

The Daily Roar

Daily Newspaper created by the Soldiers, for the Soldiers

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MULTI-NATIONAL DIVISION – BAGHDAD

JANUARY 9, 2009

National Police hold blanket drive ISF help widows,orphans battle winter weather

By Staff Sgt. Thomas Ribas
3rd BCT, 82nd Abn. Div.

FORWARD OPERATING BASE LOYALTY, Iraq – Police officers assigned to the 4th Brigade, 1st National Police Division, in partnership with Soldiers assigned to 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, attached to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, donated more than 400 blankets at a children’s orphanage Jan. 3 in the Kamaliyah neighborhood of New Baghdad.

The donation drive was led by the 4th Bde., 1st NP Div., along with neighborhood leaders and the orphanage head master. The donation was to help children and widows battle the



by Staff Sgt. Thomas Ribas, 3rd BCT, 82nd Abn. Div.

A National Police officer assigned to the 4th Brigade, 1st National Police Division, gives a wool blanket to a child during a humanitarian blanket drive Jan. 3 at the Kamaliyah orphanage in New Baghdad.

chilly weather this winter where average temperatures can dip down into the low 40s.

Iraqi Gen. Amer Flayeh Hassoun, the

4th Bde., 1st NP commander, along with his officers, handed out wool blankets to all who attended the drive. Each child and widow thanked Hassoun for his help upon receiving the donation.

“NPs are making continuing efforts to improve all of the communities of New Baghdad,” said Hassoun. “This is just one way of giving back to our fellow citizens.”

The drive allowed Hassoun the opportunity to speak with citizens about the upcoming projects the NP is planning and assured residents that Iraqi Security Forces will continue to maintain security and improve living conditions in New Baghdad.

See Blankets Pg. 3

Sapper medics take on dual role while on mission

By Sgt. 1st Class Antonius VanBoekhout
926th Eng. Bde.

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – When Soldiers go on patrol, it is challenging to move about in the vehicle, so the rider usually supplies everyone with water from the cooler.

The Soldier with easiest access to the cooler is thus deemed the “bartender.”

This mission often falls on the medics of the 836th Sapper Company, 890th Engineer Battalion, 926th Engineer Brigade, Multi-National Division – Baghdad. Although they happily assume the role, it in no way diminishes their steadfast commitment to preparing for combat.

One medic, Spc. Brandon “Doc” McCormick, a native of Buda,

Texas, said he is more than happy to serve as the “bartender” as he passes out the valuable liquids to his fellow Soldiers.

“I’d rather be a bartender than performing my duties as a medic – that is bad news,” he said, in talking about when he has to provide his life-saving skills. “Making sure the guys are hydrated properly is a job that I take seriously,” says McCormick.

McCormick is busy with other duties within his platoon. He serves as the platoon Counter-RCIED Electronic Warfare system specialist and also drives when called upon.

Spc. Fredrick Gonzales, a native of Corpus Christi, Texas, is in Iraq for the second time and said he will do whatever possible to

See Medic Pg. 2

Raider Command Team honors Support Bn.

By Sgt. David Hodge

1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B FORWARD OPERATING BASE FALCON, Iraq – The “Raider” Brigade Command Team held a special formation Jan. 7 to recognize the 4th Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team as the “Early Bird” during a ceremony at Forward Operating Base Falcon in southern Baghdad’s Rashid district.

Col. Ted Martin, commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bobb, senior enlisted leader, both with 1st BCT, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, presented the plaque to the brigade support battalion for becoming the first unit to meet the brigade’s retention goals for the fiscal year.

“When I put a challenge out to meet reenlistment goals within the first 90 days, and the “Packhorse” Battalion comes back and completes it in 38 days – that’s a big deal to me, and I know it’s a big deal to Command Sgt. Maj. Bobb,” stated Martin, who hails from Jacksonville Beach, Fla.

“Once again, I salute the Packhorse Battalion for their great work on reenlistments. You’re the winners.”

Lt. Col. Darren Werner, commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Ronny Martinez, senior enlisted leader for the 4th Spt. Bn., a native of Salinas, Calif., accepted the award and thanked the platoon leaders and sergeants in attendance for encouraging their Soldiers to reenlist in the U.S. Army.

“We know the mission we have right now is very important, but there is another mission we are going to have in the future that will be more important – That is taking care of our Soldiers when we redeploy to Fort Hood, Texas,” explained Werner, who hails from Mayville, Mich.

