

Happy New Year
To Our Readers

Callahan County Star
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Fax 254-629-2092
telegram@eastland.net

Baird: Officially Designated Antique Capital Of West Texas

Callahan County

Baird Star

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Established December 8,
1887



50¢
31¢ By Mail

Volume 116, Number 53

Baird, Texas 79504

Thursday, December 30, 2004

Let's Cast a Glance At 2004: The Tumultuous Year Baird's 2004, Before The New Year Begins!

The Baird Chamber of Commerce hosts a Cowboy Roundup with Cookoff, Musical Talent Contest, and Street Dance featuring recording artist Deryl Dodd.

Baird's Melba Defosse retires from 35 years of childcare service.

Antiques Market/Trade Days again bring merchants and visitors to Baird.

Clifton Gardner, a principal at Tahoka I. S. D., is employed as Baird I. S. D. Superintendent. He replaces the retiring Superintendent, Lacy Hogue.

Baird High Girls' Golf Team turn their 2003 defeat by Throckmorton for the Class A state title around, winning the championship over the Lady Greyhounds for the seventh time in 2004.

Kyla Neal, a 2000 Baird High Graduate, is selected to NCAA All Star Golf Team.

Two year old Kutter Davis of Baird undergoes surgery for a tumor on the left side of his brain.

The surgery is performed at the Texas Children's Hospital in Houston. Many fund-raisers and benefits are held throughout the community to help defray expenses. Kutter has now recovered and is doing well, we have been

told.

First phases of the T & P Depot Project (1911 T & P Depot Visitor Center and Transportation Museum) begin. The Baird Foundation is sponsoring this local project.

Longhorns, Cowboys, and Wagons roll again along the Great Western Trail from Bandera, TX to Dodge City Kansas.

Along the trail drive's route, the Baird chamber of Commerce and Callahan County Sheriff's Posse host an overnight campsite for the historic event.

Charlie Grider, Callahan County Commissioner Precinct #4, dies. Doris Grider, wife of the late commissioner, is appointed by County Judge Roger Corn to serve the remaining term for Precinct #4.

Attorney Shane Deel Wins the Callahan County Attorney's race in the November 2, 2004 election. Deel graduated from Baird High School and Texas Tech University.

For the second year, the Baird Christmas Village - a walk through lighted winter wonderland full of animated figures - opens on Thanksgiving weekend in the Arches.

By Viola M. Payne

The early Christmas snow has faded, but some tinsel is still waving in the cold air.

The Holiday decorations are something that people always celebrate Christmas with - no matter what happens.

And plenty has happened this year, and is continuing to happen right to the last hour of a strange and tumultuous year.

It has been a watershed of a year - a divisive time bringing in a lot of changes.

To recall everything that happened in 2004 is like trying to reassemble a Pandora's box of events. So I will just try to catch some of the major events which appeared to have the most significance.

Most of these events did not originate here, yet had a ripple effect across our society.

Again, our area managed to hang on to a semi-rural style of living, while local leaders made plans for the future.

1. In a contentious General Election, Republican President George W. Bush and V. P. Dick Cheney were re-elected by a majority.

It was so close that the winners were not known until Nov. 3, the next morning after the General Election Nov. 2. Some votes are still under scrutiny in Ohio, but

will not change the outcome of the election.

State Senator Troy Fraser (Dist. 24) and Harvey Hilderbran were reelected by a large majority.

2. The war in Iraq dragged through the year, with a sad parade of news involving terrorist attacks. The bravery of the American troops is remarkable, but they have a suicidal enemy.

3. On the home front, the courts allowed the widespread Texas Redistricting to stand - at least for now. The bizarre configurations had something to do with the defeat of at least six Democratic Congressman in the General Election. In Jan. 2004 a Federal Court in Austin sent the matter to the U. S. Supreme Court.

In October the Supreme Court sent it back to Texas for the Federal Panel to reconsider. It sits there at this time.

4. Congressman Randy Neugebauer and Charles Stenholm (D) ran in the newly created 19th District, and Neugebauer was declared the winner.

Stenholm, an expert in agriculture, trade and fiscal responsibility, stepped down after 26 years of service.

5. District Attorney Ronnie Earle of Austin continued with his widespread investigation of contribu-

tions to Republican political funds in Texas, many for the 2002 Election.

Rep. Tom DeLay, Majority Whip of the U. S. House, reportedly dealt with many of these funds. He was also one of the architects of redistricting.

Three individuals associated with Tom DeLay were indicted for money laundering and other felonies in connection with these funds. A number of corporations have also been indicted. One of these has worked out an arrangement with the District Attorney to cooperate with the government.

7. In October the U. S. reached its largest debt in history - over 7 trillion dollars.

*. As the representatives went back to Washington D. C. after the General Election, a group of Republicans in the House held a closed-door meeting to allow House Leaders indicted on felony charges to remain in their positions.

This overturned a rule agreed up by both Republicans and Democrats in 1994.

9. During 2004, most areas of Texas had more rain than usual. The weather was also erratic - a Valentine Snow on Feb. 14, and heavy rains later. Eastland and Callahan Counties escaped most damaging storms, and got the beneficial part of the rain. Lakes rose to capacity in places, and the countryside looked green most of the year. There were two weeks of rain around Thanksgiving, and a bitter cold spell - with snow - on Dec. 23.

10. It was good to get the rain, for that meant good grass and fat cattle. Cattle rose to some of the highest prices ever, and this area had some of the best.

11. Due to the war in Iraq, OPEC pricing and world uncertainty, the price of oil went to over \$50 per barrel. That helped the people of our area and all around who are involved in oil, and own leases.

Although the price has

Baird Elementary
New Student And
Pre-Kindergarten
Registration Is
January 3-7, 2005
in the school office
from 8:30 a.m. to
11:30 a.m. and
from 1:00 p.m. to
3:00 p.m.

Please see inside
for additional information.....

Monday, Jan. 3,
2005 is a County
Holiday. The
Court House will
be closed on this
date.

dropped some, it is not expected to go too low.

Other things that have impacted the year:

Special sessions of the Legislature tried to solve the problem of school finance - and failed, for now. More of this is expected in 2005.

An attempt to help Seniors on their prescription bills - not much help yet.

The fate of the Veteran's Hospital in Big Spring is still uncertain.

A major news story happened in Callahan County during 2004. Documents on Pres. George Bush used by CBS and Dan Rather on "Sixty Minutes 2" were discredited, and the Network and Rather apologized to the public.

The Baird man who allegedly provided the story - retired Texas Air National Guard Lt. Col. Bill Burkett - was accused of misleading the network about where he got the material.

The disputed documents indicated that Bush ignored an order to take a physical exam and failed to meet his Guard obligation in the early 1970's, during the Viet Nam War.

