

The Baird Weekly Star,
Established
December 8, 1887

Baird: Officially Designated Antique Capital Of West Texas

Callahan County Baird Star

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50¢

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Volume 118, Number 49

Baird, Texas 79504

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Meals on Wheels In Need of Donations

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

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

You may contact: Project

Road Reconstruction Begins on Railroad Overpass in Baird

Alan Hufstutler, Abilene Area engineer with the Texas Department of Transportation, has announced that the \$4,033,250.02 roadway construction project on the US 283 - Union Pacific Railroad overpass in Baird has begun.

The new overpass will be approximately 160 feet east of the existing US 283 road road underpass, Hufstutler said.

The overpass is being built to alleviate a clearance problem that impedes traffic on this section of US highway. The existing underpass has a very low under-clearance of just over 14 feet and has been repeatedly hit, the area engineer said. Often these impacts involve trucks becoming lodged under the existing bridge, resulting in extended closures of US 283 in the area.

Eighty percent of the cost of this project is being funded by the federal government and the remaining 20 percent by the state.

As the new overpass is being built on a new alignment, there will be little interruption of traffic flow, Hufstutler said.

TxDOT's chief inspector on this project is Tim Roswell. He is being assisted by Don Burns. Both men work out of the Abilene Area office.

Stephens Martin Paving, LP, of Abilene is the project contractor.

Estimated completion date of this job is early spring 2007.

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

**Winter Wonder Land
Opened in Baird Last Friday,
Free Admission,
Free Pictures with Santa
for Children**

Lights of Love Trees to Be Placed on Courthouse Square

The Baird Christmas lighting committee will be sponsoring the Lights of Love trees. They will once again be placed on the courthouse lawn. If you would like the name of a loved one placed on a star on top of a tree you can do so for \$15.00. A 4' Christmas tree that will be placed on the Courthouse lawn. This is a special way to pay tribute to a deceased friend or relative or to honor someone while they are living. Your donations can be sent to the chamber office or given to Donna Bell,

A lighting contest will be held once again this year. More details on this will be announced at a later date.

And don't forget to come take a walk through our 5000 square foot building with thousands of lights and over dozens of animated displays. It is the Winter Wonderland at the Christmas Village, located at 129 Market St. (1/2 block N. of the Depot on the east side of the street.) This is the third year for the village, which is a lighted "indoor holiday fantasy--a place for children of all ages." There are new and different displays again this year. There is no admission fee although donations will be accepted. Santa will be there (except on Dec. 24, since this is his busiest night of the year) to visit with the children and they can have their picture made with him at no charge. (Children only

please.) The village will open the day after Thanksgiving and will be open each Friday and Saturday from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. The dates are:

December 9 & 10.
Dec. 16 & 17.
Dec. 23 & 24.

This project is truly a community effort and a rewarding one also. We have had so much fun working on this project and making new friends and fellowshiping with old friends too. If you would like to help in any way with Christmas projects, contact the Baird Chamber of Commerce

**Christmas Lighting
Committee**

Christmas Time is Here Again Get your yards ready for judging!

This Year there will be four categories:

Best Over All
Most Original
Kids Choice

Best Commercial

**CASH PRIZES WILL BE
AWARDED TO THE WINNERS.**

(Signs will be placed in each winning yard and will be picked up
After Christmas for use again next
Year.)

Judging date will be
December 15, 2005

Callahan County Commissioners Agree to Take Bids for Baird Depot Restoration

After meeting with Betty Henson and the Baird Foundation and Merrie Rogge and Bill Leach with the Tex. Dept. of Transportation, the Callahan County Commissioners voted to ap-

prove the Baird Depot Restoration project and agreement during the commissioners' court meeting held Monday November 28 at the County Courthouse in Baird.

The vote was 5-0, after a motion by Judge Roger Corn,

Filing for Republican Candidates Began Dec. 3rd.

The Republican Chair for Callahan County Republicans started taking applications for candidates wishing to file for places on the March 7, 2006 Republican Primary ballot beginning on December 3rd, 2005.

Information or applications can be obtained for in-

terested persons by contacting Pat Chrane at 325-529-3428, or Betty Johnston at 325-529-3396. Applications will be accepted up until the January 2nd filing deadline at 6:00 p.m.

Filing fees for the candidates are \$375.00 for Justice of the Peace and for all other county offices is \$750.

Callahan County Commissioners' Meet to Discontinue Burning Outside

Callahan County, TX

Order Prohibiting Outdoor Burning

WHEREAS, declaration with provision of the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, a state of disaster has been declared based on the imminent threat of disaster from wild fire and,

Whereas, declaration of such a disaster authorizes the imposition of controls on activities which tend to increase the likelihood of such fire,

BE IT THEREFORE ORDERED, that the following emergency regulations are hereby estab-

lished for all unincorporated areas of Callahan County, TX, effective November 21, 2005 and further notice.

(1) Action prohibited:

A. A person, violates this order if he or she burns any combustible material outside of an enclosure which serves to contain all flames and/or sparks, or orders such burning by others.

B. A person violates this order if he/she engages in any activity outdoors which could allow flames or sparks that could result in a fire, or orders such activities by others.

(2) Enforcement:

A. Violations of this order may be prosecuted in accordance with the statutes and procedures governing misdemeanors, punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1000 and/or up to 180 days in jail.

Baird I.S.D. Lunch Menu

Friday, Dec. 9: Chili Cheese Dog or Hamburger, French fries, Lettuce & Tomato, Dessert.
Monday, Dec. 12th: Salisbury Steak or Chicken Nuggets, Mashed potatoes, Peas & carrots, Hot Roll, Cake
Tuesday, Dec. 13th: Sloppy Joe or Grilled Ham & Cheese, Vegetable Beef Soup, Tator Tots, Fruit cup, Brownie.
Wednesday, Dec 14th: Steak Burger or Chicken Patty on Bun, Lettuce & Tomato, Baked Chips, Cookie.
Thursday, Dec. 15: Turkey & Dressing, Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes, Sweet Potato Casserole, Hot Roll, Pecan Pie.

Baird High School

'A' Honor Roll

Named

'A' Honor Rolls

9th Grade:

Darryl Fox, Breanna Patterson, Emily Tumbusch,

10th Grade:

Dale Kunick, Rustin Williams.

12th Grade:

Kelby Cauthen, Josh Glaze, Blake Manning, Blain Scott, Rebecca Tollett, Kaitlyn Walker, Roger Wamsley, Kayla Windham.

"A-B Honor Roll"

9th Grade

Jessica Bowen, Daniel Brock, Jordan Burns, Patsy Dugan, Emalie Green, Garrett Jennings, Lacy Jones, Sarayah Martin, Jesse Mendez, Ashlen Murff, Morgan White.

10th Grade:

Khrysi Bair, Britny Creech, Katelyn Cumby, Nicole Darnell, Justin English, Dillon Fox, Kat Johnston, Josh Rollins, Lauren Thackerson, Francisco Tovar.

11th Grade

Noah Albergucci, Katie Bessent, Megan Betcher, Cody Gibbs, Haley Gray, Amanda Jobe, Ashley Lowe, Tyler Orlando, Justin Patterson, Raeda Somers

12th Grade

Chandler Albergucci, Justin Armstrong, Jessica Davis, Jaysa Gideon, Nikki Gilstrap, Jordan Glaze, Weston McGhee, Lauren Orlando, Sasha Ringhoffer, Chance Rodriguez, Lesley Tumbusch, Marinoel Turner, Kenra Wilkerson.

Tickets For Project Graduation

The parents of the Senior Class of 2006 are selling tickets for a side of beef to raise money for Project Graduation. The tickets are \$10.00 each. The drawing will be in

February 2006. You can purchase the ticket from any senior parent or contact Baird High School at 854-1400 ext. 302.

B. This order may be enforced by any duly commissioned peace officer and that the venue for prosecution of violation of this order will be the County Courts at Law of Callahan County, TX.

(3) A person is not in violation if prior to the set-

(Continued Inside)

Baird Basketball Fund-Raiser Announced

ATTENTION-Parents Faculty, and Community

On December 16, 2005 the Baird Bears' boys basketball team will be hosting a Faculty/Parent vs Baird Varsity boys' team fundraiser. All faculty and parents of the boys' basketball team will be competing in this fund raiser.

Admission will be \$2.00 and all donations will be greatly appreciated and accepted. At half-time there will be an auction of the boys' team and coaches. Each player and coach will be sold to the highest bidder. Once you buy a player or coach, the coach or player will be at you "beck and call", for gardening, car washing, dirt digging, lawn mowing, leaf raking or whatever you need done around the house.

All monies raised will go the boys' basketball program and help pay for their tournament in Bryan-College Station. Thanks for your support.

Obituaries

Thomas Calvin Robbins

CLYDE- Thomas Calvin Robbins, 58, died December 1, 2005 after a short battle with cancer.

Graveside services were held at 2 p.m. Saturday, December 3, 2005 at the Clyde Cemetery. Bailey Funeral Home of Clyde was in charge of the arrangements.

