



UCA CHEER CAMP IN GRAPEVINE

SEE PAGE 8

The Winters ENTERPRISE

75¢



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Thursday, July 28, 2016

Briefly WISD Election

Filing to run for the Winters ISD board of trustees started July 25 and runs through Aug. 22. The Place 1 seat currently held by Doug Bryan and the at-large seat held by Bill Brede-meyer will be on the ballot. Each seat is a three-year term. Persons interested in filing may pick up an application at the Winters ISD administration office at 603 N. Heights Street in Winters from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. during normal business hours. For questions, call 325-754-5574.

Blizzard band rehearsals

The 2016 Summer Band Schedule for Winters High School, has been announced and all rehearsals are required.

Band members should wear tennis shoes, hats, sunglasses and sunscreen. Also, members should bring water.

8-11 a.m. Aug. 1-3. New members and 8th grade students are required to attend as well as drum majors and section leaders.

Morning rehearsals will include marching fundamentals.

Full Band Rehearsals, will be held from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 1, Tuesday, Aug. 2, Wednesday, Aug. 3 and Thursday Aug. 4. Inside rehearsals will be held each afternoon, with uniform fittings on Monday and Tuesday, and marching fundamentals on Thursday. On Friday, Aug. 5, band members will rehearse from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. outside for a show on the field. Again, members should bring a hat, sunscreen, water and wear comfortable tennis shoes.

The Flag Corp will meet from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1-5 p.m. Aug. 1-5. Rehearsals for Aug. 8-12 will be announced at a later date.

Winters native assigned to Washington post

STAFF REPORT

Winters native Major Wylie Clough, who has served five tours of duty including four tours in the Middle East, has been assigned to serve as a Presidential Communications Officer in Washington, D. C. Clough, his wife Dominique and daughter Karyssa, will travel to Washington where he will be stationed for the next three years.

Clough recently completed a one year deployment to the Middle East. Upon completion of the tour, Clough was awarded the Global War on Terrorism - Expeditionary Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal (MSM) for his contribution while assigned as the executive officer for the 54th Signal Battalion.

During his deployment, Clough was nominated for a position serving

the President of the United States, and underwent 10 months of medical, physical, security, mental and financial screening. Following numerous interviews and boards Clough ultimately was one of five officers selected by the Department of Defense including the Air Force and Navy.

The 54th Signal Battalion consisted of over 650

SEE CLOUGH, 6



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Major Wylie Clough has been appointed to serve as a communications officer for the President of the United States. He and his wife Dominique and daughter Karyssa, will move to Washington C.D. where he will serve in the post for the next three years.

Ready for game day UCA Cheerleading Camp held in Grapevine



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The first day of the UCA Cheerleading Camp was a busy one for the Winters Cheer squads. Pictured from left to right in the back row are Celeste Sanchez, Alexis Silva, K'Lee Lindley, Abbie Killough, McCaila Walker, Brooklynn Anderson, Megan Jacob, Justine Alvarado, Brooklynn Gallaway, Karlee Busher and Christy Lindley. Pictured in the front row are Querstin Lara, Myra Ochoa, Jayden Galvan, Olivia Smith and McKenzie Ventress.

BY CELINDA HAWKINS
MANAGING EDITOR
WINTERS ENTERPRISE
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Sixteen cheerleaders from Winters ISD headed to the UCA Cheerleading Camp held at Great Wolf Lodge in Grapevine, July 11-14.

An 11-girl squad from the high school, and a 5-member squad from

the junior high attended the camp, which is presented by the Universal Cheerleaders Association.

Over 20 schools attended and over 270 students participated, said Coach Krystina Hunt, who has led the Blizzard cheerleaders for the past three years.

The girls worked together to learn dances, cheers, stunts, pyramids and much more.

"Both teams had a very successful week," Hunt said.

She said some of the cheerleaders were new, and others had been involved for several years.

"In many ways, we came to camp as individuals, but walked away as a team," Hunt said.

Throughout the duration of the

SEE CHEER, 8

Unemployment up in Runnels County

Job growth in state up 14 out of the past 15 months

STAFF REPORT

Unemployment is on the rise in Runnels County and in the nearby cities of San Angelo and Abilene. However, the Texas Workforce Commission is reported job growth statewide.

Texas has added an estimated 171,100 seasonally adjusted jobs over the past year with the addition of 7,200 nonfarm jobs in June. The state has added jobs in 14 of the last 15 months. Texas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 4.5 percent in June, up slightly from 4.4 percent in May, and remained below the national average of 4.9 percent.

"I am encouraged by our state's continued job growth, with Texas employers adding jobs in nine of 11 industries over the past year," said Texas Workforce Commissioner (TWC) Chairman Andres Alcantar. "Texas Workforce Solutions is committed to advancing partnerships and providing innovative solutions to our employers and workforce to keep our state the best place to work and do business."

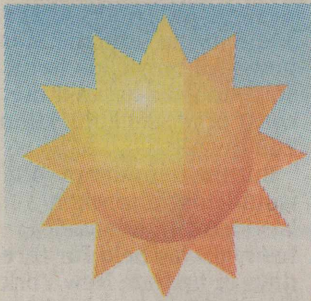
The picture isn't so rosy in Runnels County. In June, the unemployment rate in Runnels County rose to 4.4 percent up from 3.6 percent in May. The unemployment was also up from the same time last year when it was reported at 4.1 percent.

In nearby San Angelo, the picture is much the same with the unemployment rate tallied at 4.6 percent for June, up from 4.1 percent in May and up slightly from the same time last year when it was reported at 4.5 percent.

Likewise in Abilene the unemployment rate for June was reported at 4.1 percent up from 3.5 percent in May. The rate remained constant from June of 2015 when it was reported at 4.1 percent.

The Amarillo and Austin-Round Rock Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) recorded the month's lowest unemployment rate among Texas MSAs with a

SEE JOBS, 6



The last drop

Hot and dry conditions have been the norm so far in July with temperatures reaching the century mark and over in Runnels County, forecasters at the National Weather Service in San Angelo reported.

No rain was reported last week in Runnels or Tom Green counties. However, there is a 20 percent chance of rain in the forecast for tonight.

Hot and dry weather continues through the week-end forecasters say with highs reaching up to 98 degrees. Lows are expected to be in the mid to upper 70s, the NWS reports.

So far this year, Ballinger has received 17.56 inches of rainfall, with 16.71 inches reported in Wingate and 22.65 inches received in San Angelo.

Amazing Grace: Winters First United Methodist Church celebrates 125 years

SPECIAL TO THE WINTERS ENTERPRISE

Winters First United Methodist Church will celebrate its 125th anniversary August 7. Bishop J. Michael Lowry, Episcopal leader of the Central Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church, will be the guest speaker at the 10:45 a.m. worship service and the "Music Celebration" will be held at 2 p.m.

The Winters First United Methodist Church is part of the West District of the Methodist Central Texas Conference. Rev. Bob Murchison, who is the pastor



Bishop Mike Lowry

Methodist Church of Winters," Murchison said. "We are celebrating 125 years

SEE CHURCH, 6

of the church, is welcoming everyone to join in the celebration. "This is a very exciting time for the First United



CELINDA HAWKINS | LEDGER PHOTO

The First United Methodist Church of Winters is celebrating its 125th Anniversary on Sunday, Aug. 7.

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FUNERALS AND OBITUARIES

Troy Joe Norman

Troy Joe Norman, 59, of Winters, died July 19, 2016. He was born August 8, 1956 in Winters and grew up here graduating from Winters High School in 1974. He worked in the oil field and he was a member of the Bluff Creek Cowboy Church.

He is survived by 2 children: Waylon Norman of Winters and Holly Hargraves of Odessa. 2 brothers: Kenneth Norman of Tuscola and Arnold Norman of Odessa. 7 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents: T. W. and Ruby Lee Norman. One son: Charles Hargraves and one sister: Dorothy King.

Services were held at 10:30 A.M. Saturday July 23, 2016 at the Bluff Creek Cowboy Church with burial in Lakeview cemetery directed by Winters Funeral Home.

Winters Enterprise, July 28, 2016

Kassidy Ruth Sanders

Baby Kassidy Ruth Sanders, infant daughter of Amber Blackshear and Nicky Sanders, died Sunday, July 17, 2016 in Abilene. Funeral services for were held on Friday July 22, 2016 at 2 p.m. at the Pioneer Church of God, 158 N. Main St. Winters, TX. Burial followed in the Lakeview Cemetery under the direction of Lange Funeral Home.

Winters Enterprise, July 28, 2016

Billie "Ma" Weatherby

Billie "Ma" Weatherby, of Miles, 95, died Monday, July 18, 2016 at her residence. She was born May 6, 1921 in Justin, Texas.

Funeral services were held Saturday, July 23, at 2 p.m. at the Miles Methodist Church. Burial followed in the Miles Cemetery. Services were under the direction of Lange Funeral Home in Ballinger.

Winters Enterprise, July 28, 2016

Act today to avoid financial regrets tomorrow

SPECIAL TO THE BALLINGER LEDGER

"Regrets? I've had a few."

— Frank Sinatra

Mr. Sinatra, one of the most famous entertainers of the 20th century, did things his way, but he was also familiar with remorse. He's not alone, of course. We all deal with regrets - and financial ones are among the most troublesome.

Here are the leading financial regrets, according to a recent survey by Bankrate.com, along with some suggestions for avoiding them:

■ Not saving for retirement early enough - This was the top regret expressed by survey respondents. Saving and investing early for retirement offers you two key benefits. First, the more time you give growth-oriented investments, the greater their growth potential. And second, by saving and investing for retirement early in your career, you will likely need to put away less money

each year than you would if you waited until, say, your 40s or 50s. So, if you aren't already doing so, contribute as much as you can afford to your IRA and your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored plan. And increase your contributions every time your salary rises.

■ Not saving enough for emergency expenses - You can't plan for all expenses. Your furnace might die, your car may need a major repair, you may incur a sizable doctor's bill - the list goes on and on. If you don't have the money available to meet these costs, you might be forced to dip into your long-term investments. That's why it's important to maintain an emergency fund, containing three to six months' worth of living expenses, in a liquid, low-risk account.

■ Taking on too much credit card debt - If you don't overuse your credit cards, they can be handy and helpful, in many ways. Try to keep a lid on

SEE FINANCIAL, 3

COMMUNITY NEWS

Tax free holiday Aug. 5-7

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar reminds shoppers they can save money on certain items priced for less than \$100 during the state's annual sales tax holiday. This year, the sales tax holiday is scheduled for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 5-7. The law exempts most clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks priced below \$100 from sales tax, saving shoppers about \$8 on every \$100 they spend during the weekend. Lists of apparel and school supplies that may be purchased tax-free can be found on the Comptroller's website.

This year, shoppers will save an estimated \$92 million in state and local sales taxes during the sales tax holiday. The tax holiday weekend has been an annual event since 1999.

What happens in Vegas...

ROWENA - Vegas Nights in Runnels County will get rolling Saturday, Aug. 27 at St. Joseph's Hall in Rowena. The event is sponsored by the Runnels County Junior Livestock Show Association with the Casino Night hosted by Casino Connection of Georgetown. Doors open at 6 p.m. with a steak dinner served at 6:45 p.m. with the \$2,000 Grand Prize cash drawing to be held at 7:30 p.m. Casino Night will be held from 8:30 - 11:30 p.m. Tickets are \$100 per couple and \$60 per individual, which includes \$5,000 per person in Casino Night money. There will be chances to win tickets for basket and prizes. No one under 18 will be admitted. The event is BYOB with setups available.

Winner, winner brisket and chicken dinner

The Olfen St. Boniface Knights of Columbus will be selling BBQ briskets on Saturday, Aug. 20. The cost is \$8 per pound for the brisket and \$7 for each whole chicken, which can be picked up at the St. Boniface Parish hall at Olfen at 5 p.m. Please pre-order by calling Marty Frey at 325-365-6618 or David Rohmfeld 325-442-3331. The deadline for orders is August 17.

VFW Membership Appreciation Dinner

The Rowena VFW Post 9196 and the Auxiliary will have a membership recruitment and membership appreciation dinner at 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 14 at the post home in Rowena. Members, potential members and their families are invited. Korean veterans will be recognized for their service during the event. For more information contact John Multer at 325-658-1655.

CASA volunteers wanted

The Children's Advocacy Center of Tom Green County, Inc. CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) is seeking volunteers. Currently CASA serves 60 percent of the children in foster care. Training will be held from 5:30 to 9 p.m. July 11-14 and July 18-21. Dinner is provided. To sign up, call 325-653-4673 or email mblue@casatmgreen.org. CASA serves Tom Green, Runnels, Concho, Crockett, Coke, Irion, Reagan, Sutton, Sterling and Schleicher counties.

AA meeting

Sobriety First Alcoholics Anonymous group will meet at the First United Methodist Church, in Ballinger, at 7 p.m. every Monday and Wednesday. 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 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.

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.

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.

Just Around the Corner
1969 — A summer of firsts

Over the past few months and weeks, I have had some younger folks ask me if this country has ever been like it is now - embroiled in politics, protests, horrific crimes and even war.

Well, the answer is a definitive "yes." I harken back to 1969 - a year even as a young child, I remember, because it was a time of strife, great achievements, political turmoil and change.

That would be the year, that many families moved from the dinner table to TV trays in front of the television to watch events unfold that would change this country and our lives forever.

Yes, 1969 was a big year in the history of this country especially during the summer. While I was just a kid that summer, I remember events like the ongoing Vietnam war, protests and news about the moon landing highlighting the headlines and the nightly newscasts. It was for some as rocker Brian Adams put it "The Summer of '69."

It was definitely a sum-



Celinda Hawkins

mer of firsts. As the summer unfolded on May 22, 1969, NASA's Apollo 10 almost reached the moon's surface. Just a few days later, the Oscar winning film "Midnight Cowboy" starring Dustin Hoffman and Jon Voight was released. The next day, Apollo 10 returned to earth. Meanwhile, John Lennon and Yoko Ono, who had just married, held their next "bed-in" the day after the Apollo 10 success.

In June President Richard Nixon and South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu met and he announced the drawdown of troops. Sadly, that same month, singer Judy Garland died of a drug overdose. Warren Burger was sworn in as chief justice of the U.S.

The very next month, in

July, was a very, very busy and historical month. One more sad bit of entertainer news was reported when Brian Jones, founder of the Rolling Stones, drowned in his pool at his home in England. The Zodiac Killer struck on July 4, shooting a couple - the man survived, the woman did not. A few days later on July 8, Nixon kept his word and the first troops were withdrawn.

On July 16, Apollo 11 took off for the moon as millions watched and then four days later, they successfully landed, while 500 million earthlings watched across the globe as Neil Armstrong took those first steps for "mankind..." While all that was going on, Teddy Kennedy was getting in deep water after the Chappaquiddick incident when he drove off a bridge and Mary Jo Kopechne died.

Things continued to heat up in August, Nixon and his buddies started secret peace negotiations in France, but alas, they could not agree, so all was for naught. Charles

Manson followers killed Sharon Tate and friends Aug. 9 and continued the killing spree the next day killing Leno and Rosemary Labianca. On Aug. 17, Hurricane Camille, a category 5 and at the time the most powerful hurricane to hit stateside, devastated the coast of Mississippi, killing 248 people.

But the Summer of '69 would continue when Woodstock, the music festival, was held for three days in upstate New York. Numerous acts would wow the crowd of 400,000 at the farm in the Catskills for the Creedence Clearwater Revival, fronted by John Fogerty, was the first band to sign a contract to play. When they did, legend has it, lots of other big acts followed suit, like Jimi Hendrix, the Grateful Dead, Janice Joplin, Sly and the Family Stone, The Who, Santana, and Jefferson Airplane. Believe it or not, a lot of bands declined the invite to the fest, like The Beatles, The Doors, Led Zeppelin, The Moody Blues and I'll be

SEE CORNER, 3

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State 4-H Horse Show continues this weekend

STAFF REPORT

It is once again time for the Texas State 4-H Horse Show, which runs through Sunday at the Taylor County Expo Center Coliseum.

This is the 32nd year that Abilene has hosted the major 4-H youth event. 4-H members from all across the state will be in Abilene to compete in a wide variety of events which include western riding events, English riding events, speed events, roping & other cattle events as well as drill team events. Events will take place in the Taylor County Expo Center Coliseum, the Boeshart Horse Barn and the Covered Outdoor Arena. There is something for everyone to watch and enjoy.

