



SWCD Poster Contest Winners announced

SEE PAGE 10

The Winters Enterprise



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Volume 26, Issue 17

Thursday, March 24, 2016

Winters, Texas 75¢

Briefly

Holiday closures

Offices for the City of Ballinger, the City of Winters and Runnels County will be closed Friday in observance of Good Friday.

Schools in Ballinger and Winters will also be closed Friday in observance of the holiday.

The offices will open for normal business hours Monday.

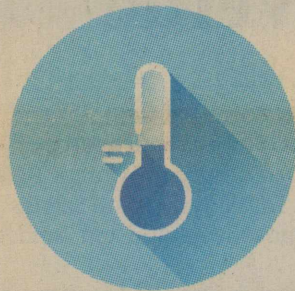
Gas prices up

Gas prices are hedging up according to the GasBuddy.com, the national average was \$1.98 per gallon, up 27 cents in only one month.

Around the area, gas prices are on the rise with prices at \$1.85 to \$1.95 per gallon in Ballinger, and between \$1.83 and \$1.85 per gallon in Winters.

San Angelo is reporting the lowest prices in the region with prices at between \$1.72 and \$1.77 a gallon. Abilene gas prices were between \$1.80 and \$1.82 per gallon as of Tuesday.

ON THE NET:
www.gasbuddy.com



The last drop

The first week of spring brought cooler temperatures to Runnels County thanks to a cold front that moved through the region earlier this week, the National Weather Service reported. Blustery winds followed the front, with gusts up to 20 miles per hour reported Monday.

Another front will move through Wednesday and Thursday, with highs reaching into the 60s and lows dipping in to the upper 30s. High temperatures will reach the upper 70s Saturday with a 20 percent chance of rain in the forecast that day. At day break Easter morning temperatures will be in the upper 40s, warming up to the upper 60s during the day Sunday.

So far this year, Ballinger has received 2.77 inches of rainfall, with 2.19 reported in Wingate and 4.13 inches received in San Angelo.

ON THE NET:
<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/sjt/>

Find us on Facebook

Runnels SWCD scholarships available, deadline April 15

STAFF REPORT

The Runnels Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors has announced that up to three \$500 scholarships will be awarded to qualified seniors of the

Ballinger, Winters, and Miles school districts.

Award winners must be members of Runnels County 4-H or FFA and meet other criteria as set forth in the application packet. Final selection

will be made by the directors of the Runnels SWCD.

Funds for this scholarship program and the many other educational programs of the SWCD have been raised locally

through the sale of trees, fish, grass seed, and the rental of seeders. It is the purpose of the board to invest these funds in the future of agriculture to deserving Runnels County graduating seniors.

Application packets will be available from each high school counselor, or at the NRCS office at 2000 Hutchings Avenue in Ballinger. Deadline for the applications is April 15.

Boxes of love

Dyess Airmen pick up Cookies for the Troops



PHOTO COURTESY JOE GERHART

The Cookies for the Troops netted over 700 dozen cookies made by loving and generous bakers from the communities and churches in Winters and Wingate. Servicemen and woman from Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene picked up the cookies, packed in 281 boxes on Thursday, March 17. Local participants pictured here include Doris Haynes, Joyce Carbery, Pastor Bob Murchison, Pastor Alsen Wenzel, Barbara Jones, and John Long.

STAFF REPORT

Last week, over 700 dozen cookies were baked and packed with loving hands and shipped to Afghanistan by Dyess Air Force Base.

A total of 281 boxes will be shipped to service men and women in Afghanistan.

The Cookies for the Troops were baked by generous individuals from churches in Winters and Wingate. Members of the community also participated in the massive cookie baking effort.

Pastor Bob Murchison of First United Methodist Church in Winters spearheaded and organized the effort.

The boxes used to pack the cookies were donated by churches in North Runnels County.

Members of Dyess Air Force Base picked up the cookies on Thursday, March 17 at First Methodist Church in Winters.

The cookies were to be loaded in to a C-130 and transported to their final destination in Afghanistan.

Measured by Character Program coming to Miles March 30

BY CELINDA HAWKINS
MANAGING EDITOR
BALLINGER LEDGER
chawkins@ballingerledger.com

"It's about one life making a decision that he or she wants his character to be able to affect other people's lives in a positive way - that is the essence of Measured by Character."

— Wade White,
Measured by Character

A very special program with a special message designed to empower youth and set them on the right path, will be coming to the Farmers Barn in Miles, Wednesday March 30.

"Measured by Character," is a program for junior and senior high school students and encourages students to think about the affect they have on the lives of others and if they were to die tomorrow, what

SEE CHARACTER, Page 6

If you go:

What: Measured by Character Crusade

When: 6 p.m.

Wednesday, March 30

Where: Farmers Barn in Miles

The event is free to attend.

SING THAT GOSPEL MUSIC



PHOTO COURTESY JOE GERHART

The First Baptist Church in Winters hosted a Gospel concert to honor the community's first responders Sunday, March 20, 2016 featuring Harvey and Sharon McFadden. The duo sang a selection of gospel songs. A love offering was taken for the Winters Volunteer Fire Department and Samaritan's House. Food and drinks were provided in the fellowship hall following the performance.

North Runnels Water Supply Corp to hold annual meeting

BY CELINDA HAWKINS
MANAGING EDITOR
BALLINGER LEDGER
chawkins@ballingerledger.com

The 39th Annual Membership meeting for the North Runnels Water Supply Corporation will be held at 7 p.m. Monday at the Winters Activity Center, located at 601 Wood St., Winters.

There are 964 members of the NRWSC which includes members in Runnels and southern Taylor counties. The membership is comprised mainly of rural landowners.

During the meeting, all three directors including

presiding president N.R. "Roeneal" Boles of Winters, Barron Guy also of Winters and Steve McCulloch of Ovalo, are expected to be reappointed as directors. All three were incumbents and no others filed to run for the open positions.

Also during the meeting, members who wish to address the board or the membership, must sign-in on a separate sheet provided by the presiding director indicating the topic they wish to discuss. Members who speak will be given three minutes each to discuss their topic. No motions will be accepted or action taken on issues brought up from the floor. Topics discussed may be placed on the agenda for a future meeting.

Boles will preside over the meeting and will introduce the board of directors, employees and the CPA. In addition, Boles will introduce former board members. Members are also set to approve the minutes of the last meeting.

Updated reports are also on the agenda including:

- The president's report

SEE MEETING, Page 6

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FUNERALS AND OBITUARIES

Adeline Grissom

Adeline Grissom, 96, died March 7, 2016. She was born July 31, 1919 in Harmony in Runnels County and moved to the Eagle Branch Community and lived there until moving to Ballinger in 1994. She married Kat Grissom in August of 1940 in Crews. She was a cook for the Winters Lions Club for 15 years. She loved to dance and cook. Her greatest joys in life were her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was a member of the Hopewell Baptist Church in Crews.



She is survived by 5 children: Rickey Grissom and wife Patsy of Winters, William "Bill" Grissom and wife Sharon of Winters, Steve Grissom and wife Penny of Ballinger, Wanda King and husband Windell of Winters and Phyllis Byrd and husband Von of Abilene.

She was preceded in death by her husband Kat and 1 daughter Katherine Thomas Grissom. The family will receive friends at 6:00 P.M. Thursday March 10, 2016 at Winters Funeral Home. Funeral service will be 2:00 P.M. Friday March 11, 2016 at Hopewell Baptist Church in Crews. Burial will follow in the Crews Cemetery directed by Winters Funeral Home.

Winters Enterprise March 24, 2016

Saam Larissa Geistmann

Saam Larissa Geistmann, 54, of Winters, died March 7, 2016.

She was born August 17, 1961 in Phoenix, Arizona where she grew up and graduated high school. She moved to Winters in 1981. She received her associates degree as a paralegal. She married Duane Geistmann November 12, 1983 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Winters. She was an escrow officer and manager for Security Title Company in Ballinger.

She is survived by her husband: Duane Geistmann of Winters. Two daughters: Leslye Molamphy and husband Mark of Winters and Paige Grimes and husband Christopher of Winters. One granddaughter: Abigail Molamphy of Winters. One brother: Stephan Roth of Phoenix, Arizona.

The family will receive friends at 7:00 P.M. Thursday March 10, 2016 at Winters Funeral Home. Funeral service will be 10:00 A.M. Friday March 11, 2016 at St. John's Lutheran Church. Burial will follow at St. John's Lutheran cemetery directed by Winters Funeral Home.

Winters Enterprise March 24, 2016

Nila Osborne

Nila Osborne, 85, of Winters, died March 8, 2016. She was born February 17, 1931 in Content and grew up in the Crews area graduating from Crews High School. She married Therin Osborne September 29, 1950 in Crews. She cooked for the Winters Lions Club for many years. She was a homemaker. She was a member of the Hopewell Baptist Church and was active in the WMU.

She is survived by 1 daughter: Karen McGallian and husband Wesley of Wingate. 1 sister: Doris "Tootsie" Tippet of Odessa. 2 grandchildren: John Wesley McGallian, Jr. and Stephanie Camacho and husband Simon. 4 great-grandchildren: Skyla, Wes, Shayla and Shyan Camacho. She was preceded in death by her husband Therin and 2 brothers, L.C. and Tommy Foster.

The family will receive friends at 6:00 P.M. Friday March 11, 2016 at Winters Funeral Home. Service will be 3:00 P.M. Saturday March 12, 2016 at Hopewell Baptist Church. Burial will follow at Crews cemetery.

The family request memorials be made to Gideon Bibles or cancer research.

Winters Enterprise March 24, 2016

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Christiane 'Chris' O'Dell,

Christiane "Chris" O'Dell, 75, of Winters, died March 16, 2016. She was born Christiane Terese Julien November 2, 1940 in Les Baux Ste Croix, France. She met Franklin O'Dell at the Red Cross while he was serving in the United States Army in Evereux and they married 6 months later on February 12, 1961 in Evereux, France. They moved to Winters in 1962 and have lived there since. She was owner and operator of the Daisy Patch in Winters.

She was a loving and gracious person who loved everyone she came in contact with.

She is survived by her husband: Franklin C. O'Dell, Sr., of Winters. 3 children: Franklin O'Dell, Jr. and wife Jodie of Winters, Sandra "Sandy" Mesey and husband Bill of Winters

and Roxanna Roe and husband Mark of Abilene. 6 grandchildren: Ryan Bland, Kristin Roe, Corbin O'Dell, Courtney Roe, Candace O'Dell and Brianna Mesey. 5 great-grandchildren: Brody Bland, Laine Roe, Bailey Roe, Layla Woodson and K'Lynn Conners. She is also survived by 1 brother: Claude Julien and wife Christiane of Tours, France.

The family will receive friends on Friday March 18, 2016 at Winters Funeral Home at 6:00 P.M. Funeral service will be 2:00 P.M. Saturday March 19, 2016 at the First Baptist Church. Burial will follow at Lakeview cemetery directed by Winters Funeral Home.

Winters Enterprise March 24, 2016

Norma Dorrice Hedgpeth Beck

Beautiful, blessed, and beloved Norma Dorrice Hedgpeth Beck was born May 21, 1927 in Hico, Texas, and passed from her earthly home on March 7, 2016 at the age of 88 to "dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

As the daughter of a public school teacher/administrator, Dorrice lived in several towns throughout central Texas during her childhood and graduated from Gatesville High School in 1943, having just turned 16. She professed her faith in Jesus Christ on September 29, 1940 and remained a member of the Presbyterian Church throughout her life. Shortly after her graduation, she began working at Fort Hood as a dental assistant and moved to Coleman County in 1945 where she worked for the A.S.C.S. in Coleman and met her future husband, Hal Beck, a lifelong rancher, who had just returned from serving a three-year tour of duty in the U. S. Army in Europe during World War II. They were married on August 3, 1946 and shared life together for 56 years until death parted them on September 10, 2002, when Hal passed away suddenly and unexpectedly.

Hal and Dorrice Beck were a well-known and well-respected Coleman County couple, and Dorrice's happiest days were spent on the ranch where she and Hal raised their three children, whom they loved deeply and unconditionally. Dorrice spent many hours through the years transporting three active children over dusty ranch roads to and from countless school and community activities, devoting herself tirelessly and sacrificially to their happiness and well-being. With the prospect of having three children in college, Dorrice began commuting to work in Brownwood in 1966 for a short time and then began her 25-year career



at First National Bank in Ballinger where she retired as Vice-President in 1992. Following Hal's death, she moved to San Angelo where she resided at Royal Estates for three years, then moved to Baptist Retirement Community where she spent her final years.

Dorrice lived her life with faith, strength, determination, and grace through the Depression, the Drought of the 1950's, and other difficult times, including the heartbreaking loss of her youngest child and beloved son, Zane, in 2012. Despite every hardship, she remained optimistic and thankful, often saying, "I am so very blessed." Her life's purpose was to be the most loving wife, mother, and grandmother possible, and she succeeded beyond measure in accomplishing that goal. She leaves her family a legacy of love and devotion—and memories of a life defined by goodness and faithfulness—to cherish and hold in our hearts forever. Survivors include two daughters, Cherry Wells and her husband Jim Roy of Friona and Cindy Maedgen and husband James of San Angelo. She is also survived by her daughter-in-law, Paula Beck of Lindale, three grandchildren, Dara Knobloch and husband Keith of Seabrook, Jason Wells and wife Pat of Friona, and Brody Maedgen and wife Jordan of Houston, as well as seven great-grandchildren: Cody and Wellsley Knobloch, Alek and Avril Wells, and Carter, Charlotte, and Coleman Maedgen. Also left to cherish her memory are her brother, Harold Hedgpeth and wife Anne of Spring Branch and several nieces.

