

Baird Star 50¢

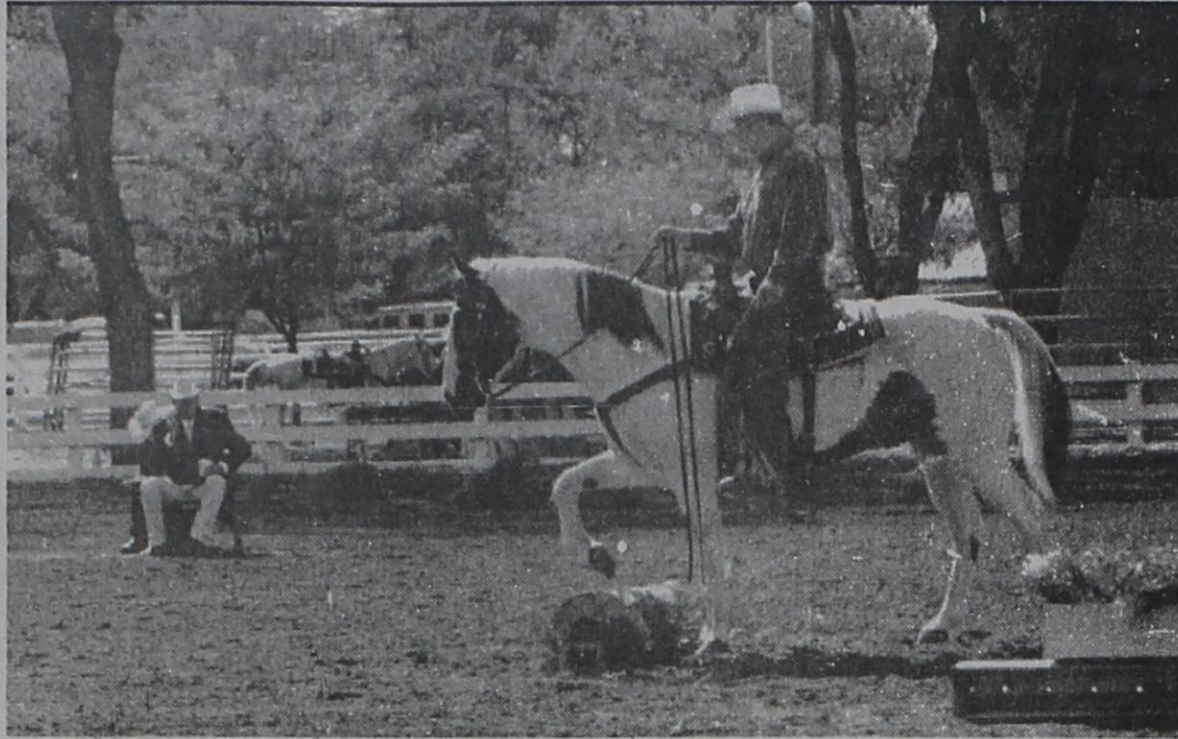
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31¢ By Mail

Volume 116, Number 12

Baird, Texas 79504

Thursday, March 18, 2004



In Paint Ranch Horse competition, horse and rider teams are judged on how well they perform a variety of practical tasks commonly associated with work around ranches.

First Paint Horse Roundup May 8 In Stephenvill

On May 8 at the Lone Star Arena in Stephenville, Texas, the working relationship between cowboys, cowgirls and their horses will be put to the test at the First American Paint Horse Roundup. This one-day working ranch horse competition will feature classes that include:

Stock Horse Pleasure, Stock Horse Versatility, Working Stock Horse, and Stock Horse Reining.

The Round Up will

include four divisions: Open Regular Registry, Open Breeding Stock, Amateur Regular Registry and Amateur Breeding.

Stock horses and riders who demonstrate exceptional ability in each class and division will earn special awards. A special "head-to-head" round will determine a "Top Hand" in both the Open and Amateur divisions.

Working ranch horse competition is quickly becoming one of the most

popular horse events, and is a favorite attraction of horse shows around the country. That is no surprise to Junior Robertson of Waurike, Oklahoma. One of APHA's founding members and a legendary roping champion with his Paint Horse, Wahoo King, Robertson's experience with horses started with ranch work 60 years ago. "You had to have a horse that could do it all — there were a lot of good horses made out on the ranches back then."

Robertson said that while some ranchers have turned to "four wheelers" to get around their ranches, there's nothing like a good horse to get the job done.

In addition to the competition, at Stephenville APHA will sponsor a special trade show featuring a variety of equine-related merchandise, including tack, clothing and more. APHA general store items will also be available.

Sponsors of the American Paint Horse Roundup include Gist Silversmiths, Hart Trailers, Metro Golf Carts and the Kent Group.

The \$150 entry fee for the Paint Horse Roundup, which includes cost for cattie, is due April 30. The number of participants is limited.

Stephenville's Lone Star arena has two covered arenas with seating, a covered warm-up arena, 400 stalls, a cafe and RV accommodations. Stalls will be available May 7 and 8 at the facility.

For more information about the Paint Horse Roundup, contact APHA at (817) 834-2732, ext. 773. Rules and regulations may be accessed at APHA's web site at <http://www.apha.com/forms/PDFFiles/rulebooks/2004RuleBook.pdf>.

Since its founding 42 years ago, APHA has registered more than

Continued Inside ...
Please See Paint Horse

Baird Students Bring Home Medals From San Saba Tournaments

Jay Calvo and Jodi Neal of Baird High both brought home place medals home from recent San Saba golf tournaments.

Jay Calvo placed 1st for Baird on March 2, 2004 above Zach Juarez of Llano and Michael Weehunt of Brownwood.

The Baird Boys Golf Team placed 17.

In the Girls Invitational at San Saba Muni on Tuesday, March 9, the Baird Girls Team placed 1st with 381 before Sonora with 400.

Jodi Neal took 1st place among the three medalists with 79. 2nd Place went to Jera Canales, Lampasas (84), and 3rd to Katee Mehaffey, Breckenridge (85).

Baird boys and girls golf teams were scheduled to play at Baird on March 16.

Community Blood Drive Is March 20

A community blood drive will be held on Saturday, March 20. The Meek Blood Center Bloodmobile will be at the Christ Community Resource Center in Clyde from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Those who gave blood at the Post Office on January 2 are eligible to give blood again. Blood can be donated every eight weeks.

Meek Blood Center provides blood to Hendrick Medical Center, Abilene Regional Medical Center and fifteen other hospitals and medical facilities in our area.

Blood usage has been steadily increasing, while donations have remained about the same, said Frances Baker, donor recruiter. "This has resulted in several critical blood shortages in the last six months." "Cancer patients, open heart surgery patients, and trauma cases are the biggest users of blood and blood products. Many patients of these types are electing to have their treatment or surgery done in Abilene, which has resulted in the need to have more blood available."

Blood donors must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, in good health, and free of illness or infection. Most over-the-counter and prescription medications are acceptable. There are some restrictions regarding some medications, certain medical conditions and some travel areas outside the U. S. Those who have questions regarding donor eligibility are asked to call

Continued Inside ...
Please see Blood Drive

March 15 End Date For Candidate Filing

Candidate filing for the Baird City Council and Baird I. S. D. School Board ended Monday, March 15, 2004.

Two positions are up for election this year on the Baird I. S. D. School Board. Baird I. S. D. announced that Incumbent School Board members Miller Scott and Gary McDowell filed for reelection. Also filing for the positions were Larry McIntire and Matthew S. Rogers.

The position of Mayor and two places for City Council are also up for election in 2004. Incumbent Councilman Harold Hass and incumbent Mayor Jon Hardwick both filed for reelection. Also filing for the positions were Tina Holden, Lonnie Keith and Brian Patterson. Brenda Moore stated earlier that she would not seek reelection.

The Baird City Council and School Board elections are scheduled for Saturday, May 15, 2004.

Baird I. S. D. Lists Superintendent Finalists

Baird I. S. D. announced the following 10 finalists for Superintendent. They are listed in order of the application received: Allen W. Law - Supt. Lefors ISD, Bill Foster - Prin. Goldthwaite ISD, Steve Self - Supt. Rochester ISD, Henry Lind - Supt. Cranfills Gap ISD, Glen Waldo - Supt. Darrouzett ISD, Doug Guynes - Prin. Crockett Co. CISD, David Hutton - Supt. Blanket ISD, Jim Davis - Supt. Godley ISD, Cliff Gardner - Prin. Tahoka ISD, Barry Eddleman - Prin. Ranger ISD.

The finalists will be narrowed down to six remaining at the Baird I. S. D. School Board meeting on Thursday, March 18, 2004.

Baird One-Act Play Dinner Theatre Is March 22

Tickets went on sale of Monday, March 15 for the Baird High School One-Act Play Dinner Theatre, scheduled Monday, March 22, 7:00 p.m.

The Dinner Theatre will be held in the Baird School Cafeteria.

Advanced tickets are \$6.00 adults. Children's tickets are \$3.00. Tickets at the door are \$7.00.

Tickets are available from all one-act play students and Mr. Riney. Please call 854-1400 or 854-2018 for information.

