

# Echoes from the Past: From Page 1

started a foundation with his own money, which was augmented by individuals and businesses, to provide grants for students and teachers at Perryton and for college scholarships. The foundation is now up over one million dollars. Don Cooper who was President of the School Board while Zoller was at the school, and his wife Shirley have been good friends through the years and are very involved in the foundation.

"Every year for a number of years Don, and Shirley and George and Ava traveled to Corpus Christi in two RVs and spend two months in their RVs as 'winter visitors.' This is an achievement by itself, while approaching your 70th wedding anniversary -- to be travelling from the Panhandle to the Texas Coast in an RV." Charles Benson arranges to take them ocean fishing while they are there.

George Zoller was born in Parks Farms but later moved to Mexia, and from there to Van, in Van Zandt County. He went to college at Texas Tech, in Lubbock, and played tackle on the football team. But his college career was interrupted by a two year stint in the U.S. Navy. When he finished his obligation to the Navy, he went back to Tech and graduated. He took his first coaching job in Plainview, and went from there to Seminole.

The Tepee, (the Seminole School Annual), lists the names of the "A" team football players in 1956, the last year Zoller coached in Seminole. The backfield coach was Jake Harrell, (grandfather of Graham Harrell, a recent former Tech quarterback). The players were: Harry Walker, Johnny Speers, Leland Caffey, Bill Bumett, Bobby Travis, Gerald Stewart, Ray Miller, Bill Wallace, Mack Beavers, Lewis Reddell, Edwin Young, Don Holt, Tommy Moore, Gary Chancellor, Allan Burk, James Luttrell, Richard Gover, Virgil Luttrell, Truman Kidd, Joe Hughes, Malcom Martin and Neely Wolforth.

The annual didn't show the win-loss record for the 1956 team, but we learned a Zoller team won Bi-District in 1953, before losing to a Gordon Wood coached team from Stanford. Wood had coached the Seminole squad in 1949 followed by Morris Southall, who became Wood's assistant, and then Zoller took over. Wood went on to become the winningest high school coach in Texas history with Southall as his assistant. Together they knew

all of Seminole's players and their tendencies. It is said his Stanford team beat a very good Seminole team that night 35 to 0.

Zoller is remembered as a strong disciplinarian. A couple of former players related an incident in which several of the students ditched school and went swimming in a stock tank out of town one nice Spring day. This may have been a kind of school tradition in those years, but it was definitely against the rules. The boys didn't know how, but Coach Zoller knew about it before they got back to town. He gave them a choice, 300 laps or three swats. Several of the boys decided there was no way three swats could be worse than 300 laps so they opted for the swats.

After the first boy took the first swat, and then with tears on his cheeks and trembling chin he muttered, "I'll run the other 200 laps." Most of the rest agreed to run the laps. One boy, after suffering through two swats said, "I'll take the third swat." Coach Zoller said, "Finally, a man in the crowd!" But this boy remembered the third swat wasn't any easier.

It was said the school kept a pair of 32 ounce boxing gloves on hand, (really big ones), so when two boys got into a fight at school, they would make them put on the gloves and box for a certain amount of rounds. They weren't allowed to quit until they had completed the proper number of rounds.

The story goes George Zoller was

hired by Perryton because they had discipline problems and they felt he was the man to clean it up. Evidently he did a good job because he became the Superintendent and stayed until he retired several years later. In fact, he still lives in Perryton. His son, Craig, remembers seeing a bag full of pocket knives which had been confiscated in the hallway.

Craig also recalled the fans at the ball games got pretty wild back in those days.

The Zoller's have two children, one son and one daughter.

According to one person's memories Zoller was known for his one-liner sayings such as, "It's not the size of the dog in the fight which counts, it's the size of the fight in the

dog." A favorite saying offered while the boys were running wind sprints, was; "You've got to love it if you want to be great!"

All of his players contacted, and some ladies who remembered him as an Assistant Principal agreed he was strict but fair, and they all liked him. They called him a "great guy."

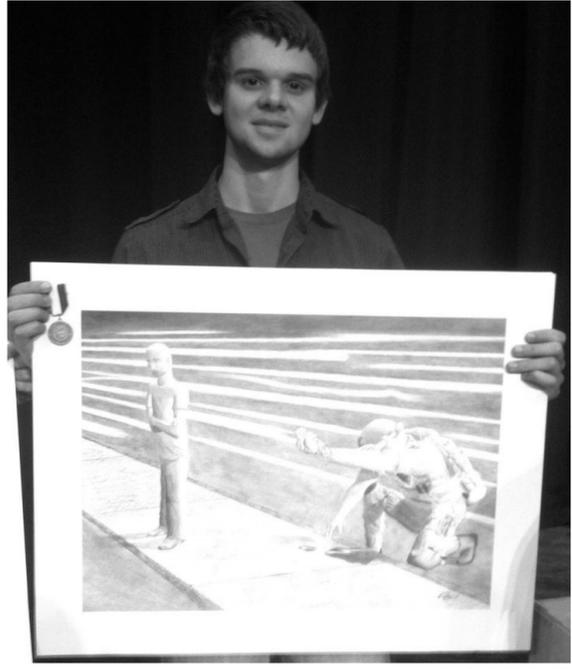


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### STATE QUALIFIER

Seminole HS art student Coby Peters is pictured with his state qualifying artwork following competition at the Region 17 VASE competition, held in mid-February at Wofforth High School. Seminole HS brought home 39 first place honors at the Region 17 competition.

## SHS Art Students Earn 39 First Place Medals at Regional Competition

WOFFORTH -- A total of 39 first place medals were received by Seminole High School art students, as their works were recently judged at the Region 17 Visual Arts Scholastic Event (VASE), which was held in mid-February at Frenship High School.

