

The

# Winters Enterprise



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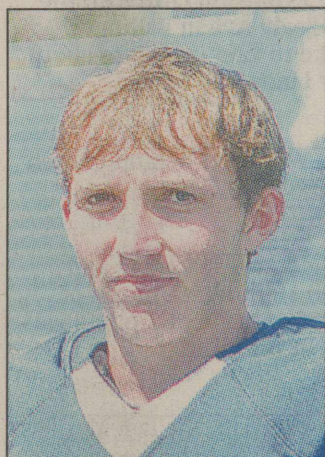
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Volume 25, Issue 4

Thursday, December 18, 2014

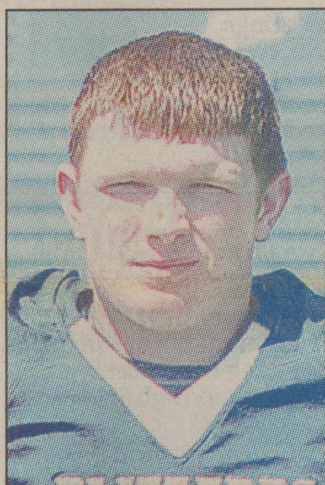
Winters, Texas 75¢

## Early days come to life



### Two Blizzard players receive All-State honors

Two Winters High School students were named to the 2014 Associated Press Sports Editors Class 2A All-State High School Football Team. Senior linebacker Jake Brock (above) was selected to the Second Team Defense, and senior lineman Ethan Bredemayer (below) received Honorable Mention honors, according to the list released last week.



New book depicts historical records and stories about the foundation and early beginnings of Runnels County

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ  
WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS- The Runnels County Historical Commission's latest publication, "The Organization of Runnels County," was released on Wednesday, December 17, 2014. The book, a collection of county records and stories about the county's early beginnings, was compiled and written by Ruth Cooper, commission's chairperson.

This is the commission's second book under Cooper as a chairperson. "The other one (A Look Back) was a contribution by several authors, a collection of pictures and stories," Cooper said.

The process of writing the book was a learning experience for the author, since she met many people and got to see and hear lots of historical facts.

"I met a lot of very nice people, and I got to places and see things that you don't see everyday, unless you're digging for information like this," Cooper added.

Compilation of the stories, most of which were



printed by The Ballinger Ledger and The Winters Enterprise through a combined effort with the Runnels Co Historical Commission, spanned about three years.

"The old stories always sparked my interest, and I had never found a collection of those in one document or book, and I was always curious about the beginnings of the county, because it had a really unique history in the fact that it had two different county seats in

Runnels City and Ballinger," Cooper said about her historical research initiative.

Other than the county records from Coleman County and Runnels County, some residents of Runnels County contributed information, oral histories, as well as time. Among those are Glenn Smith, Tami Virden, Rick and Pam Minzenmayer all of Ballinger; Wanda Brewer with the Z.I. Hale Museum of Winters.

Editing contributions were made by Randall and Susan Conner of

Winters and Linda Land of Gardendale; assisting in the assembling of the book was Tarleton State University student Alanna Cooper. Suzanne Campbell with the West Texas Collection, Angelo State University, contributed information and pictures.

Credits for other sources of information are given throughout the book. The credit is given for each photo. Those without credit were contributed by the author. The book includes a Runnels County survey map of 1867.

Some of the publications quoted are: Runnels is My County, by Charlie Poe; Alton O'Neal, Jr.'s, Eighteen Ghost Towns of Runnels County, The Pearce's Pioneering Days in Texas, Zelma (Haley) Strom, A History of Runnels County, 1863-1960, L.G. Smith.

The front cover is a picture of the Runnels County centennial marker located on the Runnels County Courthouse square, Ballinger, Texas.

The back cover has a picture of the Runnels City centennial marker located at the town site of Runnels County's first county seat, Runnels City. The background of the entire cover is a picture of grass. This picture was taken in the Brookshire area and depicts how most of Runnels County looked when the first settlers arrived.

The purpose in writing this collection was to have a record of the stories and county records that were specific to that period in time. The information and stories began when the Texas Legislature created 23 new counties on February 1, 1858 and continue until the last communities were established.

The book was printed by Ballinger Printing of Ballinger, Texas.

Ruth Cooper was born on a farm near Roscoe, Texas, moved to Winters at the age of 12, and graduated from Winters High School in 1954. Since then she worked and lived in Winters. She has been a member of the Runnels County Historical Commission for 12 years, the last seven as chairperson. She also served as president of the Edwards Plateau Historical Association.

A book signing will be held 5-8 p.m. Thursday, December 18 and Saturday, December 20 at the Rock Hotel in Winters, Texas.

The new book can be purchased by calling Ruth Cooper (325) 754-5183, Linda Duggan (325) 365-3145, Beverly Teplicek (325) 442-4841, Sally Spill (325) 754-4763. They may be purchased at Ballinger Printing, Ballinger, Texas and at the Winters Area Business and Industrial Corporation in Winters, Texas.

## Sno-Royalty crowned in Winters

RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ  
WINTERS ENTERPRISE

WINTERS- The 2014 Christmas parade and Sno-Royalty pageant was held on Saturday, December 13, 2014 in Winters, Texas.

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

Sno-Princess first runner-up went to Kaitlyn Fuentes, and second runner-up was for Mollie Weaver. Zayda DeLaCruz was named first runner-up Sno-Flake, while

Shayla Camacho got second runner-up.

The crowning of the 2014 Sno-Royalty was preceded by the traditional Christmas parade on Main Street. Over 40 entries among floats and individuals took the streets and delighted the public with their colorful floats.

Horses, carriages, classic cars and tractors set everyone into Christmas mood, and the children picked up candies given away by the parade participants. Closing the parade was Santa Claus himself, accompanied by Mrs. Claus on a sleigh driven by a classic tractor.

Earning first place in the float contest were the Girl Scouts, while Winters Head Start took second, and the horse and carriage float by Joyce and Bobby Myers placed third.

MORE PHOTOS PAGE 3



PHOTO: JOE GERHART

Magan Ballard was crowned the new 2014-2015 Winters Sno-Queen.



Second runner-up Mollie Weaver, first runner-up Kaitlyn Fuentes, and the new Sno-Princess Emily Stratton.



Second runner-up Shayla Camacho, first runner-up Zayda DeLaCruz, and the new Sno-Flake Jaleena Romero.



### Head-on collision sends two to the hospital

Friday morning, December 12, 2014 a head-on collision on U.S. Highway 67 near Valera in Coleman County, sent two people to the hospital with non life threatening injuries. Both drivers were taken by ambulance to Coleman.

According to witnesses a Ford Focus was westbound on U.S. Hwy 67 some 1.5 miles east of Valera when collided head-on with a Chevrolet Suburban that was eastbound on the same road.

Thick patches of fog made the visibility very poor in the early hours of the morning. Air support was unable to attend due to the aforementioned weather. One of the drivers was identified as Dan Jones, of Coleman.

PHOTOS: RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ



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**FUNERALS AND OBITUARIES**

**Cassie Pauline Huckaby**

Cassie Pauline Huckaby, 91, of Winters died December 11, 2014. She was born April 20, 1923 in Shep and attended school at Valley Creek. She married Floyd Huckaby February 22, 1941 in Winters. He preceded her in death January 31, 2013. They enjoyed 71 years of marriage. She was Postmaster in Lenorah for several years and worked for the Postal Service for over 30 years. She was a member of the Wingate Quilting Club and was a member of the North Main Church of Christ in Winters. She is survived by three sons: Lyndon Huckaby of Winters, Darr Huckaby of Talpa and Randall Huckaby of Beeville. Seven grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. Services were Sunday December 14, 2014 at the North Main Church of Christ. Burial followed at Shep cemetery.

