

Texas Governor-elect Gregg Abbott will be sworn in on January 20, 2015. Taking the oath of office also will be the Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Land Commissioner, Agriculture Commissioner and Railroad Commissioner.

The Winters Enterprise



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Winters, Texas 75¢

THE YEAR THAT WAS

SPORTS ACHIEVEMENTS MARKED 2014 IN WINTERS

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
WINTERS ENTERPRISE

Numerous sports achievements, historical markers and hopes for a thriving 2015 highlight the year that we are leaving behind in Winters. Some of the most highly regarded moments in this year's history will be the District Championship and deep run into the playoffs for the Blizzard football, as well as the accomplishments of the Blizzard baseball team and Blizzard Band. The re-opening and dedication of the Blue Gap Post Office, the first annual Memories of Times Past Fest and many other moments are preserved in the pages left behind. The Winters Enterprise has compiled a series of historical moments that marked the year 2014, in hopes to help everyone to remember and treasure the moments lived throughout the year.



Memories of the year that was... Clockwise from the top left: The Winters High School Blizzard football team, WHS Blizzard Band, the Blue Gap Post Office, Sam Woodall showing the Grand Champion Steer, and a pipe bomb seized in Rowena.

PHOTOS-FILE

Jan. 6

Extreme weather

Winters and Runnels County started the year with extremely cold weather, following a national winter storm caused by the so-called "Polar Vortex" that affected every corner of the United States territory. Monday, January 6, 2014, the mercury plummeted to 15 degrees Fahrenheit, and the highest temperature recorded couldn't make it pass freezing.

Jan. 10

Annual Junior Livestock Show held

The Runnels County Junior Livestock Association held its 13th annual show January 10-11, at the Community Center Arena in Ballinger, Texas.

Grand Champion Steer honors went to Winters FFA student Sam Woodall, the Grand Champion Lamb ribbon was for Rachel Gibbs from Ballinger 4-H Club; Ballinger FFA student Weston Rollwitz earned the Grand Champion Swine

ribbon, Ballinger 4-Her Rusty Fischer's project placed first overall in goats, and the Grand Champion Fryer honors went to Trey Heard, of Miles FFA.

The Grand Champion Heifer ribbon was for Audrey Ratliff, of Winters FFA, Grand Champion Breeding Gilt was for Reagan Helms, of Miles 4-H, earning Grand Champion Breeding Rabbit honors was Autumn Rollins, of Miles FFA.

Reserve Grand Champions were as follows: Steer - Charles Childress, Winters FFA; Lamb - Regan Smithwick, Miles 4-H; Swine - Briley Clinton, Ballinger FFA; Goat - Rachel Gibbs, Ballinger 4-H; Fryer - Trey Heard, Winters FFA; Heifer - Hadley Hatler, Ballinger 4-H; Gilt - Nathan Schraer, Miles FFA; Breeding Rabbit - David Estevis, Miles FFA.

Jan. 17

The Old Texas Theater comes to life

After almost 40 years dormant, the Old Texas Theater, in Ballinger, re-opened its doors with a live show and grand opening.

The place, originally built as the Palace Theater, had not been operational since the late 1970s, and was completely renovated over an 18 month span. Paul and Katy Morrow, formerly of Midland, moved to Ballinger, and decided to buy and remodel the theater.

Feb. 3

New districts announced

Winters High School football and bas-

PLEASE CONTINUE PAGE 6

Woman killed in head-on collision near Bronte

WINTERS ENTERPRISE
STAFF REPORT

WINTERS- One woman was killed and another one seriously injured in a two-vehicle crash occurring Saturday night, December 27, 2014, on U.S. Highway 277 in Coke County, about one mile north of Bronte, Texas.

The Texas Department of Public Safety identified the dead woman as Julia Kirkham Kennedy, 60-years-of-age, of Bronte, Texas. Angela Sue Scott, 37-years-of-age, of San Angelo, Texas, was taken to Shannon Medical Center, in San Angelo, with incapacitating injuries.

According to DPS Scott was driving a 2006 custom van south bound on U.S. Hwy 277. Kennedy was driving northbound in a 2004 Ford F-150 pickup.

Scott crossed into the incoming lane in front of the pickup. Kennedy was pronounced dead by Justice of the Peace Jackie Walker of Coke County.

Both women were wearing seat belts, according to the DPS. The crash is under investigation by Trooper Robert Aldrete, of San Angelo.

Emergency supplies for your vehicle

- Blankets/sleeping bags, extra clothing, mittens, hat
- Cell phone, radio, flashlight, extra batteries
- First-aid kit and pocket knife
- High-calorie nonperishable food, bottled water
- Sack of sand or cat litter to provide traction for tires
- Windshield scraper, tool kit, booster cables, tow rope and shovel

For additional information regarding winter weather preparedness, visit: <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/threatawareness/winterStormPlanning.htm>

DPS encouraging Texans to prepare for winter weather

WINTERS ENTERPRISE
STAFF REPORT

AUSTIN- The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) is encouraging Texans to prepare for a strong cold front impacting parts of Texas through Friday.

Forecasts indicate the possibility of sleet and freezing rain, with light ice accumulations possible in portions of Texas.

"DPS is asking Texans to prepare for winter weather as a cold front moves into areas of the state before the New Year's holiday. Drivers may encounter freezing rain and sleet in some areas, which could create dangerous road conditions," said DPS Director Steven McCraw.

"Texans should continue to monitor the changing weather conditions in their area and use extra caution on roadways."

In preparation for possible winter weather, the Texas State Operations Center - in coordination with several state agencies, including the Texas Department of Transportation, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Texas Military Forces - will continue to monitor weather conditions and maintain close contact with National Weather Service local forecast offices across the state.

DPS offers the following tips for staying safe during this weather event:

Avoid unnecessary travel if possible, monitor local weather broadcasts, and follow up-to-the-minute weather conditions at <http://www.weather.gov/>.

Remember that ice forms first on bridges, overpasses and shady areas.

On icy roads, drive slowly, increase distance needed for stopping, and avoid using cruise control.

Watch for downed trees and power lines across roads. If power is out, treat all intersections as four-way stops.

Make sure your vehicle is properly maintained before any trip - check fluid and antifreeze levels.

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FUNERALS AND OBITUARIES

Betty Jo Gideon Sanders

Betty Jo Gideon Sanders, 84, of Weinert, Texas, was called home to be with her Lord and Savior on Saturday, December 27, 2014.

