



Baird Star 50¢

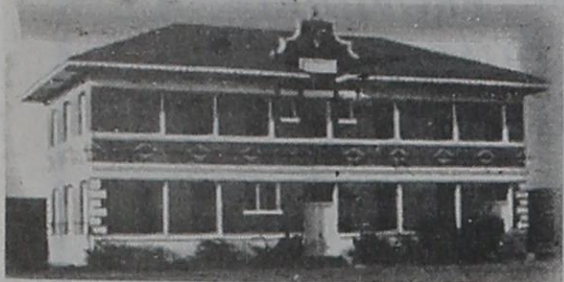
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31¢ By Mail

Volume 115 Number 49

Baird, Texas 79504

Thursday, December 4, 2007



"Visions of Sugar Plums", Gingerbreadmen, Santa's workshop, sleigh and reindeer, are only a few of the delightful displays at the Christmas Village, which opened in The Arches on Market Street last week. Students, teachers, and many members of the Baird community started work in February to create this holiday treat. Please see article "Area Towns ..." inside.

Baird Chamber of Commerce Christmas Committee Hosts Successful Christmas Village Grand Opening

The Baird Chamber of Commerce Christmas Committee hosted a successful grand opening of the Christmas Village last Wednesday. The Village drew a large crowd of visitors to the Arches, where more than 5,000 sq. feet of lighted and animated displays will be available for viewing until Dec. 20. Lyman Brigham provided free buggy rides during the festivities, Darla Smedley provided holiday music, the Chamber board served refreshments, and Santa was on hand to visit and pose for pictures with the youngsters. Everyone is reminded to visit The Christmas Village from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, Dec. 5-6, Dec. 12-13 and Dec. 19-20. There is no admission fee.

Update On Election 2004

by Viola M. Payne

Right now many people are concentrating on the Holidays, shutting our politics and big events as much as they can.

But the election of 2004 is upon us, and it is sure to bring changes.

For one thing, the court case on redistricting is supposed to be ruled on by Dec. 8. If the Court upholds the Republican plan on Congressional Redistricting, Callahan will land on the east side of an uneven line of counties called District 19.

Filing dates for candidates remains from Dec. 3 to Jan. 2, 2003 at 6 p.m. A letter from the Secretary of State was sent out saying that if redistricting is approved, the filing date will be rescheduled for "affected counties."

does not include Callahan County. It includes 28 counties in the state where County Election Precinct lines will have to be redrawn.

Under a Court Order, new Voter's Registration cards cannot be sent out until on or after Jan. 11, 2004.

The Primary Election is still set for Tuesday, March 9.

There are a number of offices up for election in Callahan County. These include the County Attorney, Sheriff, Tax Assessor-Collector, the 42nd Judicial District Judge, Commissioners for Pct. 1 & 3, and the Democratic and Republican Chairmen. All Constables are also up for election.

In addition, there will be a number of State and National offices up for election.

All are urged to register to vote!

2003 District 14-A All-District Football Team

District MVP - Tyler Williamson, Tolar

Offensive MVP - Ronny Stewart, Tolar

Offensive Newcomer - Cody Jester, May

Defensive MVP - Brody Vaughn, Tolar

Defensive Newcomer - Cory Hill, Tolar

1st Team Offense

QB - Michael Young, Rising Star

RB - Justin Teeter, Ranger; Chief McAdams, Baird; Jose Mauricio, Cross Plains; Roberto Rodriguez, Gorman

Center - Brenton McNutt, Cross Plains

Off. Lineman - David Evans, Rising Star; J. W. Pendleton, Tolar; Jeremy Sims, Baird; Dalon Stone, May; Zach Bryan, Gorman.

Tight End - Zach Chick, Tolar.

Receivers - Keaton Kelley, Ranger; Joel Massey, Rising Star; Justin Swann, Tolar.

Placekicker - Adam Yeager, Tolar.

Punter - Jose Mauricino, Cross Plains.

1st Team Defense

Def. End - Kevin Dudley, Tolar; Jeremy Sims, Baird.

Def. Lineman - Carlos Gomez, Baird; Jared Wooten, Cross Plains; David Evans, Rising Star; Sean Hodge, Tolar.

Linebacker - Chief McAdams, Baird; Jason Goains, Cross Plains; Trent Withers, Gorman; Gil Cochrane, Gorman; Justin Swann, Tolar.

Def. Back - L. J. Mendez, Baird; Sawyer Wright, Gorman; Vishal Patel, Ranger; Adam Yeager, Tolar; Joel Massey, Rising Star;

Tyler Walker, Tolar; Blain Scott, Baird; Brandon Horton, Cross Plains.

2nd Team Offense

QB - Josh Sims, Baird.

RB - Sawyer Wright, Gorman; Zach Green, Baird; Trent Withers, Gorman.

Center - Brodie Vaughn, Tolar.

Off. Lineman - Dustin Waldrop, Tolar; Sean Hodge, Tolar; Erick Robbins, Rising Star; Derric Nichols, Baird; Heath Walker, Cross Plains; J. T. Whitfill, Gorman.

Tight End - Russell Shahan, Tolar.

Receiver - Blain Scott, Baird; Andy Bennett, Cross Plains; Monty Monroe, Ranger; Tyler Walker, Tolar.

Placekicker - Jed Womack, Baird.

Punter - L. J. Mendez, Baird.

2nd Team Defense

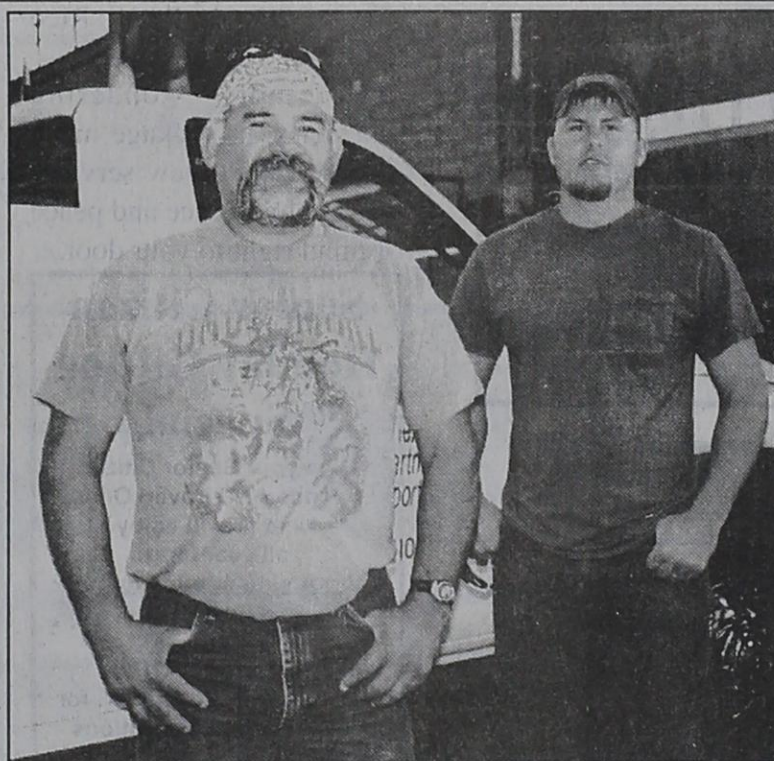
Def. End - Landon Westerman, Rising Star; Randy Duncan, Cross Plains.