Family visitation was from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM at Harper Funeral Home on Friday, March 11, 2016. The Graveside Service was at 10:00 A.M., Saturday, March 12, 2016 at Valera Cemetery with Pastor Taylor Sandlin officiating. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made to Meals for the Elderly, West Texas Boys' Ranch, or to the donor's favorite charity.

Family and friends may sign share condolences and sign the online register book at www.harper-funeralhome.com.

Winters Enterprise March 24, 2016

Juanita 'Janie' Gonzales ValVerde

Janie ValVerde 75 of Goldthwaite we to be with the lord on March 8th 2016.

A memorial service will be held on Friday March 18th 2016 at 10:00 AM at First Baptist Church Winters Texas .

Janie was born June 16th 1940 in Winters Texas to Alexander and Isabel Gonzales .

Janie was married to Manuel ValVerde in October 1959. They raised one son together San Joseph Salinas - ValVerde in Wingate Texas.

Janie and Manuel moved to Goldthwaite in 1991. Janie enjoyed caring for her family as a homemaker. She also served others as a housekeeper and caregiver.

She was preceded in death by her parents, two brothers Marcus Gonzales and Alexander Gonzales Jr. Her husband Manuel ValVerde II, and four children Manuel ValVerde III, Daniel ValVerde, Juana ValVerde, Dianna ValVerde, and San

Joseph Salinas - ValVerde.

She is survived by two brothers Raymond Gonzales and Trino Gonzales of Wingate Texas. Three grandchildren Stephanie Hadlock and her husband David of Winters Texas , Skye Joseph Salinas of Abilene Texas, San Joseph Salinas Jr of Winters Texas. Two great grandsons Ashton and Zander Hadlock of Winters Texas.

Special friends Gerry and Stephanie Head and numerous other friends and her church family. Arrangements made through Rosewood Memorial Funeral Home in Ballinger TX.

Gary Rettman Rosewood Memorial Funeral Home
1910 Hutchings Avenue Ballinger, TX 76821 (325)365-4106

Winters Enterprise March 24, 2016

COMMUNITY NEWS

Distinguished Alumni wanted

The Winters High School Alumni Association is seeking nominees for the 2016 Distinguished Alumnus Award for the 2016 school year. Applicants must have graduated at least 10 years prior to the year in which they are nominated, should have been a leader in his or her field or made a significant contribution, bringing exceptional distinction to the individual or their community. Applications can be obtained at the Winters ISD Administrative Office during regular office hours or online at wintersisd.org under the "About Us" tab then click "Alumni." The verifiable documentation of accomplishments and completed application form must be returned by April 1 to the WHS Alumni Association c/o Bruce Davis, Superintendent, 603 N. Heights, Winters, TX 79567.

WASP Program at library

The Women Airforce Services Pilots (WASP) program will be the subject of a special event at 4 p.m. at the Winters Public Library Wednesday March 30. Sandra Spears, president of the Board of Directors for the National WASP World War II Museum in Sweetwater, will be the guest speaker. The program is free and open to the public.

A Time for Freedom

A new addiction class is forming in Winters called "A Time for Freedom," and Pastor Tommy Akin, of the Pioneer Church of God in Winters will be overseeing the program which will provide addiction education to addicts, family and loved ones. The meetings will be held at 7 p.m. every Thursday at the Pioneer Church of God at 158 North Main St. in Winters. For more information call 903-474-4740.

Visit Friendly Neighbors

The Texas Extension Education Agency "Friendly Neighbors" invites everybody in the Runnels County area who is interested in learning about cooking, gardening, arts and crafts and other useful subjects to meetings at 2 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of every month (except during the summer). Meetings will alternate between the Runnels County Extension Office on the corner of south 7th Street and Sealy Ave. in Ballinger and the Winters Public Library at 120 N. Main St. in Winters. If you are interested and would like to find out more about this group, call Martha at 365-3890 or Judy at 754-5386.

QUANAH PARKER

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Growing Organics? FSA Can Help

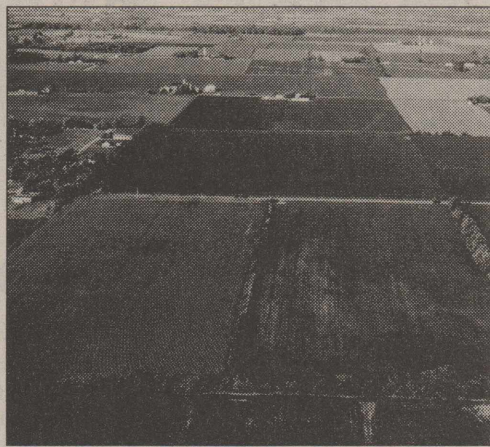
BY VAL DOLCINI

The strength of the rural economy rests upon growing, making and creating products that people want to eat, buy and use. Over the past seven years, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack has worked to enhance the range of products made in rural America, and to expand the domestic and international markets for those products. These changes strengthen traditional agriculture, be it promoting biofuels or bio-based products, improving animal genetics or even developing more plant varieties.

Another example is the growing retail market for organic products, which in 2015 was valued at \$39.1 billion by the Organic Trade Association. Many organic farmers and ranchers receive premium prices for organic products by following USDA-defined standards that cover the production and handling of certified organic products from farm to market.

For farmers and ranchers growing organics, the USDA Farm Service Agency offers several programs that can help. We recently announced that we'll be providing financial assistance to organic producers to establish up to 20,000 acres of conservation buffer zones, which are protective natural borders along fields that produce organic crops. Through our Conservation Reserve Program, funds can be used to establish shrubs and trees, or support pollinating species that can be planted in blocks or strips, helping to improve soil and water quality while also providing more wildlife habitat. Interested organic producers can offer eligible land for enrollment in the program at any time.

FSA also provides risk protection for organic crop losses due to natural disasters. Our Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program can cover 55 to 100 percent of the average market price for organic crop losses of 50 to 65 percent of expected production due to a natural disaster. New farmers and traditionally



underserved or limited resource farmers are eligible for free catastrophic coverage and discounted premiums on higher coverage.

We offer several different types of low-interest financing as well, from traditional loans to help with operating costs, or to purchase farmland, and a microloan option with a streamlined application process. We also provide loans that can be used to build or upgrade storage for organic commodities, including cold storage, grain bins, bulk tanks and drying and handling equipment.

We even offer services such as mapping farm and field boundaries and reporting organic acreage that can be provided to a farm's organic certifier or crop insurance agent.

As American agriculture keeps moving forward, FSA is working to make unprecedented investments in every farmer and rancher so that the rural economy becomes stronger than we've ever known. To learn more about these FSA programs, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/organic or visit a local FSA office. To find your local office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>. And to learn more about other USDA programs that can help organic producers, visit www.usda.gov/organic.

Val Dolcini is Administrator of USDA's Farm Service Agency.

TEXAS HISTORY MINUTE

The Greer County land dispute

Texas is an immense landscape, and the land seems to stretch on forever. The question of the Texas border has resulted in many disputes. One infamous land dispute in the late 1800s resulted in a piece of Texas called Greer County becoming a part of Oklahoma.

The dispute arose over a portion of a fork in the Red River. On the border of what is now Wilbarger County, the Red River forks into two distinct rivers. One fork, called at one time the South Fork and now often referred to as the Prairie Dog Town Fork, continues westerly into the Panhandle. Another fork, called the North Fork, goes straight northward from the main branch of the Red River before curving back westward and into the Panhandle along what is now Interstate 40.

In 1819, the United States signed the Adams-Onís Treaty with Spain, which set portions of the Texas border at the Red River. Years after Texas gained its independence from Mexico and then joined the Union, it claimed the North Fork of the Red River as part of its boundary with the 100th Meridian marking the eastern edge of the Panhandle. The areas to the north of the Red River were set aside as the Indian Territory, lands reserved for Native American tribes.

A series of surveys were completed by the federal government in the 1850s to further define the border. As the surveys were completed, Texas officials moved to secure their claim by organizing the entire region between the North Fork of the Red River and the 100th Meridian as Greer County.

The county was named for veteran Texas politician John Alexander Greer. Greer had a respected career that included serving as the last Secretary of the Treasury of the Republic of Texas under President Anson Jones in 1845 and later served as the second lieutenant governor of Texas from 1847 to 1851. He died in 1855. The Texas Legislature named the county in his honor in February 1860. After the interruptions of the Civil



Dr. Ken Bridges

War and Reconstruction, settlement in the area picked up steadily in the 1880s. In 1879, when Congress created a new federal judicial district for North Texas, Greer County was included rather than being pushed into the Indian Territory. By 1886, the town of Mangum was established as the county seat, with schools and ranches being established across the area.

After the Indian Territory was opened to settlement and Native American claims stripped away, the federal government took interest in Greer County. Where Texas had claimed the North Fork as the border, the federal government claimed the South Fork as the border, putting Greer County in the newly rechristened Oklahoma Territory. A protracted legal fight erupted. In 1895, the Supreme Court heard testimony from both sides but ruled that the southern fork was the real boundary, ruling in United States v. Texas in 1896. Congress formalized the ruling later that year, giving Oklahoma full rights to Greer County.

Since Oklahoma was admitted as a state in 1907, Greer County was subdivided into four counties: Greer, Beckham, Jackson, and Harmon. The area today is thinly populated, and the economy is mostly devoted to ranching.

Border disputes between Texas and Oklahoma continued for more than a century. By 2000, Texas and Oklahoma agreed to a formal river boundary at the vegetation line on the south bank of the Red River and Prairie Dog Town Fork of the Red River. The fight over Greer County proved to be just one of many battles that Texas and Oklahoma had to face with each other.

WINTERS ISD MENUS MARCH 25 TO 31

Breakfast

March 28
Biscuit & Sausage w/ Gravy
Pop Tart
Cereal w/ Grahams
Pineapple
Fruit Juice
Choice of Milk

March 29
Breakfast Pizza
Cereal w/ Grahams
Grapes
Fruit Juice
Choice of Milk

March 30
Sausage Roll
Cereal w/ Grahams
Orange Slices
Fruit Juice
Choice of Milk

March 31
Pancakes w/ Bacon
Cereal w/ Grahams
Tropical Fruit
Fruit Juice
Choice of Milk

Lunch

March 25
Student holiday

March 28
Chef Salad
Spaghetti/Toast
Chicken/Bun
Italian Green Beans
Salad/Carrot Sticks
Mixed Fruit
Choice of Milk

March 29
Chef Salad
Bean & Cheese Chalupa

Chicken Fajita
Corn
Salad/Carrot Sticks
Apple
Choice of Milk

March 30
Chef Salad
Steak Fingers
Popcorn Chicken
Cinnamon Grahams
Mashed Potatoes/Gravy
Salad/Broccoli
Peaches
Choice of Milk

March 31
Chef Salad
Mac n Cheese
Chicken Tenders
Peas & Carrots
Black Eyed Peas
Salad/Carrot Sticks
Fruit Cup
Raisins
Choice of Milk

COMMUNITY NEWS

Runnels County Alzheimer's Support Group

The monthly Runnels County Alzheimer's Support Group will be held at Central Texas Nursing and Rehabilitation Center from 6:30-7:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month from. All concerned citizens are invited to share in discussion and education about the disease process and caregiver perspective. There is no charge for this public service sponsored by the National Alzheimer's Association.

Sobriety First AA Group

Sobriety First Alcoholics Anonymous group will meet at the First United Methodist Church, in Ballinger, at 7 p.m. every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. The group will meet Saturday with prior arrangements. Please use the Avenue A and Seventh Street entrance. Child care is available. For more information please contact the church at 325-365-2323.

Art Show coming

The Spring Festival Art Show will be held in conjunction with this year's Rock Hotel Spring Festival. This exhibit will feature works from various local and area artists to include paintings, photography, and ceramics. Many of these works will be for sale, with a portion of the proceeds to benefit the Rock Hotel. In addition, several pieces of local artwork will be made available for viewing from private collections. Also featured is a collection of works by artist J.M. Bulsterbaum, who lived in

Winters in the last century, and was an artist for the circus. His works that will be on display date from 1919, and are part of the permanent collection of the museum. The wide

variety of works should provide something for everyone. For more information, or to participate, please contact Shirley or Susan Minzenmayer at 325-754-4216.

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Judy Zuspahn, PA-C • Tami Halfmann, RN, FNP-C

Scholarships available to Winters students

STAFF REPORT

A scholarship opportunity for Winters students and the Winters Community has been established by the Winters Area Foundation. Several scholarships that provide education assistance for local youth have been determined.

The Winters Area Foundation Scholarship has been in existence for almost 10 years. Scholarship funds have been raised through the annual membership drive for the Foundation.

