

# Baird Star

50¢

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31¢ By Mail

Volume 116, Number 7

Baird, Texas 79504

Thursday, February 12, 2004



## Commissioners Discuss Land, Road Issues; Hear Courthouse Restoration Update And Amend Holiday

by Margaret Hetrick

At their Feb. 9, 2004 Open Meeting, the Callahan County Commissioners Court approved and discussed several issues.

Among other items, Rainy Ridge Lane (Rainy Creek Addition-Precinct #1) was accepted into the County Road System, and reassigned to County Road 198 (new).

County Road 216 was reassigned to 199.

The Commissioners also approved using Justice of Peace Technology Fund monies for a DPS computer.

Regarding 2004 Holidays, the Court approved amending the holiday Friday, July 2 to July 5 on the grounds that banks and post offices would also be closed on that date.

The minutes were reviewed and signed as submitted, and the payment of bills approved.

There was no public comment at the meeting.

A proposal by Joyce Odom regarding property on FM 2287 was tabled until the Court could further research the issue and get a legal opinion as to how the Court might proceed.

Due to the shifting of a county road, 4 1/2 acres had been sold to the county, Mrs. Odom reported.

The deed showing this transaction was presented to the Court.

Mrs. Odom said that she would like to have the stated acreage returned to her property.

The Court also discussed a lawsuit which had been brought against the County concerning 18-20 lots owned by the County at the old site of Belle Plaine.

Apparently, the plaintiff, a Mr. Young - heir to property in that area - wanted to sell, but could not get a clear title to his land because of the

county owned property.

The Court made a motion to table the item and consult with an attorney concerning the legal situation.

The deed for the lots was never changed, and the land was fenced, Judge Roger Corn noted.

Norman Alston gave a Courthouse Restoration update to the Commissioners.

Alston reported that the necessary steps were being taken to get the required Masterplan approved.

Austin had wanted more information on certain conditions, he said, and had voiced some concerns regarding the historical portion of the Masterplan.

The Masterplan, including revisions, had been submitted, he said. Alston added that he anticipated more comments, and was anxious for the current opinions from Austin.

However, everything was on track, he said.

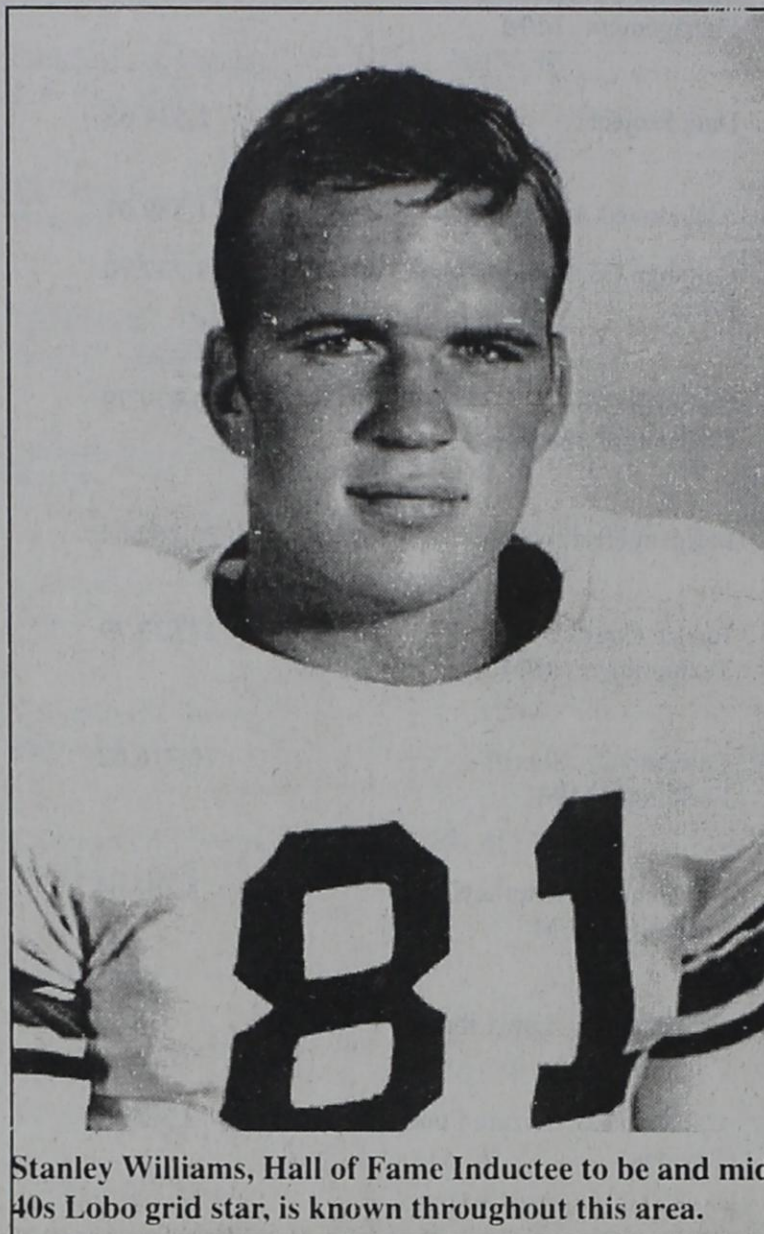
Part of the discussion had concerned the architectural design and style of the Courthouse, Alston commented.

The Callahan County Courthouse had a very unique design, he said. Apparently, a compromise had been reached by describing the style as "Classical Revival."

The Treasurer's Report for the period of October 1, 2003 to December 31, 2003 was presented to the Court.

Please see inside for complete report.

**Baird Varsity Girls Play Miles, Feb. 17 at Jim Ned; Stand 8-0 in District games. Please see Sports inside ...**



Stanley Williams, Hall of Fame inductee to be and mid-40s Lobo grid star, is known throughout this area.

## At Baylor Lobo Williams To Be Hall Of Fame Inductee

Stanley Williams, a mid-40's Lobo grid star and All-American, who came to Cisco from Seranton by way of Putnam, will be one of seven to be inducted into the Texas Sports Hall of Fame at Baylor University on Thursday, Feb. 12th.

One of four Williams brothers who were born at Seranton, Stanley played five years for Cisco and then went on to Baylor where he was a standout. He was later drafted by the Cleveland Indians, but asked to be traded to the Dallas Texans for whom he played one year.

He then went to Canada and played in the league there for six years before retiring. He presently lives in Waco where he owns and operates the Kendrick Goodyear Store.

The Induction Banquet is set for 7 p.m. at Baylor's Ferrell Center. Prior to the Induction, there will be a private reception and news conference at the Texas Sports Hall of Fame at 5 p.m. where patrons can meet the inductees and view the new exhibits. Ticket prices for the banquet only are \$50 per person or \$400 for a table for 8. A combination ticket is also available for the private reception and banquet for \$100 per person or \$800 for a table for 8.

Williams is noted for a tradition started at Cisco and carried on throughout his career. On the night before a

game he would lead a voluntary prayer meeting with his team. (A fellow team mate also at Cisco remembers that Stanley was so humble that the year he played quarterback, he insisted that others call them plays rather than call them for himself.)

He married his high school sweetheart Barbara Grist.

Other inductees scheduled to attend are Rudy Tomjanovich, former Houston Rockets coach; Rockets General Manager Carroll Dason; Fort Worth Dunbar boys basketball coach Robert Hughes; former Houston Cougars head football Coach Bill Yeoman; former Houston Oilers NFL Hall of Fame member Elvin Berhea; former Baylor All-American football star Williams; and former Dallas Cowboy Receiver Bob Hayes, who will be inducted posthumously.

The Williams boys (Ben, Jay, Roy Lee and Stanley) were all born in Seranton and the family then moved to Putnam and later to Cisco.

The Hall of Fame press release said this of Williams: "WR at Baylor 1949-1951. Caught 65 passes for 1,029 yards and 1 TDs. In 1951 he made the All-SWC and All-America teams, helped Baylor earn a berth in the

Continued Inside ... Please see Williams

## Happy Valentines Day!

A Bake Sale will be held at the Lobby of First National Bank of Baird on Friday, Feb. 13, 2004.

The sale is to benefit the Baird Senior Citizens and the Meals On Wheels Program.

## Chamber And Development Corp. Announce Open House & Ribbon Cutting At Titan Steel

An Open House & Ribbon Cutting for Baird's newest business is scheduled Friday, Feb. 13 at 5:30 p.m. at Titan Steel.

The Development Corporation and Baird Chamber of Commerce invite everyone to join them in welcoming Richard and Athena Sheffield and employees of Titan Steel.

The business is located at 440 T & P Lane in Baird (south-east of the Depot, access from U. S. Hwy 283).

## ZION HILL CEMETERY ASSOCIATION MEETING Is Feb. 26

The annual meeting of the Zion Hill Cemetery Assn. will be held on Thursday, Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. in the meeting room of the Baird Housing Authority, Fourth and Chestnut, near downtown Baird.

A Spring Cemetery Cleanup will be discussed as well as the financial condition of the association. We have achieved the goal set last year of having our first \$1000 CD in the bank. Goals for the new year will be discussed.

Recent donations have put the association on the road to being able to provide care for the more than 100 Callahan County pioneers' last resting place. Please make plans to attend the annual meeting and please continue your support of the association with your donations.

## Callahan County 4-H News

\* For those interested in the Shooting Sports project there will be an organizational meeting on February 21st, 1:00 p.m. at the Shooting Range.

All former members and new members as well as their parents are encouraged to attend. The Shooting Range is located on FM 18 between Baird and Clyde.

For more information contact the Extension office at 854-1518.

## \* Futurity Project Nomination Due-Horse Project

4-H Horse Project members who intend to nominate yearling halter, yearling long line, two-year-old pleasure and three-year-old stock horses for the 4-H futurity program have until April 1st to purchase a horse and fill out a nomination form.

Nomination forms are available at the Callahan County Extension Office, 100 West 4th Suite

201, Baird.

There is a \$10 nomination fee. 4-H members can nominate more than one horse, but must fill out a separate form for each horse. Nomination will not constitute entry, and 4-Hers will still need to officially enter the respective State Show futurity class later in the year while attending the District Show.

