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## Winters City Manager resigns

**RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ**  
 WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS - Seven months after becoming Winters City Manager, last Monday, June 27, the City Council voted to accept Alan Hollander's resignation, and started the process of looking for a new administration head.

After reviewing some agenda items the Council members went into executive session to discuss the resignation presented by Hollander on Monday, June 20.

That Monday the City Council started the 2011-2012 fiscal year workshops, aiming to reduce the budget by \$64,000. Hollander and Mayor Lewis Bergman didn't reach an agreement about the adjustments to be made.

Hollander proposed to absorb

one of the positions in the Water Department after one of the employees presented his resignation. The Water Department has been upgraded with several automated processes, and from August on all the meter reading will be made remotely via software.

The City Manager also proposed to raise property taxes, update the pool fees and allow private participation in the maintenance of the three cemeteries located in Winters.

Mayor Lewis Bergman had asked to cut two out of the three administrative positions at the City Hall.

"I am looking forward to go back home, it is important for leaders to embrace similar positive philosophies at municipal government and I did not feel that I could maintain effective

leadership with the new policies of my administration," said Hollander about his resignation.

"I have spent a lifetime in public service putting people first, and I didn't feel that I could maintain that posture, I thank to each and every one of the citizens of Winters for their kindness and courtesy."

After the sudden departure of former City Manager Aref Hassan on June 17, 2010, the City Council had included a 45-day termination clause in the contract of the new City Manager.

Questioned about the clause Hollander said that it was in the best interest of the work relationship to expedite the change.

Alan Hollander, a former teacher and policeman from Chicago is the second City

Manager that leaves the position in Winters in a little over a year. Aref Hassan, an 18-year veteran in the City Administration left without any further notice on June 17, 2010, to embark in a new job. The Afghanistan native and fluent in five languages was hired for a national security mission overseas.

Hassan started to work for the City of Winters in April of 1992, and stayed for more than 18 years.

Hollander's first day of work was on December 1, 2010, and left the City Hall on June 7, 2011.

After Hollander's departure, right at the council meeting, aldermen agreed to start the search of a new manager through the Texas Municipal League.

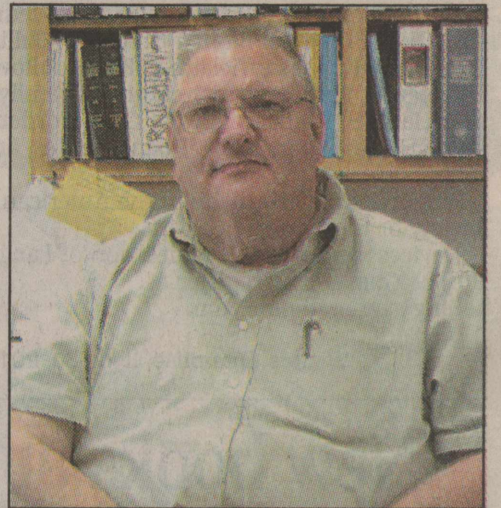


PHOTO: RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ

Allan Hollander served as Winters City Manager for seven months, he started on December 1, 2010 and left last Monday, June 27.

## Local restaurant remains closed after wreck

**WINTERS ENTERPRISE**  
 STAFF REPORT

WINTERS - A local restaurant has been closed for almost a month due to a wreck occurred on June 1. Business owners announced that they will be re-opening for business as soon as this wreck is settled. LG's has been in business in Winters since 1989.

On June 1, 2011, approximately at 4:40 a.m. a 60-year-old driver was driving a 2000 Chevrolet Silverado southbound on Main Street. Suddenly the driver lost control of the vehicle, veered to the right and struck the curb, a fence, a large sign and continued traveling through the yard area of LG's Restaurant until striking the building. The vehicle pierced the front wall of the building.

According to the Winters Police Department report the driver stated that he started coughing and lost control of the vehicle.

The driver was taken by North Runnels EMS to North Runnels Hospital but no injuries were reported.

The wreck caused severe damages to the structure including the outside of the property, front wall, furniture and appliances. Louis and Irma Gonzales will be re-opening once things are settled.

