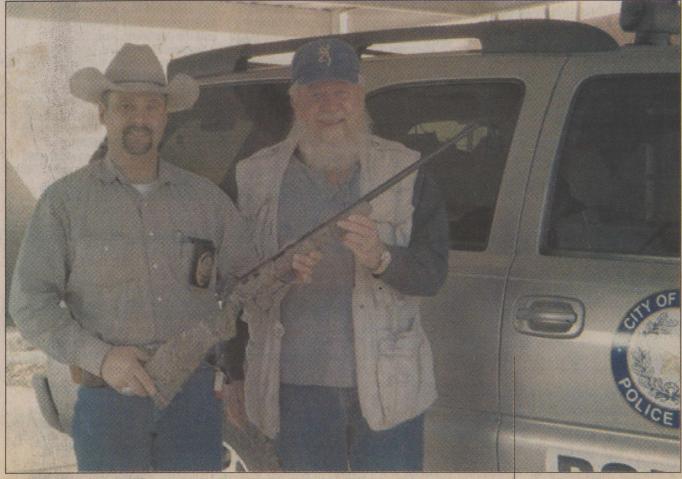
Thursday, January 2, 2014

Winters, Lexas 75¢

MYRUNNELSCOUNTY.COM'S MOST READ STORIES OF 2012

The Year that Was

Winters chief of police steps down, Davis new chief



WINTERS ENTERPRISE PHOTOS Five-year veteran Winters Chief of Police Nathan Johnson announced in July that he would be leaving the department at the end of the fiscal year. Succeeding him as chief was former Olney Chief of Police Randall Joe Davis, who was sworn in Aug. 1.

BY RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ

WINTERS- Five year veteran Winters Chief of Police Nathan Johnson will be leaving the Police Department at the end of the current fiscal year, after submitting his letter of resignation to the Winters City Council.

Johnson, who has been leading the Winters PD since 2008, submitted his letter of resignation on Monday, July 15, 2013 after the regular City Council meeting. The resignation will be effective at the end of September of 2013.

Johnson said he chose not to renew his 2-year contract, and submitted his notice in a private manner after the City Council meeting.

"The City Council is completely satisfied and thrilled with Chief Johnson's performance," said Winters City Mayor Lewis Bergman. "He has been an outstanding chief, he is a man of high integrity and accomplishments," he added.

BY RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ

WINTERS- Former Olney Chief of Police and most recently serving as an officer for the Winters Police Department, Randall Joe Davis was sworn in last Thursday, August 1, 2013, as the new Winters Chief of Police. Davis was sworn in at the City Hall by Mayor Pro-Temp Armando

Davis, originally from Brownwood and with strong ties to Goldthwaite, has been

working for the Winters P.D. for almost three years. Davis will be taking over the position left by Nathan Johnson, who served as Chief of Police for five years.

"I would like to thank the Mayor, City Council and Chief Johnson for their belief and their trust in me, it's been a great deal, I think we have a great city and department to work with and I'm looking forward to it," said Davis after being

SEE CHIEF, 4



Winters ISD hires new athletic director

BY RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ BALLINGER LEDGEF

WINTERS- Springlake-Earth ISD Athletic Director and Head Football Coach Stan Caffey was voted Thursday, February 28, 2013 at a Winters school Board of Trustees special called meeting as the

new Winters ISD Athletic Director and Head Football Coach.

Coach Caffey was hired and will officially take over the duties of the Blizzards' athletic program, starting March 25, 2013.

"Mr. Caffey (...) has suc-

SEE AD, 4

String of deaths shocks Runnels County

BY RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ

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-ofage, 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-ofage, of Winters, Texas, left a note for his family and his body was found at 208 Roberts Street on Saturday, Sep-

SEE DEATHS, 4



Texas 4000 ride brings cancer awareness to Runnels County

BY RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ

WINTERS- Pedaling their way from Cedar Park, Texas to Alaska, one of the world's toughest bicycle rides stopped

this week in Winters, to raise awareness among local residents about cancer, and enjoy the hospitality of town. The Texas 4000,

SEE RIDE, 4

Texas Historical Commission approves Chick-Inn historical marker

BY RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ

WINTERS- The Texas Historical Commission approved a new historical marker for Runnels County. The Chick-Inn historical marker will be placed this year honoring the drive-in diner that was located on the south side of Winters during the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s.

Friday, January 25, 2013 the 16 commissioners of the Texas Historical Commission gathered to discuss and choose the 225 historical markers to be approved for this year throughout the state. Results of the meeting were announced on Monday, January 28.

The marker was approved despite the

fact that 2013 is the first year that the Texas Historical Commission set up a limit to the markers to be granted.

The Chick-Inn was the teen hangout during those times. Many folks who grew up in Winters have fond memories of the Chick-Inn.

The marker application to the Texas Historical Commission was submitted in 2012.

Chick-Inn tiles and t-shirts are available at the Stitchin' Post in Winters. For more info about t-shirts contact Betty at 895 5172, Theresa at 365 0856, or Randall at 754 4542.

Donations can be sent to Z.I. Hale Museum - Chick Inn, P.O. Box 211, Winters, Texas 79567.

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FUNERALS AND OBITUARIES



Grover Cleveland (G.C.) Harville

Grover Cleveland (G.C.) Harville, 94, of Winters, died Dec. 26, 2013. He was born Dec. 19, 1919 in Cooper and moved to Winters at the age of 6. He participated in and survived both the great depression (as a child) and World War II with the United States Army serving in the European Theater and retired from the United States Air Force. He was a professing Christian and a cowboy at heart.



He was preceded in death by his wife, Steve Harville, and several brothers and sisters. He is survived by two sons, Donald Harville of Winters

and Robert Harville of Ovalo. The body will be cremated and a private service will be

held at a later date.

Happy trails cowboy and may the good Lord take a liken

Winters Enterprise, Thursday, January 2, 2014

Stella Louise Ferguson Green

WINTERS -- Stella Louise Ferguson Green, 69, died Wednesday, Dec. 25, 2013, at her home surrounded by loved ones. She was born Oct. 21, 1944, to Mae and Robert Ferguson.

Survivors include her husband, Marion Green of Winters; two daughters, Debora Shipley and husband Nelson of Austin, Carol Green of Austin; four grandsons, Jason Ventress and wife Missy of Winters, Shane Ventress of Winters, David Pittsley and wife Bria of Houston,



and Brett Hall of Abilene; three granddaughters, Jennifer Buster and husband Nate of Austin, Brandi Nally of Colorado, and Rachel Pittsley and Shawn Spratley of New York; nine great-grandsons; six great-granddaughters; her mother, Mae Ferguson of Ballinger; a brother, David Ferguson and wife Dee of Ballinger; two sisters, Ruth Grenwelge. and husband Charles of Winters, and Addie Kuzenka and husband James of Gatesville.

