

Rev. Thomas Waddlington Cotten, his wife, and four of their sons came to Runnels County in 1877. The family of six came to this area because of the bountiful grasslands for cattle.

DETAILS PAGE 4

The

Winters Enterprise



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Thursday, March 14, 2013

Winters, Texas 75c

Talpa man gets 18 months for crop duster shooting

The incident occurred last year, when pilot Steve Ballard, of Winters, was spraying a field near Talpa

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS—A Talpa man was sentenced to 18 months in prison and fined nearly \$300,000 for shooting at a crop duster plane in an incident occurring last February 29, 2012 near Talpa, Texas.

James R. Cate, of Talpa, was sentenced Friday afternoon,

March 8, 2013 by U.S. District Judge Sam R. Cummings, to 18 months in federal prison and ordered to pay a total of \$297,179 in restitution, following his guilty plea in November 2012.

Charges stem from a federal felony offense of making a threat to an aircraft, announced U.S. Attorney Sarah R. Saldaña of the Northern District of Texas. Judge Cummings ordered that Cate surrender to the Bureau of Prisons on April 12, 2013.

"According to documents filed in the case, on February 29, 2012, Cate, using a Ruger Number One, 25-06 caliber single shot rifle with

a Redfield scope, shot a crop duster plane. At the time Cate shot the aircraft, it was flying over a field neighboring Cate's land near Talpa, dusting crops. Before he actually shot the aircraft, Cate fired three rounds from the rifle into the air. Cate admits that he threatened the aircraft to frighten the pilot away from his crops," announced Saldaña's office.

"The last round that Cate fired hit the propeller of the aircraft, penetrated the engine cowling traveling toward the rear of the plane, passed through the firewall and the spray hopper (which contained

nearly 500 gallons of chemical used for the crop spraying), entered the cockpit where it fragmented into multiple pieces (at least one of which tore through the leg of the jeans the pilot was wearing), then into the rear fuselage, all of which caused damage to the aircraft."

The FAA and the FBI office in San Angelo started the investigation of the incident occurring with the AT-502B Air Tractor property of Ballard's Crop Dusting Service, in Winters.

Steve Ballard, of Winters, Texas, was the pilot of the plane and was spraying a wheat field property of David Hallmark

located north of Talpa, Texas.

Ballard reportedly saw a man following his trajectory with a rifle and was hit by one of the four rounds shot.

After being hit the spilling chemicals sprayed Ballard in the face. Before landing the plane spilled the chemicals up to the level where the hole was made (nearly 200 gallons) by the bullet. The bullet also damaged the plane's navigation system.

The investigation was conducted by the FBI and the Federal Aviation Administration. Deputy Criminal Chief Assistant U.S. Attorney Denise Williams prosecuted.

Ballinger Woman pleads guilty to Education Foundation fraud

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS—Jackie Gibbs, former Ballinger ISD business manager and former Ballinger Education Foundation Treasurer pleaded guilty last Tuesday morning, March 12, 2013, to the charges of forgery and theft. She was sentenced to 10 years deferred adjudication and restitution of nearly \$50,000.

Assistant District Attorney Bryan Clayton said that the case was heard by 119th District Judge Ben Woodward, and she will remain on felony probation.

"Gibbs pleaded guilty to the charges of forgery and theft for \$49,876.75, she paid \$5,000 and owes the rest. We know that she has substantial resources from a retirement fund and we'll be expecting the rest of the money soon," said Clayton.

Gibbs is the former Ballinger Independent School District business manager. In January of 2012, when she left the school district, she was working as accounts-payable.