The 4th Spt. Bn. serves the Soldiers of the Raider Brigade by providing logistical support for multiple battalions, mechanical maintenance for many of the brigade’s combat vehicles, and operates the Falcon Troop Medical Center.



by Sgt. David Hodge, 1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

Col. Ted Martin and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bobb, command team for the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, present the 1st “Raider” Brigade “Early Bird” Award to Lt. Col. Darren Werner, commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Ronny Martinez, senior enlisted leader, for the 4th Support Battalion, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., at Forward Operating Base Falcon in southern Baghdad’s Rashid district Jan. 7.

Sapper medic’s contributions make successful team

Medic, From Pg 1

help his platoon prepare for a mission.

“When I was here the last time, I was part of a personal security detachment team. Things sure have changed since the last time, and I’m ready to take any position they need me to take,” said Gonzales, adding that this contribution is preferable to using his life-saving skills.

Spc. Joseph Urlacher, native of Corpus Christi, Texas, is also on his second deployment to Iraq. He serves as the 3rd platoon medic.

In an attempt to improve the care available for his fellow troops, he made modifications to the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle, which serves as the primary casualty evacuation vehicle. It is this vehicle he rides in during missions, always ready to provide assistance where needed.

“The problem with this vehicle is that the litter is way too high against the ceiling



by Sgt. 1st Class Antonius VanBoekhout, 926th Eng. Bde.

Spc. Joseph Urlacher, of the 836th Engineer Sapper Company, 890th Engineer Battalion, 926th Engineer Brigade, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, gets ready to head out on mission Jan. 5. Urlacher serves as a medic and takes great pride in his job.

for anyone to work on the CASEVAC patient. This would present a problem for the litter team also, by having to lift the patient

too high,” Spc. Urlacher said.

Staff Sgt. Thomas Smith, native of San Antonio, is in charge of the 836th’s medics and said he relieves them on a rotating basis so they can have some down time.

During one of his missions with 2nd platoon, his vehicle was hit by an improvised-explosive device and he was called to service as he evaluated everyone in the vehicle. Fortunately, he said, all were okay.

“I’m working with a great group of Soldiers, and I’m honored,” said Smith.

The medics of the 836th are always prepared to ender their services when called upon. They genuinely care for their fellow Soldiers and do what they can to help make their units a success.

Although their fellow Soldiers may call the medics their “bartenders,” they are happy to have them amongst them and understand that these Soldiers may very well have the most important job – to save lives.

204th clerks keep vehicles in the fight

By Staff Sgt. Carlos M. Burger II
2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div PAO

FOB KALSU, Iraq – Not all Soldiers deployed in Iraq spend time roaming the streets on patrol or providing assistance to the Iraqi Security Forces.

The Soldiers of Bravo Company, 204th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, don't spend their days winning the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people. Instead, they are the unsung heroes, providing the thankless tasks of receiving and distributing parts to keep the vehicles moving.

The prescribed load list, or PLL clerks do ordering, receiving, processing and distribution of repair parts and expendable items for the Battalion, said Sgt. Lucas Waite, shop office noncommissioned officer in charge, and native of Iowa City, Iowa.

The five-member team picks up parts from warehouses and gets them moved to the mechanics. They also support the brigade by completing several hundred work order requests a month, added the 27-year old Waite, who is on his first deployment.



by Staff Sgt. Carlos M. Burger II, 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div PAO

Sgt. Lucas Waite, shop office noncommissioned officer in charge, organizes repair parts for distribution. The company's five-member team picks up parts from warehouses and gets them moved to the mechanics.

Although their job doesn't get a lot of fanfare, Waite and his team believe in their contribution to the war effort.

"I think what we're doing is important to the fight, because we're a key part in keeping the equipment up to par and it helps the Soldiers so they can do their mission and not have to worry about their

equipment breaking down on them," Waite said.

"I think we do a lot for the brigade, we are the ones who get the parts moved around to the FOB. I think if we're not the most important units (in the brigade), we're one of them," added Spc. Leonardo Ochoa, a former Marine turned supply specialist from Colorado Springs, Colo.

One of the factors for this shop's success is that despite the fact that they are a young group, they have come together to accomplish the mission.

"I thought (doing the job) was gonna be a lot tougher and dangerous than it is, but everyone I work with has made it easier for me. I enjoy it; the team we work with makes things so easy," said Pfc. Venus Ulrich, a supply clerk from Mobile, Ala.

