

February 10, 1890, the Runnels County Commissioners Court ordered that the school districts in the county be named, organized and numbered in order from 1 through 8.

THE HISTORY OF THE ORGANIZATION OF RUNNELS COUNTY IS BROUGHT TO YOU EVERY WEEK BY THE WINTERS ENTERPRISE AND THE RUNNELS CO HISTORICAL COMMISSION PAGE 4

The



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 RANDALL CONNER  
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 WINTERS, TX 79567-3504

# Winters Enterprise

Volume 24, Issue 34

Thursday, July 17, 2014

Winters, Texas 75c

## Mother killed in wreck on Hwy 67 near Miles

Sunday morning crash leaves one dead, two seriously injured

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ  
 WINTERS ENTERPRISE

BALLINGER- A two-vehicle wreck involving two Ballinger High School graduates left one person dead and two seriously

injured Sunday morning, on U.S. Highway 67, six miles north of Miles, Texas.

According to information released by the Texas Department of Public Safety, Ballinger High School graduate Evan Wilson, 22, was driving a 2005 Dodge Ram northbound on the southbound lane of the road at 3 a.m., causing a colli-

sion with a 2003 Honda Civic. The pickup truck rolled over multiple times, and the Civic traveled across the roadway into the shoulder.

Thirty-five-year-old Brooke Abney of San Angelo, Texas and also a BHS graduate was driving the Honda Civic. She was pronounced dead at the scene by Tom Green County

Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace Kay Longest.

Brooke Amber Sikes Abney is originally from Rowena and is the daughter of Ray and Patsy Dierschke.

Abney's two-year-old son, James L. Abney, was airlifted to Shannon Medical Center where he remains in critical condition.

Wilson, a 2011 Ballinger High School graduate, was also taken to Shannon Medical Center with incapacitating injuries.

Both adults were wearing seat belts and the toddler was in a safety seat, DPS stated.

The cause of the crash is still under investigation. Trooper Matthew Walt responded to the crash.

## Ministry of love brings much needed help to Winters

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ  
 WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS- Continuing a ministry that started over a decade ago in Granbury, Texas, the First United Methodist Church of Granbury spent a week in Winters, cleaning, rebuilding, and painting houses of people in need, in a mission of love and compassion.

A crew comprised by 74 church members — 44 youth and 30 adults — scouted the area beforehand and last week came straight to work in houses of elderly people, disabled citizens, or neighbors needing help with their home repairs. They also worked in the Samaritan's House cleaning and painting a room, and helped with the installation of an air-conditioning unit.

"This is a ministry of love that started over 10 years ago," said Josh Leblo, Director of Student Ministries of the First United Methodist Church of Granbury, Texas.

The program has been helping communities in several different places in Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana and is totally free of charge.

This year they chose Winters following the proposal of their Director of Music, Corey Moses, who previously was the Music Director at the Baptist Church in Winters.

"We did a little bit of everything, we worked closely with the Ministerial Alliance. Filled out the forms, and chose the projects we were going to work on. There is a little bit of everything, elderly people, needy families, newlyweds and people in their 90s. Mothers, and their kids, and more," Leblo said.

He added that the response from the Winters community was great. "We



The First United Methodist Church of Granbury crew at the lot behind the Z.I. Hale Museum.

PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED

received a lot of support, a great welcome from the community while we were cleaning up houses, hauling trash and brush and refuse, installing sheet rock, rebuilding a roof, building wheelchair ramps, decks and a back porch."

The City of Winters waived the trash and brush disposal fees, and those funds helped them to make a \$700 donation benefiting the Winters Ministerial Alliance and Samaritan's House.

In fact the response was so good that they are talking about coming back to Winters in the future.

"We would love to come back, the way we were accepted, and how open and inviting the town was. We hope to hold some kind of relation in the future," Leblo said.



Enthusiasm and energy... pictured left to right are: Matt Row, Statia Sokol, Amanda Benitez, Tanner Mize, Lydia Madey, Tyler Blevins, Brazos Moore, and Madison Grant working in one of the nine locations they visited in Winters.

## Women's free health services expanded in Abilene

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
 STAFF REPORT

ABILENE- The Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District is now offering Expanded Primary Health Care services for women at the Sears Clinic location, 2250 Ambler Avenue. EPHC delivers comprehensive health care services to women that qualify for the program at no cost.

Services offered include family planning, birth control methods, diagnosis and treatment of chronic care conditions, breast and cervical cancer screening, annual exams, pap smears, HIV testing, STD testing, and other blood tests. Abortion services will not be offered.

