



Blizzards vs. Jim Ned

SEE PAGE 8

The Winters Enterprise



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Volume 26, Issue 14

Thursday, March 3, 2016

Winters, Texas 75c

Briefly

THC special delivery

Eva Osborne, an architect with the Texas Historic Commission, personally delivered the master plan for the Runnels County Courthouse on Friday, Feb. 26. The last version of the master plan was drawn up in 2004. Osborne had an impromptu meeting with Runnels County Judge Barry Hilliard where they discussed a possible courthouse renovation project. Runnels County may submit a grant application for the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program during the next round of funding set for 2017.

Commissioners have been considering upgrades to the courthouse including a new roof, lighting as well as plumbing and electrical work.

The Runnels County Courthouse was dedicated in 1889.

Quanah Parker exhibit coming

The Rock Hotel Heritage Center will present a special display of photographs, artifacts and documents depicting the life of Quanah Parker March 19-April 30. Both his Indian and White roads of life will be featured. His mother Cynthia Ann Parker will also be featured. Visiting hours for the exhibit will be from 1-4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and by special appointment. Photographs will show Quanah, on the Indian road, as a Comanche warrior and chief and as a successful White politician and businessman, on the White road. In coordination with the Texas Lakes Trails Region of the Texas Historical Commission these items will be proudly presented. For additional information contact the museum at 325-754-5398.

ON THE NET:
zihalemuseum@wtxs.net

The last drop

A cold front converged over the area Tuesday dropping overnight temperatures in to the low 40s, the National Weather Service reported. But the spring weather will return with high temperatures reaching 78 to 80 degrees throughout the week and into the weekend.

A warming trend is forecast for the area starting Thursday through Sunday with highs reaching in the upper 70s and up to 80. No rain is in the forecast.

So far this year, Ballinger has received .67 inches of rainfall, with .41 reported in Wingate and .80 received in San Angelo.

The official rainfall for 2015 was 28.87 inches for Ballinger, 33.24 inches for Wingate and 26.78 inches reported in San Angelo.

ON THE NET:
<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/sjt/>

Sqyres elected sheriff, Mints defeats Scott for commissioner



CELINDA HAWKINS | LEDGER PHOTO

A steady stream of Runnels County flocked to the polls on Super Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at the Runnels County elections office on Strong Avenue.

BY CELINDA HAWKINS
MANAGING EDITOR
WINTERS ENTERPRISE
chawkins@ballingerledger.com

Voters made their choice on Super Tuesday in Runnels County choosing Sgt. Carl Sqyres as the new Runnels County sheriff and in an upset, electing Roy Mints as Precinct 3 commissioner.

Sqyres defeated Miles Police Chief Toby Virden with 1,505 votes to Virden's 857 votes.

After the ballot boxes were tallied, Sqyres was celebrating with supporters at the community room at the Ball-

inger Housing Authority. Sqyres will take office Jan. 1, 2017 replacing Sheriff Bill Baird, who has served in the position for more than 30 years.

"It feels amazing," Sqyres said. "I can thank everyone for everything they have done. It is truly amazing all the support I've had throughout the county. I have some big shoes to fill."

Throughout the campaign, Sqyres has said he wants to be tough on the drug problem in Runnels County and to work to bring criminals to justice. Sam Scott, who was



Carl Sqyres Roy Mints

running for a second term as Precinct 3 Commissioner, was defeated by Roy Mints, with the totals in the close race finalized at 271 votes for Scott and

SEE ELECTIONS, Page 8

BLIZZARDS vs. JIM NED



PHOTO COURTESY JOE GERHART

Kyler Richards appears to be suspended in mid-air as he catches a pop fly ball during the game with Jim Ned Feb. 23. Richards will be signing with Wayland Baptist University in Plainview on Wednesday, March 9.

Conaway honored with Golden Plow award

SPECIAL TO THE WINTERS ENTERPRISE

Texas Congressman Mike Conaway of Midland has received the prestigious Golden Plow award from the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) for his outstanding service to America's farmers and ranchers.

Conaway, who is chairman of the House Com-

mittee on Agriculture, was presented the award on Feb. 24 in Washington, D.C., by AFBF President Zippy Duvall and Texas Farm Bureau President Russell Boening.

"Chairman Conaway fights hard for Texas growers and for farmers and ranchers across the country. He is most deserving of the Golden Plow award, and we're

thrilled he is being recognized with this prestigious honor," said Boening.

"Whether it is improving farm program safety nets, reining-in the regulations of overreaching federal agencies or extending important tax considerations for producers, Chairman Conaway's leadership is making a huge difference

SEE CONAWAY, Page 8



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Texas Congressman Mike Conaway (center) receives the Golden Plow award from American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall (right) and Texas Farm Bureau President Russell Boening (left).



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The Market Perspective

Negative sentiment abounds, typical of the bottoming process

Midwest refiners are swimming in gasoline, forcing them to cut back production until the excess can be worked off. The result has been more crude oil available in the market, worsening a glut that has been undermining oil prices.

Energy firms pledge to ride out the glut even as they predict many won't survive.

Wall Street Journal Thursday February 25, 2016.

"All we hear in Houston is cut cut cut..."

Remark from a Houston visitor to me yesterday.

