

Baird Star

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Volume 116, Number 21

Baird, Texas 79504

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Living History



Cynthia Parker teaches students at Fort Chadbourne Living History Event

Fort Chadbourne Living History Event A Success

By Walter Williams

The boom of the Eighth U.S. Infantry cannon shattered the mid-morning hush at the Fort Chadbourne Living History Event. Located twelve miles north of Bronte on Hwy 277, soldiers built the fort in 1852 to protect settlers from hostile Indians. The fort became a part of the 2500-mile Butterfield Stage line in 1858. Approximately 1100 students participated in activities at the fort on Friday and Saturday, May 15-16.

Granny G's Storytelling was a favored attraction for students and adults. Helen Garrison, a member of the Texas Folklore Society, played the part of Granny G and told the history of the fort as well as some of the more renowned Comanche guests like Yellow Wolf and Santak. She also told stories of her move from the Ozarks to Texas in a covered wagon. She explained how many of the women "followed their husbands to the end of the earth so they could fight Indians. It was cold in the winter, hot in the summer and isolated, so all they had was each other." Sarah McReynolds brought her simulated sod hut and played the part of Cynthia Ann Parker. Captured by

Comanches as a child, this early Texas pioneer reflected her deep devotion to the Comanche people. McReynolds also showed participants how to make the leather fringes often seen on buckskin garments.

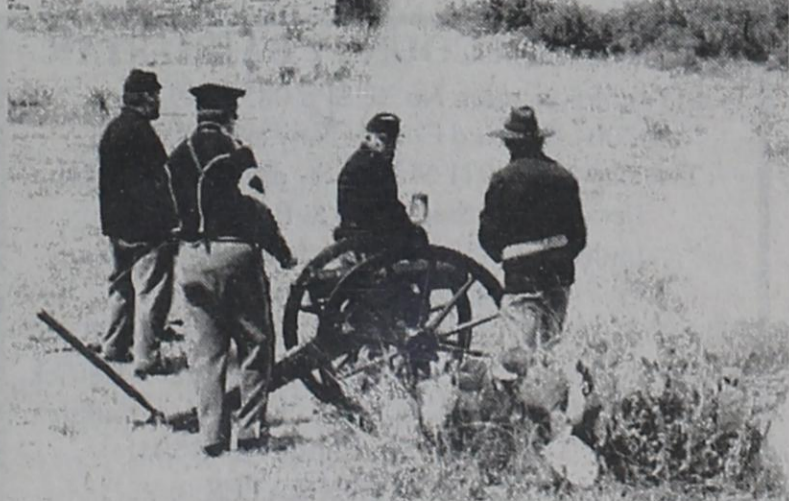
Students observed, not only the Eighth U.S. Infantry cannon in action, but took turns firing a Sharps 45-70 buffalo rifle at the range. A Fort Hood Gatlin gun company was also present. At least two archeological digs are in progress at the fort, one in the floor of the main barracks building. Additional activities included shopping for Old West costumes, learning about local arrowhead typologies or just watching a knapper make arrowheads. The Texas Fiddlers, The West Texas Cloggers and Freddy Matthews provided the musical atmosphere. Garland and Lana Richards established the Fort Chadbourne Foundation to help preserve and present the fort to the public. They hope to incorporate an interpretive display in the near future and construct a wooden floor in the barracks building to insure safety for guests.

After leaving the

Continued Inside

Please See

Fort Chadbourne



Shown above is an infantry cannon reenactment

Voters Speak In Saturday's City, School Elections

The voters spoke in Baird's City and School elections on Saturday, May 15.

In City elections, incumbent Mayor Jon Hardwick received 113 votes. Mayor Hardwick was unopposed in this election.

Incumbent City Council member Harold Hass received 151 votes, remaining in one of the two at-large council seats.

Brian Patterson received

174 votes, winning the other at-large council seat.

Tina Holden received 60 votes, and Lonnie Keith, 34.

The two at-large School Board seats were won by Gerry L. McDowell (incumbent) with 159 votes, and Matthew S. Rogers with 170 votes.

Larry D. McIntyre was given 89 votes; Richard C. Crow, 110.

Callahan County High Schools Receive TxDOT Grant, Gifts For Project Graduation

Abilene, TX - In keeping with tradition, the Texas Department of Transportation is again awarding high schools mini-grants for their graduation activities.

Called Project Celebration 2004, four Callahan County high schools are among 29 high schools in the Abilene District taking part in the program and receiving a \$350 mini-grant each for their activities. The high schools participating are Baird, Clyde, Cross Plains and Eula.

"I am very pleased that TxDOT has once again approved the expenditure of funds to support graduation activities across Texas," Brenda Mitchell, Abilene District traffic safety coordinator, said.

"As TxDOT endeavors to inform the public of the importance of safe and sober driving habits, it's essential that we do our part to help communities provide a safe and sober occasion graduating students can look back on with happy memories for a life time," Mitchell said.

Mitchell also visited each high school and presented

the Project Celebration chairperson mementos for each of the graduates who attend their high school event. Some of the mementos bare the slogan, Friends Don't Let Friends Drink & Drive while others carry the saying Zilch. Zero. None. Nada. Celebrate Sober.

These graduation souvenirs are designed to be a reminder to the students to remain drug and alcohol-free not only around prom and graduation time, but always, Mitchell said.

According to the traffic safety coordinator, these mini-grants are not intended to fully fund a Project Celebration event, but to provide seed money for schools to start and support alcohol and drug-free parties for high school students. The funds are to be used to cover expenses such as printing, materials, postage, supplies, room rentals, and the like.

Transportation officials report that this program, which began in 1984 with only two schools, is one of TxDOT's most popular and well-received projects offered throughout the state.

VA Continues Studies Regarding Big Spring, Waco Medical Centers: Develops VA Rural Access Hospital Policy

Is Voice Of Rural Veterans Being Heard?

by Margaret Hetrick

The fate of VA Medical Centers in Big Spring and Waco, TX remains uncertain.

A final decision, regarding the CARES Commission recommendations, released by VA Secretary Anthony J. Principi last week did not provide a clear answer concerning the closing of Big Spring VAMC.

Rather, Principi's decision stated: "VA found it did not have sufficient information to make a decision about a proposal to close the Big Spring VAMC (VISN 18) and develop a Critical Access Hospital (CAH) in the

Odessa-Midland area."

A study is to be continued and completed by the end of 2004. The results will be included in the VISN FY 2005 strategic planning submission.

VISN 18 includes Arizona, New Mexico, West Texas, and small portions of Colorado and Oklahoma.

Currently, a VRAH (Veterans Rural Access Hospital) policy is under development, which will provide a detailed definition and framework for assessing "the clinical and

Continued Inside
Please See VA Studies

Baird Sports Banquet Is Monday, May 24, 2004

Purchase tickets - \$10 - from First National Bank of Baird or Jan Windham (854-1931)

Banquet starts at 6:30 p.m., Baird Cafeteria Menu, served by the Booster Club, includes beef or chicken fajitas, beans, salad, desert

Baird Elementary News Elementary Awards Assembly Is Wednesday, May 26 at 8:15 A.M. High School Auditorium

May 21 Is a School Holiday.

Thursday, May 27, Last Day Of School

School will release at 2:30 P.M.

School Begin is Monday, August 16, 2004.

First Baptist Church Recognizes High School Seniors

Baird High School seniors will be recognized at the First Baptist Church of Baird on May 23, 2004 at 11:00 A.M.

A special invitation

goes to each Senior and their parents.

Youth Minister, Ryan Ward will bring the message. There will be special music.

!!Fund Raiser!!

A Fund Raiser will be held on June 12, 2004 for the Baird Volunteer Fire Department at the Baird Mason Lodge.

A Bar-B-Que Sandwich, chips, and a drink will be

sold for \$5.00.

Business donations are greatly appreciated for this worthy project.

All proceeds from this fund raiser will go to the Baird Fire Department.

Varsity Base Ball Team Claims Bi-District

Baird's boys Varsity Base Ball Team won Region II Bi-District, defeating Santo 20-0. On the Regional Quarterfinal, Baird was defeated in Game 1, 5-2 by Archer City. Game 2 follows at 4 p.m. Friday at Mineral Wells. Game 3 will immediately follow if necessary.

Shootings In Callahan County Leaves 4 Dead

Callahan county was the scene of four shootings Sunday.

Three Victims of the shootings were Vernadene Scott Harris, 52, estranged wife of Clayton Kay Harris, her mother, Maurine Tedford Scott, 79, and son Vernon Scott, 32.

They were found in their home near the community of Oplin on County Road 227 by Callahan County law officers at approx. 11 p.m. Sunday.

Maurine Tedford Scott and Vernon Scott were pronounced dead at the scene.

Vernadene Scott Harris was pronounced dead in Hendrick Medical Center, Abilene, where she was taken after law officers arrived at the scene.

Clayton Kay Harris, 57, who apparently shoot the three victims, reportedly killed himself at his home on County Road 218 after law officers went there approx. 2 hours later.

Sources say he went to the home of Maurine Scott Sunday, where his es-

tranged wife, Vernadene Harris had been living.

An argument may have occurred, a Callahan County Sheriff's office spokesperson said.

Several weapons were recovered at the scene, and multiple shorts were fired, Chief Deputy William Cheek reported.

It is not known at the moment how the shooting began. The victim's bodies have been sent for autopsies in Tarrant County. The shootings remain under investigation.

Clayton Harris, who was sentenced to 10 years probation in 1988 for attempted murder, had a record of violence against his wife.

Family members said that a pending divorce may have led to the shootings Sunday.

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Cases Investigated

Warnings - 95
Complaints - 118
DWI - 1
Fugitive Arrest-Possession of Marijuana - 1

Accidents

There were 5 accidents investigated during this time span.

Callahan County (Baird) Star Classifieds

For Sale

FOR SALE: 40 acres fenced in, Spring Feed Tank, Sipe Springs area. Comanche Co. \$46,000. Call 254-643-1088.

B52

FOR SALE: 8 lots with old house, city water, and well water, some fruit trees. \$16,000. Call 254-643-1088.

B52

Huge Sacrifice 1930 O'Keefe & Merritt Antique Stove with cover and lift up shelf. Works! \$100.00. 254-647-1854.

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Resistol George Strait Straw Hats. 4" brim, 8X quality, Size 6 7/8 to 7 5/8, \$49.99 at Johnson's Dry Goods. Cross Plains, TX.

B21

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WANT TO BUY 30 to 60 acres of isolated, undeveloped land with existing water and road. Call Mike, 254-647-5317.

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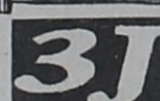
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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for highway improvement contracts will be received by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION/ MAINTENANCE CONTRACT(S)

Dist/Div: Abilene
Contract 0908-00-059 for FLASHING BEACONS in TAYLOR County, etc will be opened on June 08, 2004 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. Bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be

eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.

NPO: 13193
State Office

Constr./Maint. Division
200 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540

Dist/Div Office(s)

Abilene District
District Engineer
4250 N. Clack
Abilene, Texas 79604-0150
Phone: 325-676-6800

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TXDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.

(5-20, 5-27-04)

From Page One

Fort Chabourne

Fort, stop at the Shed, just off of Hwy 277, for some of Texas' finest Barbeque and KC Steaks. The ribs are ineffable tender after a 6 hour basting in the spicy marinade. Owner, Betty Hollis would not divulge the secret of the sauce but did say they were a specialty because "they're finger licking good and plenty tender." Open for weddings and Anniversary celebrations, the country atmosphere adds charm and distinction to any occasion.

