

Starting in this edition, the Winters Public Library will be featuring a monthly book review with some of the books available at the library. This month featured book is Gray Mountain by John Grisham



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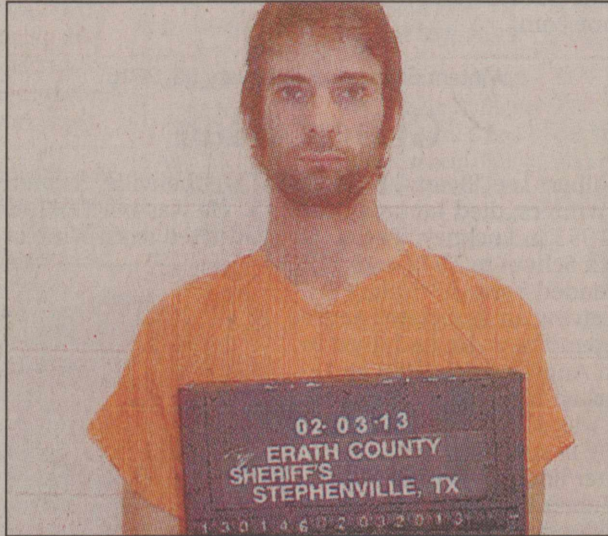


# Winters Enterprise

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Volume 25, Issue 11 Thursday, February 05, 2015 Winters, Texas 75¢

The trial of Eddie Ray Routh, alleged killer of "American Sniper" Chris Kyle, is set to begin on Wednesday, February 11 in Stephenville, Texas with jury selection. The Winters Enterprise will be bringing the most comprehensive coverage of the trial through our sister publication The Stephenville Empire-Tribune. Follow the latest developments of the trial including news stories, features, interviews and pictures of this trial that has garnered nationwide attention.



## Historical proclamation issued

Quasiquicentennial anniversary of the foundation of Winters brings history back to life

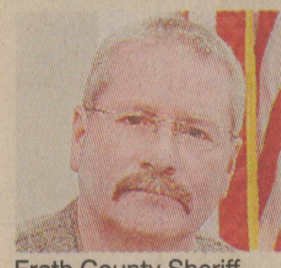
RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ  
WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS- In preparation for the Quasiquicentennial celebration — 125th anniversary of the foundation of the city — the City of Winters issued a proclamation, declaring February 28, 2015, the official date of the celebration.

The proclamation was issued on Monday, January 26, 2015 at the City Council meeting, and signed by City Mayor Lewis Bergman.

Last year the Texas Historical Commission approved a 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 Winters Public Library on the 100 block of North Main Street. The Z.I. Hale Museum is the sponsor for the Winters marker.

The quasiquicentennial celebration has sparked a number of events, including the marker dedication and the celebration of the Winters Area Chamber of Commerce annual banquet, where the names of the Man of the Year, Woman of the Year, Business of the Year and Agricultural Family of the Year will be announced. The banquet will be held on Feb. 28 at the Winters High School cafeteria.



Erath County Sheriff Tommy Bryant

### Trial raising security concerns

SARA VANDEN BERGE  
STEPHENVILLE EMPIRE-TRIBUNE

STEPHENVILLE- Erath County residents who have been summoned for jury duty in the trial of Eddie Routh have nothing to fear, Sheriff Tommy Bryant said last week.

"Jurors need to know that they will be absolutely safe," he said. "We have been working on security for months."

Some jurors have reportedly contacted the courthouse saying they are worried about their safety following a threatening phone call made to the Stephenville Empire-Tribune last week. Investigators subpoenaed the E-T's phone records and are trying to find out the source of the call.

Though county officials are treating it as a serious threat, they also say calls like this are not uncommon given the notoriety of the case.

Routh is accused of killing Chris Kyle and Chad Littlefield at a gun range at Rough Creek Lodge in February 2013. Jury selection is set to begin on February 9.

Bryant said bomb technicians, DPS troopers and Stephenville police will be on hand during the duration of the trial. There is also a command center with surveillance inside and outside the courthouse.

"Several days before the trial even begins we will be conducting searches throughout the courthouse looking for anything suspicious," Bryant said.

Jurors who are selected will be escorted by security to and from the courthouse every day once the trial begins.

## Nearly \$1 million spent in high profile trial

AUTUMN OWENS  
JOSH HARVILLE  
STEPHENVILLE EMPIRE TRIBUNE

STEPHENVILLE- The trial of Eddie Ray Routh, the accused killer of Chris Kyle and Chad Littlefield, is set to begin on February 11 and is budgeted for close to one million dollars. The trial is to be held at the Erath County Courthouse and is expected to last two weeks.

"It costs a lot of money to do a trial like this," said County Judge Tab Thompson. "We budgeted close to one million dollars for this trial. You never know when you start how much you need or will end up spending."

This budget is for all trial expenses including court appointed attorneys, security, expert witnesses and any other expense needed to conduct the capital murder trial. If there are any funds left over after the

completion of the trial, they will be refunded into the county's general fund.

Many people are concerned about the threat of danger during the trial, but Thompson assured the community is in good hands. "Security is a part of it, but to put a dollar figure on it, we won't know until the completion of the trial," he said. "They've got it handled well, they're doing a good job."

The Erath County Sheriff's Office sent out a press release Thursday afternoon ensuring the safety of the trial after an unidentified person made a phone call to the Empire-Tribune Monday referencing a bomb; the matter has been under investigation.