This column has maintained that a bottom will occur as that happens amid just such doom and gloom. Indeed, Chesapeake Energy CHK is a good example. The stock rose 23% yesterday to \$2.69 no less than expected drop in revenue. Debt has been slashed by \$2 billion. The firm expects to raise another billion by selling non-core assets. Like many firms CHK has to choose between having enough

cash to run the company or continue the dividends. CHK suspended the dividend on its preferred. And CHK says it has no plans for heading to bankruptcy court.

And a look at the actual futures prices suggests that higher prices are ahead. June 2016 crude oil futures are \$34.90. June 2017 futures however are \$41.12. This has meant that even as oil prices have fallen, as we move to the next higher month, price is holding up much better than the percentage declines suggest. Exxon has rallied from \$71 to near \$83.

In Standard & Poor's Energy Sector, some 42% of stocks are now in an upward pattern. The energy ETF XLE is attempting to cross its 50-day moving average.

Despite the negative tone from Iran,



Dennis Elam

prices are still above \$30. April crude needs a daily closes over \$33.78 to turn its daily trend up.

Natural gas has been a disappointment now trading at \$1.84. April natural gas needs a close over \$2.05 to turn its trend up.

Globalization
Indeed there is more than just talk involved with the term "globalization." A few weeks ago my office phone rang. The caller identified himself as being with the Korean Broadcasting System for television. Would I be available this week for an interview regarding the US Energy market and prices? He was in San Francisco and would be joined by his documentary crew from South Korea. And by the way could I put him in touch with some companies having hands on experience in the shale production areas?

Indeed I could. I was aware of one of my students who had extensive experience in the Eagle Ford. I contacted him

SEE ELAM, Page 5

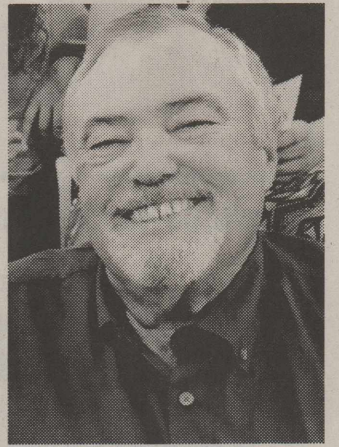
FUNERALS AND OBITUARIES

Terry Stewart

Terry Stewart, 68, of Winters, died February 29, 2016. He was born November 22, 1947 in Sweetwater and grew up in Abilene and San Angelo. He served in the United States Army having served in Viet Nam, Germany and Korea. He moved to Winters in 1979. He married Zelda McKibben December 30, 1989 in Winters. He was a truck driver and a heavy equipment operator.

He is survived by his wife: Zelda Stewart of Winters. Five children: Kelly Spill of San Antonio, Russell Stewart of San Antonio, Jason Stewart of Euless, Corey Spill of Runaway Bay, Texas and Jeffery Stewart of Ballinger. One brother: Joe Stewart of Rochester. 20 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 A.M. Saturday March 5, 2016 at St. John's Lutheran Church.



Winters Enterprise March 3, 2016

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

A Time for Freedom

A new addiction class is forming in Winters called "A Time for Freedom," and Pastor Tommy Akin, of the Pioneer Church of God in Winters will be overseeing the program which will provide addiction education to addicts, family and loved ones. The meetings will be held at 7 p.m. every Thursday at the Pioneer Church of God at 158 North Main St. in Winters. For more information call 903-474-4740.

Chamber Banquet March 5

The annual Winters Chamber of Commerce Banquet is set for Saturday, March 5 at the Winters Community Center. Man and Woman of the Year along with Agriculture Family of the Year will be honored. New awards to be announced at the banquet this year will be Teacher of the Year and First Responder of the Year. The banquet will be catered by The Shed. Tickets are \$20 each with a limited number of sponsorship tables available for \$200, seating eight people at each table.

St. Boniface BBQ

The Olfen St. Boniface Knights of Columbus and Catholic Daughters will

be selling barbecue chickens, homemade potato salad and beans Sunday, March 13 at the St. Boniface Catholic Church Parish Hall. Orders may be picked up at the drive through between 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Call Marty Frey at 365-6618 or David Rohmfeld at 442-3331 to place your order.

Immunization clinics in March

The Texas Department of State Health Services will hold immunization/flu shot clinics for children with Medicaid, no insurance, underinsured or adults with no insurance from 10 a.m. to noon and 1:30 to 3 p.m. in Ballinger at 600 Strong Ave. and from 10 a.m. to noon and 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Professional Building at 110 South Main, Suite 108 in Winters (please use the rear entrance on Grant Street). Please bring the child's immunization records and if child has Medicaid, please bring the card. For questions or to schedule an appointment call 325-754-4945, leave a message if there is no answer.

Visit Friendly Neighbors

The Texas Extension Education Agency "Friendly Neighbors" invites everybody in the Runnels County area who is

interested in learning about cooking, gardening, arts and crafts and other useful subjects to meetings at 2 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of every month (except during the summer). Meetings will alternate between the Runnels County Extension Office on the corner of south 7th Street and Sealy Ave. in Ballinger and the Winters Public Library at 120 N. Main St. in Winters. If you are interested and would like to find out more about this group, call Martha at 365-3890 or Judy at 754-5386.

Out of this world!

The Carnegie Library in Ballinger will be hosting an exhibit from NASA during the month of March. See NASA artifacts like official uniforms and suits to photos of the legendary moon walk in 1969 to models of the Space Shuttle, plus much more. The Carnegie Library will be featuring the NASA exhibit from March 8-23. Call the library 325-365-3616 to schedule a tour to see the exhibit.

