



Cross Plains Review

"Cross Plains' Oldest Business In

"A Caring Community"

THURSDAY, December 25, 2003

Rich in Agriculture
Abundant in Wildlife

Masthead Designed by Deborah Lowitzer

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Keys to our Past,
Present and Future
Hinge on the Cross

95TH YEAR

CROSS PLAINS, CALLAHAN COUNTY, TEXAS 76443

PRICE 50¢

NUMBER 40

DOWN HOME

EDITOR'S NOTE: This poem was written by a Marine stationed in Okinawa Japan. Hopefully his poem will make people stop, think and be grateful to all of our heroes in the armed forces (living and dead) who sacrifice their lives so we can live in a country where we are able to celebrate this holiday in peace! Please remember them in prayer this Christmas!

"Twas The Night Before Christmas"

Twas the night before Christmas,
They lived all alone,
In a one bedroom house
Made of plaster and stone.
I had come down the chimney
With presents to give,
And to see just who
In this home did live.

I looked all about,
A strange sight I did see,
No tinsel, no presents,
Not even a tree.
No stocking by mantle,
Just boots filled with sand,
On the wall hung pictures
Of far distant lands.

With medals and bandages
Awards of all kinds,
A sober thought
Came through my mind.
For this house was different.
It was dark and dreary,
I found a soldier,
Once I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping,
Silent, alone,
Curled up on the floor
In this one bedroom home.
The face was so gentle,
The room in such disorder,
Not how I pictured
A United States Soldier.

Was this the hero
Of whom I'd just read?
Curled up on a poncho,
The floor for a bed?
I realized the families
That I saw this night,
Owed their lives to these
Soldiers
Who were willing to fight.

Soon 'round the world,
The children would play,
And grownups would celebrate
A bright Christmas Day.
They all enjoyed freedom
Each day of the year,
Because of the soldiers,
Like the one lying here.

See Down Home Page 2

County placed on burn ban again

Callahan County Commissioners approved a burn ban for Callahan County effective immediately.

The commissioners' court took the action Monday, December 22 during a commissioners' meeting held at the County Courthouse in Baird.



GREGG WILLIAMS

Local Official to Call at State Tournaments

Local umpire, Gregg Williams, had the honor and opportunity to officiate at the 2003 High School UIL Softball State tournament, May 29-31 in Austin. To participate in the state tournament is the ultimate honor for both players and officials. It takes hard work and experience to achieve this goal. All games in this year's state tournament were played at Red McCombs Stadium on the University of Texas campus.

He was one of fifteen umpires from the entire state to officiate in this tournament. Five new umpires per year are selected statewide along with the ten returning officials. The officials participate for three years. In order for officials to be invited to call in the state tournament they have to be recommended by high school coaches and athletic directors. There were umpires from San Antonio, Victoria, Fort Worth, San Angelo, Canyon, Austin, Houston, Tyler, Beaumont, El Paso and Cross Plains.

Gregg has been umpiring softball for the past 15 years and has been officiating for the past 25 years. He has been elected District Director in softball by his fellow umpires for a two year term. The district includes Abilene, Wichita Falls, Sherman, Denton, Mesquite, Waxahachie, Cleburne and Brownwood, encompassing 39 counties. There are 10 softball districts in the state.

Gregg also officiates college softball including NAIA, Jr. College, Division 3 and Division 2. Being a true sports nut, he also officiates football, volleyball, baseball and until this past year, basketball.

Gregg was also invited to officiate in the Volleyball State Tournament held in San Marcos on the 20th of November. He was one of the officials calling in the Division 4A matches. Officials for volleyball as in the other sports are selected from across the state.



LOOK AT ALL THAT FOOD—Students, Pre-K thru 6th grade participated in a food drive. Mrs. Nickerson is pictured above loading the food into the back of her truck.

Elementary School Food Drive is Very Successful

Cross Plains Elementary School students collected 910 pounds of food for the Cross Plains Food Pantry during the month of December.

All students for Pre-Kindergarten through 6th grade contributed 1007 items of food in conjunction with the Character Counts program's focus on responsibility. The school goal of 1000 food items was surpassed with all the students bringing dry goods for the holiday needs of the Food Pantry. PreK brought 43 food items. The Kindergarten class collected the most at 205 items. The First Grade classes brought 134 cans. Second Grade had 68

items collected. Third Grade collected 186 items and Fourth Graders brought 133 cans. Fifth Grade contributed 150 items and Sixth Grade had 88 cans. The items were counted and tallied by the fourth grade math classes every afternoon. These 4th graders graphed the daily totals on a wall size bar graph as part of their math grade.

A big "Thank You" goes out to all the parents who helped the elementary children learn an important lesson of caring and responsibility by helping the Food Pantry.

See Photos Page 4



Blood Drive Hosted by First Baptist Church of Cross Plains

The First Baptist Church in Cross Plains will host a BLOOD DRIVE on Tuesday, January 6, from 1:00 until 6:00 p.m. The last blood drive, on October 21, resulted in 47 pints of blood.

"Our staff was so glad to see the great turnout at the last blood drive. Blood drives right after the holidays are always important, as the supply is typically low, so I am hoping that those who gave at the last drive will donate again," said Frances Baker, donor recruiter. Blood may be donated every eight weeks.

Meek Blood Center has

implemented a new blood collection system that allows donors who qualify to give two units of red cells instead of one from a single donation. With this system, only the red cells are collected, returning the plasma and platelets back to the donor. The donation only takes 10 minutes longer on average and uses a smaller needle. "This technology will help alleviate blood shortages, and is geared to those who donate between one and four times a year. We will still be doing manual whole blood collec-

tions as well, and each and every donation is appreciated," said Baker. For more information about this new collection system, please call Meek Blood Center at (325) 670-2805.

Each donor will receive a "Digital Robot", which pops open at the touch of a button and features a clock, world time clock, perpetual calendar, alarm clock, count-down timer and calculator. In addition to that, a complimentary cholesterol reading will be available two days after the blood drive by calling (325) 670-2799.

Nicki Harle pays filing fees for Texas House

AUSTIN—Baird resident Nicki Harle made it official Thursday, paying her \$750 filing fee at State Republican headquarters to secure a spot on the ballot in the race for Texas House of Representatives in 15-county District 53.

Although the longtime area resident secured more than enough signatures to file for the race, Harle chose to pay the fee to benefit the Texas Republican Party.

"Volunteers from throughout the district have collected hundreds of signatures for my candidacy that would qualify for a place on the primary ballot," Harle said. "But, I know that the party needs our financial support in this upcoming election and I wanted to do my part."

The 55-year-old area community development leader said she has traveled more than 25,000 miles in the past few months meeting the citizens of all communities in the 15 counties and learning of the issues that she will be asked to address at the State Capitol.

"I have been listening to District 53 residents from all walks of life, and I am hearing what they are saying," Harle said. "I promise that I will continue to listen and to act on their behalf if successful in this race."

Harle, a 30-year resident of Baird, is a fifth generation Texan who understands the needs of rural Texas. She is executive director of the Texas Midwest Community Network, a regional organization covering 25 rural West Texas counties. She is also currently serving on the governing board of the Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA), an appointment made by House Speaker Tom Craddock shortly



NICKI HARLE

after he was elected to the Speakership.

As landowners with a small ranching operation, the Harles are members of the Texas Farm Bureau and Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Assn. Nicki is a graduate of Texas State University (formerly Southwest Texas State University) where she served as student body president in 1971. She is trained in economic development and recently completed two terms as chairman of the Rural Affairs Committee of Texas Economic Development Council. Rob Harle is a veterinarian and owner of Callahan County Veterinary Clinic. The couple has three sons who all graduated from Baird High School and attended Texas Tech University.

Harle pledges to conduct an aggressive grass roots campaign "because it is important for candidates to meet the public, listen to their concerns and understand the needs of the district. As State Representative I will bring a lifetime of experiences and an involved rural perspective to the Texas Legislature."

First United Methodist Church to Hold Christmas Eve Cantata and Candlelight Service

This year the First United Methodist Church's Christmas Cantata will be held in conjunction with the annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on December 24th beginning at 6:00 p.m.

The cantata this year is "The Christmas Light" by Benjamin Harlan. It features well-known melodies sung with new and meaningful words and familiar old hymns set to powerful new music. Members of the choir will offer both traditional and intinction styles of Communion. The service will conclude with the congregational passing of the lights—symbolically carrying Christ, the true light, out into the world.

