

The Winters Enterprise



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Volume 22, Issue 7

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Winters, Texas 75¢

Sheriff's Toy Drive is under way

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
 WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS- Runnels County Sheriff's Office will be holding its annual toy drive on Wednesday, December 21, to make sure all kids in the area have a smile on their faces this holiday season. So far the Sheriff's Department has gathered some toys, but they still have a long way to go to the 400 delivered last year.

Nearly 200 children have signed already and more are expected in the next few days.

The Sheriff's Department toy drive benefits children in need in Ballinger, Winters, Wingate, Miles and many other places in Runnels County. This is a yearly drive that has been going for over 20 years.

The Sheriff's Department is open for donations during office hours, Monday through Friday. Donations can also be picked up by calling at 365 2121.

"We will be giving toys to these children on December 21 until we run out of toys or until we run out of money," said Runnels County Sheriff Bill Baird.

Registration is open for any family in Runnels County. Parents just have to come by or call to drop their name and address as well as their children's age and gender at the Sheriff's Department on Strong Avenue, behind the Courthouse.



PHOTO: RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
 Left to right Sno Princess Hyla Forder, Sno Queen Hailey Wilson and Sno Flake Querstin Lara. The Sno Royalty and court will be representing Winters on numerous events during 2011 and 2012.

Sno Royalty crowned

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
 WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS- Hailey Wilson was crowned last Saturday, December 3 as the new Winters Sno Queen, Hyla Forder became the 2011-2012 Sno Princess, and Querstin Lara was elected Sno Flake at the coronation held in the Rock Hotel, in Winters, after the traditional Christmas Parade.

The crowning of the Sno Royalty topped a magnificent evening, where schools, individuals, churches, business and organizations featured their floats at the Main Street parade.

Annie Wood ended up as First Runner Up in the Sno Queen contest, while the Princess' Royal court was comprised by Second Runner Up Angel Stratton, and First Runner Up Maci Oliver. Miranda Rodriguez ended up as Snow Flake Second Runner Up, and the First Runner Up in this category was Myra Ochoa.

All participants looked gorgeous and

enjoyed the contest as well as their friends and family.

The Sno Royalty was selected by a panel of judges comprised of Angie Vela, of Christian Faith, in San Angelo; Renee Watson also of San Angelo, and Jodi Isbell of Winters.

In the float contest two categories were awarded. Winters Activity Center placed third in the motorized float category, Ms. Ballinger and Court placed second and North Runnels Hospital was awarded first place with their display of Santa's Toy Shop.

The Hines longhorns placed first in the non-motorized float category followed by the Bluff Creek Cowboy Church and DLC Realty. The judges for the float contest were Dana Emerson, Frankie McPherson and Kelly Richardson, all of Blue Cross Blue Shield Abilene. The award-winning WHS Blizzard Band led the parade.

SEE PARADE PHOTOS ON PAGE 6

Winters FFA places at State

WINTERS ENTERPRISE
 STAFF REPORT

WINTERS- Sam Houston State University in Huntsville was the site this past weekend for the State FFA Leadership Development Events. Out of the approximately 1,200 high schools in Texas with active FFA organizations only 20 teams make it to this top level. After advancing through the Big Country District and the Area IV contests, three Winters FFA students were awarded the chance the opportunity to compete at the highest level in two separate events.

The Winters FFA Public Relations team consisted of Jordan Busher, Hannah Franklin, and Michelle Kruse. Their presentation was entitled "FFA: Doors of Opportunity". While the girls did not advance to the finals round this weekend, they did successfully place in the top 20 teams out the 326 with the state.

At the same time Hannah Franklin also competed in the senior level of FFA Creed Speaking. Out of the 679 students who competed statewide in this competition, Hannah advanced to the finals round to finish with the 10th place banner! The level of success for these ladies is one of the highest honor and prestige. Congratulations.



PHOTO: FILE
 Left to right members of the Winters FFA Public Relations team Hannah Franklin, Michelle Kruse and Jordan Busher.

Tree Extravaganza combines sweet voices and beautiful lights

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
 WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS- Winters Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9193 will host an open house at the Rock Hotel on Monday, December 12, 2011 from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

Everyone is invited with veterans, veterans families, widows and children as special guests. Chili and beans plus dips and chips will be served.

The Rock Hotel is currently holding the 2011 "Tree Extravaganza," a Christmas tree exhibit with businesses, churches, schools, and local organizations showcasing their Christmas trees.

The Tree Extravaganza 2011 had its grand opening last Thursday, December 1, with the Lutheran Choir singing Christmas carols. Other individuals and organizations hosting the exhibit were Marianne Ray, on December 2, and the Senior Citizen Nursing Home on December 7.

