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MYRUNNELSCOUNTY.COM'S MOST READ STORIES OF 2012

Unforgettable Moments

More 2012 Moments on Page 6



WINTERS ENTERPRISE PHOTOS
Clockwise from left: A wheat field located north of Loope 438, in Winters, was charred by the fire caused by the power lines on May 22; Winters ISD Superintendent Don Kuempel, Jr. presents the First Annual Patriotic Award to R.C. Kurtz. The plaque was awarded to Mary Kurtz who was unable to attend. A group of paranormal investigators spent the night in the Rock Hotel, in Winters, to investigate what they think could be paranormal activity.

Plane crash causes fire, blackout in Winters

BY RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
THE WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS — A crop duster dragging a power line crashed last Tuesday, May 22 with three live power lines, causing a short circuit and a fire on a wheat field on Loop 438, across the Fairview Cemetery, in Winters.

The accident occurred shortly after noon, when pilot Steve Ballard, of Ballard Crop Dusting Services, of Winters, was flying an AT-502B Air Tractor over the field property of Robert Pruser. The plane was dragging a power line he had hit in Coleman, which crashed with the live power lines on the north side of the road.

The resulting short circuit caused the lines to break, falling to the ground and

starting a fire on the nearby wheat field.

The incident caused a blackout affecting traffic lights and some businesses and homes on the west side of Winters. The resulting fire charred some 7 acres of the field but did not affect any structure.

After the crash the pilot was able to fly the plane to the Winters Airport and land it without major damage. There was no report of anybody injured in this incident.

The Winters Volunteer Fire Department put out the fire assisted by the Runnels County Sheriff's Office and the Winters Police Department. Coleman County Electric Cooperative crews assisted the plane at the Winters Airport cutting the remains of the power lines.

SEE PLANE, 6

Rock Hotel drags 'paranormal' attention

BY RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
THE WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS — The long history and uniqueness of the Rock Hotel, in Winters, have dragged through the years the attention of thousands of visitors, and now a very uncommon research group has shown interest in the historical building as well.

Mike Zuniga, head of Elm Creek Paranormal Research will be meeting with the Rock Hotel Board of Directors this week. Zuniga is looking forward to make the arrangements to spend a night in the historic hotel doing research as well as video and audio recording.

Zuniga said that if permission is granted the group will be spending the

night gathering evidence of any kind of paranormal activity at the hotel, and they will later present their findings to the Rock Hotel Board of Directors.

"We are a small group of people that is interested in the paranormal activity, we believe that there is a lot of potential in this building and we are trying to get this documented through our research", said Zuniga.

This West Texas "ghost buster" has been doing this kind of investigation for some years now. His work includes spending several nights at the historical Fort Concho, in San Angelo, during the Thanksgiving break documenting energy fields and what they said could be evi-

SEE PARANORMAL, 6

String of deaths shocks county

BY RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
THE WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS — The death of three people in seven days shock the community of Winters last week. The three cases occurred under different circumstances, but all of them are initially being treated by the Winters Police Department as suicides.

The case of Priscilla Hernandez, 30-years-of-age, was the first one of the week. Priscilla had a background of a troubled life, and was found after she apparently hung herself at a house located at 508 Alexander Street.

On Friday, August 31, Johnny Wilborn, 40-years-of-age, of Winters, Texas was found at 601 N Melwood Street. The Winters Police Department believes that the man hung himself.

Finally, in the third case, Conifacio Benny Hernandez, 54-years-of-age, of Winters, Texas, left a note for his family and his body was found at 208 Roberts Street on Saturday, September 1. He was also found hanging from the neck and officials initially are treating the case

SEE DEATHS, 6

Sale of alcohol approved within city

BY RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
THE WINTERS ENTERPRISE

BALLINGER— The City of Ballinger, City of Winters, Ballinger Independent School District, Winters Independent School District, and City of Miles held local elections last Tuesday, November 6 in conjunction with the General Election for Federal, State and District Offices.

In the City of Winters an election was held to allow the legal sale of all alcoholic beverages off-premises only, and for the legal sale of mixed beverages in restaurants by food and beverage certificate holders only.

Voters decided to make the city go "wet" by a wide margin. Voters in favor to pass Proposition 1, for the legal sale of all alcoholic beverages off-premises only casted 502 votes (77.1 percent) while those against the proposition were 149 (22.9 percent).

Proposition 2 was also passed by a wide margin. Voting in favor of the legal sale of mixed beverages in restaurants by food and beverage certificate holders only were 505 (77.2 percent) while against the proposition were 149 votes casted (22.8 percent).

Winters pays tribute to military veterans

BY RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
THE WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS — The Winters Independent School District hosted Monday, Nov. 12 the Veteran's Day Program at the Special Events Center, in order to recognize veterans for their service and pay tribute to fallen warriors.

The ceremony started early, with the traditional pancake breakfast cooked and served by the Winters ISD Board of Trustees to area veterans.

Attending veterans were escorted by the Winters Cub Scout Pack 249, which also sang Stars and Stripes Forever.

The program at the Gymnasium included the color guard by the Marine Corps, and patriotic songs led by the Winters Elementary Select Choir, under the direction of Fran Kidwell, and by the Winters High School band, under the direction of Phil and Karen Mooney.

Master of ceremonies Winters ISD Superintendent Don Kuempel, Jr. presented the First Annual Patriotic Award. The award was presented to long time Patriotic

SEE VETERANS, 6

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FUNERALS AND OBITUARIES

O'Reada Ann Nitsch

O'Reada Ann Nitsch, 78, of Ballinger, died December 27, 2012. She was born September 2, 1934 in Rotan. Services were held 2 p.m. Saturday, December 29, 2012 in the Winters Funeral Home Chapel. Burial followed at Old Runnels Cemetery. Services were under the direction of Winters Funeral Home.

