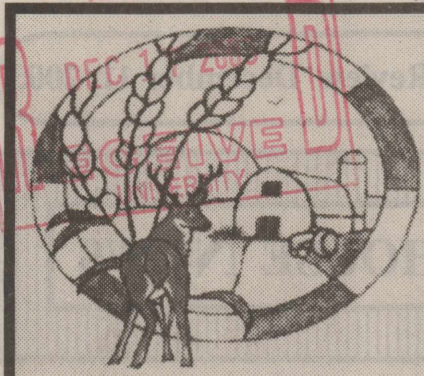


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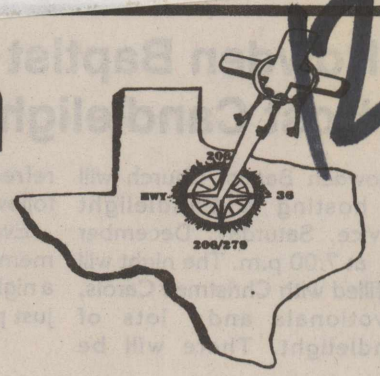


Cross Plains Review

"Cross Plains' Oldest Business Institution"

"A Caring Community"

THURSDAY, December 11, 2003



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

Rich in Agriculture
Abundant in Wildlife

Masthead Designed by Deborah Lowitzer

95TH YEAR

CROSS PLAINS, CALLAHAN COUNTY, TEXAS 76443

PRICE 50¢

NUMBER 38

DOWN HOME

"Gone Toooooo Far!"

By Vanda Anderson
Editor

I never thought I would be writing about the subject of whether it was acceptable to use the F-word on network television. I'm sure the majority of you feel the same as I do—this is totally unacceptable.

Over the past few years there have been many movies absolutely ruined by the use of the same four letter word. Its usage didn't add to the plot, etc., but it certainly decreased the value thereof.

Subject matter, language, violence, etc. has taken a bad turn on television. What has happened to morality, respect, character, honesty, integrity, etc.? If citizens do not stand up for what is right, this word will be considered acceptable for everyday use on television.

If your 3-year-old hears this enough, they will be repeating it—not knowing what it means. How far are we willing to let this go????

The organization, Grassfire.net has just learned that the Federal Communications Commission rejected a complaint against the use of the F-word on network television. The FCC has opened the door for the use of the F-word as long as the word is used as an adjective.

150,000,000 citizens complaints are needed. Over the next 30 days every concerned American citizen should take action and file a formal complaint with the FCC. You may file this via e-mail: <http://www.grassfire.net/39/petition.asp?RID=2835277>.

Once 25,000 citizen responses are reached, Grassfire.net will personally deliver all the formal complaints directly to the FCC. Such a delivery will maximize citizen outrage, and hopefully lead to a quick resolution of this matter!

If you don't have access to e-mail you may write them at: Federal Communications Commission

445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554.
For more FCC contact information, phone: 1-888-CALL-FCC (1-888-225-5322)
TTY 1-888-TELL-FCC (1-888-835-5322)
Fax: 1-866-418-0232
E-mail: fccinfo@fcc.gov.

Please take the time to address this matter and make a difference in our world. If you don't—WHO WILL???????

Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner rescheduled

The Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner has been rescheduled for December 19th due to water damage to the Clyde Center. Lunch will be served at the usual time on that date.

Your local center will be closed on Wednesday the 10th and Thursday the 11th.

We apologize for the inconvenience.

Submitted by: Vickie Burns



PARTICIPANTS IN THE CISCO LIGHT PARADE ON DECEMBER 6, 2003—Austin Dunaway (front, from left), Michael Navano, and Mandy Rose; Lela Bills (middle, from left) and Terrah Augustine; Cesar Rameriz (back, from left), Renee Salazar, Ben Schaefer, Christina Burrhus, Starla Schaefer, Jacob Melton and Ashleigh Gallaway. (Not pictured are Tawni Nichols and Emerald Lawallen.)

High School Marching Band Places 2nd in Cisco Parade

The Cross Plains High School Band marched Saturday, December 6, in the Cisco Lighted Christmas Parade. Due to short notice there were only fourteen students who participated.

The band used glow sticks, glow necklaces and Santa hats to accent their playing of "Jingle Bells".

The Cross Plains High School Band received the second place

trophy for their presentation. They came in right behind the CJC Wrangler Band. They were under the direction of Matt Sowell.

Good Job Band!!!!!!

Cross Plains Just Keeps On Progressing



STAGHORN CAFE— This new addition in downtown Cross Plains serves great food at a great price.



THE NEW MASONIC LODGE—Construction started on the new Masonic Lodge that can be seen on Main Street.



A NEW ADDITION— Hutton Construction has finished their new building on Main Street. This new building adds to the beauty of downtown Cross Plains.

Texas Heritage Bank Hosting Reception For Tom Turner

Texas Heritage Bank in Cross Plains invites you to a reception held in honor of bank president, Tom Turner, all day Friday, December 12, 2003. Tom and his family will be moving to Abernathy, Texas,

where he will be assuming the roll bank president at First National Bank.

