

The Daily Sentinel

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Serving Nacogdoches, the Oldest Town in Texas, since 1899

It's a mystery

Unusual package winds up at downtown antique store

By MICHELE MARCOTTE
Sentinel Staff

An unexpected parcel arrived from California Wednesday morning at Brick Street Antiques and Collectables.

Owner Tanya Watson said she received a package that day that contained a soft-colored tapestry; with it was a Post-It

Note with tapestry explains person who attended SFA in '89 had stolen the item

note with a handwritten message.

Written by a woman who identified herself only as Mary, the note relayed how while attending Stephen F. Austin State

University in 1989, the woman had stolen the tapestry from an antique shop in Nacogdoches, and she hoped to return it to its home.

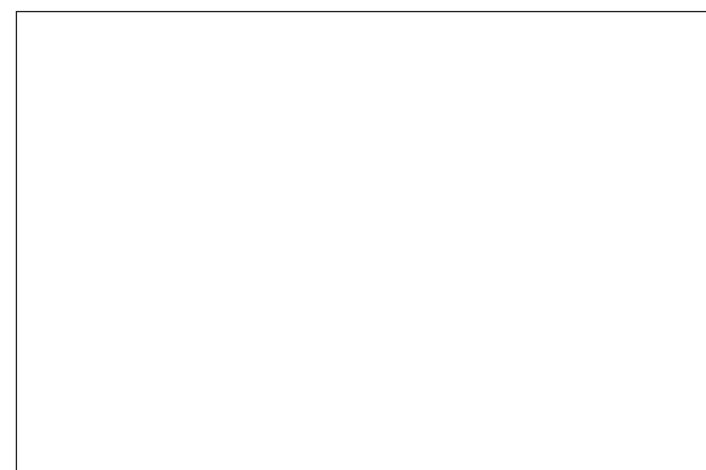
"I hope it finds its way to

an appreciative owner," she wrote.

Watson said when she first read the note she wasn't quite sure what to think.

"It was kind of sad, kind of sweet and kind of thoughtful," she said. "I don't know if she came to town or she was dig-