The arena will be open as early as 6 a.m. for different events and categories to work, then will be set up for the competitions. Team roping, breakaway and calf roping will kick off events Thursday, while the competition will begin with Stock Horse Trail competitions Friday and 2-year old Futurity Pleasure competition Saturday. Awards will be presented throughout the remainder of the competition. A party will be held for exhibitors on Thursday night.

The objectives of the Texas 4-H Horse program include providing a means for 4-H members to: Acquire horsemanship and horse training skills; gain knowledge concerning science related subjects include horse production, management, training, evaluation and use; prepare youth for citizenship responsibilities and

community service; and to develop leadership, initiative, self-reliance, sportsmanship and other desirable life traits.

These objectives are accomplished by offering projects and activities in horse management, production, training and use. The four horse projects are: Horsemanship-this includes managing, riding and training older horses with an emphasis on learning the skills necessary to cause a horse to perform in a desirable fashion. Training- this includes managing and training 2 or 3-year old horses. The project may also involve an older horse that needs further training or focus on advancing a horse to another event. Weanling or yearling development - this includes managing, conditioning and training a horse until the horse is old enough to be ridden. Mare/Foal - this includes managing a mare through the complete production cycle, from selecting the sire through weaning the foal. The Texas State 4-H Horse Show is just one of the horse related activities used to accomplish these objectives.

One of the most entertaining events during the State 4-H Horse Show is the Drill Team competition on Monday (July 25) night beginning at 6 p.m. Teams are made up of 10 to 20 members. All members are horse back and perform a routine accompanied by music and full costume. The routine will have the horses traveling at a full run with crossing maneuvers, weaving, figure 8 and many other moves. This event is to help teach 4-Hers teamwork, horsemanship skills and horse safety.



The State 4-H Horse Show continues this weekend at the Taylor County Expo Center and Coliseum in Abilene.

For more information on this and other 4-H opportunities contact the Taylor County Extension Office at 325-672-6038.

The Market Perspective Has the Rig Count Bottomed?

Halliburton HAL seems to think so. CEO Dave Lesar notes that rather than being sent to their home yards, 26 drilling rigs were re-deployed in the last few weeks. He suspects the US rig count has bottomed out.

When bad news seems to be the only brand available, companies will often take advantage of just that. This is known as taking 'the big bath' in accounting terminology. And HAL did just that this past quarter. The idea is to search the books for every conceivable, problematic hanging by a thread event,



Dennis Elam

thinking goes, if anything goes right, the next few quarters should be profitable.

HAL was denied its acquisition of Baker Hughes. HAL booked \$3.52 billion of costs related to the

failed merger. And in true Big Bath style, followed that with another \$423 million of other losses.

Another 9%, about 5,000 workers have recently received pink slips. The overall employment level now stands at 50,000, down from a peak of 80,000 during the recent boom.

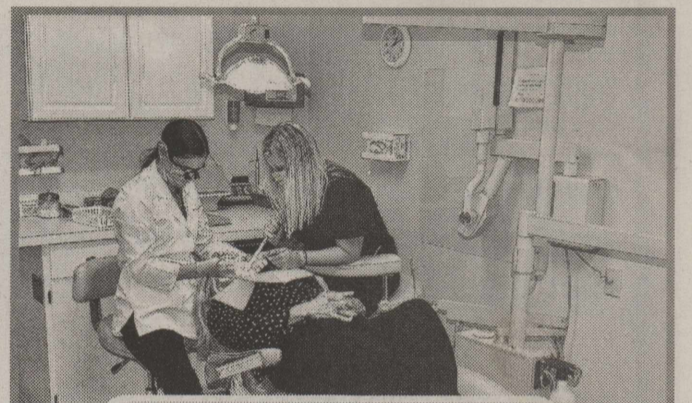
All of this resulted in a loss of \$3.21 billion or \$3.73 per share. But you would never know that to look at the stock price. HAL has risen \$28 to \$46+ today. Indeed its chart rise looks quite similar to the

price of oil itself. This is not surprising given HAL's number two status in the energy service business.

In this space we speculated that oil would pull back from its recent high of \$52 to the low 40s. On the continuous chart crude is at \$45.75 on the Thursday close. We peg support at the \$40-42 level.

And as always we note that globally, oil is priced in dollars. Since May the US Dollar has risen from 92 to 97. Typically commodities priced in dollars

SEE ELAM, 5



BALLINGER FAMILY DENTISTRY

AnneMarie Benage, D.D.S.

604 Avenue B

Ballinger, Texas 76821

325-365-2583

FINANCIAL

CONTINUED FROM 2

your credit card debt, keeping in mind that your debt payments reduce the amount of money you have available to invest for your long-term goals, such as a comfortable retirement.

Not saving enough for children's education - This may be perhaps the most difficult regret to address - after all, it's not easy to save for your own retirement and simultaneously put money away for your children's college educations. However, if you can afford to save for college, try to do so in as advantageous a manner as possible.

Buying a bigger house than you can afford - If you tie up too much money in mortgage payments, you will have less

to contribute to your various retirement accounts. And while home equity certainly has some value, it generally does not provide you with the same liquidity - and probably not the same potential for growth and income - as an investment portfolio that's appropriate for your needs and risk tolerance. So, think carefully before purchasing that big house - you might be better served by scaling down your home ownership and ramping up your investments.

You can't avoid all the doubts and misgivings you'll encounter at various stages of your life. But if you can reduce those regrets associated with your finances, you could well increase your satisfaction during your retirement years.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by Larry Gilbert Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Joni Mitchell, and encourage everyone to have hope for the future.

"We are stardust, we are golden, We are billion year old carbon... And we got to get ourselves back to the garden..."

Celinda Hawkins is the managing editor of the Ballinger Ledger and the Winters Enterprise. Contact her at 432-349-2736 or via email at chawkins@ballingerledger.com.

CORNER

CONTINUED FROM 2

darned - Roy Rogers. They wanted him to sing "Happy Trails," at the end of the show, but, he said nope.

Obviously, the Summer of '69, was pivotal in our history. And, yes, the Summer of 2016, may prove to be just as pivotal.

So when the young folks ask me "has it ever been like this before?" I reflect back on the lyrics of "Woodstock," written by

"Hot In Here"

Across

- 1 Native of Novi Sad
- 5 Election losers
- 9 Moves a muscle
- 14 Adidas rival
- 15 Building block
- 16 Carry on
- 17 Words of reciprocity
- 19 Silents star Bara
- 20 P.F. ___'s
- 21 Coke's partner
- 23 Gathering clouds, say
- 24 Modest reply
- 26 Sail holder
- 28 It's in the genes
- 31 Calf's meat
- 33 Like
- 37 Pro ___
- 39 "Huh?"
- 41 First V.P.
- 43 Lord's Prayer starter
- 44 Go blading
- 45 AP pics
- 48 HOMES part
- 49 Actress Kazan
- 50 Lemon ___
- 52 Little bird
- 53 WWW code
- 55 Rider Revere
- 57 "Typee" sequel
- 60 Sleuth Spade
- 62 Shopworn
- 65 Prefix with -gon
- 67 Dual nature
- 70 Send, in a way
- 71 Choice word
- 72 First name in humor
- 73 Online call site
- 74 Film ___
- 75 Paper buy

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Down

- 1 Freelancer's enc.
- 2 Rescue op
- 3 Full-bodied
- 4 Persian faith
- 5 Got past
- 6 Durham sch.
- 7 Echelon
- 8 Play, in a way
- 9 Convened
- 10 Trifle
- 11 Gossip tidbit
- 12 Uncivil
- 13 Cross
- 18 Broadcast
- 22 Moonshine mix
- 25 Country bumpkin
- 27 Pleads
- 28 Southern sound
- 29 Comaneci
- 30 Arcade name
- 32 Lummoxes
- 34 Spirit
- 35 Play center
- 36 Shooting sport
- 38 Early king of Egypt
- 40 Scouting group
- 42 Roasting rod
- 46 Fashion lines
- 47 Lay on thick
- 51 Continental capital
- 54 Burdened
- 56 Carafe size
- 57 Goes (for)
- 58 Not bold
- 59 Sole
- 61 Venus de ___
- 63 Rushed headlong
- 64 Jane Austen novel
- 66 Fire truck item
- 68 Vegas drama
- 69 Thanksgiving side dish

LAST WEEK'S ANSWER GRID

N	A	P	E		O	R	E	I	D	A		D	I	D			
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Runnels County ROLL-UP

4 Winters Enterprise

Thursday, July 28, 2016

Runnels County Jail Record

July 28, 2016

Name	Age	Agency
James R. Sutton	45	Coke
Assault family violence.		
James C. Crockett	60	Turned self in
Failure to appear, speeding.		
Jonathan M. Watson	26	Coleman
Manufacture delivery controlled substance.		
Abel Condado	44	Concho
Possession controlled substance.		
Julien R. Nava	33	RCSO
Obstruction retaliation, two counts.		
Dana M. Priddy	34	Coleman
Manufacture delivery controlled substance.		
Lindsay W. Garcia	34	Coke
Public intoxication, evading arrest.		
Brady Richardsen	21	RCSO
Abandoning or endangering child.		
Alissa Kelly	20	RCSO
Abandoning or endangering child.		
Jose L. Soto	65	RCSO
Indecency with child, aggravated sexual assault child, two counts.		
Brenda L. Martinez	45	BPD
Driving while intoxicated.		

Visit the Winters Enterprise online for more news
www.wintersenterprise.com

VETERANS CORNER



Sandra G. Van Zant

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently announced it has eliminated paper signature requirements for veterans wishing to enroll in VA health care. Effective immediately, VA has amended its enrollment regulations to allow veterans to complete applications for enrollment in the VA health care system by telephone, without the need for a paper signature. This action also accelerates VA's effort to enroll all combat veterans with pending enrollments as part of its ongoing Veterans Enrollment

Rework Project (VERP). By adding this telephone application option, the VA now offers a variety of ways to enroll in VA healthcare systems. Visit www.va.gov/healthbenefits/apply to access forms or apply online. Veterans who wish to enroll by phone can call 1-877-222-VETS (8387), Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Eastern time). 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 325-365-3612.

— Sandra G. Van Zant,
Veterans County Service Officer

One killed in two-vehicle crash

BY CELINDA HAWKINS
MANAGING EDITOR

CALLAHAN COUNTY - A 64-year old Abilene woman was killed in a two-vehicle crash Thursday on U.S. Interstate 20 one mile east of Abilene, the Department of Public Safety reports.

Frances Marie Codispoti of

Abilene, was pronounced dead at the scene of the accident which occurred at 12:54 a.m. Thursday, July 21. Terry Don Turner, 53, also of Abilene was transported to Hendrick Medical Center with critical injuries, following the crash, the DPS reported.

Reports indicate that Codispoti

was eastbound on I-20 in a 2012 Ford Focus on the outside lane, when she was struck head on by Turner, who was driving a 2005 Chevrolet Suburban, according to the DPS.

Neither driver was wearing a seat-belt, the DPS stated and the crash remains under investigation.

TWC to host Texas Business Conference Aug. 19 at the Abilene Civic Center

STAFF REPORT

AUSTIN — The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) invites Abilene-area employers, human resource professionals, business owners and managers to attend the Texas Business Conference employment law update on August 19 at the Abilene Civic Center in Abilene. The conference will provide valuable information for employers and business owners concerning the legal issues associated with operating a business in Texas.

"We are committed to providing employers the information they need to succeed," said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Ruth R. Hughs. "The Texas Business Conference brings valuable resources to effectively navigate employers through state and federal employment laws."

Employers receive practical, up-to-date information for operating a successful business and learn techniques to more effectively manage employees. Seminar topics include: Texas employment law and the basics of hiring; federal

and Texas wage and hour laws; the unemployment claim and appeal process; independent contractors; and employee policy handbooks. Participants will receive the latest edition of the popular publication, "Especially for Texas Employers," which addresses basic legal issues regarding hiring, post-employment and work-separation policies.

The Society for Human Resource Management Texas State Council (Texas SHRM) is co-sponsoring the Texas Business Conference and offering professional development and

Human Resources Certification Institute (HRCI) recertification credits for human resources professionals attending the conferences. Certificates for the Texas SHRM Professional Development Credits will be handed out to those attending the Texas Business Conference. In addition, certified public accountants who attend can earn continuing education credit hours and other conference participants may qualify for general professional credit.

The conference is from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Abilene Civic Center, located at 1100 N. Sixth St. Attendees may check in from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. The cost to attend is \$125 per person and is non-refundable.

Space is limited, so participants are encouraged to register as soon as possible. For more information, call 512-463-6389. Participants may register online or download a registration form at the Texas Business Conference webpage.

Texas Business Conferences occur several times a year at locations throughout the state. For a complete list of dates, visit the Texas Business Conference webpage. More information about the resources available to Texas employers can be found on the webpage of the Commissioner Representing Employers.

SUBMISSIONS POLICY

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 ENTERPRISE ONLINE FOR MORE NEWS

www.wintersenterprise.com

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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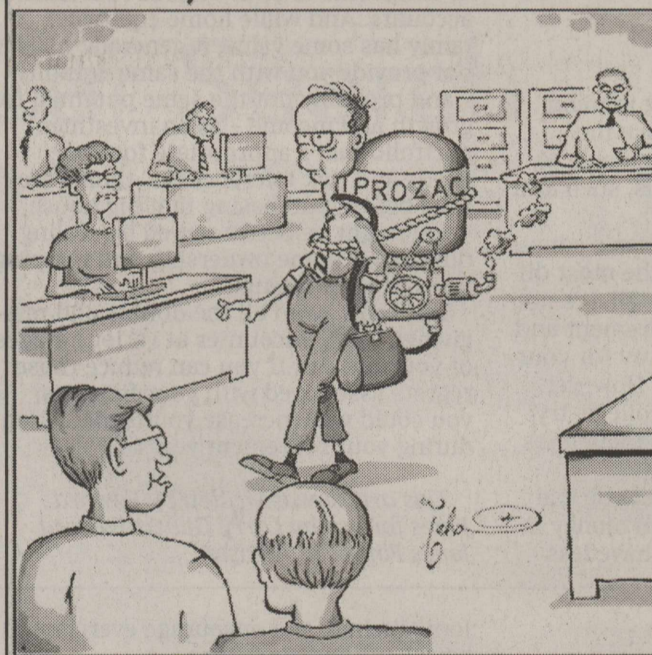
Deadlines are as follows: News items - Noon Monday; Display advertising - 5 p.m. Monday; Classifieds line advertising - 11 a.m. Tuesday.

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The Ballinger Ledger

The Winters Enterprise

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It looks like Phil has finally figured out how to deal with the office politics around here.



PTL

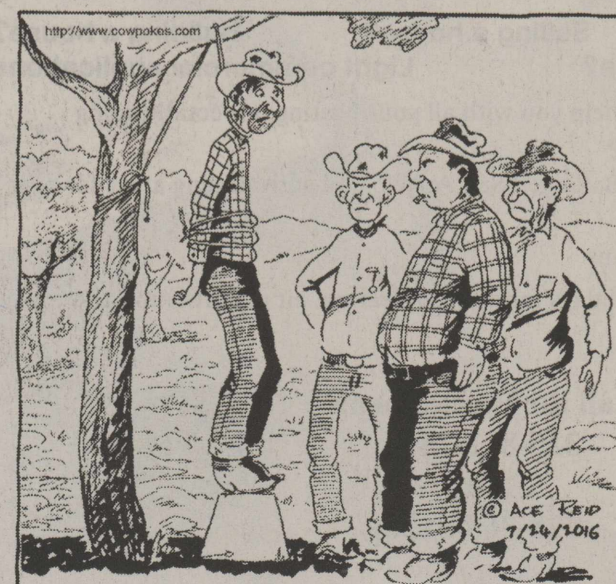
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By Ace Reid



"Fellers, you know I wouldn't steal no cattle now. As much grass as you've got, I'd wait til fall and git that extra weight!"

Getting their art on

The 12th Annual Art Camp held in Ballinger

SPECIAL TO THE WINTERS ENTERPRISE

A few weeks ago, if you drove the by the Do-Art Studio in Ballinger, on South Ninth Street and saw bodies laying on the sidewalk, don't worry, it was all in the name of art.