The Big Cleanup Dumpster

will be available at

Baird City Barn 233 East 2nd

Jan. 3 - 8, 2005

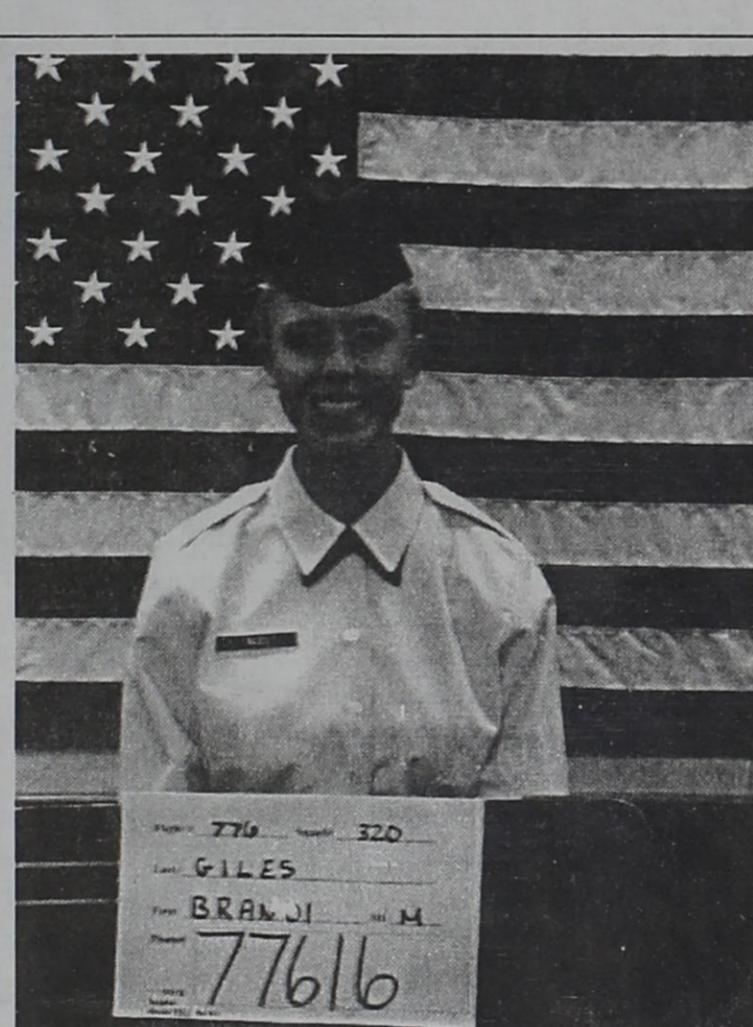
Monday-Friday 8:00 AM - 12:00

1:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Saturday 8 AM - 5 PM

For City of Baird Residents only

Current Water Bill Receipt Required



Air Force Airman Brandi M. Giles has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization, and military customs and courtesies; performed drill and ceremony marches, and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises, and special training in human relations.

In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Giles is the daughter of Ronnie Giles of Clyde, Texas. In 2004, the airman graduated from Clyde High School.

His death came exactly 51 years to the date after this famed event.

Although a state championship eluded the Bulldogs until 1953, Warden was part of the Ranger team which very narrowly lost to an El Paso All-Star team in the first Sun Bowl game on Jan. 1, 1935.

"The magic combination of talent, desire and coach-

ing has occurred only one time in Bulldog history and that came in the 1953 season. Seven senior starters on the team, coached by O. C. (Stubby) Warden and Boone Yarborough, led the Bulldogs to the state championship with a victory over Luling the day after Christmas." *

According to former students, Warden believed in the good in everyone.

He taught his team how to compete, to give their best, and to never give up.

And he not only taught them how to win on the football field, but also in their future lives.

(The Warden's were immortalized in the novel *Winning* by John Carver, which was written about Ranger football.)

Warden's contributions to the community went far beyond coaching.

His long list of community service includes being the mayor of Ranger (1980-

(Continued Inside)

Texas Transportation Commission Selects International Group Cintra In Developing Trans-Texas Corridor

Group To Invest \$7.2 Billion In Corridor

Taking an historic step, the Texas Transportation Commission, on December 16, selected a proposal by Cintra - an international group of engineering, construction and financial firms - as the best value for the state in developing the Oklahoma-to-Mexico portion of the Trans-Texas Corridor (TTC-35).

Cintra proposes to invest \$6 billion in a toll road between Dallas and San Antonio by 2010, give the state \$1.2 billion for additional transportation improvements between Oklahoma and Mexico, and to extend the corridor into the Lower Rio Grande Valley to Mexico.

"This is an historic change in the way major transportation assets are built and paid for in Texas," said Ric Williamson, chairman of the Texas Transportation Commission. "Private investment, not taxpayer dollars, will be where we look first for funding."

To address the state's need for immediate congestion relief on Interstate 35, the first

phase of Cintra's proposal calls for developing \$6 billion in new roadways roughly paralleling the interstate by 2010. This includes building 316 miles of new four-lane divided highway from Dallas to San Antonio. According to the proposal, pending environmental clearance and the public-involvement process, construction could begin immediately after right-of-way acquisition.

Cintra's package also includes funding options for a route connecting southeast San Antonio to State Highway

130 and for relocating - to the east - the existing Union Pacific Railroad between San Antonio and Austin.

Future projects envisioned by Cintra include separate lanes for cars and trucks on SH 130, a relief route around the west side of Fort Worth, a TTC-35 route from San Antonio to the Rio Grande Valley, and rail between Dallas and San Antonio.

Cintra is one of three groups to submit detailed proposals on how to develop the Oklahoma to Mexico element of the Trans-Texas Corridor. TxDOT has been studying the proposals since August, and today the Texas Transportation Commission accepted a staff recommendation that the Cintra proposal provided the best long-term value to the state.

In return for building the new transportation corridor and giving it to the state - plus paying the state \$1.2 billion to invest in the corridor - Cintra proposes to negotiate for a 50-year contract to maintain and operate the new highway as a toll road.

"The private sector is willing and able to invest in transportation improvement to reduce congestion, improve safety, provide economic development, and protect our quality of life," said Williamson. "There are many details to be worked out and separate environmental

studies must be completed. Without a doubt, the private sector is knocking at our door with a nearly incredible opportunity for Texas."

Contract negotiations between TxDOT and Cintra will begin immediately. The complete proposals will be made available for public review once a contract has been signed and TxDOT obtains ownership of the ideas and innovations presented by all three private firms. Prior to that, release of the proposals is prohibited due to the proprietary information they contain.

The five-member transportation commission voted unanimously to select Cintra as the state's first private-sector firm on the Trans-Texas Corridor.

"In Texas, we're breaking new ground," Commissioner Robert Nichols said. "By far,

Thursday, December 30, 2004

this will be one of the largest private-sector investments in transportation in U.S. history."

