

Callahan County

Baird Star 50¢

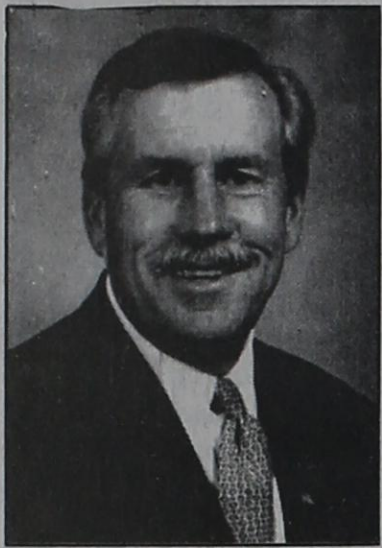
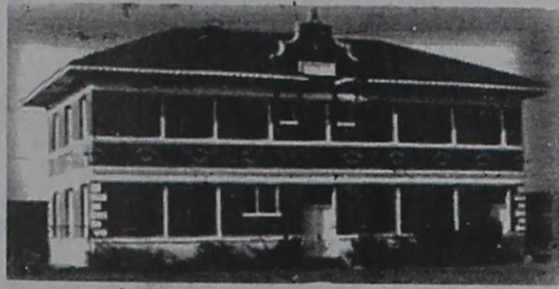
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31¢ By Mail

Volume #15 Number 51

Baird, Texas 79504

Thursday, December 18, 2003



SEN. TROY FRASER

POLITICAL CALENDAR

The following candidates have authorized this newspaper to announce their intention to run as candidates for the Spring Primary Election.

State Senate Dist. 24

**Troy Fraser
(Reelection)**

(Pd. Pol. Advertisement)

Fraser Announces Reelection Bid In State Senate District 24

State Senator Troy Fraser, R-Horseshoe Bay, continued his Senate District 24 re-election campaign kick-off with a third round of stops as part of a tour that will take him to all 21 counties that he represents.

"Experience and leadership are important in the Texas Legislature and we're about to tackle major issues like water and school finance," Fraser said. "As a proven conservative, today I'm asking for the people of this district to send me back to Austin to fight for our district's interests."

After filing his candidate's form last week with the Republican Party of Texas, Fraser has been meeting with constituents, local officials and representatives of the news media throughout the district.

Fraser told supporters he has already begun work on numerous areas of water policy. Last month, Lt. Governor David Dewhurst appointed Fraser to serve on the Select Senate Committee on Water Policy, as well as the Subcommittee on the Lease of State Water Rights.

"I've said many times that the most important battles over the next 50 years will be fought over water, and it looks like it will be one of the dominant issues next session," Fraser said. "In addition to

municipal water supplies, the economic livelihood of our district is very dependent on water for agriculture, livestock and tourism. As a member of the Select Committee, I'll be a position to help protect our water interests."

The committee is charged with examining a broad range of issues relating to the management of both surface and ground water, including the rule of capture, interbasin transfers, the regional water planning process and junior water rights.

The subcommittee will study proposals regarding the lease of state-owned lands their water rights for the intent of developing and marketing water.

"I have major concerns when people start talking about moving water from one part of the state to the other."

Fraser said. "We have to make sure we have the right policies in place to protect property owners. Water is an increasingly precious commodity and we shouldn't be making hasty decisions without thoughtful planning."

First elected to the Senate in 1996, Fraser is chairman of one of the upper chamber's most powerful committees, Business and Commerce, which handles the flow of legislation relating to telecommunications, insurance, banking, securities and lending issues, as well as business regulation and licensing.

Fraser is also a member of the Senate committees on Natural Resources, State Affairs and Military Installations & Veterans Affairs.

Prior to his election to the Senate, Fraser served three terms in the Texas House, from 1988 to 1992. In 1991, he was named National Republican Legislator of the Year and honored by the Texas State Chamber for his work as co-sponsor of the 1989 workers compensation reform legislation.

Since his election to the Senate, he has consistently been ranked by non-partisan organizations as one of the 10 most conservative members of the Legislature for his voting record. Earlier this year, he received special recognition from both the Texas Association of Business and the Texas Association of Builders for his work during the 78th Legislature.

Born August 10, 1949 in Abilene, Fraser was raised in the small West Texas town of Coahoma. He attended Angelo State University and the University of Texas at Arlington. He has been married to his wife, the former Linda Cochran, for 34 years. They have three grown children, Chase, Sunny and Andrew.

Senate District 24 comprises 21 counties: Bell, Blanco, Brown, Burnet, Callahan, Coleman, Comanche, Eastland, Erath, Gillespie, Hamilton, Kerr, Kimble, Lampasas, Llano, Mason, McCulloch, Menard, Mills, San Sab and Taylor.

Charles Stenholm's Statement On Capture Of Saddam Hussein

The news of Saddam Hussein's capture by American troops is a testament to the wisdom and strength of our men and women in uniform. I am pleased that Fort Hood soldiers had a big hand in this operation. While many challenges remain in restoring stability to Iraq, Iraqis can become more confident about moving forward.

In addition, the safe, swift capture of the Iraqi dictator shows that our intelligence and military forces are doing a good job working together, using tried-and-true procedures. I hope the procedures that worked so well in capturing Saddam Hussein will soon lead us to Osama Bin Laden.

Candidates Filing For 2004 Election Campaign Heats Up

by Viola Payne

Area people are saying, "This is really going to be an interesting election!"

They mention that a number of issues are involved.

The filing period for the March Democratic and Republican Primaries opened Dec. 3, and will close on Jan. 2, 2004. The Primaries are scheduled to be held on March 9.

Even as preparations are made for the election, the Congressional Redistricting Case is being heard in Austin in a U. S. District Court.

Rulings on this case - which involve the Republican plan for redistricting - could affect boundaries and congressional elections across Texas.

The final decision may have to be made in the U. S. Supreme Court.

U. S. Congressman Charles Stenholm (D) has announced that he will be a candidate for reelection in the 17th District - or whatever District he finds himself in after the ruling.

On a State level, Senator Troy Fraser (R) has announced his candidacy for reelection in the 24th Senatorial District, which includes

Eastland, Erath, Brown, Callahan and other area counties. Fraser opposed the plan for redistricting.

Incumbent State Representative Harvey Hilderbran has announced for reelection to District 53, which includes Callahan, Coleman, and Runnels County.

Nicki Harle of Baird announced in October that she will also run for District 53.

On a local note, four incumbents filed for reelection on Dec. 3 on the Democratic Primary ballot.

They are incumbent Sheriff Eddie Curtis, incumbent tax assessor/collector Tammy Walker, Precinct #1 Commissioner Harold Hicks and Precinct #3 commissioner Tommy Holland.

Sheriff Curtis, Tammy Walker, and Commissioner Holland are all residents of Baird.

Callahan County Republican Chairperson Pat Chrane announced that Shane Deel has filed for County Attorney.

Chrane has also filed for reelection as County Republican Chairperson.

Updates on candidate filing will follow as announced.

Water A Big Issue In State, Fraser Says

by Viola Payne

It was a bad day for flying but a good day for political discussions when State Senator Troy Fraser visited the Eastland Telegram Monday afternoon.

Fraser, a Republican, is running for reelection in the 24th District, a chunk of

Texas covering 21 counties including Eastland and Callahan.

He said he had no opponent as yet, "but the filing date doesn't end until Jan. 2."

He commented further, *Continued Inside*

Please see **Water**

Boy Scouts Donate to Clothes Closet Mission

Through their efforts, the Boy Scouts of Baird donated \$18.00 and over 200 pounds of food to the Clothes Closet Mission.

They also delivered a similar amount to the Clyde Food Pantry.

Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

Christmas Cantata
 Don't miss the Christmas Cantata to be held at the Baird United Methodist Church on December 21 at 7:00 p.m. Come early for a good seat. Invite your neighbors!

Bear Varsity Boys Win Miles Super Ribs Tournament: Baird Football Players Named To All-State Team

please see Sports page

Christmas Village Open Friday, Saturday, 6-8 PM



Visitors have one last chance to enjoy the enchanting Christmas Village in downtown Baird on Friday, Dec. 19 & Saturday, Dec. 20 from 6-8 PM.

The Village was a vision of the people of the Baird community, who began working on the beautiful displays in February of 2003.

Santa's Workshop, Candy Land, a Gingerbread House, Santa's sleigh and reindeer, a lovely little Ice Skater who turns 'round and 'round and never loses her smile, and "vintage visitors" are only a few of the many attractions.



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

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First Baptist Church Of Baird Events Scheduled

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.
Dec. 21st The Adult Choir will be presenting "A Christmas Gift" in the 11:00 a.m. service. Directed by Dennis Byrum
Dec. 21st Special Candlelight Lords Supper Service Sunday evening 6:00 p.m.