Desert Storm veterans honored

The Rowena VFW Post 9196 and its auxiliary will be hosting a program honoring veterans from Operation Desert

Storm on Wednesday, March 9 following the regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend. For more information, contact Commander John Multer at 325-658-1655.

Runnels County Alzheimer's Support Group

The monthly Runnels County Alzheimer's Support Group will be held at Central Texas Nursing and Rehabilitation Center from 6:30-7:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month from. All concerned citizens are invited to share in discussion and education about the disease process and caregiver perspective. There is no charge for this public service sponsored by the National Alzheimer's Association.

Sobriety First AA Group

Sobriety First Alcoholics Anonymous group will meet at the First United Methodist Church, in Ballinger, at 7 p.m. every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. The group will meet Saturday with prior arrangements. Please use the Avenue A and Seventh Street entrance. Child care is available. For more information please contact the church at 325-365-2323.

Just Around the Corner

Come and get it in Runnels County

Are you hungry? Well, March is a big month for those who live to eat in

Runnels County. There are very few restaurants in the area,

but that's no big deal. If you are looking for a place to get some good eats in the Ballinger and Winters areas, never fear, there are some great options coming up as spring comes upon us. It is almost like the "pop up restaurant" which is a trendy way for groups and organizations to fund projects and events.

The week got off to a good start with the Baked Potato Luncheon sponsored by the kind ladies of the Ballinger Woman's Club. They had bakers with all the trimmings and a variety of salads, great for the folks coming from the ballot box who had worked up an appetite after voting on Super Tuesday. Thanks to you folks for voting, and thank's ladies for the deliciousness!

Saturday night is alright in Winters with the annual Chamber Banquet set for 7 p.m. at the Winters Community Center. On the menu for this event is

barbecue brisket with all the trimmings prepared by The Shed. Tickets are still available from chamber members in advance for \$20. They will be \$25 at the door.

Can you say chicken spaghetti? I knew you could and this Sunday, so can the fine folks over at First Christian Church in Ballinger, who will be serving up plates for only \$8 each. The lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and dine in, drive through, carry out and delivery is available by calling 365-2794.

Every week until the week of Easter, the Lenten luncheon series happens, with area churches offering lunch on Wednesdays. This week, First Presbyterian Church and the Glory Road Cowboy Church will be providing the meal at First Presbyterian in Ballinger. The lunches are sponsored by the Ministerial Alliance of Ballinger and the dinner bell rings at noon, and a short devotional is included. If you miss this week, St. Mary's will be hosting the lunch on March 16 and the last lunch will be held March 23 at First United Methodist Church.



Celinda Hawkins

You can sample a little bit of everything Thursday night at "Taste of Ballinger," from 5-7 p.m. at the community center. This shindig has been going on

for about seven years and features the fine cuisine from dozens of Runnels County's greatest chefs/cooks from area churches. Yes folks for only eight bucks, you can sample entrees, salads, sides and I hear, the desserts are to die for...so, this is a no brainer. And they will be sharing the recipes with everyone via a cookbook that will be for sale during the event.

Got a hankering for pancakes? Well the Norton Community Center is the place to be from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, March 5 when the Norton Lions Club will be flipping pancakes and serving them up in all-you-can eat fashion. The price is just \$8 for adults and \$4 for kiddos 12 and under.

Mark your calendars for next Sunday when the congregants at St. Boniface at Olfen, will be firing up the grills to fill orders for barbecue chicken, potato salad and beans on Sunday, March 13. You've got from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to pick up your order. And, you better place your orders early by calling Marty at 365-6618 or David at 325-442-3331.

If you missed the chicken spaghetti this week, never fear, the folks at the Ballinger Blaze 13U Select Baseball Team will be serving it up from 10:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, March 13. It's all carry out for \$8 a plate which includes spaghetti, garlic bread and dessert. And, as with all of these lunches, it's for a good cause, so go support the Ballinger Blaze.

I first saw this community food phenomena in September and October, when all of the churches were hosting fall festivals. It was incredible, the festivals at St. Boniface in Olfen and St. Joseph's in Rowena are prime examples of the exquisite cuisine that is cooked up in Runnels County.

SEE HAWKINS, Page 5

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Publication No. 5016 Postmaster:
One year mail subscription rates:
In Runnels County \$24.00
Outside Runnels County \$39.00
Out of State \$50.00

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Runnels County ROLL-UP

Runnels County Jail Record

March 3, 2016

Name	Age	Agency
Dalton K. Ott	20	Concho
Possession of controlled substance		
Jenita K. Baken	37	RCSO
Possession of control substance, theft of firearm		
Felipe E. Lopez	52	RCSO
Parole violation, delivery of controlled substance		
Norma C. Reyes	36	BPD
DWLI		
Nicole Lopez	35	Menard
Delivery of controlled substance		
Adam J. Stokes	40	RCSO
Warrants x2, criminal trespass		
Daniel C. Lane	32	Concho
DWLI		
Gerald E. Davenport	44	RCSO
Terroristic threat		
Jesse A. Cochran		Coke
DWLI		
Michael P. Hernandez	40	RCSO
Delivery of controlled substance school zone, delivery of controlled substance methamphetamine		
Jess Williamson	30	WPD
Resisting arrest, criminal mischief, assault, disorderly conduct		
Carlos Pena	18	WPD
Theft x2, warrant		
Clara Gil	35	Concho
Credit card or debit card abuse warrant		
Arthur R. Garcia	32	Concho
Possession of controlled substance, DWLI		
Adrian L. Branch	28	BPD
DWLI		