Don't Feel The Burn

(NAPS)—Health and safety is a hot topic now, especially for children, senior citizens and the disabled. According to the National Safe Kids campaign, scald burns injure over 35,000 people a year. Tap water scald injuries have been cited as the second most common cause of serious burn injuries.



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Baird Independent School District Minutes of The Board of Education, May 17, 2004

The Baird Independent School District board of Education met in Regular session on May 17, 2004 with the following members present: Kenneth Brock, Jim Dyer Windham, Jr. (at 8:30 P.M.), Joe Clark, Burke Robinson, Miller Scott, Allen Wilson and Gerry McDowell (at 7:35 P.M.) Other school personnel present: Lacy Hogue, Martha Lynn, Lana Walls, Al Hunter, Sandra Carter, Clay Barnett, Danny Vestal, and Lane Loyd. Others present: Chief McAdams, Lea Sweeney, Amelia Carroll, Tamara Vestal, Kayla Windham, Traci Windham, Jay Calvo and Misty McDowell.

Kenneth Brock called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. Allen Wilson gave the invocation.

Superintendent's report - Mr. Hogue stated that enrollment is steady at 370. The baseball team is having a two out of three game series against Archer City starting Tuesday, May 18, 2004 at 7:00 P.M. at Tarleton State University. The remaining games will be played on Friday in Wichita Falls starting at 1:00 P.M. with the 2nd game if necessary immediately following.

A motion to approve the minutes of the last two meetings was made by Burke Robinson and seconded by Miller Scott. Vote was unanimous.

A motion to pay the bills for May was made by Miller Scott and seconded by Kenneth Brock. Vote was unanimous.

A motion to rescind the motion of April 15, 2004 to set the date to canvass the election and swear in new board members on May 18, 2004 and to re-set the date to canvass the election and swear in new board members to May 24, 2004 at 7:45 P.M. in the Superintendent's office was made by Allen Wilson and seconded by Burke Robinson. Vote was unanimous.

A motion to approve the 2004-05 student transfers as presented was made by Gerry McDowell and seconded by Miller Scott. Vote was unanimous.

A motion to close campus for 9th grade students for the 2004-04 school year and extend it to 10th grade students for the 2005-06 school year was made by Gerry McDowell and seconded by Miller Scott. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Hogue gave information about West Central Texas Council of Governments grant for an after school program to help with TEKS remediation. There will be no cost to the school for this program.

A motion to adjourn to closed session at 8:04 P.M. was made by Kenneth Brock and seconded by Miller Scott. Vote was unanimous.

A motion to adjourn from closed session at 8:42 P.M. was made by Burke Robinson and seconded by Allen Wilson. Vote was unanimous.

A motion to hire Wendy Gerngross as elementary teacher to be assigned was made by Miller Scott and seconded by Kenneth Brock. Vote was unanimous.

A motion to accept with regrets the resignations of Barbara Kendrick, Salli Williams, Evelyn Hughes and Dana Voigts was made by Burke Robinson and seconded by Allen Wilson. Vote was unanimous.

A motion to adjourn at 8:47 P.M. was made by Jim Dyer Windham, Jr. and seconded by Kenneth Brock. Vote was unanimous.

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Engagement Announcements



Anderson - Braden

Mr. and Mrs. Dicky W. Anderson of Abilene, Texas, together with Mrs. Kay P. Braden and the late Mr. Larry R. Braden of San Angelo, Texas, are pleased to announce the engagement and upcoming marriage of their children, Amy Elizabeth Anderson and Robert Lawrence Braden.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Abilene High School and attends Angelo State University, where she will graduate in December with a degree in Early Childhood Education.

The prospective bridegroom is a graduate of Wylie

High School and Texas Tech University where he earned his degree in Public Relations and Marketing. He is employed by Concho Valley Commodities, Inc. in San Angelo.

Amy is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Billy H. Anderson of Eastland and Mr. and Mrs. William L. Page of Abilene, formerly of Eastland.

On a trip to Las Vegas, Robert proposed to Amy on a gondola at the Venetian Hotel. They set a wedding date of August 7, 2004 at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Abilene.

Walker-Breneman

The mother of Amy Elizabeth Walker announces the engagement and approaching marriage of her daughter Amy to Jon Wade Breneman.

Amy is the daughter of Patricia B. Walker of Ranger and the late M.Y. (Pete) Walker of Anson. Amy attended school in Anson. She is a graduate of Aladdin Beauty College in Abilene, and is now employed by the Ranger I.S.D.

Jon is the son of Mrs. Pauline L. and the late Chester H. Breneman of Ranger. Jon is a graduate of Ranger High School. He is now employed by Survey 1 of Alvin, Tx.

The couple will be married at 3 p.m. Sunday, June 20, 2004, at the First Baptist Church of Ranger. The bride will be given in marriage by her brother, Bo Walker of LaGrange, Tx. A reception will follow in the fellowship hall.

CJC Summer I Registration To Be Held May 19, 20 and 24

Cisco Junior College will soon begin registration for the Summer I semester. On-site registration at the Abilene Educational Center, 717 E. Industrial Blvd. in Abilene, will be Wednesday and Thursday, May 19 and 20. Registration at the Cisco Campus will be Monday, May 24.

Registration is assigned by the first letter of the student's last name. To

determine proper registration time check our website, www.cisco.cc.tx.us, or call the Abilene Educational Center at (325) 794-4400 or Cisco campus at (254) 442-2567. The first class day at both locations is May 25.

For more information about CJC, to view summer schedules, and to apply online, visit our website at www.cisco.cc.tx.us.

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12 & Under Baseball Tournament To Be Held In Baird July 5-10

Baird Baseball, Incorporated is hosting a youth baseball tournament for teams comprised of children ages 12 and under. No organizational affiliation is required. Regular season teams are welcome, but that is not a requirement. The tournament will serve as a last chance for some teams to play a little baseball this summer, and as a warmup for postseason play for others. The tournament will be held July 5th through July 10th in Baird. The tournament will be double elimination.

The entry fee for the tournament is only \$25. No admission to the games will be charged. Trophies will be awarded to 1st and 2nd place teams. For more information, please call Shane Deel at 325-665-9945 or email at jsdeel@netzero.net. Entries will be accepted in order of receipt with the first eight comprising the tournament field.

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Advertising... Study: Grocery Shoppers Turn To Newspaper Inserts First

Grocery shoppers turn to advertising inserts more often than other outlets for help with purchasing decisions, according to Vertis' Customer Focus 2004: Ad Inserts study.

Ad inserts are the number one media choice (32 percent) for chief grocery shoppers who conduct 60 percent or more of the grocery shopping for their household, the study showed.

The insert study also showed that consumers are most likely to use ad inserts when they are deciding where to shop for clothing (56 percent), followed by groceries (52 percent) and home electronics (50 percent).

Fifty-six percent of women 35 and older use ad inserts to decide where to shop for groceries, the study showed.

Eighty-seven percent of chief grocery shoppers use ad inserts to compare stores' prices. That increases to 91 percent for women 35 or older.

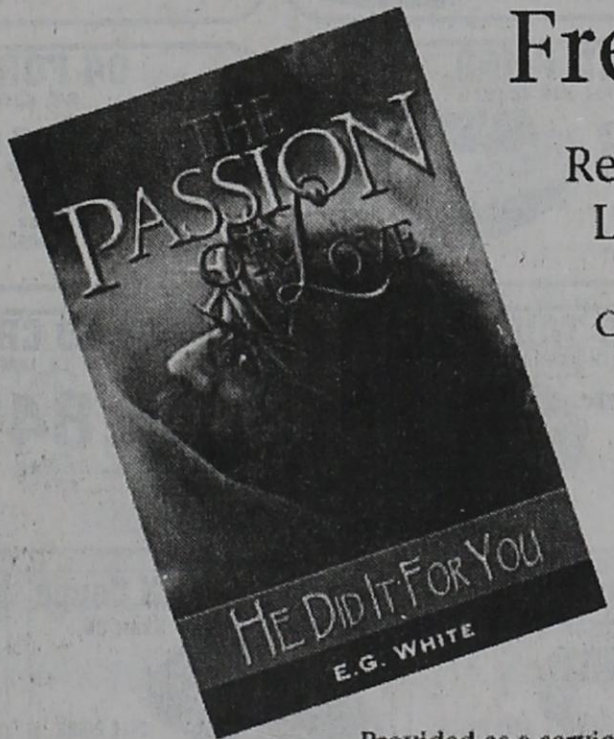
Ad inserts are followed by TV (21 percent) and ads on the page of a newspaper (19 percent).

Men 25-34 are most likely to turn to the Internet to help them make a decision when they are ready to make a purchase (28 percent).

Customer Focus, commissioned by Vertis, is a biannual survey tracking consumer behavior. The survey of 3,000 adults, conducted by Marshall Marketing and Communication of Pittsburgh, measures both general and industry-specific shopping trends.

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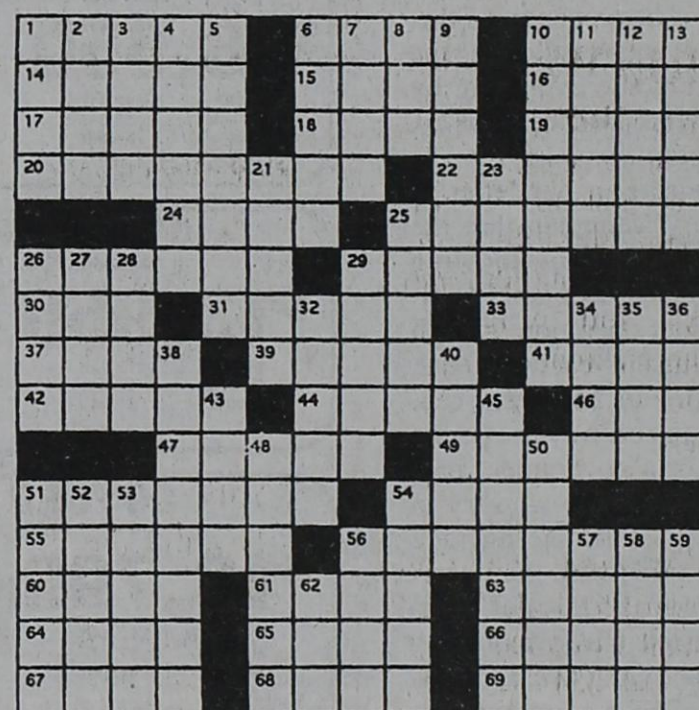
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| 10 Dog food brand | capital | 69 Scatter-brains | 34 Centennial State: abbr. |
| 14 Rent to a new tenant | 33 Pilgrim's destination | DOWN | 35 Spiral |
| 15 Healthy | 37 Afraid to speak up | 1 Staple's alternative | 36 Gigi's friend |
| 16 School oddball | 39 Like Abel | 2 France's Coty | 38 Lamp liquid |
| 17 Have ___ to the ground; heed public opinion | 41 Sentence of condemnation | 3 Drinks | 40 Kinder |
| 18 City north-west of Tulsa | 42 Descendant of Noah | 4 Beverage container | 43 Scoll |
| 19 Man's nickname | 44 Permitted | 5 Walks | 45 Postponing indefinitely |
| 20 Couldn't stand | 46 Full deck | 6 Gladden | 48 Piece of luggage |
| 22 Swell | 47 Compellor | 7 Ground | 50 High school's second team |
| 24 Skunk's weapon | 49 Coax with flattery | 8 Ring king | 51 Its sore |
| 25 Tailor, at times | 51 Tumbler | 9 Interfere | 52 Berate |
| 26 Floated on the breeze | 54 Singer McEntire | 10 Like an elk | 53 Po |
| 29 Guide | 55 Shaping lool | 11 Noted Hungarian composer | 54 Out of practice |
| 30 Tahiti | 56 Part of a funny trio | 12 Rattle on | 56 Dressed |
| | 60 Busy spot | 13 More uncommon | 57 "By ___ I" |
| | 61 Troubles | 21 Ice cream concoctions | 58 Mining finds |
| | 63 Creamy white | 23 Article | 59 Bronte heroine |
| | 64 Tranquil spot | 25 Lofly spot | 62 Went before the others |
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| | | 28 Use one of the | |

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AG TALK

USDA Proposes New Definition of 'Family Farm'

This week I was joined by 22 colleagues in sending a letter to Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman. I wrote the letter and was pleased so many colleagues joined me as we expressed our mutual concern about a proposed

rule that was published for comment by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA).

