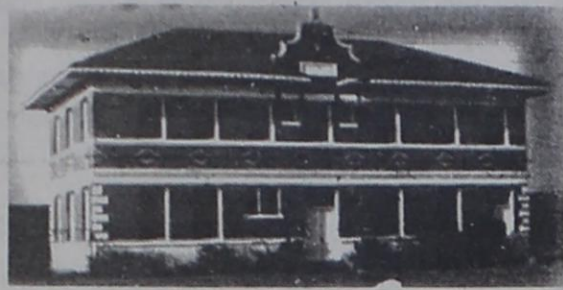




Callahan County



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Baird, Texas 79504

Thursday, January 8, 2004

BSE Drives Cattle Prices Down

Effect not as bad as expected, local livestock exchanges report

by Margaret Hetrick

Some local cattle producers describe the outbreak of BSE, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, - (also known as Mad Cows Disease) - in the U. S. as a "potential disaster".

Only one case of the brain-wasting illness has been found to this date - and that from an infected Holstein in Washington State.

An immediate effect, however, was a market decline in beef prices, and a ban on U. S. beef by a substantial amount of countries.

Apparently, the key to weathering the storm seems to lie in restoring confidence in U. S. beef.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has initiated several courses of action since the outbreak, including a ban on meat from "downer" cattle (can not walk or stand on their own).

Cattle at a higher risk of BSE because of age will be tested more rapidly, and their meat will not be processed until test results are returned.

Efforts to pinpoint the

TDH CONTINUES RABIES CONTROL
Bait Drop Program Successful

A decade of feeding hungry coyotes and gray foxes in the dead of winter has certainly caused canine and gray fox rabies to plummet.

In 1995 the Texas Department of Health (TDH) began the oral vaccination program. The plan was to create zones of vaccinated coyotes and gray foxes to first stop the spread of the rabies and then eliminate it.

Now, with stacks of favorable statistics at hand, TDH is again set to airdrop bait food filled with oral rabies vaccine over portions of south, central and west Texas.

In early January, about 2.7 million baits will drop from four specially-equipped airplanes flying across 47 counties.

The first flight takes off January 6, from the Zapata County airport in South Texas. The second portion of the drop will begin about Jan. 15 from the Kimble County airport in Junction, and the final phase will fly from the Pecos County airport in Fort Stockton beginning about Jan. 22.

"The Oral Rabies Vaccination Program continues to show excellent results," Says TDH Veterinarian Tom Sidwa.

source of the disease are running on full force.

Although the transmission of the infection to humans is highly unlikely, it does happen with a variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

Since the outbreak of BSE in Britain in the 1980s, it is reported that 153 people worldwide have contracted the human form.

In humans, as well as in cattle, the disease is brain-wasting and eventually fatal, which explains the over all fear surrounding BSE.

No connection between Texas and the infected Holstein has been found, Texas state veterinarian Bob Hillman stated.

According to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, 15.5 million of the nation's 103.9 million cattle were in Texas. Texas cattle operations contribute \$16 billion yearly to the economy, the State Ag. Department stated.

2003 had seen record profits in the Texas cattle industry, but prices for feeder cattle dropped Market prices in the

County Stock Show Scheduled Jan. 15-17 In Cross Plains

Callahan County's annual Jr. Livestock Show is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 15 through Saturday, Jan. 17 at the Jr. Livestock Barn in Cross Plains.

Entries could number as many as 450 this year, according to Frankie Hyles, President of the Callahan County Jr. Livestock Association.

Entries come from FFA Chapters and 4-H clubs throughout Callahan County.

Everyone is invited to see the show and support the youth of Callahan County.

Superintendents for the 2004 show are as follows:

Beef Cattle - Eddie Riley, Johnny Lee; Market Swine - Jackie Tennison; Poultry & Rabbits - Doug Johnston, Larry McIntire; Sheep & Goats - Steven Mitchell, Lesa Harris.

Judging Schedule:
Thursday, Jan. 15, 5:30 p.m. - Rabbits & Poultry.

Friday, Jan. 16, 8:00 a.m. - Breeding Swine Show followed by Market Barrow

"Look at the data: No human case of rabies in the areas since the vaccine airdrop began. No animal cases of either canine or gray fox rabies outside the original zones since the program's continued inside

next weeks will be watched carefully by Texas beef producers.

Area cattle and livestock exchanges reported that the prices had not dropped as far as they had feared.

The Texas Cattle Exchange in Eastland County had been closed for two weeks, a spokesperson said. They would know more about the immediate effect of the BSE outbreak on prices after their auction on Tuesday, he continued.

It is expected that prices for non-premium livestock will be affected by the overall drop in market prices at upcoming livestock shows throughout

the Big Country.

Premium prices for grand champions and other prize animals are not expected to drop to such a large degree.

The Callahan County Junior Livestock Show is scheduled for Jan. 15-17 in Cross Plains.

Eastland County Livestock Show is Feb. 11-14.

Show.

Friday, Jan. 16, 1:30 p.m. - Market Lambs followed by Meat Goats and Boer Goat Shows.

Friday, Jan. 16, 3-6:00 p.m. - all steers and heifers classified and weighed.

Saturday, Jan. 17, 8:30 a.m. - Beef Cattle judging starts with heifer show.

Saturday, Jan. 17, 9:00 a.m. - Steer Show.

Awards presentation for all trophies for champion animals is to be held prior to the Premium Sale, which begins at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Judges for the three day show are Scott Anderson of Brownwood (rabbits and poultry), Leslie Harris of Vernon (Swine Show), Kyle Eckert of San Angelo (Market Lambs, Meat and Boer Goats), and Greg Gruben of Snyder (beef cattle, steer show).

Announcers for the annual Jr. Livestock Show are Dick Vestal, Greg Gerngross, John Belcher and Doug Johnston.



National Weather Service Gives Award To Baird Man Announces Leaving Of Putnam Volunteer

Mr. Jack King of Baird was among those to receive a Special Recognition Award presented in 2003 by the National Weather Service.

Mr. King received the award for his many years of service as a rainfall reporter.

Pictured above with Mr. King is wife Darlene.

Mike Street of San Angelo also received the award.

The National Weather Service announced that John D. Eisenhower of Putnam would be leaving the Cooperative Observation program. Mr. Eisenhower was a volunteer observer for 57 years and received the Edward H. Stoll Award, the John Campanius Holm Award, and the Thomas Jefferson Award, the highest award given to cooperative weather observers.

Joining the program are Randy and Beth Petty at Putnam. The Pettys are John Eisenhower's grandson and daughter, keeping the weather records in the family for many years to come.

Number File For Primary Election

Court Ruling Expected on Congressional Districts

by Viola M. Payne

Friday, Jan. 2 was the deadline for filing for the Primary Election, and a number of candidates placed their names on the ballots.

The redrawing of the U. S. Congressional District and the current Court challenge have placed the Congressional filing in an unusual situation, however.

The Congressional candidates, like the others, had until Friday to declare for the District used in 2001.

But in Austin at this time a panel of Judges is considering another ruling on the Districts redrawn by the Republicans. If the new Districts are upheld, filing for the Primaries could run Jan. 11-16 for the U. S. Congressional candidates.

So far, Judges have upheld the redrawn maps - this may

be an indication of what is about to happen.

By Friday, Jan. 2 U. S. Congressman Charles Stenholm, Democrat, had filed for reelection to the 17th District.

Martin Smith, Republican, of Paint Creek had also filed for the office.

Steve Kirby of Abilene announced that he will seek election to the 17th District. Kirby has filed with the state Libertarian Party Chairman.

If West Texas is shuffled into new maps, it will be somewhat like the old game of Fruit Basket Turned Over.

Stenholm will land in a 19th District, where he will run against Randy Neugebauer, Republican, of Lubbock.

On other races, State Senator Troy Fraser, Republican, has no opponent.

Harvey Hildebran, incumbent, of Kerrville and Niki Harle of Baird, both Republicans, have filed for State Representative.