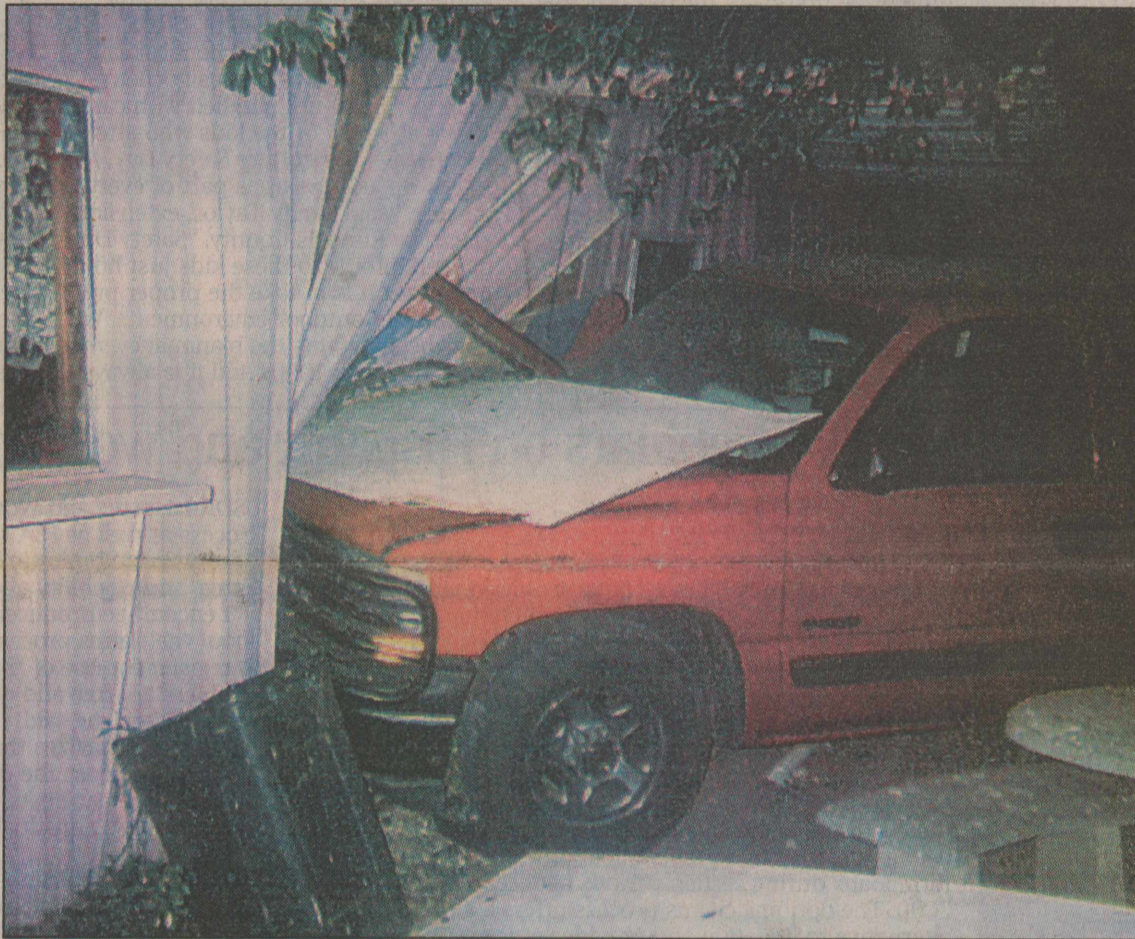


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The 2000 Chevrolet Silverado hit the curb, the fence and pierced the front wall at LG's in a wreck occurring on June 1, 2011.

## This Thursday Seed and Soil rural mass

**WINTERS ENTERPRISE**  
 STAFF REPORT

WINTERS - This Thursday, June 30, the Diocese of San Angelo will have its annual Seed and Soil Rural Live Mass 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. The place is about three miles west of Highway 83, 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.

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.

## Runnels County Historical Buildings

### The Rosson-Parker cabin

**WINTERS ENTERPRISE**  
 STAFF REPORT

Nancy Rosson Parker came to Content as a widow in the early 1870s with three small children. Her husband, John Parker was a first cousin to Cynthia Ann Parker. John died in 1868 and was buried in Johnson County. The family had lived in Parker County earlier and in the 1850s, John was one of the first four commissioners of Parker County. After the death of her husband, Nancy came to Content where her parents, the Rosson's lived. She lived in a dug-out until her cabin was built. A Texas Ranger camp was nearby.

November 16, 1873, Nancy made an affidavit of occupancy before the clerk of the court in Runnels County. By virtue of this affidavit, the land on which her cabin was located, was patented to Nancy from the State of Texas March 18, 1882.

The cabin set on a slight rise in a rugged terrain of post oaks, cedar brush and tangled trumpet vines, approximately 16 miles northeast of Winters. The cabin was made of oak logs and chinked together with lime made in a home kiln. The old lime is white and aged but still intact. The foundation is of huge oak logs, 12 to 18 inches off the ground, some as much as two feet off the ground. These oak logs used as floor sleepers are resting on white native rock. On the flat side of the logs

can be seen the marks of the broad ax where they were hewn. Inside there is a fire place of white native stone as well as the chimney, firebox and hearth. The hearth is level with the firebox, not raised as are present day fireplaces. The mantle board above the fireplace is a plain pine plank.

Nancy lived in this one room for more than a decade. Hardly a day or night passed that she wasn't called out to minister to the ills of her neighbors with her home brewed teas. Doctors had not come to the area at this time since a settlement had not been established. Indian's roamed the country and trips into the rugged countryside were often very dangerous. From her fire place in the cabin, she brewed the teas in a huge pot from the plants and herbs that grew nearby.

By 1888, Nancy's eye sight had failed so much she could no longer see her way around the valley. She thought it best to sell the land and cabin and move into Content. The legal instruments filed and signed by her for disposal of her property were signed with an X and witnessed by her daughter-in-law, Mary Parker. As it turned out, the legal documents giving her title were not drawn up and filed until she was ready to sell. A common practice among settlers was to occupy

