

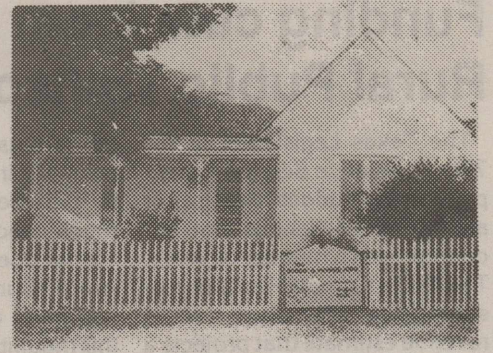


THE FIGHTING BUFFALOES
Masthead designed by Barbara J. Sowell

Cross Plains Review

CROSS PLAINS' OLDEST BUSINESS INSTITUTION

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THURSDAY, February 27, 2003



ROBERT E. HOWARD MUSEUM
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94TH YEAR

CROSS PLAINS, CALLAHAN COUNTY, TEXAS 76443

NUMBER 49

DOWN HOME

"Remember When???"

By Vanda Anderson Creech
Editor

It's funny how your mind works sometimes, isn't it? Have you ever thought of some food that you haven't had in a long time, or may never enjoy again?

Kye and I were eating fish at a franchise restaurant, when it occurred to me how long it had been since we had a crisply fried fish tail. My Dad loved to fish and he wanted to cook his catch when he returned home. Mama would batter them up and drop them in the hot grease. There is nothing like fresh fried fish. Some even enjoyed fried fish eggs. Now you've got to admit, you can't find these delicacies just anywhere. I guess the last time we had such was when Daddy was still alive. Leah's husband has started fishing and hopefully he can provide us with some fresh fish sometime.

How about homemade ice cream that froze while you sat on the top of the crank and someone turned the churn? I ate some bought ice cream that boasted the name "homemade vanilla" and it made me think of the real stuff. My Granny Ethel stirred up ice cream and poured the mixture into ice trays to freeze. It was frosty with slivers of milky ice and so sweet—a cool treat back in the good old days.

I remember the taste of a coconut cookie that my great-grandmother, Rosa Paralee Irvin, kept in her cookie jar. Every once in a while I find a cookie that brings back those fond memories.

There is no peanut butter to compare with that at my grandparents, Ben and Loma Atwood's house. Peanut butter is the one food I find hardest to resist. The only way I could keep from eating it, was not to buy it. Thus, I went by my grandparents and made my children and I a peanut butter and jelly sandwich or peanut butter and crackers every time we visited. They knew we were headed to the kitchen when we arrived.

Have you had any frog legs lately? That was something we had quite frequently when my grandparents, Almer and Ethel Anderson, lived on the Brightwell Ranch west of town. Daddy loved to go frog hunting and of course I tagged along. They were fun to watch as they fried in Granny's deep cast iron skillet. We even ate squirrels and they tasted great. Now days you would be scared to eat a squirrel.

I miss Granny's waffles, too. She didn't get to town every week and she made waffles to replace light bread. I hope my grandchildren will remember eating waffles at my house when they grow older. Probably the only thing they will recall is getting the drinking water from a crock dispenser, as we cannot drink the well water. They are all fascinated by the spigot.

Well, I've learned something. It might not be good to write about food when you are hungry—you will probably want to over indulge. If I go to the grocery store hungry I always buy too much.

Arc you hungry yet? What have you not eaten in a long, long time?



FFA MECHANICS CLASS —Byron McNutt (from left), Nathan Joy, Chris Sliger, Marc Morgan (Ag instructor), Chris Harris, Kevin Scott and Cole Koenig. Unavailable for the photo was Aaron Lewis.

Cross Plains FFA Agricultural Mechanics Win 1st at San Antonio

Seven members of the Cross Plains FFA Agricultural Mechanics Class exhibited their projects at the San Antonio Livestock Show—Agricultural Mechanics Contest, February 14-16. They exhibited two projects as group constructed projects (all seven members worked on both).

One project was a pick-up type hydraulic hay fork. This project received a blue ribbon for quality and received 1st place in its

class—Hay Equipment. The first place award earned the students several prizes to be used in the shop to build future projects.

The other project was a 5 X 8 utility trailer. This project received a blue ribbon for quality but did not place in the top 4 in the 12 foot and under trailer class.

The San Antonio Ag Mechanics Show is held in conjunction with the Annual San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo. This year

there were approximately 108 schools and 443 projects at the show, in only its 3rd year of competition. There are 6 divisions and 30 classes of projects.

These young men did a super job on these projects, and also represented the school and community well while at San Antonio.

Submitted by Marc Morgan

Pancake Supper To Be Hosted By Kiwanis

Less than two weeks away, on Tuesday night, March 11th, is one of Cross Plains' great "Social Events" of each year — the **Kiwanis Pancake Supper!** It is the night for great food and great fellowship. The price for so much eating and fellowship remains the same as in the past — \$3 per person (thanks to a lot of donations). That's all the pancakes and sausage you can eat, along with tea, coffee or water. Where can you get an eating deal like that? A serendipity is that you can take part in helping the Kiwanians with their many programs of help during the year — too numerous to list but including, sponsoring the Key Club of Cross Plains High School. Key Club members will be joining the Kiwanians in serving, helping to meet your every need!

The date, again, for the Pancake Supper is Tuesday night, March 11th, beginning at 5 p.m., continuing until 7 p.m. The place is at the Cross Plains School Cafeteria. Now this is only a few days away, so if you haven't purchased your tickets yet, be sure and see a Kiwanian and buy them now. Buy more than one ticket and bring a friend or two — maybe give one to someone whose budget is stretched too thin already. If you wait to pay at the door, Charles Rodenberger or Sue Neal just might talk you into paying more and/or making a donation (in addition to the ticket) toward the projects that the Kiwanis Club helps toward throughout the year.

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



AWARDED 50 YEAR CERTIFICATE—Commander W.D. Clark (left) presented Elvis Scott (right) with a Certificate of Continuous Membership from the American Legion Post 423 at the February 18th meeting in Cross Plains. His wife, LaVern Scott (center), is also pictured. Scott was recognized for 50 years in good standing of faithful and dedicated allegiance to the ideals of the American Legion. The certificate stated that it further be known that such record of consistent loyalty to the American Legion merits the honor of being cited as an outstanding contributor to the programs of the American Legion.

Cross Plains Looking For EMS Students

The Cross Plains Emergency Medical Service will be conducting another ECA (Emergency Care Attendant) class at our facility beginning Tuesday night, March 4th. This is basically a 40 hour course, meeting once each week from 6-10 p.m., plus a couple of Saturdays of practical in-the-field training. The instruction course is free, yet with the understanding that each graduate will volunteer to work at least two years on our service (unless "providentially hindered," of course). The student will incur "out-of-pocket expenses" only if they desire to keep their manual

and/or purchase their own personal stethoscope and/or blood pressure cuff (which we recommend).

We again plead with everyone who can to please give this careful consideration—in light of the fact that this area's Ambulance Service depends on whether we have enough volunteers to "man

See EMS Page 3

SCHOOL HOLIDAY
Friday, March 7, 2003
(Staff Development Day)
Classes Resume At Regular Time Monday, March 10

Cross Plains Public Library Genealogy Class to Start March 7

The Cross Plains Public Library will have their first meeting of the Genealogy Class on Friday, March 7, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Please bring your interest, and they will try their best to help you get started on your family tree.

Sandra Ingram and Sharon Pope will be teaching and learning along with you...they will tell

some stories and some mistakes they have made along the way, so hopefully you will not make the same. Between the two, they have approximately 8 years of genealogy experience.

Please make an effort to come and join the group. As long as there is an interest there will be a group to meet weekly.

Highway 206 Baptist Mission to Celebrate

Highway 206 Baptist Mission in Cross Plains will be celebrating their 8th year on Friday, February 28, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

The celebration will begin with a meal, followed by the performance of "Glory Bound Gospel Group".

Dwaine Clower will be the evangelist for the evening.

They will also be recognizing those who contributed to their construction project.

Highway 206 Baptist Mission cordially invites everyone to join them in their joyous occasion.

Old Time Gospel Singing To Be Held February 28

An Old Time Gospel Singing will be held at The Old Time Gospel Mission in Cross Plains Friday, February 28, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

A special group, "The Crossties" of May, will be performing. Also a lot of local and visiting groups and singles will

be singing.

Host Pastor Bro. Michael Ingram invites everyone to attend. Come bring a song or your instrument. For more information call Bro. Ingram at (254) 725-6548 or Sam Tomlinson (915) 624-5593.

Athletic Booster Club Meeting Monday, March 3

The Cross Plains Athletic Boosters have a meeting scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 3, in the foyer of the gymnasium.

Topics for discussion include the athletic banquet; finances from fund-raisers held this year;

ideas on projects to fund with profits; and the concession for the track meet this year.

Anyone interested in attending is encouraged to be present.

Submitted by

Frankie Hyles, President

Terms of Three City Councilman to Expire

The terms of City Councilmen James Nichols, Edwin Weiss and Joe Ingram are expiring. There will be three places open on the city council for two-year terms.

Applications are now available at City Hall for a place on the ballot. The upcoming election will be held on May 3, 2003 at the Cross Plains Community Center at 108 North Beech Street. The deadline for completing an application is March 19, 2003 at 5:00 p.m.

Applicants are encouraged to sign up as early as possible.

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Texas Heritage Bank

"We're Proud of Our Local Heritage"



Presents: "What's Inside"

Funding cuts loom for Rural Public Transportation

The Texas Legislators of the 78th Legislative Session are experiencing budget constraints and fiscal challenges not encountered in a number of years. The State Comptroller has presented the Legislature with a revenue estimate that projects a \$9.9 billion deficit. This presents to the Legislature the challenge of balancing a budget without new revenues. It also challenges the State's leaders to recognize priorities that preserve basic human needs as well as economic engines that promote growth.

For the Texas economy to stay on course, policy makers will need to have a clear vision of the changing needs of the emerging economy, including mobility. Public Transportation—be it in Texas, rural counties or in the largest of our metropolitan cities—provides the basis for both addressing important human needs and economics that generates even more and better growth.

A continued, stable, and an increased level of state appropriations are vital to Rural and small city communities across Texas. State transit appropriations, however, may be a budget target. The sum, small in comparison to other programs, is nevertheless important to the survival of the 41 rural and 28 small city transit systems and help matches federal transit funds for expenditures in Texas. Rural and small city transit agencies cannot receive the same local support available in Metropolitan areas, local funding is just not there.

Rural transit agencies have already endured a 13.6% cut in funding during the 77th Legislature, and now face an additional proposed cut of 25% in funding. At the same time, Rural transit has seen a 30% growth in usage of the last decade. Transit agencies simply cannot survive addi-

tional cuts in funding without seriously impacting their ability to provide safe, quality, and much needed service.

What does this mean for Rural Areas? Rural public transit cannot stand another reduction of this magnitude without seriously crippling, and in some areas, eliminating public transit networks built over the last and prior decades. From the fiscal year 1999 to 2001, appropriations levels, Rural public transit agencies will have lost 41.8% in State funding.

This is a serious and critical situation all Transit Agencies including City And Rural Rides the local Rural Public Transportation provider. According to J.R. Salazar, General Manager, "City And Rural Rides has attempted to absorb previous cuts in State funding, but cannot afford to continue to do so. The result of additional State funding will force City And Rural Rides to reduce service levels, reduce staff, and increase fare cost to local passengers in an attempt to maintain some form of Transit service. We are extremely concerned about the potential loss of Rural Public Transportation funding. Many of our riders do not have another transportation source."

Howard Childress, Chairperson of the CTRTD Board of Directors stated, "We need support from our Rural community partners and from our riders to ensure our ability to continue to provide much needed service to the residents of Brown, Callahan, Coleman, Comanche, Eastland, Runnels, Stephens, and Shackelford counties." For more information you may contact J.R. Salazar, General Manager of City And Rural Rides at 1-800-710-2277 or Michael Plaster, Executive Director of the Texas Transit Association at (512) 478-8883.

OBITUARIES

Jesse Moon

Jesse Moon, 51, of Cross Plains, passed away Thursday, February 20, 2003, in Callahan County, Texas.

Services were held at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, February 23, 2003, at the Higginbotham Chapel with Mike Redd officiating. Burial was in the Coleman Cemetery with Higginbotham Funeral Home of Cross Plains in charge of arrangements.