Commissioner Hope Andrade pointed to the proposal's economic impact. "This is an enormously important crossroad for Texas," she said. "This project will mean jobs and opportunities for the people of this state for generations to come."

Commissioner John W. Johnson sees the proposal as a major stepping-stone toward the development of I-69 as well. "It amounts to a blueprint for building I-69," he said.

"All of us on the commission appreciate the vision of Gov. Perry in proposing the Trans-Texas Corridor, which has now become a reality," Commissioner Ted Houghton said.

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Spring Semester begins January 10, 2005

Registration continues through January 6th
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5-3

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Crossword Answers



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Happy New Year!

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Eastland, Texas
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Leon River Cowboy Church
"Just Good Folks Trying To Live For The Lord"
Pastor Paul Howie 254-631-3661
Texas Cattle Exchange

2005 New Year's Resolutions:

- 1. Meet the Almighty God**
- 2. Spend the rest of my life getting to know Him!**

9:30 a.m. Coffee/Donuts
9:45 Adult & Youth Bible Study
10:45 Worship

5-104

CROSSWORD PUZZLE												
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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58					59	60						
62					63				64			
65					66				67			

Across

1. Dirty '70s TV show starring Jeanette Nolan.
3. Hinders.
4. Writers of lyrics.
5. Agents of fermentation.
6. Central point.
7. City of north-central Oklahoma.
8. Acronym for Engineering Technical Forecasting.
9. François K... author of Elements of Foreca...
10. Male chicken castrated when young to improve the quality of its flesh for food.
11. Diasecra... or winged yam.
12. Little island... or loop formed by a running knot in a rope, as in a lasso.
13. Stratagem for catching an unwary person.
14. Buildings having an S-shaped curve.
15. Codes of laws established by a church council.
16. Celestial body that gives off light.
17. Spoken rather than written.
18. Acronym for United Kingdom Listing Authority.
19. Vertcal and anterior of the three principal bones of the pubic region.
20. Wily subterfuges.
21. Entered again.
22. Used as a mild oath expressing surprise.
23. Action meant to mislead.
24. Plunged into a state of see.
25. Plunged into a state of see.
26. Agreeable sound, especially in the phonetic quality of words.
27. To fill beyond capacity, especially with food.
28. To be inherent.
29. Plays up.
30. Sri... world famous violinist.
31. Tamai Nadu.
32. Compared to.
33. Found a basis for.
34. Neil... founder of Crowded House.
35. Harold... American composer and lyricist.
36. Yellow cheese of Dutch origin.
37. Yonder.
38. Slang for Chiffon margarine.
39. Acronym for Television Information Office.

Down

1. Made rancid by fermentation.

This puzzle sponsored by

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IRON INC**

P. O. Box 877 Eastland, TX 76448

Guest Slot By H.V.O.

THANKS TO the snow storm, resulting ice and a colossal slip on a glazed sidewalk in the week before Christmas here, I now have an even greater understanding and appreciation for my late Daddy. You might remember that Hous was the "one-armed paper hanger"--actually that's not quite accurate. He was one armed so to speak, but hanging paper was just one of the many endeavors he undertook to feed his family during the lean years before and after the big depression. His right arm was left immature and virtually useless as the result of what was then known as infantile paralysis (polio to us today). But he worked hard to overcome his limitation; he took just about any paying job he could get. He could drive a nail faster than most with only a hammer and his good left arm and hand. My rump buster, luckily left me with only one arm broken bone; since I landed hard on my right elbow, it was a restless night and a quick learning session later in what you can do without the use of your usual hand of preference. Mine will get well; Hous' never did.

IT WAS a relief to learn this week that there are two "Support the Troops" ribbon manufacturers: one model is from a company in the Southeast which donates all proceeds to the families of victims of the war in Iraq; the other model is from Taiwan. Take your choice... We had had in the back of our minds for several years an unspoken thought that somebody (we won't say who) was sure profiting on the various American wars and police actions by quickly offering small, medium and large American flags (probably from the same foreign manufacturers), banners and slogans of support. No one should be against expressions of support, but doesn't profiteering to such an extent on such smacks just a touch of stench, don't you think?

HEADLINES (From elsewhere) WE'RE glad that we didn't write:

Stress is usually a four-letter word.

High court takes up execution of youths.

Stepfather lashes out after drinking death.

Teen avoids prison time in weapon case.

Fund Set Up For Jayden Justice

A fund has been set up for

open heart surgery.

Jayden Justice 10 month old son of Justin and Mandy Justice. He is the grandson of Chris and Lisa Justice of Eastland and Mike Warren of Gorman and Lacy Warren of Gorman. Jayden has Aortic Stenosis and will undergo

Donations may be made at Farmers & Merchants Bank in Eastland. All of your help and prayers will be greatly appreciated by the families.

Jayden Justice Account # 813040.

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J

Burton Phillips, VA Officer, Brings Update On War Memorial

On Monday Burton Phillips, Eastland County Veterans Service officer, brought the County Commissioners a report on the Heart of Texas War Memorial being constructed in Brownwood.

The Vietnam Veterans, Chapter 801, are sponsoring this Memorial, which will be located at Memorial Park in Brownwood.

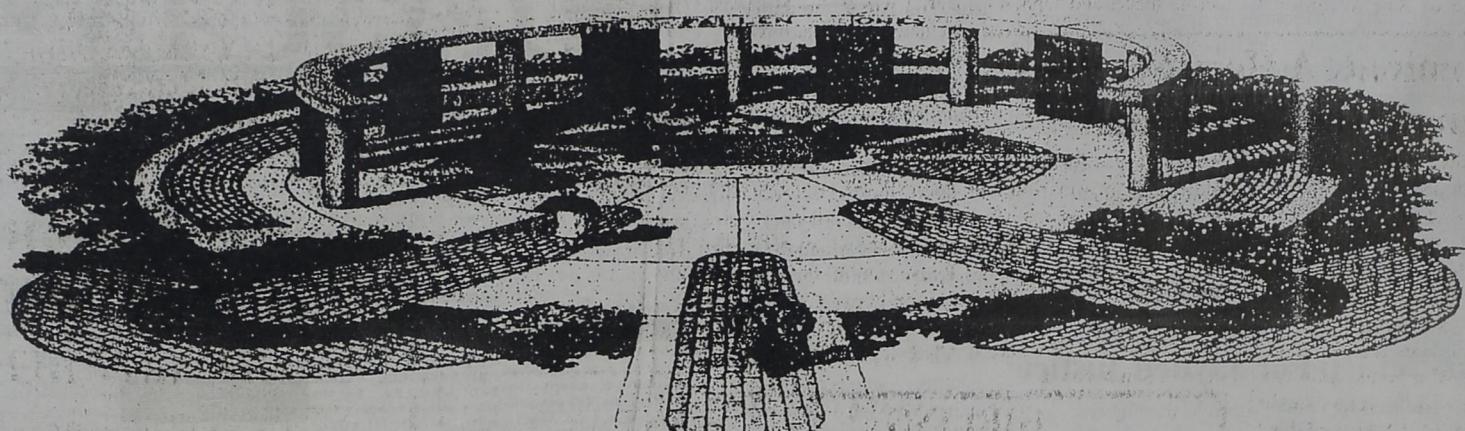
Engraved brick pavers are being sold to help fund the project.

