

The Winters Enterprise

Serving Winters and North Runnels County

Volume 14, Issue 12

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Winters, Texas

50¢

NEWS at a glance

Pearls of Wisdom

No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of it for someone else.

Pastor's Points

...but words can never hurt me. Pastor Lola Scott reminds us just how hurtful the words we speak may be to others.

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Holy Week services planned

April 14-18, 2003 will be observed as Holy Week in Winters. A special service will be held each day at noon at the Winters Community Center.

page 3

Applications being taken

Winters Elementary is now accepting applications for the Gifted/Talented Program in grades 1-5. Applications are due by April 21.

page 5

A miracle: Almost ten years in the making

Editor Jean Boles shares a heartwarming story about one mother's journey to bring her daughters home. After their father took them to Beirut nine years ago, during what was supposed to be a weekend visitation, the girls are now back home with their mother, in Lubbock.

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Letters to the editor

City Manager, Aref Hassan shares his feelings of being on the right track; while a local citizen advises parents to be strict and take responsibility for their children and their actions. Another letter to the editor may be found on page 2.

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Shackelfords celebrate "best Spring Break ever"

by Deb Pritchard, assistant editor



THE SHACKELFORD FAMILY enjoyed their "best Spring Break ever" as Devon (front, left) and Dalton won first place in each of their market steer divisions at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Devon went on to win Reserve Champion Hereford steer honors and show in the Grand Champion Steer drive in Reliant Stadium. They are shown with their proud parents, Roy and Ann Shackelford.

While some relaxed at home or took a trip over the spring break holidays, one Winters family was making history and memories to last a lifetime.

Winters FFA Advisor Roy Shackelford has taken many a market steer and exhibitor to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo in his 22 years at WHS and only twice has one placed first in its class. Ben Barker exhibited a first place medium weight Limousin steer in 1992 and Shane Lewallen had a first place ABC steer in 1997.

Only once, when Lewallen's steer was named Champion ABC, has an exhibitor he's advised been in the Grand Champion drive with all the other top steers—the benchmark of the show.

That is until this past week, when not only one of his FFA members exhibited a first place steer, but a second garnered the same honor just moments later. To top it off the first exhibitor won Reserve Champion breed honors and a trip to the Grand Champion drive.

Perhaps the best part of the story however, is that after 22 years of diligence and dedication to numerous FFA families in Winters, some of those same families were able to watch Roy Shackelford's children reap top honors

See HOUSTON, pg. 4

WISD trustees hear reports on grade improvements, drug testing

by Jean Boles, editor

Monday night's meeting of the WISD Board of Trustees sounded much like a "good news, bad news" exchange.

First the good news. Secondary School Principal David Hale reported substantial improvement in test scores and lowering failure rates in the 7th and 8th grades since the parent meeting of January 30.

"We're started in the right direction," said Hale, "but we still have a long way to go.

We're still getting good parent involvement and that is making a difference."

Hale also attributes the improvements to increased tutorials and the arrival of new math textbooks.

Superintendent Danny Clack told the board that next school year, from the very beginning, even more emphasis will be given to study skills, testing, strategies and counseling efforts in the junior high

school.

Elementary Principal Brilla Magee said tutorials in her school were also improving test scores and grades. She added that three new students were enrolled Monday, bringing the total number of students in grades pre-kindergarten through six to 386. Hale reported 315 students in grades 7 through 12. The Average Daily Attendance on 3/4/03

See WISD, page 5

WVFD Auxiliary to host meal Sunday

The Winters Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary will host a Chicken Fried Chicken Dinner on Sunday, March 23, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the WISD Cafeteria.

The menu will include chicken fried chicken, creamy-mashed potatoes, gravy, corn,

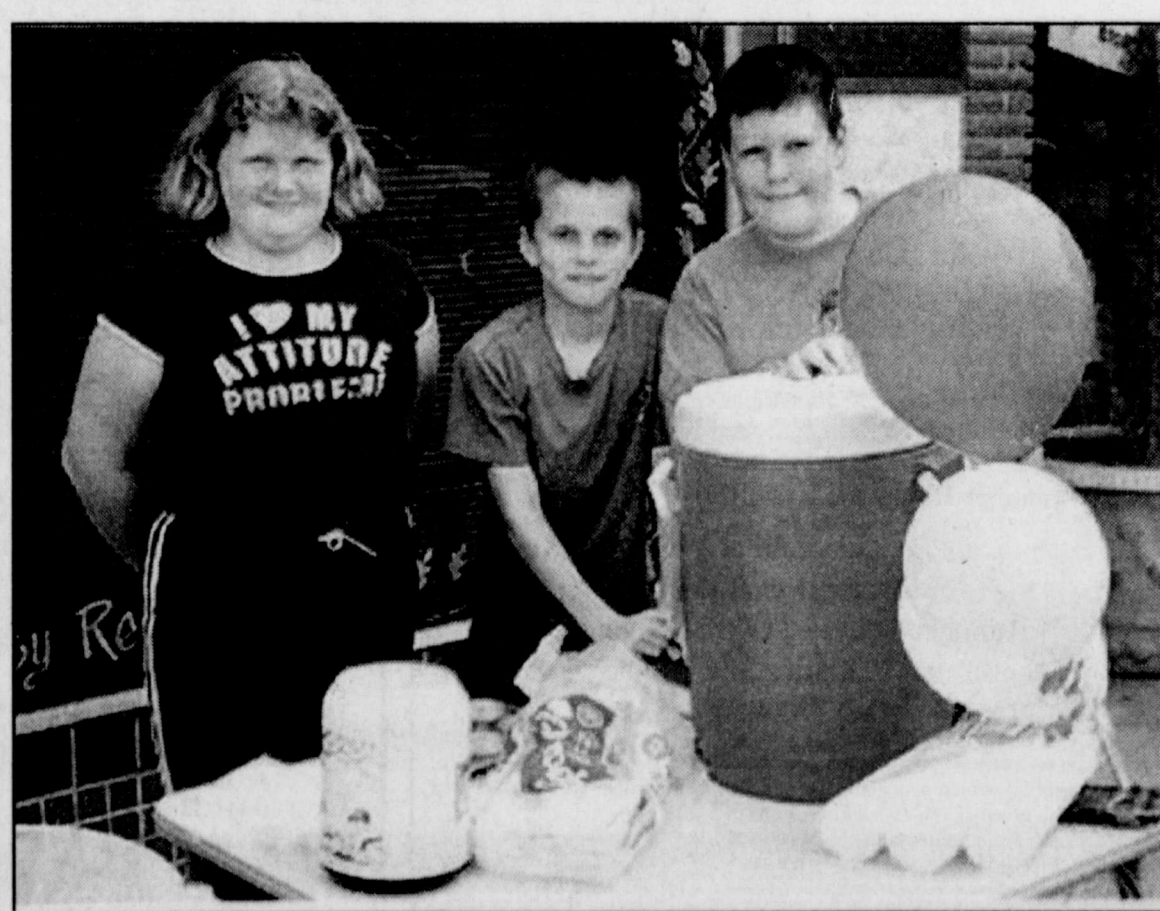
green beans, hot rolls, your choice of peach or cherry cobbler and tea.

The price is \$5.00 per plate, with carry-out available. Delivery will also be available for those who are unable to attend. (Please call in advance for delivery.) Tickets may be pur-

chased in advance from any auxiliary member or at the door.

For more information or to request delivery, you may contact Jennifer Cravens at 754-4958 or 754-3220 after 5 p.m. or Debbie Lange after 5 p.m. at 754-5149.

How I spent Spring Break



THESE YOUNG VOLUNTEERS, Tia Davis, Ricky Sanders, and Aaron Grenwelge, spent two days of their Spring Break raising money for the Winters Public Library. The trio, along with friends, initiated the idea and operated a lemonade stand in front of the library, even making deliveries to businesses downtown.

(photo by Jean Boles)

Applications being accepted for April 8 Special Election

The County Clerk's Office is now accepting applications for early voting by mail for the April 8th Special Election for County Commissioner, Precinct No. 2. A voter must reside in Election Precinct No. 2 or No. 3 to be qualified to vote in this election. A qualified voter may vote in this election regardless of whether or not they voted in the November General Election. A qualified voter is eligible to vote by mail if the voter:

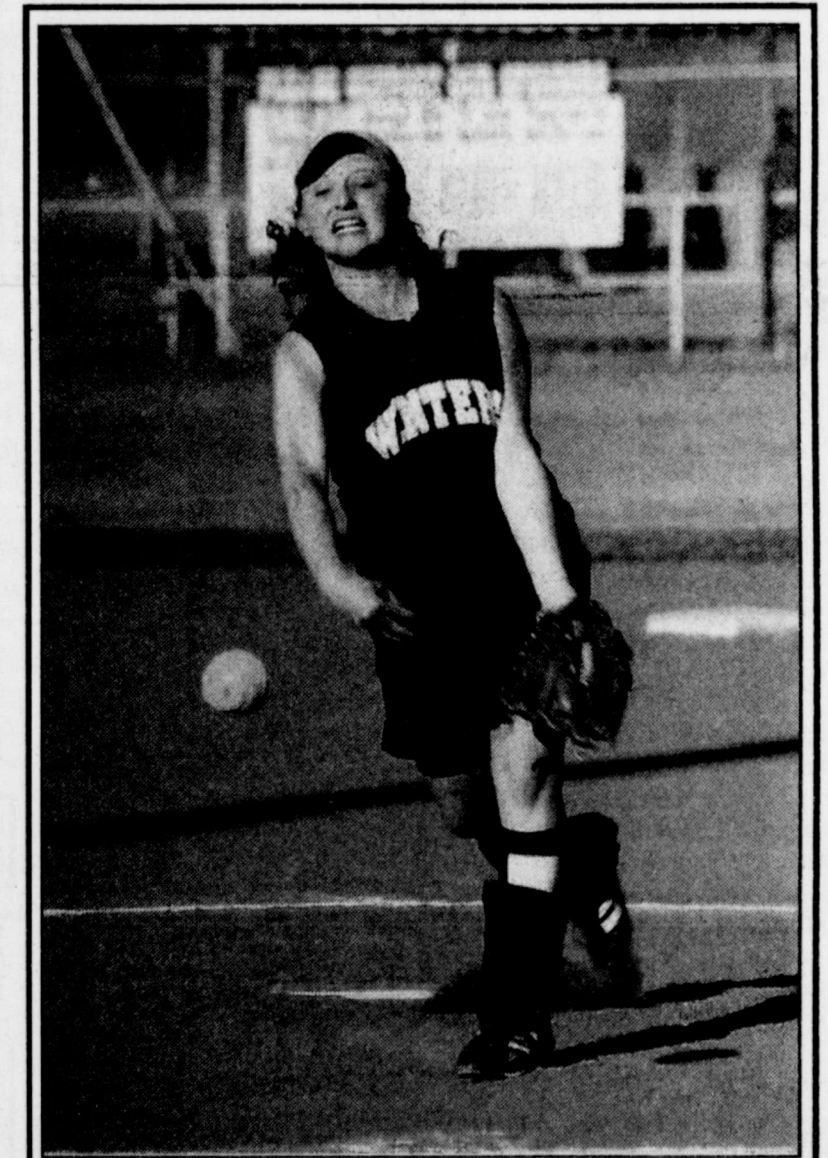
1. expects to be absent from the county of residency on election day AND during the regular hours for early voting by personal appearance;
2. is disabled;
3. is confined in jail as follows:
 - a. serving a misdemeanor sentence for a term that ends on or after election day;
 - b. pending trial after being denied bail;
 - c. without bail pending an appeal of a felony conviction;
 - d. pending trial or appeal on a bailable offense for which release on bail before election day is unlikely.

Applications to vote by mail will be accepted through April 1, 2003.

Any qualified voter of Election Precinct No. 2 or No. 3 will be eligible for early voting by personal appearance at the County Clerk's office beginning March 24, 2003, through April 4, 2003, from 8:30 a.m.-noon and 1:00-5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Weekend voting will be conducted Sunday, March 30, 2003, between the hours of noon and 5:00 p.m. at the Runnels County Clerk's office in Ballinger and at the Runnels County Tax Branch Office in Winters.

For further information or to request an application to vote early by mail, please contact the County Clerk's office at 365-2720.



