

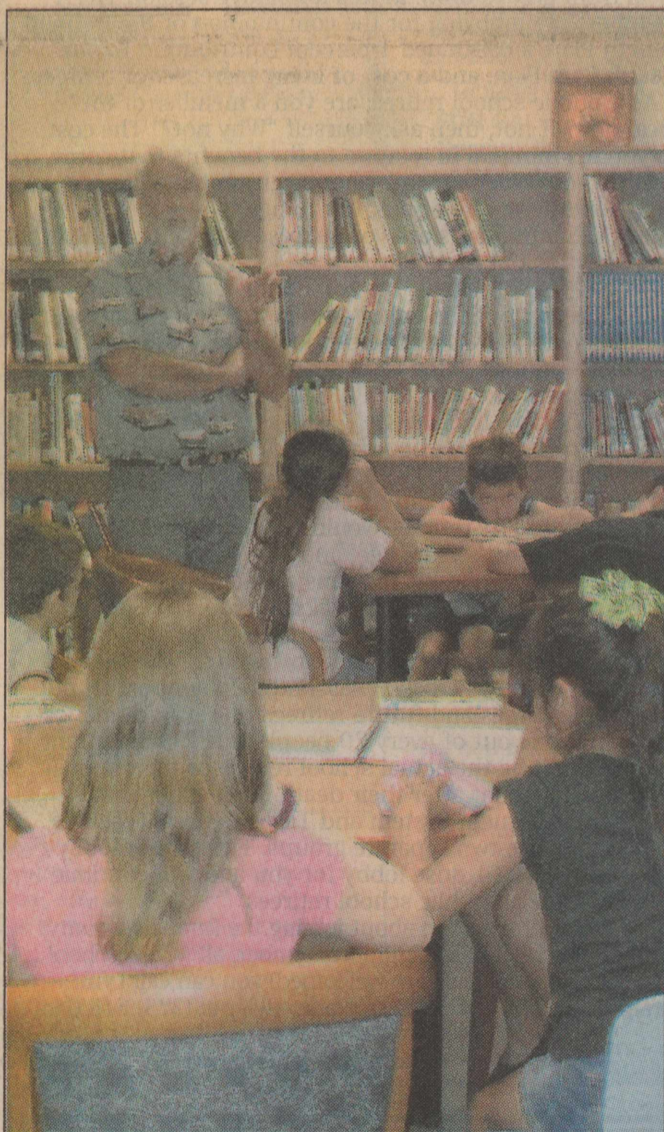
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PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED

Garland Richards from Fort Chadbourne, presented the weekly library program last Monday, June 13, at the Winters Public Library. Richards talked to the children about archeological digs made in the historical site.

## Library hosts Fort Chadbourne's program for kids



The Summer Reading Program at the Winters Public Library started on June 6. All children are invited to attend and enjoy this educational adventure.

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
 STAFF REPORT

WINTERS- The Winters Public Library presented its weekly children's program. This week's Winters Children's Library Program was presented by Garland Richards from Fort Chadbourne. Since the theme of the summer reading program is "Dig Up a Good Book" his information about the archeological digs at Fort Chadbourne was very fitting.

Fort Chadbourne was founded in 1852 and it is part of the Trail of Forts. This was a line of forts created to protect the settlers from the Indians. Comanche, Apache, and Juamou tribes were all in this area of Texas.

Mr. Richards shared information about how people lived at the time the fort was in use back in the 1850s. The Indians were faster than the calvary on horse back, because they had the faster horses and rode without all the encumbrances of the soldiers' military gear and weapons.

Indians could shoot their bow and arrows faster than the soldiers could load their long guns. The soldiers wore wool uniforms and usually cooled off in Oak Creek wearing their uniforms which then acted like airconditioning as they dried off. Soldiers meals consisted of hardtack (a type of large cracker), water and beef jerky.

Mr. Richards donated a book to the library entitled "Fort Chadbourne - A Military Past, A Family History." Mr. Richard's family has been the owners of the property that Fort Chadbourne is on since 1874. His family has been instrumental in the restoration of the fort and is currently in the process of building a visitors' center to house the history of Fort Chadbourne. This is his effort to "Create and rebuild a place to keep history alive." He welcomes all visitors to the fort which is open daily. The new visitors' center Open House will take place in October 2011.

This Summer Reading Program at the Public Library is being held during the month of June. Presentations are held from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. On Monday, June 20 the library has scheduled a program presented by Mandy and Julie England, and Ryan Young.

Article submitted by Dr. Janice R. Beuschel, Winters, Texas.

## Think twice before picking up wildlife

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
 STAFF REPORT

WINTERS- Every year, particularly during the spring and summer, hundreds of young wild animals are unnecessarily picked up by the general public and referred to game wardens or wildlife rehabilitators for treatment and rearing.

The most commonly referred animals are baby birds and deer fawns. While most of these animals are picked up by well-meaning persons, it is important to realize that many such human-animal encounters are unnecessary and can even be detrimental to the wildlife concerned.

A recent study conducted by a Texas rehabilitator found that, in some years, 40 percent or more of the deer fawns referred to her were not orphans or injured, but "kidnapped" from their mothers. Typically these incidents were well-meaning but misguided attempts to "save" seemingly abandoned fawns. Anecdotal data suggest that the situation for baby birds is similar or

worse. These data indicate that such unnecessary referrals to rehabilitators are not only detrimental to the wildlife, but also disruptive and costly to wildlife rehabilitators during the time of year when they most need to concentrate limited resources on truly orphaned or injured wildlife.

A human baby needs constant attention, but this is not the case with wildlife. In fact a doe may leave her fawn alone for long periods of time, especially during these extremely dry conditions we are currently experiencing.

Remember, a young animal's best chance for survival is with its natural parents who, better than anyone else, can ensure that it retains all of its natural faculties and behaviors for survival in the wild.

In the rare case when a wild animal needs human intervention, orphaned or injured animals are taken to licensed wildlife rehabilitators, who are trained to use methods that will give a wild animal the best chance for surviving upon release.

## Birdies and eagles



PHOTO: RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ

One hundred five players hit the greens last weekend, for the 45th Annual Industrial Golf Tournament held at the Winters Country Club on Friday, June 10 and Saturday, June 11.

## 2011 Rural Mass to be held in Winters

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
 STAFF REPORT

WINTERS- The Diocese of San Angelo will have its annual Seed and Soil Rural Live Mass on Thursday, June 30 at 6:30 p.m. celebrated by the Most Rev. Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI, Bishop of San Angelo. This year's mass will be hosted by St. Mary's Star of the Sea Church and Fr. Hubert Wade, of Ballinger.

The mass celebration will be held at Gary and Dinell Jacob ranch, located at 6201 State Highway 153, near Winters. Ribbons and signs will be posted for all to better find their way.

