

A young man from Abilene who had just recently moved with his parents was found dead at his residence on Fifth St., in Ballinger, Texas, last Wednesday June 20, 2012.

DETAILS INSIDE

The

Winters Enterprise



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Volume 23, Issue 35

Thursday, June 28, 2012

Winters, Texas 75c

Coalition looking for petition signatures

WINTERS ENTERPRISE
STAFF REPORT

WINTERS- A group of citizens announced the formation of the "Winters Economic Coalition" Committee, a special purpose political action committee, to ask voters to support limited alcohol sales in the city limits of Winters, Texas. The group consists of local residents, business and community leaders and many local businesses. They are asking City of Winters registered

voters to sign two petitions calling for an election in November 2012.

One petition will allow a vote for the legal sale of all alcoholic beverages for off-premise consumption only. This will only allow beer and wine sales in grocery and convenience stores and package liquor sales. The second petition states "for the legal sale of mixed beverages in restaurants by food and beverage certificate holders only." This

will only allow state recognized restaurants to serve alcohol without requiring the "private club" memberships. This will not allow stand alone bars or nightclubs.

The group asserts that Winters is losing valuable tax revenues when people drive out of town to buy beer and wine. "Grocery stores report for every \$1 dollar lost in beer/wine sales, they lose an additional \$3 in general sales," said Jill Davis, local real estate agent and Treas-

urer of the Winters Economic Coalition.

"If this passes, Winters would be the only place within a 50-mile radius where it would be legal to have a mixed drink with dinner," Melanie Prado, one of the owners of Dot's Diner, stated.

State law requires the group to gather 160 signatures of City of Winters voters by June 29. Only those who live inside the city limits are eligible to sign the petitions. If enough signatures

are gathered, the Winters City Council will be required to order the election in November.

Residents can sign the petitions at DLC Realty Group Offices located at 1116 South Main. Also, petition officials will be going door-to-door. Petition officials will be identifiable by their yellow shirts and "Petition Official" logos.

The group has hired Texas Petition Strategies of Arlington to conduct the petition and election effort.

County adopts burn ban, fireworks are still on

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
WINTERS ENTERPRISE

BALLINGER- Runnels County Commissioners Court adopted a burn ban Tuesday morning, the ban will be in effect for 90 days unless commissioners rescind the ban before that time or reinstate it.

The ban prohibits people from burning trash. Only prescribed burns, such as for agriculture or firefighting training, are allowed. Gas stoves and propane grills are still allowed, as are fireworks.

Commissioner Rick Strube said the county would have had to ban fireworks by mid June, but at that time the indicators didn't merit the ban. Last year the fireworks were allowed in Runnels County, except for bottle rockets and rockets with fins.

The ban instated states that in accordance with Section 352.081 of the Local Government Code, the Runnels County Commissioners Court found that dry and windy conditions in the unincorporated areas of Runnels County create a public safety hazard that would be exacerbated by outdoor burning, all outdoor burning is prohibited.

This order does not prohibit outdoor burning for household trash or rubbish from property that is both designed to be a private residence and used exclusively as a private residence.

The does not prohibit outdoor burning activities related

to public health and safety that are authorized by the Texas Natural Resources Commission for firefighter training, public utility, natural gas pipeline or mining operations, planting or harvesting of agricultural crops, or burns that are conducted by a prescribed burn manager.

Individuals using combustible materials or possible fire sources in the outdoor environment directly related to the successful operation of the business may continue to conduct business as usual provided that the individual shall take all necessary safety precautions to prevent the ignition of any fire.

Outdoor cooking in barbecue pits will be allowed as long as the fire source for the pit is completely enclosed and no outside flame is present.

Citizens are advised to contact their local authorities including their sheriff's office, their county commissioner and their fire department and also to take into consideration the forecast according to the National Weather Service Daily Report.

Commissioners also voted at Tuesday's meeting to decline TCEQ's proposed water master, heard County Extension's Agent report about Runnels County 4-Hers, and discussed several measures in response to the Miles Senior Citizen Center in regards of a request of additional funding.



PHOTOS: RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
The building, equipment and vehicles in the Precinct 2 County Barn, in Winters, were spray painted on Thursday. Over the weekend the window of a backhoe was also shot at and destroyed.

County barn vandalized

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS- The Precinct 2 County Barn, in Winters, was vandalized last Thursday, June 21 and over the weekend. Three trailer trucks, the barn building and two fuel tanks were spray painted by unknown subjects some time between Thursday, at 5 p.m and Friday early morning.

After the first incident the barn was vandalized again over the weekend, when the window

of a backhoe was shot with some kind of gun, and destroyed. The glass was found laying on the ground.

Runnels County Precinct 2 Commissioner Ronald Presley said that the case was turned to the Sheriff's Department for further investigations.

"We are working in the trucks and replacing the glass for the backhoe was almost \$250, it will take several hands of paint to cover the graffiti in the building and the tanks," said Commissioner Presley.



Doors and windows in the trailer trucks parked at the barn were painted with yellow spray paint. Two fuel tanks at the facility were also vandalized.



Winters Show Lamb Camp

What do you get you get when you combine 17 eager students, proud parents, a renowned sheep guru, and a barn full of lambs... Show Lamb Camp!

Last week the Winters Livestock Association was proud to host the famed Massey Show Lamb Camp. Leading the camp was J.B. Massey, of Arkansas. Mr. Massey is well known for first winning numerous major livestock and secondly for traveling all over the country to teach young people the art of raising and exhibiting show lambs.

Throughout the two day camp, kids from local and from afar where taught everything from selection to shearing, and from feeding to showmanship. Overall, the kids and parents were extremely grateful for the experience and practice to improve their livestock projects of the future.

Group looks for historical marker for Chick Inn

WINTERS ENTERPRISE
STAFF REPORT

WINTERS- The committee to secure a historical marker to commemorate the Chick Inn site is working hard to meet the application filing requirements and deadline for this year. If successful, the marker could be approved and available in 2013.

The committee is asking for the public to help to achieve this goal. They are asking to share any and all stories/information about the site.

This could include recollections about the Chick Inn, the Hodnetts, the Wilsons, etc. If you were married by J.C. Hodnett in his JP office at the Chick Inn, if you proposed to someone or were proposed to at the Chick Inn, or had any

other socially significant event occur at or because of the Chick Inn... please share those stories. Include dates or documents.

Names will not be included in the narrative of the marker except for principal characters like the Wilsons and Hodnetts, etc.

This information is required no later than August 1.

Information can also be sent via email to joeckols@yahoo.com, via USPS mail at 404 E. Davilla, Granger TX 76530, and all information posted in Chick Inn Memories on Facebook will also be taken.