(photo by Deb Pritchard)

AMBER GREEN whips in the fast pitch during a 15-1 trouncing of the Lady Hawks of Wall on March 4. The Lady Blizzards will kick off district play against the Lady Indians at Jim Ned on Friday, March 21.

Garland Richards asks Commissioners to support Fort Chadbourne

Runnels County Commissioners heard a report from Garland Richards on the Texas Forts Trail at a special meeting Monday, March 17.

Richards, who is working to restore Fort Chadbourne through the Fort Chadbourne Foundation, told the Court the Texas Forts Trail had originally been established by the Texas Department of Transportation in 1968.

Texas Forts Trail was originally a 650-mile tour of several restored forts in Texas. The Trail now includes Runnels County's Fort Chadbourne, which, Richards said, had received a restoration award from the Texas Restoration Commission.

Richards outlined the financial benefits to Runnels County and asked the Commissioners

Court to approve a resolution in support of Fort Chadbourne. "I'm not asking for any money, just your pledge of support at the present time," Richards said.

County Judge Marilyn Egan said the resolution would be put on the next meeting agenda for discussion and action.

In other business, the Court approved a second Letter of Agreement between the City of Abilene and the County to provide funds for road materials to rebuild portions of County Roads 164 and 147. The two roads were damaged in construction of the Abilene-Ivie pipeline. The City of Abilene agreed to provide \$2,868 for the materials for repair.

Other agenda items and action taken included: See COMMISSIONERS, pg. 7

Editorial

Oil Bidness

by Reg Boles © 2003



A recent article in a well-known oil and gas magazine highlighted the newest world records in the business. After reading over them, I thought it would be useful to share some of those with you because they indicate how far this business has moved into the 21st century.

Hart's E&P is a respected industry publication that covers the world of oil and gas in many facets. In their latest issue, they include their annual recitation of world records. Some of the new world records are due to implementation of high tech equipment, others are due to innovative use of technology by hard-working field hands, and others are the result of long-term diligence in trying to improve methods used in finding and producing oil and gas.

Some of the more noteworthy include records in drilling wells.

In one field in the Middle East, one bit ran more than 20,000 feet before being changed, beating the previous record by 4,000 feet! Another record described a perforating interval of almost 5,000 feet, making the common 20 and 30 feet perforating jobs look almost inconsequential.

A list indicating wells that had been drilled over 5 miles (over 26,000 feet) has grown so long, that is no relegated to the "oh yeah" section. Not too long ago, anything over 20,000 feet was considered ultra deep. Now, it is just a "pretty deep" well, but a mile or so short of the 5-mile club. One well was drilled to 28,901 feet — not too far from 6 miles.

Some really impressive records for those frugal operators out there concerned longevity of equipment, particularly bits. Late last year, one bit ran a cumulative 203,000 feet before being retired. Some bits don't see that much distance counting their runs in a pickup to the location!

In the emerging world of lateral wells, there are a number of very interesting records.

One well included 12 laterals off one vertical well bore. Another well drilled over 100,000 feet of horizontal section in laterals off one well! For the average everyday lateral well, there might be three or four laterals that drill a thousand feet or so each.

Other records related to surface facilities.

The world's longest pipeline was finished during 2002 and it reaches from Azerbaijan to Turkey or more than 1,000 miles. At a cost of 2.9 billion dollars, it wasn't cheap but worth every penny to those producers with no outlet for their crude.

Deep water continues to be a leading-edge technology destination, and 2002 was no exception. One well was drilled in over 7,000 feet of water in the Gulf of

Mexico, and another was tested in 9,000 feet of water. The boundaries for deep water continue to be pushed back.

All of these records are clear illustrations of how innovation, diligence, and pursuit of profit can improve technology and methodology to make us all more productive.

Now, if I could just find a way to get my kids to take out the trash.

HIGHLIGHTS OF AREA DRILLING ACTIVITY

COMPLETIONS

Coleman County

The Window Operating Company has completed the Bowers #4 in the Coleman County Regular Field (5 miles NE of Coleman) at an initial rate of 275 MCFPD in an unidentified zone (perf 1811-20). The well is loc. G.M. Deadrich Sur. No. 84.

Concho County

B.J. Oil Company has completed the S&H Livestock #1 in the East Paint Rock Field (4 miles SE of Paint Rock) at an initial rate of 12 BOPD & 70 BWPD in the Goen Lime (perfs 3358-64). The well is loc. in Sec. 136, Blk. 72, T&NO RR Sur.

Bowman Energy has completed the W. Mika #1 in the Ryan Case Field (3 miles E of Eden) at an initial rate of 26 BOPD & 10 BWPD in the Crosscut Lime (perfs 2532-36). The well is loc. in Sec. 2019, Blk. 72, J.D. Arnold Sur.

LeClair Operating has completed the Krieg #2 in the Cark Horse Field (3 miles W of Eden) at an initial rate of 7 BOPD & 15 BWPD in the Crosscut (perfs 2957-77). The well is located in Sec. 171, T&NO RR Sur.

Runnels County

Imperial Gas Resources has completed the Decker #2 in the Goldsboro Field (4 miles W of Goldsboro) at an initial rate of 26 BOPD & 99 BWPD in Gray (perfs 3947-4000). The well is loc. in the W.A. McGrew Sur., A-370.

St. Mary Energy Co. has completed the Fort Chadbourne Odor Lime Unit #2812 in the Fort Chadbourne Field (7 miles W of Wingate) at an initial rate of 8 BOPD & 95 BWPD in the Odor (perfs 5337-60). The well is loc. in the H. Friley Sur. No. 448, A-175.

STAKINGS

Callahan County

Hane Operating, Inc. has staked the Morris-Knox as a Wildcat, 11 miles NE of Coleman (Depth 2800). Loc. is 1200 FWL & 330 FSL from Sec. 74, HT&B Sur., A-1203.

Singleton Investments has staked the Ezzell #7 in the Callahan County Regular Field, 5 miles SW of Putnam (Depth 1000). Loc. is 660 FWL & 1320 FNL of SPRR Sur. No. 318, A-1245.

Letters to the Editor

The chairs of power should sit in Daniel's chair for a day

Dear Editor,

I got home Friday night thinking I had had a really long week and it felt good to get back home. I sat down to read the paper, although there is not much good news being reported in any news vehicle these days. On the front page was an in depth story about a proposed budget cut that could have a direct impact on at least a quarter of a million of our neediest children's health care.

Then I turned to page seven and saw the picture of Daniel Wiederhold, a 10-year-old boy from Round Rock, Texas. I do not know Daniel or his family, but Daniel was in Austin, testifying against the state lawmakers health care benefits. Daniel told members of the State Finance Committee that he wanted to stay with his family instead of being sent to an institution.

What you might be asking is why a 10-year-old boy who was wearing a Texas T-shirt was worried about being sent to an institution.

Is Daniel a juvenile delinquent who is about to be sent to a correctional institution? No, Daniel is simply a 10-year-old boy sitting in a chair with a Texas T-shirt on. But the chair in which he sits is no ordinary chair; it is one with seatbelts, a motor, rubber tires, and a Mickey Mouse cushion to protect him from bedsores. It is a wheelchair. A chair that is that young boy's legs and his symbol of freedom.

Yet this young 10-year-old boy sitting in a wheelchair was coming before the Senate's most powerful committee. He was asking them to not take him away from his family.

Why should he or any young Texas have to worry about these heavy things at the age of 10?

Maybe it is because those sitting in the chairs of power who will decide his fate don't sit in a wheelchair.

Those sitting in the chairs of

power have been instructed to cut their budgets and nothing is sacred.

But there are some things that are sacred.

Daniel is sacred, and where do the powerful draw the line when it comes to justice?

We will all find out very soon whether or not the wheels of justice under the direction of this legislature and this administration have come completely off when those in the powerful chairs decide the fate of the Daniels in their wheelchairs.

For you see, those whom we think of as strong—the lobbyists, politicians, and committee chairs are not the strong ones at all.

The strong ones are the ones like Daniel and his family, and hundreds of thousands of Texas who have been dealt a pretty tough card in life.

These are Texans who play by the rules, get up every morning, pick themselves up—sometimes literally—and make the best of every day. These are the Texans who may be weak in material things, but strong in will, and purpose, and faith—the ones that stick by their families and loved ones through it all.

They have no big paid lobbyists or PAC money. They chair no committees. But without question, these weak ones with no voice are the strong ones that we must speak up for.

For they are the family medal of honor winners—mothers who work in a job and take care of the ones in the wheelchairs too—the sisters and brothers who live a normal life and still take the time to care and defend the ones in wheelchairs too. These are the brave hearts.

So the question before the powerful that sit in the chairs of power is this. Is nothing sacred when it comes to cuts?

In my family, we had our Daniel. Her name was Susan. And make no mistake about it, she was indeed sacred.

Roy M. Spence, Jr.

Roy Spence is President of GSD&M Advertising, the Austin ad agency that created "Don't Mess with Texas." His sister, Susan Spence, was born with severe Spina Bifida, and lived to be 47 years old.

More "Letters to the Editor," pg. 7

Flowers, Novelty Gifts, Tuxedo Rental

Winters Flower Shop ... & More

Janice Pruser, owner

119 S. Main
754-4568

Thank you for reading The Winters Enterprise!

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MEMBER 2003

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Obituaries

Refujia (Susie) Rios Fuentes

ROWENA—Refujia (Susie) Rios Fuentes, 64, died Sunday, March 9, 2003, at Shannon Medical Center in San Angelo.

Refujia was born April 13, 1938, in Olfen to Santiago and Maria (Parra) Rios. She married Isabel Fuentes, Jr. on September 1, 1966.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Isabel Fuentes, Jr., on December 6, 2001; her parents; and one brother, A.P. Rios.

Survivors include her children, Mario and Shanna Fuentes of Winters, Cecilia Fuentes of Rowena, Martin and Christy Fuentes of Norman, Oklahoma, Francisco Fuentes of Rowena, and Monica Fuentes and Robert Fuentes, both of San Angelo; two grandchildren, Andrew Fuentes of Ballinger and Kaitlyn Fuentes of Winters; three brothers, Justo Rios of Houston, Salvador Rios of Fort Worth, and Alfredo Rios of San Angelo.

Rosary service was held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Rowena. Funeral Mass was held at 10 a.m., Wednesday, March 12, at St. Joseph Catholic Church. Burial followed in St. Joseph Cemetery in Rowena.

Funeral arrangements were under the direction of Rains Seale Funeral Home of Ballinger.

"A mother's love makes a difference in every heart it touches."



Irene Bertha Kahlig

SAN ANGELO—Irene Bertha Kahlig, 89, died Wednesday, March 12, 2003, at Shannon Medical Center in San Angelo.

Mrs. Kahlig was born in Olfen on April 20, 1913 to Frank and Emilia Block. She married Joseph Kahlig on November 3, 1931 in St. Boniface Catholic Church in Olfen.

He preceded her in death on April 1, 1980. Her daughter, Ethel McCrohan, also preceded her in death on September 21, 1990.

She is survived by two sons, Eugene Kahlig and his wife LaUna of Ennis, Roy Kahlig and his wife LaDonna of Port Arthur; one daughter, Lorene Halfmann and her husband James of Ballinger; 12 grandchildren and 30 great-grandchildren; one brother, Robert Block of San Angelo; two sisters, Esther Havlak and Helen Landis, both of San Angelo and Pauline Wilde of Temple.

Rosary was held Thursday, March 13, 2003 at Rains-Seale Funeral Home Chapel. Funeral services were held Friday, March 14, at St. Mary's Star of the Sea Catholic Church officiated by Father Hubert Wade and Father Louis Moeller. Burial followed in St. Boniface Catholic Cemetery in Olfen under the direction of Rains-Seale Funeral Home.



Opal Inez Hash

EL PASO—Opal Inez Hash, 78, formerly of Ballinger, died Monday, March 10, 2003, in El Paso.

Opal was born on November 11, 1924, in Ballinger. She married James Hash in Ballinger on July 17, 1943, and was a homemaker.

She was preceded in death by her husband James on October 31, 1982.

Survivors include one son, Ronald L Hash of El Paso; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Graveside services were held on Friday, March 14, at 9 a.m. at the Evergreen Cemetery with Rev. Mike Riley officiating. Funeral arrangements were under the direction of Rains-Seale Funeral Home.