Jesse was born April 12, 1951 in Cisco, Texas to Robert L. Moon and Gethra Naylor Moon. He married Allyson Jackson in Brownwood, Texas on May 21, 1983. He was a Baptist.

Survivors include his wife, Allyson Moon of Cross Plains; a son, Shane Moon of Minnesota; two sisters, Patricia Crumbacher of South Carolina and Ethel Ferebee of Sarasota, Florida; and one brother, Johnny Moon of South Carolina.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a son, Chris.

Memorials may be made to your favorite charity.

Reuben Anton

Reuben Anton, 88, died Saturday, February 22, 2003, at a local hospital. Funeral services were held Monday at 11:00 a.m., February 24, 2003, at North's Memorial Chapel, 242 Orange Street with Rabbi Murray Berger officiating. Graveside services were held at the Ahavoth Shalom Cemetery in Ft. Worth, Texas, at 4 p.m. Monday under the direction of North's Funeral Home.

Mr. Anton was born and reared in Ft. Worth, Texas. He moved to Abilene, Texas, in 1936 where he married Lillie Cohen April 11, 1937. He owned and operated Texas Hide and Metal Company for 50 years. Mr. Anton also had B & R Investments Company since 1970.

Mr. Anton was a past president and founding member of the Temple Mizpah in Abilene. He was a member of the Abilene Country Club, Masonic Lodge #559, Dallas Consistory of Scottish Rites, Ft. Worth Moslah Temple Shrine, and a past president of the Gulf Coast Institute of Scrape Iron and Steel Association.

Survivors include his wife, Lillie Anton of Abilene; a son and daughter-in-law, Bennett and Shirley Anton of Abilene; three brothers, Charles and Harvey Anton both of Ft. Worth, Texas, and Max Anton of San Francisco, California; one sister, Margaret Leva of Austin, Texas; 2 grandchildren, Mrs. Vicki (Dean) Dillard of Cross Plains and Mrs. Lisa (Dr. Harrop) Miller of Abilene, Texas; 3 great-grandchildren, Lara Jacques and Jennifer Young and Bronc Dillard.

Pallbearers will be Tom Perini, Gene Goltz, Larry Anton, Dr. Harrop Miller, Dean Dillard, Bobby Duncan, and Joe Hancock.

The family would like to express their appreciation to Dr. Victor E. Hudman and caregivers, Erlinda, Natalie, Sofia, Elena, Sylvia, and Janie.

The family requests memorials be sent to Temple Mizpah, P.O. Box 1283, Abilene, Texas 79604.

Service Changes Announced at Believers Fellowship

Beginning in March, Believers Fellowship will change its regular Wednesday evening service to Thursday at 7:00 p.m. According to Bro. Fry, the change was made in order to start a Christian Youth Activities Night on Wednesday starting at 7:00 p.m.

Other service times will remain the same—Youth Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.; and Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

A singing will still be held on the last Sunday of each month at 7:00 p.m. with chips and desserts afterward.

Thomas Wilson (T.W.) Anderson, Jr.

Thomas Wilson Anderson, Jr. was born November 21, 1928 to Thomas Wilson (Andy) Anderson and Maggie Thomas Anderson in Houston, Texas. He went home to be with the Lord, Sunday, February 23, 2003, at 10:13 a.m.

Services were held Wednesday, February 26, 2003, at the Higginbotham Chapel with the Rev. Bill Thomas officiating, assisted by Max Evans. Interment was in the Cottonwood Cemetery with Higginbotham Funeral Home of Cross Plains in charge of arrangements.

The family moved to Corpus Christi when T.W. was a young boy and operated a family restaurant there for many years.

He excelled in sports, especially basketball, and won a scholarship to Hardin Simmons, where he attended two years. He refereed basketball for many years.

T.W. was employed in sales, as well as the restaurant business. He became successful in the insurance business and was recognized as one of the top salesmen and trainers in the insurance industry. He was instrumental in helping many young men and women, as well as his sons, to become successful.

He and Colleen Moore were married April 24, 1969 in Corpus Christi and together they have four children: a daughter, Beverly Kleckner of Plano; three sons, Richard of Houston, Randy of Corpus Christi and Donny of Corpus Christi; ten grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He is survived by one brother, Floyd Anderson, of Corpus Christi; and two nieces.

He was preceded in death by his father and mother and a granddaughter, Tiffany.

T.W. became a Christian at an early age and stayed involved with the church throughout his life. He was faithful to the Lord, to Colleen and to his family. He was a good-hearted man who never met a stranger and he was always willing to help anyone in need. He was there when a friend was needed.

He will be missed here on earth as he continues on in a higher dimension of life in Heaven, free from all pain and limitations, forever with the Lord who loved him most.

Pallbearers were grandsons, Shawn Anderson, Wes Anderson, Heath Anderson, Garrett Anderson, Brad Kleckner and Jordan Anderson.

Memorials may be made to Living Water Ministries Youth Program.

Thelma Long

Thelma Lewis Long passed away Saturday, February 21, 2003, at the age of 88.

Services were held at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 24, 2003, at Higginbotham Funeral Home Chapel with Bob Pipes and John Swift officiating. Burial was in the Cross Plains Cemetery.

Mrs. Long was born in Jones County, near old Fort Phantom Hill, to Robert and Dessie Lewis, the youngest of five children. The family moved to a farm between Potosi and Abilene when she was ten years old. She started school a Lystra at Colony Hill, then on to Abilene High School and Draughts Business School.

She married Cal Long in Abilene in 1945. During their marriage they lived in Abilene, Carlsbad, New Mexico and in the Houston area before retiring in Cross Plains.

She was employed at Lankford & Sons in Abilene, American Bank in Carlsbad and Citizens State Bank in Cross Plains.

Her husband, Cal, and daughter, Patti, preceded her in death, as did a sister and two brothers.

She is survived by one sister, Gladys Breaux of San Antonio; a sister-in-law, Ruth Lewis of Abilene; one nephew, Eddie; four nieces, Doris, Janie, Kyriel Ann and Joy; eleven great-nieces and nephews; and several great-great-nieces and nephews; and a host of friends.

Delmas Samuel "Sam" Justice

Delmas Samuel Justice passed away peacefully on the evening of February 18, 2003. While family and friends mourn his absence, they rejoice in his victory.

Services were held at 10:00 a.m. Friday at First Baptist Church in Cisco with Pastor Mike Justice officiating, assisted by Pastor Randy Lawson. Burial was in Oakwood Cemetery under the direction of Kimbrough Funeral Home.

Sam was born on Easter Sunday morning on March 28, 1937, the son of evangelistic parents, George and Vivian Justice, and lived in many different places throughout his youth. He met and married Frances Williams in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. In 1969 they moved to this area and have resided in Cisco for the last 15 years.

He was a member of the Eastland Church of God. He served in his church, as he did in his life, a servant of Jesus Christ and his fellow man.

Survivors include his wife, Frances Justice, of Cisco; two sons, Billy Justice and wife, Suona, of Fort Worth, and David Justice of Dallas; a daughter, Lori St. Ama and husband, Darrin, of Early; siblings, David Justice, Sr. of Abilene, Ophelia Merrill of Cross Plains, James Justice of Brownwood, Martha Kay Justice of Cisco and Mike Justice of Dayton, Tennessee; 6 grandchildren; 10 nieces and 5 nephews.

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First United Methodist Church VBS Dates

The First United Methodist Church of Cross Plains would like to announce the upcoming date of our Vacation Bible School on July 7 - 11, 2003. We hope parents will make plans for their children to attend this summer.

CROSS PLAINS REVIEW

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DON TABOR, PUBLISHER
VANDA CREECH, EDITOR
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MEMBER
2003
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CHURCH DIRECTORY

UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

209 S.W. Hwy 36 CROSS PLAINS
Welcomes You!
Sunday School 10:00 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 a.m. * Monday Prayer 7 p.m. * Wednesday 7 p.m.
Pastors: Colleen Anderson and Maxey Evans
Glenda Tidwell - Praise & Worship
Linda Fortune - Youth Pastor
For Information Call (254) 725-6800 1-800-252-3629

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 McGowen, 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

Sponser: Pioneer 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

You Are Invited To 8th Year Celebration

At
Highway 206 Baptist Mission
Cross Plains
Friday, February 28, 2003
Meal Beginning At 6:00 p.m.
Vocalists - Glory Bound Gospel Group
Evangelist - Dwaine Clower

Choral & Vocal Training

Offered at First Baptist
Pre-school - 6th grade
Each Wednesday
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

To enroll, call 725-7629
Its fun and its free.

First Baptist Church

725-7629 3rd & Main Cross Plains
Ronnie B. White, Pastor

Ash Wednesday Worship Service March 5 at 6:30p.m.

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

PIONEER NEWS

The ladies had a great day of quilting on Tuesday. We worked on Jean Alexander's "Dutch Doll" and Frankie's "Flower Garden". We should be finishing both these at the next meeting. We put Cody Hounshell's outside pay, a "Log Cabin" into the frame. We always have a good time quilting.

Thursday night Cowan and Laverne Hutton's daughter, Wanetta, spent the night with them. On Friday, Laverne went with Cowan to Dublin, Proctor and Stephenville. Their grandson, Jamie Hutton and wife, Mary, and children visited on Monday night.

Friday, Frankie Smith and Jean Fore attended their association meeting at Pioneer Baptist Church. It had a very good turnout and good music. A husband and wife team spoke on "Family and Marriage". Saturday Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Christmas stopped by Frankie's on their way to Houston. Saturday night Jean and Frankie attended the Brownwood musical with Freddie and Maudine Blont from Rising Star.

Becky Murphree, Olena Ezzell's granddaughter, was chosen "Teacher of the Week" last

week. Becky is teaching at De Leon in the elementary school special education and other subjects. This is Becky's second year teaching and she is really enjoying it. It is so nice to hear that people enjoy doing something so important to the country. Teachers do make a difference. Way to go Becky!

Earlene Burge and Jessica Stultz were in Brownwood Sunday for Andrew Chisholm's birthday. Andrew is the husband of Jessica's daughter, Delicia. They had delicious hamburgers. Henry and Morya Chisholm, Delicia and Cameron, Andrew and Delicia's son, were all there. They had a great time.

We did have wonderful rain on Friday. We are very thankful. Someone left the barn door open Monday night. We are having winter again. The plums, peaches and pears were ready to put out their beautiful blooms. Guess we will have to wait a while to see that.

See you next time! Stay well!
Words of Wisdom: Enjoy your life without comparing it with that of others.

EMS

and woman" it! (Without the CP EMS, those needing ambulance service would have to wait for one to come from Brownwood, Cisco, Eastland, Clyde, Coleman or Abilene! In many instances, that would be "to late" at best!!)

We ask for your help in this way — of volunteers to take this class and serve as ECA's. If you are

interested, please contact one of the following to let us know and/or for more information: Susan Schaefer (725-6747/7140), John Swift (725-6116/6443), Bob Pipes (725-6117/6700), Curtis Cooper (725-6770), or George Matthews (725-7287). Thank you!!

COTTONWOOD NEWS

By WALLACE BENNETT

World Traveling Antarctic Explorer and High Flying Native Daughter to Speak at Cottonwood Homecoming
It's true! And without stretching the point one jot, we can call Nancy Robinson Masters a native daughter of Cottonwood.

She is the great-granddaughter of "Judge" James Henry Robinson, one of the earliest settlers in Cottonwood and famous as the long-serving Justice of Peace. And, although, not born in Cottonwood and raised on a farm in Jones County, Nancy claims deep roots in Cottonwood soil, and marked with Robinson values of patriotism and hard work ethics of farm life through many happy visits to her great-grandparents' home on the east bank of Cottonwood Creek.

Nancy will be speaking to the homecoming crowd at Cottonwood's Annual Meeting of the Cottonwood Historical Association on May 3, 2003.

Nancy is a writer, with 14 books, including award-winning books for children and over 3,000

articles, published in a variety of publications, to her credit. Her writing has taken her around the world, including traveling with the National Science Foundation in Antarctica and many other interesting places.

She is a licensed pilot and lives in the Elmdale Community on a farm near Abilene, Texas, adjacent to the airport built by her husband and writing partner, veteran aviator, Bill Masters.

The Annual Meeting of the Cottonwood Historical Association will include a business meeting, Nancy's speech, the noon meal (details later in this column), visitation and probably a story-telling session, plus other activities.

President Albert Lovell has issued this invitation to all current and former residents and citizens of Cottonwood. If you live in Cottonwood, own property here, or wish you lived here, you are urged to participate in the association's activities.

