



USDA TO PROVIDE AID WITH COTTON GINNING COSTS

SEE PAGE 8

The Winters Enterprise



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Volume 26, Issue 28

Thursday, June 9, 2016

Winters, Texas 75¢

Briefly Car seat check Saturday

North Runnels Hospital EMS in conjunction with SafeKids San Angelo and the Concho Valley Regional Advisory Council will hold a free car seat check at North Runnels Hospital parking lot from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday while supplies last. The child must be present in the vehicle. For more information, contact Bobbie Collom at NRH EMS 325-754-4553.

Friends meeting Monday

The Friends of the "Gus" Pruser Agriculture Exhibit will hold their monthly meeting at 6 p.m. Monday June 14. The meeting will be in the Gus Pruser Agriculture Exhibit at 219 W. Dale, Winters. Friends of the "Gus" Pruser Exhibit are a group interested in preserving the agricultural heritage of the Winters area. Stop by and discuss old tractors. For additional information contact John Long at 325-754-5389.

ON THE NET:
zihalemuseum@wtxs.net

Get your art on!

The Mid-West Texas Artists Guild will hold their 12th Annual Summer Art Camp from 9 a.m. to noon June 20-24. Any student completing third grade through seventh grade is eligible to attend.

The cost is \$75 with and supplies are included. Snacks are provided each day but campers must bring their favorite drink. Please wear clothes or bring an apron appropriate for art activities. Classes will be taught by art guild members.

On Friday a "Show Off" day will be held for parents and family so each camper can display their talents.

Classes are limited to 25 campers. There are still some spaces left so if your child has an interest in art, please contact Queba at 325-365-3770 or Shirley at 325-754-4216 or any Guild member.

The last drop

The torrential rains subsided Sunday and a drying trend began, but that still left the spring of 2016 in the top five wettest springs for Runnels County. Ballinger tallied 3.57 inches of precipitation while Wingate received 1.96 inches of rain according to the National Weather Service in San Angelo.

The warming trend continues through the weekend forecasters say with highs reaching the mid 90s. Isolated showers are in the forecast starting Monday. Overall, sunny and dry conditions are predicted.

So far this year, Ballinger has received 16.86 inches of rainfall, with 15.23 inches reported in Wingate and 17.53 inches received in San Angelo making 2016 the wettest spring on record there.

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

Come on in, the water is fine

Winters Lakes more than 100 percent full



CELINDA HAWKINS | ENTERPRISE PHOTO

The Lakes in Winters are more than 100 percent full, officials there reported. After recent rains, some of the docks were completely submerged in the lake. But the water has receded so the docks are useable, lake officials say.

BY CELINDA HAWKINS
MANAGING EDITOR
WINTERS ENTERPRISE
chawkins@ballingerledger.com

Recent rains have filled up area lakes, reservoirs and creeks, and while the City of Winters is reporting little damage from the rains, Runnels County officials are looking to recoup costs through disaster declarations.

Several weeks ago, lightning struck at the water treatment plant in Winters, causing all of the

computer systems to be damaged. City Administrator Shelly Antilley-Guevara said the computers and damaged equipment was being replaced Tuesday.

Antilley-Guevara reported that there was minor hail damage reported in Winters from recent storms, but nothing too significant.

Officials at the Winters Water Treatment Plant, reported Tuesday that Lake Winters and Elm Creek Reservoir, were "more

than 100 percent full."

Visitors have been flocking to Lake Winters and Elm Creek Reservoir especially since some area lakes were closed for recreational use due to excess water.

Elm Creek Reservoir and Lake Winters are both open for recreational use.

Visitors to Elm Creek Reservoir, located at 318 County Road 167, must stop at the front house to

SEE LAKES, 8

It's the COMMUNITY!



CELINDA HAWKINS | ENTERPRISE PHOTO

LaWana Martin, is the program director for the Runnels County Aging Program in Winters. Martin said it would be a great loss to the community if the program is shut down. Martin, left and employee Herlinda Torres, stand to lose their jobs if the program is closed.

Citizens look for ways to keep Aging Program, center going

BY CELINDA HAWKINS
MANAGING EDITOR
WINTERS ENTERPRISE
chawkins@ballingerledger.com

On any weekday, the Senior Center in Winters starts bustling at about 10 a.m. with friends meeting for coffee and community - it's a tradition, that goes back many years.

But dark clouds loom over the senior programs in Runnels County

as the commissioners try to come up with a way to fund the meal programs. Last week, commissioners voted to shut down the program by Oct. 1, however, the vote was not valid, since the item was not on the agenda.

The fate of the Runnels County program is still up in the air as Runnels County Judge awaits word from officials from the Department of Aging and Disability Services on a waiver that has been submitted.

"We can't continue the program as it is," Judge Barry Hilliard said. "It is still up in the air and it all depends on what the state says."

Currently, the Runnels County Aging Program provides congregate and home delivered meals five days a week to clients in Winters, Ballinger, Miles and Rowena.

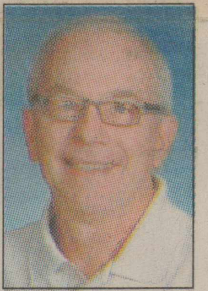
The Senior Center in Winters is very busy each day serving more

SEE AGING, 5

Lombard to be inducted to Hall of Fame Coach has Winters ties

SPECIAL TO THE WINTERS ENTERPRISE

KNOXVILLE, TENN. — Joe Lombard, a 1975 Wayland Baptist University graduate who coached Nazareth's girls to six state championships and the Canyon High School girls to 12 more titles, is part of the 18th class of the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in Knoxville, Tenn.

