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THE STAR

CALLAHAN COUNTY



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Volume 109 Number 45

BAIRD WEEKLY STAR, ESTABLISHED DECEMBER 8, 1887

Thursday, November 6, 1997

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Letters to the Editor

To the Voting Citizens of Baird,

I would like to share my views with the voter's, so they may better understand how this could affect the financial stability of our district.

There is a 98% chance of our district losing two of our top ten taxpayers in the next five years. The total amount these two companies pay into our local revenue is approximately \$30,000 a year. When we have a penny increase in our tax rate, it brings in around \$6500 a year. If we lose the revenue from these two companies alone, we will need a \$.0461 increase, just to offset the loss of income.

I have talked to the TEA in Austin concerning the Tier 11 funding for the next fifteen to twenty years. The school administration has said, "The state will not change the Tier II funding, because they do not want to go back to court." What the administration did not say is that if the state has a budget short fall, Tier 11 funding would be reduced by that amount. Also, the \$15,000 dollar homestead exemption is only guaranteed through 1999. As it stands, if we lose our Tier 11 funding our tax rate would be \$1.42 per approved by the voters. The administration

has said, that the air conditioning in the elementary would cost \$30,000 to \$40,000 dollars to repair. Actually, only two rooms are having air conditioning problems. I have checked on brand new central air and heat units, and the cost was around \$700 dollars per unit, or \$1400 dollars, we could have the air conditioners working in the rooms for a lot less than we have been told.

I don't believe that there is anyone in our district who does not believe we need a new elementary, and some other improvements to our school. But we need to have some forethought, as to the financial stability of our district for the years to come. Our school has the highest TAAS scores in the county but our tax rate is the lowest. This tells me, that it isn't a building teaching our children, but the men and women that have decimated their lives to giving children a quality education.

Rising Star has built a new elementary, without a bond, and paid cash. Gorman has just built a new junior high and paid cash as well, without having a bond election.

They have built their facilities for less than we are going to pay in interest on our bond. Our interest is going to be well over

\$1,000,000 for the life of the bond.

I think we need to make some long range plans to build the facilities we need. I believe, if we follow the course the school administration and the board has chosen, our district could very well be bankrupt in the next five to eight years.

We as a district have a very important decision to make on November 8, 1997. We can jeopardize the financial stability of our district by passing the bond, or, we can go back to the drawing board and make a sensible plan to make the improvements needed, and not break the backs of the taxpayers.

Pol. Ad. Paid for by

Tony Robinson

TO THE VOTERS OF BAIRD ISD:

In the article I wrote in last week's paper, I said Gorman ISD built a new junior high school, without a bond election. I was mistaken, they built onto their high school without a bond election, and paid cash.

I would like to add that it was Gordon ID that built a new elementary school in 1981. They also built a wing onto their high school in 1992, a track and football field in 1994, a baseball field in 1997, and they built a field house in 1996 that was

5000 square feet, at a cost of \$20 dollars per \$100 dollar value. Then you add the revenue lost from two of our top ten taxpayers, and our tax rate would be \$1.4661 per \$100 dollar value.

Our tax rate now is \$1.06. We have not even considered the unfunded mandates sent down from Austin. We will have unfunded teacher pay raises for the next five years, if they average \$100,000 like this past year, we will need to have a \$.154 tax increase per year, just to cover the mandates.

There has been a lot said about the rural water line helping our district financially.

In reality, the taxes these new homes will pay, will not cover the expenditures required to educate their children. The fact is that it will probably hurt our district instead of helping it.

I do not believe in \$1500 dollar toilets, \$250 dollar shower heads, and many of the other cost figures in our bond proposal. I realize that the prices are padded to ensure for cost

overruns. But the administration and board have said that they would not put the excess money back on the loan. If the elementary cost \$1,900,000 dollars to build, then the board and the administration could spend the other \$500,000 dollars anywhere they want to. If the bond should pass, I think that any excess money should be applied to the loan, rather than be spent on extras, that were not saved and put money back to build the facilities needed, or had a sizable down payment. Having no money to put towards the bond, the interest will be over \$1,000,000 by the time the bond is paid.

How many of us have \$1500 dollar toilets, \$750 dollar lavatories, and \$250 dollar shower heads in our homes? The cost figure in the bond proposal are astronomical and are out of logical reason.

We need to consider all options that are available to us, and make a sound business decision that everybody can live with.

Lets vote NO on November 8, and keep our district financially sound.

Pol. Ad. Paid by

Dyer Windham, 206 W 7th St., Baird

Scotty Goldsmith, 716 Brookview Dr., Baird

Bruce Williams, 441 Poplar, Baird

Jim Clark 732 E. 6th St., Baird

Remember To Vote On Saturday, Nov. 8

Vote On The Bond Election on whether or not to build a new elementary school

Baird mothers, Fathers and Teachers Assoc.

The Baird Mothers Fathers and Teachers Association is sponsoring a Troll Book Fair beginning Monday, November 10 through Thursday, November 13. The book fair will be located in the school library. It will be open to students teachers and the public on Monday and Tuesday from 8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. Hours of operation will be 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday. New books for young readers will be showcased and admission is free! As an added incentive to visit the book fair, visitors may enter their name once daily for an opportunity to win door prizes. Winners will be chosen at random at the close of each day of the fair. Adults will be notified by phone. Students and faculty will be notified the following day.