Ballinger Ledger, January 3, 2013

Joyce L. Lawdermilk

Joyce Lawdermilk, 79, of Winters passed away Monday, December 24, 2012 at Shannon Medical Center in San Angelo. She was born March 21, 1933 in Sweetwater to Clifford Earl and Mabel Lee (Fry) Merrifield. She married C. R. "Richard" Lawdermilk on June 11, 1984 in Sweetwater. He preceded her in death on December 29, 2011. Graveside services were held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, December 26, 2012 at the Old Runnels Cemetery. Arrangements were under the direction of Lange Funeral Home in Ballinger.

Ballinger Ledger, January 3, 2013

Ameila Ramez

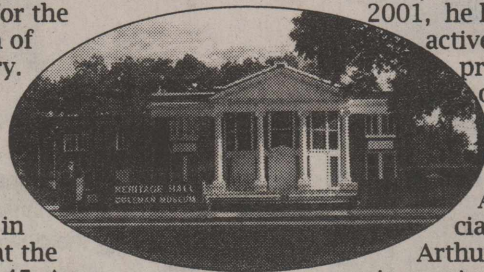
WINTERS — Ameila Tamez, 69, passed away Sunday, December 23, 2012. A memorial service was held 7 p.m. Thursday, December 27, 2012 in the Chapel of Heritage Family Funeral Home in Ballinger.

Ballinger Ledger, January 3, 2013

Dr. Arthur Fourment: artist of the month

WINTERS ENTERPRISE STAFF REPORT

Heritage Hall presents Dr. Arthur Fourment, Brownwood artist, as AOM for the month of January. His interest in painting began in 1965 at the age of 45. Arthur's first instructor was Maisi Sirois in Abilene, Texas. Ms. Sirois was a master of impressionistic art. After retiring from his Orthodontics practice in 1985, painting became a serious interest.



Dr. Fourment was a member of the Port Isabell Texas Art Association for fourteen years. Since 2001, he has been active in the promotion of the Brownwood Art Association. Arthur enjoys painting in his home studio now in Brownwood, Texas. The artist's work will be on display at Heritage Hall during the month of January, Fridays and Saturdays, 10am - 4 p.m. at 400 West College, Coleman.

Winters area youth learn rappelling, climbing, and ride a zip-line

WINTERS ENTERPRISE STAFF REPORT

Paladin Community Service's Police Explorers Program recently conducted one of several exciting adventure activities with area youth who learned how to rappell, rock climb, and zip-line at the "Twin Towers" built by Chief Johnson just north of town.

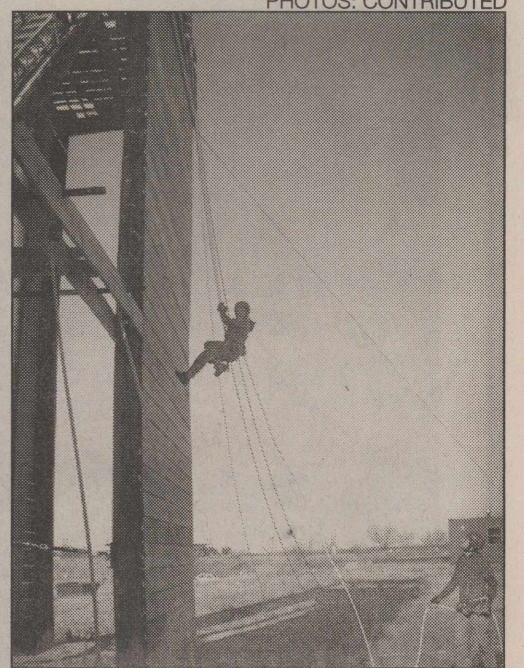
According to Chief Johnson, the high-angle adventure activities help participants build self-esteem and personal confidence by combining adventure with personal development. Participants climb up and rappell down a 60 foot tower on rescue ropes secured to anchor points. Assisted by volunteers such as Jeff Tarr, the boys then learned to climb up a sheer surface using rock-like holds while secured with a life-line and monitored by mentors. The activities culminated in a 200 foot zip-line ride where the boys made a rapid and exciting descent from the second tower.

"I believe that deep within many boys lies a burning desire for adventure and discovery. From ages 10 to 20 and beyond, this desire needs help to be facilitated by older men who are invested in a boy's life" Johnson said. A big part of Paladin Community Services are the educational programs designed to help boys become competent men. Chief Johnson's goal is to help participants develop leadership, knowledge, skills, and proficiency in varied subject areas while reinforcing character, code of conduct, and community values.



Pictured left to right: Back Row - Chief Nathan T. Johnson, Kyle Johnson, Alex Hernandez, Sean Mooney, Andrew Sanchez, Mason Johnson, Adjunct Instructor Jeff Tarr. Front Row - Cody Johnson, Marcus Mostad, Brandon Bullard, Ethan Sanchez, Mason Abernathie

PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED



Chief Johnson envisions the program expanding in 2013 as a collaborative effort is developed between the Winters Police Department, Paladin Community Services, and the Winters Independent School District to facilitate the development of positive youth programs in the area. You can check the program out by going to Facebook or Google and looking up Paladin Community Services.

NEWS NOTES

Chamber of Commerce news

The Winters Chamber of Commerce will be having an Open House and chamber meeting on Monday, January 7, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. at 200 Tinkle St. Nominations for Man and Woman of the Year are being accepted by the Winters Area Chamber of Commerce at 200 Tinkle St. by February 1, 2013. On February 16, 2013 the chamber will be having the WACOC Ball.

Flu immunization clinics

The Texas Department of State Health Services will be having two flu immunization clinics in Runnels County. Flu vaccine will be available in Winters on Thursday, January 3, 2013 from 1:30-5:30 p.m. at the Professional Building, located on 110 South Main, Suite 108. For your convenience please use the rear entrance on Great Street.

The immunization clinic will be held in Ballinger Thursday, January 10, 2013 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1:30-3 p.m. at 608 Strong, behind the Courthouse.