"Prior to the suspicious call made to the Empire-Tribune, the Erath County Sheriff's Office, Stephenville Police

Department and Texas Department of Public Safety had been making security precautions," stated the press release. "Explosive detecting canines had been secured by law enforcement and numerous uniformed and plain-clothed officers will be in place for security during the trial."

Sheriff Tommy Bryant said they will be conducting searches throughout the courthouse several days before the trial and that jurors will be escorted by security to and from the courthouse every day when the trial begins.

"Law enforcement does not believe there is a safety concern to citizens, the jury or participants of the trial," the press release read. "Every precaution is being taken to provide a safe environment to all concerned for the duration of the court proceedings."

## Local student wins at Ft Worth Stock Show

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
STAFF REPORT

FORT WORTH- Sage Murray, an FFA member from Runnels County, exhibited the National Regional Youth Reserve Champion Ewe in the Junior Dorper Show at the 2015 Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo on January 25.

The 2015 show hosted over 11,000 junior exhibitors, representing 237 counties across the State of Texas, competing for prizes and \$126,970 in premiums.

Since 1896, the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo has remained a prominent event in the livestock industry. The nation's oldest livestock show will see approximately 28,000 head of world-class livestock roll through "Cowtown" between January 16 through February 7. While the show is continually looking ahead, the focus on the livestock industry and our youth is unwavering.

"One of the Show's main priorities is our commitment to the livestock industry and the agriculture leaders of tomorrow," said Bradford S. Barnes, President and

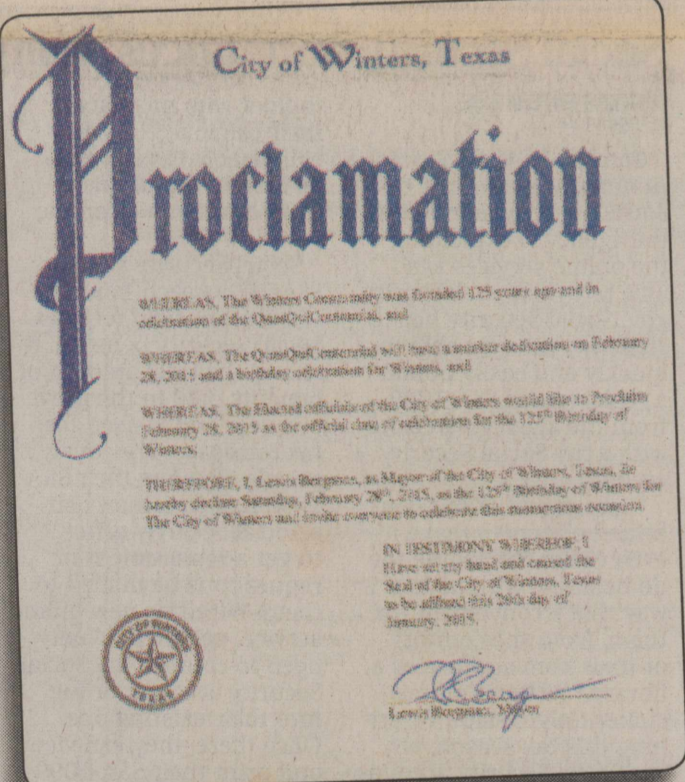


PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

Sage Murray, an FFA member from Runnels County, exhibited the National Regional Youth Reserve Champion Ewe at the 2015 Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo.

General Manager of the Fort Worth Stock Show. "Junior exhibitors learn many valuable life lessons during their years of showing livestock, which will serve them well throughout their lives. Our Show ensures a progressive future for agriculture by assisting in the development and education of 4-H and FFA

students." The 119th edition of the legendary Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo offers visitors a chance to experience the unique western lifestyle along with a one-of-a-kind combination of history, tradition and Western heritage. For more information and results, visit [www.fwssr.com](http://www.fwssr.com).



### Dedication recognized

Sidney Tucker, CEO of North Runnels Hospital retired December 31, 2014 after 41 years in the healthcare profession. Mr. Tucker was honored with a reception and a plaque from North Runnels Hospital District for his dedication to the district.

Pictured here is Tucker with members of the board of directors. Left to right: Lloyd Farris, Tucker, Dewey Whitfield, and Thurman Self. The Board of Directors and Staff of North Runnels Hospital wish Mr. Tucker well in his retirement.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

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WINTERS PUBLIC LIBRARY MONTHLY BOOK REVIEW

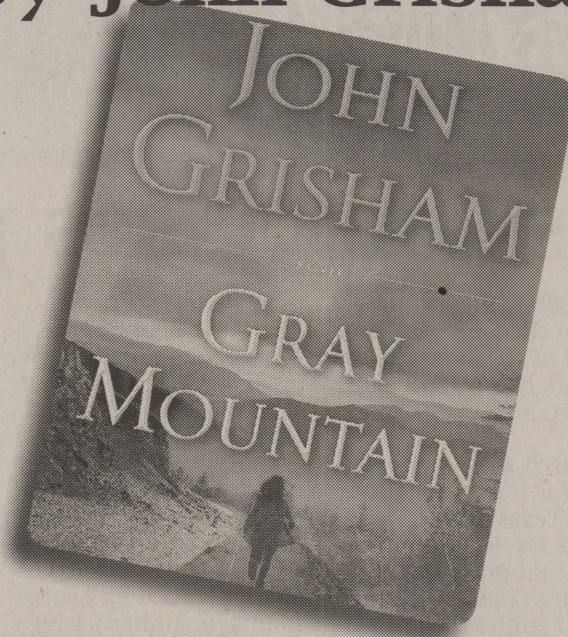
Gray Mountain by John Grisham

The new year is 2008 and Samantha's career at a Wall Street law firm is on the fast track-until the recession hits and she gets downsized, furloughed, escorted out of the building. Samantha is one of the lucky associates. She's offered an opportunity to work at a legal aid clinic for a year without pay, after which there would be a slim chance that she'll get her old job back.