To qualify for the program, the patient must be a female, at least 18 years of age, living in Texas. The patient must also qualify financially by being in need based on a gross family income at or below 200 percent of the current Federal Poverty Level guidelines. The patient must also be ineligible for any other programs or benefits that provide the same services, including Medicaid, Medicare, and private health insurance.

Patients can call (325) 676 6634 or visit the Sears Clinic at 2250 Ambler Avenue and speak with an eligibility clerk to see if they qualify for the program. Bilingual staff is available.

In an effort to increase awareness, utilization of services and community engagement, please share this information with your staff and refer anyone in need of women health, family planning and STD testing services to the Sears Clinic.

## Two fatalities in rollover on US 83 south of Ballinger

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ  
 WINTERS ENTERPRISE

BALLINGER- Two people were killed Friday night, July 11, 2014 in a one-vehicle rollover occurring on U.S. Highway 83, .9 miles south of Ballinger. The Texas Department of Public Safety identified the fatalities as Lidia Morales-Medrano, 42, and 13-year-old Fredy Urgell, both of

Emporia, Kansas. According to information released by DPS six people were traveling northbound in a 2002 Chevrolet Tahoe on Hwy 83, at 10:16 p.m.

The driver, Carlos Armando Ventura, 46, of Garden City, Kansas, saw a deer running onto the roadway. The vehicle swerved right and off of the road to the east side

to avoid hitting the deer. The driver lost control and rolled the vehicle.

Lidia Morales-Medrano and Fredy Urgell were pronounced dead at scene by Judge Glenda Wood. The bodies were taken to Lange Funeral Home in Ballinger. According to DPS they were not wearing a seat belt.

Two of the passengers were taken to Shannon

Medical Center, in San Angelo, Texas. Heidi Peneda, 20, of Emporia, Kansas, is in serious condition, while Maria Morales-Medrano, 41, of Garden City, Kansas was listed in stable condition. Neither one of them was wearing a seat belt.

The driver and a passenger, Brandon Alexander Ventura, 11, of Garden City, Kansas, were

transported to Ballinger Memorial Hospital where they were treated and released. They both were wearing a seat belt.

The speed limit in that stretch of the road is 75 miles per hour. The weather was clear/cloudy and the road was dry. DPS Trooper Kyle Grimsley, of Sweetwater, Texas is the investigating officer.

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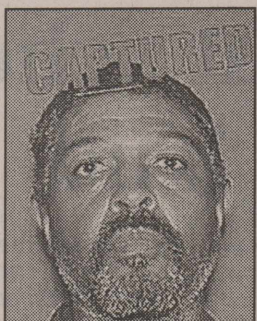
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# Texas most wanted sex offender captured in Los Angeles

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
STAFF REPORT

AUSTIN- Leo Colston, 60, a Texas 10 Most Wanted Sex Offender, is now in custody after being arrested on Thursday in California. Colston was wanted for sex offender registration violation and failure to register as a sex offender.



Following investigative leads, officers located Colston in downtown Los Angeles, where he was arrested without incident. Colston's arrest was the result of a multi-agency investigation that included the Texas Department of Public Safety, U.S. Marshals Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office and Los Angeles Police Department. The arrest was not the result of a tip, and no reward will be paid. For

more information, see his captured bulletin at: <http://www.dps.texas.gov/Texas10MostWanted/SexOffenderDetails.aspx?id=245>.

So far in 2014, DPS and other agencies have arrested 12 Texas 10 Most Wanted fugitives, including six sex offenders and four gang members, and \$34,500 in rewards has been paid for tips that resulted in arrests. The cash rewards are funded by the Governor's Criminal Justice Division.

To be eligible for the cash rewards, anyone with information can provide anonymous tips in four different ways:

Call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 1-800-252-TIPS (8477).

Text the letters DPS - followed by your tip - to 274637 (CRIMES) from

your cell phone.

Submit a web tip through the DPS website by selecting the fugitive you have information about, and then clicking on the link under their picture.

Submit a Facebook tip at <http://www.facebook.com/texas10mostwanted> by clicking the "SUBMIT A TIP" link (under the "About" section).

All calls, texts, e-mails and Facebook messages are anonymous.

The following link, <http://www.dps.texas.gov/Texas10MostWanted/video/tipsterVideo.htm>, explains the steps on how to submit a tip regarding a Texas 10 Most Wanted Fugitive or Sex Offender and/or how to receive a reward once the fugitive is captured.