\*\*\*\*\*

## POLITICAL CALENDAR

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

**Texas Railroad Commissioner**  
K. Dale Henry, R  
State Senate Dist. 24  
Roy Fraser  
(Reelection)  
(Pd. Pol. Advertisement)

**\* VOTE \***  
K. DALE HENRY  
Republican Candidate  
for Texas Railroad  
Commissioner  
Primary Election  
March 9, 2004

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

## MARCH 9, 2004 PRIMARY ELECTION DATES

\* FEBRUARY 9, 2004

LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE

FIRST DAY TO REQUEST A BALLOT BY MAIL

\* FEBRUARY 23-MARCH 5, 2004

EARLY VOTING IN PERSON (COURTHOUSE)

8:00-5:00 MONDAY-FRIDAY

BRANCH VOTING IN CROSS PLAINS AND CLYDE

AT JUSTIC OF THE PEACE OFFICES

8:00 - 12 & 1:00 - 5:00 P.M.

\* LAST DAY TO MAIL A BALLOT IS MARCH 2, 2004

\* MARCH 9, 2004

PRIMARY ELECTION DAY 7:00-7:00

If you would like to receive a ballot by mail please call the office of County Clerk at 854-1217

Don Seals of Clyde died on Tuesday, Feb. 3 after being hit by a west-bound train at railroad tracks near Hays Road and FM 18 in Clyde.

The accident occurred about 1:40 p.m., Clyde police reported.

Apparently Don Seals, 63, was walking with his two dogs near or on the railroad track when he tried to catch one of the dogs, which had gotten

loose. Mr. Seals, as well as his dogs, died after being struck by the train.

It was speculated that Seals must have been aware of the oncoming train, but perhaps did not realize the speed at which it was travelling. The train reportedly tried to stop, but came to a halt after about a half-mile.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Baird I. S. D. School Lunch Menu**

- Wednesday, Feb. 11  
Beef Tajitas, Salad, Spanish Rice, Cobbler, Milk
- Thursday, Feb. 12  
Chicken Nuggets w/gravy, Mash Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls, Jelly, Milk
- Friday, Feb. 13  
Gloria Dogs, Cole, Slaw, French Fries, Rice Krispies, Milk
- Mon. Feb. 16  
Pop-up Pizza, Sandwiches, Tossed Salad, Corn, Apple

- Crisp, Milk
- Tuesday, Feb. 17  
Roast Beef w/rice, Carrots, Green Beans, Rolls, Applesauce, Milk
- Wednesday, Feb. 18  
Enchiladas, Refried Beans, Spanish Rice, Cobbler, Crackers, Milk
- Thursday, Feb. 19  
Baked Ham, Cheesy Potatoes, Black-eyed Peas, Bread, Fruit, Milk

**ADVERTISING PAYS!**

**Callahan County (Baird) Star Classifieds**

**Help Wanted**  
Local trucking company taking applications for driving position. Contact 888-258-1670.

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Call Margaret for all your local happenings and news @ 254-629-1707

**D. P. S. Report**

- 02-01-04 to 02-07-04
- Cases Investigated**
- Warnings - 209
  - Complaints - 126
  - DWI - 5
  - Possession of Marijuana - 3
  - Carrying Prohibited Weapon - 1
  - Possession of Drug Paraphernalia - 1
  - Open Container - 1
  - Fugitive Arrest - DWI Warrant - 1
  - Fugitive Arrest - Theft by Check - 1
  - Fugitive Arrest - Theft Warrant - 1

**Accidents**  
There were 2 accidents investigated during this time span.

**People Arrested On Outstanding Warrants**  
11 for a total of \$2,387.00 collected

**MINUTES OF CALLAHAN COUNTY FINANCES**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**FOR THE PERIOD**

BEGINNING ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF October A.D. 2003

AND

ENDING ON THE 31st DAY OF December A.D. 2003

CASH	OPERATING FUNDS	BALANCE	RECEIVED THIS QUARTER	PAID OUT THIS QUARTER	BALANCE
	Bad Check Processing	185.70	2,504.13	2,684.83	5.00
	Callahan Co. Records Management M/M	18,277.42	4,442.00 43.77 4,485.77	11,475.00	11,288.19
	Dare Project	2,534.65	0	0	2,534.65
	Abandoned Automobiles	1,389.01	0	0	1,389.01
	Callahan Co. Records Mgmt & Presv.	1,737.70	1,070.23	0	2,807.93
	Callahan Co. Courthouse Security	5,679.79	3,348.70	849.03	8,179.46
	Indigent Health Care	26,260.64	15,231.65	34,624.46	6,867.83
	Justice Court Technology M/M	27,033.79	4,123.14 43.49 4,166.63	30,024.35	1,176.07
	Callahan Co. Sheriff's Forfeiture M/M	10,716.62	20.06	117.20	10,619.48
	Callahan Co. Attorney's Forfeiture M/M	8,386.04	15.05	1,100.00	7,301.09
	Callahan Co. Law Library	578.35	2,100.00	2,469.69	208.66
	Callahan Co. Seizure Fund Savings	12,503.85	34.71 14,027.00 14,061.71	0	26,565.56
	Texas DPS Forfeiture Fund Savings	300.21	300.78	300.78	300.78
	<b>TOTAL OPERATING FUNDS</b>	<b>1,601,036.85</b>	<b>1,130,900.78</b> <b>405,095.00</b> <b>2,702.03</b> <b>1,538,697.81</b>	<b>1,237,421.44</b> <b>405,095.00</b> <b>1,642,516.44</b>	<b>1,497,218.22</b>

**OTHER ASSETS**  
NONE

**BONDED INDEBTEDNESS**  
NONE

Signed: Dianne Alexander  
County Treasurer

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS THE 5th DAY OF February, 2004

Jeanie Bohannon  
County Clerk

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Doctor-Lawyer in full time Law Practice

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Timothy R. Cappolino, P.C.  
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# Obituaries

## J. C. Lambert

CLYDE- J.C. Lambert, 61, of Clyde, died Wednesday, February 4, 2004.

Services were held at 2 p.m. Saturday, February 7, 2004 at the Bailey Funeral Home Chapel, C. Lee Smith officiated. Burial was in the Clyde Cemetery directed by Bailey Funeral Home.

Mr. Lambert was born August 26, 1942 in Walters, OK to Fred and Virginia Mangrum Lambert. He and his family moved to Texas from Oklahoma in 1943. He graduated from Coronado High School in Lubbock, Texas. He worked as a pilot and owned and operated Quality Steel Construction in Clyde for many years. He was a veteran serving in the U.S. Air Force. He was a member of the Elks Lodge of Breckenridge, the Quiet Birdman, VFW, and the

EAA. He was preceded in death by one brother, Charles 'Chuck' Lambert; two sisters, Carol Lambert and Ann Grunelmeyer.

Survivors are three sons, Jimmy Lambert of Abilene, Jamie Dougharty of Jasper, and Jeff Lambert of Clyde; nine grandchildren, Crystal Lambert, Jimmy Lambert, Jr., Anthony Taylor, Reba Dougharty, Katlin Dougharty, Jacy Dougharty, Thomas Burgess, Cheyenna Lambert, and Dillon Lambert; his mother, Virginia McComb of Abilene; two brothers, Curtis Lambert of California and Ted Lambert of Durango, CO.

Memorials may be made to Hendrick Hospice Care at P.O. Box 1922, Abilene, TX 79604.

## James Don Seals

CLYDE- James Don Seals, 62, of Abilene died Tuesday, February 3, 2004.

Services were held at 10 a.m. Friday, February 6, 2004 at the Bailey Funeral Home Chapel, Rev. Larry Hooper officiated. Burial was in the Clyde Cemetery directed by Bailey Funeral Home.

Don was born November 7, 1941 in Abilene to James Oliver and Carrie Sartor Seals. He married Mary Ann Ford in Abilene on June 26, 1958. He was a retired truck driver formerly having worked for G.I. Trucking Company. He was a member of Northside Baptist Church of Abilene.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Carrie Seals.

Survivors are two sons and daughters-in-law, J.D. and

Sissy Seals of Clyde and Doug and Stephanie Seals of Abilene; three daughters and two sons-in-law, Teresa Perry of Abilene, Sherry and Toney Claxton of Abilene and Kelly and Turf Wolfe of Abilene; 12 grandchildren, Coley McCarty and Crystal McCarty, Becky Perry, Brandon, Kimmie and Megan Claxton, Corey, Shea and Carley Seals, Chris and Tim Seals, and Wyatt Wolfe; four great-grandchildren, Mikah, McKenzie, Jaxon and Mary Ann McCarty; his father, James Oliver Seals of Clyde; three brothers and sisters-in-law, Jimmy and Kathleen Seals of Lake Coleman, Otis and Jeri Seals of Abilene, J.O. and Deborah Seals of Clyde; and one sister and brother-in-law, Carolyn and Charles Cozby of Clyde.

From Page One ....

## Williams

Orange Bowl. Played a season with the Dallas Texans then played five seasons as WR and DB in the CFL with the Saskatchewan Roughriders. Made the All-Canadian Team in 1954 when he led the league in interceptions with eight and was West Conference All-

Star twice.

The Rev. Roy Lee Williams and other brothers will attend the event.

Aerodynamically, the bumblebee shouldn't be able to fly, but the bumblebee doesn't know that, so it goes on flying anyway.

—Mary Kay Ash

### MINUTES OF CALLAHAN COUNTY FINANCES

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

#### FOR THE PERIOD

BEGINNING ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF October A.D. 2003

AND

ENDING ON THE 31<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF December A.D. 2003

CASH	OPERATING FUNDS	BALANCE	RECEIVED THIS QUARTER	PAID OUT THIS QUARTER	BALANCE
	Payroll Clearing	1,000.00	372,440.42	372,440.42	1,000.00
	Callahan Co. Comm. Prec #1	2,243.19	19,094.20 <u>47,500.00</u> 66,594.20	65,993.22	2,844.17
	Callahan Co. Comm. Prec #1- M/M	70,556.40	91.58	47,500.00	23,147.98
	Callahan Co. Comm. Prec #2	5,632.38	26,773.57 <u>32,500.00</u> 59,273.57	61,871.40	3,034.55
	Callahan Co. Comm. Prec #2 M/M	241,149.86	427.12	32,500.00	209,076.98
	Callahan Co. Comm. Prec #3	1,631.55	24,657.77 <u>30,000.00</u> 54,657.77	55,252.71	1,036.61
	Callahan Co. Comm. Prec #3 M/M	341,746.04	980.42	30,000.00	312,726.46
	Callahan Co. Comm. Prec #4	3,535.50	25,776.11 <u>60,000.00</u> 85,776.11	83,519.75	5,791.86
	Callahan Co. Comm. Prec #4 M/M	209,613.39	220.75	60,000.00	149,834.14
	Lateral Road	0	0	0	0
	Callahan Co. General Fund	10,260.42	614,317.86 <u>85,000.00</u> 699,317.86	514,999.38 <u>150,000.00</u> 664,999.38	44,578.90
	Callahan Co. General Fund M/M	293,725.51	702.60 <u>150,000.00</u> 150,702.60	85,000.00	359,428.11
	Callahan Co. General Fund Certificate of Deposit	285,458.83	0	0	285,458.83
	Historical Commission	13,900.01	994.00 95.00 <u>26.91</u> 1,115.91	0	15,015.92
	Historical Commission Certificate of Deposit	5,000.00	95.00	95.00	5,000.00

(CONTINUED INSIDE)

**TPA**  
**MEMBER 2004**  
**TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION**

**ADVERTISE IN THE CLASSIFIEDS**

**CALLAHAN COUNTY BAIRD STAR**  
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## County Officials Functions

The Texas Association of Counties is interested in enhancing the awareness of Texans about their county government.