The traditional celebration is a yearly reminder to honor those who make their living on farms and ranches and in oil fields.

Catholics gather to thank God for the endurance of the people, charity of neighbors, and the strength to rise above adversities, and pray together during this trying times.

A meal will be served immediately following mass. For more information contact Deacon Charlie Evans at (325) 357 4520 or e-mail deacon65@centex.net

## Juveniles caught trespassing at the City Pool

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ  
 WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS- A group of juveniles was caught by the Winters Police Department last Sunday, June 12 nearly at midnight, trespassing at the Winters City Pool premises. Each one of the minors was issued a ticket and was later released to their parents.

On Sunday, approximately at 11:30 p.m. the group of kids including boys and girls was found by Officer Randal

Davis inside the City Pool premises.

According to Winters City Manager Alan Hollander no damages were reported to the City Pool premises. The City though will be pursuing legal action against trespassers in order to prevent any future incidents and maintain in good condition all the City facilities.

"We are trying very hard to maintain our City facilities nice and clean for the citizens in Winters," said Hollander.

The juveniles could be facing charges for criminal trespassing.

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**FUNERALS AND DEATH NOTICES**

**Douglas Foy Sellers**

Douglas Foy Sellers, 80, of Lawn, died Wednesday June 8, 2011. He was born November 27, 1930 in Abilene and lived most of his life in Taylor and Runnels Counties. He graduated from Wylie High School and ACU. He was a Fifth Grade teacher in Abilene, teaching for many years at Bowie Elementary. He served in the United States Air Force during the Korean War. He married Ruth Knight June 24, 1970 in Abilene. He was a member of the Oplin Church of Christ.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth Knight Sellers of Winters; two sons, Fred Foy Sellers of Abilene and Timothy David Sellers of Ft. Worth; two step children, Marianna Zolondek of Round Rock and David Knight of Pflugerville; one sister, Patricia Strei of Round Rock; two grandchildren and three step grandchildren.

Graveside services were held at 10:30 a.m. on Friday June 10, 2011 in Elmwood Memorial Park in Abilene, with Jeremy Hegi officiating directed by Winters Funeral Home.

Winters Enterprise, June 16, 2011

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

A message from the Winters City Manager

I recently completed six months as your City Manager. During that time I have formed some pretty good impressions about our city that I wanted to share with you. I have the distinct privilege of working for, and working with some of the nicest, most dedicated people I have ever known. They exemplify the best in government and public service. In addition, my friends, neighbors and fellow Winters residents consistently demonstrate a resilience and strength of character worthy of respect and admiration. So where are we going and how will we get there?

Our city must learn from our past, but focus on our future. Sure, we have experienced "hard times". We have experienced the same hardships felt all over our great country. But factories don't make a city, people do. We have first class people who are "Texas Tuff". We will continue to weather the storm with our heads held high. During my travels, I hear wonderful compliments about how beautiful our downtown area is appearing. We have great churches, schools, Fire and Police Department, doctors and a hospital. Mom, Dad and the kids can still go for a walk or a swim and be safe and secure. These quality of life issues are still important. So how do we market the wonderful things that we do have in Winters? Here's how.

1. We must constantly remain positive. Attitude is EVERYTHING.

2. We will improve our city's image by CONSISTENTLY caring for our properties.

3. We should welcome visitors and new residents and be "good will" ambassadors for Winters.

4. We must embrace a partnership, learn and share with our "Sister Cities" in Runnels County.

5. Whenever possible, we must shop locally and patronize our merchants.

6. We must remain a proud strong people who value God, family, and friends.

In conclusion, we have a lot to offer. The things that are truly valuable can't be bought or sold. That's why I consider myself a rich man. You see, I chose to live in Winters. The Pride of Texas Since 1890.

Alan Hollander  
Winters City Manager

**Police use of fingerprints**



**POLICE REPORT**  
Nathan Johnson

Anyone who has ever watched a good crime/drama movie knows that fingerprints have long been one of the best forms used to uniquely identify an individual. Even before modern science demonstrated that all fingerprints are scientifically different, ancient societies seemed to know that a fingerprint could identify an individual.

Fingerprints have been found by explorers in ancient Babylon on tablets positioned in such a way as to indicate the author purposely placed them there. Finger and palm prints have also been found on the walls of Egyptian tombs and on Chinese pottery. As early as 246 BC, Chinese officials placed their fingerprints into clay seals on official documents. Some historical references from the age of the Babylonian King Hammurabi (1792-1750 BC) indicate that law officials would take the fingerprints of people who had been arrested. During China's Qin Dynasty, records have shown that officials took handprints, footprints as well as fingerprints as evidence from crime scenes.

Aside from DNA, fingerprinting constitutes the only other means of positive identification known. Today, "latent prints" are developed by sophisticated methods. Investigators use powders, lasers, and alternative light to detect and recover prints, but it is interesting to study some of the pioneers in the field and some of the landmark dates in the modern era of fingerprint analysis. William Herschel worked

as the Assistant Magistrate in colonial India and may be the first European to recognize the value of fingerprints for identification. In 1859, he began collecting the fingerprints of his friends and relatives, took note of how each impression was unique to the individual, and observed that the patterns did not change over time. On November 25, 1880, he wrote an article called "Skin Furrows of the Hand".

Henry Faulds was a Scottish missionary. While working in Japan in 1878, Faulds discovered fingerprints on ancient pottery and soon after began extensive research. Faulds is the first European to publish an article where he believed fingerprints might assist crime investigations by the "scientific identification of criminals". In his article, published in (Nature, October 28 1880), he said, "When bloody finger marks or impressions on clay, glass, etc. exist, they may lead to the scientific identification of criminals. Already I have had experience in two such cases... There can be no doubt as to the advance of having, besides their photographs, a nature-copy of the forever unchangeable finger furrows of important criminals." As the Inspector General

of Police in India, Sir Edward Henry set out to solve the problem of fingerprint classification. Henry's team in India was successful in setting up a classification system, which was officially adopted by British India in 1897 and is credited for starting the modern era of fingerprint identification.

In what is now believed to be the first murder solved by fingerprints, two children were murdered on the outskirts of the town of Necochea, on June 19, 1892.

In 1897, the International Association of Chiefs of Police established The National Bureau of Criminal Investigation, based in Chicago, Illinois. It served as a central storage depot for criminal records.

On July 1, 1901, Edward Henry was in charge of Scotland Yard's new Fingerprint Branch and all prisoners whose sentence was more than one month were fingerprinted.

In 1911, Thomas Jennings is the first suspect believed to have been convicted of murder in the United States on fingerprint evidence.

In 1924, the FBI formed the Identification Division and began to categorize criminal fingerprints. The FBI has been the national repository for fingerprints and related criminal history data since 1924, when more than 800,000 fingerprint records from the National Bureau of Criminal Identification were consolidated with Bureau files.