For your convenience, please call to schedule an appointment, if no answer leave a message. Please bring child's immunization records. If child has Medicaid please bring card. For more information call at (325) 754 4945

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.

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 fourth Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. 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.

Boot raffle benefiting Imagination Station Playground

The Ballinger Park Board will be holding a boot raffle benefiting the Imagination Station Playground project. Drawing will be held the Wednesday after the Runnels Co. Stock Show or after 200 tickets are sold whichever is later. The name on the ticket will be the winner of the boots. Belly ostrich boots will be handmade by P and L Jass Boot Shop in Ballinger. For more information contact

Terilyn Bowman at 365-1979, Elaine Paske at 365-4331, Dee Dee Peterson at 718-8428, Joy McDaniel at 277-4637, or Stacy Hopper at 365-8186.

WIC open to many incomes and families

Women, Infants and Children, located at 706 Strong Ave in Ballinger is open Monday thru Wednesday 7 a.m. till noon and 1 p.m. till 6 p.m. Closed every third and fourth Monday of each month. Phone (325) 365-5925. WIC is open to many incomes and all kinds of families.

Runnels Co Alzheimer Support Group

The monthly Runnels County Alzheimer Support Group will be held at Central Texas Nursing and Rehabilitation Center the second Tuesday of the month from 6:30-7:30 p.m. All concerned citizens are invited to share in discussion and education about the disease process and care giver perspective. There is no charge and this is a public service sponsored by the National Alzheimer Association.

RCRSE Meeting

This month's meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, January 15, 2013 at the Ballinger ISD Administration Building Board Room. Ballinger Police Chief Mark McNulty will be speaking.

Blood pressure - Blood sugar checks

Ballinger Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center has partnered with the Ballinger Senior Center to provide free blood pressure and blood sugar checks to area seniors on Thursday, January 10, 2013. These free health screenings will be offered from 11 a.m. - 12 noon at the Ballinger Senior Center located at 608 Sealy Avenue, Suite B. For more information, please contact Jessica Hallmark at Ballinger Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center by calling 325-365-5766.

Bearcat Band Booster meeting schedule

March 4- BJH Room 702, May 13- BJH Room 702. All meetings start at 6 p.m.

GED classes

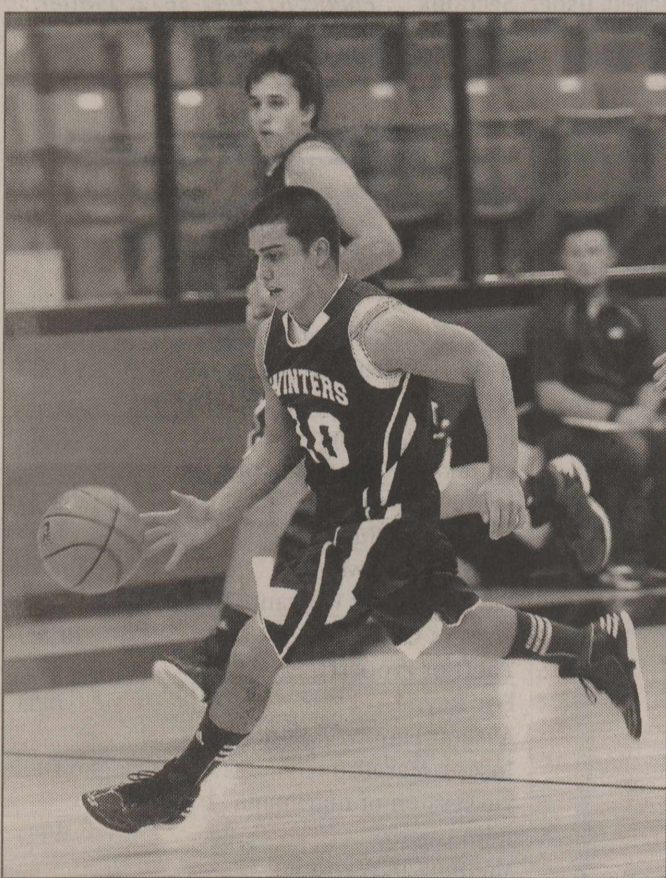
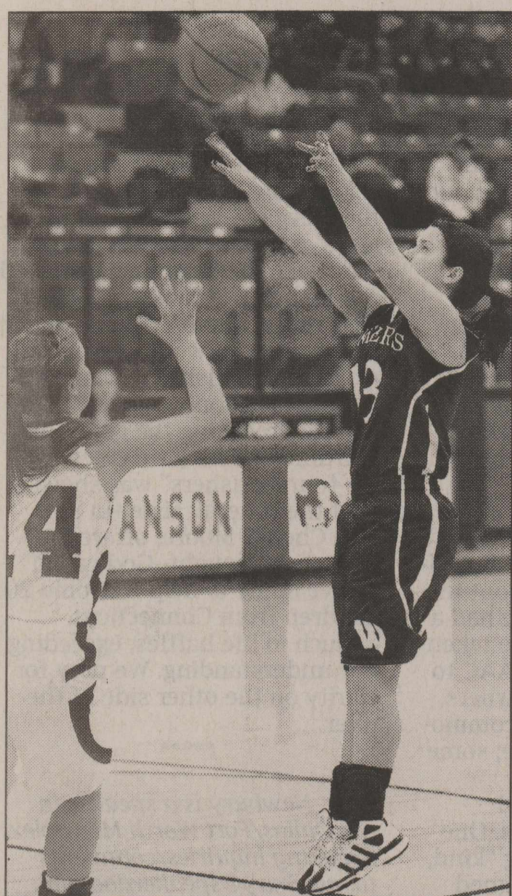
GED classes will be held at the Elementary from 6-9 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. You will need a current photo ID and your Social Security card to register. The classes are free. For more information call Debra Gleg-horn at (325) 365-3527 ext. 3038.

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Judy Zuspahn, PA-C

Varsity basketball participates in Anson tournament, Dec. 27-29



ABOVE LEFT: Ashley Guy shoots a jump shot. ABOVE RIGHT: Kat Lindley brings the ball down.

