

Baird Star 50¢

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Baird, Texas 79504

Thursday, January 1, 2004

Editors Spot



Dear Readers,

As Editor of this paper, I have had the privilege of accompanying you and your community through part of 2003.

"It's a good time to be involved in Baird," someone told me when I first started this job. "Good things are going to happen here."

It is striking how hard the people of Baird work for their community. Times have not been easy since Sept. 11, 2001 for anyone. A slow economy, Federal cuts, State cuts"... and political decisions in general have come home to Callahan County citizens.

But ways to continue were found, and groundbreakings for new businesses as well as grants for local projects were part of the positive aspects of 2003 for Baird.

At the Baird schools, students excelled in academics and sports, and also helped with many community projects.

One thing I'll not forget is the way Baird rallied behind their own when local servicemen and women were called to serve in Iraq.

Carol Baird at the Whistle Stop CafÉ and personnel at City Hall gathered photos and information about family members, friends, and acquaintances serving in the military. These were hung in many shop windows throughout the town, and updates were printed in the newspaper.

Elementary school children hung yellow ribbons along the streets. The servicemen and women became Baird's heroes.

The year closed with another highlight - the Christmas Village. This enchanting Christmas event was the result of turning a vision into reality, and the working together of many community citizens.

It's hardly any wonder that Baird received a Community Achievement Award in 2003 from Texas Midwest Community Network - a good omen for the coming year!

Happy New Year!
Margaret Hetrick

POLITICAL CALENDAR

The following candidates have authorized this newspaper to announce their intention to run as candidates for the Spring Primary Election.
State Senate Dist. 24
Troy Fraser
(Reelection)
(Pd. Pol. Advertisement)

THIS WAS 2003



Baird High students who excelled in UIL, Field Days, Easter Egg Hunts, Support for local projects, Elementary School activities, and Baird High top sport competitors were all part of the year 2003. They, as well as many more, made the year what it was for the town of Baird, Texas.
staff photos

2003 - The Life Changing Year

By Viola M. Payne

The Year 2003 is winding down in Callahan County. Christmas tinsel is still waving in the north wind, but soon it will be packed away for another season. Only time can sort out the strange year that is passing from us, with its mixture of triumph and tragedy.

There were a number of world-class news stories reverberating this year - so many that we can only hit the high spots. More and more our lives are touched by events that happen far away.

To begin with, January, 2003 started out rather quietly. As usual, we were expecting some kind of icy spell right after the first of the year, but we got through that. And of course, the Republicans were in charge in Austin, but hadn't they promised to do better than the Democrats?

Many citizens were looking forward to the inauguration of Rick Perry as Governor - that handsome fellow from West Texas.

Also, the 78th Legislature was due to go into session and deal with school finance and try to scare up some cash to make up for deficit spending. How did the describe that - a \$10 billion shortfall?

Then a war with Iraq was looming, with President George W. Bush giving Saddam Hussein deadlines to disarm.

But that war shouldn't take that long - we could whip Hussein in no time. Look what we had accomplished in Afghanistan. And the people of Iraq would surely be glad to see us - wouldn't they welcome a chance to live in a democracy?

So January went off about as planned. Then the morning of Feb. 1 rolled in warm and serene, a welcome pre-spring day.

Some people planned to watch the Shuttle Columbia return to earth after its 16 days in orbit. It was carrying seven astronauts and the results of scientific experiments.

continued inside
please see 2003

Nicki Harle Files For House District 53 Race

Baird resident Nicki Harle announced on Thursday, Dec. 18, 2003 that she has paid her filing fee at the State Republican headquarters to secure a spot on the ballot in the race for Texas House of Representatives in District 53.

Last filing date is Jan. 2, 2004.

Harle will run against incumbent District 53 Representative Harvey Hilderbran (R-Kerrville) in the Republican primary on March 9, 2004.

Hilderbran, who was first elected to the House in 1988, announced earlier that he will seek re-election in 2004.

Callahan County lies on the northern tip of District 53, a 15-county district including Crockett, Sutton, Schleicher, Real, Kerr, Kimble, Menard, Mason, Llano, San Saba, McCulloch, Concho, Coleman, Runnels, and Callahan.

Nick Harle announced her candidacy as Republican nominee for State Representa-

tative in District 53 in November.

Since then, the 55-year-old area community development leader and 30-year resident of Baird, said she has traveled more than 25,000 miles meeting the citizens of all communities in the 15 counties and learning of the issues that she will be asked to address at the State Capitol.

"I have been listening to District 53 residents from all walks of life, and I am hearing what they are saying," Harle said.

Nicki Harle is executive director of Texas Midwest Community Network, and currently serving on the governing board of the Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA).

As landowners, Nicki and Rob Harle are members of the Texas Farm Bureau and Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Assn. Rob Harle is a veterinarian and owner of Callahan County Veterinary Clinic.

Commissioners Court Holds Last 2003 Scheduled Meeting

Callahan County Commissioners held their last scheduled open court meeting of the year on Dec. 22, 2003.

The agenda included the review and signing of minutes of previous meetings, and public comments.

A discussion/approval of a Contract for Professional Services with Allison, Bass & Associates, L. L. P. to provide necessary legal services to successfully complete all procedural steps outlined in Chapter 258 of the Texas Transportation Code, H. B. 1117 was also on the agenda.

The Contract was approved.

A discussion regarding the approval of setting regulations on County Roads was held, as well as the approval of a Family Protection Fee.

Setting regulations on County Roads was tabled to be taken up at a future date.

The Court approved a Family Protection Fee of \$15, which will be charged by the District Clerk on each divorce case filed.

The Court discussed the mutual aid agreement with cities and WCTCOG (West Central Texas Council Of Governments).

The Court reinstated the Burn Ban in Callahan County, and approved the payment of bills.

The next scheduled Commissioners' Court Open Meeting is Jan. 12, 2004.

HAPPY NEW
YEAR - 2004!

Call Margaret for all your local happenings and up to date news 254-629-1707

Callahan County Star

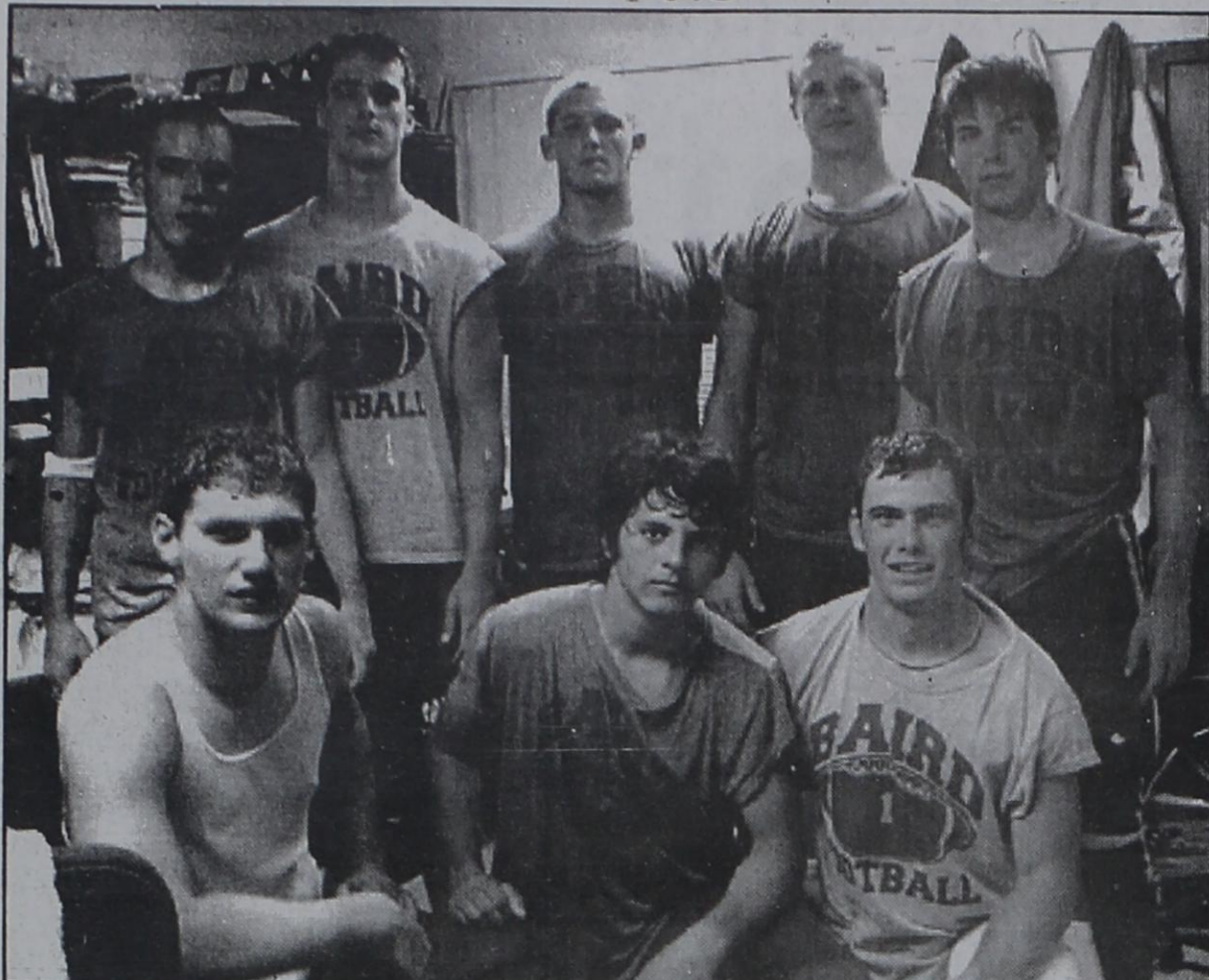
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This Was 2003