This Thursday, December 8, the Tree Extravaganza will be hosted by Nadine de la Cruz.



PHOTOS: RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ

The Rock Hotel Board of Directors members, friends and visitors enjoy the 2011 Tree Extravaganza featuring over 20 originally decorated Christmas trees at the Rock Hotel and Agricultural Museum.



The Lutheran Choir presented the program at the 2011 opening night of the Tree Extravaganza.

FSA offers online news service

WINTERS ENTERPRISE
 STAFF REPORT

WINTERS- Farmers and ranchers in Runnels County now have a more efficient, timely option for receiving important FSA program eligibility requirements, deadlines and related information, announced USDA Runnels Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director, Byron A. Bauerlein.

"FSA is now offering free online communications through our GovDelivery electronic news service," said Bauerlein. "News will now be sent via e-mail right to your home or farm office or to your smartphone — allowing you to receive immediate notification of farm program news that is pertinent to your agricultural operation," he said.

Through FSA's GovDelivery electronic news service, producers can establish subscriber preferences by choosing to receive federal farm program information by topic, by state and/or by county. Producers can select as many subscriber options as they want, which allows producers who farm in multiple counties or across state lines to receive updates from each county in which they operate or have an interest. According to Bauerlein, GovDelivery is a one-stop shop for the most up-to-date USDA program information.

Schedule of events

Date	Host	Hour
Dec. 9	Sew & Sew Club	5-7 p.m.
Dec. 10	Fundraiser breakfast	7-10 a.m.
Dec. 10	Lupe and Shelly Guevara	5-7 p.m.
Dec. 11	4H Club	5-7 p.m.
Dec. 12	Senior Citizen Nursing Home	5-7 p.m.
Dec. 13	Winters Women's Club	5-7 p.m.
Dec. 14	Closed Private Party	
Dec. 15	Winters Elementary Select Choir Fran Kidwell	6:30 p.m.
Dec. 16	Canasta Club - Marianne Ray	
Dec. 19	North Runnels Hospital Aux Elaine Miller & Betty Pinkerton	5-7 p.m.
Dec. 20	Danny Prado	5-7 p.m.
Dec. 22	Last night Star and Richard Smelkner Drawing for raffle	5-7 p.m.

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FUNERALS AND OBITUARIES

Debra Renee Lindsey

Debra Renee Lindsey, 53, of Wingate died December 1, 2011. She was born September 20, 1958 in Abilene, Texas to Butch and Melva Winkler and grew up in Abilene and surrounding areas and graduated from Hawley High School. She married Raymond Lindsey on February 14, 1986 in Winters. She was the executive director for the Winters Housing Authority for 19 years. She was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church.



She is survived by her husband: Raymond Lindsey of Wingate. Her mother and step father: Melva and Thomas Lee of Robert Lee; two daughters Carla Lindsey of Abilene and Teri Burselon, and husband Lonnie of Abilene; one brother Dan Winkler of Pearland, and seven grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her daughter Darci Lindsey.

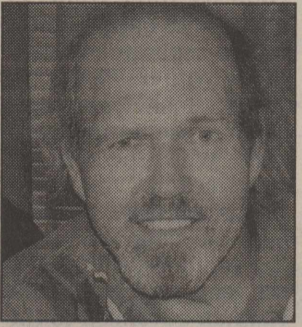
Services were held on Monday December 5, 2011 in the First Baptist Church with Rev. Alsen Wenzel officiating. Burial was held in the Wingate cemetery directed by the Winters Funeral Home.

The family received friends at Winters Funeral Home on Sunday December 4, 2011.

Winters Enterprise, December 8, 2011

Kenneth Wayne Baker

Kenneth Wayne "Bear" Baker, 51, passed away at a local hospital Friday, December 2, 2011.



Survivors include his son Kevin Baker of Jacksboro, TX; daughter Kimberlyn Baker of Benbrook, TX; brother Carl Baker and sister Lanora Hoffman both of Washington, PA.

No services are planned at this time. Arrangements are by Johnson's Funeral Home.

Winters Enterprise, December 8, 2011

'Christmas for Kids' secures 22 sponsors

WINTERS ENTERPRISE STAFF REPORT

BALLINGER- The Children's Advocacy Center of Tom Green County's "Christmas for Kids" program secured sponsors for all 22 children from Runnels County who are presently being cared for under the Court Appointed Special Advocate program or under the CAC's early intervention programs.

The Christmas for Kids program thanked everyone who donated to this program to help make this Christmas brighter for these 22 children who are currently in foster care.