LEFT: Chris Gerhart was chosen all tournament at the Anson Basketball tournament.

BOTTOM: Luke Kraatz was also chosen all tournament at the Anson Basketball tournament.

PHOTOS BY THERESA GERHART



Winters Varsity Girls Basketball Schedule

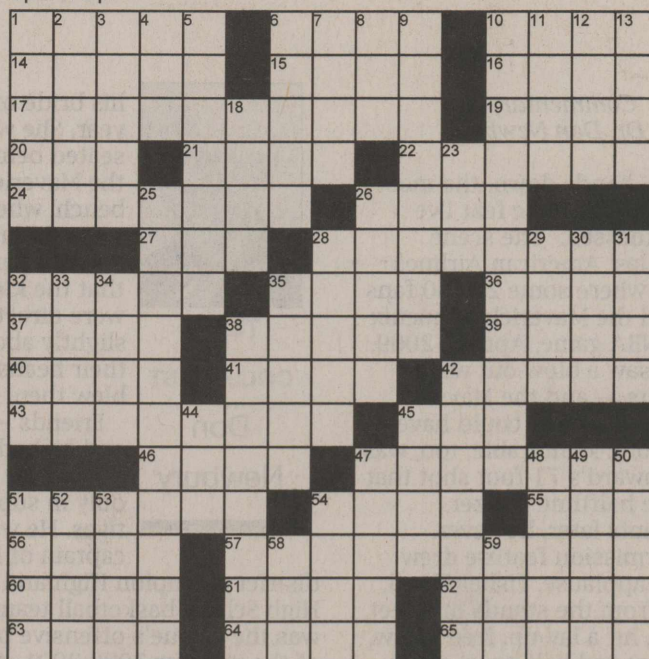
GIRLS

Jan. 4 at Eldorado*	6:30 p.m.
Jan. 8 OPEN	
Jan. 11 TLCA*	6:30 p.m.
Jan. 15 Christoval*	6:30 p.m.
Jan. 18 at Miles*	6:30 p.m.
Jan. 22 Irion County*	6:30 p.m.
Jan. 25 at Ozona*	6:30 p.m.
Jan. 29 Eldorado*	6:30 p.m.
Feb. 1 Abilene Hawks	6:30 p.m.
Feb. 5 at TLCA*	6:30 p.m.
Feb. 8 at Christoval*	6:30 p.m.
Feb. 12 Miles*	6:30 p.m.

*District Game

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Spiff It Up!



American Profile Hometown Content

12/23/2012

ACROSS

- Face protectors
- Ness or Lombard
- Uses a bookie
- Bandleader Shaw
- Mezzo's offering
- Like hens' teeth, proverbially
- Satellite spiffer-upper?
- Atlas stat
- McKellen or Holm
- Trident prong
- Happy hour buys
- Solitary one
- Caught in the act
- Org. dealing with aliens
- Famous
- Classic toothpaste
- Wealthy one
- High point
- Ancient letter
- Prepared like shepherd's pie
- Spanker, e.g.
- Travel guide list
- Mideast's Gulf of

- Cubic meter
- Use a spyglass
- Hard to hold on to
- Cash in much of the Continent

- Genius spiffer-upper?
- Take home
- Long march
- Salty seven
- Web page visits
- Stutz Bearcat contemporary
- Excavation spiffer-upper?
- Mantle's number
- Collected clippings
- March Madness org.
- Kuwaiti bigwig
- Editor's excision
- Pupil's place
- Music to slam-dance to
- Green Gables girl
- Hell of a place?

- Boat hanger-on
- Beat to death, so to speak
- Dawn goddess
- Just ___ (not much)
- Too sentimental
- Fertilizer ingredient
- In ___ (unborn)
- Social customs
- Tamer's handful
- Top-flight
- Theater area
- Fast Eddie's game
- Beluga delicacy
- Erwin of early TV

DOWN

- First Lady after Bess
- Loud, like a crowd
- Brit's weight
- Flesh and blood
- Troubador's verse form
- Cleo or Frankie of song
- Author Sarah ___ Jewett
- Ltd., across the Channel
- Made tougher

LAST WEEK'S ANSWER GRID

Horseplay

F	R	A	S	S	I	T	Z	P	A	L	E	D		
L	O	L	A	O	B	I	E	E	L	I	T	E		
O	B	I	T	P	I	N	T	E	L	M	O	S		
J	O	S	E	P	H	S	T	A	L	L	I	O	N	
O	T	T	E	R	S	E	E	N						
		N	O	B	E	T	G	R	A	T	I	N		
L	S	T	M	A	M	A	S	L	A	C	E			
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D	O	R	A	S	T	E	R	N	A	D	O			
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		T	O	N	E	U	R	G	E	D				
A	M	A	R	E	B	A	G	A	T	E	L	L	E	
C	R	O	W	E	E	R	O	S	M	I	C	K		
P	A	P	A	L	R	E	O	S	O	D	I	E		
O	B	E	Y	S	T	A	F	T	R	E	D	D		

Weather Whys

Q: Why do some clouds seem to have striped patterns?
 A: Clouds that form in long linear stripes are fairly common, and they are formed by a phenomena known as gravity waves, explains Brent McRoberts of Texas A&M's Department of Atmospheric Sciences. "Air generally flows along a horizontal path, but sometimes imbalances in the density of the air cause it to oscillate up and down as it moves along," he notes. "In striped cloud patterns, the air is flowing perpendicular to the cloud lines. When the air is moving up, the moisture within it condenses, and while the air is descending, the moisture evaporates leading to clear skies. Not all gravity waves, however, lead to these striped cloud patterns. If the air is very moist, there will be full ripple clouds with no clear sky slots in between, and if the air is too dry, there will be no clouds at all. But in all cases, the air is moving in a wavelike pattern."