This special reading event features the best of children's literature, with hundreds of popular titles and award winning books on display. Everyone will have the opportunity to see and purchase the latest picture books and novels. There will be bargain books, value packs, timeless classics, Christmas stories and Accelerated Reading titles. Among the series books available are: Arthur, Mercer Mayer's Little Critters, Cirlehood Juorneys, Goosebumps, and books by Judy Blume and Beverly Cleary. The fair will also include a wide selection of science and craft kits some computer software and nonfiction titles for the whole family. Posters, bookmarks and decorative pencils will also be for sale.

Busy shoppers no longer need to make a trip to Abilene and fight those holiday crowds in order to find that perfect (and affordable) Christmas gift for loved ones, or for their children's teachers. This year why not make a selection from the book fair? Free gift wrapping will be available on all purchases that are identified as Christmas gifts. To make it easier than ever to select the perfect teacher gift, you can choose something from the Teachers' Wish List. These gifts will not only say "Merry Christmas" year after year but they will also create a richer learning experience

for your child. As an added token of appreciation every teachers' gift will be recognized with a bookplate identifying your child or family as the benefactor. Once again, the MFT has decided to take the profits from this book fair in books which will be donated to the school library and individual classroom libraries. If the gross sales from our fair are

between \$750 and \$1999 the MFT will be able to select 55% of the amount sold in books. If our gross sales exceed \$2,000, as they have in previous years we will be able to make an even greater contribution to the school libraries and our children's education because Troll Books will allow us to select books totalling 75% of the dollar

Baird Bears spook Evant

The Baird Bear's venture to Event on Halloween night proved to be both a trick and a treat for the Bears. The Evant Elks even showed up dressed in black, but Coach Kelly West's Bears tricked them for a score of 40-12 and got the treat of climbing the District 8-A ladder to 5-0.

The hosts' kickoff to the Bears was returned by Justin Rivera to Baird's 34 yard line. Baird, in control of the ball and the game, started off with a no-huddle offense and in less than three minutes, they had scored. Quarterback Jim Scott and the rest of the Bears moved the ball down the field with completed passes to Dusty Barron, Shane Devenport, and Logan Russell, and rushing yardage made by Jeremy Riney. After Baird's touchdown, made by Shannon Campbell, was called back because of a penalty, the Bears backed off; and did a repeat performance. Scott pitched to Campbell on an option and Campbell ran 22 yards to cross the magic line. Britt Johnson's kick was good for the extra point and Baird took the lead, 7-0.

Robert Mendez stopped the Elk's return, then Bears took charge of the ball after the Elks fumbled. Faster than anyone could say "Boo", Jeremy Riney sneaked across the goal line for the Bears to boost their points to 13. Britt Johnson's PAT was good and suddenly, Baird had 14.

amount of books purchased at the fair for the school's use. We hope that the entire community will come by and support this important fund raiser. With your help this will be our best book fair ever!

The second quarter brought in Lee Harle as quarterback for the Bears. The Evant faced

Evant's turn with the ball was short as Jeremy Riney, Kolt DaPron, and Lee Michael Reyna forced the Elks to punt. Jim Scott returned the kick to Evant's 47 yard line. Substantial rushing by Shannon Campbell and Jeremy Riney set the stage for Baird's next touchdown. Jim Scott sneaked the ball to Shannon Campbell, who scored on a 5 yard run. Once, again, Britt Johnson's toe was golden as he kicked the extra point. With 5:29 minutes left in the first quarter, the score was Baird 21, Evant 0.

The Bears kicked to Evant and the Elks were brought to a halt by Mike Rudder of Baird. Good defense by the Bears, crucial tackles by Logan Russell and Shannon Campbell, and a pass deflected by Jim, forced the Elks to punt again. On Baird's second down, Jim Scott connected with Shane Devenport on a beautiful 82 yard touchdown pass, which was called back because of a Bear's penalty. Shannon Campbell managed a nice 49 yard run to put the Bears in great position to raise the score another notch. Jim Scott laid off 24 yards to make the Bear's fourth touchdown in the 1st quarter. Baird's PAT was not good. The score was Baird 27 and Evant 0. With good defensive tackles by Britt Johnson, Kolt DaPron, Robert Gunn and Jason Gomez, the first quarter was over.

The Elks' kickoff return was stopped by T.J. Hunter and Robert Mendez. The first cracker out of the barrel, Evant's pass was intercepted by Baird Bear Jim Scott, who took the ball deep into Elk country. Even with a penalty, Baird took over on the Elks' 28 yard line and with the help of rushing by Jeremy Riney, Shannon Campbell completed a 13 yard carry to score his third touchdown of the night. Britt Johnson's PAT was aimed accurately through the uprights and Baird charged ahead, 34-0.

The Elks wasted no time and took advantage of an opportunity to scratch for the game. On the first down, Keith Martin raced 57 yards to put Evant on the scoreboard with 6. The PAT failed.