From the office of Demo-

cratic County Chairman, Jon E. Harwick, came the report on Monday, Jan. 5, that four incumbent Democrats filed for the election. They are Sheriff Eddie Curtis, Tammy Walker for tax assessor/collector, Precinct #1 Commissioner Harold Hicks and Precinct #3 Commissioner Tommy Holland. They were joined by County Attorney Allen Wright, and William Young for Constable, Pct. #4.

Jon. E. Harwick filed for Callahan County Democratic Chairman.

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

Pat Chrane will again seek the office of County Republican Chair.

Incumbent Judge John Weeks, 42nd District Court, has also filed for reelection. Judge Weeks is unopposed in the upcoming election.

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)

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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D. P. S. Report

12-21-03 to 12-27-03

Cases Investigated

Warnings - 182
Complaints - 187
DWI - 2

Accidents

There were 3 accidents investigated during this time span

D. P. S. Report

12-28-03 to 01-03-04

Cases Investigated

Warnings - 184
Complaints - 166
DWI - 3

Driving While License Invalid - 2
Fugitive Arrest - Public Order

Crime - 1

Disregard Police Officer - 1

Accidents

There were 2 accidents investigated during this time span.

People Arrested On Outstanding Warrants

50 for a total of \$14,301.00 collected.



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Callahan County (Baird) Star Classifieds

Walls Brown Duck Jacket with hood. Thermal lining. Size Med.-XL Tall. \$39.99 at Johnson's Dry Goods, Cross Plains, TX.

B2

From Page One.....

beginnings. No canine strain of rabies in Texas at all since 2001, and a significant drop in the number of gray fox rabies."

The number of canine rabies cases in South Texas declined from a high of 142 cases when the program began in 1995 to one in 2001 and none since then. Gray fox cases are down from an all-time high in 1964 to 61 in 2003 through October.

Appealing to specialized tastes, the customized baits offer a treat of fish meal to coyotes and dog food containing molasses and vanilla flavoring to gray foxes.

"The vaccine inside the baits cannot cause rabies in people or animals," Sidwa says.

Because baits contain a biological agent and are less likely to be eaten by wildlife if people have touched them, they should not be handled.

Sidwa emphasized that people need to get their pets vaccinated against rabies as required by law. A domestic animals rabies vaccination can be safely given even if the animal recently ate an oral rabies vaccination bait, he said.

Counties in the 2004 West and Central Texas vaccination area are: Bandera, Brewster, Brown, Callahan, Coke, Coleman, Crane, Crockett, Edwards, Gillespie, Glascock, Howard, Kerr,

Kimble, Kinney, Mason, Maverick, McCulloch, Menard, Midland, Mills, Mitchell, Nolan, Pecos, Reagan, Real, Runnels, San Saba, Sterling, Taylor, Terrell, Upton, Uvalde, Val Verde, and Zavala.

This list does not include the counties in the South Texas drop.

Note: It appears that Eastland County will not be included in any bait drop area this time.

Rehab 2004 Internet Auction Now Open

The Rehab 2004 Internet auction is now open at www.WestTexasRehab.org.

The annual internet auction of the merchandise and services donated by friends and businesses of the West Texas Rehabilitation Center is underway and will be taking bids through midnight on January 17, 2004.

This year more than 350 items in 18 categories with a value in excess of \$325,000 are featured on the web site. All of the items will also be

on display at the Abilene Civic Center on January 17th as part of Rehab 2004. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas is an auction partner with the Rehab.

Visit the website to place your bid and to learn more about the West Texas Rehabilitation Center and its services. All proceeds from Rehab 2004 benefit the West Texas Rehab Center.

For more information please call Dan Huggins at (325) 793-3508.

Savor This Christmas True Story

Santa's Helpers or Angels Among Us?

As Christmas approached the true meaning of "the gift of giving" brought hope to our family.

This has been a very trying year for our family. In April my husband started chemotherapy. Due to treatment; cost of medications, doctor visits, gas expenses and loss of work we have struggled financially. As Christmas approached; I prepared my 2 children Ashley (age 9) and Andrea (age 6) that we would not be able to afford to have a Christmas this year. Ashley said, "That's alright mom, Santa will get it."

This was the first year that I could not only get my girls Christmas; but I also usually adopt families and children and buy them Christmas presents and food. It saddened my heart to know that I could not give this year.

As Christmas approached I was in awe of how God moved upon people's hearts to help us. The spirit of Christmas; which is the spirit of giving, (just as God gave His only begotten Son for us) was all around us. I was overwhelmed at the generosity of

others as they would approach me and ask if it would not offend me if they could "adopt" the girls and buy them a present for Christmas. My mind could not fathom the generosity of others. There were people in Eastland, Cisco, Carbon, Albany, Stephenville, and all across Texas that gave to the cause. Even more amazing; people that we have never even met.

As I looked at our tree on Christmas day my eyes filled with tears and my heart filled with joy and gratitude. I looked at my children and saw the glimmer and excitement in their eyes. I asked them if they understood where we got these presents from. Their response touched my heart with pride for the true gift they had been given. They told me that Jesus gave them the presents because we always gave to help others and now He was giving back to us. At that moment I realized that by others gracious giving hearts; that our lives had been impacted for the better. By their act of giving they not only met our need; they also made us feel cared about by them and God. Most importantly they taught my children a life lesson, "to give and it shall be given." They showed to us that God will provide; rather it be through Santa's helpers; and; or angels among us. For that we will be forever grateful.

To those of you that gave (you know who you are and God knows who you are) we would like to personally thank you for blessing and touching our lives. We would also like to express our appreciation for the love, support, and prayers that we have received from the countless friends and family. Without God, family, and friends we could not have made it through the most trying times of our lives without you.

Sincerely,
Joe, Cheryl, Ashley and Andrea Salazar

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Seaman Apprentice Thomas M. Goldsmith Completes Navy Basic Training

December 19, 2003 (FHTNC) -- Navy Seaman Apprentice Thomas M. Goldsmith, son of Marida N. Goldsmith of Clyde, Texas and Fred M. Goldsmith of Olney, Texas, recently completed U. S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

During the eight-week program, Goldsmith completed a variety of training which included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, fire fighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. An emphasis was also

placed on physical fitness. The capstone event of boot camp is "Battle Stations". This exercise gives recruits the key skills and confidence they need to graduate and take to the fleet.

"Battle Stations" has been designed to galvanize the basic warrior attributes of sacrifice, dedication, teamwork and endurance in each recruit through the practical application of basic Navy skills and the core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. Its distinctly 'Navy' flavor was designed to take into account what it means to be a Sailor.

TIDBITS

TOWNS THROUGH out area are OPEN FOR BUSINESS: Consider the sales tax figures from the State Comptroller's office for the last reporting period:

Carbon (1%) \$194.48; Cisco (2%) \$25,609.04; Eastland (1.5%) \$54,460.61; Gorman (1.5%) \$3,516.04; Ranger (2%) \$20,689.37; and Rising Star (15%) \$3,078.66; for a total of the county at \$107,540.20. That's up 36% over the same period last year. The year 2003 third quarter \$1,456,180.86, was a wee bit behind third quarter last year, but will undoubtedly surge ahead in the fourth quarter.

In Callahan County, Baird (1.5%) reported \$4,868.59; Clyde (2%) \$25,515.68; Cross Plains (1.75%) \$9,667.16; Putnam (1%) \$1,221.14; for a county total of \$41,272.57. That's a whopping 29.22% over the same period last year. Callahan County 2003 at \$484,081.95 was far ahead of year to date last year when the total was \$440,655.78.

YULE RULES: Always wrap yourself in a seat belt while riding in a car; beware of speeding (you may be overtaken by a trooper or undertaken by a mortician); care for the pedestrians (so they won't have that 'run down feeling,' give them a "brake.")

A CHAPTER in one of Gaynell's books has been passing around for reading because perhaps for the first time it vividly details what it REALLY meant for a mother with her mate's help to have given birth in that long-ago rustic barn. Over the years, the event has been sanitized and modified far beyond what might have really taken place then. She obviously labored; he surely assisted; and it all came to pass as planned. Regardless, it was divine.