Baird Bear's Varsity Football team players were determined to move forward, and brought the Bears to the area Class A playoffs in 2003. *staff photo*

Mid - 2003 Sales, Taxes Reported

CALLAHAN COUNTY-- All industries:

The 265 outlets (up five over a year earlier) had gross sales (All industries) of \$17,449,389, down -.05 over the same period of 2002 when total sales were \$17,541,881. Of the six-month total, \$77,403 was subject to use tax and \$6,785,424 was subject to state sales and use tax.

Callahan mid-year Retail Trade Sales:

The 138 outlets (down one from 2002) had gross sales of \$10,880,739, up 11.6 per cent over the same six month period of 2002. Of the total, \$11,733 was subject to use tax and \$5,242,615 was subject to sales and use tax.

EASTLAND COUNTY -- All Industry six-month totals:

The 489 outlets (down from 499 in 2002) had total all industry sales of \$137,959,222, up 5.8 per cent over the same period last year when \$130,26,148 was reported. Of the total, \$1,245,216 was subject to use tax and \$19,729,718 subject to sales and use tax.

Eastland Retail Sales first six month totals:

The 254 outlets (down two from a year ago) had total gross sales of \$49,235,004 up 7.4 per cent from a year earlier when gross sales were \$45,833,773. Of the total, \$307,013 was subject to use

tax and \$14,242,745 was subject to sales and use tax.

Definitions

Reporting Outlets: The number of individual business locations with a sales and use tax permit that filed a return.

Gross Sales: The total amount of all sales, leases and rentals of tangible personal property and all labor and service charges made during the reporting period.

Use Tax Purchases: The cost of all taxable items removed from inventory for personal or business use and all purchases on which no Texas sales tax was paid or use tax accrued.

Taxable Sales: This number is not on the report, but an explanation is needed in order to understand Amount Subject to State Sales and Use Tax. This is the total amount of sales, leases and rentals of

taxable personal property and taxable labor and service charges made during the reporting period.

Amount Subject to State Sales and Use Tax:

The amount subject to the state sales and use tax. This amount is calculated by taking taxable sales and adding use tax purchases.

XXX

Sales Tax Rate History for the State of Texas

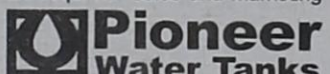
- Sept. 1, 1961: 2.0%
- Oct. 2, 1968: 3.0%
- Oct. 1, 1969: 3.25%
- July 1, 1971: 4.0%
- Oct. 2, 1984: 4.125%

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Burn Ban In Effect For County

Callahan County Judge Roger Corn stated Monday that the Burn Ban is in effect for Callahan County as of Monday morning, Dec. 22.

The decision was made by the County Court at their Monday, Dec. 22, 2003 meeting.

Dry conditions prevailing throughout the Big Country has prompted several counties to reinstate the Burn Ban.

Scranton Musical Set For Saturday

The musical will be held at the Scranton Community Center, Saturday, January 3, 2004.

The kitchen will open at 5:30. Anita Webb and Ruth Ray are the hostess. They will be serving some great soup. Your contribution of sandwiches and or pies is appreciated.

The music begins at 6:00 with Mark Ray as emcee. All area musicians are invited to play and may call 325-692-2057 to reserve a time for your group.

Ballot Filing Deadline Is Jan. 2, 2004

Filing deadline for the Primary Election on March 9, 2004 is Jan. 2 at 6:00 p.m.

Contact Callahan County Democratic Chairman, Jon E. Hardwick for more information at (325)854-1256 or (315) 854-1336.

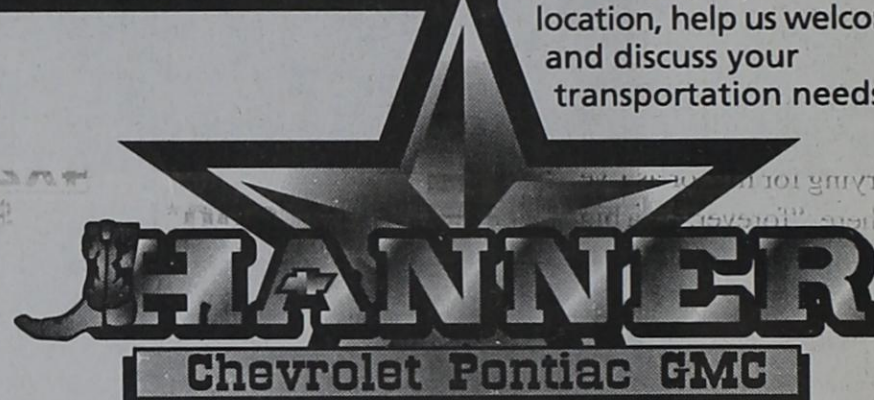
Republican candidates wishing to file may contact Callahan County Republican Chairperson Pat Chrane at (325) 529-3428.

Welcome Kelly Corn!



Hanner Chevrolet, Pontiac, GMC in Baird, Texas is pleased to announce further expansion of our Sales Department with the addition of Kelly Corn to our sales team. Kelly will serve as one of our sales managers.

Kelly is a native of Callahan County and is the son of Roger and Barbara Corn. Kelly, his wife and two children live in Baird. We're very excited to have Kelly on our winning sales team, so please stop by our Baird location, help us welcome him and discuss your transportation needs.



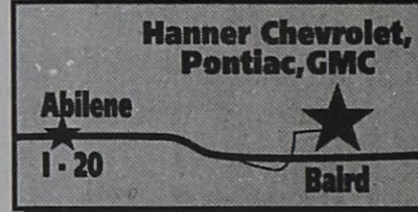
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Making A Difference

By Rex M. Rogers

Married Forever

Most people that I know seem to like weddings, especially if they know the bride and/or groom very well. I mean, who wouldn't like weddings? They are--in almost every case--a happy time, a time of joy, beginnings, and great promise. Mothers and aunts cry, dads stand around with funny grins on their faces, brothers look for ways to make the day memorable for a prank or two. Someone usually says something like, "Aren't they a wonderful couple?" Or, "They've got their whole lives ahead of them." "Isn't she a lovely bride?" And she is, because all brides are lovely.

The preacher, at least in "traditional wedding vows," says, "Until death do us part." That's the one that always strikes me. Because I think, "Wow, one minute people are unmarried; the next minute they're married forever." I know, of course, that death comes more quickly for some and that, sometimes, a spouse remarries later. And I know that divorce also plays an all-too-prominent role in family life today and that there again, "forever" is not so long after all. But according to the Bible, God's purpose is for a man and woman to marry for life.

Marrying for life, or as I've put it here, "forever," is a big decision. In fact, I'd go so far as to suggest that aside from your decision regarding Jesus Christ's saving work in your life, marriage may be the biggest decision you ever make. I know this assertion can get me in trouble: Someone will mention that God honors singleness, too. I wholeheartedly agree. Someone else might say that they can think of other momentous decisions that can affect our lives and that life cannot be "reduced" so-to-speak to marriage. Maybe.

I'm saying marriage is close to your biggest decision because I do not know of any decisions that have a greater impact on your well-being, that have longer term implications, and that otherwise is a position to dominate your life. Contrary to a lot of contemporary fluff on the matter, marriage is a big deal.

Marriage is a gift of God. It is a union that should produce companionship, comfort, physical and emotional fulfillment, possibly children, and joy. Marriages that are indeed "forever" have brought us some of our most incredible stories of self-sacrifice, commitment, heroism, faithfulness, and sense of belonging known to human experience. Marriage is, or at least sometimes should be, fun, but matrimony is serious business. It is not to be trifled with or mocked.