Although their job isn't as 'glamorous' as others, the PLL clerks of Bravo Co., continue to perform their duties to keep the vehicles moving and supplying the items to keep the warriors focused on the battlefield.

National Police spread warmth in Baghdad orphanage

Blankets , From Pg 1

Soldiers from 1st Bn., 66th Armor Regt., provide assistance to the 4th Bde., 1st NP Div., by helping to distribute the blankets in a sign of partnership with the ISF and to support the local community.

"The blanket distribution was planned

and executed by the ISF," said Capt. Benjamin Culver, a native of Portland, Ore. and fire support officer for the 1st Bn., 66th Armor Regt. "They continue to impress me by their willingness to secure the New Baghdad area and help the local community."

The orphanage head master also expressed his gratitude to the 4th Bde., 1st NP

for donated the blankets.

"These blankets were important to get out to people as the temperature in Iraq has dropped dramatically in the last few weeks," he said. "We are excited to receive these blankets, and this shows how police officers are helping the people who really need it."

Safety Sense

Portable Fire Extinguishers --

MND-B has experienced six facility fires within the last 90 days and damages exceeding over \$103,000. We know the cause of these fires and we know how to prevent them. However three components in reducing the cost of fires are maintaining serviceable fire extinguishers, having trained personnel to operate them and knowing how to contact emergency services. Main FOB contract fire services can help your unit achieve all three of these components by providing fire extinguisher training, extinguisher servicing, and DSN, SVOIP, Cell Phone numbers. Additionally, every TOC must have emergency contact information posted. If your facility requires extinguishers, contact the contract support agency for your location. If you live or work at a JSS or COP, your unit supply system must provide extinguishers. Remember to check your extinguishers regularly, get training on their use, and know how to contact emergency services.



by Staff Sgt. Jessika Malott, 8th MP Bde. PAO

Watchdog completes landmark

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – Staff Sgt. Aaron Cheateaux, an 8th Military Police Brigade Soldier and a native of San Clemente, Calif., makes the final touch-ups on the Watchdog mural outside of the brigade compound here Jan. 7. Cheateaux has been painting the mural in his free time during recent weeks, and he also used his artistic creativity for a unit mural in Kuwait before the unit forward deployed to Iraq.



by Sgt. David Hodge, 1st BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

Raiders conduct Raven training

FORWARD OPERATING BASE FALCON, Iraq – 1st Lt. Hunter Wakeland, platoon leader, personnel security detachment, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, launches a RQ11-B Raven Unmanned Aerial Vehicle during training Jan. 8 at Forward Operating Base Falcon in southern Baghdad. Wakeland hails from Kennebunkport, Maine.

This Week in 4th Infantry Division History

Vietnam 1967 – Mortar attacks continued throughout the Division's AO during this week. One of the attacks occurred on the night of 7 Jan when Camp Holloway, east of Pleiku and home to several aviation units, came under attack. As patrols in northern Pleiku Province penetrated the jungle, many caches of enemy supplies were located including over eight tons of rice.

Daily Iron Games

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

JANUARY
 FEBRUARY
 MARCH
 APRIL
 MAY
 JUNE
 JULY
 AUGUST
 SEPTEMBER
 OCTOBER
 NOVEMBER
 DECEMBER

Thursday's SuDoku challenge results

6	9	8	7	5	4	3	2	1
5	3	7	1	9	2	6	8	4
2	1	4	3	8	6	5	9	7
4	8	9	5	7	3	1	6	2
3	2	5	9	6	1	7	4	8
7	6	1	4	2	8	9	3	5
8	7	3	6	1	4	2	5	9
9	5	2	8	3	7	4	1	6
1	4	6	2	5	9	8	7	3



Fuel Operations Safety

- Shut down vehicles & equipment for fueling (cold fuel) per the Technical Manual
- Ensure fuel tankers are properly grounded & bond vehicles to the tanker to minimize any static electricity hazard
- Always have someone man a fire extinguisher during fueling operations
- No smoking, radio or cell phone use within 50' or fueling operations
- Wear the right protective equipment during fueling (splash proof goggles & fuel resistant gloves)
- Store fuel away from buildings & running generators, create fuel points with fire extinguishers nearby
- Ensure no mixing of water & fuel cans
- If water cans were used for fuel, they must be destroyed to prevent potential poisoning
- See FM 10-67-1 for more information



Turn off engines & radios and ensure grounding & bonding of vehicles & equipment prior to fueling



Store fuel away from running equipment

Army Safe is Army Strong!
Stay Focused!
Stay Alert!
Stay Alive!