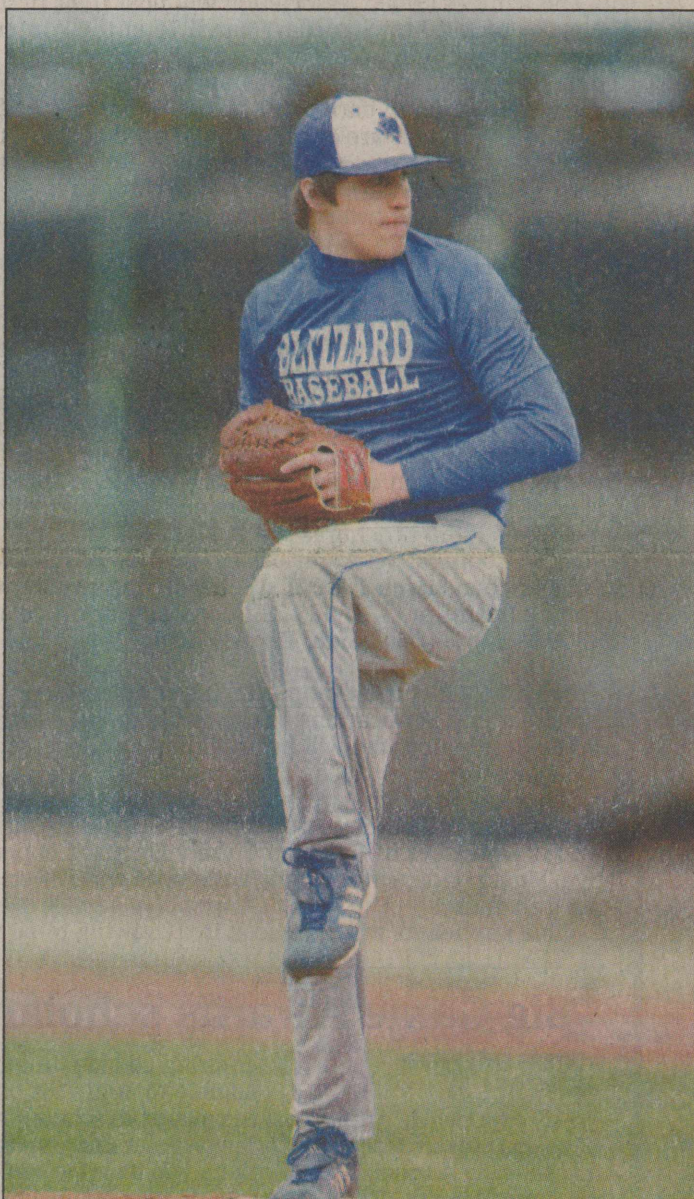
Gibbs was also Treasurer of the Ballinger Education Foundation, a non-for-profit organization granting scholarships to Ballinger High School graduating seniors.

The foundation, not affiliated with Ballinger ISD, was founded in 2007 by well know and respected members of the community. The mission of the Ballinger Education Foundation is to generate and distribute funds to Ballinger Independent School District students and staff.

Some of the fund-raisers and donations held by the foundation include scholarships donated to Ballinger High School Class of 2011 graduating seniors, the sale of a recipe book, and the sale of Bearcat Paw Print/Bearcat car window decals.

The foundation states that its mission is to encourage all students to work to their highest potential, recognize and reward Ballinger students and staff, and inspire parents and community to participate with the school district in enriching education.

Gerhart throws no-hitter in Ballinger



Daniel Gerhart struck out 10 and walked none in the Winters vs Ballinger game held last Saturday.

WINTERS ENTERPRISE
STAFF REPORT

WINTERS—Daniel Gerhart threw a no-hitter in the Blizzards' 4-0 victory over Ballinger at the game played Saturday, March 9, 2013 at the Ballinger High School Baseball Tourney.

No batter was able to decipher Gerhart's throws during the game. Gerhart tallied 10 strikeouts and walked none. Gerhart forced Lance Berkley to ground out for the final out of the game in the seventh inning.

Backed by a solid defense Gerhart and the Blizzards prevented the Ballinger boys from reaching base in the first, second, fifth and seventh innings.

The Blizzards took an early lead and never fell behind with two runs in the third on an RBI single by Ty Cortez.

Winters scored one in the fourth inning, and one more in the fifth. In the fourth, Winters scored on an RBI single by Daryl Hagle, plating Austen Green.

The Blizzards tied one game and dropped another one at the Ballinger Tourney. On Thursday, March 7, Winters tied 2-2 with Abilene High JV. Then on Friday, March 8, not even a strong hitting and pitching performance from Cory Pritchard could carry the Blizzards past Haskell as Winters suffered a 8-1 defeat. Pritchard reached base two times doubling in the first inning, and he also drove in one runner.

