

REASON Animal Rescue of Winters is holding a Valentines' Day Raffle as their February 2013 fundraiser. The winner will be drawn on February 13.

DETAILS PAGE 3

The

Winters Enterprise



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Volume 23, Issue 14

Thursday, January 31, 2013

Winters, Texas 75c



PHOTOS: RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ

Vietnam veterans Max Eschberger, Curtis Glass, Maynard Schwertner, VVA Post 457 Commander Tom Bright, and Rowena VFW Post 9196 Commander John Multer.

Vietnam veterans remembered, honored in Runnels County

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
WINTERS ENTERPRISE

ROWENA- Forty years after the signing of the Paris Peace Accord, which brought an ending to all U.S. military efforts in Vietnam, area veterans gathered Saturday morning in Rowena, to salute and honor all of those who participated in one of the longest lasting conflicts in U.S. military history.

The cease fire was observed throughout South Vietnam on January 27, 1973, bringing all U.S. military activities to a stop in that country.

A few Vietnam veterans gathered at the VFW Post 9196 in Rowena, to share their memories, share their feelings and honor those who bravely fought in this war.

Tom Bright, Commander of the Vietnam Veterans of America Post 457, San Angelo, was the guest speaker. He said that for South Vietnam, the U.S. leaving was nothing to be celebrated. On January 27, 1974, war erupted again.

"On January 27, 1973, delegates from the United States, South Vietnam, North Vietnam and the provisional Revolutionary Government of the Viet Cong, met in Paris, France, to sign an agreement toward the



Tom Bright and John Multer show the flag commemorating the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the Vietnam War.

ending of the war and restore peace in Vietnam," Bright said. Under the agreement, which is now known as the Paris Peace Accord, he added, a cease fire went into effect throughout South Vietnam, and the remaining U.S. troops were to leave the country within 60 days.

"The North Vietnamese forces in South Vietnam were allowed to remain under these provisions, and these provisions would quickly lead to major problems for the

South Vietnamese," Bright explained.

John Multer, Commander of the VFW Post 9196 Rowena, said that it's now time to demonstrate appreciation for all that was done by these brave men and women who fought for the ideals and freedom.

"We honor those who preserved and protected our freedoms and to our dedicated Vietnam veterans for the ideals and principles they fought so diligently for," Multer said.

Consulting firm aiding in football coach search

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS- The Winters Independent School District Board of Trustees hired a consulting firm from San Angelo to continue with the search of an Athletic Director and Head Football Coach for Winters High School.

The Board of Trustees held a special meeting on Thursday, January 24, and hired Champions Consulting and Search Firm, of San Angelo, to sort and evaluate the candidates,

perform all the background checks and present the board with a list of finalists for the board to choose.

According to their website, Champions has helped place head coaches at high schools and colleges all over the southwest, from Class 1A to Class 5A providing assistance in whittling the field of applicants to a manageable number to be interviewed and selected by the school board.

The company's website lists a number of football personali-

ties behind Champions Consulting including: legendary coach and athletic director Bob Ledbetter, Champions co-founder Steve Johnson, Jim Hess, a retired scout for the Dallas Cowboys, John Paul Young, co-founder with Hess of Angelo Football Clinic, and Gary Griffin, developer of CoachesOffice.com.

So far nearly 70 applicants have responded to the posted opening after the board accepted the resignation of

SEE CONSULTING FIRM PAGE 2

THC approves the Chick-Inn historical marker

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS- The Texas Historical Commission approved a new historical marker for Runnels County. The Chick-Inn historical marker will be placed this year honoring the drive-in diner that was located on the south side of Winters during the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s.

Friday, January 25, 2013 the 16 commissioners of the Texas Historical Commission gathered to discuss and choose the 225 historical markers to be approved for this year throughout the state. Results of the meeting were announced on Monday, January 28.

The marker was approved despite the fact that 2013 is the

first year that the Texas Historical Commission set up a limit to the markers to be granted.

The Chick-Inn was the teen hangout during those times. Many folks who grew up in Winters have fond memories of the Chick-Inn.

The marker application to the Texas Historical Commission was submitted in 2012.