Dec. 24th Special Christmas Eve Service at 6:30 p.m. for all the family. No other church activities that evening.
Dec. 31st No activities at church. Family time for New Year's Eve.
Jan 2-4, 2004 YOUTH DISCIPLESHIP WEEKEND for all youth in the community. If interested please contact the church office or Ryan Ward, 854-1903.

Baird '48 Study Club Holds Annual Christmas Meeting

The Baird '48 Study Club met at 7:00 PM on Monday, December 8, 2003 at the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall for their annual Christmas meeting.

The dinner meeting was opened with a prayer.

A covered dish buffet was furnished by all the members. Decorations and music were provided by social committee chairman Chasity Pritz.

The evening continued with a wonderful video presented by Barbara Corn and featuring Shaunda Pierce, who is a Christian comedian and entertainer.

New members present were Donna Bell, Debbie McElmurry and Sondra Collins.

Other members attending were Kristi Belcher, Barbara Corn, Irma Crow, Billie Ann Earp, Frances Greenway, Linda Hart, Lori Higgins, Pat Holland, Tereva Hunter, Amanda King, Georgie Manion, Sally McGregor, Sue McNeil, Chasity Pritz, Cheryl Roach, Joanie Shrader, Joyce Smauley, Dyanne Thompson, and Dana Voigts.

The members were given Christmas ornaments that were made by Chasity Pritz. Each member contributed to the meeting by bringing a gift for a child for Christmas.

Hostesses for the meeting were the Social Committee.

The next meeting will be held January 12, 2003 in the home of Chasity Pritz.

From Page one ...
Water

"Anyone who has \$1200 can file," indicating that someone might do just that.

During his stop the Senator covered many subjects, but one he kept coming back to was the management of Texas water.

In November Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst appointed Fraser to serve on the Select Senate Committee on Water Policy, as well as the Subcommittee on the lease of State Water Rights.

About this time a number of issues involving the buying, selling and the moving of water from different parts of the state burst upon the public.

Several major water deals are under consideration by the General Land Office. One potential deal would allow a Midland-based company, Rio Nuevo Ltd., to lease groundwater rights on state-owned land in Far West Texas.

The other would involve the GLO entering into an agreement with another private company, WaterTexas, to supply water to an area of Central Texas. A third proposal is from T. Boone Pickens, and involves the pumping and piping of groundwater from the Pandhandle to other parts of the state.

The Brazos River Authority is reportedly negotiating an agreement with Pickens to obtain water from that source.

Fraser said he had major concerns when people started talking about moving water from one part of the state to the other.

"I'm surprised at the pace of these negotiations, especially since the Texas Legislature has not had the opportunity to review the proposals," Fraser stated.

Fraser was asked further about these and other projects by Editor/Owner H.V. O'Brien and newspaper

personnel.

Among them was a query as to whether the state could come in and direct that any extra water from the Eastland County Water Supply District be sold elsewhere.

"That's not a law, but it could come under a recommendation from the Regional Water Planning Board," Fraser answered.

He was asked if portions of Eastland County not covered by the ECWD had any protection from the buying and selling of water from the aquifer.

He said it did not - that was one reason why he recommended that each county join in a Water District.

"I've been a defender of local water rights, but it can be a double-edged sword. We need some clarification on the Rule of Capture," the Senator added.

"I'm going to be figuring out a way to protect the local rights to the water, but to urge responsibility.

"The deals on water are not a process to be rushed," he added. "I believe that the most important battles in the next 50 years will be fought over water, and it will be one of the dominant issues during the next Legislative Session."

In addition to his recent appointment on the Water Committees Fraser continues to serve as Chairman of the Senate's Business and Commerce Committee. He is also a member of the Senate's Committees on Natural Resources, State Affairs, and Military Installations and Veteran's Affairs.

Senator Fraser indicated he hadn't changed his mind one

bit in his opposition to the Congressional Redistricting plans he voted against during 2003. He was one of the few Republicans who voted against the proposals of the Republican leadership.

"What they did wasn't fair," he stated. "It would have been so easy to keep the (17th) District intact. We could have had a compact Central Texas District."

Fraser mentioned that the current proposal would split portion of the 24th State Senatorial District into five different U.S. Congressional Districts.

When asked if he thought the proposal would stand up in Court, Fraser answered:

"I don't think it is illegal. I don't like it - but I think the

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Valley View Healthcare Center needs LVNs Apply at 700 S. Ostrom, Eastland, TX. B52*

For Sale

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Baird I. S. D. schools will close on Friday, Dec. 19, 2003 for the holidays. Classes resume Monday, Jan. 5, 2004.

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

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

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Big Country Airman Part Of Crucial Military Mission

by Andre Sanders
Yokota Air Base, Japan

In a land rich with the history of the shogun, samurai and ninja, the son of an Abilene woman finds himself in the middle of a complex standoff. But this American warrior brings much more than just a sword to deter North Korean aggression and keep an eye on the China-Taiwan tensions.

Air Force Airman Scott R. Carney, son of Brenda Arrington, Fieldstone Road, Abilene, is a firefighter with the 374th Airlift Wing at Yokota. The base serves as the primary U. S. military port in Japan, and also as a counter to North Korea and its burgeoning nuclear weapons program.

As the only airlift wing in the Far East, it takes unique airmen like Carney to work under such special circumstances and accomplish a mission deemed crucial to U. S. security.

"It's my responsibility to protect the people, facilities and aircraft at the base from fire," said the 2000 graduate of Wylie High School. "We're constantly training to deal with any type of contingency — from building fires to aircraft crashes to hazardous waste spills — to ensure we're ready for anything."

Yokota, located 28 miles from Tokyo, lies hidden in rows of towering mountains and epic landscapes. Once a test ground for the newest in aircraft technology for Japan's 1940s-era war machine, the base now serves as a center for promoting stability in the Far East and is home to American C-130 Hercules cargo aircraft, UH-1N Huey helicopters and C-

21A Learjets.

And it also provides airmen like Carney access to a cultural experience like no other.

"Japan is a great place," he said. "The people, the history and the many beautiful sights to see make this a really exciting experience for me. The Air Force has given me a great opportunity to really take in a different culture and I want to make the most of it."

Carney's time in Japan has been memorable. And even though he's 9,000 miles from home and inundated with various responsibilities, there's still time to think about life back in the U.S. and the future.

"I'll be moving to Dyess Air Force Base in Texas soon," he said. "I like it here, but it will be nice to get back to the U. S. It will also be interesting to be back home and be in the military at the same time."

While living in the Land of the Rising Sun presents Carney a chance to experience the new signs, sounds, tastes and traditions of a unique culture, the airman's mission remains as advertised — defending America, its interests and its allies wherever the Air Force sends him.

Remember to give to the Goodfellows this Christmas season



Air Force Airman Scott R. Carney, a firefighter, is a member of the 374th Airlift Wing at Yokota Air Base, Japan. The unit provides airlift support to all Department of Defense agencies in the Pacific region. (Photo by Derrick Goode)



Pictured is Kellogg (dog) and Stacy Blair on a Harley Davidson motorcycle.

project for 16 months and I grew my hair to 10 inches, and took some pictures. A friend of mine has a Harley Davidson motorcycle, so we dressed up like a hippy in the 60's. I got my hair cut off in October and sent it in. Of course they will have to dye some of the gray out of it. However, gray is distinguished and that'll work.

We had a wonderful Walk-A-Thon with Guiding Eyes for the Blind in New York. This was my 12th one and we have raised about \$40,000 for guide dogs, and for other people to get guide dogs. To give you an update on my dogs, Guthrie is retired, is 13 1/2 years old, and Kellogg is 4 1/2. Kellogg is working great, and Guthrie is doing fine in retirement. His hips are not too good but for his health and age he's doing great. Both of these dogs have been wonderful blessings.

I was in Reno, Nevada in November where I attended a black tie affair for a chocolate fantasy experience. We did some fundraising for the American Cancer Society and had a lot of good chocolate. It was wonderful. It was a three-hour ordeal and my tux was getting a little tight after the pound of chocolate we had that night. I also did a new CD, a new recording in August; it's called Believing is Seeing and my testimony is based on John chapter nine, where Jesus heals the blind man. We are donating all these proceeds for five organizations and they are: Guiding Eyes for the Blind, The Gideon's International, The

Boys Scouts of America, The Make A Wish Foundation, and The Epilepsy Foundation of America. I also had an exciting trip to Steamboat Springs, CO for the Lion's Club. While there I went hot air ballooning, riding on a snow mobile, sleigh ride and horseback riding.

I also had the wonderful honor of flying with the Blue Angels in early December. We had to train in San Diego and we made a public appearance for the ADA, The American Disabilities, and we raised money for their purpose. I have a quick story to tell you about that experience. When I tell Kellogg to roll over, sometimes he rolls over, but often he won't, but when the Blue Angels say roll over, you roll over. We had to train and we rolled over but they would not let me fly the plane! I was so hurt. But that is OK for I trusted the pilot completely. He was a good Christian. We had a lot of fun as I've always been a thrill seeker, doing parachute jumps, and riding fast roller coasters when I was growing up. Then, to top things off, I played at the Crystal Cathedral while in California. Well, that is the name of that tune. To close, we are having a wonderful holiday season and I want to again thank everybody for my "Network of blessings", and you all know who you are. The Lord knows who you are and my prayers are with you every day. May God bless you with love.

