

Cross Plains Review

CROSS PLAINS' OLDEST BUSINESS INSTITUTION

THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 1997



WEST CADDO PEAK



EAST CADDO PEAK
Price 50¢

88TH YEAR

CROSS PLAINS, CALLAHAN COUNTY, TEXAS 76443

NUMBER 49

HAPPENING THIS WEEK IN CROSS PLAINS

Public Meeting Tonight

The City of Cross Plains and the Texas Department of Transportation will host a Public Meeting for the citizens of Cross Plains tonight (Thursday, March 6). The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Cross Plains Community Center. Texas

DOT will present plans for the repair and replacement of downtown sidewalks. All interested citizens are urged to attend, especially property owners and merchants located on either side of Main Street.

CPHS Exes Meet Tonight

Cross Plains High School ex-students will meet in the high school library tonight (Thursday, March 6),

at 6:00 p.m. to review 1997 Homecoming plans. All exes are encouraged to attend.

Revival To Be Held At UPC March 5-8

There will be revival services this week, March 5-8, at the United Pentecostal Church, 201 West Hwy. 36. Evangelist, Rev. Leon Suggett from Pearland, Texas, will minister nightly with anointed preaching and singing. We encourage the sick to

come for healing and everyone desiring a new life with Jesus to attend. Service time is 7:00 p.m. Pastor Phillip Schaefer welcomes you to come worship and praise the Lord with them.

Cancer Awareness Workshop Set For Tuesday

The Cross Plains Senior Citizens Center will be hosting a Ladies Workshop on Tuesday, March 11. Sue Prewit, R.N., Rural Outreach Manager for YWCA of Abilene will be bringing the program. The workshop is for Breast Cancer Awareness through YWCA and Encore Plus. Refreshments will be served and

the program will start at 10:00 a.m. All ages are encouraged to attend. Miss Prewit will be available for questions following the program. Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon. If you wish to attend and stay for lunch, please RSVP by Friday, March 7, at 12:00 noon. The number to call is 725-6521.

Project Pride Meets Tuesday

Project Pride will hold their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, March

11, at 6:00 p.m. at the Library. The public is invited to attend.

County Road 207 Maintenance Is Accepted

BAIRD—Callahan County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, February 24th, at the Callahan County Courthouse in Baird. Callahan County Judge Bill Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. with these officers present: Commissioners Harold Hicks, Precinct 1; Bryan Farmer, Precinct 2; Tommy Holland, Precinct 3; Charlie Grider, Precinct 4, and County Clerk Darlene Walker.

Commissioners reviewed and signed the minutes of the previous meeting.

Commissioners unanimously accepted a motion by Hicks and seconded by Grider to accept maintenance on County Road 207 in Precinct 1.

Commissioners decided to pay \$150.00 a month for Janitorial Services in the Clyde Justice of the Peace Office. The duty's will be performed by the J.P.'s secretary Margie Bialock. The motion was made by Hicks and seconded by Grider.

The 1996 Callahan County Historical Commission Report was

received with no comments or questions.

Cross Plains EMS representative Mr. McCoy met with commissioners and requested assistance for the volunteer EMS service to help pay their part of the matching grant with which they purchased a new ambulance. The Commissioners voted to donate \$5,000 toward the purchase of the new ambulance. Motion made by Grider and seconded by Hicks.

County Septic System Inspector Don Burns met with the Commissioners concerning new State Regulations pertaining to septic systems. Farmer made a motion and was seconded by Holland to send Burns to a school to learn of these new regulations. Motion passed unanimously.

Precinct 4 Constable Kevin Weiss was approved for a performance bond. Motion was by Farmer and seconded by Holland.

Bills were then reviewed and paid on a motion by Holland and seconded by Grider.

Submitted by Billy Harris
Baird Correspondent

Update On School Board and City Council Filings

Cross Plains I.S.D. School Board - Two positions expiring (3 year terms) - Donnie Dillard and Jimmy Harris. Incumbent Donnie Dillard has filed.

City Council Seats - Three positions expiring (2 year terms) - Edwin Weiss, James Nichols, W.C. (Carroll) Pringle - Incumbents Edwin Weiss, James Nichols, and W.C. (Carroll) Pringle have filed.

March 19 at 5:00 p.m. Final Filing Date

File at Superintendent's Office for School Board
During Spring Break March 10-14 call 725-7458.
File at Cross Plains City Hall for City Council Position
May 3, 1997 Election Day

Kiwanis Pancake Supper Tonight

If you haven't noticed any of the signs announcing the Annual Kiwanis Pancake Supper, then it's not too late. You're reading this and the pancakes will be served tonight, Thursday, March 6, from 5 to 7 p.m. **ALL YOU CAN EAT FOR \$3.00.** Roy Stambaugh and all the Kiwanis pancake cooks and servers will be on hand early to make sure that

plenty of pancakes and sausages are ready for the early birds at 5. Come on down to the School Cafeteria and support the Kiwanis Club as they support local and national projects and individual needs in our community. Buy your tickets from any member of the Kiwanis Club or at the door.



BILLIE LOVING

Billie Ruth Loving, Librarian Emeritus, Cross Plains Library

Billie Ruth Loving says she would never "quit" the library, but she is retiring from the Librarian position she has so ably filled for many years.

Besides fulfilling her regular and specified duties, Billie saw the need to excite children's interest in reading. She organized the original children's program which has evolved into the "Learn About..." Program, attended by pre-schoolers every Wednesday morning from November through April.

Every year she also puts together the summer reading program for elementary school children and, more recently, the summer "Read To Me" program for infants.

The Library Board has accepted Billie's resignation with regret and with understanding. We do anticipate that she will be able to continue to participate in the planning of these programs. Everyone who knows Billie is convinced that, while she was down, by no means is she out. Her positive attitude and determination has seen her through a very trying time and will enable her to once again become active in the community.

The Friends of the Library will host a special reception in Billie's honor at the Library on Friday, March 21. All are invited to drop by between 2 and 4:30 p.m.

Free Income Tax Service Offered

By PAUNIECE OGLESBY

Through the Tax-Aide program, volunteers provide free personal income tax assistance to the Senior Citizens, low-income families and the general public with basic tax returns. Individuals with complicated tax returns will be advised to seek professional tax assistance.

Volunteers are specially trained, in cooperation with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS), to understand those provisions of the tax code that affect Senior Citizens as well as the low and middle income families. Tax-Aide volunteers provide personal, one-on-one assistance to help you complete your federal tax returns, including special rebate programs.

Tax-Aide volunteers are available from February 1 to April 15 each year. There will be only one volunteer working the Cross Plains area using the Multi-Purpose Center on East 8th Street as headquarters. Tax returns will be prepared by APPOINTMENT ONLY so you will need to call the volunteer (Pauniece Oglesby, 817-725-6772) for an appointment. The volunteer in Cross Plains is Pauniece Oglesby. Mrs. Oglesby prefers to volunteer on Tuesday, but will make appointments on other days if necessary.

When you meet with a Tax-Aide volunteer, you should bring the following: (1) a copy of last year's (1995) income tax return, (2) any W-2 forms you have received showing your income from working, (3) all

1099 forms you have received which show the interest and/or dividends, (4) all 1099-R forms which show all

See INCOME page 2

CITIZENS STATE BANK Cross Plains, Texas



Your Hometown Bank
Since 1931
Member FDIC

Presents: "What's Inside"

Band News	Page 4
Birthday List	Page 7
Break Thru	Page 3
Burkett News	Page 3
Church Page	Page 2
Classified	Page 6
Community News	Page 3
Courthouse News	Page 2
Happening In Cross Plains	Page 1
Nursing Home News	Page 3
Obituaries	Page 2
Pioneer News	Page 3
Quips, Clips & Comments	Page 3
Selected Scriptures	Page 2
Student Review	Page 4
Tex-Scan	Page 7
Wedding	Page 8



ALL-DISTRICT CO-MVP—Joseph Turner



1ST TEAM ALL-DISTRICT—Benji Blackstock (left) and Lee Wayne Wheeler

Boys All-District Teams Announced/ Notes on 96-97 Season

By COACH BILL BOYD

The Cross Plains Runnin Buffs 1997 district co-champions placed numerous players on the All-District team.