VETERAN'S CORNER

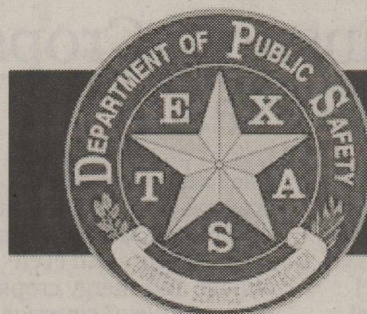


Sandra G. Van Zant

VA reached a historic milestone in reducing the disability claims backlog to a new low - and the number of these claims (pending more than 125 days) have come down even further since. This reduction was possible due to our 56 regional offices having the ability to process disability claims electronically from start to finish - more than 99.8 percent of VA's pending disability claims inventory is fully electronic. This flexibility allows VA to better manage its capabilities to best serve all veterans just as veterans served our nation - without regard to their state affiliations. By fully transitioning to a national workload approach, VA will be able to move claims electronically across regional office boundaries through the National Work Queue - an electronic workload management initiative designed to improve VBA's overall production capacity. The regional office in the state where you reside will continue to be the first filter for determining where your claim will be assigned, provided that office has the capacity to provide you with a timely decision. If not, your claim will be processed by the next available office that has the production capacity. You

can still maintain the ability to check the status of your claim through your eBenefits account, as well as through VBA's national call centers and regional office public contact representatives. With a national workload approach, VA will continue to focus on ensuring veterans, their families and survivors receive timely and accurate claim decisions - without regard to their state affiliations. There is a perception that a lot of the regional offices' decisions are appealed to the Board of Veterans' Appeals. This is not accurate. Historically, only 4 percent of all claims the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) decides are appealed to the board. The perception probably comes from the increasing number of pending appeals, but that growth is explained by looking at the math. In the last four years, VBA has completed more claims than ever before in its history. Because VBA has completed so many more claims, the volume of appeals has also increased, even though the rate of appeals of VA decisions has remained steady. For more information, contact Sandra Van Zant at the Veterans Service Office at 602 Strong Ave on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., or call 365-3612.

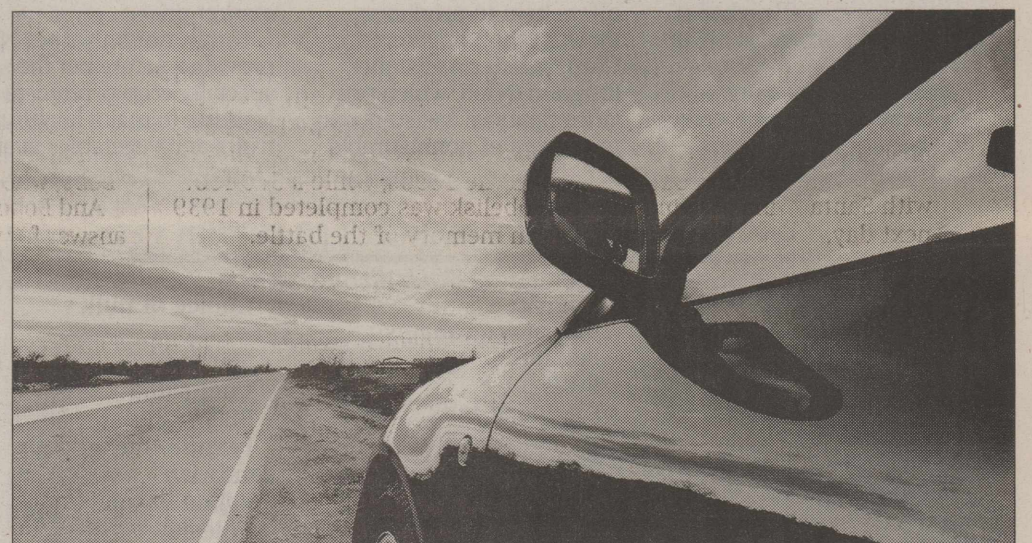
— Sandra G. Van Zant, Veterans County Service Officer



Texas Department of Public Safety

DPS offers Spring Break safety tips for Texans

AUSTIN - The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) is reminding Texans to drive responsibly and to take extra precautions as they make travel plans during Spring Break. "Each year during the weeks of Spring Break - with children out of school



and families taking vacation - there's a good chance that traffic will increase on our roadways," said DPS Director Steven McCraw. "DPS is encouraging drivers to help keep the roads safe for all travelers by adhering to safe driving practices and always driving sober."

- DPS offers the following tips for safe travel during the Spring Break holiday:
- Slow down - especially in bad weather, construction areas, heavy traffic and unfamiliar areas.
 - Eliminate distractions while driving, including the usage of mobile devices.

- Buckle up everyone in the vehicle - it's the law.
 - Don't drive fatigued, and allow plenty of time to reach your destination.
 - Drive defensively, as holiday travel may present additional challenges.
 - Make sure your vehicle is properly maintained before your trip begins.
 - Slow down or move over for tow trucks, as well as police, fire, EMS and Texas Department of Transportation vehicles stopped on the side of the road with emergency lights activated - it's the law.
- DPS troopers and local

law enforcement in the coastal areas of Texas will also be keeping our roads safe by enhancing enforcement efforts during Spring Break, looking for speeders, drunk drivers and seat-belt violators.

