

Baird Star

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50¢
31¢ By Mail

Volume 116, Number 35

Baird, Texas 79504

Thursday, August 26, 2004

LIONS BENEFIT BOWL SET SEPT. 1

The 27th annual Lions Club Benefit Bowl will take place at 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 4, at Maverick Stadium in Eastland.

The contest will match the the Cisco Junior College Wranglers against the Ranger College Rangers.

Tickets will be \$5 at the gate. All proceeds from the game will directly benefit the

Texas Lions Camp in Kerrville.

The game is hosted by the Lions Clubs from Cisco, Eastland, Ranger, Strawn, Gordon, Clyde, Breckenridge and Albany.

For more information, contact Rob Durham at (254) 559-5412 or e-mail: sports@breckenridgeamerican.com

Two Killed In Crash Near Baird

Two men were killed in a one vehicle traffic crash on Thursday, August 19th on IH-20 at Baird. The crash occurred at 8:57 A.M.

According to DPS Senior Trooper Sparky Dean, Thomas Craig Cooper, age 58 was driving a 2001 Ford F-150 pickup when he apparently fell asleep at the wheel and struck a guardrail, going off of an overpass at mile post 308 (Baird) on IH-20 while West bound.

Cooper was pronounced dead at the scene by Peace Justice Odom. Cooper's body was taken to Avalon

Mortuary in Abilene.

Passenger, Alan Peter Macmorran, age 57, was also killed in the crash. Macmorran was pronounced dead by Peace Justice Odom. His body was taken to the Avalon Mortuary in Abilene.

Both men were from Flower Mound, Texas. Both reportedly were wearing seat belts.

The road conditions at the time of the accident were wet due to rain. The crash was investigated by Highway Patrol Trooper Gilbert Ruiz of Baird, Texas.

Texas Employers Add Jobs, While Unemployment Rate Remains Unchanged Rate For Callahan County Drops

Austin - Total Nonagricultural Employment in Texas gained 5,600 jobs from June to July and 112,000 jobs since September 2003. The Texas seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged from June to July, remaining at 5.7 percent. Initial claims for unemployment compensation for the week ending July 3, 2004 declined 9.5 percent compared to one year ago.

The unemployment rate for Callahan County dropped to 3.5 in July from a rate of 4.0 in June.

"Even though the unemployment rate remained the same, Texas continues to add jobs," said TWC Chair Diane Rath. "More importantly, we continue to add jobs in the private sector, with a majority of industries showing gains both over the month and over the year."

Since July 2003, Texas employers have added 1-2,000 total jobs. Seven major industries in Texas sustained job growth over the year. Services led the way, with a gain of 34,100 jobs over the last 12 months. Trade, Transportation & Utilities also showed good gains over the year, adding 29,500 jobs. Professional & Business Services added 20,100, while Leisure & Hospitality added 18,300.

"Business activity continues to expand, as Texas employers add jobs in many

sectors," said Commissioner Representing Employers Ron Lehman. "The comments I am hearing from Texas employers confirm hiring and job growth as demand for products and services remains good."

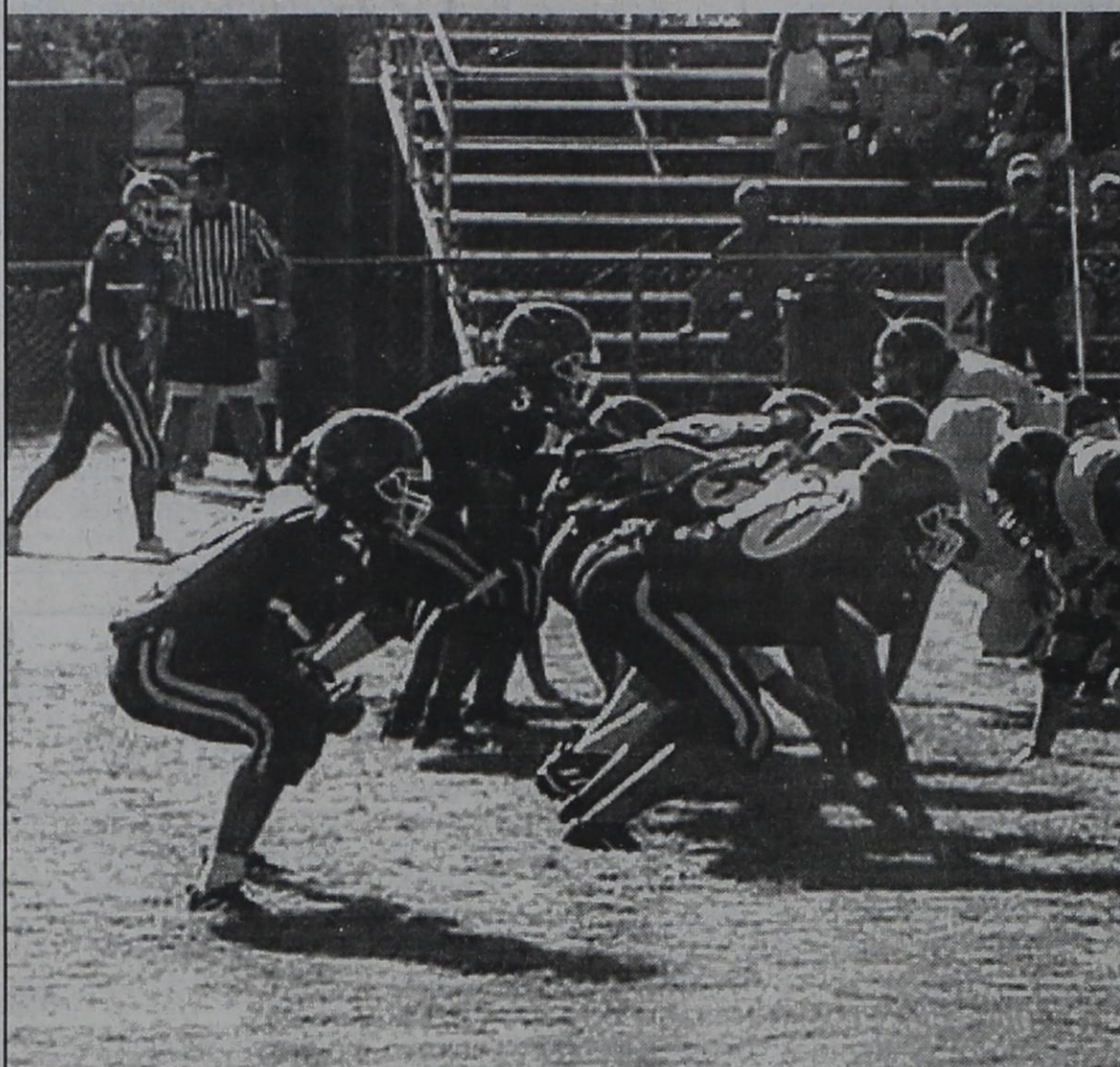
Rebounding from a drop of 2,300 jobs in June, employment in Professional & Business Services grew by 5,300 jobs in July. Employment in Trade, Transportation & Utilities rose by 3,200 jobs in July, bringing the total number of jobs added since the beginning of the year to 14,700. Education & Health Services gained 2,100 jobs in July.

The Texas labor force grew by 25,600 since July 2003, as more people entered the job market. The number of unemployed Texans declined 120,100 during the same period.

"Job gains over the month and over the year are both encouraging signs," said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. "Getting workers back in jobs is my number one priority, and I am glad to see the ranks of the unemployed decline."

Contact the Callahan County Baird Star staff at 254-629-1707 Fax: 254-629-2092 Email: telegram@eastland.net

!!It's Kick Off Time!!



Baird Bears Varsity Football Team challenges Miles On Friday, August 27, 7:30 P.M. in Miles, - their First game of the Season. Are the Bears heading for the Play-offs again? You Bet! Go Bears! Staff Photo

Commissioners Approve Proposed County Tax Rate Drop

Baird - In an Open Meeting held August 23, 9:00 A.M., Callahan County Commissioners discussed and accepted a proposed county tax increase of 7.78853% for FY 2004-2005, and a tax rate of .42653, which was a drop of almost 2% from the FY 2003-2004 tax rate of .44462.

The tax rate is the lowest of all surrounding counties, and possibly one of the few tax rates to drop this year. For example, Eastland County commissioners voted to increase their tax rate from .54203 to .56 on the same day.

County Judge Roger Corn said that the proposed General Fund rate was .3210; Road and Bridge .1055. He continued that the total income for the 2004-05 Budget is \$2,597,452.72, with expenses totaling \$2,597,235.42. This gives a surplus of \$217.30.

A motion to accept the proposed Tax Increase was made by Charlie Grider and seconded by Harold Hicks. The vote, taken by voice, carried unanimously.

The Court voted to meet on September 3, 2004 at 9:30 A.M. to adopt the 2004-05 Budget. A meeting will follow at 9:30 A.M. on the same date to adopt the Tax Rate.

No public comment was given at the meeting.

Present at the meeting were Presiding Judge, Roger Corn, Commissioner Harold Hicks, Precinct #1, Commissioner Bryan Farmer, Precinct # 2, Commissioner

Tommy Holland, Precinct #3, Commissioner Charlie Grider, Precinct #4, Dianna Alexander, County Treasurer, and Jeanie Bohannon, County Clerk.

A Regular Meeting followed, called to order by Judge Corn at 9:32 A.M.

The minutes of the August 9, 2004 Regular Meeting and Budget Workshop were signed with no additions or corrections.

No public comments were given.

Six bids for a red 1998 Toyota from the Callahan County Sheriff's Department were opened and read to the Court by Judge Corn. The bids were for \$1,500.00, \$4002.00, \$3625.50, \$2,001.00, \$3,551.00 and \$1,801.00. Sheriff Curtis stated that he would accept the highest bid. A motion was made by Commissioner Grider to accept the highest bid - \$4,002.00 - from Anita Parker of Baird. The motion was seconded by Bryan Farmer, and carried unanimously.

The Court also unanimously approved the acceptance of roads in Country Club Estates into the county road system. The discussed roads are in Precinct 3. Gerry McDowell told the Court that the roads meet all standards and requirements necessary for acceptance. Commissioner Holland agreed with McDowell, and made a motion to accept the named roads. The motion was seconded by Charlie Grider.

Commissioner Holland also made a motion to lift the

burn ban. The motion was seconded by Harold Hicks and carried unanimously.

The Commissioners Court was informed by Missy Goosen and Patti Stennett about a possible closing of the Department of Human Services in Callahan County due to the signing into law of House Bill 2292. The office also serves Shackelford County, Ms. Goosen said.

HB 2292 was enacted during the last session of the Legislature and signed by Gov. Rick Perry. It foresees eliminating 11 state agencies providing health and human services and other services for the disabled and mentally ill, and creating three new agencies in their place. The bill requires that many DHS local offices be closed and replaced by only four call centers.

