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Thursday, December 26, 2013



PHOTO: RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ Patsy Jones and Belinda Gray, Customer Service Managers at Ballinger

Christmas 'miracle' touches area families

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ

BALLINGER- The Christmas miracle became a reality in Runnels County this Christmas season, in the form of several anonymous benefactors paying off layaways to customers in need at the Ballinger Walmart.

Over the last two weeks several anonymous donors have shown up at the local store to make donations through their "Good Samaritan" program.

"This is something never before seen in our store," said Brenda Turney, Walmart Community Coordinator in Ballinger.

The program is given certain criteria, such as the kind of merchandise that was put in layaway or the age of the children it is intended for, and it automatically selects an account. The benefactor and the customer remain anonymous to

"We've had this program for about two years, but it is the first time we have seen this response," said Ballinger Walmart Store Manager Ellen Godwin.

"We want the people to know about this because this is a great way to give back to the community, all donations stay in this community," she added.

As of press time some \$3,000 have been donated through this program by anonymous donors, most of them couples, benefiting nearly 20 families in Runnels

SAN ANGELO- The San Angelo

office of the National Weather

of the dangers of the extreme

weather in West Central Texas.

Weather across West Central

can change dramatically and is

typically characterized by flash

floods, drought, wildfires, hail,

Texas, said the office in a release,

Service is raising awareness

WINTERS ENTERPRISE

"We had one person who walked in and paid off 10 layaways," said Godwin. Some of the donors, she added, chose to payoff layaways that have toys only, while others choose those for children who are between certain ages.

The Christmas miracle was totally unexpected and caught these families entirely by surprise. That was the case of a single mother who couldn't afford to pay for her layaway, and thanks to an anonymous donor this year will be having a merry

Also remarkable were the cases of a woman who just had surgery and couldn't afford to pay her layaway, and a man who had 10 bicycles in layaway and got three of them paid off. "They broke down in tears," said Belinda Gray, Customer Service Manager in the local store.

said that this program offers a great opportunity for those wanting to donate to local families "because they already shopped for what they want and what they need, they don't need to be shopping around to give something to

a family," she said.

Now the store is spreading the word about the benefits of this program, where local families are helping the less fortunate, all within the community and under the spirit of a very Merry Christmas in town.

wind storms, winter storms and

"Our hearts and prayers are

with those who lost loved ones,

the potential is always there for

always important to be weather

ready. You can also learn how

devastating fires and storms, it is

PLEASE CONTINUE PAGE 2

and we are very sorry if you experienced injury or property

damage this past year. Since

Record-setting toy drive held in Runnels County

Nearly 500 area children receive Christmas presents and a little love from county residents and the Sheriff's Office

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ

BALLINGER- A record-setting toy drive brought the Runnels County community together last Monday, December 23, 2013, with nearly 500 children receiving a special gift from anonymous donors through the annual Runnels County Sheriff's Office toy drive.

"This was a great year, we had many donors participating and we'll be giving away Christmas presents for nearly 500 children," said Runnels County Sheriff Bill Baird.

The drive, which started many years ago by helping the local radio station to distribute Christmas baskets, has been growing ever since.

At some point some 25 years ago, the Sheriff's Office took over the program and it turned into a toy drive for the needy. Through the years we have been getting many donations



PHOTO: RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ Volunteers helping in the annual toy drive Wayne Pohels, Dana

Gore, Marie Hoffman and Runnels County Sheriff Bill Baird.

from businesses, organizations and individuals," said Baird.

Over the years the drive turned into a tradition, and the Sheriff's Office gives away brand new items, age and gender selected for each one of the families who signed in during the weeks prior to the drive.

The gifts are purchased and sorted out by volunteers, with monetary donations taken by the Sheriff's Office. Donations are also received in the form of new, unwrapped toys. Families from all over the county benefit from the drive, and in some cases those toys will be the only Christmas present the children will re-

In 2012 the drive benefited some 400 children, and this year nearly 500 children were signed in. "We have a total of nearly 150 families, this keeps on growing every year," said

Blizzards capture 16 All-District awards

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ

WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS- Winters High School players All-District nominations last week, once the football season was over and all the nominations were released. Nine nominations were for the Big Blue offense while six went to the Blizzards defense and one more was for the special teams.

Winters High School junior Taylor Hooper captured Second Team Center nomination, senior Austen Green got Second Team Guard, junior Ethan Bredemeyer was named First

Team Offensive Tackle, and senior Corey Pritchard got Second Team Offensive Tackle.

Sophomore Julian Soto was named First Team Tight End, junior Jimmy John Ripley got Second Team Inside Receiver, junior Daryl Hagle got Second Team Outside Receiver, senior Dusty Hines was named First Team Fullback, and senior Chris Gerhart was named



PHOTO: FILE / JOE GERHART

Taylor Hooper stopping a ball carrier. Hooper was named All-District Second Team Center and First Team Defensive Lineman.

Second Team Quarterback, just behind State Champion Stamford's Bo Wimberly.

On the defense side Taylor Hooper was named First Team Defensive Lineman, while Corey Pritchard and Ethan Bredemeyer got Second Team Lineman nominations.