Winters Varsity Boys Basketball Schedule

Jan. 4 at Eldorado*	8 p.m.	Jan. 29 Eldorado*	8 p.m.
Jan. 8 OPEN		Feb. 1 Abilene Hawks	8 p.m.
Jan. 11 TLCA*	8 p.m.	Feb. 5 at TLCA*	8 p.m.
Jan. 15 Christoval*	8 p.m.	Feb. 8 at Christoval*	8 p.m.
Jan. 18 at Miles*	8 p.m.	Feb. 12 Miles*	8 p.m.
Jan. 22 Irion County*	8 p.m.		
Jan. 25 at Ozona*	8 p.m.		

*District Game

Community Board

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THE IDLE AMERICAN Bigger Than Life...

Commentary by
Dr. Don Newbury



TEXAS
COLUMNIST
Don
Newbury

It was, hands down, the most remarkable athletic feat I've ever witnessed. The scene was Dallas' American Airlines Center, where some 20,000 fans watched the Mavericks/Phoenix Suns NBA game, April 5, 2009.

They saw a blow-out win by 26 points — and the Mavs' 140-point barrage could have been more. Memorable, too, was Josh Howard's 71-foot shot that beat the halftime buzzer.

Moments later, however, an intermission feature drew greater applause. Fisher Floyd, a man from the stands in street clothes, hit a lay-up, free throw, 3-pointer and half-court shots. Fisher's "swishers," made in 45 seconds, have never been duplicated. What are the odds?...

His feat has gone viral on "YouTube," 5.5 million "hits" — some 3 million the first year. I found him to be engaging, gracious and caring during a phone conversation later. He politely answered questions, but seemed most interested in whether I saw him "blowing kisses to Lindsey,"

his bride of a year. She was seated behind the Mavericks' bench, where several players, unaware that the kisses were directed slightly above their heads, blew them back! Friends — and he had many — describe him only in superlatives. He was captain of his district champion Highland Park High School basketball team and was the league's offensive player of the year for 2000-2001. At the University of California-Santa Barbara, where he graduated with honors, he introduced a new game — Frisbees—played with tennis rules.

Friends and family agree that his specialty was making virtually everything competitive, always "edge-searching." His adventurous spirit dates back to 1986, when Top Gun was a movie hit. Just four years old at the time, he was "hooked" — al-

ways probing, "what-iffing" and fixing whatever was broken....

Perhaps no one was ever more in love with life. His Christian principles and knack for making friends at warp speed were evident. His checklist of "things to do" included flying in a fighter jet. A while back he won such a ride as the high bidder at a charity auction.

Dressed in aviation gear, he made three trips to a Lancaster airport for a flight with Noel Rather, himself a Highland Park High School graduate. (Rather flew 60+ missions in Vietnam and was a former Braniff pilot. He loved the Delfin L-29 aircraft he'd spent years restoring and frequently offered rides to charity benefactors.) Weather scrubbed the first two efforts, but Dec. 13 dawned bright and clear....

A friend accompanied Fisher to the airport. There were exchanges of phone texts until take-off and animated, first-hand descriptions were anticipated upon return. But it was not to be. There

were no second or third-hand descriptions, either, or any kind of distress signals prior to the crash of the two-seater plane in Kaufman County, where both men perished about a half-hour after take-off.

The tragedy is inexplicable. Again, what are the odds?...

Fisher Floyd's memorial service was held Dec. 18 at Highland Park United Methodist Church, where he, his wife and two sons — Ryder, 2, and Hudson, 1 — had planned to become members in January.

Real friends, it is said, are counted not by hand, but by heart. Fisher, a picture of humility whose spirit brought out the best in others, must have had a giant heart. It would have taken a facility the size of the AAC to contain the mass of mourners. Seating at the church accommodates about 1,000 people; some 1,600 came.

The family has received hundreds of condolences. One referenced Fisher's being "kind, decent, happy." It was signed "Averill Mitchell, usher, Sections 117-118, AAC." Another mourner said Fisher made friends more

quickly than anyone he'd ever known, and he was "an even better husband and father."...

Dallas Coach Rick Carlisle was among the speakers. At the service — as well as at the Mavs' game the same evening — he chose the champagne-soaked red tie he'd worn when Dallas won the 2011 NBA title in Miami, mentioning "it would never be worn again." Fisher's memory was further honored with a tribute preceding the game; at halftime, the historic video of his four "swishers" was shown.

At the funeral, sister-in-law Lisa Cheney Moore, offered a consoling thought—God called Fisher home to help welcome 20 children from Connecticut.

Much in life baffles, exceeding our understanding. We pray for clarity on the other side of the river....

Dr. Newbury is a speaker in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. Speaking inquiries/comments to: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Twitter: @donnewbury. Web site: www.speakerdoc.com

Junior Livestock Show to be held Jan. 10-12

BALLINGER LEDGER
STAFF REPORT

The 12th annual Runnels County Junior Livestock Show will be held on January 10 through 12 at the Ballinger Community Center for area 4-H and FFA members. Over 120 4-H and FFA students from across Runnels County will exhibit over 350 livestock projects at this year's junior livestock show in Ballinger.

Projects such as cattle, swine, sheep, goats and rabbits will be on display by youth who have cared for the, groomed them and trained them all year long for this event. The public is invited to attend and support the youth of Runnels County in the newly renovated Ballinger Community Center.

The County Show will begin on Friday morning at 9 a.m. with the swine show. Mr. Denny Belew of Tahoka will be the judge for the swine show. The rabbit show will be held immediately following the swine show and will be judged by Chris Beard of Haskell. The Ballinger Young Farmers will be providing a noon meal for Friday. After the rabbit show, the market goat show will

be held with Curtis Preston serving as the judge.

