

The Winters Enterprise



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Volume 26, Issue 4

Thursday, December 24, 2015

Winters, Texas 75¢

Briefly

Holiday closures

City offices in Winters will be closed today and Friday in observance of the Christmas holiday.

Runnels County offices will be closed today and Friday with some offices closing early Wednesday.

Winters ISD will be closed for the winter break through Jan. 4. Classes will resume Tuesday, Jan. 5.

Scratching until Christmas

Ealton Smith will be scratching his Christmas Raffle lottery cards until Christmas day. He has 42 scratch off cards that will keep him busy. The community wants to know: Will he get millions or just enough to buy him a cup of coffee at Wes-T-Go? Merry Christmas!

A Christmas Mass at St. Joseph's

Christmas Vigil Mass will be held at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Rowena at 7 p.m. tonight. Prior to the mass, beginning at 6:20 p.m., the story of the birth of Christ will be told through narration, scripture readings and special music by St. Joseph's Choir and congregational participation. Four young soloists - Marissa Kalina, Alexa and Kameryn Schwertner and Alison Sharp - will be featured during the program along with elementary children from the St. Joseph's CCD Program. Following mass the final ornament will be placed on the Jesse Tree by the children in attendance, after which they will gather round the crib to sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus. Everyone is invited to attend and participate in the celebration of this beautiful Christmas tradition. Mass on Christmas day will be at 8 a.m.

The last drop

Warm days and cool nights are in the forecast for Runnels County for this Christmas holiday, according to the National Weather Service in San Angelo.

High temperatures are expected to reach the upper 60s today and Friday as warmer weather moves through the area. Lows will be dipping into the upper 30s and low 40s, making for normal seasonal weather forecasters said.

On Christmas day, the high should be 69. Friday, a 20 percent chance of rain is in the forecast, increasing to 30 percent Saturday.

So far this year, Ballinger has received 27.65 inches of rain while 30.48 inches has been reported in Wingate. The NWS reported 25.64 inches of rain has fallen in San Angelo.

Water, sewer projects ongoing

Winters City Council approves several items during last meeting of 2015

BY CELINDA HAWKINS
MANAGING EDITOR
WINTERS ENTERPRISE
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Water and sewer infrastructure projects are ongoing in Winters and during Monday's city council meeting, the panel gave the green light to subsequent phases in the city's water well and sewer projects.

Currently the city is in the process of securing water wells to provide additional sources of water for the city.

The Texas Water Devel-

opment Board has approved \$800,000 for the planning an implementation of the development of the wells.

City Secretary Shelly Antilley-Guevara said the city is now waiting on approval from the Lipan-Kickapoo Water Conservation District to drill a well.

"We are in the negotiation stage and there are a lot of steps we have to take to get started on the project," Antilley-Guevara said.

Currently \$600,000 in

TWDB funds has been approved for planning, and about \$200,000 has been approved for construction so far, she said.

The council also approved the next phase of the sewer project, which is paid for through an 80/20 Community Development Block Grant fund. The grant totals \$275,000, with the city responsible for \$55,000 of the cost. The project includes adding sewer screens and manholes to the city's sewer system. Upgrades to the

city's sewer system have been on-going for the past several years, that included work on the city's main lift station and the addition of lift stations to the city's system.

"It is an antiquated system and we are just going piece by piece," Antilley-Guevara said. "CDBG has always been good about getting us grant funds."

In other business, the council officially hired Lauren Hogan, as the code enforcement officer. Hogan will begin the position,

which pays \$9 an hour, on Jan. 4, 2016. Hogan will oversee the city's code enforcement efforts which includes removing dilapidated structures and making sure construction projects are permitted properly.

Over the past three years, the city has identified some 80-plus structures that are in violation of city codes. During that time about 25 structures have been demolished

SEE PROJECTS, Page 8

REINDEER ROCK



The Winters Elementary 5th graders performed Reindeer Rock for a Christmas performance Thursday, Dec. 17, 2015. Parents, friends and members of the community attended the performance.

CHAD MCDUFFEE | ENTERPRISE PHOTO

Winters Lady Blizzards win first district contest



Played their best game of the year

BY CHAD MCDUFFEE
BALLINGER LEDGER
cmcduffee@ballingerledger.com

If your first district win is the toughest one then the Lady Blizzards are lucky that they got it out of the way before Christmas.

Against Hawley last Tuesday Winters played their best game of the year with three players in double figures scoring. Aimee Green had 13 points, Bailee Busher and Monique Carrillo each contributed 12. A final score for the game was not available.

On Friday their game didn't go quite as well. Against an outstanding Haskell Maidens team, the Lady Blizzards lost 75-34.

The Boy's Varsity squad had a difficult week as well, losing against a very good Coleman Bluecats team on Tuesday and the Eldorado Eagles on Friday. The final score was not available.

Micaiala Ochoa had a strong game early for the Lady Blizzards against Haskell, Dec. 18, 2015.

CHAD MCDUFFEE | ENTERPRISE PHOTO

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FUNERALS AND OBITUARIES

Paul Alexander Stoecker

Paul Alexander Stoecker, 83, of Winters died Nov. 30, 2015. He was born Feb. 20, 1932 to Carroll and Mamie Stoecker in Winters, Texas and grew up there. He was in the National Guard and served in the United States Army. He married Antoinette Mattiuzzo on Dec. 4, 1954 in Lockport, New York. They were married for 19 years and had 4 children. He later married Jo Karr on July 2, 1977 in Abilene, Texas. He worked for Merchants Fast Motor Lines for 37 years retiring in 1995. He then was a stock farmer. He loved football, to fish, hunt and tend to his cows better known as his pets. He was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church and was a longtime choir member.

He is survived by his wife: Jo Stoecker of Winters. 6 children: Sharon Ellis and husband John of Dublin, Michael Stoecker of Abilene, Tom Stoecker and Kelly Melton of Winters, Mike Karr and Wife Cindy of Abilene, Marty Karr and wife Patty of Port Aransas and Suzanne Karr of Abilene. 6 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren plus 1 on the way. He was preceded in death by 1 daughter: Linda Gail.

The family received friends at 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3, 2015 at Winters Funeral Home.

Services were 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, 2015 at St. John's Lutheran Church. Burial followed in the Lutheran cemetery directed by Winters Funeral Home.

The family requests in lieu of flowers memorials be made to St. John's Lutheran Church.

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Loyd Wishert

Loyd Wishert, 72, of Ballinger passed away Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2015 at Ballinger Memorial Hospital. A graveside service was held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 19, 2015, at Westbrook Cemetery in Westbrook.

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Rachel Vera Trevino

Rachel Vera Trevino, 77, of Winters, died Dec. 18, 2015. She was born November 14, 1938 in Karnes City and grew up there, moving to Abilene as a young adult.