Monday, March 11, the Varsity dropped their Spring 2013 record to 7-5-2 by falling to the Hamlin Pied Pipers 4-1 in non-district baseball action.

Chris Gerhart did all he could with the bat, but it wasn't enough to get past Hamlin. Chris went a perfect 2-2 at the plate for Winters Blizzards. He singled in the fourth and sixth innings.

Cory Pritchard pitched lights out for Winters. Pritchard gave up just one hit, allowed no earned runs, walked none and struck out three during his three innings of work.

The lead stayed with Hamlin after the first, when the Pied Pipers scored on a groundout by Georges.

Hamlin got one-run boosts in each of the third, sixth and seventh. In the third, Hamlin scored on an RBI single by Hall, plating Georges.

Winters scored one in the fourth inning on an RBI single by Ty Cortez.

Annual Texas deer study group set for April 18-19

WINTERS ENTERPRISE
STAFF REPORT

GLEN ROSE—The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will conduct their annual Texas Deer Study Group April 18-19 at Glen Rose.

The first day's classroom-style program will be in the Somervell County Expo and Texas Amphitheatre, 202 Bo Gibbs Blvd. Activities start at 7:30 a.m. with registration and last until 8:45 p.m. with breaks scheduled during the day for lunch and dinner. A tour of the Quail Ridge Ranch the second day will convene at 8 a.m.

"This year's theme is Navigating the Deer Management Continuum, which reflects the spectrum of deer manage-

ment intensity and technologies," said Dr. Dale Rollins, AgriLife Extension wildlife specialist at San Angelo and steering committee member. "A growing trend towards more intensive deer management, including deer breeding, illustrates some managers' goals, while others believe such intensive management diminishes the overall value of deer in the eyes of the hunter and the public.

"The slate of speakers assembled for this year's meeting is a who's who among deer biologists. Topics will range from biology to ethics. Several veterinarians will lead the group in a hands-on deer dissection which will help set the stage for the other presenta-

tions. The hands-on teaching method will continue during the second day's tour of the Quail Ridge Ranch where participants will be trained on proper habitat management."

The Texas Deer Study Group was initially known as The West Texas Deer Study Group when it first began in 1997. The name changed a decade later to better serve deer managers across the entire state. Rollins said its original purpose of serving as a forum for information exchange among like-minded deer professionals remains the same.

"Since its inception, the program has been a collaboration among AgriLife Extension, the U.S. Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Texas Wildlife Association and Wildlife Systems," Rollins said.

"The teamwork developed among these partners not only brings a multifaceted approach to an educational meeting, but other spin-offs, like the Buckskin Brigade Wildlife Leadership Camp for youth for example, have helped raise awareness on deer management to audiences of all ages."

Individual registration is \$75 before April 10 and \$100 thereafter. Registration is available online at www.texas-wildlife.org.

For more information on the study group, email Helen Holdsworth at hholdsworth@texas-wildlife.org.

One-Act Play to perform 'Double Date' this Sunday

WINTERS ENTERPRISE
STAFF REPORT

WINTERS—Winters High School One-Act Play will perform Double Date for the public this Sunday, March 17, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. in the WHS Auditorium. Admission is free and the community is encouraged to attend. A cookies and punch reception will be held immediately following the play in the high school library.

Written by Florence Rhyerson and published by Samuel French, Inc. the play is set on a southern morning of a spring day in the living room of Mrs. Barton's house in Irvington. A human and amusing play;

it tells the story of two teenage girls who plan to outsmart the boys with their flirtatious feminine ways. However, Uncle Clay and the boys learn what they are up to and decide to go fishing instead, giving them a run for their own money. The girls, who are from south of the Mason Dixon line, are not used to such discipline, nor being caught in their own trap.

This year's cast and crew includes: Ashley Guy, Armando Rodriguez, Corey Pritchard, Kimble Bridgeman, Iesha Tamez, Brittany Gray, Nina Mooney, Jaymee Pritchard, Joanna Perez, Jonathon Sandoval and Christa Bahlman.

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THE IDLE AMERICAN

Bring back lay-away plan?...