In 1971, the FBI's Computerized Criminal History was added to the National Crime Information

Center (NCIC) that contains personal descriptions of people arrested.

In 1980, the first use of computers to search fingerprint files took place.

In 1999, the FBI installed a massive fingerprint computer capable of storing the fingerprints of 65 million individuals.

On July 28, 1999, IAFIS was launched. The Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System, or IAFIS, is a national fingerprint and criminal history system that responds to requests 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to help local, state, and federal investigators solve crime. Prior to IAFIS, the processing of ten-print fingerprint submissions was largely a manual, labor-intensive process, taking weeks or months.

Although we do not have the resources depicted on TV shows like CSI, our local officers are trained to recover latent fingerprints at crime scenes and we use the DPS laboratory in Austin to analyze our recovered prints or compare them to the records in IAFIS.

We continue to ask for your prayers and support as we work to keep Winters safe.

Semper Fi,

Nathan T. Johnson  
Chief of Police  
Winters, TX

References / Sources:  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fingerprint>  
<http://onin.com/fp/fphistory.html>  
[http://www.odcc.ca/projects/2004/fren4j0/public.html/history\\_of\\_fingerprinting.htm](http://www.odcc.ca/projects/2004/fren4j0/public.html/history_of_fingerprinting.htm)

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

Invitation to join TRTA

In 1936 the Texas Constitution established the Defined Benefit Plan for all public school employees. This plan states that once retired, you can never draw less than your first retirement payment, and it is guaranteed until your death. The following year the legislature passed a law establishing the Teacher Retirement System as the public entity to administer this fund. It is governed by a nine-member trustee board which is appointed by the Governor with the approval of the State Senate.

The Texas Retired Teachers Association was organized in 1953 to support retirees from the TRS system. The Teacher Retirement System cannot lobby in any way for a cost of living increase or work to keep insurance premiums down for annuitants. Only TRTA can do this for you! This year, in the legislative session, there is a push to change the Defined Benefit Plan to a Defined Contribution Plan. Active school personnel need to be aware that TRTA is lobbying on your behalf to see that you have the opportunity to retire with the same benefits that the current retirees have.

This past year Runnels County Retired Teacher members volunteered 10,769 hours, which in volunteer match value is \$233,364.23 to the community, and contributed 37 children's books which were donated to children within Runnels County. To keep themselves healthy and be able to continue to be a productive citizen of our county,

the group logged in 76,611,599 steps, which is equivalent to about 14,500 miles.

Currently there are 249 TRS annuitants in Runnels County which includes former administrators, teachers, aides, cafeteria workers, bus drivers, custodians, and office workers. These annuitants were paid \$5.2 million in 2010. We would like to encourage you to become a member of the only organization — TRTA — that can lobby for you with our legislators! Annual dues for state membership are \$25 plus local dues (these vary from local from unit to unit). In this legislative session TRTA members are lobbying for the continuation of the Defined Benefit Plan, a continued 1 percent contribution to our Health Care Plan, and a cost of living increase for retirees.

As a public school retiree, are you a member of the local unit? If not, then ask yourself "Why not?" The cost to you is minimal in relation to the benefits that come back to you! When any member or group talk with our representatives, one of the first things they ask is "How many TRS annuitants are you representing?" Remember, they only look at numbers.

Do you think it would say something if we could say that 95 percent of the annuitants in Runnels County are members of TRTA? Anyone can join as an Associate Member — dues are the same, you can attend meetings, but you cannot vote or hold office. Other communities in District XV have had several businesses and non-school retirees to choose to support retired teachers with their membership. Without TRTA and the active members that do pay their dues, attend meetings, and support our state organization, TRS retirees would not have received a thirteenth check three years ago, and who knows where your TRS Care cost would be! It seems a small price to pay to have a voice in Austin that speaks for you.

I urge each school retiree in Runnels County to consider joining our local group, become involved in what is happening to retirees across Texas, and help support all public school retirees and future retirees of Texas. Statistics show that one out of every 20 people is a TRS annuitant — whether it be the actual school retiree or their spouse receiving payment after their death. Remember that Teacher Retirement System and Texas Retired Teachers Association are two separate groups. TRS cannot lobby for you, but TRTA dose lobby for you and will continue to do son for all public school retirees.

For more information about joining the Runnels County Retired Teachers Association (remember, all public school retirees and associates are welcomed) you can call Lynn Granzin at (325) 468 5951 or Nancy Byler at (325) 646 0445.

Nancy Byler, District XV President  
Texas Retired Teachers Association

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# FUMC to present 'The Amazing John Wesley'

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
STAFF REPORT

WINTERS- The First United Methodist Church, 141 N. Church Street, Winters, will sponsor "The Amazing John Wesley", Sunday June 19 thru Tuesday June 21. The Rev. Tom Fuller, a General Evangelist for the United Methodist Church, will lead this study. Rev. Fuller served as pastor for over 30 years before going into evangelism

full-time in 2006. Today he travels constantly, preaching and teaching. He holds a Master of Theology degree from SMU in Dallas and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Fuller Theological Seminary, Los Angeles. He and his wife, Connie, live in Lubbock, Texas.

Rev. Fuller has done an extensive study of John Wesley, the founders of the Methodist, the Nazarenes, the Salvation Army, and many other groups. He was

fascinated by Wesley's high Christian standards, his commitment to Scripture, his balanced understanding of God, his energy, and his optimism. Wesley's goal was spreading Christ throughout the world. And eventually he did. Two questions kept returning to Rev. Fuller's mind: "Why am I not like that?" and "Why is my church not like that?"

He presents "The Amazing John Wesley". Rev. Fuller tells Wesley's

balanced biblical beliefs, which Wesley said would always be the beliefs of Methodist. Rev. Fuller is the author and founder of "The John Wesley Adventure", a major Wesleyan reform movement.

In "The Amazing John Wesley", Rev. Fuller will describe how the American Methodist Church grew for 230 years then suddenly started declining. He will analyze why, and describe how we can return to a

pattern of health and growth.

Services will begin at 10:45 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Sunday, June 19. Services will begin at 7 p.m. on Monday, June 20 and Tuesday, June 21. Supper will be served at 6 p.m. each evening in the church fellowship hall. The public is encouraged to attend all these services. A love offering will be taken. Contact Judy Biddix at 754-5690 or Maudella Reeves at 754-1011 for more information.

# Singing School to be held in Ballinger

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
STAFF REPORT

BALLINGER- The Ninth Street Church of Christ of Ballinger, Texas will be having its 2011 Singing School on Wednesday, June 22 thru Sunday, June 26, 2011. The Singing School is open for everyone. Instructor Lyndon Latham will be helping the assistants to improve their singing skills and achieve a better musical level.