MEGA-CHURCHES are springing up all over the country. Folks who tally up this sort of thing, report that 41% of U.S. churchgoers attend congregations of 100 or fewer adults; and 12% attend congregations of 1,000 or more... In other statistics, the Federal Trade Commission reports that 10 million Americans lost their I.D.s through theft last year, at a cost of \$47.6 million for businesses, and \$5. Billion to total number of individual victims.

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Accent On Health

**5 Lifesavers
For New Year
from Texas Department
of Health**

It's that time of year when people make resolutions. You know the vows: clean out the garage, keep in better touch with friends and family, save money.

But there are some health and fitness resolutions that could save your life, according to Texas Commissioner of Health Eduardo Sanchez, M.D.

"If people would remember to do just five things, they could live longer, healthier lives," Sanchez said.

The five are:

- Eat smart
- Get fit
- Get shots
- Get checkups and screens; and
- Don't smoke.

Each of these suggestions alone is good for anyone to consider, Sanchez said. But together they provide a solid plan to help a person get healthy and stay that way.

First, more than 60 percent of the people in Texas are overweight or obese. Preliminary analysis by the Texas Department of Health (TDH) suggests that overweight and obesity cost an estimated \$10.2 billion in 2001 in Texas.

Healthy benefits come, nutritionists say, if people eat five to nine servings of fruit and vegetables a day. Other good choices include eating whole grains; taking smaller portions; selecting lean meat, fish and poultry; and reducing or eliminating fat, fried food, sugar and salt.

In addition to an improved immune system, people who eat smart may avoid or delay problems such as diabetes, high blood pressure, elevated cholesterol and triglycerides (fats in the blood) that can lead to heart disease and stroke.

Next, are you having trouble getting moving? You are not alone. Urban sprawl means more time in the car for many, and busy schedules make getting fit a challenge.

Think about ways you can start slowly and build your activity level. Just 30 minutes of moderate to brisk exercise daily can strengthen your heart.

"Make it a family activity," Sanchez said. "Try fun runs, walks and other activities that can include family members of all ages."

Third, getting shots is something many adults don't think about; but pneumonia, one of the most serious infections for seniors, is easily prevented with a vaccine. While an influenza vaccine can't always completely cover all strains cir-

culating, it does provide protection, and is especially important for those at risk of serious complications or death.

"Check with your health care provider about what shots are recommended and when," Sanchez said. "Most adults should get vaccinated against pneumonia and flu, especially those over age 65."

Or when is the last time you had a tetanus shot? The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends adults get a booster every 10 years.

Fourth on the list is getting checkups and screens. Many people don't visit a doctor until a problem occurs. This procrastination can be deadly.

Pap smears, mammograms and colorectal exams can detect cancerous activity early

when treatment is most effective. Tests for cholesterol, triglyceride levels and blood pressure, along with a family history, can indicate if you are at risk for heart disease. People at risk of developing diabetes can prevent serious complications or death if the disease is diagnosed and managed.

And finally, it's been repeated often; but, again, smoking is bad for your health. Tobacco use can lead to deadly disease such as lung cancer, emphysema and stroke. When quitting, ask your doctor if nicotine replacement products are a good idea, get a friend to remind you of all the benefits of being smoke-free, and be patient--many people quit several times before they kick the habit for good.

"Make 2004 a year for positive behavioral change," Sanchez said. "You just may save your life."

Making A Difference

The Unborn Generation
By Rex M. Rogers

We talk a lot about Baby Boomers and Baby Busters, the Silent Generation, the X Generation or the so-called Lost Generation. We're fascinated by each generation's differences, each generation's art, music, and politics, and each generation's unique and famous personalities.

Abortion has eliminated enough people for several major cities. Each year, abortion takes more than a million and one-half souls. Each year now, about 25% of a given high school graduating class are absent by reason of abortion. That's enough for more than 30 major universities. And we wonder why colleges are closing and some universities are on hard times.

Abortion eliminates people who were conceived but never born. Think of them as the "Unborn Generation."

The Unborn Generation will never give us new art and music. They will never invent or discover certain beneficial things that remain unknown to us. They will never live to develop their unique personalities. The Unborn Generation is not just "lost". It was never found.

I believe that abortion is murder, that it takes the life of a human being. Abortion is wrong because it takes individual life. But it is far more than even that. Abortion is an incredible act of cultural suicide. We are literally killing ourselves. We are robbing our future, or more importantly our children's future, of untold

human resources. Abortion plucks the flower of our culture in the same way that war takes a nation's young men and women before their time.

The Unborn Generation is an incomprehensible loss. Johnny, Janey, we hardly knew you.

(Rex M. Rogers, Ph.D., book author and president of Cornerstone University, Grand Rapids, Mich., is a syndicated columnist, whose columns appear in California, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, North Dakota, South Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Texas newspapers. Send comments in care of: alan@blanchardgroup.net)

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Personally Speaking

By Sam Pendergrast

Poor Howard Dean: Only The People Love Him

Democrats are, of course, a spectacle when a herd of them campaign for the presidency--particularly against one guy in the White House who never ventures out of the Rose Garden except to campaign and/or raise money. (And don't kid yourself, that midnight mission to pose with a Thanksgiving turkey in Bagdad had Karl Rove's blessing and probably his genesis.)

But the winnowing begins soon in Iowa and New Hampshire and South Carolina, and the key to Democratic success will be in how well the Democratic success will be in how well the Democratic electorate (and the all-important independents) rally to the survivor(s).

But several points come to mind as we enter THE YEAR for political pundits and addicts:

First, it's the Democratic - and democratic- way, to welcome all would-be and let the people choose. And all the choosing probably won't be done in the three early-bird states.

Neither Bill Clinton nor the present occupant of the White House looked presidential in early voting.

Secondly, it would be nicer if same-party candidates didn't dogpile on the frontrunner in an effort to stop his progress.

(Rove's getting all the mud on tape to recycle in October.)

Thirdly, one of the Demo pack is likely to end up on the ticket with Dr. Dean if he does get the nomination. There are those- including this moderately informed observer- who think General Clark's most likely fate is to end up as somebody's veep candidate, although he, of course, denies it. Getting Number Two on the ticket is difficult- unless you get to choose yourself, as did the present holder of that office.

WHAT ABOUT HILLARY? Well, she has to be taken at her word- that she's not running for president in '04. But the National Democratic convention is going to be in Boston in the Spring, and I think if things don't look spiffy for the party by then Teddy Kennedy might whip up a "Draft Hillary" drive. And this observer's dream ticket would be Hillary and General Clark. (And maybe that's what "Slick Willy" had in mind when he encouraged his fellow Arkansawyer to get in the race.)

And finally, Democrats and other realists should keep their eye on the real goal, which is to get "Dubya" out of the White House before he packs the Supreme Court with Clarence Thomases and further destabilizes the whole world.

Frankly, Al Sharpton's spotted dog would be safer to run the White House than the guy who has turned a score of raghead terrorits into a billion restive Muslims- a million of them in this country - eyeing a holy war that Christians still can't win: the guy who engineered that Medicare de-

bacle that gives aid to insurance and drug companies at the cost of oldsters; the guy who bankrupted Texas to get to the White House and carried his smoke-and-mirrors education bill from Austin to Congress as a national fantasy; and the guy who thinks the best forests are cut and stacked in the lumberyards of Republican contributors and the sweetest air is whatever his friends' refineries belch out and the guy who has put head of household of American and other kids who are at stake in a war zone where we didn't belong to begin with.

Oh, and Howard Dean: he's harnessed the Internet, and you know what that means. And he's just been in Texas, so we count.

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ACU Students From Area Named To Dean's Honor Roll

Derek Schoen of Moran was named to the Dean's Honor Roll at Abilene Christian University for the spring 2003 semester.

Schoen is working toward a Bachelor of Science degree in Exercise and Sport Science.

Rosa Gutierrez of Comanche. Gutierrez is working toward a Bachelor of Arts degree in Graphic Design/Advertising.

Maci Claborn of Rising Star. Claborn is working toward a Bachelor of Science degree in Education.