Junior guard Joseph Turner was selected Co-MVP of District 24-A. Joe shares this award with Evant's 7 foot 0

inches junior post John D. Flippen.

The Buffs had two first teamers. The highly improved senior Lee Wayne Wheeler and the versatile junior Benji Blackstock. Cross Plains had three second teamers. Seniors Jeremy Barnett and Brandon Stover were second team selections as well as junior Jarad Richards.

The All-District squad was rounded out by three Buffaloes receiving honorable mention. Seniors Cory Switzer, Justin Richey, and sophomore Zach Edington were honored by the district for their play.

NOTES -- Did you realize that fourteen of our opponents this year were playoff teams? Also for the second time in four years the team that eliminated the Buffaloes ends up at the state tournament.

I want to thank the tremendous crowd at the Area game in Eastland last Tuesday. The only thing I might ask is when we are within six points at half of the number four team in the state -- don't sit on your hands, let the kids know you respect their efforts.

When we close within three points in the third quarter of one of the best programs in the state -- get loud! Basketball is one of the few sports that the crowd can have an influence in the outcome.

Did you realize that this is four Bi-District Championships in a row?

Did you realize that Jeremy Barnett is the first Cross Plains boys basketball player to play in the playoffs all four years of his career!

Special thanks to the booster club, administration and Cliffadean Hargrove for the help with the San Antonio trip. I realize we missed some money but, the way I feel about it is all educational experiences do not just happen in the classroom.

Special thanks to Greg Turner for writing the articles this year. Special thanks to Mandi Sowell and Brandi Richey for keeping the books. Hats off to Mike Tatom and Dusty Anderson for their help in this year's program.

In closing I would like to say we always want more out of life than what we have, its just human nature. The thing that still frustrates me the most about being a coach is the way perception and reality can be so far apart!

See PHOTOS page 4

Cross Plains Garden Club To Meet March 13

The Cross Plains Garden Club will meet on Thursday, March 13, at 2:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Center. Hostesses will be Opal Jernigan and Bob and Barbara Powell.

The theme of the meeting will be "PLEASURES OF GARDENING--FLOWER SHOW DESIGNS."

The program conducted by Julene Franke will be a workshop "flower show designs" and all club members will participate.

Also be reminded of the Garden

Club Plant-A-Rama on March 29, in the Multi-Purpose center, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

This is your opportunity to buy, sell, trade or share your exotic, common or rare house plants with the community.

This special Plant-A-Rama is open to everyone to participate and share in spring get-to-gather.

For further information, contact Bob Powell, Chairman, at 643-2404.

COURTHOUSE NEWS

42nd DISTRICT COURT
John Weeks presiding

Civil Filings

Divorces filed:
Havner, James Wesley, Jr. & Christy Dawn, and in the interest of minor child.

Kleiner, Hilda Marie & Billy Joe, and in the interest of minor child

Civil Minutes

Ismael Rodriguez, found to be \$871.22 in arrears on child support payments; new schedule began 3-1-97.

Felony Minutes

Mansour Tondeshki, theft, \$500 fine \$182.50 court costs, \$4800 restitution, 120 hours community service, 3 years probation.

Jeff Bryan Copher, criminal mischief, \$450 fine \$139.50 court costs, \$1684.70 restitution, 120 hours community service, 4 years probation.

Aubrey Alan Tatum, DWI, \$750 fine \$199.50 court costs, \$140 restitution, 3 years at TDC probated for 3 years.

Alexander P. Gonzales, DWI, \$1500 fine \$234.50 court costs, 5 years at TDC probated for 5 years.

COUNTY COURT
Bill Johnson presiding

Misdemeanor Filings

Charged with TPC (theft of property by check): Sandra K. Kaler, Keith New.

Misdemeanor Minutes

Jimmy Massey, assault, \$200 fine \$147 court costs, \$418 restitution.

Caprize Hammet, TPC, \$50 fine \$157 court costs, \$157.98 restitution, 6 months deferred judgment probation.

Ronald Lee Johnson, DWI & criminal mischief, \$100 fine \$187 court costs, \$167 restitution, 30 days in jail.

Thomas D. Burgess, DWI, \$100 fine \$192 court costs, 90 days in jail.

Stephanie Spooner, TPC, \$50 fine \$157 court costs, \$53.31 restitution, 6 months probation.

Kathy Brady, probation extended to 8-27-97.

Emma Elliott, motion filed to revoke probation.

Joe H. Hale, probation revoked; sentenced to 45 days in jail.

Effie Lee Bradley, TPC dismissed due to restitution having been made.

Jason Charles, TPC, \$167 court costs, 30 days in jail.

Ray Allen, TPC, \$167 court costs, 60 days in jail.

Rose O. Black, theft of service charge dismissed.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Marcie Lea Geer & Bryan Leon Smith, Jr., of Abilene.
Robin Suzetta Stephens & Tommy Lee New of Baird.

Pecan Valley Genealogical Society Meeting

The Pecan Valley Genealogical Society will meet Monday, March 10, at 6:30 p.m. in the Lone Star Gas Building, 605 Fisk, Brownwood.

The guest speaker will be Barbara Rust, Assistant Archivist of the National Archives Regional Branch in Fort Worth.

Anyone interested is welcome to attend.



The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, 'Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!' St. John 1:29
Paid Advertising — Irma Miller

OBITUARIES

David Smelley

David Smelley, 94, passed away Thursday, February 20, 1997, at Colonial Oaks Nursing Home.

Services were held at 2:00 p.m. Sunday at First Baptist Church in Richland with Rev. David Bugg officiating. Burial was in Richland Cemetery under the direction of Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home.

Mr. Smelley was born March 8, 1902 in Nacogdoches County. He was the mayor of Richland for 5 terms. He retired after working 35 years for Texaco Oil Company. He was a deacon of the First Baptist Church in Richland, 32nd degree mason of Texas Corsicana Lodge 174, past Master and 50 year member Royal Arch Masons Corsicana Chapter, Shrine Karen Temple of Waco Navarro Shrine, Waco Scottish Rite of Texas, Order of Eastern Star Wortham Chapter #96, Bertrano du Gueslin #14.

Survivors include one son and daughter-in-law, Lewis and Bernice Smelley of Houston; one daughter, Juanita Bryd of Kingwood; one sister, Frances Whitmire of Nacogdoches, 4 grandchildren, Rachel Baty of Portland, Oregon, Scott Bryd of Cross Cut, Melissa Able of Grand Prairie, and Glenn Bryd of Houston; and one great-grandchild, Brennan Baty of Portland, Oregon.

William (Bill) Payne

Lt. Col. U.S. Air Force, Ret. William (Bill) Grady Payne, 80, of Dallas, passed away Friday, January 21, 1997 at his residence.

Funeral services were held at 1:00 p.m. Friday, January 24, 1997, at Green Funeral Home in Ferris with Rev. Darrel Beggs officiating. Burial was in Ferris Memorial Park North.

He was born September 21, 1916 in Cross Plains. He was a veteran of World War II and Korean Conflict. Serving in the U.S. Air Force for 26 years.

He is survived by his wife, Lynette Wilson Payne of Dallas; one son, Jim Payne of Dallas; 2 sisters, Virginia Campbell of San Angelo and Winnie Ruth Grantham of Premont; one granddaughter, Julianne Payne of Farmersville; and several nieces and nephews.

Contributions To Cross Cut Cemetery Beautification Fund

The following contributions were made to the Cross Cut Cemetery Beautification Fund in February.