DPS investigators work with local law enforcement agencies to select fugitives featured in the Texas 10 Most Wanted Program. To view the current lists visit the DPS website.

# Lamb and goat special sale to be held in Abilene

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
STAFF REPORT

ABILENE- Tuesday, July 22, at 7 p.m. a special lamb and goat sale will be held at the Wylie High

School FFA Show Barn benefiting the West Texas Rehab Center.

Join the event and enjoy the dinner of beans and cornbread at the Rehab

Chuckwagon.

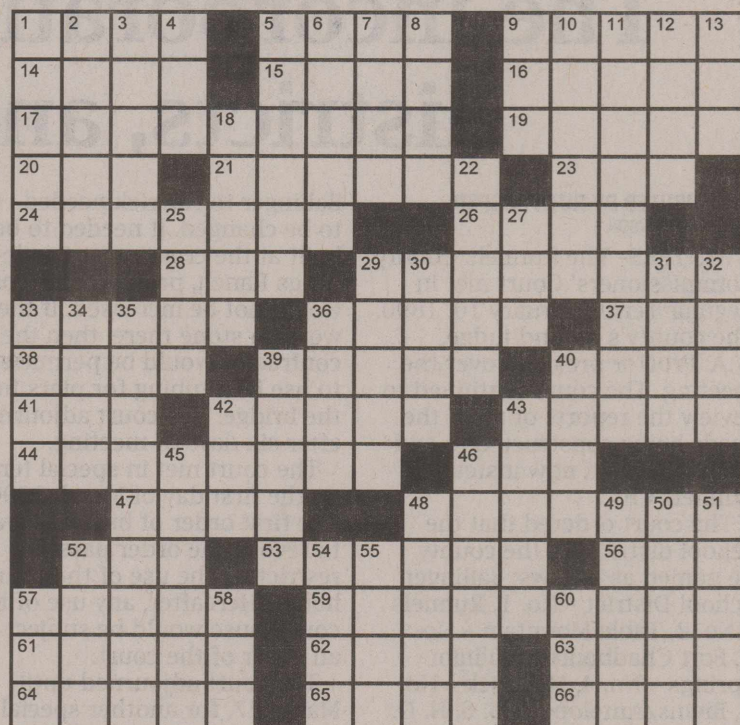
For more information, please contact Danny Isbell at (325) 660 8336 or Archie Jobe at (325) 660 8334.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

"Share This Crossword"

Across

- 1 Person in charge at work
- 5 Celebrity
- 9 Paper written in school
- 14 Spumante (sparkling wine)
- 15 Crazy
- 16 The Twist or the Macarena
- 17 Frighten off
- 19 False fronts
- 20 Consume
- 21 Having a strong dislike
- 23 "\_\_\_ you kidding me?"
- 24 Piece of furniture in the bedroom
- 26 Still pink, as a steak
- 28 "\_\_\_ So Shy"
- 29 Party game
- 33 Ford that flopped
- 36 Word after hope or cedar
- 37 Mouse's cousin
- 38 \_\_\_ and pans
- 39 Disgrace
- 40 Surrounding glow
- 41 Tax shelter of a sort
- 42 Potato \_\_\_ (snack food)
- 43 How some hallways are lit
- 44 What little kids ride in
- 46 Slugger Williams or actor Knight
- 47 Monetary field of study, for short
- 48 Naps
- 52 "Much \_\_\_ About Nothing"
- 53 Allowed under Jewish law
- 56 Tear
- 57 Flying solo
- 59 Fifth wheel
- 61 Button on a TV
- 62 Roll call response