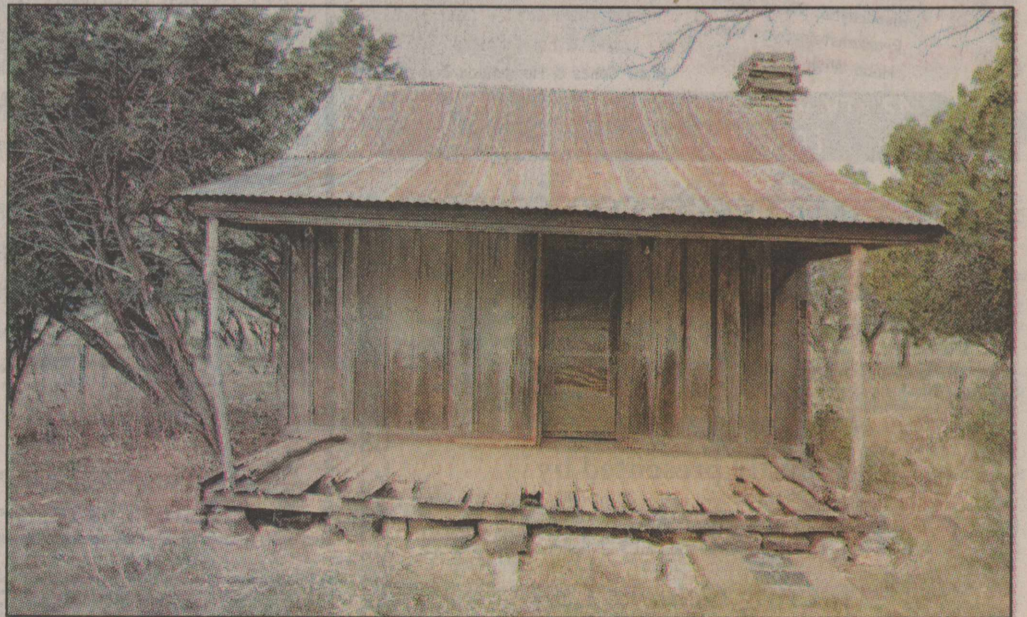


PHOTO: COURTESY RUTH COOPER

the land and neglect to claim title even after the land was set aside by the State of Texas for sale in 1874. The work of Nancy as a nurse and doctor had ended. She served her community well as she cared for the settlers in that area. The cabin is located on private property. The Recorded Texas Historic Landmark

Medallion and Interpretive Plate were dedicated May 24, 1970 in a ceremony held at the cabin.

Courtesy Runnels County Historical Commission Collection Marker Histories The Winters Enterprise May 1, 1970 San Angelo Standard-Times May 20, 1970

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**FUNERALS AND DEATH NOTICES**

**Marilyn Kay Burelsmith**

Marilyn Kay Burelsmith, 59, of Winters passed away Sunday, June 26, 2011 at her home.  
 She was born January 13, 1952 in Clovis, New Mexico to Foy and Betty Jo (Jackson) Thompson. Marilyn and Gary Burelsmith were married August 17, 1971 in Levelland. Preceding her in death were her father, Foy Thompson, and a sister, Carolyn Thomas.  
 Marilyn is survived by her husband, Gary of Winters; son, Marty Burelsmith and wife, Kelly, of Ballinger; daughter, Paige Baker and husband, Lee, of Millsap; mother, Betty Jo Kincaid of Smyer; and grandchildren, Kayden, Ellee and Ike. Also surviving are brothers, Foy Thompson, Jr. of Wolforth, and Buddy Wayne Thompson of Levelland; and sister, Brenda Rackler of Smyer.  
 A visitation for family and friends was held from 6:00 to 7:00 pm on Tuesday, June 28 at Lange Funeral Home in Ballinger. Services were at 2:00 pm Wednesday, June 29, 2011 at the First Baptist Church in Ballinger with Bro. Bobby Broyles officiating. Burial followed in the Whispering Springs Cemetery on the family property near Hatchel. Pallbearers were G. R. Worden, Scott King, Rusty Henard, Marty Frey, Roeneal Boles, and Allen Jones.  
 Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society or to a favorite charity.  
 Services were under the direction of Lange Funeral Home. Guests may register at ballingerfuneralhome.com.  
 Winters Enterprise, June 30, 2011

**New books at the Winters Public Library**

- "10th Anniversary" by James Patterson
- "A Turn in the Road" by Debbie Macomber
- "The Devil's Light" by Richard North Patterson
- "Buried Prey" by John Sanford
- "Carte Blanche" by Jeffery Deaver
- "Southern Comfort" by Fern Michaels
- "Her Mother's Hope" by Francine Rivers
- "Vicious Cycle" by Terri Blackstock
- "One Summer" by David Baldacci
- "Leaving" by Karen Kingsbury
- "Larkspur Cove" by Lisa Wingate
- "The Journey" by Wanda Brunstetter

**Abilene teenager killed in road accident**

**WINTERS ENTERPRISE STAFF REPORT**  
**ABILENE** - A teenager was killed in a pedestrian-vehicle crash occurring on Wednesday, June 22 at 9:56 p.m. in Taylor County. The crash was at the intersection of County Road 107 and County Road 106.  
 William Hayden Harvey, 13 years of age from Abilene, Texas, was pronounced dead on Friday, June 24 at 1:55 a.m. by Dr. R. Caballero at Cook Children's Hospital. The body of the teenager was taken to Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office.  
 The accident happened when Paul Robert Tegen, of Abilene, Texas was driving a 2006 Chrysler PT Cruiser southbound on County Road 107. William Hayden Harvey was walking south on County Road 107 in the roadway.  
 Tegen observed the pedestrian and attempted to take evasive action but was unable to avoid striking the teenager. The road was dry and the weather clear. This accident is being investigated by Trooper Jamie Duke.

**Fireworks banned in city, county**

**RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ WINTERS ENTERPRISE**  
**WINTERS** - The City of Winters and Runnels County banned the use of fireworks for this upcoming Fourth of July weekend, including the unincorporated areas of the county and the Old Winters Lake.  
 Jack Davis, Winters Water Department Superintendent, said that due to the drought and fire hazard the City will not be allowing the use of fireworks at the lake premises. Last year a firework started fire consumed several bushes, grass and trees.  
 Runnels County as well issued a declaration of disaster prohibiting the sale and use of all kinds of fireworks, due to the extreme fire hazard caused by abundant fuel and extreme dry and windy conditions across the State of Texas and in Runnels County.  
 County Judge Barry Hilliard issued the declaration prohibiting outdoor burning. This declaration bans all sales and use of fireworks.  
 However organized public celebrations closely monitored by that community's volunteer fire department,

such as the Fourth of July celebration to be held on July 2, in Rowena, can proceed as planned.  
 Runnels County, has been affected by recent wildland fires and continues to be threatened by high or extreme wildland fire hazard. This threat is caused by abundant fuel and extreme dry and windy conditions across the state and region.  
 This Declaration of a local state of disaster shall continue for seven days unless extended by the Runnels County Commissioners' Court and then for so long as such conditions prevail. The declaration activates the Runnels County Emergency Management Plan.  
 Emergency regulations were established for all areas of Runnels County prohibiting all outdoor burning of any combustible material. A person violates this order if he burns any combustible material or orders such burning by others.  
 According to the declaration the fire department assigned to the location of the fire shall respond to the scene and take immediate measures to contain and/or extinguish the fire.

