

Echoes from the Past:

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date. Many more dates would follow as they became high school sweethearts and were married in 1974 which amounts to 39 years of commitment so far which the flat tire in the rain instigated.

Danny Yocom was born in the Brownfield Hospital and grew up north of Loop two miles west of where they now live. His parents were Chester and Jettie Yocom.

His dad came to Loop in 1936. He worked in the oilfield for a while and in the 1940s bought 1/4 section of land, grubbed it out and started farming. He farmed until his death in 1984.

Danny's mother kept the nursery for many years at the Loop Baptist Church where the family attended. She passed away in 2007.

Danny went through school at Loop, graduating in 1973 as salutatorian of a senior class of about 15 students. He played just about all sports, and did well in them, but said basketball was his favorite. He played post or forward. He made All Conference and All South Plains.

He made All Conference in football also, but should have gotten a "fighting heart" award. In his junior year he broke a vertebrae in his back and missed the rest of the season. Then in his senior year he got his jaw broken.

He came back from that injury for the last couple of games, but had to wear a specially equipped helmet with extra bars on the face guard. He was the quarterback. He said he had a couple of good years out of the four in football.

Pam was born in hospital in Lamesa, but her folks, Bill and Charlene McKenzie, lived in O'Donnell at the time. When she was in the fifth grade they moved to Loop where her grandparents lived.

Her dad and granddad L.L. (Lonnie) McKenzie both farmed. Her grandparents are both deceased, now, and her dad passed away in 2009. Her mother still lives eight miles south of Loop.

Pam's dad farmed all his life. She recalled they had a really bad year in 1953, as did most farmers in this part of the world.

Pam was a cheerleader and she, also, played several sports in school but liked basketball best. At the time she played, girls played half court basketball. There were six girls on a team, three forwards and three guards. The forwards were the shooters and stayed on the offensive side of the court. The guards played on the defensive end and neither group could cross the half court line. Only the forwards could shoot the ball. Pam was a forward.

After graduating from Loop High

School, in a class of 16 students in 1974, Pam went to work at the school in 1984. She started out as a classroom aide, then became the principal's secretary. She retired in 2011.

While in high school Danny and Pam were both in the Beta Club, Danny was a charter member. The Beta Club is similar to the National Honor Society. Their principal, Richard Roberts was the sponsor. Pam worked as his secretary. She had high regard for him. He went on to be the superintendent.

Both Pam and Danny were in the band while in high school. Danny played the baritone horn, and Pam played the alto saxophone. She was homecoming queen and football sweetheart. Danny was homecoming hero in football and homecoming king in basketball, but not in the same year as Pam's honors.

After high school graduation, Danny worked for Pioneer Natural Gas Company for a while and then went to work for Gaines County in July of 1974. He started out as a road hand until 1996 when he became foreman of Precinct 1. In 2005 he was elected commissioner of Precinct 1, and was recently re-elected to a third term.

Danny and Pam have two children. Lance who is 34 and his wife, Somer, live in Burleson. They have

three children: Connor who is six, Grayson who is four and Evelyn who is 20-months-old. Lance is self-employed doing marketing and booking for bands and musical events, for Spune Productions. Somer is an Elementary principal at Joshua Elementary School close to Burleson.

Christi is married to Daniel Rogers and they live in Saginaw, in the Fort Worth area. They have one child, Luke, who is 18-months-old.

Christi is a counselor at Springtown Elementary School. Daniel is a police officer at Blue Mound.

When it comes to pastimes for Danny and Pam, they said their grandchildren are at the top of the list of their hobbies and entertainment, but Danny used to do a lot of woodworking, and has built several things in and around their house. One interesting item he built was a combination step stool and ironing board. He also built a large Pegola (Arbor) at the side of their house, a guest house, and a small pegola in the side yard.

Pam does paintings. She painted in oil and acrylics. They both enjoy doing gardening and yard work as

evidenced by their well groomed yard.

Pam chuckled and said, "They say he does the work but I have the bull whip."

Pam's parents owned the land where Pam and Danny now live. They also had a place on Lake Brownwood where Pam and Danny and their kids used to go on family outings. They did some fishing but mainly played in the water. It was a lot of good-time memories for the family.

They said their future plans involve keeping up with their grandkids, going to their school and sporting events as much as possible, given the distance between them.

They are members of the First Baptist Church in Loop where they have attended most of their lives. Danny has been a deacon there since 1976. He said, "We've been very blessed and fortunate to have the church family we have and to have had good pastors through the years."

They like living in Gaines County and consider themselves blessed by their friends and members of their church.

In 2011 their son, Lance was at a family reunion in Flagstaff, Arizona when he got a bad case of double pneumonia. He was in the hospital in the Cardiovascular ICU for four weeks and then transferred to Ft. Worth for two more weeks to get off the ventilator. Danny stayed with him for most of that time, and is very thankful to the county for the time off, and his fellow commissioners for filling in for him so he could be with his son. Lance has recovered and is doing well, now.

Danny says he likes working for the county. "It is a good place to work," he said. He has worked for Gaines county for 38 and a half years.

He recalled having an accident with a maintainer while he was still on the road crew. He was grading on the steep back slope of a ditch when the machine tilted too high and tipped over. He said it just eased over slowly onto its side. He opened the door and crawled out. A broken rearview mirror was the only damage. They hooked a caterpillar to it and pulled it back upright and continued with the work.