Betty Jo Gideon was born on February 4, 1930, to Ras and Katie Cannon Gideon in Winters, Texas. She attended Winters High School and graduated in 1947. In 1948, Betty met and fell in love with the love of her life, R.S. Sanders. They wed on March 25, 1948, at her home near Winters, Texas, after three months of dating. R.S. and Betty moved to Weinert, Texas, in 1951. They were blessed with two children: Larry Dwaine and Janice Elaine. Betty and R.S. were privileged to spend the next sixty years together.

After her children started to school, Betty attended Hardin-Simmons University and earned a degree in Elementary Education. She taught 20 years at Weinert ISD, retiring in 1981.

In the years that followed, Betty and R.S. traveled to Europe, the Middle East, Canada, Nova Scotia, Hawaii, and many of the eastern states where R.S. researched his family. With R.S. doing the research, Betty wrote Just Passing Through Weinert, The Alexanders of Plum Creek, Cowpokes and Sod Busters, and Gideons From Europe to America. In 2003, she edited R.S.'s biography that he had written in 1998. She added pictures and had it bound to give to her children and grandchildren.

Betty loved her church and was a faithful member for 63 years. She joined the Weinert Baptist Church in 1951, and served her Lord in numerous ways. She served on committees, taught the Friendship Sunday School Class, and assisted in Vacation Bible School. With her beautiful voice, Betty sang many solos and duets, and she also played the church organ for more than 30 years.

Betty loved to work in her yard and flower garden. She was also a professional artist working with oil paints, water colors, and chalks. Betty loved to sew, crochet, and helped her friends make several quilts to sell at the Rehab Auction. She was a member of several clubs such as the Brazos West Art Club, Extension Homemakers, Delta Kappa Gamma, Texas Retired Teachers Association, and Burger Buddies. Always active, kind, and thoughtful, Betty will be greatly missed by all of her family and friends.

She is survived by her daughter, Jan Boatright and husband Randal of Brady, TX; daughter-in-law, Linda Sanders of Los Alamos, NM; sister, Virginia Gideon Black of Winters, TX; sister-in-law, Betty Ann Sanders of Austin, TX; two grandchildren, Robert Sanders and wife Claire of Los Alamos, NM, and Lynette Kennard of Santa Fe, NM; four great-grandchildren, Chase Kennard of Santa Fe, NM; David, Sarah, and Emily Sanders of Los Alamos, NM. She also had many loving nieces and nephews who were always willing to help Aunt Betty with anything that she needed. Her pastor, Dan Bullock, was very special to Betty, and she treasured his friendship and the love that he showed to her.

She is preceded in death by her parents, husband, R.S., and son, Larry.

Funeral services were Monday, December 29, 2014, at the First Baptist Church in Weinert with Rev. Dan Bullock and Rev. Terry Sanders officiating. Interment followed at Weinert Cemetery under the direction of Smith Family Funeral Homes. Visitation was Sunday evening, December 28 at the funeral home located at 304 N. 2nd Street.

Memorials can be given in Betty's name to First Baptist Church, Weinert, Texas.

Online condolences can be shared at www.smith-familyfh.com.

Winters Enterprise, January 01, 2015

Cotton prices to remain flat heading into 2015 due to large supply

BLAIR FANNIN
SPECIAL TO THE WINTERS ENTERPRISE

BRYAN - Cotton prices are projected to remain flat heading into 2015 as China continues to hold large supplies of cotton and consumption rates remain low, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service cotton economist in College Station.

Dr. John Robinson gave a cotton outlook presentation at the 26th Texas Plant Protection Association Conference in Bryan recently.

"The cotton market is not booming as yarn prices remain flat," Robinson said. "We're not in a recession, but in a period of low growth and modest consumption. We don't see anything that would pull up cotton prices in the near term."

Robinson said speculative funds have been swinging from net short to neutral, and cotton futures have just hung in there around 60 cents.

Consequently, cotton has been ranging in the mid to upper 60s, he said.

For now, Chinese policy is one of the major influencers of the market, Robinson said. "That, and the fact that more of the Chinese new crop cotton and reserves are getting used by China rather than buying U.S. exports continues to weigh heavily on market prices," he said.

"If you have cotton in the loan, I would think about selling it and maybe use a call option strategy," he said. "The end of the year carryover is projected to be more than 4 million bales. That's more than enough cotton to fulfill demand."

The 2015 outlook has projections of 15 million to 16 million bales produced in the U.S., he said.

"We will still plant plenty of acres despite projections of fewer planted acres," Robinson said. "At least 15 million bales of production is projected for 2015. I don't see any reason for new crop prices to be higher than old crop prices."

Meanwhile, during the association's awards luncheon, the Norman Borlaug Lifetime Achievement Award was given posthumously to the family of Dr. Tom Cothren, a longtime Texas A&M AgriLife plant physiologist. Cothren came to Texas A&M in 1982 after serving on the faculty at the University of Arkansas.

He received many honors during his years of teaching and research, including Fellow of American Society of Agronomy, Fellow of Crop Science Society of America, Outstanding Research Award in Cotton Physiology and the Special Achievement Award for Teaching from Texas A&M. He also served on the Faculty Senate at Texas A&M.

Texas A&M students were also well represented in the poster competition. First place was graduate student Kate Harrell from the department of entomology. Graduate student Kevin Cox from the department of plant pathology and microbiology was second place.



Runnels Co Historical Commission News

The Runnels County Historical Commission met on Saturday, December 6, 2014 at the home of Bobbie Campbell to host their annual Christmas Party. Mrs. Bobbie had her home decorated beautifully! She seems to outdo herself each year! Prior to the meal, Chairperson Ruth Copper led the prayer. After lunch Mrs. Bobbie read a Christmas poem and we played a game. It got a bit exciting and was fun for all! Everyone brought a gift for the Runnels County Sheriff's Department Toy Drive. Seeing all of the nice gifts almost made us all want to be kids again! After visiting and seeing some of Bobbie's new quilts everyone went on their way, wishing all a safe Merry Christmas. Thank you Mrs. Campbell for being such a gracious hostess!

Immunization clinics in Runnels County

The Texas Department of State Health Services will be having two immunization/flu clinics for children with Medicaid, no insurance or underinsured, adults with no insurance in Runnels County.

For questions or to schedule an appointment, please call at 754 4945, if no answer leave a message.

The first clinic will be held Monday, January 5, 10-12 and 1:30-3 p.m. at the Professional Building, 110 South Main Street, Suite 108, Winters, Texas.

A second clinic will be held in Ballinger on Thursday, January 15, 10-12 and 1:30-3 p.m. at 600 Strong, Corner of Sixth and Strong Ave. Please bring child's immunization records if child has Medicaid please bring card.

Volunteers needed at Winters Elem

Winters Elementary School is looking for volunteers to serve as mentors. A mentor will need to have about an hour a week during school hours to give to a student. As a mentor you will do things like read with a student as well as help with homework and just be a friend.

