

By February 1886, the residents of Runnels City were forced to admit the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe would no doubt go to the Colorado River. In March, 1886, the question was definitely settled.

READ MORE ABOUT THE HISTORY OF RUNNELS COUNTY IN THIS WEEKLY SERIES PRESENTED BY THE WINTERS ENTERPRISE AND THE RUNNELS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION PAGE 4

The Winters Enterprise



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Volume 24, Issue 7 Thursday, January 16, 2014 Winters, Texas 75c



Yard of the Month

The Winters Area Chamber of Commerce awarded Winters resident Roland Garcia Yard of the Month for the month of December 2013. Garcia's house is located on 513 N Main Street, Winters, Texas. The award was presented on January 11, 2014 by Pam Barnes and Sno-Queen Angel Wright, Sno-Princess Miranda Rodriguez and Sno-Flake Shelby Jo Martinez.

PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED



Annual Junior Livestock Show held in Ballinger

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ
WINTERS ENTERPRISE

BALLINGER- The Runnels County Junior Livestock Association held its 13th annual show last Friday, January 10 and Saturday, January 11, at the Community Center Arena in Ballinger, Texas. The show featured more than 130 students from the 4-H and FFA clubs in Ballinger, Miles, Winters and Rowena showcasing their rabbit, swine, goat and cattle projects.

This year's 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 - Reagan 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



Winters FFA student Sam Woodall earned Grand Champion Steer honors.

PHOTOS: RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ



Ballinger 4-Her Rachel Gibbs claimed Grand Champion Lamb at the county show.

FFA; Breeding Rabbit - David Estevis, Miles FFA. The Ballinger Ledger and Winters Enterprise

will be printing the complete list of winners and participants, as well as all the photos of the event

next week, in a special section for all our readers. Check also our website at www.MyRunnelsCounty.com



PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

The Winters Elementary School UIL Academic Team.

Winters Elementary students compete in UIL Academic Contest in Irion County

WINTERS ENTERPRISE
STAFF REPORT

WINTERS- The Winters Elementary UIL team competed in the UIL Academic Contest held recently in Irion County. Remarks of the local team include two team and one individual first places. Those earning gold in team competitions were the Music Memory Third Grade Team, comprised of Zander Hadlock, Felix Reyna, James Speir, Wyatt Staggs, Anthony Llanas and Roman Sandoval; also the Fifth Grade Music Memory team comprised of Arizelli Reyes, Kristina Corres, and Skyla Coman-

cho; earning individual first place honors was Fifth grader Zach Wheat, in Listening.

UIL RESULTS

ART FOURTH GRADE (Hood)	
Connor Garcia	2nd Place
TEAM	
Connor Garcia	3rd Place
Myra Ochoa	
Cannon Collins	

PLEASE CONTINUE PAGE 2

Gone with the wind...

Three wind-turbine blades took the wrong route coming through Winters. When they made it to the red light the courier service discovered there was no way to make the turn. At that time the blades had to be backed up West Dale Street until they made it to Alderman Cave's large lot to get turned around and head back to State Highway 153. The Winters Police Department and Sheriff's Department along with Texas Department of Transportation staff helped with getting the turbine blades backed down West Dale St.

PHOTO: JOE GERHART



Recognizing Vietnam veterans

WINTERS ENTERPRISE
STAFF REPORT

BALLINGER- On January 27, 1973, the Vietnam Peace agreement was signed and the U.S. involvement in that war/conflict stopped. The Rowena Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9196 would like to honor Vietnam Veterans and invites them, along with their family and friends to the Post, located

on Depot St. and U.S. Highway 67, in Rowena, for a short program beginning at 7 p.m. on Monday evening January 27, 2014.

We will recognize and show our support for the veterans who served during this conflict. All are welcome. Mr. Tom Bright, VFW Veterans Service Officer and Commander of Vietnam Veterans Chapter

457, will be our guest speaker.

Mr. Bright will talk about Vietnam and the veterans who served there. We are also accepting memberships from any Vietnam Veteran interested in joining our Rowena Post. Refreshments will be served afterward. For more information contact John Multer, Post Commander at (325) 658 1655.

The City of Winters welcomes tourists

Visit our lake park and in-town RV park.

