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RANDALL CONNER
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WINTERS, TX 79567-3504

WJH students sweep at essay contest

Local works place first, second and third at the VFW sponsored competition held in Abilene

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS- Three Winters Junior High students sweep on the competition at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Patriotic Pen essay contest, clinching first, second and third place at the District 8 Mid-Winter Meeting held at the VFW Post 6873, in Abilene.

Bailee Busher won first place, second place was for Ethan Bredemeyer and Allison Crook placed third with their write ups. The topic was "Does Patriotism Still Matter?" Post 9193 members, in Winters, said they are very proud of their three Patriotic Pen Contest winners.

Winners were announced by District 8 Patriotic Pen Contest Chairman Ken Mosley. He stated that this was a first for all the winners to come from one Post.

There were approximately 300 students entered at the Post level and 17 entered in the District Contest from eight posts.

District 8 VFW Commander Ralph Rodriguez, District 8 VFW Ladies Auxiliary President Darlene Jurkis and Texas VFW State Surgeon Doc Howard presented the students plaques and scholarships. First place got \$300, second place \$200 and third place \$100.

The Winters VFW thanked teachers Mrs. Deb Pritchard and Coach Bell for their teaching and encouragement of the Seventh and Eighth Grade students. "Without them and the others who helped at the Winters Junior High School, this would not have happened. They also thanked the parents of the students Joanna and Kevin Busher, Sharla and Bill Bredemeyer, Brad White, Shawn Cook and Sheldon Johnson for what they have taught to their about patriotism to our country.

Winters V.F.W. Post 9193 members attending the award ceremony in Abilene were Pete and Barbara Gray and RC and Mary Kurtz.

On January 21 the Winters Junior High students were awarded at the local level of the Patriotic Pen contest sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9193

Twenty students received an award and scholarship for the local contest.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

District 8 Patriotic Pen Chairman Ken Mosley with Bailee Busher, Allison Crook and Ethan Bredemeyer at the award ceremony held at VFW Post 6873, in Abilene.

SEE: More pictures and patriotic essay Page 8

New waste agreement, two clean ups per year

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS- The City of Winters held a City Council regular meeting last Monday, February 28 at 6 p.m at the Council Chambers. Among agenda items discussed were the status on Water Treatment Plant, the new facility is almost completed and the grand opening will be held in then next weeks.

Roberts Construction was declared winner of the bid for the Water Line Replacement Project, contingent upon approval by USDA Rural Development. City Council accepted the Audit Report for fiscal year 2009-2010 presented by Ricky Bowman and approved Jeff Graham Condley & Company as consultation accountant.

Dale Covington submitted a request to lease and repair Hangar 3B from the city. The lease was approved for \$400 a year. Council members also approved the contract renewal for Hach Field Services, company in charge of the meter calibration for the Water Department.

City Council approved a resolution establishing a written citizen complaint and grievance procedures regarding the Home grant, and appointed Shelly Antilley-Guevara Community Development Citizen Coordinator for the Home grant.

Budget amendment for Home Program expenses was tabled, and no action was taken on regards of a budget amendment for funding for the fence between the Airport and Kevin Busher.

Council approved a \$1401 bid for a property on 505 E. Wood, from Andy Martinez, and a \$501 bid for a lot on E. Parsonage, from Brenda Anderson.

Alderman approved the hiring counsel for redistricting, decided to keep Security State Bank after the bids for Bank Depository, and set the weeks of the last Wednesday in March and last Wednesday in August for the spring and fall clean ups.

City Manager Alan Hollander renegotiated the contract with Allied Waste to have two clean ups a year instead of one, and to increase the number of trucks to 12 instead of 8.

Hollander also proposed a 4 percent raise for the city employees, due to the average low income and because the city has not given the employees a raise during the last two years. All four Aldermen present were against the proposal and didn't take action on the item.

Council members present at Monday's meeting were Aldermen Rene Woffenden, Jim Lincycumb, Armando Tamez and Chris Bahlman, and Mayor Dawson McGuffin. Alderman Rick Dry was absent.

Chief of Police Nathan Johnson presented a racial profiling report, and requested approval to put out for sale one of the patrol units of City Police Department. Aldermen approved the sale of a 2007 Dodge Charger. Proceeds of the sale will be used toward the acquisition of a boat for the City Police Department.

County pushes for oil at market value

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS- As an alternative way to face the downturn anticipated for the next biennium, Runnels County and several other counties in West Texas proposed to state legislators to appraise the oil and gas industry setting an updated market value.

Runnels County Judge Barry Hilliard went last Thursday to Austin, along with a group of 20 County Judges from West Texas, to meet with State lawmakers.

Facing a \$27 billions deficit in the revenue necessary to continue present funding levels, the legislature has proposed major shifts in public policy through the Appropriations Bill.

"Many of these shifts will force additional expenditures in counties or even reduction in county services," said Judge Hilliard.

The largest shifts are caused by reductions in funding for mental health services, criminal justice, indigent health care, community supervision (probation), juvenile justice and other local assistance programs.

Policy changes include to divert current dedicated revenues to other budget items.

Some of these changes include to eliminate lateral road fund distributions, a \$14.6 million program. These gasoline taxes are dedicated to county roads by the Transportation Code but would not be distributed during the next biennium. Reduce 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Network funding by 27 percent, this bill would withhold additional amounts from the the \$.50 per phone line charged consumers.

The cost of reducing county Indigent Health Care Reimbursement Fund



Barry Hilliard, Runnels County Judge

by 53 percent as proposed, would be very high said Judge Hilliard, causing a lack of specialized attention to MHMR patients in Runnels County.

Lawmakers are currently evaluating to reduce criminal defense grant funds by \$8.6 million (15 percent), and forcing county to fund defense attorneys for indigent defendants. Part of the dedicated funds would not

be distributed even though the reimbursement is 10 percent of the total cost.

Other proposed bills that would be reflected directly in the counties are reduction on Jail Standards

Inspection funding by 89 percent, forcing counties to pay a fee for the mandatory jail inspections; eliminate courthouse renovation grants, and eliminate burglary and theft auto grants.

Budget cuts put Winters Public Library under financial stress

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS- Budget shortfall and proposed cuts are threatening the Winters Public Library, by reducing drastically the funding available to the Texas State Library system. State's proposed budget for the 2012-2013 biennium cuts Texas State Library system by nearly 98 percent.

Library's general revenue funding decreases from \$13 million to roughly \$300,000-\$400,000.

Jane Wyatt, Director of Library Services, said the proposed cuts would greatly affect services in the Winters Public Library. Some of the

programs include the Big Country Library System, which offers training, support, materials, interlibrary loan, networking, resources and many others at no cost.

The Loan Star program is a grant program providing direct funds to public libraries, members of the Texas Library System, to provide an incentive for local communities to extend public library services without charge.

Some of these funds represent the only income source for the Winters Public Library for new books.

TANG is the technical support division of the Big Country Library System. Winters Public Library

receives technical support for all their computers, Internet and network at no cost. With the proposed budget this program would no longer be available.

In order to maintain the Texas State Library funding, Winters Public Library representatives will be meeting with state lawmakers.

Jane Wyatt encouraged to take action and show support to the local library by contacting District 53 State Representative Harvey Hildebran, P.O. Box 2910, Austin, Texas, 78768 or call (512) 463 0536; or contact State Senator Robert L. Duncan P.O. Box 12068, Capital Station Austin, Texas, 78711, or (512) 463 0128.

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FUNERALS AND DEATH NOTICES

Dorcie Green

Dorcie Green, 91, of Ballinger passed away Sunday morning, February 27, 2011 at Ballinger Healthcare and Rehab Center.



She was born on November 4, 1919 in Ryan, Oklahoma to Carey S. and Nellie (Lee) Fowler. She married Glen Doyle Green on November 2, 1940 in Floydada. They moved to Ballinger in 1951, and he preceded her in death on November 16, 1985.

