

Several families were established along the Colorado River in the Walthall area. Mr. Hightower was the postmaster of that area's post office that had been established well before Runnels County was established.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION OF RUNNELS COUNTY IN THIS SERIES THAT THE WINTERS ENTERPRISE AND THE RUNNELS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION PRESENT EVERY WEEK **PAGE 4**

# The Winters Enterprise



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Volume 23, Issue 30

Thursday, May 30, 2013

Winters, Texas 75c

## Shooting spree spans Eola, Eden, Brady

Authorities report two deceased and five injured; Concho County Sheriff is among the wounded

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ  
WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS- Five people injured, one woman dead and the suspected attacker of all of them killed is the result of a shooting spree that took place last Sunday, May 26 mainly in Eden and Brady, Texas. Concho County Sheriff Richard Doane was reported as one of the wounded.

The Texas Department of Public Safety identified the suspect of the shooting occurring in Concho and McCulloch counties as Esteban J. Smith, 23-years-of-age, who was stationed at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina.

Smith allegedly fired at five vehicles as he drove around the area in his pickup truck. The woman killed was shot in Eola, and was identified as Alicia Torres, 41-years-of-age.

Smith is a Marine Corps combat veteran whose wife, Rubi Estefania Smith, 21, was discovered dead Sunday afternoon at a motel near Camp Lejeune, according to City Police Department in Jacksonville, North Carolina.

As of press time it was not clear when Rubi Smith had died. She was found dead in a motel room after agents with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service working on the Texas incident found evidence on Esteban's body and contacted the Jacksonville Police Department.

Esteban Smith, of Bakersfield, California, was a Marine rifleman who served two tours in Afghanistan with the Third Battalion, Eighth Marine Regiment, Second Marine Division, according to information released Tuesday by the Marine Corps.

The shooting spree started Sunday morning, around 4:30 a.m., when the suspect opened fire on a vehicle in the Eden area. A woman was shot and remains hospitalized at Shannon Medical Center in San Angelo in non-life threatening condition. A short time later, two people were injured when the suspect shot at them as they sat in their vehicle at a convenience store in Brady in McCulloch County. They were treated and released.

According to information released by the Texas Department of Public Safety the suspect then returned to the Eden area where he fired at another vehicle at approximately 5:30 a.m. The victim was also treated and released. Just after 6 a.m., a woman, later identified as Alicia Torres, was found shot to death in her car in Eola after a gunfire call was made to the Concho County Sheriff's Office.

About 15 minutes later, Concho County Sheriff Richard Doane found the suspect on U.S. Highway 83, north of Eden.

The suspect opened fire on his vehicle, wounding the sheriff. Doane remains at Shannon Medical Center in San Angelo with non-life threatening injuries and was expected to be released as of press time.

DPS Highway Patrol troopers and a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department game warden arrived on the scene to assist. A trooper and the game warden exchanged gunfire with the suspect, who died at the scene.

It is not clear if the suspect's death was caused by the wounds sustained in the gunfight or if he decided to terminate with his own life.

A rifle, a handgun and hundreds of rounds of ammunition were recovered. The Texas Rangers, assisted by local law enforcement and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, are investigating the incident.

The DPS Highway Patrol, DPS Criminal Investigations Division, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Concho County Sheriff's Office, McCulloch County Sheriff's Office, Brady Police Department and Tom Green County Sheriff's Office assisted or are assisting the Texas Rangers in the investigation.

I CAN STILL SEE HIS FACE, WITNESS RECALLS **PAGE 3**



Winters 4-H Club members Ethan Bredemeyer, Jaymee Pritchard, Kara Hethcott, Brooklynn Anderson, Maci Gerhart and Seth Gerhart at the Memorial Day celebration.

## Pride and honor

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ  
WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS- Remembering the area men and women who died while serving in the armed forces, last Monday, May 27, 2013, a large crowd gathered at the Memorial at the Runnels County Courthouse lawn to celebrate Memorial Day, the day to remember the fallen warriors.