The Pearl Jackson Scholarship is a long-established scholarship for Winters

students. That scholarship has now been placed under the administration of the Winters Area Foundation and the Community Foundation of Abilene. This allows total compliance with tax laws and the requirements of scholarship disbursement.

The Floy Hodge Scholarship is similar to the Pearl Jackson in that it is a long-standing scholarship in this community. Now it is under the guidance of the Foundation and will continue for many

SEE SCHOLARSHIPS, Page 5

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

"Send Money"

Across

- 1 Skatepark feature
- 5 Buddy
- 9 Profundity
- 14 vera
- 15 Nozzle site
- 16 "Aren't we ___?"
- 17 Out-of-focus picture
- 18 "___ your pardon"
- 19 Actress Zellweger
- 20 March Madness failure
- 23 Intense rage
- 24 Certain intersection
- 25 John ___ Passos
- 26 Close relative
- 28 Elon Musk's company
- 30 Cows and sows
- 32 Jemima, e.g.
- 33 Fingers
- 35 ABA mem.
- 36 Physical location
- 37 Eschewed tradition
- 42 Gutter holder
- 43 "___ had it"
- 44 Bit of binary code
- 45 Genesis garden
- 46 Bud holder
- 48 Begin
- 52 Knight's title
- 53 Perfect rating
- 54 Formerly
- 56 Domingo, for one
- 57 Diner food preparer
- 61 Habitual practice
- 62 Obscure
- 63 Penny ___
- 64 Penny, nickel, dime, etc.
- 65 "If only ___ known..."
- 66 In ___ of

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15				16				
17				18				19				
20				21				22				
23				24				25			26	27
28			29			30	31			32		
			33			34		35			36	
37	38	39				40				41		
42						43			44			
45						46		47	48	49	50	51
52						53			54	55		56
			57	58				59			60	
61								62			63	
64								65			66	
67								68			69	

Down

- 1 Bugs Bunny, e.g.
- 2 Magnetism
- 3 Cursor movers
- 4 Bold and saucy
- 5 Upbraid
- 6 "Calvin & ___"
- 7 Exploitative type
- 8 Classic L.A. metal band
- 9 Some laundry loads
- 10 Fencer's blade
- 11 Hilary's outfit
- 12 Connects with
- 13 Charlemagne's realm: Abbr.
- 21 Give the slip
- 22 Sam's Club rival
- 27 Kind of cell
- 29 Equate
- 31 Abominates
- 32 Black ink item
- 34 Nervous excitement
- 37 Honey makers
- 38 Big name in hotels
- 39 Like tennis serves
- 40 Tennis star Ana
- 41 Indy racer AI
- 47 Salad leaf
- 49 Hunk
- 50 Water cannon target
- 51 Begin
- 53 Deuce beaters
- 55 Caught congers
- 58 Arch molding
- 59 Start again
- 60 Waveless
- 61 Actress Thurman

LAST WEEK'S ANSWER GRID

T	E	D	A	B	R	U	P	T	S	W	I	G		
W	A	R	N	A	U	S	E	A	K	O	N	A		
I	V	Y	G	R	E	E	N	O	N	I	O	N	S	
T	E	C	H	T	D	S			O	W	L	S		
		L	I	S	A			A	I	D	E			
G	R	E	E	N	B	E	A	N	S	A	R	T	S	
L	H	A	S	A		N	I	N	E		R	E	A	P
E	I	N		P	U	G	S	L	E	Y		A	L	E
A	N	E	W		R	I	L	E		O	L	L	I	E
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Weather Whys

Q: It seems like Texas always has some parts of the state that get snow this time of year. When is usually the last snowfall in Texas?

A: Snow can fall in Texas later than you think, says Brent McRoberts of Texas A&M University. The Amarillo area has received about 5 inches of snow several times in the month of May. "The latest snowfall in Texas is believed to have occurred May 6-7 in 1917," McRoberts explains. "That's when over 9 inches of snow fell in the Amarillo and Panhandle areas. The two longest snow seasons have occurred in recent years. The longest was from Sept. 29, 1984, to March 30, 1985, a 183-day period. The most recent one lasted from Nov. 2, 2004 to May 2, 2005, a 182-day period."

ROLL-UP

Runnels County

4 Winters Enterprise

Thursday, March 24, 2016

Runnels County Jail Record

March 24, 2016

Name	Age	Agency
Darrell L. Mass	60	BPD
	D.W.I.	
Jason P. Munsey	47	Coke
	Possession of a controlled substance	
Xavier Rodriguez	23	BPD
	Public intoxication	
Raymond Aleman	43	RCSO
	Felony retaliation, parole violation	
Shaylon L. Nestell	25	Coleman
	Possession of a controlled substance <1g	
Kerby C. Anderson	30	Coleman
	Possession of controlled substance <1g, Parole violation-possession of controlled substance	
Jerrie L. King	23	Coleman
	Prohibited substance/item facility	
Joseph Rhodes	32	Coke
	MTR-violation protective order, MTR- assault causes bodily injury	
Robert McCants	46	Concho
	Warrant-Striking a fixture	
Jennifer Tankersley	36	Concho
	Warrant-17=1G<4G, Possession of controlled substance	
Roberto Corcea	51	BPD
	Theft Class A	
Cristal E. Stewart	36	BPD
	D.W.I. with child	

VETERANS CORNER



Sandra G. Van Zant

The VA recently confirmed that it failed to contact tens of thousands of the more than 800,000 veterans who have applications for health care pending, nearly 300,000 of whom died before getting a resolution. VA is required by law to notify veterans of incomplete applications, but could not verify that this had been done in the cases of 545,000 living veterans and 288,000 deceased veterans with pending claims. It remains unclear whether the veterans and their families will qualify for compensation. The findings are from the VA report that concurs with an Office of Inspector General (OIG) report released more than six months ago. Scott Davis, a VA program manager and the whistleblower who first reported the problem of pending applications, said most of them were erroneously marked as incomplete because they called for an income test or were missing a military service record called DD214, which the VA specifically told applicants not to include. "When we've done reviews before, we have found that a high (number) of these incompletes were because of mistakes made by the VA, not the veteran," said Davis, who was assigned to the enrollment office with an inside view of the process. Davis urged the VA to enroll veterans on the pend-

ing list who qualify and said the department is delaying because it could be forced to pay hundreds of millions of dollars in compensation to veterans who were wrongly deprived of care. "It's not because it can't work, it's because they don't want it to because it's going to cost a lot of money," Davis said. "Whistleblowers have been complaining about this issue and others at the department's Health Eligibility Center for years, and at (the committee's) request, VA's inspector general confirmed a huge backlog of pending health care applications in September of 2015." In response, the VA issued a statement indicating it will "extend the healthcare enrollment application for one year" to 545,000 veterans who have applied for VA health care to allow time for VA to contact them and for the veterans to furnish the required information. By law, the VA must notify applicants with incomplete applications, and if the veteran receives the notice but does not provide the information, the department closes the request. In the past, the VA has not tracked the status or timing of applications, resulting in an applications backlog. If you are notified of an incomplete application, come and let me help you. For more information, contact Sandra at the Veterans Service Office at 602 Strong Ave. on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., or call 365-3612.

— Sandra G. Van Zant, Veterans County Service Officer

Jones named TxDOT district engineer

STAFF REPORT

SAN ANGELO - Mark Jones became the new San Angelo District Engineer effective March 14, 2016. Mark has devoted over 25 years to transportation engineering in the public and private sectors. His TxDOT career began in 1992 in the Construction Division and he transferred to the Austin District in 1996. He left TxDOT in 1999 to work in the private sector where he assisted in the acceler-

ated planning and development of over 24 miles of toll roads through central Texas.

In 2004, Jones rejoined TxDOT as the Georgetown assistant area engineer and later as area engineer, managing the first pass-through toll program in Williamson County. He became director of construction for the Waco District in 2015.

Jones earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from New Mexico State University.



Mark Jones

across both rural and urban communities and maintain

"This region of our state is very dynamic when it comes to transportation," Mark said. "We reach out

over 150 miles of interstate highway. Connecting communities, supporting economic growth and providing a safe system will certainly be a challenge," he added.

The San Angelo district covers 15 counties: Coke, Concho, Crockett, Edwards, Glasscock, Irion, Kimble, Menard, Reagan, Real, Runnels, Schleicher, Sterling, Sutton and Tom Green and has over 7,000 miles of roadway infrastructure.

Taylor County Vet Center Open House Friday

STAFF REPORT

The Department of Veterans Affairs Taylor County Vet Center in Abilene will host an Open House from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Friday at 3564 N. 6th Street in Abilene. The Taylor County Vet Center has offered services to Veterans since 2009. It officially opened its doors and was relocated to its present location in 2013.

Located separately from the VA hospital, Vet Centers provide readjustment services to Veterans who have served in a combat theater without an appointment through the traditional VA system. These services include individual, group, marriage and family counseling, as well as treatment for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), bereavement, and Military Sexual Trauma

(MST).

The Mobile Vet Center (MVC) from Abilene, Texas, will also be on-site for tours and information. The MVC is a 38 foot community outreach vehicle equipped with two confidential offices where Vet Center counselors can meet with Veterans and family members. VA operates 80 Mobile Vet Centers nationwide to enhance direct service delivery.

The Taylor County Vet Center (Abilene) is approximately 4,500 square feet including two group rooms and six offices that can be used for readjustment counseling. The center has a well-trained core staff comprised of therapists, program administrators, an outreach specialist, and an MVC driver, many of whom have served in the military

and some of whom are combat veterans themselves. The center is open Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with extended evening hours Tuesdays - Thursdays. The center also accommodates weekend appointments for veterans.

Established in 1979, the Department of Veterans Affairs Vet Center program operates a system of 300 community based Vet Centers nationwide, and each Vet Center provides services to several counties. With a Veteran population of 26,651 in its service area, the Taylor County Vet Center (Abilene) service area includes Taylor, Brown, Eastland, Jones, Scurry, Nolan, Callahan, Coleman, Fisher, Haskell, Knox, Runnels, Shackelford, Stephens, Stonewall, and Throckmorton counties. All honorably discharged veterans who served in combat theatres and veterans who have been exposed to Military Sexual Trauma are eligible for care at a VA Vet Center at no cost, as are their families who are impacted by the veteran's readjustment difficulties.

GOT NEWS

We welcome your news items and photos to include in the upcoming edition of **The Ballinger Ledger** or **Winters Enterprise**

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By email: chawkins@ballingerledger.com

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Winters Enterprise

All submissions to the Ballinger Ledger or Winters Enterprise must be typed and emailed to the editor. Handwritten submissions will no longer be accepted.

The word count for letters to the editor is no more than 350 words, for guest columns it is 650 words. Lengths for other submissions will be determined by the content.

Please email all submissions to chawkins@ballingerledger.com or if you have questions, call 325-365-3501.

Show your Texas pride



STAFF REPORT

AUSTIN—March marks anniversaries for some of the most monumental events in Texas history. With the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) I am Texas History Contest, you can show your Texas pride and make your own mark on Texas history.

To enter, take a selfie with an Official State of Texas Histori-

cal Marker. Post the photo to a public Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram account with the hashtag #iamtexashistory. Explain in the caption why you chose the marker, and like or follow one of the THC's social media networks.

Participants who submit a photo will be entered into a drawing to win tickets or a prize package from a museum or historic site related to the

Texas Revolution. Random drawings will be conducted on March 28 and April 1.

Submissions must be received by midnight March 31. Multiple submissions are allowed, but each person will only be entered into the drawings once. The winner will be contacted via comment or reply on their photo and will have 48 hours to respond with receipt of confirmation.

With more than 16,000 historical markers in the state, there are ample photo opportunities across Texas. To find one, use the THC's atlas map or search for topics by keyword on the Texas Historic Sites Atlas online at www.atlas.thc.state.tx.us. For more information on prize packages and complete contest guidelines, visit the THC's website at www.thc.state.tx.us/texas-history-contest.

The Market Perspective

Oil prices boost stock prices

A dozen oil and natural gas companies have opted to cut dividends this year to preserve cash, cannibalizing payouts considered sacrosanct by many investors.

— Oil Investors Losing Billions, Bloomberg News

Energy Slump Generates Bear Glut

— Wall Street Journal, Friday, March 18, 2016



Dennis Elam

It appears the first move up is ending. This should bring a correction or pull-back in price. That would be followed by another move up.

Heating oil has not quite topped yet but could do so this next week. Crude oil is still climbing but all three are over done and it is a bit late to be piling into the long side for a short-term gain at this point.

And in the more good news department, natural gas has been rallying since March 7. Futures have moved from \$1.60 to \$1.93. I suspect that constitutes a bottom as several commodities are all moving in lock step. Copper bottomed in January at \$1.95 and is now \$2.29. Palladium has moved from \$460 to \$593.25 since January.

And there are other factors, which suggest the low is in. Most emerging markets like Africa or the Philippines depend on commodity exports for GDP growth. Currencies of emerging market countries as well as their stock prices are surging. This is yet another indication of a low in commodity prices.