As a school volunteer you will need to fill out a form and pass a background check. If you are interested in helping out a student in this way please call Charles Murphy at (325) 754 5577.

WAF asking for donations

The Winters Area Foundation is the perfect place to consider making a final charitable gift of the 2014 year. Your tax deductible donation will be used to assist Winters area organizations, award scholarships to deserving Winters students, and benefit the community of Winters.

Donations may be made in memory of a loved one, to honor a colleague, or to give someone the joy of knowing you love them. Financial gifts are received throughout the year, but this reminder might help your tax situation. Donations may be sent to Winters Area Foundation, P.O. Box 211, Winters, TX 79567.

Historical marker project in need of donations

The Texas Historical Commission has approved a Texas historical marker for the community of Winters. The marker will have an inscription with a brief history of Winters and will be located between the Blue Gap Post Office and the Library.

The marker will be the same size as the Chick-Inn Marker which was dedicated in 2013. The dedication of the marker is planned for Saturday, February 28, 2015, in conjunction with the Winters Quasiquicentennial Celebration (125th birthday).

The Z. I. Hale Museum is the sponsor for the Winters marker. The cost of the project is \$1,900. A significant amount has been raised so far, but funds are still

FSA announces new yield data for safety net calculations

WINTERS ENTERPRISE
STAFF REPORT

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency Administrator Val Dolcini offered farmers new information to update program payment yields that will help them better select protections offered by the Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs. The new programs, established by the 2014 Farm Bill, are cornerstones of the commodity farm safety, offering farmers protection when market forces cause substantial drops in crop prices and revenues.

"The Farm Bill provided landowners with the option of updating their farm program payment yields. This is the first time that many producers have been able to update yields since

1986," said Dolcini. "We've worked with the Risk Management Agency to make available certified yield data that producers can use to better calculate how the new safety net programs can offer the best protection against market swings."

Producers can check with their local FSA county office to see if data is available for them. This data belongs to the producer and only the producer associated with the crop insurance records will be provided this service. Updating yield history or reallocating base acres can occur until Feb. 27, 2015.

FSA also issued a reminder that from Nov. 17, 2014, to March 31, 2015, producers will make a one-time election of either ARC or PLC for the 2014 through 2018 crop years.

needed before the dedication.

Donations may be made to the Z. I. Hale Museum (Marker Fund), P.O. Box 211, Winters 79567.

Winters 125th Birthday ornaments

The Quasiquicentennial Christmas Tree Ornaments are here. They are on sale at the Rock Hotel Gift Shop and other retailers around town. The funds raised will be used to fund other souvenir purchases and from those sales we will have sufficient monies to support our planned activities.

For more information contact John Long at zihalemuseum@wtxs.net or (325) 754 5389.

Winters Area Chamber of Commerce meetings

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

TEEA 'Friendly Neighbors'

The Texas Extension Education Agency "Friendly Neighbors" invites everybody in the Winters and Ballinger area who is interested in learning about cooking, gardening and arts and crafts to join us on the fourth Tuesday of every month (except during summer) at 2 p.m. at the Runnels County Extension Office on the corner of South Seventh and Sealy Ave in Ballinger.

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

AA Meetings

AA meetings are held at 204 W. Truett behind church on Main St. Tuesday and Thursday at 7 p.m.

Ballinger Al-Anon meetings

Al-Anon meetings will be held every Monday and Wednesday at the First United Methodist Church of Ballinger, on Broad Ave. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. Please enter through the south side of the church.

City Council Meetings

Winters City Council meets at 6 p.m. the last Monday of the month at 310 North Main.

WIC open to many incomes and families

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

Ballinger Masonic Lodge meetings

Masonic Lodge No. 643, 500 N Broadway, Ballinger, Texas. Stated meetings are at 7 p.m. on the first Monday of every month except for holidays if it falls on that Monday. For more information call (325) 365 3202.

Wingate Masonic Lodge meetings

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

Paint Rock Masonic Lodge meetings

Paint Rock Masonic Lodge No. 613 meets the first Thursday night of each month at 7:30 p.m. Supper will be provided after the meeting. The Masonic Lodge building is located at 360 South Roberts on Highway 83 South.

For more information, producers are encouraged to make an appointment to go into their local FSA county office. To find a local FSA county office, visit www.offices.usda.gov. Additional information on the new programs is available at www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc.

These programs were made possible through the 2014 Farm Bill, which builds on historic economic gains in rural America over the past five years, while achieving meaningful reform and billions of dollars in savings for the taxpayer. Since enactment, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has made significant progress to implement each provision of this critical legislation, including providing disaster relief to farmers and ranchers; strengthening

risk management tools; expanding access to rural credit; funding critical research; establishing innovative public-private conservation partnerships; developing new markets for rural-made products; and investing in infrastructure, housing and community facilities to help improve quality of life in rural America. For more information, visit www.usda.gov/farmbill. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).

Youth learn science, life skills through 4-H robotics programs

PAUL SCHATTEBERG
SPECIAL TO THE WINTERS ENTERPRISE

DALLAS- Mark Janecka, 15, of Georgetown 4-H, is doing something people wouldn't typically associate with a 4-H project - he is building and programming his own robot.

Janecka is using a Lego Mindstorms kit as part of a distance-learning project made available through Texas 4-H, which is administered by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, an agency of the Texas A&M University System. "I've been involved in model rocketry through 4-H for a while now, but I wanted to try robotics because I'm interested in that too," he said. "I wanted to know more about both of them for a possible career in aerospace, robotics or some sort of engineering."

"I've always enjoyed building and programming things and plan to continue working with robots and getting more experience with them," he said. "I'm even on the new (state) 4-H Robotics Advisory Committee."

Introducing young people to robotics teaches them skills related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics, as well as important life skills, said

Derrick Bruton, AgriLife Extension program specialist for 4-H and youth development in Dallas.

"Through Texas 4-H, AgriLife Extension and other A&M entities are involved in efforts to interest youth and adults in robotics," Bruton said.

Bruton said the 4-H Science, Engineering and Technology program of Texas 4-H, of which robotics is an integral portion, is part of a national initiative to bring science back into 4-H project work.

"Nationally our science, engineering and technology programs reach more than 5 million youth with hands-on learning experiences, including robotics," said Dr. Chris Boleman, Texas 4-H program director and member of the board of trustees of the National 4-H Council.

Robotics-related information for 4-H is posted at <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/robotics>. "4-H robotics programs are available through AgriLife Extension in many counties throughout the state, particularly in urban areas and as shorter-term special interest programs. The 4-H robotics curriculum uses a variety of media and methods to engage youth

in scientific inquiry, engineering design, developing new skills and knowledge, and considering careers in science and technology."