"Your donations have made it possible for the wish lists of all 22 of these children to be filled," said Laura Mallory, program coordinator for Runnels County "for those of you who have a child's wish list to fill, please remember that the unwrapped gifts need to be delivered to 317 Koberlin in San Angelo by Friday, December 9."

Sponsors shall include the child's wish list so that the gifts will reach the correct child. If somebody needs the gifts to be picked up and delivered to San Angelo, please call Sam and Laura Mallory at 365 4277 by Thursday, December 8.

Children in these programs have either been removed from their homes due to documented child abuse or have been removed in order for early intervention services to be provided to them and their parent or guardian.

Christmas sponsors participated getting their child's wish list and either purchasing the items or making a monetary donation to purchase them. Required donation per child was between \$45-75.

NEWS NOTES

Winters Elementary annual basket auction

Winters Elementary first annual basket auction and awards program is scheduled for Tuesday, December 13, 2011. We will begin at 6 p.m. with the third grade program in the auditorium produced and directed by our own Fran Kidwell. At 6:30 we will move to the cafeteria where the singing, jumping for bucks and basket auction will begin. This is an event you won't want to miss! Christmas songs, excited kids jumping for bucks and an auctioneer that promises laughter and entertainment. See you there.

Immunization clinics

Texas Department of State Health Services will be holding an immunization clinic in Runnels County. Flu vaccine will be available. The clinic will be held in Ballinger on Thursday, December 8, from 10 a.m.-12 noon and 1:30-3 p.m. at 608 Strong (behind the Courthouse)

Please bring child's immunization records. If child has Medicaid or CHIP please bring card. For more information call (325) 754 4945.

Mentors needed

Winters Elementary School is looking for volunteers to be a mentor on an elementary student. The volunteer would meet with the student once a week during school hours for approximately 30 minutes to help with homework, read a book, or just talk. Mentoring has shown to help build self-esteem, improve grades and in some cases improves test scores. Anyone interested may contact Charles Murphy, Elementary Counselor at 754 5577 ext. 1126.

Runnels Co. RSE meetings

The Runnels Co. Retired School Employees meet at the First United Methodist Church, the second Tuesday of the month at 9:45 a.m. On January 10, at FUMC, Massage Therapist Ashley Wiley will present the program; on February 14, 2012 Dist. XV President Nancy Byler will present the program at the Miles Citizen's State Bank; on April 10, 2012 UIL Students will be the program at the Winters ISD.

Cross Emmaus Community gatherings

The Cross Emmaus Community gatherings held second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 at the United Methodist Church. For more information call (325) 365 2323.

VFW meetings

Winters Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9193 meet the second Monday night of each month at 6 p.m. in the Rock Hotel. All eligible veterans of the United States military are invited to attend.

Band Boosters

The Band Boosters meet every Monday evening at 7 p.m. at the Band Hall.

Winters Women's Club

Members meet the second Tuesday of the month. Call Marlene Smith at 754-4961 for additional information.

AA Meetings

AA meeting are held at 204 W. Truett behind church on Main St. Tuesday and Thursday at 7 p.m.

Ballinger Al-Anon meetings

Al-Anon meetings will be held every Monday and Wednesday at the First United Methodist Church of Ballinger, on Broad Ave. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. Please enter through the south side of the church.

City Council Meetings

Winters City Council meets at 6 p.m. the last Monday of the month at 310 North Main.

School Board Meetings

Winters ISD School Board meets at 6:30 p.m. every second Monday of the month at 603 North Heights.

Wingate Masonic Lodge meetings

Wingate Masonic Lodge 1042 A.F. & A.M., meetings on fourth Monday of the month, at 6:30 p.m. at Wilmeth, TX Lodge. For further information contact Hank Bourdo, at 754 2048.

Ballinger Masonic Lodge meeting

Masonic Lodge 643, 500 N Broadway, Ballinger, Texas. Stated meetings are at 7 p.m. on the first Monday of every month except for holidays if it falls on that Monday. For more information call (325) 365 3202.

The Winters Public Library received donations from:

- Charles and Fran Kidwell.
- Carol Holley.
- Oleta Webb, memorial for Hattie Belle Bishop.
- Gary and Dinell Jacob, memorial for Joyce Bahlman and Mayme Hoppe.
- Billie and Ray Alderman, memorial for Clyde Reid.
- Jim and Lisa West.
- Van Ray and Deb Whittenburg.
- Elaine Miller, memorial for George Watson.
- Nadine DeLaCruz.
- Jeanne Hilliard, memorial for Joyce Bahlman.
- Mary Kurtz.
- Naomi and Milton Gerhart, memorial for Joyce Bahlman.
- Betty Hood.
- Estella Bredemeyer.
- Francis Griffin, memorial for Betty Lou Holle Griffin.
- Winters Womans Club, memorial for Joyce Bahlman.
- Tony Garcia, Jr.
- Bailey Mayo.
- Ouida & Jiggs Nichols, memorial for Joyce Bahlman/Cecile Wiginton.
- Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Collom, memorial for James West.
- Wingate Gin Corp.
- Billy and Clara Kurtz.
- Mary Bauer, memorial for Hattie Bishop and In Honor of Joanie McAdoo.
- Van Ray Spill.
- Eloise Brown, memorial for Joyce Bahlman.