Be sure to come by Texas Heritage bank this Friday and say farewell!

"Holiday Open House" Set For December 13th

Rising Star Farms would like to invite everyone to join them for a "Holiday Open House" to be held Saturday, December 13, 2003

from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. at 402 County Road 269, Rising Star, Tx. Come and enjoy cookies, hot chocolate and Christmas lights!

C.P. Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner Set for December 12th

Cross Plains Senior Citizens' Center invites everyone to attend their annual Christmas Dinner planned for Friday, December 12th.

They will be serving ham and cornbread and all the trimmings beginning at 11:45 a.m. You will not need to call and make reservations, just plan on joining them for this special occasion.

The Senior Citizens' Center will also be hosting a Bake Sale, Friday, December 19th, at the center from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is will be their final fund-raising

of the year and is very important. If anyone would like to donate a baked good, all would be greatly appreciated, you may call Kathy Anderson at (254) 725- 6521 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. or her home number (254) 725-6654. Remember to go by and buy some goodies for the holidays.

Remember that GAME NIGHT is every 2nd and 4th Tuesday at the Senior Citizens' Center. Anyone who would like to play dominoes, 42 or other games, is encouraged to attend and join the fun.

Key Club to Sponsor "Santa at the Bank"

The Key Club of Cross Plains High School is sponsoring "Santa at the Bank" and asks you to join in and help share your blessings of Christmas with the children of the community.

There will be a Christmas tree at the bank with ornaments telling the gender and ages of children throughout Cross Plains. Just stop by and pick one out and return to the bank by December 15, 2003.

The gifts will be wrapped and delivered by the Key Club for you. A reasonable price to spend on the gift would be around \$20-\$25. If you wish to just give money, then you may do so, and we will buy the gifts for you. Some gift ideas include: cosmetics, hair accessories,

perfume, sweaters, hats, gloves and purses for older girls, and video games, sports related items, sweaters, or hats for the older boys. Younger girls might enjoy dolls, sweaters, jewelry, purses, backpacks or stuffed animals, while younger boys might like Legos, trucks, cars, action figures, etc.

Christmas is a time for giving and kindness. Please help us make Christmas bright for the children of our community this year!

Submitted by Karen Ross

Callahan County Approved Resolution Against The Unfunded State Mandates

Callahan County Commissioners voted to approve a resolution against further state unfunded mandates on counties during the commissioners' court meeting held Monday, December 8 at the County Courthouse in Baird.

County Judge Roger Corn said the resolution against unfunded mandates came to a head after the State Legislature approved a Constitutional Amendment Special Election on September 13, 2003 held throughout the state, including Callahan County. The election was another unfunded mandate forced on counties in the state.

The resolution follows:
County of Callahan
State of Texas
Resolution
WHEREAS, Callahan County is responsible for the operation and management of many and various governmental programs as required or authorized by law; and
WHEREAS, some county government programs are fully or partially supported with funds

See Mandates Page 5

PIP PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 16THTUESDAY.....6:30 P.M.
JANUARY 20THTUESDAY.....6:30 P.M.
JANUARY 30THFRIDAY.....7:30 P.M.
FEBRUARY 10THTUESDAY.....6:30 P.M.

NOTE:

Please be at the the game no later than the time posted. Make sure you wear your shorts, shirt, white socks, and white shoes. We will also perform at one college game that will be announced at a later date.

Texas Heritage Bank
"We're Proud of Our Local Heritage"

MEMBER FDIC

Presents:
"What's Inside"

Birthday List	Page 5
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Courthouse News	Page 2
Library News	Page 3
Quips, Clips & Comments	Page 3
Student Review	Page 4

Rowden Baptist Church to Host Candlelight Service

Rowden Baptist Church will be hosting a Candlelight Service, Saturday, December 13, at 7:00 p.m. The night will be filled with Christmas Carols, devotionals and lots of candlelight. There will be refreshments and fellowship following the service. Everyone is invited to join the members of Rowden Baptist for a night of Worship, Singing, and just plain fun!

Four incumbents file for Democratic Primary ballot

Callahan County Democratic Chairman, Jon E. Hardwick reports four Democratic incumbents have filed for re-election to their county government positions during the first day of filing Wednesday, December 3.

Incumbent Sheriff Eddie Curtis, incumbent tax assessor/collector Tammy Walker, Precinct #1 Commissioner Harold Hicks and Precinct #3 Commissioner Tommy Holland have all filed for a place on the Democratic Primary ballot for March 9, 2004.

Curtis, 52, filed for re-election as county sheriff on December 3. Curtis, who resides at 541 Chestnut in Baird, has resided in the state and in the county all his life.

Walker, 42, filed for re-election for county tax assessor/collector on December 3. Walker has resided in the state 36 years and in the county 30 years. She

OBITUARIES

Barbara Ann Thomason

Barbara Ann Rust Thomason, 61, of Bangs passed away Sunday, December 7, 2003, in her home.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, December 9, at the Higginbotham Funeral Home in Cross Plains with Bob Pipes and Michael Light officiating. Burial was in the Cross Plains Cemetery, under the direction of Higginbotham Funeral Home.