According to the FSA, the proposed rule is meant to "streamline regulations governing the direct Farm Loan Programs."

However, that "streamlining" proposal caught the attention of a lot of folks because it also included a change in the definition of "family farm" for purposes of determining eligibility for FSA direct and guaranteed loans.

Currently, the USDA has broad guidelines to help its state and local offices determine what may be considered a "family farm." While this may not be perfect, it has allowed for the fact that what can be considered a family farm may differ from one part of the country to another. I've learned that in the payment limitation discussions I've had with senators who represent states to the far north of Texas.

In our letter, we encouraged the USDA to go back to the drawing board and come up with a different way to determine what constitutes a "family farm."

We expressed our concern that the use of income figures is not the best method when farm and ranch income can vary greatly from year to year. Congress has recognized this over the years by allowing the use of income averaging by agricultural producers for tax purposes.

We wrote in our letter to Secretary Veneman that the uncertainty of not knowing whether you'd be able to finance your operation through FSA from one year to the next, if USDA uses an income cap, wasn't a good way to operate a farm or a government program. Producers who try to utilize FSA financing face enough trials with the uncertainty over the level of funding available from year to year.

In our letter, we also encouraged FSA to rethink the other change in the family farm definition, one which would have defined only parent/child, sibling or husband/wife relationships as eligible relationships. This would mean that a grandchild who wanted to join an operation with a grandparent would not be eligible to borrow money to finance that operation with the grandparent.

We should be doing everything we can to encourage family structure as one way to bring young people into farming and ranching. Why should we penalize families where the son or daughter may have left the farm, but their children-grandchildren-want to come back and join the operation with the grandparents?

A group of commodity and banking organizations also sent a letter to the USDA, ex-

pressing their concerns with the proposal. The group included the American Farm Bureau Federation, the American Banking Association, the National Cotton Council and organizations representing the interests of dairy, peanut and grain sorghum farmers.

The comment period on the proposed rule has closed, and the USDA is currently reviewing the various comments they have received before issuing a final rule.

Congressional Grains Caucus Formed

I am pleased to report that I helped launch the Congressional Grains Caucus recently. The Grains Caucus was formed by two of my colleagues, Jerry Moran (R-KS) and Earl Pomeroy (D-ND).

The Grains Caucus will fo-

cus attention on the small grains industry in our country and the issues that affect it from the field to the mill.

In addition, caucus members will educate other Members of Congress about the importance of grain in people's diets, the effects of trade and food aid on the domestic grain industry, and the effects of domestic policy on farmers, growers and millers.

Given the constant discussion of carbohydrates in people's diets today, members of the Grains Caucus will remind our colleagues that grain products are an essential part of our diets and that a calorie is a calorie, whether it comes from the bread or the turkey you use to make your sandwich.

Positive News on Dairy Prices

On a positive note, dairy industry analysts are predicting that U.S. milk prices will increase drastically this month, due largely to a decrease in milk production that has resulted in Class 3 milk hitting all time highs.

Factors contributing to the decreased milk production are lower numbers of cows, high feed costs, the high cost of replacement heifers, and a current shortage of BST, the bovine hormone that promotes increased milk production in dairy cows.

These long overdue price increases are much needed and will be beneficial to dairy producers around the country.

Texas Expects Bumper Peach Crop

On another promising note, according to the Texas Cooperative Extension Service, growers are expecting a good crop of Texas peaches this year.

Peaches have experienced ideal growing conditions as a result of a cool winter and a warm spring. The soil moisture is high, insects have not been a problem, and the rains have been good to producers.

Texas produces between 15 and 30 million pounds of peaches a year, and it looks like this year we'll see numbers on the upper end. It's always good to see these kinds

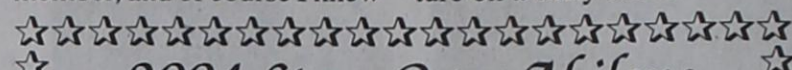
of results for Texas agricultural producers.

On Losing Harry Holt, 'Mr. Agriculture'

On a sad note, I want to give my condolences to the family of Harry Holt, "Mr. Agriculture" for 50 years. I remember when I first met Harry, as a student and FFA member, and of course I knew

him throughout my political career.

Harry has done a wonderful job spreading the word about agriculture. There are not many of them like him left today. We certainly are going to miss Harry Holt and his voice, giving the positive and educational aspects of agriculture on a daily basis.



2004 Stars Over Abilene Regional Quilt Show

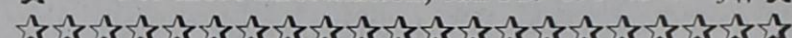
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Answers to Crossword Puzzle

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ODOR ALTERER
WAFTEO STEER
ILE SAINT MECCA
MEEK SLAIN DOOM
PELEG LICIT LIL
RIVAL CAJOLE
ACROBAT REBA
CHISEL CURLYJOE
HIVE ILLS IVORY
EDEN SEAT NEVER
SERE EDDY GESE
    
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Guest Slot

Postal Service Needs Immediate Reform

By Harley Hitchcock
The news from Capitol Hill on postal legislation is clouded with the normal uncertainty. We were expecting legislation to begin and end this year. U.S. Sen. Susan Collins (R-Main) and Thomas Carper (D-Del.) and U.S. Rep. Tom Davis (R-Va.) in April were slated to introduce bills to reform the U.S. Postal Service. Hearings and findings based upon the president's commission report released in July 2003 will determine the future direction of the Postal Service and will affect how newspapers do business in future years.

Why do we need Postal Reform Legislation?

•The problem is mail volume has declined for the past 15 years and the cost of labor has increased.

•The Postal Service must go through a lengthy rate process each time they need to increase postage rates, often taking more than one year to accumulate documentation to prove the need.

•The ability to manage resources (closing and consolidating offices) has added costs that other businesses are not subject to.

•Benefits are part of the wages and should be a negotiable item.

•The Postal Service is the only federal agency required to pay military pension benefits and place CSRS savings into escrow pending congressional review.

•The Postal Service currently has overlapping and duplicative processes for employees to file grievances concerning workplace disputes. The Postal Service pays the expenses right or wrong.

•The Postal Service adds

1.8 million new addresses annually and there is a high cost for providing this service. How important are these addresses (ZIP codes)? The banking, insurance, real estate, agriculture, automotive industries and many more would not be able to function without this vital information and this does not include the mailing industry.

•The highest paid executive, Postmaster General John E. Potter, is paid \$175,000 a year to manage the second largest organization in the nation. In comparison, other CEOs receive salaries in the millions and do not have the responsibility or employees the postmaster general has. The executives need a substantial pay increase in order to maintain the current and future leadership of the Postal Service.

Yes! We need the Postal Service to deliver our newspapers and we need immedi-

ate postal reform legislation. **Country's origin links press, post offices**

Publishers Weekly recently published a book review "The Creation of the Media" by Paul Starr. Throughout, Starr shows that our country's original impulse to promote the Postal Service and press as part of its vision of nation building.

Starr traces the early 19th century development of the Postal Service, newspaper publishing and the telegraph and telephone and influences in establishing the early leadership of the U.S. in communications. Starr is a sociology professor at Princeton University and won the 1984 Pulitzer Prize for general notification and Bancroft Prize in American History.

Harley Hancock is the TPA periodicals consultant.

Read The Classifieds

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Timely Tips

by Kate Worth

EDITOR'S NOTE: All of today's tips come to us from Melwina W. of Topeka, Kansas.

BROWN SUGAR - To soften brown sugar or hardened cookies, place a slice of fresh bread in the containers with the items to be softened. This works for home-baked cookies, too. To speed the process up, microwave containers for short periods of time. Otherwise, two to four hours in a storage area are sufficient.

BAKED POTATOES - Wash potatoes (white or sweet) well. Pat dry with paper towel. Spray the potatoes with cooking oil, prick the peel, and place in a plastic sandwich bag.

Bake in microwave five to 10 minutes, depending on the size and number of potatoes.

ICE SCRAPER - To clean ice off windshields or burnt-on food off pots, use a cup or jar lid that is strong enough to apply firm pressure. Use a

GREASE REMOVER - To remove burnt-on grease from a pan, soak it in warm water using a teaspoon of baking soda as scouring powder.

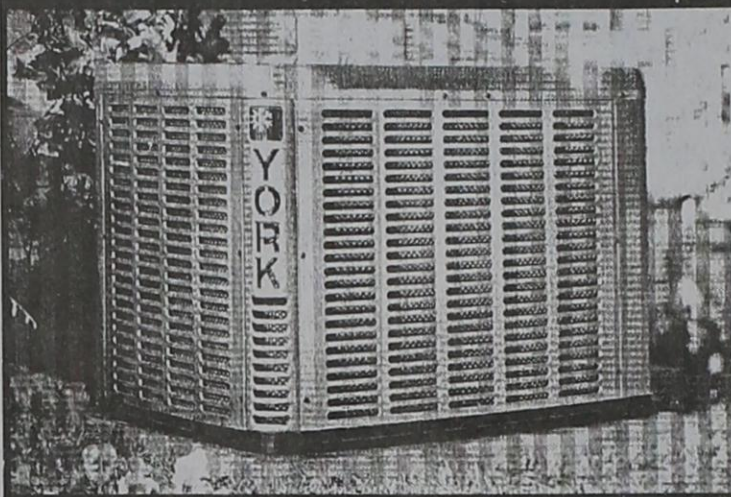
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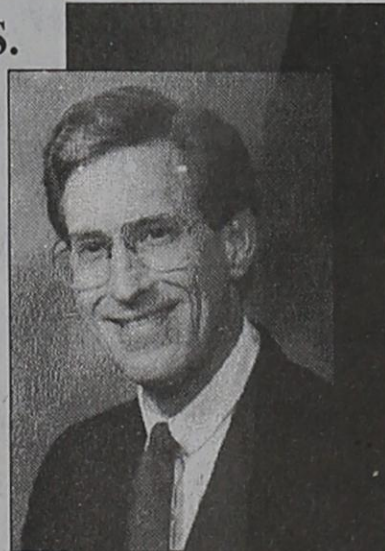
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Memorial Service Honoring Barbara Jewel Eaves Lenz

Barbara Jewel Eaves Lenz was born on August 13, 1926, to A.B. "Buddy" and Ruby Eaves. She died May 12, 2004.

A memorial service for Barbara was held on Saturday, May 15, 2004, at the Kokomo Community Center.

Glenn Webb opened the service with a welcome and a prayer. Paula Eaves Harris sang "Walking in Sunlight" and "How Great Thou Art". Wayne Eaves gave the eulogy for Barbara. Leann Webb Baker sang "I Believe in You" which she wrote and composed. She accompanied herself on the keyboard. Glenn Webb then conducted the sermon of comfort to the family.