As soon as possible, a duly-commissioned peace officer shall be sent to the scene to investigate the nature of the fire.  
 If in the opinion of the officer at the scene and/or the Fire Chief, the goal of the order can be attained by informing the responsible party about the prohibitions established by this order, the officer may, at his discretion, notify the party about the provisions of this order and request compliance with it. In such instances, an entry of the notification shall be made into the dispatchers log containing the time, date, and place of the warning, and the name of the person receiving the warning.  
 At the discretion of the peace officer and/or Fire Chief, subsequent or flagrant violations of this order may be prosecuted in accordance with the statutes and procedures governing misdemeanors.  
 This order may be enforced by any duly-commissioned peace officer and that the venue for prosecution of tills order will be the Justice of the Peace Court, Runnels County, Texas.

**Area 4-H centers host Safety Day**

**WINTERS ENTERPRISE STAFF REPORT**  
**WINTERS** - Everyone in agriculture knows someone whose life has been affected by a farm-related injury or death, according to the Progressive Agriculture Foundation. To raise awareness of dangers on farms and ranches and to aid in accident prevention, the Texas AgriLife Extension Service offices in Tom Green, Concho and Runnels counties hosted Progressive Agriculture Safety Day on Wednesday, June 1. The event gave students from ages 8-13 the opportunity to see first-hand the hazards that kids can encounter on farms, ranches and in other rural settings.  
 Progressive Agriculture Safety Day took place at the Tom Green County 4-H building and addressed topics from snakes, insects and campsite safety to harmful chemicals and tractor power take-off. Event supporters included Monsanto Company, Bunge, Crop Production Services, Agrium, Farm Credit, John Deere, Toyota and Pioneer.  
 "Youth safety on the farm and ranch is very important to Monsanto

because young people are our future ag leaders. They are so familiar with equipment and facilities around their homes that they sometimes get complacent with regard to safety. Monsanto's goal is to educate them about the everyday dangers on the farm," said Jearl Holland, Monsanto Territory Sales Manager.  
 Each participant joined in hands-on activities at six "safety stations." At the snake safety station, Riley Sawyers of the Sweetwater Jaycees brought in a live rattlesnake to demonstrate how to react should they encounter a snake in the wild. Chris Braden of Helena Chemical Company taught kids a water race game at the chemical safety station to show how easily chemicals can spill if not handled with care.  
 "For so many of the kids who attend Progressive Agriculture Safety Day, the topics we address are a part of everyday life," said Sandy Taylor, extension agent for Runnels County. "Safety Day helps reinforce to these kids just how important it is to take the proper precautions in outdoor environments. We have been hosting the biannual event since the early 1990s and it is always

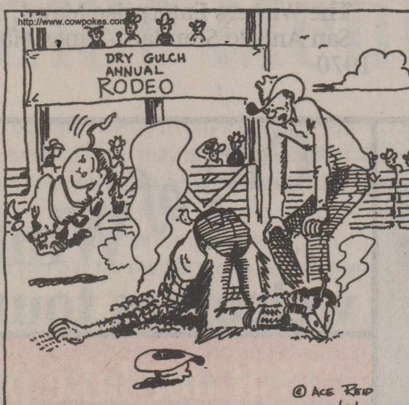
well-received by kids and adults alike because of the important message it sends."  
 Safety Day participants included more than 80 students and junior leaders. The team of junior leaders is made up of former Safety Day participants who contributed as volunteers at this year's event. Members of the San Angelo Fire Department and Texas AgriLife Extension employees volunteered their time to lead safety sessions.  
 This year, Merlina Gamel of Mason, Texas served as a guest speaker on ATV safety. Gamel lost her leg following an ATV accident and now speaks regularly at events to teach kids about safe practices around dangerous farm equipment.  
 Safety Day wrapped up with a final accident demonstration led by the junior leaders. The demonstration took place in an open field and simulated an actual helicopter rescue for a person injured by farm equipment. A local nurse walked students through the steps needed to stabilize the injured person and transport him or her to safety.

**USDA webinars on Hispanic and women claims process**

**WINTERS ENTERPRISE STAFF REPORT**  
**COLLEGE STATION** - USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) will be having four webinars (internet-based virtual meeting) to discuss the USDA Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Settlement Claims, Process and current FSA loan programs. State Executive Director Juan M. Garcia announced that this webinars scheduled for June 30, July 14, July 28 and August 11 at 7 p.m.  
 On February 25, 2011, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and Department of Justice Assistant Attorney General Tony West announced a process created to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who assert they faced discrimination when seeking USDA farm loans during certain periods between years 1981 and 2000. The optional 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.  
 The interactive webinars will provide an overview of the

USDA Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Process as well as FSA farm loan program updates. Farm loan program topics to be discussed include interest rates, terms, and eligibility and security requirements.  
 "I encourage producers who want more information about the claims process or about FSA farm loan programs to register for one of these webinars," said Garcia. "The webinars are free and open to the first 100 participants who register," he said.  
 Garcia emphasizes that these webinars are intended as forums to discuss the general plan for the claims process and FSA webinar hosts will not be able to discuss the details of any individual claim during the course of the webinars.  
 To view the webinar schedule and register, please go to [www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/tx\\_hwwebinar\\_2011.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/tx_hwwebinar_2011.pdf).  
 For more information regarding the USDA Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Claims Process and FSA Lending Program webinars, please contact Eddie Trevino in the Texas State FSA Office at (979) 680-5221 or via email at [eddie.trevino@tx.usda.gov](mailto:eddie.trevino@tx.usda.gov).

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# Living with odd neighbors

**RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ**  
WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS - Associated with death and carcasses, most people find buzzards gross, but when a Norton resident found two odd-shaped eggs in his barn, he decided to leave them alone and witnessed one of Nature's most precious miracles, the birth and growth of wildlife.

