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PHOTOS: JOE GERHART

## Blizzards finish the season

The Winters Blizzards advanced deep into the playoffs and for the first time in many years played at the regional round.

# AS AREA CHAMPIONS

The Winters Blizzards end the 2011 season in the Regional round of the playoffs in Llano against the Shiner Comanches

CHARLES MURPHY  
 ENTERPRISE CONTRIBUTOR

LLANO- My great granddad was a water well digger and my granddad used to tell me stories about how cold it could get in February but he did not say anything about the feeling of ending football season in the middle of November. The Blizzard faithful had to face the cold hard facts on Saturday night in Marble Falls as the Comanches of Shiner ended one of the Blizzard's best football seasons in a long time 42-14 in a game that certainly ranks as one of the windiest and coldest in a long while.

Shiner won the toss and chose to defer to the second half giving the option to the Blizzards to get things going. Winters elected to receive. The kickoff and return set the Blizzards up at their own 16. With little success Big Blue faced fourth and 14 and punted

to end their first possession. Shiner opened up the game with a fumble on their second play which Cristian Sandoval pounced on and gave the Blizzards great field position at the Shiner 32. Riley Ripley would pick up 17 on first down and Sandoval would come through on third and 19 with 23 yards and a critical first down. Ripley would then find Strait Daniel for the final 19 yards of the drive on third and 12 for the touchdown. The extra point was missed but the Blizzards held the lead at 6-0 with 6:23 left in the first quarter.

After setting up at their own 33 the Comanches would find the end zone quickly with a 65 yard touchdown pass and run with 4:30 left in the first quarter. The extra point was good for a 7-6 Shiner lead. The Blizzards would find little to cheer about on the next drive and be forced to punt facing fourth and 6. Three plays later Shiner would strike up the band again with a 39 yard run to increase their lead to 14-6 with the extra point with 1:28 left in the first stanza.

The kickoff set the Blizzards up at their own 20 yard line and they were able to string together a couple of first downs only to be forced to punt just before the end of the quarter. The punt set the Comanches up at their own 45 and they moved ball with ease only to put it on the ground again where Andy Garcia would pick it up in stride and ramble 82 yards to pay dirt to get the Blizzards on the board again. Ripley would find Garcia wide open in the end zone for the 2 point conversion to tie the score at 14 with 11:43 left in the

second quarter.

With things getting tight the Blizzards kicked off to the Comanches and set them up at their own 35. With the Blizzards missing a key part of their defense, Hayden Nitsch with a broken ankle, Shiner began to consistently capitalize with the toss sweep for good yardage. This possession they put together an eight play 65 yard drive to score with 8:00 still left in the half for a 20-14 lead. Neither team could put together a complete drive for the remainder of the half. Kolton Alexander provided the Blizzard faithful with happiness as he fell on a Comanche fumble to set

Riley Ripley scrambling with the ball at the game the Blizzards held last Saturday, November 26 in Llano against the Shiner Comanches.



## This Saturday is Christmas Parade

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
 STAFF REPORT

WINTERS- The award-winning WHS Blizzard Band will lead the annual Christmas parade coming Saturday, December 3 at 3 p.m. through Downtown Winters. A variety of other parade entries as well as young ladies vying for the titles of Miss Sno Flake, Miss Sno Princess and Miss Sno Queen will also add to the festive event. Coronations will take place at the Rock Hotel following the parade.

The event will be plenty of colorful floats, soaring with joy and everyone is invited to join and enjoy the event that kicks off the holidays. Fifteen contestants will be on the spot as the Sno Flake, Sno Princess and Sno Queen contest is held. For more information call the Winters Area Chamber of Commerce at (325)754 5210.

PHOTOS ON PAGE 6

## Winters will be hosting a 'Tree Extravaganza'

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ  
 WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS- Christmas, that magic time of the year when every heart is touched and we all feel the need to share is back, and along with it a traditional event that has been bringing all the community together at the Rock Hotel, in Winters. This year, the "Tree Extravaganza" at the Rock Hotel will be holding its grand opening on Thursday, December 1.

Over 20 trees, originally decorated by different clubs, churches, businesses and organizations will be featured at the exhibition, which also includes the Z.L. Hale and Agricultural museums.

The Winters Lutheran Choir will be performing on December 1 at the grand opening from 5 p.m. thru 7:30 p.m.

Each tree features a theme, and some of them have a very special meaning for their sponsors. Lupe and Shelly Gue-



The Rock Hotel is ready to receive all the visitors that each year enjoy the Christmas tree exhibition.

vara, two volunteers and members of the Rock Hotel Advisory Committee, decorated one of the trees at the lobby "I named my tree the 'Dollar Store Christmas,'" said Lupe, "it is meant to honor my grandmother, who for many years proved that you can decorate a very nice Christmas trees even when you are on a budget."