Richard Barron, LaQuita Lorraine Barron and Clay Lorraine formed a three piece band. (Richard on steel guitar, LaQuita on bass guitar, and Clay on the rhythm guitar). The first song they played was "This World Is Not My Home" with Wayne Eaves, Joshua Eaves and Linda Lorraine singing. Then "What A Glorious Day That Will Be" was sung by Clay Lorraine. The band then played an instrumental arrangement of "Amazing Grace". Joshua Eaves sang "You Lift Me Up", accompanying himself on the keyboard.

The congregation was dismissed in prayer by Richard Barron, and they went to the Simpson Cemetery to visit Barbara's grave. At the gravesite,

Oakland Cemetery To Hold Called Meeting May 22

An emergency meeting has been called for the Oakland Cemetery Saturday, May 22. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m.

Due to the rain stopping our cemetery business meeting on May 1. It is important that we have this meeting so we can elect some officers.

If the weather permits the meeting will be at the cemetery but in case of bad roads again the meeting will be held at the Gorman Family Bible Church in Gorman, located at 903 North Kent Street.

Everyone is needed so please, come if possible.

Opal Burton,
Secretary

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Joshua Eaves, Leann Baker and Paula Harris sang "How Great Thou Art".

Those attending the service were May Snodgrass, Glenn, Charlsie, Ethan and Samuel Webb, Richard, LaQuita, Zach, Zeth and Jacob Barron, Johnny and Catherine Eaves, Zelda

Belle Plaines Cemetery Association Holds Annual Meeting Memorial Day Ceremony Includes Fly Over, Color Guard

The Belle Plaine Cemetery Association will hold its annual business meeting on Memorial Day, Monday, May 31st. Arrive by 10:30 a.m. to ensure convenient parking.

Belle Plaine Cemetery is located 8 miles south of Baird in Callahan County. Take Hwy 283 to CR 470 and turn east. Turn north at CR 473 (first dirt road) and then east into cemetery entrance.

The ceremony will begin at 11:00 a.m. with the traditional fly over by the Big Country Squadron of the CAF based at Elmdale Airpark. The Dyess Air Force Base Color Guard will assist in the flag raising ceremonies.

James Jackson, USAF Retired, is our guest speaker this year. James resides in San Angelo. He has been in Civil Service since 1988 and for the last four years has held the position of Food Service Officer at Goodfellow Air Force Base.

Charles Anderson, retired Snyder teacher/principal, and author will be our special guest this year. His new book "Buddy, WWII POW #1830

Jordan, Martha Stephens, D. F. Eaves, Elaine Eaves, Mary Jo Eaves Shaw, Joshua Eaves, Paula Harris, Annette and Norman Hopper, Lena and Dale Hawkins, Frankie Smith, Tommy Eaves, Verda Eaves, Clay and Amy Lorraine, Dickey Eaves, Tommy and Mary Webb, Randy, Leann, Cody and Kevin Baker, Dale and Linda Lorraine, and Wayne Eaves.

is due to be released this month.

A potluck dinner will follow the business meeting. Everyone should bring a covered dish to compliment the meat and drinks provided by the Association.

Please mark down May 31 on your calendar. This meeting/ceremony is open to the public. We look forward to seeing you!

Submitted by Ginny Roden, Secretary Belle Plaine Cemetery Association

Letters To Editor

Tired of Trash

Editor:

I live on a country road and they should change the Don't Mess with Texas to a more serious slogan because people are still throwing their trash everywhere.

I enjoy looking at my scenery and I get mad when I see trash all over the beautiful countryside.

Especially beer bottles and cans - if you're man/woman enough to drink accept your responsibility to keep your empty containers in your vehicle instead of trashing the world with them.

My husband shouldn't have to haul off your mattresses, stoves and misc. crap. Take them to the dump.

Oh yea that's another thing the county is failing everyone for not allowing people to dump somewhere on a regular basis. If you dump in a dumpster that's not yours and get caught you get a fine. Obviously people need to

dump somewhere- If they had a dump, maybe they wouldn't trash America - so maybe people need to be fined for throwing trash out of their vehicles. I see alot of people doing it--and nobody being fined for it.

I'm sick of the trash thrown on our country side.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Billy Moore
(Nedra)

Had Trouble Voting

Editor:

When my friend and I went to the high school to vote on May 17, 2004, we had been told the voting was to take place at the cafeteria. We arrived at the cafeteria and had to find the door that was unlocked, the one on the side by the parking lot was locked.

This was all made harder for my friend because she had a light stroke on April 18th, and its a little hard to get around. We proceeded to register to vote and then was told that this was for school board election, my friend laid her vote ballot back down and did not vote because she said she did not know anyone running. I voted, but do not know if it was correct or not.

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Then they told us that the Water Board election was being held in the Library right down the hall. When we finally found it after a couple of turns, there were no signs, or flag, but I asked and was told we were at the right place. We proceeded to vote and when we left, I tried to find a shorter route to get my friend out of there, the long walk had tired her pretty well.

The door to go out at the front of the school was locked and a man told her he worked there but his keys were at home, he was just there to vote and had not brought his keys.

When I went and got her car and parked in front of the school was when I found out she could not get out that way. Had to go back around to the rear of the school and help her back through the long way around.

By the way there was not signs at the front telling anyone where to vote for the water board.

When we returned back to her apartment, she called one of the water board candidates and he said he would go put up some signs so other people would not have so much trouble to find the election place for water board.

Mary Elan Drury
Clara Hocutt



BERNADETTE LITTLEFIELD, RN



DELYNN PURVIS, LVN

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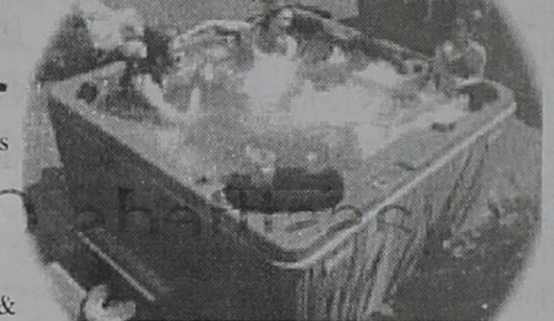
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Thursday, May 20, 2004

Carbon Community Center Musical Saturday, May 29

The last Saturday of this month's musical will be emceed by Finis Butler. The music will start at 6:00 p.m. and last until 10:00 p.m.

The ladies will be serving barbecue on buns, sandwiches, desserts and drinks from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.

All proceeds go to the upkeep of the Community Center.

Everyone is welcome to attend and enjoy the good music and visiting.

Remember To Renew Your Subscription

Flatwood Cemetery Work Day

The Flatwood Cemetery annual work day was held April 24, 2004. The main jobs accomplished were trimming a few trees and filling in a few graves.

The flag was dedicated for this year by Mike and Cindy Lively to honor family mem-

bers: Cindy's grandparents, Herman and Estell Jordan; great-grandparents, Charley and Mendie Webb and great-grandparents, Cornelius T. (Pete) and Lucy Webb.

A great lunch was had by all. What a wonderful vari-

ety of food and desserts.

Those that helped were: Deborah Roach, Cleo Duncan, Edith Wampler, Richard Arnold, Darlene Mullenweg, Betty Kid, Bryan and Jolene Johnson, Kenneth Johnson, Jack and Jerry Stephenson and Webb Jordan.



Darlene Mullenweg and Deborah Roach, standing



L - R Kenneth Johnson, Bryan Johnson, Darlene Mullenweg and Jolene Johnson.



Webb Jordan and Cindy Lively



Linda Sadler, Darren Sadler & Macie Mills, in front



Cleo Duncan, Edith Wampler & Richard Arnold

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			<p>'04 PROWLER REGAL AX6 36' FW \$38,995</p> <p>Front Living, 4 Slides, Xtra Clean, Gooseneck Adaptor, Save \$8,000!</p>
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VAC. See Dealer For Details.

Moran Head Start Celebrates Mother's Day

Mrs. Kolb's Head Start/Pre-K class was making Mother's Day cards on Thursday, May 6. Mrs. Kolb explained what she would be doing for her mother for Mother's Day and of course one student wanted to know, "Do YOU have a MOM?!" Mrs. Kolb then asked them to list what they would do for their moms on Mother's Day...

Tate Tabor- I will be really good and give my mom a corvette.

Monty Lancaster- I will be really good and give my mom a new lawnmower, one you sit down on and has a steering wheel.

Jasmin Blue- I will give my mom a black chihuahua.

J.J. Walters- I'll be good and give my mom a new 4 wheeler.

Alaxaz Meredith- I'm gonna be good and give her



a present- a Barbie.

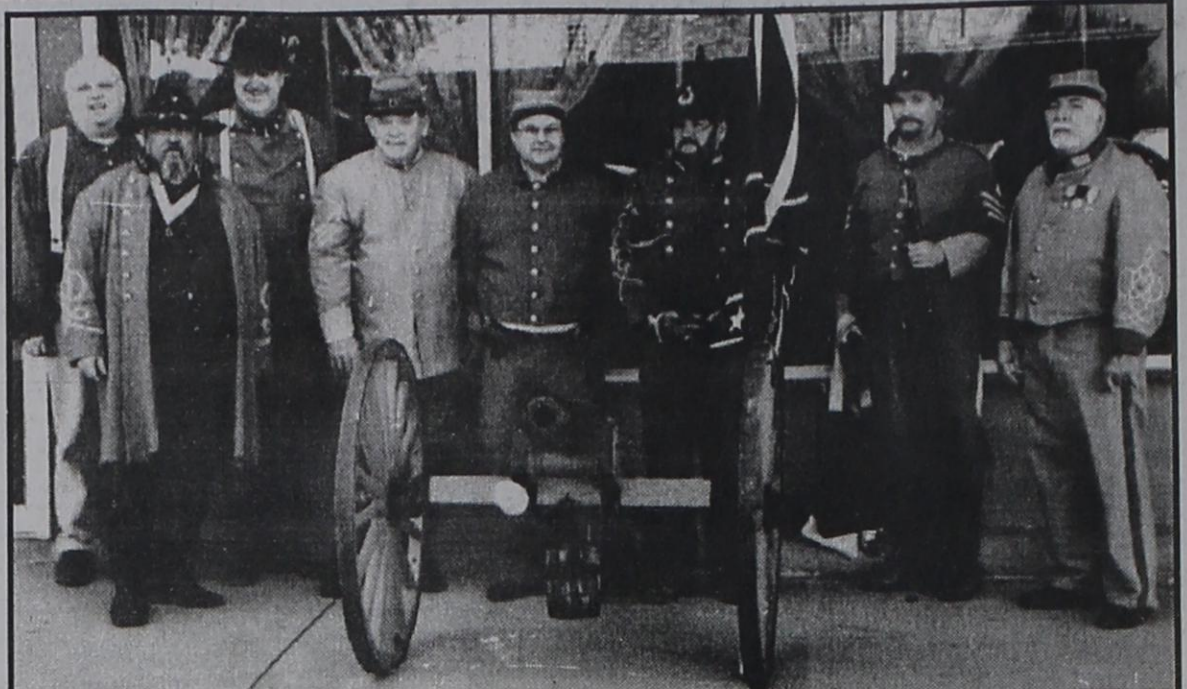
Tyler Jobe- I'm gonna get my mom a new lawn mower.

McKenna Wilkins- I'm gonna be real good and that's all.

Jesse Hawley- I'm gonna get my mom a new go-cart.

Justin Wright- I'm gonna give my mom new clothes.