The Bill also brings changes to CHIP, Medicaid, and the Medically Needy program.

Ms. Goosen told the Court of the services provided in Callahan County by their office, which includes those to children, the disabled, and elderly.

"The impact (of a closure) will come back to the Judge's office and county system," she said. This impact would be of economical nature as well as a reduction in services.

Ms. Goosen continued that the office in Callahan County was on a 1 to 1 sys-

Continued Inside Please See Commissioners

Callahan County Commissioners Have Lifted The Burn Ban Permanently For Callahan County

Meetings, Events & Fundraisers

* Callahan County 4-H Shooting Sports Dove warm-up Fundraiser, Aug. 28, 4-H Shooting Range, Information: call Kevin Meier @ 672-9521

* Homecoming is September 10th & 11th. Parade is set for Sept. 11. Classes, clubs, organizations & groups are encouraged to participate.

Baird Homecoming Parade Participation Encouraged

Homecoming is coming up very soon - September 10th and 11th. The parade will be held at 7:00 P.M. on the 11th. Parade lineup will be at the baseball field on Walnut Street, beginning 6:30 p.m.

All classes, organizations, clubs, and groups are encouraged to participate, as well as individuals, bikes, horses, cars, go-carts and wagons.

Please keep up the school spirit and join in the parade. If you have a red or white car, truck or trailer please get in the parade or offer it to someone who would like to.

If you have questions or need more details, please call 854-1137.

Texas Department of State Health Services Will Hold the following Immunization clinics in Callahan County

Monday, Sept. 13th
Baird Cafetorium
400 W. 7th
Time 10-12

Wednesday, Sept. 8th
Clyde First Baptist Church
216 Austin
10-12 & 1:30 - 3

Please Bring child's Immunization Records For more information call 325/754-4945

Callahan County (Baird) Star Classifieds

For Sale

FOR SALE: 40 acres fenced in, Spring Feed Tank, Sipe Springs area. Comanche Co. \$46,000. Call 254-643-1088.

B52

FOR SALE: 8 lots with old house, city water, and well water, some fruit trees. \$16,000. Call 254-643-1088.

B52

For Sale: Eldon Rye Seed \$7.00 per bag; clean & treated; also bulk. Childress Farms, Cottonwood, 725-6866.

B36

Wrangler Blue Denim Shirts- Tall men sizes, 37 & 38 sleeve, \$19.99 at Johnson's Dry Goods, Cross Plains, TX.

B35

RISING STAR TRADE DAYS

August 27, 28, 29
713 W. Hwy 36
Rising Star, Tx
New & Used merchandise, crafts, food & fun!
Covered spaces available.
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325-642-6621 or
254-643-1611.

B35

Callahan County (Baird) Star Classifieds

Miscellaneous

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, Belton, TX. TSLD #1667.

B35

Herbalife Independent Distributor Announces Shake Party

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Where:
The Home of Rick & Linda Barnett.
RSVP by calling toll free 1-866-350-2556 or local 254-643-4006.

T58

Callahan County (Baird) Star Classifieds

Help Wanted

Local company seeks driver. Home weekly. 888-258-1670.

B38

The Texas Department of Transportation in Eastland has 1 opening for the following position:

Title
Material/Process Inspect IV
JVN NUMBER
006710

SALARY
\$2295.00-\$3213.00 per month

JOB DESCRIPTION:
Performs advanced material tests and manufacturing process inspections in laboratories, plants and at points of supply. Employees at this level perform work independently on assignments; however, all unusual issues are referred to the supervisor.

Education and Experience
Graduation from high school or equivalent plus four (4) years experience in laboratory work, plant inspection, material inspection or other engineering-related work. College education in engineering or technical training in laboratory testing or material inspection may be substituted for experience on a year per year basis. (Experience requirements may be satisfied by full-time experience or the prorated part-time equivalent)
Applicants may submit completed applications either in person or by mail to the nearest TxDOT location. Locations, mailing addresses and phone numbers of TxDOT districts and the Austin Central offices can be found on the back of the Applicant Information Sheet attached to the application packet. Resumes will be accepted for whatever additional information they may contain, but not in lieu of a completed application.

Applications will be accepted from August 17, 2004 until 5:00 p.m. on August 31, 2004. For additional information about the job qualification requirements and application instructions, please call the Brownwood Human Resources office at 915-646-2591.
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

B35

From Page One
Commissioners

tem with their clients. "We answer our phones directly, and do not have voice mail," she said.

The local office also works closely with Housing Authority.

Judge Corn made a motion that a resolution be drafted and send to Austin requesting that the Callahan County office be kept open. "We will do all we can," he said.

Commissioner Grider seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Before the meeting was adjourned, a motion carried to pay approved bills.

All Commissioners, Presiding Judge Corn, County Treasurer Dianne Alexander, and Jeanie Bohannon, County Clerk were present at the meeting.

Also present were Margaret Hetrick, Roy Chapman, Sheriff Eddie Curtis, and Sharon Owens.

D.P.S. Report

08-15-04 to 08-21-04
Cases Investigated

- Warnings - 112
- Complaints - 84
- DWI - 1
- Public Intoxication - 3
- Fugitive Arrest-Assualt
- Family Violence - 1
- Accidents

There were 2 accidents investigated during this time span

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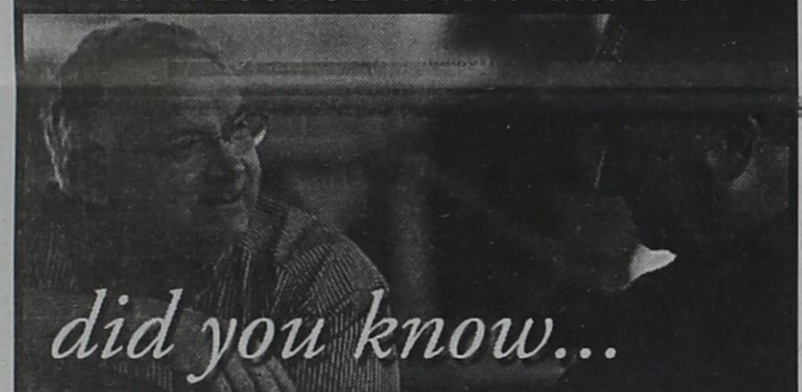
- Director of Risk Management (RN)
- Director of Case Management (RN)
- Director of Emergency Services (RN)
- RN
- Admissions/Wound Care RN
- LVN
- Nurse Practitioner or Physician Assistant, Early One Source Clinic
- RN Surgical Circulator
- Surgical Scrub Tech
- Respiratory Therapist
- Physical Therapist Assistant
- Occupational Therapist
- Medical Technologist
- Certified Nurses Aide
- Unit Secretary
- Phlebotomist
- Carpenter/Painter (temporary only)
- Food Service Supervisor
- Food Service Aide
- Laundry Aide
- Housekeeper
- Polysomnography Tech
- Physician Assistant or Nurse Practitioner
- Accounts Payable Clerk

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BRC Brownwood Regional Medical Center

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TexSCAN Week of August 22, 2004

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Baird I. S. D. It's Kickoff Time!

Lunch Menu
Thursday, Aug. 26
 Enchilada, Refried Beans, Spanish Rice, Crackers, Cobbler, Milk
Friday, Aug. 27
 Bear Dogs, Pork-N-Beans, French Fries, Rice Krispies, Milk
Monday, Aug. 30
 Fish, Cole Slaw, French Fries, Fruit, Hushpuppies, Milk
Tuesday, Aug. 31
 Taco Salad, Ranch Style Beans, Cobbler, Milk
Wednesday, Sept. 1
 corn Dogs, PotatoeSalad, Pinto Beans, Cake, Milk
Thursday, Sept. 2
 Beef & Macaroni, Mash Potatoes, Black-eyed peas, Corn Bread, Milk
Friday, Sept. 3
 Bear Burgers, Lettuce, Tomatoes, Pickles, French Fries, Cookies, Milk

Baird, TX - August 27 kicks off the Football season for the Bears Varsity Football team after playing two scrimmages with Hamlin and Haskell. The Bears meet Miles in Miles at 7:30 P.M. Friday. The team lost 13 seniors with graduation this year, but returning players like Jed Womack, Blan Scott, Chance Rodriguez, Zach Green, and Matt Reynolds, can move the Bears toward the playoffs for the eight straight year. That's not counting other Bears who could make a strong showing.

"Sure, we lost some of our great players," a Bear fan said. "But we've still got some really good ones starting again this season." Junior Jed Womack was named to second-team All-District, All-Big Country, and all-state teams last year; Junior Blan Scott to District 14 first team offense and defense; Chance Rodriguez and Zach Green to second-team. In a UIL realignment, Baird has switched to District 13-A. The team took second place in District 14-A last season.

 A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.
 —Henry B. Adams

 When you have confidence, you can have a lot of fun. And when you have fun, you can do amazing things.
 —Joe Namath

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BAIRD BEARS

Varsity Football Schedule

August 27	Miles	Here	7:30
September 3	De Leon	There	7:30
September 10	Meridian**	Here	7:30
September 17	Roby	There	7:30
September 24	Knox City	Here	7:30
October 1	Bye		
October 8	*Ranger	There	7:30
October 15	*Goldthwaithe	Here	7:30
October 22	*Gorman	There	7:30
October 29	*Cross Plains•	Here	7:30
November 5	*Evant	There	7:30

**Homecoming Game
 •Senior Night
 *District Games

Athletic Coordinator/Head Coach - Bryan Webb
 Assistant Coaches - Jerry Fleming, Clay Barnett, John Horner, Luke Moody
 Cheerleaders - Jodi Neal, Kayla Windham, Rebecca Tollett, Cassie Nail, Megan Betcher, Victoria Suarez, Katelyn Cumby, Kelsey Barbee
 Mascot - Dana Blair
 Managers - Emalie Green, Ike Dickey, Jesse Mendez, Garrett Jennings, Logan Donlan
 Band Director - Donna Sikes

