

The Winters Enterprise



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Thursday, June 19, 2014

Winters, Texas 75¢

City Council passes rezoning for Walmart

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS- Following the Planning and Zoning Board approval and public hearing, Monday night, June 16, 2014, the Winters City Council approved the rezoning for a property located on NEC N. Main Street and Novice Road to C-1 to allow for development of Walmart Express.

Winters Acting City Secretary Shelly Antilley-Guevara said that was the only agenda item dealt with during Monday night's meeting, besides the budget workshop and the tabled petition by the Winters Chamber of Commerce to have a fireworks display.

This is the latest move from the world largest retailer to open a store in Winters under

a new concept, created to offer low prices in a smaller format, and provide convenient access shopping trips. The "Express" stores give Walmart flexibility, especially in rural and urban areas where shoppers may not have access to larger stores.

Previously, on April 28, the City Council approved a variance for sell of alcohol, and on

May 19 another variance to city ordinances was passed regarding the number of parking slots required for the store.

Walmart's corporate has not released any official information regarding the new store in Winters, but a source revealed that plans are underway to open before yearend. This would be one of five new stores in the West Texas area.

The Winters store will be having a pharmacy among other amenities.

The opening of a new retail store could represent a turning point for the local economy, where during the last few months two banks — Compass and Citbank — have closed their Winters branches, while Dairy Queen also closed for good in March.

Having a fun time at the Winters Public Library

WINTERS ENTERPRISE
STAFF REPORT

WINTERS- A "trip" to Antarctica and a visit by a couple of Hardin Simmons University's Six White Horses have been enjoyed by children attending the Summer Reading Program at the Winters Public Library.

On June 3, 2014, Nancy Robinson Masters read a book about the early exploration of Antarctica and shared her personal experiences about life on the cold continent of Antarctica. A fun game was played with toy penguins. Debra Jones and one of the student riders came to town on June 10, 2014, saddling the horses behind the Blue Gap Post Office and giving rides to all children who wanted to ride after hearing a story about Cotton, one of the horses.

Everyone had a great time at this event. Preschool children and their parents have enjoyed stories and activities led by Mrs. Dianne Davis. This is a new story time added to the summer schedule at the library.

All children are encouraged to come to the library for events throughout the summer and to read 12 books so they can receive a t-shirt. Future events are scheduled on June 24, July 15, and August 12.



PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED
Nancy Robinson Masters reads a book about the early exploration of Antarctica and shares her personal experiences about life in Antarctica.



PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

The 2014 Industrial Tournament Championship Flight winners left to right: Anthony Ochoa, Jim Ventress and Gary Hughes.

Winters Country Club hosts the 2014 Industrial Tournament

WINTERS ENTERPRISE
STAFF REPORT

WINTERS- Lonestar Production comprised by Anthony Ochoa, Jim Ventress and Gary Hughes claimed first of the Championship Flight, at the 2014 Industrial Tournament held over the weekend at the Winters Country Club.

Representing Pioneer Vet Clinic Jerry B. Whitlow, Rob Shields and Dave Glenn placed second while the third place was Guy's Dirt team: Barron Guy, Shane Colburn and Aaron Colburn.

In the First Flight claiming first were Kenny Gibbs, Lane Gibbs and Mark Allen playing under Casa Cabana; Jerry Sims, Bill Mesey and David Hoelscher got second for Standard Pump, while the third place was for the Coleman County Electric team: Mark Garrett, Trent Smith and Ricky Baker.

Second Flight honors were for the Donica Roustabout team: Tena Martinez, Devin Martinez and Donovan Martinez. Bob Prewit got second with Bob Prewit, Sara Prewit and Michael Prewit, followed by KW Sharp: Janice Merrill, Melissa Kasper and Jeff Kasper.

WHS student gets college scholarship for outstanding achievements

WINTERS ENTERPRISE
STAFF REPORT

SAN ANTONIO- Kara Lynn Heathcott of Winters, Texas was selected to receive the 2014 All American Scholar Award sponsored by Catholic Life Insurance, the nation's eighth largest fraternal life insurer. Each year, Catholic Life awards 35 scholarships worth \$1,000 each to graduating high school seniors who not only demonstrated outstanding leadership skills and academic achievements, but have also gone above and beyond in their civic duties and made a difference in their communities.

The All American Scholar Award was designed to offset tuition costs for young Catholic Life members attending an accredited college or university in the fall semester immediately following their senior year of high school. This award recognizes those special



PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED
Kara Heathcott, recipient of the All American Scholar Award.

individuals who have dedicated their valuable time and efforts to helping others while remaining devoted to their academic studies, and Catholic Life Insurance strives to reward this high degree of selfless commitment.