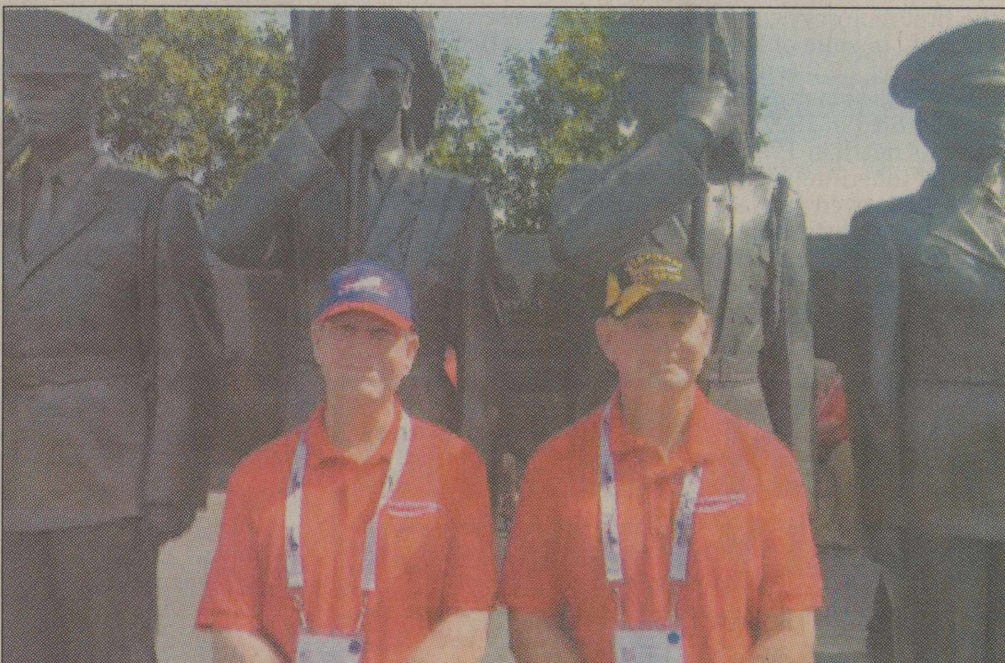


Joe Lombard

The class also includes Oklahoma University coach Sherri Coale for whom former Plainview High standout Chelsi Welch played in the mid-2000s, contributors June Courteau and Bill Tippetts (posthumously) and players Jackie Stiles and Natalie Williams.

The ceremony is scheduled for Saturday in Knoxville and will bring the membership to 151, including eight others with Wayland ties. The nine inductees tie the University

SEE COACH, 8



HONOR FLIGHT VETERAN TWINS

Native Runnels County Veterans, twin brothers, Benny and Jimmy Fine, 1968 Winters High School graduates, recently returned from the Permian Basin Honor Flight from Midland to Washington DC. They toured the museums and monuments from May 19-21. Jimmy served in the U.S. Air Force for four years with a year in Vietnam. Benny served in the U.S. Army for two years but at the time was not allowed to go to Vietnam because his brother was already there. Benny currently resides with his wife in Johnson City and Jimmy resides with his wife in Midland. The Texas Permian Basin Honor Flight is a non profit organization dedicated to providing veterans with a trip to visit military memorials.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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The Market Perspective

Markets run into resistance

Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer

Those days of soda and pretzels and beer
Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer
Dust off the sun and moon and sing a song of cheer

— Nat King Cole hit from the mid 1960s

The mainstream financial media is indeed cheering. That group is certain the markets have been 'correcting' since November 2014 when the Dow Transports topped. The vigorous rally from the February 9 low to the April 19 high reinforced that thinking. Indeed the Dow Industrials jumped from 15,500 to 18,000, up 16 percent. So everything must be okay, right? Indeed Bank of America Merrill Lynch (yeah the same guys that had to be sold an hour before Lehman croaked) notes equities have "attracted \$1.5 billion in the last eight weeks." Well yes, this is how a ten-week high is made. Indeed the Russell 2000 is making a new high for 3026 as I write.



Dennis Elam

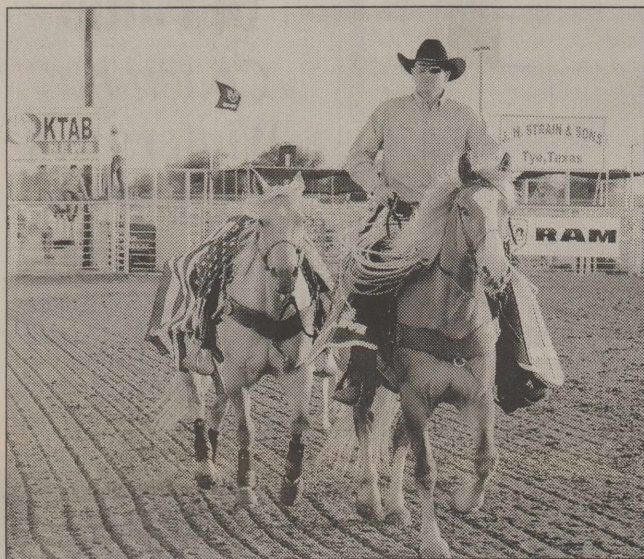
The tell tale signatory however is still the Transports. The Transports have not moved

higher since their April 19 peak. Transports would need a 300+ point rally to take out the double top at 8100 and record a new Dow Theory Buy Signal.

So far that is not happening. Fundamentally auto sales are slowing even with zero percent deals and still relatively inexpensive gasoline. Brick and mortar stores are increasingly pressed with more Americans shopping on line. Health care stocks have been on the rise though it is unclear how the Affordable Care Act will be altered this next year. Insurers are seeking double-digit rate increases which hardly sounds affordable.

Energy

SEE ELAM, 6



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 79th Annual Coleman PRCA Rodeo gets underway today and runs through Saturday at the Coleman Rodeo Grounds.

79th Annual Coleman PRCA Rodeo June 9-11

STAFF REPORT

The 79th Annual Coleman PRCA Rodeo starts today and runs through Saturday at the Coleman Rodeo Grounds

The rodeo dance follows the rodeo events and will feature the Turnpike Troubadours and Callahan Divide.

The Rodeo Parade begins at 10 a.m. Saturday and kicks off events and activities in downtown Coleman throughout the

day. At 3 p.m. the Kids Rodeo will get underway at the Goree Expo Center.

William Clark Green will headline the Saturday night dance with Cameron Nelson opening the show.

For ticket information call the Coleman County Chamber of Commerce at 325-625-2163 or go online for more information or you can order tickets online at www.colemanrodeo.com.

Annual Industrial Golf Tournament June 10-11

The Winters Country Club is having their 50th Industrial Golf Tournament June 10-11. It will be a three person Best Ball tournament and the practice round will be Friday. The entry fee is \$175 including a cart. A meal will be served Friday afternoon. For more information contact Jerry Sims at 325-518-0718 or Jim Ventress or contact the Winters Country Club at 325-754-4679.

90th birthday party

Friends and family of Al and Jessie Colom are invited to a party celebrating their 90th birthday. The party will be held from 2-4 p.m. Saturday at the First United Methodist Church, in Winters at the Fellowship Hall. Al and Jessie request no gifts, but cards will be appreciated. Come and have some cake and punch and help them celebrate this "milestone."

Reading is Fun!

The Fun Reading program is coming soon to the Winters Public Library! This program will focus on healthy bodies and healthy minds. The program will be at 1:30 p.m. every Tuesday in June. Children ages 2 years through 5th grade are invited to attend. Older kids are welcome and encouraged to volunteer with the programs. Be sure to mark your calendar for this June program sponsored by the Winters Public Library.

Head Start applications accepted

Winters ISD Head Start is accepting applications for the 2016-17 school year for children that will be at least 3 years of age on or before September 1. Head Start is a pre-k program that partners with the local school district and is designed for low income families. The structured daily program is taught by certified teachers and is aimed to give children a head start on life and education. This program has a limited number of slots remaining. For more information, contact ESC Region 15 Head Start office at 325-658-6571.