Donations are now being accepted to assist with the expenses associated with securing the marker. Expenses will include an ap-

plication fee of \$100 (required by State), marker \$1,500.00 (estimate from State), and dedication ceremony expense (to be determined).

Donations can be mailed to the Z.I. Hale Museum, P.O. Box 211, Winters, Tx 79567, and designated Chick Inn Fund.

A \$20 donation will entitle you to a museum membership. You will receive information from the museum regarding your membership when your donation is received.

If funds collected exceed the required expenses, the excess will be applied to the museum general fund to assist with future historical endeavors in Winters.

The gift is considered a charitable contribution.

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Spill family reunion

WINTERS ENTERPRISE
STAFF REPORT

WINTERS— The sixteenth August Spill reunion was held in the Catholic Parish Hall in Winters June 16, 2012, hosted by Alma and Jim Benson and James and Sue Spill. One hundred descendants attended the occasion traveling from California, Mississippi and throughout Texas, to Winters.

The eldest in attendance was Alta Mae Spill (94 years) and Genevieve Spill (90 years). The youngest was Daxton (18 months) son of Corey and Nicci Spill from Runaway Bay, Texas.

Barbecue brisket dinner was served by Buddy Miller. Homemade desserts were brought by the families. Entertainment was provided by Krystin Harris a descendent, who is a young accomplished yodeler and guitarist from McKinney, Texas. She had won many awards in Canada and United States and has had TV appearances.

Virginia Flathman gave a devotional and eulogized the deceased in the past two years. Those noted were David Bradley, Dan Miller, Janice Pape Chamberlain, Arthur Vick, Sister Madlyn Pape, Trey Psencik and Jeff Overgard.

Each table was beautifully decorated with scattered blossoms and flowers bouquets with butterflies. Activities included a silent auction, crafts, balloons and a piñata for the kids and rides on a John Deere Model tractor owned by Herman Spill and restored by his great-grand son Karl Kloss. Karl has won many awards showing the "Popping Jonny".

The committee members were, Cecile Wiginton, Ruthann Wallace, Laura Buxkemper, Elaine Miller, Dawn Bryan, Francine Sallesse, Beth Bradley, Suzanne, Judy, Dana, Sally, Nancy, Genevieve, Van and Steven Spill.

CRMWD taking applications for hunting permits at O.H. Ivie

WINTERS ENTERPRISE
STAFF REPORT

BALLINGER— The Colorado River Municipal Water District is taking applications for hunting permits on the O.H. Ivie Reservoir Wildlife Management Areas. Applications will be accepted by mail only beginning on July 15, 2012, and ending August 15, 2012 at the reservoir field office.

Hunting Permits will be limited, and requests for information and application packets should be made by calling the Colorado River Municipal Water District at 432-267-6341, or by writing to: CRMWD, Attn: Public Hunting, P.O. Box 869, Big Spring, Texas 79721, or by visiting www.crmwd.org/naturalresources

A public drawing for the WMA public hunting permits for the 2012 Hunting Season, will be held at 1:00 p.m. on August 24, 2012, at the O.H. Ivie Reservoir field office, located near the north end of the dam. All applicants are welcome to attend the drawing.

Statewide initiative helps motorists reduce air pollution

WINTERS ENTERPRISE
STAFF REPORT

AUSTIN— Summers are a time for family barbecues, weekends on the lake, and road trips. Along with these celebrations comes a significant uptick in miles traveled and gas consumed on Texas highways.

Fortunately, organizers of the state's Drive Clean Across Texas air quality campaign have plenty of practical advice for drivers looking to save money at the pump and reduce air pollution at the same time.

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is launching its Drive Clean campaign on the first full day of summer. The annual outreach program encourages motorists to implement cost-saving changes in driving and vehicle maintenance behaviors to reduce harmful emissions. Making sure your vehicle is in good shape is something each of us can do to reduce damaging air pollution, other tips for driving cleaner include carpooling, driving the speed limit, combining errands into a single trip, and reducing idling at drive-thrus.

Also the Drive Clean Across Texas campaign will give away a 2012 Ford Fusion Hybrid to one lucky Texan. The vehicle is being donated by the Dallas Cowboys Football Club. Texas drivers ages 18 and up can enter to win the brand-new Ford Fusion Hybrid, and get more tips on helping improve air quality, at www.DriveCleanAcrossTexas.org. The deadline for entering the sweepstakes is September 23.

NEWS NOTES

Immunization clinics

Texas Department of State Health Services immunization clinic will be Monday, July 9, 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in Winters at the Professional Building, 110 South Main, Suite 108. For your convenience, please use rear entrance on Grant Street. You can call ahead to schedule an appointment, if no answer leave a message.

The immunization clinic in Ballinger will be Thursday, July 12, 101 a.m. to 12 and 1:30 p.m. 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.

Pray Until Something Happens

Every first Friday of the month the First United Methodist Church will be having PUSH "Pray Until Something Happens" everyone is invited to come and pray from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Bronte 2012 golf calendar

Bronte Longhorn Golf Club 2012 events: July 7, two-person 27 holes LB/AS/SS; August 4, three-person 27 holes select shot; September 8, two-person 18 holes select shot; September 29 and 30, Coke Co. Tournament two-person 18 holes select shot each day; October 6, two-person 18 holes select shot; November 3, two-person 18 holes shots.

Carts are limited so sign up early if need carts. Bronte Longhorn Golf Club (325) 437-2156.

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.

Cross Emmaus Community gatherings

The Cross Emmaus Community gatherings held first Thursday of each month at 6 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.

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.

City Council Meetings

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

Group of Texas teachers takes the future of physics education into their own hands

WINTERS ENTERPRISE
STAFF REPORT

COLLEGE STATION— A select group of Texas teachers is taking the future of physics education into their own hands, returning to the classroom as students for a two-week summer stint as the first participants in a Texas A&M University program aimed at improving high school mathematics and science performance across the Lone Star State.

The inaugural Mitchell Institute Physics Enhancement Program (MIPEP), hosted June 10-23 by the George P. and Cynthia Woods Mitchell Institute for Fundamental Physics and Astronomy and underwritten by The Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation with funds provided through the Texas A&M Foundation, is a grassroots effort by educators seeking self-help in solving the problem where they admit it partially starts — the

head of the class.

"The ranking of Texas schools in math and science is below average, and a main unfortunate reason for this is under-prepared math and science teachers in Texas classrooms," says Bhaskar Dutta, Texas A&M professor of physics and astronomy and a co-organizer of the program. "Many science teachers who are teaching physics in Texas schools have had zero to two physics courses total in their education."