Dorcie worked as a nurses' aide and was a long-time, faithful member of Seventh Street Baptist Church and will be fondly remembered by church members.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, and all her brothers and sisters.

Dorcie is survived by her daughters, Pam King and husband, Kelly, of Ballinger, Janice Biddy and husband, Gary, of Marble Falls, JoAnn Green of Sunset, Mary Cook and husband, Steve, of Ballinger, and Glenda Ward of Bowie. Also surviving are 10 grandchildren, 17 1/2 great-grandchildren, and 1 1/2 great-great grandchildren.

A time of visitation for family and friends was held Monday, February 28 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Lange Funeral Home. Funeral services were Tuesday, March 1 at 2:00 p.m. at Seventh Street Baptist Church with David Williams officiating. Burial followed in the Garden of Memories Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to West Texas Rehab or to World Hunger c/o 7th St. Baptist Church, P. O. Box 663, Ballinger, Texas 76821.

Arrangements were with Lange Funeral Home of Ballinger. Guests may register at ballingerfuneralhome.com.

Winters Enterprise, March 3, 2011

Wanted by law



POLICE REPORT
Nathan Johnson

Outstanding local warrants cost small towns many thousands of dollars each year. Currently, the City of Winters has 23 persons listed as wanted on the books. At an average of \$250.00 each, that is \$5,750.00 in lost revenue for our little city. Officers at the Winters Police Department have been working diligently to validate the warrants with the municipal court and serve every possible local warrant. Over the past two and a half years we have been able to reduce the list from four pages to one page. The list of wanted persons is sent to surrounding area law enforcement to enlist their assistance in apprehending the subjects. Other Winters Police Officers have obtained photos, family contacts, and other identifiers in an attempt to track down the individuals who have outstanding warrants. If you have information about a person with an outstanding warrant, please contact the Winters Police Department. If you know where a person on the list is right now, contact 911 immediately. If you have general information as to the person's whereabouts, you can contact the Winters Police Department by e-mail at winters.police@yahoo.com. Please do not attempt to apprehend or otherwise detain someone yourself! Only peace officers can arrest a person for an outstanding warrant of arrest. Misuse of warrant information may subject you to civil or criminal liability.

If you see your name or a family member's name on our warrant list, we encourage you to come forward before you or they are taken to jail at an inconvenient time. With our economy in a slump, do not take a chance on losing a job or losing your livelihood by ending up in jail over a warrant or a traffic ticket.

Most courts do have payment plan options. If you have a family member who is on the list, you may wish to contact the judge on their behalf and attempt to work out payment of the outstanding amount.

The following list is current as of February 2011:

- Name, Warrant No., Offense
- Billiot, Leander, 06215820, No Driver's License
- Clawson, Athena Marie, 09217216, Expired Registration
- Clawson, Athena Marie, 09217216, Fail To Maintain Financial Responsibility
- Clawson, Athena Marie, 09217360, No Driver's License
- Collins, Erin B, 10215962, Fail To Maintain Financial Responsibility
- Collins, Erin B, 10215962, Fail To Report Change of Address
- Collins, Erin B, 10215962, No Seat Belt - Driver
- Esparza, Conception A, 07216748, Public Intoxication
- Espino, Antonio R., 10218046, Speeding
- Gray, Bobby, 05004777, Public Intoxication
- Hagle, Jennifer Lynn, 10218083, Fail to yield ROW / Fail to maintain insur.
- Gray, Joy Dawn, 9216461, MIC/PI
- Johnson, Amy Gail, 09216031, Display Fictitious License Plate
- Lopez, Eric Alejandro, 09215954, Ran stop sign/ open container/ no DL
- Ochoa, Alex, 5004833, Speeding/ No DL/ Fail to maint. Fin. Resp.
- Ochoa, Raul T Jr., 08216931, Public Intoxication
- Ramirez, Arturo Hernandez, 2004-1332/1333 No DL/ Expired MVI
- Landeros Jacinto Escamia, 10218058, Disorderly Conduct
- Santoya, Julian, 06215439, Failed to Signal Turn/ Lane Change
- Santoya, Julian, 06215439, No Driver's License
- Solorzano, Adam Renee, 10215979, Public Intoxication
- Tiday, Toshia, 07216534, Public Intoxication
- Tundon, Francisco, 06215467, Speeding
- Tundon, Francisco, 06215467, No Driver's License

Please help us serve the community with any information regarding the location of these wanted individuals.

Semper Fi
Nathan T. Johnson
Chief of Police

Trouts await for the Spring Break anglers

ATHENS—The Nature Center in Tyler has about a thousand rainbow trout that need a home on someone's dinner table.

Each year trout are stocked into The Nature Center's pond for fishing events in January, and they need to be harvested before water temperatures rise to the point the fish cannot survive.

During the Spring Break Trout Fest March 7-10, anyone may fish for free from 8:30 a.m. until 12:00 noon only. No fishing will be allowed after noon. Youth under age 18 must be supervised at all times by an adult. No fishing license is needed. Up to five rainbow trout and one channel catfish per day may be harvested. Anyone intending to harvest fish should bring a stringer or cooler.

Recommended gear is a light-action rod and reel combination (one per child) with very small fishing hooks, light line (less than 12-pound test) small bobbers, and small split shots. For bait, use canned whole-kernel corn, small worms or prepared trout bait such as Berkley PowerBait. Small rooster-tail spinners work well, but single hooks are required on this type bait.

The Nature Center is located on FM 848 (Bascom Road) two-tenths of a mile west of University Drive.

NEWS NOTES

Diabetics classes

A four week diabetes education class will be held for citizens of Runnels County, the classes will be held on Thursday evenings from 4-7.

Classes will start on March 10 and run through March 31. Classes will be held at the Runnels County Extension Office located at 608 Sealy Avenue, in Ballinger.

The classes will focus on all aspects of diabetes nutrition, managing blood glucose, diabetes and exercise, and prevention and management of complications. The class will be limited to 20.

To register contact Sandy Taylor, at the County Extension Office at 325-365-2219 to reserve your spot. The class will cost \$25. Financial aid will be available for those who can't afford the fee, for more information on financial aid contact Misty McGlothlin at (325) 473-2069.

RGHC to meet on March 12

The Runnels County Historical Commission will meet March 12, 2011 at 9:45 a.m. The regular scheduled meeting will include a driving tour of Winters, Texas. The tour will include historic and other points of interest. All meetings of the commission are open to the public.

Diabetes seminar for families

Texas Lions Camp, in cooperation with Texas Tech Health Sciences Center - Permian Basin, is conducting an exclusive advanced diabetes education seminar for the entire family, including siblings and grandparents on Saturday, April 16 in Kerrville, Texas.

Attending this seminar will provide knowledge, understanding, and confidence for the entire family. Grandparents will spend a portion of the day in sessions specifically designed for their unique situations, and siblings will have a break out session of their own. More details are available at www.lionscamp.com.

Immunization clinics

Texas Department of State Health Services will be having immunization clinic, Flu and Pneumonia Vaccine will also be available. The clinic will be held in Winters on March 3, from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Professional Building, 110 South Main, Suite 108. For your convenience please use rear entrance (Grant Street).

The clinic will be in Ballinger on Thursday, March 10, from 10 a.m. to 12 Noon and 1:30 to 3 p.m. at 608 Strong, behind the courthouse.

Bring child's immunization records. If child has Medicaid

or CHIP, please bring card. More information at 754-4945.

Players needed for Alumni game

The Winters Blizzards are needing football players for the 2011 Winters Alumni Football game vs Ballinger. The game will be held on April 8-10 TBA. Info can be obtained through www.alumnifootballusa.com or contact Winters alumni Scott Billups at (325) 529-4513, cell (325)280-7932

Nominations open for Man of the Year

The Winters Area Chamber of Commerce is now accepting nominations for Man of the Year and Woman of the Year. Nominations must be received by March 18, 2011, and may be sent to WACC, P.O. Box 662, Winters, TX 79567. Any questions may be addressed to Don Wood at 325-754-5754 or Vanessa Esquivel at 325-977-0093.