Have a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year. And we will be in touch.

Stacy and Kellogg
Stacy D. Blair
4240 Saturn Road #169
Garland, TX 75041

A Letter From Stacy Blair:

Christmas 2003

Hello beautiful people, you all are "My Network of Blessings". I love you very much. Thank you, thank you, and thank you. I have had a very exciting year. Let me tell you about my exciting year.

I gave a concert in Falls Church, VA, and also gave a master class for a brass conference in New York City in April, and went by Guiding Eyes for the Blind to see my special friends. I was also honored to play for a friend's wedding that was on a cruise up to Alaska, and was honored to conduct the Vancouver Symphony on the Beethoven 5th Symphony; the Pastoral Symphony; I'm doing some conducting now and some playing and master classes and clinics, so I have a few irons in the fire.

Let me tell you a little bit about the Alaskan boat cruise. We went to Vancouver, British Columbia the last of May and conducted the Vancouver Symphony, then we got on the Holland American Cruise ship and went up to Juneau,

Skagway and Ketchikan. When I was on the cruise, I played for a friend's wedding and he entered me in a blackjack tournament, and surprise, surprise, I won first place. That's pretty good for a Baptist Gideon. I've never gambled in my life. We donated our money from our winnings to the Gideon Bibles and Guiding Eyes for the Blind. Also, now I do speaking engagements for the Lion's Club International and my friend again entered me in a blackjack tournament in Shreveport, LA. WOW, we won second place. So, we donated our winnings again to the Gideon Bibles and The Guiding Eyes for the Blind and the Boy Scouts of America. We had a wonderful Boy Scout Show in May also, and we have had a lot of good experiences this year.

I have also been growing my hair long for Locks of Love, which is a cancer organization that we donate our hair so they can make wigs for kids that are going through chemotherapy, and as a result, they lose their hair. I've worked on this

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List of Items Taken In Break In

- Yamaha "Wolverine" 1997 4 wheel drive (gun boot and gun rack).....\$5,800
- Model #YFM 350 FXJ, Frame JY44KBA06VA, Engine #061729
- Honda TRX 250, with gun boot and gun rack (1999).....\$4,600
- Vin. #478TE 2105XA204718, Engine #8204900
- Kubota Tractor with front end loader and John Deere 6 ft. tiller, Model L2850, Vin. 04KU1139.....\$21,500
- Millermatic Challenger 172 and M-10 Gun.....\$1100
- Welding helmet, gloves, rods, wire, clamps, vice, fence bulking jigs
- Celestron C7 telescope 2002.....\$3500
- Case, Minolta 201, adaptors, 50mm lens, 200mm lens, various filters
- North Star Pressure Washer #1575541 plus hoses and gun - \$789
- Stihl FSE 60 Weed Eater - \$275
- Horton Legend SL crossbow case and arrows with case - \$425
- Stihl 026 Chain Saw with extra chain, bar oil, and case 2001 - \$472
- Ridge runner ATV trailer for four wheeler - \$2000
- 2 Aluminum ATV ramps - \$250
- Hoyt split limb compound bow with quiver, SRB hard case, arrows - \$1000
- Craftsman 6 drawer and 5 drawer roll away tool chest (red) - \$400
- Craftsman 678 tool set - \$1800
- Craftsman torque wrench - \$150
- Craftsman robo grip pliers - \$75
- Jorgensen Clamps - \$200
- Various framing hammers, rubber mallets, small sledges - \$150.00
- 3/4 inch impact wrench (three of them) - \$700
- Mikida reciprocating saw - \$250
- Dewalt hammer drill - \$178
- Craftsman 2hp router - \$250
- 7 1/4 circular saw - \$119
- Right angle grinder and case - \$79
- 2 high lift jacks - \$139
- Dewalt 24v drill - \$238
- 2 bolt cutter 36" and 18" - \$146
- 18v combination kit from craftsman - \$300
- Cannon 4" x 6" x 3" - \$1200
- Ruger red label O/U 12g #41010176 - \$850
- S&W mode 39 (9mm) pistol (purchased new but can not find #) - \$500
- Raven arms 25 cal. pistol (registered to me but cannot find #) - \$100
- RWS 177 air rifle with leupold 9X scope - \$450
- Randal #1 survival knife - \$450
- AG Russel survival tool - \$128
- 4 military CN gas grenades - \$250
- 4 S&W tear gas canisters - \$100
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- Lee hand reloader and dies for 9mm, 45 cal., 308, and 223 - \$600
- 22cal 5000 rounds - \$100
- Bushnell 50 binoculars - \$125
- 4 military trip flares - \$500
- 12 gauge 8 shot nickel plate 20" police riot shot gun - \$500
- My grandfather's 16 gauge sweet sixteen brownie shot gun - \$400.00
- Savage over and under 223/12 with leupold 9x scope Serial# F590496 - \$680
- Russell size 9.5 snake boots - \$250
- 2 cases of 12 gauge, 2 cases of 20 gauge, 1 case of 16 gauge shells - \$150
- Damage to two steel doors of garage - ???
- Damage to tractor, impound fees and deliver fees - ???

Contact Windell Light, Deputy - 254-629-1774 if you have any information

The Idle American

By Dr. Don Newbury

Strange, isn't it, that we attribute all manner of chuckles and laughter to various ages? In elementary grades, we hear "tee-hee, hee-hee" and later "ha-ha." For added emphasis, perhaps in junior high, sometimes it is just one "HA!" (all caps, and fittingly punctuated). As we grope our way toward adulthood, sometimes laughter is glossed up to include "hardy-har-har." Little old men offer some "heh-hehs," and there are assorted gaggles of giggles, chortles, chuckles and such...

Only one individual among the six billion people on the planet has his own special laugh. It comes from deep inside the ample padding of Σ . Santa Claus! He is the only guy I know whose name seems always to be followed by ",ho-ho-ho%" in the next sentence or two.

Reckon how this happened?

As you may guess, I have a theory. At some long ago Christmas time, Santa hitched his reindeer to the sleigh, checked the battery in Rudolph's nose and performed the routine flight checks during a brief spin above the North Pole. Returning home around midnight December 23, he urged his charges to get some grub, take a long rest and hang out at the barn until he called. When it was time for the Christmas Eve flight around the world at dusk, he would summons them with a single word: HOSANNA! Upon hearing this invocation dressed up in a code word, they should all come running...

When the time neared, they heard a faint "ho-ho-ho," but nothing more. They

cocked their heads at each other, as deer do, thinking, "That's not Hosanna." Time and again, they heard "ho-ho-ho." Finally, Santa appeared, about an hour late. He was steamed. He knew the code word was "Hosanna" and the deer knew it was "Hosanna." What the deer didn't know was that Santa had come down with a cold, and all he could get out between sneezes was "ho-ho-ho." Be not afraid. They stayed on schedule because Santa declared night dark savings time...and put on his night vision goggles for maximum visibility.)

Another individual very nearly as unique as the bearded one is the heralded Dame Edna, who swoops into the USofA from the land down under, frequenting major evening talk shows with constant kibitzing about many personal acquaintances with presidents, kings, queens and other world-renowned personalities. The

dame is armed to the teeth (dentures, actually) with opinions about everything.

Oh, you'll recall Dame Edna, henceforth, we'll label her "DEF Dame Edna Forever." DEF's hair looks like it was spun from a cotton candy machine. (Maybe it is; she is never UNDER her hair when it is being done.) The rhinestone glasses are plenty big enough for a chorus line to peer through, all at once. The jewelry tonnage would tether a fishing trotline across Lake Michigan, and the dress, well, it appears to have been blown on with a paint gun.

Finally, the make-up. Lipstick is apparently applied with a paint roller. Eyeshadow is thicker than cake frosting. Overall, DEF's facial accouterments provide colorful proof of a second-place finish in a paint ball fight... If one were to see Santa Claus and DEF for the first time, the latter would draw the longer stare....

Ah, now you remember Dame Edna, don't you? Well, during a recent appearance in Dallas (Dame Edna The Show That Cares), DEF was typically topical, spending time kidding about many personalities in today's news, including Governor Swarzenegger. The Dame claimed that some years ago, Arnold proposed marriage. "Not in those exact words," DEF said, "But he was groping for them..."