As newspapers prepare March 9 primary election coverage, voters need for a clear, concise and accurate description of the functions of each elected county official.

Texas Association of Counties is submitting the attached descriptions of each elected office.

### Primary Functions of Elected County Officers

**COUNTY JUDGE**  
The Texas Constitution vests broad judicial and administrative powers in the position of County Judge, who presides over a five-member Commissioners Court, which has budgetary and administrative authority over county government operations. The county judge handles such widely varying matters as hearings for beer and wine license applications, hearing on admittance to state hospitals for the mentally ill and mentally retarded, juvenile work permits and temporary guardianships for special purposes. The judge is also responsible for calling elections, posting election notices, and for receiving and canvassing the election returns. The county judge may perform marriages.

A county judge in Texas may have judicial responsibility for certain criminal, civil and probate matters of responsibility for these functions vary from county to county. In those counties in which the judge has judicial responsibilities, the judge has appellate jurisdiction over matters arising from the justice courts. The county judge is also head of civil defense and disaster relief, county welfare and in counties under 225,000 population, the judge prepares the county budget along with the county auditor or county clerk.

**COMMISSIONERS**  
Four commissioners, each elected from a quarter of the county's population, serve along with the county judge on the commissioners court. Among other responsibilities, the commissioners court:

- Sets the yearly property tax rate and approve the budget and employment level for the county;
- Sets commissioners and justice of the peace precinct boundaries;
- Calls, conducts and certifies elections, including bond elections;
- Sets employment and benefit policy;
- Establishes long-range thoroughfare, open space, land use, financial and law enforcement/jail needs plans;
- Acquires property for rights-of-way or other uses determined to be in the public's best interest;
- Reviews and approve subdivision platting and wastewater treatment for rural areas;
- Provides rural ambulance services and subsidizes rural fire protection;
- Oversees the construction, maintenance and improvement of county roads and bridges;
- Appoints non-elected department heads and standing committees;
- Supervises and controls the county courthouse, county buildings and facilities;
- Adopts a county budget;
- Determines county tax rates;
- Fills vacancies in elective and appointive positions; and
- Has exclusive authority to authorize contracts in the name of the county

**SHERIFF**  
Duties of the sheriff include:

- Providing security for the operation of county and district courts;

- Enforcing traffic laws, other county ordinances and other state laws;

- Service of process;
- Conducting sales of seized and unclaimed properties;

- Accepting bail for prisoners in his custody; and

- Taking charge of and responsibility for the county jail and prisoners

**CONSTABLES**  
These peace officers are the first link in the county's chain of law enforcement. Along with their deputies, constables have all the powers of peace officers.

Constables are sometimes referred to as the executive officer of the justice of the peace courts. Their duties are to:

- Subpoena witnesses;
- Act as bailiff;
- Execute judgments; and
- Service of process

In large metropolitan counties the constable may also assist the county and district courts. In addition, they may perform patrol functions and make criminal investigations. They are involved in the overall effort to reduce the effects of crime in their communities, including in some cases the operation of truancy programs.

**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE**  
Section 19 of Article 5 of the Texas Constitution provides that justice of the peace courts have original jurisdiction in criminal matters of misdemeanor cases punishable by fine only and such other jurisdiction as may be provided by

law. Original jurisdiction is the authority to accept a case at its inception, try it and pass judgment based upon the laws and facts. This is distinguished from appellate jurisdiction which is jurisdiction to review a court's action. The justice of the peace performs the functions of a magistrate and conducts inquests.

A justice of the peace may issue warrants for search and arrest, conduct preliminary hearings, administer oaths, perform marriages and serve as a coroner in counties there is no provision for a medical examiner. The justice court also functions as a small claims court in civil matters in which exclusive jurisdiction is not in district or county court and the amount in controversy does not exceed \$5,000. They can also deal with matters concerning foreclosure of mortgages and enforcement of liens on personal property.

**COUNTY TREASURERS**  
The county treasurer, as the chief custodian of county finance, shall:

- Receive all monies belonging to the county from whatever source;

- Keep and account for all monies in a designated depository; and

- Pay and apply or disburse all monies in such a manner as commissioners court may direct, by law.

All receipts of any official belonging to the county must be turned over to the county treasurer daily. The county treasurer often acts as the chief liaison between the county and all depository banks. In this capacity, he or she maintains records of all deposits and withdrawals, and

reconciles all bank statements, thus assuring their accuracy and the safety of county funds. The county treasurer, who may be designated as the county's investment officer, is required to submit regular reports on county finance to the members of commissioners court to inspect and verify.

**COUNTY AND DISTRICT ATTORNEYS**

The main duties of the county and/or district attorney is to represent the state in criminal cases. The county and/or district attorney works with law enforcement officers in the investigation and preparation of cases to be heard before the criminal courts. When requested in writing, the county attorney provides legal counsel to county officers.

The overwhelming importance of the office of public prosecutors arises from the fact that upon the prosecuting attorney rests the power of determining whether prosecution in any given case shall be inaugurated or, if inaugurated, pushed to a successful conclusion.

**DISTRICT CLERK**

The Texas Government Code states the duties and powers of the clerk of the district court: "The clerk of the District Court has custody of and shall carefully maintain and arrange the records relating to or lawfully deposited in the clerk's office." The district clerk shall:

- Record the acts and proceedings of the district court;

- Enter all judgments of the court under the direction of the judge;

- Record all executions issued and the returns issued on the executions;

- Process passport applications;

- Administer child support payments;

- Administer trust accounts for minors ordered by the courts;

- Keep an index of the parties to all suits filed in the court, and make reference to any judgments made in the case; and

- Keep an account of all funds collected by the office, by way of fines and fees, and the amount due jurors in district court for service.

**COUNTY CLERK**  
The main duties of the county clerk are:

- Administering all county and state elections, including early voting and primaries, unless the commissioners court has transferred the function to the tax assessor-collector or an office of county election administrator;

- Serving as clerk of the county court and the commissioners court and keep records of the proceedings;

- Acting as recorder of deeds and other instruments;

- Filing and recording birth and death certificates;

- Recording assumed names, wills and probate;

- Issuing marriage licenses; and

- Accounting for all funds paid to the office by way of fines and fees, and the amount owed to county court jurors for service.

In Texas counties with a population of less than 8,000, unless there has been a special election, the county clerk also serves as the district clerk, assuming all constitutional and statutory duties of the district clerk, along with those of county clerk.

**TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR**

**LECTOR**

The major tax duty of the assessor-collector is the assessment (calculation) of taxes on each property in the county and collection of that tax as established by the State Property Tax Code. In addition, as an agent of the Texas Department of Transportation, the assessor-collector is responsible for the registration and licensing of motor vehicles owned by residents of the county.

Another duty of the county tax assessor-collector is that of voter registrar. In most Texas counties, a person would register to vote through the office of county tax assessor-collector. In a few counties, the commissioners court has designated the county clerk or an elections administrator to provide this function. The county tax office voter registration responsibilities include accepting applications for voter registration, issuing voter certificates, maintaining voter registration lists, verifying petitions for local option elections and submitting required reports to the Secretary of State's Office.

The county tax assessor collector is also responsible for the collections of special fees imposed by the county and state on coin-operated vending machines and the sale of alcoholic beverages.

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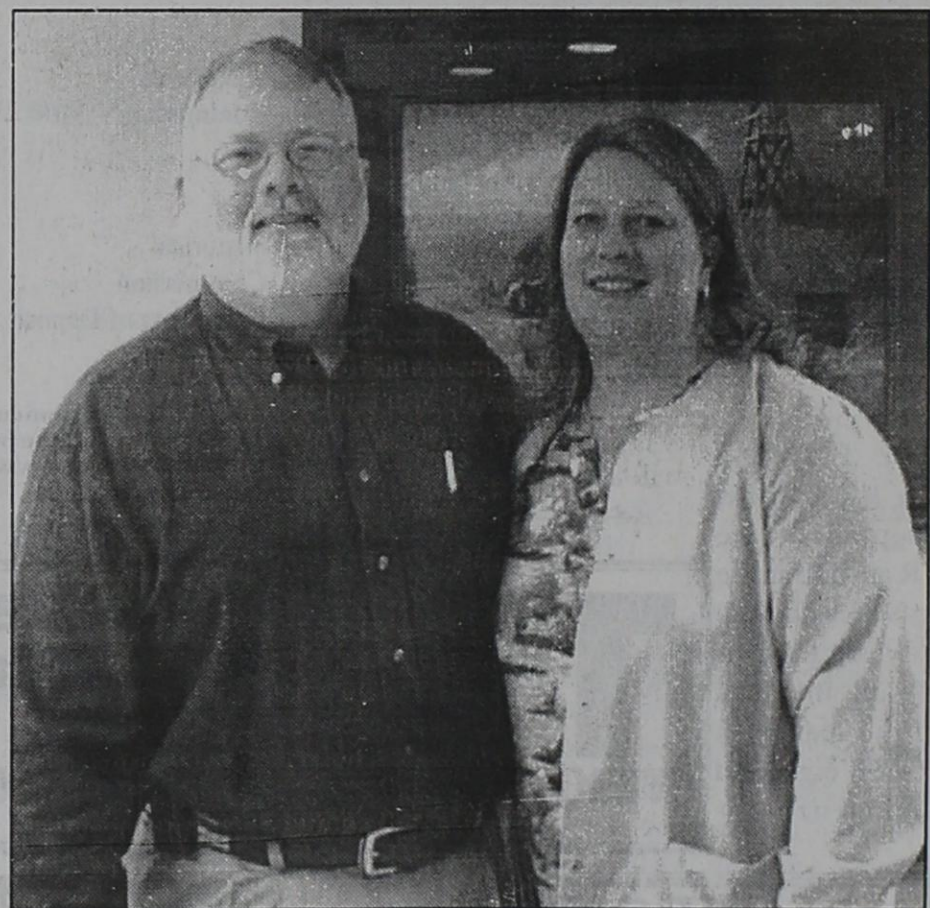
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Dr. Simpson is a Board Eligible Residency Trained General Surgeon. He completed his internship and general surgery residency at the University of North Texas Health Science Center and Osteopathic Medical Center of Texas in Forth Worth.

