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Volume 25, Issue 32

Thursday, July 2, 2015

Winters, Texas 75¢

Briefly

Holiday closures

The City of Ballinger, Runnels County and the City of Winters will be closed Friday in observance of the Fourth of July holiday. First Federal Credit Union in Ballinger will be closed Friday. All will reopen for normal business hours Monday.

First National Bank and Ballinger National Bank will be open for normal business hours Friday. Security State Bank in Winters will be open for normal business hours Friday.

Winters ISD will be closed Friday and will reopen July 13. Ballinger ISD is closed June 26 and will reopen July 6.

Freedom and fireworks Novice Community

Fourth of July Freedom and Fireworks Celebration will be held Saturday at the Novice Complex Football Field and Grounds. Festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. and will include three legged races, cow chip throwing and a watermelon seed spitting contest. There will be food concessions and a fireworks display by the Rough Creek Volunteer Fire Department which begins when the sun goes down.

The Who Burnt the Beans sanctioned cook off will be held at the Novice Community Complex grounds on Saturday and Sunday and will include an auction with donated items.

Holiday patrol stepped up

Patrols

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) will increase DWI patrols for a 12-day period that includes the July 4th holiday. From June 26 - July 7, DPS troopers will focus DWI patrols in high-risk locations at times when alcohol-related crashes are most frequent.

According to TxDOT, in 2014 more than 1,000 people in Texas were killed in motor vehicle crashes involving a driver who was under the influence of alcohol, accounting for 29 percent of the year's total.

Rainfall totals

The National Weather Service in San Angelo reported .01 of an inch of rain fell in Ballinger from June 22-29. A trace of rain was reported at Wingate (close to Winters) officials at the NWS said.

So far this year, Ballinger has received 17.28 inches of rain. A total of 18.87 inches of rain has been reported this year in Wingate.

The NWS reports 18.02 inches of rain so far this year in San Angelo, which is 7.53 over the normal rainfall amount which is 10.49 inches annually.

Winters ISD adopts new budget

State funding decrease prompts district-wide cuts

BY CELINDA HAWKINS
 MANAGING EDITOR
 WINTERS ENTERPRISE
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The Winters Independent School District adopted the budget for the new fiscal year that began Wednesday, during a public hearing Monday night.

The trustees adopted a budget totaling

\$6,070,153, which is a decrease of more than \$90,000 from last year's budget of \$6,160,289.

A decline in the student population means less state funding for the district, which in turn means that the Winters ISD had to make cuts across the board, said WISD Superintendent Bruce

Davis. "We have less funds so we had to trim the budget," Davis said, adding that the decreased funding amounted to 3 percent cuts in every department except maintenance and operations.

Davis called the newly adopted budget a "deficit budget." "As our student

numbers go down, state funding falls off," Davis said. "So we have to adjust the budget when we lose students."

The board discussed the tax rate during the meeting last night, but trustees are not due to set the tax rate until the board meeting Aug. 10. Currently, the tax rate is at \$1.04 per

\$100 valuation. "We haven't had a tax increase in a long time," Davis said.

In other district news, there are two seats on the Winters ISD board that will be up for grabs during the general election Nov. 3.

The Place 3 seat currently held by Dan Killough and Place 4

seat currently held by Charles Kidwell will be up for the election. The first filing date is July 25 and the deadline to file to run for a place on the board is Aug. 24. Candidates may file from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Winters ISD Administration office 603 North Heights St.

WHERE THERE'S SMOKE, THERE'S BBQ

BY CELINDA HAWKINS
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The smell of smoke wafted through the gates at Ballinger's City Park Saturday as 14 teams vied for cash and bragging rights during the 6th Annual Barbecue Cook-off sanctioned by the International Barbecue Cookers Association held in conjunction with the Ballinger Birthday Celebration.

A little under 700 people attended the celebration this year, said Tammie Virden, executive director of the Ballinger Chamber of Commerce.

"The attendance was better than last year," Virden said.

The teams signed up to compete and their job was to cook everything from brisket and pork ribs, chicken and hot sauce and beans too if they chose. Then, they even got to turn in a "meat" of their own choosing for the judges to taste.

Many of the teams, who came from as far away as McCamey and San Antonio, were competing for the first time at a sanctioned event, but it wasn't the first rodeo for any of them.

"I've been practicing for weeks," said Charlie Yanez of Winters. Yanez and

teammate John Vidaurri also of Winters, started cooking at 5 a.m. Saturday in the park. "Just wait until they taste this."

Nearby, the smoke was billowing out of grill overseen by David Schniers of Rowena was fired up and running for the Lil' Buddies cooking team. It was the first sanctioned cook off for Schniers and two other team members, but not to worry, they were fired up about their grilling techniques. At one point Schniers began spraying the ribs roasting on the grill with a liquid which he said was an old family secret passed down for generations.

"The secret is keeping it (the ribs) moist," Schniers said.

Schniers and team had also been up since before the crack of dawn.

"You have to get up pretty early to get started," he said adding that he was "turning in everything," which included (per cook off rules) seven slices of brisket, seven ribs and half of a chicken, along with beans and hot sauced.

Meanwhile, next door to them, were Mike and Katy Howard, also of Rowena, known as the Partio Cookers. The Howards, (Katy is sister to Schnier) said were

SEE BBQ, Page 6



Teams compete at IBCA sanctioned cook-off Saturday

CELINDA HAWKINS | WINTERS ENTERPRISE PHOTO
 Charlie Yanez, of Winters, participated in the Barbecue Cook Off during the Ballinger Birthday Celebration held Saturday at Ballinger City Park. This was Yanez' first time to participate in a barbecue cook-off sanctioned by the International Barbecue Cookers Association.

Same-sex marriage licenses delayed

BY CELINDA HAWKINS
 MANAGING EDITOR
 WINTERS ENTERPRISE
 chawkins@ballingerledger.com

As of Tuesday, Runnels County was unable to issue same-sex marriage licenses due to a software glitch, but County Clerk Julia Miller said as soon as the problem was resolved the county will be ready to issue them.

"As of right now we cannot issue them," Miller said. "We are experiencing a software issue which I'm sure is happening all over the state."

Miller said she did not

know when the software would be up and running. "I don't know whether it will be this week or next," she said.

Last week, following the landmark decision by the U.S. Supreme Court making same-sex marriage legal in all 50 states, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, issued a statement to county clerks across the state.

In a 5-4 ruling, the high court found that same-sex couples have a constitutional right to marry and that states must license a marriage between two

people of the same sex.