U.S. citizens traveling abroad should always check the U.S. Department of State website for the latest security information related to their travel destination. Those traveling out of the country can also register with the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program by visiting <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/country.html>

GOT NEWS

We welcome your news items and photos to include in the upcoming edition of **The Ballinger Ledger** or **Winters Enterprise**

Choose the way that's most convenient for you

In person, at 806 Hutchings Avenue in downtown Ballinger.
Office Hours are
Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon.
By phone to 325-365-3501.
By fax to 325-365-5389.
By email: chawkins@ballingerledger.com

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

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Winters Enterprise
All submissions to the Ballinger Ledger or Winters Enterprise must be typed and emailed to the editor. Handwritten submissions will no longer be accepted.
The word count for letters to the editor is no more than 350 words, for guest columns it is 650 words. Lengths for other submissions will be determined by the content.

Please email all submissions to chawkins@ballingerledger.com or if you have questions, call 325-365-3501.

Visit the **Winters Enterprise** on Facebook!

TEXAS HISTORY MINUTE

Sam Houston and the Battle of San Jacinto

Sam Houston needed a miracle. Thousands of troops were charging into Texas from Mexico, threatening all that Texas settlers had built and all that they attempted to defend. Heartbreaking defeats at the Alamo and Goliad had severely damaged the army and morale. Now on the run in the spring of 1836, the hopes of Texas lay with him.

Mexico was in the midst of its own civil war by 1836, with the Texas Revolution being just a part of it. Government after government had been overthrown in a series of upheavals as one faction after another tried to lay claim to the country. In fact, the nations of Honduras, Guatemala, Costa Rica, and El Salvador had initially been a part of Mexico when it won its independence from Spain in 1821. After yet another revolution in 1823, those nations split away. At this point, states across Mexico rose in rebellion against the government in Mexico City.

Texas settlers had risen up as well and declared their independence on March 2, 1836. Sam Houston, a hero from the War of 1812 and former governor of Tennessee, had been chosen to command the Texas Army. While he accepted the command without hesitation, Houston realized that in spite of the fighting spirit of the troops, they were outmanned and outgunned.

Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, the current president of Mexico, had gathered thousands of troops and swore that Texas troops would receive no quarter or mercy. As defeats mounted, Houston pulled back toward East Texas to assemble his army and prepare for a final stand. He wrote his troops on April 7, "The victims of the Alamo and the names of those who were murdered at Goliad, call for cool, deliberate vengeance. Strict order, discipline, and subordination will insure us the victory." By April 19, they arrived at Buffalo Bayou near the San Jacinto River in what is now Harris County with Santa Anna arriving the next day.



Dr. Ken Bridges

On the afternoon of April 21, while Santa Anna and his troops rested, Houston took his 800 troops and charged at the Mexican force of nearly 1,450. Houston himself was shot in the ankle, but the army quickly overwhelmed Santa Anna's forces, taking very light casualties.

In one glorious moment, Houston and the Texas Army triumphed over Santa Anna. The battle was a rout. About 630 of Santa Anna's troops died and 730 taken prisoner. In the chaos of the battle, many Mexican troops had fled the scene, and Santa Anna himself seemed to have slipped away as well. Houston ordered that his troops redouble their efforts to find him, for if he managed to escape and redirect his remaining forces, the battle at San Jacinto would have been for nothing.

The next day, Santa Anna was found, disguised as a private and hiding among his troops. His own troops had given him away by loudly addressing him as "El Presidente." He was brought before Houston where he formally surrendered his army.

Houston's victory secured the independence of Texas from Mexico. Within months, a jubilant Texas public elected Houston as the first elected president of the Republic of Texas with 79% of the vote. Harrisburg was incorporated as the City of Houston in 1837, named in his honor. Though Houston had won the great victory he needed, many new and complex challenges still faced Texas.

The importance of the Battle of San Jacinto and the role of Sam Houston was never lost in the imagination of the Texas public. The State of Texas officially purchased the battle site in the 1890s, while a 570-foot obelisk was completed in 1939 in memory of the battle.

THE IDLE AMERICAN Grandson Questions 'Bobo'...

Tim Skaggs is a bible-totin'/believin'/preachin' parson in Brownwood, TX. He's been caught up in God's Holy Word for nigh onto a half-century, given high marks for interpreting scripture and its implications.

However, four-year-old Pascal - his and wife Jamie's first grandchild - fired a question at him a while back that set Tim back on his heels.

Seated in the living room beside his grandfather, Pascal studied wall trophies Tim admits might easily be compared with Cabela's. On the walls are numerous heads of deer and other game, along with full body bobcats, pheasants and ducks....



TEXAS COLUMNIST
Don Newbury

dictable and unavoidable query--the one with deep penetration--augmented by a sad face--about a fish and its family...

Such is the quandary for a man new to grandfathering. It's a bit more complicated that it might appear, since he and Jamie live in an area replete with wildlife and fishing holes.

He even teaches a class in sports science at Howard Payne University. "Introduction to bass fishing" meets weekly. The class fills quickly, and other students notice members of his class learning to cast on campus lawns. Pascal sometimes accompanies them when they fish for crappie, bass and catfish in lakes and ponds. And the other day, he caught one "THAT long!"

"I hope Pascal will come around to appreciate hunting and fishing," Tim said. "If he doesn't, I may have to prepare an ad for Craigslist: "Boat, canoe, tent, wading boots, firearms, fishing gear, deer stand and fishing lecture notes for sale."...

