

Jerrod Citizen

"Where cotton is king"

Volume 90, number 48 ~ telling Jerrod's story since 1929 ~ Thursday November 28, 2018

Drake Kilborn dies in rollover

Drake Kilborn, owner of Kilborn Aviation, died when his pickup left the Jerrod Creek Road north of town Friday night. Investigators on the scene said Kilborn was thrown from the vehicle when it overturned in the creek bed. The incident occurred about ten P.M. Kilborn was pronounced dead at the scene by Holman County Judge Jimmy Akers, acting as coroner.

Holman County Reserve Deputy Dan Baker called it "one of the worst accidents I've ever seen." Baker was first on the wreck scene after pursuing Kilborn about ten miles north of Jerrod. Baker gave chase after the twenty-five year old allegedly pulled a pistol and threatened his family during the final football game of the season at Warrior Field.

"I saw some pretty rough stuff in Iraq," Baker said, "but this was downright gruesome—didn't have to happen. Thank goodness for Ranger Freddy Espinoza who took charge of the scene right after I got there." According to sources within the Holman County Sheriff's Office, Espinoza had been working undercover at Kilborn Aviation for two years, attempting to determine in Drake Kilborn had been allegedly smuggling illicit herbicide from Mexico to defoliate area cotton crops (*see related story, right column*).

The *Citizen* spoke with Ranger Espinoza Tuesday, but he declined to comment. He also refused to confirm a rumor that Kilborn had been attacked and mauled to death by a wild boar at the creek.

Funeral services for Drake Kilborn were pending with Logan Funeral Home at press time He was the only child of Zeke and "Berty" Kilborn, long time Jerrod residents. His father passed away Monday night (*see related story, right column*).

Feral hog problem growing

According to information on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's website "Feral hogs are distributed throughout much



TPWD photo

of Texas, generally inhabiting the white-tailed deer range, with the highest population densities occurring in East, South and Central Texas. North and West Texas have very low or no populations. However, reports indicate that herds are beginning to expand in these areas. There is currently an estimated population in excess of 1.5 million feral hogs in Texas."

Local game warden Terry Colquitt agrees. "Our local populations, especially on in the rough country bordering our two creeks, are growing by leaps and bounds. We've had two

years of good crops and the pigs have been busy tearing up soybean fields around the county.

"They're kinda like rabbits. A sow born New Year's day can be a grandmother in a year. It's almost impossible to control them and they're not really afraid of humans," he said.

Colquitt said a local farmer went to the creek bordering his property last Summer and decided to stand on top of his pickup with his rifle and wait for the herd of pigs to come up

and graze.

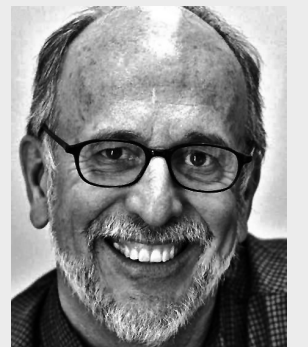
"As he watched the sows and piglets graze, he felt something hit his pickup. He turned around and there was the biggest boar he'd seen, butting his rear right wheel.

"He told he realized he'd be in real trouble if he couldn't start his pickup and had to walk out of that field. He was about a half mile from FM 3310 and doubted he could outrun that animal, who he said probably weighed about 400 pounds."



Friday night Drake Kilborn perished when his pickup left the road near the Jerrod Creek Bridge and overturned in the creek. He was thrown from the wreck and died of injuries at the scene.

Aviation pioneer Zeke Kilborn passes



Zeke Kilborn
(archive photo)

Zeke Kilborn, retired owner of Kilborn Aviation, died at his home Sunday morning. Funeral services will be held Friday afternoon at All Saints Episcopal Church with interment at the Jerrod Cemetery.

Kilborn was a native of Jerrod, graduating from high school in 1968. He was 77 years old. He was a life-long pilot, having been licensed at age 16. He joined the Army in 1969 and was promoted to warrant officer after completing flight school. He served two terms in Kuwait and Afghanistan as a courier pilot and forward air controller.

After three year's active duty, he founded Kilborn Aviation in 1972 and married his high school sweetheart, Alberta Elizabeth Parker. They had one son, Drake. (*see related story left column*). Mrs. Parker died in 2014. Zeke is survived by his sisters Rose Ellen and Mariam of Scottsdale AZ and his sister-in-law Ella Parker of Jerrod.

The family requests memorials to the Holman County MH/MR Center

Jerrod
CITY LIMIT
POP. 3434

Monday morning, I saw **Dan Baker** carrying an armload of mail to his car before going to the City Café for his usual morning cup of coffee with his buddies . . . **Jerry Logan** clearing away the last of his geraniums from the front of the funeral home; told me the freeze Sunday night got'em . . . big wave from one of our outstanding school teachers, **Mariel Ascencio**, on her way to the grade school . . . thumbs-up from my favorite amateur athletes, **Father Weyman Costley**, All Saints Episcopal, **Father Gregory Jabulani**, Holy Saints Cathedral, all decked out in their classy running togs, lapping me on the football track . . . small wave from **Texas Ranger Freddy Espinoza** and **Sheriff Mose Britten** huddled on the steps of the courthouse . . . polite nod from **Dr. Randal Chin**, furiously peddling his mountain bike toward the hospital . . . A big "hey, sweetheart, how are you?" from **Alice Garin** I'll never again see **Zeke Kilborn**, the man of a thousand corny jokes. I know he's taken up the wings of an eagle. The clouds and beyond—they're all yours, old friend.