



Baird Star

50¢

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31¢ By Mail

Volume 116, Number 5

Baird, Texas 79504

Thursday, January 29, 2004

Forage Seminar Set For February 10

A special Forage Seminar is set for February 10th at the Cross Plains Community Center. There will be 1 hour of Laws & Regulations, 2 IPMs, and 2 General hours worth 5 CEU's.

Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. The program begins at 9:00 a.m.

The goal of this program is to provide producers with information on forage management strategies to help them produce uniform, high quality forage to meet their production goals. These strategies will include management techniques in wheat, annual forage and existing bermudagrass pastures.

Speakers for the Seminar will include: Dr. Chris Sansone, TAEX Entomologist - San Angelo, Dr. Billy Warrick, Extension Agronomist from San Angelo and Dr. Twain Butler Extension Agronomist from Stephenville.

Dr. Warrick will discuss small grain management and annual forage selection.

Dr. Sansone will discuss

forage insects and their control.

Dr. Twain Butler will discuss improved pasture management and weed control options.

TDA will be on hand to give Laws and Regulation presentation for pesticide applicators.

The Seminar and accompanying meal are Free to those that pre-register by February 3rd. Registration at the door will be \$5.00 per person.

This program is presented by the Extension offices in Brown, Callahan, Coleman and Eastland Counties.

For further information, contact the Callahan County Extension Office at (325)854-1518.

A Vegetable Short Course will be held on Friday, Jan. 30, 2004 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Comanche Community Center in Comanche, Texas.

Topics covered will be all aspects of commercial watermelon and vegetable production. 2 CEUs will be provided.

Baird Foundation Selection Team Grades Architectural Firms Ft. Worth Firm Ranked Top

In a meeting held December 9, 2003 the consultant selection team of the Baird Foundation graded the qualifications of the Architectural firms who responded to the public request for services as required by TxDOT for the local T & P Depot Project.

Komatsu Architecture of Ft. Worth is the top ranked firm for these services. The firm has been notified and is currently preparing a detailed scope of services to be provided.

After review by the Baird Foundation, Fiscal Agent for Callahan County, a meeting will be scheduled.

Provided the scope of services is approved by the Baird Foundation, a contract will be negotiated with the architectural firm of Komatsu.

Baird Foundation wishes to thank Mr. Mike Schweikard of TXU for a generous donation to the Baird Foundation. Thank you for your vote of confidence and for your concern for our community.

Also, we thank the Brownwood TV Cable subscribers for their continued contributions.

Thanks to Helen Miller for her gifts in memory of Maurine Nichols.

signed and submitted by Betty Henson, Pres./CEO,

Baird Foundation.

Baird Marketing Alliance News

The Baird Marketing Alliance Committee wishes to thank and acknowledge the businesses and organizations who are supporting the 2003-2004 effort to market and promote Baird through advertising.

They are Jim and Betty Kelley - Kelley Plumbing; Joe Kersbaum - Grumpe's Specialties; Kyle & Nancy Etheredge - Market Street Mall, Etheredge Antiques; Betty & Weldon Henson - Henson's Antiques; First National Bank; Ray Falk - Falk Pharmacy; Mary Swafford - Russell - Surles Title, Inc.; Development Corporation of Baird.

The alliance coordinates all marketing and promotions with the Baird Chamber of Commerce to use all funds to the best advantage.

The Alliance is way under the amount needed to fund the current budget. If we are to advertise effectively, we must ask for your support.

Marketing Alliance Funds are spent on point advertising, billboard construction,

Continued Inside ...
Please see Alliance

TDA Accepting Nominations For Rural Heroism Award

Austin - Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs announced today that the Texas Department of Agriculture is now accepting nominations for TDA's 2003 Rural Heroism Award.

Candidates must have performed a heroic, lifesaving act within Texas during 2003. The heroic deed should be related to farming or ranching and occur in a rural area. Automobile accidents or accidents caused by negligence will not be considered.

Nominations should include a written account of the incident and the names, addresses and telephone num-

bers of everyone involved. If available, newspaper clippings and photographs should accompany all nominations.

Nominations must be postmarked by Feb. 16, 2004 and mailed to Lola Lemmon, TDA Safety Coordinator, Texas Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 12847, Austin, Texas 78711. For additional information on qualifications, you can contact Lemmon at (512) 475-1611.

The 2003 recipient will be announced March 22 at the Texas Safety Association's annual conference at the Omni Hotel in San Antonio.

The Pipeline Group Holds Public Education - Contractor Awareness Program

The Pipeline Group's annual "Public Education - Contractor Awareness Program" will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 10, 2004 at the Abilene Civic Center, 1100 N. 6th Street in Abilene, Texas.

The program will be sponsored by a group of companies with a common goal of preventing accidents and damages to underground pipelines and utilities.

A free dinner will be catered by Joe Allen's Pit Barbecue for all persons involved in excavation related activities in Callahan, Eastland, Fisher, Haskell, Jones, Nolan, Shackelford, Stonewall, and Taylor counties.

Following the dinner, a brief safety program will be presented which stresses the importance of accident prevention by identifying pipeline and utility rights of way, use of one-call systems, and the importance of working with pipeline and utility companies to safely excavate in the vicinity of underground facilities.

The Texas law requiring notification to a one-call system before excavating will be discussed. Sponsors will provide promotional materials; including notification information for their companies, safety related brochures and other safety reminders.

Each year many lives are injured or lost, plus millions of dollars in repairs and lost products are incurred due to "third party" incidents - someone digging into a pipeline. Thousands of communications, some life-threatening, may be disrupted when expensive fiber-optic cables are damaged or severed. These types of excavation can be financially devastating to the responsible party. This safety program is

