Volume 25, Issue 22

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Winters, Texas 75¢

MAKING MEMORIES



PHOTO BY JOE GERHART
Carleton Parks demonstrates some of the early day blacksmithing techniques during the Z. I.
Hale Museum's Memories of Times Past "Spring Festival" that took place last weekend.

See more photos page 6

REASON Animal Rescue car wash set for Saturday, rain or shine

WINTERS ENTERPRISE

There used to be an old saying: "If you wash your car, it is sure to rain." So, whether rain or shine, on Saturday, April 25, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., there will be a Car Wash to benefit REASON Animal Rescue.

The location of the event is in Ballinger on Broadway, at the City Yard, behind the West – to-Go. There will also be a Bake Sale at West-to-Go from 7 a.m. until 2 p.m. or until we are sold out, whichever comes first.

REASON Animal Rescue has been an important factor why over the past, nearly 4 years, more than 450 dogs and 300 + cats have been rescued, doctored, nursed to good

SEE CAR WASH, 8



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

A young girl gets a kiss from one of the animals rescued by REASON Animal Rescue.

Texas State Festival of Ethnic Cultures Arts and Crafts Show this weekend

WINTERS ENTERPRISE

One of the biggest times of the year is this weekend in Ballinger as the 40th annual Texas State Festival of Ethnic Cultures & Arts and Crafts Show makes its return April 25-26.

The festival will take place at the Runnels County Courthouse Square and is sponsored this year by the The First National Bank of Ballinger and the Ballinger National Bank.

The Colorado River Bike Fest and the 5K Fun Run will be held Saturday morning. The annual parade will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday with a magic show shortly after at 11 a.m.

The trade booths and the food booths will be open beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday on the Runnels County Courthouse Lawn. A variety of entertainment will be held throughout the day on Saturday under the tent. A family friendly outdoor movie will be shown on the Courthouse Lawn Saturday evening at

Other activities Saturday include ethnic food, arts and crafts, 3 on 3 basketball and the crowning of Miss Ballinger

Vendor booths will open at 10 a.m. on Sunday and a church service will be provided by the Glory Road Cowboy Church.

The Gun and Knife Show originally scheduled to be held Saturday and Sunday has been cancelled.

Everyone is encouraged to attend. For more information about this great weekend, contact the Ballinger Chamber of Commerce.

For the love of a ship



World War II vet makes stop in Ballinger during historic run

WINTERS ENTERPRISE STAFF REPORT

People can't run forever, but one 91-year-old man is out proving all the people who think that wrong and it was just several days ago that he made an appearance in Ballinger.

Ernie Andrus, a World War II veteran, started his run almost two years ago when he started in the Pacific Ocean at Mission Beach in California. His ultimate goal is to run the distance to the Atlantic Ocean in Brunswick, Georgia.

Andrus is running to raise awareness and money that would enable a group to return a Navy ship called the LST (Landing Ship Tank) 325 to Normandy, where the ship participated in the D-Day invasion. That group is the LST 325 Ship Memorial Inc. The LST 325 is currently berthed on the Ohio River in Evansville, Ind.

Andrus made his turn from U.S. Highway 158 to U.S. Highway 67 and stopped at the Runnels County Courthouse last Thursday where he was welcomed by many veterans

and others in the community. He took time to run with several individuals in attendance and eventually went on his way.

His progress can be tracked and donations can be made at this website www.coast-2coastruns.com.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Several Runnels County officials including (L-R) County Judge Barry Hilliard, Ballinger Mayor Sam Mallory, Runnels County Veteran Service Officer Sandra Van Zant and Ballinger City Manager Bryan Grimes posed with 91-year-old veteran Ernie Andrus (orange shirt) last Thursday as he took time from his cross country trek to visit with the locals at the Runnels County Courthouse.



The City of Winters welcomes tourists

Visit our lake park and in-town RV park.

-2081 or 754-4424 for information At

WE CARE

If you have a news tip call
The Winters Enterprise

At (325) 365 3501



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Masonic Lodge service awards



Ballinger Masonic Lodge #643 presented its longtime Service Awards to Brother James Brown, who received his 60 year award, and Brother Robert Carey, 50 years of service, earlier this month. Both Brown and Carey are Winters residents. The ceremony was held April 6 and the awards were presented by District Deputy Steve Schlittler of District 105. Pictured: Mrs. Josie Brown poses with Service Award re-

USDA designates Texas counties as primary natural disaster areas

WASHINGTON, April 15, 2015 — The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has designated Brown, Callahan, McCulloch, Menard, Mills and Taylor counties in Texas as primary natural disaster areas due to damages and losses caused by a recent drought.

cipients Brother James Brown and Brother Robert Carey.

"Our hearts go out to those Texas farmers and ranchers affected by recent natural disasters," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "President Obama and I are committed to ensuring that agriculture remains a bright spot in our nation's economy by sustaining the successes of America's farmers, ranchers, and rural communities through these difficult times. We're also telling Texas producers that USDA stands with you and your communities when severe weather and natural disasters threaten to disrupt your livelihood.'

In addition, Runnels and Coleman counties were also listed as areas where farmers and ranchers also qualify for natural disaster assistance.

All counties listed above were designated natural disaster areas on April 15, 2015, making all qualified farm opera-

tors in the designated areas eligible for low interest emergency (EM) loans from USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. FSA has a variety of programs, in addition to the EM loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity.

Additional programs available to assist farmers and ranchers include the Emergency Conservation Program, The Livestock Forage Disaster Program, the Livestock Indemnity Program, the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program, and the Tree Assistance Program. Interested farmers may contact their local USDA Service Centers for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs. Additional information is also available online at http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov.

Herrington named Mid-West Texas Guild artist of the month

WINTERS ENTERPRISE

As 2015 continues to rumble along so does the Mid-West Texas Artist's Guild's celebration of their 15th year in existence with another great exhibit on display.

The guild's newest exhibit will feature the works of Loretta Herrington, the artist of the month for April.

The exhibit will be in the 1st National Bank of Ballinger and will remain on display until April 30.

Herrington specializes in multiple mediums including watercolor, collage and pastel works.

The public is invited to check out the new exhibit.



Gifted/Talented Nominations

Nominations are being accepted for the Winters Elementary Gifted/Talented program, first-fourth grades. If you believe your child might benefit from a gifted/ talented program, we welcome your nomination. Nomination and parent-permission-for-testing forms may be obtained at the Elementary Principal's office during normal working hours. All forms must be completed and returned to your child's homeroom teacher by May 8, 2015.

Los nombramientos para el programa de gifted/talented se están tomando para el grado primero-cuatro. Los padres que desean nominar a un niño/una nina pueden recoger una forma en la oficina elemental. Regrese las formas a la escuela antes May

Winters Mayfest

The Winters May Fest will be held on May 16th in the downtown area this year. The winters Public Library will have a silent auction. The silent auction is one of our fund raisers and we depend on this revenue to help with the overhead costs to maintain our facility. If you would like to donate items for the auction, it would be greatly appreciated. Just bring your donation to the library or call 325-754-4251 and we will be glad to pick it up. We thank you for all you do to help support your library.

Immunization Clinic

Texas Dept. of State Health Services Immunization Clinics for: Children with Medicaid, no insurance, or underinsured, adults with no insurance.

For questions or to schedule an appointment please call 754-4945 if no answer

The next clinic in Winters will be from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1:30-3 p.m. Thursday, May 7 at the Professional Building (110 South Main, Suite 108). For your convenience please use rear entrance (Grant Street).

Please bring child's immunization records.

Winters Public Library

Visit your library and check out the new arrivals. If you have a certain author that you like...let us know and we will do our best to order your author's books.

This is your library and we are here to serve YOU! Watch the Winters Enterprise for future programs.

Winters Public Library Amenities available for you

There are six computers with internet. Also have headphones available. The Winters Public Library is a Wi-fi hot spot. E-Books - free download service available. Conference Room available for meetings with attached kitchen area...just make your reservation to hold the room.. We have over 100 Audio Book CD's...Large Print Books...Aladdin Reader, which is helpful if you require visual help. This machine was donated by Bary Taylor. The Winters Enterprise Newspaper is always available - hot off the press! Look for our Face Book site very soon. Also watch for Special Programs each month - held in the library. We are certainly open for ideas for new programs. Stop by for a visit.

Historical Commission to publish book

The Runnels County Historical Commission is planning to publish a book about the many schools and post offices that have served the county. Over one hundred schools and twenty-eight post offices have been identified in the county.