This year's one-act play is a comedy entitled "Dearly Departed", written by David Bottrell and Jessie Jones and published by Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

The play is under the direction of Mr. Larry Riney. Production crew members are Jordan Glaze, Rich Neinast, and William Ross.

Cast members are Carter Burford (Bud Turpin), Breanna Tollett (Raynelle), Zach Harmon (Ray-Bud), Kaitlyn Walker (Lucille), Casey Burford (Junior), Carrie Walls (Suzanne), Lesley Tumbusch (Marguerite), Josh Glaze (Royce), Melissa Keith (Delightful and Nadine), Lance Fiedler (Reverend Hooker), Dana Blair (Veda), Tanner Harmon (Norval), Clinton Morgan (Clyde), and Cissy Chavarria (Juanita).

A Chicken-fried stead dinner with mashed potatoes, green beans, cream gravy, and hot rolls will be served. Dessert is provided by the one-act play parents.

Please mark your calendars for this event, which will not only be an enjoyable evening, but also supports your Baird High School Theatre Department.

Big Dumpster To Be At City Barn

From March 22-27, 2004 the "Big Dumpster for Cleanup" will be located at the City Barn, 233 East 2nd in Baird.

The hours are Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

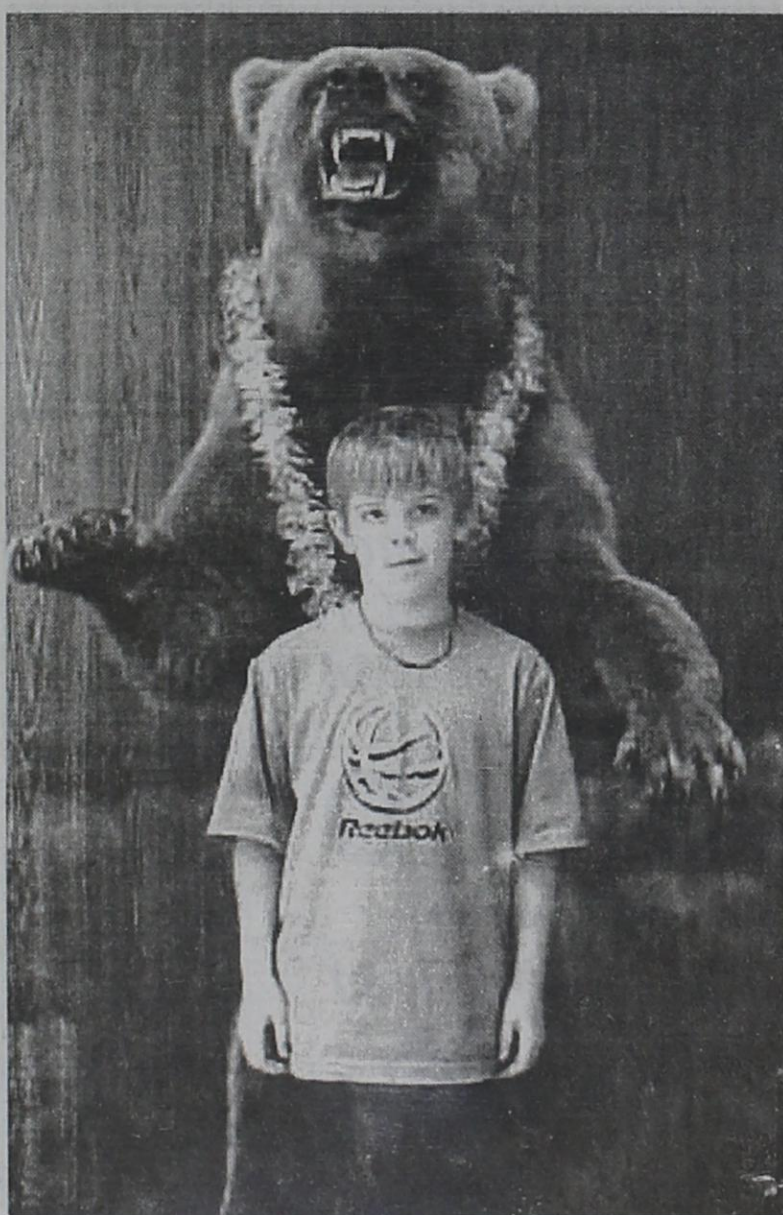
The dumpster is for residents of the City of Baird only. A current water bill receipt is required.

The dumpster will be available four times a year for one week each time.

Elementary School Sells Texas Value Cards

Baird Elementary School Students will be selling Texas Value Cards through the end of March. The cards have coupons good for your favorite restaurants and buy one and get on free meals. The funds collected for this will go to improving our playground.

Baird Elementary Student of the Week



Student of the Week
Mrs. Wilson-3rd grade
Nickalos Darnell, son of Ross and Linda Darnell

Baird First Baptist Church Events

Each one of you are invited to join us at the corner of Race and 3rd St. Baird. For more information on any of these events please contact the church: 854-

1574.
March 24, 2004 AWANA Club 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Prayer meeting in Sanctuary 7:00 p.m.
Choir practice 7:30 p.m.

ADVERTISE IN THE CLASSIFIEDS

It shows an excellent command of language to say nothing.
—Karol Newlin

Callahan County (Baird) Star Classifieds

Carrillo Faces Runoff In April

Only fractions below the 50 percent needed to be the clear winner of the March 9 Republican primary race for Texas Railroad Commissioner, incumbent Chairman Victor Carrillo will face a runoff on April 13, 2004.

Carrillo, who faced 3 opponents, received 49.7 percent of the vote on the Republican ticket in the March 9 Primary.

Robert Butler, 65, of Palestine, who received 24.2 percent, will be Carrillo's opponent.

Reportedly, this will be the only statewide runoff election.

The winner will be elected for a six-year term on a 3 member committee.

Carrillo, 39, an Abilene native and former Taylor County judge, was appointed by Gov. Rick Perry to his present position in the Texas Railroad Commission after his precedent, Tony Garza, was named ambassador to

Baird Bear Sport Schedules

Baird Baseball
March 19 *Cross Plains There 5:00 PM
March 22 Merkel JV There 4:30 PM
March 30 *Albany Here 5:00 PM
April 2 *Ranger Here 5:00 PM

Baird Golf
March 30 Eden (Girls)
March 31 Eden (Eden)
April 5* Maxwell Golf Course, Abilene (District Golf Tournament) (Boys & Girls)

Baird High Tennis
March 25 Practice Match with Ballinger at Rose Park 4:30 PM

Baird High Track
March 20 Eula
March 27 Baird
April 3 Cross Plains

Baird Jr. High Track
March 20 Baird
April 1 Cross Plains
April 6 District Meet @ Cross Plains

Mexico by President Bush. Carrillo was selected by colleagues to serve as Texas Railroad Commission chairman. His runoff opponent, Butler, has worked at state agencies, but has not served on a state elective position. The April 13 runoff winner will face Democrat Bob Scarborough in the 2004 November regular election. Scarborough was unopposed in the Democratic primary. The Texas Railroad Commission regulates the oil and gas industry. ***** Call Margaret for all your local happenings and news @ 254-629-1707

RISING STAR FOUNDATION SPRING FARM EQUIPMENT AUCTION SATURDAY, MARCH 20 11:00

The Rising Star Foundation is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to the betterment of our community through education, economic development and the establishment of a full service community center. Our goal for this auction is to raise funding to be used towards completing the renovation of Higginbotham Community Center.

Auction will be conducted at the Rising Star rodeo grounds rain or shine. Consignments from the general public of farm equipment and related items will be accepted on a standard auction format.

Some of the early arrivals include the following: 1956 John Deere model 620 tractor LP single front 15/5 rear older restoration; 1949 John Deere model MT tractor good rubber painted with some dents; 1950's small Ford 3cyl. diesel tractor; 5' Bush Hog Rebel shredder; John Deere model 220 disc; John Deere 12' grain drill; (3) round bale hay buggys; 16' utility trailer; Howse 5' shredder; New Holland Rolabar 57 rack; 20' gooseneck covered stock trailer; (2) 20' farm trailers; John Deere 10' swather; 18' covered stock trailer; 10' tandem disc; 8' chisel; several 3 pt. Hay forks; 10' Bush Hog box blade; coastal aerator; 8' John Deere grain drill; 12' John Deere chisel; Dearborn model 13-10 clodbuster; 5' blade; newer fresno bucket; John Deere model HA 145-6 aux. Motor; International front end loader; 3 pt. Post hole digger; fuel tank and stand; metal hay feeder rack; lots of 2 row equipment including planters, cultivators, plows and chisels; pair of 20' gin poles; Mead Morrison model 3MP geared winch; and much more.

Antique Horse Drawn Equipment: very nice complete International Harvester 10' bull rack in working condition; International row binder; several one horse breaking plows; complete buggy frame; set of 4 iron wagon wheels; lots of misc. wagon parts and lots more.

