

Rich in Agriculture
Abundant in Wildlife

Masthead Designed by Deborah Lowitzer

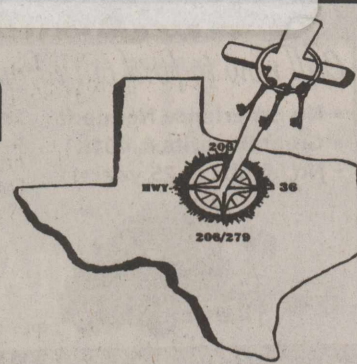
Cross Plains Review

"Cross Plains' Oldest Business Institution"

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SOUTHWEST COLLECTION
Texas Tech University
LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79409

THURSDAY, January 19, 2006



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

97TH YEAR

CROSS PLAINS, CALLAHAN COUNTY, TEXAS 76443

PRICE 50¢

NUMBER 44



CLEAN UP UNDERWAY

Firestorm Cuts Path Through City but Doesn't Sever the Community's Spirit

By Vanda Anderson
Editor

Cross Plains has a lot to be thankful for in the aftermath of the firestorm. With the downtown businesses and those on Highway 36 untouched, it has allowed that part of our world to continue as usual.

The school buildings were not harmed but the fire burned literally to the front door. The practice field was burned but the playground right beside it escaped damage. It was a blessing that the fire didn't happen on a regular school day or more lives might have been lost. Trying to evacuate all the children with very little warning would have been a nightmare.

The fact that it didn't occur at night or during freezing temperatures was another plus. At least the weather was tolerable for those who fought the fire.

The original fire seemed to start on West Highway 36 near Cowan Hutton's coastal field (across from Wayne Odom's house). It crossed Highway 36 and burned dangerously near Carol Meador's home (the Noah

Johnson's rent house). Then it raced down to East Caddo Peak narrowly missing Eugene Ford's house, then it took Ron and Connie Ricci's home. It burned around Benny Free's home and the Randy Bass house (formerly the Joe Oglesby place).

The flames went on down both sides of Highway 36 burning around homes and destroying Stan Painter's and Randy Walker's home in its path. When it arrived near the Treadway Park it burned Benny Free's shop and his farm equipment, destroyed Nicky Free's mobile home, the James Wells house, and Linda (Strickland) Butler's monument business. The Phillip Kitchen house was also burned to the ground, but Bob Wallace's home was still standing. It continued to burn around the Howard House and down to 36 West Motel were it was damaged on the south side. The house behind the motel, Karen Hamm's was destroyed but Village Market is fine.

It burned all around Living Water Ministries and down to the Cross Plains Cemetery destroying Loretta Bomar's, Jed Pointer's house and Linda Slaymaker's home (the former Estalee Potter

place). The Billy Bell Jr. property was destroyed. Randy Montgomery's shop was taken but his house remained untouched. Connie Potter's home and house near the baseball field were destroyed.

The fire that was headed north to the Cottonwood Community crossed over to FM 880 and burned up to Fred Tatom's house when the wind changed and brought the flames back to Cross Plains. The wall of fire moved across the pasture behind the late Zora Mae Bryant house burning up to the rock wall. The Methodist Church and the homes of James O. Koenig, Larry Hinten, Larry Crockett, the Methodist parsonage, Richard Chaffin, Alan Key, Maudie Shepard, Angel Morgan and the late Erma Trent were all completely gone.

It burned around the Andy Anderson house and took the Charlie Ross home. It burned behind Ed Duncan and Coleman Pillan's house destroying their lawn equipment, tractors, and storage, etc.. The huge wall of fire took the Charles Chesshir's, R.C. Merryman's house and Betty Montgomery's home and damag-

See Firestorm Page 8

President Bush Declares Callahan County Major Disaster Area January 11

AUSTIN, Texas - President George W. Bush has declared nine counties as major disaster areas in the State of Texas struck by wildfires.

The presidential declaration makes individual assistance available to affected individuals and businesses in the counties of Callahan, Cooke, Eastland, Erath, Hood, Montague, Palo Pinto, Tarrant and Wise. On January 11, 2006, President Bush named Sandra Coachman as the Federal Coordinating Officer for federal response and recovery operations in the affected area.

Individual Assistance is provided for losses incurred on or after Dec. 1, 2005. This assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the wildfires.

Individuals and business owners located in the nine counties and who sustained losses should register with FEMA by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired. Registrations also can be made online at <http://www.fema.gov>.

Let's Rebuild TOGETHER Higginbotham's is Here to Help

Higginbotham's will be presenting information to victims of the fires and the community of Cross Plains at a community meeting to be held at the Senior Citizens Center at 108 N. Main on January 26, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. A hamburger supper will be provided as well at 6:00 p.m. just prior to the meeting. All citizens are welcome.

Cross Plains Review Deadlines
Ads Noon on Tuesday
Articles Noon on Monday

Callahan County Livestock Show January 19, 20 & 21

The Annual Callahan County Jr. Livestock Show will be held in Cross Plains at the Callahan County Show Barn, Thursday, January 19th through Saturday, January 21st. Starting time will be Thursday, January 19, 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 years show are:

Beef Cattle- Eddie Riley and Johnny Lee
Market & Breeding Swine-TBA
Poultry & Rabbits- Doug Johnston and Larry McIntire
Sheep & Goats- Steven Mitchell and Angela Tibbetts

Judging of the rabbits and poultry will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 19th with Scott Anderson of Brownwood Extension office doing the judging. All participants must be checked in by 5:00 p.m. on the 19th.

Judging will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, January 20th, with the Breeding Swine Show followed by the Market Barrow Show. Don Edgar, AST from Early, will be judging the Swine Show.

At 1:30 p.m. on Friday, January 20th, Vance Christ, from Big Springs will start judging the Market Lambs followed by the Boer Goats and Meat Goat Show.

On the afternoon of the 20th from 3:00-5:00 p.m. all steers and heifers will be classified and weighed. Lee Standley, of Weatherford, will get the judging of the Beef Cattle underway at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday morning, January 21st with the heifer show. Mr. Standley 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.

Announcers for the three day show will be Dick Vestal, Greg Gerngross, Robert Frost, 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.

Christian Country Benefit Concert

A Christian Country BENEFIT CONCERT will be held Saturday, January 21, at 4:00 p.m. at the Taylor County Expo Center Display Building in Abilene. Proceeds from the event will aid the victims of fires in Cross Plains and surrounding areas.

Artists scheduled to perform are: Branded; Clay Jacobs; David Pendergraft; Dearl Hardy; Dub Shelton; Grace Country Trio; Jackie Cox; Jesus Posse Band; Justin Todd Herod; Leon Joplin; Mercy and Grace; Mike Hammock and Ricky Russ.

A Silent Auction will be held

with all proceeds going to the relief effort for local victims of recent fires that have affected neighbors and friends.

Chuckwagon cooking and refreshments will be available.

This concert is sponsored by a combined effort of churches, ministries and businesses from Abilene, Brownwood, Carbon, Cross Plains, Llano, Rising Star and surrounding areas.

Come and enjoy some great music and donate to a worthy cause. There is **No Admission Charge**, you may donate what you like at the door. There will be special offerings collected throughout concert.

Meek Blood Drive to be held Tuesday, January 24th

First Baptist Church will host a community blood drive on Tuesday, January 24. The Meek Blood Center bloodmobile will be at the church from 1:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

"The blood supply is often low in the winter months, especially in January. At this time, Meek Blood Center is in need of all types of blood, especially O positive," said Frances Baker, donor recruiter. "There are many patients whose health depends on donated blood. This includes cancer

patients undergoing chemotherapy treatment, premature babies, surgical patients, new mothers following childbirth, accident or trauma victims, and patients with blood disease," Baker continued.

Each donor will receive a long-sleeve black T-shirt and a free total cholesterol test. Cholesterol results are available three days after the blood drive. Those who have questions regarding blood donation may call Meek Blood Center at 325-670-2798.

Country Music Benefit Concert for Fire Victims

There will be a Country Music Benefit Concert for the fire victims at Cross Plains. Jamie Richards, Big Blue Hearts, Spur 503 and Daisy Jane Debut will be performing on Friday, January 27th, at 6:00 p.m. at the Cross Plains Rodeo Grounds. The cost will only be \$5.00 at the door, and there is a \$5.00 cooler charge. All

proceeds will go to the Fire Victims Fund.

The Sponsor's for this event are: Canada & Associates; OSHA Training, Cross Plains Roping Club, Galbreath Law Firm, HinesEyeT Productions, Red's Satellite Service, Ringo Drilling and Whitten Inn.

Praying and Fasting for HEALING RAIN

There is a corporate FAST and PRAYER being called in Cross Plains and the surrounding area. The purpose of this fast is to seek God, repent and ask for His healing rain to come to this city and region. People from all denominations, churches, affiliations and walks of life are participating in this time of unity in His Spirit, **as we lay down our wills and ask for His.**

Fasting is Biblical and used to be a normal part of Christian lifestyles. When Jesus spoke about fasting, he didn't say if you fast, but "when you fast" (Matthew 6:16). Our Lord assumes that Christians will fast. But fasting has been out of vogue in the twentieth century church, and the idea seems alien to us.

God's Word assumes that fasting will be a regular part of a Christian's life. (Matt. 9:14, 17:21) yet for most of us, it's not.

You may be wondering, "what is fasting and why would we want to do it?" Different people fast in different ways. Some may choose to give up all food, drinking only water for a period of time. Others will combine water and juice, or add vegetables. Still others may give up meat, bread and sweets. Others may skip a certain meal or two during the day, or fast one day a week, etc.

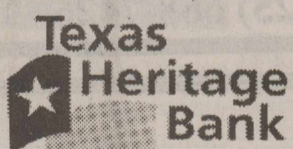
Most of our bodies have never gone without food for longer than a few hours and because of this, you may experience slight headaches, weakness, or

irritability if you go into a full fast. These reactions usually last a day or so. Always drink plenty of water when fasting. It will help to keep your body working properly as it adjusts to a new way of functioning.

And by all means, don't condemn yourself if you "slip-up". Fasting, just like everything else we learn in our walk with God is under His grace. He is teaching us how. God looks at our hearts, and knows our intent. Just return to the fast and start over.

If one's health is at risk by giving up food, they might decide to give up television or some other pleasurable activity for a certain length of time. The

See Praying Page 8



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"What's Inside"

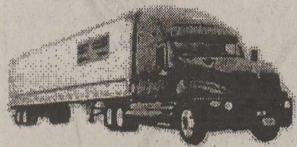
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First United Methodist Church

Will Be Meeting At The Presbyterian Church On Avenue D and 2nd Street Starting At 10:45 a.m. Beginning Sunday, January 8th

Jim Senkel, Pastor

325-280-8480(Cell)

fumc_cp@valornet.com www.gbgm-umc.org/crossplains

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Sun. 6:30p.m. Worship & Word***Wed. 7:00p.m. Bible Study "An Apostolic Church"

PASTOR, Phillip R. Schaefer (254) 725-7140

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

OBITUARIES

WILLIE T. PHILLIPS

Willie T. Phillips, age 95, passed away on Sunday, January 15, 2006 at the Rising Star Nursing Center. Graveside services were held at 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 17, 2006 at the Smith Cemetery in Brown County, Texas with grandson Randy Phillips officiating.

She was born August 24, 1910 to Walter Scott and Lela Byrd Pucell in Brown County, Texas. She went as far in school as she could, then helped teach for three years. Willie married Tennie George Phillips on December 27, 1928 in Burkett where they made their home. She remained at the home place where she continued to mow her own yard and take care of things until a few months ago when she had to go into the nursing center. She was a wife, homemaker, grandma and friend to all who know her. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Grovesvener.

Willie was preceded in death by her parents, husband Tennie, a brother Orbin Purcell and two grandchildren.

She is survived by her daughters, Ella Faye Merrill of Cross Plains, Jean Johnson and husband Randy of Palmer; sons Dwayne Phillips and Nina of the home place, Glenn Phillips and wife Sheron of Purdon; brother, Fred Purcell and wife Lorene of Burkett; 9 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; and 8 great-great-grandchildren.

Donations may be made to the Smith Cemetery Association.

Granvel Leo Pierce

Granvel Leo Pierce died January 11, 2006 at Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas after a short illness.

Granvel was born August 8, 1920 in the community of Cross Plains. His parents were Joe Pierce and Addie Westerman Pierce. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Nola Van Gibson Pierce and daughter, Jan Pierce, both of Dallas. He is survived by siblings Doke Pierce of Big Springs, Adell Blakely of Clyde and Frances Galloway of Abilene and numerous nieces and nephews. Also, special friends Fred and Terry McMinn of Odessa and their son Tom McMinn. His brothers J.C. Pierce and Stanley Pierce preceded him in death.

Granvel attended Plainview and Cross Plains public schools where he was active in sports at Cross Plains as an outstanding quarterback. He graduated from Cross Plains High School in 1939. Granvel served with the 8th Air Force, 34th Bomb Group during WWII and was stationed at Mendlesham Air Force Base in England and was there on "D" Day. Upon his return to Texas he entered Hardin-Simmons University and graduated with a BBA in August 1949. He received his job at Humble Oil the day he graduated, spending 34 years with Exxon (now ExxonMobil). He retired October 1, 1983.

Granvel participated in the Abilene Chamber of Commerce and helped organize the West Abilene Kiwanis Club. He was a member of the SFDA and officiated high school football games for 13 years in the Big Country.

He was active in Methodist Churches in Abilene. He was an active member of the North Texas Exxon Annuitants Club. He organized the Cross Plains '39ers. His high school classmates celebrated reunions from 1972 to the present.

He and his wife upgraded and maintained a second home in Baird until 2004. He and Nola Van pursued genealogy as their hobby.

Services were Saturday at the First United Methodist Church in Baird. Burial followed in the Ross Cemetery under the direction of Parker Funeral Home. Chaplain (Lt. Colonel, retired) Wallace J. Bennett and the Rev. Sandra Keith officiated.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the Cross Plains Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 185, Cross Plains, Texas 76443 or the Baird Volunteer Fire Department, 328 Market St., Baird, Texas 79504 or to the charity of your choice.

MARY LOUISE CHAMBERS

Mary Louise Chambers, 73, of Rainbow, Texas died Saturday, January 14, 2006 in Rainbow. Funeral services were held at 2:00 p.m., Monday, January 16, 2006 at Higginbotham Funeral Home Chapel with Dick Williams officiating. Burial was followed in Rising Star Cemetery in Rising Star, Texas with Higginbotham Funeral Home of Rising Star in charge.

Mary was born on December 19, 1932 in Munday, Texas. She was raised in Cross Plains. She married Dewey Hughes Chambers on November 25, 1947 and moved to Rising Star. She resided in Rising Star until the middle 1990's. She was a Baptist and a very Christian lady.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Dewey H. Chambers; mother, Alma Lee Mattocks; father, Merion Tate.

Mary is survived by four daughters, Terry and her husband, Dennis Hampton of Waco, Mickie and her husband, Gary Chambers of Stephenville, Susie and her husband, David of Rising Star, Debbie and her husband, J.D. Roberson of Rainbow; two sisters, Lavern Woods of Comanche and Donna Jones of Troy, TX; two brothers, Gene Tate of San Bernardino, CA and Mike Tate of Fresno, CA; 8 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and many close family and friends.

