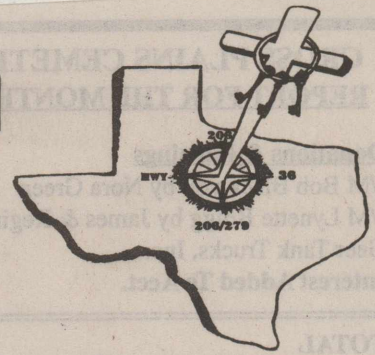


Cross Plains Review

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"A Caring Community"

THURSDAY, March 11, 2004



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95TH YEAR

CROSS PLAINS, CALLAHAN COUNTY, TEXAS 76443

PRICE 50¢

NUMBER 51

DOWN HOME

"The Passion"

By Vanda Anderson
Editor

Have you ever been completely overwhelmed to the point that you couldn't even cry—you were just stunned? That is how viewing *The Passion of the Christ* affected me.

Sounds of sobbing filled the theatre as the powerful re-enactment of the crucifixion of Christ unfolded. Of course, it is no coincident that the showing is appropriately timed just before resurrection Sunday. This movie should be the most important film of the century, as it opens the eyes of believers and non-believers alike.

Mel Gibson, a prominent screen star, has spent years researching the details of the most significant event in history. By the way, did you know that on a recent survey of important events in history, Christ's crucifixion only came up in the top ten, but not in 1st place? How sad!!

Gibson utilized his talents and faith to prepare and direct this movie. It has been reported that he prayed diligently concerning each step of the production in his effort to please his Heavenly Father.

Gibson's hands were used in filming the nailing of Christ to the cross. It was his expression of the fact that he, and all of us, are sinners and that all contributed to his death. The fact that Peter, His disciple, denied Christ three times, demonstrated human nature and how most would react under similar circumstances. It breaks your heart to see how Jesus suffered, both emotionally and physically.

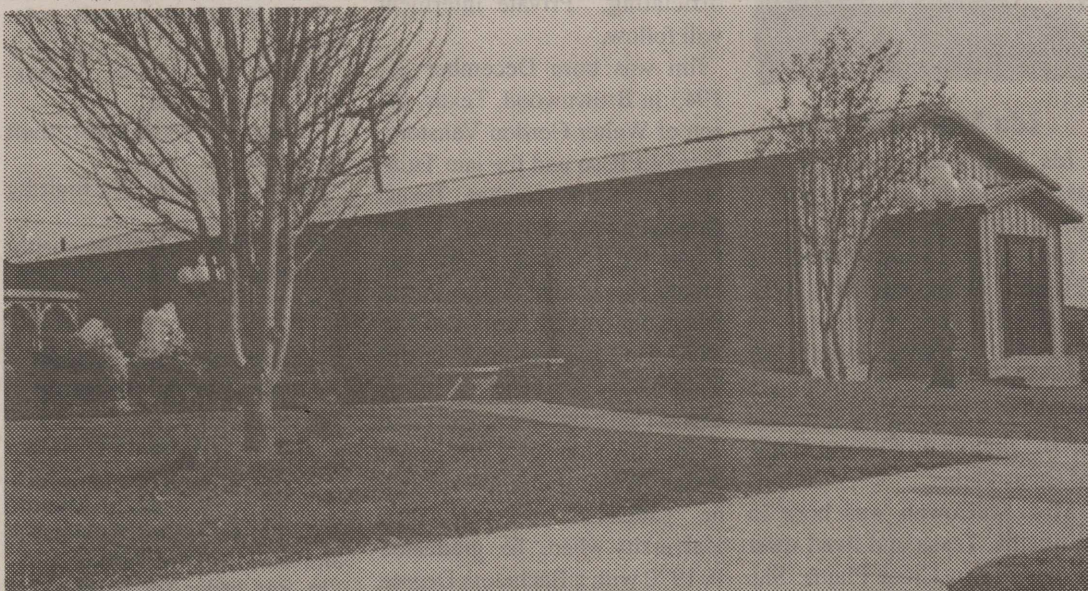
Jim Caviezel, the actor who portrayed the role of Jesus, was not surprised by the request to do so. A man told him several months prior, that he would be playing Jesus in a movie. When Gibson interviewed him, Caviezel remarked that he was 33 years old, his initials were J.C. and that he had been preparing for the role his entire life. Gibson was overwhelmed by his response.