Automobiles, pickups, boats, motorcycles and automotive misc: very nice 1989 Ford F-250 extended cab XLT Lariat diesel 4 WD low mileage pickup; 1972 Jeep Wagoneer with rebuilt eng. in very good mechanical repair; late 1980's Lincoln Signature Series Towncar; 1972 Cadillac Sedan Deville; older Mazda pickup for repair; Suzuki 3 cyl. motorcycle for salvage; 1980 Honda 400/2 motorcycle for salvage; 12' Quachita aluminum boat and trailer; 12' aluminum Wards boat; outboard motors; 1950's Ford flat head V8 engine; model "T" frame and more.

Consignments are being accepted on primary equipment with the following terms and conditions:
(A) consignment fees of 5% on equipment selling in excess of \$10000.
(B) consignment fees of 7% on equipment selling in excess of \$5000.
(C) consignment fees of 10% on equipment selling in excess of \$1000.
(D) consignment fees of 15% on equipment selling for less than \$1000.
Consignments from the general public of miscellaneous farm supplies or farm related merchandise will also be accepted on a standard auction format with the following terms and conditions:
(A) consignment fees of 20% on all farm supplies and general merchandise. Donated merchandise of any usable variety will be accepted with the following terms and conditions:
(A) our heart felt thanks.
(B) a tax deductible receipt.
(C) free pickup where necessary.

Auction will be conducted at the Rising Star Rodeo grounds at the east Rising Star city limits on Highway 36. There will be a lot more equipment and assorted goods here by sale day. Consignments will be accepted on a daily basis up to and including auction day.

Auction services will be provided by Rising Star Auction Company. Auctioneers Danny Koonce TXS 10874 and Earl Ragland TXS 11772. For additional information contact Rising Star Foundation at 254-643-3423 or Rising Star Auction Company at 254-643-4600. Concessions available on site. Announcements day of sale supercedes previous announcements. Terms are cash, approved check or bank letter of credit.

D. P. S. Report

03-07-04 to 03-13-04

Cases Investigated

Warnings - 117
Complaints - 113
DWI - 3
Open Container - 1

Accidents

There were 3 accidents investigated during this time span.

People Arrested On Outstanding Warrants

18 for a total of \$5,230.00 collected *****

City Tax Cap Or Tax Freeze Won't Solve School Finance Problems

Austin - The executive director of the Texas Municipal League urged Texas lawmakers to steer clear of hurting city finances in a search for a solution to the state's school finance problems.

"We applaud lawmakers who are working on the school problem, but we don't want Texas cities to be the victim of a hit and run accident with a school bus in seeking a solution," Frank Sturzl, executive director of TML said of Gov. Rick Perry's proposal for a cap or tax freeze on city finances.

Cities are not poised to raise taxes if lawmakers cut school property taxes, and city officials are hopeful that lawmakers will not be panicked into legislation that would harm city efforts to provide local services, Sturzl said.

He pointed out that Texas cities have raised property taxes very little in the past 17 years.

"Cities collect only 15 percent of property taxes in Texas while schools collect more than 60 percent. The municipal share of all property taxes

From Page One

Paint Horses

765,000 horses. The Association serves more than 105,000 members around the world. Working ranch horses is one of the most recent events sanctioned by the Association. *****

From Page One

Blood Drive

Meek Blood Center at 325-670-2805.

Each donor will receive a T-shirt and a complimentary total cholesterol reading. Cholesterol results can be obtained two days after the blood drive by calling 325-670-2799. *****

fell from 20.3 percent to 15.3 percent from 1985 to 2002. And, city property taxes --adjusted for inflation -- went up by only 37 percent between 1985 and 2002, while the population increased by 33 percent."

Sturzl said there are effective truth-in-taxation laws on the books to protect the public's checkbook at the city level. To tinker with these laws could bring unintended consequences that will ultimately harm city residents who make up more than 80 percent of the state's population. *****

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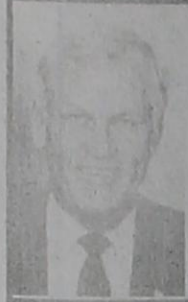
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Ag Talk

Animal Identification Hearing

The House Agriculture Committee recently held a field hearing in Houston, TX, in conjunction with the Houston Livestock Show and the International Livestock Congress.

The topic of discussion at this hearing was animal identification: what the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is doing about it and what various livestock groups think about the issue. The main purpose of any animal identification system is to allow veterinarians and other animal health professionals to track the movement of livestock in order to locate, control and eradicate future outbreaks of serious livestock diseases.

Time for a National Animal ID System

Most everyone at the hearing seemed to agree it is high time that we have a national animal identification system in the United States to protect our multi-billion dollar livestock industry and the food security of all those consumers who depend on it.

From the USDA officials to the cattle, sheep and pork representatives, all sounded a clear message that we need to move forward to implement some kind of verifiable animal ID system as soon as possible.

Questions

But there were also a number of notes of caution sounded about areas where we still have significant unanswered questions.

For example, "How much will a system cost?" and "How much will the government pay?" and "How much will producers, processors, and consumers pay?"

Some cost estimates run as high as \$500 million to set up a system and \$100 million a year to keep it running as new livestock are born and must be identified, tagged and so on.

Another question, "How will the system protect the privacy of the information provided by individual producers?" We know there are many groups that have tried in the past to gain information about farms and ranches with the expressed intent to "disrupt" agricultural production. We must make sure the confidentiality of data is protected.

And finally, "Will the system be fully voluntary or fully mandatory, or will it be some mix of the two?" Those are just some of the questions that need further consideration.

All these questions need to

be answered carefully and deliberately, and Congress, the USDA and dozens of producer organizations are working together to do just that.

In the end, though, most seem to agree it is in our best economic interest to get a system in place as soon as we can to help us be even better equipped to deal with potential outbreaks of foreign animal diseases. But we also must make sure we do it right.

NCBA Weighs In

The National Cattleman's Beef Association (NCBA) recently testified before a senate Agriculture subcommittee to stress flexibility as

the key goal in developing an animal identification program.

The NCBA's vice president promoted the proposed U.S. animal identification plan stating, "The key to effective implementation is solid standards--which USAIP provides--combined with the flexibility for mode of marketing, regional differences and existing programs."

The NCBA also proposed cost-sharing of the animal identification program between federal and state governments and producers.

Cotton Outlook

Recently a representative from the Cotton Economics Research Institute of Texas Tech University addressed the outlook of cotton domestically and worldwide.

Currently, cotton prices are high due to the increase in China's cotton imports, which are expected to in-

crease by 4 million bales in 2004.

Presently, only 6 million bales of U.S. cotton are processed domestically and sold as retail products; approximately 13 million bales of the U.S. crop are exported to foreign markets.

U.S. mill use continues to decline in spite of these high prices. This downward trend started in 1999 because of the effects of a strong U.S. dollar, and it is expected to continue this year at an average rate of 4.3 percent.

Consequently, U.S. exports are up this year but are expected to level off around 12 million bales for the next ten years due to increased competition from other exporters.

Higher prices are expected to lead to an increase in U.S. acreage planted, 16 million acres worldwide in 2004, and a consequent decline in prices.

U.S. trade policy will con-

tinue to play an important role in the success of our cotton industry.

Administration Official's Take on Farm Programs

Recently at the Southwest Crops Production Conference and Expo in Lubbock, a senior advisor to the Secretary of Agriculture all but said that traditional farm programs have outlived their usefulness.

The official said, "Farmers may need a better way to manage their business than by following a seven-decades-old farm program."

The advisor also said that a business plan lasts about ten years, and, after that, we have to start all over with a new plan.

As a farmer in Jones County, I would like to say that before people attack our seven-decade-old farm program they first should have a new, better

program in mind.

No doubt the face of agriculture changed drastically since the 1930s, but I argue that the farm programs have also changed to accommodate changing needs.

Former House Agriculture Committee Chairman Larry Combest and I worked together closely, and with all agricultural producer groups, to develop the 2002 Farm Bill to accommodate their needs and provide real farm security for adjusting to the new millennium.

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<p>2004 FORD RANGER REG CAB V8, AUTO, T/C, AIR, STK# C639 MSRP \$19,180 RF Discount \$2,421 Rebate \$3,000 \$13,759*</p>	<p>2004 FORD EXPLORER XLT 4 DOOR, 3RD SEAT, DUAL AIR, ADJ. PEDALS, #C645 MSRP \$31,840 RF Discount \$3,073 Rebate \$3,000 \$25,767*</p>	<p>2004 FORD EXPEDITION XLT V8, AUTO, 3RD SEAT, DUAL AIR, 4 CPT. CHAIRS, STK# C647 MSRP \$37,010 RF Discount \$4,597 Rebate \$3,000 \$29,413*</p>

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Answers to Crossword Puzzle

JIM LIMOS GAIT
 ODOR ORANT ASTA
 BORE SAMOA NEAT
 SECRETARY DALE
 LURE ODE
 STRUMS LEVERAGE
 CROSS LADEN REL
 RIDE CANER SEED
 ANI RISEN DENSE
 PENDANTS CRATER
 OWN PATL
 CHER AEROSPACE
 OLS BRUSH NORM
 OBLE ANHSL TOTH
 SHAY RENEW TEX



Sam Pendergrast
P.O. Box 236
Abilene, Texas 79604
915-672-1249
Personally Speaking



CHILI PLANNERS: Kathleen Tolbert Ryan, left, and Debbie Turner, editor and publisher of chili bible Goat Gap Gazette, chaired the planning session for Terlingua recently at Maxdale. (Pendergrast photo).

not they are related to us by blood. The world needs people who are willing to get involved in helping others in the quest for truth and justice. Will you do your part today?