She moves from Manhattan to Brady, Virginia, population 2,200.

Mattie, lifelong resident and head of the town's legal aid clinic, is there to teach her to "help real people with real problems". This is Samantha's first time to prepare a lawsuit, see the inside of an actual courtroom, get scolded by a judge, and receives threats from locals who aren't so thrilled to have a big-city lawyer in town. She discovers that Brady harbors some big secrets.

Her new job takes her into the murky and dangerous world of coal mining, where laws are often broken, rules are ignored and communities are divided. Within weeks Samantha finds herself engulfed in litigation that turns deadly.



Wheat, small grains and canola, in fine shape

ROBERT BURNS SPECIAL TO THE WINTERS ENTERPRISE

COLLEGE STATION- Thanks to good fall and spring rains throughout much of the state, most winter wheat and other small grains and cool-season oilseed crops like canola are in good shape, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service agronomist.

"I'm pleased to report that we are sitting on a pretty good crop right now," said Dr. Clark Neely, AgriLife Extension small grains and oilseed specialist, College Station.

Wheat was in considerably better condition for this time of year compared to last year, he said.

"Some stripe and leaf rust have been reported in winter wheat fields across the state, so inoculum (spores) is already present if weather conditions are favorable for rust development this spring," Neely noted.

The favorable outlook goes for most wheat and small grains, but particularly for canola, he said.

"You can never tell 100 percent, because last year we had pretty good fall moisture at about this time, and then the water shut off, and then we had a really dry spring," Neely said.

Texas Brigades youth camps begin summer registration now

STEVE BYRNS WINTERS ENTERPRISE

SAN ANGELO- Registration has begun for the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service's Texas Brigades summer wildlife leadership camps, said Dr. Dale Rollins, the camps' coordinator.

"This summer marks 23 years that the camps have been honing young leaders through the Texas Brigades curriculum," Rollins said. "That's the whole goal of the camps, to give young people the confidence and skills needed to assume professional leadership roles in the future.

"And while our camps feature quail, deer, bass, ducks and livestock, the aim is to equip young people with the resources and determination needed to really make a difference in wildlife conservation and proper land management throughout their lives."

Rollins said all the camps held at various locations across the state share the focus of teaching youth leadership skills, natural resources conservation and proper ranch management. Each camp is limited to 20-30 students ages 13 through 17.

"The camps are designed to develop such life skills as critical thinking and team building through fun and interesting activities surrounding the particular camp's species of wildlife or livestock," Rollins said.

Ike Garcia, the Rolling Plains Bobwhite Brigade's Top Cadet-2014 from Italy, Texas had this to say about his Brigade experience: "The program is more than a camp to me; it's a huge part of my life. It is paving my road and the roads of many others."

Micayla Pearson of La Vernia attended the South Texas Bobwhite Brigade in 2013 and returned to participate in the South Texas Buckskin Brigade in 2014. She said: "The Brigades have not only provided me educational opportunities, they also developed a skill set, which has enabled me to do things I never believed I would do. I'm thankful for the skills that will make me a better college applicant and a more marketable job candidate, but mostly a better steward of the land."

The camp dates and locations are:

- Rolling Plains Bobwhite Brigade, June 13-17, Centennial Lodge, Coleman.

- South Texas Buckskin Brigade, June 14-18, Southern Star Ranch, Uvalde.

- South Texas Bobwhite Brigade, June 26-30, Buck Horn Creek Ranch, McCoy.

- Bass Brigade, July 7-11, Warren Ranch, Santa Anna.

- Ranch Brigade, July 14-18, Warren Ranch.

- North Texas Buckskin Brigade, July 19-23, Warren Ranch.

- Waterfowl Brigade, July 19-23, Big Woods on the Trinity, Tennessee Colony.

The camps are a partnership effort of AgriLife Extension, Texas Wildlife Association, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, several universities, conservation groups, local soil and water conservation districts, private businesses, and individuals. Applications may be completed online at http://www.texasbrigades.org. For more information email at hholdsforth@texas-wildlife.org or zalvarado@texas-wildlife.org or call 855-TXBRIGS (855-892-7447).

CAFETERIA MENU Subject to Change\*

Feb. 9 - 13

Winters ISD Breakfast Menu

Monday

Breakfast Taco or Cereal w/Graham Cracker, Pineapple, Fruit Juice, Choice of Milk.

Tuesday

Pancakes or Cereal w/Graham Cracker, Mixed Fruit, Fruit Juice, Choice of Milk.

Wednesday

Breakfast Burrito or Cereal w/Graham Cracker, Pear, Fruit Juice, Choice of Milk.

Thursday

Sausage Roll or Cereal w/Graham Cracker, Applesauce, Fruit Juice, Choice of Milk.

Friday

Blueberry Muffin or Cereal w/Graham Cracker, Diced Pears, Fruit Juice, Choice of Milk.

Winters ISD Lunch Menu

Monday

Chef Salad or Spaghetti/Breadstick or Chicken Tenders, Italian Green Beans, Corn, Tossed Salad/Carrot Sticks, Apple, Choice of Milk.