The program from Wednesday thru Saturday includes a special one-hour session for kids, starting at 5 p.m. From 6 - 7 p.m. a light meal will be served and the singing session will be held from 7 - 8:45 p.m.

On Sunday, June 26 at 10 a.m. will be held the worship assembly, followed by a fellowship lunch at 12 p.m. and gospel singing at 1:30 p.m. This workshop is a great opportunity to enjoy and learn new songs, learn to sing better, sharing in great fellowship and sing songs of praise! For more information call the Church office at 365-2330 or e-mail at gtnews@juno.com

# FSA schedules loan program webinars

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
STAFF REPORT

COLLEGE STATION- USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) will be having eight guaranteed loan program-lender webinars from June through September announced Farm Loan Chief Eddie Trevino.

The guaranteed loan program allows FSA to form a partnership with lenders to ensure that agricultural producers have an affordable and reliable source of credit

available. When making guaranteed loans, FSA guarantees the loan up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest. This loan program allows banks to keep their long-term agricultural customers as well as form relationships with new producers who do not qualify for traditional commercial loans.

"The guaranteed loan program is a good way for banks to continue extending credit to viable agricultural producers while mitigating their

risks," said Trevino. Webinars will be offered bi-monthly at no cost to the participants and last no longer than two hours. The first webinar is scheduled for June 21, 2011 at 10 a.m.

All webinars will open with general loan making and loan servicing updates and then transition into topic specific discussions. The following are webinar topics will be offered: Developing Adequate Loan Narratives; Lo - Doc Application Requirements;

Environmental: Making a Difficult Issue Work Timely; Meeting Additional Credit Needs Mid-Cycle; Subsequent Year LOC Advances and Servicing Requirements; Rescheduling/Deferring Loan Balances/ Installments; and Filing a Loss Claim: What's Needed and When.

Any webinar session may be attended to maintain compliance with the required annual training for Agency Certified and Preferred lenders. Lenders who are new to

the program or interested in participating are encouraged to register for the webinars.

To view the guaranteed lender webinar schedule or register please visit [http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/tx\\_gls\\_webinars\\_2011.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/tx_gls_webinars_2011.pdf). For more information regarding the guaranteed lender webinars, please contact John Cowan, farm loan specialist in the Texas State FSA Office at (979) 680-5229 or send an e-mail to [john.cowan@tx.usda.gov](mailto:john.cowan@tx.usda.gov).

## NEWS NOTES

### WRA June playday

The Winters Rodeo Association will host their June playday on Saturday, June 18 at the Winters Rodeo Arena. Sign-up for events at 5 p.m. and ride at 6 p.m. If we do not have a copy of your current Coggins, please bring a copy we can keep in our files. We'll have a full concession stand open in time for supper. We look forward to seeing you there!

Buckle series attendance was great! Twenty-nine riders participated at the June buckle series playday! The Winters Rodeo Association thanks to all who traveled to participate, and a big thank you to all the members who helped!

### Summer reading at the library

The Winters Public Library is having its Summer Reading Program on each Monday in June. The program is held from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Next dates are June 20 and 27. All children are invited to attend. The Library has some special programs scheduled for each Monday in June.

On June 20, the program will be presented by Mandy and Julie England, and Ryan Young, on June 27 will be the turn of Joy Harsh, from the Abilene Zoo. We hope to see you there!

### Cross Emmaus Community gatherings

The Cross Emmaus Community gatherings held second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 at the United Methodist Church. For more information call (325) 365 2323.

### VFW meetings

Winters Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9193 meet the second Monday night of each month at 6 p.m. in the Rock Hotel. All eligible veterans of the United States military are invited to attend.

### Band Boosters

The Band Boosters meet at 6:30 p.m. every Monday evening at Dot's Diner.

### Winters Women's Club

Members meet the second Tuesday of the month. Call Marlene Smith at 754-4961 for additional information.

### AA Meetings

AA meetings are held at 204 W. Truett behind church on Main St. Tuesday and Thursday at 7 p.m.

### Ballinger Al-Anon meetings

Al-Anon meetings will be held every Monday and Wednesday at the First United Methodist Church of Ballinger, on Broad Ave. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. Please enter through the south side of the church.

### Chamber of Commerce

Chamber of Commerce meets at 5:30 p.m. first Monday of the month at DLC Realty 116 S. Main St. in the backroom.

### City Council Meetings

Winters City Council meets at 6 p.m. the last Monday of the month at 310 North Main.

### School Board Meetings

Winters ISD School Board meets at 6:30 p.m. every second Monday of the month at 603 North Heights.

### Wingate Masonic Lodge meetings

Wingate Masonic Lodge 1042 A.F. & A.M., meetings on fourth Monday of the month, at 6:30 p.m. at Wilmeth, TX Lodge. For further information contact Hank Bourdo, at 754 2048.

### Ballinger Masonic Lodge meeting

Masonic Lodge # 643, 500 N Broadway, Ballinger Tx.

Stated meetings are at 7 p.m. on the first Monday of every month except for holidays if it falls on that Monday. For more information call (325) 365 3202.

### Runnels County Commissioners Court

Runnels County Commissioners Court is held the second and fourth Tuesday of the month.

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**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

# Wildscape may help to save water

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
STAFF REPORT

AUSTIN — Wildscape, xeriscape, desertscape: whatever term you use, it's all Texan for resource conservation. As residents seek ways to conserve water, native plant wildscaping can be an important since studies show lawn care accounts for over 50 percent of a household's water usage.

The latest U.S. Drought Monitor shows Texas gasping for water under a dark red thermal blanket of severe to exceptional drought intensity, the third worst dearth of rainfall seen by the state in recorded history.

Meet Kelly Conrad Bender, an urban wildlife biologist for TPWD teaches people how to use native plants to conserve natural resources and provide habitat for beneficial native wildlife. The goal is to provide the information to people looking for ways to use native plant species to conserve resources at home or in their communities.

## Senior Citizens Activity Center Menu

Proudly Presented By:  
**North Runnels Home Health Agency**  
106 N. Main, Winters, Texas 79567  
(325) 754-4141 • (800) 687-3305 (Toll Free)  
**North Runnels Hospital**  
A Small Hospital With A Big Heart  
HWY. 153 EAST P.O. BOX 185  
WINTERS, TEXAS 79567 (325) 754-4553

June 20-24  
Subject to change

**MONDAY**  
Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Tossed Salad, Green Beans, Garlic Bread, Chocolate Cake.

