Rosewood News

Thunderstorms raked across the region last Friday through Sunday. Most of the heavy rains which produced flash flooding in other areas missed this part of the county. "Mortgage Hill" observatory recorded only 0.35 inch of rain which was a nice garden shower.

Shelby O'Connor underwent back surgery last Friday afternoon at Texas Spine and Joint Hospital in Tyler. The operation went well. After spending the night in the hospital, she was able to return home late Saturday afternoon.

There was a large turnout on Thursday at Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative for the retirement celebration party of Terry Jones who has retired after 25 years of service at Upshur Rural. A large number of his family, friends, and fellow workers were present for the occasion.

Terry's twin brother Perry Jones retired earlier this month from Swepco after a long career with this utility. Prior to joining these local utility companies, the Jones twins worked several years for their uncle Mark Poole in building transmission lines.

Lori Weatherby, Dusti Buchanan, and Elaina Ragsdale recently completed a trip to several European countries. They retraced the path of the late T.C. Weatherby (Lori's daddy and Dusti and Elaina's granddad) when he fought against the German Nazis in World War II.

T.C. was a member of General George Patton's Third Army. General Patton's forces and other Allied personnel stopped the last German offensive campaign of WWII which lasted for about six weeks in December 1944 and January 1945, mostly in the nations of Belgium and Luxembourg.

The trio of tourists was able to visit the actual foxholes used by the opposing forces.They also toured several military cemeteries which are the resting places of Allied casualties during the war.

In addition to the Bulge battle site, they also made stops in Germany, France, Czech Republic, and Poland where T.C. had served.

T.C. Weatherby worked for several years in his later life at Harmony School as a bus driver and custodian. He once shared the following war story with this writer: T.C. told of proudly serving under General George Patton, Jr., who the soldiers held in high esteem.

He related how on one night his unit was pinned down in a foxhole. They feared Nazi enemy soldiers were all around them. Suddenly, they heard a noise near their foxhole and believed it to be the enemy, but they could not risk peering out of their dugout position lest they would be shot.

They decided to just lift their Thompson sub-machine guns above ground level and fire blindly at random. After taking this maneuver, the noise ceased. T.C. explained next morning at daylight, they peered over the foxhole rim and spotted a dead milk cow which they had blown to "smithereens" with their gunfire the previous night.

Rosewood Baptist Church recognized their graduating high school seniors in a special service last Sunday. These seniors included Blakelee Bradshaw, Jaycie Kelley, Jake Shannon, Charley Watkins, and Harley Watkins.

The program began with the seniors filing into the worship center to the traditional "Pomp and Circumstance" march. A power-point video of various stages of each senior life was shown. They were then presented gifts from the church by program emcee Charlotte Johnson. A special message was delivered from Psalm 63 by youth director Brian Mauk.

After the service, a church-wide luncheon honoring the graduates was held in the fellowship hall. The menu featured Chad Wade's famous barbeque and a large assortment of homemade desserts.

Several special events are on the May calendar at Rosewood Baptist Church. On May 12, a Mothers' Day program will give recognition to all moms in attendance. Rosewood will participate in a Liberty Baptist Association rally for Baptist Medical Missions International on May 16 at Little Mound Baptist Church, and on May 24, some of the membership will pass out bottles of ice water at the entrances to Eagle Field Stadium at Harmony High School's graduation exercises.

Plans have been made for the program of the annual Rosewood Memorial Day and Homecoming on June 2, beginning at 10:45 a.m.

Bro. Dickie Mauk, former Rosewood pastor, will be the principal speaker. Special recognition will be given to those buried in the Rosewood Cemetery since last Memorial Day. A brief cemetery association business session will be held and followed by a covered-dish luncheon.

Billy Byrd and Charles Johnson attended a trustee meeting at Jacksonville College last Monday.

YESTERYEAR

The state track meet is being held this week in Austin. The retirement reception last week for Terry Jones brought back memories of when the Jones twins excelled in track competition.

The Jones twins are identical and were often mistaken for each other by those who were around them every day when they competed in athletics for the Harmony Eagles.

On the football field or basketball court, it was easy to distinguish Terry and Perry by their uniform numbers, but in identical track uniforms without numbers, it was almost impossible to tell one from another.

The Jones twins main event was in pole vault competition. Many a meet coach running off this event did a double-take when calling out their names and it appearing the same vaulter was going back-to-back. A

dd to this fact, a third pole vaulter from Harmony at the time was Joe Bob "Jones," caused some head scratching by track and field personnel and opposing vaulters.

The Jones twins usually placed high in pole vault in each meet they entered. Sometimes Terry would be slightly ahead of Perry and at the next meet, just the opposite would occur.

At the regional track and field meet held at R.E. St. John Stadium in Kilgore in 1977, Perry finished second in the pole vault qualifying for the state meet in Austin during the first week of May of his junior year.

Also, participating for Harmony in the 1977 state meet was Norris Cross who qualified in the shot put event by winning regional.

Cross' toss of 51 feet 10 inches at the Mineola meet in 1977 still stands as the Harmony school record in this event.

Council OKs study on sell-back plan

By Phillip Williams

The Gilmer City Council last week approved having city staff members do a study on the possibility of letting certain employees sell back their unused vacation time, said City Manager Greg Hutson.

The possibility would apply to those employed by the city for at least 10 years, he said.

Hutson said many veteran employees have each accumulated hundreds of hours of unused vacation time, and that law requires paying them for any unused portion when they leave the city's employ, whether through retirement or termination.

That applies even if they have accumulated several hundred hours, he added.

Under consideration is letting workers sell back one to two weeks of vacation time per fiscal year, which would just be an extra benefit for employees, Hutson said. It could help workers if they get into a "financial crunch," he added.

The council authorized Hutson, employee Mary Bullock, and financial adviser Gary Smith to do a study on the "benefit of" the sellback, the city manager said.

In other business at its April 23 meeting, the council approved street closures for a May 25 "community movie night" on the square sponsored by Steel Mill Farms, LLC, said Hutson.

Cemetery group sets board meeting

The Little Mound Cemetery Association will hold its 62nd annual board meeting and homecoming on Sunday, May 5, at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary of Little Mound Missionary Baptist Church, 11746 FM 49, Big Sandy.

There will be a business report, board election and annual church history report.

Those wishing to make donations to the cemetery may mail them to Little Mound Cemetery Association, P.O. Box 41, Gilmer TX 75644.

The association is a 170 (c)(5) entity and individual donations are tax deductible.

For more information call Danny Hailey at 903-790-9416. All members and interested parties are invited to attend.

A potluck lunch will be served in the fellowship hall and a singing will follow. Special music is welcome.

Meetings set

By Phillip Williams

Four area congregations of the Church of Christ, which meet jointly on the first Sunday of each month, will do so Sunday at the Lyles Street Church of Christ in Big Sandy.The service at 301 Lyles is scheduled for 4 p.m.

Besides Lyles Street, congregations participating in the monthly service include the Shady Grove, Pritchett,and Holly Lake Churches of Christ.

Arrangements for this month's service were announced by David Cotham, preacher for the Sand Hill Church of Christ.

Obituary Policy

Information on obituaries can be published free of charge in *The Gilmer Mirror*, following our standard form. Any request by family members for deviation from this form will require payment for the obituary.

The Mirror does not list survivors beyond the immediate family — spouse, children, parents, brothers and sisters, and grandchildren. Inclusion of any other survivors will require payment for the obituary. (Exception: Should a person have no survivors other than a niece, nephew, etc.)

There will be a $10 charge for a photograph run with an otherwise free obituary.

Send information to: gilmermirror@yahoo.com