Tuesday

Chef Salad or Grilled Chicken/Bun or Meatloaf/Sliced Bread, Mac-N-Cheese, Baked Beans, Tossed Salad/Carrot Sticks, Blue Bell Fruit Bar, Choice of Milk.

Wednesday

Chef Salad or Soft Taco or Frito Pie, Pinto Beans, Spanish Rice, Tossed Salad/Carrot Sticks, Coleslaw, Peaches, Choice of Milk.

Thursday

Chef Salad or Ham & Cheese Sandwich or Chicken Bites, Breadstick, Mashed Potatoes, Black Eyed Beans, Tossed Salad/Carrot Stick, Pear, Choice of Milk.

Friday

Chef Salad or Hamburger or Chicken Fries, Oven Fries, Baked Beans, Tossed Salad/Carrot Sticks, Orange, Strawberry Surprise, Choice of Milk.

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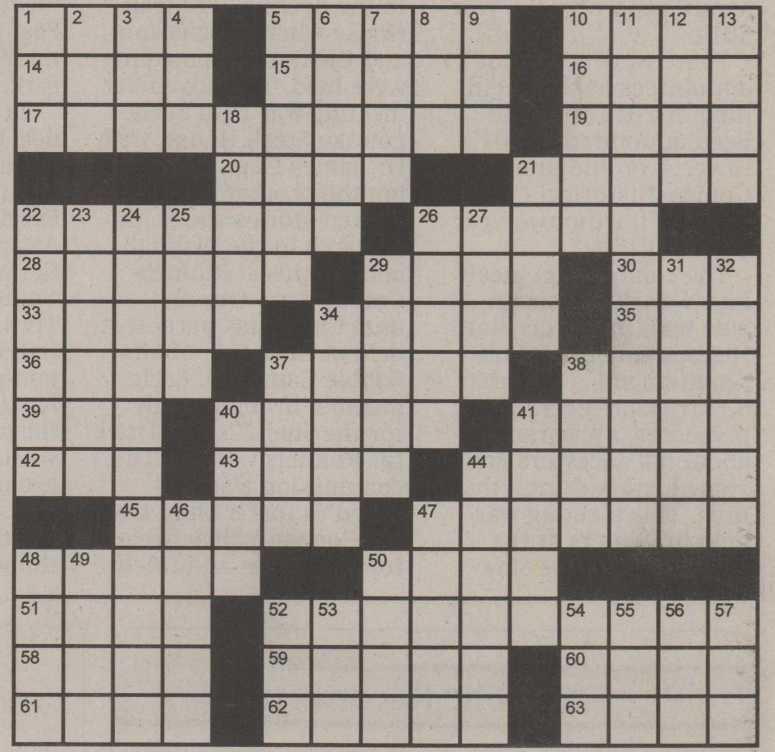
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"Comic Books"

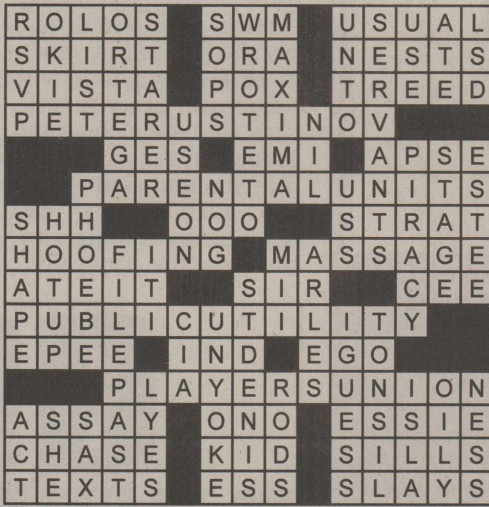
- Across 1 Swedish auto 5 Tijuana beach 10 Actor Sharif 14 Florence's river 15 Competitive boater 16 Prefix meaning "trillionth" 17 Comic actress who wrote the memoir "Not That Kind of Girl" 19 Taverns 20 Head start 21 Ranch visitors 22 Lassies' friends 26 Opposition 28 Numskulls 29 Wind instrument 30 Home folks 33 Turkey topper 34 Concisely, briefly 35 To some extent 36 Oilstone 37 Make like a peacock 38 Airline to Israel 39 Exec's accessory 40 Attach, as a badge 41 \_\_\_-Lay (food brand) 42 OTC offering 43 F \_\_\_ "Frank" 44 Check 45 Parolee, perhaps 47 Bridge misplays 48 Kindle 50 Pear choice 51 Tiny amount 52 Comic actress who wrote the memoir "Yes, Please" 58 Cunning tactic 59 Critic, at times 60 Like garage floors 61 Certain offspring 62 i.e., for long 63 Actress McClurg



Down

- 1 Mule of song 2 "Where \_\_\_ we?" 3 Beach Boys hit "Barbara \_\_\_" 4 It can put the squeeze on you 5 They're no fun 6 Director Fritz and singer k.d. 7 Gut feeling 8 Thumbs up vote 9 Supply with heat 10 Smuggled stuff 11 Comic actress who wrote the memoir "Is Everyone Hanging Out Without Me? (And Other Concerns)" 12 Teen's torment 13 Famous flagmaker 18 Pan, e.g. 21 Believe 22 Illuminates 23 Quick-witted 24 Comic actress who wrote the memoir "Then Again" 25 Ivory alternative 26 TV Buddy 27 This may be proper 29 Tie \_\_\_ 31 Requiring overtime 32 Hosiery 34 Pro golfer Hale 37 Cuernavaca coin 38 Iroquoian people 40 Drop the quarterback 41 Field enclosure 44 Spa spot 46 Fracture finders 47 Lassoes 48 Drinks politely 49 Horseback game 50 High-tech unit 52 Yellowfin tuna, on some menus 53 Like some scientists 54 Long-handled tool 55 Pupil's cover 56 Yale alum 57 Kind of whiskey

LAST WEEK'S ANSWER GRID



Weather Whys

Q: I've heard the weatherman refer to "chinook winds." What are they?

