The first civilian settlement in Runnels County was established by Richard Coffey near the mouth of DETAILS PAGE 4 the Elm Creek



Thursday, September 13, 2012



Rudy Lara blocks Daniel King while Jimmy John Ripley looks for a receiver at the game the Blizzards played last Fri-day against the Ballinger Bearcats.

Blizzards suffer second defeat of the season

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ WINTERS ENTERPRISE

BALLINGER- The Ballinger Bearcats allowed only 53 offensive yards, while quarterback Jacob Rodriquez and tailback Zach Perez combined for four touchdowns to defeat the Winters Blizzards by a score of 47-7 at Bearcat Stadium.

The game, held on Friday, September 7, 2012, marked the renewal of a long standing rivalry between both teams that had been put on hold for

topped the drive with a 15-yard run into the endzone. Dustin King added the extra point and the score moved 7-0.

Three consecutive flags for the Blizzards and a sack on quarterback Jimmy John Ripley by Riley Woodruff left the Blizzards in third and 35.

In the ensuing posses-sion and with 21 seconds left on the clock Zack Perez completed a 32yard run into paydirt. Jacob Rodriquez carried the ball for the extra point, 15-0. Before the quarter was over, and with 0:00 on the clock Rodriguez scored from the 38-yard line. Rodriguez carried the 2-point conversion, 23-0. The second quarter would still bring more for the Bearcats. Devon Hoelscher made a 1-yard carry into paydirt with 7:24 left, the extra point was good by King. King would add a 28-yard field goal with 3:20 for a 33 point shutout at the half. It was until the fourth quarter when the score moved again. First Ballinger added seven points

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Winters		0-2			
Sept. 7					
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Forsan		14-0		P	lains
Sevmour	Status-	27-0		Ha	ekoll

kicked the extra point, 40-7 with 6:33 left of the game.

Before the game was over Zach Perez would score his third touchdown of the night, a 53-yard run with 3:17 remaining on the clock. King kicked the point after touchdown for the final 47-7. Despite the uneven

score the game helped to revive an old rivalry on the field, and both sides of the Bearcat Stadium were packed with cheering fans Rushing, the Perez led the Bearcats with 18 carries and 188 yards, Rodriquez had 13-87. **Passing Rodriquez had** six out of eight passes completed for a total of 74 yards. Tyler McBurney received three for 35 yards and Jeff Davis caught one for 28 For the Blizzards Jayton Torres was limited to 8 carries and 8 yards; Torres also had a 98yard kick-return for a touchdown. Jimmy John Ripley passed for 7-16-33, and Bryce Mikeska captured 3 passes for a total of 17 yards.

WISD maintains tax rate and approves rises

WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS- Winters ISD school board members met on Thursday, August 30, and voted unanimously to approve a \$6.475 million budget along with the adoption of a 1.04 dollar tax rate. This school year's ad valorem or property tax rate of 1.04 tax rate still ranks the lowest in Runnel's County with Ballinger, Olfen and Miles districts' all at a higher tax rate of 1.17 for maintenance and operation. "I commend the effort of our school board to maintain

the current tax rate while not compromising our exceptional instructional services and programs, ensuring the educational and extra-curricular goals of the district are met," Superintendent Don Kuempel, Jr. said.

The newly adopted budget represents a decrease of almost \$500,000 compared to the 2011-12 budget, primarily attributed to the completion of two big ticket improvement expenses: A new 400 meter track and two new activity buses.

The property tax rate remains steady at 1.04 per \$100 assessed property value. "Although both our state and local funding will be less

than last school year, Winters ISD is committed to providing an exceptional educational experience for the stu-dents of our district," said board President Doug Wheat. "Because our district is in good financial condition with a healthy fund balance, our board has been able to adopt a budget that we feel will enhance many aspects of our district," he added.

Winters ISD maintains an excellent staff-to-student ratio and provides quality academic and extra-curricular programs for students. In addition, student enrollment

is slightly higher than it was at the end of last year. "In light of difficult economic conditions for our community and our area the past couple of years, our student enrollment has slightly increased to 618 students from 611 last May, indicating there are many positive things happening in Winters ISD. Our board is very supportive of our leadership team and is looking forward to a great school year," stated President Wheat.

According to Kuempel employee salaries comprise 75 percent of the budget, leaving the remainder in the coffer to fund utilities, transportation, maintenance, professional development, and curriculum and instructional materials.

"This budget reflects countless hours of planning and eetings with teachers, staff and board members to identify the needs of our district. Through a transparent and collaborative process that we initiated when I first began my superintendency here, we wanted all teachers and staff to have input in this process," Kuempel stated.

PHOTO: RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ

25 years.

The game was the second win of the Bearcats this season. By their second game of the season the Bearcats already doubled their 2011 harvest, when they had a record of 1-9.

Winters, on the other side, suffered their second defeat of the year after falling to Mason in the season opener.

