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Callahan County Baird Star

Baird, Officially Designated Antique Capital Of West Texas

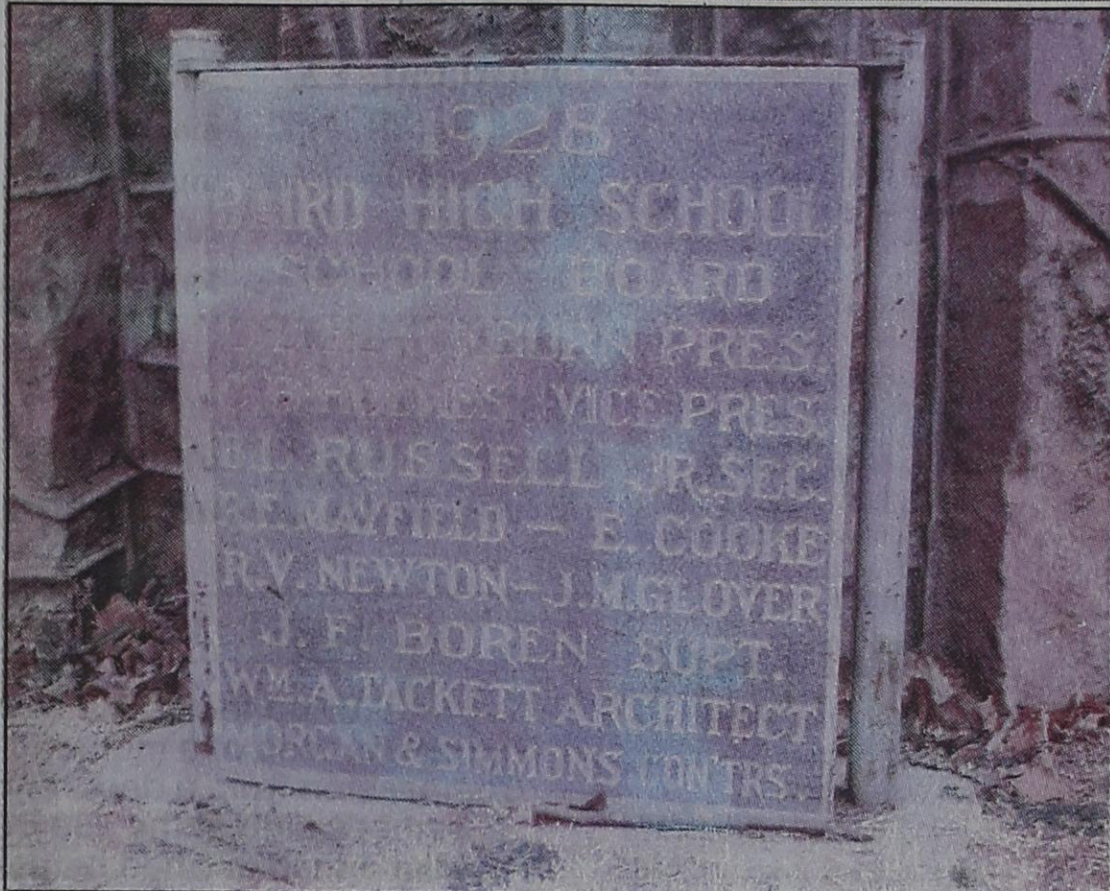
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25¢
31¢ By Mail

Volume 122, Number 8

Baird, Texas 79504

Thursday, February 19, 2009



The sign at Baird High School--It says 1928 Baird High School School Board L.L. Blackburn, Pres.; C.B. Holmes, Vice Pres.; B.L. Russell, Jr., Sec.; R.F. Mayfield, E. Cooke, R.V. Newton, J.M. Glover, J.F. Boren, Supt.; W.M. A. Tackett, Architect; Morgan & Simmons Contractors
(Photo by Patrick Ready)



Larry McIntire, right, maintenance inspector in the Callahan County maintenance section, is presented a Certificate of Service by Lynn Passmore. Lee, a 15-year employee with the Texas Department of Transportation, was honored for his longevity during a recent supervisors meeting in Abilene. In addition to the framed certificate, he received a 15-year service pin and a black tote bag, his gift of choice. Passmore is the former interim Abilene District Engineer. (TxDOT photo by Mary Beth Kilgore)

Callahan County Library News

New at the library are: *The Night Stalker* by James Swain, *2009 World Almanac*, *Ghost Letters* by Stephen Alter, *Warrior Heir* by Cinda Chima, *Waiting for Normal* by Leslie Connor, and *Scarpetta** by Patricia Cornwell. These books were purchased with Loan Star Libraries Grant money. *Large print. Also at the library are: *Song of the Water Boatman and other Pond Poems* by Joyce Kilmer, *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble* by William Steig, *Knuffle Bunny* by Mo Willems and *King Bidgood's in the Bathtub* by Audrey Wood.