Bruton said one robotics

opportunity recently made available to Texas 4-H members is a free online course created by Dr. Tanja Karp, associate professor in Texas Tech University.

The Winters Enterprise

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From the Chief's Desk Overreacting

By Randall Davis
Winters Chief of Police

It's been a few weeks since I was able to contribute an article in our local paper so I thought I would kind of jump back in here and do it again. We have all been pretty busy with the holiday season and so far it's been a great fall and winter here in Texas. I wish I could say as much for the rest of the country. We have all seen the news and if you watch the briefs of the police killing "innocent" people coming out of New York and Missouri with the fallout spreading across the nation, one might start believing civilization is crashing down around us.

It seems you cannot turn on the TV or open a newspaper any more without experiencing some tale of the overreacting, power abusing, trigger happy, racist police out looking to beat or shoot an innocent citizen. I can not tell you all cops are fault free, but I can tell you, I've been a police officer going on 27 years and have worked with and met a lot of police officers. Of all the officers I have known, none fit in the category as being depicted in the news.

Yes, there are racial

issues in our society but those issues are not shade specific, neither is hatred, nor ignorance. But it makes for good news, builds ratings and sells TV time. I don't care how dark or light a person's skin is, if we all fall of our tricycles and skin our knees, we all bleed the same red juices.

I grew up in an era where Andy Griffith kept peace while never wearing a gun, Reed and Malloy patrolled the Streets of L.A. protecting the city, and Sgt Joe Friday always got the bad guy on Dragnet. The police officer was always the hero of the day, solving disputes, keeping children from harm, saving little old ladies from purse snatchers and protecting society from the bad guys. We still do all that along with being specialized investigators, forensic scientist, 3 a.m. family counselors, the shoulder to cry on, local ball coach, big brother and often surrogate parent.

Yes, sometimes incidents do occur thrusting an officer into a situation of less desirable circumstances. During these situations officers are sometimes forced to take extreme action, either to protect society or themselves.

The unfortunate side of the job is that undesirable circumstances do occur, with little time to plan out options, resulting in less than desirable results.

I always believed the job of a police officer was an honorable profession. I still do.

I have never encountered the police officer who looked forward to shooting anyone. That is the last nightmare anyone of us would want to experience or live with. Life is too short and precious and we only have one shot at it. The goal is to do the best we can. We didn't become police officers for the great 9-5 work hours, the higher than average pay, the excitement of getting to know all the obnoxious drunks or the opportunity of getting to drive really fast cars with really cool lights. OK, maybe the fast car and really cool light thing played a part in it, but the truth is still simply, sometimes, on occasion, a situation presents itself where a police officer finds himself in the position of intervening in a crisis and his actions makes someone's life a little better. Sometimes we even get to save that life and that makes it all worth it.

Kent Bush: Riots don't solve problems

More Content Now

Bad thoughts lead to bad actions.

Most people are far more able to see the words or deeds of others leading to bad actions than they are to be able to see the same actions in the mirror.

There is no doubt that a man in New York City became outraged by recent police actions against unarmed black men that resulted in unnecessary deaths. Whether it was the acts themselves or the irresponsible rhetoric that followed that incited his irrational anger, the man chose to gun down two good cops this weekend.

His actions weren't based on getting justice. He was seeking revenge. All he did was exacerbate the problem.

Now all police across the country are forced to be on high alert because that incident reminds them that any one of them could become a victim at any time.

Guess what. That was always true. The situation may be worse today than it was three months ago, but when a Butler County (Kansas) deputy was shot during a simple traffic stop on Labor Day 2013, that had nothing to do with race relations or rhetoric. Every day when a police officer reports for duty, they know that the possibility exists that very bad things could happen to them - sometimes for no reason at all.

Still they continue to put on the uniform and head

to work because despite the attention that the few bad apples get, the police are the good guys.

I have been a reporter for more than 20 years. My first big story was about lazy cops. Some officers in my hometown were calling in on the radio pretending to be working while they were actually sitting in an all-night coffee shop where several of them worked as off-duty security officers. But all cops aren't lazy.

I covered another huge story about six months after my career began where a cop was accused of a sexual offense. But all cops aren't sexual offenders. Some cops break the law. But all cops aren't lawbreakers.

They are human. They feel fear. Some fall prey to temptation. Some also perform heroic acts that most of us would never consider attempting.

Cops aren't superheroes. That's why I have a problem with MSNBC's coverage of the execution of two good cops this weekend.

They talk about policing Gotham City. Obviously, this reference is to the city patrolled by Batman. Batman isn't coming to save the day. There are no superheroes to save us, or the police.

To turn New York City into Gotham City and try to make officers into superheroes changes perceptions in important ways. The police are hard-working, well-meaning people who try to prevent crimes or at least catch the people who commit them. They don't have

superpowers to help them do that.

I'm sure if they were given out second chances, Darren Wilson would have shot the Michael Brown in the legs knowing that he didn't have a firearm. I'm sure if they could dial back the clock, the officers in New York City would have allowed the man struggling to breathe to sit up and catch his breath.

But there aren't any second chance dealers around here.

All we can do is allow these bitter pills to work their way through the system. Justice is not always served. The good guys don't always win.

If you are looking for a perfect world, you'll need to move along.

If a law needs to be passed or a policy enacted to prevent future incidents, then by all means, get it done.

But rhetoric and riots don't solve problems.

They only serve to fan the flames of fury until they burn out of control.

It is time for our leaders to restore peace. Justice can't come from chaos.

We can't continue to put thousands of officers in jeopardy because of the questionable behavior of a few.

H-E-B issues recall for certain spiced meats

WINTERS ENTERPRISE
STAFF REPORT

SAN ANTONIO—H-E-B has issued a voluntary and precautionary recall for H-E-B bulk cryovac and tray packed Chorizo and H-E-B cryovac Pork Al Pastor due to undeclared peanut allergens in seasoning provided by Adams Food Flavors and Ingredients. There have been no reported illnesses related to this precautionary recall.

People who have an allergy or severe sensitivity to peanuts run the risk of serious or life-threatening allergic reaction if they consume these products. H-E-B is asking customers that may have one of these products to return it to their H-E-B store for a full refund.

H-E-B was notified of this issue on the evening of Dec. 26 2014 when Adams Food Flavors and Ingredients announced that one of the spice blend ingredient components had tested positive for pea-

nut residue. This spice blend is added only to random weight, tray packed H-E-B Chorizo and Cryovac packed Pork Al Pastor. All impacted items have been removed.