Dutta credits Paula Hiltibidal, an Education Service Center (ESC) Region 15 master teacher and high school science specialist in the Early Independent School District, as the key force behind MIPEP and the idea that two weeks of rigorous physics education at a college sophomore level (e.g. PHYS 201-202) could be of tremendous benefit in preparing science teachers to teach in high school classrooms. The

two worked in haste along with Dutta's departmental colleagues Alexey Belyanin and Tatiana Erukhi-mova to quickly organize such a program with the help of generous funding from the Mitchell Foundation in time to benefit teachers before another summer — and, by association, another school year — could elapse.

Their proactive result is a 2012 MIPEP roster that features 15 teacher-students from 13 different school districts who share two common required factors: Each currently teaches high school physics and took no more than two physics courses while in college. Program coursework is based on a "train-the-trainer" concept and presented by 16 Texas A&M physics and astronomy faculty. The curriculum is focused on clarifying fundamental physics concepts through easy introduction of necessary material, problem-solving

and hands-on demonstrations. All material is based on problems that appear in the physics portion of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) state-required examination for Texas high school students.

"We are very excited by this new strategy to improve high school science education in Texas — an important outreach effort and goal for the Department of Physics and Astronomy, the College of Science and Texas A&M University," says H. Joseph Newton, dean of the College of Science. "This investment by the Mitchell Foundation is a most welcome addition to our broad and lengthy history of continuous commitment toward improving K12 science education and achievement, especially in the area of providing outstanding training for teachers."

Abilene Doctor killed in crash in Callahan Co

WINTERS ENTERPRISE
STAFF REPORT

BALLINGER— One person was killed in a one vehicle crash occurring Monday morning, June 25, 2012 in Callahan County. Doctor Thomas Allan Woodward, 64 years of age from Abilene, Texas, was pronounced dead at the scene by Judge Odom at 10:17 a.m. The body was taken to Abilene Professional Services in Abilene, Texas.

According to a press release by the Texas Department of Public Safety office in Abilene, the crash occurred at 10:10 a.m. on Texas 36, 1.3 miles north of U.S. Highway 283.

Woodward was driving a 2004 four door Cadillac southbound on Texas 36 in Callahan County. The vehicle traveled off of the highway and struck a tree.

There were no breaking or evasive action marks prior to impact with the tree. Judge Odom pronounced Woodward dead at 10:17 a.m.

The weather was clear and the roadway dry. This crash is being investigated by Trooper Justin Tarbor.



PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

Thomas Allan Woodward, 64 years of age from Abilene, Texas, went off the road and into a tree on Texas 36, 1.3 miles north of U.S. Highway 283.



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A special thanks goes out to all the people that helped out with the benefit Bake Sale and BBQ Lunch for Juan Ramirez. It took a lot of work and with out everyone's help it wouldn't have been possible. It had a huge outcome, and we ran out of supplies fast. Sorry if you were substituted anything. But thanks for the support! Also, a bigger thanks goes to the people that donated money and supplies. It was a great help! It's great to see a small community like this come together and help one another.

God Bless and Thank you so much!!!

The Family and Friends of
Juan Ramirez

The Winters Enterprise

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WHS graduate gets her degree at Texas Tech

Susan Sneed graduated Summa Cum Laude from the College of Allied Health Sciences at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center with a Bachelor's degree in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences on May 20, 2012. She is a member of the Alpha Eta honor society.

Susan will begin the Speech-Language Pathology Master's program this fall at the TTUHSC. She will also be in the Geriatrics Scholars Program. Susan is the daughter of Randall and Cheryl Sneed and a 2008 graduate of Winters HS.

Cattle deaths in Bastrop County isolated event say AgriLife experts

WINTERS ENTERPRISE
STAFF REPORT

COLLEGE STATION- Texas AgriLife Extension Service experts said the deaths of 15 cattle in Bastrop County recently were likely an isolated event and that no further problems are anticipated.

"There's a lot of information and misinformation that continues to circulate about this recent isolated case of cattle dying after consuming a Bermuda grass hybrid known as Tifton 85," said Dr. Ron Gill, AgriLife Extension livestock specialist. "It should be known that there is not a widespread problem or concern related to this forage or its use for grazing livestock or the production of hay for livestock consumption."

The single incident occurred when 15 cattle died with clinical signs and preliminary diagnostic results consistent with prussic acid poisoning, said Dr. Tom Hairgrove, AgriLife Extension animal health specialist. The cattle were in a pure field of Tifton 85 Bermuda grass.

Results of analyses of rumen contents and fresh forage from the field in question by the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, an agency that is part of The Texas A&M University System, indicated potential prussic acid toxicity, and at this time there are no other known reported cases of prussic acid toxicity on Tifton 85 Bermuda grass, Hairgrove said.

"Tifton 85 is a hybrid Bermuda grass released from the forage breeding program at the USDA-ARS station at Tifton, Georgia in 1992 by Dr. Glenn Burton," said Dr. Larry Redmon, AgriLife Extension state forage specialist. "Dr. Burton is the plant breeder who released 'Coastal' Bermuda grass in 1943."

To date, there have been millions of acres of Tifton 85 Bermuda grass planted across the southeastern U.S., Redmon said. Since its release in 1992, Tifton 85 has become the most commonly planted Bermuda grass in Texas.

Due to its ease of establishment, excellent drought tolerance and excellent animal performance, literally millions of cattle, horses, sheep and goats have grazed Tifton 85 Bermuda grass since its release without incident, he said.

Many forage species, including Tifton 85, have the potential to produce prussic acid, a volatile and toxic compound, Hairgrove said.

"However, those levels have not been known to produce problems with grazing livestock," he said. "With production for more than 20 years across millions of acres in the south, we have not been able to identify a previous report of prussic acid toxicity in livestock grazing in or fed

Tifton 85."

The pasture where the cattle died had been severely drought stressed from last year's unprecedented lack of rainfall. A moderate amount of fertilizer was applied in mid- to late-April, and the pasture received approximately 5 inches of precipitation within the previous 30 days and was at a hay harvest stage of growth, Redmon said.

"Thus, the pasture did not fit the typical young flush of growth following a drought-ending rain or young growth following a frost we typically associate with prussic acid formation in other species of forage," he said.

Because of this unique situation, AgriLife Extension and Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory personnel have conducted multiple site visits and forage analyses of plants from several field environments across Texas in an attempt to confirm levels of prussic acid accumulation in Tifton 85 Bermuda grass.

The diagnostic lab has also collaborated with other laboratories to perform quantitative forage analysis of prussic acid levels, said Dr. Tammy Beckham, Texas Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory director. Repeated analysis is ongoing to assess potential for prussic acid accumulation in Bermuda grasses in Bastrop County. In addition, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has conducted DNA analysis to confirm the grass as Tifton 85.

Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, Texas AgriLife Research and AgriLife Extension were recently funded to implement a pilot project on an enhanced passive surveillance system to provide early detection of animal diseases, including cases resulting from environmental factors.

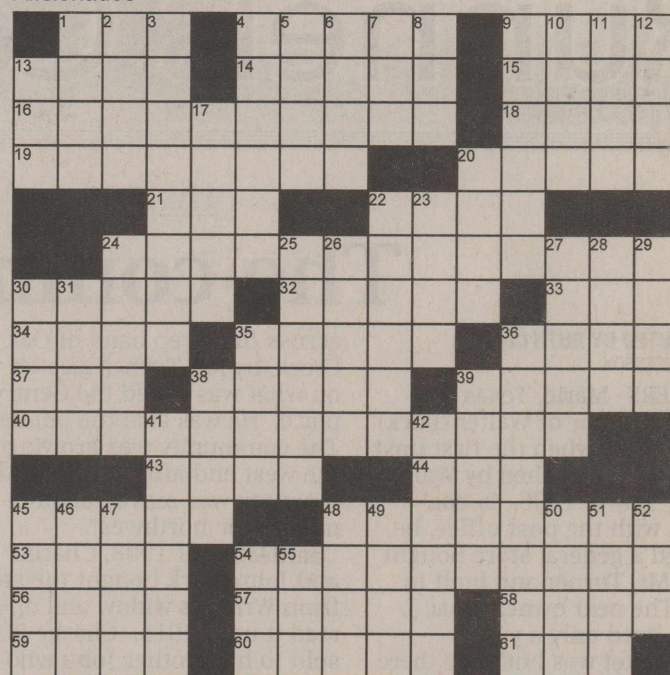
"The EPS program involves 40 veterinary practices and more than 100 large animal practitioners reporting as one of five data streams," Hairgrove said. "In addition, three diagnostic laboratories in two states, livestock markets and harvesting facilities, and wildlife information is also included to provide a comprehensive view of animal health surveillance."

"This incident was reported to the EPS, which is currently being used to monitor animal health over a broad geographic area in Texas and New Mexico, in coordination with the Texas Animal Health Commission and New Mexico Department of Agriculture. Through the EPS, there have been no other reported problems with Tifton 85."

While any livestock loss is unfortunate, currently this episode in Bastrop County appears to be an isolated incident, Hairgrove said.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Aficionados



American Profile Hometown Content

6/17/2012

ACROSS

1. Mistletoe mo.
4. Listerine victims
9. Capitol feature
13. Negri of silents
14. King's proclamation
15. MP's quarry
16. Air conditioner alternative
18. Cry out loud
19. Ones learning the ropes
20. Brooklyn's ___ Island
21. "It's c-c-c-cold!"
22. Satirist Mort
24. One-in-a-million mishap
30. Worked the hayfields
32. Thumb-turning critic Roger
33. Summer sign
34. Geishas tie them on
35. Colonial diplomat Silas
36. 33-Across, astrologically
37. Dude, Jamaica-style
38. Loren's husband
39. Financial wherewithal
40. Kid's hobby, maybe
43. Role for Calista
44. Sothern or Reinking
45. Sudden outpouring
48. Self-denying sorts
53. Obey the sentry
54. Pecan, for one
56. Fall birthstone
57. Construction girder
58. Like a buttinsky
59. Fall off
60. Jai alai basket

61. Pulver's rank: Abbr.

DOWN

1. Industrious one
2. Kazan of Hollywood
3. Gun barrel diameters, to a Brit
4. Biological classifications
5. Beat by a nose
6. Layoffs, in govt. lingo
7. Label for many Elton John albums
8. Bus term.
9. Like half-price bread, maybe
10. "The Virginian" writer Wister
11. Lawn burrower
12. ___ May Clampett
13. Agt.'s take
17. How losses may appear
20. Voucher
22. Like an indirect route, maybe
23. 1/640 square mile
24. Kiltie's dance
25. With intensity
26. Die down
27. ___ González (Cuban boy in 2000 news)
28. Gas in glass
29. A whole bunch
30. Hollywood turkey
31. ___ Ben Adhem" (Leigh Hunt poem)
35. Kewpie or kachina
36. Soprano Price
38. Global extremity
39. Worker with a pick
41. Branded beasts
42. Puget Sound city
45. Come in third
46. One of The Three Bears
47. Astronaut Shepard
48. Court coups
49. 32-card game
50. Look ___ (visit briefly)
51. Say "%@&#!"
52. Sloppy place
54. Sot's sound
55. "When Will ___ Loved"

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

Solve with Ease

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Weather Whys

Q: What causes low pressure?

A: A low pressure area, or a low for short, is a region where the atmospheric pressure is lower than that of a surrounding area, says Brent McRoberts of Texas A&M University. "A low pressure system develops when warm and moist air rises from the Earth's surface," he explains. "Air near the center of this mass is usually unstable. As the warm and humid air rises, it may become thick enough to produce rain or even snow."

Caution recommended for the Fourth of July holiday

WINTERS ENTERPRISE
STAFF REPORT

COLLEGE STATION- With Independence Day celebrations drawing near, Texas Forest Service officials are reminding residents to exercise caution outdoors and remember that just one spark can cause a devastating wildfire.

About 90 percent of wildfires in Texas are human-caused, which means they can be prevented. As residents enjoy building a campfire, shooting off celebratory fireworks in approved areas or cooking on the grill, they're asked to take a few safety precautions to ensure their homes and families are protected.

Texas Forest Service Wildland Urban Interface and Prevention Coordinator Justice Jones said that while drought conditions have improved for much of the state, wildfire potential still exists - especially in areas where consecutive days of hot temperatures have dried out the vegetation.

"We don't want to discourage anyone from enjoying the holiday; we just want to remind people that Texas is still prone to wildfire danger," Jones said. "We're still seeing almost daily local activity in some parts of the state."

There are several things you can do to help prevent wildfires such as check for and obey burn bans and fireworks restrictions.

If outdoor burning is allowed, create a firebreak (down to bare dirt) around an outdoor fire before igniting the materials to be burned.

Keep water nearby just in case a fire starts. It doesn't take much of a spark or burning ember to ignite dry, fine-textured fuels like grass and weeds.

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ROLL-UP

Runnels County

4 Winters Enterprise

Thursday, June 28, 2012

HISTORICAL MARKERS AND THEIR HISTORIES IN RUNNELS CO

The community of Marie, Texas

CONTRIBUTED BY RUTH COOPER
RCHC CHAIRPERSON

WINTERS—Marie, Texas was named in honor of Walter (Buck) Gentry's wife when the first post office was established by Walter C. Bass, May 8, 1906. In connection with the post office, he operated a general store bought from a Mr. Turner and built in 1902. The next owner, Issac J. Wright, lived only a year.