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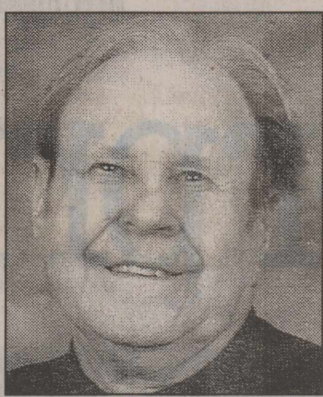
The Winters Enterprise

At (325) 365 3501

FUNERALS AND OBITUARIES

Joe E. Schram

Joe E. Schram 77 of Winters passed away January 30, 2013 at the Senior Citizens Nursing Home in Winters. He was born March 8, 1936 in Ballinger to Joseph Erhard and Ermine (Barker) Schram. He graduated from Ballinger High School and lived most of his life there. He was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Winters where he was baptized on March 31, 2002. He loved the outdoors and nature. Following the death of his mother his aunt Eula Mae Kruse continued to be his caretaker. The family thanks the staff of the Senior Citizens Nursing Home, members of St. John's and Interim Hospice for their loving care.

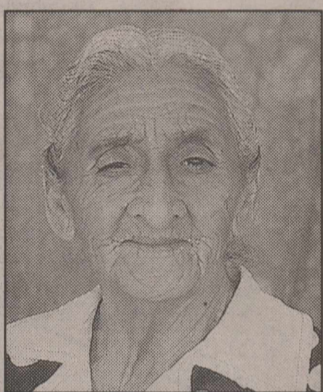


He is survived by many cousins. The family received friends Thursday, January 2, 2014 at the Winters Funeral Home. Services were at Winters Funeral Home Chapel Friday, January 3, 2014 with Rev. Alsen Wenzel officiating. Burial was in Hoffman Cemetery.

Winters Enterprise, January 16, 2014

Maria Lara

Maria Lara, 84, of Paint Rock, Texas formerly of Winters, Texas, passed away on January 2, 2014 at home with her family surrounding her. She was born on August 22, 1929 to the proud parents of Gorgonio and Augustina Ibarra.



Maria married her husband Simon Lara they had five sons and two daughters. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, sons David, Simon Jr. and daughter Raquel Torres.

Maria has been blessed with a large family she has 42 grandchildren, 72 great-grandchildren and 37 great-great-grandchildren. Services were Saturday January 4, 2014. A service was also conducted on Sunday January 5, 2014 in the Chapel of Heritage Family Funeral Home in Ballinger, Texas. Interment followed at Lakeview Cemetery in Winters, Texas.

Winters Enterprise, January 16, 2014

'Immersion class' for Texas pecan enthusiasts

KATHLEEN PHILLIPS
SPECIAL TO THE WINTERS ENTERPRISE

COLLEGE STATION- The Texas Pecan Short Course - an "immersion class" for prospective growers, new orchard managers, county agents and horticulture students - will be January 27-31 at Texas A&M University in College Station, according to Monte Nesbitt, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service horticulturist.

A registration fee is required for general participants with a special discount for students, spouses and AgriLife Extension agents.

An updated pecan handbook will be provided with registration, and a tour of the pecan orchard at Texas A&M on Thursday will include a steak dinner. Participants also will receive a Texas Pecan Variety Board - a unique display of the 48 most common pecan varieties grown in the state.

Program coordinators Nesbitt and Dr. Larry Stein, AgriLife Extension horticulturist in Uvalde, will host several guest lecturers during the five-day program, including Dr. George McEachern, who has been lecturing at the event since its beginnings in the 1960s and author of the Texas Pecan Handbook.

The Mildred DeBerry and extended family wishes to extend our heartfelt thanks to the North Runnels healthcare, Pastor Heath Powers, Doug Wheat (pianist), Sonny Santoya (singer, guitarist), friends and family who brought food, comfort, and flowers.

May the Lord bless all of you.

CNAs

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Friends of Ag Museum start the year in full swing

WINTERS ENTERPRISE
STAFF REPORT

WINTERS- After a bright debut in the Winters Christmas Parade, were they showcased five recently restored tractors, the Friends of the "Gus" Pruser Ag Museum are getting ready to kick off 2014 with a photo contest in conjunction with Winters ISD, and more activities in partnership with the Winters community.