Haven Tabor- I'm gonna give my mom a new dog.



This Civil War Cannon, a 3" Ordinance Mountain Howitzer with restored carriage, was at the Majestic Theatre this past weekend in connection with the special showing of "Cold Mountain," the academy award winning spectacle. The cannon is owned by SCV Camp 1904, DeLeon. It is shown here with members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp, taken January 31, 2004, in Eastland in front of the Eastland Bed and Breakfast. Pictured are (left to right) Bodie Weaver, Steve VonRoder, Gary Whitfield, Jearul Gwinn, Tom Blackwell, Thomas Harrison, Cris Bloyd and Dan Hudson.

CJC To Host Basketball Camp In July

The Cisco Junior College Basketball Program will be hosting four different Wrangler Basketball Camps this summer. Tommy Simmons, CJC's women's basketball coach, said that the camps will focus on fundamental drills, skills games and contests, and five on five league games. Meals and rooms will be provided for overnight campers and each will receive a camp T-shirt.

The first girls' camp will be held July 9-11. The Girls Team Camp is designed for High School Varsity and JV girls' teams. Girls Fundamental Camp is for girls in 4th through 12th grades and will be July 11-16. Boys' camps begin July 16 with the Boys Team Camp. This camp is for High School Varsity and JV boys' teams and will be held July 17-18. Boys Fundamental Camp is for

boys in 4th through 12th grades and will be held July 18-23.

For more information and a camp application, please contact Andy Collier at (254) 442-5144 or Tommy Simmons at (254) 442-5174.

Just Remembering

By Jasper Cook

When I was young I spent a lot of time going to neighborhood parties. Most of those social events occurred on Friday or Saturday nights. We didn't have televisions, computers, VCRs, DVDs, home movies, or any of the other electronic modes of entertainment we have in today's world. We made our own entertainment, and I think we had more wholesome, amusing activities than the youth of today.

One thing is for sure, we never had drugs or alcohol. I must admit however, that now and then one or two at the party would sneak into the bathroom or some other hiding place, to smoke a cigarette.

Many of the parties were church sponsored. We often played charades where we mimed some story or some character from the Bible.

Quite often we would choose sides and the Minister or some other church person would ask Bible ques-

tions. If you could not answer a question you had to sit down. The side with the last one standing won the game. We not only enjoyed such games, we were also learning things that would be useful to us throughout our lives.

We played one game where all the contestants ate three saltine crackers at the same time, and the first one who could whistle, after eating the crackers, was the winner, and was usually awarded a small prize.

We played such games as Spin The Bottle, Musical Chairs, Drop The Handkerchief, and others.

One of the funniest games for me was a game we called "Gossip." Someone would whisper a sentence to the person next to them and that person would whisper the sentence to the next person, who passed it on. The sentence would make the complete circle of party goers, and finish with the person who started it.

Since the words were spoken rapidly into each person's ear, invariably, the words would change and the sentence given to the last person would be completely dif-

ferent from the original sentence.

There was no prize, of course, but the difference between the original and final sentences would bring peals of laughter.

I think that game was so popular because it was so life-like. I know a lot of people who thoroughly enjoy a bit of confabulation. They seem to enjoy being talebearers. Almost every day, I hear someone say, "Have you heard the latest?"

In the New Testament, James wrote about the tongue. James 3:6 says the tongue is a fire.

Wow! In that case we need a firetruck to stand by at the apartment complex where I live.

We have several women here who spend most of their time fabricating hearsay. They thrive on it; however,

they can't seem to understand the harm they are doing to innocent people.

I walked into the beauty shop the other day and about a dozen ladies there were wagging their tongues about a certain person. I tactfully scolded them for spreading gossip.

They said it was not gossip, it was "The transmission of near factual information."

I got out of there immediately!

Morton Valley, Past and Present

By Wanda Lee Beck Skinner

The end of school season has brought a multitude of activities to the people in Morton Valley. Teachers and children are ready for a summer break. Many school teachers do not have an opportunity for spring cleaning so the first weeks of summer will be used to clean house and get rid of excess baggage. Many of the children and youth have a busy summer planned. Those who are seniors today will be graduates and out hunting jobs and preparing for college in the fall. I hope all of you have a great and a safe summer.

Harmony Baptist services yesterday brought home the fact that summer is difficult for small churches as people use these days to go on vacation and visit friends and family. The children's sermon was done by Mike Norris and the sermon given by James Teel. The congregations enjoyed the singing of hymn written long ago. They have such beautiful messages. Hope you attended worship services somewhere and had your spirit renewed for the coming week. May God richly bless you and yours.

How Long Has It Been Since You Read

By Wanda Lee Beck Skinner

How Long Has It Been Psalm 73:26 "My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."

There are many promises in God's Word but not one promise says life will be filled with only health, wealth and happiness. Each of us have new problems every day along life's way, we are weak, sometimes ill, face trails, test and disappointment, lose family members and friends, get discouraged and fail. To me the very best promise in God's Word is that we can count on God for strength and encouragement even in those times.

Are you counting on yourself, you may or your friends, or are you wise enough to count on God?

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Memorial Service Honoring Barbara Jewel Eaves Lenz

Barbara Jewel Eaves Lenz was born on August 13, 1926, to A.B. "Buddy" and Ruby Eaves. She died May 12, 2004.

A memorial service for Barbara was held on Saturday, May 15, 2004, at the Kokomo Community Center.

Glenn Webb opened the service with a welcome and a prayer. Paula Eaves Harris sang "Walking in Sunlight" and "How Great Thou Art". Wayne Eaves gave the eulogy for Barbara. Leann Webb Baker sang "I Believe in You" which she wrote and composed. She accompanied herself on the keyboard. Glenn Webb then conducted the sermon of comfort to the family.

Richard Barron, LaQuita Lorance Barron and Clay Lorance formed a three piece band. (Richard on steel guitar, LaQuita on bass guitar, and Clay on the rhythm guitar). The first song

they played was "This World Is Not My Home" with Wayne Eaves, Joshua Eaves and Linda Lorance singing. Then "What A Glorious Day That Will Be" was sung by Clay Lorance. The band then played an instrumental arrangement of "Amazing Grace". Joshua Eaves sang "You Lift Me Up", accompanying himself on the keyboard.

The congregation was dismissed in prayer by Richard Barron, and they went to the Simpson Cemetery to visit Barbara's grave. At the gravesite, Joshua Eaves, Leann Baker and Paula Harris sang "How Great Thou Art".

Those attending the service were May Snodgrass, Glenn, Charlsie, Ethan and Samuel Webb, Richard, LaQuita, Zach, Zeth and Jacob Barron, Johnny and Catherine Eaves, Zelda Jordan, Martha Stephens, D.

F. Eaves, Elaine Eaves, Mary Jo Eaves Shaw, Joshua Eaves, Paula Harris, Annette and Norman Hopper, Lena and Dale Hawkins, Frankie Smith, Tommy Eaves, Verda Eaves, Clay and Amy Lorance, Dickey Eaves, Tommy and Mary Webb, Randy, Leann, Cody and Kevin Baker, Dale and Linda Lorance, and Wayne Eaves.

Memorial Plaques

My name is Brenda Orsini. I am a member of the Thurber Historical Association Board of Directors. I was asked to write a small article concerning our Memorial Plaque we have on display at New York Hill Restaurant.

This plaque was designed to memorialize loved ones that have passed on. If you have a friend or family member that you would like to add to this plaque, please contact me by phone or mail. My number is 254-672-5717, my address is P. O. Box 245, Strawn, Tx. 76475. If I am not available by phone, please leave a message.

The charge for a nameplate is \$15.00 per name. If sending check or money order, please make payable to

Thursday, May 20, 2004
Thurber Historical Association (or THA).

Each year, our Historian, Lillie Gibson, reads the list of members or Thurberites who have left us this last year. We want to be sure to include everyone, so please let me know so they can be remembered at the Reunion on June 12th. (It is not necessary to purchase a nameplate to have a name read by Miss Lilly.)

Thank you very much. I look forward to hearing from you.

May God bless you,
Brenda Orsini

Poetry Corner

Ole Butch & Me
She left us a short time ago,
To join the angels throng.
Ole Butch and me are left alone
On this old farm, for years,
her happy home.

She never wanted Butch to stay,
A highway throw away.
The victim of man's darker side,
But a friend in need that day.

He wormed his way into her heart,
Relentless was his plea.
He finally found those who cared,
Just her, Ole Butch, and me.

She knew that she was leaving,
And asked for a poem or song.
I gave my best to her request,
But Butch don't know just why she's gone.

So I talked to Butch and told him why,
And he must also go some day:
To that canine meeting in the sky,
Where he will always play.

Leo Williams
May 14, 2004

Annual Thurber Reunion June 12

The annual Thurber Reunion will be June 12 with registration from 9:00 to 10:00, and business meeting at 10:30. Then at 11:15 the FUN really kicks in with Hershel Gibson's iThurber Stories. Hershel was such a big hit last year they brought him back with all new, never before told stories as only Hershel can tell them!!!

After a lunch break, 1:30 brings a Living History Reenactment to give a glimpse of Thurber in the 1890s. Music starts at 2:30, and DRAWINGS at 3:00 — \$100.00 Saving Bond donated by First National Bank-Santo - - Mingus Branch, and two \$50.00 Saving Bonds donated by First National Bank-Albany—Gordon Branch - other door prizes, PLUS FIVE winners will walk off with original Thurber Bricks!!!

Thurber Historical Park is located at I-20 (Exit 657) on South Access Road.

Ridge Riders Club Playday May 23

Ridge Riders Club Playday will be held Sunday, May 23, at 2 p.m. at Breckenridge County Arena on Hwy 180 E. For more information call Robin Heidelberg (254) 559-3940.

YOU DONT SAY!

Harvard University was not founded by John Harvard. The Puritan minister merely left his library of 400 books to the college upon his death in 1638. The school itself was founded two years earlier and was first called Cambridge.

Almost half the population of the underdeveloped world is under 15 years old.

The weight of the world's insect population exceeds that of man by a factor of 12.

The word, toast, meaning "to one's health", originated in ancient Rome. A bit of spiced, burned bread was dropped into wine to improve its flavor and absorb the sediment, making the drink more healthful.

If a person were to begin counting the moment he was born and continued to count without stopping until the age of 65, he still would not have counted to a billion.

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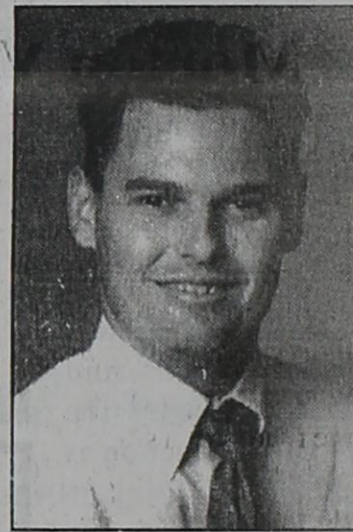
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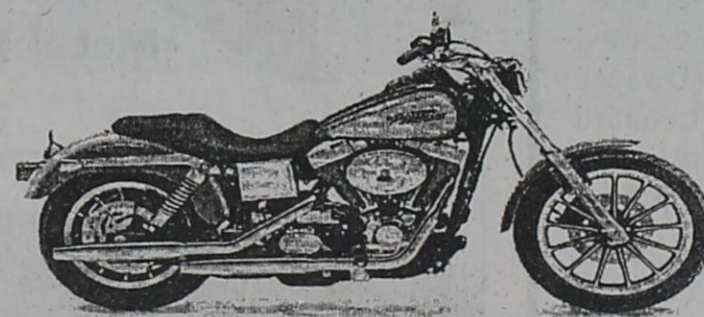
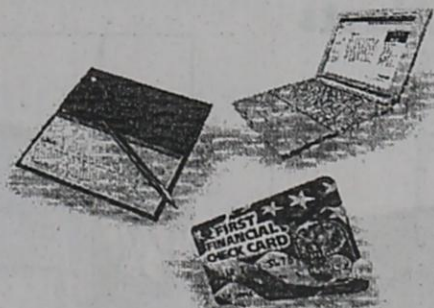


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The Idle American

By Dr. Don Newbury

CURTAIN RISING ON 90-YEAR-OLD THEATER

They're cleaning up, painting up, fixing up, praying up and opening up the Lyric Theater, a 90-year-old structure in Brownwood. It's a community effort by the Lyric Performing Arts Company, really just ordinary folks from throughout the county and Howard Payne University.