D. B. Gunn \$40; Larry and Dolores Magee \$25; Howard Newton \$25; Charles and Margaret Coppinger \$25; Johnnie Stone \$100; Clois and Ruth Clark \$50; Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Rash \$100; Mrs. Charlie Sowell \$25; David and Kaye Hager \$25; Billie Jo Chambers \$25; Raymond and Helen Hounshell \$20; Marjorie Leeton \$50; Deoma E. Morgan \$50; Mr. and Mrs. Roy Neil Tatom \$25; M.W. Smith \$50; Thomas G. Creamer \$50; Clairene F. Edger \$25; Mr. and Mrs. Ferrell Newton \$25; Mr. and Mrs. Dickie Chambers \$25; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Wilson \$10; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Chambers \$25; Fawn Furry \$25; Laura P. Davis \$100; Mr. and Mrs. Hoyt Byrd \$25; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Arledge \$25; Billy Paul Baucom \$25 Mr. and Mrs. Russell Wright \$25; Imogene N. Haun \$100; Mr. and Mrs. J.T. Byrd \$25; Mr. and Mrs. Mack H. Woolridge \$100; Mr. and Mrs. R.H. Chamber \$100; Mr. and Mrs. Gerald L. Guthrie \$20; Mr. and Mrs. N.R. Chambers \$25; Hanna Payne \$20; Joanne Panky \$15; Annie Mae Wright \$25; Ron Hubbard \$10; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fortenberry \$50; and Len and Jill Betts \$20.

Baird Chamber of Commerce 6th Annual Art Show and Sale

Come visit Baird's 6th Annual Art Show and Sale on Saturday, March 15, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Baird Activity Center at 228 Walnut. Local artists and artists from all over the area will have their work of art on display for the public to view.

Entries will be accepted Thursday, March 13, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Baird Activity Center. Entry fee is \$3.00 per entry with a limit of six paintings. Judging will be Friday, March 14, and winners will be notified by phone Friday afternoon. For more information contact the Baird Chamber of Commerce at (915) 854-2003.

Plan to make a day of it and come see the art, have lunch at the great restaurants and visit the wonderful antique shops in Baird, "The Antique Capital of West Texas."

Noah Project Benefit Set For March 22

All aboard for Mystery on the Abilene Express! Attend this interactive mystery theatre set in Abilene, and help solve the murder of Frank Puckett, one of our most distinguished citizens.

Was it a professional hit or an amateur operation? Maybe even a close friend.

This evening of intrigue and adventure is sure to make you die laughing. All proceeds benefit the Noah Project. All aboard Saturday, March 22. The mayhem begins at 6:00 p.m. at the Abilene Civic Center. Call (915) 676-7107 for reservations.

COLONIAL OAKS SERVICES

Church of Christ will conduct worship services at Colonial Oaks Nursing Home on Sunday, March 9, commencing at 3:30 p.m.

INCOME

pension monies paid to you, (5) form SSA-1099 which shows the Social Security paid to you, (6) records of any other income you have received, and (7) receipts or cancelled checks for any of your medical/dental expenses and any contributions you have made to charities.

This is a community service available to those stated above the Tax-Aide volunteers are eager to be of assistance, so please call for an appointment and let me assist you.

Kiwanis Pancake Supper

Thursday, March 6
5-7 p.m.

High School Cafeteria
All You Can Eat
\$3.00

Tickets Available From Members Or At The Door
Come and Enjoy A Great Meal



(817) 725-7161

Try an order of our **Cheesestix** \$1.99 + tax

coupon expires 3-13-97

1 Large Pizza

Cheese & 1 topping

Plus 1 order of Cheesestix

\$8.95 + tax

coupon expires 3-13-97

Bring in this coupon and

get a **Large Pizza** for a

Medium Charge

coupon expires 3-13-97

Samantha, Amy, and Genie Welcome you to come in and try our Pizza!

2 Medium Pizzas with up to 3 toppings \$9.99 + tax

Coupon expires 3-13-97

1 Large Pro Special

Plus

1 Large 1 Topping

\$12.99 + tax

Coupon expires 3-13-97

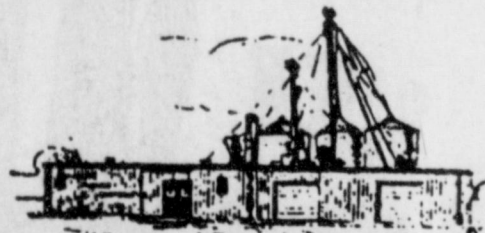
1 Large

Pepperoni Pizza

\$5.99 + tax

(substitutions \$1.25 each)

Pioneer Farmers Coop



Feed - Seed - Chemicals - Peanut Drying/Storage
Fertilizer — Blending/Application

Service Is Our Business!!



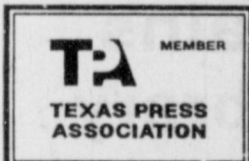
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CHURCH SERVICES

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

10TH & MAIN CROSS PLAINS (817) 725-7629
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service 7:00 p.m.
Dr. Jim H. O'Dell - Pastor - 725-7556
Gene Greenwood - Music

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

9TH & AVE. D CROSS PLAINS
WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 A.M.
BIBLE CLASS 10:30 A.M.
Rev. Henry Grubbs, Pastor
Everyone Welcome

Living Water Ministries Fellowship

Evangelical — Non-Denominational
Charismatic
Restoring And Equipping The Saints
New Location—Highway 36 West
Sunday Morning 10:00 a.m. Thursday Evening 6:30 p.m.
For Information Call (817) 725-6800
1-800-252-3629

BELIEVER'S FELLOWSHIP

Inner denominational — Evangelical
EAST HIGHWAY 36
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Night Family Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
Bob Wallace, Pastor (817) 725-6607

APOSTOLIC REVIVAL

March 5-8, 1997

7:00 P.M.

Evangelist Leon Suggett

UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
209 W HIGHWAY 36
CROSS PLAINS, TEXAS
PASTOR PHILLIP R. SCHAEFER

EVERYONE WELCOME!

NEWS

By
LINDA EDINGTON
Activity Director

Linda Ford, nurses aide, was surprised with a birthday cake that a co-worker, Tammy Martin made for her. Everyone sang Happy Birthday and enjoyed cake and coffee.

Thoughts and prayers for Juanita Thornton who is in the hospital.

Appreciation to Merilyn Golson for the delicious biscuits and to Highway 206 Baptist Mission for the singing.

Minnie Swann was our winner for a free meal at Jack's Place. Thanks Wanda and Jack.

Selena Spakman from Lingleville, Donna Meiron from Stephenville and Sally Davis visited with Dixie Ingram.

Ann Belz from Brownwood visited with Allie Dickson.

Dorothy Welch from Fort Worth visited with Leila Montgomery.

Leo and Jewel Thompson visited with Sylvia Smith.

Dan Ingram from Fort Worth, Marbra Thompson from Azle, Latosla Clanta from Weatherford and Sharon Pope from Fort Worth

visited with Inez Ingram.

Rolan Jones, Hubert and Celia Belyeu was here visiting several.

Kenneth Brooks from Arlington visited Gertie Powell and Blanche Brooks.

Activities during the week were:

Monday: Bingo winners were Midge McCall (2), Gertie Powell, Minnie Swann (3), Dorothy Thomas (2), Sylvia Smith and Ruby Harrell. Exercise class.

Tuesday: Art class. Popcorn and Skip-Bo games.

Wednesday: Sing-a-long with Bob Wallace. Exercise class.

Thursday: Bingo winners were Vera Belyeu (2), Ruby Harrell (2), Gertie Powell (2), Midge McCall (3), and Allie Dickson. Music with Colleen Anderson.

Friday: Sit-down-basketball. Jo Boatright played the piano. Skip-Bo games.

Sunday: Church of Christ.

Happiness adds and multiplies when you divide it with others.

Quips, Clips & Comments

By KAY DENNIS MOSLEY



MRS. WILSON'S 3RD GRADE READING CLASS

"Viva La Difference!"

Have you done anything different lately? Sometimes it's just the thing you need to do, 'vary your routine.' That can put a whole new perspective on things in general. It also breaks the monotony.

This school year an opportunity presented itself and I took advantage of it. I've been a volunteer at school in the third grade reading class of Mrs. Wilson. I'm pretty much involved in some other things the first two weeks of each month**--**--so--I volunteer the last two weeks of each month, an hour per day, two days each week. It has been a very enjoyable experience. It has enabled me to get to know the children as individuals. Since I only moved here in 1992, I had not gotten to know very many third graders.