To make the Dean's Honor Roll, a student must

complete at least 12 semester hours and earn a 3.45 or higher grade point average.

Located about 150 miles west of the Dallas/Fort Worth area, ACU is a national leader in Christian higher education with an enrollment of approximately 4,700 students from 50 states and 60 nations. This year, U.S. News & World Report again ranked at ACU as a "Best Value" among universities in the western region based on academic quality, cost and availability of financial aid. For more info. about ACU call toll free 800-460-6228 or visit www.acu.edu.

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Kids Corner

Cocoa Magic


It's getting cold outside...time to warm up with a cup of hot chocolate. But do you know where that cocoa came from?

Hot chocolate has been around since 600 A.D. when the ancient Mayan and Aztec civilizations began using cocoa beans to make a drink called "xocala." In 1528, a Spaniard named Hernando Cortez discovered the drink while fighting the Aztecs and brought the cocoa bean back with him. Spaniards everywhere started growing cocoa beans and turning them into their own delicious drinks.

Before long, cocoa beans began sprouting up all over Europe and hot chocolate became the drink of choice. The English added milk to it

and began serving it in clubs. Hot chocolate became so popular in England that the government started taxing it. Eventually people became so busy that they no longer had the time to stand over a hot stove stirring a pot of hot chocolate. The Carnation Company realized this and created instant cocoa in 1935. In the years following, Carnation improved their instant cocoa, adding marshmallows and making a low-fat version.

Today you can find all types and flavors of instant cocoa mix, including milk chocolate, mint, banana cream and raspberry. There is even gingerbread hot chocolate! With each passing year, the selection gets even better.



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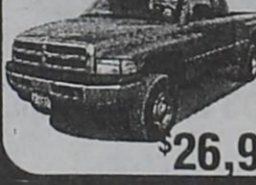
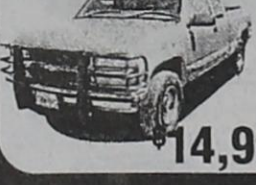






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Publisher's Ramblings

By H.V.O.

HAVING HAD some amateur experiences in the art of slight of hand, it comes to mind, especially now, that there truly is something extra "magic" about Christmas.

This thought came to those of us who usually leave decorations up until after New Years Day, as we recently unplugged outdoor holiday lights after Christmas Day had come and gone.

There just wasn't the excitement or magic if you please, in those twinkling displays afterwards.

Before and on the day there was anticipation and yes, magic, as all waited the special day...Many deserves special recognition for the outstandingly beautiful holiday displays that went up this season. Our towns were algow.

And now for the health of all of us:

Tips for Eating Smart

- Reduce portion size. If you eat out, order smaller portions or divide your entree and take half home.

- Drink fewer sodas. Over a year's time, one can of regular cola a day at 150 calories equals more than 15 pounds worth of calories.

- Write down what you eat. You may be surprised by the incidental calories - a bag of chips here, some candy there, really add up.

- Add fruit and vegetables. Substitute dried fruit for candy, add vegetables to soups, pasta, stir-fry dishes or casseroles.

- Limit snack foods, foods high in fat or sugar and processed foods since they have more calories and fewer nutrients.

Tips for getting fit

- Take a step in the right direction. Walking 10,000 steps a day (about five miles) helps to maintain a healthy weight. A pedometer will help you determine your steps.

- Go it on foot. Take the stairs instead of elevators, park farther from your destination and walk. Encourage your children to walk to school where feasible, walk or ride a bicycle for short trips instead of taking the car. It all adds up.

- Start small. Incorporate 10 minutes of exercise a day at first, then gradually build to half an hour a day to maintain weight or an hour a day to lose weight.

- The more television a child watches, the more likely he or she is to be obese. Consider activities as a family such as going to the park, playing catch or skating.

Tips for quitting smoking (by one who did)

Defensive Driving Class January 19

Texas State Defensive Driving Class will be held at

Pizza Inn 1001 E. Main in Eastland the 3rd Monday of each month. Next class to be

January 19th from 4-10 p.m. Call Kay Hill at 629-8159

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- For some people drinking coffee, driving or watching TV triggers a desire to smoke. Identify triggers for smoking and avoid or modify behavior.

- Choose healthy alternatives such as drinking water, taking a walk, or going to the movies or a library where smoking is not allowed.

- Be patient, most people make several attempts before they are able to quit permanently.

- Seek out a supportive friend or family member or call the American Cancer Society's Quitline at 1-877-937-7848

Just Remembering

By Jasper Cook

As he stacked his new Christmas gifts into a huge pile, my grandson said to me, "Paw Paw, did you get things like this when you were a little boy?"

"Sit down, son," I replied, "Let me tell you a little about how things were when I was a little boy in the early days of Cisco, where I was born."

"When I was a baby and my mother wanted me to take a nap, she was afraid I would roll off the bed, so she placed me on a pallet on the floor. There were no such things as play pens."

"We didn't have to worry about getting arrested for not having our seat belts fastened. We didn't have a car. We either rode in a wagon or buggy, or walked to wherever we wanted to go."

"In those days, the Fathers worked, the Mothers stayed home and kept house, and the kids did not run wild, as so many do today. We ate together, played together, and prayed together. We never really got in a hurry about anything. The children respected their elders and of course, they did not speak until spoken to."

"If a child failed a grade they were held back. When a child misbehaved in school they were sent to the Principal's office where they sometimes received a good old fashioned spanking."

"We didn't have Little League in those days. Most of us loved to play ball and we somehow managed to

obtain a baseball glove, ball and bat. Baseball shoes with cleats were unheard of, and most of us did not even have a baseball cap. Most of the time we played bare handed and used a stick for a bat. We all met on a vacant lot and chose sides. We used rocks for bases and much of the time we didn't have an umpire. I know this sounds rather primitive but that is the way it was."

"What do you think of my life in those early years?" I asked.

"I think it might be neat-o," he answered, "but I guess you got to watch the Professional teams play on television, didn't you?"

"Oh no," I half shouted. We didn't have televisions. We had no VCRs, computers, DVDs, MP3s, or anything related to them. Those things had not been invented yet, and besides, we did not have electricity."

My grandson just sat there, staring into space. I'm sure he was imagining himself playing in those early years.

Life is what we are missing today. Everywhere, it's go, go, go, run, run, run. Everyone is in a rush, but no one seems to know where or why they are in such a hurry. We all need to slow down.

Yes, there was a time when life was simple, and can be again. The answer lies within each of us. Someone has already said it; 'Take time to stop and smell the roses.'

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for help.
 (P.S.: It's worth the effort.)

(Oh, by the way these are permanent plans, not just "resolution-time thoughts.")

Eastland County Residents Can Make A Gift To Rehab 2004

Eastland County residents have an opportunity on January 17 to help West Texas Rehabilitation Center by making a gift to Rehab 2004, the Center's 34th annual telethon.

The Kiwanis Club of Eastland, under the direction of president Elliott Williams will be handling the local solicitation effort and has arranged for a phone bank to be in operation on telethon night. The Key Club of Eastland High School will be participating in making the calls. The event will be held at the KRP Insurance Agency, 102 North Lamar and coordinated by Richard Rossander. That night, donors are encouraged to call one of the local phone bank lines: (254) 629-3933, 629-3934, 629-3935, 629-2544, 629-2563, or 629-1165.

The five-hour television special will be aired from 7 p.m. to midnight on ten Texas Stations. Country music singer Joe Nichols, who was recently named Country Music Association's Horizon Award winner will be the telethon's featured entertainer. Charlie Chase and Red Steagall will emcee the show, which also will include entertainment by Bill and Susan Hayes, Brad Maule, Anacani and ten-year-old Morgan Jones of Abilene who'll make her debut with the Rehab 2004 orchestra.

Significant underwriting for Rehab 2004 comes from American Electric Power (AEP) and Associated Publishing's Area-Wide Phone Books. American Airlines/American Eagle is the official airline for the telecast.

In addition to entertainment, the telethon showcases the services of the Center which provides care annually to more than 22,000 children and adults with disabilities and communication disorders at facilities in Abilene, San Angelo and Ozona.