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## Stenholm: Mail Delivery Delayed On Capitol Hill

Washington, D.C. - Congressman Charlie Stenholm (T-17) wants his constituents in the 17th Congressional District to know he has not received any letters or other correspondence in his Capitol Hill office in recent days. Regular mail delivery was temporarily suspended last week following the discovery of ricin, a toxic protein, in a Congressional office. It is unclear when regular mail service will resume.

"One of the most important activities of a U.S. Representative is service as a liaison between the federal government and his or her constituents back home," Stenholm said. "For both Representatives and citizens, open communication is vital for ensuring a government which is truly of, by, and for the people."

"If you recently sent me a letter addressed to my Washington office, I have not re-

ceived it. Chances are, I may not receive your letter for several weeks, and there's a possibility I will never receive it," Stenholm added. "If you sent me something that is time-sensitive, I encourage you to contact me again using one of my Texas office addresses."

Stenholm also said his Washington office has been open throughout the ricin scare. The only offices that closed for a few days were Senate offices, where the toxin was discovered.

Constituents may contact Stenholm through one of the following means:

\*Call his Washington office or one of his three district offices

\*Send a letter or fax to one of the district offices

\*Send an e-mail by accessing his website at [www.house.gov/stenholm](http://www.house.gov/stenholm)

Stenholm's Washington phone number is (202) 225-6605. His district offices are listed below:

Stamford, Texas  
P.O. Box 1237  
(325) 773-3623 phone,  
(325) 773-2833 fax

Abilene, Texas  
1500 Industrial Blvd, #101  
Abilene, TX 79602  
(325) 673-7221 phone,

## Making A Difference

By Rex M. Rogers

### Agree... Disagree Michael Jackson's Day in Court

Michael Jackson is different. That's probably the understatement of the year. He is, by far, richer than most Americans. He was born (325) 676-9547 fax

San Angelo, Texas  
2121 Knickerbocker Road  
Suite A  
San Angelo, TX 76904  
(325) 942-8881 phone,  
(325) 942-8808 fax

This is not the first time mail service on Capitol Hill has been suspended. Mail delivery was interrupted for months following the discovery of anthrax-laced mail on Capitol Hill in October of 2001.

Black but looks something closer to White. He has clearly flirted with androgyny--and I don't consider it much of a risk to say that Michael Jackson is "normalcy-challenged." But is he guilty of child molestation? Ah, now that's another matter altogether.

I have an opinion about whether Jackson is guilty. But right now that's all it is, an opinion. Though it seems that most of my friends want to put Jackson in jail and throw away the key, I must say that I really don't know whether he is guilty of child molestation and thus deserving of the full force of the law.

It's shockingly easy to forget that all citizens are "innocent until proven guilty,"

especially when the accused is despicable, cruel, or just plain weird. But *assumed innocence* going into a trial is one of the ideals that make America a bastion of freedom in a world all too willing to cut corners on basic civil liberties.

Assumed innocence in a trial places the burden of proof on the prosecution, not the defense. In other words, the prosecution must prove that the accused is guilty rather than the defense having to prove the accused is innocent. This is a huge difference. It is the difference between a police state and a democratic republic. It's the difference between authoritarian regimes and a nation-state that exalts human dignity and liberty. Assumed innocence is a precious civil

Thursday, February 12, 2004

liberty for which men and women have fought and died. So, yes, Michael Jackson is really weird. We can ridicule him, or we can pity him. But either way, he's an American citizen who deserves the same legal protections we all enjoy.

(Rex M. Rogers, Ph.D., book author and president of Cornerstone University, Grand Rapids, Mich., is a syndicated columnist, whose columns appear in 44 newspapers in Calif., Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, North Dakota, South Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Texas. Send comments in care of: [alan@blanchardgroup.net](mailto:alan@blanchardgroup.net))

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### Answers to Crossword Puzzle

STAND	AREA	ERAS
PUREE	SEEM	ROSA
ENTER	HOLCAUST	AUST
DES	APES	ESTEE
BIOS	DOLE	
RESOLE	MINI	BAG
OTTO	COCOA	UNA
SHORT	ORDER	COOKS
100	ARTES	PYLE
ESP	PEEL	DAISES
	MESS	TOME
COLOR	KALE	ACE
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## Just Remembering

By Jasper Cook

As a railroad man, I felt an air of importance. I wasn't stuck up, but I felt that the work I was doing was essential to the war effort. I enjoyed riding in the engine, reaching out to catch the little stick with a cord across the top, and a note attached to it. I would quickly un-pin the note and drop the stick to the ground. All three of us in the engine had to read the note because it contained our orders regarding sidings we must take, where and when, to let an oncoming train pass on the main line.

This was like playing with my toy train, but it was not a toy anymore. I had become a part of an elite group of men who lived and breathed "Railroading." At first it was great fun, but a lot of the fun was soon taken out of it. The engineers were ordering me to do things against the rules. They often broke the rules themselves. Without being too technical, let me give an example.

Suppose we had orders to pull onto a siding at a certain location. We must have our train on the siding and have the switch locked at least five minutes before the oncoming freight train was due. We were often crowded for time. The engineer would begin slowing the train and order me to climb out of the cab, make my way along the side of that big speeding hunk of steel, cross over the cow-catcher, and as soon as we were slow enough, I had to jump from the train, race to the switch, unlock it, and then lock it open before the engine got there. I would catch the engine as it came past me. This was a difficult task, especially at night when I had to carry a lantern, have my switch key ready, and out-run that train.

The rules stated that I must lock the switch after I had opened it. The conductors said they would have me fired if I locked the switch open. They insisted I just leave the open lock hanging on the switch. That way, the conductor or rear brakeman could quickly close the switch, lock it shut, and catch the slowly moving caboose.

On one occasion, a Railroad Inspector secretly placed a burning red flare on the track to test the engineer, to determine how quickly he would react and stop the

train. We were running a little late and the engineer knew about the test. He ignored the flare. Our entire crew was reprimanded for infraction of the rules.

I would have to be much too technical to explain all the rules that were being broken. Take my word, things were getting a little wild for this old country boy. We had not experienced any wrecks, but there were several near misses. It wasn't much fun any more.

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## Son-in-Law of Cross Plains Residents Defends Freedom Under The Sea

By Mea Williams

From Public Affairs Center "America's Eye on the Fleet"

On Board USS Nebraska—Among the U.S. Navy's most powerful arsenal of high-tech defense weapons is the ballistic missile nuclear-powered submarine, USS Nebraska (SSBN 739), homeported in Bangor, Wash. This Trident-class vessel was strategically designed to fulfill the survivability and capability requirements for a sea-based deterrent platform, as well as for operations throughout the next century.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Robert Ray, son of Tom Kerby and Carmen Free, both of Cross Plains, is among the crew of 154 men who sail not only the sea, but also sail the seas at its deepest depths. Ray serves on board as a machinist's

mate. "My job is to provide the boat with propulsion, make water and provide steam for the turbines."

USS Nebraska's primary mission is to organize strikes, perform special operation force insertions, and support intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance. The daily operations of USS Nebraska rely completely on the crew on board with job skills of each Sailor vital to the success of the overall mission. "I am qualified in almost everything I possibly can," said Ray, husband to Tiffany Ray and father of one.

Key features like improved maintainability, reliability and availability make living on USS Nebraska interesting. Ray spoke about the exciting aspects and challenges that come along with the experience of staring Mother Nature straight in the face. "Not too many can say they have been on a boat that sinks on a daily basis. Family separation is the toughest challenge".

When not patrolling the depths of the ocean, Ray enjoys welding and volunteers in the community.

With the combination of today's most advanced technology and the skills of submariners like Petty Officer 2nd Class Robert Ray and his fellow shipmates, USS Nebraska is equipped with the necessary tools to carry out its mission and to fight any potential enemies who attempt to threaten the United States.

(Mea Williams is a journalist at the Navy Public Affairs Center, Norfolk, VA.)

## Words On Church Music

By Burl Caudle

We have a full time Minister of Music in our church. He is a likable young fellow with a nice wife and two children. Some Sundays we also have an orchestra that really makes the music special.

Most of the time our Minister of Music doesn't do the old songs.

Instead he does the new ones that are not really songs at all but the same words over and over. The men in my Sunday School class have talked about it and we just don't understand why he doesn't have us sing the old favorites.

One joked if the Old Rugged Cross and Amazing Grace were good enough for the Apostle Paul, they should be good enough for us.

Occasionally our Minister of Music runs in one of the old favorites and it seems to me that the response from the congregation is twice what some of the new ones are.

Sometimes he even has us sing my personal favorite "How Great Thou Art". The first time I heard that song we are on a family vacation in Colorado and visited a small church in a beautiful setting in the mountains. I have liked the song very much ever

since.

Some of my favorite experiences in singing were at Baptist Brotherhood Meetings in the Texas Panhandle. The song leader for these meetings was the Personal Director for a large company. He would bounce all over the stage smiling as he led the singing. He could really get a loud response from a building full of men and seemed to be having the time of his life doing it.

One song that stands out in my mind is "Just As I Am." That was the song that was being sung when I made my public profession of faith in Jesus.

I have heard it sung many times since then and always think back to the little country church in Flatwoods and where I was sitting and the feeling I had.

Music is important.

I would like to encourage those who are responsible for selecting the music to pick some of the old favorites. That will make us old-timers happier. We are not completely against change.