All the ornaments in the tree belonged to his grandmother Minnie, and the Guevaras also set up for exhibition a paint by G. Harvey entitled "Heralding the Hope" which is dedi-

cated to his grandmother. Minnie worked with the Harveys for many years.

Lupe and Shelly have volunteered for three years to decorate the inside and outside of the Rock Hotel for this unique celebration.

The big tree in the lobby was decorated silver in color by Wanda Brewer. The exhibition features other very original trees like the one set up by the Lone Star Book Club, a tree entirely made of books; the Chrismons Tree by the First United Methodist Church which features Chrismons hand made by the church members, the Red Hat Blizzard Babes Tree, a Hispanic traditional tree set up by Nadine de la Cruz, the Winters ISD Blizzard tree by Michelle Garcia and friends, Winters 4-H Club, Sew and Sew Club, Senior Activity Center, Winters Women's Club, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9193, Winters Area Business and Industrial



PHOTO: RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ

Lupe Guevara and the "Dollar Store" Christmas tree. This year the traditional exhibition will have over 20 Christmas trees at the Rock Hotel, in Winters.

Corporation "Rockin' with the 50s" tree, the Runnels County Historical Commis-

sion, Winters Enterprise, and more were set up at the Agricultural Museum.

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## FUNERALS AND OBITUARIES

## Hattie Belle Bishop

Hattie Belle Bishop, age 82, golfed her way into the hands of her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on November 24, 2011.

Hattie Belle was a wife, mom, grandma and a friend to many. Her feisty personality is what we will remember the most.

Hattie Belle was born December 19, 1928 in Winters and has always called this home. Hattie Belle was the daughter of Ezra David Burkett and Ruby Elmira (Fisher) Burkett. Hattie Belle graduated from Winters High School and Shannon nursing school and was a nurse at the Winters Municipal Hospital. She married her best friend, E.J. Bishop, in December of 1949 and then again in 1976. E.J. and Hattie Belle were the owners of Bishop and Sons Dirt Contracting Inc. and Bishop Boys Limousin. She is survived by one son, Dane Bishop and wife Robbie of Winters, two sisters, Marie Allen of Winters and Burnell Guley of Sonora, three granddaughters, Jamie Jett Bishop and Staci Bishop of Austin and Krystall Gibbens of Lubbock and Roscoe and LaNell Morrison. Hattie Belle was preceded in death by her husband E.J. Bishop and her son Chane David Bishop.

She will be greatly missed.

Memorial service was held on Monday, November 28, 2011 at the Winters Funeral Home.

The family requests memorial be made to the Winters Public Library or the American Cancer Society.

Winters Enterprise, December 1, 2011

## Thanksgiving brings rain as gift for winter pastures

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
STAFF REPORT

COLLEGE STATION- Rain came to large parts of Texas, an early Thanksgiving feast for already planted winter pastures, according to Texas AgriLife Extension Service personnel.

Though welcome, the rain came too late for drought-hammered summer pastures, many of which are in sad shape, according to AgriLife Extension county agent reports.

For example, before the rain, Pasquale Swaner, AgriLife Extension agent for Falls County, near Waco, reported that while "driving throughout the county, pastures are the worse than anyone can imagine. A large portion are just grazed to dirt."

However, the rain will certainly help winter pastures, and eventually it will be good for warm-season pastures too, said Dr. Vanessa Corriher, AgriLife Extension forage specialist in East Texas.

"For pastures that have been grazed down, it's going to take them a long time to recover," Corriher said. "Most of those forages, our warm-season perennials, are going into dormancy as we get cooler temperatures. We're not going to see any recovery until we get into spring."

But for many of those producers who planted winter pastures earlier, the rains came just in time, she said.

"Whether it's a cool-season annual ryegrass, or some small grains or any cool-season legume, the moisture will help those forages to potentially provide some grazing," she said.

Though it's highly recommended to fertilize winter pastures, the timing is a bit off, Corriher said. Her standard recommendation is to wait until around the middle of November, but after the first freeze to ensure all warm-season pastures have entered dormancy. East Texas hasn't had any frosts yet.

## Library open house on Saturday afternoon

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
STAFF REPORT

WINTERS- Winters Public Library will host an open house honoring Ouida Nichols for 46 years of service as Treasurer. Our library has many reasons to celebrate and to honor a long time member for serving as treasurer for the library. Most recently the front door has been refinished.

The library also has a new multi function printer/color copier, two new computers, storage furniture, and computer

hardware and software which was purchased with funds received from the Tocker Foundation. There will soon be a HD Projector and cart installed with funds received from the Tocker Foundation.