Baird Bears 2004 Varsity

2	Blan Scott	11	QB/FS	6'0	170
3	Chance Rodriguez	11	WR/LB	6'1	155
9	Chase Goldsmith	12	WR/DB	5'10	155
15	Matt Reynolds	12	HB/DE	5'10	165
21	Chris Cogburn	10	QB/DB	5'7	150
22	Zach Green	12	RB/DL	5'7	165
29	Justin Patterson	10	RB/LB	5'8	165
30	Chris Jones	9	RB/DB	5'7	150
32	Blake Mendez	12	WR/DB	5'6	140
33	Jed Womack	11	RB/LB	5'9	160
38	Jayce Barbee	9	WR/DB	5'6	130
40	Sid Walton	11	RB/LB	5'9	150
44	Cody Shouse	11	RB/LB	5'6	155
50	Andrew Emmert	9	OL/DL	5'11	170
51	Justin Roberts	10	OL/LB	5'11	190
52	Brad Matlock	11	OL/LB	5'11	215
53	Carter Burford	12	OL/LB	5'11	175
60	Jeramie Brooks	9	OL/DL	5'9	200
62	Kyle Dillard	12	OL/DL	5'11	240
65	Richardo Lopez	12	OL/DL	5'8	150
70	Roger Wamsley	11	OL/DL	5'11	220
72	Judd Clark	10	OL/DL	5'7	245
75	Tim Burns	12	OL/DL	6'0	315
79	Koby Parker	10	OL/DL	6'0	242
80	Jacob Dillard	9	TE/DL	5'8	175
83	Will Green	12	WR/DB	6'0	175
85	Aaron Hazelwood	9	WR/DB	5'4	125
88	James Roberts	12	TE/DE	6'5	210

Clyde Hardware And Supply
 119 Pecan
 893-4260

Russell-Surles Title Inc.
 337 Market
 893-4227

First National Bank Of Baird
 244 Market
 854-1295
 Member FDIC

Clyde Insurance
 Bonnie Howe
 Angela Martinez
 893-4225

Eastland County Wheels Festival October 8-10

Roll out to Eastland County and join us October 8-10 for the Eastland County Wheels Festival. Begin your morning at the Chuck Wagon Prayer Breakfast in Ranger, then bring your best and biggest wheels and compete in the following on Saturday, October the 9th:

County Wide Road Rally and Poker Run, Cash Grand Prize, Car Shows of all Makes & Models, Including Motorcycles and Low Riders, Audio Contest, "Bring your biggest boom!", CJC Tractor Pull (Saturday & Sunday), "How Low Can You Go" Low Riders Contest, Motorcycle Poker Run, ATV Activities.

Don't stop there--follow all wheels leading to: Saturday

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Pisgah Cemetery Association Meeting September 7th

The Pisgah Cemetery Association will hold their annual meeting in the home of Mary Bob Leveridge at 1401 West 13th Cisco on Tuesday, September 7th at 7 p.m.

For further information, call (325) 893-4759. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

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- 95 Taurus 3.0 V6, very good cond. (green) cold air.....\$2150
- 89 Mercury Grand Marquee, a good buy at.....\$895
- 88 Lincoln Town Car, looks, runs good & only.....\$895
- 92 Taurus looks fair, runs good.....\$995
- 87 Buick Park Ave. looks, runs good.....\$795
- 94 Chevy Corsica in good cond., local car.....\$2150
- 90 Thunderbird, fair cond. (red).....\$995

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Kokomo News

By Zelda Jordan

We were blessed with more rain this past week. There were reports of over three inches to over five inches falling Wednesday night through Friday. And, the weather has been so much cooler than we normally have in August. I hope that we all remember to thank the good Lord for all our blessings.

"He Paid A Debt That He Didn't Owe" was so beautifully rendered by the choir at the Sunday morning service at the Kokomo Baptist Church. Those in the choir were: Aletha Burgess, Crystal Snider, Leona Wilson, Helen Browning, Jimmy Little, Joe Bond and Woodrow Browning with Glynda Bond at the piano.

Beverly and Bob Pharris of Haskell visited with Larry and Betty Strube on Thursday.

On Saturday night, Sheri and Brandon LaBonte came and got LaVon Snider to go eat and visit with them and

Kelly Parham, Dwayne and Connie Snider, Franklin, Jeanne and Chloe Barker and Wendell and Terry Treadway.

Daisy Slaton and Zelda Jordan had dental appointments in Comanche on Monday and then visited with Daisy's aunt, Lona Lightfoot.

Nancy Hendricks had cataract surgery in Brownwood last week and has got good reports in her checkups. Her daughter, Sylvia Buchanan, was with her in Brownwood for the surgery and the checkups.

News is short this week. The people didn't have much news to report or else they were too busy to report it to me.

Congratulations to The members of the First Baptist Church of Gorman on the celebration of their 120 years of serving the Lord and the people of Gorman.

Have a wonderful week.

Read The Classifieds



HIGHLIGHTS

By Mike Cox

Governor wants sales tax option to fund military projects

AUSTIN - Beyond the upcoming presidential election and the ongoing school finance problem, one of the biggest issues in Texas right now involves the military.

With the announcement last week of long-term plans to bring some 70,000 U.S. troops back to the U.S. from overseas installations, the economic stakes for Texas loom large, especially with the coming 2005 round of base closure fights. Texas officials are busy making the case to the military that the Lone Star State would be a good home for thousands of those returning troops and their dependents.

Gov. Rick Perry said last week that he wants the Legislature to pass a bill giving local governments the power to allocate sales tax revenue for infrastructure upgrades around military bases. That, of course, would provide added incentive to the Department of Defense to not only keep bases open, but expand those facilities.

The estimated economic impact to Texas from its 18 military installations is \$77 billion.

In another military-related matter, the five-member Texas Transportation Commission is scheduled to act Thursday on a more than \$35 million funding package to improve roadways around Forts Bliss and Hood in anticipation of troops already scheduled for deployment at the two posts.

That other Texas President remembered...

Some Texans will honor that other president from Texas this Friday, which would have been the 96th birthday of Lyndon B.

Thursday, August 26, 2004

Johnson. Johnson's birthday is a holiday for most state employees (agencies must maintain a skeleton crew however), a fact which gains Texas a bit of national recognition on a Web site devoted to oddball holidays. The site, www.infoplease.com/spot/stateholidays1 includes Texas' LBJ birthday holiday among five other unusual state holidays, including Illinois' Casimir Pulaski Day. Pulaski never set foot in Illinois, but the Polish cavalryman helped America win its revolt against Great Britain.

Meanwhile, back on the range, LBJ will be honored with a wreath-laying ceremony at 10 a.m. Friday at LBJ State Park and Historic Site in Johnson City. In Austin, students and visitors can enjoy free birthday cake and cold drinks outside the LBJ Library on the University of Texas campus from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. also Friday.

The 36th president was born in 1908 and died in 1973.

18th annual fall beach cleanup set...

The General Land Office's fall beach cleanup is scheduled Sept. 18 at 28 locations along the Texas coast. Registration begins at 8 a.m., with cleanup work from 9 a.m. until noon at each site.

Since 1986, volunteers have removed 5,900 tons of trash from Texas beaches. For more information, visit www.texasadoptabeach.org or call 1-877-TX COAST.

Texas Veterans Commission seeks input...

In 1985, the Texas Veterans Commission published a directory of all memorials, monuments and statues in the state dedicated to the men and woman who have served in the military. The commission is looking for the public's help in updating the directory with information on new memorials, and any memorials missed in the first compilation effort. For more information, check the commission's Web site at www.tvc.state.tx.us.

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Congressman
Charles W. Stenholm
 17th Congressional District
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AG TALK

Water Issues in West Texas

As a dryland farmer in West Texas, I'm always optimistic the rains will eventually come. And that optimism has certainly paid off this year.

Whether I'm at the gin or in the halls of Congress, water now seems to come to the forefront of many discussions.

Many areas of the country, including West Texas, are facing situations where their primary sources of drinking water have been depleted, and they are facing the scary reality that their secondary sources could dry up as well.

To ensure enough water is in the ground for future generations of West Texans and farmers, a comprehensive effort by municipal leaders, lawmakers, citizens and farmers is needed to determine the future of water policy in our area.

We cannot afford to leave a single stone unturned to make sure the people and agricultural producers in rural America have an adequate and safe water supply.

Around Texas, we're taking a closer look at how we capture and manage our water resources. There's not one policy that can be adopted to solve the water shortages that our towns and communities will inevitably face if we don't take action now.

Water Policy Commission Act

That is why I cosponsored legislation that passed the House of Representatives

earlier this year establishing the 21st Century Water Policy Commission.

This commission will help communities consider all aspects of their water management, water supply and demand, and ways to develop a comprehensive policy for meeting their water needs under adverse conditions.

The 2002 Farm Bill that Larry Combest and I crafted provided funding for a multi-million-dollar Ground and Surface Water Conservation Program that would provide technical expertise and cost-share assistance to enhance water stewardship for farmers and ranchers in High Plain Aquifer States, such as those folks who share the Ogallala Aquifer.

There's no doubt that the Ogallala Aquifer is the life blood of the High Plains in

Texas and many other states. In fact, this aquifer underlies approximately 36,000 square miles of land in Texas and provides the water for hundreds of thousands of homes, businesses, farms and ranches.

Farm Bill-EQUIP

The 2002 Farm Bill has several programs to help drought-stricken areas address water management issues.

Specifically, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) program has helped ranchers and private landowners fund brush control projects along significant watersheds such as the North Concho River and Twin Buttes watersheds.

Initial efforts focused on cost-share for initial and follow-up brush control by local cooperators who participate in the Texas Soil and Water Conservation Board's brush control program and other independent brush control efforts in the watersheds. EQIP funds were combined with state funds to increase available water through

brush control and grazing management.

In addition, the EQIP program has been used by farmers to implement more efficient irrigation systems that use less water than traditional systems.

This will be an essential piece to water conservation practices that can be implemented on-farm.

Salt Cedar Control

Most recently, I coauthored the Salt Cedar Control Demonstration Act of 2003. This program requires the U.S. Departments of Agriculture (USDA) and the Interior (DoI) to conduct an assessment of the salt cedar and Russian olive invasion in the U.S.

The USDA and DoI will identify long-term funding and management strategies and document the quantity of water lost due to these two plants, the quantity of water saved due to different control methods, determine optimal control and disposal methods for different areas and determine what conditions indicate the need to eradicate these pests.

This legislation also encourages federal, state, tribal and private land managers to coordinate their control efforts to make sure that we maximize the benefits from any brush control projects.

Salt cedar has been a major culprit in the shortage of water across the West. The Colorado River Municipal Water District has done yeoman's work controlling brush in the upper Colorado River watershed.

They've been on the forefront of brush control and have proven a good example

of how to control brush and conserve water.

We Must Develop Integrated Plans, Become More Efficient I've worked tirelessly in Congress to address the scarce water situation in West Texas, and I can attest that brush control efforts have produced the most lasting results in the area's watersheds.

Like much of the U.S., West Texas has been devastated by drought, highlighting the importance of developing a long-term plan to ensure that communities will have an adequate supply of drinking water.

Out here, there is virtually nothing of greater daily concern than the availability of fresh water. In order to meet projected water needs, we must develop integrated plans to increase our supplies of water, while at the same time, reducing our demand through more efficient uses.

Seminole Farmer Secures First Ginned Bale

Every year around this time, farmers in the High Plains compete to secure the first cotton bale ginned of the season. Recently this competition was completed when Luther Cope, a farmer from Seminole, secured the first official bale at the First United Bank in Seminole.