Obituaries continued on page 6

Winters Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary

Chicken Fried Chicken Dinner
Sunday, March 23, 2003
WISD Cafeteria
11 a.m. until 1 p.m.

\$5.00 per plate
Menu includes chicken fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, green beans, hot rolls, choice of peach or cherry cobbler.

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Community

Pastor's Points

Editor's Note: This column will feature a different Winters minister each week in no particular order. Comments may or may not reflect the opinions or views of *The Winters Enterprise*.

Sticks and stones...

by Lola Scott, Somebody Cares Ministries

Have you ever stood and skipped rocks across a body of water? Have you ever considered all the purposes for which we use rocks, and why? Have you ever thrown a rock at someone and hurt them?

As I was thinking about rocks today, I thought about a response I used to make, about "sticks and stones" when I was a kid, and someone said something cruel to me. "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me." But my spirit was wounded by some childhood remarks I heard repeatedly.

Our words can hurt or heal; curse or bless. God's words minister life to those who hear them and obey them. In the Bible, God mentions words of grace, promise, truth, life, wisdom, reconciliation, etc. He cautions us to not speak idle words. He says we are known by the words we speak.

It's easy for us to put our foot in our mouth" when we speak carelessly or in anger. We can't take back harsh words we have spoken. There are words that can wound someone's spirit.

What is the effect of a talebearer? Are we tempted to gossip, when we express a prayer request? Does the one with whom we are sharing think we're being judgemental in how we share what we know about someone else? If the person who needs prayer was present as we shared, would we "rephrase" what we say? Would we be "more sensitive" about how we share the needs of another person? Can a person hear that we have compassion and mercy for someone in need of a prayer? Are we quick "to point the finger" at anyone we know? If we are, we are judging that person.

Does this mean we shouldn't talk to a person who is doing something that would grieve the Lord and hurt someone else as well as ourselves.

Jesus encountered some men, who had caught a woman in the act of adultery. They brought the woman to Jesus, wanting her to be stoned to death. In His wisdom, Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground. He acted as though He didn't hear the men continuing to condemn the woman. Then He stood up and said, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her." Jesus stooped down again and wrote in the dirt. One by one, from the oldest to the youngest, her accusers walked away. In their hearts and consciousness they knew they were guilty of wrong doings. They had no right to condemn her to death. In His great love for her, Jesus spoke to her, "Woman, where are your accusers?" No man remained to throw stones at her. Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more."

"How do we talk about other people? Do we condemn? Criticize? Throw stones with our words? May we prayerfully remember that *kind words are like flowers that bloom forever in our memories*. Let's speak the words we speak with compassion, forgiveness and love.



(photo by Jennifer Riffe)

WINTERS TIGER CUB TROOP # 249 enjoyed a tour of *The Winters Enterprise* recently during Newspapers in Education Week. The Cubs were able to see how the newspaper is assembled each week using new computer technology. Pictured are (back row, l-r) Daniel Gerhart, Taylor Riffe, Ty Black, (front) Marshall Scates, Zachary Schwartz, Corey Pritchard, Christopher Gerhart, and Ryan Young.

Holy Week Services, April 14-18—

Winters Ministerial Alliance planning several upcoming community events

by Randall Conner, WABIC

The Winters Ministerial Alliance held their regular meeting on Monday, March 3, 2003. A variety of topics and issues were reviewed.

One of the topics discussed was the lice problem in Winters Schools. Based on information presented by J'Lynn Cooper, WISD school nurse, it was decided to purchase 14 packages of "Rid" to be distributed through the Outreach Center. Reverend Barry Taylor has contacted the Bayer Company in hopes they will provide additional packages.

Mark Edge reported on a Letter of Concern and Reflection and will present additional information at the next meeting.

The Relay for Life is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 21, 2003 and an early praise and worship service is being considered for 8 a.m. on Sunday, June 22, 2003, following the Relay for Life.

The March for Jesus is set for Saturday, June 7, 2003.

Some discussion was held about a possible Appreciation Dinner for Outreach Center workers sometime after Easter.

There was a request that Ministerial Alliance help coordinate more activities for Se-

nior Citizens, possibly with a month being assigned to each church and that church planning two or three activities per week.

Holy Week Services will be held Monday, April 14, through Friday, April 18, at noon each day at the Winters Community Center. The schedule for providing the meals is as follows: Monday—Catholics and Lutherans; Tuesday—Methodists (Winters and Wingate); Wednesday—Assembly of God, Church of God, & Somebody Cares Ministries; Thursday—Baptists (all churches); Friday—Church of Christ. The ministers will meet sometime later this month to discuss speakers and music directors.

The Outreach report for February showed that the Food Pantry served 40 families, 132 people, with two new families added. The Relief Fund helped one family for \$17.82. At this time, there have been no requests for free tax service.

The Winters Outreach Center is located at 141 N. Church just south of the Methodist Church. Maudella Reeves is the coordinator for activities and can be contacted at the center from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m., Monday through Friday. For

more information the cell phone number is 365-1417.

Two of the people usually present for the Ministerial Alliance meeting have been hospitalized recently. Please remember Georgia Orr and Gilbert Smith in prayer.

The next Winters Ministerial Alliance Meeting will be held Monday, April 7, 2003, at 9 a.m. at the Winters School Administration Office.

Winters Public Library seeking donations for silent auction

Would you like to get rid of some of those things cluttering up your closets, basement, or garage? Would you like to get a tax write-off for your donation and be able to support the Winters Public Library?

The Winters Public Library is looking for items to sell at its annual Mayfest silent auction and would appreciate any donations from the public.

Bring an appliance that works, a knickknack that no longer fits your decor, some tools, utensils, furniture, or anything in reasonable, workable, or usable condition. All donations may be brought to the Winters Public Library, 120 N. Main, or for more information you may call the library at 754-4251.

All proceeds will benefit the Winters Public Library.

Evangelism Rally March 26

Runnels Baptist Association will meet for an evangelism rally on Wednesday, March 26, at First Baptist Church in Ballinger.

The executive board and W.M.U. will not meet. No meal will be served.

The rally will begin at 7:00 p.m. Morris Johnson, mission/evangelism director, is in charge of the program.

The public is invited.

WHAT'S HAPPENING ?

- Mar. 20-11:30 a.m., Senior Citizens Meal, Sr. Citizens Activity Center
- 2 p.m., District U.I.L. One Act Play, Brownwood
- 7 p.m., Elementary Select Choir, WHS Auditorium
- 7 p.m., Women's Service League
- Mar. 21-11:30 a.m., Senior Citizens Meal, Sr. Citizens Activity Center
- 7:30 p.m., Cowboys for Christ, Drasco
- Reagan County Tennis Tournament, Big Lake
- 4:30 p.m., Lady Blizzard Softball @ Jim Ned
- Blizzard Track Team @ San Angelo Relays
- Breezes Track Team @ Wall
- Mar. 22-5-7:30 p.m., Pancake & Sausage Supper, Norton Community Center
- 8 p.m., Winters Squares, Winters Community Center
- Reagan County Tennis Tournament, Big Lake
- Blizzard Track Team @ San Angelo Relays
- Lady Blizzard Track Team @ Pirate Relays, Eula
- Mar. 23-First Baptist Church of Winters Revival Begins
- Mar. 24-WHS District U.I.L. Academic Meet, Coleman
- 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Estate Planning Seminar, Taylor Co. Expo Center
- 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m., Social Security Rep. Housing Authority
- 11:30 a.m., Senior Citizens Meal, Sr. Citizens Activity Center
- 4 p.m., JV Baseball @ Grape Creek
- 6:45 p.m., 4-H, Catholic Hall
- 7 p.m., Wingate Masonic Lodge
- Mar. 25-School Board Candidate Workshop, San Angelo
- 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Concho Valley Cotton Conference, San Angelo
- 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Estate Planning Seminar, Taylor Co. Expo Center
- 11:30 a.m., Senior Citizens Meal, Sr. Citizens Activity Center
- Noon, Lions Club, SCAC
- 4 p.m., Varsity Blizzard Baseball vs. Bangs, Winters Field
- 4:30 p.m., Lady Blizzards Softball vs. Eldorado, Winters Field
- 7 p.m., WVFD Auxiliary, Fire Station
- Lady Blizzard Golf @ San Saba
- Blizzard Golf @ Coleman
- Mar. 26-7 a.m., Industrial Board, Windmill Enterprises Office
- 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Estate Planning Seminar, Taylor Co. Expo Center
- 11:30 a.m., Senior Citizens Meal, Sr. Citizens Activity Center
- Noon, Community Forum, Potbellies
- 7 p.m., Evangelism Rally, First Baptist Church, Ballinger
- Mar. 27-District U.I.L. Academic Meet, Coleman
- 11:30 a.m., Senior Citizens Meal, Sr. Citizens Activity Center
- 5 p.m., Hale Museum Board of Directors

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March 24 through 28
Subject to change

Monday, March 24:

Chicken pot pie, beets, fruit salad, crackers, and cake.

Tuesday, March 25: Mexican casserole, pinto beans, tossed salad, chips & hot sauce, and brownie.

Wednesday, March 26: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, hot rolls, and cobbler.

Thursday, March 27: Potato Soup, grilled cheese sandwich, pear & cottage cheese, crackers, and cookies.

Friday, March 28: Ham, sweet potatoes, asparagus, bread, and dessert.

Meals are served at 11:30 a.m. daily. Anyone who does not take the meals regularly are asked to reserve a lunch by contacting the Activity Center at 754-4205 by 10 a.m.

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Director of Nursing

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School



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CAFETERIA MENU

March 24-28

Subject to change*

Breakfast

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Juice & Milk
Tuesday-Mar. 25
Pigs in a Blanket
Cereal
Juice & Milk
Wednesday-Mar. 26
Banana Nut Muffins
Cereal
Juice & Milk
Thursday-Mar. 27
Cinnamon Rolls
Cereal
Juice & Milk
Friday-Mar. 28
Sausage & Biscuits
Juice & Milk

Lunch

Monday-Mar. 24
Spaghetti with Meat Sauce
Tossed Salad
Green Beans
Garlic Bread
Peach Crisp
Tuesday-Mar. 25
Tacos with lettuce & cheese
Spanish Rice
Refried Beans
Pears
Wednesday-Mar. 26
Roast & Gravy
Mashed Potatoes
Fried Okra
Rolls
Chocolate Pudding
Thursday-Mar. 27
Fried Chicken
Macaroni & Cheese
Peas & Carrots
Pears
Rolls
Ice Cream
Friday-Mar. 28
German Sausage
Pinto Beans
Cole Slaw
Cornbread
Peaches

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Project Graduation parents to meet

Parents of the Class of 2003 will meet on Monday, March 24, 2003, at 7 p.m. in the Winters High School Library.

Project Graduation would also like to remind area businesses and individuals that donations are still being accepted for this year's graduation celebration. For more information contact Kim Jackson at 754-5032 or 754-4339 or mail donations to: WISD, 603 N. Heights, Winters, Texas 79567, Attn: Rhonda Neal.



(photo by Jean Boles)

GUY SLIMP, second from left, gives the extra effort and takes the second place with a time of 54.0 in the 400 meter run at the Blizzard Relays. Slimp improved his time last Saturday at the Roby track meet with a personal best of 52.84 and another second place victory.

HOUSTON, continued

at the Granddaddy of all stock shows in Texas.

The very first class of the 2003 HLSR Market Steer Show found 10-year-old Devon Shackelford winning the lightweight Horned Hereford division. All smiles, she waited patiently in the holding area with her steer "Smash" to return to the ring to show for champion Hereford honors.

Ever the "showman," Devon marched back to the show arena, exhibited "Smash" to perfection, and was rewarded with a hefty slap on the steer's rump to indicate he was chosen Reserve Champion Hereford.

Smiles, handshakes, and congratulations came in mass from fellow Winters families, Runnels County exhibitors, Ag teachers, county agents, and friends from across the state, while Roy frequently wiped tears from his eyes.

Amidst the frenzy of paperwork, official photos, and more congratulations Roy and wife Ann, as well as Devon, kept straining to see into the show ring where brother Dalton, 12, was exhibiting "Ribeye," a lightweight Polled Hereford steer.