The information is being compiled with plans to have the book published in the fall of 2015. Much more information is needed about the older, rural schools. School histories are needed for the current schools--Ballinger, Winters, Miles, and Olfen--as well as Wingate, Rowena, and Norton. Pictures are needed, especially from the 1940s to present.

Much information is found in the Rural View published in 1920, but that only covers a short period of school history. Anyone having histories of schools, pictures, or other historical information about Runnels County schools or post offices is encouraged to send the information to Ruth Cooper at jrc@abilene.com or Randall Conner at rconner@wtxs.net or mail to PO Box 211, Winters 79567. The information must be received by June 1, 2015 in order to be included in the book.

TEEA 'Friendly Neighbors'

The Texas Extension Education Agency "Friendly Neighbors" invites everybody in the Winters and Ballinger area who is interested in learning about cooking, gardening and arts and crafts to join us on the fourth Tuesday of every month (except during summer) at 2 p.m. at the Runnels County Extension Office on the corner of South Seventh and Sealy Ave in Ballinger.

If you are interested and like to find out more about us, call Linda at 754-5385. Esmeralda Gallegos

City Council Meetings

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

WIC open to many incomes and families

Women Infants and Children, located at 706 Strong Ave in Ballinger is open Monday thru Wednesday 7 a.m. till noon and 1 p.m. till 6 p.m. Closed every third and fourth Monday of each month. Phone (325) 365 5925. WIC

is open to many incomes and all kinds of families.

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

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

Paint Rock Masonic Lodge meetings
Paint Rock Masonic Lodge No. 613 meets the first Thursday night of each month at 7:30 p.m. Supper will be provided after the meeting. The location is the Masonic Lodge building located at 360 South Roberts on Highway 83 South.

Alanon meetings Alanon meetings are held at the First United Methodist Church on Monday and

Wednesday night at 7 p.m. Enter on Ave A and Seventh St. side. Alanon is open to all — for family, friends of alcoholics or drugs including relationship issues and all other forms of addiction. For more info call (325) 365 2323.

Sobriety First AA Group
Sobriety First Alcoholics Anonymous Group will meet at the First United Methodist Church, Ballinger, every Monday and Friday at 7 p.m. Please use the Ave. A and Seventh St. entrance. For more information please contact the church at (325) 365 2323.

Runnels Co Alzheimer Support Group

The monthly Runnels County Alzheimer Support Group will be held at Central Texas Nursing and Rehabilitation Center the second Tuesday of the month from

All concerned citizens are invited to share in discussion and education about the disease process and care giver perspective.

There is no charge and this is a public service sponsored by the National Alzheimer Association.

The Winters Enterprise

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Winters ISD will be proudly represented by one of their own this year at the 16th Annual Big Country Chevy Dealers Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) All-Star Festival football game.

Jimmy John Ripley will represent the town and the Blizzards football team this summer as he gets to strap on the helmet one last time.

"Playing in the FCA All-Star Game means so much to me," said Ripley about being selected to the roster. "It gives me the opportunity to represent my community playing a sport that I love and also gives me an opportunity to suit up one last time." In school, Ripley was a well rounded athlete whose talents were spread across the board. He took part in football, baseball, track, tennis and golf. He was named on the 2012 and 2013 1st team all-district teams for the safety position, was a three time 1st team all-district center fielder, a regional qualifier in track and the 2014 District 6 AA D2 MVP. He was also a member and actively involved in the Future Farmers of America while in school.

"My time being an athlete for Winters has meant a whole to me because it's showed me leadership, determination and overall how to be a better person," said Ripley. "It was a special time in my life because my dad and brother were both quarterbacks for Winters and I got to continue that legacy."

The all-star game will be played in Abilene on Saturday, June 13 at Shotwell Stadium. The game's rosters includes all-stars nominated by their head coaches from an approximate 100-mile radius of Abilene covering 37 counties.

Winters head coach and Athletic Director explained why Ripley was nominated.

"Jimmy John led the Blizzards to their first District Championship in 16 years," he said. "He was one of the most dynamic players in the Big Country capable of scoring on any play. He showed great toughness by playing at a high level even though he had an elbow injury. We are all looking forward to watching him represent winters one last time in the FCA All-Star game."



22

64

56 Champ known for

his chomp

57 Attila's crowd

59 Hymn of praise:

61 Prohibition follower

60 Enjoy brandy

62 Sea dog

58 Supposition

CONTRIBUTED

Winters ath-

lete Jimmy John Ripley was selected and will play in the Big Country Chevy Dealers Fellowship of Christian Athletes All-Star Game this summer.

Fifth Six Weeks 2014-2015

Abanea Cortez

Serenity Luera

Ashlyn Richards

Nicholas Trevino

Courtney Chausse James Galvan

David Hollis

Anthony Llanas

Kayden Nava Felix Reyna Jayden Santos Shelby Santos

Wyatt Staggs

Fifth Grade "A" McCaelyn Beuschel Jon Busher Charles Childress

James Killough

Chaney Bahlman Destiny Chausse

Anastasia Delacruz

Cannon Collins

Rider Duggan Emanuel Espino

Connor Garcia

Damian Hubach

Chantel Reyna Millie Arely Rios Pharaoh Scott McKenzie Ventress

Eighth Grade "A"

lackenzie Ballard

Abigail Killough

Priscila Espino

Marcelina Lopez Gage McFadin

Celeste Sanchez Michaela Sanchez

Summer Schneider Alexis Silva

Cameron Cooper

Samuel Reyes

Daniel Vasquez

Taylor Hooper David Torres

"A-B" Christa Bahlman

Kendall Ferguson Zara Hagle Jacob McMinn

Jimmy Ripley Victoria Sanchez

Jacob Brock Daniel Cortez

Twelfth Grade "A"

Patrick Reyes Adam Rusk

Isabel Soto

2014-2015

"A-B"

Ashton New

Dayvin Oats Myra Ochoa

2014-2015

"A-B"

First Grade "A" Chloe Briggs Shayla Camacho Hannah Casey Trenton Edwards Genesis Garcia Hanna Garvin Montgomery Hatter Ebony Manley Delilah Moreno Mark Moreno Morgan Mostad Finnean Nalley Angel Sanchez Ajay Soto Caden Vasquez

Ashleigh Barnes Corley Belew Serenity Delacruz Lianna Esquivel Abel Gonzales Annmarie Green Christopher Moreno Victor Valenzuela

Second Grade "A" Sahaylee curry Kaelynn Hoelscher **Hunter Jackson**

Sixth Grade "A"

Joseph Escalona Natalie Lara

Querstin Lara

Megan Tarr Avery Wheat

"A-B"

Zachary Wheat

Jayden Galvan

Seth Gerhart Cecille Hunter

Matt Jacob

Dayton Nava

Hailey Renfro

Arazéli Reyes

Alexander Salas

Ninth Grade "A"

Brenna Edwards

Jose Garcia

"A-B"

Macey Gerhart Megan Jacob

Brandon L'Abbe

Jaylissa Diaz Shelby Gray Aimee Green

Ashton Hadlock Troy Hernandez Baily Knight

Brenna Knight Charcyona Lovelace Coyanita Martinez

Zachary Rodriguez

Alonso Mendoza

Brooklynn Anderson

Guillermo Levario

Felicity Aguero Adrian Beazley
Weston Beuschel Baylie Bryant Zachary Ceballos

Presley Cotter
Da'Viana Esquivel
Le'Tisha Jackson Bailey Martinez Jeremy Prater Diego Rodriguez Jaleena Romero Braiden Williams Luzion Woods

Third Grade "A" Mikaela Aguero Rylee Calcote Payton Cortez **Justin Gomez**

Malichi Alvarado Aidan Bryant Malachi Burleson Payton Duggan
Jasmine Edwards Kacie Lindley Shelby Martinez Aislynn Nalley Olivia Nava Carlos Reyna Jazelyn Rodriguez arious Woodruff

Fourth Grade "A" Kaden Ballard

Seventh Grade "A"

Domynic Alvarado Karlee Busher

Christopher Craig Hunter Duggan Miranda Rodriguez

Peyton Anderson

Isabella McMahan

Jayden Sanoria

Tenth Grade "A'

Brooklyn Gallaway Christy Kruse

James Lance

Sean Mooney

Efren Rodriguez

Angel Stratton Stacie Ventres

Samuel Woodal

Michael Aleman

Eleventh Grade "A"

Sonia Ortiz

Fifth Six Weeks

Esmeralda Gallegos Audrey Glascock

Fifth Six Weeks

CAFETERIA MENU Subject to Change'

April 27 - May 1

Winters ISD Breakfast Menu

Monday

Biscuit/Sausage/Gravy or Cereal w/ Graham Cracker, Tropical Fruit, Fruit Juice, Choice of Milk.