US Wildlife Service postpones decision about the sagebrush lizard

WINTERS ENTERPRISE STAFF REPORT

WASHINGTON, D.C.- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced last week that the final determination of whether to provide protection under the Endangered Species Act for the dunes sagebrush lizard will be extended six months.

U.S. Rep. Michael Conaway celebrated the announcement and said that parties that may be affected by this measure, such as oil and gas producers, have won an important battle against a measure that would otherwise devastate the industry.

"I am pleased that US Fish and Wildlife Service decided to delay their final determination regarding the dunes sagebrush lizard for another six months; however, it is imperative with this extension that we do not sit on our heels," said Conaway.

"After almost a year of effort spent compiling overwhelming evidence to prove the lizard is not endangered, we have just six more short months to convince the Service that listing the lizard is not warranted."

Listing the lizard could threaten continued exploration and production of the Permian Basin, of the nation's top-producing oil patches.

Officials have blasted the federal government's decision to consider listing the dunes sagebrush lizard, arguing a lack of data on the lizard's population.

It is the quick action and hard work of many individuals and organizations to prepare enough information to refute the Service's assumptions and secure this extension, said Conaway.

"In the coming months I look forward to continuing to work alongside local producers, ranchers, and landowners to make the final case against a needless listing that would devastate oil and gas production and the West Texas economy," Conaway noted.

According to Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson the federal government's call for actual evidence that this lizard is in danger "is good news, because this proposed listing hasn't been based on science... this whole proposed listing was driven by litigation, not science," he said.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's decision to delay any listing for six months will re-open the issue for public comment.

Written comments must be received by close of business on January 18, 2012. For further information on how and where to submit comments, and to review and/or download these documents visit the Service's Southwest Region's website at <http://southwest.fws.gov/>.

New leadership in Texas cattle producers

WINTERS ENTERPRISE STAFF REPORT

AUSTIN- The Texas Beef Council's (TBC) newly elected board of directors recently gathered for their first meeting of the fiscal year to lead the state's producer-run beef marketing organization. The TBC board of directors consists entirely of beef producers providing representation of the state through organization affiliation. In addition, the board may elect two directors at large, without nomination by a qualified organization,

to round out the board with equitable geographic and sector representation.

Roger Clift of Spearman will represent the Texas Cattle Feeders Association on the TBC board and is the newly elected chairman. Clift is the general manager and partner of Hansford County Feeders in Spearman. He is also a partner of Preferred Beef Group packing plant located in Booker.

Ken Leiber, a cow-calf producer from Fort Worth is the newly appointed vice chairman of the TBC board. Leiber is an at-large member of the board and is the president of Texas Livestock Marketing Association and National Finance Credit Corporation of Texas.

"Texas cattlemen and women are well represented on the TBC board," said Clift. "The TBC board establishes the budget and ultimately decides which demand building programs receive checkoff funding."

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Blizzards place third at Bronte Tournament

WINTERS BLIZZARDS ATHLETIC REPORT BY STEPHEN HERMESMEYER

Basketball: (Brooke Bicknell)

Date: 11/29/2011
Played at: Winters
Team: Varsity Girls

Quarters	1	2	3	4	Final
Winters	6	14	20	36	36
Hamlin	13	27	41	57	57

Jordan Busher 8, Caitlin Kurtz 8, LeeAnn Taylor 6, Camille Kurtz 7, Ashley Guy 2, Lauren Bredemeyer 3, Crystal Sanchez 2.