Def. Lineman - J. W. Pendleton, Tolar; Zach Green, Baird; Alex Rodriguez, May; Zach Bryan, Gorman; Tim Guerra, Gorman.

Linebacker - Josh Sims, Baird; Morgan Dees, May; Daniel Young, Rising Star; Lance Jones, Gorman; Brady McCormack, Ranger.

Def. Back - Andy Bennett, Cross Plains; Michael Young, Rising Star; Bo Allen, May; Roberto Rodriguez, Gorman; Ryan Wright, Gorman; Keaton Kelley, Ranger.

continued inside
Please see District



Pedro Cerda, left, and Michael Rudder of the Abilene District's Callahan County maintenance section were the top finalists in their section's Truck Rodeo. Cerda and Rudder, both maintenance technicians, came in first and second respectively and earned the right to represent the Callahan County section in the district wide rodeo held in Abilene. There, they competed against 34 other drivers or rights to attend the state finals. The Texas Department of Transportation sponsors the annual rodeo as part of the fleet safety training. The drivers are tested on several driving events including vehicle inspection, stop line, alley dock and straight line. (TxDOT photo by Mary Beth Kilgore)

Traffic Crash Near Putnam Claims Life Of W. Texas Man

A traffic crash near Putnam, Texas claimed the life of Robert Flores, 27, of Littlefield, TX on Saturday.

The crash occurred, according to DPS sources, when Flores pulled without lights from the shoulder of I 20 into the way of westbound tractor-trailer truck. The truck hit the car, a 1993 Mitsubishi.

The crash occurred about 8:45 p.m. Flores was pro-

nounced dead at the scene by a justice of peace at 9:15 p.m., Charlie Rose, DPS communications operator said.

Another passenger in the Mitsubishi, Clarence Flores, 29, also of Littlefield was reported injured but in fair condition. He was taken to Hendrick Medical Center.

The driver of the west-bound truck was reported uninjured.

Texas Department of Health will hold the following immunization clinic in Baird: Monday, December 8 - Baird Cafetorium, 400 West 7th, 10-12.



Larry McIntire, right, maintenance inspector in the Callahan County maintenance section, is being presented a Certificate of Service from Bill Hale. McIntire, a 10-year employee with the Texas Department of Transportation, was honored for his longevity during a recent supervisors meeting in Abilene. In addition to the framed certificate, he received a 10-year service pin and a rosewood pen. Hale is the former Abilene district engineer. (TxDOT photo by Mary Beth Kilgore)

Callahan County Star

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First Baptist Church Of Baird Events Scheduled

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

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

Dec. 6 Womens Retreat for All Ladies in the Community with Peg Forrest. Theme is "Fixing your Eyes on Jesus". It will be from 10:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. and will include brunch.

Dec. 7 Bay Forrest (former NBA center for the Phoenix Suns and missionary in Kenya, East Africa) will be speaking to the congregation at the 11:00 a.m. service.

Dec. 8 Esther Sunday School Class will have their class Christmas party.

Bay And Peg Forrest To Speak At First Baptist Church Baird

Women's Retreat for all ladies in the community with Peg Forrest will be Dec. 6 at the First Baptist Church Baird, 240 Race St.

The theme is "Fixing your Eyes on Jesus."

Scheduled for 10:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., it will include brunch.

Peg's heart beats with a passion to lead others into a more personal, intimate relationship with their Savior.

Her "homespun" style and simplistic love for the Scriptures both encourages, yet helps her audience relate to the messenger.

She and her husband, Bay Forrest, have written several books and ministered to hundreds all over the world.

Bay (former NBA center for the Phoenix Suns and missionary in Kenya, East Africa) will be speaking to the congregation at the 11:00 a.m. service on Dec. 7th.

Callahan County (Baird) Star Classifieds

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From page one
District

Honorable Mention

Rising Star
Offense: Michael Young - Punter; Landon Westerman - Center; Daniel Young - RB; Cory Griffith - Rec.; Defense: Erick Robbins - Def. End; Cory Griffith - Def. Back.

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Dec. 9 All women in the community are invited to Prayer Breakfast for ladies. Breakfast will be ready by 7:00 a.m. and prayertime to follow. Ladies if you can only be there for part of it, please come on.

Dec. 13 Womens Mission Group will be leaving the church at 10:30 a.m. to go to Mary Green's home north of Putnam for Christmas brunch and time of prayer. Back to Baird by 1:00 p.m.

Dec. 21 The Adult choir will be presenting "A Christmas Gift" in the 11:00 a.m. service.

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11th Court of Appeals

Eastland, Texas
Proceedings (En Banc)
November 26, 2003
Affirmed

Jerry Bruce Gordon v. State of Texas, Erath. (Per Curiam Opinion) (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall)

Modified & Affirmed
Dorjan Shane Thomas v. State of Texas, Grayson. (Opinion by Justice McCall) (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall)

Reversed & Remanded
Ramon Reyna v. State of Texas, Collin. (Opinion by Justice Wright) (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall)

Motion Submitted & Granted; Appeal Dismissed

Brian Anthony Pando v. State of Texas, Ector. Appellant's motion to dismiss appeal. (Per Curiam Opinion) (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall)

Appeal Dismissed
C.L. Bowling d/b/a Bowling Machine & Fab v. Chapion Machine Tool Sales, Inc. et al, Harris. (Per Curiam Memorandum Opinion) (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall)

Motions Submitted & Granted
Horatio Sprague Taveau, D.O. v. Angela M. Brenden, Individually and as Representative of the Estate of Linda Gayle Evans, Deceased, Gayle S. Maxwell, and Curtis Kirkpatrick, Taylor. Appellees' motion for extension of time to file brief.

American Home Assurance Company, Inc. and The Travelers Indemnity Company v. Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee, Dallas. Appellee's agreed motion for extension of time to file motion for rehearing.

Vecentie Morales, Jr. v. State of Texas, Palo Pinto. State's motion for extension of time to file brief.