Ballinger opened the scoring with 9:25 left in the first quarter. Cory Johnson and Jacob Rodriquez made three long carries to set the ball at the 15-yard line. Johnson

Stamford	34-27	Munday
Ballinger	47-7	Winters
Sept. 14		
Anson	at	Jim Ned
Stanton	at	Forsan
Haskell	at	Baird
Merkel	at	Stamford
Bronte	at	Winters

more with a 4-yard run by Perez. King kicked the

extra point 40-0. And the Blizzards lone score came through Jayton Torres, who had his second kick-return touchdown of the season. Torres carried the ball 98 yards into the endzone, and Justin Ventress

There are a number of hallmark improvements in this year's budget that include: \$115,000 for unmatched E-rate funds (\$850,000 E-rate grant to upgrade network and infrastructure), 3 percent pay increase for all hourly and nonpay scale employees, 2.5 percent pay raise for all capped teachers and para-educators, athletic department upgrades, culinary arts equipment, PA/Security/Bell systems, new band uniforms, summer feeding program, and a new suburban, remarked Business Manager Glenda McKneely.

'God has truly blessed us. I am so thankful we have not had to burden our people with more taxes. These are tough times and good management is a must." Kuempel added, "Considering the State's turbulent school finance situation and revenue shortfall. I believe Winters ISD is positioned very well financially for the next few years; its solvency should be attributed to the prudence of present and previous administrations and boards."

Not all that glitters... is gold

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ WINTERS ENTERP

WINTERS- When Paula realized it was all a scam, it was too late, a lifetime of savings and dreams, the family property and vehicles, everything was gone. She was left with empty hands, financially devastated and with a growing debt.

Paula, a senior citizen and lifetime resident of Runnels County recalls how everything started, six years ago. She started buying rare gold coins. Living in the family ranch, in the outskirts of Ballinger, she and her husband had nothing to worry about. The property was paid-off, no kids to take care of, so she decided to invest in their future. She knew that coin collectors sometimes see big returns on their investments.

She was also told that the value of these coins tend

to rise during periods of high inflation and recession. Paula started buying relatively cheap coins and paying about \$500 out of their own money. However she was lured to get into credit card debt, and before she knew it the bill had grown well over \$100,000.

"I started buying just one coin at a time, I was trying to make an investment for our future," Paula recalls.

Just like many amateur collectors she fell for the story that her investment would double or triple in a short time. It didn't. And when she decided it was time to sell to get her money back she contacted the same coin dealer.

"I called and they told me that if I wanted to make money with my coins I had to wait for about 10 years or more. Finally, the representative said they would buy the coins back but the commission was going to be 30 percent," says Paula.

A few days later, a man impersonating William (Billy) O'Connor, who was later identified as Justin Allen O'Neal, came to Paula's home. She had been dealing with O'Connor for a few years over the phone but never met him in person.

Paula believes that it was O'Connor, a legitimate employee with a coin dealer in Beaumont, Texas, the one who sold her information to O'Neal.

"He (O'Neal) came to my house and said that he was O'Connor, he said that he didn't feel it was right for his company to charge me with the 30 percent to buy my coins back," Paula explains.

After gaining her confi-dence, O'Neal told Paula that he would pay her credit card debt in order to buy the coins back. Paula trusted the man she thought she had been

dealing with for years.

A few days later O'Neal came back and showed her the bogus copy of a check. O'Neal told her that it was the check used to pay her credit card debt. A few days later, Paula received her credit card statements and realized that everything had been a scam.

Paula called the Runnels **County Sheriff's Department** and an investigation was started. They soon realized that O'Neal was part of a multistate gold scam that spanned from Beaumont, Texas to Minnesota, Illinois, Nevada, California and more.

Justin Allen O'Neal, 36, was arrested in September of 2011 along with Ryan Lambeth, 30; William O'Conner, 36; and Thomas Eckert, 54. O'Neal is still at the Hardin County Jail facing charges for a different felony

PLEASE CONTINUE ON PAGE 3

Conaway to bring legislative update to Runnels Co

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ /INTERS ENTE

WINTERS- U.S. Rep Mike Conaway will be in Runnels County on Monday, September 17, 2012. Conaway will host two town hall meetings, in Ballinger and Winters, to bring a legislative update to citizens in Runnels County and the surrounding area.

The first meeting is scheduled from 12:00 p.m. until 1:15 p.m. at the Council Chamber, at the Ballinger City Hall, located at 700, Railroad Avenue, Ballinger Texas.

Then Representative Conaway will be 2 p.m. thru 3 p.m. at The Attic, 200 South Main Street, Winters, Texas.

The meetings will be open to the public. For more information, please contact JoAnne Powell in Congressman Conaway's regional office in San Angelo at (325) 659 4010.

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2 Winters Enterprise

FUNERALS AND OBITUARIES

Priscilla Hernandez

Priscilla Hernandez, 30 of Winters, TX passed away Wednesday, August 29, 2012. Priscilla was born on August 12, 1982 in San Angelo, to Ruben Sr. and Mary Lou Hernandez.

Priscilla enjoyed spending time with family and helping others when she could. Her greatest accomplishment was giving birth to her three children Keagan A. Esquivel (11), Armondo S. Esquivel (9) and Serenity S. Luera (8). Priscilla was preceded in death by: her father, mother and brother David Anthony Hernandez.

Priscilla is survived by: her sister Lillie M. Hernandez,

four brothers Ruben Jr. Hernandez, Michael Paul Hernandez, Gabriel Hernandez. Jacob Jesse Hernandez. grandmothers Clemencia P. Gonzales and Elida Hernandez, four sister-in-laws, one brother-in-law, and 18 nieces and nephews that she loved so much.