Date: 12/1/2011 - 12/3/2011

Played at: Bronte Tourney
Team: Varsity Girls

Quarters	1	2	3	4	Final
Winters	6	17	29	39	39
Miles	4	15	28	40	40

Caitlin Kurtz 15, Lauren Bredemeyer 1, Camille Kurtz 9, Kat Lindley 2, LeeAnn Taylor 7, Kara Heathcott 2, Ashley Guy 3

Quarters	1	2	3	4	Final
Winters	4	14	16	20	20
Hamlin	17	36	46	60	60

Caitlin Kurtz 7, Lauren Bredemeyer 4, LeeAnn Taylor 9

Quarters	1	2	3	4	Final
Winters	11	16	21	26	26
Bronte	17	24	34	47	47

Caitlin Kurtz 9, Lauren Bredemeyer 7, Crystal Sanchez 1, Kat Lindley 5, LeeAnn Taylor 2, Ashley Guy 2

Quarters	1	2	3	4	Final
Winters	11	26	31	37	37
Miles	3	15	21	32	32

Caitlin Kurtz 10, Lauren Bredemeyer 18, Crystal Sanchez 2, LeeAnn Taylor 4, Ashley Guy 3

Seventh Grade Basketball (Coach Straw)

Date: 11/28/2011
Played at: Miles
Team: Seventh Girls

Quarters	1	2	3	4	Final
Winters	4	10	17	21	21
Miles	1	3	10	14	14

Mikaela Cates 9, Christy Kruse 4, Tia Campos 4, Justine Garcia 2, K'lee Lindley 2

Eighth Grade Basketball (Coach Airhart)

Date: 11/28/2011
Played at: Miles
Team: Eighth Girls

Quarters	1	2	3	4	Final
Winters	2	8	17	21	21
Miles	6	10	15	26	26

Dawn LaVallie 4, Bailee Busher 3, Cedie Taylor 3, Marissa Gray 3, Athena Mata 2, Samantha Marerro 2, Chelsea Gray 2

Coach Holson (JV Girls)

Date: 11/29/2011
Played at: Winters
Team: JV Blue

Quarters	1	2	3	4	Final
Winters	10	12	16	29	29
Christoval	12	21	34	44	44

Kraatz - 9, Cooper - 3, Calcote - 2, Wyatt - 4, Heathcott - 11
Coaches: Brooke Bicknell, Kelsey Holson

JH Boys Basketball (Richardson and Spivey):

Seventh Grade Boys at Miles

Team	1	2	3	4	Final
Winters	4	2	10	5	21
Miles	4	6	0	2	12

3's - M. Mostad (1)
Leading Scorers: M. Mostad (11), A.J. Smith (4), J.Weaver (2), S. Mooney (2), I. Romo (2)
Winters Seventh Grade (1-2)

Eighth Grade Boys at Miles

Quarter	1	2	3	4	Final
Winters	8	1	0	8	17
Miles	5	2	2	2	11

Leading Scorers: J. Soto (6), D. Gerhart (5), B. Mikeska (4), A. Escamia (2)

Varsity Boys Basketball (Coach Bicknell)

Game 1	Quarter	1	2	3	4	Final
Winters	17	18	18	15	68	
Miles	13	18	13	26	70	

Winters - Strait Daniel - 21, Andy Garcia - 19, Riley Ripley - 7, Bryce Mikeska - 7, Andrew Chavis - 3, Kolton Garcia - 2
Miles - Hohensee - 15, Cano - 11

Game 2	Quarter	1	2	3	4	Final
Winters	20	8	11	17	56	
Hamlin	15	9	10	10	44	

Winters - Riley Ripley - 15, Bryce Mikeska - 14, Strait Daniel - 9, Andy Garcia - 5, Andrew Chavis - 4, Chris Gerhart - 3, Matt Pritchard - 1
Hamlin - Lambert - 10, Lucas - 8

Game 3	Quarter	1	2	3	4	Final
Winters	20	17	22	15	74	
Highland Roscoe	4	17	5	10	35	

Winters - Strait Daniel - 18, Andy Garcia - 15, Matt Pritchard - 11, Bryce Mikeska - 9, Riley Ripley - 6, Kolton Garcia - 6, Chris Gerhart - 4, Nik Kraatz - 3, Andrew Chavis - 2
Highland Roscoe - Stevens - 10, Cornett - 10

Game 4	Quarter	1	2	3	4	Final
Winters	15	11	2	14	42	
Coleman	14	25	17	17	73	

Winters - Strait Daniel - 11, Riley Ripley - 10, Andy Garcia - 9, Bryce Mikeska - 7, Matt Pritchard - 3, Chris Gerhart - 2
Coleman - Thomas - 15, Needham - 11

Game 5 (Third place)	Quarter	1	2	3	4	Final
Winters	13	20	13	23	69	
Miles	10	15	14	8	49	

Winters - Strait Daniel - 25, Riley Ripley - 18, Andy Garcia - 17, Chris Gerhart - 3, Kolton Garcia - 2, Nik Kraatz - 2, Nik Kraatz - 2. Miles - Halfmann 23, Walter - 7



PHOTOS: JOE GERHART

The Winters Blizzards placed third at the Invitational held last week in Bronte.