Winters Enterprise, December 18, 2014

**Sammy Dean Smith**

Sammy Dean Smith was born May 15, 1936 to R.E. and Mary Irene (Bowen) Smith in Gouldbusk, Texas. At the age of six he moved with his family to Brownfield, Texas where they lived on a farm. In 1958 Sam moved to Winters and married Eva Leta Wright. They then moved back to Brownfield where they lived until 1969 when they returned to Winters. He worked for Winters Farm Equipment, Gene Wheat Oil Company and Runnels County Precinct 2 until retiring due to health reasons. He enjoyed fishing and wood work. Sam was preceded in death by his parents and five sisters and four brothers. He is survived by his wife Eva Leta of Winters. They were married for 56 years. Also surviving are two daughters: Marsha Smith of Winters and Carmela Polston of Winters; son Monty Smith of San Angelo; grandson Brendan Polston of Winters; three sisters Inez Martin of Coleman, Carylon Boen of Spring and Jossie Grizzle of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews. Services were December 9, 2014 at the 1st United Methodist Church. Burial followed in Wilmeth cemetery directed by Winters Funeral Home.

Winters Enterprise, December 18, 2014

**Benny Jobe**

A graveside service for Benny Ray Jobe, of Ballinger, Texas, was held Sunday, December 14, 2014, at Evergreen Cemetery in Ballinger, with Pastor Lynn Smith officiating. Benny Ray, 86, passed away Wednesday, December 10, 2014 under hospice care at a Texas State Veteran's Home in Big Spring, Texas after a long illness. He was born April 20, 1928 in Abilene, Texas. In 1948 Benny Ray married Mary Jessie Caudle in Ballinger, Texas, where they began their 58 years together. Arrangements are with Lange Funeral Home in Ballinger. Guests may register online at ballingerfuneral-home.com.

Winters Enterprise, December 18, 2014

**Mary Lou Garringer**

Mary Lou Garringer, 76, of Ballinger, passed away on December 8, 2014. She was born on May 30, 1938 in Waco, Texas, to Jack and Ethil Whitten. For most of her life she worked with the elderly. Mary was preceded in death by her mother Ethil Whitten, three brothers and four sisters. She is survived by two sons, Steven and wife Suzanna Bullock; Shannon and wife Sandy Oswalt, and daughter Shonda Oswalt, all of Winters Texas. She is also survived by 13 grandchildren Nikki Wilson, Amy Manske, Kane Crouch, Jessica Fulton, Rasha Culwell, Dustin Oswalt, Sabrina Oswalt, Skyler Oswalt and Alexa Allen, Shawn Kraatz, Tasha Pena, Emily Roznously, Amy Kraatz, and 15 great-grandchildren. Service were made through Heritage Family funeral Home in Ballinger, Texas. Viewing will be Wednesday, December 10, 2014 from 6-8 p.m. Funeral services will be Thursday, December 11, 2014 at 2 p.m. in the Chapel of Heritage Family Funeral Home in Ballinger. Interment will follow at Old Runnels Cemetery.

Winters Enterprise, December 18, 2014

**Phillip Hernandez Cortez**

Memorial services for Phillip Hernandez Cortez will be held on Saturday December 13, 2014 at 10 a.m. in the Winters Funeral Home Chapel. Phillip Cortez, 51, was born July 23, 1963 to Dominga Uresti. He was preceded in death by his dad, Santos Uresti. Phillip is survived by his wife, Keko, sons Angel, Alex and Hiro Phillip and daughter Chanel all from Tokyo, Japan. His mother, Dominga Uresti of Winters. His brothers, Bobby Cortez of Brackettville, Sammy Cortez of Coleman, Roger Cortez of San Angelo, Otto Cortez, Jr. of San Antonio, Robbie Cortez, of Winters, and Santos Leo Uresti of Arizona. His sisters, Gloria Reyes of Bronte, Theresa Woodbury of Ballinger, Becky Cortez of Winters and Julie Uresti of Winters. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews and loved ones.



Winters Enterprise, December 18, 2014

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**Volunteers needed at Winters Elem**

Winters Elementary School is looking for volunteers to serve as mentors. A mentor will need to have about an hour a week during school hours to give to a student. As a mentor you will do things like read with to a student as well as help with homework and just be a friend. As a school volunteer you will need to fill out a form and pass a background check. If you are interested in helping out a student in this way please call Charles Murphy at (325) 754 5577.

**WAF asking for donations**

The Winters Area Foundation is the perfect place to consider making a final charitable gift of the 2014 year. Your tax deductible donation will be used to assist Winters area organizations, award scholarships to deserving Winters students, and benefit the community of Winters. Donations may be made in memory of a loved one, to honor a colleague, or to give someone the joy of knowing you love them. Financial gifts are received throughout the year, but this reminder might help your tax situation. Donations may be sent to Winters Area Foundation, P.O. Box 211, Winters, TX 79567.

**Historical marker project in need of donations**

The Texas Historical Commission has approved a Texas historical marker for the community of Winters. The marker will have an inscription with a brief history of Winters and will be located between the Blue Gap Post Office and the Library. The marker will be the same size as the Chick-Inn Marker which was dedicated in 2013. The dedication of the marker is planned for Saturday, February 28, 2015, in conjunction with the Winters Quasiquicentennial Celebration (125th birthday). The Z. I. Hale Museum is the sponsor for the Winters marker. The cost of the project is \$1,900. A significant amount has been raised so far, but funds are still needed before the dedication. Donations may be made to the Z.I. Hale Museum (Marker Fund), PO Box 211, Winters 79567.

**Christmas for Kids program in need of donations, sponsors**

Children's Advocacy Center of Tom Green County's "Christmas for Kids" program is in need of sponsors for 22 children from Runnels County who are presently in foster care or are receiving early intervention services. You can sponsor a child by obtaining their "Wish List" and purchasing the items or by making a monetary donation which will be used to purchase the items. Depending upon the age of the child, the total cost per child is \$50-75. To be provided with a child's wish list, please contact Laura Mallory, 365 1772. To make a monetary donation, please make your gift payable to the Children's Advocacy Center of Tom Green County and send it directly to: Connie Gauwain, Children's Advocacy Center, P.O. Box 5195, San Angelo, TX 76902. Please be sure to note on your check "Christmas for kids program - Runnels County."

**Retirement reception for hospital administrator**

North Runnels Hospital will be hosting a reception honoring Sidney Tucker on December 30, 2014. Mr. Tucker will be retiring at the end of the 2014 after 41 years in the health care field. The reception will be at 10 a.m. at North Runnels Hospital, 7821 State Hwy. 153 Winters, Texas. Please stop by and visit with Sidney and the staff

of North Runnels Hospital as they honor his retirement.

**Winters 125th Birthday**

The Quasiquicentennial Christmas Tree Ornaments are here. They are on sale at the Rock Hotel Gift Shop and other retailers around town. The funds raised will be used to fund other souvenir purchases and from those sales we will have sufficient monies to support our planned activities. For more information contact John Long at zihalemuseum@wtxs.net or (325) 754 5389.

**Winters Area Chamber of Commerce meetings**

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

**TEEA 'Friendly Neighbors'**

The Texas Extension Education Agency "Friendly Neighbors" invites everybody in the Winters and Ballinger area who is interested in learning about cooking, gardening and arts and crafts to join us on the fourth Tuesday of every month (except during summer) at 2 p.m. at the Runnels County Extension Office on the corner of South Seventh and Sealy Ave in Ballinger. If you are interested and like to find out more about us, call Nancy at 325 5042 or Linda 754 5385.