He was born December 29, 1946 to Virgil Lee and Doris Robbins. He retired from the Navy after 20 years of honorable service.

He was preceded in death by his father, Virgil Lee.

Survivors include his mother, Doris of Stanwood, Washington; brother, Ronald and wife Linda of Clyde; his loving wife, Pat of San Angelo; his children, Thomas of Kansas City, Missouri, Teresa of Houston, Mike and Chris of San Angelo, Marty of Odessa; several aunts and uncles; one nephew; ten grandchildren and one great-grandchild; and many friends.

Remembrance service will be held at a later date for classmates and friends.

Derrel Lee Black

CLYDE- Derrel Lee Black, 73, of Clyde, died Friday, December 2, 2005 at a local hospital.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Sunday, December 4, 2005 at the First Baptist Church in Clyde with Dr. Toby Henson officiating. Burial was in the Clyde Cemetery under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home.

Mr. Black was born November 30, 1932 in Iraan, Texas to Charles Brewster and Mattie Lorene (Parker) Black. He grew up in Eastland and graduated from Eastland High School in 1952. He married Wanda Mae Williamson on January 14, 1956 in Denver City. They moved to Clyde in

December 1986. Mr. Black was employed by El Paso Natural Gas as a Plant Operator for 30 years, having worked in Kermit, Crane, Denver City, Oil Center, NM and Midkiff. He was a member of the US Air Force, serving during the Korean Conflict. He was a 32nd degree Mason, having served as the Worshipful Master in the Sprayberry Lodge at Midkiff. He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Clyde.

Survivors include his wife, Wanda of Clyde; one son, Travis Black and wife Shellene of San Angelo; one daughter, Sharon Plagens of Big Lake; and three grandchildren, Shalea

Gwynda Gunn

Baird-Gwynda Gunn, age 73, of Baird, Texas died Thursday, December 1, 2005 at Canterbury Villa Nursing Home in Baird. A graveside service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 3, 2005 at Ross Cemetery in the Spencer Price Addition. Reverend Sandra Keith will officiate directed by Parker Funeral Home.

Gwynda was born on October 16, 1932 to Spence Chambers and Agnes Crume Chambers in Rannels County, TX. She had lived in Baird since 1968 and worked as a Bookkeeper at First National Bank in Sinton and Baird, TX. She graduated from Brownwood High and attended Daniel Baker College for two years.

She married Bill Bunn at Las Cruces, NM on September 20, 1952. She is survived by her husband, Bill Gunn of Baird, TX; one daughter, Marla Watson and husband, Tom of Goldthwaite, TX; one brother, Ted Chambers of Refugio, TX; four grandchildren, Danny Tollett and Fiance, Jennifer Taylor of Stephenville, TX, T.J. Watson of Goldthwaite, TX, Leesa Thomas and husband, Bowdy of Weatherford, TX, and Connie Watson of Bastrop, TX; and a number of nieces and nephews. There will be a visitation from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Friday at Parker Funeral Home.

Memorials may be made to The First United Methodist Church in Baird or to the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation.

Plagens, Lynn Follis and Caleb Usery.

In lieu of flowers, please direct donations to the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center P.O. Box 4464, Houston, Texas 77210.

Callahan County (Baird) Star Classifieds

For Sale

FOR SALE: 21 ft. gooseneck cattle trailer \$2,000; trailer \$600. Call (254) 629-8417.

NOTICE

Johnson's Dry Goods in Cross Plains will be open Sunday afternoons Dec. 11 & 18 from 12 noon to 5 p.m.

Houses for Sale

I'm Mad...At banks who don't give House Loans because of Bad Credit problems or New Employment. Id, Call L.D. Kirk, Homeland Mortgages, (254)947-4475.

Help Wanted

Need mature, responsible adult to care for twin boys, age 3 months, in my home. Call 325-854-1112 with references.

Looking for

Responsible Delivery for Baird, Clyde & Cross Plains Contract Labor Call 254-629-1707

FOR SALE: 8 Lots with old house, city water and well water, some fruit trees \$16,000. Owner Finance \$6,000 down. Sipe Springs area, Comanche Co. Call (254) 629-8417 or (254) 629-8712.

FOR SALE: Cream Puff, '90 Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme - V-6—loaded. 64,000 miles. Call 254-629-2413 after 6 p.m. to see. \$3995.00.

Web Press Time available call 254-629-1707.

Thanks for Reading the Callahan Star

For Sale

Cinch Carpenter Jeans with hammer loop and cell phone pocket. \$50 value \$39.99 at Johnson's Dry Goods, Cross Plains, TX.

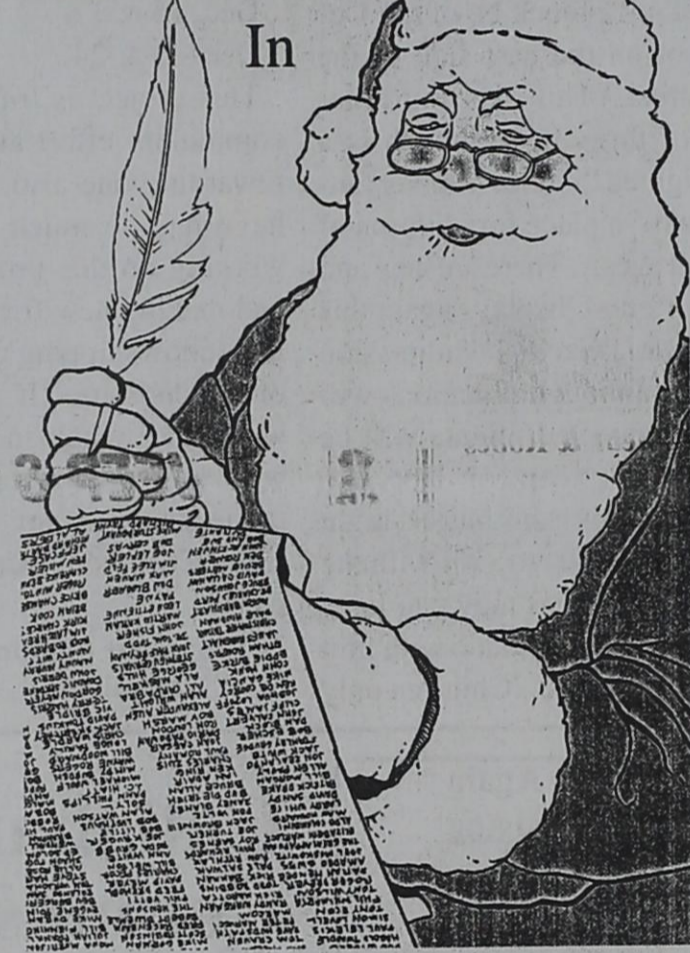
B49

FOR SALE: White '84 Monte Carlo, one owner, 115,000 actual miles, V-8, good air, Michelin tires, \$3,000 firm. Call 254-442-1303 to see, 8 to 9 a.m. or 9 to 10 p.m. Only.

B52

Read the Callahan County Star

Start and Finish Your Christmas Lists



CALLAHAN COUNTY

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BULLETIN - SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT - BULLETIN



TEXAS MESSENGER

Special Edition

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5-104

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- 31 Acres overlooking Lake Cisco, paved road frontage, large hill, public boat ramp directly across from the property, excellent view of Lake Cisco and beyond. \$49,600.
- 38 Acres mostly wooded with oaks, mesquite, pecan, hogs, dove, quail. \$57,000.
- 51 Acres wooded & open with 2 fields, interstate 20 road frontage, seasonal creek, wildlife includes deer, turkey, hogs, dove & quail. \$61,200.
- 58 Acres with 4 BR, 2 bath, covered porch, water wells, property is mostly wooded with oaks and mesquite, deer, turkey, hogs, dove, quail. \$130,000.
- 60 Acres by Lake Cisco, over half a mile of road frontage that is within 200 yds of Lake Cisco shoreline, mostly wooded, water wells, deer, turkey, hogs, dove, quail. \$172,000.
- 77 Acres completely wooded with oaks, mesquite, pecan, water well, wildlife includes deer, turkey, hogs & dove. \$115,000.
- 80 Acres mostly wooded with oaks, mesquite, pecan, 2 ponds with 1 being stocked with fish, remote, wildlife includes deer, turkey, hogs, dove, quail. \$104,000.
- 81 Acres wooded with oak & mesquite trees with a very large hill, 1 pond, creek. This property is surrounded by large fences, great hunting property, wildlife includes deer, turkey, hogs, dove, duck & quail. \$104,895.
- 101 Acres with house several coastal fields, several wooded areas with oak, pecan & cottonwood trees, 3 ponds, water well, 2 creeks, house is a 3 BR, 1 bath, needs some work, older large barn, wildlife includes deer, turkey, hogs, dove & quail. \$160,000.
- 83 Acres 95% wooded with oak trees, small pond, good property for hunting at a home, wildlife includes deer, turkey, hogs, dove & quail. \$115,785.
- 118 Acres Comanche County, wooded & open, two creeks, 1 runs most of year round, 3 ponds, 3 water wells, oak, pecan, water well, wildlife includes deer, turkey, hogs, dove, duck, quail. \$1,300 per acre.
- 127 Acres mostly wooded with oaks, mesquite, pecan, water well, 1 pond, creek. \$187,500.
- 150 Acres or a large creek, wooded, water well, wildlife includes deer, turkey, hogs, dove, duck, quail. \$187,500.
- 151 Acres with house, mostly wooded with oaks and mesquite, several smaller fields, creeks, hills, 3 water wells, 3 ponds, 3 BR, 2 bath home with outbuildings. Deer, turkey, hogs, dove, duck, quail. \$220,183.
- 164 Acres mostly wooded with Post oaks & mesquite trees, large hills and canyons, field, 1 pond stocked with fish, high water table, turkey, hogs, dove, duck, quail. \$229,600.
- 217 Acres 65% fields & grassland, ponds, creek, hill, 35% oak & mesquite timber, Stephens Co., deer, turkey, hogs, dove, duck, quail. \$260,400.
- 262 Acres with house, mostly wooded with oak & mesquite trees, 2 fields perfect for game plots, 4 ponds stocked with fish, water well, deer, turkey, hogs, dove, duck, quail. \$333,000.
- 275 Acres mostly wooded with oaks and mesquite, hills, creek, 2 ponds, water well, very nice property, wildlife includes deer, turkey, hogs, dove, duck, quail. \$328,625.