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Terlingua World Champ Chili Chiefs Make Plans At Maxdale

I've been involved with the world championship chili cook-off at Terlingua for 30 years, but all I do is go out and roll around in the dirt a little and (since I went on the wagon) try to rank 25 or 30 portions of chili that make it to the final table, and maybe take a few pictures to prove I was there.

(I used to think the pictures were for "my chili book", but I now have thousands of pictures and no current publisher for what I think is an important 30-year record of a sociological phenomenon that has affected most of the country and some parts of the city.)

But it takes a lot of hard work by a lot of people to keep the original big-time chili madness going, and the 50 or so key volunteers have been meeting in recent years at the "Old Soldiers Chili Park" across the road from my brother's "Pore Farm" at Maxdale, the ghost town south of Killeen. The Terlingua planners met last weekend to talk Terlingua '04 and - because they're chili nuts- to whip up a couple of cooks-off.

Head planner was Kathleen Tolbert Ryan, daughter of the late great columnist Frank X. Tolbert, who figured in the first stir at Terlingua in 1967. (Between Terlinguas, Kathy runs the new Tolbert museum/gift shop/bookstore in Grapevine where she hopes to carry a new edition of her dad's epochal book "A Bowl of Red" when she finds a new publisher-which should be easier.)

Major new wrinkle at Terlingua may be cyberjudging, with evaluation sheets analyzed by computer. They had a test run at the Texas Men's Open Championship at the Chili Park Saturday and the Brazilian goofiness-and cook-off- Sunday.

(It was an educators special in the Men's, won by Robert Corley of Corsicana and seconded by Dewey Lawhon of Kyle- both profs-with Bud Rozell of Dallas, third. Kathy Legear of Dallas and Colorado won the Brazilian Open, with Gary Post of Grand Prairie, second, and D. Hidgens of San Marcos, third.)

But the point of this column is to let you know that misery loves company.

What they need, Kathy says, is volunteers to help run the cook-off at Terlingua the first Saturday of November and assorted sponsors to help pay the \$40,000 or so it costs to put it on.

Everybody ought to see Terlingua once, and many people would feel better performing some useful function rather than lolling around watching the stir. And they need runners and carriers and cup-markers and ticket takers and security help and monitors and you-

name-its. As for advertisers and assorted sponsors, Terlingua offers both several thousand on-site fans grateful to implement and lingering notoriety on posters and the like.

To volunteer, advertise, or sponsor, contact Kathleen Tolbert Ryan at 311 S. Main St., Grapevine, TX 76051; (817) 442-8688; or internety.abowlofred.com

And if you want to get ahead in the world of chili, now is the time to get involved, because Sue "Froglegs" Murphy swears she's retiring from about a dozen top posts after this year.

How Long Has It Been Since You Read?

By Wanda Lee Beck Skinner

Genesis 4:9 "And the Lord said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not. Am I my brother's keeper?"

The age old question has significance for you and me

today. We see all the bad things going on in the world and choose to ignore them. The answer to the question is certain. God does expect all of us to be concerned about our fellowman, whether or

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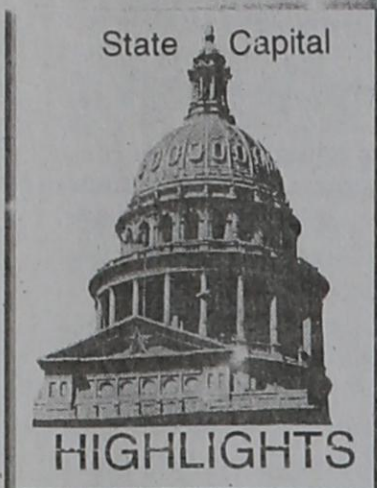
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State Capital

HIGHLIGHTS

By Mike Cox

Governor travels to Italy to bring business to Texas

AUSTIN - Gov. Rick Perry this week is in Italy - the boot-shaped country, not the town in Ellis County - to try to interest Italian officials in doing some business in a state with a boot-shaped culture. The governor will try to interest Italian companies in locating plants in Texas, or expanding Italian-owned businesses already here. He traveled at the invitation of the Italian prime minister and Texas consul general. Though taxpayers are not picking up the tab for the four-day trip to the European country, the Democratic party pulled no punches in saying what it thought of the trip. Party Chairman Charles Soechting said he hoped Perry would discover a solution to the state's school financing problems "in an Italian gondola ... because it sure doesn't seem to be anywhere near the Texas

Capitol." Kathy Walt, the governor's press secretary, countered that Perry has made economic development a cornerstone of his administration and likely has been "the most active governor we've ever had in terms of economic development and job creation."

Property tax plan... While he was packing for the out-of-country trip, Perry laid out a four-point plan he said would provide relief to Texas property taxpayers. What the governor said he would like to see the Legislature do is limit homestead property tax appraisal increases to 3 percent a year, limit the amount of revenue local governments can generate from property taxes, require sales price disclosure on real property and create elected appraisal district boards. Under the plan, local governments would be limited to tax income equal to the previous year's revenue adjusted for inflation and population growth. The plan also would allow a local governmental entity needing a tax increase above the cap to seek voter approval. With a simple majority, taxes could still be raised. Election alters political

landscape... Last week's primary produced a couple of surprises - losses by two longtime incumbents. Thirty-year House veteran Rep. Ron Wilson (D-Houston) was turned out of office, as was Rep. Glenn Lewis (D-Fort Worth.) Both lawmakers still will be able to participate in a special session on school finance, but the long term picture has definitely changed, since both representatives are members of the House Select Committee on School Finance. Goodbye to a pollution source... Glen Rose writer John Graves wrote his classic, "Goodbye to a River" back in 1960, realizing a planned dam would change the Brazos River forever. The river survived the building of lakes along its course, but anglers and other Texans concerned about the stream's quality had more recently been worried about the effect runoff from a rock quarrying operation was having on the stream. After nearly nine months of effort on the part of the Office of the Attorney General, Osborne Stone Co. agreed recently to close its rock mining site near the river in

Santo and pick up the tab for a mitigation effort to stop dirt from washing into the river. That runoff had been playing havoc with the environmental quality of the historic stream, which near its mouth saw the first Anglo settlement in Texas. The company's decision to abandon the site came after the Office of the Attorney General got a second temporary injunction closing the operation because of the pollution problems. Lubbock in your rearview mirror...

Whether it's getting back to the basics at Luckenbach or seeing Lubbock in your rearview mirror, music and Texas go together like

barbecue and potato salad. For those interested in Texas' musical history, and what's happening in the state's music scene today, the Texas Department of Transportation's Travel Division has a new tourism publication out, "Sites & Sounds; A Texas Music Road Trip." The 48-page publication, which lists museums and monuments commemorating Texas music, is available free by calling 800-452-9292.

Flea Market In Ranger March 20th

A Flea Market will be held Saturday, March 20th from 9 a.m. until... on the grounds of Ranger Historical Society 1505-1507 Loop 254 West in Ranger.

For more information call 254-647-5353, 254-647-3340 or 254-653-2391.

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From the Internet:

In Florida, an atheist became incensed over the preparation for Easter and Passover holidays and decided to contact his lawyer about the discrimination inflicted on atheists by the constant celebrations afforded to Christians and Jews with all their holidays while the atheists had no holiday to celebrate.

The case was brought before a wise judge who after listening to the long, passionate presentation of his lawyer, promptly banged his gavel and declared, "Case dismissed!" The lawyer immediately stood and objected to the ruling and said, "Your honor, how can you possibly dismiss this case? Surely the Christians have Christmas, Easter and many other observances. And the Jews--why in addition to Passover they have Yom Kippur and Hanukkah...and yet my client and all other atheists have no such holiday!"

The judge leaned forward in his chair and simply said "Obviously your client is too confused to know about or to celebrate the atheists' holiday!" The lawyer pompously said "We are aware of no such holiday for atheists, just when might that be, your honor?" The judge said "Well it comes every year on exactly the same date--April 1st!"

XXXXX

"The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.'" Psalm 14:1. Psalm 53

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Girling Health Care also provides hospice services with an interdisciplinary team approach to help patients and families dealing with end of life situations. Eastland physician, Dr. Sandra Hazelip, serves as the hospice medical director. Chaplain Donna DeLuca provides many services to area hospice patients and their families including grief recovery meetings.

Girling Health Care nurses are available 24 hours per day, 7 days a week to assist you with your health care concerns. The local "Girling Gang" invites you to visit their office at 957 East Main, located in the Shady Oaks Shopping Center or call 254-629-1268 or 1-800-950-0363 for more information.

With Girling Health Care, "It's good to be back home!"



O'Brien Shares Newspaper Experiences

Newspaper Owner/Editor H.V. O'Brien spent the last part of his Press Day, March 2 driving through the rain to the Writers Club meeting in Cisco.