The Saturday schedule will begin at 8 a.m. with the lamb show judged by Justin Jonas of San Angelo followed by the Cattle show at approximately 10 a.m. judged by Tommy Antilley. The Tractor Supply Buyers Meal will begin at 12 noon in the community center followed

by the 2013 Runnels County Premium Sale at 2 p.m. Every youth is allowed to sell one animal in the premium sale and provides youth with funds for continuing their project work and for college scholarships. This is the largest single youth event in Runnels County that generates approximately \$100,000.00 annual in sup-

port for the 4-H and FFA youth. The public is invited to participate in the premium sale and help support 4-H members from Ballinger, Miles, Winters, Rowena, Olfen and Norton. For more information on the premium sale, contact Ken Fischer, Bill Bredemeyer, or any member of the RCJLSA Board of Directors.

2013 Junior Livestock Show

The Schedule for the Runnels County Junior Livestock Show is as follows

SHOW SCHEDULE

Thursday, January 10, 2013

1:00 - 6:00 p.m. Arrival of All Livestock
5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Weigh-in of All Livestock

Friday, January 11, 2013

9:00 a.m. Swine Show - Breeding, Market followed by Showmanship
Rabbit Show - Fryers and Breeding
Turkey Show - Hens and Toms
Meat Goat Show followed by Showmanship

Saturday, January 12, 2013

8:00 a.m. Sheep Show - Lambs and Breeding followed by Showmanship
Cattle Show - Heifers, Steers followed by Showmanship
After Steer Show — Release of All Livestock not in Premium Sale
2:00 p.m. Premium Sale

OFFICIAL RECORDS

Dec. 31, 2012

John Gibson	45	WPD
Failed to register as sex offender		
Heaven Anderson	24	RCSO
MTR		
Jeramie Randolph	24	RCSO
Inducement of sexual contact		
Jeffrey Stewart	33	BPD
Indictment Burg. Of Hab.		
Dennis Medows	45	Coke Co.
Taylor County Warrant Class B Theft		
William O'Connor	38	RCSO
Theft of Property		
Eric Reyna	26	BPD
Assault Family Violence		
Joseph Maradro	25	Concho DPS
Possession of marijuana		
John Guerra	25	WPD
Medina Co. Warrant		
FTA-Poss. Control Subsent		
Stephen Wisdon	59	Concho
Poss. C.S Viol. Failure to appear		
Christopher Carraseo	40	RCSO
Theft By Check		
Jordan Pitcox	31	Concho
DWI/ Poss. C.S.		
Lee Littlefield	42	Coke Co.
DWI 2nd/ Unlawful weapon		

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Budget questions hover above Capitol

EDITORIAL

AUSTIN — As Congress jousts with itself and the White House in the closing days of 2012 over the federal budget, the Texas Legislature and other state legislatures can only guess what federal dollars will be coming when budget-writing time comes.

Every two years, the Texas Legislature's main job is to write and pass a state budget. Now, with the gov-

ernor signaling his intention to stick with an austerity plan that won't necessarily be in step with the state's rapidly growing population, historically bad drought and a long list of other critical concerns, suspense about the budget increases day by day. The budget-adoption process is a session-long affair, and the 140-day session commences on Jan. 8, at high noon.



Capital Highlights
Ed Sterling

In 2011, the 82nd Texas Legislature adopted a 2012-2013 budget (the General Appropriations Act) featuring across the board spending cuts, per governor's directives.

Texans can see a roadmap to those cuts, and may imagine the debating that went on before the budget ultimately was called to a vote, signed by the governor and certified by the comptroller. Actually, the debating does not have to be imagined. It is preserved at legis.state.tx.us.

Texans with access to a relatively recently manufactured personal computer updated with the current software for viewing archived video, can — if they pay for a speedy Internet connection or visit their local library — download, view and hear the parts of the budget-writing process conducted in Capitol committee rooms and on the floors of the state House and state Senate.

Furthermore, to provide Texas taxpayers "with a more complete understanding of how their tax dollars are being used," the staff of the Legislative Budget Board has posted a 668-page document, titled "Fiscal Size-up" for the current 2012-2013 budget.

Ed Sterling is member services director for the Texas Press Association, headquartered in Austin.

COWPOKES
By Ace Reid

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Snow possible in latest forecast

BALLINGER LEDGER
STAFF REPORT

Only three days into 2013, chances are high for parts of the West Texas area to receive up to 2 inches of snow. While chances aren't as high, Runnels County still has a possibility of getting snow.

According to Seth Nagle, senior forecaster for the National Weather Service in San Angelo, questions still remain if the storm system will have enough lift to produce snow for counties past San Angelo.

"If precipitation occurs after midnight, then it has a higher chance of it being snow," Nagle.