Gore Oil Company d/b/a Crego Exploration, Browning Oil Company, Inc., The Pickens Company, Inc., W.C. Pickens, Jr., and Cody Texas, L.P. v. Steve Roosth, Trustee, New Horizons Oil & Gas, Ltd., and John D. Proctor, Trustee, Knox. Appellees' second motion for extension of time to file brief.

Pedro Castillo v. State of Texas, Howard. Appellant's second motion for extension of time to file brief.

Larry Smith v. State of Texas, Harris. Appellant's motion for extension of time to file brief.

Jose Miguel Ramirez v. State of Texas, Nolan. Appellant's motion for extension of time to file brief.

Alfred Castellon Lopez v. State of Texas, Midland. Appellant's motion for extension of time to file reporter's record.

Steven Piazza v. Cinemark USA, Harris. Appellant's motion for enlargement of time within which to perfect bill of exceptions in trial court.

Motion Submitted & Overruled
DRWSEA, Inc. v. Trinity Meadows Properties, Inc, Dallas. Appellant's motion for rehearing. (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Wright, and Justice McCall)

Cases Submitted on Briefs
Eric Smith v. State of Texas, Rockwall

Sandra Jones Brown v. State of Texas, Dallas
Neftali Cisneros v. State of

Morton Valley Past and Present

By Wanda Lee Beck Skinner

I am putting this article in today's paper so that you can make your plans to help the Morton Valley Community and Harmony Baptist celebrate a combination Thanksgiving-Christmas day on December 7, 2003. The service will be led by the youth and the message will be preached by Mike Norris, the youth director. We will have a meal with everyone bringing a dish of their choice immediately following the morning service. The church will furnish ham, turkey, and the tea and coffee. After the meal there

Texas, Taylor.
Terry Gene Freeman v. State of Texas, Erath.
Larry Dan Beard v. State of Texas, Scurry.
Brandon Beller v. State of Texas, Harris.

will be a candlelight service in the church. We invite everyone to attend any or all of these services. There will be no Circle of Prayer because of these events. Saturday will be spent with a workday to prepare the buildings for the events of Sunday. You are welcome to come and help with this project.

The response on the cookbook has been wonderful and it is almost complete and ready for print.

Many families enjoyed family and friends from near and far over the Thanksgiving week. I even heard of one of those famous scavenger hunts. If you have never been on one, you are missing a blessing but it might give you quite an education (on plants and creatures) I'll bet there are more turkeys sitting in refrigerators waiting to be made into soup or salad than

there are in the turkey farms this week.

Harmony had a good crowd for Sunday services with James Teel's daughter, son-in-law and grandson adding to our congregation. They came all the way from Florida. We did miss those who are recovering from surgery, suffering from colds, and still out visiting their families. Barbara Rogers gave a testimony, Karen Williamson gave the Children's sermon, Maria Beck read the Scripture from II Corinthians 8, special music was a duet by Paul Sparkman and Ashley Skinner. Brother Teel preached on

What God wants us to do about the Christian offering. The service ended with a time of meditation on what God has given us through His Son Jesus. It was indeed a time of growth and spiritual fellowship. If you don't have a church home, you might enjoy visiting us and seeing if you like our type of services.

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Making A Difference

By Rex M. Rogers

Gambling is a moral cancer in society
I grew up in a Christian home that considered gambling in all its forms to be wrong. I was never permitted to use "playing cards," and my parents were suspicious of most other kinds of cards as well. We used dice when we played Monopoly, but that was about all, and I never pitched pennies as a boy or participated in office pools as an adult.

As a youth I had a difficult time understanding why gambling might be wrong because I tended to focus on the device, like cards or dice. But the device is not intrinsically evil. Cards, dice, pennies, dollar bills, horses, greyhound dogs--all some-time-instruments of gambling--are no more evil than baseball, basketball, or golf--also instruments of gambling.

Gambling is immoral because it is a wrong use of the resources that God entrusts to us. Gambling is not, in the words of a newspaper columnist, "benign entertainment." Gambling is a potentially addictive misuse of funds.

The biblical principle that gambling violates is stewardship. It is to God that we must give account for every action, every word, every use of the time, talent, and treasure He has granted to us. God says in Proverbs that "he who works his land will

have abundant food, but he who chases fantasies. They yield to the lure of quick riches, the "something for nothing" enchantment.

Gambling is a black hole, a bottomless pit. It doesn't matter what device we use, gambling always asks us to play the odds, and always in the long run gambling wins.

Gambling is a moral cancer. Fight it at every turn.

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

Letter of Appreciation

The Cisco Ex-GI Association members would like to express their appreciation and a "Big Thank You" to all who assisted in making their rummage sale and dog dog sale a success!

All donations from our citizens were greatly appreciated. We would also like to personally thank the following...Sonic for the soda cups, First Methodist Church of Cisco for the loan of their clothing racks and donations left from their sale, and the Pentecostal Church of Cross Plains for all their donations. Without

your assistance the sale would not have taken place.

All left over items were donated to the Goodwill in Eastland...so all items benefited several families. "THANK YOU ALL!"

Flu Vaccine Available At Girling Healthcare

Girling Health Care, Inc. has 200 flu vaccines available. We will be offering them on a first come first serve basis at the Girling office 957 E. Main, Eastland from 9 a.m. until

3 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 5.

The cost is \$12.00 per vaccine. For those who have a Medicare Part B card the vaccine is at no cost. Please call 629-1268 for further information.

CROSSWORD ANSWER

V	A	S	T	L	A	R	K	F	O	R	M			
A	R	E	A	I	N	A	N	E	O	B	O	E		
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Poetry Corner

The Shepherd's Voice
As we go down life's high-ways
Turning neither left or right.
We are like sheep that's gone astray
With no shepherd in sight.
When the Lord shows His mercy
Open our eyes that we may see.
Softly He speaks to us
Take up thy cross and follow Me.
For we know His voice
A stranger's voice we would not obey.
All we need for Him to speak
And then to lead the way.
As the trumpets sound
And we close our eyes in peace.
Will we hear the Good Shepherd
When He calls home His sheep?

Bob Harbin

THE MECHANIC'S CORNER

An old saying, "Let the buyer beware," definitely holds true when purchasing a used car. If your car knowledge is limited, have a trusted friend/mechanic accompany you to the car lot. It is extremely important to have items such as the brakes and all tires checked. If you have access to a car lift, you can look at the vehicle's entire undercarriage and spot any potential problems. Of course, examining all of the fluids is just as important as checking the belts, hoses, engine, transmission, and even having a history check on the vehicle itself.

