

# The Winters Enterprise

Volume 23, Issue 36

Thursday, July 05, 2012

Winters, Texas 75c

## Coleman Co Electric moves annual meeting back to Coleman

**WINTERS ENTERPRISE STAFF REPORT**  
WINTERS- After unforeseen remodeling of the Ballinger School Auditorium, which was not going to be completed in time for the Coleman County Electric Cooperative annual meeting, the meeting was moved back to Coleman this year.

Coleman County Electric Cooperative announced that it will have its 74th Annual Membership Meeting on July 20, 2012 at the Coleman High School. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m., with the Business Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Along with the Annual Reports presented by the President and General Manager, there will be a representative from Golden Spread G&T. Coleman County Electric Cooperative joined Golden Spread Electric Cooperative, Inc. in November 2003. Golden Spread Electric Cooperative is a generation and transmission cooperative comprised of 16 electric distribution cooperatives. CCEC plans to have homemade ice cream and cookies prepared and served by the Coleman County 4-Hers. Attendance gifts will be given to each member registering, as well as attendance gifts for the kids. There will also be the usual prize drawings for the adults and children.

A couple of years ago there were some changes made in the ballot procedure. Those mailing in the ballot or bringing it to the meeting, are asked to make sure and vote for the directors of their choice, put the ballot in the envelope and sign the outside of the envelope. The signature must be on the outside of the envelope for the vote to be counted.

Please mark July 20 on your calendars and make plans to attend this year's meeting in Coleman. Come and enjoy the fellowship with your fellow members while participating in the business activities of your own Cooperative.

## City receives petition for beer and liquor election in Winters

**RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ**  
WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS- The Winters Economic Coalition presented a petition and signatures to the City of Winters, in order to hold a local option election for the legal sale of beer and liquor in stores and restaurants.

The petition, along with the required signatures of local voters, was presented last Wednesday, June 27, 2012 to the City Secretary, and will be discussed in the July 30, 2012 City Council regular meeting.

The coalition is looking to end a historical prohibition in Winters, by allowing the legal sale of beer for off-premise consumption in stores, as well as wine and mixed drinks in restaurants.

The City Secretary and the City Council will be evaluating the petition to validate the signatures and information of the petitioners. According to the number of voters who voted during the last general election held in Winters, the petitioners will be needing a total of 160 valid signatures in order to take the petition to the ballot for the November 2012 general election.

The number of signatures required to be on a petition in this case is equal to or greater than 35 percent of the registered voters in the political subdivision who voted in the most recent general election.

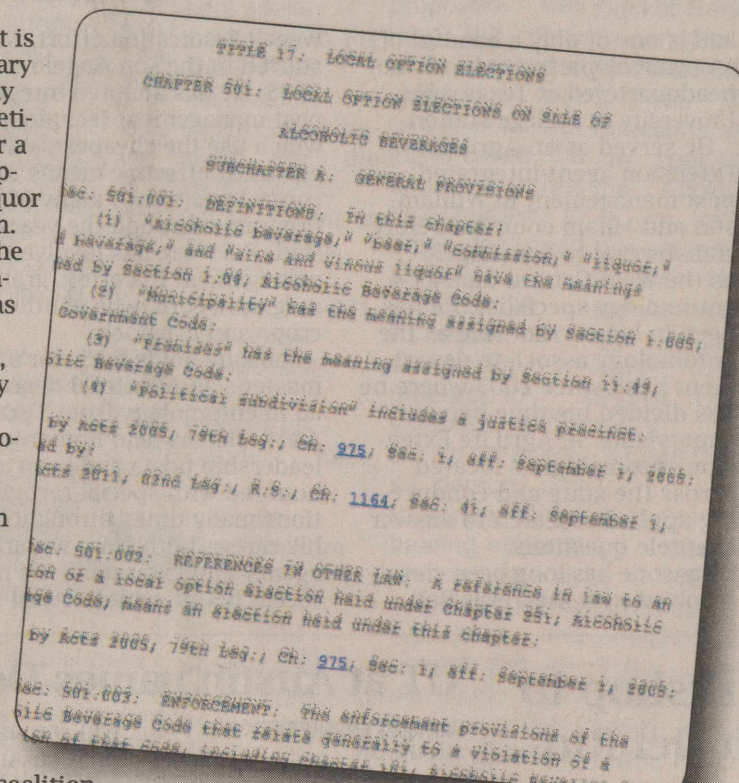
According to the Texas Election

Code, it is necessary to apply for a petition for a local option liquor election. After the application was approved, the City Secretary provided blank petition pages to the petitioners.

