

# Baird Star

Callahan County Star  
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The Baird Weekly Star,  
Established  
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Volume 119, Number 3

Baird, Texas 79504

Thursday, January 19, 2006

## Eastland Fire Department Thanks

A big Thank You from the Eastland Fire Department goes out to all of the good hearted people of Eastland County and the surrounding areas that volunteered to

help with the Carbon Fire which broke out between Rising Star and Carbon on New Years Day and continued to engage Firefighters and emergency

response personnel for the following forty-eight hours and beyond. The following likely echoes the sentiments of the entire populous of Eastland County.

Controlling the blaze was a hard fought battle, that fostered disappointment among firefighters, when efforts to contain the fire along natural barriers and fire breaks

## Continued Inside Junior High Honor Roll 4th Six Weeks

Baird Junior High is proud to announce the honor roll for the 4th Six Weeks grading period of 2005-6. To qualify for the all A honor roll a student must have a 90 or above in every subject. To qualify for the A-B honor roll a student must have nothing below 80.



Racing Towards a Safer TxDOT. Fifteen Callahan County maintenance section employees were honored for their outstanding safety efforts during the Abilene District's annual Safety Awards Banquet. These employees were recognized for having amassed 166 years of safe driving and 131 years of no work related injuries. Texas Department of Transportation employees receiving awards were from the left, back row, Larry McIntire, Gary Shelnut, Larry Cauthen, Jeff Holland, Joey Henley, Mike Hines and Jody Wilson. Second row from the left are Kent Stennett, Mikey Santos, Pedro Cerda and Kevin Curtis and kneeling from the left are Hector Aguirre, Troy Knowles and Rudy Rodriguez, section supervisor. Not pictured is Michael Rudder. (TxDOT photo by Mary Beth Kilgore)

## Baird Elementary School Honor Rolls

The Baird Elementary School is proud to announce the Honor Roll for the 4th Six Weeks grading period of 2005-6. To qualify for the all A honor roll a student must have a 90 or above in every subject. To qualify for the A-B honor roll a student must have nothing below an 80.

**4th Grade**  
Bessent  
None  
**4th Grade, Gerngross,**  
None  
**4th Grade-**  
**A-Bonor**  
Bessent  
Justin Brizendine, Hayley, Cook, Dakota Gibbs, Wayne Giger,

**3rd Grade-Barton**  
Garrett Dell, Kaylee Wyatt.  
**3rd Grade-Gardner**  
None  
**A-B Honor**  
3rd Gr. Barton.  
Dominique Bond, Preston Clark.  
**3rd Grade-**  
**Gardner**  
Sam Green, Coby McGonagill, Kara McIntire, Talya Mendez Kaitlyn Robinson.

**4th Grade**  
**A-B Honor**  
Gerngross  
Kaylee Voights.  
**All A's**  
**Fifth Grade**  
Diller  
Kallie Pruet.  
**T. Williams 5th**  
Brenna Coffman, Kody Bryant  
Candis Gilley.  
**Diller 5th**  
Esperanza Portillo.  
**T. Williams 5th None**

## Have You Thanked A School Board Member Lately?

Most people never wonder, let alone ask out loud, why local board members are willing to give so much of their time and energy to their community.

Public school board members are those dedicated few who are elected to represent an entire community's education values. The beauty of public education is that its opportunities are open to everyone, and it's up to those who lead the schools to ensure all students are given everything they need to achieve and succeed. Among those leaders, school board members stand out. Putting in long hours and working for

no pay, these dedicated public servants strive day in and day out to preserve the dream of public education.

School Board Recognition Month--observed each January--honors that dedication in Texas. Districts and communities across the state and nation organize activities, special events, and celebrations to recognize the important contributions of their school board members.

At a time when we face difficult choices over budgetary priorities, a commitment to education and to children must stand absolutely firm. We have a sacred obligation to put our children's needs first and to make the essen-

## Continued Inside Junior High Honor Roll 4th Six Weeks

Baird Junior High is proud to announce the honor roll for the 4th Six Weeks grading period of 2005-6. To qualify for the all A honor roll a student must have a 90 or above in every subject. To qualify for the A-B honor roll a student must have nothing below 80.

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FARMERS AND RANCHERS MAY CONTACT  
**U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE HAY HOTLINE FOR ASSISTANCE (877) 429-1998**

## Baird High School Honor Roll-4th Six Weeks

**9th Grade:**  
William Brock  
**10th Grade**  
Rustin Williams  
**11th Grade:**  
Katie Bessent, Clint Morgan, Angela Sweeney.  
**12 Grade:**  
Jaysa Gideon, Josh Glaza, Blake Manning, Lauren Orlando, Kaitlyn Walker, Kayla Windham.  
**A-B Honor Roll**  
**9th Grade:** Jessica Bowen, Jordan Burns, Issac Dickey, Patsy Dugan, Brooke English, Darryl Fox, Emalie Green, Lacy Jones, Sarayah Martin, Jesse Mendez, Ashlen Murff, Breanna Patterson, Stephanie Rollins, Emily Tumbusch,  
**10th Grade:** Nicole Darnell, Travis Fox, Katelyn Johnston, Dale Kunick, Cameron McIntire, Josh Rollins, Victoria Suarez, Lauren Thackerston.  
**11th Grade:** Noah Albergucci, Megan Betcher, Cody Gibbs, Melissa Keith, Ashley Lowe, Brent Nichols, Tyler Orlando, Maranda Satterfield, Raeda Somers, Chance White.  
**12th Grade:** Chandler Albergucci, Justin Armstrong, Kelby Cauthen, Cecilia Chavarria, Jessica Davis, Nikki Gilstrap, Jordan Glaze, Sasha Ringhoffer, Chance Rodriguez, Blan Scott, Rebecca Tollett, Lesley Tumbusch, Kendra Wildkerson.

## Meals On Wheels In Need Of Donations

The Callahan County Nutrition Project as well as the Meals on Wheels is in need of donations, due to the increases in fuel, food and repairs and a need to stay in budget. The project delivers food to those who cannot travel to the Center to have their lunch and serves about 200 meals a day while the Center serves about 150. Donations to the program may be sent to the Callahan County Nutrition Project, Ste. 302 Courthouse Baird, TX 79504.

Your support of this project is much appreciated. Several fund-raisers are in progress at the present time, such as quilts, cook books. If you choose to donate in this way.

You may contact: Project Director Katie Dunn, 854-5658 at the Office in the Courthouse or one of the site managers, Bruce Bell, Baird Center 854-1937, Vickey Burns, Clyde 893-4556 or Kathy Anderson, Cross Plains, 254-725-6521.

## A-Honor Roll

**6th Gr.:** Katelynn Mitchell, Brittany Cook, Melanie Cooper.  
**7th Gr.:** Cody Hunter, Alexis Almanzar, Colton Fox, Lauren Hare, Sara Kunick, Yisrayl Martin, Elisha Pritchett, Michelle Robbins.  
**8th Gr.:** Mitzy McDowell, Cassidy Miller, Shelby Strickland, Fallon Donlan, Holley Owens.  
**A-B Honor:**  
**6th Grade:** Chris Ramirez, Ty Rhoads, Courtney Ringhoffer, Tyler White.  
**7th Grade:** Eric Ebeling, Mackenzie Keller.  
**8th Grade:** Kristen Burns, Amber Clark, Alysa Isenhower, Cody Isenhower, Taylor Marks, Courtney Nail, Brittany Russo, Rose Wamsley.

## Several County Precincts Long Voting Lines Prompts County Commissioners To Purchase 10 More Electronic Machines

After meeting January 9th and voting to purchase 10 more E-slate electronic voting machines for the seven county voting precincts., Judge Roger Corn of the Callahan County Court said Hart Intercivics, a contractor of the county, providing voting machines, was able to locate 10 used E0Slate voting machines and will sell the equipment at half price. Normally selling \$2,5 00 apiece, these used E0Slate electronic machines will be purchased for \$1,250 apiece. Judge Corn said Hart Intercivics has agreed to provide warranty agreement for the used machines which was provided.

17 E-slate electronic voting machines were purchased by vote in August for the November General Election, according to Corn. He said that due to the lack of machines, some voters in some of the voting precincts were only able to cast ballots after the cutoff 7:00 p.m. Election time. The larger voting precincts in Clyde, Cross Plains and Baird will receive the additional E-slate electronic voting machines.

The Help America Vote Act grant (HAVA) partially helped in the purchase of the 17 additional electronic voting machines, by providing a grant of \$110,04 along with an additional \$9,440.94 from Callahan County which purchased them.

The clean-up effort in the Cross Plains area was commended and addressed by Cliff Kirkham. Callahan County has provided county Equipment in order to clear the charred buildings and home debris after the fires in Cross Plains.

Over 300 truck loads of debris has been disposed of as of now, according to Judge Corn, and taken to a dump ground near the community.

Commenting on the Cross Plains clean-up effort, Judge said the T.C.E.Q. (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality officials said that the clean-up effort was the most efficient of the major recent disasters that they have been involved with.

On other agenda and voting the Commissioners approved the composition and appointment of public members to the Salary Grievance Committee. The Salary Grievance Committee is made up of six elected officials and three public members. The elected officials of the committee include the county judge, county attorney, county sheriff, county tax assessor/collector, county clerk, and district clerk. The three public members of the committee will be selected from last year's grand jury list, however those members have yet to be notified, according to Judge Corn.

Approval was not given to the audit from the preliminary energy of the Direct Energy.

The Commissioners' court voted to approve the oath of office and bond for the county-tax assessor/collector.

The Central Count Station's hourly pay rate was approved by the commissioners' vote, for the Election Ballot counting which takes place at the County Courthouse in Baird. The five Central Count Station employees will be paid \$10.00 an hour.

Also before closing the meeting the commissioners voted to approve the payment of approved bills.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT IN NEED OF DONATIONS

The West Central Texas Council of Governments wants to remind citizens that during this time of high demand for assistance to the people of Cross Plains that your local fire departments are also in need of funds in the form of donations made toward the area fire relief.

Many of our local fire departments have depleted their resources while battling the recent fires in and around Cross Plains. Resources include depleted equipment, repair of old aging equipment and other items that were used and expended during their recent effort

Many of our rural areas depend on volunteer fire departments for fire protection. The Fire Departments that responded to this disaster are non-profit organizations that rely on the good will of the public. Most of these courageous fire fighters are self-sacrificing non-paid volunteers. Donations can be made directly to your local fire department.