"His casket was built out there on the porch of the store. They put white cloth on the inside and black cloth on the outside — the people did," said Annie Laurie Black.

In 1899, Charlie Black came to Runnels County from Milam County and settled in what was the later known as the Marie Community, about 35 miles northwest of Ballinger, Texas the county seat. He settled in the area because of the rich farm land, good climate and excellent agricultural opportunities.

He met Jessie Parks who had come to the Bronte area, from Falls County with her parents in 1897. They were married January 1, 1903 and moved into a house Charlie Black had built in 1900, with lumber he hauled from Ballinger with a wagon and team. He had 589.5 acres of land after he sold some to his brother, John, off the northeast corner. John was living there when he married Laura Gregory.

Charlie Black's twins born October 18, 1903, were the first twins that Dr. Leonard at Bronte ever delivered. Their names were Earl and Earnest. Then a girl, Ella Clyde, was born in 1905 and Annie Laurie in 1907.

The first store at Marie was moved from Norton, Texas

across the steep bank of Oak Creek, by Mr. Turner located on what was called the Gentry place. He was also the builder. The community was growing to the west and after six months, the store was moved about a mile to the northwest.

In the fall of 1908, Charlie and John Black bought the store from Wright's widow and operated it until 1915. Charlie Black sold to his brother John who razed the old store and erected a rock building where he continued in business until 1938. John was postmaster from 1908 until 1939.

At that time, W. A. Land leased the store from John and operated it for two years. He was postmaster until the office was closed June 14, 1941. During that time,

Marie had a population of twenty. The first mail was brought from Maverick by a Mr. Thompson on horseback. When the railroad came to Bronte, the mail was brought first to Marie and then to Maverick and Norton by Walter McLaughlin.

Charlie Black did the freighting from Ballinger in a wagon before the railroad came to Bronte. His son, Earl went with him many times and they stayed all night in Ballinger in the wagon yard in the summer-time—but in the winter they would go down the street to the Stokes Hotel—it took three days—one day to go, next day to load, and the following day they started home, carrying dry goods, groceries and hardware.

There were three houses in Marie: one at the gin, one at the blacksmith shop and one south of the store. Built in 1904, the

steam press gin that used cord-wood

for fuel was bought by Bill Glenn the following year and operated by him until 1916. Cotton seed was hauled to Ballinger until the railroad came to Bronte. Sometimes there would be as many as 15 or 20 bales on the yard at once. Mr. Glenn sold to a Mr. Browning who operated the gin one more year. Harding had the blacksmith shop until 1910, when he left. There was a barbershop at Marie during World War I. It was built on the south side of the store. A buggy shed stood back of the barber shop. The store handled dry goods, groceries, hardware

a long with kerosene and then gasoline. The rock store building and several foundations were still standing at Marie in 1970.

The first school at Marie was built on Oak Creek in 1901 and called Center Point. In 1902 it was moved to the corner of Seay's Ranch. An addition was built on the north end of the long building with a Woodman Hall over the addition. It was a one teacher school. Another one teacher school was built south of the Gentry Place. In 1915, when school was out, the building on Seay's Ranch was razed and a two-teacher school built close to where the old store had stood, just northeast of the store on the side of the hill. It lasted from 1916 until 1938 when it was moved to Bronte.

One of Charlie Black's twin sons, Earl, married Mollie Barns. She taught school there in 1927. Stella Smith was the last teacher.

The school building was also used by the churches; a Baptist Church was organized in 1903, first called Center Point, but later changed to Marie. Charlie Black was the only male member and was later ordained as a deacon. When the Baptist Church dissolved, the members went to Bronte. John Black went to the Methodist Church with his wife and became a steward when it was organized in 1916 and continued to meet in the school building. The parents of Charlie and John were Lutherans and came from Germany. From the family Bible, it was discovered that the name had been changed from Schwartz to Black, the English meaning.

The school motto was:

We play when we play, We work when we work, We do our duty-never shirk.

The school colors were blue and gold. The flower was the native sunflower.

The rock store building and several foundations are still standing. At one time, the rock building was remodeled and was being lived in.

About 100 persons gathered for the dedication for the official Texas Historical Marker at the town site Sunday afternoon November 20, 1988. Senator Temple Dickson of Sweetwater was introduced and he offered recognition to the pioneers and made several interesting remarks. The dedication was under the Auspices of the Runnels County Historical Commission, with Chairman Neuman Smith as Master of Ceremonies for the program. J. T. Henry, Bronte Mayor, was the guest speaker.

The inscription

Townsite of Marie

Settlement of this area of Runnels County began at the end of the 19th Century. Attracted by the good climate and farmland, Charlie Black (1868-1946) arrived in the area in 1899.

Another early settler was Walter Gentry, and when a Post Office was established in 1906 the community was named in honor of Gentry's wife, Marie.

The settlement remained very small, with a few houses, a store, gin, blacksmith shop, and school, which also served for worship services on Sundays.

The community gradually disappeared as people moved to larger towns.

1988

The theme of his speech was the way of life in the early years of the community. He brought the togetherness of the pioneers and their love for their neighbors to the listening audience. Norma Gentry, a native of the community, read the inscription on the marker. Claude Gentry and Earl Black were given special recognition as early pioneers, dating back to 1901 and 1903, respectively. There were a number of ex-students and teachers in attendance who reminisced of their happy days in the two-room Marie School that closed in 1938.

Resources:

Runnels County Historical Commission Marker Histories
Eighteen Ghost Towns of Runnels County, Alton O'Neal, Jr.
The Ballinger Ledger, November 12, 1988

Got a News tip? We care, give us a call at
(325) 365 3501 The Winters Enterprise

Are you a landowner or mineral interest owner being approached by an oil or gas company trying to lease your land or mineral rights?

Some of the letters of intent, options and leases being offered are not in the land owner's best interest, in fact, those documents do not guarantee the land or mineral owners ANY rights. Since I represent you as the land or mineral interest owner, I will make sure you get the maximum amount of bonus and overriding royalty interest available on your property. It never costs you one penny to discuss these matters with me, and I am not paid by any oil or gas companies. Since you are not obligated to sign any of these documents or leases, please contact my office today to explore your options.

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Young man found dead at a residence on Fifth St

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
WINTERS ENTERPRISE

BALLINGER—A young man was found dead Wednesday morning, June 20, 2012 at a residence located on Fifth St. in Ballinger. The man was living temporarily with his parents after going through a divorce. The body of James Michael Frazier,

27-years-old, was sent to Lubbock County Medical Examiner's Office to continue with the investigation.