The "Sidewalk Chalk" was one of the final activities for the Mid-West Texas Artists Guild Art Camp, which has been held for the last 12 years at the studio in Ballinger.

"That is always a favorite thing for the kids to do," said Shirley Minzenmayer, who is a member of the Guild.

The Mid-West Texas Artists Guild held the 12th Annual Art Camp was held June 20-24, and during the camp students were trained in a variety of art media.

The week began with campers working with clay led by artist Queba James who had each student create the Alamo with clay on the first day. Also on Monday, artist and Guild member Jean Hensley had each student do a page of color so they might learn how colors blend and work together.

Campers learned a variety of techniques throughout the week-long camp.

Artist Tom Orsak had the campers draw a landscape with a barn and trees that might be something they were familiar with. After drawings were complete, campers used acrylic paint to finish their design. They learned how to mix and blend colors and how to apply paint with a brush on a canvas board.

Orsak and his wife, Jeane, are the newest members of the Guild and members were glad to have him share his talents with the campers.

"He is an outstanding Plein Aire artist and brought much to the camp this year," Minzenmayer said.

On Wednesday Hensley had the students create a still life painting using boots that they had to look at and draw. Once they were drawn, boots were painted with watercolor.

Also on Wednesday, Minzenmayer taught the campers the art of batik, by using the "wax resist" method on fabric for the first time in the history of the camp. During the exhibition of the technique, a bluebonnet was drawn on paper and transferred to the fabric using a permanent marker to outline. After applying wax the bluebonnet was painted. Once dry, the wax was ironed off and the batik was finished.

On Thursday, Minzenmayer led the campers on drawing sunflowers, encouraging campers to "draw what they saw." Real sunflowers, donated by Gary and Dinell Jacob, were used so they could see how they were formed. They then painted the sunflower on a stretched canvas with

acrylic paint.

Minzenmayer and the guild thanked the Jacobs for the contribution of the sunflowers.

Other activities included making a Texas flag with Queba James. This was placed on top of their Alamo.

Hensley also showed them how to make art stars by folding paper to create a five-point star. They then glued it to gold paper and put their name on it to place with their projects of the week. The campers were all named "Art Stars." Each camper crafted Thank You cards to be sent to the person that sent them to Art Camp. This year artist Lue Kraatz showed the campers a marbling technique for the cards using shaving cream.

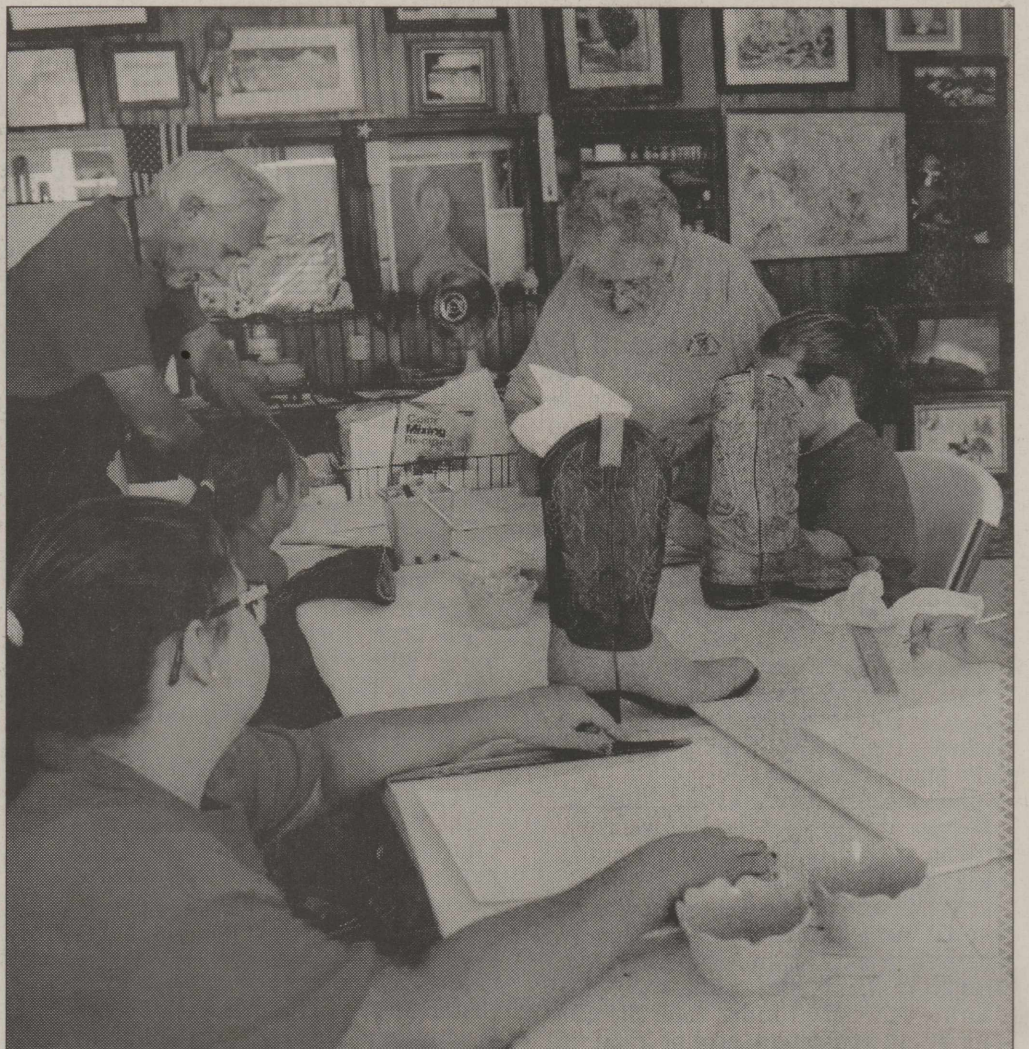
Louise Drennan was in charge of refreshments serving a nutritious snack each day and she was assisted by Jeane Orsak and Lue Kraatz.

While attendance was low due to the baseball camp being held at the same time, Guild members said it was a success.

"(Camper) Lacey Jones will be missed next year because she "graduated," Minzenmayer said. "She has come to many art camps."

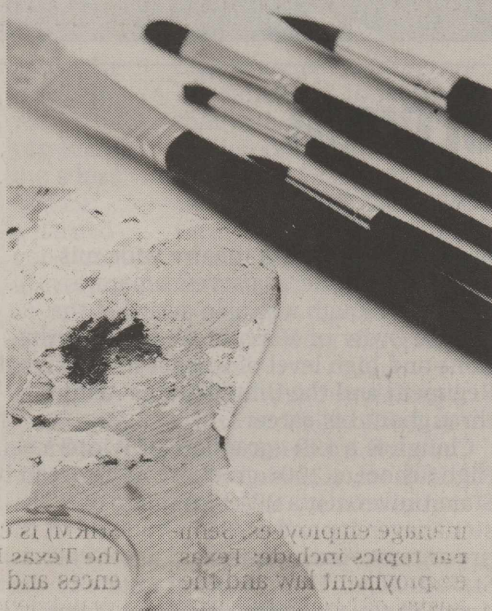
Campers said the camp was fun and asked the Guild to have more camps in the future.

"One camper said her favorite things were clay and making friends," Minzenmayer said. "We all look forward to next year."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Campers drew boots with a little help from artists Tom Orsak and Queba James during the 12th Annual Mid-West Texas Artist Guild Art camp held June 20-24 in Ballinger. Pictured from the left, clockwise are Franki Gray, Keni Jo Drennan, instructors Tom Orsak and Queba James, Madison Nash and Kaylynn Slaughter.



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ELAM

CONTINUED FROM 3

fall when the dollar rises. Given the recent world turmoil, from Turkey to you name it, a rush to US Dollars is not surprising. This puts the US Dollar back above its 50 and 200 day moving averages.

If HAL is correct, recall they never saw the drop in the oil price coming, the refiners are worth a look. Holly Frontier HFC dropped to \$22.25, rose and now trades at \$24. Valero VLO dropped from the low 70s to \$47 and has risen to \$51; it is a bit over bought here and could fall back to the 50 day moving average at \$49.50. At these prices the stock offers an almost 5% dividend.

Natural gas futures soared from \$1.90 to \$3.00. Price is pulling back now. Support appears to be at \$2.60 and then \$2.30.

If crude holds the low \$40-42 range, we should expect a resumption of the up trend the next few weeks.

Let's look at a missed opportunity. The two political parties are offering a stark contrast for the

future of America. Elizabeth Warren and the President both claim 'you didn't build that.' Their view, along with Al Gore and Nancy Pelosi, is that the government essentially underwrites all progress.

In contrast the Republicans are still trying to project a view of something different. And two recent convention speakers could have done that but did not.

In 2012, Clint Eastwood gave his 'empty chair' speech ending with a crude taunt to the President. Monday evening, Melania Trump foolishly entrusted her husband's advisors to write her speech. A hastily cribbed couple of paragraphs from Michelle Obama's speech gave free reign to all sorts of plagiarism charges, from the original fiction writer, Brian Williams, now at MSNBC.

Here is the missed opportunity. Both Clint and Melania rose from obscurity to the height of success in the most difficult of arenas, entertainment and fashion. Both are self-made success stories, who unlike Elon Musk, did not depend on government subsidies. Yes they are both attractive individu-

als, but both industries are chock a block full of attractive people. And few make it to the top.

That is the story each should have told. I just finished reading Lucy and Desi by Warren Harris. At the end of his life, Desi comments that in no other country could a 16-year old from Cuba have achieved the success he did. Clint, Melania, there's your story, try to get it out in the future.

Dennis Elam is an accounting professor at Texas A & M University San Antonio. Dennis.elam@gmail.com

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CHURCH

CONTINUED FROM 1

of Amazing Grace. And I am honored to be the pastor for this wonderful celebration of the church at this historical time of its existence."

Bishop Lowry is the resident bishop of the Central Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church, Fort Worth Episcopal Area. He is the spiritual leader for approximately 164,000 United Methodists. He was elected and consecrated as bishop in July, 2008. Bishop Lowry is a 1972 graduate of Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana and earned his Master of Theology from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University and his Doctor of Ministry from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

Along with Bishop Lowry, Dr. Lisa Neslony, West District Superintendent, former pastors, staff, and other special guests and descendants of charter members will be recognized at the anniversary service.

The morning service will feature an anthem by the Mills family, descendants of charter members, Mr. and Mrs. R.A. Yeats.

A "Music Celebration" will be held at 2 p.m. in the sanctuary of the church. Featured musicians include organist, Randy Stevens of Midland; Kirke McKenzie, former choir director for FUMC of Winters, now of Iraan will also perform. Other church members will perform including Fran Kidwell, pianist; the Phil Mooney Family, trumpets and trombone and Lane Gibbs, an ASU student will serve as percussion accompanist. In addition the Jeff Mills Family will present vocal and instrumental specials along with former pastor, Rev. Joe Chamness as a trombone accompanist.

In 1889, Mr. and Mrs. R.A. Yeats moved to North East Runnels County and purchased land on Bluff Creek, a year before the town of Winters was founded. On August 2, 1891 the Yeats invited a Methodist minister to hold worship services and opened their home for worshipping and praising God. As a result of this service the Methodist Church was organized with 16 charter members. Services were later held in member's homes or the local school house sharing with other denominations. As the town of Winters grew in population it became apparent that God intended for the Methodist church to be a part of the new town's

future.

In 1899, the Methodist congregation built its first house of worship on the same present church site on the corner of Church and Parsonage Streets. The frame structure was built under the pastorate of John Wesley Bowden, pioneer Circuit Rider. This was the first church building of any denomination in the new town of Winters. The Yeats family continued in faithful church attendance traveling in a wagon pulled by two mules. A survey was used on special occasions.

The Yeats had 11 children and two sons became ministers. Mr. Yeats died at the age of 87 and Mrs. Yeats lived to be 102.

The lot of the present church site is the oldest continuous Methodist church site in Runnels County. Five different houses of worship have occupied the same site since 1899.

The Texas Historical Survey Committee authorized the official Texas Historical Marker to the Winters Methodist Church which was dedicated July 20, 1969. It is the 16th official Texas Historical Marker to be erected in Runnels County.

The Winters First United Methodist Church is the 392nd Methodist Church in the United States and overseas to receive the United Methodist Historic Site Marker. The church site must have been established at least 100 years and been awarded an official Texas Historical Marker to the site. The site is within the bounds of the Methodist Central Texas Conference and is of historic significance to the Texas Historical Commission. It was dedicated September 22, 2002.

"Winters First United Methodist Church, is not about buildings or historic markers, though this is important to the church history and heritage," Murchison said. "It is about 125 years of God's Amazing Grace, a caring, inviting, inspiring and vital place to worship. The congregation is engaged in mission and outreach by putting faith and love into action so that Christ's work might be accomplished locally and around the world."

The United Methodist Church mission statement is: Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

"Join us in praising God for His 'Amazing Grace' as we celebrate our 125th church anniversary," Murchison said.

Jean Gibbs, historian for FUMC of Winters contributed to this report.

3.9 percent in June.

"The Texas labor force has much to offer and there are resources available to find the perfect occupational fit," said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Julian Alvarez. "I encourage all job seekers to contact their local Workforce Solutions office for assistance with job training and placement."

GETTING THEIR ART ON



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

ABOVE: Campers at the Mid-West Texas Artist Guild Art Camp get instruction on drawing a boot from artists Tom Orsak and Queba James. Pictured from left to right clockwise are Franki Gray, Keni Jo Drennan, instructors Tom Orsak and Queba James, Madison Nash and Kaylynn Slaughter. **BELOW:** Carla Campbell with her granddaughters Cayley Campbell and Lacey Jones at the Show Off on the last day of the 12th Annual Mid-West Texas Artist Guild Art Camp held June 20-24 at the Do-Art Studio in Ballinger.



CLOUGH

CONTINUED FROM 1

personnel and had a theatre wide mission spanning across seven separate nations. Clough was also awarded the Bronze Order of Mercury for his contributions and high level of impact to the Signal Regiment and the United States Army throughout his career.

Clough is a 1994 graduate of Winters High School, a 2004 graduate of Tarleton State University, a 2013 graduate of Webster University and a 2015 Graduate of the prestigious Army Command and General Staff College. He is also a graduate of the Army Space, Strategist and Joint Planners Courses. He holds a Bachelors degree in

kinesiology and a Masters Degree in management and leadership.

He originally enlisted in the Army in 1995 earning his commission in 2004. He has been deployed a total of five times, including four combat tours. He has earned numerous awards and decorations including two Bronze Stars, the Meritorious Service Medal, six Army Commendation medals including one for valor. He also earned the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge and the Combat Action Badge.

Over the course of his military career, Clough has seen the support of his hometown, with the community sending care packages to the troops under his command. Clough said he is very grateful to the community of Winters for their continued support.