Louise was preceded in death by her father, Robert Ferguson; two daughters, Stella Green and Mary Dunn; and a son, Robert Green.

A private service will be held at a later date for the fam-

The family would like to extend a very special thanks to the nurses and staff of Hospice of San Angelo/Ballinger for their love and care and to Pastor Art Taylor.

"Remember me with smiles and laughter for that's the way I'll remember you all. If you can only remember me with tears, then don't remember me at all."

Winters Enterprise, Thursday, January 2, 2014

Pamela Joy Brice Gandy

Pamela Joy Brice Gandy, 54, died Thursday, Dec. 19, 2013, at her residence. Graveside service was held Dec. 27 in Lawnhaven Memorial Gardens. Arrangements were by Johnson's Funeral Home.

Survivors include her husband, Eddie Wayne Gandy of San Angelo; children Aaron Gandy and Sarah Kay Gandy, both San Angelo; and sisters Shirley Strakos of San Ange-

Winters Enterprise, Thursday, January 2, 2014

Obamacare saga story of the year for 2013

The glitch-plagued rollout of President Barack Obama's health care overhaul was the top news story of 2013, followed by the Boston Marathon bombing and the dramatic papal changeover at the Vatican, according to The Associated Press' annual poll of U.S. editors and news directors.

The saga of "Obamacare" — as the Affordable Care Act is widely known — received 45 first-place votes out of the 144 ballots cast for the top 10 stories. The marathon bombing received 29 first-place votes and the papal tran-

Other strong contenders were the bitter partisan conflict in Congress and the leaks about National Security Agency surveillance by former NSA analyst Edward Snowden. Last year, the top story was the massacre of 26 children

and staff at an elementary school in Newtown, Conn. That result came after a rare decision by the AP to re-conduct the voting; the initial round of balloting had ended Dec. 13, a day before the Newtown shooting, with the 2012

The Winters Enterprise

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(325) 365 3501 FAX (325) 365 5389

news@wintersenterprise.com

Ruben Cantu-Rodriguez, Managing Editor

editor@wintersenterprise.com

Brandi Rosenbaum, Advertising Sales sales@wintersenterprise.com

Linda Arispe, Office Manager / Newsclerk

Subscriptions, Accounts, Weddings, Announcements

Publication No. 040700 One year mail subscription rates:

Postmaster:

Runnels County Elsewhere in Texas \$41.00 Outside of Texas

Send address changes to: \$21.00 The Winters Enterprise 200 Tinkle Winters, TX 79567

Periodical postage paid at Winters, Texas

Final roll call of those who passed in 2013

Both were mold-breaking former heads of state who reshaped their own countries and the world. Nelson Mandela, revered for his efforts to end apartheid in South Africa, and Margaret Thatcher, the "Iron Lady" who imposed her will on Britain's politics and economy, were among notables who died in 2013.

Mandela, who died Dec. 5 at age 95, was considered a master of forgiveness. He became South Africa's first black president after spending 27 years in prison for championing equality against the white-minority government, and he inspired the world by seeking a relatively peaceful transition

As Britain's only female prime minister, Thatcher ruled for 11 years and showed an unshakable faith in the free market, leaving behind a leaner government and more prosperous nation. While she had fierce critics, praise for her leadership came in from around the world when she died in April at 87.

Other political figures who died this year included Venezuelan leader Hugo Chavez, former Italian premier Giulio Andreotti, Poland's ex-prime minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki, France's Pierre Mauroy, and Hungary's Gyula Horn, prominent mayors of New York and Beijing, Ed Koch and Chen Xitong, and former U.S. Senators Frank Lautenberg and Harry F. Byrd.

Also dying in 2013 was a man whose invention you may hold as you read this. Doug Engelbart, who died in July, invented the computer mouse and developed other technology that changed the way people work, play and communicate. Others from the world of science and technology who died this year included the Manhattan Project's Donald F. Hornig, Nobel Prize winners Frederick Sanger, Robert Edwards and Kenneth Wilson, and audio pioneers Ray Dolby and Amar Bose and astronauts C. Gordon Fullerton and Scott Carpenter.

In arts and entertainment, this year saw the death of one who was hugely influential though not technically an entertainer at all. Roger Ebert, who died in April, was America's most popular film critic, telling audiences which movies to see or avoid with his famous thumbs-up or thumbs-down

Others from the entertainment world who died this year included actors James Gandolfini, Jane Kean, Annette Funicello, Jean Stapleton, Bonnie Franklin, Cory Monteith, Frank Thornton and Conrad Bain, as well as the swimming star Esther Williams and the Bollywood villain Pran. Musicians included George Jones, Van Cliburn, Lou Reed, Donald Byrd, Ray Manzarek, Bebo Valdes, Mindy McCready, Chrissy Amphle and Chris Kelly. Among others: writer Tom Clancy, director Nagisa Oshima and ballerina Maria Tallchief.

Here is a roll call of some who died in 2013. (Cause of death cited for younger people if available.) **JANUARY**

Patti Page, 85. Singer who stumbled across "Tennessee Waltz" and made it one of the best-selling recordings ever. Jan. 1.

Conrad Bain, 89. Veteran stage and film actor who became a star in middle age as the kindly white adoptive father of two young African-American brothers in the TV sitcom "Diff'rent Strokes." Jan. 14.

Nagisa Oshima, 80. Japanese film director acclaimed for "Empire of Pas-sion" and "In the Realm of the Senses." Jan. 15

Pauline Friedman Phillips, 94. Under the name of Abigail Van Buren, she wrote the long-running "Dear Abby" newspaper advice column read by millions. Jan. 16.

Donald F. Hornig, 92. Scientist who served as a key figure on the Manhattan Project, an adviser to three U.S. presidents and president of Brown University. Jan. 21.

FEBRUARY

Ed Koch, 88. Former New York mayor and combative politician who rescued the city from near-financial ruin during three City Hall terms. Feb.

Donald Byrd, 80. Hard-bop trumpeter of the 1950s who collaborated on dozens of albums with top artists of his time and later enjoyed commercial success with hit jazz-funk fusion records such as "Black Byrd." Feb. 4. Mindy McCready, 37. She hit the top

of the country music charts before personal problems sidetracked her career. Feb. 17. Apparent suicide.

C. Everett Koop, 96. He raised the profile of the surgeon general by riveting America's attention on the thenemerging disease known as AIDS and by railing against smoking. Feb. 25.

Van Cliburn, 78. Pianist whose triumph at a 1958 Moscow competition helped thaw the Cold War and launched a spectacular career that made him the rare classical musician to enjoy rock-star status. Feb. 27.

MARCH

Hugo Chavez, 58. Fiery populist president of Venezuela who declared a socialist revolution, crusaded against U.S. influence and championed a leftist revival across Latin America. March 5. Cancer.