Chaplain's Inspiration

Today we focus on Marriage and Family. A marriage may be made in heaven but the maintenance must be done on earth. Be careful that your marriage doesn't become a duel instead of a duet. It's important that you take the time this week to remember your Family and communicate with them. You are either making a deposit or withdrawal from your daily relationship. Let us take the time to make a deposit.

Romans 14:19 " Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and mutual edification."

BEETLE BAILEY

BY GREG & MORT WALKER



David Letterman's Top Ten Signs Your Kitty Is Nuts

10. You saw him on "Dr. Phil"
9. Wasted three of nine lives on George Foreman Grill mishaps
8. When you stroke his belly, he purrs, "moooo!"
7. The dog is missing and you found a ransom note spelled out in yarn
6. Was caught sharing bag of catnip with Whitney Houston's cat
5. That toy he's playing with is grandpa's ear!
4. Calls sports talk radio claiming Knicks are about to turn it around
3. Firemen are trying to coax you out of a tree
2. Believes Barry Bonds never used steroids
1. He neutered himself

Daily Laugh

A guy arrives at the Pearly Gates and St. Peter asks him to relate a good deed he had done. The guy thinks for a moment and says, "Hmmm, well I was driving down a road and I saw a giant group of hoodlums harassing this poor girl. I slowed down, and sure enough, there they were, about 20 of them abusing this poor woman. "Infuriated, I got out my car, grabbed a tire iron out of my trunk, and walked up to the leader of the gang. He was a huge guy; 6 foot 4 inch, 260 pounds, with a studded leather jacket and a chain running from his nose to his ears. As I walked up to the leader, the others formed a circle around me and told me to get lost or I'd be next. "So I ripped the leader's chain out of his face and smashed him over the head with the tire iron. Then I turned around and yelled to the rest of them, 'Leave this poor innocent girl alone! You're all a bunch of SICK, deranged animals! Go home before I really teach you a lesson in PAIN!'" St. Peter, duly impressed, says, "Wow! When did this happen?" "Oh, about three minutes ago."

Pvt. Murphy

By Mark Baker


Hometown Briefs

Man puts heart into security of neighbors
The Gazette


Dennis Moore is all about neighborhood safety, so much so that every Springs neighborhood could learn something from him. And they will get the chance starting next week.

Moore is leading a city effort to revitalize the Neighborhood Watch program. Not because he's paid to; he's a volunteer. He does it because he cares about neighbors.

It started in 1991 when he organized a Neighborhood Watch group in his own Bandelier Drive neighborhood in southeast Colorado Springs. He has presided as block captain ever since.

His efforts escalated dramatically a year ago, after Moore, 61, retired from Air Force civil service. He began working to keep all city neighborhoods safe as the volunteer Neighborhood Watch program coordinator in the Sand Creek division of the Colorado Springs Police Department.

It's important work, freeing Crime Prevention Officer Lori Torini to concentrate on other duties. Moore is having a citywide impact, such as helping rewrite the Neighborhood Watch Block Captain's Handbook.

On Monday, Moore will begin three months' duty helping train the hundreds of block captains across the Springs. The training is key to the police department's goal of re-energizing the Neighborhood Watch program and standardizing the work of its captains.

Killeen seeks public input on smoking ban
Killeen Daily Herald


Public debate on the proposed citywide smoking ban in Killeen begins tonight.

The first of two public hearings on the ban will start at 6 p.m. in the council chambers at City Hall. The second hearing will begin at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14.

Councilman Billy Workman, who chairs the smoking committee, said he wanted staff members and committee members present so that the public can ask questions of both groups.

Councilman and committee member Kenny Wells said last year that the smoking ban issue would be the hottest topic for the council heading into 2009, not only because of its contentious nature, but also its possible political ramifications, given that a municipal election is scheduled this spring.

The smoking committee will meet after the public hearings, at 3 p.m. Jan. 20, and make further changes to the ordinance at that time.