DEF is from Melbourne, but is every bit as popular in America. Guiding the star, as DEF puts it, is "Sitting Horse, Native American Spirit Guide." Jubilant al-

ways, DEF takes a serious turn when mentioning agent Barry Humphries, whom "she" accused of ripping "her" off. Oh, did I mention the alter ego thing? Actually, DEF is Mr. Humphries, a decorated actor and artist in his own right who has done really well assuming the "Dame Edna" role most evenings since the 1950's. Barry, or Edna, or DEF, if you prefer, is almost 70.... He's a husband and the father of four children. Take your pick, Barry or Edna, neither fish, nor fowl....*

*No, silly, Edna is NOT Barry's wife. They are one and the same. His wife is back in Australia, spending Edna's money....

Dr. Newbury is an author/columnist/speaker in the Metroplex. His column appears in 100 Texas newspapers. Contact him for information about his books. See website www.speakerdoc.com, e-mail at newbury@speakerdoc.com or call 817-447-3872.

The Reader Who Cares

By Wanda Lee Beck Skinner

This will be the last time I will write under this title but it will become One to Another.

You have probably heard that I no longer work at the court house so that I can spend my time writing articles and books and doing genealogy for other people. I have having a ball but I do need to learn to be more organized.

The title One to Another is an effort to reach out to help others in the struggles of life. If you really want to be a good influence, it is up to you for people are hungering and thirsting after good things. You can also make the choice, in fact each day you do make a choice. Good bye for this set of articles and begin to watch for One To Another.

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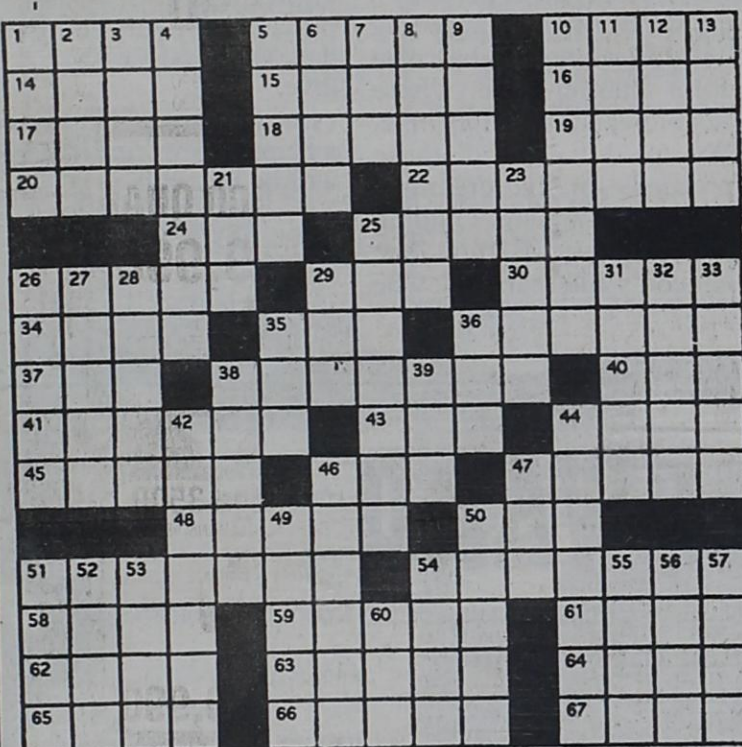
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ACROSS

- 1 Show approval
- 5 Robert or Jack
- 10 Pet shop purchases
- 14 Capital city
- 15 Roper's event
- 16 Substitute product
- 17 Land of bliss
- 18 Perfect
- 19 Tumble
- 20 WWII era
- 22 Smacked
- 24 French pronoun
- 25 Puts on the bulletin board
- 26 Beast of burden
- 29 Shallow coniator
- 30 Slightest
- 34 Sashes
- 35 Establish
- 36 Annual celebration
- 37 Sailor's malice
- 38 Accusations
- 40 Onassis
- 41 Native

DOWN

- 1 Mexican food
- 43 Word motor or vegetable
- 44 Fruit
- 45 acid
- 46 Lodge
- 47 looks like
- 48 Hot spots
- 50 Monkey
- 51 Praise
- 54 Item on a seafood platter
- 58 Musical number
- 59 Ending for
- 61 Let up
- 62 One who played Ethel Mertz's neighbor
- 63 Loose
- 64 Leave the ground
- 65 Weaver's reed
- 66 Brain passages
- 67 Word with shot or dragon

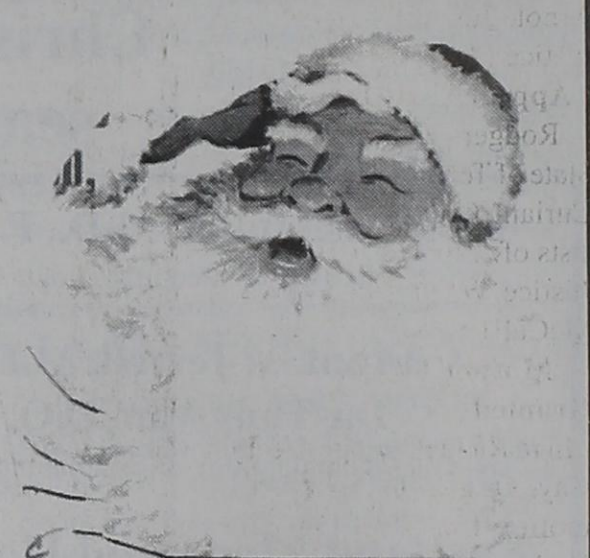
DOWN

- 1 Mrs. T
- 2 Resort island
- 3 U.S. resident
- 4 Undergarments
- 5 Burger accompaniments
- 6 Linear measures
- 7 Lyrical work
- 8 Fall
- 9 Motorist's charges
- 10 Lifeless ones
- 11 Leaning
- 12 Prefix for type or cast
- 13 Convinced
- 21 Not well
- 23 Traveler's aid
- 25 Patrick and Brigit, for Ireland
- 26 Rica
- 27 Perpendicular to a ship's keel
- 28 Dolphins

DOWN

- 29 Veggie
- 31 of Two Cities
- 32 Antitoxin
- 33 Edges
- 35 Pronoun
- 36 Sea creature
- 38 Pungent spice
- 39 Card game, for short
- 42 Peculiarly
- 44 Kitchen implements
- 46 Boyin a paragraph
- 47 Baden, for one
- 49 Tedium
- 50 Is sore
- 51 Public vehicles
- 52 Said
- 53 Unit of distance
- 54 Recipe direction
- 55 Form of ice
- 56 Greek peak
- 57 Tiny sound
- 60 Broke bread

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11th Court of Appeals

Eastland, Texas
Proceedings (En Banc)
December 11, 2003

Affirmed

Kenneth Joe Presswood v. State of Texas, Nolan. (Opinion by Justice Wright) Publish (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).

Araceli Agustina Osornio v. State of Texas, Dallas. (Opinion by Justice Wright) (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).

Dismissed

Edward Lewis Caruthers, Jr. v. State of Texas, Taylor. (Per Curiam Opinion) (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).

Isidro Martinez Ramirez v. Officer Merritt, CO, Scurry. (Per Curiam Memorandum Opinion) (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).

Motion Submitted & Granted; Appeal Dismissed

John Douglas Simmons v. Alan Thompson et al, Midland. Appellees' motion to dismiss appeal. (Per Curiam Memorandum Opinion) (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot and Justice Wright) (Justice McCall not participating)

Writ of Mandamus Denied

In re Isidro Martinez Ramirez, Orig. Pro. (Per Curiam Memorandum Opinion) (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).

Order Not Disposing of Case

Edward Lewis Caruthers, Jr. v. State of Texas, Taylor. (Per Curiam Order) (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).

Appeal Abated

Rodgers Dean Jenkins v. State of Texas, Eastland. (Per Curiam Order) (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).

Motion for Rehearing Granted

In re Randal Franklin Caraway, Orig. Pro. Appellant's motion for rehearing. (Per Curiam Order) (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).

Motions Submitted & Granted

Combustion Engineering, Inc. and Owens-Illinois, Inc. v. Robert Hutchinson and Joyce Hutchinson, Nolan. Appellant's unopposed emergency motion to amend Appellant's brief.

Vernon Sam Woodard v. State of Texas, Dallas. Appellant's motion for extension of time to file brief.

Gore Oil Company d/b/a Crego Exploration, Brown. v. The Pickens Company, Inc., W.C. Pickens, Jr., and Cody Texas, L.P. v. Steve Roosth, Trustee,

New Horizons Oil & Gas, Ltd., and John D. Proctor, Trustee. Appellees' agreed motion to substitute Appellees' brief.

Kerry Jon Aitchison aka Kerry Jon Atkinson v. State of Texas, Taylor. Appellant's second motion for extension of time to file brief.

McGrady Trucking a/k/a and d/b/a McGrady Trucking Co. and McGrady Trucking v. Amerisure Mutual Insurance Co., McGrady. Appellant's joint motion for extension of time to file brief.

Keith W. Frances v. State of Texas, Harris. Appellant's motion for extension of time to file brief.