There he gave a lively talk to members and visitors, telling of his work with the local papers.

He also showed them some special books he had acquired lately. Afterward he took questions from the audience, and read from a story he is working on.

There were copies of the O'Brien newspapers on display in the meeting place, which was the Community

Room, First National Bank in Cisco.

H.V. O'Brien and his wife, GayNell, own the Cisco Press, Eastland Telegram, Ranger Times, The Rising Star and Baird Star.

Their magazine called "The Texas Messenger" was also on a nearby table.

Mr. O'Brien was welcomed by Dr. Duane Hale, Club President, who said he wanted to thank him for what his newspapers do for the towns in this area.

O'Brien said that at the beginning of every working day he picks up his mail, and is always amazed at the variety of things sent to him.

"If a letter has a check I can detect it," he chuckled.

He showed a few samples of this mail, then brought out some interesting books that have come to him lately. This is one of the good parts of being an Editor, he remarked.

Among the books were "Life By The Seat Of The Pants," by Don Newberry, Charlie Chupp's new book with true and "neglected" Texas history a collection of recipes, something called "The Market Driven Church," and an esteemed religious book by Max Lucado. He also had a book of poetry called "The Border," which was written by Cleatus Rattan, Cisco professor and Texas Poet Laureate.

Turning to other aspects of the newspaper work, O'Brien said he had a good group of employees.

"They work together - they are like a family," he remarked.

He said that as he drove from his home in Eastland he could see the lights still on in the press room, and knew the papers were being prepared for delivery.

"A paper doesn't mean a thing to people until it goes out," he observed.

O'Brien had some references to those notorious times each week referred to as "Press Day."

"All babies any of us have were all born on Press Day," he remarked. "Also, the funerals that you just can't miss all happen on Press Day too."

O'Brien was asked when he started in the newspaper business.

"In 1949, right after I graduated from Carbon High School. My father died when I was young, and I needed to help my widowed Mother."

He was hired by esteemed Editor J.W. Sitton to do various things around the Cisco Press, including sweeping out the office. Later he learning to run a linotype machine. It was here that he realized he wanted to be a writer.

While working in Cisco O'Brien attended Cisco Junior College. When he graduated there he went on to Hardin-Simmons in Abilene. He got a job at the Abilene Reporter News, and had a chance to do some writing.

Mr. Sitton had been a great example in Cisco, and now O'Brien was continuing to learn from other professionals.

But by that time the Korean war was on, and as soon as he graduated from College he was drafted.

O'Brien said that basic training at Ft. Bliss was "pure misery," but he survived.

Then his linotype experience really came in handy! For instead of being routed to the front lines in Korea, his Officers decided to train him as a Cryptographer.

After his training he was stationed in Washington, D.C. where he lived in the basement of the White House. There he encoded and decoded material - an experience that left a lasting impression.

After the war he left the Army and came back to Texas. Before long J.W. Sitton, who had bought several newspapers, offered O'Brien an Editor's job back in Eastland County. It was a chance to be near his Mother again, and live in a place he had ties to and enjoyed.

In August of 1961 H.V. and his young wife, Gaynell, moved to Eastland.

"I was a young, dumb Editor," he remarked. "I made every mistake in the book"

And then, we bought an old house, and started remodeling it.

"We have remodeled it several times since."

"But I still wanted to write. For my first story, I

went over to Stamford and wrote about the Federal Inspection of a Salt Water Plant."

Since those days O'Brien has done a lot of writing, and editing too. His experiences would fill many books. He was won recognition for his writing in several fields.

Eventually he bought out the late J.W. Sitton's newspapers, and added The Rising Star and the Baird Star to them.

The O'Brien son, Vance, is now Editor of The Ranger Times, and works at the Eastland office, where all the papers are printed.

Daughter Amy is married to an Army Officer, Vince Freeman, and they live in Italy with their four children.

As Mr. O'Brien discussed his newspapers the Writers Club members realized how vital these publications are to

Thursday, March 18, 2004 each town they represent.

People in the area depend on the Editor and staff of the Eastland County Newspapers to be fair and accurate in their reporting, whether they are writing about politics, local affairs, great events or unfortunate ones.

The local newspapers have remained full of hometown news, and print letters to the Editor and columns. O'Brien has continued to be strong on Freedom of the Press.

During the evening O'Brien was asked what it really took to be an Editor.

"Patience," he declared. "I have decided that you need that more than anything."

Writers Club members were also glad that the County had an approachable local Editor - someone you could talk to.

Just Remembering

By Jasper Cook

There have been 18 bank robberies in Austin so far this year. I would never have imagined such a thing. As far as I can remember, we have only had one bank robbery in Cisco, and that was in 1927.

I was always under the impression that most bank robberies happen because the Nation's economy is poor and people do daring things to get money. I'm beginning to believe I have been wrong in my thinking. When asked why he robbed a certain bank recently, the robber said he did it because he just wanted to.

Yesterday, here in Austin, the police captured a man who had broken into a McDonalds restaurant. Almost every day I hear of robberies and stealing in various places. It makes me wonder about our morality.

My mother and father never locked their house when they left home, even if they were going to be away for several days. Until the last few years of their long life they never even locked the car. No one ever stole anything from them.

Mom and Dad's kind of trust doesn't work here in Austin where there are break-ins and robberies every day.

There are other ways to steal, however. How about a man and wife who live in an apartment complex where there is a limit on the amount of income a person can make and live there. They hide the fact that the husband has a substantial government disability income, and has his checks sent to another address. They pay their rent by Money Order so they can

keep their bank account secret, and the Apartment management never learns this couple earns more than twice the allowable amount. Isn't that stealing?

My father taught me that I must give an employer eight hours of work for eight hours pay. I tried to live by that rule. I'm no angel, but I sure do not want to cheat anyone.

Here is just one example. The honest truth.

My Union once sent me to a job up North. I was to work on a huge Nuclear Power Plant.

I was assigned to a Foreman who took me down into a tunnel where introduced me to the rest of my "gang." He told me we had nothing to do, and I was to just sit around down there out of sight. If we ever had a job to do, he would tell us.

You would recognize the name of the plant if I told you the State where it is located.

I sat around for two weeks, six days per week. We received time-and-a-half pay on Saturdays for doing nothing. I finally had enough. When I told my Foreman I was quitting he sent me to the office where I received a severe tongue lashing for leaving.

I simply felt that I was stealing.

I have had oodles of jobs all over the world, and without bragging, I can say that I always tried to earn my pay.

I seem to remember one of the Ten Commandments saying, "THOU SHALL NOT STEAL." No wonder some people are trying to do away with those Commandments.

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The Idle American

By Dr. Don Newbury

THE WIND'S BEEN CALLED MUCH WORSE..

In the 60's, the Kingston Trio "called the wind Mariah." Over the years, the wind-and about everything else-have been called much worse with words that peel the paint off your wagon and the chrome off trailer hitches.

Thankfully, the Federal Communications Commission has ridden to the rescue. Long viewed by many to be asleep with Rip Van Winkle, the FCC has been jolted into action by masses of Americans screaming "we've had it up to here, and we ain't gonna take it no more."

For decades, liberals have screamed themselves hoarse about First Amendment rights and clutched the U.S. flag. They've pushed the envelope beyond the edge. A few days ago, it fluttered toward the floor, and the FCC sprang to action..

Perhaps the pendulum headed leftward when Clark Gable expressed his indifference in *Gone With the Wind* (1939). There were national mutterings about "what this nation was coming to" with his utterance of one epithet (a mild one by today's standards). It would get worse-steadily and sickly worse-and Janet Jackson's regrettable exposure at the Super Bowl half-time jolted a nation's conscience, and the FCC awakened soon after. National indignation was rampant, and something had to be done.. (Me thinks well-intentioned personalities,

news people and coaches should welcome 10-second delays in front of live mikes and rolling cameras.)

The federal body (with pushes from a Congress that recognizes indignation when phones ring without ceasing and e-mail boxes fill up) is recommending stiff new penalties for obscenities on radio and TV. The FCC suggests fines 10 to 20 times larger than musty current fines, some of which date back three decades. "That suits me fine," one guy said, "Stuff we see on TV and hear on some big city radio stations is 10-20 times more offensive than it was 30 years ago.." Some of the fines will be comparable to those imposed for neck-breaking cheap shots in the National Hockey League..

Texans may need to lead the way in "milding down" basic weather descriptions. The challenge to talk "proper like" comes at a tough time—right here on the cusp of the storm season.

The first spring storm earlier this month cut a wide swath across the state with high winds, torrential rain and property damage exceeding \$10 million. I was in Henderson, Texas, that evening, to address the annual Chamber of Commerce banquet, and the bottom dropped out as more than 300 guests crammed into the

Great Hall at the Methodist Church. Lights flickered and candles were lighted early.

Some guests arrived drenched to the bone. Tongue firmly in cheek, I mentioned that God might be showing Methodists what He really thinks about springling..

Out in Lubbock, high winds have caused Joyce and Hal Rowe to look into getting trampoline insurance. But, not the kind you might think. In the past two years, they've been under trampoline siege..