Now that the race is over, the Ocho Gin Company of Seminole is ready to receive the rest of the cotton for this season. They reached about 66,000 bales last year and have now just begun what looks to be a busy season.

All of Texas is going to have a busy season. There's a lot of cotton growing out there to be baled and ginned. So don't hang your hat up yet, the ginning has just begun.

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.

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OBITUARIES

Media Wetsel

CISCO- Media Wetsel, 91, of Cisco and formerly of Winters, died Saturday, August 21, 2004 at an Eastland nursing home.

Funeral services were held at 10:30 a.m. Monday, August 23, 2004 at the Winters Funeral Home Chapel. Larry Fitzgerald officiated. Burial was in the Wingate Cemetery, directed by Winters Funeral Home.

She was born January 18, 1931 in Comanche County and moved to Runnels County in 1921. She married Albert Wetsel on November 21, 1931 in Wingate and lived there until 1996 when she moved to Cisco. Her hus-

band preceded her in death in 1991. She was a homemaker and worked for Dry Manufacturing for 8 years. She was a member of the Church of Christ.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Betty Allen.

She is survived by 2 sons, Albert Darrell Wetsel of Decatur and Charles Wetsel of Cisco; 1 sister, Winnie Hatley of Wingate; 1 brother, Fred Helm of Action; 6 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of the Big Country, 4601 Hartford Street, Abilene, Texas 79605.

Anthony Patrick Iorio

EASTLAND- Anthony Patrick Iorio, 29, of Eastland, died Friday, August 20, 2004 at Valley View Health Care Center.

Graveside services were held Saturday, August 21, 2004 at Scranton Cemetery directed by Kimbrough Funeral Home.

He was born January 1, 1975 in Baldwin Park, California to Loretta Lehman and Anthony Iorio. He worked on

oil rigs for Sand Dollar Drilling.

He is survived by his wife, Karen M. Iorio; his mother, Loretta Lehman; sister, Melanie Ritter; grandmother, Dorthy Wood; 2 stepdaughters, Nicole Myers and Shelley Myers; stepson, Jeffrey Myers; 3 nephews, Caleb Creed Ritter, Zachary James David Sellers and Anthony Destin Lynn Sellers; numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

Juanita Blackwell

RANGER- Juanita Blackwell, 86, of Ranger died on Friday, August 20, 2004 at a local nursing home.

Services were held at 2 p.m. Sunday, August 22, 2004 at Mesquite & Rusk St. Church of Christ. Burial was in Alameda Cemetery following under the direction of Edwards Funeral Home in Ranger, Texas.

Mrs. Blackwell was born on May 30, 1918 in Eastland County, Texas to Jesse and Leora (Jones) McGaha. She was a graduate of Carbon High School. She met and married J. B. Blackwell on December 24, 1943 in Ranger, Texas and he

preceded her in death on May 12, 1970. She was a homemaker and a member of the Mesquite and Rusk St. Church of Christ.

Mrs. Blackwell is survived by her daughter, Gay Nell Burnett and husband Jim of Lake Leon; son, Larry Don Blackwell and wife Jan of Bedford, Tx., sister Jo Johnson of Odessa, Tx., and eight grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. Several nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of the Big Country, 4601 Hartford, Abilene, Tx., 79605. She was preceded in death by her husband, son Fred Blackwell, and brother Hilburn Blackwell.

Chester Kenneth Green



CISCO- Chester Kenneth Green, 89, of Cisco, died Friday, August 20, 2004 at Hendrick Medical Center.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Monday, August 23, 2004 at Kimbrough Funeral Home Chapel. Burial was in the Eastland Cemetery, directed by Kimbrough Funeral Home.

Mr. Green was born on July 27, 1915 in Cleburne, Texas to George W. and Lula (Lane) Green. He married Trophie T. Green on August 4, 1954 in Santa Barbara,

California. She preceded him in death on May 10, 1998.

He was a member of First United Methodist Church and before retirement he was a driver for Greyhound Bus Lines and a former member of the Elks Club. He enjoyed eating out, especially at his favorite "health" food restaurant Pizza Inn in Eastland and Mr. Ivey's honey was another of his favorite foods.

He was preceded in death by a son, Kenneth Green and sisters, Ruth Anderson and Ora Mae Poole.

He is survived by a daughter, Nita Kerlee and husband Bill of Malakoff; son, Joseph Green of Prescott Valley, AZ; granddaughter and caregiver, Cathy Sylvester of Cisco; stepdaughter, Elizabeth Ann Harrison and husband Bill of Cisco; stepson, Cecil Ray Sylvester of Cisco; sister, Virginia Green Parvin of Payson, AZ; 9 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren; 5 step-grandchildren and 14 step-great-grandchildren.

Jesse 'Pete' Hathcock

RANGER- Jesse C. 'Pete' Hathcock, 82, life long resident of Ranger died Saturday, August 21, 2004 at a local hospital.

Services were held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, August 24, 2004 at Edwards Funeral Home Chapel. Garland Van Dyke officiated. Burial with military honors was at Colony Cemetery, directed by Edwards Funeral Home of Ranger.

Mr. Hathcock was born on August 21, 1922 in Ranger, Texas to Charley Everett and Nannie Gladys (Thomas) Hathcock. He was a graduate of Colony High School in 1939 as a Salutatorian. He attended 2 years of college at John Tarleton College. He then entered the Army Air Corps serving during World War II in Hawaii as an aircraft mechanic. He was a rancher all of his life. He married Joyanne Smith on February 4, 1989 in Ranger. Pete was a member of Eastide Church of Christ and a member of the local Farm Bureau and served in all offices over the years.

He is survived by his wife, Joyanne S. Hoover Hathcock

George W. Steel



the Quarterback Club and was one of the "founding fathers" of the Rising Star High School Band.

An active farmer and rancher all of his adult life, Mr. Steel served for 19 years on the Board of Directors of the Upper Leon Soil and Water Conservation District. Prior to being elected to the Board, he received the Outstanding Conservation Farmer Award. In addition to his business and agricultural interests, he was an active member of the Rising Star Chamber of Commerce and was named "Citizen of the Year" in 1987.

A founding member of the Rising Star Roping Club, he was also a 60 year member of the Masonic Lodge, and was a member of the First Baptist Church in Rising Star.

He was an avid bird hunter, enjoying numerous fall hunting trips with longtime friends to Nebraska and North Dakota. He also found special pleasure in hosting bird hunts on his own property. He was well-known in this area for his domino-playing skills, and enjoyed both the game and the competition with his fellow domino players for many years.

Mr. Steel was highly respected as a civic leader and as a friend and mentor to many with whom he had the pleasure of sharing his wisdom and practical insight.

Mr. Steel was preceded in death in 1999 by Emma Jean, his wife of 62 years; a son, Charles M. Steel in 1990; two brothers, Oliver Steel and Cleo Steel; and three sisters, Lorena Steel, Cordya Jarvis and Pearl Daniel.

He is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Karen and Wayne Power of Comanche; his son, James Steel of Dallas; a brother and sister-in-law, Ret. Cmdr. Robert Steel and wife Judy of La Jolla, California; a sister in law, Audry Steel of Brownwood;

seven grandchildren and their spouses, David and Elizabeth Steel of Keller, Leslie and Curtis Boley of Joshua, Laura Steel of Knoxville, Tennessee, Holly and Lloyd Davis of Blountville, Tennessee, Brett and Sabrina Steel of Kingsport, Tennessee, Jeff and Lois Power of San Angelo, and Vanessa Power of Albuquerque, New Mexico; eight great-grandchildren, Ashley and Kelli Steel, Paige Hardin, Jordan and Jancen Power, Catherine Emma and Brooke Elizabeth Steel, and Jaxon Wayne Boley. A host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends also survive.

Memorial contributions maybe made to the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, 2222 Welborn Street, Dallas, Texas 75219 or the Rising Star Foundation, P.O. Box 61, Rising Star, Texas 76471.

George W. Steel, 88, a resident of Rising Star for 66 years, died Wednesday, August 18, 2004 at Brownwood Regional Medical Center.

Funeral services were held Saturday, August 21, 2004 at the First Baptist Church in Rising Star, with the Rev. R.D. Williams officiating, assisted by the Rev. Matt McGowen. Interment was in Eastlawn Memorial Park in Brownwood, under the direction of Higginbotham Funeral Home in Rising Star.

Born October 1, 1915 in May, Texas to Robert David and Eliza Belle Steel, Mr. Steel graduated from May Public Schools and attended Daniel Baker College in Brownwood. He married Emma Jean Bailey on September 5, 1936 at the parsonage of the First Baptist Church in May. The couple moved to Rising Star in 1938 when Mr. Steel was transferred by Higginbotham Lumber Company to be the manager of the Rising Star lumber yard.

Mr. Steel served his country in World War II in the US Navy, stationed on Midway Island. Following his return from the service, he and fellow veteran Charles Rutherford entered into a business partnership, establishing a concrete tile manufacturing plant, later becoming known as Rutherford and Steel Lumber Co. This successful business venture is still evidenced in many of the homes and buildings in the Rising Star area.

A longtime supporter of the public schools in Rising Star, he was a past member of the Rising Star School Board and the Eastland County School Board. He was a member of

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BROWN BAG IT

School has begun and with that goes getting adjusted to a more structured day and establishing a lunch routine that is workable, but also healthy. It does not take a lot of effort to get a bag full of goodies ready to go and fuel you for the rest of the day.

Lunch should provide you with enough energy for the rest of the day at work or school, including some form of protein, plenty of carbohydrates and fiber, and as little fat as possible. Your protein source can be from fish, poultry or beef, low fat cheese or beans. Protein activates two neurotransmitters located within the brain that will help promote alertness. Eating a lunch of pure carbohydrates like just pasta, can cause the neurotransmitter serotonin to become activated, promoting sleepiness. Do not avoid carbohydrates completely...a well balanced lunch with carbohydrates ensures that you get the much needed fiber that protein cannot provide, but cutting excess fats will help keep your child happy. Excess fats can "weigh" you down and make you feel groggy. A light touch of olive oil on a salad, for example, is a great way to get a nutritious dose of fat. A perfect example of a well balanced lunch is the good old sandwich. Keep the filling low fat and the bread whole grain, and you have the makings of an easy to make and healthful lunch.

Here are some helpful tips on creating sandwiches with a twist, whipping up alternatives to a sandwich and making the perfect side. Try to purchase products that are made with whole grains. These types of baked goods not only offer the benefit of being higher in fiber, but also the nice texture and fuller flavor in each tasty bite. Try a hearty wheat bread stuffed with cucumbers, sprouts, tomatoes, avocado, fat free

cream cheese. Alternatives to ordinary bread for a sandwich:

- *toasted English muffin
- *whole wheat bagels
- *matzo crackers
- *pita bread
- *tortilla
- *whole grain buns or hard rolls
- *rice cake

Instead of sandwiches, consider these alternatives for lunches:

*Dinner leftovers- simply prepare more of dinner the night before. For example, make an extra chicken breast and place between two slices of whole grain bread or dice into a lettuce, tomato salad with low fat dressing. Or try orange, pineapple, and lime juices, mixed with seasame oil and honey, are perfect for drizzling over a salad filled with chicken, mangos, pineapple, avocado and diced chicken or low fat ham.