Farewell reception for WISD Superintendent

The Winters ISD will be holding a farewell reception honoring Superintendent David Hutton, who will be leaving the Winters school system in March. Reception will be held on Wednesday, March 9, from 4 p.m.-5:30 p.m. at the Special Events Center Meeting Room.

Annual Farm Auction in Wingate

The 24th Annual Farm Auction in Wingate, sponsored by the Wingate Lions Club and the Volunteer Fire Department will be held on April 2; auction is currently asking for donations or consignments.

Please call Thurman Self at 325-743-6453, Alphas Hill at 325-743-2342 or Suvern O'Dell at 325-743-6061.

VFW meetings

Winters Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9193 meet the second Monday night of each month at 6 p.m. in the Rock Hotel. All eligible veterans of the United States military are invited to attend.

Co-Dependant Recovery Group

Winters Co-Dependent Recovery Group meeting at Southside Baptist Church on Tuesdays, at 6 p.m. for more information call Theresa at (325) 977-1007.

Band Boosters

The Band Boosters meet at 6:30 p.m. every Monday evening at Dot's Diner.

Winters Woman's Club

Members meet the second Tuesday of the month. Call Marlene Smith at 754-4961 for additional information.

AA Meetings

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

Ballinger Al-Anon meetings

Al-Anon meetings will be held every Monday and Wednesday at the First United Methodist Church of

Ballinger, on Broad Ave. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. Please enter through the south side of the church. FMI contact Theresa at (325)977-1007

Chamber of Commerce

Chamber of Commerce meets at 5:30 p.m. first Monday of the month at 100 West Dale Street.

City Council Meetings

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

School Board Meetings

Winters ISD School Board meets at 6:30 p.m. every second Monday of the month at 603 North Heights.

Wingate Masonic Lodge meetings

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

Ballinger Masonic Lodge meeting

Masonic Lodge # 643, 500 N Broadway, Ballinger Tx. Stated meetings are at 7 p.m. on the first Monday of every month except for holidays if it falls on that Monday. For more information call 325-365-3202.

Runnels County Jail Record

- Simon Castor, 50, DPS, Taylor Co. warrants
- Richie D. Tubbs, 42, RCSO, warrant
- Tanya M. Essex, 32, BPD, Criminal trespass
- Roy L. Wrinkle, 58, Coke, Aggravated assault w/deadly weapon
- Irene G. Covarrubio, 34, Concho Co., Theft of property, Lubbock
- Daniel R. Martinez, 28, Coke Co., Detainer, Sexual Asslt.
- Joe Lozano, III, 43, BPD, DWI II
- Jeffrey W. Liles, 35, DPS, DWI I
- David Barron, 48, 106, Terroristic threat
- Benito C. Ramirez, 34, DPS, Poss. marij. drug paraphernalia
- Lynn S. Moreno, 28, DPS, Poss. marijuana, drug paraphernalia
- Harvey Hollis, 62, RCSO, Theft by check
- Coleton C. Dellaughter, 17, BPD, Poss. drug paraphernalia
- Keith M. Moffett, 17, BPD, Prohibited weapon (knuckles)
- Anthony P. Diaz, 18, BPD, Burglary x 2 Coleman and Runnels
- Nicholas Sanders, 18, BPD, Burglary habitation Coleman
- Jonathan M. Watson, 20, Coleman, Evading arrest, resist. arrest
- Mario M. Aguilar, 62, Concho, Theft by check Bexar Co.
- Jose A. Zavala, 21, BPD, MIP Tom Green
- John B. Dillard, 67, Concho, PI, Criminal tresp. asslt public servant
- Kevin W. Cook, 28, BPD, PI, DOC
- Hector M. Deluna, 46, BPD, Asslt fam. violence w/prev. conviction

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editor@wintersenterprise.com

Sheila Cavazos, Advertising Sales
ads@wintersenterprise.com

Linda Arispe, Office Manager / News clerk,
Subscriptions, Accounts, Weddings, Announcements

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PHOTO JOE GERHART

Devon Martinez jumps to shoot over the Albany Lions defense at the game held last Tuesday, February 22 at McMurry University, in Abilene.

Blizzards finish the season in Abilene

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS- The Winters Blizzards' 2010-2011 basketball season came to an end last Tuesday, February 22 in Abilene, when they fell 51-34 to the Albany Lions during the first round of the Class 1A Division I playoffs. The Bi-District game was held at McMurry's Kimbrell Arena. Winters finished the season with an overall record of

17-12. Cristian Sandoval and Riley Ripley ended up with 12 points as the top scorers for the Blizzards, Strait Daniel scored 5, Devin Martinez 3, and Andy Garcia had 2 points. Winters changed their defenses. Ripley basket with 6:13 to go in the first half pulled Winters into a 13-13 tie, but Albany responded by hitting its next four shots.

Blizzards, Lady Blizzards kick off hitting

WINTERS ATHLETIC REPORT
BY STEPHEN HERMESMEYER

Varsity Boys Basketball
Bi-District Championship
Winters 34 (17-12)
Albany 51
Cristian Sandoval 12, Riley Ripley 12, Strait Daniel 5, Devin Martinez 3, Andy Garcia 2

Softball
Winters vs. Stamford
February 21, 2011

Stamford
Blizzard softball played their first game of the season against the Lady Bulldogs of Stamford. The teams were fairly evenly matched with both clubs having "young" teams and "young" pitchers. The Lady Blizzards jumped out to a good start in the first inning by scoring 3 runs off of three
0 hits. In the second inning, Shelby Gehrels got a single, advancing Sabrina Oswalt to third. The overthrow at first encouraged Shelby to attempt a steal to second, and although she was put out, Sabrina crossed the plate before the out occurred. In the third inning, we were unable to get any offense going due to a strike out, a force out, and an out on a stolen base attempt. With the game tied at 4 through the third and fourth, Stamford put their starting pitcher on the mound to finish the game. Our batters did not respond very well as she was able to strike out 8 of the next 10 batters. Stamford was able to take advantage of our 7 errors we committed defensively in the fifth and sixth and score 10 runs to end the game with a score of 14-4.

Sweetwater Classic Tournament
February 24, 25, & 26

The Lady Blizzards played "pool" games against Post and Sweetwater on Thursday. Pool play continued with Anson on Friday morning and then bracket play began on Friday afternoon. The Lady Blizzards played Merkel, losing by 8 runs. Saturday was a much better day every aspect of our game. Our pitching, defense, and offense was much improved as we took on Coleman for the final game of the tournament. Abby Guy had a big game offensively with two triples and a total of 11 bases. Michelle Kruse and Shelby each had a double, while Randa Watson had a single and Bibi Mendoza added three singles of her own. The game was tied as Winters went up to bat for the last time. Hannah Franklin led off and reached on an error by the first baseman. Shelby's sacrifice advanced Hannah to second. Then Randa comes up and contacts the ball, is thrown out at first, but advances Hannah to third. Finally, Bibi hits through the infield, scoring Hannah with the winning RBI. Final score: Winters 5 - Coleman 4.

Baseball
The Varsity Blizzard Baseball Team started the season off on the right note by picking up three wins over the weekend in the Brady Round-Robin Tournament. In their first game of the season, the Blizzards came out swinging the bat and put up 18 runs on 15 hits to take out Menard 18-1.

Box Score: Winters vs Menard

	1	2	3	4	5	Runs
Menard	0	1	0	0	0	1
Winters	6	6	1	5	--	18

In their second game of the tournament the Blizzards took on Brady and improved their record to 2-0 with a 14 to 5 victory.