Fire Departments responding to the Cross Plains area Fires include: Abilene, Abilene Airport, Anson, Baird, Brady, Brownwood, Burkett, Cisco, Clyde, Comanche, Cross Plains, DeLeon, Dublin, DyesAFB, Early, Eastland, Eula, Gorman, Lake Brownwood, Lawn, May, Merkel, Miles, Northlake, Oplin, Potosi, Putnam, Rising Star, Santa Anna, Sipe Springs, Stamford, Stephenville, And Zephyr.

Also helping your local fire department repair equipment and build cash reserves helps them to be able to respond to future events as they occur in the area. Without these donations there will be a diminished fire fighting capacity in the region.

For additional information on donating please call your local fire department or the Big Country Fire Fighters Assn.

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Dist/Div Office(s) Abilene District

District Engineer 4250 N. Clack Abilene, Texas 79604-0150 Phone: 325-676-6800

Minimum wage rates are set

Pursuant to Article 258.002(c) of the Texas Transportation Code, the Commissioners Court of Callahan County, Texas provides this notice to the public of its intention to convene a public meeting to receive comment upon the adoption of a County Road Map including each road in which the County claims the continued existence of a public interest and a right of access and egress for maintenance of an existing County Road.

The Commissioners Court will conduct a public hearing on January 23, 2006, at 10:00 a.m., in the Commissioners Courtroom in the Callahan County Courthouse.

contract. TXDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.

Notice

258.002(b), Texas Transportation Code, any person asserting a private right, title or interest in a road may appear before the Commissioners Court to object or protest the County's claim of its right to continue maintenance of the public roads depicted on the County Road Map.

Jeanie Bohannon County Clerk (12-29-05, 1-5, 1-12, 1-19-06)

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D.P.S. Report 1-8, 06 TO 1-14, 2006 CASES INVESTIGATED WARNINGS-103 COMPLAINTS : 116 D.W.I. : 1 POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA: 3 DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE, MINOR 1. POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA : 2 ACCIDENTS : THERE WAS 1 ACCIDENT INVESTIGATED DURING THIS TIME SPAN.

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# Infant's Death Poses Many Unanswered Questions

By Margaret Hetrick  
Editors Note:  
The following is a letter given to this newspaper by Gary Nichols, the father of infant Lacey Lynn Nichols, who died Thursday, Jan. 12, 2006 in a Fort Worth hospital.

Mr. Nichols came to this newspaper because he felt the circumstances surrounding his daughter's death had not been properly reported in other news media.

His letter opens many unanswered questions. We do not know the answer to these questions, and we have only spoken with Mr. Nichols, not others involved in this matter. But we are shocked at the tragic death of infant Lacey, which apparently was not brought about by natural causes.

According to Gary Nichols, the Eastland office of Child Protective Services (CPS) took Lacey, and two other children from his home approximately four months ago. Their actions were based on false allegations made against him, he said.

Lacey was eventually placed by CPS in a foster home in Coleman.

Apparently, something terrible happened to Lacey there, and she was care flighted to Cooks Hospital in Fort Worth, where she died several days later.

If we understood correctly, Mr. Nichols said that media sources reported a chicken bone was lodged in her throat. He said that hospital personnel did not confirm that. Instead Mr. Nichols believes his daughter had been so badly shaken that she suffered a stroke and brain injuries. He discussed his reasons for believing this with us, and we were also shown several photos, showing bruises, of Lacey in

the Fort Worth hospital.

Mr. Nichols also said that he has spoken to the State Child Protective Services office in Austin about his daughter's death. He said he was told that the Eastland CPS was being investigated in this matter. The case number he gave us for the investigation is 31799527.

First and foremost - and undeniable in this case, is the fact that the life of an innocent child has been ended by no fault of her own. Why?



LACEY NICHOLS

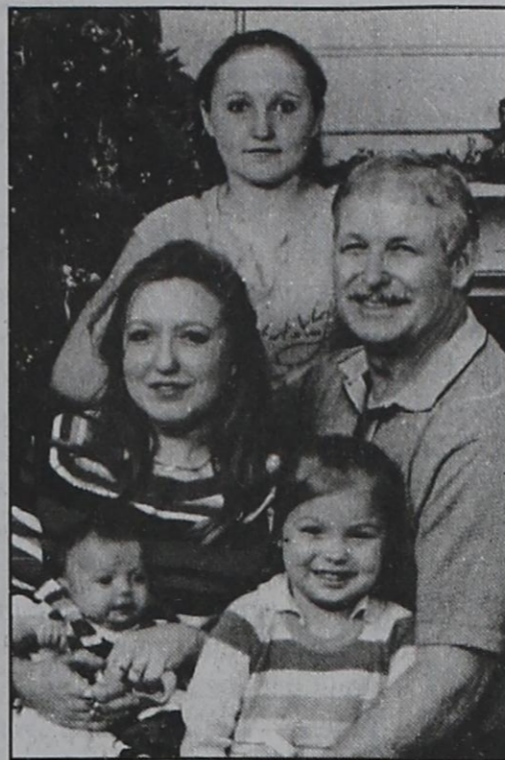
Gary D. Peak, Mr. Nichol's attorney wrote to this newspaper: "I am torn up by the death of Lacey Nichols." This is also our feeling, and it would be hard to think that anyone could be untouched by her death.

There are some hard questions to be answered, and those responsible should be held accountable. Not that this will bring Lacey back, but perhaps the needless death of another child can be avoided.

**Letter From Father**  
Lacey Lynn Nichols, age

14 months, died on 1-12-06, 11:30 a.m., at Cook's Hospital in Fort Worth.

She lived with her mother and dad, Gary and Jennifer Nichols at 101 S.



THE NICHOLS FAMILY

Oaklawn in Eastland, TX.

Lacey had been in the care of Child Protective Services (CPS) for the last 4 months, due to false allegations - during the time of death in Coleman, TX.

Lacey did not die of natural causes. She was brutally shook to death, while suffering a stroke, and brain injuries.

She was a special, vibrant, outgoing young baby. She was just starting to walk and talk. She had her whole life ahead of her.

Lacey was care flighted from Coleman, TX to Cook's hospital in Fort Worth, TX. She was on life support for 7 days.

All of her body parts were donated to different children, across the country, in order to save other children's lives.

Her heart went to Canada, and other parts all over the United States.

She had beautiful blue eyes, and was very healthy and had an irreplaceable personality.

Lacey will be missed dearly by her sisters, Lynnsey, Jaynie, and Lee- anne, her grand- fathers Ben Nichols of Cisco, and Dale Hayes of Dallas, and all of her family and friends of the family.

The CPS of Eastland TX is currently being investigated by the State CPS office in Austin, TX in the

Thursday, January 19, 2006

wrongful death of our baby girl.

There are certain leads still under investigation concerning the cause of death - supposedly caused by Lacey's foster parents in Coleman, TX, which the CPS was responsible for.

Lacey's funeral was held at the Church of the Nazarene in Cisco, TX on Tuesday, January 17.

She was buried at the Eastland Cemetery under the name of Lacey Lynn Nichols.

Your prayers and sympathy have been greatly appreciated during this tragedy.

We thank you - the family -- of Lacey Lynn Nichols.

Gary L. Nichols  
1-16-06

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### Crossword Answers

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A	S	I	A	P	E	A	S	E	O	T	T	O	
L	E	N	D	A	C	R	E	S	D	I	E	M	
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## Rural Development Announces Housing Assistance

USDA has the unique responsibility of coordinating Federal assistance to rural areas of the Nation. USDA Rural Development housing programs assist eligible very-low, low and moderate-income rural Texans in becoming homeowners and in making repairs to their homes. These programs may also assist eligible persons in Cross Plains and the surrounding areas affected by the recent fires.

USDA Rural Development home ownership loan programs give applicants financial assistance in the form of a home loan at an affordable interest rate. The loan may be used for the purchase of an existing home or for new home construction which allow very low income households the opportunity to obtain modest, decent, safe and sanitary housing.

Many low income applicants may already own a home, but are looking to make their living situation better for their family. The Home Repair Loan Program can provide loans and grants for renovation of housing already owned by the

applicant. It can also provide funds to make a home accessible to someone with disabilities. For very-low income applicants, these loans are on a fixed 1% interest rate directly from the USDA Rural Development housing programs. Also under this program, eligible applicants who are very-low income homeowners, 62 years of age and older, without loan repayment ability, are eligible for home improvement grants to improve their living situation.

To find out if you are eligible for USDA Rural Development housing programs, or for further information or assistance, please call an agency representative by calling the USDA Rural Development Abilene Local Office at 325-690-6162, Extension 4.

## Ranger College Spring Registration

Ranger College Spring semester registration for commuter students was held Thursday, January 12 from 8-12/1-5 p.m. at the Registrar's Office in the Academic Building on the Ranger Campus. Dormitory students will report Sunday,

## Annual Letter From Cousin Icky:

He writes in part in his semi-sometime communique: "Go-na get this mailed 'fore stamps go up..." (We paid the extra postage due.)

"Been watching that Judge Alito gettin' grilled by them high-powered sinators (sic); it's a comedy—seeing them ole codgers not even being able to read the questions writ for them by their underlings, and to hear that High Judge fire back the answers from memory, quicker 'n a snap, chapter and verse, case vs. case, faster 'en bullets."

"You news-people must be dumb—you all been hollerin' for years 'bout how few people go to the polls when they get a chance—you wastin' time trying to get the numbers up, when you consider what's comin' out of them capitol domes—one money-grubbin' scandal after another...most (not all) get them cushy jobs are honest, and get elected on their good-sense...but once they get there—WHEEEEEEE; WE GOT IT MADE IN THE SHADE... Why should we illerates have hangin' over our heads the fact that our voting helped another pack of rats get there to sack and plunder. No thank ye."

"We'ens lucky out here at the crossroads...jest got outhouse and chicken house scorched; but you know what. Singed feathers and Penney catalogs must spell awful good compared to what them hero fire fighters are exposed to—the stench of incinerated homes full of happy yesterdays, and hopes for bright tomorrows; all gone in a blaze. Boy howdy, do we ever owe them big time for saving us all from that inferno. God bless 'em all, real good like."

Icky, we couldn't agree more.