Products being recalled include:
H-E-B Bulk Tray Pack Chorizo - Random Weight Sell By 11/4/2014 through Sell By 12/28/14

H-E-B Retail Tray Pack Chorizo - Random Weight Sell By 10/25/2014 through 1/4/2015

H-E-B Cryovac Pork Al Pastor - Random Weight Sell By 10/31/2014 through 1/9/2015.

The voluntary recall has been issued by H-E-B, in an abundance of caution, to ensure the safety of its customers. "H-E-B is committed to the highest standards of food safety for our customers," said Winell Herron, Group Vice President of Public Affairs and Diversity.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

"Christmas Team"

Across

- 1 Creepy sort
- 6 It sounds the same as B
- 11 Thing to shoot for
- 14 Potato State
- 15 Last stand fortress
- 16 Cereal box abbr.
- 17 "Foxy lady"
- 18 "Night sky streaker"
- 19 You may bookmark it
- 20 Summer, in Paris
- 21 Fundamental beliefs
- 23 Prepare a present
- 24 "Short distance runner"
- 26 Vehicle pulled by the team in the starred clues
- 28 Sport—(common vehicle)
- 29 Kiddie lit brat
- 31 "Come Fly With Me" lyricist
- 34 Structural bar
- 35 Big gun lobby; Abbr.
- 38 "Lightning, in German"
- 41 "Frisky type"
- 43 Frat letter, briefly
- 44 Put in a chip
- 46 Big British refs.
- 47 Persisted
- 49 Capture a gold
- 51 "Lethal Weapon" director
- 53 "Ballerina"
- 56 Melville work
- 57 "— are saying is give..."
- 58 Realm of beauty
- 61 On Soc. Sec., say
- 62 "Boy with a bow"
- 64 26-Across driver
- 66 Carnival guess
- 67 Clear wrongs
- 68 Milk producer
- 69 Shell offering
- 70 "Gradually narrow down"
- 71 Maker of Schlitz beer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14						15					16	
17						18					19	
20					21	22				23		
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51	52							53	54			55
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											59	60
61						62	63			64	65	
66											68	
69											71	

Down

- 1 Subsist
- 2 Cut a scene
- 3 Strained
- 4 Fidel's associate
- 5 Square
- 6 Hidden trope
- 7 Hardwood user
- 8 Escapes, slangily
- 9 Rosemary Clooney's "Botch—"
- 10 Playground user
- 11 Lustful longing
- 12 "What—" ("Bummer!")
- 13 Designer Lauren
- 22 Index omission
- 23 Horrormeister Craven

- 25 Family gathering visitor
- 26 Québec evening
- 27 Kedrova of "Torn Curtain"
- 30 Lt. Columbo's employer
- 31 "Survivor" station
- 32 "— Baba"
- 33 Soprano's range
- 34 Two prepositions in one
- 36 Suggestion by a sommelier
- 37 "— poetica": Horace
- 39 Grey of the "Purple Sage"
- 40 Art print, briefly
- 42 Fewer than few
- 45 Court limit

- 48 Big-selling card game
- 49 Weather vane dir.
- 50 Gets slippery, as a road
- 51 Hood in the 'hood?
- 52 Alpha opposite
- 54 Carving wood
- 55 Soul predecessor
- 57 Each, in pricing
- 59 66 and others
- 60 Acidic
- 62 Mouse chaser
- 63 Hagen on the stage
- 65 Org. on a toothpaste box

LAST WEEK'S ANSWER GRID

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

Weather Whys

Q: How does the jet stream affect the weather where I live?

A: The strength of the jet stream enables it to push weather systems from one area to another, thereby greatly affecting the weather where you live, making some places stormy and giving others extended periods of fair weather, says Brent McRoberts of Texas A&M. Because the jet stream winds are greatly affected by mountains and oceans, their movement is not always a uniform west to east direction. "They often contain arcs or dips, creating what meteorologists call troughs and ridges. Since the jet stream usually separates warmer air to its south, extended spells of warm or cold weather can be caused by jet stream patterns, too. There is still a lot of research being done on the jet stream, but we do know that it may stretch for thousands of miles around the world."

TxDOT reminding Texans risks of drinking and driving

WINTERS ENTERPRISE
STAFF REPORT

AUSTIN— The Texas Department of Transportation reminds motorists that law enforcement will be out in force on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day in an effort to reduce crashes and discourage drunk driving.

"The New Year's Eve holiday has historically been a dangerous time on our roadways," said TxDOT Executive Director LtGen Joe Weber, USMC (Ret). "Texans should plan ahead for a sober ride or risk suffering the consequences. Drunk driving will not be tolerated in Texas."

TxDOT's annual Holiday Impaired Driving Campaign began Dec. 1 and runs through New Year's Day to promote the importance of planning for a sober ride. The campaign coincides with an increase in law enforcement patrols aimed at reducing the number of impaired driving crashes in Texas during the holiday season. Numerous law enforcement agencies throughout the state also will implement no-refusal initiatives.

Drivers arrested for DWI can face jail time and up to \$17,000 in court costs and legal fees. The legal limit for intoxication in Texas is .08 blood or breath alcohol concentration (BAC).

During last year's New Year's holiday (from 6 p.m. on Dec. 31 to midnight on Jan. 1), there were 218 DUI alcohol-related traffic crashes in Texas resulting in 10 fatalities and 76 injuries (both incapacitating and non-incapacitating). These DUI alcohol-related fatalities marked an increase of 25 percent from the previous New Year's holiday.

Other TxDOT efforts to curb impaired driving include partnering with the National Safety Council and some of the state's largest employers to promote the safe and sober message; working with the Texas Hospitality Association and Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission to distribute sober ride materials in stores and venues where alcohol is sold.

Community Board



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Financial Advisor

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ROLL-UP

Runnels County

4 Winters Enterprise

Thursday, January 01, 2015

THE IDLE AMERICAN A special rocking chair...

Commentary by:
Dr. Don Newbury

At any given moment, folks are clearing attics and basements and marking garage sale items. They cling to the idiom that one man's (or woman's) trash is another one's treasure. Such has been the case for decades.

Sure enough, buyers show up, sometimes paying dimes on dollars for items that may need new paint, renovation or repairs to be made usable — or attractive for re-sale. Prices often are negotiated, and friendly "haggling" is not uncommon. (Both sellers and buyers believe they're making "real killings.")

That's the background for this account. Abigail Criner is a resident of Bellville, TX, where husband Michael has been a church



TEXAS
COLUMNIST
Don
Newbury

pastor for two years. Early on, with daughters Adele and Ruth — now 4 and 3, respectively — she visited a garage sale, spotting a rocking chair she believed had "real potential." Abby paid \$15 for it, feeling she'd find time to sand, varnish and reupholster to restore its original splendor....