Big Lake Men's Slowpitch Softball Tourney

Big Lake Men's Slowpitch Softball Tournament is set for Saturday, February 11, at Big Lake.

Entry fee is \$125.00 and the deadline to enter is February 8th at 9:00 p.m. with entries limited to the first 20 teams.

Contact Brandt at (325) 450-021 or (325) 884-3626.

"Always Patsy Cline" Plays at the Paramount Theatre Jan. 28 in Abilene

ABILENE - The Historic Abilene Paramount Theatre transforms into the Grand Ole Opry as Patsy Cline takes stage. The Albany Main Street Playhouse presents "Always...Patsy Cline" at the Abilene Paramount Theatre Saturday, January 28, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. Proceeds benefit Cancer Services Network.

This toe-tapping musical is a song-filled evening of beautiful ballads, honky-tonk numbers and an awe inspiring insight at the life of country music's most adored singer. It is an intimate look at the woman behind the legend. The show features a live band and more than 20 songs, including *I Fall to Pieces*, *Crazy* and *Sweet Dreams*.

This troupe has sold out five times in Albany and will be performing in Bass Performance Hall in 2006. This is a must-see show! Tickets available now until Jan. 13 at Cancer Services Network office and from Jan. 16 - Jan. 27 at the Paramount from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. Tickets are \$40 (includes post-event reception), \$25 and \$15. For more information call (325) 672-0040.

Cancer Services Network is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that provides emotional and financial support to underserved cancer patients and their families in a 19-county area of West Central Texas, including: Brown, Callahan, Coleman, Comanche, Eastland, Fisher, Haskell, Jones, Kent, Knox, Mitchell, Nolan, Runnels, Scurry, Shackelford, Stephens, Stonewall, Taylor and Throckmorton.

COURTHOUSE NEWS

**COUNTY COURT
Roger Corn, Presiding**

Misdemeanor Filings

Tijana Brown, theft by check.
Jimmy Cork, theft by check.
Linda Cork, theft by check.
Amy Shiree Cox, theft by check.
Delphine Godbolt, theft by check.
William L. Johnson, Jr., theft by check.
Jimmy L. Hare, Jr., Ct. I - harassment, Ct. II - violation of protective order.
Jedidiah T. Womack, failure to keep deer in edible condition.
James H. Hutchinson, interference with emergency telephone call.
Bryson D. Cannon, reckless driving.
Robert D. Stroope, theft.
Kevin T. Kohler, Jr., driving while intoxicated (DWI).
Freddy D. Austin, DWI.
Matthew D. Ramirez, DWI.
Delbert D. Davis, assault.
Duane T. Clark, assault.
Roger D. Lindsey, driving while license invalid (DWLI).
Freddie P. Bustos, DWLI.
Shaun M. Reutter, DWLI.
Kassie N. Barton, possession of marijuana.
Marshall L. M'Shan, Ct. I - DWI, Ct. II - possession of marijuana.
Salomon Robles, Jr., possession of marijuana.
Brandon A. Soto, possession of marijuana.
Todd R. Hendrixson, possession of marijuana.
Stacey A. Bradshaw, attempted theft.

Misdemeanor Minutes

Gregory D. Holland, plea of guilty to public intoxication, \$117.75 fine, \$242.25 court costs.
Clayton R. Warren, motion to dismiss granted, sentenced to prison on other case.
Robert Stewart, order amending conditions of probation granted.
Kenneth Williams Shults, motion and affidavit of surety for warrant granted.
Pamela J. Hicks, plea of guilty to theft by check, \$50 fine, \$220 court costs, \$107.26 restitution.
Bradley J. Goosen, plea of guilty to no driver's license, \$200 fine, \$215 court costs.
Dusty Cooper, plea of guilty to Ct. II - harassment, waive Ct. I - terroristic threat, 18 month probation, \$500 fine, \$301 court costs.
Scott Haines, plea of guilty to possession of marijuana, 1 year probation, \$700 fine, \$256 court costs.

costs.
Scott Haines, transfer request from Taylor Co. to Ellis Co. granted.

Michelle Derrick, plea of guilty to theft by check, 2 year probation, \$400 fine, \$297 court costs, \$1790.45 restitution.

Jason Carvajal, plea of guilty to possession of marijuana, 1 year probation, \$700 fine, \$256 court costs.

Jason Carvajal, transfer request from Taylor Co. to Ellis Co. granted.

Tyran Lange, plea of guilty to DWI - 1st, 18 month probation, \$400 fine, \$356 court costs.

Tyran Lange, transfer request from Callahan Co. to Dallas Co. granted.

Buster Carl McRae, plea of guilty to possession of marijuana, 15 month probation, \$700 fine, \$301 court costs.

Shannon Tollett, motion to revoke probation granted.

Veronica Mendez, motion to dismiss motion to revoke probation granted.

Augustine Leal, motion to dismiss motion to revoke probation granted.

Raymond Dee Stovall, affidavit of surety to surrender principal granted.

Jacob Boyd Neves, motion to withdraw as surety granted.

Bobby Lynn Pence, motion to withdraw as surety granted.

Hugo Mauricio, order for early termination of probation granted.

Marriage Licenses

Troy D. Jones and Amanda J. Sanders, both of Eastland.

**42nd DISTRICT COURT
John Weeks, presiding**

Civil Filings

Carmel Financial Corporation vs. Jimmy D. Echols and Tyene L. Echols, default on account.

Robert Allen Stalnaker and Pamela Latain Stalnaker, divorce.

Denise Ancell and Britt Ancell, divorce.

Mary D. Myers vs. Thrifty's, Inc. and Nick Saab, damages.

Civil Minutes

Christy Allen McDonald and Jason Andrew McDonald, divorce granted.

Billy Dan Williams, Jr. and Margaret Lou Williams, divorce granted.

Herta M. Howard and Don V. Howard, divorce granted.

Bobby Don Jones and Renee Ann Jones, divorce granted.

Credigy Receivables Incorporated vs. Jessie C. Aguirre, notice of nonsuit without prejudice granted.

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Eugene Bell (325) 668-7426

First Baptist Church

SUNDAY

9:45 am Bible Study
11 am & 6 pm Worship

Wednesday

6:30 pm Prayer/Worship

Ronnie B. White, Pastor

(254) 725-7629

3rd & Main, Cross Plains, TX 76443

COTTONWOOD NEWS

By Wallace Bennett

I cannot believe that I misquoted the date of the Fire Control Meeting. It is this week instead of last Thursday night as I said it would be. But I hope to see you at that meeting tonight (Thursday). I could not have made it last week anyway, because I had a Building Committee meeting for our new United Methodist Church in Cross Plains. We are meeting regularly for both the church and the parsonage that were burned and destroyed.

Speaking of the fire, the City of Cross Plains is moving right along in cleaning up the debris. The city really looks vacant now. Driving down any street in Cross Plains, one is not out of sight of the damage and destruction of the fire. I hope we can keep in mind the destruction and devastation this city endured and never forget the loss of two lives and the loss of property the fire brought.

Hopefully, it will turn out to be a blessing in disguise. But, I am very sorry for the people closely impacted and affected by the experience.

NO RAIN IN SIGHT

R.T. Peevy says it has not rained since October 1st at his house. That prompted me to go look at my rain gauge. It was broken! So, I believed R.T. No! only is my rain gauge broken, but it looks like it hasn't rained in many months. Even the prickly-pears and cacti and mesquites are wilting.

It reminds me of the dust-bowl days of 1932. I sat on the edge of Bankhead Highway in my Father's filling station in Baird and watched the exodus from Oklahoma and Arkansas as California pass by. I did not realize of course what was happening, that later would impact the whole country.

HATS OFF TO MORE OF COTTONWOOD'S PEOPLE

The Cottonwood Volunteer Fire Control Group want to acknowledge WILLIE NICKERSON III for his quick action in putting out the fire near and under our tanker truck, and then drove it out of danger to safety during the firestorm.

TIM and DENISE COULTER drove through burning embers of fire to open their SUBWAY store and make 300 sandwiches to feed the firefighters who came the first night to fight the fire. They came from every surrounding town and village to help out. (Send personal items, notes, notice of happenings and events to the editor of this column, Wallace Bennett: Box 11093, CR 440, Cross Plains, Texas, 77644, [Telephone 254-725-7474], [Cell phone 917-229-4044] or e-mail csb5@airmail.net)

RISING STAR NURSING CENTER NEWS

By Linda Merritt

Employee of the month is Lori Osborn. She was born on May 12, 1964 in Gowanda, New York. She moved to Texas in 1983. Lori married Jim Osborn and they have two children, Josh (11) and Sara (9). Lori was inspired by her mother to go into nursing. She has been an LVN since her move to Texas. Lori has been employed here at this Nursing Center for two years as the Assist DON. She is an art major and enjoys painting model horses. Lori raises horses and pure-bred dogs.



LORI OSBORN

We all enjoyed some fine toe-tapping music at the residents birthday party. Band members were: E.J. Browning, Clifford Green, John Brock, Bill Byrum, Woody Allen, Jerry Walker

and Terri Mize. Resident with a birthday was Rudy Murdoch. Employees with a January birthday were: Don Pawloski, Kendra McGinn, Mary Nixon and Cassis Sanders.

A warm welcome to our new

resident Andrew Griffin. Appreciation to Rhonda and Richard Troxell for the very nice stereo system that they gave the residents.

Thoughts and prayers for Rudy Murdoch who is in the hospital.

Mary Nixon who has been working here with us during the Holidays will return to LVN school in Ranger to finish her course. We are proud to announce that upon her graduation she plans to return here to work. Go get 'em Mandy.

The distance between success and failure can only be measured by one's desire.

THINK RAIN !!!

PIONEER NEWS

The ladies are back working this new year. Jean Alexander has had her top in since before the holidays. Christy Dallas has her top in. We try to keep three in the frame. It was good to see everybody after the long holiday. We did have a wonderful holiday party at Frankie Smith's house. All our members except Lessie were there. We all had a wonderful time. Thanks, Frankie!

The members of our club are very mindful of the loss the people of Cross Plains have suffered because of the fire. Our prayers are with you all.

Those at the Chessir farm have been in a turmoil as everyone in Cross Plains has been since the fires. They had a beautiful wedding the week before the fire. Melanie and Andrew were so beautiful and handsome and

so many of their family came. Charlene's niece from Arizona and her daughter, and her niece from Amarillo and one of her daughters, also from Amarillo. They all helped Christy Dallas and Nancy Rogers with the reception. Of course, Charlene's sister and her husband came from Abilene.

Charles and family didn't stay very many nights at Charlene's after the fire. The telephone never stopped ringing for a week. But they are doing fine and have a nice place to stay while rebuilding. They have their old telephone number and same address.

Frankie Smith and Jean Fore are still on the go! They traveled to Carbon the 5th of January to the musical. A great time was had by all. Monday the 9th of January they attended the Cross Timbers

associational meeting. A great crowd, a good singing, delicious supper and lots of wonderful preaching was enjoying by all. Frankie had her daughter visit her during the holidays. She loves for them to come.

Jean Fore had her nephew and niece Grasson and Myrtle Harlow visit for a few days. Vi Harlow of Cross Plains also spent time with them.

Logan Phillips helped his grandmother, Glenda, pick up some pine cones. Logan you should really be good at this! They picked up a big trash can full. Glenda says Logan has them in his red wagon and then they put them in a bag. He likes doing things the hard way! Glenda has been going to Krista's basketball games. They went to Eula Tuesday, so Glenda left quilting early. Krista played against one of her cousins.

Cowan and Laverne Hutton's granddaughters, Melissa Hutton from Georgian, spent some of the holidays with them. The Huttons had about 30 members of their family gather at their home on Thursday after Christmas.

James and Jean Alexander spent a few days with their children, Jim, Marla, Jack, Will, Ashley and Doss, in Richardson. Jack and Will came to the Alexander farm a couple times during the holidays.

Our whole state is in need of a good soaking rain. Let's all pray that it will come some.

Word of Wisdom: The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. Psalm 24:1.

LIBRARY NOTES

Behind the Books

And I thought this was going to be a rather slow time and that I could move into my three naps a day routine.

NOT!!! Since our building was untouched by the fire and all services are available, we've had a number of people coming in to use our computers to access all kinds of information necessary to start rebuilding their lives.

If you need to learn how to get on-line to check on anything, please come by any afternoon—our library staff is ready to help you.

Please check out the full article elsewhere in this edition about our generous forgiving nature regarding lost and overdue books as well as free replacement books. We are able to provide all of these services, thanks to your generous and on-going support of our library.

Statistics

January 9-13, 2006	
Books:	79
Internet Users:	15
Ill	0
Memorials:	
Mr. and Mrs. John T. Adams	
In Memory of Matie Faye Wilson	
Donations:	
Charles and Lou Rodenberger	
Ann Beeler	
Judy Porter	
Library Activity	
Patrons:	70
Lap	12
Lapsit	4
Other	54
Programs:	44
Copies:	3
Reference:	1
get 'em Mandy	2
Calls In:	79
Books Checked In/Out	47
LAP	14
Lapsit	18
Other	

3-Cross Plains Review January 19, 2006

QUIPS, CLIPS AND COMMENTS

By Kay Mosley

NOTE: Good morning Apple Orchard Annie. I tend to think about how much good came out of one man's long ago trek throughout America spreading his small treasures as he walked. He was a fellow by the name of Johnny Appleseed. This thought occurred to me, is there a possibility, per chance that he could be your cousin? You both share the Apple name?

"Mama Said Rhymes and Daddy Read Books"

My mother, Iris Meador Dennis, told us little ditty's or rhymes to get our attention, as well as get her point across. It left a lasting and meaningful impression on our young, developing minds.

One which she set 'great store in' is as follows:

Things that you do,
Do with your might;
'Cause things done by halves,
Aren't ever done right.

We were not ever happy to hear that one, because it meant that we had just halfway done whatever chore we had been responsible for. This faux pas' meant we were fixing to hear yet another axiom from mama. Since you didn't do it right, Mama would say, "You have to like the calf all over again. After several times of this double duty, we pretty much figured out to get it done correctly first time and avoid having to do it over again.

Another one that comes to mind is, "Pretty is, as pretty does." Her point was if you act nice and

lovely, then you'll look nice and lovely.

Mama even had one to help me with my multiplication tables, well, actually she had two but I only remember this one. "Up the ladder and down the tree; seven times nine is sixty-three (7 X 9=63).

Our parents like for us to learn. I remember mama had me memorize the Lord's Prayer before I had even started school. On week nights my Dad would read aloud to us from books. He would read several chapters each night until it ended.

I remember he read us "Rebecca of Sunny Brook Farm" then there was a series of books about a nurse named Cherry. There were also "The Nancy Drew Mysteries", "Alice in Wonderland", "The Hardy Boys" and several more which I can't recollect.

The one I enjoyed the most was "Heidi". It was about little girl who was sent to live in the mountains with her old grandfather, who was a hermit. She had never seen nor heard of him before. He raised goats. A boy named Peter is his goat herder and he lives with his grandmother 2 or so miles away.