Duplex on 1 1/2 lots with 1 BR, living room, kitchen and 3/4 bath, CH/A on each side, \$32,000. 3 commercial buildings and a carport on several lots. \$42,000. Call for details. Downtown building with approx. 3700 sq. ft. plus more sq. footage upstairs for storage. Call to details.

COMMERCIAL HOMES

- 2 BR, 1 3/4 bath home, vinyl siding, double carport with attached storage, fenced backyard. Reduced to \$22,500.
- 3 BR, 2 bath home with double carport, workshop or storage bldg., lg. trees, \$27,500.
- 3 BR, 1 3/4 bath home, carpet just been replaced, double carport w/attached storage, corner lot, large trees, \$28,500.
- 2 BR, 1 bath home, separate LR and den, fenced backyard, detached garage with storage, lg. trees, \$29,500.
- 2 BR, 1 bath home, separate office or den, CH/A, carport, storage bldg., corner property, lg. kitchen with many nice cabinets. Reduced to \$32,000.
- Duplex on 1 1/2 lots with 1 BR, living room, kitchen, 3/4 bath and CH/A on each side, it can be used as single family home. \$32,000.
- 2 BR home plus another room which can be used as a 3rd BR or extra family room, CH/A, 5 ceiling fans, storm windows, patio, attached garage, fenced backyard, large trees, \$35,000.
- 3 BR, 1 bath older brick veneer, separate carport, detached storage, storm windows, large trees, detached storage, corner property, lg. trees, \$35,000.
- 3 BR, 1 bath home, separate dining room, some wood floors, CH/A, carport, garage, privacy fenced backyard. \$35,000.
- 3 BR, 1 3/4 bath home, large rooms, CH/A, fireplace, double pane windows, enclosed back porch, metal siding, double garage, \$36,000.
- 2 BR, 1 1/2 bath home, large rooms, separate LR, DR and den, many kitchen cabinets, double carport, 2 storage bldgs., large trees, 3 lots, fenced back yard, very spacious inside & out. \$36,000.
- 3 BR, 1 3/4 bath home, recently built, vinyl siding, large windows, porch across front, carport, fenced backyard, storage bldg., large trees, \$39,500.
- Spacious 3 BR, 1 3/4 bath home with CH/A, well decorated and landscaped, 2 living areas or dining room, lg. utility room, fenced backyard, deck, double carport, shop or storage bldg., lg. corner property, \$62,000.
- 3 BR home, lg. rooms, fireplace, water well, lg. trees, \$62,000.
- 3 BR, 2 bath home with CH/A, WB fireplace, double pane windows, attached double carport, lots of storage, covered patio with approx. 410 of an acre. \$62,500.
- 3 BR, 2 bath home, recently built, CH/A, WB htr, patio, double carport, privacy fenced backyard, storage bldg., city water plus water well. \$75,000.
- 5 BR, 2 bath, 2 story home. Lots of character, formal DR, office, lg rooms, mostly wooden floors, 2 CH/A units, surrounded by trees, lg. corner property, several fireplaces, fenced backyard. Reduced to \$76,500.
- 4 BR, 2 1/2 bath home with CH/A, woodburning fireplace, large living room, covered patio, carport, garage, and other extras on corner lot. \$79,900.
- Home in Eastland - 4 BR home with vinyl siding, large windows, inside recently repainted and carpet replaced, CH/A, lg. trees, \$84,500.

HOMES WITH SMALL ACREAGE

- Adjoins Airport - Large 3 BR brick home on 3 fenced acres with CH/A has full bath, 3/4 bath and 1/2 bath, separate LR, den with WB fireplace, large kitchen with many nice cabinets, utility room, enclosed back porch, double garage, double carport, 50' x 50' metal building, many nice oak and other trees.
- Just Outside of Town on 13 acres. 3 BR, 2 bath home with CH/A and WBFP. Many nice kitchen cabinets, great view of pond (stocked with fish), from kitchen and dining room, water well, double carport, 2 large storage bldgs., mobile home or RV hookup, partially wooded plus some coastal.

LAKE CISCO
2 BR, 1 bath home with CA, woodburning heater, screened porch, large oak trees, dock, 2 decks and 3 storage buildings. \$42,500.
2 BR Home, CH/A, partially furnished, storage building, dock, large oak trees. \$56,000.
2 BR, 1 bath home with 2 BR, 1 3/4 bath home, CH/A, WBFP, great view of lake from DR, LR, den & Master BR, lg. landscaped yard, tall oak trees, dock, shop, storage bldg. & many extras. Enjoy life and recreation all year! Lovely 4BR, 2 bath home, CH/A, woodburning heater, dock, large detached metal building has racquetball court and large gameroom. Many extras including inground pool.
Must See! Large 4 BR, 1 3/4 bath 2 story home, 2 CH/A units, fireplace, several extra closets, balcony off master BR, large oak trees, shop, 4 vehicle carport, covered boatdock with boat, lg. septic recently replaced.
BR, fully landscaped frontyard and backyard surrounds this large beautiful 2 story 3 BR, 4 bath home with WBFP and 2 CH/A units. Large kitchen with many nice cabinets and built-ins. Garage, boat dock, 2 decks, plant room, sprinkler system, many large oak trees and many extras.

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5-104*

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The Eastland Centennial Memorial Library has decorated with a wintery scene and other holiday items in their display tables for the Christmas season.

A subscription to your local newspaper would make a great Christmas gift for anyone on your list.

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Oldest & Largest in the USA!
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State Capital Highlights

Lawmakers focus on tax relief following court's ruling

By Ed Sterling

AUSTIN - Six months are not much compared to the decades state lawmakers, courts and governors have already spent on solving or avoiding solving the riddle of school finance and property tax reform.

Nevertheless, June 1 is the Texas Supreme Court-imposed deadline for the Legislature to retool the tax system, and it isn't that far away.

Thanksgiving week, the high court upheld a lower court ruling that said the way hundreds of school districts are forced to set local property taxes at the cap of \$1.50 per \$100 valuation violates the state constitution by imposing, in effect, a statewide property tax.

Weeks earlier, Gov. Rick Perry named a tax reform commission composed mostly of business people to study taxes, with former state Comptroller John Sharp as chair.

And, after the high court spoke, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst named his own committee of senators to

look for a solution.

House Speaker Tom Craddick, on the other hand, said he would not follow suit and appoint a similar committee, indicating that the Perry-Sharp effort will be enough to get the job done.

Perry, in sync with the high court, now says more money for education is not the answer. But to teachers and advocates for schoolchildren, no tax solution will be complete without addressing teacher pay and the need for more and better-equipped classrooms.

Regardless, the focus now shifts away from finding more money for teachers and classroom instruction and zeroes in on property tax relief.

Oddly, during this year's 79th Legislature (January through May) and the two 30-day special sessions that followed, there was general agreement at the Capitol that school finance could not be fixed without also fixing the state tax system.

The governor himself said he wanted a solution that would "give schoolchildren and teachers the resources they deserve and need."

Memo arouses Democrats

On Dec. 2, a U.S. Department of Justice office memorandum surfaced in the Washington Post and stirred up Democrats who opposed the congressional redistricting plan passed by the Texas Legislature in 2003.

The memo reveals that the plan pushed by then-House

Majority Leader Tom DeLay did not win the universal approval of the staff of the Department of Justice - then run by Attorney General John Ashcroft.

More than a half-dozen staff members said the plan violated the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by under-representing minorities and rural voters.

But the plan was approved anyway, and in 2004, the Republican Party picked up six seats in the U.S. House.

The U.S. Supreme Court may hear arguments on the subject.

Another hat in the ring? Add former Texas Supreme Court justice Bob Gammage of Llano to the list of possible candidates for governor.