## Christian Country Benefit Concert To Be Held Saturday

A Christian Country Benefit Concert will be held reaching out to the victims of the fires in Cross Plains, Carbon, and surrounding areas Saturday, January 21st 4 p.m. at Taylor County Expo Center Display Building in Abilene, Texas.

Artists scheduled to appear: Branded, Clay Jacobs, David Pendergraft, Dearl Hardy, Dub Shelton, Grace Country Trio, Jackie Cox, Jesus Posse Band, Justin Todd Herod, Leon Joplin, Mercy and Grace, Mike Hammock, Ricky Russ.

This concert is being sponsored by a combined effort of churches, ministries, and businesses from Abilene, Brownwood, Carbon, Cross Plains, Llano, Rising Star and surrounding areas.

A Silent Auction will be held with all proceeds going to the Relief Effort for Local Victims of recent fires that have affected our neighbors and friends.

Chuckwagon Cooking and refreshments will be available. For more information (254) 643-5502, (325) 695-5453, (254) 639-2929.

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## After-School Snacks Add Nutrition to Kids' Diets

Because children's lunches may go uneaten or may be traded away, many parents use delicious, high-energy afternoon snacks to supplement their children's diets.

The key is to keep it simple and plan ahead for those inevitable afternoon lows.

Finger foods are always a hit with kids and snacks lend themselves to casual eating. A snack mix the kids help stir up the night before and pour in paper bags they decorate themselves is a fun way to get them involved in smart snacking.

Make-ahead foods that are ready when the kids arrive home are easy on parents, too. Try spreading a tortilla with cream cheese, cinnamon and raisins, roll up and cut into bite-sized rolls. Present the spirals in paper cupcake holders to add the element of fun.

To make an edible "wizard's wand" spread the top half of a large pretzel rod or bread stick with peanut butter, then roll in zante currants or raisins. Fill graham crackers with peanut butter and dried apples for a cracker sandwich, or thread fruit and cheese onto kabob skewers.

Here are two simple snacks that can be made

## Fish Serves As Great Substitute To Other Protein Sources

To help combat the child obesity problem that affects an estimated nine million American children ages 6 to 19, the American Heart Association and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's new guidelines encourage children to eat more lean meats, such as fish.

The AHA is recommending children eat fish at least twice a week for its health benefits. The USDA also recommends that children eat more fish in the new "MyPyramid for Kids" - a supplement for children ages 6 to 11, to the food guide MyPyramid, released earlier this year.

In the AHA guidelines, canned light tuna, salmon and other fish are cited as being rich in heart-healthy omega-3 fatty acids. These fish are also high in protein and are low-calorie and low-fat, when compared to other protein sources, such as beef.

ahead and are real kid pleasers. For more ideas check out [www.sunmaid.com](http://www.sunmaid.com).

### Honey Bee Treats

1/2 cup peanut butter  
1/2 cup honey  
1 cup non-fat dry milk  
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Blend all ingredients, mix well. Shape into a log and slice treats.

Store in airtight container.

### Everything But The Kitchen Sink Mix

1/2 cup candy coated chocolate pieces  
1 cup Sun-Maid Natural Raisins, or Golden Raisins  
1 cup dry roasted peanuts  
1 cup oat cereal rounds or low-fat popcorn  
1 cup miniature marshmallows

In large self-sealing plastic bag, place first three ingredients. Seal bag and gently rotate mix together. Pour in cereal or popcorn and marshmallows. Makes 5 cups, 8 to 10 servings.

Kids can easily help create a nutritious after-school snack that's fun to eat.

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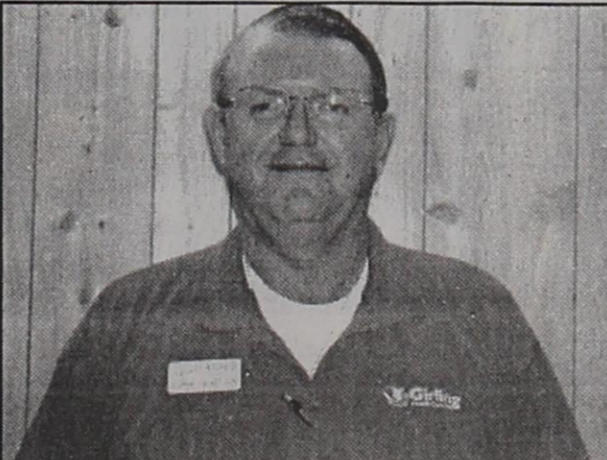
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# What One Group Is Doing To Curtail Child Abuse

*Wearing Do-rags and Leather and Taking a Nonviolent Approach, Bikers 'Adopt' Little Buddies to Fight Child Abuse*

By Alyson Ward  
Staff Writer  
Reprinted from  
Star-Telegram

It's barely past noon on a sunny November Saturday, but already there's a surly-looking pack of motorcycles parked outside Hot Rods and Hogs in Arlington. And inside the biker bar is swarming with the men and women who ride them.

There are at least 30 of these folks. They have boots and tattoos, leather vests and don't-mess-with-me expressions. On those vests are their nicknames, stitched boldly on the back: Panther. Nasty.Gambler. If the club's bartenders were on duty--and if sunlight weren't streaming through the windows--this would look like the beginning of a great Friday-night party.

But the tough-looking, do-rag wearing bikers are here on business. On their vests are pins and patches that say "Keepers of the Children" and "No Child Should Live in Fear." And they're on their way to meet and "adopt" an 8-year-old boy who saw his little brother being molested. "I brought this vest, I brought his certificate, I brought him a bear," a guy known as Axe-Man tells the ragtag crowd, holding up a teddy bear.

The bikers get directions. They talk through their plans. Then they head for their motorcycles. Someone yells, "Let's go make a life better!" And with an earthshaking roar, a parade of Yamahas, Hondas and Harleys rumbles onto the highway.

### Revved up to do good

The leather-clad crowd is a group called Bikers Against Child Abuse. Known as BACA for short, the national group was started 10 years ago by a social worker with a motorcycle and a plan. John Paul Lilly--known as "Chief" among those on two wheels--led a group of biker friends in Provo, Utah to stage an "adoption" ceremony in 1995 for an 8-year-old victim of abuse. The point? To make the kid feel empowered, knowing he had a family of burly, brave bikers who would drop everything to befriend and protect him.

A decade later, BACA has more than 60 active chapters spread across 22 states. Nineteen of those chapters are in Texas, with more than 300 members volunteering their time from the Panhandle to the Gulf Coast. They are attorneys, teachers, truck drivers and real estate agents most of the time. But they'll devote days, nights and weekends to making young victims of abuse feel safe and loved. Axe-Man, the Fort Worth chapter president, is Axel DeGroot, a tall man with a scraggly red beard, a Vulcan Classic and a career as a computer programmer. He doesn't look like a computer programmer. When he's wearing his leather vest, with his hair gathered into a ponytail, he looks more like somebody you might avoid at a 7-Eleven. But with his solemn earnestness, DeGroot embodies the image that BACA hopes to present: the tough guy with the heart of gold.

"We may look like a rough

bunch, but the kids see beneath our exterior--they see where our heart is," he says.

The bikers work with advocacy agencies to find kids who have been abused. With the parents' permission, they'll "adopt" a kid in a loud, proud ceremony, then follow up with friendship and protection as long as it's needed. They're tender with children, intimidating to those who abuse. They'll sit in court with their leather vests on and lend confidence to kids who have to testify. They'll talk and play with their adoptees, offering a sympathetic ear or a trip to the skating rink. And if a child is threatened or pursued by an abuser, the members of BACA will go as far as surrounding the child's house to guard it 24/7, sleeping in shifts and escorting the child to school.

In Fort Worth, the biker group is now working to increase awareness and ratchet up its profile with a billboard on Interstate 35. Just east of downtown, the billboard gives northbound drivers a look at the BACA logo--a clenched fist with "B.A.C.A." scrawled on the knuckles--and the organization's national Web site, [www.bacausa.com](http://www.bacausa.com). New chapters are developing in Denton and Waxahachie, and BACA hopes to recruit new members in those areas. The group has spread all over the Metroplex since 1999, when Dan "Danno" Hunt of Grant Prairie formed the state's first chapter with a friend and a stack of recruiting flyers.

"We struggled quite a bit," Hunt says. He and his friend went to courthouses, advocacy groups and district attorney's offices all over the state, but everyone was "very skeptical."

"Their thought was--'Bikers? They're probably abusing children,'" Hunt says, "until we kind of proved ourselves, proving we do what we say we do."

That means staying in touch with local law enforcement. Traveling in pairs or groups so that no member is ever alone with a child. Running background checks on members and guests to eliminate anyone who has been convicted of a violent or abusive crime against a child.

When it started, Hunt says, BACA was composed almost entirely of adults who had experienced or witnessed child abuse. As the group's profile has grown, people have gotten involved for all sorts of reasons. But he estimates that in Texas, 60 to 70 percent of BACA members know firsthand about the pain of abuse.

With that firsthand knowledge comes a lot of anger. After an adoption, BACA members leave the child's house and meet up somewhere else to talk about what happened. Every time.

"It's a way for our members to unwind," says DeGroot. "Some of them are very emotional about this, and we want them to deal with it then" instead of later, or on their own.

**Obstacle to abuse**  
Nationwide, some people have characterized BACA as a group of vigilantes too eager to take the law into their own hands. And the group

has kicked up some controversy here and there, mostly in its home state of Utah. In 2003, a Utah judge ordered BACA members to leave their jackets and logos outside when they attended a child sex-abuse trial, saying the logos might distract or unfairly influence the jury. The order came after the defendant's attorney accused the group of harassing and threatening his client outside the courtroom, news reports said.

And last year, a group of BACA members from Utah were removed from a Frontier Airlines flight in Denver when they tried to stop a couple from disciplining a 2-year-old who got fussy when takeoff was delayed.

DeGroot says the group is diligently nonviolent, more interested in helping kids than in punishing their abusers.

"We don't even care about the perpetrator," he says. "We're strictly child-focused."

BACA's mission statement reflects the slightly contradictory policy of intimidation without violence: "We do not condone the use of violence or physical force in any manner," it says. "However, if circumstances arise such that we are the only obstacle preventing a child from further abuse, we stand ready to be that obstacle."

Dan Leal remembers a time when BACA became a obstacle.

Leal is the executive director of the Children's Advocacy Center for Denton County, which refers 75 to 80 kids to BACA each year. He remembers an accused abuser who would follow his victim's bus home from school every day, waving at the child to intimidate him, "to let [the child] know he was still around."