That's why I think it is so important that unmarried people recognize not only the joy but the gravity of the fact that--in a marriage ceremony, one minute you are unmarried and the next minute you are married for-

ever. It's important that those of us who remain remind ourselves once in awhile that marriage is our greatest asset. "Forever" is not a sentence to be served mechanically but a feast to be savored fully. Marriage is "forever" because God knew that it would take us that long to get all that it had to offer.

If you're not married, let me suggest to you that the idea of marriage must be considered with as much reason as emotion. If you are married, then do something today that demonstrates the value you place in it--or more importantly, the value you place in your spouse. Marriage is forever. Long live marriage.

(Rex M. Rogers, Ph.D., book author and president of Cornerstone University.)

Texas Yes! Texas Department of Agriculture The Heart of Downtown Beats Again

By Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs

Just 22 miles from the geographical center of Texas, you can hear the old Santa Fe train whistle blow in the community of Brownwood and feel the excitement coursing down the line as the heart of the city's downtown beats again. Once home to the largest military training center in Texas at Camp Bowie, Brownwood has survived the booms and busts of the cotton, oil and military industries. Today, the community is laying new tracks for the future, earning a place as one

of the five Texas Yes! Hardworking Rural Community Shining Stars. During a yearlong planning process, volunteers and city leaders in Brownwood produced a living downtown master plan that resulted in renovations to more than 30 buildings. Streetscape construction is now underway as well. The revitalization of downtown is key to growing business and tourism. With the Santa Fe Depot restored and a transportation museum on the drawing board (complete with a million dollar model train collection donated by a local family), Brownwood's heritage is the lifeblood for its future. The community's hotel and motel tax revenues have increased almost 12 percent in the last two years, and 350 jobs have been retained or created. Brownwood's year-round "Feels Like Home" activities also include a bluegrass festival, rodeo, quilting bee and fishing tournaments. Texas Yes! salutes the hardworking town of

Grand Rapids, Mich., is a syndicated columnist, whose columns appear in California, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, North Dakota, South Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Texas newspapers. Send comments in care of: alan@blanchardgroup.net) ©2003, The Blanchard Group, LLC

Brownwood for its community spirit and leadership. Texas Yes! is our brand new initiative at the Texas Department of Agriculture for rural communities, businesses and organizations to pro-

mote rural Texas through business development, job growth and tourism. For more info. on Texas Yes! call (866) 4TEX-YES or visit www.TexasYes.org

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Edward Jones Financial Focus

Submitted by Jim Bruton

Time for New Year's (Financial) Resolutions

Now that it's almost 2004, it's time to make some New Year's resolutions. What are yours? Lose weight? Volunteer more? Quit smoking? Spend more time with your family?

All these are worthwhile goals. But, while you're in the resolution-making frame of mind, don't forget your financial resolutions. Here are some to think about:

Cut your debt load- If you feel overburdened by debt, you're not alone. At the beginning of 2003, American households owed, on average, nearly \$9,000 on all credit cards, according to Cardweb.com, a Web site that provides credit card information to consumers. This figure is up 173 percent over the past decade. You'll find it very hard to achieve your financial goals if you're overburdened by debt. Set a realistic goal for whittling down the amount you owe. And avoid taking on unnecessary new debts through more credit card purchases.

Increase your retirement savings- Put in as much as you can afford to your IRA and your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. These tax-advantaged accounts are great ways to help boost your retirement savings.

Put bonuses and salary increases to work- Consider investing your bonuses and salary increases. If you don't really need the additional money to meet your basic needs, you can put it to work helping you build your investment portfolio.

Avoid tapping into your investments- Try to build an "emergency" cash cushion of about three to six months' worth of living expenses. Once you've established this fund, you won't need to tap into your investments to pay for major car repairs, new appliances or any other unexpected costs. And by letting your investments have the opportunity to grow as long as possible, you can accelerate your progress toward your long-term financial goals.

Diversify your portfolio- By spreading out your dollars over a wide range of assets—stocks, bonds, government securities, etc.—you can help cushion the impact of a downturn that may affect just one particular area. And by owning many different investments, you give yourself a better chance to succeed.

Keep emotions out of investing- There's plenty of evidence that fear and greed drive the market. Don't be ruled by your emotions. If a

stock is falling, you don't have to join the selling stampede—especially if the company has good prospects. Conversely, don't chase after "hot stocks"—they may already be cooling off by the time you buy.

Protect your family- Go over your insurance coverage to ensure it is sufficient to help your family meet their needs should something happen to you.

Check your beneficiary designations- If you've gone through any significant changes in your life—divorce, remarriage, stepchildren, etc.—then you'll want to make absolutely sure your beneficiary designations on all your financial documents are up to date and correct.

Boost college savings- If

you have a child, it's never too soon to start saving for college. Consider opening a 529 plan or a Coverdell Education Savings Account.

Rebalance as needed- As your needs, goals and personal situation evolve over time, you'll want to adjust your portfolio. Your investment professional can help you make the appropriate changes.

By following through on these resolutions, you can make great strides toward improving your financial situation in 2004—and in all the years to follow.

Jim M. Bruton
Investment Representative
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by Rix Quinn

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Hey, Poor Rix: My girlfriend just invited me to a fancy dance. I've never been to one. What do I do next? — Informal Women understand these events. Many guys, who consider "formal wear" a tie without a sports team logo, do not.

A men's store can help. If your date sees you at your best, it might improve how she treats you when you are at your worst.

On the day of the event, buy

a corsage for your date's dress. You could wait and pick one out of her yard, but it would not come with a pin attached.

When your date arrives at the door, compliment her dress or hair. Do not sniff the air and say "New deodorant?" Next, pin the flower on her dress, but not directly on her skin.

Some parties have a receiving line. This is like the pre-game meeting at midfield, but without the refs. Also, there is no coin toss.

At dinner, if someone asks you to pass the rolls, do not throw them. Forget the word "throw" tonight. Do not throw rolls, do not throw punches, and do not throw up.

You should not "break dance" in formal wear. The

correct movement is to shuffle around the room like you broke an ankle.

At the end of the evening, take your date to her front door, and thank her for inviting you to this wonderful event.

Then, get in your car and drive away, rejoicing that tomorrow you can return to normal habits.

Poor Rix offers bad answers to good questions. E-mail him at rixquinn@chapter.net.

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<p>2004 FORD F-150 HERITAGE REGULAR CAB, STK# C522</p>  <p>\$17,464*</p> <p><small>MSRP \$22,630 RF Discount \$2,686 Rebate \$2,500</small></p>	<p>2004 FORD F-250 QUAD CAB 4X2, XLT, V8, AUTO, L.S. AXLE, #C461</p>  <p>\$25,499*</p> <p><small>MSRP \$31,325 RF Discount \$3,826 Rebate \$2,000</small></p>			
<p>2004 FORD F-150 REG. CAB STK# C513</p>  <p>\$20,777*</p> <p><small>MSRP \$23,065 RF Discount \$2,288</small></p>	<p>2004 FORD F-150 QUAD CAB STK# C519</p>  <p>\$24,999*</p> <p><small>MSRP \$28,040 RF Discount \$3,041</small></p>	<p>2004 FORD F-150 SUPER CREW XLT, V8, AUTO, P. PEDALS, T.TOW, #C588</p>  <p>\$28,399*</p> <p><small>MSRP \$32,085 RF Discount \$3,686</small></p>		
<p>02 F-350 Crew Cab C459A, 4x4, Diesel, Auto, XLT</p>  <p>\$31,990</p>	<p>03 F-250 Quad Cab C431A, 4x4, Auto, XLT</p>  <p>\$24,990</p>	<p>03 F-350 Quad Cab C479A, 4x2, XLT, Diesel, Auto</p>  <p>\$29,990</p>	<p>97 F-350 Crew C570A, 4x4, Diesel, Auto, XLT</p>  <p>\$15,990</p>	<p>97 Chevy Blazer C570B, 4 Door, Auto, PW/PL</p>  <p>\$7,990</p>
<p>01 F-150 Super Crew C235A, 4x4, XLT</p>  <p>\$21,990</p>	<p>02 F-150 Super Crew C372A, XLT, 4x2</p>  <p>\$19,990</p>	<p>02 Ford Explorer XLT C516A, Auto, 3rd Seat, Dual Air, Factory Warranty</p>  <p>\$18,990</p>	<p>03 F-250 Crew Cab C502A, Lariat, Diesel, Auto</p>  <p>\$31,990</p>	<p>02 F-350 Quad Cab C538A, Dualy, Diesel, Auto, Factory Warranty</p>  <p>\$26,990</p>
<p>02 F-350 Crew Cab C487A, 4x4, Diesel, Auto, XLT, Only 39K Miles!</p>  <p>\$28,990</p>	<p>01 F-150 Super Crew C532A, V8, Auto, XLT</p>  <p>\$17,990</p>	<p>01 Ford Taurus SE G247, Auto, PW/PL, P Seat, 30K Miles</p>  <p>\$8,990</p>	<p>02 D1500 Crew Cab C574A, V8, Auto, SLT</p>  <p>\$17,990</p>	<p>01 F-150 Quad Cab G083, XLT, V8, Auto</p>  <p>\$18,990</p>
<p>02 D1500 Crew Cab C520A, SLT, V8, Auto, Fac Warranty</p>  <p>\$18,990</p>	<p>02 F-150 Super Crew G197, V8, Auto, XLT, Factory Warranty</p>  <p>\$19,990</p>	<p>02 F-250 Crew Cab C408A, Diesel, Auto, XLT</p>  <p>\$25,990</p>	<p>02 F-350 Quad Cab G085, XLT, Diesel, Auto</p>  <p>\$21,990</p>	<p>01 D1500 Quad C195A, V8, Auto, SLT</p>  <p>\$17,990</p>
<p>02 Sport Trac C530A, XLT, Auto</p>  <p>\$17,990</p>	<p>99 Honda CRV C545B, Auto, PW/PL, 4 Door</p>  <p>\$9,990</p>	<p>02 Blazer G171, 4 Door, Auto</p>  <p>\$16,990</p>	<p>03 Ranger Super Cab G208, Auto, Edge</p>  <p>\$14,990</p>	<p>00 Ranger G233, 4x4, Super Cab, Auto</p>  <p>\$12,990</p>
<p>02 Dodge Neon G203, 4 Door, Auto</p>  <p>\$192^{MO}</p> <p><small>\$3,990, 0 Down, 6.9% WAC</small></p>	<p>99 Ranger Reg Cab C395A</p>  <p>\$169^{MO}</p> <p><small>\$7,990, 0 Down, 6.9% WAC</small></p>	<p>02 Escort G158, 4 Door, SE, Auto</p>  <p>\$169^{MO}</p> <p><small>\$7,990, 0 Down, 6.9% WAC</small></p>	<p>00 Mustang LX G132, T/C, P Seat</p>  <p>\$212^{MO}</p> <p><small>\$9,990, 0 Down, 6.9% WAC</small></p>	<p>03 Expoler XLT G251, 3rd Seat, Dual Air, Fac. Warranty</p>  <p>\$379^{MO}</p> <p><small>\$20,990, 0 Down, 6.9% WAC</small></p>

