31¢ By Mail



Baird Star

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Volume 115 Number 18

Baird, Texas 79504

March

2002

Thursday, May 1, 2003



Wit's End is one of the many shops in Baird featuring antiques, memorabilia, & collectors items. These shops bring tourists from the Interstate & visitors from near and far into Baird. Don't forget Baird 2003 Antiques Market & Trade Days are June

Immunization

Clinic

Texas Department of Health will hold the

following Immunization

clinic in Callahan County

Vednesday, May 7th 1:30-

Commissioners Court Holds Open Meeting

The Callahan County Commissioners Court gave Granting Easement - Precinct notice of an Open Meeting to be held on April 28, 2003 at 9:30 a.m. in the County Bills. Courthouse Commissioners Court Room in Baird.

The Commissioners were to deliberate and consider

action on the following items: I. Review and sign minutes of previous meeting.

II. Public comment (5 minutes per speaker) no discussion or action.

annual County Attorney's which provide statutory

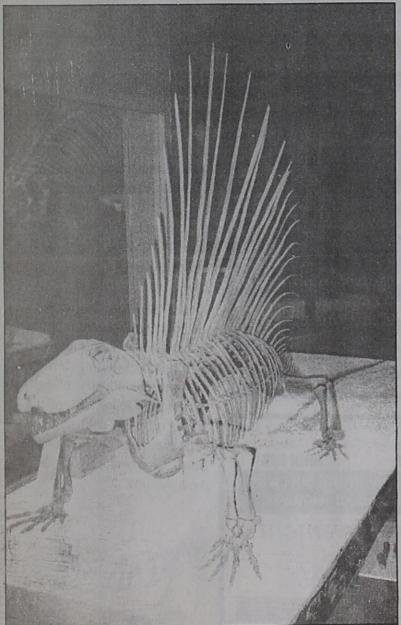
IV. Discuss - Approve 4 - Randal L. Wiginton

V. Discuss - Pay Approved

Pursuant to the authority granted under Government Code, Chap. 551, the Commissioners Court may

convene a closed session to discuss any of the above agenda items. Immediately before any closed session, the

specific section or sections of III. Discuss - Approve Government Code, Chap. 551 authority will be announced.



Dimetrodon, a "mammal-like" reptile from the Permian Period on loan from the Texas Memorial Museum of Science and History at the University of Texas, Austin. (Story inside)

qualifying times for the boys

Sean Rountree and Traci Windham of Baird both placed among the top winners in the 11-A Track Meet held at Elmer Gray Stadium on Friday, April 25.

Rountree captured the best 100 (10.95) and 200 (22.67).

Baird Students Place At Region 11-A Track Meet

Traci Windham took third place in the Triple Jump with 35-063/4, only slightly

behind second place winner Stephanie Brown of May (36-011/5). Windham ran 16.18 in the 100 hurdles, and also booked the third best time in the 300 hurdles.

669,200

Unemployment Rates

Texas and U.S. Unemployment Rates

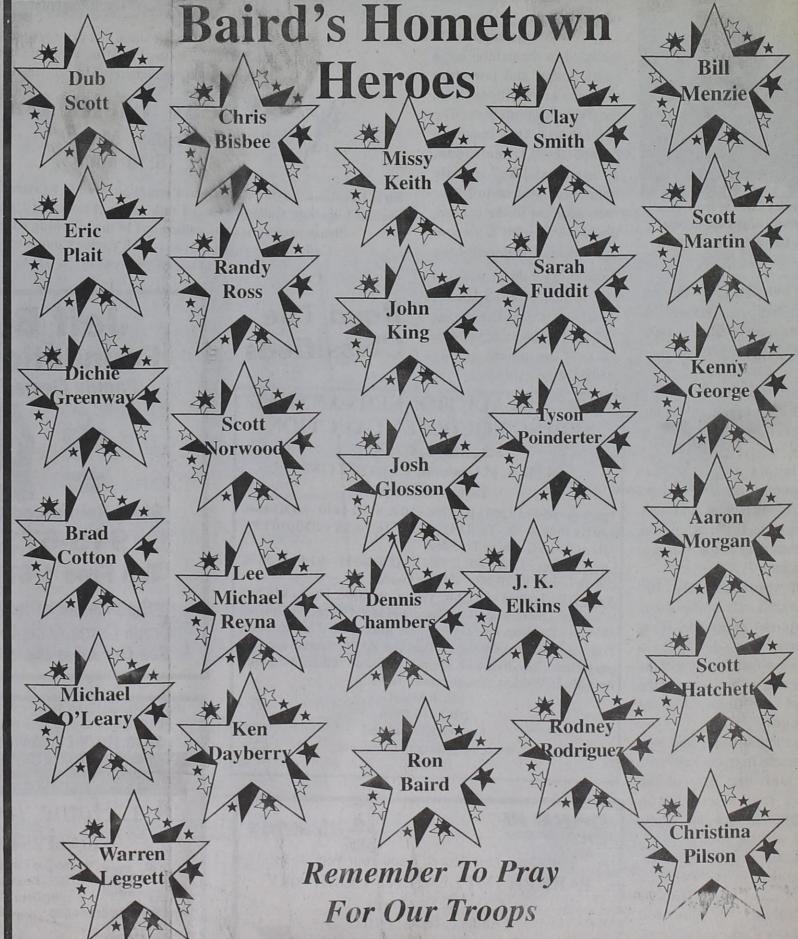
TEXAS - ACTUAL*

		Civilian				
		Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate	
March	2003	10,885,300	10,180,800	704,500	6.5	
February	2003	10,842,800	10,125,300	717,500	6.6	
March	2002	10,637,100	9,993,800	643,300	6.0	
		TEXAS - SEASONALLY ADJUSTED*				
		Civilian				
		Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate	
March	2003	10,954,000	10,221,700	732,300	6.7	
February	2003	10,942,800	10,217,300	725,500	6.6	

Jan Feb Mar CALLAHAN COUNTY Labor Force 6,626 6,714 Employment 6,346 6,461 Unemployment 280

10,036,000

10,705,200



Opportunity

Earn \$1,500 Daily Work From Home Only 5 hours weekly Start Today. Send \$5 And S.A.S.E. for details SCM, P.O. Box 1386 Blanco, TX 76606-9998

Help Wanted

Local building contractor now accepting applications for all positions. Pay based on experience. For appointment to apply in person, call 254-629-

Girling Health Care, Inc. Home Care Attendants needed in Baird and surrounding area to help with housekeeping and personal care. For more information call 800-665-4471 or 915-643-5604.

Misc.

I'm Mad...at banks who don't give house loans because of bad credit, problems or new employment. I do, call L.D. Kirk, Homeland Mortgages, (254) 947-4475.

For Sale



Dinosaurs Of Texas Exhibition Offers A Journey Through **Prehistoric Texas**

objects

Of approximately 300 different kinds of dinosaurs recognized worldwide, Texas has more than a dozen. Texas dinosaurs include some of the earliest as well as some of the latest of these ancient

and Jurassic Periods and finally the Cretaceous Period.

years of planning by teachers and community supporters, promotes comprehension of the vast geographic and biological changes that occurred in Texas. On exhibit are full and partial fossil specimens of prehistoric reptiles, amphibians, and dinosaurs, as well as a paleontology lab where fossils are being prepared and cast for study. The specimens in the exhibit are based on fossil discoveries in Taylor County, the Texas Panhandle,

Glen Rose, Big Bend, and international sites.