Gammage could join fellow Democrats Chris Bell of Houston and Felix Alvarado of Fort Worth in the quest.

Laredo oil and gas tycoon Tony Sanchez, who ran against Republican Gov.

Rick Perry four years ago, also is pondering the idea of running.

On the Republican side, Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn will challenge Perry in the GOP primary come March. In the latest spat between incumbent Perry and challenger Strayhorn, their camps are accusing each other of using state office equipment to send out campaign information.

And last but not least, there is Kinky Friedman, the Hill Country singer, writer and dog and cat rescuer who plans to run as an independent after the partisan primaries in March.

Laney to leave Legislature

Cotton-farming State Rep. Pete Laney, D-Hale Center, announced that he won't run for reelection.

Laney, who has served his High Plains district since 1973, is the second-most senior member of the Legisla-

Genealogy: Fad Or Hobby?

By James Pylant
P.O. Box 1587
Stephenville, TX 76401
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Several years ago when I was trying to persuade an editor to publish a genealogy column in his Missouri newspaper, he decided against it, saying that "this family tree craze is just a fad." But how many fads last more than 100 years?

"Pedigree research is a remarkable fashionable mania, and an increasing one - in New York, at least," wrote a reporter. "The libraries are haunted by persons engaged in tracing family lines." He quoted the director of the New York City's Astor Library's comment that, "There is hardly an hour of the day that someone is not poring over pedigrees looking for their line of ancestry." That article, "Pride of Ancestry," was syndicated to newspapers across the country, including Texas' Dublin Progress, which published the article in its July 5, 1895 edition.

Only a year earlier, the Family History Library was founded by the LDS (Mormon) Church, and the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) had been in existence a mere five years. Meanwhile, the New England Historic Genealogi-

cal Society celebrated its 50th anniversary.

If there was ever anything "faddish" about searching for ancestors, it was in the hobby's early days, when family status meant everything. In that era, many were fascinated with finding royalty, nobility or famous relatives in their bloodlines. And no one knew that better than a con artist named Gustav Anjou. Anjou preyed upon wealthy Americans and bilked clients of thousands of dollars for his "research". Decades passed before Anjou was exposed as a fraud; his genealogical research reports were falsified to give clients aristocratic ancestors.

In 1904, the Eastern Cherokees won a million dollar judgment against the U.S. Government over violations of the treaties of 1835-1836 and 1845. More than 46,000 Americans bombarded the U.S. Court of Claims with applications showing they were of Cherokee ancestry and entitled to that "Indian money." Several "long-lost inheritance" scams began, with people desperately trying to prove heirship to someone whose next of kin was entitled to a newly-discovered multi-million dollar settlement.

Interest in genealogy grew over the years as Americans viewed it as a hobby. It was no longer something strictly for bluebloods, long-lost inheritances, society memberships or religious ordinances. The National Genealogical Society was founded in 1903, and it served those with a simple interest in their family tree. the Genealogical

Helper, a magazine for the hobbyist, started in 1947. As interest grew so did the concern for accuracy. In 1964, the Board of Certification of Genealogists was founded, and both professionals and amateurs realized the importance of documenting their research. This is reflected in published family histories over the years, which tended to better documented than those published 50 and 100 years ago.

The biggest boon came with Alex Haley's best-selling book and television miniseries, Roots, in 1976, making it one of America's most popular hobbies. Now, however, the Haley saga is eclipsed by a generation exploding into the genealogical scene via the Internet. Genealogy is named as one of the top uses of the worldwide web, and a search for that word on the net will typically fetch 27 million hits.

The New England Historic Genealogical Society has reached its 160th year, the Genealogical Helper manages to survive after nearly 60 years of publication (and with several competing magazines on the subject), the DAR is 115 years-old, and the National Genealogical Society celebrated its 100th birthday in 2003. The 111 year-old Family History Library, in Salt Lake City, has grown to include some 2.4 million rolls of micro-filmed records and books numbering 310,000. Nearly 2,000 people visit that library daily.

If "this family history craze is just a fad," as the Missouri newspaper editor said, it must be the longest fad in history.

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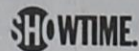
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The Idle American

Commentary By Dr. Don Newbury

Varying Shades of Gray

It sounded like a gravelly-voiced braggart whose comments penetrated the mumbly of dozens of others. It was "standing room only" on the city bus rumbling down the street, and we heard him bellow above the din. "Just think—only twelve more SHOPLIFTING days left until Christmas," he guffawed.

And what may have been a related conversation a few seats back provided a different slant on friendship. "Let me tell you about friends," the guy said. "A good friend will come and bail you out of jail, but a true friend will be sitting next to you in the cell, saying, 'Man, that was fun!'"

The driver, plopped dead-center on the seat so he could hang over equally on all sides, was much at peace with his world. His talk was "smallish," but he had kind words for each passenger climbing aboard. (Maybe he, the guy Jackie Gleason copied for his role on The Honeymooners.) "You're safe with me, because I know how to drive," he chuckled. "If most drivers out there were placed end to end, it would be a good thing."

He joked about losing 6,000 pounds, but gaining back 6,050. "I tried for years to lose weight, but couldn't get the hang of it. Finally my doctor just suggested that I forget about it and concentrate on being jolly".

A youngster, maybe a third-grader, was celebrating Christmas early. He said he'd been a "good boy," saving most of his allowance all year long. Finally, he had just enough money to buy a used trombone spotted weeks earlier at a re-sale shop. (I admire trombonists; they're so good at just letting things slide.)

He fretted, lacking one nickel having enough money to ride. The driver was at once in the rescue mode, fishing a 5-cent piece from his own pocket, telling the kid he could "pay him back next year".

It was fun, the brief bus ride, mostly because of a "sunnyside up" driver, and riders happy to settle for "just getting there," not necessarily on time.

I thought of a zany guy named Spike Jones, who with his goofy band, sang songs in rhyme 60 years ago, and made us laugh. "When I'm riding with my wifey on a bus, and a dear old lady stands in front of us, I resolve to be the gentleman discreet, and politely offer her my wifey's seat. This is my new year's resolution."

Half the riders bailed out at the stop where a new movie opened that very day. That, s where I was headed, too.

We all wanted to re-visit the 50's—a time when radio was king and television had

arrived only for the rich.

The movie, Good Night, and Good Luck, provided a sharp focus on late newsman Edward R. Murrow, arguably the nation's most respected newsman for a quarter-century.

Good Night, and Good Luck is more than a clever title. These were the exact words Mr. Murrow chose to end his radio and television newscasts in the 30's, 40's and 50's.

He is most remembered for taking on late Wisconsin Senator Joseph McCarthy. It was the latter who spent much of his time spewing charges that Communists lurked behind most bushes.

The theater, perhaps 50% full for the matinee, had a 100% Geritol crowd. The aroma of popcorn this day was no match for strong whiffs of BenGay. Most patrons had gray hair; the rest had none.

The movie, stark in black and white, could have been underwritten by Liggett and Myers Tobacco Company. Every newsman, it seemed, was smoking, and smoke-filled rooms were settings for most scenes.

Dusting off memories from the 40's, I recalled that smokers—and there were many—lit up in two different groups. One, the "big spenders,"

smoked "ready-rolls"—cigarettes rolled, packaged, ready for immediate lighting.

Relatives I had seen smoking "up close" were in the larger "make do" group. They "rolled their own," usually from Bull Durham or Duke Tobacco in string-tied bags stuffed in shirt pockets.

Those with steady hands could fashion smokes that looked closely-akin to the machine-made cigarettes, and they were a heap cheaper. We kids collected the empty bags, tucking them away in cigar boxes. Often that's where we kept our marbles.

By movie's end, I decided that Murrow must have been an "all right guy." I got back on the bus, figuring that if the McCarthy people had made the movie, the account might have varied greatly. But, it, too, would have had smoke-filled rooms.

In those days—and these—and those yet to come—few issues are clearly black and white. Wafting through vapors we call life are varying shades of gray.

Dr. Newbury is a speaker and author in the Metroplex. His weekly column appears weekly in 125 newspapers in six states. He welcomes comments and inquiries. Call him at 817-447-3872, or send email to: newbury@speakerdoc.com. His website is www.speakerdoc.com

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Cliff Notes

By Cliff Lindsay

"Say Christmas!"

"Merry Christmas!" I never thought that I would see the day that this phrase would be banned in public places. This is the cold hard fact.

Many places of business this Christmas season have been told that their employees cannot wish their customers Merry Christmas. They are told that it is politically incorrect and that it may be offensive to use this phrase. I was sickened when I heard this. What in the world has happened to America?!!

Focus On The Family has recently run a broadcast urging everyone to say "Christmas". Besides, this is what the season is all about. Christmas is celebrating a historical fact; the birth of Christ. It was made a federal holiday during the time of Ulysses S. Grant.

I immediately was angered when I heard of this banning and was ready to point a finger and place the blame--

what happened next you ask?--

My index finger slowly and reluctantly turned and pointed right at my chest.