*All varieties of soup...either hot or cold. Pack them into a tightly sealed, insulated container.

*Pasta and grain salads
*Pack an assortment of raw vegetables and now only carrots and celery sticks, but tomatoes, snow peas, bell pepper strips, broccoli and cauliflower.

*Include low sodium vegetable juices. They are filling and much better than sodas.

*Pack a small baggie of air popped popcorn.

*Choose fruits such as apples, oranges, tangerines and grapefruits. They take longer to eat than many other foods and will leave you more satisfied.

*If you need a little sweet, bake your own mini muffins and cookies with minimal sugar and fat.

Information in this article was obtained from allrecipes.com. Should you have any questions call Eastland Co. Extension Agent Donna White 629-2222.

**Eastland County
Alzheimers Support
Group To Hold
Meeting Sept. 13**

Eastland County Alzheimers Support Group will meet September 13th at 6:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church in Eastland Carlton Hall. Dr. Hazelip will give a special presentation.

**Morton Valley
Past & Present**

By Wanda Lee
Beck Skinner

The rains have come and they have been wonderful. My gauge showed that I received over 4 inches last week. The green grass and the uplifted garden plants prove that it was indeed a very welcome thing for them. The old mowers will be working extra hard in the next few days.

A member of our community was badly hurt last week in a tractor accident. He is in a Fort Worth hospital and we send our prayers to God for him and his family. Good luck and a speedy recovery Dub.

School has begun and people seem to be getting back into their usual routines. Hope you and yours are feeling great about all the opportunities we in America have. One of those is being allowed to vote our convictions, and it is almost time to do that. I will not tell you how to vote but I do want to encourage you to do so.

Harmony's new pastor preached from Ezekiel Sunday about the fact that it is our obligation to witness about Jesus but it is not our responsibility how the hearers respond, that is God's business. Trish Garrett did a great job on "Think About His Love" and Maria Beck brought another very interesting talk on the advertisements and how we compare God to so many everyday things of life. Next Sunday will be Brother David's first presentation of "The Lord's Supper" to the flock so please make your plans to attend. We sure did miss Lyndell as his back was really giving him problems. Our prayers go up to our merciful Father for His quick recovery. Some were still out for family reunions, we missed them also.

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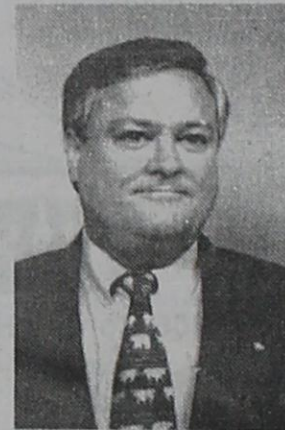
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- Colorado City 182 ac. deer, quail, dove, and varmit hunting, good cattle place. 60 ac. in pasture, \$650 ac., office building for sale, rented for \$500.00 a mo. \$30,000 extra nice.
- 3-2 1/2 CP fireplace, den, fenced, corner lot. Nice yard and a beautiful cedar 8 place spa. \$75,000. Lets make a deal.
- 3-1 home on extra large lot. Fireplace, fenced and cross fenced, needs some TLC. \$40,000.
- Beautiful 3,000 sq. ft. building could be offices, or beauty shop or even a day care. \$75,000.

Good Nutrition On The Health And Human Services Menu This School Year

Pencils: sharpened. Backpacks: packed. New clothes: pressed.

The new school year has begun, and in addition to stocking up on school supplies and brushing up on their studies, students across Texas are gearing up for a healthier school meal environment. In March, the Texas Department of Agriculture released a new Texas Public School Nutrition Policy in response to the growing rates of childhood obesity.

The nationally recognized policy is effective at the start of the 2004-2005 school year. Among other steps, the policy limits the number of grams of fat and sugar Texas schoolchildren are served each week and restricts portion sizes for chips, cookies, frozen desserts and beverages. The policy also calls for phasing out deep-fat frying in schools.

"Texas schools serve more than 400 million lunches and 200 million breakfasts a year," said Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs. "Since more than two million schoolchildren consume about 60 percent of their meals in school, schools are key settings to combat the obesity epidemic facing our young Texans."

To offer parents, teachers, school administrators and school food service professionals additional and clarifications on the policy and general childhood nutrition information, TDA launched its Square Meals Web site this summer at www.squaremeals.org. The site provides one-page overviews of the nutrition policies for elementary schools, middle and junior high schools and high schools. It also provides information on exemptions and answers to frequently asked questions about the new policy.

"Ensuring our children's health will take all of us working together," Combs said. "In partnership, parents and schools are an unbeatable team with the ability to help turn the tide. That's why we want to support their efforts and keep everyone informed about this new policy."

In addition to other measures, the policy also limits the sale of foods that compete with a school's operation of the breakfast, lunch or after school snack programs. A school can lose up to \$1.23 at breakfast and \$2.24 at lunch in federal reimbursements for each meal lost to a competitive food sale.

At the elementary school level, Foods of Minimal Nutritional Value, candy and competitive foods are not allowed on campus at any time during the school day. However, the policy does allow one nutritious classroom snack to be provided in the morning or afternoon by parents, teachers or other groups.

The elementary classroom snack must be a healthy, low-fat and low-sugar option. This can include choices such as fresh fruits or vegetables with low fat dips, pretzels, low-fat string cheese, dry cereal, rice cakes, animal crackers, or low fat fruit or grain muffins.

At a teacher's or school's option, the snack may be used to celebrate birthdays or other events. TDA offers additional suggestions for nutritious snacks on its Web site at www.squaremeals.org. The site also offers tips on ways to reward children with incentives other than food and ideas on non-food fundraisers. Materials in both English and Spanish also can be requested by calling the toll-free Square Meals number at (888) TEX-KIDS.

The Texas School Nutrition Policy only impacts schools participating in the national school nutrition program. It does not take place restrictions on food items that parents provide for their own child's consumption. Parents should communicate with their child's school for information on local school policies that may include additional restrictions.

"A recent study showed that the rates of childhood obesity in Texas are among some of the highest in the nation," Combs said. "Our state cannot afford to look the other way. The time to take action is now, and parents and schools are critical in leading the charge."

We are asking your help in alerting your readers and viewers about the recent consumer advisory the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have issued concerning mercury in fish and shellfish. Entitled What You Need To Know About Mercury in Fish and Shellfish, the purpose of the advisory is to inform women who may become pregnant, pregnant women, nursing mothers, and parents of young children how to get the positive health benefits from eating fish and be confident that they have reduced their exposure to the harmful effects of mercury. The 2004 advisory now lists fish that are low in mercury to help consumers choose the most appropriate fish. The advisory also contains specific information about canned tuna since this is one of the most frequently consumed fish in the United States.

Research shows that most people's fish consumption does not cause a health concern and we emphasize that this advisory is directed to the specific subpopulation of women who may become pregnant, pregnant women, nursing mothers, and parents of young children, not to the general consumer. Research indicates that high levels of

mercury in the bloodstream of unborn babies and young children may harm the developing nervous system. With this in mind, FDA and EPA designed an advisory that, if followed, should keep an individual's mercury consumption below levels that have been shown to cause harm. By following the advisory, parents can be confident of reducing their unborn or young child's exposure to the harmful effects of mercury, while at the same time maintaining a healthy diet that includes the nutritional benefits of fish and shellfish.

Fish and shellfish are an important part of a healthy diet. Fish and shellfish contain high quality protein and other essential nutrients, are low in saturated fat and contain omega-3 fatty acids. A well balanced diet that includes a variety of fish and shellfish can contribute to everyone's heart health and children's proper growth and development. Thus, women and young children in particular should include fish or shellfish in their diets due to the many nutritional benefits.

By following these three recommendations for selecting and eating fish or shellfish, women and young children will receive the benefits of eating fish and shellfish and be confident that they have reduced their exposure to the harmful effects of mercury:

1. Do not eat shark, swordfish, King Mackerel, or tilefish because they contain high levels of mercury.
2. Eat up to 12 ounces (2 average meals) a week of a variety of fish and shellfish that are lower in mercury. Five of the most commonly eaten fish or shellfish that are low in mercury are shrimp, canned light tuna, salmon, pollock, and catfish. Another

commonly eaten fish, albacore ("white") tuna has more mercury than canned light tuna. So, when choosing your two meals of fish and shellfish, you may eat up to 6 ounces (1 average meal) of albacore tuna per week.

3. Check local advisories about the safety of fish caught by family and friends in local lakes, rivers, and coastal areas. If no advice is available, eat up to 6 ounces (1 average meal) per week of fish caught from local waters, but don't consume any other fish that week.

Follow these same recommendations when feeding fish and shellfish to young children, but serve smaller portions.

The third recommendation is very important--check local advisories--to ensure that individuals vulnerable to the harmful effects of mercury know about any special conditions involving the safety of fish caught in their geographic areas. For information about the safety of locally caught fish and shellfish, visit EPA's Fish Advisory website www.epa.gov/ost/fish or department contacts is available at www.epa.gov/ost/fish.

If you have questions about mercury in fish and shellfish or the consumer advisory, please call FDA Media Relations at (301) 827-6242. For copies of the advisory and more information on handling fish and other foods safely, consumers can call, toll free 1-888-SAFEFOOD.

Health and Human Service Agencies Consolidation/Reorganization Effective Sept 1st

House Bill 2292 requires the consolidation of the 11 Health and Human Service agencies into five agencies. On September 1, 2004 a major consolidation/reorganization will take place. The Texas Department of Human Services, the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation and the Texas Department of Aging will be transformed and reorganized into new agencies. Additionally, some of the current programs and regional locations at these two agencies will be transferred to the Health and Human Services Commission as of Sept. 1, 2004. The purpose of this communication is to provide some guidance on where to send invoices and who to contact for questions and information.

Invoicing prior to Sept. 1, 2004: Vendors should follow current procedures using the current "bill to" addresses/locations through August 31, 2004.

Invoicing effective Sept. 1, 2004: Because more than one Health and Human Service agency may do business with the same vendor, we are recommending that vendors review each purchase order to ensure the invoice will reflect the correct agency name and be mailed to the correct address. We also recommend that the vendor check the "deliver to" address on the purchase order to ensure delivery to the correct address. If the vendor is invoicing against a contract, please coordinate with the contract manager for any charges to invoicing information if necessary.