Only moments after Roy was able to make his way back to the corner of the grandstands to watch Dalton did I see a Runnels County 4-H mom give him another big hug before he started back down the steps. Dalton was first in his class. This time Roy used both hands to rub the tears flowing freely from his eyes and shook noticeably while trying to apply chapstick to his lips.

Although Dalton wasn't

chosen in the champion Polled Hereford drive, the Shackelfords had accomplished, in one day, what many stock showing families dream of experiencing in an entire career. In addition, they were a part of the elite group to win the first show ever to be held in the new Reliant Center facilities. Devon was a part of the first Grand Champion Market Steer drive to ever be held during a rodeo performance in Reliant Stadium.

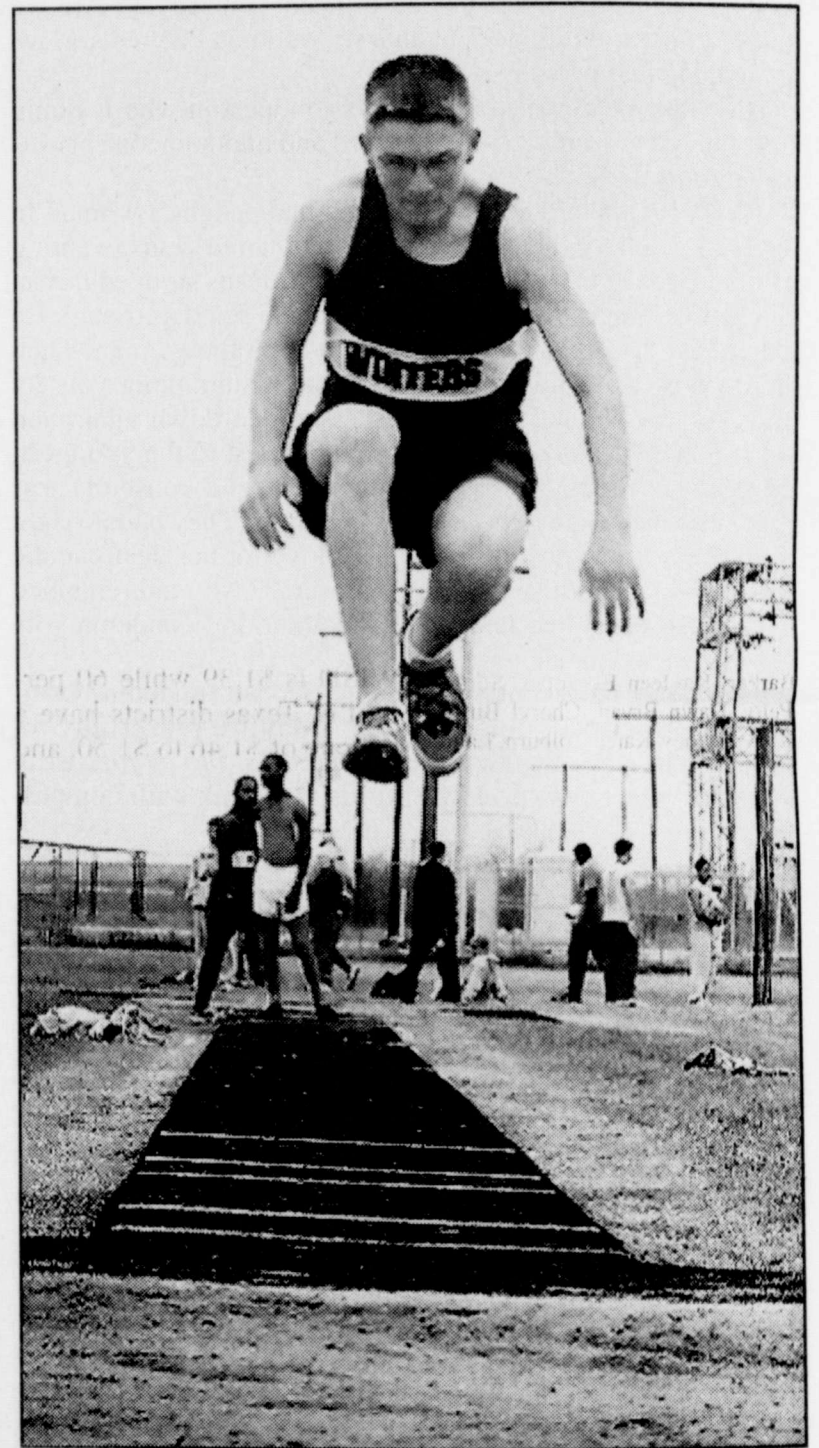
Between smiles and giggles, both Devon and Dalton, fourth and sixth grade students at Winters Elementary, were gracious and appreciative of all the attention showered upon them. The brother/sister duo had worked hard the past 11 months on their steer projects and showmanship skills, and were very deserving of the awards for their efforts.

After many, many "early" morning feedings which had finally paid off, Mom Ann was immediately held responsible for all of the hardware the duo had won including two "Houston Hat Trophies," two blue rosettes, and a Reserve Champion banner and belt buckle.

Dad and advisor Roy remained humble and almost shy, yet appreciative of the accolades. Never one to boast, Shackelford just smiled a lot, shook a bunch of hands, and wiped away more than one tear.

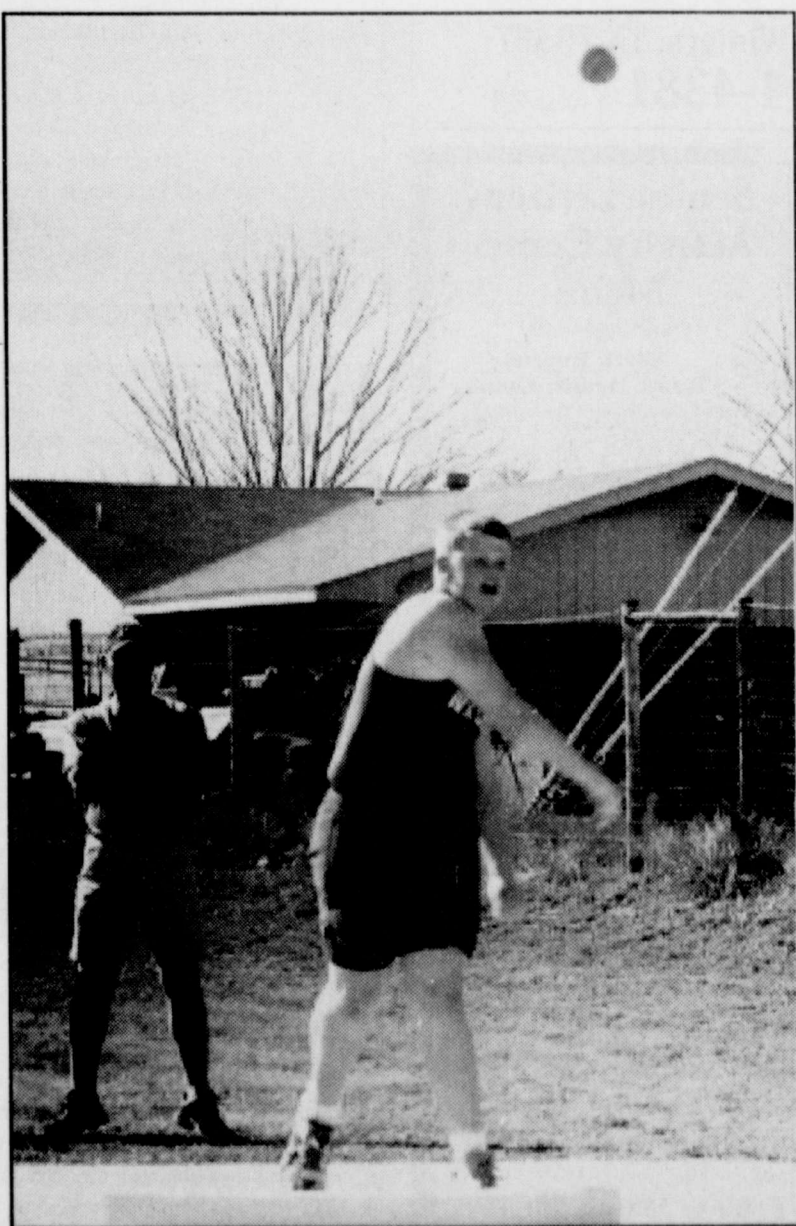
As one Winters FFA parent said while others nodded in agreement, "It couldn't have happened to a better guy. He's been bustin' his butt for our kids and supporting them for years—now he's getting to enjoy his own kids and watch

them win. Every one of them (the Shackelford family) work hard at showing and taking care of their animals...and it's finally paid off for them. I'm tickled pink for 'em."



(photo by Jean Boles)

CODY PRITCHARD, WHS sophomore, gets good hang time during the junior varsity triple jump competition at the Blizzard Relays.



(photo by Deb Pritchard)

TY CASON, Winters 8th grader, lets go of his toss of 39'25" for a second place win in the shot put during the Breezes Junior High Track Meet on March 7. At left is Winters Athletic Director Coach Chuck Lipsey.

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ACROSS

- 1. Smallest amount
- 6. Buggy
- 10. Moldable substance
- 14. Mrs. Ralph Kramden
- 15. Dwell
- 16. Race loser
- 17. Youth
- 18. Befuddled
- 19. "What's the big ___?"
- 20. Soak
- 22. City for which a TV show was named
- 24. Usually square piece
- 25. Most unfriendly
- 26. Hound
- 29. Tall structure
- 30. Part of fall: abbr.

DOWN

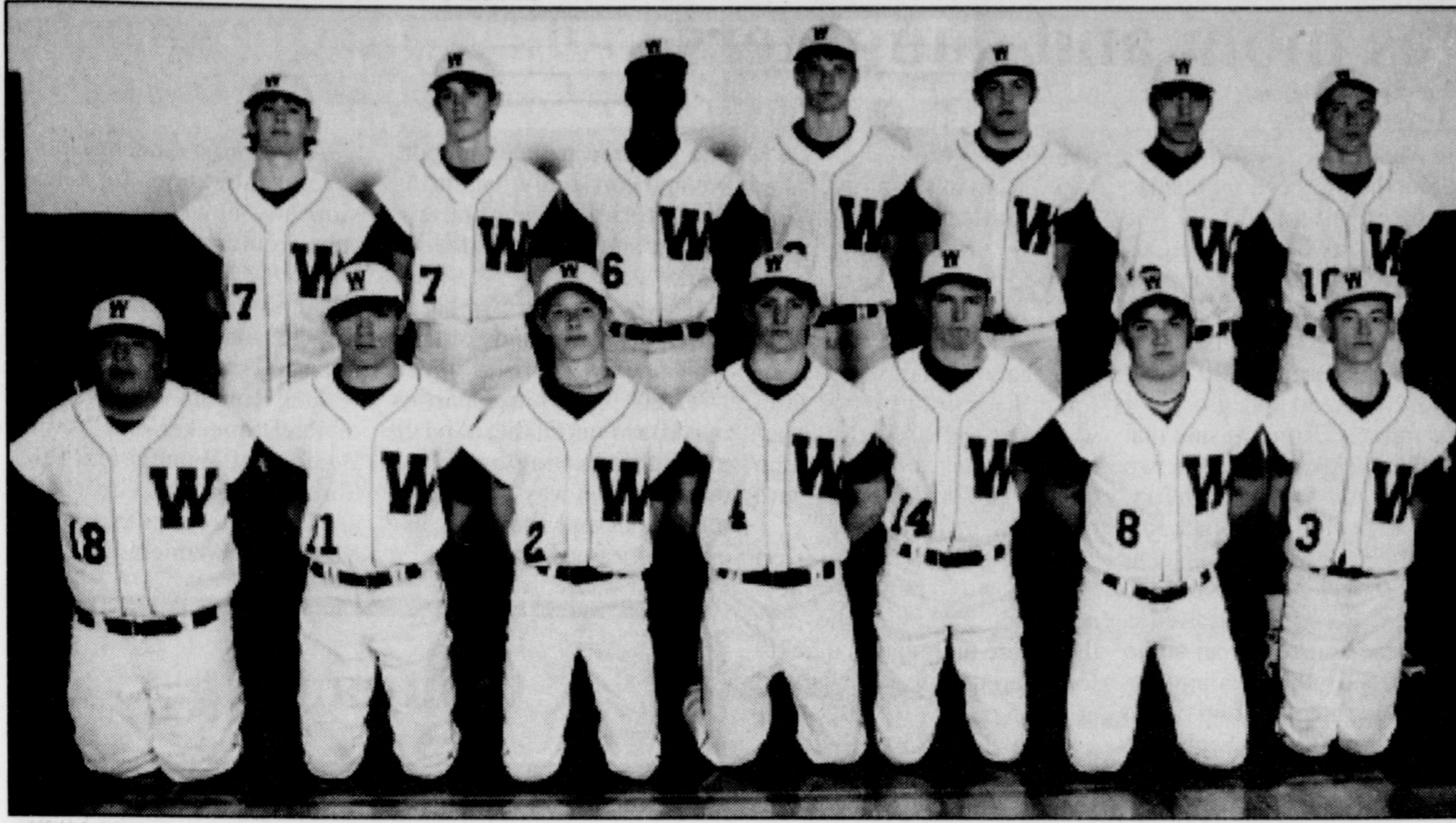
- 31. Summarize
- 33. Wait on
- 37. Astronomer's sighting
- 39. Used a lawn tool
- 41. Fastener
- 42. Comic strip Viking
- 44. Designed again
- 46. Drive into
- 47. Fruits
- 49. Sahara transports
- 51. Taught
- 54. Car used for test-drives
- 55. Tell
- 56. Word with bronze, gold or silver
- 60. Despot leader (1972-79)
- 61. Slave
- 63. Beau ___
- 64. Record
- 65. Winged creature
- 66. Organic compound
- 67. Ending for Rock or Paul
- 68. 1990 World Series champs
- 69. Weather forecast
- 1. Escapes: slang
- 2. Literary pseudonym
- 3. Contraction
- 4. Badge earners
- 5. Scottish
- 6. Food holder
- 7. Leave the sack
- 8. 5th or Pennsylvania
- 9. Pasture