The case is being investigated by the Ballinger Police Department. According to the preliminary investigations Frazier was found hanging by his father-in-law. The decrease was ruled as a death by asphyxiation.

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Runnels County Jail record

| Name | Age | Agency |
|-----------------------|-----|---------|
| Charges | | |
| Andrew Archipolo | 22 | Concho |
| DWI w/Child | | |
| Alex Kelly | 22 | BPD |
| Crim. Tresp. | | |
| Resa Light | 46 | Concho |
| P.I. | | |
| Dovie Davenport | 41 | Runnels |
| TBC | | |
| Isidro De La Cruz | 21 | RCSO |
| MTR Criminal Misch. | | |
| Cory Zahn | 22 | RCSO |
| MTR POM | | |
| Robert Silva | 61 | BPD |
| DWI | | |
| Michael Fischer | 57 | RCSO |
| MTR, DWI, 3RD or more | | |
| Anthony Martinez | 28 | DPS |
| Warrant POM < 2 OZ | | |
| Delving Cook | 23 | BPD |
| No D.L. | | |
| Dennis Griffin | 48 | WPD |
| P.I. | | |
| Raymond Garza | 56 | Coke |
| P.I. | | |

Veteran's Corner

Under Local Government Code, Sec. 192.002, the county clerk in each county is required to record, free of charge, the official discharge of a veteran who served in the U. S. Armed Forces. This free service is very important as it provides Veterans with a ready source to obtain a certified copy of their discharge whenever it is needed. The discharge becomes a confidential record for 75 years from the file date. For more information, contact Sandra at the Veterans Service Office at 602 Strong Ave or call 365-3612.

Sandra G. Van Zant
Veterans County Service Officer
P.O. Box 108
Ballinger, TX 76821
PHONE (325) 365-3612
E-MAIL rcvso@wtxs.net

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820 Houses For Rent

1 BEDROOM duplex wooden floors, Main Street, Winters, TX. No pets. \$375 mo plus deposit. Renter pay utilities. (325)767-2125

900 Legal Notices

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the JVA OPERATING COMPANY, INC., [RRC Operator No. 427911] has made application for a spacing exception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission Statewide Rule 37 (16 Tex. Admin. Code section 3.37). Applicant seeks exception to the DISTANCE BETWEEN WELLS requirement for the RECOMPLETION permit in Sec. 131, Bk., ZOBEL, P Survey, A-571, ROWENA (JENNINGS) Field, RUNNELS County, being 1.5 miles W direction from ROWENA, Texas.

PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted **WITHOUT A HEARING** if no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A Protestant should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's Docket Services Department at (512)463-6848. If you have questions which are specific to the Application or the information set forth in this Notice, please contact the Commission's Drilling Permit Unit at (512)463-6751.

SIGN AND MAIL, FAX, E-MAIL OR DELIVER TO THE AUSTIN OFFICE OF THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS THE ENCLOSED NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST. A COPY OF THE INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST ALSO BE MAILED, DELIVERED, FAXED OR E-MAILED ON THE SAME DATE TO THE APPLICANT AT THE ADDRESS SHOWN ON THE SERVICE LIST. THIS INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS, FAX NUMBER OR E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM ON:

IMPORTANT: THE MAILBOX RULE DOES NOT APPLY. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO FILE A PROTEST AND REQUEST PERMIT MAY BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY, TO BE EFFECTIVE THE DAY FOLLOWING THE TERMINATION OF SUCH PERIOD.

The location and identity of the well is as shown below: FIELD: ROWENA (JENNINGS) Lease/Unit Name: LANGE Lease/Unit No.: 1 Lease/Unit Acres :145.0 Nearest Lease Line (ft) 467.0

Nearest Well on Lease (ft) 1010.0 El Paso District 13301 Gateway West El Paso, Texas 79928-5410 Lubbock District 135 Slaton Road Lubbock, Texas 79404-5201 Odessa District 3901 East US Highway 80 Odessa, Texas 79761 San Angelo District 4502 Knickerbocker Road San Angelo, Texas 76904

IN As part of this application, applicant also seeks permit authority in 1 additional field: (1) PONY CREEK (ELLENBURGER). No rule exception is necessary pursuant to the field rules for this field.

Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows: ROWENA (JENNINGS) : OIL Statewide rules 467/1200, 40.0 acres. PONY CREEK (ELLENBURGER) GAS Statewide rules 467/1200, 40.0 acres. This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 4445 feet.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, Marianne McEwin, at (432)682-1052, x108.

Public Meeting Notice 2012 and 2013 Unified Transportation Program Revision and the 2013-2016 Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan

El Paso District 13301 Gateway West El Paso, Texas 79928-5410 Lubbock District 135 Slaton Road Lubbock, Texas 79404-5201 Odessa District 3901 East US Highway 80 Odessa, Texas 79761 San Angelo District 4502 Knickerbocker Road San Angelo, Texas 76904

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The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will host an open-house style public meeting to solicit public comments and input for revisions to the 2012 Unified Transportation Program (UTP), which covers fiscal years (FY) 2012 through 2021, revisions to the 2013 UTP, which covers FY 2013 through 2022 and the 2013-2016 Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP).

The statewide public meeting will be held at 6:00 to 7:00 PM (CDT) on Thursday, July 12, 2012, at the following locations:

Abilene District 4250 N. Clack Abilene, Texas 79601 Amarillo District 5715 Canyon Drive Amarillo, Texas 79114 Childress District 7599 US 287 Childress, Texas 79201

El Paso District 13301 Gateway West El Paso, Texas 79928-5410 Lubbock District 135 Slaton Road Lubbock, Texas 79404-5201 Odessa District 3901 East US Highway 80 Odessa, Texas 79761 San Angelo District 4502 Knickerbocker Road San Angelo, Texas 76904

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projects. This Drive Amarillo Texas 79114 2013-2016 STIP; TxDOT representatives will be on-hand related questions.

The 2013-2016 STIP may be viewed online at <http://www.txdot.gov/business/governments/stip/s/htm> or at any Office no earlier than July 11, 2012. Comprehensive ten-year plan for the development and construction of State of Texas transportation projects including roadways, aviation, public waterways and coastal waters, and rail projects and includes specific funding levels for each fiscal year.

Comments may be submitted to Lori Morel, 118 E. Riverside Drive, Austin, Texas 78704. Persons with special communication or accommodation needs may call Joe Clark at (325) 676-6821 for assistance.

promptly at 6:15 p.m. TxDOT staff will conduct a brief presentation on the purpose and revisions of the 2012 UTP and the 2013 UTP. Additional information will be available for public viewing and TxDOT representatives will be on-hand to discuss the development process and answer questions. Forms will be provided in order to receive written comments. All interested parties are encouraged to attend. For additional information, please go to http://www.txdot.gov/public_involvement/utp.htm or call the toll-free information line at (800) 687-8108. Written comments may be submitted on the UTP website at <http://www.txdot.gov>, using search engine keyword: UTP; by email at TPP_UTP@txdot.gov; or by mail to: TxDOT UTP, 150 E. Riverside Drive, Austin, Texas, 78704. Public comments will be received until 4 PM on August 20, 2012.