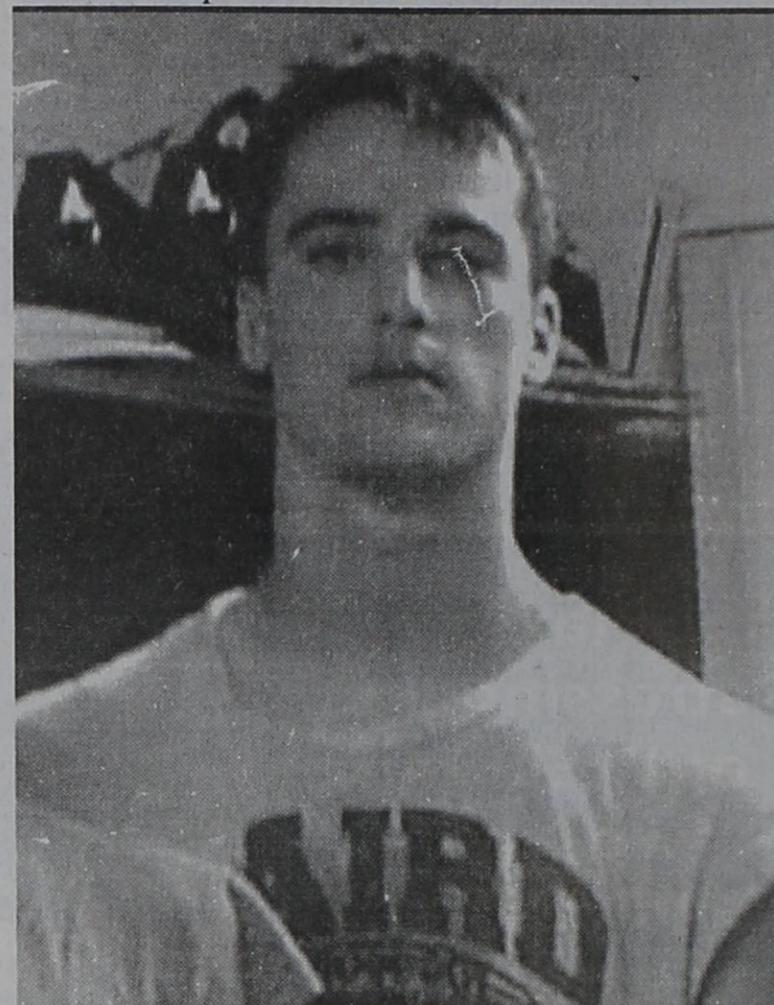
an attempt to help those who do excavation work to avoid such situations.

Sponsors for the program include: All American Pipeline LP - Alon USA LP - Chevron Pipe Line Co - Devon Gas Services LP - Dig TESS - Duke Energy Field Services - Chaparral & Quanah Pipelines - Dynege Midstream Services LP - El Paso Field Services - Link Energy Pipeline Limited Partnership - ONEOK WesTex Transmission LP - OG+E Enogex Inc - Pride Refining Inc - Sago Jameson LP - Shell Pipeline Co LP -

Bears Come Out Winners ...

Jeremy Sims Named To Super Team

Please See Sports Inside ...



Baird High athlete Jeremy Sims is one of the Big Country players named to the 2003 football Super Team.

staff photo

SOPHOMORE BAKE SALE IS FRIDAY

A Sophomore Bake Sale will be held on Friday, January 30 starting at 7:45 a.m. in the Baird High School Foyer.

There will be Home Made Breakfast Burritos, Cookies, Brownies, and other delicious goodies. Please come by and grab something to eat to support your sophomore class!

Sunoco Pipeline LP - Tepeco Crude Oil LP.

For more information call (800)982-8752 or visit the web site at www.pipelinegroup.com

Texas Department of Health

will hold the following

Immunization clinics

in Callahan County:

Monday, February 9th

Baird Cafetorium, 400 West 7th, from 10-12 Cross Plains Housing Authority, 233 N. Main from 2-4

Wednesday, February 11th

Clyde Community Resource Center, 306 N. 1st from 10-12 & 1:30 - 3

Please bring child's Immunization Records

For more information call 325/754-4945

Baird Elementary Student Of The Week



Daniel Saenz
Mrs. Tollett - Kindergarten
Daughter of Salvador and Olga Saenz

POLITICAL CALENDAR

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

Texas Railroad Commissioner

K. Dale Henry, R State Senate Dist. 24

Troy Fraser (Reelection)
(Pd. Pol. Advertisement)

*** VOTE ***

K. DALE HENRY

Republican Candidate for Texas Railroad Commissioner

Primary Election

March 9, 2004

Pol. Ad. Paid for by Brian Lenhart, Irving, Texas

Spotlight

By Julia Worthy

Recently I received a letter forwarded from a Worthy family member that I believe will be of interest to all of you who have friends and relatives in military service. . . . or if you have been there; done that yourself. The regular reports in our papers from those who are in service, and the follow-up on the personnel who have been in service are reports I read whether or not I recognize the names. I know others who do the same.

This, I think, is a very readable and current communication from the front line of activity. Its not from the media, but from and NCO who is out there amongst em.

The letter follows, verbatim:
Everyone,

For those of you that don't know I was able to come

home from Dec 30 through Jan 11. I had a great time being back with friends and family. I got to celebrate Christmas with both sides of my family. If I didn't get to see you while I was home, I'm very sorry. I really missed Maryellen and Matthew and I tried to spend as much time with them as possible.

Since early Dec my company has been doing convoys up in the Baghdad area and sometimes north of here. While I was home our mission changed and we began to do patrols in a 50 mile area around west Baghdad. This mission IS the one that you hear about on CNN/FOX. We spend most of our days looking for explosive devices that the enemy has kindly left on the side of the road for us. We respond to accidents and

anything that other units may need help with. We are supported in our mission by Black-hawk, Kiowa, and Apache helicopters, Abrams tanks, and Bradley fighting vehicles. They make life better. Most days come and go with no major incidents, today however.

Today was a real good day. Out on patrol we met a man who was able to give us information that will help in finding some of the weapons that the enemy is using on us. This would have made my day by itself, but there is more. After lunch we decided to stop and talk to another man that has helped us in the past. While we were talking (through an interpreter) he reached into his car and handed us a loaded RPG (Rocket Propelled Grenade). These kind of things we pay people for. Through our conversation he gave us other good information that we will use in the future. Working with the people IS having results.

The last thing that I want to say before I go is don't watch CNN. Most of the media back home is crap. FOX news is better but not great. MSNBC, Hardball specifically, is right on most of the time. Things are going good here. 27,000,000 people and about 2,000 of them don't like us. We have won the war and we will arrest the criminals that continue to harass us and the Iraqi people.

I hope that all of you are doing well and that you enjoyed your holidays with family. *Serving Proudly.*

SGT Thomas
(This is from a Worthy nephews in-law. I did not include the head so I could

get it all on one page to send via email to other family members, Julia, 2004)

right and his wife was wrong. When Jim told his wife the results of our research, she told him she didn't say that in the first place!

Oh well, it was nice to talk about something instead of politics or world affairs.

Opossums And Golf

Submitted by Burl Caudle

Usually we have two teams with 3 or 4 on each team playing golf. We play four days a week, teeing off at 8am. Our course is ranked eighth for nine hole golf courses in Texas. We think it should be better than that.

If you have a really bad day it is possible to hit into water on eight of the nine holes. There are tall pines and other trees on every hole. There are three large herons that make their home on the course. It isn't unusual for deer to come out and look us over while we play. We did have an alligator in our lake but it got too large and was relocated.

At the end of the game we usually drink coffee and discuss politics and other profound subjects.