Fathers Day briskets

The Rowena Lions Club will be selling whole briskets at \$75 per brisket as well as pints of hot sauce (Howard family recipe). The hot sauce is \$7, or \$5 if ordered with a brisket. All briskets must be pre-ordered, the deadline is June 16. The briskets can be picked up from 9 to 11:30 a.m. on Fathers Day, Sunday, June 19 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church parish hall in Rowena. To place order call Cliff, 325-442-2331 or 977-1672; Howard, 325-895-1648; Mike, 325-442-2006; Pat 325-442-

3541 or any Rowena Lions Club member.

Donate to WPL

The Winters Public Library is reaching out to the community for donations. The library will have their annual silent auction at the May Fest. This is one of our fund raisers for the year. The May Fest will be Saturday, May 7 at the Ted Meyer Park. If you will bring your donations to the library or call 325-754-4251 we will be glad to pick it up. Cash donations are always welcome and we will be glad to purchase an item for the auction. The Winters Public Library appreciates the community involvement for fund raisers and programs. The proceeds from the silent auction go toward maintaining the library.

AA meeting

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.

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.

Ballinger Farmers Market

There will be a Farmers Market from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday from June-September in downtown Ballinger. Fresh fruits, vegetables and eggs as well as other edible items such as canned goods, breads, jams, jellies and salsa - are welcome. Baked goods must be wrapped. Other items featured at the market will include plants, homemade lotions and soaps. Everyone from the area is invited to participate in the weekly event, which will not include arts and crafts at this time. Call Cody Rice at 316-549-2017 for information or stop by RM's Cositas 718 Hutchings or fill out the application online at <https://codyrice12.wufoo.com/forms/ballinger-farmers-market/>.

Visit Friendly Neighbors

The Texas Extension Educa-

tion 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.

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.

Alanon meetings

Alanon meetings are held at the First United Methodist Church at 7 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday night Enter on Avenue A and Seventh Street. side. Alanon is open to all family and friends of alcoholics and drug abusers and those affected by other forms of addiction. Child care is available. For more information call (325) 365 2323.

Recycling Center Hours

The City of Ballinger's Recycling Center, located at South 7th Street and Sealy Avenue, is open from 8 a.m. to noon on Monday. The recycling center is open from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Saturday, the recycling center is open from 8 a.m. to noon.

WIC open to many incomes and families

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

Wingate Masonic Lodge meetings

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

TEXAS HISTORY MINUTE

The Amazing Howard Hughes



Dr. Ken Bridges

Howard Hughes was a man who once commanded the world's attention, sometimes for all the wrong reasons. His story is one of wealth, power, fame, and the dangers of obsession.

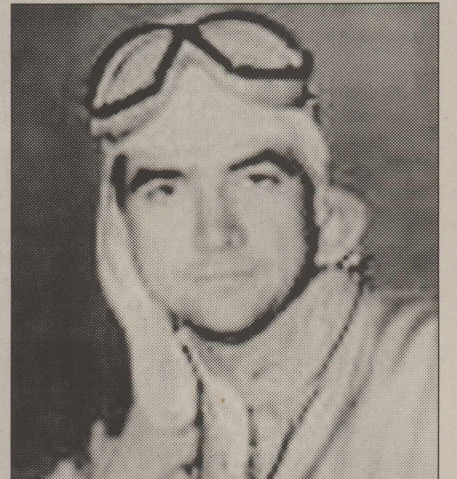
Howard Robard Hughes, Jr., was born in Houston on Christmas Eve, 1905. His father, Howard R. Hughes, Sr., was a wealthy inventor and businessman, owner of the Hughes Tool Company. The younger Hughes was fascinated by science and machinery. By 1917, he was one of only a handful of licensed ham radio operators in Southeast Texas. He later built the first motorcycle in Houston by himself. In spite of his privileged upbringing, he faced two heartbreaking tragedies in rapid succession: his mother died in 1922, followed by his father's death in 1924.

After inheriting his father's fortune, he proved very adept at running the family business and wanted to expand. Fascinated by movies, he headed west to become a movie producer. In 1927, he began production of Hell's Angels, an action film taking

place in World War I which included recreations of aerial dogfights with dozens of aircraft. He learned to fly while he directed the movie, which at \$3.8 million was the most expensive ever made up to that time.

In 1932, he founded Hughes Aircraft. Hughes himself set a speed record of 352 MPH in 1935 in his H-1 aircraft. He followed this up in 1938 with a record round-the-world flight of 91 hours. In 1939, he bought TWA Airlines for \$7 million, though federal regulators would force him to sell it in 1966 for which he reaped nearly \$550 million. In World War II, Hughes Aircraft built several different types of plane for the military, many of whom Hughes himself helped design.

Though generous to friends and employees and known around the world, he became known for his obsessive attention to the smallest detail. While this drive helped him become successful in movies and aviation, it steadily unraveled his personal life. For example, he would only drink orange juice he saw freshly squeezed himself or arranged peas by size. Relationships with his many girlfriends broke down quickly. In 1947, he suffered a mental breakdown, locking himself inside his personal movie theater for four months before coming out.



In 1953, he established the Howard Hughes Medical Institute through profits from Hughes Aircraft. It would continue long after his death and eventually become the largest private research institution in the nation, spending hundreds of millions of dollars each year to research all areas of health care and medical sciences.

He spent the last decade of his life living in a series of hotels, having his aides run his companies by telephone and memo and avoiding any kind of public appearance. Wild

SEE HUGHES, 6

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ROLL-UP

Runnels County

4 Winters Enterprise

Thursday, June 9, 2016

Runnels County Jail Record

June 9, 2016

Name	Age	Agency
Ricardo S. Alanis	25	WPD
Public intoxication.		
Samuel A. Minjarez	31	Coke
32 day sentence.		
Larry W. Durham	37	Coleman
Burglary of a habitation.		
Payton D. Anderson	20	Coleman
Six warrants.		
Stacy M. Rodriguez	30	RCSO
MTR manufacture/delivery of controlled substance.		
Jason W. Bishop	43	Coke
Burglary of a building.		
Christopher L. Karve	26	Coke
Burglary of a building.		
Giovanni Nunez-Hernandez	23	DPS
Failure to ID fugitive.		
Arthur R. Garcia	32	Concho
Warrant possession of controlled substance.		
Wyman C. Burson	26	BPD
Evading arrest.		