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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26	27	28					29					
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42				43			44			45		46
				47		48			49		50	
51	52	53					54					
55							56				57	58
60						61	62			63		
64							65				66	
67							68				69	

- 10. Offspring
- 11. Kitchen implement
- 12. Zones
- 13. Baker's ingredient
- 21. Change
- 23. Brewer's products
- 25. ___ with; tolerated
- 26. Nonsense
- 27. Legal proceedings
- 28. Unaccompanied
- 29. Grabs
- 32. Was concerned
- 34. Scarce
- 35. Test tube
- 36. Trees
- 38. Brightness
- 40. Cut up into tiny pieces
- 43. Go off on a tirade
- 45. Money paid in compensation
- 48. Wobble
- 50. Annoy, with intent to harm
- 51. Livelihood
- 52. Send in payment
- 53. "...He's making ___ and checking it twice..."
- 54. Editor's notations
- 56. Intelligence
- 57. Ratio words
- 58. Suffix for pun or gang
- 59. Prison sentence
- 62. Crude material

School

WHS Baseball Team—



2003 VARSITY BASEBALL TEAM members are (back, l-r) Brian Pritchard, Brandon Davis, Yul Gibbs, Scotty Bryan, Shane Colburn, Max Harrison, and Guy Slimp; (front) Mark Moreno, Benjie Valles, Tim Fenwick, Jared Airhart, Alex Blackerby, Chad Landers, and Tim Medina. Not pictured is Coach Jamie Seago. (photo by Deb Pritchard)

Elementary G/T nominations now accepted

Nominations are now being accepted for the Winters Elementary Gifted/Talented program, grades 1-5. If you believe your child might benefit from a gifted/talented program, your nomination is welcomed.

Nomination and parent-permission-for-testing forms may be obtained at the Elementary Principal's office during normal working hours, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All forms must be completed and returned to your child's homeroom teacher by April 21, 2003.

"One thought driven home is better than three left on base."

—James Liter

WISD, continued

was reported at 675.87 — "... right about where we figured," said Jimmy Butler, WISD Business Manager. Attendance on August 19, 2002, was 692.

Alternative School Principal David Evans announced his campus is also "making good progress," with two recent graduates in February.

Trustees approved employment contracts as recommended by Superintendent Clack. Term contracts were approved for the following employees:

Jerry Awalt, Cindy Davis, Laura Dees, Ral Dees, Nancy Evans, Melissa Gerhart, Marta Hollowell, Tracy Gray, Susan Mostad, Tony Ramirez, Sharon Rice, Jillian Koslan, Roy Shackelford, Mindy Shaw, Martha Shepard, Lori Smith, Beth Wortham, Cheryl Kruse, Debbie Bible, Stephanie Turner, Charlotte Jackson, Karen Mills, Connie Tounget, Mary B. Ahrens, Becky Airhart, Naida Barker, Kayleen Bergman, Sondra Petty, Dawn Bryan, Cheryl Butler, Cindy Cathey, Karen Colburn, Landa Grohman, Lou Ann Hatler, Camille Denton, Marlene Hogan, Troylene Lincycomb, Jody Meyer, Melinda Meyers, Linda Mitchell, Cathy Oliver, Chris Parramore, Cathy Pringle, Ann Shackelford, Audine McBeth, Cheryl Sneed, Teressa Tekell, Brenda Bahlman, Mary Wilkerson, Mary Slimp, Charles Murphy, Geoff Murphy, Phillip Mooney, Houston Guy, Zach Boxell, Bryan Green, Josh Damron, David Acevedo, Deb Whittenburg, Mandie England.

The resignation of Ed Poehls was accepted with regret.

Board members then heard reports of a somewhat negative nature.

Superintendent Clack emphasized the budget cuts from state funding and how those will affect Winters schools. He said the Alternative Education Program is uncertain for next year. "It (the Program) has to exist but as far as the level, we won't know for a few months," said Clack.

He explained that education

reflects decrease funding for Gifted and Talented programs, vocational programs, transportation, and Education Service Centers (ESC). Winters is one of 45 school districts serviced by Region 15 ESC.

"The face of education is sure going to change," Clack told trustees. He said that budget decisions for Winters may be on hold until June and July when schools will know more about funds available from the state.

"There's a shortfall of funds (from the state)," said Clack. "We'll still get our share but that share will be a lot smaller. There will be a lot of money going out from the right hand but very little coming into the left hand."

He also reminded trustees that the current tax rate for WISD is \$1.39 while 60 percent of Texas districts have a tax rate of \$1.46 to \$1.50, and 408 districts have \$1.50 or above.

Clack next asked trustees to review current policies for drug testing students in extracurricular activities. He presented policies from school districts in Hawley, Lampasas and Dimmit, and asked trustees for opinions.

Trustee Jerry Sims said, "Our policy will have to have enough teeth for everybody, with tough consequences."

Athletic Director and Dean of Students Chuck Lipsey added, "We may lose some good kids early (in extracurricular activities) but I think the consequences need to be pretty stiff."

The board agreed that drug testing must be confidential and done randomly. Clack suggested asking the District Team to propose a policy rough draft which will be addressed in a

public forum. "This needs to be a community effort," said Clack.

From that meeting a revised policy would be drafted and brought before the parents and public again before consideration by the school board. Clack emphasized that the purpose of the testing is not to keep kids out of extracurricular activities but to keep them in the activities and away from drugs and alcohol.

Clack told trustees that costs for the drug testing at Hawley ISD is estimated at \$5,000 to \$15,000 per year.

No action was taken by the board as Clack emphasized he

wants to begin the process with input from parents and community members.

In other action, trustees approved a school/work plan for qualifying seniors beginning in the 2003/2004 school year. This would allow seniors who qualify to be required to attend six periods during the school day. Qualifications include being currently on pace to graduate, requiring only 6 credits or less to meet graduation requirements, and maintaining a 90% attendance rate. If a senior falls below this rate they will be required to attend 7th and 8th period to make up time.

Trustees approved to enter

a contract with JR3, a retirement employment company which supplies teachers to districts who are short of qualified teachers. Clack said Texas reports a shortage of 44,000 teachers at the present time.

A resolution against private school vouchers was also approved by trustees. Present for the March 17 meeting were Trustees Allen Andrae, Larry Walker, Jerry Sims, Manuel Vera, Shelia Paschal, Cheryl Bryan, and Bob Prewit; Superintendent Clack, Business Manager Butler; Principals Hale, Magee, and Evans; and Athletic Director Chuck Lipsey.

Lady Blizzards at Eula Saturday; Blizzards in San Angelo Relays on Friday & Saturday

The Blizzards, JV Blizzards and the Lady Blizzards competed at the Roby Invitational Track Meet during spring break last week.

The Blizzards took fourth place with 73 points while the JV Blizzards came in with 65.25 points to claim fifth place.

The Lady Blizzards will travel to the Pirate Relays at Eula on Saturday while the Blizzards will compete in the San Angelo Relays on Friday and Saturday. The JV is idle this week.

Last week's individual results are as follows:

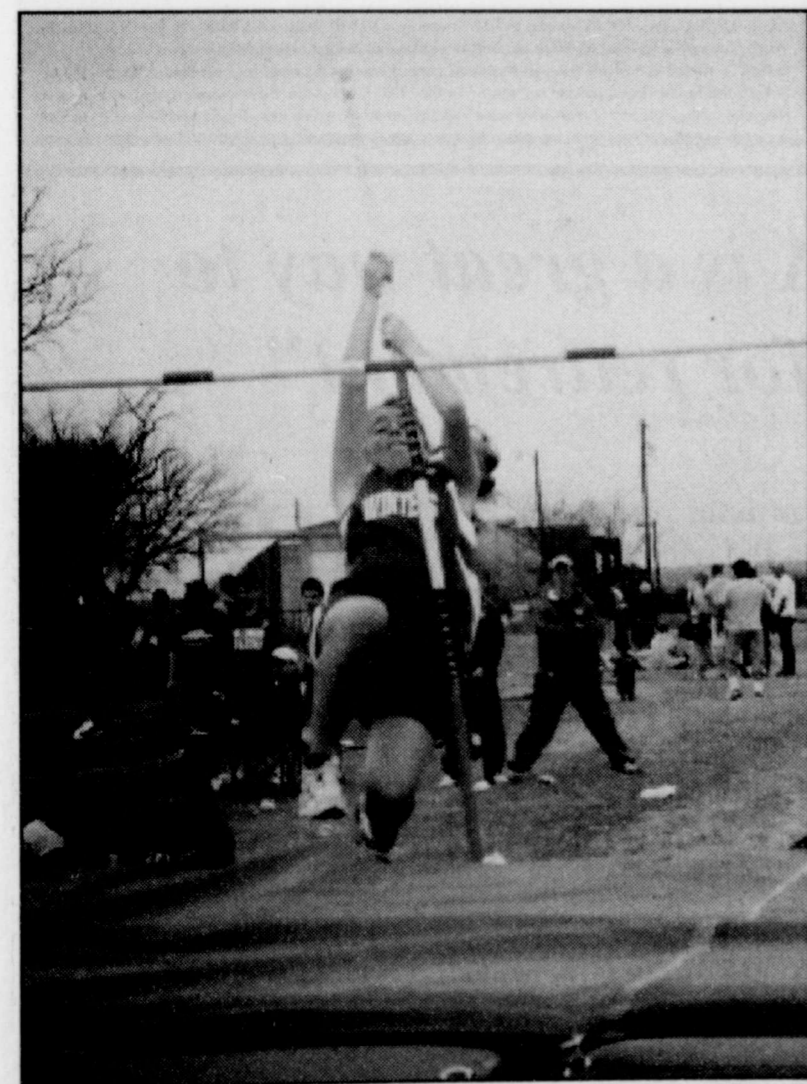
LADY BLIZZARDS
3200 M Run
 6th, Briana Parramore
100 M Hurdles
 2nd, Laci Walker, 16.42
400 M Dash
 5th, Jena Bahlman, 69.57
300 M Hurdles
 2nd, Laci Walker, 48.68
1600 M Run
 4th, Briana Parramore, 6:28.47

Shot Put
 5th, Kemari Hale, 28' 9.25"
Discus
 4th, Gessica Bear, 95' 11"
High Jump
 2nd, Laci Walker, 5'

BLIZZARDS
200 M Dash
 2nd, Yul Gibbs, 22.96
400 M Dash
 2nd, Guy Slimp, 52.84
1600 M Run
 4th, Jose Hernandez, 5:13.03
110 M Hurdles
 2nd, Eric Lopez, 15.70
Long Jump
 4th, David Scates, 18' 7"
Discus
 3rd, Rusty Jackson, 139' 7"
Triple Jump
 3rd, Yul Gibbs, 42' 2"
 6th, Eric Lopez, 38' 11"
High Jump
 2nd, David Scates, 5' 10"
400 M Relay
 4th, (Eric Lopez, Yul Gibbs, David Scates, Michael Liggins), 46.09
800 M Relay
 5th, (Eric Lopez, Rusty Jackson, David Scates, Yul Gibbs), 1:36.79

1600 M Relay
 4th, David Scates, Michael Liggins, Rusty Jackson, Guy Slimp), 3:49.50

JV BLIZZARDS
100 M Dash
 1st, Josh Cavanaugh, 12.15
 4th, Randy Jackson, 12.68
400 M Dash
 4th, Shawn Kraatz, 59.97
 5th, James Vasquez, 60.82
800 M Run
 5th, Jose Cruz, 2:25.35
3200 M Run
 5th, Jonathan Meyer, 13:12.27
300 M Hurdles
 6th, Jonathan Meyer, 49.73
Shot Put
 2nd, Jacob Bridgeman
High Jump
 3rd, Pete Griffin, 5' 4"
Pole Vault
 3rd, Jonathan Meyer 8'
400 M Relay
 2nd, (Cody Pritchard, Pete Griffin, Josh Cavanaugh, Randy Jackson), 48.41
1600 M Relay
 4th, (Jose Cruz, James Vasquez, Jonathan Meyer, Shawn Kraatz), 4:11.04



(photo by Jean Boles)

JESSICA MEYER, of the Junior Varsity Lady Blizzards, goes up for the pole vault competition.