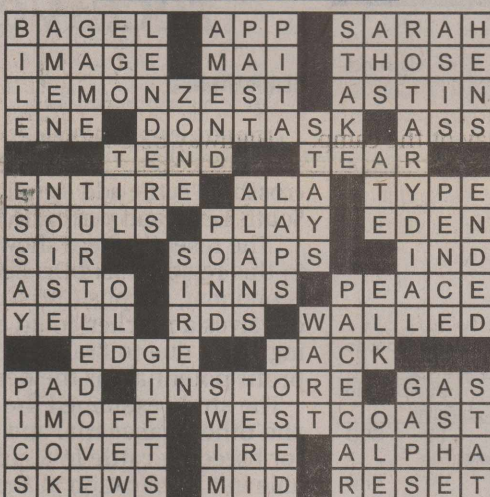


- 63 Cain's brother
- 64 Nervous
- 65 Dangerous liquid
- 66 Top of the line
- 18 Painting holder
- 22 Use one end of a pencil
- 25 "\_\_\_ the One"
- 27 Picasso's stuff
- 29 Cowboys wear them
- 30 Works on a skirt
- 31 James \_\_\_ Jones
- 32 Remain
- 33 Amazing
- 34 "\_\_\_ the Explorer"
- 35 Intimidate successfully
- 36 IOU
- 39 Lamb portion
- 40 Helps
- 42 Head of a company
- 43 John \_\_\_ (tractor brand)
- 45 Breakfast items
- 46 Having several levels, as a wedding cake
- 48 Harry Belafonte's daughter
- 49 Apache or Sioux
- 50 Buenos \_\_\_, Argentina
- 51 Recently popular grain
- 52 Soothing plant
- 54 Govt. arm involved in the workplace
- 55 On \_\_\_ (without a contract)
- 57 Fitting
- 58 Before, in poems
- 60 Bill at a bar

Down

- 1 "\_\_\_ on a true story"
- 2 Academy Award
- 3 Wyoming or Wisconsin
- 4 Not madam
- 5 Lincoln freed them
- 6 Eiffel \_\_\_
- 7 Rent-\_\_\_
- 8 Rogers and Orbison
- 9 Bradley and Asner
- 10 World's largest desert
- 11 Orchestra instrument
- 12 High point
- 13 Not no

### LAST WEEK'S ANSWER GRID



## Weather Whys

**Q: Lightning myths**  
A: Some people claim they are human "lightning rods" because they have been hit several times, although no one has ever produced proof of this, says Brent McRoberts of Texas A&M. "Another myth is that it's good to seek shelter under a tree during a storm. Trees are tall objects and more likely to be hit. Some people believe that others struck by lightning shouldn't be touched because they will get shocked. This is totally untrue - people who have been hit need immediate help. Another myth - being inside a house means you won't get hit by lightning. Although your chances are greatly reduced by being inside, there are hundreds of cases of people being hit by lightning inside their homes, often while talking on the telephone. It's always a good idea to stay off the phone during a thunderstorm."

# One man killed in two-vehicle collision in Stonewall County

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
STAFF REPORT

ABILENE- One person was killed Tuesday afternoon, July 8, 2014 in a two-vehicle collision occurring at 3:25 p.m. on U.S. Highway 380 and FM 2211, 2 miles north of Peacock in Stonewall County.

A 1999 Chevrolet 1500 pickup, driven by Margaret Ervin Benavides, 50, of Aspermont, Texas, was traveling east on U.S. 380 while a 2008 Chevrolet Trailblazer driven by Edward Oliver Stevens, 71, of Alamogordo, New Mexico was westbound.

Both vehicles were approaching the intersection of U.S. 380 and FM 2211 when Benavides attempted a wide turn to the right onto FM 2211. Stevens drove partially into the south bar ditch to avoid the pickup. Stevens overcorrected and crossed the westbound lane where the vehicles collided.

The pickup came to rest in the east-bound lane of U.S. 380 and on its top fac-

ing south. The Trailblazer went into the south ditch, overcorrected to the right, and crossed U.S. 380. The vehicle entered the north ditch and rolled over where the driver was ejected. It then came to rest in a pasture south facing south.

Benavides was reported in stable condition with non-incapacitating injuries. She was taken to Stonewall County Hospital in Aspermont. Beverly Jinnelle Biffle, 42, of Jayton, Texas was a passenger in the pickup. She was treated and released.

Stevens was pronounced dead at 4:15 p.m. by Judge Ronnie Moorhead. His body was taken to McCoy Funeral Home in Aspermont. According to DPS he was not wearing a seat belt at the time of the wreck.

Also traveling in the Trailblazer was Otilia D Stevens, 75, of Alamogordo, New Mexico. She was reported in stable condition, with non-incapacitating injuries.

Investigating officer is Trooper Nick Jimenez, DPS Benjamin.

# One killed in motorcycle crash in Fisher Co

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
STAFF REPORT

ABILENE- A Denver City man was killed Saturday morning, in a one-vehicle crash occurring Saturday, July 12, 2014 at 4:35 a.m. on U.S. Highway 180, 4.5 miles east of Roby in

Fisher County. Texas Department of Public Safety identified the victim as Patrick Dwayne Sanders, 46-years-of-age.

According to the information released by DPS Sanders was driving a 2011 Harley Davidson motorcy-

cle eastbound on U.S. 180. The vehicle failed to negotiate a curve on the road, entered the westbound barrow ditch and struck a culvert. The vehicle overturned several times.