From the Past
Callahan County Clarendon

April 17, 1880

One hundred teams, formerly from Missouri, left the T&P RR and have gone to work on the central. The mail-carrier's team gave out last week between Coleman and Buffalo Gap, and he continued on his journey on foot, carrying the mail and walking sixty-five miles.

The railroad locating party have moved their camp and are now working on the line north of this place, which runs near Mr. W.C. Powell's ranch. No definite developments have been made yet, and we can give our readers but little satisfaction in the way of railroad news.

Chinamen for Texas
A special train of nine cars passed through Denison sometime since conveying four hundred fifty Chinamen. They were in charge of Koopmanschap, the Chinese emigration agent for California who brought them direct from Sacramento. They are to be employed at various points on the Brazos. A native Loof Lirpa or priest accompanies the party to attend their spiritual necessities. We welcome immigration to our

sunny state and think it on of the primeval means of developing her vast resources and settling up her vast domains and cause her wide-stretching beautiful prairies - now uncultivated - to teem with happy homes and prosperous farms; but to this class of emigrants (the Chinese) we object. California has been cursed with the evil of Chinese emigration until she could endure it no longer and John now finds it to his advantage to think about leaving the Pacific and is already making his presence felt in several of the Eastern States. Should they find ready employment with us and receive encouragement to come, white labor to compete with these coolies. Leach-like, they are a continual drain upon the wealth of the country for they never spend their earnings with our people but send them back to the "Flowery Kingdom" or after they have accumulated enough, by stint of miserly hoarding away their steadily increasing gains until they have amassed their fortune, they take a final leave of America and return to their home to enjoy the means which should have gone into the hands of American citizens, where it would help to maintain our schools, asylums, churches and our benevolent and scientific institutions of various kinds - thus by so doing aid in keeping the wheel of progress in motion. Let those who give aid to this class of immigration, stop and reflect, for they are fostering in our midst and giving encouragement to an evil which it will take years to eradicate. Let them profit by California's experience, who has been overshadowed, as by a cloud, for the last quarter century.

Tornado Warning Drill For Schools Set For Feb. 26

February 23-27th is Texas Severe Weather Awareness Week. Severe weather may strike with only a few minutes of advance warning. Do you have more than one way to receive a warning?

At approximately 9:30 a.m., the National Weather Service in San Angelo will transmit a practice tornado warning. We will transmit this warning through NOAA All Hazards Radio (formerly NOAA Weather Radio). Some of your local radio and TV stations, and Emergency Management offices may also relay this warning in your area. The practice tornado warning will be cancelled at 9:45 a.m.

We will issue the warning for the following counties: Throckmorton, Haskell, Fisher, Jones, Shackelford, Nolan, Taylor, Callahan, Sterling, Coke, Runnels, Coleman, Brown, Irion, Tom Green, Concho, McCulloch, San Saba, Crockett, Schleicher, Menard, Sutton, Kimble, and Mason counties.

For more information, please contact Hector Guerrero at HYPERLINK "mailto:hector.guerrero@noaa.gov" or Buddy McIntyre at HYPERLINK "mailto:buddy.mcintyre@noaa.gov"

DPS Report

2-8 to 2-14-09

CASES INVESTIGATED

Warnings-108
Complaints- 53
Fugitive Arrest- 1
Public Intoxication- 2
Driving While License Invalid-2
DWI-1
Possession of Marijuana- 1

ACCIDENTS

There were 4 accidents investigated during this time span.

Clyde First UMC To Host 'Fat Tuesday' Celebration Feb. 24

It's time to party it up, and...eat, Fat Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday. It is also known as Mardi Gras Day or Shrove Day. It is a day when people eat all they want of everything and anything they want as the following day is Ash Wednesday, beginning of a long fasting period for Christians. In addition to fasting, Christians also give up something special that they enjoy. So, Fat Tuesday is a celebration and the opportunity to enjoy that favorite food or snack that you give up for the long Lenten season.

Clyde First United Methodist Church will be celebrating Fat Tuesday, Feb. 24 by serving pancakes, juice and fixings at 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and again at 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Methodist Fellowship Hall. Everyone in the community is welcome to stop by and eat some Methodist pancakes!

Mardi Gras, literally "Fat Tuesday", has grown in popularity in recent years as a raucous, sometimes hedonistic event. But its roots lie in the Christian calendar, as the "last hurrah" before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. That's why the enormous party in New Orleans, for example, ends abruptly at midnight on Tuesday, with battalions of street sweepers pushing the crowds out of the French Quarter towards home.

What is less known about Mardi Gras is its relation to the Christmas season, through the ordinary-time interlude known in many Catholic cultures as Carnival. (Ordinary time, in the Christian calendar, refers to the normal "ordering" of time outside of the Advent/Christmas or Lent/Easter seasons.