Tuesday

French Toast Sticks or Cereal w/ Graham Cracker, Peaches, Fruit

Juice, Choice of Milk. Wednesday

Pancake on a Stick or Cereal w/

Graham Cracker, Pear, Fruit Juice, Choice of Milk

Thursday Breakfast Pizza or Cereal w/Graham Cracker, Orange, Fruit Juice, Choice

Friday

Cinnamon Roll or Cereal w/Graham Cracker, Diced Pears, Fruit Juice, Choice of Milk.

Winters ISD Lunch Menu

Monday

Chef Salad or Spaghetti /Breadstick or Chicken Tenders, Corn, Italian Green Beans, Tossed Salad/Carrot Sticks, Pineapple, Choice of Milk.

Tuesday

Chef Salad or Pizza/Graham Cracker or Steak Fingers w/Breadstick, Broccoli w/Cheese, Mashed Sweet Potatoes. Tossed Salad/Carrot Sticks. Blue Bell Fruit Bar, Choice of Milk.

Wednesday

Chef Salad or Nachos or Soft Taco, Refried Beans, Spanish Rice, Tossed Salad/Carrot Sticks, Coleslaw, Banana Choice of Milk

Thursday

Chef Salad or Sloppy Joe or Chicken Bites, Mashed Potatoes, Black Eyed Peas, Tossed Salad/Carrot Sticks, Applesauce, Choice of Milk.

Friday

Chef Salad or Hamburger or Chicken Fries, Curly Fries, Green Beans, Tossed Salad/Carrot Sticks, Orange, Choice of Milk

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George Mostad

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

43

47

63

27 Phone ID of a sort

29 "Just wait !"

30 Persian rulers

33 Father of Indira

36 Most substantial

39 Number of Trevi

37 Inflammatory suffix

Gandhi

34 Sci-fi staple

35 Kitchen tool

32 Yoko

"Hello Again"

Across

1 Routine 5 Squalid quarters

8 Tropic fruit 13 Drivel

15 Part of IOU 16 Detach by tearing

17 Web developer? 18 Valdez cargo 19 Caroline, to Teddy

20 Oater prop 23 Teaching session

Lanka 24 25 Luau loop

28 Dorm employees: Abbr.

31 Vain person

33 "Illmatic" rapper 36 Top dog

38 Exclusive 40 Patronize a diner

41 Northwestern pole 42 Upper echelons

45 Capital 46 Esteem

47 Sleek flier

48 Magritte's "Ceci n'est pas ___ pipe'

49 Make picots 51 Disciples' leader

57 Cheering phrase

60 Follow without

interruption on a Grecian

Urn" 64 Intends (to)

69 Asian bread

Down

70 Penn or Young

1 "60 Minutes"

2 Shaw of jazz

clarinet

newswoman

3 Catchers' needs

65 Fire tools

66 "Danny Boy" star 8 Aim helpers 67 Tiff

9 Infantry group 68 Blue Ribbon beer 10 Exist as a group brand

BOAST

OOMPA

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MOWS MURES PRON

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COMMUNITY BOARD

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SHALL TARDY

WHOOPIALLOT

BATER DORATI

CREWELHOAX

11 Damone of song

4 Major movie

5 Imminently

6 Shoot

pound

productions

7 Sounds from a

12 Hairy arm swinger

14 Send back

21 Sign letters on the cross

22 Portland's state:

Abbr.

25 Misinform

26 City near Mulheim an der Ruhr

ORAL

50 Considerable irritant sas sand ranchers and ranchers 52 Brewer's buy

coins

43 Procure

53 Screen parts

44 Imprint clearly

54 Beyond mad

55 Christmas guy

Weather Whys

Q: What is "Doppler radar" that the weather folks refer to?

A: It's the type of radar that uses microwave radiation to detect the strength and movement of severe storms, says Brent McRoberts of Texas A&M University. It's named after the Austrian scientist Christian Doppler, who in 1842 discovered many of the principles of waves that we know today. "Doppler radar allows us to observe the movement of precipitation, such as rainfall or even snowfall and ice crystals, by using waves that bounce off these substances," he says. "Water drops and snow and ice will reflect these waves and send them back to a transmitter or receiver and because it's so precise. Doppler can tell us the movement of storms and how intense they are. It usually does this with the use of a colored monitor or screen showing severe

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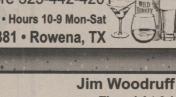
storms as dark green, blue or red.

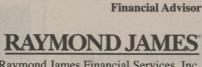
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Runnels County Thursday, April 23, 2015

VETERAN'S CORNER

Nearly one-third of the federal government's new hires in fiscal 2014 were veterans—a record high, according to the administration. About 33.2 percent of new agency hires were veterans, up from 31 percent in fiscal 2013 and the highest in the more than five years since the White House established the Veterans Employment Initiative. In 2011, veterans made up 27.3 percent of the federal workforce. In November 2009, the president issued Executive Order 13518, which established the Veterans Employment Initiative to bolster recruitment and retention of veterans in the federal workforce. This initiative has resulted in 200,000 new veteran hires and at least 25,000 new Reservists added to the federal workforce. In 2009 and 2010, First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden promoted the Joining Forces Initiative, which helped 90,000 veterans and military spouses find jobs. For more information, contact Sandra at the Veterans Service Office at 602 Strong Ave on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am to 3pm, or call 365-3612.

SKOTH EF界

One little mistake

One day while changing the filter on our house furnace I accidently stuck myself with one of the metal wires in the filter. As I looked at the tiny drops of blood I realized that if I were in the medical profession and working on a person who had aids or hepatitis I would have just condemned myself to death because of one little mistake. In Gods realm it is also the same way and all it takes is one little mistake and we are condemned to death (never allowed in His presence). Many people think because they have not robbed a bank or killed someone they have not sinned and they are going to heaven. Romans3:23 says everyone has sinned and 6:23 teaches the penalty for sin is death. That sounds like bad news and it is, but unlike some diseases where there is no cure, there is a cure for sin, (Romans 5:8). It is the innocent shed blood of Jesus Christ on the cross, (Colossians 1:14). It has the power to cleanse our sins and make us whole again. It can remove the sentence of death that we deserve. We need make sure we have asked God to forgive our sins and asked Christ into our heart as Lord and Savior, (John 1:12, Romans 10:13) and start living the new and wonderful life God created us for, (Ephesians 2:10). See you in Church next Sunday.

Brother J

Why 9-1-1 was chosen as the emergency phone

ABILENE, TEXAS - The number "9-1-1" is the universal emergency number for everyone in the United States. In 2000, approximately 150 million calls were made to 911, according to the National Emergency Number Association (NENA). If you were born in the 1960s or later, 911 was ingrained in you during childhood, and those born prior to 1968 have been exposed enough to 9-1-1 that it has become second nature.

Prior to 1968, there was no standard emergency number. So how did 9-1-1 become one of the most recognizable numbers in the United States? Choosing 9-1-1 as the universal emergency number was not an arbitrary selection, but it wasn't a difficult one either. In 1967, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) met with AT&T to establish such an emergency number.

They wanted a number that was short and easy to remember. More importantly, they needed a unique number, and since 9-1-1 had never been designated for an office code, area code or service code, that was the number they chose.

Soon after, the U.S. Congress agreed to support 9-1-1 as the emergency number standard for the nation and passed legislation making 911 the exclusive number for any emergency calling service. A central office was set up by the Bell System to develop the infrastructure for the system.

On February 16, 1968, Alabama Senator Rankin Fite made the first 9-1-1 call in the United States in Haleyville, Alabama. The Alabama Telephone Company carried the call. A week later, Nome, Alaska, implemented a 911 system. In 1973, the White House's Office of Telecommunication issued a national statement supporting the use of 9-1-1 and pushed for the establishment of a Federal Information Center to assist government agencies in implementing the system.

After its initial acceptance in the late 1960s, 9-1-1 systems quickly spread across the country. By 1979, about 26 percent of the United States population had 9-1-1 service, and nine states had passed legislation for a statewide 911 system. Through the latter part of the 1970s, 9-1-1 service grew at a rate of 70 new local systems per year, according to the NENA. Approximately 50 percent of the U.S. population had 911 service by 1987. In 1999, about 93 percent of the U.S. population was covered by 9-1-1 service.

West Central Texas Council of Governments Regional 9-1-1 Program recognizes April as National 9-1-1 Education Month and joins with national public safety leaders to promote 9-1-1 awareness and proper usage. For more information about the WCTCOG Regional 9-1-1 Program, go to: http:// www.wctcog.org/wctcog/911 index.