The Elks' kickoff was returned by Logan Russell of Baird. Baird Bears Robert Mendez, Justin Rivera, and Lee Harle executed the

Continued on Sports page



many of the young Bears for the entire second quarter and most of the third. These guys did a very good job, both offensively and defensively. The Elks met with great opposition against Harle, Jason Hooker, Kelby Robinson, Jonathan Parr, T.J. Hunter, Dustin Watson, Jack Pruet, Mike Rudder, Ty Wilson, J.J. Carrillo, Logan Russell, Coleman Vestal, Jeremy Gonzales, Junior Gomez, Robert Mendez, Justin Rivera and Jason Gomez.

Rushing yardage made by Lee Harle, Justin Rivera and Robert Mendez kept the Bears moving during the quarter. Tankles by Shane Devenport, Logan Russell, Shannon Campbell, Jason Gomez, Robert Gunn, Jim Scott, and Lee Michael Reyna held off the Elks. Then, an exciting interception by Dusty Barron, just as the half-time buzzer sounded, brought the crowd to their feet. Barron covered considerable ground for the Bears, but the Elks would not allow a score. The half-time marks showed Baird 27 and Evant zip.

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Continued on Sports page

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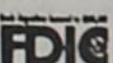
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Obituaries

Joe Dick Glover

Joe Dick Glover, 58, of Baird died Monday, in an Abilene hospital.

Funeral services will be held Thursday in the Parker Funeral Home Chapel. Rev. Rodney Watson will officiate. The body will be cremated after the service.

He was born May 20, 1939 in Lela, Texas. He had lived in Baird 16 years moving here from Dallas. He was the manager of the Walnut Hills Apartments. He was a Methodist.

He married Rose Parks Feb. 14, 1982 in Clyde. He is survived by his wife of Baird; two sons, Jay Hurley of Clyde, Jeff Hurley of Abilene; two daughters, Jami Pisasale of Abilene, Julie Jenkins of Abilene; one brother, Dan R. Glover of Dallas; one nephew and several grandchildren.

Letter To The Editor

It was my recommendation that no school board members attend the recent meeting of the Citizens for Better Schools. School board members are active on such a committee concerning the schools, it is my understanding that those meetings may then become subject to the Open Meetings Act. Those meetings would then have to meet the same criteria as any meeting of the Board of Trustees, such as posting an agenda, recording minutes, etc. It is not the place of the school board to try and run or control such committees. Several of us had planned to attend the meeting, but after deliberation decided it would be best if we did not attend. Sometime it is necessary to do the prudent and proper thing rather than yield.

If some of you expected board members at this meeting I apologize. It is always our desire, and responsibility, to be responsive to all the constituents of Baird ISD. Please continue to contact us with your questions or concerns. Following I have listed section BBF (local) Board Member Ethics from our Board Policy Manual. Hopefully this will explain the board's response or lack of response, in some instances Board regulations get much more specific and sometimes even more restrictive. They explain our actions even more than our Board Member Ethics but are to lengthy to disclose here.

The Code of Ethics for Board members follows.

As a member of the Board I shall promote the best interests of the District as a whole and to that end, I shall adhere to the following educational and ethical standards:

1. Bring about desired changes through legal and ethical procedures upholding and enforcing all laws State Board of Education rules, and court orders pertaining to schools

2. Make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of all children in the District regardless of ability race, creed, ethnicity sex, or social standing

3. Recognize that decisions must be made by the Board as a whole and make no promise or take private action that may compromise the Board.

4. Focus Board action on policymaking goal setting, planning and evaluation, and insist on regular and impartial evaluation of all staff

5. Support and protect school personnel in the proper performance of their duties.

6. Vote to appoint the best qualified personnel available after consideration of recommendations of the Superintendent.

7. Hold confidential all matters pertaining to school that if disclosed, may needlessly injure individuals or the schools, and respect the confidentiality of information that is privileged under applicable law.

Christian Poetry

By SUSIE WYLIE

Lord you never promise, all my days would be bright.

Nor would I shed another, tear at night.

Well, I know life is a miracle along the way.

There are happy times, laughter, love and peace.

There's sorrow and pain, but Lord you are always the same.

You promised you would stand by my side, In what ever I decide.

There will be peace in all my trials, stre-

ngth in my weakness.

For when I am weak, you are strong. The things you promised with never depart.

I'll trust you with faith in my heart.

All my trails will be nothing for the Lord.

He will be the one to give me my rewards.

I'll follow Jesus, He will make a way and show me, what to do every day. When you speak, you speak so soft. There no doubt, its your voice.

I will always have peace in my heart.

welfare of all the students attending the public schools.

Thank you and please continue to contact us as you feel necessary.

Sincerely

Kenneth Brock

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Race and Third
Jack Willoughby, Pastor
Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.;
Worship, 11:00 a.m.; Disci-
pleship Training, 6:00 p.m.;
Evening Worship, 7:00 p.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Fourth and Chestnut
Larry Black, Pastor
Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.; Pub-
lic Worship, 10:00 a.m.

CHURCH OF GOD
Thelma Dr. and W. Hwy 80
Rev. James Radford, Pastor
Sunday: Sunday School, 10:00
a.m.; Morning Worship, 11:00
a.m.; Evening Worship, 6:00
p.m.
Thursday: Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.

BAIRD CHURCH OF CHRIST
I-20 and FM 2047
Gary Williams, Minister
Sunday: Bible Classes, 10:00
a.m.; Worship & Communion,
10:45 a.m.; Evening Worship,
6:30 p.m.
Wednesday: Ladies Bible Class,
9:30 a.m. Mid-Week Bible Class,
7:00 p.m.
Nursing Home Service: 3:30
p.m. each third Sunday.

