



The Heart of a Soldier

After making promise to mother, Chandler native eager to serve in Iraq, Afghanistan

Paul Bryant
Managing Editor

CHANDLER — It wasn't the decision Toni Pool expected her 17-year-old son to make as he prepared to graduate from Brownsboro High School.

"Two guys came in and told me my son wanted to join the Army. I was like, 'Okay. My son is real smart and he needs to go to col-

lege.' But he talked us into signing him up at 17."

It came with one condition.

"He could not go into the infantry," Pool said. "So, he decided on the Military Police."

Dusty Pool, 20, completed basic training at Fort Leonard Wood in



Pool

Waynesville, Mo., in 2007 before serving in South Korea for a year. An E4 specialist with the 26th Military Police detachment, he's been at Camp Taji in Iraq since July.

Toni Pool, fighting back tears, said she has mixed feelings about that.

"He's not in as much dan-

ger and he's not in Afghanistan, but I am very proud — and scared to death."

She said she's still not sure what compelled her son to enlist.

"I really don't know. He talked about going to the oil field with his daddy."

Whatever his reason for joining the Army, Dusty Pool told his parents he's considering staying in longer than he initially intended.

"He's thought about making it a career," his mother said. "He told me the other day he started classes for an online college. He says he might be a teacher and a coach."

The Military Police officer may not only be torn about his future but also his immediate surroundings.

"Afghanistan is apparently a lot worse than Iraq, and Dusty tells me,

'Momma, I'm bored.' He wanted to be demoted down to infantry so he could go to Afghanistan and fight."

But that's not going to happen, Toni Pool said.

"He made me a promise."

Jonathan Daniels, a friend who graduated with Dusty Pool in 2007 and joined the Army at the same time, is in

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'An Issue With School Safety'

Brownsboro Junior High principal wants central classrooms, longer halls

Paul Bryant
Managing Editor

Its classrooms spread among three buildings and two campuses, Brownsboro Junior High School students are forced to cross traffic zones several times a day to complete their schedules.

And that's a safety issue Principal Yolanda Larkin hopes is resolved following a possible tax election next year that would raise funds for capital improvements throughout the Brownsboro Independent School District.

"The main thing is to not have the kids so spread out," she said. "We use the main building, science wing and east wing, and students go to the school for drama and band. We also have six portable buildings for classrooms."

The science lab also has classroom space and is behind the junior high, near the portable buildings. The east wing is on the other side of Ingram Street behind the district administration building.

Students must cross a practice field to the west and the bus loading and unloading zone to reach Brownsboro High School.

"To me, it's an issue with school safety," Larkin said. "The science lab is not that bad, but the east wing is. It almost feels like you're too far away."

"The number one thing is bad weather. During rainy days, you lose some instruction time because you have to bus your kids, and we've had to bus a lot this year."

At the same time, the prin-

icipal said, students don't mind crossing property lines to get to class. On nice days, they love it. They get some exercise, it relieves stress, and they're happy."

Still, the campus needs to be more centralized, and hallways in the main building need to be extended, Larkin said.

"We have that practice field where we could extend these wings. I think we would keep our science wing, but we want to get the east wing over here with us."

Much like the other older campuses in the district, Brownsboro Junior High was built with little to no anticipation for growth. It's why officials have been forced to add wings, rooms, and portable buildings at a number of schools here.

"This school wasn't built with growth in mind," Larkin said. "But the school district has done a good job of adding on over the years and updating what we have."

Texas School Planning was hired in October to consult the district on a 10-year facilities plan. Larkin said she likes what she's seen so far from the company.

"I like what (Dr. Arnold Oates) is doing. I think they're going to look at a facility study and come up with some options."



Larkin



Science lab



Practice field



Portable classrooms



Gym

Murchison to honor fallen Army soldier from Athens

Staff Report

Murchison officials have scheduled a ceremony at City Hall Tuesday to honor an Athens native who died more than 40 years ago during a battle between U.S. Army soldiers and the Vietcong and North Vietnamese Army.

"We take great pride in the fact that many of us had the opportunity to know and love Gary Everett and appreciate his sacrifice as he served his country," a press release said.

"This posthumous award from the City of Murchison is presented to Gary's mother, Mrs. Christine Everett. We believe that our memories of Gary Everett best represent our community's contribution to a special and unique Veterans Day memorial."

The Army veteran, a PFC with B Company, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry, 25th

Infantry Division, was killed on Dec. 22, 1948, in Mole City, Tay Ninh, in South Vietnam.

He was among 16 other American soldiers to lose their lives that night during an attack on a U.S. support base near the Cambodian border.

Gary Everett was 20 years old.

"I miss you even after all these years," an online memorial from an unidentified friend says. "You were like an older brother to me. You were such a wonderful young man, brave, and all that is good in America's finest men. I joined the Air Force when I grew up in part because of your example, and I wanted to serve our country and to help protect our freedom."

To view the online memorial and others, visit virtualwall.org/de/0e.htm.

The ceremony Wednesday is scheduled for 9 a.m.

Serviceman recalls battle

Editor's note: This is an account reportedly of one soldier's experience in Vietnam alongside PFC Gary Everett. It has not been edited or clarified in any way.

Here is what one of the guys who was there (Stan Adams, St. Louis, MO) wrote about that night that he died:

On Dec 17 1968 our company Bravo (B) and Charlie (C), only two (2) companies were sent into an area close to the Cambodian border. Our Patrol Base (PB) was one of the first base camps built close to Cambodia.

It was situated between the Cambodian Border and the Dong River. The only exit from that area would have been by either air or by boat. The guys knew we were in for a bad time in this area.

After landing by helicopter we set up a perimeter and started filling sand-bags and

digging a 4' trench to each bunker, the base camp was round so from the air it looked like a big circle with a ditch around it.

The bunkers were built into the ground also. B company performed sweeps around the base camp in the mornings and C company did them in the afternoon.

I was in the Infantry so I was a "grunt", I carried a M-16 rifle and 200-300 rounds of machine gun ammo.

After getting back inside the base camp after the sweeps we started working again on the base camp. We finally got close to finishing the building of the base camp on Dec. 21st.

Of course the night of the 21st was when we had the ground attack. The base camp was a Patrol Base (PB) starting out. We had only (2)

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