Fish Program continues through April 28

It's time for fish, fingerling size. Runnels Soil and Water Conservation District is holding its annual fish sale this year.

The program will continue through April 28, 2015 with delivery of the fish on May 6, 2015 at the Natural Resources Conservation Service office at 2000 Hutchings Avenue in

Available species are channel catfish, bass, bluegill sunfish, red ear perch, crappie, minnows (fathead or shiner), and sterile grass carp (available with TP&WD permit) (visit NRCS office for information).

The vendor will provide bags, air and water necessary to transport your fish to their destination.

The Fish Program in addition to the Windbreak Tree Program generates funds used for conservation education across our county. You may recognize such things as our frequent fish and wildlife seminars, conservation field days, Natural Resource Day for county fifth graders, poster and essay contest, soil stewardship materials for area churches, scholarships for graduating seniors and sponsoring students and teachers to educational

To place your fish order, please stop by the NRCS office at 2000 Hutchings Avenue in Ballinger or for more information on this year's program call the office at 325-365-3415 ext. 3.

BLUE BELL-LISTERIOSIS

HOUSTON - A massive recall has put a centuryold Texas ice cream company in a desperate mission to discover why its products are being linked to a deadly string of listeria cases. Blue Bell Creameries stands to lose millions of dollars from the health threat that has forced the company to remove all its products from store shelves. But the most pressing question for the public: What is being done to ensure no one else gets sick?

DRILLING QUAKES With real-time monitors, scientists have linked a

quakes west of Fort Worth,

swarm of small earth-

Texas, to nearby natural gas wells and wastewater injection. In 84 days from November 2013 to January 2014, the area around Azle, Texas, shook with 27 magnitude 2 or greater earthquakes, while scientists at Southern Methodist University and the U.S. Geological Survey monitored the shaking. By Seth Borenstein.

BOY SCOUTS-HIRING ALBANY, N.Y. - New York's attorney general's office wrote this week to

the Boy Scouts of America nationally, advising that state and city laws prohibit hiring discrimination based on sexual orientation. The letter from Civil Rights Bureau Chief Kris-

ten Clarke to Chief Scout Executive Wayne Brock, dated Monday, notes the organization's national policy adopted in 2013 prohibits denying youth membership based on orientation but bans openly gay adults.

— TEXAS EXECUTION A death row inmate set to die this week for the slaying of his girlfriend's 4-year-old child at their home in Corpus Christi has won a reprieve from the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

- KILLEEN-FATAL SHOOTINGS — Police say gunfire at a Central Texas apartment complex has left two people dead and three wounded.

MAN SAVED-BURNING VEHICLE - Two Dallasarea police officers have saved an unconscious man trapped in a burning SUV in a dramatic rescue captured on patrol car video.

- GIANT TORTOISE RE-TURNED — A giant Sulcata tortoise found wandering the streets of Dallas this weekend has been returned to his owner.

- BURNING GARBAGE TRUCKS-BRYAN — Bryan authorities are investigating after several garbage trucks were found engulfed in flames at the city's service yard.

- PREGNANT WOMAN-DEATH — Houston police say a pregnant woman has died after being run over by her husband's truck but doctors saved her nearly full-term baby.

- SPECIAL ELECTION — A runoff election in western San Antonio will decide a successor for state Rep. Jose Menendez, who left his post in February to become a Texas senator.

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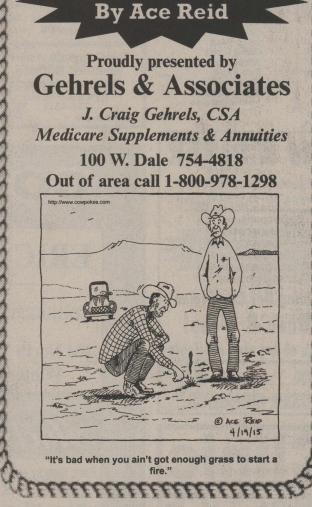
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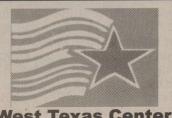
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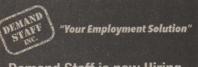
Duties include responding to mental health

crisis calls after hours and weekends, participating on a rotating on-call team. Bachelor degree with a major in social, behavioral, or human service, or 24 hrs in related field required. Plus one year experience in a related field. Applicants must live in 70 mile radius of duty site. Call or check website for salary and additional information.

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Smith, Secret- The bids will be fundable. publicly opened

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plans to attend for several of Ballinger or Ballinger Schools it ems and negotiable U.S. during the 2015- quantities of Government 2016 school year. work as follows: Bonds (as par

Sheep's Foot all bids or to

period not to ex-

Legal Notices

Bid/Contract ceed 30 days Documents, in- from the date of cluding Technic- the bid opening al Specifica-for the purpose tions are on file of reviewing the Commission The City of at Enprotec / Hi-bids and invest-for a Private Ballinger will re-bbs & Todd, igating the bid-club Registra-ceive bids for Inc., 402 Cedar ders qualification. tion permit by the 2013 TxCD- Street, Abilene, tions prior to the BG Ballinger Texas 79601. contract award.

provements - Copies of the City of Ballinger Equipment Bid/Contract By: Sam to be located Procurement Documents may Mallory, Mayor at 208 PR 4061, until 3:00 p.m. be obtained by Date: April 23,

Guy, Treasure. and read aloud A bid bond in from or in-at 3:00 p.m. on the amount of 5 eligible for parti-Monday, May percent of the cipation on fed-The parents or 11, 2015 at bid issued by an eral assistance guardians of students who live outside the Ballinger City acceptable programs may Hall, located at surety shall be not undertake 700 Railroad submitted with any activity in must complete an Ave., Ballinger, each bid. A cer-part or in full unapplication for Texas 76821.

Legal Notices

Hall, located at each set of doc- All contractors 700 Railroad uments ob-/subcontractors Schwartz, Vice Ave., Ballinger, tained. The de-that are de-President; Tina Texas 76821. posit is not re-barred, suspended or other-

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115 E. Pierce, Winters – Duplex, great investment property! 1 bdrm, 1-3/4 bath, dining, large kitchen, large den, fireplace, covered patio, guest house, plus much more. Rental unit has two bedrooms, and 1-3/4 bath and between the state of the beliam it. oaths - you have to see this home to believe it

109 CR 395, Wingate, Texas - Newly remodeled 3 bdrm, 1 bath, very clean, living, kitchen, utility room, large yard, pecan trees, carport, water well.

214 Paloma, Winters – 3 bdrm, 2 bath, dining room, nice kitchen, pecan trees, 576 sq. ft. metal shop with attached carport. REDUCED: 705 W. Dale, Winters - 2 bdrm, 1 bath,

updated floors and paint, fireplace, central heat, at-tached garage and alley entry garage, screened porch. **224 Circle Dr., Winters,** 2 bdrm/2 bath, large living/kitchen, enclosed porch with wood burning fireplace, garage, storage shed, water well, large trees.

601 N. Heights, Winters - 5 bdrm, 2-1/2 bath, two living areas. Two stories, hardwood flozs, tall ceilings, large picture window in living, built in hutch in dining room. Across street from Winters school campus. 3,554 total sq. ft. per RCAD, living plus third floor attic space.

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(Above) Dale Duggan (left) judges the tractor driving contest during Winters' Spring Festival. The driver and owner of the John Deere tractor is Scotty Belew. (Right) Several individuals who attended the annual Spring Festival in Winters take a glance at several of the entries in the car show.



BLIZZARDS BASEBALI

The Winters Blizzards endured another tough week of opponents as they met both Miles and Cross Plains on the baseball diamond.

The Blizzards week got off to a great start when they made quick business of Cross Plains defeating them 14-4.

Winters was led on offense by Xavier Villerreal who went 2-4 in the game and also registered three runs batted in.

Daryl Hagle got the start on the

mound for Winters and lasted five innings while striking out 12 and only allowing three hits.

The midweek high didn't last however, as Miles heated up the Blizzards on the scoreboard defeating them 5-0.

Winters pitcher Daniel Gerhart had another decent outing against Miles registering four strikeouts and only walking one, but Winters couldn't get the timely hit to get onto the score-



Above left: Winters senior catcher David Torres tags a Miles baserunner out before he can score. Above right: Senior out-fielder Lucas Kraatz catches a pop fly on the right foul line against Miles. The Blizzards lost the contest 5-0.

CONTINUED FROM 1

health, spayed or neutered and then, most adopted into loving "Furever" Homes. Because of REA-SON's efforts, many stray animals that could have been carrying deadly, and serious diseases that could harm ourselves, our families and friends, have been removed from roaming our streets.