Early in the year Milton Bryan, who lives on County Road 273, just northeast of Norton, found two eggs laying on the ground inside an old barn on his property. The eggs didn't have the classic oval shape of a chicken egg, they were round and bigger in size.

After a few weeks of observation and seeing a buzzard coming in and out of the barn two buzzard chicks came out of the eggs "but the most amazing thing is that they were white as snow," said Bryan.

Buzzard chicks didn't have feathers, they were covered with down feathers, a soft type of natural insulation common in many kinds of bird chicks. The buzzard chicks soon began to grow and in a few weeks they were bigger than a rooster. It was then when they found their way



PHOTO: RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ  
Milton Bryan, a Norton resident, found a couple of buzzard chicks in an old barn of his and decided to do something for the only one left when mommy and one of the chicks disappeared.

out of the barn.

The birds were big enough to scare Bryan's cats away, and they roamed from his porch to his car port "one of them went under my car and I couldn't take it out, the bird stayed there for two days," said Bryan.

White overall, with a black bald head, the chicks were barely developing their first feathers on the tip of their wings.

Unable to communicate with sound, the buzzards just uttered hisses and grunts. They hissed when they felt threatened. "In this days I have been observing the buzzards I have learned more about them than never before," said Bryan who found his new hobby as naturalist more than regarding.

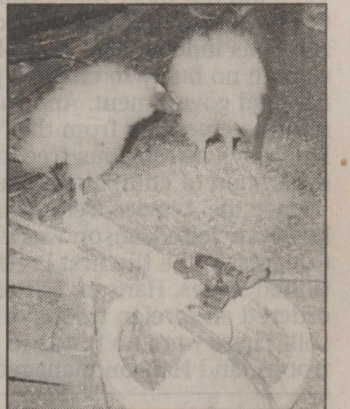
One day mommy didn't come back. The birds started to wander around the house, looking for something to eat, and this carrier feeder used to eat almost any type of dead animal found in Bryan's house and heart a source of food. He fed them with

hamburger or any other leftovers.

"I am 75-years-old and I have never seen something like this," said Bryan.

Last week the birds went lose, and only one of them came back "I found white feathers in the road and I think they were of the other bird," said Bryan.

Regardless of the large size of the remaining bird and its long claws, Bryan decided to take action. He captured the bird and called TPWD Game Warden for Rannels County Lane Pinckney, who secured the bird and took it to an adequate facility.



## NEWS NOTES

**Immunization clinics**  
The Texas Department of State Health will have two immunization clinics in Rannels County. The first one will be held in Winters, on Thursday, July 7 from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Professional Building, 110 South Main, Suite 108. For your convenience please, use rear entrance (Grant Street).

Immunization clinic in Ballinger will be on Thursday, July 14 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 1:30 to 3 p.m. at 608 Strong (behind the Courthouse). Please bring child's immunization records. If child has Medicaid or CHIP, please bring card. For more information call 325-754-4945.

**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.

**Winters Women's Club**  
Members meet the second Tuesday of the month. Call Marlene Smith at 754-4961 for additional information.

**AA Meetings**  
AA meeting 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.

**CAFETERIA MENU**  
June 27-July 1  
Subject to change\*

**Have a safe and Happy Fourth of July Celebration**

**Senior Citizens Activity Center Menu**  
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**July 4-8**  
Subject to change

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**THURSDAY**  
Goulash, Hominy, Beet Salad, Cornbread, Cake.

**FRIDAY**  
Bar-B-Que on Bun, Corn Salad, Pickles & Onions, Peaches, Cookies.

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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**WINTERS ENTERPRISE**  
STAFF REPORT

**ABILENE** - One person was killed in a one vehicle crash occurring last Monday, June 27 at 3:55 p.m. in Stephens County. The crash was on Farm Road 287, one-half mile east of U.S. 183.

Timothy Jerome Chisholm, 58-years-of-age from Breckenridge, Texas was pronounced dead at the scene at 6:30 p.m. by Judge Mike Heatley. The body was taken to Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office in Fort Worth, Texas.

Chisholm was driving a 2007 Ford F-150 pickup east-bound on Farm Road 287. The vehicle left the roadway and entered a creek bed, striking a tree. According to the Texas Department of Public Safety Chisholm was not wearing a seat belt.

The weather was clear and the road was dry. Trooper Dale Escobedo is investigating the crash.

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## Celebrating American Independence Freedom Road from Colony to Country

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

The new nation of the United States which emerged out of the American Revolution gave rise to "radical new" ideas — the idea of a republican form of government: government BY THE PEOPLE. Many Americans feared that without a virtuous republican form of government, chaos would ensue. They championed the development of a Republic with democratically elected representatives, SUBJECT TO THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE.

The Articles of Confederation which were adopted in 1781 had many weaknesses. The documents proposed in June, 1776 did not meet with favor by the Confederation of States, which saw themselves as independent republics. They were in no hurry to create a powerful national government. And there were reforms emerging from the "fire of rebellion" such as religious freedom — the separation of church and state.

Once the Articles were signed in 1781, however, John Hanson was chosen by Congress to be the first President of the United States. Hanson, as President, ordered all foreign troops off American soil. There were no funds to pay the troops, and Hanson managed to avert an

overthrow of the new government and hold things together during his one-year term of office. Hanson established the Great Seal of the U.S., set up the Treasury Department, created the first Secretary of War and the First Foreign Affairs Department. He declared the fourth Thursday of every November to be Thanksgiving Day. There were six other Presidents elected after Hanson.

There were huge other seemingly insurmountable problems, including financial obligations which could not be met, because the U.S. Treasury was empty. During the war paper money was issued that was practically worthless and there was rampant inflation (like our modern economy.) Foreign countries paid little heed to the new Congress, which had little control over unpaid debts, commercial trade, or the American armed forces. The national debts, both foreign and domestic, were only brought under control during the Confederation period by Alexander Hamilton. He was able to put America's financial house in order only after the new Constitution of the United States was adopted.