**TUESDAY**  
Ham, Navy Beans, Cabbage, Cornbread, apple Crisp.

**WEDNESDAY**  
Mexican Casserole, Pinto Beans, Cole Slaw, Crackers, Blonde Brownie.

**THURSDAY**  
Steak & Gravy, Potatoes & Onions, Mixed Vegetables, Hot Roll, Banana Pudding.

**FRIDAY**  
Tater Tot Casserole, Carrots, Mixed Fruit, Biscuit, Dessert.

Meals are served 11:30 a.m. daily. Anyone who does not take the meals regularly is asked to reserve a lunch by contacting the Activity Center at 754-4205 by 1 a.m.

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# THE IDLE AMERICAN

## Uncle Mort the consultant?...



TEXAS  
COLUMNIST  
Don  
Newbury

I could have been no more surprised if my Uncle Mort had decided to take up cricket or mount a new career as an Elvis impersonator.

He said he'd hoped to save the announcement for his 99th birthday party on July 4th, but feared that any delay — even if mere days — could cost him a bundle....

Like a cobra charmed by a flautist — a guy who recognizes a musical gourd when he sees one — I was immediately mesmerized. (Aside: Believed to have originated in India centuries ago, snake-charming called for long-necked gourds. Shorter varieties became dippers for drinking; and the prized long-necks were carved into flute-like instruments for charming snakes. There were far more "short necks," hence, more drinkers, but that's another story for another day.)...

Anyway, I felt like the roach checking in at a roach hotel, momentarily forgetting the ad about guests checking in, but not checking out. Crunched between a "rock and a hard place," I knew I'd have to "hear him out" if I expected to check out.

I wilted at the prospect of listening to "Mort mutterings." Such always leads to cockamamie schemes, but I lamely sat down. I felt rattled as a roadster on a rocky road as my uncle began his "announcement of national political significance." My immediate fear was that Mort was about to throw his hat into the ring of presidential candidates. (I wondered if he knew that some hats tossed in earlier have already been retrieved.)

His speech was in overdrive, so interruptions seemed

improbable. My comments would have been hollow, anyway, since his declaration concerned his "availability as a political consultant for any Texan who might decide to pursue the presidency."...

"I could probably assist candidates from other states, but I'm a natural if Governor Rick Perry decides to go for the gold," Mort assured.

He admitted that there might be more work and travel than he likes, but that he can "accomplish much by merely giving orders."

Woe is me! Mort may take political consulting to a new low....

He crowed about his deep understanding of fiscal conservatism. He delved into his "unique ability to sense wind direction before meteorologists have unfolded their maps."

Babbling that "political winds" often are synonymous with "smoke-blowing," he spoke of smudge pots, anemometers and some political sleaze words I intend to look up before quoting them in a family newspaper.

"Rick's got the 'savvy' to stir the political pot at the national governors' conference to take us from 50 states to 75 or more," Mort began....

He thinks "The Gov" has the clout — maybe "charm" is a better word — to talk other governors into halving, and maybe even quartering, their states. He cited possibilities such as East Oklahoma and West Oklahoma, and maybe "four Californias," one for each direction.

I tuned him out when he droned about the Federal funds pouring in to the "new" states, and ways Texas would benefit.

"While all the new states are jockeying for position at the

money trough, we can brag about moving up from 44th in public education funding, even when spending less in our schools," Mort speculated....

He claims to have a "sack full of smoke and mirror shenanigans," but his proposal to increase the number of states may be the slickest of all.

If this plan doesn't gain traction, Mort says he may recommend revisiting an earlier threat Governor Perry posed — the one about secession from the Union.

"I'd have to sub out a lot of assignments if he decides to take this route," Mort admitted. "But, if Texas becomes a whole 'nuther country, we might ring up big numbers on the Fed's cash register — far more than a single state can." He admitted, though, that we might wind up with a premiere, king, czar or dictator instead of a president....

I urged Mort to ponder the ugliness of political campaigns, with integrity and honesty often crushed in the battles for public office.

Then, I told him a story attributed to an aide of the late Huey P. Long, Governor of Louisiana almost a century ago. During Long's campaign, "The Kingfish" promised lofty state jobs to leaders in all parishes he carried on Election Day. Upon Long's becoming governor, hundreds of parish leaders showed up, ready to claim their new state jobs. Chuckling, the governor admitted he had made such offers. "So what do I tell 'em?" the aide asked. "Tell 'em I lied," Long allegedly answered.

And that's the "Long" and the "short" of it....

Dr. Newbury is a speaker in the Metroplex. Send inquiries/comments to: [newbury@speakerdoc.com](mailto:newbury@speakerdoc.com). Phone: 817-447-3872. Web site: [www.speakerdoc.com](http://www.speakerdoc.com)

## Discrimination settlements extended to women and Hispanic

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
STAFF REPORT

WASHINGTON — As part of continued efforts to close the chapter on allegations that discrimination occurred at USDA in past decades, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and Assistant Attorney General Tony West announced the establishment of a process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who assert that they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans.

"The Obama Administration has made it a priority to resolve all claims of past discrimination at USDA, and we are committed to closing this sad chapter in USDA's history," said Vilsack. "Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege past discrimination can now come forward to participate in a claims process in which they have the opportunity to receive compensation."

"Under the resolution announced, USDA and Hispanic and women farmers will be able to move forward and focus on the future," said Tony West, Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Division of the Department of Justice. "The administrative process being established will give Hispanic and women farmers who believe they suffered discrimination the chance to have their claims heard."

The claims process offers a streamlined alternative to litigation and provides at least \$1.33 billion in compensation, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. This announcement follows the Obama Administration's settlement of long standing litigation brought by African American farmers and Native American farmers.

The program announced provides up to \$50,000 for each Hispanic or woman farmer who can show that USDA denied them a loan or loan servicing for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000. Hispanic or female farmers who provide additional proof and meet other requirements can receive a \$50,000 reward. Successful claimants are also eligible for funds to pay the taxes on their awards and for forgiveness of certain existing USDA loans. There are no filing fees or other costs to claimants to participate in the program.

Participation is voluntary, and individuals who opt not to participate are not precluded by the program from filing a complaint in court.

In conjunction with this announcement, USDA is launching an outreach effort to potential claimants that will include a call center for farmers and ranchers, a website, public service announcements, and in-person meetings around the country. Individuals interested in participating in the claims process may register to receive a claims package, or may obtain more information, by visiting [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov).

Beginning February 25, 2011, individuals can register to receive a claims package by calling the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429. USDA cannot provide legal advice to potential claimants. Persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or legal services.

## Celebrating American Independence

### Freedom Road from Colony to Country

July 4, 1776  
(A Four Part History)  
Part II

Following the Boston Tea Party, the British Parliament passed the "Coercive Acts" in 1774 to punish American colonists for rebellion. Most Americans saw this act as a threat to all their liberties. In September, 1774, the First Continental Congress convened in Philadelphia to draft a response. These measures were unsuccessful because King George III and his ministry were determined to exercise supremacy over "British America."

