

Rich in Agriculture
Abundant in Wildlife

Masthead Designed by Deborah Lowitzer

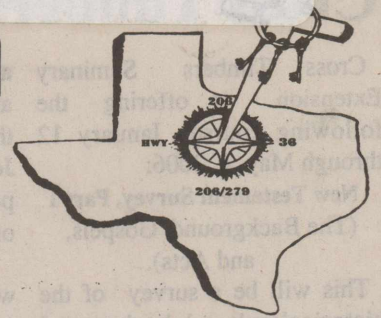
Cross Plains Review

"Cross Plains' Oldest Business Institution"

"A Caring Community"

SOUTHWEST COLLECTION
Texas Tech University
LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79409

THURSDAY, December 15, 2005



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

97TH YEAR

CROSS PLAINS, CALLAHAN COUNTY, TEXAS 76443

PRICE 50¢

NUMBER 39

DOWN HOME

EDITOR'S NOTE: One of our faithful subscribers sent me a few more "Author Unknown" writings and they are so GOOD!

I loved the examples showing the difference between strength and courage. I would have never been able to see them in that light.

These writings help you understand that God gives us what He knows we need, not just what we think we want. Maybe that's why some people say you better be careful what you pray for?????

Basically I feel that He is testing and refining us for the days ahead. Sometimes I feel like I have failed every test of the day. What can you do, but repent and start over anew. Thank goodness for His wonderful GRACE and MERCY! **Vanda Anderson, Editor**

"The Difference Between Strength and Courage"

It takes strength to be firm.
It takes courage to be gentle.

It takes strength to stand guard.
It takes courage to let down your guard.

It takes strength to conquer.
It takes courage to surrender.

It takes strength to be certain.
It takes courage to have doubt.

It takes strength to fit in.
It takes courage to stand out.

It takes strength to feel a friend's pain.
It takes courage to feel your own pain.

It takes strength to hide feelings.
It takes courage to show them.

It takes strength to endure abuse.
It takes courage to stop it.

It takes strength to stand alone.
It takes courage to lean on another.

It takes strength to love.
It takes courage to be loved.

It takes strength to survive.
It takes courage to live.
"...as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and of good courage..." (Joshua 1:5b-6a).

Author Unknown

"I Asked, He Gave"

I asked for Strength...And God gave me Difficulties to make me strong.

I asked for Wisdom...And God gave me Problems to solve.

I asked for Prosperity...And God gave me a Brain and Brawn to work.

I asked for Courage...And God gave me Danger to overcome.

I asked for Love...And God gave me Troubled people to help.

I asked for Favors...And God gave me Opportunities.

I received nothing I wanted. I received everything I need.

Author Unknown



CROSS PLAINS 5TH GRADERS—Cheyenne Cowan (from left), Katharine Goode, Riley Lawrence and Joe Holland present play.

Texas Connect - The Sun, Moon, and Earth Visits Local School

On Friday, December 9th, the 3rd - 6th Grade students of Cross Plains Elementary were fortunate to be involved in the Texas Connect Distant Learning Project throughout the state. Twenty regions in the state of Texas with a total of three to four thousand students were all connected through their distant learning technology along with NASA. During the day different sites gave presentations about the Sun, Moon and Earth, and their role in our solar system. NASA gave different presentations about the International Space Station, the astronaut program, and even had John Phillips, an astronaut, to tell of his experience living on the Space Station for six months.

The students presented programs about the Indians and their beliefs about the Sun, Moon, and Earth; an unusual program about the termination of Earth as it changes to a red giant and consumes the first three planets near it; and there were experiments shown about Sunspots and phases of the Moon. But the highlight of the day was when our own 5th grade students: Cheyenne Cowan, Katharine Goode, Riley Lawrence, and Joe Holland presented their play "The Incredible Quest to Outer Space". The play the group wrote was about a young boy on a quest to gather information for an essay he had to write for his

Science teacher. During a dream he travels to outer space and meets the Sun, Moon, and Earth, and gathers all the information he needs to accomplish his task. The students did an excellent job and their teachers along with the school are very proud of their work.