The petitioners, led by coalition Secretary Jill Davis and coalition President and Winters City Mayor Lewis Bergman, hired Texas Petition Strategies of Arlington to conduct the petition and election effort. The group asserts that Winters is losing tax revenues when people drive out of town to buy beer and wine.

The petition submitted by the Winters Economic Coalition includes "the legal sale of beer and wine for off-premise consump-

\*\*\*\*\*CAR-RT LOT\*\*R 002  
0298769 10/21/2012 R002  
RANDALL CONNER  
216 CIRCLE DR  
WINTERS, TX 79567-3504



reasons, the procedures for these elections differ in many aspects from the procedures applied to other voter-initiated elections.

Historically many of the county-wide prohibition elections occurred prior to the creation of the statutory predecessor to the TABC in 1935.

Reports of wet/dry status made by the Texas Liquor Control Board (now the TABC) have generally identified cities, J.P. precincts, and counties that were either wholly or partially wet or dry when state prohibition was repealed in 1935.

Political subdivisions subject to local option elections are counties, Justice of the Peace precincts, and

Municipalities. In 2011 the 82nd Legislature passed the S.B. 100. Section 41 of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code amends existing local option liquor law by transferring all responsibility for the conduct of municipal local option elections from the counties to the cities.

The Winters City Secretary will have to validate the signatures before presenting the petition to the City Council. For a signature to be considered valid must be accompanied by the signer's printed name, date of birth, signer's residence address, and the date of signing. The signature is the only requirement that must be in the signer's own handwriting.

## Conaway supports contempt vote against US Attorney General

**WINTERS ENTERPRISE STAFF REPORT**

WASHINGTON, D.C.- Rep. K. Michael Conaway (R-TX) supports the House voted to charge Attorney General Eric Holder with contempt of Congress for ignoring a congressional subpoena for documents related to Fast and Furious, the failed federal gun trafficking operation.

"Transparency and accountability are not optional; government officials are responsible for their actions and decisions, especially when a tragedy such as the death of a U.S. Border Patrol agent occurs. The family of Agent Brian Terry, the American people and Congress deserve answers," said

the 11th Texas District Representative.

"To get those answers, the Department of Justice has to turn over the remaining documents related to this failed operation. Only then will we be able to work together to ensure this tragedy never happens again," Conaway added.

The House of Representatives will now pursue a two-track effort to compel the Attorney General to comply with its lawful subpoena. Under the legislation that was passed, the House will forward the subpoena to the US attorney's office and also bring a civil suit before a federal judge asking the court to enforce the subpoena.

The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee voted last week to approve the contempt citation.

Moments before passing the resolution, President Obama announced he was invoking executive privilege to maintain the secrecy of the documents related to the failed gun trafficking operation.

Executive privilege is a principle that says the executive branch can't be required by Congress to disclose confidential communications because their release would harm the operations of the White House.

The House is seeking documents describing internal Justice

Department discussions about a February 2011 letter to lawmakers on Fast and Furious that Attorney General Holder later said mistakenly contained incorrect information.

No Cabinet member has ever been held in contempt by either chamber of Congress.

Last Thursday, June 28, Attorney General Eric Holder became the first Cabinet member held in contempt of Congress, a rebuke pushed by Republicans seeking to unearth the facts behind a bungled gun-tracking operation and dismissed by most Democrats as a political stunt. The vote was 255-67, with more than 100 Democrats boycotting.

## Keeping children sun-safe this summer and all year long

**WINTERS ENTERPRISE STAFF REPORT**

WINTERS- With summer under way, children will spend more time outdoors, in backyards and at parks, summer camps, beaches and other vacation destinations. So, it is important to remember that exposure to the sun's ultraviolet radiation (UVR) is strongly linked to all forms of skin cancer. Luckily, with good sun safety habits including proper clothing and sunscreen, children can enjoy all sorts of outdoor activities without risking their health.

"By teaching your children to incorporate sun protection into their daily routine, you'll significantly lower their risk of developing skin cancer as an adult," says Perry Robins, MD, President of The Skin Cancer Foundation.