In short, the project was placed on her "to do" list. Instead of moving up, though, it moved to a "one-of-these-days list," iffy at best. Before long, she was pregnant with her third child, Talitha, now 11 months old. Suddenly, her lists seemed longer than the longest of bucket lists. While she loved the thought of rocking three youngsters, "must do" duties pushed her lesser "to

do's" to the side. Back in October, Abby decided to have a garage sale. Sadly, almost tearfully, she included the rocker in it, pricing it at \$5. Sure enough, a woman — also a new Bellville resident — paid the five bucks, confident she could restore the rocker to its original condition. Telling her story to the purchaser she knew only as "Annie," Abby asked if she could see it when the project was completed....

Soon, the rocker was both out of sight and almost out of mind. The Criners saw Annie again recently during the community's annual Small Town Christmas. It featured parades, giveaways at local businesses, caroling and even "Breakfast with Santa." This time, she was dressed as "Mrs. Claus," handing out candy to the children as she

proudly represented the local chapter of the American Cancer Society. To Michael, Abby and the girls, though, she was "Mrs. Claus" — not the woman who had purchased the old rocking chair....

A few days before Christmas, the Criners' doorbell rang. Abby answered it. There was Annie, standing beside a beautifully restored rocking chair. "Merry Christmas," she said. Then, Annie returned to her car and drove away. Abby was stunned. The rocking chair now is one of her most cherished Christmas gifts of all time — not so much for its value, but because it is the centerpiece of a wonderful Christian gesture — the likes of which we tend to believe happened only in the long ago. And talk about a gift that keeps on giving....

led to do so....

Maybe it wasn't too long after the invention of the wheel that someone discovered that half a wheel can be fashioned to provide rocking motion for cradles and chairs. I'm guessing that such locomotion may be technologically enhanced as future decades unroll. I doubt, though, that mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, aunts, sisters and others will be interested in the "improved" versions. They'll stick with their old-fashioned rocking chairs, putting up with their creaks, peeling paint and crayon marks. After all, they're grand for holding children close — singing and reading to them, praying for them and helping them get to sleep. And it is a "Christmasy kind of warmth" to know there still are people like Annie "out there" who gift others simply because they feel

United Way many years ago in a little town capitalized on this slogan: "Don't give 'til it hurts; give 'til it feels good!" Some learn this truism early on; some never do. As we face the clean slate of a new year, let's look for ways to assist others — yes, even people whose names and stories we don't know. To "pass it on" is nothing new. The Holy Bible instructs us to look after each other. As others are blessed, so are we. Happy New Year!...

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

GOT NEWS

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By fax to 325-365-5389.

By email to news@ballingerledger.com.

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The **Ballinger Ledger**

The **Winters Enterprise**

Jim Brock: A lot of this is our fault

More Content Now

The year 2014 has been anything but uneventful, but it should be noted that our report card isn't looking too good.

After careful review, and some help from the work of "The Newsroom" creator Aaron Sorkin, I have concluded that we, the media, bear most of the blame.

We have failed to do our jobs effectively in the manner prescribed by the U.S. Constitution.

These days, we are more like drug peddlers and campaign spokesmen than journalists.

It's the same story - the conservative media hates President Obama and his merry band of liberals, while left-wing news organizations rail against the GOP.

Those who don't fall to the extreme right or left typically allow ratings to dictate how they will spin their stories.

It wasn't always like this.

News stories are now menu items, and dollars dictate what is newsworthy, what is covered and how it is covered. Whether you get your news from a TV network, newspaper, magazine or website, everyone falls somewhere on the political spectrum.

If you're angry with someone, you wouldn't seek advice from his or her close friend or relative, so why would you get your news from a source that doesn't mirror your political, religious and philosophical views, especially when you'd rather be patronized than given a truthful assessment?

But finding objectivity is the rub, as reporters who resist the urge to editorialize in news stories are slowly going the way of the 8-track player.

Because let's face it, who REALLY wants fair and balanced - if there really is such a thing? The straight news story, which doesn't always involve a scandal, a murder or some type of negativity, can be boring.

Using our national discourse as a yard stick, most news is boring unless the storyteller can convince the reader or viewer of which side is right and which is wrong.

But our job is not to entertain - it is to inform.

At some point, some

charlatan had the bright idea that the two would make a profitable hybrid. And then came the technological boom of the 21st century.

The digital crack pipes we carry around in our pockets deliver everything from email and social networking to games, music, video and TV. While we once relied on the evening news and the daily newspaper, news is now disseminated in myriad forms, many of which are at unreliable at best.

Those of us who continue to fight the good fight are faced with tight budgets, causing the quality and quantity of our coverage to suffer.

We do what we have to do, but we don't do it for the money, and we certainly don't do it for the accolades. We are often pariahs in our own communities, because we either don't do enough or go too far when we do.

And that is a good thing, because at least our communities care enough to complain. A critical community is better than an indifferent one. Criticism is support, whether you realize it or not.

The media serves the general public, but cannot be controlled by it. It seems paradoxical, but it really isn't.

I, for one, am not ready to give up on my chosen profession, which the First Amendment names and protects specifically.

Thomas Jefferson once said, "Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

A former colleague of mine once said that freedom of the press only exists for the man who owns one. I disagree, as the owner is as beholden to revenue as his employees. I just hope that as we usher in 2015, our nation will once again embrace the beauty of a free and fair press, both of which have been lost to dollars and a lack of sense.

Ponder that!
Jim Brock is managing editor of the Nebraska City News-Press. He can be reached at jbrock@ncnewspress.com.

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210 Spill, Winters, Texas - 4 bdrm/1 bath, corner lot, no maintenance siding, metal roof, screened porch, nice yard, pecan trees, garage, storage 1,654 sq. ft. per RCAD

115 E. Pierce, Winters, Texas - Duplex, great investment property! 1 bdrm/1-3/4 bath, dining, large kitchen, large den, fireplace, covered patio, guest house, plus much more. Rental unit has two bedrooms, and 1-3/4 baths - you have to see this home to believe it.

1718 CR 355, Winters, Texas - 2 bedroom, 2 bath home only minutes from town. Brick, two living areas, one with insert, approx. 1-2 acres (survey pending), barn, pecan trees.

221 N. Church, Winters, Texas - 2 bdrm, 1-1/2 bath home, cent t/va, Two living rooms, use one as a third bedroom/office, dining room, large yard with pecan trees, garage, carport, covered patio, water well, carriage house.

109 CR 395, Wingate, Texas - newly remodeled 3 bdrm, 1 bath, very clean, living, kitchen, utility room, large yard, pecan trees, carport, water well.