State of Texas v. James S. Masonheimer, Taylor. Appellant's (State) second motion for extension of time to file brief.

Charles Sylvester Alridge, III v. State of Texas, Galveston. State's motion for extension of time to file brief.

Wayne Boyd v. Winn Dixie Stores, Inc. and Texas Workforce Commission, Callahan. Appellant's motion for leave to waive the Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure Rule 9.4(e).

Isidro Martinez Ramirez v. Officer Merritt, CO., Scurry. Appellant's pro se request to convert proceeding to a mandamus proceedings under Rule 52.

Conoco, Inc. v. Incline Energy, Inc., Midland. Appellee/Cross-Appellant's motion for extension of time to file notice of appeal.

William Clay Pitts aka William Clay Pitts, Jr. v. State of Texas, Erath. Appellant's motion for extension of time to file brief.

Johnnie Watson v. State of Texas, Coleman.

Appellant's motion for extension of time to file notice of appeal.

In the Interest of S.L.W. and C.R.W., children, Taylor. Appellant's motion for extension of time to file accelerated notice of appeal.

Motions Submitted & Overruled

Tri-Star Petroleum Company v. Tipperary Corporation, Tipperary Oil & Gas Corporation, Tipperary Oil & Gas (Australia) PTY LTD, Midland. Appellant's motion for rehearing. (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).

In re Van Lee Brewer, Orig. Proc. Appellant's pro se motion for rehearing. (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).

Cases Submitted

James D. Harlow v. John Mathews Giles, Sam Treldon Cutbirth, Robert Beadel and

Bradley W. Brookshire, Brown. Geneva Honeycutt v. David Higgins and Janet Higgins, Howard. Saleh W. Igal v. Brightstar Information Technology

Group, Inc., and BRBA, Inc., Dallas. Richard L. Woods v. State of Texas, Collin. Israel Williams, Jr. v. State of Texas, Dallas.

Poetry Corner

HAPPINESS

On a cold winter evening
The snow blowing outside.
He sits and watches the fire burn
And wishes his loved ones were at his side.
The book he was reading slowly falls from his lap
His eyes slowly closed as he dreamed of peace and happiness.
The dreams always seem so real
That took him back so long


ago.
When there was joy and happiness
And they would run and play in the snow.
Waking seems so hard to do
When the dreams seem so real.
The Lord has a purpose in my life
So I will seek to do His will.
By Bob Harbin

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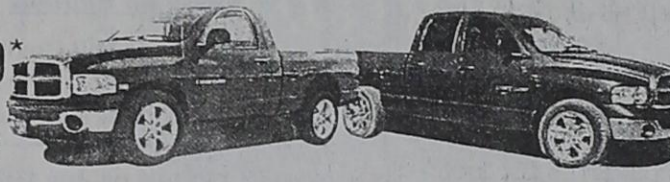






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<h3>4X2</h3> <p>\$29,790*</p> <p>6 SPEED Cash Price ... \$32,790 Rebate ... \$3,000</p>	<h3>2004 DODGE 3500</h3> <p>SLT. QUAD, TRAILER TOW, ANTI-SPIN</p>  <p>\$30,290*</p> <p>AUTO Cash Price ... \$33,290 Rebate ... \$3,000</p>	<h3>4X4</h3> <p>\$32,490*</p> <p>6 SPEED Cash Price ... \$35,490 Rebate ... \$3,000</p>	
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<h4>2001 Dodge 3500</h4> <p>QUAD, SLT, 4X4, CUMMINS, #E02512A</p>  <p>\$19,990*</p>	<h4>1997 Dodge 2500</h4> <p>4X4, EXT CAB, CUMMINS, LONG BED, #E02475B</p>  <p>\$14,990*</p>	<h4>2003 Dodge 1500 4x4</h4> <p>HEMI, QUAD, SLT, 10K MILES, #E02615A</p>  <p>\$26,990*</p>	<h4>2003 Dodge 3500 Flatbed</h4> <p>4X4, 6 SPEED, CUMMINS, 19K MILES, #E02798A</p>  <p>\$26,990*</p>	<h4>2003 Dodge 3500</h4> <p>QUAD, H.O., AUTO, 9K MILES, LOADED, #E02370A</p>  <p>\$29,490*</p>

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Eastland County Classifieds

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New: 10 A, pavement frontage, seasonal creek, some timber \$1,250 acre.

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

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

NEW: 19 A south Gorman, 3/4 mile on Co. Rd. 100, in n. e. underground home, electricity, well & septic. Great fish and wildlife place. \$37,000.

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

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

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

NEW: 185 A S/E Rising Star, coastal & k. Cabin, pond, water well. \$895 acre.

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

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HOMES FOR SALE
FOR SALE: Owner Finance. 3 BR, 2 BA, gameroom and more. 613 S. Seaman, Eastland. \$58,000- Consider renting. Also Lot For Sale downtown Eastland. 631-0904. E104*

REDUCED PRICE: 3 BR, 1 Bath and small 2 room house- on 3 lots. Call 629-2809 after 5 p.m. or 254-722-3906 and leave a message. E2

House For Sale In Ranger: Cute! 2 BR, 1 Bath, w/carpport and W/D connections. \$22,500 (\$2,000 down). Owner will finance. No credit check. (254) 734-3970. E103

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FOR RENT

Greer's Indoor Storage: More Security - More Space - Less Cost. 205 Main St., Ranger. Call 629-3989 day and 647-3422 night. R87-104

HOUSE FOR RENT IN CISCO: 3 Bedrooms, 1 1/2 bath, Central H/A, fenced backyard, 2 carpports. \$350/month, \$250 deposit. Call Cheryl Sosebee (254) 442-2068. T100

MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT

FOR RENT: Small 1 BR trailer in Eastland. 2 possible 3 BR houses in Cisco. For information call 631-2524. E100

MOBILE HOME FOR RENT: 2 BR, 2 BA, Central H/A, in nice park. No Pets. \$300 + deposit. 629-1848. E104

FOR RENT: No deposit with utilities paid. 3 or 2 bedroom mobile home. Refrigerator, stove, washer, dryer, furnished. SUNSHINE VALLEY, Leona Morton, 442-1365. C104

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MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT

FOR RENT: No deposit with utilities paid. 3 or 2 bedroom mobile home. Refrigerator, stove, washer, dryer, furnished. SUNSHINE VALLEY, Leona Morton, 442-1365. C104

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C.N.A.'s all shifts
Please apply in person at 600 W. Roosevelt Gorman, Texas
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HELP WANTED

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HELP WANTED

Part-time attendants needed to assist elderly and disabled clients with personal care and light housekeeping in Ranger area on weekends. Must have own transportation. Contact Sheila 1-877-885-7056. E101

HELP WANTED

Valley View Health Care needs CNAs every shift. Payrate varies with experience. Apply in person to Director of Nursing 700 S. Ostrom, Eastland. E103

HELP WANTED

Ranger Care Center is currently looking for a Weekend RN. Apply in person at 460 W. Main St. or call Stormie at 254-647-3111 for more information. R99-104

HELP WANTED

Eastland Farm & Ranch is looking for a Part-time Secretary on Saturdays- if interested come by 301 N. Seaman, Eastland, Texas or call (254) 629-2173. E100

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Valley View Health Care needs LVNs. Apply at 700 S. Ostrom, Eastland. E103

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Pyramid HealthCare a Leader in the long-term care industry, is looking for candidates to join our progressive team. Heritage Manor of Gorman currently has the following position(s) available:
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C.N.A.'s all shifts
Please apply in person at 600 W. Roosevelt Gorman, Texas
Pyramid HealthCare EEOE M/F/D/V E100

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Regional Employers To Be Recognized At Workforce Center Event

Eastland, Gorman, and Cross Plains Employers Among Recipients

In an effort to emphasize the impact of our nation's workforce on our economic prosperity and quality of life, the board and staff of the West Central Texas Workforce Center System is hosting a Salute to the American Workforce Celebration at the Workforce Center, 400 Oak Street in Abilene, on Wednesday, December 17, 2003 at 1:00 P.M.

Along with regional legislators, including State Representative Jim Keffer, the TWC Commissioner representing Employers, Ron Lehman, will present awards to businesses in the region for outstanding service to the workforce and to their communities.

Business to be recognized with the annual Business Salute Award include the City of Eastland, Heritage Manor of Gorman, Jonell, Inc. in Breckenridge, Lawrence Bros.IGA in Winters, Patterson UIT Energy, Inc. in Synder, Rentech Boiler Services in Abilene, Schuman Equipment in Tye, and Stephens Memorial Hospital in Breckenridge.

A number of dignitaries will participate in the ceremony, and also planned is a patriotic musical tribute by the Sweet Adelines.

"Our workforce is the lifeblood of our economy, and we salute the contributions of our businesses and their employees who live and work in our region," states Ken Becker, West Central Texas Workforce Development Board Chair.