**AA Meetings**

AA 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.

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

**Wingate Masonic Lodge meetings**

Wingate Masonic Lodge 1042 A.F. & A.M., meetings 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 meets the first Thursday night of each month at 7:30 p.m. Supper will be provided after the meeting. The location is the Masonic Lodge building located at 360 South Roberts on Highway 83 South.

**Texas Newspaper Foundation hall of famers revealed**

**WINTERS ENTERPRISE STAFF REPORT**

AUSTIN- The Texas Newspaper Foundation announced the names of newspapermen Ken Towery, Leon Hale, Houston Harte and Bernard Hanks as inductees in the Texas Newspaper Foundation Hall of Fame for the year 2015. The induction ceremony will be conducted during the Texas Press 2015 Midwinter Conference and Trade Show at Moody Gardens Hotel in Galveston on Jan. 23. A selection committee met Nov. 6 and picked four exemplary individuals for 2015 from a field of 24 nominees. Selection committee members included Chairman Phil Major, The Community News, Aledo; Greg Shrader, Lufkin News; Russel Skiles, Lamesa Press Reporter; Alvin Holley, Polk County Publishing Company, Livingston; and Jim Moser, Moser Community Media LLC, Brenham. Austin-based Texas Newspaper Foundation created the hall of fame in 2006 to induct annually up to four individuals credited with outstanding achievements and contributions to the newspaper industry and to their communities. The first four inductees — Roy Eaton, Alfred H. Belo, James Roberts and Staley McBrayer — were named to the hall of fame in January 2007.

**KEN TOWERY**

A reporter and managing editor of the Cuero Daily Record from 1951 through 1956, Roland Kenneth "Ken" Towery, 91, received a Pulitzer Prize for Local Reporting in 1955 for his series exposing the Texas Veterans Land Board scandal. The series brought to light a multi-tentacled scheme that led to the indictment, conviction and sentencing of long-serving Land Commissioner James Bascom Giles for conspiracy to commit theft. A collection of Towery's newspapers and clippings remind Texas General Land Office visitors of the importance of public oversight. The collection resides at the Land Office, where it has been on display since 2003. Towery's diligence in obtaining independent confirmation of critical facts and care in assembling each story in the series are evident.

**LEON HALE**

Leon Hale, a longtime feature columnist for the Houston Chronicle, delighted a wide readership with his reflections on life in Texas, and rural Texas in particular, for nearly 60 years.

Hale, 93, the son of a store keeper and traveling salesman, as a child lived in 22 different houses in nine different West Texas towns stretching from Fort Worth to Lubbock. He graduated from Eastland High School in 1939 and enrolled at Texas Tech. In World War II, he served three years in the U.S. Army Air Corps before returning to Tech, where he earned a journalism degree in 1946. HOUSTON HARTE Houston Harte was born at Knob Knoster, Missouri, in 1893. He attended the University of California for one year, returned to Missouri and graduated from the University of Missouri School of Journalism in 1915. He joined the Missouri Republican in Boonville, quickly became the newspaper's business manager and moved up to editor and publisher. He joined the U.S. Army in 1918 and rose to the rank of captain before mustering out in 1920. He headed to Texas that year and purchased the San Angelo Evening Standard, later acquired the San Angelo Morning Times and merged the two into the San Angelo Standard-Times.

**BERNARD HANKS**

Born Sept. 19, 1884, in Dallas, Bernard Hanks was the son of a Baptist minister. The family moved to Abilene in 1892 and at age 8 Hanks began his newspaper career as a carrier of the Abilene Daily Reporter, managed by George Anderson. Hanks attended Baylor University, returned to Abilene and took a job at a grocery store. When the store threatened to cut his wages, Hanks went to work for Anderson at the Reporter as a bookkeeper and business manager. During the 1920s, Anderson took control of Abilene Printing and Stationery Co. and let Hanks manage the newspaper. In 1923, Hanks met Houston Harte, owner of the San Angelo Standard-Times. The meeting resulted in a partnership between the two newspapermen that purchased the Lubbock Plains Journal.

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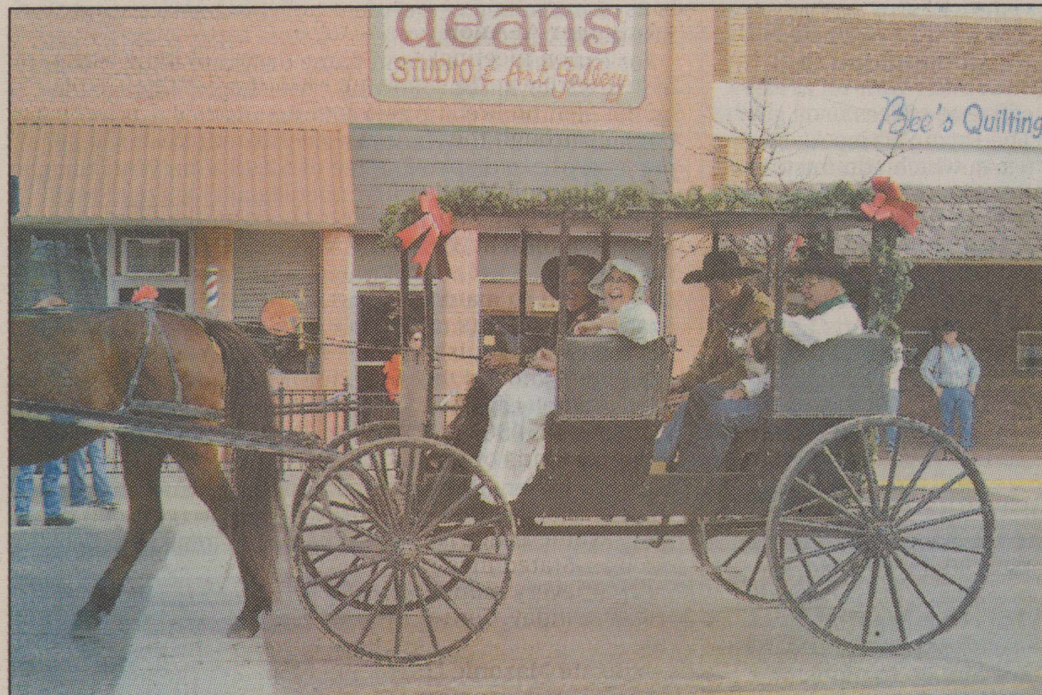
2014 CHRISTMAS PARADE AND SNO-ROYALTY PAGEANT



Royal blue... the new Sno-Queen Magan Ballard with outgoing queen Stacie Ventress.



Pride of West Texas, the Winters Blizzard Marching Band provided live entertainment with Christmas carols on this float. PHOTOS: RUBEN CANTU-RODRIGUEZ



Joyce and Bobby Myers placed third in the parade with their carriage.



Plowing the asphalt... Eric Ray drives this beautifully restored Minneapolis Moline tractor.



The HSU horse-riding team.



It Was the Night Before Christmas...



Lloyd Farris driving this 1949 John Deere tractor.

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Sno-Princess contestants.



Sno-Flake contestants.



Alan Andrae drives this 1929 Farmall hauling a Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus whom suspiciously resemble Winters PD officers Eric Samaniego and Paula Geyer.