Priscilla you were a great person at heart and will be missed dearly but never forgotten. Message to family and friends...The

Hernandez Family would like to thank everyone for their generosity and support during this time of sorrow. It's through you that comfort the heart on soul. God Bless. Memorial Service was held on Saturday September 1, 2012 at the chapel at Heritage Family Funeral Home.



Johnny G. Willborn

January 23, 1972 - August 31, 2012

Johnny was born January 23, 1972 in Winters Texas to the proud parents of Ronny and Nora Willborn. Johnny worked for Bill Polston W&R Wrecker Service for over 20 years. He was also in construction worker, and at time of death he was a mechanic and truck driver for Brendan Polston. Johnny loved to work on old cars and loved to fish and barbecue with his friends. He enjoyed listening to Rock & Roll and Country music. He had a special companion by his side "Lady" (his dog).

Johnny was an all around good guy that would help to do anything he could for you, was a true friend. Johnny left behind both parents,

daughter Allyson Willborn of Bullhead, Arizona, and son John Willborn of Winters, Texas. Johnny was raised with brothers Ronny, of Hico, Texas; Donnell of Warren, Ohio; sister Annette Barnes, of Hico, Texas, and brother Aaron and wife Belinda of Las Vegas, Nevada; Chris and wife Carla of Flag Staff, Arizona; sister Jenny Lawler of San Angelo, Texas. Survivors also include Bren-



dan Polston best friend / brother of Winters, Texas. Viewing was at Heritage Family Funeral Home Thursday September 6, 2012. Graveside was held at Wilmeth cemetery September 7, 2012.



Henry Patino

Henry "Hawkeye" B. Patino, 71, of Ballinger, beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, went home to the Lord Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2012.

Henry was born Oct. 4, 1940, in Olfen, Texas, to Victor and Ignacia Patino and was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church. Henry possessed a good sense of humor, a warm, friendly nature and a beautiful smile. He will be greatly missed by all who were blessed to know him. Henry was a long-time employee of Wal-Mart. He loved yard work, fishing, hunting and playing pool with his best friends, Skipper Whee-

less and the late Manuel Martinez.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers Victor Patino Jr. and Harry Patino; and sister Virginia Galvan.

Survivors include his wife, Frances Patino of Ballinger; daughters Annis Patino, Mary Patino and fiance Aaron and Mellissa Patino, all of San Angelo; grandchildren Michael, Andres,

Clemente, Nate, Enrique, Aaliyah, Alejandra and Criselda; great grandson Keno; step-daughter Jennifer Alvarez and husband Richard; step-grandchildren Jessica, R.J., Gaby and Lourdes, all of Houston; brother Refugio Patino and wife Olivia of Abilene; sisters Felicitas Bautista and husband Juan and Mary Lopez and husband Robert; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Rosary was on Thursday, Sept. 6, 2012, at St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Memorial service was Friday, Sept. 7, 2012, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, with Father Wade and Deacon Workman officiating

The family would like to extend special thanks to Dr. Stevenson, Dr. Ayass, Dr. Wohl, Dr. Hughston, Odyssey Hospice and Miros Aguirre for all the special care they gave him.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to American Cancer Society, National Kidney Foundation or a favorite charity.



Winters Enterprise, September 13, 2012

Conifacio Fernandez

Conifacio "Benny" Fernandez, Sr., 54, of Abilene, formerly Winters died September 1, 2012. He was born July 23, 1958 in Winters to Jose and Mercedes Fernandez and grew up in Winters. He married Margie Flores. He later moved to Breckenridge and had lived in Lexington, Nebraska and later moved to Abilene. He worked in construction and was a Catholic. He loved to hunt, fish, work and spend time with family.

He is survived by three children: Yolanda Maldonado and husband Juan of Lubbock, Conifacio Fernandez, Jr. and wife Cynthia of Breckenridge, and Benny Ray Fernandez of Waxahachie. He is also survived by his brother Joe Fernandez, Jr. of San Angelo; three sisters: Millie Lozano and husband Raymond of Winters, Margie Salas of Breckenridge and Anita Fernandez of Winters; three half brothers: Joey Fernandez and Jimmy Fernandez both of Winters and Jesse Fernandez of Kennedy, and seven grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Rosary will be 7 p.m. Thursday September 6, 2012 in

Thursday, September 13, 2012

NEWS NOTES

Kids in Christ Klub

KICK, Kids in Christ Klub, a fun Wednesday night program for all children in the community from Pre-K (4 years old) through Fifth grade begins Wednesday night September 12. The place is First United Methodist Church, 141 Church Street, Winters. KICK will meet each Wednesday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Supper will be served. The children will be studying the story God wrote in the Bible. Come join in the fun.

Butterfield Trail Days

Butterfield Trail Days will be held September 29, 2012 Downtown Bronte. Arts and crafts booths and music will be from 10 a.m thru 5 p.m. Come out and showcase your band, choir, or dance team.

Fun Run registration 7:30 at Depot run starts at 8 a.m. 1 mile, 5K, and 10K (fundraiser for Class of 2014)

Motorcycle Poker Run registration 9 -10 a.m. at Fort Chardbourne. There will be a motorcycle show after Poker Run at Depot. Bronte VFD lunch (fundraiser). Kickapoo Cook Off registration Friday 6:30 Brisket, Chicken, Ribs.