JOBS

CONTINUED FROM 1

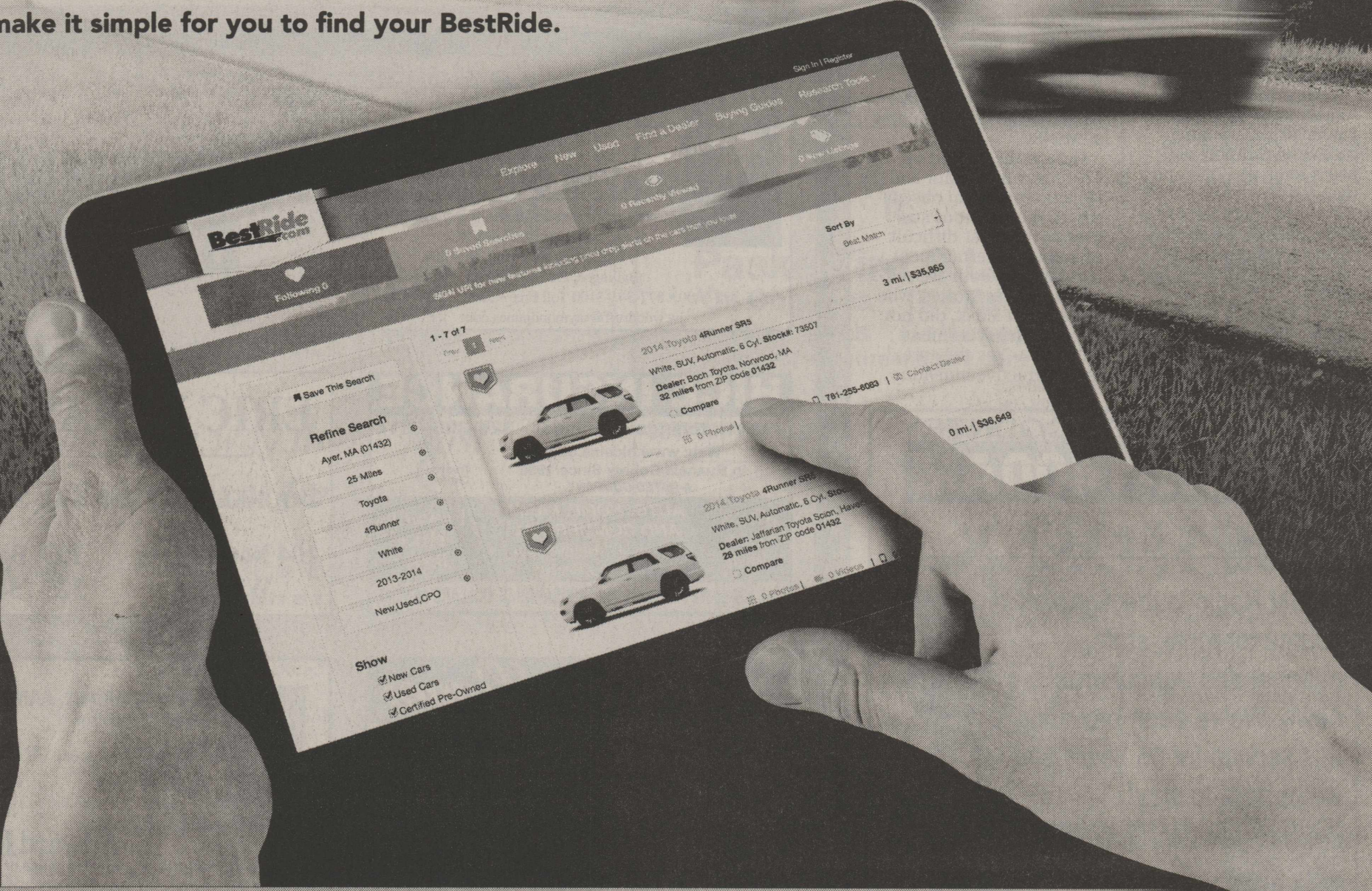
non-seasonally adjusted rate of 3.3 percent, followed by the Sherman-Denison and Lubbock MSAs each with rates of



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Attorney for Plaintiff or Plaintiff: Stewart S. Davis

Davis Law Firm
236 Junction Hwy.
Kerrville, TX 78028
Tel: (830) 257-8851

Tammy Burleson, District Clerk
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By: Lesa Johnson, Deputy

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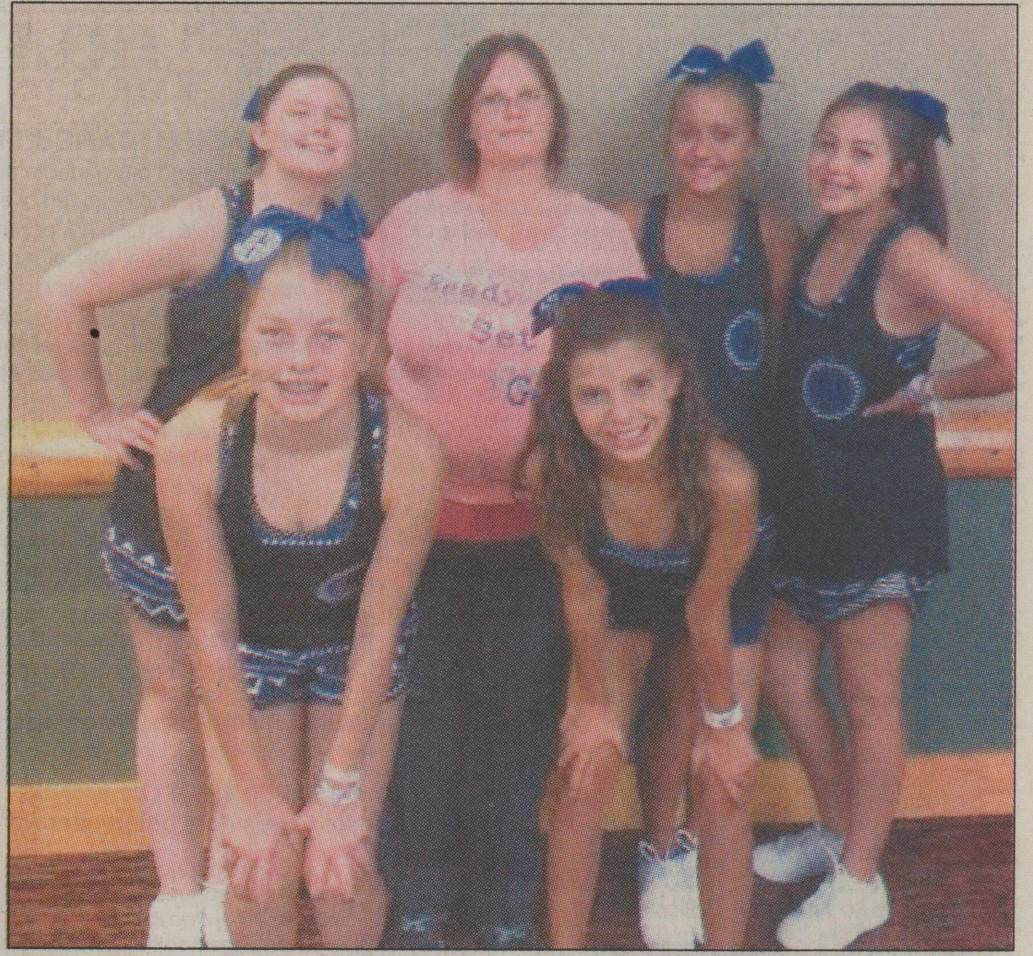
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CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

ABOVE: The senior cheerleaders for the Winters Blizzards this year are from left to right Justine Alvarado, Brooklyn Gallaway, Christy Kruse and K'Lee Lindley.
TOP, RIGHT: The junior high Cheer squad was very successful during the camp, winning three ribbons. Pictured in the back row from left to right are Olivia Smith, Coach Robin Smith, Myra Ochoa and Querstin Lara. Pictured in the front row are Jayden Galvan and McKenzie Ventress.

CHEER

CONTINUED FROM 1

camp, teams were presented with Spirit Sticks at the end of each day for showing team spirit and enthusiasm.

"We won a spirit stick every night," Hunt said.

The WJHS squad won a blue and red ribbon and both teams were given a gold ribbon, for their dances with added stunts.

"The gold ribbon meant the squad was game day ready," Hunt explained.

In addition, on the last day, the Winters squads received a trophy for "Superior Squad."

Two cheerleaders made "All American Cheerleader" and were among those chosen from all over the country to participate in a parade in London, England later this year. Justine Alvarado and Christy Kruse, made All American Cheerleader and are eligible to go on the trip, which is not a school sponsored event.

"They were very excited," Hunt said.

ABOVE: The Winters Cheerleaders are "game day ready" thanks to some instruction at the UCA Cheerleading Camp held in Grapevine, July 11-14. Pictured in the back row from left to right are Coach Krystina Hunt, Justine Alvarado, Celeste Sanchez, Alexis Silva, Karlee Busher, K'Lee Lindley, Abbie Killough, Brooklynn Anderson, Megan Jacob and Coach Robin Smith. Pictured in the front row from left to right are Brooklyn Gallaway, McCaila Walker, Christy Kruse, McKenzie Ventress, Jayden Galvan, Olivia Smith, Querstin Lara and Myra Ochoa.

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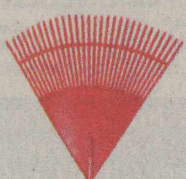
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KAYAKING ON THE BAYOU
SEE PAGE 4



**ZEBRA MUSSEL PROBLEM
ARISES IN TEXAS WATERS**
SEE PAGE 5

**WHAT'S THE BEST
CATFISH BAIT?**
LUKE CLAYTON SHARES TIPS
SEE PAGE 18

LAKE BROWNWOOD STOCKED WITH NEARLY HALF A MILLION FISH

SEE PAGE 2



TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE PHOTO

EMPIRE-TRIBUNE

BROWNWOOD BULLETIN

THE BALLINGER LEDGER

The Winters Enterprise

GLEN ROSE REPORTER



TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE PHOTO
 Lake Brownwood was stocked with almost 500,000 blue catfish and Florida largemouth bass 2-inch fingerlings at the end of June.

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Almost half a million fish recently added to Lake Brownwood

BY DERRICK STUCKLY
 BROWNWOOD BULLETIN
 derrick.stuckly@brownwoodbulletin.com

Two months after Lake Brownwood was forced into closure for the second time this year due to excessive rainfall, water is plentiful and fishing conditions are near ideal. And barring an unforeseen lack of assistance from Mother Nature, the number of fish that will be biting should continue to increase for years — thanks to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

In late June, the TPWD Inland Fisheries added nearly half a million 2-inch fingerlings to Lake Brownwood

— 465,971 to be exact. Of those, 324,616 are blue catfish and 141,355 are Florida largemouth bass.

“This is something we do if we see a need for supplemental stocking in the population,” said Michael Homer, a fisheries biologist with the TPWD Abilene District. “West Texas reservoirs have a lot of fluctuation in water level. When that happens with a lot of really important habitat, you have a fish bowl effect. If that happens for too long, you have basically a whole lot of opportunities for the big fish to eat the little fish, and very poor reproduction. We typically see this with

SEE LAKE BROWNWOOD, 22

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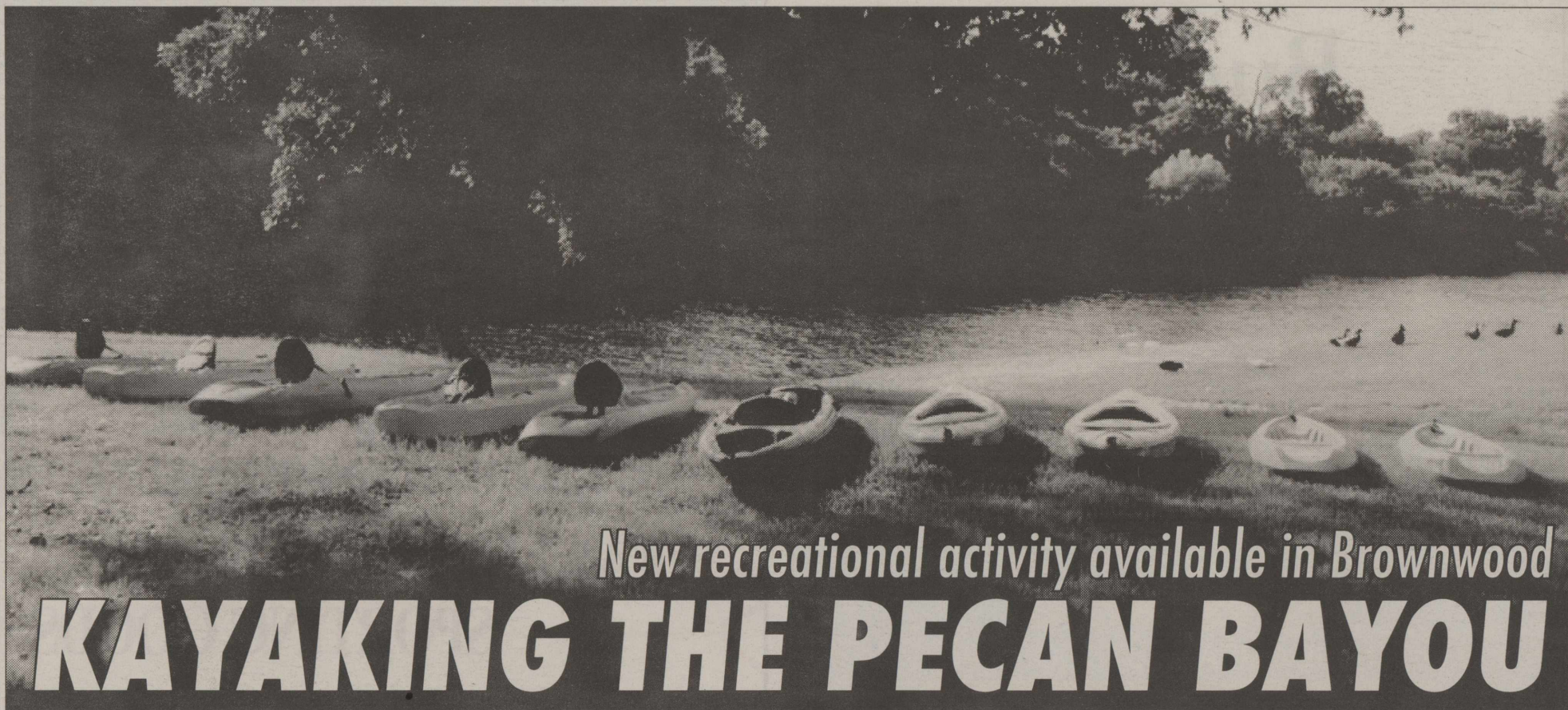
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New recreational activity available in Brownwood

KAYAKING THE PECAN BAYOU

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BAYOU KAYAK RENTALS FACEBOOK PAGE

ABOVE: Bayou Kayak Rentals currently have 10 kayaks in their fleet as the business is currently getting off the ground. **BELOW:** The view from a trio of kayaks trekking down the Pecan Bayou in Brownwood.

BY DERRICK STUCKLY

BROWNWOOD BULLETIN
derrick.stuckly@brownwoodbulletin.com

With the temperatures rising, there's a new option for cooling down in Brownwood and the surrounding area.

Phillipe Foix, a Brownwood firefighter and self-admitted "fan of the outdoors and outdoor recreation activity," has created Bayou Kayak Rentals — which officially opened for business July 4 during RiverFest.

"I think it's a great idea and surprised no one in Brownwood's done it before, especially with a college here," Foix said. "It seems like this area's just been asking for this."

Bayou Kayak Rentals is a start-up business

SEE **KAYAKS**, 21



ZEBRA MUSSELS: A NEW NUISANCE

Small species causing huge raucous across Texas waters

BY CALEB McCAIG
STEPHENVILLE EMPIRE-TRIBUNE
cmccaig@empiretribune.com

The summer is prime time boating season, but while many are out enjoying the sun and the wake, owners and users of watercraft should be aware of a monster much bigger than any they may expect in their local waters.

A species that bears a small microscopic larvae that has a striped shell and is more commonly known as the zebra mussel is notoriously becoming a nuisance in lake areas around the state of Texas. Originally from the Balkans in Poland, the species has now firmly established itself here in the United States. Almost six years ago, the first zebra mussel was reported in Lake Texoma and since then the race to delay the spread has been in full force.

When you see a zebra mussel, the first thought may be, "what's the big deal?"

According to the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife, zebra mussels are an invasive species that multiply rapidly and cause a decline in native mussel and fish populations.

"Zebra mussels will cover the bottom of boats, attach to buoys or even fill the insides of water intake systems," said Erath County game warden Zachary Havens. "When they take over, they can ruin water systems in certain areas, sink buoys, cause injury to swimmers and totally destroy certain ecosystems."

Another large consequence that's possible through the presence of zebra mussels is the destruction of municipal and industrial water supply systems by colonizing the insides of pipelines and restricting the flow of water.

"When zebra mussels attach themselves into water intake systems, it can have huge economic effects," Havens added. "They can totally destroy

how a certain area gets their water. They're a dangerous species to have around."

Of course with the infestation already complete in the United States, the only thing that can be done is to prevent the spread of the species.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has determined a three-step process in which all individuals who own watercraft should partake.

Since zebra mussels have the ability to survive out of water for several days in hot weather and up to a month in colder weather, boat users should always clean, drain and dry their boats after using them.

The boat should be inspected, along with the trailer and gear and any zebra mussels should be removed, along with vegetation and debris. Draining the water, from the boat, along with the engine, live well and bait buckets is also recommended before leaving and eventually opening all compartments and live wells to dry.

"The reason for this process is because the zebra mussel larvae can be hard to spot," said Havens. "You should clean your boat after each use if possible and if your boat has been in a lake known to have zebra mussels, it is ideal to have it cleaned commercially at a car wash or by using a high-pressure sprayer with hot and soapy water."