Recently Jim Jordan had the subject for discussion. He wanted to know if opossums really slept in a tree, hanging by their tail. His wife insisted they did. He didn't think so but wanted our opinion.

The opinion was divided and I was asked to find out on the Internet how opossums slept.

In checking the Internet, I found two different opinions. Most articles said they didn't hang by their tail when sleeping but one said they did. This is a good example of why you shouldn't believe every thing you read on the Internet.

I remembered meeting Doug Crabtree at my wife's Eastland High School 50-year class reunion last April. Doug is Treasurer of the Opossum Society of the United States out of Irvine, California. I emailed him and he answered right back.

Doug said: "Opossums do not sleep in trees hanging by their tails. They use their hairless prehensile tails for balance, climbing in trees, and carrying light loads such as sticks and etc. to make a nest with. They can wind their tail tightly like a spring. Being a marsupial, nocturnal, and smaller than a bee when they are born, they live the

first several weeks in their mother's pouch."

I could hardly wait to tell Jim because it proved he was



Bandit, a male opossum we had carrying some newspapers he tore up for his bedding. They wind they tail into a spring

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
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61								62				63		

ACROSS

- The best kind of laugh
- Authorized
- Christiania, now
- Annapolis inst.
- Bakery's come-on
- Interrogative pronoun
- Type of cookie
- '50s soda
- Use an ax
- Courts
- Anjou and Bosc
- Frau's mate
- Inferior
- Of The Town (Noel Coward)
- Hood
- Adjust
- Dean's Rebel Without A Cause costar
- Bray start
- Greenhouse containers
- Fraternity letter
- Dramatist David
- Great anger
- Objectives
- Certain skirts
- Snakes
- Doodle who went to town
- Nurse Cherry of fiction

DOWN

- Luxuriant
- Days Of Grace author
- Winter forecast
- Heel State (North Carolina)
- Jobs for Hercules
- Shortstop's gaffe
- Exits
- Doctors' gp.
- Stripling
- Marge Schott et al.
- Site of a 1969 miracle
- 1939 costar of Haley and Bolger
- Elevator improver
- Nest sound
- Possum of Ware County
- Hula movers
- Overdoers' sounds
- ... more than bed (Donne)
- lazuli
- Cherish
- Mailroom gadget
- Mushroom features
- goodness!
- Frightening
- olla or Pee Wee
- Butcher's offerings
- Cooked
- Heloise's handwork
- Trove treasures
- Vermont tree
- Cad's speciality
- Old
- Unoriginal opinion
- Flutter
- Open-weave fabric
- River to the English Channel
- Musial or Laurel
- Drag
- Colleague of Dinah and Sarah
- Complaint from Fido
- Little child
- We Not Alone
- Doting attention: abbr.

This puzzle sponsored by

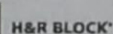


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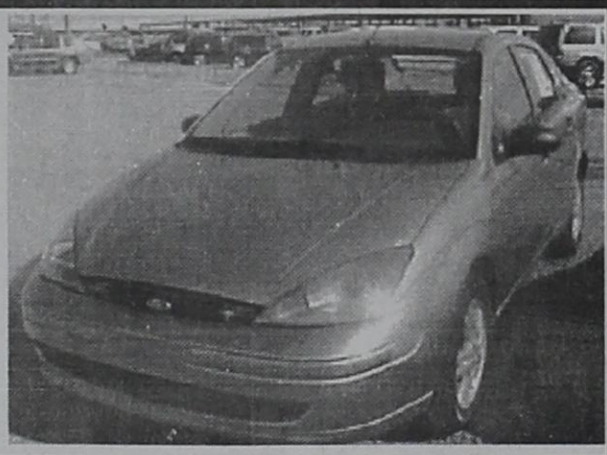
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Gov. Rick Perry Unveils Proposals to Spur Education Excellence

Would Link Incentive Funding to High Achievement by Students, Schools

San Antonio - Gov. Rick Perry today unveiled the first in a series of proposals to encourage Texas schools to set a new course for educational excellence, including financial incentives to spur schools and students toward the goal of maximum performance.

"I believe now is the time to usher in a new era of educational achievement in Texas that is not based on meeting minimum standards, but focused on maximum performance," Perry said in a speech at the Texas High School Project Summit.

To help schools achieve excellence, Perry proposed a series of results-based performance incentives:

The **High School Advancement Incentive** would provide schools \$100 more per student for each year they advance in high school, so long as the students pass the

Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) tests. In total, schools would receive an additional \$600 for each student they keep in school between grades nine through 12.

The **Commended Performance Incentive** would reward all schools whose students score at least 90 percent on all TAKS tests taken. The Incentive would provide Texas schools \$100 per student achieving Commended Performance and \$200 for each at-risk student who scores that high. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) defines Commended Performance as a score of 90 percent or higher on all TAKS tests taken.

The **Distinguished Achievement Incentive** would reward Texas high schools at least \$1,000 for each graduate who successfully completes the most academically challenging course

of study Texas schools offer, the Distinguished Achievement Program. The reward would jump to \$2,000 for each at-risk student who graduates under this plan.

"So far the school finance debate has been focused almost solely on tax trade-offs," Perry said. "Today I want to emphasize the most important aspect of this debate, which has gone largely unmentioned - the quality of our schools and the achievement of our students."

Perry said he wants to make it clear that if he calls a special session, "the subject will not be school finance, it will be educational excellence. School finance will be an integral part of a session on educational excellence because how we finance education is the pathway to educational excellence."

The performance incentives, Perry added, will give "students and schools every reason to strive for greater educational excellence."

"The High School Advancement Incentive pro-

vides just one more compelling reason for schools to develop the kind of student retention programs that will ensure fewer students fall behind and dropout."

Perry said. "Perhaps the most compelling reason is that the average income of a high school dropout is less than \$15,000 a year."

The Commended Performance Incentive ensures that while Texas schools continue to focus on the many students struggling to pass the TAKS test, they don't lose sight of the hundreds of thousands of other students who have the potential to excel on the TAKS and achieve maximum academic performance.

The Distinguished Achievement Incentive is designed to encourage students and schools to set the highest academic goals.

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CALLAHAN COUNTY BAIRD STAR

Publication No. (USPS 085-520)

©2004 Eastland County Newspapers, Inc.
(254) 629-1707 211 Market St. Baird, TX 79504
Periodical Postage Paid at Baird, Texas
under Act of Congress in March, 1870.

Published every Thursday

Publisher.....H.V. & Gaynell O'Brien
Editor.....Margaret Hetrick

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Callahan County Star, 211 Market St., Baird, TX 79504.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

\$16 per year in Callahan County; \$17 per year for Counties Adjoining Callahan \$22

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BAIRD BEARS



Bears Come Out Winners In Panther Challenge

All Baird basketball teams dominated their District games vs. the Gorman Panthers on Tuesday, Jan. 16.