She married Pablo Trevino Oct. 5, 1963 in Abilene and they then moved to Winters. She worked for Dry Mfg. and then John's International until retiring. She was a member of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church.

She is survived by her husband, Pablo Trevino of Winters; three children, Paul Trevino, Jr. and wife Amy, Eddie Trevino and Danny Trevino, all of Winters; three sisters, Elouisa Rodriguez, Isabell Vera and Esther Cortez, all of Abilene; 11 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by one son, Nicholas Trevino and one daughter, Linda Trevino.

Rosary was at 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20, 2015 at the Winters Funeral Chapel.

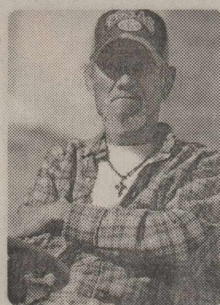
Funeral Mass was at 10 a.m. Monday, Dec. 21, 2015 at Mt. Carmel Catholic Church. Burial followed at Lakeview cemetery directed by Winters Funeral Home.

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In Loving Memory of Nicolas Reyes

1949-2014

Those who love us don't go away They walk beside us every day.



Love, Rosalinda Martinez

Nina Rose Burger

Nina Rose Burger, 86, long time resident of Odessa before moving to Ballinger in 2008 passed away Thursday, Dec. 10, 2015 at her residence.

She was born Jan. 10, 1929 in Brown County to Devoe and Kate (Martin) Manley. After high school, Nina attended North Texas State College. She graduated with a Bachelor's of Science Degree and began her life long career in education. She was a teacher and coach for 25 years, spending most of that time at Nimitz Jr. High School in Odessa. Nina was



a member of Crescent Park Baptist Church in Odessa. Nina was preceded in death by her husband, Charles Ray Burger; her parents; and her sister, Madalyn Stewart. She is survived by her daughter, Charla Nord and husband John of Ballinger; her son, Jerry Burger of Wilson; grandchildren, Heidi Winkler, Trent Burger, Charlie Burger, Russell Dill, Cali Trowbridge, Caleb Dill, Jonathon Nord, Amiee Wright; numerous great-grandchildren; and many, many former students that she taught throughout her career.

A graveside service was held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2015 at Sunset Memorial Cemetery in Odessa.

The family requests that memorials be made to needy families or to a favorite charity.

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

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Christine Faye (Bryan) Barker

Christine Faye (Bryan) Barker was born on the farm near Norton, Sept. 5, 1923.

She passed away early Friday morning Dec. 4, 2015.

She was the daughter of O.F. and Edith Devore Bryan. Christine attended schools in Norton, Wingate, and Bradshaw before her marriage on March 31, 1939 to Ernest M. Barker.

The young couple soon traveled to California to find work. Christine worked in numerous jobs during her life, lastly with Western Electric, from which she retired after 30 years of service. Christine was a loving daughter, wife, sister, aunt and friend. She and Ernest hosted many service men that were located in the Alameda, Calif. area, and from this, many lasting friendships developed. The focus of their marriage was serving Christ and bringing as many as possible to Him. Christine had fond memories of the year she and Ernest spent on Saipan helping rebuild the area after World War II. Her nieces and nephews thought she made the best macaroni and cheese of anyone. It was a staple at all family dinners. Christine was a member of the North Fifth and



Grape St. Church of Christ in Abilene.

She is survived by her brother, Joe Bryan and wife Glenda of Winters; sister-in-law, Doris Armstrong and husband Don; brother-in-law Albert Barker and wife Margie, all of Modesto, Calif.; nephew, Douglas Bryan and wife Debbie of Winters; nieces, Rebecca Airhart and husband Paul of Winters, Lisa Blake and husband Charles of Norco, Calif., Cindy Stuart and husband Russ of Clinton, Ill., Connie Bozarth and husband Tim of San Angelo, Cathy DiMaria and husband Tony of Anchorage, AK.; 14 great-nieces and nephews, all who thought she was the fun aunt to visit. She always had ice cream and Hershey's chocolate syrup to go with it and fun stuff to watch on TV.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ernest Barker; her parents, Edith and O.F. Bryan; one son, Michael Barker at birth; three brothers, Allen Eugene Bryan in Anchorage AK, Floyd Wayne and Travis Fred, in infancy; nephew, Mark Allen Bryan and niece, Sheila Rene Bryan.

Services were held at 2 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 6, 2015 at the 9th Street Church of Christ in Ballinger. Burial followed at Wilmeth Cemetery

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

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Frances Hale Bryan

Frances Hale Bryan, 88, of Winters, died Nov. 24, 2015.

She was born Sept. 24, 1927 to A.N. and Minnie Mae Hale in Bradshaw and graduated from Bradshaw High School in 1945. She married Dewitt Bryan November 10, 1945 in Winters, he preceded her in death May 28, 2008. She was a homemaker and a member of the Church of Christ.

She is survived by three children, Gary Bryan and wife Cheryl of Winters, Marsha Powell and husband Harry of Big Foot and Kendra Nitsch and husband Kenny of San Angelo; two sisters, Doris Bryan and husband Lelon of Winters and Shirley Denton and husband Ronnie of Bronte; seven grandchildren, Susan Hamilton and husband Tony, Angela Perkins and husband Brooke, Lance Feldhousen



and wife Lesa, Flint Feldhousen and wife Brandi, Shauna Nitsch, Jason Nitsch and Aaron Nitsch; eight great-great grandchildren, Lauren and Allison Hamilton, Layne, Logen and Bryant Feldhousen, Ashanti Nitsch, Rayden and Tristan Manchaca; three nieces and six nephews and several great and great-great nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by one brother, Joe Hale; her parents; and one sister-in-law, Pat Hale.

Services were held at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2015 in the Winters Funeral Home Chapel with Brooke Perkins and Tony Hamilton officiating. Burial followed at Wilmeth cemetery directed by Winters Funeral Home.

Pallbearers were her grandsons: Lance and Flint Feldhousen, Jason and Aaron Nitsch, and nephews Brent and Kendall Denton.

The family had a time of visitation following the burial at the fellowship hall of the North Main Church of Christ.

The family suggest that memorials be made to the American Heart Assoc. or the donors favorite local charity.

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Ellen Kettler

Ellen Kettler, 93, of Winters passed to her heavenly home on Monday, Dec. 14, 2015.

She was born Jan. 24, 1922 in Abilene and lived on a farm east of Winters before moving in to Winters in 1953. She was baptized in 1922 into St. John's Lutheran Church where she was a lifelong member. She married L.W. Kettler on March 13, 1941 in Rio Grande City. She worked for McMillan Clean-

ers and the Henslee Cleaners for many years. When her husband retired from Dry Manufacturing she started selling Avon for approximately ten years before switching to Stanley products. She gave that up after a number of years in favor of making cakes, cookies, candy and fried pies for family, friends and neighbors. She touched many lives and will be sorely missed by all those who knew and loved her.