ST. JOACHIM & ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Cherry Ln.
Priest, Mark Woodruff
Sunday Mass: 8:30 a.m.

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
Hwy 283
Pastor - Ricky Carstensen
Sunday School, 10:00 a.m.;
Morning Worship, 11:00 a.m.;
Youth Group 5:00 p.m.; Even-
ing Worship 7:00 p.m., 7:00
p.m. Wednesday: Youth Meet-
ing, 7:30 p.m.
Holy Communion every 1st Sun-
day at 11:00 a.m.
Methodist Services at Golden
Holiday Care Center, 3:00 p.m.
every 1st Sunday.

CLYDE CHURCHES

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH
S. Access Rd., Off I-20,
893-5208
Charles Morgan, Pastor
Sunday School, 9:45; Sunday
morning worship, 11:00 a.m.;
Sunday evening worship, 6:00
p.m.; Wednesday night, 7:00
p.m.

Lt. Governor Bullock's appointments

Lt. Governor Bob Bullock has appointed Sen. David Sibley, R-Waco, to an open seat on the Research and Oversight Compensation.

Sen. Ken Armbrister, D-Victoria, and Sen. Bill Ratliff, R-Mt. Pleasant, both current council members, were appointed by Bullock to new terms.

The council monitors the state's worker's compensation system and makes recommendations for possible legislative changes. Three members are appointed by the Speaker of the House and two by the Workers' Compensation Commission.

San Antonio businessman H. Bartell Zachary has been appointed to the Transportation Public Advisory Committee by Mr. Bullock.

Zachary, the owner of a construction company, will serve as one of Bullock's three appointees to the panel as it advises the Texas Transportation Commission on funding and planning issues. The committee also will

include three members selected by the Governor and three picked by the Speaker of the House.

The Senate sponsors of legislation authorizing a feasibility study for public school computer networks have been selected to serve on an advisory committee with the Texas Education Agency.

Lt. Gov. Bullock named Sen. David Sibley, R-Waco, and Sen. Elliott Shapleigh, D-El Paso, to the Computer Network Study Advisory Committee. Sibley sponsored SB 294, legislation authorizing the joint study between House and Senate members and the TEA. Shapleigh was a cosponsor of the measure.

The committee is required to submit a report to the Legislature by February 1, 1999.

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Read The Classifieds

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Callahan County Unit of the American Cancer Society

The Callahan County Unit of the American Cancer Society has received the following memorials:

M.L. Hughes; James Eubanks; J.C. "Bullet" Cook; Lillian and Jack Cook; Waymon Pistole; Barbara McWilliams; Lester Wyatt; W.O. Pearce; R.V. Klepper; Howard T. Gleason; Ray, Tammy and Kaitlyn Walker; Nola Van and Granvel Pierce; Ferne Watts; Mr. and Mrs. Walter Urban; Dora and Frances L. Harris; Floy M. McMullen.

Memorials should be sent to Cubelle L. Harris, 300 W.9th, Baird.

Established in 1913, the American Cancer Society is the oldest and largest voluntary cancer-fighting organization in the world.


If you have cancer, ACS can help-- if you don't you can help.

Morales Continued

entitled, unless otherwise expressly provided by law, at all times to complete information about the affairs of government and the official acts of public officials and employees. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know.

The people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created."

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Callahan County Star
211 Market 854-1008
Lupe Garcia, Jr., City Editor

The Star
Callahan County's Paper Says
SHOP AT HOME FIRST



PRAYER CORNER

Psalms 84
How lovely is thy dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, yea, faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God. Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in thy house, ever singing thy praise! Selah
Blessed are the men whose strength is in thee, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools. They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion. O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! Selah
Behold our shield, O God: look upon the face of thine anointed! For a day in the courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness. For the Lord God is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor. No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly. O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man who trusts in thee!

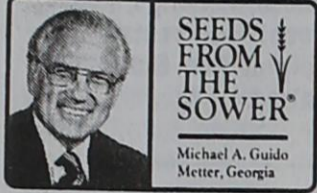
Psalms 150:6
Let everything that breathes praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