- Help children stay safe in the sun with the following tips from The Skin Cancer Foundation:  
Seek the Shade: Remind kids to play in shaded areas in order to limit UV exposure. Check with camps to see if there are adequate places for campers to seek shade during outdoor activities taking place between 10 AM and 4 PM, when UV rays are most intense.

- Avoid Tanning: Tweens and teens may be tempted to "lay out" or visit tanning salons. But there is no such thing as a safe, healthy or protective tan, because tanning itself is caused

by DNA damage to the skin. One or more blistering sunburns in childhood or adolescence more than doubles a person's chances of developing potentially deadly melanomas later in life.

- Cover up with Clothing: Consider dressing them in swim shirts or rash guards while in the water at the pool or beach. Protect the face, neck and eyes with broad-brimmed hats and UV-blocking sunglasses.

- Use Sunscreen: For everyday use, look for broad spectrum (UVA/UVB) sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or higher. If your child will be spending extended time outdoors, use a water-resistant, broad spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher. Apply 1 ounce (2 tablespoons) of sunscreen to your child's entire body 30 minutes before going outside. Assist children in reapplying sunscreen every two hours and after swimming or playing sports, because water and sweat wash sunscreen away. If your children apply their own sunscreen, remind them to cover easy-to-miss spots such as the backs of ears and neck, as well as the tops of feet and hands.

- Keep newborns out of the sun. Sunscreens should be used on babies over the age of six months.  
- Practice What You Preach: Incorporate

these tips into your own lifestyle. You'll not only set a good example, but you'll reduce your risk of skin cancer, sun damage and skin aging.

More detailed suggestions and recommendations are available in the 2012 Skin Cancer Foundation Journal article, "Repelling the Rays When Kids Play," available at [www.skincancer.org/journal](http://www.skincancer.org/journal).

Additionally, The Skin Cancer Foundation recently debuted Sun Smart U, an interactive education program that teaches students in grades Sixth through Twelfth how to make sun-safe choices that are vital in preventing skin cancer. The program highlights the importance of following a proper sun protection regimen and the dangers of tanning through the real-life story of a young woman with Stage III melanoma. To download the free curriculum, please visit [www.skincancer.org/education](http://www.skincancer.org/education).

The Skin Cancer Foundation is the only global organization solely devoted to the prevention, early detection and treatment of skin cancer. The mission of the Foundation is to decrease the incidence of skin cancer through public and professional education and research. For more information, visit [www.SkinCancer.org](http://www.SkinCancer.org).

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## TWC grants \$1 million for high-tech summer camps

**WINTERS ENTERPRISE**  
STAFF REPORT

AUSTIN- The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) awarded 14 grants totaling nearly \$1 million to Texas universities and community colleges for summer youth camps that focus on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). The grants are allowing 1,200 students between ages 14 and 21 to attend camps which help to prepare youth for future high-skill, high-demand jobs.

"These camps offer students the opportunity to get hands-on experience in math and science inside and outside of the classroom," Governor Rick Perry said. "As the global economy continues to evolve and technology gets more sophisticated and essential every day, students need to have these building blocks as they prepare for the workplace of the future."

Administered by TWC, the effort is part of the Governor's Summer Merit Program, which aims to inspire Texas youth to pursue STEM-related careers.

"TWC is pleased to support these STEM camps that help Texas' future workforce discover new areas of interest that can lead to high-demand careers," said TWC Chairman and Commissioner Representing the Public Andres Alcantar. "These camps enhance our students' competence in STEM, positioning them for future success in a number of industries all across Texas."

The 1,200 Summer Merit Program scholarships awarded to 14 grant recipients are:  
 · Austin Community College, \$7,009 - 15 scholarships for the Renewable Energy.  
 · Cedar Valley College, \$70,665 - 100 scholarships for two camps, including the Hot Bot Program day camp and the Hot Rocket day camp  
 · Lamar University, \$179,844 - 100 scholarships for three residential camps, including gO WEST, gO SETX and LAMP, which will give students the chance to participate in STEM lab activities  
 · Northwest Vista College, \$36,590 - 72 scholarships for three day camps.