Two years ago, their neighbors, Kent and Shawna Garrett, bought a backyard trampoline for their five children. A few weeks later, a high wind sent it flying. It landed on the Rowes' roof—a full acre away. "It sounded louder than a clumsy Santa Claus with reindeer on steroids," Joyce remembers, "Springs flew everywhere."

Last year, the Garretts bought a new trampoline with deeper anchors. Surely this one would stay put. Wrong! Another dust storm, this one with winds reaching 60 MPH, sent it airborne again, this time depositing it

in a tree of the Rowes' front yard. Hal, a guy who can "fix things whether they're broke or not," lassoed the trampoline, and tied it down to this truck. "I decided that if the wind decided to take it on, it would have to take the truck, too," he said.

The weather will always be a favorite topic in "can you top this" conversations. And what constitutes obscenity will remain an ongoing debate..

A lady in a crowded elevator expressed indignation when a man "whistled a dirty tune." He said he didn't know it was possible to do such.

"I know the words," she said..

A Texan broke the tension with a remark about—what else—the weather. "I'm from the Panhandle," he said, "Where it gets mighty cold. The only thing separating us from the North Pole is a barbed wire fence.."

Spare me the bromides. I'd rather watch re-runs of "Paint Your Wagon" at a Saturday matinee, licking a Maalox snow cone, than hear how cold it was, how much it rained, how deep it got or how hard it blew.

Set it to music. Let's hear it for "Mariah." It's an ill wind that blows no good..

Poetry Corner

PRAYER

In the early morning light I feel the breeze shifting through the trees.

I'm in need of something the world can't fulfill

So I get on my knees and ask the Lord's will.

As we travel down life's highways

Temptation and trouble on every side.

We need a haven of peace and rest

That the world can't abide.

Prayer is a special blessing Something the world can't understand.

When we get on our knees we grow and know

The Lord is in command.

A special line is now open Just waiting for your call.

You can't get the wrong number

And Jesus paid for it all.

Bob Harbin

Read the Classifieds

Gorman Chamber Banquet March 29

The Gorman Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring their annual Banquet on Thursday, March 29 at 7:00 p.m. at ZJ's Steakhouse.

The featured entertainment will be "Glorify", featuring vocal entertainment from Daryl Hirst and Brenda Thomas. Tickets are \$12.00

each and will be available at the door.

The Community Service Award and Special Awards will be presented at the Banquet. Also, Academic Achievement Awards will be presented to the top individuals in grades 9 through 12.

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All About CHIP Asset Test Q & A

How many children have been cut from CHIP?

*CHIP enrollment has dropped by 107,953 children since cuts took effect on September 1, 2003. According to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, CHIP enrollment has dropped from 507,259 (September, 2003) to 399,306 children in February, 2004.

What has caused so many children to lose coverage?

*Cuts are the result of dramatic changes to the Children's Health Insurance Program approved by the 78th Texas Legislative Session, including the following:

*The elimination of dental, vision, and hospice benefits for all children currently enrolled in CHIP.

*Children declared eligible must wait for 90 days for CHIP coverage to begin.

*Child care, child support and work-related expenses are no longer considered in determining a child's eligibility for coverage.

*CHIP co-pays and premiums have increased, and coverage has been reduced from 12 to 6 months of eligibility.

*As a result of these cuts, Texas will lose more than \$500 million in federal matching dollars that will be transferred to other states.

Are more cuts in store for CHIP?

*Yes. A new CHIP assets test, scheduled to go into effect in May, 2004, will cause even more children to lose coverage.

What is the CHIP asset test?

*The CHIP Asset Test would affect families with incomes higher than 150% of the federal poverty level (\$22,890) a year for a family of three). If these families

have liquid assets or countable vehicle values of more than \$5,000, they will no longer be eligible for CHIP.

What assets count towards the \$5,000 limit?

*The \$5,000 limit includes: cash, checking and savings accounts, Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA's), Individual Development Accounts (IDA's) and pension plans, cash value of prepaid burial and funeral plans and accessible trust funds.

*Vehicle values will also be counted towards the \$5,000 limit: including any value exceeding \$15,000 on the first vehicle and any value exceeding \$4,650 on each additional vehicle.

Why shouldn't Texas implement the asset test?

*Enrollment loss has already been so drastic that another round of cuts is not necessary. The average monthly decline in CHIP enrollment in the first six months of FY 2004 has been 4.67%, with monthly numeric drops ranging from 16,996 to 30,524. If caseload continues to drop at this rate, enrollment will drop to near 300,000 by August, 2004—far below the budgeted enrollment average of 346,818 for the next fiscal year, 2005. Given such a rapid reduction in enrollment, it is not necessary to implement the asset test to achieve the caseload levels budgeted for in HB 1.

*The CHIP asset test is a penalty to working families and a barrier to employment.

*The vehicle requirement is more restrictive than that of Children's Medicaid and does not exclude the first vehicle as an asset. Families need transportation to keep their employment and should

children's health insurance because they own a reliable vehicle.

*While the state economy is improving, many individuals have been laid off or subject to job closings. These individuals should not be prevented from obtaining children's health insurance because of retirement accounts, pension plan and accessible trust funds for a child's college education.

*Individual Development Accounts (IDA's)—savings accounts for low-income families that can be used to start a business, purchase a home, or pursue secondary education—encourage financial independence and should not prevent a family from being eligible for CHIP.

*The CHIP asset test creates a more complicated bureaucracy that is more expensive to administer and works against the goal of a streamlined, simple application process.

*The CHIP asset test was not mandated by HB 2292, merely permitted.

Are funds available for the restoration of health and human services?

*Yes. Texas has more than \$469 million in state funds available for the restoration of health and human services. Much of this funding is due to federal fiscal relief provided to Texas through enhanced federal matching rates that states will receive through July 1, 2004. These funds should be used for the restoration of health and human services.

What action can individuals take if they would like to eliminate the CHIP asset test?

*Individuals can write letters to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House, and Texas Health and Human Services Commissioner and urge them not to implement the CHIP asset test. Individuals can also send letters to their local state representative and senator. In letters, advocates can also ask that the \$469 million in federal fiscal relief be used for the restoration of health and human services.

*Individuals can also submit comments on the proposed CHIP Asset Test by Friday, March 19 to: Melissa Lewicki, Policy

Human Services Commission, melissa.lewicki@hhs.state.tx.us. Mailing Address: 1110 W. 49th St., Mail Code: H-310, Austin, Texas 78756.

What is the impact of cuts to CHIP?

*Loss of Federal Dollars. Texas receives \$2.59 in federal dollars for every state dollar spent for CHIP and approximately \$1.51 for every state Medicaid dollar. As a result of cuts, Texas will lose more than \$500 million in federal funds. The cost of eliminating health services to children has not been calculated.

In addition, over the past six years, Texas has passed up \$618 million in federal matching funds because Texas has not put in the required state funds to draw down federal matching dollars. When Texas does not spend enough to draw down all of its federal CHIP funds, the money is redistributed after a three year period to other states that have met or exceeded their CHIP allotment.

*Costs shifted to local communities: If children lose CHIP, costs will be shifted to local healthcare delivery systems, without federal matching funds. For example, if children lose health insurance and go to local County health programs for care, local tax-payers pay 100% of the costs, without any federal or state support. Local property taxes and rents will increase as local communities absorb the costs of the cuts.

For example, Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff estimates that the hospital district will face a projected \$10 million deficit from the CHIP/Medicaid cuts.

*Increased strain on local emergency rooms: 26% of Texans lack insurance and, without access to preventive services, often use the emergency room as their only option for healthcare. Removing children from CHIP coverage will place even more strain on already over-crowded emergency rooms. In the city of Houston alone, local emergency rooms are on divert status more than 30% of the time. A recent study of 54 hospitals across the 12 county greater Houston region found that 1 out of every 3 children taken

emergency rooms is immediately transferred because there are not enough beds available.

*Increased costs for emergency, rather than preventive services. At the Harris County Hospital District, treatment of an established patient's mild asthma attack in a doctor's office is \$94 to \$103. However, if the child goes untreated and has to be hospitalized for 3 days—the average length of stay for a severe asthma attack—the cost is \$9,200.

How do Texas budget cuts compare to other states?

*Although many other states have faced budget shortfalls, no state has made such significant changes to its CHIP program, both in the number of children who will lose coverage, and the number of benefits that have been eliminated from the CHIP benefits package.

Background Information
What is the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)?

*The Children's Health Insurance Program was passed in Congress in 1997. The Texas CHIP program was created during the 1999 Legislative session and began providing coverage on May 1, 2000. CHIP is designed for uninsured children in families that earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but cannot afford their own health insurance. The top limit of eligibility for a family of four is approximately \$36,800 a year—200% of the federal poverty level.

The Texas CHIP roll-out was among the most effective in the nation, with more than 500,000 children enrolling in coverage since the program began on May 1, 2000.

How many children in Texas do not have health insurance?

*According to 2002 U.S. Census data, Texas has the highest rate of uninsured children in the United States, with 22.6% of children lacking coverage. 90% of uninsured children in Texas have at least one

parent that works full-time. Parents of children receiving CHIP are working, but cannot afford or do not receive health coverage through their employers.