Memorial scholarship fund

A memorial scholarship fund to honor Tommy Burton has been started. For more information contact Security State Bank, 700 South Main, Winters, Texas at (325) 754-4505.

Pray Until Something Happens

Every first Friday of the month the First United Methodist Church will be having PUSH "Pray Until Something Happens" everyone is invited to come and pray from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Bronte 2012 golf calendar

Bronte Longhorn Golf Club 2012 events: September 29 and 30, Coke Co. Tournament two-person 18 holes select shot each day; October 6, two-person 18 holes select shot; November 3, two-person 18 holes shots. Carts are limited so sigh up early if need carts. Bronte Longhorn Golf Club (325) 437-2156.

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.

Cross Emmaus Community gatherings

The Cross Emmaus Community gatherings held first Thursday of each month at 6 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.



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Dr. Sarah Endicott, M.D. • Dr. Mark McKinnon, M.D. Judy Zuspann, PA-C

Winters Funeral Home. Funeral Mass will be 5 p.m. Friday at Mt. Carmel Catholic Church with burial in Lakeview Cemetery directed by Winters Funeral Home.

Pallbearers will be: A.J. "Saiz" Fernandez, Joey Fernandez, Anthony Arriola, Nato Vasquez, Jr., Abraham Vasquez and James Vasquez.

Winters Enterprise, September 13, 2012



PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

Photographer Janice Hipsher was recently named the first Artist of the Month at the Heritage Hall Gallery, in Coleman, Texas.

Heritage Hall Gallery names Artist of the Month

WINTERS ENTERPRISE STAFF REPORT

COLEMAN- Photographer Janice Hipsher was recently named the first Artist of the Month at the Heritage Hall Gallery, in Coleman, Texas. Her photography truly "Cap-tures Nature's Beauty." Her photography is exhibited at the new Heritage Hall Gallery 400 W. College, Coleman, Texas.

Janice is known as always the "one" with the camera! She is there to capture the "once in a lifetime shot" of nature, her children and grandchildren and anyone else that comes into the view finder on her camera that captures her imagination.

Hipsher is now retired after being with the US Postal Service for 26 years! Janice and husband, Edwin, own the "Life's Delights Photo Gallery" inside David's Bistro in Santa Anna, Texas, where her work can be seen.

Hipsher's work has been published in "Texas Highways," selected for the 2010 Spring Show at the Alpha Omega Fine Art Gallery in Austin; received numerous awards in competitions in Austin, and was selected for covers of 2011-2012 Coleman County Telephone Book.

Hipsher has also been awarded in the 2011 Native Plants Society of Texas Photo Contest, and numerous contests around the state. The Botanical Research Center of Texas gift shop located by the Botanical Gardens in Fort Worth carries her items.

Congratulations to the First Artist of the Month at Heritage Hall Gallery, Janice Hipsher. The Heritage Gallery Hall is open Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. till 4 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.

Fiesta de la Paloma art show

WINTERS ENTERPRISE

COLEMAN- After years of continuous effort to bring the arts to Coleman County, we are about to do it again. The Fiesta de la Paloma Art Show will commence with registering hand delivered art work at the Coleman Public Library Annex, Friday, September 28, 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, September 29, 9-12. To enter the membership show, the artist must be a paid member of the Fine Arts League of Coleman Co., Inc. Limit of three entries per artist.

The past 2 years' shows have presented the Art League Members only in the exhibit. Members may enter art in any media they have created. As in the past, members can enter their original art work in watercolor, oils, pastels, graphics, drawing, acrylics, quilting, hand work, sculpture, photography - you get the idea. You don't want to miss this one.

The public is invited (free) starting October 3, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The show will continue through Oct. 6 (Fiesta day) from 10-5 each day. Awards will be presented Oct. 6 at 4:30 p.m. FMI call Bill Shields at (325) 723-2056.



Thursday, September 13, 2012

Winters Enterprise 3



Junior Varsity Blizzards quarterback Daniel Gerhart passing the ball during the game against the JV Ballinger Bearcats.

JV Blizzards shutout at Blizzard Stadium

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS- Lance Sauceda carried the ball into the endzone once and completed two touchdown passes, while running back Clayten Crabb ran into paydirt twice for the Junior Varsity Bearcats to defeat the JV Blizzards Thursday night at Blizzard Stadium by a score of 42-0.

Sauceda opened the scoring with a short run in the first quarter, and from there the Bearcats never lost the lead. In the second quarter Crabb had an 11-yard run. The score moved 14-0 with a twopoint conversion pass to Cameron Galvan.

Before the half Sauceda completed a 20-yard pass to Travis Martinez. Carlos Rangel kicked the extra point, 21-0.

In the third quarter Sauceda threw for a 34-yard touchdown to Layne Halfmann. Rangel kicked the ball between the poles for the 28-0. In the next play Austen



Cameron Cooper making an aerial tackle.

Zertuche kicks off, the Bearcats recover a fumble and Travis Martinez runs 45 yards into the endzone. Rangel made the extra point, 35-0. The cherry on the pie came from Crabb, a 41 yard run into the endzone, once again Rangel kicked the extra point for the final 42-0.