Ouida Nichols served as the second treasurer for the Winters Public Library following Mrs. Noel (Ellen) Reid. Ouida was appointed to take Ellen's place as treasurer in 1964. She served until 2010, when Nancy Spill was elected to serve as treasurer.

When Ouida was asked

about being the new treasurer she explained "there was only about \$90 in the treasurer when I took office," and she asked "how they could pay their bills which amounted to more than the fund held."

She said Ellen told her "somehow the money was always there when it came time to write the checks." Ouida shared several newspaper clippings about the library over the years, which will be on display during the open house.

The library is very

grateful for the donations received from the community, both individuals and businesses. The school, city and county all contribute annually to the library which helps with the purchase of books as well as the operation of the library.

The Library Board invited the community to attend this open house and see the cultural growth of our local library. Refreshments will be served. The annual Christmas parade can be viewed from inside the library at 3 p.m.

## NEWS NOTES

## Fundraiser for London 2012

We will be selling "London Burgers" Saturday, December 3, downtown Winters from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for a fundraiser to help finance the trip to London to perform during the Summer Olympics in July 2012. Fifteen ballet dancers from Dance Limited Studio in Abilene, which includes Jenessa Wade from Winters, will participate in three performances on stages in downtown London. We have been working since January 2011, selling World's Finest Chocolate, Coke products, Tupperware, pies and cheesecakes, popcorn, pulled pork sandwiches, a garage sale and working in the baseball concession stand.

We appreciate all the support and we hope you will enjoy a "London Burger" with us before the Christmas Parade. The "London Burger" consists of a beef patty, mayo, cheese, pulled pork and homemade pepper butter served on a toast bun. Yum! Yum! See you December 3!

## Advocacy Center looking for sponsors

Runnels County is halfway there! Eleven more children to go by December 9.

The Children's Advocacy Center of Tom Green County's "Christmas for Kids" program has secured sponsors for 11 of the 22 children from Runnels County who are presently being cared for under the CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) Program or under the CAC's early intervention programs. These 22 Runnels County children have either been removed from their homes due to documented child abuse or have been removed in order for early intervention services to be provided to them and their parent or guardian.

Sponsors can help a child by obtaining their "Wish List" and purchasing the items or by making a monetary donation which will be used to purchase the items. Depending upon the age of the child, the total cost per child is \$45-75.

To be provided with a child's Wish List, please contact Sam or Laura Mallory at 365-4277. To make a monetary donation, please make your gift payable to the Children's Advocacy Center of Tom Green County and send it directly to: Rebekah Lewis, Children's Advocacy Center, P. O. Box 5195, San Angelo, TX 76902. Please be sure to note on the check "Christmas for Kids Program - Runnels County".

## Christmas Parade on Dec. 3

The award-winning WHS Blizzard Band will lead the annual Christmas parade coming Saturday, December 3 at 3 p.m. through Downtown Winters. A variety of other parade entries as well as young ladies vying for the titles of Miss Sno Flake, Miss Sno Princess and Miss Sno Queen will also add to the festive event. Coronations will take place at the Rock Hotel following the parade.

Deadline for registering a parade entry to be judged ends November 25, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. Entries will be accepted the day of the parade but will be ineligible for judging and will be placed at the end of the parade line. Anyone interested in participating in the parade should call the Chamber at (325) 754 5210.

SnoRoyalty applications can be obtained from the Chamber web site or by calling the Chamber at (325)754 5210. Entry deadline is November 25, 2011 by 5:30 p.m.

## Immunization clinics

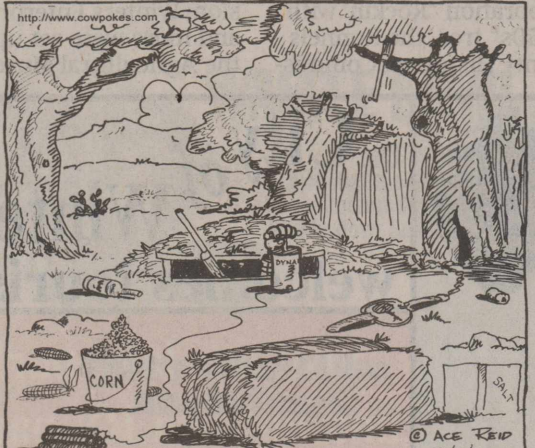
Texas Department of State Health Services will be holding two immunization clinics in Runnels County. Flu vaccine will be available. The first clinic will be held in

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Winters, on Thursday, December 1 from 1:30-5:30 p.m. at the Professional Building, 110 South Main, Suite 108. For your convenience please use rear entrance (Grant Street).