Also, the show includes an auction of more than 300 items donated by businesses and individuals ranging from agricultural products and autos to celebrity items and travel packages. Interested persons may bid on-line at www.WestTexasRehab.org beginning mid-December or by phone on January 17.

"The telethon is a critical fundraiser for Rehab because we count on it to launch the New Year in a good position to meet the needs of those we'll serve in the next 12 months," said WTRC President Woody Gilliland. "That's why we're so grateful to local volunteers staffing phone banks every advance gift and every pledge called in during the show is so deeply appreciated."

How Long Has It Been Since You Read

By Wanda Lee Beck Skinner

My son, hear the instructions of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother. For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head and chain about thy neck. Proverbs 1: 8-9

It is too bad it takes people so long to understand the words they read. It has been said parents are so dumb until the child reaches

maturity and discovers they true wisdom of th parent. Begin today to listen and obey your parents. Wear their wisdom in ways others can see your life as a reflection of your parents wisdom. Remember the Heavenly Father is the wisest of all that dwell in Heaven and Earth. Live like Him.

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Thursday, January 8, 2004

REAL ESTATE

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, 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, in complete 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, wood trailer, electricity and coop water, great hunting. \$1250 acre.

NEW: 185 A S/E Rising Star, cedar & kl, er & turkey, nice hunters cabin, pond, water well. \$895 acre.

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

Selling Comanche, Eastland and Brown Counties since 1954 and we WANT to sell yours. We solicit and appreciate your listings.

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DE LEON
OFFICE (254) 893-6666
HOME 893-2642
758-2401
www.cogburnrealestate.com
RS104

FOR SALE BY OWNER: Rural land in the Carbon area; Interested buyers, Mail: Land Offer: P.O. Box 5, Eastland, Texas 76448 or call 254-629-2384 for information. Email: s s mcristina@att.net.mx
E26

HOMES FOR SALE
By Owner- approx. 2000 sq. ft. 3/1 home w/carpot. Completely remodeled throughout. Large unique master bedroom, new CH/A, automatic sprinkler, new carpet/linoleum, new kitchen/bathroom. 502 S. Hillcrest \$79,900. Call 629-2620 after 5 p.m.
E104

OWNER WILL FINANCE
Nice 3 bedroom, 1 bath in Eastland. Central Heat & Air! Much new; carpet, flooring, roof...Easy qualifying! Under \$400 monthly! Tadlock Realtors 432-580-4883.
E104

HOMES FOR SALE

MUST SELL NOW
3 BR, 2 BA, 2 Story Home
Upstairs Master Bedroom has walk-in closet, Whirlpool tub 600 square feet-4 floor to ceiling windows, downstairs- modern re-modeled kitchen with built-in appliances, remodeled living room has hardwood floors, new paint on all walls with faux finish on most. Separate Laundry Room, 1-car garage, beautiful water garden (visible from upstairs), Central Heat & Air, fenced back yard, sprinkler system. Extra large lot. Appraised value 85,000.00. Will take 65,000.00 or \$10,000 down rent to own. See at 320 North Lamar, Eastland or call 629-3883.
E4

FOR RENT/LEASE

2 BDR in Cisco, 3 BDR House in Eastland. Information call 254-629-2688.
E3

FOR LEASE: 2 BR, 1 1/2 bath frame home, space heaters, window A/C, kitchen range and refrigerator, SDG. \$400/month \$400 deposit. 1 year lease. Call Town & Country Real Estate 254-629-1725.
E3-104

Greer's Indoor Storage: More Security - More Space-Less Cost. 205 Main St. Ranger. Call 629-3989 day and 647-3422 night.
R104

MOBILE HOMES

3 bedroom, 2 bath doublewide for lease or sale. 1213 E. 14th St. Cisco, Tx. Call 817-594-3923 or 817-401-7296 for information.
C7

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

APTS. FOR RENT

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E104

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If you are 55 years of age or older, handicapped or disabled, and want a nice quiet place to live, come by the Gholson or call Martha at 254-647-1513.
R104

APTS. FOR RENT

COUNTRY VILLA APTS
1-2 bedrooms, kitchen appliances, Central H/A, W/D, pool. On site security and maintenance. (Behind Pizza Inn) 1099 Lago Vista Blvd. Eastland, Texas. Contact Sergio or Isabell Hernandez, Managers 629-2769, if no answer call 629-2348.
E104

ROYAL OAKS APARTMENTS
Furnished and unfurnished 1 and 2 bedroom; carpet and drapes, refrigerator, range, and disposal. Water, trash pickup and TV cable paid. Also, laundry room at complex. Choice neighborhood. See and compare at 1304 Royal Lane, Cisco, or call 442-3232, Resident manager.
C104

NOW LEASING Raintree Apartments
at 610 S. Madera, Eastland, Tx. (next to Siebert Elementary) is now leasing.
6 months-1 year lease
Clean, quiet living.
Total Electric
1-3 bedroom apts. \$385.00-\$575.00
Cable, water and trash paid (Extended Basic and HBO)
Stove, Refrigerator, Dishwashers
Washer & Dryer hookups
Deposit and App Fee required
For more info, call Tammie at 629-1913.
E104

LONE TREE APARTMENTS
Cisco, Texas
254-442-2732
8th & Front Street
Great price \$325
All bills including cable
Newly painted, clean
By week or month
C8

SABINE TERRACE APARTMENTS
Available For Immediate Occupancy
* Large 1, 2 & 3 Bedrooms
* All Utilities Paid
West Central Texas Govt.
* No Pets
* Short Term Leases
* Central Air & Heat Program Vouchers
Accepted Eastland
629-2518
EHO

HELP WANTED

Cisco Sonic Drive In is accepting applications for friendly, enthusiastic, outgoing employees. Flexible hours. Must be able to work weekends. Apply in person.
C104

Valley View Health Care Center needs CNAs - every shift. Payrate varies with experience. Apply in person to Director of Nursing 700 S. Ostrom in Eastland.
E4

Help Wanted: Part-time, Full-time at West Go 100 Railroad Ave, Ranger.
E7

Read the Classifieds

HELP WANTED

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Small Non-Corp. Nursing Home in the Baird/Breckenridge/ Stephenville area looking for an RN/DON familiar with nursing home practices. Excellent salary based on experience with paid vacation and birthday bonus. Submit resume to: D.O.N. Care of P.O. Box 344, Cross Plains, TX 76443.
R104

Applications are being accepted until January 12, 2004 for temporary full time positions with USDA-Farm Service Agency. These GIS Field Technician positions will be located throughout Texas. Salary ranges from \$11.04 to \$12.35 per hour. Successful applicants will be proficient as a PC User with the ability to navigate within Windows. Experience with GIS and familiarity with ortho maps is preferable. Position will require travel 90% of the time with applicant providing their own reliable transportation. Application form FSA-675 can be obtained from USDA-FSA at the Eastland County FSA Office located at 401 Pogue Avenue, Eastland, Texas. The phone number is 254-629-1636 ext. 2. Completed application forms must be returned to the Eastland County FSA Office located at 401 Pogue Avenue, Eastland, Texas and must arrive by January 12, 2004 to be considered. Faxed Applications will not be accepted. USDA is an EEO employer.
E4

Morgan Buildings in Eastland needs Electrician. Must have experience. Apply in person.
E4

Computer Artist and Monument Design 8-5 M-F Experience a plus. P.O. Box 5865, Waco, TX 76708.
E10

Valley View Health Care Center needs LVNs. Apply at 700 S. Ostrom in Eastland.
E4

Now Hiring: Experienced Cook, evening shift. Smoke Stack Restaurant Thuber, TX. Apply in person. 254-672-5560.
E10

Asst. Team Leader, organized with management experience to manage production and delivery of monuments. Artistic background is a plus. 8-5 M-F, P.O. Box 5865, Waco, TX 76708.
E10

Remember to Renew Your Subscription

Read the Classifieds

HELP WANTED

United House Calls is seeking full time RN to perform home health visits and assist with Case Management patients. Home health experience preferred, but not required. Travel required. Competitive benefits and salary available. If interested, please fax resume to 254-629-8200 or mail to United House Calls 1420 E. Main Eastland, TX 76448.
E4