Then BACA got involved. "One day, that perpetrator was following that child home with the school bus," Leal says, "and all of a sudden [he] heard the roar of motorcycles in the background." BACA members pulled up next to his truck. Then they swarmed around him to block his access to the school bus. The next afternoon, when the guy came back, so did BACA. It didn't take long before he "got the message and backed off," Leal says.

The bikers never got violent, but they sent a clear message: They weren't going to let anything happen to that child.

It's that feeling of safety that abused children need first, Leal says--especially if the person who abused them might be lurking nearby.

"Our kids are pretty afraid in general of the perpetrator," Leal says, "especially if the perpetrator is trying to contact the child or the family. This is the perfect situation for BACA."

Abusers often rely on intimidation, he says. And unlike a child, a group of brawny bikers can be just as intimidating in return. Which means the kids they're protecting can begin to live their lives again. "It's amazing," Leal says. "These kids take on these road names when they're adopted. They feel like they belong."

**Talking through anger**  
Bob Day (real name withheld to protect the privacy of his child) plans to join the Bikers Against Child Abuse as soon as he can. It's more than just belonging; the Carrollton dad says he wants to give something back to a

group that saved his family.

A couple of years ago, Day had never heard of BACA, and he didn't even ride a motorcycle. But when his 8-year-old daughter was molested (by a neighbor, Day says), someone at the Child Advocacy Center of Denton County suggested that BACA might be able to help her. Soon after, about 25 motorcycles roared up to the family's Carrollton home on a Saturday afternoon. The girl got a vest, a bear and a rough-looking group of new friends.

At the time, the family was under such strain "we were literally falling apart," Day says. In the face of a family crisis, a bunch of bikers showing up on the front lawn might seem like holding up an umbrella in a flood. But the adoption ceremony--and the friendship BACA offered afterward--made all the difference in the world for his daughter, Day says.

"Up to that point, she didn't hardly sleep," Day says. "Once BACA came, immediately she slept through the night from that point forward...She knew that all we had to do was make a phone call, and they would be there to protect her."

Day, meanwhile, was having trouble controlling his own anger. He wanted to hurt the person who had hurt his daughter.

"I lived in fear that I was going to do something," he says. "But after I spoke to [BACA members], I knew I had an out, even if I had to call 15 of them to come and rope me up. They would talk me through it, sit with me through it, whatever it took."

Two women from BACA befriended his daughter, Day says. Every few weeks,

they'd come by to take her to dinner. And they were always available to talk on the phone.

"My daughter would talk to them for hours at a time," Day says. "And if it took four hours of conversation on a Tuesday night, they would give her four hours."

Sometimes, he says, his daughter wanted to talk about abuse. But "if she felt like talking about paper flowers she'd cut out," he says, "they'd sit there and listen and tell her how great that was." More than two years later, Day's daughter still keeps her BACA teddy bear on her dresser. Her vest is a prized possession. A couple of weeks ago, she and her parents went to the BACA Christmas party and celebrated with other biker-adopted families. When Day does join BACA, his daughter wants to ride along and take part in adoptions.

"It's part of my daughter's healing that she would like to get involved as well," he says.

### Becoming a biker

On that sunny November Saturday, as the bikers pull off the highway and pull into an Arlington apartment complex, the rumble can undoubtedly be heard--and felt--by all the neighbors. And just as the noise dies down, out comes a little kid in a black T-shirt and khaki pants--this Saturday's BACA adoptee. He grins at them a little nervously.

BACA members cover his head with a do-rag and present him with a certificate.

"It says you're one of us now," Axe-Man tells the 8-year-old. "You're a biker."

"Now, guys, I just introduced him as a biker. But he's missing something. He's out of uniform," Axe yells. He pulls out a leather vest and holds it up. It has the kid's new road name on the back. A round of cheers goes up from the crowd.

Next, they give the kid a bear wearing a T-shirt. First, though, they pass it around. Every member gives the bear a squeeze. Then they begin to present little pins for the kid's vest.

Axe-Man gives him a battle-ax pin. "The battle-ax, in the old days, was a symbol for courage in battle," he tells him as he pins it on.

"Rain, shine, sleet or snow, we're going to come," he tells the kid and gives him a hug.


Soon the boy's vest is covered with pins, and that means it's time for a ride. He can ride along on any motorcycle he wants--he just has to pick one he likes best.

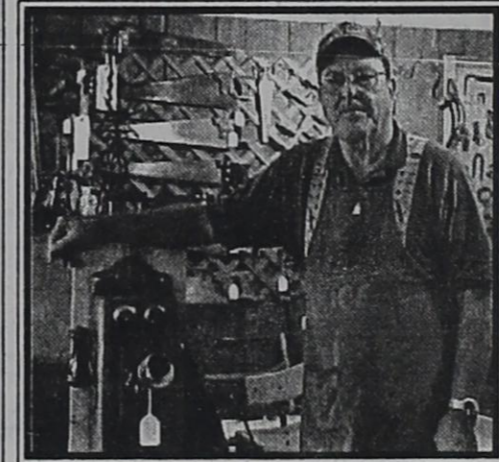
He heads straight for a Harley-Davidson Softail Custom, maroon with silver on the sides. It belongs to a Fort Worth biker called Jester.

Someone hands the adoptee a helmet, and he hops on, hanging on tightly to the man's black T-shirt and leather vest. With a deafening rumble, Jester and a handful of others speed out of the parking lot for a ride around the neighborhood.

A few minutes later, they're back, and the 8-year-old is laughing as they pull into the parking lot. For a brief moment, his fears are a million miles away.

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Contact  
**Gary Grady**  
At 254-629-1707

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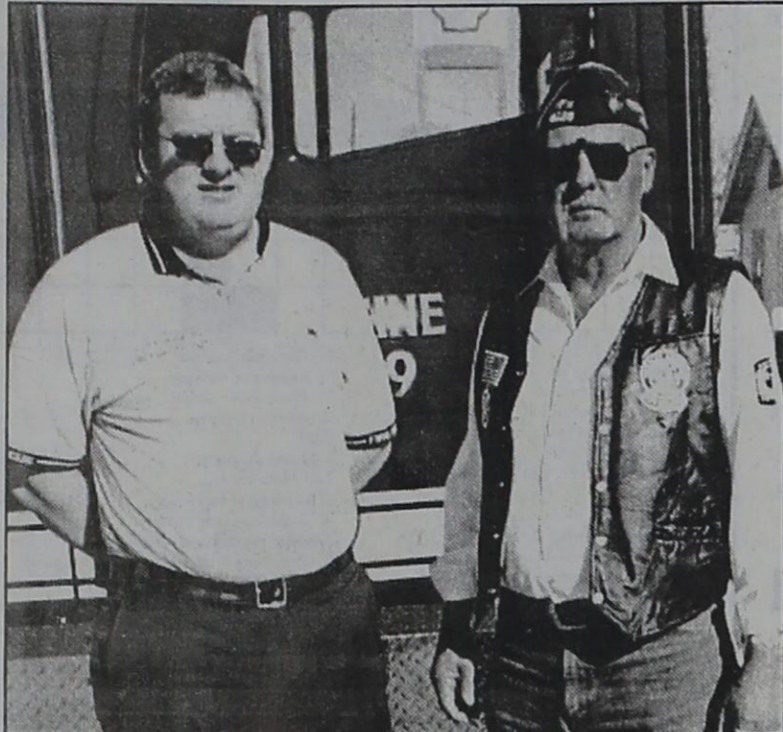
**Eastland / Callahan County Newspapers**  
215 South Seaman - Eastland, Tx 76448

## VFW Post #4136 Donates Water To Fire Departments

The VFW Post #4136, Eastland, TX, donated ten cases of bottled water to each of the Fire Departments in Eastland County.

We want to express our sincere appreciation to each of these dedicated men and

women. Although we can't help everyone who sent support to our county, we send our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to everyone who assisted in this effort.



Scott Brinkley, Eastland Fire Dept. and Larry Monroe, VFW member.



Ronnie Jones, Larry Monroe VFW & DAV Ch. 41 members and Olden Fireman Dwayne Hunter.



Larry Monroe delivered water to Carbon Fire Chief, Ronnie Pack.



Larry Monroe and Terry Denson, accepting water for the Desdemona Fire Department.



Ranger Fireman, Matt Richardson and VFW member Larry Monroe.



Gene Foster, Gorman Fire Chief and Larry Monroe VFW member.



Larry Monroe and Don Griffith, Rising Star Police officer.



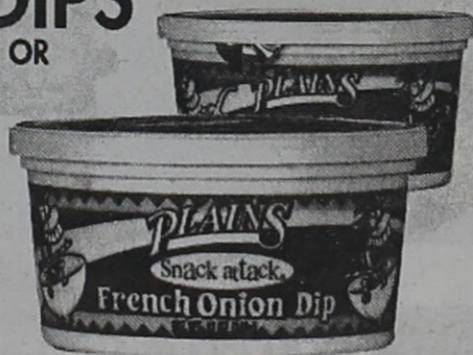
Terry Taylor, George Pierce, VFW Commander, Cisco Fireman Curtis Stovall and Larry Monroe, VFW member.



January 15, 2006 thru January 28, 2006

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**PLAINS DIPS**  
REGULAR \$1.99 EACH OR

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ASSORTED FLAVORS  
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**89¢**

REG. 99¢

DIET COKE, SPRITE OR  
**COKE**

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FOLGERS  
**COLOMBIAN COFFEE**  
11.5 OZ.