Survivors include two sons, Jimmy Kettler and wife LaJuana of Arlington, Leroy Kettler and wife Neet of Dayton; one daughter, Judy Mapes of San Angelo; six grandchildren, Jay Kettler and wife Samantha of Gatesville, Angie Steinauf of San Antonio, Adrian Kettler of Arlington, Tony Mapes of Austin, Levi and Lucas Kettler of Dayton; and four great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband L.W.;

sister, Elfreda Gottschalk; brother, Harry Gerhart; and parents, Martin and Minnie Gerhart

The family wishes to express heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Nikki and Robin Lowe of Ashwood Manor in Ballinger and nurses of Ballinger Home Health and Hospice for their loving care given to mom.

Graveside services will be held at 11 a.m. today at the Lutheran Cemetery with Rev. Alsen Wenzel officiating under the direction of Winters Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to your favorite charity.

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The Winters Enterprise

Since 1886

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FUNERALS AND OBITUARIES

Laverta Marie Hubbard

Laverta M. Hubbard of Winters received her wings Dec. 16, 2015 at Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene surrounded by Family. A memorial service was held at 10:30 a.m. Monday, Dec. 21, 2015 at The Hamil Family Funeral Home, 6449 Buffalo Gap Road in Abilene. Entombment of cremains followed at noon in the Texas State Veterans Cemetery Columbarium at Abilene.

Laverta Marie Brown-Hubbard was born March 2, 1945 to Mrs. Marietta Wilkins-Garner and the late Earnest Woodrow Brown Sr. in Little Rock, Ark. She was a graduate of Horace Mann Class of 1963. Upon graduating from high school she entered the United States Air Force. After four years of service she was discharged under honorable conditions. She married Samuel H. Hubbard in February 1965 in Little Rock, Ark.

Laverta was preceded in death by her Father Earnest W. Brown, Grandmother L.V. Moore, Niece Karmille L. Gregory, Great-niece Jasmine Chenel Hughes.

She leaves to cherish her memories: Spouse Samuel H. Hubbard of Winters; Children Cary L. Hubbard(Maria) of El Centro, Ca, Daryl L. Hubbard (Sherry) of Abilene; Siblings Linda F. Brown of Sherwood, Ark., Mary N. Lee of Little Rock, Ark., Thomas M. Wilkins and Jimmy L. Wilkins of Little Rock, Ark.; parent, Marietta Garner of Sherwood,



We would like to especially recognize the staff of Hendrick Hospice Unit, Dr. Templeton, Nurse Lecia Adams. All the friends and extended family in Winters.

Online condolences may be submitted at www.HamilFamilyFuneralHome.com.

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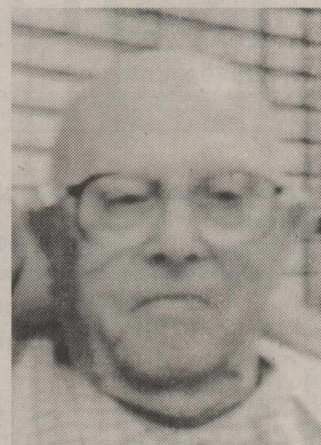
Robert Clinton Wright

Robert Clinton Wright 84 of San Angelo went to be with his Lord on December 22, 2015 at Shannon Medical Center. He was born August 29, 1931 in Mullin, Texas to Ealum and Esther Wright. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. He served in the U.S. Army as a Master Sgt. During the Korean War. He was retired from Dirt Contractor working in the oilfield mostly in Odessa and surrounding towns. He was kind to everyone and his prayers came from the heart.

Survivors are his wife: Ann Wright of San Angelo, 4 children: Rhonda Perkins (John) of Odessa; Monty Wright (Pat) of San Angelo; Frank White (Karen) of Huntsville, Alabama; Scott White of Odessa; 1 brother: James Wright of DeLand, Florida; 5 grandchildren: Michelle (Jed), Meagan, Eric (Jen), Ashley, and Picaboo 3 great grandchildren: Nate, Noah, Nikole and Makinzie on the way

He was preceded in death by his parents: Ealum and Esther Wright, 6 brothers: Doyle, George, C.D., Wilson "Pud", Max and Frank; 1 sister: Juanita

Graveside services will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Wednesday, December 23, 2015 at Lakeview Cemetery in Winters with Skip Hill officiating under the direction of the Winters Funeral Home



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Shot clinics in January

Texas Department of State Health Services will have immunization/flu clinics for children with Medicaid, no insurance or underinsured and adults with no insurance. For questions or to schedule an appointment, please call 754-4945. If no answer, leave a message. The clinic in Winters will be from 10 a.m. to noon and 1:30 to 3 p.m., Thursday, January 7, 2016, at the Professional Building, 110 South Main, Suite 108. For your convenience, please use rear entrance (Grant Street). The clinic in Ballinger will be from 10 a.m. to noon and 1:30 to 3 p.m. Thursday, January 14, 2016, at 600 Strong Ave. Please bring the child's immunization records. If the child has Medicaid, please bring the card.

Visit Friendly Neighbors

The Texas Extension Education Agency "Friendly Neighbors" invites everybody in the Runnels County area who is interested in learning about cooking, gardening, arts and crafts and other useful subjects to meetings at 2 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of every month (except during the summer). Meetings will alternate between the Runnels County Extension Office on the corner of south 7th Street and Sealy Ave. in Ballinger and the Winters Public Library at 120 N. Main St. in Winters. If you are interested and would like to find out more about this group, call Martha at 365-3890 or Judy at 754-5386.

City Council meetings

The Winters City Council meets at 6 p.m. the Monday, Dec. 21 in the council

chambers at 310 North Main.

AA meets in Winters

Alcoholics Anonymous meets in Winters Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 to 8 p.m. at 204 W. Truett St. behind First Baptist Church in Winters.

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. Child care is available. For more information please contact the church at 325-365-2323.

Alanon meetings

Alanon meetings are held at the First United Methodist Church in Ballinger at 7 p.m. Monday and Wednesday night. Enter on the Avenue A and Seventh Street side. Alanon is open to all family and friends of alcoholics or drug users. Child care is available. For more information call 325-365-2323.



BALLINGER FAMILY DENTISTRY

AnneMarie Benage, D.D.S.
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325-365-2583

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wintersenterprise.com

ADAPT AND OVERCOME

Seeking understanding

"I think the power is the principle. The principle of moving forward, as though you have the confidence to move forward, eventually gives you the confidence when you look back and see what you've done."

— Robert Downey Jr.