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First Baptist Church Of Baird Events Scheduled

Dec. No activities at church. Family time for New Year's Eve.

Jan. 2-4, 2004 YOUTH DISCIPLESHIP WEEKEND for all youth in community. If interested please contact the church office or Ryan Ward, 854-1903.

Jan. 6, 2004 Men's Prayer Breakfast. Breakfast ready at 6:30 a.m. then short devotional and prayer time.

Jan. 7, 2004 Regular Wednesday night activities start for New Year. 7:00 p.m.

Jan. 13, 2004 Women's Prayer Breakfast. All women in community are invited for time of light breakfast and prayer time beginning at 7:00 a.m. located in Fellowship Hall of church.

Jan. 17, 2004 Training for AWANA program.

Jan. 26, 2004 Ladies of the Community pot luck supper and time together. Special speaker will be Charlotte Young, Pastor's wife from Quanah. Please plan to come and bring your neighbor.

Angelo State U. Announces Graduate From Baird Area

Angelo State University announced that Evelyn Smalley Harris, a resident of the Baird area, was among the 2003 Fall graduates.

Ms. Smalley Harris received a Bachelor of Science

from the university.

Angelo State University conferred 322 degrees at the 2003 Fall commencement event, which was held on December 20 in San Angelo.

Obituary

Rachel Evatt

GREENWOOD- Rachel Evatt, 16, died Sunday, December 21, 2003 at Midland, Texas.

She was born April 14, 1987 to Kirk and Betty Evatt in Abilene, Texas. Rachel attended Greenwood High School. She was very active in the youth ministry at Kelview Heights Baptist Church and had many friends and relatives.

Rachel is survived by her parents, Kirk and Betty Evatt of Greenwood; her brother, Russ Evatt of Lubbock, TX; great-grandmother, Bertha Donham of Cisco, TX.; maternal grandparents, W.T. and Loretta Donham of Cisco, TX and paternal grandparents, Clyde and Anne Evatt of Clyde, TX; and many aunts,



uncles and cousins.

Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, December 23, 2003 at Kelview Heights Baptist Church, Rev. Bill Skaggs officiated. Burial will follow later in the day at 3:30 p.m. at Oakwood Cemetery in Cisco, Texas. Arrangements are under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home of Midland, Texas.

Berna Lee Chick

RISING STAR- Mrs. Berna Lee Chick, 84, of Rising Star, died Friday, December 19, 2003 at Abilene Regional Hospital in Abilene.

Berna Lee was born April 9, 1919 in Brown County, Texas to Tebe B. McCracken and Vera F. (Haynes) McCracken. She was a graduate of Williams High School. She lived in Rising Star all her life. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Rising Star. She was a member of Star Pride and President of Rising Star Senior Citizens. She was voted Rising Star Citizen of the Year in 2003. She had written a book and won numerous awards for her poetry and short stories. She also wrote a weekly Senior Citizens column for the Rising Star Newspaper. She will be missed by all who knew her.

She married Benjamin Chick, II on August 11, 1965 in Abilene. He preceded her in death.

Berna Lee is survived by her daughters, Donna Maria Priest of Rising Star, Lee Anna Whitten of Breckenridge, Paula Carpenter and her husband Jim of Rising Star, and Wanda King of New Ulm; a son, Ben Chick of Maxwell; 9 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held



at 2:30 p.m. Monday, December 22, 2003 at the First Baptist Church, Terry Simmons officiated. Burial was in the Blake Cemetery, directed by Higginbotham Funeral Home of Rising Star.

Pallbearers were: B.J. Priest, Don Whitten, Daryl Baker, Jim Carpenter, David Whitten, Danny White, Matt Mitchell and Rickey Morton.

Honorary pallbearers were: Ike Hickman, Fadie Ratliff, Monzell O'Brien, Woodley Sadberry, and Glen Bailey.

The family requests that memorials be made to First Baptist Church or Rising Star Senior Citizens.

Berna Lee was a loving friend, a caring person and devoted to her family. She enriched our lives and made our days special. We will carry her in our hearts forever.

Obituary

BAIRD- Rosalyn D. Schaffrina, 64, died Sunday, December 21, 2003 at Canterbury Villa Nursing Home.

Funeral services were held at 3 p.m. Tuesday, December 23, 2003 at the First Baptist Church, Rev. Chad King officiated and burial was in the Ross Cemetery Annex, directed by Parker Funeral Home.

Rosalyn was born November 22, 1939 in Baird, Texas she had lived in Baird most of her life. She was a homemaker and a member of the

First Baptist Church. She was an avid canasta player. She married James M. Schaffrina in Baird, Texas, March 6, 1964.

Survivors are her husband, James M. Schaffrina of Baird; one daughter, Jami Chance and husband Steve of Clyde; one brother, Bill Dunlap and wife Stella of Abilene; and two granddaughters, Brittany and Rebekah Chance of Clyde.

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

County Stock Show Scheduled Jan. 15-17 In Cross Plains

Callahan County's annual Shows.

Jr. Livestock Show is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 15 through Saturday, Jan. 17 at the Jr. Livestock Barn in Cross Plains.

Entries could number as many as 450 this year, according to Frankie Hyles, President of the Callahan County Jr. Livestock Association.

Entries come from FFA Chapters and 4-H clubs throughout Callahan County.

Everyone is invited to see the youth of Callahan County.

Superintendents for the 2004 show are as follows:

Beef Cattle - Eddie Riley, Johnny Lee; Market Swine - Jackie Tennison; Poultry & Rabbits - Doug Johnston, Larry McIntire; Sheep & Goats - Steven Mitchell, Lesa

Harris.

Judging Schedule: Thursday, Jan. 15, 5:30 p.m. - Rabbits & Poultry.

Friday, Jan. 16, 8:00 a.m. - Breeding Swine Show followed by Market Barrow Show.

Friday, Jan. 16, 1:30 p.m. - Market Lambs followed by Meat Goats and Boer Goat

Friday, Jan. 16, 3-6:00 p.m. - all steers and heifers classified and weighed.

Saturday, Jan. 17, 8:30 a.m. - Beef Cattle judging starts with heifer show.

Saturday, Jan. 17, 9:00 a.m. - Steer Show.

Awards presentation for all trophies for champion animals is to be held prior to the Premium Sale, which begins at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Judges for the three day show are Scott Anderson of Brownwood (rabbits and poultry), Leslie Harris of Vernon (Swine Show), Kyle Eckert of San Angelo (Market Lambs, Meat and Boer Goats), and Greg Gruben of Snyder (beef cattle, steer show).