The First United Methodist Church family invites everyone to join them for a special evening of worship through music, communion and candle lighting.

Texas Heritage Bank

"We're Proud of Our Local Heritage"

MEMBER FDIC

Presents: "What's Inside"

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REMEMBER TO PRAY
FOR ALL THE
MILITARY PERSONNEL
AND
THEIR LOVED ONES

PROPHECY OBITUARIES

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It seems that we are fixing to begin a new millennium. God is revealing on the endtime revelation.

Matthew 1:17 So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon are fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ are fourteen generations.

It makes a generation 50 years and 4 tenths.

Matthew 24:32 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh;

Matthew 24:33 So likewise ye, When ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.

Matthew 24:34 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.

The Bible teaches that a nation is young and tender when it has men 20 years old and upward to fight in war. So in 1968 Israel was young and tender putteth forth branches and leaves. It says this generation shall not pass till all

these things be fulfilled. Could it be that everything happened before 2018?

Hosea 6:1 Come, and let us return unto the Lord: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up.

Hosea 6:2 After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.

We are entering the third day according to **II Peter 3:8**—But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

The Scriptures seem to tell us God gave Adam a lease on planet earth for six thousand years.

Genesis 6:3 And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

Every 50 years is a Jubilee year. This serves as the second witness of the same time frame found in Genesis! It seems that we are in the end of the 120 Jubilee years.

Gospel Mission
Cross Plains

Paid Advertisement by Gospel Mission

Berna Lee Chick

RISING STAR—Mrs. Berna Lee Chick, 84, of Rising Star, passed away Friday, December 19, 2003, at Abilene Regional Hospital in Abilene.

Berna Lee was born April 9, 1919 in Brown County, Texas to Tebe B. McCracken and Vera F. (Haynes) McCracken. She was a graduate of Williams High School. She lived in Rising Star all her life. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Rising Star Senior Citizens. She was voted Rising Star Citizens of the Year in 2003. She had written a book and won numerous awards for her poetry and short stories. She also wrote a weekly Senior Citizens column for the Rising Star newspaper. She will be missed by all who knew her.

She married Benjamin Chick, II on August 11, 1965 in Abilene. He preceded her in death.

Berna Lee is survived by her daughters, Donna Maria Priest of Rising Star, Anna Lee Whitten of Breckenridge, Paula Carpenter and her husband, Jim, of Rising Star and Wanda King of New-Ulm; a son, Ben Chick of Maxwell; 9 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at 2:30 p.m. Monday, December 22, 2003 at the First Baptist Church



BERNA LEE CHICK

with Terry Simmons officiating. Burial was in the Blake Cemetery, directed by Higginbotham Funeral Home of Rising Star.

Pallbearers were B.J. Priest, Don Whitten, Daryl Baker, Jim Carpenter, David Whitten, Danny White, Matt Mitchell and Rickey Morton.

Honorary pallbearers were Ike Hickman, Fadie Ratliff, Monzell O'Brien, Woodley Sadberry and Glen Bailey.

The family requests that memorials be made to First Baptist Church or Rising Star Senior Citizens.

Berna Lee was a loving friend, a caring person and devoted to her family. She enriched our lives and made our days special. We will carry her in our hearts forever.

James "Jimmy" McCorkle

James "Jimmy" McCorkle, 74, of Stamford, passed away Monday, December 8, 2003, in an Abilene hospital. Funeral services were held at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, December 11, 2003, at Trinity Baptist Church with the Rev. Robert Wingrove and Scotty McCorkle officiating. Burial followed in Highland Memorial Cemetery under the direction of Kinney-Underwood Funeral Home in Stamford.

Jimmy was born July 21, 1929, in Stamford, the son of the late Robert Ely and Eron Conger McCorkle. He married Mary Leota Brooks February 23, 1951 in Stamford. Mr. McCorkle was retired from the U.S. Postal Service as a mail carrier and building maintenance. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy, serving during World War II and the

Korean Conflict. He was a member of the Trinity Baptist Church.

Preceding him in death were his parents; a brother, Douglas McCorkle; and nephew, Douglas McCorkle, Jr.

Survivors include his wife of 52 years, Mary Leota McCorkle of Stamford; three sons and daughters-in-law, Scotty and Patti McCorkle of Bronte, William and Reggi McCorkle of Stamford and Jimmy Lee and Ramona McCorkle of Ottawa, Illinois; a brother, Johnny McCorkle of Abilene; nine grandchildren; two grandchildren; several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins; and many, many friends.

The family requests memorials be sent to Hendrick Home for Children, Boys Ranch, 2758 Jeanette, Abilene, Texas 79602.

COMFORTING WORDS

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following poem was brought to the *Cross Plains Review* to be printed as a comfort to the 50 families who lost their loved ones in the year of 2003. We have lost many wonderful family members and friends this past year and this is a tribute to their memory. Vanda Anderson

"My First Christmas in Heaven"

I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below With tiny lights, like heaven's stars, reflecting on the snow, The sight is so spectacular Please wipe away that tear, For I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear, But the sounds of music can't compare with the Christmas choir up here. I have no words to tell you the joy their voices bring, For it is beyond description to

hear the angels sing. I know how much you miss me. I see the pain inside your heart; Although we are so far away. We really aren't apart. So be happy for me, loved ones. You know I hold you dear. Be glad I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I send you each a special gift from my heavenly home above. I send you each a memory of my undying love. After all, "Love" is the gift more precious than gold. It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.

Please love and keep each other, as my Father said to do, For I can't count the blessings or love He has for you.

So, have a Merry Christmas and wipe away that tear. Remember, I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

DOWN HOME

I couldn't help wonder How many lay alone, On a cold Christmas Eve In a land far from home. The very thought Brought a tear to my eye, I dropped to my knees And started to cry.

The soldier awakened And I heard a rough voice, "Santa don't cry, This life is my choice; I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more, My life is my God, My country, My Corps."

The soldier rolled over And drifted to sleep, I couldn't control it,

I continued to weep. I kept watch for hours, So silent and still And we both shivered From the cold night's chill.

I didn't want to leave On that cold, dark night This guardian of honor So willing to fight. Then the soldier rolled over, With a voice soft and pure, Whispered, "Carry on Santa, It's Christmas Day, All's secure."

One look at my watch, And I knew He was right. "Merry Christmas my friend, And to all a good night."

COURTHOUSE NEWS

COUNTY COURT
Roger Corn, presiding

Misdemeanor Filings

Shea Bonds, theft by check. Latisha A. Gills, driving while license invalid (DWLI).

Misdemeanor Minutes

Wallace Smedley, order on motion to withdraw as counsel granted.

Coy B. Greenrock, motion to dismiss to theft granted, defendant in prison.

Joe Roberson, motion to dismiss to theft of service granted, charges dropped by arresting agency.

Franklin Gomez, motion to revoke probation granted.

Johnny Markham, motion to revoke probation granted.

Marcus Brown, order extending probation granted.

Wallace Smedley, plea of guilty to deadly conduct, 6 month probation, \$2500 fine, \$243 court costs.

Wallace Smedley, transfer request from Callahan Co. to Camp Co. granted.

Cynthia Elaine Watts, plea of guilty to theft by check, \$50 fine, \$215 court costs, \$470.60 restitution.

James Purcell, plea of guilty to interfere with emergency phone call, 10 days in jail, \$100 fine, \$228 court costs.

Michael Hildebrand, plea of guilty to displaying driver's license belonging to another, 10 days in jail, \$100 fine, \$293 court costs.

Danny Alexander, order for motion to withdraw as attorney of record granted.

Alan Pool, plea of guilty to theft by check, 6 month probation, \$50 fine, \$243 court costs, \$111.84 restitution.

42nd DISTRICT COURT

John Weeks, presiding

Civil Filings

Joshua Wayne Haile and Jennifer Lee Haile, divorce.

Civil Minutes

Cases dismissed for want of prosecution: Pamela Denise Wheeler vs. Hoyt Preston Wheeler III; Larry Louis Simmons vs. Twalla Sue Simmons; Martha D. Bryant and John Walker Bryant; Chris Dwayne Key and Janet Leigh Key; Ricky Dean Beasley and Deborah Mashel

Beasley; Amy Lajoie Housh and Tony Lynn Housh; J. W. Harris and Deborah Ann Harris; Cindy Garza and Chano P. Garza; Richard Evan Drew and Ellen Andrea Drew; Patricia Ann Hooper and Glenn Eugene Hooper; Melissa Wooten and Ronald James Wooten; Duane Thomas Clark and Leah Kimberly Clark; Cynthia Lane and Randy Charles Lane; Nicky Hal Harris and Evelyn Marie Harris. Patricia Corene Fomby and Sidney Dauson Fomby, divorce granted.