Mr. Phillips invited all to have a part. He said that anyone who purchases several bricks can have them all placed in the same area.

He passed out material showing what the beautiful Memorial will look like when completed.

**Vietnam Veterans Of America,
Inc.
Heart of Texas - Chapter 801
Proudly Introduces The**

CENTRAL TEXAS WAR MEMORIAL



Plans are now underway for the construction of a new war memorial at Memorial Park in Brownwood, Texas. Engraved brick pavers are being sold to fund the project.

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Veterans Brick Order Form

Line 1																			
Line 2																			
Line 3																			

Lines may consist of no more than 14 characters.
All lettering must be legible.

MAIL TO: P.O. Box 2245
Brownwood, TX 76804

OBITUARY**O. C. "Stubby" Warden**

Ranger - Former Ranger coach and civic leader O. C. "Stubby" Warden died Sunday, December 26, 2004, 51 years to the day after leading the Ranger Bulldogs to their only state championship in football. He was 89.

Services will be 1 p.m. Thursday, December 30th at Ranger's First Baptist Church, where Warden served as a deacon, with Rev. Charles Massegee officiating. Burial will be in the Evergreen Cemetery. Visitation will be Wednesday from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Edwards Funeral Home in Ranger.

Survivors include his wife, Juanita Warden of Dallas; a daughter, Marilyn Cundiff and husband Ray of Dallas; son, Jerry Warden and wife Diane of San Antonio; 3

**Baird First United Methodist Church Worship Services**

Sunday School - 9:45 AM
Sunday Worship - 10:45 AM
Youth - 5:00 PM
Choir Practice - 5:30 PM

Tuesdays
Prayer Group - 10:00 AM - Joy Corn's

OBITUARY**Altha N. Reese**

grandchildren, Cynthia Young of Kingwood, Mark Warden of Fort Irwin, CA, and Kimberely Stein of Memphis, TN; 2 great-grandchildren, Will and Elizabeth Ann Stein; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Nominate A Hero For TDA's Rural Heroism Award

Austin - Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs announced that Feb. 2, 2005, is the deadline for nominations for the Texas Department of Agriculture's 2004 Rural Heroism Award.

Candidates must have performed a heroic, lifesaving act within Texas during 2004. The heroic deed should be related to farming or ranching and occur in a rural area. Automobile accidents or accidents caused by negligence will not be considered.

Nominations should include a written account of the incident and the names, addresses and telephone numbers of everyone involved. If available newspaper clippings and photographs should accompany all nominations.

Nominations must be postmarked by Feb. 2, 2005, and mailed to Lola Lemmon, TDA safety coordinator, Texas Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box, 12847,

From Page One

O. C. "Stubby" Warden (83), and service on the Ranger College Board of Regents.

He was also Ranger Chamber of Commerce Manager, and an officer for the Ranger Boys Club.

In return, Ranger honored Warden with the Chamber of Commerce Golden Deeds Award (1980), Ranger High School Distinguished Alumni (1984), and named their football field O. C. Warden Stadium.

"Stubby", as he was fondly called in Ranger, and his wife of 68 years, Juanita Warden, moved from the town recently to be near their daughter in Dallas.

"Ranger was still their 'home', an acquaintance said.

Services for O. C. Warden, under the direction of Edwards Funeral Home, are to be Thursday, 2:00 PM, December 30, at the First Baptist Church in Ranger.

* Quote taken from Oil Town Football; Diamond Jubilee publication, Ranger Texas, 1919-1994

OBITUARY

in 1978. She was a homemaker and member of McCamey First Baptist Church.

Survivors include two daughters, Roma Fikes and husband Chester, of Clyde and Melba Harvey and husband Kenneth of Webster; four grandchildren, Dianne Pence and Dennis Boland, both of Clyde, Susan Abel of Webster and Karen Amos of Friendswood; one brother, Paul Brashear of Cisco; one sister, Ruby Ezzell of Rising Star, seven great-grandchildren, ten great-great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

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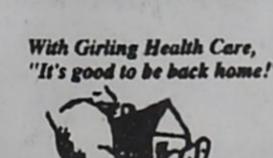
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5-2

Baird First Baptist Church Schedule Of 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

(Nursery provided for worship services)

Sunday School - 9:45 A.M.

Worship Service - 11:00 A.M.

Prayer Time In Sanctuary - 5:00 P.M.

Evening Service - 6:00 P.M.

Wednesday Choir Practice 6:00 pm

Wednesday Service - 7:00 P.M.

Wednesday, Dec. 29 - NO Choir Rehearsal until January 12. Happy Holidays.

Thursday, Dec. 30 - The church office will close at 1:00 PM

Friday, Dec. 31 - OFFICE CLOSED. HAPPY HOLIDAYS

January 2, 2005 - Welcome Truman and Jan Johnson

Coming Soon!!! Ladies Bible Study "Believing God" - a Beth Moore Study Beginning: Jan. 9 at 4:30 in the Fellowship Hall

Leaders Kim Vestal and Bridget McDowell Call the office to sign up!

(325) 854-1574

Country Cowboy Church

710 N. Seaman Eastland

254-639-2155



Coffee & Donuts.....10:45 a.m.

Worship Service.....11:00 a.m.

Wednesday Night Bible Study...6:30 p.m.

Pastor Chad Gosnell

CALLAHAN COUNTY BAIRD STAR

Publication No. (USPS 085-520)

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Inventory Time

The new year is indeed a challenge for us. May we, this year, learn the secret of successful and happy lives. The new year offers us a new chance to sever anything in our lives that is bitter. 2004 has ended and we have a brand new year before us. We need to bury past mistakes, failures, injuries and sorrows and be equal to the duties and joys of the future.

Take a personal inventory of how you've done in 2004. Ask yourself questions like: "Am I a better listener? Am I using my time more wisely? Am I more giving, more loving, more understanding, kinder, more gentle and more thoughtful of others?"

We can make the new year fruitful by doing our duty and work to the best of our abilities. We are wise if we continually open new fields of thoughts and new realms of experience.

What will bring us happiness in 2005? Good deeds, blessings bestowed and duties performed well are all part of what we should strive for in 2005. We need to run with confidence into the new year and face the many changes. We need to focus on our blessings and possess grateful hearts.