Last December, in the Winters Christmas Parade Friends of the Gus Pruser

Exhibit showed five tractors: a green John Deere, a yellow Minneapolis Moline, a gray Farmall and two red Farmalls.

Now, the Gus Pruser Agriculture Exhibit, in partnership with the Winters Independent School District has instigated a photo contest. The goal of this contest is to improve interest in the agricultural exhibit.

The contest is open to all WISD students in Senior and Junior Highs. The photos are to be made using the students school issued

tablet and the subject matter should be of agriculture equipment that one day might find itself a part of the exhibit. There will be six photos receiving cash awards. Three for Junior High students and three for Senior High students. An independent donor presented the idea and the funds for the awards.

The Friends of the "Gus" Pruser Agriculture Exhibit will find themselves with many opportunities in the new year. There will be the continued effort to have all

of the museum's equipment in good order and to preserve that order. There is one tractor that is scheduled for a complete overhaul, the tractor it's already set up in the back room.

The friends may be challenged to find ways to improve interest in the exhibit. The Tractor Show on Saturday, April 12, 2014 will surely help in this effort.

Sections of the exhibits that need to be refreshed and some areas organized as to their respected usages.

NEWS NOTES

Runnels C. Historical Commission meeting

The Runnels County Historical Commission will meet Saturday January 18, 2014 at the Casa Cabana Restaurant in Winters, Texas at 10:30 a.m.

The program will be about the overall preservation work of the commission in 2013 along with other subjects and projects. Visitors are welcome and all meetings are open to the public.

Friends of the 'Gus' Pruser Exhibit to meet

Will hold their January meeting on Monday, January 20 at 6 p.m. at the "Gus" Pruser Agriculture Exhibit 219 W. Dale in Winters. The Friends of the "Gus" Pruser Agriculture Exhibit is a group interested in preserving the history of agriculture whether it be tractors or just memories. For more information contact John Long at (432) 553 1938 or johnlong1939@yahoo.com

Nominations open for Man and Woman of the Year

The Winters Area Chamber of Commerce is taking nominations for Man and Woman of the Year. If you would like to nominate someone, please send a brief letter with the name of the person you would like to nominate and the reasons you feel they deserve to be Man or Woman of the Year.

Please send nomination to: Winters Area Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 662, Winters, Texas 79567

You can also drop off your nomination letter to Pam or Randal Barnes.

Area author to present her novel in Ballinger

Ballinger author Christine Kohler's publisher, Merit Press, has released her young adult novel "No Surrender Solider." The book is for ages 13 and up. It spins a tale of two unlikely characters who cross paths. A young man. An old solider. A terrible injustice. But should the price be death? Join us for a book launch 10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, January 18, 2014, at the Carnegie Library. Refreshments will be served. Christine Kohler will talk about the history behind the book and answer questions.

SAAF scholarship application now available

The San Angelo Area Foundation's 2014 scholarship application is now available through March 1, 2014, for students attending college in the fall of 2014. Interested students can apply at <http://www.saafound.org>, by clicking on the "Scholarships" tab. The San Angelo Area Foundation manages over 80 scholarship funds, created by generous donors for the benefit of students. The student need only complete one online application and each scholarship is awarded based on a variety of qualifications unique to each scholarship fund. Scholarship awards are announced in early May. If you have any questions during the application process, please contact our office either by email at scholarship@saafound.org or by calling (325) 947 7071.

Fundraiser for Chad McDuffee

An account has been established at the First National Bank of Ballinger to accept donations or sponsorships for Chad McDuffee. McDuffee is a Ballinger native and veteran of the Iraq War. Chad lost most of the use of his right foot after sustaining an injury while on deployment in Iraq in 2006. Chad earned a bronze medal in the 2013 Valor Games Midwest in powerlifting and is currently trying to earn a spot on the U.S. Paralympic Team in time for the 2016 World Games in Brazil. Donations to the account will be used to help defray his travel expenses and purchase special equipment for training.