Bear Varsity Girls overcame an early Panther lead of 15-10 in the first quarter by leading steadily in the remaining game, and reaching an end score of 50-39 in their favor in the District 9-A challenge.

Even Gorman's top scorer, Porter, with 17 points, couldn't overturn the Bear's determination.

Windham put Baird on the scoreboard with 14 points, Harris 11, McDonell 9, Bell 8, Russell 4, and Sweeney with 2.

The win against Gorman gave Baird VG a District record of 3-0; Gorman VG, 1-1.

Baird JV girls also pushed forward to book a spectacular 39-9 win over the Panthers.

Baird Varsity Boys left a good margin between the Bears and the Panthers with a win of 42-24 in their District 10-A, Div. 1 game.

The Bears started with a 15-8 lead in the first quarter, topping the Panthers on the score board in all quarters except the 2nd.

As for individual scoring, no member of the Panther team could match Bear Burford with 16

points and Rodriquez with 9.

Also scoring for Baird was Mendez with 4, Josh Sims 6, Jeremy Sims 3, and Morgan and Scott with 2.

The District win brought Baird VB to a record of 1-1. Gorman showed a record of 0-2.

Baird JV Boys also booked a substantial win of 43-28 over the Panthers.

All teams were to meet Cross Plains on Tuesday, Jan. 27 in District games. Scores for those games were not available at printing time.

Baird JVG, JVB, VG, and VB travel to Albany on Friday, Jan. 30.

Go Bears!

Jeremy Sims Named To All-Big Country Football Super Team

Baird Bear Jeremy Sims is named to the Reporter News 2003 All-Big Country Super Team.

The 6'5" player was graded 85 percent in 11 games by members of the sports department.

Super team selections were based on regular season and playoff statistics, leadership qualities and other athletic attributes recognized during the season, the Reported News stated in Sunday's edition.

Jeremy Sims was chosen as Offense Lineman. Before being selected to the Super Team, Jeremy Sims was among several Baird athletics chosen for the Reporter's Class A All-Big Country Football Team.

Selected for the Class A team were Jeremy Sims - Offense Lineman; Carlos Gomez - Offense Lineman; L. J. Mendez - End-Receiver; Jed Womack - Offense Kicker; Chief McAdams - Defensive Back; and L. J. Mendez - Defensive Back.

Basketball Scores

Girls

Baird 50, Gorman 39

Baird 10 13 13 14 - 50

Gorman 15 11 2 11 - 39

Baird - Windham 14, Russell 4, Sweeney 2, Harris 11, McDonell 9, Bell 8.

Records Baird 16-6, 3-0.

JV Score - Baird 39, Gorman 9

Boys

Baird 42, Gorman 24

Baird 15 4 9 14 - 42

Gorman 8 5 2 9 - 24

Baird - Rodriguez 9, Burford 16, Mendez 4, Morgan 2, Scott 2, Jo Sims 6, Je. Sims 3.

Records - Baird 1-1; Gorman 0-2

JV Score - Baird 43, Gorman 28.

Basketball Schedule

High School

Mon.-Wed., Dec. 29, 30, 31, There, TBA, VG, VB
 Fri. Jan. 2, Throckmorton, Baird, 4:00, JVG, JVB, VG, VB
 Tues., Jan. 6, Munday, Baird, 4:00, JVG, JVB, VG, VB
 Fri., Jan. 9, Cross Plains, There, 6:30, JVG, VG
 Tues., Jan. 13, Albany, Baird, 4:00, JVG, JVB, VG, VB
 Fri., Jan. 16, Gorman, There, 4:00, JVG, JVB, VG, VB
 Tues., Jan. 20, Ranger, Baird, 4:00, JVB, VG, VB
 Fri., Jan. 23, TBA
 Tues., Jan. 27, Cross Plains, Baird, 4:00, JVG, JVB, VG, VB
 Fri., Jan. 30, Albany, There, 4:00, JVG, JVB, VG, VB
 Tues., Feb. 3, Gorman, Baird, 4:00, JVG, JVB, VG, VB
 Fri., Feb. 6, Ranger, There, 4:00, JVG, JVB, VG, VB
 Tues., Feb. 10, TBA
 Fri., Feb. 13, Cross Plains, There, 6:30, JVB, VB

Junior High

Jan. 5, Gorman, Here, 5:00, 7B, 8B, 7G, 8G
 Jan. 12, Ranger, There, 5:00, 7B, 8B, 7G, 8G
 Jan. 17, Cisco Tourney, There, TBA, TBA
 Jan. 19, Abilene Christian, Here, 5:00, 7G, 8G, 7B, 8B
 Jan. 26, Cross Plains, There, 6:00, 7B, 8B, 8G
 Jan. 29 & 31, Albany Tourney, TBA, TBA, TBA
 Feb. 2, Albany, Here, 6:00, 7G, 8G
 Feb. 2, Albany, There, 6:00, 7B, 8B
 Feb. 9, Cross Plains, Here, 6:00, 7B, 8B, 8G

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Hearts Remembered

Held in conjunction with Valentine's Day, Hearts Remembered is a unique way to acknowledge someone dear to your heart...whether in memory of a deceased friend or loved one, to recognize the birth of a baby, to celebrate an anniversary, or to just honor someone special. For a donation of \$10 an angel holding a large red heart with the honored person's name printed on it will be hung on a dramatic display of huge clouds suspended from the ceiling in Penney's courtyard at the Mall of Abilene. There will also be displays in the bank lobby of First Coleman National Bank in Coleman, and at Brookshire's in Sweetwater. Volunteers will be selling the angels at each location.

"Funds raised from this event will help Hospice of the Big Country continue our commitment to provide the best possible end-of-life care to the terminally ill. We provide our services to anyone who needs us, regardless of their ability to pay, to the terminally ill in Taylor and the eleven surrounding counties," said Jo Ann Wilson, Volunteer Coordinator. "This amounts to approximately \$125,000 annually that we must raise to cover the non-reimbursed care we provide. Hearts Remembered is a beautiful way to honor someone special, and at the same time help someone who is unable to pay for our services," she said.

If you would like to purchase a heart, or hearts, visit one of the locations listed

Desdemona News

By Vonnie Guthery

Larry and Gay Moore visited the past weekend in Vanderbilt, Texas with Kathy Rivera and family. They reported a good trip.

Bill Camron of San Angelo visited last Sunday eve in Desdemona with his cousins, Bernard and Ann Keith.