Each day of 2005 we need to do something to help dilute the misery of the world.

Mary J. Lewis wrote the beautiful poem for a new year which follows:

My New Year's Wish

What shall I wish thee this new year?

Health, wealth, prosperity,
good cheer

All sunshine, not a cloud or
tear?

Nay, only this:

That God may lead thee

His own way,

That He may choose thy

path each day,

That thou mayest feel Him

near

Always, for this is bliss.

We need to be alert for evidences of a great God concealed in the small events of our daily lives. We need to be sure that we carry no burden of the past year, no hurt, no bitterness and no unforgiveness of the past year.

Does New Year's Day come at the wrong time of the year? There are so many things which need to be done. There are thank-you notes to write, Christmas cards to go through (I usually give the pictures off Christmas cards to our self-supporting missionary friend, Ann Morgan, to take to other countries where people are delighted to put them into the frames which Ann has bought and hang them in their homes). There are the usual chores like taking down the tree and other Christmas decorations. Instead of packing away the creche' with the other Christmas paraphernalia, one year I decided to leave it out all year. It has been out ever since then and I often look at the Babe throughout the year and remember that God is with us throughout the year.

It is sometimes difficult to ponder new beginnings when

old concerns consume us, but as we stand at the threshold of another new mind-boggling year, we need to be determined to look for the pleasure in little things before us. In 2005, find pleasure in small things like a hummingbird's nest, the moon, the affection of close friends, the warm sun and the laughter of a child.

Each day is an extension of God's grace. We need to be good stewards of the time given to us in 2005. Personal agenda should take second place to whatever God has planned for us. Only those who are willing and able to bury the past mistakes, failures, injuries and sorrows will be equal to the duties and joys of the future.

The "pink ladies" (women's auxiliary) at Medical Center Hospital change pictures on the hospital room walls often. They say "When you look at something every day, you stop seeing it." This year try to discover something that you might "take for granted." We need to open our eyes this year and really see the gifts given to us daily.

When Alladin wanted something, so the ancient story goes, he would simply rub his wonderful lamp, make his wish, and his wish would come true. To get what we desire this year, we need more than magic phrases. We need to develop the habit of working toward a goal. If we are sincere in working toward our goal, we will be richly rewarded.

As we enter 2005, we must be wise in the spending of our days. The drawing of a new year marks a milestone. We can begin again! We have

a new unspoiled page on which we can write of our new attempts. We need to remember to rejoice in teachings throughout each day of 2005.

Christ's birth, see His among us and practice His **HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!**



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Dr. Simpson is a Board Eligible Residency Trained General Surgeon. He completed his internship and general surgery residency at the University of North Texas Health Science Center and Osteopathic Medical Center of Texas in Fort Worth.

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Are Personal Freedoms More Important Than The Country That Guarantees Them?

This month my Grandfather whom I affectionately called Pa Pa will have been departed from this world 14 years. He lived and worked all his life in Eastland County, Texas. He was raised on a peanut farm in the community of Flatwood, Texas and graduated from Carbon HS, which is no longer in existence. My Pa Pa, as well as the rest of my family, taught me many invaluable lessons; to some degree I try to instill them in my own sons as well. I have always had a fondness for history and the study of government. I teach history and government myself and have for more than 10 years. I also learned a deep appreciation from my family for the Lord. I do not claim to be a perfect man and am embarrassed (yet willing) to admit to many personal faults. Yet, I still try to live by the standards set before me by those men willing to leave their homes and begin a new country with a belief in service to God and mankind. This is also something that I learned from my family as well.

I'm writing this letter because I have for years held inside the fact that I am hurting because of the path that so many in our country seem to be heading down. There is a division occurring in our country that can only be explained by the hatred of a percentage of our population. I never have understood why a public figure like a movie star or musician has felt that their endorsement of a candidate should mean any more than whom I chose to represent me. Along the same line, I have never understood the resentment, hatred, or motivations in general that would cause a person to vote for a particular candidate based simply on the fact that he was a candidate for a particular party (i.e. the yellow dog Democrat philosophy). I believe it is a citizen's responsibility to

elect someone because of how they believe that person will represent them and their views in office. Which leads me to my main question, when did the freedoms that we were granted by our constitution become more important than this great country that granted them to us?

We have a news media at this point that has determined that the freedom of speech granted them in the Constitution has given them the right to distortedly report news in such a slanted fashion as to misrepresent candidates to the detriment of the nation that they get their freedoms from. We have minorities involved in politics that scream violation of rights whenever something doesn't go their way. Granted, there has been a lot of mistreatment throughout our nations history regarding slavery, but it has been 100-plus years since the Civil War and we still have to re-visit that issue every time there is a question over racial inequality? We have a very small percentage of Americans who believe that issues regarding God or the use of His teachings and prayer to Him are contemptible. I pray for them all and all those who follow this logic and that's all I have to say about that. We have many, many who dislike the notion of our being involved in warfare in the Middle East, and to this end I will try and make my point. My Pa Pa was drafted to serve in the Armed Forces during WWII. He served in the 121st Infantry of the 36th Division in the European Theatre. He was a decorated veteran that went through the ranks from Private to Colonel and was offered a commission by the Army to serve in the same position upon the conclusion of the war with Germany. He respectfully declined their offer. I spent many hours listening to him lecture and enlighten me as to what happened during his service. He lost many friends during

battles. He, in fact, told me on more than one occasion that he didn't make friends any more because it seemed like every time I made new friend, they ended up dying. I heard stories of how he would be on reconnaissance missions and witnessed the execution of villagers by the SS as they hurried to leave occupied towns and cities because the American forces were closing in on them. Never once did my Pa Pa ever say he liked the war or that he was a fan of warfare. I did hear him say, many times, that he was proud of his service to our country despite the fact that it was very difficult for him. I personally saw him break down into tears many times when he spoke to me about this. I'm convinced that it was during his service that he took to cursing, a habit he never broke. If I had witnessed all the brutality described to me by him during his service I'm sure I'd have the same habit.

And so what of today's situation? We find a segment of our country that is divided over the fact that we are sending troops off to fight a war in a far away place that many in our country don't know much about. I can't help but hear the stories

about citizens of our country working in Iraq, being captured and then brutally murdered by decapitation. And somehow this is all one man's fault? I know of NO ONE who enjoys war or the thought of being sent to war. My Pa Pa didn't. But we have an obligation to our country and to mankind, all over the world, to do WHAT IS RIGHT! NO ONE likes to hear the stories of the mass graves in Iraq, the torture/rape rooms Hussein's regime used while he was in power either. We are granted the right to not agree by God if not by our constitution. However, nowhere have I ever read that our rights surpass the power that grants those rights to us. It is our duty as citizens to honor the nation that bestows us with these rights and if that means we should ever have to defend them, so be it. I suppose that if these same men entered your homes and took your family hostage you would simply stand by and watch because you believe it is their right to do so and you don't like war.