If you would like to see a repeat performance of the program, come to the school auditorium on Friday, December 16th, at 9:00 a.m. The students will be doing it for the classes PreK - 6th, and following we will be having an old fashion caroling. The community and parents are invited to attend.

Submitted by Kathy Purvis

Seven candidates file for seven places on Democratic Primary ballot

Callahan County Democratic Party Chairman Jon E. Hardwick announced seven candidates have filed for various offices for a place on the March 7, 2006 Democratic Primary Election ballot recently.

Those filing include incumbent County Judge Roger Corn, incumbent Precinct #2 Commissioner Bryan Farmer, incumbent District Clerk Sharon Owens, incumbent County Treasurer Dianne Alexander and incumbent Precinct # Justice of the Peace Steve Odom.

Also announcing their candidacy were Donna Bell for County Clerk and Elvan Goode for Precinct #4 Commissioner. Judge Corn announced his candidacy for County Judge on November 28. Judge Corn, 65, resides at 532 Poplar Street in Baird. He has resided in the state 65 years, five months and in the county 65 years, five months.

Commissioner Farmer filed for re-election to the Eula Precinct #2 Commissioner post on November 29. Farmer, 49, resides at 9312 FM 603, Clyde. Commissioner Farmer has resided in the state 49 years, two months and in the county 49 years, two

months. District Clerk Owens filed for re-election for District Clerk on December 1. Owens, 55, has resided in the state 55 years, 11 months and in Callahan County 33 years, seven months. She resides at 6218 County Road 252 in Clyde.

County Treasurer Alexander announced her candidacy for re-election on November 29. Alexander, 55, resides at 325 Race Street in Baird. She has resided in the state 55 years, seven months and in the county 25 years, seven months.

Baird Precinct #3 Justice of the Peace Odom filed for re-election on November 29. Odom, 57, has resided in the state 21 years, nine months and in the county 21 years, nine months. Odom resides at 1309 Sunset Drive in Baird.

Elvan Levi Goode, 65, announced his candidacy for Cross Plains Precinct #4 Commissioner on December 5. Goode lists an occupation as a farmer. He resides at 17041 County Road 441 in Cross Plains. He has resided in the state 31 years, two months and in Callahan County 31 years, two months.

Donna Sue Bell announced her candidacy for the position of County Clerk on November 30. Bell, 51, resides at Private Road 2484, Lot 420 in Baird. She is currently occupied as Chief Deputy for the Callahan County Clerk. Bell has resided in the state 51 years, 11 months and in Callahan County three years, three months.

Callahan County Democratic Party Chairman Hardwick announced that applications for candidates to file for a place on the March 7, 2006 Democratic Primary Election ballot is being accepted now until January 2, 2006.

Interested persons may obtain information and applications by calling Jon Hardwick at (325) 854-1256. Applications will be available at his home office located at 613 Cherry Street in Baird. Applications will be accepted through January 2, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. The filing fee for Justice of the Peace is \$375.00 and all other county offices is \$750.00.

Applications for county or precinct chairs are available now, and no fee is required.

First United Methodist Church Presents "The World of Christmas"

The First United Methodist Church will present their annual Christmas cantata this Sunday, December 18, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. This year's program is titled "The World of Christmas" by Joseph Martin. The choir is under the direction of Rhonda Swift. Soloists this year are Treva Gambrell, Patsy Harelak and Amanda Sowell. Narration will be done by John Swift. Other members include Carol Bennett, Jane Besselaar, Marie Besselaar, Richard Chaffin, Lindy Cooper, Eva Fleming, Marian Goins, Melanie Long, Margaret McGough, Matthew Sowell and Connie Swift.

In a country that was founded on religious freedom, it has now become taboo to be a Christian. Forgetting that there would be no "Seasons Greetings" or "Happy Holidays" without the birth of

Christ, the secular world would have us remove all references to Him from our celebrations. It is comforting then to hear of other races and cultures from all around the world that still celebrate CHRISTmas for what it was based upon — the birth of our Savior, Jesus CHRIST. Each piece will carry us to a different region of the world where we discover that all, from peasant to king, are gathering around the manger. And only there can our praises to the Prince of Peace teach us to combine our differences to create beautiful harmony.