Chick-Inn tiles and t-shirts are available at the Stitches' Post in Winters. For more info about t-shirts contact Betty at 895 5172, Theresa at 365 0856, or Randall at 754 4542.

Donations can be sent to Z.I. Hale Museum - Chick Inn, P.O. Box 211, Winters, Texas 79567.

SEE PAGE 4



Patriot's Pen Essay winners are front row left to right: Sam Woodall, K'Lee Lindley, Mason Johnson, Brenna Knight, Macey Gerhart, Brooklyn Gallaway. Back row: Alycia Nesbit, Micah Drake, Grace Bryan, Leon Sortwell, Brandon L'Abbe, Jaeggag Collins, Abbie Killough.

WJH youth thank our Founding Fathers

WINTERS ENTERPRISE
STAFF REPORT

WINTERS- Winters Junior High School students have competed in the annual Patriots Pen Essay contest which is sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Of the 120 local entries, 13 placed for the Winters VFW, two placed at the county level, and seven of the nine entries submitted to the district level were written by Winters' students.

Eighth graders Mason Johnson and Brooklyn Gallaway took first and third at the district level respectively. Johnson's essay has been submitted to state for consideration by the Texas VFW. He and Gallaway will be recognized and given monetary awards for their efforts at the District VFW Meeting in Brownwood on February 9.

Seventh graders Brenna Knight and Macey Gerhart placed first and third at the county level. Locally, Johnson was first, K'Lee Lindley placed second, and Sam Woodall was third; all are eighth graders. Also placing at the local level were Alycia Nesbit (4th), Macey Gerhart (5th), Leon Sortwell

(6th), Micah Drake (7th), Gallaway (8th), Brenna Knight (9th), Grace Bryan (10th), Brandon L'Abbe (11th), Jaeggag Collins (12th), Abbie Killough (13th). L'Abbe is a sixth grader and Killough is a seventh grader while the others represent the eighth grade.

These students were honored with certificates and monetary awards presented by Winters and Runnels County VFW member, Raymond Lindsey. The late Mary Kurtz initiated this year's efforts and had been instrumental in sponsoring the local contest for years.

Also recognized for good papers at the school level were Lissette Carrillo, Taylor Gray, Brooklyn Anderson, Coya Martinez, Alonzo Mendoza, Skyle Lakey, Gage McFadden, Baily Knight, Alia Renfro, Mason Donica, and Josiah Fernandez.

Students were required to submit a 300-400 word typed essay addressing this year's theme of What Would You Tell America's Founding Fathers? Sharon Rice and Deb Pritchard, WJHS English teachers, supervised the writing project.

SEE PAGE 3



Up and down

The Lady Blizzards won one game out of the two district matches played last week.

PAGE 6

Blast from the past

The Runnels County Historical Commission is looking for information on a batch of historical photos. The collection was given years ago to a resident of Norton but so far nobody nor any place in the pictures has been identified. The photos will be presented here one at a time for the next several weeks. If you know somebody in the pictures you may tag it in our Facebook page, call the Ballinger Ledger or Winters Enterprise at (325) 365 3501 or call Ruth Cooper, Chair of the Runnels County Historical Commission at (325) 754 5183. The commission will have copies available for those interested in preserving family memories.



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FUNERALS AND OBITUARIES

Judy Ann Hilliard Crouch

Judy Ann Hilliard Crouch, 52, of Winters, died January 24, 2013. She was born February 23, 1960 in Winters and grew up there and attended Winters schools. She was a nurse's aid and a Baptist.

She is survived by two children: Zane Crouch and wife Sarah of Miles and Kim Harris and husband Tray of San Angelo; her mother Jeanne Hilliard of Winters, sisters Denise Hilliard of Winters and Christi Green of Amarillo, four grandchildren: Libby Crouch, Ethan Crouch, Kase Crouch and Reagan Harris. She was preceded in death by her son Cody Edward Crouch and her father Leon Hilliard.

A memorial service was held Sunday, January 27, 2013 at the North Main Street Church of Christ.