Criminal Indictments

Fleeta Whitworth, securing execution of document by deception.

Criminal Minutes

Coy B. Greenrock, motion to dismiss motion to revoke probation granted.

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DON TABOR, PUBLISHER
VANDA CRECH, EDITOR
CROSS PLAINS REVIEW



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CHURCH DIRECTORY

BELIEVER'S FELLOWSHIP

Inner-denominational-Evangelical EAST HIGHWAY 36
SUNDAY WEDNESDAY
9:30 a.m. Sunday School 7:00 p.m. Christian Youth Activities
10:45 a.m. Morning Service THURSDAY
6:00 p.m. Evening Service 7:00 p.m. Midweek Service
PASTOR: J. D. FRY (325) 646-7647
Last Sunday of the month singing, Come one-Come all.
Chips, Dips, Sandwiches

UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

209 S.W. Hwy 36 CROSS PLAINS
Welcomes You!
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Sun. 6:30 p.m. Worship & Word *** Wed. 7:00 p.m. Bible Study
"An Apostolic Church"
PASTOR, Phillip R. Schaefer (254) 725-7140

Living Water Ministries Fellowship

Full Gospel ~ Non-Denominational ~ Apostolic
Restoring And Equipping The Saints
Sunday 10 am * Monday Prayer 7pm * Wednesday 6:30 pm
Pastors: Max Evans & Colleen Anderson
Praise & Worship: Glenda Evans & Jamie Lipe
Youth Pastor: Linda Fortune
For Information Call (254) 725-4884

Union Center Baptist Church

"Service to God Through Service to Man"
Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
5 miles north of Rising Star - 1/2 mile east of Hwy 183 on CR 292
Jerry Eckhart, Pastor (254) 643-1027

COTTONWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday School.....9:45 A.M.
Morning Worship.....11:00 A.M.
Evening Service.....6:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer Time.....7:00
Matt McGowan, Pastor (254) 725-4599
Church (254)725- 6266
Friendly Church Bible Teaching

ROWDEN BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy. 36 at Rowden - 12 Miles West of Cross Plains
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP.....11:00 A.M.
Pastor: Carl Mauldin
Come Worship With Us!

NIMROD BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday School.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.
Bill Armstrong - Pastor

Join us!
Worship this
Christmas Season
Sunday School 9:45 am
Worship Services 11:00 am
Evening Services 7:00 pm
Christmas Eve
Vespers Services
6:00-7:00 pm Dec. 24
First Baptist Church
3rd & Main, Cross Plains, TX
Ronnie B. White, Pastor

Christmas Eve
Cantanta and Candlelight
Service
6 P.M. December 24, 2003
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Van Service Available - Call (254) 725-7694
N. Main (Hwy. 206)
Cross Plains, Texas
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Worship - 10:45 a.m.
Rev. C. Michael Redd, Pastor

Railroader

"Hometown Christmas"

By Jerry Payne
(Author of the Railroader)

It was Christmas week and the weather had turned cold in Cross Plains. The old-timers had predicted a bad winter, but isn't that the tale every year. The way the front had come through and the way the air felt, it was something out of the ordinary.

I was working out of Big Springs on through freight and was looking forward to being off for Christmas with the folks. I had the seniority and wasn't really worried about being able to be off for the 3-day weekend. I figured out that if I made one more trip to Fort Worth and back, that would put me just about right to be first out on Christmas Day, and if I took off as soon as I got in, my turn would be coming back from Fort Worth the day after Christmas.

Mom and Dad had said that all the kids would be in for Christmas and I was looking forward to spending some time with my brother, James, and my two sisters, Melissa and Cathy. You know a railroader doesn't have a lot of time with his family.

It was 3 days until Christmas and I had caught a train to Fort Worth. It was a pretty good train and I figured I would be in Fort Worth in good time to catch a train back the next day, lay off, and head to Mom and Dad's the next day.

I had just left Abilene and was headed to Baird when the front hit. The winds started blowing and the clouds started rolling in. By the time we got to Eastland, I had to turn on the heaters in the engine and started looking for my coat. When we got to Weatherford it was sleeting and cold as the dickens. The dispatcher called and ask how the weather was and we told him that it was bad and getting worse. We got to Fort Worth yard and put our train away in Centennial Yard and went to the hotel. The clerk told us that it didn't look good for the forecast. I went to bed and tossed and turned as the wind outside, howled up a storm. I was exhausted and worried about the storm and the trip back to Big Springs and going home to Mom and Dad and my brother and sisters and.....

I woke up to someone pounding on the door. I got out of bed and cracked the door open just enough to see who it was. It was the desk clerk and he was ranting and raving about something, so I told him to slow down. He took a deep breath and said that the trainmaster was trying to get a hold of me. I got dressed and went to the front desk and called the trainmaster. He said, "I need you and your conductor here right now! We have a big problem and you are the only two guys I have." We went outside and I couldn't believe my eyes. The snow was coming down from the right to left, not from up to down. We jumped into the van and headed to the yard. It took us a good hour to go one mile.

When we got to the yard the trainmaster was waiting for us. He stated, "Jerry, you and Bob are not going to believe this, but we have an emergency run for you." I ask him what kind of a run it was. He replied, "Santa has wrecked in this storm and we are calling in all you guys to help haul his stuff to the various regions. He has volunteers to help him at each location."

I looked at Bob and he looked at

me, and I thought this trainmaster has lost his mind if he thinks we believe that tale. He told us to get the power out of the roundhouse and put it on track 4. The paper work and the train orders would be ready when we got through. I asked Bob, "You believe this guy?" Bob look at me and said, "Come on man, it's Santa." I looked at him kind of sideways and thought if he wants to go along with it I will too.

When we got our orders and air test, they showed stops at Weatherford, Ranger, Eastland, Cisco and Putnam. We had two baggage cars and they had people in them. I got in touch with the dispatcher and got a signal and away we went. The snow was bad! I had never seen it this bad. We were hitting drifts that were 4 and 5 feet high and 1/2 mile long. The snow was packing up on the windows and we had to slow down a couple of times to let the windshield heaters catch up. We got to Weatherford and I could not believe my eyes. There were people with horse-drawn buggies and wagons and people dressed up like it was back in the early 1900's. I ask Bob what was going on and he just told me that probably they were having some sort of an old time Christmas show. People came from everywhere! They backed up to the baggage cars and were taking off sacks and sacks of stuff. We got the high ball to leave and we headed to Ranger. By this time the snow was so bad you couldn't see anything. We would see the signals just as we went by them.

We kept up our trip as fast as we could until we reached Putnam. Once again, I couldn't believe my eyes. The storm had let up a little and the wind had died down. Since it was our last stop, I pulled into the siding by the dock and stopped the train. I walked back to the baggage car and could not believe what I was seeing. There was Mr. Fred Cutbirth sitting on a horse and he was talking to a man with his back to me. I kept looking and when the man turned around, it was Pokey Bonner. I just sit down with weak knees. As the wagons backed up to the doors, I saw Hub Freeman, Nig Neeb, Doyle Neeb, Sterling Odom, Jack Watson, Sam Plowman, Howard Lee Neeb, Morris Odom, Sam Odom and Albert Lee all loading sacks of stuff in the wagons.

I couldn't stand it anymore, and got up to go back to the engine with a tear in my eyes, when I heard a voice call for me. I turned and looked back and it was my dad. I asked him what was going on and he told me that this is what happens when you truly believe in Santa Claus and that if we could stay for a while, I could see some more people like Aunt Helen Spencer, Theola Neeb, Rosealea Bonner, Alice Neeb, Penny Odom, Joyce Taylor Neeb and many, many more who were fixing a turkey dinner for all of the people who were helping that night.

I was so overwhelmed with all the people who I had known and that were gone, I couldn't think right. Then, all came to a stop and the telephone rang and the person on the other end said, "You are called for the FWED in Fort Worth." I said, "What?" The person on the other end replied, "Yes, Mr. Payne, you are called to go home to Big Springs." I had been dreaming. What a trip!!!!!!

(This story is not intended to hurt anyone or offend anyone. These were dear sweet people in my life and it's my way to remember them.)