So, please, don't just "mark your calendar", be there on May 3, at 10 a.m. at the Cottonwood Community Center.

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QUIPS, CLIPS & COMMENTS

By KAY MOSLEY

Note: To preserve fresh herbs grown in your garden, place a few sprigs of your favorites between two ordinary paper towels, and microwave for about a minute. This is sufficient time to dry them out without damaging them. Store in airtight containers, and you have homegrown herbs waiting any time you need them.

"Chicken, Anyone?"

How long has it been since you chased that chicken down; or watched your mother, grandmother, or great-aunt Hattie do so? It has most likely been quite a spell.

Next, some would get that chicken by the throat and wring that chicken's neck. Not my mother! She would tie a string around its feet, hang the chicken upside down on the clothesline, stand way back and with her sharpest butcher knife, cut that chicken's head off. Then she

would run like crazy so that it wouldn't splatter on her, as it flopped about. Then she would scald that chicken with boiling hot water and pluck its feathers all out. After which, you would hold Ms. or Mr. Chicken up over an open fire or over a gas burning cookstove, in order to burn those little bitty pin feathers off. I'll never, ever forget the smell of those singed feathers.

After all that, you still had to cut that chicken up. It didn't come from the store with all that already done for you, as it does now-a-days. Then you still had to prepare and cook the chicken.

I'm sure you've seen the T.V. commercial where the grill is already hot; and the man is chasing that chicken all around the yard trying to catch it. If it were up to me, I'd be out there giving that chicken pilot lessons and teaching it to sing, as it cruised overhead, "I Believe I Can Fly".

As for dinner, let's eat out!!!!

RISING STAR NURSING CENTER

Welcome back to Carl McKenzie. Mr. McKenzie, a longtime, left for a very short time to go to another nursing center and after a stay in the hospital is now back home in Rising Star. We missed him and we are so happy he is home. Welcome also to Mrs. Virginia Evans. We are pleased to have you in our home.

On Tuesday, February 18th we celebrated birthdays, celebrating were Tommy Heairren, Nathan Foster and Ruby Ezzell. We had a great turnout for the party with

several family members in attendance. Thanks to Louise Foster for providing the birthday cake.

Many of you might know that a nasty stomach virus invaded the center late last week sending many employees and many residents to bed for a few days. Thankfully it ran its course.

The dynamic duo, Scott and Richard, finished the job in the kitchen and it looks great! Now the work continues on the showers. If the ice thaws, stop by the center for a visit.

LIBRARY NOTES

I need to tell you that our librarian has been to four workshops last week. The workshops were on Word, Excel and Front Page, all dealing with the computer. On Saturday Cherry Shults and Jacquie Childress went to a Story Telling workshop and gained several new techniques for telling stories. Lots of ideas are being developed, so keep checking in to keep up with the new developments.

February 17-21

Statistics

Circulation:	
Books	78
Lap	39
Interlibrary Loan	2
Total	119

Donations:
Logan and Madeline Long
Ellen Turner - Books

Scranton Community Center Musical Set For March 1

The Scranton Musical will be held at the Scranton Community Center, Saturday, March 1, 2003. The kitchen begins serving at 5:30 p.m. Marie and Norris Starr will be hosts in the kitchen. They will be serving something special. Your contributions of sandwiches and/or pies is appreciated. The music begins at 6:00 p.m., with Mark Ray as emcee. All musicians are invited to play and may call 915-692-2057 to reserve a time for your group.

Submitted by: Joan Shrader

Subscribe To The Cross Plains Review

Project Pride Needs Garage Sale Items

Project Pride is accepting garage sale type items to help stock their booth at the Garden Club Trade Day event to be held on March 22. If you have things (one or box full) you no longer want,

please consider donating them. All proceeds from Project Pride sales are used for community betterment projects.

To donate contact Era Lee Hanke (254) 725-6562.

PUBLIC FAX (254) 725-7225

Help is just a TOUCH AWAY



Our Emergency Response Services program allows you to live independently at home, knowing that help is always there when you need it. At the touch of a button, you receive immediate assistance — 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. This service is available FREE to those who qualify through TDHS* or on a private pay basis.

Call 1-800-347-7590 for more information.

OUTREACH HEALTH SERVICES

* Contact your local Texas Department of Human Services office for eligibility requirements.

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BREAKTHRU

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



There's a song entitled "The Lord Bless You and Keep You," and in addition to that phrase, the song goes on to say, "The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace...and be gracious unto you." It's a song of benediction and comes from a passage in the Old Testament, Numbers 6:24-26.

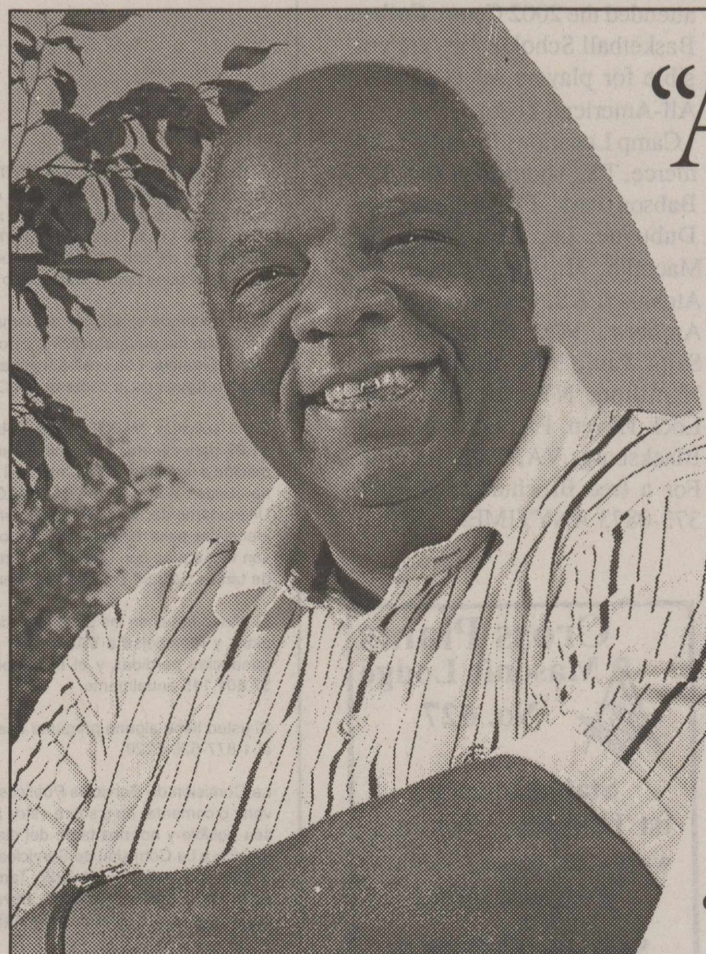
The passage is commonly referred to as the "Aaronic Benediction" because God told Moses to tell Aaron (and Aaron's sons) to bless the children of Israel with these words. So like many phrases and passages of the Old Testament (and New Testament), this passage was simply made into a hymn wherein and whereby we might ask for God's blessings to upon us, others or one another.

Right now, we need to sing (or pray) this song in regard to our military people who are staged for war against Iraq. We need to sing it in regard to our world leaders, especially our own leaders here in the United States — most especially, for our President Bush. For the Israelites to have God's blessings back then proved to be a great blessing indeed. I'm convinced that we need His blessings today just as much as they did.

Will you join me — continue — in fervent prayer for our nation, our leaders, our President, our service people, and other nations of the world and their leaders?

We urge you to come and share periods of Bible study and worship with us. We really do care about you, too.

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



"Abilene Regional Knows Hearts!"

I picked Abilene Regional for convenience but I'd go back because of their excellent care and outstanding attitude. The staff has shown me their heart while treating mine.

— Sye Mays
Workforce Management Specialist

Think Abilene Regional Medical Center for heart care. The hospital's Heart Team performed the area's first heart catheterization and first open heart surgery in the region. Our outcomes for coronary bypass surgery have consistently been better than those experienced statewide or across the nation. You'll be glad you came to Abilene Regional!

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ELEMENTARY EXTRA

By NANCY RANDOLPH

The 5th six weeks has started this week. The new behavior reports were distributed on Monday. Students are reminded to make sure to carry their supplies to class, report to class on time, and follow the teachers' directions in all activities (academic classes, P.E., music, and the lunchroom). Students that have excellent behavior at the end of the six weeks will be rewarded with a Make a Sundae party.

Mrs. Sowell had a great speech last Friday discussing the Behavior parties. These parties are a reward not a punishment. The Character Counts program and discipline folders are used to mold our students into great citizens of Cross Plains, Texas, and the USA. The students are encouraged to display the six traits of good character-citizenship, caring, respect, responsibility, fairness, and trustworthiness. Students are asked to display these traits at all times. Teachers,

teaching assistants, and administrators use the discipline reports to help remind the students of the good choices they can make while at school.

The Screening for Next years Pre-Kindergarten will be held on Thursday, April 3. This screening is open to students that will be 3 or 4 years old before September 1. Parents will need to bring the child's social security card and shot record. Parent will be asked to call the school and schedule an appointment following Spring Break (March 24).

The students will have another holiday on March 7. Teachers will be attending staff development training that day. The students will return to school the next week with Spring Break coming the following week-March 17-21.

The Pre-Kindergarten has set its graduation date. It will be held on Wednesday, May 28. Please make sure to send \$20.00 by

March 14 for your child's cap and gown. Everyone is invited to watch these young students graduate into the Kindergarten.

Mrs. Purvis's classes are encouraged to keep up the good work on their current events and prepare for their book reports early. All students are encouraged to continue to read every night and work hard on meeting their AR goal. The trip to Mr. Gatti's is just around the corner.

Don't forget if your child needs extra help to contact the school about after-school tutorials. The 4th grade worked very hard this week on the Writing TAKS test. The 3rd grade will be taking the Reading test on Tuesday, March 4th. Good Luck to them because passing this test is required by state law to be promoted to 4th grade. Wish your child good luck and stress doing their very best on this test.

Honors For District 10A

MVP - Morales, Albany (Jr)
Offensive Player - Zarate, Ranger (Sr)
Defensive Player - Poellnitz, Ranger (Sr)
Newcomer - Holson, Albany (Jr)

1st Team - *unanimous
* Harris, Cross Plains (Sr)
*Smith, Baird (Soph)
Johnston, Albany (Soph)
Viertl, Albany (Jr)
Barton, Cross Plain (Sr)
Smith, Ranger (Sr)
Monroe, Ranger (Soph)
Burks, Baird (Sr)
2nd Team
Palmore, Albany (Jr)
Leonard, Albany (Sr)
Allen, Cross Plains (Soph)
Goains, Cross Plains (Soph)
Landa, Gorman (Sr)
Nichols, Ranger (Sr)
Warren, Baird (Sr)
Mendez, Baird (Jr)
Fighting Heart
Skiles, Albany (Sr)
Dickson, Cross Plains (Jr)
Wright, Gorman (Soph)
Nichols, Ranger (Sr)
Burford, Baird (Jr)

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Library Writing Contest Open to All C.P. Students

For the fourth consecutive year, the Cross Plains Public Library is sponsoring a writing contest for all students in Grades Pre-K through 12. In the past three years, the opportunity to enter was offered to students in the Cross Plains schools. Realizing that there are now many home-schooled students in the area, the Library Board decided the contest should also be open to them. Any home-schooled students who are eligible to attend the Cross Plains schools are encouraged to enter. Students may enter any one of the three categories: poetry, essay, or short story. Poems may be of any kind: blank verse, haiku, etc. (For the sake of the judge's eyesight: please, only one entry per student!)

If your student(s) would like to enter, you may pick up entry guidelines at the Cross Plains Public Library between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and return the entries there by 5:00 p.m., Friday, March 21, 2003. The entries will be "blind" judged by a retired college level teacher of English. As in previous years, we will award ribbons for 1st, 2nd, 3rd place in each grade, and trophies for 1st, 2nd, 3rd overall. Additionally, the three best overall entries will be printed in the Cross Plains Review.