Winters Area Chamber of Commerce meetings

Winters Elem.: UIL Academic team

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ART FIFTH GRADE (Lincycumb)

Avery Wheat	6th Place
TEAM	3rd Place
Avery Wheat	
Zach Wheat	
Jayden Galvan	

CHESS FIFTH GRADE (Lincycumb)

Logan Schneider	5th Place
TEAM	3rd Place
Logan Schneider	
Dayton Nava	
Zachary Wheat	

MUSIC MEMORY 3RD GRADE (Kidwell)

Zander Hadlock	3rd Place
TEAM	1st Place
Zander Hadlock	
Felix Reyna	
James Speir	
Wyatt Staggs	
Anthony Llanas	
Roman Sandoval	

MUSIC MEMORY FOURTH GRADE (Kidwell)

McCaelyn Beuschel	5th Place
TEAM	2nd Place
McCaelyn Beuschel	

Winters Area Chamber of Commerce meets at 7 p.m., first Thursday of the month at the 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.

Winters Women's Club

Members meet the second Tuesday of the month. Call Sylvia Wilson 754 4992 for additional information.

AA Meetings

AA meeting 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.

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If you are interested and like to find out more about us, call Nancy at 365 5042 or Linda 754 5385.

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 meeting

Masonic Lodge 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 on fourth Monday of the month, at 6:30 p.m. at Wilmeth, Texas Lodge. For further information contact Hank Bourdo, at 754 2048.

Paint Rock Masonic Lodge meetings

Paint Rock Masonic Lodge No. 613 will have stated meetings on the first Thursday night of each month at 7:30 p.m. beginning January 2, 2014. Supper will be provided after the meeting. The location is the Masonic Lodge building located at 360 South Roberts on Highway 83 South.

Cannon Collins
Hayden Forder

MUSIC MEMORY FIFTH GRADE (Kidwell)	
Skyla Comancho	3rd Place
Kristina Correa	4th Place
TEAM	1st Place
Arizelli Reyes	
Kristina Corres	
Skyla Comancho	

SPELLING FIFTH GRADE (Grohman)	
Avery Wheat	4th Place

Social Studies Fifth Grade (Whitaker)	
Zach Wheat	6th Place

Listening Fifth Grade (Crathers)	
Zach Wheat	1st Place

The Winters Enterprise

Since 1905

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news@wintersenterprise.com

Ruben Cantu-Rodriguez, Managing Editor
editor@wintersenterprise.com

Kristi Smith, Advertising Sales
sales@wintersenterprise.com

Linda Arispe, Office Assistant
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DRIVE THRU OPEN

ROLL-UP

Runnels County

Winters Enterprise

Thursday, January 16, 2014

THE ORGANIZATION OF RUNNELS COUNTY

Runnels City fading to the railroad

CONTRIBUTED BY RUTH COOPER
RCHC CHAIRPERSON

WINTERS- In spite of all being done, by February 1886, the residents of Runnels were forced to admit the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe would no doubt go to the River (Colorado). In March, 1886, the question was definitely settled since "hands are now working on the Colorado River south of Runnels City about 4 or 5 miles, and will soon open a road." Runnels Texas Eagle, February 11, 1886.

The loss of the railroad and the probable establishment of a new town on the river were bitter facts to face. Runnels City's hope for the future revived in early March when two men, a Mr. Schneider and a Mr. Darris were in Abilene,

Texas to survey for a railroad from San Angelo to Wichita Falls. It would go by Abilene and Runnels City. Delegates from San Angelo, Abilene and Runnels City met in Runnels City March 12, to discuss the possibilities. Money had been deposited in the bank in Abilene to cover expenses for the survey. An "Eastern Syndicate" assured a railroad would be built as soon as the surveys were completed.

The Town of Runnels pledged right of ways and charter expenses, and then waited as the two men made the survey. The first survey located the railroad about one-half mile west of Runnels, but the second came close to the city. The Abilene-San Angelo Railroad was the

main topic of discussion as the headlines indicated, "Soon the whistle of the Abilene, Runnels and San Angelo trains will be heard in our midst. Hoop 'em up, and don't give up. We will certainly have a railroad in the near future. Runnels will then thrive like a green bay tree." Runnels Texas Eagle, March 18, 1886.

Runnels City was beginning to blush under the realization she had played the fool. Reports came in the Runnels Texas Eagle, April 8, 1886 that about 30 tents were located at the Colorado River. Along with the tents it was soon "rumored on the street" that there were "several saloons in full blast at the new town." The Eagle felt obligated to warn the citizens

of Hutchins City, which was the name the new town had adopted, that "this is a local option county."