COTTONWOOD NEWS

By WALLACE BENNETT

By the time you, some of you, are reading this paper, Christmas 2003 will be over and we, a lot of us, will all be logging another set of pleasant memories and wishing the food we ate would not be counted against us. But alas, not to be so! It's a law of nature; we can't eat our cake and avoid the calories.

However, notwithstanding the food regrets of the season, we have plenty of blessings over which to give thanks. Just living in this country with the blessings of life, liberty and the ability to pursue happiness, according to our individual concept of it, is one of the greatest blessings of all.

We all can be thankful for our faith in God which gives us ready access to a spiritual life in which there is no sense of regret or sadness over the earthly treasures we have or have not. This spiritual life is the source of our commitment and strength.

And our commitment in faith, faith in God and faith in each other, is the greatest treasure of all and is the source of our strength to live in hope and fear nothing, not even the terrorists.

My thoughts, as I write this two days before Christmas, have turned to those among us who are not as fortunate as most of us, and are separated from those we love. So let us please remember them and do something, actually do something, to let them know how

special they are to us.

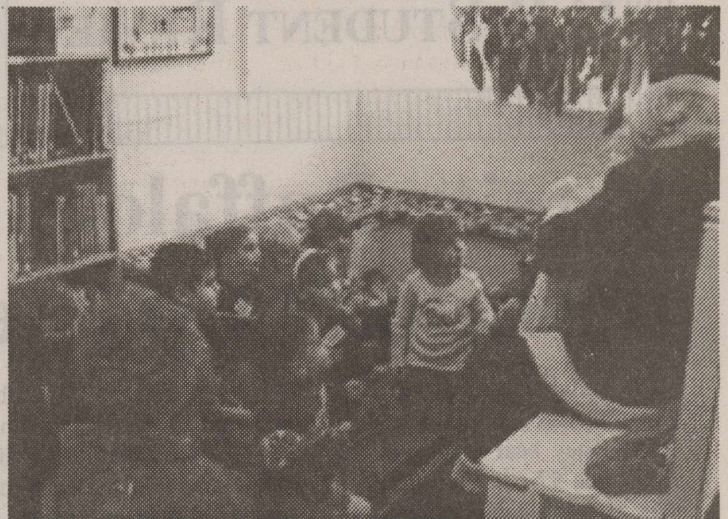
Also, my thoughts turn to that approaching day of earthly reckoning in which we take stock each year of our accomplishments and failures and make a few half-hearted resolutions to do something about it. Usually I make so many resolutions I can't remember any of them for much over a week. So, this year, my main resolution will be to be more resolute and remember at least two.

So what happened to you this Christmas? Did you have visitors? Did you go anywhere? If you will call me about your Christmas visitors, experiences, and other happenings, I will have something to write about other than my own thoughts. And you will have something more interesting to read.

As for the Bennett household, Gregg and Evelyn Bennett from Lakewood, California and their son, Pvt. Jonathan Bennett of Ft. Benning, Georgia, have arrived for the Christmas Holidays, and others are expected. Pvt. Jonathan is near completion of Basic Training and will enter Jump School and Special Forces training. He states he is a career soldier and will mark the third generation Career Army soldiers in the family.

(Please call Wallace Bennett (254) 725-7474 about news or personal items for this column.)

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SANTA CAME TO THE LOCAL LIBRARY—
The Lap Children welcomed Santa to Cross Plains.



CHILDREN TELL SANTA THEIR CHRISTMAS WISHES—
Some cute responses came from these beautiful children.

QUIPS, CLIPS & COMMENTS

By KAY MOSLEY

Notes: This writer hopes you will enjoy my little Christmas story with which I took poetic license using titles, as well as phrases from Christmas songs and poetry.

"Christmas—Now and Then"

It came upon a midnight clear, I saw Mommy kissing Santa Claus underneath the mistletoe, last night.

The children listen and hear sleigh bells in the snow which glistens.

We'll have a Blue Christmas that's certain. Oh what fun it is to ride poor Rudolph, in a single sleighing song tonight. Here comes Santa Claus, here comes Santa Claus; right down Santa Claus Lane. Vixen, Blitzen, all those reindeer pulling on the reins headed home to play reindeer games with Rudolph.

Then on foggy Christmas Eve, Santa came to say, "Rudolph with your nose so bright, won't you guide my sleigh tonight."

The children were snuggled all in their beds and all through the house not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse. The children were all listening to hear sleigh bells in the snow. Then out of the window they saw with a year-eahh! Dashing through the snow, were some one horse open sleighs.

While dancing through the snow their hearts were filled with joy. They heard jingling sleigh bells and soon sugar plums flew around their heads.

They joined on the chorus, Jingle Bells, just like I used to know. Jingle bells, jing, jing, jingle bells rang through the air. Here come Santa Claus; here comes Santa Claus; Santa Claus is coming to town—TONIGHT. He knows when you are sleeping, he knows when you're awake; he knows if you've been bad or good—so be good, for goodness sake.

Then one foggy Christmas, Santa came to say—I'm dreaming

of a white Christmas; just like the ones I used to know, where tree tops glisten and children listen to hear sleigh bells in the snow. I'm dreaming of a white Christmas with ever Christmas card I write. May your days be Merry and Bright, and may all your Christmases be white.

Merry Christmas!!!!
Epilogue: All of the children loved Santa, as they shouted out with glee, Santa Claus you will go down in history.

Correction of last week's poem: Christmas is coming, The goose is getting fat. Please put a penny in the old man's hat. If you haven't got a penny, Then a half will do. If you haven't got a half, Then God Bless You!!!!

GARDEN TIPS

By JAMES NICHOLS

With the New Year approaching and the chances of a shortage of rain fall for the new year, we are reminded that no matter how a fire starts, weather conditions and landscape features can fuel the flames or in some cases slow the spread.

Fire is nature's way of pruning. It clears dead and diseased trees and shrubs from grassland and forests. It's also nature's way of rejuvenating. Some species of native plants' seeds won't germinate unless cracked open by heat.

There are measures you can take to reduce the immediate risk of

fire around your house:

1. Never stack firewood next to the house.
2. Cut native grass to four inches tall after turning brown.
3. Rake up fallen leaves and plan debris.
4. Keep plants near house watered.
5. Remove dead branches from shrubs and trees.
6. Remove limbs that over hang the roof, for this is an easy way for flames to reach the roof.
7. If you remove the fuel, the flames will have a hard time getting a start.

LIBRARY NOTES



Check It Out!

The folks at the Cross Plains Public Library wish all of you the greatest Holiday Season ever. Especially we thank the *Cross Plains Review* for being so gracious in our relationship. We appreciate, too, all the folks who come to the library and support the library. This has been a great year. Come in. Check us out.

Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!!!!!!

December 15-19

Circulation: 61
Books
Donations - Books:
Joan McCowen

PUBLIC FAX (254) 725-7225

BREAKTHRU

By Bob Pipes
Cross Plains Church of Christ
433 N. Main
(254) 725-6117



It is amazing, once you know "the rest of the story" by reading the New Testament, how many times the coming of a savior, the Messiah, is promised, in the Old Testament. It is no wonder that Isaiah is often referred to as the Messianic prophet since it was through him that God revealed such things about the Messiah as: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel" (7:14). Hence, when Joseph was concerned about Mary, not yet his wife, being with child, the Lord used this prophecy to help convince him that all was going the very way that God had intended all along (Matthew 1:18-25). The greatest news, however, in all this was not simply the birth of a baby—as we get so excited about—rather that He would make a way for people to be saved for their sins—that He would be "God with us"! That was/is really something to rejoice about! Is He your savior?

We encourage you to share with us in all the times of Bible study and worship as we meet together. We really do care about you!

Sunday Morning Bible Class...9:45a.m. Sunday Evening Worship...6:00p.m.
Sunday Morning Worship...10:45a.m. Wed. Evening Bible Study...7:00p.m.
Friends & Neighbors Caring In Jesus

THE SENIOR CITIZENS MENU

December 29-31

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TUESDAY - Sausage, Sauerkraut, Blackeyed Peas, Copper Penny Salad, Birthday Cake, Bread, Milk
WEDNESDAY - Taco Bowl Salad, Mexican Corn, Pinto Beans, Applesauce, Milk



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C.P. STUDENT REVIEW

Varsity Buffaloes Basketball Update

The Buffaloes placed 2nd in the Cross Plains Tournament last week. They beat Sidney in the first game 57-48. The Buffaloes shot a season high 39 percent in this game. The "4-240" group as they are calling themselves, came in and provided energy and picked up the pace of the game. They are Gardner, Williams, Watkins, Horton and Thomas. Scoring were Dickson 8, Bennett 10, Goains 4, Williams 5, M. Allen 15, Gardner 10 and Watkins 5. Dickson has 4 assists and Watkins added 3. Goains and M. Allen had 9 rebounds each. Bennett led steals with 5 and Dickson had 4. Dickson also had 2 blocked shots.

