

Baird Star

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Volume 115 Number 19

Baird, Texas 79504

Thursday, May 8, 2003

May 9 Is A School Holiday For Baird I. S. D. Classes resume on a regular schedule on May 12.

Half Price Book Fair To Be Held

The M.F.T. is having a half price book fair. The date's are May 6, 7, 8 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We are not making any profit on this book fair; we are passing our savings on to you. So come buy some great books at half price.

Baird Election Results

City

Three At-Large Seats

✓ Jeff Barton (I) - 105 ✓ Kelly Corn (I) - 106
✓ Dale Brewer (I) - 105 Lonnie Keith -118

School Board

Three At-Large Seats

✓ Burke Robinson (I)-138 ✓ Joe Clark (I) - 140
✓ Kenneth Brock (I) - 152 Larry McIntyre - 58

Bond Election

✓ For - 123 Against - 53

Lady Bears Golf Team Compete For State Title

After winning their 7th straight Region II-A championship, the Lady Bears Golf Team have advanced to state, and will be competing to win their 7th consecutive Class A championship title on Tuesday.

If they win this season, Baird could also tie the state record of eight consecutive state girls golf championships next season.

With 343 in the first round of the regional tournament and 330 in the final round at Maxwell Municipal Golf Course, the team finished with a team total of 673.

The Baird team will compete with Throckmorton and Memphis High School in Austin.

Coach Sandra Carter described her team as very "self-motivated" to win the tournament, which is going to be one of the tougher tournaments facing the Bears.

Jay Calvo, (boy's golf), was first-place medalist in the Region II-A tournament, and will also compete in state.

CPL Norwood Serves In Iraq

Marine Corps CPL. Scott Norwood, son of David E. Norwood of Baird, Texas, is participating in operation Iraqi Freedom while

(Continued Inside)



Pictured (left) Marian Windham, beloved Mother, and Grandmother, (right) Marian in her college days at UT.

Tribute To A Local Mother

As Mother's Day approaches, we like to send a special tribute to a mother of our community.

This year we have chosen Marian Elizabeth Dyer Windham of Baird, TX.

As her son Richard Brooks Windham, Jr. (Tally) told me, he remembers that all his friends were welcome to come home with him after school, and they usually could expect something delicious to eat, since his mother was an excellent cook.

"I think her coconut pies

were the best," he said.

She is still very active, her son said, and now enjoys going to school and sports events in which her grandchildren or great-grandchildren participate. She also accompanies her husband to the ranch each day to help with the feeding and care of their cattle.

(Margaret Hetrick)

As Her Heritage Lives On

A Tribute To Marian Elizabeth Dyer Windham

Marian Elizabeth Dyer was born September 15, 1921, in Baird, Texas to A. E. (Colonel) Dyer and Beulah Mae McWhorter Dyer. She was the oldest of five children that was raised as a Callahan County ranching family.

Her high school years were spent as cheerleader, class favorites, and athletics. She and her sister, Ruth Dyer Elliott, went to state in tennis doubles two years while in Baird High School.

After high school she was bound for The University of Texas at Austin where she graduated with a masters in education.

Following college, Marian came back to Baird to return to the ranching life in which she was raised. In 1946 she married local rancher, Richard Windham and had her first of four sons in 1947, Richard Brooks Windham, Jr. (Tally), followed by Jim Dyer Windham, Tom Franklin Windham, and Billy Don Windham. She spent the next twenty plus years doing an excellent job of raising her four boys. This meant going to the Methodist Church each Sunday of which she was a member. There was also Cub Scouts each week, which meant all four boys because everyone wanted to go. Besides caring for her own family, she was always giving of her time and compassion to anyone in the community in need, whether a wedding, shower or funeral.

Marian also got her share of hunting, fishing and all the outdoor things you can imagine with four boys. Mealtine was not just four boys, but also all of the friends they could bring home

(Continued Inside)

Callahan County Attorney's Office Annual 2002 Report

Callahan County Attorney's Office Annual Report for 2002 three trials and three appeals were just a part of the work of the County Attorney's Office last year. Theft of anhydrous ammonia and attempted manufacture of a controlled substance cases continue to keep the Sheriff's Office and the county Attorney's office busy. Hot checks, DWIs and more traditional crimes continued as usual.

In May, a Defendant was tried by a jury and found guilty of forgery. She was also serving a probated sentence which was revoked and sentenced to one year in prison on each case. June saw the trial and conviction of a defendant for felony possession of marijuana and he was sentenced to eight years in prison. In October, a Cross Plains an was convicted of aggravated sexual assault of a child and later sentenced to thirty five years in prison. All three defendants appealed their convictions and all three have since been affirmed. The defendants are serving their sentences in prison.

According to office records 314 cases were filed in county and district court during the year. This number does not include hot checks collected out of court, juvenile cases, appeals, writs, probation revocations, or forfeitures, however. The office also participated in many justice court cases and trials. 731 checks were handled during the year. Most were collected by the office resulting in a total collection of \$48,652.45 without filing in court. This compares to 427 checks and \$41,023.36 collected just four years ago. Restitution

of \$40,264.13 went to victims compared to \$33,291.51 in 1998. Collection fees of \$8,388.32 were collected in 2002. This amount does not include restitution and fees collected through court and the probation office as the County Attorney's Office does not have those records.

A hand counting of office files shows 121 criminal cases were filed in county court with 203 disposed while 65 cases were filed in district court and 121 disposed. These numbers reflect files the office has opened on cases. Many cases and investigations are disposed out of court and are not reflected in the court records. 34 traffic cases were filed and 32 disposed and 94 check cases were filed with the court and 92 disposed.

October was the busiest month in county court with 28 cases disposed. District Court saw 17 cases disposed in February and was the busiest month in that court.

District Court Monthly Reports indicated that 66 cases were filed in 2002 and 88 disposed. This does not include probation violations, Grand Jury, Habeas Corpus cases, Juvenile cases and forfeiture cases. County Court reports indicate that 267 new cases were filed and 239 cases were disposed during 2002.