Battles of the American Revolution began at Lexington and Concord in April, 1775. Again the Continental Congress met to draft a petition for King George to intercede on behalf of the colonists. The King rejected the petition and announced that he was considering offers of foreign assistance to suppress American rebellion.

In January, 1776, Thomas Paine published the pamphlet "Common Sense" which advocated the establishment of a republic. This served to stimulate public debate, and helped to gain support for separation from Great Britain.

There were legal obstacles that had to be overcome in order for all 13 different governments to declare independence. Between April and July, 1776, a "complex political war" was waged to bring about the framework for a formal declaration. North Carolina was the first colony to explicitly authorize a "declaration of independence." Other resolutions followed, including drafting a preamble to explain the purpose of a resolution for the colonies to adopt a new government. John Adams radical preamble was passed on May 15, 1776.

The formal Declaration of Independence was supposed to be drafted by a committee (which included John Adams, Benjamin

Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson.) There was, of course, debate, objections, and forced delays (sounds like the current Congress), but on the Fourth of July, 1776 the Declaration was adopted in its final version. This gave legal sovereignty to the United States.

Of the 56 men who signed, the youngest was 26 years old, and the oldest was 70. All pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to their new country. Some of these men were taken prisoner, and many saw their homes ransacked and looted for supplies. The 56 signers included some who were famous, but most not. They, like all other Americans endured great hardships and losses in the struggle for freedom and independence. Care should be taken to remember all those who paid the price for the birth of America.

Kay McKinney,  
Ballinger, Texas

## USDA authorizes emergency grazing

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
STAFF REPORT

WINTERS — In response to drought conditions, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) authorized emergency grazing use of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres for an additional 11 Texas counties effective immediately. This authorization brings the total to 62 counties approved to graze CRP acres.

Emergency grazing of land enrolled in CRP has been authorized by the Texas FSA State Committee for Bailey, Coleman, Concho, Dallam, Gaines, Gray, Hidalgo, Randall, Runnels, Starr and Terry Counties. Emergency grazing for the above counties has been authorized through August 31, 2011.

The following 51 counties were previously approved for emergency grazing of CRP acres by the national office: Armstrong, Borden, Briscoe, Brown, Carson, Castro, Cochran, Coke, Collingsworth, Cottle, Crosby, Deaf Smith, Dickens, Donley, Fisher, Floyd, Foard, Garza, Hale, Hall, Hansford, Hardeman, Hartley, Haskell, Hemphill, Hockley, Howard, Jones, Kent, King, Knox, Lamb, Lipscomb, Lynn, Martin, Mitchell, Motley, Nolan, Ochiltree, Oldham, Parmer, Potter, Roberts, Scurry, Sherman, Stonewall, Swisher, Tom Green, Wheeler, Wilbarger and Yoakum Counties. Emergency grazing for the above counties has been authorized through September 30, 2011.

According to Byron Bauerlein, Runnels County

Executive Director grazing end dates differ because the current 11-county approval was granted under a different authority than that of the previously authorized 51 counties.

All current CRP emergency use authorizations permit grazing only. No haying of CRP acres is allowed at this time. Additionally, there will be a 25 percent CRP payment reduction for CRP acres used for grazing under these emergency provisions.

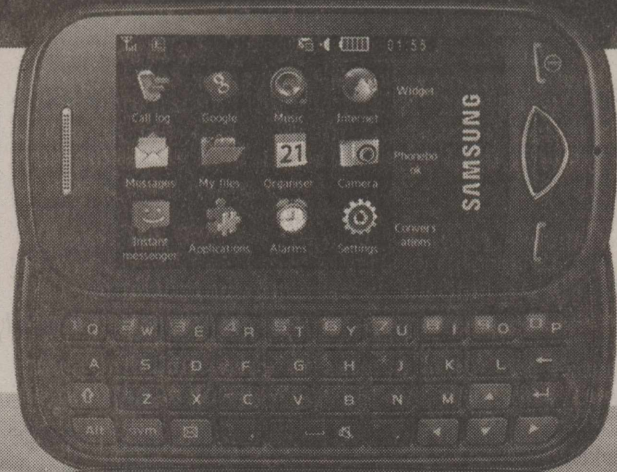
To take advantage of the emergency grazing provisions, authorized producers can use the CRP acreage for their own livestock or may grant another livestock producer the use of the CRP acreage. The eligible CRP acreage is limited to the acreage located within the approved counties.

Eligible producers who are interested in grazing CRP under the emergency authorization and current CRP participants who choose to provide land for grazing to an eligible livestock producer, must first request approval to graze eligible acreage; obtain a modified conservation plan from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to include grazing requirements, leave at least 25 percent of each field or contiguous CRP field ungrazed for wildlife, or graze not more than 75 percent of the stocking rate as determined by NRCS.

For more information on emergency grazing of CRP acres contact the Runnels County FSA office at (325) 365 5324.

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Ozona: West Central Wireless • Robert Lee: Rock Solid Communications • Santa Anna: Double H  
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Announcements

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Employment

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Part Time

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245  
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Drivers HOME DAILY delivering Petroleum products. Competitive pay and benefits, 23 w/1 yr. tractor/trailer experience. COASTAL TRANSPORT 800-392-4147

**DRIVERS: OD/FLATBED.** Class A 2yrs Exp. Req. OD: Hourly pay/Flatbed: Driver Wages Recently Increased! \$.40-.50cpm. Trinity Logistics Group - EEO/AA 800-533-7862 Ext. 6

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Motor Vehicles

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**NEED A BABYSITTER?** Call Carissa! Hourly, daily, and weekly rates. Also available on weekends. (325)718-9989 or (325)718-8593

References Available

540  
Garage Sale  
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**ESTATE SALE**  
House and some furniture and all knick - knacks, clothes, Friday June 17th & Saturday June 18th. 8:00 am-6:00 pm  
Ida Faye Hill House  
35 Mesa Del Rey Ballinger

**GARAGE SALE**

**MOVING OUT OF TOWN SALE!**  
8:00am - ?  
604 McCarver  
Saturday June 18th  
Dirt bike, go-cart, game console, portable Wii, 2 PSP, PS2 w/games, Precious Moments collection, furniture, clothes.