But as same-sex couples crowded into county clerks' offices across the state on Friday, some were unable to immediately obtain a marriage license. Some offices, including those in Travis, Bexar and Dallas counties, quickly began issuing licenses. Several others had computer issues, like Taylor County, where the first same-sex marriage license was issued Tuesday morning by County Clerk Larry Beville.

SEE ISSUE, Page 6

Runnels County follows statewide demographics

TEXAS TRIBUNE AND STAFF REPORTS

Fueling projections that Texas' population will double by 2050, the state's white, black and Hispanic populations all grew in size from 2010 to 2014, according to new race and ethnicity figures released last Thursday by the U.S. Census Bureau.

In Runnels County, with a total population of 10,416 according to the Census Bureau, the black population has increased considerably from 2010 to 2014 and the Hispanic

population is also on the rise, while the white population has decreased a half of a percentage point over the four-year period.

But statewide, while the percentage of black and Hispanic Texans ticked up slightly — black Texans by 0.2 percentage points, Hispanics by nearly 1 percentage point — the percentage of white Texans fell by nearly two percentage points.

As Hispanics make up

SEE FOLLOWS, Page 6

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FUNERALS AND OBITUARIES

Gilbert Ernest Adami, M.D.

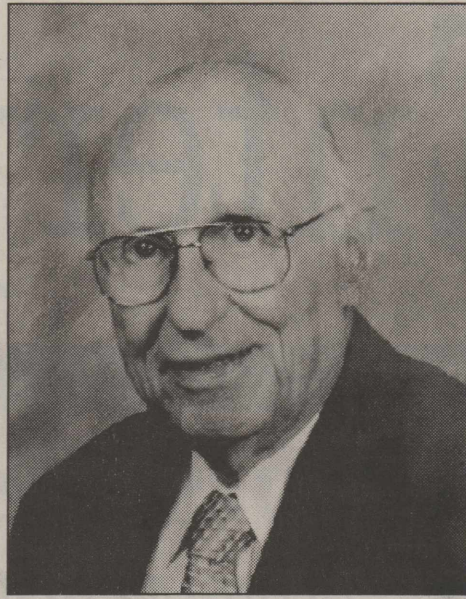
On June 24, 2015, surrounded by his loving family, Gilbert Ernest (Gil) Adami went to be with the Lord.

Gil was born on September 2, 1922, in Winters, Texas to Ernest Charles Adami and Emma Spill Adami. Even as a child, he knew his calling in life was to heal others. In response to that calling, he graduated from Winters High School at 16, and attended the University of Texas, where he played saxophone in the Longhorn Marching Band before his graduation. At 19, he was admitted to Tulane University School of Medicine, where he obtained his medical degree at the ripe old age of 22. Gil entered the United States Navy in 1945 and after completing a residency in Los Angeles General Hospital, he served at the Long Beach Naval Base in the V12 training program. He left California to complete a surgical residency at the Veterans Administration Hospital in McKinney Texas. While performing surgery there, he met a surgical nurse, Lillian, who became the love of his life.

In 1951, Gil and Lil married and moved to Denton, Texas, where he opened his surgical practice. At that time, Denton was a small town, and the scope of Gil's practice ranged from delivering babies to treating cancer. He would gather Lil and the kids into the station wagon and make house calls, driving out to the countryside to treat patients in their homes. Gil joined eight other physicians and developed Westgate Medical Center, which later became Denton Regional Medical Center. He worked to effectuate the transfer of the provision of emergency services to the City of Denton. In addition to maintaining a hectic medical practice for over 50 years, Gil, with Lil's help, developed real estate, operated a ranch, and engaged in other entrepreneurial pursuits.

Gil attended Immaculate Conception Catholic Church and was a Charter member of the local Chapter of the Knights of Columbus. In his spare time, he was also a great tennis player and pilot. He loved being outdoors and hunting, especially in the companionship of his fellow hunters, his sons, son-in-law, and grandsons. He was an excellent shot and held dear his hunting dogs.

Gil's dedication to his patients was well known, as was his love of his family. Patients, nurses, and doctors, and medical professionals, all respected his quiet, gentle manner, and his healing touch. He healed with soft eyes, steady hands, and quiet poise. In 1998, the Denton County Medical Society awarded him the pres-



tigious Gold-Headed Cane Award. This award is made to recognize an honor an outstanding physician who demonstrates the highest qualities of excellence, service and selflessness in contributing to his family, the art and science of medicine, and to the community. As exemplified by this award, Gil worked with deep dedication for his family and his patients. He had an easy humor. He taught life, cherished it, and saved it. He was loved and he will be missed.

His parents preceded him in death, and he is survived by his wife Lillian, and his children, Debra (and Ron) Drayovitch, David Adami and John (and Melissa) Adami, grandchildren, Kristi Drayovitch, Nicholas Drayovitch, Stephen Adami, Anna Adami, Michael Adami, Charles Adami, Daniel Adami, and Thomas Adami.

Services were held Saturday, June 27, 2015 at 11:00 A.M. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 2255 N. Bonnie Brae, Denton, Texas. Burial will follow at Roselawn Memorial Park.

Honorary pallbearers were Gil's grandchildren, Nicholas Drayovitch, Stephen Adami, Michael Adami, Charles Adami, Anna Adami, and members of the Denton County Medical Society and all nurses.

The family wishes to express their gratitude to nurses Kacey, Nancy, Lenore, and Julie, and all his caregivers, especially Stephanie, Judy, Julie, Velma, and Svetlana for their loving care.

If desire, donations may be made to Tulane School of Medicine, the Noble Foundation, or the charity of your choice.

Ballinger Ledger, July 2, 2015

Omer Ben Halfmann

Omer Ben Halfmann, 89, long-time and well-known resident of Olfen, Texas went to meet his heavenly Father and Savior on Thursday, June 18, 2015.

He was born September 3, 1925 in Olfen to Albert E. and Anna Katherine Marie (Multer) Halfmann. In 1943, his senior year of high school, Omer enlisted in the U.S. Navy and proudly served his country as a Machinist's Mate 2nd Class (CB) until 1946. Omer and Bernice Glass were married on February 10, 1947 at St. Joseph Church in Rowena, and the couple farmed and ranched in the area during their 68 years together.

Omer's love of God, country, and family were always evident. As a faithful member of St. Boniface Church, Omer served on the Church Council and was a member of the Knights of Columbus Council 2772 since 1947 and a member of the 4th Degree K.C.'s Assembly in Rowena. He headed the committee to erect the Veteran's Monument at Olfen and erected the bell monument by the church, honoring all the Olfen area religious vocations. He and his long time friend, Rupert Beach served as chairman/co-chairman of the sausage making committee for the annual parish festival for 39 yrs. He also served as a board member of the Olfen School. He was a member of VFW Post 9196 and was proud to be a veteran. He also served as a chaperone for the Children's Home youth hunt at Lake Ivie for many years. He took great pleasure in his family and their activities. Fishing was his favorite pastime.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother and sister-in-law, Elmer and Laura Halfmann; and brother, Albert (Al) Halfmann.