THE MAILBOX EXPRESS

Sunday, November 2, 1997



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MAKE YEAR-END BUSINESS MOVES TO CUT TAXES
Even though it's November, there are still some opportunities to reduce the tax burden on your 1997 business income. Consider the following strategies:
Timing. Typically your goal is to defer income and accelerate expenses. Cash basis taxpayers can do this easily by deferring billings so that payments are received after year-end, or by paying bills by December 31st. Timing is more difficult for accrual basis taxpayers. Proper planning for year-end bonuses can be one way to defer income.
Furniture and equipment. You can write off up to \$18,000 of capital expenditures, and take six months of depreciation on any excess amount for business assets put into service in 1997. If you are planning such expenditures, it might be wise to accelerate them into 1997. One word of caution: you will receive less of a benefit if 40% or more of all capital expenditures for the year are made in the last quarter.
Capital gains and losses. Corporate capital gains are taxed at the normal corporate rate, while losses to reduce taxes, or vice versa. You should sell capital assets for good economic reasons, not just to reduce 1997 taxes.
The most important advice of all: consult with your accountant for expert tax advice before making any moves. A brief article cannot point out all possible opportunities or pitfalls, but your tax advisor can work with you to minimize your tax liability. If you would like assistance with your year-end tax planning, give me a call.
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Regular maintenance for your cooling system is not something most people think about, so J & J Air Conditioning suggests you let them help you stay on schedule by calling for the Semi-Annual Preventive Maintenance Plan. We call our service agreement an **ENERGY SAVINGS AGREEMENT (ESA)**
This plan includes two routine scheduled maintenance calls; one in the spring (March, April, or May), and the other in the fall (September, October, or November).
By having your system serviced before the really hot or cold weather arrives, you can be assured of cool or warm temperatures inside as the mercury outside changes.
There are a couple of things you can do to help your unit run efficiently between checkups. First and most importantly, you can change or clean your filter often. You can also make sure the area around the outside unit is clear, to facilitate good air flow to that outside coil. Watch out for ants. They seem to like to build around air conditioning units, and if they get in the unit, can short out contactors and cause major problems. Use ant bait often if ants are in your area. Finally, let J & J Air Conditioning take care of your system for your peace of mind.
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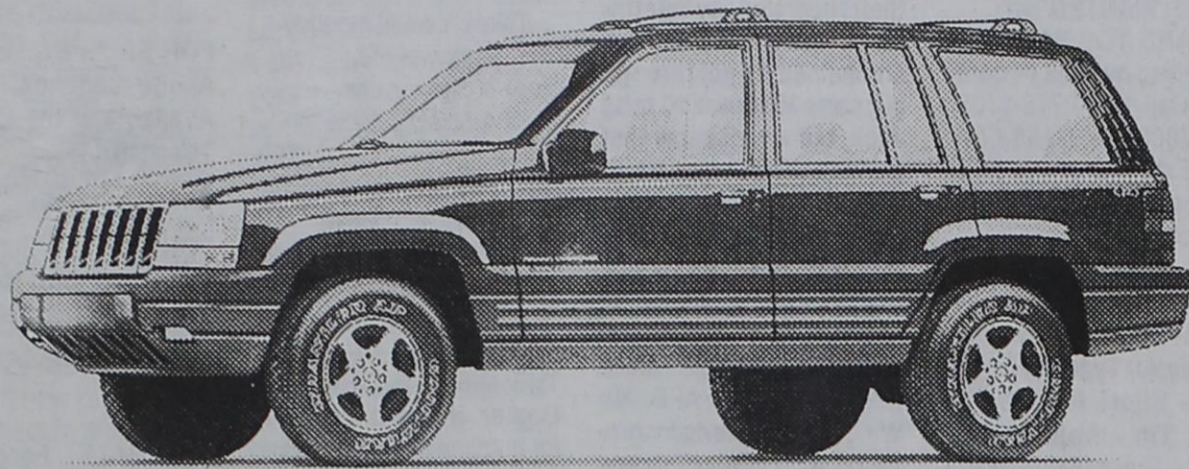
During the spring check-up, the professional technicians at J & J Air Conditioning will:
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The heating system will be checked in the fall.

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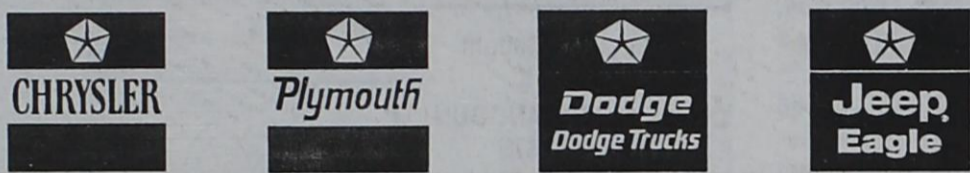
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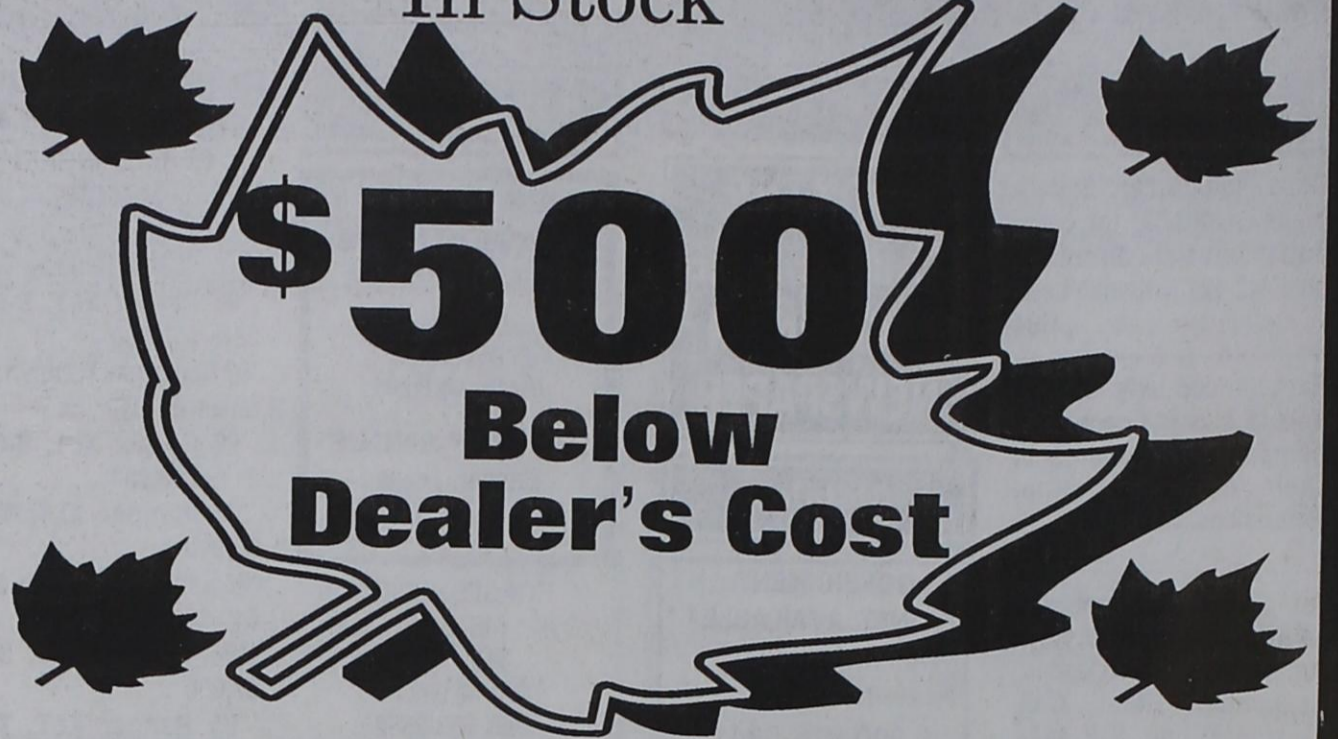