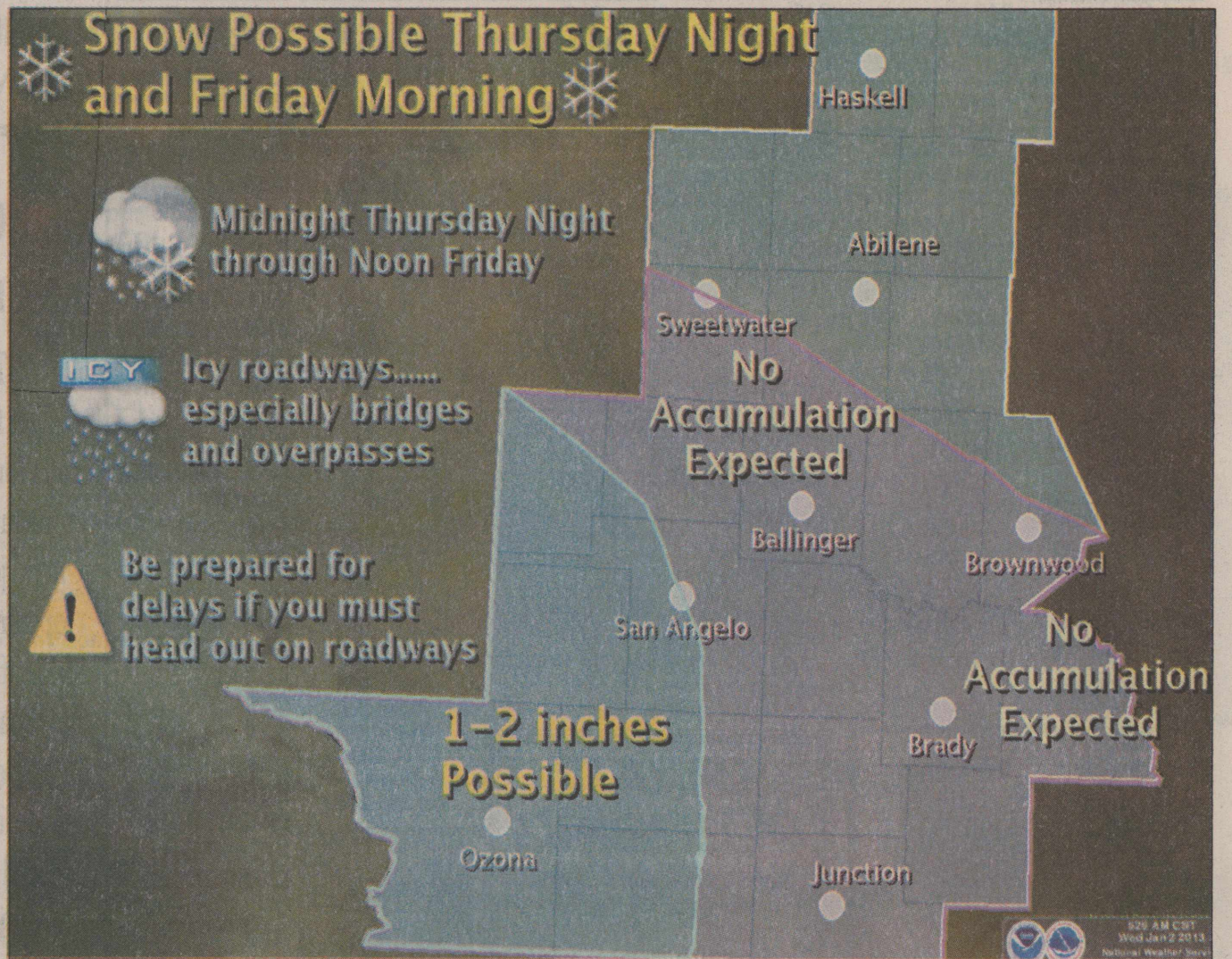
More than 23 counties across the Concho Valley and Northern Edwards Plateau will be affected by an upper level storm system that's coming from the Baja Peninsula. The storm system is expected to drop

up to two inches of snow in some areas and snow mixed with rain in other areas.

According to the special weather statement released Wednesday, the forecast of this storm system still has some uncertainty. If the storm system shifts a little farther west or slows its forward speed, the snow accumulations becomes less likely and the threat of significant impact decreases.

As the storm system approaches, precipitation will develop across the Trans-Pecos area of West Texas this morning and spread into the northeast into West Central Texas. The precipitation may start out as light rain, it's expected to switch over to snow later tonight. Snow and snow flurries are possible as far East as Brady and Junction.

"Rain or snow, icy roadways could be an issue," Nagle said. "Everyone should be careful while traveling



MYRUNNELSCOUNTY.COM'S MOST READ STORIES OF 2012



Baseball-sized hail

This photo, submitted by Shirley Minzenmayer on May 31 shows solid, baseball-size hail found at Valley Creek, about 10 miles SW of Winters. Ballinger also received some of these mainly in the football field area, Broadway Street, and Hutchings Avenue.

Rattlesnake Republic invades Runnels County

BY RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
BALLINGER LEDGER

BALLINGER — Just as seen on TV, the world famous characters and staff of Rattlesnake Republic landed in Ballinger Thursday, Aug. 9, to shoot part of an episode that will be broadcasted during the current season of the show.

Wearing his trademark hat made of rattlesnake skin Jackie Bibby parked his hearse on Eighth Street, while Riley Sawyers and his team were getting ready for the shoot across the street.

"I have been doing this for 43 years and have been bitten 10 times," said Jackie Bibby, a rattlesnake wrangler who has set several world records by spending more than 45 minutes in a bathtub with 87 rattlesnakes.

Bibby, born and raised in Rising Star, has set other world snake records including holding 11 rattlesnakes by their tails in his mouth, sacking 10 rattlesnakes in 17 seconds, and spending 10 seconds inside a zipped-up sleeping bag with 150 snakes.

However the "Texas Snake Man" is no stranger to Ballinger, he has been in the city several times and he is also related to Tommy New, the City Manager. "Tommy New is my cousin, I like to come here and we also love to go to many different towns to shoot for the show" said the snake man.

It is uncertain when will the scenes shot in Ballinger will be aired on Animal Planet, but network officials said it will be during the current season of the show.

PLANE

CONTINUED FROM 1

Steve Ballard is the same pilot that was shot at when he was spraying a field near Talpa, on February 29, 2012. That incident occurred when Ballard was spraying the field, and reportedly saw a man following his trajectory with a rifle. The plane was hit by one of the four rounds fired. A 25-06 caliber bullet hit the propellant, made a hole through the chemicals tank and exited the cockpit narrowly missing the pilot's legs.

Ballard's close calls are not limited to this year's incidents. According to witnesses he was also involved in a plane crash some years ago when he was spraying a field in Pumphrey. Ballard's plane was flying near the ground and hit a terrace, causing the plane to flip over and crash.

DEATHS

CONTINUED FROM 1

as a suicide. Previously this year another man took his own life in Winters. James Craig Gray, 50-years-of-age, was found dead at his residence on Paloma St with a gunshot in the head. This incident occurred on July 17.

After the recent string of suicides the Winters Police Department will be conducting a routine follow up investigation. Two of the bodies were sent to the medical examiner to have an autopsy performed.

VETERANS

CONTINUED FROM 1

Pen contest sponsor and VFW Post 9193 Ladies Auxiliary member Mary Kurtz. The plaque was presented to Mrs. Kurtz's husband, R.C. Kurtz, since she was unable to attend due to health issues.