VETERANS CORNER



Sandra G. Van Zant

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is proposing a rule to grant full practice authority to Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) when they are acting within the scope of their VA employment. Full practice authority will help optimize access to VA health care by permitting APRNs to assess, diagnose, prescribe medications and interpret diagnostic tests. This action proposes to expand the pool of qualified health care professionals authorized to provide primary health care and other related health care services to the full extent of their education, training, and certification to Veterans without the clinical supervision of a physician. APRNs are clinicians with advanced degrees and training who provide

primary, acute and specialty health care services. APRNs complete masters, post-master or doctoral degrees. There are four APRN roles: Certified Nurse Practitioner, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist and Certified Nurse Midwife. All VA APRNs are required to obtain and maintain current national certification. 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

Chase debit card will be replaced with new U.S. Bank ReliaCard

STAFF REPORT

AUSTIN — The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) announced that it will change providers for its unemployment benefits prepaid debit card from Chase Bank to U.S. Bank. The new U.S. Bank ReliaCard is a Visa® branded prepaid debit card that provides claimants with a fast, safe and easy way of receiving their unemployment benefits. The ReliaCard also features additional benefits such as a mobile app, email and text alerts, and a large number of free (in-network) ATMs. U.S. Bank sent letters to all current TWC debit card claimants on May 24 about the upcoming debit card changes and explained how it will affect those receiving unemployment benefits. Beginning June 20, current unemployment claimants receiving benefits on a debit card will receive a ReliaCard in the mail from U.S. Bank.

TWC will continue to provide our customers with efficient, cost-effective services while they search for employment," said TWC Chairman Andres Alcantar. The U.S. Bank prepaid debit card allows claimants to make purchases, get cash, and pay bills everywhere VISA is accepted. Funds are protected if the prepaid debit card is lost or stolen. "Improving the TWC debit card system will allow unemployment claimants more time to focus their efforts on returning to the workforce," said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Ruth R. Hughs. Claimants receiving benefits by direct deposit will not be affected by this change. "TWC is dedicated to helping Texas workers with access to enhanced services for online unemployment benefits, seeking employment or improving job skills with training," said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Julian Alvarez.

Upon receiving the new ReliaCard, claimants will need to follow the instructions on the card carrier to activate their cards and contact ReliaCard customer service at 800-657-6343 or visit the website at www.usbankreliacard.com. Remaining balances on the Chase debit card WILL NOT transfer to the ReliaCard, so claimants should keep the Chase card and continue to use it until the balance reaches zero. Visit the TWC website for more information on Receiving Benefit Payments by Debit Card. "The ReliaCard offers claimants a robust set of features focusing on security and convenience including 24/7 access to funds with no fee for domestic purchases, a large free ATM network, text and email alerts and online bill pay to name a few," said Dave Smith, Senior Vice President of Prepaid Products at U.S. Bank.

For questions about unemployment benefits in Texas, including eligibility requirements, how to report earnings and appeal procedures, visit the TWC website at Job Seekers & Employees Unemployment Benefits. About U.S. Bank Minneapolis-based U.S. Bancorp ("USB"), with \$429 billion in assets as of March 31, 2016, is the parent company of U.S. Bank National Association, the fifth largest commercial bank in the United States. The Company operates 3,129 banking offices in 25 states and 4,954 ATMs and provides a comprehensive line of banking, investment, mortgage, trust and payment services products to consumers, businesses and institutions. Visit U.S. Bancorp on the web at www.usbank.com. - See more at: http://www.orangeleader.com/2016/06/06/twc-introduces-change-to-unemployment-prepaid-debit-card/#sthash.wK9AzpBS.dpuf

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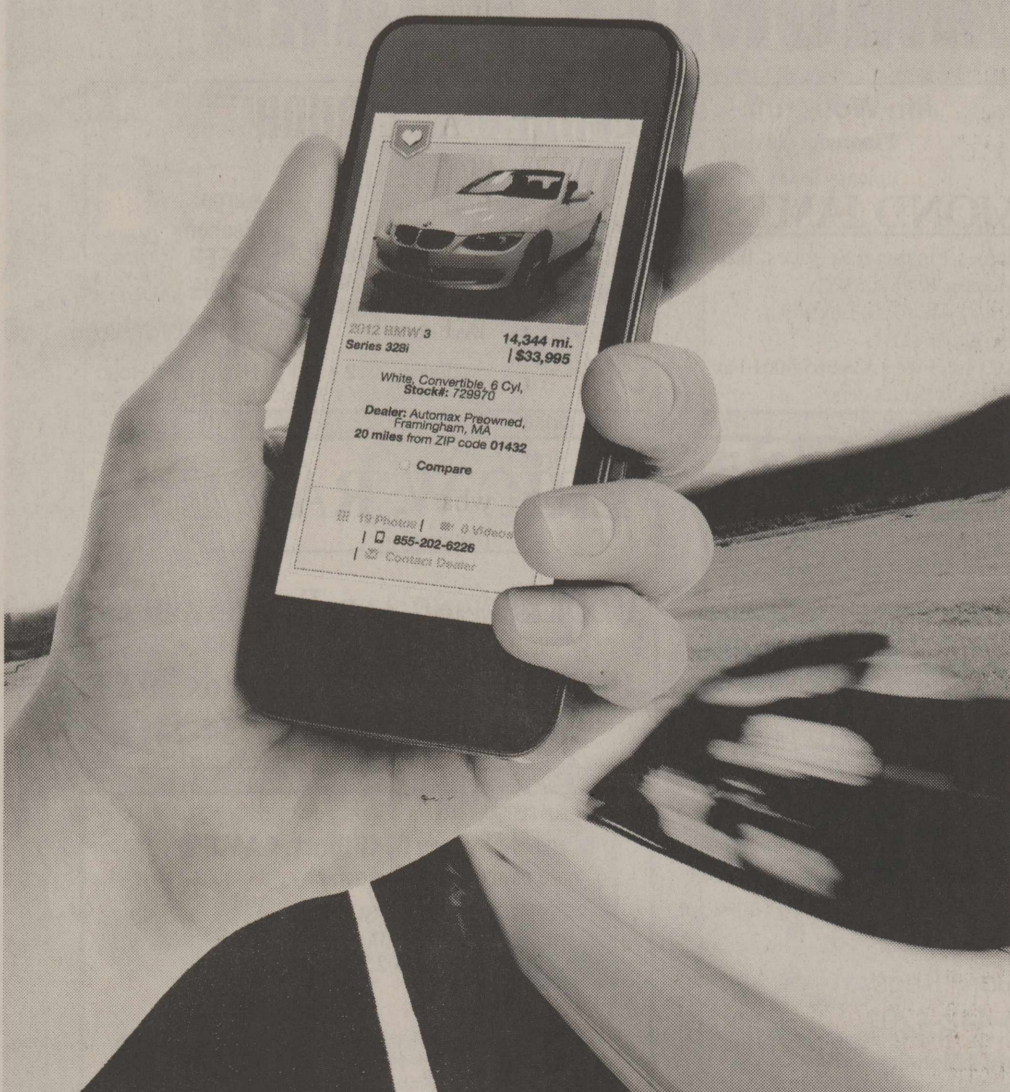


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West Texas Rehab Benefit June 18

STAFF REPORT

West Texas Rehabilitation Center (WTRC) is hosting a benefit at the Ballinger High School Auditorium on June 18. The featured entertainer is Jason D. Williams, often referred to as the "son of Jerry Lee Lewis." Williams is a long-time rock-n-roll entertainer whose style and performance is reminiscent of 50s and 60s rock-n-roll. Williams brings his piano and travels with his band, and his 75-minute show will include his own songs and hits from legendary performer Jerry Lee Lewis. For more information, including videos, about Jason D. Williams visit www.rockinjasondwilliams.com

The benefit concert on June 18 will benefit WTRC. WTRC was founded in 1956 and provides extraordinary outpatient services to 32 counties in the Concho Valley and the Big Country. Every day 500 patients walk through the doors of our centers in Abilene, San Angelo, and Ozona and they are taken care of, regardless of their ability to pay. Tickets for the show went on sale May 18. For more information about the show, Rehab, or Jason D. Williams you can call WTRC at 325-223-6443 or visit www.west-texasrehab.org.