The second clinic will be held in Ballinger on Thursday, December 8, from 10 a.m.-12 noon and 1:30-3 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.

## Fund raiser Fun Run

Bronte High School Class of 2014 will be having a Fundraiser Fun Run on Saturday, December 3, 2011, at Christmas in 'Ole Bronte. Registration fee for the 10K run will be \$15, 5K run \$10, and there will also be a one mile run/walk. The registration fee for the one-mile run/walk will be \$3.

Registration and fees will be available on the race day only, at 8 a.m. at old Bronte Railroad Depot.

Race starts at 9 a.m. Pre and post race refreshments/water stops will be provided.

Divisions participating will be U-19, 20-25, 26-44, 45-59, and 60 and Up. There will be male and female overall winners.

For more information call Jerita Taylor at 473 8966 or 473 5551, or send an e-mail at Jerita.taylor@bronteisd.net; Tammy Thorn at City Offices at 473-3501.

Disclaimer must be signed by parents for minors to run. No dogs will be allowed on the course.

## Mentors needed

Winters Elementary School is looking for volunteers to be a mentor on an elementary student. The volunteer would meet with the student once a week during school hours for approximately 30 minutes to help with homework, read a book, or just talk. Mentoring has shown to help build self-esteem, improve grades and in some cases improves test scores. Anyone interested may contact Charles Murphy, Elementary Counselor at 754 5577 ext. 1126.

## Runnels Co. RSE meetings

The Runnels Co. Retired School Employees meet at the First United Methodist Church, the second Tuesday of the month at 9:45 a.m. On Tuesday, Nov. 15 Dorothy Hoelscher will be presenting the program - Yoga - at the FUMC in Ballinger; on January 10, at FUMC, Massage Therapist Ashley Wiley will present the program; on February 14, 2012 Dist. XV President Nancy Byler will present the program at the Miles Citizen's State Bank; on April 10, 2012 UIL Students will be the program at the Winters ISD.

## 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 every Monday evening at 7 p.m. at the Band Hall.

## 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.

## 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.

## The Winters Enterprise

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# Basketball season in full swing

## WINTERS BLIZZARDS ATHLETIC REPORT

BY STEPHEN HERMESMEYER

### Basketball

#### Varsity Girls (Coach Brooke Bicknell)

The Winters Lady Blizzards held last Tuesday, November 22 a game at home against the Christoval Lady Cougars. The Lady Blizzards fell by a score of 50-35.

Leading the way for the Lady Blizzards were Jordan Busher with 10 points, Caitlin Kurtz had 9, LeeAnn Taylor 8, Camille Kurtz 6, and Ashley Guy 2.

Quarter	1	2	3	4	Final
Winters	8	20	30	35	35
Christoval	13	20	35	50	50

### Junior Varsity

#### (Coach Holson)

The Winters Lady Blizzards JV White team played at home last Tuesday, November 22 against Cooper Blue, during the first half was a tight game, where both teams were fighting head to head, but in the end Cooper Blue was victorious 43-31.

Nina Mooney led the score for the Lady Blizzards with 9 points scored, Victoria Sanchez had 8, Tamron Tamez 6, and Kara Heathcott and Ally Crook had 4 points each.

Quarter	1	2	3	4	Final
Winters	12	18	24	31	31
Cooper Blue	13	23	34	43	43

### Eighth Grade Girls

#### (Coach Airhart)

On Monday, November 21, the Eighth Grade Lady Breezes fell to the Christoval Lady Cougars by a score of 22-13.

Cedie Taylor and Dawn LaVallie led the way for the Lady Blizzards with 4 points scored each, Samantha Marrero had 2, Athena Mata 2, and Bailee Busher scored 1 point.

Quarter	1	2	3	4	Final
Winters	0	6	9	13	13
Christoval	4	13	18	22	22

### Seventh Grade Girls

The Seventh Grade Lady Breezes fell to the Christoval Lady Cougars last Monday, November 21 by a score of 23-17. Leading the way for the Lady Breezes were Mikaela Cates with 6 points, Micaiela Ochoa had 8, Christy Kruse 2, and Kamri Soto 1.

Quarter	1	2	3	4	Final
Winters	1	9	13	17	17
Christoval	12	18	30	32	32

### Seventh Grade White

#### (Coach Straw)

The Winters Junior High White Girls hosted the Christoval Lady Cougars on Monday, November 21, 2011. Winters fell by a score of 22-8.

Staci Ventress scored all 8 Winters' points.

Quarter	1	2	3	4	Final
Winters	2	2	4	8	8
Christoval	4	14	18	22	22

### JH Boys Basketball

The Seventh grade tipped off their home opener vs. Christoval on Monday, November 21. It was difficult for the Seventh Grade Breezes to get on track as they struggled to a 54 to 4 loss.