The authentic and cast specimens are on loan from Texas Memorial Museum of Science and History at the University of Texas in Austin, Dallas Museum of Natural History, The Museum of Texas Tech University, Dinosaur World and Fossil Gallery in San Antonio, and private collectors. Included in the exhibition are authentic invertebrate fossils, fossilized ammonites, five canvas wall murals of different periods by the well-known dinosaur muralist LaGina Fairbetter of Post, Texas, a 16 foot long replica track way (dinosaur tracks) similar to the authentic track way at Glen Rose, and a replica dinosaur foot in which children can sit.

Also featured will be a Dino Dig Site in the outside courtyard of the museum. The site is a hands-on exhibit, built by Boy Scout Troop 232, in which a replica of a fossilized juvenile Hadrosaur is covered in sand. Children will be introduced to pale ontological fieldwork with buckets, shovels, brushes, and gloves to uncover the remains of a dinosaur.

A few of the highlights included in the exhibit are a skull, femur and jaw from everyone's terrifying favorite, the Tyrannosaurus Rex. The exhibit will also feature a complete Dimetrodon, a'"mammal-like" reptile found near Abilene in 1907. In addition to the exhibit, visitors will enjoy a view of the working Paleontology Preparatory Lab in which a group of area high school students called the Boneheads and their teachers have been working for months getting ready for the exhibition.

- JD 4020 LPG - more Tractors

Bkhoe - Flat FR12B ldr. - IH Pay Loader

Pipe, Rods-Welders, Compressors, Tools

A cast of a Hadrosaur, on loan from a private collection, was found near Terlingua, Texas. It was excavated, cast and prepared by the Bonehead Paleontology

Student Club. The Grace Museum store is scheduled to reopen on June 7, 2003 - just in time for the museum's Dinosaurs of Texas exhibition.

Kay Wetteman, the new store manager, is preparing the store for the opening and stocking up on classic and historic children's toys, art and dinosaur books for children and adults, t-shirts,

Among the Dinosaurs of Texas exhibition sponsors is the Dodge Jones Foundation, which has also offered a Challenge Grant to the Baird Foundation's Depot Renovation project.

Dodge Jones Foundation is well known for its philanthropic activities throughout the area and

The First National Bank of Baird - Abilene Office - is among the Free Thursday Nights sponsors.

Museum Hours are Tuesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. -5 p.m.; Thursday, 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Admission is free for museum members, and on Thursday evenings from 5-

Regular admission as of June 1, 2003 will be Adults -\$5, Seniors, Students, Military - \$4, Children (4-12) - \$3, Children (3 & under) -

3 CEU's
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free. Group tour discounts are available.

Educational activities and programs are planned throughout the exhibition, which runs through August 28, 2004. For more information contact The Grace Museum at (325) 673-

Rain For Local Area

By Viola M. Payne

A series of thunderstorms ahead of a dry line brought rain to Eastland and Callahan County on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 22 and 23. On Wednesday it also brought a tornado watch to a number of counties around Abilene and east.

A tornado was spotted north of Clyde, moving to the northeast. But no special damage was reported from this storm, or from the high winds and hail that raked a number of communities on the south side of Eastland County.

The disturbed weather rolled on east late Wednesday. Storms erupted about 9:30 p.m. in Johnson County near Alvarado, south of Fort Worth. Forty-eight mobile homes were over turned, and power lines were ripped down. Several residents were injured, with some trapped in their homes until firemen could free them.

The storm split and skirted

Pond Management Seminar

Wednesday, April 30

9:00 am

Baird Activity Center

The Seminar and meal are \$5 to those that pre-register by April 25th

Call the Callahan County Extension Office at 854-1518 to pre-register

Registration at program is \$10 per person.

Wheat Field Day

Friday, May 9

8:30 am

Second Location: Callahan Co. - 1 mile north of Eula and 1/4 mile east on CR 250

Please pre-register by calling one of the following Extension Offices

Callahan County (325) 854-1518 Taylor County (325) 672-6048

Shackelford County (325) 76?-2232

First Location: Taylor Co. Wheat Plots Highway 351 North of Abilene

Baird. No substantial rainfall or hail damage was reported in the city.

heaviest rain was reported around Rising Star. This town got .9 of an inch on Tuesday morning, and Wednesday 1.5 inches - falling about 6 p.m. There was marble-sized hail west of Rising Star to Cross Plains, and as far north as the Romney community. enough to ruin gardens or fruit trees.

in from the west.

with dust from the rolling farms and ranches. plains, the high plains and far west Texas, where things are RRC really dry.

Pending Bills Could Threaaten Trinity Aquifer

The freshwater source of Callahan County - the Trinity Aquifer, may be in jeopardy if two pending bills pass into Legislative Session.

to change the bonding laws

Thursday, May 1, 2003 The proposed law will not require either owner's testing of oil wells for environmental In Eastland County, the safety or plugging abandoned wells to assure that they will not contaminate aquifers.

More than 115,000 old dead oil wells, some idle for rusting decades, lie throughout Texas. Current estimates are that 1015 of these wells are in Callahan and surrounding counties. A Apparently it didn't fall long deserted, unplugged oil well is a vertical pipeline that can transport saltwater from The rain was a lot of deeper geologic formations benefit to hay, grass and directly into shallow gardens in all the counties freshwater aquifers. Many of around - but a lot more is the state's water conservation needed. All were reminded of districts suspect that these that on Thursday, April 25, wells are leaking, perhaps when the skies had cleared polluting the aquifers they and a high, rolling wind came penetrate. These same aquifers provide drinking The sky had turned red water to Texas cities, homes,

> In fiscal year 2001, the began testing abandoned wells across the state. That year, more than 60% of tested wells failed because saltwater levels had

pushed up into the level of the area's freshwater aquifer. Testing has continued during the past 2 years, 2002 and 2003, with failure rates even higher — increasing to 70%.

Today, the Texas Land and law during Texas' current Mineral Owners Association (TLMA) announced HB 2020 and SB 1408 seek opposition to the legislation on the basis that it weakens for oil well operators, bonding laws to benefit small, lessening financial security high-risk oil operators and requirements of the Texas does not hold them Railroad Commission (RRC). financially responsible for leaving wells unplugged. The trend in Texas for many years has been for small high-risk operators to buy old depleted wells from larger, wellfinanced oil companies. The salvage operators pump the wells dry and move on without plugging the wells. They leave the wells to rust and eventually pollute water in the aquifer.

In 2000, the Sunset Advisory Commission review of the Railroad Commission revealed that the structure of the Oilfield Cleanup was insufficient to meet the State's current and anticipated liability. Further, without adequate financial assurance and enforcement, the State will continue to be burdened with shut-in abandoned wells waiting for someone to plug them. The legislature responded in 2001 by passing SB 310, which required mandatory bonding of all oil operators regardless of size by 2004. Today, approximately 95% of the state's oil operators are bonded.

According to a TLMA spokesman, the solution to the bonding problem is not to jeopardize the state's aquifers by reducing bonding, but for the Texas oil industry to begin plugging at least 15% of the state's oil wells each year.