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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.

Visit the Winters Enterprise on Facebook!

Runnels County Aging Program on life support

County considers fate of meal programs

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

The fate of the Aging Program in Runnels County remains unknown, but at least for now, efforts are being made to keep the program, that offers congregate and home delivered meals to clients in Ballinger, Winters Miles and Rowena.

Runnels County Commissioners voted unanimously Wednesday, June 1 to shut down the program by Oct. 1, however, the item was not listed on the agenda to be voted on, therefore the action is null and void.

By Thursday morning, Runnels County Judge Barry Hilliard had contacted Tom Smith of the West Central Texas Council of Governments, who applied for waivers for Runnels County in an effort to keep the programs afloat.

"They are filing a waiver request that would allow us to serve compliant meals three days a week and use the other two days as fund raisers," Hilliard explained.

During the special called meeting last Wednesday, commissioners discussed keeping the programs in place, but due to dwindling funding from the West Central Texas Council of Governments and the state, the county cannot continue to fund the lion's share of the program.

During the meeting, Precinct 4 Commissioner Ricky Strube made the motion to end the programs all together, by Oct. 1, the beginning of the 2016-17 budget year.

"It is obvious the government wants out of this," Strube told the group last Wednesday. "Unless we can raise taxes two or three cents we can't continue this."

According to the most recent calculations, it could cost about \$160,000 to keep the program going in the next budget year. About 150 meals are prepared five days a week at the Senior Center in Ballinger and delivered to centers in Winters and Miles as well approximately 70 clients



Barry Hilliard

who receive home delivered meals throughout Runnels County.

In the 2015-16 budget year, the county paid \$204,130.95 in payroll and benefits for three full time and four part time employees. All other expenses, including food, utilities and other operating costs totaled \$92,635.

The county gets funding from the Department of Aging and Disability Services, as well as from the West Central Texas Council of Governments. In addition, the cities of Ballinger, Winters and Miles provide some funding.

Due to financial constraints, the centers were consolidated almost three years ago in October.

Hilliard was seeking alternatives just like last year, since funding cuts have made it near impossible for the county to keep the program going.

Hilliard said the fate of the program is "still up in the air," as the county awaits word on the waiver request from DADS.

"There's nothing I struggle with more than this," Hilliard said Tuesday.

If the program shuts down completely, three full time employees and four part time employees will lose their jobs including Director Barbara Heathcott and Program Administrator Louise Summers.

Following the meeting last Wednesday, both had accepted the news of the imminent closures and thanked commissioners for keeping the programs going for as long as they have.

"Now it's up to the community to step up and take over," Heathcott said following the vote.

"We really appreciate what you all have done," Summers said. "We've seen you struggle and know how hard it has been."



Beef cattle topics subject of AgriLife Extension program in Brownwood

BY STEVE BYRNS
TEXAS AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE
S-BYRNS@TAMU.EDU

BROWNWOOD — The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will conduct a regional beef cattle program June 16 at the Brown County Fairgrounds located at 4206 U.S. Highway 377 S. in Brownwood.

Registration will start at 8:30 a.m. and the program will follow at 9 a.m.

"Cattle prices don't look too predictable as we head toward summer," said Scott Anderson, AgriLife Extension agent in Brown County. "So to optimize profits, controlling production costs and raising cattle that are efficient will be on everyone's mind. Those will be the key topics of the program."

Topics and speakers will include:
■ Heifer Development-Keep or Sell, Dr. Bruce Carpenter, AgriLife Extension livestock specialist, Fort Stockton.

■ Veterinary Feed Directive Outline-Consumer Perspective of Beef, Dr. Ron Gill, AgriLife Extension livestock specialist, College Station.

■ Cattle Insect Pest Management, Dr. Sonja Swiger, AgriLife Extension entomologist, Stephenville.

■ Cattle Prices This Year and Next, Dr. Jason Johnson, AgriLife Extension economist, Stephenville.

Two Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education units will be available for licensed private applicators.

Anderson said the program is open to anyone interested in beef cattle production. Individual registration is \$20 due upon arrival. The fee includes lunch. Pre-registration is requested by June 13, for an accurate meal count.

For more information and to preregister, call the AgriLife Extension office in Brown County at 325-646-0386.

arranged to keep the program in place. "We could do a lot of things and I think the community will step up," Hamilton said.

Each day, when lunch is served, all of the clients rise and say the Pledge of Allegiance, and follow that with The Lord's Prayer.

The loss of the Aging Program, could mean the closure of the senior center in Winters.

Like others in the community, John Long can be found most every weekday at the center.

"It think it is very detrimental to the county and to each individual city to lose the programs," Long said. "This provides stability for the senior citizens in these small towns."

Long said for many of the clients, it is the only time they get out during the day. Al Krause, who can be found most days at the center, agreed.

"I enjoy coming in and visiting," Krause said.

AGING

CONTINUED FROM 1

than 20 congregate meals and providing home delivered meals to a number of clients.

LaWana Martin, who is the director of the program in Winters, said losing the Aging Program "will be a great loss," to the clients in Winters.

She has 30 volunteers from churches throughout the community who deliver the meals on a weekly basis.

"I have wonderful volunteers," she said. Judge Richard Hamilton is one of many of the senior residents who visit the center daily, for the lunches as well as the friendships.

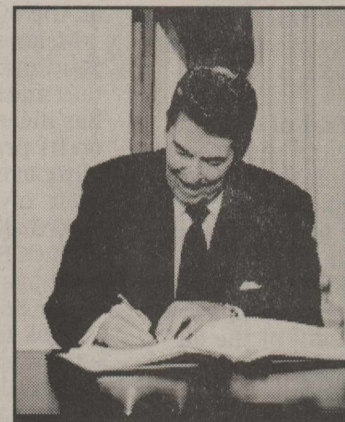
"It's not just the food, it's the community," Hamilton said. "Eighty five percent of our people pay for their meals here."