Ty Cortez earned Second Team Outside Linebacker, senior Stephon Cleghorn got Second Team Corner, while Jimmy John Ripley was named First Team Safety. Ripley was also

named Second Team Punter. Topping the District 4, 1A Division I nominations are MVP James Washington - Stamford, Offensive MVP Jalen Garza Anson, Defensive MVP Ty McLemore - Stamford, and Newcomers Dustin Miller (Anson) and Ian Park (Forsan).



NWS raising weather awareness

tornadoes.

PHOTO: RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ Brylee Matschek, County Judge Barry Hilliard, Adam Multer, Taryn Kalina, Rusty Fischer.

Senior Citizens Center receives donations

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ

BALLINGER- The Runnels County Senior Citizens Center received donations in excess of \$1,000 from Runnels County 4-H club members. Donations were awarded last Monday morning, December 23, 2013 at the Commissioners Court regular meeting held at the County Courthouse.

On behalf of Runnels County 4-H Taryn Kalina, Adam Multer, Rusty Fischer and Brylee Matschek awarded \$877.50 to County Judge

Barry Hilliard, toward the Senior Citizens Center. The donation was made possible by "Runnin' for Runnels," a 5K run held in November with start and finish line at the Tractor Supply parking lot. The event registered nearly 90 entries.

A second donation benefiting the center was received by Judge Hilliard. This one in the amount of \$180 from "Pennies for Protein," a fundraiser by 4-Her Hadley Hatler. She raised awarness about "Sarcopenia," a loss of muscle tissue as a natural part of the aging process



Hadley Hatler and Judge Hilliard.





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If you have a news tip The Winters Enterprise

At (325) 365 3501

SAAF scholarship application available Jan. 1

The San Angelo Area Foundation's 2014 scholarship application is now available through March 1, 2014, for students attending college in the fall of 2014. Interested students can apply at http://www.saafound.org, by clicking on the "Scholarships" tab. The San Angelo Area Foundation manages over 80 scholarship funds, created by generous donors for the benefit of students. The student need only complete one online application and each scholarship is awarded based on a variety of qualifications unique to each scholarship fund. Scholarship awards are announced in early May. If you have any questions during the application process, please contact our office either by email at scholarship@saafound.org or by calling (325) 947 7071.

Fundraiser for Chad McDuffee

An account has been established at the First National Bank of Ballinger to accept donations or sponsorships for Chad McDuffee. McDuffee is a Ballinger native and veteran of the Iraq War. Chad lost most of the use of his right foot after sustaining an injury while on deployment in Iraq in 2006. Chad earned a bronze medal in the 2013 Valor Games Midwest in powerlifting and is currently trying to earn a spot on the U.S. Paralympic Team in time for the 2016 World Games in Brazil. Donations to the account will be used to help defray his travel expenses and purchase special equipment for

Winters Area Chamber of Commerce meetings

Winters Area Chamber of Commerce meets at 7 p.m., first Thursday of the month at the Lone Star Video, 200 Tinkle Street.

TEEA 'Friendly Neighbors' The Texas Extension Education Agency "Friendly Neighbors" invites everybody in the Winters and Ballinger area who is interested in learning about cooking, gardening and arts and crafts to join us on the fourth Tuesday of every month (except during

summer) at 2 p.m. at the Runnels County Extension Office on the corner of South Seventh and Sealy Ave in Ballinger.

If you are interested and like to find out more about us, call Nancy at 325 5042 or Linda 754 5385.

Winters Women's Club

Members meet the second Tuesday of the month. Call Sylvia Wilson 754 4992 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.

TEEA 'Friendly Neighbors'

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If you are interested and like to find out more about us, call Nancy at 365 5042 or Linda 754 5385.

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.

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

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

Paint Rock Masonic Lodge meetings
Paint Rock Masonic Lodge No. 613 will have stated meetings on the first Thursday night of each month at 7:30 p.m. beginning January 2, 2014. Supper will be provided after the meeting. The location is the Masonic Lodge building located at 360 South Roberts on Highway 83 South.

Businesses reminded to file before end-of-year deadline

AUSTIN- The business and public filings division of the Texas Secretary of State's office urged businesses formed as corporations and LLCs to submit their necessary end-of-year filings as early as possible before the December 31 deadline.

Documents received by the business and public filings division by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 31 in correct form will receive a 2013 file date. By filing before the last minute,

businesses leave enough time to correct any errors on their documents.

Important filing guidelines include:

· Documents and faxes received after close of business on Dec. 31 will receive a 2014 file date.

 Postmarks and fax confirmation notations do not count. · Incomplete and

incorrect documents are returned without filing. · A corrected document receives a file date based

on its resubmission—not the date of the original

Whenever possible, Texas businesses are encouraged to file online using SOSDirect, which can be accessed through the secretary of state's website at sos.state.tx.us. Formation filings, terminations and withdrawals can be handled through SOS-Direct. Official forms and filing information, including fees, are also available

on the website. Businesses intending to file end-of-year documents should consider holiday schedules and plan accordingly. The secretary of state's business and public filings division will be closed Dec. 24-27. Also, the state comptroller's office, which provides certificates for some business filings, will be closed Dec. 24 through January 1, 2014.

For more information, contact the business and public filings division of the secretary of state's office at 512-463-5555 during normal business

Tips for quick and healthy eating during the holidays

WINTERS ENTERPRISE

For many people, the holidays involve indulging in buffet tables loaded with lots of fattening, processed foods

For those of us who strive the rest of the year to eat a healthy diet while leading busy lives, it can be a challenging time. Not only are we busier than ever, we know that all those foods we usually try to avoid are going to give us indigestion, sap our energy, and pile on the pounds.