A: Chinook winds are very warm winds that blow down the Rockies, and the term comes from an Indian word meaning "snoweater," says Brent McRoberts of Texas A&M University. "When certain conditions are right, a Chinook wind can warm temperatures remarkably quickly and it's not uncommon for temperatures to rise 40 degrees or more," says McRoberts. "A case in point occurred on Jan. 22, 1943, in Spearfish, S.D., when a Chinook wind raised temperatures 49 degrees in less than three minutes. Winds such as the Chinook have different names all over the world depending where you live."

# Runnels County ROLL-UP

## Historical Commission closes productive year

**WINTERS ENTERPRISE**  
STAFF REPORT

**BALLINGER-** The Runnels County Historical Commission met with the County Commissioner's Court on Tuesday, January 27, 2015. Present were Commissioners Bobby Moore, Ronald Presley, Sam Scott and Richard Strube, County Judge Barry Hilliard, RCHC Chairperson Ruth Cooper and several of the RCHC members. Chairperson Ruth Cooper presented the Historical Commission annual report for the year 2014.

There were a total of 21 appointees at the beginning of 2014 that had been appointed in 2013 to serve on the Runnels County Historical Commission for the two-year term.

The commission meetings were held to coincide with the Texas State Historical Commission requirements. On March 8, 2013 Dale Herring presented a program about his ancestors and some history during that time. This meeting was held in Winters at the Casa Cabana. The May

meeting was held at the restored Texas Theatre in Ballinger. In July the meeting was held at the home of Lloyd Farris in Winters. Mr. Farris presented a program of his travels and hunting trips to the continent of Africa. In September, our meeting began at the site of the first county seat, Runnels City. Rick and Pam Minzenmeyer explained what many of the remaining foundations represented. The meeting was then moved to the Beefmaster Steak House where discussion and the business meeting were held. The November meeting was held at the Lowake Steak House, with Dr. James Hays presenting the program. He related stories about his research in the Walthall and southeast Runnels County area. Our annual Christmas party was held at the home of Mrs. Bobbie Campbell. Each member brought a gift for the Sheriff's Toy Drive for Runnels County. The commission also "adopted" a foster child from the Concho Valley Area, for Christmas and filled

their wish list.

At the close of 2014, 100 percent of the commission members had completed the Open Meetings Training.

Research and work continues for the designation for the Texas Cemetery Markers for several cemeteries that prove eligible. There are several interested in applying for an Official Texas Historical Marker for various areas of the county.

In March, a re-dedication ceremony was celebrated for the Restored Blue Gap Post Office at the site of the Winters Historical Park.

On April 3, the Runnels County Historical Commission received the prestigious R.C. Crane Excellence in Heritage Award in Odessa, Texas at the West Texas Historical Conference from Texas Tech. This award is given to honor an outstanding non-profit organization for its work in preserving the history and legacy of West Texas. The award exemplifies the spirit of grass-roots citizen historians that accomplish great things with scarce resources

— doing more with less. At the conference, Chairperson Ruth Cooper presented the History of the Chick Inn Diner and Historical Marker.

The May and October meetings of the Edwards Plateau Historical Association held in Kerrville and San Angelo, respectively, were attended by two appointees, Anthony Lange and Ruth Cooper. Election of Officers was held at the October meeting and the same officers were returned to serve for another two years. Ruth Cooper with the RCHC is serving as President for the second term.

The West Texas Collection requested a letter supporting the project of two professors in the History Department at Angelo State University was received in June. They were seeking a grant to begin a website, interviewing WWII Veterans as well as of Veterans of all wars in the Concho Valley. The Commission now has all of the Veterans Oral Histories for Runnels County digitized.

The Runnels County Historical Commission received the Distinguished

Service Award from the Texas Historical Commission of Austin in July. All awards received by the Runnels County Historical Commission are displayed in the Runnels County Courthouse.

Ruth Cooper and Beverly Teplicek participated in two online classes with the Texas Historical Commission, a Marker Workshop and another that included cemeteries.

In response to a letter from TxDOT, Sally Spill, Linda Duggan and Ruth Cooper checked on a project in Runnels County, Fuzzy Creek Bridge.

The Runnels County Historical Commission released the publication, "The Organization of Runnels County," in December that was compiled by Ruth Cooper. Books were given to the libraries of Runnels County and the Z.I. Hale Museum. The book can be purchased in several different places in the county.

For the year 2014, the appointees have a total of 3,075 hours and have driven approximately 4,725 miles. This is all volunteer service!

The commission continues to receive calls from individuals wanting information about ancestors having lived in Runnels County. The calls are researched and information given where any is found.

The commission presented to the Commissioner's Court the list of names for appointments for the term beginning 2015 through 2016: Wanda Brewer, Bobbie Campbell, Randall Conner, Ruth Cooper, Linda Duggan, John Hancock, Laverta Hubbard, Anthony Lange, Alton O'Neal, Marianne Ray, Roy Rice, Diana Rozmen, Sally Spill and Beverly Teplicek. These have all volunteered to serve on the commission and were so appointed by the Commissioners Court.