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Thanks a Million

WEEKLY SYNDICATED COLUMN by PERCY ROSS

Millionaire Percy Ross is known for his philanthropic work. He offers help and encouragement for those in need. He has earned a fortune and a wealth of knowledge during his lifetime and wants to share both. His motto: "He who gives while he lives... also knows where it goes."

The Need For The Right Guy In The Middle Of Your Camp

Dear Mr. Ross: After 15 years you'd think you'd know a person. I lived with him, ate with him, slept with him, even had 2 children by him and then bang—he gets up one morning and says he wants a divorce. Apparently, something younger and prettier came along. I'm devastated. And our children—well, they're confused and very angry. My whole world has imploded and I don't know where to turn. My husband has since moved out of our house and into her apartment. I prayed for a reconciliation up until I was served with divorce papers 3 days ago. Now I have no choice. He might have walked out of our lives but I'll be horse whipped if he takes anything more. He's drained our bank accounts so I don't have access to any money except that which I earn at my job. I'm financially strapped and an emotional mess. The very person I thought would protect me in this world has turned on me like an ugly monster. Where do I go from here?

Ms. S. M. ... Duluth, MN

Dear Mrs. M.: You've embarked on a roller-coaster ride and somehow you're going to need to find the wherewithal to get off. First, you need to protect the assets from your marriage that you're entitled to. To achieve this end, you'll need to secure an attorney who can sift through this mess and direct you in divorce proceedings. To help you get started I'm sending \$500 as a retainer for services. Remember, just because your marriage failed doesn't mean you're a failure as a person.

Dear Percy Ross: I'm in my late 40s, on Social Security and have met someone in the same age bracket. I love this individual and want to marry her. However, there are some problems and it would be quite expensive to take care of the major one. We have no money and she needs to go to Portland for surgery. She is half man, but has 3 times more female hormones than that of a male. She has female ovaries, pelvis, mammary glands, etc. This was a birth defect, just like someone born retarded. I do love this person. She

Write Percy Ross, P.O. Box 39000-B, Minneapolis, MN 55439. Include your phone number and the name of this publication. All letters are read. Only a few are answered in this column; others may be acknowledged privately.

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Guest Slot

By Becky Arnold
The 'side trips of guilt

Isn't marvelous the way our attitudes and spirits abruptly change with the entrance of warm Spring weather? It's a sudden burst of I-feel-good-enough-to-conquer-the-world energy, not unlike that jump-higher-run-faster syndrome we kids used to get upon donning a new pair of sneakers. I didn't think they still had that feeling since sneakers are out and athletic shoes are in, but they do. Nearly Perfect Grandson acted as if he swallowed a pogo stick a few weeks ago after getting a new pair. And had to stick his foot out and show them to everyone with whom he came in contact as well.

Unfortunately, just as sneakers got dirty, reducing we children to our mortal selves, that springtime burst of energy is also short-lived, forced down by the ever powerful, ever present GUILT COMPLEX.

As the sunny skies beckon me to the outdoors, my computer chides, "You have responsibilities right here." The yard and the flower gardens plead with me to spend time with them while the housework murmurs, "Prior commitments must come first."

It's a no-win situation. If I succumb to the calls from outside, guilt prevents me from enjoying myself; if I turn toward responsibility, my putting gets in the way, preventing me from working as quickly as I could.

How easy it was for me to feel empathy with Nearly Perfect Grandson the other day during the recent turn of warm and sunny, God-must-be-happy-with-us weather. He pressed his tiny chicken-pox-covered noes to the kitchen window, watching the kids in the court riding bikes, playing ball, and laughing and raising ruckus as only children can properly do.