It was noted that the movie changed Caviezel's life forever. The affect on the cast was powerful, too. Caviezel suffered physically while filming the scenes on the cross and it made him realize what agony Christ withstood. He was even struck by lightning during the shooting of one of the scenes and yet he was remarkably unharmed.

When you consider the fact that Christ had the power to stop the process, but chose to die for our sins, it makes you realize His true sacrifice, and how unappreciative we sometimes are.

One scene where Jesus said, "Love one another," had an impact on me personally. I think it is a commandment we don't take to heart. If we loved one another like we should, think how different our world would be.

I don't want to spoil the movie for you with details, but do make See *Down Home* Page 5



MASONIC LODGE UPDATE—The new Masonic Lodge building, erected at 225 South Main, adjacent to City Hall and their well-landscaped park, gives the fraternity a strong symbolic and physical presence in the community. The structure in its high visibility location has kindled renewed interest in the organization and discussion among the town's citizens. Photo progress of the project is chronicled on the Lodge's website at www.cross-plains.tx-mm.org.



CHATTING AT THE RECEPTION AFTER THE MUSICAL—Lora Lynn Christensen (from left, with back to camera), Dan Mitchell, Jacque Childress, Marguerite Ransdell and Gail Ransdell.

Musical Culture Enjoyed

Over 100 people attended the "Afternoon of Music" program presented for the community and held at the First Methodist Church Sunday afternoon. The chairperson of this event, Jacque Childress, on behalf of Beta Sigma Phi would like to thank the community for their support and wonderful attendance to enjoy the music of the talented musicians

who played for us. Adds BSP President, Wanda Merryman, "This was a great success and thanks to all who came."

Lora Lyn Christensen and Sherry Frush of Abilene played delightful piano duets from the works of Mozart and Karp. Nettie Wilson, on the cello, accompanied by Carol Stuard on piano, (from Eastland and Cisco, re-

spectively), played beautiful selections from Broadway's "The King & I" by Rodgers & Hammerstein, "Camelot" by Lerner & Loewe, and "A Little Night Music" by Stephen Sondheim.

Cottonwood's Gail Ransdell played several beautiful Broadway medleys which were

See Musical Page 3

Pancake Supper March 23

Less than two weeks away, on Tuesday nights, March 23rd, is one of Cross Plains' great "Social Events" of each year—the **Kiwanis Pancake Supper!** It is the night for great food and great fellowship. The price for so much eating and fellowship is only \$4 per person. That's all the pancakes and sausage you can eat, along with tea, coffee or water. Where can you get an eating deal like that?! A serendipity is that you can take part in helping the Kiwanians with their many programs of help during the year too

numerous to list but including, sponsoring the **Key Club of Cross Plains High School.** Key Club members will be joining the Kiwanians in serving, helping to meet your every need!

The date, again, for the Pancake Supper in Tuesday night, March 23rd beginning at 5 p.m., continuing until 7 p.m. The place is at the Cross Plains School Cafeteria. Now this is only a few days away, so if you haven't purchased your tickets yet, be sure and see a Kiwanian and buy them now. Buy more than one

ticket and bring a friend or two—maybe give one to someone whose budget is stretched too thin already. If you wait to pay at the door, Charles Rodenberger or Sue Neal just might talk you into paying more and/or making a donation (in addition to the ticket) toward the projects that the Kiwanis Club helps toward throughout the year.

The Kiwanis Club of Cross Plains thanks you in advance for your support. See you at the Pancake Supper!!