The American Legion Pat Williams Post 8 sponsored an event blessed with a fresh breeze blowing from the south, and making the U.S., VFW, American Legion, and POW/MIA flags wave proudly with the wind.

Raymond Anderson was the master of ceremonies. The U.S. flag was raised briskly to the top of the staff and then solemnly lowered to half-staff by Billy Rollwitz and Lee Roy Muller.

Sandra Van Zant led the Pledge of Allegiance and the benediction was recited by Rev. Buddy Moore. Tamara Moore sang the national anthem while Lynn Smith said the prayer and was also the speaker.

"The sacrifice goes deeper than the statistics, the number of fallen soldiers translates into men and women who had hopes and dreams and dedicated their lives to their country," said Smith.

The process of war, Smith said, is played out not only by countries but also in the lives of individuals who forever changed the way of life in the place where they lived.

"Those we honor today instilled a sense of pride on us, their contribution made a difference in who we are today as a country."

Continuing with the program the Winters 4-H Club recognized the example set by the members of the armed forces, and presented U.S. Army wounded veteran Chad McDuffee with a quilt sewn especially to recognize his



American Legion Pat Williams Post 8 officials Billy Rollwitz and Lee Roy Muller raise the flag at half staff.

courage and dedication to his country.

Tamara Moore led the singing of "My Country 'Tis of Thee" and the closing prayer was recited by Rev. Buddy Moore.



Warrior Games U.S. Army team member Chad McDuffee pictured here with two of his kids, Alana and Cade.

## McDuffee brings silver home

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ  
WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS- Runnels County wounded warrior Chad McDuffee brought home a silver medal and the glory of having participated in his first Warrior Games in Colorado Springs, Colorado Saturday May 11 through Thursday May 16, 2013.

McDuffee was selected as part of the U.S. Army team that participated in the 2013 Warrior Games.

Wounded, ill and injured soldiers and veterans trained to be one of 50 athletes representing the U.S. Army. The Marine Corps, Navy/Coast Guard, Air Force, Special Operations Command, and United Kingdom teams also took part in the games held at the U.S. Olympic Training Center and U.S. Air Force Academy.

McDuffee, a Ballinger resident, competed in seated shot put placing fifth overall, seated discus, and his team claimed a silver medal in seated volleyball.

The Warrior Games showcase the spirit of today's wounded, ill, or injured service members from all branches of the military.

After overcoming significant physical and behavioral injuries, these men and women demonstrate the power of ability over disability and the spirit of competition.

McDuffee was originally misdiagnosed in 2006 after sustaining an injury while his convoy was traveling north of Baghdad. He broke his foot while attempting to

PLEASE CONTINUE **PAGE 6**

## Splash Day!

Friday, May 24, 2013, students of the Winters Elementary School enjoyed the upcoming summer time with a Splash Day, held at the Elementary campus. Inflatables, slides, water guns and snacks helped to gear up the little students for the summer vacation.



PHOTO: JOE GERHART

## WHS San Angelo Area Foundation scholarships

Winters High School recipients of the San Angelo area foundation scholarship are left to right: Bryce Mikeska - Randy Fawcett Scholarship, Bryce is the son of Brett and Sherri Mikeska, of Wingate, Texas; Lane Gibbs - Randy Fawcett Scholarship, Lane is the son of Kenny Gibbs and Saffron Davis, and Sean McGowan - Community Scholarship, Sean is the son of Wendy McGowan. These young men and their parents attended a luncheon in San Angelo where the foundation presented over 400 scholarships.



PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

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# Runnels County

Winters Enterprise

Thursday, May 30, 2013

## Public Record

### Runnels County Jail Record May 27, 2013

Name	Age	Agency	Charges
Justin Towe	26	WPD	Injury to child/dis.
Kevin Cook	31		Obstruction of official enforcing public duty
Ruby Carlin	48	Concho	Theft by check
Edward Nelson	38	BPD	Public Intoxication
Joe Covington	30	BPD	DWI, Endanger child terroristic threat
Michelle Carter	30	BPD	Possession of drug paraphernalia, controlled substance less than 1 gram.
Michael Smith	22	RCSO	Asslt./ Causing bodily injury
Cameron Gilbert	20	BPD	DWI/ Possession of drug paraphernalia
William Gray	21	RCSO	Assault causing bodily injury
Adam Hernandez	32	Concho	Resisting arrest, failure to register as sex offender
Christopher Enriquez	25	BPD	Assault public servant, P.I., resisting arrest, retaliation
Clayton Foster	24	Coke	Theft by check x2
Robert Long	25	Coleman	DWI 1st

## Veteran's Corner

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently launched a new hotline to receive and respond to questions about the many VA resources available to female veterans. Veterans, their families and caregivers are encouraged to call 1-855-VA-WOMEN, where knowledgeable VA employees can provide information about benefits including health care services for women, claims and education, as well as information about VA cemeteries and memorial benefits. Staff can answer urgent questions and provide referrals for mental health services and resources for homeless women veterans.

Nearly 15 percent of today's active duty military personnel are women and females comprise 18 percent of National Guard and Reserve forces. The population of women veterans using VA health care has more than doubled, rising from 160,000 in 2000 to more than 354,000 in 2012. For more information, contact Sandra at the Veterans Service Office at 602 Strong Ave. or call (325) 365-3612.

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## THE ORGANIZATION OF RUNNELS COUNTY

# The Board of Equalization

CONTRIBUTED BY RUTH COOPER  
RCHC CHAIRPERSON

WINTERS— The William Guest, Jim Halcomb, Rich Coffey, Davis and Dean families were well established along the Colorado River in the Walthall area during this time. The Cotten family had moved into that area, also the families of Mr. Ed Dickenson and his brother-in-law, Captain A. B. Hutchinson moved into the area. The two men bought the store from Mr. William G. Hightower. Walthall and the areas south and west were considered Tom Green territory. Mr. Hightower was the postmaster of that area's post office that had been established June 6, 1877, well before Runnels County was established January 12, 1880. Captain Hutchinson drove a four-horse team to Round Rock, Texas twice a year for supplies. Upon his return, he would dump the sacks of flour in the Colorado River just long enough to get them wet on the outside. When dry, the sacks would have a crust on them and

that would keep the weeds out.

Captain Hutchinson did his part in the organization of Runnels County. After Runnels City was established as the county seat, he closed the store and operated a telegraph office in his home.

According to an article in the Abilene Reporter-News, a granddaughter of Captain Hutchinson, Mrs. L. C. Proctor told of living in a tent until their one room log cabin was built. She said her father "bought a beef for \$8 and sold the hide for \$9." Penny Cotten, a child was the first person buried and William Guest's wife, Huldah Ann was the second person, both already buried in Walthall Cemetery before the Hutchinson family arrived. Her dad made a tombstone for her from a stone he found on the Colorado River. He chiseled a scripture on it. He made mistakes in the spelling and those present tried to correct him. Her husband said "let it stay, my wife will recognize my

way of doing things."

Mr. J. N. Winters, a young real estate man taught the three month school that had been erected on the other side of the Colorado River.

The Honorable Commissioners Court of Runnels County met the 13th day of June 1881 as a Board of Equalization. His Honor Sylvester Adams presided with Commissioner N. W. Dean, Precinct 1, C. G. Davenport, Precinct 2, P. S. Turner Precinct 4, John M. Formwalt, Sheriff, and W. N. Copeland, County Clerk all present. The board ordered that the valuation of sheep be raised from \$2 to \$2.50, and the valuation of cattle be raised from \$5 to \$6. Also orders from the board stated the inventories of the assessor on real estate be approved by the board. With this settled, there was no other business for the day so the court adjourned until the next day.

The Honorable Court met the next day with all present as the day before. The first orders of the day

were to be paid their legal fee for the last term of court that being the regular May term. Three days at \$3 each to the County Judge and Commissioners Odum and Turner and there would be two day's pay for Commissioners Dean and Davenport at \$3 each per day for a total of \$39.