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It is through the kind assistance from wonderful folks, and volunteers, such as yourself, that REASON can continue striving to assist in proper stewardship of the animals in our area. We welcome all assistance, large and small, to continue our everyday mission. Every contribution, donation, volunteer and "word of mouth" is a precious gift for keeping our organization in motion. We wish thank all of you folks for joining our efforts. You have all been such tremendous assistance to us. We welcome many more folks to come and join our membership. We, as a big Runnels County Family, can grow in our efforts and accomplishments to keep us all safe and our domestic animals properly protected and cared for.

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APRIL 2015



BROWNWOOD BULLETIN BALLINGER LEDGER Winters Enterprise GLEN ROSE REPORTER

Paddling trail a serene place

Pecan Bayou offers tranquil kayaking for all experience levels

BY STEVE NASH Central Texas Outdoors

Slow-moving, tranquil water — a peaceful paddle that will yield views of deer, birds and other wildlife. And, of course, you can fish.

That's how Debbie Morelock described the Pecan Bayou Paddling Trail, which opened in March as the Texas Parks and Wildlife's 63rd Texas Paddling Trail. The Pecan Bayou trail officially opened with a ribbon cutting in March at Fabis Primitive Park.

The trail is a cooperative effort between the Texas Parks and Wildlife, the City of Brownwood and the Brownwood Area Chamber of Commerce.

Morelock and her husband, Don, own the Star of Texas Bed and Breakfast, located near the park and the Pecan Bayou.

Morelock began working with the Texas Parks and Wildlife in 2012 to have a nearly 5-mile section of the bayou added to the Texas Paddling Trail,

"It's taken us five years to get this done," Morelock said. "It's just another way for us to offer activity to people when they come to Brownwood. We've had quite a few calls. I think it'll grow.

"If you've never paddled, it's a great place to start. It's a great place to teach people how to kayak."

Launching kayaks or canoes in Fabis Park, paddlers can travel either a 3.2-mile loop upriver and back from the park or do a 4-mile loop downriver to the dam and back, according to www. tpwd.state.tx.us/paddlingtrails.

The slow-moving body of water is filled by rainfall and from overflow from Lake Brownwood. Float time is one to three hours, depending on the water level, winds and flow rates.

Morelock said many people — even locals — aren't familiar with Fabis Primitive Park.

According to www.tpwd.state.tx.us/paddlingtrails:

■ From Highway 279 in Brownwood, turn north onto FM 2125. Go 1.9 miles



Photo courtesy of Texas Parks and Wildlife

This duo enjoys a peaceful paddle down Pecan Bayou Paddling Trail, which opened in March as the Texas Park and Wildlife's 63rd Texas Paddling Trail.

and turn right into Fabis Primitive Park. Follow the park road to the Paddling trail sign and boat ramp.

The trail incorporates a peaceful stretch of wildlife-rich Pecan Bayou that flows through a mature pecan orchard composed of numerous pecan trees more than 100 years old, along with other native Texas flora and fauna. Birders will enjoy spotting eastern bluebirds, several species of owls, herons, egrets and woodpeckers year-round, as well as winter species such as brown creeper, northern pintails, blue-winged teal and yellow-

bellied sapsuckers.

■ Anglers can cast for large- and small-mouth bass, catfish, crappie and bream. Small lures, such as jigs, spinner baits and plastic worms rigged on light line, are recommended.

■ The Texas Paddling Trails program helps promote habitat conservation through sustainable economic development, while providing additional recreational opportunities to the public. More Americans paddle (canoe, kayak or raft) than play soc-

cer, making it one of the fastest-growing nature tourism experiences.

Kayaks and a canoe are available to rent through the Forelocks.

Another source for renting kayaks: contact Scott Owen, assistant professor of history at Howard Payne University. Owen teaches exercise and sports science.

Owen said renters can call him at 325-647-6799 and make arrangements to meet him and rent the kayaks at various locations, including Riverside Park, Fabis Park and Lake Brownwood.

TPW offers catch and release tips

General Guidelines

Not every fish is a "keeper." You may catch a fish that's under legal size or too big to fit in your cooler. You may land a magnificent trophy and decide to return it to the water so that you - or some other lucky angler - will have a chance to catch that fish again. Whatever your reasons for choosing live release, you want to give your fish the best possible chance of survival.

This page offers general guidelines for releasing fish in fresh or salt water. More detailed information for special situations can be found at the following links:

Handling Your Catch

Proper handling protects both you and the fish. Some fishes have sharp fins or teeth that can cut you. See our Angler Education pages for tips on how to handle different species.

■ Minimize the time fish is out of the water (no longer than you can hold your breath.)

■ Leave fish in the water if you can

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HUNTING

and use a tool to remove the hook.

■ If possible, keep the fish from thrashing without using a net. If a net is required, use a rubber-mesh landing net instead of abrasive nylon.

■ Avoid removing the slime/mucus layer, which protects fish from parasites and infections.

■ Try to keep fish off the ground or floor of a boat.

■ Use a wet rag or glove, or wet hands before handling fish.

■ Turn fish on its back and cover its eyes to calm it.

■ Don't put your fingers in the eyes

■ Smaller fish (< 5 pounds) can be vertically held by the lower jaw, either by hand or with grippers. Hold larger fish horizontally and support with two hands.

Removing the Hook

■ Use needle-nose pliers, hemostats, or a hook remover to remove the hook and protect your hands.

■ Back the hook out the opposite way it went in.

■ Watch this video to learn how to remove a hook embedded deep within the fish.

For a larger fish in the water, slip a gaff around the leader and slide it to the hook. Lift the gaff upward while pulling downward on the

■ Do not jerk or pop a leader to break it. This can injure vital organs in the fish.

Letting it Go

■ Place fish in the water, gently supporting the mid-section and tail until it swims away.

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Invasive species found in Lake Waco

Fishermen, boaters warned of spread of zebra mussels

BY PHIL RIDDLE Central Texas Outdoors

According to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, live zebra mussels have been found in Lake Waco, despite efforts over the last five months by the City of Waco, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to stem the situation.

The appearance of the invasive species brings the total number of Texas lakes infested to seven. In addition, the website, texasinvasives.com reports zebra mussels have been found in the Red River below Lake Texoma, the Elm Fork of the Trinity River below Lake Ray Roberts and Sister Grove Creek.

In addition, a boat with zebra mussels attached was found in Lake Ray Hubbard.

Authorities at Lake Waco attempted to keep the mussels at bay with a unique plan designed to eliminate the pests.

After first being documented in the central Texas lake on Sept. 26, 2014, eight plastic tarps were installed over the shoreline and lake bottom with hopes that the tarps would block oxygen from reaching the area where the infestation was discovered.

However, after removing the tarps from the lake earlier this month, two live specimens were found on rocks brought to the surface by divers.

"While we were not able to get 100 percent control of the zebra mussels, we do believe that we were successful in creating anoxic conditions over much of the area," said Brian Van Zee, Inland Fisheries Regional Director for TPWD. "At this point we can't say if



Photo courtesy John Tibbs/ © Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Crews removed tarps covering the bottom of the boat ramp area at Lake Waco where zebra mussels were discovered only to find that a few zebra mussels had survived. The tarps were 35-feet wide by 150-feet long and weighed about a half ton each. Photo credit John Tibbs, © Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Zebra mussels, like these can choke fish and wildlife that depend on Texas waters, and can damage water systems.

enough survived to create a reproducing population, but at least we may have slowed them down. Both TPWD and the City of Waco will continue monitoring Lake Waco for evidence of zebra mussel reproduction and potential expansion of the population.

"Boaters who come to Lake Waco need to be aware that zebra mussels are still present in the lake and they need to take the proper precautions to avoid spreading them to another water body," Van Zee continued.

Zebra mussels are a small, destructive invasive species that can spread quickly by attaching themselves to boats and trailers. While they grow to only about 1½ inches and develop a distinctive zebrastriped shell, a single zebra mussel can produce up to one million microscopic larvae.

Due to their sheer numbers, they can cause massive environmental and economic damage – negatively affecting aquatic life, damaging watercraft, hindering water recreation and ultimately threaten-

ing water supplies.

Zebra mussels have, in some instances, caused startling declines in populations of fish, birds and native mussel species. In addition, through colonization in pipelines and restricting flow, they can disrupt a city's entire water supply

Finding zebra mussels can be difficult to impossible since their larvae are microscopic. Plus, they can survive up to several days in water trapped in a boat.

Costs for controlling, moni-

toring and cleaning the mussels top the millions of dollars annually in other states.