Ranger Care Center is now hiring for a Relief Housekeeper. Must be willing to work weekends. Apply in person at 460 W. Main St. in Ranger or call Stormie at 647-3111 for more info.
R6

WANTED: Receptionist/Clerk for manufacturing firm in Cisco. Must be punctual, accurate and computer literate. M-F 8 to 4:30. RAM Inc. 808 E. 6th Street or mail resumes to P.O. Box 47, Cisco, Texas 76437.
C6

Apprentice Program
*No Experience Necessary
*Company Training
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*Promotion Eligibility Within 90 Days
*Up to \$325/\$525 per week for those who qualify
ONLY those who can start immediately need apply.
CALL 1-800-825-0855
E9

SEWING POSITIONS: Must work 40 hours per week. Apply in person- No phone calls please. HARVAL ATHLETIC, 409 West Main, Ranger, TX.
R6

Truck Driver, regular license, helper on truck, setting monuments, experience a plus. 1110 La Salle, Waco, TX 76706.
E10

Experienced in store demonstrators needed for food and general merchandise demos-promotions. Toll free 1-877-570-3748.
E5

Computer Artist and Monument Design 8-5 M-F Experience a plus. P.O. Box 5865, Waco, TX 76708.
E10

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Asst. Team Leader, organized with management experience to manage production and delivery of monuments. Artistic background is a plus. 8-5 M-F, P.O. Box 5865, Waco, TX 76708.
E10

Remember to Renew Your Subscription

Read the Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Wanted: Accepting applications - all positions and a Nanny for 3 year old during business hours. The Lodge in Cisco 442-1511.
C6

WANTED/NEEDED
WANTED: Grazing Lease or Lease Purchase for 50+ cows 1 hour of Eastland, TX preferred. Will consider buying your cows. McPhail Ranch 254-647-3381-home 325-669-4910-cell 325-672-5895 office
R11

FOR SALE
Walls Brown Duck Jacket with hood Thermal lining, Size Med.-XL Tall. \$39.99 at Johnson's Dry Goods, Cross Plains, TX.
C3

Guard Donkeys For Sale \$250 each - Romney, Texas 254-442-4468.
C10

For Sale: Indian jewelry and Southwest items on sale, 50% off. Located at Boopie's 717 Conrad Hilton, Cisco.
C3

FOR SALE: Windows XP Home Edition & XP Office Professional \$100; Dearborn Heaters (2) and wall unit. \$100 for all; LeClerc Table Loom \$125; Sport Cross women's bike, 21-speed Miyata, 46 cm. Good condition. \$285. 254-639-2089.
E4

Painting For Freedom- How the beautiful tapestry paintings sold throughout the Southwest bought ammunition for Pancho Villa troops in the Mexican Revolution. Book available at the Telegram \$25.00.
E104

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SENIOR OPERATOR GAS PROCESSING PLANT
Senior Operator position with all electric gas processing plant to go on stream shortly. Location is in Eastland, Texas area. Company benefits include health insurance and 401K program. Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. Send resumes or work history to Houston Fluids & Leasing Co., P.O. Box 382030, Duncanville, Texas 75138 or call 254-629-2014 for application.
C2-104

BBQ as good as there is! Call ahead or just stop in. 325-662-3328. The Fillin' Station, Putnam, TX.
C104

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C104

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Or call 629-3806 to get a great discount. Introducing Ephedra Free
E104

LOST/FOUND

LOST: Black dog. Reward! She is medium size Terrier mutt with a wire-hair coat. She is a friendly dog and goes by the name "Sade". Call 629-2993 or 631-6981.
E4

LOST DOG: Dec. 4th. Reward. Chow Retriever mix- light brown with Chow tail, male. Tag with Dallas on it. Name is Wolfee. Lost between Rising Star & Cross Plains
254-643-2500.
E4

LOST In Eastland: Tortisshell Calico Cat. Answers to "Natasha" Call 647-0233.
E4

AUTOS
Behind on payments? Just need to get rid of your vehicle? We take over payments. Viper Automotive 254-631-0303.
E6

GARAGE SALES

CISCO: Webb's Inc. will be open Saturday, Jan. 10 from 9:00 til 3:00. Toys, heaters, bedroom suite. Come on down and let's make a deal. 100 W. 10th, Cisco.
C3

RANGER: INSIDE MOVING SALE: 801 Cypress in Ranger. Saturday, Jan. 10 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Everything must go. Lots of furniture, appliances, lamps, and much more.
E4

GET AHEAD START WITH THE CLASSIFIEDS
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Thursday-5 PM
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Monday-5 PM

Eastland Fire Dept. Reports

Reporting period: 7 a.m. 1-2-04 to 7 a.m. 1-3-04
City:
Medical: 2
County: 0
Weather:
Maximum temp. 81
Minimum temp. 57

Reporting period: 7 a.m. 1-5-04 to 7 a.m. 1-6-04
City: 0
County: 0
Weather:
Maximum temp. 42
Minimum temp. 19



Advertise in the Classifieds

NOTICES

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for highway improvement contracts will be received by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.
CONSTRUCTION/ MAINTENANCE CONTRACT(S)
Dist/Div: Brownwood Contract 6110-39-001 for BRIDGE BEAM REPAIR in EASTLAND County will be opened on January 22, 2004 at 2:00 p.m. at the District Office for an estimate of \$26,000.00.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below.

Bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.
NPO: 11861
State Office
Constr./Maint. Division
200 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540

Dist/Div Office(s)
Brownwood District District Engineer
2495 Highway 183 N
Brownwood, Texas
76802-3227
Phone: 325-646-2591

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TxDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.
(1-4, 1-8-04)

Online Courses At Ranger College

Ranger College currently offers three courses via the Internet, making it easier for some people to learn skills and to complete a Certificate or Degree. Students who work full time or who live a long distance from college campuses can now take courses, doing most of the work at home. "Courses can now be delivered in a very interactive and personal format on the Internet," said Sandra Cunningham, teacher of the first Internet course at Ranger College. "Students in these classes do better if they are self-motivated and self-disciplined," she adds, "and most of the students have done very well. It may seem strange, but I get to know my on-line students better than I get to know the students in my regular face-to-face classes. I enjoy the online classes very much."

In order to enroll in an online course at Ranger College, the student needs an Internet connection and an email address. In some courses the student also needs a specific

software package such as Microsoft Office.

There will be three courses offered online during the Spring 2004 Semester at Ranger College:

• In **COSC 1301 Microcomputer Applications** students learn computer terminology and concepts, and Microsoft Office XP. This is a 3 credit hour academic course.

• In **ITSC 1313 Internet / Web Page Development** students become effective users of the Internet, download and send files, and learn to make their own web sites using Microsoft FrontPage. This is a 3 credit hour WECM course designed to teach skills for the workplace or for personal enrichment.

• **POFI 1200 Introduction to Computer Fundamentals** is a good course for beginners as students in this class become more efficient on a computer keyboard, create documents using MS Word, and learn to design attractive presentations using MS PowerPoint.

This is a 2 credit hour WECM course designed to teach basic computer skills. In all three of these courses, students are required to attend class on the Ranger Campus four times for orientation and testing. Commuters may

register for the Spring Semester on the Ranger Campus on January 12. Regular registration will be held on January 14 and 15. For more information, please contact Ranger College at 254 647-3234 or visit the website at www.ranger.cc.tx.us.

