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"HICO, TEXAS... WHERE EVERYBODY IS SOMEBODY"

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Hico Marine Hefner killed in Afghanistan

Funeral services planned here Friday

By JERRY McADAMS
Hico News Review Publisher

The trauma of war was brought tragically home to Hico last week with news that U.S. Marine Lance Corporal Shawn Patrick Hefner had been killed by an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan on Friday, Nov. 13.

Cpl. Hefner, 22, graduated from Hico High School in 2006 and had grown up here from a very early age. He entered the Marines in January of 2008. Family members said Shawn trained for Iraq but never deployed there. He instead received further training before going to Afghanistan.

Cpl. Hefner was home on leave in April of this year before returning to Afghanistan. He was reportedly on foot patrol Friday, Nov. 13, in Helmond Province and stepped on an IED and was killed instantly. He had been

scheduled to return to the states in a couple of weeks and to be home on leave before Christmas.

He is the son of Patrick and Robin Hefner of Hico.

Patrick Hefner, himself a former Marine, said he was in Meridian Friday and his wife Robin was at their Hico home when two Marines and a sailor came to the door at 112 Hemphill Street. He said Robin knew immediately what that meant, ran to the bedroom crying and called Patrick to come home right away, but did not say why. Driving back from Meridian, Patrick said he thought about what might have happened and "just hoped I wouldn't see a government vehicle in my driveway when I got there. But I did and I knew

what that meant," he said.

The Hefners were flown early Saturday to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware, where there son's body arrived sometime after midnight. When the plane arrived, "there were Marines all around to render the honors. It was heartbreaking, but an awesome ceremony. There is a Marine guard with him 24 hours a day and nobody ever leaves him. They will fly him back to Waco on a private jet and the Marines don't leave him until he is in the ground. Semper Fi," Patrick said.

Speaking of his son, Patrick Hefner said, "Shawn was always in trouble, but he loved the outdoors, hunting and fishing and camping. He wasn't scared of anything and that might have been part of his problem. He'd jump off a house just to see what would happen. He was doing what he wanted to do. Ever since he was a little kid, he always wanted to be a Marine. When he joined and got out of boot camp, he came out a changed man. He wanted to do something to make a difference. He was a patriot and wanted to make a difference. His mom sent boxes to him (in Af-



U.S. Marine Lance Corporal Shawn Patrick Hefner

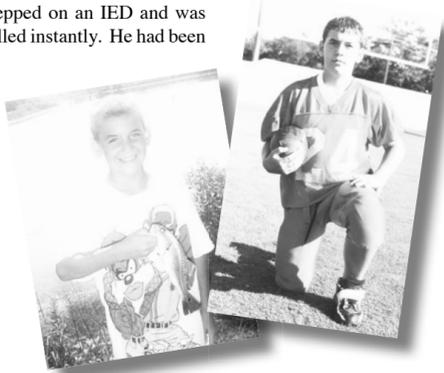
ghanistan) with beef jerky and Gatorade every week. He finally got so much he'd ask her to quit sending things for a while. He was always calling home when he had an hour. He'd call his mom, or me or his friends."

Shawn Hefner's body is to be flown from Delaware to Waco, then leave there under Texas State Trooper escort at 11 a.m. to arrive in Hico

around noon Thursday, Nov. 19. In addition to military personnel, the Freedom Riders motorcycle group of veterans is also expected to be part of the motorcade Thursday. Visitation is scheduled that evening from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Rutledge Funeral Home. Funeral services were set for 2 p.m., Friday Nov. 20, at The First Baptist Church in Hico with burial

at the Hico Cemetery.

Hico ISD superintendent Rod Townsend said he intended to bus students in grades 3 through 12 downtown Thursday around noon to observe the arriving motorcade so students and faculty would have the opportunity to pay tribute to Cpl. Hefner, the family and the nation he served.



Shawn Hefner in younger Hico days

Watts the matter at City Hall

Mood 'electric' at Council meeting

By ANNA BELEW
Hico News Review Managing Editor

The members of the Hico City Council met in special session Monday, Nov. 16, to discuss a number of items regarding the city hall renovation project.

Electrical contractor Duane Johnson was on hand to discuss a change order for electrical plugs to be installed on the front of the city hall building. However, there were differing opinions between Johnson and Councilman Mike James as to whether or not the plugs should have been a part of the original bid.

James told Johnson that replacing the plugs should have been included in his original bid since they were part of the service he was hired to replace, but Johnson said that since they were "add-ons" to the original electrical service, replacing them was not part of what was included in his original bid.

"Those outlets were something that was attached to the original service so it was not in line with my original bid," Johnson said. "It was my understanding that service was supposed to go away to clean up the front of the building. It was never in the original bid to leave those quads (outlets) there — those were not part of the building."

The 16 outlets, set in four quads, are utilized every year by Texas Steak Cookoff participants, so city officials feel it is necessary to have those outlets replaced. James said he has experience as a builder and general contractor and said that when an electrician is hired to replace existing service, it means they replace all parts of that service.

"You were told to disconnect the service and re-route — those (plugs) should have been a part of your bid unless somebody told you otherwise," James said.

Johnson told James he has been doing electrical work for "20-something years and that's just your way of looking at it."

"Those four quads were not part of the building so they're

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Richland Springs vs. Saint Jo in 6-man playoff at Tiger Stadium Friday

Hico's Tiger Stadium will host a 6-man state Regional playoff game here Friday night, Nov. 20, between Richland Springs (10-0) and Saint Jo (6-3). Kickoff time is set for 7:30 p.m.

This is an extra chance for local fans to come see an exciting six-man game this season, and at the same time benefit Hico school athletes by patronizing the concession stand operated by the Hico Tiger Booster Club.



All-district honors... Left to right are Hico Lady Tiger volleyball team members who received 16-2A All-District honors announced this week. Back row from left are: Cheyenne Polk Honorable Mention, Gabrielle Nagos 2nd Team, Shaylee Turner Honorable Mention, Cara Finstad Offensive MVP, Cristina Sanchez Honorable Mention; front row: Stacey Underwood Honorable Mention, Tristan Till Defensive MVP, Cassi Stegall 2nd Team and Taylor Streenz 1st Team. Polk, Nagos, Finstad, Sanchez, Underwood, Till, Stegall and Streenz were also selected to the Academic All District team, which requires an overall average of 90.

SEE MORE INFO AND ARTICLE PAGE 4. Hico News Review photo.