Announcers for the annual Jr. Livestock Show are Dick Vestal, Greg Gerngross, John Belcher and Doug Johnston.

Advertise In The County Classifieds

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Editor.....Margaret Hetrick
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D. P. S. Report

12-07-03 to 12-13-03

Cases Investigated

Warnings - 92

Complaints - 13

DWI - 1

Accidents

There were 4 accidents investigated during this time

D. P. S. Report

12-14-03 tp 12-20-03

Cases Investigated

Warnings - 146

Complaints - 134

DWI - 2

Possession of Marijuana - 1

Possession of Drug Paraphernalia - 1

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Texas Department of Health will hold the following immunization clinics in Callahan County:
Monday, January 12th, Baird Cafetorium, 400 West 7th, 10-12

Wednesday, January 14th, Clyde Community resource Center, 306 N. 1st, 10-12 & 1:30 -3
Please bring child's Immunization Records
For more information call 325/754-4945

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Eastland County Classifieds

Thursday, January 1, 2004

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NEW: 14.9 A Brown Co. 183 S. Rising Star, 3-2-2 brick 2000', CH/A, irrigated coastal, pond, barn. \$149,500.

NEW: 15 a near Gorman, nice remodeled 2-2 brick, central h/a, carpeted, fireplace, large game room, 24 x 60 metal garage- cement floor, guest house, water well + city water and sewer, pecans, pavement. \$145,000.

NEW: 19 A south Gorman, 3/4 mile on Co. in **Pending** underground home, electricity, well & septic. Great fish and wildlife place. \$37,000.

New Listing: 37 A N/W of DeLeon, good sandy land, app. 5 A coastal, stock pond, 3 water wells, pavement access, great building spot. \$1,250 per A.

New: 47.65 A 4 miles west of Gorman, 25 A coastal, 20 A cult, 2 ponds, barn/pens, good deer area. \$1050 acre.

NEW: 48 A east of Rising Star, pavement, well, **SOLD** trailer, electricity and coop water, great hunting. \$1250 acre.

NEW: 185 A S/E Rising Star, coastal & kiel **SOLD** er & turkey, nice hunters cabin, pond, water well. \$895 acre.

NEW: 409 acres, 1 1/2 miles Sabanna river, **SOLD** horse barn, crop, hay shed, 100 a coastal, 60 a cult, 200 a wooded, lots wildlife, pavement. \$495,000.

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E2

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1 BD House, 3 BD House, Eastland. Information call 254-629-2688.
E2

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Nice 3 bedroom, 1 bath in Eastland. Central Heat & Air! Much new: carpet, flooring, roof... Easy qualifying! Under \$400 monthly! Tedlock Realtors 32-580-4883.
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Upstairs Master Bedroom has walk-in closet, Whirlpool tub 600 square feet-4 floor to ceiling windows, downstairs- modern re-modeled kitchen with built-in appliances, remodeled living room has hardwood floors, new paint on all walls with faux finish on most. Separate Laundry Room, 1-car garage, beautiful water garden (visible from upstairs), Central Heat & Air, fenced back yard, sprinkler system. Extra large lot. Appraised value 85,000.00. Will take 65,000.00 or \$10,000 down rent to own. See at 320 North Lamar, Eastland or call 629-3883.
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R104

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C6

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C8

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C104

RANGER COLLEGE Job Vacancy
RC is seeking a Dorm Director for Kuykendall Hall, a women's dormitory, beginning January '04.
*See Job Description at the RC Personnel Office or call Dean Whitecotton at (254) 647-0231
*Salary-TBD
*Year-9 months plus
*Benefits-Sick Leave, Retirement Plan, and Health Insurance
* Minimum Qualifications:
Good work history and references.
* Preferred Qualifications:
High school graduate or GED, or college degree.
*Send a typed letter of application and a resume to the Personnel Office, Ranger College, Ranger, TX 76470.
*RC is an EEO institution.
R1

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EOE 3-2

Applications are being accepted until January 12, 2004 for temporary full time positions with USDA-Farm Service Agency. These GIS Field Technician positions will be located throughout Texas. Salary ranges from \$11.04 to \$12.35 per hour. Successful applicants will be proficient as a PC User with the ability to navigate within Windows. Experience with GIS and familiarity with ortho maps is preferable. Position will require travel 90% of the time with applicant providing their own transportation. Application form FSA-675 can be obtained from USDA-FSA at the Eastland County FSA Office located at 401 Pogue Avenue, Eastland, Texas. The phone number is 254-629-1636 ext. 2. Completed application forms must be returned to the Eastland County FSA Office located at 401 Pogue Avenue, Eastland, Texas and must arrive by January 12, 2004 to be considered. Faxed Applications will not be accepted. USDA is an EEO employer.
E4

Valley View Health Care Center needs CNA's - every shift. Payrate varies with experience. Apply in person to Director of Nursing 700 S. Ostrom in Eastland.
E4

United House Calls is seeking full time RN to perform home health visits and assist with Case Management patients. Home health experience preferred, but not required. Competitive benefits and salary available. If interested, please fax resume to 254-629-8200 or mail to United House Calls 1420 E. Main Eastland, TX 76448.
E4

Valley View Health Care Center needs LVNs. Apply at 700 S. Ostrom in Eastland.
E4

Small Non-Corp. Nursing Home in the Baird/Breckenridge/Stephenville area looking for an RN/DON familiar with nursing home practices. Excellent salary based on experience with paid vacation and birthday bonus. Submit resume to: D.O.N. Care of P.O. Box 344, Cross Plains, TX 76443.
R104

Ranger Care Center is now hiring Certified Aides for the 6-2 and 2-10 shifts. If you are a dependable, reliable, caring worker, please apply in person at 460 W. Main St. in Ranger. For more info. call (254) 647-3111 and ask for Stormie.
R2

Bar-B Travel Plaza under new management is now hiring all positions - Restaurant & Store 254-693-5851.
E1

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WANTED: Grazing Lease or Lease Purchase for 50+ cows 1 hour of Eastland, TX preferred. Will consider buying your cows. McPhail Ranch 254-647-3381-home 325-669-4910-cell 325-672-5895 office
R11

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Painting For Freedom- How the beautiful tapestry paintings sold throughout the Southwest bought ammunition for Pancho Villa troops in the Mexican Revolution. Book available at the Telegram \$25.00.
E104

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Pyramid HealthCare Wants You!
Pyramid HealthCare a Leader in the long-term care industry, is looking for candidates to join our progressive team. Heritage Manor of Gorman currently has the following position(s) available: Charge Nurse's 6-2 & 2-10
CNA's all shifts
Please apply in person at 600 W. Roosevelt Gorman, Texas Pyramid Healthcare EEOE M/F/D/V
E2

Ranger Care Center is currently looking for a Weekend RN. Apply in person at 460 W. Main St. or call Stormie at 254-647-3111 for more information.
R104

WANTED/NEEDED
WANTED: Grazing Lease or Lease Purchase for 50+ cows 1 hour of Eastland, TX preferred. Will consider buying your cows. McPhail Ranch 254-647-3381-home 325-669-4910-cell 325-672-5895 office
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AMERICA'S #1 After-Dinner Mint is Now A Baking Chip
(NAPS)—Dessert lovers now have a new way to indulge. America's favorite after-dinner mint is now available as a baking chip—enhancing any dessert with a delectable flavor combination of mint and chocolate. Andes Crème de Menthe Baking Chips are made from the famous three-layer pieces giving desserts the same look and taste as the traditional mints. The chips are available at major retailers, with a suggested retail price of \$2.49 for a 10-ounce bag.

MARBLED ANDES BROWNIES
1 package (19.8 to 23.7 oz.) brownie mix
2 cups Andes Baking Chips or 2 packages (4.67 oz. each) Andes Crème De Menthe Thins
1. Grease bottom only of 13x9 inch baking pan. Prepare brownie mix as directed on package. Spread into pan.
2. Bake as directed. Immediately place Andes Candies on surface of hot brownies. Allow to stand 2 to 3 minutes or until candies are melted.
3. Using knife or metal spatula, gently swirl together melted candies to cover entire surface or until slightly set. Cut into bars. Makes 2 doz.

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The new baking chip can be used to add a taste of mint to a variety of desserts, including Marbled Andes Brownies.

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The Most Perfect Gift

By Hazel Stone
1444 Pagewood Ave.
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Christmas is over. Most of the presents have been put away and the joyous season is but a memory. Have you considered what was your most prized gift? Whatever your most prized gift, there is a gift that is far superior to all others. "The gift of God is eternal life."