Now I can breathe a huge sigh of relief. I've finally gotten my new socket this Monday and it is a much better fit than the one I had previously. It is strange how such a seemingly small change can really alter things, but I can feel such a difference in the way my body moves and small changes to stance and gait.

These changes aren't good or bad, just different. I have always continued to stand at attention when the national anthem plays ever since I retired and with my old socket I wasn't able to stand with my feet together flat on the ground. It would always irritate me, because in my mind I was not correctly standing at attention. Now I am able to do that so at every sporting event I go to I won't be getting mad at myself anymore.

It's kind of funny, however, that it took the VA so long to approve this socket that I am already shrinking out of this new one. Go figure! My prosthetist said that when you are wearing 25-ply of prosthetic socks it is time to get a new socket. I am already up to 23-ply and I just got it. At least it looks like I can continue my journey for the moment and then it will be on to another challenge shortly.

Adapt and Overcome is a weekly article by Chad McDuffee, a veteran who served 11 years in the U.S. Army. The column will cover his experiences on his journey as an amputee as well as documenting the journeys of others.



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- Was in the hole
- Popular potato
- Artist Degas
- Made a fool of
- Take back
- Schuss, e.g.
- Had a bite
- Whirl
- Acting Gardner
- Sloppy one
- "All kidding"
- Chicago's Expressway
- The Creation composer
- Supports, in a way
- Bisques, e.g.
- "Out!"
- S. & L. offerings
- Fit of pique
- Cartoon dog
- Bribe
- Fuel gas
- Cream
- "Here's hoping..."
- It comes from the heart
- Takes out
- "Right Here Right Now" band
- Hostile to
- Disney's Darby

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- Whence St. Francis
- Statesman Barak
- MacDonald of old films
- Baseball's Mel
- Nave neighbor
- Isaac's father
- Straightaway
- Head post
- Uses a camera
- C.S. Lewis' land
- Apprentice
- Kidded around
- Polite Italian word
- Atlantic City mecca, with "the"
- Q ___ queen
- Time for eggnog
- Collect dust
- Guileful

LAST WEEK'S ANSWER GRID

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Weather Whys

Q: How do cold fronts differ from others on a weather map?

A: The quick way for a meteorologist to convey a lot of information in a hurry is by using weather symbols, says Brent McRoberts of Texas A&M University. "The symbols on a weather map can tell people quickly what is happening all over the country," he explains. "They can show rain, snow, thunderstorms, wind direction, all sorts of things. One quick way to distinguish fronts was to make them different colors. So many decades ago, cold fronts were colored blue and warm fronts were colored red."

ROLL-UP

Runnels County

4 Winters Enterprise

Thursday, December 24, 2015

Public Record

Runnels County Jail Record December 24, 2015

Name	Age	Agency
Preston N. Kincaid	30	Coleman
Violation of prohibited weapon		
Datrich Whitney	30	Coke DPS
DWLI w/ previous conviction		
Truong M. Le	52	DPS
Public intoxication		
Robert Perez	38	Concho
Burglary of habitation, Unauthorized vehicle		
Eric Ornelaz	32	BPD
Disorderly conduct / public intoxication		

VETERAN'S CORNER

The House Armed Services Committee, Military Personnel Subcommittee recently held a hearing on the Survivor Benefit Program (SBP) and the offset of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) the survivor receives for the service-connected death of a spouse, commonly known as the SBP/DIC offset or the "military widows' tax"—the law that forces survivors to forfeit a dollar of the SBP benefit bought by their spouses for every dollar of the DIC provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). All service organizations are urging Congress to repeal the SBP/DIC offset by the acknowledgement that the modest monthly Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) enacted in 2008 for those affected by the offset, which in 2009 created a schedule of annual SSIA increases through 2017. There was an August 2009 court ruling that required payment of both SBP and DIC to eligible survivors who remarried after age 57 as a good example of why the deduction is so wrong. The court decision stated, "After all, the service member paid for both benefits: SBP with premiums; DIC with his life." There are contradictory aspects of the law that penalize survivors who remarry before age 55 for SBP and age 57 for DIC by



Sandra G. Van Zant

stopping their payments, and also penalizes widows (by continuing to subtract DIC from SBP) for not remarrying after age 57. All veteran's organizations eliminating the offset for all SBP/DIC survivors. Due to the potential budget impact, Congress could phase in increases to the SSIA amounts. As of FY 2017, the \$310 monthly SSIA will restore about 25 percent of the offset. However, the SSIA benefit will expire October 1, 2017, and the payments will stop. At a minimum, Congress needs to extend the SSIA or SBP/DIC survivors will forfeit the \$310 monthly allowance. Let your elected officials know that you support legislation in the House and Senate (H.R. 1594/S. 979) that repeals the SBP/DIC offset (i.e. the military widow's tax). For more information, contact Sandra Van Zant at the Veterans Service Office at 602 Strong Ave on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., or call 365-3612.

— Sandra G. Van Zant,
Veterans County Service Officer

Three killed in Coleman County crash

STAFF REPORT

Three persons were killed in a crash Saturday night in Coleman County, the Texas Department of Public Safety reported.

Olga Cisneros Gutierrez, 54, of Abilene and Adela Campos Morris, 53, of Clyde and Javier Michael Garcia, 50, of Brady, were killed in a two vehicle crash reported at 7:13 p.m. Saturday night 9.4 miles from Santa Anna on US Highway 283.

According to the DPS, Gutierrez, was traveling north on US 283 in a 2008 Volkswagen Touareg and Garcia was

southbound in a 2005 Nissan Altima when the two vehicles collided head on.

The DPS reported that Gutierrez was "on the wrong side of the roadway," when the crash occurred.

Gutierrez and Garcia were pronounced dead at the scene by Judge Nance Campbell. Morris was transported to Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene with incapacitating injuries. She later died at the hospital.

All of the accident victims were wearing seatbelts. The accident remains under investigation by the DPS.

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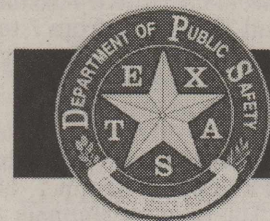
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Texas
Department of Public Safety

DPS increases traffic enforcement during the holidays

STAFF REPORT

AUSTIN - The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) will increase patrols for an eight-day period that includes both the Christmas and New Year holidays. From Dec. 24 - 27 and Dec. 31 - Jan. 3, DPS troopers, as well as law enforcement across the state, will be patrolling roadways throughout the holiday weekends looking for drunk drivers, speeders, seat belt violators and other drivers who are endangering themselves and others.

"Drinking and driving is always a concern during the holidays, and these DPS patrols help by identifying impaired or reckless drivers who endanger the safety of the traveling public," said DPS Director Steven McCraw. "We urge Texans to do their part to save lives by always driving sober and adhering to all traffic laws."