One of the busiest areas of prosecution was in anhydrous ammonia cases. The office handled 31 anhydrous cases (possession or transportation of anhydrous ammonia in an unapproved container) during the year. 21 disposed during 2002 including 3 motions to revoke probation. 3. of the cases have been

disposed this year and 7 are pending.

Office numbers differ from court reports because they reflect different activities. Cases which are no billed by a Grand Jury or investigations which are closed out without charges being filed are not reflected in court reports but do represent the work the office has done. Office activity is determined by a computer list of cases and hand counting of certain types of cases.

Allen Wright has been a prosecutor for fourteen years and the Callahan County Attorney for ten years. Janece Tucker is the office Administrator and Bob Lowe is the office investigator. Lynette Bowen assists with the check collection and other jobs part time. Everyone in the office is proud to serve the citizens of Callahan County and the office is open to the people we serve.

Rowden-Bayou Homecoming

The 2003 Rowden-Bayou Homecoming will be held on June 7, 12 Noon at Les & Faye Henderson, 1702 Alamo, Clyde, Texas.

The meal will be served in Les's 30X60 Shop (same as last time).

Brisket will be prepared by Dale, and the beans by Les & Faye.

Everyone else is ask to bring a covered dish.

1702 Alamo is located 2

(Continued Inside)

Meals On Wheels Fund Raiser Is Set Saturday

A Meals-On-Wheels musical fundraiser will be held on May 10 at the Pizza House in Clyde.

The fundraiser begins at 6:00 p.m. Music, a cake walk, door prizes and a drawing for a quilt are some of the highlights of the event.

The quilt drawing will be at 10:00 p.m. The top was made and donated by Minnie Burleson. Hazel Rocco did

the finish work.

The Meals-On-Wheels program provides those unable to fix their own lunches a warm, nutritious meal.

Although a federally funded program, donations are depended on to cover certain expenses.

Come out, have fun, and support a very worthy cause!

Wheat Field Day

Friday, May 9 8:30 a.m.

First Location: Taylor County Wheat Plots, Highway 351, north of Abilene.

Second Location: Callahan County, 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)762-2232

Happy Mother's Day
Sunday, May 11

Ag Talk

By Charlie Stenholm

May 2, 2003

Sign-up for 2002 Crop Cottonseed Payment Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced that sign-up for the 2002 crop cottonseed payment program is May 2 through May 23 of this year.

Remember To Renew Your Subscription

The program, authorized by the Agricultural Assistance Act of 2003, provides \$50 million to help cotton ginners and producers recover from low 2002 crop cottonseed prices.

Program applications are currently being mailed to ginners, who must submit completed forms to FSA Headquarters by May 23, 2003 in order to be considered for payment.

All companies that ginned 2002 crop cotton are eligible for program payments which are expected to be made in early June 2003.

Payments will be made in accordance with the provisions of the final regulations published in the Federal Register on April 25, 2003.

FSA estimates that the average payment rate will be about \$8.00 per ton of cottonseed or approximately \$3.00 per average weight bale.

The exact payment rate will be based on the quantity

of cottonseed that FSA estimates to have been produced from the bales and lint weight certified on the applications received from ginners.

Payments are being made to cotton ginners because they produce and market the cottonseed.

However, when applying for payments, ginners must agree to share payments with the cotton producers to the extent that the low cottonseed prices were borne by the producers rather than the ginner.

Ginners that do not receive their applications by May 5 should contact the FSA Price Support Division Office.

CRP Sign-up Dates and Expiration Information

In the very near future, very important decisions must be made about your Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contract that will expire either on September 30 of this year or September 30, 2004.

As I recently mentioned, the CRP's 26th sign-up period will be open from May 5 through May 30 of this year.

Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman has announced that this sign-up, the 26th general sign-up, will be one of only two general CRP sign-ups to be held during the life of the 2002 Farm Bill, which runs through 2007.

During the sign-up, you can offer all or part of the acreage you currently have under contract that is scheduled to expire on September 30, 2003 or September 30, 2004.

Other land may also be offered if it meets eligibility requirements.

Under continuous sign-up, FSA does a cost-share with eligible producers to establish and maintain conservation practices which may be enrolled at any time without submitting a competitive offer in upcoming general sign-up number 26.

If you wish to offer other

eligible land, you must do so during this designated CRP sign-up period.

Now having said all of this, if you have land in CRP coming out this year or next year or you have land that you believe is eligible, it is important for you to contact the FSA office as soon as possible.

USDA Announces Livestock Pilot Insurance Programs

USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) has announced two pilot programs that will extend insurance protection to fed and feeder cattle in various pilot states.

These are part of the Risk Management Initiative to expand crop insurance coverage to other sectors, including livestock.

Both programs offer coverage prices based on expected cash prices at the policy end date, with coverage levels ranging between 70 and 95 percent of the expected ending value.

The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) will subsidize 13 percent of the producer's gross premium under both programs.

The first program, which is the Livestock Risk Protection (LRP) - Fed Cattle Insurance Program will not be available to Texas cattlemen. However, the LRP - Feeder Cattle Insurance Program will be available in Texas.

LRP - Feeder Cattle is

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designed to insure feeder cattle inventory against decreases in price. Feeder Cattle refers to steers that will weigh 650-900 pounds at the end of the insurance period.

Feeder cattle that are predominantly dairy or Brahma breeds are not eligible for insurance.

The insurance period will be in approximately 30 day increments from 22 to 52 weeks, and sales will begin June 9.

The maximum number of feeder cattle that may be insured in any one year is 2,000 head.

Producers should contact a crop insurance agent for more information about their insurance options.

A listing of crop insurance agents is available at your local FSA office or at the Risk Management Agency website.

And here again, this is another experiment pilot project in which we are looking at livestock producers.

The question is this: what is the best way to provide the protection of insurance in a high risk business such as agriculture, whether it is drought or whether it is prices?

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

D.P. S. Report

04-13-03 TO 04-19-03
Cases Investigated
Warnings 137
Complaints 114
DWLS 1
DWI 3
Possession of Marijuana 1
Fugitive Arrest Issuance
Bad Check 2
Evading Detention
Juvenile 1
Fugitive Arrests Probation violation sell alcohol to
Minor 1
Accidents

There were 3 accidents investigated during this time span.