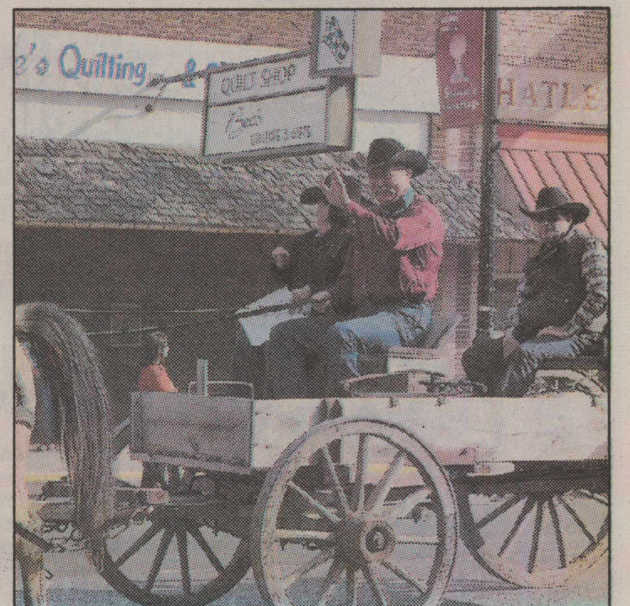
Classic cars always have a special place in the parade.



Here the Winters VFD is well-represented.



The Winters Child Development Center float.





# Runnels County ROLL-UP

4 Winters Enterprise

Thursday, December 18, 2014

## USDA increases crop protection

WINTERS ENTERPRISE  
STAFF REPORT

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Greater protection is now available from the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program for crops that traditionally have been ineligible for federal crop insurance, according to an announcement made last week by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.

The new options, created by the 2014 Farm Bill, provide greater coverage for losses when natural disasters affect specialty crops such as vegetables, fruits, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, and energy crops.

"These new protections will help ensure that farm families growing crops for food, fiber or livestock consumption will be better able to withstand losses due to natural disasters," said Vilsack. "For years, commodity crop farmers have had the ability to purchase

insurance to keep their crops protected, and it only makes sense that fruit and vegetable, and other specialty crop growers, should be able to purchase similar levels of protection. Ensuring these farmers can adequately protect themselves from factors beyond their control is also critical for consumers who enjoy these products and for communities whose economies depend on them."

Previously, the program offered coverage at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production. Producers can now choose higher levels of coverage, up to 65 percent of their expected production at 100 percent of the average market price.

The expanded protection will be especially helpful to beginning and traditionally underserved producers, as well as farmers with limited resources, who will receive fee waivers and premium

reductions for expanded coverage. More crops are now eligible for the program, including expanded aquaculture production practices, and sweet and biomass sorghum. For the first time, a range of crops used to produce bioenergy will be eligible as well.

"If America is to remain food secure and continue exporting food to the world, we need to do everything we can to help new farmers get started and succeed in agriculture," Vilsack said. "This program will help new and socially disadvantaged farmers affordably manage risk, making farming a much more attractive business proposition."

To help producers learn more about the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program and how it can help them, USDA, in partnership with Michigan State University and the University of Illinois, created an online resource. The Web tool, available at [www.fsa.usda.gov/](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/)

nap, allows producers to determine whether their crops are eligible for coverage. It also gives them an opportunity to explore a variety of options and levels to determine the best protection level for their operation.

If the application deadline for an eligible crop has already passed, producers will have until Jan. 14, 2015, to choose expanded coverage through the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program. To learn more, visit the Farm Service Agency (FSA) website at [www.fsa.usda.gov/nap](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/nap) or contact your local FSA office at [offices.usda.gov](http://offices.usda.gov). The Farm Service Agency (FSA), which administers the program, also wants to hear from producers and other interested stakeholders who may have suggestions or recommendations on the program. Written comments will be accepted until Feb. 13, 2015 and can be submitted through [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

## Health Talk

Insurance reimbursement: game of shadows

By Philip Rolland

There are all types of insurance industry derived reimbursement schemes in the pharmacy industry. Before insurance companies took over the reimbursement formulas were very simple and straight forward e.g., cost of the drug plus some minimal level of mark up. This was the era of "Andy Griffith" and "Leave it to Beaver." The days of honest, simple, understandable drug pricing have gone the way of our best TV sitcoms. Today, the insurance industry rules and reigns in the pharmacy marketplace.

I just recently read a proposed insurance contract for our store. They had a total of 14 different formulas for pricing a single drug entity using an algorithm or "set of logic rules" that would be used (by the insurance company computer) to determine the final price of the drug that would be reimbursed to the pharmacy. This in turn is used in making co-payment policies and decisions for insurance customers.

For example: for a brand name drug and a day's supply of 1 to 83 days, the following "Price Logic" (determined by the insurance company) sets the pharmacy reimbursement - WAC (Wholesale Acquisition Cost) + 4.10 percent, plus a dispensing fee of \$1.25 if no WAC then, DIR (Direct & Indirect Remuneration) + 4.10 percent, plus a dispensing fee of \$1.25 if no DIR then, SWP (Suggested Wholesale Price) - 13.25 percent, plus a dispensing fee of \$1.25 if no SWP then, MAC (Maximum Allowable Cost) - plus a dispensing fee of \$1.25 For example: for a generic drug and a day's supply of 84 or greater, the following "Price Logic" (determined by the insurance company) sets the pharmacy reimbursement - SWP (Suggested Wholesale Price) - 30.00 percent plus a dispensing fee of \$0.00 if no SWP then, WAC (Wholesale Acquisition Cost) - 6.25 percent plus a dispensing fee of \$0.00 if no WAC then, DIR (Direct & Indirect Remunerations) - 6.25 percent plus a dispensing fee of \$0.00 if no DIR then, MAC (Maximum Allowable Cost) - plus a dispensing fee of \$0.00.

One final formula allows the pharmacy to charge the "Usual and Customary Charge" which is an illusion since this charge is never actually charged by the pharmacy in lieu of the numerous reimbursement schemes the insurance industry imposes upon the pharmacy. In the past there was an industry-wide publication called the "Blue Book" which set standardized pharmacy prices nationwide. This was referred to as AWP or (Average Wholesale Price) this was a level playing field marker because it took the "average wholesale price" paid by pharmacies nationwide and made this a benchmark for pricing fairly. The insurance industry and government have created "logical pricing algorithms" and complex sets of formulas and "decision trees" that obfuscate pricing information and make it extremely difficult for even the most well informed to determine whether any given price will result in a net profit, net loss or break even situation. With this type of information and control, the government and insurance industry have finally

PLEASE CONTINUE PAGE 5

## Veteran's Corner

The "Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act" was recently passed by Congress and signed into law by the President (P.L. 113-146). Among other provisions, the new law establishes the "Choice Program" to improve accessibility to Department of Veterans Affairs' health care by allowing eligible veterans to use qualified health care providers outside of the VA system. The VACAA includes a \$10 billion fund to pay for non-VA care for veterans who live 40 or more miles from a VA facility or have been

experiencing wait times for care of more than 30 days. VA has been mailing "Choice Cards" to veterans who were enrolled in VA health care as of August 1, 2014, and to recently discharged combat veterans who enroll within the five-year window of eligibility. Not all veterans who receive a card will be able to participate in the Choice Program. They must meet the criteria established under the new law. VA will be implementing the law in stages. The Choice Card will be issued in three phases. The first

group of Choice Cards will be mailed to veterans who live more than 40 miles from a VA facility. The next group of Choice cards will be mailed to veterans waiting for an appointment longer than 30 days. The final mailing of Choice Cards will be sent between December and January to the remainder of all veterans enrolled in VA health care who may be eligible for the Choice Program in the future. This law does not mean veterans do not have to go to Albuquerque, if the VA has the service, you must use it. The "Choice Card" can only be used

if you have to wait more than 30 days for an appointment or live more than 40 miles from a VA Facility. Veterans cannot just go to a doctor and use the card, the visit must be authorized through the VA and Tri-West. The rules are still vague right now, especially for veterans with other health insurance. As I get more information about the new program, I will pass it on. For more information, contact Sandra at the Veterans Service Office at 602 Strong Ave on Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., or call 365-3612.