"It really isn't hard to give yourself, your family and friends the gift of delicious, nutrient-rich meals over the holidays," says holistic chef and certified healing foods specialist Shelley Alexander, author of "Deliciously Holistic," (www.aharmonyhealing.com), a new cookbook featuring more than 154 of her favorite healing foods recipes and tips to increase energy and

"Instead of heading to the local supermarket, visit a farmers' market, where you can buy fresh, local, season-

al and organic produce," she says.

Nutrient-rich, whole foods that don't have unnatural fillers and other additives, including seasonal, organic vegetables and fruits, wild-caught seafood, and pastureraised, organic chicken and meats that come from well-fed, unadulterated, healthy animals, will completely nourish your body, make you feel better and ramp up your energy, she says. And you'll find you won't overeat, so it's much easier to maintain your weight without counting calories.

Alexander offers six tips for quick and convenient healthy eating during the holidays:

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

· When shopping, check labels and avoid foods with a long list of ingredients.

Set aside a few hours each week to prep foods to eat in the days ahead. Cut up produce and store it in airtight

Start your day with a green smoothie. Cut and freeze organic fresh fruit to use in green smoothies. You can also buy frozen fruit that's already cut up. For your holiday dinners, plan on making at least

three to four dishes that are both delicious and nutritious. Good examples are pasture-raised, wild turkey with sage and garlic, baked wild salmon with lemon and herbs, steamed greens, roasted heirloom root vegetables drizzled with balsamic glaze.

· Invest in a dehydrator. Dehydrate fruits and vegetables and raw nuts or seeds that have been soaked in unrefined sea salt water.

Make batches of fermented vegetables twice a month. Alexander recommends eating fermented vegetables every day to keep your digestive system healthy.

"Stick to whole, healthy foods this holiday season, and you'll feel so good, you won't want to go near the buffet table at your office party," Alexander says.

Significant rains pose potential threat says A&M expert

WINTERS ENTERPRISE

COLLEGE STATION-Significant rain this year could be a potential threat during the winter wildfire season. Residents are urged to take precautions as the cold weather begins drying the increased vegetation.

Rains earlier this year helped suppress wildfire threats by improving moisture levels across majority of the state. However, this led to a rise in grassy areas, which can help spread fires if it becomes too dry.

Potential for fire is especially relevant in the western plains regions of the state. Including the grass dominated areas west of a Wichita Falls to Abilene to San Angelo line. Strong persistent winds over this area could increase the chance of wildfires spreading. "The concern is on dry

nd windy days," said Tom Spencer, predictive services department head at Texas A&M Forest Service. "A fire could start and spread quickly in these dry grasses, damaging anything in its path." Care is highly recommended throughout the winter months and activities that could accidentally start a fire should be limited.

Several safety tips for all Texans this holiday season include to check for and obey burn bans

and fireworks restrictions. When and where outdoor burning is allowed, keep the fire small, never leave it unattended and remove leaves and other materials from the area surrounding the fire. Avoid lighting piles on windy days.

Keep water nearby in case a fire starts. A spark or burning ember can ignite dry, finetextured fuels like grass and weeds.

Read and follow label instructions on how to properly discharge fireworks.

Use fireworks with close adult supervision and only in areas clear of dry vegetation. Avoid using fireworks,

particularly aerial varieties, around buildings. Wind can carry hot fireworks onto roofs where leaves or other flammable debris may have accumulated.

Remove your natural Christmas tree soon after the holidays and consider community tree recycling projects. Christmas trees can be ground up for mulch or provide shelter for birds and other wildlife.

Dispose of wrapping paper, boxes and other holiday waste by recycling, when practical. Burn paper and cardboard in a burn barrel or other fire-proof receptacle topped by a metal screen or grill.

Extreme weather: NWS raising awareness

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

your NWS is making every effort to prepare for extreme weather through its Weather Ready Nation Initiative at http://www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation/

Here are a few safety tips.

1) Know the name of your county and those around

2) Have a means to receive forecasts, watches and warnings such as your local radio and TV station, cable, Internet provider, cell phone, and/or NOAA Weather Radio 24 hours a day.

3) Take appropriate action when a watch or warning is issued for your area.

For more information for your radio, TV, newspaper, Facebook, or web link please go to www.srh.noaa.gov/sjt Please click on the Five Most Significant Weather Events which is located at the top of our homepage.



Visit MyRunnelsCounty.com

Extreme weather Top 5

The five most significant weather events for 2013 and how they impacted the region.