Contributed by Ginny Hoskins

SCHOOL MENU

MARCH 3 - MARCH 6

BBREAKFAST	LUNCH
MONDAY --Oatmeal, Toast, Assorted Juice	MONDAY --Chicken Patty on Bun, Pickles, Glazed Carrots, Pears
TUESDAY -- Waffle, Sausage, Assorted Juice	TUESDAY -- Ham Slices, Scalloped Potatoes, Spinach, Rolls, Honey
WEDNESDAY -- Toaster Pastry, Yogurt, Assorted Juice	WEDNESDAY --Fiesta Salad, (Chili Beans, Corn Chips, Cheese, Rice, Salad), Peaches
THURSDAY --Cereal, Toast, Assorted Juice	THURSDAY --Fish, Blackeyed Peas, Coleslaw, Cornbread, Mixed Fruit)
FRIDAY -- STAFF WORK DAY	FRIDAY -- STAFF WORK DAY

Skateworld to Open Every Saturday Evening Beginning March 1st

Last week Dub Meador reported 144 students from Cross Plains I.S.D. came to skate for a good behavior party. He remarked, "They were terrific and everyone had a great time. Lots of parents and sponsors skated and everyone had a ball." Skateworld will be open every Saturday evening from 7 to 10 p.m. for \$3.00 per person beginning this Saturday, March 1st. Skateworld is located at 141 South Main Street in Cross Plains. For additional information call (254) 725-7720 or (254) 725-6369.

GRADUATION

Is Just Around The Corner

We Have A New Selections of Invitations To Fit Your Needs.

Come By
The Cross Plains Review
116 S.E. 1st

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

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

The following administrators and guests were also in attendance: Superintendent, Jackie Tennon; High School Principal, Leonard Wilson; Elementary Principal, Margie Sowell and the guests were Terry Thomas, Rick Bennett and Nora Odum.

Prayer was led by Monty Richards.

Motion was made by Richards and seconded by V. Dillard that Jackie Tennon get references from Florida Power Systems on surge protectors that are in opera-

tion at other schools and come back to the Board at future date. For 7 Against 0

Motion was made by Bennett and seconded by Schaefer to use the new gym for Pee-Wee clinic Saturday, February 22, 2003. For 7 Against 0

Motion was made by Bennett and seconded by V. Dillard to approve Update 69. For 7 Against 0

Motion was made by Wyatt and seconded by Cook to hold joint election for C.P. I.S.D trustee with City of Cross Plains election. For 7 Against 0

Motion was made by Bennett and seconded by V. Dillard that Jackie Tennon get references from Florida Power Systems on surge protectors that are in opera-

tion Judge will be Esther Kerr and Early Voting Clerk will be Debbie Gosnell with Cross Plains City Hall as early voting sight. Judge will appoint her own alternate judge at later date. For 7 Against 0

Went into Executive Session at 8:45 p.m.

Motion was made by Wyatt and seconded by Bennett to renew Athletic Director Contract for 2004-05. For 7 Against 0

Motion was made by Bennett and seconded by Richards to renew contract for 2003-04 for Leonard Wilson. For 7 Against 0

Motion was made by Cook and seconded by Wyatt to adjourn. For 7 Against 0

Executive Session ended at 12:12 a.m.

Women, Infants and Children Gives Tips Preventing Iron Deficiency

AUSTIN—The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has declared its full support for President George W. Bush's plan for the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998, which is currently set to expire on September 30, 2003.

"Texas has set the standard for WIA success for the rest of the country since becoming one of the first states to fully implement the system in 1999, a year earlier than required," said TWC Chair Diane Rath. "Our continued emphasis on accountability and personal responsibility will only be further enhanced by the changes outlined in President Bush's proposal."

Through the state's more than 270 Texas Workforce Centers, WIA provides employment and training services to match employers' needs. WIA also offers services for people who have lost their jobs in mass layoffs or plant closings, or who have been laid off and are unlikely to return to their jobs.

"As our governor in 1995, President Bush initiated workforce reform in Texas based on principles that continue to guide our efforts today, ensuring job seekers and employers have access to a full range of services through One-Stop Centers" said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor T. P. O'Mahoney. "His proposal for WIA not only strengthens these principles, but will help our local workforce boards meet the demands placed on them by giving them the flexibility they need to assist all Texans."

The President's plan for WIA reauthorization, which is part of his proposed 2004 federal budget, contains several strengthening provisions that provide greater local control, employer focus and overall flexibility. Spe-

cific modifications in the reauthorization plan call for:

- defining training needs and opportunities that meet employers' demands,
- helping the unemployed get back to work and continue their careers,
- developing targeted initiatives for youth populations and
- designing workforce solutions focused on economic development.

"Local control and employer focus are critical components for ensuring greater workforce and economic development for Texas," said TWC Commissioner for Employers Ron Lehman. "I believe the President's emphasis on these factors will result in a larger, more qualified workforce pool for Texas' employers in the near future and in the long term as well."

Another key component of the President's WIA reauthorization plan is the introduction of Personal Reemployment Accounts. These would provide certain eligible individuals receiving Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits and some UI exhaustees with a special worker-managed account of up to \$3,000 to pay for intensive reemployment, training and supportive services such as child care and transportation. Personal Reemployment Accounts will be a onetime benefit.

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

Ten Star All Star B-Ball 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 8 Foreign Countries attended the 2002 Camp. College Basketball Scholarships are possible for players selected to the All-American Team.

Camp Locations Include: Commerce, TX, Thousand Oaks, CA, Babson Park, FL, Atlanta, GA, Dubuque, IA, Champaign, IL, Macomb, IL, Greencastle, IN, Atchison, KS, Owensboro, KY, Amherst, MA, Hillsdale, MI, Saint Paul, MN, Hickory, NC, Hamilton, NY, Bluffton, OH, Lock Haven, PA, Lebanon, TN, Blacksburg, VA, Olympia, WA. For a free Brochure, call (704) 373-0873 ANYTIME.

Cross Plains Masonic Lodge No. 627

Stated Meeting
1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
www.cross-plains.tx-mm.org
www.gltexas.org
Sec. (254) 725-7530

LEGAL NOTICE

On February 6, 2003, VALOR Telecommunications of Texas, LP (VALOR) filed an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) to establish surcharges to recover lost revenues and increased costs associated with seven hundred thirteen (713) Expanded Local Calling Service (ELCS) routes implemented in and between VALOR's Texas telephone exchanges and in many instances, exchanges of other local telephone companies. The application is filed based on the Commission's Substantive Rule 26.221 titled, "Applications to Establish or Increase Expanded Local Calling Service Surcharges".

ELCS expands a local calling scope to include one or more additional telephone exchanges, if customers in a petitioning exchange approve by ballot, the payment of an ELCS fee in lieu of long distance charges. The costs and lost revenues associated with VALOR's surcharge application are those not recoverable through the ELCS fee.

In the application, VALOR proposes to implement on an interim basis a monthly per line surcharge of \$0.99 for residential customers and \$1.98 for business customers beginning with the April, 2003 bill cycle. This proposed surcharge will apply in addition to any monthly ELCS fees. If rates at or above the level of the interim surcharges are not ultimately approved by the Commission, VALOR will refund all or part of the interim surcharges, as directed by the Commission. Ultimately, VALOR seeks approval of monthly surcharges of \$3.38 for business lines and \$1.69 for residential lines to replace the interim surcharges. Additionally, the application proposes that customers currently billed ELCS fees lower than \$3.50 per residential line and \$7 per business line, will have those fees raised to \$3.50 per residential line and \$7 per business line.

The net annual effect on the revenues of VALOR will be zero since the requested surcharge replaces lost revenues and reimburses VALOR for the increased cost of service associated with ELCS. The estimated total lost revenues and increased costs VALOR seeks to recover through this proceeding is \$7,601,145 annually.

If you have questions about the proposed surcharges or would like further information, please call VALOR at 1-877-520-5220. The Public Utility Commission has assigned Project No. 27363 to this proceeding. Persons who wish to intervene in or comment upon these proceedings should notify the Public Utility Commission of Texas as soon as possible and no later than April 14, 2003, the intervention deadline. A request to intervene or for further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, 1701 N. Congress Avenue, PO Box 13326, Austin, TX 78711-3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Public Utility Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing-impaired and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136.

AVISO

El 6 de febrero de 2003, VALOR Telecom de Texas, LP (VALOR) sometió una solicitud a La Comisión Pública de Servicios de Texas (Public Utility Commission of Texas) para establecer sobrecargos para recuperar las ganancias perdidas y los costos incrementados relacionados con sieteientos trece (713) rutas implementadas del Servicio Expandido de Llamadas Locales (Expanded Local Calling Service) entre los despachos centrales de teléfono de VALOR de Texas y en muchas instancias, despachos de otras compañías locales de teléfono. La solicitud se sometió basada en la Regla 26.221 de La Comisión titulada, "Solicitudes para Establecer o Incrementar los Sobrecargos de Servicio Expandido de Llamadas Locales".

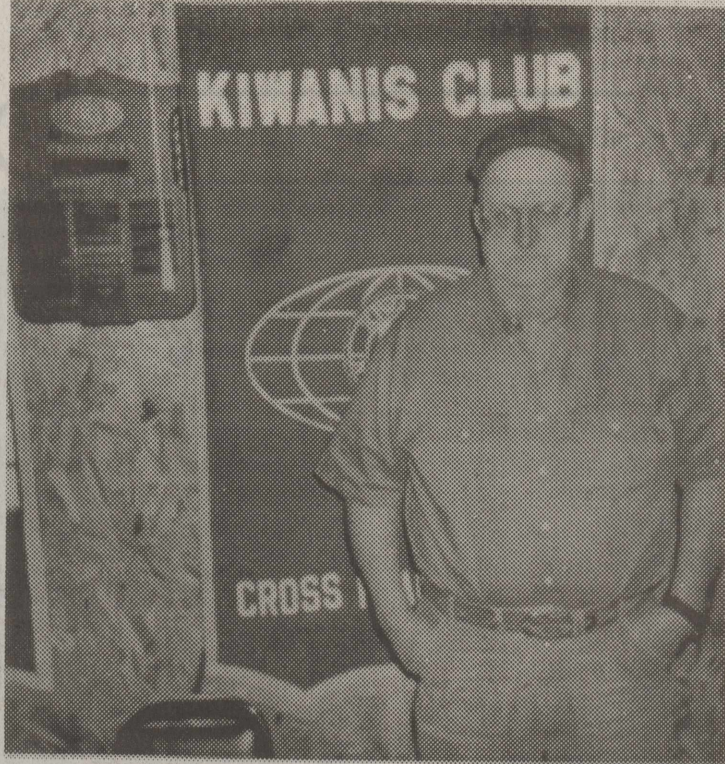
ELCS extiende el alcance de llamadas locales para incluir uno o más despachos de teléfono adicionales, y los clientes de un despacho hacen una petición de cambio que es aprobada por voto para pagar un cargo de ELCS en lugar de sobrecargos de larga distancia. Los costos y ganancias perdidas relacionadas con los sobrecargos de la solicitud de VALOR no son recuperables a través de la cuota del ELCS.

En la solicitud, VALOR propone implementar temporalmente un cargo mensual por línea de \$0.99 por cliente residencial y \$1.98 para clientes comerciales empezando con la facturación del ciclo de Abril, 2003. Este cargo propuesto se aplicará en adición a cualquier cargo mensual ELCS. Si las tarifas al o sobre el nivel de los sobrecargos temporarios no son ultimadamente aprobados por la Comisión, VALOR reembolsará todo o parte de los sobrecargos temporales, indicados por la Comisión. Ultimadamente, VALOR busca aprobación de sobrecargos mensuales de \$3.38 por líneas comerciales y \$1.69 por líneas residenciales para reemplazar los sobrecargos temporarios. Adicionalmente, la solicitud propone que los clientes que actualmente son facturados con tarifas ELCS más bajas de \$3.50 por línea residencial y \$7.00 por línea comercial, tendrán un incremento de tarifas a \$3.50 por línea residencial y \$7.00 por línea comercial.

El efecto anual en las ganancias de VALOR serán cero siendo que los sobrecargos solicitados reemplazan las ganancias perdidas y reembolsa a VALOR por incremento en el costo del servicio relacionado con ELCS. El costo estimado total de las ganancias perdidas y el incremento de costos que VALOR tiene como fin recuperar a través de este procedimiento es \$7,601,145 anualmente.

Si usted tiene alguna pregunta acerca de los sobrecargos propuestos o si necesita más información, por favor llame a VALOR al 1-877-520-5220.