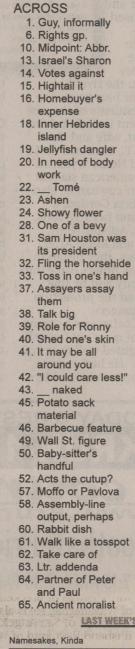




Corey Pritchard makes a stop.

Curtains

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



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Q: What hurricane has been the deadliest?

A: "Though because of where it hit it was not called

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a hurricane, there's no doubt it would be the Great Bhola Cyclone of 1970 that killed an estimated 500,000 people in Bangladesh," explains Brent McRoberts of Texas A&M University. "No other tropical cyclone comes close to it. We know that a hurricane killed about 22,000 people when it struck Barbados in 1780, and an estimated 6,000 people were killed in the Galveston hurricane of 1900. As for the highest storm surge from a tropical cyclone, that goes to the Mahina Cyclone that hit the Bathurst Bay area of Australia in 1899, where the surge measured an incredible 43 feet."

Runnels Co Reds gleam with gold

The Special Olympics Bocce Tournament was held Saturday September 8, 2012 at the Centennial Park in Abilene. Local athletes from Ballinger and Winters were greeted by a cool and breezy morning which fueled their desire to go for the gold.

After a complimentary lunch of hot dogs, chips, and soda the medal ceremony was held, and many Ballinger and Winters Athletes came out on top.

Those earning gold medals were Billy Bennefield, Shannon Cowan, Sammy Escobar, Lupe Galvan, David Garcia, Bill Hudgens, Jareth Rock, and Rhonda William.

The Runnels County team also earned six silver medals. Those placing second in their competitions were Billie Gray, Kimberly Jackson, Melissa Martinez, Angelica Nava, Farina Ramos and Qincy Shields.

The Athletes were accompanied by coaching staff Tommy and Sue Chambliss, Marta Wright, and Martha Hartley.

Theft: The coins were soldin MinnesotaCONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Despite the efforts of the Sheriff's Department and the FBI, only three coins were recovered. The total amount of the loss is well over \$100,000.

The coins were sold to a company in Bloomington, Minnesota, which had already resold most of them. These gold coins changed hands quickly from dealer to investor or to another dealer, making them almost impossible to find.

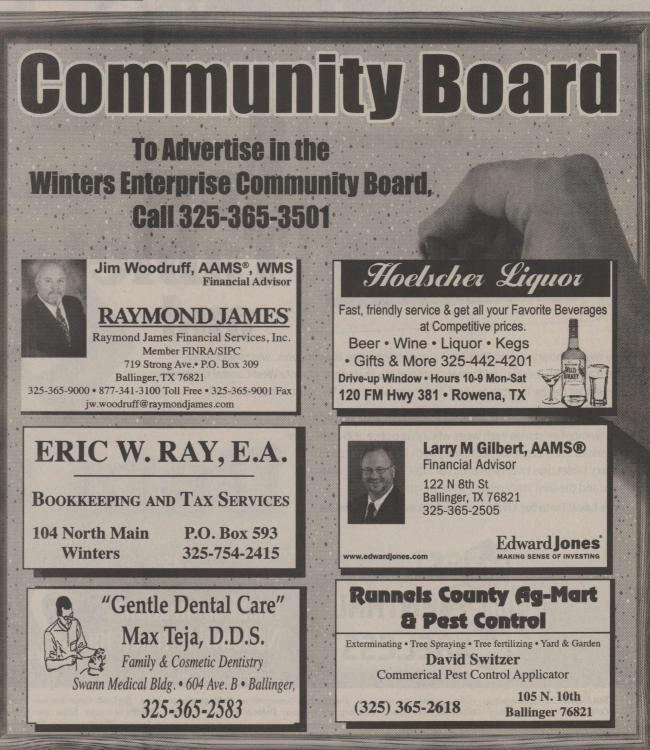
"Now we had to move, put our property on the market and start paying rent," Paula says.

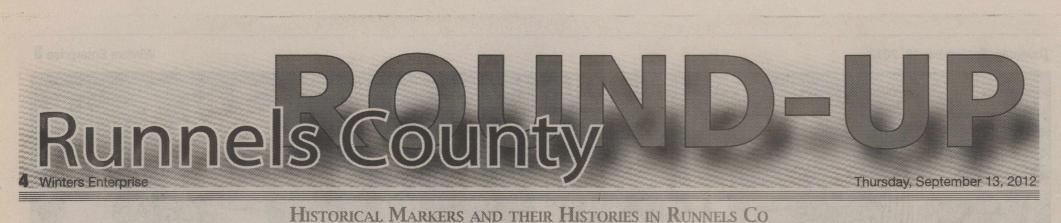
Besides the family economy the scam also had a serious impact on her and her husband's health. Living a stressful situation like that drove her to a health crisis. Paula is now connected to an oxygen tank and they both have to have round the clock home care if they want to stay at home.

"My advice now is to be aware, not to trust anyone and keep records of every transaction that you make, there is too much at stake and I learned the lesson the hard way," she says.

The name of the victim has been changed to protect her identity.