Omer is survived by his devoted wife, Bernice, and his children, Thomas Halfmann and wife, Lorene, of Coleman; Janelle Book and husband, Tommy, of Miles; Dwain



Halfmann and wife, Brenda, of San Angelo; Richard Halfmann and wife, Debra, of Lake Ivie; Mark Halfmann and wife, Ruth, of San Angelo; and Jacalyn Pruser and husband, Howard, of Winters. Also surviving are 22 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren.

Rosary will be recited at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, June 19, at St. Boniface Church in Olfen. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday, June 20, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Boniface Church with Fr. Ariel Lagunilla and Fr. Hugh Wade con-celebrating. Burial will follow in St. Boniface Cemetery.

The family requests that memorials be made to St. Boniface Seminarian Burse c/o St. Boniface Catholic Church or a favorite charity.

Arrangements are with Lange Funeral Home of Ballinger. Guests may register online at ballingerfuneralhome.com.

Ballinger Ledger, July 2, 2015

Bobby Glenn Faglie

Funeral services for Bobby Glenn Faglie, age 74, of Blanket will be held Monday, June 29, 2015 at 11 AM at the First Baptist Church in Blanket. Burial will follow at Blanket Cemetery under the direction of Davis-Morris Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 2-4 PM Sunday at the funeral home. Mr. Faglie died at Thursday, June at his home.

Online memorials may be made at davis-morrisfuneralhome.com.

Ballinger Ledger, July 2, 2015

COMMUNITY NEWS

Pre-Independence Day picnic today

The Pre-Independence Day picnic gets underway from 6 to 8 p.m. this evening behind the Z.I. Hale Museum in downtown Winters. Everyone is invited to enjoy hamburgers, hotdogs, watermelon, old movies and entertainment.

Winters summer reading program

The Winters Public Library Summer Reading Program runs through Aug. 11 starting at 1:30 p.m. Every Tuesday. The theme for the program this year is "Every Hero Has a Story." The program which will include stories and crafts for toddlers through kindergarten. There will

be a special treats and surprise. For more information call 325-754-4751.

Historical Commission to publish book

The Runnels County Historical Commission is planning to publish a book about the many schools and post offices that have served the county. Over one hundred schools and twenty-eight post offices have been identified in the county.

The information is being compiled with plans to have the book published in the fall of 2015. Much more information is needed about the older, rural schools. School histories are needed for the current schools-Ballinger, Winters, Miles, and Olfen--as well as Wingate, Rowena, and Norton. Pictures are needed, especially from the 1940s to present.

Much information is found in the Rural View published in 1920, but that only covers a short period of school history. Anyone having histories of schools, pictures, or other historical information about Runnels

County schools or post offices is encouraged to send the information to Ruth Cooper at jrc@abilene.com or Randall Conner at rconner@wtxs.net or mail to PO Box 211, Winters 79567.

City Council Meetings

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

Winters Public Library

We are excited to have Nancy Robinson Masters to present two sessions on "Creative Writing" at 10:30 a.m. July 7 and 14. Nancy, a noted author, will help attendees with started writing their memories and give information on writing notes, letters, e-mails. For more information call Joyce at 325-754-4251

AA Meetings

AA meetings are held at 204 W. Truett behind the Church of Christ on Main Street in Winters at 7 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday.

Runnels County Alzheimer's Support Group

The monthly Runnels County Alzheimer's Support Group will be held at Central Texas Nursing and Rehabilitation Center from 6:30-7:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month from. All concerned citizens are invited to share in discussion and education about the disease process and caregiver perspective.

There is no charge for this public service sponsored by the National Alzheimer's Association.

Sobriety First AA Group

Sobriety First Alcoholics Anonymous group will meet at the First United Methodist Church, in Ballinger, at 7 p.m. every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. The group will meet Saturday with prior arrangements. Please use the Avenue A and Seventh Street entrance. For more information please contact the church at (325) 365-2323.



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TEXAS HISTORY MINUTES

Zavala became an architect of an Independent Texas

Lorenzo de Zavala was a man of great ideas. He was an outspoken writer and editor as well as a diplomat, businessman, physician, and statesman. With all these accomplishments in his short life, he became revered as one of the architects of Texas independence.

He was born in 1788 in the Yucatan in southern Mexico when it was still under Spanish rule. From a young age, it was clear he had a brilliant mind, voraciously reading any book he could find. His family arranged for the best education possible, and he eventually learned to speak four languages. He started several newspapers as a young man, writing against the Spanish monarchy and its oppressive rule over the region. Because of these stands, he was arrested in 1814.

Unswayed, he continued his writings and also began studying medicine. By the time he was released in 1817, he had become a practicing physician.

After Mexico's independence in 1821, he was elected to the national Congress in 1822 and to the Senate in 1824. He briefly served as governor of the State of Mexico, the largest state in Mexico and briefly served as the secretary of the treasury.

Zavala's star was rising in the politics of the young Mexican nation. However, the infighting and intrigues that plagued Mexico in those years soon derailed his career. In 1830, the president was ousted in a coup led by the vice-president, and Zavala

was arrested once again. Recognizing the danger to his life, Zavala fled to New York. When the government changed again, he returned to Mexico. By 1834, with Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna in charge, Zavala was sent as a diplomat to France. But when Santa Anna became a dictator to put down the unrest in Mexico, Zavala resigned and returned to America.

In 1835 while in New York, he reunited with Stephen F. Austin, whom he had met on many occasions while in Mexico. Austin convinced him to come to Texas. Zavala settled in what is now Channelview, a Houston suburb, at a home he called Zavala Point.

As the Texas Revolution erupted, Zavala served on the Permanent Council in October 1835 and helped coordinate supplies for the Texas army. To protect themselves from Santa Anna's despotism, he and

others began arguing that Texas must be independent.

Zavala was elected to represent the Harrisburg (modern-day Houston) area in the Convention of 1836. There, with 58 other delegates, he signed the Texas Declaration of Independence on March 2. He led the effort to create a stable constitution, one close to the Constitution of the United States. Thus, the Republic of Texas was born.

Impressed by his accomplishments and his passion for the cause of Texas, the convention chose him to be

the interim vice-president, serving under interim President David G. Burnet. He served for seven months until the elected administration of President Sam Houston took charge in October.