Location/Event	Date	Fatalities
Icy bridges on U.S. Highway 277	Nov. 23-24	Two
Long term drought	2013	None
Abilene wind and flash flood storm	Jun. 17	None
Winter storm	Dec. 5-6	None
Blanket EF1 tornado	May 20	None

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Veteran's Corner

Eligible Veterans, plus family members receiving care under the Civilian Health and Medical Program (CHAMP-VA), can now purchase affordable dental insurance. The new program is a partnership between VA, Delta Dental and MetLife. Participation will not affect entitlement to VA dental services and treatment. There are no eligibility limitations based on service-connected disability rating or enrollment priority assignment. People interested in participating may now complete an application online through either Delta Dental, or MetLife. Coverage for this new dental insurance will begin Jan. 1, 2014. Also eligible for the new benefits are nearly 400,000 spouses and dependent children who are reimbursed for most medical expenses under VA's CHAMPVA program. Dental services under the new program vary by plan and include diagnostic, preventive, surgical, emergency and endodontic/restorative treatment. Enrollment in the VA Dental Insurance Plan (VADIP) is voluntary. Participants are responsible for all premiums, which range from \$8.65 to \$52.90 per month for individual plans. Copayments and other charges may apply. For more information on VADIP, visit www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vadip, or contact Delta Dental at 1-855-370-3303 or MetLife at 1-888-310-1681. For more information, contact Sandra at the Veterans Service Office at 602 Strong Ave on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., or call 365-3612.

> Sandra G. Van Zant Veterans County Service Officer P.O. Box 108 Ballinger, TX 76821 PHONE (325) 365-3612

Public Record Runnels County Jall Record December 23, 2013				
Forgery, theft by check				
Ramone S. Delarose	50	Coleman		
DWI 1st				
David T. Ferguson	29	BPD		
Burglary of habitation				
Joe B. Crowder	45	Coleman		
Aggravated assault with a deadly weapon				
David T. Ferguson	29	BPD		
	Burglary of habitation			
Coleton C. Dellaughtey	20	BPD		
	Forgery			
Charles Daniels	59	Coleman		
Intoxicated manslaughter with a vehicle				
Heath Belk	46	Concho		
Indecency with a child				
Ennane E. Fuentes	45	DPS		
	DWI 2nd			
Jacob Busbee	22	BPD		
	Theft \$50- \$500			

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Tono (1000)

County seeking \$300K in additional funds for road repair

WINTERS ENTERPRISE

BALLINGER- Tuesday, December 10, 2013, Runnels County Commissioners Court voted to enter into an agreement with Allison, Bass and Associates, regarding two oil and gas road-related bills, appropriating funds for the counties affected by the traffic increase.

These funds, allocated from the Rainy Day fund, is an attempt to financially assist all counties

CAFETERIA MENU

in Texas affected by the increase in oil related traffic and subsequent damage. Runnels County is eligible for not less than \$335,664. A \$5,000 nominal flat fee will be paid out to Allison, Bass and Associates of that amount.

This firm has worked with and for the Texas Association of Counties for at least 32 years and counting

The 83rd Legislature included a \$225 million

supplemental appropriation in House Bill 1025 to help repair or improve county roads in areas affected by energy-sector activities. This funding will enable affected counties to apply for and obtain grants through the Texas Department of Transportation. Senate Bill 1747 outlines the requirements for counties to be eligible for funding authorized under HB 1025. The Texas Transportation Commission has adopted rules

in order for TxDAT to administer the program.

As outlined in SB 1747 and TxDOT rules, grant funding will be distributed to each county according to the following formula: 20 percent according to weight tolerance permits, 20 percent according to oil and gas production taxes, 50 percent according to well completions, and 10 percent according to volume of oil and gas waste injected.

44 Pirate feature, often

45 Mystery awards

46 Amo, amas,

48 " Like It"

comedy)

50 "Hey!"

(Shakespeare

49 Popular cookie

51 Colorado neighbor

52 Stash away some

53 Perlman of

54 Ken or Barbie

55 Actress Samms

56 Light stuff

GROSSWORD PUZZLE

"The Fab Four Times Two"

Across

- 1 School subject
- 5 Wore
- 10 Snakes on the Nile
- 14 Felipe of baseball15 Mozart work.
- sometimes
- 16 Only Huxtable boy, on "The Cosby Show"
- 17 Some citrus fruits
- 19 Cafeteria holder
- 20 Beatles song about their apparent favorite number
- 22 Perfect score, often23 Business "pay me" notice: abbr.
- 24 Beliefs
- 28 ___ choice
- (baseball play)
 33 Land measurement
- 34 Arm bones
- 35 Luau dish36 Beatles song about
- the square of their number
- 40 Shooting org.
- 41 Argon and krypton42 Provoke
- 43 Oregon Trail folks
- crust (outer layer of our planet)
- 47 ___ Paulo, Brazil48 USNA rank
- 49 Another Beatles song about their
- 57 Horse's pace
- 58 Introvert, perhaps59 Latin for "I forbid"
- 60 Take time to enjoy61 "Tickle-me" craze
- of the mid-90s

 62 Explorer Hernando
- de ____

- 13 ___ sauce (it's used in Japanese cooking)
- 18 Singer James21 Aviation pioneer
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- 2 Jai _____24 Daybreaks3 Handle food with a25 Dark yellow tint
- certain serving tool 26 "My heavens!"
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63 America, familiarly

1 Defeat, in chess

64 Country star

Jackson

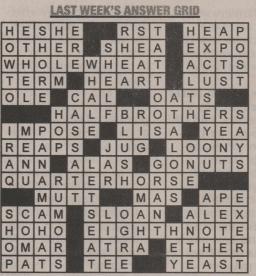
- 7 Say it isn't so Tonight" rock group
- 8 Mined materials9 Space shuttle org.30 Chow down on31 Not smooth
- 9 Space shuttle org.10 Make an31 Not smooth32 Begets
- 11 Third-largest city in disb

12 Mountaintop

37 Eskimo hous
38 West of film

39 Cat's cover

34 Superpower room disbanded in 1991 and search its
37 Eskimo house



Weather Whys

Q: You often see temperatures fall in a hurry in some parts of the country. What's the largest temperature drop in the United States?