Quarter	1	2	3	4	Final
Winters	0	4	0	0	4
Christoval	20	8	24	2	54

### Eighth Grade Boys Basketball

The Eighth Grade tipped off their home opener also against Christoval on Monday November 21. They got off to a slow start but finished really well. The Breezes were down at one point by 17 points and made a furious comeback and just came up short and lost by 6. High point for the Breezes was Daniel Gerhart with 13 points. Julian Soto contributed with 5 points. They played last Monday, November 28 at Miles.

Quarter	1	2	3	4	Final
Winters	2	4	7	11	24
Christoval	11	5	10	4	30

### Football

#### Thank You

The WHS coaching staff and players would like to thank the entire community of Winters for all of their support during our playoff run. It was a great season full of many great moments. Thanks for all of your support throughout the year. IT's Great To Be A BLIZZARD!!!

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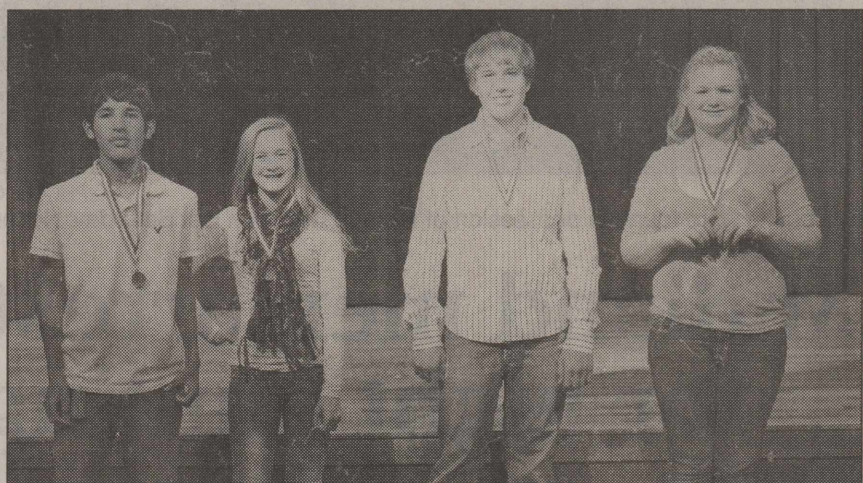
PHOTO: JOE GERHART

First row left to right Christy Kruse, Bailee Busher, Clifford Perkins, Athena Mata, Micah Drake, Lizzie Ortiz; (back) Jonathan Sandoval, Angel Escamia, Brooklynn Galloway, Kamri Soto, Maci Oliver, Cedie Taylor, Mikey Martinez, Brendan Mikeska, Mikaela Cates, Daniel Gerhart, K'Lee Lindley, Justine Garcia, Drey Patton, and Grace Bryan.

## WJH features 'A Christmas Carol'

### WINTERS ENTERPRISE STAFF REPORT

WINTERS- Winters Junior High School theatrical group performed scenes from Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" in Miles, on Wednesday, November 9, 2011. Winters Junior High School was one of the five schools to compete in festival style District One-Act Play competition. Plays were not judged and ranked, however individual acting awards were presented. Winters earned five awards: Christy Kruse was named to the All-Star Technical Crew while Daniel Gerhart and K'Lee Lindley were selected Honorable Mention All-Star Cast. Jonathan Sandoval and Grace Bryan were named All-Star cast. The group will perform for the public on Sunday evening, December 11 at 7:30 p.m.



Jonathan Patton was awarded All-Star Cast, Christy Kruse All-Star Crew, Daniel Gerhart earned Honorable Mention All-Star Cast and Grace Bryan All-Star Cast, not pictured is K'Lee Lindley who earned Honorable Mention All-Star Cast.

### Are You Proud of Your Country?

#### BY SAMUEL REYES PATRIOT'S PEN ESSAY CONTEST FIRST PLACE

America is an awesome country. I admire the way we never gave up after attacks on our homeland. Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United States said, "I like to see a man be proud of the place in which he lives. I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him." I am proud of the rights and freedom we enjoy and our victories in times of war. I am very proud of my country.

I am proud of our government because we live under a democracy. We don't have just one man telling Americans what we can and cannot do and punish us for it. That kind of government is called a dictatorship. Our rights and freedoms are

the best because some countries don't enjoy the same opportunities as us. Our freedom wasn't given to us; we had to fight for it from Britain. Afterwards our forefathers wrote the Declaration of Independence, and listed all the rights of American citizens.