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QUOTES

"Marriage is a feast where the grace is sometimes better than the dinner." - Charles Caleb Colton

"Give a man a free hand and he'll try to put it all over you." - Mae West



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<p>2004 FORD F-150 HERITAGE REGULAR CAB, STK# C522 \$17,464* MSRP \$22,630 RF Discount \$2,666 Rebate \$2,500</p>	<p>2004 FORD F-250 QUAD CAB 4X2, XLT, V8, AUTO, L.S. AXLE, #C461 \$25,499* MSRP \$31,325 RF Discount \$3,826 Rebate \$2,000</p>			
<p>2004 FORD F-150 REG. CAB STK# C513 \$20,777* MSRP \$23,065 RF Discount \$2,288</p>	<p>2004 FORD F-150 QUAD CAB STK# C519 \$24,999* MSRP \$28,040 RF Discount \$3,041</p>	<p>2004 FORD F-150 SUPER CREW XLT V8, AUTO, P PEDALS, T TOW, #C588 \$28,399* MSRP \$32,085 RF Discount \$3,686</p>		
<p>02 F-350 Crew Cab C459A, 4x4, Diesel, Auto, XLT \$31,990</p>	<p>03 F-250 Quad Cab C431A, 4x4, Auto, XLT \$24,990</p>	<p>03 F-350 Quad Cab C479A, 4x2, XLT, Diesel, Auto \$29,990</p>	<p>97 F-350 Crew C570A, 4x4, Diesel, Auto, XLT \$15,990</p>	<p>97 Chevy Blazer C570B, 4 Door, Auto, PW/PL \$7,990</p>
<p>01 F-150 Super Crew C235A, 4x4, XLT \$21,990</p>	<p>02 F-150 Super Crew C372A, XLT, 4x2 \$19,990</p>	<p>02 Ford Explorer XLT C516A, Auto, 3rd Seat, Dual Air, Factory Warranty \$18,990</p>	<p>03 F-250 Crew Cab C502A, Lariat, Diesel, Auto \$31,990</p>	<p>02 F-350 Quad Cab C538A, Dually, Diesel, Auto, Factory Warranty \$26,990</p>
<p>00 F-150 Reg Cab C452BB, V6, Auto, T/C \$6,990</p>	<p>01 F-150 Super Crew C532A, V8, Auto, XLT \$17,990</p>	<p>01 Ford Taurus SE G247, Auto, PW/PL, P Seat, 30K Miles \$8,990</p>	<p>02 D1500 Crew Cab C574A, V8, Auto, SLT \$17,990</p>	<p>01 F-150 Quad Cab G083, XLT, V8, Auto \$18,990</p>
<p>00 F-150 Quad Cab C473A, XLT, Auto \$12,990</p>	<p>02 F-150 Super Crew G197, V8, Auto, XLT, Factory Warranty \$19,990</p>	<p>02 F-250 Crew Cab C408A, Diesel, Auto, XLT \$25,990</p>	<p>02 F-350 Quad Cab G085, XLT, Diesel, Auto \$21,990</p>	<p>01 D1500 Quad C195A, V8, Auto, SLT \$17,990</p>
<p>02 Sport Trac C530A, XLT, Auto \$17,990</p>	<p>99 Honda CRV C545B, Auto, PW/PL, 4 Door \$9,990</p>	<p>02 Blazer G171, 4 Door, Auto \$16,990</p>	<p>03 Ranger Super Cab G208, Auto, Edge \$14,990</p>	<p>00 Ranger G233, 4x4, Super Cab, Auto \$12,990</p>
<p>02 Dodge Neon G203, 4 Door, Auto \$192^{MO} \$9,990, 0 Down, 6.9%+60 WAC</p>	<p>99 Ranger Reg Cab C395A \$169^{MO} \$7,990, 0 Down, 6.9%+60 WAC</p>	<p>02 Escort G158, 4 Door, SE, Auto \$169^{MO} \$7,990, 0 Down, 6.9%+60 WAC</p>	<p>00 Mustang LX G132, T/C, P Seat \$212^{MO} \$9,990, 0 Down, 6.9%+60 WAC</p>	<p>03 Expoler XLT G251, 3rd Seat, Dual Air, Fac. Warranty \$379^{MO} \$20,990, 0 Down, 5.9%+72 WAC</p>

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PRISONERS OF WAR HONORED--Four former Prisoners of War were program and guests of honor at the recent Veterans Day meeting of the Abilene Founders Lions Club meeting. Shown are POW Dennis Bruno, Program Chairman Bob Tiffany, POW Buddy Hart of Baird, POW John Smith, formerly of Eastland, and POW Ed Duseck. The four POWs are members of the Abilene club. (Their individual stories of their captivity were detailed in a recent article in this publication, provided by Jim Bruton of Eastland who attended the meeting.)

Protecting Seniors From Financial Exploitation

By Greg Abbott
Attorney General of
Texas

Protecting the elderly is a top priority for my administration. Our agency is responsible for enforcing nursing home standards and for investigating and prosecuting Medicaid fraud. But as many of you know, senior Texans also need our support and protection in the area of financial exploitation.

Financial exploitation comes in many forms, ranging from employees, caregivers, and even family members who take money and property from the elderly without permission, to conartists who wheedle and trick financial information, checks, and cold cash from trusting or confused seniors.

We tell seniors over and over that it is okay to hang up on telemarketers announcing prizes and lottery winnings and special opportunities available "today only." If you know a senior Texan who has just won a foreign lottery, please show him or her this column. Foreign lotteries are well known scams, and they rob many thousands of people of their life savings every year.

This month, we will be recognizing a number of individuals who have made an outstanding effort to protect senior Texans from financial exploitation. They are bank tellers who were alert enough to notice when elderly customers began to make withdrawals in a pattern that signaled possible financial abuse. These tellers, like many banking professionals, were aware of the telltale signs of financial abuse and exploitation. They not only spotted the abuse, but then went the extra mile, helping their customers to change their account numbers, credit card and PIN numbers, and even their phone numbers, in order to secure their accounts from unscrupulous telemarketers.

We ask tellers to look out for elderly customers who seem confused, or who are accompanied by other persons who may be exerting pressure or undue influence. It is not unheard of for cons to accost an elderly person in a bank parking lot, and use threats to make the customer

withdraw cash. You, too, can help seniors in your community if you are aware of some of the signs of financial exploitation. You should be concerned if a senior who was previously financially secure begins to make unusual withdrawals, talks about "investments" that sound unrealistically profitable, or seems to be granting unusual access or control to another person in suspicious circumstances.

Isolation increases a senior's risk of being

financially exploited or abused. Those who exploit seniors are only too happy to offer advice about everything from investments and financial management to home repairs. We urge seniors to seek advice from an uninvolved relative, clergyman, or professional before entering into agreements or financial transactions.

We warn seniors to trust only a second opinion of their own choice. Too often,

con artists have accomplices who are standing by to offer "legal advice" or "financial consulting" services. The accomplices may pose as lawyers, bankers, CPAs, or even government agents.