A: Montana appears to hold the record, says Brent McRoberts of Texas A&M University. "On Jan. 23,

McRoberts of Texas A&M University. "On Jan. 23, 1916, the temperature in Browning, Mont., fell from 44 degrees one afternoon to minus 56 degrees the following afternoon – a drop of an even 100 degrees."

Q: Why does Montana hold those kind of records?

A: Because of the huge size of the state, its geography and its northern location, Montana has the right ingredients for temperature fluctuations, McRoberts adds. "Nearby Spearfish, S.D., has the largest temperature rise on record. On Jan. 22, 1943, the temperature went from minus 4 degrees at 7:30 a.m. to 45 degrees by 7:32 – an incredible warm-up of 49 degrees in just two minutes."

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THE ORGANIZATION OF RUNNELS COUNTY

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RCHC CHAIRPERSON WINTERS- The 10th day of August A.D., 1885, the second Monday was the date for the Runnels County Commissioners' Court Regular term meeting. The County Judge C. H. Willingham presided with the following commissioners present: Job Davies, F.M. Bright, H.H. Luckett, also County Clerk W.L. Towner and F.M. Formwalt, County Sheriff. The court paid their expenses to date, accepted resignations from the Justice of the Peace Precincts and appointed people to fill the positions. D.C. Underwood was the Tax Assessor. He gave his report of abstracts on lands and their location. The County Surveyor requested to move his office to the courthouse and occupy the office adjoining the County Clerk's office. The Court in other orders stated the **Runnels County School** District No. 1 sell the **Runnels School House for**

\$65. Roads were being constructed to connect with others throughout the county. Persons were appointed to oversee all of the continuing construction. The County Surveyor was ordered to record all of the manuscripts regarding the mapping out of the roads.

The court examined the expenditures from school money in Runnels County from Lone Star School located near present day Crews (known then as the "Pig Pen") Sallie B. Wilson - \$155.33, from Fort Chadbourne W.M. Eidson - \$114.00, from Walthall

CONTRIBUTED BY RUTH COOPER C. F. Dickinson - \$26.45. The Runnels County Court ordered Mr. H.A. Thomson to place a gate on the Runnels and Brushy Bluff Road at the present crossing on Elm Creek on the Coleman

The interest was paid on the calaboose (jail) bond of \$702 for the \$18,000 state of the art rock building. The court examined the county financial report and approved, then paid each their due and adjourned the 16th day of August

A.D. 1885. In 1885, The Runnels Record recorded a barrage of criticism at those speculating about the possibility of a railroad. It was the editors feeling that "we honestly think too much importance is attached to Rail Roads in these modern times." He did admit they extended facilities and conveniences of transportation but pointed out Runnels County already enjoyed all of these to a certain extent. In his opinion, Runnels County did not need this problem and would be just as well off without as with it provided it would run clear of the county limits. At the time, most people believed the railroad would go from the City of Coleman to Abilene and that Runnels County would not be included. People in the Town of Runnels (by now the "city" part of its name had been dropped) were hesitating to build homes because they wanted to see what the railroad was going to do.

Some of the towns leading citizens were delaying the building of a permanent courthouse until they knew the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe would not try to undermine Runnels City's prominence by building another town in another place in the county. The city's residents knew if this were to happen, a

fight would ensue. A State of Texas Ex-Confederate Reunion was held in Fort Worth. H.D. Pearce and a group of many Ex-Confederate Soldiers and other residents of Runnels County attended the State Convention that year, 1885. Henry D. Pearce kept a diary of the Confederacy and his friends. In it he wrote, "In 1885, H.D. Pearce, the Postmaster at Runnels went to the Fort Worth State Reunion for Ex-Confederate Soldiers and came back thoroughly revived in spirit and immediately went to work getting up a roll of his regiment." By December 23, 1885, he commenced to enroll all the Ex-Confederates (he could), taking a biographical sketch of each. When he would see a man come into the Post Office he would ask him if he was in the army, if so would take him back in the office and get his statement as to his service, for the purpose of history and to

work up an interest. According to H.D. Pearce's family, The **Pearces Pioneering Days** in Texas, by Zelma (Haley) Storm, the trip to the Confederate Soldiers' Reunion marked a turning point in his life. He was determined to collect all information that dealt

with the Confederacy and the soldiers that fought for its cause. Also it was a big surprise to the family to see Henry Davies Pearce attempt such a literary work as this with no formal education.

Along with the talk of the railroad and all of the questions it posed and the rain ceasing, the beautiful crops that were started had all begin to suffer by mid-1885. As this drought was settling in, problems began with the price of cattle dropping drastically. This also posed a hard blow to people all over the area. Most all residents of the Town of Runnels had some cows on the open range. This proved to be a very good income for them to get by but that too had begun to change with the ranches being fenced. The merchants were hit hard because the residents did not have money to make their regular purchases from them. Conditions were getting much worse because of the drought thus causing the food supply to become very short. Something needed to be done, so plans were being made to have the ways and means to acquire food to give to the families of the county. This would be something new to the residents of Runnels County. It would

Resources: Runnels County Historical Commission Histories Runnels County Commissioners Court Minutes, August 10-16, A. D. 1885. Runnels County Clerk Office, Runnels County.

be called welfare.