Sometimes I've worked on cutting out game pictures with words, these game pieces enable the children to learn as they have fun playing the games. A couple of times lately, the children have read to me individually. They seem to enjoy that and so did I, immensely! The names of the children in the reading class, third grade, in which I've volunteered are as follows: Jason, Jessica, Cory, Garrett, Forrest, Megan, Ashley, Chance, Jarrah, Clayton, Samantha, Ryan, and Maci. I look forward to seeing them each month for the remainder of the school year.

Another new thing I've done lately, on another subject line is rosemary chicken. It's wonderfully delicious

whether you oven fry it or pan fry it. The idea occurred to me after reading an article on fried rosemary.

"Chicken Ala Rosemary"

Wash pieces of a cut up chicken or chicken breast strips. Drain on paper towels. In two cups of flour, mix 3 tablespoons dried ground or finely chopped rosemary, (from your herb garden, if possible), 1 tablespoon of table salt, 1/2 teaspoon black pepper and 1 teaspoon paprika (optional). Mix together in a large bowl. In a separate dish, whip together 2 eggs and 1 cup buttermilk. Dip each chicken piece in the buttermilk mixture, then turn each in the flour mixture. Drop into a deep fryer or a frying pan of hot oil and cook until tender, turning until crust is brown and crunchy.

If you prefer to oven fry, add 1/2 cup crushed bran flakes or wheat germ to the flour mixture. Then after chicken has been washed and drained turn in buttermilk drizzle with corn oil lightly and cook in the oven at 350 degrees, uncovered, a fresh fruit or vegetable salad and fresh asparagus. Bon Appetite! ...and remember--dare to do something different for each person you meet, it possible. It's usually very enjoyable!

It has come to my attention that some of my readers have been attempting to reach me by phone, if you wish to contact me please write to me at Rt. 2 Box 3, Cross Plains, Texas 76443, give your phone number, and I will return your call. "C" "U"

PIONEER NEWS

By PIONEER QUILTING CLUB

The Lord has blessed our community and surrounding area with much needed rain during the month of February. About 6 inches has been the average in most places. This will give us a great underground season for Spring planting.

The Quilting Club ladies finished quilting two quilts in February. One was a log cabin with a little house in the center of each log cabin block, belonging to Jean Fore. The 2nd one was a black and white fan quilt for Sandy Hutton. We also have two other quilts in frames; an ole' fashion stinging quilt for Earlene Burge and a pay quilt for Juanita Harlow, called the Love Knot. It is a log cabin pattern arranged in such a way as to look like a tied knot. Some quilting has been done on both of these. We are happy to welcome another industrious quilter, Trisha Hutton to our circle of quilters.

Due to the weather there had not been a game night at Pioneer for several weeks, but Earlene Burge reported they had a great turn out and an enjoyable time playing games Thursday night. Game night is every other Thursday night. Everyone is invited to come.

Betty Beggs of Pioneer will host the Paint and Palette Club at her home on Tuesday. Donald Genter of Comanche will demonstrate the painting of a land scape. All interested persons are invited.

We have had a lot of illness in the community, but most seem to be on the mend. Jean Fore was carried to

the Brownwood Hospital the first of the week. We are happy that she was able to return home on Friday. We hope she can soon be back in the swing of things.

February 10th Laverne Hutton and daughter, Wanetta, enjoyed a trip to Abilene together. John and Karon Milligan of Livingston and Elsie Brooks of Cannon, Illinois visited Cowan and Laverne on February 14th. On Wednesday, the 19th, the Hutton's visited Otis and Charlene O'Kelly in Santos. They and the O'Kelly's went to Mineral Wells and met other friends, Lee and Sara Widner. They all enjoyed visiting and having lunch together. The Hutton's then traveled in a down pour of rain to Fort Worth where Cowan had a doctor's appointment. Friday the 21st the Hutton's had over night guest, Dudley and Pat Cash from Portales, New Mexico. Robbie and Jason Fortune were recent visitors.

Earlene Burge's sister Betty Greenman of Fort Worth visited her last Saturday. They had a nice visit together.

Jamie and Mary Hutton and children were overnight visitors recently with their parents J.D. and Sandy. Jamie and family live in Archer City. Last weekend J.D. and Sandy were over night visitors with their daughter and husband Tabitha and Michael Jordon of Irving.

Remember silence is the only thing that can't be misquoted...and anger is one letter away from danger!

BURKETT NEWS

By
LOVERA STRICKLAND

We received another nice rain Saturday night and Sunday morning. Jack Strickland reported about 1.50 inches. Burkett received 5.99 inches in February. Maybe we can raise a garden this year.

The Burkett Baptist Church hosted their annual Valentine Banquet Sunday evening, February 16. Fifty-nine registered and everyone enjoyed the fellowship, good food and

the good entertainment provided by the Sun Riders of Brownwood.

Visiting in coleman Sunday afternoon, February 22, with Raleigh and Nell Neff were David and Laura Dean and D.J. and Lois Turner. David and D.J. took their guitars and played them while Nell played the piano. They all had a good time pickin', singing and visiting.

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BREAKTHRU

By Bob Pipes, preacher
Cross Plains Church of Christ
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Have you been looking for a preacher who wouldn't preach you to sleep? One of those infamous preacher's jokes is about the preacher who noticed one of the members asleep and asked the one next to him to wake him up. The person replied, however, "You put him to sleep -- you wake him up!"

I read in this very famous publication about a preacher who didn't put people to sleep -- He woke them up! He went into the Jewish synagogue and taught and they were astonished, "for He taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes." When healing accompanied His preaching and teaching, they were amazed and asked one another, "What new doctrine is this? For with authority He commands even the unclean spirits (demons), and they obey Him." This preacher forgave the sins of a paralytic brought to Him, then healed him of his paralysis -- and even though some were really upset with the preacher at first, they "all were amazed and glorified God, saying, 'We never saw anything like this!'"

I tell you, this preacher was something else! He could invite fishermen to drop everything and follow Him -- and they would. He asked a tax collector to leave his lucrative occupation and follow Him -- and he did. These men, Peter, Andrew, James, John, and Matthew Levi never looked back. Some of them slept while Jesus prayed, but never while He preached! His preaching and His life had such an impact upon them that men even listened to them without sleeping! On one occasion, especially, the listeners to Peter and John's preaching "marveled -- and they realized that they (Peter and John) had been with Jesus."

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John's accounts of this Preacher's life and teaching/preaching should awaken us, keep us from sleeping, and cause us to get others' attention with His message. Come share in this excitement with us!

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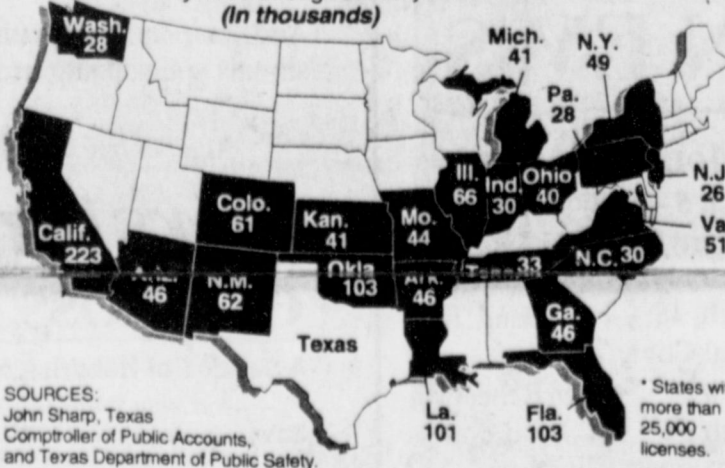
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C.P. STUDENT REVIEW



Runnin Buffs End Great Year

By GREG TURNER

Cross Plains ended a great year in a game against #4 ranked Brock Eagles. The Buffaloes played the Area game at Eastland in the presence of a large Cross Plains crowd.