La Comisión de Servicios Públicos ha asignado el Proyecto No. 27363 a este procedimiento. Las personas que deseen intervenir o comentar en o sobre estos procedimientos deben notificar La Comisión de Servicios Públicos de Texas tan pronto como sea posible y no más tarde del día 14 de Abril 2003, fecha límite de la intervención. Para intervenir o para más información, escriba a La Comisión de Servicios Públicos de Texas (Public Utility Commission of Texas), 1701 N. Congress Avenue, PO Box 13326, Austin, TX 78711-3326. También puede solicitar más información llamando a La Comisión de Servicios Públicos al (512) 936-7120 o al (888) 782-8477. Personas con impedimentos de hablar o del sentido de oír con teléfonos de textos (TTY) pueden comunicarse con La Comisión al (512) 936-7136.



KIWANIS HEAR ABOUT USE OF CITY SALES TAX—City Councilman James Nichols told the Kiwanis Club on February 11th about the use of the small sales and motel taxes to improve the looks of the city and how it assists small business owners starting new businesses. He was invited by Charles Rodenberger, President of the Cross Plains Kiwanis. The Kiwanis Club meets each Tuesday at noon at Jean's Feed Barn.

USDA requests public comments on new Conservation Security Program

ORLANDO, Fla., Feb. 10, 2003—USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service Chief Bruce Knight today announced that the advance notice of proposed rulemaking and request for comments on the Conservation Security Program (CSP) will be released for publication to the Federal Register. This is a new program authorized in the 2002 Farm Bill. The advance notice gives the public the opportunity to comment on key issues that have been raised regarding implementation of the program. The issues are presented in the advance notice. "Comments gathered during the 30-day comment period will help us develop a proposed rule," Knight said. "Then, the public will have another opportunity to provide input during the comment period for the proposed rule before a final rule is published. We want this to be the best program possible." CSP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to conserve and improve soil, water, air, energy, plant and animal life on tribal and private working lands—cropland, grassland, prairie land,

improved pasture and rangeland, as well as certain forested land that is an incidental part of an agriculture operation. "The intent of CSP is to support ongoing conservation stewardship of agricultural lands by providing assistance to producers to maintain and enhance natural resources," Knight said. CSP has a unique role among USDA conservation programs. It identifies and rewards those farmers and ranchers who meet the highest standards of conservation and environmental management on their operations, creates powerful incentives for other producers to meet those same standards of conservation performance on their operations, and provides public benefits for generations to come. Comments must be received in writing within 30 days of the date the advance notice is published in the Federal Register. The advance notice and additional information on CSP can be found at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill/2002/products.html>. Additional information about the Farm Bill can be found at <http://www.usda.gov/farmbill/index.html>.

C.P. Garden Club Annual Trade Day and Plant Sale Told

The Cross Plains Garden Club Annual Trade Day and Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, March 22. The Trade Day will be located on the vacant lot north of the Dairy Queen in Cross Plains. Everyone mark your calendars.

No reservations are required. The charges are \$15.00 for each 12' X 12' space. Trade Day will open to the public at 8:00 a.m. For additional information you may contact Bob Powell at (254) 643-2404 or Julene Franke at (254) 725-7712.

Clyde Study Club hosting 43rd Texas Federation of Women's Clubs convention

The 43rd Spring Convention of Mesquite District of Texas Federation of Women's Clubs will meet Saturday, March 8th, at the Ambassador Suites, 4250 Ridgmont Drive, Abilene, hosted by the Clyde Study Club. Coffee and registration will be at 8:30 a.m. Executive Committee meeting at 8:45 a.m. Call to order by Mesquite District president, Nancy Toliver at 9 a.m. Opening ceremonies will be followed by state life, district life and Mesquite District past presidents recognition. Executive reports will be given and Texas Federation Womens Clubs president, Bobbe Mitchell of Sanderson will speak at 11 a.m.

followed by roll call of clubs with presidents giving report of clubs activities. Lunch in the Atrium at 12:00 to be followed with award presentations and memoriam to close out the program. Reservations are to be made by March 1st to Louise Massey, 411 E. McHarg St. Stamford, Tx. 79553. Phone 915-773-3520. Reservations are \$15.00 and slightly higher at the door. All checks to be made to Mesquite District. Suites available the night before. Make reservations with Ambassador Suites (915-698-1234) and mention Texas Federation Womens Clubs.

Texas Wheat Producers Association applauds passage of disaster assistance

When Congress passed the Omnibus Fiscal 2003 Appropriations bill late Thursday they included a much needed disaster assistance package for farmers. The package addresses the severe weather-related crisis that has gripped farm country across America for several years. Noting the key role—played by Vice President Cheney in brokering the negotiations that allowed the disaster package to be included in the Omnibus Bill, the National Association of Wheat Growers President, Tommy Womack of Tulia, Texas said, "I want to thank the Vice President for taking a constructive interest in the farmers of the United States and we are grateful and pleased that our strong Congressional leadership in Washington, D.C. is helping us through this ongoing crisis." The disaster proposal provides "such sums as are necessary" for producers who have suffered at least a 35% crop loss in either the 2001 or 2002 crop years, but not both. Payment may be received at a level of up to 65% of their historic yield. Crop insurance payments received would be deducted from this amount as would the value of the crop that was not lost. Total payments would be limited to 95% of what the crop value would have been without the losses.

"We're headed for home after a long, hard fight for this assistance, and I'm real proud of our Texas association, as well as the agricultural disaster coalition that has made this a reality," added Womack. "The Texas Wheat Producers Association sent a delegation of wheat producers and a banker to Washington, D.C., the second week in January, and they left a lasting impression on our leaders. The farmers of Texas should be proud of the effort put forth by the Texas Wheat Producers Association." Current Texas Wheat Producers Association President David Moore of Dumas, Texas was particularly proud and grateful for the work of his area farmers and business leaders. "We are indebted to the resolve of many Texas farmers and agribusinesses who dedicated personal time to making phone calls, writing letters to their congressmen, and traveling to Washington, D.C., to rally support for this disaster assistance package. The wheat industry team has worked hard to bring a clear, credible message to Washington and the American people about this crisis and we can feel pleased that the wheat growers of Texas have been represented with a high level of success and dignity."

Deadlines for Rural Health summer academies, stipends

LUBBOCK—Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Office of Rural and Community Health has set application deadlines for the Rural Pre-Health Professional and the Summer Academy Rural Health Education Stipend Program for March 15. The Rural Pre-Health Professional Summer Academy is a preparatory program designed for students interested in a career in allied health, nursing or pharmacy. The academy is open to a select number of college students who come from a rural setting and are interested in establishing a rural practice following their professional education. It is a three-week program, including Saturdays, that offers review in basic science courses, instruction in written and verbal communication skills, computer skills and medical Spanish. Following two weeks in the classroom, students shadow health professionals in the clinical setting. Students are responsible only for transportation costs to and from Lubbock and any spending money they may want

to bring. Housing and meals are provided for each participant in the Texas Tech residence halls where all students are required to live. The Rural Health Education Stipend Program is geared to address the shortage of health professionals in rural West Texas by easing the expense of college for rural students. The program is available to entering freshmen and junior college transfers who are Texas residents and who show a substantial interest in health careers in rural Texas. The stipend amount for undergraduate students is generally \$2,500 per year for a maximum of four years and is renewable providing the student maintains a 3.2 grade point average and participates in rural health-focused activities. The number and amount of awards offered are based on funding availability. For more information and to submit applications online, visit www.ttuhs.c.edu/rch/studentprograms or contact Shannon Kirkland in the Office of Rural and Community Health at (806) 743-1338.

Build your business online with the Postal Service

The Postal Service has been working hard to meet the demands and expectations of business and residential customers. Now you can go online at www.usps.com to conveniently obtain information about mailing and shipping and to use a variety of tools to help you manage your business. At www.usps.com, all the basics are covered. Need a ZIP Code? Visit the Web site. Want to find a post office in your neighborhood? Visit the Web site. Interested in knowing what time your Express Mail package was delivered, or what it costs to mail a Priority Mail package? Visit...well, you get the picture. And, www.usps.com is filled with business help. Designing, creating and sending mail pieces and mailings are made easy online. If you are new to direct mail, a guide will assist you. Merchants and mailing seminar lists are there for you.

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Senior Citizens Selling Tickets on Turtle Quilt

The Cross Plains Senior Citizens are selling tickets for an opportunity to win an antique "Turtle" quilt donated by Delores Garrett. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.00. The quilt can be viewed at the Senior Citizens' Center.

Proceeds will benefit the Cross Plains Senior Citizens' Center. Remember: The senior citizens have game nights on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday nights from 5 p.m. on. All ages are invited to come play table games.

Red Hat Society Ladies Converge Upon Granbury

By Exhausted Queen Mother, Barbara Powell

Friday, February 21st, the Cross Plains Red Hat Society Ladies joined with the Brownwood Red Hat Society Ladies and converged upon Granbury. We carpooled to Granbury where we meet the Brownwood group. The courageous souls who braved the cold and rain were Barbara Black, Betty Beggs, Virginia Callaway, Gladys Jackson, Bernece Payne, Dence Hubbard and myself.

Since most of us are quilters, where do you think we would go first? "QUILT SHOPS" of course. We saw the most beautiful quilts and fabrics. We looked and poked, tried on and bought. All these shops had unique items. We saw a number of red hats. One was so gorgeous, I would have paid an arm and a leg for it. Thank goodness for Gladys, she talked me out of it. I fell in love with a purple boa made of dyed ostrich feathers. Oh, how I wanted that boa. I had visions of how beautiful I would look wearing it with a long slinky purple dress and a gorgeous red hat. Of course, in my mind, I was at least 5'8". You that know me, know that will never happen. Guess who saved my pocket book, Gladys Jackson.

We met the Brownwood "Red Hat Society" ladies at the "Nut Housé Restaurant" for lunch. We had such a good time with them. As we were leaving, we encountered the famous artist, sculptor, Covelle Johnson. We were admiring the beautiful sculptures when Gladys informed us that the artist, Covelle Johnson, was right there. The Red Hat Ladies surrounded him and he was kind enough to show us pictures detailing how he does his sculptures from beginning to end. His work displayed was "cowboy art". One that particularly caught my eye and I would have loved to carry home with me, until I saw the price—\$25,850. We have proof of that story. Several of us had our picture taken with Mr. Johnson.

You wouldn't believe all the attention we received. Wherever we went and whatever we did, we heard, "Who are you ladies with the red hats?" One lady who stopped me thought we would get introduced at the play and that would solve the mystery.

The stage play "A Closer Walk With Patsy Cline" was wonderful. The cast was superb. They were all very talented.

Those of you who didn't go with us missed a fantastic day.

C.J.C.'s Online Registration Underway

Cisco Junior College online registration is now underway for the Maymester, Summer I, and Summer II, 2003 semesters. Deadline for online registration and payments are: Maymester (May 6, 2003), Summer I (May 16, 2003) and Summer II (June 30, 2003).

Course schedules are listed on the CJC website. First class day

for the 2003 Summer I semester is May 27.

Visit our website at www.cisco.cc.tx.us; click on the Student Information link for registration dates and instructions on how to register online.

For more information, call our main campus in Cisco (254) 442-2567, or the Abilene Educational Center (915) 673-4567.

Abilene Writers Writing Contest

Abilene Writers Guild's Spring Writing Contest and Workshop is quickly approaching. Cash Prizes will be awarded! Nine categories of competition will be available. Published writers will share their experience and knowledge. Everyone is welcome to participate.

Your manuscripts and poems must be postmarked before April 1, 2003.

For complete guidelines, check out our websites at <http://www.Sharpwriters.com/AWG> or contact Jan Carrington at (915) 677-5631.

Businesses warned against gas price-fixing

AUSTIN—Gov. Rick Perry and Attorney General Greg Abbott issued a warning today to Texas businesses against gasoline price-fixing.

A possible war in Iraq, a stagnant U.S. economy, a strike affecting the Venezuelan oil market, a colder than normal winter in the northeast, among other factors, have pushed refined oil prices higher. However, the state leaders say nothing accounts for the unwarranted spikes some consumers have seen across the state recently.

Gov. Perry said, "A sudden increase in gas prices, as consumers have experienced in recent days, concerns all Texans. We have heard complaints of gasoline selling in Texas for well over \$2 per gallon. The vast majority of Texas companies conduct their businesses legally and ethically. However, complaints received in our offices will be investigated by the Attorney General, and I stand firm with General Abbott in warning companies against trying to exploit consumers."

Attorney General Abbott said, "Texas has always had a very competitive oil and gas market, and we encourage that. But we will not tolerate underhanded business dealings intended to reap big profits by exploiting the national mood of uncertainty. My office will make every effort to ensure that pricing is fair among businesses in this sector, and if it is not, we stand ready to use the state's antitrust laws to stop it."