If protecting the waters of Texas isn't enough of a reason to check for zebra mussels, possibly a fine is.

Possession or the transportation of the species in Texas is a Class C misdemeanor for the first offense and is punishable with a fine up to \$500. A second offense is a Class B misdemeanor which is punishable with a fine up to \$2,000, a jail sentence of up to 180 days or both. In addition, introducing the species into Texas public waters is also a Class B misdemeanor.

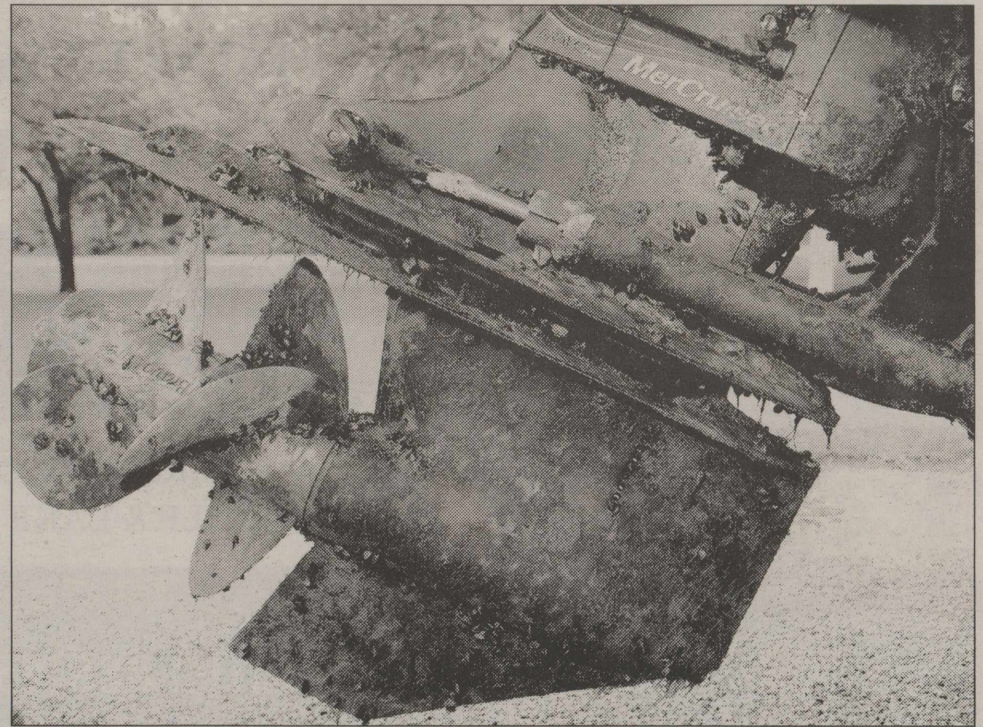


PHOTO COURTESY OF TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
An engine on a boat is covered in zebra mussel larvae from a lake in Texas.

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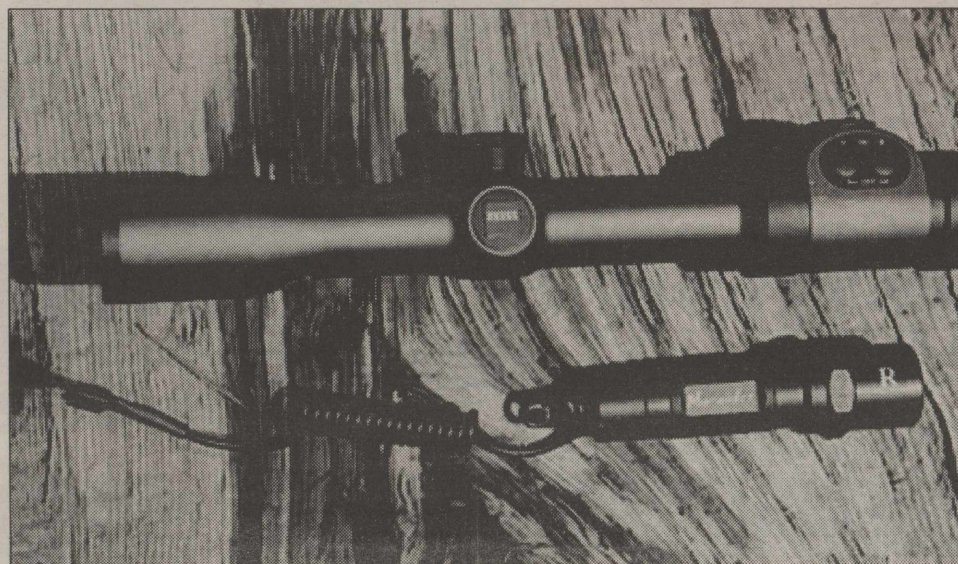
Are wild hogs getting smarter?

BY LUKE CLAYTON
OUTDOORS WITH LUKE CLAYTON AND FRIENDS



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LUKE CLAYTON,
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The majority of wild hogs (above) are harvested at night. This Zeiss Duralyt rifle scope (right) and Hawg Lite are great tools for hunting hogs at night.



I've know for a long time that wild hogs are smart. I've learned this from firsthand experiences hunting and trapping them. Wildlife biologists that tell us swine rate very high on the intelligence scale when compared to dolphins and primates. If you've hunted them much, you are aware of the fact that they are highly intelligent. You might have noticed they have become entirely nocturnal in recent years.

About 25 years ago when wild hogs began to become plentiful in Texas, it was common to see them up and moving during daylight hours. Today, wild hogs are becoming almost entirely nocturnal. Dr. Robert McFarlane, who owns the 7,500 acre Big Woods Hunting Ranch in Anderson County concurs.

"Our hunters annually harvest between 500-600 wild hogs each year on the Big Woods," said McFarlane "Just a few years ago, we could go out just about any time during the day and shoot a hog. Now, 99 percent of the hogs taken here are shot at night. They've become almost entirely nocturnal."

McFarlane could not be sure if, through the years, pigs were taught the ways of survival by their parents, one generation passing along survival traits to the next, resulting in a much more wary animal than we hunted a couple of decades ago.

"Hunting pressure has to play a role in this nocturnal trend. During summer months, when fewer people are in the woods, it does seem hogs move around a bit more during daylight hours but not nearly as much as they used to," added McFarlane.

It seems likely that this trait to move mostly at night might be passed along from older hogs to their young.

While it's not impossible to see hogs during daylight hours, night time has become prime time for hunting them.

Hunting at night requires specialized equipment, some of which like night vision and thermal imaging night scopes and goggles come with a hefty price tag. While doing articles for magazines through the years, I've hunted with manufactures of this state of the art night vision but I've also learned that a fat bankroll is not neces-

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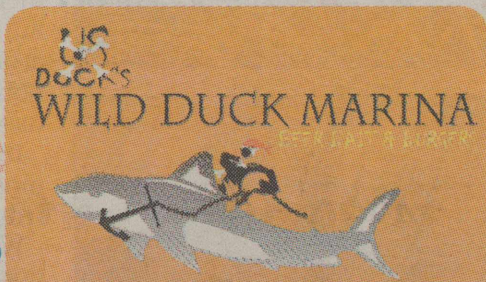
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The Great Outdoors: The best place to connect

BY LUKE CLAYTON

OUTDOORS WITH LUKE CLAYTON AND FRIENDS

Regardless the occupation we choose, many of us often tend to get wrapped up in our work. As an outdoors writer with a quarter-century of hunts, fishing trips and many, many written words chronicling these events, I sometime get 'caught up' in writing deadlines, shooting images to accompany articles and planning my next outing. Add a weekly hour-long radio show to the mix and it's pretty easy to see how an outdoor occupation can become work. Very enjoyable work yes, but work just the same.

An outing to Richland Chambers Lake brought a lot of things into crystal clear focus for me. I reconnected with my long-time friend,

guide Bob Holmes. I began fishing with and writing about Bob when he began his fishing career in the mid to late '90s.

Another great friend and frequent companion on bow hunting outings, Mark Balette, brought his girls along.

Three of my five grandsons were rigged and ready for the upcoming fishing trip. We all enjoyed a great dinner of fried fish, hush puppies and squash at Mark's campsite at Oak Cove Marina. During the meal, we made plans for the morning fishing trip.

Having fished Richland Chambers several times, Mark knows the general pattern of white bass on the lake pretty well but nothing beats the advantage of current advice from a

SEE CONNECT, 20

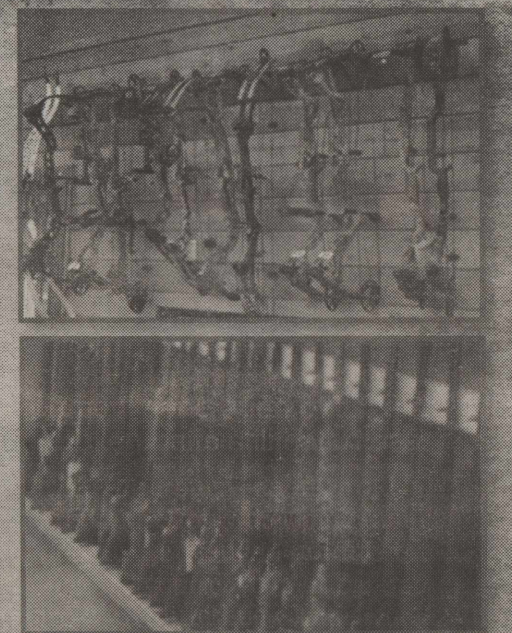


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Technology in the outdoors

BY LUKE CLAYTON

OUTDOORS WITH LUKE CLAYTON AND FRIENDS

As many of you that read this column know, I host a weekly hunting, fishing and outdoor show that airs on several stations and networks. I also write features for several outdoor publications.

As much as I hate to admit it, I have become extremely dependent upon my computer as a tool for making all this happen. I well remember a quarter-century ago writing my first pieces of outdoor journalism on a tablet with a lead pencil.

I'd pencil the column then hammer out the finished product on a typewriter. There was obviously no spell check on the old machine which I'm positive caused my editors much extra work. But they, and I, persevered and things finally got better when we all graduated to state of the art computers.

As recently as six years ago, I drove 100 miles each week to a little radio studio to record my show. Dan Foster, who had a long and illustrious career in radio and who was once Bill Mack's news man, was my mentor and the one that flipped the switches and made the show happen. All I had to do was talk.

My part was easy, I knew about hunting and fishing and doing the shows became second nature to me. The only down side to this gig was the long drive through Dallas traffic getting to the studio!

And then, I learned about such things as recording programs from my computer, FTP sites and fast internet. Now I never have to leave my desk to record the shows. Bill Dance, Larry Weishuhn and all the guests that join me each week are no farther away than my telephone and their voices are digitally recorded via my trusty computer.

When you hear us on the radio, through what to me still seems like black magic, we sound just like we are right there in the room with you, talking about recent outdoor outings or new products in the outdoors.

Over the weekend, what the gurus

refer to as the 'motherboard' of my computer crashed.

Thanks to some very expert and prompt work by my computer technician, I am back to work on my upgraded computer with thoughts tumbling around in my mind that prompted this column.

At my stage of life, I like to think that the word 'stress' is no longer in my vocabulary but when one has famous guys like Dance and Weishuhn waiting to record and editors 'chompin at the bit' for this week's column, I must admit that I was beginning to feel just a bit of pressure! This brief but intense period of computer issues caused me to pause and ponder upon just how dependent most of us have become on modern day technology, even in the tools we use when pursuing our outdoor sports.

I recently did an article on night hunting for wild hogs, highlighting a piece of equipment called the Nite Site. The Nite Site consists of a little 'computer' type screen that mounts on top of one's rifle scope. Another device is fitted over the eye piece of the scope and the image on the screen is exactly what one sees when looking through the scope.

Aiming is accomplished by placing the image of the crosshairs (shown on the screen on TOP of the scope) on the target. I recently killed a crop-invasive wild hog on a dark, moonless night using the awesome technology of the Nite Site.

Little lights that fit inside the nock on my arrows light up like mini sky rockets when fired from my compound bow. I've found these 'lighted nocks' to be extremely useful in tracking game shot during the last few minutes of legal shooting light. The technology used to manufacture these little lights was unheard of just a couple of decades ago.

Technology in the outdoors is not limited to hunting products. For the past few years, I've used a very powerful little electric boat engine known as a Torqeedo. The electric engine easily powers small boats for miles with one charge of the state of the art battery.

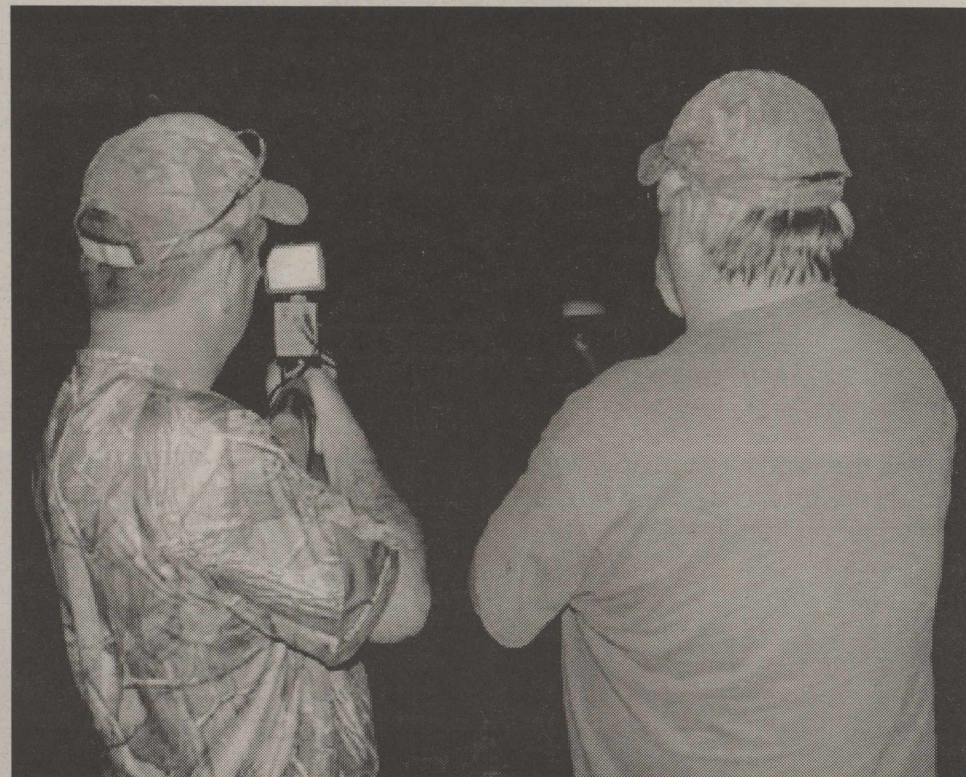


PHOTO COURTESY OF LUKE CLAYTON

Today's technology carries over to the outdoors. Here Mark Balette (left) uses a Nite Site mounted on his rifle to shoot a hog in near pitch darkness. Randy Douglas watches the action using his Nite Site Spotter.

I've been reading about a new boat engine that is powered by bottled propane. One of the one-pound propane canisters is screwed into a fitting on the motor and the need for mixing oil and gas becomes a thing of the past!

Ken Blackstock, who owns Plano Golf Carts, uses a special controller and electric motor to power his rugged off road electric vehicles.

The advanced electrical/gearing system actually causes the vehicle to come to a stop on steep downward slopes when one's foot is removed from the accelerator. These units have proved their merit for me on our high country Colorado elk and bear hunts.

I used to have to 'ride' the brakes when coming down the slopes, often with an electric buggy loaded with hunters. Now, I simply remove my foot from the pedal and the buggy instantly begins to slow and then, stop. Here technology is not only very handy but also has the potential to save one's life, especially when negotiating the steep mountain roads after one of those sudden and violent mountain thunderstorms.

And how about GPS? I spent the majority of my outdoor life depending upon a compass and dead reckon-

ing. Today, one of many inexpensive handheld GPS units will plot one's exact position anywhere on the globe. With mapping software installed, they will plot every feature of the land and even give a 3D view.

I've had old timers joke that today's sonar makes catching fish almost child's play and I must admit that side imaging sonar coupled with onboard GPS does make finding fish attracting structures and fish much easier than back in the day of the old flasher units and before when a rope with a piece of lead tied on the end served as a depth indicator.