Hamilton, a Justice of the Peace in Winters, said that fundraisers could be

- EDUCATIONAL ADVERTISEMENT -

Why Haven't Senior Homeowners Been Told These Facts?

Better read this if you own a home in the U.S. and were born before 1954.



FACT: In 1988, President Reagan signed the FHA Reverse Mortgage bill into law.

It's a well-known fact that for many senior citizens in the U.S. their home is their single biggest asset, often accounting for more than 50% of their total net worth.

Yet, according to new data from the National Reverse Mortgage Lenders Association, senior homeowners in the U.S. are now sitting on more than 5 trillion dollars of unused home equity.¹ With people now living longer than ever before and home prices back up again, ignoring this "hidden wealth" may prove to be short sighted.

All things considered, it's not surprising that more than a million homeowners have already used a government-insured Home Equity Conversion Mortgage or "HECM" (more commonly known today as a reverse mortgage loan) to turn their home equity into extra cash for retirement.

However, today, there are still millions of eligible homeowners who could benefit from this FHA-insured loan but may simply not be aware of this "retirement secret."

Some homeowners think HECM loans sound "too good to be true." After all, you get the cash you need out of your home but you have no more monthly mortgage payments.

NO MONTHLY MORTGAGE PAYMENTS? EXTRA CASH?

It's a fact: no monthly mortgage payments are required with a reverse mortgage loan;² the homeowners only have to pay for maintenance, property taxes, homeowner's insurance and, if required, their HOA fees.

Another fact many are not aware of is that HECM reverse mortgages first took hold when President Reagan signed the FHA Reverse Mortgage Bill into law 28 years ago in order to help senior citizens remain in their homes.

Today, HECM loans are simply an effective way for homeowners 62 and older to get the extra cash they need to enjoy their retirement.

Although today's HECM reverse mortgages have been improved to provide even greater financial protection for homeowners, there are still many misconceptions.

For example, a lot of people mistakenly believe the home must be paid off in full in order to qualify for a HECM reverse mortgage loan, which is not the case. In fact, one key benefit of a HECM is that it automatically pays off your existing mortgage, which frees up cash flow, a huge blessing for seniors living on a fixed income. Unfortunately, many senior homeowners who could benefit from a HECM loan don't even bother to get more information because of rumors they've heard.

That's a shame because HECM reverse mortgages are helping many senior homeowners live a better life.

In fact, a recent survey by American Advisors Group (AAG), the nation's number one HECM lender, found that over 90% of their clients are satisfied with their reverse mortgages.

While these special loans are not for everyone, they can be a real lifesaver for senior homeowners like Betty Carter, who recently took out a HECM loan with AAG so that she could finally get the extra cash she needed to fix up her house.

"With the help of AAG, I have been able to repair my home's foundation that I had been putting off for several years, refinish the hardwood floors, paint the interior and will have the exterior painted within a few days. My house is starting to look like my home again and it feels good," says Carter.

The cash from a HECM loan can be used for any worthwhile purpose. Many people use the money to save on interest charges by paying off credit cards or other high-interest loans. Other common uses include making home improvements, paying off medical bills or helping other family members. Some people need the extra cash for everyday expenses while others simply use it as a "safety net" for financial emergencies.

If you're a homeowner age 62 or older, you owe it to yourself to learn more so that you can make an informed decision. Homeowners who are interested in learning more can request a free 2016 HECM Reverse Mortgage Information Kit and free Educational DVD by calling American Advisors Group toll-free at 1-800-841-6741.

At no cost or obligation, the professionals at AAG can help you find out if you qualify and also answer common questions such as:

1. What is the government's role?
2. How much money might I get?
3. Who owns the home after I take out a HECM loan?

You may be pleasantly surprised by what you discover when you call AAG for more information today.

¹The aggregate value of homes owned by seniors increased their share of home equity to \$5.76 trillion according to the National Reverse Mortgage Lenders Association. Source: <http://reversmortgagedaily.com/2015/12/27/u-s-seniors-home-equity-rocket-to-5-76-trillion/>. ²If you qualify and your loan is approved, a HECM Reverse Mortgage must pay off your existing mortgage(s). With a HECM/Reverse Mortgage, no monthly mortgage payment is required. A reverse mortgage increases the principal mortgage loan amount and decreases home equity (it is a negative amortization loan). AAG works with other lenders and financial institutions that offer reverse mortgages. To process your request for a reverse mortgage, AAG may forward your contact information to such lenders for your consideration of reverse mortgage programs that they offer. Borrowers are responsible for paying property taxes and homeowner's insurance (which may be substantial). We do not establish an escrow account for disbursements of these payments. A set-aside account can be set up to pay taxes and insurance and may be required in some cases. Borrowers must occupy home as their primary residence and pay for ongoing maintenance; otherwise the loan becomes due and payable. The loan also becomes due and payable when the last borrower, or eligible non-borrowing surviving spouse, dies, sells the home, permanently moves out, defaults on taxes or insurance payments, or does not otherwise comply with the loan terms. NMLS# 9392 (www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org). American Advisors Group (AAG) is headquartered at 3800 W. Chaparral Ave., 3rd & 7th Floors, Orange CA, 92668. Mortgage Banker Registration. V04052016



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ELAM

CONTINUED FROM 2

This market has also run into resistance. Crude oil has doubled from the February low, recorded just days before the stock market low. West Texas Intermediate has vaulted above its 200 day MA now at \$40.55. It would not be surprising to see crude back up and test the 50 day Moving Average now around \$44.

Natural gas has put in a stunning performance the last few days. It has jumped from \$2.10 to \$2.41. Now it needs to record a weekly close over the January high at \$2.50.

And as always, the low at \$1.60 in March occurred during headlines confidently predicting a plunge to \$1.

The End of OPEC?

We recently reported on Saudi Arabia's ambitious bid to shake off its dependence on oil revenue. And this is coupled with replacing foreign workers with Saudi citizens. A side benefit of the oil revenue is that few to any actual Saudis have real jobs. This is causing problems as qualified workers are being jettisoned and replaced with unqualified employees.

But I digress. It is hard to see how OPEC will continue as a viable organiza-

tion. It has never really managed the price of oil ever since the collapse of the second embargo in 1981. Prices have been all over the chart no matter how many meetings were held in Vienna. But now we have a real vision of income inequality.

Hugo Chavez' socialist dream has bankrupted Venezuela. The country is now a failed state with the inept government continuing to take over businesses it cannot run. There is no beer or toilet paper. Nigeria is on the rocks as well.

And then there is bad boy Iran who will not agree to anything with anyone other than, of course, John Kerry. After being out of the loop for years, Iraq wants to export all the oil it can.

Meanwhile the House of Saud has wanted to maintain market share which has meant no pulling back on its production. Eventually cartels fall victim to their own machinations. And that is happening with OPEC as they meet once again.