April 9, the Runnels News reported "a wagon load of the 'boys went from our city down to Hutchins last Sunday. Some drank too much of the brackish river water making them strange and dizzy. It could be bought by the bottle or the drink, and local option only meant it was optional to the customer to use a bottle, tumbler or a tin cup, according to their fancy".

"Take the Abilene and San Angelo Short Line for all points north, east and west splendid road-bed, quick time, elegantly equipped, first class in all respects. For tickets or

further information apply at the ticket office in the Union Depot, etc., etc., that is about the size of it." Reprinted in the Taylor County News, April 23, 1886.

Presuming at one point, the Taylor County News, April 16, 1886 reported, Runnels City, San Angelo and Abilene would raise the necessary \$500,000 and build the railroad themselves "if the Eastern Syndicate failed, but there was not any question, the railroad would be built." Runnels City wanted the railroad and thought it would be the magnet that would bind the town together. With that strength, it would surely prosper and grow and they would have a better chance to hold the county seat.

The future success or failure of Runnels City was hinging on the success of this railroad project. It was common knowledge that if no railroad came to Runnels, then most of the residents would most likely move to the Santa Fe's new town on the Colorado River. Schneider and Darris finished their surveys, but no news came about the railroad.

This New Year, 1886, had come in with a severe drought and a lot of uncertainty. The water supply became critical when the well on the public square went dry. Water had to be hauled from the surrounding area from places where wells had been dug. Money was scarce and times were hard. Ethel Pearce, a little girl and resident of Runnels City, lay for months with a fever; no ice was available to help. A doctor came from Coleman City and prescribed so much quinine that, when the fever left, she was deaf for a year and a half. Runnels is My County, Charlie Poe. Families were going through one extreme to another. All of this and the railroad possibilities were very stressful. At different times, the residents were occasionally encouraged at rumors but those soon

faded about the different railroads coming to the Runnels County area.

Rumors back as far as 1885, stirred the hopes of the county residents when word would get around about the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe getting ready to lay tracks. The railroad had come as close as Lampasas, Texas but had not continued due to several different situations that came up making a railroad less profitable than before. The Legislature passed a bill reducing passenger fare from five cents to three cents per mile. Despite the cuts made by the Legislature, the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe extended their lines again arriving in Brownwood, Texas December 17, 1885. From the records, A History of Texas Railroads, it is noted: "In the spring of 1886, railroad officials decided that Ballinger and San Angelo were very promising of tonnage and work would soon began on these points".

The second Monday, May 10th, of 1886, was the date for the Regular Term of the Runnels County Commissioners' Court. Judge C. H. Willingham presided. Commissioners presents were: Job Davies, Precinct 1, F.M. Bright, Precinct 2, Marion Teel, Precinct 3, H.C. Wylie, precinct 4. Also present was J.M. Formwalt, Sheriff and W.L. Towner, County Clerk. The court examined expenses, road reports and approved accordingly. For the four day meeting, the Judge and Commissioners each received their pay, \$3 per day.

Resources:
Runnels County Historical Commission Histories
Runnels County Commissioners' Court Minutes, May 10-13, 1886
Runnels County Clerk Records
A History of Runnels County, Texas 1683-1960, L. G. Smith, B. S.
The Peaces Pioneering Days in Texas, Zelma (Haley) Strom

GOT NEWS?

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Choose the way that's most convenient for you

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By email to news@ballingerledger.com.

Deadlines are as follows: News items - Noon Monday; Display advertising - 5 p.m. Monday; Classifieds line advertising - 11 a.m. Tuesday.