04-20-03 TO 04-28-03.
CASES INVESTIGATED
Warnings -138
Complaints 140.
DWI 3
Public Intoxication 1
Minor Consumption of Alcohol 1.
Fugitive Arrest Theft by Check 1
Possession of Marijuana 2.

Possession of Controlled Substance 1
Accidents
There were 2 accidents investigated during this time span.

PEOPLE ARRESTED ON OUTSTANDING WARRANTS
15 for a total of \$4,619.00 collected.

4-27-03 to 5-3-03
Cases Investigated
Warnings- 65
Complaints- 50
DWI- 2
Possession of Marijuana- 2
Fugitive Arrest- Theft by Check- 1
Drive Under Influence Alcohol- Minor- 1
Possession of Alcohol-Minor- 1

Possession of Volatile Chemical Noxious Oxide- 1
Accidents

There were 6 accidents investigated during this time span.



Callahan County Star Classifieds

FOR SALE

FOR SALE: 517 Red Tab Levi 100% cotton boot jeans, \$26.99 at Johnson's Dry Goods, Cross Plains, TX.

B19

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B20

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CALLAHAN COUNTY STAR

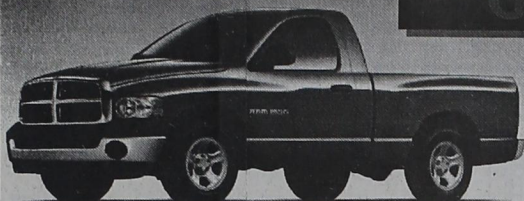
Publication No. (USPS 085-520)
©2003 Eastland County Newspapers, Inc.
(915) 854-1008 211 Market St. Baird, TX 79504
Periodical Postage Paid at Baird, Texas under Act of Congress in March, 1870.
Published every Thursday

Publisher.....H.V. & Gaynell O'Brien
Editor.....Margaret Hetrick
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Callahan County Star, 211 Market St., Baird, Texas 79504.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
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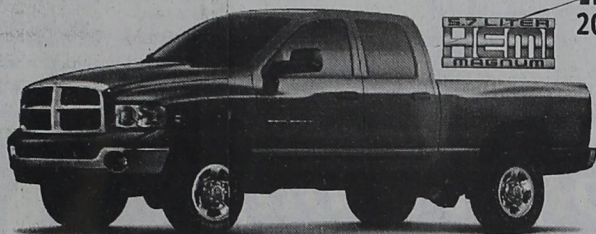
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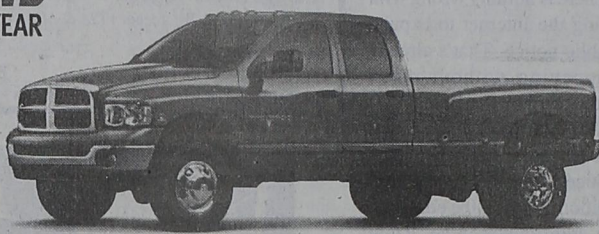
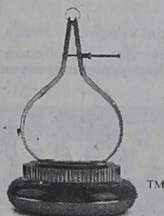


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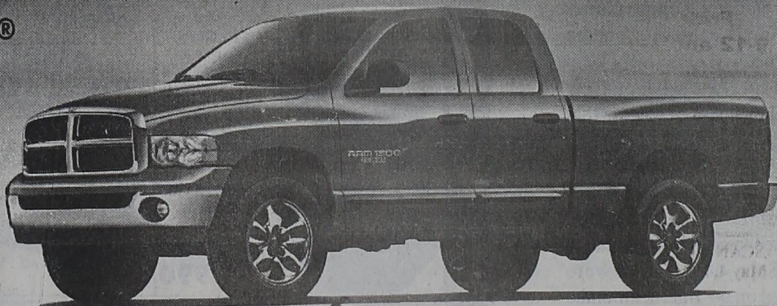
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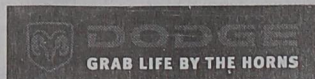


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Isn't There Enough Already Being Done Without Public Knowledge?

By Heber Taylor
The Galveston Daily News
Texas traditionally has informed its citizens of public business by requiring governments to publish public notices in community newspapers.

Senate Bill 1359, filed by Sen. Jon Lindsay, a Houston Republican, would put an end to that tradition--at least for school districts.

Lindsay's bill would eliminate the requirement to publish notices on government business in a newspaper. Instead the information would be published solely on the Internet.

There is nothing wrong with using the Internet to expand public notice. That's already happening without much prompting by the state.

The Galveston Daily News, for example, publishes legal notices that appear in the print edition on its online edition at no additional charge. Right off the bat, we ought to admit the obvious. Newspapers have a financial stake in this issue.

However, for most newspapers, the financial stake is small. For most daily papers, public notices account for less than 5 percent of the revenue. By law, newspapers publish legal notices at their lowest published rates for classified advertising.

While newspapers have a small financial stake in this debate, we think there's a much larger issue: the public's right to know.

All citizens have a right to information about public bidding, meetings, tax foreclosures sales and adoption of new tax rates and budgets.

Will allowing school districts to stop publishing notices in the newspaper help inform people? Or will it just make things worse?

First, consider the digital divide in Texas. Many Texans, especially those in poor or rural areas, don't have Internet access. Posting notices of bidding opportunities for small contracts on the Internet will effectively keep them out of the hands of many small business people. Is that a good thing?

Second, the Internet is a wonderful place to hide things in public. Documents that seemed to offer a blueprint for the Sept. 11 disaster were posted on the Internet months before the tragedy occurred, yet the public didn't become aware of them until months after the tragedy.

There are millions of documents on the Internet. If officials were allowed to publish bid notices solely on the Internet, would favored cronies have an easier time getting to these public documents than the average person who wanted to bid?

And what of the argument that publishing on the Internet is cheaper? The entire cost for school districts is estimated at \$3.1 million. That's the total for 1,100 school districts over five years.

Is that too much to pay for adequate public access? And if it is, what will we do when someone in Austin decides

that publishing information about competitive bids on the Internet is too expensive? Will we tack the bid notices on a bulletin board at the district's administration building? Will cronies get calls letting them know where to find those opportunities, while everyone else has to check every bulletin board for the same information?

