

# DIBOLL FREE PRESS

Keeping news on a first name basis

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## DATELINE DIBOLL



### Breakfast with the Principal

Diboll ISD is providing an event to keep its patrons informed first hand about what is going on at each campus. We invite parents and stakeholders in the community to join the principal for a breakfast and coffee meeting. All sessions will start at 8:30 a.m. The days for each campus are:

Wednesday, Feb. 11: Mark Kettering at the Diboll Junior High Cafeteria  
Thursday, Feb. 12: Laurie Burton at Temple Elementary Cafeteria  
Friday, Feb. 13: Craig Ruby at the High School Library

Anyone who knows they will be able to attend should e-mail [agordon@dibollisd.com](mailto:agordon@dibollisd.com) or call Angela Gordon at 829-6021 or Charlotte Morris at 829-3744. People may also call the campus and let the secretary know.

### 2008 Farm Bill seminar

A seminar in Diboll Friday, Feb. 13, will examine the 2008 Farm Bill as it relates to cooperative assistance for forest landowners. Sponsored by the Texas Forestry Association, the seminar will begin at 10 a.m. at the Lottie and Arthur Temple Civic Center. It is designed for a diverse audience and will be presented in a manner understandable to all, regardless of prior knowledge. Presenters will be from the National Resource Conservation Service, Resource Conservation and Development and the Texas Forest Service. Keynote speaker at lunch will be Deputy Agriculture Commissioner Drew DeBerry. The \$30 registration includes printed materials and lunch. For a registration form, go to [www.texasforestry.org](http://www.texasforestry.org) or call 936-632-8733. The seminar will conclude by 3:30 p.m.

### Southern Gospel Show

Gospel music returns to the Diboll Civic Center when Southern Gospel Showcase presents four groups in concert. This free event on Saturday, Feb. 21, features Breakaway, Had-A-Call, Revived, and the SGS Directors' Band. Starting time is 6:30

p.m. with doors opening at 5:30. Southern Gospel music lovers will enjoy a variety of styles and sounds from male quartets to female trios, SGS has been presenting some of the best part-time groups in the area in free concerts for the past 10 years. An offering will be received to help defray expenses. Everyone is invited.

### Southern Gospel Show

The Angelina Retired Teachers/School Personnel Association will have its next meeting on Feb. 18 at the Stubblefield Learning Center. The program, "Life as a Secret Service Agent" will be presented by Ryan Foley. Refreshments will be served at 3 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 3:15. All retired school personnel are invited.

### Senior senior prom

Trinity Mission invites the community to its Valentine Senior Prom at 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13. A king, queen, prince and princess will be crowned and refreshments will be served. Trinity Mission is at 900 S. Temple.

## BIBLE VERSE

By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.

1 John 4:13

## Pharmacy coming to Diboll

There's a new family coming to town, Family pharmacy, that is.

Loper's Family Pharmacy of Huntington, owned by Trent Loper, is opening a second location in Diboll and Loper is aiming at an opening date of around June 1.

"We're working on it now," Loper said of the future pharmacy site, the metal building next to Dresscraft that last housed a barber shop. Originally divided into two spaces, the entire building will be used to house the pharmacy. Loper will reface the front of the building with a stone and cedar facade.

"I think it's going to be a good location," he said last week. His Huntington store is doing well and Diboll has more people than Huntington, he noted. And Corrigan no longer has a pharmacy, he said.

The pharmacy will be service oriented and Loper is a believer in getting to know his customers personally. "We pretty much operate as a traditional family pharmacy," he said. Nothing that he does not participate in a "\$4 generic" prescription program, he said, "The service is more important than \$4."

As far as people hunting "something cheap," he warned, "you get what you pay for."

"We'll take the time to visit with you about your garden or whatever, he said. "That's what I'd rather do: focus on the people."

Loper has had the 4 store in Huntington about three years. He also has had stores in Hemphill and Kountze, but sold them. He expects to employ five or six people in Diboll, and already has heard from pharmacy techs living in Diboll who want to work closer to home. He



Trent Loper visits with a customer Friday morning in his Huntington pharmacy.

Photo by Jerry Gauldin

will have bi-lingual employees. He bills for all types of insurance and can handle Medicare claims.

"We're just plain, down to earth people," he said, and it sounds like he'll be a nice addition to the Diboll family.

## Book signing



Jan Allbritton, center, visits with, from left, Nancy Owens, Dianne Tate, Fran McClain and young Savannah Bunn during Allbritton's book signing Friday at the T.L.L. Temple Memorial Library. At right; Savannah paruses the featured book. The former Diboll primary and elementary schools teacher was promoting her book 'Super Sweetie to the Rescue,' a compilation of adventure stories starring her teacup Chihuahua, Sweetie. Allbritton said the basis of the book was stories told to her grandchildren. There was no special magic in that, she said. 'It's just they like stories.' The \$10 softbound book is aimed at young readers.



## Diboll discusses economic development

City Manager Dennis McDuffie recommended to Diboll City Council Monday evening, Feb. 9, that it establish an economic development advisory board to help focus efforts to spur growth in the city.

"Diboll has a lot of things that would be attractive to potential businesses," McDuffie said in a report to the council. "Highway 59 cuts through the center of town. Rail and rail spurs are located throughout the city. The one thing Diboll does not have is a plan for economic development, a marketing strategy or a funding mechanism to promote economic development."

Establishing an economic development advisory board, or EDAP, would allow development of a strategy for growth and the exploration of options, the city manager said. One possibility for the future would be the formation of an economic development corporation, which would require a vote of the people.

Council members were receptive to the idea and even discussed placing the establishment of an EDC on the May ballot, but McDuffie said that was premature. The idea needs to be discussed to get people familiar with the concept, he said.

Council members were encouraged to supply names by the next meeting in March for pos-

Council Continued on Page 12

## Local kids returns long lost class ring to local man

Franklin Weeks is grateful to a pair of young brothers and he'd like them to get the credit that's due them.

Luke, 12, and Sam, 8, Lytle were trying out a new metal detector a few weeks ago near Ryan Chapel Church when they turned up something a little out of the ordinary: a college class ring from 1937.

The ring belonged to Weeks, a Ryan Chapel native who graduated from Diboll High School in 1932. They looked him up, gave him a call and returned the ring to him.

"I'd forgotten all about it," Weeks said. "They could have sold it."

The ring is from Stephen F. Austin, which was a college in 1937. Weeks said he got his degree in agriculture. He taught for three years, then got a job with Lufkin Industries and stayed there 41 years until he retired.

Asked if he recalled the circumstances of losing the ring, Weeks demurred. "I don't remember anything about it."

He does know about Ryan Chapel. The church and the little community around it were here before Burke, before Lufkin, before Diboll. Weeks was born within sight of the church. Out of his 1932 high school graduating class of 18 or 19, four were from Ryan Chapel. His wife Norma, who died in September, was an unofficial historian of the area. The couple had a daughter and a son.

Weeks, who lives in Lufkin, mainly wanted to get the Lytle boys' names out there, because he is so impressed by their sense of fairness and responsibility. The boys even wrote him a card thanking him for letting them come see him and return the ring.



## INDEX

Neighborhoods.....	2
Angelina Today.....	3
Opinion.....	4
History.....	5
Church.....	7
Classifieds.....	8
Sports.....	10-12

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