## Winters student receives BA at UNT

**WINTERS ENTERPRISE**  
STAFF REPORT

DENTON- Matthew Skkye Awalt, of Winters, Texas, received his BA in English at the University of North Texas' spring

2012 commencement ceremonies. UNT is one of Texas' largest universities, offering 97 bachelor's, 82 master's and 35 doctoral degree programs. Many of these are nationally and internationally recognized.

## WINTERS PUBLIC LIBRARY DONATIONS

Winters Public Library received donations from:

- Raymond and Barbara Talley, memorial for Faye Cate Jordan.
- Fred Poe.
- Sylvia and Jesse Geron, memorial for Wanda Clark Dillard.
- Barbara Everett, memorial for Wanda Clark Dillard.
- Lynn and Arby Holbrooks, memorial for Wanda Clark Dillard.
- Bonnie Elliott, memorial for Faye Killough.
- Norma Barberousse.
- Theresa Patterson, memorial for Dariel Glen Owen and Faye Killough.
- Darlene Sims.
- Cottonwood Real Estate, Mary Slimp and Monnie Davis; memorial for John Cook.
- Betty and Jim Cowlshaw, memorial for Janie Wearden.
- Jim Caskey
- Jerry and Jan Simms, memorial for Janie Wearden.
- Rick and Linda Dry, memorial for Janie Wearden.
- Connie Mac and Jean Gibbs, memorial for Nadine Robinson.
- Winters Ladies Golf Association, memorial for Nadine Robinson
- Ray and Billie Alderman, memorial Nadine Robinson and Warren Roach.
- Betty John Byrna, memorial for Nadine Robinson.
- Susan and John Kiser and boys, memorial for Nadine Robinson.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the town of Winters,

We would like to express our thanks to you as a community, and notably Doty's Tire Service, for being so helpful and friendly to us in our time of need. We are a youth group that was traveling back from youth camp in Glorieta, New Mexico to our home in Florence, Texas when one of our vans experienced tire trouble. One of our vans had experienced two blown tires about 15 miles outside of Winters, on TX 153 towards Sweetwater, Tx. Another of our vans had gone ahead into Winters to try to find help. We entered the Shell gas station where we immediately were attended to by not only the clerk but three or four locals all offering to help us. I was given the card of Doty's Tire Service and proceeded to call Kenneth Doty, who was attending a party at the town park. He was willing to go to his house and get a tire off of his own personal trailer and as well as a new tire and take them out to the stranded van to fix the problem. On behalf of First Baptist Church Florence, we would like to express our thanks and gratitude to the entire town of Winters for being so friendly and helpful and especially to Kenneth Doty and Doty's Tire Service for being so good to us and helping us make it home safely. The town of Winters and Doty's Tire Service is a Winner in our book!!

Because HE Gave,  
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 Judy Zuspahn, PA-C

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## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Bakin'

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14												
17												
20												
23												
33	34	35	36									
39												
43												
47												
57	58	59										
62												
65												
68												

- ACROSS**
1. Unmannerly sort
  5. Printers' measures
  10. They impart bitterness to beer
  14. Church recess
  15. Sachet emanation
  16. Assist in wrongdoing
  17. One of two on a diamond
  19. Hermitic
  20. Richards of "Jurassic Park"
  21. Beer lover's heaven
  23. Get underway
  24. On the bounding main
  25. "the dirty, rotten..."
  29. Hi from Hawaii
  33. Sheepskin receiver
  37. Take habitually
  38. Like many O. Henry stories
  39. Vintner's prefix
  40. "\_\_\_ by the bell!"
  42. Farmland measure
  43. River in a Strauss waltz
  45. One of the Clantons
  46. Supply grub to
  47. Wolfgang Puck eatery
  48. Work the dough
  50. Car engine connection
  52. Streetwise, perhaps
  57. Raises trivial objections
  61. Prepares for a crash
  62. Golden Rule word
  63. Social elite
  65. Without purpose
  66. "Circle of Friends" author Binchy
  67. Elder or alder