Setting spending priorities AgriLife Extension Service FCS holiday

tips for all Runnels Co. residents WINTERS ENTERPRISE

BALLINGER- A loss of income forces a family to evaluate its spending. There will be shifts in spending. Some expenses will be reduced, while others might be eliminated entirely. Some families can cut expenses without lowering their standard of living or quality of life. Other families may have to use their financial assets or have another family member enter the workforce to balance income and expenses. When dollars are scarce, their value grows. A family can no

longer afford to waste money on frivolous or unnecessary items. Your family must plan on new spending priorities as soon as possible, and all family members should be involved in the process.

The first task is to decide which goods and services have the highest priority, which are less important, and which can be post-poned or eliminated. A shared approach to these decision helps keep communications open within the family. This will help foster greater understanding of your financial situation and increases cooperation among family members. Older children can take an active role in helping the family through the stressful time

Cut costs to the lowest possible amount and practice smart spending. Have family members make a list of ways to economize and discuss where to start immediately. Assign each family member to oversee expenses. For example, one family member may be responsible for checking on lights-energy savings, and investigating no-cost recreation.

Remember the most essential financial tool for your family is a budget. If your family does not already plan or keep spending records, now is the time to start. Find a plan that your family is comfortable with and will follow. A budget is like a diet: there are plenty of options, but they all require discipline to take action

and stay on course. The plan should meet your family's needs and priorities and can be adjusted regularly as the family's situa-

Information provided by PSU Cooperative Extension Service.

Expense-cut strategies

■ Practice smart shopping – Use a list any time shopping is necessary-not just at the grocery store but for all your consumer needs. A list helps keep everyone from making unnecessary purchases on impulse ■ Go on fewer shopping trips – Spending less time shopping also limits your chance to buy on impulse. Eliminate shopping as recreation, which includes

window shopping or going to a mall to check on "sales. Buy generic or store brands – Many store brands are produced by major manufacturers whose own brands are made with the same ingredients in the

same plant or factory. Products in this category include some brands of sugar flour, salt, vinegar, and household supplies ■ Avoid waste – Are the dishwasher, washer and dryer used only for full loads? Are dirty furnace or air conditioning filters replaced regularly? Are

drapes and blinds closed at night to keep heat in? Are lights and appliances turned off when not in use? Is food stored properly and rotated properly? Is laundry detergent measured to avoid excess suds and waste? Adopt a do-it-yourself philosophy – Convenience foods that are precooked, presweetened, spiced, or instant are more expensive that foods your make yourself. Convenience in small packages is the most expensive, so avoid buying individual servings of pudding, fruit, or other desserts. If preparing food has not been a high priority in your family, invest in a basic cookbook Find it for free – Goods and services you can get for free really help stretch income. Tax dollars buy things for the community that everyone can use. You can find free recreational and entertainment opportunities at local parks, playgrounds, and community concerts. Community health services may offer nations or other medical services. Free or low-cost educational programs may be available through the library, community colleges, or schools. Check with other local agencies and organizations for more free educational and

Commodity outlook for Texas hinges on rainfall and demand

COLLEGE STATION- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service economists recently provided 2014 projections for major commodities produced in Texas, with many pointing to past drought conditions as a key factor in making

or breaking a crop. The Plains region of Texas and part of South Texas were dealt a severe blow in 2013 with drought conditions. However, AgriLife Extension economists say if positive weather patterns develop and lead to periods of timely rainfall, there's reason for optimism for the 2014 crop year. Livestock markets are also projected to continue to show strength, particularly beef cattle, as inventory levels have yet to recover from lows not seen since the 1950s.

Dr. Mark Welch, AgriLife Extension grains marketing economist in College Station, said 2013 brought record supplies of corn and wheat, but demand remains strong.

"With another year of good growing conditions, look for lower prices," he said. "But given the strong demand base, look for higher prices on any production concerns.

Welch said U.S. farmers produced a record corn crop in 2013 of 14 billion bushels.

"In the current marketing year, supply is outpac-ing demand, resulting in estimated carryover stocks of 1.8 billion bushels," he said. "This is twice the level of carryover stocks after the drought reduced crop in 2012. In response to this buildup in stocks, the season average farm price for corn is estimated at \$4.40 per bushel, down

from \$6.89 last year."
Looking ahead to 2014, Welch said the demand base for grain remains strong.

"Use estimates are higher in every category: feed and residual, food, seed, and industrial and exports. The question

is whether farmers will as those stocks are effect switch corn acreage to alternative crops now that prices are near, or in some cases, below the cost of production.'

Meanwhile, cotton prices will be determined by a variety of factors, said Dr. John Robinson, AgriLife Extension cotton economist, College Station.

"The outlook for cotton prices will be determined by a combination of planting and growing conditions for the 2014 new crop, and how much cotton China uses from out of their massive government reserves," he said. "If China maintains their reserves at their current levels, cotton prices in Texas may range from the upper 60s to mid-70s (cents per pound). If China were to start auctioning off large amounts of their reserves, then Chinese mills would not have to import as much cotton, leaving more surpluses of cotton in the U.S. that would lower prices another five to 10 cents."