We're proud to be a part of these communities

The **Ballinger Ledger**

The **Winters Enterprise**

Public Record

Divorces		
Names		Filed
Regina Ramsey and Branden Ramsey		Jan. 1
Runnels Co. Jail Record January 13, 2014		
Name	Age	Agency
Jamason C. Idays	22	Concho
Warrant MTR		
Melendo B. Minjarez	39	Coke
Burglary of building, possession of a dangerous drug		
Jay B. Martinez	35	BPD
DWI 1st		
Michael A. Smith	23	BPD
Injury to a child		
Carla E. Whitlock	45	Coke
DWI with an open container		
Luke W. Lindsey	40	DPS
DWI with an open container		
Glenn Bilbrey	48	BPD
Assault, family violence		
Enrique E. Fuentes	54	RCSSO
Parole violation		
Patricia A. Yorba	42	BPD
MTR-Aggravated assault		
Raul Lopez Jr.	51	BPD
Security withdraw Assault with deadly weapon		
Christopher Rundle	33	BPD
Possession of marijuana		
Daniel C. Williams	38	BPD
Child support		
Joshua M. Vidaurri	30	RCSSO
Aggravated assault with a deadly weapon		

Veteran's Corner

In late December, President Obama signed the "Bipartisan Budget Agreement Act" (H.J. Res 59), which includes language that negatively impacts current and future military retirees. It contains an egregious provision that reduces the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for military retirees under age 62 by 1 percent, starting with the 2016 COLAs. Everyone should be outraged that members of the House and Senate, as well as the President, would renege on a long-standing commitment made to our current and future military retirees and their families. This provision does not take effect until 2016 and all military organizations will continue its work to repeal this provision before its effective date. Just so you can understand what this impact means to a retiree, here is an example: reducing the COLA for a 21-year veteran that retired at age 41 as an E-7 means this veteran would lose almost \$83,000 by age 62. I want a balanced budget also, but not by getting it off my back, unless the House, Senate and the President take those same cuts. I urge everyone to contact their Congressmen and Senators and ask for this law to be repealed. How can we possibly keep an all voluntary force of great men and women when benefits are cut like this? For more information, contact Sandra at the Veterans Service Office at 602 Strong Ave on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., or call 365 3612.

100
Announcements
200
Employment

240
Help Wanted
Part Time

BRONTE HEALTH & Rehab Center is looking for a PRN C.N.A. and LVN or RN PRN. Please apply in person at 900 South State Street, Bronte, Texas.

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245 Help Wanted Full Time

BALLINGER HEALTHCARE AND REHAB CENTER is seeking energetic and compassionate individuals for the following positions:

Maintenance Director CNAs for all shifts LVN or RN 7 pm - 7 am
Apply online at www.dvcr.com or in person at 2001 N. 6th Street, off the Old Winters Hwy. EOE

245 Help Wanted Full Time

The City of Winters is accepting applications for a Water and Wastewater employee. Applicants must have a high school education or equivalent (GED) and be 18 years old. Will be required to earn a water/wastewater license. Applications will be accepted until position is filled, at City Hall, 310 S. Main Street, Winters, Texas. City of Winters is an EOE.

245 Help Wanted Full Time

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US: A nation big on words...

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We Americans are a wordy bunch, particularly after election to public office.

At all levels of government, officials gain experience quickly in "proclaiming," whether or not they're any good at all in framing laws.

Proclamations often are stacked on top of days, weeks and months already taken. No matter. Most of the thousands of documents are so issued to satisfy special interest groups. (All could be significantly shortened with lessened use of the word "whereas"...)

Once approved, these designations are almost never disturbed. I've found just three now deemed defunct — Afghanistan Day, Baltic Freedom Day and National Catfish Day. (Not sure how the catfish came under fire, unless other species started making bigger splashes.)

It seems to me that all of us would do well to stand up for national treasures on the brink of total abandonment. This seems particularly true when said works reach the century mark.

Let's focus, for example, on music. Shouldn't we properly respect tunes we have hummed, whistled or sung — albeit poorly — over several decades? One such ditty is *Aba Daba Honeymoon*, written in 1914. The lyrics — perhaps Greek to most — are purportedly what the monkey said to the chimp in, uh, yes, "monkey talk."...

Back in the day, such songs had staying power. Debbie Reynolds' rendition vaulted to number three on *Billboard Magazine's* chart in 1951. Eight years later, it was featured in *Have Rocket, Will*

Travel, The Three Stooges' first feature film.