The two leaders noted that the preliminary investigation will focus on gasoline producers, wholesalers, distributors and retailers. Perry and Abbott urge businesses to use restraint in the pricing of fuels in the face of uncertainty nationwide.

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Trucking Consortium Partners with TSTC for \$435,838 job training grant from TWC

A three-member trucking consortium has partnered with Texas State Technical College (TSTC) West Texas, Abilene Campus for a \$453,838 job training grant from the Texas Workforce Commission's (TWC) Self-Sufficiency Fund, which helps welfare recipients move into the workforce and off public assistance.

The grant will be used to custom train workers who will fill 100 new jobs, as commercial truck drivers. The three-member trucking consortium includes Werner Enterprises, Walsh Trucking Inc. and Swift Transportation Co. Inc.

Homer Taylor, president of TSTC West Texas and Dixon Bailey, dean of workforce training TSTC West Texas accepted a check from TWC Chair Diane Rath at a presentation held at 12:00 p.m. Monday, February 24, 2003, at TSTC West Texas' Abilene Campus.

Callahan County DPS Report

Calls received by the Callahan County Department of Public Safety from February 16, 2003 through February 22, 2003 include:

- Cases Investigated**
- Warnings—127
- Complaints—95
- DWI—1
- Fugitive Arrest-Theft By Check—1
- Vehicle Accidents**
- There were five vehicle accidents investigated during this time span.

2 legislators look to correct manufactured housing crisis

State Senator Todd Staples (R-Palestine) and Representative Rick Hardcastle (R-Vernon) will sponsor legislation in the 78th Legislature to correct a year-old statute that threatens to wipe out the manufactured housing industry in Texas.

The two respected legislators will be principal sponsors of a bill necessary to stop a crisis situation that has led to the closing of eight manufactured housing plants across Texas since June and put thousands of Texans out of work.

The statute that took away the leading employers of communities across Texas came from H.B. 1869, a measure designed to clean up the Manufactured Housing Standards Act that took effect in January 2002. However, it also severely limited the use of personal property loans for the buyers of manufactured housing, a process that has been used in Texas for 50 years and is available in all other states across the nation.

"The elimination of this funding has caused a crisis in the industry," Senator Staples and Rep. Hardcastle said in a joint statement. "At least 2,000 jobs have been lost through closing of eight manufacturing plants and hundreds more were put out of work through the loss of more than 150 retail locations



GUEST SPEAKER AT KIWANIS CLUB—Mr. Bryan Bennett (left), owner of B.E.S.T. (Bennett Electronic Security Team), was the guest speaker at the Kiwanis Club, Tuesday, February 18th. He gave a very interesting history of how security systems have evolved in this country over the past century or so. His successful business is now housed in the old Dr. Pepper building next door to Susan Schaefer's office. He is doing a wonderful job of beautifying the old building and adding a new look to downtown Cross Plains. With him is Dr. Richard Chaffin, program coordinator for the day for the Kiwanis Club. The club meets every Tuesday noon at Jean's Feed Barn. Everyone is invited to attend and/or become a member.

Next week's program will be coordinated by Mr. Dale Bishop.

Comptroller proposes surplus rebate plan

AUSTIN—Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn Wednesday proposed a new plan dubbed "Returning the Favor" to divide any future state budget surpluses into a rebate for taxpayers and a boost for the state's Rainy Day Fund. She also endorsed a tougher spending cap proposal, and said both concepts are necessary fiscal discipline tools for Texas' state budget.

"Our last Sales Tax Holiday saved Texas families about \$30 million. If we'd had Returning the Favor and tax limitation in place two years ago, Texas families would have saved about 20 times that amount - each of the last two years," Strayhorn said. "In times like these, just imagine the benefit. Returning the Favor would have been for Texas families, Texas merchants and the Texas economy."

"It may seem unusual to be talking of returning tax dollars to their rightful owners - the taxpayers - at a time of budget shortfalls," Strayhorn said. "But today's headlines mask the fact that just two years ago, the Legislature started out with a surplus of nearly \$3 billion and then spent every dime available to boot."

Strayhorn has been a con-

sistent proponent of toughening state spending guidelines, beginning with her warning two years ago that, in spite of beginning the session with a \$3 billion surplus, the last legislature had crafted its budget in such a way that created a shortfall for this legislature.

Strayhorn's "Returning the Favor" plan would take several steps to implement. First, each January at the beginning of a legislative session, the comptroller's revenue estimate would not only predict how much revenue the state could expect in the upcoming biennium, but would also note any surplus that would be remaining at the end of the current biennium.

At the end of the biennium, the surplus would be split in half between the Rainy Day Fund and the Returning the Favor Fund. The "Returning the Favor" dollars will finance a new tax holiday during the following two Christmas seasons.

Strayhorn also endorsed Rep. Carl Isett's (R-Lubbock) legislation that would expand the state's current spending cap to cover all state generated revenues and raise the bar to break the spending cap from a simple majority to a 2/3 vote (although she advocates requiring a 4/5ths vote).

qualify for a conventional real estate loan.

They said that many Texans are now taking their shopping for manufactured homes to neighboring states and having them transported and installed in Texas, avoiding some requirements of H.B. 1869.

"The consumers are losing. The communities are losing. And, other states are getting our taxes. This must be corrected."

Staples, Hardcastle Lead Legislative Team/Page Three The legislation drafted by Senator Staples and Representative Hardcastle is designed to correct the economic problems created by the 2002 law and further strengthen the Manufactured Housing Act to the benefit of consumers statewide.

It basically will cover four areas:

- Restore the consumer's right to choose their preferred method of financing when purchasing a manufactured home.
- Eliminate the legalese in disclosure documents, keeping them simple and easy to read.
- Require escrowing of taxes in both personal property and conventional mortgage loans for manufactured housing.
- Require meaningful licensing training for all sales personnel and develop a state approved continuing education program.

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UNEMPLOYMENT

Callahan County Unemployment	Dec.	Jan.
	3.7%	3.4%
Total Labor Force	6,861	6,754
Total Employed	6,606	6,524
Total Unemployed	255	230

County's unemployment rate falls in January

The unemployment rate in Callahan County for the month of January 2003 dropped three-tenths of one percent from December's 3.7%, according to jobless figures released Monday, February 10 by the Texas Workforce Commission.

Of the 6,754 civilian labor force in Callahan County, 6,524 were employed during January 2003, and 230 were unemployed, giving the county an unemployment rate of 3.4%. The county's unemployment rate one year ago in January 2002 was 3.8%.

Callahan County's unemployment rate was 3.7% in December 2002. Of the 6,861 civilian labor force in the county during December, 6,606 had jobs while 255 or 3.7% were unemployed.

Previous monthly jobless rates in Callahan County included: 3.7% in November 2002, 4.0% in October, 4.2% in September, 4.1% in August, 4.4% in July, 3.9% in June, 3.1% in May, 3.3% in April, 3.5% in March, and 3.8% in February, according to the unemployment figures.

Big Country area counties, bordering Callahan County, and those counties' unemployment rates for January 2003 include: Brown, 3.7%; Coleman, 6.4%; Eastland, 3.6%; Jones, 3.0%; Runnels, 3.1%; Shackelford, 3.9%; Stephens, 8.1%; and Taylor County, 3.8%.

The Texas actual series unemployment rate dropped four-tenths of a percentage point to 5.7 percent in December. This matches April's rate for the second lowest rate of 2002 with only March's 5.6 percent ranking lower. The Texas rate remained below the national rate for the first quarter of 2002 but rose above the U.S. seven of the last nine months of the year, matching the U.S. rate in March and December at 5.7 percent. The United States unemployment rate remained flat for the second consecutive month, holding a 5.7 percent in December. December's U.S. rate was three-tenths of a percentage point higher than last December's figure of 5.4 percent and was the highest national rate for the month since 1991 when it reached 6.1 percent.

Of the 10,715,000 civilian labor force in the state, total employment was 10,103,700 in December. The total number of unemployed in December 2002 was 611,300. The state's unemployment rate during the same month last year was 5.2%.

The United States unemployment rate was 5.7% in December 2002. The nation's unemployment rate for the previous month of November 2002 was 5.7%. The United States unemployment rate one year ago in December 2001 was 5.4%.

BOOK REVIEW

A Service of Cross Plains Public Library

Books, movies and television all affect our opinions about the world around us. I read somewhere that when the movie **BAMBI** came out, deer hunting dropped 30 percent the next season. I recently read four books that made me look at what I see and hear on television and in the news magazines with new insights.

BIAS. A CBS Insider Exposes How the Media Distort the News written by Bernard Goldberg changed the way I watch the evening news. Goldberg was a liberal democrat who voted for George McGovern and was moving up in CBS until a friend called him to complain about coverage of Forbes when he was running for president. When Goldberg watched the clip, his eyes were open to how his "network was distorting the news unfairly. When he asked them about it, they couldn't see that they were doing anything wrong. His book led to his demise in the business, but he courageously lists chapter and verse of their biased reporting. When I watch TV news, I see it now with open eyes.

Slander: Liberal Lies About the American Right by Ann H. Coulter reinforces the argument that both the TV and newsprint media concoct lies about conservatives. I think she could have done a better writing job, but she adequately substantiates her arguments with many citations. One example that intrigued me was how the media presented Gore as brainy and Bush as unintellectual. In fact Gore has low SAT scores and flunked out of Theology graduate school, while Bush, with good scores and an MBA from Harvard, was repeatedly lambasted as being stupid. Personally, I am glad Bush was in the White House when 911

occurred.

Another eye opener was **Shakedown: Exposing the Real Jesse Jackson** by Kenneth R. Timmerman. Although he was unable to be interviewed on any major TV network, his book sold like hot cakes to the public. A previous writer, a black woman, who also exposed Jesse, had her writing career in Chicago ruined. Timmerman establishes the facts about Jackson's credentials as a minister and his connection to gangs in Chicago. During the Clinton administration Jackson collected multi-million dollar grants to permit him to live in regal style, sending his children to private schools, while he campaigned against vouchers for the poor. The book has greatly diminished Jackson's ability to shake-down large corporations for huge sums of money. His non-profit bookkeeping is now under scrutiny from government agencies that previously were prevented by the fear they would appear racist if they investigated him.

Another book I read was **Let Freedom Ring: Winning the War of Liberty over Liberalism** by Sean Hannity. A young writer growing up in a tough part of New York City, Hannity was raised as a liberal Catholic democrat, but sees with great clarity how the liberal mind set has caused many problems for this country. Again well documented facts gives one a different viewpoint than the mainstream media.

Books that make you think are books I like to read.

You can discover these authors and other who will affect your opinions at your own Cross Plains Public Library.

You can send me E-mail at CAR926@aol.com.

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7-Cross Plains Review February 27, 2003

Victor Carrillo Appointed Texas Railroad Commissioner

AUSTIN—Today, February 19, 2003 the Texas Senate in a unanimous vote confirmed the appointment of Victor Carrillo as Texas Railroad Commissioner. Commissioner Charles Matthews applauded Governor Rick Perry's appointment and the Senate's action.

"I look forward to working with Judge Carrillo," stated Commissioner Matthews. "Judge Carrillo is experienced, knowledgeable, and well qualified to serve as

Railroad Commissioner."

With U.S. dependence of foreign oil at its peak and the looming threat of war, it is a critical time for the Texas oil and gas industry. In order to fulfill the statutory mandates, the Railroad Commission must have a full commission to conduct business.

Judge Carrillo is a lawyer and a geologist with both a master's and undergraduate degrees in geology.

Happy Birthday!