Winters Enterprise, January 31, 2013

Obituaries in The Winters Enterprise are also online, check out our webpage at

MyRunnelsCounty.com

Meals on Wheels and Activity Center gifts and donations

Runnels County Meals on Wheels and the Winters Activity Center received gifts and donations. Contributions received as memorials include:

- * In memory of Bob Hatcher by Maurine Davis and family.
- * In memory of Tommy Burton by Ronald and Mary Lynn Presley.
- * In memory of Jerry Pauls by Orita Smith.
- * In memory of Joanie McAdoo by Sue Spill.
- * In memory of D.F. Sonnenberg by Ronnie and Mary Beth Wheelless.
- * In memory of Keith Lynch by Steve and Penny Pritchard.
- * In memory of Jon McNeill by Brent and Scarlotte Mikeska.
- * In memory of Dalton Sonnenberg by Brent and Scarlotte Mikeska.
- * In memory of James Spill by Jerry and Jan Sims, Oleta Webb, Denny and Barbara Heathcott, Bill Lewis, R. and M. Guerin Sr., Ted and Mary Beth Ahrens, Robert Pruser Family, Armbrrecht Family, Cindy Biery, Mitch Davis, Dana Smith and Cassi Minzenmayer and Families, Fran and Larry Walker, Blake and Lisa O'Dell, Betty John Byrns, Lee and Nancy Evans, Emily Pendergrass, Bill and Joyce Suggs, Connie Mac and Jean Gibbs, Tammy Wunsch, Sandra Sherman, Fred and Brenda Watkins, Ann and Wayne Herrman, Ballinger Band Boosters.
- * In memory of Mary Kurtz by Sue Spill, Denny and Barbara Heathcott, Fred and Brenda Watkins.
- * In memory of Kenneth Sneed by Betty John Byrns.

We are truly grateful for the monetary and food donations from Jacob and Martin, Lone Star Video, Juanita and Freddy Bredemayer, Jan Dickson, Sue and Dean Hukill, Marcie Webb, Diane Davis, Larry Bilbrey, Walmart, Winters Boy Scouts, Jerry Lloyd, Charolette Barker, Bunko and Canasta Ladies. God has blessed us with such wonderful friends! Your support and love for the Winters Activity Center is greatly appreciated.

The Christmas Holiday Party was was so special because of Billie Sue Helm and Marianne Ray. These great ladies visited with many local businesses and generous individuals that made some wonderful donations so the seniors could enjoy playing Bingo. Over 200 gifts were received and they all had a great time. God bless you all for showing so much love with your giving spirit. Thanks Richard Hamilton for calling the Bingo games.

It's great to live in Winters. Thank you all. God bless.

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NEWS NOTES

Immunization clinics in Runnels County

Texas Department of State Health Services will have flu and immunization clinics. For your convenience, please call to schedule and appointment, if no answer leave a message. Flu vaccine is available in Winters 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, February 7, at the Professional Building, 110 South Main, Suite 108. For your convenience, please use rear entrance (Grant Street).

The clinic in Ballinger will be from 10 a.m. to 12 noon 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 please bring card. For more information, call (325) 754 4945.

Rock Hotel, Z.I. Hale Museum directors meeting

The directors and associate directors of the Rock Hotel and Z. I. Hale Museum will be meeting on Thursday, January 31, 2013. The meeting will start at 5 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

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.

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 fourth Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. 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.

CRMWD hosts annual children's home youth hunt

WINTERS ENTERPRISE STAFF REPORT

The Colorado River Municipal Water District hosted its second deer hunt of the season for the kids from the South Texas Children's Ranch. Beautiful weather was the setting as three girls and four boys from the ranch participated in the doe and spike hunt on Saturday, January 19, 2013.

These hunts are not only a great management tool in controlling deer numbers, but just as important, provides a wonderful opportunity to experience the outdoors and hunting to those who would not normally get a chance to do so.

Everyone observed a variety of game and a good time was had by all. An anonymous donor from Arizona donated several Academy gift certificates for the hunt. Each child received a participation gift card, plus four more where awarded for the best marksman, biggest spike, and first and second place for heaviest doe harvested.