(submitted by the Texas Land & Mineral Owners Association)



Cinch western shirts. Snaps, 2 pockets, extra long tails, 100% cotton prints. A \$50 value at \$39.99 at Johnson's Dry Goods, Cross Plains,

B18



Bradley Neal is the son of Tommy and Telitha Neal 6th Grade - Mrs. Barton

Specimens found in the Big Country are among display

Visitors to the Grace Museum in Abilene will get an exciting look at dinosaurs, Texas style, in the exhibition, Dinosaurs of Texas, slated to open June 7, 2003.

creatures. Authentic fossil and cast specimens from the Paleozoic and Mesozoic Eras of the Texas region will be on exhibit. Children and adults alike will be able to take a walk through geologic time, beginning in the Permian

Triassic and raurs of Texas, a culminar on -

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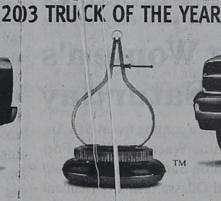
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Austin, Texas-- Some 69 percent of Texans support a constitutional amendment to cap noneconomic damage jury awards according to a recent telephone survey of 1,001 Texas registered voters conducted from March 5-8. The survey's margin of error is + 3.2 percent at a 95 percent level of confidence.

Strongest support for the noneconomic damage cap proposal was found in the Panhandle (81 percent) and areas with 70 percent or higher support included the El Paso/Border region, the Dallas/Fort Worth area, Houston, East Texas, and West Texas.

Also, 60 percent of Texas Democrats favor a noneconomic damage cap compared to 78 percent support among Republicans and 59 percent support among the state's independent voters.

Complementing Texas Governor Rick Perry's recent determination that health care lawsuit abuse is an "emergency" item for the Texas Legislature, the poll found 91 percent of Texans describing the issue of medical malpractice insurance in Texas today as a "crisis" or "problem."

Also according to the survey, by slightly more than a 2-1 margin, Texans feel the current legislative proposal for a \$250,000 cap on noneconomic damages is either "about right" (40 percent) or "too high" (20 percent) while only 26 percent of Texans say "it's too low."

Additionally, 75 percent of

Texans favor "limiting the amount of money lawyers are paid for trying successful medical malpractice and other personal injury lawsuits."

And, 85 percent of voters statewide say it is unfair "for lawyers to charge contingency fees in medical malpractice lawsuits if this form of billing allows the lawyers to receive more of the settlement money than the injured clients they represent."

The survey was commissioned by the Texas Medical Association, Texas Hospital Association, and Texas Alliance for Patient Access. The poll was conducted by The Eppstein Group, a 20 year old Fort Worth/Austin based polling and public affairs firm.

West Texas Catclaw Chap-

Association

ter of the American Business

(ABWA) proudly announces

the 12th Annual Spring Swing

women's golf tournament

sponsored in part by

Lawrence Hall Abilene. The

tournament is a four-woman

scramble to be held on May

3rd at the Maxwell Municipal

Golf Course, Abilene, Texas.

All proceeds raised are

awarded in scholarships to

local young women to help

them fulfill their educational

grown from 44 entrants in the

first year to 136 in 2002, with

The "Spring Swing" has

Women's

Starlight

Attending the first awards banquet for the Abilene Actors Guild formatted in 2002 were Catherine Worthy and son, Walt Worthy, from I Baird.

Walt is the member and Catherine is the "means of transportation."

Accompanying them w as Walt's first speech and drama teacher, a lady w ho started many Abilenian on the road verbal comfort and succ ess. Katherine Ricks, recently retired from classes at her studio, began her career (38 years of teaching) in Bai rd as "Katherine Freeman."

A bit of history here: Katherine was an only child, but she knew early on that

women coming fro m San An-

tonio, Waco, Da llas, Fort

Worth, San Angeles, Midland

and Odessa. The tournament

has become the lai rgest ladies

golf tournament in Texas west

of Fort Worth and people keep

coming back be cause they

scribed in three words: friend-

ship, leadership, and scholar-

ship. ABWA offer's an oppor-

tunity to discover and extend

friendship to a diverse group

of women. Leadership posi-

tions offer the op portunity to

practice skills and develop

self-confidence. Leadership

and teamwork are the back-

of putting together a success-

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ful golf tournament.

Our Chapter can be de-

have so much fun .

Spring Swing Womein's

Golf Tourney Saturday

By Julia Worthy

se wanted to teach. The ating bug never did bite hr, but with all that "pl'ike if only children go through, se knew she wanted a big fmily of her own and to strictly imaginary "doggie." tach people "how to act." (hat usually meant how to bhave in our childhood, which we shared over at Noran from the fifth grade high school.) trough Intherine has her big family: tn grandchildren and beginrng on great-granchildren, ad I have lost count. Too, there are "her" children who atended her classes. I have rany of the same kind of cildren from my classroom taching - - - "ours" by heart i not by blood. ('Scuse, rease. I am old enough riw to get sentimental and rit care who knows it.)

Walt came home with tree awards, and a flag from aminor "roast." He brought to awards for Timothy Enghoffer, my hme-schooler, as Timothy was in the Guild production o " Magic Theater" last Ciristmas. Tim was unable to go with them Saturday nght. He is the son of Robert Dinna and Rnghoffer of Baird.

firm each other, being there for each other, and growing tegether. Nationally ABWA

To bring together businessw man of diverse occupa-ABWA is a national net- tiens and to provide opportuwork of women dedicated to ni es for them to help themhelping each other reach new seves and others grow perheights in their careers. so ally and professionally ABWA is all about support, though leadership, educaabout reaching out to each tick, networking support and other, giving a hand, learning na onal recognition".

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UILDINGS

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h s 60,000 members in 1,200 c apters across the United Sites. The mission of the America Business Women's Asso-

like his mentor, more inclined toward direction and the techniques of getting a production on the stage. Tim is a "natural." If he tells you a yarn about a "poor little doggie," it is so mournful that it would be easy to shed real tears for a

Both Catherine and Walt received a certificate for the scripts they wrote at the workshop for the "Aesop's

Thursday, May 1, 2003 Walt seems to me to be Fables" the Guild produced in April: Walt for "The Fox and the Crow," Catherinefor "The Domesticated Dog and the Wolf."

> My knees are recalcitrant as ever, so I was not one amongst 'em. My loss, but I see no change coming. I am not grieved; just inconvenienced.

It seems like the Guild is off to a good start, and one of my earnest wish is for it to thrive.

Putnam Musical Is Friday

Putnam Musical will be Friday, May 2nd. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the good fellowship and Country, Western and Gospel music. There is no charge to get in.

Kitchen will open at 5:30 p.m. with good food.

Music will start at 6 p.m. Carl Whiteley will be the em-

Admiral Cemetery Assoc. **Workday Is Set Saturday**

The Admiral Cemetery Association will conduct its annual membership meeting and workday at the cemetery on Saturday, May 3rd. The event will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at noon. Families with loved ones buried in the cemetery are asked to come out and help remove trash, trim trees and bushes, and fillin graves that have settled. The business meeting will include a financial report and an election to fill the expiring term on the board of directors currently held by Dora Hounshell.

The Admiral Cemetery Association is a non-profit corporation charted by the State of Texas for the purpose of improving and maintaining this historic site. The work of the association is funded by interest earned on a certificate of deposit and gifts and memorials offered by friends and family members. Low interest rates have drastically reduced the yield of the association's endowment over the past year. This has created a critical need for contributions if the present level of maintenance is to be continued in the amounts ahead.

All donations to the Admiral Cemetery Association's Maintenance Fund are greatly appreciated and are accepted at any branch of the First National Bank of Baird or may be mailed to 7257 CR 474, Baird, TX 79504.