During the Christmas/New Year holiday enforcement effort last year, DPS troopers made 403 DWI arrests. DPS enforcement efforts also resulted in 7,274 speeding citations,

724 seat belt/child safety seat citations, 292 fugitive arrests and 166 felony arrests during the enforcement period.

DPS offers the following additional tips for safe travel during the holidays:

- Don't drink and drive. Designate a driver or take a cab.
- Slow down - especially in bad weather, construction areas and heavy traffic.
- Eliminate distractions, including the use of mobile devices.

■ Buckle up everyone in the vehicle - it's the law.

■ Slow down or move over for police, fire, EMS and Texas Department of Transportation vehicles and tow trucks that are stopped on the side of the road with emergency lights activated - it's the law.

- Don't drive fatigued.
- Drive defensively, as holiday travel may present additional challenges.
- Make sure your vehicle is properly maintained before your trip begins.



CHAD MCDUFFEE | ENTERPRISE PHOTO

Those traveling over the holidays through rural areas, like Runnels County, should also watch out for an abundance of deer.

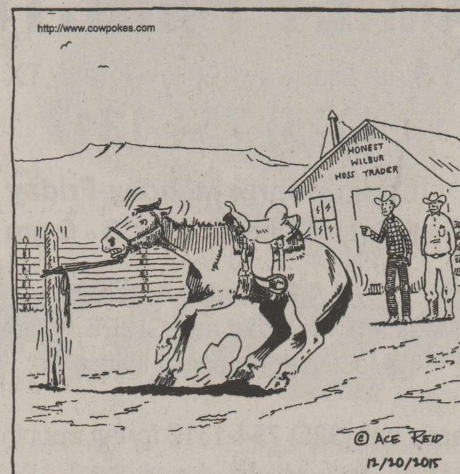
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The word count for letters to the editor is no more than 350 words, for guest columns it is 650 words. Lengths for other submissions will be determined by the content.

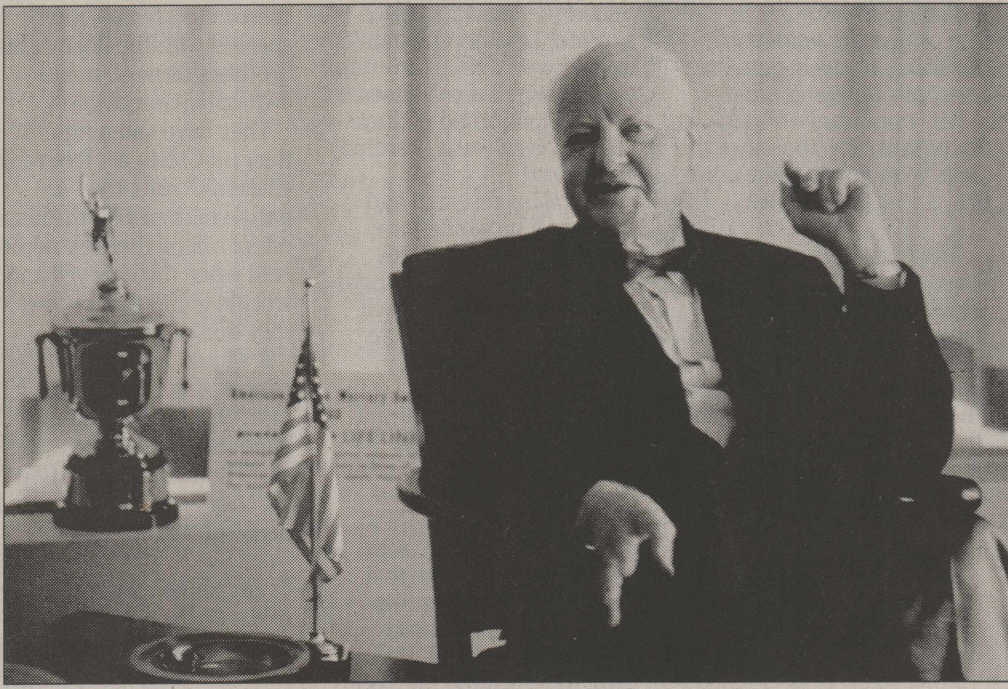
Please email all submissions to chawkins@ballingerledger.com or if you have questions, call 325-365-3501.

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TEXAS HISTORY MINUTE

H.L. Hunt Oil Tycoon



H. L. Hunt had rose from a small farm in Illinois to making a fortune in the South Arkansas oil boom of the 1920s. His ventures in Texas would propel the eccentric millionaire to become one of the richest men in the world.



Dr. Ken Bridges

Hunt made Tyler the headquarters for Hunt Oil in 1936 as the East Texas Oil Fields boomed, using his fortune and connections made in Arkansas oil to finance it. He soon transferred his company to Dallas. In 1938, he moved to the White Rock Lake area of Dallas, paying \$69,000 for a spread of ten acres and a home that was expanded into a Dallas landmark. When the newest owners put the home on the market in 2013, the estate was priced at \$24 million. Here, he fed deer on the property, raised his family, traveled the world, and carefully tended his empire.

During World War II, he supplied the government with oil needed for victory. As the largest producer in the country by the 1940s, his company sold most of the oil used by the Allies during the war. In fact, he personally sold more oil to the U. S. and the Allies than all of Germany produced on its own during the entire war.

By war's end, Hunt was also supplying about 85 percent of the natural gas used in the eastern United States. In 1948,

he was named the richest man in the world by the media, with a fortune estimated at \$263 million (about \$2.6 billion in 2015 dollars). But he was not content. He continued nurturing his oil business and soon expanded into consumer products, selling such items as cosmetics, vitamins, and health food through a spinoff company called HLH Products. By the late 1950s, journalists estimated his fortune at more than \$500 million (or about \$4.2 billion in 2015 dollars).

In 1955, his first wife, Lyda Bunker Hunt, died. Two years later, Hunt married Ruth Ray, who had been involved in an affair with him for years and already had four children with him. In spite of this scandalous relationship, H. L. Hunt became a prominent member and contributor to First Baptist Church in Dallas.

He became increasingly involved in conservative political causes as he grew older. Throughout the 1950s, he bankrolled a conservative radio program called Facts Forum, whose commentators condemned the New Deal and Jews while supporting the anti-communist activities of Sen. Joseph McCarthy, who was later disgraced for those same antics. In the 1960 election, he openly condemned John F. Kennedy for his Roman Catholic faith and for what Hunt saw as weak anti-communist credentials.

Hunt's prominence in Dallas and in conservative causes coupled with his loud criticisms of Kennedy led some conspiracy theorists openly attempt to link Hunt to Kennedy's assassination in 1963. No

serious evidence of such a link ever emerged, but the FBI provided bodyguards for Hunt in the chaotic aftermath of Kennedy's death.