In addition, I am proud of our country for our education system. President John F. Kennedy said, "Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our nation." Many people from other countries have immigrated to the United States for a better life and education. Some countries don't understand the importance of education, but the United States

believes all people are entitled to a better life through learning.

I am also proud of our country because we didn't back down in times of war. We showed we wouldn't give up after being bombed at Pearl Harbor, or after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. We support other countries in times of need as their allies.

America has its faults. Some citizens have formed gangs and are addicted to drugs. The gangs destroy people and their property. People who do drugs influence children negatively. But we as a nation work to correct the problems of our country. For that I am proud.

I am proud that I can live in a free country. I am able to enjoy freedoms many other countries only dream of. I am proud of my country, the United States of America.

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# Runnels County ROLL-UP

Winters Enterprise

Thursday, December 1, 2011

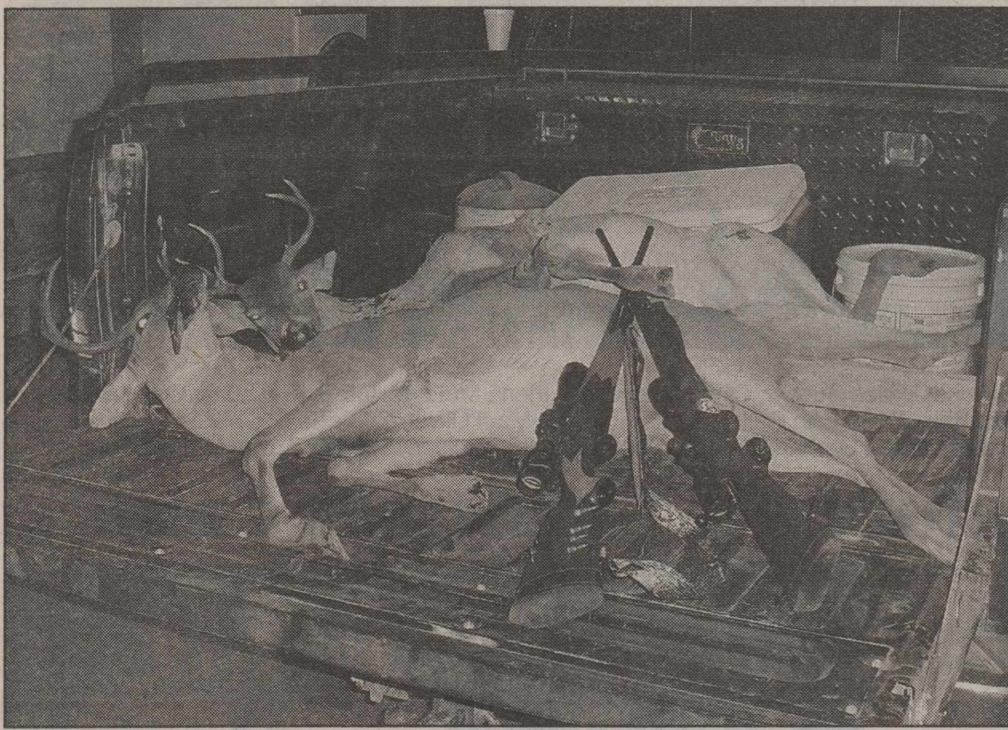


PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

Two bucks were found in possession of the arrested men last Saturday, November 19 at 2:30 a.m.

## Midland men arrested for night hunting

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
STAFF REPORT

BALLINGER- Two men were arrested for hunting deer at night in the early morning hours of Saturday November 19. Local Game Warden Lane Pinckney heard a rifle shot and located two men in possession of two freshly killed buck deer at 2:30 a.m.

Both men were booked into the Runnels County jail on charges of hunting deer at night. If convicted they face up to a \$4000.00 fine, a year in jail, loss of hunting equipment, suspension of licenses for 1 to 5 years, and civil restitution for the illegally taken wildlife.

One of the men is also being held by Border Patrol pending deportation.

### PUBLIC RECORD

Orlando Gonzales	35	RCSO	Man/CS
Favian Minjarez	28	Coke	Asslt. Family violence
Cory Zahn	21	RCSO	Possession of marijuana/ Class B
Ruby Carlins	47	Concho Co.	DWI with previous conviction
Gwenn Love	32	BPD	Theft of property 50 to 1,500 w/p convictions
Alvaro Melendez	35	Concho	MTR (Obstruction public highway or street)
Alexander Cruz	61	Concho	Possession of marijuana
Geneva Perez	38	Concho	Asslt. causes bodily injury / POM
Rene Guerra	44	Concho	Possession of Marijuana
Jose Falcon	25	BPD	Asslt. causes bodily injury /Family violence
Raymond Romos Jr.	20	BPD	Asslt. Family Violence
David Molina Jr.	32	RCSO	Criminal mischief
Dorothy Smith	41	RCSO	Forgery
Gilbert Cervantes, Jr.	41	RCSO	MTR/ DWI 3rd or more
Christopher Smith	29	Coke Co.	Theft of firearm/ Illegal Possession of firearm

## Assessing pine and shade tree damage from drought

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
STAFF REPORT

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — Texas remains mired in one of the worst droughts in state history and it's creating disastrous effects on trees and forests across the state.