The clerk was ordered to issue pay on the county treasury. The Board of Equalization would be allowed \$3 per day for services of one day for four present for a total of \$12. The May regular term total payment issued was \$51.

With all being paid and all business finished, the court adjourned until the August regular term.

Next: Examination of the County Tax rolls and more about Mr. J. N. Winters.

Resources: Runnels County Historical Commission Histories, Runnels County Commissioners Court Minutes, June 13, 14, 1881 in regular term.

## USDA seeking nominations for advisory committee

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
STAFF REPORT

WASHINGTON— The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently published a Notice of Solicitation for Nominations for its Advisory Committee on Minority Farmers for 2-year membership terms in the Federal Register dated April 30, 2013.

"Members of the Advisory Committee on Minority Farmers play a critical role in helping USDA ensure modern and equitable service for all of our cus-

tomers — a keystone of the Obama Administration's commitment to civil rights," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "I highly encourage the nomination of folks who are interested in serving their community by helping USDA continue our record accomplishments on behalf of all Americans."

This Committee advises the Secretary of Agriculture on matters broadly affecting socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, and considers

strategies, policies, and programs that enhance Department goals for assisting minority farming and ranching operations. The Committee considers goals and objectives necessary to implement its recommendations, as well as methodologies that maximize participation of minority farmers in USDA programs.

The USDA is soliciting nominations from interested organizations and individuals from the ranching and farming

industry, related State governments, Tribal agricultural agencies, academic institutions, commercial banking entities, trade associations and related nonprofit enterprises. An organization may nominate individuals from within or outside its membership; alternatively, an individual may nominate herself or himself. Nomination forms are available on the internet at: <http://www.ocio.usda.gov/forms/doc/AD-755.pdf>.

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## Warrior Games: Local veteran claims silver

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

rescue the men trapped inside a vehicle damaged by a roadside bomb.

Medical mishaps continued over the years and it was until 2011 when he finally received the necessary surgery for his leg. However he lost almost all the mobility of his limb from the knee down.

Since 2010, nearly 200 wounded, ill, or injured service members and Veterans have competed annually at the Warrior Games, a unique partnership between the Department of Defense and U.S. Olympic Committee Paralympic Military Program.



The U.S. Army seated volleyball team claimed silver at the Warrior Games.



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## THE IDLE AMERICAN A champion for children...

Commentary by  
Dr. Don Newbury

Folks were commonly born into poverty in the 1930s. For some, it was abject — daily bread was never guaranteed, and families were continually on the move in survival mode.

Dr. O. C. (Mike) Taylor, born to migrant farm workers, was subjected to life's most jagged edges after his birth in 1932. One of eight children and one of just three who survived early childhood years, he was a nomadic tag-along, accustomed to living in tents and at least once under a tree.

Fun-loving and frisky — yet fearlessly taking life by the throat — he was in schools from hither to yon before his folks found work at the Itasca Cotton Gin. It was there — where Itascans cheer for the Wampus Cats — that the family settled in. Taylor was there for grades 7-12, and that's where his oft-repeated stories of adventures — and misadventures — were birthed....

His life was celebrated the other day at the United Presbyterian Church in Cleburne after the 81-year-old was felled by a stroke. It was a standing room only memorial service for this self-made man who was Texas' youngest school superintendent at age 32. He was known for his unfailing humor, unbounded optimism and mischievous spirit.

Colleagues marveled at his uncanny ability to recognize potential in educators to place them where they could best serve. Credentials could be dealt with later. This was underscored by eulogist Riney Jordan, who was named "teacher of the year" during his initial year in education as a fifth-grade teacher at Grapevine ISD. Taylor, early in his 11-year tenure as Grapevine

superintendent, shocked Jordan one day with this edict: "Come Monday, you're going to be principal of your school." Jordan whined about lacking qualifications. Taylor, just short of fist-pounding, repeated the decision. Message received. Another time, Jordan delivered neatly paper-clipped teacher evaluations to Taylor's office. Taylor scowled, "Next time, staple 'em in the upper left corner at an angle so the pages can be easily flipped." Clearly beyond eccentric at times, he enjoyed keeping colleagues guessing which times....