The following is a summary from AgriLife Extension economist in the Plains region:

William J. Thompson, AgriLife Extension economist, San Angelo, West Central-District 7:

Outlook on Grains: "I am expecting a small increase in wheat acres planted for harvest in 2014. We had some timely showers in the early fall and producers took advantage of that. Grain and cotton price expectations are down for the coming year. If rainfall patterns return to something closer to normal, I think we will see more interest in cotton. For 2014, that will come at the expense of grain sorghum acres, as wheat is already in."

Outlook on Cotton: "For 2014 there is a mix of factors affecting cotton. The huge stocks being held in China will likely temper any short-term price increases. Prices have been relatively strong, considering the level of global stocks we have. But as long

tively out of the market channel, the market should maintain current levels in the mid to high \$70s range. That price uncertainty and some timely fall rains likely increased fall planting of wheat, some at the expense of cotton acres. Any increase of planted cotton next spring will be at the expense of what few grain sorghum acres we have out here.

Outlook on Livestock markets: "I expect to see further contraction of the sheep numbers in 2014. Lackluster prices for threequarters of the year (2013) and spotty precipitation led to additional reduction of the West Central Texas ewe flock. Prices have improved considerably in the fourth quarter, but many producers had likely sold their lamb crop by then. Rangelands will need additional, aboveaverage rainfall and time to recover from the effects of this prolonged drought. While I am not expecting to see a large reduction of ewe numbers in 2014, I am not expecting to see any significant growth either. Beef cattle numbers may show minimal increases in 2014. Discussions with county agents and producers indicate that some expansion/reinvestment is being considered. Very strong calf and feeder prices, bolstered by a sharp drop in corn prices, have producers wanting to expand.'

2014 General Outlook for Region (weather, yields, other factors): "Soil and range conditions are varied across the region depending on the track of several large storms in 2013. It has remained pretty dry north and south of that track which moves diagonally (southwest to northeast) across the state. Even those areas that did receive the timely rains have not replaced any subsoil moisture. We did produce some cotton, grain and forage in 2013, but only because of the timeliness of the rains.'



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subsurface from 4460 4480 feet. LEGAL **AUTHORITY:**

Chapter 27 of CHILDREN Water Code, as TO: amended, Title JOHNSTON 3 of the Texas Defendant Natural

Resources Code, amended. and DEFENDANT: Statewide "You Rules of the Oil been and Gas Division of the employ an Railroad Commission of or your

Texas. Requests for a answer who can show citation they are ad- 10:00 versely affected, the id into a formation concerning of 42 days

the application this mitted in writing, default within days of publica- be tion, to the Environmental

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Legal Notices Legal Notices **PUBLICATION-**TRC 109 & 114

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January

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110 S. Main - Office space available for rent, Professional Building.

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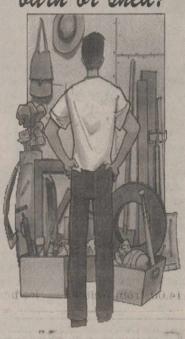
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THE IDLE AMERICAN Social media's Christmas miracle?...

Commetary by Dr. Don Newbury

Likelihood is great that airlines of the world most of them maligned by flustered flyers venting their feelings when flights go awry — owe much gratitude to a single member of their flock.

WestJet, a Canadian air-line, has become a social media darling with a "feel good" Christmas video that has rocketed far to the right of "viral" on You-Tube and other Internet

For five minutes — brief and shining moments in multiple languages around the world — it's reaping tears of joy from multiple millions of viewers. It has promoted a sense of "oneness" for 150 airline employees whose joint efforts made the miracle possible, as well as a "lean-back" kind of satisfaction for those who dreamed it up. Results include awakened sugarplum imaginations, as well as recommitment to seeking peace on earth, good will toward men....

Who can say it was not divine creativity that inspired August planners for a video in November that might warrant 800,000 YouTube "hits" during its December release?

WestJet planners missed projections by light years. Since it was "unleashed," the numbers are growing by millions daily. Who knows how many hundreds of millions of view-Newbury ers will eventually see the video? And, if it doesn't tug at your heartstrings, you need to get them tuned — maybe even restrung.

Don

A hurting world yearns for good news. The video provides exactly that. If you use a computer,

vou've likely already seen WestJet's Christmas Miracle. If you don't, arrange for someone with computer literacy to access it for you, and prepare to weep. If you don't

shed a tear or two, Forbes magazine suggests you may need a "scroogeectomy."...

Planners' concepts were warm and cheery. Feature Santa Claus, give presents and throw in "ho-ho-ho's" every few words.

Settings were airports in Toronto and Hamilton for passengers booked on simultaneous flights — each

2,000+ miles — to Calgary. The flyers — 125 at each terminal — saw the Santa set-up, then scanned boarding passes as requested. Next, they stood in front of the interactive Santa for what they

thought was "seasonal conversation."

Passengers were asked what they'd like for Christ-

The merry old gent listened intently, whether passengers asked for big screen TVs, iPads, diamond rings or simply "socks and underwear."

Each request was also noted by 150 "WestJetters" (the airline's employees) in Calgary. They raced to procure the items, defying the snow, shopping lines and whatever other obstacles they encountered.

They had just four hours for the whole deal, including wrapping each gift, affixing each name and getting the whole "kit-n'-kaboodle" to baggage claim carousel eight, where passengers claimed their luggage. Stunned, they first spotted gifts on the carousel. And Santa was in the midst of the

crowd....