- American Profile Hometown Content  
6/24/2012
68. Smoke-filled room fillers
69. Knight's mount
70. Srs.' exams
- DOWN**
1. Rummy yummys
  2. '60s poster genre
  3. Port of old Rome
  4. Pave over
  5. Lawyer's assistant, briefly
  6. Apr. addressee
  7. Baseball's "Georgia Peach"
  8. Indifferent to right and wrong
  9. Big band section
  10. Result of compromise, figuratively
  11. Bassoon's kin
  12. Stationer's supply
  13. Editor's "leave it"
  18. Opposite of ecto-
  22. Have on
  26. Rag, to a Molotov cocktail
  27. Botanist Gray
  28. "Rosemary's Baby" writer Ira
  30. First word of "The Raven"
  31. Add to the payroll
  32. Didn't merely pass
  33. Mount Olympus dwellers
  34. Use a sickle
  35. Paquin or Magnani
  36. Tommies' WWI allies
  38. Prelude to an invention
  41. \_\_\_ out (just manage)
  44. Chucklehead
  48. Stay with
  49. Ste. Jeanne \_\_\_
  51. Urban eyesores
  53. \_\_\_ and all (as is)
  54. Integra maker, once
  55. Revert to 12:00, say
  56. \_\_\_ Park, Colorado
  57. Groucho remark
  58. Bring to naught
  59. "\_\_\_ never fly!"
  60. Graf \_\_\_
  61. Raised, as racehorses
  64. 12/24 or 12/31

**LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION**

Aficionados

D	E	C	G	E	R	M	S	D	O	M	E			
P	O	L	A	E	D	I	C	A	W	O	L			
C	E	I	L	I	N	G	F	A	N	Y	E	L		
T	R	A	I	N	E	E	S	C	O	N	E	Y		
	B	R	R		S	A	H	L						
	F	R	E	A	K	A	C	C	I	D	E	N		
B	A	L	E	D	E	B	E	R	T	L	E	O		
O	B	I	S	D	E	A	N	E	L	I	O	N		
M	O	N	P	O	N	T	I	M	E	A	N	S		
B	U	G	C	O	L	L	E	C	T	I	O	N		
	A	L	L	Y		A	N	N						
S	P	A	T	E		A	S	C	E	T	I	C	S	
H	A	L	T		H	I	C	K	O	R	Y	N	U	T
O	P	A	L		J	B	E	A	M		N	O	S	Y
W	A	N	E		C	E	S	T	A		E	N	S	

## Weather Whys

Q: Besides the US what are some other places in the world that have tornadoes?

A: There have been some strong tornadoes reported in South America, Brent McRoberts of Texas A&M University says. "In 1973 a tornado hit Argentina that killed 54 people and was unusually strong for that part of the world," he reports. "Also that year, a tornado did some heavy damage in Brazil. A series of tornadoes hit Bangladesh, located near India, in 1996 that killed more than 600 people and injured 12,000. And Germany has reported more than 500 tornadoes since 1900. There are probably more tornadoes worldwide than we know about because in many countries, the actual confirmation and reporting of a tornado tends to be very sketchy."

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# ROUND-UP

## Runnels County

4 Winters Enterprise

Thursday, July 05, 2012

### Driver killed in crash in Knox Co

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
STAFF REPORT

ABILENE- One person was killed in a one-vehicle crash occurring last Monday, July 2, 2012 in Knox County, Texas. Christopher Luna Cruz, 24-years-of-age from Knox City, Texas, was pronounced dead at the scene at 10:45 a.m. by Judge Ivey.

The accident happened at 5 a.m. on State Highway 6, 5 miles north of Benjamin, Texas. Luna Cruz was driving a 2004 Dodge pickup truck. According to a press release by the Texas Department of Public Safety Cruz was not wearing a seat belt.

Cruz was driving the truck south-bound on State Highway 6 when he failed to negotiate a curve. The ve-

hicle traveled into the west-barrow ditch. As the driver overcorrected the vehicle travels across the roadway into the east-barrow ditch and overturned. The driver was ejected from the vehicle.

The weather was clear and the roadway dry. This crash is being investigated by Trooper Nick Jimenez.

### Financial Focus

#### Work toward your own financial Independence Day

LARRY GILBERT  
FINANCIAL ADVISOR

Once again, Independence Day is here, bringing fireworks and barbecues. Of course, the 4th of July is more than hoopla — it's a time to reflect on the many freedoms we enjoy in this country. Yet, for many people, one important type of freedom — financial freedom — is still elusive. So you may want to use this holiday as an occasion to think of those steps you can take to eventually declare your own Financial Independence Day.