Patty, his wife of 27 years, says he lived life "his way." She also thinks he completed most of his "want to's."

Dr. Taylor didn't look for fights, but didn't avoid them, either. Without his fierce determination, he'd have been a poor fit to guide a small school into metropolitan status mere years later with the world's largest airport opening in GISD's backyard.

He served there for 11 years before taking on racially-torn Beaumont ISD for 13 years. There, he brushed off several threats made on his life....

He held on tight, smiling through much, negotiating when possible and using an iron fist when he must. They named buildings for him in both districts. He joked that the letters in his name on the Grapevine/Colleyville school were "a little small." (A few years later, a board member at what is now G/C ISD, said his first mission was to get bigger letters!)

En route to his Grapevine interview, he told his wife that in the future, he would

be "Mike" Taylor, not O. C. or — heaven forbid — Orace Cleveland. This was but one of his personal decrees that held up.

One trustee asked about his church preference. "We attend the Presbyterian Church," Mike said, noting zero response. "But my wife is Methodist." Still no response. "But we're thinking of joining the Baptists." After a long pause, he added, "If I get the job, we'll attend the church of your choice."...

With two degrees from Texas Wesleyan and a doctorate from North Texas, Taylor surrounded himself with competent colleagues, a dozen destined to become superintendents.

In retirement, he traveled the world, skied the Matterhorn, golfed and read.

Failing eyesight in recent years interrupted much....

Officiant at the service was Rev. Kenny Rigoulot, the Taylors' minister who himself attended G/CISD schools.

Taylor died in contentment that his grandson, Chase, finished college a few days earlier. He was likewise proud of Baleigh, a junior in high school and her mother, Holley Hancock, now principal of a Beaumont elementary school. At age 17, she was hired as a BISD school receptionist.

Stories of this educational and community icon will be shared by colleagues for many years. There will be many smiles....

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

## San Angelo Civic Ballet to perform 'Peter and the Wolf' in Ballinger

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
STAFF REPORT

SAN ANGELO- The San Angelo Civic Ballet announced its upcoming Summer Youth Workshops and performances of "Peter and the Wolf."

The San Angelo Civic Ballet will provide studio classical ballet instruction during the months of June and July, 2013. Specific to the month of June, the Ballet will focus on two one-week long "Peter and the Wolf" workshops with performances at the conclusion of each workshop.

The first workshop will take place from June 3 - June 7, 2013 with a performance in the Ballinger, Texas Public Library on June 7, at 6 p.m. The second workshop will take place from June 17- June 21, 2013 with a performance on Friday, June 21st, 6 p.m. at San Angelo's Paul Ann Baptist Church Worship Center.

This performance is catered to the imagination of the youth. Tickets are on sale now and may be purchased at the baller's office located at 15 West Beauregard or by phone at (325) 653-8877.

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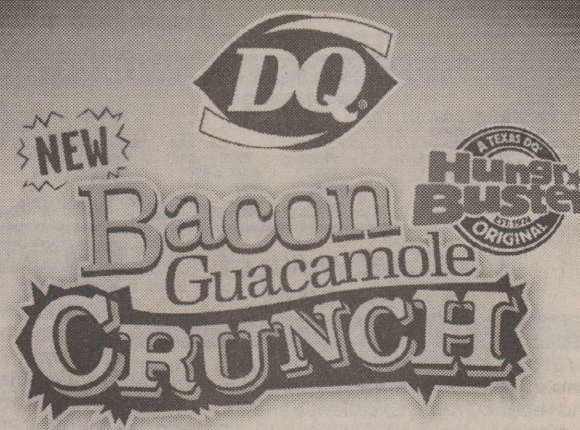
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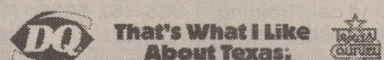


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