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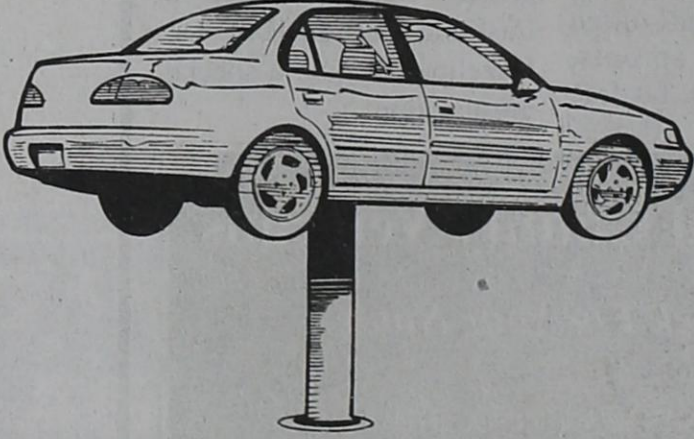
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OKIE	BASIC	EPIC
TEAS	ANKLE	ETTE

The Idle American

Commentary By Dr. Don Newbury

Dunked in the Dark?

The news stories come in pairs—when tourism is down, new “discoveries” pique the curiosity of prospective visitors. With this backdrop, let us consider British archaeologist Shimon Gibson’s contention that while poking around Israel, he MAY have found the cave where John the Baptist* dunked Christian converts.

He just happens to have a new book out with pictures of artifacts dating back to around 500 BC. The cave is just a stone’s throw from where John was born, and several U. S. theologians figure the pool inside the cave may have been spring-fed and used early on for “bathing rituals”..

Just a guess on my part, but I figure the author has a printing bill due. I fail to “get the picture.” My Bible shows baptisms in sun-splashed rivers with white doves fluttering about. John—admittedly a persuasive Christian—might have had a tough timeconvincing folks to follow him into a dark hole for immersion in cold water by a man who’d never had a haircut. Bats—not white doves—completed the scene.

I’ll bet “sprinkling and pouring” baptismal rituals sprang from this spring. “Quicker, easier and done in broad daylight with white doves,” handbills may have bragged. (There may even have been contention of cave etchings mentioning John The Methodist..)

If the Gibson (no relation to Mel, though equally passionate) book goes into multiple printings (my experience has been with singular OVER-printings), he is set

for sequels. Word has it that he hasn’t scratched the surface on etchings.

Admittedly, hammering and chiseling into stone were slow and cumbersome, but in lots of centuries, there was quite a bit of down time. And it is human nature to leave notes as reminders..

Here are some etchings (in some cases, graffiti) Gibson may find if he searches multiple caves:

When Crossbows Are Outlawed, Only Outlaws Will Have Crossbows. For Fiddling Lessons, Call Nero At IV-VII-III-II-I-V-I-V. Got Sin?. World’s First Water Park. Phillistine Slayer For Hire: Have Rocks, Will Travel. Call David The Shepherd Boy. I (heart-shaped) Locusts. Eat Mor Chikin’. Swimwear By John. No Floaties Or Fly Fishing. and Humpty-Dumpty Was Pushed.

Plus: Moses Rocks. Hermetically Sealed By Johnny Carson. Whatever Happened To Herod’s National Guard Records?. Pontius Pilate Eats Pig Parts. A Pharisee, A Camel and A Duck Walk Into A Bar. First Swimming Lesson Free. Kilroy Was Here. Watch For New And Improved Caskets By Costco. Burma Shave. No Matter How Much Jello You Use, You Still Can’t Walk On Water. Motivational Speaker For Hire. I Saved 15% On Car Insurance. Jerusalem Times Inflates Circulation

On The Web

- Classifieds
- Obituaries

www.telegramstarnews.com

Figures. A Rod Is A Jerk and, finally, Will Rogers Never Met Saddam (or you fill in the blank)..

OK. OK. OK. So you can come up with a better list. Go ahead. It’ll keep you busy and out of trouble.

Back to the baptism topic: Two retired preachers, sitting on a park bench, one asks the other: “Do you believe in infant baptism?”

“Of course,” he answered, “I’ve seen it..”

Finally, one “happened just this way” story that didn’t make Texas newspapers.

An elderly man, portly twice over, shuffled down the aisle to present himself for church membership. Down front, he tossed his cane aside and clutched the preacher’s hands, steadying himself. While the parson prayed, the oldster felt a draft, a chilling reminder that he forgot to wear suspenders. Parishioners gasped when the

“amen” came. The prospect’s trousers had fallen to his ankles!

A couple of men nearby hitched them back up; he was still voted in. The veteran preacher, meanwhile, would have liked to retreat to a dark cave, or perhaps get lost in a great cloud of witnesses. Instead, he handed the new member a pledge card..

Dr. Newbury is an author/speaker/columnist in the Metroplex. His weekly column appears in 100 Texas newspapers. To contact him, call 817.447.3872, or by email at: newbury@speakerdoc.com

*Riddle: What do John The Baptist and Alexander The Great have in common? Answer: Same middle name.

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By Mark Szorady



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Making A Difference

By Rex M. Rogers

Who Should Be In Politics?

Given the fact that my doctorate is in political science and that I used to teach politics and government, people often ask me, "Should Christians be involved in politics? What the question means, of course, is should Christians run for and hold office, vote, give money to political candidates, and more. Frankly, the question has always struck me as odd, because it's a bit like asking, "Should Christians be involved in medicine, the law, business, or education?" I always want to be a good politician and answer the question with a question- "Why not?"

I suggest the source of this query, should Christians be involved in politics, is a dualistic and therefore misinterpreted biblical worldview. This idea conceives of the world in "sacred" and "secular" terms, the sacred being God's blessed domain and the secular being everything else. In this view, what goes into sacred and what becomes secular depends upon the one making the choice, but the end result is the same- some activities are off-limits not just to Christians but apparently to God. Politics is relegated to the secular, so Christians should stay away from this tainted arena, consigning it to the world and

the Devil.

But you will find no such dichotomous worldview in the Scripture. God does not divide the world into sacred and secular. A truly biblical worldview acknowledges that God keeps His followers in this world to proclaim the Lordship of Christ in all of life. Nothing is beyond God's interest or His sovereignty.

It's true that politics--because it is a people activity--contains its share of sin. But this is precisely why politics needs the "salt" and "light" influence of Christian ethics. Politics is part of culture and culture is something God told human beings at Creation to develop and use for His glory. Put succinctly, God wants Christians in politics.

Rex M. Rogers, Ph.D, book author and president of Cornerstone University, Grand Rapids, Mich., is a syndicated columnist, whose columns reach more than 429,858 homes in 89 newspapers in 31 states: Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin. Send comments in care of: alan@blanchardgroup.net.

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NAMED TO ALL-AMERICAN TEAM--Kari Aubon Kincaid, granddaughter of Aubrey and Bonnie Kincaid of Eastland has been named to the 2004 All American AAU Women's Basketball team. Out of approximately 800 girls who participated in the AAU Tournament in Chattanooga, Tn. only 16 were picked up the college coaches. Kari attends Central High School, Andover, Kansas where she will be a Junior this year. She was named on the 1st All State Basketball Team in Kansas. Kari, a Christian leader, is also a 4.0 student. Her parents are Scott and Tami Kincaid of Andover, Kansas. She has already committed Kansas State at Manhattan.



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Timely Tips

By Kate Worth

FAT SKIMMER - I know everyone has their own method for skimming the fat off soups and broths, but this one really works well for me so I thought I'd pass it along. I let the container of soup or broth cool to room temperature. I then place a piece of waxed paper on top. After a few minutes, I remove the paper. The fat clings to the paper. If necessary, this can be repeated until all the fat is removed. Anna S.

PERK IT UP - If asparagus goes limp on you, don't throw it out. Cut about 1/4 inch from the bottom of each spear. Then place the spears in some ice water and cover with plastic. Refrigerate for two hours. When you take them out, they'll be nice and crisp and fresh. Leila B.

EYE MAKEUP - An inexpensive way to remove eye makeup is to use a baby bath product. I put a few drops of the solution on my fingertips, or use a cotton swab then rub it onto my eyelids. After removing the soap with water, the makeup is completely gone and it doesn't burn the eyes! Jill C.

ENTERTAINMENT TIP - Are you looking for a cheap night out? Concerts in the local park, art displays and picnics are wonderful, cheap "date" ideas, whether for you and your significant other, or just you and the kids. Some local zoos are free too. Amanda K.

BEAUTY TIP

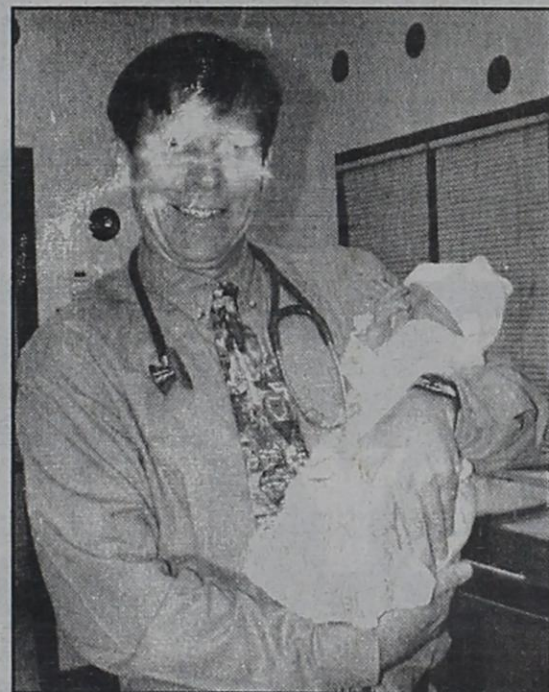
The trend in mascara these days is two-step. First, you brush on a white substance which is said to fortify and lengthen lashes. Next, you apply the actual mascara, located on the opposite end of the tube? Does it really do what it says? Yes, these mascaras perform admirably. However, if you're in a hurry, you might not want to go through two steps. In that case, keep two tubes of mascara on hand. When you don't have time, just apply your regular mascara.