What are some other issues to monitor on children's access to health coverage?

*Of concern, is a new complicated renewal process for Children's Medicaid. While the state economy is improving, and more families may be leaving Medicaid as their incomes rise, stories collected from parents indicate that new renewal procedures are a significant barrier to re-enrolling children in Medicaid.

*Changes include: a 4-page renewal application that must be completed every 6 months to renew coverage—or clients will be automatically dropped. At the 6-month period, the eligibility computer automatically disenrolls clients whose renewal has not been processed—even if all papers were filed on time, and the renewal is delayed by eligibility office backlogs.

*These new procedures alter the Medicaid simplification procedures that were implemented in 2002 and make it more complicated for families to keep their children's health insurance.

How can parents apply for children's health insurance?

*To obtain an application for children's health insurance, call TexCare at 1-800-647-6558, or download an application from the website at www.texcarepartnership.com.

*Despite the cuts, CHIP coverage is still critical to hundreds of thousands of Texas children and will continue to cover doctor visits, immunizations, prescriptions, hospital care and the most needed medical services at an affordable rate.

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Abilene Arts & Crafts Festival To Be Held March 20-21 In Civic Center

The 13th annual Abilene Arts and Crafts Festival will be held March 20th and 21st in the Abilene Civic Center. Artists and crafters from throughout the Southwest will fill the foyer and main exhibit hall with original art, limited edition prints and handcrafted items. Hours for the festival are Saturday from 10 am to 6 pm and Sunday from noon to 5 pm. There is no admission charge.

Mel Prather, organizer for the two-day event, said the upcoming festival would feature a number of newcomers to the Abilene area. "First-time exhibitors will offer items such as chip and dip mixes, custom made pens and pencil sets, lighthouses, salt scrubs and lotions, marshmallow guns, thermal wraps, roasted nuts, clothing, unfinished wood, jewelry, potpourri jars, bird houses, tee shirts, vests, beaded bracelets, and candy, Prather said.

Also new are those with night lights, decorative porcelain, wall hangings, leather belts and purses, boot-wrapped mirrors, benches, branded boxes, western art, rain gauges, water fountains, iron art, carved golf balls, candles, floral arrangements, wood crafts, barbed wire wreaths, lamps, candle warmers, painted tiles, quilts, silver jewelry, kid's furniture, yard

art, toile painting, painted clothing, decorated china, framed prints, embellished clothing, painted jar lids, and gift baskets.

Returning exhibitors will offer a wide assortment of items, including magnetic jewelry, children's tee shirts, outdoor metal art, silk-screened shirts, floral art, wreaths and swags, soft sculpture, angel pins, turned wood, painted furniture, wood decorations, decorative ceramics, leather items, quilts, barnwood frames, lamps, silver jewelry, ornate crosses, dress sets, short sets, handmade purses, candy, metal cutouts and homemade soaps.

Others will have handcrafted candles, chili art, lotion bars, stained glass, marble art, wood wreaths, handmade silver jewelry, hand puppets, painted night lights, painted ceiling tiles, quilted items, decorated pillows, chili mixes, canned vegetables, homemade salsa, fishing rod holders, wood boxes, decorated ammo boxes, carved fish, kitchen ceramics, decorated bears and rabbits, car replicas, Southwest jewelry, wood signs, bird feeders, knives, bath wraps, scarves, wind divas, children's furniture, tissue holders, photography, and hair accessories.

Music Group "Mercy Me" Holds Concert In Abilene

by Lisa Linscott

On March 1 at 7:30 p.m. Bebo Norman, Amy Grant, and MercyMe presented a concert at the Taylor County Coliseum. Thousands of people came out to hear the concert, with only a few seats remaining. The seating was unassigned, so some people got in line at 4:30 p.m. in order to secure a good seat. Bebo Norman opened the concert with some songs he had written. His friend, Gabe, accompanied him on the guitar.

Amy Grant followed Norman. She sang songs from her new album, "Simple Things" as well as some old favorites. After an intermission, MercyMe came onstage to the screams and wild applause of the audience. A band that originated in the Dallas area, MercyMe has two albums - "Spoken For" and "Almost There" and their third - "Undone" - will be released April 20. The band started as a group of friends getting together to sing and lead worship services in area churches.

Ten years later, they have not lost sight of that purpose. As well as singing songs from their albums, they led the audience in worship songs such as "I Love You Lord," and "He Is Lord." Bart Millard, the leader of the band, writes most of the songs that the band produces. They come from personal experience and carry a message that he wants to share with the world. "Homesick," one of the songs on their soon-to-be-released album "Undone," came from the experience of eight friends and family members dying within a two-month span. Millard felt that although he would see these people again in Heaven, the waiting was the hardest part of the ordeal. He becomes homesick for Heaven, as the song shows, "If home is where the heart is, then I'm out of place."

MercyMe's hit song "I can Only Imagine," and their favorite song about Heaven "Where the Streets Have No Names" concluded the concert.

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COMPTROLLER SAYS \$1.6 BILLION LOST AS 107,000 CHILDREN DROPPED

Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn told the Mental Health Association in Texas that due to state budget cuts in Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance (CHIP), Texas is leaving an estimated \$1.6 billion on the table in federal funds. She made the announcement during a speech at the association's 2004 Honoring Dinner where she was the recipient of the Texas Champion award.

She said the federal money has been left on the table while "107,000 children have been dropped from the CHIP rolls since last September 2003. That's a 21 percent drop in five months, and Texas was already dead last in the percent of children without health insurance. That's unconscionable."

In the last regular legislative session \$41.2 million in state and federal funds were cut from the 2004 mental health budget, Strayhorn said. And Medical coverage for adults who need counselors and psychologists was eliminated entirely—up to 200,000 adults will lose these services, she said.

"All of the severe health cuts put together totaled more than \$1 billion. We could have more than restored these cuts with a dollar tax increase on a pack of cigarettes—as I recommended during the last session. We would have brought in \$1.5 billion this biennium with that tax increase. This administration is abdicating its responsibilities—and ignoring state challenges is creating local crises," Strayhorn said.

Strayhorn estimates that a total of almost \$583 million is available now to restore some severe cuts in health care and to fully restore all mental health services for children and fully restore Medicaid cuts for mental health services. Of that, there are \$469.3 million that could be distributed by budget execution and another \$113.4 million that could be appropriated in a special session.

We grow no taller, better, nor worse as we grow older, but more like our lives.

—May L. Becker

BACKGROUND ON BUSINESS

Executive Coaches Help You Stay In The Game

(NAPS)—An estimated 20 percent of American small businesses are using business coaches to help company management focus and improve, set goals and prioritize. What makes a coach different from a consultant is the approach.



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Rather than providing expertise, a professional coach works to draw out employees' abilities, often by uncovering personal and psychological barriers to maximizing performance and achievement of goals. By sending employees to training seminars, a coach helps them learn time management, deal with difficult clients and coworkers and discover their personal and professional goals.

The International Coach Federation provides a free referral service for professional coaches via its Web site (www.coachfederation.org) and a toll-free number, 888-BE-MY-COACH.

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Obituaries

Joyce M. Sims

Baird - Joyce M. Sims, 68, passed away at 6 a.m. Thursday March 11, 2004 at Abilene Regional Medical Center. A funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Saturday at Parker Funeral Home Chapel. Burial followed in the Ross Cemetery.

Joyce was born September 2, 1935 in Nemaha, Nebraska. She had lived in Baird since 1977 moving here from Amarillo, TX. She was a Baptist. She managed

the Antique Market in Baird for six years. She married Ray L. Sims in Oklahoma, May 19, 1971.

She is survived by her husband, Ray L. Sims of Baird, Betty Kostrikin of Las Vegas, NV, Beba Ree Allen of Albuquerque, NM, Mildred Jewell Christie of Albuquerque, NM, Lois Ann Arnall also of Albuquerque, NM; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Elmer M. Crossland

Baird - Elmer M. Crossland, 83, died at 2:20 a.m. Friday March 12, 2004 at Abilene Regional Medical Center. A graveside service was held at 2 p.m. Sunday March 14, 2004 at Ross Cemetery Annex with full military honors. Pastor Don Strickland officiated directed by Parker Funeral Home.

Elmer was born May 1, 1920 in Seminole, TX. He had lived in Baird 43 years moving here from Abilene, TX. He was retired from the United States Air Force with the rank of Master Sergeant

with 30 years of service. He then worked in Civil Service Oil Field service. He served in WWII, the European Theater, and the Korean Conflict. He was a member of the New Life Covenant Church in Baird. He married Susie Wylie in Breckenridge, TX June 14, 1988.

Survivors include wife, Susie Crossland of Baird; one step-son, Mark Wylie of Baird; one brother, Albert Crossland of Lubbock; several nieces and nephews; and one brother.

Leonard L. Farmer

Clyde - Leonard L. Farmer longtime resident of Callahan County, died at Hendrick Medical Center from stroke complications on March 7, 2004.