Sidney	10	14	9	15	48
CP	7	14	19	17	57

The Buffaloes defeated San Saba in the second game 52-48. The Buffaloes only shot 31 percent in the game, but were able to control the pain and bring down 45 total rebounds. The "4-240" group provided a spark in this game also. Scoring were Dickson 2, Bennett 11, Goains 13, Williams 3, M. Allen 11, R. Allen 4 and Gardner 8. R. Allen and M. Allen added 3 each. Goains led rebounds with 11 and M. Allen added 10. Bennett had 4 steals and M. Allen had 3.

San Saba	6	19	6	18	48
CP	16	18	8	11	52

A very good Zephyr team beat the Buffaloes 50-30 in the finals. The "4-240" group had a little trouble in this game handling a very good ball handling team, but did help create tempo for the Buffaloes. Duncan and Rameriz jumped in on the group and did some good things. The Buffaloes shot 29 percent in the game and had 28 turnovers. The Buffaloes only shot the ball 34 times in the game. The Buffs were able to bring down 25 rebounds and allowed Zephyr only 7 offensive rebounds. Scoring were Dickson 8, Bennett 6, Goains 4, Williams 2, M. Allen 5 and Gardner 5. Goains had 9 rebounds while Williams and Gardner added 4 each. Bennett had 3 steals.

Zephyr	14	11	9	16	50
CP	5	5	11	9	30

All tournament selections were Andy Bennett and Michael Allen of Cross Plains.

We would like to thank Subway, the Booster Club, the maintenance department, the coaching staff, the kids in Coach Wilcoxon's and Coach Dillard's classes, the kids in Coach Hagler's P.E. class, the administration, the junior high athletes and all the others who helped to make this a very successful tournament.

PRE-K - 6TH PARTICIPANTS IN FOOD DRIVE

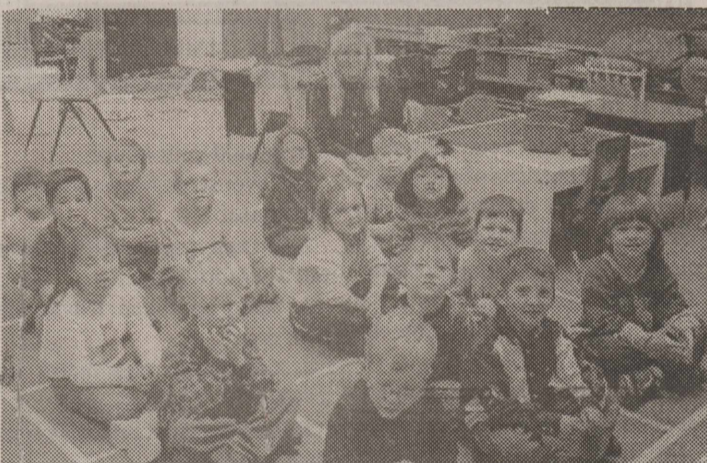
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PRE-K GROUP 1