Here are some moves that can help:

Create a strategy. Financial freedom doesn't just happen — it takes planning, patience and perseverance. To work toward your financial independence, you'll need to create a financial strategy, in conjunction with your financial advisor, and stick to that strategy. Over time, you'll need to make adjustments, but if your overall strategy is appropriate for your goals, time horizon and risk tolerance, it should help you get you to where you want to go.

Contribute as much as possible to your retirement plans. Each year, put in as much as you can afford to your 401(k) or similar employer-

sponsored retirement plan, such as a 457(b) if you work for a state or local government or a 403(b) if you work for a school or other tax-exempt organization. These plans offer the potential for tax-deferred earnings, so your retirement funds can grow faster than if they were placed in an investment on which you paid taxes every year. Also, if you're eligible, try to "max out" on your IRA every year.

Maintain adequate life insurance. If you have a family, you aren't just thinking of your own financial independence — you have to think of theirs, too. And that's why you need to maintain adequate life insurance, particularly during the years when your children are growing up. But even after they've left the home, you may find that life insurance can be valuable in providing retirement funds for your spouse, should anything happen to you. And if you have permanent life insurance, which contains an investment component, you can generally access the cash value, through policy loans or withdrawals, to help pay for your own retirement.

Protect yourself from long-term care costs. You may never need any type of long-term care, such

as a stay in a nursing home or assistance from a home health aide, but if you do, the enormous costs can threaten your financial independence — and possibly even put an economic strain on your spouse or grown children. After all, the national average rate for a private room in a nursing home is more than \$87,000 per year, according to the 2011 MetLife Market Survey of Nursing Home, Assisted Living, Adult Day Services, and Home Care Costs. And the national hourly rate for home health aides is \$21, according to the same survey. Medicare typically pays very little of these costs, which puts the burden on you. Fortunately, some investment vehicles can help you deal with long-term care expenses. Consult with your financial advisor to determine which of these vehicles may be appropriate for your needs.

A national holiday won't be declared when you achieve your financial independence — but, for you, it will be a time well worth celebrating. So do what it takes to work toward the arrival of that happy day.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

### RUNNELS CO JAIL RECORD

Name	Age	Agency	Charges
Raymond Garza	56	Coke	P. I.
Cesar Iracheta	25	Concho	Indecency with a child sexual/Pur/Furn alcohol to minor.
John Medina	23	BPD	Poss. marijuana
Johnny Gaston	53	BPD	Driving with no D.L.
Hunter Kennedy	20	RCSO	Sent to 12 days Co. Jail
Kori Demory	30	Coke	Theft by checks
Mykill Payne	37	Concho	Consumption on restricted premise/ P.I.
Erica Elizarraraz	25	Concho	Asslt. w/ B.I. F.V.
Trent White	25	Coke	DWI > 0.15
Ruben Castillo	19	Coke	DWLI Enhanced
Brendyn Dickerson	23	Coke	DWLI Enhanced
Bradly Horton	23	WPD	Crim. Misch. Class C
Oscar Salinas, Sr.	49	Concho	Agg. Asslt. w/B.I.
Oscar Salinas, Jr.	27	Concho	Agg. Asslt. w/ B.I.
Randy Spears	33	Miles	Asslt. Fam. Viol.

### Forest Service receives award for wildfire prevention efforts

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
STAFF REPORT

COLLEGE STATION- Texas Forest Service's Mitigation and Prevention Department teaches that the best kind of wildfire is the one that never happens. Team members took that message to the streets last year during a record-setting wildfire season, and recently were honored for their effort with a Bronze Smokey Bear Award.

Bronze Smokey Bear Awards are presented annually by the U.S. Forest Service to organizations or individuals that have made an outstanding contribution to statewide wildfire prevention efforts.

Texas Forest Service's 2011 public information campaign was a group effort of the agency's Wildland Urban Interface Specialists and Communications Department, along with teams from other states. The group prepared flyers, brochures and booklets in English and Spanish that detailed how to prepare for a wildfire and steps that can be taken to prevent a dangerous blaze from destroying your home.

### Legacy of educator, activist lives on at research center

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
STAFF REPORT

HOUSTON — Dorothy I. Height devoted her life to education, civil rights and women's rights. Her legacy and passion for improving the lives of Americans continues with the naming of the Dorothy I. Height Center for Health Equity and Evaluation Research (CHEER) - a collaboration between The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

and the University of Houston.