Stompin' Tom Connors, 77. Countryfolk singer whose toe-tapping musical spirit and fierce patriotism established him as one of Canada's biggest cultural icons. March 6.

Bebo Valdes, 94. Renowned pianist, composer and bandleader who recorded with Nat "King" Cole and was a key participant in the golden age of Cuban music. March 22.

APRIL Roger Ebert, 70. First journalist to win a Pulitzer Prize for movie criticism, who, on his long-running TV review program, wielded the nation's most influential thumb. April 4.

Margaret Thatcher, 87. Conservative British prime minister who infuriated European allies, found a fellow believer in Ronald Reagan and transformed her country by a ruthless dedication to free markets. April 8. Stroke.

Annette Funicello, 70. Child star on "The Mickey Mouse Club" in the 1950s who then teamed with Frankie Avalon on '60s fun-in-the-sun movies with names like "Beach Party Bingo." April 8. Complications from multiple sclerosis.

Robert Edwards, 87. Nobel prizewinner from Britain whose pioneering in vitro fertilization research led to the first test tube baby. April 10.
Maria Tallchief, 88. One of America's

first great prima ballerinas who gave life to "The Nutcracker," "Firebird," and other masterpieces from choreographer George Balanchine. April 11.

Al Neuharth, 89. Founder of USA Today, the nation's most widely read newspaper. April 19.

George Jones, 81. Hard-living country singer who recorded hits about good times and regrets and peaked with the heartbreaker "He Stopped Loving Her Today." April 26.

MAY

Giulio Andreotti, 94. Seven-time premier and a symbol of postwar Italy.

Valtr Komarek, 82. Left-wing Czech politician who helped overthrow the country's communist regime and was one of the most visible faces of the socalled "Velvet Revolution." May 16.

Ray Manzarek, 74. Founding member of the 1960s rock group The Doors whose versatile and often haunting keyboards complemented Jim Morrison's gloomy baritone. May 20. Cancer.

Jean Stapleton, 90. Stage-trained character actress who played Archie Bunker's far better half, the sweetly naive Edith, in TV's groundbreaking 1970s comedy "All in the Family." May

JUNE

Frank Lautenberg, 89. Multimillionaire New Jersey businessman and the last World War II veteran remaining in the U.S. Senate. June 3.

Esther Williams, 91. Swimming champion-turned-actress who starred in glittering, aquatic Technicolor musicals of the 1940s and 1950s. June 6.

Pierre Mauroy, 84. As France's prime minister in the early 1980s, he implemented radical social reforms that made life easier for French workers.

Kenneth Wilson, 77. He earned a Nobel prize for pioneering work that changed the way physicists think about phase transitions. June 15. Complications of lymphoma.

James Gandolfini, 51. Actor whose portrayal of a brutal but emotionally delicate crime boss in HBO's "The Sopranos" turned the mobster stereotype

on its head. June 19. Heart attack. Gyula Horn, 80. Former Hungarian prime minister who played a key role in opening the Iron Curtain. June 19.

JULY Doug Engelbart, 88. Visionary who invented the computer mouse and developed other technology that has transformed the way people work, play and communicate. July 2.

Pran, 93. India's legendary actor

who played some of Bollywood's most memorable villains in a career that spanned six decades. July 12. Pneumo-

Amar Bose, 83. Acoustic pioneer and founder and chairman of an audio technology company known for the rich sound of its tabletop radios and its noise-canceling headphones. July

Cory Monteith, 31. Actor on the television show "Glee" who had struggled for years with substance abuse. July Overdose of heroin and alcohol.

Harry F. Byrd, 98. Champion of racial segregation and fiscal restraint who followed his father into the U.S. Senate. July 30.

AUGUST

Florin Cioaba, 58. King of the Gypsies, he was a member of the family that has led Romania's embattled Roma minority since the 19th century. Aug. 18. Heart attack. Elmore Leonard, 87. Acclaimed crime

novelist whose best-sellers and the movies made from them chronicled the violent deaths of many a thug. Aug. 20. Complications from a stroke. C. Gordon Fullerton, 76. Former as-

tronaut who flew on two space shuttle missions and had an extensive career as a research and test pilot for NASA and the Air Force. Aug. 21

Seamus Heaney, 74. Ireland's foremost poet who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1995. Aug. 30. David Frost, 74. Veteran broadcaster

who won fame around the world for his interview with former President Richard Nixon. Aug. 31. **SEPTEMBER**

Ray Dolby, 80. American inventor and audio pioneer who founded Dolby

Laboratories. Sept. 12. Harold Agnew, 92. Former Los Alamos National Laboratory director who led the effort to train the first group of international atomic inspectors. Sept.

OCTOBER

Tom Clancy, 66. His high-tech, Cold War thrillers such as "The Hunt for Red October" and "Patriot Games' made him the most widely read military novelist of his time. Oct. 1.

Scott Carpenter, 88. Second American to orbit the Earth and first person to explore both the heights of space and depths of the ocean. Oct. 10. Complications from a stroke.

Bum Phillips, 90. He coached the NFL's Houston Oilers during their Luv Ya Blue heyday and later led the New Orleans Saints. Oct. 18.

Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara, 100. Thailand's Supreme Patriarch, who headed the country's order of Buddhist monks for more than two decades.

Lou Reed, 71. Punk poet of rock 'n' roll who profoundly influenced generations of musicians as leader of the Velvet Underground and remained a vital solo performer for decades after. Oct. 27.

NOVEMBER

Glafcos Clerides, 94. Former president who guided Cyprus into the European Union and dedicated most of his 50 years in politics to trying to reunify the ethnically split island. Nov. 15.

Frederick Sanger, 95. British biochemist who twice won the Nobel Prize in chemistry and has been called the father of the genomic era. Nov. 19.

Jane Kean, 90. Performer who got her start in musical theater but was best known as Trixie alongside Jackie Gleason on a TV revival of "The Honeymooners." Nov. 26.

Paul Walker, 40. Star of the "Fast & Furious" movie series. Nov. 30. Car crash.

DECEMBER

Edward J. "Babe" Heffron, 90. His World War II army service was recounted in the book and TV miniseries "Band of Brothers." Dec. 1. Nelson Mandela, 95. Colossus of the

20th century who emerged from 27 years in prison to negotiate an end to white minority rule in South Africa and became the country's first black president. Dec. 5. Peter O'Toole, 81. Charismatic actor

who achieved instant stardom in "Lawrence of Arabia" and was nominated eight times for an Academy Award.

Joan Fontaine, 96. Academy Awardwinning actress who found stardom playing naive wives in Alfred Hitchcock's "Suspicion" and "Rebecca." Dec.