The game was all it was made out to be, with several early turnovers contributing to an early Brock lead. The Buffaloes battled and worked hard to get back into the game. At halftime they were trailing by a slim margin of 6 points.

As the 2nd half progressed, Cross Plains had a hard time getting the basketball to fall for them -- while the Eagles gradually pulled away in the final quarter 72-51.

Scoring for the Buffaloes were Brandon Stover 14, Joseph Turner 13, Jarad Richards 6, Jeremy Barnett 6, Lee Wayne Wheeler 6, Jason Carey 2, Zach Edington 2, and Benji Blackstock 2.

Brock, like Lipan and several others in Class A, plays no football at all, and with our Buffaloes going to Area in football this year, it put us that much farther behind. Brock gets about an additional three months to practice the game of basketball. It doesn't seem quite fair, does it? Seems to me the non-football teams should play each other in the playoffs. Brock went on to the Regional Tournament and won it. They will be playing in the State Tournament this weekend along with three other Texas teams.

The seniors this year, Lee Wayne Wheeler, Brandon Stover, Jeremy Barnett, Justin Richey, Cory Switzer, Jason Carey, and John Chesshir, did an excellent job for the Runnin Buffs. These young men will be missed. Rounding out the team were juniors, Jarad Richards, Benji Blackstock, Dusty Hargrove, and Joseph Turner, and sophomore Zach Edington.

A lot can be said about these young men, but a whole lot needs to be said about our basketball coach, Bill Boyd. Bill moved to Cross Plains in 1991 and initiated good work habits and a good fundamental basketball program.

In his first year here his record was 24-10 and the team was Runner-Up in district and Bi-District Champions. In 1992-93 the Buffs ended with a 17-8 record and was beat out of the playoffs tying for 2nd with Gorman. The Buffaloes and Gorman Panthers had a playoff game in Eastland and the Buffs were defeated -- not advancing to the Bi-District game.

In 1993-94 Coach Boyd rebounded the team to a 28-5 record and they were District Champions, Bi-District Champions, and Area Champions. You might remember that year because it was the first time I ever recall the Buffs playing in a professional basketball facility, Reunion Arena in Dallas. Charter buses loaded with many local fans traveled to the game and everyone had a wonderful experience, not only watching the Buffs, but the Dallas Mavericks.

The Runnin Buffs were 21-11 in 1994-95 placing Runner-Up in district and winning a Bi-District Championship. In 1995-96 a District Championship and another Bi-District Championship was ours to enjoy. The record was 26-5 and rumors of an Alamodome trip were in the making.

The 1996-97 season ended with a record of 21-7. The Runnin Buffs were District Co-Champions and Bi-District Champions and a game at the Alamodome game was scheduled. It

was a dream come true for the young men who will never forget playing on the same floor as the San Antonio Spurs. This was a highlight for the year, but also a high point was playing in our new gymnasium. If you haven't seen it, make plans to do so and see how fantastic it is.

Head Coach Bill Boyd became Athletic Director in 1994 and at that time he also helped locate a great coaching staff who has worked well together making our athletic program what it is today -- a success! In his six years of coaching at Cross Plains High School Coach Boyd has won 137 basketball games, 3 District Championships, 5 Bi-District Championships and 1 Area Championship -- averaging almost 23 wins per year.

Some say we are spoiled; some say we expect to win. I don't know about the rest of you, but that applies to me and whose fault is it? Our kids and our coaches and I'm thankful for them both. Next year I expect to win again.

I don't think I have to remind you of a couple of years back in Austin when Coach Boyd, with help from assistant coaches, brought home a State Championship in track. The Lady Buffs' State Champion track team is another awesome memory I will never forget.

So, Coach Boyd, there will never be a time when parents of players agree totally with your decisions, but the respect you receive, you have earned. Your records speak for themselves.



TENNIS SINGLES—Coby Richards (from left), Jarad Richards, Shanna Hutton and Mindy Mitchell.



TENNIS DOUBLES—Jolena Fleming (back, from left), Dustin Hinkle, Amber Taff, Brandi Hutton, Joseph Hopkins, Sam Nixon and Scott Brame; Jackson Worsham (front, from left), Ann Stephenson, Nikki Beggs, Amanda Dillard, Dusty Anderson and Matt McGowan.



2ND TEAM ALL-DISTRICT—Brandon Stover (from left), Jeremy Barnett, and Jarad Richards.



HONORABLE MENTION ALL-DISTRICT—Zach Edington (from left), Cory Switzer and Justin Richey.

24-A ALL - DISTRICT

MVP - Joseph Turner JR Cross Plains
John Flippen JR Evant

1st Team

Jesse Jones	SR	Evant
Ben Evans	JR	Evant
Lee Wayne Wheeler	SR	Cross Plains
Benji Blackstock	JR	Cross Plains
Jef Klose	SR	Lometa
Gabe Anguiano	SR	Lometa
Tim Abernathy	SR	Santa Anna

2nd Team

Brandon Stover	SR	Cross Plains
Jarad Richards	JR	Cross Plains
Jeremy Barnett	SR	Cross Plains
Chris Cheaney	SR	Santa Anna
Reggie Smith	JR	Lometa
Clay Parrish	Soph	Evant
Chris Ray	JR	Evant
Aaron Parker	SR	Evant

Cross Plains Hosted Annual Tennis Tournament

Cross Plains hosted its annual tennis tournament this Friday and Saturday. Competition was from various 1A through 3A schools. Schools entered were Breckenridge, Clyde, DeLeon, Rising Star, Early, Baird, and Eula.

Results were as follows:
Boys singles - 14 entries
J. Richards beat Eula (8-2); beat Rising Star (6-0) (6-0).

Finals C. Richards beat DeLeon (8-0); beat Baird (8-4); lost to Breckenridge (1-6) (1-6); beat Rising Star (8-3) 3rd place.

Boys doubles - 16 entries
Brame/Hopkins beat Rising Star (8-1); lost to Eula (6-8).
Turner/Switzer beat Rising Star (8-

5); lost to Eula (4-8).
McGowan/Worsham beat Breckenridge (8-5); lost to Baird (1-8).

Hinkle/Nixon beat Breckenridge (8-1); beat Rising Star (9-8).
Finals lost to Breckenridge (6-7) (5-7) 2nd place.

Girls singles - 14 entries
Mitchell beat Breckenridge (8-2); lost to DeLeon (6-4) (1-6) (4-6); won 3rd place beat Early (8-4).

S. Hutton beat Baird (8-2); beat Early (6-1) (6-3); Finals won 1st place beat DeLeon (4-6) (6-3) (7-6).

Girls doubles - 13 entries
Bushnell/Taff beat DeLeon (8-1); lost to Cross Plains' Beggs/Davis (5-8).

Beggs/Davis beat Baird (8-6); beat Cross Plains (8-5); lost to Clyde (3-6) (1-6). Won 4th place lost to Cross Plains (3-8).

Stephenson/B. Hutton beat DeLeon (8-4); beat Cross Plains (7-6) (6-3).

Finals 2nd place lost to Clyde (3-6) (6-2) (3-6).
Fleming/Dillard beat Baird (8-1); lost to Cross Plains (6-7) (3-6).
Won 3rd place beat Cross Plains (8-3).

Overall team is looking good for this time of year.

Team will travel to Brownwood Thursday March 6. Tournament begins at 8:00 a.m. Bus will leave at 6:30.

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BAND NEWS

Month of March

- March 5 - Section Rehearsal (Concert)
- March 10-14 - Spring Break!!
- March 18 - Full Band Rehearsal Clinic 7-9
- March 24 - Section Rehearsal
- March 31 - UIL Pre-Contest Clinic (Guest Clinician)

Senate Bill Seeks To Keep Water Flowing In Texas Future

By State Senator J.E. "Buster" Brown and Lt. Governor Bob Bullock

Water is the lifeblood of our existence, but it is something we tend to take for granted when Mother Nature's been generous. Texans assume water will flow from the tap when they prepare to make a pot of coffee, wash their hands, take a bath, or simply get a cool drink on a warm day.