Americans were aware the world was watching to see whether this new country under a new form of government would succeed. At the heart of the American experiment was the idea of equality,

based on merit, instead of special privilege. Ordinary folk (influenced by evangelicalism) expected greater liberty and a greater voice in their own government.

Members of the Constitutional Convention signed the new U.S. Constitution in Philadelphia in 1787. After months of debates and many compromises, the proposed document was submitted to the States for approval. The primary document was eventually ratified by all 13 States in 1789. George Washington was elected President under the new U.S. Constitution in 1789. The Bill of Rights first 10 amendments were ratified in 1791.

The American Revolution had brought about a series of social, political, and intellectual transformations in early America. The new Constitution created an enduring framework for limited government based on the rule of law. Not only did America achieve National Independence, but economic opportunity was provided for everyone.

Americans should take inspiration from the principles which define us as a just and prosperous nation, unlike any other in the world. In recent decades, America's principles have been undermined and there has been an attempt to redefine our culture.

The change America urgently needs is a

change consistent with the American ideal. We must move toward our founding principles and not away from them. The Mount Vernon statement "restates" the principles of Constitutional conservatism. "The conservatism of the Declaration asserts self-evident truths based on the laws of nature and nature's God. It defends life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It traces authority to the consent of the governed. It recognizes man's self-interest, but also his capacity for virtue."

Just as there are critical political and policy battles ahead, Americans need to be dedicated to the original principles our founding fathers fought for and won to establish.

Benjamin Franklin said "I've lived a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth: That God governs in the affairs of men. If a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it possible that an empire can rise without His aid? We've been assured in the sacred writings that unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it."

HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY!

Kay McKinney  
Ballinger, Texas

## TxDOT kicks off buckle up in your truck campaign

### WINTERS ENTERPRISE STAFF REPORT

AUSTIN - The Texas Department of Transportation's Buckle Up in Your Truck campaign kicks off this month to remind pickup truck drivers and their passengers about the importance of using seat belts every time they get in a vehicle. While seat belt use across the state is seeing record highs among people in cars, people in pickup trucks are still not using their seat belts regularly. TxDOT is launching a summer campaign focusing on those pickup truck drivers and passengers to ensure that all Texas motorists are buckled up.

Safety officials attribute lower seat belt use among truck drivers and passengers to a false sense of security in larger vehicles and the incorrect belief that seat belts aren't necessary for short trips.

"Pickup truck drivers and passengers tend to be younger and male, and they are not getting the message that seat belts save lives," said Carol Rawson, TxDOT's Traffic Operations Division Director. "In fact, crashes involving pickup trucks can be particularly deadly because of the tendency for the trucks to roll over and

involved in fatal crashes exceeded the number of passenger cars by 20 percent. In 2009 in Texas, more than 3,000 people died in fatal collisions on Texas streets and highways, and just under half were not buckled up.

Studies have shown that wearing a seat belt reduces the risk of fatal injury by 45 percent in passenger cars. That number increases to 60 percent for pickups due to their likelihood of rolling over in a crash. According to TxDOT, one out of every two pickup truck drivers killed in a traffic crash was not buckled up.

Despite an overall downward trend in fatalities between 2003 and 2009, traffic crashes remain the leading cause of death for those between one and 44 years of age in Texas. On average, the number of trucks

involved in fatal crashes exceeded the number of passenger cars by 20 percent. In 2009 in Texas, more than 3,000 people died in fatal collisions on Texas streets and highways, and just under half were not buckled up.

Fines and court costs for failing to fasten your seat belt can add up to \$250 or more. It's not just drivers that must buckle up — state law also requires passengers in the front and back seat to buckle up. Visit [www.texasclickitorticket.com](http://www.texasclickitorticket.com) for more information.

For more information, contact the TxDOT media relations office at 512-463-8700 or [tracie.mendez@txdot.gov](mailto:tracie.mendez@txdot.gov).

## Ballinger Humane Society pets for adoption

### WINTERS ENTERPRISE STAFF REPORT

BALLINGER - The Ballinger Humane Society has a few pets up for adoption!

Fresca is a female Chihuahua mix about a 1-year-old. She is good with kids and has a sweet personality when she gets to know you.

Kujo is a male Great Dane mix approx. 1-year-old. He is great with other dogs and will need a yard with some room to roam!

Sadie is a 6-year-old full blood long haired Dachshund! Sadie would thrive as an only dog to a loving couple. She gets along well with other pets and children but came from and only dog environment and would do better in that situation.

If you are interested in adopting or want more information about one of these pets please call 325-365-3248 or 325-245-9502. They all are wonderful pets needing a second chance at a loving home!

### Charles Frerich

I was watching a movie the other night and an analogy was made using a coin and it made me think. What is one of the main things that people work for? I know that if our priorities are right we should be concerned with our heavenly reward and our family, but we tend to tie it all back to money.

Consider a dollar bill. When freshly printed it is crisp and bright. Truly a work of art when considering the details of the bill. As the bill is put into circulation and is used it begins to show signs of wear and tear. The bill is stuffed into wallets and purses, crammed into pants pockets, wadded and folded. No matter how it looks it keeps on doing its job. Though the economy determines what the dollar will actually buy, it does the job it is supposed to do.

When this country was first settled the land was pristine. Plants were abundant, and the soil was rich. As the settlers came and began to use the land either by grazing or tilling, the land began to show signs of usage. Much like the crumpled look

## ON THE LEVEL

of the dollar bill, the land began to wear down and erode. The land once fertile lost its ability to grow vegetation to protect it. Man would use this ground until worn out and move on to the next piece of land.