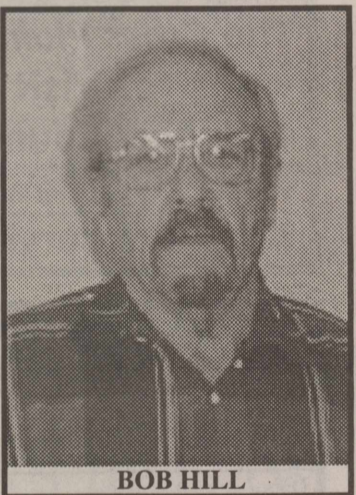
Heidi and her grandfather subsist on goat cheese, goat milk and loaves of bread made by Peter's grandmother.

I think living in a world of books is both a lot of fun, enlightening and a great learning experience.

Thank God for wonderful parents!

Bob Hill seeking the Republican Nomination for Justice of the Peace

Hello, my name is Bob Hill, and I am a Republican Candidate for election to the office of Justice of the Peace, Precinct 4. For those of you who do not know me, I have been the Cross Plains Municipal Court Judge since 1991, and Municipal Court Judge for Rising Star since 2002, with a total of 18 years experience. During this time, I have accumulated 208 hours of Judicial Training from the Texas Municipal Court Association. Prior to this, I was appointed by the Callahan County Commissioners Court to fill the remaining unexpired term of Howard Hicks, Constable.



BOB HILL

Therefore, I feel qualified to fill the office of Justice of the Peace, Precinct 4, and I promise to continue to uphold the prestige of this office with honor.

I have lived in Callahan County for 25 years with my wife, Sharyn, and our two sons, Landon and Deron, who both graduated from Cross Plains High School. During that time I was active in Little League Baseball, Pee

Wee Basketball, and served as President of the Cross Plains Booster Club.

We attend Pioneer Baptist Church where I have taught Sunday School for several years.

I would greatly appreciate your vote for Justice of the Peace, Precinct 4, in the upcoming Primary.

Political Ad Paid by Bob Hill,
Sharyn Hill, Treasurer
P.O. Box 542,
Cross Plains, TX 76443

BREAKTHRU

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



Everyone is invited to a

SPECIAL SERIES OF SERMONS SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

“WHAT IN GOD’S NAME IS GOING ON?!”

9:45 a.m. — “What is God Doing?”

10:45 a.m. — “Why do You Care About People?”

2:00 p.m. — “Let Me Tell You About Another Survivor”

There will be a noon meal at the Activity Center (617 Hwy. 36 E.), followed by the 2:00 p.m. assembly at that location. Speaker for all three lessons/sermons will be Steve Ridgell, Herald of Truth Ministries.

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

SENIOR CITIZENS MENU

JANUARY 23 - 27
MONDAY - Smothered Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Brussel Sprouts, Peaches, Bread
TUESDAY - Baked Potato, Ham & Cheese, Cauliflower, Carrots, Cake, Bread
WEDNESDAY - Pork Chops w/Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Tapioca Pudding, Bread
THURSDAY - Chicken & Dumplings, Broccoli, Buttered Corn, Gelatin, Bread
FRIDAY - Ham Sandwich, Lettuce & Tomatoes, Tomato Soup, Pears, Cookie
2nd & 4th Tue., Domino Night (42/84) Begins at 5:00 p.m.

Cross Plains Review Deadlines
Ads Noon on Tuesday
Articles Noon on Monday

To get your name on the Birthday Column, send 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 reasons send name and birth date (Month and Day) or Call 254-725-6111

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Do You Need Your Yards Cleaned Up?

The 8th grade Skills for Living class is performing their Service Action Learning Projects. The group consisting of Amelia Aranda, Colton Gallaway, Jessica Hall, Cierra Odom and Cody Stephenson have selected to rake leaves. This group of students are offering to rake, bag and dispose of leaves from the yards of those in the community who are disabled or elderly.

If you are interested in having these students rake your yard or know of someone who could use their services please call the school at 725-6121 and leave a message and they will contact you with a scheduled time.

For more information or the schedule contact Mrs. Wootton at the school at 725-6121.

Submitted by:
Amelia Aranda, Colton Gallaway,
Jessica Hall, Cierra Odom,
Cody Stephenson

January named School Board Recognition Month

Governor Rick Perry has proclaimed January as School Board Recognition Month and Cross Plains ISD is joining other districts across the state to gratefully acknowledge local trustees' unflinching commitment to our communities and schools.

"Serving on a local school board is no easy task, especially in today's climate of change and economic uncertainties. It's a huge responsibility, one which has an effect on virtually every aspect of our schools. In January, we encourage our community to help honor the contributions and dedication of our local school board members. These locally elected citizens, who work without pay, make decisions that influence and direct the education of our youth," said Jackie Tennison, Superintendent.

"Our board is one of 1,039 district and county school boards across the state. These boards enable us to have local control of our public schools, meaning that decisions are made by local leaders who understand the community's unique culture, values, and challenges," said Jackie Tennison.

"Take a moment to thank our local school board members for making the time to share their vision and voice about the future of our children. We proudly salute these education advocates as they provide leadership for student achievement, academic programs, district funding, and school facilities," he said.

The men and women serving Cross Plains are Jim Cook, President, Reggie Pillans, Vice-President, Susan Schaefer, Secretary, Vicki Dillard, Assistant Secretary, and other member Burlie Taylor, Frankie Hyles and Scott Childress.

Headstart now accepting applications for ages 3 & 4

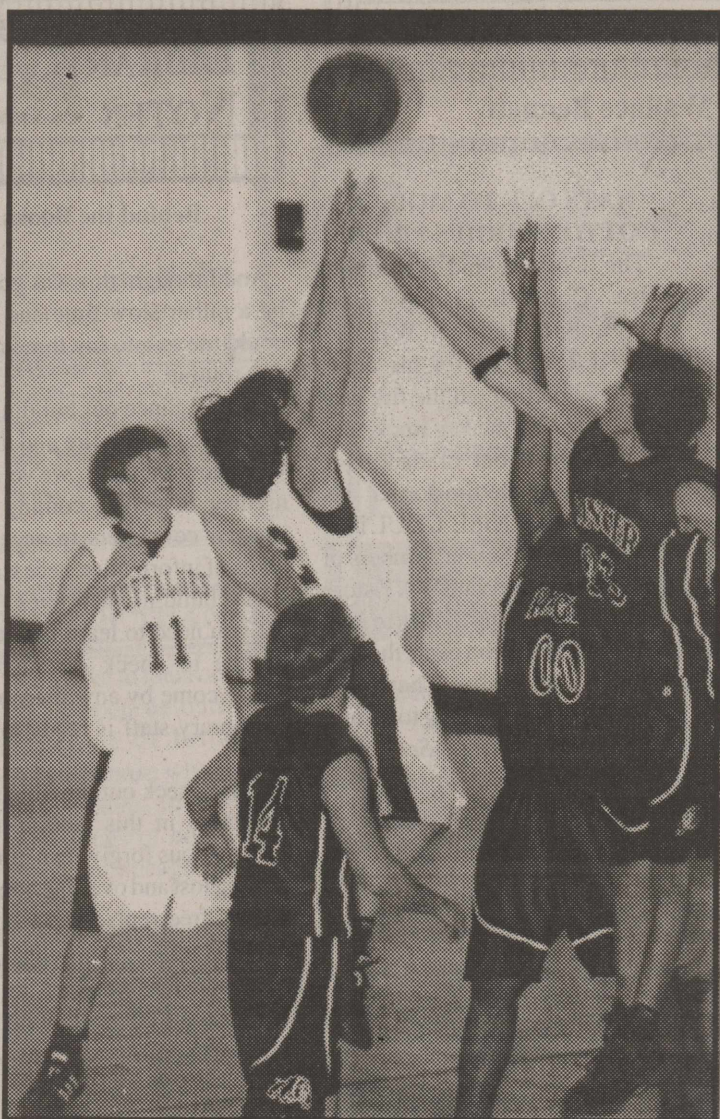
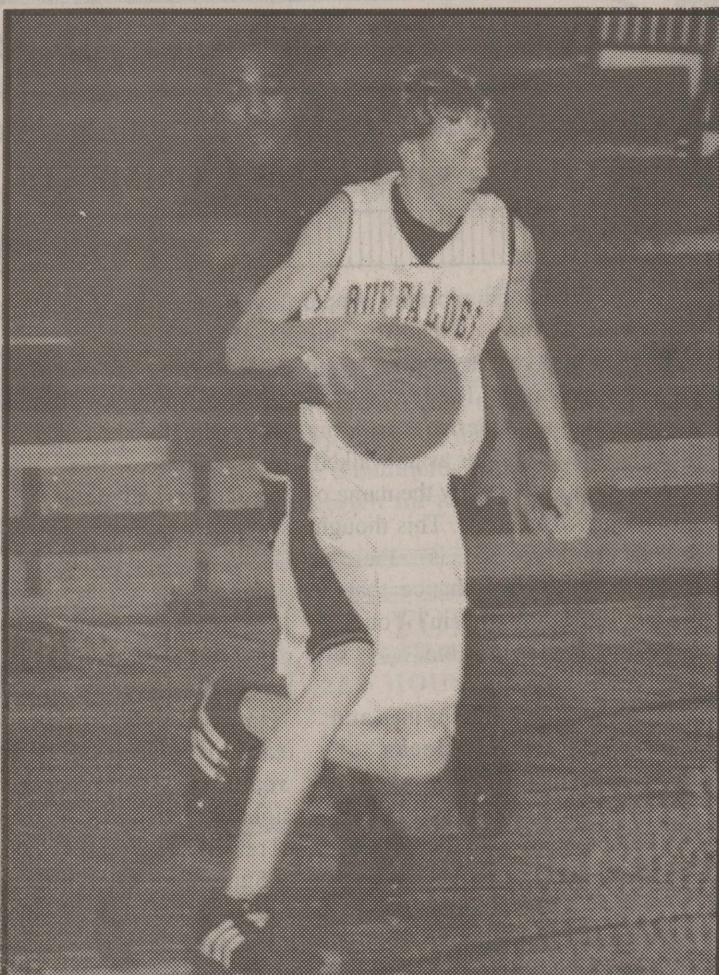
A free child development preschool program is available to qualifying families through Central Texas Opportunities, Inc. Head Start.

Limited space is available for children three and four years old to help them make the transition to elementary school. Eligible children receive individualized teaching and a variety of educational activities through Creative Curriculum. These stimulate mental, emotional, physical and social growth.

"Central Texas Opportunities, Inc. is a viable and substantial resource for Coleman, Brown, Callahan, Eastland, Comanche, McCulloch and Runnels County. We help low income families and individuals by providing them with resources, like the Head Start program, to make the transition to self-sufficiency," said Executive Director, Merridee McClatchy.

Central Texas Opportunities, Inc. Head Start provides children with medical, dental, speech, hearing and disability services. They also receive meals, snacks, outdoor and indoor play.

Hurry and make an appointment for application. Call or visit your local Head Start office. Se Habla Espanol. Servicios completos para todos los niños y sus familias, incluyendo los niños con discapacidades. Necesita registrar ahora.



Bufs Scape by Ranger, 40-33

by Coach Wyatt

The Cross Plains Varsity Bufs played Ranger on Friday night. The Bufs played a hard game and really stepped up the defense to force Ranger into bad shots. Cross Plains went into half time with a 1 point lead. They pushed the lead to 5 going into the 4th quarter. The Bufs hit several key free throws down the stretch to pull out the victory over Ranger.

Cross Plains 7 9 8 16 = 40
Ranger 13 2 4 12 = 33
Scoring for the Bufs were:
Golson-9, Koenig-8, Watkins-7,

Dillard-6, Estes-5, Dickson-3, Callaway-2.
Three's: Golson-1, Watkins-1 and Dickson-1.

J.V. Boys Win Against Ranger

On January 13th the Cross Plains JV boys played the Ranger Bulldogs. The first quarter the Bufs were not able to get much going only scoring 6 points. The second quarter the Bufs started rolling and would never look back.

They played great defence that proved to be much for Ranger to handle. At the end of the first half the score was Bufs 19 Bulldogs 11. In the third quarter the Bufs proved once again that they were going to win the game on defense. At the end of the third quarter the score was Bufs 21 Bulldogs 13.

In the fourth quarter the Bufs come out ready to put the Bulldogs away. The defense was better than ever and led to easy baskets on the other end.

At the end of the game the score was Bufs 31 Bulldogs 13. Scoring for the Bufs was: Vasquez-10, Yates-7, Holland-4, Maxwell-2, and Gibbs-8.

Submitted by
Coach Brandon McDowell

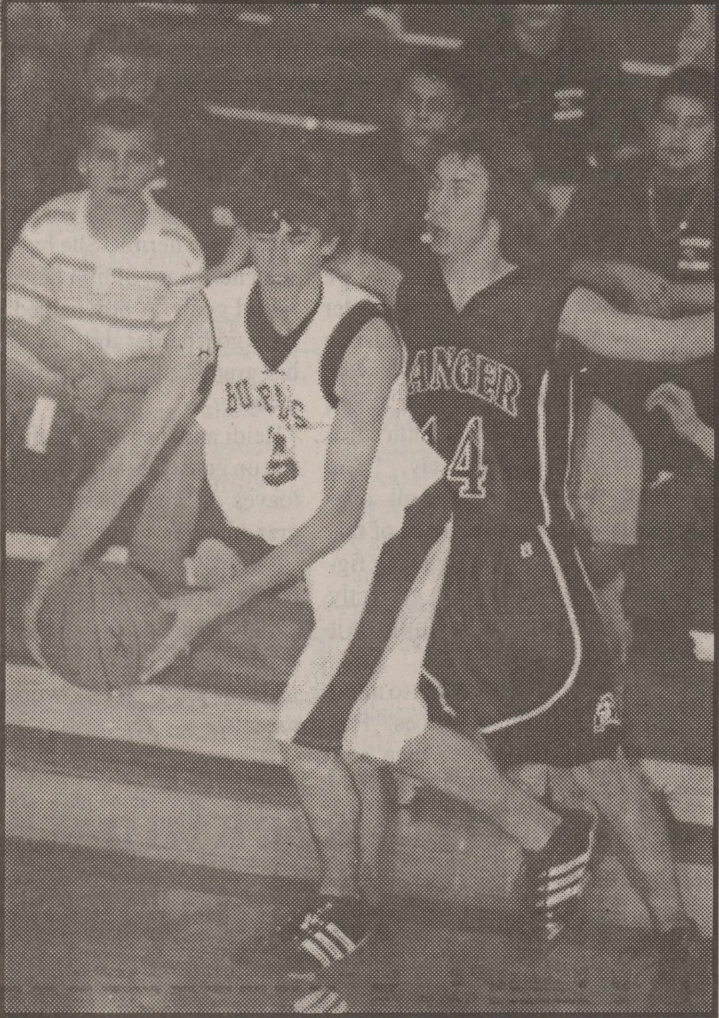
J.V. Girls Beat Ranger

The Cross Plains Junior Varsity girls beat Ranger by a score of 33-20.

The girls played well both offensively and defensively.

Scoring for the Lady Bufs: Ashley Rose-9, Betty Mathews-9, Ashleigh Gallaway-9, Starla Schaefer-4, Terrah Augustine-2.

Submitted by
Coach Hagler



The Cross Plains Review now has a website. Visit us and our other Callahan County Newspapers at www.clydenewspaper.com to see the great services we offer!