"Side, 'side," he chanted while pointing to the door and smiling at me in his most beguiling way. How do you explain to a two-year old that he can't go 'side

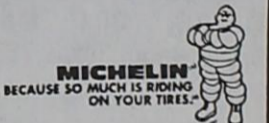
when he can infect the entire juvenile population of the neighborhood, thereby ensuring his Momo not being nominated for Neighbor of the Year anytime in the near or distant future?

How do you explain to a 42-year-old that she can't go 'side because responsibilities and deadlines loom on the horizon and, if not met, there goes the car payment? Well, the correct answers could be that our yard isn't well-kept enough for Neighbor of the Year anyway (we try, we really do), and dragging out the old bicycle would certainly be healthier for me (where did I put my oxygen bottle?). Sense and sensibility, not to mention right and responsibility, demand that the chicken pox kid take a nap and the pouting Momo plop her hiney in front of the computer.

It just occurred to me: Sense and sensibility and right and responsibility are cousins of patience and prudence and I never did like any of that family. A bunch of snooty goody-two-shoes if I ever saw any. They're always whining "I'm gonna tell," if anyone even thinks about having any fun. What's worse, I've been making Youngest Daughter hang around with the whole bunch of them.

Well, let me tell you, Nearly Perfect Grandson and I aren't going to let them boss us around anymore. No Sirree! We're taking advantage of the sunshine and going 'side and play. We're just probably going to wait until after dark to do it.

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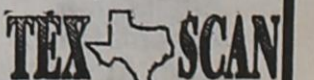
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Letters to the Editor

TO THE CITIZENS IN BAIRD ISD

As a citizen, I would like to address some of the concerns that our tax payers may have concerning the upcoming school bond elections and the future of school funding.

I verified with the appraisal district, that if a taxpayer in a pipeline or utility business were to pull out of our area, at least half of the revenue we pull from them would remain with us as those type companies routinely leave their infrastructures behind as opposed to spending more money to dismantle it. That infrastructure remains as taxable property. The appraisal district expects our tax base will remain stable with new properties moving into the area.

Concerning Tier 11 funding, I talked with Helen Daniels from John Sharp's office and Joe Wisnoski from TEA (Texas Education Agency). Both of these people were recommended to me "as the people to talk to" concerning school funding. Ms. Daniels stated that, historically, Tier II funding has increased \$1 Billion dollars plus each Biennium. She stated that trend is expected to continue as Texas continues to grow and

that, regardless of whether our local population grows, our Tier II income should increase because Tier II is distributed based on district wealth. Census figures indicate that the population in Texas is expected to double in the next thirty years. Joe Wisnoski, with TEA, stated that Tier II funding or something comparable, will be around as long as the supreme court is of their same mind. He sees no danger in the loss or reduction of this funding.

I talked with Paul Dyck, legislative assistant for Jim Keffer, and he stated that the \$15,000 homestead exemption is permanent and that it can only be changed by another constitutional amendment. Lisa Valenzuela, legislative director for Troy Fraser, confirmed that.

In regards to unfunded mandates there have been several over the last six years. The district has been able to absorb these through conservative spending and use of entitlements. Teacher pay increases for our school for the 1998-99 school year are estimated to be \$40,880.

Anything beyond that is purely speculation on possible action by the legislature. In regards

to the \$1,500 toilets and other questioned items the estimates include the ground work and all plumbing to install such items. As a citizen who has served the last 4 years with the men on your school board I can assure you that these men are very careful with our money. These gentlemen thoroughly scrutinize school bills and expenditures before, and at each board meeting insisting that budgets remain tight with no waste. I can guarantee you that an item as outlandish as a \$1,500 toilet fixture would never be purchased by these men. It's easy for me to be sure of that because I see them rake over items of much smaller value at every board meeting.

I understood that the construction estimates were to be as accurate as possible without underestimating so that voters wouldn't be asked to approve borrowing more money than was needed and unnecessary interest wouldn't be paid. If there is money left over it is my understanding that the board could apply that money to the principal of the bond or use it to reduce the tax rate in a bad year. I believe these men would not ask us for our money to complete a given project and then spend any leftover funds in a manner we wouldn't appropriate. I feel that the intent of this Board is to use this bond revenue towards

paying for the item that this bond is for and for nothing else. I, like many of you and the men on the board, want taxes kept as low as possible while providing the best possible education for our children. I believe that this bond issue is the cheapest most cost effective way, to accomplish needed facility improvements. Old structures with problems are difficult to maintain and will require very costly items to continue to operate several more

years. Tier II will make it possible to fund these projects with approximately \$2,000,000 of state funds and \$1,200,000 of local funds (\$2,100,000 principal + \$1,100,000 interest on a 1 year bond). In essence Tier II will pay the principal if we pay the interest. I have been reassured by knowledgeable people mentioned above that Tier II or a form thereof will be available throughout the life of the bond. I think we will be getting a good return on our money.

The Board has put a lot of thought and study into this project and I feel that their decision to call the bond election is sound. I think they would have been derelict in their duties as a School Board if they hadn't called this bond election. The question that remains is do we need the construction bad enough to spend \$1,100,000 of our local

funds? All of us will answer that question when we vote in the bond election.