Officers that will serve for 2015-2016 will be: Ruth Cooper - Chairperson; Randall Conner - Vice Chairperson; Alton O'Neal - Secretary; Anthony Lange - Treasurer; Beverly Teplicek - Reporter.

All meetings of the Runnels County Historical Commission are posted in the Courthouse and are open to the public.


Public Record			
Runnels County Jail Record February 2, 2015			
Name	Age	Agency	
John W. Matthews	50	BPD	Adam R. Solorzano 30 WPD
MTR-D.W.I.			Aggravated assault
Brian S. Kelly	36	Concho	Don E. Estes 39 Coleman
Parole Violation			Criminal mischief
Carlos J. Cavazos	--	BPD	Shane L. Lawsons 32 WPD
Parole violation possession of marijuana			Theft of merchandise
Shane M. Sutton	37	Miles	Michael D. Halfmann 23 RCSO
Terroristic threat			Public intoxication
			John D. Gauna 22 BPD
			Assault, family violence
			Billy J. Black 40 Concho
			Public intoxication

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“Well, if I had three trillion dollars to spend, I'd be irresponsible too!”

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## Financial Focus

### What do low oil prices mean for investors?

As you've no doubt noticed, your trips to the gas station have been a lot more pleasant these past several months. There's not much doubt that low oil prices have been welcome to you as a driver. But when oil is cheap, is that good for you as an investor?

There's no clear-cut answer. But consider the following effects of low oil prices:

**Positive impact on economy** — When you spend less at the gas pump, relative to recent years, what will you do with your savings? Like most people, you'll probably spend most of it on goods and services. If you multiply the amount of your increased spending by the millions of other Americans who are also saving money on gas, you can see that you and your fellow consumers are likely adding billions of dollars to the economy. Typically,

a strong economy is also good for the financial markets — and for the people who invest in them.

Different results for different sectors — Different sectors within the financial markets may respond in different ways to low oil prices, even if the overall effect is generally positive. For example, businesses such as consumer goods companies and auto manufacturers may respond favorably to cheaper oil and gas. But the picture might be quite a bit different for energy companies.

You could spend a lot of time and effort trying to adjust your investment portfolio in response to low oil prices. In fact, you may well want to consult with your financial professional to determine which moves might make sense for your individual situation. Yet there's actually a bigger lesson to be learned here: Don't overreact to temporary developments.

The recent decline in oil prices has certainly had an economic impact, but no one can predict how long these prices will stay low or what other factors may arise that would affect the financial markets. That's why you can't reconfigure your portfolio based on particular events, whatever they may be — oil price drops, interest-rate fluctuations, political squabbles at home, natural disasters in faraway lands, and so on.

If you can keep from being overly influenced by specific events, you may be able to gain at least two key benefits: First, by not making trades constantly in reaction to the headlines of the day, you can avoid piling up heavy fees and commissions — costs that can reduce the return rate on your investments. Second, you'll find that if you aren't always thinking about what's going on in the world today, you can

focus your investment efforts more intensely on where you want to be tomorrow. The most successful investors set long-term goals and don't focus on factors they cannot control, such as oil prices, interest-rate changes or other economic events. Instead, these investors make adjustments, as necessary, to accommodate changes in their goals as well as other changes, such as revisions in tax laws — but they basically stick to their same approach for the long term.

So be aware of low oil prices, but don't get so "pumped" about them that you sludge up your consistent investment strategy — because that strategy has the energy to keep you moving toward your important objectives.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Submitted by Larry Gilbert*

**GOT NEWS**

We welcome your news items and photos to include in the upcoming edition of **The Ballinger Ledger** or **Winters Enterprise**

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## Hunting real estate company open for area business

**WINTERS ENTERPRISE**  
STAFF REPORT

**BALLINGER-** Local real estate pro Robin Lowe doesn't handle transactions on residential houses in town. He doesn't concern himself with commercial buildings inside city limits. Lowe's specialty is hunting and ranch land — something local ranchers and landowners need to keep in mind.

"In today's world, we have specialists for everything. If you hurt your knee, you go to a knee doctor," says Lowe. "A land transaction is the largest financial transaction most people will ever make and choosing a real estate agent is like choosing a doctor — you need a specialist."

Lowe is a diehard hunter and outdoorsman. He says that landowners and realtors sometimes underestimate the true market value of property when outdoor recreational opportunities are involved.

Lowe's expertise in Texas land comes from working as a Land Specialist for Whitetail Properties Real Estate — the industry leaders in hunting, ranch and farm land.

According to Lowe, world-class hunting for white-tailed deer, waterfowl, hogs, turkeys, exotics and fishing attracts outdoor enthusiasts and investors from inside and outside Texas' borders.

"As a national company operating in more than 20 states, we offer exposure to a nationwide network of outdoor enthusiasts and land investors who are already considering owning property in this region of Texas," says Lowe.

To contact Whitetail Properties Land Specialist Robin Lowe, call (325) 234 8173 or visit his agent page at WhitetailProperties.com.

Founded in 2007, Whitetail Properties Real Estate has exploded into North America's top place to buy and sell recreational hunting, ranch and farm land. This fact was cemented last year with more than \$320 million in sales and being named one of "America's Best Brokerages" by The Land Report.

Whitetail Properties has expanded operations into 20 states and counting, enlisting a staff of hard-working, knowledgeable and passionate Land Specialists. The team currently averages a ranch or farm sold every day throughout the year.

