taylor and Callahan counties. This is not the end of the world but we will need to modify our management practices a little.

Here are some cultural practices that can be used to reduce the population before they leave the field:

1) Don't spread the problem—be sure that combines are clean before they leave the field.

2) Try to incorporate the wheat stubble 4-6 inches deep.

3) Plant next year's wheat after November 1, 2003.

4) Select resistant varieties to plant next season.

COTTON SCOUTING PROGRAM—The Runnels/Tom Green IPM Pest Management Program will be accepting fields for the 2003 Survey Scouting Program. The Southern Rolling Plains Cotton Growers Association is funding the program. We appreciate their faith and support in our programs.

Nine local gins will have sign-up sheets so stop by now and sign-up if you are interested in the scouting program. The deadline for signing up is May 28. Scouts have been selected and will begin work on June 2 so sign-up now.

ACTIVITIES IN JUNE—The Tom Green/Runnels County Pest Management Committee is sponsoring a scout school June 9 and 10. This is the only scout school in the state that provides both an intensive classroom and real field experience in a two-day session.

Cost for scout school for private industry is \$50.00 for the first intern and \$10.00 for each additional intern. For producers attending, the cost will be \$10.00. The fee will cover sponsorship of the program plus publication costs of the educational material.

The educational material will include information on cotton physiology, cotton varieties, cotton diseases, and cotton insects. In addition, the material will include color photos of insect pests as well as color photos of the natural enemies present in cotton.

Scout School will be at Texas Cooperative Extension in San Angelo. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. CEU credits will be given at that time. Be thinking of joining us there. You can preregister by calling 325-365-5212. The deadline for registering is June 2, 2003.

The Daily Crop Update sponsored by the SRPCGA will begin around the middle of June. The telephone number is 915-365-2642 and will provide daily insect updates, crop development information, and some weed management tips.

Turnrow meetings will also begin about the middle of June. More information will be given as the season progresses.

CRP sign-up extended to June 13

Sign-up period for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has been extended from May 30, 2003 to June 13, 2003 announced Dwaine Lange, County Committee Chairman for the Runnels County Farm Service Agency.

"Interest in the general CRP sign-up has been strong. This extension gives busy producers more time to enroll in this highly successful, environmentally beneficial program," said Lange.

CRP is the nation's largest private lands environmental improvement program—it protects millions of acres of topsoil from erosion, provides valuable wildlife habitat and safeguards America's ground and surface water quality. The 2002 Farm Bill authorized CRP enrollment up to 39.2 million acres. For fiscal year 2003, approximately 35,000 acres are currently enrolled in the program.

CRP participants voluntarily remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production by entering into long-term contracts for ten to 15 years. In exchange, they receive annual rental payments and a payment of up to 50 percent of the cost of establishing conservation practices.

Current participants with contracts expiring this fall—covering about 1.5 million acres—can make new contract offers, which, if accepted, will become effective on October 1, 2003. All other contracts awarded under this sign-up will become effective either at the beginning of the next fiscal year, October 1, 2003 or the following year, October 1, 2004, whichever the producer chooses.

FSA will evaluate and rank eligible CRP offers using the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI), a ranking of environmental benefits to be gained from enrolling the land in CRP. Decisions on the EBI thresholds will be made by the Secretary after the sign-up ends the season progresses.

and after FSA analyzes the EBI numbers of all the offers. Those who would have met previous sign-up EBI thresholds are not guaranteed a contract under this sign-up.

"Producers who enroll acreage in CRP promote conservation and stewardship by protecting sensitive land for future generations and reduce production of surplus commodities. In return, producers receive needed income support through program payments and use of the land for recreational purposes," said Lange.

Aside from the general sign-up, the CRP continuous sign-

up program is available on an ongoing basis for private lands currently in production. FSA has reserved two million acres for the continuous sign-up program, which protects the most environmentally desirable and sensitive land. FSA is making a special effort to help enhance wildlife habitats and air quality by earmarking 500,000 of these acres for hardwood tree planting. Continuous sign-up for hardwood planting will start after the general sign-up. For more information on CRP, visit FSA's Web site at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/cepd/default.htm>.

Deadline to order fish is June 1

Runnels Soil and Water Conservation District is holding their annual fish sale again this year.

The program will continue through June 1, 2003, with delivery of the fish on June 4. Available species, sizes, and prices are as follows:

- Channel catfish, 4-6", 50¢
- 6-8", 75¢
- Blue catfish, 3-6", 85¢
- Largemouth bass, 1-4", 75¢

- Bluegill sunfish, 1-3", 45¢
- 3"+, 85¢
- Hybrid bream, 1-3", 45¢
- Red Ear perch, 1-3", 45¢
- Crappie, 1-4", 75¢
- Minnows (300-400 per lb.),
- Fathead or shiner, \$9 per lb.
- Sterile grass carp, available with permit, see NRCS office.

To place your fish order, please stop by the NRCS office at 2000 Hutchins Avenue in Ballinger or call 365-3415, ext. 3.

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By Ace Reid

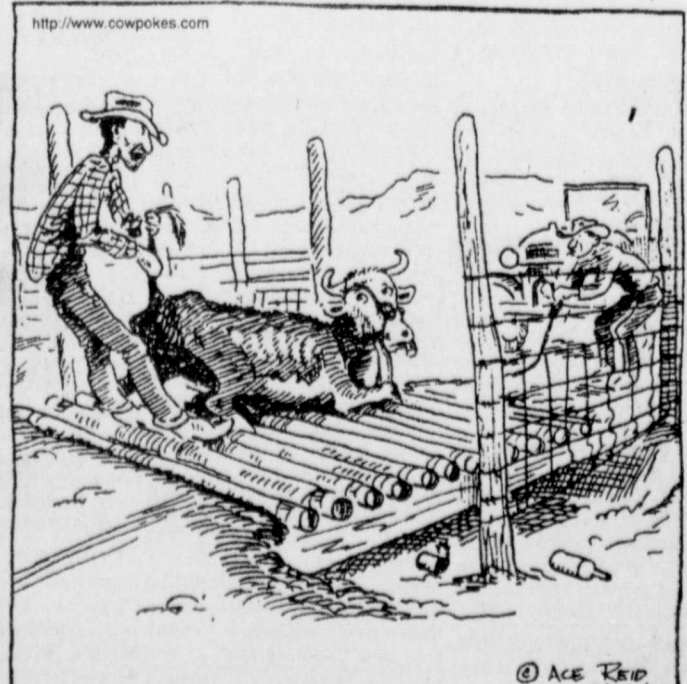
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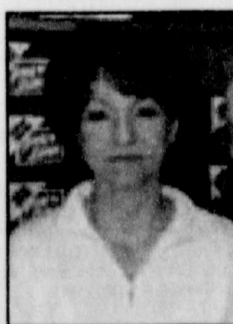
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