Aviso de Reunión Pública Departamento de Transporte de Texas Revisión del Programa de Transporte Unificado 2012 y 2013, Programa de Mejora de Transporte Estatal 2013-2016

El Departamento de Transporte de Texas (TxDOT), por sus siglas en inglés) llevará a cabo una reunión pública para solicitar comentarios y aportaciones para el Revisión del Programa de Transporte Unificado 2012 y 2013 (UTP, por sus siglas en inglés), y el Programa de Mejora de Transporte Estatal 2013-2016 (STIP, por sus siglas en inglés). Las reuniones públicas se celebrarán el **Jueves, 12 de Julio de 2012** a las 6:00 p.m. (CST) en el sitio a las 7:00 p.m. en los siguientes lugares: **Districto de Abilene 4250 Clack N. Abilene Texas 79601** **Districto de Amarillo 5715 Canyon Drive Amarillo, Texas 79114** **Districto de Childress 7599 US 287 Childress, Texas 79201**

878704. Comen- tarios públicos serán acepta- dos hasta el 20 de Agosto del 2012. **Districto de Childress 7599 US 287 Childress, Texas 79201-9705** **Districto de El Paso de 13301 Gateway West El Paso, Texas 79928-5410** **Districto de Lubbock 135 Slaton Road Lubbock Texas 79404-5201** **Districto de Odessa 3901 East US Highway 80 Odessa, Texas 79761**

El STIP es un mecanismo utilizado por el TxDOT y la Administración Federal de Carreteras (FHWA, por sus siglas en ingles) para financiar proyectos para los próximos cuatro años e incluye todos los proyectos financiados por el Gobierno Federal.

La enmienda de 2013 - 2016 STIP se puede ver en línea en la siguiente página de Web: <http://www.txdot.gov/business/governments/stip/s.htm> o en cualquier Oficina de Distrito de TxDOT no mas antes que el 11 de Julio de 2012. Ubicaciones de estas oficinas se encuentran en Texas en carreteras, aviación, transporte público y vías fluviales y aguas unidas y se invitan a todos los ciudadanos interesados a participar y expresar sus opiniones sobre el programa.

Las personas interesadas en solicitar o alojamiento presentamiento pueden llamar a Joe Clark en (325) 676-6821 de asistencia. UTP. Informa- ción adicional de Texas estará disponible y representen- tantes de TxDOT estarán presentes para discutir el desarrollo y para con- tar las formas para recibir comentarios por escrito a las per- sonas de Texas, At- tención: Lori Morel, 118 East River- side Drive, Aus- tin, Texas, www.txdot.gov/public_involvement/utp.htm o correo electrónico a Lori.Morllane@txdot.gov por 5:00 p.m. el 13 de Agosto de 2012.

Comments may be submitted on the UTP website at <http://www.txdot.gov>, using search engine keyword: UTP; by email at TPP_UTP@txdot.gov; or by mail to: TxDOT UTP, 150 E. Riverside Drive, Austin, Texas, 78704. Public comments will be received until 4 PM on August 20, 2012.

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THE IDLE AMERICAN

On being squished...

Cometary by
Dr. Don Newbury

Time-honored advice espoused by our daughters is hereby heartily endorsed. My bias runs in total agreement.

It is dispensed to our grandchildren daily — if not hourly — because their moms believe such observations will help their offspring stay afloat in choppy waters that lie ahead. And perhaps be helpful in identifying their drummers in the rhythm of life.

"Sometimes you're the windshield — sometimes you're the bug," the youngsters are told. And all six of 'em are sick and tired of hearing it....

The children respond in gory detail about degrees of "squishiness" that need not be recounted here. It should be noted, though, that except for their usual juvenile responses, other "squishy" references are rare, drawing ever closer

to "squished out" status. Really, this runs counter to probability. Our culture is awash in ever-growing "squishy" situations — or at least many on the verge of "squishiness."

I dunno. Maybe the term blossomed when back seats of automobiles were shared by multiple children.

Back in the day, when they were tossed in and stacked rather than "begged in" and buckled, kids established imaginary territorial backseat boundaries. When issues arose — and they always did — "squishiness" usually resulted. Parents heard "I'm being squished" wails more often than kids hear the bug-and-windshield illustration....

In our current world wobbling with over-population, we are "squished"

to the point that we've mostly given up complaining about it. Some of it is subtle, but thanks to my friend Vaughn, whose eyes remain ever sharp for changes, there's a new example of "squishiness."



TEXAS
COLUMNIST
Don
Newbury

It should be noted that at greeting card shops, Father's Day cards are being "squished!"

Well, this is true for at least one store. In its vast sea of greeting cards for many dozens of specific recipients, Father's Day cards were "squished" with those for graduates. The sign read: "For Dads and Grads." At least they listed fathers first, maybe because their drop-out rate is better, at least slightly so....

Next year, my friend expects to see more "card compression." Vaughn predicts "Mothers and Others." Moms'll let 'em know when this happens,

and there'll be a halt to such "squishiness."...

This might be an opportune time to purchase Father's Day gifts for next year. Why not consider wooden ties? They were novelties this year, but who knows if they'll catch on?

In fact, there may be a run on these post-holiday ties, if not in haberdasheries, perhaps at lumber yards, thrift shops, salvage yards and garage sales.

Over the centuries, we've had 'em short, long, narrow, wide, colorful/bland, swirly/solid, with and without messages, and the list goes on. Alas, mustard and assorted other condiments "do in" fabric cravats. With some ties going at \$75 or \$100 a pop, weeping is warranted. And our spirits flop to half-mast....

Ah, but wooden ties offer alternatives when fouled by food. Catsup

stained? No bother... just sand the offending stain away.

When fashion dictates narrow neckwear, saw it down to size. Same deal if a shorter cravat is desired.

If a different color, design or message seems in order, apply a new base coat and start over. Change the texture if you'd like; some may choose antiquing....

Don't worry if fashion dictates wider or longer ties. Go with the flow. Simply glue on panels, maybe adding some clever phrase, like "Under Construction" or "Men Working," unlikely as the latter may be.

"Do It Yourself Dads" may chomp at the bit to create fashion originals in their workshops. Perhaps I should say "determined dads," because few have the coordination, creativity and gumption necessary. Most will fail, their ambition joining their spirits at

half-mast.