Photo Furnished Texas FFA

Seminole FFA member Bryce Winfrey (second from right) was recently recognized as being one of 12 Texas FFA Assoc. Ford Scholarship Scholars for 2012.

Seminole HS' Winfrey Recently Honored by Texas FFA

AUSTIN – Seminole High School senior and FFA member, Bryce Winfrey, was one of 10 outstanding graduates of the Texas FFA Association's Ford Leadership Scholars program recognized at the third annual Ford Leadership Scholars Banquet in Austin.

The Ford Leadership Scholars Program criteria for selection and the leadership development components of the program focus on six characteristics of leadership: action, relationships, vision, character, awareness and continuous improvement.

More than 200 FFA members applied to be a part of the program through a process that included an extensive online application, exam over an assigned leadership text, telephone interview and a day-long behavioral interview.

"Fostering effective, visionary servant leadership is vitally important to the future of our state and nation. I believe the Ford Leadership Scholars program provides a unique opportunity for FFA members to

develop their potential to lead a life of influence and for the FFA to create a legacy of leadership for communities across Texas," said Texas FFA Executive Director Tom Maynard.

The Ford Leadership Scholars program provides an intense hands-on leadership development experience through apprentice-type scenarios, interaction with nationally-recognized leaders and projects to be completed by student in their respective communities. The program is funded by an endowment established by the Ford Motor Company and Texas Ford dealers. Each scholar also receives a \$1,000 academic scholarship.

In addition to Winfrey, the 2012 graduates include:

Katharine Carter - Clear Brook FFA; Shelby Eckhardt - Seguin FFA; Callie Herly - San Augustine FFA; Bailey Keith - George West FFA; W.Hayden Lander - Danbury FFA; Victoria Osburn - Gunter FFA; Kaylee Paul - Huffman FFA; Brandie Rohmann - Weatherford FFA; and Madison Yandell - Iowa

Park FFA.

The Texas FFA Association is an agricultural youth leadership organization that has operated as an integral part of the state's agricultural education curriculum since 1929. The organization is the nation's largest state FFA association with a membership of more than 93,000 members in more than 1,000 high school and middle school campuses.

The Texas FFA Association is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

The organization has evolved from focusing primarily on production agriculture to a broader-based encompassing organization that addresses the needs and interests of students in urban and suburban schools in addition to the rural communities from which FFA rose in 1929.

For more information about the Texas FFA Association, visit www.texasffa.org.

Gaines County Sporting Events

January 18

- Seminole Maiden Varsity Basketball vs. Andrews @ Seminole, 6 p.m.
- Seminole Maiden JV Basketball vs. Andrews @ Seminole, 4:30 p.m.
- Seminole Maiden Freshmen Basketball vs. Andrews @ Seminole, 7:30 p.m.
- Seminole Indian Varsity Basketball vs. Andrews @ Seminole, 7:30 p.m.
- Seminole Indian JV Basketball vs. Andrews @ Seminole, 4:30 p.m.
- Seminole Indian Freshmen Basketball vs. Andrews @ Seminole, 6:00 p.m.

January 19

- SHS Maiden and Indian Powerlifting @ Plainview Meet

January 22

- Seminole Maiden Varsity Basketball @ Shallowater, 6:30 p.m.
- Seminole Maiden JV Basketball @ Shallowater, 4:00 p.m.
- Seminole Maiden Freshmen Basketball @ Shallowater, 8:00 p.m.
- Seminole Indian Varsity Basketball @ Shallowater, 8:00 p.m.
- Seminole Indian JV Basketball @ Shallowater, 5:15 p.m.
- Seminole Indian Freshmen Basketball @ Shallowater, 4:00 p.m.



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Farm Auction

Seminole Area Farmers

Saturday, January 26, 2013 10 am CST
Seminole, Texas

Directions to the Old Pioneer Gin Yard: From Seminole, Texas go 9 miles West on Hwy. 62/180 to FM 1757, turn North and go 4 miles, Or from Hobbs, New Mexico go 19 miles East on Hwy. 62/180 to FM 1757, Turn north 4 miles.

Gaines County Sheriff's Office Surplus Vehicles:

2008 Dodge Charger Car, 2005 Ford F150 pickup, 2002 Ford F150 pickup, 1998 Peterbilt Semi Truck Tractor, 1999 Semi Utility spread axle float trailer, Farm Equipment, New Holland 688 round hay baler, JD 7445 8 row Cotton Stripper, Tye 27 big box grain drill with markers, 8 row lister, SS 16 row sand fighter, 8 row pitch out rig, Wylie 1000 gallon nurse tank, Bush Hog 4 row shredder, 8 row stalk cutter, JD 330 folding disc plow, Camel back trailer, Pickups, Vehicles, Cars, Semi Trucks, Trailers, Farm Tractors, Planters, Drills, Harvest Equipment, Hay Equipment, Plows, Tillage Tools, Tanks, Sprayers, Farm and Ranch AG related equipment. 2000 Cadillac Escalade SUV 4x4 Leather.

Call Ben H Royston to add your equipment to this auction: 432-788-7879

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