The Workforce Development Board is one of 28 boards in the state of Texas charged with oversight and policy-making responsibility for workforce and training programs in a nineteen county region.

The Workforce Center is contracted by the Workforce Board to provide services to businesses and to job-seekers in the region including job listings, training assistance, facility usage for interviewing and training, and information and referral.

"There are many outstanding businesses in our region who have utilized our services, and we wish to express our appreciation for their role in building a strong

labor force for West Central Texas," states Mary Ross, Executive Director of the Workforce Board.

The Workforce Board will also honor two regional businesses as Employers of the Year for 2003 on Wednesday, December 17.

Barr Fabrication of Cross Plains and Hendrick Family Health Clinic will be honored at 11:00 a.m. in the Taylor Room of the Workforce Center during the regularly-scheduled meeting of the West Central Texas Workforce Development Board.

Commissioner Ron Lehman from Austin, TWC Commissioner Representing Employers, will be in attendance to make the presentation.

Advertise in the Classifieds

The Gifts of Christmas

By Hazel Stone
1444 Pagewood Ave.
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Finding the ideal gift at Christmas for someone we love is a challenge.

What a wonderful tradition the wise men started! The story of the coming of the Wise Men, found in Matthew 2:1-12, is foretold in Isaiah 60:1-6. The length of their journey shows how far they were willing to go to seek Christ. The Wise Men traveled from Persia, present day Iran. The names of Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar, sometimes given to the Magi, are not mentioned in the Bible.

The Greek word Magi, used in Matthew, describes a select group who were seekers of wisdom. They studied the stars and were familiar with the prophetic readings of many religions.

How did these travelers choose gold, frankincense and myrrh? Did these men consider other gifts? We can only guess at some of the answers we want to know about the gifts given by the Wise Men. We do know some about these gifts.

In Matthew 2:11: "Entering

the house where the baby and Mary His mother were, they threw themselves down before Him worshiping. Then they opened their presents and gave Him gold, frankincense and myrrh." Although we often see pictures of three wise men bowing before the Baby in the manger, we know that the Baby was already living in a house and that He was between several months and two years old.

We also do not know how many "Wise Men" there were. We believe that these men belonged to a learned class and probably were men of high standing, for they had access to Herod. The desert over which they traveled was infested with bandits and their arrival in Jerusalem showed their importance as their arrival "stirred the whole city." The family of Jesus was poor and except for the gold brought by these men may not have had financial means to escape Herod.

When we search the Bible concerning gold, we read Genesis 2:11-12 that Pishon, which wound across the entire length of the land of Havilah, had nuggets of pure gold. We read in Kings 10:14-17 about Solomon's splendor. We find that the worth of gold that Solomon received yearly was about \$20,000,000 besides sales taxes and profits from

trade with the kings of Arabia and the other surrounding territories. Solomon had some of the gold beaten into two hundred pieces of armor and that gold worth \$6,000 went into each piece and that three hundred shields (about \$1,800 worth of gold) was put in each piece, so we realize that much gold was used by Solomon.

Surely there were many times that the family of Jesus needed gold!

When we moved on to the frankincense mentioned, we are intrigued as we know the Jewish custom was to wrap a dead body with linen soaked in spices. In John 19:39 we read about the burial of Jesus. The NIV says: "Later, Joseph of Armathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body. He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes (about seventy-five pounds). Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial custom."

We know that Joseph and Nicodemus were both members of the Sanhedrin and that the place where Jesus was crucified was near the tomb where Jesus was buried. We

also know that frankincense is written about in Esther. In Esther 2:12 it says that the oils of myrrh were used for six months on girls who were to be made ready to go to the royal palace before the king.

Yes, finding the ideal Christmas gift for those we love can be quite a challenge. It usually takes a lot of thought and considerable time to select a useful, appreciated and needed gift. The wise men were certainly wise when it came to gift giving! What a great tradition those men from the East continued as they reciprocated God's gift of His only Son.

But what about us? How do we respond to God's gift at Christmas time? When Christina Rossetti wrote her verse, she wrote about the perfect Christmas gift, for she wrote:

"What can I give Him, poor as I am?"

If I were a shepherd, I would bring Him a lamb;

If I were a wise man, I would do my part;

Yet what can I give Him - I will give Him my heart."

Pam Kidd from Tennessee, in the *Guideposts* writes: "My name-your name-is written on the tag. Tear back the paper on Christmas Eve and open the box. The best of all presents-something so beautiful we could never have imagined it-waits for you and me. It is the pure love of Jesus Christ. It is ours, the children of God, for the taking."

Read The Classifieds

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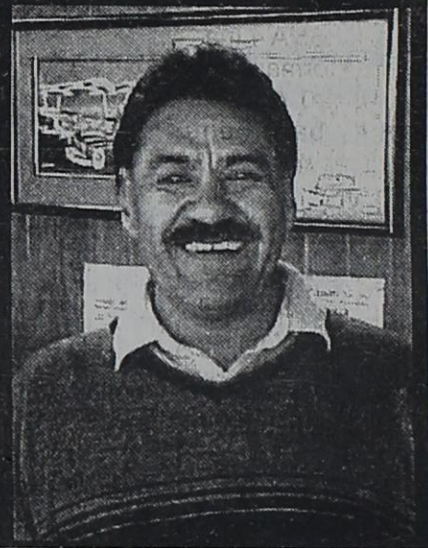
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Just Remembering

By Jasper Cook

Like most people, we had turkey for Thanksgiving dinner. I recently spoke at a Rotary Club and they served me a turkey dinner. Not long ago I spoke at a Lion's Club and they served me a turkey dinner. My wife informed me this week that our children are coming to our house for Christmas dinner. I asked her what we were having. You know the answer, TURKEY DINNER! When will it all end?

Sometimes I think turkeys have a hex on me. When I hear the word "turkey" I always remember an incident that happened to me many years ago.

I had recently moved to a town in Michigan where I had been appointed Pastor of the Methodist Church. One of our female members called me one Thursday morning and informed me that our church ladies were sponsoring a turkey dinner in the church basement the coming Saturday. She ordered me to accompany a certain gentleman in his pickup truck, go to the Public Food Lockers and transport

the turkeys to the church. I do not remember how many turkeys we transported, but they were planning for more than 1,000 people.

By the time we finally had those turkeys moved to the church, snow began falling and we suffered one of the greatest snow storms that town had ever seen. The turkey dinner had to be postponed. You guessed it, we had to move those turkeys back to the lockers. The dinner was re-scheduled for two weeks later, when my friend and I moved those turkeys back to the church.

I was sick of handling turkeys. I didn't want to hear the word "turkey." I even had nightmares about turkeys!

During the church board meeting, the week following

the dinner, I made a terrible, but honest, mistake. I complained, mildly, about having to spend my time moving turkeys. I explained that I had much more important things to do.

The lady in charge of the turkey dinner informed me that it was necessary for the ladies of the church to hold those dinners annually. They helped pay my salary.

I stated that if I had to depend on a bunch of old hens for a salary, I wasn't much

of a preacher. That did it! The fat was in the fire! I was referring to those old turkey hens, and the ladies thought I was calling them a bunch of old hens.

Thirty seven years have passed and I still haven't convinced those ladies I meant turkey hens. I visited that church recently, and I was greeted with several "gobble-gobbles."

My wife doesn't know it, but I plan to go out for a hamburger for Christmas dinner.

Another Veteran Speaks Out...

What Is A Veteran?

We recently ran a piece entitled What Is A Veteran? The following are the thoughts of another veteran:

A vet is an old man, living alone, sitting quietly at home at night, because he can't see well enough to drive to go visit someone. He sits in his canoe in the spring and summer fishing, catching perch, bass and blue cats. He sits there on the lake and remembers 52 years ago, when he was a skinny teenager in a strange world of the Arab people, pulling his buddy, two, maybe 250 yards to shore out of the salty Mediterranean Sea to prevent him from drowning (IT WAS EASY, HE WAS HIS FRIEND!) and thinks: Sure was glad there wasn't anything on that Air Force Base to do, except go to the beach and swim, and that makes him a GOOD SWIMMER and that saved his buddy's life! He also remembers that same HOT summer in those same salty waters just how CLOSE he came to drowning! An educated guess, 1/2 second longer under water would have been too late! And still nearly cries just thinking about both incidents. And out loud, says, Thank you Lord! How long can you EVER THOUGHT POSSIBLE! He was the skinny teenager that never went into combat (although he volunteered to do so) but did what he was assigned to do. As he was trained to do, keeping the big propellers in top working order so the big aircraft could keep flying. Folks, let's support our troops 100 percent and pray that they do their jobs and come home safe.

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!

(Signed: a vet that is proud to have served his country.)