Ray Price, 87. One of country music's most popular and influential singers and bandleaders. Dec. 16.



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New thoughts from an old guy

Commentary by Dr. Don Newbury

I'm guessing my Uncle Mort's "forward thinking" for the new year more likely is akin to "slumgullion stew," or simply a "hodge podge" of thoughts he's carried forward to the new

His ideas are a "mishmash" of miscellaneous ingredients rolled together, some of 'em dating back a half-century or so. Included in the current mulling of my 101-year-old kin are truths, half-truths, what he's heard, what he thinks he's heard, and "hoopla" about government health insurance.

Altogether, they are light vears away from reality. "Slumgullion" fits about as well as anything. Again this year, truth is stranger than fiction, and it's growing ever tougher to tell 'em apart....

Mort believes the fraud who was passing himself off as a hand-signer for the deaf at the Mandela funeral may deserve the prize for "most convincing.

"Millions believed he was 'true-ern blue," Mort claims.

"Turns out, his left hand didn't know what his right was doing, and vice versa. He was mighty TEXAS convincing,

COLUMNIST

Don

Newbury

so surely there's a spot for him in the front office of the Dallas Cowboys.

though,

He compared the signer with a TV wrestling showman from the 1950s called "Gorgeous George." Mort claims the late wrestler was as handy with clever lines as the signer was with hand motions. "GG," his carefullycoiffed dyed blond locks always in place and glitzy well before Liberace came along, claimed: "I don't think I'm the best wrestler who ever lived...I don't think I'm the most handsome man on the planet...And I don't think I'm the smartest man who ever lived—BUT, what's my opinion against millions of others?"...

On a dime — the coin on which Uncle Mort always turns - he asked me if I knew how he could contact the ad people at Duck Dynasty. I suggested that he try Googling them. (He probably thought my wife and I visited their place during a recent visit to Louisiana.)

'I've got an idea they can build a segment on, or maybe turn into a product that might sell millions," he claimed.

Then, he follows with, "Don't you want to know what it is?" I am trapped, with little choice but to

"I'm working on a duck call so authentic it attracts decoys," he claimed. "That ought to line up real straight with Duck Dynasty.'

It was pointless to challenge him; maybe he really is working on such a duck call. However, the ticket for this idea was punched by my friend, C. R. (Choc) Hutcheson in Lubbock. With his yarn, he was awarded first place in the Burlington, Wisconsin Liars' Club Contest back in 1961.

Paraphrased, here's what is written on the certificate on the wall in his home:

For years I have been working to perfect a duck call. The first time I blew it, ducks swarmed in from all directions; the sky was black with them. I cut loose with my pump gun, killing my limit of six ducks with six shots. What is so strange about that, you say? Well, when I picked up those ducks, three of 'em were decoys!...

Muttering about the government's claim to offer low-cost group insurance, Mort said it only applies if the whole group gets sick. Then, he told me about help-

"Ghood Ghrief!"

1 Billiards tactic

11 Clothing chain,

with "The"

16 Doctors' assn 17 San Francisco square, or a brand

of chocolate 19 Goddess of the dawn

we watched..

26 Faked, as in boxing

28 Five Norse kings

31 Japanese leader in

32 "Yes, We're Open"

and "Sorry, We're

22 Petrol amount

24 "Hold on!"

WWII

Closed'

21 Blow it

_ the ramparts

14 Former Defense

Secretary Les 15 Religion of Ramadan

6 Smooth

Across

ing Maude make lye soap out back of the house in a huge wash pot. "I'm proudest of the label," he bragged. "Our soap is both bacterial and anti-bacterial, whichever you want it to be." I asked him how it could be both.

'Glad you asked, nephew. The researchers can't decide, either. Some scream 'bacterial' is the way to go, and others are just as vocal for 'antibacterial'. I'll swear that no bacteria have been added. My escape clause will be 'except for the germs stirred up on the dirt road from cars driving past the hog pen'.'

Few people ever argue with Uncle Mort. It's just not worth it. My guess, though,

is that before he's gone very far into 2014, he'll wash his hands of the lye soap project, perhaps favoring new lyrics for a song to help determine how long we should wash. "I know the 'Happy Birthday Song' is working pretty well, but it's really hard to remember how many verses to sing," he chuckled....

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

Dewhurst orders health services studies

Commentary by Ed Sterling

AUSTIN - Lt. Gov.David Dewhurst on Dec. 20 delivered charges for the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services to tackle before the 2015 Texas Legislature convenes.

Dewhurst, who presides over the Senate, ordered the panel of nine senators to study what is being done by the state to enhance the health of Texas women. He also called on the committee to assess the effectiveness of programs designed to improve mental health for all Texans.

The committee will monitor all state-provided women's health programs, access to preventative services, efforts to reduce unplanned pregnancies and the maximizing of efficiencies, Dewhurst said.

Also, the lieutenant govermonitor programs designed to improve mental health and substance abuse services, assess their outcomes and address any gaps in the system.

Perry takes various actions Gov. Rick Perry on Dec. 20 renewed for another month the current drought disaster proclamation for 114 of Texas' 254 counties. Perry originally issued the procla-

mation on July 5, 2011. Meanwhile, also on Dec. 20, the federal government approved Perry's Dec. 13 request for disaster assistance to three central Texas counties — Travis, Hays and Caldwell - for damages attributed to severe flooding that occurred when hard rains hit the region at the end of October through mid-November.

In addition to the approv-

CANADARIA CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PR

al, the U.S. Small Business Administration granted Perry's request for additional assistance that will allow homeowners, renters and businesses in 11 central Texas counties to apply for long-term, low-interest disaster loans, the governor's

office reported. In other news, on Dec. 19, the governor posted notice of clemency he granted to 12 individuals "after each case was favorably recommended for clemency by the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles.

And, on Dec. 24, Gov. and Mrs. Perry publicized their wishes for "a happy and blessed Christmas to every one in Texas, and to Texans all around the world. More laws take effect ber

While most new laws are written to take effect either as soon as the governor signs them or on Sept. 1, some 47 pieces of legislation passed by the T Legislature were written to take effect as new laws on Jan. 1, 2014.

Here are five of them: House Bill 294 by Rep. Eddie Rodriguez, D-Austin, and sponsored by Sen. Kirk Watson, D-Austin: An exemption from ad valorem taxation of certain property owned by a charitable organization and used in providing housing and related services to certain homeless individuals.