In 1964 — a half-century after composition — American novelist Thomas Pynchon, referring to *Aba Daba Honeymoon* in a letter to a friend, said:



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Our souls (the world) leave to whatever obsolescences, bigotries, theories of education (workable and 'un'), parental wisdom or lack of it, happening...

between the cord-cutting ceremony and the time they slide you down the chute (at death)... while the guy on the Wurlitzer plays *Aba Daba Honeymoon* because

you had once told somebody it was the 'nadir of all American expression'; only they didn't know what 'nadir' meant, but it must be good because of the vehemence with which you expressed yourself....

The tune's popularity returned in the 1970s, when Fritos corn chips claimed the melody for its jingle — "Muncha buncha, muncha buncha, muncha buncha, Fritos goes with lunch." A Houston jewelry factory used the melody as well, and lead performers on *Laverne & Shirley* once performed as chimps on roller skates, singing *Aba Daba Honeymoon*.

Think of what we risk losing. If we don't stand up for near-classics such as this, we'll crumble under the onslaught of contemporary music, almost all of which has words we can't understand.

And if we can distinguish them, we blush....

If efforts to guarantee the song's deserved space in antiquity are successful, perhaps pictures of the three monkeys who didn't see, hear or participate in evil could be added to bolster interest in the proclamation.

Origin of these drawings — never proclaimed for anything as far as I know — is fuzzy at best. Some historians claim the monkeys' refusals to "see/hear/do" appeared first in China, before Christ's earthly pilgrimage. Others insist they didn't gain notoriety until some 400 years ago — not in China, but Japan.

"Twitter techniques" for 2014 proclamations might be considered, significantly shortening the documents. This might actually help researchers a hundred years from now as they refurbish, rework or rehash current works....

Other now century-old works are worthy of recognition. Some of the recognizable 1914 titles include *Baby Face*, *Down Among the Sheltering Palms*, *By the Beautiful Sea*, *Keep the Home Fires Burning*, *Saint Louis Blues*, *There's a Long Trail A-Winding* and *Too Ra Loo Ra Loo Ral*. (Come on, uncross your eyes. You remember *The Irish*

Lullaby.)

Before you classify this treatise as absolute minutia, consider some proclamations already approved. For example, we observe National Dairy Goat Awareness Week annually in June. (How do you think goats that give up their mohair feel about their cousins getting such recognition?) Equally lame is a proclamation spanning the entirety of December — National Critical Infrastructure Protection Month.

Clearly, it's time for us to bow our necks, raise our voices and stomp our feet, if necessary, to preserve classics. The late Arthur Fields and Walter Donovan, *Aba Daba Honeymoon* composers, would be proud....

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

A&M Forest Service partakes in multi-agency research prescribed burn

WINTERS ENTERPRISE
STAFF REPORT

CAMP SWIFT- This week Texas A&M Forest Service along with 13 other organizations will take part in a research prescribed burn exercise that seeks to improve technology developed for understanding fire behavior.

Information collected from this prescribed burn will be useful to both the public and first responders by giving them an idea of how a wildfire may behave.

"It's really an honor to be a part of this research, it not only provides information that will help keep homeowners and firefighters safe but also gives us the opportunity to learn the science behind fire behavior," said Rich Gray, Texas A&M Forest Service Program Coordinator. "It will give the agency a chance to show its ongoing expertise in prescribed burning and fire management."

Leading the research burn is Alexander Maranghides, Primary Investigator at National Institute of Standards and Technology.

"The productive and successful collaboration is based on the Bastrop fire assessment," said Maranghides. "NIST developed a collection methodology, and helped train TFS in this methodology, which

allows for the continuing partnership during this research burn. This is a really great opportunity to work with several federal and state organizations, including academia."

In 2011, NIST completed a post fire assessment of large loss wildfires in Texas. During that time, NIST became aware of the capabilities and proficiency of TFS which have helped cultivate the partnership of the upcoming research exercise.

The prescribed burn taking place at Camp Swift, will use advanced technology including Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR), Sonic Detection and Ranging (SODAR) equipment, and Unmanned aerial vehicles to help collect information on how fires burn under certain weather and topographical conditions.

"Bastrop was the unlucky recipient of one of the largest wildfires in Texas history. We are very keen on learning more about wildfire suppression and prevention so hopefully this doesn't happen again," said Mike Fisher, Bastrop Emergency Management Coordinator. "We are glad to be a part of this research, and look forward to seeing it yield products that will help other states."



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