The Bottom Line

Look for stocks to make a ten week bottom (from the April 19 high) the last week of this month. Oil probably needs some consolidation and correction before it advances again. Look for that market to be on hold until July.

Our view is more lazy and hazy than cheer....

HUGHES

CONTINUED FROM 2

rumors about his condition circulated. When he died in 1976, the once dashing figure was unrecognizable, reduced to 90 pounds with long, wiry hair, unkempt beard, and toenails that were inches long.

After his death, scores of books and movies about his life abounded. Texas actor Tommy Lee Jones appeared as Hughes in a 1977 TV movie called *The Amazing Howard Hughes*, while Jason Robards starred as Hughes in an

off-beat story about one of his alleged wills making a Nevada gas station attendant a multi-millionaire in Melvin and Howard (1980). Leonardo DiCaprio starred in the 2004 film, *The Aviator*, which captured the early life and early mental breakdowns of Hughes.

Authors and filmmakers alike tried to unravel the complicated life of a man who had every creature comfort he ever wanted but spent so many years haunted by inner turmoil. The ultimate answers to those questions died with Hughes. In the end, no matter how much Howard Hughes tried to ignore the world, the world could not ignore him.

THE IDLE AMERICAN

A Salute to Hard Heads...



TEXAS
COLUMNIST
Don
Newbury

It won't happen, because year-books don't "plug in," but if today's high school or college graduates decided to "go retro" for an hour or so, they should visit older relatives' homes. There, they'd be taken aback by the, uh, "quaintness" of school annuals from bygone days.

They'd joke about students' stern looks and stiff postures, wondering what their counterparts back then had against smiling.

And what about all those nicknames—usually encased in parentheses—between first and last names? Nicknames seemed to be mandated for members of athletic teams. Why, if old-time footballers didn't have nicknames, they likely played little if at all, and may have failed to get the memo about showing up for photo day....

I have a theory as to why nicknames today are rare. Blame it on urbanization in general and the introduction of tractors in particular.

These powerful mechanical beasts of the field basically put mules out to pasture. Kids today would find it hard to believe that we relished a series of movies about Francis, the Talking Mule. The late Donald O'Connor starred in the 1950s movie series. Youngsters thought nothing of plunking down a dime for admission, then sitting through the feature twice.

Not only did modernization of farms signal lessening the use of rural nicknames, mules' demise stole from us the very animal we'd grown accustomed to accusations of being as stubborn as....

Mules—offspring of male donkeys and female horses—were handy animals to have around for purposes of comparison back when. Mention mules in the company of today's

younger generation, and they think of backless shoes. Google backs them up with numerous shoe references included several headings before the animal definition pops up.

Whatever, it is best never to expect them to join in with the "sweet singing" of the donkey as he goes to hay.

The other day, my wife of almost 50 years spoke of my being—in her words—"hard-headed." I could tell by her facial expression, however, that she was sorely tempted to add, "as a mule."...

It set me to thinking. Is it not often complimentary to be considered hard of head?

I cite two recent examples. In Houston last month, Texas Rangers pitcher Colby Lewis managed a half-turn of his head before the batter's screaming line drive—estimated at a speed between 105-110 MPH—bounced off his noggin. This "hard head" stayed in the game, grateful his head and body were still attached. Further, he was glad teammate baseman Rougned Odor helped out, making a splendid catch of the carom in shallow centerfield. (Lewis, 37 come August, was credited with an assist on the play. Back in 2014, he got an assist from doctors who performed hip resurfacing surgery, stopping "just short" of a full hip replacement.)

During Lewis' post-game TV interview, he was quick to extend birthday greetings to his wife, Jenny, back in the Metroplex. Now there's a guy clear of mind, firm in

resolution and, well, a proven "hard head."....

During a recent trip to the Texas Panhandle where I committed some speeches, I met a couple as mission-minded as they come, Rev. James and Dana Greer. They log hundreds of miles every week in their sprawling territory. Truly, theirs are lives of giving to others.

While enjoying a brief tour of downtown Pampa, we drove past his downtown office. Behind a bush near his corner window, he spotted someone hunkered down. He thought the man likely was a vagrant who needed help. We stopped. He approached the stranger with a "Can I help you, buddy?" offer, his hand extended for a hearty Christian handshake. "Not really," the guy answered.

"I'm just skimming me an Internet signal." James invited him to "skim away," and we continued the tour....

I contend that "hard-headedness" often masks strong, passionate resolve.

Surely this compliments a major league baseball player—who, despite advancing years, a hip replacement and what could easily have been a serious blow to the head—has a life well-ordered.

And kudos to a preacher whose aim always is centered on helping others. Long live Colby Lewis and Rev. Greer. If I'm "hard-headed," I'm in good company....

Dr. Newbury is a speaker in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. Inquiries/comments to: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Web site: www.speakerdoc.com. Columns archived at venture-galleries.com, newbury blog.

BROTHER J

A Very Happy Great Grandfather

Last week I went a children's camp and I had a wonderful time. After the evening services an invitation was given to those who wanted to accept Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior. My responsibility was to talk to them to see what decision they were making. Many of the children

went to church and knew the Bible. They had learned that Jesus loved them and gave His life on the cross for them, (John 3:16, Romans 5:8). They would share how they wanted their sins forgiven and how they wanted to put their faith in Jesus Christ, (Romans 3:23, 6:23, John 1:12). I had the wonderful blessing of listening too many of them as they asked Jesus into their hearts. You could see a new look in their faces after they prayed, (1 John 5:13, John 5:24). At the end of the last service

two young boys came forward with an old man. Both of the boys wanted to accept Christ as their Savior. I asked one of the boys if he went to church and before he could answer the old man said, "He has gone with me since he was little". After the boys prayed I looked over and there were tears in the old man's eyes and he said, "This is my great grandson". Wow what a blessing to see a child, grandchild or even a great grandson accept Christ. See you in Church next Sunday.

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Bids are due by June 20, 2016 at 5 p.m. North Runnels Hospital has the right to deny any and all bids.

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USDA to provide assistance with cotton ginning costs

One time payments begin in July

STAFF REPORT

WASHINGTON — Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced Monday that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) will provide an estimated \$300 million in cost-share assistance payments to cotton producers through the new Cotton Ginning Cost-Share program, in order to expand and maintain the domestic marketing of cotton.

"Today's announcement shows USDA continues to stand with America's cotton producers and our rural communities," said Vilsack. "The Cotton Ginning Cost Share program will offer meaningful, timely and targeted assistance to cotton growers to help with their anticipated ginning costs and to facilitate marketing. The program will provide, on average, approximately 60 percent more assistance per farm and per producer than the 2014 program that provided cotton transition assistance."