Tillman Fonville, 83, of Granbury was buried on Thursday, January 22, 2004 in the Oakwood Cemetery. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. Survivors include daughters- Dorothy Casey, Barbara Clayton, Darlene Walston, Marlene Reynolds, Betty Moon; sons, Phillip Fonville, Richard Fonville, Eddie Williams, Jerry Wood and Melvin Wood; his wife, Dicie Fonville of Granbury. Tillman Fonville attended school in Desdemona with his brother, Paul Fonville (now deceased). Our sympathy goes out to this family.

Dorothy Roberts was in Fort Worth on Thursday and Friday to be with her daughter, Ulenda Weaver who is recovering from recent surgery.

Jo Holdman is recovering from recent surgery. Get well wishes to Jo from her friends in Desdemona.

A large crowd attended the Desdemona monthly musical last Saturday night. Thanks to all those who attend regular and thanks to those who donate food each month. It takes everyone pulling together to keep our community strong.

Thought for today- "Patience is a virtue, but opportunity knocks but once."

Contact this reporter with your weekly news. Thanks and have a nice day- Coon.

Guest Slot

Country Wisdom

Read & Heed

Submitted by D.G.

Basham

Never name a pig you plan to eat.

Country fences oughta' be horse high, pig tight, and bull strong.

Life ain't about how fast you run, or how high you climb. It's about how good you bounce.

Keep skunks and gossipers at a distance.

Life is simpler when you plow around the stumps.

A bumble bee is faster than a John Deere tractor.

Trouble with a milk cow is... she won't stay milked.

Don't skinny dip with snapping turtles.

Words that soak into your ears are whispered...not yelled.

Meanness don't happen overnight.

To know how country folks are doing, look at their barns, not their houses.

Never lay an angry hand on a kid or an animal. It just ain't helpful.

Teachers, Moms, and hoot owls sleep with one eye open.

Forgive your enemies. It messes with their heads.

Don't sell your mule to buy a plow.

Two can live as cheap as one... if one don't eat.

Don't corner something meaner than you.

You can catch more flies with honey than vinegar...if you're in to catchin' flies.

It don't take a very big person to carry a grudge.

Don't go drinkin' with a fellow named Chug-A-Lug.

You can't unsay a cruel remark.

Every path has some puddles.

Don't wrestle with pigs.

You'll get all muddy, and the pigs'll love it.

The best sermons are lived, not preached.

Most of the stuff people worry about never happens.

The early bird gets the worm. But...the second mouse gets the cheese.

The Ten Commandments display was removed from the

Alabama Supreme Court building. There was a darn good reason for the move.

You can't post:

Thou Shalt Not Steal

Thou Shalt Not Commit

Adultery

Thou Shalt Not Lie

in a building full of Lawyers and Politicians.

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Charges Against Ronnie Burns Outlined In Documents Alleging Paperwork Improprieties

By Jerry Ambrose
Index Staff Writer
(Reprinted from
Mineral Wells Index)

The long-awaited trial of former Palo Pinto County sheriff's deputy and current sheriff's candidate Ronnie Burns may finally reach a courtroom early this year.

Burns, of Mineral Wells, was indicted in September by the Palo Pinto County grand jury on two counts of tampering with a government document which allegedly occurred during his 10 years service with the sheriff's office. Former Department of Public Safety trooper Timothy Falkner was also indicted on one of the two counts.

The charges against Burns are second-degree felonies. If convicted, he could face two to 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000 on each count.

Burns maintains his innocence- he claims he is being hung out to dry for simple paperwork errors- and recently said he hopes the issue is resolved in January. He is represented by attorney Jim Lane of Fort Worth.

Among his duties at PPCSO, Burns was the deputy responsible for disposing of seized and abandoned vehicles through public auction. These activities are controlled by specific procedures, and ostensively, consistent among all law enforcement agencies throughout the state.

Burns told the Index recently, "It's a paperwork job- a headache. Nobody else at the sheriff's office wanted it, and I got stuck with it."

His training in vehicle auction procedures was by DPS staff, according to Burns. He claims he performed his duties "exactly the way I was instructed."

Documents filed with the court regarding his case indicate that DPS Sgt. Bill Cooper initiated the investigation of Burns.

Burns and his supporters say "politics" is the underlying reason behind the September 2003 indictment- as was a November 2002 indictment for impersonating a peace officer, which came after he was fired from PPCSO for insubordination. Lane got the 2002 indictment quashed on grounds of its "vagueness." Burns has never been re-indicted on the impersonation charge.

Burns, who announced his candidacy for Palo Pinto County sheriff in December, will face businessman and former Mineral Wells police officer Scott Mitcham in the March 9 Democratic primary. The winner will face Republican candidate Ira

Mercer, District Attorney Tim Ford's chief investigator, in the Nov. 2 general election.

Ford rescued himself from prosecuting Burns' case in 29th Judicial District Court in favor of the Eastland County District Attorney Russell Thomason.

The Index recently obtained from the Palo Pinto County Clerk's office copies of documents regarding the upcoming trial. Under rules of disclosure, the documents basically outline the thrust of

the charges against Burns, list all potential witnesses, and provide copies of statements and other evidence gathered during the investigation.

The prosecutor's disclosure alleges in part that, following an investigation of two year's worth of past records by Cooper, "numerous false entries were found on approximately 200 Auction Sales Receipts that had been certified by Ronnie Burns."

Among the allegedly false entries were:

- Vehicles certified as abandoned and pursuant to auction were, in some instances, cases of an "individual just needing a

valid title."

- Some vehicles certified as having been sold at auction "were not at the sale site nor were there in any way associated with the person Burns was holding the sale for."

- The recorded purchaser of some vehicles "were not at the sale."

- The documents allege that Burns "falsely recorded the number of the licensed company and did so in many instances without the knowledge or consent of the licensed company." DPS licenses certain facilities to store abandoned or seized vehicles.

- Burns allegedly issued Auction Sales Receipts for vehicles that "were not at the location of the auction," and in some instances, issued receipts that "the amount of the sale was lower than the actual amount the vehicle sold for."

- Dates when storage facilities took possession of the abandoned vehicles "were, for the most part, fictitious."

- In some cases, the legal owners of the vehicles were "not given sufficient notice to reclaim the vehicles before auction as required by law."

- In some cases, the vehicles "advertised for auction were withheld from public bid but actually sold."

- In addition, the documents allege that there were "monetary discrepancies between Burns' notes regarding the amounts for vehicles sold for and the amounts reported to the sheriff's office."

There were 39 potential witnesses listed by the prosecution and 32 sworn statements included in the disclosure documents.

Lane and prosecutors for

Thursday, January 29, 2004

the Eastland County District Attorney declined to comment for this article.