Callahan County Fire Association Needs Your Help

The Callahan County Fire Association is an association established to bring all of the departments in Callahan County together to better serve and protect our community.

Current members of this association are Cross Plains Volunteer Fire Department, Baird, Baird Volunteer Fire Department, Clyde Volunteer Fire Department, Oplin Volunteer Fire Department and Putnam Volunteer Fire Department.

The Association is asking for your HELP! We are currently trying to purchase some much needed equipment that will be used county-wide. This equipment will be accessible by all member departments. For the Association to be able to make these

purchases, we will need the support of all the communities in Callahan County.

If you would like to assist the association in acquiring this equipment, you can send a donation to:

Callahan County Fire Association
P.O. Box 1013
Baird, Texas 79504

If you have any questions or want to help in other ways, you may contact Gerald Brown, Association President at 325-665-6435 or call any of your local fire chiefs.

For additional information, you can also visit our website at callahanfire.com
Thank you in advance for your support!

Baird ISD Coronation To Be Held February 21

Baird Coronation will be held Saturday, February 21st at 7 p.m. in the school auditorium. Representatives from classes and school organizations will be presented at the annual coronation. "Wish Upon A Star" is this year's theme.

Admission is \$3.00 for

adults and \$1.00 for students. The Student Council will be selling Coronation DVD's for \$10.00. (Outside camcorders will not be allowed in the auditorium).

Coronation is a fundraiser for Student Council and all of the proceeds go toward Stu-Co projects, which aid the school and community.

Callahan County Baird Star Newspaper Deadlines Tuesdays by 5:00 p.m.

Share your color photos for possible print in your Hometown paper. E-mail to ecn@att.net, mail to P.O. Box 29 Eastland, TX 76448. Photos will be returned. Anniversaries, weddings, new babies, grandchildren, pets or ?

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STAR SPOTLIGHT

WRITERS SHOWCASE

(All submitters retain ownership)

American Life In Poetry

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE, 2004-2006

Memories form around details the way a pearl forms around a grain of sand, and in this commemoration of an anniversary, Cecilia Woloch reaches back to grasp a few details that promise to bring a cherished memory forward, and succeeds in doing so. The poet lives and teaches in southern California.

Anniversary

Didn't I stand there once, white-knuckled, gripping the just-lit taper, swearing I'd never go back? And hadn't you kissed the rain from my mouth? And weren't we gentle and awed and afraid, knowing we'd stepped from the room of desire into the further room of love? And wasn't it sacred, the sweetness we licked from each other's hands?

And were we not lovely, then, were we not as lovely as thunder, and damp grass, and flame?

American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (www.poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright (c) 2008 by Cecilia Woloch. Reprinted from "Narcissus," by Cecilia Woloch, Tupelo Press, Dorset, VT, 2008, by permission of Cecilia Woloch.

Introduction copyright (c) 2009 by The Poetry Foundation.

The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006. We do not accept unsolicited manuscripts.

Sounds In Literature

Part of what makes literature, is the craft of writing where sound plays and important part of the presentation. This occurs in all language, but authors of the more artful parts of the language use it with more design. Poets use the musical part of language as an end to it's own, usually along with a good theme as well. Rhyme is the most ancient and common notion of this. It is the repetition of sound, used by poets for centuries to create a melodic texture to the language. Rhyme does not have to occur at the end of the line, although that may give it's most forceful

effect, utilizing the stanza to accentuate the sounds. Another effective use of repetitive sound are the twin devices of consonance and assonance. Assonance is the use of vowel sounds that are identical, in several words. "Once we had one of woven colored willow branches. The "o" sound is used a lot. A version of consonance could be, "The Fall lawn was filled with fallen foliage," where constant sounds are repeated. These all are wonderful tools the writer has to make his or her poetry or stories, or even nonfiction zing with zip!

- Patrick Ready

Memory Has No Real Estate

German poet Durs Grünbein offers candid and chilling versions of history.

By Helen Vendler
Poetry Media Service

Ashes for Breakfast: Selected Poems, by Durs Grünbein. Translated by Michael Hofmann. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$16.00

Although some poems by Durs Grünbein had been published in journals here and in England, it was not until the appearance of this volume, crisply and colloquially translated by Michael Hofmann, that an English-speaking reader could approach Grünbein's coruscating writing. Grünbein was born in Dresden, in East Germany, in 1962, and moved to East Berlin as a young adult. "I was happy in a sandy no-man's land," the poet wrote in 1991, evoking his student life in the East by casting himself, in his devastatingly ironic sonnet sequence "Portrait of the Artist as a Young Border Dog (Not Collie)," as a patrol dog "in the suicide strip, equidistant from East and West." With the fall of the Wall in 1989, with even the "two or three names for the place of separation" vanishing into oblivion, "nothing is left to recall the trick/By which a strip of land became a hole in time."