The TPWD reminds boaters that the only effective way to keep from taking zebra mussels from one body of water to another is to thoroughly clean, drain and dry your boat, trailer and gear.

Regulations require boaters statewide to drain all water from their boats and onboard receptacles before leaving or approaching a body of fresh

See Waco, Page 15





Photo courtesy of Lake Brownwood State Park

Lake Brownwood State Park will hold its 19th Annual Open House/Outdoor Education event on Friday, May 8 and Saturday, May 9. During the two-day event, activities including picnicking, camping, hiking and fishing will be available.

Lake Brownwood to host Open House

State park a mecca of activity throughout year for area residents

BY ANDREW VALDERAS Central Texas Outdoors

Outdoors enthusiasts will be able to indulge in the various activities Lake Brownwood State Park has to offer during the 19th annual Open House/Outdoor Education event. Plus, there will be something for those looking to learn more about the outdoors.

On Friday, May 8 and Saturday, May 9, from 9 a.m.

- 3 p.m., visitors of the park will be able to partake in the plethora of activities and programs. Scheduled events include Kid Fish Tank, Archery Intro, Angler Ed, Buffalo Soldiers, Wildland Firefight-

ing, Texas Wildlife, Civilian Conservation Corps in Texas State Parks and Venomous Snakes in Texas.

Other activities include picnicking, camping, hiking, boating, water skiing, fishing and bird watching throughout the day.

"This is really a chance to show the local community what's here at the park, and what Texas has to offer, especially in this area," said John Holland, who serves as the superintendent of the park. "We want to add a face to the park."

The Kid Fish Tank will be available for anglers ages 16 and younger. A fishing license is not required for On Friday, May 8 and Saturday, May 9, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., visitors of the park will be able to partake in the plethora of activities and programs. Scheduled events include Kid Fish Tank, Archery Intro, Angler Ed, Buffalo Soldiers, Wildland Firefighting, Texas Wildlife, Civilian Conservation Corps in Texas State Parks and Venomous Snakes in Texas.

this event.

On Friday, the schools have been invited to the park, and the public is welcome as well on both days. Daily entry fees have been waved for anyone entering the park each day between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m.

The overnight facilities, which include campsites and

newly renovated cabins, will be available. However, reservations need to be booked prior to May 8. To make a reservation, call 325-784-5223.

Entrance fees are \$4 per person for adults (age 13 and older), and those are 12 and younger are free.

A Texas State Parks Pass can be obtained for \$70. With that, a person, and their guests, can have unlimited visits to more than 90 state parks, including free entry. Cardholders can also receive discounts on camping, park store merchandise, equipment rentals and are eligible for other offers.

Lake Brownwood State Park opened in 1938 and covers 537.5 acres that were acquired by deed from the Brown County Water Improvement District No. 1 in 1934.

The park is located 20 miles north of Brownwood, and features miles of shoreline where wildflowers, white-tailed deer, ducks, raccoons, squirrels and birds can be observed in their natural setting.

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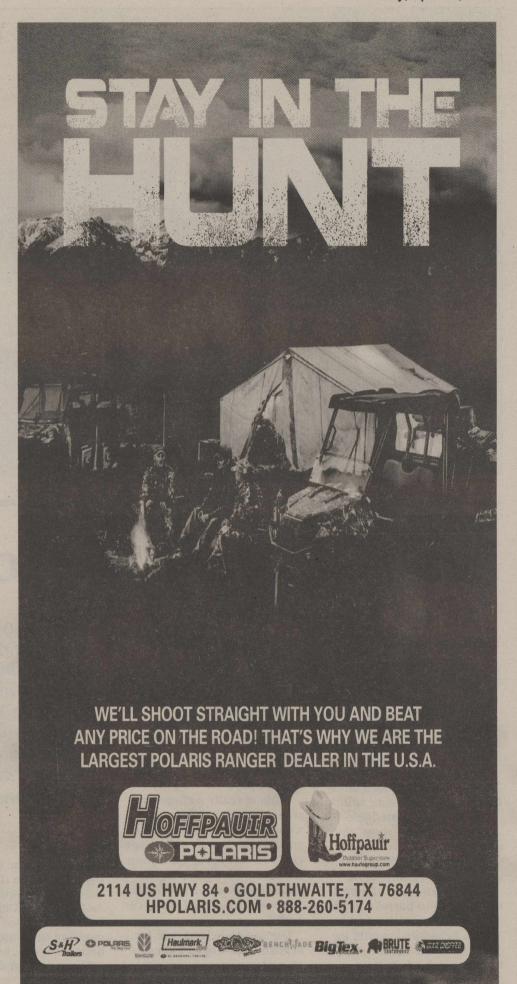
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Dinosaur Valley offers free fishing

The Blue Hole is the sweet spot of the park

BY TYE CHANDLER **Central Texas Outdoors**

When anglers are considering their options, fishing in a state park might not be the first thing that comes to mind. But it can be a successful venture.

"Anytime you come out to a state park, it's free fishing," said Jason Sanchez, lead ranger at Dinosaur Valley State Park, just outside of Glen Rose. "You don't have to have a license or anything. You just have to obey the size regulations and other things you'll find on the fishing page at tpwd.texas.gov."

The Paluxy River runs through DVSP.

"We have some nice-sized fish caught out here," Sanchez said. "People have caught 30 and 40-pound catfish out of The Blue Hole. The son of (local resident) Paul Baker caught a massive catfish there one time. It took him like an hour to reel it in."

The Blue Hole refers to the deepest section of the Paluxy inside DVSP.

"Fishing at Dinosaur Valley is a great family environment because the area is pretty safe," Sanchez said.

The Paluxy offers a solid array of options for fishermen.

"We have a variety of fish like yellow catfish, sand bass, striped bass, perch, alligator gar and drum," he said. "Plus, you might catch a turtle, and they're always fun to fight. Sometimes people will catch something out here and not know what it is."

An employee at Dinosaur Valley for 27 years, Sanchez has heard just about every question at this point.

"People usually want to know what type of fish are in the river and what to fish with," he said. "I tell them what I know,

SUBMITTED PHOTO

The deepest portion of the Paluxy River inside Dinosaur Valley State Park, the Blue Hole, is the star attraction when it comes to fishing, according to Jason Sanchez, lead ranger at the park.

whether it's lures for the bass or live bait for the catfish. I use tree frogs when I can catch them, because they catch catfish like crazy.

"We get a lot of fishermen

from the city, so they may not know a lot about fishing. We have several employees about to go to Angler Education Certification this summer, so we can teach even more about the fishing opportunities in state parks and the proper way of doing things.'

This is the right time of year to give fishing a try, in a river or otherwise.

"We get a lot of fishermen from the city, so they may not know a lot about fishing. We have several employees about to go to Angler **Education Certification** this summer, so we can teach even more about the fishing opportunities and the proper way of doing things."

- Jason Sanchez, park ranger

"Spring and the early summer are prime fishing times at Dinosaur Valley," Sanchez said. "Normally during the spring. we have plenty of water running, as opposed to the Paluxy drying up late in the summer."

Sanchez knows from his own fishing experience that proper planning will maximize the opportunity.

"Check the river level before you go, which shouldn't be an issue if you come in the spring," he said. "In fact, there's a chance the river could be flowing rather quickly, in which case you probably wouldn't want to fish in that area due to debris and such. If it's a holiday or a potentially busy weekend, you probably won't be able to fish due to the number of people in the river.'

For many, just realizing the chance to catch fish exists at DVSP is half the battle.

"I think some people just don't realize we offer a good fishing opportunity," Sanchez said. "Fishermen don't necessarily want to contend with the swimmers, so a lot of them will either get there early in the morning or stay late at night."

If you're looking for a new place to cast a line, think the Paluxy River at DVSP.

"People are welcome to call and speak with any of our staff members about fishing, or they can ask for me or Robert Enckhausen, our park police officer, at 254-897-4588."



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Boating safety starts with you

BY CALEB MCCAIG **Central Texas Outdoors**

As the thermometers start to climb, so will the attendance at the local swimming hole, and a fun day on the boat can quickly turn into an emergency without the correct preparation.

However, the boat should become a safe haven, if boaters follow the tips and guidelines laid out by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

With more than 580,000 registered boats in the state of Texas, which also boasts the most square miles of inland water than any other state, it isn't an easy task to make sure all are equipped to handle any kind of drastic emergency or situation.

"Our main goal is to maintain a constant presence and be visible as much as possible on the water," said David Bosecker, who is a Brown County Game Warden. "Our near presence usually tends to make boaters follow the rules and stay safe."

According to the Texas Parks and Wildlife website, the most common water safety citations in the state are issued for a boat not having enough life jackets and children younger than age 13 not wearing a life jacket while in the boat.