House Bill 1349 by Rep. Lyle Larson, R-San Antonio, and sponsored by Sen. Donna Campbell, R-New Braunfels: Stipulating that the Department of Public Safety is not required to request, and an applicant would not be required to provide, the applicant's social security number as part of an application for a concealed handgun license. House Bill 1772 by Rep. Chris Turner, D-Arlington, and sponsored by Sen. Wendy Davis, D-Fort Worth: Requiring a utility customer to provide written notice of

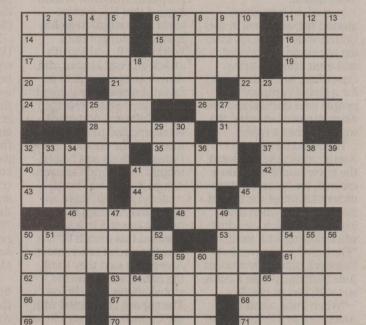
disconnection to each tenant or owner at a "nonsubmetered, master metered multifamily property" prior to disconnection of electric or gas service. House Bill 1847 by Rep.

Stefani Carter, R-Dallas, and sponsored by Sen. Joan Huffman, R-Houston: Requiring prosecuting attorneys to complete one hour of ethics training relating to a duty to disclose certain information in a criminal case within 180 days of assuming duties. Additional related training thereafter would be based upon rules promulgated by the court of

criminal appeals. Senate Bill 945 by Sen. Jane Nelson, R-Lewisville, and sponsored by Ren. Sarah Davis, R-Houston: Requiring a health care provider in a hospital to wear a photo identification badge clearly stating the provider's name, department, and title. If applicable, the badge must also state the provider's status as a student. intern, trainee or resident. **TxDOT chief**

moves to LCRA Texas Department of Transportation announced its executive director, Phil Wilson, is leaving the agency to join the Lower Colorado River Authority, a public utility company founded in 1934 that serves all or part of 61 counties.

Wilson, who was appointed by the governor to head TxDOT in October 2011, is to start as general manager and chief executive officer of the LCRA on Feb. 1.



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35 Razor brand often 37 German word for 66 Spy novelist

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a sudden

25 Resonant

29 Saudi king

9 Kilmer of "Top

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Breakfast Club"

11 Restrict to a section

Gun"

of town

Martin hit)

13 Sat for the sculptor

23 Employed a syringe

12 "That's

18 Costa

30 Barfly's perch

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39 Some high school students: abbr.

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56 Fruit pastries

59 Regarding

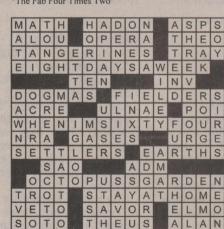
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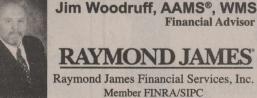
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After a bumpy 2013, a wary world watches America

To many around the world, it made little sense: The world's most powerful government, so mired in dysfunction that it couldn't operate. The world's defender of individual freedoms, accused of spying on its citizens and friends. The world's military giant planning, then balking at, an armed response to the suspected use of deadly chemical weapons.

Former U.S. secretary of state Madeleine Albright once dubbed the United States "the indispensable nation." But as the world watched America shamble through its string of crises in 2013, the notion of the U.S. as an unflappable leader began to seem ever more quaint.

Instead, to hear some around the world tell it, the United States came off looking uncertain, unmoored and even untrustworthy. Unsettling, to say the least, for a global audience of people who understand that when America sneezes, the

world catches a cold. The National Security Agency spying scandal and the government shutdown created, for some, a contradictory image of the United States: a bully when dealing with others, a weakling when dealing with itself. "They are," in the words of Denmark university student Julie Simonsen, "like a colossus with feet of clay.

"When I was a child, America was a dream country. It was a country we admired as a role model," says Chieko Kotani, a 51-year-old tourism worker in Tokyo. "Over the past year, however, I think America's status in the international community has declined. It seems to have lost its leadership quite a bit."

It's not that the world hates America. Many still want to go there. Across the globe, people praise the nation's technological achieve-ments, charity and democratic ideals. South Koreans, for example, were delighted last month when President Barack Obama asked a young Korean heckler who had interrupted his speech

CAFETERIA MENU

Jan. 6-10

Winters ISD

Breakfast Menu

Monday Biscuit/Sausage/Gravy or Cereal/ Toast w/Jelly, Fruit Juice, Choice

Tuesday

French Toast/Syrup or Cereal/Toast

w/Jelly, Fruit Juice, Choice of Milk.

Wednesday

Sausage on Stick/Syrup or Cereal/

Toast w/Jelly, Fruit Juice, Choice

Thursday

Breakfast Pizza or Cereal/Toast w/

Jelly, Fruit Juice, Choice of Milk.

FRIDAY

Cinnamon Roll or Cereal/Toast w/

Jelly, Fruit Juice, Choice of Milk.

Winters ISD

Lunch Menu

Monday

Chef Salad or Steak Fingers/Gravy/

Bread Stick or Chicken Pot Pie/

Graham Cracker (Elem., J.H.) Bread

Stick (H.S.) Cheesy Potatoes, Green

Beans, Tossed Salad/Carrot Sticks,

Broccoli/Cherry Tomato, Strawberry.

Tuesday

Chef Salad (H.S. only) or BBQ Rib/

Bun or Chicken Bites/Gravy/Bread

Stick, Broccoli w/Cheese, Black Eye

Peas, Tossed Salad/Carrot Sticks,

Broccoli/Cherry Tomato, Blue Bell

Fruit Bar.

Wednesday

Chef Salad or Taco Salad or Bean

Chalupa, Corn, Spanish Rice, Tossed

Salad/Carrot Sticks, Broccoli/Cherry

Tomato, Coleslaw, Apple, Choice

of Milk

Thursday

Chef Salad or Chicken Fried Steak/

Gravy/Breadstick or Chicken Pattie/

Fish Bread (Elem., J.H.)

Friday

Chef Salad(H.S. only) or Hamburger

or Chicken Fritter/Gravy/Bread Stick,

Curly Fries, Baked Beans, Tossed

Salad/Carrot Sticks, Broccoli/Cherry

Tomato, Lettuce/Pickles, Orange, Choice of Milk

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on immigration reforms in San Francisco to stay, rather than ordering him removed. "I wish we had that kind of president who listens to the opinions of the minority," says Kim Jin-hwan, a 32-year-old baker from Seoul. "I was very jealous."

The debate over global dominance is nothing new. China has been catching up to the U.S. for awhile. And the balance of power often shifts naturally with time. After all, America was once an isolationist nation: In his inaugural address, Thomas Jefferson called for "peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations, entangling alliances with none.

During World War I, President Woodrow Wilson argued that U.S. involvement was critical to global harmony. But not until World War II, and Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, did American opinion shift in favor of global engagement. The United States emerged from the war a dominant economic and military force, led the creation of the United Nations and helped rebuild Japan and Germany. A superpower was born.