CROSS PLAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2005

Data Control Codes	10 General Fund	50 Debt Service Fund	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:				
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 1,114,399	\$ 49,508	\$ 36,464	\$ 1,200,371
5800 State Program Revenues	1,756,802	49,221	47,401	1,853,424
5900 Federal Program Revenues	-	-	294,839	294,839
5020 Total Revenues	2,871,201	98,729	378,704	3,348,634
EXPENDITURE:				
Current:				
0011 Instruction	1,649,644	-	235,681	1,885,325
0012 Instructional Resources & Media Services	18,654	-	-	18,654
0013 Curriculum & Instructional Staff Development	6,748	-	-	6,748
0023 School Leadership	169,230	-	1,000	170,230
0031 Guidance, Counseling & Evaluation Services	34,049	-	7,719	41,768
0033 Health Services	175	-	-	175
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	123,203	-	2,357	125,560
0035 Food Services	9,101	-	135,606	144,707
0036 Cocurricular/Extracurricular Activities	142,627	-	565	143,192
0041 General Administration	201,267	-	500	201,767
0051 Plant Maintenance and Operations	310,571	-	2,500	313,071
0053 Data Processing Services	36,223	-	-	36,223
Debt Service:				
0071 Debt Service - Principal on long-term debt	-	765,000	-	765,000
0072 Debt Service - Interest on long-term debt	-	36,778	-	36,778
0073 Debt Service - Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	-	15,450	-	15,450
Capital Outlay:				
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	5,250	-	-	5,250
Intergovernmental:				
0093 Payments to Fiscal Agent/Member Districts of SSA	37,174	-	-	37,174
6030 Total Expenditures	2,743,916	817,228	385,928	3,947,072
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	127,285	(718,499)	(7,224)	(598,438)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):				
7901 Refunding Bonds Issued	-	715,000	-	715,000
7915 Transfers In	-	-	7,224	7,224
7916 Premium or Discount on Issuance of Bonds	-	16,652	-	16,652
8911 Transfers Out (Use)	(7,224)	-	-	(7,224)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(7,224)	731,652	7,224	731,652
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	120,061	13,153	-	133,214
0100 Fund Balance - September 1 (Beginning)	864,902	6,244	-	871,146
3000 Fund Balance - August 31 (Ending)	\$ 984,963	\$ 19,397	\$ -	\$ 1,004,360

SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

JANUARY 23- 27

BREAKFAST

MONDAY - Egg, Biscuit, Assorted Juice

TUESDAY - Breakfast on a Stick, Assorted Juice

WEDNESDAY - Sausage-N-Blanket, Assorted Juice

THURSDAY - Hot or Cold Cereal, Toast, Assorted Juice

FRIDAY - Donut, Yogurt, Assorted Juice

LUNCH

MONDAY- Burrito w/Chili & Cheese, Crackers, Salad, Apricots

TUESDAY - Oven Fried Chicken, Scalloped Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls, Honey

WEDNESDAY- Tacos, Salad, Corn, Brownies

THURSDAY-Lasagna or Corn Dog, Broccoli, Bread Stick, Peaches

FRIDAY-Beef or Chicken Patty on Bun, Lettuce, Tomato, Pickles, Fries, Cookie

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JANUARY 21

Theresa Dore
Kery Campbell Clay
Carl Stout
Media Campbell Roberts
Mrs. Don Brown
Wanda Roe
Joyce Nell Murray

Nancy Rhodes
Brian Smith
Suzanne White
Gary Murray
Colby Gibson
Courtney Gibson
Donald White

JANUARY 22

Krisi Gail Reed
Caleb Scott Townson
Martha (Foster) Leveritt
Carolyn Forbes
Anita Mays
Larry McAnally
Robert Brawley
Rea Hopson
Robert Burks
Donna Illingworth
Kristi McAnally
Suzanne (Cowan) Havelka

Patricia (Yarbrough) Mathes
Connie Kirkham
Billy Dale Strickland
Bobby Golson
Linda Hubbard
C.W. Freeman
Billie Ruth Clyatt
Mrs. L.D. Herring
Calvin Corley
Johnny Moore
Kristina Chastain
Travis Sparks
Melisa Clement

JANUARY 23

Mike McClure
Alvin Hutchins
Elvin Hutchins
J.W. Fore
Scarlet Brazell
Lawrence C. Bryan
Wanda Louise McMullen
Michele Browning
Darryle Letney
Joseph O. Baker

JANUARY 25
Michael Simpson
Mike Miller
Jeremy Barnett
Kevin Elkins

JANUARY 24

Cindy (Gosnell) Smith

JANUARY 26
Courtney Ring
Charles Roberts
Aline Wilcoxon
Mrs. Ann Baum Cross
DeAnn Whiteley

JANUARY 27
Billie Helen Pittman
Adriana Monreal

Grazing land management critical in aftermath of Texas wildfires

The resurgence of wildfires in Texas is nothing new to areas that have survived the impacts of such a natural disaster in the past, and yet the last several weeks have brought an onslaught of these fires to many farms and ranches we call home.

With the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) support to the public providing quality technical assistance and expertise to preserve conservation efforts in Texas, the management of fire areas toward deferring grazing on these lands is vital.

Ray Benson, bandleader and lead guitarist for Asleep at the Wheel, recently partnered with NRCS to promote good stewardship of Texas grazing lands, and probably said it best about the important value of these lands.

"Grazing lands are one of the great natural resources in Texas and provide grazing for livestock, habitat for wildlife, healthy watersheds, scenic views, wide-open spaces, or a place to just relax and enjoy," said Benson. "NRCS helps create a broader awareness of the importance of good management for grazing lands in Texas."

Historically, wildfires usually start during dry periods when excessive amounts of highly combustible materials have accumulated. Wildfires are difficult to control and generally are detrimental to the ecosystem. They damage desirable plants and magnify drought conditions. These reasons exemplify the critical need for quality technical management of grazing areas during these recent wildfires in north-central Texas and statewide.

Texas wildfires have been a long-stated problem that affects farms and ranches, but particularly fencing, increased droughts, overgrazing, post-fire nutrient management issues, and cattle numbers just to mention a few. NRCS has moved forward to enhance the amount of technical and financial support to farmers and ranchers in their time of need, for costs have increased year-to-year and NRCS will help with its Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Producers are asked to contact their local NRCS service center to apply for cost-share funding to help rebuild their agricultural operation.

NRCS is working with those landowners impacted by the fire offering EQIP assistance for grass planting, cross fencing, brush control, and livestock watering facilities; therefore, landowners are highly encouraged to apply for these funds. Hopefully, the Emergency Conservation Program will be funded as well, and provide assistance with both boundary and cross fencing through the Farm Service Agency.

"The land was literally scorched with open bluestem pastures swept clean with only an occasional mesquite standing," said Gary Conner, NRCS District Conservationist for Montague, Cooke and Grayson counties in north-central Texas. "The high winds not only had the fire racing in excess of 30 miles per hour, but swept away any ash as well. I'm hoping the dry soil surface doesn't result in landowners actually losing their grass stand since it appears all the stubble burned also."

Two of the most important grazing topics following wildfires are soil effects and livestock response. Fire effects on soils are minimal with the possible exception of erosion. However, if soil moisture is adequate even with our low rainfall this year, erosion should be minimal because the soil surface is quickly covered with new vegetative growth. Areas of most concern include sandy soil and steep slopes. Livestock response and the short-term interaction can be positive under the proper condition, especially if the vegetative response is good after the fire. Fire can increase forage palatability and use, because the even-aged new growth is higher in moisture content than unburned forage. Forage intake increased on burned areas as diet quality and rate of passage increases, so livestock distribution is greatly improved because selectivity decreases.

Approximately two-thirds of Texas is grazing lands, which includes rangeland, pastureland, grazed forestland, and grazed cropland. NRCS has been a conservation leader since 1935, and serves as the nation's leading agency in conserving private lands protecting soil, water, and wildlife while offering its services free of charge helping people help the land.

For more information about EQIP assistance, NRCS technical service support, and grazing management in the aftermath of these Texas wildfires, please contact your local NRCS Service Center, or contact us online at www.nrcs.usda.gov for help.

By Randy Henry, USDA-NRCS
Arlington, Texas

Donations for the Veterans Memorial

Continues to Grow toward the \$26,000 Projected Goal

Donations during the holidays for the Cross Plains and Area Veterans Memorial has been tremendous. Names of the veterans are needed to complete the project. \$19,000.00 has been raised toward the \$26,000 goal.

Recent contributors include: Earlene Hughes; Joan Parker; Ricky Westerman; Mr. and Mrs. John Campbell; Ivan Denny Jr. H. Lynnwood Gary; Lynn and Mary Scott Nabers; W.D. Clark; Dick Thompson; Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Conlee Jr. Nelda Wilcoxon; and Carl Smith.

We wish to express our thanks to the Cross Plains, Cottonwood, Burkett and Area Fire Departments. Also to the local EMS and so many volunteers who assisted in saving our community.

Mail donations and veterans names to:

Cross Plains Veterans Memorial
P.O. Box 711
Cross Plains, Tx. 76443.

Forms may be printed off at crossplains.com or barbarianfestival.com.

FEMA dispatches Mobile Disaster Recovery Centers to 9 Counties Declared Major Disaster Areas

AUSTIN, Texas - The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has dispatched Mobile Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC) to help victims in nine counties declared major disaster areas in the State of Texas stricken by wildfires.

The mobile DRCs provide a single location where people are able to talk face-to-face with disaster recovery specialists. The units can move quickly into areas affected by the wildfires and are staffed to assist victims with their applications for federal disaster assistance. Visitors to the DRCs also may receive information about housing resources and referrals to agencies or organizations to help with their specific needs.

Disaster assistance may include grants for temporary housing, minor housing repairs and other needs, such as transportation and medical expenses. Assistance may also be in the form of U.S. Small Business Administration low-interest disaster loans for homeowners, renters, businesses of any size and private, non-profit organizations.

Individuals and business owners are urged to apply for assistance first by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362). For those who are speech or hearing-impaired the TTY number is 1-800-462-7585. Both lines are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Texans may also register for

assistance online at the FEMA Web site at <http://www.fema.gov>.

Mobile DRC Schedule:
Callahan County - January 16, 17, 18 / 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
309 So. Main
(Between Dollar General & City Hall)
Cross Plains, TX
Eastland County - January 20, 21 / 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Main Street
(Between Post Office & Carbon Agri Center)
Carbon, TX

Palo Pinto County - January 23 / 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
300 S. Oak
Goodyear Building
Mineral Wells, TX

Erath County - January 25 / 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Huckabay School
200 County Road 421
Stephenville, TX

Hood County - January 27, 28 / 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

200 Gordon St.
Granbury, TX

Montague County - January 16, 17, 18 / 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

City Hall Parking Lot
101 Cook Street
Nocona, TX

Cooke County - January 20, 21 / 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Callisburg Community Center
92 McDaniel Street
Callisburg, TX

Wise County - January 23 / 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

To Be Announced
Tarrant County - January 25, 26 / 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

To Be Announced

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We Can Help

Library Book Give Away for Fire Victims

The Friends of the Cross Plains Library are collecting books again. This time, we're going to give them away to those who lost their homes in the recent fires. Books for children of all ages will be our first priority, but we'll also collect and give away books for adults (fiction or nonfiction). We'll be going through our books for sale in the flea market and pulling out some, as well as asking for donations from other libraries and area bookstores. We hope some of you will bring in a few books in good condition to

help our neighbors get their personal libraries restarted.

If you had books checked out that got burned: the loss of the book(s) was not your fault, and no fines or replacement costs will be charged. We will have a list of those whose homes burned, and we'll go through our records to determine who you are and what books were lost. Or, if you can, drop by the Library and let us know — and pick out a couple new books from those we're collecting for you.

Submitted by Ginny Hoskins

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Texas Workforce announces emergency management program for wildfire victims

AUSTIN - According to the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), the Governor's Division of Emergency Management (DEM) has indicated that Callahan, Cooke, Eastland, Erath, Hood, Montague, Palo Pinto, Tarrant and Wise counties have been declared disaster areas due to the drought and damage from wildfires. Individuals affected by extreme wildfire threat beginning December 1, 2005, and continuing, have until February 10, 2006, to apply for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) under Presidential Disaster Declaration FEMA-1624-DR.

To be eligible for help under Presidential Disaster Declaration FEMA-1624-DR, you must:

- Have worked or been scheduled to work in the disaster area, but because of the disaster no longer have a job, a place to work in the area or you could not get to your place of work because of disaster damage;
- Have been prevented from working by an injury or illness as a direct result of the disaster; or
- Have become the head of the household and need employment because the head of the household died as a result of the disaster.

Often, business owners who are self-employed are not aware of potential benefits to which they may be entitled. If you are self-employed, but have lost all or part of your livelihood as a result of this disaster, you may well be eligible for benefits. You must provide income tax forms (Schedules SE and Schedule C or Schedule F) or other proof of your self-employment to receive disaster unemployment benefits. If in doubt, please call one of the toll-free numbers listed below.

To receive DUA benefits, individuals must provide documentation indicating an employment record at the time of the disaster or verification of the weeks the applicant was scheduled to work. TWC officials understand that because of property losses, some individuals may not have necessary information readily available. Each claim is considered individually, therefore if you believe you may be eligible for assistance, please call the TWC Tele-Center network at one of the numbers listed below Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., to talk with a representative or file a claim.

Austin local: (512) 340-4300
Dallas local: (214) 252-1200
El Paso local: (915) 832-6400
Fort Worth local: (817) 420-1600
Houston local: (281) 983-1100
McAllen local: (956) 984-4700
San Antonio local: (210) 258-6600
Others toll free: (800) 939-6631
When calling to apply for benefits you should have available, when possible, your:

- Social Security number and
- name and address of your last employer or prospective employer.

For local workforce services, job seekers and employers should contact their local workforce centers in affected areas for revised office hours, temporary closures, or alternate service locations serving local or evacuated individuals. To locate the nearest workforce center, call:

• North Central Workforce Center - Erath, Hood, Palo Pinto and Wise counties: (817) 695-9176
• Workforce Resource Center of North Texas - Montague County: (940) 692-6885
• Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County - Tarrant County: (817) 413-4400

• Workforce Texoma - Cooke County: (903) 957-7408
• Workforce Center of West Central Texas - Callahan and Eastland counties: (325) 795-4200

Job seekers may visit Texas Workforce centers for access to job-search resources, job postings and training programs, as well as assistance with exploring career options, résumé and application preparation, career development and more. Customers also may connect with potential employers through TWC's online job-search engine, www.WorkInTexas.com.

Workforce center services for employers include job posting and placement services, up-to-date information on the labor market and emerging occupations, and assistance with recruiting, retention, training, tax and hiring incentives. Employers can recruit new staff through www.WorkInTexas.com. Workforce centers also can offer employers the use of center office equipment and space when they are opening a new building in their respective areas.

The Texas Workforce Commission is a state agency dedicated to helping Texas employers, workers and communities prosper economically. For details on TWC and the programs it offers in unison with its network of local workforce development boards, call (512) 463-8556 or visit www.texasworkforce.org.