Another issue when out on the water is the consumption of alcohol. Game wardens and marine safety enforcement officers enforce the Boating While Intoxicated Law.

"Another approach we use to keep the waters safe for boaters is we conduct a large amount of water safety inspections on the water while people are engaging in boating activity," Bosecker said. "This includes checking occupants for required safety items that are required by state law, and also checking for any type of boat driver impairment, whether it's alcohol or drugs."

According to the law, "A person who appears to be impaired and/or has a blood alcohol level of 0.08 or higher while operating a boat can be arrested

The punishment for such an offense can result in being jail for up to 180 days, being fined as much as \$2,000. or both. Additionally, the individual's drivers' license may be suspended.

According to statistics gathered by the Boat Owners Association of the United States, alcohol plays a role in nearly 50 percent of all boating ac-

The most recent year for boating statistics to be released was in 2013, and, according to those statistics, there were 582,478 boats registered. During the year, there were 206 boating accidents which resulted in 85 injuries and 22 fatalities, or 10.68 percent of boating accidents resulted in a death. There also were 209 BWI's given out in 2013, a six-year low.

In addition, the Texas Parks and Wildlife also offers the following tips to ensure that your trip on the water remains a safe one:

Always wear a personal flotation device (PFD) or life jacket

- Most boating fatality victims are found not wearing a PFD.
- Always carry extra PFD's in both adult and child sizes.
- Children younger than 13 years of age must wear a PFD while underway.

Avoid Alcohol

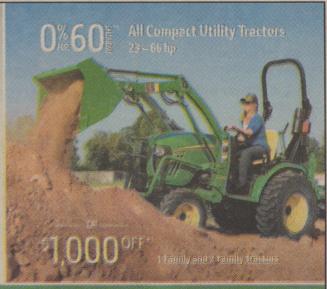
- The probability of being killed in a boating accident doubles when alcohol is involved
- Operating a boat under the influence is just as dangerous as driving a car after you've been drinking.
- Boating while intoxicated is strictly enforced and carries penalties similar to driving while intoxicated penalties.

Enroll in a Boater Education Course

- A majority (52 percent) of vessels involved in boating accidents are operated by persons 26-50-years-old.
- For more information regarding boating safety courses, visit the Texas Parks and Wildlife website.

See Safety, Page 15

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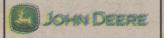
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In order to fish, you must carry a license

BY CALEB MCCAIG **Central Texas Outdoors**

With the longer summer days finally here, anglers are staying out on the lakes and ponds to try and reel in the big one that family members and friends will ask about for years to come. But, before anglers take the water they should be sure they have everything they need - including a Texas state fishing license.

A valid fishing license with a freshwater or saltwater stamp endorsement is required to take fish or harvest mussels, clams, crayfish or other aquatic life in the public waters of Texas.

"Purchasing a fishing license is very important because some of the proceeds go back to support the Texas Parks and Wildlife," said Travis Allen, who is a Brown County Game Warden. "The Texas Parks and Wildlife uses those funds for youth fishing events, youth fishing outreach and fisher education. The license sales play a part in

A valid fishing license with a freshwater or saltwater stamp endorsement is required to take fish or harvest mussels, clams, crayfish or other aquatic life in the public waters of Texas.

educating the next generation of those who want to fish, which makes people buying them vital."

Deciding to purchase a license is only the first step however, as there are many different variations available which suit to the needs of all the types of fisherman.

However, there are several criteria that if met will result in an individual not requiring a license. Those include being younger than 17, being born before Jan. 1, 1931, or a mentally disabled person who is engaging in recreational fishing as part of a medically approved therapy and fishing under the immediate supervision of personnel approved

or employed by a hospital, residence or school for the mentally disabled.

The mentally disabled person must carry an authorization identifying the entity supplying the service. In addition, a mentally disabled person who is recreationally fishing under the direct supervision of a licensed angler who is a family member, or has permission from the family to take the mentally disabled person fishing, and has a doctor's note stating that the person has been diagnosed as mentally ill, is also exempt from a fishing license.

For Texas residents who do need a license, there are several choices, including a freshwater package, which is

\$30 compared to a saltwater package, which is \$35.

The all-water package is \$40 and a one-day, all-water license is \$11. There are also senior discounts available for Texas residents.

Non-resident fishing licenses are also available, but they come at a higher price. A freshwater package is \$58, with the saltwater package coming in at \$63. The all-water package is \$68 and the one-day, all-water license is \$16.

There are also several fishing license packages that are available to the

"If you choose to not purchase a fishing license and still fish then you can certainly find yourself with a pretty big ticket," said Allen. "It's a Class C misdemeanor that comes with a ticket anywhere in between \$25 to \$500, depending on the judge."

For more information regarding fishing licenses, contact your local game





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SAFETY & live with it

Escape to nature and begin exploring

Dinosaur Valley State Parks offers camping variety for those looking to escape the city

BY TYE CHANDLER **Central Texas Outdoors**

Many people travel to Dinosaur Valley State Park just outside of Glen Rose for a day adventure, but staying overnight is the option of choice for many.

"If you plan to come here, make sure that you make reservations," said Jason Sanchez, lead ranger at Dinosaur Valley State Park just outside of Glen Rose. "We're usually booked five or six weeks ahead this time of year. You can either make reservations online at tpwd.texas.gov or call the number in Austin for statewide camping - (512) 389-8900. If you are looking to camp during the week, it may not be such an issue."

Fishing the Paluxy River is a lesserknown option at the park, but some of the camping accommodations do meld well with a fishing game plan.

"Our campground is six-tenths of f a mile, and several sites sit on the water," Sanchez said. "The best sites related to fishing will be near The Blue Hole, since it's the best fishing in the park with the deepest water. A lot of our campers do come with fishing in

There is variety to the campsites, depending on how in touch with nature people would like to get.

"We have water and electricity sites (46) and 14 primitive sites," Sanchez said. "Your primitive sites involve hiking in with backpacks. They range from a quarter-mile walk to a mileand-a-half walk. It's just a camping spot - no water or electricity.

"We have some with only fire rings

Saturday

11:00am-1:00am

that are right on the river for fishermen, as well as some water and electricity sites near the river. The river sites definitely go faster."

A 27-year employee of DVSP, Sanchez offers a wealth of camping knowledge.

"Always take your foul weather gear and your first-aid kit." he said. "Of course, bring your tent, food and something to start a fire with. Make sure your cooler locks, because raccoons can open your cooler and take whatever they want. They are notorious bandits, and you'll be amazed at what they can open.

"I've known them to push rocks off the top of coolers so they can open the cooler. On that note, bring a flashlight and enjoy the show because you can see a lot of native wildlife at night."

For those who aren't able to lean on past camping experience, Sanchez touched on an option.

"A lot of people who come out are seasoned campers, but we have a program called Texas Outdoor Family that deals with first-time campers," he said. "It teaches people how to camp, set up tents, cook over a fire and things like that. Texas Outdoor Family, which is a TPWD workshop, is a great option to check out. If people will give us a call at (254) 897-4588, we can help them get set up with the Texas Outdoor Family program."

A "leave it how you found it" approach is much appreciated by Sanchez and the DVSP staff.

"Anything you bring into one of our primitive sites, you take it out with you as well," he said. "Leave the site how you found it, or better. Our staff is small, so we don't have time to go around and pick up after everybody. If everybody takes that approach, our park is pristine all the time."

It may seem obvious, but Sanchez stressed the importance of consulting a weather forecast.

See EXPLORING, Page 15







325-641-1400



Texas fishing license, stamp requirements

A valid fishing license with a freshwater or saltwater stamp endorsement is required to take fish, mussels, clams, crayfish or other aquatic life in the public waters of Texas. A hunting license is required to take turtles and

The first Saturday in June of each year is the annual Free Fishing Day and no person is required to have a fishing license or stamp endorsements while fishing on that day.

A fishing license and stamp endorsement are not required if fishing from the bank in a state park or in waters completely enclosed by a state park. All other fishing regulations, such as length and bag limits, remain in effect.

Recreational anglers must have a Texas fishing license and saltwater endorsement to bring any fish taken in federal water seashore in Texas (see Fishing in Federal Waters) or possess fish on a vessel in the tidal waters of Texas.

Resident Fishing Licenses Required of any resident who fishes in the public waters of Texas.