The Transport Index is rallying while this seems counter-intuitive, both energy prices and the Transports have been

down since their highs in November 2014. Now they rally in tandem. Volume on the exchanges has been light in the US. And the seasonal high lies ahead around April 15.

It has been tough sledding for equipment suppliers. Caterpillar announced even worse than expected earnings forthcoming. But that was expected. After falling from \$105 in mid-2011, CAT has rallied from just over \$50 to \$75.90.

The ETFs of energy, XLE for producers and XES for service companies, have also rallied. But the weekly trends have yet to reverse.

We expect there will be more dividend cuts. Companies were too quick to lay off workers. My thinking is that it will be, as always, very difficult to convince new or previous workers to come back as things improve. Conventional wisdom is that this cannot last as higher prices will allow shale producers to over-produce again. But those same voices claimed the rally this last month could not possibly happen either.

As long as oil continues the rally, stocks are likely to do so as well. That may put our claim that we have entered a bear market in stocks in jeopardy. A lot depends on the action this next month. Most indexes are near or at resistance if in fact the rally ends here as we thought.

For now the oil prices are on boil and could easily come in for a rest from their recent tear to the upside.

Follow Dennis Elam at <http://www.themarketperspective.com>

Edward Jones Receives J.D. Power President's Award

SPECIAL TO THE BALLINGER LEDGER

Financial services firm Edward Jones was presented the prestigious J.D. Power President's Award recognizing its overall commitment to excellence in customer and financial advisor satisfaction, according to Larry M. Gilbert, financial advisor at the local Edward Jones branch.

The President's Award is presented periodically and recognizes individuals or companies demonstrating dedication, commitment and sustained improvement in serving customers. During the 40-year history of J.D. Power, only 11 companies have previously received the award. Edward Jones has ranked highest in the J.D. Power U.S. Full-Service Investor Satisfaction Study in six of the past 10 years and has ranked highest seven consecutive times in the J.D. Power U.S. Financial Advisor Satisfaction Study.

Finbar O'Neill, president of J.D. Power, presented the award via video to Jim Weddle, managing partner for Edward Jones, at the firm's headquarters in St. Louis, Mo.

"Being focused on the client experience is at the heart of the Edward Jones culture," said O'Neill. "We know that in your business a superior client experience goes hand-in-hand with providing superior support for the 13,000-plus financial advisors, and the branch office administrators that support them, who are the face of Edward Jones to your clients each and every day."

Providing the ideal client experience permeates throughout the firm, Weddle said.

"We are especially proud of this recognition because it is for our sustained, long-term commitment to deliver value to our clients," said Weddle. "This success is due to the efforts of our associates from the home office to our branch teams who are all focused on enhancing the client experience."

J.D. Power is known as the "Voice of the Customer" globally across multiple industries as diverse as automotive, insurance, health care, telecom and travel.

"The results Edward Jones has achieved in the J.D. Power studies — and more broadly in terms of client service excellence — don't just happen by accident," said O'Neill. "So we speak from experience when we say that the consistent excellence achieved by Edward Jones over the past decade is extremely rare for any company in any industry."

Edward Jones, a For-

tune 500 company, provides financial services for individual investors in the United States and, through its affiliate, in Canada. Every aspect of the firm's business, from the types of investment options offered to the location of branch offices, is designed to cater to individual investors in the communities in which they live and work. The firm's 14,000-plus financial advisors work directly with nearly 7 million clients. Edward Jones, which ranked No. 6 on FORTUNE magazine's 100 Best Companies to Work For in 2015, is headquartered in St. Louis. FORTUNE and Time Inc. are not affiliated with and do not endorse products or services of Edward Jones. The Edward Jones website is located at www.edwardjones.com, and its recruiting website is www.careers.edwardjones.com. Member SIPC.

The President's Award is not based on any client or financial advisor experience. Visit jdpower.com.

Yet we were right. Oil prices bottomed February 11 at \$26.21. Thursday saw Nymex crude close at \$40.20. It is up again this Friday morning as I write. We have patiently explained that oil is both an economic and financial good. Yes economics would have us believe that supply and demand ultimately determines prices. But it is social mood that moves the magic hand of the market.

And so short sellers, betting on lower prices, began buying back their contracts on February 11. To everyone ignoring this column the 50% rise in a month is amazing, but really it was all laid out right here.

So, what lies ahead?

SCHOLARSHIPS,

from Page 3

years to offer Winters students financial assistance.

The Eula Mae Kruse Scholarship has been granted many years and continues to be a popular fund for donations from classes and individuals who respected Mrs. Kruse as a teacher and friend.

The Bergman Family Scholarship is newly established and will be awarded for the first time next year. It will go toward students attending Texas Tech.

The Red Raider Scholarship is a recent project of the Winters Area Red Raiders. Alumni and supporters of Texas Tech have given to this fund and continue to seek donations as the fund moves toward endowment status. Last year and this year, two students will receive this scholarship.

The Winters Community Scholarship Fund is available for donors wishing to honor someone with a named scholarship, but do not anticipate having an endowed scholarship that will continue indefinitely. This scholarship is available for a donation of \$1,000. Currently a fund honoring Mary Louise Bauer is accepting contributions to reach that status.

Contributions to any of these funds are tax-deductible and will help local students in their college and univer-

sity endeavors. You may donate through the school or the Winters Area Foundation. For more information, contact Rhonda Neal at Winters ISD (754-5516) or Susan Conner, WAF Secretary at sconner@verizon.net.

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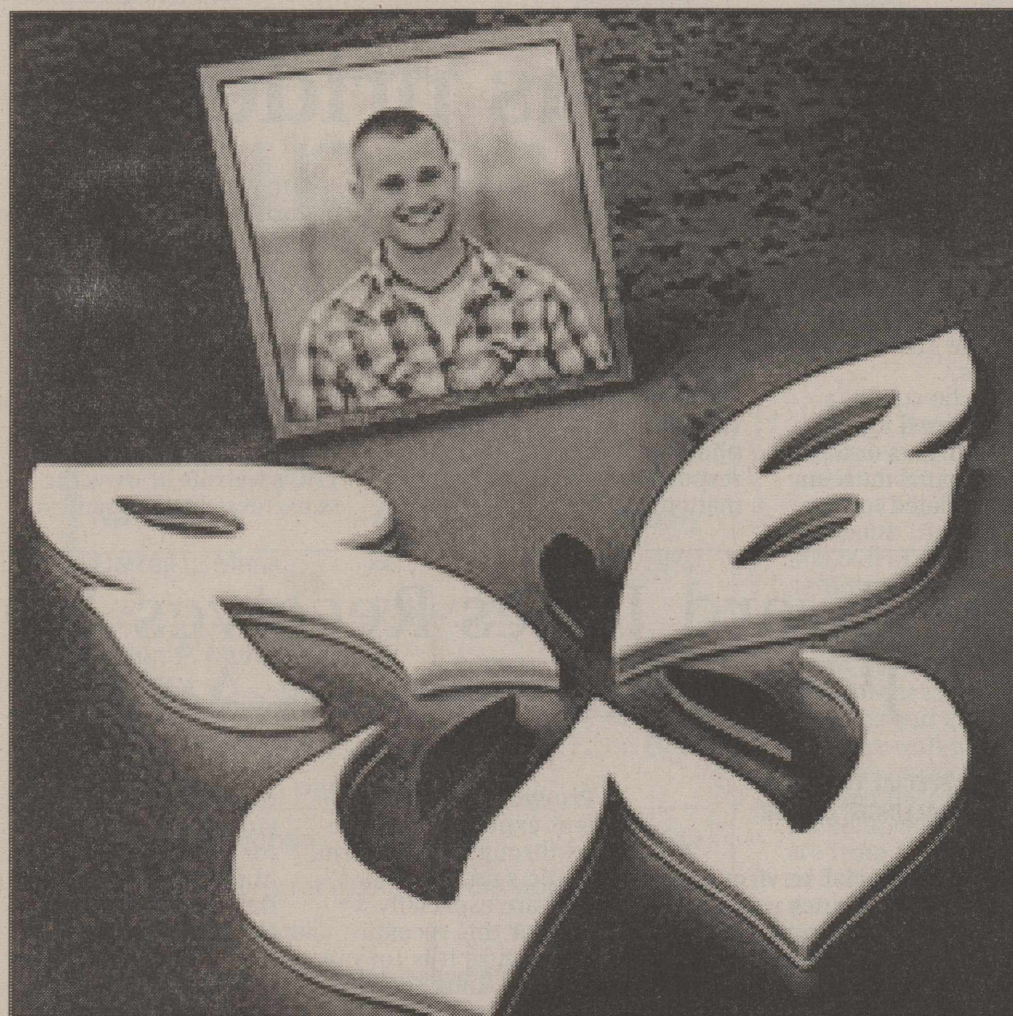
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CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

ABOVE: Wade White, who tragically lost his son Ryan in a car accident April 6, 2012, will bring Measured by Character, his crusade for teens to encourage character at 6 p.m. to the Farmers Barn in Miles Wednesday, March 30. The event is being offered to high school juniors and seniors from all over the area. He is pictured here following a program at Little Elm ISD in November of 2015. LEFT: Ryan White, son of Wade White, died in a tragic car accident on April 6, 2012. His father Wade White, developed Measured by Character in the aftermath of the accident.

CHARACTER,
from Page 1

Wade White of Denton following the tragic death of his 18 year old son Ryan B. White, who died in an automobile accident in Aubrey on Good Friday, April 6, 2012, just weeks away from his high school graduation. On the day of his service, 1,350 mourners attended the service, which was quite impressive for a town of only 1,800.

"The most powerful day on earth was the day that you were born and as you opened your eyes, you began to change the world,"

he tells the hundreds of students who have attended his programs, which he has put on all over the state.

Pastor Gary Karschner of First Methodist Church in Miles confirmed that the program was coming to Miles on Monday, and quickly began getting the word out to schools all across Runnels, Tom Green, Concho and Coke counties. He has invited students from Miles, Rowena, Ballinger, Winters, Wall, Bronte and Robert Lee to come to the event.

"We are so fortunate to be able to do this," Karschner said.

There will be hotdogs

served at 6 p.m. with the program to begin at 6:45 p.m. Ideal Food in Miles has donated the food and drinks and everything will be prepared by the Miles Lions Club.

According to a story in the Denton Record-Chronicle, in 2014, White created Measured by Character to share the message that everyone's life has purpose and meaning. He made his first presentation on April 6, the date his son passed away, at Restoration Church in Aubrey and followed it with another appearance a month later at Union Valley Baptist Church in Ada, Oklahoma.

White and his business

partner, John Patterson, are raising funds to help bring Measured by Character into schools as an interactive program for students. But he assured that message is universal and would work well in a secular form for the public school system.

"There was a Scripture in the Bible, 'Blessed are the broken-hearted, for they will see God,'" said White. "I've known that. But I know that now. I know it like the back of my hand. I've been broken into a thousand pieces, nothing to hold on to but the hem of his garment with my sanity."

Following Ryan's death,

the volume of people who shared with the White family how their lives were touched and impacted by Ryan's life, by his character, was so great that it brought an immeasurable amount of comfort to the family. It also brought an acute awareness to the fact that every single human being, no matter their age, makes an impression on others throughout their lives. Each and every one of us are truly Measured By our Character, and the impact our character has on others, is our legacy.

Measured by Character is a program that is real, it's raw, and it's

relevant. It grabs the student's attention right from the start and keeps them engaged throughout the entire program. The message tears down the invisible face mask that kids put up around them, and penetrates into their hearts and minds. It causes the students to truly look at their lives through different eyes, Wade White says.

The program is free and open to students and runs approximately one to one and a half hours.

For more information call Pastor Karschner at 325-234-6387 or visit www.measuredbycharacter.com.

MEETING,
from Page 1

- The auditor's report on system finances by Merritt, McLean & Hamby.
- A report on system's operations and concerns by the corporation manager Keith Martin.

■ The engineer's report on projects (Jacob & Martin, Ltd.)

Election auditor Bryan Webb oversee election results for directors and any other propositions voted on by the membership. Boles will formally announce the new directors and each will have the opportunity to address the membership.

Finally, Boles will offer the closing comments.

Following the adjournment of the meeting, the board will hold its first business meeting and appoint a Credentials Committee for the following year and designate directors who have the authority to sign checks on behalf of the NrWSC.

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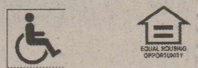
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Morrow #163- Cynthia Vara
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Special Notices

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SWCD POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

Runnels SWCD announces Poster Contest winners

STAFF REPORT

Each year, the Runnels Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) is proud to sponsor the Conservation Poster and Essay Contest for area students. The theme for the poster contest this year was "Local Heroes: Your Hardworking Pollinators." One hundred eighty-three posters were received from students in the Ballinger, Miles, and Winters school districts.

Ribbons were awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each grade level at each school district. Other deserving posters were given Honorable Mention ribbons. Posters from all the schools were combined and judged to select the overall area winners.

Cash awards of \$50, \$30, and \$20 respectively were presented by Runnels SWCD to the first, second and third place overall area winners.

The first place overall area poster winner, Shelby Santos from Winters ISD, will represent Runnels SWCD at the Area

Awards Banquet to be held on Thursday, March 31. Shelby will receive an engraved plaque signifying her accomplishments in conservation education. Her winning poster will be forwarded to compete in regional competition. Jo Ellen Baker is Shelby's teacher.