Two members of Skaggs' flock "flew the coop" from chapel services at Howard Payne back in 1960. David and Loretta Bullion had a different priority that day, choosing to get married instead of attend chapel. I trust it turned out to be an excused absence.

At the church's senior adult Valentine banquet this year, they were congratulated on the occasion of their 56th wedding anniversary....

Staring at a deer head, Pascal asked, "Bobo, did you kill that deer?"

Tim saw this as a teaching moment, quickly answering, "Yes, I did, Pascal. Your grandmother and I want to do our part in wild life conservation, and that involves thinning the herds. We do not waste the deer, though. We enjoy eating the venison, as I know you and your family do."

The answer seemed to satisfy Pascal, a little guy first encouraged to call Tim "Grambo." It comes out as "Bobo," though, so what's not to like about that?...

Tim prizes time with Pascal, who lives with his parents Luke and Miranda Dodson in Austin. Skaggs is counting the days until Pascal comes of age to accompany him on hunting trips, and he's eager to show him how to stalk game with bow and arrows. (He admits, however, that his wife is the better bow hunter, but, what the hey. It may be years before Pascal finds that out.)

"Bobo" figured his explanation defending hunting was over for the day. He made a mental note where to resume if the topic comes up again on another day.

Uh oh. Pascal wasn't through....

His eyes, still darting around the walls, came to full focus on a mounted duck. "Bobo, did you kill that duck?"

Again, Tim admitted doing so, explaining the order of things from the standpoint of conservationists, and that many people enjoy feasting on duck meat. There was no pause this time. Pascal, his sad face on, fired back, "But Bobo, they have families!"

Pascal's innocent response set Tim to thinking....

"I've followed Jesus' instructions about his followers becoming 'fishers of men' throughout my ministry," Tim said. "Since there was considerable fishing going on during His earthly ministry, I've always assumed 'fishers of fish' is also permissible."

Now, he figures Pascal's next question will be, "Bobo, who caught that fish?"

And Bobo wants to provide a satisfactory answer for what probably will be Pascal's pre-

Pastor Tim and Pascal dropped by the banquet, where "Bobo" chowed down on barbecue.

The four-year-old, however, chose a fruit plate.

Seems to me the preacher may have his work cut out for him if he's to steer the youngster toward hunting and fishing....



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Rev. Tim Skaggs and his grandson Pascal.

HAWKINS,

from Page 2

Complete with authentic German sausage, made by the men of the churches, a tradition that is almost a century old. Then the great turkey and dressing dinner, prepared by the ladies of the church, who hail from all over Runnels County. The roads leading to the churches on those fall Sundays were bumper to bumper with folks eager to partake in the church's food offerings. Each one of the churches, served

over 2,000 lunches - again, amazing.

Since then, I've been to events all over the county, and I can tell you, the folks that are preparing these delectable meals are seasoned professionals. They operate the buffet line and the carry out line, like a well oiled machine. A few weeks back I watched as everyone helped out at the Runnels County Junior Livestock Show during the barbecue lunch. Perfection.

Later I witnessed the Rotarians, cooking up thousands of pancakes during

their annual feed - these guys are experienced and some had been flipping pancakes for decades - the pitcher they used to pour the batter was 70 years old, Rotarian Bob-O-Wright shared.

But even if an event is relatively new, like the Knights of Columbus Fish Fry, chances are the members of the team have cooked a time or two for another event, as was the case here. KOC member Larry Lange, who just a week prior had been flipping pancakes at the Rotary event, was

on hand for the fish fry, and explained it was the second annual event. And, by the way, if you missed this one, alas, they will be having another fish fry the last week of Lent. Get your taste buds ready!

And, if I've missed anybody, let me know and if you or your organization is planning a community feed, let me know. I'm happy to get the information out there!

So when it comes to good eats, Runnels County has you covered.

I can hear the dinner bell now...Come and get it!

ELAM,

from Page 2

and he was shortly in touch with the Korean Group.

And sure enough, yesterday I sat down for a 40-minute interview with a very friendly and knowledgeable television reporter. It turns out the group has made several trips to Houston to learn more about the situation. South Korea is quite interested in new sources of energy, particularly natural gas. The recent ability to sell en-

ergy products over seas coupled with the expansion of the Panama Canal means more available energy for South Korea.

And how did the South Korean crew find me? Searching for information they located these columns on the Internet. Apparently they have become regular readers.

So one never knows. The column printed in West Texas can go round the world in way less time than Phileas Fogg's 80 days in the Jules Verne novel of 1873. The documentary will air in March, 2016.

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10 signs you grew up on a farm

BY JULIE TOMASCIK
EDITOR
TEXAS FARM BUREAU

Growin' up country offers the biggest playground. Of fields that stretch for miles, open skies and backroads just waiting to be explored.

Farm and ranch kids take it all in. And grow a fond appreciation for independence and quality time with family.

Kicking up dust and learning life lessons. It comes with the territory. And a knack for finding trouble does, too.

It's a childhood unlike any other. But there are a few things that come standard with it.



who daddy hired to work that summer. Hopefully he was a cutie!

Here are 10 signs you grew up on a farm

10. Someone needs directions? You use landmarks and fields. Not streets.

9. A gym membership? What for? You know no gym will ever give you the same workout as hauling square bales does. Sore for days!