We cordially invite one and all to come and join us as we celebrate "The World of Christmas." Refreshments will be served immediately following the performance.

Submitted by Rhonda Swift

Filing for Republican ballot ends January 2

Callahan County Republican Chair Pat Chrane announced that applications for candidates to file for a place on the March 7, 2006 Republican Primary ballot will be accepted now through Monday, January 2, 2006.

Interested persons may obtain information or applications by

contacting Pat Chrane at 325-529-3428, or Betty Johnston at 325-529-3396. Applications will be accepted through January 2, 2006 at 6:00 p.m.

The filing fee for Justice of the Peace is \$375.00 and for all other county offices is \$750.

Cross Plains Featured in New Mexico Magazine

By Arlene Stephenson

In his wildest dreams, Doc Howard would never have believed that his struggling writer son, Robert, would still be such a hot item in the literary world nearly 70 years after his death. Or that people in an ever widening circle would share a common interest in his writings.

For example, nationally acclaimed true crime and sports author, Carlton Stowers of Cedar Hill, Texas recently sent Project Pride members a copy of an article published in *Southwest BookViews* of Santa Fe, NM about two books of Howard stories that had been published in Lincoln, NE. Now that's quite a circle for a story about the noted Cross Plains writer.

In reviewing *The End of the Trail: Western Stories and The Riot at Bucksnot and Other Western Tales*, Johnny D. Boggs of the *Southwest BookViews*, describes Robert E. Howard as being "An incredibly prolific

writer who could write western and adventure stories, poetry and tales of the supernatural." Boggs continues "that had Howard lived beyond age 30, his literary status would most likely have been right up there alongside Max Brand, Steven King and Edgar Rice Burroughs."

Surprisingly, Howard didn't turn to westerns until late in his short-lived career, but those proved to be some of his best work, especially the whimsical, tongue-in-cheek offerings featured in *The Riot at*

See Howard Page 2

Texas Heritage Bank

"We're Proud of Our Local Heritage"

Member FDIC EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Presents: "What's Inside"

is delighted this Afternoon of Music was such a success.

[For those of you who may still be searching for the right Christmas gift for that hard-to-buy-for person, you are invited to consider making a donation in their honor (or a memorial gift) to the Scholarship Fund of Beta Sigma Phi where each year, local students are given scholarships for their educational needs. If you wish to do this, contact Wanda Merryman, Treasurer at 254-725-6476 or any member of the sorority.]

Submitted by Mary Ann Chaffin

Oh, What a Beautiful Cross Plains Afternoon

Happy music, laughter, comedy and a series of the more serious Christmas carols lifted the spirits of many Cross Plains residents this past Sunday. Beta Sigma Phi sorority had promised a rewarding gift to the community by offering a concert of the **Celebration Singers** from Abilene. The sorority "sisters" delivered as promised and the Family Life Center was filled with smiling faces who were seated at brightly, artistically decorated tables. It did look and sound a lot like Christmas!

The director of this volunteer group of talented singers is Dr.

J.G. Martin, retired Professor Emeritus of Music of Hardin-Simmons University. In addition to his ability to direct and produce beautiful music from the voices of his large chorus, he has a comedic streak that entertained and delighted the crowd. Comments from virtually every person who left after being served drinks and homemade cake following the concert carried the same theme, "This made my day!" - "I'm so glad I came!" - "I can't believe we had music this wonderful right here in Cross Plains!" And, to quote one male visitor as he left, "I'm so glad my

wife gave me a second chance to change my mind and come!"

The sorority wishes to thank all who attended, the use of the lovely facility at the First Baptist Church, and a big special thanks to Matt Sowell for changing the time of the school band concert to a later time in the afternoon - making it possible for people to attend BOTH events. It's this spirit of cooperation which makes Cross Plains such a unique and caring community. Beta Sigma Phi truly appreciates the townsfolk working together in cooperation and harmony and



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Cross Timbers Seminary

Cross Timbers Seminary Extension is offering the following course January 12 through May, 4, 2006:

New Testament Survey, Part 1
(The Background, Gospels, and Acts).