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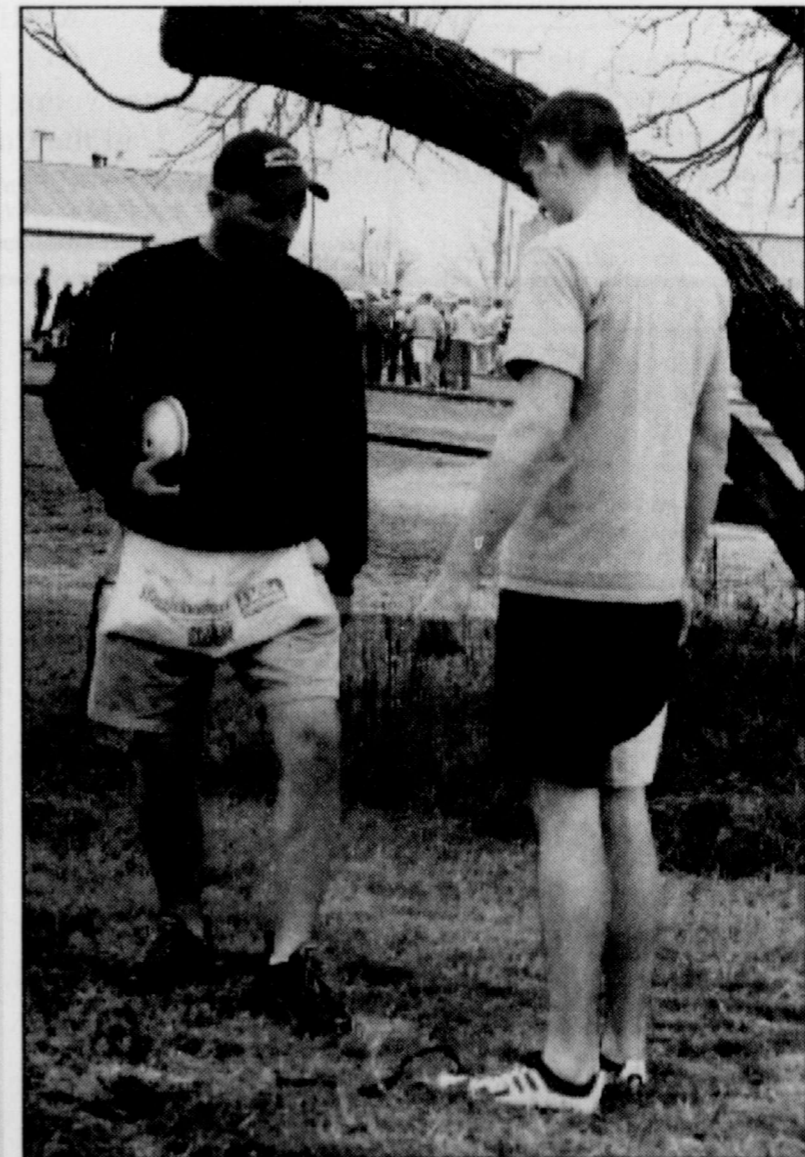
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(photo by Jean Boles)

COACH CHUCK LIPSEY gives some last-minute pointers to discus thrower Rusty Jackson. Jackson won first place at the Blizzard Relays with a toss of 136'11".

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Life

Kidnapped girls return to U.S. from Lebanon "Miracle" reunion unites mom and daughters

by Jean Boles, editor, with contribution from Kerry Drennan of the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*
(Portions of this story are reprinted with the permission of the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*)

Family reunions are always a big deal, especially in Texas. And for one mom and her three daughters, a recent reunion was the thrill of a lifetime which even touches the lives of relatives in Winters.

Angie Romans of Lubbock has waited ten very long years for the reunion she celebrated with her three daughters on February 28, 2003.

The three girls, Jami, 16, Jenna, 15, and Jessica, 12, have spent the last nine years in Lebanon, separated from their mother by their father who, according to Romans, were kidnapped June 25, 1993, during what was supposed to be a weekend visitation.

Her former husband, Behnam Slim, refused to release the girls to their mother and returned to his native Lebanon with the then 2-, 5-, and 7-year-old girls.

Romans said over the next eight years she spoke with the girls over the phone and fought a custody battle that spanned the international dateline.

"He told me that I could see them, but I think I was just afraid that he would keep me there or kill me," she said.

She finally overcame those

fears thanks to a renewed Christian faith and the kindness of a missionary friend who accompanied her on her first trip to Lebanon in May, 2001.

Recalling that first meeting with her daughters, Angie says, "We all had our faces in our hands, crying, and wrapped our arms around one another. It was our first time to have hours and hours to talk alone in their bedroom. We bonded right then and there, and I knew God was working from their end also."

Two visits with her daughters over the last two years solidified their relationship, and, as Roman's faith grew, so did her determination to bring her daughters home.

"My church family (at Family Harvest Church in Lubbock) had been praying constantly and helped me so much," says Angie. "It wasn't even a month after I gave my life to Christ that things started happening to make this reunion possible. I just had to believe that they were coming back and God would do all the work. I started praying, thanking God that they were coming back — I just believed they were com-

ing back."

But their father continued to fight Romans for custody. She said the girls became increasingly unhappy, to the point that the two oldest sought help from the U.S. Embassy in Lebanon in early December, 2002.

Giving God the glory for this miracle, Romans said that about a week before the two girls ran away to the Embassy, she told her husband, Jack Romans, "I feel like God is leading us to buy a larger house."

When Jenna provided a Lebanese court with an audio tape of her father beating her, the judge ruled the two oldest should stay at the Embassy. However, Jessica remained with her father.

The Embassy took the two girls to the airport but Behnam had put a hold on their names and the girls were not allowed to leave the country. The girls returned to the Embassy and Romans started fighting for custody of the third child.

Romans said she arrived in Lebanon on Dec. 14. She, Jamie and Jenna tried to fly back to the United States, but the court ruled Slim had authority to prevent them from leaving because the girls are

minors.

So Romans continued her court battle. Although the United States courts had granted her sole custody in 1992, it wasn't until late January, 2003, that the Lebanese court gave a final ruling to enforce that custody after Slim was arrested on an international warrant from the U.S. on charges of kidnapping and molesting a young girl.

The Lubbock reunion on Feb. 28 was "unbelievable," according to Angie who says the severe fatigue was quickly forgotten as the plane landed at 10:45 p.m.

With about 75 wellwishers on hand, the four females shared "the biggest, longest hugs — the kind where you don't let go."

During the last two months Romans was in Lebanon, she and Jack, who remained in Lubbock, talked on the phone and e-mailed but were not allowed to discuss details of the case. Jack was also busy selling their house, buying a larger home, and getting everything moved and ready for his new daughters.

"Jack has been amazing," Angie says. "He's been totally

one hundred percent supportive and constantly reassuring. And we love our new house — it's just another show of God's work."

This new house now has all the sights and sounds of three typical teenage girls, complete with giggling, pizza parties, music, and fun clothes. And the girls are adjusting quickly to the American way of life, loving school and shopping, and especially freedom.

Angie says she has done several interviews for television and newspapers. "This story would not have happened without God," Angie says. "And now I have the opportunity to share what God has done and can do."

Jack Romans is the nephew of Paul Stoecker and Nadine Bedford of Winters and Ruth Shriver of Abilene. Great aunts are Doris Stoecker and Leona Matthies of Winters.

Obituaries

continued from page 2

Howard M. Bramley

BALLINGER—Howard M. Bramley, 87, passed away Sunday, March 16, 2003, in Heritage Oaks Estate in Ballinger.

He was born on October 27, 1915, in Dallas to Howard Craig and Miriam Mayfield Bramley. He married Vera Pryor on May 16, 1941, in Palestine, and they moved to Ballinger in 1952. He later married Johnnie Jones Gallagher on September 7, 1997, in Abilene.

Mr. Bramley worked for Lone Star Gas as a production engineer for 33 years before retiring. He was a member of the Seventh Street Baptist Church and a past member of the Ballinger Noon Lions Club. He was also past president and member of the Ballinger Rotary Club and a member of the San Angelo Geological Society.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Vera Pryor Bramley, on July 13, 1991.

Survivors include his wife, Johnnie Bramley of Ballinger; one daughter, Jackie Greebon of Arlington; two stepchildren, Karen Bly and Eddie Gallagher, Jr.; two grandchildren, Scott Greebon and Kimberly Greebon; and one great-granddaughter, Elizabeth Greebon.

Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, March 18, at the Seventh Street Baptist Church in Ballinger with Reverend Tony King officiating. Burial followed in the Evergreen Cemetery in Ballinger.

Memorials may be made to the Hendrick Medical Center Hospice Wing or the Seventh Street Baptist Church Building Fund.

Funeral arrangements were under direction of the Rains-Seale Funeral Home of Ballinger.

To stay young in spirit, keep taking on new thoughts and throwing off old habits.
— Anonymous
Even in old age they will still produce fruit and be vital...
— Psalm 92:14

Susan Mansell, Ballinger resident, wins honorable mention in San Antonio for watercolor painting

The Texas Watercolor Society's 54th Annual Juried Exhibition opened at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio during the weekend of March 7-9. Susan Mansell's painting, *The Anniversary Gift*, won an honorable mention and was selected to tour the State of Texas during the upcoming year. Mansell, of Ballinger, received signature membership in the Texas Watercolor society this year.

Mansell also has works accepted in the Western Federation of Watercolor Societies Annual Exhibition at the Barrick Museum of Natural History in Las Vegas, Nevada; the Watermedia 2003 Challenge of Champions in Houston; Plano Art Association Exhibit in Plano; and the Big County Art Association's show at the Grace Museum in Abilene, where she won first place.

The Norton Lions Club
will host its annual
Pancake & Sausage Supper
Saturday, March 22, 2002
From 5:00-7:30 p.m. at the Norton Community Center
\$4 Per Person All-You-Can-Eat
Carryouts Available
Proceeds will be used for upkeep of Norton Community Center

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KEITH COLLOM
RUNNELS COUNTY COMMISSIONER
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IN THE SPECIAL ELECTION
APRIL 8th
Absentee voting begins March 24
at the Courthouse
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Letters to the Editor

City Manager Aref Hassan realizes he's "on the right track"

Dear Editor,

On February 19, 2003, Mayor McGuffin, Alderman Esquivel, and I drove to Austin for Texas Midwest Community Networking (TMCN). On our way back, I was thinking about the glory and prestige of the Texas Capital. Then I thought of days when I had visited the White House and Capital Hill in Washington. I could not stop comparing these glories with the poor condition of government buildings and government system in my homeland of Afghanistan.