8. The weather. You always talk about it. Even though you can't control it. And it's always either too wet or too dry. Always.

7. Cow-tipping. You know it's impossible. End of story.

6. The summer help. If you're a girl, your whole world could change depending on

5. The dreaded phone call: "Cows are out." Well, there go your plans.

4. You plan events around planting and harvesting. A wedding? Birthday party? Check your list twice and your date three times!

3. Baling wire. It's the solution to just about any of life's problems.

2. Loyalty runs deep. Green or red. It's like picking a team—Aggies or Longhorns. You're affiliated for life!

1. Thirsty? You drank more water from a hose than from a plastic bottle. And it tasted good!

It's life on the rural route. You can't imagine growing up anywhere else. Knowing where your food comes from. And playing a role in providing it.

BROTHER J

Feeding sheep

Farmers and ranchers can have hard times if the winter weather turns extremely cold. Not only can it be hard on livestock, it can be hard on those taking care of them. We have put out a lot of feed trying to keep the sheep and goats alive. One thing I noticed when we were feeding is that some of the sheep recognized the yellow color of the old feed truck and here they would come. The others would stand way off and not come in to eat. Those that came in to eat the feed stayed in good shape and were strong but those that didn't come

in got thinner and weaker. Those sheep reminded me of something we can face in life. Do we draw near to the things of God or do we stand off. I don't think there is anything more pitiful looking than a skinny, weak animal or anything any better looking than one that is in good condition and full of life. You can look at animals and tell but we can't see the soul of man. Our souls are fed when we read our Bibles, get involved in Bible studies or attend church, (Psalm 55:4, 63:5, 107:8&9). We can also be involved in things that will make us weaker and leaner in our souls, (Psalm 10 7:5, Luke 1:53). Let us draw near to the feed wagon of God, (Psalm 23 and James 4:8). See you in church next Sunday.

Brother J

USDA announces producers can purchase commodity certificates

STAFF REPORT

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that producers who have crops pledged as collateral for a marketing assistance loan can now purchase a commodity certificate that may be exchanged for the outstanding loan collateral. The authority is provided by the 2016 Consolidated Appropriations Act, legislation enacted by Congress in December. Commodity certificates are available beginning with the 2015 crop in situations where the applicable marketing assistance loan rate exceeds the exchange rate. Currently, the only eligible commodity is cotton.

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) routinely provides agricultural producers with marketing assistance loans that provide interim cash flow without having to sell the commodities when market prices are at harvest time lows. The loans allow the producer to store and delay the sale of the commodity until more favorable market conditions emerge, while also providing for a more orderly marketing of commodities throughout the marketing year.

These loans are considered "nonrecourse" because the loan can be redeemed by delivering the commodity pledged as collateral to the government as full payment for the loan upon maturity. Commodity certificates are available to loan holders having outstanding nonrecourse loans for wheat, upland cotton, rice, feed grains, pulse crops (dry peas, lentils, large and small chickpeas), peanuts, wool, soybeans and designated minor oil

seeds. These certificates can be purchased at the posted county price (or adjusted world price or national posted price) for the quantity of commodity under loan, and must be immediately exchanged for the collateral, satisfying the loan.

Producers may contact their FSA office that maintains their loan or their loan service agent for ad-

ditional information. Producers who do business with Cooperative Marketing Associations (CMA) or Designated Marketing Associations (DMA) may contact their respective associations for additional information. To learn more about commodity certificates, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport or contact your local FSA office. To find your local

FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

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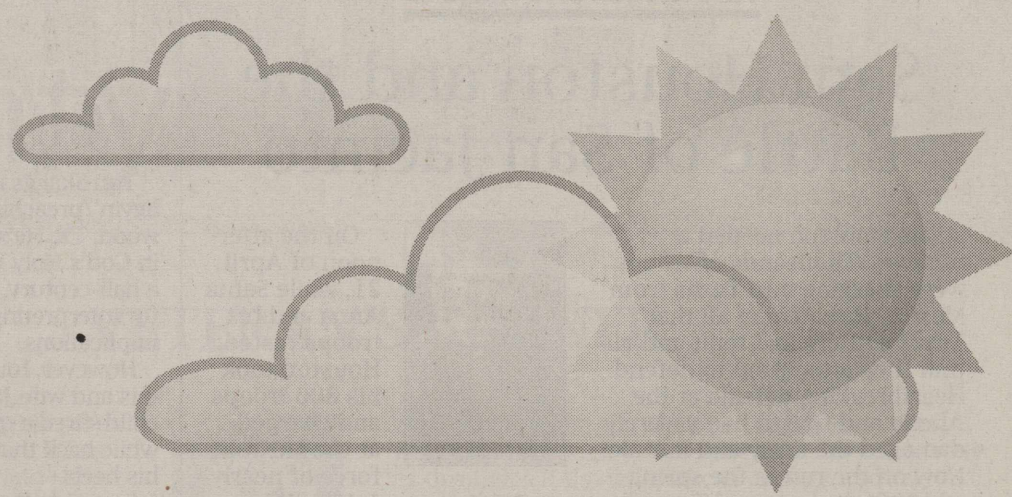
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Past five years have seen weather extremes

STAFF REPORT TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY NEWSWIRE

COLLEGE STATION, - Texas has experienced extreme weather over the past five years - from historic droughts to the wettest month in the state's history -- and it's difficult to say if the pattern will dramatically change over the next few years, says a Texas A&M professor who also serves as the State Climatologist.