Maybe we need to make some changes to appeal to the younger generation.

If so bring the changes on!

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# 11th Court of Appeals

Eastland, Texas Proceedings (En Banc) February 5, 2004  
**Affirmed**  
 Lionel Zachary Williams v. State of Texas, Dallas. (Opinion by Justice Wright) (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall)  
 James Walter Dickson v. State of Texas, Stephens. (Per Curiam Opinion) (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).  
 Charles Lee King v. State of Texas, Taylor. (Opinion by Justice McCall). (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).  
 Yane Mondragon Gonzalez v. State of Texas, Dallas. (Opinion by Justice Wright) (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).  
 Craig Michael Stricklin v. State of Texas, Collin. (Opinion by Justice Wright) (Panel consists of: Chief Jus-

Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).  
 Bryan Thayne Folkman v. State of Texas, Collin. (Opinion by Justice McCall) (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).  
 J.P. Washington v. State of Texas, Dallas. (Per Curiam Opinion) (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).  
 Israel Williams, Jr. v. State of Texas, Dallas. (Per Curiam Opinion) (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).  
 Jason Keith Durham v. State of Texas, Dallas. (Opinion by Justice McCall) (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).  
**Modified & Affirmed**  
 Yane Mondragon Gonzalez v. State of Texas, Dallas. (Opinion by Justice Wright) (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).  
**Former Opinion & Judgment Withdrawn; Reversed & Rendered**  
 Michael R. Feldman v. State of Texas, Dallas. (Per Curiam Opinion) (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).  
**Former Opinion & Judgments Withdrawn; Affirmed**  
 Michael R. Feldman v. State of Texas, Dallas. (Per Curiam Opinion) (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).  
**Appeal Dismissed**  
 Terry Dwayne Allen v. State of Texas, Ector. (Per Curiam Opinion) (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).  
**Motions Submitted & Granted; Appeal Dismissed**  
 Gary T. Leach v. State of Texas, Jefferson. Appellant's motion to dismiss appeal. (Per Curiam Memorandum Opinion) (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).  
**Motion Submitted & Overruled; Appeal Dismissed**  
 Barry Glenn Seabourn v. State of Texas, Taylor. Appellant's pro se motion for out-of-time appeal. (Per Curiam Opinion) (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).  
**Original Proceeding Denied**  
 In re Ezell Minton. Orig. Proc. Relator's pro se petition for writ of mandamus. (Per Curiam Memorandum Opinion) (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).  
**Appeals Abated**  
 Molo Al Nelson v. State of Texas, Taylor. (Per Curiam

Order) (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).  
 Harry Melton Phillips, Jr. v. State of Texas, Eastland. (Per Curiam Order) (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).  
 Timothy Ray Bridges v. State of Texas, Palo Pinto. (Per Curiam Order) (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).  
**Order Not Disposing of Case**  
 Jerry Mack Gentry v. State of Texas, Nolan. (Per Curiam Order) (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall).  
**Cases Submitted**  
 Clay Edward Richie a/k/a Damien v. State of Texas, Collin.  
 In the Interest of K.J.L. III, and C.A.L., Nolan.  
 Pierro Leroi Jackson v. State of Texas, Dallas.  
 Ex parte Victor M. Cuevas, Jr., Gaines.  
 Eastland, Texas, Proceedings (En Banc) February 6, 2004  
**Motions Submitted & Granted**  
 Derrick Polly v. State of Texas, Dawson. State's motion for permission to file late brief.  
 David Pedraza Figueroa v. State of Texas, Harris. Appellant's pro se motion for extension of time to file brief.  
 Jessie Medrano, Jr. v. State of Texas, Scurry. State's motion for extension of time to file brief.  
 Travis Jerome Rain v. State of Texas, Harris. Appellant's motion for extension of time to file brief.  
 Ricky Wayne Harrington v. State of Texas, Midland. Appellant's motion for extension of time to file brief.  
 William Clay Pitts v. State of Texas, Erath. State's motion for extension of time to file brief.  
 Maurice Consonteen Dickinson v. State of Texas, Nolan. Appellant's motion for extension of time to file brief.  
 Raymond Williams v. McGuire Industries, Inc., Ector. Appellant's motion for extension of time to file brief.  
 William Curb v. Texas Farmers Insurance Company, Eastland. Appellee's motion for substitution of counsel.  
**Motions Submitted & Overruled**  
 Melvin Allan Bowen v. State of Texas, Brown. Appellant's pro se motion for extension of time to file motion for rehearing.  
 Danny Allen Haynes v. State of Texas, Taylor. Appellant's pro se motion to file supplemental brief. Appellant's pro se motion for copy of reporter's record.

# Cookbook Offers History Of Early Western Foods, Lifestyles

A new cookbook from RoseDog Books offers a brief history of western foods and lifestyles from 1865 to 1939. "From the Chuck Wagon and Ranch House" contains many unique and previously unpublished recipes from the old chuck wagon and ranch house cooks, including the delicious Western Barbeque Sauce, Biscuits, Batters, and the famous KC Burger Patty. Cooks and readers alike are sure to enjoy this culinary venture back in time.  
 About the Author  
 Born in Waco, Texas, in 1930, Raymond A. Niswanger has a family background in farming and ranching. He spent his professional years as an aeronautical design engineer, working on such projects as the Gemini Spacecrat and the F-111 and F-16 aircrafts. He is now retired and lives on a small farm near Granbury.  
 The author's great-grandfather was the brother of Charles Goodnight, the inventor of the chuck wagon and the first rancher in the Palo Duro Canyon of the Texas panhandle. The chuck wagon pictures included here depict the family wagon.  
 RoseDog Books is pleased to announce the publication "From the Chuck Wagon and Ranch House" (\$18.00) ISBN#0-8059-9311-8, paperback. For more information, please contact RoseDog Books at 701 Smithfield St., Pittsburgh, PA 15222.  
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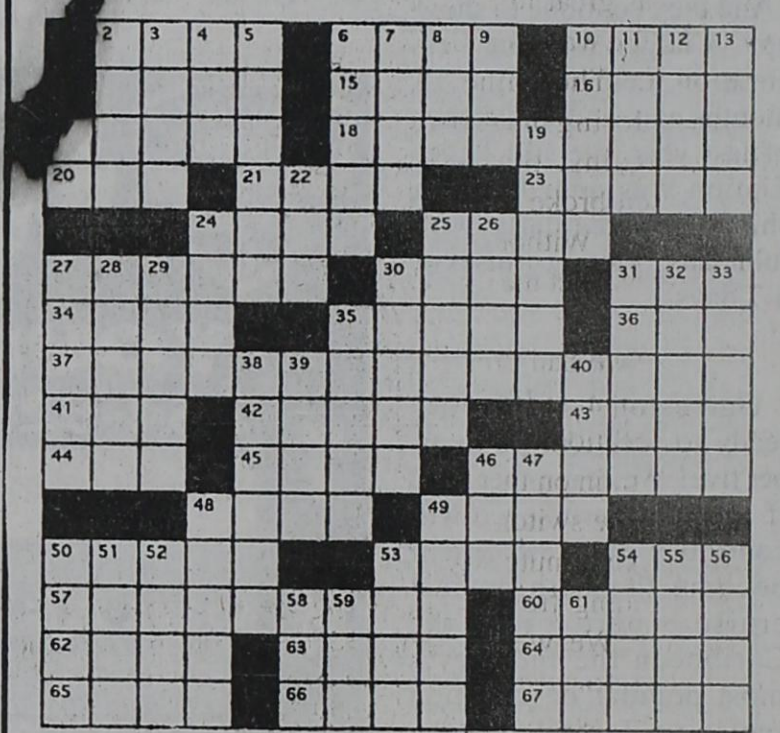
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# CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- ACROSS**
- 1 Get up
  - 6 Carpet
  - 10 Periods
  - 14 Thick soup
  - 15 Look like
  - 16 Name for a Spanish girl
  - 17 Go in
  - 18 Total destruction
  - 20 Start of a state capital
  - 21 Jungle beasts
  - 23 Lauder
  - 24 Short life stories
  - 25 Word on a banana
  - 27 Do a shoe-maker's job
  - 30 Skippy garment
  - 31 Holder of groceries
  - 34 Bismarck, for one
  - 35 Beverage
  - 36 Feminine one: Sp.
  - 37 Gale em-
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<p><b>New '04 Ford F150</b> V8, Auto, Tilt/Cruise, CD</p> <p>List Price.....\$23,360                  Dealer Disc.....-2365                  Ford Rebate.....-1000                  *AQHA.....-500</p> <p><b>Sale Price</b>  <b>\$19,495<sup>00</sup></b></p> <p>Stk. #4T3091</p>	<p><b>New '04 F250 Crew Cab XLT</b> 4x4, Diesel, Auto, Fx4 Package</p> <p>List Price.....\$42,025                  Dealer Disc.....-4,030                  Ford Rebate.....-1500                  *AQHA.....-500                  **Comm. Rebate -1000</p> <p><b>Sale Price</b>  <b>\$34,995<sup>00</sup></b></p> <p>Stk. #4T7394</p>

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# The Idle American

By Dr. Don Newbury

## WHEN THE CARNIVAL CAME TO TOWN

It was more than a half-century ago. A time or two each year, the carnival came to town, and we kids were filled with elation at the prospect of a dozen rickety gasoline-powered rides. The ferris wheel became our community's skyline. I wore thick-soled shoes to make sure I was tall enough to ride the bumper cars.

The carnival stayed as long as people showed up. Usually it was for three or four days.

This long-ago vignette came to mind as my wife and I boarded a beautiful cruise ship in Galveston, where just over three years ago, Carnival came to town. In effect, the cruise line committed the Jubilee, a mid-size ship, for a few weeks, or as long as people showed up.

And they continue to show up! A larger ship, the Celebration, came on line 18 months ago, and in October of last year, the still larger Elation was added. Both ships leave regularly with full loads, offering cruises of 4-7 days.

Galveston boosters are ready to yell, "We're number five! We're number five!" If the rapid cruise growth continues, Galveston will become the fifth-busiest cruise port to the Caribbean—the industry's most popular destination replacing Tampa, Florida, before year's end. Carnival's Celebration and Elation as well as another craft carrying 2,600 passengers to be added this fall anchor this bustling cruise port.

And why not? Fewer than 15% of Americans have ever cruised, but this year, upwards of 10 million will board the fun crafts—double the number of just a decade ago. Increasingly, folks are driving to cruise ports, and 13 million people live within 300 miles of Galveston.