Christians, we need to wake up! Look around! The ACLU is having a field day with "political incorrectness" and "intolerance" and "offensive material". These are the terms they are using against Christianity or any-

Brookshires Food Drive Ends Dec. 22

With just a few days remaining in the Spirit of Christmas Food Drive, more donations are needed to help the families targeted to receive assistance this year. The food drive ends Dec. 22 in most areas.

All food collected within the Eastland area will be distributed to families in the Eastland County area. Brookshire Grocery Co. will donate at least one roasting hen to each family assisted through the food drive. Last year the company provided more than 15,000 hens.

The drive, sponsored by Brookshire's Food Stores as well as service organizations,

including the Eastland County Food Pantry, helps families in Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and Mississippi who need assistance during the holiday season.

Donations may be made by placing non-perishable food items in the designated containers at the front of participating Brookshire's Food Stores. Items in glass jars and homemade goods are not accepted. Bulk items, such as flour and cornmeal, should be donated in smaller quantities.

Members of the Eastland County Food Pantry will collect, sort, package and deliver the food to the recipients before Christmas.

Kandy Jonker
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 - Compass pt.
 - Procrastinators
 - El _____ (Heston film)
 - Pivot
 - Moves quickly
 - Perfman's instrument
 - Born and _____
 - And others: abbr.
 - Least experienced
 - Nymph in love with Narcissus
 - Damn Yankee seductress
 - Revived: prr fix
 - Stay away from
 - Sunnyside-up "sun"
 - Tango quorum

DOWN

 - Musician's engagement
 - Mineo or Maglie
 - Accumulating
 - "In _____ days a glimpse of stocking..." (Porter)
 - Negative votes
 - Has what it takes
 - Subjugates
 - Bakery toppings
 - Chuck Barris' apparatus
 - Different
 - "Night over _____" (Maxwell Anderson)
 - Singer Joey
 - Module
 - Jannings or Ludwig
 - _____ fide
 - Discovers
 - With boldness
 - Occurrence
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5-104

Making A Difference

By Rex M. Rogers

America Should Get Out Of The Torture Business

Horrible pictures from Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison first gave Americans a taste of what torture and public humiliation might look like—at the hands of Americans. The perpetrators in this instance may have been "rogue soldiers" of questionable character, but they were still our soldiers. And the interrogation techniques that got out of hand at Abu Ghraib were our techniques. That's what most shocked our conscience.

Turns out that since 9/11 and the inception of the War on Terror the Bush Administration has broadly supported the use of so-called "enhanced" interrogation techniques. "Enhanced" apparently means that almost anything is permissible short of "organ failure" or death. U.S. Sen. John McCain, himself a victim of torture during five years as a POW in Viet Nam, wants Congress to establish new rules for detainee treatment and interrogation, banning "cruel, inhuman or degrading" techniques. The Senate recently agreed with a 90-9 vote.

This is not a simple issue. Christian values demand respect for human life made in the image of God and reject

the idea even of cruelty to animal let alone human beings. Christians recoil at the thought of intentionally inflicting harm upon a helpless individual with an "end-justifies-the-means" mentality, yet also acknowledge the periodic necessity of a "just war."

Christians don't generally mourn the loss of life of persons who indiscriminately kill innocent people, whether as a one-man mass murderer or as a terrorist in an organized cell group. But neither do they embrace tactics reminiscent of the Inquisition.

Aside from the host of political reasons why torture should be outlawed, there are philosophical ideals at stake. In the end, I must cast my vote for "No torture". America should listen to John McCain. On this issue his experiential wisdom is too credible to ignore. America should get out of the torture business.

(Rex M. Rogers, syndicated newspaper columnist serves as president of Cornerstone University, Grand Rapids, Mich.) ©2005, The Blanchard Group, LLC.

(Ed. Note: Do you agree with Rogers' opinions? If not, why? We would welcome brief, signed comments to this newspaper.)

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Birth Announcement



Tyler Lee Brown

David, Marcie and Hailey Brown are proud to announce the new addition to their family, Tyler Lee Brown. Tyler was born at 1:34 a.m. on November 17, 2005. He weighed 8 lbs. 2 oz. and was 19 3/4 inches long.

His grandparents are Gary and Cheryl Stennett of Cisco and David and Gayle Brown of Moran.

His great-grandparents are

Omalee Holdridge of Cisco, Wayne and Mary Stennett of Baird, Isabelle Eaton of Moran, Delton and Glenda Peacock of Albany.

He also has lots of proud aunts, uncles, and cousins.

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Diabetes Prevention Seminar

Girling Health Care is pleased to announce that Dr. Jamie Cox will be presenting a Diabetes Prevention seminar Thursday, December 8th at 7 p.m. The seminar will be held in the fellowship hall of the First United Methodist Church in Eastland. Everyone is invited to attend. Refreshments will be provided. For questions, please contact Heather at 629-1268.

Nutrition News & Notes

(NAPS)—Schedules can be hectic during the school year—long school days, after-school sports and extracurricular activities can present a challenge when trying to keep your family well fed and energized.

Nutritionists say one of the easiest ways to keep everyone eating healthfully is to use frozen and refrigerated foods when preparing meals. They can help fuel your family throughout the day and bring fun, excitement and nutrition to quick breakfasts, tasty packed lunches and easy



after-school snacks.

The Frozen and Refrigerated Foods "Fuel for School" Festival is in October. To mark the occasion, the National Frozen and Refrigerated Foods Association (NFRA) offers these "Fuel for School" ideas:

- Breakfast—The cool aisles in the supermarket have a number of convenient, nutritious breakfast selections: whole-grain waffles, pancakes, French toast, fruits, bagels, breakfast bars, bowls and sandwiches, juices and more.
- Lunch—If you want to pack "cool" lunches, try healthy, nutritious and tasty options, like mini-bagels with peanut butter or tortilla roll-ups, accompanied by a variety of yogurts, cheeses, jello, puddings, juices and more.
- After-School Snacks—Convenient options that are easy to prepare include pizza snacks, fruit and yogurt, mozzarella sticks, chicken nuggets, jello and whipped topping, frozen yogurt pop-sicles and more.

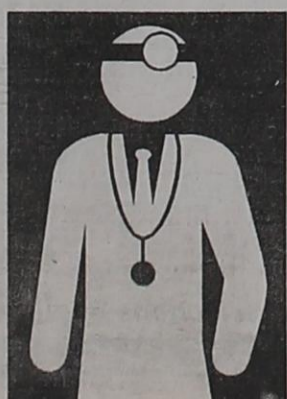
A favorite Fuel for School recipe is the Banana-Strawberry Smoothie. Your family can enjoy this delicious treat before or after school.

Banana-Strawberry Smoothie

- 2 bananas
- 1 cup frozen strawberries
- 1 8-ounce carton vanilla low-fat yogurt
- 1 cup milk

Peel and cut bananas into chunks. Combine with frozen strawberries, yogurt and milk into a blender. Blend on high speed for 1 minute or until mixture is smooth. Makes 2 servings.

To help celebrate the Frozen and Refrigerated Fuel for School Festival, NFRA has created a \$12,500 Fuel for School Sweepstakes. For contest dates, official rules and entry form, visit www.BringUsToYourTable.com.



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 - o Ear, nose and throat specialists
- Podiatry
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Christmas Calendar

Winter has arrived in Eastland County - no doubt about that! The Christmas Parades are over, but the Lighting Contests and other activities are in full swing. While you are out viewing the glittering displays, go by the old Hilton Hotel in Cisco, with its beautiful festons of light. It is a work of art.

Take time to enjoy Christmas artistry around your own community and in the area.

EASTLAND

The Sophomore Class is sponsoring an Eastland Festival of Lights Christmas Hayride on Saturday, Dec. 10. Tours will start at 7 p.m. at the Courthouse, and they will tour the City. After the end of the ride, enjoy hot chocolate, and Santa will be there too.

The cost of the tour will be \$4. Bring your family.

The Eastland Women's Civic League and Garden Club is hosting the 5th Annual Giftwrapping Fund-raiser on Wed., Dec. 21, from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. at the Women's Clubhouse on Plummer St. There is a small fee per gift, or a donation to the Club will be graciously accepted. Bring the appropriate sized box, and you will be pleasantly surprised at the lovely wrapping, pretty bows and ribbons. All proceeds will go to charitable services in the community.

Girling Hospice is sponsoring a Worship Service that celebrates the coming of Christmas - while also acknowledging the pain that accompanies human loss. "The Longest Night" Christmas Service will be held at the First United Methodist Church sanctuary on Monday, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. For more information, call Donna DeLuca at 629-1268.

See Christmas At The Connellee on weekdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Victorian decorations are beautiful, and Captain Eastland volunteers will give tours.

Dec. 10 is the deadline for entering the Eastland Lighting Contest, and winners will be announced in special activities

at the Connellee on Dec. 20. There are a number of categories in residential and commercial, and any of these decorated places will make great viewing.

GORMAN

The Christmas Lighting Contest deadline is Dec. 15, and it is open to residents in a five mile radius of Gorman. Judging will be on Friday, Dec. 16. There is no entry fee, and prizes will be awarded.