You do not need a fishing license/ package if you:

- **are under** 17 years of age.
- were born before January 1, 1931.
- **are a mentally disabled person** who is engaging in recreational fishing as part of a medically approved therapy, and who is fishing under the immediate supervision of personnel approved or employed by a hospital, residence or school for mentally disabled persons. The mentally disabled person must carry an authorization identifying the entity supplying the service. This authorization may be in the form of an LD. card that contains the name of the sponsoring entity.
- **are a mentally disabled person who** is recreational fishing under the direct supervision of a licensed angler who is a family member or has permission from the family to take the mentally

disabled person fishing. While fishing, the mentally disabled person needs a note from a doctor stating the person has been diagnosed as mentally dis-

A resident fishing license is included in all Super Combo and Combination packages (including Texas Resident Active Duty Military), the Lifetime Resident Combination and Lifetime Resident Fishing licenses and the various resident fishing packages offered by the Department. A resident who holds one of these licenses/packages is not required to purchase a separate resident fishing license.

Non-Resident Fishing Licenses Required of all non-residents who fish in the public waters of Texas.

Licenses/Packages are not required if you are a:

■ non-resident under 17 years of age;

■ Louisiana resident 65 years of age or older who possesses a valid Louisiana Recreational Fishing License (includes Senior Fish/Hunt License); or

■ Oklahoma resident 65 years of age or older.

Fishing License Packages

A variety of fishing packages are offered from which the public may select based on the type of fishing (freshwater, saltwater or both) and duration of license desired.

License Year Fishing Packages

License Year Fishing Packages include a resident, senior resident, special resident or non-resident fishing license valid from the date of sale to Aug. 31, 2015 and either a freshwater stamp endorsement, a saltwater stamp endorsement with a red drum tag or both stamp endorsements valid for the same time period.

See LICENSE, Page 15



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Optional equipment may be shown. © Kubota Tractor Corporation, 2014



SAFETY, from Page 9

Senior Resident Fishing Packages

Senior Resident Fishing Packages are available to any Texas resident who is at least 65 years of age and was born on or after January 1, 1931. The packages include a senior resident fishing license and either a freshwater stamp endorsement, a saltwater endorsement with a red drum tag or both depending on the package selected.

Special Resident All-Water Fishing License

Special Resident All-Water Fishing License is available to any Texas resident who is legally blind. Stamp endorsements are not required for this license. One red drum tag shall be available at no additional charge.

One-Day All-Water Fishing License

One-Day All-Water Fishing License includes resident or non-resident fishing license valid for the selected day or days purchased. Stamp endorsements are not required for this license. Consecutive days may be bought at the time of purchase. One red drum

the time of purchase. One red drum tag shall be available at no additional charge with the purchase of the first one-day license only.

Year-from-Purchase All-Water Fishing Package

Year-from-Purchase All-Water Fishing Package (Texas residents only) includes a resident fishing license, a freshwater stamp endorsement and a saltwater stamp endorsement with a red drum tag, all valid from the date of purchase through the end of the purchase month of the next license year.

License Fees Resident

Freshwater Package - \$30 Saltwater Package - \$35

All-Water Package - \$40

Senior Freshwater Package - \$12 Senior Saltwater Package - \$17

Senior All-Water Package - \$22 Special Resident All-Water License

(for legally blind) - \$7

Year-from-Purchase All-Water Package - \$47

One-Day All-Water License - \$11

Non-Resident

Freshwater Package - \$58 Saltwater Package - \$63 All-Water Package - \$68 One-Day All-Water License - \$16

Fishing Stamp EndorsementsFreshwater Fishing Stamp Endorse-

ment

Type 256: \$5

This stamp endorsement is required in addition to a valid fishing license if you take or attempt to take fish in the public fresh waters of Texas. If you are not required to hold a fishing license, or if you hold a lifetime combination or lifetime fishing license, this stamp endorsement is not required. A freshwater fishing stamp is included in freshwater and all-water fishing packages.

Saltwater Fishing Stamp Endorsement Type 211: \$10

This stamp endorsement is required in addition to a valid fishing license if you take or attempt to take fish in the public salt water of Texas. If you are not required to hold a fishing license, or if you hold a lifetime combination or lifetime fishing license, this stamp endorsement is not required. A red drum tag shall be issued at no additional charge with each saltwater fishing stamp endorsement. A saltwater fishing stamp is included in saltwater and all-water fishing packages.

Fishing Tags

Red Drum Tag

Persons who want to obtain a red drum tag and are EXEMPT from fishing license requirements may purchase an Exempt Angler Red Drum Tag for \$3.

This tag is required for an individual to take one red drum per license year over the maximum length limit of 28 inches, and is included free with the purchase of a saltwater fishing stamp endorsement or any package that includes the saltwater fishing stamp endorsement. See tagging information.

Bonus Red Drum Tag

Type 599: \$3

This tag is required for an individual to take an additional red drum per license year over the maximum length limit of 28 inches. Bonus tag can be purchased at any license sales location upon presenting a valid fishing license or other valid personal identification. Only one bonus tag allowed per person per year.

Saltwater Trotline Tag
Type 307: \$5

Required for each 300 feet, or fraction thereof, on all non-commercial trotlines and sail lines placed in the coastal waters of Texas. Available at TPWD Coastal Law Enforcement of-

fices.

CAMPING, from Page 12

"Check weather conditions in terms of a 3-4 day forecast, because you don't want to show up and have it storm the next three days," he said. "Make sure you have access to the river, because we're at the mercy of Mother Nature, and it could be too high or too low for what you might be planning."

Sanchez's enthusiasm for camping is palpable because he practices what he preaches.

"I enjoy camping at DVSP myself," he said. "My experiences have been really nice, and you get to see things from a different perspective than you do as an employee. The best thing I enjoy as a camper here is how quiet it is at night.

"After everybody goes to bed, it gets totally quiet at times. Plus, it's a beautiful place to enjoy.'



Photo courtesy of USGS

Zebra mussels, like these, can choke fish and wildlife that depend on Texas waters, and can also damage water systems.

WACO, from Page 4

water in order to prevent the transfer of the invasive spe-

This rule applies to boats of all types and sized, whether powered or not.

"Three simple steps can help stop the spread of zebra mussels," said Van Zee. "Clean, drain and dry your boat when leaving any body of water. If a boat is stored for a long period of time in a slip in a marina and then taken off the water to be transported to another

lake, it will need to be carefully inspected.

"If zebra mussels are found it should be placed in dry dock long enough to ensure all zebra mussels are dead and then fully cleaned. We recommend that the vessel be cleaned by someone who is familiar with all the components of the boat. as all livewells, bilges, motors and any other receptacles or water-intake systems coming into contact with public waters must be cleaned."



Photo courtesy of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Several Lake Brownwood Lake Patrol members scan the lake to keep boaters safe.

SAFETY, from Page 9

Be careful on **Personal Watercrafts (PWC)**

PWC operators and passengers must wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved PFD.

■ Before you borrow or rent a PWC, take the time to learn how to operate the vessel and the rules of the waterway.

■ Obey the 50-foot rule. Maintain 50-foot distance from other PWC"s vessels, persons, shore or stationary platform or other object unless operating at headway (idle) speed.

Operate at a safe speed

■ Although there are no numerical speed limits on the water, citations may be issued for excessive speed or reckless operation. Use common sense and operate at a safe speed at all times - especially in crowded areas.

■ Excessive speed is a rate of speed greater than what is reasonable or prudent without regard for conditions and hazards or greater than what will permit a person to bring the boat to a stop within the assured clear distance ahead.

Texas state laws, penalties

Beginning Sept. 1, 2012, it is lawful to use a silencer to hunt any bird or animal. All federal, state and local laws governing silencers continue to apply.

Inspection Authority

A game warden who observes a person engaged in an activity governed by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code or reasonably believes that a person is or has been engaged in such an activity may inspect:

1. any license, permit, tag or other document issued by the department and required by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code of a person hunting or catching wildlife resources.

The full text of this law may

be found in the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, §12.102 or call TPWD at (800) 792-1112 (press 9, then 4381).

■ Personal Identification: While hunting, fishing or trapping, persons 17 years of age or older must carry on their person a driver's license or personal identification certificate issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety. Non-residents must carry similar documents issued by the agency in their state or country of residence that is authorized to issue driver's licenses or personal identification certificates.

■ Possession Limit: For all wildlife resources taken for personal consumption and for

which there is a possession limit, the possession limit shall not apply after the wildlife resource has reached the possessor's permanent residence and is finally processed.

■ Special documents are required for the transfer and importation of wildlife resources (see Transfer of Wildlife Resources).

License Reinstatement

A person who seeks reinstatement of license privileges following license revocation, denial or suspension must apply for license privilege reinstatement and pay a \$100 application fee. For questions concerning civil restitution call (512) 389-4630.

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