On The Web

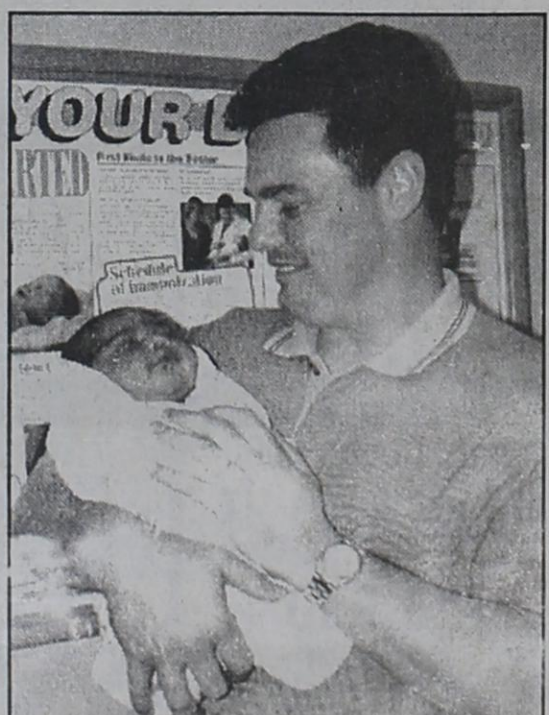
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Since 1986, Dr. Robert Matthews has been Board Certified in Family Practice and in practice at the B & W Clinic. His practice includes Obstetrics and Pediatrics. He graduated from the University of Galveston Medical School in 1983. Dr. Matthews is a member of the Texas & American Association of Family Practice. He is married and has three children. His hobbies include Bible Study, family time, running marathons, and going to the lake.



Dr. Cox just recently started his practice at the B & W Clinic. He is a 2001 graduate of Texas Tech University School of Medicine. Dr. Cox will be a Family Practitioner, which will include Obstetrics and Pediatrics. He served in the United States Air Force as a Medical Service Specialist. Dr. Cox volunteered to be a big brother in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization. Dr. Cox is married and has two daughters. His hobbies include hiking, hunting, camping, reading and tennis.

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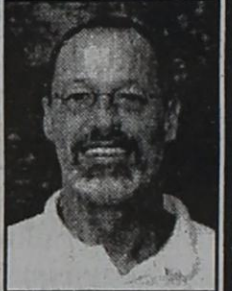
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15					16				
17				18					19				
20				21					22				
	23	24				25	26						
27	28					29				30	31		
32						33				34	35		
36						37				38			
39						40				41			
	42	43						44					
						45			46				
	47	48						49			50	51	52
53						54	55			56			
57										59			
60										61			62

ACROSS

1. Adds pizzazz
5. Competition for Phil
10. Spring, in Israel
14. ___ (Four Seasons song)
15. 66, e.g.
16. Carr of Tootsie
17. Be introduced to
18. Change
20. By means of
21. Brigham Young's state
22. Twain narrator
23. Private teacher
25. The Labyrinth, for the Minotaur
27. Tally keeper
29. Elizabeth ___ Browning
32. Is a breadwinner
33. Frappé ingredient
34. ___ de la Paix
36. Actress Meyers et al.
37. Mary of the comics
38. Borge, e.g.
39. Kind of room
40. Waste time
41. Last chance to improve a grade
42. Compactly
44. Shining
45. "___ to Be Hard" (Hair)

DOWN

1. Ceremony
2. Fencing tool
3. San Juan's land
4. Fast plane
5. Daniel Webster, for one
6. Type of cap or bear
7. Buzzi or Gordon
8. Devoured
9. Part of HMS
10. Garb
11. Nervure
12. Potential steel
13. Burgundy product
19. Hearts ___ (TV show)
21. Western Indians

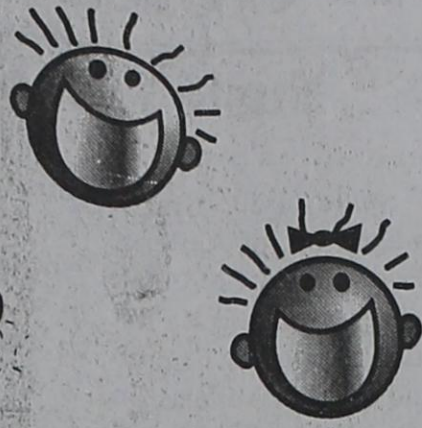
24. Amphorae
25. Church members
26. ___ of Triumph (Bergman film)
27. Singe
28. Gives a hang
29. Beefy
30. Official copy
31. Albacores
33. ___ Old St. Nicholas
35. Like a moray
37. Crumples into a ball with "up"
38. Abraham, Martin and John singer
40. Actress Ladd
41. Signal
43. What photographers change
44. Quick scan
46. Oven setting
47. "Pat and ___"
48. Mongols' turf
49. Floppy
51. Got off a horse
52. Lab animals
53. Tittle
54. Heat's league; abbr.
55. ___ Fernando
56. Golfer Elder

This puzzle sponsored by



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Widdling



SEEK AND FIND

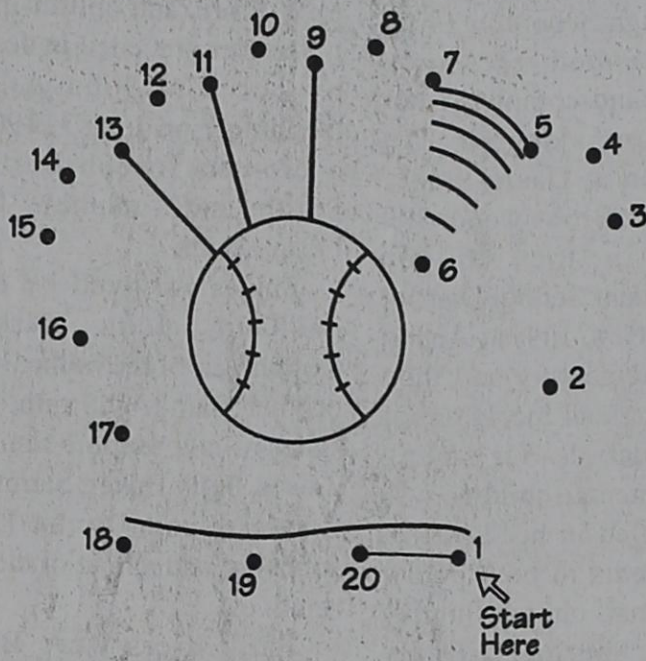
FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

- | | | |
|-----------|--------|-------------|
| AQUARIUS | GEMINI | SAGITTARIUS |
| ARIES | LEO | SCORPIO |
| CANCER | LIBRA | TAURUS |
| CAPRICORN | PISCES | VIRGO |

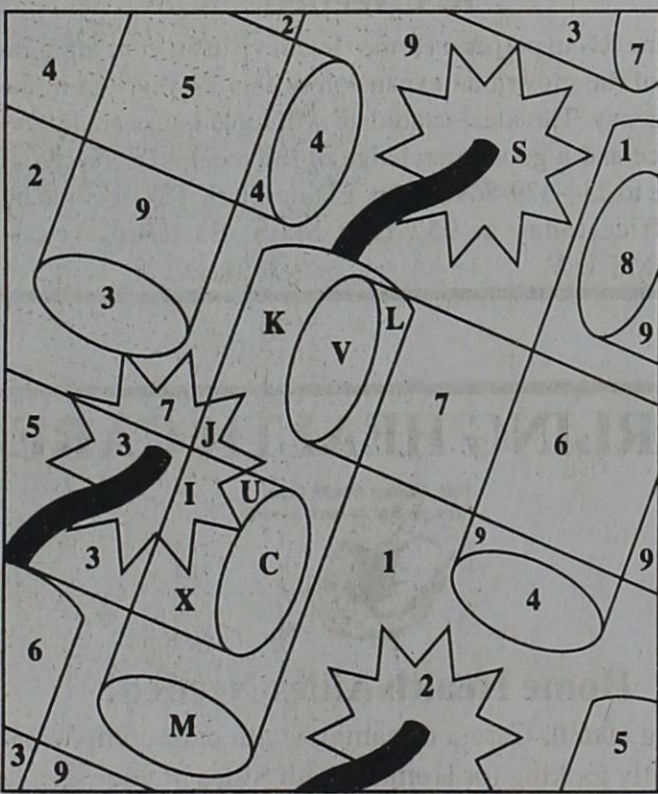
THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

L I B R E Z V T L G E
 B N Q T E G I U R T Y
 P R F A D E R A S A A
 I O G U H M G R J Q W
 S C O R P I O U K U A
 C I E U N N M S L A R
 E R L S L I B R A R I
 S P C A P R I C O I E
 S A G I T T A R I U S
 X C A N C E R P O S I

Connect the dots



HIDDEN PICTURE

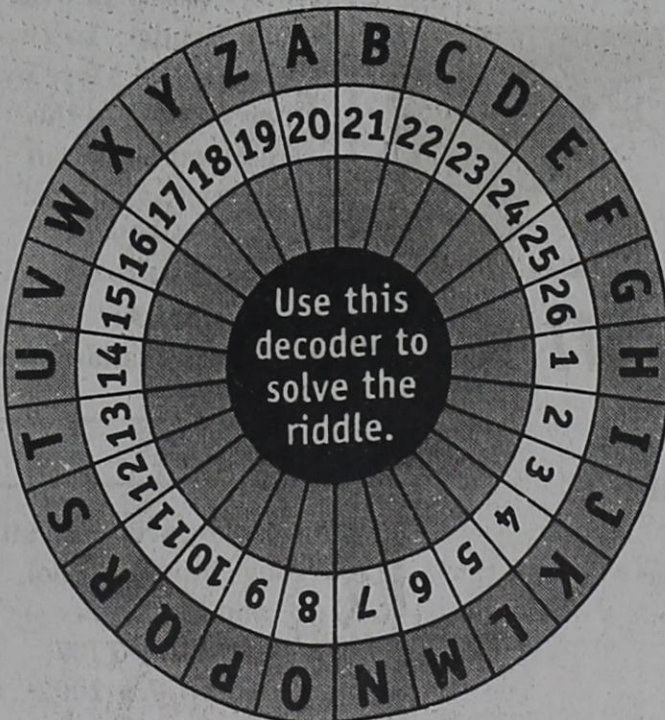


Color in each space that contains a letter.

SECRET CODE

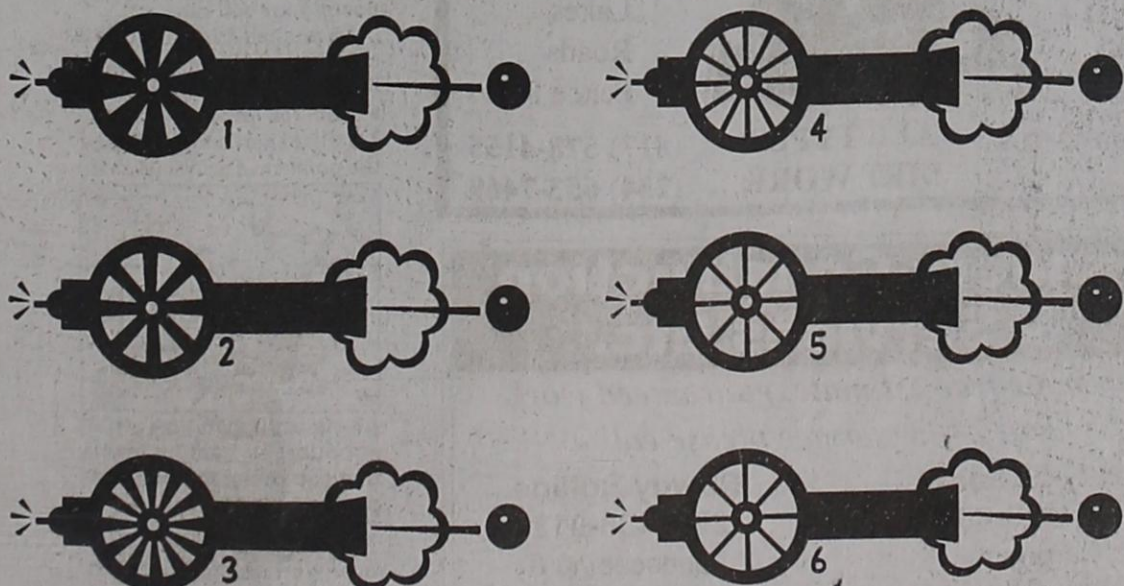
Why do museums have old dinosaur bones?