Initially, Zavala was selected to accompany Santa Anna back to Mexico to argue for their government to accept the agreements he had made with Houston after his defeat at San Jacinto. Mexico, however, argued the treaties were made under threat and therefore invalid. The outright rejection ended the plan to escort him back.

He died after a sudden illness in November 1836, at the age of 48. Zavala helped steer Texas through its most desperate days. He would be honored greatly across the state in future years. Legislators named Zavala County in South Texas for him in 1858. Many schools are named for him as well as the State Archives building in Austin.

Dr. Bridges is a Texas native, writer, and history professor. He can be reached at drkenbridges@gmail.com.



Dr. Ken Bridges



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Brice Reunion was held June 20-21 at the Winters Community Center. There were 129 family members in attendance. The first reunion was held in the Ballinger park in 1969 and was moved to Winters in 1987 and has continued there for the past 29 years. The eight surviving children of Jude and Shellie Brice attended the event and pictured here standing from left to right are: Frances Faglie, Odell McGinnis, Joyce Weidner, Fayrene Henager and Leon Brice. Seated from left to right are: Leslie Brice, Oleta Webb, Juanita Bradley. The first reunion was held in the Ballinger park in 1969 and was moved to Winters in 1987 and has continued there for the past 29 years.

DPS Trooper Seizes over 19 Pounds of Opium

AMARILLO - The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) conducted a traffic stop Sunday on IH-40, yielding over 19 pounds of opium valued at over \$443,000.

At approximately 7:38 a.m., a DPS trooper conducted a traffic stop on a 2014 Chrysler 200 travel-

ing eastbound on IH-40, for a traffic violation, near Wildorado in Oldham County.

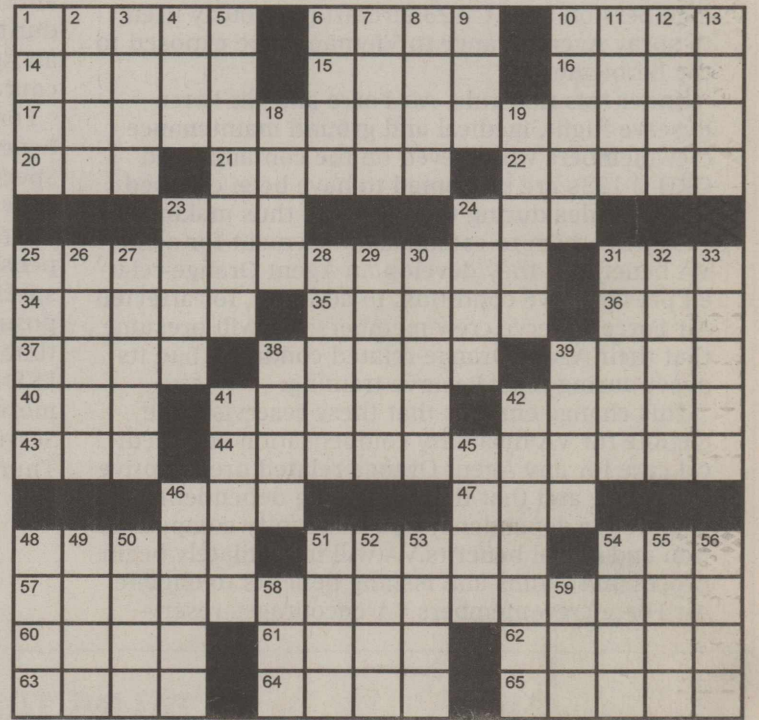
The driver of the Chrysler was identified as Masis Zazarian, 53, of Tujunga, Calif. During the traffic stop, the trooper discovered eight bundles of opium concealed in the

front seat. Zazarian placed under arrest for possession of a controlled substance over 400 grams, a first-degree felony, and booked into the Oldham County Jail. The illegal drugs were allegedly being transported from Tujunga, Calif., to Germantown, Md.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

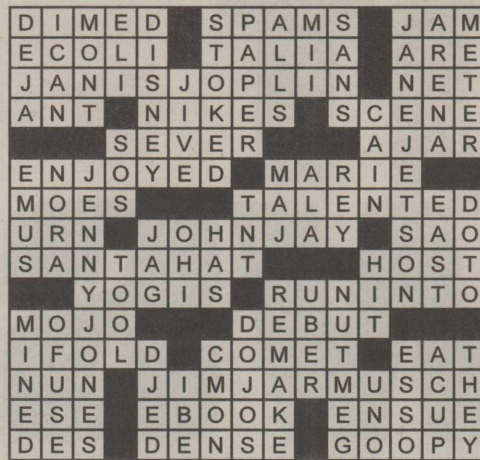
"Drink Me"

- Across**
- 1 Treble clef notes
 - 6 Rubber floater
 - 10 Hurting
 - 14 Broadcast anew
 - 15 Where Bhutan is
 - 16 Song for a diva
 - 17 Detective's prop
 - 20 ___ gratia artis
 - 21 "You'll never ___!"
 - 22 Chase of the Phillies
 - 23 Droop a bit
 - 24 Declare
 - 25 Tiny stone polishing toy
 - 31 Cowboys' div.
 - 34 Coincide
 - 35 Aware, with "in"
 - 36 Do, re, mi, fa, ___
 - 37 Great deal
 - 38 Time's partner
 - 39 Avian mimic
 - 40 Shirt with a slogan
 - 41 Movie set light: Var.
 - 42 Pulls apart
 - 43 Nile biter
 - 44 Yachting prize
 - 46 "Later," in a text
 - 47 Brief hellos
 - 48 Justice Sotomayor
 - 51 Prepare
 - 54 Likely
 - 57 Traditional Irish song
 - 60 Some colonists
 - 61 Apple product
 - 62 With it
 - 63 Floral cluster
 - 64 Like a busybody
 - 65 Not windy
- Down**
- 1 Columnist Bombeck
 - 2 Equipment
 - 3 Grocery holders
 - 4 Cacophony
 - 5 War ship
 - 6 Comic Martha
 - 7 Sale sign
 - 8 Fivers
 - 9 Label
 - 10 Off-color
 - 11 Word-of-mouth
 - 12 Soufflés do it
 - 13 "Duck soup!"
 - 18 Japanese fish delicacy
 - 19 Museum employee
 - 23 Misrepresent
 - 24 Taken in
 - 25 Reggae fan, often
 - 26 Looks at lustfully
 - 27 Cad
 - 28 "Me and Bobby ___"
 - 29 Major's successor
 - 30 Mario Bros. brother
 - 31 "Bye Bye Bye" band
 - 32 Hot chocolate?
 - 33 Catch
 - 38 ___ Mater
 - 39 Clutter
 - 41 Eskimo boat
 - 42 Drizzly day chapeau
 - 45 Voucher
 - 46 Draco's mom in the Harry Potter series
 - 48 Kind of meet
 - 49 Cry of exasperation
 - 50 Minor complaints
 - 51 Dittography, e.g.
 - 52 Spanish rivers
 - 53 Tennis star Roddick
 - 54 Slightly open
 - 55 Links numbers
 - 56 Elder or alder
 - 58 Article in Stern
 - 59 Milk source



LAST WEEK'S ANSWER GRID

"J.J."