601 N. Heights, Winters, Texas - 5 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath, two living areas. Two stories, hardwood floors, tall ceilings, large picture window in the living, built in hutch in the dining room. Across street from Winters school campus. 3,354 total sq. ft. per RCAD, living plus third floor attic space

106 West, Winters, Texas - 3 bedroom, 1 bath, hardwood floors, central heat, new roof, small fenced yard with covered patio, carport, pecan trees.

214 Paloma, Winters, Texas - 3 bedroom / 2 bath, dining room, nice kitchen, pecan trees, 576 square ft metal shop with attached carport.

705 W Dale, Winters, Texas - 2 bedroom / 1 bath, updated floors and paint, fireplace, central heat, attached garage and alley entry garage, screened porch.

315 E. Pierce, Winters, Texas - 3 bedroom / 2 bath, high ceilings, large closets, 2 living areas, dining room and large informal dining, bonus room upstairs for extra bedroom or playroom, utility room, hobby room, central heat and air, new cedar fence, large metal shop.

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THE YEAR THAT WAS



Wanda Brewer (photo) was awarded Woman of the Year, Randy Coach received Man of the Year honors, and the Business of the Year was for Daisy Patch at the 2014 Winters Area Chamber of Commerce annual banquet, on March 29.

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ketball district realignment is announced. The UIL district realignment was announced at the Region XV Education Service Center, in San Angelo. Winters was paired with Bronte, Menard, Miles, Roby, and Roscoe in District 6-2A Division II.

Feb. 10

Rowena man busted with pipe bomb

A homemade bomb was defused, and a homemade gun and marijuana plants were seized in Rowena, after a local resident posted an online classified ad trying to sell one of the plants to an undercover Runnels County Sheriff's Deputy.

David James Richardson, 26-years-of-age, of Rowena, Texas, was arrested and charged with two counts for the possession of a prohibited weapon, and for possession of marijuana.

The bomb, which authorities believe was manufactured to booby trap the marijuana plants, surfaced after an undercover Sheriff's Deputy got in contact with Richardson in response to a Craigslist ad about a plant for sale.

Mar. 4

Incumbents re-elected in local primary

All incumbents were re-elected in the March 4 Runnels County Republican primary contested races. In the only contested race where there was not an incumbent participating, County Judge Assistant Julia Miller defeated Assistant County Clerk Amanda Collom for Runnels County Clerk.

Miller had a total of 913 votes, gathering a 54.3 percent of the 1,680 votes cast, while Amanda Collom received 767 votes, 45.7 percent.

In the race for County Commissioner Pct. No. 2 incumbent Ronald Presley got 243 votes (64.5 percent) by 134 (35.5 percent) of the challenger Dickie Clough.

Running for re-election Pct. 4 County Commissioner Ricky Strube defeated the challenger Romer Scott. Strube received 486 votes totaling 82.9 percent by 100 (17.1 percent) votes cast for Scott.

Both of the Runnels Co. Justices of the Peace ran in contested races. Precinct No. 1 Judge Glenda Wood got 761 votes (67.9 percent) by 359 (32.1 percent) of challenger Steven Gray. In the Pct. No. 2 race Judge Richard Hamilton got 442 votes (78.4 percent) vs. 122 (32.1 percent) cast for challenger Louise Summers.

Mar. 1

Blue Gap Post Office is re-opened

The Blue Gap Post Office is re-opened, at 120 North Main Street, 136 years after the post opened for the first time, a rededication ceremony was held at its new location in Winters, Texas, just north of the Winters Public Library.

The log cabin, which was in service from 1878 to 1882, was restored, relocated and rebuilt after being donated to the Z.I. Hale Museum in 2000.

Originally located in Coleman County, but found to be in Runnels by a survey made after the organization of the new county in 1880, the Blue Gap Post Office

was established February 14, 1878.

The original location was a little over 16 miles east of Winters.

Mar. 6

WHS band earns Sweepstakes trophy

The Winters High School Band competed in the Region UIL Concert and Sight Reading contest held in Coleman. The band received First Division ratings in both the concert and sight reading portions. Those ratings combined with their First Division rating at Marching Contest earlier in the school year, earned the band the coveted "Sweepstakes" trophy. This is only the third Sweepstakes for the Blizzard band since 1976. Previous Sweepstakes were earned in 2009 and 2011.

The band performed three pieces from a list of allowed songs provided by the University Interscholastic

League. A concert march titled "Captain Dane March" by William Owens, "Conviction" by Larry Clark, and "Majestica" by Gary Gazlay.

Mar. 11

Man shot on Rodgers St.

A man was shot and sent to the hospital with non life-threatening injuries. The incident occurred at his residence located at 505 North Rodgers, in Winters, Texas. A suspect was later put in custody and sent to the Runnels County Jail.

At 5:30 a.m. Winters Police Officer Zach Mazey responded to a call of shots being fired on Rodgers Street. Upon arrival to the scene he found 31-year-old Adrian Rodriguez with a shotgun wound to the arm.

According to Winters Chief of Police Randall Davis, Rodriguez stated that he heard somebody trying to break in to the house and when he opened the door he was shot through the screen door.

Rodriguez was taken to the North Runnels Hospital and later transported by ambulance to Hedrick Medical Center in Abilene, Texas.



The Spirit of Christmas embraced the Rock Hotel for the sixth annual Christmas Trees exhibit, Dec. 1 through 20.

Mar. 25

Flanagans named Family of the Year

The family of Scott and Mylea Flanagan was named Farm Family of the Year, Tractor Supply received AgriBusiness of the Year honors, while each one of Jessica Kalina and Brylee Matschek were awarded with the Pat Lee scholarship Tuesday afternoon, at the 2014 Runnels County AgriPlex Ag Day sponsored by Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Southern Rolling Plains Cotton Growers Association.

This year's Farm Family of the Year award honors the Flanagans, both of them Doctors of Veterinary Medicine. The award was presented by the Glenn and Diane Halfmann family, recipients of the 2012 award.

Mar. 29

Annual Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet

Wanda Brewer was awarded Woman of the Year, Randy Coach received Man of the Year honors, and the Business of the Year was for Daisy Patch at the 2014 Winters Area Chamber of Commerce annual banquet, held at the Winters Community Center.

A special recognition was also



The Winters High School Band earned the coveted Sweepstakes trophy this 2014.

awarded to Fred Watkins, Roger Stephenson, Charles Brewer, and Mike Kozelsky, the construction crew behind the restoration project of the Blue Gap Post Office recently finished on Main Street, Winters.