**600**  
Farm & Ranch

540  
Garage Sale  
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Low- Rent Public Housing  
Our waiting list is open!  
Please apply in person at the Ballinger Housing Authority  
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**IN WINTERS, TX**  
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Phone (830)598-2403 or (830)798-4613

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820 Houses  
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**ADVERTISE- MENT FOR BIDS**  
MILLERS-VIEW-DOOLE WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION

Separate sealed bids for the WATER DISTRIBUTION LINES will be received by MILLERSVIEW-DOOLE WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION until 3:00 PM on June 30, 2011 at the Office of the Corporation, 7718 FM 765 East, Millersview, Texas 76862 and then at said location publicly opened and read aloud. This project consists of installing approximately 10,300 linear feet of 8-inch PVC water line, 16,300 linear feet of 6-inch PVC water line, 6,500 linear feet of 4-inch PVC water line and 27,500 linear feet of 3-inch PVC water line and appurtenances. The Owner shall furnish all of the 8-inch PVC water line, 6-inch PVC water line and 4-inch PVC water line for the Base Bid. This project will also include an Additive Alternate to furnish and install approximately 30,300 linear feet of 4-inch PVC water line, 37,800 linear feet of 3-inch PVC water line and 11,500 linear feet of 2-inch PVC water line and appurtenances. The Owner may accept additional items from the Additive Alternate Bid to utilize any additional funds.

The Contract Documents, consisting of Advertisement for Bids,

JACOB & MARTIN, LTD., 1508 Santa Fe Drive, Suite 203, Weatherford, Texas 76086

Bids will not be received from contractors who have not obtained original date, and place plans and specifications from construction conference. Contract Bids shall be submitted on original documents and the entire specification book must be returned with bid. No faxes or copies of bid sheets will be accepted.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any formalities and goals: all bids. Bids may be held by the Owner for a period not to exceed 60 days from the date of bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the qualifications of Bidders prior to awarding the contract.

Copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained from Heather at Jacob & Martin, Ltd., 1508 Santa Fe Drive, Suite 203, Weatherford, Texas 76086 (817-594-9880), upon payment of \$50.00 half-size set, or \$100.00 for full-size set (non-refundable).

A certified check or bank draft, payable to the order of Millersview-Doole Water Supply Corporation, negotiable U.S. Government bonds (at par value) or a satisfactory Bid Bond executed by the Bidder and an acceptable surety in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid shall be submitted with each

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Legal Notices

Information for Bidders, Bid Proposal, Contract, Performance and Payment Bonds, General Conditions, Notice of Award, Proceed, Plans, Specifications, Addenda (if any) and Project Contracting and Compliance Provisions may be examined at the following location:

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amended by Executive Order 11375, and as supplemented in Department of Labor regulations 41 CFR expected to Part 60.

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neither the State of Texas nor its departments, agencies, or employees is or will be a party to this Advertisement for Bids or resulting contract. A Texas Water Development Board staff field representative will be invited and notified of the time, date, and place of the pre-construction conference. Contract Bids shall be submitted on original documents and the entire specification book must be returned with bid. No faxes or copies of bid sheets will be accepted.

This contract is subject to the EPA established Minority Business Enterprise (MBE)/ Women's Business Enterprise (WBE) goals: 34%; SUPPLIES 18%; SERVICES 22%; EQUIPMENT 13%. WBE: CONSTRUCTION 8%; SUPPLIES 26%; SERVICES 13%. Equal Opportunity - All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap or national origin. Bidders on this work will be required to comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246, as

permitted by Executive Order 11375, and as supplemented in Department of Labor regulations 41 CFR expected to Part 60.

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This contract is subject to the EPA established Minority Business Enterprise (MBE)/ Women's Business Enterprise (WBE) goals: 34%; SUPPLIES 18%; SERVICES 22%; EQUIPMENT 13%. WBE: CONSTRUCTION 8%; SUPPLIES 26%; SERVICES 13%. Equal Opportunity - All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap or national origin. Bidders on this work will be required to comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246, as

permitted by Executive Order 11375, and as supplemented in Department of Labor regulations 41 CFR expected to Part 60.

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# Ranch Rodeo benefits volunteer fire departments

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
STAFF REPORT

SAN ANGELO- San Angelo area property owners are throwing a party worthy of Texas braggin' to benefit the volunteer fire departments who helped them defend their land against wildfires this spring.

The July 9 event at First Community Credit Union Spur Arena in San Angelo features a Texas-size barbecue, a ranch rodeo, silent and live auctions and fund-raising raffles - all in one action-packed day.

"These firefighters did so much for us - now we want to help them," said one of the organizers, Danny Calhoun. He noted that funds are needed to help area fire departments replenish supplies, repair and replace equipment.

"My place was involved in the Wildcat Fire and I know first-hand how hard they worked," Calhoun said. "These firefighters are truly dedicated - it's in their blood," he said, recalling a family of firefighters he met with three generations on the front lines in April.

"The 16-year-old son was out there helping me at 3:30 in the morning, along with his dad and grandfather," Calhoun said. "They're just incredible people."

The Wildcat fire burned 159,308 acres in and around Tom Green County in April. Nearby, the Encino fire blackened 12,659



PHOTO: FILE

On Saturday, July 9, 2011 a Ranch Rodeo will be held in San Angelo to help defray the expenses incurred by local fire departments that fought against the wildfires that charred the region in April.

acres. According to the Texas Forest Service, 9,261 wildfires have charred 2.7 million acres in Texas this fire season. More than 8,000 local fire departments have been fighting blazes for months, saving 11,500 structures.

"We were lucky here - with 159,308 acres burned, not one structure was lost," Calhoun said, attributing that record to the efforts of rural fire departments.

"People want to give - they want to help, we just need to tell them how they can," Calhoun said.

Activities get under way at 9 a.m. July 9 with the introduction of teams in the Ranch Rodeo. Starting at 10 a.m., four-man teams will compete in such events as wild cow milking, cow-calf team penning, goat roping and tying, team cutting roping and wild horse races. Teams surviving the morning events will compete in the afternoon rounds. Champion teams will earn belt buckles and questionable bragging rights. Entry fee is \$500 per team. For information about entering, call 325-234-8420,

325-657-3777 or 325-234-4277.

"Lunch is free and donations will be accepted," Calhoun said. "The meat was donated and volunteer cooks are lined up with their barbecue rigs to do the cooking." In addition, local businesses have donated other items to complete the meal. Dining music and entertainment will be provided by an area band and musicians, also volunteering their time.

Auctions begin at 2 p.m. "We have a live auction with professional auctioneers coordinated by Benny

Cox of Producers Livestock Auction in San Angelo," Calhoun said. "Many items will be featured in the silent auction as well." To donate items for the auction, contact Cox at 325-234-4277.

The Texas Ranger Association Foundation based in Waco is among the many organizations stepping up to help, along with individuals, businesses and cattle owners, Calhoun said. Also lending a hand is the San Angelo Area Foundation, which is also active in helping area fire departments.

"We're proud to say that we've gotten enough donations that 100 percent of the proceeds from the event will go to the fire departments," Calhoun said.

Among the donated items on the auction list are a custom-made commemorative saddle with the Texas Rangers emblem, a pair of Texas Ranger commemorative boots from Justin boots and a set of distinctive Ranger firearms. Two 18-month-old bulls were donated by an area cattle rancher and a local dealer donated a John Deere Gator for a raffle prize, he added.