Commetary by
Dr. Don Newbury

He was as solemn as I've ever seen him. My Uncle Mort, looking down the gun barrel at his 101st birthday, was pensive, his thoughts filled with yesterdays and the snows of many winters.

"Our country's in a heap of trouble, nephew," he began. "There's plenty of blame to spread around, border to border, but I think I can pinpoint when our gradual demise began."

Tears welling, he continued. "It started when folks abandoned lay-away plans."...

Mort thinks when the "we-want-it-now" craze won favor, lay-away plans crumbled. "Buying on credit — getting stuff now and paying later — became a way of life," he moaned.

He says we now pile debts upon debts, "trying to keep up with the Joneses — just when we think we've caught them, they

refinance." My uncle claims debt to be at the root of many problems — from "our house to the state house to the White House."...

Not many of Mort's remarks end in question marks. This one did. "In your memory, who stands out as Texas' all-time greatest Christian statesman?"

Without hesitation, I answered, "Congressman George Mahon (1900-1985). He served Texas' 19th District for 44 years (1935-1979), was never defeated for public office, endeared himself to the masses and never lost the common touch. He was passionately 'sold out' to public service."

I told him about several visits with the congressman during his twilight years and my remembrances of his sparkling eyes, deep faith and un-

wavering optimism. Even as dementia took a stronghold, he ended every visit with this reminder: "There is no hope for the world without the church and education. It has always been that way."...



TEXAS
COLUMNIST
Don
Newbury

and both spent collegiate years at then-young educational institutions — now named Western Kentucky University and Hardin-Simmons University.

Both men were passionate about serving their people and always committed to doing the right thing....

Mike Stephens, longtime Natcher associate, recalls their mutual respect and their occasional breakfasts together. "They usually came down on the same sides of issues during their 26 years together in Congress," he said.

Many Texans have rich remembrances of Mahon — including his careful budgeting of time that called for squat-thrust exercises while on elevators — few know little, if anything, about Kentucky's late congressional leader. Natcher never missed a vote during his 40-year tenure — a record likely to endure. His last vote — #18,401 — was cast from a hospital gurney a few days before his death in 1994.

His name is worth researching. You'll find it refreshing and may draw additional Mahon/Natcher parallels....

Random facts include: Always the natty dresser, Natcher sometimes changed shirts three

times daily...He dictated thoughts privately after each house session; the 58 volumes, an average of 400 pages each, are now bound and archived...He wrote weekly letters to his six grandchildren by hand, alternating recipients of original and carbon copies.

He never accepted a campaign contribution, personally financing every race, none of which exceeded \$10,000. He never had a press secretary and never ran a political ad. Storms, graduation ceremonies, weddings and other momentous events never took precedence over casting house votes.

He invariably operated his office at costs substantially below allowances. He was authorized a staff of 18, but never employed more than five, thus returning big chunks of office funding....

Early on, a friend sent Natcher a \$100 political contribution. He fretted over the gift, fearing that its return would be offensive.

Natcher decided to buy a couple of \$50 Countess Mara ties for the would-be "donor." He mailed them and a note of thanks for the "contribution."...

Mahon and Natcher were essentially "book-ends." They both served as Chair of the powerful House Appropriations Committee, both died at age 84, and both were committed to "pay as we go."

Both had overflow crowds at their funerals. Names of both are on bridges, roads, buildings and schools.

We should "study up" on such Christian statesmen — reviewing their beliefs and lives of passionate service — and then try our best to model them....

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.

USPS, Inspection Service team up to protect the consumers

WINTERS ENTERPRISE
STAFF REPORT

WASHINGTON- The U.S. Postal Service, U.S. Postal Inspection Service and AARP joined with government agencies, advocacy organizations and private sector groups nationwide to celebrate National Consumer Protection Week (NCPW), March 3-9.

This coordinated consumer education campaign encourages individuals across the country to take full advantage of their consumer rights.

"The U.S. Postal Service is proud to work with a broad coalition of groups to share tips and information to protect consumers against fraud," said Krista Finazzo, Consumer Advocate. "As the most trusted government agency and fourth most trusted company in the nation, we understand the importance of protecting privacy and steering clear from fraud and scams."