Lately, though, there are signs that America is again turning inward. In a survey released this month by the Pew Research Center, most Americans said they think the nation's influence in global affairs is declining. The survey, conducted with the Council on Foreign Relations, also found that just 17 percent of Americans believe the country plays a more important and powerful role as a world leader today than it did 10 years ago; more than half said it's less important and powerful

The question of America's role came into sharp focus when the U.S. government shut down for 16 days during a standoff over Obama's health-care law. His Republican opponents demanded changes be made to the law in return for essential federal funding. Democrats said no. The result: Some 800,000 federal workers were furloughed temporarily, and other parts of the world expressed wonder.

"Jefferson, wake up, they've gone crazy!" screamed a headline in France's Le Monde. "A superpower has paralyzed itself," proclaimed German magazine Der Spiegel. In the Philippines, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima dubbed

the shutdown "highly unfortunate for the rest of the world."

In Australia, which has universal health care, the drama was viewed with marked confusion. Why was an argument over access to health care, which most Australians view as a basic right, causing an entire nation's government to grind to a halt?

"I was just absolutely gobsmacked that the tea party - a party of such extremes in America — could shut down government on a point of principle at the cost of universal health care for Americans," says Rachael Vincent, a Sydney nonprofit

On the other hand, some saw the fact that the U.S. didn't implode as an example of American endurance.

In Spain, for instance, the U.S. avoided an image hit over the past year largely because most Spaniards were more focused on their country's miserable economy and 26 percent unemployment than America's foibles. Many Spaniards gave the U.S. credit for recovering from the financial crisis faster than Spain, and found it interesting that despite the shutdown, "the United States more or less kept functioning," says Miguel Bermejo, 25, of

But though commended by some for its resilience, the American government was reviled by others when documents leaked by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden showed the United States was monitoring the phone conversations of at least 35 global leaders, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Merkel called it a "grave breach of trust." French President Francois Hollande told Obama such practices were unacceptable between allies. And Argentine President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner said it sent a shiver down her spine. Thousands of Germans marched in protest, some wearing tinfoil hats to symbolically ward off eavesdroppers.

For critics, it called into question the whole notion

of American democracy "Everyone used to mock China and joke about their levels of Internet security and that there was no freedom at all. But now, the moment you use the words 'National Security' in the U.S., everyone keeps quiet and looks the other way," says

Kunal Sharma, a business executive from New Delhi. "The Snowden revelations have made me change my opinion about the U.S. — the land of the brave and home of the free — quite a bit."

And though Obama remains relatively popular in much of the world, faith is slipping. According to Pew, confidence in the president and approval of his foreign policy have dropped in most countries surveyed over the past four years.

In Indonesia, where Obama attended school as a child, the events of 2013 sapped away some of the nation's fondness for the president. Of particular irritation: Allegations that the U.S. and Australia carried out a joint surveillance operation on Indonesia, and Obama's decision to cancel a high-profile trip to Asia so he could deal with the shutdown.

Outside the president's old elementary school in Jakarta, teacher Edi Kusyanto pondered his changing feelings toward the president as he stroked the head of a statue depicting Obama as a smiling young schoolboy. Though Kusyanto still considers Obama a great leader, he also now sees him as indecisive.

"There is always a sense of pride when I look at this statue," Kusyanto says. "But at this moment, there is a feeling of confusion when following the developments in the U.S. and the world under his leadership. The government shutdown, the NSA spying scandal and the chaos in Syria all showed the weakness of Obama.'

One of the most dramatic tests of Obama's resolve was his handling of the Syrian conflict and the alleged use of chemical weapons by President Bashar Assad's government. Obama initially readied military strikes. then abruptly backed off in favor of working with Russia and the U.N. to destroy the weapons. The turnabout left many confused.

Obama's tactical change was greeted with skepticism and borderline disappointment in Israel, where America's evolving image has been especially apparent. Though the nation considers the U.S. its most important ally, Israelis from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on down have been uncharacteristically outspoken about their frustration over the limits of American influence.

Year's headlines spotlight disorder, fuel distrust

At last, the damage done by an agonizing global recession was easing. A bitter U.S. presidential election was finally over. And as 2013 began, it seemed the year might bring news headlines offering the public some reassurance or relief.

The year started, after all, with an inauguration that held out the chance for at least a slight thaw in the nation's political deepfreeze. The prospects were bolstered by economic tail winds that pushed unemployment to its lowest level in five years, lifted stocks to record highs and juiced home prices. News is never predictable, of course. But as 2013 unfolded, it seemed possible that a country worn by infighting, the toll of tough times and tragedy, might begin to find its stride.

Instead, the year's headlines were often filled with tales of dysfunction, discord and misplaced trust that added distressing new chapters to an already toolong narrative. At a time when many people say that the political system and societal institutions aren't working, the news in 2013 provided multiple sources of confirmation, both at home and abroad. It was

the year that things broke down — or at least it often left many people feeling that way.

Those misgivings were validated when star cyclist Lance Armstrong and slugger Ryan Braun admitted their long, proud denials of doping were lies; by revelations of the warning signals authorities missed before the mass shooting at the Washington Navy Yard, and missed chances to save lives after a mammoth typhoon hit the Philippines; by angry street protests in Turkey, Egypt and the Ukraine and even by a new pope who acknowledged the need to clean up the Vatican.

But the dysfunction that often grabbed the headlines this year found its anchor in Washington, D.C., beginning almost immediately after President Barack Obama took the oath for his second term and a Congress supposedly mindful of the public's dissatisfaction returned to the capital.

For weeks, senators on both sides of the aisle spoke of a new willingness to come together on previously non-existent common ground and attempt to reform immigration

DEATHS

CONTINUED FROM 1

tember 1. He was also found hanging from the neck and officials initially are treating the case 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, 2012.

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.

AD

CONTINUED FROM 1

cessfully manned the position for the past seven years. During his seven year stretch at Springlake-Earth, Coach Caffey has had many successful football seasons and has taken the Wolverine's to the playoffs seven consecutive years," stated the Winters ISD in a press

Caffev's post season football honors at Springlake-Earth include: State Semi-Finals in 2010, State Quarter rinais in 2011, and Regional rinaist in 2012

In 2012 the Wolverines had a 9-3 season claiming the District 3-1A Division II District Championship. The Wolverines defeated 38-6 Wheeler in the Area round of the playoffs, and their season came to an end in Regionals playing Wellington, with a 38-6 defeat.

In 2009 and 2010, Coach Caffey was named South Plains Coach of the Year. Coach Caffey received his bachelor's and master's degrees at Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas.

RIDE

CONTINUED FROM 1

one of the toughest bicycle rides in America, is traveling 4,600 miles from Cedar Park, Texas to Anchorage, Alaska. Last Monday, June 3, one of the ride's three teams spent the night in Winters, coming from Brownwood and on it's way to Snyder,

The group met at Lone Star Video and Diner, where they networked with local residents raising awareness about cancer, visited with local residents

and went to different houses to spend the night.