This will be a survey of the historical/cultural background along with the life, ministry, and teachings of Jesus.

It will also cover the process by which the gospels were written

and explore the similarities among the synoptic gospels and the uniqueness of the Gospel of John. It covers the authorship, purpose and content of the book of Acts.

We will be meeting for 17 weeks each Thursday night for 2 1/2 hours. **If you are interested in taking this course contact Baylis Pope at (254) 725-7749 by January 5th.**

Old Photos Wanted

The Callahan County Historical Commission wants your old photos, articles, scrapbooks, and other memorabilia to help preserve county history. We are asking everyone in the county who might be cleaning out old items that you no longer want or might not have room for to save them. Please do not throw them away. We are planning a way to collect them in various areas of the county as well as providing

the option to let us scan them on the spot and return the original. We will let you know when, so please hold on to everything!

Also, we are again offering the Callahan County book, *Remember Callahan, a History of Callahan County Texas* for 55 dollars. If you are interested in this wonderful Christmas gift, please call Reggie Pillans at (254) 725-4168.

Submitted by
Janet Swanson

Rowden Community Christmas Party this Saturday at Rideouts

The Rideouts of Rowden are hosting a "Rowden Community Christmas Party", Friday night, December 16th at 6:30pm at their home in Rowden.

If you used to live in Rowden, live in Rowden now, would like to live in Rowden or would just like to come out and meet the people of Rowden, love 42 and visiting with neighbors come on out, you'll fit right in and you're invited!

The Rideouts bought Bob & Kathy Dye's place a few years ago. Here are the directions to their home. Turn north off highway 36 onto CR 469, go 9/10 of a mile, turn east onto CR 463

and follow the road, turn back north at Tony and Judy Steel's, continue north past Robert and Dorothy Watson's and Glen and Ruthie Lawrence's. Still following the road it will turn back west for a short distance and then turn north again. Just as it turns north you will see a large gate and driveway, turn west down the drive for about 1/4 of a mile past the brick house on to the large two story and you have arrived.

Bring a snack and join the Rowden Bunch for food, fun, visiting, and dominos.
Merry Christmas Everyone!

OBITUARIES

Monroe Anderson "Pat" Hounshell

Funeral services for Monroe Anderson "Pat" Hounshell, 85, of Brownwood were held at 10 a.m. Thursday, December 8, 2005 at the Netherton Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. L.R. Blackstock officiating. Private interment followed at Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Netherton Funeral Home.

Mr. Hounshell passed away Tuesday morning, December 6, 2005, at his home.

Pat was born December 20, 1919, in Cross Cut, Texas, the son of the late Oliver and Myrtle Hounshell.

He had been a resident of Brown County all his life and was a retired rancher.

He was an anti-aircraft gunner during World War II and fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

Pat married Eula Fay Whatley on January 20, 1950, in Brownwood.

He was preceded in death by his wife; parents; a brother, Mick Hounshell; and a sister, Hester Bunnell.

Survivors include his children, Lynn and Pam Luster of Early, Steve Hounshell of Brownwood and Larry and Bobbie Hounshell of Brownwood; a sister, Juanita Wooten of Cross Plains; eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Ruby Mae (Simons) Martell

Ruby Mae (Simons) Martell, age 74, of Cross Plains, passed away Saturday, December 10, 2005 after a long illness.

Graveside services were held Monday, December 12, 2005 at the Cross Plains Cemetery with Rev. Jimmy Maples officiating.

Ruby was born September 5, 1931 in Cross Plains, Texas to Guss and Lula Simons.

She was preceded in death by her parents and brother, Mabery (Tex) Simons of Enfield, CT.

Survivors include two sons, Perry L. Jones and wife, Mary of Duncanville, and Darrell W. Smithson and Debbie of Austin; one grandson, Nicky Smithson (her pride and joy) who is in the military; one brother, Ire R. Simons and wife, Cedonia of Bangs; one sister, Maxine Dimitri of Cross Plains; and many cousins and friends.