You can help the seniors in your community by reaching out and including them in community, neighborhood, or church events. You can report suspected financial abuse or exploitation to Adult Protective Services at (800) 252-5400.

Points To Remember Financial Exploitation

Tips for seniors:

-Keep your checkbook and credit cards in a safe place

-Do not endorse checks until you are at the bank, ready to make your deposit

-Never sign a blank check or a contract with blank spaces

-Never lend your identification, credit cards, or checks to another person

-Get rid of credit cards and ATM cards that you don't use

-Never sign anything, pay anything, or enter an agreement, if you do not fully understand the transaction

-HANG UP on telemarketers who want your financial information, or who will not take "no" for an

answer

-When you seek advice or assistance with financial matters, make your own choice about whom to consult

-Provide financial information over the phone only if YOU looked up the number and placed the call
Call your local Area

Agency on Aging at 1-800-252-9240 to find out what kinds of activities and services may be available to you in your community.

Information on this and other topics is available on the Attorney General's Web site at

www.oag.state.tx.us.

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COLON CANCER SCREENING CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE

Colon cancer is the second leading cause of death in both men and women in the United States.

Colon cancer is preventable and frequently curable.

Colon cancer can occur with no symptoms.

That's why regular screening is so important, even if you are feeling fine.

The following symptoms might indicate colorectal cancer:

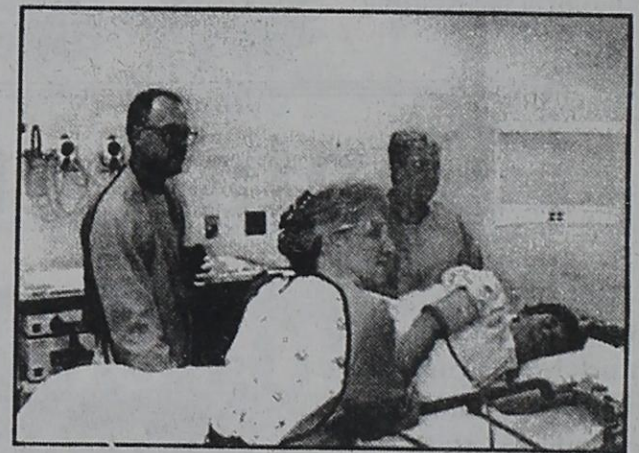
- A change in bowel habits – diarrhea or constipation
- Unexplained weight loss
- Blood in stool or anemia
- Narrower than normal stool or feeling that the bowel does not empty completely
- Abdominal discomfort (gas, bloating, fullness, cramps)

Screening tools currently being used:

- Flexible sigmoidoscopy is a visual examination of the lower third of the colon.
- Colonoscopy is the "gold standard" for colorectal screening. It is a more thorough visualization of the entire colon to look for suspicious lesions or to remove polyps.

Who should be screened for colon cancer? Everyone age 50 years or older.

High risk groups: Family history of inherited forms of colon cancer, history of inflammatory bowel disease, and personal or family history of colon cancer or polyps.



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Our physicians are Board Certified in Gastroenterology with expertise in performing upper endoscopy, colonoscopy and sigmoidoscopy

Area Towns Offer Holiday Delights

If the Christmas spirit has not yet kindled a flame in your heart, let Holiday events and exhibits along the I-20 corridor help bring season joy to your pre-season hours. "Christmas Village" has opened its doors in downtown Baird, Texas.

A vision of community people, the village creation began in February of 2003.

Baird students, teachers, and many other members of the community put hours of work into this enchanting work of art.

Santa's workshop, sleigh and reindeer, a Gingerbread House, and a little ice skater, who circles 'round and 'round and never loses her smile, are only a few of the fairy tale displays.

Of course, Santa and his helpers are there to greet the visitors, and live Christmas music fills the air.

Christmas Village is located in The Arches on Market Street. Admission is free. Donations are welcome.

Opening hours are Fridays and Saturdays before Christmas from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.

Friday night, Dec. 5, marks the annual lighted Christmas parade in Ranger, Texas.

This year's theme is "Cowboy Christmas", and the 8th annual parade - presented by the Ranger Historical Preservation Society - will feature favorites such as the Hardin-Simmons University Six White Horses and Cowboy band, plus new entries.

Beginning at 6:00 PM, the parade sparkles and glitters as it winds its way down Ranger's historic Main Street, ending at the Roaring

Ranger Museum.

Santa makes a stop at the Ranger Parade, too. Traditionally he is escorted in a big red fire engine down Main Street and escorted to the Ranger Senior Citizen Center for a visit with children.

Visitors from far and wide come to see this beautiful parade.

Santa is also coming to Eastland on December 6, when the town celebrates Christmas On The Square from 12 Am to 4 PM.

Popcorn stringing, a paper chain contest, caroling, and a drawing for a giant stocking or just a few of the delightful entertainments. Two "Santa Warm-up Stations" will be located on the square, where visitors can stop in for refreshments.

Columnist/publisher/author Charles Chupp will be at the Chamber office to autograph his new book, The Nth Reader, at 1:00 PM.

Neglected Texas History is collected in the Nth Reader with Chupp's "one of a kind" touch.

Don't miss these special events around the Eastland square on Saturday.

Cisco, Texas is opening their Christmas season with an annual Lighted Christmas Parade on Saturday, Dec. 6. The theme for this year is "The Nativity".

The parade begins at 6:00 PM and travels along Conrad Hilton Ave. to the delight of spectators lining the street.

Cisco also offers a wonderful holiday season Tour of Homes on December 15 from 6:00 to 8:30 PM.

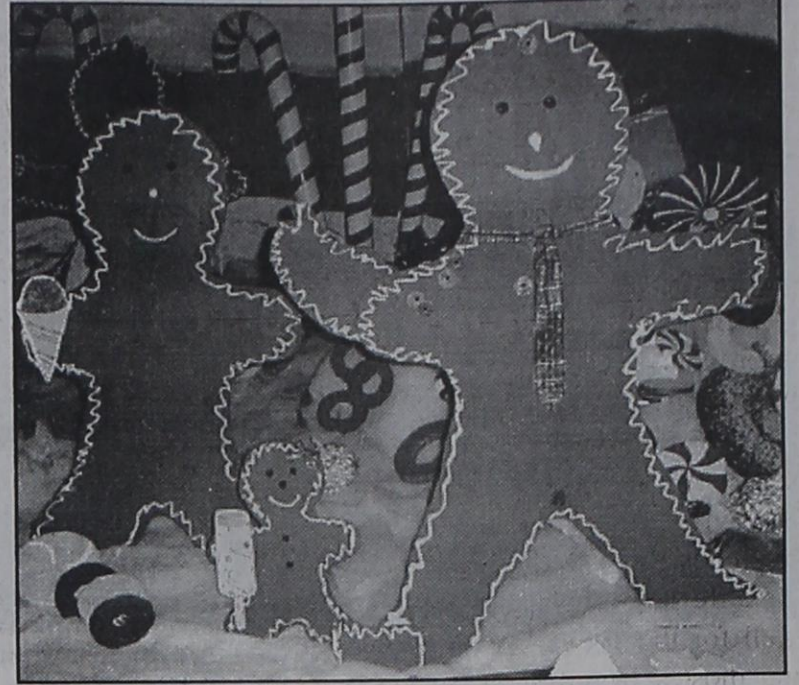
This year a little known

treasure of the Cisco Community will be visited - The Lela Latch Lloyd Museum, located in the former City Hall building.