Texas Workforce Commission • 512-463-8942 • <http://www.texasworkforce.org> • Equal Opportunity Employer
Relay Texas • 1-800-735-2989 (TDD) • 1-800-735-2988 (Voice)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Cross Plains, Texas, brings back so many beautiful memories of the people I met during the four years that I taught school in your town. I wish to express my condolences over the fire that took so many homes, animals, and the lives of 2 people.

In wondering how I might help,

there seemed to be an inner urge to help the fire department. I'm sending a contribution to the Texas Heritage Bank to help with their needs. An Abilene ex-student is a fireman and he may have been sent to help in Callahan County.

I'm 82 years old and my memories of my teaching years (1948, 1949, and 1951) are so

clear. My second graders that I taught in 1950 are now around 63-66 years old. My high school class is around 72 years of age.

I like your courage and will keep you in my prayers. I would be happy to hear from any ex-students.

Respectfully, Mildred Woody
1718 Belmont Blvd.
Abilene, TX 79602-4825

Dear Editor,

Just got my first look at the November 17, 2005 number of the *Review*, specifically the Letter to the Editor by Ms. Doris Marie Hall Givens, who writes about the Veterans Memorial Project, "Please, please tell me that barbarians are in no way involved in this project, that they are receiving nothing; publicity, notoriety or anything else from this most honorable and praiseworthy project honoring our Veterans, living or dead." She then insults our intelligence by quoting the dictionary definition of "barbarian" as if we are all ignorant of the word's true, hidden, terrible meaning. Indeed, by the self-righteous tenor of her remarks one would think she is Moses himself roaring down from Mount Sinai to cast damnation on us heathens dancing madly around the golden calf.

Puh-lease.

I hesitate to dispel Ms. Givens' fantasies of a world filled only with sugarplums and pink posies, devoid of anything smacking of rougher stuff, but in the real world the very veterans she so admires routinely give their units fearsome nicknames such as "The Walking Dead," "Hell in a Helmet," "Devil Dogs," and "The Devils Brigade." According to Ms. Givens' logic, this must surely promote the worship of Satan himself among our valiant, heroic troops. I wonder how horrified Ms. Givens would become if she knew that for a hundred years sports leagues have also named teams after historical rapists and murderers such as Vikings, Buccaneers, Pirates, and Raiders. Even high school teams routinely use the name "Barbarians" in their titles (yes Ms. Givens, even in Texas. Look it up.)

Similarly, movie stars like John Wayne ("The Conqueror," 1956) and Arnold Schwarzenegger ("Conan the Barbarian," 1982) frequently play ruthless

barbarians, which I can only imagine Ms. Givens believes has lured millions of innocent little boys into heinous lives of sword-play and bloodshed. Even our credit cards aren't safe, as CapitalOne's hugely popular "What's in Your Wallet!" barbarian commercials attest.

And now — horror of horrors! — Cross Plains is supporting barbarians, too! The Barbarian Festival. Aaaaaaahhhhhhhhh! What's a civilized, pure, God-fearing woman with a lily-white soul to do in the face of such a disgusting promotion of undignified barbarity?

To anyone with even a passing respect for common sense, there's a huge difference between a jocular nickname and support of true evil. There's a huge difference between someone like Robert E. Howard writing adventure stories about barbarians and the actual condoning of killing, rapine, and plunder. Any first grader who has thrilled to tales of pirates like Blackbeard or Captain Kid, or to stories of outlaws like Billy the Kid and Jesse James, or to films like "Pirates of the Caribbean" and "The Scorpion King," knows this. The people who named the beautiful California town Tarzana after the famous jungle barbarian hero Tarzan know this. One can only hope that someday Ms. Givens and the (mercifully few) similar-thinking residents of Cross Plains will figure this out too, accepting the Barbarian Festival for what it is: a celebration of town unity and spirit, named with a smile and a wink towards the exciting adventure stories of homegrown writer Robert E. Howard, stories which happen to star adventurous characters in a two-fisted Texan mold: boxers, sailors, cowboys, and — most famously, yes — barbarians.

As I write this on December 28, word has just come to me of the terrible fire that wreaked havoc throughout Cross Plains last

night. In a burst of Christian fellowship, many Howard fans (most of whom have never even visited Cross Plains) are already sending in donations to the relief effort. I know this because they have been e-mailing me like crazy, begging me for information on where to send money. And as 2006 is the centennial of Robert E. Howard's birth, Howard Days and the Barbarian Festival are set to be the biggest ever this summer, helping to funnel thousands more dollars into the town's economy. In any other town, it would be considered a blessing to have such friends ready to offer help from all around the world in times of need. To most residents of Cross Plains, it is exactly that.

Sorry, Ms. Givens: you aren't going to convince sensible people that naming something "The Barbarian Festival" has in any way harmed the town or its image. If anything, it has helped bring more fellowship and joy into town than would have been there otherwise. The name, just like "United States Marine Corps Devil Dogs" or "Minnesota Vikings," isn't meant to be taken literally. It's just a harmless nickname, intended to sound rough-and-ready in classic Texas and hunting style while also referencing the famous and beloved works of your most-famous resident.


In any case, I hope Ms. Givens can someday find peace both with the history of Cross Plains and with the hard-edged, rough-and-tumble world in which we live. Despite her protests, Howard's reputation consistently glows brighter each year. At least three more Howard movies have been greenlighted by Hollywood — all starring barbarians, natch — and dozens of Howard books and magazines are set to appear. Cross Plains is likely to be referenced heavily by all of the accompanying press and advertising, inexorably linking your town more and more with Howard and his work. Fact is, for better or worse, Bob Howard called Cross Plains home, and he appears to be here for the long haul. The few residents in town always looking for ways to peacock their morals and spiritual superiority in front of the rest of us are just going to have to deal with that.

In this time of crisis more than ever, may God continue to bless Cross Plains and its people. (even those icky barbarians...you know who you are!)

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Cross Plains Review

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January 19, 2006

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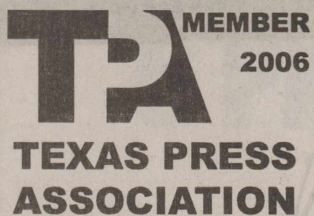
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(USPS 138-660)
DON TABOR, PUBLISHER
VANDA ANDERSON, EDITOR
CROSS PLAINS REVIEW

MEMBER 2006



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Telephone: 1 (254) 725-6111
FAX: 1 (254) 725-7225

Callahan County DPS Report

Calls received by the Callahan County Department of Public Safety from January 8, 2006 through January 14, 2006 include:

Cases Investigated
Warnings—103
Complaints—116
DWI—1
Possession of Marijuana—3
Driving Under the Influence—Minor—1
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia—2

Vehicle Accidents
There was one vehicle accident investigated during this time span.

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Tips from the Better Business Bureau for Rebuilding After Disaster

The Better Business Bureau in Abilene provided the following information including dependable tips and helpful information for rebuilding after a disaster.

Contract Negotiations

Terms and conditions: All agreements and oral promises regarding the home improvement project should be put in writing to protect both you and the contractor. If you intend to do some of the work yourself or hire another contractor to do it, such terms should be written into the contract as well.

The written contract/bids should also include:

- *A thorough description of the work to be done, specifying all materials to be used in terms of quality, quantity, weight, color, size or brand name, etc.

- *The agreed upon starting and completion dates;

- *The total cost, with a breakdown of labor and material charges;

- *A payment schedule;

- *Any warranties and guarantees of workmanship;

- *The method for debris and material removal once the job is finished; and

- *A clause which states your right to cancel the contract within three business days if you sign it in your home or at a location other than the contractor's permanent place of business. This clause should also state that the contract is null and void or will be renegotiated if the job uncovers unexpected or hidden problems or damage after the work has begun.

In addition, make sure the written contract includes: The contractor's full name; Address; and Telephone number.

NEVER sign a partial or blank contract and don't sign until you are ready to hire. Read every contract clause carefully and ask any question you may have before signing. Then, retain a copy of the contract as soon as you sign, and file it in your records.

You should make every attempt to pay a minimal or no down payment for supplies or services; especially if you have not done business with a contractor in the past. You should not make pay-

ments for any incomplete work. Schedule additional payments at weekly or monthly intervals or after completion of each phase of the project. All these terms should be spelled out in the contract and clearly understood by both you and the contractor.

Cancellation Rights: When you sign a home improvement contract in your home and in the presence of a contractor, or contractor's representative, you have three business days in which to change your mind and cancel the contract. The contractor is required to tell you about your cancellation rights and provide you with an cancellation forms. If you cancel, it is recommended that a notice of cancellation be sent to the contractor by telegram or certified mail, return receipt requested.

Lien Protection: For a large remodeling job that involves several subcontractors and a substantial financial commitment, you should protect your self from liens against your home in the event the primary contractor does not pay the subcontractors or suppliers. You may do this by adding a release-of-lien clause to the contract or by placing your payments in an escrow account until the work is completed.

Warranty Clause: Any warranty offered by the contractor should be in writing and you should read it very carefully. The warranty must state whether it is a "FULL" warranty that gives the consumer certain automatic rights; or a "LIMITED" warranty that omits certain consumer rights. Also, the warranty clause should spell out all terms and conditions in clear language that you can easily understand.

This information was provided by the Abilene Better Business Bureau. This report was provided by the Members of the Abilene Better Business Bureau (325) 691-1533, www.abilene.bbb.org, who voluntarily support the BBB and its programs for consumers.

Reports available on-line 24-hours a day
www.abilene.bbb.org/search
info@abilene.bbb.org.

TxDot Urges Motorists NOT to toss lighted objects from their vehicles

As wildfires and their continuing threat persists in our area, the Texas Department of Transportation would like to remind everyone that tossing a cigarette or any type of a smoldering item out of a car window is a criminal act subject to a fine.

As grass fires continue to pop up along the roadways and quickly spread to adjacent properties, TxDOT wants to ensure that the traveling public becomes aware that any smoldering item they throw out of the window can start a wildfire.

VALOR Telecom donates funds, phone lines and services after C.P. firestorm

IRVING, Texas, Jan. 17, 2006 - VALOR Telecom announced today that it has made a \$2,500 contribution to the American Red Cross for assistance to West Texas residents who have been displaced by the recent wildfires. VALOR provides service to more than 100 communities in West Texas.

VALOR Telecom also donated three phone and two Digital Subscriber Lines, and long distance service to the Red Cross for use at the First Baptist Church in Cross Plains.

"In addition to providing vital communications resources to the impacted communities, we wanted to help the Red Cross in its efforts to aid the families that have been displaced," said Danny Ammons, West Texas vice president of Operations for VALOR Telecom.

VALOR employees were deployed to the area on Dec. 27 to assess damage and begin restoration efforts. Employees and contractors logged more than 600 hours from Dec. 27 through Jan. 3, repairing buried and aerial cables, and replacing burnt telephone poles in the Cross Plains and Rising Star areas. The wildfires affected more than 550 phone lines.

"VALOR employees came from across the State to help restore service to the area," said Glen Morris, area manager for VALOR Telecom. "We are continuing to repair lines and are prepared for restoration efforts should new wildfires affect customers' service."

West Texas customers can dial 611 locally or 1-877-520-5210 toll-free to report damage and request repairs.

VALOR Telecom, a subsidiary of VALOR Communications Group, Inc. (NYSE:VCG), is an Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier and one of the largest providers of telecommunications services in primarily rural communities in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arkansas. In addition to local telephone service, we offer our business and residential customers a wide range of telecommunications services, including unlimited nationwide long distance, bundled calling plans, directory and online yellow pages, high-speed DSL, Internet access service, telephone equipment, data solutions, calling features and more. Formed in 2000, VALOR is based in Irving, Texas. For more information, visit www.valortelecom.com.



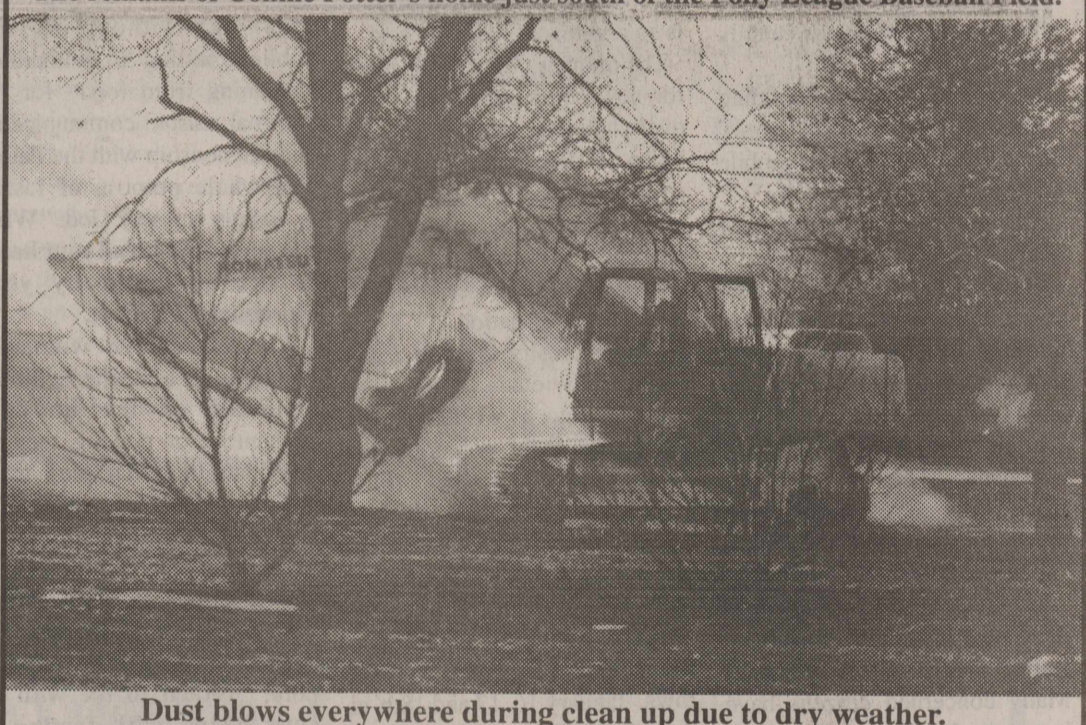
Iron railings and two brick porch pillars are all that stands at Mrs. Harmes.



The late Louise Richardson home, located beside the football practice field, is still smoking.



The remains of Connie Potter's home just south of the Pony League Baseball Field.



Dust blows everywhere during clean up due to dry weather.

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7-Cross Plains Review January 19, 2006

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Pray For Rain

NOTICE

to residents who have LOST or FOUND Pets

If you have lost your pet during the trauma of the recent fires or if you have found someone's pet, you are encouraged to contact Jane Bonner at (254) 725-6257.

Also if you have an animal that has been burned or injured and you don't know who its owner is, please feed/water and care for it until you can report it to the above number.

Ms. Bonner is working with the Pet Emergency Response Team (PERT) in an effort to save these animals and reconnect them to their families. It has been reported that several animals in town have received injuries, such as burned paws, etc. Please contact Jane Bonner with any information you may have.

PRAYING—

possibilities are endless.

What marvelous freedom God gives us in the area of fasting! Jesus assumes that we will fast, yet he leaves the choice of when to fast, the length of our fast, and the decision of how we will spend our time with Him while fasting completely up to us. Pray and seek God as to what kind of fast He desires you to do and for how long.