The council indicated there will be a three-month delay before the ban becomes active. As written, the revised ordinance would make it unlawful to smoke in the following areas:

Most enclosed public places, such as restaurants, lobbies, bars, pool halls, dance clubs and bowling alleys. The only exceptions to these rules are outdoor patios either screened or not fully enclosed.

Within 25 feet of an entrance, window or vent of an enclosed area where smoking is prohibited.

Outdoor public venues, such as seating areas and bleachers at parades, sporting events, and in playgrounds and inside fenced areas of public pools, as well as the outdoor patio area at Stonetree Golf Clubhouse. Exceptions include private residences, except those that host a day care; bingo halls; designated smoking rooms at hotels; and retail tobacco stores.

Mayor greets Year of Ox
The Honolulu Star Bulletin


The annual monthlong celebration of Chinese New Year kicks off this weekend, Mayor Mufi Hannemann announced yesterday.



For the third year, the city has joined with private businesses to host several events mainly in Chinatown to celebrate the Chinese New Year, Jan. 26, heralding the Year of the Ox.

"Every year that we've done this, it gets better and it gets bigger," said Hannemann yesterday at a kickoff event at Honolulu Hale. "Chinatown is very important to this administration. We want to make it a vibrant center for arts and culture. Chinese New Year brings the Chinese community together in a way that whether or not you're Chinese, you feel Chinese."

Lion dancers and Chinese beauty queens attended yesterday's kickoff event in the courtyard of Honolulu Hale. When the drums started beating, Hannemann reached into his pocket and pulled out a \$5 bill to feed the lion, a traditional Chinese gesture to bring good luck into the new year.

The monthlong Chinese New Year celebration is a part of Hannemann's plan to revitalize Chinatown. In the past there would be a scattering of Chinese New Year celebrations held by individual businesses. Hannemann has made an effort to consolidate the events.

"This makes it easy to celebrate Chinese New Year," Hannemann said.

During the celebration, revelers can enjoy lion dances, fireworks, exhibits, Chinese singing and dancing, martial arts and feng shui demonstrations, fortunetelling and ethnic food.

As going gets tough, the tough go to class
The Fayetteville Observer


Samantha Harris knows how bad the job market is even with some college education.

Two months ago, a physician at a medical office where she worked decided to leave the practice. She had to follow the doctor out the door.

Since that layoff, the only work Harris has found is outside of her field. The 32-year-old Raeford woman has an associate's degree from Fayetteville Technical Community College, where she studied medical office administration.

Around Christmas, Harris took a job at a warehouse where she'd been laid off previously.

"That kind of encouraged me to come on back," Harris said Wednesday, as she signed up for a new round of FTCC classes.

Harris and other students found long registration lines on the main campus this week.

The state Employment Security Commission says the jobless rate went up in every North Carolina county in November. Cumberland County's shot up by almost a full percentage point to 7.6 percent. FTCC officials say they are seeing a lot of those unemployed people, eager for training or a degree that will get them a decent job once the economy rebounds.

"In every category we're up," said college President J. Larry Keen, "and up pretty significantly."

Keen said he expects enrollment for winter section classes that begin Monday to be about 9 percent higher than at this time in 2008.


Hometown Briefs

County employees get salary correction
The Capital Journal


Two Shawnee County Information Technology Department employees cheated out of a total of \$2,767.36 by a clerical error will get their money as a result of Shawnee County Commission action Thursday.

Commissioners voted unanimously to correct the error. IT director Eric Theel explained that the error occurred during a 2007 reorganization of the department. The two positions were placed in the incorrect pay ranges and steps.

In making the motion to approve the correction, Commissioner Vic Miller was critical of a news story that indicated the county was "giving" something to the employees. That isn't true he said.

He then said, "I move to pay these people what they have already earned."

In other action, an item was added to the agenda, and approved, to allow the Shawnee County District Court to go to a monthly Internet service for about nine months, rather than entering into a new two-year agreement.

Don Troth, court administrator, said he will use the time to explore less expensive options, including integration with the county's networking systems.

New weekly to republish Nazi-era news
The Local


Nearly seventy years after the start of the Second World War, a new British editorial project has begun republishing Nazi-era newspaper clippings accompanied by historic analysis.

Each edition of *Zeitungszeugen* - or Newspaper Witnesses - will include three to four original newspaper sections from 1933-1945 sandwiched between commentary and analysis from a team of experts, which will be sold at kiosks across Germany for €3.90.