Finding fish is one thing, catching them is an entirely different proposition. Good fishermen that learn to use this modern side imaging sonar definitely have the odds stacked in their favor!

Well, I better wrap up this column that was spawned by my computer malfunction. Gotta go check the Bill Dance Fishing app on my smart phone before heading out to catch a mess of catfish!

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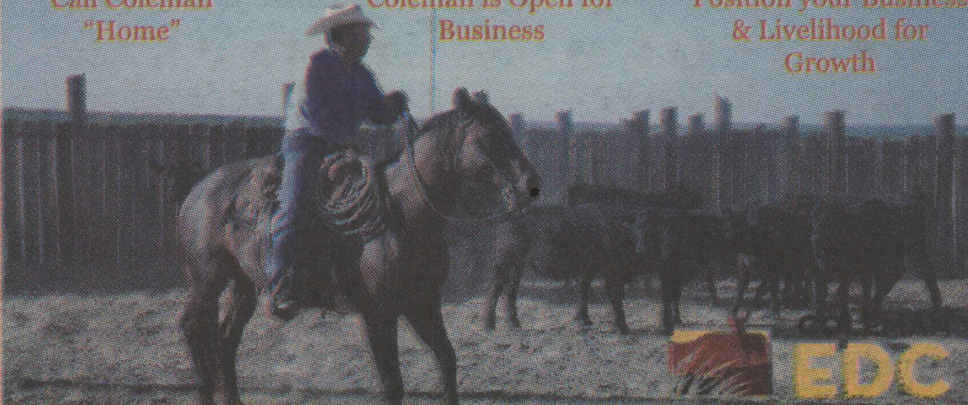
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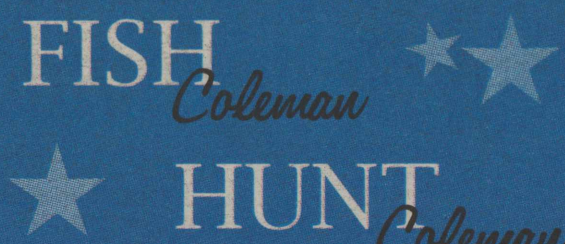
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EVENTS CALENDAR

Coleman Jr. Rodeo - August 5-6

Coleman Rodeo Grounds
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Hunter's Extravaganza - August 5, 6, and 7

Ft. Worth

Wildlife Dove Fest - September 3

Bill Franklin Center
Sponsored by the Wildlife Committee

Fiesta de la Paloma - October 1

Sponsored by the Coleman County Chamber of Commerce

Multi Class Reunion - October 15

Bill Franklin Center
Sponsored by the Class of 66

Garden Club Convention - October

Methodist Church
Sponsored by Coleman Garden Club

Prickly Pear Style Show - October 21

Heritage Hall
Sponsored by the Circle C Cattlewomen

Prickly Pear Wine & Food Festival

October 22

The Prickly Pear Style Show is Open Downtown Coleman
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Prickly Pear Wine & Food Festival

October 22

Downtown Coleman
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Round Up for Rehab - October

Coleman Livestock Auction Barn
Sponsored West Texas Rehab in

Trunk or Treat - October 31

Downtown Coleman
Sponsored by Coleman Business Professionals

Hunter's BBQ - November 4

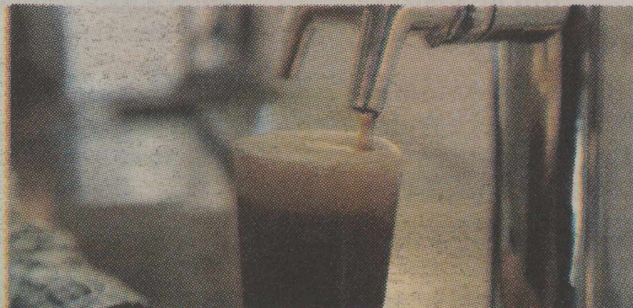
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ab - October 26

Auction Barn
xas Rehab in Abilene

October 31

n
an Business People's Association

ovember 4

Wildlife Committee

lebration - November 11

n's Downtown Sunday School Class

Bark in the Park - November 12

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Thanksgiving Feast at The Cross - November 24

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Downtown Coleman

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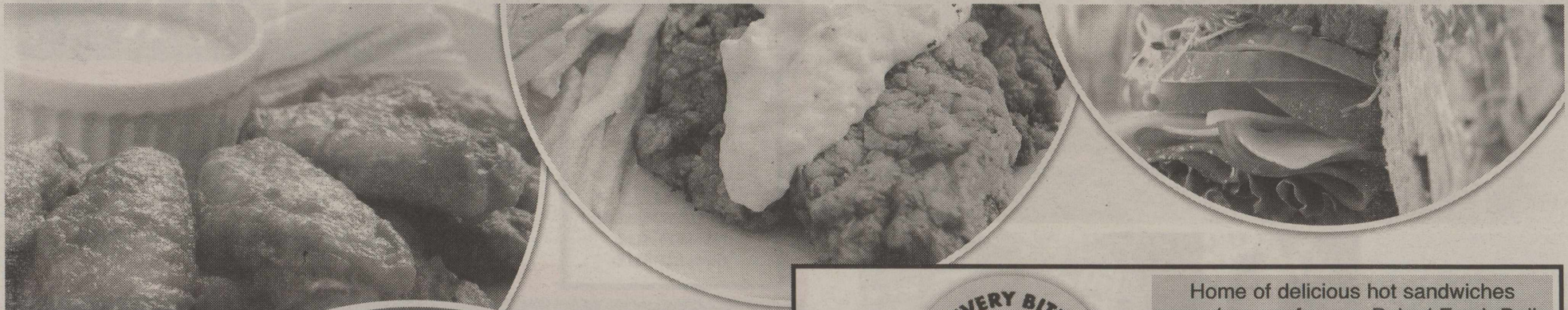
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Old baits still catch fish

BY LUKE CLAYTON

OUTDOORS WITH LUKE CLAYTON AND FRIENDS

You might say I trained as an apprentice fishing guide as a kid. My mother was an avid bass angler but back in the '50s and early '60s, her fishing tackle was limited. She fished with a steel rod and level wind reel.

Her only lure was a battered old Baby Lucky 13 plug. If my memory serves me correctly, it was red and white. I was a regular tag-along on these bass outings, I was usually dunking live minnows under a floater for largemouth and crappie. When Mom's lure wound up in the limbs of a willow or snagged on a stump, I was her on-board retriever. She was a pretty good caster but even in the best of hands, those old level wind reels were hard to cast accurately. I spent a good amount of time retrieving the lure and... placing her bass on a stringer! Through the years, she caught a ton of bass on that old lure and Dad regularly sharpened and replaced the hooks.

I had the opportunity to head down to Trinity County to spend a couple days hunting, bass fishing and photographing wild hogs with my buddy Mark Balette. Mark offers hunts for hogs and exotics on his ranch and fishing for trophy bass on a 20-acre lake situated back in the woods.

Mark and I usually engage in a good natured fishing 'contest.' We do keep track of who catches the most bass and the winner enjoys bragging rights around the evening campfire.

We arrived at the lake just after sun up, screwed the electric motor on the transom of his aluminum boat, and headed across the lake to a stump field that was situated a few yards from the deep creek channel that feeds the lake. The setting called for top water fishing. I watched a heron take wing from the shoreline, there was obviously baitfish up shallow; the bass should be receptive.

"Let's tie on some top waters and see what happens," Mark suggested.

As an outdoors writer, I am kept pretty well supplied with the newest innovations in fishing lures and as I removed a brand new 'sure fire' top

water plug from its container, Mark grabbed a vintage old plug from the bottom of his tackle box.

"Think I can outfish you with this old antique?" Mark asked.

It was a Baby Lucky 13, red and white, just like my mother used to use!

I replied with something like "No way, these modern day bass won't ever go for that old antique. They want 'cutting edge' baits, like the one I've got tied on!"

My plug hit the water first. I let it set about 30 seconds then, began a 'walking the dog' retrieve.

About the time I was making my second cast, Mark's plug hit the water. One jerk of the rod and the lakes tranquil surface exploded! My buddy was hooked solidly to a chunky five-pounder. During the next couple hours, until the bright skies pushed the surface feeding bass into the vegetation, I watched the old plug catch three bass for every one I caught with my 'state of the art' lures.

Feeling a bit sorry for me, I guess, Mark insisted I fish with his vintage lure. I was happy to learn it was the bait, not the fisherman's presentation that the bass preferred. My mom's favorite old lure worked just as well last week as it did a half-century ago on the farm ponds where we fished.

Lake Fork guide Larry Large concurs that old lures still catch bass.

"Many plugs such as the Jitterbug and Hula Popper are in production today. The old baits still catch fish. Most modern-day bass anglers stick with the more highly publicized and advertised 'modern' lures. It could be that today's bass are attracted to the old baits simply because they haven't gotten accustomed to them," said Large.

Large uses a wide variety of baits to keep his clients in the action but says he still prefers the old Devil's Horse, manufactured by Smithwick Lures.

"I've fished with the Devil's Horse since I was a kid, said Large. "You never see anyone fishing with them here on Fork but they are absolutely deadly when bass are on a top water bite."

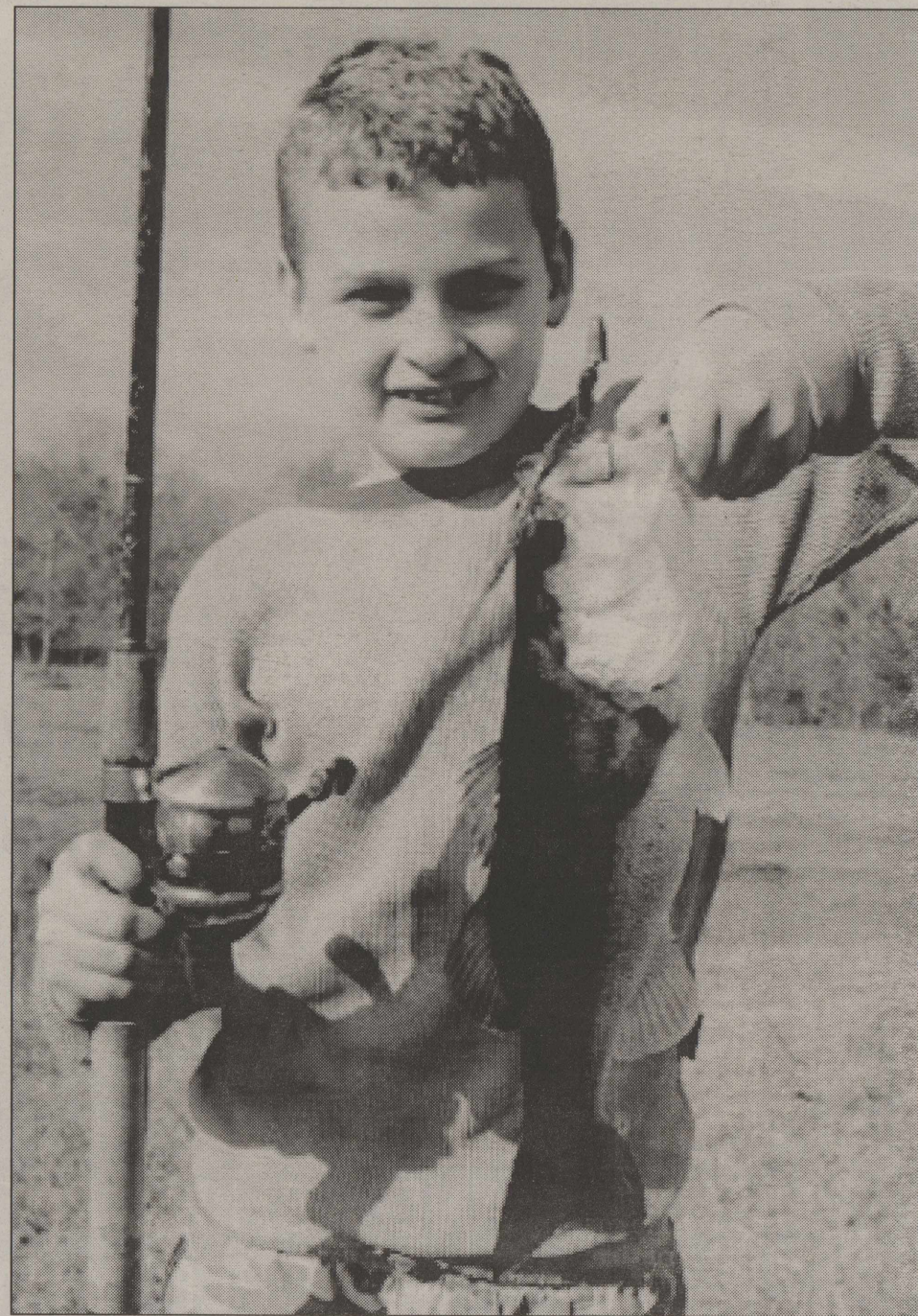


PHOTO COURTESY OF LUKE CLAYTON

A new generation of fishermen are learning that the old, tried and proven baits still catch bass.

The Jitterbug is another old but productive top water plug that I am pretty sure is still in production.

With a concave cup or bill in the front, the Jitterbug creates quiet a ruckus when retrieved. When pulled through the water at a fast clip, the bait stands up in the front and wiggles from side to side. I no longer have any of my older Jitterbugs but plan to order a few for my next bass trip. I remember well how hard a surface feeding bass hammers these noisy little plugs.

If you are a newcomer to bass fishing (when you've fished as long as I, a newcomer is someone that has taken up the sport in the past 20 years), give these old lures a chance to prove themselves. Chances are pretty good they will work as well for you as they did for my mom 50 years ago. My buddy's Lucky 13 did a great job making this point crystal clear!

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HOGS

CONTINUED FROM 7

sarily a prerequisite to a successful night hunt for hogs.

I hunt with a bow or rifle mounted light called the Hawg Lite (www.hawglite.com) that is highly effective in illuminated porkers at night. Hogs are not spooked by the light emitted by the red or green lens on the light. The lights are very strong and it's possible to spot hogs as far out as 150 yards but most that I've shot at night have been much closer.

I've found these lights to be highly effective when stalking hogs at night or shooting them over bait.

Around permanent feeders and stands, I've used a unit called the Feed Light (www.ultramaticfeeders.com) which mounts to a nearby tree or post and comes on automatically when the sun sets.

The LED lights can be directed to shine directly under the feeder to illuminate hogs when they begin feeding. With the use of the bow/rifle mounted light system, hogs on the periphery of the illuminated area can be spotted and shot.

Actually seeing the hog at night solves only half the problem. It's necessary to get the porker in the crosshairs of the rifle scope or to put the appropriate sight pin on the hog in order to shoot.

"Sighting" the hog at night also requires some specialized equipment.

A sight mounted light that illuminates the fiber optic sight pins on the bow solves the problem



Luke Clayton

when bow hunting.

When rifle hunting, actually putting the scope's crosshairs on the hog can be more challenging.

I recently mounted a new Zeiss Duralyt scope on my .270 and found it to be the most practical and effective method of 'aiming' a rifle at night that I've found.

The scope has a red dot in the center of the crosshairs that can be adjusted from very faint to very bright, depending upon the amount of ambient light. This scope, coupled with the red or green lens on the Hawg Light, makes seeing, sighting and shooting a porker at night a relatively easy task.

I've come to enjoy hunting hogs at night. It's exciting to listen to the sounds in the night woods. I've had packs of

coyotes startle me when they opened up with their nighttime serenade a scant few yards from where I was hunting. I once had a big male bobcat walk by under the lights 10 yards from my ground blind. The sound of migrating geese overhead on a cool winter's night is the essence of everything wild.

It's important to be prepared to take care of the meat when night hunting. I pick out a tree to hang the hog and if the weather is cool, field dress the animal and hang him overnight. It's much easier to come back and do the butchering the next morning.

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THE BEST CATFISH BAIT

BY LUKE CLAYTON

OUTDOORS WITH LUKE CLAYTON AND FRIENDS

What's the best catfish bait? This is a question that newcomers to the sport of catfishing ask every time they venture forth in hopes of catching the makings of a big fish fry!