It opened as an opera house in 1914, and its 20-foot neon sign lit up Center Avenue for about 50 years. Thousands of youngsters from a couple of generations recall "Lyric stories," some of which are R-rated. These are not to be confused with film ratings that came along later; mostly the stories concern balcony shenanigans.

Suggestions to resurrect the Lyric for its original purpose—live theater—have grown louder in recent years. It was done in, of course, by television—the medium that darkened thousands of theaters across the US. Dr. Nancy Jo Humfeld, Eric Evans and dozens of others rolled up their sleeves to the task at hand. Tin cups are being passed and contributions are coming in. The project is off the ground! They've got a cavernous building, proscenium stage, orchestra pit, lobby and balcony to work with.

In the clean-up, they've found campaign buttons, a petrified pacifier, 12-cent ticket stubs, snuff cans, and-of-all-things—a tiny glass slipper. It is the very kind that would have slipped right on Cinderella's foot! And wouldn't you know it? The Lyric's first production is "Cinderella."

Well and good, laughed Waco's James Loudermilk, whose memories of the Lyric would fill a second act! What he most wants to know is: Have they found hisboots?

The year was 1956. He had a "red-hot" bowling series to win the top prize—his very first pair of new boots! He and fellow Brownwood High sophomores Dwayne Grooms, Leonard Underwood and Jerry DeHay ponied up 25 cents each for a Friday night movie. They took seats on the front row of the balcony.

Loudermilk could hardly wait to get the boots off. In just a few days, one had caused a corn that plagues him to this day. He placed the boots on the rail of the balcony. They theorize that as a movie-goer scrunched past, the boots tumbled into the lap of an unsuspecting patron below. The foursome raced downstairs, but, as Archie Bunker would have said on his TV show, "Everybody dummied up."

They waited outside the theater at feature's end, figuring someone would exit wearing new boots, or perhaps carrying a pair. Alas, they went home, Loudermilk in stocking feet.

Many outstanding people—long of tooth but sharp of memory—had "starting out" jobs at the Lyric. Several were students at Howard Payne and Daniel Baker Colleges. The list includes long-time educator William A. Fishback, missionary Britt Towery, businessman J. Fred Perry and university professor Joe Swan. They wore brass-buttoned uniforms, and they took their ushering seriously—sometimes. At other times (out of uniform, of course) they'd jump over the balcony rail when scenes were at their scariest, screaming during the 15-foot drop to the ground floor. (Swan clearly took teaching seriously. Several of his San Jose State University students won Pulitzer Prizes in photography. He was also my first journalism teacher; alas, I won no prizes.)

Fishback's genius was bigger than women's hats that were forever blocking the screen. He came up with a

lobby sign to solve the problem: "Women Over 40 Need NOT Remove Their Hats."

It has all the makings of a barn-raising, quilting bee and county fair, this theater resurrection. It is drawing a community together; don't bet against them.

They were tucked out a while back, what with trying to get the old house in shape and all the lines memorized. With the some 700 seats long gone, they hauled in folding chairs. They are "making do" in many makeshifts. A local funeral home furnished old-timey fans; it likely would be hot for the May opener.

Well what do you know! On opening night, a norther blew in. It was a good wind that blew no ill.

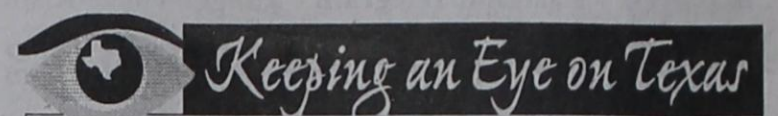
More than 200 residents gathered, most of them telling Lyric do-you-remember-when stories of growing up years.

The production will be offered throughout the month, with a children's play planned for the sum-

mer. The arts company will continue the renovation, always "on the look-out" for memorabilia. They figure someone, somewhere, has that big neon sign, and maybe even the marquee. They'd so like to put them back in place to announce that the Lyric is back in business! Everything will be G-rated (unless they open the balcony.)

And if they find Loudermilk's boots, that ought to be good for a donation.

Dr. Newbury is an author/speaker/columnist in the Metroplex. His column appears in 100 Texas newspapers. He invites feedback at 817.447.3872 or by e-mail, newbury@speakerdoc.com



Tobacco Compliance Grants for Local Law Enforcement Agencies

The Comptroller of Public Accounts will make block grants to counties and municipalities to be used by local law enforcement agencies to enforce laws concerning the sale and distribution of tobacco products to persons who are younger than 18 years of age.

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To apply for a grant, submit the application form to the Comptroller's Office by May 21, 2004. For more information, go to:

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SOURCES: Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn.

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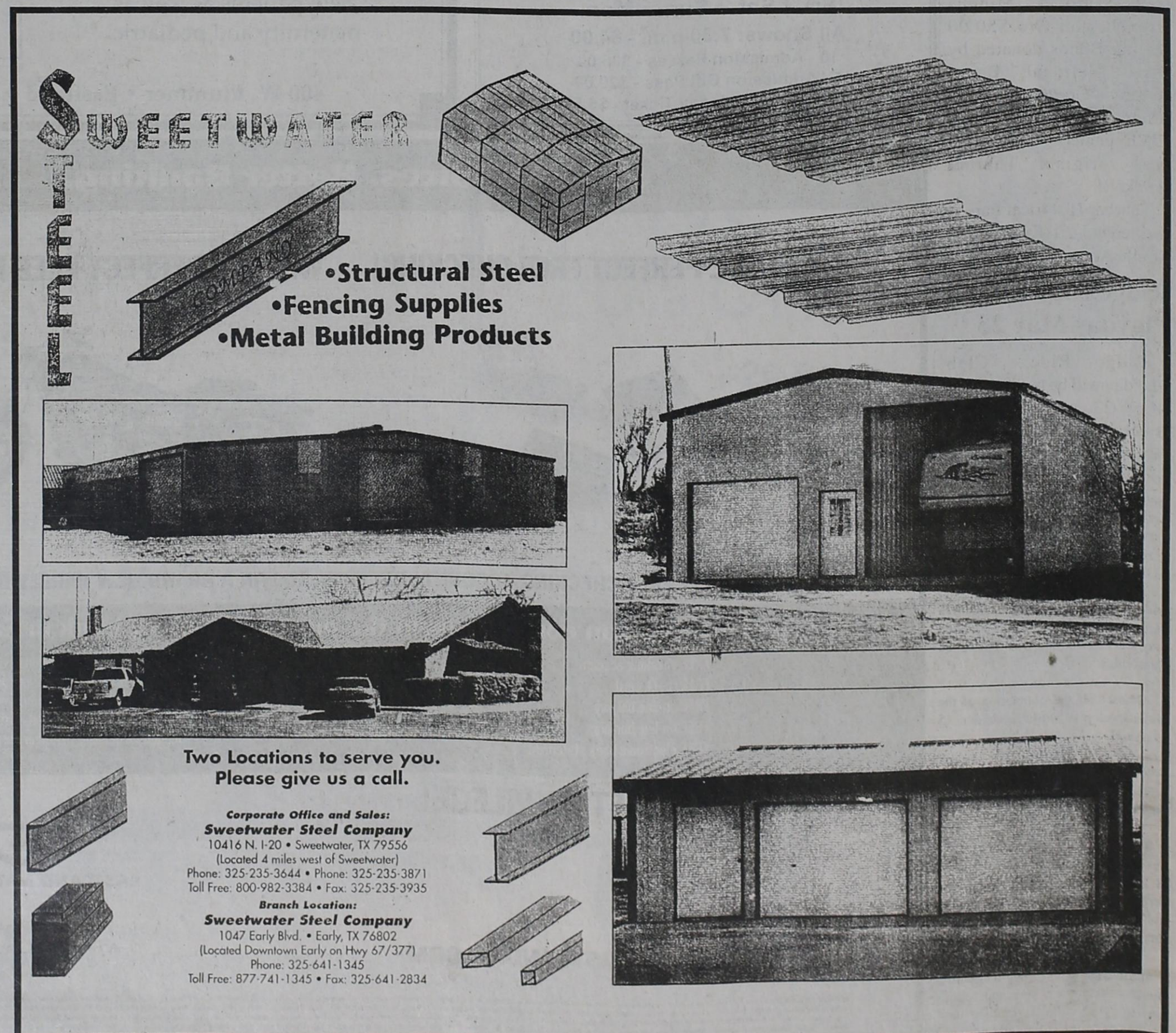
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11th Court of Appeals

Eastland, Texas
Proceedings (En Banc)
May 13, 2004

Affirmed

Joseph Donnell Battise v. State of Texas, Dallas. (Opinion by Chief Justice Arnot) (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).

Ricky Carl Dotson v. State of Texas, Dallas. (Opinion by Justice Wright) (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).

Jason Dan Beard v. State of Texas, Scurry. (Per Curiam Opinion) (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).

Cortney Deon Wilson v. State of Texas, Harris. (Per Curiam Opinion) (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).

Michael Paul Vasquez v. State of Texas, Taylor. (Opinion by Chief Justice Arnot) (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright,

and Justice McCall).

In the Matter of L.F.L.T.B., a juvenile, Taylor. (Opinion by Chief Justice Arnot) (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).

Motions Submitted & Granted

Horatio Sprague Taveau, D.O. v. Angela M. Brenden, Individually and as Representative of the Estate of Linda Gayle Evans, Deceased, Gayle S. Maxwell, and Curtis Kirkpatrick, Taylor. Appellant's motion for extension of time to file reply brief.

Larry Dan Beard v. State of Texas, Scurry. Appellant's attorney's motion to withdraw as counsel.

Antwan Thomas v. State of Texas, Grimes. Appellant's motion for extension of time to file brief.

Cortney Deon Wilson v. State of Texas, Harris. Appellant's counsel's motion to withdraw.

Willie Lee Maxwell v. State of Texas, Dawson. Appellant's motion for permission to file late brief.

Edward Mueclan Harris v. State of Texas, Stephens. Appellant's third motion for extension of time to file brief.

Transit Mix Concrete & Materials Company and

Trinity Materials, Inc., and Transit Mix and Materials Company v. Darleta Rochelle Johnson, Individually and as Representative of the Estate of Brad F. Johnson, Sr., Deceased, and as Next Friend of Brad Johnson, Jr., Jerelle Johnson and Amethyst Johnson, Minors. Appellees' second motion for extension of time to file brief.

Gary T. Leach v. State of Texas, Jefferson. Appellant's third motion for extension of time to file brief.

Cody Todd Burgett v. State of Texas, Throckmorton. Appellant's second motion for extension of time to file brief.

Gerald Milici et al v. Corrections Corporations of America, Palo Pinto. Appellee's motion for extension of time to file brief.