Submitted by: Bob Pipes

REVIVAL Believer's Fellowship

Believers Fellowship will be holding its First Spring 2004 Revival this week. The meetings will be held at Believers Fellowship Church Building located 1/2 mile east of Cross Plains on highway 36.

Meeting times are: Thursday, 7:00 p.m., Friday, 7:00 p.m., Saturday, 6:00 p.m., Sunday

morning, 10:45 a.m., and Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m.

These meetings will be conducted by evangelist, Travis Priddy of Brownwood, Texas. Brother Priddy is an anointed minister with a timely message for this generation. Everyone is welcome and invited to attend.

March Book Sale This Saturday at the Local Library

Thanks to the success of the February Book Sale at the public library, additional books have been donated, making it possible to hold another sale this coming Saturday, March 13. The Children's Resource Center will be open from 9:00 - 2:00 with many new titles having been added to the sale. Most of the new books in the sale are in the

Western and Children's categories and paperbacks of all topics.

Books will again sell for \$3.00 per bag. Some used office furniture and supplies will also be available for purchase.

When you help yourself to the books, you are helping the public library develop the annex as a learning center for the children of the area.

Art Club Meets

Tuesday, March 16th

The Cross Plains Paint and Palette Art Club will meet Tuesday, March 16th, 2:00 p.m., at the Multi-Purpose Center (Please note this change in days).

Bring your paints, paper and/or canvas. We will be exchanging

ideas and problems while starting pictures. Everyone please bring your favorite snack food.

Please call Betty Beggs at 254-725-7235 or Marlene Sanders at 254-725-7421 for more information.

Trade Day/Plant Sale

The Cross Plains Garden Club Annual Trade Day and Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, March 27, starting at 9 a.m. The Trade Day will be located on the vacant lot north of the Dairy Queen in Cross Plains.

The charges are \$15 for each space. No reservations are required.

For more information you may contact Julene Franke at (254) 725-7712.

CALING ALL CHRISTIANS!!!

There will be a Child Evangelism Fellowship meeting March 13, 2004, 10:00 a.m. at the Cross Plains Community Center (Beech and First).

People who are needed: Sunday School Teachers, parents, home school parents, deacons, teens who like teaching young children, grandparents, Christians who care about the spiritual need of God's little ones!

Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) is a non profit ministry outreach tool, when used with supporting church sets up Good News clubs and five day clubs to minister to young children. CEF has been around since 1937 and has grown in to a worldwide ministry.

The Good News Club is an outreach to children who might not otherwise hear the Gospel. Once a week, usually during non-summer months, Good News Club meets in homes, classrooms and other locations across the U.S. and around the world. Children come to hear Bible and missions stories, learn memory verses, sing songs and join in theme-related activities. As a result, many of these children make

first-time decisions to receive Christ as Savior! Through the strong discipleship teaching Good News Club provides, these children gain a solid Bible foundation that helps them mature as believers. Clubbers are encouraged to attend a local Bible-believing church. Imagine the impact!

This is an informational meeting about Child Evangelism Fellowship. There will be free coffee and cookies and childcare available.

"Even so it is not of your father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should parish" Matthew 18:14.

Submitted by: Walker J. Kyle

Texas Heritage Bank

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Presents:
"What's Inside"

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EARLY OUT!!!
FRIDAY, MARCH 12
AT 2:00 P.M.
BUSES RUN AT 2:10 P.M.
SPRING BREAK MARCH 15 - 19th
CLASSES WILL RESUME
MONDAY, MARCH 22

Linda Merritt Named Former Resident Employee of the Quarter Rising Star Nursing Center Honored Recently as "Officer of the Year"

Linda Merritt has been selected as employee of the first quarter at Rising Star Nursing Center. Linda's title includes Activity Director and Assistant Administrator, however she wears many hats, always has a smile and all around great attitude. She has been employed in nursing homes for more than 25 years and has worked in every department. She was certified by the State of Texas as an Activity Director in 1978, and has served in that capacity longer than any other activity director currently working in the Central Texas area.