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# Miles native author to hold book signing in Ballinger

Kayla Hartley faces rugged Trans-Pecos region of West Texas in 'A Ride Home'

**WINTERS ENTERPRISE**  
STAFF REPORT

SAN ANTONIO—Author Pamela Howell, a native of Miles, will have a book signing event for her novel "A Ride Home" noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, December 27 at Curiosities, 719 Hutchins in Ballinger.

In "A Ride Home," a homesick college student makes the perilous journey across West Texas to get home to her family for Thanksgiving. Kayla Hartley cannot wait to be home. Homesick and hiding her grief over her father's recent passing, Kayla knows funds are tight, and the 800-mile trip from San Angelo, Texas, across the barren desert to her hometown in Arizona is not cheap.

To save money, Kayla accepts a ride from Mark Lawson, a handsome cowboy who posted his intent to drive west on a college message board, but is it the best decision? After all, the desert is unforgiving and dangerous with its many predators, but as Kayla soon learns, the most dangerous predator of all might be human.



Author Pamela Howell, of San Antonio formerly of Miles, will hold a book signing on Dec. 27 in Ballinger.

The setting of the novel comes straight from Howell's own experiences. She attended Angelo State University and grew up in the West Texas region Kayla must cross. Howell hopes her book will leave readers with a good story and eager for more.

The book "A Ride Home", published by WestBow Press, is available at Amazon and Barnes & Noble in hardcover, softcover and e-book.

Pamela Howell is a writer, teacher, freelance journalist and photographer. She has written for a variety of publications and has won numerous state, national and international awards. A native of Miles, Texas, she earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from Angelo State University. She now lives in San Antonio with her husband Mike and their daughter. More information is available at [www.pamelarobertshowell.com](http://www.pamelarobertshowell.com).

# Health Talk: No easy way to determine

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

terminated the "soda fountain", family-owned, community-based pharmacy of our yesteryears. There is no easy way for any pharmacy to determine what WAC, DIR and SWP are since this information is generally maintained by the government or insurance industry, although wholesalers may have this information in some of their drug databases. In addition, DIR is a special pricing situation that involves cash discounts, chargebacks, coupons, manufacturer rebates, point of sale price concessions, or any other factor that would serve to

reduce drug costs under the Medicare Part D Plan. These "Non-Transparent" reimbursement pricing schemes serve to undermine the pricing structure, contractual relationships and provision of pharmacy and medical services for the entire nation, not just our local community. These arrangements tend to create "Oligopoly" situations such that at some time there may be only five or fewer major pharmacies and pharmacy benefits managers. This same situation could develop with the provision of medical, dental, vision and mental health benefits

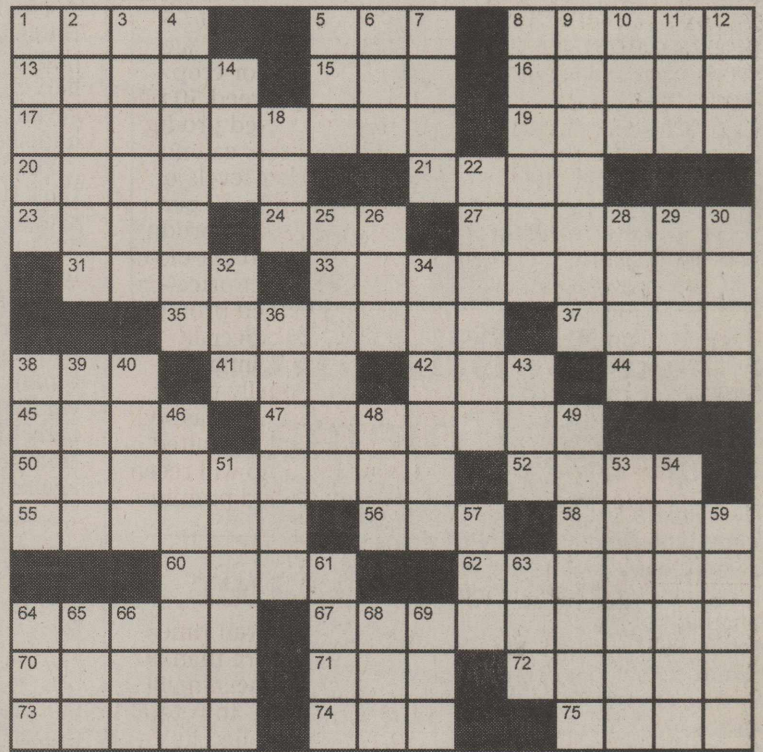
as well. If you want to keep your doctor, dentist and pharmacy of choice - don't allow yourself to get locked in to a "closed" medical, dental or pharmacy benefits network. The choice is yours only if you retain the autonomy of refusing to participate in monopolistic "closed" network system. Demand choice from you insurer before it's too late. If the health insurance industry makes all the rules..... eventually you won't have any choice.

*Philip Rolland, Pharm.D., M.H.A. is a pharmacist at Keel Drug, in Ballinger, Texas, and a guest columnist of The Ballinger Ledger and The Winters Enterprise.*

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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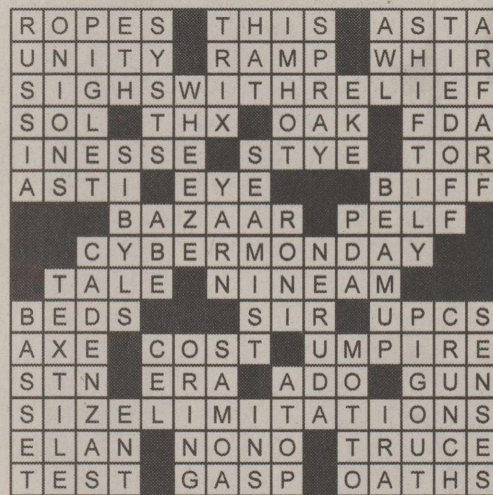
- Across**
- Pueblo builder
  - Dirt collector
  - "... looking at you, kid!"
  - Blessings
  - Muhammad
  - Do more than regret
  - Problem linked to CFC's
  - Model Evangelista
  - N.H.L. Hall-of-Famer Stan
  - Word with "slide" or "golden"
  - Pinsk pancake
  - Attack the lawn
  - Get stronger
  - Cracksman
  - Anno Domini alternative
  - Stand by
  - Quod... demonstrandum
  - Fed. air-quality watchdog
  - Striped antelope
  - Psychic "gift"
  - Bravo's cousin
  - What one little pig had
  - Varmint
  - NYC power co.
  - Torso muscles
  - Film critic Gene
  - Thespian's org.
  - "Give it \_\_\_!" ("Try!")
  - Explorer Hedin
  - One's external world
  - Summon
  - One is part of a part
  - Circle lines
  - Wide-eyed wonder
  - LePew et al.
  - Astronaut John
  - Sidekick of Stimpny
  - Chromosome choice



**Down**

- Nuclear blockbuster, briefly
- How mud might move
- Snookums
- Scoreboard divisions
- Long March leader
- Every one of
- Top \_\_\_ (the best)
- Hunting cry
- Aigner of fashion
- Swanson of "Parks and Recreation"
- Final word, often
- Big body of water
- Band performance
- Denver omelet ingredient
- Greatest
- Takes place
- Stir-fry fryer
- Designer Saarinen
- Mountain range in Kazakhstan
- Meat paste
- "I'm leaving," in chatrooms
- Highest point in Sicily
- Stimulate
- SASEs, perhaps
- Pal of Owl and Rabbit
- Actress Kendrick
- Ginger
- Leather from the sea
- Legendary burial isle of Homer
- Take again
- Enter quickly, as a pool
- Scuzzball
- Petition supporter
- U.S. economic measure
- Sidewalk game
- Asheville's st.
- Alley-\_\_\_ (court play)
- Work unit
- Actor Kilmer
- Dedicated flower
- Have a mortgage
- R&B's Boyz II \_\_\_

**LAST WEEK'S ANSWER GRID**



## Weather Whys

**Q: We keep hearing about a "nor'easter" in New England. What is it?**

A: A nor'easter is an intense low pressure storm, also called a cyclone, that occurs along the East Coast of the United States between October and April, says Brent McRoberts of Texas A&M University. "The storms generally form off the coast of Florida or the Carolinas in the warm Gulf Stream current of the Atlantic Ocean. As the system moves northward along the East Coast and gathers strength, winds can approach and even exceed hurricane force," McRoberts explains. "The intensification of the cyclone is driven by very cold air from Canada colliding with the moist air from the Atlantic. When these air masses meet, a very intense storm can form and bring heavy snows and gusty winds all along the East Coast."