This year's theme, "Dollars & Sense: Rated 'A' for All Ages" highlights the importance of using good consumer sense at every stage of life — from grade

school to retirement. In recognition of this week, the Postal Service and its partners promoted free resources to help people protect their privacy, manage money and debt, avoid identity theft, understand credit and mortgages and steer clear of frauds and scams.

Consumers can visit deliveringtrust.com for free fraud education and prevention videos about identity theft, work-at-home scams, Internet fraud, foreign lotteries, investment scams and more. The website also offers tips on recognizing scams and instructions on reporting scammers to the appropriate authorities.

"We're out to stop fraud — and you can help," said Guy Cottrell, Chief Postal Inspector. "Many fraudulent offers can be identified and prevented before they cause any damage. Together we can help protect our families and ourselves from these crimes."

To help protect older Americans, the Postal Inspection Service and

AARP are sending educational and outreach materials to 25 million consumers, targeting older Americans and their caregivers to educate them about foreign lottery scams. Brochures also will be on-site in 33,000 Post Offices nationwide and a series of consumer alerts new reports and public service announcements will air in 86 metropolitan areas nationwide.

Established in 1998, National Consumer Protection Week is a federal program led by the Federal Trade Commission to draw attention to issues and ideas that help customers become smarter consumers of products, materials and services and improve their knowledge of how to combat fraud.

For more information about National Consumer Protection Week, visit deliveringtrust.com and ncpw.gov

The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

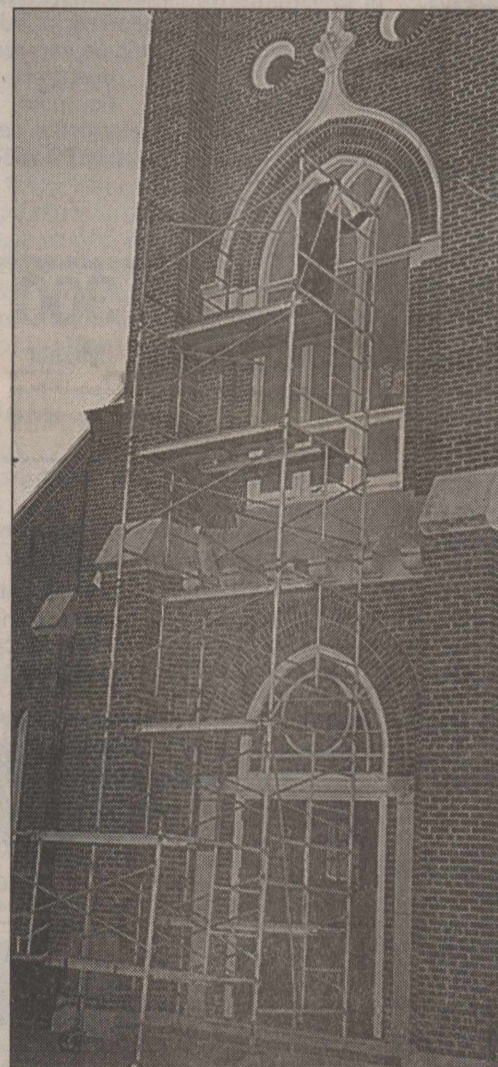
High-rise work

ROWENA- St. Joseph Catholic Church in Rowena is getting a face-lift on its stained glass windows.

Church Art Glass of Clinton, Kentucky is working on the outside to restore the windows. They are preparing and painting the woodwork, cleaning the stained glass and will be installing a vented, safety glass framed covering. This will allow the beauty of the windows to be seen from the exterior of the church.

On the inside, Crystal Goodman, an artist from San Angelo, is painting a wood-grain effect to the window frames. The dark wood is enhancing the brilliance and many colors of the stained glass. Local stained-glass experts, J.B. and Mildred Terry created the large Agony in the Garden window being worked on in the picture. J.B. commented that there are over 300 pieces of glass just making up the leaves in the tree in the window.

PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED



WINTERS LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION

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The Winters Livestock Association is proud to award 4 sponsorships in the amount of \$250 each for students of Winters ISD to assist them in the purchase of livestock projects.

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