The approximate tax effect of the total bond package passing would be: for Baird and for our children. Although approaches may be different the goal is the same. It is encouraging to me to get these calls and to be a part of a board the last 4 years on which each member has the children's best interest at heart. I feel this bond issue was not called to split and damage the community. I believe this election was called because these projects are what is best for our community, our school and our children. I have confidence in the men on the school board, the men and women in the administration, and in the citizens in our communities. I know that as we work together we can make whatever the outcome of this election is, to be the best for all of us. My prayer is and I know that we will all continue to work side by side for what is best for our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my opinions.

Sincerely,

Kenneth W. Brock

Paid political ad by Kenneth Brock

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Sonya Mitchell engineering technician with the Texas Department of Transportation was recently presented a five-year service award. Mitchell graduated from Baird High School in 1991 and began her TxDOT career as a maintenance technician in the Baird roadway maintenance section office. In her present position Mitchell conducts the laboratory testing for all the Abilene area office construction projects. She is the daughter of Scott and Brenda Mitchell of Baird. Lauren Garduno, Abilene district director of operations, presented the award to Mitchell during an awards ceremony in Abilene.

Sibley to lead governor's study on illegal gambling

State Sen. David Sibley on Thursday was appointed chairman of a special committee to study the relationship between the state's civil justice laws and the cost of insurance.

includes any recommended changes and draft legislation.

Also serving with Sibley on the committee are Sens. Gonzalo Barrientos, D-Austin; Teel Bivins, R-Amarillo; J.E. "Buster" Brown, R-Lake Jackson; David Cain, D-Dallas; Robert Duncan, R-Lubbock; and Eliot Shapleigh, D-El Paso.

Sibley also is chairman of two other interim committees, the Senate Interim Committee on Economic Development and the Senate Interim Committee on Electric Utility Restructuring. In addition, he has been appointed by Gov. George W. Bush to lead the Governor's Task Force on Illegal Gambling.

Congressman Charles Stenholm cordially invites you to invest in the future by participating in

An Education Summit with

Secretary of Education Richard Riley and West Texas Educators

Abilene Civic Center 1100 N. 6th

Monday, November 17, 1997

Program Displays: 5:30 -- 6:30 p.m.

Summit Dialogue: 6:30 -- 8:30 p.m.

Who should come?

Students, teachers, parents, administrators, business men and women and anyone else interested in the education of our youth.

Who will speak at the Education Summit?

Individuals on the front-line of education will speak about the programs which work in West Texas, while the Secretary, Congressman, State and local officials and other education experts listen and respond.

What is the admission price?

An interest in preparing our youth for the future. (No monetary charge)

This Education Summit is an official event sponsored by Congressman Stenholm.

The FAX of Life is a free weekly service from Rubel Shelly and the Family of God at Woodmont Hills

Subject: Whose Expectations? Date: For the Week of November 3, 1997

It happened in connection with a movie I plan never to see. And I'd never have known about it except for a more careful than usual reading of the New York Times due to a plane being held for an hour on the Nashville runway because of bad weather. Here's the story...

John Calley was asked by a friend to make a brief appearance in his film. He had never done a cameo before and wasn't particularly excited about it. "Are there any lines?" he asked. Indications are that a speaking part would have been turned down. When told there were no words to his role, he agreed.

A wardrobe person came to his home to fit him with a suit for the role. It is here that the story gets interesting. "She had all this Armani stuff, and I don't wear that," he said. "I have all these Brooks Brothers suits that I haven't replaced in 25 years."

The wardrobe person, he vows, warned him his career in show business would go nowhere if he didn't upgrade his clothing. "The whole thing was utterly degrading from that perspective," he laughed. And well might he laugh, for John Calley is the 67-year-old president of Sony Pictures Entertainment. Oops!

Congratulations to Mr. Calley for wearing comfortable clothing he likes rather than status clothing meant for everyone else to like. And congratulations to you when you resist the temptation to indulge, impress, or intimidate. Being secure in who you are, the decisions you make, and the life you live seems to be rare.

Too many of us try to live for too many others. We are inveterate "pleasers" and want every body to like us. Thus we make decisions like the stereotypical politician who doesn't know his or her mind until a poll has been taken.

That spirit is particularly dangerous to Christians. There are some issues where polls are not only irrelevant but downright dangerous. When God has spoken to us in Holy Scripture, political correctness goes out the window. When Jesus Christ has marked the path for his disciples, no other path can be holy for us.

The wardrobe person had a set of expectations based on externals. Most people do. You will be wiser and happier - not to mention holier - this week if you remain true to the right values you embrace, internalize what God has said, and live a principle-centered existence. In other words, live this week for an audience of One.

Be careful of the costumes others offer. They can rob you of your true identity.



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- Always use a gas appliance only for its intended purpose. An oven, for example, should not be used to heat a room.

- Always keep flammable materials and substances away from gas heaters and appliances. Remember, a pilot light is constantly burning.

- If your gas appliance is more than 20 years old, have it checked by a qualified professional. Certain older, uncoated brass connectors have flaws that may be dangerous and should be changed. Do

not move your appliance and check the connector yourself. Call a qualified professional to inspect and replace your connector if necessary.



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- 3 Do not use your telephone (telephones use small amounts of electricity).
- 4 Do not strike a match or do anything else that might cause a spark.
- 5 Go to the nearest telephone and call Lone Star Gas Company. Wait until we have found the cause of the gas leak before returning to your home.

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