"Little did I realize how my chance meeting with her while visiting her niece would lead to a two-decade relationship that ultimately resulted in CHEER being the first center to bear her name," said Lovell Jones, Ph.D., director of CHEER and co-founder of the Intercultural Cancer Council (ICC).

Height, who lived almost a century, received the

Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Congressional Gold Medal and was inducted into the Women's Hall of Fame for her many accomplishments. During her 41-year tenure as president of the National Council of Negro Women, she established national programs and was recognized for developing positive changes in communities and lives. She continued her activities until her passing in

April 2010.

"We're all extremely honored and excited that the center honors one of the true legends in social work," said Ira Colby, Ph.D., dean of the Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Houston. "Dorothy I. Height was a pillar of strength who made life better for all people. We're confident that CHEER will carry out her legacy with excellence and dignity."

### Veteran's Corner

The Department of Veterans Affairs can pay a burial allowance of \$2,000 for veterans who die of service-related causes. There is no time limit to claim reimbursement of burial expenses for a service-related death. In other cases of non-service related deaths, claims must be filed within two years of the veteran's burial. For more information, contact Sandra at the Veterans Service Office at 602 Strong Ave or call 365-3612.

Sandra G. Van Zant  
Veterans County Service Officer  
P.O. Box 108  
Ballinger, TX 76821  
Phone (325) 365-3612  
E-mail rcvso@wtxs.net

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# THE IDLE AMERICAN

## Uncle Mort on line...

Cometary by  
Dr. Don Newbury

Truthfully, It stands to reason that my Uncle Mort, who'll reach the century mark on July 4, would be busy with final party details. He's been promising the ultimate in "whoop-te-doing" since last summer. Friends from far and wide are invited, all expecting a unique birthday observance.

Oddly, he's been leaving home early and coming in late during the final days of his 99th year, and now we know why: Mort, long known as a "promise-keeper," is particularly reliable on promises made to himself. Years ago, he vowed to be "in the e-mail business" before his 100th birthday.

He's made good, thanks to a crash course — "computers for dummies" — at the county library. Mort was the last to enroll, tears

streaming as he turned loose of a \$20 bill. He joined half a dozen others, increasing the average age of enrollees by a dozen years....

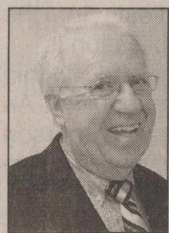
I was privileged (?) to receive his very first e-mail. It didn't say much, but indicated he was at work on his first "official" e-mail to be sent later in the day.

Saying he was mighty proud of Texas A&M University, his "alma mater" (where he took a week-end course in first-aid for snake bites a half-century ago), he composed an e-mail for the "top-most" Aggie official.

I assume A&M System Chancellor John Sharp got it a few hours later and that it resulted in a grin or

two. My uncle copied it to me. It was brimful of congratulatory thoughts, suitable for framing. (I speak from limited personal experience, but when

chancellors receive correspondence opening with congratulatory sentiments, the next paragraph usually begins with "However"...) In the interest of time and space, I'll quote the e-mail in its entirety....



TEXAS  
COLUMNIST  
Don  
Newbury

Dear Chancellor Sharp: First off, I want to express belated appreciation for training received in the weekend snake-bite treatment class back in the 50's. True, I was admitted on probation, perhaps for my offer to "take the bite" if the teacher wanted to demonstrate the "real deal." This

was my only formal higher education, but it did qualify me to receive periodic fund-raising appeals from the development office even to this day.

I hope to send a little check when I get to doing better. Please direct it to the Medical School. I am "pleased as punch" about the government grant announced a few days ago. You claim it's "one of the biggest federal grants coming to Texas since NASA." Now that's a mouthful about a tubful, but if the feds have a couple of billion dollars for development of a vaccine for pandemic diseases, take it! A&M's been "needled" a lot over the years, so now we can "needle back!" Ain't this a step up from 'giggin'?

I admit, though, that my pandem has never acted up—knock on wood! Pandemonium could break out in a flash. This is not

to say that you, or tons of other people, haven't been "laid low" by pandem problems, so bring on the serum, ASAP....