Fasting is denying self for spiritual reasons. It is denying not only our bodies, but also our own wants. It is a way of saying that food and my desires are secondary to something else. That 'something else' is God's will and desire for us and this city and region at this time.

Andrew Murray said, "Fasting helps to express, to deepen, and to confirm the resolution that we are ready to sacrifice anything—to sacrifice ourselves—to attain what we seek for the Kingdom of God."

You can pray without fasting, but you cannot fast (Biblically speaking) without praying. Biblical fasting is deliberately abstaining from food for a spiritual reason: communication and relationship with the Father. The whole purpose of fasting is to pray and seek God. "When you seek me with all your heart, I will be found by you" (Jeremiah 29:13,14).

When a man or woman is willing to set aside the legitimate appetites of the body to concentrate on praying, they are demonstrating that they mean business, that they are seeking God with all their heart.

Fasting is an expression of wholeheartedness. This is clear from Joel's call to the nation of Israel: "Yet even now," says the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting..." (Joel 2:12, 1:14).

The well known Biblical verse in II Chronicles 7:13-14, speaks to us loud and clear at this particular time. In it God gives us a promise of healing and restoration, but also asks us to do something in return.

"If I shut up heaven so no rain falls, (we are in that time), or if I command locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people, (Our part): If my people, who called by My Name, will humble themselves (humbling one's self in this context always included fasting) and pray, seek, crave and require out of necessity My Face, and turn from their wicked ways, (His part): then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land."

So we invite you to join us in this history making time of prayer, repentance and fasting as we ask our Heavenly Father to look upon us with His blessings of healing rain. He dearly loves Cross Plains and this region and desires to pour out His goodness on us!

Submitted by Deborah Lowitzer and Gene Dillard

Subscribe To The Cross Plains Review



Thank you to the firefighters who worked so hard.

FIRESTORM—

ing Albert Lovell's house.

Houses burned down the old Slaughter House Lane included Brenda Willars' and Nora Odom's. David Holmes house and his insurance agency were destroyed as the flames swept across Alvin Hutchin's coastal field near the Bobby Davis house. The barns behind the old Dale Gary home were destroyed and then the flames crossed 1st Street (the old Pioneer Highway) and burned Margaret Pointer's empty house and one other house.

It swept across and caught Steve Propest's home and destroyed Markham's Fruit Stand and their home on East Highway 36 and burned around Stan Jackson's place destroying outbuildings, travel trailers etc. The house of Ken Dixon (the former Glen Merrill place) was also totally destroyed.

The old Buffalo Inn building burned behind James Nichols' house and Scott Bland's mobile home was burned down.

All the houses destroyed have not been named and the direction of the fire may not be exact. When you interview individuals it is amazing how the fire seemed to be everywhere and the level of anxiety was so high.

It has been exceptionally busy everywhere. The restaurants are filled with all the extra work crews in town and there is just a "hustle and bustle" all around.

Even the traffic level has increased. If you can imagine a traffic jam in Cross Plains!!! Many concerned citizens have been here from all over the state. They have to see it, to believe it.

It looked like a war zone where bombs had blown up houses. I need to make a correction about the two blocks across from the school. There was one other house standing right in the middle; Bill Kirkham's. I don't know how it was missed!

I don't think we will ever think of a grassfire in the same respect

again. People say they are still dreaming about fires and hearing sirens, etc. Beverly Ross, who lost her house, some vehicles, and all their household items made this statement, "I don't know how people get through this without faith in God. That is all we have left."

The clean-up is going amazingly fast! The lots were separated into metal and debris. Front-end loaders and the metal pick-up equipment have been cleaning in record time.

The number of burned vehicles is astounding. There wasn't time to remove cars before the fast moving wall of fire rushed in. Last Friday they were carrying vehicles from the Tom Bryant Addition to the equipment that crushes them. The entire process is so organized!

The number of lots ready for new construction, etc. is overwhelming. Our town just looks so different. With the structures gone and the ground graded smooth, the landscape has changed. You can't visualize exactly how the houses looked. It is a strange sensation.

The generosity of so many caring individuals, companies, churches, etc. is evident in the huge amount of groceries and water collected at the First Baptist Church Family Life Center. Pickup trucks and trailers can be seen unloading items daily.

FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) was in town January 16, 17 and 18th at the Cross Plains Community Center to assess the situation and see what assistance was needed for local residents.

The rebuilding of our town is progressing due to the cooperation of federal, state, county, city and numerous volunteers. What started as a tragedy has evolved into an example of teamwork accomplishing a determined goal.



Family and friends stand in the rubble of James O. and Lucille Koenig's home.



Very little left at the home of Linda Slaymaker.



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Political Calendar

The Cross Plains Review is authorized to publish the following political announcements for the office filings in the Democratic Primary Election set for Tuesday, March 7, 2006.

For Callahan County Judge

Roger Corn

Political advertisement paid by Roger Corn, 532 Poplar, Baird, Texas 79504.

For Callahan County Clerk

Donna Bell

Political advertisement paid by Jeannie Bohannon, PR 2484 Lot 420, Baird, Texas 79504. All political calendar advertising for the Tuesday, March 7, 2006 Democratic Primary Election is payable in advance, at a cost of \$100.00. A free press release and photograph will be published one time with each announcement.

Political Calendar

The Cross Plains Review is authorized to publish the following political announcements for the office filings in the Republican Primary Election set for Tuesday, March 7, 2006.

For Callahan County Commissioner Precinct #4

Larry Tennison

Political advertisement paid by Larry Tennison for Commissioner Precinct #4, Betsy Tennison, Treasurer, 4266 CR 243, Clyde, Texas 79510.

Reggie Pillans

Political advertisement paid by Suzi Pillans, Treasurer, 8567 CR 419, Cisco, Texas 76437.

Cliff Kirkham

Political advertisement paid by the Cliff Kirkham Campaign Committee, Connie Kirkham, Treasurer, 20235 FM 2707, Cross Plains, Texas, 76443.

For Callahan County Justice of the Peace Precinct #4

Burlie W. Taylor

Political advertisement paid by B.W. Taylor, Jerril Taylor, 16469 FM 880 South, Cross Plains, Texas 76443.

Bob Hill

Political advertisement paid by Bob Hill, Sharyn Hill, Treasurer, P. O. Box 542, Cross Plains, Texas 76443.

Rodger Hart

Political advertisement paid by Rodger Hart, Regina Hart, Treasurer, P.O. Box 475, Cross Plains, Texas, 76443.

All political calendar advertising for the Tuesday, March 7, 2006 Republican Primary Election is payable in advance, at a cost of \$100.00. A free press release and photograph will be published one time with each announcement.

Cross Plains Review

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January 19, 2006

The USDA Rural Development Calls Attention to its Housing Assistance

CROSS PLAINS, TEXAS, January 11, 2006 — USDA has the unique responsibility of coordinating Federal assistance to rural areas of the Nation. USDA Rural Development housing programs assist eligible very-low, low and moderate-income rural Texans in becoming homeowners and in making repairs to their homes. These programs may also assist eligible persons in Cross Plains and the surrounding areas affected by the recent fires.

USDA Rural Development home ownership loan programs give applicants financial assistance in the form of a home loan at an affordable interest rate. The loan may be used for the purchase of an existing home or for new home construction which allow very low income households the opportunity to obtain modest, decent, safe and sanitary housing.

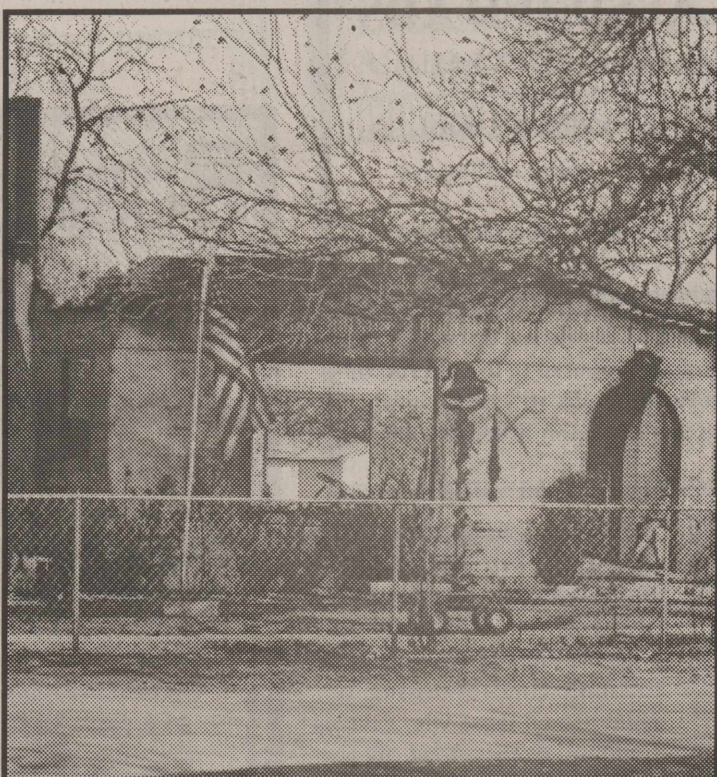
Many low income applicants may already own a home, but are looking to make their living situation better for their family. The Home Repair Loan Program can provide loans and grants for renovation of housing already owned by the applicant. It can also provide funds to make a home accessible to someone with disabilities. For very-low income applicants, these loans are on a fixed 1% interest rate directly from the USDA Rural Development housing programs. Also under this program, eligible applicants who are very-low income homeowners, 62 years of age and older, without loan repayment ability, are eligible for home improvement grants to improve their living situation.

To find out if you are eligible for USDA Rural Development housing programs, or for further information or assistance, please call an agency representative by calling the USDA Rural Development Abilene Local Office at 325-690-6162, Extension 4.

Fire Victim Benefit Team Roping Event

The Cowboy Heritage Church of Clyde, in association with Cross Trails Cowboy Church of Cross Plains, Brownwood Cowboy Church of Brownwood, Leon River Cowboy Church of Eastland, Ranch House Fellowship Church of Merkel, to host a Benefit Team Roping for the Fire Victims of Carbon, Cross Plains, and Kokomo January 21, 2006 at the Callahan County Sheriff Posse Arena, Baird, Texas, I-20 exit 307 (Hwy 283), South of Business 20 (.4 miles), left on Business 20 one tenth of a mile, arena on right. Steers donated by Hanson Cattle Company.

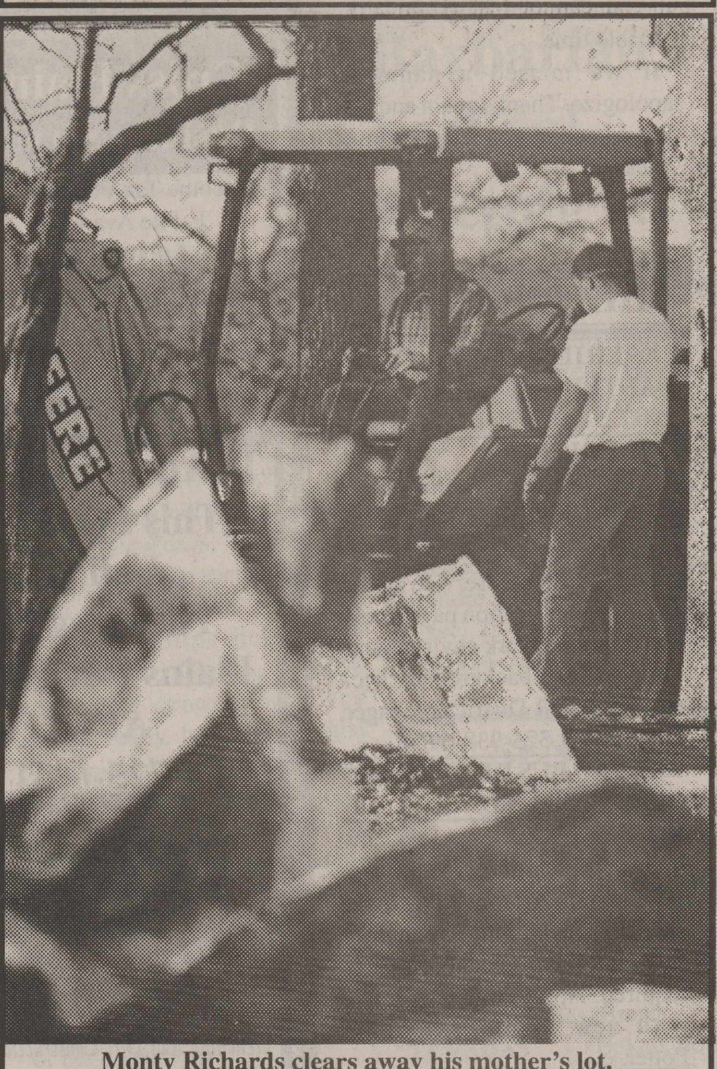
-Original Team Roping Cardholders
-1 1/2, 2 1/2, 3 1/2, 4 1/2
-Books will open at 8:00 a.m. and roping starts at 9:00 a.m.
-4 for \$40.00 - progressive after one
-One time buy back for \$20.00
-50/50 Jackpot
-Contact (325) 338-4287 or (325) 669-5973
-Have coggins papers available
-Refreshments will be available
-No alcohol and no glass containers.



Flag flies untouched in the front yard of Mike and Robbi McClure.



Mike McClure stands in the ashes of what is left of his home.



Monty Richards clears away his mother's lot.

Cross Plains Review Deadlines
Ads Noon on Tuesday
Articles Noon on Monday

REWARD \$800



For Information Leading to the Return of Stolen Property from the Pioneer Area
1. ATV - Honda 350
2. ATV - Honda Recon - 250
3. Trailer - Single Axle 6' X 10' - Black
4. Misc. Tools - Chainsaws, Etc.

Call 817-994-4878

The Cross Plains Fire Victims Resource Center

The volunteers working at the Cross Plains Fire Victims Resource Center are asking those in our community to please come by and volunteer their time in helping to sort out all of the many donations that have been received. "There's so much to do and so many things that still need to be sorted through, even if you can only stop by to help for an hour or so, it's worth it," said volunteer Iris Ratliff.

She also urged any family in the Cross Plains Community in need of clothes to come by. "Please, please let the people know that because of the huge amount of clothing we have, that they are more than welcome to come by and pick up what they need for their families." Iris added, "It's not just for fire victims, anyone around here can come and get what clothing they need."

It isn't necessary to break in, all you have to do is just ask. Clothes are being sorted into

different rooms according to sizes. This makes looking for your size alot easier. They have a over abundance of clothes at this point, and are asking that people not give them anymore clothing. They are however, still in need of the following items:

Lamps, water hoses, hand tools, power tools, can openers, shower curtains, toaster ovens, dishes, pots and pans, crock pots, baby beds, diapers, and baby wipes.

Just this week, \$9,000.00 worth of brand new merchandise was donated and dispersed to those in need. It came from Carl Johnston from Irving and Lanny Phillips from Quinlan, Texas.

The Cross Plains Fire Victims Resource Center is located in the old Nursing Home Building at the corner of Ave. A and North 7th Street. They are open from 9:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m. everyday, so stop by!

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT

Roger Klingberg, P.O. Box 188, Cross Plains, TX 76443 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation that is productive of oil or gas.