The girls once again took the marksmanship prize, which was won by young lady hunter Cireana, after a very competitive shoot. Very nice shooting gang! The biggest doe was awarded to young hunter Jasmine, with a doe field dress weight of 80 lbs. This was her first time to harvest a deer, and was lucky enough to harvest two does. She was all smiles! Second place on the doe contest went to hunter Joe.

The spike contest was won by lady hunter Cire-



PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED
 Top row: John Minder, Becky Moore, Jeffery Walker, David Hale, Mark Halfmann, Lisa Jost and Richard McMillian. (Not pictured is Carrol Sessom). Bottom row: Cireana, Jasmine, Josh, Cecilo, Zack, Leigh and Joe.

ana who harvested the only spike and was also her very first deer.

To get the day going, sausage and biscuits were provide by Elm Creek Village of Lake Ivie, and a delicious lunch was provide at noon by the Concho Park Marina, also of Lake Ivie. After lunch, everyone enjoyed sweet treats baked-up by Noreen Jamison of Voss, followed by a marksmanship contest and a program on Texas game laws provided by TPWD Game Wardens

Lee Morrison and Norman Terry of Coleman, Texas. David and Vicky Stewart of Voss, provided soft drinks and pastries for all to enjoy during the evening hunt and Debra Halfmann of Lake Ivie provided taco soup with fixings for a Saturday evening meal before returning home.

Those assisting as hunting guides where Carol Sessom of Millersview, Lisa Jost of San Angelo, Becky Moore of the South Texas Children's Home, Jeffery

Walker of Lake Ivie, Mark Halfmann of San Angelo, Richard McMillian of Lake Ivie, John Minder of the South Texas Children's Home, and David Hale of Lake Ivie.

Deer corn was provided by the Ballinger Shopping Basket (IGA) of Ballinger, Coleman Grain Inc. of Coleman, and Ballinger Feed and Seed of Ballinger. As always, this greatly provides the young hunters with a better opportunity to see wildlife and harvest deer.

Consulting firm: Hiring new Athletic Director

Athletic Director and Head Football Coach Adam Bright, on January 14.

"We had Jim Hess making a very informative presentation, the board did choose to go ahead and hire them, although we have a number of applicants we feel that the company it's going to do a better job in covering the entire state recruiting some potential coaches," said WISD Superintendent Don Kuempel, Jr.

"They do not hire, that is done by the School Board members, what this organization will do is screen all the applicants, pick 10 or 15 and do an initial interview. Based on that they will recommend the top six to the School Board and then we'll narrow it down to the top finalist," Mr. Kuemple added.

The board and administration is aiming to have a new Athletic Director before the spring break.

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Animal Rescue holding a raffle as February fundraiser

WINTERS ENTERPRISE STAFF REPORT

WINTERS- You could win Two Dozen Red Roses to be delivered to your sweetie on St. Valentine's Day. REASON Animal Rescue is holding the Valentine's Day Raffle, a \$130.00 prize value, as their February 2013 fundraiser. The winner will be drawn on February 13. You can contact any REASON Animal Rescue volunteer to purchase tickets or call (325) 977 0726.

REASON Animal Rescue of Runnels County has officially been a 501(c)3 recognized charity since January, 2012. In one year's time, more than 110 dogs and 30 cats have been rescued and adopted into their "Forever Homes."

"This has been an enormous achievement for a relatively new organization," says founder, Leslie Dunlap. "Many larger organizations are not able to claim this accomplishment for their first year." "It is

through the assistance and support of the Runnels County community that we have been able to help so many animals." "With the efforts of our volunteers and community donations and support, each animal is vetted, spayed or neutered and foster homed in preparation for their new lives as treasured family pets. We are also starting to do much more to prepare animals for their future adoptive homes than do many other organizations."

REASON Animal Rescue is always in need of supplies such as towels and blankets, bowls, dog and cat food, etc. Of course, volunteers are always welcome. "Love, attention and socialization given to the animals mean so much to their future. Everyone has a talent, whether large or

small, to share with these animals. Even thoughts and prayers in support of our efforts mean so much to us."