Births, Engagements, Weddings, Sports, Scouts, School News, Special Events, Musicals, Benefits, Church, Obituaries

We appreciate your articles. Please leave at Callahan County Star, e-mail address telegram@eastland.net or mail to 211 Market St., Baird, TX 79504 or PO Box 29, Eastland, TX 76448.

16 18 24 25 26 27 23 22 34 32 | 33 37 45 46 42 41 48 54 50 57 56 60 59

ACROSS

1. Tyler of That Thing You Do! He hosts with Kathie Lee Sherbet Maris or Rehan

Paris" (2 wds.) Storage container 15. , soft! What light..." (Romeo) Himalayan country

Sail part Enticements 20. Skilfulness 22. 24. Former British PM Gnt one's goat 28. Cauliflower, for one

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Jima, Japan

43. 47. Lanai wrestler Incursion 50. Manufacturing batch 53.

Preeminent

Salt-n-Pepa's genre 55. 56. Period Australian ratite 57. Mister, in India Type of reunion

Vague list ender

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Obituaries

Alfred Newman

SWEETWATER- Alfred Sylvester 'Dooney' Newman, Jr., 70, died Monday, April 14, 2003 in Dallas, Texas.

Services were held at 1 p.m. Thursday, April 17, 2003 at McCoy Chapel of Memories, Dr. Mark Alexander officiited. Graveside services were neld at 2:30 p.m. at Belle Plain Cemetery in Baird, Texas. Services were directed by McCoy Funeral Home of Sweetwater.

Mr. Newman was born September 12, 1932 in Baird, Texas. He was a graduate of Graham High School. He was a member of First United Methodist Church in Sweetwater. He was employed by Sweetwater Independent School District as a bus driver. He was a Korean War Veteran, a member of the Masonic Lodge and served on the Board of Directors of Sweetwater Housing Authority. He had lived in Sweetwater the past 11 years, moving there from Fort Worth. He had retired from Azle School District.

He was preceded in death by his father, Alfred S. Newman, Sr., and two sisters,

Katherine LeBlond and Rosetta Alexander.

Survivors are Sylvia Newman of Sweetwater; one daughter, Mikea-Lawhon of Sweetwater; two sons, Clint Newman of Albuquerque, N.M. and Jerry Newman and wife Mary Lou of McKinney, TX; three grandchildren, Trey McKenzie of Dallas, Tracie McKenzie of Abilene, Andrew Lawhon of Sweetwater; mother, Octavia Newman of Fort Worth; one brother, Roy Eugene Newman of Arling-

ton, TX.; two sisters, Sharon Kay Newman of Fort Worth, Eddie McKay of Fort Worth.

Pallbearers were U.S. Burton, Eddie Puckett, Jerry Lawrence, Jack Lawrence, Rithcey, Fambrough. Honorary pallbearers were Ralph Weatherby, Guy Weeks, Sr., Andy Weatherby, Scotty Knox, and Dr. Luther Martin.

Memorials may be made to First United Methodist Church, 309 Cedar St., Sweetwater, TX 79556 or Gateway Family Services P.O. Box 1394, Snyder, TX 79550.

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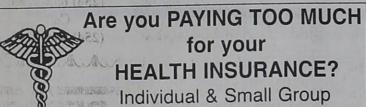
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SUBSCRIPTION RATES \$16 per year in Caliahan County; \$17 per year for Counties Adjoining Callahan; \$19 per year in Toxas, out of Callahan County; \$22 per year and of Texas.

July 1st Is Deadline For **Depot Project Challenge Grant**

July 1, 2003 is an important date for the project entitled 1911 T & P Railroad Depot Visitors Center and Transportation Museum, sponsored by the Baird Foundation.

The project to renovate the historic Baird Deport, and to add important facilities for tourist and visitors has been described as a very significant project, and one that would be of great benefit to the city of Baird.

The Dodge Jones Foundation of Abilene, Texas, has given a \$50,000 challenge grant to help the Baird Foundation meet the required 20 percent local investment (\$296,000) toward the total cost of the project, which is \$1,480,630. TxDOT selected the project for funding January 31, 2002, and will pay 80 percent (\$1,184,504) of the total project.

Foundation] will be paid no later than July 1, 2003, upon notification by you and Judge Corn that the additional \$50,000 has been raised either in cash or pledges so long as it satisfies TxDOT requirements," Lawrence E. Gill, Grants Administrator stated in a correspondence with the Baird Foundation.

President Henson stated that to date \$136,178 has been

raised.

"To complete the required 20 percent match, \$159,948 is needed. If the Dodge Jones Foundation challenge grant can be matched by July 1, 2003, future sales tax revenues will be leveraged to complete the balance needed (\$59,948) and the project can proceed," she added.

On May 3, 2000, the Baird Foundation was informed by the Internal Revenue Service, - based on the information supplied by the Foundation, and assuming that the operations would be as stated in their application for recognition of exemption, that they had determined the Foundation exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (a) of the IRS Code as an organization described in section 501 (c)

The Baird Foundation "This grant [Dodge Jones would greatly appreciate and will acknowledge all donations to their Depot project. These donations are tax deductible.

Donations may be sent to: The Baird Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 601, Baird, TX 79504.

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culture Commissioner

SUSAN COMBS

Spring is here, and we probably can

expect West Nile virus to be active again this year. Horse lovers across the state need to be aware. The bottom line is this

vaccinating horses offers the best

West Nile is a virus that causes encephalitis - inflammation of the brain -

in horses, donkeys, mules, humans and

several other species of animals.

Detections typically occur in the late

summer or early fall, but in southern

states like Texas the virus can be

The virus is transmitted by mosquitoes

that acquire it from infected birds. Last

year there were 1.597 confirmed West Nile cases among horses in Texas. With a population of more than 1 million horses in Texas, that number sounds like a drop

in the bucket, but this virus can be devas-

tating. Many horses infected with West Nile virus do not develop any illness, but

of horses that do become ill about one-third die or need to be euthanatized.

Equine owners should have their

animals vaccinated this year, even if their

horses and mules were vaccinated last

year. Beyond vaccinations, the best way

to protect animals is to target mosquitoes.

Remove all sources of standing, stagnant

water that could breed mosquitoes and

thoroughly clean livestock watering

troughs at least monthly. Insect repellents

and screened housing are other great

ways to protect horses from mosquitoes.

For more information about West Nile Virus vaccinations, please call the

Texas Animal Health Commission at

(800) 550-8242.

transmitted in the spring or year round.

protection



Remember To Renew

THE COURSE

Keeping an Eye on Texas

Texas Advances in World Economic Rankings

If Texas were still a nation, it would have the eighth-largest economy in the world. Texas' 2000 ranking is a step higher than its ninth-place ranking in

1999. The rankings are based on the most recent Gross National Product (GNP) statistics from the World Bank Atlas.

With a 2000 Gross State Product (GSP) of \$725 billion, the Texas economy is more than three times the size of the Russian economy, and also outpaces the GNP of countries

like Canada, Brazil, Korea and Argentina. The United States has the world's largest GNP — \$9.6 trillion.

Source: Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn (www.window.state.tx.us) and the World Bank Atlas.

Gross State Product

\$725 Billion

Observando a Texas

Texas avanza en las clasificaciones de la economía mundial

Si Texas fuera una nación, ocuparía el octavo lugar en la economía mundial. La posición de Texas en el 2000 es un escalón más alto que su noveno lugar en 1999. Las categorías están Producto Nacional basadas en las más recientes Bruto en el 2000

estadísticas del **Producto Nacional** Bruto (GNP) del Banco Mundial Atlas.