The museum contains a wealth of historical artifacts and Cisco memorabilia.

Historian Dr. Duane Hale will provide an insightful and exciting tour of the museum with glances into the history of Cisco.

Please contact the Chamber of Commerce of Baird, Ranger, Eastland, or Cisco for further details concerning Holiday events.



Baird Christmas Village Features Animated, Lighted Displays

Nov. 26 marked the opening of 5,000 square feet of animated and lighted displays at the Christmas Village in Baird, TX.

The Village is located in The Arches on Market Street in downtown Baird.

There is no admission fee.

The village will be open from 6-8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, Dec. 5-6, Dec. 12-13 and Dec. 19-20.

Make plans to visit this beautiful Holiday exhibit.

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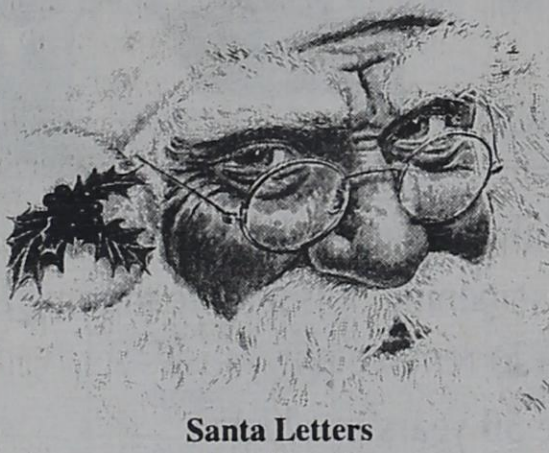
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Santa Letters

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Send the address of the child and his or her name with \$4.00 to:



Santa Letters
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Letters will start going out the weekend of Thanksgiving.

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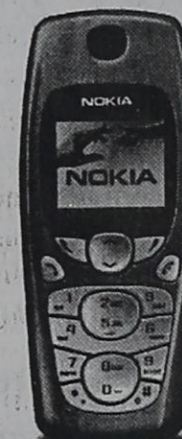
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Personally Speaking

By Sam Pendergrast

Medicare Small Print Will Cost Oldsters- and Maybe GOP

So the GOP- and about a dozen antsy Democrats- in the Senate have handed "Dubya" the political coup of the term, a bill the GOP says will "save" Medicare and Teddy Kennedy and Tom Daschle say is the death knell for the country's second most successful retirement program (after Social Security).

Even the AARP leadership endorsed the bill- at least heavily in part because the AARP is in the insurance business the bill is really intended to help.

But tens of thousands of AARP (for American Association of Retired Persons) grassroots members have already canceled their memberships and many more probably will when they find out what's really in this pig-in-a-poke that was passed with "Dubya" coercion almost before the ink was dry on the 1300 complicated pages that now seem to favor insurance companies and drug manufacturers over the alleged medical aid for retir-

ees.

(Charlie Stenholm voted for it in the House, just in case Tom Delay's outrageous redistricting of Texas isn't ruled unconstitutional and Stenholm has to run against a real Republican from Lubbock, but that whole ploy remains under study of the courts- which the GOP respects or not depending on whether you're talking about the courts that put Dubya in the White House or the one that said gay marriages bans are unconstitutional in Massachusetts.)

So prescription drugs are added to the Medicare program- but not from the government to the individual, as with Medicare, which has worked wonderfully for decades, but through private insurance, for which elders will pay and get a discount card worth, say, 15 percent (on drugs that are already up some thousand per cent and over which the bill apparently exerts no future controls).

Oh, and they're going to try to close that loophole that has had oldsters streaming across the border for much-dis-

counted American drugs under price controls in Canada.

And the GOP isn't bragging about the fact that Senate Majority Leader Frist is a major owner of an HMO system that will benefit from the billions marked for a contest with standard Medicare. These people simply have no shame as long as they are benefiting such constituents as insurance and drug companies.)

Interestingly, none of this takes place until well after the 2004 election- apparently intended to protect Dubya in case things don't work out.

But that works both ways.

My guess is that the more retirees and fair citizens see of the bill the less they'll like it, and oldsters of all people know the way to get rid of scalawags is to vote 'em out.

2004 will give plenty of time to kill unstarted GOP mandates and go back to the bi-partisan bill that simply would have added a reasonable prescription drug program to the existing Medicare.

I hope somebody mentioned that to Veep Chaney while he was in Abilene with a hand out and a promise to try again on the outrageous energy bill that was killed largely because it exempted oil companies from blame for polluting our water.

Eastland X-treme Seeks Cheerleaders and Dancers

Eastland X-treme Semi-Pro Football is looking for ladies ages 18 and up for the upcoming 2004 season. Prospective dancers should come prepared to show their skills and athletic ability Saturday, December 6 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at

the Eastland High School Athletic Complex (track and practice field), and Sunday, December 7th from 1-6 p.m. Prospective dancers will be taught a brief combination and several team routines.

For more information

please call Entertainment Coordinator, Lindsey Harper (254) 629-1317 or (512) 736-9605.

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Stenholm Votes For New National Energy Plan

West Texas Oil Patch Stands To Benefit From Increased Production

Washington, D.C.— Congressman Stenholm (TX-17) today voted for a new national energy policy when it was considered by the U.S. House of Representatives, following the conclusion of Conference Committee negotiations. Stenholm served on the Conference Committee that worked to reconcile the House and Senate versions of the energy legislation and form a final Conference Report.

"I'm glad we were able to work through our differences to shape an energy bill that makes great strides to ensure all Americans have access to reliable and affordable energy," Stenholm said.

"This legislation is, no doubt, one of the most important measures to come out of the Congress this year, and it will have lasting benefits for West Texas," Stenholm said. "For years, I've worked hard to make

sure the oil patch's voice was heard, and I'm glad this legislation includes the right incentives for continued domestic energy production."

H.R. 6, *The Energy Policy Act of 2003*, includes a number of provisions to increase domestic oil and natural gas production, increase the use of renewable sources of energy and provide incentives for consumers to embrace energy conservation technologies. This legislation will diversify America's energy portfolio and make our nation less dependent on foreign petroleum sources.