Cedric Williams aka Cedric Dean Williams v. State of Texas, Midland. Appellant's motion for permission to file late brief.

Michael Brian Word v. State of Texas, Taylor. Appellant's second motion for extension of time to file brief.

Guadalupe Hernandez v. State of Texas, Midland. Appellant's third motion for extension of time to file brief.

Wayne Brown and Roxie

C. Brown, Mondaile Energy, Inc., and Ron Dority d/b/a Shady Oil Company v. Mary Reeter, Coleman. Appellant's motion for extension of time to file brief.

Jeremy Dwuan Hall v. State of Texas, Ector. Appellant's motion for extension of time to file brief.

Andrew Hodge Mayweather v. State of Texas, Ector.

Donald Crane v. William J. Collier, Individually and Portland Development Company, LLC., a Texas Limited Liability Company, Midland. Appellant's motion for extension of time to file notice of appeal.

Motions Submitted & Granted in Part

Paul Junior McAfee v. State of Texas, Harris. Appellant's second motion for extension of time to file brief.

Motions Submitted & Overruled

Eric Christopher Smith v. State of Texas, Rockwall. Appellant's motion for rehearing. (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).

Jason Don Wimberly v. State of Texas, Stephens. Appellant's pro se motion for leave to waive the rule for filing copies. Appellant's

Thursday, May 20, 2004

pro se motion to waive counsel. (Per Curiam Order) (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).

Cases Submitted

Lacy Brown v. State of Texas, Galveston.

Carlton J. Stephens v. State of Texas, Harris.

Aurelio Munoz v. State of Texas, Midland.


Fort Griffin State Park Star Gazing Party Saturday

Fort Griffin State Park is having a star gazing party hosted by the Fort Worth Sidewalk Astronomers on Saturday, May 22. View our amazing solar system through the astronomer's large telescopes; see the moons of Jupiter, the rings of Saturn, the constellation Andromeda, and the many other fascinating sites of our amazing West Texas night sky.

Everyone will get to view through the telescopes and be able to have their questions answered by the astronomers. It will be an unforgettable experience for the entire family! Fort Griffin is located 15 miles north of Albany, Texas on Hwy. 283. For more information call (325) 762-3592.

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Citizens Ban Together To Stop Sex Ads

Washington, DC--In the wake of the FCC's reversal regarding the use of the f-word on national television and the recent barrage of increasingly indecent content, Grassfire.org, an online conservative issues advocacy organization, has launched a grassroots campaign to restore decency to the airwaves. Through a national petition drive, Grassfire.org anticipates rallying at least 250,000 citizens to voice their concern and contempt for the current state of television to FCC commissioners, Network Executives and Elected Officials.

Grassfire's initial target is the removal of male sexual enhancement ads during prime-time television viewing. "These are the ads promoting Cialis, Viagra and a number of others," said Steve Elliott, president of Grassfire.org Alliance. "We take exception to these ads, and believe airing them during prime-time when children can see them is in extremely poor judgment."

These drug companies do have a right to make a living," continues Elliott. "But not at the expense of our children who can readily see these ads throughout the day and night."

Grassfire.org already has the support of more than 180,000 citizens who are taking a stand for broadcast decency. As one of the first organizations to launch a campaign in response to the FCC's recent ruling on the use of the f-word, Grassfire.org supports HR 3717 The Broadcast Decency Act of 2004, which calls for increased fines for those broadcasting obscene

material. "Right now there is no trust between the networks and the viewing public. That needs to change," said Elliott. "Accountability and responsibility are two forgotten words when it comes to network television. We hope that our efforts will spark a change."

Grassfire.org is an online grassroots organization that provides tools to individuals and organizations seeking to expand their impact on many of today's most important issues. By providing services to more than 1.5 million citizens and dozens of organizations, Grassfire.org is one of the largest online grassroots networks in the nation.

Stories To Share?

The Thurber Historical Association feels that it is our duty to collect and preserve every bit of Thurber History that we can. We ask that everyone send us memories, or stories of Thurber that they have heard. Anything that would give us a glimpse of life in Thurber would be valuable. Everything is important, even if it is only one sentence. It would be especially interesting to include names of friends, co-workers, priests, pastors, schoolteachers, or people who worked downtown. Anything to document that those persons lived here. When we really think, we can remember more than we think we can.

If we don't act NOW so much will be lost when our generation passes.

Along with the stories it would be great to have a list of all your family members who lived in Thurber and the approximate years that they lived here. On that list we would like as much of the following information as you can supply: date of birth, place of birth, relationship (father, mother, children, etc.), church attended, title of their job in Thurber and where they lived in Thurber.

LISTEN

When I ask you to listen to me and you start giving me advice, you have not done what I asked.

When I ask you to listen to me and you begin to tell me why I shouldn't feel that way, you are trampling on my feelings.

When I ask you to listen to me and you feel you have to do something to solve my problem, you have failed me, strange as that may seem.

Listen! All that I asked was that you listen, not talk or do- just hear me.

Advice is cheap; twenty-five cents will get you both Dear Abby and Billy Graham in the same newspaper.

Let me do all I can do for myself. I'm not helpless.

Maybe discouraged and faltering, but not helpless.

When you do something for me that I can and need to do for myself, you contribute to my fear and inadequacy.

But when you accept as a simple fact that I do feel what I feel, no matter how irrational, then I can quit trying to convince you and get about this business of understanding what's behind this irrational feeling.

And when that's clear, the answers are obvious and I don't need advice.

Irrational feelings make sense when we understand what's behind them.

Perhaps that's why prayer works, sometimes, for some people--because God is mute, and He doesn't give advice or try to fix things.

He just listens and lets you work it out for yourself. So please listen and just hear me.

And if you want to talk, wait a minute for your turn - and I'll listen to you.

Author Unknown

If you have genealogical info you would want to share, it would be great to have that for future generations of researchers.

You can mail us your info, bring it to the reunion, or for those of you who would rather talk than write we will have an interviewer at the reunion who will record your memories of stories on tape.

Many people who have ties to Thurber do not receive our newsletter, so if you

know of someone who can give us info, please encourage them to do so. We will welcome all info, written or taped.

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Wester Students Recital Sunday

Susan Wester, piano and voice teacher, will present a recital of her students at the Women's Clubhouse in Eastland on Sunday, May 23, at 3 p.m. Around 22 students will be in the program. They are from Cisco, Ranger, Eastland and Cross Plains.

Their ages go from five years up to High School seniors, and one student who attends College. They are taught at the Cisco Studio, and Mrs. Wester has another Studio in Weatherford.

In addition, Susan Wester is the pianist for the First United Methodist Church in Cisco.

She says that the music

presented in the recital at Eastland will be varied, ranging through folk tunes, Broadway tunes, and classical numbers.

The public is invited to the Women's Clubhouse Sunday to hear these talented young people.

This Recital is only part of Mrs. Wester's busy week. The National Piano Guild Competition will be Thursday and Friday, May 20-21 at the First United Methodist Church in Cisco.

A number of Mrs. Wester's students, with others in the area, will play for this Competition.

Sherry Fruff of Abilene will be the Judge.

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Obituary

Neal Loper

BAIRD- Neal Loper, 50, died in Bangkok, Thailand on May 13, 2004.

He has had a long two-year battle with lung cancer.

He was born in Medford, Oregon on November 13, 1953 to Aubrey and Johnnie Burrow Loper; he was preceded in death by his mother Johnnie Burrow Loper.

He is survived by sons, Ryan Loper of Qatar, Adam Wheeler of Dallas, Georgia; parents Aubrey and Charlotte Loper of Baird; sister, Jerry Paustian of Newport, Oregon; brother, Larry Betcher of Bend Oregon; Charlotte's children, Glenda Cline of Baird, Kathy

Savage of Musoma, Tanzania, Roger Freeland of Abilene, Suzette Lockwood of Concord Two, Ohio, and Vicki Freeland of Abilene.

He was a Beaverton, Oregon Detective prior to going into business for himself as a private investigator. He retired in 1995 at which time he moved to Thailand. He was employed as a teacher in an Australian College in Cambodia for about 17 months until he got sick.

The body will be cremated. A memorial service will be held at a later date announced by Parker Funeral Home.

Obituary

Dorothy Louise Woods

Dorothy Louise Woods, 80, died Sunday, May 16, 2004 at a local medical center.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, May 19, 2004 at Elliott-Hamil Funeral Home Chapel of Memories. Pastor Alma Roberts and Bill Alexander officiated. Interment was in the Ross Annex of Baird Cemetery in Baird, Texas.

She was born to Carrie (Cullers) and Fred Mongold on April 9, 1924, in Fayette County, Ohio, where she married Elmer Woods on December 3, 1941. She moved to Abilene in 1973. She was a homemaker and a member of First Church of God in Abilene. She served as vice president of Women of the Church of God.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother.

Alonzo Mongold.

Survivors are her husband, Elmer Woods of Eula; a son, Lawrence Woods and wife, Pat of Wylie; two daughters, Linda Vance and husband, Harlan of Clyde, and Susan Faircloth and husband, James of Eula; two grandchildren, Scott Vance and wife Jenny of Eules, and Brad Faircloth and wife Lisa of Eula; and three great-grandchildren, Bronc Faircloth, Aspen Faircloth and Summer Vance; two brothers, Lucine Mongold of Washington C.H., Ohio and Leroy Mongold of Sardinia, Ohio; four sisters, Viola Reed of Springfield, Ohio, Ruby Reed of New Holland, Ohio, Betty McMorrow of Washington C.H., Ohio, and Elizabeth Boggs of Sabina, Ohio.

Obituary

Mary Jo King Bryson

CLYDE- Mary Jo King Bryson, 70, of Denver City and formerly of Clyde, died Friday, May 14, 2004 at a Lubbock hospital.

Services were held Monday, May 17, 2004 at 2 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Clyde, directed by Bailey Funeral Home.

Mrs. Bryson was born May 6, 1934 in Clyde to Roy and Thelma Paylor LaFoy. She graduated from Clyde High School and attended nursing school. She was the widow of James L. King, whom she married April 5, 1952 in

Hamlin. They moved to Clyde from Cisco in 1989. He preceded her in death in 1998. She was also the widow of Dan G. Bryson, whom she married March 12, 1997 in Ovalo. He preceded her in death in 2002. She moved to Denver City in October of 2003. She was a nurse in Kermit, Monahans and Cisco and also the school nurse for the Baird ISD. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Clyde.

She is survived by a son, Todd King and wife Tina of

Obituary

Billie Ray "Bill" Cason

BAIRD - Billie Ray "Bill" Cason, our loving husband, father and grandfather went to be with our Lord and Savior on Monday, May 17, 2004 at his home after a long battle with Parkinson's disease.

He was born to Henry George Cason and Dora Belle Sanders Cason on Sept. 24, 1926 in Brown County and was raised on the Cason Ranch at Rocky Creek near Brownwood Lake. He graduated from Bangs High School in 1944 and was called to service in the US Army. He met and married Dorothy Jean Walker in Brown County on December 28, 1947. He graduated from Texas A & M in 1953 and worked for Rath Packing company in Dallas, Tx. In December 1960 he moved to Baird, Tx and owned and operated H. C. Oil Company for 35 years. Bill joined First Baptist Church of Baird, April 8, 1962 and was ordained a deacon in 1965. He served in many capacities at the church.

He was preceded in death by his parents Henry George and Dora Belle Sanders Cason and his sister Georgia

Belle Cason Tilton Alexander.