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Joe Oliver, Broker Joy Oliver, Agent
3 BR, 2 bath, 2 story, nice neighborhood. \$65,000.
3-1-1, beautiful yard, many fruit trees, boat dock & boat house. Must see. \$165,000.
4 BR, 3 bath doublewide, beautiful 48 +/- acres, stock tanks, deck, corral, convenient to town. \$151,500.
3 BR, 2 bath, LR, DR, kitchen, beautiful inside, all fresh paint.
Loft Living 2+ acres, large garden, conveniently located.
4-2-2 Mobile Home on approx. 5 acres, fenced, city water, good roads. \$57,700.
3 acres on I-20, fenced, city water, electricity. \$46,200.
Workshop 50'x100' lg. fenced work yard, offices, storage. Loop 254, Ranger. \$54,000.
2 BR, 1 bath, could be three BR, Living/Dining/Kitchen combo, large rooms, fenced on 2 lots, 2 carports, parking for RV, storage building, screened in patio, fresh paint, roof 4 years new, one year on carpet, range, washer and dryer stay, air conditioner is one year old. All furniture for sale for \$3,500. No owner finance. Owner would like to keep curtains. Building - \$9,000.
3/2 one car carport. \$27,200.
Beautiful W. Tx Cattle Ranch, approx. 320 acres. Rustic rock house 2 BR, one bath, lg. kitchen/dining, 2 barns, 4 ponds with 2 creeks. Many trees, wind mill water, city water in the future and meter is paid for, deer, turkey, quail, wild pigs, and doves. Cross fenced with corrals. Price reduced, bring offer.
4 BR, 1 bath, extra nice home, good roof, quiet neighborhood, alley access.
3 BR, 1 bath, good carpet in LR/DR, stove, window units, Dearborn heat, garage not in good shape. 3 fenced lots. \$15,000.
2 BR, 1 bath, extra lg. lot, beautiful cabinets, totally remodeled, no traffic. \$48,000.
3-2-3 Carport, +10 fenced ac., old home for storage. Berber carpet, curtains will stay, built-ins. \$43,340.
2-1 lg. living/dining, sun porch, great location, walk to town, price reduced to \$15,000.
Off Water lake lots - 100 x 200 up to 4 ac., Lake Leon, \$10,500 and up.
Fox General Store and Merchandise 5,000 sq. ft. on Main St., Ranger.
1-20 Frontage, 495 acres, deer hunters dream, 4,000 sq. ft. beautiful building can be used for offices or ?

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Heavy duty; one owner; low mileage; always garaged; clean, luxurious interior; large automatic double bed; well maintained. \$5,995 cash. For appointment or serious inquiries only, call 254-629-2413 evenings after 6 p.m.

1304 E. Main Eastland 254-629-3363
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Tributes From The Family of Myrle Poe To Mesa Springs HealthCare Facility and Paul Matta

We would like to publicly thank Mr. Tim Adrian, the staff, and all employees of Mesa Springs Healthcare Center of Abilene for their loving care of Myrle Poe during the last three years. Their competent professionalism assured us that Mother always had the best of physical care. Their compassion and many acts of kindness showed us that Mother received that care with Christian love and friendship.

As Mother's physical health deteriorated their care and concern was extended to our family and blessed us all. The Sunday before Mother's passing, she said to me, "These girls (nurses and aides) are so good to me." No higher praise can we give them.

Truly we can say that this is a facility that ministers to physical, mental, and spiritual needs of the residents and their families. They have eased our burden in countless ways and words

are inadequate to express our appreciation.

As my dad, J.C. Poe continues living at Mesa Springs, we are comforted to know that he is with those who truly care for him. We also would like to acknowledge other Hendrick Healthcare facilities that have served and helped us so much during the last six years. They are Wisteria Place Assisted Living, Hendrick Hospice Care, and Hendrick Hospital, all of Abilene. May God bless all in the Hendrick System.

And To Paul Matta... Paul Matta is the Director of Admissions and Marketing at Mesa Springs in Abilene, but to our family he has become much more than his job description would imply. He is pastor, comforter, and friend.

When my mother, Myrle Poe, was first admitted to Mesa Springs 3 years ago she was frightened and confused. Paul could quickly comfort her by praying and singing.

Since she didn't have a pastor visiting her she and my dad soon adopted Paul. After she had difficulty seeing, she recognized Paul's voice and whenever she heard him, in the hall, in the cafeteria, in the day room, or wherever, she asked him to sing for her or to pray or to whistle. He always obliged.

Later, when Mother was in Hospice care, Paul, the Chapin of Hospice, ministered in that capacity, too.

The Sunday before her passing Mother talked about Paul and told me again how much she loved to hear him pray for her. It was fitting, then, that Paul, her "pastor" hold her services.

We asked that it be a service with song, whistling and prayer. Just as Paul comforted Mother with his beautiful singing and whistling, he comforted all of us.

This was our last gift to Mother. Thank you, Paul, and God bless you, for your Christian compassion, for your love, for your service.

Margie June Poe Lee, daughter

Seeds From The Sower

By Michael A. Guido, Metter, GA.

There was a parrot in the Caribu Hotel that had a reputation for a salty tongue and a wet throat. Tipsy miners delighted in slipping him a scotch and teaching him to swear.

But the hotel was taken over by a church member. He cut off his booze and taught him to sing "Onward, Christian Soldiers."

There are many people who've undergone a "parrot conversion." They've quit drinking and swearing, and they've learned a few hymns. They've turned over a new leaf without taking on a new life. There's reformation, not regeneration.

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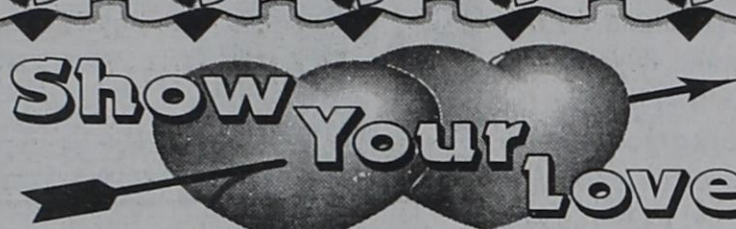
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Kari Porter

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Valentine's Day is nearly here.

Dear Students & Families,
This year our newspapers will be running a special Valentine edition. This will give everyone an opportunity to publicly share their love & appreciation to friends, family, loved ones, co-workers, teachers, neighbors, etc. If you wish to send a message, mail a check or money order with form below to the address provided. Deadline for ads will be Friday, February 6, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. Photos are optional.

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 Medium Ad - \$15
 Large Ad - \$20

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 Message (must be 25 words or less for large ad; 15 words or less for medium ad; 10 words or less for small ad): _____

Mail to: Eastland County Newspapers,
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Eliot,
Hello, my little one. Life has changed so much since you were born. I truly know what love is.
Luv,
Mommy

Large

Thanks for your support, sis. I couldn't have done it without you.
Love,
Diane

Medium

Rob,
Life with you couldn't be sweeter
Love Ya,
Meg

Small

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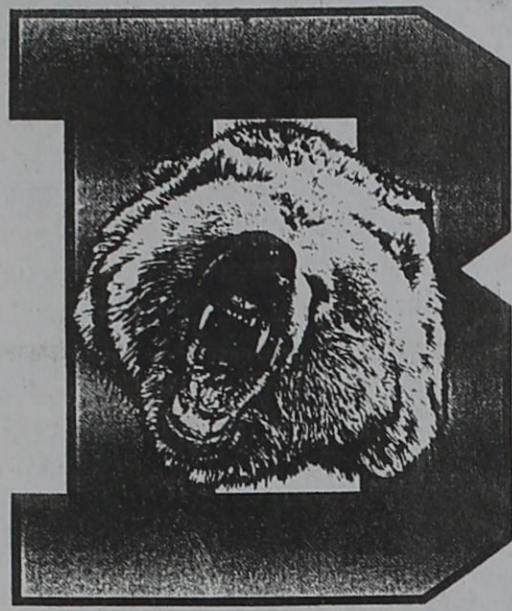
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BAIRD BEARS



Baird Varsity Girls Are Championship Runner-Up in Eula Tournament

Baird Varsity Basketball Girls conceded the Eula Holiday Classic Championship to De Leon after losing 67-52 in Wednesday's Dec. 31 game.

However, the girls grabbed Runner-Up in the Championship game.

Windham and McDowell of Baird received All Tournament.

McDowell scored 16 points for Baird in the game with De Leon; T. Windham scored 13.

Girls Third Place was taken by Eula following a 41-37 win over Clyde.

The Bear Varsity Girls began the tournament in Eula by winning over Roscoe on Monday.

This win was followed by a victory over Eula on Tuesday; Baird 55, Eula 50.