After one of the driest years on record, many shade trees went into dormancy as early as August, dropping their leaves and branches in a desperate act of self-preservation. Pine trees with normally thick, green crowns ended up cloaked in red, dead needles while foliage on cedar trees turned completely brown.

The sight has created a dramatic effect on the Texas landscape and left many landowners wondering whether or not their tree is dead — or if it might recover and produce new leaves next spring.

Assessing trees damaged or killed by drought can be tricky, according to Dr. Ronald Billings, Texas Forest Service Forest Health Manager. He suggests grouping the trees into three different categories — definitely dead, likely to live and questionable — to help with the task.

**Definitely Dead**  
It is easier to make this call for pines, Ashe junipers (cedars) and other needle-bearing, conifer trees. The determination can be more difficult for hardwoods, which are more commonly thought of as shade trees. In most cases, a red pine is a dead pine, Billings said, explaining that the same can be said for cedars with red

needles. Once all or most of the foliage of a pine or cedar tree turns red or brown, the tree is incapable of recovering.

Pine trees in this stage probably are already infested with tree-killing bark beetles and will eventually harbor wood-boring insects, termites and other critters. Such trees should be cut down and removed, particularly if they are likely to fall on homes, buildings or power lines.

**Likely to Live**  
This category includes shade trees with at least some green or yellow leaves still attached to the limbs. In fact, even those that have dropped all their leaves may still be alive. Some native shade trees, such as post oaks and live oaks, are more drought resistant than others like water oaks or elms.

You can use a scratch test to determine if the tree is dead or just dormant. If you scrape the bark off a small branch or limb and find green, moist tissue underneath, the tree is still hanging on, waiting for the next rain. That means you may need to wait until spring to see if the tree makes a recovery.

## Concho water snake no longer endangered species

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
STAFF REPORT

SAN ANGELO- Rep. K. Michael Conaway joined Rep. (ret.) Charles Stenholm and other state officials to celebrate the delisting of the Concho water snake from the Endangered Species List on Monday, November 28 in the San Angelo Chamber Visitor Center.

On October 27, 2011 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced the delisting of the Concho Water

Snake from the Endangered Species list effective November 28, 2011.

To mark the occasion, Rep. Conaway hosted a "Thank You" ceremony for the countless number of individuals who dedicated their time and energy over the last 20 years to make this accomplishment possible.

The Concho water snake is delisted from the endangered species protection after 25 years.

The Concho water

snake, a reptile endemic to Central Texas, was listed as threatened in 1986 after a 1984 population study estimated its numbers were between 330 and 600.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife agreed to delist the Concho water snake after reviewing information that shows threats to the snake have been reduced or eliminated. Furthermore, all criteria in the snake's recovery plan have been met.

## TAC names Darby 'Friend of County Government'

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
STAFF REPORT

AUSTIN- The Texas Association of Counties has named Rep. Drew Darby a Friend of County Government for his work during the 82nd Legislative Session.

"This year marks the second time that Rep. Darby has earned recognition as a Friend of County Government," said TAC Legislative Director Paul Sugg.

TAC decided to honor Darby for a number of reasons, including his sponsorship of bills important to county and

district clerks and county treasurers. "TAC appreciates Rep. Darby's steady presence on the House Transportation Committee and House Appropriations Committee, especially during this fiscally challenging session," Sugg said. "His work shows an appreciation for the impact state cuts can have at the local level."

TAC is a statewide non-profit organization that represents counties at the Capitol, conducts required continuing education for officials and provides other needed services for county government.