**\$3.99**



### ALLSUP'S COMBO MEALS

COMBO NO. 1	BACON/EGG BISCUIT & 16 OZ. COFFEE	\$1.99
COMBO NO. 2	SAUSAGE/EGG BISCUIT & 16 OZ. COFFEE	\$1.99
COMBO NO. 3	BBQ SANDWICH & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$1.99
COMBO NO. 4	HOMESTYLE POPCORN CHICKEN & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.69
COMBO NO. 5	SPICY POPCORN CHICKEN & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.69
COMBO NO. 6	3 TAMALES, HOWLERS & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.59
COMBO NO. 7	2 HOT LINKS WITH BREAD & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.49
COMBO NO. 8	2 CORN DOGS & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.59
COMBO NO. 9	CHIMICHANGA & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.39
COMBO NO. 10	2 BEEF & BEAN BURRITOS & 32 OZ. TALLSUP	\$2.59

BLUE BUNNY CHAMP CONES CARAMEL OR VANILLA	\$1.09	BUY ONE GET ONE FREE
ALLSUP'S COFFEE OR CAPPUCCINO	16 OZ. OR 20 OZ.	79¢
ALLSUP'S SANDWICH BREAD	24 OZ. / 79¢ EACH OR	2 FOR \$1.09
ALLSUP'S WHEAT BREAD	24 OZ. / 89¢ EACH OR	2 FOR \$1.29
MALT-O-MEAL ASSORTED CEREALS	12.8-17.5 OZ. / REG. \$2.79	BUY ONE GET ONE FREE
SNACK STOP CANDIES ASST. FLAVORS	59¢ EACH OR	2 FOR \$1.00
ALLSUP'S WATER	5 LITER BTL. / CASE	\$3.99
KLEENEX	200 CT. / REG. \$2.59	\$1.99
SO-DRI PAPER TOWEL SINGLE ROLL	REG. 75¢ / 59¢ EACH OR	2 FOR \$1.00

## Super Notes

By David K. Perry  
Gorman ISD Superintendent

Last Monday evening we had an appreciation dinner for the school board at ZJ's Steak House where each board member was presented with a framed certificate of appreciation for their hard work and dedication to the children of the Gorman Independent School District. The dinner was followed by our regularly scheduled board meeting. The meeting was opened with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Then the regular consent agenda items were approved by a vote of 7-0 before hearing a presentation and proposal from Bob Powell of the Athletic Booster Club concerning the creation of a Wall of Honor inside Brogdon Field. The proposal was approved by a vote of 7-0. Details of this project will be published in this article as soon as everything is sorted out. The board was then presented with the results of Gorman ISD's annual audit by Burl Lowery, CPA for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2005. The board approved the audit by a vote of 7-0. The district received a clean audit and was found to be in compliance in every area. After Superintendent Perry reported some items of information to the board, the board excused him while they performed his yearly evaluation. When Superintendent Perry returned, he was presented with his evaluation. Superintendent Perry thanked the board for their favorable evaluation and then they discussed goals for the next twelve month period. The goals that were set are as follows: Identify and prioritize facility needs and gather information for funding to meet these priorities; to develop better academic, vocational, and technology programming and integrate all to raise test scores; and to continue to work on improving staff morale and promoting positive school unity. The board then voted 7-0 to extend Superintendent Perry's contract another year. The board then adjourned. You may be interested in the following events: Thursday - 1/19 -Eastland Stock Show and JH Basketball - Here @ 5:00 v. Baird; Friday - 1/20 - Eastland Stock Show and HS Basketball - Here @ 4:00 v. Zephyr; Saturday - 1/21 - Power-lifting @ Clyde; Monday - 1/23 JH

Basketball @ Eula @ 5:00; and Tuesday - 1/24 - HS Basketball @ Albany @ 4:00.

Thirty-one elementary and junior high students recently participated in a Math-a-Thon, raising funds to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The students had to solicit pledges, complete a workbook of up to 250 math problems, and then collect their donations. This was all done outside of class. These students raised a total of \$1,855.84 for this very worthy cause, and they are to be commended for their dedication and hard work. All participating students will receive a certificate, while many raised enough money to collect prizes of t-shirts, gym bags, and free tickets to Six Flags. Our top award winner, raising the most money, was first grader Kayce Dodd. Kayce raised a total of \$165, and will receive the grand prize, which is an MP3 player. Congratulations Kayce (pictured below) and hats off to all of these fine students who gave of their own time to help others in need!

We did not get to complete our elementary and junior high U.I.L. Academic competition during the first semester as planned due to bad weather. Last week we finished up. I will leave it to those in charge to publicize the final individual accomplishments, but I'll tell you about our team. The junior high and the elementary both came in third. Our junior high missed second by only 2/100th of a point to Ranger who hosted the contest this



Kayce Dodd

year. I have great expectations of these students in the future and challenge them work even harder next year and the win the contest. All of these students are already winners as individuals for the effort they've put forth this year! Congratulations!

Saturday, Gorman ISD hosted their 4th Annual Power-lifting Meet in the Gymnasium. There were 10 school competing. It was my first power-lifting meet and I was very impressed. It was fun to be a part of it and I appreciate Coach Gerick for asking me to participate. I won't talk about the results here because they will be submitting that information in another article. I do want to thank all of the school personnel and booster club members that helped make the meet a success.

If I missed any event that you would like to have seen covered, please let me know. It takes community involvement for a school to be successful and you are welcome to get involved at Gorman ISD anytime. Remember, this is your school; these are your children; and these children are your future! Come help us shape the future.

## Blood Drive Scheduled In Cross Plains January 24

First Baptist Church of Cross Plains will host a community blood drive on Tuesday, January 24. The Meek Blood Center bloodmobile will be at the church from 1:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

"The blood supply is often low in the winter months, especially in January. At this time, Meek Blood Center is in need of all types of blood, especially O positive," said Frances Baker, donor recruiter. "There are many patients whose health depends on donated blood. This includes cancer patients under-

going chemotherapy treatment, premature babies, surgical patients, new mothers following childbirth, accident or trauma victims, and patients with blood disease," Baker continued.

Each donor will receive a long-sleeve black T-shirt and a free total cholesterol test. Cholesterol results are available three days after the blood drive. Those who have questions regarding blood donation may call Meek Blood Center at 325-670-2798.

## Arson Suspected In Several Fires

The following information is from Senior Trooper Sparky Dean, Texas Highway Patrol - Safety Education, Abilene, Tex.

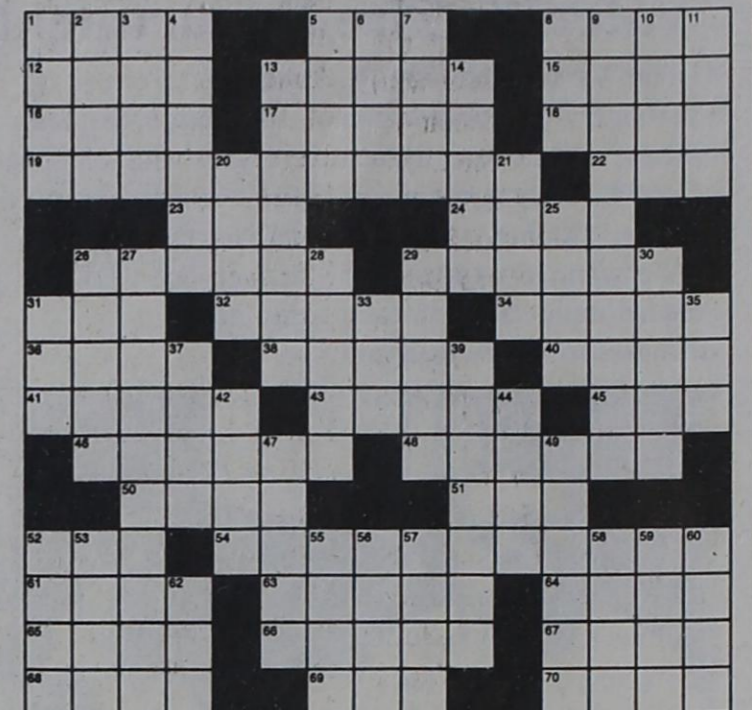
"Arson is suspected in several wildfires in and around Taylor County. Fire investigators are following up leads found at the scene of the crimes.

"Up to \$2,000 reward is offered by the Texas Forest Service for information leading to the arrest and Grand Jury indictment of person or persons responsible for arson. Anyone with information regarding a suspected arsonist should call 911 or call the Arson Hotline: 1-800-364-3470 and speak with an investigator."

## Olden Musical January 20th

Friday, Jan. 20th the Olden Community Center will hold their regular musical with the kitchen opening at 5 p.m. and the music beginning at 6 p.m. For just the price of the meal, you can enjoy an evening of good country, gospel, and blue-grass favorites by local talent and special guests who drop by sometimes. For an evening of good food, great music, and fellowship with your friends and neighbors, just come to Olden Community Center and enjoy the fine country atmosphere. They will have a donation can for monetary collection for the Eastland County fire victims that need our help. So, please come to Olden on Jan. 20 for an evening of great food, friends, and entertainment."

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- Across
- Forrest, starring Tom Hanks.
  - Revolutions per minute.
  - Loch, a lake known for its monster sightings.
  - Continent bound by Europe and the Arctic, Pacific and Indian Oceans.
  - Pudding of strained split peas mixed with egg.
  - Preminger, motion picture director.
  - Antonym of borrow.
  - A Thousand, a novel by Jane Smiley.
  - Ngo Dinh, former president of South Vietnam.
  - Members of an Algonquian people living north of the St. Lawrence River.
  - To be under obligation to pay.
  - 27th amendment proposed to the Constitution.
  - and the Detective, Disney remake of the 1931 German movie.
  - To cut in half.
  - Kind of worsted cloth.
  - Antonym of daughter.
  - of Evil, horror flick starring Joe Dallesandro.
  - Loose outer garments worn by citizens of ancient Rome.
  - Liberal, academic disciplines that provide in formation of general cultural concern.
  - Rich tapestry.
  - Capital of Alpes-Maritimes in southeastern France.
  - Italian coins equal to 100 centesimi.
  - Republic in southwestern Asia at the eastern end of the Mediterranean.
  - Indefinitely long period of time.
  - Glass bottle for serving wine at the table.
  - Importance attached to something.
  - Voyage.
  - The Man, Jack Haley in The Wizard of Oz.
  - To choose or select.
  - Solid figures having 10 faces.
  - Loud, prolonged ringing of bells.
  - Madness, starring Hanna Schygulla.
  - Dish of many ingredients.
  - Until.
  - Throws with great strength.
- Down
- Festive occasion.
  - Put into service.
  - Anything of small size.
  - Chaplains in the military.
  - Abbreviation for received.
  - Combining form meaning "guard against."
  - Abbreviation for milliseconds.
  - Land east of Eden where Cain went to dwell.
  - Causes or origins of diseases.
  - To fret.
  - Unspecified number of amounts.
  - Greek goddess of healing.
  - Serpentine ridge formed by streams under glacial ice.
  - Metal-bearing minerals often mined for profit.
  - Former past tense of smite.
  - Image.
  - Containing boron.
  - Occurring within state boundaries.
  - Brief and witty.
  - Russian emperors.
  - Corn tortillas folded over fillings such as ground meat.
  - Minco, co-starred in Exodus.
  - Not wet.
  - Abbreviation for senator.
  - Gilbert, Darlene Conner on Roseanne.
  - Brooding hens.
  - Past tense of say.
  - Extremely dry.
  - Muscular and fatty tissue.
  - To enlist in college.
  - Mr. Holland's, starring Richard Dreyfuss.
  - Abbreviation for Pentecost.
  - Short, dull, explosive sound.
  - Ethereal.
  - To steer.
  - Specialty act performed downstage while the upstage act is changed.
  - Acronym for National Integrated Lands System.
  - Drunkards.
  - To cut off branches from a tree.