Sanders was pronounced at 5:45 a.m. by Judge Tammy Morton. His body was taken to Weathersbee-Ray Funeral Home in Rotan.

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Charley & Mary Jane  
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# ROLL-UP

## Runnels County

Winters Enterprise

Thursday, July 17, 2014

### THE ORGANIZATION OF RUNNELS COUNTY

## The incorporation of Ballinger, eight school districts, and the taming of the land

CONTRIBUTED BY RUTH COOPER  
RCHC CHAIRPERSON

WINTERS- The Runnels County Commissioners' Court met in Regular Term February 10, 1890. The county's second judge, W.A. Proctor presided over the meeting. The court continued to review the reports of all of the roads being constructed to and from Ballinger, now instead of Runnels City.

The court ordered that the school districts in the county be named as follows: Ballinger School District - No. 1, Runnels - No. 2, Table Mountain - No. 3, Fort Chadbourne/William Springs - No. 4, Maverick - No. 5, Bivins/Antelope -No. 6, H. D. Pearce/Valley Creek School - No. 7, Norwood - No. 8. The court ordered the tax of 20 cents on the \$100 value in each of the school districts, among other taxes.

They also appointed managers of the elections in each school district. Elections were to be held in March of 1890 to approve of the tax rates for the purpose of building better schools in the districts. The courts financial condition was reviewed and bills were paid. They approved the purchase of chandeliers for the courthouse. The commissioners reviewed the contract with The Milwaukie Iron Bridge Company about the bridge over Oak Creek; the original location from Oak Creek to the new county road from

Ballinger to Hayrick needed to be changed. It needed to be built at the crossing at Castleburgs Ranch, provided the cost would not be increased. If there were no stone there; then the contractor would be permitted to use iron tubing for piers for the bridge. The court adjourned after six days of meeting.

The court met in special term on the first day of March 1890. The first order of business was to revoke the order passed restricting the use of the courthouse. Hereafter, any use of the courthouse would be subject to an order of the court.

The court adjourned until March 27, for another special term. The fence erected around the courthouse was approved, accepted and completed according to the contract. The court paid a total of \$2,848 the following way: \$48, \$600, then a note for \$2,200. The court adjourned.

The court met April 26, 1890. They reviewed the election that was held in Ballinger and counted the votes. A total of 119 votes were cast in the election to determine if the town of Ballinger would be incorporated. There were 99 votes for incorporation and 20 votes against. So with the results for incorporation, County Judge W. A. Proctor duly declared the town of Ballinger incorporated under Title 17 Chapter 11 of the Revised Statutes of the State of Texas.

The Judge ordered an election to be held at the courthouse in Ballinger the 24th day of May 1890 for the purpose of electing a Mayor, a Marshall and five Aldermen for the town. The Sheriff, John McEwen Formwalt posted notices of the election with Mr. J.N. Winters, from Winters, the presiding officer.

Mr. H.H. Luckett, County Surveyor proposed to survey for the court the north and west boundary lines of Runnels County at a cost of \$3.75 per mile. The court considered and accepted the proposal, with the complete job to cost no more than \$480 with work guaranteed by the General Land Office.

The Commissioners' Court wanted walkways build to the north and west gates, to be 6 feet wide, and 4 inches thick with the top level with the ground and filled with gravel and sand. The cost could not exceed \$60. It would be paid from the courthouse fund.

The next order that came before the court was that no stock or horses be permitted in the courthouse yard except the horse belonging to Sheriff John M. Formwalt, under penalty of \$5 fine in each infraction of this order. The Sheriff was ordered to see that is was obeyed. The court adjourned.

At this time, settlers were pouring into all areas of the county, breaking up the land for

crops at a dizzying rate. Rainfall ruled the economic life completely.

Ranchers and trail drivers way of life was changing with the breaking out of the land and wire fences. John McEwen Formwalt, the County's Sheriff, was known as a tough cowboy early on. When he was 13-years-old, he was with a party of about a dozen who were trailing Indians, when they encountered a band of red men on the home trail 14 miles from Horsehead Crossing at Castle Gap in Crane County. He killed one of the Indians. One of the white men was killed and he found the body and helped to bury it. Mr. Formwalt participated in many other expeditions and excursions against Indians and outlaws. In 1869, he and two other men met a party of 16 Indians, and though his two companions fled, he remained to protect the 51 horses in his care. By his fearlessness, he put up a fight, resulting in the killing of one of the Indians and the frightening of the others away. This incident occurred at Dagger Bend on the Pecos in Crane, Texas. At the age of 21 he owned and managed 2,100 head of cattle on a ranch in Hood County, a ranch still known as the Formwalt Ranch. His father had started him in the livestock business by giving him some land in Hood County. After five years on the Form-