Con un Producto Nacional Bruto de \$725 billones en el 2000, la economía de Texas es más de tres veces el tamaño de la economía Rusa, y también sobrepasa el GNP de países como Canada, Brazil, Korea y Argentina. Estados Unidos tiene el más grande GNP - \$9.6 trillones.

\$725 Billiones

Origen: Carole Keeton Strayhorn, Contralora de Cuentas Públicas de Texas, y el Banco Mundial Atlas.

Baird Churches

First Baptist Church Race & Third St. Pastor: Chad King Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship - 11:00

Evening Worship - 6:00 p.m.

Baird Church Of Christ

I-20 & FM 2047 Minister: Bob Kiser Sunday Bible Classes -10:00 a.m.

Morning Worship & Communion - 10:45 a.m. Evening Worship - 6:00 p.m.

First Methodist Church North I-20 Hwy 283 Pastor:

Rev. Lawrence Gaumond Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m. Youth Group - 5:00 p.m. Evening Worship - 6:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church Fourth and Chestnut

Pastor: Dr. Richard Woods Sunday School - 9:00 a.m. Morning Worship - 10:00 a.m.

Church of God Thelma Dr. & W. Hwy 80

Pastor: James Radford Sunday School - 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship - 11:00 a.m. Evening Worship - 6:00 p.m.

New Life Covenant Fellowship Church 901 W. 4th Pastor: Don Strickland Sunday Worship - 10:00 a.m.

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Just Remembering

By Jasper Cook

My wife and I traveled to Little Rock last week to visit our son in the VA Hospital. On the way there we talked about how nice it would be to drive in a city where the traffic was much less hectic than in Austin. Wishful thinking! There is little, if any, difference in Austin, Dallas, Little Rock, or anywhere in between..

We experienced jammed highways all the way there Our major and back. was concern obstreperous, irresponsible driving of several brainless wonders, who seemed to be in a hurry to meet their Maker and didn't care how many people they took with them. We were especially aware of those deplorable working for Uncle Abe individuals who daringly darted from the far inside lanes of speeding vehicles, and onto the exit ramp while walking. still rocketing along at 70 miles per hour.

T Ford in 1926 and have "laziness." Today we ride. been a licensed drive in many of our States and a few foreign countries and I have day and some of the clerks never seen such traffic before. Makes me want to return to the days when we drive-ins. I once saw a man walked everywhere.

The other day a man tried to sell me a contraption that fastens to your leg and tells you how far you walk. If I had purchased one of those things in the early 20s it would have worn out years ago. In my younger days we walked everywhere, but not any more. I walked more than a mile to High School every day. I wonder how many miles I walked each year while I was "chopping cotton." In the Summers I walked seven miles from my Grandmother's house to church. My folks didn't own a car until 1926. If we wanted to go somewhere, we did like everybody else, we walked, and thought nothing

My first real job was Notgrass in his shoe repair He had a good lane of traffic, across three business because people wore out their shoes.

Not any more! We have been endowed with a I learned to drive a Model tremendous malady called

I was in a large department store the other were on roller skates. I've seen the same thing at walking backwards through

my hometown of Cisco. His goal was to walk around the world backward. I don't know if he made it. My wife says that must have been me because I don't know whether I'm coming or going.

By the way, I do wish that dear old lady in the motorized chair television would get to the Grand Canyon. She keeps saying she is going, but she never does.

I asked my doctor if I would benefit from the use of one of those electric scooters and he advised me against it. He tells me I should walk more. I keep promising him I will, but I'm afraid that promise is like too many of my New Year's resolutions.

My wife just asked me to go to the store for a loaf of fresh bread. Man, that's a whole city block from here. I sure hope my car will start.

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Putnam Homecoming

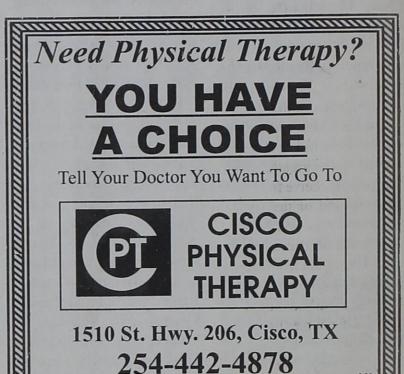
All Putnam friends, ex-students, and ex-teachers are in- was opened in 1937, and was vited to attend the 2003 closed in 1976. Putnam Homecoming. Registation will begin at 9 a.m. on 325-662-3631 or Hubert Saturday, May 10 in the Donaway at 325-662-3334. schoolhouse. Bar-b-que and ham sandwiches with drink www.putnamtexas.com. and dessert will be served at 11:30 p.m. The cost of the meal is \$5.00. The General Session will begin in the auditorium at 1 p.m. The master of ceremonies will be Carl White. Carl is prepared to have some ex-students and teachers share some of their experiences while they attended school at Putnam.

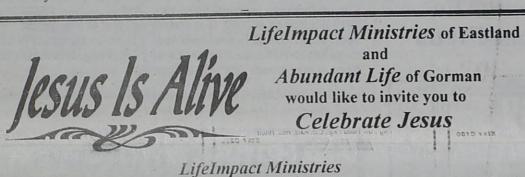
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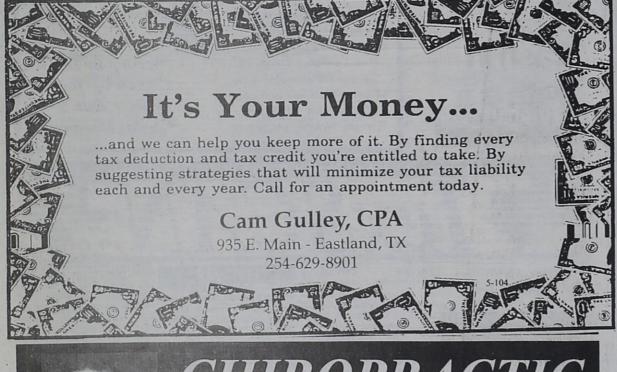
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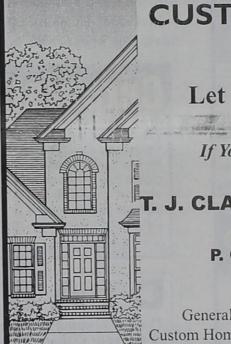
-- Martin Luther King, Jr.

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Financial Focus **Edward Jones**

Make Your IRA Contributions Early

Now that tax season is over, and you've made your final IRA contributions for 2002, it's time to start thinking about IRA contributions for 2003.

Of course, you do have until April 15, 2004 to fully fund your IRA for the 2003 tax year, so you might think, "What's the hurry?" But the you'll help get the most out fact is that the timing of your of your IRA. And, as you IRA contributions is important.

that your Traditional or Roth IRA both offer tax advantages. Traditional IRA earnings grow on a tax-deferred basis, while a Roth IRA grows tax-free, provided you meet certain conditions. Consequently, the earlier in the year that you invest money in your IRA, the greater the benefits you'll receive from either taxdeferred or tax-free growth. Over a period of years and decades, the added growth you can get from making IRA contributions early can add up to a significant amount.

Of course, the investment vehicles within your IRA will not always increase in value. But you can't predict when they will start showing gainsso it makes sense to be prepared for any upturns by being fully invested as soon as possible.