Hunt began writing extensively in the 1960s, writing newspaper and magazine columns condemning communism and commenting on the oil business. He wrote several books, including Why Not Speak? (1964) and Hunt for Truth (1965). In 1967, he wrote a novel titled Alpaca in which he described his ideal world. The unequal system he envisioned had young adults receiving one vote, elderly citizens receiving two votes, and the wealthiest having four votes.

Hunt died quietly in Dallas in November 1974. In the years after his death, his life was the subject of numerous books as well as endless speculation in Dallas social circles.

Just Around the Corner

Holiday memories and my grown up Christmas list

On this Christmas Eve, I would like to share with everyone some of my favorite Christmas memories.

• As a young child, I remember baking cookies and goodies with my mother and the wonderful aromas that wafted through the house of Hello Dollies, Christmas cookies and my father's legendary fruitcakes that he baked in old coffee cans.

I remember my father's frustration with annual untangling of the giant glass Christmas tree bulbs because he swore, he neatly wrapped them the year before. The endless quest to find my mother's hiding place for presents. And, if we found them, how to make sure, if we peaked, to get them wrapped back up so as not to leave any evidence we looked...that didn't always work.

The Christmas parties that my parents had with friends, all gathered round with one friend playing piano, another playing the violin and my mother playing the guitar and Dad happily cheering her on, as she led the sing-along of traditional Christmas carols. Our favorites were "Oh Come All Ye Faithful," and "Little Drummer Boy."

The year I saw Dad riding around the living room on each of the Sting Ray bicycles - I'm sure he was just making sure that Santa tightened all the bolts and screws and that the banana seats were secured so my sister and I could ride our bikes down the block on Christmas morning.

On Christmas Eve, most year's we attended midnight mass at one of two Episcopal churches in Odessa. I remember the smell of the incense, the wonderful rousing voice of Father Don Hungerford as he walked down the aisle in all of his most festive vestments.

On Christmas Eve when my Mom helped make sure my sister and I laid out Santa's cookies and milk (and sometimes Alka Selzer) just right, so he would find it. We always left Santa a note too, just to thank him.

And, those glorious Christmas mornings, when we got up before sunrise, to get a glimpse of the goodies under the tree. The best presents ever included Chrissy and Velvet dolls, a Barbie van and anything Barbie, bicycles and oh yes, the Sony stereo with a turntable and 8-track.

And of course the moments after the wrapping paper had been piled up, and

ribbons and bows were everywhere, we were playing and Mom and Dad were on the couch, sipping egg nog listening to Christmas music and marveling at the fact that we had all made it another year. What wonderful memories, I miss them so.

My mother and dad continued all those traditions with my children and my sister's children and they all have fond, beautiful memories of Christmases past.

Now, we share these memories with our children, and through the years, have made sure that the traditions of our mother and father are carried on. Like a wonderful turkey and dressing dinner, sweets for the sweet and a holiday filled with love.

One thing, we have tried to share, which our mother did too, was to make sure to always give to those less fortunate, not only is it a gift to those who receive but for those who bestow it.

So, this year, I'd like to share "My Grown Up Christmas List," an Amy Grant song, which has stuck with me all season, possibly because the words ring true so much this year, with all of the strife that we have witnessed, at home and abroad.

"Do you remember me?
I sat upon your knee.
I wrote to you with childhood fantasies.
Well, I'm all grown up now,
But still need help somehow.
I'm not a child but my heart still can dream.

So here's my lifelong wish,
My grown-up Christmas list,
Not for myself, but for a world in need:
No more lives torn apart,
Then wars would never start,
And time would heal all hearts.
And every one would have a friend,
And love would always win,
And love would never end
This is my grown-up Christmas list..."

Merry Christmas to everyone!



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THE IDLE AMERICAN

A Chicken Way Out...

At this "turkey time" of year, stories of chickens are decidedly in the background. Clucking is drowned out by gobbles. The mention of "clucking" brings to mind a vignette destined to become an urban legend, except for a sudden change of location to a pastoral setting where neighbors live acres apart.

Let the story begin. By any measure, my friend Les Paul Vernon is a champion. A wonderful Christian and model citizen, he is an optimist by nature, almost always prevailing on projects large and small. A former Marine fighter pilot, Vernon is the "stuff" from where confidence and competence dwell. He and wife Melissa, along with three children, are living the American dream, much of it going swimmingly as planned.

Until a while back, anyway, when Les decided his children should learn at least a sliver of the farm life he

had known during his youth in a bona fide rural community called Itasca. He would do so, thought he, with a small flock of, uh, urban chickens....

He spent days—yea, weeks—with "Dr. Google," determined to provide accommodations which for chickens might be the "coop" de resistance! They would luxuriate in "cushiness" worthy of the same name chicken magazine Bo Pilgrim gave to his lovely estate—"Cluckingham Palace." (Les claims "Taj ma Coop" has a good ring, too.)

I mean Les was "drumstick deep" in research to provide the best possible experience for his children—Samantha, 17; Reed, 14, and Jacob, 10. He dreamed of their eager engagement in chores they'd



TEXAS
COLUMNIST
Don
Newbury

happily experience-feeding, tending, protecting and, of course, the gathering of eggs daily.

He'd pored over regulations, studied numerous breeds and had drawn detailed designs for a coop and run, the former to be 6x12 feet, so he could slide it onto a 12-foot trailer if need be. There were details about the foundation, ventilation, safety, automation, lighting and assorted other topics. Indeed, Les and Lowe's "did" the project together, to the tune of about \$3,500....

Few details were overlooked. There are hundreds of them included in my notes. Urban folks who may be contemplating acquisition of a few chickens are welcome to them. Just send

email address.

Indeed, many steps in the project are guideposts for living. It was begun, for example, on Easter Sunday.

The importance of patience came into play, too, since the eggs were not to come until the chicks became hens....

The three chickens—Pollo, Deer and Feathers—did what chickens do. They ingested bugs during their periods of "recess" in the backyard, and seemed to greatly enjoy their "preening sessions" in front of tiny mirrors placed strategically in the coop.

To say they were pampered would be a gross understatement.

There was excitement, of course, when they started laying eggs. Les says they were tasty, but wait....

As if to join in the exultation of egg production, as well as preening done exceptionally well, the three

hens—Speckled Sussex—began celebratory clucking, often as a trio. Les knew he didn't have to worry about crowing, since roosters aren't allowed in his neighborhood. Clucking, however, wasn't carefully researched.

Alas, if his research had deepened, he would have learned this breed is well known for turning out champion "cluckers"—noise well beyond the point of mere annoyance.

Early each morning, Les and Melissa—their bedroom only about 50 feet from the coop—were awakened by the clucking. Plus, the clucks—predictable at around 5:30 a.m. daily—seemed to echo. The Vernons are sure their neighbors, with bedrooms about the same distance away from the coop as their own, were hearing the same triumphant clucks....