Band members wore shirts honoring every branch of the armed forces, and after singing the Battle Hymn, God Bless America, and Taps, everyone left in silence, remembering and honoring the America's heroes.

Head-on wreck claims three fatal victims

BY RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
BALLINGER LEDGER

BALLINGER — Three people were killed in a two-vehicle crash occurring Sunday, June 10, at 6 a.m. on Farm to Market Road 2887, 1.8 miles south of U.S. Highway 83, in Runnels County. Juan Ramirez, 20-years-of-age, from Winters, Texas died at the scene, and was pronounced dead at 7:30 a.m. by Judge Richard Hamilton.

Antonio Espino, 21, also from Winters and Brandon Scott Cochran, 32, from San Angelo, were taken to Shannon Medical Center, in San Angelo. They were both pronounced dead by Judge Kay Longest, Espino at 7:37 a.m. and Cochran at 8:15 a.m.

According to the Texas Department of Public Safety Juan Ramirez was driving a 2003 Chevrolet Impala northbound, on the old Winters road. Quinton Christopher Collins, of Winters, was driving a 2006 Chevrolet Trailblazer southbound on the same road. Collins didn't sustain any injuries

Ramirez' car drifted into the oncoming traffic lane and struck Collins' vehicle head-on.

Espino was a passenger in the car driven by Ramirez. The bodies were taken to Winters Funeral Home. According to the investigation by Texas DPS Ramirez was wearing a seat belt and Espino was not wearing a seat belt.

Cochran was riding as a passenger on Collins' SUV, he was not wearing a seat belt. The body was taken to Lange Funeral Home, in Ballinger, Texas.

The weather was clear and the roadway was dry. This crash is being investigated by Trooper Jimmie Bass, of the Texas Department of Public Safety.

CAFETERIA MENU

Jan. 7-11

Subject to change

WINTERS ISD BREAKFAST

MONDAY

Biscuit/Sausage or Cereal/Toast or Cheese and Egg Omelet, Toast w/ Jelly, Juice, Choice of Milk.

TUESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

Biscuit/Egg Pattie or Cereal/Toast or Yogurt/Toast or Sausage on Stick, Toast w/Jelly, Juice, Choice of Milk.

THURSDAY

Sausage Roll or Cereal/Toast or French Toast/Sausage, Toast w/ Jelly, Juice, Choice of Milk.

FRIDAY

Biscuit/Sausage or Cereal/Toast or Cinnamon Roll/Sausage, Toast w/ Jelly, Juice, Choice of Milk.

WINTERS ISD LUNCH

Note: Menus are subject to change without notice. Students may purchase extra Entree - \$1.00, Milk - \$.30, Sides - \$.50.

MONDAY

Chef Salad (H.S. only) or Lasagna/Bread Stick (Elem., J.H.) (H.S.) Hot Roll or Grilled Chicken Pattie/Bun, Peas & Carrots, Baked Potatoes, Tossed Salad/Carrot Sticks, Broccoli/Cherry Tomato, Peaches, Choice of Milk.

TUESDAY

Chef Salad or Salisbury Steak/Bread Stick (Elem., J.H.) (H.S.) Hot Roll or Chicken Tenders/Bread Stick (Elem., J.H.) (H.S.) Hot Roll, Italian Green Beans, Mashed Sweet Potatoes, Tossed Salad/Carrot Sticks, Broccoli/Cherry Tomato, Fruit Barr/Applesauce, Choice of Milk.

WEDNESDAY

Chef Salad or Nachos or Chicken Fajita, Pinto Beans, Spanish Rice, Tossed Salad/Carrot Sticks, Broccoli/Cherry Tomato, Coleslaw, Peas, Choice of Milk.

THURSDAY

Chef Salad or Peanut Butter & Jelly/Graham Cracker (Elem., J.H.) (H.S.) Hot Roll, Broccoli w/Cheese, Corn, Tossed Salad/Carrot Sticks, Broccoli/Cherry Tomato, Mixed Fruit, Choice of Milk.

FRIDAY

Chef Salad (H.S. only) or Hamburger or Chicken Bites/Bread Stick, Baked Beans, Tossed Salad/Carrot Sticks, Broccoli/Cherry Tomato, Lettuce/Pickles, Orange, Choice of Milk.

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Trailer truck crashes into tank battery

BY RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
BALLINGER LEDGER

BALLINGER — An 18-wheeler wreck in Runnels County triggered a hazardous material alert last Sunday, Oct. 7, when the truck hauling a trailer full of dry feed hit a battery of tanks near Wingate, and caused an oil spill on Highway 153.

Nearly 45 barrels of oil were spilled on the ditch and partially on the road, while the driver was rescued conscious and walking, despite the heavy damage caused to the trailer truck.

According to Winters Fire Department the driver was rescued conscious and walking from the truck, which ended up some 14 feet above the ground and on top of the oil tanks. The driver, whose name has not been released by the Texas Department of Public Safety, was airlifted to Hendrick Medical Center, in Abilene.

PARANORMAL

CONTINUED FROM 1

dence of old ghosts haunting the buildings. "We recorded some activity during that investigation at the Fort Concho, we have some sounds in the recording while everybody was asleep," said Zuniga.

Zuniga has been doing this kind of investigation for over three years. He started at his parents' home, near the Old Runnels Cemetery, once he went to feed the dogs.

"My parents had gone out of town and I was going to feed the dogs when I heard a voice that was telling me 'get out of here, get out of here' it was a very clear voice," Zuniga said.

According to the paranormal researcher he later found out that years ago a person had committed suicide in that property, and he had not been the first one to have an experience of this kind in the property.

For now Mike and his group will be seeking to do an investigation at the Rock Hotel, but they are also aiming at some other historical buildings in Runnels County, such as the Carnegie Library and the old Texas Grill.

This places, according to Zuniga, hold some kind of energy that could be recorded by modern science.

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