Barbara was born July 15, 1942 in Mangum, Oklahoma to Les Rust and Velma (Clevinger) Rust. She married Walter L. Thomason on October 20, 1975 in Ardmore, Oklahoma. Barbara was a LVN. She was a longtime resident of Cross Plains and recently moved to Bangs. She was a member of the Church of Christ in both towns.

Survivors include her loving husband of 28 years, Walter Thomason, a son, Vince Farquhar of Bangs; daughters, Vanessa Payne of Abilene, Sharla Woodrow of Austin and Jana Jackson of Bangs; her step-children, Walter, Jr. of California, Dale of California, Eddie of Oklahoma, David of Azle and Charlie of Wichita Falls; 7 grandchildren and numerous step-grandchildren and great-grandchildren; her mother, Velma; two brothers and two sisters.

She was preceded in death by her sister, Fern Sampson, her father Les Rust, and her step-daughter, Phyllis Evans.

Pallbearers were Danny Hutton, J.D. Hutton, Elvan Goode, Pat Havens, Horace Hounshell and Johnny Seymour.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Girling Hospice.

Gregory Dean Gorman

Mr. Gregory Dean Gorman of San Augustine, Texas passes away in the Hill Country Memorial Hospital, Fredericksburg on Saturday, November 29, 2003, at the age of 55 years.

Memorial service for Mr. Gorman will be held on Saturday, December 13, 2003, at 1:00 p.m. in the Hill Country Evangelical Free Church at 107 E. Lower Crabapple Road, Fredericksburg.

Funeral arrangements were under the direction of the Schaeffer Funeral Home, Fredericksburg.

Survivors include his wife, Christy Miller Gorman of San Augustine; three sons and one daughter, Christopher Ray Gorman of Seminole, Kit Gorman, Travis Gorman and Gena Sadler, all of San Augustine; his mother, Harriette Harris Gorman of Comfort; and a sister, Toya Smith and her husband, Joe, of Houston.

Mr. Gorman will be remembered locally as a good friend of Joe Graves of Cross Plains.

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COURTHOUSE NEWS

COUNTY COURT
Roger Corn, presiding

Misdemeanor Filings

David G. Davis, driving while intoxicated (DWI).
Kristy R. Anderson, failed to identify.
Brian Keith Romaine, theft by check.
Karin Webb, DWI.
David Breneman, assault.
Billy Joe Jones, assault.
Tommy Joe Higgins, Sr., DWI.

Misdemeanor Minutes

Laura K. MacArthur Phillips, order extending probation granted.
Jerry Lee Roads, motion to dismiss motion to revoke probation granted.
End of term order discharging defendant under deferred adjudication, Maunie Brumbaugh.
End of term order discharging defendant under misdemeanor probation, Donnie Grooms.
Johnny Baker, motion to revoke probation granted.

Marriage Licenses

Daniel Jason Clyburn and Jennifer Nicole Smith, both of Baird.

Civil Filings

Michala Sue Macks and Michael Anchony Macks, divorce.
The State of Texas vs. \$5,290.00 in U.S. currency, original notice of seizure and intended forfeiture.

42nd DISTRICT COURT
John Weeks, presiding

Callahan County DPS Report

Calls received by the Callahan County Department of Public Safety from November 30, 2003 through December 6, 2003 include:

Cases Investigated

Warnings—107
Complaints—95
DWI—1
DWI with Child—1
Fail to Identify—1
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia—1

Vehicle Accidents

There were four vehicle accidents investigated during this time span.

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CROSS PLAINS REVIEW
(USPS 138-660)
DON TABOR, PUBLISHER
VANEA CREECH, EDITOR
CROSS PLAINS REVIEW

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION
MEMBER 2003

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CALL VANDA OR AMBER
CROSS PLAINS REVIEW - 725-6111

CHURCH DIRECTORY

BELIEVER'S FELLOWSHIP
Inner-denominational-Evangelical EAST HIGHWAY 36
SUNDAY WEDNESDAY
9:30 a.m. Sunday School 7:00 p.m. Christian Youth Activities
10:45 a.m. Morning Service THURSDAY
6:00 p.m. Evening Service 7:00 p.m. Midweek Service
PASTOR: J. D. FRY (915) 646-7647
Last Sunday of the month singing. Come one-Come all.
Chips, Dips, Sandwiches

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

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

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

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

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

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

Callahan County Republican Candidate Filing Now Underway

Callahan County Republican Chairperson Pat Chrane announces that application for candidates to file for a place on the March Republican Primary will be accepted now through January 2, 2004.

Those who wish to file can obtain applications by contacting Pat Chrane at (325) 529-3428. Applications will be accepted through January 2, 2004 at 6:00 p.m. The filing fee for Justice of the Peace is \$375. Other county offices are \$750. Anyone who needs assistance or information may call (325) 529-3428.