I submit to you, that at no time since the spread of Islam in the Middle East and Europe has the threat it poses been more real. And just as my Pa Pa told me we don't want those people over here referring to Hitler's SS, we don't want the madmen behind all the brutality surrounding 911 and other events that have shocked our nation to the core here either. The kind of radicalism that exists in Islam today existed prior to and during 8th century as well. It was defeated at the Battle of Tours by Charlemagne and others in 732. I appeal to your intellect; those men have ALREADY BEEN HERE. My question is, where are they now? We have many in our country who don't like war. I don't like it! I suppose no one should.

Thursday, December 30, 2004

Seeds From The Sower

By Michael A. Guido
Metter, GA.

A father asked his son, "Do you know the difference between right and wrong?"

"Yes, sir," he answered.

"But," protested the father,

"you always do wrong."

"Well," bragged the son,

"that shows it isn't guess-work."

So many of us always do wrong, don't we? A great man once said, "I know perfectly well that what I'm doing is wrong...but I can't help myself...it's sin inside me that's stronger than I am that makes me do these evil things."

But one day he turned his life over to the Lord; then St. Paul cried, "He has set me free."

It's Christ, and Christ alone who can enable you to do what's right in every situation. Why don't you commit your life to Him?

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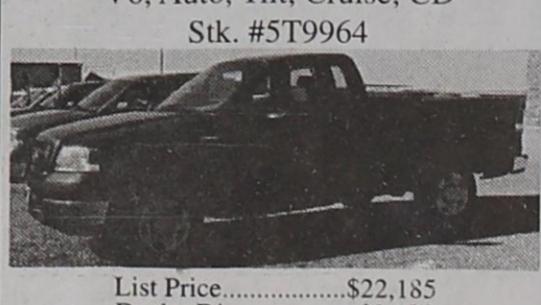
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T58



by Agriculture Commissioner
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52 acres by Lake Cisco, over half a mile of road frontage that is within 200 yards of Lake Cisco shoreline, mostly wooded with oak trees, hill overlooking Lake Cisco, canyons, deer, hogs, turkey, dove, quail, \$62,400.

78 acres, wooded and cleared, 1 pond, [REDACTED] pond, on water plus nice 1 room efficiency home with full bath, \$99,000. **SOLD**

83 acres mostly wooded with mature oak trees, easy access, good hunting/recreation property, deer, hogs, turkey, dove, quail, \$99,000. **SOLD**

90 acres wooded and open fields, trees include live oak, post oak & mesquites, 1 pond, seasonal creek, wildlife includes deer, turkey, hogs, dove, quail, \$89,550.

95 acres wooded with mature oak trees, large hill, pond, setup with deer blinds & feeders, deer, hogs, turkey, dove, quail, \$87,000. **SOLD**

97 acres by Lake Cisco, over a mile of road frontage that is within 200 yards of Lake Cisco shoreline, mostly wooded with oak trees, large hill overlooking Lake Cisco, canyons, ponds, deer, hogs, turkey, dove, quail, \$116,400.

110 acres mostly wooded w/large mesquite timber, Eubank Creek runs through the property, 3 ponds, 2 hills, 1 field, water line, electricity, minerals, deer, turkey, hogs, dove, duck, quail, \$99,500.

117 acres mostly wooded with mesquite and oak trees, 3 fields, 3 ponds, hill top view, old water well, electricity, minerals, deer, turkey, hogs, dove, duck, quail, \$995/ac.

177 acres by Lake Cisco, over a mile of road frontage within 200 yards of Lake Cisco shoreline, mostly wooded with oak trees, very large hills overlooking Lake Cisco, canyons, pond, deer, hogs, turkey, dove, duck, quail, \$212,400.

306 acres, wooded with 35 acre field, rest is oak and mesquite timber, older rock house, ponds, deer, turkey, quail, dove, \$125 per acre. **SOLD**

326 acres by Lake Cisco, over three miles of road frontage within 200 yards of Lake Cisco shoreline, mostly wooded with oak trees, very large hills overlooking Lake Cisco, canyons, 2 ponds, will divide, deer, hogs, turkey, dove, duck, quail, \$391,200.

850 acres some high game fence, [REDACTED] mostly wooded, oak timber, waterline, large hills, creek bottoms, 4 fields, 6+ ponds, deer, turkey, quail, dove, \$715 per acre. **SOLD**

*******HOMES WITH ACREAGE*******

66 acres w/3 BR home, newer construction, ready to be completed by new buyer. Home sits on tall hill, excellent view, [REDACTED] Cisco, mostly wooded w/Post Oaks, creeks, 2 ponds, deer, turkey, dove, quail, \$125,000.

172 acres w/3BR home, barn, [REDACTED] water well, deer, turkey, dove, quail, \$189,200. **SOLD**

*******HOMES*******

2 BR, 1 bath home, carport, attached storage, \$12,500. **SOLD**

3 BR, 1 bath home, large room, [REDACTED] lg., corner property, \$17,500. **SOLD**

3 BR, 1 bath home, separate DR, shop and other outbuildings, \$19,500. **SOLD**

2 BR, 1 bath home, CH/A, mostly wooded, [REDACTED] fence, backyard, corner property, \$23,000.

2 BR 1 bath frame, recently remodeled, extra cabinets in dining area, CH/A, deck, garage, fenced backyard, reduced to \$21,000. **SOLD**

2 BR, 1 3/4 bath home, vinyl siding, double carport with attached storage, fenced backyard, \$32,500.

3 BR, 1 bath home, separate DR, computer room, big kitchen, woodburning heater in LR, large pecan trees, \$33,000. **SOLD**

2 BR, 1 bath home, could be converted into a 3BR home, 6 ceiling fans, inside and outside recently repainted and carpet replaced, oversized yard, \$35,000. **SOLD**

4 BR, 2 bath, lg. rooms, lots of character, separate DR, fenced yard, lg. corner property, reduced to \$34,000.

2 BR, 1 bath home, separate office or den, CH/A, carport, corner property, \$39,500. **SOLD**

3 BR, 1 bath older brick veneer home, separate dining room, storm windows, detached garage/storage, corner property, \$39,500. **SOLD**

2 BR, 1 3/4 bath home, veneer brick, CH/A, WBFP, garage, covered patio, storage bldg, fenced backyard, \$48,500.

3 BR, 1 1/2 bath, CH, separate DR, WBFP in LR and WB heater in den, patio, 2 large metal shops, 2 double carports, 3 lots.

5 BR, 2 bath, 2 story home, lots of character, formal DR, office, large rooms, mostly wooden floors, 2 CH/A units, surrounded by large oak and pecan trees, large corner property.