"*Zeitungszeugen* should be read by people who would never read a contemporary history textbook, but still value quality analysis of the information," Peter McGee, head of British publisher Albertas Limited, said in a statement. "To steer this project responsibly I collected leading experts in contemporary history and communication."

For the next year, newspaper excerpts will be restored and scanned from German publications such as Nazi paper *Der Angriff*, Communist Party mouthpiece *Der Kämpfer* and conservative daily *Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung*, as well as foreign German-language papers based in cities like Prague, Paris, Vienna and Budapest, the publisher said. Some 100,000 copies per week will be available at newsstands after the first week's edition of 300,000.

The first run covers the takeover by Adolf Hitler's National Socialists in 1933, and the last edition will cover the Third Reich's collapse and the democratisation of the German press after the war.

But not everyone is convinced of the project's historic value.

"I'm not sure what impact the *Zeitungszeugen* project will have," the respected German Jewish journalist Ralph Giordano told the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* newspaper on Thursday. "But what is certain is that Hitler might have been militarily defeated, but he hasn't been beaten intellectually even 60 years after his downfall."

Marquee for Ritz Theatre back in place
The Montgomery Advertiser


An important part of Greenville's entertainment history is back in place and drawing raves.

It's the Ritz Theatre marquee, a once-rusty reminder of Johnny Mack Brown westerns on Saturday afternoons, beauty pageants, live stage shows and other events.

The marquee refurbishing project took 18 months to complete and cost about \$150,000.

"The Ritz has been the centerpiece of downtown Greenville for many years, and we're very happy to be able to restore the marquee," Mayor Dexter McLendon said Wednesday. "It's a beautiful building, and we want to use it more often in the future."

McLendon and Nancy Idland, who directs Greenville's Main Street Program, have fond memories of the Ritz Theatre.

"I used to walk to the Ritz from my house every Saturday," Idland said. "I'll never forget leaving the theater crying after seeing 'Old Yeller.'"

Local leaders wanted to make sure the marquee renovation was as close to the original design as possible, and Chris Bryan, president of Landmark Sign Co. in Montgomery, said that became his company's priority.

Bryan said he and Landmark Vice President Will Marks studied photos of the original marquee and closely examined the paint used on the one built in 1935. Landmark replaced steel used in the original marquee with aluminum. Bryan said that should help avoid accumulation of rust due to rain and other weather elements.

"What we've been able to do is provide a true historic replication of the original marquee," Bryan said Wednesday afternoon. "This project was a first for us, and we couldn't be happier with the results."

New home sales drop 30%
The Dallas Morning News


Dallas-Fort Worth new home sales slid by 30 percent in the final months of 2008.

And the decline for the entire year pushed new home sales to the lowest point in a decade, according to statistics released Thursday by housing analyst MetroStudy Inc.

Last year builders in the area sold 26,754 homes – down 31 percent from 2007 and 43 percent fewer than the peak year for sales in 2006. Responding to the drop in home purchases, builders in the fourth quarter trimmed starts of new houses to the lowest level in 17 years. Only 3,737 homes were started in the final three months of 2008.

"The D-FW homebuilders have done a great job managing their inventory through the change in the market," said MetroStudy's David Brown, who heads the firm's Dallas office. "New home inventory has fallen 50 percent from the peak in 2006, dropping 29 percent in 2008 alone."

Builders – aided by incentives – sold 6,400 more homes last year than they started, he said.

Even so, almost 15,440 new homes were vacant or under construction at the end of 2008.

New home prices in North Texas actually rose by 9 percent last year to a median of \$213,000. But this was because of a sharp reduction in sales of lower priced houses.

Sports

Texas lawmaker wants college football playoffs

Associated Press

WASHINGTON – President-elect Barack Obama and Texas congressman Joe Barton don't have much in common, but they do agree on one thing: the Bowl Championship Series must go.

Just hours before the national title game between top-ranked Florida (12-1) and No. 2 Oklahoma (12-1) in Miami, Barton proposed legislation to replace the BCS with a playoff system. After all, several schools - including Barton's home-state Texas Longhorns (12-1) believe their teams are the rightful champions.

"There's no way you can say that whoever wins tonight's game is demonstrably better than USC, Texas or Utah," Barton said in a telephone interview a few hours before Thursday's kickoff.

Barton, a graduate and fan of Texas A&M and the top Republican on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, argued that billing the game a national championship is "patently deceptive." His legislation would prevent the NCAA from doing so

unless the game culminates from a playoff system.