Box Score: Brady vs Winters

	1	2	3	4	5	Runs
Winters	1	4	0	1	8	14
Brady	1	0	0	2	2	5

The Blizzards picked up their third win of the season and improved their record to 3-0 with a 3 to 2 victory over Brady in the Championship game.

Box Score: Championship Game Brady vs Winters

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Runs
Winters	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	3
Brady	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2

Riley Ripley led the Blizzards over the weekend at the plate with six hits (two-2B, two-3B), two RBI's and six runs. Also producing at the plate were Hayden Nitsch with five hits (3-2B) and six runs and Clent Bryan with five hits, two RBI's and six runs. On the mound for the Blizzards, Clent Bryan picked up two wins (Menard, Brady) with 18 K's, three walks, and two earned runs in seven total innings pitched. Chris Gerhart picked up the Blizzards other win (Brady) with 15 K's, three walks, and two earned runs in nine total innings pitched.

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ENGAGEMENT

Geistmann - Molamphy

Duane and Saam Geistmann, of Winters, Texas, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Leslye Geistmann to Mark Molamphy, both of Lubbock, Texas. Mark is the son of Dennis and Kathy Molamphy of Wichita, Kansas.



Leslye is a graduate of Winters High School in Winters, Texas and a graduate of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Lubbock, Texas. She is employed as an Occupational Therapist for Lorenzo ISD. Mark is a graduate of Wichita High School East and Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas. Mark played college football for North Texas, Butler Community College and the University of Kansas. He is employed as a site manager for Bayer CorpScience in Lubbock, Texas. The couple will marry July 8, 2011 in Lubbock, Texas.

TPWD relocates pronghorn population

WINTERS ENTERPRISE
STAFF REPORT

MARFA- Two hundred Panhandle pronghorns got a new home on the range this week as Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologists transported the animals 500 miles for release on the Marfa Plateau both to bolster the diminished Trans-Pecos herd and help researchers determine why the West Texas herd has been in decline in recent years.

"This is a win-win for all concerned, since removing surplus pronghorns from the northwestern Panhandle will help minimize crop depredation," said Shawn Gray, TPWD's Alpine-based mule deer and pronghorn program leader. "This relocation is also going to help us try to figure out what has been causing pronghorn numbers in the Trans-Pecos to drop."

Helicopter pronghorn trapping operations began on a ranch 8 miles southwest of Dalhart and continued on other ranches in Dallam County.

Animals were successfully released on the Hip-O Ranch 4.5 miles west of Marfa in Presidio County. Four other Presidio County ranches also were scheduled to receive pronghorns.

"We are very pleased with how the operation has gone," said TPWD regional Wildlife Division director Billy Tarrant, who along with Gray has been coordinating the trap-and-release effort, the largest antelope transfer the department has undertaken in decades. Also playing a major role in the operation is Dr. Louis Halverson, director of the Borderlands Research Institute for Natural Resource Management at Sul Ross.

Some 35 TPWD personnel, augmented by graduate students from Sul Ross State University in Alpine, traveled to Dalhart for the trapping, an operation stemming from the establishment of the Trans-Pecos Pronghorn Working Group - a coalition of landowners, biologists, hunting guides and scientists - in 2009.

Planning A Yard Sale?

Call The Winters Enterprise at 325-365-3501 for deadlines and details.

Let us help you to get rid of those unwanted items.

Senior Citizens Activity Center Menu

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North Rummels Hospital
A Small Hospital With A Big Heart
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WINTERS, TEXAS 79567 (325) 754-4553

March 7-11
Subject to change

The Senior Menu was not available as of press time.

CAFETERIA MENU

March 7-11
Subject to change*

WINTERS ISD BREAKFAST
Monday
Biscuit/Sausage or Cereal or French Toast/Sausage, Toast w/Jelly, Juice, Choice of Milk.
Tuesday
Breakfast Pizza or Cereal or Breakfast Pocket, Toast w/Jelly, Juice, Choice of Milk.
Wednesday
Biscuit/Egg Pattie or Cereal or Sausage on Stick, Toast w/Jelly, Juice, Choice of Milk.
Thursday
Biscuit Egg Pattie or Cereal or Breakfast Burrito, Toast w/Jelly, Juice, Choice of Milk.
Friday
Sausage Roll or Cereal or Cinnamon Roll/Sausage, Toast w/Jelly, Juice, Choice of Milk.

Note: Menus subject to change without notice. Students may purchase extras: Entree got \$1.00, Milk for \$.30, Sides for \$.50.

WINTERS ISD LUNCH MENU
Monday
Tatar Tot Casserole or Grilled Chicken/Bun, Tomato Pasta, Green Beans, Tossed Salad/Carrot Stick, Hot Cinnamon Apples, Hot Roll, Choice of Milk.
Tuesday
Sloppy Joe/Bun or Chicken Nuggets w/Gravy, Broccoli/Cheese, Black Eyed Peas, Tossed Salad/Carrot Stick, Orange Wedges, Peanut Pixies, Hot Roll, Choice of Milk.
Wednesday
Nachos or Soft Taco, Spanish Rice, Pinto Beans, Cole Slaw, Tossed Salad/Carrot Stick, Peach Cuj's, Cornbread/Jep.Che. Bread, Choice of Milk.
Thursday
Meatball Sub or Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Cooked Carrots, Tossed Salad/Carrot Stick, Rosy Pears, Peach Cobbler, Hot Roll, Choice of Milk.
Friday
Cheese Burger or PB&J Sandwiches, Curly Fries, Green Beans, Lettuce/Tomato, Tossed Salad/Carrot Stick, Rosy Pears, Hot Roll, Choice of Milk.

Along with the menu, Sub Sandwiches available Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; FajitaWraps on Wednesday.

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Meals are served 11:30 a.m. daily. Anyone who does not take the meals regularly is asked to reserve a lunch by contacting the Activity Center at 754-4205 by 1 a.m.

O.H. Ivie finds a match for ShareLunker

WINTERS ENTERPRISE
STAFF REPORT

ATHENS—Just when you thought this Toyota ShareLunker season was going to be all about O.H. Ivie, along comes Lake Austin.

The urban lake on the northwest side of the state capital has produced three ShareLunkers so far this season. One, the 16.03-pound lake record, came January 27. Two more came this last weekend. Lake Austin has now produced 12 entries into the ShareLunker program, tying it with Lake Amistad and lagging Choke Canyon and Falcon International Reservoir by only one.

Billy Weems of Liberty Hill started the action Friday, February 25, with a 13.21-pound lunker caught about noon in 12 feet of 62-degree water on a swim bait.

Cody Erin Smith of New Braunfels followed up Saturday with a 14.28-pounder caught about 10:00 a.m. on a jig.

Both were fishing in the vicinity of the Loop 360 bridge. "This whole area is just one big spawning flat," said Weems. "The big fish are just starting to move up."

Weems's assessment that the best fishing for big bass may be yet to come is borne out by the record. Of the nine entries the lake had produced prior to this season, three were caught in February, five in March and one in April.

Making that seem even more likely is the fact that at least two more fish were reported this past weekend that barely missed making the 13-pound mark.

Last season the lake produced two ShareLunkers, the first time in its history it had more than one entry in a season.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Inland Fisheries biologist Stephan Magnolia manages the Lake Austin fishery, and he attributes the lake's production of big bass to several factors. "I believe it's a combination of an ongoing Florida bass stocking program, good habitat (aquatic vegetation) in the upper third of the reservoir, and catch-and-release by anglers," he said.

Since 1996 TPWD has stocked about 4.5 million Florida bass into Lake



Susan Dixon of Hawley, Texas, caught Toyota ShareLunker 511 from O.H. Ivie Reservoir February 13. The fish weighed 13.3 pounds. It was 26.25 inches long and 20 inches in girth.

Austin, and in 2008 and 2010 it received stockings of ShareLunker offspring. Each lake that contributes a fish to the program receives a portion of that season's production of offspring.