ABOVE: The Blizzards fell by two points against the Miles Bulldogs in a head to head match.



Caitlin Kurtz in the game the Lady Blizzards held against the Hamlin Lady Pipers.



RIGHT: Jordan Busher goes for the two points at the Bronte Invitational held on Dec.1-Dec. 3.

TSTC Graduate

WINTERS ENTERPRISE STAFF REPORT

WINTERS- Martin Lee Torres will graduate from West Texas State Technical College with an associate degree in Wind Energy. Graduation ceremony will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, December 10, 2011. Martin is a 2009 Winters High School graduate. Proud parents are Adolfo and Herlinda Torres of Winters, maternal grandparents are Casimiro and Carolina Jimenez of Winters, and paternal grandparents were the late Adolfo Torres and Julia Torres.

Community Board

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THE IDLE AMERICAN

A tribute to visionaries...

Cometary by
Dr. Don Newbury

As islands go, it's a small one — 32 miles long and 2.5 at its widest point — but thanks to the grit and determination of visionaries who dug in 109 years ago, it's still on maps. Mother Nature almost eliminated Galveston Island during the Great Storm of 1900. Winds peaked at 145 MPH; the entire island was covered by raging flood waters seven feet deep.

Nature's calling card of carnage marked the nation's deadliest natural disaster. Fatality estimates range from 6,000-12,000, with most figures pegged at some 8,000. About 20% of the island's residents died, and many thousands fled, most never to return.

Within two years, remaining stalwarts didn't change the order of galaxies or alter the earth's orbit. But with grit and determination, they methodically took on two seemingly impossible tasks — to build a 17-foot seawall

and to increase much of the island's surface by up to 17 additional feet above sea level. Their hope and prayer was that such herculean efforts would eliminate future historic disasters....

Visionaries remain strong. In 2002, the Port of Galveston, hoping to tap growing tourism interest, convinced Carnival Cruise Lines to add Galveston to its list of homeports. It was done, and the years since have been history-making, with leapfrog jumps in boardings each year. More than a million people will board cruise ships in Galveston in 2011.

So confident are Carnival leaders that their newest, most innovative vessel, the Magic, is assigned to the Port of Galveston on a year-round basis. (With another vessel, the Carnival Triumph, also in Galveston, the cruise line expects

to carry a record 450,000 cruisers in 2012.)

The arrival of the Magic in Galveston for its inaugural voyage resulted in unprecedented news coverage. Indeed, November 13-14 were red-letter days on cruise calendars....



TEXAS
COLUMNIST
Don
Newbury

On the 13th, more than two dozen media folks, several from out-of-state, were taking notes and shooting photographs during a 20-hour preview blitz of local attractions arranged by the Galveston Island Convention and Visitors Bureau. At the same time, the Carnival Magic was completing a 16-day trans-Atlantic voyage from Barcelona, where its initial cruises of the Mediterranean began May 1.

The \$830 million vessel docked in Galveston hours before daylight on the 14th, and with day's first light, motor-

ists were slowly driving by. Children were eager to see the twin water slides atop the 15-deck vessel. Adults' imaginations whirled at recollections of innovations dominating the cruise conversation grapevine. ("Laid-back" describes the ship's ambiance. One example: "Gangway" signage is complete with definition — the "thingy" we use to get from ship to shore.)

Soon, U.S. immigration officials boarded as expected to check credentials of 1,400 crew members from more than 100 countries. Then came U.S. Department of Public Health officials. "Oh, no, the government is occupying Carnival," one writer exclaimed. (It is worthy of note that the Magic received a grade of 100 from the health officials.)...

Dockside for some 36 hours, the Magic got once-overs — even twice-overs — from some 2,500 travel agents and tour directors on an overnight visit to

check out the ship. And 4,000 fans gathered for a Maroon 5 dockside concert of celebration.

Before lifting anchor, Carnival officials exchanged plaques, plaudits, promises and pleasantries with Port of Galveston leaders. Enthusiasm abounded concerning the future of what is now the nation's fourth-busiest homeport — number one outside of Florida, where the modern-day cruise industry began....

Throughout the cruise, "oohs and ahhs" reached record levels.

Truly, this 1,000-foot vessel is a marvel, already duly noted by national cruise writers. Galveston Island is a marvel, too, the latter likely unknown by most Texans. It is rich in history, offering attractions to augment cruises.

Prospective visitors will do well to visit www.galveston.com for details on an array of attractions. An additional three days tacked on either

end of cruises can be well spent....

Until this century, Texans rarely included cruises in vacation conversations. Now, it is commonplace. Carnival claims that one of its 19 North American homeports is within a day's driving distance of about half of all Americans.