13	1	24	18	22	20	7	13					
20	25	25	8	11	23	7	24	16	8	7	24	12



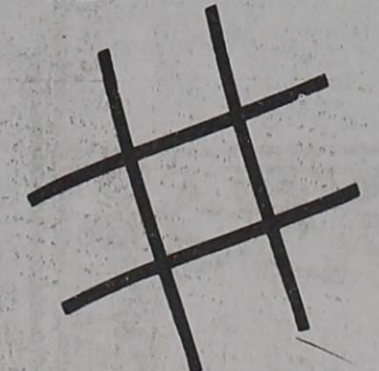
FIND THE TWINS

WHICH TWO ARE EXACTLY ALIKE?

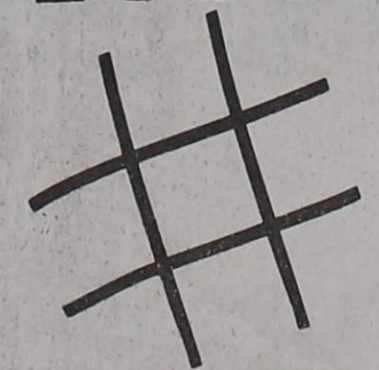


ANSWER: FIVE AND SIX

TIC



TAC



TOE

THE TENNIS TOURNAMENT

In 1999, Pete Sampras won his third straight Wimbledon title. He was joined on the women's side by Lindsay Davenport, which made it the first time since 1981 that two Americans had won the singles titles.

The win was Sampras' sixth in seven years. He has just one less win than the all-time record holder William Renshaw, who played in the 1880s. Martina Navratilova is the winningest female with seven wins.

The tournament started back in the 1870s as a men's only event, the Lawn Tennis Championships, which was played at The All England Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club. It wasn't until 1884 that women played.

A new stadium in 1922 brought more popularity to the tournament. But during World War II, the stadium was struck by a bomb, and it took nine years before the stadium was totally rebuilt.

As one of the biggest sports competitions in the world, Wimbledon champions win big money. In the 1998 Wimbledon Championship, more than \$11 million in prize money was awarded.

So You Want To Be...

When people decide to buy or sell a house, they usually call on a real estate agent for help. That's because a real estate agent knows how much money homes are worth, what neighborhoods are like, what laws apply to buying or selling a home and where buyers can get a loan to buy a home.



A real estate agent meets with the people wanting to buy a home. During this time, home buyers decide what kind of house they want and how much money they can spend. Then the agent takes the buyers to see houses for sale.

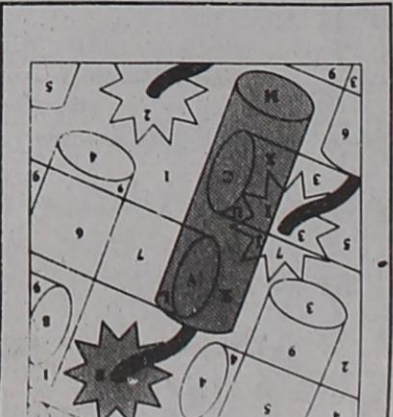
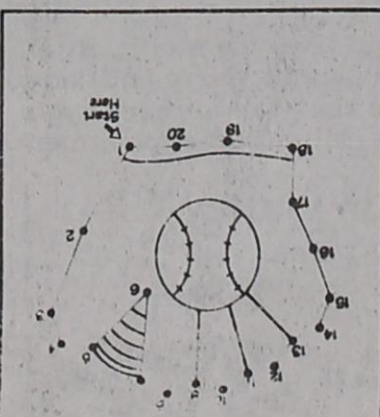
When people want to sell a home, they call a real estate agent to help them decide how much to sell it for. The home sellers also count on the real estate agent to bring in people who are interested in buying a home.

For all the work helping people buy and sell homes, a real estate agent usually gets a percentage of the sale of the home.

Even though a real estate agent works out of an office, he/she spends most of the time out of it showing homes and looking for homes that might be for sale soon. A real estate agent usually works more than 40 hours a week. Most of the time, the agent has to work evenings and weekends because that's when people are able to look at homes.

Answers

X	C	A	N	C	E	R	P	O	S	I
S	A	G	I	T	T	A	R	I	U	S
S	P	C	A	P	R	I	C	O	I	E
E	R	L	S	L	I	B	R	A	R	I
C	I	E	U	N	N	M	S	L	A	R
S	C	O	R	P	I	O	U	K	U	A
I	O	G	U	H	M	G	R	J	Q	W
P	R	F	A	D	E	R	A	S	A	A
B	N	Q	T	E	G	I	U	R	T	Y
L	I	B	R	E	Z	V	T	L	G	E



**Baird First United
Methodist
Church News**

**Connecting Kids to Christ
Workshop**

Connecting Kids to Christ Workshop, is a 1 day workshop sponsored by Children's Ministry magazine. It takes place Saturday, September 25, at first Christian Church, 2323 Broadway, in Lubbock. They guarantee you won't find a better, more relevant, engaging, and life-changing workshop for you and your whole team! Everyone who ministers to children from nursery through sixth grade including ministers, ministry leaders, teachers and volunteers should attend. The one-day workshops could change your ministry forever! Take your entire team for renewed vision, innovative ideas, support and encouragement. The cost for groups of 10 or more is \$29.00 ea. To register call 800-888-5991 or log onto www.cmmag.com/cmml2004.

Roundup 2004

This year Roundup will be August 28th, and as always it will be held at First U. M. Church in Lubbock.

The theme is "Equipping the family of God for active ministry in the world today and tomorrow."

We all ought desire to learn and grow. We must admit we don't have all the answers to becoming a more effective church. Roundup offers us the opportunity to add new skills and sharpen old ones. And it's free to boot.

Saturday, August 28 - Roundup 2004 Lubbock, TX
 Sunday, August 29 - Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
 Sunday Worship, 10:45 a.m.
 Choir Practice, 6:00 p.m.
 Youth Groups, 5:00 p.m.
 Tuesday, August 31 - Trustees Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Obituary

Susie Lee Smith

Susie Lee Smith Coppinger, 86, of Abilene, died Friday, August 20, 2004.

Services were held at First Central Presbyterian Church 4th and Orange, Abilene, on Monday, August 23, 2004 at 1 p.m. Dr. Clifford Stewart and Pastoral Intern Janice Six officiating. Interment was in Elmwood Memorial Park.

Born in Rockwall County, Texas on May 6, 1918, to Susie McIntosh and Sam Irby Smith, Jr., she was soon joined by brothers Sam Irby, Jr. and Joseph Barton. In 1924, the family moved to Baird, Texas where Susie started school and graduated Baird High School in 1936. She attended McMurry College and completed her Bachelors degree in education at Daniel Baker College in Brownwood. She taught in the Abilene Independent School District for 20 years, first at Anson Jones Elementary and then for 14 years at Lincoln Junior High School. Her strong commitment to children was exemplified in her love for her students in both public schools and church Sunday School. She had a lively spirit and stimulating personality, one whom children learned from, not just in her classroom, but by watching her life.

After retiring, Susie began and continued various volunteer efforts until the last few months. Whether cooking breakfast at the church, playing Scrabble, or counseling a friend or family member, Susie, above all, affirmed life. She accepted

misfortune with courage, wit and grit. With equal fervor, she rejoiced in the blessings. The supreme joy in her life was her 62-year-long marriage to John Parker Coppinger (Cop) which began on January 3, 1942.

As a member of First Central Presbyterian Church for 56 years, she served in numerous leadership roles, including elder. She was a member of many educational and church organizations.

Susie supported her family, friends and community through word and deed, with her wisdom and her work. She leaves a legacy of compassion, determination, love of life, and optimism.

She was preceded in death by her son, John Allen Coppinger on June 3, 1967; a brother, Joseph Barton Smith; and a nephew, Joe Dean Smith.

She is survived by her husband, John Parker Coppinger, of the home; one brother, Sam Irby Smith, Jr., sister-in-law, Bobbie Smith; nieces, Sally Baker, Sammie Borders, and Donna Lea Johnson; and a host of close relatives.

Pallbearers were Bob Clifton, Gary Clifton, Guy Clifton, Barton Scott, Scotty Scott, Miller Scott and Gary Coppinger. Honorary pallbearers were Casey Borders, Jeremy Borders, Brent Baker, Chris Sanders, Joe Mac Sanders and Tommy Van Pelt.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Medical Care Mission, 302 Medical Drive, Abilene, Tx 79601.

**Be Active With First Baptist
Church, Baird**

**Schedule of Events
August 11th - 18th**

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

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

- (Nursery provided for worship services)
- Sunday School - 9:45 A.M.
- Worship Service - 11:00 A.M.
- Prayer Time In Sanctuary - 5:00 P.M.
- Evening Service - 6:00 P.M.
- Wednesday Service - 7:00 P.M.

Coming Soon

Monday (Aug 30) - Ladies Night Out -- Potluck at 6:30 P.M. and the speaker will be Penny Bogard. Make plans to attend and your spirits will be lifted and you will

feel encouraged as you fellowship with one another. All ladies in the community are invited.

Ladies Bible Study will begin September 12th and will continue through October 24th. This will be each Sunday for 7 weeks at 4:30 pm in the fellowship hall. This is a Beth Moore study "Why Godly People Do Ungodly Things." Leaders are Bridget McDowell and Kim Vestal. Call the church office to sign up - August 31st will be the last day to sign up.

The first 13 ladies to register will receive a discounted book for \$10 - make your check payable to the First Baptist Church. We are looking forward to this Bible Study and hope you can share with us as we grow in Christian faith and love.

Country Cowboy Church

710 N. Seaman Eastland
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Coffee & Donuts.....10:45 a.m.
 Worship Service.....11:00 a.m.
 Wednesday Night Bible Study...6:30 p.m.

Pastor Chad Gosnell



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B-37

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