This puzzle sponsored by

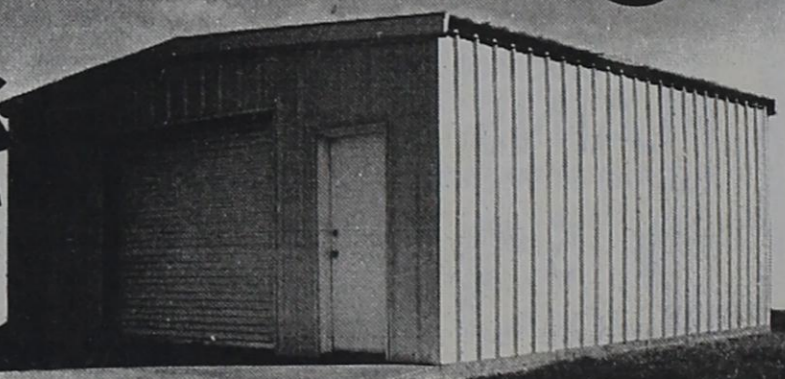


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# Mueller Value-Plus Value-Priced Pre-Engineered Bolt-Together Buildings

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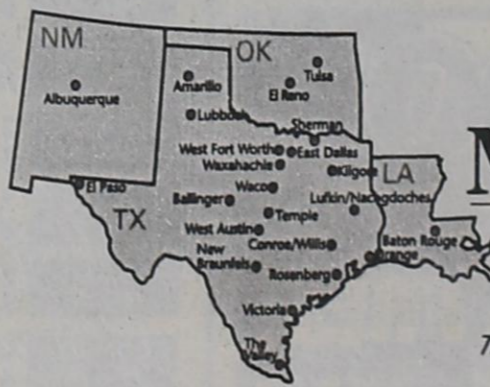
All-New Value+ Building Kits Now Available!

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- ★ 40' X 60' X 15' Big Barn XL (Includes 2-framed openings) Value+ Kit \$8,995

- 100% bolt together frame! No cutting. No welding needed!
- 20/90 mph frame load
- 26 gauge galvalume utility roof sheets with 5-year limited warranty
- 26 gauge utility wall sheets available in white, tan, lt. stone, or lt. gray with 5-year limited paint warranty
- Basic trim package in white or galvalume
- Includes 1- large framed opening, and erection drawings

- The building shown above includes the following options (not included in base price): Lt. Stone trim; roll-up door; and walk-in door.

Many other options also available. Financing package and economical on-site fork-lift delivery available.



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## Leon River Cowboy Church

"Just Good Folks Trying To Live For The Lord"



Pastor Paul Howie  
254-631-3661

Texas Cattle Exchange

New Series:

## "Becoming An Immovable Rock"

9:30 a.m. Coffee/Donuts  
9:45 Adult & Youth Bible Study  
11:00 a.m. Worship



## Lucilla Bell

Lucilla Bell, 77, of Clyde, died Monday, January 10 at her home.

Services were at 2 p.m. Friday, January 13 at the Bailey Funeral Chapel with Bro. Billy Sellers officiating. Burial followed in the Clyde Cemetery, under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

Mrs. Bell was born October 1, 1928 in Throckmorton, Texas to Ether Witt and Margaret Ann Jackson. She grew up and attended school in Throckmorton. She married Marvin James Bell on July 21, 1947 in Haskell. They moved to Clyde from Abilene in 1986. She was a

homemaker and a member of Southside Baptist Church.

Survivors include her husband, Marvin of Clyde; one daughter Blenda Gillett of Abilene; one son, James Bell of Tow; six grandchildren, Jimmy Turnbow, Cathy Gillett, Robert Gillett, Debra Lingo, Phillip Bell and Michael Bell; seventeen great-grandchildren, Angelique, Donovan and Ethan Gillett; Sarah, Emily, Katie Mary, Grace and Allison Turnbow; Ashley and Amy Brown and Shawn and Clayton Lingo; two great-grandchildren, Austin and Breanna Brown and several nieces and nephews.

## Linda Janet (Dodie) Hughes

BAIRD-Linda Janet (Dodie) Hughes, 62, passed away January 7, 2006 at Methodist Hospital in San Antonio, TX.

Linda was born November 7, 1943 in Baird to Mike and the late Stella Hughes.

She is survived by sisters Jean Taylor and Mickey (Mrs. Donald Ivey of Carbon, TX), and brother James (Rusty) Hughes of San Antonio, TX. She is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews. She attended school in Rankin, TX. She was a member of the First Baptist Church in Putnam, TX., and Putnam Womens Study Club. For the past several years Linda had resided at San

Pedro Manor and Northgate Health and Rehab in San Antonio, TX where she was an avid bingo player. Linda was very involved in Bible studies and had served as President of the Resident Council.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to the staff at San Pedro Manor, Northgate Health and Rehab and the wonderful MICU Staff at Methodist Hospital in San Antonio. Services were held Monday, January 9, 2006 at 2:00 p.m., at Parker Funeral Home Chapel in Baird, TX. The Rev. Sandra Keith will officiate with burial to follow in the Moran Cemetery.

## CHRISTMAS VILLAGE HAS SUCCESSFUL YEAR

Once again the Annual Christmas Village in Baird was a huge success with approximately 2,000 people walking through the Winter Wonderland with the beautiful scenery and many lights and animated displays. We had people visiting the village from 5 different states, 1 foreign country, almost every town in the Big Country and other towns throughout the state.

The village would not be possible without the help of all the people who helped put it all together with either time, talent or monetary donations. It takes a lot of time to put it all together but it is worth it to see the smiles of the faces of the many children and even the adults. Christmas is such a wonderful time of the year and it is such a joy to put a little happiness into others' lives.

Many wonderful comments were made about the village and its positive impact on Baird. It would be impossible to name everyone who helped with the village and some would like to remain anonymous but we would like to thank the following people:

Keri Davis, Sue Sweeney, Santa, Emma and Lyman Brigham, The City of Baird, Titan Steel, Baird High School Ag. Dept. and Danny Vestal, Baird High School Art Dept. and Jerri Wilson, Jeff Burleson, Larry Newton, First National Bank of Baird, Everett Barron, Tommy holland, Cowboy Country Gallery, Plaza Corner Antiquaries, Shane Deel. We would like to thank everyone who had a part in any way by helping the Christmas Lighting Committee. You Were Great.

## Irma Crow Hosts Baird '48 Study Club

The Baird '48 Study Club met in the home of Irma Crow on Monday, January 9, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. There were 14 members present.

President Linda Hart called the meeting to order. Secretary Dyanne Thompson called the roll and read the minutes for the months of November and December 2005. Motion made by Georgie Manion to approve the minutes and 2nd by Barbara Corn. Minutes were approved as read.

Billie Ann Earp gave the treasurer's report for the first half of the year.

President Linda Hart asked for reports from the officers and committee chairmen. Judy Gulley made a motion to accept these reports and Dana Voigts seconded the motion.

The nominations for officers for the 2006-07 year then began. The officers are:

President-Linda Hart.  
Vice-President: Judy Gulley,  
Recording Secretary-Dyanne Thompson.  
Corresponding Secretary-Debbie McElmurray,  
Treasurer: Donna Bell.  
Reporter-Francis Greenway.  
Civic committee chairman Sue McNeil gave a report on the upcoming birthday party for the nursing home to be held Wednesday, January 18, 2006.

New membership will be discussed at the February meeting.

There was no other business at this time. Meeting was adjourned and the program was introduced by President Linda Hart. Barbara Corn gave a very

Robert Melroy (Roy) Higgins, 93, of Baird, Texas died January 15, 2006 at Hendricks Medical Center.

Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, January 17, 2006 at the First Baptist Church of Baird with Rev. Truman Johnson and Rev. Ollie Wilburn officiating. Burial followed at Ross Cemetery annex directed by Parker Funeral Home.

Roy was born May 27, 1912 in Admiral, Texas. He was the son of Joseph Henry Ward Higgins and Dulcie Robinson Higgins. He

married Lela Mae Chatham on January 20, 1934 in Baird.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Lela Mae; son, Johnny Varnell Higgins; one grandchild, Robyn Michelle Skinner; and one great-grandchild, Jim Tucker Fleming.

Roy was a lifetime farmer, rancher, and dairyman in Callahan County. He had a great love for this community. He served for many years on the Baird School Board and also as a deacon at the Admiral

Baird. He was a loving and devoted husband, father, and friend to those that knew him. He was the Patriarch of the family and will be greatly missed.

Roy is survived by his daughter, Barbara Ruth Sheffield; two sons, Jimmy Roy Higgins and Tommy Joe Higgins; seven grandchildren; 17 great-

Pallbearers were Jack King, Bob McKelvey, Boxer Sims, Chris West, Tony Ash, Eddie Brumbaugh, Wayne Knowles, and Frankie Fleming. Honorary pallbearers were Dee Tollett, Carroll Taylor, Rabbit Jones, LeRoy Arms, Fred Goble, Leo Dixon, Doug Ford, Buster Gary, Vivian Cauthen, Wayne Towery, and Frank Windham, Jr.

## Nelda Irene Keith

Baird-Nelda Irene Keith, age 50, of Baird, Texas, died on Tuesday, January 10, 2006 at her home. A memorial service was held at 10 a.m. on Saturday at the First United Methodist Church under the direction of Parker Funeral Home. The Reverend Sandra Keith officiated.

Nelda was born on September 17, 1955 in Baird, Texas. She had lived in Baird all her life. She was a licensed vocational nurse and a homemaker. Nelda married Earnest Keith of Baird, Texas on March 21, 1978.

