

Last Cowtown for race director

Jim Gilliland, the only race director The Cowtown has had, stepped down after the 31st event on Feb. 28. His directorship started on Cowtown's worst day -- an ice storm had blanketed the area the night before and the temperature was in the 20s. His wife, Ann, told him not to even bother attempting to travel over the ice to the start at The Stockyards because no one would be there. But he knew runners, and sure enough, there were about 200 who showed up. A volunteer had managed to mark the course with red paint before the runners took off because the original marks were under ice. Gilliland still wonders how he managed to do it. Gilliland has a lot of memories of Cowtown, which has grown from that cold and small gathering of runners to Saturday's record crowd of more than 17,000 registered. But that first one is one that he or the participants will never forget. We'll miss you Jim, but we'll probably see you at some of the local races, and maybe even Cowtown next year when you'll be able to line up with the rest of the participants. Taking over from Jim will be Terri Galindo and Cowtown executive director Heidi Swartz.