With the state's population expected to explode over the next 50 years, increasing strains on diminishing supplies, the future holds no guarantee that water will always be readily available in Texas. Heightened environmental concerns and the high costs and red tape necessary for new supplies have made water planning and management difficult. And until recent years, planning from a statewide perspective has proven an exercise in futility.

Not that state water officials and some lawmakers haven't tried. In 1957, the Legislature created the Texas Water Development Board and gave it the authority to develop a state plan. Eleven years later, the TWDB submitted the first plan to the Legislature, but no action was taken.

Subsequent plans were submitted to legislators four times between 1984 and 1992, and the results were the same. No action.

We are 40 years behind the times, and we cannot afford to wait any longer. The potential for future crises has been more than evident during the drought still lingering today. During the peak of the drought in 1996, several Texas towns' water supplies ran perilously low, forcing local officials to look elsewhere for water to pipe back to their communities. Water use restrictions were in effect from city to city. The Texas Agriculture Extension Service estimates that Texas producers lost \$2.1 billion worth of crops and livestock, and the adverse impact to the economy overall is expected to top \$5 billion.

Rain or shine, however, experts now warn that without changes in state water policy no area of the state will be immune from water shortages by 2050. It is imperative for Texas to have a comprehensive statewide plan in effect by the turn of the century. Senate Bill 1, which was introduced January 22, will lay the foundation for that plan while providing a diverse blend of strategies to meet future demands.

The legislation proposes action in several general policy areas: drought

response management, water management, marketing and transfers, surface and groundwater supplies, financial assistance to local governments and small communities and data collection and dissemination. Texas is a diverse state, and solutions that are appropriate for one region may not be suitable for another. Water availability, economics, geography and environmental issues will determine how policies should be structured for specific areas. With an emphasis on coordination at the local level, we feel Senate Bill 1 will provide small cities and towns with a "toolbox" of possible approaches to meet their own unique needs.

Drought management preparedness is an integral part of the legislation, with state assistance possible to local governments that initiate drought response plans. Conservation is one of the most crucial parts of water management, and this is reflected in the bill. The bill envisions a statewide network to coordinate the exchange of information among governmental agencies as well as state, regional and local drought response efforts. The bill clarifies state policy on interbasin transfers, an area that will generate much debate, even though water has been transferred among basins in the state for nearly a century. More than 80 agreements are in effect now.

Even though complacency often sets in when droughts give way to good rains, Texans still take their water very seriously. As a result, there will be many diverse opinions as the debate unfolds, but we must remain committed to finding common ground. That is the nature of compromise -- but there is no compromise with nature. Studies show that by 2010 about 15 percent of projected urban demands in Texas will go unmet without reasonable measures in place. As a consequence, the Texas economy stands to lose between \$25 billion and \$40 billion annually.

Every Texas resident has a stake in this legislation. Regional cooperation is necessary. We want to hear from all walks of life, from farmers and ranchers, business people, local officials, environmentalists and individual Texans. A unified front is necessary to overcome barriers and to raise the public awareness about the need for a coordinated state plan. The bill seeks to reinforce the belief that clean, abundant water should be a guarantee in Texas -- no an uncertain luxury.

As Ben Franklin said, "You don't know the worth of water until the well is dry."

Let's not let Texas wells go dry.



D. Dwayne Justice

Locally Known Man Named Taylor County Roadway Maintenance Supervisor

ABILENE -- D. Dwayne Justice has been named roadway maintenance supervisor of the Texas Department of Transportation's Taylor County maintenance section. Taylor County is in TxDOT's Abilene District.

Justice, under the direction of the Abilene area engineer, coordinates work projects, assists with planning and scheduling of personnel, equipment and materials and inspects road conditions in the county. He also interfaces with the public, monitors and assists in preparing the budget and has overall responsibility for the operations, maintenance and personnel of the section.

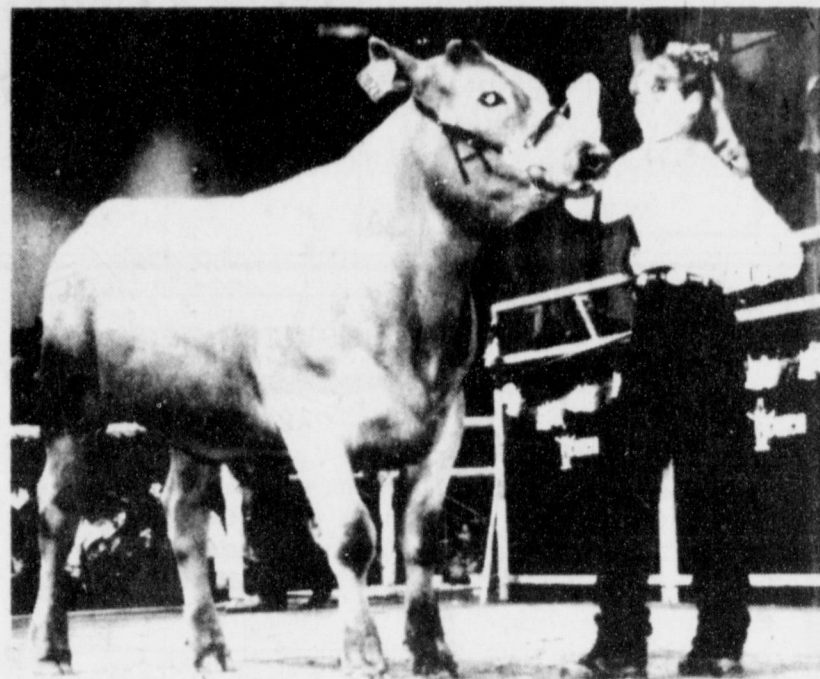
Justice, a 1984 graduate of Coleman High School, began his career with TxDOT in June 1984 as a maintenance tech I in Coleman County, Brownwood district. He remained in the Brownwood district for the next 13 years performing duties in Coleman, Comanche and Lampasas counties before being named to his present position.

In addition to his entry level job, Justice held the following positions in the Brownwood district: Administrative tech I (office manager backup), maintenance tech II (heavy equipment operator, pavement evaluator, contract inspector, back up crew chief), maintenance tech II (crew chief, contract inspector, pavement evaluator, heavy equipment operation trainer), roadway maintenance supervisor I (assistance maintenance supervisor), and roadway maintenance supervisor II, III, IV. His last position before moving to Abilene was roadway maintenance supervisor for Lampasas County.

Prior to joining TxDOT, Justice worked as a crew member for oil field related repairs and construction, a pumper, a welder and a clerk at an accounting firm.

Justice, son of David and Sheryl Goble of Cross Plains, is married to the former Susan Crump of Coleman. They have three children: Lauren 11, Jared 7 and Nathan 14 months.

When not working, he can be found enjoying activities with his family or rebuilding vehicles.



HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO—Laska Bree Dillard's steer was selected Reserve Champion Charolais Market Steer at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Friday, winning over 68 other entries. Laska's 1136 pound steer named "Looker" competed in the lightweight class, and sold for \$25,000 at the auction. She is the daughter of Bud and Becky Dillard and the granddaughter of Bill and Joy Dillard of Cross Plains.

Laska's steer was raised by her grandfather, Bill Dillard.



WINNERS AT EASTLAND CO. LIVESTOCK SHOW—On February 6, 7, and 8, the Eastland County Livestock Show was held. Joe Alan, Larry Joe and Sidnee Martinez of Eastland, grandchildren of Sid and Sally Davis, came away winning big in 4 categories.

They won 1st in the Project Show; 1st and Reserve Grand Champion in Medium Heavy Weight Market Goats; 2nd in Light Weight Market goats; and 3rd in Colored Bucks.

Joe Alan is in the 5th grade and Sidnee is in the 1st grade at Eastland and Larry Joe is a Sophomore at Ranger.