"Being a dog," says a defining poem early in "Portrait of the Artist," "is having to when you don't want to, wanting to/ When you can't, and always somebody watching." The frustration of being restricted in will and placed under surveillance emerges in the iron grip of Grünbein's epigram. The young poet left the East as soon as possible, only to discover the vices and the disappointments of the West. Although he became permanently ill at ease with respect to place, he is supremely at home in language. There is hardly a page here that does not contain a real poem, out of Grünbein by Hofmann, a poem "real" enough--in emotion, in cadence, in imagination--to make a reader's hair stand on end.

The frequent criticism, by others, of Grünbein's bleakness is embedded in his

"Memorandum": Poets, so they tell us, are awkward customers

Not up to much. Even laughter has a keener, full-throated edge

When they're not around. They're not very amusing.

No, poets are not very amusing. The discontented demand by some readers that poetry should be "healing" or "uplifting" or "optimistic" or "humane" (or "accessible") re-affirms the truth of Eliot's observation that "human kind cannot bear very much reality." Yet it is, in fact, an optimistic act to write any poem at all: the act implies the trust that another mind will meet the poem half way, and an even deeper trust that language can become adequate to a human predicament.

There are even, for Grünbein, disheartening moments "when the books close ranks and it transpires they don't speak." Here the poet, speaking in the lyric first person, is the man of letters who looks for a sustaining word in the daily paper and finds none. The muse of history, Clio, will not reveal any significance in current events:

I have breakfasted on ashes, the black

Dust that comes off newspapers, from the freshly printed columns.

When a coup makes no stain, and a tornado sticks to half a page.

And it seemed to me as though the Fates licked their lips

When war broke out in the sports section, reflected in the falling Dow.

I have breakfasted on ashes. My daily bread.

And Clio, as ever, keeps mum.... There, just as I folded them up,

The rustling pages sent a shiver down my spine.

And yet Clio, for all her intermittent silence, is Grünbein's principal muse. He came to consciousness within the disastrous history of twentieth-century Germany and has had to re-imagine that history for himself, to meditate on the fire-bombed Dresden where

Submissions sought to:

Star
P.O. Box 29
Eastland, TX
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email: thebairdspotlight@att.net

S.A.S.E, for returns

--WANTED--

20 lines, double spaced or less Poetry Fiction or Non

Each entry with brief biography notes. All must be family oriented; no smut, slander or liable material.

WANTED: Poetry and/or short stories for this page each week. Mail to: Star P.O. Box 29 Eastland, TX 76448 or e-mail to thebairdspotlight@att.net

Sail Away

Bring to me this

The tenderness of a mother's smile
Compassion from a departing son
A farmer's sigh at the end of day
A soldier's thanks when battles won.

Bring to me

Blessed calm as yon Ganges banks
And the task of a honey bee
Bring the light touch of tender hands
And days of quiet serenity.

Add this

To all which you may bring to me
Days of laughter and nights of love
This blessed life may then be ended
To sail away as a peaceful dove.

-Weldon L. Smith
Eastland, Texas



A small town scene Photo by Patrick Ready

he was born, and to judge the unified but invisibly divided Berlin where he now lives. It must give a shiver to citizens of Berlin to see their contemporary city-sites given sharp definition by Grünbein, with his perpetually simmering sense of an imperfectly buried past.

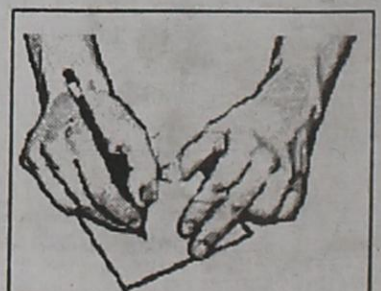
It is in the formidable 1994 eleven-poem Dresden sequence, "Europe after the Last Rains," that we see the most melancholy (and angry) Grünbein. He returns to the place of his youth, but it has disappeared. "Memory has no real estate no city / where you come home and you know where you are." Remembering the World War II firebombing of the city, Grünbein asks, "Is it the same city in the valley/as the pilot saw in its phosphorescent glory?"

Germany's earlier twentieth century, led by a Fuhrer and his followers, and populated by combatants, resisters, refugees, camp victims, children, "righteous Gentiles," and a host of subsidiary figures, has had

its chronicles written and rewritten, just as the later twentieth century, with the Russian and American occupation, the Wall, the airlift, and the fall of East Germany, has had its own distinct forms of retrospection. One candid and chilling version of this history has been, and is being, told by Germany's poets. Durs Grünbein's account stands as an illumination and corrective to the more impersonal accounts of historians and scholars.

Helen Vendler is a contributing editor at The New Republic. This article first appeared in The New Republic. Distributed by the Poetry Foundation at www.poetryfoundation.org.