## WACC Yard of the Month

The house of Danny and Dora Martinez, located at 300 Wood Street was awarded Yard of the Month by the Winters Area Chamber of Commerce. Pictured here are front row from the left: Linda Arispe, chamber Secretary; Danny and Dora Martinez; back row chamber President Pam Barnes, and First Vice President Faye Dean. Not pictured is chamber director Matthew Price.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

Public Record		
Runnels County Jail Record		
December 15, 2014		
Name	Age Agency	
Cheyenne N. Wagner	25 Concho	31 WPD
FTA assault causing bodily harm		
Albert L. Johnson	55 Concho	23 WPD
Manufacture and delivery of controlled substance and possession		
Walter Boswell	52 Coke	23 WPD
Criminal mischief		
Terry W. Denton	45 BPD	23 WPD
Theft warrant		

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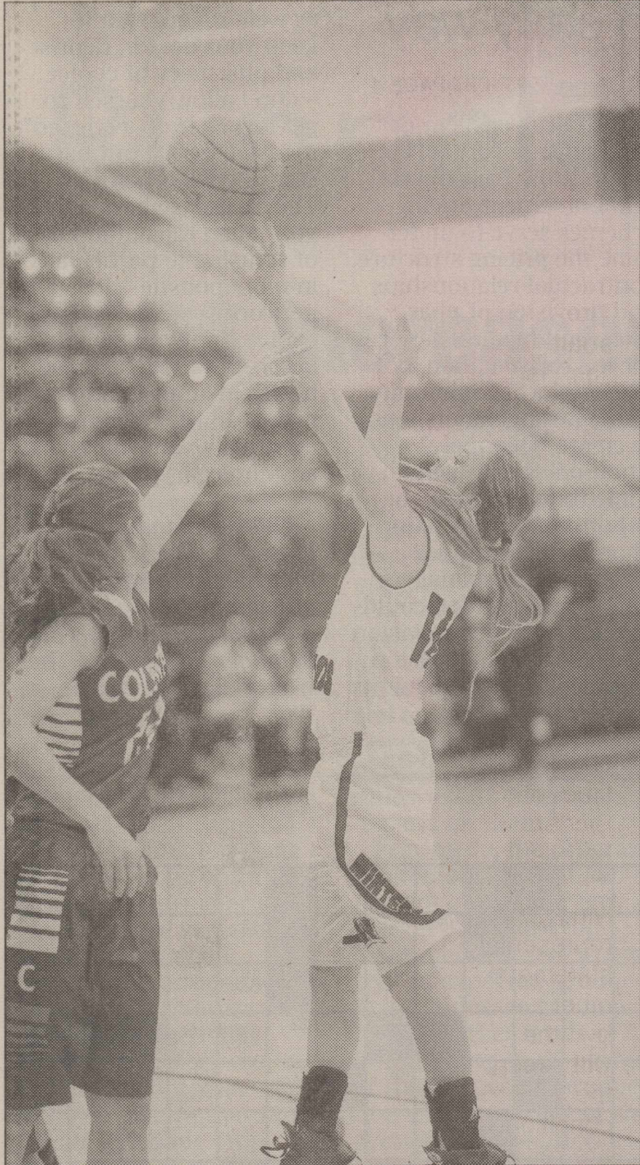
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# Blizzard hoops warming up the winter season



## Lady Blizzards host Coleman

The Winters Lady Blizzard Varsity basketball team hosted the Coleman Lady Bluecats on Tuesday night, December 9, 2014 at the Winters High School gym. The Coleman Lady Bluecats took the victory back home winning by a score of 67-28. Ashely Guy led the Lady Blizzard's offense with 10 points, followed by Nina Mooney with 6, while Bailee Busher, Christy Kruse, and Megan Jacob had 4 points apiece. As of press time the Lady Blizzards were starting district play Tuesday night, December 16, facing the Hawley Lady Cats in Winters. Pictured above is Christy Kruse shooting a jump shot.

PHOTO: JOE GERHART

### WINTERS ENTERPRISE STAFF REPORT

WINTERS- The Winters Blizzards fell to 2-2 Tuesday night, December 9, 2014 losing to the Coleman Bluecats by a score of 59-46. The larger class 3A Bluecats dominated the first quarter, and led 15-9. In the second quarter, Coleman stretched their lead to 10 points.

After a Blizzard timeout, Winters was able to cut the lead to 29-24 at the half. Then an early Blizzard run in the third period cut the lead to three points, but Coleman took control the rest of the ball game, and won by the 13 point margin.

Jake Brock and Daryl Hagle led the way with 17 points apiece. Luke Kraatz had eight rebounds and seven assists, while Brock had six steals.

The JV Blizzards played their first game of the season, losing to Coleman 51-30. Cordale Armstrong had 14 points for Winters.

As of press time the Blizzards Varsity and JV traveled to Coleman for a rematch on Tuesday night, while the Varsity and JV Lady Blizzards began district play Tuesday at home against Hawley.