TPWD's chief of research and management, Dave Terre, agrees. "We have been working to reduce hydrilla (an invasive plant) with timed water-level drawdowns and periodic stockings of triploid grass carp," he said. "Our goals are to reduce or eliminate hydrilla and also enhance native aquatic plants. We think aquatic vegetation is very important for habitat for bass in Lake Austin and is one reason this lake is so special for big fish. It also takes the Florida largemouth bass genetics and voluntary catch and release by anglers, because the fish need to live long enough to get that big."

Weems had caught a small fish prior to hooking his ShareLunker, and at first he thought he had hooked a two- or three-

pounder. "She came right to the boat," he said. "She ran around the outside of my boat, and then she just took off for deep water. I was using a heavy action rod, and she just bowed that thing down and started stripping drag. The rest of the time she fought mainly under the boat. It took three or four minutes to get her in."

Anyone legally catching a 13-pound or bigger largemouth bass from Texas waters, public or private, between October 1 and April 30 may submit the fish to the Toyota ShareLunker program by calling program manager David Campbell at (903) 681-0550 or paging him at (888) 784-0600 and leaving a phone number including area code. Fish will be picked up by TPWD personnel within 12 hours.

ShareLunker entries are used in a selective breeding program at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center (TFWC) in Athens. Some of the offspring from these fish are stocked back into the

water body from which they were caught. Other ShareLunker offspring are stocked in public waters around the state in an attempt to increase the overall size and growth rate of largemouth bass in Texas.

Anglers entering fish into the Toyota ShareLunker program receive a free replica of their fish, a certificate and ShareLunker clothing and are recognized at a banquet at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens.

The person who catches the season's largest entry will be named Angler of the Year and will receive a prize package from G. Loomis valued at \$818. The package includes a G. Loomis NRX854C jig and worm rod, a Shimano ChronarchD1007 casting reel and 150 yards of moss green Power Pro super-braid fishing line. If a Texas angler catches the largest entry of the season, that person also receives a lifetime fishing license.

T.J. Nissen is currently in the lead for Angler of the

Year with his 16.03-pound fish from Lake Austin.

For complete information and rules of the ShareLunker program, tips on caring for big bass, a list of official Toyota ShareLunker weigh and holding stations and a recap of last year's season, see www.tpwd.state.tx.us/sharelunker. The site also includes a searchable database of all fish entered into the program along with pictures where available.

Information on current catches, including short videos of interviews with anglers when available, is posted on www.facebook.com/sharelunkerprogram.

The Toyota ShareLunker Program is made possible by a grant to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Foundation from Gulf States Toyota. Toyota is a long-time supporter of the Foundation and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, providing major funding for a wide variety of education, fish, parks and wildlife projects.

Hunter education instructors needed

WINTERS ENTERPRISE
STAFF REPORT

ATHENS — Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) will be conducting a free hunter education new instructor training workshop Saturday, March 12, 2011, in Waco. The workshop will be from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 8451 Gholsen Road in Waco.

Instruction will be offered for new applicants and currently certified instructors in skills trail, live firing exercises and home study procedures. The training puts fun and exciting activities into the learning experience. Students will benefit by going through actual hunting simulations and by making their own decisions regarding responsible actions using "shoot-don't-shoot" scenarios.

Before attending this workshop, you must go to the following web site and prepare yourself by going over the instructor training manual. You will sign an acknowledgement and release that you have done this pre-workshop assignment as part of your training. The site is www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/hunter_education/instructor_training.

Every Texas hunter born on or after September 2, 1971, must successfully complete a hunter education course. The hunter education program's goals are to reduce hunting-related accidents and violations; promote safe, responsible and knowledgeable hunting; and enhance hunting traditions and values.

Hunter education provides instruction in Texas hunting regulations, wildlife management and identification, conservation, ethics, firearm and hunting safety and responsibility and outdoor skills.

By understanding hunting through education, hunters and non-hunters alike will help make a bright future for the sport.

To register, contact TPWD Area Chief Brent Heath at (254) 722-5660 or heathconstruction@juno.com.

State parks welcome sports competitors

WINTERS ENTERPRISE
STAFF REPORT

AUSTIN - While most people visit Texas state parks to picnic, camp, fish, hike or just relax beneath a shade tree, there is a smaller, more physically-fit contingent that uses some of the state's most scenic spots for more rigorous recreational pursuits.

Hardcore ultramarathoners who trod the trails each year at Huntsville State Park are perhaps the most extreme example. This year's mega-endurance challenge on the first weekend in February not only attracted more than 500 runners, it also produced an American record.

The 19th annual Rocky Raccoon 100-Mile Trail Run was no stroll in the park for 30-year-old Ian Sharman of San Jose, Calif., who set a national record

by completing the grueling endurance event - five 20-mile loops around Lake Raven - in just under 13 hours. His official time of 12:44:33 topped a field of 316 runners from around the country. A companion 50-mile run drew 196 starters.

On June 18, Huntsville State Park will host another competition for the relaxation-challenged.

The 2011 Texas State Championship Spring Adventure Race will feature a multisport team competition consisting of canoeing, a short trail run, a longer mountain bike race and a possible mystery event to be announced later. Exact distances and other particulars will be revealed during registration and packet pickup Saturday morning. For more race information, visit: [\[maracing.com/view.asp?id=43\]\(http://www.terrafir-maracing.com/view.asp?id=43\)](http://www.terrafir-</p>
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Huntsville State Park superintendent Chris Holm says the park hosts a number of competitions throughout the year sponsored by businesses and private organizations. It's not unusual, he says, for the events to draw 500 to 700 competitors, all of whom pay the park entry fee, generating considerable income. There are other benefits to the park, as well.

"The winter events bring in people at a time of the year when we don't have high visitation," Holm explains. "It's an extremely effective marketing tool for this park. It's another way to get people into our park - not just participants but their families - to see what we have to offer, so they might become future customers."

The Lone Star Runners Club will sponsor its annual Trail Run and Duathlon on April 23 at Palo Duro Canyon State Park near Amarillo, another state park favored by race directors and participants.

Duathletes sandwich a nine-mile mountain bike ride between two-mile trail runs. Then, in a separate competition, trail runners take off on a nine-mile trail run. Both events start and finish in the Juniper Campground on the canyon floor. Then, all participants gather at noon to chow down on hamburgers and hot dogs. For more information, visit: www.lonestar-runnersclub.net.

For more than a quarter of a century, the dirt and gravel trails traversing picturesque Palo Duro Canyon have accommodated hundreds of runners competing in the Palo Duro Trail Run begun by Red Spicer. The Western States Qualifier attracts runners who chose to compete in the 20K, 50K or 50-mile event. To learn more, visit: <http://www.paloduro-canyon.com/pdcTrailRun2011.pdf>

Mountain biking competitions are even more popular at Palo Duro Canyon State Park than running events such as the Palo Duro Marathon, according to acting park superintendent

Nathan Londenberg. He says 24 Hours in the Canyon is a "huge event," raising funds for the local Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center and Livestrong.

The largest field of competitors to use state park facilities, up to 15,000 bikers, turn out for the annual MS 150, a two-day, 150-mile bike race from Austin to Houston held each April. Some 15,000 competitors pedal the pine tree-lined road linking Bastrop and Buescher state parks on their trek between the two cities to raise money for The Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Though not really a competition per se, but more of a celebration of mountain biking in the Big Bend, the first-ever Chihuahuan Desert Dirt Fest was held recently in Lajitas. Some of the rides, including one along a route recently named by the International Mountain Biking Association as an Epic Ride, took place in Big Bend Ranch State Park. The swanky Lajitas Resort served as the staging location for family-friendly rides of different lengths and difficulty. For more information, visit: <http://desertsportstx.com/mountain-bike-event/>.

On March 27, competitors will go up against granite in the Enchanted Rock Extreme Duathlon at Enchanted Rock State Natural Area in the Texas Hill Country.