Apr. 12

Memories of Times Past

The Memories of Times Past spring fest was held last Saturday, April 12, 2014 in Winters, benefiting a new roof for the Rock Hotel and the Agricultural Exhibit at the Gus Pruser Ag Museum. The fest attracted hundreds to the historical building, and all enjoyed a good time with the host of activities in the program including an antique car show, motorcycle display, tractor show and tractor olympics, a photo contest, quilt show, and entertainment.

May 3

Blizzard baseball claims Bi-District championship

The Winters Blizzards baseball team run-ruled Ft. Hancock in two games, to claim the Bi-District championship. Winters defeated Ft. Hancock 15-3 on game one, and by a score of 22-1 on game two. Both games were finished in the fifth inning.

May 10

Blizzard baseball team Area



The Winters Blizzards baseball team bounced back from a lost to Smyers, and won two games in a row to claim the championship in the Area round of the playoffs in Snyder, Texas. The Blizzards lost the first game on Friday night and won the following two of the best-of-three series.

champions

The Blizzards' playoff run would continue until May 17, when they finally fell in the third round of the postseason to Forsan.

Winters celebrates with the Mayfest

Winters and area residents celebrated the 2014 Winters Area Chamber of Commerce Mayfest, with vendors and rides, music and attractions, silent and live auctions, and many other activities held at the Ted Meyer Park, in Winters, Texas.

May 12

2014 Glacier Night

Junior Ashley Guy and senior Corey Pritchard were crowned the new Glacier Queen and King.

May 30

WHS graduation

The Winters High School Class of 2014 held the commencement exercises in a Special Events

Center packed with families, emotions and lots of memories.

School and School Board officials, as well as family mem-



Magan Ballard was crowned Sno-Queen on Dec. 13

bers who shared many years with these students, participated of the joy and emotions left behind. Some of them will start college, others will begin a career and some will be joining the military.

The ceremony featured salutarian Kara Kraatz and valedictorian Kara Hethcott, while recipients of the prestigious Jake Joyce Memorial award were Melissa Calcote and Dusty Hines.

Jul. 27

Four injured, one arrested in BWI at Winters lake

Four people were injured, two of them severely, in a boating accident occurring at approximately 6 p.m. at the Winters lake in Winters, Texas. A man was airlifted to Shannon Medical Center in San Angelo with several fingers severed, and a woman sustained a cut to the back of her head.

The driver of the boat, Brian Dempsey, 48, of Winters, Texas, was arrested for allegedly boating while intoxicated and intoxicated assault.

According to law enforcement, six people were on a bass boat headed across the lake when the driver made a sudden turn and four of the occupants were ejected. Alfred Yates, of Winters, Texas, sustained injuries possibly from the propeller and the windshield of the boat. Several of his fingers in both hands were severed. Yates was taken to North Runnels Hospital by Dempsey in a private vehicle. From there Yates was airlifted to Shannon Medical Center.

Omega Geherels, of Katy, Texas was also injured and transported by ambulance to Shannon Medical Center.

Aug. 5

Walmart Express breaks ground

Walmart was issued a construction permit in Winters, Texas, and without further ceremony the crews immediately started mowing and leveling the ground for the new Walmart Express.

Aug. 28

UT honors WHS graduate

Winters High School Class of 1960 graduate and Longhorns sports media icon Bill Little, was honored with the naming of the Bill Little Media Center at the University of Texas. Football and baseball press boxes were named the Bill Little Media Center to honor Little's involvement with Texas Athletics.

Little started his tenure with the University of Texas in 1968 as an assistant sports information director.

Sep. 6

12th annual Dove Fest held in Winters

The 12th Dove Fest held in Winters with the best turnout in several years. The parade featuring Dove Fest Queen candidates, antique cars, tractors and more made Main Street glow with colorful floats, and the entertainment at the Community Center brought dozens under the big tent.

The first Dove Fest Queen pageant attracted Winters High School juniors and seniors, with the crown being for WHS senior Gabriela Jimenez.

Sep. 27

Country Club Championship Tournament

The Winters Country Club held its Annual Championship Tournament, September 27-28. Anthony Ochoa placed first in Championship Flight. Second place was for Robin Byrd. In First Flight the winner was Rick Dry, followed by second place Barron Guy.

Oct. 13

Runnels Co AgriLife Extension agent promoted to district position

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service named Marty Gibbs as the new District Extension Administrator in District 7. Gibbs will be headquartered at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center located north of San Angelo on U.S. Highway 87.

Oct. 31

Blizzard Sweetheart crowned

Gabriela Reyes was crowned Winters Blizzards Football Sweetheart at halftime of the last home game of the season for the Blizzards. Gabriela is escorted here by her father Vin-ince Reyes and stepfather Alex Harrison.

Nov. 7

Blizzards clinch District Championship

Capping a 9-1 season the Winters Blizzards defeated the Menard Yellow Jackets, stayed undefeated in district, and secured a bye week for the playoffs. The victory gave the Blizzards their first District Championship since 1998.

Nov. 21

Blizzards take Area Championship

The Winters Blizzards went into the next round of the playoffs by defeating the Munday Moguls on Friday, November 21, 2014 by a score of 26-13. Winters claimed the Area Championship at the game held at Indian Stadium, in Tuscola, Texas.

The Blizzards would end their season on November 28, in Clyde, after being defeated by the Albany Lions in the Regional round of the playoffs. Albany took the victory by a score of 31-14.

Dec. 1

Spirit of Christmas at the Rock Hotel

The Spirit of Christmas embraced the Rock Hotel in Winters, Texas, decking the halls and rooms with dozens of originally decorated Christmas Trees, entertainment, delicious treats and more. The sixth annual exhibit was held through Dec. 20.

Dec. 11

Blizzard football gets 21 All-District nominations

Jimmy John Ripley was named MVP, Jake Brock got Defensive Player MVP, and Winters Blizzards head Coach Stan Caffey is the 2014 District 6-2A Coach of the Year, according to the All-District nominations recently released. The Blizzards a total of 21 nominations to All-District teams.

Dec. 13

Sno-Royalty crowned

The 2014 Christmas parade and Sno-Royalty pageant was held in Winters, Texas.

Magan Ballard was crowned Sno-Queen, while Emily Stratton was elected Sno-Princess and Jaleena Romero is the new Sno-Flake. They all received gift certificates and will be representing the City of Winters and the Winters Area Chamber of Commerce during 2014-2015 in events, socials, fund raisers and more. The crowning took place Saturday afternoon at the Lone Star Video and Diner parking lot.

Dec. 17

Historical Commission releases new book

The Runnels County Historical Commission's latest publication, "The Organization of Runnels County," was released. The book, a collection of county records and stories about the county's early beginnings, was compiled and written by Ruth Cooper, commission's chairperson.