John Nielsen-Gammon, professor of atmospheric sciences and State Climatologist since 2000, notes that Texas had one of its driest spells ever from 2010 to 2011, but 2015 was the wettest year ever and May of last year was the wettest month in the state's 171-year history.

So far, he adds, 2016 has been very mild, and winter is probably over for most of the state. But much of Texas has seen much-below normal rainfall totals.

The current El Niño in the Pacific Ocean -- when vast stretches of warm water influence weather patterns over much of the United States and even worldwide-- is the culprit.

"This is the third strongest El Niño ever recorded," he points out.

"It has no chance of intensifying enough at this point to overtake either of the top two. Indeed, sometime over the next few months it will start weakening dramatically. Most likely, the tropical Pacific will transition to neutral conditions sometime in the summer."

He adds that the rainfall during Feb. 21-23 broke a near-record dry spell for much of the state. Abilene was having its driest start to a year ever (with 131 years of data), and Austin was having its fourth-driest start to a year.

"It appears that Texas and the southeastern United States will be getting more El Niño-type storm systems tracking across Texas and the Gulf of Mexico starting next week, and the potential will

be present for some heavy rainfall," he notes.

"Some more frequent rainfall would help reduce the risk of wildfires, which has been running high because of all the dry grasses available to burn and the dry weather recently. I think Texas has actually been lucky that it hasn't experienced more wildfires so far this year."

He adds that for the most part, winter is over for Texas, and "it looks like most of the snow the rest of the year will be along the East Coast and in the western mountains. The cold weather behind the most recent storm system might be as cold as we get from here on out."

He says the state has had abnormally high temperatures since the start of the year, adding that "while there were definite signs that this winter might not be especially cold, we've been warmer than even the most optimistic forecasters would have predicted."

There's a 50-50 chance, he says, that the current El Niño will gradually turn into a La Niña (colder water than usual in the Pacific) and if it does happen, it's likely that next winter could be even warmer than this one for Texas and also probably drier than this winter.

The outlook for the future? "Texas has been going through a volatile stretch of climate. Just about everyone remembers 2010-2011, when Texas easily broke its record for driest 12 months on record," Nielsen-Gammon adds.

"During 2015, Texas had its wettest calendar year on record, as well as its wettest month ever (May). Between the wet spring and wet fall, Texas had a brief but intense drought, and now we've had another unusual dry spell. Many other parts of the country are not so heavily influenced by El Niño and La Niña as it is in Texas, so their climate tends to be more regular from year to year."

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WINTERS BASEBALL



PHOTO COURTESY JOE GERHART
 During the varsity game with the Jim Ned Indians, Winters' Tyler Richards stopped and outside pitch. Richards will be signing with Wayland Baptist University on Wednesday, March 9.



CELINDA HAWKINS | LEDGER PHOTO
 Runnels County voters headed to the polls Tuesday. The election office in Ballinger was very busy with a good turnout reported.

ELECTIONS,

from Page 1

296 for Mints.

Mints, a senior construction consultant, said during the campaign that he wanted to make sure he was a good steward of taxpayer money, while vowing to repair county roads and continuing a relationship with law enforcement to bring criminals to justice and to enhance the county's commercial development.

At press time, attorney Andrew Graves was victorious in Runnels and County in the race for 119th District Attorney, with Graves receiving 1,081 votes to 791 votes for Tom Green Assistant District Attorney John Best. Graves was also victorious in Concho County where he received 294 votes to Best's 234 votes. The final votes were incomplete from Tom Green County at press time.

Other Runnels County candidates who were officially reelected Tuesday include incumbent Wayne Poejls for the Precinct 1 constable position, incumbent Archie Jobe filed for the Precinct 2 constable position, incumbent Robert Moore for Precinct 1 commissioner. Incumbent Robin Burgess will continue as tax assessor collector and incumbent Kenneth Slimp will continue as county attorney.

District Judge Ben Woodward, who serves the 119th District including Runnels, Concho, and Tom Green counties, was also reelected.

CONAWAY,

from Page 1

for agriculture."

Conaway is serving his sixth term in the U.S. House of Representatives. He represents 29 counties in Texas' 11th congressional district, including the cities of Midland, Odessa and San Angelo.

"It's who I represent. They're such good people. Just genuinely good, decent people that every day get up, try to work hard, try to take care of their family, try to live that American dream, try to do all the things that make this country great," Conaway said. "So being able to represent them and go to bat on their behalf, you know it's not about me, it's about them. The other day when I was talking to Secretary Vilsack, I wasn't talking about me. I was talking about those cotton farmers back home who are in really tough shape. So, it's easy to do that because they're such good people that I represent. That's the drive and the motivation."

In addition to serving as chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, Conaway serves on the House Armed Services Committee and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

The objectives of the AFBF Golden Plow award are to identify, select and award those members of Congress, regardless of their party affiliation, whose philosophies or records demonstrate their commitment to the private enterprise system; sound agricultural policies supported by Farm Bureau; fiscal conservatism; and reduced federal regulations on businesses and individuals.

Past Golden Plow award recipients from Texas are U.S. Reps. Kika de la Garza (1988), Charles Stenholm (1988, 1992, 1999) and Larry Combest (1989, 2001).

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**Call or come by the Ballinger Ledger
 office to place your announcement.**



THE **BALLINGER LEDGER** The **Winters Enterprise**

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