She is survived by her husband, Earnest Keith of Baird, Texas; three daughters, Melissa Lund and husband, R.J. of Abilene, Texas; Jennifer Keith of Abilene, Texas and Sara Keith of Baird, Texas; her mother Jane Robbins of Clyde, Texas; two brothers, Robert Wheeler of Mulberry Canyon, Texas and Royce (Buzz) Wheeler of Baird, Texas; one sister, Jody Rogers of Denton Valley, Texas; one granddaughter, Shelby Haile of Clyde, Texas and several nieces and one nephew.

She was preceded in death by her twin sister, Eva Maxine Wheeler.

Turn the pictures in to Mr. Orlando, Lauren Rodriguez or Sheila Manning or your parents can bring the pictures to any of the Project Graduation meeting:

All the pictures need to be turned in by February 1, 2006.

## Callahan County:

**Girls' Basketball:**  
Eula 64,  
Gorman 41

**Cross Plains 52,**  
Ranger 41

**Albany 48,**  
Baird 32

**Boys' Basketball**  
Cross Plains 40,Ranger 33

Ranger 13 2 4 12-35

Cross Plains 7 9 8 16-40  
Ranger - Gaumond 10, Wilson 8, Casey 5, Russell 5, Krantz 3, M. Wilson 2  
Cross Plains - Golsen 9, Koenig 8, Watkins 7, Dillard 6, Estes 5, Dickson 3, Callaway 2.

J.U. Score Cross Plains 31, Ranger 13.  
First Baptist Church  
240 Race St  
Baird, Texas 79504  
(325) 854-1574

(Nursery provided for worship services)  
Sunday School 9:45 am  
Worship Service 11:00 am  
Evening Worship 6:00 pm  
Wednesday Service 7:00 pm

Albany 64, Baird 56  
Albany 15 19 16 14-64  
Baird 11 21 9 15-56  
Baird - Rodriguez 26,  
English 5, Cogburn 5,  
Scott 9, Jennings 2,  
Manning 4, Parker 3.

Ranger 13 2 4 12-35  
Cross Plains 7 9 8 16-40  
Ranger - Gaumond 10, J. Wilson 8, Casey 5, Russell 5, Krantz 3, M. Wilson 2  
Cross Plains - Golsen 9, Koenig 8, Watkins 7, Dillard 6, Estes 5, Dickson 3, Callaway 2.  
J.U. Score Cross Plains 31, Ranger 13.

Albany 64, Baird 56

Albany 15 19 16 14-64  
Baird 11 21 9 15-56  
Baird - Rodriguez 26,  
English 5, Cogburn 5,  
Scott 9, Jennings 2,  
Manning 4, Parker 3.

Cisco 69,  
DeLeon 48  
Cisco 25 13 19 12-69  
DeLeon 11 9 12 16-48

Cisco Sellers 18, Johnson 6, Morgan 3, Petree 12, Baxter 9, Bridges 2, Conger 5, Jarvis 5, Busby 9

## BAIRD HIGH SCHOOL

### TO SENIORS:

We are working on a senior video for Project Graduation. Each senior can turn in 10 pictures of themselves from the time they were born to present time. You can have brothers, sisters, parents, family members, friends, etc. in this group of photos. Please put your name on the back of each picture. Please number the pictures on the back 1 through 10 in the order you

want them to appear on the video. Only send 10, if there is more than 10 sent for this group we will have to remove pictures. We are trying to keep the cost on the making of this video to a reasonable amount.

The video will have some group pictures of classmates as you have grown up together through the school years. If you have any group pictures please send these. These do not need to be numbered on the back.

Please put your last name on

## LOCAL BASKETBALL

**Local Girls' Box Scores**  
EULA HOLIDAY CLASSIC

EULA, 62,  
HOLLIDAY 53  
EULA 16 18 10 18-62  
HOLLIDAY 7 7 12 27-53  
EULA-CARRIGAN 20, HILLIEN 20  
HOLLIDAY-FORD 11, ALL3W 13.

May 47, Mullin 20  
May 11 9 12 15-47  
Mullin 6 2 7 5-20

May-Jester 14, Hallum 9, Murphree 7.  
Mullin-Barris, 6;

Records- 8-13; 4-3

## EASTLAND 52, HICO 36

EASTLAND 17 9 8 18-52  
HICO 7 9 9 11-36

EASTLAND- Thomas 3, Wells 9, Strube 3, Simmell 22, Pendley 15.

Hico- Carlie, Brous, 2; Casey Brous 7, Featherston 4; Schane, 10; Foster, 1; Needham 5, Black, 4.

Records-Eastland 22-2, 3-0; Hico 19-4, 1-2  
J.V. Score: Eastland Def. Hico.

Freshman-Eastland 14, Hico 11.

Cisco 67, DeLeon 26

Cisco 19 11 14 23-67  
DeLeon 5 10 2 9-26

Cisco- WALKINGSTICK 15, HARRIS 2, KOENIG 11, RAMIREZ 2, WILLIAMS 4, CHRISMAN 14, MATTHEWS 6, DUNHAM 2, HARRISON 3, POSEY 6

RECORDS-DELEON 6-15, 0-3; CISCO 17-6; 2-1.  
J.V. score: Cisco-35;

**Rising Star,**  
52; **Sidney 32**  
Rising Star 19 12 14 7-52  
Sidney 7 12 9 4-32

SIDNEY- CLARY 3, LEE 5, NORVIL 19, PERRY 4.

**Rising Star-EVANS 14**  
MARTINEZ, 10; STONE 2; HARRIS, 26.

**Local Boys Box Scores**  
Harper 42, Eula 39  
Eula 7 11 10 11-39  
Harper 6 13 10 13-42

Eula-Samford 11,  
Marcee 19

Harper-Chavaller 12,  
Jones 10.

Eula 67, Anson 53  
Eula 20 15 17 15-67  
Anson 13 15 5 20-53

EULA-Hendley 22,  
Marcee 12, Dement 5,  
Samford 3, Ochoa 5, Swaner 9, Reid 2, Archa 6 Barrett 3.

Anson- Johnson 11,  
Bounds 12, Robinson 14,  
Reding 1, Ramos 2, E. Ramos 7 Williams 5.

Records Eula 14-4

## How To Help Cross Plains Fire Victims

Many have asked how to help our neighbors of Cross Plains whom have fell victim to the wild fires so to let everyone know there has been funds set up at the Texas Heritage Bank, the account is 942758. Also the First Baptist Church of Cross Plains. There has been boxes placed at Lawrence Brothers, Dollar General, Family Dollar, Dairy Queen, Thrifty's, First National Bank of Clyde, First Baptist. All household items are needed. If anyone has good, used furniture or appliances you would like to donate call Amy or Eddie Hart 893-2528 Sharon or Tony Gage 893-2698, Mark Burgess 370-9484, Lisa Harber 893-4319.

**BULLETIN - SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT - BULLETIN**  
AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY FOR GIFTING AND PERSONAL LIBRARIES  
**THE LANGSTON HISTORY OF EASTLAND COUNTY**  
The original, mother lode of the history of Eastland County edited by Jerry Eckert with added data, photos and more! A chance to own your own copy of this rare, rare document. Very few copies of the 1904 original are in existence today.  
Reprinted by Ready Print as a SPECIAL ISSUE of the TEXAS MESSENGER  
Available immediately at the Eastland Telegram and Cisco Press \$7.00 per copy until Jan. 1st, then \$10.00 each.  
(Mailed at \$5.00 additional, shipping and handling)  
**BULLETIN - SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT - BULLETIN**



**EASTLAND FIREMEN THANKS**

FROM PAGE ONE

at the cost of citizens' lives and property. However, the tireless effort was rewarded with countless victories, where homes and property were successfully defended. The ultimate victory, over the raging inferno, came as the fire was contained and halted along the boundary of FM 571 and 2214.

Thanks to all the dedicated volunteer firefighters from surrounding communities, including Carbon, Rising Star, Cisco, Gorman, Eastland, Ranger, Olden, Baird, Putnam, Cross Plains, Desdemona, DeLeon, Dublin, Comanche, Stephenville, Strawn, Mingus, Gordon, Breckenridge, Albany, Moran, Clyde, Brownwood, Stephenville, Woodson, Palo Pinto, Erath County, Sipe Springs, Promontory Park, Hamilton, Shy, Blanket, Possum Kingdom, Coleman County, Merkel, Burkett, Hico, Potosi, Tin Top, Parker County, and everyone else from the more than forty departments and agencies who converged on the fire ground from every corner of the county and beyond.

And thanks to all of the volunteers' wives, children, husbands, boyfriends, girlfriends and family members who allow your selfless partners, parents and friends to give of their precious time away from you to help those in need. And a special thanks to the aforementioned, who made coffee, sandwiches, and just did whatever they could to help those that were helping others.

Thanks to the paid fire departments from Abilene, Brownwood, and Dyess Air Force base that came to our aid as well. Thanks to the Forestry Service personnel, for bringing your expertise, heavy equipment and aircraft to bear against the blaze. Those Choppers were an awesome and welcome sight!

Thanks to all of the law enforcement personnel that went door to door, farm to farm, warning folks that a dangerous fire was approaching, and for helping firefighters find their way amongst many county roads. Thanks to the workers of the Texas Highway Department who helped set up roadblocks to advise travelers of the danger. You all went above and beyond the call of duty.

Thanks to all you farmers and farm hands that hopped on tractors and bulldozers to assist with saving as much as you could. Thanks to the county workers that jumped in the maintainers and water trucks to assist with cutting firebreaks and supporting the firefighters.

Thanks to the cowboys and cowgirls that rounded up horses and cattle, or cut the fences to give them a chance. Thanks to the sale barn and all others that offered to take the livestock in.

Thanks to all of the folks that brought food, water, towels, and anything else the firefighters, law enforcement,

or TXDOT personnel asked for.

Thanks to the folks that were manning the command stations, listening to the radios and coordinating all of the firefighting efforts between volunteers, trucks, sectors, and communities.

Thanks to all of the companies that volunteered milk trucks, well service trucks, etc., to fill the gap as water tankers, and shuttle water where it was needed. Thanks to Grandpa's Tool Shed for two Bulldozers.

Thanks to all the relatives and friends of anyone in the affected area that dropped everything and came running to help.

Thanks to the volunteer firemen and women that stayed behind at the fire stations, to help direct the departments coming in, and to help with recovery, and resource allocation.

Thanks to the radio stations and news agencies for their help in keeping the public informed of evacuations, warnings and other vital information.