Whitetail Properties reaches more than 31 million households with Whitetail Properties TV, an award-winning show on The Sportsman Channel that showcases the benefits of owning recreational real estate.

To browse prime hunting and farmland currently for sale or to contact a Whitetail Properties Land Specialist, visit WhitetailProperties.com.



# THE IDLE AMERICAN

## On the road again...

Commentary by  
Dr. Don Newbury

Memories dating back to World War II include "tourist courts" — forerunners of motels — and first spins of Roger Miller's King of the Road — a 1965 song hit. The lyrics included the line, "rooms to let, fifty cents." (Three years earlier, Motel 6 had begun, so named for its \$6 nightly rate.)

During childhood, I thought my late Uncle Gene, a hotel bellman, looked like the guy shown on billboards peddling Phillip Morris cigarettes. Gene worked at the 12-story Hotel Brownwood, a now-vacant structure that still gives my hometown the hint of a skyline. "Big-eyed" at his piles of coins at shift's end, I was astounded so many people didn't choose to carry their own bags.

"When Crossbows are Outlawed, Only Outlaws will have Crossbows"

warned a lobby sign, or maybe this was in another hotel....

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A half-century of travel vignettes push and shove forward in my mind's eye, as if vying for recollection.

They include:  
— Flying to the Permian Basin from Dallas on Muse Air's final trip there in the '80s. I thought it odd the boarding announcement offered "my choice of seating." Little wonder, since I was the sole passenger. Three flight attendants fawned over me, even inviting me to play cards. Alas, "Old Maid" was the only card game I knew, so they dealt a hand for their "phantom fourth player." That was OK by me; I wanted nothing to take my mind off

first-class seating for the only time in my life. (I'm sure Muse didn't make the flight to accommodate me; there were two-dozen people at Midland Air Terminal going to Dallas Love Field, where the short-lived airline failed to make a dent in Southwest Airline's dominance.)

— Requesting a wake-up call at a small town "Mom and Pop" motel near Seattle. "Pop" handed me a wind-up alarm clock, mumbling something about the last Texas guest not knowing how to set it or wind it and preferred to miss

his flight than to learn how.

— Pleading for a room. I almost never make reservations in advance. With few hours to sleep before an early flight from Calgary, I heard "sorry, we're

full" laments at numerous hotels. My wife — with "I told you so" looks on her face — vigorously patted her foot for emphasis. Told that the nearest vacancies were 75 miles away, I asked, "Why?" The wise guy clerk questioned: "Ever heard of the Calgary Stampede?" How about meeting rooms? Yes, they had them for 40 up to 400 guests. Did any have sofas that make beds? One did. He rented us one at the single room rate and handed us bed sheets and pillows. A tearful wife sealed the deal....

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— Learning what "quaint" means in London. Our hotel room was tiny, but did have electricity. Sadly, it was timed and coin-operated.

We were plunged into darkness during an early morning check-out.

Not about to put in another coin and leave

unused electricity behind, we finished packing by flashlight....

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We have come to appreciate truly unique hotels with interesting histories and yesteryear charm that trump most big chain hostels. Three visited recently — all more than a century old — are in San Diego's "garden spot" coastal communities — La Jolla and Coronado. La Jolla's Grande Colonial Hotel is known for its historic charm, heralded Nine-Ten Restaurant and strategic location. It's only a few steps from the beach, where guests throw down towels between seals that gather there for daily sunning.

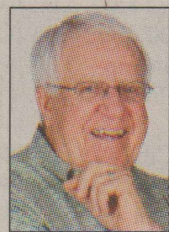
The world-famous Del Coronado Hotel is the second-largest wooden structure in America and was once the largest resort hotel in the world. We weren't guests there, but

joined other visitors in absolute awe of this "must see" place.

We lodged across the street at Coronado's Glorietta Bay Inn, which originally was the home of then-owner of the Del. The boutique property has a marble staircase, brass amenities and perhaps the most accommodating staff ever. Won't soon forget the tray of cookies and pitcher of milk left in our room for nightly snacks. I heard distant calorie bells faintly clanging with each bite. My wife, however, heard the calorie bells more clearly. But hey, I couldn't let four fresh-baked cookies go to waste....

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Dr. Newbury is a speaker in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. Inquiries/comments to: [newbury@speakerdoc.com](mailto:newbury@speakerdoc.com). Phone: 817-447-3872. Web site: [www.speakerdoc.com](http://www.speakerdoc.com). Archived at [venturegalleries.com](http://venturegalleries.com).



TEXAS  
COLUMNIST  
Don  
Newbury

## Herd rebuilding gaining momentum

BLAIR FANNIN  
SPECIAL TO THE WINTERS ENTERPRISE

COLLEGE STATION — U.S. beef cow inventory increased 2 percent from a year ago, signaling expansion among herds across the nation, according to the latest U.S. Department of Agriculture-National Agricultural Statistics Service cattle report.

"I thought the report showed more beef cows added than I expected," said Dr. David Anderson, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service livestock specialist, College Station. "But record prices in the last half of 2014 will do that."

Anderson said prior to the report, industry experts had the mindset the current rebuilding phase will be longer and slower. "It might have to be rethought," he said.

Seven percent more

beef cows were reported in Texas on Jan. 1 compared to the same time last year. When the final numbers come in, Anderson said it could potentially be the largest year-over-year percentage increase in Texas beef cows since 1972-1973 when the cowherd grew 14 percent.