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Runnels County Veterans Service Officer  
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**Hailey Wilson**

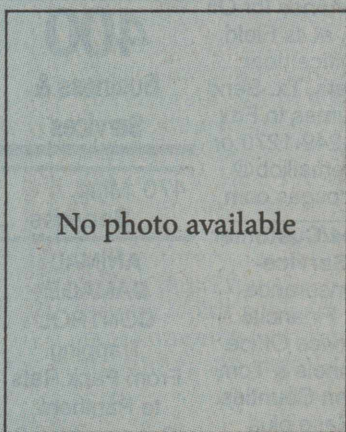
SNOW QUEEN CONTESTANT



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**Annie Wood**

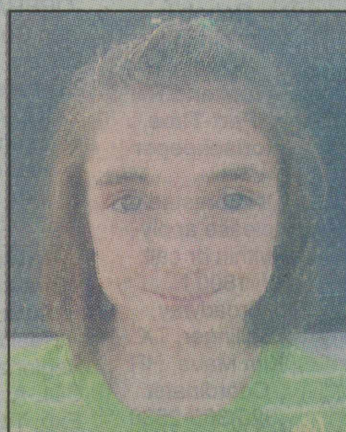
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**Querstin Lara**

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**Emily Simmons**

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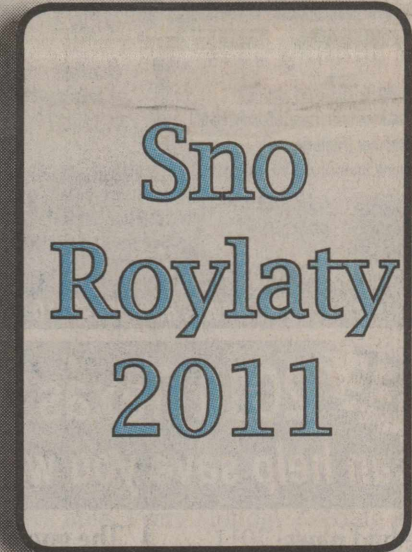
Sponsored By: Lana Simmons

**Myra Ochoa**

SNOW FLAKE CONTESTANT



Sponsored By: Imagine the Possibilities



Crunch into our **BEST-TASTING** steak fingers ever!

**\$4.99** 4 pc. Steak Finger Country Basket®



**WAFFLE BOWL** SUNDAE

Sweeten the deal with one of our delicious Waffle Bowl Sundaes

**That's What I Like About Texas:**

dqtexas.com

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**CAFETERIA MENU**

Dec. 5 - 9

Subject to change\*

**WINTERS ISD BREAKFAST**  
**MONDAY**  
 Biscuit/Sausage or Cereal or Cheese and Egg Omelet, Toast w/Jelly, Juice, Choice of Milk.  
**TUESDAY**  
 Breakfast Pizza or Cereal or Breakfast Pocket, toast w/Jelly, Juice, Choice of Milk.  
**WEDNESDAY**  
 Biscuit/Egg Pattie or Oatmeal or Sausage on Stick, Toast w/Jelly, Juice, Choice of Milk.  
**THURSDAY**  
 Sausage Roll or Cereal or Breakfast Burrito, Toast w/Jelly, Choice of Milk.  
**FRIDAY**  
 Biscuit/Sausage or Cereal or Cinnamon Roll/Sausage, Toast w/Jelly, Choice of Milk.  
**WINTERS ISD LUNCH MENU**  
Note: Menus are subject to change without notice. Students may purchase extra Entree for \$1.00. Milk for \$.30, Sides for \$.50, Large Chef Salad for \$2.00, Small Chef Salad For \$1.00, Tea \$.50 (Jr. High and High School), Water \$1.00, Visiting Adult \$4.00, Visiting Child \$3.00.  
**MONDAY**  
 Tatar Tot Casserole or Chicken Pattie/Bun, Tomato Pasta, Green Beans, Tossed Salad/Carrot Sticks, Rosy Applesauce, Hot Roll, Choice of Milk.  
**TUESDAY**  
 Sloppy Joe/Bun or Chicken Spaghetti, Broccoli/Cheese, Black Eyed Peas, Tossed Salad/Carrot Sticks, Orange Wedges, Hot Roll, Choice of Milk.  
**WEDNESDAY**  
 Nachos or Soft Taco, Spanish Rice, Pinto Beans, Coleslaw or Lettuce/Tomato, Tossed Salad/Carrot Sticks, Mixed Fruit, Cornbread or Jalapeno Cheese Bread, Choice of Milk.  
**THURSDAY**  
 Chicken Nuggets w/Gravy or Hot Ham/Cheese Sandwich, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Black Eyed Peas, Tossed Salad/Carrot Sticks, Rosy Pears, Hot roll, Choice of Milk.  
**FRIDAY**  
 Cheese Burger or chicken Bites/Gravy, Curly Fries, Baked Beans, Lettuce/Pickles, Tossed Salad/Carrot Sticks, Rosy Pears, Hot Roll, Choice of Milk.

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**Bedford-Norman Insurance Agency**  
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**Moving?**  
 Check out our Classifieds

## Employee of the Month



PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED  
 Linda Villarreal was named Staff of the Month at the Winters ISD for the month of November. Pictured here is Linda with School Board members Doug Bryan and Danny Martinez.

**JIM WOODRUFF, AAMS, WMS**

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