Furthermore, by fully funding your IRA as soon as possible, you may be able to fol low a classic piece of investment advice: "By low." As you doubtlessly know, the stock market has been in a prolonged slump. And, as a result, many high-quality stocks are now attractively priced. By investing in your IRA right now, you might be able to buy more shares of these stocks than you could if prices go up. Historically, the biggest stock market gains have been recorded in the first few months following a long bear market.

However, even if you want to put in the maximum amount to an IRA, you may question whether you can afford it. For 2003, you can contribute up to \$3,000 to either a Traditional or Roth IRA; if you're 50 or older, you can also kick in an extra \$500. It's not always easy for most of us to come up with \$3,000 or \$3,500 at one time. But by temporarily cutting down on other expenses, or looking at all your financial resources, you may be able to find ways to generate the money you need. And if you receive a tax refund, you've got a readymade funding source for your IRA.

Once you've "maxed out" on your IRA, you may decide to look at other issues. For example, if you're like many people, you may have several different IRAs. While there's nothing wrong with this, it may not represent the most efficient use of your investment dollars. You may find it more advantageous to consolidate all your IRAs into one account. By consolidating IRAs, you'll get a clearer sense of just where your investment dollars are going.

Consequently, you can determine if you're properly diversified, or if you have too much money placed in investments that are substantially similar.

Also, when you consolidate IRAs, you'll cut back on the paperwork that you have to track, because you'll only receive one statement. And you pay no taxes or IRS penalties when you transfer from one IRA to another.

So, there you have it- reasons to fund your IRA early and to consolidate your accounts. By taking these steps, build resources for retirement, you'll find that a well-man-Why is that? First, consider aged IRA can be a tremendous



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Spotlight By Julia Worthy

There have been times requires only one suitcase. seat. through out the last 75 years when I shoved the memories own of why I spent a lot of childish energy trying to kiss cutters don't rob you blind. my elbow so I could turn into a boy to the back bathroom without a support burner. The following list sent to me via cyberspace reminded me again of that spell a new last name. long ago goal. I have been happy as a woman, but I DO bed agree with so many of these reasons . . .

> "Why It Is So Cool To Be a Man!"

Phone conversations are over in 30 seconds flat, of A five-day vacation Renew To Renew

Your Subscription

You can open all your

Dry cleaners and hair You can go to the group.

You don't have to learn to You can leave the motel

unmade. You can kill your own food.

You get extra credit for only slightest act thoughtfulness.

Wedding plans take care themselves. If someone forgets to invite you to something, he or she can still be your at the party in the same friend.

Your underwear is \$10 three-pack.

nobody notices. notice anything different?"

Everything on your face stays its original color know the names of more You can quietly enjoy a than car ride from the passenger's

Three pairs of shoes are turn a nut on a bolt. than enough.

your apartment if the meter reader is coming. Car mechanics tell you

You can quietly watch a game with your buddy for hours without ever thinking "He must be mad at me."

Same work, more pay. Gray hair and wrinkles your add character. Wedding dress: \$2,000. Tuxedo rental:

You can drop by to see a friend without having to a little

If another guy shows up outfit, you just might become lifelong friends. Your pals can be trusted

You almost never have You don't have to clean strap problems in public. You are unable to see wrinkles in your clothes. The same hairstyle lasts

Thursday, May 1, 2003

five

and think of which way to

You are not expected to

You don't have to stop

colors.

for years, maybe decades. You don't have to shave your At least a few belches are

expected and tolerated. Your belly usually hides big One wallet and one pair of shoes, one color, all

seasons. You can "do" your nails with a pocket knife. You have freedom of

moustache. Christmas shopping can be accomplished for 25 relatives, on December 2 in

choice concerning growing a



April 25, 2003

CRP Sign-Up Dates Announced

Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman announced that sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) will be held May 5 through May 30.

The Secretary made her announcement during an Earth Day celebration earlier this week, where it was also announced that the USDA is releasing more than \$1.8 billion for conservation assistance on working lands.

CRP protects millions of acres of American topsoil from erosion and is designed to improve the nation's natural resource base.

Participants voluntarily environmentally remove sensitive land from agricultural production entering into long term contracts for 10 to 15 years.

In exchange, participants annual rental payments and a payment of up to 50 percent of the cost of establishing conservation practices.

By reducing water runoff and sedimentation, CRP also protects groundwater and helps improve the condition of lakes, rivers, ponds and streams.

Acreage enrolled in the is planted resource-conserving vegetative covers, making the program a major contributor to increases in wildlife population in many parts of the country.

The 2002 Farm Bill **USDA** authorized maintain CRP enrollment up to 39.2 million acres. Current participants who have contracts expiring this fall can make new contract offers.

Contracts awarded under this sign-up will become effective either at the beginning of the next fiscal year, October 1, 2003, or the following year, October 1, 2004, whichever producer chooses. One other general sign-up will be offered through 2007.

Farm Service Agency (FSA) will evaluate and rank eligible CRP offers using the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) in order to determine the environmental benefits to be gained from enrolling the land in CRP.

Decisions on the EBI cutoff will be made after the sign-up ends, and after analyzing the EBI numbers of all the offers.

The Natural Resources Conservative Service has set 2003 funding for Texas at \$69,201,376 for technical assistance, and \$61,774,700 for financial assistance.

Producers can sign up at their local USDA service center.

Deadline on the New Farm Program Sign-Up

The U.S. Department of Agriculture was accurate when they said they fully expect to meet the June 2, 2003 deadline for 2002 and 2003 sign-up for the new farm program.

As of this week, farm program enrollment has

sign-ups should remove any producer. talk of the need to extend the June 2 deadline. So if you issued interim voluntary haven't signed up for the COOL guidelines for certain new farm program, I commodities, and is still Institute (AMI) has said that those products and, if the encourage you to do so.

would encourage you to be mandatory in September patient regarding the sign-up 2004. process.

Mandatory Country-of-Origin Labeling (COOL) Program

A top-ranking USDA official recently stated that unwilling to allow the less mandatory try-of-origin (COOL) provision of the National Farmers Union 2002 farm bill is highly objectionable and could that packers, processors, harm U.S. producers.

Nevertheless, the department is fully committed to carrying out the intent of the law to the best of its ability.

It is clearly not the intent passed 88 percent, with five of Congress that the full weeks to go before things burden of the compliance and verification should be This high percentage of placed on the American

Last October, USDA asking for public input If you have signed up, I before the program becomes

> On the retail side, the farm bill allows for fines of up to \$10,000 for retailers 2004 who violate COOL regulations.

Retailers will probably be coun- formalized self-certification labeling system advocated by the

wholesalers and retailers will keting Service.

require their suppliers to establish and maintain system would meet the detailed audit trails so that requirements of those who the country of birth, death support and a processing can be gin-labeling, while providing verified for each animal.

So in order to receive a product they prefer and are "Product of the U.S" label, willing to pay for: meat meat must come exclusively products from animals born from an animal born, raised and raised in the U.S. and slaughtered in the United States.

The American Meat could enter the market with a voluntary U.S. meat benefits outweigh the costs, certification program is a far could be successful. better alternative to the mandatory COOL program that is scheduled to come into effect in September

AMI President Patrick Boyle told a Senate panel that AMI and several other associations petitioned USDA a year ago to create a new, voluntary, fee-for-service U.S. beef certification Instead, many anticipate program administered by USDA's Agricultural MarThursday, May 1, 2003

He believes such a USDA estimates that implementing a mandatory country-of-origin labeling program will cost the country-of-oriindustry approximately \$2 U.S. consumers with a billion. The supporters of the new labeling requirements dispute these costs. Only time will tell.