Heathcott, who plans to attend Tarleton State University, is the daughter of Denny and Barbara Heathcott. She is very

active in the 4-H Club, FFA, Student Council, the National Honor Society, the Church Youth Group and Vacation Bible School, Teen ACTS, UIL Academics, Marching and Concert Band, and varsity sports including softball, golf, and basketball. She has also worked part time as a hired assistant for Kraatz Plumbing and as a babysitter.

The scholarship is open to Catholic Life members who are also graduating high school seniors. Scholarship winners are selected based on their community service, demonstration of leadership qualities and scholastic achievement.

To apply for the 2015 All American Scholar Award, please view the criteria and application online at www.cliu.com or contact the Communications Department at (800) 292-2548. Deadline is March 1, 2015.

Libertarian candidate campaigns in Runnels Co

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
WINTERS ENTERPRISE

BALLINGER- The yellow bus stopped in Ballinger last Friday morning, June 13, 2014. Libertarian candidate for Governor Kathie Glass came to Ballinger as part of her Texas 254 Tour, a tour that will take her to each and every one of the Texas counties.

She defines herself as a Texan, patriot, wife, mother, lawyer, self-made woman, business owner.

She wants to be the next governor of Texas because everything she loves is under attack by what she calls "an increasingly tyrannical federal government" with no effective resistance.

"We need to do something different because we can't have our statewide officers be elected by five cities, we are going to rural Texas with small, and medium-sized cities, because the issues are different for us, we have problems and perspectives that urban cities don't see."

Kathie was born in



PHOTO: RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
Libertarian candidate for Governor Kathie Glass campaigned in Ballinger on Friday, June 13, 2014.

Buford, Georgia and was the first in her family to go to college, Kathie worked her way through college and law school. At the age of 20, Kathie graduated magna cum laude from the University of Georgia with a degree in English. At the age of 23, she graduated from the University of Georgia School of Law.

In 1977 Kathie came to Texas. She married Tom Glass and they raised their

two children in Houston. Tom and Kathie have a small ranch in Lee County. Kathie was the Libertarian nominee for governor in 2010.

Kathie practiced as a highly successful civil trial lawyer in Houston for over 30 years. She worked in large, medium, and small law firms, including her own firm in which she employed as many as 20 employees.

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ROLL-UP

Runnels County

4 Winters Enterprise

Thursday, June 19, 2014

From the Dust Bowl to present days: 75 years of soil and water conservation

CLYDE GOTTSCHALK

SPECIAL TO THE WINTERS ENTERPRISE

BALLINGER—“May 29, 2014 marks the diamond jubilee of the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the beginning of Texas soil and water conservation districts. The date is also the official kickoff date for many celebratory events around the state throughout the year commemorating the event,” said Rex Isom, executive director of the agency.

The problems of wind and water erosion in the 1930s — the reason for the creation of the TSSWCB and SWCDs in Texas as well as in other states — caused great land devastation in Texas and throughout the Great Plains region of the country.

The era was marked by a period of drought from 1931 to 1939 that was coupled with severe wind-driven soil erosion of overgrazed rangeland and soil exposed by the use of farming practices not adapted to the semiarid U.S. Great Plains.

“In addition, this catastrophic display of nature caught public attention at a time when the state and nation was in the throes of a great economic depression. Nature just added additional woes to the suffering of the people because some of the worst dust storms that had ever been seen in the history of the country were occurring at that time,” added Isom.

In his book *The Worst Hard Time*, Timothy Egan notes the horrendous cataclysmic forces of nature which plagued the land and people during the early 1930s. This era of American and Texas history is better known as the “Dust Bowl.”

Egan vividly describes liv-

ing conditions that existed in that era.

“Dust clouds boiled up, 10,000 feet or more in the sky, and rolled like moving mountains and when the dust fell, it penetrated everything: hair, nose, throat, kitchen, bedroom, but the eeriest thing was the darkness. People tied themselves to ropes before going to a barn just a few hundred feet away from the house for fear of being lost in the blackness of the swirling dust. Buildings, fences, and farm implements were seen as all but buried under the devastating effects of wind-blown soils.”

Egan goes on to say that the storms had ferocity and density never before seen and they came to be known by many as “black blizzards.”