From Whence Came I

By Wanda Lee Beck Skinner

I have an unusual gift suggestion for you this Christmas. Write a true to life experience about Christmas when you were the age of the person to whom you will give this write up. If the person is six years old, think back to the time you were six years old and it was Christmas. Write about the people who lived in your family, the visitors who came to your home, or the place your family went to celebrate Christmas. Give the details of the decoration placed in the home and the meal prepared for the guests. Write about the gifts you received and the ones that were your favorites. Maybe you received a doll but don't stop there, describe the doll down to the clothes it was wearing the special things about it such as it cried or it wet its pants. If you have pictures to go with the article it will be even more appreciated. You might even take a time to read aloud one of two of the written articles.

Query: I am searching for a murder that occurred some times in 1910. Willard Green Justice lived in Eastland County between 1900 and 1910 probably in Staff. It has been said that he was killed by a son-in-law or step-son. I can find no record of a trial on Eastland County, but it did happen here. Any help would be appreciated. Barbara Jones barb_1_61@yahoo.com

Answers to Crossword Puzzle

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LIMA RODEO OLEO
EDEN IDEAL ROLL
FORTIES SLAPPED
HILLS POSTS
CAMEL PAN LEAST
OBIS SET EASTER
SEA CHARGES ART
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<p>2004 FORD F-150 REG. CAB STK# C513</p>  <p>\$20,777*</p> <p><small>MSRP \$23,065 RF Discount \$2,288</small></p>	<p>2004 FORD F-150 QUAD CAB STK# C519</p>  <p>\$24,999*</p> <p><small>MSRP \$28,040 RF Discount \$3,041</small></p>	<p>2004 FORD F-150 SUPER CREW XLT, V8, AUTO, P. PEDALS, T.TOW, #C588</p>  <p>\$28,399*</p> <p><small>MSRP \$32,085 RF Discount \$3,686</small></p>		
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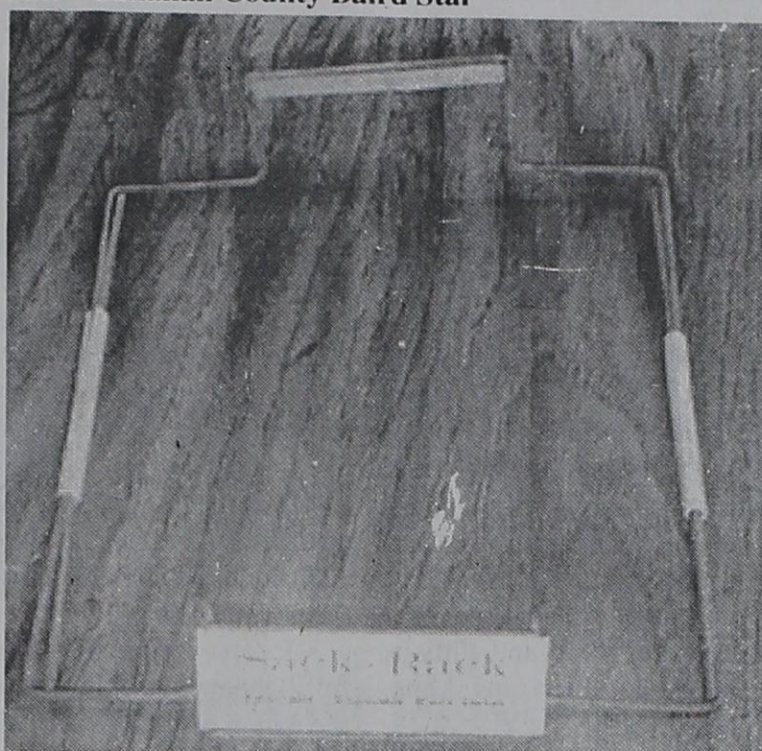
By H.V.O.

WE ASKED here recently for help in remembering the name of the popular drive-in restaurant back in the '50s+ out on the south side of West Main St. where "Good Night Irene" played virtually around the clock... Mary Ann Perkins calls to remind that the name of the drive-in movie between Cisco and Eastland was the Joy.

WE ALSO mentioned one of the late Victor Cornelius' early inventions--a device to hold paper grocery bags open to become instant kitchen trash receptacles. About the time he got it perfected, the grocers started using plastic bags... Lo and behold: Former Long-time VC Menu employee Dale Baker brought in one of the SACK RACKS which he had saved all these many years. He re-

members this and many other projects that the talented M.C. devised back in those days. Dale also remembers that in those days C.B. radioing was BIG, BIG, and he often spent his off-hours from work designing CQ (answering) cards for his friends which they copied to be sent to all the contacts they made on CB far and wide. He showed us a couple of (unidentified) samples: one from LOW POCKETS and another from RUSTY NAIL. What was your call sign (handle) back in those carefree days? Dale is quite an artist and a straight-thinking writer.

CITY OF Eastland will be recognized Wednesday at the Workforce Center in Abilene. Chief Funderburg and Manager Geeslin will



The Sack Rack

attend. Other honorees include Heritage Manor of Gorman from our county.

TELEGRAM HAS a few Charles Chupp books (The Nth Reader) available at \$18.35 which includes tax...Need some good children's books for last

minute gifts? Try Daisy the Dancing Cow, Come to the Ocean's Edge or This Time, Tempe Wick? by Boyds Mills Press (800-490-5111).

AS MANY do, Wanda Lee Beck Skinner is opting for another means of expression season greetings in lieu of traditional cards. She offers the following to friends and kin:

MY PRAYER FOR YOU THIS CHRISTMAS

May your family gatherings be filled with joy and love

May the light of the world Give you peace and grace.

May the day be spent in reflections of gifts from above.

On this day may you and yours find your special place.

May you dream of the

Locals Named To CJC Lists

The 2004 edition of Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges will include the names of 47 students from Cisco Junior College who have been selected as national outstanding campus leaders.

Campus nominating committees and editors of the national directory have included the names of these students based on their academic achievement, service to the community, leadership in extracurricular activities, and potential for continued success. They join an elite group of students from more than 1,400 institutions of higher learning in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and several foreign nations.

Outstanding students have been honored in the annual directory since it was first published in 1966.

Local students named this year from Cisco Junior College are:

CISCO: Matthew Boyd, Julie Holleman, Virginia Koenig, Erica Pence, Hannah Reich, Joy Tosu, Alissa Winnet

good

You can do in the coming year.

May your life be an encouragement

To those you hold so dear.

Not a bad holiday wish for all of us.

CLYDE: Brenton Dowdy, Michael Monsey

EASTLAND: Brandi Sattarphai, Joshua Hart, Garrett Webb

RISING STAR: George Hines, Jacob Massey, Patricia Nall

Volunteers Needed To Report On Hummingbird Sights

Austin -- Whether your garden is a few ceramic pots on the back step or the neighborhood showpiece, you may have had a hummingbird or two visit throughout the year. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department would like to know more about these wonderful creatures -- the only bird that can back up in flight -- and you can help.

Even though the first signs of frost are in the air, it is not too late to spot a hummingbird to two. They can be found in Texas any day of the year, with some species being more common in the late fall and winter.

From scattered pots to an acre of greenery, everyone can make a few changes to attract hummingbirds, from putting up feeders to the more desirable planting of native flora.

Download survey sheet from www.tpwd.state.tx.us/hummingbirds or e-mail mark.klym@tpwd.state.tx.us

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01 Kia Sephia 4 dr., 5 sp., air, AM/FM, cass., 44K.....	\$3995
01 Mercury Sable LS auto, air, AM/FM cass., elec. windows, locks & seats, 69K.....	\$6950
00 Ford F150 Sport short bed, 6 cyl., s sp., air, AM/FM/CD, 38k.....	\$7250
00 Ford F150 6 cyl., 5 sp., short bed, air, AM/FM, cass., cruise, tilt, 66K.....	\$6550
00 Kia Sportage 5 sp., air, AM/FM, elec. windows & locks.....	\$4995
00 Ford F150 XLT Ext. Cab 6 cyl., 5 sp., 72K.....	\$9500
00 Ford F150 Ext. Cab XLT V8, auto, air, 61K.....	\$13,500
00 Ford F150 6 cyl., 5 sp., air, AM/FM, cass., cruise, tilt.....	\$6995
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00 Dodge Stratus auto, air, 67K.....	\$5750
00 Ford Taurus SE auto, air, cruise, 64K.....	\$6550
99 Pontiac Grand Prix 4 dr., 53K.....	\$5995
99 Ford Diesel XLT Ext. Cab auto, air.....	\$14,500
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CAPITOL COMMENT
U.S. SENATOR
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON



**Texans Talk
Foreign Affairs**

Each year I ask Texans to gather around my listening post and give me their opinions. Hearing from you enables me to learn firsthand what's affecting you and your families throughout our great state. Not surprisingly, I hear from a great number of you on issues ranging from homeland security to tax relief. This year, our survey hit the information superhighway and was for the first time available online. An overwhelming number of you responded to the survey via e-mail, and this is the first of several Capitol Comments devoted to your answers.