I've been catching catfish for a long, LONG time. My dad was a major trot liner and we did a lot of fishing when I was growing up in rural Red River County. Back then, we used what was readily available. Our farm pond was overrun with small sunfish, thus fresh cut bait was our favorite. We targeted mostly channel catfish back then, and the cut bait always produced well.

I remember one time, we headed out on a hurried catfish outing and didn't have time to catch bait. My dad stopped by one of the country stores and purchased several bars of white, unscented PG soap. We cut the soap into small squares, baited our trot-line and proceeded to catch a burlap bag (that's what we used back then to store our catch) full of 'eater' size catfish ranging from 1.5 to 3 pounds.

Other times, we rounded up a coffee can full of live night crawlers, and they also worked well!

In truth, channel catfish can be caught on a wide variety of baits; everything from live crickets to soap will trigger strikes. A couple of decades ago, I began fishing for channel catfish with 'Punch' bait, a concoction of cheese, ground up baitfish, and fiber such as cattails to keep the bait on the hook and, who knows what else!

Today, there is a host of punch baits, so named because treble hooks are punched into the bait container with a stick or screwdriver with a notched blade. 'Dip baits' are also very effective. These baits are used in conjunction with a soft plastic, usually ribbed, plastic keeper with a built in treble hook that is dipped into the bait or a very soft plastic bell with holes or slots into which the bait is squeezed via a tube.

All these baits have one thing in common; they all disperse scent quickly into the water.

Catfish have one of the most highly developed olfactory systems of all

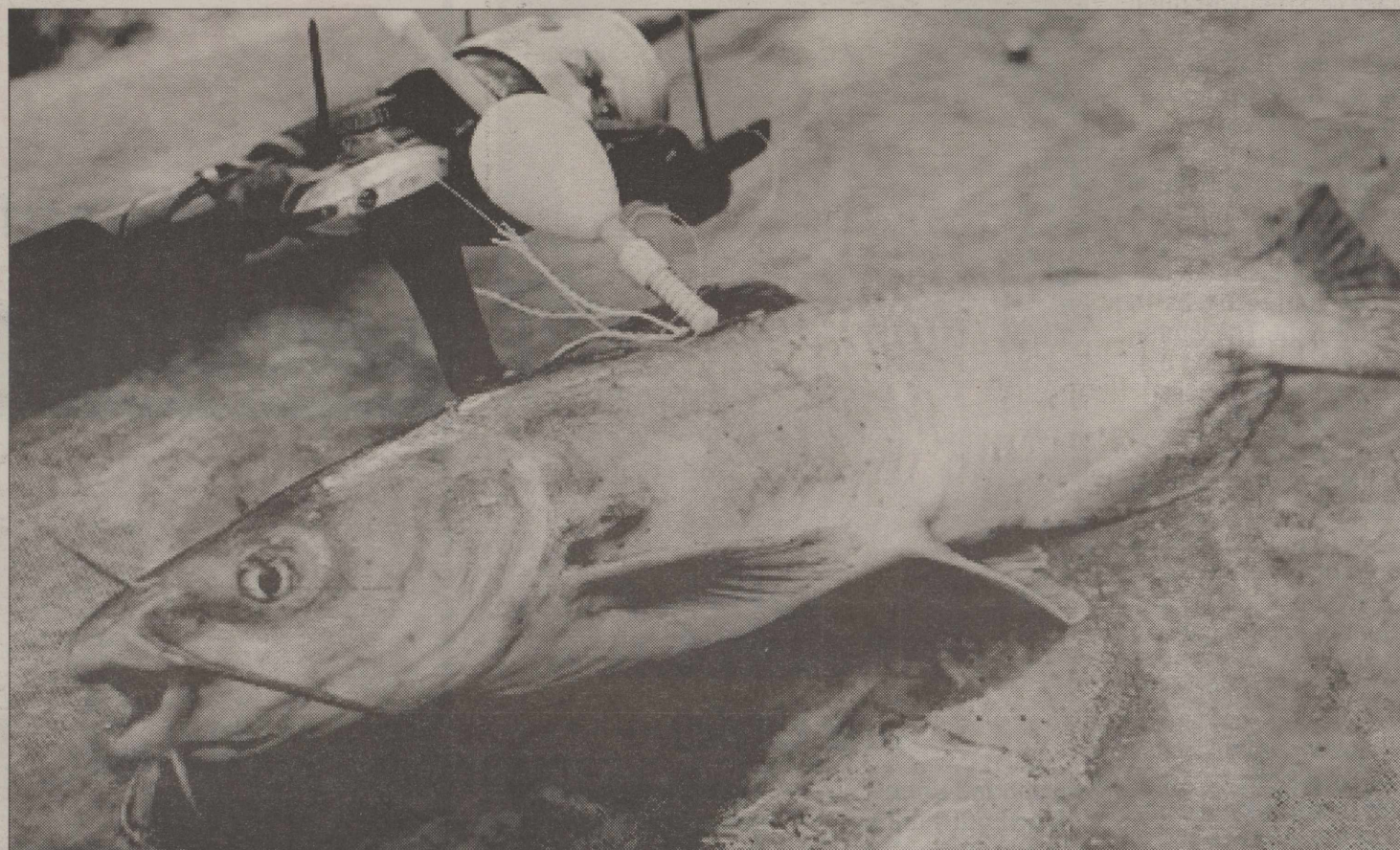


PHOTO COURTESY OF LUKE CLAYTON

Light tackle is very effective in catching channel catfish when they are in the shallows.

fish. Studies have proven that they can detect scent, especially blood and pungent scents from a great distance.

Baiting areas with soured grain is a very effective method of attracting catfish, especially channel cats during summer months when the water is warm and scent disperses quickly.

But, according to catfish guide Larry Thomas at Lake Tawakoni, chumming is not always necessary, especially this time of year when channel catfish have moved into the shallows to spawn.

"During the spawn, catfish naturally congregate in large schools," Thomas said. "Right now it's easy to locate them if you look in the right places. Secluded coves with plenty of newly flooded shoreline weeds and brush are prime spots for locating channel cats right now.

"Catfish are cavity spawners and soon they will be packing into the rock rip rap around bridges and roadways."

Blue catfish can also be landed on a wide variety of baits but most serious catters will attest to the fact that nothing beats fresh, bloody, oily shad — either fished whole or as cut bait.

Lake Lavon guide Billy Kilpatrick lives on the shores of Lake Lavon near Farmersville. He says bank fishing has been awesome for both blue and channel during the first couple hours of daylight.

"This type fishing is both simple and productive," Kilpatrick said. "A few throws of a cast net at first light will fill your bucket with shad. We're using dead shad fished on bottom to catch lots of catfish now, fishing the north east shoreline that his exposed to a steady south wind."

Flathead catfish are a bit different and, for most people, tougher to catch. Flatheads prefer live bait and many are caught on trotlines or jug lines set in areas with standing timber.

Live perch 2 to 4 inches long stay alive well and are excellent baits for

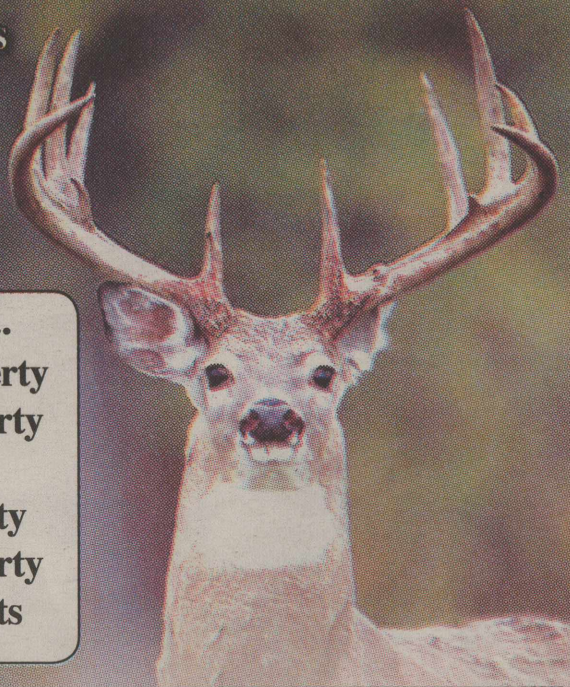
flatheads. While most are landed on set lines, rod and reel anglers that are willing to be patient and fish live bait around submerged river or creek bends with heavy wood structure also catch their share of flatheads.

Catfish and the sport of catfishing has gained popularity in the last few years. Anglers are learning that catfish are not only excellent table fare but they are also hard fighters. Tournament trails such as Cabela's King Kat Trail and organizations such as the United States Catfish Association www.catfish1.com have done much to grow the sport.

When we get down to the facts, what more could a fisherman wish for than a species that is abundant, challenging to fish for and, great eating when dusted with corn meal and exposed to hot cooking oil!

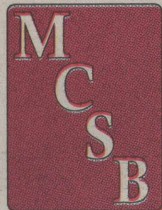
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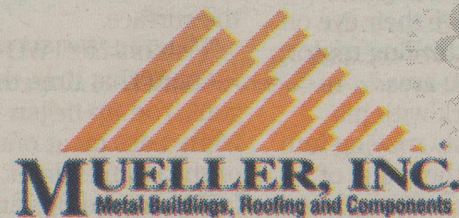
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CONNECT

CONTINUED FROM 10

top guide like Holmes.

"I know an area that is sheltered from the wind that is holding tons of white bass," said Holmes. "We've been getting into lots of top water schooling action during the first couple hours of daylight and sometimes throughout the day when there is cloud cover."

Holmes added that the fish were schooling around standing timber and it was common for them to work the outside edge of the tree lines. On days with less wind, the series of isolated humps down by the dam have been paying big dividends.

After a good night's sleep, we were greeted by a jovial Holmes at the dock. My grandsons can handle bait caster reels pretty well, especially when vertical jigging, but I was happy to see the big Zebco 808's in Bob's rod rack.

"I think the boys will do more catching and less time fiddling with their reels with these fool proof spin-casters," Holmes said.

Bob favors silver or white slabs during the summer months and the rods were already rigged with one-ounce elongated lead baits.

"In the fall and winter, I usually switch to chartreuse colored baits," Holmes said.

The fish seem to prefer a flatter slab when the water cools down. Right now, though, these long slabs have been the ticket to some red hot action!"

As we headed out from the dock and slowly motored into an area of scattered standing trees, Holmes used his binoculars to study the waters ahead.

"See that big heron sitting on that stump?" Holmes asked. "There are several cattle egrets around him. It's a good bet these birds have their eye on breakfast. Let's use the trolling motor and quietly ease into the area."

I looked back and Mark with his crew were likewise slowly moving into the hot spot. Stealth is the name of the game when approaching top water feeding fish.

Even greedily feeding white bass will sound when approached too quickly with a boat with a big outboard running at high speed.

Within a couple of minutes, the



PHOTO COURTESY OF LUKE CLAYTON

Guide Bob Holmes with three of Luke's five grandsons enjoying a great morning of catching at Richland Chambers.

heron left its perch on the log, flew 50 yards into a little opening in the trees, hovered an instant over the water's surface, and gently scooped up a small shad, one that was obviously injured by a pack of hungry white bass below! From nowhere, about 10 egrets joined the heron and the water began to froth as the whites pushed shad to the surface.

"Make long casts, boys and hold your rod tip high. Shake the rod when the slab hits the surface. This will make the lure dart around near the surface, mimicking a wounded shad," said Holmes, who had no more than uttered his instructions when a couple of the boy's rods bent heavily toward the surface.

"Fish on! No TWO fish on!"

About that time the younger grandson's rod tip began to dance. THREE white bass on at once and up in front of the boat, Holmes was also hooked fast to a hard fighting white bass! Mark and the girls were on their own school of fish.

I've had many people ask me my favorite freshwater fish to catch. It's a tough question. I love to catch everything from bream to catfish but the

open water schooling species such as white bass, hybrid stripers and stripers are at the top of my list. They are relatively easy to catch, once you find them, and all make excellent table fare.

Just as predicted, this top water feeding frenzy held up a couple of hours and then, the fish went deeper around isolated bits of bottom structure.

"Now, boys, this is when fishing gets really easy," said Holmes as he marked a big school of whites on his side imaging sonar. "Just drop your baits vertically down to bottom and pop them up a couple of feet. Make sure and keep the slack out of your line when the bait is falling."

We rounded out our morning fishing from a single huge school that was staged out from the timber on a slight change in bottom elevation.

Our friend Mark and his daughters headed out to open water to do a little knee boarding before heading back to camp. As Holmes and I cleaned the morning catch, I took time out to do a little photography.

"Luke do you remember that picture you took of the boys years ago

right here, pointing to a spot near this camp site?" Holmes said. "That was at least five years ago, maybe six. The boys had their shirts off and they were just little tykes."

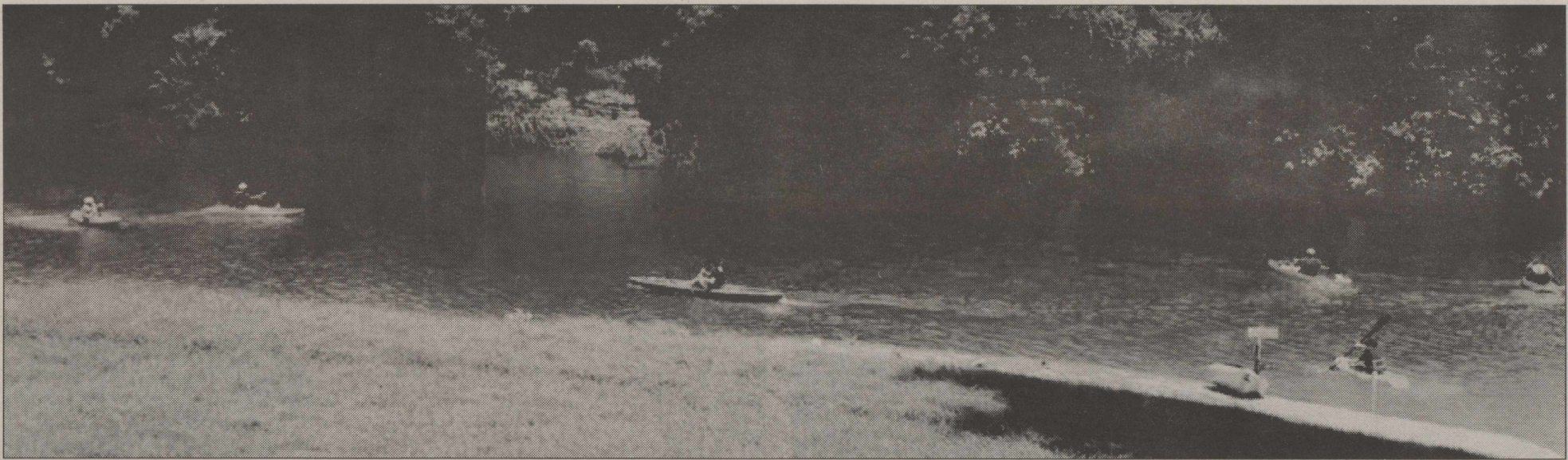
I did remember.

Now the boys were much bigger. "Gramps" ordered them to remove their shirts, just as they'd done years ago and I put them through a grueling photo shoot! The results accompany this article.

This trip was a special one for me for several reasons. I'd had the opportunity to spend some quality time with a couple of my dear friends and unhook countless white bass for three of my grandsons that had the time of their lives!

I left this trip with a new outlook on my career as an outdoors writer and radio show host. Yes, in a sense, I am 'at work' when hunting and fishing but it's the great times with the wonderful people I am blessed to know that really make it seem like play!

Listen to "Outdoors with Luke Clayton and Friends" on radio stations from Nebraska to Texas on weekends or anytime online at www.catfishradio.com.



ABOVE: Bayou Kayak Rentals's first day of business was July 4 during RiverFest at Riverside Park. **BELOW:** Fishing is another outdoor activity that can be enjoyed while kayaking.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BAYOU KAYAK RENTALS FACEBOOK PAGE

KAYAKS

CONTINUED FROM 4

in the truest sense of the phrase, with a Facebook page of the same exact name and a phone number — (325) 642-4951 — as the current means of operation.

“We’ve only operated one full-time day and that was at RiverFest,” Foix said. “That was our foot in the door, trying to get everyone interested and put ourselves out there. We had some people sign a makeshift petition who were interested in seeing us operate on more of a full-time basis.”