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Words To Use:

Comate: A hairy dog can be described this way, like a Chow or Eskimo or Pekinese. Those dogs or humans that can't see well because of hair, can be said to be comate.

Drumlin: A hill that is long, not like most of those at Dublin, Texas.

Frenetic: Here is another word for a person or chicken that is frantic, berserk, unnerved. They needed another word for crazy, disoriented, deranged, bothered, agitated, uncomposed.

Hogmanay: This unusual word designates a gift or a cake made on New Year's Eve. It's a nice word to know for next year.

Ignavy: It is good to know that when someone is lazy, you have this word to describe them. You would rarely use it to describe yourself, except in a joking manner.

Writers And Poets!

The Eastland/Callahan County Newspapers announce that the Baird Star will be publishing submitted poetry and short stories. We will also be publishing a literary journal in the near future.

1. We ask for first-time publishing rights. All other rights will remain with the author.
2. There will be no payment, but you will get your works before the general public. We will

be sending sample copies to other organizations, the literary world and libraries for their archives and your notoriety.

3. Short stories should be brief. Poetry should be no longer than 24 lines.
4. Each submission should be typewritten, single spaced, with author's name and contact information in the top right hand corner. You must

include a SASE for the return of the submission.

5. Please address all submissions to:

Literary Editor
Eastland/Callahan County
Newspapers
P. O. Box 29
Eastland, TX 76448

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 For Sale: 14 yr. old female donkey; 1 4 yr. old male Jerusalem donkey; 5 yr. old grey & white female mule; 13 yr. old Tennessee Walker mare; 13 yr. old Welch pony w/ mane & tail blonde; 6 yr. old black & white paint stallion. Stallion is gentle, breeds well, ridden once. Can see his babies on site. Call Lynn or Jim home: 325-854-1471; Lynn cell 325-338-5654 or Jim cell 325-338-5774.

THANK YOU
 We would like to thank everyone who sent flowers, cards, food, phone calls, stopped by and for all your prayers. There was so much love and kindness shown to our family during the loss of our loved one. Thank you EMH for everything the nurses did to make John comfortable and to Dr. Cunningham for all you did and your kindness, to Dr. DeLuca and Dr. Maples for sitting up with John through the night. To Girling Health Care Elsha and Cindy you girls were great. To Respiratory at the Hospital Cindy, Bo, and Charlie and to Physical Therapy at EMH. Thank you River of Life Church and to Pastor Maston you did and outstanding job. To

an outstanding job. We love you guys you're the best. Thank you The John McCoy Family Sheila McCoy, Kelly & Roger Reep & Family, John & Jenifer McCoy, Jennifer Tucker & Family, Elton & Cindy McCoy & Family

The Comedy 'Paul Blart: Mall Cop' Coming To Majestic
 A different sort of comedy/thriller is coming next weekend to the Majestic Theater in Eastland. "Paul Blart: Mall Cop" will begin showing on Friday, Feb. 20, and can be seen nightly through Monday, Feb. 23. The Majestic will open at 7:00, with curtain time at 7:30. General admission will be \$4.50 at the box office, with balcony tickets \$6.00. (Adults only). This movie was produced by Sony Pictures, and rated PG. It stars Kevin James. "Paul Blart" has a few surprises in store, and the biggest is reported to be James himself. He turns out to be a nimble and expressive actor who carries the picture along at a fast clip. The former "King of Queens" star

grounds the movie as it turns from a gentle comedy to a loopy heist-thriller. Majestic Manager Ed Allcorn says that this picture is doing well at the box office.

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 This newspaper is not responsible for errors or omissions printed in error, except to correct them in the next edition. It is the responsibility of the advertiser to notify this newspaper after the first appearance.
 Our established and recorded policy on newspaper advertising placement provides that: **TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF AN ADVERTISED BUSINESS AND/OR SERVICE DOES NOT ELIMINATE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR PAYMENT BY THE PERSON OR FIRM THAT ORIGINALLY ORDERED THE ADVERTISEMENT.**
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 Classifieds run in all 4 Newspapers- Cisco, Eastland, Ranger, Rising Star

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 Check out our prices updated daily www.aqualitysteel.net

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 Do you need to sell anything? Sell it in the classifieds.
 Do you need a job? Look in the classifieds.
 How about an automobile? Check for one in the classifieds.
 Advertise in the Classifieds and get results!!!

Tarleton Names Distinguished Students For Fall 2008 Semester

Stephenville- The Distinguished Students list for the spring 2008 semester has been released by Tarleton State University.

Distinguished Students include freshman and sophomore students who have a minimum 3.25 GPR and no grade lower than a C, and juniors and seniors who have a minimum 3.5 GPR with no grade lower than a C.

Named to the list is Chance Rodriguez of Baird.

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Obituary

Harry Luther Luttrell

ABILENE-Harry Luther Luttrell, 68, of Abilene, Texas, died Tuesday, February 17, 2009 at a local hospital.