What to do? Remember the design that provided ease

of relocation by trailer? The three hens are now interspersed with the flock at his brother's farm 40 minutes away near Grandview.

They have taken right to their new roles as "free range chickens." And, the Vernons' children visit the hens often, calling them by name. And when the kids yell and whistle to bid them come, they do so, gleefully.

It should be noted, of course, that the Vernons didn't field a single complaint from neighbors. They sleep better, though, knowing they evacuated the three hens before they had to....

Dr. Newbury is a speaker in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. Inquiries/comments to: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Web site: www.speakerdoc.com. Archived: venturegalleries.com, newbury blog.

BROTHER J

A special night long ago

I went to town to see an out door presentation about the birth of Christ. They had live camels, mules, and even some goats. It was so clear and the stars were so bright, it was such a beautiful night. As I watched the actors hurriedly trying get ready for their parts and trying to be in the right place and on time it reminded me of life. Many times life can be a fast, hurried, frantic pace and it may seem like there is no end. There could be a hundred reasons like health, finances, or family problems.

We do not have control over many of the things that happen to us in life but we are not with our hope, I saw that demonstrated last night in the frantic moments before the presentation started when the actors formed circle in front of a large beautiful wooden cross and had prayer. They asked God to be with them and they asked for God's help in putting on the play. They also wanted to tell the story of how God loved us so much and how he sent his son to live and die for us an that thought him (Jesus) we can find forgiveness of sin, hope, and a new life. The presentation turned out wonderful. It reminded me of how life can be if we put our hope and faith in Jesus, we will not be disappointed, (1 Peter 2:6, John 3:14-17) but we must be willing to include him in our lives.

See you in church on Sunday.

Brother J

The Market Perspective

The Bear Market gets underway

The reality of the emerging bear market in stocks is upon us. We have likened this time frame to the start of the 1973-74 bear market that took the DOW down 50 percent in two years. Interestingly the market is topping in the same December January time frame now as it did some 40 odd years ago.

For whatever reason the Dow Transports are the leading indicator of a market turn. The Transports topped in November 2014 around 9200. Note that was a near perfect 40 years since the December 1974 low in the Dow Industrials at 577. The 40-year cycle is quite prominent. Recall that the Depression low in the Dow occurred July 8, 1932 at 41.22. So that cycle low occurred 40 years prior to the high of 1972.

The DOW first closed over 1,000 on January 18, 1966. Seven years later it finally closed over that level again on Tuesday November 14, 1972.

Interestingly this seven-year cycle has timed the tops of March 2000 to

November 2007 and now the top in the Transports in November 2014.

And it is the same worldwide. A few years back the BRICs were all the rage. Brazil's Bovespa has fallen from 62,000 to 44,00. And now the President is facing impeachment amid the Petrobras Scandal. Putin's bet on oil for Russia's future has that economy on the ropes. India has fallen from its earlier highs this year. Shanghai's SSEC stock exchange fell 30 percent this summer.

We previously mentioned the Dow Theory sell signal of August 24, 2015. Charles Dow theorized that when the Industrials and Transports both confirmed a new high or low that signaled a new market direction. Both indexes did that on

August 24 this year. The Industrials rebounded but were unconfirmed by the Transports. Instead the Transports have not declines some 1,667 points since November 2014 from 9200 to 7533. A close under 7400 will open the door to much lower prices.

The confirming signal here is that the Transports declined some 18 percent while fuel prices have gone considerably lower. This proved all the pundits wrong who predicted a new wave of consumer spending with the money saved at the gasoline pump.

The "safe havens" of utilities and real estate investment trusts have also been hit hard. The Dow Utility Index peaked just over 650 in January 2015. That index closed Thursday at 574.79. That is a droop of 11.5 percent.

The Dow Jones Real Estate Index peaked around 325 along with the Utilities last January 2015. Yesterday it closed at 293.53. This is



Dennis
Elam

SEE ELAM, Page 8

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Ballinger, Runnels County, Texas, and the physical address is: 1007 N. 7th, Ballinger, Runnels County, Texas 76821.

All person having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Date the 14th day of December, 2015.

GRINDSTAFF & GRINDSTAFF Attorneys at Law 707 Hutchings Avenue P.O. Box 269 Ballinger, Texas 76821 325-365-3515 Fax No. 325-365-5263

Everett J. Grindstaff State Bar No. 08501000 Attorney for the Applicant

NO. 6945 IN THE COUNTY COURT OF RUNNELS COUNTY, TEXAS

ESTATE OF HELEN M. ULLRICH DECEASED

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Helen M. Ullrich, Deceased, were issued on December 15, 2015, in Estate of Albert Docket No. 6945, Ross Murchison pending in the Jr., Deceased, County Court of Runnels County, Texas, to: Shirley Jean Murchison. The residence of the Independent Executors is in Miles, Runnels the Independent County, Texas, Executor is in and the post of-

WE WISH YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR! FROM THE STAFF OF THE BALLINGER LEDGER AND THE WINTERS ENTERPRISE

REDUCED TO SELL! 400 Largent, Ballinger - 2 bdrm/1 bath, two car carport, central heat and air and sprinkler system.

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

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

REDUCED PRICE! 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.

403 Hamilton, Winters - 3 bdrm-1-1/2 bath, gas fireplace, large family room, wet bar w/ built ins, utility/storage, Central heat/air, four car carport, sprinkler system.

Special Notices

A Reader Notice: This newspaper will never knowingly accept any advertisement that is illegal or considered fraudulent. If you have questions or doubts about any ads on these pages, we advise that before responding or sending money ahead of time, you check with the local Attorney General's Consumer Fraud Line and/or the Better Business Bureau. Also be advised that some phone numbers published in these ads may require an extra charge. In all cases of questionable value, such as promises or guaranteed income from work-at-home programs, money to load, etc., if it sounds too good to be true -- it may in fact be exactly that. This newspaper cannot be held responsible for any negative consequences that occur as a result of your doing business with these advertisers. Thank you

EMPLOYMENT

Church Administrative Assistant Position
30 hrs per week, organizational and computer skills needed, (Word and PowerPoint preferred) must have ability to coordinate multiple activities. Please call 325-365-2323 or 956-792-0719.

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Liquor & Beverage permit by Double J's Beverages LLC. To be located at 912 South Main, Winters, Runnels County, Texas. Officer of said corporation are

Julian Gonzales (President), Josie Gonzales (member), Michele Wilson (member).