Many years ago in the 1950's, students in an English class were told to write a theme on the subject: "The Most Perfect Gift" and a fifteen year old boy named Ronald Johnston wrote this:

"The Most Perfect Gift"

There are many occasions during the year when a person receives gifts, and there is always a tingle of excitement when he opens them. But the newness of the gift soon wears off, and the first excitement of receiving it is forgotten. Is there a gift that is perfect? No material gifts or presents are perfect. They soon become less attractive and are used less and less. Even a gift that is not forgotten and is used whenever it can be, is not perfect. It eventually has to wear out or be used up.

But there is a gift that never wears away- a gift that is so perfect that it lasts throughout eternity. This gift is the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Savior.

So all the gifts of the world today are deteriorative, but God's gift, the gift of His Son, who died on Calvary is the only perfect gift.

This is still the season of giving. Share this gift with someone else soon!

Undoubtedly there are a lot of yesterdays which you wish could have been different, but the yesterdays of 2003 have ended. Forget those yesterdays, and face the tomorrows of 2004.

Jonathan Edwards

made these six resolutions for a new year long ago, but they are powerful and will enrich your Christian experience.

"Resolved, to live with all my might while I do live.

Resolved, never to lose one moment of time, to improve it in the most profitable way that I can.

Resolved, never to do anything which I should despise or think meanly of in another.

Resolved, never to do anything which I would be afraid to do if it were the last hour of my life.

Resolved, to be obedient to God."

What is your goal for tomorrow? Are you pressing forth toward the high calling? Are you proclaiming this message?

"God [the greatest lover] so loved [the greatest degree] the world [the greatest number] then He gave [the greatest act] His only begotten Son [the greatest gift] that whosoever [the greatest invitation] believeth [the greatest simplicity] in Him [the greatest person] should not perish [the greatest deliverance] but [the greatest difference] have [the greatest certainty] everlasting life [the greatest possession]. John 3:16 (source of bracketed phrases unknown).

This new year with a new beginning and fresh opportunities and new areas of Christian service to be discovered--Today envision a new year not spoiled or stained by lack of devotion to Christ and not marred by neglected opportunities.

"I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown," and he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

Author Unknown

2003 will soon be a dim memory, but every year God hands us a shining new package of time filled with hope and promise, which can be revealed only when we have stripped off the final wrappings of the old.

Even as we put away treasures of the past greater treasures of the future await us.

The Lord is the Shepherd and we are the lambs. He is the leader and He knows the way. All we have to do is follow Him in 2004.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!!!

Happy New Year!!!

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3/2 one car carport. \$27,200.

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4 BR, 1 bath, extra nice home, good roof, quiet neighborhood, alley access.

3 BR, 1 bath, good carpet in LR/DR, stove, window units, Dearborn heat, garage not in good shape, 3 fenced lots, \$15,000.

2 BR, 1 bath, extra lg. lot, beautiful cabinets, totally remodeled, no traffic, \$48,000.

3-2-3 Carport, +10 fenced ac., old home for storage. Berber carpet, curtains will stay, built-ins, \$43,340.

2-1 lg. living/dining, sun porch, great location, walk to town, price reduced to \$15,000.

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Son Of Cross Plains Resident Moves Up The Ladder Of Navy Leadership

by Mea Williams

Boston — Standing proud in Boston's harbor is the U. S. Navy's oldest Commissioned warship, USS Constitution.

The vessel stands as a testament to 300 years of Navy traditions and values, and today serves as a training platform for newly selected chief petty officers, known as "Chiefs."

The time on board gave the latest generation of senior enlisted leaders a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to live, work and train on the decks of "Old Ironsides."

Chief Petty Officer Charles Barreras, son of Paul Neeb of Cross Plains, was among the few chiefs selected from all points of the globe to explore the warship, learn principles of leadership and reconnect with the traditions and heritage of the U. S. Navy.

Barreras described what a typical day was like on board Constitution. "It is an honor being able to spend the amount of time we have on board this mighty warship. The days are long and full of training, which gives us so much knowledge of how the ship operated over the last 200 years."

Based on his experience, Barreras described a few of the similarities between values of Sailors in today's Navy and those of Sailors in the Navy 300 years ago. "We share the desire to protect the freedoms we have and the will to continue to improve

Computerized Accounting Course Being Offered At Ranger College

Ranger College will be offering a computerized accounting course (ACNT 1411) during the Spring semester. CA-Simply Accounting, which is one of the top 10 accounting software programs, will be used for the course.

CA-Simply Accounting for Windows includes six fully-integrated accounting modules: General Ledger, Payables Ledger, Receivables Ledger, Payroll Ledger, Inventory and Services Ledger, and Project Ledger. The text introduces each module gradually so that students can gain experience working with each of the program's components independently prior to working with the entire program.

The course is a four-semester-credit-hour course and will be offered on Monday nights beginning at 6:00 pm, with the lab on Tuesday nights at 6:00 pm. Commuter registration will begin on January 12. For more information, call Linda Gann at 647-3234 EXT. 130.

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ourselves."

Barreras expressed happiness and pride in his selection as chief, and commented on the lessons he'll share with fellow Sailors once he dons his new khaki uniform. "I am very proud I was selected as a chief petty officer. I have waited to don this uniform and I will take many lessons with me. The one lesson that stands out the most is the need to take care of the people that work for you," said Barreras, husband to the former Diannem Barreras and father of three.

Aside from his duty as a chief, Barreras spend times with his family. "The things I love are my children and wife. My family is the support in my life and I would not be where I am today if I didn't have them."

After days of intense training and indoctrination aboard the Navy's oldest ship, Chief Petty Officer Charles Barreras and fellow chiefs are equipped and ready to serve in one of the highly influential positions in the Navy.

Submitted by the Navy Public Affairs Center, Norfolk, VA.

Cornyn States Texas' Case To VA Secretary

Washington — U. S. Sen. John Cornyn hosted Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Anthony J. Principi, in his Washington office to discuss the pending CARES Commission report, Texas VA facilities, and the needs of Texas veterans.

"We had a great meeting about the healthcare facilities for veterans in the state of Texas, and it looks like Texas will do very well under the proposed realignment of VA health care services," Cornyn said following the meeting. "But there are some items of particular concern, and our visit was an opportunity to continue expressing the needs of Texans straight to the top, an effort that will not end with this meeting."

Cornyn continued: "While many positive recommendations have been made to improve health care delivery to our veterans in Texas, I remain concerned about the possible closure of the VA facilities in Waco and Big Spring, and a significant reduction in service at the Kerrville facility," Cornyn said. "Sec. Principi is well aware of those concerns, and what Texas veterans expect for the future."

Cornyn has been very active in working to prevent the possible closure of the VA facilities in Waco and Big Spring. He joined other members of the Texas delegation in September for a meeting in Washington with Dr. Robert Roswell, Under Secretary of Health for the Department of Veterans Affairs, to discuss the future of the Big Spring VA Medical Center.

He joined in sending separate Congressional letters of support for the Waco and Big Spring VA Medical Centers to Everett Alvarez, Jr., Chairman of the CARES Commission, which will make a recommendation to Principi, on the future of the facilities.

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Putnam Musical To Be Friday

Putnam Musical will be held Friday, January 2, 2004. Everyone is welcome. There is no charge to come and listen to good country, western and gospel music. Lots of

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Just Remembering

By Jasper Cook

Tommy Duncan sang a song called "Time Changes Everything." At age 88, I know these words are true, especially the field of music. To me, it is more evident at Christmas than at other times. Today it seems that Rock & Roll has pushed religious music into the dumpster. What a shame.

I remember the beautiful music I heard and learned in Cisco in the 1920s and 30s. I remember the Taylor sisters and their exhilarating violin music. They lived on East 14th Street and Avenue A, near my home.

I remember Mr. Ely who lived on East 16th Street and gave music lessons. Many of his students became wonderful musicians.

Stamps Baxter Quartet music became the rage in the 1930s, and almost everyone was attending Singing Schools where they learned shaped notes and the do-re-mi method of reading music.

We could not leave for Church on Sunday mornings until we heard The Chuckwagon Gang sing on the radio. Their kind of music always put us in the right kind of mood for Sundays.

Along with almost everyone in town, we listened faithfully to The Light Crust Doughboys every weekday at 12:30. I shall never forget W. Lee O'Daniel and his song, "Beautiful Texas."

I was fortunate to have a good pianist and/or organist at every church where I was Pastor. At many locations I was blessed with large choirs, for which I will be eternally thankful.

I have had some wonderful music teachers in my day. The Cisco High School Band Director, Mr. Collum, taught me to play the saxophone. I went on to study music at the Washington Conservatory of

Music and became a music teacher; however, that profession became a sideline with me when I organized my own Show-band and began traveling over the country. I found this new venture to be so much more exciting.

Mr. Collum taught me the definition of music. He said it was 'any sound that is pleasing to the ear.' Wow! Some of the so-called Christmas music I heard this year certainly didn't please my ear!