"I am pleased this legislation balances traditional domestic energy production with adequate conservation measures and more incentives for renewable energy production, including ethanol and electricity generated from wind," Stenholm said. "This bill will bring real economic

growth to West Texas by ensuring continued production from our oil and gas fields. This bill sets the stage for more oil and gas production in West Texas, and, therefore, our hospitals and schools will benefit from the increased royalties associated with this production."

The House of Representatives approved the Conference Report by a margin of 246 to 180 shortly before 5 p.m. Eastern Time. It now is up to the U.S. Senate to approve it, before sending it to President Bush to sign into law.

ENERGY BILL PROVISIONS OF SIGNIFICANCE TO WEST TEXAS

➤ Stormwater runoff from oil and gas construction sites is exempt from additional Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) permitting which allows independent producers to continue the

exploration and production of oil and natural gas as they have in the past

➤ Hydraulic fracturing is redefined in the Safe Drinking Water Act to allow drillers to continue injecting fluids underground. This bill clarifies legislative language so that EPA cannot prevent producers from using traditional techniques to extract gas from complex formations. Hydraulic fracturing poses no threat to drinking water supplies.

➤ Rural electricity distribution cooperatives are exempt from full Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regulation, thus protecting consumers from unfair electricity rate increases.

➤ Most of the oil and gas production in West Texas is from marginal fields. Includes a counter-cyclical tax credit of \$3/bbl for oil, and \$0.50/mcf for gas produced from marginal

wells. This goes into effect when the price of oil drops below \$15/bbl for oil and \$3.00/mcf for gas.

➤ Includes a one-year suspension of the limitation on 65% of taxable income limit from marginal wells.

➤ Delay rental payments related to oil and gas development are deductible over a 24-month period from the date that the payment was incurred.

➤ Geological and geophysical expenditures are deductible over a 24-month period from the date those expenses were incurred.

➤ There is a temporary repeal of the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) preference for intangible

drilling costs. This expires January 1, 2006.

➤ A three-year wind energy production tax credit (PTC) is included in the bill. The credit is 1.8 cents per kilowatt hour. With this PTC, wind energy generation in West Texas will increase and the region will be able to diversify its energy portfolio.

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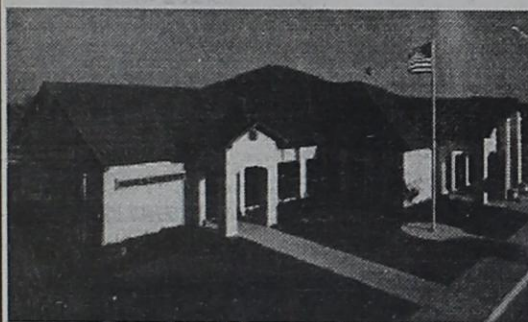
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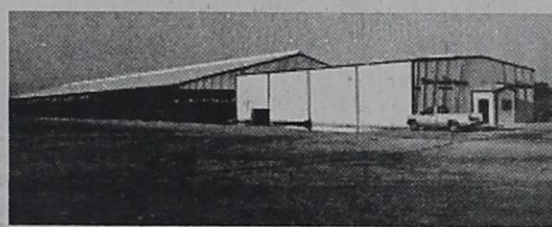
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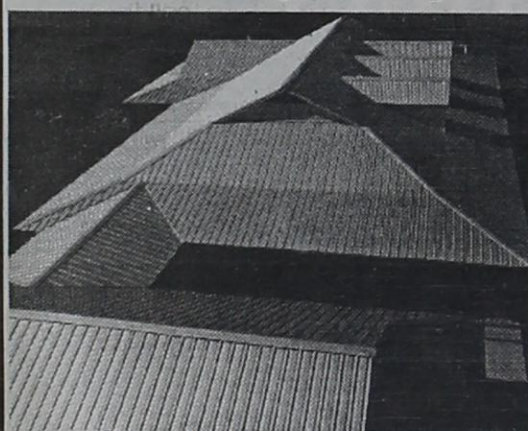
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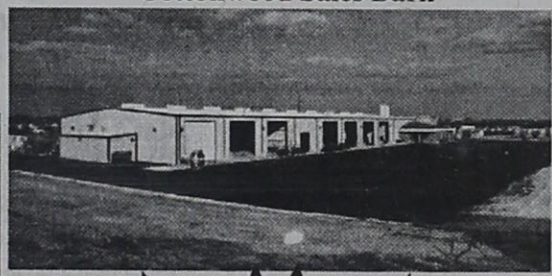
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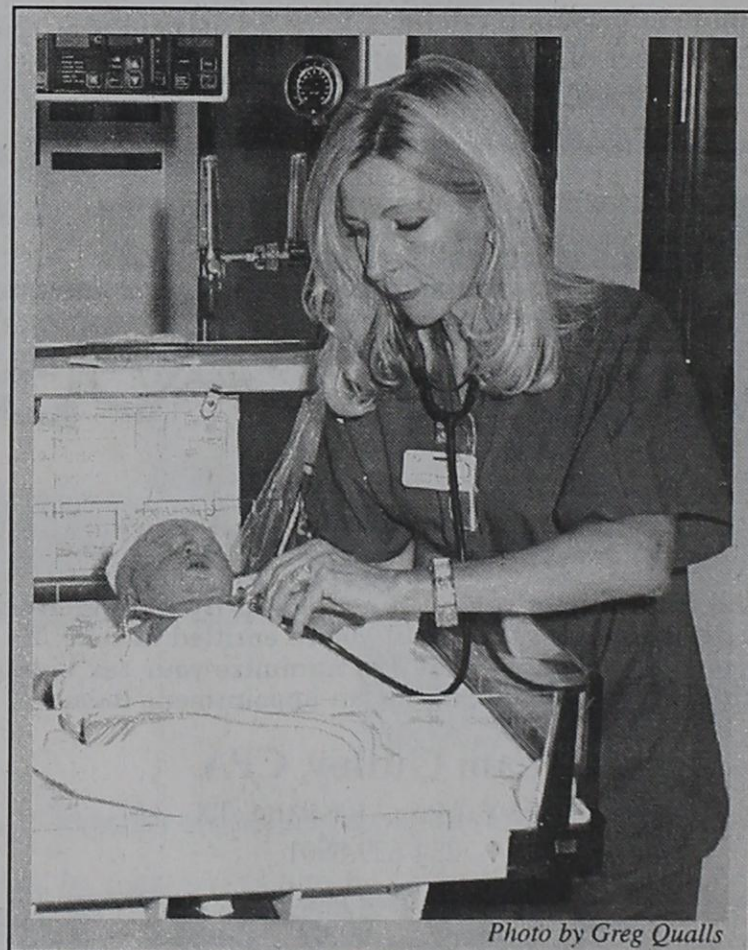


Photo by Greg Qualls

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BAIRD BEARS

Bears Well Represented On All-District Team

Throughout the 2003 District 14-A All-District Football Team lineup, the Baird Bears are well represented.