"Watching animals thrive in their new adoptive homes, is a very fulfilling emotion to experience" shares Ms. Dunlap. "It is with the touch of so many people that each animal is prepared for a new and loved life." "Our reward is the appreciation that you can see in their eyes." Many heart-warming stories of "Forever" adoptions, as well as many of the sweet animals available for adoption, may be viewed on Facebook and Petfinder. Just search for REASON Animal Rescue.

REASON is now accepting donations for the March, 2013 Garage Sale Fundraiser. Please contact Jim Pumphrey or Leslie Dunlap at the REASON Animal Rescue phone number: (325) 977 0726 to arrange for drop off of items you wish to donate.

'Last chance' training set for Feb 5 in San Angelo

WINTERS ENTERPRISE STAFF REPORT

SAN ANGELO- The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service office in Tom Green County will be offering their annual "Last Chance" Continuing Education Unit Course from 1:00 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. on Tuesday, February 5 at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center. The center is north of San Angelo on U.S. Highway 87. Registration will begin at 12:30 p.m. at the Center.

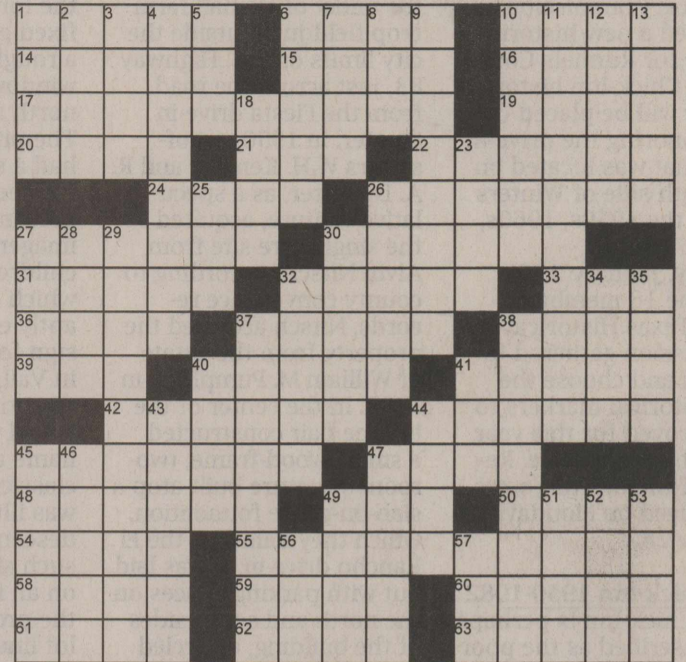
Five credits will be available; one in the general category, two in integrated pest management, one in laws and regulations and one in drift minimization. The course will include presentations on brush control, Pesticide Resistance management, lawn and weed management and drift minimization. Speakers for the event include: Alyson McDonald, Extension Specialist in Range Management; Dr. Mark Muegge, Extension Entomologist; Cory Pence, TDA Representative, and more.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Gun It!

ACROSS

1. Gunslinger's tally, perhaps
6. Calls from Bossy
10. Ballpark arbiters
14. Pianist Claudio from Chile
15. Sooner State: Abbr.
16. Aswan Dam site
17. Brewery container
19. Sammy Davis Jr.'s "Yes" ___
20. Easily molded
21. Ovine utterance
22. Falling-shapes game
24. Command to Rover
26. Half an LP
27. Horrify
30. Some chair makers
31. Wine sediment
32. Feline crossbreed
33. Radar gun wielder
36. Hamlet, for one
37. Fits of wrath
38. Bagel center
39. Dict. offering
40. Insinuate
41. Brown pigment
42. Be a whiner
44. PTA member
45. Fuel pipeline
47. Shaving mishap
48. 1/8 of a circle
49. d.t.'s sufferer
50. Island of Scotland
54. The whole spectrum
55. Upholsterer's tool
58. Dueler's distance
59. Naysayer
60. Still's mate
61. Igloo dwellers: Abbr.
62. Fuji outflow