The food, the sights, the sounds and the smiles (I just don't think I've ever seen so many folks smiling) are lumped into the single word Jim Nabors used weekly on TV when Gomer Pyle gushed: GOLLLLL-EEEEEE!

My wife and I had a pad, intent on keeping count of crewmembers failing to smile and/or greet us first. The pad remained blank throughout the cruise. We figured if one ever failed to do so, he or she would get a good talking to! To a person, the crew is trained to the utmost. And what a bunch of accents! The 800-member crew came from two dozen countries.

Among the 2,200 passengers were perhaps a thousand or more from Texas. (A time or two, we saw crew smiles turn to snickers when we said "fixin' to" or whooped it up when they sang "God Bless Texas")

Even following the obligatory lifeguard drills, we got an unexpected laugh. After giving specific instructions concerning the "unlikely event" possibilities, the speaker emphasized that there were plenty of lifeboats, and each contained all the necessities, food, water, etc. "Do they have video games?" an eight-year-old

questioned. The Elation's cruise director, a 14-year veteran who started out as a guitar player, recalled a bunch of long-standing dumb questions from first-time cruisers. We laughed most about the lady who wanted to know what time the ship would get to Grand Canyon? (Her travel agent had promised a stop at Grand Canyon.) Finally, she understood that one port of call would be Grand CAYMAN. And a man wanted to know if the elevator went to the other end of the ship.

We aren't veteran cruisers, but really believe that rich friendships begin, as in the olden days, around the dinner table. We talked, listened, shared and loved. Addresses and phone numbers were exchanged. Our world seems smaller, and waistlines,

larger. Tears well up when we hear real life experiences that don't appear in the travel brochures, such as Christmas Day, just six weeks ago. The ship's crew wanted to do something for some children in Belize City, the port of call that day. Tenders carrying tourists across the two-mile span to shore from the ship returned with 72 youngsters from an orphanage. The kids had never been more than a few yards from shore, and never on a cruise vessel. They and a dozen chaperones toured the ship, and enjoyed Christmas treats.

Oh, I didn't mention their presents. Carnival folks who had visited the orphanage were shocked that the kids were sleeping on inch-thick mats. They came up with 72 spare mattresses and now the children are sleeping first class. Memories are made of this.

Dr. Newbury is an author/speaker/columnist in the Metroplex. His column appears in 100 Texas newspapers. He welcomes inquiries or book orders by phone, 817-447-3872 or e-mail, newbury@speakerdoc.com

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94 Aerostar Extended Van, 7 pass., good cond. (blue).....	\$1950
94 Taurus V6, looks, runs good (white) Was \$2450 Special.....	\$1950

AUTOS

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96 Taurus 4 dr., V6, very good cond. (silver).....	\$2950
94 Taurus 4 dr., V6, super nice & clean, red.....	\$2250
93 Taurus V6, runs & looks good (white).....	\$1750
95 Geo Prizm 4 dr., (red), a good car for only.....	\$1650
87 Buick Park Ave., 4 dr., V6, a good car.....	\$950
94 Mercury Sable V6, runs good, blue.....	\$1950
86 Ford Crown Victoria V8, (red), a good buy at.....	\$795
88 Lincoln Town Car in good cond., (light blue).....	\$1095
88 Lincoln Continental looks, runs good, a clean car.....	\$995
91 Lincoln Continental 3.8 V6, runs, looks good (gold).....	\$1275
91 Probe V6, auto., looks, runs good.....	\$1775
91 Mitsubishi Galant, a very good car for.....	\$1695
92 Mercury Topaz in fair condition, 3.0 V6, auto.....	\$1250

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92 Ford F250 Super Cab Diesel, auto., in good condition.....	\$3250
89 Ford Diesel Super Cab, auto., weak paint, runs good.....	\$2750
89 Aerostar Van in good cond., inside & out (gold) V6.....	\$1295
86 Ford F150 Super Cab, V8, auto., runs, looks good (white).....	\$1275
86 Ford E350 Work Van in good cond., ex. telephone trk.....	\$895
94 Ford Explorer, 4.0 V6, 4 dr., looks, runs good (white).....	\$2995

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REG CAB, V6, 5 SPEED, A/C

\$15,240

Cash Price \$18,490  
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### 2004 RAM 3500

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# Kokomo News

By Zelda Jordan

Woodrow Browning really blessed our hearts as he sang "He Touched Me" at the Sunday morning service at the Kokomo Baptist Church. His wife, Helen was at the piano.

Those from the Kokomo Baptist Church going to Heritage Manor in Gorman on Sunday afternoon for the church service were Bro. Clarence and Leona Wilson, Woodrow and Helen Browning, Joe Bond, Ruby Lee Kinser, Johnnie B. Griffith and Nancy Hendricks.

Nina and Bobby Koonce of Stephenville had lunch with Betty and Larry Strube on Tuesday.

Oren and Norma Webb visited one day last week in Comanche with their grandchildren, Kaci, Randall and Aaron Suniga and Jacob Webb.

LaVon Snider visited in Brownwood with Carolyn

Eaves. Those visiting with LaVon were Erik, Belinda, Isaac and Ella Segura of Gorman, and Dwayne and Connie Snider of Stephenville.

Joe and Glynda Bond visited recently in Copperas Cove with Shannon, Stephanie and Raegan Bond. Glynda also had a check-up with her doctor at Round Rock.

Joe and Glynda Bond enjoyed a couple days this past week on a friend's ranch at Uvalde.

Johnnie B. Griffith, Betty Little, Zelda Jordan and Sylvia Buchanan visited with Nancy Hendricks.

Daisy Slaton of Gorman visited with Zelda Jordan.

Oren and Norma Webb visited with Delmon and Joyce Eaves.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

into catching the horses for them. The girls rode horses all afternoon. Kali stopped by for a little while on Saturday evening. Howard had lunch with Glenda on Monday. Glenda is always so happy for all of them to drop in. There is always a welcome sing at Glenda's.

This week:

Earlene and Jessica had a Big work day on Saturday. Cindy Fuller and Andrew and son Cameron all spent the day cutting brush and hauling it off, moving rocks and fixing the fence. Earlene cooked their dinner but the others did all the work. Things sure look better around the place and their work was really appreciated. Another of our ladies, who really enjoy her family coming to see her and giving a helping hand. What would we do without our children!

Frankie Smith and Jean Fore traveled to Carbon Saturday night to the musical. They do enjoy going to the musicals. It keeps them young!

Glenda Phillips went to the Rising Star Nursing home with the Rising Star Church of Christ to have services for the residents. They always hold the 4th Sunday services

# IRS Has \$203 Million For Texans Who Did Not File Their Taxes In 2000

More than 158,000 Texans could face losing refunds totaling \$203 million dollars because they did not file tax returns in 2000. Half of the

**Red Beans And Cornbread Dinner**  
A red beans and cornbread dinner will be available for \$3.00 a plate, Saturday, Feb. 21, 2004 from 11 a.m. to 2p.m. at the Senior Citizens Center, Down town Gorman. Take out is available. Menu consists of red beans, cornbread, cobbler and tea.

Come by and support our Team. All Proceeds Go to The American Cancer Society's Eastland County 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Relay For Life.

at the nursing home. Later, she went to visit Violet Burcham at Rising Star. Violet is in her nineties and very enjoyable to visit with. She still lives by herself, she used to work with Glenda's mother in law at the sewing factory at Brownwood.

We are still looking for that good soaking rain. We pray that it will come this week. The grain is just holding on. Guess what! There are a few people putting out onions in their gardens. Well, that is a good sign that Spring is around the corner.

The basketball season is about over (district, that is). Some teams will go on to play further. Go out this week and support your teams. Baseball is next. The kids are already practicing.

people who could claim refunds would receive more than \$563, according to Internal Revenue Service estimates, but, in order to collect their money, a tax return must be filed with an IRS office no later than April 15, 2004.

In some cases, people had taxes withheld from their wages, or made payments against their taxes out of self-employed earnings, but had too little income to require filing a tax return. Some taxpayers may also be eligible for the refundable Earned Income Tax Credit.

"The clock is running if you want to get your refund," said IRS Commissioner Mark W. Everson. "People who aren't required to file sometimes overlook that they had tax withheld. Don't wait until it's too late. We want all taxpayers to get the refund they're due."

In cases where a return was not filed, the law provides most taxpayers with a three-year window of opportunity for claiming a refund. If a return is not filed to claim the refund within three years, the money becomes property of the U.S. Treasury. For 2000 returns, the window closes on April 15, 2004. The law requires that the return be properly addressed, post-

marked and mailed by that date. There is no penalty assessed by the IRS for filing a late return qualifying for a refund.

The IRS reminds taxpayers seeking a 2000 refund that their checks will be held if they have not filed tax returns for 2001 or 2002. In addition, the refund will be applied to any amounts still owed to the IRS and may be used to satisfy unpaid child support or past due federal debts such as student loans.

By failing to file a return, individuals stand to lose more than refunds of taxes withheld or paid during 2000. Many low-income workers may not have claimed the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Although eligible taxpayers may get a refund when their EITC is more than their tax, those who file returns more than three years late would be able only to offset their tax. They would not be able to receive refunds if the credit exceeded their tax.

Generally, individuals qualified for the EITC in 2000 if they earned less than \$31,152 and had more than one qualifying child living with them, less than \$27,413 with one qualifying child, or less than \$10,380 and had no qualifying child.

# Pioneer News

By Pioneer Quilting Club

Sorry, I did not get our article in the paper last week. We have taken out two quilts. Charlene's "flower Garden" which is so pretty and is a very special quilt. It is Christy's and was pieced by a relative. Earlene's "Texas Star" was also finished and turned out very pretty. also. It was pieced by a relative. We now have Jean A.'s "Barn Door" in and Lou's top (I do not have the name right now). We will be working on them this month. We had several out due to sickness. We hope all are well this coming week.

Last weeks:

Frankie Smith had for her company her daughters Mrs. Bobby Nance and Mrs. Steve Harrelson. They stayed two nights with her. They took Frankie to Abilene to see her friends Dorothy Mitchell and Clois Tension. They were both at Hendricks Hospital. Clois had gone home. Dorothy came home Friday. Glad that both of them are at home. Friday, Jean and Frankie went to Cisco. Saturday, Frankie went to Clyde with Mr. and Mrs. Blount. Sunday Jean and Frankie had lunch with Jean's sister, Vi Harlow in Cross Plains.