Thanks to the stores and businesses that opened or stayed open late to let the firefighters get gas, snacks, and water. Thanks to businesses that helped repair damaged apparatus, jump started trucks, or fixed flat tires over night, enabling firefighters to head out early the next morning. Thanks to the truck stop that kept the cafe open all night, and let firefighters take a shower for free before heading home from far away.

Thanks to the churches for opening your doors, or being ready to open them for anybody who needed you.

Thanks to the Red Cross, Salvation Army and any other organization that offered help.

Thanks to our county officials, your help behind the scenes often goes unnoticed.

Thanks to the folks that stayed away from the fire ground, even though the urge to go see was strong.

Thanks for anybody who paused for a moment or more and just said a little prayer.

Thanks also to all the unsung heroes and those that are inevitably left out, when you start naming names. You may be someone who just helps to be helping, expecting no thanks at all. If this is you, thanks to you as well.

**THANK YOU FROM EASTLAND COUNTY!**

Eastland Fire Department  
Sam Williams-Public Information Officer  
Phillip Arther- Fire Chief

**Read the Classifieds**

**Family Van For Sale: Designer**

Conversion big engine, '91 GMC family van, 90,000 actual miles, white exterior/gray plush interior, pretty wood trim inside, garaged, clean, 4 captains, convertible couch, electric windows, TV/cassette, call 254-629-2413 to see after 6 p.m. \$4995.00 firm.

**Obituaries**

**Maurice Springate**

Maurice Springate, age 87, of Baird, TX died Thursday, January 12, 2006, in an Abilene hospital after a prolonged illness.

Funeral services were held at 2:00 p.m., Monday, January 16, 2006 at First United Methodist Church. Reverend Sandra Keith will officiate and burial followed in the Ross Cemetery directed by Parker Funeral Home.

Maurice was born in Mayo Kentucky on July 6, 1918 to Coleman Springate and Alva Lyons from Indiana. He was a retired independent truck driver and a former member of the Teamsters Union. He served in the U.S. Army from 1941 to 1945. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church. He was the President of the United Methodist Men and a member of the Administrative

board and served in other capacities at the church. He married Beulah Watts in Franklin, Indiana on November 26, 1944.

Survivors include: wife, Beulah Springate of Baird, TX; one daughter, Pat Fomby of Clyde, TEXAS; one son, Jim Springate and wife, In Suk of Anaheim, CA; two sister, Geraldine Hawthorne of Lawrenceburg, Kentucky and Betty Morris of Harrodsburg, Kentucky; four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and three younger brothers.

Visitation will be from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Sunday at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the donors favorite charity.

**Granvel Leo Pierce**

Granvel Leo Pierce died January 11, 2006 at 10:40 a.m. at Presbyterian Hospital-Dallas after a short illness.

Granvel was born August 8th, 1920 in the community of Cross Plains, Callahan County, TX. His parents were Joe Pierce and Addie Westerman Pierce. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Nola Van Gibson Pierce and daughter, Jan Pierce, both of Dallas. He is survived by siblings, Duke Pierce (Big Spring), Adell Blakely (Clyde) and Frances Galloway (Abilene) and numerous nieces and nephews. Also, special friends Fred and Terry McMinn of Odessa and their son Tom McMinn. His brothers J.C. Pierce and Stanley Pierce preceded him death.

Granvel attended Plainview and Cross Plains public schools where he was active in sports at Cross as an outstanding quarterback. He graduated from Cross Plains High School in 1939. Granvel served with the 8th Air Force, 34th Bomb Group during WWII and was stationed at at Mendlesham Air Force Base in England and was there on "D" Day. Upon his return to Texas he entered Hardin-Simmons University, graduating with a BBA in August, 1949. He received his job at Humble Oil the day he graduated, spending 34 years with Exxon (no ExxonMobil). He retired October 1, 1983.

Granvel participated in the Abilene Chamber of Commerce and helped organize the West Abilene Kiwanis Club. He was a member of S.F.O.A. and officiated high school football games for 13 years in the Big Country.

Granvel was active in Methodist Churches in Abilene. He was an active member of the North Texas Exxon Annuitant Club. He organized the Cross Plains '39ers. High high school classmates celebrated reunions from 1972 to the present.

He and his wife upgraded and maintained a second home in Baird, TX until 2004. He and Nola Van pursued genealogy as thier hobby.

Services were held Saturday, January 14 at 3 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Baird, TX with burial following in the Ross Cemetery under the direction of Parker Funeral Home. Chaplain (Lt. Colonel, retired) Wallace J. Bennett and the Rev. Sandra Keith officiated. Visitation was at the church from 1 to 3 p.m., Saturday, January 14.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the Cross Plains, Texas Volunteer Fire Dept. (P.O. Box 185, Cross Plains, 76443) or the Baird, TX Volunteer Fire Dept. (328 Market St. Baird, TX 79504), or to the charity of your choice.

**Grand Ole Opry to Celebrate Grand County Museum Opening**

A major Grand Ole Opry Exhibit with live local music and many surprises will help celebrate the grand opening of the Eastland County Museum in Eastland on Friday, Feb. 3, and run through March 10.

Organized and toured by Exhibits USA, the all-free Opry exhibit will appeal to all ages, and to music lovers of all types, and be housed in the County Museum established in the renovated Petroleum Building which last housed Eastland National Bank on the square in downtown Eastland.

The Museum will spotlight every facet of past and present life of every town and area in Eastland County. "It will truly be the center to exploit the county's exciting history."

A pre-opening trial run of the exhibit with music will be held Thursday evening, Feb. 2 to give Museum Board Members a preview look.

The Grand Opening to the

public will be Friday, Feb. 3rd and will feature live music by area musicians who have actually performed on the Grand Opry Stage in Nashville. Among the performers will be Roy "The Fingerless Fiddler"

Thackerson, an Eastland County native, who was drafted by the late Roy Acuff to perform on the Opry stage.

The Exhibit will be open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 to 5 except for evening hours on Fridays and Saturdays.

Other musicians will be performing at other evening showings.

This exhibit captures The Grand Ole Opry and country music in its 'golden age'—that time in history when the music was busting its regional bounds and completing the transition from amateur folk music to professional popular art form. The Opry celebrated its 80th birthday in November over station WSM, carrying the Opry's music to 28 states.

**Erma Trent**

CROSS PLAINS-Erma Trent, 82, died Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2006. Services were held at 2 p.m. Friday, January 13, 2006 at Stevens Funeral

Home Chapel. Burial follows in the Burkett Family Cemetery under the direction of Stevens Funeral Home in Coleman.

**Callahan County Jr. Livestock Show**

The Annual Callahan County Jr. Livestock Show will be held Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup> -Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup> Starting time will be Thursday, January 19, at 5:30 p.m. with the judging of the rabbits and poultry.

Frankie Hyles, President of the Callahan County Jr. Livestock Association, said that entries are expected to number about 450 this year from the various FFA Chapters and 4-H Clubs in the County.

Other officers of the association are Steven Mitchell as Vice President, Johnny Adkins as Treasurer and Karen Johnston as Secretary.

**Superintendents for this years show are:**

Beef Cattle Eddie Riley and Johnny Lee  
Market & Breeding Swine TBA  
Poultry & Rabbits Doug Johnston and Larry McIntire

Sheep & Goats Steven Mitchell and Angela Tibbetts Judging of the rabbits and poultry will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup> with Scott Anderson of Brownwood Extension office doing the judging. All participants must be checked in by 5:00 p.m. on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Judging will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, with the Breeding Swine Show followed by the Market Barrow Show. Don Edgar, AST from Early, will be judging the Swine Show.

At 1:30 p.m. on Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, Vance Christ, from Big Springs will start judging the Market Lambs followed by the Boer Goats and Meat Goat Show.

On the Afternoon of the 20<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-5:00 p.m. all steers and heifers will be classified and weighed. Lee Standley, of Weatherford, will get the judging of the Beef Cattle underway at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday morning, January 21<sup>st</sup> with the heifer show. Mr. Standley will also judge the steer show starting at 9:00 a.m.

The Premium Sale will begin at 1:00 p.m. The Awards Presentation of all the trophies for the champion animals will be held prior to the premium sale auction.

Announcers for the three day show will be Dick Vestal, Greg Gerngross, Robert Frost, John Belcher and Doug Johnston.

Officials of the Show would like to invite everyone out for all or part of the show and support the young folks of Callahan County.

**Callahan Divide Soil & Water Conservation District Taking Windbreak Tree Orders**

The Callahan Divide Soil & Water Conservation District is now taking orders for their Annual Windbreak Tree Program. Each year the District offers these trees to the general public on a first come first served basis at a very inexpensive price. These windbreak trees come fresh from the Texas Forest Service Nursery out of Lubbock TX.

This year's selection of available trees include three varieties of evergreens. We have Afghanistan Pine, Italian Stone Pine and Eastern Redcedar. The Evergreen's are priced at 5 for \$12.00 or 30 for \$55.00. In the Hardwood category we have Aromatic Sumac, Hackberry, Black Cherry, Chinkapin Oak, Honeylocust, Lacebark Elm, Nanking Cherry, Russian Olive, Sand Plum and Shumard Oak. This variety is priced at 10 for \$12.00. This year we are also offering several wildlife packets which consist of four different species of trees per packet. Each packet contains 100 trees, twenty-five of each of the four species depending on

the packet purchased.

Contact the Natural Resource Conservation Service in Baird for info on which trees are included in a certain packet. Each wildlife packet is priced at \$60.00 and they have four to choose from. Packets for Deer, Squirrel, Quail and Pheasant and Turkey are available.

All orders are pre-paid with a check or money order. These trees are delivered fresh from the Texas Forest Service Nursery on that date.

Orders will be taken until January 20th, 2006 or until supplies are depleted, whichever comes first.

Trees will be delivered to Baird on February 17, 2006. If you would like to get more information on our windbreak trees, on planning, planting and maintenance of windbreak trees or how to purchase these low cost seedlings contact the Natural Resources Conservation service in Baird TX at (325)-854-1349, EXT 3. The office in Baird is located at 141 W. 4th, Suite B.

**Tickets For Side of Beef Being Sold Now**

The parents of the Senior Class of 2006 are selling tickets for a side of beef to raise money for Project Graduation. The tickets are \$10.00 each. The drawing will be in February 2006. You can purchase the ticket from any senior parent or contact Baird High School at 854-1400 ext. 302.

**Callahan County Livestock Show Set For January 19-21**