Through the Cotton Ginning Cost-Share program, eligible producers can receive a one-time cost share payment, which is based on a producer's 2015 cotton acres reported to FSA, multiplied by 40 percent of the average ginning cost for each production region. With the pressing need to provide assistance ahead of the 2016 ginning season this fall, USDA will ensure the application process is straight-forward and efficient. The program estimates the costs based



LEDGER FILE PHOTO

The USDA is offering a one time payment to help cotton producers with the cost of ginning for the 2016 season.

on planting of cotton in 2015, and therefore the local FSA offices already have this information for the vast majority of eligible producers and the applications will be pre-populated with existing data. Sign-up for the program will begin June 20 and run through Aug. 5, 2016 at the producer's local FSA office. Payments will be processed as applications are received, and are expected to begin in July.

Since 2011, cotton fiber markets have experienced dramatic changes. As a result of low cotton prices and global oversupply, cotton producers are facing economic uncertainty that has led to many producers having lost equity and having been forced to liquidate equipment and land to satisfy loans. The ginning of cotton is necessary prior to marketing the lint for fiber, or the seed for oil or feed. While the Cot-

ton Ginning Cost-Share program makes payments to cotton producers for cotton ginning costs, the benefits of the program will be felt by the broader marketing chain associated with cotton and cottonseed, including cotton gins, cooperatives, marketers and cottonseed crushers and the rural communities that depend on them.

The program has the same eligibility requirements as were used for the 2014 Cotton Transition Assistance Program, including a \$40,000 per producer payment limit, requirement to be actively engaged in farming, meet conservation compliance and a \$900,000 adjusted gross income limit.

To learn more about the Cotton Ginning Cost-Share program, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/cgcs or contact a local FSA county office. To find your local FSA county office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

COACH

CONTINUED FROM 1

of Tennessee for most in the hall.

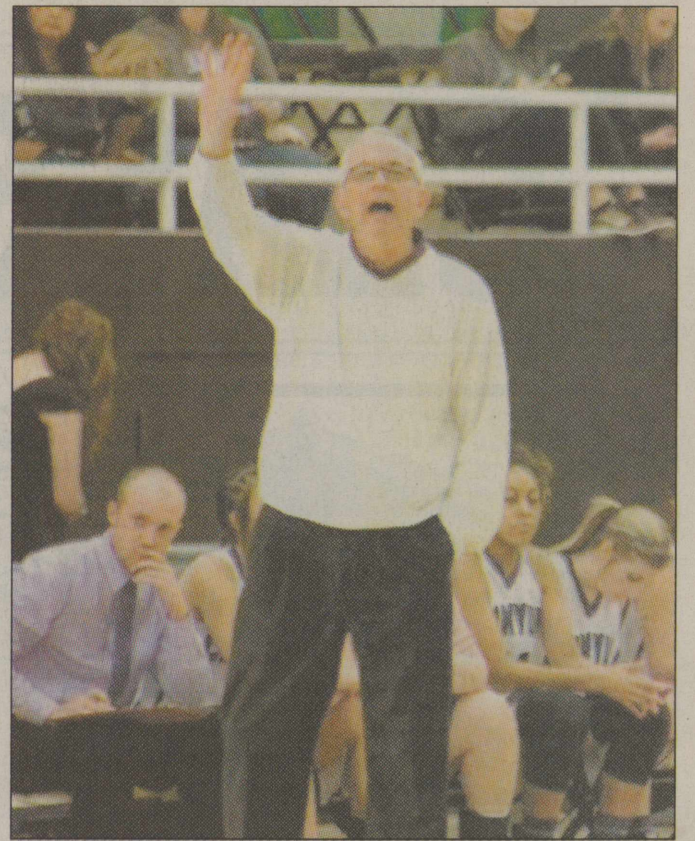
Lombard also will be honored at a luncheon on Saturday, hosted by the Wayland Association of Former Students. Joe's wife, Babs Tatum Lombard, a native of Winters, graduated in 1973 and was the second Miss Wayland. She coached Hale Center to the 1A state championship in 1979 as Joe coached Nazareth to the Class B title.

The other Wayland honorees are Flying Queens coaches Harley Redin in the initial class of 1999 and Dean Weese (2000), Queen Bees player and coach Marsha Sharp (2003), who led Texas Tech to a national NCAA title in 1993, sponsor Claude Hutcherson (2003) and players Katherine Washington (2000), Patsy Neal (2003), Jill Rankin Schneider (2008) and Lometa Odom (2011).

In March 2015, Lombard received the Morgan Wooten Award for lifetime achievement from the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass.

Lombard, who played for Wayland from 1972-75 and was captain his senior year, is a recipient of the Harley Redin Coaching Award from Wayland. He also received the Distinguished Alumni Leadership award for 2005-2006.

He has coached for 38 years at Nazareth and Canyon, compiling an



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

astounding record of 1,200-108 for girls alone. He was 61-9 coaching boys at Nazareth, taking two teams to the state finals. He also coached Nazareth to five cross country titles and Canyon for two more.

A member of the Texas High School Basketball Hall of Fame in Carmine, Lombard won 1,000 games before losing 100, and his 1,200 victories rank second all-time in Texas schoolgirl history behind Leta Andrews who won 1,416 games in 51 years at Tolar, Gustine, Comanche, Granbury, Corpus Christi Calallen and back to Granbury.

Andrews, who retired in 2014, broke the previous national record of 1,333 wins by former Fort Worth Dunbar boys' coach Robert Hughes.

Lombard's most recent success story was leading Canyon High to the 2016 Class 5A state championship, beating Frisco Liberty, 41-34 in San Antonio for the Lady Eagles' third straight state title.

The Lombard's son, Tate, coached Wall to the 2A state championship in 2014 and again in 2016. Their daughter, Lindy Slagle, is a successful coach at Grapevine High School.



CELINDA HAWKINS | ENTERPRISE PHOTO

Elm Creek Reservoir in Winters is more than 100 percent full, city officials say. Visitors have been coming to the lake from all over the area, since other area lakes have been closed for recreational use due to recent rains.

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LAKES

CONTINUED FROM 1

obtain a permit to use the lake, which includes fishing, swimming and boating. A permit is \$1 a day for Winters residents and \$3 a day for out of town guests. A permit is free for those 16 and under and 60 years old and up. There are RV areas which include electricity and water for \$15 a day and tents are offered for \$7 a day. Boats are allowed at Elm Creek as well. Plus this weekend, there will be an area for those who fish, to purchase bait at the lake.

Permits are also required for Lake Winters and may be obtained by calling the Winters Police Department 325-754-4121.

Meanwhile, county officials are looking to recoup some funds from flood damage on roads and bridges throughout the county. County Judge Barry Hilliard has sent forms to commissioners to fill out to be sent to the Texas Division of Emergency Management.

Hilliard said in the county, there have been washed out roads, which is very costly to repair.

According to the guidelines of the program, as long as the damage is more than \$37,000, the county will be eligible under the program.

"I'm sure each precinct has that much damage," Hilliard said.

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