NO. 6943 IN THE COUNTY COURT OF RUNNELS COUNTY, TEXAS

ESTATE OF ALBERT ROSS MURCHISON JR DECEASED

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Albert Ross Murchison Jr., Deceased, County Court of Runnels County, Texas, to: Shirley Jean Murchison. The residence of the Independent Executors is in Miles, Runnels the Independent County, Texas, Executor is in and the post of-

Legal Notices

Office address is: 1002 CR 398, Miles, Texas, Texas 76821 and 1117 CR 394, Miles, Texas, respectively.

All person having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Date the 15th day of December, 2015.

GRINDSTAFF & GRINDSTAFF Attorneys at Law 707 Hutchings Avenue P.O. Box 269 Ballinger, Texas 76821 325-365-3515 Fax No. 325-365-5263

Everett J. Grindstaff State Bar No. 08501000 Attorney for the Applicant

Help Wanted-Full Time

Millersview-Doole WSC is hiring a Field Hand position to help maintain water lines. Good pay, vacation/sick time, insurance and 401K. Apply at 13841 FM 1929 E, Millersview, TX Phone: 325-483-5438

MOTOR VEHICLES

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FARM & RANCH

REAL ESTATE

Acreage

160 acres farm land for sale by owner. Between Ballinger & Norton near Valley Creek. Can take possession immediately. Call 325-718-8015

Homes For Sale

OWNER FINANCE 505 Vancil, Winters. Cozy 2 BR, fenced yard, carport. Bad credit - no problem! 325-518-8128

RENTALS

Apartments For Rent (Unfurnished)

NEELY APTS 1 Bedroom & 2 Bedroom avail. 300 block of Broadway, Winters. (325)318-9350

Los Carlos in Miles is looking for Full Time waitstaff & Part time cook. Must be available to work various shifts. Apply in person at 202 Robinson.

Help Wanted-Part Time

CENTRAL TEXAS Nursing & Rehab is currently hiring for a Maintenance Person
Please apply in person at 1800 N Broadway, Ballinger, TX. or call (325)365-2538 ask for Tammi Dankworth or Shana Zertuche for more details. EOE

Legal Notices

NO. 6945 IN THE COUNTY COURT OF RUNNELS COUNTY, TEXAS

ESTATE OF HELEN M. ULLRICH DECEASED

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Helen M. Ullrich, Deceased, were issued on December 15, 2015, in Estate of Albert Docket No. 6945, Ross Murchison pending in the Jr., Deceased, County Court of Runnels County, Texas, to: Shirley Jean Murchison. The residence of the Independent Executors is in Miles, Runnels the Independent County, Texas, Executor is in and the post of-

THE BALLINGER LEDGER and The Winters Enterprise

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

Classified Ads & Legal Ads. Friday prior at 5pm

ROP (Main Body of Paper): Sales deadline is 3 p.m. Friday

Ad copy 2 p.m. Monday

TEXAS STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK

TexSCAN

TexSCAN Week of December 20, 2015

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RECEIVING PAYMENTS from real estate you sold? Get cash now! Call Steve: 1-888-870-2243 www.SteveCashesNotes.com

REAL ESTATE

4.1 ACRES north of Kerrville, paved roads, electricity, live oak trees, Harper schools, \$988/down, \$422/mo. (9.9%, 30-yrs.) 1-800-876-9720. www.ranchenterprisesltd.com

LOOKING TO SELL land? Reach over 2-million readers for one low price in the Texas Statewide Advertising Network. Contact this newspaper or call 1-800-749-4793

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

FOREST HILL, TX. Police Department Entrance Exam. January 09, 2016. Deadline to sign up: December 30, 2015. \$45,754 Annually. Contact Jackie Allen at 1-817-568-3004.

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BLIZZARDS BASKETBALL



Monique Carrillo taking the ball to the basket, Dec. 18, 2015.

CHAD MCDUFFEE | ENTERPRISE PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Arborvitae, are just one variety of seedling that is available at the Runnels County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). The deadline to order windbreak trees is Feb. 11, 2016.

Runnels SWCD Windbreak Tree program underway

STAFF REPORT

A tree standing alone adds a certain aesthetic quality to rural living. But the systematic planting of trees in a windbreak becomes a management tool that affects every aspect of the farm or ranch.

Whether around a homestead, near cattle or bordering cropland, multiple row windbreaks act as a silent partner naturally protecting their investments. Windbreaks, in addition to reducing soil erosion, increase land value, crop yields and reduce livestock weight loss and mortality.

Available species for windbreaks are Afghanistan pine, Arborvitae, Austrian pine, baldcypress, deodar cedar, fourwing saltbush, Italian stone pine, lacebark elm, pinyon pine, bur oak, sawtooth oak, shumard oak, and pecan.

Seedlings to produce such a conservation tree planting are available for ordering through Runnels Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and are produced by the Texas Forest Service at West Texas Nursery in Idalou. The deadline to order is February 1, 2016 and the trees will arrive on February 11, 2016.

For more information please call the office at 325-365-3415 ext. 3 or come by 2000 Hutchings Ave. in Ballinger.

ELAM

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signaling a slow down in commercial rents. Not surprisingly the highest price ever paid for an office building outside New York City recently occurred in Chicago. That will no doubt be a market top.

This is the time to take preventive action on one's holdings. Do not wait through a 25 percent decline in your savings. And then wish earlier action had been taken.

We thought the forthcoming low in oil prices might offer some bargains in energy shares. However we did caution that an overall bear market in stocks could well take energy shares down as well. That is the case. A rebound in oil prices is more likely to raise USO, the ETF for oil futures, than energy shares.

The XES energy service ETF is back at its recent lows

of 17.50. It is down 64 percent from its 2014 high. The potential merger of Halliburton and Baker Hughes is now in doubt. It appears the Justice Department will block that from happening.

The 2009 low for crude oil at \$33.90 are about to be tested. Natural gas fell below its 2012 low of \$1.92. At \$1.74 it is still falling. That is taking the price of energy shares in the Eagle Ford and Permian Basin lower as well.

So, the Bear Grinch has stolen Christmas, 2015. But you can't say we haven't been warning of this occurrence. Eventually there will be a low in the price of crude and natural gas which will offer a buying opportunity. But for now the social mood on those markets is quite negative. That is what it takes to make a bottom in any market.

Follow Dennis Elam at <http://www.themarketperspective.com>

PROJECTS

from Page 1

under the program.

In other business the council:

- Approved an inter-local agreement for fire fighting with Runnels County. Runnels County pays the city \$10,500 per year for fire fighting.

- Approved an inter-local agreement for dispatch services. The City of Winters approved the payment of \$29,000 for dispatch services.

- Accepted a bid from Fortunato Esparza III and Rosa Maribel Esparza for \$1,000 for property at Armbricht and Pierce streets.

- Approved a budget amendment for the Waterworks Fund Budget for 2014-15.

- Approved monthly reports by the Winters Police Department, municipal judge and city hall.



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rubs

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