Services to be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, February 19, 2009 at the Bailey Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Clayton Pennington officiating. Visitation will be noon until service time Thursday.

Mr. Luttrell was born in Merkel, Texas on May 8, 1940. He married Mary Catherine Allen in Baird, Texas on March 8, 1982. They moved from Houston to Abilene in 1985. He worked as a truck driver, mechanic and heavy equipment operator. He always had a great sense of humor, lots of friends and loved life. His favorite pastime was fishing. We will all miss him very much.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and one sister, Bonnie Susan Luttrell.

Survivors are his wife, Mary Catherine Luttrell of Abilene; 7 children; 2 brothers, Thomas Bruce Luttrell of Freer and Louis Duaine Luttrell and wife, Margie of Wilmer, Alabama; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and several aunts, uncles, cousins.

Sudoku Answer

Sudoku grid with numbers 1-9 in a 9x9 pattern.

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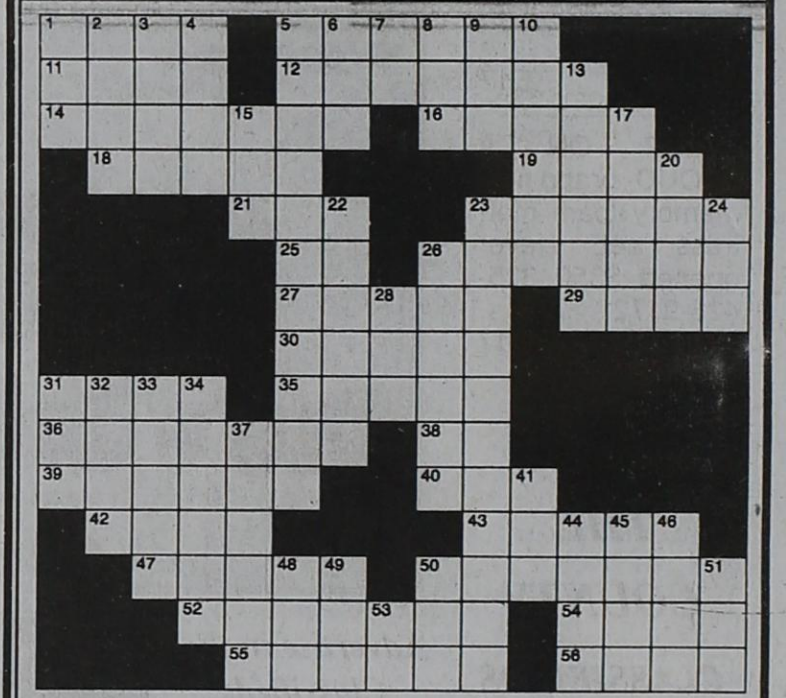
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Peer of the highest rank
5. So. Am. camel relations
11. In a short time
12. Modernized
14. Picket fences
16. Nacred gem
18. nified: foolish
19. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
21. Political action committee
23. Roam aimlessly
25. Peach state (abbr.)
26. Walls covered with wood
27. Pismire
29. Lowest feudal class
30. End
31. Mama Mia group
35. Change or modify
36. Mountain lions
38. Atomic #22
39. Sharp verbal reply
40. Autonomic nervous system
42. Fiddled while Rome burned
43. Computer oddballs
47. Latin ballroom dance
50. Gum arabics
52. Tissue cancer
54. One of the suits
55. A native of the island of Samoa
56. Young woman (French)

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Dip lightly into water
2. Two-toed sloth
3. Cologne
4. Blyton, children's author
5. Airport conveyance
6. Lasting records
7. A public promotion
8. A diagrammatic representation
9. Dined
10. Mariner
13. Male bees
15. Lightly bite
17. Punch or soup server
20. Brewed beverage
22. Even-toed ungulates
23. Spouted garden container
24. Radio direction finder (abbr.)
26. Former Spanish coin
28. Pad at the door
31. Air Control Radar
32. Terminator psychologist actor Earl
33. Attri qualities
34. Greek marketplaces
37. Odors
41. Large body of water
44. Electronic counter-counter-measures
45. Cause to die
46. First king of Israel
48. Women's undergarment
49. Assoc. for Computing Machinery
50. Doctors' group
51. Point one point E of due S
53. Bond's agent status

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Basketball Scores

Boys

Clyde 76, Cisco 25
 Cisco 58 6 6 25
 Clyde 20 13 17 26 76
 Clyde- Gonzales 10, Marti-
 nez 8, Hilcher 23, Davidson 10,
 Gordon 3, Lobo 4, Dean 7, Hol-
 land 11
 JV: Clyde 58, Cisco 21
 Baird 62, Winters 25
 Winters 1 5 10 9 25