George Washington on the face of the dollar bill reminds us of the "Father of our Country". His patriotic spirit and dedication to a new democracy led the colonies to declare their independence and solidify their freedom. George Washington was more than a strong leader; he was a leader in conservation. The soils around Mount Vernon are a heavy clay soil. Washington kept a manure barn where the litter from the stalls and garbage was kept. He added amounts of water to compost the material. At planting time the field hands then took the compost to the fields. They made raised seedbeds and worked the compost into the soil creating a seedbed that allowed the plant's roots to grow and sustain a productive plant. The raised bed also held the rainfall in place letting the water infiltrate the soil.

At the top of the dollar bill reads Federal Reserve Note, United States

of America. The Federal Reserve basically takes care of our money. Our soil is the reserve of our great nation. The soil is home to millions of bacteria and nutrients that sustain plant growth. This reserve is what helps feed our nation and the world. If man continues to abuse the soil, the ability to feed ourselves will be lost. We will be relying on other nations to feed us just like we are depending on other nations for our oil.

The most used symbol on the bill is the number one. There are six ones on the front and 10 ones on the back. No mistaking that the bill is a one dollar bill. But it also should remind us that there is one God and without Him none of this would ever have happened. The soils, the plants, this country, the world we live in are because of Him. We were given the opportunity to live our earthly lives here. That does not mean we can abuse the privilege.

Which leads to the final and most important phrase on the bill. "IN GOD WE TRUST". It really does not need any explanation. No matter what we do, it is ultimately up to God to provide.

## Forest Service urges caution over 4th of July

### WINTERS ENTERPRISE STAFF REPORT

COLLEGE STATION - With extremely dry conditions across the state, Texas Forest Service is urging Texans to use caution when celebrating the upcoming July 4 holiday weekend.

It doesn't take much to ignite a potentially devastating wildfire. Despite recent rain in some areas, a significant portion of the state remains critically dry.

Texas Forest Service does not make decisions regarding fireworks restrictions or outdoor burn bans. The state agency does, however, provide drought condition information to county government officials. Under state law, each county is tasked with making its own

decisions regarding fireworks restrictions and burn bans.

Always check with local government or fire department officials to make sure fireworks and campfires are allowed in your county — and be sure to comply with all restrictions.

Some fireworks safety tips issued by the Texas Forest Service include: Use fireworks only under close adult supervision and in safe areas away from dry grass and brush, keep fireworks away from homes and structures, which can be accidentally ignited, keep a hose, bucket of water and wet towels nearby in case they are needed to extinguish small fires, dispose of used fireworks in a bucket of water.

The Texas Forest Service also recom-

mends to use caution with campfires. General guidelines include to build campfires in open, level spots away from trees and overhanging branches; preferably in designated fire rings or fire receptacles, never leave a campfire or cooking fire unattended, completely extinguish the fire with water before leaving it. The ashes and coals are not safe to leave until they are cool enough to touch.

Consider using a propane stove or barbecue grill instead of an open fire when it's dry and windy.

Put barbecue grills over bare dirt or other fire resistant surfaces — away from dead grass and weeds. Never transport a barbecue pit or grill with live coals.

## Grocery bills show slight increase

### WINTERS ENTERPRISE STAFF REPORT

WACO - Amidst concerns of rising food and fuel prices, Texas Farm Bureau's (TFB) Grocery Price Watch recorded a 59 cent increase — just over 1 percent — with a \$44.54 total for a 16-item basket of common food products, as compared between March and June of this year.

"The latest Grocery Price Watch shows food prices starting to level," said TFB President Kenneth

Dierschke. "Even through challenging financial times, though, we are fortunate to have access to healthy, safe food at reasonable prices."

Based on the informal quarterly survey, Texans may get some relief in the check-out line as the cost of six of the 16 items decreased. The largest savings came from tomatoes, down 49 cents per pound from last quarter. Other items that cost less include rice, lettuce, sliced turkey, vanilla ice cream and cen-

ter loin boneless pork chops.

The survey also showed 10 items, including meat, dairy and dry goods, increased in price during the same period. Prices for top sirloin steak (up 5.1 percent), cheddar cheese (up 9.9 percent) and reduced-fat milk (up 11.5 percent) increased from historic lows in 2009. High production costs, combined with the current extreme drought, have caused Texas dairy farmers and cattle ranchers to remain cautious, avoiding expansion and keeping production levels low.

Bread, corn flakes, cake mix and other processed foods posted price increases, as well. Pre-packaged food products require additional processing, packaging and transportation, all of which are impacted by the cost of fuel. According to the June 15 Consumer Price Index

(CPI) released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the cost of fuel has increased 21.5 percent in the past year. As the cost of fuel rises, additional input costs to food manufacturers often are passed on to the consumer.

"Texas farmers and ranchers are feeling the strain on their wallets, too, as they pay higher fuel and production costs. However, the farmers' and ranchers' share of the grocery dollar remains steady at just 16 percent. That's equivalent to only \$7.13 of this Grocery Price Watch basket," Dierschke added.

The TFB Grocery Price Watch is conducted quarterly by volunteer shoppers at grocery stores across the state of Texas. The current survey data was collected by 40 shoppers from June 2-10, 2011. TFB has released its Grocery Price Watch survey of basic food staples since March 2009.



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### WINTERS ENTERPRISE STAFF REPORT

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## Holiday Safety

From the staff of the Ballinger Ledger and Winters Enterprise, we would like to take this opportunity to thank each and all of our advertisers and readers to make these publications possible. We want to wish all of you a safe and happy Fourth of July celebration this coming Monday. Obey all rules when setting off fireworks and check with local officials where designated areas might be to allow firework displays. If you drive, don't drink, if you drink, don't drive....again have a safe and happy Fourth of July.