The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Cross Cut, H4 Lease, Well Number 2. The proposed injection well is located 3.5 miles ENE of Cross Cut, in the Brown County Regular, in Brown County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 1196 to 1220 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Underground Injection Control Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Drawer 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711-2967 (Telephone 512/463-6792).

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Cross Plains will be accepting sealed bids for the lease of approximately 52 acres of land for the purpose of disposal of wastewater from the city's local wastewater treatment plant. A copy of the lease agreement

is available at the City Hall and may be obtained by contacting Debbie Gosnell, PO Box 129, Cross Plains, Texas 76443, or 254-725-6114. Bids will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. February 7, 2006. 44-2c

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Article 258.002(c) of the Texas Transportation Code, the Commissioners Court of Callahan County, Texas provides this notice to the public of its intention to convene a public meeting to receive comment upon the adoption of a County Road Map including each road in which the County claims the continued existence of a public interest and a right of access and egress for maintenance of an existing County Road. The roads in which the County claims a public interest have been maintained for many years, beginning some time prior to 1981, have previously been listed in a notice included in the 2005-06 Ad Valorem Tax statement. A proposed County Road Map depicting each road in which the County claims a public interest is available for inspection by the public at the office of the County Judge in the County Courthouse, during business hours, commencing December 1, 2005.

The Commissioners Court will

conduct a public hearing on January 23, 2006, at 10:00 a.m., in the Commissioners Courtroom in the Callahan County Courthouse. At this time, pursuant to Article 258.002(b), Texas Transportation Code, any person asserting a private right, title or interest in a road may appear before the Commissioners Court to object or protest the County's claim of its right to continue maintenance of the public roads depicted on the County road map. Any person asserting a private right, title or interest in a road may also file a written protest with the County Judge at any time before the time and date of the scheduled public hearing. By way of this procedure, the County makes no claim affecting title, acreage, or ownership of the land, but seeks merely to establish and document the right of the County to continue maintenance of the existing county road in its present location and dimension.

Jeanie Bohannon, County Clerk

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CROSS PLAINS REVIEW CLASSIFIED ADS

116 S.E. 1st Street - P.O. Box 519 - Cross Plains, Texas 76443-(254) 725-6111

Cross Plains Review Only - \$3.00 for up to 20 words. 20¢ each additional word.
Card of Thanks - \$3.00 & up.

Classifieds must be received in the review office by noon Tuesday to be published in the current week's edition.

The Cross Plains Review reserves the rights to reject any and all Classified Ads considered by the publisher to be subject objectional in matter, phraseology, or opposed to the interest or the policy of the newspaper. No fraudulent, dishonest, or misleading ads will be knowingly published in the Cross Plains Review for any cost, injury or liability upon it because of the content of any ad so submitted.

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B & T Construction Co.
Custom Home Builders
Locally Owned & Operated
Barbara Thomas
(254) 725-7657
Eugene Bell 44-2tp
(325) 668-7426

LOST

LOST SOLID BLACK CAT Responds to the name "Monster Cat"; Has Royal Blue collar; Last seen south of Cross Plains near storage buildings the day of fire; Please call 254-725-7136. 44-1tc

Subscribe To The Cross Plains Review

REAL ESTATE

TO BE MOVED - 1,359 sq.ft., 3BD/2B, \$37,500; 15 miles S. of Cross Plains; 325-784-6210. 43-4tc

3BEDROOM, 2 BATH - Totally remodeled, new carpet, tile, cabinets, paint and central heating/cooling unit; 1 block from school; Financing Available; 325-201-0818 or 325-668-9325. 43-2tp

FOR SALE BY OWNER - 2Bedroom, 1 & 1/2 bath brick house on Tom Bryant street. Appraised at \$65,000 before the fire. NO damage from the fire. Call Douglas Walker at 254-643-1422 or 254-631-8586 or Mark Walker at 325-280-4093. 43-2tp

9 YEAR OLD, 2BEDROOM/2 FULL BATH, FRAME HOUSE - To Be Moved; less than 1/2 cost of new one, 325-642-0877. 43-3tc

DUPLEX IN WINTERS, TX - Both sides, 2BD/1BA, CH/A, 1 car garage, \$55,000; Extra nice, located by High School football field; **BALLINGER, TX** - 2BD house needs repair; in good neighborhood \$130,000; located on 5th street; For more information, 903-675-4020; Financing Available. 43-4tp

21.83 ACRES FOR SALE

(Located on CR 569 North of Cross Plains)

21.83 acres w/24 fruit bearing Pecan trees, cross-fenced in 3 pastures.

2 Bedroom, 2 Bath Mobile Home, completely redone, excellent condition. Covered with metal roof and covered front and back porches.
COMPLETELY FURNISHED!

Water well, septic system, Butane tank, NUMEROUS Out Buildings.

Deer & Turkey with 3 Deer Feeders & Stands.

SEE TO APPRECIATE \$125,000.00

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Fax: (325) 893-4229
Baird, Texas
337 Market St.
P.O. Box 938
Baird, TX 79504
Ph: (325) 854-1115
Fax: (325) 854-1459
President: Andrew Ladyman, Attorney

FOR SALE

2BD HOUSE, \$8,000; 2BD Singlewide Trailer House, \$600; Motorcycle, \$800; Lots of antiques 1889 to 1909; Call or come by 410 Trinity St in Coleman, 325-214-0044, Mary or Richard Steffey. 44-1tp

MENS WORK HATS - Black felt; 4" brim; 6 7/8 - 7 1/2; \$34.99; Made in USA; Johnson's Dry Goods, Cross Plains, 254-725-6211. 44-1tc

For Your Mary Kay Cosmetics or a FREE Facial Contact
Sue Taylor-Neal
Mary Kay Beauty Consultant
254-725-7532 11tc

MUSIC LESSONS

CADDO PEAK PIANO LESSONS - Prefer beginners. Call 254-725-6569 leave name and number. 9tc

MOBILE HOMES FOR SALE

NICE MFG HOME - 3/2, 1,500 sq.ft., setup ready to move into, Merkel, TX; Will finance for FHA loan with possible "0" down, 1-800-725-1098. 43-3tc

2005 SINGLEWIDE FOR SALE - 16X56, 2 bedroom, 2 bath mobile home (like new) to be moved, located in the Putnam area, CH/A, refrigerator, stove, dishwasher, includes blocks and tie downs, below cost, 903-530-7078. 44-3tc

SOLITAIRE MODEL 484-80X28, 4BD/2 1/2B, 2 living areas, fireplace, country kitchen, walk-in closets; \$47,500; In Blackwell, TX; To be moved, Call 432-213-0389. 43-6tc

3BR/2BA DOUBLEWIDE - Very nice; Call 940-648-3676 or 254-725-6407. 43-6tc

MOBILE HOME FOR SALE - Extra nice and clean; 1998 Fleetwood Doublewide, 1,100 sq.ft., Cathedral ceilings, ceiling fans; **3BD/2 Full Baths; 1406 N. 6th Street, Merkel, TX; Call 325-692-0079. 43-1tc**

TO BE MOVED - 14 X 66 mobile home; 2BD/2Bath; washer, dryer, refrigerator, stove and oven; CH/A; Recently remodeled inside; Call 254-522-2582. 43-2tc

MOBILE HOME FOR SALE - 432-354-2327. 43-4tc

NEW - USED - REPO'S - 1-866-553-6070; No Down To Low Down; Fast Solutions For Housing NEEDS. 42-4tc

ZERO DOWN - Home/Land Package, 1-866-553-6070. 42-4tc

3BR/2BA - \$1,500 Down; 10.5% Fixed; \$285 monthly; 1-866-553-6070. 42-4tc

CARD OF THANKS

We would like to thank all those who has helped us during the difficult time of losing our home. To all those who gave us furniture, clothes, food, money, gift cards, hugs of comfort and words of encouragement, we thank you all.

The outpouring of thoughtfulness has truly been overwhelming. Thanks to all those who fought the fires to save our school and businesses. Cross Plains is a strong community and other cities hugely underestimate the backbone of our little town.

Liz, Kevin and Karen Scott

CARD OF THANKS

There are so many people we would like to thank we are not sure where to begin. So many wonderful people have reached out their hearts as well as their hands. We are very blessed to be a part of this wonderful town.

Thanks to the First Baptist Church, firefighters all over, Red Cross, Ricky Walker, Phyllis Pancake and family, Kirkham family, Terry Fortune, Texas Heritage Bank, Lanier Construction, the many friends and family that gave their time and love to helping us get back on our feet. We wish very heartfelt thanks to the Golson and Lewis families. Thanks also to the many anonymous donors who are in our heart as well.

The kindness we have been shown will go with us forever. Our love and prayers go out to all the families who have lost in this terrible time.

If we missed a name we apologize. Thanks again and God Bless each of you and you loved ones.

Jeremy, Deborah and Caley Box

HELP WANTED

EXPERIENCED TRAINER WANTED, to work with Colts, 254-725-6503 after 7PM. 44-2tp

UNLIMITED BONUS POTENTIAL with above average base pay as Manager of Cross Plains DQ. Looking for friendly, customer service leader. Holiday and vacation pay. Smoke and drug free work environment. Drug test and background check required. Call District Manager, Nita Frazier 325-938-6964. 44-4tc

WANTED BUS DRIVER, apply at Cross Plains ISD. 44-2tc

DQ OF CROSS PLAINS now hiring day and night help. Looking for friendly customer service leaders. Smoke and drug free work environment. Drug test required. Apply in person today with new Manager, Bonnie Potter. 42-4tc

DQ MANAGER TRAINEE positions available for Cross Plains DQ and other Richeson DQ's. Unlimited bonus potential with above base pay. Non-smoking, drug free work environment. Drug test required. Call District Manager, Nita Frazier 325-938-6964. 41-4tc

FLEA MARKETS

LIBRARY FLEA MARKET, Saturday, 8-12; Come check out all our goodies. Some free and all cheap. Housewares, home decor, furniture, home health aids, toys, crafting supplies. 44-1tc

HOPKINS' BITTER CREEK RANCH - Handcrafted furniture, metal art, & western gift items available at our booth at the Cross Plains Library Flea Market. 44-1tc

Cross Plains Review Deadlines
Ads Noon on Tuesday
Articles Noon on Monday

BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

10-Cross Plains Review January 19, 2006

Palace Drug

Prescriptions
Deliver Monday - Friday

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43March

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Cross Plains 36-May

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 Email: rjestate@crossplains.com - Webpage: www.crossplains.com

ACREAGE WITH HOME:

NEW LISTING--10/A place at edge of town with 3BD/2B mobile home, Pecan trees, coastal, 14' X 32' shop bldg with electricity & water, goat fenced, Rising Star, Eastland County. \$45,000
NEW LISTING--80/A with small good condition home, 2BD/1B, frame, carport, 4 water wells, one pond, good set of cattle pens, good fences, on pavement. \$120,000
 * 93.85/A with 2,624 sq. ft. Brick home, central H/A, fireplace, wood stove, glassed in sun porch, large trees, on pavement, guest house, 3 barns, creek, new fences, pond, some Coastal, good hunting. Western Eastland Co. \$280,000.

NEW LISTING--100/A with 1996 model, 1300 sq. ft., 3BD/2B, mb home, pond, 9 water wells, barn, working pens, 2 storage bldgs., good fences, good hunting, 6 miles north of Cross Plains. \$160,000.

NEW LISTING--100/A, large Live oak, Oak, Pecan, stock pond, creek, good cattle pens, older farm home, shop bldg., 2 water wells, excellent hunting, very pretty. \$210,000
 * 102.31/A with 3BD/2B, 2,495 sq. ft., brick home, 3 stock ponds, great hunting, deer, turkey, quail, barn, rural water, paved frontage, Oak, Pecan, & Mesquite trees, good fences, 6 miles south of Cross Plains. \$200,000
 * 106/A beautiful horse ranch, with new horse barn, pens, fences, newly remodeled farm home, on pavement, close to town, coastal hay operation, 2 water wells, wildlife. Must See! Callahan County. \$325,000

NEW LISTING--107/A with 3 year old 1,700 sq.ft. **AUSTIN STONE 3BD/2BTH HOME, CH/A**, metal roof, surround porch, 30X50 metal shop bldg., good water well, Live Oak, Post Oak, large creek, deer, turkey, quail, very scenic. \$400,000

* 174/A, 2,075 sq. ft. nice farm home with geothermal CH/A, landscaped, 3 car detached garage, 80/A coastal Bermuda, 40/A Kline grass, large spring pond stocked with Crappie & Bass, peach orchard, large garden spot, scattered large Oaks, Pecan trees, good hunting, 3 water wells, 1/4 minerals, good fences, on pavement, Western Eastland County. \$290,000

NEW LISTING!!!! Beautiful 200/A with 3 single family residences, office, Indoor Arena with water misting dust control system, 9 stall horse barn, Tack Room, 22X30 shop, Utility/Storage Barn, 75X40 Storage Barn with restroom facilities, wash rack, dog kennel, 5 water wells, 6 septic systems, cross fenced, Coastal Bermuda Grass, wildlife food plot, 4 tanks, Great Hunting, Good 6 wire barbed wire fences, Post Oak, Live Oak, 7 miles East of Cross Plains. **ONLY \$995,000. MUST SEE!!!**

RESIDENTIAL:
NEW LISTING--Large Residential in Cross Plains in the Tom Bryant Addition. Trees. Prime Home Building Location. \$6,500,000

NEW LISTING--1BD/1B, fixer upper house on 75X140 lot in Cross Plains. \$6,500

NEW LISTING--3BD/2B rock, older home, large trees, 2 car detached garage, large carport, 15 peach trees, storm cellar, in Rising Star. \$22,000

NEW LISTING--3BD/1B, landscaped, metal roof, water well, large trees, large lot, paved street, in Cross Plains. \$48,000

NEW LISTING--3BD/2B, 1,512 sq. ft. Brick in new addition in Cross Plains, fenced back yard, landscaped, 8' X 12' storage bldg., new paint, good condition. \$75,000.

* 2BD/2B Brick, CH/A, on beautiful, wooded 1/10 A lot, fireplace, patio, glassed porch, 2 car garage, utility room, carport, storage bldg., in new home area, in Cross Plains. \$112,000.

* Beautiful, large, residential lots. Lots of trees, great location.

* 3BD/2B frame, pier & beam, on paved street in Rising Star, lots of large Pecan trees, recent improvements. **REDUCED \$35,000**

* 3,224 sq.ft. 4BD/3B, 2 story brick, CH/A, landscaped bldg., good location in Cross Plains. \$65,000.

* 2BD/2B, Brick, Central H/A, large 2 car detached garage with storage, large Oak and Pecan trees, in Rising Star. **REDUCED \$57,500.**

* 4bd/3.5 bath, Brick 3,083 sq. ft., Formal dining room, fireplace, C H/A, landscaped, on 3 acres, 2 car garage, Newly new and extremely nice, Cross Plains. **\$195,000**

* large residential lot in the Tom Bryant addition to Cross Plains, trees, prime home building location.
 * Fixer upper, 2bd/2 bath, frame, good landscaping, on paved street in Cross Plains. \$15,000

INCOME PROPERTY:
NEW LISTING--1BD/1B frame home with 2 efficiency apartments, 2 1 car garages, all electric, 2 lots, large trees, in Cross Plains, \$750/mo income. \$60,000. Owner Agent.