The Haven women's center open house Sunday

Everyone is invited to attend an open house for The Haven on Sunday, December 14, 2003 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. The Haven is located at 222 Archer Street in Clyde, two blocks south of Neal's Automotive, on the right.

A short time ago, a small handful of people had a dream to open a women's center and crisis pregnancy center for our county. The dream was that there would be a place that would minister to women and young girls, providing the option of life for those with unplanned pregnancies, and providing practical and spiritual training for all women to help them successfully fulfill their many responsibilities. It is a place for the community to come together, with older women teaching younger women, building relationships and sharing wisdom and know-how gained over the years. It is a place to pass along our values as well our skills. The dream is that The Haven will be a place to restore and protect the God-given dignity of all life—both born and unborn, and to minister to women regarding their worth and value in the eyes of Almighty God. Behind The Haven is the belief that God has a divine purpose for each life, and that He offers hope, healing, forgiveness, and a future to all who will receive. It is a means to reach out to women at their point of need, offering them a haven in God's love. Through the truths of God's Word, and relationship with Jesus, The Haven seeks to bring women to a place of personal wholeness so they can bring wholeness to their marriages, homes, families and communities.

The Haven includes three areas. First is the crisis pregnancy assistance center offering free pregnancy testing, placing of unwed mothers and

You are Invited to... Worship With Us!



Cross Plains First Baptist Church
3rd & Main Ronnie B. White, Pastor

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
7:00 p.m. Sun. Evening Worship
7:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer/Worship

Do You Have The Christmas Spirit? Do You Have Joy?

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Van Service Available - Call (254) 725-7694
N. Main (Hwy. 206)
Cross Plains, Texas
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Worship - 10:45 a.m.
Rev. C. Michael Redd, Pastor

C.P. STUDENT REVIEW

Lady Buffs Basketball Team Starts Season 6-2

The Lady Buff basketball team began the week with a hard fought 44-32 victory over twentieth ranked Zephyr. We got an early lead but we did not pull away until the final few minutes. Injuries have hurt us but we've had several girls fill in and do a good job for us.

On Thursday, the Lady Buffs began the Rising Star tournament with a 58-38 victory over Gustine. We had several girls play very well this game. Stephanie Edington and Nicole Clark had their best offensive game of the season. We actually struggled a bit with our defense but offensively, it was one of our best spot shooting games of the season.

On Friday evening, we lost a tough game to the host, Rising Star 29-27. We actually were only behind once in the game but it was at the wrong time. We held the lead most of the way but just had too many problems scoring against the taller Rising Star zone

defense. We were unsuccessful creating turnovers, so we couldn't score that way either. Rising Star is a good team but I just didn't feel like we played our best. We'll have another opportunity against them later in the season.

Our final game of the week was for third place in the tournament. We defeated a tough Eastland JV squad by a score of 48-46 to win third place. They were small but very quick and it created problems for our defense, as we didn't keep them in front of us very well. Ultimately, some timely scores by Dayna Bennett, Kelsey Richards and Bree Dillard earned us a come-from-behind victory.

We are 6-2 at this point and are working in practice to improve ourselves. This has to be done on both an individual and a team basis. We play the number two ranked May team on Tuesday and then open with Sidney in our tournament on Thursday.

Junior High Boys Basketball Report

Junior High Boys have two teams this year. Playing on the "B" Team is Joe Wyatt, Ricky Daniel, Jerry Daniels, Anthony Hutton, Justin Gardner and Andrew Wheeler.

They have played 3 games and while they have been competitive they have not won one yet. In the 1st game against Evant they lost 34-12. Scoring for the Buffs were Ricky Daniel 6, Jerry Daniels, Anthony Hutton and Andrew Wheeler 2 each.

In the game against Albany they played better, losing 20 to 11. Jerry Daniels scored 6, Ricky Daniel 3 and Joe Wyatt 2.

Against Gorman they ran into a good team and were defeated 46-9. Ricky Daniel scored 4 while Jerry and Justin 4 each.

Playing on the "A" Team are Fili Vasquez, J. J. Callaway, Cody

Baker, Markus Maxwell, Joey Westerman, Brice Bowden and Jacob Melton. Their record is currently 2-1.

In the first game, they defeated Evant 26-23. This was a close game. Scoring for the Buffs were Brice Bowden 10, Jacob Melton 11, Markus Maxwell 2 and J.J. Callaway 3.

In their second game the Buffs trailed 17-15 at half, but scored only 2 points in the second half, and lost 38-17. Scoring were Melton 6, Vasquez 4, Bowden 4, Maxwell 2 and Callaway 1.

In their last game, which was a good game, the Buffs defeated Gorman 33-27. Scoring were Bowden 12, Baker 7, Melton 5, Callaway 5 and Vasquez 3.

The Buffs travel in Ranger for their next tilt.

Submitted by Coach Mitchell Atchley

Students Compete in Scholastic Contest

Students traveled to Howard Payne University last Friday to compete in the Douglas MacArthur Academy of Freedom Scholastic Contests. This annual event hosted by HPU allows area honor students to compete in more than fifteen scholastic contests ranging from Algebra, American History, English Grammar, Spanish, Sociology and Economics as well as many others.