First civilian settlement in Runnels Co

CONTRIBUTED BY RUTH COOPER RCHC CHAIRPERSON

WINTERS- Richard Coffey was born February 14, 1823 in the State of Georgia and grew up there. He married Miss Sallie Greathouse on October 5, 1849. About 1855, they moved to Texas, settling in Parker County. Here their first son, John Wright Coffey was born June 21, 1856. Two daughters had already been born to the family. Rich Coffey raised cattle and also did some freighting. He served under Captain L.S. Ross as a Citizen Soldier and aided in the capture of Cynthia Ann Parker, December 18, 1860.

Runnels County remained uninhabited until December 1862, at which time a settlement was

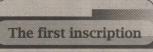
formed on Elm Creek near its mouth. In 1862, Rich Coffey boldly moved his family and cattle out beyond the most remote settlers to Elm Creek near the present site of Ballinger, Texas. He was accompanied to his frontier home by his wife and their five children, a number of cowboys in his employ, including W. A. and Jim Beddo, Bob and Nathaniel Guest, Bob and Henry Meeks, Billy Gordon, and Jack McCarthy. Runnels County remained uninhabited until December 1862, at which time a settlement was formed on the east bank of Elm Creek and between where the Santa Fe Railroad is now located and the Colorado River, close to where Ballinger,

Texas now stands. The settlement was named Pickettville. "There they built a picket

fort, all the houses were joined together and all enclosed by pickets made from the poles they

cut from the river bottom." For four years, the other residents of the new settlement included: John W. Guest, wife and three sons, N.T., B.G., and W.M.; R.K. and Henry Wylie, an african-american servant and their cowhands, also Mrs. Felicia Gordon, a widow and her five sons, William, Adison, Newt, Benton and Riley. After four years, they began to scatter as others came into the county and by that time, had the protection

Rich Coffey was a strong man, not quite six feet tall, but weighted well over 200 pounds. He had a very thick chest and shoulders.



The inscription at that time read: Pickettville

County's first permanent settle-ment. Founded 1862 by WM Guest and Richard Coffey families, and RK and Henry Wylie. They built picket houses and resided here 4 years. They also erected picket corrals, later used by trail drivers John and Joseph Henderson, John Hittson and others (1968)

bigger man.

During the 1870s, Rich

Coffey was on one of his

trips from Picketville to

lin, Texas. There he had

heard of a Baptist Minister

named Northcutt at a little

log church and had turned

aside to learn if this could

be his old Georgian neigh-

bor. The small congrega-

tion was startled by the

sudden appearance of a

large man dressed in bear-

skins. His long uncut hair

and bearskin clothes made

him look more like a bear

than human. The church

and the stranger found a

service was in progress

Weatherford when he

passed through Dub-

period of time, the **Civil** War and just following, was very picturesque with a buffalo robe and cape to pull over his head with a buffalo tail attached for decoration. Thus, giving the appearance of a much

His dress

during this

seat then listened intently to the sermon. As the message proceeded, the visitor was visibly touched and tears flowed down his cheeks. Before the sermon was over, his huge shoulders began to shake and finally he gave vent to audible sobs.

Replacement marker

First civilian settlement in Runnels

County. Founded 1862 by frontiers-

men whose picket houses and cor-

rals gave place its name. Original

W. Guest and three sons; Henry

and RK Wylie, their cowboys and

a servant. Mrs. Felicia Gordon and

five sons. In 1862. "Rich" Coffey's family also moved here. Indian hos-

tilities of Civil War years (1861-65)

caused these ranchers to band to-

gether for protection. In 1866, they

left with cattle for open range. Their

picket corrals later penned the trail

herds of John Hittson, Joseph and

(1973)

Joe Henderson and others

settlers included Mr. and Mrs. John

Site of Pickettville

(1 miles SW)

benediction, the stranger made himself known to the Rev. John R. Northcutt, the Minister. The stranger was Rich Coffey from the Concho area. who as a boy in Georgia had known John R. Northcutt but had not seen or heard of him for many vears.

Following the

The Indian

raids became so numerous that the Coffeys made a fort with settlers at the Flat Top ranch in southwestern Coleman County. A ranch home was eventually selected just below the confluence of the Concho and Colorado Rivers on the Coleman County side (the home was actually in Concho County).

This frontier home became a welcome haven to many a weary traveler. Many stories were told by the Rangers of the aid they never failed to receive from "Uncle Rich" when in trouble. The customary greeting of Rich Coffey to a stranger was "Get down and go to staying". Rich Coffey was the first permanent white settler of the lower Concho Country of West Texas.

About July 1, 1872, a man named John Hittson ordered a roundup of everything of his in Runnels County to move his entire stock of horses and cattle to Deer Trail, Colorado. At night the cowboys were divided into groups to guard the animals. After about

10 day's hard work, 700 head were driven into the pens at Pickettville. Since trees were so scarce, the people of Pickettville had gathered the pickets from over a 15-20 mile radius and this was the only pen (corral) in Runnels County.

