

SILSBEE BEE

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50 Cents

Insurance rates drop

Lumberton fire rating should create savings

By DAVID LISEBY
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Lumberton Fire and EMS is turning some heads in the firefighting world with a recent accomplishment that will affect everyone they serve in Emergency Services District Two. It has been announced that the district has attained an ISO rating of 4, which should cause a significant decrease in insurance premiums for homeowners in and around Lumberton.

Inspectors from Insurance Services

Office, Inc. visited Lumberton Fire and EMS on Dec. 8, 2009., the same day that an arson fire damaged Fletcher Emanuel Church Alive. The purpose of their visit was to gather information needed to determine a public protection classification to be sued to develop property insurance premium calculations.

The results of the survey were received by the department, who presented them to the ESD, LMUD and city and county leaders.

The survey was broken down into

three sections, receiving and handling fire alarms, fire department and water supply.

"We have changed significantly the ability to suppress fires, to prevent fires, to deliver the needed water and to receive and handle calls," said Fire Marshal Jim Philp. "All of this has come about because of the relation we share with the city, the police chief, the city manager, LMUD and the Sheriff's Office. We are very proud of that."

See RATES on PG. 4, SEC. 1

Soldier's final salute



The Patriot Guard leads a procession honoring the memory of Leston 'Tony' Winters, a Hardin-Jefferson graduate who was killed while on active duty in Afghanistan. Winters, an Army medic, left behind a wife and three children.

Sour Lake bids farewell to fallen son

Hundreds of people lined the streets in Sour Lake on a wet Tuesday afternoon to pay tribute to the family of Leston "Tony" Winters, a Hardin-Jefferson graduate who was killed while on active military duty in Afghanistan this past week.

Winters, 30, was an Army medic. Military reports show he was killed by an improvised explosive device on Thursday, July 15, in the Zhari district of Afghanistan.

A parade of Patriot Guard Riders gathered at Sour Lake Elementary School as

residents and well-wishers gathered along the parade route. At the family home, friends and family comforted each other as the motorcycles slowly passed by.

One by one they climbed into their vehicles and joined the parade.

Veterans, patriots, neighbors, men, women and children stood silent as the vehicles made their way through the streets of the town. Some held a flag. Some saluted. Others covered their hearts to honor the hometown man who had made the ultimate sacrifice for his

country.

The motorcade then continued on to the First Baptist Church in Sour Lake. The damp air was quiet as Winters loved ones filed into the church for a memorial service. The body of Winters was not at the church. He will likely be buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va.

Winters, who was in the midst of his third tour of duty, is survived by his wife and three children. The family recently moved to Tennessee after Winters was stationed in Kentucky.



Texas gubernatorial candidate Bill White, right, paid a visit to Kountze and Silsbee this past Sunday, speaking to voters of all parties as he made a sweep of East Texas. White will face incumbent Gov. Rick Perry in the November general election.

Woman says DSL service way too slow

Petitions ask provider to move further north

A petition drive is underway in the northern part of Hardin County along the FM 92 corridor for residents who are attempting to get high-speed Internet connection in their homes and businesses.

According to Cathie Kehtel, who lives between Post Plant Road and Cravens Camp Road on Ducote, she has been promised by AT&T that high-speed DSL connections would be coming to the residents in her area since 2006.

"In fact, I switched over to AT&T because they said that we would be getting DSL," she said. "That was in 2006."

Kehtel, who has lived on Ducote for 33 years, said that she learned a petition might help the effort to get the service.

"I was told that the building that AT&T needed to provide DSL has been completed for a while, but we still don't

See DSL on PG. 4, SEC. 1

Think your parents were tough?

The Sheffields of Spurger give a couple of hard-headed teens some lessons in discipline through hard work.

See the story in next week's Bee
See the video right now at silsbeebee.com



Ricky Paine, left, helps a fellow Silsbee Volunteer Fire Department firefighter with an oxygen tank at a recent house fire. Paine was named the SVFD Firefighter of the Year.

Paine named top volunteer fireman

By GERRY L. DICKERT
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Finding Ricky Paine at the site of a house fire or an automobile accident is not an uncommon occurrence.

Paine has been part of the Silsbee Volunteer Fire Department off and on for the past 19 years, he said. But for the past five years, he has dedicated himself to being everywhere, all the time.

For his support of the SVFD and his willingness to put his life on the line to save the lives and property of others, Paine was named the Volunteer Firefighter of the Year by the department.

"When I got out of high school, I knew I wanted to do something and I thought this was the thing to do," he said.

A 1979 graduate of Silsbee High School, Paine says he has been a life-long resident of the city.

"There were times when I was with the department, then I'd have to stop for a while for my job or my family," he said.

But the past five years have been an effort in dedication for Paine, who loves to help others but doesn't always

love the job he has to do.

"I hate the car wrecks," he said, "especially the ones that involve little kids. It's difficult to see kids get hurt. They have a hard time trying to tell you where they hurt and what's going on with them."

Paine, who is a conductor for the Timber Rock Railroad, said he was stunned by his being named Firefighter of the Year.

"I wasn't expecting anything like that," he said. "It doesn't matter if I'm the fireman of the year. I try to do everything I can every time we're out there. We count on each other and I have to do my part to make sure everyone is safe."

Members of the Silsbee Volunteer Fire Department who were recognized for a 2009 milestone anniversary included:

Roy G. Berry, 35 years; Vince McClammy, 15 years; Mike Fuller, 10 years; Garland Avery, 10 years; Ricky Paine, 5 years; Harold Flatt, 5 years; James Miller, 5 years; Clint Jasper, 5 years.

Berry announced his retirement this year after 36 years of service to the fire department.

Nissan prepares to open new dealership

By GERRY L. DICKERT
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Be it the economy or the weather or just simply bad timing, it appeared on many occasions that a new Nissan dealership might not find a life in Silsbee.

With determination and a lot of patience, though, owners Dean Bernal and John Steely have seen their dream of opening a dealership here finally come to fruition.

"We're finally about 90 percent complete," said Bernal, who will serve as the day-to-day general manager of the new dealership. "We've gotten to

the point of enclosing the building in the coming days and then we'll be putting on the final cosmetic touches."

The dealership sits on the U.S. 96 bypass a few miles south of the Hwy. 327/96 intersection.

The site will deal exclusively in Nissan products on its new-car lot while providing a wide selection of used cars of all makes and models in its pre-owned area.

"We've been working on this since 2007 but due to the economic downturn and the trials in the car business, it slowed our plans down," Bernal said.

See NISSAN on PG. 4, SEC. 1

Time for Prayer

Dear Lord,
Please forgive us our impatience
as we try to understand Your plan.
Keep us ever faithful in Your word
and in the future You have planned
for us.

In His Precious Name,

Amen

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