Each contest generally consisted of a 150-question multiple-choice formatted test with essay responses included. Many schools were represented at this day-long event with our students competing against eleven 1A and 2A schools from the surrounding region. Those high school students who participated in the various contests included Daley Anderson, Forrest Creamer, Lori Hail, Derek Hamlin, Tristan

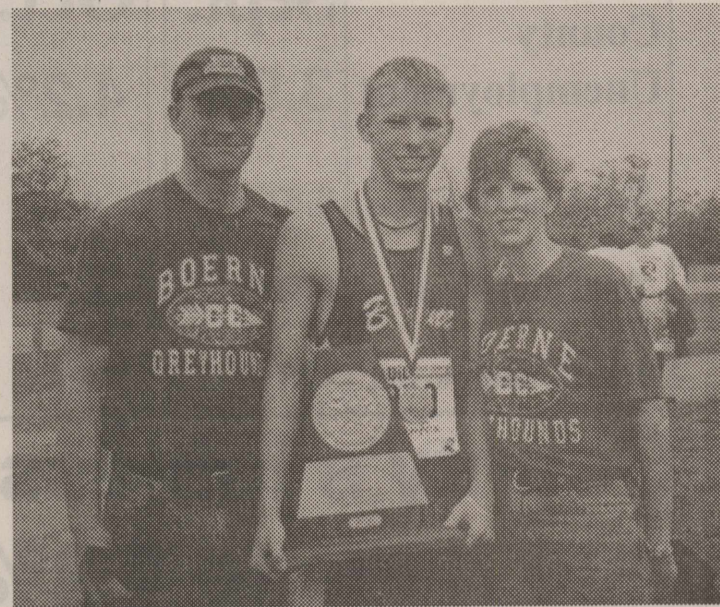
Jones, Jose Mauricio, Colton Manley, Kati Wooten and Levi Wooten.

Unfortunately, this group was not allowed to stay for the Academy's Awards Ceremony and had to return to school. However, Jose Mauricio placed third overall in the Algebra contest and will receive a bronze medal. Jose also placed 5th in the Spanish contest. Daley Anderson placed 6th in the English Grammar contest. Kati Wooten placed 7th in the Literature contest, 9th in the American History contest and 10th in the Biology contest.

In the 1A and 2A Division alone, each contest has approximately 20 to 26 contestants. Each student will receive a certificate for competing in the contests. All of these students should be congratulated for their efforts and initiative to participate in such a large-scale academic event.

-Submitted by Melissa Owen, Sponsor

4 - Cross Plains Review December 11, 2003



CONGRATULATIONS RYAN—Ryan Mack is holding the State Team Champion Trophy for 4A Cross Country. The Boerne Greyhounds scored a phenomenal 44 points to best the second place team by 45 points. Ryan finished 30th individually with a personal best time of 16:48 (good enough to have finished 3rd in A or 2A divisions)! The UIL Cross Country Championships were held at Round Rock, Texas on November 15, 2003. Ryan Mack is the son of Steve and Sandy Mack all formerly of Cross Plains.

Next National Test Date for the ACT Assessment is Feb. 7th

The next national test date for the ACT Assessment is February 7, 2004. College-bound students should register by the January 2 postmark deadline. Late registration postmark deadline is January 16 (an additional fee is required for late registration). Students can register online at www.act.org or they can get a registration packet from their high school guidance counselor and register by mail. The website also has sample test questions and a link to a free financial aid calculator.

ACT scores are accepted by virtually all colleges and universities in the nation. The test fee is \$26 (\$29 in Florida). Colleges use ACT scores, along

with a student's high school GPA and other information to help determine admissions and the appropriate course placement for new students.

The Act Assessment is curriculum-based, designed to measure a student's academic achievement. There are four sections to the exam: English, reading, math and science.

Students who have already taken the ACT can retake and try for a higher score. Juniors often use their scores to examine academic weaknesses, take courses or tutoring to correct these weaknesses and retake as seniors. Students who test more than once can choose which scores to report to prospective colleges.

Applications now being evaluated for Ten Star All Star Basketball Camp

Applications are now being evaluated for The Ten Star All Star Summer Basketball Camp. The Camp is by Invitation Only. Boys and Girls ages 10-19 are eligible to apply.

Past participants include: Michael Jordan, Tim Duncan, Vince Carter, Jerry Stackhouse, Grant Hill and Antawn Jamison.

Players from 50 states and 22 foreign countries attended the 2003 Camp. College Basketball Scholarships are possible for players selected to the All-

American Team.

Camp locations include Commerce, Texas; Thousand Oaks, CA, Sterling, CO, Babson Park, FL, Atlanta GA, Champaign, IL, Greencastle, IN, Atchison, KS, Baltimore MD, Ysilanti, MI, Hamilton, NY, Hickory, NC, Bluffton, OH, Lock Haven, PA, Lebanon, TN, Blackburg, VA, Poultny, VT, Olympia, WA and Beloit, WI.