> The cowboys were very anxious to get the herd behind the fence and get a good night's rest. The horses were divided into three groups, driven to separate places and hobbled. The next morning, all but 11 horses had been stolen by Indians. Later a post office in Walthall

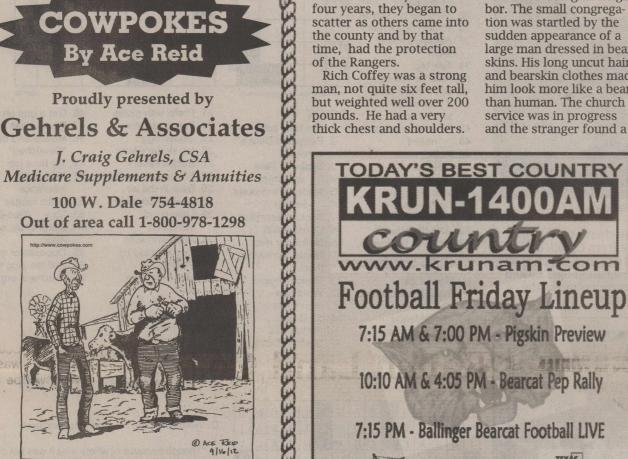
served Pickettville people after Fort Chadbourne Post Office was discontinued.

Rich Coffey died at his home February 7, 1897, and Sallie died June 4, 1910. The remains of those noble pioneers rest in unmarked graves at Paint Rock, Texas.

An Official Texas Historical Marker was set at a site near the confluence of the Elm Creek and Colorado River.

Sometime after placement of this marker, it disappeared and a replacement marker was requested by descendants of the pioneer families.

March 12, 1973, notice was given of an Official Texas Historical Replacement Marker to be erected by the Texas Highway Department on U.S. Highway 67. 1.7 miles NE of Ballinger, Texas.



"If I could just figger out how to get twice as much for my calves an' pay half as much for what it costs to raise 'em I'd be two-thirds as well off as I was 20 years ago!'



Resources **Runnels** County Historical Marker Histories Ghost Towns in Runnels County, Alton O'Neal, Jr. Winters, Texas

Ver

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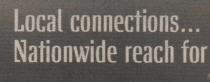
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Thursday, September 13, 2012



6 Winters Enterprise

Winters students enter **Class of 2016 at McMurry** University

WINTERS ENTERPRISE STAFF REPORT

ABILENE- McMurry University, in Abilene, welcomed two Winters area students to the freshman Class of 2016. Those starting the fall semester at McMurry are Jose Gallegos and Victoriano Mendoza.

McMurry University total enrollment for the Fall 2012 semester is 1,376 students.

The new class reflects an increase in both out-of-state and international transfer students, a change brought on by McMurry's move to NCAA Division II this year that will provide a more diverse experience for students. "We are pleased with the quality of this year's

incoming freshman and transfer class, and we look forward to their development as student leaders on campus," said Jon Crook, Director of Admission at Mc-Murry. "This year's new full time student enrollment is higher than 9 of the past 11 years and is the third largest in the past 25 years."

Offering a diverse academic curriculum to more than 1,400 students, McMurry University is a small Christian liberal arts school in Abilene, Texas. Students choose from 41 majors; education and business are popular as are the school's pre-professional programs in medicine, dentistry, law, and physical therapy. The three-week May Term gives students an opportunity to explore a subject outside their major. Through the Servant Leadership Program, students learn about ethics and develop leadership qualities. McMurry's signature Texas Semester takes students through Texas history and culture with hands-on experiences like visits from leading authorities that take place both in the classroom and at historical sites across the state. Internships with businesses in Abilene present undergraduates with the opportunity to acquire additional knowledge of the workplace in nonprofit and corporate settings.

McMurry University is among the Top 100 National Baccalaureate College, according to Washington Monthly magazine.

Runnels Co youth participate in Texas Wildlife Leadership camps

WINTERS ENTERPRISE

STAFF REPOR

SAN ANTONIO- Christa Bahlman participated in the Texas Brigades summer leadership camps in June and July. She was among 143 high school students that took part in this award-winning leadership development program.

The Texas Brigades' mission is to educate and empower youths with leadership skills and knowledge in wildlife, fisheries, and land stewardship to become conservation ambassadors for a sustained natural resource legacy

There are six Brigade camps each summer; two Buckskin Brigades, two Bobwhite Brigades, Bass Brigade, and the Waterfowl Brigade. Participants must be between 13 and 17 years of age, and submit a complete application for consideration. Dates for 2013 will be available later this fall.

Participants are available to give presentations to schools and civic groups.

NOTICE OF REQUIREMENT TO COMPLY WITH THE SUBDIVISION SERVICE **EXTENSION POLICY OF North Runnels** WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION

Winters High School Health Science Technology class shows off their new equipment.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

The leg bone is connected to the hip bone.

WINTERS ENTERPRISE STAFF REPOR

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WINTERS- Winters High School worked hard over the spring and summer to build classes into the master schedule that will prepare students for future careers and excite them to dream big. One such class that materialized during that time is the Health Science Technology class taught by Athletic Trainer Trish Minyard. While some may think that a class such as this may simply be a class to teach the old song the leg bone is connected to the hip bone, the class actually dives much deeper into the world of Health Science.

Winters High School students are able to look at X-Rays and MRI scans and really learn about the human body as well as the tools of the trade that are used by Health Care Pro-

fessionals on an everyday basis. The new View Box being used in the class and on display in the photo was donated by the Angelo Community Clinic and Ms. Ann Peterson.

"Even though we are just three weeks into the school year, students within the Health Science Technology class have already observed MRI and CT scans as well as X-rays of the spine, ankle, and

knee" noted Health Science Technology teacher Trish Minyard.