Everyone is encouraged to join in the fun for a good cause - helping and supporting area volunteer fire departments.

"They bore the burden when we needed them," Calhoun said. "It's our turn to show our appreciation and support."



PHOTO: FILE

Conservation programs must be locally led and the public is given an opportunity to help local conservation leaders set program priorities.

## Prioritizing natural resources in Runnels Co

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
STAFF REPORT

WINTERS - The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Runnels Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) invite the public and any agencies with an interest in conservation issues to participate in a Local Work Group (LWG) meeting to be held at the Ballinger Community Center, in Ballinger. This meeting will be on June 21 at 9 a.m.

The purpose of this public meeting is to receive input from farmers, ranchers, local agencies, organizations, businesses, and other individuals who have an interest in natural resource concerns and needs in Runnels County.

Input received will allow the LWG to make recommendations on resource concerns to be addressed for eligible practices and ranking for county based funding. Recommendations provided by the LWG meeting will be reviewed by the State Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to help implement the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and other conservation programs offered by NRCS.

The 2008 Farm Bill stipulates that conservation programs must continue to be locally led. Through stake holder meetings, the public is given an opportunity to help local conservation leaders set program priorities. Funding for these programs may be made available to eligible producers through the application process.

For more information, call the USDA-NRCS office in Ballinger at (325)365-3415 ext 3. NRCS office locations and program information can be found on the Texas NRCS Web site [www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov).

Persons with disabilities who require special accommodations and/or alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, Large print, audiotape, etc.) associated with this meeting should contact Kathy Saunders at (325)365-3415 ext. 3 at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting with his/her specific request.

## On the Level

CHARLES FRERICH

Thar she blows!!! and blows, and blows...

There are many philosophical quotes about the wind but the common fact is, it does blow. I don't remember a time when the wind has blown this much. March is normally our windy month (in like a lamb out like a lion). Recently I was down at Pleasanton, Texas for a few days and the wind was blowing there too. And their pastures look as barren as ours. We hear reports of strong winds from the panhandle to south Texas. The new normal is the wind that blows almost every day. Whether it's the hot straight line winds or the tornadoes that are affecting a large

part of the country, communities both urban and rural are being hit by the winds.

In the 1950's the drought and the wind scoured the land and the Dust Bowl was formed. With the long periods of no rain and plenty of wind we too are experiencing stages that could be leading to another dust bowl. As the ground gets drier, less and less vegetation grows. As this vegetation withers and dies it leaves the ground unprotected. When the wind blows it picks up a particle of soil and it begins to roll along the soil surface, bouncing and dis-

lodging soil particles. The lighter particles are lifted into the air as dust. The airborne soil sand blasts what it hits burning off tender young plants and at times eating the paint off walls.

Small pockets of rain have fallen across the area but this by no means is a drought breaker. The hot dry wind from surrounding areas pull the moisture out of the ground. Ponds and lakes that have caught water are being churned by the wind and losses due to evaporation grow.

In these times we have to really be strong stewards of the land. It is easy to manage cover when it rains and vegetation is growing. This winter the failed small grain crop did not yield much cover. With the plants only inches tall, one or

two plowings will totally eliminate the protection that was there. And it is a long time until another crop will be put into the ground. Now is the time to really consider chemical weed control and avoid plowing. If you are concerned about the ground becoming hard, walk across the land and you will see the many cracks in the dry ground. These cracks are deep and have fractured the soil deeper than any plow will rip.

Rangeland is also taking a beating through this drought. Livestock are seeking out each available leaf of grass. It's common to see cows with prickly pear thorns stuck in their muzzle trying to get at the grass that has grown in the prickly pear clumps. Each day the stock gets thinner. I hear stories of ranch-

ers hauling water and feeding every day. I don't want to sound harsh but let's be realistic, is it really worth it? Is that cow worth that much expense in keeping her around, especially if they are older? Each rancher has to weigh their situation and make their decision. One must consider the health of the land and even when the rains do begin it will take a long time for the pastures to rebound.

All I'm saying is these are tough times and the "norm" is not normal. We have to adjust our thinking to match the situation we are in. For more information you can contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service or contact me at [charles.frerich@tx.usda.gov](mailto:charles.frerich@tx.usda.gov). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## Easy ways to prevent a tragedy on water this summertime

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
STAFF REPORT

AUSTIN - Summer's a great time to hit the water in Texas, but it's both easier to get in trouble and harder for others to recognize that someone's in danger than most people think.

Research has shown that drowning victims usually don't scream for help or splash around a lot before going under.

"It's a quick process," said Texas Parks and Wildlife Game Warden Lt. Cody Jones, of the department's marine enforcement section. "Statistics show drowning can occur in less than two minutes, and most children who drown are away from their parents for less than five minutes."

Jones said Texas had 136 drowning in public

waters last year, up from 129 in 2009. So far this year there have been 37.

"All it takes is one step and someone can be in 10 feet of water," said Jones. "If they don't have the ability or power to swim, they slip off into a hole and nobody knows where they are or how to get to them," said Jones.

Officials advise against swimming alone or getting in water when intoxicated. In many instances, proper precautions like wearing a life jacket, teaching children and adults about water safety and designating a group member to watch everyone in or near the water can go a long way in preventing drownings this and every summer.

"If you have a lawn chair, sit down on the shore and watch your kids playing in the water," said Tim Spice, a TPWD urban outdoor program specialist. "Don't distract your-

self from their safety."

Water safety experts across the nation advocate the 'reach, throw, row, go' process if you see someone who appears to be having trouble in the water.

First, attempt to reach the swimmer from a dock or the shore by extending a fishing rod, tree branch, or other object. Next, try throwing a buoyant object such as a life jacket, inflatable floaty or foam ice chest.

The next step, if the distressed swimmer is unable to reach these things, is to get a life vest on and row or boat out to them. If you are in a motor boat, turn the motor off and coast to the swimmer.

For more information on boater safety and education, visit the TPWD boater safety page at: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishboat/boat/safety/>

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## Let your kids brag about their huge catch

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
STAFF REPORT

AUSTIN - Getting credit for catching a record fish in Texas is easier than you may think, especially if you're a youngster.

Better still from a conservation standpoint, you can hang a nice Texas Parks and Wildlife certificate on your wall instead of a mounted trophy.

"With school out and plenty of time

for fishing, the department would like parents to know the chances of their kid becoming a record holder are really good," says Joedy Gray, who runs TPWD's Angler Recognition Program.

Junior anglers under the age of 17 are encouraged to set records in fishing holes around the state. For a list of locations with certified scales, visit the TPWD site at: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishboat/fish/programs/fishrecords/scales.phtml>.



JIM WOODRUFF, AAMS, WMS

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