Weather Whys

Q: You often hear of "anvil clouds." What are they?

A: Anvil clouds are common sights during spring and summer thunderstorms and can occur almost all over the world, says Brent McRoberts of Texas A&M University. "When a thunderstorm starts developing, the large cumulus clouds reach heights where the moisture in them condenses into ice crystals and spray," McRoberts explains. "This air and spray spreads and expands as the air bumps against the bottom of the stratosphere, and it often forms an anvil-shaped cloud as it expands. The central portion of an anvil cloud usually contains snow, but this melts as it falls into the very warm air below."

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ROLLING-UP Runnels County

4 Winters Enterprise

Thursday, July 2, 2015

VETERAN'S CORNER

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has published a new regulation that expands eligibility for some benefits for a select group of Air Force Veterans and Air Force Reserve personnel who were exposed to the herbicide Agent Orange through regular and repeated contact with contaminated C-123 aircraft that had been used in Vietnam as part of Operation Ranch Hand (ORH). The VA published this regulation as an interim final rule so that it could immediately begin providing benefits to eligible Air Force veterans and Air Force Reserve personnel who submit a disability compensation claim for any of the 14 medical conditions that have been determined by VA to be related to exposure to Agent Orange. This VA found evidence that as many as 1,500 to 2,100 Air Force and Air Force Reserve personnel who served as flight, medical and ground maintenance crew members on ORH C-123 aircraft previously used to spray Agent Orange in Vietnam were exposed to the herbicide.

Under this new rule, Air Force and Air Force Reserve flight, medical and ground maintenance crewmembers who served on the contaminated ORH C-123s are presumed to have been exposed to herbicides during their service, thus making it easier for them to establish entitlement for some VA benefits if they develop an Agent Orange-related presumptive condition. In addition, for affected Air Force Reserve crew members, VA will presume that their Agent Orange-related condition had its onset during their Reserve training.

This change ensures that these reservists are eligible for VA disability compensation and medical care for any Agent Orange-related presumptive condition, and that their surviving dependents are eligible for dependency and indemnity compensation and burial benefits. VA will immediately begin processing claims and issuing benefits to eligible Air Force crew members. VA encourages reserv-

ists who were assigned to flight, ground or medical crew duties at Lockbourne/Rickenbacker Air Force Base in Ohio (906th and 907th Tactical Air Groups or 355th and 356th Tactical Airlift Squadron), Westover Air Force Base in Massachusetts (731st Tactical Air Squadron and 74th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron) or Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, International Airport (758th Airlift Squadron) during the period 1969 to 1986, and developed an Agent Orange-related disability to file a disability compensation claim.

The VA also has identified several active duty locations where ORH C-123 aircraft may have been used following their service in Vietnam. Active duty personnel who served in a regular USAF unit location where a contaminated C-123 was assigned and who had regular and repeated contact with the aircraft through flight, ground or medical duties during the period 1969 to 1986, and who develop an Agent Orange-related disability, also are encouraged to apply for benefits.

For more information on applying for these benefits, including the affected units, Air Force Specialty Codes and dates of service for affected crew members, and a listing of Agent Orange-related conditions, visit www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/agentorange-c123.asp. Individuals with specific benefit questions related to herbicide exposure on C-123s may call VA's special C-123 Hotline at 1-800-749-8387 (available 8 a.m. - 9 p.m. EST) or e-mail VSCC123.VAVBASPL@va.gov. For more information, contact Sandra at the Veterans Service Office at 602 Strong Ave on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am to 3pm, or call 365-3612.

Sandra G. Van Zant
Veterans County Service Officer

TALPA TALK

By Talpa Bob

Hello To All:

It has been a quiet week out here. So quiet that you couldn't hear a cat burglar. The little Baptist church was broken into and the TV in the children's room was taken and some other things. I have been talking to the other residents near by and everyone is trying to keep an eye out for strangers or odd behavior. Stealing out of a church is the lowest of the low. To borrow a line

from a book, "Jesus is watching you." The thief will pay for this, maybe not right now but later on he will have to explain himself to the Owner. We have been going to San Angelo three times a week for physical therapy for Judy's shoulder. It is coming along. However, it is still very painful. We were in Angelo on the 24th and went over to celebrate my youngest son's birthday. Kelly was 41 and

that makes it awkward for me to claim that I am only 39. It was good enough for Jack Benny, it is good enough for me. I just finished books nine and 10 of Elmer Kelton's novels. He has a very interesting way of telling a story. The parts that I particularly like are the names of places (Pecos), rivers (Horse Head Crossing), ranches and towns that I am familiar with having grown up in West Texas.

We stopped by in Rowena at Ron and Norma Sharp's place. They have fresh garden vegetables that are in a cooler, right beside the driveway to his house. They have fresh okra, tomatoes, yellow squash and sometimes cucumbers or zucchini (they were on the vine at 6:00am). He sells them for \$1 a pound. You need to go either real early or late in the day. It goes quickly. They are doing all this labor of raising a garden to accumulate funds for their daughter to go to college. We always try to leave an extra dollar. Going into Rowena from Ballinger, take the first turn in on the left side of Hwy 67. There is a sign with the street address. It is just a couple of blocks. So it goes in our quiet little corner of Coleman County.