COMMERCIAL:
NEW LISTING--30 X 30 SHOP BUILDING, 2-10 X 12 roll up doors, one 10 X 14 roll up door, and one walk in door, one 50 X 140 lot with 9 X 12 office bldg., concrete floor, (auto-lift negotiable) in Cross Plains. \$25,000.



\$99,500.00 FIRM

3,000 sq.ft. In Clyde city limits. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, central heat/air, fireplace, 2 car garage w/ automatic openers, metal roof, large trees, water well, on paved street. See by Appt. only.

325-668-6044

TEXAS STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK

TexSCAN

TexSCAN Week of January 15, 2006

ADOPTION
 Note: It is illegal to be paid for anything beyond medical and legal expenses in Texas adoption.

PREGNANT? THINKING ADOPTION? Talk with caring people specializing in matching birthmothers with loving families nationwide. Expenses paid. Toll free 24/7. One True Gift Adoptions 1-866-921-0565.

AUCTIONS
1953 CORVETTE to be auctioned at the 25th Annual Cox Collector Car Auction, Branson, Missouri, April 21, 22, 23. Consignment or Bidding information: 1-800-335-3063. www.bransonauction.com

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7 Ac. & Home - Beautiful 4BR-3 1/2 B home w/ scenic views & lots of extras	175,000
10 Ac. & Home - 3/2 nice MH secluded & quiet, lots of oaks, garden, N. of Cross Plains	55,800
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22 Ac. - Good hunting/cattle property, outbuildings, completely furnished 2BR/2B ready to move into	125,000
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NEW LISTING--16/A m/l with metal building approximately 30 X 40. One half being used for shop, other half converted to living area. Could all be converted to living area. Good well, septic tank. Near Cross Plains. \$50,000.
 * Brick home, 3BR/2B, CH/A, privacy fence, corner lot, metal shop building. Owner finance with approved credit. Seller motivated, Bring offer. **Will consider dividing. PRICE REDUCED FOR QUICK SALE. \$80,000.**

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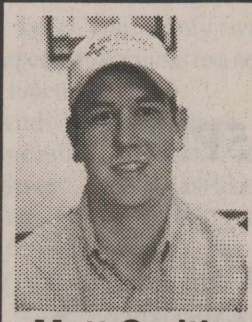
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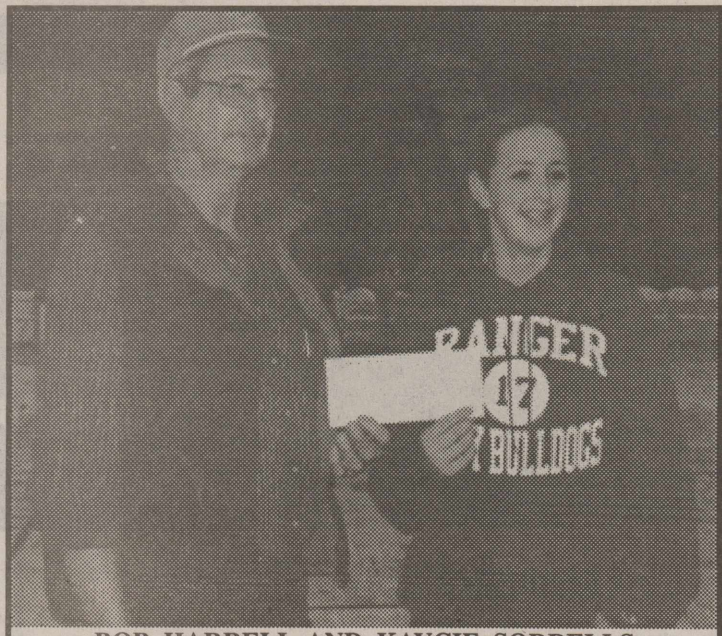
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BOB HARRELL AND KAYCIE SORRELLS

Ranger High School Student Council Donates Money to CPVFD

Ranger High School Student Council raised money to help the Cross Plains Volunteer Fire Department.

Kaycie Sorrells presented Fire Chief Bob Harrell with a check on Friday, January 13, 2006 during the basketball game in

Cross Plains.

The fire department will use this money toward repair and update on their equipment so they can continue to serve our communities in times of need.

Submitted by
Scarlett Koettel

Commissioners purchase 10 more electronic voting machines

Callahan County Commissioners voted to purchase 10 more electronic voting machines after reports of long lines to vote in several of the county precincts during the November General Election.

The commissioners' court met Monday, January 9 and voted to purchase 10 more E-Slate electronic voting machines for the seven county voting precincts.

Callahan County Judge Roger Corn said Hart Intercivics, which has contracted with the county to provide the voting machines, was able to locate 10 used E-Slate machines and will sell the equipment at half price. Judge Corn said the E-Slate machines normally sell for \$2,500 each, however these used electronic voting machines will be purchased for \$1,250. Judge Corn said Hart Intercivics has agreed to stand behind the warranty agreement for the used machines.

Back in August, the commissioners' court voted to purchase 17 E-Slate electronic voting machines for the November General Election. He said due to the lack of machines in some of the voting precincts, some voters in the county cast ballots after the normal 7:00 p.m. election cutoff time. Judge Corn said the additional E-Slate electronic voting machines will be placed at the larger voting precincts in Clyde, Cross Plains and Baird.

The 17 electronic voting machines were purchased partially through a HAVA (Help America Vote Act) grant. The HAVA grant of \$110,049, along with an additional \$9,440.95 from Callahan County, purchased the first 17 electronic voting machines.

Other agenda items brought before the commissioners' court included:

—During time set aside for public comments, Cliff Kirkham addressed the commissioners' court to commend Callahan

County on the clean-up effort in the Cross Plains area. Callahan County has provided county equipment to dispose of building and home debris after the fires in the community.

Judge Corn said over 300 truck loads of debris has been disposed of so far. He said the debris is being taken to a dump ground near the community.

Judge Corn noted the TCEQ (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality) officials said the Cross Plains clean-up effort was the most efficient clean-up of all the recent major disaster declarations they've been involved with.

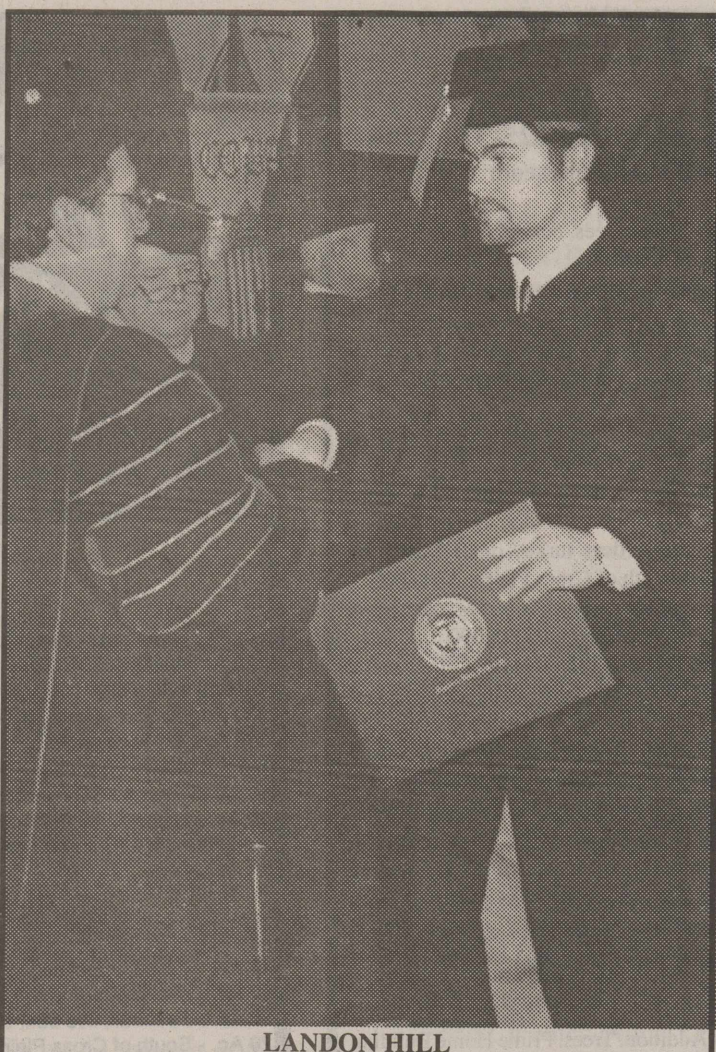
—Commissioners voted to approve the composition and appoint public members to the Salary Grievance Committee. The Salary Grievance Committee is made up of six elected officials and three public members. The elected officials of the committee include the county judge, county attorney, county sheriff, county tax assessor/collector, county clerk, and district clerk. Judge Corn said the three public members of the committee will be selected from last year's grand jury list, however those members have yet to be notified.

—The commissioners' court voted not to approve the preliminary energy audit from Dier Energy.

—The commissioners' court voted to approve the oath of office and bond for the county tax assessor/collector.

—The county commissioners voted to approve the hourly pay rate for the Central Count Station during election ballot counting which takes place at the County Courthouse in Baird. The five Central Count Station employees will be paid \$10.00 an hour.

—The commissioners' court voted to pay the approved bills and voted to adjourn the commissioners' court meeting.



LANDON HILL

Hill Graduates from Tarleton State University

Bob and Sharyn Hill are very proud of their son, Landon, who has received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice, with a minor in Wildlife Management.

Landon was honored by being chosen outstanding Graduate for

the Criminal Justice Department, graduating Cum Laude.

Landon graduated from Cross Plains High School in 2001.

Congratulations, Landon, we are so proud of you, we love you, Mom and Dad.

Barb's Cues

By Barbara Holmes Worcester

DO YOU SMELL THAT?

That afternoon of March 10, 1991, complications had forced Diana Blessing, only 24-weeks pregnant, to undergo an emergency Cesarean to deliver the couple's new daughter, Dana Lu Blessing. At 12 inches long and weighing only one pound nine ounces, they already knew she was perilously premature.

Numb with disbelief, David and Diana listened as the doctor described the devastating problems Dana would likely face if she survived.

She would never walk, she would never talk, she would probably be blind, and she would certainly be prone to other catastrophic conditions from cerebral palsy to complete mental retardation, and on and on. "No! No!" was all Diana could say.

Because Dana's underdeveloped nervous system was essentially 'raw', the lightest kiss or caress only intensified her discomfort, so they couldn't even cradle their tiny baby girl against their chests to offer the strength of their love. All they could do was to pray that God would stay close to their precious little girl.

At last, when Dana turned two months old, her parents were able to hold her in their arms for

the very first time. And two months later, Dana went home from the hospital, just as her mother had predicted.

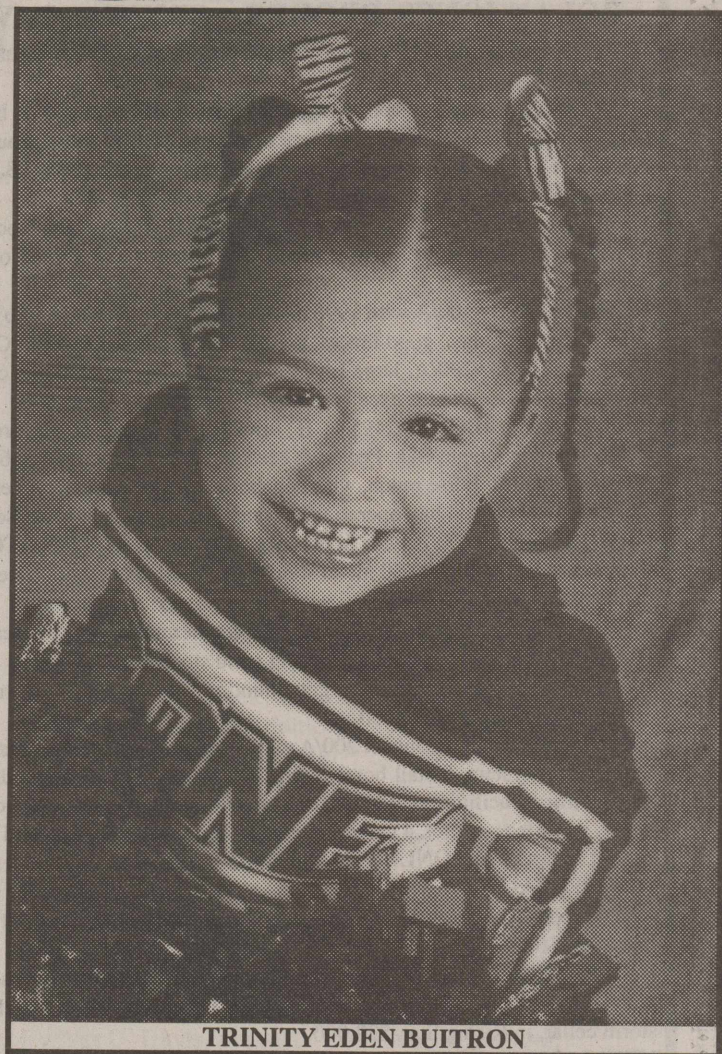
Five years later, when Dana was a petite but feisty young girl with glittering gray eyes and an unquenchable zest for life. She showed no signs whatsoever of any mental or physical impairment. Simply, she was everything a little girl can be and more.

One afternoon Dana was chattering nonstop with her mother and several other adults sitting nearby when she suddenly fell silent. Hugging her arms across her chest, little Dana asked, "Do you smell that?" Smelling the air and detecting the approach of a thunderstorm, Diana replied, "Yes, it smells like rain."

Still caught in the moment, Dana shook her head, patted her thin shoulders with her small hands and loudly announced, "No, it smells like Him. It smells like God when you lay your head on His chest."

During those long days and nights of her first two months of her life, when her nerves were too sensitive for them to touch her, God was holding Dana on His chest and it is His loving scent that she remembers so well.

From the internet



TRINITY EDEN BUITRON

National Bound

Trinity Eden Buitron, age 4, will be performing at the Alamo Dome in San Antonio, February 3rd, 4th and 5th for the National Cheer Power Cheerleading Competition.

She has been a member of the Seal CheerZone All Star Cheerleading Team for one year along with her participation

in dance and gymnastics. Trinity is the daughter of Daniel and Brandi (Monsey) Buitron of May. She is the granddaughter of Jerry and Linda Merritt of Merkel, Jackie Monsey of Clyde and Carlos Buitron of Sinton, Texas.

Good Luck Trin!!

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96 F250, V8, Auto, Runs good (White).....\$2,675
91 F250, V8, STD Trans, Looks Fair, Runs good.....\$1,595
85 F350 Crew Cab Diesel Dually, Std Trans, In good condition.....\$2,500
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89 Chevy Ext Cab, V8, Auto, In good condition (Red).....\$2,375
89 F250 Diesel Super Cab, 5spd, very clean, runs good (Red/White).....\$2,950
89 F250 Diesel Super Cab, Auto, Pretty nice truck (Blue/White).....\$2,950
89 F250 Diesel Super Cab, Auto, Steal flat bed, runs good, weak paint.....\$2,450
85 F350 Crew Cab Diesel, A pretty good old truck (White).....\$1,850

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