Some will be skittish about such an unlikely pursuit. What about knots, for example? Knots can add character, and if they fall out, there's yet another conversation starter....

The list of possibilities runs long for these ties. Maybe wooden hats could also be fashioned, and we've already got wooden shoes.

Unless excessive attention is desired, fathers likely shouldn't wear all three at once.

Adorned by all three, we'd be given wide berth, maybe both lanes. Or, we might be "squished" by bigger, tougher guys who think of themselves as windshields....

Dr. Newbury is a speaker in the Metroplex. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Twitter: @donnewbury. Web site: www.speakerdoc.com.

Water levels quickly dropping in area lakes

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
WINTERS ENTERPRISE

BALLINGER— Despite recent precipitations the water levels in all area lakes and reservoirs are quickly dropping, and Ballinger is no exception. The Lake Park has been closed for nearly three weeks and the water levels at the new lake are estimated to last for about two months.

After the 2011 drought, considered the worst in recorded history in Texas, this year several thunderstorms have brought some rains to the area, but the lakes and reservoirs are still paying the toll of the prolonged lack of rain and extreme heat.

Water levels in the new lake in Ballinger are rapidly dropping, and what used to be a single body of water can now be crossed by foot in several directions.

Vegetation is growing where water used to reign, and the remaining fishes

struggle for survival in the few scattered ponds left. The boat ramp is completely exposed, and a tract of land separates the remaining water from the concrete ramp.

According to the Ballinger Water Department the water in the new lake will be enough until the month of August.

Luckily for the citizens the new lake is far from being the city's main water source. Roughly 75 percent of the the water for the City of Ballinger comes from the O.H. Ivie reservoir. But that lake is also a water source for several thirsty cities in the area such as Big Spring, Midland-Odessa, Stanton, Abilene, San Angelo, Snyder, and more in between.

Without enough rain to make a difference, O.H. Ivie was recorded this week at 15.47 percent of its capacity. That is a small drop from the 15.79 recorded last week, but a

huge step down from the 25.53 percent recorded on June 25, 2011. In terms of acre-feet O.H. Ivie has gone during the last 12 months from 141,549 to 85,755 acre-feet.

The situation in other area lakes is even worst. The Colorado River Municipal Water District reported this week lake J.B. Thomas at .7 percent, and the E.V. Spence reservoir .35 percent full.

The low water levels are consequence of the above from normal temperatures held during majority of 2011 and the prolonged drought. Numerous temperature records fell at both Abilene and San Angelo.

Both the spring and the summer were among the hottest on record.

According to the National Weather Service office in San Angelo the primary player was the upper level ridge that was anchored over the region for much of the late spring and



PHOTO: RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
A turtle shell lies on the ground in the floodplain of the new Ballinger lake. The Lake Park has been closed for almost three weeks and the city is pumping water from the remaining pools of the lake to take it to the lift station.

summer months. "This provided a large scale sinking motion aloft which acted to inhibit cloud development and greatly reduces precipitation chances, in addition to providing warmer temperatures aloft," explains the office

on its website. The Abilene broken records date back to 1886 and data in San Angelo begins in 1907 but contains sporadic missing data until 1947.

The City of Ballinger is evaluating a plan to transfer water from the old

lake to the new lake, but the city has to come with a new pipe line to prevent the water from getting lost in the shallows while being transferred.

The issue will be most likely addressed at the next City Council meeting, scheduled for July 2, 2012.

Many areas backsliding into drought

WINTERS ENTERPRISE
STAFF REPORT

COLLEGE STATION - While crops were doing reasonably well in Central Texas, much of the rest of the state is backsliding into drought pretty quickly, said a Texas AgriLife Extension Service expert.

"The area north of Waco, up through the (Dallas/Fort Worth) metroplex and a bit east of there, is in probably as good of shape as anywhere," said Dr. Travis Miller, AgriLife Extension program leader and associate head of the Texas A&M University soil and crop sciences department. "Go a little south of there, into the Williamson County/Georgetown area - and it's pretty darned dry."

Many counties south of that area haven't seen a rain since about May 7, Miller noted.

In many areas, including Central Texas and the Brazos County area, the cotton crop is in pretty good shape, he said.

"Right here in Brazos County, we've had several good rains, and we're in good shape for the time being," he said.

Elsewhere, it's dry or drier, according to Miller.

"The southern Panhandle is particularly dry. There are some areas that have had some pretty good rains — and hail — but overall it's dry," he said.

The western Rolling Plains is another really dry area where it's going to be a moisture-limited crop, Miller said. On a positive note, wheat was ready for harvest earlier than has ever been seen before, he said. A warm winter allowed some unusually early plantings and a wet spring offset some of the higher temperatures that came later.

Runnels Co resident excels in woodworking

WINTERS ENTERPRISE
STAFF REPORT

BALLINGER— Long time Ballinger resident Edwin Zly, became interested in working with wood at an early age. Without formal training or any previous experience he started working with just a few hand tools, and with plenty of patience and dedication he would later master the art of wood carving like no other.

As a young boy, he started whittling on wood with his pocket knife. By the age of 14, he created a cabin cruiser (little boat) after he saw a picture of one in Life magazine. He used his pock knife, a hacksaw and sandpaper to make that first project.

In 1992, after retiring from work that included Talbot Butane Co., and Mueller Supply as well as 34 years of active military and Army reserves, Edwin knew what he wanted to do as a hobby to keep busy. He has created many, many wood projects, but his tools have become more than just a pocketknife.

He has used mesquite, maple, pine, oak, Tennessee white oak and even exotic woods such as



PHOTOS: RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
Edwin Zly with two of his creations, a firetruck and an excavator carved by hand, in fine detail.

African padauk. He gets his inspiration from pictures. He ordered some patterns once, but they were just straight lies, so he draws his project patterns.

Zly's work requires love and dedication, most of his projects average 150

working hours, but some of them took nearly 10 years to complete.

"I have always liked working with wood, you have to chose the right piece for the job and work it until you get what you want from it," said Zly.

Dedication is evident at first sight, but a close look to the pieces reveals the carved trim in a Model T, all the chain links in a bulldozer, a working articulated excavator with pulleys and shovel, and even the stitches carved in the upholstery of his cars.

"These are not for sale, I just started doing them for my grandkids and because I enjoy working the wood," said Zly.

He has entered several of his projects in the annual San Angelo Rodeo Arts and Crafts Show and has won the honor of "Best in Show" several times. In 2012 his work placed first, second and third in the Creative Art competition in the 65 and older division, Wood Art category. Part of Zly's collection was displayed last week at the First National Bank of Ballinger.

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A scaled down bulldozer, another one of Zly's masterpieces.