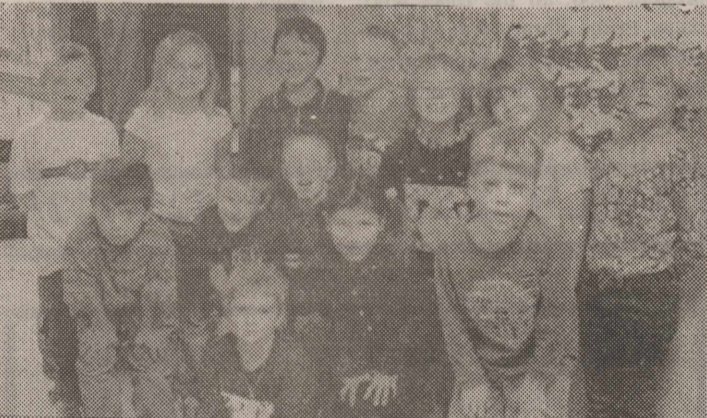
PRE-K GROUP 2



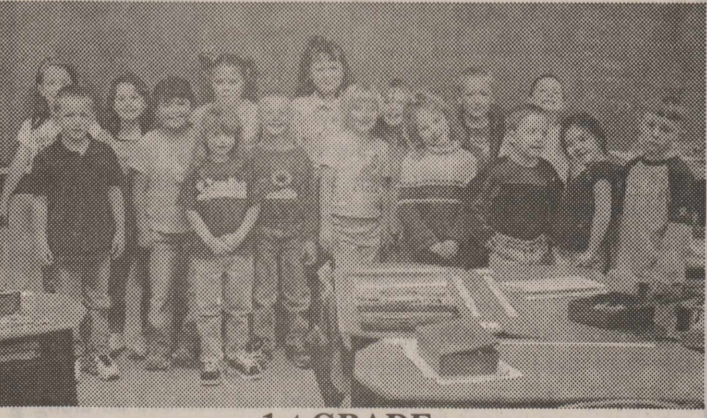
KINDERGARTEN



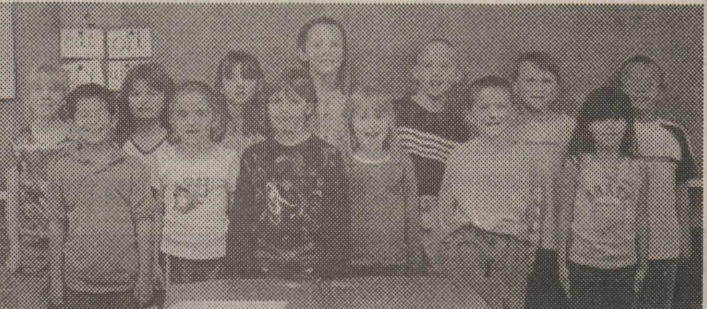
KINDERGARTEN



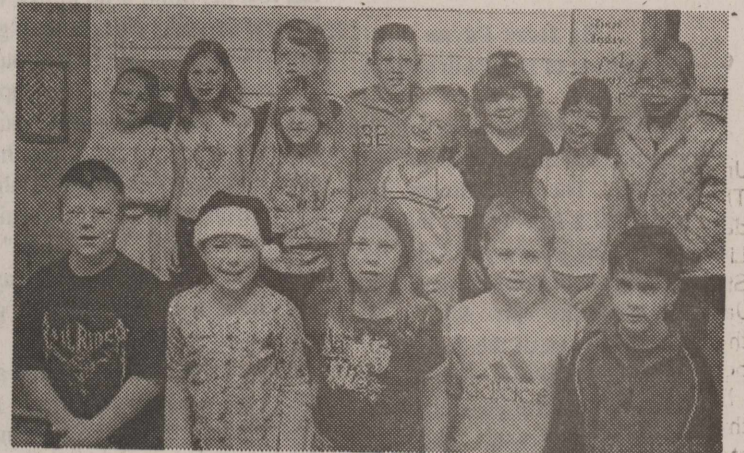
1st GRADE



1st GRADE



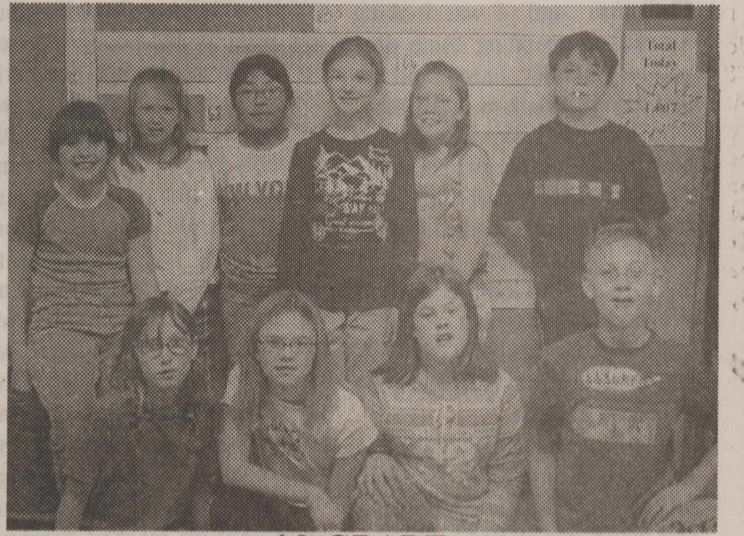
2nd GRADE



3rd GRADE



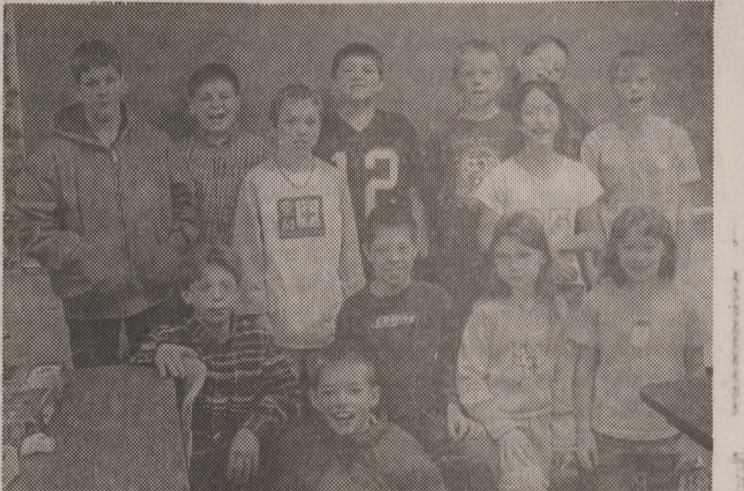
3rd GRADE



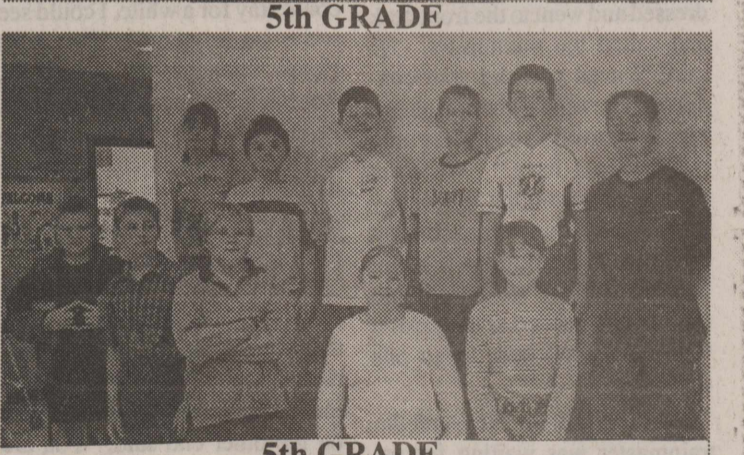
4th GRADE



4th GRADE



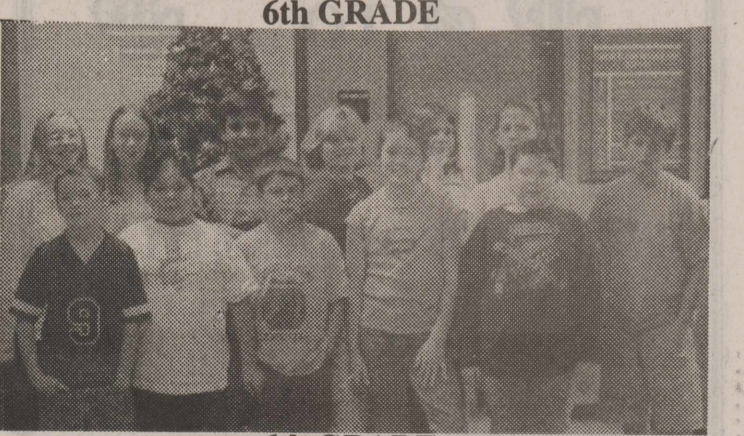
5th GRADE



5th GRADE



6th GRADE



6th GRADE

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

December 17, 2003

The Cross Plains I.S.D. Board of Trustees met in a regular meeting with the following members present: Vicki Dillard, Susan Schaefer, Bryan Bennett, Jim Cook, Monty Richards and Reggie Pillans. Donnie Dillard was absent.

The following administrators and guests were also in attendance: Superintendent Jackie Tennison and guest, Cameron Gulley.

Prayer was led by Monty Richards. Minutes were approved and read.

Motion was made by Bennett

and seconded by Cook that they approve the audit presented by Cam Gulley for 2002-2003. For 6 Against 0

Executive Session began at 6:13 p.m. and out at 6:22 p.m.

Motion was made by Pillans and seconded by Cook that they accept the resignation of Tani Pointer and Betty Barclay. For 6 Against 0

Motion was made by Bennett and seconded by V. Dillard that they hire Ronda Hagler as Special Ed Teacher with 1 year probationary contract (95 days) for 2003-04. For 6 Against 0

Motion was made by Bennett and seconded by Schaefer to adjourn. For 6 Against 0

Granddaughter Writes About Christmas at Cross Plains

EDITOR'S NOTE: Farrell and Carol Stephens, formerly of Cross Plains, submitted this story composed by their 10 year-old granddaughter as a school assignment. You will be amazed at what depth and vision she has for her age. This young lady knows what it is really all about. Read and enjoy! **Vanda Anderson**

"Christmas Memories"

By
Lindsey Roach

My Grandad Stephens always said to make red-letter memories; I never really understood why until now. Every other year we spent Christmas with the Stephens family. We would always go the four hour trip to a small farm outside of Cross Plains. There would be so many things waiting for us to do. We usually got there pretty late at night, so there wasn't any time to play, but the next morning as soon as I got up, I was outside and pretty much stayed out there until lunch.

On Christmas Eve, after all the baths, we would hang up Grandad's socks by the fireplace. Then we would sing or play the piano, or even have a talent show! The next morning, bright and early, although not so bright for

some, we would all gather in the den to open presents. Those who volunteered would pass out all of the presents. Then, according to age, we would open presents one by one. After the kids would finish opening, the grown-ups would do a Chinese Christmas.

Afterwards the cousins would play. Christmas was always special because our cousins from West Virginia would be there; we only got to see them once or twice a year. Bethany, now 13, and Ryan, now 16, were so fun to play with. There was safaris to go on, mysteries to solve, Indian villages to save, there was no end to what we could play! Ryan and I were buddies; it still amazes me that though the age was different, I wasn't too little to play with. Even now, I'm still his cousin and I'm still cool.

I'm eternally grateful to my family for helping me create such wonderful memories. Now, the farm has been sold, the animals are gone, the reassurance that there will be more times spent there is gone, but the memories are still there and they will never be gone. No one can buy them. They can't die.

These memories mean more to me than anything else. I will always have those "red-letter" memories.

Callahan County Jr. Stock Show

The Annual Callahan County Jr. Livestock Show will be held Thursday, January 15th-Saturday, January 17th at the Jr. Livestock Barn in Cross Plains. Starting time will be Thursday, January 15, at 5:30 p.m., with the judging of the rabbits and poultry.

Frankie Hyles, President of the Callahan County Jr. Livestock Association, said that entries are expected to number about 450 this year from the various FFA Chapters and 4-H Clubs in the County.

Other officers of the association are Steven Mitchell as Vice President, Johnny Adkins as Treasurer and Karen Johnston as Secretary.

Superintendents for this year's show are:

Beef Cattle Eddie Riley and Johnny Lee
Market Swine Jackie Tennon
Tennis Poultry & Rabbits Doug Johnston and Larry McIntire
Sheep & Goats Steven Mitchell and Lesa Harris

Judging of the rabbits and poultry will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 15th with Scott Anderson of Brownwood doing the judging. All participants must be checked in by 5:00 p.m. on the 15th.

Judging will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, January 16th, with the Breeding Swine Show followed by the Market Barrow Show. Leslie Harris of Vernon will be judging the Swine Show.

At 1:30 p.m., on Friday, January 16th, Kyle Eckert of San Angelo will start judging the Market Lambs followed by the Meat Goats and Boer Goat Shows.

On the afternoon of the 16th from 3:00-6:00 p.m., all steers and heifers will be classified and weighed. Mr. Greg Gruben of Snyder will get the judging of the Beef Cattle underway at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday morning, January 17th with the heifer show. Mr. Gruben will also judge the steer show starting at 9:00 a.m.