American Profile Hometown Content

1/20/2013

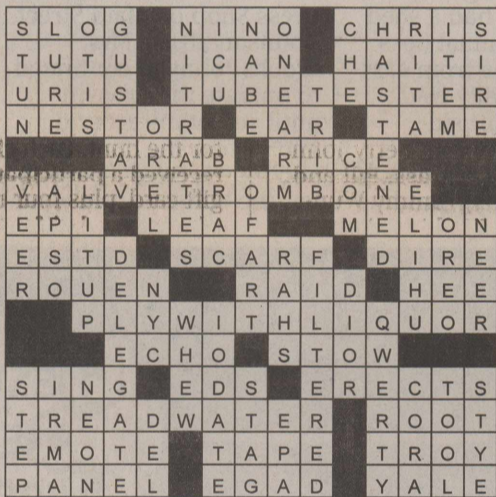
63. Common gearshift sequence
23. River of central Germany
25. Windy City transports
26. Bob of "Full House"
27. Uses an abacus
28. Recite the rosary
29. Cheap Wall Street buy
30. Claro or cheroot
32. Grow dark
34. Lena of "Chocolat"
35. Bog fuel
37. Payment by mail
38. General mortally wounded in the Battle of Oriskany
40. FBI agent
41. Cul-de-___
43. Bowls over ___ helmet (safari wear)
45. Lose one's cool
46. Play the role of
47. Big name in mobile phones
49. John Candy's old show
51. Mideast sultanate
52. Computer geek, e.g.
53. Inland Asian sea
56. Santa ___ winds
57. Roadie's haul

DOWN

1. Slaps the cuffs on
2. Creme-filled cookie
3. Not kosher
4. Punic Wars side
5. Center of activity
6. Fable finale
7. Gumbo need
8. Corrida call
9. Freebies with soup
10. "I'm a ___ not a divider": G.W. Bush
11. Bio lab instrument
12. Yogurt choice
13. Have a hunch
18. Genesis victim

LAST WEEK'S ANSWER GRID

I'm Tired!



What I would tell America's Founding Fathers

PATRIOTIC PEN ESSAY CONTEST WINNER

BY MASON JOHNSON, WJH EIGHTH GRADE STUDENT

It's an honor to be able to speak to you, the Founding Fathers of our great nation. As you can imagine, our country has dramatically changed over the past two hundred plus years and it was difficult to choose only a few topics to discuss with you. But I have selected what I feel is the most important for you to know about America including our country's growth, wars, and political events.

We have expanded from the original thirteen colonies to now, fifty states and two territories. Over time, several significant wars and events have occurred. The Civil War was fought between the Northern and Southern states concerning slavery and states' rights claiming the lives of over 600,000 Americans. World War

I and World War II, the Korean Conflict, and the Vietnam War were all fought overseas; however, America had a vested interest in each battle. Nine-Eleven was an attack on our nation and claimed the lives of several thousand innocent Americans. Since 9-11, our country has been at war in the Middle East with those who participated in this attack on America.

Given our country's history, you might be surprised to learn that our current president, Barack Obama, is the first African American president. Something else you might not have expected to hear is that our country is currently over \$16 trillion in debt. In addition, controversies over some of our country's laws and principles have arisen. There are some in politics who believe we should not have the right to bear arms. What do you think the

regulations on the second amendment should be; or do you still believe this is a freedom that should not be regulated?

I would also be very interested to hear you address such controversies as the debate over foreign trade, taxation, military action, and states' rights in today's world. Do you think America should be the military superpower we are or should we only protect ourselves when necessary?

If you could address us, as a nation, what guidance could you give us for the future based on your understanding of America's founding principles? I wonder if we have done justice in interpreting the words you penned or are you disappointed by the state of affairs America finds itself in. Regardless of your answers, I would tell you that America remains a proud nation and stands by the principles of its Founding Fathers.

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ROUND-UP

Runnels County

4 Winters Enterprise

Thursday, January 31, 2013

HISTORICAL MARKERS AND THEIR HISTORIES IN RUNNELS COUNTY

THC approves new marker for the Chick-Inn

CONTRIBUTED BY RUTH COOPER
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WINTERS— The Texas Historical Commission approved a new historical marker for Runnels County. The Chick-Inn historical marker will be placed this year honoring the drive-in diner that was located on the south side of Winters during the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s.