Baird 14 15 23 10 62
 Baird- Whitworth 18, Jen-
 nings 12, Allen 10, Neil 9
 JV: Baird 30, Winters 29
 Albany 41, Eula 38
 Albany 9 13 11 8 41
 Eula 2 8 16 12 38
 Eula- Carrigan 2, Riley 1,
 Reid 2, Corbin 6, Archa 8,
 Hewitt 6, Galle 6, Irons 7
 JV: Eula 50, Albany 44

Crossword Answers

D	L	L	A	M	A	S
A	N	O	N	U	P	D
P	A	L	I	N	G	S
U	N	D	I	G		
P	A	C				
G	A					
E	M	M	E	T		
C	E	A	S	E		
A	B	B	A			
C	O	U	G	A	R	S
R	E	T	O	R	T	
N	E	R	O			
S	A	M	B	A		
S	A	R	C	O	M	A
S	A	M	O	A	N	

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SUDOKU

			4			2		
2		5		7				9
4			8		5			1
	1					8		
		3		8	4			
						2	7	
7				9				
		6	1			7		
		9						3

Here's How It Works:
 Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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First Financial Bankshares Named As One Of Top Performing Banks In Nation By Bank Directory

First Financial Bankshares, Inc. (NASDAQ: FFIN) has been selected as the second-best-performing publicly traded bank in the nation by *Bank Director Magazine*. The magazine's annual survey rates all publicly traded banks with assets of \$3 billion or more on the basis of profitability, capital adequacy and asset quality. "We are honored to receive this high national recognition by *Bank Director Magazine*," said F.

Scott Dueser, President and Chief Executive Officer. "It is certainly a great validation of our principles and strategies when such a well-respected third party honors us in this manner. It confirms for our customers and stockholders that we continue to be very safe, sound and secure. As for the performance that brought us this recognition, it is the result of our dedicated team of professionals who strive every day to put our

customers first and be the best." For its list of the top 150 best-performing publicly traded banks, *Bank Director Magazine* looked at profitability measures including return on average equity; capital adequacy metrics including the Tier 1 capital ratio and the leverage capital ratio; and asset quality measures including the ratio of nonperforming assets to total loans and other real estate owned, and

the percentage of loan loss reserves to total loans. First Financial Bankshares is the only Texas-based bank among the top ten banks in the *Bank Director Magazine* rating. The story from *Bank Director Magazine* is available at http://www.bankdirector.com/issues/articles.pl?article_id=12006. Headquartered in Abilene, Texas, First Financial Bankshares is a financial holding company that operates ten separately chartered banks with 48 locations in Texas. The bank subsidiaries are First Financial Bank, N.A., Abilene, Albany, Clyde and Moran; First Financial Bank, N.A., Eastland, Ranger and Rising Star; First Financial Bank, N.A., Cleburne, Burleson, Alvarado and Midlothian; Hereford State Bank, Hereford; First Financial Bank, N.A., Mineral Wells; San Angelo National Bank, San Angelo; First Financial Bank, N.A., Southlake, Bridgeport, Boyd, Decatur, Keller and Trophy Club; First Financial Bank, N.A., Stephenville, Granbury, Glen Rose and Acton; First Financial Bank, N.A., Sweetwater, Roby, Trent and Merkel; and Weatherford National Bank, Weatherford, Willow Park, Aledo and Brock. The Company also operates First Financial Trust & Asset Management Company, N.A., with five locations, and First Technology Services, Inc., a technology operating company.

The Company is listed on The NASDAQ Global Select Market under the trading symbol FFIN. For more information about First Financial Bankshares, please visit our Web site at <http://www.ffiin.com>

Polo On The Prairie Marks 23rd Anniversary May 2

Polo on the Prairie marks its 23rd anniversary Saturday, May 2, 2009, at the Musselman's Brothers' Lazy 3 Ranch in Albany, Texas. Polo on the Prairie combines world-class polo sanctioned by the U.S. Polo Association, military fanfare, great food, toe-tapping entertainment and spectacular fireworks into one unforgettable annual event that has become a multigenerational tradition. Amid the fun and sportsmanship, there's a philanthropic side as well: Polo on the Prairie has raised more than \$3.5 million for key research and patient care programs at The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

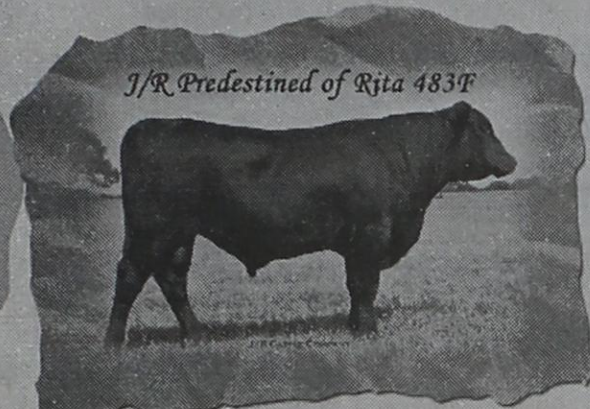
Southern barbecue, dance under the stars- and make a Texas-size contribution toward the fight against cancer. Bring your friends and share a table together. Prime tables already have been reserved, so don't delay! The giving opportunity sheet outlines the benefits of each giving level. Please review the levels and return the response sheet as soon as possible so that we will know how you plan to participate this year. We appreciate your support. God bless Texas, God bless M.D. Anderson and God bless Polo on the Prairie!