Survivors include his wife Dorothy Walker Cason of Baird, Tx; three daughters and sons-in-laws Linda and Jerry Barron of Baird, Beverly Cason and Charles Tubbs of Baird, and Billie Jo and Rick Hammeth of Weatherford; five grandchildren, Renea Barron Stearns of Brownwood, Ben Barron of Las Vega, NV, Nicky Jo Vickers of Austin, Gretchen Vickers Johnson of Cisco and Clay Vickers of Weatherford; one great-grandchild Natalie Paige Johnson of Cisco; and many other relatives and friends.

A funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m., Thursday, May 20, 2004 at the First Baptist Church in Baird with Dr. James Shields officiating assisted by Reverend Dan Wooldridge. Interment will be at 2:30 p.m. Thursday at the Rocky Creek Cemetery in Brown Co. directed by Parker Funeral Home.

Visitation was from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the funeral home on Wednesday.

Memorials may be made to Hendrick Hospice or First Baptist Church of Baird, Tx.

Obituary

Henry G. Diehl

BAIRD - Henry G. Diehl, 76, died at 10:55 a.m. Monday, May 17, 2004 at Hendrick Medical Center. A funeral service was held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 19, 2004 at Parker Funeral Home Chapel. Dr. Doug Mills officiated. Burial was at 2 p.m. at Richland Springs Cemetery in Richland Springs, Tx.

Henry was born on June 11, 1927 in Llano County, Tx. He had lived in Baird since 1987 until when he moved to Wichita Falls, Tx. He moved back to Baird 2 1/2 years ago. He was a retired Mechanic and served in the US Army Air Force at the close of WW II. He was a

Presbyterian. He married Ruby Eave Gossett in Richland Springs, Tx. July 1949.

He is survived by one daughter, Janice Canada and husband Dwight of Clyde; one son, Dennis Diehl and wife Christy of Disco; grandchildren, Travis Canada and wife Nisha, Rebecca, Jordan, and Kenstan Canada, Tyler and Morgan Diehl; one great grandchild, Kyle Canada; three nieces and three nephews and several great nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Ruby and second wife, Pauline, a sister and two brothers.

Denver City; two daughters, Jayne Russell and husband Donald of Newellton, LA and Jamie Griffith and husband Travis of Cisco; two brothers, Roy LaFoy of Clyde and Troy LaFoy of Arlington; three sisters, Minnie Martin of Menard, Georgie Manion of Baird and June LaFoy of San Angelo; 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

The good neighbor looks beyond the external accidents and discerns those inner qualities that make all men human and, therefore, brothers.
—Martin Luther King, Jr.

Baird First Baptist Church Events

Each one of you are invited to join us at the First Baptist Church, 240 Race Street Baird, Texas

For more information on any of these events please contact the church: 854-1574

May 23, 2004 11:00 a.m. Recognition of Baird High School seniors. A special invitation goes to each Senior

and their parents. Youth Minister, Ryan Ward will be bringing the message and there will be special music also.

May 26, 2004 7:00 p.m. Continued study in I Corinthians by Dr. James Shields and time of prayer 7:30 p.m. Choir practice

May 27 Is Brush Appreciation Day

Callahan County Extension and the Natural Resources Conservation Service has scheduled a "Brush Appreciation Day" May 27th at the Baird Activity Center.

A minimum of four Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education units will be available to participants.

Dr. Dale Rollins, Extension wildlife specialist at San Angelo, said "The name of the series is appropriate, but misleading."

"Some folks shudder at the thought of 'appreciating brush,'" said Rollins. "But the paradox of 'brush' and 'appreciation' in the same sentence is intentional. The word 'appreciate' not only means 'to value or admire highly,' it also means 'to judge with heightened perception' and 'be cautiously or sensitively aware of.'"

"Landowners today are more concerned about managing their landscapes for multiple uses, not just for livestock. I'm amazed at how quickly the phrase 'Brush Sculpting' and its practice has caught on. Since it was first coined in 1997, this practice of intentionally leaving some wildlife cover in an aesthetically-pleasing pattern has been used on literally thousands of Texas acres.

"Whether you look at

brush from under the brim of a cowboy hat (livestock prospective) or a camouflaged cap (hunter's perspective), you'll find good, useful information to help you achieve your brush management goals at these workshops."

Judo Fambrough, senior lecturer with the Real Estate Center, at Texas A & M University, will be the keynote speaker at each workshop. His message will be to understand the impacts brush has on land value, both positive and negative.

Morning topics will include: "Plant Biology Relative to Management," "What Species Are Out There," "How Much Brush is Enough/Too Much?" and livestock, quail and deer considerations. The afternoon programs will be field studies, weather permitting. They will include talks on plant identification, brush management site-inspections and discussions and demonstrations of various brush control methods and equipment.

Adjournment is set for 5 p.m.

Individual pre-registration is \$10 by May 17th; \$20 thereafter and at the door.

For more information or to pre-register contact the Callahan County Extension office at 325-854-1518.

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VA Studies

operational characteristic" of small and rural facilities.

Apparently, the policy - to be completed in June 2004 - will be a deciding factor in the study.

Decisions regarding the Odessa-Midland area as an appropriate location, and determining the appropriate scope of practice (projected on demand for care) will be closely tied to the VRAH policy.

Sec. Principi's decision states: "The VISN will consider comments from stakeholders as part of the feasibility study."

Again, in speaking of a decision concerning Waco VAMC, Principi's decision states: "As VA considers options for realignment to enhance services while more effectively using resources, it will work in collaboration with stakeholders to ensure that their comments are solicited and considered. VA is committed to minimizing any impact on patients, employees, and the community as it manages the study process."

But, is the voice of rural veterans really being heard?

Congressman Charles Stenholm, after looking closely at the proposed VRAH policy, has voiced concern that stakeholders are not being consulted in this process.

"I am very concerned rural veterans are not being included in the forming of a policy that would directly affect them," Stenholm said in a press release from May 12, 2004.

"I directly asked Secretary Principi why the VA is not including rural veterans in the VRAH formulation process. I was informed that since the VRAH is a national policy, individual stakeholders are not being consulted."

To me, this is a situation that must be fixed because rural veterans need to have their voices heard."

Congressman Stenholm, along with other members of the bipartisan Congressional Rural Caucus, met with VA Secretary Principi on May 12 to voice their concerns.

"I am hopeful that today's meeting with Secretary Principi will result in the VA considering the views of rural veterans," Stenholm said.

"As a supporter of all veterans - and I'd like to add that today's troops are tomorrow's veterans - I am working to ensure that veterans health care policy is sound and logical."

In his decision, Secretary Principi also called for a further "comprehensive study of the cost and continuity of care issues" regarding realignment of services at Waco VAMC.

Several recommendations by the CARES Commission included transferring a portion of acute care inpatient psychiatry to Austin, and all long-term inpatient psychiatry and PTSD residential rehabilitation services to Temple VAMC.

Services at Waco VAMC are not to be altered during the study's continuation, which is to be submitted to the Secretary "no later than January 1, 2005."

Waco VAMC is part of VISN 17, which includes North, Central, and Southern Texas, as well as the Valley-Coastal Bend area.

The closing of Big Spring VAMC and the reduction and transfer of services from WACO VAMC were protested by local veterans and veteran representatives, as well as legislators representing the involved areas.

VA Secretary Principi's decision can be found in its entirety on the VA website.

Baird '48 Study Club News

The Baird '48 Study Club met at 7:30 PM on Monday, May 10, 2004 in the home of Sue McNeil. The meeting was called to order by President Tereva Hunter. Secretary Linda Hart read the minutes for the March and April, 2004 meetings. Secretary Hart called the roll. Each member present answered with a memory of someone that had influenced their lives. Correspondence was read by President Tereva Hunter for Georgie Manion.

President Hunter had each officer and committee chairman give a report on their duties for the past year. New officers were installed by President Tereva Hunter. Civic chairman for the 2004-2005 year Joanie Shrader gave a report for the coming year.

Discussion was held re-

A Senate plan, which was emerging before the announcement on Friday, would call for the overhauling of the franchise tax, the decreasing of school property taxes, increase and expansion of the state sales tax (from 6.25 percent to 6.75 percent), and the legalization of gambling machines at racetrack and Native American reservations - the later being subject to voter approval.

A bill passed by Senate and House in this session would not have affected the upcoming school year.

A law suit regarding the current educational system, brought against the State by several Texas schools, underlines the urgency of a new school finance plan, some lawmakers say.

The trial is due to start Aug. 9.

House Speaker Tom Craddick did not favor another session "anytime soon", he said.

"I don't think there is any consensus now," he told Austin media sources.

Bill Scott, spokesman for Senator Fraser's office, told this newspaper Tuesday that the Senator does not think calling another special session is "a good idea without evidence of consensus."

Senator Fraser believes that Lt. Gov. Dewhurst is on the right track, and that lawmakers should keep working together between sessions to find a solution, Scott continued.

A court decision in the case of schools vs. the State of Texas could shed light on the direction lawmakers should go in school financing, he said.

Lawmakers reported that joint working groups will be appointed for the purpose of finding a common solution for the next special session.

garding the upcoming scholarship which will be presented by Joanie Shrader at the end of school awards assembly. The Senior refreshments that will be served during graduation rehearsal were also discussed at this time. Discussion was held concerning the yearbook for the 2004-2005 year.

The meeting was adjourned by President Tereva Hunter. Refreshments were served by hostesses Barbara Corn and Kristi Belcher. Members attending were Donna Bell, Debbie McElmurry, Kristi Belcher, Barbara Corn, Irma Crow, Frances Greenway, Linda Hart, Pat Holland, Tereva Hunter, Sally McGregor, Sue McNeil, Joanie Shrader, Joyce Smauley, and Dyanne Thompson.

University News

Baird resident Joshua Fleming was recently honored at the Hardin-Simmons University Kelley College of Business' annual awards reception.

Fleming received the Outstanding Finance Student Award.

Robert Watson of Baird was awarded a Master's of Science degree in software engineering at the Texas Tech University commencement ceremonies on Saturday, May 15 in Lubbock.

Watson was one of Texas Tech's Abilene campus first graduates.

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Special Session Fails To Produce School Bill

Gov. Perry Could Set Late-August Date For Another Round

by Margaret Hetrick

On Thursday last week, some still had hope that the Texas Senate would reach a consensus in the special session called by Gov. Rick Perry to address educational funding.

Friday, however, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, standing on the Capitol steps with a majority of senators, announced that no measures would pass the Senate in this special session.

The session ended Wednesday, May 19.

Gov. Perry and Lt. Gov. Dewhurst indicated that they favored another round soon. Mentioned was a possible date in late August.

Reaction was mixed on the immediate calling of another special session.

Both House and Senate lawmakers, however, have said they will continue to work toward finding a solution.

Gov. Perry also expressed his commitment to "spending whatever time it takes to address this issue."

A school financing plan approved and submitted by the House committee did not receive approval of the full chamber until changes were

made.

The plan endorsed replacing the franchise tax with a payroll tax, which was rejected by Gov. Perry. The generation of revenue through video-gambling was defeated by House lawmakers.

A House vote also rejected Gov. Perry's school finance plan 126-0.

This resulted in what some described as a "shell bill" being sent on to the Senate.

According to Lt. Gov. Dewhurst and several senators, options had been removed, which made the crafting of legislation very difficult.

"We didn't have much to work with," the Lt. Gov. was quoted as saying.

"We need some more time in order to do a good job. The children of Texas deserve no less," he said in his announcement.

Even if the Senate had passed a plan, there would have been only days left in the special session for the House to agree or defeat the legislation.

If Governor Rick Perry did not agree with the bill, he could veto it.

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