Burns insists he wants his case heard before a jury. He reportedly passed on a Dec. 19 deadline.

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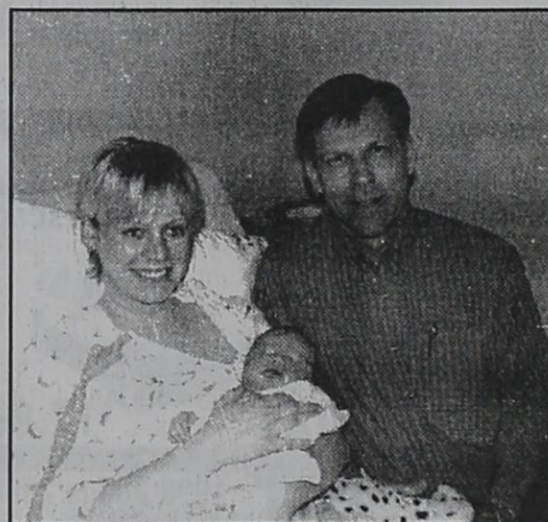
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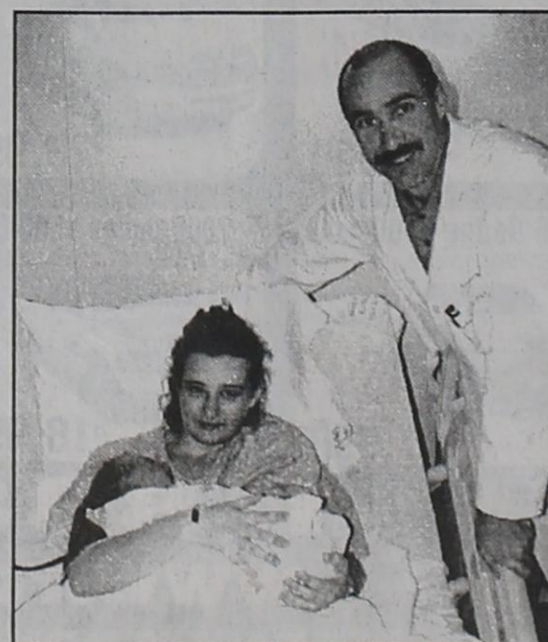
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Dr. Charles "Tuck" Smith,
Family Practice/OB



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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Eastland Confederate Camp Reactivates

In the month of February in the year 1886, Confederate Veterans who had been instrumental to the settling of Eastland decided to form an organization. The organization they formed was the predecessor of the general organization known as the United Confederate Veterans, that was formed four years later. This organization was somewhat like the veteran's organizations we know today such as the VFW or the American Legion. They met in monthly meetings here in Eastland County and discussed events of the war and gathered real life

experiences to document in a magazine that was published monthly in Tennessee and is still published to this day. This magazine was named the *Confederate Veteran* and was generally known as the "Veteran". Several of the men who started this organization were some of Eastland's finest citizens. Captain June Kimble who served in Archer's Tennessee Brigade and advanced with Pickett in the famous charge of that division the last day, at the battle of Gettysburg. In 1886 he married Miss Rebecca Connellee of Eastland. June Kimble estab-

lished the *Eastland Chronicle* in 1887. For more than thirty years Captain Kimble took a foremost stand as one of Eastland's prominent citizens. He was a clear and most forceful writer and was a consistent member of the Christian Church, served four years as county clerk, and died as vice president of one of the local banks. The United Confederate Veterans Camp celebrated twenty-four anniversaries here in Eastland and Captain Kimble was its Commander from the beginning. Captain Kimble passed on to the other side on April 4, 1911, and is buried in the Eastland Cemetery. Dr. S.H. Stout who had served as Confederate General Braxton Bragg's Chief of Medical Staff and the director of hospitals for the Army of Tennessee assisted in forming the UCV Camp in Eastland. Dr. Stout had a medical practice here in Eastland County for many years. The camp membership eventually grew to over 500 members.

One hundred and seventeen years later, the Sons of Confederate Veterans have reactivated the Captain June Kimble Camp #488 in Eastland. Today, the Sons of Confederate Veterans is preserving the history and legacy of these heroes, so future generations can understand the motives that animated the Southern Cause.

The SCV is the direct heir of the United Confederate Veterans, and the oldest hereditary organization for male descendants of Confederate soldiers. Organized at Richmond, Virginia in 1896, the SCV continues to serve as a historical, patriotic, and non-political organization dedicated to insuring that a true history of the 1861-1865 period is preserved.

The charter ceremony for Captain June Kimble Camp #488 will be held at the Eastland Bed and Breakfast, 112 N. Lamar Street, at 3 p.m. Saturday, January 31, 2004. As always the public is welcome, period dress is encouraged, but not required.

Submitted by Dan Hudson

READ THE CLASSIFIEDS

Poetry Corner

Submitted by Wanda Lee Beck Skinner

Lord, We Need Rain

You promised, from your word it was read.

Every need of humanity you will supply.

Never have you failed to do as you said.

Today our community is so extremely dry.

By withholding the spring rains are you calling

For your people to take time to spend with you?

On our knees should we be ever gently falling?

So you would send

raindrops more than a few.

We desire to see your power bless with rain.

And to feel your loving spirit work to unite.

The elements into fields of growing grain.

Quotes

"True you can't take it with you, but then, that's not the place where it comes in handy." --Brendan Francis

"If the spoken word is repeated often enough, it is eventually written and thus made permanent... Many

It would stop this terrible desolate blight.

Now we come together in this circle.

Asking you to meet this need.

Waiting for your loving miracle.

Lifting hearts in one accord, we plead.

a decent man who has written a bad check know the truth of that." -- Flann O'Brien

"Maturity is a high price to pay for growing up." -- Tom Stoppard

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December Sales Tax Reports In

"The state collected \$1.25 billion in sales tax revenue in December, a remarkably robust 8.7 percent increase compared to December 2002," Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn said.

Eastland County towns had a jump of 3 percent; Callahan County towns, a drop of 10 percent.

"This is the highest sales tax growth rate in 35 months -- since January 2001, when I first warned Texans that the state's economic furnace would soon cool," Strayhorn

said. "An economic turnaround is now underway, and Texas has seen four consecutive months of sales tax growth."

Since state fiscal year 2004 began on September 1, state sales tax revenue is up 4.7 percent compared to the same period in FY 2003.

"State sales tax collections hit a low point last summer, when July collections shrank 4.6 percent compared to the same month of the previous year," Strayhorn said. "But in August, the decline was only half a percent. In September, sales tax collection grew by 2.1 percent. They grew by 3.6 percent in October, by 4.3 percent in November, and by an amazing 8.7 in December."

