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THE WINONA TIMES

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THE WINONA TIMES

A FUMC WINONA MINISTRY

SEPTEMBER 2011
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The Winona Marching Wildcat Band

By: Pat Schlau

A 6:30am starting time is early for most people, but for director Jerry Whorton, assistant director Renee Perkins, and the 2011-2012 Marching Wildcat Band, it was the best time of the day. Avoiding the 100 plus temperatures, these dedicated musicians used the early August mornings to perfect their marching shows. Evenings were used to focus on small study groups.

Senior drum major, Sarah Thacker, has witnessed the dramatic growth of the Wildcat Band first hand. Six years ago, the band was a mere 22 members, currently it is over 100 strong. Ranging from the tiny flutes to the huge tubas, there are more than twenty types of concert quality instruments represented in today's band. Thacker is carrying on a family tradition, adopting the lifestyle of a "band student" while maintaining a high class ranking and involvement in many organizations.

Director Whorton stated that he has the most supportive parents. He credits this to former long-time Winona band director, Bobby Overall. Many of Whorton's students' parents were members of Overall's bands. There they learned what it takes to be part of a successful program and have passed those traits to their children. This type of dedication to perfection gives students an advantage, helping them develop skills to cope with the daily obstacles that many may encounter.

Students at Winona are encouraged to claim ownership in their school. Currently 85% of band members are involved in other activities, including FFA, Academic UIL, sporting events, and other organizations. When asked how this works, Whorton credited the staff, saying that everyone works together to avoid conflicting events. Each organization encourages the other, thus creating an environment for success.

Last school year, 42 band members advanced to State competition. Four years ago the Wildcat Band was ranked WISD's classification 12th of all Texas schools at level; two years ago their ranking jumped to 6th. This four in Texas. With the band, it is attainable, year's goal is to reach the top talent and attitude of this Whorton stated.

Football games, pa-
opening of the
places you can
award-winning
Perkins invite
come out, be a
Winona, enjoy
experience a
for our grow-



grades, concerts, and the
UTHSC are just a few
witness first hand this
band. Whorton and
the community to
part of the Spirit of
the sounds, and
truly exciting time
ing district.

Judge Shamburger Reflects on his First Book

Much has changed over the three decades that I have been in office, but dying and performing inquests are about the same as they have always been. For all the people who have asked me, "How do you look at all those dead bodies?" *Inquests: Living With the Dead* will give you the answers.

There is much in this book about the Winona area that many of us grew up in. Some names and events you will recognize. Some characters might ring a bell or two. I could not write a book that would hold all of you or our history. But, I managed to recollect the old train depot, Kay's Store, Pricket Hill, Harris Creek, Walters or Waters Bluff, The Old Iron Bridge, Owentown, and of course dad's (T.J.) station just to name a few. A few of the more colorful old timers of my day slipped in, like the fight between Speck Burks and Herman Starnes.

Some chapters and stories seemed to jump from my fingers to the page and others like the Charles Ray Prince story, took a lot out of me.

The last chapter is about Dale Geddie. It was the hardest and took the longest to write.

In a way this book is about you—all who have surrounded me my whole life, directly and indirectly. Through thick and thin, we have grown and changed. With this book the old ones can look back, the mid-lifers can think back, and the younger and the generations to come can reflect on what we call the "good old days."

Judge Mitch

First Baptist Church of Winona

Greetings in the name of the Lord!

It sure seems that when school begins again, it's almost like new year's day. New opportunities, new challenges, and for us in Winona, even a new school. This week we find ourselves in a new routine. As you adjust to your new routine, let me challenge you to make sure a few important things are in it. Tell your family every day that you love them, lift them up, and give them a hug when you can (Ephesians 5:22-33). Carry out whatever responsibilities you have with excellence, as unto the Lord (Colossians 3:23). Honor the Lord in everything you do (I Peter 3:15). Take time for Bible study and prayer every day (Matthew 26:36), and honor the Lord with your money (Proverbs 3:9).

We'd love to have you at First Baptist Church of Winona anytime. We believe in a simple statement, "It's All About Relationships". It would be our privilege to have a relationship with you and for us to encourage one another in our relationship with The Lord.

Tony Watson
Pastor
First Baptist Church of Winona

Did You Know? Get your flu shot now to avoid getting sick later



It may still seem like summer, but now is the time to get your annual flu shot. You don't want to come down with the flu and be miserable during the end-of-the-year holiday season. And just because you had a flu shot last year, it doesn't mean you're protected against the flu this year.

"We have to get a flu shot every year because the flu virus changes," says Richard Wallace, MD, an infectious disease specialist at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler. The flu may be common, but it shouldn't be taken for granted, he adds.

A study in the 1990s found that deaths from flu ranged from a low of 17,000 to a high of 52,000 annually, depending on the flu season's severity, says the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Children younger than 2 years old, adults over 65, pregnant women, and people with underlying health conditions are most at risk for the flu.

It's spread by coughing and sneezing. Symptoms include fever, chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches, and feeling very tired.

"The flu virus injures the immune system in your respiratory tract, which may be impaired up to a month after you have the flu. That makes you much more susceptible to serious illnesses such as pneumonia," Dr. Wallace says.

"Assume that you will be exposed to the flu. The best way to avoid it is to get a flu shot in September or October. It will last through flu season, which usually peaks in January or February," he says.



Our Judge, Smith Co., Precinct Four, Has Book Published

To get some insights into how one Texas judge looks at the world, and why some Texans think the way they do, a new book, **Inquests: Living with the Dead** by Judge Mitch Shamburger yields some answers. Meet his family and get a taste of old-time Winona, Texas (pop. 622).

Murders, suicides, and accidents happen in the country as well as in the city. The mysteries of death on television are solved using CSI technology, on-the-spot DNA testing, and all kinds of gimmicks, all within the hour. In real life, the solutions take more time, and some mysteries will never be solved. A few stories of death linger in one's mind, while others will be buried on the lips of those in the grave. Laugh, cry, wonder, and take a closer look at yourself through these memorable stories.

Death comes to us all. You may find it is time to start living—maybe even Living with the Dead!

This book is now available online at Amazon.com It sells for around \$8. When the paperback editions of his book arrives, Mitch is planning a "Book Signing" at the Back Porch, probably near the end of September. He will also sign hardback editions when they become available, hopefully in November, in time for the holiday season. Prices are to be determined. Winona Times will keep you informed.