walt Ranch, he moved his stock in 1874 to Runnels County. For many years, he was one of the leading ranchers of the area. In 1878, he killed the last buffalo in Runnels County. He was a member of the Texas Trail Drivers, being the only member of that notable organization living in Hood County. John was the last survivor of that band of pioneers of the county who were Indian fighters. As Runnels County Sheriff, John M. Formwalt had a very impressive record in his determined action to break up wire-cutting and stage robbing. He had participated in many perilous exploits and once encountered a band of cattle thieves, killing three of them. While his back was turned he was shot at six times by one of the thieves, but escaped uninjured, and with three shots from his own gun, he brought down one of the robbers. He secured conviction and penitentiary sentences for several cow thieves and stage robbers.

Resources:  
Runnels County Historical Commission Histories  
Runnels County A Look Back, May 1, 2010  
Runnels County Commissioners' Court Minutes, February 1890-May 1890  
Runnels County Clerk's Records 2000 Hood County Texas Genealogical Society

## Brahman, British crossbred cattle receive higher premiums study shows

BLAIR FANNIN  
SPECIAL TO THE WINTERS ENTERPRISE

CORPUS CHRISTI- Data from a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service South Texas study shows Brahman and British crossbred cattle add significant value to breeding stock in South Texas and performed best in terms of sale price.

"The research here shows the value of crossbreeds in this region," said Dr. Levi Russell, AgriLife Extension economist, Corpus Christi. "The increase in the number of calves a rancher could expect from his or her breeding stock due to Brahman influence certainly increases profit potential for the herd."

The study examined the effects of Brahman influence and other managerial and market factors on prices paid for breeding cattle in South Texas. The results are available in a publication at the AgriLife Extension Bookstore (<http://bit.ly/1ohskqB>).

The study data was collected in April at the Tri-County Commercial Female Sale in Beeville. The special sale featured 123 lots from which the following information was collected: number of head sold, coat color, frame size, condition, Brahman influence, physiological stage, polled, price per head and weight.

"Our work with the special sale in Beeville indicates that Brahman influence in British and Continental breeds is extremely valuable in this region," Russell said. "Combining the hot-weather hardiness of the Brahman breed with the high-gain and muscling characteristics of the British and Continental breeds certainly pays off in South Texas."

Russell teamed with Dr. David Anderson, AgriLife Extension economist, College Station, Matthew Bochat, AgriLife Extension agent, Bee County, Brian Yanta, AgriLife Extension agent, Goliad County, Dr. Joe Paschal, AgriLife Extension beef cattle specialist, Corpus Christi, and Mac Young, program specialist, risk management, Corpus Christi.

The study found that black coat color was discounted due to cattle with black hides being less adapted to the

hot climate in South Texas. "However, the study suggests price premiums don't necessarily imply increased profit, which can only be calculated against production cost data," Russell said. "It's also worth noting that it takes all of these breeds to make some of the cross breeds that command a premium. The biggest surprise was seeing just how much prices have risen for breeding stock. "This really shows that the rest of the beef supply chain has shown a great deal of increase in value, as documented elsewhere. Some of our other work shows that, even with high prices in breeding females, restocking is still a profitable proposition."

## Veteran's Corner

New burial regulations effective July 2014 will now allow the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to automatically pay the maximum amount allowable under law to most eligible surviving spouses more quickly and efficiently, without the need for a written application. Under former regulations, VA paid burial benefits on a reimbursement basis, which required survivors to submit receipts for relatively small one-time payments that VA generally paid at the maximum amount permitted by law. This automation enables VA to pay a non-service-connected or service-connected burial allowance to an estimated 62,000 eligible surviving spouses out of a projected 140,000 claimants for burial benefits in 2014. Surviving spouses will be paid upon notice of the Veteran's death using information already in VA systems. The burial allowance for a non-service-connected death is \$300, and \$2,000 for a death connected to military service.