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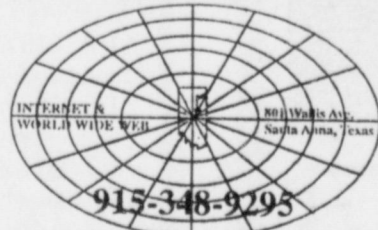
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The Mobile Vehicle Air Conditioning Technician Certification course will be held from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. This course is EPA approved and is conducted in accordance with the Federal Clean Air Act Amendments of 1991. Satisfactory completion and passing of the course will certify that the technician is properly trained in the use of refrigerant and recycling equipment for mobile vehicle conditioners. All materials are included. Cost for the course is \$29.

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Cross Plains Review

Stan Musick, M.D. would like to welcome Dana Segler, M.D. to Brownwood. Drs. Musick and Segler are both Board Certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology and will be routinely working together. Dr. Segler will begin seeing patients on March 3, 1997. After February 15, 1997, appointments may be set-up at (915) 643-1110.

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Completion of 30 semester credit hours from an accredited college or university
OR
Graduation from high school or passing GED and 1,000 hours of paid or voluntary work experience in a library in the past 5 years
OR
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* **3 BRM., 2 BATH**, on two large lots, storage, carport, fenced.

* **NEW LISTING 2 brm., 1 bath**, remodeled interior, carport, storage, wood stove, fence, 2 lots.

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Billy Black
Diane Bowden
Juanita Free
Carl Corley
Ann Holland
Shelly Gray
Bill Rutledge
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Dee Ann (Coppering) Key
Jerrold Whiteside
Jennifer Johnston
Betty P. Bean
Mrs. R. W. Purvis
Paula (Allen) Keeney
Cameron Taylor Hillburn
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Mrs. Bill Smoot
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Mrs. C. A. Walker
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- MARCH 10**
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Rainey Blue Bacon
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Carl David Scott
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- MARCH 11**
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Carl McCord
Jimmy Gattis
Vickie Moon
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Ronnie Gene Gregory
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Trudy Rae (Newman) Burks
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James Wilson
Charley Wright
Linda Sheppard
Michael Dwayne Teague
Mrs. Ray Lee
Billy Faye Graham
Tammy Jean Riffe
Mrs. George Hoover
Raenell Lancaster
- MARCH 13**
Julia Morgan
Bobby Havens
Alice Parsons
Christine Hutchins
Perry Glenn Strickland
Mrs. Daisy Rudloff
Gaylon Jackson

Parenting Must Be Consistent

HOUSTON—Parents who are inconsistent about disciplining their children are like slot machines.

"If a child throws temper tantrums and gets what he or she wants every now and then, that intermittent 'payoff' can encourage more tantrums," said Dr. Ernest Fruge, a psychologist at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

The same type of intermittent reinforcement motivates people to keep putting money in slot machines, he said, because they think they may hit the jackpot on the next try. "If a parent's method of disciplining is inconsistent, kids don't know when a misbehavior will pay off, so they keep trying to win by misbehaving," Fruge said.

He advises parents not to spank or scold children for bad behavior. "By definition, discipline means teaching, not spanking or punishment," said Fruge, assistant professor of family medicine. "The goal should be to teach children the right way to behave."

Spanking can teach kids that "might makes right" and to use physical force to get what they want instead of finding better ways to work out conflicts. "The message conveyed to the child is that when people don't do what you want them to, hitting them gets the desired result and is acceptable," Fruge said.

More effective ways to stop undesirable behaviors include taking away privileges and making a child take "time out" to calm down. Parents who use these methods demonstrate by example that nonviolent approaches can be used to solve a problem.

Children's misbehavior usually results from the frustration of not being able to do or have something. Par-

ents should accept the fact there will be times when a child is going to act up and anger them, Fruge said. "Once parents realize their child is entering that zone of misbehavior, they should try to remain calm and decide the lesson they would like to teach their child, such as how to express frustration verbally instead of destroying property or hitting a pet or sibling."

Rehearsing appropriate behavior is another way to teach children what is acceptable. Tell a child who slams doors why this behavior is annoying, and have the child practice opening and closing doors normally.

Fruge said one of the biggest disciplining challenges parents face is to overcome conflicting messages conveyed by other people. The class bully who always gets what he wants by beating up other kids reinforces the idea that violence is rewarding. Many kids avoid reporting the bully to the teacher because they don't want to be called a "tattletale." Fruge said an adult analogy can help children realize there are times when seeking help from the authorities is necessary. "If a father were mugged on the street, wouldn't his son want him to report the incident to the police?"

Teaching appropriate behavior with positive reinforcement is the best long-term strategy for preventing misbehavior, he noted. Praise and affection can be strong incentives. Token systems can also be used to encourage certain behaviors. For example, give children stickers or points that can be tallied on a chart each time they clean their room, and let them trade these in for extra TV privileges or other modest rewards.

"A pound of prevention is worth a ton of cure," Fruge said, "but it takes a pound, not an ounce."

Callahan County Sales Tax Report

The City of Clyde reported an increase of 12.25 percent in retail sales from last year, according to the city's one and one-half percent sales tax rebates announced by the State Comptroller's Office, Monday, February 17.

John Sharp, State Comptroller, said 1997 sales tax payments in Clyde are 12.25 percent ahead of tax payments made to the city in 1996. He said the sales tax rebates for the City of Clyde have amounted to \$25,079.85 so far in 1997. The 1996 payments to the city during the same payment period were \$22,342.36.

The city's monthly payment for February 1997 was \$17,479.75, up 24.96 percent from a check amounting to \$13,987.88 reported in February 1996.

Other Callahan County towns reporting sales tax payments include:

- The City of Baird reported that sales tax payments in 1997 are 12.68 percent lower than the 1996 payments. The city had received \$12,385.66 so far in 1997, while the 1996 tax payments to the city totaled \$14,184.25.
- The town's monthly payment for February 1997 was \$9,740.71, down 17.46 percent from the \$11,802.02 reported in February 1996.
- The City of Cross Plains is reporting 1997 one and one-half percent city sales tax payments running 21.12 percent below the 1996 payments of the tax. Cross Plains 1997 sales tax payments have amounted to \$13,608.42, while the 1996 sales tax rebates were \$17,252.77.
- The city's monthly sales tax check for February 1997 was \$8,365.28, down 1.78 percent from the February 1996 amount of \$8,517.72.
- The City of Putnam is reporting the 1997 payments to the town totaled \$1,796.07, up 37.04 percent from the 1996 payments to the city in the amount of \$1,310.54.
- Putnam's tax payment for the month of February 1997 was \$1,255.31, up 85.26 percent from the February 1996 check of \$677.59.

Countywide, sales tax payments for 1997 in Callahan County are running 4.02 percent behind the 1996 payments in the county. Callahan County towns have received

sales tax payments in 1997 amounting to \$52,870.00, while the 1996 payments to the county towns totaled \$55,089.92.

The tax rebates in Callahan County for the month of February 1997 were \$36,841.05, up 5.30 percent from the \$34,985.21 reported in February 1996.

Some area towns reporting sales tax payments for 1997 year-to-date and whether it's an increase or decrease over 1996 sales include: Albany, \$39,633.07 in 1997, 131.48 percent increase from 1996; Anson, \$25,217.90 in 1997, 9.85 percent increase from 1996; Stamford, \$92,219.14 in 1997, 0.68 percent decrease from 1996; Cisco, \$40,366.44 in 1997, 0.59 percent decrease from 1996; Eastland, \$103,907.12 in 1997, 6.84 percent decrease from 1996; Merkel, \$34,540.32 in 1997, 16.06 percent increase from 1996; Ballinger, \$113,734.98 in 1997, 6.80 percent decrease from 1996; and Haskell, \$54,372.95 in 1997, 11.57 percent decrease from 1996.

Statewide, sales tax payments in 1997 are 7.21 percent ahead of 1996 rebates, according to Sharp's figures. The state comptroller has sent out check's totaling \$366,188,537.89 in 1997, while the 1996 payments to the state's cities amounted to \$341,536,111.46.