Talpa Bob

Public Record

Runnels County Jail Record July 2, 2015

Name	Age	Agency
Douglas B. McWilliams	51	Ballinger P.D.
Tom Green County Warrant		
Jessica R. Tolley	30	Ballinger P.D.
Possession of controlled substance		
Tanner C. Brown	36	RCSO
Public Intoxication		
Fred E. Winstead	51	Concho
D.W.I. 3rd or more		
Jasin M. Tonn	35	Ballinger P.D.
Possession of Marijuana		
Rodolfo C. Ramirez	28	Concho
Warrant out of Maryland		
Armando Quinonez	37	Ballinger P.D.
Probation violation		
Samuel Lena	51	Ballinger P.D.
D.W.I. 3rd or more		
David Molina Jr.	35	Ballinger P.D.
D.W.I. 3rd or More		
Rafael Delgadillo	30	DPS
Prostitution class B		
Fernando T. Delgadillo	20	DPS
Illegal entry		
Juan Delgadillo	24	DPS
No driver's license		
Ronnie J. Luera	-	Winters P.D.
Possession of controlled substance		
Jose L. Estada	33	Coleman
D.W.I. 2nd		

BROTHER J

Will there be fireworks

Last week I noticed fireworks stands popping up in many different places. We are getting ready to celebrate Independence Day and our 239 birthday. I noticed some small children playing around one of the stands. Those children were enjoying the freedoms that others fought and died for. We have the freedom to celebrate the holiday in the way we choose. There may be parades, picnics, ballgames, fireworks, family and friends' get-togethers and outings. This great country was founded on the idea that men and women should be free and should have some basic rights and freedoms. Like freedom from other governments, freedom from the tyranny of our government and freedom of religion. Men and women fought and died so we could have these freedoms. In addition, our troops are in various parts of the world today trying to preserve and protect the freedoms of others and let us not forget them. I am also reminded of an even greater freedom that was made available to us many years ago when Jesus Christ gave His life for us on the cross, (John 8:36 & Romans 5:8). So we could have forgiveness from our sins, (Acts 10:43 & Ephesians 1:7) and the hope of a new life and a new future, (Romans 6:23 & Hebrews 10:16-23). Let us remember these two great events this holiday weekend and the people that made these freedoms available to us. See you in Church next Sunday.

Brother J

GOT NEWS



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

Choose the way that's most convenient for you

In person, at 806 Hutchings Avenue in downtown Ballinger.
Office Hours are
Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

By phone to 325-365-3501.
By fax to 325-365-5389.
By email: chawkins@ballingerledger.com

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

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Fatal bridge accident victim identified

The man killed in the accident that occurred Tuesday morning under the Elm Creek Bridge in Ballinger has been identified as Jose Carmona-Rico, 67, of Tye.

According to reports he worked for J.H. Strain & Sons, of Tye, the company contracted for the bridge project by the Texas Department of Transportation.

According to Runnels County Sheriff Bill Baird, Carmona-Rico was working under the Elm Creek Bridge when a bundle of rebar fell on him.

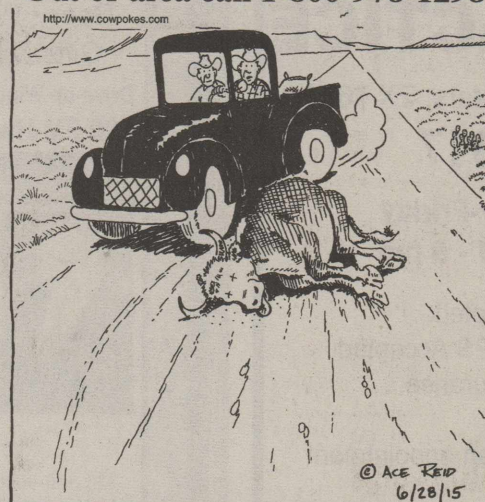
The accident occurred at about 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Baird said.

He was pronounced dead at the scene by Justice of the Peace Glenda Wood.

The body was sent to the Lubbock County Medical Examiners Office for an autopsy.

COWPOKES By Ace Reid

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* Winters Housing Authority is accepting applications for 2 & 3 bedroom apartments. Applications are available at 300 N. Grant, Winters, TX 8:00am - 3:00pm 325-754-4232

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Houses For Rent (Unfurnished)
 For rent 3br, 1ba CH/A 802 6th, Ballinger. Call 325-977-0049

Legal Notices

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Private Club Registration Permit and a Beverage Cartage Permit by the Ballinger Country Club dba Ballinger Country Club, to be located at 384 Private Road 2881, Ballinger, Runnels County, Texas. Officers of the said corporation are James Gay Sizemore - President, Steve Gerard Havlak - Vice President, Darlene Brice Kelly - Secretary, and Loyd Mark Travis - Treasure.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO NOTIFY

Notice is hereby given that after **JULY 6, 2015**, the City of Winters will clean the properties listed at, 506 N Rogers, 501 E Wood, and 701 N Trinity. It has

Legal Notices

been identified as a violation of City Health and Sanitation Ordinance, Article 3.400 Section 3.401 d) Sub-Standard Buildings-where a sub-standard building or structure is any building or structure which is so constructed or permitted to be constructed as to constitute a menace to health or safety as such is determined by the city health authority and the health ordinances this city including all conditions conducive to the harboring of rats, mice, skunks, or bats or other disease-carrying animals or insects reasonably calculated to spread disease, and including such conditions hazardous to safety as inadequate bracing or the use of deteriorated materials; as stated in the City Code of Ordinances. The doing of such work by the city shall not relieve such persons from prosecution for failure to comply with a notice of violation hereof. The expenses incurred in addition to fines and citations will be past onto you. If any interested parties have questions and/or comments, contact City Hall, 310 S. Main, Winters, Texas 79567, or call 325-754-4424, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Have a safe and happy 4th of July Holiday!

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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN AIR PERMIT RENEWAL

PERMIT NUMBER 73645

APPLICATION AC Nutrition, LP, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for renewal of Air Quality Permit Number 73645, which would authorize continued operation of a Feed Mill located at 319 West Dale Street, Winters, Runnels County, Texas 79567. This link to an electronic map of the site of facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to application. <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/hb610/index.html?lat=31.961666&lng=-99.962777&zoom=13&type=r>. The existing facility is authorized to emit the following air contaminants: organic compounds, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide and particulate matter including particulate matter with diameters of 10 microns or less and 2.5 microns or less.

This application was submitted to the TCEQ on May 26, 2015. The application will be available for viewing and copying at the TCEQ central office, TCEQ Abilene regional office, and the Winters Public Library, 120 North Main Street, Winters, Runnels County, Texas, beginning the first day of publication of this notice. The facility's compliance file, if any exists, is available for public review in the Abilene regional office of the TCEQ.

The executive director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. Information in the application indicates that this permit renewal would not result in an increase in allowable emissions and would not result in the emission of an air contaminant not previously emitted. **The TCEQ may act on this application without seeking further public comment or providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.**

PUBLIC COMMENT You may submit public comments, or a request for a contested case hearing to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. The TCEQ will consider all public comments in the developing a final decision on the application. **The deadline to submit public comments is 15 days after newspaper notice is published.** After the deadline for public comments, the executive director will prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the TCEQ's jurisdiction to address in the permit process.