Second place overall poster winner was Jessa Battle from Ballinger. Jessa will be honored at the Area Awards Banquet and will receive an engraved plaque signifying her accomplishments in conservation education. Her winning poster will be forwarded to compete in regional competition. Jessa's third grade teacher is Linda Frerich.

Third place overall poster winner was C. J. Morena. C. J. is a third grader in Linda Frerich's class in Ballinger.

Runnels SWCD would like to thank the many administrators, teachers and students who helped make this year's poster contest educational and fun for all those who took part.



The Runnels County Soil and Water Conservation District recently held the annual poster contest with students in Ballinger, Winters and Miles participating. Fifth grade winners included (from left to right) Shelby Santos of Winters ISD, the first place overall winner, followed by Kira Collins, second place and Mary Ann Renfro, third place.



Fourth grade winners in the Runnels County SWCD Poster contest included (from left to right) Winnie Lin, first place, Jasmine Edwards, second place and Rylee Calcote, third place.



Third grade winners in the Runnels County SWCD Poster Contest included (from left to right) Baylie Bryant, first place, Addison Anderson, second place and Jaleena Ramero, third place all from Winters ISD.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



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ASU Business plan event

SAN ANGELO — The ASU-SBDC (Angelo State University Small Business Development Center) is excited to host the training event "How to Write Your Business Plan Part II: Focus on Financials", at 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 29 at no cost.

At this seminar, we will be focusing on the financial sections of your business plan. Your business plan financials can make or break a deal. You will learn how to

draft your own cash flow projections and review financial reports. We suggest taking this seminar following our "Narrative Business Plan seminar."

Please register in advance for this event so that we can provide adequate seating and handouts for everyone. To find out more about this program or to register please call the ASU-SBDC at (325) 942-2098 or register online at www.sbdc.angelo.edu.

Get ready for Ethnic Fest

STAFF REPORT

It's time to get ready for the 41st Texas State Festival of Ethnic Cultures April 23-24 sponsored by the Ballinger Area Chamber of Commerce. Applications are being accepted for arts and crafts vendors, food vendors, parade entries, Miss Ballinger and Junior Miss Ballinger contestants and entertainers.

The food booths and arts and crafts vendors will be set up from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday April 23 and from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The festivities get underway at 10 a.m. at the Runnels County Courthouse with the parade and entries are wanted.

There are openings arts and crafts vendors, non-profit food vendors and non-profit and for-profit Kids Corner vendors. Plus, entries are now wanted for Miss

Ballinger and Junior Miss Ballinger. Miss Ballinger contestants must be a Ballinger High School student enrolled at BHS and as a freshman, sophomore or junior. Junior Miss Ballinger Contestants must be Ballinger Junior High school students enrolled at BJHS as a 6th, 7th or 8th grader.

Organizers are also seeking entertainment for the festival, and a variety of ethnic and cultural entertainment is welcome.

There will also be a three-on-three basketball tournament Saturday afternoon. Contact Coach Michael Bacon at Ballinger High School to sign up for the tournament.

All other forms and applications are available at the Ballinger Area Chamber of Commerce Office at 700 Railroad Ave. or via email at ballingerareachamber@aol.com or on the website at www.ballinger-tx.com. For more information call 325-365-2333.

Tickets still available for WAF Dinner

STAFF REPORT

Tickets are still available for annual Winters Area Foundation dinner set for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at First Baptist Church in Winters.

Award winning magician Lonnie Chevrle will be back to delight the crowd. The WAF Dinner is sponsored by the Winters Area Foundation Future of Winters Club.

The theme of the evening is "Scholarships.... Supporting Our Youth." The WAF is now responsible for providing several scholarships and participants will have the opportunity to contribute. Another highlight of the evening will be awarding grants to local charitable organizations.

Those who wish to see the magic show and participate in WAF activities, are welcome to join the Future of Winters Club, which has been active in the community for the past 10 years. Membership is \$120 and will include dinner for two and a ring side seat for the magic show. The dinner features rib-eye steak and is catered by West Texas Rehab and Archie Jobe.

The dinner is casual dress. Tickets are available at Wheat Energy, Winters Area Business and Industrial Corp. and J & T Hardware, or by calling Susan Conner 754-5760.

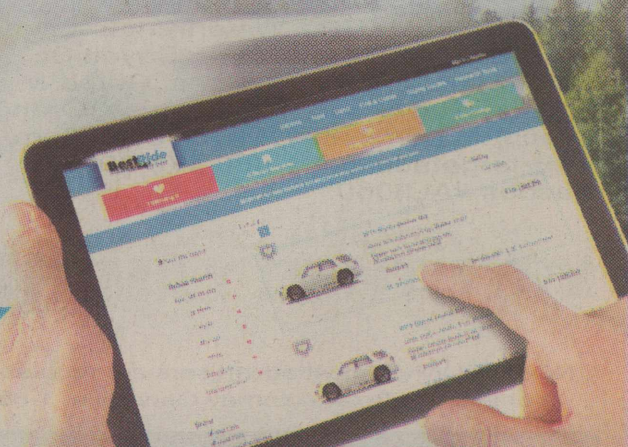
Tickets should be purchased or reserved before the event.



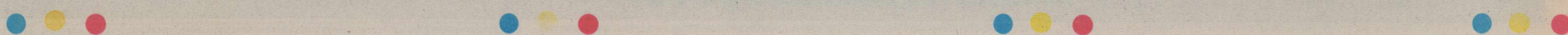
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MARCH 2016

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Spring turkey hunting prospects bright

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Snake watch: Texas home to few poisonous species

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Fishing in the high-tech age

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BROWNWOOD BULLETIN

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GLEN ROSE REPORTER

ASA state qualifier April 9-10

Brownwood Bowhunters Association sponsoring event, welcoming new members

BY DERRICK STUCKLY
BROWNWOOD BULLETIN

The Archery Shooters Association state qualifying tournament will be hosted April 9-10 by the Brownwood Bowhunters Association. At stake is a berth in the Texas ASA Federation State Championship at Cross Timbers Archery Club July 9-10, and the tournament is open to bow enthusiasts of all ages.

"ASA has been a growing organization in the archery sports for many years. It got its foothold in the southeast and it's continued to move westward," said Brownwood Bowhunters Association member Art Shannon, who also owns the Sportsmans Archery Center. "A gentleman by the name of Jimmy Mitchell, who's one of our members, brought national ASA to the state of Texas and it's continued to gain in popularity since then. Having our association here gives us the opportunity to bring new hunters and new archers into a sport that's based around friendship and sportsmanship."

As for the state qualifying tournament itself, Shannon said, "We have specific ranges and distances set up for those who are certified ASA members. What members have to do to qualify for state is shoot in at least two qualifiers. They have to be in the top percentile of the number of people entered. It's pretty easy to qualify, but at the state level the competition is pretty intense. But intensity has no bearing on the fun, it's fun no matter what. It doesn't matter if you're shooting on the local level, the state level or the national level."

The state qualifiers tournament is one of a number of activities provided by the BBA, which is currently holding a membership drive.

"Every year during the early part of the year, between January and March, we have a membership drive trying to

"Having our association here gives us the opportunity to bring new hunters and new archers into a sport that's based around friendship and sportsmanship."

— Art Shannon,
Brownwood Bowhunters Association

get in new members while reminding our old members it's time to renew their membership," Shannon said. "Last year we had in the neighborhood of 50. We fluctuate anywhere between 20 members per year and 50, it depends on how many re-up."

The BBA, which began in 1994, encourages all bow enthusiasts to join, regardless of their experience level.

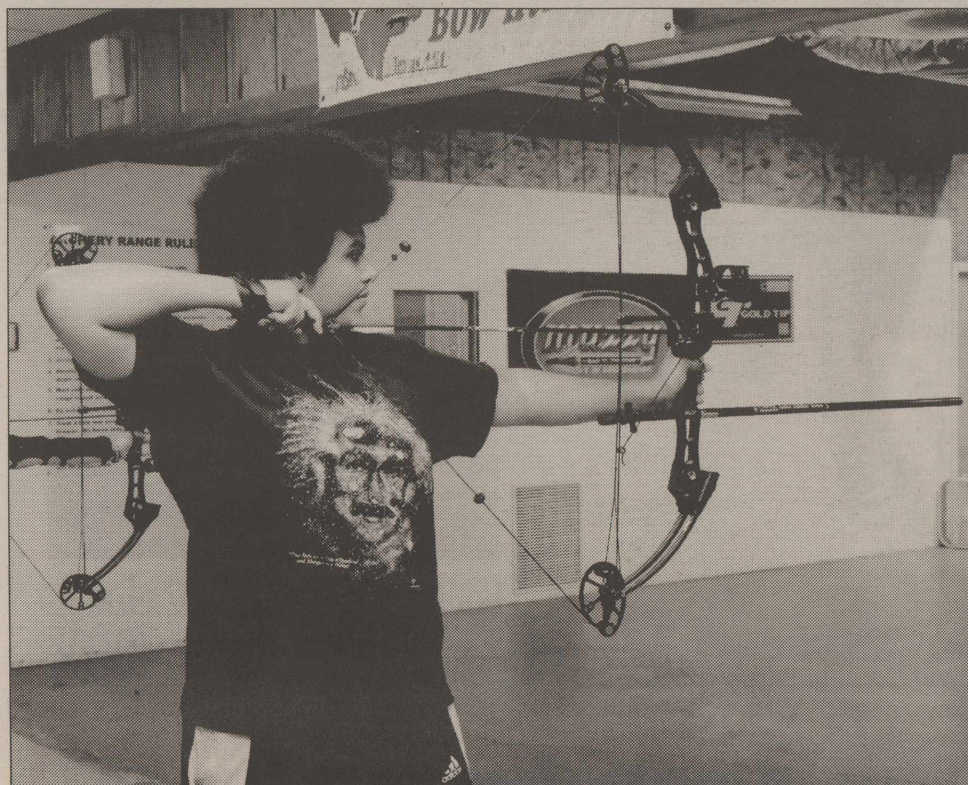
"All they have to do is shoot a bow a couple of times," Shannon said. "We all know that most sportsman, whether it be deer hunters, dove hunters, archers, fishermen, hikers or whatever, they're addicted to their sport. Archery combines a lot of enjoyment from the outdoors and it's a skill set you can use your entire life — from the time you're very young until you're physical incapable of pulling a bow back."

Along with honing a craft, competitions are often held both at the BBA range five miles south of Brownwood on FM 45 and the indoor range at the Sportsman Archery Center.

"We've had members in the past who have helped us organize weekend shoots," Shannon said. "Last year we didn't have anyone available to do that



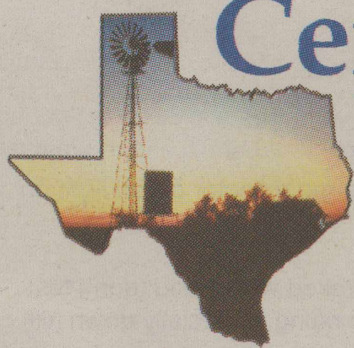
DERRICK STUCKLY | BULLETIN PHOTO
Elizabeth Miriles (above) and Cooper Blow (below) work on their archery skills at the indoor range at the Sportsmans Archery Center.





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Plenty of room for both

Cyclists and drivers can share road safely

BY MATTHEW R. HINMAN
mhinman@gatehousemedia.com

Spring and summer weather coupled with longer days make for more outdoor activities, and cycling is one of those sports that sees a major increase during these seasons. Road cycling in particular sees more activity, and central Texas is no stranger to the sport.

Sharing the road between cyclists and motorists has always been confusing for both riders and drivers in Texas. While Texas state law allows for both cyclists and motorists to occupy the roads, there are no provisions for vulnerable users like cyclists. How do cyclists and drivers get along?

Many cyclists will be the first to admit they do not use the roads properly. And that is often why many drivers get their ire up about cyclists using public roads. Sometimes, the driver is upset simply because they feel the cyclist does not have the right of road, when in reality they do.

I have included here a handy reference (see box on right). This will help both cyclists and drivers share the road safely. Since the cyclist is the vulnerable user of the road, it is vital that all safety precautions are taken. Of course, the final authority on the rules of the road is the state of Texas. The Transportation Code, in section 551, outlines what bicycles are permitted to do on roads and highways.

Here are a few safety precautions riders and motorists should take.

First, cyclists should invest in a good quality helmet and use it on every ride. In the event of an incident where the helmet is struck or damaged, retire it

immediately and replace it.

Second, road bikes should be equipped with lighting if at all possible. Frequently riders will use a red flashing light on the rear and a white flashing on the front. This will alert drivers on the road of the cyclist's presence. If you ride at dark times, steady lighting is very important, not only for visibility, but for your ability to see obstacles in your path.

Third, always check your gear and your bike before each ride for proper brake function, tire pressure, and lubrication. Keeping your road bike in good repair is important for safety, and its longevity. You likely invested a large amount of money in that bike, so keeping it up is important.