For a free brochure, call (704) 373-0873 ANYTIME.

Choosing gifts for children requires consideration

DENTON—Children generally aren't shy about voicing what they want for Christmas. For adults, the hard part in choosing gifts is determining what's appropriate for the child.

Dr. Diane Karther, assistant professor of early childhood development and education at Texas Woman's University in Denton, says safety and usability are key factors to consider when purchasing gifts for children.

"Brand-name toys are scrutinized by the Toy Manufacturers Association and by government agencies. Most are safe, but adults should always check them carefully," Dr. Karther said. Most toys feature a recommended age range for that product, and Dr. Karther said that provides a good guide for parents.

How the toy can be used is another consideration when buying gifts.

"Toys should have broad usability," Dr. Karther said. "A toy that does one thing at the press of one button won't hold a lot of attention for an infant." However, she said, play centers with different buttons and wheels that produce music and pop-up characters allow the child to be involved in different ways.

Children of preschool age need toys that will feed their imagination, Dr. Karther said. Items such as toy farms and homes or construction or fantasy materials

allow the child to make up his or her own play scene. Software programs that allow children to draw or create their own stories also make good gifts, she said.

Some adults focus on educational toys for younger children, but Dr. Karther favors toys that stimulate creativity and imagination.

"It's important to just let children play with their toys, because therein lies the learning," she said.

Children typically develop their own interests as they get older, and gifts that reflect those interests may be appropriate. Kits that cover a variety of interests are available, from model cars or airplanes to jewelry-making kits. Some museum stores have items such as nature discovery and archaeology kits, Dr. Karther said. Children who are interested in sports may appreciate receiving items related to their particular sport. Dr. Karther urges parents to put some of the toys away a few weeks after Christmas in order to keep young children from being overwhelmed. "Store some toys, and from time to time, rotate them out to spark more use of them," she said.

Dr. Karther also suggests that parents join their children in playing with toys and games.

"Every survey of children shows that what they really want from adults is time," she said.

Holiday Toy Buying Reference Guide

- Make sure toys are safe. The toy shouldn't have any small parts the child can put in his or her mouth. Equally important, the toy should be durable. Pieces of broken toys pose just as great a choking hazard.

- Toys that can be used for a variety of things will be used more than a toy that has a single use. Open-ended toys let children be creative and use their imagination. For example, a toddler can use a large ball for playing catch, kicking in the back yard or as a stool for spinning in a circle.

- Toy packaging gives recommended ages for the product, but sometimes the recommendations are off. Look carefully at the toy, examine it and deter-

mine if it might be too challenging or not challenging enough for your child—both of which will cause it to be discarded.

- Gift givers need to think about what they are going to buy before heading to the toy store, which can be an overwhelming shopping experience. Go toy shopping without any idea of what you're looking for and you're more likely to make a mistake.

- Purchasing a toy for a friend or relative's child? Call the parents and make sure the child doesn't already have the toy and that the parents are fine with the proposed gift.

Source: Texas Woman's University Department of Family Sciences.

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 reason send name and birth date (Month and Day) or Call (254) 725-6111.**

SCHOOL MENU

DECEMBER 15 - 19

BREAKFAST

MONDAY - Breakfast Burrito, Assorted Juice
TUESDAY - Waffle, Sausage, Assorted Juice
WEDNESDAY - Muffin, Assorted Juice
THURSDAY - Hot or Cold Cereal, Assorted Juice
FRIDAY - Cheese Toast, Assorted Juice

LUNCH

MONDAY - Pizza, Salad, Corn, Rosy-Applesauce
TUESDAY - Ham Slices, Scalloped Potatoes, Spinach, Rolls, Honey
WEDNESDAY - Fiesta Salad, (Chili Beans, Corn Chips, Rice, Salad, Cheese) Peaches
THURSDAY - BBQ Franks, Creamed Potatoes, Green Beans, Bread, Mixed Fruit
FRIDAY - Deli Turkey Sub, Chips, Salad, Pickles, Cookie

Early out Wednesday, December 17, 2003 at 2:45 p.m. Buses will run at 2:45 p.m.
Early out Thursday, December 18, 2003 at 2:45 p.m. Buses will run at 2:45 p.m.
Early out Friday, December 19, 2003 at 1:00 p.m. Buses will run at 1:00 p.m.

Teacher Workday - Saturday, December 20, 2003

Christmas Holidays
December 22, 2003 Thru January 2, 2004.

Student Holiday
Monday, January 5, 2004
Staff Development
Monday, January 5, 2004

Classes will Resume on Tuesday, January 6, 2004 At Regular Time

Put your holiday gifts under wraps

Wrap your gift as pretty as you please. But when preparing it for mailing, be practical and protective. Sturdy packages with complete, legible addresses will help your gifts arrive quickly and in good shape.

So, holiday mailers are advised to use a sturdy carton large enough to accommodate the gift package plus cushioning, and to remove or mark out any conflicting address information already on the carton. Do not use wrapping paper or twine cord on the outside of the carton - paper can rip, and twine can become tangled in mail processing equipment.