After the technical review is complete the executive director will consider the comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. If only comments are received, the response o comments, along with the executive director's decision on the application, will then be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments or who is on the mailing list for this application, unless the application is directly referred to a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING You may request a contested case hearing. The applicant or the executive director may also request that the application be directly referred to a contested case hearing after technical review of the application. A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court. Unless a written request for a contested case hearing is filed within 15 days from this notice, the executive director may act on the application. **If no hearing request is received within this 15-day period, no further opportunity for hearing will be provided.** According to Texas Clean Air Act § 382.056 (0) a contested case hearing may only be granted if the applicant's compliance history is in the lowest classification under applicable compliance history requirements and if the hearing request is based on disputed issues of fact that are relevant and material to the Commission's decision on the application. Further, the Commission may only grant a hearing on those issues raised during the public comment period and not withdrawn.

A person who may be affected by emissions of air contaminants from the facility is entitled to request a hearing. If requesting a contested case hearing, you must submit the following: (1) your name (or for a group or association, an official representative), mailing address, daytime phone number, and fax number, if any; (2) applicant's name and permit number; (3) the statement "(I/We) request a contested case hearing;" (4) a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the application and air emissions from the facility in a way not common to the general public; (5) the location and distance of your property relative to the facility; and (6) a description of how you use the property which may be impacted by the facility. If the request is made by a group or association, the one or more members who have standing to request a hearing and the interests the group or association seeks to protect must also be identified. You may also submit your proposed adjustments to the application/permit which would satisfy your concerns. Requests for a contested case hearing must be submitted in writing within 15 days following this notice to the office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

If any requests for a contested case hearing are timely filed, the executive director will forward the application and any requests for a contested case hearing to the Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting. Unless the application is directly referred to a contested case hearing, the executive director will mail the response to comments along with notification of Commission meeting to everyone who submitted comments or is on the mailing list for this application. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact relating to relevant and material air quality concerns raised during the comment period.** Issues such as property values, noise, traffic safety, and zoning are outside of the Commission's jurisdiction to address in this proceeding.

MAILING LIST In addition to submitting public comments, you may ask to be placed on a mailing list for this application by sending a request to the Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below. Those on the mailing list will receive copies of future public notices (if any) mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk for this application.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at www.tceq.texas.gov/about/comments.html or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. If you communicate with the TCEQ electronically, please be aware that your email address, like your physical mailing address, will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the Public Education Program toll free at 1-800-687-4040. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from AC Nutrition, LP, P.O. Box 217, Winters, Texas 79567-0217 or by calling Mr. Bob Corrigan, General Manager at (325) 754-4546.

Notice Issuance Date: June 5, 2015.

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REDUCED: 705 W. Dale, Winters - 2 bdrm, 1 bath, updated floors and paint, fireplace, central heat, attached garage and alley entry garage, screened porch.

224 Circle Dr., Winters, 2 bdrm/2 bath, large living/kitchen, enclosed porch with wood burning fireplace, garage, storage shed, water well, large trees.

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

601 N. Heights, Winters - 5 bdrm, 2-1/2 bath, two living areas. Two stories, hardwood floors, tall ceilings, large picture window in living, built in hutch in dining room. Across street from Winters school campus. 3,554 total sq. ft. per RCAD, living plus third floor attic space.

101 Gateway, Winters, Texas 2 bed-1-3/4 bath, approx. 3/4 an acre, large living/dining area, office, unfinished basement, fireplace, storage buildings, 3 adjacent lots and water well

103 Second Street, Wingate, Duplex, each unit 1 bedroom/1 bath, open kitchen, living, brick, metal roof. 1,304 sq. ft. per RCAD

111 Hunter's Glen, Winters - 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

315 E. Pierce, Winters - 3 bdrm, 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/air, new cedar fence, large metal shop.

110 S. Main St, Winters - Office space available for rent. Professional Building.

115 E. Pierce, Winters - 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.

214 Paloma, Winters - 3 bdrm, 2 bath, dining room, nice kitchen, pecan trees, 576 sq. ft. metal shop with attached carport.

West Texas Centers

Mental Health Part Time Crisis Worker:
 Duties include responding to mental health crisis calls after hours and weekends, participating on a rotating on-call team. Bachelor degree with a major in social, behavioral, or human service, or 24 hrs in related field required. Plus one year experience in a related field. Applicants must live in 70 mile radius of duty site. Call or check website for salary and additional information.

Applications available at www.wtcmhr.org or by calling JOBLINE 800-687-2769. EOE.

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 For an application, call 1(800)665-4471
 Apply online at www.gentiva.com/careers
 Or apply in-person at 1423 Coggin Ave Brownwood, TX, 76801 E.O.E./M.F.D.V.

THE CITY OF WINTERS
 is accepting applications for a **WATER AND WASTEWATER EMPLOYEE**

Applications can be picked up at City Hall, 310 S. Main Street, Winters, TX 79567 or call (325)754-4424

All applicants will be considered, "A", "B", "C" or "D" licenses, if unlicensed must be able to be licensed by TCEQ, high school or GED diploma required. The City of Winters is an EOE OPEN UNTIL FILLED

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PLC REALTY
NEW LISTING!

306 N. 8th St., Ballinger, TX - This lovely vintage but updated home sits on a quiet street close to downtown. With 3 bedrooms and 2 1/2 baths, this 2,434 square foot house would be perfect for any family. The backyard is privacy fenced with several big trees. Among the amenities included in the property are a counter sunk swimming pool with deck, custom master bath vanity and shower, modern kitchen, new exterior paint, and many others too numerous to list. This home has an old world design, charm and color theme that totally impress. Priced at only \$154,500.00, it is definitely a must see!

Please contact Jill Davis for further information, including photos, or to set up an appointment to view at 325-754-1108 or jill@davislandandcattle.com

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Commissioner Miller joins EPA lawsuit

Aims to prevent the enforcement of illegal rule and the creation of massive federal government over-reach

AUSTIN - Today, Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller joined Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton in a lawsuit to stop the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from its illegal attempt to greatly expand the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act.

"This move by President Obama and the EPA is a Soviet-style attempt that threatens to trample private property rights,

individual freedom and economic growth in our country," Commissioner Miller said. "By expanding the definition of what constitutes the waters of the United States, the EPA is essentially burying Texas landowners in a mountain of burdensome permitting and paperwork, all of which will be micromanaged by the federal government. Our farmers and ranchers are the original envi-

ronmentalists, conservationists and stewards of the land. They know how to protect the land far better than some bureaucrat in Washington."

The Texas lawsuit follows EPA's ruling concerning waters covered by the Clean Water Act, which will now include many puddles, ponds, ditches and dry creek beds. Commissioner Miller believes the final rule is overly broad, while

also open to bureaucratic interpretation and abuse. Ultimately, the impact of this rule will mean higher production prices for agricultural producers and higher food prices at the grocery store for consumers. Additionally, the ruling will potentially have a negative environmental impact, because lands previously set aside for conservation may now be placed back into produc-

tion to make up for lost revenue.