*******LAKE CISCO*******

2 BR Home, deck, boat dock, large oak trees, reduced to \$25,000. **SOLD**

3 BR Home, many cabinets, woodburning heater, wooden deck, boat dock with boat house, large trees. Reduced to \$26,000. **SOLD**

2 BR Home, CH/A, fireplace, detached guest room, patio, boat dock, 2 car carport, storage bldg., large oak trees, reduced to \$26,000. **SOLD**

2 BR Home, WBFP, nice view of lake front, [REDACTED] Bldg. Some landscaping with sprinkler system, deck and boat dock.

Beautiful 2 BR, 1 3/4 bath home, CH/A, WBFP, shop, storage bldg., large landscaped yard, tall oak trees, boat dock, great view of lake from DR, LR, den and master BR, many extras.

*******COMMERCIAL*******

Restaurant with large dining room, eqpt. and furniture, \$38,500. Owner would sell bldg. without eqpt. & furniture for less. Call for details.

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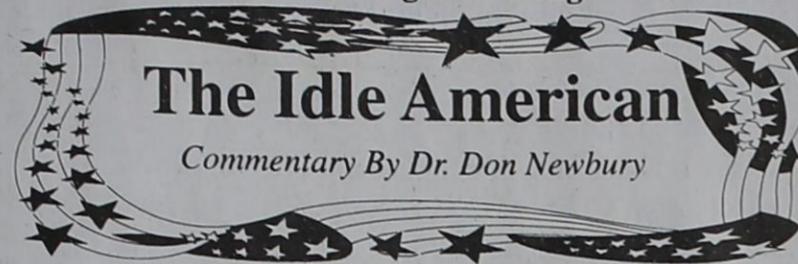
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**Vicky Lee's
Indoor Flea
Market**

Behind Goodyear<br

Thursday, December 30, 2004

**The Idle American**

Commentary By Dr. Don Newbury

More Blessed to Give

Too bad so few people saw NBA referee Steve Javie give the coat off his back to a G.I. injured in Iraq. TV cameras were stilled and reporters had finished their stories. Most of the capacity crowd at American Airlines Center was heading for the exit.

Javie, who had just worked the Dallas Mavericks' 22-point laugher over the Atlanta Hawks,* returned to the playing floor. There, 137 military personnel—all with varying degrees of injuries sustained in Iraq and Afghanistan—were signing autographs for fans and players. No one wanted to turn loose of a magical evening.

The goose bumps wouldn't go away. Clinging

to the glow of the hour like the final moments of an Indian summer sundown, Javie thanked the honorees after the game, but it seemed not enough. He wished them all well, then handed over his NBA jacket.

What a finale for an unscripted tribute to young people whose lives have been ravaged by the raw edges of war. For a few hours, theirs was a Brigadoon world.

It seemed as American as apple pie and a throwback to gentler days when everyone felt more involved in helping out. It had the "feel" of frontier men's barn-raising and of women around quilting frames stitching together heat for today and hope for tomorrow.

It felt good, this evening that brought out the best in many people. Indeed, the game became secondary.

With assistance from senior Senator Chuck Hagel in his home state of Nebraska, arrangements were made for eight soldiers to be Hawks' front row guests at a Mavericks' game.

They made the trip on a private Lear jet. They were introduced and spotlighted at the game, and there were teary eyes all around.

That was in early April, and Hawks made similar arrangements for two more such outings later in the month. Meanwhile, he thought toward greater things.

Several other season ticket holders congratulated Hawks, so he decided to share the joy with all of them. A letter went out in October to the 47 persons holding the 145 front row seats; they were invited to surrender their tickets to soldiers for the Dec. 18th game. Only two fans declined, so he had 137 "seats for soldiers."

Things happened fast. American Airlines provided

an MD-80 charter with a volunteer flight crew. Mavericks' owner Mark Cuban sent his plane, had commemorative t-shirts made for the guests and visited with each of them during an extended autograph session.

Abacus, a five-star restaurant, provided a 90-minute dinner where Dallas Cowboy hero Roger Staubach offered an invocation. Most of the soldiers kept cell phones busy with "you won't believe where we are" calls to loved ones throughout the evening.

On the flight back to San Antonio, airline personnel had on "seats for soldiers" t-shirts. They, too, wanted autographs from the men and women who had surrendered hearing, limbs, eyesight and more in defending our country.

The Christmas season took on an added glow. Ripples in the stream, ever widening, will be the story of a magical night when people

felt better about themselves and the land they love.

What about Hawks? He thinks only in "onward, upward and outward" modes. He's figuring out more ways to honor injured soldiers and will put feet to prayers. Stay tuned for an encore to top this quarter-million dollar evening.

And if you see Javie, say nothing about the tear you saw in his eye. He'll hang a technical foul on you quicker'n Dallas.

Dr. Newbury is an author/speaker/columnist. His weekly column appears in more than 100 newspapers in Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana. He invites feedback at 817.447.3872 or via e-mail, newbury@speakerdoc.com

*Before you ask: No, Neal and the Atlanta Hawks are NOT related.

Lynn Ingalsbe

Attorney At Law

Board Certified - Criminal Law
Texas Board of Legal Specialization

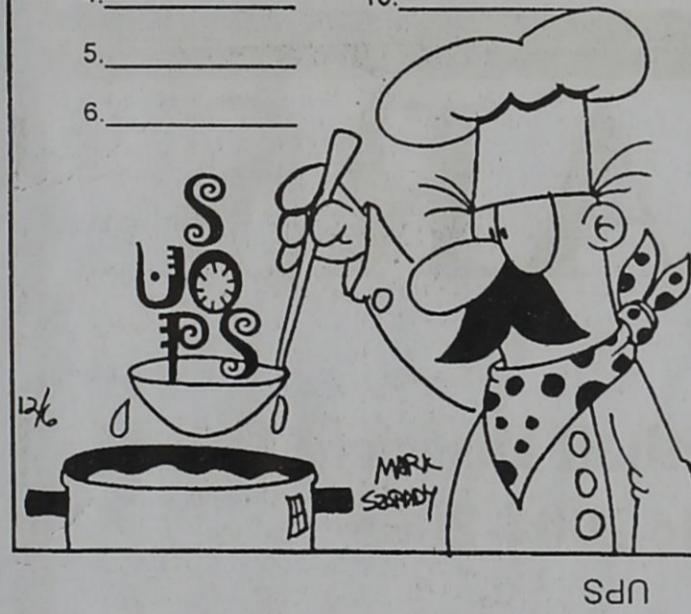
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WORD PILE

By Mark Szorady

COMBINE THE LETTERS TO MAKE TEN WORDS.
EACH WORD CONTAINS AT LEAST THREE LETTERS.