It is important to seal your parcel securely. We recommend pressure-sensitive tape, nylon-reinforced craft paper tape, or glass-reinforced, pressure-sensitive tape.

Your return address, in the upper left-hand corner of the package, should be complete

and should include your proper ZIP Code. The recipient's address should include name; box number or complete address number, street name and suffix (Ave, St, Blvd, etc.) plus any street directional (E, N, S, W, etc.), and ZIP Code. Before sealing your package, it's a good idea to put the delivery address on a sheet of paper inside the package. Then, if something happens to the outside address, postal personnel still have a way to identify the recipient. To minimize this possibility, use permanent, not water soluble, ink or markers and clear tape over the entire label.

Proper addressing means complete and legible addresses. Always include apartment and suite numbers and correct ZIP Codes. The ZIP Code belongs on the same line as the city and state - that's where our sorting clerks and automated processing equipment look for it.

Come Pick Out Your Free Toy At Bitter Creek Ranch

December 20, 2003
From 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Anyone Willing To Donate Good Used Toys Bring Them By Bitter Creek Ranch.

Texas Almanac 2004-2005 puts knowledge of the Lone Star State at readers' fingertips

DALLAS—Nov. 18, 2003—The 62nd Edition of the Texas Almanac places Texas history, current affairs and culture right at your fingertips. It is a trusted, reliable and enjoyable reference book for business people, journalists, legislators, teachers, students, historians, genealogists, travelers, trivia buffs and people who simply want to increase their knowledge of the Lone Star State. The Texas Almanac has been a valuable factual tool used by many since 1857.

Special features in the Texas Almanac 2004-2005 include:

- A history of the frontier forts of Texas. Shortly after Texas joined the Union in 1845, the U.S. Army established a line of forts across Texas, running north to south, to protect settlers pushing west to claim cheap land. That line of forts was hardly complete when the army had to build a second line even farther west.
- An account of the challenges and hardships faced by women who also lived at the frontier forts in the late 19th century.
- The story of Fort Anahuac, which was built on the Gulf Coast in 1830 when Texas was still part of Mexico. Archaeologists have begun to excavate this fort, which played a part in the Texas Revolution.
- A history of Polish immigrants in Texas—how and why they came to the Lone Star State and what they have added to the diverse cultural mix that is Texas.
- An analysis of the religious census, Churches and Church Membership in the United States 2000, with detailed reports by county and denomination.
- An account of the first Franciscan missionaries to Texas in the 1600s, who were summoned from New Mexico by Jumano Indians and came to the area around present-day San Angelo as early as 1629. El Paso became a permanent center for missions in the 1680s.
- A condensed history of Texas that takes the reader from pre-

historic times to the 1970s.

- A history of oil discovery in Texas from the 1860s, through Spindletop and the Permian Basin, and up to the new technologies in the Austin Chalk.

- A list of more than 16,000 Texas place names, including 5,800-plus existing cities, towns and communities, as well as more than 10,000 others that no longer exist.

The Texas Almanac contains the latest information on such topics as the natural environment and recreation, with complete listings of state and national parks, historic sites, landmarks, and wildlife refuges and management areas.

The Counties section includes up-to-date population and demographic information that reflects the latest estimates since the 2000 census, along with detailed road maps and profiles of all of Texas' 254 counties. The Political and Government sections report the latest from the 2003 Legislature, as well as the names of elected and appointed federal, state and local government officials.

There are also sections on Culture and the Arts, Religion, Health and Science, Crime, Media, Education, Business and Transportation, and Agriculture.

The Texas Almanac is also the handiest source for such uniquely Texas information as the words to the state song, the pledge to the Texas flag and the text of the Texas Declaration of Independence.

"The Texas Almanac contains a broad range of information, everything from agriculture to healthcare and transportation to minerals," said Editor Elizabeth Alvarez. "Besides all of the new features and updated data, this edition also includes a detailed Table of Contents and an expanded Index—two improvements that will help our readers find the information they need in this factually dense resource. The Texas Almanac is truly a one-stop resource for all things

Texan, for people who need information on nearly every aspect of the state."

Also available is the Texas Almanac Teacher's Guide, a 130-plus-page professionally written teaching tool that provides teachers and homeschoolers with the tools needed to make teaching lessons on social studies, the economy, culture and history fun. The Teacher's Guide is an indispensable resource in the classroom, with suggested interdisciplinary activities based on information found in the Texas Almanac 2004-2005. Each lesson is coded to indicate how it helps fulfill TEKS and TAKS objectives.

Published by The Dallas Morning News, the Texas Almanac 2004-2005 is available at *Clyde Journal*, *Baird Banner* and *Cross Plains Review*.

TEXAS ALMANAC PUBLICATION HISTORY

The Texas Almanac became a cherished tradition before the Civil War and continues to be a staple in the libraries of Texans a century and a half later.

The first edition of the Texas Almanac was issued by The News in Galveston in January 1857, 21 years after Texas won its independence from Mexico and only 12 years after it became a state.