For years, Texas newspapers have opposed efforts to limit public access. But the

Texas Press Association was curious about what the public wanted. So it commissioned a study, conducted by Newton Marketing & Research, a market research firm located in Norman, Okla., to find out what Texans think.

The survey of 1,002 adults showed that they prefer that public notices be published in the newspaper, rather than the Internet. Of those sampled, 81 percent read a community newspaper.

Of those 86 percent believe legal notices should be published in a newspaper on a regular basis.

Of the 19 percent who do not read a Texas community newspaper, 60 percent believe legal notices should be published in a newspaper on a regular basis.

Only 9 percent of those

sampled use Websites to seek information on public meetings or public notices. There's absolutely nothing wrong with using the Internet to give the public notice in addition

to newspaper notice.

But the bill being debated today would and access to a lot of public information to a lot of people. It's a bad idea.

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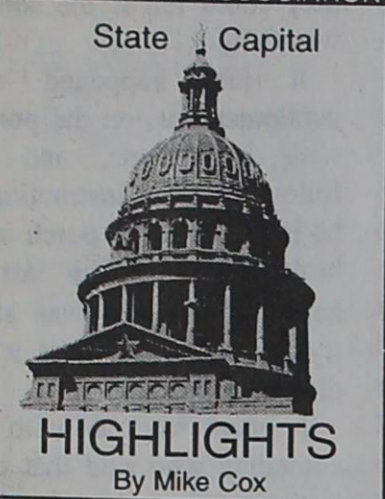
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AUSTIN — The final bell for the 78th Legislature will ring when it concludes business on June 2, but Texas lawmakers won't have to wait two years before they get a chance to vote on another bill.

It may not be until late this year, or early in 2004, but lawmakers will be back in Austin for a special session to ponder school financing.

"Following the completion of this session," Gov. Rick Perry said in a statement last week, "Lt. Gov. (David) Dewhurst, Speaker (Tom) Craddick, and I will turn our undivided attention to the issue of school-finance reform."

Perry said that as soon as "leadership has built consensus on a plan of action, I will call a special session...to immediately enact that plan."

The first step in that direction came with the speaker naming a 21-member House committee to come up with a financing plan for consideration in the special session. Four ex-officio members of the committee were to be selected by Perry.

Better known as the Robin Hood plan, Texas' school financing system is more complicated than second year algebra, a complex mixture of state and local taxes.

Apportionment of that money is based on the wealth (or, in many cases, lack of wealth) of a particular school district.

The more well-to-do districts, many of which have been forced to cut their budgets while kicking in funding for the less well-off districts, don't like the current system.

The only thing that could head off a special session would be action this session. That's possible, but at this point not very likely.

The last special session was more than a decade ago in December 1992. The topic? School finance.

Red light runners get green light...
The House last week killed a bill that would have given cities the authority to photograph red-light runners and fine the registered owners of the vehicles.

House Bill 901, co-authored by Rep. Phil King, R-Weatherford, co-author of House Bill 901, said the defeated measure would have had an impact on the 23,000 injuries and deaths red-light runners cause each year in Texas.

The bill would have allowed cities to impose a \$75 fine for each violator. The money collected would have gone to fund hospital trauma centers and the Texas Mobility Fund.

Arguments against the bill ranged from it fostering invasion of privacy to violating due process to raising revenue in the name of safety.

What did the bill in was an amendment by Rep. Gary Elkins, R-Houston, that would have made the bill apply only to communities with fewer than 50 residents.

You've probably noticed, but...
Gasoline prices are down. After hitting an average national high of \$1.72 a gallon for regular, the national average is now down to \$1.57 per gallon.

In Texas, the average is \$1.45 though some places are selling gasoline for more than a dime a gallon less than that.

The averages are from the Energy Information Administration, an arm of the U.S. Department of Energy.

A Strange Mother's Day Narrative

White Carnation
My story is of the horse and buggy days when there were very few social service organizations or institutions and laws.

Some pig pens have only two sides fenced as each fence ran up to the steep cut bank of the Ohio River serving as a third side and out into the river which served as a fourth. The hogs had running water to drink and could wallow in the shallows. Slop or other feed could be dumped over the bank without lifting a heavy bucket over a fence.

Mother recalled a small boy crying as he helped his fat, drunk, widowed mother out of the hog pen and wiped the filth from her face when she rolled over the bank after bucket of slop she threw to the hogs. He became her sole support when he was 13 and her husband died.

His first job was pinching stones at the glory hole in the glass factory. There was

no child labor laws and the work was very hot. With hand blown glass the blower sat in a cage high up and puffed steadily as a bubble formed in the molten glass they was slowing raised as a cylinder, until pinched off to cool.

If the blower called, "Stone!" the man with the long pole found and punched the offending object so it fell back into the mass. At times old style window glass would have a small whorl where a stone had been punched out.

The cylinders were cut into sections then split down one side. Then on a revolving table in an oven they were very gently pressured to spread out flat to make sheets ready for cutting or shipping. The factory also produced cut glass table ware, door knobs and ornamentals.

When about 19 the boy became a man in a dress suit for the sales department and traveled. He had moved his aged Mother to a part of town not flooded when the river was on a rise and by his mid 20s had married some foreign woman from Pittsburgh. Still have gave his mother money though he knew she would spend it on liquor.

He never drank though he was ready to fight anybody who spoke ill of his beloved Mother. He bought a fine stone house on Hill Street where the best homes were and hired servants who quickly learned if they had not known before, that their job was to cleanup even drunken vomit but never to criticize his Mother.

Then one day he returned late to find his Mother missing and his wife frantic as sleet and freezing rain blew in. When he found her dead drunk and soaked to the skin he rushed her home to a warm, dry bed then

called the doctor. But hypothermia has set in and she was soon gone with pneumonia. They said her funeral was the finest ever and he had her husband laid to rest beside her with an expensive marker.

I saw him at church on Mother's Day with a traditional white carnation boutonniere and a tear in his eye.

With weather too bad for children to be outside I played with my toys on the kitchen floor while Aunt Lilly and Mother ironed cloths with flat irons heated on the big wood stove.