RANGER

The Ranger Ministerial Alliance announces its Fourth Annual program to bring toys and clothing to children who may not have a Christmas. Applications may be picked up at local churches. If there is no church affiliation, call Paul Stephen at (254) 647-1124.

Applications will be accepted until Dec. 11. Those who qualify will be notified by phone, and pickup will be Dec. 17 from 9 a.m. - 12 noon at First United Methodist Church.

An application needs to be done for each child in the family. Preference will be given to clothing more than toys.

Donations may be made to this program at First Financial Bank to RMA Christmas Care account.

RISING STAR

Star Pride will host the Tour

of Homes on Sunday, Dec. 11 from 2-3 p.m. Meet in front of the old Higginbotham Bldg. Tickets are \$5, and may be purchased from any Star Pride member.

BAIRD

Come take a walk through the Winter Wonderland at the Christmas Village, which is located just north of the Old Depot on Market Street. The Village will be open each weekend (Friday and Saturday nights) through Christmas. The time is 6-8 p.m. A number of talented local volunteers constructed this animated Village, and it is lighted and truly enchanting. Santa will also be there to have his picture taken with the children.

CISCO

The Cisco Tour of Homes will have four homes this year, and several new events. It will be held Saturday, Dec. 10, 5:30 - 9 p.m. Tickets are \$5 per person, and proceeds will benefit the Chamber of Commerce and its various works. The final stop of the Tour will be at the First Baptist Church Fellowship Center for refreshments.

The Cisco Junior College Band, under the direction of Manuel Martinez, will present a Holiday Concert on Monday, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. The Holiday Extravaganza will be held at the Herrell Fine Arts Auditorium on the Cisco Campus, and will feature the Wrangler Brass, Jazz Ensemble and Concert Band. Admission is free, and refresh-

ments will be served following the performance. Everyone is invited.

Your Goodfellows of Cisco depends upon the community to help support families in need at Christmas with food

and toys for the children.

Please mail your donation to the Chamber of Commerce, 309 Conrad Hilton, Cisco, Texas, 76437. Make your checks payable to Goodfellows. Thank you and God Bless.

Kokomo News

By Zelda Jordan

Bro. Ken Smith of Eastland was the visiting preacher at the Sunday morning service at the Kokomo Baptist Church. Mrs. Smith and their children, Lacy, Greg and David also attended the services. Haley Buckley of Desdemona was also a visitor.

Helen and Woodrow Browning with Daryl Hirst at the piano, rendered the beautiful special music, "A Child Of The King".

Sylvia Buchanan, Nancy Hendricks, Woodrow and Helen Browning and Joe Bond attended the service at the First Baptist Church in Gorman on Sunday night.

Ben Burgess of Gorman and Haley Buckley of Desdemona were visiting with their grandparents, Durwood and Aletha Burgess.

Delmon Eaves spent the Thanksgiving holidays in Ennis with Randy, Deliah, Chris and Jon Lewis and attended the Ennis football game.

Those enjoying Thanksgiving and a family get-together in the home of Bobby and Mary Jane Little on Thanksgiving night were LaDawn, Stacy and Alexis Snapp of Lewisville, Johnny and Jimmy Little and a friend, Sandra of Ben Wheeler; Irma Bales of Granbury, Jerry and Mindy Bales of Stephenville, Betty Little, Karen Patterson of Eastland, Doug, Carole, David and Joe Little of Midland, Jimmy and Verna Lee Little, Ray Neal and Melissa Little of Eastland, Emily Little, Mike and Kourtney Peacock of Abilene, James, Jill, Ashley and Breckley Little, Jarad Fails of Arlington, Charles and Carolyn Little, Scotty, Caye,

Zack and Zane Mauney of Santo, Charla Burgess of Gorman, and Alan, Shellie, Justin, Ally and Emma Little.

Bobby and Mary Jane Little attended a Thanksgiving and Christmas combination celebration in the home of her sister and brother-in-law, Judy and Randy Hall in Cleburne during the weekend.

They also visited with LaDawn, Stacy and Alexis Snapp in Lewisville, and met Arlene and Jonathan Barfield of Tyler in Dallas and attended the soccer tournament that Jonathan played in. His team won over a team from New Mexico, tied a team from Oklahoma and won over a team from Houston. This was a High School Seniors tournament and there were college coaches there scouting the players.

Ronnie and Laura Shelton of Sapulpa, OK spent the weekend with Oren and Norma Webb and they en-

joyed a visit to Frontier Texas at Abilene on Saturday, and dinner at The Blue Moon restaurant in De Leon on Saturday night.

Those visiting with Nancy Hendricks were Doris Bradshaw and Bertie Stacy of Gorman, Zelda Jordan and Sylvia Buchanan.

Roger and Inetha Anderson of Baird and Jesse and LeNora Speer of Ranger visited with Sylvia Buchanan.

Cassie Brasher, Daisy Slaton and Zelda Jordan were in Abilene on Monday for a medical check-up for Zelda and met Sheri Daniell for lunch and a short visit. Daisy and Cassie visited with Junior Hampton and his wife, Marilyn, in Hendricks Medical Center. Junior is very ill so please put him on your prayer list.

I received a phone call Sunday night from a friend and former classmate, Harvey Lynn Weaver, of Junction and during the conversation I learned that his youngest son, Lee had passed away about 3 months ago at age 39. I thought that there might be other friends and classmates in this area that had not heard about it that would like to know.

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96 Ford F150 6 cyl., auto, looks, runs good, white...\$2250
95 Chevy Lumina Venture Van, 7 Pass., V6, looks, runs good...\$1995
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90 Mercury Grand Marquis in very good condition (white-red interior)...\$1195
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94 Olds Cutlass V6, a good clean car inside & out, cold air, white...\$1750
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94 Ford F250 Super Cab Diesel, cold air, auto., a very clean good truck, red & white...\$4500
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G	L	A	D	D	E	N	S	I	N	S	O
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Obituaries

Earl Hughes

Earl Hughes, age 83, of Baird, TX died Tuesday, November 29, 2005 in an Abilene Hospital.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, December 2nd, 2005, at the First United Methodist Church. Reverend Sandra Keith will officiate and burial will follow in the Belle Plaine Cemetery directed by Parker Funeral Home.

Earl was born on September 28, 1922 in Baird, TX and had lived in Callahan County all of his life. He was retired from the U.S. Postal Service and served in the U.S. Army during WWII. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church.

He married Ethel Beasley at Belle Plaine, TEXAS on January 18, 1948.

Survivors include: his wife, Ethel Hughes of Baird, TX, one daughter, Phyllis Diane Pancake and husband, Randy of Cross Plains, Texas; one son, Brian Douglas Hughes and wife, Patti of Lakewood, Colorado; one sister Clara Salnon of Snyder, Texas; six grandchildren, Jeremy Pancake, Jody Pancake, Jenny Nickerson, Leah Hughes, Marcus Hughes and Alex Hughes; and four great grandchildren, Autumn Nickerson and Hayden Pancake, Sean Williams and Miranda Williams; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Octavia Newman

Lake Worth-Octavia E. Newman, 99, a retired F.B.X. operator ro Leonard Brothers Department Store, died Tuesday, November 15, 2005 at a Lake Worth Care center.

Graveside services were held Friday, November 18, 2005 at the Belle Plains Cemetery in Belle Plains.

Memorials may be made to American Cancer Soc., 3301 W. Freeway, Ft. Worth, TX 76107; or Alzheimer's Association of North Central Texas, 101 Summit Ave., Ft. Worth, TX 76102.

Mrs. Newman was born July 9, 1906, in Rockwood. She resided in Callahan County from 1917 to 1922 and attended school in Concho Peak in Coleman. She was an independent owner of a phone exchange in Eliasville and helped to organize the V.F.W. Ladies Auxialiary in Baird in 1925. She moved to Tarrant County

in 1954 and was the first telephone operator in the Lake Worth area.

Mrs. Newman loved children. She was a housemother at the Masonic Home for Children and was the long-time family babysitter and was known as "Mamaw" by her grandchildren. She was known as a great cook, especially for her homemade rolls and lemon pies. She was a wonderful mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, Edmond B. Russell and Alfred S. Newman.

Survivors include Eddie McKay of Lake Worth and Sharon Newman of Weatherford; son, Roy Newman of Arlington; 11 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and seven great-treat-grandchildren.

Margaret Beth Gill Bennett

CROSS PLAINS-- MARGARET Beth Gill Bennett, age 64, went to be with the Lord on Thursday, December 1, 2005 following a long illness. Funeral services were on Sunday, December 4, 2005 at 2:30 p.m. at Higginbotham Funeral Chapel with Bob Pipes officiating; burial followed in the Cottonwood Cemetery. Margaret, the youngest of five children, was born to William and Verne (Wiseman) Gill on December 29, 1940. She spent her childhood helping out on her father's farm, going to church and playing with her nieces, Gladys and Anita. She married the love of her life, Leo Weldon Bennett, on July 4, 1958 and the country celebrated with them. Lee and Margaret had 47 wonderful, love filled

years together.