The focus of the earliest editions of the Texas Almanac was on history and the workings of the state government. These 19th century editions included many first-person accounts of the Texas Revolution and the early days of the Republic and of statehood. An edition was published each year through 1873, except for 1866, totaling 16 annual editions. The editions for the years 1862-65 were of pamphlet size, ranging from 48 to 64 pages. Because Galveston was one of the Gulf Coast ports blockaded by the Union Navy and there was constant threat of armed conflict during the war, production of the 1862 edition was moved to Houston, and the

next three editions were published in Austin.

Post-Civil War publication was resumed in Galveston in 1867. With the 1869 edition, the name was changed to The Texas Almanac and Emigrant's Guide to Texas, reflecting the state's need to attract settlers. The 1873 edition was the last 19th century edition, due to the death in 1875 of editor Willard Richardson.

In 1885, The News spun off The Dallas Morning News as a sort of North Texas branch newspaper. George Bannerman Dealey was sent from Galveston to Dallas to establish the Dallas paper. Dealey thought that the Almanac would be a way to encourage the economic development of the state, and in 1904, The Dallas Morning News resumed publication of the Texas Almanac. Just three years earlier, the Spindletop Oil Field had been discovered near Beaumont, boosting Texas into the petroleum and industrial age. To reflect this change in economic focus of the state, the name was changed to The Texas Almanac and State Industrial Guide.

Following another hiatus, the Almanac resumed publication with editions in 1910, 1911, 1912 and 1914. Another gap in the series ensued with the outbreak of World War I. The present series was begun in 1925, with annual editions through 1929, when the effects of the Great Depression caused a change to a biennial cycle. This schedule has been maintained, with only a couple of exceptions.

Texas Almanac 2004-2005 contains a wealth of statistics and information on subjects ranging from agriculture to the arts and from weather to wildlife. The magnitude and depth of the material found in the Texas Almanac is a result of an exhaustive two-year editorial and research process. Statistics are compiled from thousands of questionnaires sent throughout the state by the Almanac staff. Unlike any other state almanac or reference book, the Texas Almanac includes graphics and detailed maps, yet contains a balance of necessary facts and intriguing feature stories about Texas.

Librarians, legislators, journalists, historians and educators acknowledge that the Texas Almanac is the handiest and most comprehensive source of information about the Lone Star State.

Callahan County to host 3 hour CEU "Night Course"

Many producers that have a pesticide license have a hard time attending daytime educational programs that offer CEU's (Continuing Education Unit) for re-certification of their license. Therefore, a special three (3) Hour pesticide re-certification night course for Texas Department of Agriculture applicator license holders is set for December 18 in the Callahan County Extension Office located on the 2nd floor of the County Courthouse. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. and the program starts at 6:00 p.m. Texas Department of Agriculture has approved the program for 1 hour in Laws and Regulations, 1 hour in Integrated Pest Management, and 1 hour of General. These hours will apply to Commercial, non-commercial and private applicators' license holders.

The program will begin with Laws and Regulations presentation followed by Integrated Pest Management presentation discussing alternative approaches available when using pesticides. The night course will conclude after a 1 hour general presentation at 9:00 p.m. CEU certificates will be awarded at the conclusion of the program.

Cost for the training is \$5.00 for those that pre-register by December 16. To pre-register or for more information, call Robert Pritz, CEA-Agriculture in Callahan County at (325) 854-1518.

Robert Pritz
County Extension Agent

Subscribe To The
Cross Plains Review

Country Music Singer Joe Nichols to Headline Rehab 2004

One of the hottest young stars in country music today will be the headline performer for Rehab 2004. WTRC President and CEO, Woody Gilliland, announced today that Joe Nichols will perform at the 34th annual telethon to benefit the West Texas Rehabilitation Center.

Nichols just recently won the Country Music Association's Horizon Award which is given to the artist who has demonstrated significant growth in Country Music over the past year. He was also nominated for "Album of the Year" for his album "Man With A Memory". Some of his hits include "The Impossible", "Joe's Place", "Brokenheartsville", "She Only Smokes When She Drinks" and "Cool To Be A Fool".

Rehab 2004 will be Saturday, January 17th originating from the Abilene Civic Center. The five-hour live show that begins at 7 p.m. will be broadcasts in 10 television markets in Texas and portions of Oklahoma and New


Mexico.

Joining Joe Nichols at Rehab 2004 will be Charlie Chase, Red Steagall and regulars Bill and Susan Hayes, Anacani and Brad Maule.

The telethon is the largest fundraiser of the year for the Rehab with a goal to raise over \$1 million dollars in support of the Rehab's mission, to improve the quality of life of those served regardless of their financial circumstances.

Underwriters for Rehab 2004 are American Electric Power (AEP) and Associated Publishing/Area-Wide Phone Book. American Airlines/American Eagle is the official air carrier of Rehab 2004. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas is a Rehab partner in the auction.

For additional information on Rehab 2004, please call Dan Huggins in Abilene at (325) 793-3508 or Dee Lackey in San Angelo at (325) 223-6300.



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