A total of 31 SHS art students participated in the event, in which 44 local pieces of artwork was entered.

Coby Peters, who received a first place award in the competition, also advanced to the State competition. Students are judged in two categories: the student interview and artwork evaluation.

"I am very proud of the hard work and effort the students put into the competition and it clearly paid off," said Brice Autry, SHS Art Instructor. "This is an outstanding group of students who take pride in their work. This is the fourth year we have competed in the VASE competition and each year gets better and better. It is a great learning experience for us all."

The state VASE competition will be held April 5-6 in Bryan. The VASE Competition pieces as well as other great works of art will be on display at the Evening of Fine Arts held in May at Seminole High School.

Students who received one or more first place medals include: Ashley Blair (2), Cera Castillo, Delaney Clark (2), Jordan Dyck, Jessica Edwards (2), Crystal Flores, Jake Froese, Luis Galindo, Tabatha Morgan Guffey (2), Anna Hamms, Luke Hicks (2), Andrew Johnson (2), Elora Johnson, Adriana Letkeman, Amanda Loepky, MeKenzy McKee, Esther Neufeld (2), Coby Peters (2), Martin Ponce (2), Alexis Sanchez, Vanessa Sellers (2), Katelyn Shook (2), Jean Teichroeb, Guillermo Jose Valdez, Kyle Weeks, Henry Wiebe, Nancy Wiebe, Nancy Zacharias.

### Engagement Announcement



#### Contreras-Bernal

Karina Contreras and Ben Bernal of Seminole are proud to announce their engagement and upcoming marriage.

Karina is the daughter of Eva and Benito Contreras and the Ben is the son of Eva and Leonardo Bernal.

The couple will wed Saturday, March 16, 2013 at 4:30 p.m. at Hilton Garden Inn in Las Vegas, Nevada with Shaun Brock officiating.

The groom is a Seminole High School graduate and is a lineman at Bird Electric in Midland.

The bride is a Seminole High School graduate and attended New Mexico Junior College for early childhood development. She is employed as a night attendant at Seminole Memorial Place Assisted Living Center.

The couple will honeymoon with a Caribbean cruise to Belize, Mohogamy Bay and Cozumel. They will make their home in Seminole.

## Gaines County Sporting Events

### March 14

JV Indian Baseball vs. Big Spring @ Seminole, 3:00 p.m.

Varsity Indian Baseball vs. Big Spring @ Seminole, 5:30 p.m.

Varsity Maiden Softball vs. Caprock @ Abernathy High School, 1:00 p.m.

JV Maiden Softball vs. Caprock @ Abernathy High School, 3:00 p.m.

### March 15

Maiden Powerlifting @ THSWPA State Meet in Corpus Christi

JV Indian Baseball vs. Greenwood @ Seminole, 4:30 p.m.

Varsity Indian Baseball vs. Greenwood @ Seminole, 7:00 p.m.

### March 16

Indian Powerlifting @ THSWPA State Meet in Corpus Christi

Varsity Maiden Softball vs. Shallowater @ Seminole, 1:00 p.m.

JV Maiden Softball vs. Shallowater @ Seminole, 3:00 p.m.

SHS Track @ Kermit Meet, Walton Field, 1:00 p.m.

### March 18

SHS Maiden Golf @ Lamesa Invitational, Lamesa Country Club, 10:00 a.m.

### March 19

SHS Indian Golf @ Lamesa Invitational, Lamesa Country Club, 10:00 a.m.

JV Indian Baseball vs. Cooper @ Lubbock Cooper High School, 4:30 p.m.

Varsity Indian Baseball vs. Cooper @ Lubbock Cooper High School, 7:00 p.m.

Varsity Maiden Softball vs. Cooper @ Lubbock Cooper High School, 5:00 p.m.

JV Maiden Softball vs. Cooper @ Lubbock Cooper High School, 7:00 p.m.

Seminole JH Tennis @ Levelland, 4:30 p.m.

## Honored:

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dollars, to attend the National Jubilee of the Boy Scouts of America in West Virginia.

Matthew is a First Class Boy Scout and Aidan is a Tenderfoot, stepping up from a Cub Scout to a Boy Scout.

Fox, reported, "This year marks 103 years of adventure, community service, and a strong commitment to preparing America's youth to be competent leaders of our future. Every step of the way, Boy Scouts of America has counted on commitments from volunteers and our local communities to improve the lives of youth through our time-tested programs. This year we would like to take time needed to recognize one of our own."

Gary Wheelless was Cub Master and then Scout Master and was remembered as a tireless worker, who loved kids and scouting. He, himself, was an Eagle Scout and was styled as a wonderful example and inspiration for the boys he worked with.

Three of those present at the luncheon held the honor of Eagle Scout, the highest honor given by the Boy Scouts. These were, Carroll Haralson, Joe Nagy, and Davis Fox.

Fox continued, "The reasons our communities and Scouters like Gary have supported Scouting for 103 years are our abilities to help children develop self-confidence, leadership skills, and to learn and grow into productive adults in a safe environment. As one of the nation's largest and most effective youth development organizations, we know that together with your help the Boy Scouts of America will continue to inspire youth with our message of always doing your best, learning by doing, and making good choices over one's lifetime. With opportunities to work with adult mentors like Gary and make positive friendships. The Boy Scouts of America looks to extend this experience to those who have never been exposed to our programs."

The luncheon was also a fund raiser for the Boy Scouts of America. Fox was excited to report that \$1,500 was raised by the Seminole people at the luncheon.



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