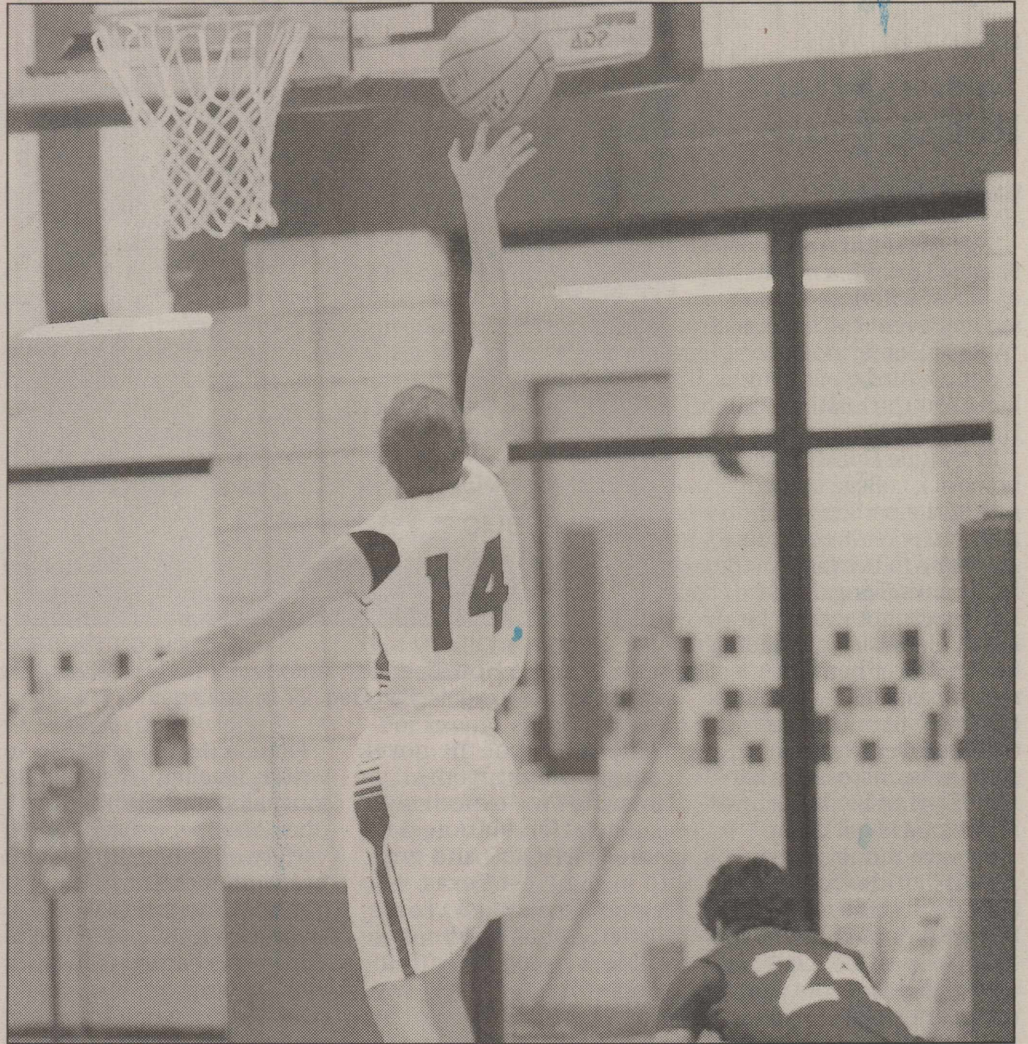


PHOTO: JOE GERHART

Varsity boys Luke Kratz making a lay up during the Winters Varsity vs Coleman game on Tuesday, December 9, 2014.

## Crafting decorations for the Christmas tree

The Winters Public Library hosted the first "Christmas at the Library" on Saturday, December 6. Children enjoyed making ornaments, decorating the children's section of the library, played games, had Christmas cupcakes, and got goodie bags filled with Christmas treats and small gifts. Children also read Christmas books. The event was coordinated by Susan Spill and Nancy Spill on behalf of the library board. Pictured here are Marsha Sehena, Michael Luna, and Janie Lara having fun making ornaments for the Christmas tree.



PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

The Perfect Gift a subscription to *The Winters Enterprise* only \$21 in Runnels County

## WABIC holds Christmas dinner at the Rock Hotel

### WINTERS ENTERPRISE STAFF REPORT

WINTERS- The Winters Area Business and Industrial Corporation held a Christmas Dinner at The Rock Hotel on Tuesday, December 9, for board members, spouses, and guests. The excellent meal was catered by the Museum Ladies. Everyone enjoyed viewing the many decorated Christmas trees... over 50 in all.

Sidney Tucker, North Runnels Hospital Adminis-

trator, was recognized by the WABIC board for his service to the hospital and to the community. He is retiring at the end of the year.

Charles Bahlman was recognized for his many years of service to the WABIC board and serving as president for 15 years. He retired from the board in October. In a time of fun at the dinner, Charles was also "knighted" into The International Secret Order of the Knights and

Ladies of Bluff Creek for stupendous, prodigious, monumental, herculean, enormous, and oft times ingenious endeavors to improve and ameliorate Winters. He can now be addressed as "Sir Chuck."

The Winters Area Business and Industrial Corporation is responsible for economic development activities in the Winters area. The organization strives to bring new business to the community and to assist existing businesses to grow and expand.

## Endowment for excellence established at Texas A&M

### BLAIR FANNIN SPECIAL TO THE WINTERS ENTERPRISE

COLLEGE STATION - The Weiner Endowment for

International Excellence has been established in the agricultural economics department at Texas

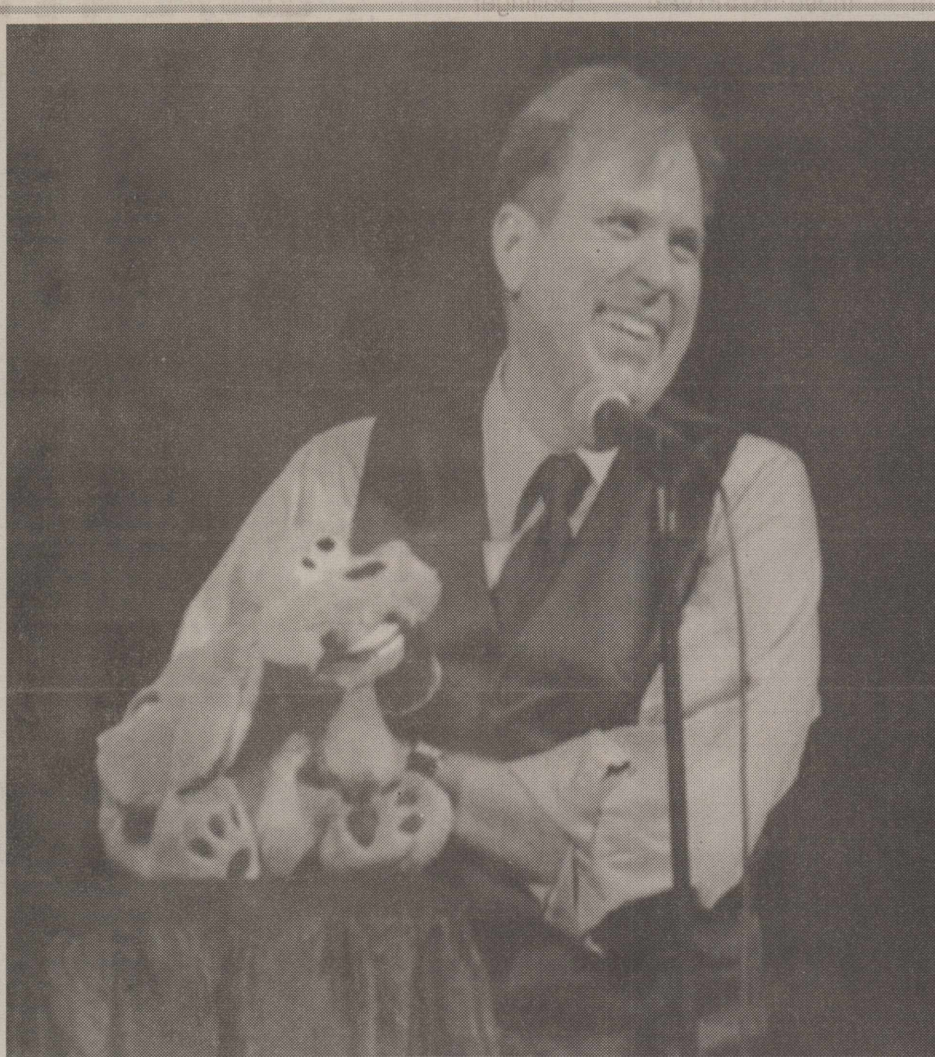
A&M University to further enhance study abroad programs and advanced degree offerings, according to Dr. Parr Rosson, department head.

Brian and Tina Weiner of San Antonio, who funded the endowment, both noted that "international activities are life-changing experiences."

Weiner is a 1965 graduate of Texas A&M with a bachelor's of science degree in agricultural economics.

"Brian and Tina have made this opportunity possible with a generous gift," Rosson said. "In continuing our pursuit of achieving international excellence, this program helps our students develop a world view and further their interest in economies worldwide. New perspectives on economics, agriculture, culture, natural resources and environment are built upon broad-based international experiences. This endowment will help further those opportunities and enhance our current offerings here in the department."