MARCH 1

Skeet Parker
Kelly Michelle Stout
Eddie Strickland
Tom Sibley
Dorothy Aiken
Jay McCuin
Minter B. Sheffey
Lt. Col (retired) Rick Terrell
William Christopher Clark
Gage Connelly

MARCH 2

Norma (Lee) Lawson
Tony Wyatt
L.B. Jones
Lois Minton
Gary McIntosh
Jan (Neal) Bradford
Jack Webb Baum
Mrs. Leroy Brooker
Betty Helms
Stephen George Friend
Dean Dillard
Dean Brannan

MARCH 3

Doug Hagemeyer
Gerry L. Holly
Michiel Bates
Donna Kaye Chambers
Grady Ramey
Sue Carroll

MARCH 4

Faye Franke
Harvey Thomas
Beth (Wood) Hilburn
Vickie Steele Swinney
Trey Bonner
J.D. Moore
Michele Aiken
Chase Daniel Morgan

MARCH 5

Mrs. Dwayne Wilson
Dannes (Dickson) Turner
Loy Don Black
Benson Dale Clark
John Prentice
Sylvia Switzer
Edith Sorrell
Steve Hargrove
Francis Stagges
Mike Peacock
Betty Fisher
Gary Wayne Callaway
Carol Meador
Kelly Austin
Kelbi Shecotah Hyles
Bobby Clarkston
Armando Duran

MARCH 6

Marie Fletcher
Mrs. Gene Wilcoxon
John Chesshir
Becky (Stone) Wood
Jerry Tate
Reuben McCowen
Landon Pope
Janis Cean
Jeffery Key
Butch Webb
Mrs. Hiram Brooks
Ruth (Burlson) Hutchins
Dickie Gilland
Vicki Reed
Elena Reyes
Jonathan Clare
Richard Milder
Jamie Cole
Clayton Hance Bonner

MARCH 7

Billy Black
Diane Bowden
Juanita Free
Carl Corley
Ann Holland
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Escalating natural gas prices lead to rate increase petition

HOUSTON (February 12, 2003)—Due to a 32 percent surge in natural gas prices since May 2002, CPL Retail Energy, L.P. and WTU Retail Energy, L.P. have filed requests with the Public Utility Commission of Texas to raise electricity prices for their customers in South and West Texas, respectively. If approved, the change will increase residential customers' bills by approximately \$14.00 - \$17.00 for usage of 1,000 kilowatt hours per month.

The request follows other utilities, which have also recently filed for rate increases due to the dramatic increase in natural gas prices. The Commission will rule on this request within 45 days.

About CPL Retail Energy and WTU Retail Energy

For more than 75 years, CPL Retail Energy and WTU Retail Energy have provided electricity to consumer and small business customers in the South and West Texas regions. CPL Retail Energy serves customers in South Texas, including Corpus Christi, Victoria, McAllen, Laredo and Harlingen. WTU Retail Energy serves customers in West Texas, including Abilene, Alpine and San Angelo. The companies were recently acquired by Centrica U.S. Holdings Inc. from American Electric Power, and combined, serve approximately 810,000 residential and small business customers, making them part of the third largest retail electric provider in Texas.



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FOR SALE

ROUND HOUSE OVER-ALLS, Denim or Strips, size 30 to 50, \$22.99, size 52 to 60 slightly higher, Johnson's Dry Goods, Cross Plains (254) 725-6211. 49-11c.

FOR SALE- Round bales-coastal and haygrazer, call Andy Sanders (254)725-7421 or Rickey Carouth (254)725-7515. 181c.

FOR SALE- Older riding mare mule, call (254) 643-1424. 471c.

FOR SALE - Riding lawn mower see at 309 North West 4th Street, Cross Plains, or call (254) 725-6621. 47-21c.

BIG TV ANTENNA- \$20; nearly new bassinet - \$20; lamps - \$15 and 2 for \$5 each; older bed and dresser with mirror - \$30; Queen Chenille bed spread - \$20; 4 - 16" tires (good shape) fit Crown Victoria - \$20 each; large car covers - \$5 each refrigerated air conditioner 11,000 BTU - \$100 or 1, 14,000 BTU's - \$125; 1 3pt. 5' blade - \$125; small 3 pt. chisel plow - \$100; other household items. Shown by appointment only. Call (254) 725-6590. 47-21c.

FERTILIZED COASTAL HAY FOR SALE - No burs or weeds. Large 5x5 bails, not wrapped \$25, call (254) 725-7680 or (254) 725-7686. 48-31c.
RADIAL ARM SAW, Craftsman, 10" with cabinet, \$175; Tiller, MTD 5.5hp, Rear Tire, \$145. (254) 725-4301. 48-21c.

FOR SALE - GE Electric Cook Stove. Call (254) 725-7454. 48-21c.
SOFA, \$100 obo, Oak Dining Set, \$100. 2 microwaves, \$25 each. All excellent condition call (254) 725-6866. 49-21c.

ELECTRIC LIFT RECLINER CHAIR, like new, \$150. Can see at R.S. Nursing Center or call (713) 823-6740. 49-21c.

WANTED

BUYING-old cars and trucks 30's and up, parts and pieces. (254)725-7671 47-11c

I AM INTERESTED IN PURCHASING between 5-10 acres of land to build a new home. Water a must, trees preferable. Interested parties please call Gene Ford at (254) 725-4372 and leave a message. 47-41c.

WANTED TO RENT/LEASE 2, 3 or 4 bedroom home in rural area with some land attached. Farm/Ranch home preferable. Will rent/lease long term. Call (915) 669- 8166. 471c.

SEARCHING FOR - The book, Old Texas Trails by J.W. Williams; and the family Bible of Henry Calvin Ingram and Martha Elizabeth McDonld Ingram, perhaps someone bought this at a garage sale, please call (254) 725-6560. 48-21c.

GARAGE SALE

DONATE YOUR TOSS AWAY - Project Pride is accepting garage sale items to stock their booth at the Garden Club Trades Day on March 22. To donate contact Era Lee Hanke, (254) 725-6562. 49-11c.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATTN:FARMERS,RANCHERS, or individuals, Health ins., prescription cards, dental, excellent rates. John Sadler, local agent 915-893-2307 or 915-721-0986. 391c.

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2BD, IBTH,(316 S.W. 4th Street) \$250/mo., \$200 dep., no inside pets, ref. req. 725-6840. 431c

3BD, IBTH, Large back yard; \$350 plus deposits. Call (254) 725-6205. 461c.


2BD, IBTH, (201 S. Ave C.) \$275/mo, \$200/dep, no inside pets, ref. req. (254) 725-6840. 471c.

3BD, IBTH, (216 N.W. 3rd) \$300/mo, \$200/dep, no inside pets, ref. req. (254) 725-6840. 471c.

APARTMENT FOR RENT- 2BD, 1 BTH, central H/A, HUD approved, across from the school. \$275/mo, \$200/dep, no pets, ref. req. (254) 725-6840. 47-41c.

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ACREAGE WITH HOME:

NEW LISTING-- 10/A. with 2bd/2 bath doublewide, 30x60 new metal barn, new septic system, water well, on pavement, close to town. \$60,000

NEW LISTING-- 3bd/13/4 bath, on 3/4/A in Burkett, several out buildings, garage, RV shelter, 17 Pecans Trees, Cabin with kitchen and bath, all for \$41,900

*3/A and 3bd/2 1/2 bath, CH/A home on Pecan Bayou, garage, 2 car ports, on pavement, basement, city water, excellent fishing, retirement dream spot. Coleman Co., \$60,000

*4.89/A with 1,880 sq. ft. 3 bd/1 3/4 Bath, nice, close to town, large storage bld. city water and waterwell. \$80,000

NEW LISTING-- 50/A, 2bd home, barn, pens, water well, improved grass, good location. \$120,000

NEW LISTING-- .9976/A. Eastland Co., Mobile Home, 5 water wells, on pavement, some thick brush, deep creek, Hunting, Good Stock Farm. \$850/A.

* Fixer upper, 2bd/2 bath, frame, good landscaping, on paved street in Cross Plains, \$15,000

NEW LISTING-- 210/A. 2 1/2 miles W. of Cross Plains, 3/2 brick remodeled. Under ground Sprinkler System, 11 irrigation wells, 105/A under 2 center pivots. 40x40 metal shop/barn, working cattle pens, Highway 36 frontage. \$336,000. Call Mike.

RESIDENTIAL:

NEW LISTING-- 6 lots with older home and two mobile homes, trees, cellar. \$12,000

NEW LISTING-- Nice 3bd/1 1/2 bath, brick, CH/A, 1,100 Sq. Ft., 2 storage bld., car port, fenced, paved street, good neighborhood in Cross Plains. \$52,000

NEW LISTING-- 1bd/1bath house close to school, in Rising Star, \$13,500. Call Pauline

*3bd/1 bath on large lot, metal storage building, fruit & pecan trees on Hwy 36, Rising Star. \$25,000. Call Pauline

*2bd/1 bath, large Kitchen and Dining Room, nice view of Cross Plains \$32,500 Call Pauline.

* 3 bd/1 bath, 1/2 acre fenced chain link, fruit trees, in Rising Star. **REDUCED** \$34,500 Call Pauline.

***REDUCED** 2bd/2 bath home, with glassed in porch. Also 1bd/1 bath apartment w/shop building on South Main. Good Buy! \$35,000. Owner Finance 30% DOWN

NEW LISTING-- 4bd/2bath late model doublewide. Good lot w/trees, water well, storage building, north of city limits, approx. 1,500 sq. ft., carport CH/A. \$50,000.00

MOBILE HOMES:

LAKE FRONT PROPERTY

NEW LISTING -- 2 lots, total 100'x155', Brownwood Lake at Tamarack Mountain - 2 blocks from lake. No visible rock. No septic, 10-15 trees \$2,500 both. Call Pauline.

*2 Lake lots in Thunderbird Bay side by side close to water. Each lot is 50 X 100ft. in size. \$4,000.00 each

NEW LISTING-- 1996 Model Mobile Home w/decks, on 2 lots at Tamarack Mountain, on Brownwood Lake. \$54,000 Call Pauline.

BUSINESS:

NEW LISTING-- Old Elementary Building in Rising Star, 11,000 Sq. Ft. Brick, Good Investment Property, \$24,000. Call Pauline

NEW LISTING-- Ft. Worth - Heating & Air Co. \$140,000 - Call Bill Freeman

*Dallas - Laundry & Dry Cleaners, \$120,000 - Call Bill Freeman

NEW LISTING-- VINEYARD - 32/A of productive grapes, 4 varieties, 3/2 brick home, 3 large barns, 183/a of woods and improved grasses. North of Rising Star. \$250,000

*Business with home, Excellent opportunity, 1 city block, metal shop building, vehicle storage, fenced, other outbuildings, Plus 3bd/2 bath brick home, CH/A, privacy fence, good location.

*PK's or Buffalo Inn Bld. across from school, use for home or business.

*Several Businesses in Fort Worth, Euless Area • call Bill Freeman

FOR MORE LISTINGS GO TO: www.crossplains.com

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- 95 Ford Taurus, Very Nice Car (green).....\$2,795
- 95 Mercury Cougar, 2DR, V8, rear wheel drive, super nice car. \$3,150
- 92 Ford Crown Victoria, looks/runs good.....Special \$1,895
- 94 Hyundai, 2DR, 4 cyl. (Red), Runs good..... Special \$1,250
- 88 Lincoln Mark VII, runs good.....\$500 DOWN
- 87 Buick LaSabre, runs good.....\$500 DOWN

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- 94 Aerostar, 7 Pass. XLT, Super clean & good.....\$2,895
- 86 Dodge Ram Charger, 4x4, good cond.....\$1,695
- 91 Jeep Cherokee Loreda, 6 cyl., 4x4 very good.....\$2,175
- 86 Ford F-250 Diesel Super Cab, runs, looks good.....\$2,995
- 84 Ford F-250 Diesel, runs/looks good - Was \$2,250, NOW! \$1,995

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LOCATION: From Cross Plains, Texas 5 miles North on Highway 206 (Cisco Hwy.) or from Cisco 20 miles South on Highway 206.