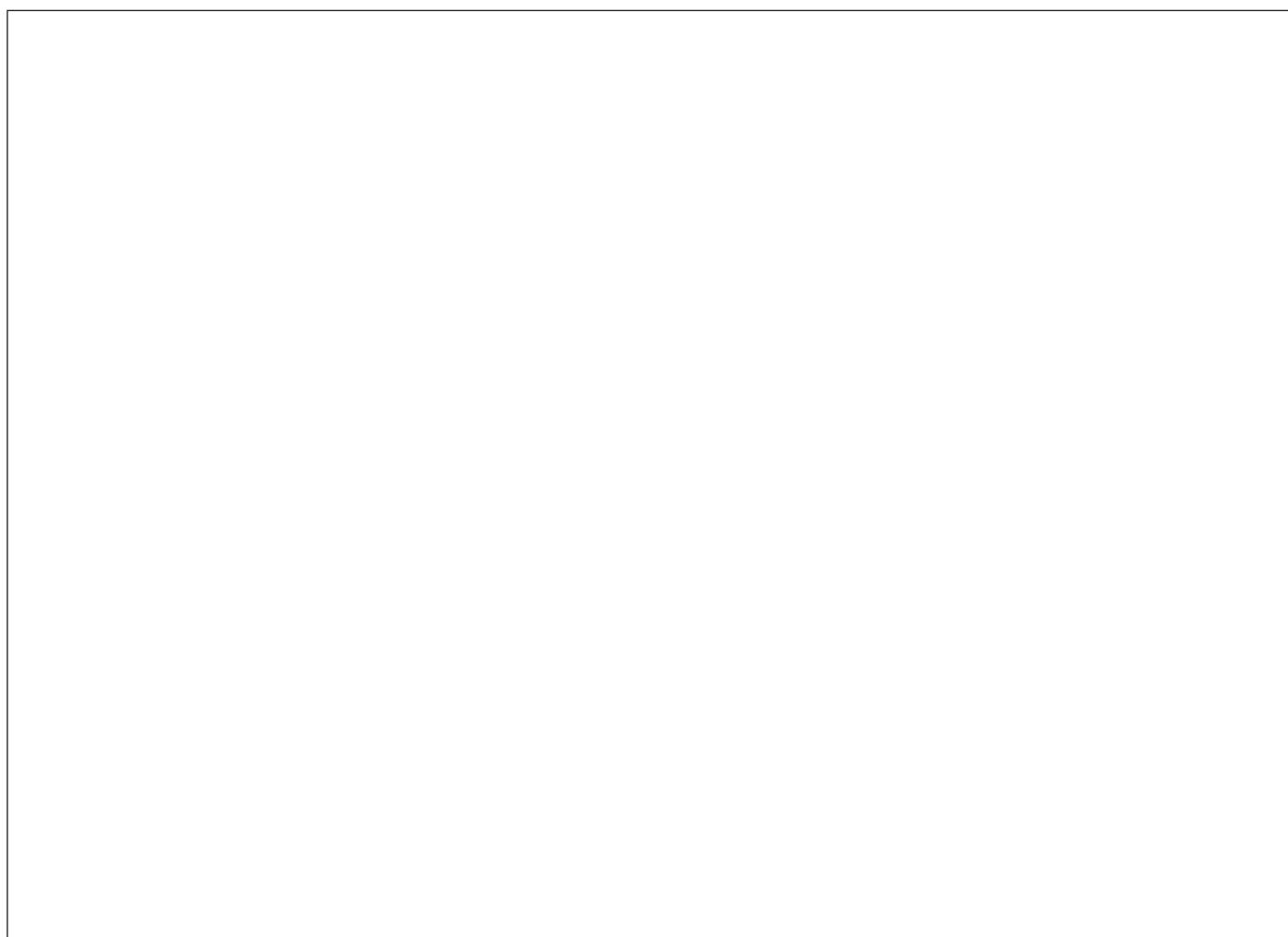
Please see TAPESTRY, Page 8A



Staff photo by Andrew Rogers

Tanya Watson, owner of Brick Street Antiques and Collectables in downtown Nacogdoches, stands next to a tapestry made in Belgium which was delivered to her Wednesday morning with a note written by a woman who said she went to Stephen F. Austin State University in 1989 and had stolen the item from an antique shop in Nacogdoches. The woman who identified herself only as Mary, sent the package from a shipping store in California, writing that she hopes, "it finds its way to an appreciative owner."

Downtown's lost potential



Located on the corner of East Main Street and South Pecan Street in downtown Nacogdoches, the left side of the photo shows the interior of the Wettermark Bank Building, which has no floor, and the right side of the photo shows a reflection on the window of people and cars going through the downtown intersection Friday morning. Many of the old buildings downtown are severely dilapidated on the inside.

Stagnant structures hurt possibilities for a vibrant downtown

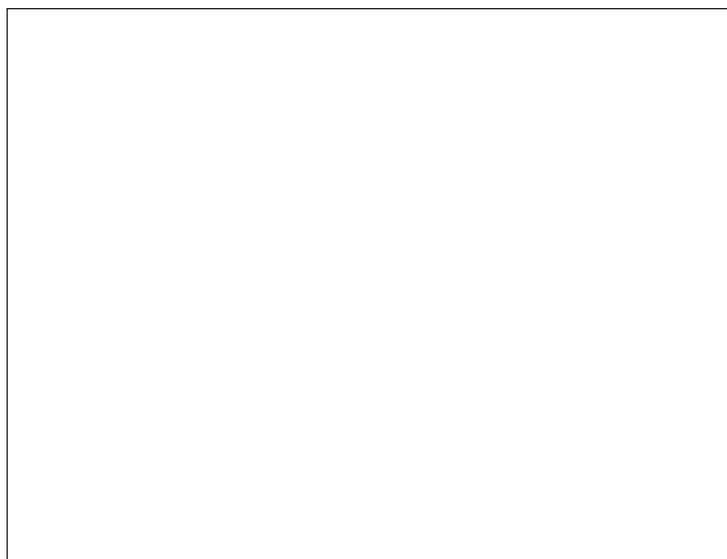
By TRENT JACOBS
Sentinel Staff

What do a night at the theater, surfing the Internet at a coffee shop and sipping on a glass of chardonnay at the hippest wine bar in town all have in common?

The answer is, you can't do any of those things in downtown Nacogdoches.

Despite this, the historically recognized downtown is undoubtedly the centerpiece of the city's tourism campaign, and if city officials had their way, and enough money, residents would be shoe shopping and enjoying al fresco

Please see DOWNTOWN BUILDINGS, Page 2A



Staff photos by Andrew Rogers

The pocket park at East Main Street and South Pecan Street sits dormant Friday afternoon in downtown Nacogdoches. The Texas Historical Commission has come up with several concepts of how to best utilize the park including an outdoor pub as well as other ideas to make it more pedestrian friendly. These concepts were given to the owner of the property free of charge.

Education

Woden ISD opts out of county co-op

By TRENT JACOBS
Sentinel Staff

Woden ISD trustees have voted to withdraw the district from the Nacogdoches County School's Co-op, which serves eight county school district's special education needs.

WISD Superintendent Brent Hawkins said that Thursday night's decision by the board to withdraw from the co-op had been on his mind since he joined the district three years ago. But he said now was the right time for action, because the district will have new facilities available once construction is finished on the district's new elementary school.

"We can provide equal to or better services here in Woden to our kids and have \$92,000 more to spend inside the district. When you look at that way, it's a no-brainer and a win-win for our kids."

Brent Hawkins, superintendent

"We've been reviewing programs throughout our district, so after the evalua-

Please see WODEN, Page 8A

Bucket list

Man fulfills dream of learning to fly

By MICHELE MARCOTTE
Sentinel Staff

Nacogdoches resident Warren Hunter has always dreamed of being a pilot.

He got his first taste of flying during his time in the service by riding in the back of Army observation planes to control artillery, and he decided then that he would one day learn to fly.

Hunter began to take lessons while living in Iowa, but an unexpected event put his plans of being a pilot on hold.

"I got about an hour and a half of flying lessons when the company I worked for informed me that they were withdrawing that division of the business and I was unemployed," he said. "Well, that put an end to my flying lessons but it was always in the back of my mind."

Decades later, Hunter, at 78, saw the 2007 film "The

Warren Hunter, 80, just made is first solo flight.

"Bucket List," the story of two terminally ill patients who take a road trip with a wish list of things to do before they 'kicked the bucket.' After watching the movie, Hunter realized that learning to fly was part of his own

Please see DREAM, Page 8A



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In this issue

Classified . . . 6B Religion5A
Comics 5B Sports 1B
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▲ 58 ▼ 38
Details, Page 7A