Currently, the department offers study abroad programs for up to 30 students each year, Rosson said. The program is based in France, Ghana and China. These experiences provide students the opportunity to study the agribusiness food chain in Europe.



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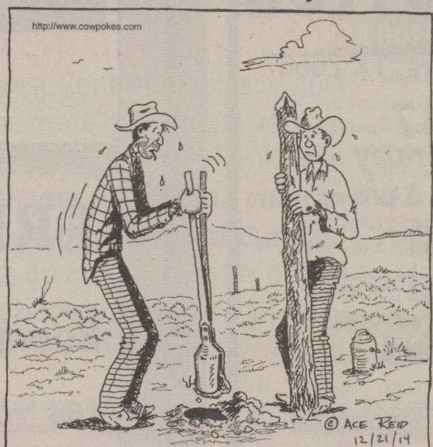
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**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**  
**CITY OF WINTERS TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM**

The City of Winters will hold a public hearing at 5:45 pm on December 22, 2014, at Winters City Hall located at 310 S. Main, Winters, Texas, regarding the submission of an application to the Texas Department of Agriculture for a Texas Community Development Block Grant Program (TxCDBG) grant. The purpose of this meeting is to allow citizens an opportunity to discuss the citizen participation plan, the development of local housing and community de-

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velopment (Para más información en español, comunique con Shelly Antille-Guevara al (325)754-4424).  
**NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF PROPOSED ACTION LOCATED WITHIN THE FLOODPLAIN**

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals  
This is to give notice that the City of Winters has conducted an evaluation as required by executive order 11988 and 11990, in accordance with the Texas Department of Agriculture - Community Development program protocols and HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures and Making Determinations on Floodplain Management, to determine the potential effect that its activity in the floodplain will have on the human environment for Winters 14CD under TDA #7214490. Contractor shall install one (1) mechanical wastewater fine screen, one (1) manhole, and all associated appurtenances. Construction shall take place at the primary lift station site, located southeast of the City of Winters, Runnels County, Texas, and

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south of Highway 153.  
The area has hours of 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Package. Comments may be submitted via email at [ave@public.mgmt.com](mailto:ave@public.mgmt.com).  
**PUBLIC NOTICE INVITATION TO BID**

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and those who have an interest in the protection of natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important educational tool. The dissemination of information about floodplains can facilitate and enhance efforts to reduce the risks associated with the occupancy and modifications of special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the above Deter-

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Texas 75379 and (775)574-8318, during the Bid and outlined in the Bid  
The property shall be sold "as is, where is, with all faults", together with any improvements thereon", and the successful bidder will be required to purchase the property by payment of cash or cashier's check at the time of closing. (The Bidders acknowledge that they are not relying upon any representation, statement or other assertion by the District with respect to the property condition, but are relying upon their own independent examination thereof, successful bidder shall take the property under the express understanding that there are no express or implied warranties (except for title which shall be the responsibility of the seller) of title documents.)  
**Tract 1: Lot 12-13, PT 11, Subd: no express or implied warranties (except for title which shall be the responsibility of the seller) of title documents.)**  
**Time: Any bid documents after 5:00 P.M. (Central closing time will be returned and all bids accepted or refused by the Ballinger Memorial Hospital District.**

Written comments must be received by the City of Winters at the following address on or before January 5, 2015 or 15 days after publication of this notice, whichever is later: Public Management, Inc., Post Office Box 795876, Dallas, Texas, and

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115 E. Pierce, Winters, Texas - Duplex, great investment property! 1 bdrm/1-3/4 bath, dining, large kitchen, large den, fireplace, covered patio, guest house, plus much more. Rental unit has two bedrooms, and 1-3/4 baths - you have to see this home to believe it.  
1718 CR 395, Winters, Texas - 2 bedroom, 2 bath home only minutes from town. Brick, two living areas, one with insert, approx. 1-2 acres (survey pending), barn, pecan trees.  
221 N. Church, Winters, Texas - 2 bdrm, 1-1/2 bath home, cert h/va. Two living rooms, use one as a third bedroom/office, dining room, large yard with pecan trees, garage, carport, covered patio, water well, carriage house.  
106 CR 395, Wintgate, Texas - newly remodeled 3 bdrm, 1 bath, very clean, living, kitchen, utility room, large yard, pecan trees, carport, water well.  
801 N. Heights, Winters, Texas - 5 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath, two living areas, two stories, hardwood floors, tall ceilings, large picture window in the living, built in hutch in the dining room. Across street from Winters school campus. 3,554 total sq. ft. per RCAD, living plus third floor attic space.  
111 Hunter's Glen, Winters, Texas - 3/2, considerable upgrades, large open living, fireplace, open kitchen, dining area, large basement, landscaped yard, pond, two car garage, much more. 2,031 sq. ft. per RCAD.  
106 West, Winters, Texas - 3 bedroom, 1 bath, hardwood floors, central heat, new roof, small fenced yard with covered patio, carport, pecan trees.  
214 Paloma, Winters, Texas - 3 bedroom / 2 bath, dining room, nice kitchen, pecan trees, 576 square ft metal shop with attached carport.  
705 W Dale, Winters, Texas - 2 bedroom / 1 bath, updated floors and paint, fireplace, central heat, attached garage and alley entry garage, screened porch.  
315 E Pierce, Winters, Texas - 3 bedroom / 2 bath, high ceilings, large closets, 2 living areas, dining room and large informal dining, bonus room upstairs for extra bedroom or playroom, utility room, hobby room, central heat and air, new ceiling, large metal shop.  
110 S Main St, Winters, Texas - office space available for rent. Professional Building

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**1160 ACRES RUNNELS COUNTY \$1,618,200**  
Premier hunting place. Some minerals are available Quail Ridge Ranch is one of the most ready to hunt places we have seen. Deer, turkey, quail, and dove are right at home here with good mesquite cover, 7 surface ponds, 3 wet weather creeks. Roads have been cleared for food plots down the sides, and there are 2 food plots of 3, and 7, acres each, 12 deer blinds, 12 corn feeders, some quail feeders. Divided into 3 pastures it would also entertain a livestock operation. Fully furnished 14'x65', 2/2 mobile home with metal roof, a 15'x28' covered patio, and a 20'x20' metal building with 2 roll-up doors.  
**115 ACRES • RUNNELS COUNTY • \$230,000**  
Approx. 7 acres cult, and is covered in quite a bit of cedar trees but open enough for good deer hunting. A lot of elevation changes including a earth water tank for livestock. a barn is on the property and has cattle pen & electricity. Excellent deer hunting. All minerals owed will convey to new owner.  
Aubrey Faubion • Willingham Realty 325-977-0003 • Cliff Faubion

Written comments must be received by the City of Winters at the following address on or before January 5, 2015 or 15 days after publication of this notice, whichever is later: Public Management, Inc., Post Office Box 795876, Dallas, Texas, and  
Ballinger Memorial Hospital District  
Offers may be received by Grady Hooper CEO, Ballinger Memorial Hospital District  
All bidders must comply with bid specifications and requirements.  
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Phone: 325-718-9804 Email: [deb.lugo@yahoo.com](mailto:deb.lugo@yahoo.com)  
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**607 Bowen St. Winters, TX** - Adorable three bedroom, one bath house on large lot. Living room, kitchen, attached carport. Cute and clean. Well priced at \$40k. Great investment opportunity! Bank financing or cash a must (owner financing is not available).  
Please contact Debra Lugo for more information at 325-718-9804 or by email at [deb.lugo@yahoo.com](mailto:deb.lugo@yahoo.com)

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