"A national championship in the most lucrative sport that the NCAA hosts should be determined on the playing fields, and not through arbitrary computer rankings that nobody understands," Barton said.

The BCS features a championship game between the two top teams in the BCS standings, based on two human polls and six computer ratings.

BCS administrator Bill Hancock declined to comment on the bill.

Barton said that when Obama made a courtesy call to him a few weeks ago, the congressman told him, "OK, Mr. President-elect, let's work together on this playoff system, because you said you're for a playoff, and I'm for a playoff."

According to Barton, Obama laughed and said, "Sure, let's do it."

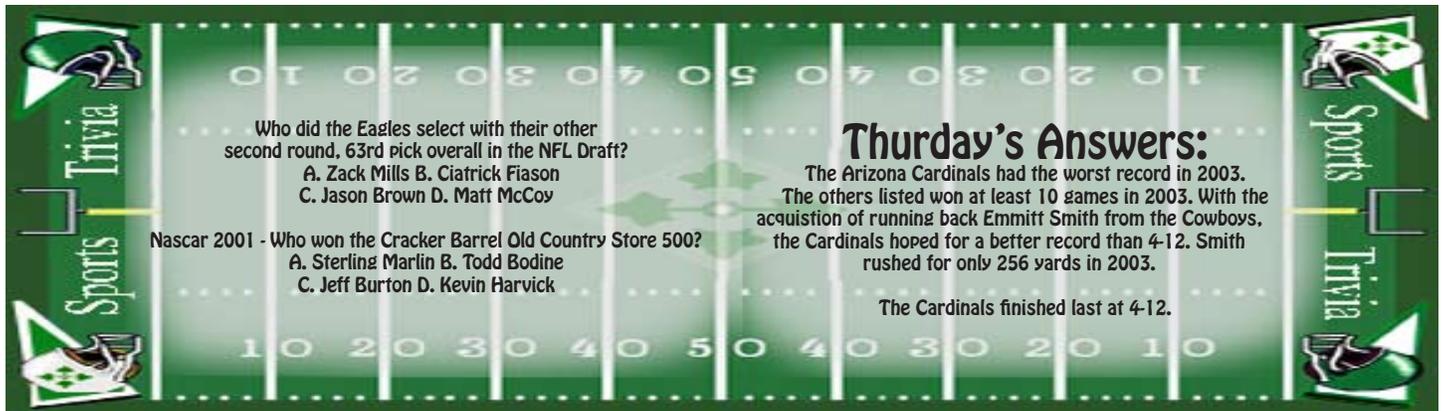
Obama's transition office declined to comment. Last November, Obama told "60 Minutes" he would prefer an eight-team playoff system.

"I don't know any serious fan of college football who has disagreed with me on this," he said. "So I'm going to throw my weight around a little bit."

The BCS is also under attack on another front. On Tuesday, Utah Attorney General Mark Shurtleff announced he was investigating for a possible violation of federal antitrust laws. He argued the BCS unfairly puts schools such as Utah, a member of a conference without an automatic BCS bowl bid, at a competitive and financial disadvantage. Utah defeated No. 4 Alabama 31-17 in the Sugar Bowl last week, capping an undefeated season.

Atlantic Coast Conference commissioner and BCS coordinator John Swofford said Thursday the BCS has carefully considered the legality of its format.

"We've attempted to make every effort to make certain that any structure of the BCS is within the antitrust laws. Our legal people are comfortable that the BCS structure is," Swofford said during a Football Writers of American Association meeting



Who did the Eagles select with their other second round, 63rd pick overall in the NFL Draft?
A. Zack Mills B. Ciatrick Fison
C. Jason Brown D. Matt McCoy

Nascar 2001 - Who won the Cracker Barrel Old Country Store 500?
A. Sterling Marlin B. Todd Bodine
C. Jeff Burton D. Kevin Harvick

Thursday's Answers:
The Arizona Cardinals had the worst record in 2003. The others listed won at least 10 games in 2003. With the acquisition of running back Emmitt Smith from the Cowboys, the Cardinals hoped for a better record than 4-12. Smith rushed for only 256 yards in 2003.

The Cardinals finished last at 4-12.



Daily Newspaper created by the Soldiers, for the Soldiers

Multi-National Division - Baghdad
Public Affairs Office

Public Affairs Officer:
Lt. Col. Steve Stover

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