Glenda Phillips is still going to basketball games. She really appreciates getting to ride with her kids to the out of town games. Krista, Emily, and Terra ate lunch at Glenda's Saturday. They had been out petting the horses. It was nearly 10:00 and they were hungry. Krista made potato soup, so they ate soup and cornbread. Allen and Logan came along be-

fore they finished and joined them. The girls talked Allen



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## Think Texas

by Agriculture Commissioner  
**SUSAN COMBS**

Valentine's Day is near. This year, skip the candy and celebrate with a bottle of Texas wine. Whether it's a merlot from the Hill Country or a chenin blanc from West Texas, show your significant other how much you care by toasting the holiday with a local vintage. When making dinner reservations, ask about the restaurant's Texas wine list. Or better yet, take a weekend field trip to one of Texas' many scenic, sprawling vineyards.

Years ago, wine connoisseurs from around the world would only pass over Texas wines when searching for supreme vintages. But those days are over. Wine enthusiasts now regularly sip Texas wine and toast its quality.

From winning national and international wine competitions to now wineries opening on a regular basis, Texas has a lot to celebrate when it comes to the state's growing wine industry. As the fifth-largest wine producing state, the Texas wine industry boasts some 54 wineries with a statewide economic impact of \$103 million. The industry has grown leaps and bounds in recent years. In fact, only about 12,000 gallons were produced in Texas in 1977, compared with annual production of about 1 million gallons today.

Viticulture is promising in Texas. We're growing more grapes, producing more refined wines and embarking on a promising new venture for Texas. When love is in the air, only the finest will do. This Valentine's Day, uncork some Texas wine.

For more information visit [www.gotexaswine.org](http://www.gotexaswine.org).

### Should the State Promote Alcohol?

(Editor's Note: Newspapers receive many "Ready to Print" columns such as the one at left from the Texas Agricultural Commissioner. The staff member letter written takes exception, as does this publication. The public is welcome to respond with opinions as to whether the State should be promoting the alcohol industry.)

Dear Susan Combs  
Commissioner of Agriculture  
State of Texas

I wish to decline your invitation to celebrate Valentine's Day with a glass of Texas wine, due to societal, ethical, religious and health reasons. I will cover only a fraction of those here.

A top priority - it has been demonstrated in laboratories that alcohol is a toxic drug that can kill brain cells. Scientists differ on how many cells will rejuvenate if a person stops drinking. I don't wish to experiment on this - I need all my brain cells. I believe this is the first time I have seen a state official go to the lengths you have to promote the use of alcohol. I realize that the State Legislature has been backing it up also. But for several years I have seen your glowing reports of the establishment of wine making vineyards in the state. Now there are over 50 vineyards in operation - a great thing if they raised and sold table grapes, or processed juice without fermentation.

But there is a different side to your story. Wine is not sparkling, glorified coolade.

The "best" wine runs from 11 to 14 percent alcohol. You can compare this with beer at 5 percent, and it is plain which is the most intoxicating. "Cheap" wine can run up to 24 percent alcohol - the winos who drift around California know that.

No one ever plans to be an alcoholic. But the sad fact is that out of the "new" drinkers who start using Texas wine, more alcoholics and heavy drinkers will develop.

This has happened in countries such as France, where reportedly around 70 percent of the population uses wine.

We don't need something like that. The National Institute on Health and other organizations state that alcohol and drug dependence are America's No. 1 health problem right now. It strains the health care system, harms family life, hurts the economy and threatens public safety.

Also, around 48 percent of the people in prisons are reportedly there because they committed crimes while using alcohol.

Add to that the cost of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome in the Nation and Texas - the leading cause of retardation in children. It doesn't even take alcoholism to produce FAS. Even one drink - or a session of winetasting - can leave an unborn child at risk.

I have had people tell me that Texas is going to make a lot of money on wineries, even though it took grants and loans to help launch the industry.

I say that the more wine that is sold, the more the state will lose. For example, the latest figures show that Texas is already one of the highest states (per capita) in the nation on alcohol-related car crashes - 47 percent. We are right along with the District of Columbia, Louisiana, New Mexico, and several others.

That impacts our car insurance, medical insurance, car repairs - and of course the necessity to hire more Public Safety Troopers and local law officers. And how can you put a value on one life lost in these crashes, or the injuries to others?

During my life, I have never seen alcohol do anyone any good, and have seen it do some horrible things! And yes! Some of this started with a few drinks of wine!

One time a drunken driver almost crashed into my car, and went on down the road and hit another vehicle headlong. Two people were killed - one a mother of small children.

Then there are friends who died with alcohol-related ailments, and others who died of suicide. Like someone remarked to me lately, every family in Texas has at least one person who has been addicted to alcohol!

So I won't be riding in a limousine in Central Texas on a wine tasting experience, or ordering wine in a restaurant on Valentine's Day.

I will simply be hoping that you and members of the State Legislature who helped promote this will have a change of heart.

Sincerely,  
Viola Payne

### Honor Students Named At Baylor University

More than 2,200 Baylor University students were named to the Dean's Academic Honor List for the 2004 Fall Semester.

To be named to the Dean's List, a student must be an undergraduate with a minimum grade-point average of 3.7 while enrolled in a minimum of 12 semester hours.

Among the honored are David F. Ferguson of Eastland and Jordan Robinson of Eastland.

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### Mark Shell To Minister At River of Life Church

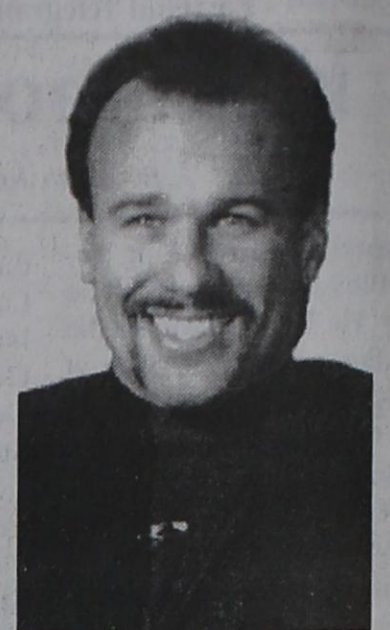
Pastors Danny Brown and Jerry Maston are joining with their congregations to host an eight-day revival. It will be a week of exciting services with evangelist Mark Shell. Mark is an exhilarating preacher who emphasizes the power and reality of God. Through quality sermons he expresses the capacity in man to touch the living God as He touches you.

Pastors Danny Brown and Jerry Maston invite the public to come hear sermons that will challenge, encourage, and motivate your life in pursuing spiritual matters.

The revival will begin on Sunday morning, February 15th, and go through Sunday evening, February 22nd.

The service schedule will be conducted accordingly: Sunday morning service will begin at 10:30am. The Sunday evening services will begin at 6:00pm, and the Monday through Friday evening services will begin at 7:00 p.m. The Saturday evening service on Feb. 21st will be dismissed.

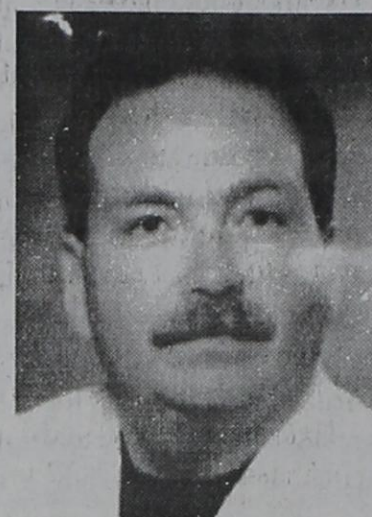
The River of Life Church will host each service except Sunday morning, Feb. 22nd, when Mark Shell will minister at Kingdom



Mark Shell

Builders Fellowship. River of Life Church is located at 103 Pogue Avenue in Eastland. Kingdom Builders Fellowship is located at 311 S. Lamar, also in Eastland. You may contact Danny Brown at 254-631-0608, or Jerry Maston at 254-629-1015 for more information.

### Dr. Ray Vinson To Minister At Mountain Top Church



Dr. Ray Vinson

Dr. Ray Vinson, president of Dominion International Network of Ministries & Churches and the Institute for Biblical Leadership will be coming to Cisco, Texas on Sunday, February 22nd and ministering at Mountain Top Church for both am and pm services. Ray has ministered in many venues including conferences, camp meetings, and TV broadcasts across America.

Pastor John C. Jones and Mountain Top Church count it an honor to have Dr. Ray Vinson as guest minister. This is your invitation, to set aside this important date to attend these anointed services and see what God has in store for your life. Mountain Top Church is located at 600 E. 8th Cisco, Tx. Services for Sundays start at 10:30 a.m. and 6:00

p.m. Wednesday nights start at 7:00 p.m. and are dedicated to building strong foundations in the children and youth of today! For more information, please call 254-442-4479.

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# BAIRD BEARS

**Baird Varsity Girls Meet Miles VG in District Playoff Feb. 17 at Jim Ned**

## Bears Take Wins Over Panthers: Varsity Girls Challenge Ranger; Continue Success

Baird Bears surged forward in District 10-A games on Tuesday, Feb. 3, defeating the Gorman Panthers, they added to their overall and district records.

Baird VB powered to a 69-29 victory over Gorman; Baird VG defeated Gorman VG 71-39.

The win gave Baird VB an overall score of 15-6 and a district record of 4-2.

Baird VG upheld their undefeated district record with 7-0; overall 20-6.

The Bear Varsity Boys started out with a resounding 14-2 in the first quarter. They were able to hold their dominance over Gorman VB in the 2nd quarter, scoring 22-5.

The Gorman team picked up points in the 3rd and 4th quarter, but were not able to match the Bears at any point.

Rodriguez and L. J. Mendez scored game highs of 14 points. Scott followed closely with 12.

Gorman Panther Jones lead his team with 13 points.

Bear Varsity Girls took control of the game in the first quarter (16-11), tied with the Panther in the 2nd (11-11), continued their winning path in the 3rd (19-8), and hit a game-high with 25-9 points in the 4th.

Harris lead the game's scoring with 19 points, followed by McDowell with 14, Russel 13, Bell 11, Moore 10, and Windham 4.

With the win over Gorman, Bear Varsity Girls held their perfect district record, which then stood 7-0.