This class as well as others within the Winters Independent School District Career and Technology Education program prepare students for jobs within the 21st Century workforce and give them an advantage over other applicants with some of the hands on experience these classes provide.

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Poss. CS/ P.O.M.		

In the August 2 issue of the Ballinger Ledger, it was printed in this space the name of Phillip Spahr, as taken to Is Co Jail and chard sault, Family Violence with Previous Conviction. Spahr had no previous conviction.

Thursday, September 13, 2012

Pursuant to Texas Water Code, §13.2502, North **Runnels** Water Supply Corporation hereby gives notice that any person who subdivides land by dividing any lot, tract, or parcel of land, within the service area of North Runnels Water Supply Corporation, Certificate of Convenience and Necessity No. 11128, in Runnels/ Taylor County, into two or more lots or sites for the purpose of sale or development, whether immediate or future, including re-subdivision of land for which a plat has been filed and recorded or requests more than two water or sewer service connections on a single contiguous tract of land must comply with {title of subdivision service extension policy stated in the tariff/ policy} (the "Subdivision Policy") contained in North Runnels Water Supply Corporation's tariff.

North Runnels Water Supply Corporation is not required to extend retail water or sewer utility service to a service applicant in a subdivision where the developer of the subdivision has failed to comply with the Subdivision Policy.

Applicable elements of the Subdivision Policy include:

Evaluation by North Runnels Water Supply Corporation of the impact a proposed subdivision service extension will make on North Runnels Water Supply Corporation's water supply system and payment of the costs for this evaluation;

Payment of reasonable costs or fees by the developer for providing water supply;

Payment of fees for reserving water supply;

Forfeiture of reserved water supply capacity for failure to pay applicable fees;

Payment of costs of any improvements to North **Runnels** Water Supply Corporation's system that are necessary to provide the water;

Construction according to design approved by North **Runnels** Water Supply Corporation and dedication by the developer of water within the subdivision following inspection.

North Runnels Water Supply Corporation's tariff and a map showing North Runnels Water Supply Corporation's service area may be reviewed at North Runnels Water Supply Corporation's, at 1020 N. Main, Winter, TX 79567; the tariff/policy and service area map also are filed of record at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and may be reviewed by contacting the TCEQ, c/o Utility Rates and Services Section, Water Supply Division, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711.

CAFETERIA MENU September 17 -21

WINTERS ISD BREAKFAST

MONDAY Biscuit Sauage or Cereal or Scramgled Egg, Toast w/Jelly, Juice, Choice of Milk. TUESDAY Breakfast Pizza or Cereal or Breakfast Taco, Toast w/Jelly, Juice, Choice of Milk. WEDNESDAY Biscuit/Egg Pattie or Cereal or Yogurt or Sausage on Stick, Toast w/Jelly, Juice, Choice of Milk THURSDAY Breakfat Pocket or Cereal or Pancake/Sausage Link, Toast w/Jelly, Juice, Choice of Milk. FRIDAY Biscuit/Sausage or Cereal or Muffin/Sauage, Toast w/Jelly,

Juice, Choice of Milk. WINTERS ISD LUNCH

Note: Menus are subject to change ithout notice. Students may purchase extra Entree - \$1.00, Milk - \$.30, Sides - \$.50.

MONDAY Egg Roll w/Fried Rice or Steak Fingers, Oriental Veggies, Broccoli w/Cheese, Tossed Salad/Carrot Sticks, Watermelon, Hot Roll, Choice of Milk. TUESDAY Meatball Sub or Grill Chicken Pattie Bun, Mac & Cheese, Green Beans, Tossed Salad/ Carroy Sticks, Fruit Bar, Peaches Choice of Milk. WEDNESDAY Chicken Fajitas or Frito Pie, Pinto Beans, Corn, Tossed Salad/Carrot Sticks. Coleslaw, Apple Sauce. Choice of Milk. THURSDAY Salisbury Steak or Chicken Tenders, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Peas & Carrots, Tossed Salad/Carrot Sticks, Pears, Hot Roll, Choice of Milk. FRIDAY Hamburger or Chicken Bites,

Oven Fries, California Blend, Tossed Salad/Carrots, Lettuce & Pickle, Orange, Choice of Milk

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~ Wedding Gifts ~

~ Houseware Items ~

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Veteran's Corner

September is Suicide Awareness Month - An average of 18 veterans commit suicide every day. September is Suicide Awareness Month and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is urging individuals to be mindful of the signs of suicide risk and understand the resources available to help. A critical step in preventing suicide is learning to recognize warning signs. Although many at-risk veterans may not show any signs they intend to harm themselves, there are behaviors that could indicate a need for support, including involvement in risky behaviors, withdrawing from family and friends, and feeling hopeless, anxious, and or angry. To learn about additional signs that someone may be at risk, visit www. VeteransCrisisLine.net/ SignsOfCrisis. If a veteran you know exhibits any of these signs, trained professionals (many of whom are veterans themselves) at the Veterans Crisis Line can help. Just call 1-800-273-8255 and press 1, chat online at www.VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat, or text to 838255 for free, confidential support, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. For more information, contact Sandra at the Veterans Service Office at 602 Strong Ave. or call 365-3612.

Have you seen the Classifieds? Give it a try **The Winters** Enterprise