The selections from the Baird football team for the 1st Team Offense are RB - Chief McAdams and Off. Lineman - Jeremy Sims.

Baird players chosen for the 1st Team Defense are: Def. End - Jeremy Sims, Def. Lineman - Carlos Gomez, Lineback - Chief McAdams, Def. Back - L. J. Mendez and Blan Scott.

Second Team selections included QB - Josh Sims, RB - Zach Green, Off. Lineman - Derric Nichols, Receiver - Blan Scott, Place Kicker - Jed Womack, and Punter - L. J. Mendez.

Changes in the district are expected for the 2004 football season. Rising Star and May are going six-man. Some coaches anticipate that Albany and DeLeon will join the district. An announcement is awaited in February.

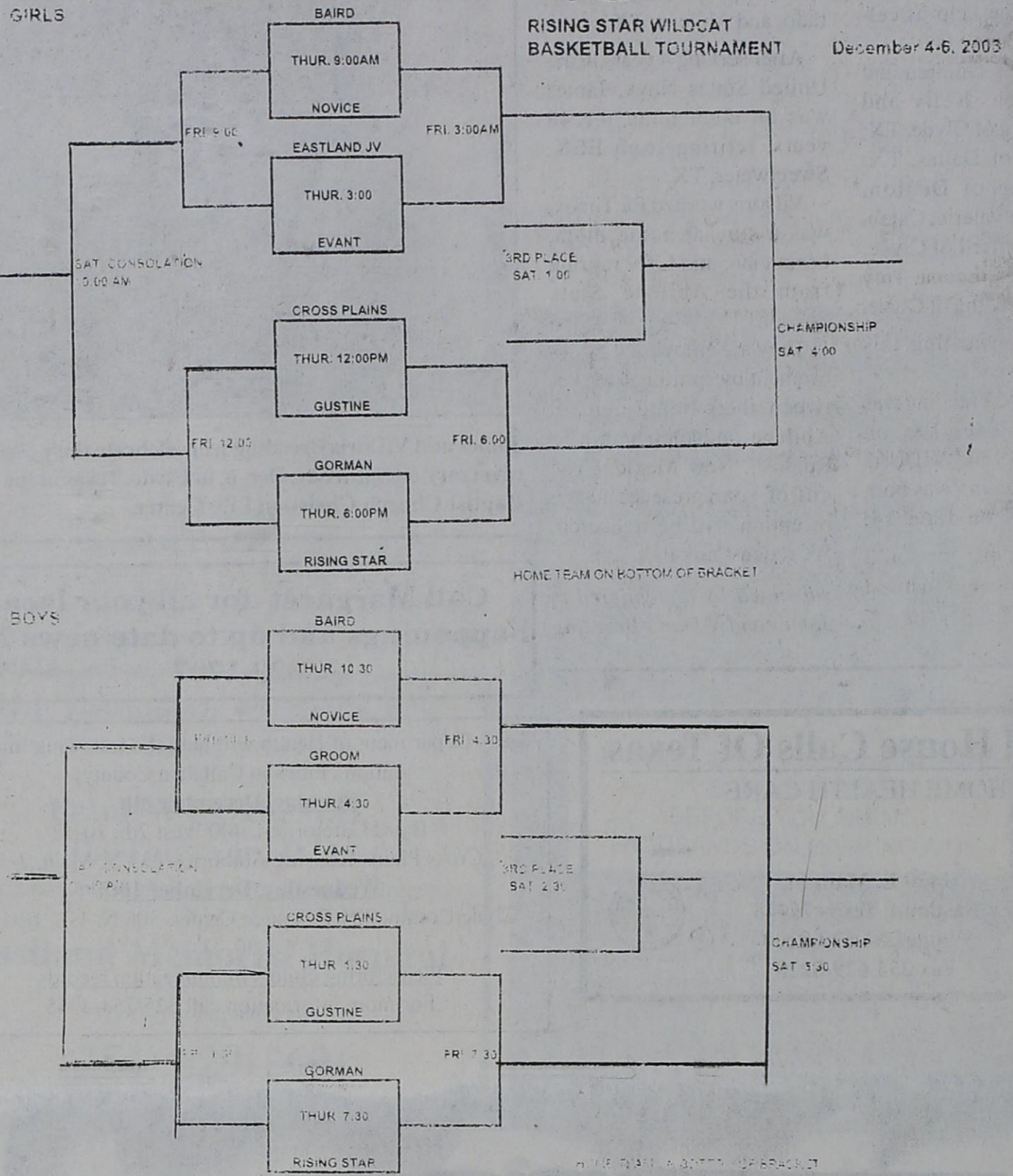
The Roscoe Plowboys' football season ended with a loss to Windhorst in the Class A Region I regional playoff game on Friday. The end score was Windthorst 55, Roscoe 20.

In Basketball, the Baird Girls' team won over Roby 51-48, but took a close loss to Cisco of 4 points. The end score was Cisco 49, Baird 45.

Baird Basketball Varsity Girls and Boys are scheduled to participate in the Rising Star Tournament on Dec. 4, 5, and 6.

Varsity Girls play Novice on Thursday, Nov. 4 at 9:00 AM. Varsity Boys meet Novice on Thursday, Nov. 4 at 10:30 AM.

The Tournament Championship games are scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 6 at 4:00 PM and 5:30 PM.



Basketball Scores

HS Girls

- Cisco 40, Baird 45
- Baird 51, Roby 48
- Baird 52, Stamford 45

December Basketball Schedule

High School

- Tues., Dec. 2, Strawn, There, 6:30 p.m., VG, VB
- Thurs.-Sat., Dec. 4-6, Rising Star Tournament, There, TBA, VG, VB
- Tues., Dec. 9, Woodson, Baird, 4:00 p.m., JVG, JVB, VG, VB
- Thurs.-Sat., Dec. 11-13, Miles Tournament, There, TBA, VG, VB
- Tues., Dec. 16, Throckmorton, There, 4:00 p.m., JVG, JVB, VG, VB
- Fri., Dec. 19, Roscoe, There, 4:00 p.m., JVG, JVB, VG, VB
- Mon.-Wed., Dec. 29, 30, 31, There, TBA, VG, VB

Junior High

- Dec. 1, Ranger, Here, 5:00, 7G, 8G, 7B, 8B
- Dec. 8, Abilene Christian, There, 5:00, 7G, 8G, 7B, 8B
- Dec. 15, Cross Plains, There, 6:00, 8G, 7B, 8B

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