According to Johnnie Elliott,

administrator, Linda is a great employee, always ready to tackle any task at hand and give it her best shot. She works well with the residents and is well respected by other staff members. "I wish we had ten more just like her," Elliott remarked.

Rachel Riley, Director of Nurses, stated, "They say you reap what you sow, and as Linda works throughout the day with a smile and loving touch for everyone she meets (even the most difficult person), I realize she can never reap everything she has sown in her lifetime."

Each year the S.T.O.P. Narcotics Task Force recognizes the person who has made the greatest contribution of character, and has been an example of exceptional law enforcement personnel as Officer of the Year.

On December 2, 2003 the Task Force personnel selected undercover agent Holly (Biggs) Bays for this honor. In his letter of commendation, Commander Adam King wrote, "The person selected as Officer of the Year will represent the entire unit as the best we have to offer, and a great amount of consideration is placed in the selection process. Bays has at every opportunity exhibited a high level of character that includes, but is not limited to, honesty, teamwork, dedication, loyalty, personal motivation, interpersonal communication skills and technical ability."

The S.T.O.P. (Stop The Offender Program) Narcotics Task Force is comprised of offic-

ers, deputies, and staff from a wide variety of agencies from a four county area consisting of Erath Somerell, Hood and Johnson counties. This Task Force is comprised of 22 officers and they are responsible for Narcotics Enforcement, Special Crimes and Terrorism.

Holly (Biggs) Bays is a 1992 graduate of Cross Plains High School and a 1993 graduate of Tarleton State University Police Academy. Holly has been in law enforcement for nine years. She has been with the Stephenville Police Department for five years and has been assigned to the Task Force for four years. Holly was pronounced to Supervisor of the Erath County Division of the Task Force in December 2003.

Holly is the daughter of Charlotte Lee and sister of Hailey Biggs of Cross Plains. She is the granddaughter of Buck and Joan Brown of Cross Plains and Estelle Biggs of Eastland.



LORI DILLARD AND TROY SNOW

Residents Invited to Forum on Community Issues

What does our community need? What could be improved? What would make life better for everyone who lives here?

All local residents who are interested in a better future for themselves, their families and our community are invited to participate in the Texas Community Futures Forum at 6:30 p.m., April 1, 2004 at the Callahan County Extension office.

The Forum is being conducted in every county as a statewide effort of Texas Cooperative Extension, an agency of the Texas A&M University System, to bring together a diverse group of individuals, group and organizations to identify issues and concerns.

"We want to get broad-based input into this process so that a plan can be developed for the future of each county and for Texas as a whole," said Dr. Chester Fehlis of College Station, Extension director. "We also want other local, state and federal agencies and organizations to participate. Many of the needs and concerns of people can best be addressed through cooperation and partnerships among the agencies and organizations that serve them."

The Futures Forum process will help Extension develop its long-range plan for the next four years, 2005 through 2008. However, the true goal is to facilitate the identification of common needs and define a process for addressing these needs to create a better economic, environmental and social situation in communities across the state.

Everyone is encouraged to let their voices be heard in the Callahan County Forum on April 1st. This is your opportunity to speak to the future.

Please call the Callahan County Extension office at (325) 854-1518 if you want to attend, to help us plan for facilities and supplies.

Sincerely,
Robert Pritz
County Extension Agent-Ag

Barb's Cues

By Barbara Holmes Worcester

Who Is Your Daddy

A seminary professor was vacationing with his wife in Gatlinburg, TN. One morning while eating breakfast at a little restaurant, they noticed a distinguished looking, white haired man moving among the tables visiting with the guests. After a while he came to their table.

"Where are you folks from and what do you do for a living?" he asked in a friendly voice. "Oklahoma," they answered. "I teach at a seminary," the professor replied.

"Well, I've got a really great story for you." And with that the gentleman pulled up a chair and sat down.

The man started his story. "See that mountain over there?" Not far from the base of that mountain there was a boy born to an unwed mother. He had a hard time growing up because every new place he went he was asked the same question. "Who is your daddy?" He avoided people because that question hurt him so much.

