



Courtesy Photo.

Verlan Ewing, left, and his father Lewis Ewing sit on the porch at Lewis Ewing's home in the Dresden community. A benefit barbeque and auc-

tion is planned for this Saturday at the First Baptist Church in Blooming Grove for Verlan Ewing, who was diagnosed with cancer last year.

## Benefit set for cancer patient

**By MACK CRAWFORD**

SPECIAL TO THE SUN

DRESDEN — Until a little more than a year ago, life was going well for Navarro County native Verlan Ewing. His Baptist ministry was allowing him to help people. His personal family had grown to include Amanda, 20; Kim, 18; Ben, 16; and Valerie, 14.

Then, in May of 1990, a pair of Houston physicians diagnosed Ewing with a rare form of throat cancer called medullary

carcenoma. Now, moreso than at any other point in his life, Ewing has become a practitioner of the "one day at a time" manner of life.

Each day brings pain to the 1966 Blooming Grove High School graduate and class salutatorian. According to Ewing, it's just worse some days than it is others.

"The tumor itself has grown around my (throat) blood vessels, into my voice box and espophagus and down towards the top of my heart. One of my

doctors told me that to try and remove all of the tumor (and related nodules) would weaken me too much ... so for quality of life he needed to leave me as strong as possible."

Nowadays suture scars criss-cross Ewing's throat area and pronounced redness and the pain are daily reminders of his struggle against cancer.

But Ewing does not regret his decision to accept partial surgery, even after being told that chemotherapy and radia-

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