They talked of many things a little boy was not expected to understand and as the discussion turned to horses Mother told of what a wonderful horse two old people once had.

They would go down river to get drunk together and that buggy horse would be standing in the yard next morning waiting to be unharnessed and fed. She never returned without both of them which amazed some folks.

They never had any children until the morning they awoke to a baby crying and found that somebody had put a baby boy in the back of their buggy. He was a beautiful child in that new blanket so they decided that if the parents couldn't be found they would try to raise him.

Some had theories as to where he came from, chief of which was that down river the Dago saloon keeper's daughter was thought to have been pregnant but nobody ever saw her child.

No matter to the old woman nor the boy as he grew, He was her son and they loved each other dearly.

By Gordon Clark
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- Hound's hanger-on
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 - "Faster ___ a speeding bullet..."
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 - "Or ___ at long last love?" (2 wds.)
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 - Therefore: Lat.
 - General helpers
 - Sam's barmaid
 - Nipper's co.
 - Movie shots
 - Large tank
 - Paw Clampett
 - Surprise attack
 - Actor Neill
 - Immaterial
 - Massachusetts cape
 - "Top ___"
 - Christie of "Darling"
 - New York's Tappan ___ Bridge
 - Isolated hill
 - Cap bill
 - Utah's state flower
 - Footstools
 - LeBlanc or Dillon
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 - Arrest
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 - George Bush, e.g.
 - Modified
 - The Buckeye State
 - Interdiction
 - Unbroken
 - Exploited
 - A-OK
 - Makes a choice
 - Animal House costume
 - One of Frank's exes
 - Literary monogram
 - The Godfather actor
 - Of the same stock
 - Butt
 - ___-la-la
 - Mayflower vehicle
 - Cast aside
 - Southernmost Great Lake
 - Anil, e.g.
 - Dion's "Runaround" girl
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 - ___ measles
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Obituaries

Herschel Alexander

ABILENE- Herschel Alexander, 77, died Saturday, April 26, 2003 in Abilene. Funeral services were held at 3 p.m. Monday, April 28, 2003 at Weinert Foursquare Church, Paul Chambers and Rob Harrison officiated. Burial followed in the Weinert Cemetery, directed by Holden-McCauley Funeral Home of Haskell.

Mr. Alexander was born on January 12, 1926 in Weinert, the son of George Washington and Bertie Ann Sanders Alexander. Before enlisting in the Army, he married Myrle Wanda Griffis on December 6, 1944 in Weinert. He was a retired truck driver, custom harvester and a transportation supervisor for Munday Schools. He was a life long resident of Haskell and Knox Counties and was a member of the Foursquare Church for 55 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers William Henry Alexander and George Jackson Alexander.

Survivors are his wife,

Myrle Wanda Alexander of Weinert; son, Terry Elvin Alexander of Baird; daughter, Patricia Myrle Owens of Wichita Falls; brothers, Thomas Alexander of San Antonio, J.C. Alexander of Venetta, OR. and Roy Alexander of Lubbock; sisters, Dorothy Flinn of Clovis, NM, Audrey Schindler of Abilene, Evelyn Ellington of Muleshoe, and Faye Crawford of San Antonio; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Maria Saldana

ABILENE- Maria Magdalina Saldana, 95, died Sunday, April 27, 2003 at a Baird nursing center.

A prayer service was held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 30, 2003 at Abilene Funeral Home Chapel of Hope. Burial followed in Cedar Hill Cemetery, directed by Abilene Funeral Home.

Mrs. Saldana was born on July 22, 1907 in South Texas. She was a homemaker and a

Remembering Yesteryears

By Jasper Cook

Phones, phones, phones! Phones everywhere. Cell phones, regular phones, wall phones, portable phones, ship-to-shore telephones, all kinds of phones. Our good old USA has seen a proliferation of telephones in the past few years.

What a difference there is between today and when I was a kid in the early part of the twentieth century. People talk on their phones at home, at the grocery store, in their cars, at sports events, and even at church.

The old saying used to be,

"Telephone, telegraph, tell a woman." Today, it's simply "telephone." Everybody has phones. There are only two of us at my house and we have four telephones. In the 1920's, 30's, and even 40's, telephone calls were made through switchboards. I've operated many of them.

Years ago the main exchange in Cisco was upstairs at 200 West 8th Street. A lot of ladies worked up there.

I once operated a switchboard in the Laguna Hotel. When someone called the Laguna, a light would come on and through my microphone I would ask what number the caller wanted. I could hear them through my headphones. When they told me the number they wanted, or the room number they were calling, I would plug in the line that fed to that number.

Like all good operators, I would close the switch so that I would not be eavesdropping on the caller's conversation.

In those days the phone numbers were so simple. I remember Norvell and Miller Grocery Store number was simply 102. Some of the employees there got a kick out of answering the phone by saying, "One-Oh-Who."

We were so poor we never had a phone until I was grown. My dear Aunt "D" never had a phone and never used a phone until she and my Uncle became too old to farm and moved to Abilene.

After her phone was installed, my mischievous sister called her, and disguising her voice, told my

Catholic. She lived most of her adult life in Abilene before moving to Baird.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Guadalupe Saldana.

Survivors include six sons, Ernesto Cerda, Jr. of Edinburg, Arturo Cerda of Sweetwater, Rene Saldana and Johnny 'Surdo' Saldana, both of Abilene, and Jose Cerda and Martin Cerda, both of Baird; a daughter, Guadalupe 'Tita' Gomez of Baird; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

as I thought long past my youthful days when I became conscious of it. Earliest origins can be traced to spring celebrations in Greece in honor of "Rhea," mother of the gods. (Even then, "the Greeks had a word for it!")

In the mid-1600's the English celebrated a "Mothering Sunday" the fourth Sunday in Lent to honor English mothers.

With the spread of Christianity through Europe, the celebration became an honor for "Mother Church," a spiritual thing.

In the United States Julia Ward Howe, who wrote "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," made the first suggestion in 1872 as a day dedicated to peace as well as to mothers. Sensible. What mother yearns to send a child to war?