Ruben Cantu-Rodriguez  
Ken Smith  
Sheila Cavazos  
Linda Arispe

## Caution recommended over holiday weekend

BALLINGER LEDGER  
STAFF REPORT

COLLEGE STATION - Most Texas counties are experiencing severe drought, and it's important to keep in mind this holiday weekend that just a little spark can start a massive wildfire.

Texas Forest Service continues to urge caution when it comes to any outdoor activity that can cause a spark — from outdoor grilling or building a campfire to parking a car on dry grass or shooting celebratory fireworks in approved areas. More than 90 percent of Texas wildfires are caused by humans. The most frequent cause is debris burning.

According to authorities, the recent Dyer Mill Fire in Grimes County, where more than 5,200 acres were burned and at least 30 homes lost, was started by a barbecue pit.

Texas Forest Service's Prevention and Mitigation Team, led by Bruce Woods, is tasked with conducting public education campaigns, working with the media, hosting town hall meetings, overseeing prescribed burning and reaching out to those affected or displaced by wildfire.

"Wildfires are a community-wide problem, which means reducing risks to homes and property is everyone's responsibility," said Woods. "More than 80 percent of wildfires in Texas occur within 2 miles of a community."

The team is available to work with homeowners and communities to answer questions and implement strategies to protect home and other structures from wildfire. For example, potential losses can be reduced by adopting fire wise landscaping practices 100 to 200 feet around your home. That includes moving firewood and clearing dead and dense vegetation.

Remember, you can help Texas have a wildfire-free Fourth of July.

For more information, visit [www.texasfirestorm.org](http://www.texasfirestorm.org) and [www.texasfirewise.org](http://www.texasfirewise.org).

## Winters City Council meeting



The City Council meeting ended up last Monday, June 27 with a vacant seat, after Alan Hollander's resignation. PHOTO: RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ

## THE IDLE AMERICAN

Loudest roar of all...

Origin of the proverb — "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy" — dates back to 1659. It might have been worded differently had Lions Clubs had been around back then.

The Lions, largest of all service clubs, didn't show up until 258 years later.

Since their founding in 1917, however, Lions have worked for the betterment of humankind. But, not without "fun moments," of course. Their meetings — with commitment to service as a backdrop — are "fun" events. Lions often "let their hair down" all the way to meltdowns of merriment and laughter. "Dull moments" are held at bay....

A wonderful example is the recent Texas State Convention in Beaumont. Planned and executed by Lions in the "Golden Triangle," the activities were headed by Stump Weatherford of Orange. They carried out the "i-dotting and t-crossing" for the four-day event. Fingers and toes are too few to number the activities.



TEXAS  
COLUMNIST  
Don  
Newbury

The Lions arose early and stayed up late, repeatedly urged to "sleep faster."

Three international past presidents attended, and two of them — Ebb Grindstaff of Ballinger, TX, and Brian Stevenson from Calgary, Alberta, Canada — might challenge the "hoopla" about the meticulous planning....

Such dignitaries are typically beneficiaries of much "bowing and scraping." Not so this time.

Ebb and Brian partnered to win the convention golf tournament, always adding the "fair and square" assurance at the end of each re-telling. They joked about having to find their own transportation from the golf course.

Their spiel: "We had to hail down a pick-up truck to get back to the hotel." Numerous witnesses saw them nimbly climb down from the truck bed after the hair-blowing ride....

A "no-show" at the Lions Foundation breakfast created the most "buzz." Lubbock's Marshall Cooper, Chief Operating Officer of the Texas Lions Foundation, made several awards, including one — in absentia — to David W. Hearn for 65-year membership in the Beaumont Founders Lions Club.

Hearn, a 102-year-old

known for "keeping commitments," was scheduled to attend an annual meeting on family business interests in New Orleans, so he was in "commitment keeping" mode.

Beaumont area Lions spoke in respectful tones of the man who is more than a corner post in life's fence row. Hearn's accomplishments suggest that he's a giant sequoia, towering above all the rest in the forest....

If the Lions — or all service clubs for that matter — decided to hold up a life for all the rest to model, it might well be his. For many decades, he led club singing, read the news and upon a member's death, sang all verses of "Taps."

His record of public service, generosity, patriotism and leadership cuts across the spectrum of life's worthwhile causes. In many organizations, he was "first president," including the American Cancer Society. Other service was on the school board, and the war bond sales he spearheaded during World War II led the state and nation in per capita participation.

He remains a stalwart at First United Methodist Church, where he has served in numerous leadership capacities. Hearn dons suits and ties most Sundays, and someone from the church brings a limo to take him to services....

Hearn's stuff legends are made of at Lincoln National Life, where he served for some half-century. He continues to impress with his sharp mind, keen wit and dapper

appearance. His hearing, though, is failing. During our phone conversation, he was able to hear just a "smidgen." He perked up greatly when I said "Lions."

With bits and pieces of information from various individuals, I was able to gain numerous vignettes from his life. When I'm in Beaumont again, I'll look him up. A proud man, on his "up" days, he's in his "Sunday clothes," moving about, albeit with the aid of a walker recently....

I'm glad that he got into Lionism, and that Lionism got into him. His high standard of service has been cited by two Beaumont mayors, both of whom decreed "David W. Hearn Days," once on his 81st birthday and another almost three years ago, when he hit the century mark. Who better represents Lions' motto: "We Serve"?

This day, I think of darkest Africa. It is morning, and a fleet-footed gazelle awakens, realizing that if it doesn't outrun the fastest lion, it will be eaten. Only a few yards away, a lion awakens, knowing that if it doesn't outrun the slowest gazelle, it will starve. It is a given that both the gazelle and the lion will start the day running.

I have no doubt but that David W. Hearn's days, until the ones here lately, began the same way. And I salute him....

Dr. Newbury is a speaker in the Metroplex. Inquiries and comments may be sent to [newbury@speakerdoc.com](mailto:newbury@speakerdoc.com). Call: 817-447-3872. Web site: [www.speakerdoc.com](http://www.speakerdoc.com).

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