The Premium Sale will begin at 1:00 p.m. The Awards Presentation of all the trophies for the champion animals will be held prior to the premium sale auction.

Announcer for the three day show will be Dick Vestal, Greg Gemgross, John Belcher and Doug Johnston.

Officials of the show would like to invite everyone out for all or part of the show and support the young folks of Callahan County.

Son of Cross Plains Resident Moves Up the Leadership Ladder

By Mea Williams

BOSTON—Standing proud in Boston's harbor is the U.S. Navy's oldest commissioned warship, USS Constitution. The vessel stands as a testament to 300 years of Navy traditions and values, and today serves as a training platform for newly selected chief petty officers, known as "Chiefs". The time on board gave the latest generation of senior enlisted leaders a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to live, work and train on the decks of "Old Ironsides".

Chief Petty Officer Charles Barreras, son of Paul Neeb of Cross Plains, was among the few chiefs selected from all points of the globe to explore the warship, learn principles of leadership and reconnect with the traditions and heritage of the U.S. Navy.

Barreras described what a typical day was like on board Constitution. "It is an honor being able to spend the amount of time we have on board this mighty warship. The days are long and full of training, which gives us so much knowledge of how the ship operated over the last 200 years."

Based on his experience, Barreras described a few of the similarities between values of Sailors in today's Navy and those

of Sailors in the Navy 300 years ago. "We share the desire to protect the freedoms we have and the will to continue to improve ourselves."

Barreras expressed happiness and pride in his selection as a Navy chief, and commented on the lessons he'll share with fellow Sailors once he dons his new khaki uniform. "I am very proud I was selected as a chief petty officer. I have waited to don this uniform and I will take many lessons with me. The one lesson that stands out most is the need to take care of the people who work for you," said Barreras, husband to Dianne Barreras and father of three.

Aside from his duty as a chief, Barreras spends time with his family. "The things I love are my children and wife. My family is the support in my life and I would not be where I am today if I didn't have them."

After days of intense training and indoctrination aboard the Navy's oldest ship, Chief Petty Officer Charles Barreras and fellow chiefs are equipped and ready to serve in one of the highly influential positions in the Navy.

(Mea Williams is a journalist at the Navy Public Affairs Center Norfolk, Va.)

Happy Birthday!

DECEMBER 27

Belva Gwinn
Mrs. Elmer Wilson
Dickie Nowell
Bobby Lawrence
Dr. Mickey Bush
Norma Proctor
John Ross McCaghren
Hannah Brown
Patricia (Lee) Higgins

Christopher Hamer
Getrude Johnson
Wanda Jennings
Milton Bates
Billy King
Joseph L. Hopkins
Nancy Sheppard
Don Edington
Randy Duncan
Sambo Fleming

DECEMBER 28

Tami Gwen Woody
Brian Sibley
Marion Perry
Mrs. Glen Vaughn
Michael Ingram
Mrs. Billy Paul Golson
C.A. Walker
Karen Flecher
Mrs. Pauline (Lee) Regian
Sheila Bell

DECEMBER 31

Kathy Denny
Johnny Combs
Eldon Gregg
Shirley Emmons
Mrs. Norman Farr
Danielle Webster
George Randall Dickey
Vickie (Hickman) Walker
Billy Spoon
Jesse Norris
Kimberly (Ratliff) Stover
Royce Lawrence
Austin Walker

DECEMBER 29

Dianne (Johnson) Stahnke
Mrs. Earl Allen
Johnnie Strickland
Kenneth D. Brown
Frances Knott
Vicky (Moore) Worley
Michael Blake Foster
D.J. Roe
Jacob Strickland
Peyton Wood
Shelby Wood
Jon Tonne

JANUARY 1

John Bagley
Charles Barr
Ava Jones
Henry Wellmaker
Joyce Williams

DECEMBER 30

Keith Hopson
Billy Gene Spoon
Carol Bates
Eric Lovel
Mrs. Bob Dean

JANUARY 2

Leesa Higginbottom
Jimmy Harris
Patsy Letney
Emma Jane Hobson
Cherilyn Fleming
Linda Reed
Cameron Cobb
Eunice Pointer
Tami (Hall) Anderson

To get your name on the Birthday Column, sent your name and date of birth to *The Cross Plains Review*, P.O. Box 519, Cross Plains, Texas 76443. There is no charge for this service.
To delete a name due to death or other reason send name and birth date (Month and Day) or Call (254) 725-6111.

Robert E. McCool Attorney at Law

Law Offices at:
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Baird, Texas 79504
(325) 854-1016

Callahan County DPS Report

Calls received by the Callahan County Department of Public Safety from December 14, 2003 through December 20, 2003 include:
Cases Investigated

Warnings—146
Complaints—134
DWI—2
Possession of Marijuana—1
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia—1

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00 BUICK CENTURY.....\$5,995 #289181A, CUSTOM PKG, 73K MILES	02 FORD FOCUS.....\$8,800 #955795A, AUTOMATIC, 50K MILES	00 FORD MUSTANG.....\$12,995 #177518C, 25K MILES, POWER W/L

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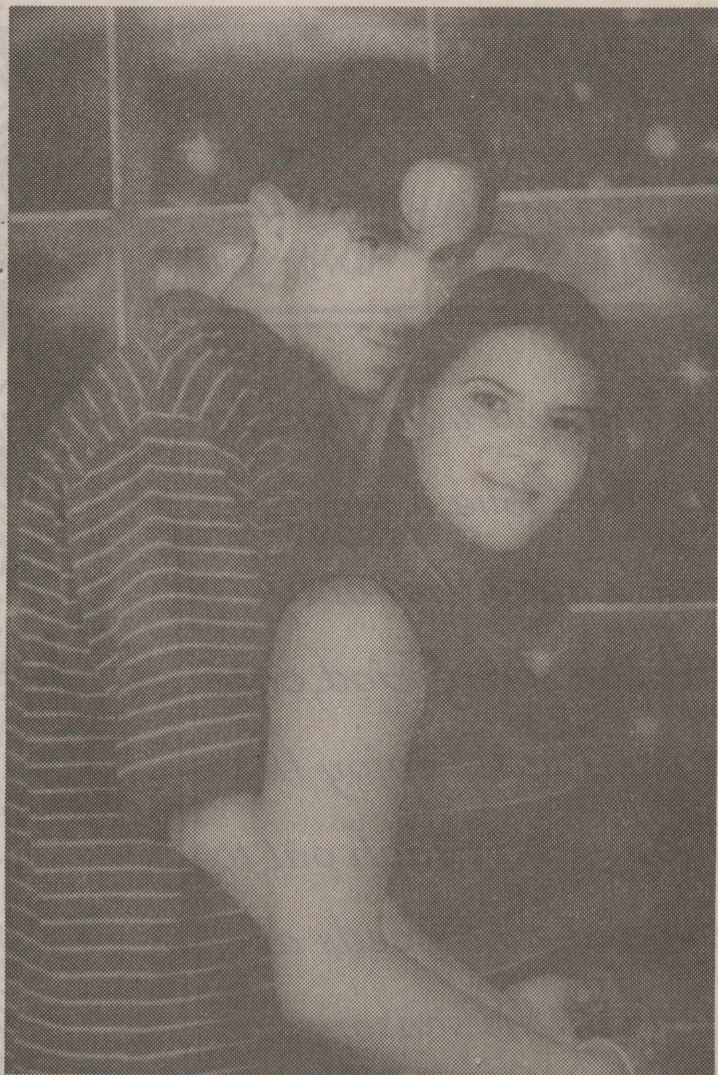
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Lil is the daughter of Michael and Theresa Dore of Cross Plains. She is the granddaughter of Robert and Linda Boudreaux of Cross Plains.

Aaron is the grandson of Wayne and Pam Lacik of Arlington.

Lil is a student at Arlington High School. Aaron is employed as a mechanic in Arlington. The couple plan an early summer wedding in Arlington.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article was a letter to the editor in the *Brownwood Bulletin* featuring a former resident of Cross Plains. Once again, folks from our city exhibit their excellence of character.
Vanda Anderson

Dear Editor,
I have lived in the city of Brownwood for most of my life. I have watched my children grow up here. I have made many friends here and I have made wonderful memories over the years here. I know that every town has its share of bad apples and I've even run across a few living in the area.

I am writing, however, to you today not to voice a complaint or a problem I've seen in our city, but to voice my family's need to recognize one of Brownwood's unsung heroes: Mr. David McGowen, one of our neighborhood's postmen.