Juliet Calhoun Blakeley of

Albion, Michigan, was also an early instrument in establishing Mother's Day when, on a Sunday in 1877, she continued worship services when the minister to the Methodist congregation was overcome by grief. His son and two other temperance advocates had been murdered by anti-temperance activists.

Mrs. Blakeley lived until 1920 (age, 102), and Mother's Day was a "fact of life" by then. Julia Ward Howe had been sponsoring observances for the second Sunday in May in Boston since 1872.

Mother's Day observance was taken up by Anna Jarvis of Philadelphia through her mother's church in Grafton, W. Va.

Anna went at her "cause" vigorously. She wrote letters - - ministers, business men, politicians. She enlisted many (and varied) people in that project, and in 1914, President Wilson declared the second Sunday in May a national holiday.

Like too many people, I suspect, Anna Jarvis came to regret her success. She was "enraged by the commercialization" of Mother's Day and spent most of her fortune (from her mother) to halt what she considered the misdirection of her intentions to "establish a day of sentiment, not profit."

My sympathies go to Anna Jarvis, ironically never a mother herself, which may account for my referring carnations to cruises.

She asked my aunt to please cover the phone so nothing would blow out on the furniture. Dear old Aunt "D" believed her and covered the phone with her coat. It just happened that another aunt of mine was visiting Aunt "D" at the time. She caught on to the gag right away and got on the phone and scolded my sister for doing that to Aunt "D."

While preaching in Illinois I told about the incident of Aunt "D" and the phone. Some impish local boys decided to pull this gag on an elderly man, but with a new twist. Pretending to be from the telephone company, they called and asked the man to lay his phone down, take two steps backwards and whistle, so

they could tell if the sound was O.K. It just happened the gentleman was on the porch with his phone, and in following their instructions, he backed off the porch and broke his leg. The last I heard of him, he was still trying to find the boys who did that to him. I once worked with a comedian who said that out in the country where he was raised, the phone line ran from post to tree, to stump, to tree, etc. He said you could attach a piece of wire to a tin can, throw the wire over the phone line and listen. You could listen, but you couldn't hear anything.

Continued from Page One Rowden-Bayou Homecoming

blocks east of the Clyde Water Tower.

Call one of the following numbers by May 20th if you will be attending.

Dale & Pat Gibbs at 915-672-2522, Abilene; Les &

Thursday, May 8, 2003 they could tell if the sound was O.K.

When George Bush was Texas Governor he stated that we are going to have the best educated people in the world. I don't know about that, but I betcha we have the "phoniest" people in the world.

You may also use the new area code 325.

Read The Classifieds

Spotlight

By Julia Worthy

For Mother's Day this year, I decided to put aside memories of my mother, grandmothers, mother-in-law, a couple of aunts and unrelated mothers, all of whom I still regard with awed esteem.

A little history will not be amiss, I thought, so to the internet I went. The internet is much lighter for my bones than the Encyclopedia Britannica.

I punched in "Mother's Day." In the well known "twinkling of an eye," I was deluged with "what to get Mother for Her day." Intimate wearing apparel, perfume (costly, of course), ditto jewelry, flowers. . . or a cruise. As quickly as I could decide how to get out of the torrent of unwanted suggestions, I did.

This time I typed in

"History of Mother's Day." Much better. However, both sites mentioned the red-carnation, white carnation tradition. So I have this suggestion for a small corsage or a flower "arrangement" if you want to include several mothers in one memorial: One red carnation for yourself (or for your wife); then carnations of the appropriate colors for mothers, grandmothers, mothers-in-law, and anyone else you honor for maternal abilities.

Don't let yourself get carried away, but no matter what size or shape you choose, it's a much more personal choice than a cruise. (You can save cruises and such for birthdays.)

Now for the history. Mother's Day did not originate in the United States

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A Series Being Prepared

Creating a Family Plan, Deciding to Stay or Go, at Work and School, in a Moving Vehicle, in a High-Rise Building

Make A Plan

You should plan in advance what you will do in an emergency. Be prepared to assess the situation, use common sense and whatever you have on hand to take care of yourself and your loved ones. Think about the places where your family spends time: school, work and other places you frequent. Ask about their emergency plans. Find out how they will communicate with families during an emergency. If they do not have an emergency plan, consider helping develop one.

Creating a Family Plan

You and your family may not be together when disaster strikes. Be prepared for a variety of situations.

Deciding to Stay or Go

Depending on your circumstances and the nature of the attack, the first important decision is whether you stay put or get away. You should understand and plan for both possibilities.

At Work and School

Schools, daycare providers, workplaces, apartment buildings and neighborhoods should all have site-specific emergency plans. Ask about plans at the places your family frequents.

In a Moving Vehicle

You may be in a moving vehicle at the time of an attack. Know what you can do.

In a High-Rise Building

You may be in a high-rise building at the time of an attack. Plan for the possibility.

General Preparedness Tips for Citizens

Being able to protect yourself and your family is one of the most important contributions you can make to national preparedness.

Suspicious Package/Envelopes

If you receive a suspicious letter or package with a threatening message or a package containing an unknown powder, remain calm. Most threats turn out to be hoaxes. In order to cause illness, the organism must be rubbed into cut skin, swallowed or inhaled as a fine, aerosolized mist. Disease can be prevented after exposure to the anthrax spores by early treatment with the appropriate antibiotics under the advisement of a physician. Visit the U.S. Postal Service Web site for more tips on handling these items.

Family Disaster Plan/Disaster Supply Kit

If a natural or manmade disaster or terrorism attack occurs, you need to know how to take care of yourself and your family. This self-reliance is important because local officials and relief workers on the scene of a disaster won't be able to reach everyone right away. Meet with your family and discuss why you need to prepare for disaster. Plan to share responsibilities and work together as a team.

Discuss the types of disasters that are most likely to happen. Explain what to do in

each case. Pick two places to meet:

- Right outside your home in case of a sudden emergency, like a fire.
- Outside your neighborhood in case you can't return home.

Everyone must know the address and phone number. Ask an out-of-state friend or relative to be your "family contact." After a disaster, it's often easier to call long distance. Other family members should call this person and tell them where they are. Everyone must know your contact's phone number.