1. _____ 7. _____
2. _____ 8. _____
3. _____ 9. _____
4. _____ 10. _____
5. _____
6. _____



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CHRISTMAS
WITH THE
KRANKS

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All Shows: 7:30 p.m. - \$4.00
10 - Admission Passes - \$35.00
5 - Admission Gift Pass - \$20.00
Adults Only Balcony Ticket - \$5.50

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MSRP \$35,209	SAVE \$9,714
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CALLAHAN COUNTY BAIRD STAR

New Student And Pre-Kindergarten Registration Is January 3 - 7, 2005

Parents of students who need to enroll their children in Baird Elementary School may come by the school's office from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. or from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. during the week of January 3-7 to register.

Baird Elementary School will also take applications for the Pre-Kindergarten program on these dates.

All parents registering new students for school will need to bring copies of the child's birth certificate, shot records, and Social Security card.

All applications for the Pre-Kindergarten program must submit proof of income (such as a pay stub, etc.)

The Baird Pre-K program will begin on January 10th for children that have turned

4 as of September 1, 2004.

Baird elementary School offers Pre-Kindergarten, Preschool Program for Children with Disabilities, Kindergarten, and First through Sixth Grade classes.

Please call 854-1400 Ext. 308 for additional information.

Baird Elementary To Hold 2005 Pre-Kindergarten Registration

Baird elementary School will hold a Pre-Kindergarten Registration for the 2005 school year beginning on Monday, January 3 and ending on Friday, January 7th from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. each day. The registration will be held at Baird Elementary School in the office.

According to Texas State Law, a child is eligible for enrollment in Pre-Kindergarten if the child is at least 4 years of age and is 1) unable to speak and comprehend the English language; 2) educationally disadvantaged; or 3) homeless. In order to qualify for the program based upon #2, students must meet the criteria of financial need as determined by a formula provided by the state (which is based upon eligibility to participate in the national free or reduced lunch program).

To complete registration, parents will need to bring copies of their child's certificate, shot records, social security card, proof of residence, and proof of income. (Proof of income is required therefore parents must bring either a statement from employers showing monthly wages or a paycheck stub.)

The pre-kindergarten program has limited spaces, so parents are urged to register their children as early as possible. The first 22 children that meet the requirements listed above will be enrolled in this semester's class. After the 22 spaces have been filled, those children meeting the requirements will be placed on a waiting list.

If you have any questions concerning registration or this program, please contact Mrs. Kamie Pruet at 854-1400 Ext. 308.

El registro de Pre-Kinder-

garten para el año 2005 a la escuela de Baird Elementary es en miércoles, el 3-7 de enero de 8:30 a.m. a 11:30 a.m. y de 1:00 p.m. a 3:00 p.m. cada día en la oficina.

Los niños puede asistir Pre-Kindergarten si tiene 4 años antes del 1 de Setiembre, 2004, y no puede hablar o entender inglés, o tiene una necesidad económica, o si no tiene hogar.

Necesita traer la partida del nacimiento, del inyecciones, la tarjeta de social security, y papeles del trabajo.

La clase tiene espacio limitado (solamente hay 22 niños), pues las parientes necesitan registrar sus niños tan temprano.

Si tiene preguntas, por favor llama a la oficina de Baird Elementary a 854-1400 Ext. 308.

Official Don't Mess with Texas Merchandise Benefits Litter Prevention

Proceeds will assist in funding the Texas Department of Transportation campaign

"Don't Mess with Texas" is a straightforward litter-prevention slogan that, while often imitated, is a true original. Now the same thing can be said of merchandise

showcasing the popular phrase.

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) announced today that a line of adult and children's T-shirts, hats and mugs is available for the first time in the litter-prevention campaign's history. The merchandise is being sold online at www.dontmesswithtexas.org.

A portion of merchandise sales will help fund the Don't Mess with Texas litter-prevention campaign. This is the only Don't Mess with Texas merchandise sold that

Thursday, December 30, 2004

helps keep Texas clean.

"Too many people, not just in Texas but nationally, don't realize Don't Mess with Texas was created nearly 20 years ago as a litter-prevention slogan for TxDOT," said TxDOT Travel Division Director Doris Howdeshell. "The slogan has since been borrowed by many in the souvenir world, but now for the first time TxDOT is offering an official line of quality Don't Mess with Texas merchandise that in turn keeps Texas roadsides beautiful."

Cisco Junior College Spring Registration

—Abilene Educational Center—
January 4-6

— Cisco Campus —
January 10-11

Schedule and Registration Hours Available Online
First Class Day January 12



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BAIRD BEARS

Baird HS Basketball Schedule 2004-2005

Mon. Wed. Dec. 27-29 Zephyr Tourney There VG/VB TBA
Friday, Dec. 31 Hamlin There JVB/VB 1:00 PM
Tuesday, Jan. 4 Abilene Christian There JVG/JVB/VG/VB
Friday, Jan. 7 DeLeon Here VB TBA

Superintendent: Cliff Gardner
H.S. Principal: Sandra Carter
Head Boys Coach: Clay Barnett
Assistant: Luke Moody
Head Girls Coach: Lane Loyd
Assistant Coach: Lauren Rodriguez

Baird J.H. Basketball Schedule 2004-2005

Thursday, Jan. 6 Cross Plains There 5:00 PM
Saturday, Jan. 8 7th Albany Tourney There TBA
Monday, Jan. 10 Gorman Here 5:00 PM
Th/Sa Jan. 13 & Jan. 15 Cross Plains Tourney There TBA
Thursday, Jan. 20 Albany There 5:00 PM
Saturday, Jan. 22 8th Albany Tourney There TBA
Thursday, Jan. 27 Ranger There 5:00 PM
Thursday, Feb. 3 Eula Here 5:00 PM

All games will be played in the following order:
7th girls, 7th boys, 8th girls, 8th boys.

Baird HS Basketball District Games Schedule 2004-2005

* Friday, Jan. 7 Cross Plains Here JVG/VG 6:00 PM
* Tuesday, Jan. 11 Gorman There JVG/JVB/VG/VB 4:00 PM
* Friday, Jan. 14 Albany Here JVG/JVB/VG/VB 4:00 PM
* Tuesday, Jan. 18 Ranger Here JVG/JVB/VG/VB 4:00 PM
* Friday, Jan. 21 Eula There JVG/JVB/VG/VB 4:00 PM
* Tuesday, Jan. 25 Cross Plains There JVG/JVB/VG/VB 4:00 PM
* Friday, Jan. 28 Gorman Here JVG/JVB/VG/VB 4:00 PM
* Tuesday, Feb. 1 Albany There JVG/JVB/VG/VB 4:00 PM
* Friday, Feb. 4 Ranger There JVG/JVB/VG/VB 4:00 PM
* Tuesday, Feb. 8 Eula Here JVG/JVB/VG/VB 4:00 PM
* Friday, Feb. 11 Cross Plains Here JVB/VB 6:00 PM

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