The duathlon features a 5-mile run around the outer loop, then a 16-mile road-bike ride, culminating in a 1.5-mile sprint up to the top of the giant rock mountain. For more, visit: <http://www.redemption-rp.com/ERock2011>.

Late October finds a dif-

ferent breed of competitor tackling Enchanted Rock in central Texas in probably the most unusual competition held in a Texas state park.

The 20th annual Granite Gripper at Enchanted Rock State Natural Area north of Fredericksburg will once again offer a variety of rope and bouldering competitions for men, women and youth of varying abilities. The fundraiser benefits the state natural area and the iconic granite batholith that gives the park its name. Visit: <http://www.centraltexas-climbingcommittee.com/gripper.html>

Triathletes who enjoy swimming, in addition to running and biking, can compete at Lake Tawakoni State Park near Dallas on April 17 in the first semi-annual Spring-Fall Sprint Triathlon Series sponsored by Big Earth Racing. Participants in what's being billed as the "Biggest Little Sprint in Texas" will swim half a mile, bike 23.8 miles and run 3.1 (5K) miles. A second triathlon is scheduled for Aug. 21.

During the two events, the state park will be closed to the general public. Participants and spectators must register online at www.bigearthtracing.com. For park information, call (903) 560-7123.

For those who don't like to compete solo, grab a partner and come to Cedar Hill State Park near Dallas on Oct. 16 for the Columbia Muddy Buddy Dallas off-road competition, featuring a total course distance of from six to seven miles. For more information, visit: http://www.trifind.com/re_33420/ColumbiaMuddyBuddyDallas.html.

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RUNNELS COUNTY NEWS

Praising a hero

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
WINTERS ENTERPRISE

BALLINGER- Served his family, his community and his country, proudly gave his life for his beliefs and from last week on his name will be remembered by everyone passing through Highway 158 north of Ballinger, on the road now called Army Specialist William Justin Byler Memorial Highway.

Byler passed away in the line of duty in 2005, during his second term in Iraq while serving his country, he was 23-years-old.

The Texas Department of Transportation, state legislators and local officials honored the Ballinger High School graduate naming a portion of Highway 158 after him, from FM Road 2887 to Ranch Road 2111.

The memorial will help to remember the local hero who graduated in 2000 and enlisted in the U.S. Army in August 2002.

State Representative Harvey Hilderbran



Army Specialist William Justin Byler, February 13, 1982 - October 31, 2005.

sponsored the legislation, House Bill Number 471, which dedicated State Highway 158 in Runnels County as Army Specialist William Justin Byler Memorial Highway.

John Obr, from the Texas Department of Transportation acted as master of ceremonies at the dedication ceremony held at the Ballinger High School auditorium.

Lindsay Clemens, sister of the late Army Specialist, remembered some of their moments together in a speech that touched the hearts of every single person at the ceremony. She narrated the good moments they spent together and how she wished she had a little more time for him.

Two signs marking the six-mile stretch, one of them sponsored by the City of Ballinger and the other one by Runnels County, were unveiled immediately after the ceremony. The presentation of the colors was led by the Goodfellow Air force Base Joint Service Color Guard.

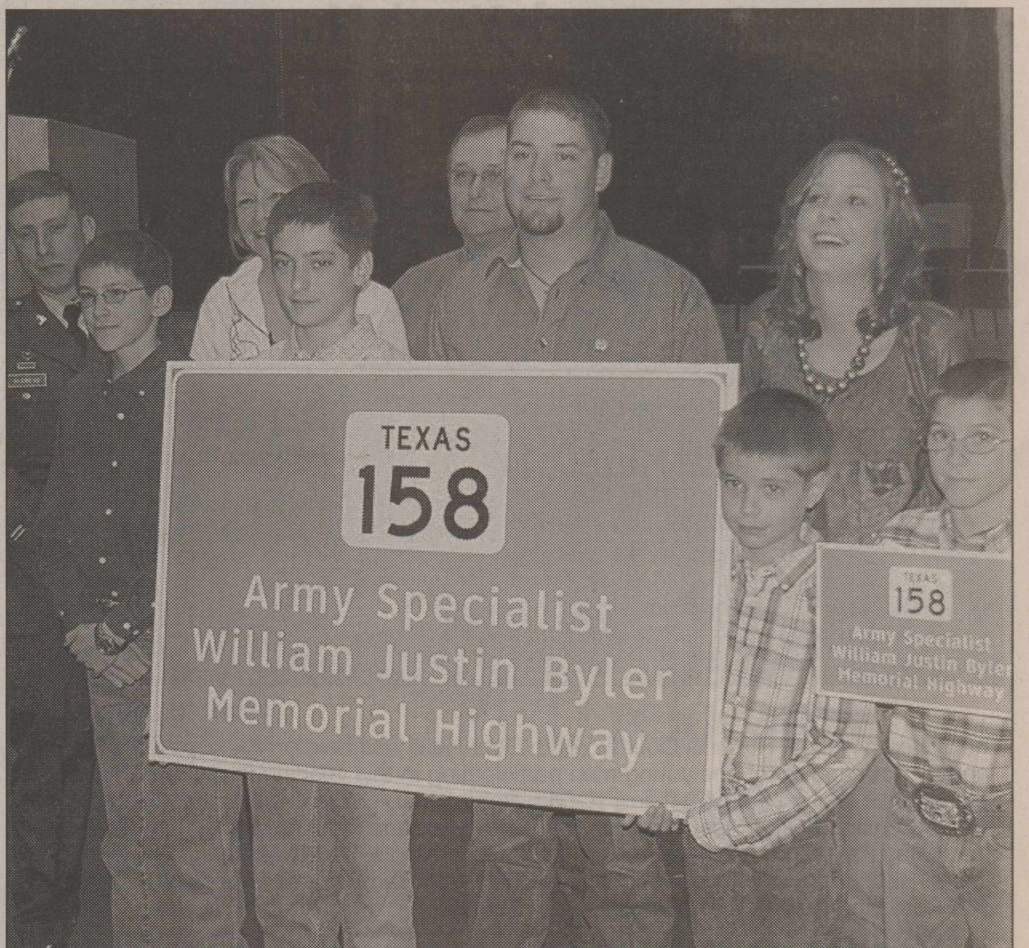


PHOTO RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ

Justin Byler's parents Karen and Will Byler, his sister Lindsay and husband Ryan Clemens, as well as his brothers Ryan, Kasey, Russell, Kennedy and Jett all were special guests at the dedication ceremony, held in Ballinger.