Services were held at 2:00 p.m. at the Bailey Funeral Home Chapel in Clyde on Wednesday, March 10, 2004 with Rev. David Cason officiating.

Leonard was born on February 13, 1920 in the Denton Valley community of Callahan County to J. L. (Lester) and Elmyra Jones

Farmer. He moved to the Eula community at a young age and graduated from Eula High School. Early influences in his life were his paternal grandmother, Elma Farmer, and his maternal grandparents, Henry and Fannie Jones.

Leonard married Rosa Belle Huckabee in December, 1940, serving in the Army Air Corps during WWII and worked in farming, ranching and construction for several years

In 1957, he began a career

Obituaries

Selman Correll

Baird - Selman Correll, 85, died from cancer Tuesday, March 9, 2004 at his home in Baird. Services directed by Parker Funeral Home were held at 3:00 p.m., Friday, March 12, 2004. Rev. Billy Sellers officiated.

Selman was born March 21, 1918 in Oplin, Texas to Charles Paul and Emma Selman Correll. He married Christine Mae Bryson on November 12, 1938. They had known each other all of their lives, both growing up on farms in the Oplin area. Christine was the love of his life, being married 65 years.

Selman attended Oplin High School. He farmed for many years at Oplin, moving to Baird with his wife and family in 1956. He was a truck driver. After retiring, he still loved the land, always having a beautiful yard and garden. He loved sitting on the porch. Selman was a Baptist. He was a quiet,

with the local Caterpillar dealership, spanning 28 years and hundreds of wonderful friendships and experiences. Leonard retired from Treanor Equipment Co. in 1985. He was a member of the Crescent Heights Baptist Church.

After retiring, Leonard continued to farm and raise cattle and was actively involved in numerous civic and community organizations. Service associations included 18 year membership in the Clyde Golden K. Kiwanis Club, including a term as Lieutenant Governor of Texas-Oklahoma Division 35 in 1990-1991. Central Texas Opportunity Treasurer and Board Member, Eula Water Supply Corporation Board Member, Clyde Chapter of AARP, Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (SALT), Callahan County Extension Ag and Natural Resource Committee, Callahan County Extension Executive Board, and Eula Ex-students Association.

Leonard believed in God, loved his wife, cherished his family and worked hard every day of his life. He was a man of few words who taught by action, led by example and was known to all as a man of integrity and character. He enjoyed the sunrise, plowing and planting, riding a good horse, fishing and hunting trips, fish fries, time with family, and involvement in the community.

Leonard was preceded in death by his parents and a

gentle, hardworking family man.

Selman was preceded in death by his parents; one daughter, Gina Shoemaker; one grandson, Donny Defosses; and ten brothers and sisters.

Survivors include his wife, Christine; two daughters, Melba Defosses and Doris Jaggars; son, Charles Correll and wife Mary all of Baird; sister, Ruby Pierce of Burkburnett; two brothers, A. D. Correll and friend May of Belen, NM, Charles Correll and wife Jo Ann of Rio Rancho, NM; 13 grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family received visitors at Parker Funeral Home in Baird on Thursday, March 11, 2004.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of the Big Country, 4601 Hartford St., Abilene, TX 79605.

grandchild. Survivors are his wife, Rosa Belle; daughters, Patricia Plunk and husband Benny of Spring, Ann Farmer and special family friend Sherry Havens of Canyon Lake, Glenda Hoye and husband Phil of Indianapolis, IN; son, Allan and wife Lisa of Potosi; brother, Julian of Fort Belknap, Wendell of Clyde and Jack of Eula; sisters, Mildred Pillans of Abilene, Nell Laughlin, of Pampa and Norma Barton of Baird.

Leonard was grandfather to six; Tony Plunk and wife Kimberly of Sugarland, Matt Hood and wife Dawn of Austin, Suzanne Plunk of Pearland, Chayse Hood of Indianapolis, and Lauren and Dylan Farmer of Abilene. Other survivors include five great-grandchildren, numerous nieces, nephews and cousins, and countless friends.

Members of the Clyde Golden K. Kiwanis Club will serve as pallbearers. Interment was at the Eula Cemetery under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home. Memorials may be made to the Eula Cemetery Association or to Hendrick Hospice Care.

Call Margaret for all your local happenings and news @ 254-629-1707

Connecting Kids to Christ Workshop

A one-day workshop sponsored by Children's Ministry magazine will take place in four locations this year:

March 13, 2004 in Dallas; March 27, 2004 in Ft. Worth; September 18, 2004 in Arlington; September 25, 2004 in Lubbock.

Everyone who ministers to children from nursery through sixth grade including ministers, ministry leaders, pastors, education directors, teachers and volunteers should attend.

Group of 10 or more, \$29 each. To register call 800-888-5991 or log onto www.cmmag.com/cmml2004.

Abilene District Lay Speaking Ministry Training

Basic Course: Saturday, April 17, 2004, 8:30-3:30 p.m., (lunch served) and Saturday, May 1, 2004, 9:00 a.m. - noon, First United Methodist Church, Roscoe, Texas.

Advanced Course: Saturday, April 17, 2004, 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. (lunch served). Cost is \$25 and Rev. Danny Cochran, Rotan, is the instructor. Contact the district Office for registration forms, or your local church.

TEXAS CATTLE EXCHANGE

Saturday,
April 3, 2004 11:00 AM

SPECIAL FEMALE REPLACEMENT SALE

Selling approx. 750 Bred Heifers, Young Bred Cows & Young Pairs

Location: On IH-20 Olden Exit at Eastland, TX
(located in cattle country - 50 mi. east of Abilene, 96 mi. west of Ft. Worth)

Some Early Consignments Include:

- 20 - Fancy Black WF Heavy Bred Heifers - wt. 1100 lbs - all should be calved by sale date. Bred to Limo. Bull & weigh 1050 lbs.
- 50 - Pairs First Calf - black & black baldy. Nice set of calves, will be gentle and cake broke.
- 20 Pairs First Calf - Angus. Gentle & broke to cake.
- 100 - Brangus Heifers - wt. 1050 lbs. bred to LBW Angus Bulls. Heavy Springers
- 25 - First Calf Black & Black WF pairs.
- 20 - Black Pairs 5-6 years old with big calves. Calves will weigh 250-400 lbs.
- 25 - Bred cows, 4-6 years old.
- 20 - Chi-Angus Heifers - bred to LBW Angus Bulls. These are Northern Heifers and will be fall calvers.
- 10 - Bred Brangus Heifers, all heavy bred to Angus Bulls.
- 50 - Bred Heifers, mostly black - all heavy springers
- 4 - 2 year old Brindle Baldy Pairs
- 4 - Reg. Angus Bulls
- 20 - First Calf Angus Pair

For more information about the sale or for brochure call Texas Cattle Exchange @ 254-629-2288 or Heugatter Auction Service, Allen 940-841-0345

Visit our website at: ahauctions.com

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GENERAL CONSIGNMENT AUCTION SUNDAY, MARCH 21 1:00 P.M.

The Rising Star Foundation is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to the betterment of our community through education, economic development and the establishment of a full service community center. Our goal for this auction is to raise funding to be used towards completing the renovation of Higginbotham's Community Center.

Auction will be conducted at the Higginbotham Community Center in downtown Rising Star. Consignments from the general public of most miscellaneous merchandise will be accepted on a standard auction format from the general public. Some of the early arrivals being sold at absolute auction with no reserves including the following:

Furniture, antiques and collectibles including tin Winchester-Western Sportsman's Guides (1) recommended shotshell loads and shotguns and (1) recommended center fire cartridges and rifles both in very good condition; older well made painted bookcase; primitive cabinet; painted 6' heavy duty pine bench; small oak desk; vintage drugstore type ceiling fan; wooden kindergarten stove and sink; lots of cookbooks; small metal kitchen stool; heavy duty trunk; wrought iron shelves; double pedestal oak dining table with 2 leaves (makes out to about 9'); concrete bird bath; 10' ornamental metal windmill; several vintage wooden fishing lures; tile wall mural; maple table with 2 leaves and 6 chairs; pine desk; 1930's chest; oak chair; ladder back chairs; Kentucky Derby glasses; battery op. Pink Panther; dog nodder; knives; buggy rims; RCA color TV lighted sign; barn lantern; embroidered Raggedy Ann and Andy baby blanket; Mickey Mouse telephone; cyclone fence post topper kit with dogs, horses and etc.; china; light fixtures and more.

Tools and etc: Simplex A5 low profile jack; vises; router; floor jack; set of 4 heavy duty industrial casters; boxed unused copper wire; Craftsman toolbox; heavy duty socket set; hundreds of assorted hand tools and more.

Consignments will be accepted on a daily basis up to and including the day before the auction and many interesting and usable unadvertised items will be in this auction. Almost everything in this auction will be sold at absolute auction.

Auction services will be provided by Rising Star Auction Company. Auctioneers Danny Koonce TXS 10874 and Earl Ragland TXS 11772 For additional information contact Rising Star Foundation at 254-643-3423 or Rising Star Auction Company at 254-643-4600 Concessions available on site

Announcements day of the sale supercedes previous announcements Terms are cash, approved check or bank letter of credit. B12

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