He went to church but he went in late and left early to avoid hearing the question, "Who is your daddy?" One day the new preacher said the benediction so fast he got caught and had to walk out with the crowd. Just about the time he got to

the back door, the new preacher, not knowing anything about him, said "Son, who is your daddy?" People got quiet and the new preacher sensed the situation and using the discernment that only the Holy Spirit could give, said the following to that embarrassed little boy... "Wait a minute!" he said, "I know who you are. I see the family resemblance now. You are a child of God." With that he patted the boy on the shoulder and said, "Boy, you've got a great inheritance. Go and claim it." The boy smiled and walked out the door a changed person.

Whenever anyone asked him, "Who is your daddy?" he'd just tell them, "I'm a Child of God."

As the man rose and turned to go he said, "You know, if that new preacher hadn't told me that I was one of God's children, I probably would have never amounted to anything."

The seminary professor asked the waitress, "Do you know who that man was?"

The waitress grinned and said, "Of course, everybody here knows him. That's Ben Hooper. He's the former governor of Tennessee!"

Someone in your life may need a reminder that they are one of God's children!

This story was sent to me over the Internet.

Dillard-Snow Announce Engagement May Wedding Planned

Donnie and Barbara Dillard of Cross Plains together with Floyd and Polly Snow of Eastland and T. Dale and Faye Smith of Abilene are pleased to announce the engagement of their children Lori Alyssa Dillard and Troy Keith Snow.

The bride elect is a 1994 graduate of Cross Plains High School and is employed by Edward Jones Investments. The prospective bridegroom is a 1986 graduate of Eastland High School and is employed by Link Field Services.

A May 7, 2004 wedding is planned at the Stasney's Cook Ranch in Albany.

Mary (Mazie) Smoot to Celebrate Her 90th Birthday This Saturday

The family of Mazie Smoot request the honor of your presence at her 90th year young celebration.

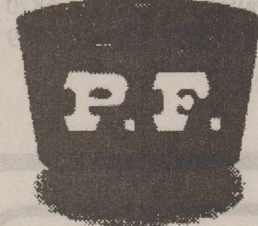
A reception will be held on Saturday, March 13, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Fellowship Barn at

Marine Corps League to Meet Thursday, March 11

The Pecan Valley Detachment of the Marine Corps League will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 11th, in the meeting room of Lemon's Bar-B-Q Restaurant, 3202 Coggin Avenue in Brownwood.

The election of officers at this meeting necessitates attendance by all members and prospective members. All charter members who have not personally signed the application for charter are requested to contact the Adjutant/Paymaster (Billy Murphy) for signing ASAP. Semper Fi!

For further information contact R.C. Ogg (325) 784-5618.




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"If you don't measure it - you can't manage it!"


BURKETT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Work Day
Scheduled For
Saturday, March 13
1:00 p.m.
at the
Fire House
(Across the street from Post Office in Burkett)


Anyone wishing to lend a hand, your time would be greatly appreciated.

March is Horse Vaccination Month!

10% Discount Off All Equine Vaccinations
(VEWT, Flu/Rhino, West Nile, Strangles, Rabies)
(Expires 3/31/2004)



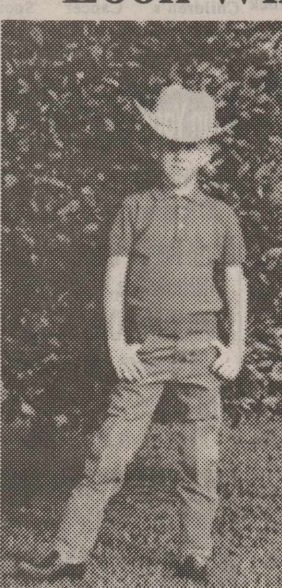

Dr. Curtis Creach, Jr., DVM
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Look Who's Turning

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James "Tootsie" Wilson



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Sunday 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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