For drivers, it is strongly encouraged that you observe the "3 Foot Rule." That means giving the cyclist at least 3 feet of space when passing. Commercial vehicles should give 6 feet, and all vehicles should give more when traveling at higher speeds.

It should be noted that cyclists are also required to obey the rules of the road, stopping at traffic lights and obeying all traffic signs. Cyclists should also signal turns using commonly acceptable hand signals. They should also move as far to the right as is practically safe to allow faster traffic to pass.

Enjoying cycling this summer in Texas can be rewarding, too. Improving your fitness and health are a great benefit of cycling, but also the Texas country roads like farm-to-market and paved county roads make for scenic riding.

If you are in central Texas, a nice bicycle tour coming up is the H.O.T.

SEE CYCLISTS, 5



METRO CREATIVE PHOTO

The Heart of Texas Cyclists have weekly rides Tuesday and Wednesday starting at 6 p.m. starting at Allcorn Park on Indian Creek Road in Brownwood. Some Saturday morning rides are held at 8 a.m. at the same location.

Cycling 'Rules of the Road'

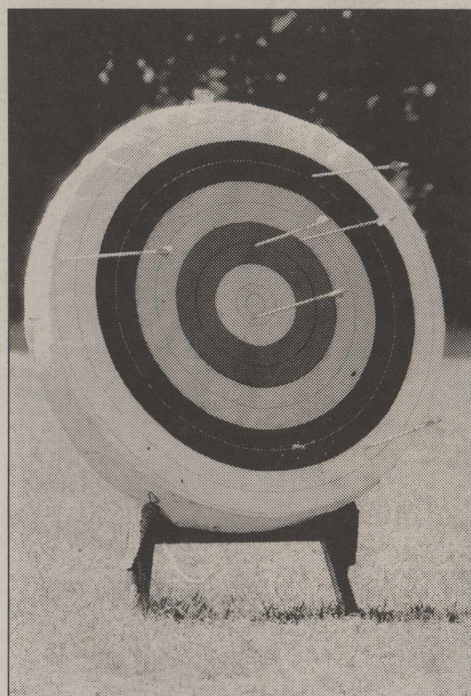
- Bicyclists have the rights and duties of other vehicle operators. Stop at stop signs and red lights, but cars are required to yield right-of-way to a bicycle when appropriate, just as to any other vehicle.
- Ride as near to the curb as possible and go in the same direction as other traffic. The law gives a cyclist the right to take the lane when necessary for safety.
- At least one hand on the handlebars.
- Use hand and arm signals.
- One rider per saddle.
- Must have a white light on the front and a red reflector or red light on the rear for night riding.
- Brakes must be capable of making the braked wheel skid (don't test front brakes to see if the wheel will skid while riding, especially down hill).

Source: BikeTexas.org

ARCHERY

CONTINUED FROM 2

so hopefully this year we pick up some new members who have the time, effort and energy to put forth so we're able to have at least a once a month club shoot.



METRO CREATIVE PHOTO

"At the indoor range, we offer league nights on Tuesday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. During the summer when ASA is going on we don't have a very big turnout because our archers are all out on the range practicing there. During the winter we have winter sports like indoor archery. The Texas Field Archery Association does some stuff with SYWAT — Shoot Your Way Across Texas — which is an indoor archery competition where you can go from city to city across the state and shoot for qualifications."

The Sportsmans Archery Center's 20-yard indoor range, which features 10 stations, is a luxury for Brownwood and the surrounding area.

"There are not a whole lot of indoor ranges in the state of Texas," Shannon said. "We're lucky enough to have the room, opportunity and facility to set up an indoor range. The next closest indoor range to us of any substance just opened in Abilene. For a town this size to have a range facility this expansive is pretty rare. And we stay pretty steady throughout the year. We offer daily shooting times. We also offer monthly, semi-yearly and yearly memberships."

For more information on the Brownwood Bowhunters Association, visit its Facebook page, call the Sportsmans Archery Center at 325-646-0266 or visit the website sportsmansarcherycenter.com.



METRO CREATIVE PHOTO

CYCLISTS

CONTINUED FROM 4

Cyclists 100K in Bangs on July 30. There are route distances of 35K, 60K, and 100K and offers some great country touring throughout western Brown and eastern Coleman counties. More information is available online at www.hotbikeride.com.

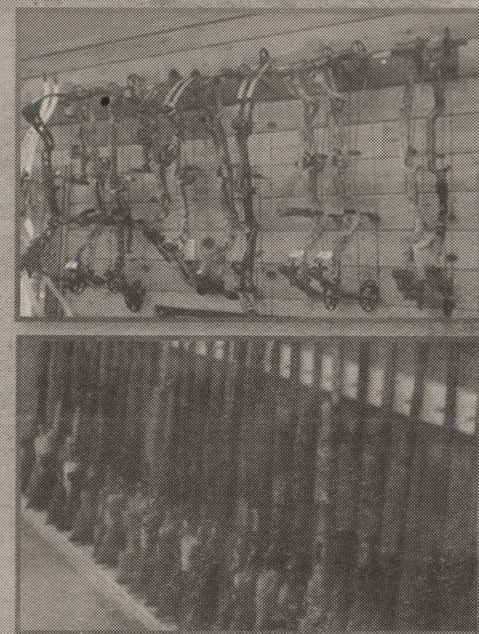
hotbikeride.com.

If you're within driving distance of Brownwood, the Heart of Texas Cyclists have weekly rides. Tuesday and Wednesday rides are 6 p.m. starting at Allcorn Park on Indian Creek road in Brownwood. Some Saturday morning rides are at 8 a.m. from the same location.

More information about weekly rides can be found at www.hotcyclists.com.

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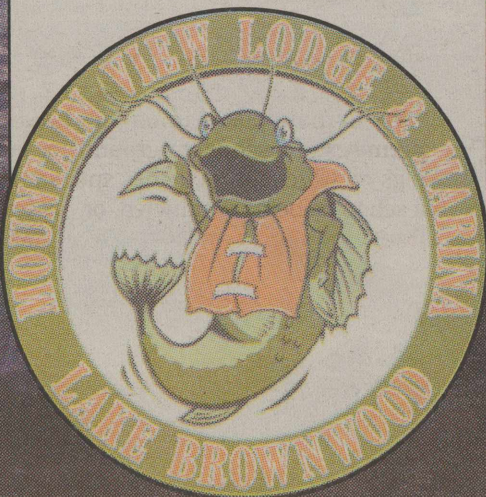
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Snake watch

Texas home to 115 species, few poisonous

BY JOSH HARVILLE
EMPIRE-TRIBUNE

Now that the weather is heating up, those legless reptiles will soon make a return to activity.

Texas, according to Texas Parks and Wildlife, has the greatest diversity and highest number of snakes in the U.S. with at least 115 different species and subspecies.

"They have already started to move and come out of their dens," Game Warden Zach Havens said. "The weather we've had — it's been warm and cold again — so they're out now but I haven't seen a large number yet. I usually start seeing the first rattlesnakes around mid April. I have seen some rat snakes."

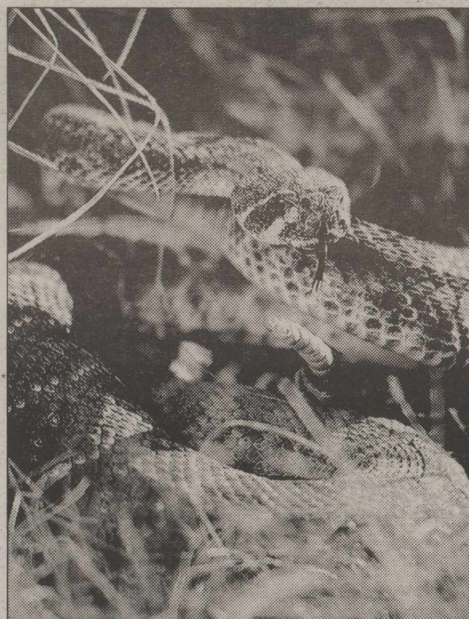
The Center for Disease Control and Prevention says that 7,000-8,000 people per year receive venomous bites in the United States, with about five of those resulting in death.

"Be aware where you step when you're out and about in the woods," Havens said. "Be cautious about where you put your hand when cleaning up brush or picking up old metal or tin. Take a little bit of time and educate yourselves on which snakes are poisonous and which ones are not."

Of the 115 different species of snakes, only a handful are poisonous: the copperhead, cottonmouth, rattlesnake (about seven different subspecies including the western diamondback rattlesnake), and the coral snake.

"In the county we do have western diamond back rattle snakes, we have quite a few copper heads, and we also have coral snakes and cottonmouths. The cottonmouth would be what people commonly call water moccasins. Those are the four native species that we have in Erath County," Havens said.

Common snakes are rat snakes or chicken snakes, these are the snakes that like to get in the hen house and eat eggs. They're black and get pretty large, 3-6 foot is pretty common.



TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE PHOTO
Only a handful of the 115 types of snakes known to inhabit Texas are poisonous.

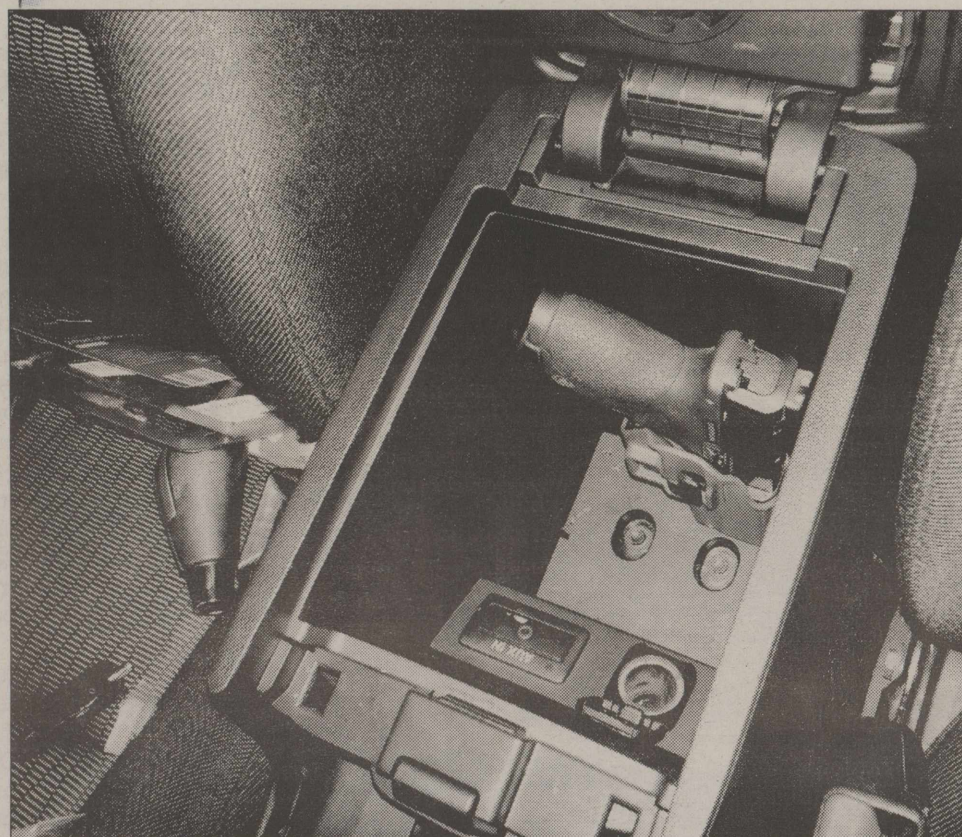
"They're non-poisonous, they may strike at you but they're not going to hurt you," he said. "We have some bull snakes around, they can be a little more aggressive if you corner them but they're not going to inflict serious damage. The two most common of the poisonous would be the rattlesnake and the copper head."

Though some snakes are poisonous and can be scary, it's best to first identify the snake (knowledge is power) and let it be, as most snakes are non-poisonous and do serve a purpose in their environment.

"Snakes have a purpose in their environments, they eat a lot of rodents," Havens said. "They have a useful purpose, especially if it's non-poisonous."

Remember, if you stumble across a snake and do decide to take capital action against it, a license is required to do so.

"A license is required to hunt or catch snakes," said Havens.



TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE PHOTO
Steel console holsters and vaults can fit inside your vehicle's existing console and be ordered through the respective automobile company.

When the sign says 'NO' — where's the gun go?

BY J. MICHAEL ROSS
JRoss@EmpireTribune.com

On Jan. 1, 2016 Texas expanded its existing "concealed carry" law to include "open carry." Handguns can now legally be carried by those with a license in a visible belt or shoulder holster.

Okay, understood. But where CAN'T you go with a gun in Texas in the first place?

At a public forum in Stephenville the week the new open carry law kicked in this January, Stephenville Police Chief Jason King answered questions from the audience, and explained that "open carry" doesn't mean you can just open carry wherever you want.