Galveston CVB leaders say that 30 million folks live within 300 miles of their port. With the recent addition of the Royal Caribbean's Mariner of the Seas — plus Disney's Magic and Princess' Crown Princess scheduled for seasonal cruises in 2012 — Galveston is destined to become one of the world's most popular cruising homeports. The Carnival Magic, in a class by itself, defies description. It must be experienced....

Dr. Newbury is a speaker in the Metroplex. Send inquiries/comments to newbury@speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872.

PUBLIC RECORD

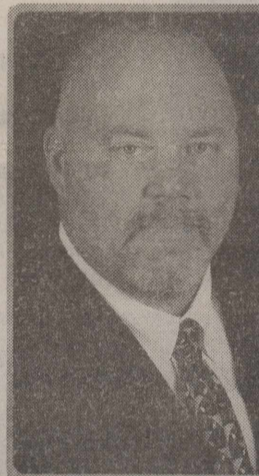
Runnels County Jail Record

Name	Age	Arrest Agency
Gilbert Cervantes Jr.	41	RCSO
MTR-DWI 3rd or more		
Christopher Smith	29	Coke Co.
Theft of firearm (S/W), Illegal Poss. Firearm (S/W)		
Raymond Romos, Jr.	20	BPS
VEPD W/Assult.		

Daniel Green Commitment	26	RCSO
Phillip Parson Parole Viol.	46	Concho
Louis Robles Poss. of marijuana	46	Concho
Caleb Sherman Poss. Controlled substance	18	WPD
Jose Flores Theft of person (elderly)	41	RCSO

Veteran's Corner

I am urging all veterans, particularly elderly veterans, to check with me or their local Veterans Affairs Offices before paying for a service someone offers. There have been many reports of scams across the country. Some offer higher pension rates for sending in personal information. There is no reason for a veteran or widow to pay for services being provided free or take the risk of their vital information falling into the hands of someone who will use it for identity theft. All of the services offered at my office are free, come by a see me. For more information, contact Sandra at the Veterans Service Office at 602 Strong Ave or call 365-3612.



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AgriLife new agent in Mason County

WINTERS ENTERPRISE STAFF REPORT

MASON- Tyler Bobinmyer will become the new Texas AgriLife Extension Service agent for agriculture and natural resources in Mason County effective December 12 according to Mason County Judge Jerry Bearden and Scott Durham, AgriLife Extension administrator in San Angelo.

"We are very pleased to have Tyler join us," Durham said.

ELM CREEK

WATER CONTROL DISTRICT will meet in regular session on Tuesday, December 13, at 6:30 at the Senior Citizens Activity Center, 600 Wood, Winters, TX.