“So, out of this chaos of nature and economic depression the TSSWCB and SWCDs were born. It should be noted that since the creation of the TSSWCB and organization of local soil and water conservation districts we can proudly say that the majority of Texas farmers, ranchers and timber producers from one generation to the next for the past 75 years have voluntarily and continuously entered into working agreements with their local SWCDs to implement a soil and water conservation program on their farms and ranches to meet the changing conservation needs of every acre on that property,” said Isom.

But the story didn't begin smoothly. It had a rocky start until all the political kinks were worked out. When the first version of a conservation law for Texas came out the early movers and shakers for such

a law found that it lacked stability and convinced then Governor Jimmy Allred to veto the bill which he did in June, 1937. Their reasons for wanting the bill vetoed was because the law would automatically establish soil conservation districts on a county basis, make the county commissioners court the governing body and called for a portion of county taxes to finance the program,” said Isom.

“What they wanted in law was a farmer-rancher controlled program in which local landowners would determine whether a soil conservation district was needed. In addition, they did not want a soil conservation district to have taxing authority or powers of eminent domain. A new bill was written which satisfied their concerns and passed in 1939 by the following legislature. The rest is history,” added Isom.

Today the TSSWCB administers several key state programs that provide technical and financial assistance to landowners and land managers who wish to enter into a cooperative agreement with local SWCDs to protect their natural resources. In addition, the success of local voluntary conservation programs involves partnerships. Though the name has changed a few times over the years, a key partner working with the TSSWCB and local SWCDs is the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. NRCS employs people in numerous occupational disciplines including soil conservationists, rangeland management specialists, soil scientists, agronomists, biologists, engineers, geologists, engi-

neers, and foresters. Some federal conservation financial assistance programs, enable these experts to help landowners and land managers develop conservation plans for crop, range, and timberlands.

“Conservation practices implemented on private agricultural lands benefit all citizens because implemented conservation practices not only protect and improve soil resources, but insure a sustainable agriculture from which come food products and the raw commodities which drive all aspects of the economy. In addition, conservation practices improve water quality, and in some cases, enhance water quantity, but public benefits don't end there. Implemented conservation practices also contribute to cleaner air, improved wildlife habitat, improved rangeland as well as being a factor to healthy and viable rural and urban communities,” Isom noted.

“The only reason the TSSWCB still exists 75 years after its establishment is because of the state's soil and water conservation districts, and they in turn exist because of the state's farmers and ranchers who come to local SWCDs for help in planning and implementing conservation programs on private lands. This diamond jubilee then is a celebration of a success story that has worked across the state and across generations because it is based on local control by those closest to the issues,” said Isom.

Isom's words certainly reflect the philosophy of V.C. Marshall, considered the “father of the conservation district program in Texas” who is attributed with say-

ing, “The soil conservation district is the workshop through which those who love the and pool their efforts and information in making land more stable and productive and our country more prosperous, more attractive and a better land in which to live. The fact that landowners themselves have the responsibility for petitioning for and voting in a district, formulating its program and work plan, administering its business and entering into cooperative agreements with their fellow landowners and operators, makes soil conservation districts a democracy in action.”

Will the work of the state's 216 soil and water conservation districts ever be completed, and will the soil and water conservation programs administered by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board ever be fully achieved? Probably not. Land ownership changes, or family land when passed on through inheritance is cut into smaller pieces of the pie accompanied with varying land management objectives. Then too, an ever changing political environment coupled with ever changing climatic conditions and agricultural technological advancements all impact existing and future soil and water conservation programs and practices that are implemented on the land.

The late Raymond F. Dasmann, professor emeritus of ecology at University of California, Santa Cruz added additional insight as to why conservation of natural resources is a perpetual process. He said, “Most conservation problems exist on particular pieces of ground

occupied or cared for by a particular group of people. Attempts to solve them at a global, or even a national level, often strike far from the mark.”

Thus the words of the founding father of the Texas Soil and Water Conservation District Program rings even truer... “The fact that landowners themselves have the responsibility for organizing a local SWCD, formulating its program and plan of work, administering its business and entering into cooperative agreements with their fellow landowners and operators, makes soil conservation districts a democracy in action.”

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) administers Texas' soil and water conservation law and delivers coordinated natural resource conservation programs through the State's 216 soil and water conservation districts.

Additionally, the TSSWCB is the lead agency for planning, implementing, and managing programs for preventing and abating agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint sources of water pollution. The agency also administers a water supply enhancement program through the targeted control of water-depleting brush.

The TSSWCB, in an additional area of responsibility, acts to ensure that the State's network of 2,000 flood control dams are protecting lives and property by providing operation, maintenance, and structural repair grants to local government sponsors. The agency also facilitates the Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee.

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