Local sales tax revenue also continues to rebound. The Comptroller sent Texas

cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts January sales tax allocations totaling \$303.2 million, up 7.1 percent compared to January 2003.

Strayhorn sent sales tax payments of \$203.9 million to Texas cities, up 6.9 percent compared to January 2003. Texas counties received

January sales tax payments of \$17.5 million, up 6.9 percent.

Eighty-two special purpose taxing districts around the state received \$8 million in sales tax, up 1.3 percent compared to last January. Texas' six metropolitan transit authorities and two city transit systems received

\$73.6 million in January sales tax allocations, up 8.2 percent compared to a year ago.

State sales tax revenue for December, and January sales tax allocations to local governments represent sales made in November and reported to the Comptroller in December.

Eleventh Court Of Appeals

Affirmed

Leonardo Escoto Magallenes v. State of Texas Per Curiam Opinion. Panel consists of Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright and Justice McCall. -- Dallas

Michael Ray Manning v. State of Texas. Per Curiam Opinion. Panel consists of Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright and Justice McCall. - Dallas

Neftali Cisneros v. State of Texas. Per Curiam Opinion. Panel consists of Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright and Justice McCall. -- Taylor

Appeal Dismissed

Michael Dewayne Schumate a/k/a Michael Schumate v. State of Texas. Per Curiam Opinion. Panel consists of Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright and Justice McCall. -- Taylor

Appeal Abated

Mike Henry Herron v. State of Texas. Per Curiam Opinion. Panel consists of Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright and Justice McCall. - Harris

Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus Denied

In re Jimmy Lee Jay. Realtor's petition for writ of habeas corpus. -- Orig. Proc.

Petition for Writ of Mandamus Denied

In re Jeffrey Balawajder Per Curiam Memorandum Opinion. Panel consists of Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright and Justice McCall. - Orig. Proc.

In re Michael Eugene McCoy. Realtor's pro se writ of mandamus. -- Orig. Proc.

Motions Submitted & Granted

Jesse Dan Cates v. State of Texas. State's motion for extension of time to file brief. - Stephens

Horatio Sprague Taveau, D.O. v. Angela M. Brenden, Individually and as Representative of the Estate of Linda Gayle Evans, Deceased, Gayle S. Maxwell, and Curtis Kirkpatrick. Appellees'/Cross-Appellant's second unopposed extension of time to file brief.

Taveau's motion to amend appellant's initial brief and supplemental brief of Horatio Taveau, D.O. -- Taylor

Leonardo Escoto Magallenes v. State of Texas. Appellant's counsel's motion for leave to withdraw and motion to withdraw. -- Dallas.

In the interest of K.J.L. III, and C.A.L. Appellee's second motion for extension of

time to file brief. -- Nolan Neftali Cisneros v. State of Texas. Appellant's counsel's motion to withdraw. -- Taylor

Bruce Douglas Wilson v. State of Texas. Appellant's counsel's motion to withdraw -- Stephens

Kenneth Lee Lincicome, II v. State of Texas. Appellant's motion for extension of time to file brief. -- Dawson

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And Rights The Right To Complain Of Inspections, Vagrancies

By Gordon Clark
(Ed. Note: Eastland is presently initiating planning and zoning ordinances.)

The big news is that we are now to have building standards and inspections starting with required listing of every new residence built. With a registration fee naturally. Only \$30 at first but who ever heard of a fee which did not grow and grow? But OH JOY now we are and a federal push was mentioned) catching up with the rest of the world. But you and I both know that every such law is "to promote the general welfare". Well don't we?

Thus the public is protected from shoddy construction. Like for example in San Diego, CA the county plumbing code called for 4 inch cast iron soil pipe. But during WW II the federal government had large tracts

of defense housing built in which they used only 3 inch soil pipe. But county codes must not rule on federal property. Thus the 3 inch pipe served for many years with no problems. But hold on. War did not last forever and with private housing units were sold to the public. Now county code is in control. Nothing has to be changed UNLESS repairs are required at which time inspection required the entire system whether electrical or plumbing to be brought into conformity with code. If a plumber had to be called to replace a worn out faucet EVERYTHING meaning that 3 inch soil pipe had to be according to code so the extremely expensive job of digging up and replacing with 4 inch soil pipe.

Then with the passage of a few years a building boom began but powerful special

interests meaning big construction companies backed by the home loan people and others decided to save money in every possible way so county code was revised to permit the use of 3 inch soil pipe. You can imagine how those folks who bought federal housing and paid a hell of a price to replace with 4 inch soil pipe felt.

Oh but you can't condemn the code system on the basis of one isolated conflict of requirements.

Certainly not! Then when I went broke in the turkey business and went to California to earn enough to pay my debts I worked as a construction laborer. My folks built on their own a new house with plans which were slightly altered by county planning commission such as requiring a picture window in the living room to be replaced by a double window "to permit cross ventilation". Mother wondered who would require her to open that window for that cross ventilation but no matter, the house plan had to be changed. Such changes and approvals are what they are paid for.

The frame of the house was completed and the frame inspector came. He had to be paid for a second inspection because he found ceiling joists in the kitchen were ten feet two inches long and two by fours had to be ripped out and replaced by two by sixes. That two inches over the permitted ten feet was simply unacceptable.

At Olive Grove housing tract I protested to the foreman that the fourteen foot two by four ceiling joists I was told to set in houses

would never pass inspection! "Yes they will because our engineer guarantees that the quality of materials we use is sufficient to support the ceilings without sagging." Of course I never saw an engineer checking the lumber piles nor do I think the inspectors looked at each joist and rafter either. But the public was protected by standards and inspections. Oh my yes!

Of course if in the distant future a buyer noticed something sagging he could go to the law for redress. But he could have done that without codes and inspections.

So by all means let's go to law. First, you must be able to hire a lawyer who can search records to determine who was originally at fault. The building corporation and their engineer? Well, a corporation is a "legal person" and though the individuals are still around the corporation has been dissolved so that legal person has died and will you sue the dead? The engineer, if you can find him has probably retired as has the inspector so maybe you can ruin their professional reputation? Come on now. If it goes bad the cheapest way is to fix it yourself. But be careful you don't spend too much on those repairs because you now know that over a certain amount will require a permit and inspection!

In the 40s when vagrancy laws were enforced I met a Mexican who had gone back to live south of the border and he complained of having been jailed in Los Angeles for "the vagrancia" as he said. "Free country? Hell, you aren't even free to be poor!"

But we know that is not the true today. It seems the system is not only permitting most of you to be poor but is determined that you shall stay that way.

Golly I hope I never get dressed anybody. Just go back to your TV and ball games. I'm some personality cult and stand up for your hero. Nobody wants to steal your freedom. That would be "un-American."