Merchants collect the state and local sales tax and send it to the Comptroller's office with their tax returns. The state keeps its 6 1/4 percent share and returns the local one percent sales tax each month to local governments. Cities and counties may levy a combined tax of up to two percent above the state's sales tax. Clyde, Baird and Cross Plains all collect 1.50 percent in local sales tax.

The February checks include taxes collected on December sales and reported in January by businesses filing monthly sales tax returns with the state. Businesses file sales tax payments either monthly, quarterly or annually depending on the amount of sales tax they collect.

All local sales taxes must be approved by local voters and may be used for any legal city or county expenses. Most areas put the money in their General Fund and use it for normal operations like fire fighting, maintaining roads and law enforcement, Sharp said.

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Timely Tips on New Tax Advantages

When you sit down at the kitchen table to prepare your taxes this year, you'll probably be thinking, along with a lot of other people, that the trouble with being a breadwinner nowadays is that the government takes such a big slice.

But there is a small bit of good news: Tax legislation enacted in 1996 may make Uncle Sam's slice smaller in the future.

Here is a rundown on several of those new provisions:

- The Internal Revenue Code, in certain situations, now allows penalty-free withdrawals from Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) for reasons other than retirement.
- Withdrawals now are allowed to pay medical bills for you, your spouse or your dependents, but only for expenses in excess of 7.5 percent of your adjusted gross income. Withdrawals also may be made without penalty by those who remain on unemployment insurance for at least 12 weeks; these withdrawals must be used to pay health-insurance premiums.
- We're trying to add education costs and first-time home purchases to the list of penalty-free withdrawals.

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- The self-employed will enjoy increased tax deductions for their health-insurance premiums. For the 1996 tax year, the deduction is established at 30 percent of premiums paid.
- This deduction jumps to 40 percent for 1997 and will rise incrementally to 80 percent in 2006.
- Beginning this year, the terminally ill and chronically ill may obtain tax-free benefits, often referred to as "accelerated death benefits," from some life insurance policies. This provision contains strict guidelines defining chronic and terminal illness.
- Medical Savings Accounts (MSAs) are now available to a limited number of individuals allowing them beneficial savings plans to pay for their medical expenses. MSAs are tax-deferred savings accounts which are available to self-employed and employer groups of 50 or fewer individuals in conjunction with certain high-deductible health plans (deductibles of \$1,500 - \$2,250 per individual, or \$3,000 - \$4,500 per family). Eligible individuals can contribute up to 65 percent of the amount deductible under their health plan (75 percent for families) to an MSA, and use that contribution to pay for medical expenses, including dental and eye care. Money contributed can be deducted from the business owner's gross income for tax purposes, and accumulates tax-deferred interest.
- Last but not least, one-income families now can benefit from the Homemaker IRA, which I sponsored. The Homemaker IRA raises the limit on IRA contributions for one-income couples from \$2,250 a year to \$4,000 a year, \$2,000 for each spouse. Finally, homemakers are getting equity when it comes to retirement savings.
- A single-income couple that invests the new maximum amount annually into an IRA account beginning at age 25 will accumulate \$1.1 million by the time they reach retirement age at 65. (For more information on this, call my Dallas office at (214) 361-3500.)
- It's not a perfect system, but we have made it better. I urge all Texans to investigate the advantages these new tax-code rules have to offer.

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The group "Union Hill" of Lewisville will perform at the Ponderosa Ballroom in Abilene on Friday and Saturday evenings, March 7 and 8. The group features two area musicians, Paul Strickland of Baird and Vince Chippone of Clyde.



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Dealer Disc. -2,295
\$18,995 TT&L

- Air
- Automatic
- Dual Air Bags
- Chrome Rear Bumper
- Styled Steel Wheels
- Floor Carpet
- Tilt Wheel
- Cassette



NEW 1997 TRACER GS

#1590 MSRP \$12,520
Factory Disc. -1,000
Dealer Disc. -525
\$10,995 TT&L

- Air
- Dual Air Bags
- Power Steering
- AM/FM Cassette
- Clear Coat Paint



NEW 1997 RANGER

#1611 MSRP \$14,640
Factory Disc. -1,625
Factory Rebate -1,000
Dealer Disc. -2,295
\$10,995 TT&L

- XLT
- Air
- Dual Air Bags
- Super Cooling
- Sliding Rear Window
- 60/40 Split XLT Seat



NEW 1997 EXPLORER

#9017 MSRP \$25,450
Factory Disc. -850
Dealer Disc. -1,605
\$22,995 TT&L

- XLT
- Air
- Luggage Rack
- Cassette
- P235 OWL Tires
- Power Windows
- Power Locks

ABILENE -- The West Central Texas Workforce Development Board recently held a two day planning session in Abilene to develop strategies to enhance educational and employment opportunities within the region. The West Central Texas Workforce Development Board, certified by Governor Bush in September 1996, is responsible for planning, oversight and evaluation of state and federal workforce development programs, such as the Job Training Partnership Act, Job Opportunities and Basic Skills, Food Stamp Employment and Training and Employment Services. A majority of the 28 member Board represents private sector businesses across the 19 county West Central Texas region. Five county judges representing local elected officials work in partnership with the Board to ensure that services meet the employment needs of the region.

Board chair, Ross L. Jones, said he was pleased with the active participation of members resulting in a five page draft strategic plan. In addition Board members, local legislative staff, elected officials and workforce development professional staff attended the planning session. Taylor County Judge Lee Hamilton, who represents local elected officials, said he anticipated the Board's local direction and oversight would enhance employment and training services in the region. Revision and development of the strategic plan will continue during the next few months with continued input from Board members and local community representatives.

West Texas Workforce Development Board officers include Chair, Ross L. Jones, attorney from Coleman County; Vice-Chair, Al Kramer, Director of Personnel for the Kohler Company in Brownwood and Secretary-Treasurer, Ed Emerson, Chief Financial Officer for Ludlum Instruments in Sweetwater. In addition to the officers, members serving on the Board Executive Committee include Claire Johnson, Vice-President John L. Johnson, DDS in Abilene; Ray Eaton, Assistant Manager, Eaton and Lodon's Restaurant in DeLeon and Bill Parks Jr., President of Home State Bank in Rochester.



MR. & MRS. MICHAEL FRANKE

Williams - Franke United In Marriage Dec. 28

Kimberly Kay Williams and Michael Duane Franke were united in marriage at 7 p.m. on December 28, 1996 at Roses and Lace in Graham. Rev. Joe Coppinger officiated at the double ring ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Homer and Alice Johnson of Newcastle and Robert and Becky Weeder of Greeley, Colorado.

The bridegroom is the son of Raymond and Faye Franke of Cross Plains.

The bride was presented in marriage by her son, Kenneth Russell Williams.

Maid of honor was sister of the bride, Kelly Renece Payne of Loveland, Colorado. Bridesmaid was sister of the bride, Kerie Lee Bay of Shattuck, Oklahoma.

Best man was Chad Bagley of Roby. Groomsman was Scott Cupit of Austin. Usher was the bride's brother-in-law, Mark Bay of Shattuck, Oklahoma.

Music for the ceremony was per-

formed by soloist Ronda Rose of Graham.

A reception followed the ceremony at Roses and Lace.

The rehearsal dinner was hosted by the groom's parents at K-Bob's Restaurant in Graham.

Following a wedding trip to The cliffs of Possum Kingdom, the couple will make their home in Athens, Georgia.

The bride is a graduate of Durango High School in Durango, Colorado. She received a bachelor's degree from Tarleton State University and a master's degree in agronomy from Iowa State University. She is employed by the University of Georgia at Athens.

The bridegroom is a graduate of Cross Plains High School. He received a bachelor's degree from Tarleton State University and a master's degree in plant pathology from the University of Georgia, where he is employed.

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UP TO \$1,000**

For information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who committed the following crime:

On Tuesday, February 25, 1997, between midnight and 4:00 a.m. the Lakeway Grocery was burglarized with the result of numerous items being stolen.

If you have information regarding this crime, please contact Crime Stoppers at (817) 725-7456 or 1-800-252-TIPS. Your identity will remain anonymous.

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