Those interested in kayaking the Pecan Bayou through Riverside Park can contact Foix via the aforementioned phone number or through the Bayou Kayak Rentals Facebook page to set up a reservation. Kayak rentals are for a minimum of two hours and the cost is \$20. There is a list of rules that must be adhere to and a waiver form to sign for liability purposes, Foix said.

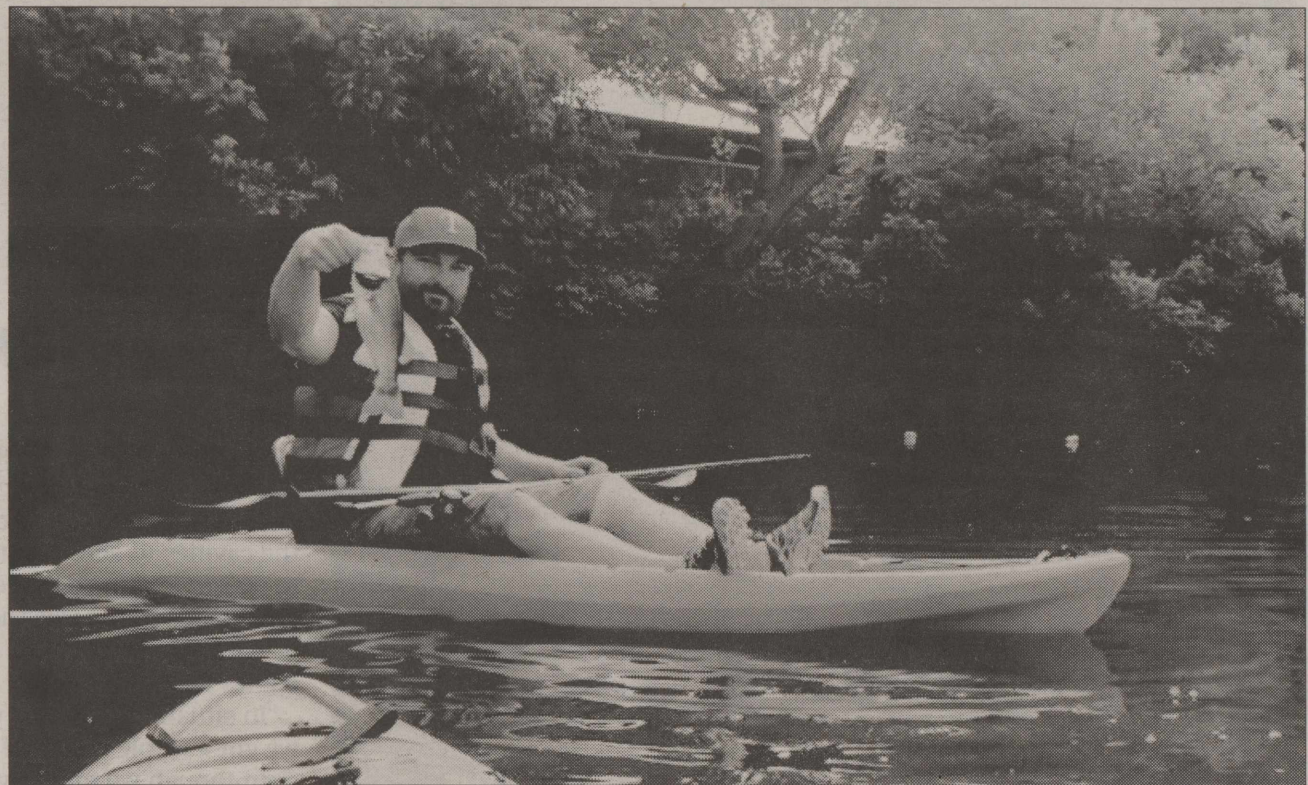
“From the boat ramp at Riverside Park going down to the dam by Humphrey Pete’s is .7 miles, which takes about two hours to get there and back,” Foix said. “There’s another dam 1.3 miles up river and that takes better than three hours to go to and back.”

At the moment, Foix possesses 10 kayaks — a number he hopes to see grow as the business flourishes.

“I’d like to really expand next year to 20, depending on how things go, and then depending on demand decide where we go from there,” Foix said.

Foix accepts the fact that the kayak business is not booming in the Brownwood area at the moment, but is hopeful that will begin to change through word of mouth.

“I know a kayak rental business isn’t a very profitable business, it’s not going to make anybody



rich, but I’d like to see it in this community,” Foix said. “Hopefully, eventually, the ultimate goal is to operate summer weekends. We’d be open 17 weekends from May 30 to Aug. 30. If that looks good and promising, maybe people will be interested in the offseason, fall or spring weekends. With the population of Brownwood I’m not sure there’s enough to sustain an overhead to be open weekdays, but definitely weekends, Saturdays and Sundays, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.”

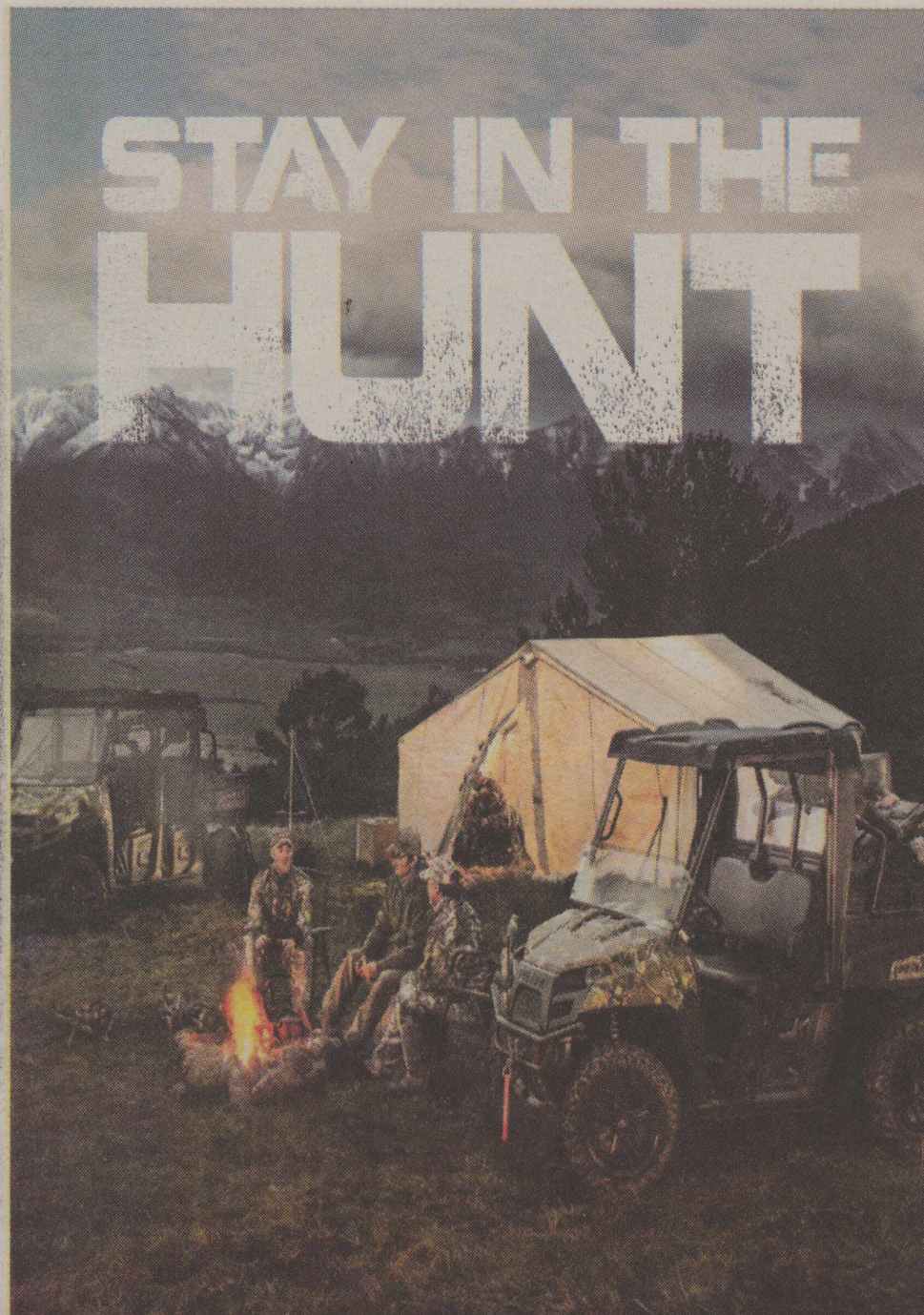
Foix stated he envisioned working on his days off from the Brownwood Fire Department, as well as his second job in construction, and would likely bring on fellow firefighters if the business takes off.

“Once there’s a bigger demand, we could hire on

more employees which could be off duty firefighters,” Foix said. “That’s an advantage because of their CPR, EMT and fire rescue certification.”

Foix would like to operate the kayak business out of Riverside Park, however, “there are rules against conducting business on the property,” he said, adding he hopes to have discussions with the city regarding the matter.

“I want to focus on the Riverside Park area because I think it would be most successful there,” Foix said. “It’s right in the middle of town and has all the amenities we need from grills to picnic tables to rest rooms and a play ground. If people come they’ll have additional activities. This would be just another option, another thing for people to do in town.”



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TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE PHOTO
Of the 465,971 fish added to Lake Brownwood, 141,355 are Florida largemouth bass, which is pictured above.

LAKE BROWNWOOD

CONTINUED FROM 2

largemouth bass populations as well as sunfish and in some cases even catfish. If catfish can't get access to the cavities to allow for them to be able to spawn and protect their young, just like anything else their babies will be eaten up just like the largemouth babies will get eaten up.

"In situations like this year where we got a whole bunch of water, even though we may have had some individuals that were adult size and able to reproduce, we would still see a pretty big deficient number. That's where our hatcheries and stocking plants come into play — giving those fisheries a boost. We put in what we consider a year class that may eventually recruit to the population that will eventually be the ones that will reproduce in the future. That's the intention of these stockings."

There isn't a set time table for the stocking of a lake, and making that goal a reality is often difficult.

"A lot of things come into play when determining whether a lake gets

stocked," Homer said. "Do we want to stock? Is the population doing well on its own? Not to mention hatchery reproduction and demand.

"In our state, we have so many reservoirs and only five active hatcheries. We generally don't go and purchase a lot of fish from out of state, we reproduce our own fish in state. We often have more demand than we have fish to accommodate. Each reservoir is set up on a priority list, so even though I may put in a request for a stocking, it may not necessarily get filled each year."

This summer, fishing is the No. 1 activity at Lake Brownwood according to State Park Superintendent John Holland.

"We've seen a lot of people out fishing," Holland said. "With the flooding, when the lake was actually up, it was slow because the water was murky. Once it cleared up it's picked up. It's getting better and it's got nowhere else to go at this point. But it has slowed a little the last week or two because the temperatures of 100-plus in the afternoon are just getting to

SEE STOCKING, 23



TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE PHOTO

TPWD fisheries biologist Michael Homer expects the new additions to Lake Brownwood to be of legally catchable season within three years.

STOCKING

CONTINUED FROM 22

everybody.

"But we've got a lot more cover, a lot more forage, so it's going to get better than it is. The past few weeks, from the docks and along the shoreline we've had a lot of people do real good. I'm getting some good reports on folks catching blues, not from here in the park but up the Jim Ned Creek on the other side of the (Byrds) bridge they're really doing good on them."

In November 2014, the Lake Brownwood water level dipped to an alarmingly low 1,411.68 feet and water restrictions were in full force. After peaking at near 1,430 feet in May, the lake's water level was resting at 1,424 feet earlier this week.

"A couple of years ago we were

fielding mostly phone calls saying we heard the lake was closed and all the fish were dead and things like that," Holland said. "Basically we heard there was not a real reason to come to Lake Brownwood because of the drought, but that's pretty well over now.

"Now sometimes we get the opposite affect because it's rained a lot, and we get a few phone calls about being flooded. As a whole, the rain's been a real positive. A lot more people are coming out, attitudes are better, and business is picking up for everybody."

The drought even forced the TPWD to take extreme measures, as an artificial fish habitat was created at the lake.

"We collaborated with the Brown County Water Improvement District last fall to do an artificial habitat

project where we basically put out artificial structures at various locations throughout the reservoir to help aggregate fish as well as provide some refuge for fish during periods of low water level," Homer said. "Hopefully those will start materializing and producing some good catches for people."

While the heavy rainfall this spring has revitalized fishing at the lake, even better days are yet to come.

"Any time you catch water the lakes go crazy, especially in West Texas," Homer said. "As far as what we've been seeing, baitfish production is doing real well. Now there's a lot flooded terrestrial vegetation that's providing crucial habitat. The fishing reports haven't been fantastic because the fisheries are trying to reestablish themselves. You've had a low water level for so long and those

big fish, and a reduced number of fish, now they have this area to go for dispersal, so trying to find those fish and catching them is very difficult.

"Now that we've been stocking, give it another year or two and catch rates should start doing really well once these fish have been able to recruit to the population and those adults produce classes of their own instead of just us stocking. Usually these fish we stock take about three years to get to legally catchable size."

The only thing that could prevent Lake Brownwood from being loaded with fish in the coming years, according to Homer, is another severe drought.

"As far as the outlook, fishing is going to be very good at Lake Brownwood provided Mother Nature cooperates and has that reservoir retain some water," Homer said.

TRANS - TEXAS



TRANS TEXAS TIRE

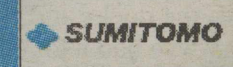
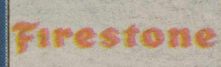
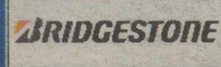
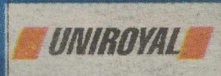
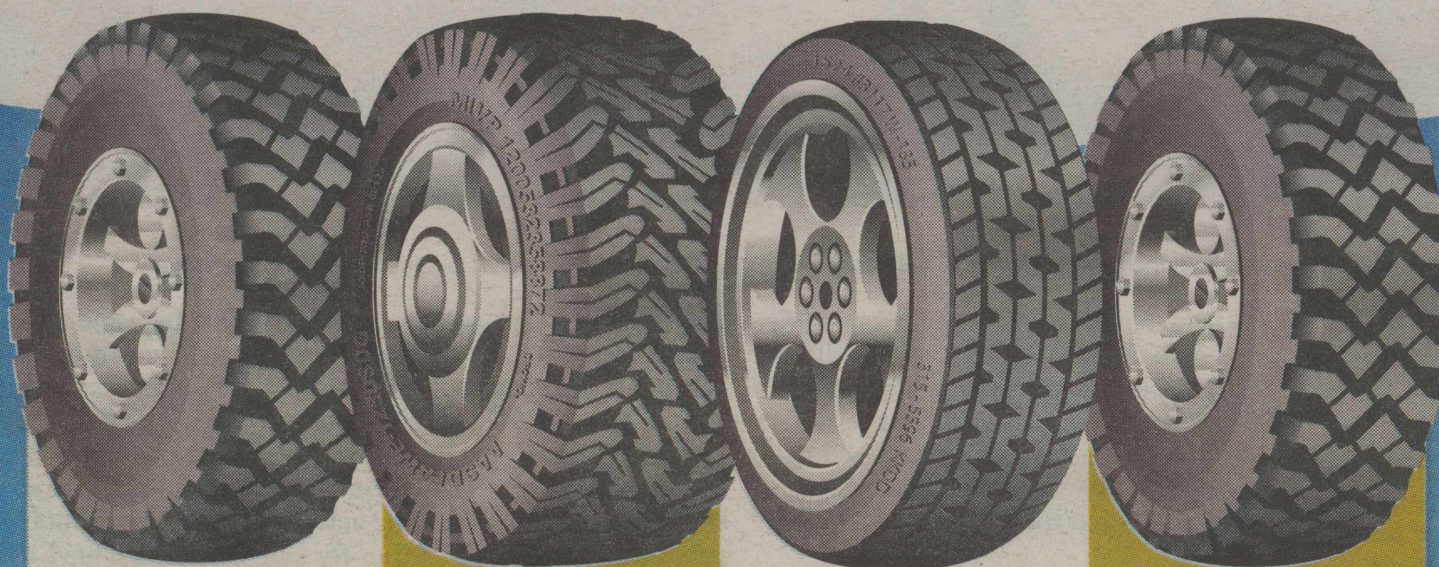
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