Friday, January 25, 2013 the 16 members of the Texas Historical Commission gathered to discuss and choose the 225 historical markers to be approved for this year throughout the state. Results of the meeting were announced on Monday, January 28.

The Chick-Inn 1950-1982

The Chick-Inn is perhaps best described as the poor relation to the drive-ins epitomized in shows such as 77 Sunset Strip and American Graffiti: it was small and architecturally non-descript in comparison to the large, glitzy, neon cathedrals to burgers and fries that sprang up in major metropolitan areas. For the most part, the cars parked around it at any given time were not shiny, new or expensive; they were often older and dust-covered, reflecting the working class demographics of the area. One might reasonably wonder, therefore, what the little diner had in common with the classical drive-in of its day. The answer is more than just burgers, Cherry Cokes, jukeboxes, and carhops, for the Chick-Inn — like its big city cousins — became a Mecca for the youth of its day.

Extant for over 30 years, the Chick-Inn on the outskirts of Winters came

to define the culture and customs of rural youth of the time. It was sited in the midst of a small farm crop field just outside the city limits on U.S. Highway 83, just across the road from the Fiesta drive-in theater. In 1950 out-of-staters W.H. Kemper and R. A. Doberrer, as a speculative venture, acquired the single acre site from Alvin Nitsch. According to county conveyance records, Nitsch acquired the property from the Estate of William M. Pumphrey in 1937. In the center of the lot, the pair constructed a small, wood-frame, two-room structure built atop a slab-on-grade foundation, which they named it the El Rancho drive-in. It was laid out with parking spaces on the north and south sides of the building, encircled by an asphalt drive. In plan, the building had an L-shaped dining room accessed from the center of the primary (east) façade. A short-run

counter occupied the south part of the room, while a line of booths ran along the longer north wall. A small kitchen occupying the southwest quarter of the building served up a menu limited mostly to burgers, fries, shakes and fountain drinks. A small, screened lean-to was attached to the south façade so car hops could place orders through a sliding window and load up aluminum trays to take to patrons preferring their cars to the dining room.

The building had a shed roof with a minimal (less than 3:12) slope from east to west. Originally clad in wood lap joint siding, in the early 1960's it was covered over with a sprayed-on stucco product

scored to give the appearance of a brick façade. Fenestration consisted in the form of rectangular fixed glass windows of a roughly 1:2 ratio. One window was found on the north and south facades. The primary (east) façade had a single door centered between two windows, presenting a caricature imagery often seen in children's drawings, and which Robert Venturi so aptly employed in his design for the Brandt house in Vail, Colorado. Above the primary façade a sign board with the drive-in's name and flanked by classical Coca-Cola disks was illuminated by incandescent lights. Another such sign was mounted on an iron pipe post near the property's highway lot line. "Chick-Inn" was spelled out in black hand-painted lettering on a white back ground, and was also illuminated by incandescent lighting.

Kemper and Doberrer operated the drive-in for only a few months before selling it to local residents Julia and Leonard Wilson, who had operated the American Café adjacent to the State Theater on Main Street. Mrs. Wilson is given credit for changing the name to the Chick-Inn at that time (Mayo 2012). Although an exact date is unknown, in the mid-Fifties, the Wilson's leased the drive-in to Mrs. Addie Bell Brooks Johnson (Brooks at the time) when Mrs. Wilson opened Julia's Dress Shop on Main Street (Johnson 2012). Mrs. Brooks Johnson continued to operate the drive-in until sometime around 1963 when she married and moved away. Thereafter, the Wilsons once again

took over the drive-in and operated it until 1966, when they sold it to Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Hodnett. Mr. Hodnett would eventually become the community's justice of the peace and municipal judge, during which time he was known to hold court at the counter (Hodnett 2012). In 1978, the Hodnetts sold the building to Mrs. Patsy Teague who operated it as the Chick-Inn until 1981.

From the day of its opening, the Chick-Inn was a gathering spot for young people in the community. It was as much a place where the young went to "hangout" and socialize as it was a place to eat. On weekends its parking lot would be near capacity. Even those who didn't choose to stop would still circle around the building, checking out who was there and who wasn't, before "making the drag" back down the mile or so of Main Street, to the intersection with the Novice Highway. For over 30 years, the non-descript diner was a cultural icon of the Winters' community.