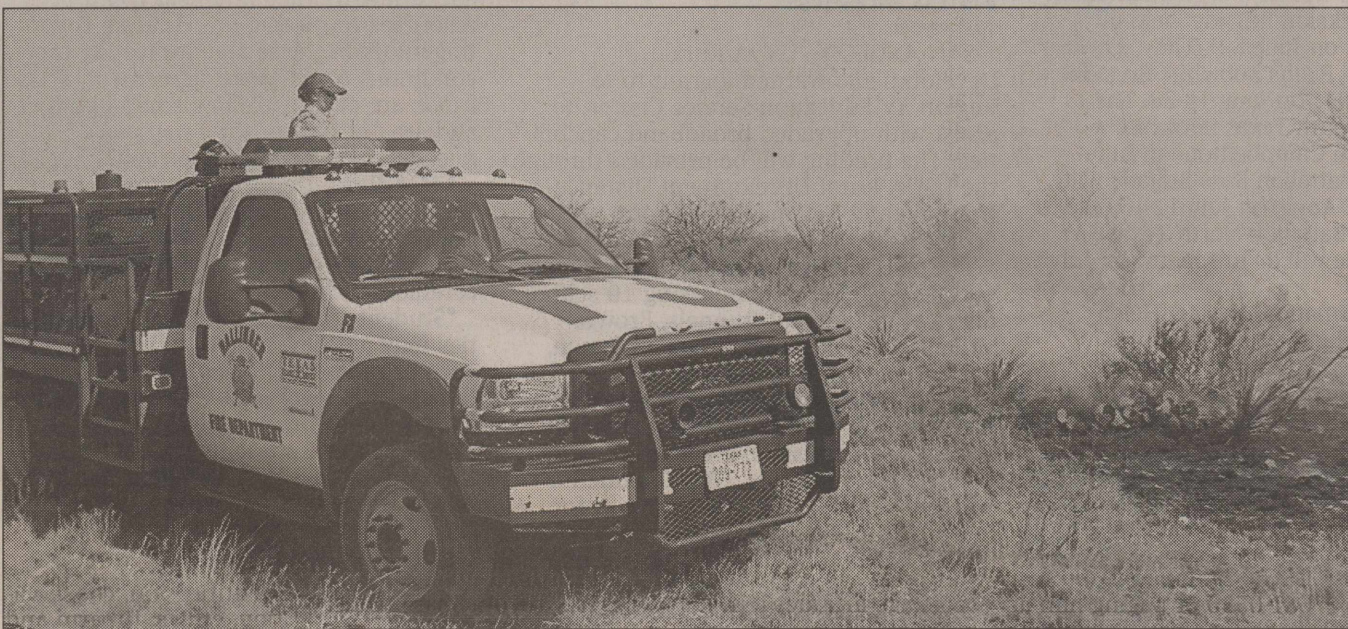


PHOTO RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ

A Ballinger Fire Department truck gets ready to attack the grass fire last Thursday, February 24, near the intersection of Highway 382 and County Road 164.

Fire spreads over Runnels Co

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS- Over 300 acres of grass were devastated last Thursday, February 24, and several structures were threatened by a grass fire on FM 382, south of County Road 164, about 7 miles northeast of Ballinger.

The fire was reported at 1:40 p.m. on H.B. Edmonson ranch, east of FM 382, and was fueled by brown grass and brush, as well as winds gusting at about 40 miles per hour.

Ballinger Fire Department responded to the grass fire along with Winters Fire Department, Rowena Fire Department, Miles Fire Department, Runnels County Precinct 1 and Runnels County Sheriff's Office.

Winds gusting from the northwest blew the fire from the roadside into the property, and about three quarters of a mile till County Road 130.

Firefighters struggled with the fire for several hours, until they finally extinguished the flames.

Last week and until Sunday, the Texas Forest Service issued a warning

for residents of the area to be prepared for dangerous wildfires.

Weather conditions were worsened by a low pressure system moving over a dry line hovering over the Western Plains. Wind speeds picked up to about 50 miles per hour and relative humidity levels dropped, a formula creating the perfect conditions for dangerous fire weather.

The Western Plains are considered a particular hotspot by the Texas Forest Service.

Wildfires spread over West Texas in several communities last week.

THE IDLE AMERICAN

Cell phones unleashed...

Not too many decades ago, decisions were fewer and much easier to make. In car-buying, color choices were black or white. There was vanilla, chocolate and strawberry ice cream; then Baskin-Robbins busted loose with more flavors than they could think of good names for.

Minds grow dizzy with today's barrage of choices - paper or plastic, regular or decaf, debit or credit, smoking or non-smoking, etc.

On the cell phone front - and it is a broad one - my skills are limited, and I seek no more. "Apps" is a brand new word for which I have no use. Not until recently did I know what a ringtone is. A grandchild explained it to me....

Ringtone selections bob about, seemingly harmless, in a great sea of options. But, many of them are potential sources of interruption, embarrassment and confusion. Typically, ringtones are chosen as casually as coffee or tea options on the "blue plate special" down at the Bluebonnet Café.

Big mistake! Remember, gentle readers, ringtones that are pleasing to your ear will also be heard by other ears, sometimes many of them. And often when we are double-dog sure that phones are turned off.

Heat flushing from a reddened face is guaranteed when the phone rings during worship, weddings, ordinations, oaths, funerals, and many other settings when a background of serenity is both desired - and assumed. In these delicate moments, we become fumble-fingered and wrong-handed. At once we are any of the Three Stooges, but performing without pay. Complications stack up when offenders search pockets or through the tangled mass of items snuggled in women's satchels that are masquerading as purses....

I sympathize with ministers who pray that members of the flock will remember to silence their cell phones. Fat chance for 100 percent positive results. Spoken requests - or those written on bulletin covers - have strong potential for offending attendees. And that's the last thing clergy want to do.

In all crowds, there'll always be a few phones, fully



TEXAS COLUMNIST
Don Newbury

charged, volume up and very much "on."

So, make ringtone selections carefully. Church bells, harp melodies and lullabies are good choices. Avoid such numbers as "Dark Town Strutters' Ball," unless much of your day is given to strutting. Go "thumbs down" on "Reveille," except while attending Aggie musters....

No one is immune. Repeat regularly: "There but by the grace of God go I." My friend, Dr. Jimmie Nelson, a longtime preacher man, has seen it all and done much of it.

A while back, he drove a goodly distance to conduct a funeral. His daughter, eager to know of his safe arrival, dialed him up - right after he'd finished the scripture reading. Unflapped, he ignored the ring. Instead, he stared awkwardly toward the empty pew to his left, as if he knew the exact spot from whence the offending sound originated. Mourners' brows wrinkled; they felt his pain, assuming that the ongoing ringtone melody was bouncing off the lectern.

At mid-point of my remarks during the inauguration of Dr. Bill Ellis as president of Howard Payne University last year, I absent-mindedly answered my ringing cell phone, fishing it clumsily from my academic regalia. I was certain it had been silenced; I was wrong. Long-time friends kidded me, sure that it was a planned stunt. It wasn't. (My wife couldn't rib me too much. Several years ago, during the deacon ordination of a son-in-law, her ringtone cut loose with "Happy Birthday." It seemed an eternity before she seized it from the aforementioned satchel.)...

A ringtone sounded during morning worship at our church recently. The offender fumbled greatly before locating the phone.

It finally silenced, there followed several moments of whooshing sounds, like the final pops of corn wrapped in little mufflers. These were the "sign-off sounds" of a dozen others who had forgotten to silence their phones, too.

They lucked out; there but by the grace of God went they....

Dr. Newbury is a speaker in the Metroplex. Send inquiries/comments to: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Website: www.speakerdoc.com.

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RUNNELS COUNTY NEWS

Gray Ranch Youth Hunt



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Seventh Annual Runnels County Youth Deer Hunt was held on the Gray Ranch January 15th and 16th. The young men participating in this year's hunt were Jacob Molina, Elias Juarez, Felix Martinez, Ramiro Roman, J.J. Galvan, and Xavier Camacho, all from the Ballinger area. Assisting with the hunt were Lane Pinckney, Mike Gray, Marshall Green, Jay Patterson, Len Westra, Zac Gray, Gerry Kindle, Ken Dibold, and Danny Wright. Supporters of the youth hunt were The Texas Game Warden Association, Brady VFW Post, and Owen's Deer Processing of Ballinger.

Wildlife education summer program

WINTERS ENTERPRISE

STAFF REPORT

WINTERS - Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas Wildlife Association, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, USDA and several universities and conservation groups will be having this summer the 19th annual Texas Brigades, a co-ed program for youth with a passion for learning about the wildlife and natural resources. Local soil and water conservation districts, private businesses and individuals with an interest in wildlife and youth leadership development are also sponsoring the event. Tuition is \$400 per cadet per camp, but financial assistance is available.

Cadets must be between 13-17 and interested in wildlife and/or the outdoors. Applications may be submitted online until April 1, 2011. The website address is

www.texasbrigades.org.

Five camps will be held in different locations, each one of them for five days.