'They were very excited," said Winters Area Chamber of Commerce Secretary Pam Barnes, "because this was one of the few places were they were provided a place to spend the night, in other places they have to camp where they can."

The riders, University of Texas students, have raised \$4 million for cancer research and support services since the first edition of the ride, 10 years

Following the first stop, in Lampasas, Texas the riders split into three

groups. A group headed to the Sierra Nevada Mountains, another group aimed for the Rocky Mountains and the third squad will cut across the Ozarks. All three teams will ride the last 10 days of the ride together in

Alaska. Passing through Winters was the Sierra Nevada

team, comprised of 24 riders and a film crew of 3. To join the ride each rider is required to raise a minimum of \$4,500 and

complete at least 50 hours

they visit.

of volunteer work. They also lead educational programs in the communities

Tuesday morning the riders were escorted by the Winters Volunteer Fire Department on their way out of town.

CHIEF

CONTINUED FROM 1

"We'll be doing the best we can in serving the community, as far as immediate changes within the department we have a department which is respected by the community and the city, we have a roadmap that we've been on for several years thanks to Chief Johnson, and I'd like to continue on that same roadmap.'

If any changes are needed, he said, they will be made as the need arises. The department policies and staff currently in place at the Winters P.D. are working, he said, and he'd like to continue with

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that work.

As of the number of officers in the department, the full-time vacancy left will most likely be fulfilled by the end of the month.

'Thank you for your faith in me, I've had several people coming to congratulate me, giving me their support, I have to say that I respect and admire that. It is a great community and I'm honored to be a part of it at this time. I'm looking forward to be a part of it for a long time," Davis said.

Former chief Nathan Johnson will remain with Winters Police Department as a reserve officer. He was also sworn in at the ceremony held last Thursday.

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supporting the Winters Police Department and all the officers that we have, we have a core group that has been here almost four

years," said Johnson. During that transitional phase, he added, the community of Winters has offered the Winters P.D. a tremendous support. "And I would just ask the community to support Randall in his efforts to continue what we started, and to build on that foundation in his own way. There is a good core team here that is going to stay and keep things stable," Johnson

Johnson will stay available to the Winters P.D. as a consultant and assist them as a reserve officer.

"I would just ask the community to keep them in their prayers, support them and reach out to them and let them know that you're there for them," Johnson said.

As of his personal plans, Johnson said that he will take some time to decompress, do some research and writing. Him and his family will stay in the community, with his wife Lenise teaching at the school district, and him working with the Paladin youth leadership program.

"We'll just kind of wait and see what door opens, and kind of clear our heads and see were it

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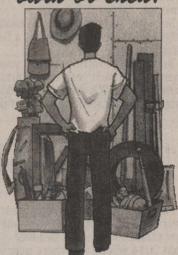
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New road constructed to reach Abilene

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The Runnels County Commissioners' Court met in Regular Term Nov. 9, the second Monday, A. D. 1885. The court examined, approved, and then paid the county expenses. The court ordered a new road be constructed from the Town of Runnels to Content, then north to the county line with Taylor County so as to have a good road to Abilene, Texas.

The court then ordered payment of repairs to the roof on the calaboose (jail) and also repairs to the city's cistern. Money was paid to the different School Districts' Teachers. The total came to \$722.50 for the year.

The Runnels-Concho road was approved and was determined to be 10 miles of line in the survey. The court ordered I. C. Swift to be allowed a rebate on his saloon license as follows: \$5 on County and \$10 on the State and the County Clerk was ordered to pay the county part from the county's Occupation Tax Fund. The court continued with an order to allow a credit of \$25 to Sheriff John M. Formwalt because of the case of the prisoner, Harlan Dooley. This providing the prisoner, in the

event he should be caught, would either pay the fine or serve his sentence. Other business dealt with each of the funds and reconciling them. The court adjourned for the year 1885, until the next Regular Term.

Students in the Runnels School had the luxury of a four teacher school that included about 100 students. The teaching methods were far different from schools of today. The small children first were taught the A.B.C.'s, then were advanced to McGuffey's Reader and the Blue Back Speller. The oldest students studied Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, including definitions, the histories, geography, grammar and arithmetic. The teachers were J. T. Preston, J. N. Winters, Mr. Cannon and a Mr. Stokes, both of which had assistants. (Runnels Is My County, Charlsie Poe.)

Henry Davies Pearce, Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1 was appointed custodian of the food sent into Runnels County because of the extreme drought conditions. Some residents preferred to go a little hungry rather than take a handout. Like Henry, they were too proud to take help. Even though Henry distributed the food, he would not accept any of it for himself and his family. He refused to accept what he called charity. He preferred to sell some of his land on Valley Creek to be able to buy provisions the family needed and keep things going in general

keep things going in general. The family of Larkin Haley was living on a ranch in Coleman County during those years. The drought included Runnels and surrounding counties. Times were extreme and difficult for everyone living in the areas. One of the neighbors rode into town and signed up for some of the food that was being distributed. Knowing the Haleys, the neighbor signed up for food for them and brought them a large sack of corn meal and one of potatoes. The next day, Colonel Haley hitched his team to his hack and drove the twenty miles to Coleman to return the food. He told those in charge he would manage to get food for his family somehow and he wanted no handout from anyone. "The spirit of independence of the pioneer families of our country only a few yesterday's ago considered it a mark of pride to manage for themselves and their own. Larkin Haley later married Ethel Pearce." (The Pearces Pioneering Days in

Texas, Zelma (Haley) Strom.)
About this time, Henry D. Pearce

lost one--half of his 960 acres of land on Valley Creek through a faulty title. Pearce had traded 209 acres of land near Brownwood, Texas with improvements for 960 acres in Tom Green County, the north half of the Wm. Howell League. It crossed Valley Creek, having the creek water on it. He found that the man from whom he bought the Runnels County land had not real title to the property, so he was forced to answer a law suit for the land by the real heirs. A jury trial gave Henry Pearce the first verdict but his lawyers, Mays and Timmins of San Angelo and Major Perryman of Runnels finding that Henry had no real title, recommended to him to compromise and divide the land. He took the advice of his lawyers and got the north half of what he had bought. That left him with 480 acres. The lawyers' fees were \$ 450. The Valley Creek land had some history and was the location of the school house named H. D. Pearce School. A lot of Runnels County and Coke County land was in Tom Green County when the land was originally bought. When surveying began, lines changed and that area was included in Runnels County. This case was just

discovered by the purchasers of the land in this part of Texas in the early settling of the counties. (The Pearces Pioneering Days in Texas, Zelma (Haley) Strom.)

The Presbyterian Church in the Town of Runnels was very active and wanted to include all young people of the town. They formed a society and called it "Band of Hope." All youth would meet at the Presbyterian Church. Each member of the society made a pledge to never drink, smoke or take the Lord's name in vain.