Discuss what to do in an evacuation. Plan how to take care of your pets. Visit our Library to learn more about developing a family disaster plan and assembling your kit.

The Red Cross also produces a "Disaster Supplies Kit" brochure, ARC 4463, available in print or online at <http://www.redcross.org/pubs/dspubs/genprep.html#disrep>.

Storing Water

The Red Cross has a comprehensive fact sheet on water storage before disaster

strikes that it available at <http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/beprepared/water.html>.

Treating Water

Be sure to note the use of the term water treatment and not water purification. You cannot purify water by adding chlorine or other chemi-

cals. You can only treat it to kill germs but not remove them (that's purification). Be sure to avoid offering a false sense of security by using the word purification when treatment is correct. Visit our Recovering from Disasters section or the American Red Cross Web site at <http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/afterdis/watertreat.html> for information on water treatment after disaster.



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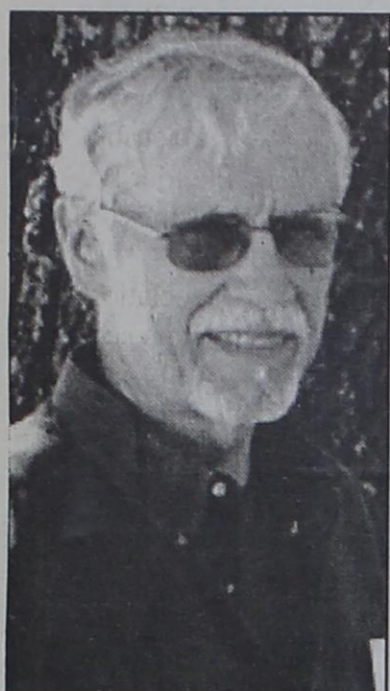
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Dr. Cleatus Rattan Is Poet Laureate Of Texas



CLEATUS RATTAN

The Cultural Committee of the Texas House of Representatives recently selected Dr. Cleatus Rattan as Poet Laureate of Texas for 2004.

Dr. Rattan, a full-time English instructor at Cisco Junior College, said that his greatest pleasure in receiving this award comes from being thought of as being in the same class of persons he is following as Poet Laureate. "In 2003, for instance, Jack Myers, the Director of Creative Writing at my old school, SMU, is the Poet

Laureate. The year before Jack, Walt McDonald from Texas Tech was the choice," Dr. Rattan said, adding that it is daunting to be in their company.

The first Texas State Poet Laureate was designated in February of 1932. Since that time each Legislature has appointed a commission to select a Poet Laureate. This tradition is an opportunity for the state to recognize an individual for his or her achievements and representation of Texas through poetry.

Dr. Rattan does not know who nominated him, but he said that it is a wonderful honor to have been selected.

In addition to being named Poet Laureate, Dr. Rattan has also received numerous awards for his

poetry. In 2002 he received The New Texas Poetry Award and The Texas Review Poetry Award, and his book, *The Border*, was published by *The Texas Review*. He was also selected as a finalist in the Bright Hills national poetry competition. More than 300 of his individual poems have appeared in magazines and journals published throughout the United States.

The Border is Dr. Rattan's third book of poetry, but he is also a well-known essayist. "In addition, I often try to write short stories, but one rarely finds one of my attempts at creative prose in print -- a few here and there, nothing more.

I have been writing poetry since I attended a reading given at SMU by Jack Myers in 1978. I have long thought that being a poet is all, but that to be known as a poet is not nearly so important. I

suspect that most poetry is cathartic for poets," he stated.

Dr. Rattan holds a B.S. in psychology and an MEd. in secondary English education from the University of North Texas. He then earned a Master of Arts in English from Hardin-Simmons University. His third master's degree is from SMU -- an MLA (Master of Liberal Arts) in philosophy and history. He earned his doctorate in the college teaching of English from Texas A & M University--Commerce in 1982. Dr. Rattan began teaching English at CJC in 1969, after teaching four years at MacArthur High School in Irving.

Dr. Rattan and his wife Connie live in Cisco, and Dr. Rattan said that he plans to continue writing until he gets it right.

Poetry Corner

"MY GRANDMA"

My grandma was a cute lady,
She had 5 sons, my dad is the baby.
She had short stubby toes,
And as a matter of fact I got those.
My grandma always had an Elvis thing,
She really loved to hear him sing.
She'd point her finger if you did bad,
But if she didn't you'd be glad.

She had courage and was very wise,
She wasn't someone you'd despise.
My grandma loved to sew,
She's the reason that I know.
She did good by everyone she knew,
So you were lucky if she loved you.
Although her life was cut short and all,
She lived the best one you ever saw.

By: Ashly Barton

The Reader Who Cares

By Wanda Skinner

Someone said, "all the darkness of the world cannot put out the light of one small candle."

I encourage you to see that

you are capable of making a difference by letting your candle shine in the darkness of the world in which we live. The light must come from deep within your soul. After you let your light shine, look around for others who are letting theirs shine and join them.

See what a big difference several lights united can make. Let the glow begin with you.

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Guest Slot

From: Sowing & Reaping

Listen... you will learn something.
 People may doubt what you say, but they will always believe what you do.
 "A different world cannot be built by indifferent people"- Peter Marshall.
 We would be better off if we retained as much of what we learn as what we eat.
 "The man who walks close to God leaves no room for the devil to come between"- Isenhour.
 Be grateful for what you have, not regretful for what you haven't.
 The sad part about reckless driving is the mourning after. To really know a man observe his behavior with a woman, a child, and a flat tire.
 The man who humbly bows before God will walk upright before man.
 Ever wonder why Noah didn't swat those two mosquitoes when he had a chance?
 The Lord's decisions need no revisions.
 Life is like a game of tennis- the one who serves seldom loses.
 "It's not my business to think of myself; it's my business to think of God. It's His business to think of me"- Hungar-

ian proverb.

Your greatest power lies in the power of prayer.
 Your body is for use not abuse.
 "Well done is better than well said"- Benjamin Franklin.
 It's not a question of who is right, but what is right.
 Don't forget that God is between you and your enemy.