Margaret is survived by her husband, Weldon Bennett of May; son, Michael Bennett and wife Nancy; daughters, Shelly Peterson and Anjanette Segura all of San Angelo; sisters, Gladys Martin of Brownwood; Muriel Edwards of Midland; Jimmy Nan Tate of Snyder; grandchildren, Denise Doescher; Blake and Kirstie Peterson and Jakob Segura, great grandchildren, Jonathon and Andrew Gray, all of San Angelo, as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins. She was preceded in death by her parents, brother, Johnny Gill and precious daughter Gayna Ann.

Margaret was a bright light to everyone she met; may her light shine from heaven for eternity.

Classified Ads

Notices

Johnson's Dry Goods in Cross Plains will be open Sunday afternoons Dec. 11 & 18 from 12 noon to 5 p.m. B49

For Sale

Cinch Carpenter Jeans with hammer loop and cell phone pocket. \$50 value \$39.99 at Johnson's Dry Goods, Cross Plains, TX. B49

in County

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Subscribe to the Callahan County (Baird) Star only \$16.00

Callahan Divide Soil & Water Conservation District Taking Windbreak Tree Orders

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

This year's selection of available trees include three varieties of evergreens. We

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

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

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

Service Nursery on that date.

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

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

Local Basketball

Area Basketball Scores-- Late Monday Boys'

Roby Roundball Classic

Rotan 53, Baird 40
Clyde J.V. 73, Spur 46
Boys' Rising Star Tourney
Baird 77, Merkel JV 43
Merkel JV 24 24 24 5-43
Baird 12 16 20 29-77
Baird--Rodriguez 21, English 12
Nickels 7 Cogburn 9, Scott 7, Manning 16

Newcastle 52, Cross Plains 48

Cross Plains 9 25 4 10-48
Newcastle 10 11 14 18-52
Cross Plains: Dickson 3, Koenig 11, Golson 18, Estes 4, Dillard 12
Newcastle-Moreno 5, Taack 3, Nantz 4, Fellows 7, Mayheim 17, Bell 5, Coap 11.

Ranger 42, Rising Star 34

Ranger 9 11 6 16-42
Rising Star 7 3 8 16-34
Ranger-J. Wilson 15, Krantz, 2; Casey, 13; M. Wilson, 1; Whisenant 5; Gaumont, 6.
Rising Star- Robbins 2, Claborn 10, Reynolds 5, Sanders 2, Foster 2, Morgan 4, Johnson 9.

RECORDS: RANGER 5-2

Strawn 35, Gorman 33, OT
Strawn 5 9 5 14 3-36
Gorman 9 2 16 8 0-33

Strawn-J. Lindsey 10, Caudle 4, Elizondo 2, Spraggins 8, Prado 5, Lindsey 7.

Gorman: Swanner 14, Rodriguez 2, Keys 7, Greer 8, Clark 2.

Clyde, 68: Eastland 42

Eastland 6 12 11 12-42
Clyde 16 22 16 14-68
Eastland-Cummings, 11; Huit, 6; Williamson, 6; Folsom, 14; Cox 3.

Clyde: Carr 2, Hawk, 14; Yeats, 7; Liles; Henson 6; Watts, 7; Poulin 12; Agnew, 5; Verzele 5; Clifton, 8.

RECORD: Clyde 5-0.
J.V. Score: Clyde 70, Eastland, 29.

Rising Star 52, Gorman 46

Rising Star 15 15 12 9-52
Gorman 8 15 12 11-46
Rising Star-Sanders 18, Reynolds 14, Claborn 10, Johnson 5.

Gorman - Greer 13, Swanner 10, Keith 9, Rodriguez 6, Underwood 4.

J.V. Score: Rising Star 29, Gorman 20.

Ranger 66, Lueders-Avoca 20

Lueders-Avoca 6 7 2 5-20
Ranger 24 14 18 10-66
Ranger-David Gaumont 16, Josh Wilson 14, Robert Whisenant 12, Jeff Casey 12.

Lueders-Avoca: Stone 10, Kitchens 7.

Eula 63, Anson 52

Eula 25 14 54 63-63
Anson 21 33 40 52-52
Eula-Henley 27, Reed 11, Marcie 9

Anson- Robinson 14, Ramos 14, Williams 10 Bounds 10

Eula 74, Winter 59

Eula 18 24 20 12-74
Winters 11 15 14 19-59
Eula-Hendley 40
Winters-Nitsch 14, Englant

1, Tubbs 10, Records-Eula 7-2, Winter 2-3.

Clyde 74, Miles 14

Clyde- Watts 20, Miles-Heinez 14.

Woodson Tournament

Woodson 51, Gordon 41
Gordon 9 13 7 12-41
Woodson 15 4 11 18-60
Gordon-Barton 19, Elsberry 10, Vargas 5, Walker 5, Dixon 2.

Woodson: C. Stoker 7, Jones 6, Clark 6, Brockman 5. J. Stoker 3.

Local Girls' Non-District

Baird 48, Rotan 19

Baird 10 10 9 19-48
Rotan 2 1 8 8-19
Baird Suarez-2, Cumby 7, Orlando 8, Johnston 8, Windham 5, Tolet 9, Lowe 8

Rotan-Maureen 3, Cave 4, Thornton 1, Childre 4, Etheredge 7.

Cisco 49, Coleman 35

Cisco 8 25 6 10-49
Coleman 4 8 16 7-35
Cisco-Walkingstick 2, Harris 6, Koenig 11, Ramirez 2, Williams 2, Chriesman 4, Matthews, 11; Harrison, 0, Posey 9.

Coleman-Hanson 1-, Hall 8, Graves 6, Villareal 9.

Records-Coleman 5-2
J.V. Score: Cisco 37, Coleman 34.

STRAWN 52, WALNUT SPRINGS 41

STRAWN 17 4 15 16-52
WALNUT SPRINGS 17 4 15 16-52
STRAWN SHARP 8

BOYD 7, CRABB 27, TRETTER 6, HOLUB 4
Records: Walnut Springs 4-4, Strawn 6-1

Girls

Anson 56, Eula 50
Eula 6 21 14 9-50
Anson 10 14 11 21-56

Eula: Reyex 1, Curigan 12, Layman 8, Reynolds 4, Booth 4, Hillin 11.

Anson: Brazell, 13; Rodriguez, 15; Garcia, 2; Gossett 6; Diez 4; Flores 16.

Cross Plains 58, Zephyr 42

Zephyr 6 17 10 9-42
Cross Plains 15 10 21 12-58
Zephyr: Harris 17, Baker 8, Tores 7; Biddy 4, Bigbie 4, Jackson 2.

Cross Plains: Koenig 25, Watkins 11, Estes 10, Dillard 9, Dickson 2, Callaway 2.

Records: Cross Plains 3-2
J.V. Score: Zephyr 20, Cross Plains 27.

Bronte Tournament

Rising Star 66, Ranger 33
Ranger 9 8 11 5-66
Rising Star 21 17 13 15-33
Ranger -- Kassi 12, Tucker 7

Rising Star: Harris 20, Evans, 14; Long, 9, Martinez 8

Records: Rising Star 5-2
Boys'

SMELL

A distinctive "rotten egg" odor added to make odorless natural gas detectable

LISTEN

An unusual hissing, roaring or blowing sound near gas lines or appliances

LOOK

Blowing dirt, bubbling creeks or ponds, dry spots in moist areas or dead plants surrounded by green, live plants

LEAVE

The area immediately--do not smoke, use a cell phone, turn on or off any lights or appliances or operate any kind of vehicle or equipment that could cause sparks

Although natural gas leaks are rare, learn to recognize the signs. If you suspect a natural gas leak, play it safe: call Atmos Energy at 1-800-817-8090 from a safe distance.



If you suspect a natural gas leak, call 1-800-817-8090. For more information on gas safety, visit atmosenergy.com.

Burn Ban Adopted by Commissioners' Court

(continued from Page 1)
ting of any outdoor fire he or she obtains permission to stage a Prescribed Burn from the Natural Resources Conservation Services.

(4) A person is not in violation if prior to the setting of any outdoor fire, he or she first obtains the permission of the appropriate volunteer Fire Chief. In this instance, the Fire Chief or Sheriff will have the authority to set the conditions, restrictions, and or precautions which must be observed.

(5) Further, the burning of prickly pears as a food supplement for livestock is not a violation, if he or she first obtains permission of the appropriate volunteer Fire Chief or Sheriff or the Callahan County Sheriff. In this instance, the Fire Chief or Sheriff will the authority to set the conditions, restricts, and or precautions which must be observed.

ORDERED by the Commissioners' Court of Callahan County, TX on the November 28, 2005 and executed on the same day.

- (s) Roger Corn, Callahan County Judge.
- (s) Harold Hicks, Commissioner Precinct #1 absent, Bryan Farmer, Commissioner Precinct #2
- 9s)Tommy Holland, Commissioner Precinct #3
- (s) Doris Grider, Commissioner Precinct #4.