A commercial venture or not, it provides a vignette of the way Christians believe our world should be.

It is a vivid reminder that the ground at the foot of the cross is exceedingly level — that the same God intervening in the affairs of man throughout history is still in charge. It's also an example of His ongoing work in mysterious ways — His wonders to perform.

Strive to remember West-Jet's warm Christmas story – even when your flight is canceled, your luggage is lost or sent to the wrong continent, your carry-on is overweight by a pound or an inch too big, the snoring guy seated next to you has taken the arm rest, the cabin temperature is not just right, or....

Finally, breathe a prayer for the folks who came up with this idea. It reminds us that we shouldn't "give 'til it hurts, but 'til it feels good."

Without question, the folks in the "ideas department" are envied, and may or may not be promoted. Come August, they will again be expected to come up with a "can't miss" Christmas message. (For the next few days, they deserve plushest fireside chairs, away from media inquiries

- dumb and otherwise.) Odds are great that the idea simply can't be equaled — certainly not exceeded. In many corporate settings, of course, the latter is always expected. Good luck.

Merry Christmas to all, and to all, a good flight, uh, good night — even if Santa's suit is blue in the video. That's about the only criticism I can offer!...

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Animal Health Commission conducts successful exercise

WINTERS ENTERPRISE

AUSTIN- As a part of ongoing efforts to prepare for large-scale foreign or emerging animal disease emergencies, the Texas Animal Health Commission and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) partnered with personnel from other state and local agencies to conduct the Texas and National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS) Logistics Exerciseon October 30, 2013 in San Antonio. The fullscale exercise focused on the logistical requirements for delivering and managing all of the supplies, vaccines, and equipment responders would need during the initial stages of a damaging animal disease outbreak.

The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) provided a warehouse facility and equipment, as well as key staff who participated in planning and conducting the exercise. The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) also provided support to protect the health of agricultural responders in the simulated scenario. Personnel from seventeen state and local agencies, industry and non-governmental organizations, and federal entities such as FEMA Region VI and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) attended the exercise.

This exercise is a great example of multi-agency coordination, and we are grateful for the support from other state agencies including TDEM throughout our planning and exercise process," said Dr. T.R. Lansford, TAHC Assistant Executive Director. "In the event of a catastrophic animal disease outbreak, we will count on these other agencies for support, and help with coordinating the resources that would be needed to mount an effective

"One of the unique components of the exercise was that we simulated the receipt of antiviral medications that might be needed to protect our animal health responders in a zoonotic disease event. Our state public health counterparts at the DSHS have embraced this as part of their mission and it's a great partnership and example of 'One Health,'" said Dr. Holly Hughes-Garza,

lead NVS planner for the TAHC.

Continued improvement and regular testing of the NVS capabilities with exercises like the one held here in Texas helps to ensure that Texas and the U.S. is prepared to deploy vital resources to quickly stop the spread of animal diseases to protect the health and value of animal agriculture. According to Rodney White, NVS Director, "This full-scale exercise demonstrated the commitment of the NVS program to support our state animal health partners. It provided emergency responders in Texas an opportunity to have hands-on experience working with the NVS countermeasures they would need in the event of an animal disease outbreak, and allowed an equal opportunity for the NVS personnel to respond as they would in a real emergency."

The NVS is the national repository of critical veterinary supplies, equipment, vaccines, and services that can be deployed to the site of a damaging animal disease outbreak. A major goal of the NVS program is to help states, tribal nations, and U.S. territories to plan, train, and exercise for the receipt, management, and distribution of NVS countermeasures during an emergency

For more information on TAHC Emergency Management preparedness efforts, visit www.tahc.texas.gov/ emergency or call the TAHC Emergency Management Coordinator at 1-800-550-8242.

AgriLife experts fighting to end the quail decline

STEVE BYRNS

SPECIAL TO THE WINTERS ENTERPRISE

COLLEGE STATION- Texas A&M AgriLife is wasting no time in putting legislatively mandated dollars to work to find the cause of the widespread loss of wild quail across Texas, officials said.

"Quail research awards have been made and instruc-tions given to the investigators," said Dr. Jim Cathey, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service wildlife specialist and project leader for the Reversing the Quail Decline Initiative. "Applied research proposals were submitted on Nov. 11, and award notifications made Dec. 2. Work

on funded projects will be starting soon.' The \$2 million initiative over two years includes dedicated research efforts as well as targeted education for landowners. Cathey serves as the initiative lead and works closely with Dr. Dale Rollins, the statewide coordinator for all efforts related to addressing quail decline in Texas. Of the 13 projects funded, those involved represent elements of Texas A&M University System, as well as the University of North Texas, Texas Tech University

and the Rolling Plains Quail Research Ranch.
The funded projects include: work on fire ant control; a statewide Geographic Information Systems quail decline landscape model; works on aflatoxins relating to chronic low-level exposure, development of an easy to use aflatoxin detection method and control of aflatoxins; parasite treatments; "soft-release" of wild quail into new habitat; feral hog ramifications; quail genomics; insecticide impacts; and measuring the success of translocating bobwhites and scaled quail into their former ranges.

"We are also pleased that a statewide advisory committee for the quail initiative has been formed to provide leadership and coordination of educational outreach efforts" Cathey said.



*For a limited time only, with one year contract. Certain restrictions apply

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