"Anywhere there's a sign that prohibits

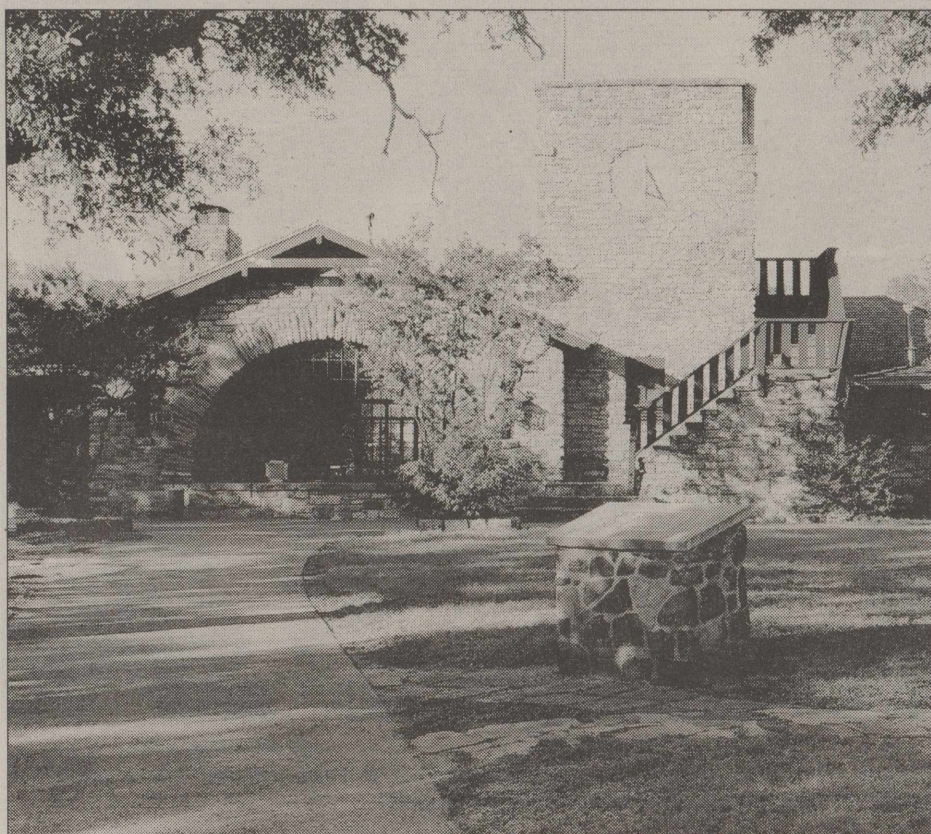
either concealed carry or open carry," King said. "If you see those signs, don't carry in those places or on the visible premises of a school or grounds or buildings on which any activities sponsored by a school is being conducted, or passenger transportation, in other words, a school bus."

Most Texas colleges and universities, as well as places of worship also prohibit firearm carry on their premises and post highly-visible signs that clearly state that.

Okay, now we know all that. So what if you're coming back from the firing range and openly carrying your gun in your truck or car — and you need or want to enter a building that prohibits firearms and has posted a sign to that effect?

SEE GUNS, 17

Spring into Texas State Parks with new mobile app



Lake Brownwood State Park

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

news@brownwoodbulletin.com

AUSTIN — Go from everyday to getaway this spring with the new Texas State Parks Official Guide mobile app. The app, which is available for download on the Apple App Store and Google Play, makes it easy for park enthusiasts to find their perfect park based on favorite activities, campsite requirements and trail preferences from the palm of their hand.

"We're excited to be able to offer this new and free tool to our customers" said TPWD Marketing Director Darcy Bontempo. "The app makes it easy for people to find the perfect state park getaway."

The mobile app gives visitors access to park descriptions, locations, facility maps, and other essential information from

anywhere. It also keeps users up-to-date on full or partial park closures caused by weather or other events, so visitors can keep their getaways happy and safe.

The new app features a filtered search that allows users to sort through the Texas State Park system by location, by facilities and by activities and amenities offered at any of the 95 state parks. Visitors can also create a custom list of their favorite parks, which is a fun way to keep track of the parks they frequent or hope to visit in the future.

Texas State Parks Official Guide Features

- Facilities and amenities for all 95 Texas State Parks
- In-app dialing to make reservations or contact a park
- Downloadable trail

maps for offline use

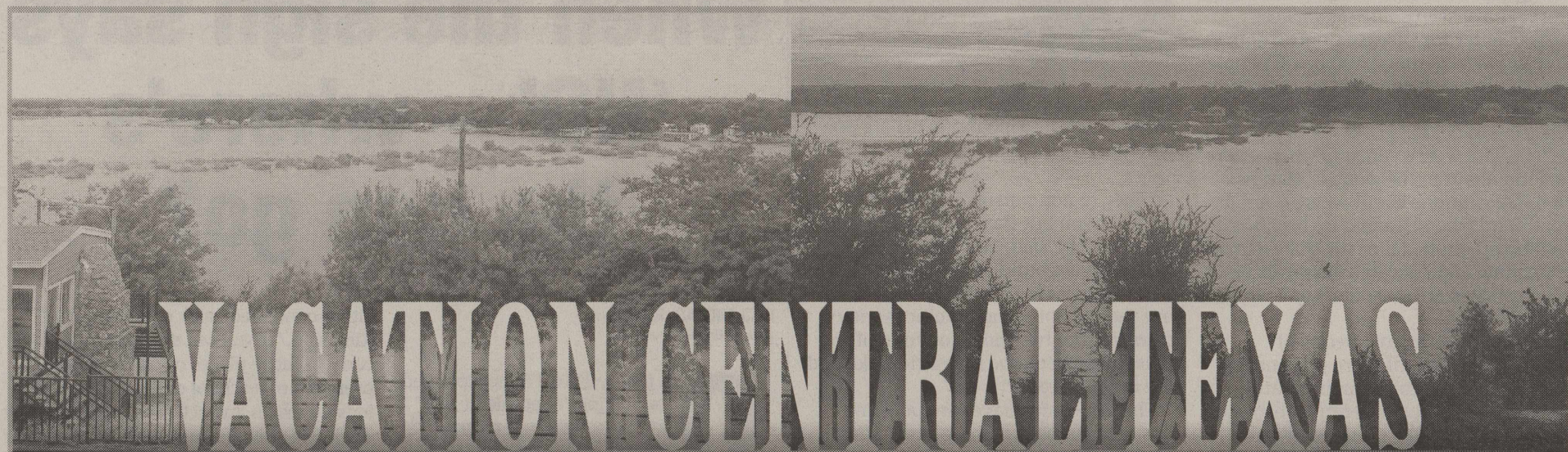
- Driving directions to parks from current location

- Photos and videos of parks

"Mobile devices are very much part of our lives these days and with this app, we can help enhance the park experience in more interactive ways," said Brent Leisure, Texas State Parks Director. "It brings the outdoor experience into the 21st century by making valuable state park information more accessible than ever before in a very user friendly and easy to use format."

Get more information about the Texas State Parks Official Guide, visit www.TexasStateParks.org/app.

This app was made possible, in part, by the support of Toyota and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation.



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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Brownwood Bass Club members are pictured at Lake Brownwood with the rods and reels they purchased for Toys for Kids.

Anglers of the Year recognized

Brownwood Bass Club reveals award winners

SPECIAL TO THE BULLETIN

The Brownwood Bass Club would like to update the community on recent happenings and results from this past year.

First, a banquet was held at the end of January to allow members and guest a chance to catch up with each other and recognize the previous year's award winners.

Ray Hanselman (an FLW Professional from Del Rio) was the guest speaker. Hanselman gave a short biography about himself and discussed several of his wins this year with club members.

Hanselman has four professional wins and has won over \$200,000 this year alone.

Brownwood Bass Club awards are as follows:

Angler of the Year Standings

- 1st: Robert Brown
- 2nd: Tully Hair
- 3rd: Andy Campbell
- 4th: Mark Doremus
- 5th: Cade Wilson
- 6th: David Markham
- 7th: Bruce Toeppich
- 8th: Joey Wynn
- 9th: Herschell Duncan
- 10th: Ronnie Charanza
- Lady Angler:** Jennetta Toeppich
- Junior Angler:** Case Markham
- Big Bass of the Year:** Tully Hair
- Individual Stringer:** Robert Brown
- Team Stringer:** Cade and David Wilson

The Brownwood Bass Club has also

SEE **BASS**, 17



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Brownwood Bass Club members pictured with Angler of the Year awards are (front row, from left) Tully Hair and Andy Campbell; (second row) David Markham, Ronnie Charanza, Robert Brown, and Cade Wilson and David Wilson.

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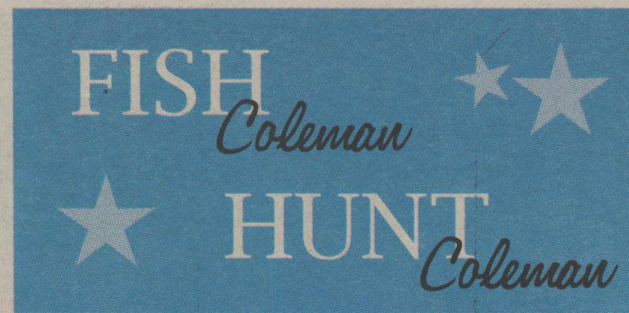
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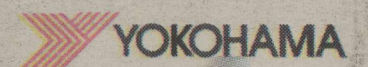


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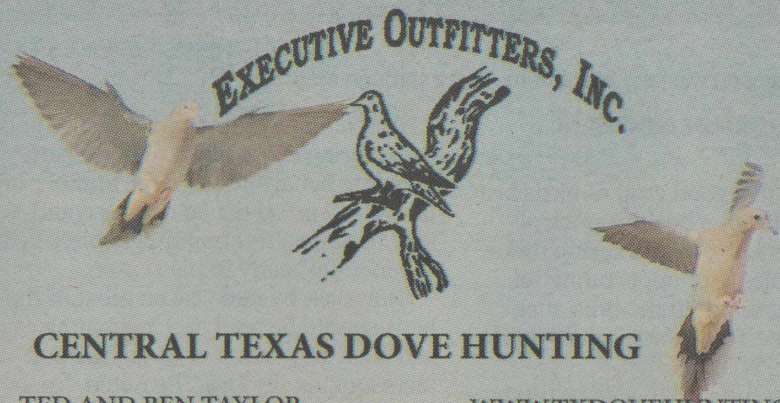
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Spring turkey hunting prospects bright

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE PHOTO

Spring turkey season will take place from April 2 through May 15.

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
news@brownwoodbulletin.com

AUSTIN - With a good crop of birds last year combined with a healthy stock of mature gobblers, this year's spring turkey season holds plenty of opportunity for hunters willing to put in the time afield, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD).

"I am looking forward to a great turkey season," said Jason Hardin, TPWD Upland Game Bird Program specialist. "This past spring and summer, Texas experienced one of our best hatches in years. Hunters can expect to see quite a few mature toms and a ton of jakes. These jakes will be great for introducing new hunters to turkey hunting and set the stage for the next two years of spring hunting."

The spring season for Rio Grande turkey in the South Zone runs March 19-May 1 and culminates with a youth-only weekend May 7-8. In the North Zone, the youth-only weekend seasons are March 26-27 and May 21-22. The North Zone general season opens April 2 and runs through May 15. A special one-gobbler limit season runs April 1-30 in Bastrop, Caldwell, Colorado, Fayette, Jackson, Lavaca, Lee, Matagorda, Milam, and Wharton counties.

Hardin notes that the mild winter and early spring should lead to some early breeding behavior. The large number of juvenile hens on the landscape could lead to quite a few mature gobblers being "henned-up" early in the season.

"However, by mid-season most of the hens should be bred and incubating eggs leaving a large number of mature gobblers looking for love," he noted. "Also, if conditions remain mild and if we get a few more timely rain events, Texas can expect another good year of nesting and populations growth."

As for eastern turkey prospects, heavy rains across the region could create challenges for hunters.

Eastern spring turkey hunting in the counties having an open season is April 15-May 14. All eastern turkeys must be reported to TPWD within 24 hours of harvest. Eastern turkey hunters will be required to report their harvested bird through the My Texas Hunt Harvest App or on the TPWD turkey page. Hunters can download the app or report their harvest directly on the TPWD turkey page at www.tpwd.texas.gov/turkey. The app is also available at Google Play or the App Store.

SEE TURKEY, 17

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TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE PHOTO

When Brent Chapman of Lake Quivira, Kan. fishes on the B.A.S.S. national circuit, he often is surrounded by high-tech electronics to show him where the fish are hiding.

Fishing in the high-tech age

BY BRENT FRAZEE
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The moment you step into Brent Chapman's boat, you feel as if you are in a floating computer room.

There are four Garmin high-tech electronic units humming, each set for a different function.

One is used to scan the water that lies ahead, giving Chapman a video-game-like look at the structure and even the fish's movement. Another gives him a high-detail look at what lies below.

Another function uses GPS, satellite technology, to chart a dotted-line course back to waypoints — places where he has caught fish before. And still another gives him a view of what lies to the side of his boat.

All of this in vivid, living color.

Welcome to the high-tech era of modern fishing. As major companies such as Garmin International race to come up with the latest technology, fish are running out of places to hide.

Never before have fishermen such as Chapman, a bass pro from Lake Quivira, Kan., been able to spy on the

underwater world as well as they can today. Some fishermen view this as an exciting new era. Others look at all of the new technology as an unfair advantage.