Do we appreciate and respect enough what we have in Washington and Austin? Did I do enough in Austin to demonstrate my respect and appreciations? Am I a true American a true Texan? What can I do to do better? Before I found the answers we were back in Winters. I bought a *Winters Enterprise*. In the Editorial section I read a topic "A true American, a true Texan." I became emotional and cried in the privacy of my home. This article had given answers to my questions. I thought; God knew that these questions were on my mind and called on the writer to write the answers. In my judgement Terry Loehman, who wrote this article, is a man of God; he must be. I felt this from reading his short and sweet message. It takes a man of God to think positive, feel positive, and have the courage to express it in writing. His writing was a gift. It gave me comfort and peace of mind.

I am not sure I deserve all he wrote. However, I found out that I was on the right track. One of the true Americans noticed it, appreciated it, and wrote about it. Thank you so very much, Mr. Loehman. In my perception you are dedicated to God's truths and to people who believe in those truths. Love of your country and your state are parts of the truths. Too many ugly movements are going on. We all watch them on television. In such time and circumstances true Americans are needed so badly to console us. Thank you Editor for publishing positive and comforting messages. We are nice people. Winters is our home. Nothing is better in a home than finding reasons to be positive, and constructive about the members of the family. We must boost and build each others' morale. Destruction of human beings is the act of the devil.

Aref Hassan, Ph.D., J.R.M.C., J.L.P.J.
City Manager/Secretary/Fire Marshal

Citizen encourages parents to be strict and responsible

Dear Editor:

My wife and I were blessed with 5 children. We had 3 girls and 2 boys. My wife said the boys were easier to raise; I said the girls were easier.

My wife and I both come from strict parents. When our baby girl was almost 18 years old, she ran off with a man. It took my wife and me until 1:00 a.m. the next morning to find her. We finally found her at the house of the man she had run off with. We talked to the police and they told us to let her do what she wanted since she was almost 18 years old.

My wife said when she became 18, she could do what she wanted so we brought her back home.

My daughter told my wife and me she didn't like us because we were so strict. We never allowed her to see the boy again until she was 18.

Now she tells us she loves us for what we did for stopping her.

People look for other people to straighten them out. They're letting their daughters live with men. They let them get pregnant and then say they could not help.

But I am here to tell you if your daughters get pregnant, it's the parents' fault. Stand up and take responsibility because what your children do reflects a lot on you. In God we trust.

P.S. Our baby daughter is now married and has two boys of her own. She tells us now she knows why we were so strict.

John and Sammie Wright
Winters, Texas

COMMISSIONERS, continued

• Adopting a resolution designating Margarette Smith, County Treasurer and Darlene Smith, County Auditor to sign on behalf of Runnels County for funds available through the Texas Community Development Program grant (Ballinger-Abilene Ivie pipeline).

• Approval for Loretta Michalewicz, District Clerk, to purchase criminal fee books from the Courthouse RMO fund at a cost of \$632.53.

All commissioners, County Judge Marilyn Egan, County Treasurer Margarette Smith, County Auditor Darlene Smith, County Clerk Elesha Ocker and District Clerk Loretta Michalewicz were present for the 30-minute meeting.



(photo by Jean Boles)

BRENDA GREEN shows one of her lucky bills worth \$5 she found during the open house at Higginbotham's Monday evening. Lucky bills were hidden throughout the store and drawings were held for door prizes. Winners included Betty Henson, Lea Angel, Randall Boles, and Charles Bahlman. Hank Bourdo won the grand prize, a voucher for \$100 in merchandise at the store. The open house was sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce to promote business-after-hours. Any business interested in hosting such an open house is asked to contact the Chamber of Commerce. Serving refreshments (in background) are Chamber directors Michael Mostad, Ruth Cooper, and Sharon Kennedy, president.

Estate planning seminar set for March 24-25

Texas Cooperative Extension will be presenting a two-day seminar discussing estate planning topics on March 24-25 at the Taylor County Expo Center in Abilene. The seminar is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days.

Dr. Wayne A. Hayenga, professor, Texas Extension economist, and attorney, will be the speaker.

The program is structured to help people learn how to lower their tax burden and ease administrative burdens that affect passing their estates to their loved ones. In addition to discussing estate planning systems, tax savings possibilities will be discussed from corporations, partnerships, and trusts when family members are involved in the business.

The registration fee is \$100. Call Sharon at 979-845-2226 for registration information or e-mail s-wehring@tamu.edu.

TMNC sponsors April network luncheons

Texas Midwest Community Network (TMCN) will sponsor a series of network luncheons in April for community leaders throughout the region.

Luncheons are set for April 2 in Rotan, April 9 in Ballinger, April 10 in Gorman and April 23 in Albany.

According to TMCN Executive Director Nicki Harle, "The luncheons are for community leaders who are working to insure a brighter future for their respective community. This year's series of luncheons will focus on the ingredients needed for community success."

Interested participants may make reservations by calling Ballinger at 915-365-2333. For more information about the luncheons, call the TMCN Office at 915-676-0329 or 1-800-845-3563.

Texas Midwest Community Network is a regional organization focused on economic development, tourism development, regional awareness & promotion, education and political action. It is an organization of "communities working together to accomplish what one community cannot do alone."

TMCN Member cities are: Abilene, Albany, Anson, Aspermont, Baird, Ballinger, Brady, Breckenridge, Bronte, Brownwood, Buffalo Gap, Cisco, Clyde, Coleman, Colorado City, Comanche, Cross Plains, De Leon, Dublin, Early, Eastland, Goldthwaite, Gorman, Hamilton, Hamlin, Haskell, Knox City, Merkel, Munday, Ranger, Robert Lee, Roby, Roscoe, Rotan, Snyder, Stamford, Sterling City, Sweetwater, Throckmorton, Tye, and Winters

March is Red Cross Month

Each year the president of the United States proclaims March as "Red Cross Month." The American Red Cross uses this opportunity to promote its services to the American Public and for fund-raising.

For the first quarter century of its existence, the Red Cross held no regular fund-raising drives. Since Clara Burton created the organization in 1881, it was largely dependent on the spontaneous support of people who learned of catastrophic events and the Red Cross's response to them.

This changed abruptly in 1917 when the United State entered World War I. After declaring war, President Wilson ordered the American Red Cross to raise funds to support its aid to the military and civilians affected by the war as Congress had mandated the Red Cross to do. In response, the Red Cross held its first national War Fund drive in June 1917 and set its goal at \$100 million, an astoundingly large sum at the time. Un-

der the circumstances, however, the public response was immediate and overwhelming. Within a few days more than \$115 million was raised.

When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, and the United States entered World War II, as in the previous World War, the Red Cross responded immediately by declaring a War Fund campaign. By June 1942, it had raised more than \$66 million.

After discussions with President Roosevelt, the honorary chairman of the Red Cross, the whole month of March 1943 was declared "Red Cross Month." The Red Cross set a goal of \$125 million, the biggest amount ever asked for in one campaign by any American organization. Again, the response was overwhelming. It took less than six weeks to reach the target and by June 1943 donations totaled nearly \$146 million. Roosevelt called it "The greatest single crusade of mercy in all of history."

This success caused the Red Cross to repeat the March drive

during the remaining years of the war and then to make it the occasion of its annual membership and fund-raising efforts ever since. As part of the tradition the President of the United States customarily issues a proclamation each year declaring March as Red Cross Month.

The American Red Cross is a volunteer-led humanitarian service organization dedicated to helping make families and communities safer at home and around the world. The American Red Cross annually provides almost half the nation's blood supply, trains more than 11.7 million people in vital lifesaving skills, mobilizes relief to victims in more than 60,000 disasters nationwide, provides direct health services to 2.8 million people, assists international disaster and conflict victims in nearly 30 countries, and transmits more than 1.4 million emergency messages to members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION (AVISO DE ELECCION ESPECIAL)

To the registered voters of Precinct 2 of the County of Runnels, Texas: (a los votantes registrados de Precinto Nüm. 2 del Condado de Runnels, Texas:)

Notice is hereby given that the polling places listed below will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on April 8, 2003, for voting in a special election to elect County Commissioner, Precinct 2. (Notifíquese, por las presente, que las casillas electorales sitadas abajo se abrirán desde las 7:00 a.m. hasta las 7:00 p.m. el 8 de abril de 2003 para votar en la Elección Especial para elegir Comisionado del Condado, Precinto Nüm. 2.)

LOCATION(S) OF POLLING PLACES (DIRECCION(ES) DE LAS CASILLAS ELECTORALES)

ELECTION PRECINCT 2- BALLINGER
RUNNELS COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT OFFICE,
406 HUTCHINGS
ELECTION PRECINCT 3-WINTERS
HOUSING AUTHORITY BUILDING, 300 N. GRANT

Early Voting by personal appearance will be conducted each weekday at: (La votación adelantada en persona se llevará a cabo de lunes a viernes en:)

County Clerk's Office, Runnels County Courthouse, Ballinger, Texas
(Location) (sitio)

between the hours of 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:00-5:00 p.m. beginning on March 24, 2003, (entre las 8:30 de la mañana -12:00 de la tarde y las 1:00-5:00 de la tarde empezando el 24 de marzo, 2003) and ending on April 4, 2003 (y terminando el 4 de abril, 2003).

Application for ballot by mail shall be mailed to: (Las solicitudes para boletas que se votarán adelantada por correo deberán enviarse a:)

Elesa Ocker
(Name of Early Voting Clerk) (Nombre del Secretario de la Votación Adelantada)
P.O. Box 189
(Address) (Dirección)
Ballinger 76821
(City) (Ciudad) (Zip Code) (Zona Postal)

Application for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business on: (Las solicitudes para boletas que se votarán adelantada por correo deberán recibirse para el fin de las horas de negocio el:)

April 1, 2003 (1 de abril, 2003).
(Date) (fecha)

Issued this the 14th day of March, 2003.
(Emitada este día 14 de marzo, 2003.)

Marilyn Egan
Signature of County Judge (firma del Juez del Condado)