I don't know if it is true or not but I once read that when officers told Napoleon the troops were complaining too much he said "Let them. To complain is the only right the common soldier has left." So like a buck private I hope the new Homeland Security laws still don't stop me from complaining. Nobody pays any attention to me anyhow.

Make plans now to attend the Cisco High School All-School Reunion in June of 2005

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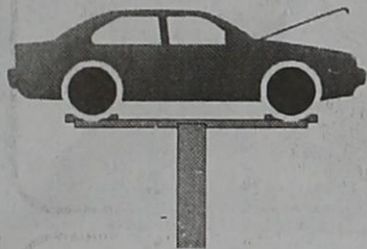
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Ricky Miller Of Clyde Receives Bronze Star Medal



Pictured above are Ricky Miller (center) and Congressman Charles Stenholm at the Bronze Star Presentation.

photo courtesy of the office of Congressman Stenholm

A Callahan County resident, Ricky Miller of Clyde, was recently presented with the Bronze Star Medal, awarded him for heroic achievement while serving in Vietnam.

Congressman Charles Stenholm presented Mr. Miller with the award.

Ricky Miller served as a Specialist Five of the C Troop, 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry (Air), 101st Airborne Division (Air Mobile) of the United States Army. On 4 August 1970, he was serving as a crew chief and left door gunner on a UH-1H (huey helicopter) flying fourth in flight of four UH-1Hs in Thua Thien Province, in the Republic of Vietnam. On this day, they were in route to their PZ (pick-up-Zone) to extract 24 ground soldiers in which they had previously inserted that day to investigate an NVA (North Vietnamese Army) position located by an observation helicopter.

As Mr. Miller's aircraft entered the PZ, there were only 6 soldiers left on the ground, 3 of which were wounded, while experiencing intense small arms and PRG fire from the NVA. Mr. Miller felt the wounded soldiers would not make it to the huey, and without orders, departed his helicopter and moved towards the soldiers armed only with his .45 cal. pistol, which subsequently jammed. Undaunted, he made 3 trips into the PZ and rescued 3

U.S. soldiers as the NVA grew nearer. During his last trip and rescue of Sgt Johnson, he was knocked down several times from close ground explosions of enemy fire. Although seriously wounded and soaked in blood, Sgt Johnson repeatedly told Mr. Miller to leave him and save himself, but Mr. Miller replied "no way am I leaving you behind."

As soon as Mr. Miller and Sgt Johnson were back on the huey, they lifted off quickly in pursuit to the 85th Evacuation Hospital in Phu Bai. In fact, their helicopter began to shake violently because Aircraft Commander Warrant Officer Glenn Dooley was desperately trying to get to the hospital. They exceeded the redline airspeed of 120 knots. As stated above, they were the 4th in flight of 4 UH-1Hs, but the first to arrive at the hospital passing all three helicopters. During flight, they tended to the wounded soldiers. Unfortunately, Sgt Johnson sustained a severe gun shot wound to the back and later passed away.

Initially, Mr. Miller received recommendation for the award of the Medal of Honor from his Aero-Rifle Platoon Commander, Retired Major Malcolm Jones, Jr., however, the Army Decorations Board awarded him of the Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device for Valor & First Oak Leaf Cluster. The First Oak Leaf Cluster denotes a second award. Throughout his military service, Mr. Miller has been awarded the following medals: National Defense Service Medal; Vietnam Service Medal w/3 Bronze Service Stars; Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal; Air Medal w/V Device (Numeral 5); Air Medal w/V Device (Numeral 25); Bronze Star Medal; Army Commendation Medal; and Sharpshooter (Rifle).

The certificate Mr. Miller received along with his medal reads as follows:

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING: THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AUTHORIZED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER, 24 AUGUST 1962 HAS AWARDED THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH "V"

TO DEVICE RICKY R. MILLER (THEN SPECIALIST FIVE, UNITED STATES ARMY) FOR heroic achievement on 4 August 1970, while serving as UH-1H crew chief flying fourth in a flight of four UH-1Hs in Thua Thien Province, in the Republic of Vietnam. On this date, C Troop, 2/17 Cavalry had inserted 24 ground Cavalry scouts to investigate an NVA position located by an observation helicopter. The enemy position was destroyed and extraction was requested. As the third helicopter entered the pick-up zone, an explosion rocked the area followed by NVA small arms and RPG fire. As Specialist Miller's aircraft entered the PZ, there were only six men on the ground trying to repel the advancing and numerically superior NVA force and three of them were wounded. Assessing the situation, Specialist Miller, without orders, departed his helicopter and moved towards the wounded soldiers armed only with his .45 cal. pistol, which subsequently jammed. Undaunted, he made three trips into the PZ to rescue three U.S. soldiers while under continuous enemy small arms and RPG fire. Specialist Miller's exemplary performance of duty in active ground combat was in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

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Thursday, January 29, 2004
Baird First Baptist Church Events

Each one of you are invited to join us at the corner of Race and 3rd St. Baird.

For more information on any of these events please contact the church: 854-1574.

Feb. 1, 2004 Prayer time for anyone interested, 5:00 p.m. Sanctuary.

Youth SUPER BOWL PARTY, 5:00 P.M. at the Chris and Rhonda Vestal home. All youth in the community are invited.

Feb. 3, 2004 Men's Prayer Breakfast, 6:30 A.M. in fellowship hall.

Feb. 4, 2004 AWANA Club meets 6:30 P.M. in fellowship hall.

Feb. 8, 2004 Canterbury

Villa of Baird service, 3:30 P.M.

Women's Bible Study, 5:00 P.M., fellowship hall.

Prayer time, 5:00 P.M., Sanctuary

Feb. 9, 2004 Women on Mission, 6:00 P.M. in fellowship hall

Feb. 10, 2004 Ladies Prayer Breakfast, 7:00 A.M. in fellowship hall.

Feb. 11, 2004 AWANA club meets 6:30 P.M. in fellowship hall.

Feb. 12, 2004 World Hunger awareness and fundraiser. Bean and Cornbread lunch in fellowship hall following the morning service. All donations go to World Hunger.

Baird I. S. D. School Lunch Menu

Wednesday, Jan. 28

Nacho Grande, Refried Beans, Spanish Rice Cobbler, Milk

Thursday, Jan. 29

Chicken Spaghetti, Green Peas, Carrots, Fruit, Crackers, Milk

Friday, Jan. 30

Bear Dogs, Pork-N-Beans, French Fries, Rice Krispies, Milk

D. P. S. Report

01-18-04 to 24-04

Cases Investigated

Warnings - 158

Complaints - 129

Minor in Possession - 1

Driving Under the Influence Minor - 2

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