But regardless of your viewpoint, one thing remains clear: No one has figured out a way to get those fish to open their mouths.

"It's unbelievable how far technology has come since I started fishing," said Chapman, 44, who has been on the B.A.S.S. tour since 1994. "Years ago we had little flasher units and we thought that was pretty cool.

"Now companies like Garmin have come out with ways to chart your own lake, see what lies ahead of your boat, see the bottom in detail...

"You just wonder what they will come up with next. It's a fun time."

Carly Hysell, media-relations manager for Garmin, agrees.

"Everyone here calls it video-game fishing," she said. "With our Panoptix units, you can see the lure hit the water and you can see how the fish react to it.

"Some of the pros find it a little frustrating, though. It

shows that the bass are there; that they're at least fishing the right water. But sometimes, they'll try everything and they still can't get those fish to hit."

So how do these things work?

To understand the advances in high-tech fishing, you have to go back to the starting point.

Sonar — an acronym for Sound, Navigation and Ranging — has been used by different government and private entities for years to search the depths. Units rely on transducers, which emit sound waves into the water. Once that signal is broken by objects, it is shown on a screen. The harder the object, the stronger the signal.

That unit can show bottom contour, cover such as rocks, weeds and brush piles and, of course, fish.

Sonar came into the recreational fishing world in the late 1950s when Carl Lowrance of Joplin, Mo., and his sons, Darrell and Arlen, came out with the Little Green Box, the first portable fish finder. It featured a transducer that was dropped into the water and a battery-run box with a dial on it, showing signals of what lies below.

FISHING

CONTINUED FROM 13

It featured a strong signal showing the bottom and weaker signals for other objects that broke the cone-shaped field. If those signals weren't constant, it indicated that it was probably fish swimming around.

The first units were crude, but they started a trend where many fishermen moved away from the bank and toward midlake structure, which was a virtually untapped resource. As more fishermen found success, major companies used sonar and came out with more sophisticated electronics.

Fishermen have apparently taken the bait. With a wide range of price points, from several hundred dollars to more than \$2,000, there is seemingly something for every level of fishermen.

"These electronics have changed the way we fish," Chapman said. "If you fish in B.A.S.S., you have to have good electronics on your boat and know how to use them or you're going to be at a disadvantage."

The accuracy of modern electronics is often connected to midlake fishing. But even in shallow water, they can be a big help.

Edwin Evers of Talala, Okla., proved that when he won the prestigious Bassmaster Classic recently. He keyed on a shallow, log-filled flat in the Elk River off Grand Lake in Oklahoma. He used Lowrance's StructureScan 3D to pinpoint the location of many of those isolated logs and subtle dropoffs that he cast to.

With the side-scanning range and the clarity of the 3D picture, he picked up fish cover that he might not have otherwise known was there.

"I was fishing clear water and I didn't want to move too close to the logs and fish I found," Evers told *The Star*. "My StructureScan allowed me to scan up to 125 feet to either side and find those submerged logs and little changes in the bottom. That's where I caught the bass that won the Classic."

But the units aren't just for high-profile bass tournaments. Recreational fishermen who chase crappies, walleyes, catfish and white bass also are using electronics to find fish.

Chapman points to an experience when he and an uncle were fishing on Lake Quivira this winter. They spent a couple hours fishing brush piles with little success. Finally, Chapman noticed a faint signal of a big school of fish in the middle of a cove far ahead.

He followed those with fish with

his Panoptix until the signal became stronger. His other electronics showed that a large school of fish was hanging on the bottom, far from the brush. To make a long story short, Chapman and his uncle ended up catching 68 crappies in an hour.

Bill Carson, field marketing manager for Johnson Outdoors, of which Humminbird is a part, remembers the day he and others were doing a promotional video for one of the company's products call Smart Strike. He plugged in information such as the species he was seeking, the time of day, the season and the conditions. The unit offered him spots on the lake that would be well-suited for those conditions.

He headed to one of them and began trolling with an umbrella rig for stripers. With the camera rolling, he got a jolting strike and proceeded to pull in an 18-pound fish.

"We couldn't have planned that any better," Carson said with a laugh.

Not everyone is convinced that the high-tech wave that is engulfing fishing is a good idea.

In a Facebook post that was picked up and widely distributed by Jay Kumar's BassBlaster website, longtime pro Randy Blaukat said: "I don't think the current explosion in technology is a good thing for our sport. I say this because technology — and the need to keep up with it to compete even on a weekend level — is turning bass fishing, especially tournament fishing, into an elitist sport."

Blaukat called for tournament directors to control the amount of electronics fishermen can use.

"I think it is a huge injustice to our sport for tournament directors to allow an unlimited amount of electronics on a boat," he said. "For some anglers to be able to afford \$15,000 in electronics while some anglers can barely afford two very simple basic units creates an uneven playing field."

But like it or not, that appears to be the way the sport is headed. Representatives for electronics companies say they are working to come up with units that are suited for all price points. For example, major companies have some units that can be purchased for as low as a couple hundred dollars and as high as several thousand dollars.

"Our biggest challenge is teaching people to use these electronics," Carson said. "We estimate that 80 percent of the people who buy our units don't know how to fully utilize them."

"That's where our field staff and pro staff members come in. They have to educate the public, whether it be with short videos or social media."

AMERICAN HOGGER HARVESTS NINTH MOUNTAIN LION



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jerry Campbell of Early, star of the former A&E television series *American Hoggers*, harvested his ninth mountain lion recently in Wilcox, Ariz. while hunting with the Clump family. Richard and Marie Jordan of Brookesmith also made the trip.

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Citizen's Park Ranger Academy scheduled for April in Glen Rose

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
news@brownwoodbulletin.com

GLEN ROSE — Anyone who's ever wanted to be a park ranger or wondered about the inner workings of a Texas state park could consider enrolling in the third annual Citizen's Park Ranger Academy, offered this spring in North Texas by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Robert Enckhausen, a park police officer and superintendent of Dinosaur Valley State Park, says he sees the citizens academy as a way to help area residents and local business community members better understand their local state park and to garner greater park support. The classes will be taught by park staff.

"I consider this academy a gateway to building long-lasting partnerships," Enckhausen said. "Academy graduates should gain an in-depth appreciation of Dinosaur Valley, the state park's purpose and mission, and a greater understanding of the Texas State Park system."

Students will meet from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday from April 9 through April 30. Enrollees will split their time between Dinosaur Valley and Cleburne state parks. Students must be at least 15 years old to attend without a parent and be prepared to engage in physically demanding activities, such as lifting, hiking and crawling. Youngsters 13 to 15 years of age may attend with a parent.



TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE PHOTO

The Citizen's Park Ranger Academy will be held at Dinosaur Valley State Park in Glen Rose.

Participation in the academy is growing, with 15 individuals trained the first year and 21 trained the second year. Several participants have even volunteered or been hired at a state park after undergoing training in the academy.

One of the hires from the first year, Tony Smith, is now the office manager at Daingerfield State Park, where he assists with registration, collects fees and helps answer questions for park visitors. A new hire from last year's program, Brandi Heasley, is now a seasonal clerk at Meridian State Park just south of Dallas.

"The academy gave me a great deal of knowledge, skills and insight into the agency," said Heasley. "I made great contacts at CPRA and my love for this field grew greatly."

This year's Citizen's Park Ranger Academy features new segments on trail building and maintenance. Enrollees can also expect hands-on instruction on wildland

firefighting, park interpretation, search and rescue operations and law enforcement, according to Enckhausen. Participants will also alternate between Cleburne and Dinosaur Valley for interactive participation in expanded field operations with large equipment usage, an archeological session and a Dutch oven cook-off.

Participants must be physically and mentally prepared to walk, hike, crawl, dig, stand, jump, lift and perform other physically demanding tasks as part of the academy. Academy graduates will receive a certificate and T-shirt.

All activities will be led by park staff, and there is no cost to attend the academy. Class size is limited and registration should be completed by April 5.

To learn more about the Citizen's Park Ranger Academy and to enroll, contact Dinosaur Valley's Robert Enckhausen at 254-897-4588, ext. 222 or robert.enckhausen@tpwd.texas.gov.

GUNS

CONTINUED FROM 7

King said guns are among the most-stolen items in auto break-ins and are often used afterward to commit crimes. So how do you avoid that? What do you do with the gun while you're in that store, or church, or about to walk on a school or college campus?

One solution is a console vault. This is a heavy bank-grade steel vault that fits inside your truck's existing console. You can order by your truck's brand name, Ford, Chevy, Ram, and so forth. The vault is secured by existing bolts in your con-

sole and is completely invisible when the console is shut.

Don't have a console? No problem, you can also get a gun vault that opens like the console vault, but bolts to a solid metal surface such as the floor of your vehicle or trunk.

Alternatively, you can get a gun vault with a cable that you can attach to something solid in the trunk, such as the trunk-lid hinges or bolts.

There are a variety of safes and companies that make them. To take a look at what's available, or buy one, they're sold on eBay, at www.CorporateTravelSafety.com, or you can talk to your local gun shop owner who should be able to fix you up.

BASS

CONTINUED FROM 9

contributed to the community this past year by purchasing many rods and reels for the toys for kids toy drive around Christmas. Local support from businesses who sponsor the open tournament on Lake Brownwood help make this possible.

The bass club also purchased 22 artificial fish habitats and worked with the Texas Park and Wildlife as well as

the Brown County Water Improvement District to deploy them at strategic places throughout the lake. A map of the location of these habitats can be found at www.tpwd.texas.gov.

The Brownwood Bass Club strives to make a positive impact on the community and would like to thank all those within our community and beyond that continually support these endeavors.

The Brownwood Bass Clubs annual open tournament will be held Sunday, April 3 on Lake Brownwood.



TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

A wild turkey feeds on sunflower seeds at a feeder.

TURKEY


CONTINUED FROM 12

Hunters who use the electronic reporting options will be issued a confirmation number upon completion of the registration process. Hunters still have to tag harvested birds.

The new harvest reporting app can also

be used as a tool for voluntarily reporting and tracking harvests of other resident game species, including Rio Grande turkey. With My Texas Hunt Harvest, hunters can log harvested game animals and view harvest history, including dates and locations of every hunt.

TPWD has closed the spring Eastern turkey season in several areas. This includes Angelina County and the Angelina National Forest in Jasper County.



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TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 2

- **Hike the Prairie**
Dinosaur Valley State Park: *Study wildflowers and grass and view animal habitat.*
- **Monarch Butterfly Program**
Dinosaur Valley State Park

APRIL 9

- **Monarch Butterfly Program**
Dinosaur Valley State Park

APRIL 16

- **Monarch Butterfly Program**
Dinosaur Valley State Park

APRIL 23

- **Earth Day Fun**
Dinosaur Valley State Park

APRIL 30

- **Hike the Prairie**
Dinosaur Valley State Park: *Study wildflowers and grasses.*
- **Park After Dark Hike — Creatures of the Night**

Dinosaur Valley State Park

MAY 7

- **Monarch Butterfly Program**
Dinosaur Valley State Park
- **Hike and a Movie**
Dinosaur Valley State Park

MAY 14

- **Blazing New Trails — 20th Birthday Celebration**
Lake Brownwood State Park: *Celebrate 20 years of the Buffalo Soldiers and Texas Parks and Wildlife. Free fun and activities for the entire family.*
- **Venomous Snakes of Texas**
Dinosaur Valley State Park

MAY 21

- **Bloomin' Texas**
Dinosaur Valley State Park

MAY 26

- **Trackmakers of Dinosaur Valley State Park**
Dinosaur Valley State Park

TPWD debuts catfish management plan

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
news@brownwoodbulletin.com

ATHENS — Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) has completed work on a plan designed to expand angling opportunities for Texas' growing urban population and introduce the next generation of anglers to fishing.

More than a year in preparation, the plan (A Vision for Catfish in Texas) describes why catfish are likely to become more important to Texas anglers in the future, depicts the catfish species available in the state, reports results of surveys of Texas catfish anglers and presents goals and strategies designed to make catfishing better.

"Texas has some outstanding catfishing opportunities," said Dave Terre, chief of research and management for TPWD's Inland Fisheries division. "We believe our public waters have great potential for providing quality catfishing in the future, and we have the experience and expertise to maintain and expand the fishery. However, success will depend on having the support of anglers, industry, civic organizations and local governments."

TPWD fisheries biologist John Tibbs was one of the authors of the plan. "Catfish are the preferred target of more than a third of freshwater anglers in Texas," he said. "These anglers have many different views of what catfishing means to them. The catfish management plan will be the roadmap that guides TPWD's efforts to increase catfishing opportunities and meet the desires of anglers."

Catfish can tolerate a wide range of environmental



TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE PHOTO

conditions. They are easy to catch, good to eat and easily reared and stocked into ponds and streams, making them ideal for providing fishing opportunities close to where people live.

A copy of the plan can be viewed or downloaded at <http://bit.ly/CatfishManagementPlan>.

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TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE PHOTO



TRANS TEXAS TIRE

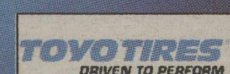
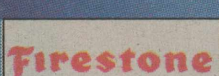
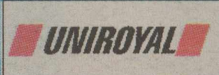
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