Clyde Insurance
Bonnie Howe
Angela Martinez
325-893-4225

Community Plans for Missions of Miracles Christmas 2005

(Submitted by: Ruth Dye Fisher)

Community plans for Mission of Miracles in Christmas 2005 is the word for the Clothes Closet and Food Pantry of Baird which is truly a great mission for our Community and surrounding areas. Please be in prayer as they heap provide for those in need at Christmas time.

The mission at hand is to provide boxes of food for The Christmas Dinner for a family of 4 or more. It is encouraged that you donate your own box. Your box should consist of the following items:

- 2 boxes of stuffing.
- 1 can cream of chicken soup.
- 1 box macaroni & cheese
- 1 large can sweet potatoes.
- 2 cans of 1 large can green beans
- 1 can Cranberry sauce
- 1 large can fruit
- 1 large box jello
- 1 box cake mix
- 1 loaf of bread or 1 package of rolls

If your heart leads you to provide more, please do.

(Please do not include any other perishables in your box.

Donations will also be accepted of new toys at this time.

The Baird "Mission of Miracles" will furnish the turkey

Each person will bring their box to their church from now through Dec. 19th. On Monday, Dec 19th the pantry will receive the gift boxes from 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Family registration for gift and food boxes will began on Dec. 1st and end on December 15th. The registered families will pick up their gift and food boxes on Thursday, Dec. 22nd, between 8:30 a.m and 5:30 p.m.

If you would like to volunteer your services at The Missio please contact Mrs. Ruth Fisher at 854-1323 or just show up with a loving heart. Thanks for your participation in our community and may your lives be richly blessed as you help others.

seconded by Commissioner Doris Grider, to place their fund money in escrow with State and the County with open bids and have local bid lettings. Mr. Karl Kamatsu, the architect for the Depot restoration project "will also be present to assist with the bid opening." The grant for the Baird Depot restoration covers 80 percent of the cost and the local match is 20 percent, which was raised by the Baird Foundation before the project began. There will be no cost to Callahan County For this project.

Other agenda items brought before the commissioners' court included:

-Judge Corn called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. with Commissioners Doris Grider, Tommy Holland, Bryan Farmer and Harold Nicks present. Also present at the meeting were County Attorney Shane Deel, County Treasurer Diannne Alexander and Clerk Jeanie Bohannon.

-The minutes of the November 14 and November 18 commissioners' court meeting were approved as presented.

There was no public comment received.

Commissioner Grider made a motion to ratify and adopt an Order Prohibiting Outdoor Burning. Judge Corn had ordered the burn ban effective Nov. 21, 2005. Commissioner Holland seconded and the motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

Commissioner Farmer made a motion to approve the deputation of Bobby Beard at the Callahan County Sheriff's De-

**Clyde Hardware
And Supply**
199 Pecan
325-893-4260

**First National
Bank of Baird**
TH244 Market
325-854-1295
Member FDIC

Ladies' Basketball Scores Roby Roundball Tournament

Roby	3	12	8	8-31
Baird	6	6	13	15-41

Baird -Suarez 2, Cumby 2, Orlando 6, Johnston 5, Windham 6, Tollett 4, Burns 5
Roby: Terry 2, Callan 5, Stewart 3, Schroeder 16, Coffey 5, Lackey 10.

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

Filing for Republican Candidacy for the March 7th Primary Began Dec. 3

Pat Chrane, the Callahan County Republican Chairman announced that applications for candidates filing for the Republican Primary ballot were being accepted beginning Monday, Dec. 3rd, 2005.

Interested persons may obtain information or appli-

cations by contacting Pat Chrane at 325-529=2426, or Betty Johnston at 325-529-3396. Application will be accepted through January 2, 2006 at 6:00 p.m.

The filing fee for Justice of the Peace is \$375.00 and for all other county offices is \$750.

CALLAHAN COUNTY TO HOST 3 HOUR CEU NIGHT COURSE DECEMBER 20

Many producers that have a pesticide license have a hard time attending daytime educational programs that offer CEU's (Continuing Education Unit) for re-certification of their license. Therefore, a special three (3) Hour pesticide re-certification night course for Texas Department of Agriculture applicator license holders is set for December 20 in the Callahan County Extension Office located on the 2nd floor of the County Courthouse. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. and the program starts at 6 p.m. Texas Department of Agriculture has approved the program for 1 Hour in Laws and Regulation, 1 Hour in Integrated Pest Management, and 1 Hour of General. These hours will apply to Commercial, Non-commercial, and Private Applicators' license holders.

The program will begin with Laws and Regulations presentation followed by Integrated Pest Management presentation discussing alternative approaches available when using pesticides. The night course will conclude after a 1 hour general presentation at 9:00 p.m. CEU certificates will be awarded at the conclusion of the program.

Cost for the training is \$5.00 for those that pre-register by December 16. To pre-register or for more information, contact the Callahan County Extension Office at (325) 854-5835.

Sincerely,
Robert Pritz,
Callahan
County Extension Agent

**Looking for: responsible
Paper Route Delivery for
Baird, Clyde and Cross Plains.
Contract labor, Call 254-629-1707**

Postal Inspectors Warn Public About Counterfeit Financial Instruments from Cyber Scams

Ft. Worth--

According to the Postal Inspectors with the U.S.P. out of Ft. Worth, the latest scam to hit American consumers involves Counterfeit financial instruments, costing victims millions of dollars each month. Counterfeit checks and money orders--including U.S.P. S. Money Orders--are used in the scam, which often starts with what appears to be an innocent contact via an internet chatroom or by e-mail.

Students, tourists or overseas military personnel are actually con artists asking for help in cashing checks and money orders, or they target people looking for love or companionship, in order to exploit their vulnerability. Online auctioneers are also at risk, Scammers buy goods or services on the internet and often payment by check or money order--often in excess of the actual

value to the goods or services.

Postal inspectors have found that in most cases, con artists ship the check or money order and ask the victim to cash it, keep a portion as a "gift", and wire the remainder, usually to an overseas address..

Bank customers are responsible for the checks they deposit and depositors must repay the bank for bad checks. Federal law requires banks to make the funds the customer deposits available quickly, but it is important for consumers to know that just because you can withdraw the money, it doesn't mean the check or money order is good. Banks often release funds from a cashier's check or money order before it is determined to be legitimate or fraudulent.

The scams have several common factors:

*Contact is usually via the internet.

*Communications often contain misspellings, poor grammar, or improperly used words.

*Counterfeit Postal Money orders for most often denominated from \$800 to \$1,000. Commercial checks and other money orders can be in varying amounts, but often are triple this amount.

*Victims are to wire funds to the fraudsters, sometimes keeping a portion of the proceeds for themselves.

*Transactions involving the purchase of merchandise usually involve payment in an amount greater than the purchase, with a request to wire back excess funds.

Recently Postal Inspectors have learned of three additional scams exclusively involving Postal Money Orders.

1> In an attempt to lull the victim the scammer sends the victim an email from "Postal Money Order.com" advising the victim a money order has been approved in their name.

2. Scammers use Qchex.com, a legitimate bill payment service in the United States that issues checks drawn on their customers' accounts, to distribute fake money orders that bear the USPS letterhead, allegedly to aid the cashing of

Student of The Week

Kara McIntire



3rd grade- Mrs. Gardner's class

Her favorite food is okra. She loves horses and sports.

the counterfeit Postal Money Orders. The Postal Service never authors any such letter to a customer.

So how can the public be confident that they have received a legitimate financial document? For Postal Money Orders, visit the website:

www.usps.com/postalinspectors. Click on the Postal Money Order alert for further descriptions of frauds involving Postal Money Orders and Postal Money Order security features. Also listed is a toll-free number for verification-800/372-8347. Alternatively, go to your local post office and ask the clerk to check to see if the Postal Money Order is counterfeit-if anyone would know, it would be the clerk or postmaster.

For other financial documents, try to verify it through the entity that issued it. Bank Tellers and check cashiers see too many checks and money orders to know the security features in every document.

**BURGESS AUCTIONEERS
FALL EQUIP. AUCTION
SAT., DEC. 10 - 9 A.M.**

6 Mi. S. of Graham, TX FM 1287
Selling Farm Estate & Farm Sellout

Tractors: Versatile 876 - JD 4450 MFWD - Versatile 2 - MF283 - Kubota L2650 w/Ldr - JD 4020 w/Ldr - JD 4230 w/Ldr - IH 484 - JD 820 -IH 856 - IH 766 - IH 8 - JD MT Restored - JD B Restored

Const. Equip.: 91 Komatsu D31P-18 DZR - CAT D6 24X, Winch - CAT D6, 8U - CASE W18B Whl Ldr, JCB 1700B Bckhoe, 4x4 - CASE 580D Bckhoe - CAT 12E Grader

Trucks, Trailers, Vehicles: 01 F350 Lariat, 63k miles 96 F450 Winch - 95 Volvo S/A Trk - 87 Volvo S/A Trk

Also: Cars, Trailers, Semi Trailers, Several hundred of farm, hay, livestock equip. - Oilfield, Guns, Tools, Welders, Much More!

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940-549-0979

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5-104