> Congressman Stenholm represents the 17th District of Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives and is the Ranking Member of the House Committee Agriculture.

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17th Annual Polo On The **Prairie Is Set Saturday**

the Prairie, one of the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center's most successful fund raisers, is slated for May 3 at the Musselman Brothers Lazy 3 Ranch in Albany, this year boasting the legendary, nine-time Grammy awardwinning band, Asleep at the Wheel.

M.D. Anderson Board of Visitors member Mary Anne McCloud and her daughter and son-in-law Melinda and Henry Musselman, also a board member, co-chair the popular polo event, outdoing themselves each year. More than 1,500 supporters join polo players from all over the United States to attend the events of the actionpacked weekend.

"Polo on the Prairie makes a huge difference in the lives of the patients and their families, and we count on their support for our success," McCloud says. "I never dreamed it would become as big as it has, but year after year hundreds of people continue to come to help us fight this war on cancer."

Because they have seen countless friends and family members touched by cancer, the Musselmans and McCloud were motivated to raise money for research and patient care at M.D. Anderson, as well as increase awareness of the institution's programs. Musselman's converted a portion of the Musselman Brothers Lazy 3 Ranch into a regulation polo field, the size of nine ootball fields, for the express purpose of donating oolo proceeds to M.D. Anderson. And since 1987 Polo on the Prairie has

The 17th annual Polo on raised more than \$2.2 million to fund targeted research initiatives and patient care programs.

"Our mission is twofold," says Melinda Musselman. "We want to caise money for M.D. Anderson, but we also want to inform people outside the Houston area about where they can go to receive the best cancer care possible, and we believe that is M.D. Anderson. Many people have learned about the institution through Polo on the Prairie."

The weekend event is unique for polo play combining the fast-paced game with a Texas twist barbeque, fireworks and country music. The event is family - oriented, patriotic, and warm with tradition. Alongside the American flag, the six flags of Texas wave in the breeze as a World War 11 plane flies overhead and a brass quartet plays "The Star Spangled Banner." Paddocks for more than 100 horses have been temporarily erected, and the field is primed for the players, who are either amateur or professionals registered with the United States Polo Association.

As part of the Polo on the Prairie tradition since 1995. nearby Eastland sixth graders take a field trip out

to the ranch to watch the playoff games and meet some of the players after a special week-long curriculum about the rules and history of the game, as well as cancer education. prevention and M.D. Anderson research.

The students also raise funds for the event, presenting a check to Polo on the Prairie themselves. "The children work hard," says McCloud, a former teacher herself. "Last year, they were calling everyone they knew to raise money for M.D. Anderson, and they've collected more than \$4,400 to fight cancer. They're great kids with big hearts."

Each year, Melinda Musselman secures one of the highlights of Polo on the Prairie - the entertainment. "We focus on Texas musicians, and we've been thrilled to have had some of the best talent in the business," Musselman says.

This year the event boast the legendary swing band, Asleep At The Wheel. Entertaining since 1970. when they opened for Alice Cooper, their career spans three decades - with highlights including being voted best country and western band by Rolling Stone magazine in 1977 to touring with Bob Dylan in

"This is improvisational music," says lead vocalist Ray Benson on the band's Web site. "I think it's interesting to listen to

updated versions of what people do, hearing how they have evolved. People change, and I love to have the luxury of having a career this long to do it."

Key programs this year's Polo on the Prairie will support include:

Genitourinary Cancers -Funds will be used in clinical trials testing surgical procedures. drug combinations and schedules, and therapies.

Endomentrial Cancer (uterine cancer) - Proceeds will be used to advance basic and clinical research regrading endometrial cancer, the most common type of gynecological cancer.

Science Park/Library -The library links researchers at the Smithville, Texas campus to specific information in appropriate scientific literature and journals. It proves vital to furthering work at M.D. Anderson's Department of Carcinogenesis, which is headquartered there and conducts research into understanding the causes of cancer and how to prevent it.

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will support this special "patient oasis" where patients or family members may stop in for refreshment, comfort and assistance from volunteers who have had similar cancer experiences.

Chaplaincy and Clinical Pastoral Education - Money will be used to support chaplains who visit patients before surgery or other medical procedures, respond to patient or family requests Thursday, May 1, 2003

for prayer or spiritual counseling, lead worship services and conduct support groups. Clinical Pastoral Education is an accredited program that offers educational opportunities to individuals who wish to advance their faith or pastoral skills.

For information about sponsorships of the event, call (800) 525-5841 or (713) 792-3450.

Poetry Corner

Easter To Me

As dawn spreads across the morning sky

We see three crosses standing side by side.

The pain and suffering showing on each face

When death comes and

takes its place. Thunder rolling from hill to

Lightning flashing every-

His voice comes to answer

This is My Beloved Son in Who I am well pleased.

As they lay my Lord in the

My world seems to come to

My eyes are heavy my eyes fill with tears

My hopes and dreams seem to disappear. An angel's voice says loud

and clear

Why are you starring He is not here.

Good news travels from shore to shore

Our Lord Jesus lives forevermore.

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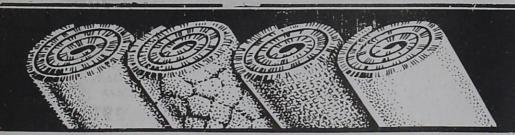
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Vaccine

Sars, West Nile: No; Whopping Cough: Yes

By Eduardo J. Sanchez, M.D. Commissioner, Texas Department of Health

Sudden acute respiratory the world. It can be fatal. No vaccine is available to stop the from 625 to four. infection.

people.

Pertussis- whooping cough. It's been around for centuries. is available to prevent it.

year.

attack of anthrax. But at the same time, we need to focus on the diseases we can control, using all our available become complacent. tools, especially appropriate life-saving vaccines.

fact: Vaccines work. They are one of the great public health achievements of the last century.

They work against measles. In 1958, Texas recorded 88,000--yes, thousand- cases of measles. Last year, we had only one case. They work against mumps. In 1950, the Texas Department of Health listed about 32,000 cases of mumps. Last year the number was 14.

Vaccines work against paralytic poliomyelitis. In 1950, paralytic polio struck about 3,000 people in Texas. But since 1977, not one case of polio has occurred in the state.

And in my own short professional career as a physician, I have seen a vaccine

work against Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) infection. In just one decade from 1990 to 2000, even new physyndrome- SARS. It's new to sicians have seen the number of Hib cases drop in this state

These diseases once were West Nile virus. It's new to terrifying, until vaccines Texas. It can be fatal. No vac- made them rare occureences. cine is available to protect. Now most vaccine-preventable diseases are thought of as neither exotic nor a terror.

The encouraging news is the It can be fatal. But a vaccine growing numbers of young children receiving their im-That is why it is cause for munizations. Texas moved concern that we recorded from last in the nation's more than 1,200 cases of per- rankings in 2001 to 42nd tussis in Texas last year, among all states last year. The double the number in 2001. National Immunization Sur-And we already have had one vey shows that last yer nearly child die from pertussis this 75 percent of Texas children ages 19 months through 35 We often are understand- months were appropriately ably fearful of the illnesses vaccinated, up from about 70 over which we have less con- percent the previous year. And trol, such as SARS or West many of the remaining 25 per-Nile virus or a bioterrorism cent had some vaccines but were not fully vaccinated.