TRACTORS

- 1-1982 JD #4440, Factory Cab, Q,R, Lift-A, 18x38
- 1-1978 JD #4230, Factory Cab, 18x34 (good rubber-sharp)
- 1-1979 JD #2840, Diesel, 18x34
- 1-1967 JD #4020, LPG, W,F
- 1-Set of 18.4x38 Duals, S/O
- 1-Old JD # B
- 1-Farmall "Cub" Tractor w/Mower, Planter & Cultivator
- 1-Old Farmall F-12

PICKUPS-JEEP

- 1-1994 Ford Pickup F-250, Std
- 1-1980 Chevy Custom Deluxe 10, Auto (not running)
- 1-1969 Chevy C-10, Auto (not running)
- 1-Old Chevy Apache 32 Pickup (Salvage)
- 1-1961 Jeep #C15 (motor been OII)
- 1-1975 Chevy 1/2 ton, HWD (350)
- 1-Old JD # B
- 1-12 V/1 #499 HydraSwing Swather
- 1-V/1 #315 Square Baler
- 1-Vermorel #605 Super-J Round Baler
- 1-3 pt. Hay King Hay Spcer, Cyl, Cont.
- 1-Pricfort Round Bale Mover
- 1-3pt. Hay Spcer
- 1-Pop-up Square Bale Loader
- 1-8' MF Side Delivery Rake
- 1-6 Bale Round Bale Trailer Attachment
- 1-4 Bale Round Bale Hay Van Trailer

- Drag, Self>Loading
- 1-8' MF Side Delivery Rake
- 1-N/H #495 Swather, 12' (Good)
- LIVESTOCK**
- 1-16' WW Cattle Trailer, T-A -17mg
- 1-Water Tank
- 1-12' Feeder
- 1-Whirlwind Feeder
- 1-Lot of Fencing Wire
- 23 pt. Post Hole Digger
- TRAILERS**
- 1-16' Utility, TA Drag
- 1-18' Flatbed Trailer
- EQUIPMENT**
- 1-JD # T-340 12' Offset Disc, T-A, Drag
- 1-JD #BWA 14' Tandem Disc, Drag
- 1-JD #BWA 14' Tandem Disc, Drag, Deep-Cone Disc
- 1-21' Case Tandem Disc, Drag
- 1-JD # DR Grain Drill, 16x10, Cyl., Cont
- 1-11 Shank MF Chisel, S-L, 3 pt.
- 1-4 Drop Disc Plow
- 1-6' Box Blade w/Scar Fires, 3 pt.
- 1-JD #100 11' Double Offset Disc, 3 pt.
- 1-8 Row Mohawk Shredder
- 1-3 Bottom Spinner Roll-Over Plow
- 1-16 Disc Krause One-Way, Cyl., Cont., Drag
- 1-5 Disc One Way
- 1-16 Shank JD #1610 Chisel (good)
- 1-Set of 16. JD Incorporators (good)
- 1-84' JD #1010 Field Cultivators w/JD Harrows, Folding (good)
- 1-7 Shank Big OX Ripper
- 1-9 Row Wedge Bedder, Folding
- FUEL/TANKS/SPRAY**
- 1-Portable 200 Gallon Diesel Tank w/Electric Fuel Pump
- 1-14Hn Sprayer w/Booms, Drag
- 1-Pickup Bed Diesel Tank
- STRUCTURAL PIPE & IRON & BUILDING**
- 1-Lot Pipe Posts (8' & 2 1/2' by 8')
- 1-Lot of Sucker Rod
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- 1-Portable Cement Mixer
- IRRIGATION PIPE**
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NEW LISTINGS

100x140 lot in Cross Plains - Large shade trees, beautiful building site, near school & downtown 6.000
26R/1B Cross Plains home, nice cabinets, garage apt, RV storage, 4 lots, attractive yard 31,000
400 N. Ave. D. - 2BR-2B - Victorian style home built in 1912, completely remodeled in 2002, 97,000
hardwood floors, french doors and 10 ft. ceilings. Many extras.

1.207 Ac. - 3BR-3B shaded, luxury home, energy efficient, oak cabinets, kit. Appliances 175,000
convey, self-lighting gas log fireplace, walk-in closets, sun room, office/library, beautiful yard.

8.2 Ac. Beautiful building site, 4 huge Oaks, scattered pecan, oak, mesquite. In Cottonwood. 20,000
50 Ac. & Home - 8 water wells, beautiful oaks, 150 fruit trees. 150,000

54.6 Ac. & Home - Wooded, 2 food plots, lots of pecan trees, 3BR-2B, total electric, 2001 MH 92,000
w/wood burning fireplace, 2 septic systems

66.67 Ac. & 2BR-2B mobile home in Live Oak. Great location, new stock shed & shop, great 97,900
week-end place, good deer hunting

91.607 Ac. - Lg. trees, beautiful creek, great hunting, comfortable hunter's cabin, quiet, 182,000
secluded, 50 minutes west of Live Oak

207.58 Ac. of premium Coastal and Tifton., center pivot system, 19 wells, some hunting 305,325
300 Ac. & Home - 3BR-2B, spacious brick home, CH/A, fireplace, 4 tanks & 10 Ac. lake, 450,000
50x90 shop, heavy duty cattle pens, excellent hunting

LAND WITH HOME

40 Ac. & Home - 2BR-2B, brick, CH/A, total electric, great views & hunting 105,000
40 Ac. w/4BR-3B brick home-2,566 sq. ft.-Beautiful covered patio-mesquite-oak-deer and dove hunting 195,000
43.95 Ac. 3BR-2B, Nearly new D/wide, scenic hills, oak pasture, good hunting 115,200

80Ac.-/- & home-2BR-1B, Austin stone home, w/pool, beautiful oaks, new fences, 275,000
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call (512) 463-0656. Email
a d d r e s s :
jameskeffer@house.state.tx.us

Troy Fraser, Texas Senate
District 24, P. O. Box 12068,
Austin, TX 78711 or call
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Washington

George W. Bush, President
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ington, D. C. 20000.

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PROCLAMATION

To Designate the Week of March 2-8, 2003 Texas Severe Weather Awareness Week

WHEREAS, Severe Weather Awareness Week is March 2-8, 2003, and

WHEREAS, Each year brings the potential for violent weather to Texas, and

WHEREAS, Large portions of our state including Callahan County, can be devastated by flooding, tornadoes, windstorms and other emergencies, and

WHEREAS, The Division of Emergency Management, Texas Department of Safety, the National Weather Service and FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) have joined together in urging all citizens to prepare for severe weather events and to educate themselves on safety strategies, and

WHEREAS, Governor Rick Perry has declared the week of March 2-8, 2003, as Severe Weather Awareness Week in Texas, NOW THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT Roger Corn, Callahan County Judge urges everyone in our community to learn more about to participate in severe weather preparedness activities available in Callahan County

THEREFORE, in official recognition of this statewide event, I the undersigned do hereby proclaim March 2-8, 2003 Severe Weather Awareness Week in Callahan County.

SIGNED this the 24th day of February, 2003

Roger Corn, County Judge (s)
Callahan County, Texas



KYLE MCCLURE AND KATIE GOWENS

Gowens-McClure to Wed This Saturday

Kathryn Evi Gowens and Kyle Wade McClure would like to announce their engagement and approaching marriage.

The couple will exchange vows

on Saturday, March 1, 2003, at 2:00 p.m. in the First United Methodist Church.

All friends and family are cordially invited to attend.

SHARE YOUR HOME!!

HOST FAMILIES are needed to host international teens from over 30 different countries for the upcoming 2003/2004 fall semester or academic year. They are in need of caring families to provide a home and share with them this unique experience.

The host family will provide a bed, meals, as well as friendship, understanding, and a genuine desire to share the American way of life with a youngster from overseas. The students speak English, are covered by medical insurance, have spending money for their personal expenses, and hope

to arrive in AUGUST for enrollment in their new high school.

All students are between the ages of 15 and 18, and will attend the high school closest to their host family's home or a private high school. Families are able to review student applications and select the student they feel will best match their family. The SHARE! High School Exchange Program is sponsored by ERDT, a non-profit educational foundation. For more information, please call Yvette Coffman at the SHARE! Southwest Office at 1-800-941-3738.

GED Classes to Be Offered Locally

Central Texas Opportunities Inc. of Coleman is in the process of setting up GED classes in the community for local people to study for their GED.

Tammy Odom, Outreach Director, Cross Plains, states that there are a number of people in the community who desire their GED, but have no resources for traveling to another town to obtain the studies to receive the degree.

We need to get a certain number of people signed up for the classes to warrant the time, materials and teachers to get the classes started. The Cross Plains Public Library has offered the use of the library for the services.

If you are interested, please contact Tammy Odom at 1-800-625-4167 Ext. 223 or your local library at (254) 725-7722.

Submitted by Cherry Shults

Jewel Barnett's 89th Birthday Celebration Saturday, March 1st

Jewel Barnett of Cross Plains will be celebrating her 89th birthday with a reception on Saturday, March 1st, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at 208 South Avenue E in Cross Plains.

Jewel's twin daughters,

Carolyn Morgan and Sharolyn Walker, will be hosting the event. Friends and family are cordially invited to come by and wish Jewel well. Your presence will be gift enough.

Stenholm Announces Port-to-Plains Plan

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congressman Charlie Stenholm announced today the approval \$2 million in funding For a Port-to-Plains Corridor Plan that identifies certain routes in the states of Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado and New Mexico as a high priority corridor on the National Highway System. The funding is included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2003 that passed Congress last week and was signed into law Thursday night.

"I have been very pleased by the community support we have seen for this project and I have little doubt that this Corridor could provide an economic boost to numerous West Texas towns," noted Stenholm.

The roadways proposed in the plan legislation were identified by the Ports-to-Plains Coalition, which consists of federal, state and local leaders from throughout the four states affected by the corridor. The coalition spent three years studying transit needs and the feasibility of various routing options.

The designated corridor is expected to encourage additional international trade traffic between the United States, Mexico and Canada. It should improve transportation service to an underserved part of the country and strengthen economic development in areas that long have suffered from depressed commodity prices and drought.

Over-spending, unfunded commitments, anemic economy collide

AUSTIN—Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn Monday warned that the upcoming session of the legislature will have \$7.4 billion less in available revenues than its predecessor. Included in that number is a shortfall of \$1.8 billion for this fiscal year. Citing the collision of legislative overspending and unfunded commitments with a weak Texas economy, Strayhorn said the legislature faces a total \$9.9 billion shortfall from now through the end of the upcoming biennium if it passes a budget including current programs and obligations.

In her constitutionally mandated Biennial Revenue Estimate - which provides revenue figures that Texas lawmakers must abide by in producing a balanced budget - Strayhorn said that previous revenue estimates featured "lawmakers eagerly awaiting to see how many sugar plums were stuffed into their stockings so they could merrily begin spending Texas tax dollars. This year, the stockings are empty."

Strayhorn noted that she had warned at the conclusion of the last legislative session that while the legislature had technically balanced its budget, it had done so in such a way to produce a

shortfall of \$5.1 billion for the upcoming session of the legislature, which begins Tuesday. A decline in sales tax revenue since Thanksgiving forced her to reduce her revenue estimate even further than originally anticipated, Strayhorn said.

"Let us learn from this budgetary challenge," Strayhorn said. "The legislature should make a commitment to the people of Texas that they will never again spend every last dime of taxpayer money, nor establish program after program while leaving an IOU for the next generation of lawmakers."

Strayhorn also noted that last week she proposed \$3.7 billion in revenue savings and efficiencies. Last session lawmakers ignored most of her recommendations. She said she will continue to search for additional savings and that she will monitor economic indicators and revise the revenue estimate as circumstances warrant.

"My bottom line: I'm telling it like it is. I will not abdicate my responsibility," Strayhorn said. "To paraphrase the country and western song, I'm going to see to it that Texas doesn't have 'too much month at the end of the money.'"

File for Federal Earned Income Tax Credits

AUSTIN—Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn today said the Texas economy would get a \$3 billion boost if nearly two million Texas families who qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) claim the credit on their federal income tax returns.

"In 2002, the average EITC refund to Texas families was almost \$1,900," Strayhorn said. "Families used this money to pay bills and buy household goods and school clothes for their children. The EITC is one of the quickest ways I know to bring more federal tax dollars home to Texas, and to put those dollars in the pockets of hard-working families."

EITC refunds vary, depending on family income and the number of qualifying children in the family. To claim the credit, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requires families to meet specific eligibility requirements and

have a valid social security number for every qualifying family member.

Taxpayers who expect to qualify for the EITC in 2003 and have at least one qualifying child may sign up at work to receive part of the credit in each paycheck, instead of waiting for a tax refund.

"For minimum wage families, that's like getting up to a \$2 per hour pay raise," Strayhorn said. "It's money they can use immediately to help make ends meet."

For more details about qualifying for the EITC, along with helpful links to IRS tax forms and publications, and for a list of locations where taxpayers can receive free income tax assistance, visit the Comptroller's Web site at www.window.state.tx.us, call the IRS toll free at 1-800-829-1040 or call the Comptroller's toll-free EITC information line at 1-800-277-8383.

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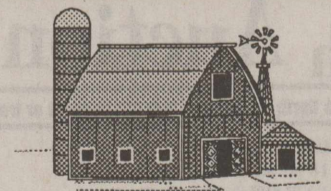
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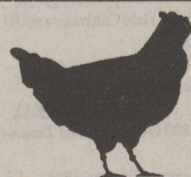
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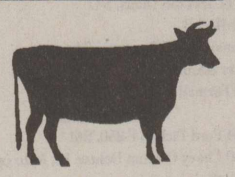
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