Cisco is still blessed with some fine musicians and singers. There are some excellent organists and pianists in the various churches, and some very good singers too. Other musicians, such as my old friend, Gerald Parks, have made their mark on the music scene also. The Monday Night Singers at the local Nursing Home are a great bunch, and their music is greatly appreciated by the patients there.

I read in my Bible that King David played the harp. I hope that when I get to Heaven he will play a duet with me, because I expect to have a harp also.

The Idle American

Dr. Don Newbury

If necessity truly were the mother of invention, surely the cloning experts plowing new ground at Texas A&M University would have announced ring-necked pheasants as the fifth species to be successfully cloned at the renowned College of Veterinary Medicine.

After all, Vice President Dick Cheney and his 10-member "hunting" party recently shot down 417 of 500 farm-raised pheasants released after shotguns were shouldered and trigger fingers at itching peak.... (The VP was said to have brought down 70 birds, but relax. Sponsors sure us that the pheasants had "sporting chances." That's close to the same thing they're saying about sitting duck" incumbent democrats running for congressional seats in newly-mapped districts....) Anyways, at this rate, we're bound to need bunches of new pheasants - and fast. But perhaps new birds will have to wait....

Aggie scientists have instead announced their newest successful clone in Dewey, believed to be the first-ever cloned white-tailed deer. Timing was everything, what with "Christmasy" fables of Rudolph and his gang—not to mention hunting season—at full bore.... (Pun intended.) Dewey? Sounds more like a Disney deal, perhaps one of Uncle Huey's triplet

nephews, or maybe a first name for the Rice Owl....

Catch this scene - an Aggie football coach breathlessly calling the cloning office (dial one if you want a football player cloned, etc.)... "No," the receptionist responds, "We DO NOT clone football players. Besides, there are ethical considerations. Don't you think that if we cloned a UT player he would want to remain a Longhorn, and an OU player would want to remain a Sooner?..."

Almost certainly, new bumper stickers will come off the presses soon. "A&M - the BUCK starts here," or perhaps, "A&M - famous for making FAST BUCKS." If they can make enough bucks, maybe the tide on increasing tuition will be stemmed. Grumbles are destined to become roars on that topic.... Meanwhile, with the scientists, meticulous timing, maybe they will be consulted concerning when—or whether—to order Francine bobble-head dolls....

Continuing with non-people themes on the cusp of the new year, did you notice that Keiko, the killer whale, died a few weeks ago? Keiko ("Lucky One" in Japanese), having endeared himself to

the world as star of "Free Willy," became the cause celebre when more than \$20 million was raised to free him from a Mexico City aquarium. Ultimately released to the sea, he continued to prefer human company to that of fellow denizens of the deep. He seemed always to wind up back in a Norwegian bay, performing for countless applauding cruise ship audiences marveling at the antics of the 26-year-old performer....

His burial became paradoxical. Some people choose burial at sea; this six-ton celebrity was "buried at land." Fans and supporters of Keiko, determined not to cause a media frenzy, arranged for a quiet burial in the snow-bound pasture during the deep darkness of a Nordic winter, a short distance from where he died of pneumonia. Only seven

people - including his team and the machine operator who dug the massive grave - were present.

Lest this be viewed as yet another column devoid of value, let it be concluded in an instructive manner: In the event you are combing classified ads to find a good low-mileage vehicle this winter, try to purchase an exercise bicycle some well-intentioned person bought last winter.... Offer less than the listed price; it's a buyer's market... Happy New Year!

Dr. Newbury is an author/columnist/speaker in the Metroplex. More information is available on his website, www.speakerdoc.com. He invites comments by e-mail, newbury@speakerdoc.com or by phone, 817-447-3872.

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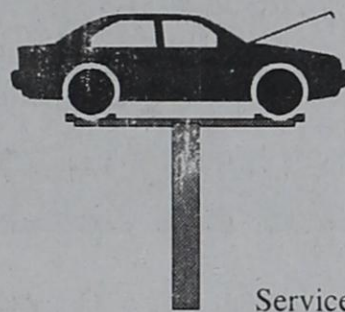
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BAIRD BEARS



Varsity Girls Lunge Forward In Eula Holiday Classic

In the Girls First Round, the Baird Varsity Girls's team took a lunge forward in the Eula Holiday Classic Monday with a win of 61 to 54 over Roscoe.

This matched the Baird VG with Eula on Tuesday.

Eula took a deciding win over Winters in their Monday match with 63-26.

Tuesdays results were not available as of the printing of this edition.

In the Baird-Roscoe game, McDowell scored 20 points for Baird followed by T. Windham with 14 and Bell with 12.

Top scorer for Roscoe was M. Solis with 20.

As of Monday, Baird held a record of 11-4. Roscoe's record was 9-6.

The Baird Varsity Boys lost in a very close game (3 OT) to Eula. The end score was Eula 56, Baird 52.

On Monday, Eula VB held a record of 12-3, Baird VB 9-2.

The Girls Division Championship Game for the Eula tournament will be played on Wednesday, Dec. 31 at 1:00 p.m.

More results from the Eula Holiday Classic will be in next weeks edition.

Basketball Scores

Eula Holiday Classic

Eula 56, Baird 52 (3 OT)

Boys

Baird 12 7 8 11 6 6 2 - 52

Eula 8 10 8 12 6 6 6 - 56

Baird - J. Sims 23, J E Sims 8, Mendez 7, Rodriguez 6, Scott 6, Morgan 2.

Eula - Hendley 10, White 10, Pickens 16, Powers 8, Dement 3, Dodder 4, Burleson 2, Hurt 3.

Records - Eula 12-3, Baird 9-2.

Baird 61, Roscoe 54

Girls First Round

Baird 14 10 17 20 - 61

Roscoe 15 12 12 15 - 54

Roscoe - M. Solis 20, Alexander 11, Osborne 13, Eldred 7, S. Solis 3.

Baird - McDowell 20, T. Windham 14, Russell 2, Harris 8, Follett 3, Windham 2, Bell 12

Records - Roscoe 9-6, Baird 11-4.

Basketball Schedule

High School

Mon.-Wed., Dec. 29, 30, 31, There, TBA, VG, VB

Fri., Jan. 2, Throckmorton, Baird, 4:00, JVG, JVB, VG, VB

Tues., Jan. 6, Munday, Baird, 4:00, JVG, JVB, VG, VB

Fri., Jan. 9, Cross Plains, There, 6:30, JVG, VG

Tues., Jan. 13, Albany, Baird, 4:00, JVG, JVB, VG, VB

Fri., Jan. 16, Gorman, There, 4:00, JVG, JVB, VG, VB

Tues., Jan. 20, Ranger, Baird, 4:00, JVB, JVB, VG, VB

Fri., Jan. 23 TBA

Tues., Jan. 27, Cross Plains, Baird, 4:00, JVG, JVB, VG, VB

Fri., Jan. 30, Albany, There, 4:00, JVG, JVB, VG, VB

Tues., Feb. 3, Gorman, Baird, 4:00, JVG, JVB, VG, VB

Fri., Feb. 6, Ranger, There, 4:00, JVG, JVB, VG, VB

Tues., Feb. 10, TBA

Fri., Feb. 13, Cross Plains, There, 6:30, JVB, VB

Junior High

Jan. 5, Gorman, Here, 5:00, 7B, 8B, 7G, 8G

Jan. 12, Ranger, There, 5:00, 7B, 8B, 7G, 8G

Jan. 17, Cisco Tourney, There, TBA, TBA

Jan. 19, Abilene Christian, Here, 5:00, 7G, 8G, 7B, 8B

Jan. 26, Cross Plains, There, 6:00, 7B, 8B, 8G

Jan. 29 & 31, Albany Tourney, TBA, TBA, TBA

Feb. 2, Albany, Here, 6:00, 7G, 8G

Feb. 2, Albany, There, 6:00, 7B, 8B

Feb. 9, Cross Plains, Here, 6:00, 7B, 8B, 8G

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From Page One.....

2003

Shuttles often made their re-entry high in the atmosphere on the south side of the county, making a hypersonic dive to a landing at Cape Canaveral, Florida.

This morning about 7:55 a.m. the Shuttle crossed the California coast high above San Francisco. Within the next minutes it streaked across Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico and West Texas veering slightly north of the usual Shuttle paths.

As it reached the vicinity of Stephens and Palo Pinto County, sonic booms were heard and the craft glowed with an eerie light. At that time, about 8 a.m., Mission Control in Houston and Cape Canaveral lost all contact with Columbia.

Several bright streaks were seen in the skies near Ft. Worth, then debris began to rain down on Nacogdoches and other areas.

Citizens across Texas, like others throughout the nation, were profoundly shocked. By the end of the day, lawmen and private citizens were notified to look for pieces blown to earth from the explosion.