On October 22, 2003, my youngest daughter arrived home from school to find smoke pouring out of our house due to a fire in our kitchen. I had left my

cellular phone in the car, and her father was unavailable, so, my daughter was unable to reach either of us. Just about that time, Mr. McGowen stopped to deliver our mail, and he was considerate enough to ask Ashley if she was all right. After she explained what was going on, Mr. McGowen rushed into our home and removed a pan from our stove (which had caused the fire to start) and put it in the sink under running water. While risking his life for our family, Ashley borrowed a neighbor's phone and called the fire department, which arrived shortly.

I just want Mr. McGowen to know how much we appreciate his stopping to help out. I don't know what would have happened if he hadn't gone into the house, or if he hadn't aided my daughter at all. I feel very blessed to have such an honorable man as a part of our community, and I feel that he deserves recognition for his selflessness in our time of need. Thank you again, Mr. McGowen and God bless you.

Mary and Ashley Kuykendall
Brownwood, Texas

EDITOR'S NOTE: Emily Winfrey wrote the following story for an oral presentation, an assignment at Cisco Junior College. It is an outstanding description of her late grandmother, a former resident of Cross Plains.
Vanda Anderson

By Emily Winfrey

There are some people who are blessed with having truly wonderful people in their lives. They are the angel-on-earth type of person who, even though they may be gone now, had an impact on someone that will last a lifetime. I can say that I have been blessed in my lifetime with a wonderful grandmother.

Annie Mae Wright was born July 22, 1917, the youngest of three children. Losing both of her parents by the age of 14, she soon learned the true meaning of hard work and sacrifice. She gave up her educational opportunities to take care of her old sister's children while their mother was at work. I am sure she never complained because as long I knew her, she was never one to gripe about having to work. But soon after, at the young age of 15, she got married and had 2 children soon afterward. Then, 20 years later, in 1955, my mother came along. She and her brother and sister were raised in a hard working and loving home, with God as their guide in life.

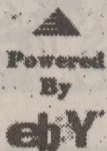
Even though my grandmother didn't have the opportunity to obtain the education that she would have liked, she still was one of the wisest people I ever knew and ever will know. She also made sure that all three of her children had a college education. No matter what they wanted to do in life, it would have to wait until they got that degree. I could always turn to her with my questions and get pretty good advice that was "always free", she would say. Whenever I felt like I was at a dead end, she would always turn me around and head me in the right direction, reminding me that bigger obstacles have been overcome, such as hers. She also tried to get me to see the rewards and benefits of hard work. I soon realized what she meant whenever I

heard the stories of her early life. However, there were many times in my younger years when she tried to get me motivated but was unsuccessful. It seemed like too much trouble to wash the dishes at the time, especially when my favorite TV show was on. But she just kept trying with other tasks, and sooner or later I learned that it wasn't going to hurt me to do them. I used that same principle later in life with bigger tasks. I have her persistence to thank for my knowledge in how to get the job done, no matter what it may be.

From my grandmother I also learned the true meaning of honesty and unconditional love. I never had to wonder what she was thinking, she never held anything back. No matter what I did, or how I did it, I knew she was always proud of me, because she never failed to tell me. But being candid as she was, I also knew when I did something she didn't really approve of. She would shake her finger at me and say, "Now Emily you know better than that." She was usually right. No one ever wondered where she stood on an issue, she told them. When she really got mad (but of course not at me) she would let some of that "colorful" language of hers fly. I always wondered where my mother got it, but now I know. But honesty I learned was a characteristic of merit. And through the trials I have experienced in my life, I felt like she was the calm in the violent storm I was caught in. During the times that I felt like trust was discontinuance, she was the one true certainty that I knew I could count on. Over time I have come to appreciate that more and more. I have also realized what a luxury it really was.

I am thankful for so many instances and occasions that I have been able to spend with her. She was a person all her own and I am proud to say that she was my Granny. She taught me life lessons that I would only learn from her. In July, I said good-bye to my biggest fan. But I know that she is smiling down upon me today, still rooting for me. Now instead of being my angel on earth, she is my angel in heaven.

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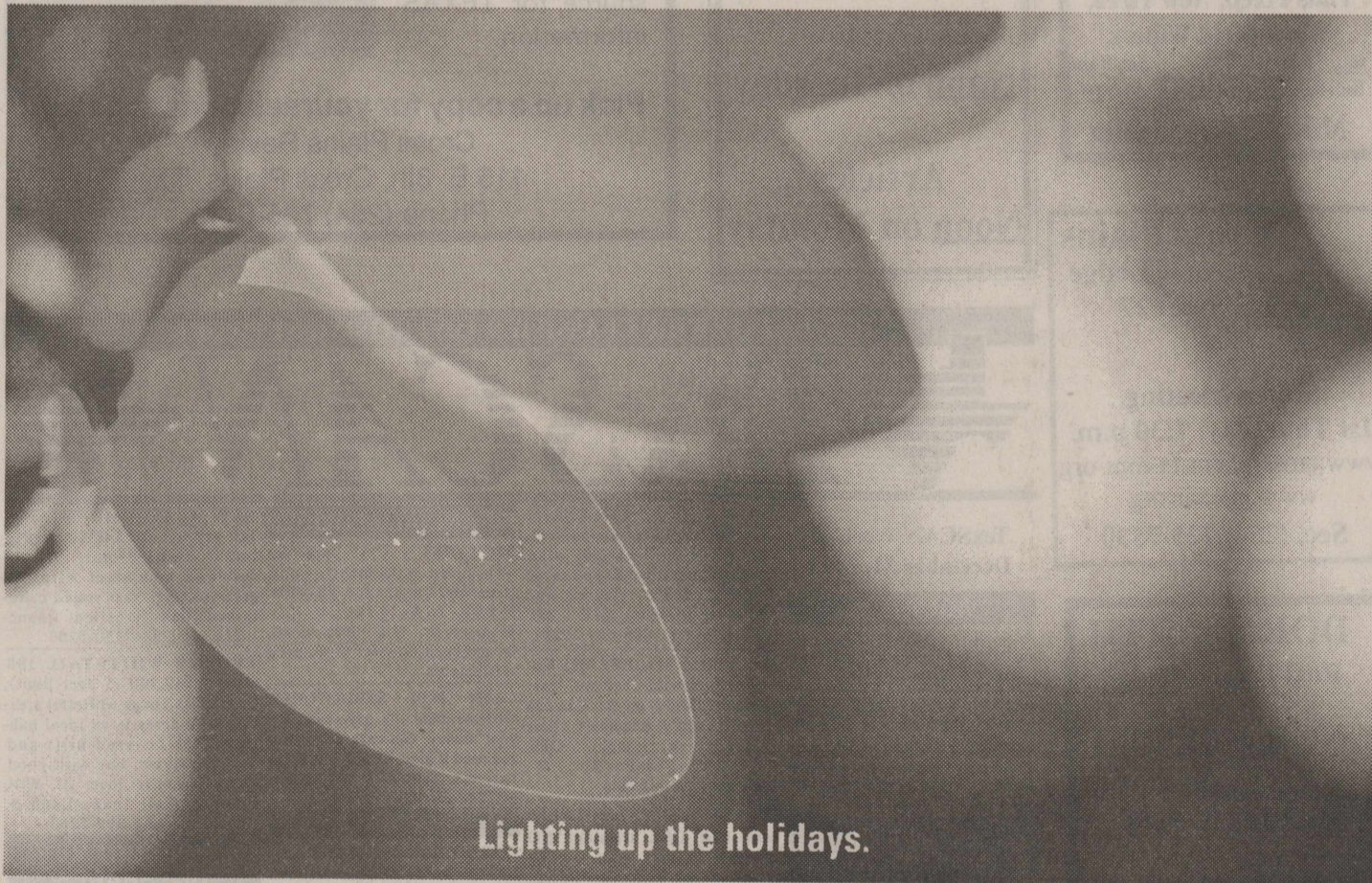


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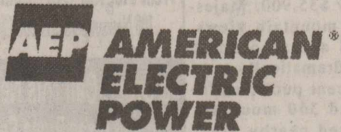
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As you begin using decorative lighting in and around your home this holiday season, AEP reminds you to keep safety in mind. Check light strings for frayed cords, and use only UL-approved lights and extension cords. Remember not to overload circuits, and remind children not to touch lights or outlets. And on behalf of all of us here at AEP, please enjoy a safe, bright holiday season with your family and friends. AEP is there, always working for you.



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