The Boys Championship fell to Kermit with a 59-42 victory over Eula.

Anson placed third.

Baird Varsity Boys booked a deciding victory over

Roscoe in the Eula Holiday Classic (Baird 50, Roscoe 23) on Tuesday, after a marginal loss of only 4 points to Eula on Monday.

Baird's Mendez and Sims had the highest individual scores of the game with 10 each.

2004 started with non-district games against Throckmorton for JVG, JVB, VG, and VB on Jan. 2.

Baird Varsity Boys racked up a victory of 62-49 over the Throckmorton team.

Josh Sims (16), Rodriguez (11), Scott (9), and L. J. Mendez (9) were top scorers for Baird.

Baird Varsity Boys now show a record of 11-3. Throckmorton defeated Baird Boys JV.

Baird Varsity Girls did not fare quite as well as the boys' team.

They were defeated 43-54 by Throckmorton, despite an excellent individual score by McDowell of 20 points.

Baird JV Girls turned the tables, winning 43-20 over their Throckmorton challengers.

Baird VG held a record of 12-6 after Friday's game. Baird was to meet Munday on Jan. 6 (no scores were available at printing).

Varsity Girls and Junior Varsity Girls will challenge Cross Plains on Jan. 9, 2004 beginning 6:30 p.m. at Cross Plains.

Basketball Scores

Eula Holiday Classic Girls

De Leon 67 Baird 52

Baird 11 8 14 19 - 52

De Leon 15 20 12 20 - 67

Baird - McDowell 16, T. Windham 13, Russell 6, Sweeney 4, Harris 10, Bell 6

Baird 50 Roscoe 23 Boys

Baird 14 10 12 14 - 50

Roscoe 6 6 6 5 - 23

Baird - Mendez 10, Sims 10

Throckmorton 54 Baird 43 Girls

Baird 13 11 4 15 - 43

Throckmorton 8 11 25 10 - 54

Baird - Windham 4, Russell 6, Sweeney 2, Harris 4, McDowell 20, Bell 7

Baird 62 Throckmorton 49 Boys

Baird 12 23 11 16 - 62

Throckmorton 10 9 14 16 - 49

Baird - Rodriguez 11, L.J. Mendez 9, B. Mendez 3, Morgan 8, Closs 3, Scott 9, Josh Sims 16, Roberts 1, Jeremy Sims 2

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, 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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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.

Jan. 11, 2004 - Organizational meeting for AWANA Club workers, assistants and volunteers. 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Jan. 12, 2004 - Women on Mission prayer group meets 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Jan. 13, 2004 - Women's Prayer Breakfast. All women in community are invited for

time of light breakfast and prayer time beginning 7:00 a.m. located in Fellowship Hall of church.

Jan. 17, 2004 - Training for AWANA program. Van will leave church at 7:45 a.m. for Beltway Baptist Church, Abilene. Training over 1:00 p.m.

Jan. 26, 2004 - Ladies Night Out. All ladies of the community pot luck supper and time together. Special speaker will be Charlotte Young, Pastor's wife from Quanah. Please plan to come and bring your neighbor,

Baird Senior Citizens News

On Friday, 19th of December, we had our Christmas Dinner. We shared that with 45 other neighbors. We always enjoy it when we have a big crowd at the Center. Our dream is that they all come to the Center routinely. We would love to see every one come down and enjoy. We play games and we serve lunch at 11:30 AM Monday thru Friday. Everybody is welcome.

In the month of November, we served 697 meals to the Home Bound citizens. There

were 238 meals served at the Center. We had 4 shopping trips and gave 108 rides either to the Center or shopping. If anyone would like to join us, please call 854-1937 to get the details.

We know for sure that there is one lady that is going to stay warm these cold days.

Cleta Gregg in Clyde was the name of the winner of the Quilt. We appreciate all who support our fund raiser. Congratulations, Cleta!

submitted by Delores Stewart

United Methodist Women Meet Dec. 14

The United Methodist Women met on December 14 for a business meeting.

The proceeds from the Lord's Acre were distributed. \$1,800 went to apportionments, and \$1,200 went towards the first quarter of church insurance.

The remainder went to local missions - the Clothes Closet Food Pantry, Youth, Kids' Club, and Nurture and Outreach - and to gifts of ap-

preciation to the pastor, youth director, and music director.

On December 15, the UMW's annual Christmas party was held at Barbara and Roger Corn's. A pot luck supper and games were enjoyed by all.

The next meeting will be January 11, 2003. Sunday, January 18 will be United Methodist Women's Day.

Happy New Year,
Onida Walker, President

Shooting In Eastland County Leaves One Dead

On Wednesday, December 31, 2003 at approximately 7:00 am, two Dallas men came to the County Sheriff's office to report a murder near the Eastland County community of Kokomo, Chief Deputy Robert Rains reported on Friday.

James Matthew Walker, 44, who was on a hunting trip with his brother-in-law and a friend from the Metroplex, was found dead in his truck. Apparently the ignition was on, and Walker's foot on the clutch.

Bullet holes were in the driver's side door, a window shattered, and eight shell casings were near the vehicle, sources say.

According to one report, the brother-in-law, James

Stogner, 52, and the friend claimed not to have heard the shots.

They were allegedly in a camper parked 15-feet away from Walker's truck.

Stogner, however, has been arrested and charged with murder, Chief Deputy Rains said.

The arrest was made by Chief Deputy Rains.

Stogner is being held in the Eastland County jail. A bond of \$200,000 has been set.

A motive for the murder is unknown at this point in the investigation.

According to County Sheriff Wayne Bradford on Friday, however, both men accompa-

nying the victim had protective orders against each other.

All Star Basket Ball Camp Evaluates Applications

Applications are now being evaluated for The Ten Star All Star Summer Basketball camp. The Camp is by Invitation Only. Boys and Girls ages 10-19 are eligible to apply.

Past participants include: Michael Jordan, Tim Duncan, Vince Carter, Jerry Stackhouse, Grant Hill and Antawn Jamison. Players from 50 States and 11 Foreign Countries attended the 2003

Camp. College Basketball Scholarships are possible for players selected to the All-American Team.

Camp locations include: Commerce, TX, Blacksburg, VA, Thousand Oaks, CA, Sterling, CO, Babson Park, FL, Atlanta, GA, Champaign, IL, Greencastle, IN, Atchison, KS, and Lebanon, TN.

For a free Brochure, call (704) 373-0873 ANYTIME.

Tax statements with information notifying employers of their obligation to report new hires were mailed to 400,000 employers on Dec. 15, 2003 the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) reported in a press release.

New Hire Reporting is mandated by federal law under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) and requires employers to report new hires within 20 calendar days of their start date.

The TWC stated that they and the Texas Office of the Attorney General (OAG) have been working together to ensure that the notifications were mailed.

The notices contain the following:

New Hire Reporting: Good for Kids; Good for Employers

Good for Kids: The OAG uses this information to locate parents who owe child support; Establish new child support orders; Enforce and modify existing orders; Issue income withholding orders.

Good for Employers: Lovers your taxes by returning overpayments recovered by TWC to the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund; Assists state agencies, such as the Texas Workers' Compensation Commission and TWC, in detecting fraudulent claims

and preventing overpayments; Reduces government spending on public assistance; Assists the attorney general in collecting child support payments for families.

Employers need only report six basic items to the Texas Directory of New Hires: Company name; Payroll mailing address; Company federal employer identification number; Employee name; Employee address; Employee Social Security number.

The employers may choose any one of six reporting options: The Internet, including online submission and file uploads; visit www.oag.state.tx.us, select "Child Support" then click on "Employer"; A shareware software program that generates a file for submission; A file transfer protocol; An electronic file, mailed via diskette or tape; A hard-copy report of the workers W-4; Simply call 1-888-TEX-HIRE (839-4473) or fax the information to: 1-800-732-5015.

Information received from employers is entered into a statewide registry and then transmitted to the National Directory of New Hires.

New hires must be reported within 20 calendar days of hire. If reported electronically, new hires must be reported 12 to 16 days apart.



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