The topic of foreign affairs garnered a host of strong

opinions. Many of you feel very passionately about our place in the world, and I received a huge response to the following question: Civil unrest is plaguing many regions of our world. Often, the United States is called upon to help restore peace and meet the humanitarian needs of civilian populations. But our involvement in regional conflicts comes at a high price, both in dollars and by putting our uniformed men and women in harms way. As our troops are stretched thinner and thinner, how do you think we should respond?

A whopping 90 percent of you felt we should eliminate any involvement where no clear U.S. security interest is at stake. On the question of

working through NATO or the United Nations to deal with regional conflicts, Texans had a variety of opinions. Below is a sampling of your thoughtful contributions:

- We are spreading ourselves too thin. It is important to protect ourselves from terrorists, but not get involved in areas where the U.N. and NATO can manage. Jane, Boerne

- Stop sending troops and giving money to countries that do not support free and open democracy. Stop giving money to countries that take our money and vilify us for being Americans. Anna, Fort Worth

- I definitely do not want our troops under the direction of NATO or the U.N. Shannon, Friendswood

- Get the U.N. out of the U.S. and the U.S. out of the U.N. James, San Antonio

- We need to increase the size of the U.S. military. Natalie, Whitehouse

- The U.N. has been successful. It is wrong to downgrade their accomplishments. Don, Sugarland

- We cant do anything right in the eyes of the world so we must do what we feel is right for America. If that is helping to secure another nations peace and freedom from tyrannical dictators or seeing that human rights violations do not occur in any nation then we must Chelsea, Austin

- I feel the rest of the world needs to step up to the plate and take more responsibility. Johnny, Odessa

- Every nation needs to fulfill their responsibilities to the extent of their resources. We have been mightily blessed. To whom much is given much is required. Gladys, Conroe

- For Heavens sake lets get out of the nation-building business. Richard, Pennington

I share the opinion that our involvement with NATO and the United Nations must be

continually reviewed. Fifty-four years ago, the United States pledged to protect Europe from the Warsaw Pact. Clearly, our commitment played a vital role in NATOs victory in the Cold War. Now is the time to ask: What is the mission of NATO today? Is NATO going to protect the future or defend the past? For NATO to remain relevant, we must agree on the fundamental mission that common threats to our security outside of NATO member countries must be addressed together. Our alliance should recognize that terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction have replaced the threat of Soviet imperialism. NATO has always been unified around a common purpose, but if it becomes nothing more than a patchwork quilt, we will be wasting our money and endangering our own national security by continuing to pass its bills and diverting our attention.

I also agree we must not stretch our troops too thin, but unfortunately, that is whats

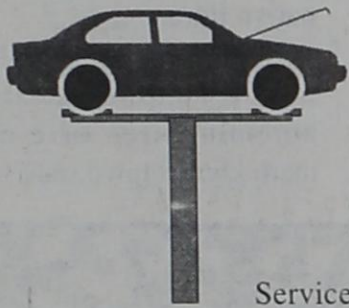
currently happening. They are doing a magnificent job in Iraq and around the world, but we simply dont have enough of them. It takes boots on the ground to win. Unfortunately, we are pushing them to a breaking point, taxing their readiness and putting undue strain on service members (both active duty and reserves), their families and their communities. I continue to make that point to officials at the Department of Defense and will keep asking the tough questions about military readiness and the size of our Armed Forces.

With nearly 22 million people in our great state, our ideas are as bold and diverse as our heritage. Thank you for taking the time to send in your thoughts on these pressing issues and providing me with a snapshot of Texans opinions. Look for future columns devoted to your comments on homeland security, tax relief, education and much more.

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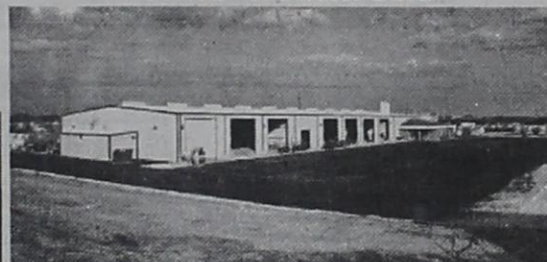
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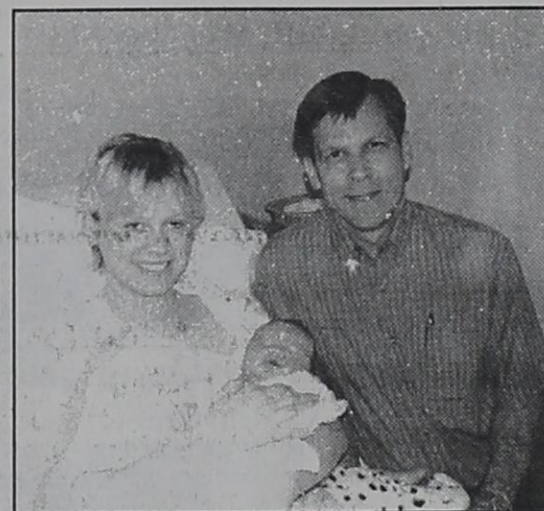
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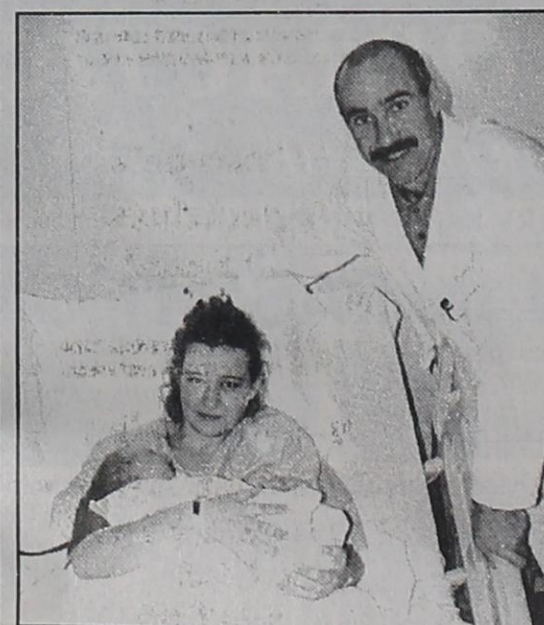
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Dr. Charles "Tuck" Smith, Family Practice/OB



Dr. Smith is a 1991 graduate of the University of Nebraska Medical School. He recently moved to Eastland in June with his wife, 3 sons and 1 daughter. He has been doing Delivery and C-Sections for 10 years. Dr. Smith enjoys his family and sports.

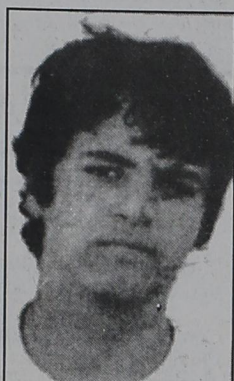
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BAIRD BEARS

Two Baird Players Named To Class A All-State



Jed Womack of Baird named to Class A first-team squad

Jed Womack of Baird was named as a first-team kicker on the Class A All-State high school football team, as voted by the Associated Press Sports Editors.

The nominations are based on regular season performance, and released Monday.

Womack is a sophomore at Baird High.

The 5-8, 160-pound Bear showed a record of 17-21 PATS - all four misses blocked, 4-7 FGs (longest of 49), and 10 successful onside kicks.

Also from Baird, Bear Chief McAdams received Honorable Mention Defense Backs.

Congratulations!

The Baird Bears Basketball team topped Miles in the Miles Super Ribs Tournament on Saturday, winning the Championship 44-35.

Jeremy Sims was named Tournament MVP.

Scoring for Baird was Rodriguez with 3, Burford 5, L. Mindez 2, Closs 6, Josh Sims 16, Jeremy Sims 8, Roberts 2.

Before reaching the Championship, Baird VB won over Lakeview JV 72-25 on Thursday, and Robert Lee with 31-25 on Friday.

In non-district, the Baird Varsity Girls took a loss to Woodson by a very small margin of 5 points. The score was Woodson 44, Baird 39.

Baird JV turned the tables on Woodson, winning 29-25.



December Basketball Schedule

High School

Tues., Dec. 2, Strawn, There, 6:30 p.m., VG, VB

Thurs.-Sat., Dec. 4-6, Rising Star Tournament, There, TBA, VG, VB

Tues., Dec. 9, Woodson, Baird, 4:00 p.m., JVG, JVB, VG, VB

Thurs.-Sat., Dec. 11-13, Miles Tournament, There, TBA, VG, VB

Tues., Dec. 16, Throckmorton, There, 4:00 p.m., JVG, JVB, VG, VB

Fri., Dec. 19, Roscoe, There, 4:00 p.m., JVG, JVB, VG, VB

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

Junior High

Dec. 1, Ranger, Here, 5:00, 7G, 8G, 7B, 8B

Dec. 8, Abilene Christian, There, 5:00, 7G, 8G, 7B, 8B

Dec. 15, Cross Plains, There, 6:00, 8G, 7B, 8B

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