Now that you've made a chancellor of yourself, don't put "pre-academia" jokes completely aside. You used to claim that you ate so much boiled okra as a kid, your socks wouldn't stay up until you were 20 years old. BTW, is "controlling" faculty any tougher than "comptrolling" Texas? (Please—no lecture about pronunciation of "comptroller.")

Back to my possible pledge: I'll send 10% of next month's pension—if birthday party expenses don't go over budget. Please use part of it for the School of Engineering.

With all the increases in railway freight, there's always going to be jobs for folks to drive the trains....

A "shade tree" vet nearby has a diploma on his wall. He claims to have two A&M degrees—veterinary medicine and taxidermy—that may be fakes. A sign reads: "Either way you get your dog back."

Hope life goes well for you in academia, and sorry you have to wear a tie every day. Somehow, it don't seem right, since administrators spend so much time squirming. Hope your "squirm" doesn't go out before your pandem fails! (At least you're out of politics. Oh? You mean there are politics there, too?)

Signed: Your friend,  
Uncle Mort, Snake-bite Class of '54....

Dr. Newbury is a speaker in the Metroplex. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Twitter: @donnewbury. Web site: www.speakerdoc.com.

## COLEMAN COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

### 74<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**MEETING LOCATION HAS CHANGED TO COLEMAN HIGH SCHOOL**

July 20, 2012 - 5:30 p.m.  
Coleman High School • Coleman, Texas

## Warming up for Fiesta time in Coleman

WINTERS ENTREPRISE  
STAFF REPORT

COLEMAN- The Annual Fiesta Membership show, sponsored by Fine Arts League of Coleman Co., Inc., is just around the corner, the show will be held on October 5-6, 2012. Bill Shields, President, has secured the Judge for this event.

It is rewarding when an artist, such as Jo Beth Gilliam, agrees to come to Coleman and ply her artistic wisdom to the entries by the members of FALCC. The show is quite different from most as it includes entries by the membership of all artistic media including watercolor, oils, pastels, acrylics, mixed, along with quilting, sculpture, and photography, collage, etc.

The "league" holds a competition each year for the cover brochure/

advertising for the show. Each member submits his/her creation for the judge to consider. The winner will be the official advertising/ brochure cover for the 2012 Fiesta Show. 2010 competition was won by Marian Johnson, with a rendition of an Indian Pot on colorful striped sarape. The 2011 "Fiesta de la Paloma" doves in watercolor by Sher Dunaway was chosen as the winner. These two past winners are not eligible to compete in this year's contest. Members are encouraged to get their work done, submit in digital form to Marian Johnson by email. The digital images will be sent to Jo Beth for judging for 2012. If you need a digital photo taken of your work, call or email Marian @ 325-214-7036 or mljdj@web-access.net. Deadline for entries to be judged is August 15, 2012.

This years judge, Jo Beth Gilliam, is a Lubbock, Texas native and has been painting over 40 years. Her first watercolor class in 1982 began an exciting journey, developing her loose and colorful style. Jo Beth has won numerous awards and has collectors in both the United States and Europe. 'Santa Fe Morning' was selected for the Splash 10 Best of Watercolor, 2008, North Light Book publication along with 'Hats Off' which appears in 2012, Artist Touch. Commissions for brochures, telephone book covers, magazine covers and articles appear with her recognizable style. Her works have exhibited at Security State Bank Abilene, Texas, Lubbock Christian University, Lubbock, Texas, and South Plains College at Levelland, Texas. She is presently represented by Forger Gallery in Midland, Texas, Abilene-n-Art, Abilene, Texas and Rendr Frame and Gallery, Lubbock.

Early in her career she studied with Christopher Schink, and Frank Webb who inspired her to continue to experiment with the watercolor medium. In addition to painting, Jo Beth's focus for many years, has been teaching and sharing the spontaneity and excitement of watercolor.



PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED  
Artist Jo Beth Gilliam will be judging and sharing her artistic wisdom with the members of FALCC.

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### 74<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

#### COLEMAN COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

FRIDAY, JULY 20, 2012

COLEMAN HIGH SCHOOL  
COLEMAN, TX

5:30 – 7:00 P.M.  
Registration

6:15 – 6:45 P.M.  
Entertainment

7:00 – 8:00 P.M.  
Business Meeting

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