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By Ace Reid

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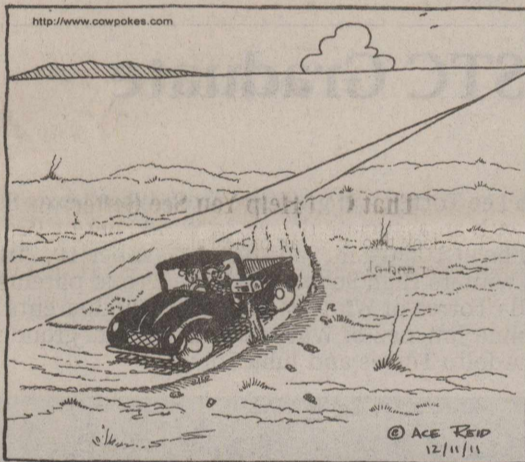
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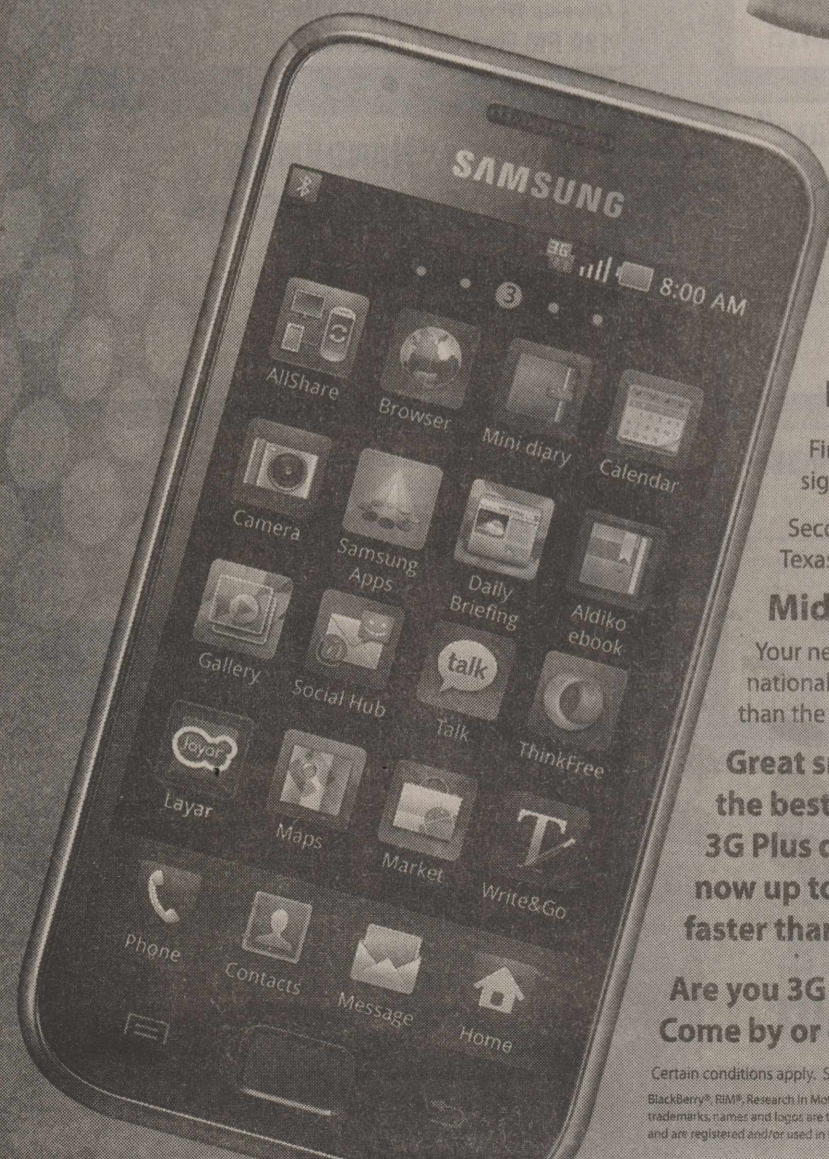
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Snow Flake contestant Emily Simmons.



Snow Flake contestant Myra Ochoa giving candy away for the little ones who attended the parade.

PHOTOS: RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ



ABOVE: Winters Cub Scout Pack Cub 249 proudly presenting the US flag and their own colors



LEFT: Sponsored by Lone Star Video Diner Angel Stratton. Angel was elected second runner up in the Sno Princess contest.

RIGHT: The Bluff Creek Cowboy Church presented a very nice Christmas scene in their float.



ABOVE: North Runnels Hospital and Santa's Toy Shop, getting the presents ready for Christmas.

BELOW: Snow Flake contestant Summer Schneider.



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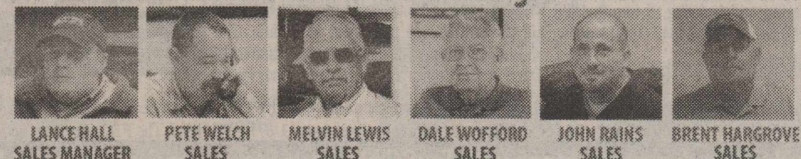
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TUESDAY
Breakfast Pizza or Cereal or Breakfast Taco, Toast w/Jelly, Juice, Choice of Milk.

WEDNESDAY
Biscuit/Egg Pattie or Oatmeal or Breakfast Burrito, Toast w/Jelly, Juice, Choice of Milk.

THURSDAY
Breakfast Pocket or Cereal or Pancake/Sausage Link, Toast w/Jelly, Juice, Choice of Milk.

FRIDAY
Biscuit/Sausage or Cereal or Muffin/Sausage, Toast w/Jelly, Juice, Choice of Milk.

WINTERS ISD LUNCH MENU
Note: Menus are subject to change without notice. Students may purchase extra Entree for \$1.00. Milk for \$.30, Sides for \$.50, Large Chef Salad for \$2.00, Small Chef Salad for \$1.00, Tea \$.50 (Jr. High and High School), Water \$1.00, Visiting Adult \$4.00, Visiting Child \$3.00.

MONDAY
Chicken Fries/Gravy or Fried Rice/Egg Roll, Broccoli w/Cheese, Oriental Vegetables, Rosy Applesauce, Tossed Salad/Carrot Sticks, Hot Roll, Choice of Milk.

TUESDAY
Spaghetti/Bread Stick or Chicken Pot Pie, Green Beans, Corn, Tossed Salad/Carrot Sticks, Hot Roll, Rainbow Bar, Choice of Milk.

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