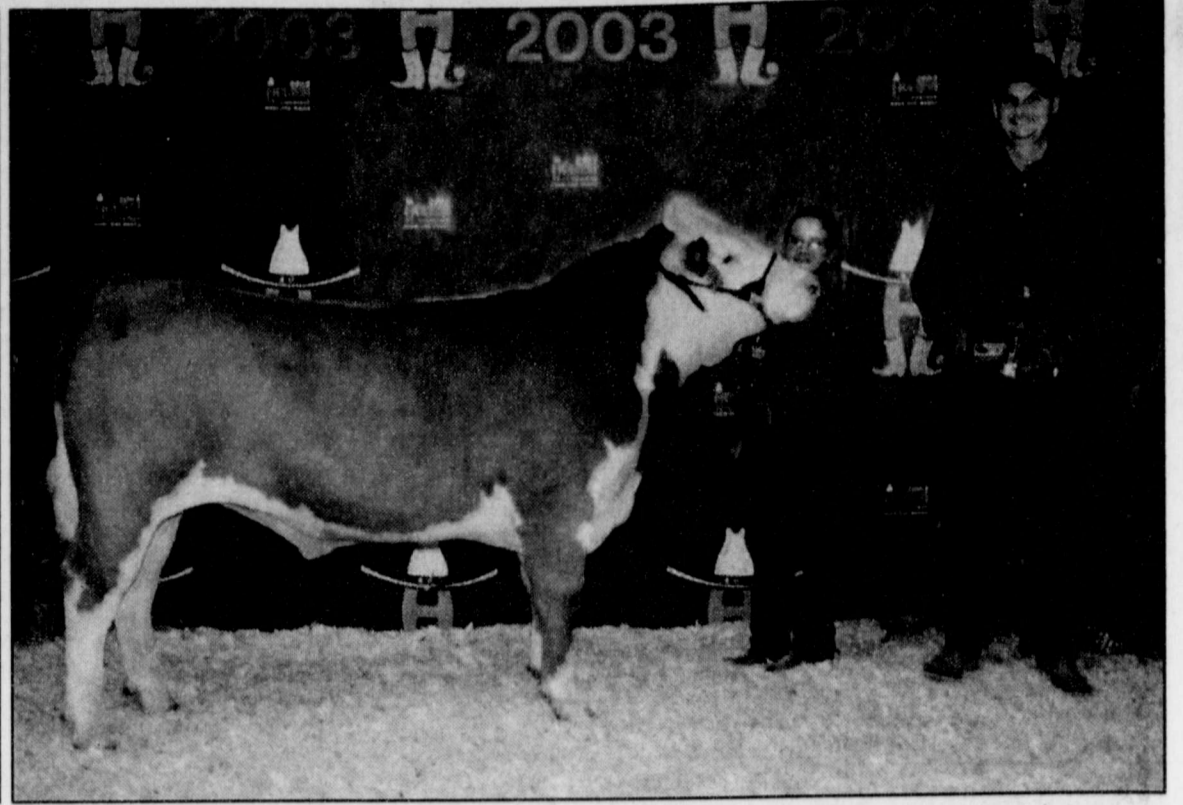
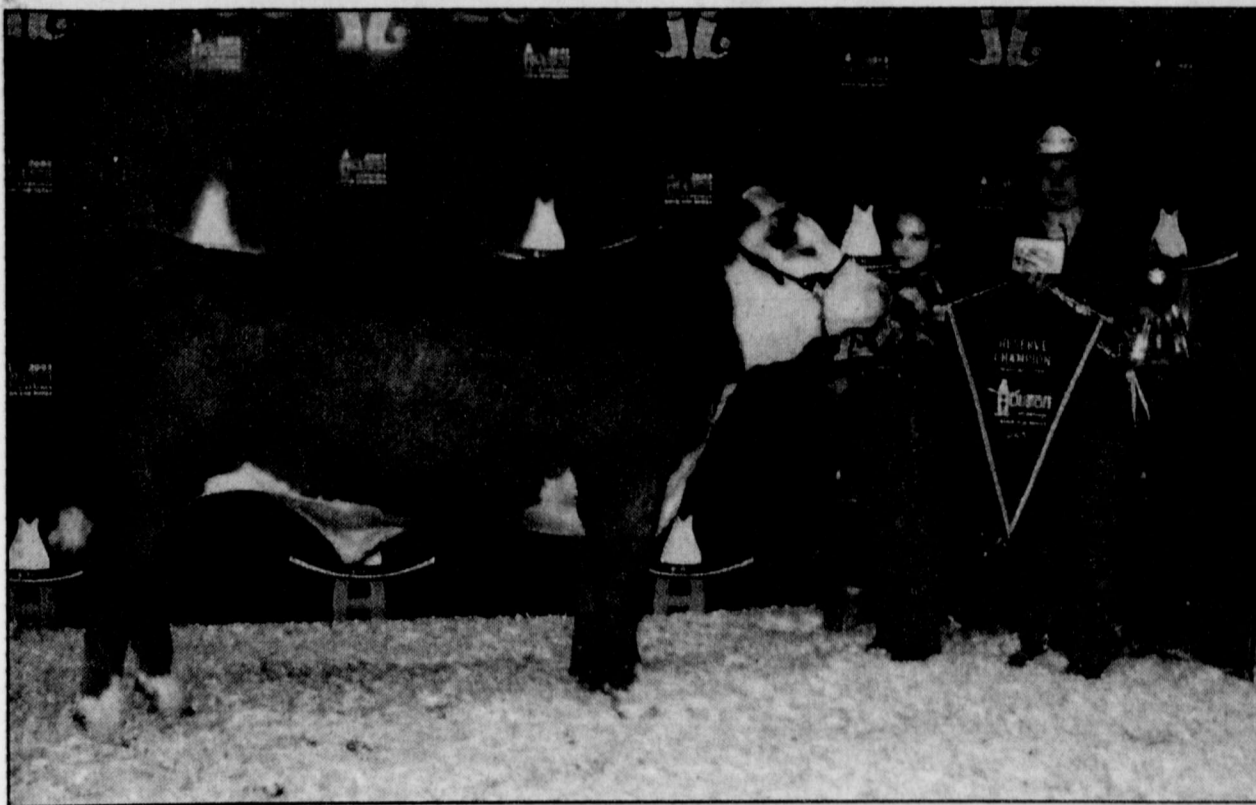
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Abilene, TX 79606

Outdoors



ALL IN THE FAMILY... This brother and sister duo spent their spring break making history and garnering some of the top honors at the Market Steer Show of the 2003 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Devon Shackelford (above left), a 10-year-old fourth grade student at Winters Elementary, exhibited the Reserve Champion Horned Hereford steer which was first in the lightweight division, while brother Dalton, 12 and a sixth grader, exhibited the first place lightweight Polled Hereford. Devon and Dalton are the children of Roy and Ann Shackelford. The 2003 show was the first in the brand new Reliant Center and Stadium. (photos by Deb Prichard)

Pest Management News

by Rick Minzenmayer, CEA-IPM, Runnels-Tom Green counties

The Concho Valley Cotton Conference is set for Tuesday, March 25 at the Convention Center in San Angelo. Three CEU's will be given to those attendees who participate in the day long programs.

Cotton Variety Tests

The cotton variety tests have been written up and all area gins and seed dealers have received copies of them. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Chris Bubenik, Kevin and Brent Niehues, and Curtis, Harvey and Cecil Kalina for their time and effort in establishing these tests for us. If you would like a copy of the written report, give us a call.

Wild Oat Control

There have been several folks asking about Wild Oat control. Remember that most herbicides labeled for Wild Oat control in wheat are to be applied prior to wheat jointing. So read and follow label instructions carefully. The three products most commonly used are:

- 1) Assent/E 2.5 EC @ 1.0-1.5 pt. per acre. Crop Rotations: grain sor-

- ghum and cotton 15 months
- 2) Silverado/E 0.67 EC @ 1.0 pt. per acre
- 3) Hoelon/E EC @ 2.0-2.7 pt. per acre

Stripe Rust

Joseph Kransky, Plant Pathologist at College Station, recently reports Stripe Rust in wheat fields in south and central Texas. With a probable wet spring in store (which is good for a change), stripe rust could become a problem in some areas. During favorable weather for this disease, stripe rust can rapidly damage leaf area with the potential to significantly reduce yields and test weights. The presence of stripe rust in south and central Texas indicates that inoculum is present.

Stripe rust can be distinguished from the two other rusts that occur in Texas, leaf rust and stem rust. Stripe rust pustules form between the leaf veins as long streaks and are yellow as compared with the smaller, circular, orange, pustules of leaf rust or the short, rectangular, brick red pustules of stem rust. The optimum temperatures for disease development are lower for

stripe rust than for either leaf rust or stem rust. As night temperatures exceed about 65°F, stripe rust infections become less aggressive and the disease progress often is reduced.

The systemic foliar fungicides Quadris, Tilt and Stratego can be used to protect high-yield wheat from stripe and leaf rust when applied properly. Field tests have shown that all three fungicides are effective against stripe rust when applied properly. Tilt and Stratego have a Section 24 (c) special local needs registration for late-season use on wheat in Texas for protection against rust. These special registrations permit application on wheat as late as Feekes Growth Stage 10.5 (full head emergence, pre-bloom), but not any later. Tilt is labeled at 4.0 fl. oz./acre and Stratego at 10.0 fl. oz./acre. Quadris is also labeled for application up until Feekes Stage 10.5 at 6.2 to 10.8 fl. oz./acre. More information will come later.

Intruder Insecticide

DuPont Crop Protection announced that it would obtain ex-

clusive U.S. marketing and distribution rights from Nippon Soda Co., Ltd. for Intruder Insecticide for use on cotton, pending FTC approval.

Intruder is a brand name of the active ingredient aceta-miprid, which belongs to the neonicotinoid family of insecticides. Acetamiprid was discovered and is wholly owned by Nippon Soda Co. Ltd. Intruder was initially launched in 2002 jointly by Aventis CropScience and Nippon Soda.

Intruder has become an important tool in the cotton insecticide program following excellent field performance in 2002 across the cotton belt. Intruder controls a wide range of sucking-type insects and other commercially important pests that affect cotton.

Concho Valley Cotton Conference set for Tuesday

by Rick Minzenmayer, CEA-IPM, Runnels-Tom Green counties

The Runnels/Tom Green IPM committee, the Tom Green County committee, The Runnels County Crops Committee and the Texas Cooperative Extension staff will be sponsoring their fifth Concho Valley Cotton Conference on Tuesday, March 25, 2003.

- The schedule of events are:
- MORNING SESSION**
- 8:00 Registration
 - 8:20 Opening Remarks
 - 8:30 "What We've Learned After Five Years and BMP's," Mr. Charles Stuchler
 - 9:00 "An In-depth Look at Conservation Tillage in SRP," Mr. Richard Minzenmayer
 - 9:30 "Weed and Residue Management in Reduced Tillage," Dr. Wayne Keeling
 - 10:05 Break & Booth Visitation
 - 10:35 "Herbicide Resistance Man-

agement," Dr. Raymond Forney

11:15 "Weed Management Considerations for SRP Con-till," Dr. Paul Baumann

12:00 Catered Lunch and Booth Visitation

AFTERNOON SESSION

1:15 "Conservation Tillage: An Economic Assessment in the SRP," Dr. Jason Johnson

1:40 "Economics of Bt Cotton in Dryland Production," Dr. Chris Sansone

2:05 "Drip Irrigation Systems and Management," Mr. Hubert Frerich

2:30 "2003 Weather Predictions! What, Why, and How," Mr. Buddy McIntyre

3:00 Break and Booth Visitation

3:30 Southern Rolling Plains Cotton Growers Association Annual Meeting

To pre-register call the Runnels Co. Extension Office at 365-2219, the Entomologist Office at 365-5212 or the Tom Green Co. Extension Office at 659-6523 by MARCH 21. After this date, there will be a \$10.00 registration fee.

Exhibitors/Co-Sponsors/Donators for the 2003 Concho Valley Cotton Conference are: Southern Rolling Plains Cotton Growers Assoc., Delta & Pine Land Co., Stoneville Pedigreed Seed, Garts/Agripro, Porter Henderson Implement Co., WegnerCrop Insurance, First Ag Credit, FCS, Helena Chemical Co., Monsanto, Kunafin Trichogramma, Dupont Crop Protection, Biby Agriculture, Outback Guidance, All-Tex Seed Inc., Ecodrip Irrigation Systems, Inc., Texas Department of Agriculture, BASF, Nammco Machine Co., Lubbock Gasket & Supply, Mereta Co-op Gin, All-Tex Irrigation & Supply, Westside Gin, Inc., Hughes Company, Wall Co-op Gin, Gerber Insurance Agency, UAP, Ballinger Co-op Gin Co., Oglesby Seed, Inc., Associated Farmers Delinting, Inc., Federal Land Bank Association of Texas, FLCA, Haechten Insurance Co., and Trimble GPS Systems.



(photo by Jean Boles)

'LEAVING' A TIDIER LOOK are Shelby Gehrels (left) and Bibi Mendoza, both 10, who spent some of their spring break improving the downtown area.

TDA establishes 2003 assessment rates, due dates, & discount date

The Texas Department of Agriculture has established the 2003 assessment rate, due date and discount date for the Southern Rolling Plains Zone of the boll weevil eradication program.

The assessment for 2003 is 80 percent of the maximum assessment for the zone. The commissioner approved the reduction in the assessment based on the recommendation of the zone's grower steering committee and the foundation Board of Directors.

Like last year, all cotton acres planted in the zone are subject to the assessment.

Assessment notices will be mailed by August 12, and payment is due September 16. Growers who pay by September 1 are eligible to receive a 2 percent discount on their assessment.

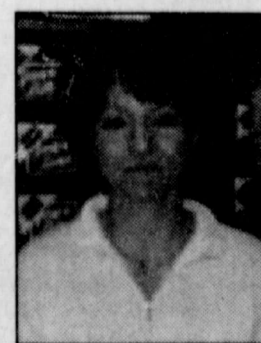
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Wheat 3.00/bu

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**To the Voters of
Commissioner Precinct 2**
Please examine the areas marked by the red lines on the maps below. If you live in the affected areas, please check your voter registration card to see if the correct voting precinct is marked. If you feel your card is wrong, please contact the Runnels County Tax Office at 915-365-2339.

Current Voting District

Prior Voting District