The explosion of the Shuttle Columbia and loss of the astronauts was a tragic event of a lifetime. And it happened only a few seconds from us.

Then came the war in Iraq, and it was no surprise. Saddam Hussein was a dictator who had defied the United Nations ever since the Gulf War settlement 12 years before.

Most people rallied when the President announced on March 19 that he chose to send the might of the U. S. Military into battle on foreign soil rather than await the day when "mass murder" might be unleashed on the American homeland.

It sounded so simple. But along with the war came that parade of pictures in the newspapers, fresh-faced young people going to an ancient country to risk their lives.

The war began with "shock and awe" pictures of bombs bursting over Baghdad. The invasion followed, with a column moving across the deserts in the south. Hard, gritty fighting, but brilliantly executed!

In April we were treated to the capture of Baghdad, with statues of Hussein being pulled down. Surely the resistance was crumbling.

Oddly enough, it wasn't. And by the way, where was Saddam Hussein?

The daily killing continued, with guerilla-like warfare around the crumbling streets of the towns.

But finally, on Dec. 13, the whereabouts of Saddam Hussein was revealed. American forces caught him in a farmhouse near a town to

the north of Baghdad. Or, more accurately, he was under a farmhouse, down in a narrow hole.

In Texas, the year 2003 will also probably go down in history as the year of the Republican Redistricting.

At first many people were surprised - they thought they had been redistricted in 2001, after the 2000 census.

Yes, they were, but they were about to get it again. This time only the U. S. Congressional Districts were involved, but that was enough to create a stir that lasted for months.

Four Republican leaders reportedly directed these efforts: Tom Delay, Speaker of the U. S. House of Representatives, Gov. Rick Perry, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, and Tom Craddick of Midland, Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives.

They said they wanted to draw lines to better reflect the G. O. P. voting in the State.

In order to do so, they would have to eliminate some districts and about every Democratic office holder. Craddick also wanted a new district with Midland at its head.

Obviously the Democrats didn't like this line of reasoning. They voiced concerns about minority

votes and rural votes being dominated by cities.

Republicans first offered a new map in the last weeks of the regular Legislative Session. Then 51 House Democrats boycotted a vote on the issue by fleeing to Ardmore, Oklahoma, for several days in May.

They didn't return until a House deadline passed and the measure was killed for the regular session.

Then Gov. Rick Perry called the first of three special sessions, each costing millions of dollars. During the first 30-day session the House passed the measure.

Republican Bill Ratliff joined 11 Democrats to prevent the bill from being considered in the Senate. Under rules and tradition, it took two-thirds of a majority to pass a bill there.

In a second special session, Dewhurst dropped the two-thirds tradition for the Senate, and 11 Democrats fled to Albuquerque, N. M. to boycott the measure. When one of their group defected they came back.

A third special session was called, and things grew more tense. Senator Troy Fraser (R) had always opposed the redistricting, saying it was bad for his District. He was one of the few Republicans who did not back down.

On Sunday night, Oct. 12 in Austin the bill finally passed the Senate.

The re-drawn maps of the Congressional Districts were shocking to many. Twenty-eight counties in the state were split, and the 17th District in West Texas was demolished.

In its place were three jagged horizontal Districts - District 13 in the Amarillo area in North Texas; District 19, with Eastland and Callahan Counties dangling on the east end of a District anchored in Lubbock and the South Plains; and District 11, reaching from Brown County to Midland.

It appeared that U. S. Rep. Charles Stenholm, who had represented the 17th District since 1978 would have to run against Lubbock Rep. Randy

Neugebauer (R). Both are on the House Ag. Committee, so agriculture was sure to lose one spokesman.

The primary deadline was moved to March 9, 2004 in hopes that it could be met.

After the vote in favor of redistricting, the matter moved to the Courts. A lawsuit was filed by the Democrats in Tyler, but then moved to a Federal Court in Austin.

On Friday, Dec. 19 a panel of Judges ruled in favor of the Republican plan, stating it was legal in Texas to redistrict between census counts. Another Court ruled that the new maps protected the interests of minorities.

So much attention had been focused on redistricting that most citizens were blissfully unaware of a number of other laws enacted by the Legislature during the regular session. County officials were bringing back the news from Austin - but it was still hard to see the effects of the \$10 billion shortfall.

Then, in August, Carole Keaton Strayhorn, State Comptroller, sent newspapers a huge list of new fees the public would pay in many areas of life.

"Texans To Pay \$2.7 Billion More Under New State Laws," her headlines read.

She listed new fees for teachers and school employees, health care (including rural Doctors), children (including increased rates for CHIPS participants), and business and professionals. The professionals included Courts and Attorneys.

There were also extra charges for agriculture and animals, and automobiles and boats. All this was to take effect Sept. 1.

In addition, there were to be increases in many traffic violations. DWI's were particularly affected by the new charges. If you were driving while intoxicated you could face the loss of your driver's license as well as hundreds of dollars in charges.

Most citizens supported the idea of more charges for the DWI's - they said that might be one way to get them off the roads.

But the effect of the whole package would go far beyond that - it ushered in a day when it would cost a lot more to live in Texas and do business here.

Another spin-off from the 78th Session of the Texas Legislature was an Amendment Election in November. The public had 22 proposed amendments to consider, including everything from Medical lawsuit caps to property taxes and the regulation on wineries.

There is usually a low turnout for Amendment Elections, but this one drew out a few more voters. Statewide, all the

amendments passed, but in Eastland and Callahan Counties about two failed to win voter approval.

The amendment on wineries also won - wine producers can now sell their products by mail anywhere in Texas, including "dry" areas.

Since 1925, area people have taken special pride in the 11th Court of Appeals located in the Eastland County Courthouse. Traditionally its District has 23 counties - including Callahan County. A Chief Justice and two other Judges have heard the cases.

Local people were shocked in 2003 to see a challenge being mounted to the location of this State Court.

It came with a Bill in the House of Representative asking that the territory of the Court be enlarged by several more counties, including Midland, Ector, Martin, Andrews, and Gaines.

Reportedly Speaker of the House Craddick urged that Senator Fraser support this Bill, but he did not. The Bill passed the House and then the Senate, however.

The measure moved Midland County appellate matters from the 8th Court of Appeals in El Paso. It also placed Midland in a strong political position to get a local Judge on the appellate bench. This move could be the first step in relocating the Court from Eastland to Midland.

A Judge from El Paso said that the decision to redistrict - which hasn't been done since the 1920s - is "Unquestionably a political decision with no basis for the move."

In an interview with the Eastland/Callahan County Newspapers in June, Senator Fraser spoke out against any plan to redistrict the Court.

Both Sen. Fraser and Rep. Jim Keffer declared they would work to keep the Court in this area.

But the matter has left an uneasy feeling with local people.

In reviewing 2003, we are reminded over and over that no one can really live alone, not in Callahan County or anywhere else.

Even as this is written new things are unfolding. We can only guess what the future holds.

Inside our communities, local leaders and citizens have worked hard to uphold our quality of life.

We are indebted to so many - our doctors and medical personnel, lawmen, firemen, public officials, businessmen; school personnel, and the whole network of family and friends that comprise our world.

And let's never forget our servicemen and women in Afghanistan and Iraq, and many places throughout the world.

May we all have a Happy New Year and live under the blessings of God.

Redistricting Case Moves Through Courts

Some of the proceedings in the trial over redistricting in Texas ended in Austin on Tuesday (Christmas Eve), and now the case will be considered by a three-judge federal panel.

One Federal Judge said a ruling would come at the end of next week at the earliest.

So far, all the rulings have favored the Republican plan for Congressional redistricting and the new map approved by the House and Senate.

This map could put as many as seven additional Republicans in Texas' congressional delegation, which is now held 17-15 by Democrats.

Republicans hold a majority in Congress, and the new Texas map would add to that.

Last week the U.S. Department of Justice gave clearance to the map after reviewing it for Voting Rights Acts violations. But that does not stop further litigation on the map.

Some say this matter will go all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In the ruling Tuesday, Attorneys for the state used only a part of their allotted time to defend the map drawn by the Republicans.

Attorney General Gregg Abbott reportedly said there was no need to defend the map, for the state felt Democratic and minority plaintiffs did not prove their case.

The case is largely being tried on the technicalities of minority representation.

The Federal Panel could alter the new map some if they find violations - but retain the same districts. Or there is a possibility that they could throw out the whole thing.

In the meanwhile, candidates and counties are preparing for the March 9 Primary Election. Apparently, candidates who have filed under the current map will have to re-file if the new map is finally accepted.

One of the Districts in limbo on this is the 17th Congressional District, which includes a large part of West Texas. Under the new map it will be redrawn into three districts, taking in territory all the way to Midland and the New Mexico border west of Lubbock.

If the new plan is upheld, Eastland and Callahan County will land on the east side of an area called District 19.



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