Cattle prices should remain historically high in 2015 as tight supplies of cattle continue. However, herd rebuilding is steadily increasing, according to the latest U.S. Department of Agriculture-National Agricultural Statistics Service cattle inventory report. (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service photo by Blair Fannin)

The number of Texas beef cows remains the fewest since 1959 and 1962 for the entire U.S., not counting

2014, Anderson said.

Texas has almost 4.2 million beef cows compared to 3.91 million in 2014 and 4.2 million in January 2013. Heifers retained for breeding cows have gradually begun increasing as Texas ranchers look to restock herds following devastating drought in 2011. That year, drought caused a record \$7.62 billion in agricultural drought losses, the costliest drought of all time for Texas. Live-stock losses were \$3.23 billion resulting from feed expense and market losses.

"In absolute numbers, the 270,000 head cowherd increase this year is the largest since 1993-1994. Heifers held for beef cow replacements were also up, nationwide, 4 percent and 7.6 percent in Texas."

## Blizzards drop overtime thriller to Roscoe

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
STAFF REPORT

WINTERS- The Winters Blizzards had a rough week, dropping two road games to fall to 3-6 in District 7-2A. On Tuesday, the Blizzards traveled to Roscoe and lost 41-38 in an exciting overtime game. The Blizzards jumped out to a 9-5 lead in the first quarter and led 19-15 at halftime. The

Plowboys cut the lead to 27-25 going into the final quarter and both teams were tied 34-34 at the end of regulation.

Roscoe outscored Winters 7-4 in overtime for the final, 41-38, margin. Jake Brock led the Blizzards with 13 point and 11 rebounds. Daniel Gerhart had seven point to go along with 11 rebounds.

On Friday, the Blizzards

traveled to Anson and lost 48-34 to the Lions. Jake Brock led the Blizzards with 11 points, while Luke Kraatz had 10. Daniel Gerhart had 9 points to go along with 10 rebounds.

As of press time the Blizzards were hosting Hamlin, Tuesday night, and will be taking the road again on Friday night, to play against the Stamford Bulldogs.

## Lady Blizzards lose two on the road

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
STAFF REPORT

The Winters Lady Blizzards dropped two games on the road last week, falling to the Roscoe Plowboys and Anson Lady Tigers.

Tuesday, January 27, 2015 the Lady Blizzards fell by a score of 32-17. Leading scorers for the

Lady Blizzards were Christy Kruse and Athena Mata, each one of them with 3 points, followed by Bailee Busher, Ashley Guy, Cedie Taylor, K'Lee Lindley, and Nina Mooney, with two points apiece. Miciaela Ochoa contributed with one point.

Friday, January 30, the Lady Blizzards traveled to

Anson, to face the Lady Tigers. The Lady Blizzards were defeated by a score of 56-28. Leading the Lady Blizzards offense were Ashley Guy and Athena Mata, each one with 7 points, followed by Christy Kruse with 5, Cedie Taylor had 4, K'Lee Lindley 3 and Nina Mooney scored 2 points.

## DPS seized \$33 million in drugs, cash in Panhandle

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
STAFF REPORT

AMARILLO- The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) troopers in 2014 seized more than \$33.3 million in drugs and currency during 219 traffic stops and investigations along the I-40 corridor and other roadways in the Texas panhandle.

"Drug traffickers who distribute drugs in Texas and use the state as a transshipment center to move drugs throughout the United States put our

communities in harm's way," said DPS Region 5 Commander Gary Albus.

"DPS is committed to combatting these dangerous criminals; and in the Texas panhandle alone, we are proud to report that troopers have taken more than two tons of drugs off Texas roadways."

The seizures included approximately 4,161 pounds of marijuana, 458 pounds of methamphetamine, 100 pounds of cocaine, 29 pounds of heroin, 27 pounds of hashish,

more than half a pound of crack cocaine and over \$1.5 million in cash.

As a result of the 219 seizures by Texas state troopers, DPS Region 5 Criminal Investigations Division (CID) special agents also arrested eight suspects during follow-up investigations. In addition, CID special agents seized 22 pounds of methamphetamine and other illegal drugs, five weapons, one vehicle and more than \$341,000 in currency.

## Reward increased for Most Wanted sex offender

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
STAFF REPORT

AUSTIN- The reward for Jerry Don Holmes, 43, a

Texas 10 Most Wanted Sex Offender and this month's featured fugitive, has been increased to \$8,000 for

information leading to his capture if the tip comes in during the month of February.



Holmes is wanted for failure to comply with sex offender registration requirements, assault and bond surrender forfeiture.

Holmes, whose last known address was in Pearland, has ties to several Texas cities, including Shepard, Livingston, Pasadena and Houston.

To be eligible for the cash rewards call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 1-800-252-TIPS (8477).

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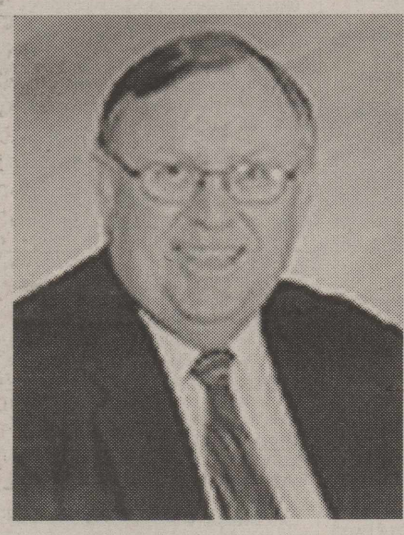
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