This revised regulation will further expedite the delivery of these benefits to surviving spouses, reduce the volume of claims requiring manual processing, and potentially make available resources for other activities that benefit Veterans and their survivors. 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  
E-MAIL [rcvso@wtxs.net](mailto:rcvso@wtxs.net)

### Public Record

#### Weddings

Names	Issued
Michael Brian Duncan and Crysta Nicole Duncan	Jul. 10

#### Divorces

Names	Filed
Fabian Zachary Lopez and Angela Tashia Lopez	Jul. 10

#### Runnels County Jail Record July 14, 2014

Amanda M. Horton Criminal trespass	17 WPD	Michael A. Nolan Burglary of a building	27 Concho
Adella A. Edgina Criminal trespass	31 WPD	Curtis C. Carroll Burglary of a building	20 Concho
Garrett J. Floyd Purchased/furn. alcohol to minors	22 Coke	Stefanie Wallace Public intoxication	23 BPD
Domingo Salazar Jr. DWI	46 BPD	Jodie L. Dixon Possession of controlled substance	36 BPD
Auian D. Grantham Warrant theft	41 RSCO	Judy E. Garcia Tampering with record	24 RSCO
Kristoffer D. Magallen Burglary of a building	20 Concho	Clinton J. Lynn Forgery	19 BPD

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# THE IDLE AMERICAN

## Where strawberries are king...

Cometary by  
Dr. Don Newbury

In 1949, when Stilwell, Oklahoma's "Strawberry Festival" was just one year old, crooners were applauded when they cut loose with Dear Hearts and Gentle People. They got extra points if referencing their own hometowns where they were appearing at the time.

One such singer was Gene Autry. They "whooped and hollered" in his hometown that was named four times before they got it right — "Gene Autry, OK," 200 crow-flight miles from Stilwell.

The song was "tailor-made" for Stilwell, too, where values remain strong, cooperation still is underscored, neighborliness is commonplace and every kitchen is bulging with recipes calling for strawberries....

Oklahoma became a state and Adair became

a county in 1907, but the town of Stilwell was thriving a decade earlier, when visionary and committed citizens laid groundwork for churches, schools and civic undertakings.

Members of the Kiwanis Club kicked off the "Strawberry Festival" in 1948. It has expanded every year since, now boasting "wow" participation and far-flung notoriety. The Kiwanians still sponsor it, but now have additional help, what with hordes of people descending on the second Saturday in May for "all things strawberry."

They parade, crown a queen and kick up heels with much merry-making in the town of 4,000.

And "hordes" will have to do, because accurate attendance numbers are hard to come by. Conservative estimates are

20,000, some claim 30,000 and a few "upwards of 40,000." Whatever, the one motel in a town with five traffic lights in the foothills of the Ozarks can't begin to accommodate the masses.



TEXAS  
COLUMNIST  
Don  
Newbury

Folks with extra beds in Stilwell and Adair County wind up hosting relatives they didn't know they had....

Puts me in mind of Brownwood, Texas, my hometown. In May, 1948, it hosted the State Democratic Convention. Hotels and tourist courts displayed "no vacancy" signs early on.

Front page appeals in the Brownwood Bulletin urged residents to "sleep Democrats at your house." (Later in the year, Lyndon B. Johnson became the Democratic candidate for the U. S. Senate.)

Shortly after leaving the presidency, LBJ spoke in

Brownwood at a luncheon honoring the late Coach Gordon Wood. The president smiled at mention of the long-ago convention, where the expression "politics make strange bedfellows" was revived....

I digress. I've a strong hunch that Stilwell folks have a "tried and true recipe" with ingredients for happiness. They know that true contentment comes from giving back. An example is the Adair County Historical and Genealogical Association, whose volunteers have led the renovation of the old railroad depot.

Stilwell folk recognize the importance of reaching both forward and back, claiming what is new and better without tossing aside time-honored principles.

They care, they work and they believe that the same God who has intervened in the affairs of man throughout history is still in charge....

It is a community that believes in itself. Long before the Oklahoma Legislature in 1949 decreed Stilwell to be the "Strawberry Capital of the World," the Democrat Journal was chronicling community goings-on.

The newspaper itself is an institution, publishing weekly editions since 1898.

It has grown up with the town. Brothers Keith and Darrell Neale have been in tandem for most of their adult years, the former editing the Democrat Journal where he's worked 35 years, and the latter the Westville Reporter, a dozen miles away....

Stilwell newspaper distribution is unique. They print about 5,000 copies, with some 500 mailed to subscribers. The rest are sold in businesses around the area.

For almost 40 years, most sales are credited to a person "hawking" papers

four hours each week. At least 400 and sometimes 600 copies are sold to motorists passing by the newspaper office.

It's a Wednesday morning habit for many. Don Duke held the job for 16 years, even when he was on oxygen. Another man with bad eyesight got too close to a car, resulting in a crushed foot....

Many jokes are told about small towns.

Reality suggests, however, that many youngsters who can't wait to leave home in a few years are eager for opportunities allowing them to return.