Some of the crops came through but only produced a meager harvest before the rains ceased completely in the last half of 1885. The cattle situation was becoming drastic. Many cattle were beginning to die. The Texas Longhorn breed of cattle could take more hardships that most others. Without grass, the cattle were not faring well. Some of the residents had invested all of their money they had in cattle and were looking at big losses.

Resources .
Runnels County Historical Histories

Runnels County Commissioners Court Minutes, November 1885 Runnels County Clerk's Records

Veterans Corner

The state Regulation and Licensing Department's Securities Division has ordered two investment companies involved in the illegal purchase of monthly pensions and disability payments from veterans and resale of them as investments to halt the scheme immediately. Securities Division Director issued a cease and desist order against Albuquerque-based Equity Advisors and its owner Sidney Evans, and Voyager Financial Group, a Delaware LLC that previously was based in Arkansas. Federal law prohibits the sale or assignment of veterans' benefits. Secondary sales of Veterans Administration payments constitutes a "security" under the Uniform Securities Act. Under that Act, the securities were to be registered and disclosures were to be accurate. Voyager and Evans failed to comply with either. Voyager would buy veterans' monthly pension and disability payments for single lump sum that was far less than the future value, and then pack-

age them as investments to be sold to investors, the department said in a news release. The investors who purchased the contracts were not told the scheme was in violation of law, and therefore, the payments could be diverted back to the veterans at any time. Evans and his company sold 16 of these investments to eight residents while Voyager has sold these illegal investments in several states through consultants such as Evans at least since 2011. Anyone who has been contacted to buy or sell veterans' should contact the Securities Division at 1-800-704-5533. The Securities Division plans to impose \$40,000 in civil penalties against each of the companies. 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



Financial resolutions for the new year

About 45 percent of Americans usually make New Year's resolutions, according to a survey from the University of Scranton. But the same survey shows that only 8% of us actually keep our resolutions. Perhaps this low success rate isn't such a tragedy when our resolutions involve things like losing a little weight or learning a foreign language. But when we make financial resolutions — resolutions that, if achieved, could significantly help us in our pursuit of our important long-term goals — it's clearly worthwhile to make every effort to follow through.

So, what sorts of financial resolutions might you consider? Here are a few possibilities:

Boost your contributions to your retirement plans. Each year, try to put in a little more to your IRA and your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plans.

These tax-advantaged accounts are good options for your retirement savings strat-

Reduce your debts. It's not always easy to reduce your debts, but make it a goal to finish 2014 with a smaller debt load than you had going into the new year. The lower your monthly debt payments, the more money you'll have to invest for retirement, college for your children (or grandchildren) and other important objectives.

Build your emergency fund. Work on building an "emergency fund" containing six to 12 months' worth of living expenses, with the money held in a liquid account that offers a high degree of preservation of principal. Without such a fund, you might be forced to dip into your long-term investments to pay for emergencies, such as a new furnace, a major car repair, and so on. You might not be able to finish creat-

ing your emergency fund in one year, but

contribute as much as you can afford. Plan for your protection needs. If you don't already have the proper amounts of life and disability insurance in place, put it on your "To Do" list for 2014. Also, if you haven't taken steps to protect yourself from the considerable costs of long-term care, such as an extended nursing home stay, consult with your financial professional, who can suggest the appropriate protection or investment vehicles. You may never need such care, but that's a chance you may not want to take — and the longer you wait, the more expensive your protection options may become.

Don't overreact to market volatility.

Too many people head to the investment "sidelines" during market downturns. But if you're not invested, then you miss any potential market gains— and the biggest

gains are often realized at the early stages of the rally.

Focus on the long term. You can probably check your investment balance online, which means you can do it every day, or even several times a day — but should you? If you're following a strategy that's appropriate for your needs, goals, risk tolerance and time horizon, you're already doing what you should be doing in the long run. So there's no need to stress yourself over the short-term movements that show up in your investment statements.

Do whatever you can to turn these New Year's resolutions into realities. Your efforts could pay off well beyond 2014.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Stock market resolutions for 2014

NEW YORK — 2013 was a great year for the average investor, but few market strategists believe that 2014 will be anywhere near as good. The simple strategy of buying U.S. stocks, selling bonds and staying out of international markets isn't going to work as

well as it has, they say.
Some of Wall Street's biggest
money managers have come up
with a few resolutions to help
your retirement portfolio have a
good year:

— Curb your expectations Few investors expected 2013 to be as big as it was. The Standard & Poor's 500 index is up 29 percent for the year, its best year since 1997. Including dividends, it's up 32 percent. On average, market strategists expect 2014 to be somewhat tame. Most are looking for the S&P 500 to rise to 1,850 to 1,900 points, a gain of just 1 to 3 percent.

— Keep your eye on valuation
Investors bid up stock prices to
all-time highs this year, despite
a mediocre economy and corporate profits that were less than
spectacular.

At the beginning of the year, the price-to-earnings ratio on the S&P 500 was 13.5, meaning investors were paying roughly \$13.50 for every \$1 of earnings in the S&P 500. Now the S&P 500's P-E ratio is around 16.7.

While a P/E ratio of 16.7 won't set off any alarm bells — the

historical average is 14.5 — it is noticeably higher than it was a

Investors have high expectations for corporate profits next year, based on the prices they are

"It's hard to believe that this market can go much higher from here without some corporate earnings growth," said Bob Doll, chief equity strategist at Nuveen Asset Management.

Profit margins are already at record highs, and corporations spent most of 2013 increasing their earnings by cutting costs or using financial engineering tools like buying back their own stock. Earnings at companies in the

S&P 500 grew at an 11 percent

rate in 2013. The consensus among market strategists is that profit growth will slow to around 8 percent in 2014.

However, if the U.S. economy continues to improve, and corporate profit margins expand, it could justify the prices investors have been paying for stocks.

Don't get caught up in the euphoria
Be wary if your neighbor de-

Be wary if your neighbor decides to jump head-first into the market next year.

A large number of investors have remained on the sidelines for this five-year bull market. Since the market bottomed in March 2009, investors pulled \$430 billion out of stock funds, according to data from Lipper, while putting

nearly \$1 trillion into bond funds.

Professional market watchers
are concerned that many indi-

are concerned that many individual investors, trying to play a game of catch-up, might rush into the market with a vengeance next year. The surge of money could cause stocks to jump if investors ignore warnings that the market is getting overvalued.

Wall Street calls this phenomenon a "melt-up." As you can guess, a "melt-up" could lead to a "melt-down," as happened in the late 1990s with the dot-com

bubble.
"I fear people, who sat out 2013, will jump in too fast next year and get burned," said Richard Madigan, chief investment officer for JPMorgan Private Bank.