In JV games, the JV Boys defeated Gorman. JV Girls took a loss to their counterpart JV Panther team.

Baird Varsity Girls repeated their great performance on Friday, Feb. 6, defeating Ranger in District 10-A with 73-40.

The Bear girls dominated the game from the 1st quarter on, hitting another scoring high in the 4th quarter of 25 points to Ranger's 14.

Bear Harris topped the point list with 31! McDowell also put Baird on the board with 17, Windham and Russell both with 8, Sweeny 4, Bell 3, and Neal and Moore with 1 each.

The great scoring and a good all-round team effort lead to the District record of 8-0, a fan commented.

Baird Varsity Girls will face Miles in District play-offs on Tuesday, Feb. 17 at Jim Ned.

Baird JVG also edged past Ranger, winning 32-26.

In Over Time, Baird Varsity Boys took a loss of only 5 points on Friday in their District 10-A game with Ranger VB. The end score was Ranger 48-Baird 43.

Ranger VB lead in the 1st and 2nd quarters, but Baird VB outscored Ranger in the 3rd and 4th quarters. Both team stood at 39 points after the 4th quarter.

Overtime sealed the victory for Ranger when they scored 9 points to Baird's 4.

Rodriguez and L. J. Mendez both scored 11 points for Baird. Monty Monroe and Milton Monroe both put Ranger on the board with 12 each.

After the game with Ranger, Baird VB showed a district record of 4-3, Ranger 4-2.

Baird JVB and VB will meet Cross Plains on Feb. 13 in Cross Plains. Games start at 6:30 p.m.

### Basketball Scores

**Boys**

Ranger 40, Baird 73

Baird 16 13 19 25 - 73

Ranger 12 4 10 14 - 40

Baird - Windham 8, Russell 8, Neal 1, Sweeny 4, More 1, Harris 31, McDowell 17, Bell 3.

Records - Baird 8-0; Ranger 1-6

JV Score Baird 32, Ranger 26

**Ranger 48, Baird 43 (OT)**

Baird 4 9 14 12 4 - 43

Ranger 7 13 8 11 9 - 48

Baird - Rodriguez 11, LJ Mendez 11, Scott 9, B. Mendez 4, Roberts 4, Class 3, Green 1.

Records - Baird 4-3, Ranger 4-2

### 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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**Baird First Baptist Church Events**

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

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

**Feb. 15, 2004** World Hunger awareness and fundraiser. Bean and Cornbread lunch in fellowship hall following the morning service. All donations go to World Hunger.

**Women's Bible Study** 5:00 P.M. in fellowship hall. Prayer time 5:00 P.M. Sanctuary

**Feb. 16, 2004** Senior Adult Post Valentine Banquet in Clyde Baptist Church

Family Life Center, with Tommy Culwell, as the Guest speaker, 7:00 p.m. Call 854-1574 for reservations.

**Feb. 18, 2004** AWANA Club 6:30 -8:00 p.m.

Prayer meeting in Sanctuary 7:00 p.m.

**Feb. 22, 2004** Women's Bible Study 5:00 p.m. fellowship hall

Prayer time 5:00 p.m. Sanctuary

**Feb. 25, 2004** Callahan Baptist Evangelism Rally with Wayne Shuffield Jr. speaker and Todd Wilson, music. This Callahan Co. meeting will be held at First Baptist Church, Baird.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Baird First United Methodist Church News**

**Clothes Closet Council Meeting**

The regular council meeting for the Clothes Closet Food Pantry "Mission of Miracles" will be February 18 at 1:30 p.m.

Attendance by all local ministers and a representative from each church would be helpful to set goals for the new year. Please come, submitted by Ruth Fisher

**Thanks for Your Helping Hands**

Our Clothes Closet Christmas work period was unusually brief this past year. All the churches, clubs, schools, and individual workers did an outstanding job; 77 families received food baskets with turkey/ham; all boys and girls were given beautiful gifts thanks to local

women's groups; 36 gift baskets were delivered to the nursing home by our faithful team of Wayne and Joy Mooney; and 15 shut-ins received "we love you" packages.

We volunteers want to give our heartfelt thanks to all who helped in any way. 203 was a glorious year!

Now, we begin our fourth year in our present wonderful, convenient building. We thank all the people of Baird. Let's keep Baird on the map.

Remember our mission statement: Learning, Loving, Living. Lord, when did we see you hungry, thirsty, naked, or in prison? Read Matthew 25:41-45, a great challenge to our faith of caring and sharing.

Thanks again from our faithful volunteers.

Valentine Blessings submitted by Ruth Fisher

**Baird Study Club News**

The Baird '48 Study Club met on Feb. 9, 2004 at 7:30 PM in the home of Linda Hart.

President Tereva Hunter called the meeting to order. The roll call and minutes were given by Secretary Linda Hart. Correspondence was read by Corresponding Secretary Georgie Manion.

President Hunter asked for old and new business. Discussion was also held about the fine job the Club did for the Fall Tour of Homes and Bake Sale. This will help our Scholarship fund.

The program was then presented by Kristi Belcher. Everyone enjoyed an evening of fun playing

"Bunco". Refreshments were served by hostesses Chasity Pritz and Cheryl Roach. Red Velvet cake and other delicious refreshments were served with a Valentine theme.

Members present were: Kristi Belcher, Barbara Corn, Irma Crow, Billie Ann Earp, Frances Greenway, Linda Hart, Pat Holland, Tereva Hunter, Georgie Manion, Sally McGregor, Sue McNeil, Chasity Pritz, Cheryl Roach, Joanie Shnyder, and Dyanne Thompson.

The next meeting will be held on March 8, 2004 in the home of Joanie Shnyder.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Park Ranger Speaks To Cisco Writers Club**

by Viola M. Payne

Harold Reese of Cisco is a retired educator and a very active Park Ranger. This former "Scranton peanut farmer," as he calls himself, also stands out among Rangers - he wrote the three interpretive talks he gives daily during summers at the Mount Rushmore National Memorial in the Black Hill of South Dakota.

This and other topics were covered during his talk to the Cisco Writers Club at a meeting Feb. 3 in the Community Room, First National Bank in Cisco. Several guests joined Club members for this program, in which Reese gave an update on the two most interesting events at the Monument in recent years. He also touched on added security at the historic site since the 9-11 attack.

Writers Club President Duane Hale introduced Harold Reese, who is his cousin.

He said that Reese and his wife Suzanne (who grew up in Eastland) were traveling through Cisco in the year 2000, after his retirement as a School Administrator in La Junta, Colorado.

They hadn't decided where to live, but when they saw a special house that was for sale in Cisco they made up their minds mighty quick!

Reese said they certainly didn't regret their choice, especially when Colorado was "snowed in" like it has been this winter.

Going back to the Monument each summer is quite a diversion. Reese said he was glad to see that more Cisco people were showing up there, enjoying what he calls a "Shrine to Democracy."

He told the Writers Club

that one million people live in South Dakota, and three million visit that area alone each year. Many of these visitors are from foreign countries, and they are impressed by the granite heads of the Presidents, Washington, Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Lincoln.

He explained that sculptor Gutzon Borglum, of Danish ancestry, was a very patriotic American, and had a vision to create a monument to Democracy itself. Borglum had studied in Paris under the noted French sculptor Rodin. He was sixty years old in 1927 when the blasting and drilling began in the Black Hills. He died fourteen years later, with the project not quite finished.

Around 400 miners, lumberjacks and cattlemen worked on the project, and it was 80 percent carved by dynamite, Reese said. The sculpture of the heads cost less than a million dollars to create, and is now considered a priceless asset to the state.

Reese said that the two most interesting things that had happened to him recently was the visit of President George W. Bush to the Monument on August 16, 2002, and the traveling display of one of the original copies of the Declaration of Independence in 2003.

On the Bush visit, Reese said he didn't get very close to the President, but got to witness the details of what it took to protect him and what such a visit means.

Reese was drawn closer into the Declaration of Independence event - he was selected to stay in the room with that priceless relic and tell its story to all who came along!

Reese stated that only 200 copies of that document were printed in the first place, and only 25 are known to be in existence anywhere now. Two are in England, and the others mostly in private hands.

He passed out replicas of the Declaration to Club members, noting that the Document had only two signatures - John Hancock and one other. He said in 1776 it was considered treason to sign a document like that - you life was on the line. So others studied the Declaration for several weeks and then ratified and signed it.

Reese said that freedom cost something then and people were willing to pay the price.

"Others are still paying the price daily - in Afghanistan and Iraq," he noted.

Reese finished by quoting a bit of writing he really enjoys - that of sculptor Gutzon Borglum, who said, "Let us place there, carved high, as close to Heaven as we can, the words of our leaders, their faces, to show posterity what manner of men they were. Then breathe a prayer that these records will endure until the wind and the rain alone will wear them away."

After this talk, Club members were reminded that the next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 2, back in the Community Room, First National Bank.

Mr. H.V. O'Brien, Editor and Publisher, will be the speaker, and O'Brien is sure to have some interesting things to say about the operation of his newspapers. The public is invited to come out to this event.

**Visit A Vet For Valentine's Day**

Dear Editor:  
As America's military forces serve in Iraq and Afghanistan, we are reminded of all the brave men and women who have borne the burdens of war so that we, as a Nation, might live free of fear.

We at VA North Texas Health Care System are privileged to care for America's veterans - men and women who bore the burden at places like Utah Beach, Pork Chop Hill, Dak To, and the Persian Gulf. We invite our community to join us in honoring them during National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans week Feb. 9-13.

You can join our "Visit a Vet for Valentine's Day" program or stop by anytime during National Salute week to visit hospitalized veterans and remind them that their sacrifices have not been forgotten.

Every citizen can make a positive difference in the life of a hospitalized veteran. They can show they care by spending time with veterans during National Salute. A visit from school children and other community groups does much to lift the spirits of hospitalized veterans. I invite every member of our community to participate.

Show your care. Call our Voluntary Service offices in Dallas at 214 847-0428 or Bonham 903 583-6282 to schedule a visit or to learn how to join the National Salute.

Alan G. Harper, Director  
VA North Texas Health Care System  
4500 S. Lancaster Rd.  
Dallas, TX 75216  
\*\*\*\*\*

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed it's the only thing that ever has!  
—Margaret Mead

We are not what we know but what we are willing to learn.  
—Mary Catherine Bateson

I can do no great things, only small things with great love.  
—Mother Theresa

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