According to Attorney General Paxton, the new EPA rule is unconstitutional, and Texas is suing the EPA. The argument is that the federal government is exceeding its statutory and constitutional authority by attempting to regulate areas never intended by Congress. The rule is contrary to the congressional intent of the Clean

Water Act and infringes on states' abilities to regulate their own natural resources.

"While we fight this attempt by the federal government to hijack our private property rights, I encourage Congress to act swiftly to prevent this dangerous attack against landowner rights in our country," Commissioner Miller said.

'Watch out for teen drinking' from Winters PD

A great concern and fear of mine often increases this time year. The rolling out of summer vacation often brings with it the increase of alcohol fueled barbecues, various get togethers and teen parties. With the end of school many students, both graduating and the younger classmen often feel the need to let off steam that's been building over the past nine months. Whether having those last big parties before heading off to college, celebrating newfound freedom from the education system or making the most of the remaining months with friends before going their separate paths, parties involving heavy consumption of alcoholic beverages have become the



Chief Randall Davis

norm. One might even go so far as considering the practice a tradition for young adults and teens.

I can understand young people wanting to "sew their wild oats," as I was a teen at one time too. What I find hard to understand is the acceptance of this tradition from the older, the wiser and the more mature of us. Too many times I find teens are afforded the opportunities to drink by loving and caring adults or parents that have nurtured and raised their children thus far.

Many people are under the misconception that when promoting an alcohol event, or providing a place for others to have one, including their own teenager to have a party involving alcohol. They believe everything will be alright,

because they (the teens) are monitored, or it was only allowed at home. I have seen numerous times where parties are allowed with the excuse of "we took every ones car keys so they could not drive under the influence," or "we monitored our child and their friends while drinking" or "we provided a safe place for the event."

When did it become socially acceptable for a responsible adult to provide a developing child or teen, a mind altering beverage or other dangerous substance and especially someone else's child.

We have all seen the statistics of drunk driving, the monetary costs, and yes, the tragedy of losing a loved one due to the effects of alcohol related accidents. The State of Texas as well as Runnels and surrounding Counties have all seen their fair share of these tragedies. We tend to mourn

the losses and with time, return to the same ole traditions of partying hardy while paying little or no attention to the dangers and or consequences.

I've heard the excuses of "I drink responsibly," "I was only driving home," "I only had a few," or "I can handle my alcohol," or "Its nobody's business how much I drink" and the list continues... and so do the alcohol related incidences.

Please, don't be mistaken, it is my business as well as the business of every other person living in this community. If you host a party or allow another person to drink alcoholic beverages and that person has an accident, is injured, or injures another while intoxicated you can be held responsible, both criminally and civilly under Texas law.

We all share the responsibility in making our community a safer place and protecting those living in our neighbor-

hoods, whether it's watching over our neighbors, or refusing to promote the use of alcohol, especially with our teenaged citizens.

I believe it is a moral obligation for a parent to raise a child in the best manner possible, to protect that child while providing a safe and healthy foundation for that child to carry forward into their adult lives. You cannot provide a safe and healthy foundation based on alcohol use or abuse. It doesn't work. When promoting or permitting the use of alcohol, you are essentially telling your child "indulge, its ok" when its not. You wouldn't allow your child, or someone else's child to drink arsenic would you? Well of course not...then why allow that same child to drink alcohol. I've never worked an accident due to arsenic, I can't say the same for alcohol. Sadly, many times the end results are the same.

FOLLOWS

from Page 1

larger portion of the workforce in Texas — one of four majority-minority states — they are moving into the state's fast-growing suburbs and counties adjacent to urban centers, in search of affordable housing and a better quality of life, said State Demographer Lloyd Potter.

With job growth increasing in urban cores like San Antonio and Austin, it's no surprise that "suburban ring counties" like Hays, Comal and Williamson are experiencing fast growth among their Hispanic populations, Potter said.

"More and more, our labor force is being driven by and is increasingly of Hispanic descent," Potter said. "Essentially, as jobs are being created, that's where you're going to see more Hispanics moving because that's just the dynamics of our overall demographics."

The rural areas with the biggest

Hispanic populations are largely on the outskirts of larger cities like San Angelo and Amarillo.

**This analysis includes people who identified themselves in the U.S. Census as either non-Hispanic white, non-Hispanic black or Hispanic.*

Though Hardin and Orange counties have small Hispanic populations, the East Texas counties experienced large growth among Hispanics largely because of the refinery industry in the area, Potter said.

Booming Midland and Ector counties — the two West Texas counties among the top 10 counties with the fastest-growing Hispanic populations — saw their populations boosted by an influx of Hispanic oil workers.

Among counties with populations above 50,000, those along the Texas-Mexico border have the highest percentage of Hispanics — though non-border counties

Demographics			
Runnels County Population July 2, 2015			
Total Population: 10,416			
Race	2010	2014	% Change
White	6,832	6,488	-5.0%
Black	174	221	27.0%
Hispanic	3,387	3,526	4.1%

are seeing high growth too.

Among counties with populations above 50,000, those located nearby large urban centers saw the fastest growth in Hispanic residents between 2010 and 2014.

95.8 percent. Five other border counties aren't far behind.

Among non-border counties with populations larger than 50,000, Nueces County — home to Corpus Christi — topped the list, with Hispanics making up 62.4 percent of the population.

Urban cores like Bexar, Harris and Dallas counties were among the 10 non-border counties with the largest share of Hispanics. They also have a larger share of Hispanics than the state overall.

ISSUE

from Page 1

Tom Green County Clerk Elizabeth McGill said she will uphold the ruling of the Supreme Court.

"As an elected official I have taken an oath to execute the duties of the office, and that I will pre-

serve, protect, and defend the Constitution and the laws of the United States and of the State of Texas without subjecting those actions to my own personal values," McGill said in a prepared statement.

On Sunday, Paxton delivered his opinion, which said county clerks in Texas who have religious objections to same-sex marriage can opt out of issuing such licenses — but they should be prepared to face fines or legal challenges.

In the opinion, which is meant to serve as guidance for clerks and public officials now that same-sex marriage is legal in all 50 states, Paxton said that pro bono lawyers are ready to help such gay marriage opponents defend their decisions. But he indicated that his opinion offered no blanket protections, and said the "strength" of any claim of a religious objection was dependent "on the particular facts of each case."

"Our religious liberties find protection in state and federal constitutions and statutes," Paxton said in a statement. "While they are indisputably our first freedom, we should not let them be our last."

Information from the Texas Tribune was used for this report.

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