In Stilwell, hearts are still dear, people are still gentle and community pride is very much alive....

Dr. Newbury is a speaker in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. Inquiries/comments to: [newbury@speakerdoc.com](mailto:newbury@speakerdoc.com). Phone: 817-47-3872. Web site: [www.speakerdoc.com](http://www.speakerdoc.com). Twitter: @donnewbury.

### Sugarcane aphids found in northeast sorghum

ROBERT BURNS  
SPECIAL TO THE WINTERS ENTERPRISE

COLLEGE STATION— It's not too late to control sugarcane aphids on northeast Texas sorghum fields, but it will be very soon, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert.

"The aphids just showed up here in northeast Texas the last week to 10 days," said Dr. Allen Knutson, AgriLife Extension entomologist, Dallas. "Now is the time to be scouting fields for the aphid."

AgriLife Extension has been tracking the insect since infestations developed this spring in the lower Rio Grande Valley, Knutson said. The pest soon moved northward to Corpus Christi, and then onto the Blacklands region by early June.

The insect poses a new and potentially devastating danger to sorghum fields, he said. Until just recently, its activity was confined to sugarcane and sorghum in tropical and subtropical regions of the world.

"It became a pest of sorghum for the first time in Texas in 2013," Knutson said. The same year, outbreaks occurred in South and East Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Missouri.

Last year, the pest showed up in northeast Texas grain sorghum fields too late to cause much damage, he said. But this year, it's coming much earlier and poses a much greater threat to the crop.

Sugarcane aphids are a light green and somewhat yellowish in color, Knutson said. "It's very tiny; a colony the size of nickel will typically be comprised of 30 or 40 individual aphids."

"It's relatively easy to recognize because it's found in very large numbers, and because of the sticky honeydew it secretes," he said. "It's unlike any of the other aphids we have in sorghum."

The honeydew is a clear, shiny material, similar to what pecan aphids produce on tree leaves, according to Knutson.

"Walking into the field, you'll probably notice the honeydew first because it'll stick to your clothes and your hands. Turning over the leaves, you'll see the aphids," he said.

Damage results from aphids feeding on plant sap, he said. The fed-upon leaves discolor, turning yellow, red, and brown. Extensive leaf injury can greatly reduce grain yield. The honeydew poses a risk to harvest machinery.

"Last year, sorghum producers had difficulty harvesting sorghum as the honeydew coated leaves and gummed up augers on combines," Knutson said.

Initial colonies the size of a nickel can quickly increase to thousands of aphids per leaf.

"Infestations can increase very rapidly, so fields should be inspected every three to four days to determine if an insecticide treatment is needed."

### TSSWCB seeking comments on proposed water supply enhancement plan

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
STAFF REPORT

TEMPLE - The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board has extended the public comment period on the proposed State Water Supply Enhancement Plan until July 21, 2014. The State Water Supply Enhancement Plan serves as the State's comprehensive strategy for managing brush in all areas of the state where brush is contributing to a substantial water conservation problem.

The State Water Supply Enhancement Plan, formerly the State Brush Control Plan, must be updated and revised in order to continue implementing provisions of House Bill 1808 passed by the 82nd Texas Legislature.

A public hearing to receive oral comments on the proposed plan was held on July 1, 2014 in Temple. "At the public hearing,

we received a request to extend the deadline for accepting public comments on the draft plan. As a result, we're extending the deadline for an additional two weeks. We want to ensure that all interested persons have an opportunity to provide constructive input on the development of this important state plan," said Rex Isom, Executive Director of the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board.

The State Water Supply Enhancement Plan also serves as the programmatic guidance for the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board's Water Supply Enhancement Program. The purpose of the Water Supply Enhancement Program is to increase available surface and ground water supplies through the targeted control of brush species that are detrimental to water conservation, and the sub-

sequent establishment of herbaceous vegetation on land where that brush has been controlled.

"Voluntary land stewardship, on a grand scale, is a cornerstone solution for water supply issues in Texas. The efforts of private landowners to control water-depleting brush are vitally important to the ecological health of our productive rangelands across the state," said Isom.

Notice of the availability of the draft State Water Supply Enhancement Plan for public review and comment was originally published in the June 6, 2014 issue of the Texas Register. The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board has extended the comment period through July 21, 2014.

Written comments on the proposed plan may be submitted by email to [Aaron.Wendt@atwendt@tsswcb.texas.gov](mailto:Aaron.Wendt@atwendt@tsswcb.texas.gov).

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