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With gratitude, Melinda and Henry Musselman Polo on the Prairie Chairs

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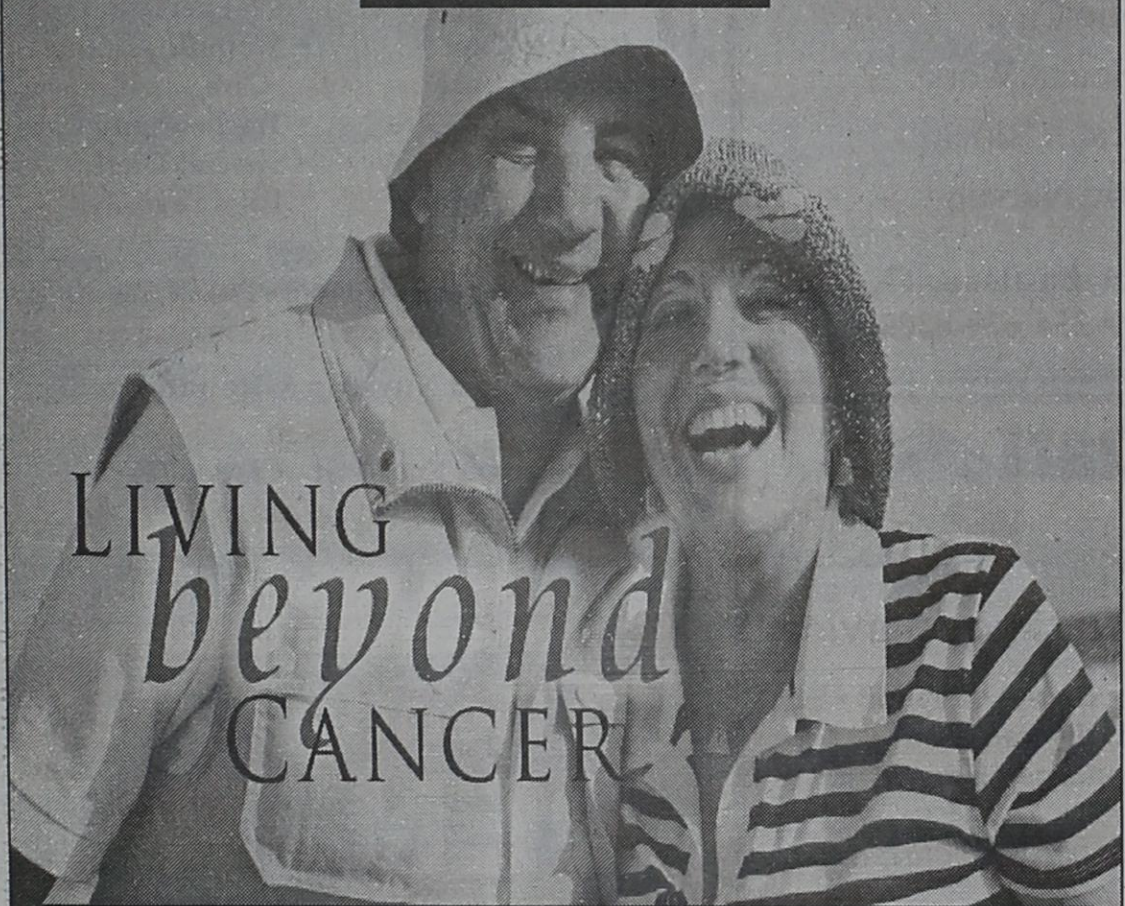
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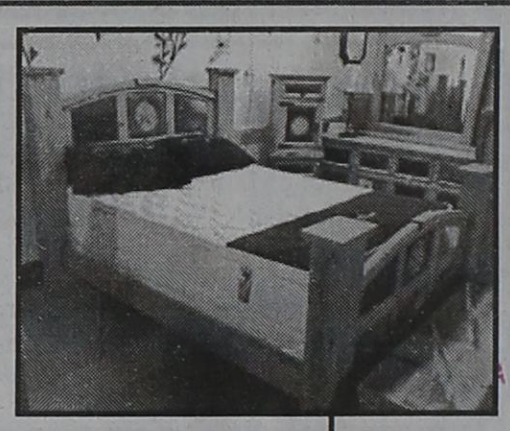


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