The first camp will be the 12th Battalion South Texas Buckskin Brigade, held in Carrizo Springs, on June 5-9. The 19th Battalion Rolling Plains Bobwhite Brigade will be in Coleman, on June 18-22. The 14th Battalion South Texas Bobwhite Brigade will be in Campbellton, on June 26-30. The 6th Battalion Bass Brigade will be held in Santa Anna, on July 11-15, and finally the 10th Battalion North Texas Buckskin Brigade will be in Albany, on July 17-21.

For more information, contact Helen Holdsworth at hholdsworth@texas-wildlife.org or Kassi Scheffer at kscheffer@texas-wildlife.org or you may call 800-TEX-WILD or 210-826-2904

Runnels Co farmer wins grant for Miles Young Farmers

WINTERS ENTERPRISE

STAFF REPORT

MILES - Tommy Book of Miles has been selected as a winner in the America's Farmers Grow CommunitiesSM program, which gave farmers the opportunity to win \$2,500 for their favorite local nonprofit organizations. The Monsanto Fund sponsors the program, and winning farmers designate a local nonprofit organization to benefit from the donations. Book has designated Miles Young Farmers to receive the donation in Runnels County.

Book said he is very excited to have been selected as the winner for Runnels County. "I gave the money to Young Farmers because they do so much good in our community. They have a show complex for the kids and the community that needs repairs and updates. The Monsanto Fund program is a great thing. As a farmer, I appreciate Monsanto's products and think it's great that they are giving back to ag communities."

The money is going towards the purchase and installation of an air conditioning and heating system for the Miles young Farmers building.

"We appreciate the Grow Communities program and think it's great that so many nonprofit organizations in small communi-

ties will be able to benefit from these funds," said Cory Book, Miles Young Farmers President.

The donation was awarded at a ceremony held on Friday, Feb. 18 during the steak dinner and casino night at the Miles Young Farmers Show Complex.

In more than 1,200 eligible counties, farmers can win \$2,500 for their favorite community non-profit. The Monsanto Fund expects to invest more than \$3 million in local communities. Previous Grow Communities projects resulted in the donation of nearly \$1.2 million in 477 counties in Arkansas, California, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, and South Dakota. In total, more than \$172,500 has been donated to nonprofits in Texas.

The America's Farmers Grow Communities program is part of a broad commitment by the Monsanto Fund, the philanthropic arm of Monsanto Company, to highlight the important contributions farmers make every day to our society by helping them grow their local communities. To date, more than 60,000 farmers participated in the program, which is designed to benefit nonprofit groups such as ag youth, schools and other civic organizations. Visit www.growcommunities.com to view a complete list of winners.

USDA awards grant to Region XV

WINTERS ENTERPRISE

STAFF REPORT

SAN ANGELO - USDA Rural Development awarded a grant to Region XV Education Service Center, to assist with upgraded broadband capabilities. The funding will be provided through the USDA Rural Development Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program.

The \$415,453 grant will be used to connect 43 schools, encompassing 19 school districts throughout Runnels, Brown, McCulloch, Coke, Tom Green, Coleman, Val Verde, Crockett, Concho, Irion, Kimble, Mason, and Menard counties. The funds will be used to purchase distance learning equipment to create new learning opportunities for over 10,000 students and increase training opportunities for more than 1,000 educators.

With this new technology, the curriculum will now include the ability for students to attend virtual K-12 courses as well as college level course. Educators will have access to the new equipment to keep accurate with online training programs.

Distance education will give rural school students the same opportunities as larger, more urban schools. This will enhance the quality of education in rural schools and allow these students to become more competitive in the job market.

The Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Grant Program provides access to

education, training and health care resources in rural areas. Funding is contingent upon the recipient meeting the conditions of the grant agreement. These funds are part of USDA's annual budget and are not part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

USDA Rural Development Texas State Director, Paco Valentin, highlighted USDA's commitment to improvements in rural education systems by presenting a ceremonial check.

"Students in the most rural communities may not have access to museums, science programs or various other educational resources," said Valentin. "Distance learning opens the door to new opportunities for these students to make connections and access current resources from within their own schools. USDA Rural Development Distance Learning and Grants are powerful tools for providing expanded educational opportunities which otherwise may be unavailable."

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development fosters growth in homeownership, finances business development and supports the creation of critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

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100
Announcements

200
Employment

240 Help Wanted Part Time

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900 Legal Notices

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
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You may bid on one or both of the following items:
 (1) Emulsified Asphalt, per gallon, (CRS-2) and (CRS-2 H) at the Plant and delivered to Runnels County. Delivered price is for full truck load quantities and will not include pump or demurrage. CRS-2 and CRS-2H asphalt must be at 170 to 187 degrees. Specify no amount of gallons. Bid on asphalt to be effective until December 31, 2011. Delivery of Emulsified Asphalt must meet State

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specifications.
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The County reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and to waive any or all formalities. The County also reserves the right to extend this bid for one year, if the County and the vendor awarded this bid both agree. No fax bids will be accepted.

BY ORDER OF Commissioner's Court February 15, 2011.

Cindy Winchester Runnels County Auditor

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District 8 VFW Ladies Auxiliary President Darlene Jurkins, Texas VFW State Surgeon Doc Howard and District 8 VFW Commander Ralph Rodriguez with Allison Crook, third place at District competition.



District 8 VFW Ladies Auxiliary President Darlene Jurkins, Texas VFW State Surgeon Doc Howard and District 8 VFW Commander Ralph Rodriguez with Bailee Busher, first place at District competition.

Does Patriotism Still Matter?

PATRIOTIC PEN CONTEST ESSAY
BY ETHAN BREDEMAYER
 SECOND PLACE, DISTRICT COMPETITION

Our nation is in a crisis and in dire need of public spirit. Patriotism is defined as the love of one's own country which is the spirit America so desperately desires. Patriotism still matters in the United States today as much as or maybe more so, than when America was established.

Saying the Pledge of Allegiance at school or at any major event is a way of showing patriotism. The pledge is said in respect to our country and its people. The pledge also shows the fierce pride and loyalty we have for our country. Many kids today do not say the pledge at school which means they are not being a patriot. Children need to learn how important the pledge is to our country's heroes.

Praying for our military troops and our country shows patriotism. Our country's defenders appreciate that we are praying for their safety and well being. This lets people know that our country truly is "one nation under God" and that God cares about everybody. Whether it's at school, work, home, or on the front lines, God cares.

Voting every year is patriotic. It shows that we care for our county and those who lead it. We are challenging people to vote because we need qualified people elected into office. If America selects the correct candidates, we can solve many struggles facing our nation including the war on terrorism.

Showing patriotism can be easy as flying the American flag. When you display the flag, you acknowledge your loyalty and pride for your nation. It allows your neighbors and veterans to see when they drive past your home and realize why they fought so valiantly for our much treasured freedom.

American needs its people to show their love for our country so our younger generations will be aware of the urgency for patriotism, the population to follow will show it and it will always be passed down through the generations.

Patriotism honors our county and lets other countries know that we care about our nation. With many adversities in the United States today, most significantly terrorist, we need as much patriotism as American first had when it was established. Patriotism still does matter in America, possibly more now than ever.



District 8 VFW Ladies Auxiliary President Darlene Jurkins, Texas VFW State Surgeon Doc Howard and District 8 VFW Commander Ralph Rodriguez with Ethan Bredemeyer, second place at District competition.

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WINTERS ENTERPRISE
 STAFF REPORT

Drought conditions, high winds and low humidity prompted Texas Forest Service officials to predict a high risk for wildfires in the Big Country.

The combination of ongoing drought, gusty winds and low humidity created the potential for large and threatening wildfires. Texans should use caution and refrain from outdoor burning or other activities that could start a wildfire. No outdoor burning is authorized under the current burn bans issued by county officials.

Weather conditions forecasted indicated a possible severe dust storm. Aircraft used to contain fires could be grounded because of the high winds and dust. This scenario could put firefighters at a greater risk.

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