Brain Drain

Harvard researchers tested 30 people performing a variety of tasks four times during a day. A third of the group were given no time to nap. Their performance dropped by 50 percent by the end of the day.

Another group of 10 was given an opportunity to sleep an hour in the early afternoon. That group performed better than the others. Another group was allowed to sleep briefly after lunch. Their performance of work recovered a little. So to work well, rest well.

Don't Look Or Smell Like A Flower

Experts say to avoid insect bites wear light colored clothing, and don't use sweet smelling shampoo, soap or perfume and don't carry an open bottle or can of soda or any sugary drink.

If these suggestions don't keep you safe, try eating a garlic supplement. It's a natural insect repellent for many people.

Tornado Season

March witnesses the start of the tornado season in the United States. About 1,000 tornados hit the United States a year. They are responsible for about 80 deaths and more than 1,500

Thursday, May 8, 2003

injuries. Tornados hit every state, but the five hit most often are Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Florida, and Nebraska.

Facts and Figures

"An inflammatory pamphlet being distributed in Pakistan by Islamic Fundamentalists calls on Muslims to kill Westerners and Christians wherever they may be found. The pamphlet, which is printed in Urdu and Arabic, was distributed on Jan. 9. in Bulochistan and the North West Frontier Province, as well as in some other major Pakistani cities"- EP News Service, January 17, 2003.

"A survey commissioned by the National Association of Scholars (NAS) showed that today's college seniors scored on average no higher than high school graduates of nearly 50 years earlier on a battery of questions assessing general cultural knowledge...and significantly worse than 1955 college graduates. The 15 questions, which were originally posed to high school graduates by the Gallup polling organization in 1955, covered literature, music, science, geography, and history. They were asked again of a random sampling of American university seniors by the polling firm of Zogby International during the spring of 2002"- EP News Service, January 10, 2003.

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01 Ford Taurus SE fully loaded, 55K.....	\$7550

U. S. Government Cars

97 Ford Taurus LX, loaded, 61K (silver), extra nice.....	\$4995
90 Dodge 3/4 Ton, auto.....	\$2100

Continued from Page One Tribute To Local Mother

for lunch or supper - and she could cook!!

These were the years of class room-mothers working with the teachers as well as going all over Texas to athletic events. There were also the show-calf shows that played a big part in building

a registered Hereford business while taking care of four active boys. Raising animals was just something Marian was always ready to do, from dogs to coons, deer, coyote, and fish. There were always all kinds of animals around the house and in the house. Marian's life with her

Continued from Page One Norwood

assigned to the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), based in Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Since their arrival in county, Marines and Sailors from Norwood's unit engaged enemy forces in Al Kut, conducted several successful convoy operations, including one containing 93 vehicles, and began rebuilding process in the village of Hasham.

The unit also went to the town of Al Rifa, where they removed large berms put in place by the Iraqi soldiers.

Norwood's unit is an expeditionary intervention force with the ability to

rapidly organize for combat operations in virtually any environment. MEUs are composed of more than 2,000 personnel and are divided into an infantry battalion, aircraft squadron, support group and command element. With this combination, Norwood's unit supplies and sustains itself for quick mission accomplishment and for clearing the way for follow on forces.

Norwood joined the Marine Corps in January 1999.

Read The Classifieds

boys and their animals was never dull.

Marian's tremendous inner strength had to sustain her through the tragic and untimely death of her youngest son at the early age of 17.

Marian has had a lifetime of activity and still maintains a very active life at the young age of 81.

She is loved and admired by her 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

And of all things, Marian still remains the greatest mother in the world and I ought to know, I am her oldest son.

Happy Mother's Day!!

From Your Sons

Baird Elementary Student of the Week



Michelle Robbins
4th grade Mrs. Jones daughter of Russell and Betsy Robbins

Baird Elementary School Honor Rolls

The Baird Elementary School is proud to announce the Honor Rolls for the 5th six weeks grading period of 2002-2003. To qualify for the all A honor roll a student must have a 90 or above in every subject. To qualify for the A-B honor roll a student must have at least two A's in academic subjects and nothing below an 80.

All A's
Alexis Almanzar, Cody Hunter, Mackenzie Keller, Alex neal, Mitzy McDowell, Shelby Strickland, Darryl Fox, Michelle Robbins.

Brittany Graham, Breanna Patterson.

A-B Honor Roll
Lauren hare, Jessica Nash, Chesea Parker, Jenna Betcher, Rainy Burks, Kristen Burns, Amber Clark, Brittney Russo, Taylor Marks, Morgan White, Ivy Byram, Colton Fox, Sara Kunick, Adolfo Portillo, Jameson Rountree, Fallon Donlan, Andy Koch, Cassidy Miller, Courtney nail, Holleys Owens, Ariel Banks, John Edwards, Stephanie Rollins.

Baird Elementary Cub News

4th Grade G/T is looking at annual celebrations across Texas. They are putting the information in the form of a brochure.

They are also looking at celebrations we have here locally. John Stevens and the staff at Region 14 presented a Puppe Show for Kindergarten through 3rd grades. The children enjoyed it very much.

3rd Grade completed the last portion of the TAKS test this week. Math-TAKS was Tuesday. In math class, we are adding positive and negative numbers, creating coordinate plane, and graphing points on a coordinate plane. We are discussing realism and fantasy as we read Two Bad Ants. We will make judgments using the stories and our previous knowledge. When finished, we will be able to recognize and understand fantasy.

6th and 7th graders in G/T are working on class newsletters. They are interviewing and gathering news to add to their editions.

5th Grade G/T is continuing their study of the Census. They are looking at population projections for Texas. They are also going to create an original city.

Kindergarten G/T is still studying the space program. We talked about weightlessness in space travel.

Baird Elementary students over the past few weeks had a coin drive in order to help keep America's Servicemen and Women in touch with their families and loved ones. We were able to purchase 13 calling cards that were 6 minutes each with our \$73.00 that was collected.

2nd and 3rd grade G/T finished up their stamp booklets. They also talked about supply and demand and the value of collectible. They discussed monetary value vs. sentimental value.

4th grade took the TAKS tests Tuesday and Wednesday. They are ready to get it over with. They are all hoping that the passed. Summer is getting closer and they can hardly wait.

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