But while these numbers are encouraging, it is no time to

Low immunization rates affect children, families, There is no denying this schools and entire communities. One unvaccinated child can pass a serious disease on to a younger child, to a pregnant woman, or to an elderly relative.

> Parents and health care providers must work together to ensure that all children are appropriately vaccinated, protecting them and others from serious disease.

As a parent, I know that it may be difficult to keep up with the immunization schedule of each child. But parents must take the responsibility for keeping their children's records complete. Waiting for school admission requirements is too late to fully protect children. For the first year to life, children should be vaccinated at birth, and at two,

Will We Help The House Of Cards Fall?

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

By Tom DeWeese

The United Nations is a house of cards and George Bush just blew on it. Is there now real possibility for the United States to get out of the UN?

Only months ago the possibility seemed remote, even impossible. Many American leaders spouted the mantra that, yes, the UN is a despicable, even clownish institution that wastes money in an over-bloated bureaucracy motivated by a decidedly anti-American point of view. But most still held on to the belief that the United States must remain an active member in order to maintain our leadership role in the world.

Supporters of UN membership argued that without the recognized legitimacy of that institution there would be no possibility of creating an international coalition to deal with terrorists. President Bush tried to do the politically correct thing. He went before the UN to plead for UN cooperation. Secretary of State Colin Powell made compelling arguments, providing proof of the dangers posed by Saddam Hussein. None of it worked. According to the new rules of UN protocol, the United States was supposed to continue asking, begging, pleading and dealing.

In such a world, the French ploy was a sound one. The French, allied themselves with the Germans in a bold attempt to diminish the influence of the United States. In fact, the whole purpose of the European Union is to create a mechanism for leverage against the United States. The French and Germans were just following the gameplan they had spent years debating and creating.

If the United States had played by the standard UN rules, the French gamble may well have paid off. We didn't. The United States, on its own, organized a coalition of more than 45 countries. We stood up for our own national interests and we declared our right to defend ourselves, no matter what the international community thinks. As a result, the UN and the European Union have both suffered immeasurable harm. Both could now be destroyed.

For those of us who have fought the battle to get the United States out of the UN it has been an astounding month. National television news programs, talk radio and newspaper commentary pages have suddenly begun questioning the need for UN membership. "Irrelevant" is the word most often used. Frankly, it's like reading from my own newsletter! Anti-UN sentiment has never been stronger. Like the shock of the fall of the Berlin Wall, it could all happen almost over night. As we've said all along, the whole house of cards has been propped up by American power, money and military might. Take those way and it all comes tumbling down. How could any of us ever have foreseen such a turn around? The truth is there has never been a better opportunity to send the clowns on the East River packing!

During my entire political career I have argued that, if

four, six and 12 months of age. By age 2, children should have received almost all of

their childhood vaccines. As a family physician, I know how crucial it is to talk with families about the need for on-time immunizations, to answer parents' questions frankly, and to help their children stay up-to-date. A health care provider plays a significant role in helping children complete all their necessary vaccinations.

As Texas Commissioner of Health, I also recognize the important role that the state health department, local health departments, and other public health system partners play in improving childhood immunization rates.

Together we can protect Texas.

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(Serves 6) Ingredients: 3 tbsp. bottled Thousand Island salad dressing 1/2 tsp. McCormick® Cajun Seasoning 1/4 tsp. McCormick® Season-All®

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Seasoned Salt

over eggs to cool them. 2. Peel eggs and halve lengthwise. Put yolks into small bowl; place whites on plate. Mash yolks with fork and mix in the salad dressing and Cajun seasoning. Pipe or spoon mixture into egg halves. Sprinkle tops lightly with seasoned salt. Cover and chill in refrigerator 45 minutes.

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only the United States would do the right thing, without caring what the UN or pompous diplomats from other countries thought, then the world would follow. Finally, President Bush did exactly that and the world did follow. It's been almost comical to watch as the French and Germans jockey for roles, immediately after the start of the U.S. invasion of Iraq. Suddenly they needed to be part of the post war rebuilding. The Turks quickly decided to open their skies to our planes and declared themselves part of the "Coalition of the Willing." We've also discovered the true nature of our new friends, the Russians, whom we now find have been selling hi-tech equipment to the Iraqis.

Our nation's decision to go it alone. Without the UN, has the possibility of truly creating a "New World Order." One much different from the global village envisioned by the UN and those like Germany and France who hoped their past glories could be renewed under its socialist dictates. Instead, this new order could be one of proud, free, sovereign nations, operating independently, looking out for their own interests in a true free market and limited government environment. In fact, it would simply be the re-establishment of the proper international order.

That will only happen if President Bush decides to take his decision to its logical conclusion and lead the United States out of the United Nations. It was because of UN dictates that the United States was stopped from toppling Saddam in 1991. It's taken us ten years and more American lives to finish the job. Let's not make the same mistake with the UN. By returning to business as usual we will only help re-establish the UN's power over us. Ten years from now - in the next crisis we'll have to fight the battle all over again as the UN proves it is still an enemy to the ideals of the United States. To reasonable people it seems obvious that the only logical step is to withdraw membership.

However, there is great danger that the United States won't take the right road. That we will go back and take our seat at the Security Council. The pressure has already started to lead us that way. It's the natural order of today's politics. In fact, it's much more likely that our leaders will stay in the UN's comfort zone than have the courage to lead the world in a different, bolder direction.

It doesn't have to be that way. For those of us who desperately want to end American support of the UN, our greatest battle is directly in front of us. We must raise our voices in an unyielding scream - get us out of the UN now! Say it and keep saying it to elected officials, talk show hosts, letters to the editor and to your next door neighbor. Don't lose this opportunity to rid the world of the most evil regime ever known. No, not Saddam - but the United Nations. (991 words)

Tom DeWeese is president of the American Policy Center.

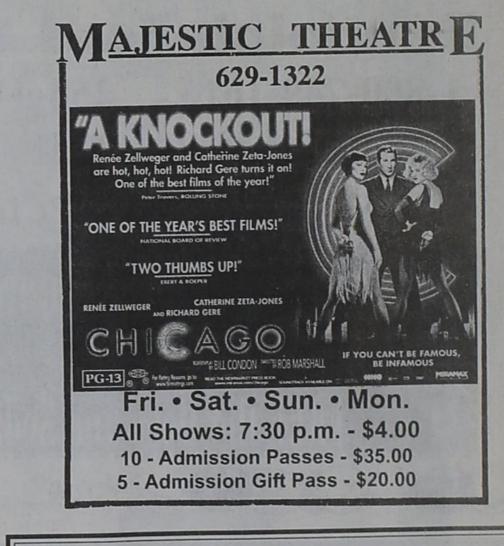
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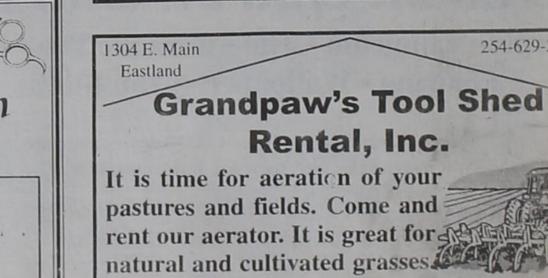
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