The Chick-Inn's demise came in the very early morning hours of 14 March 1982, when a tornado touched down to the southwest of Winters and began a path that led it on an east-northeasterly course. Across the highway from the Chick-Inn, an oil derrick had shut down operations for the night, and the only employee had gone to bed in an adjacent travel trailer. Farmer Alvin Nitsch and his family had also turned in for the evening. Beside the Chick-Inn, however, three young adults sat in a car, talking and listening to the radio when the

twister struck. The Nitsch house was hit first and so badly damaged that the family was trapped inside, unable to get out. As it slammed into the Chick-Inn, it picked up the car and flung it across the far side of the highway, before moving on and heavily damaging the drilling derrick, destroying the trailer, and leveling all of the buildings of Winters Welding Works and Winters Oilfield Supply. (Winters Enterprise 1982).

The community, however, was indeed fortunate that morning. The Nitsch family was eventually extricated unharmed from their destroyed home. On the far side of the highway, first responders found the young oilfield worker wandering around in his underwear, stunned and covered in mud, but thankfully not seriously injured. Fire department personnel were forced to use the jaws of life to extricate the passengers of the car, none of whom were seriously injured (Winters Enterprise 1982). Unfortunately, the same could not be said of the Chick-Inn. The little building was so heavily damaged it had to be demolished. Today, the only remnants of the drive-in that remain are the steel pipe frame to the original sign and portions of the foundation and asphalt paving. Gone but not forgotten, however, the importance of the Chick-Inn in local history is attested to by former residents.

Significance

Perhaps the most poignant recollection of the Chick-Inn, is also the one that best illustrates the importance of this little

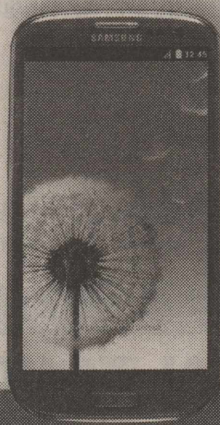
diner in the lives of at least three generations of young people. In a Facebook post one young man recalled the night he was away at college in nearby San Angelo when he received a call that two friends — the quarterback of the football team and his girlfriend — had died in a freak accident. He recounted how he realized that evening that he could not stay in his dorm room alone, that he knew where he was meant to be at that time. He got into his car and drove the 50 miles home. As he pulled into town that evening, he found the Chick-Inn clogged with cars. It was standing room only as young people milled about, talking in whispers, trying to console each other (Bishop 2012). That tragic evening, it seemed every young person in the community was inextricably drawn to that unremarkable little drive-in on the outskirts of town.

Such was the meaning that little West Texas drive-in played in so many lives.

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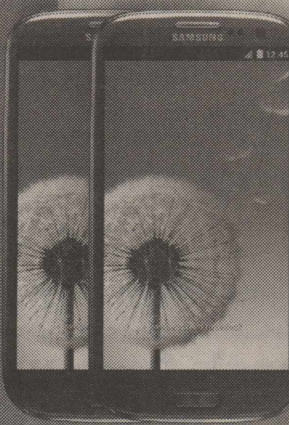
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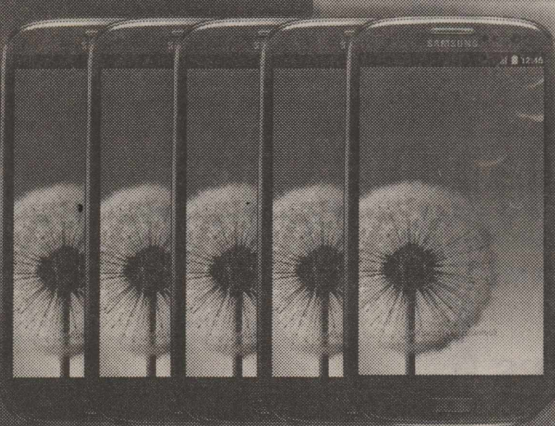
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