Howard

Bucksnot. He liked westerns, writing 22 stories starring Breckinridge Elkins, whose exploits are of the "Pecos Bill" style. Another amazing feature of these wild west stories is that Howard never felt the need to incorporate profanity into his writings.

Southwest BookViews is published quarterly by Walking Rain, a non-profit corporation operated exclusively for educational purposes, particularly to foster awareness and appreciation of regional literature, history and culture, with specific emphasis on the American Southwest.

Positive stories about Cross Plains and Robert Howard just continue to show up in the most fascinating publications, proof that the literary world recognizes the valuable contributions that Howard made to a wide variety of subjects and writing styles.

The two books mentioned above, as well as many other western and adventure stories, may be purchased at the local Robert E. Howard Museum anytime. Several telephone numbers are posted on the front porch of folks who can be contacted to help you.

ADVERTISE IN
THE
CROSS PLAINS
REVIEW

Political Calendar

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

For Callahan County Judge
Roger Corn

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

For Callahan County Clerk
Donna Bell

Political advertisement paid by Donna Bell, PR 2484 Lot 420, Baird, Texas 79504.

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

Political Calendar

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

For Callahan County Commissioner Precinct #4
Larry Tennison

Political advertisement paid by Larry Tennison for Commissioner Precinct #4, Betsy Tennison, Treasurer, 4266 CR 243, Clyde, Texas 79510. All political calendar advertising for the Tuesday, March 7, 2006 Republican Primary Election is payable in advance, at a cost of \$125.00. A free press release and photograph will be published one time with each announcement.

2-Cross Plains Review December 15, 2005

COURTHOUSE NEWS

COUNTY COURT
Roger Corn, Presiding

Misdemeanor Filings

Ricardo Camacho, driving while license invalid (DWLI). Jason R. Caravajal, possession of marijuana.

Scott L. Haines, possession of marijuana.

Ronald W. Spoonemore, driving while intoxicated (DWI).

Kimberly K. Hogue, DWI.

Tyran K. Lange, DWI.

Brent Rice, assault.

Misdemeanor Minutes

Donna E. Reid, compromise settlement agreement order granted.

Brandon L. Monville, compromise settlement agreement order granted.

Eric C. Ramos, plea of guilty to no driver's license, \$200 fine, \$165 court costs.

Timothy Reed, motion to revoke probation granted.

Veronica Mendez, motion to revoke probation granted.

Omar R. Ramirez, motion to dismiss motion to revoke probation granted.

Thomas E. Gutierrez, motion to dismiss to DWLI granted, defendant in prison.

Orbin Levi Purcell, motion to dismiss to DWLI granted for plea to other cases.

Thomas Johnson, plea of guilty to possession of marijuana, 45 days in jail, \$277 court costs.

Randy K. Davis, plea of guilty to Ct. I - DWI and Ct. II - obstruction of a highway, 1 year probation, \$1500 fine, \$343 court costs.

Richard E. Walters, plea of guilty to DWI - 2nd, 1 year probation, \$800 fine, \$343 court costs.

Ryan Akers, order for early termination of probation granted.

Michael R. Jackson, motion to withdraw as surety granted.

Raemy Marcee, motion to revoke probation granted.

Marriage Licenses

Dusty B. Spencer and Kari A. Raines, both of Clyde.

Kristopher J. Johnson and Shayla M. Stanfield, both of Clyde.

42nd DISTRICT COURT
John Weeks, presiding

Criminal Indictments

Deziree Kay Gideon, injury to a child.

Criminal Minutes

John W. Freeman, judgment revoking probation granted.

Civil Filings

Paula Jill Hernandez and Jose Guadalupe Hernandez, divorce.

Civil Minutes

Joe Tom South and Shanna Ann South, divorce granted.

Jere Margaret Drake and Ricky Dean Drake, divorce granted.

NOTICE: Kenneth E. Roberts on 212 Hunt is not the Kenneth Roberts listed in last week's courthouse records.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

CROSS PLAINS COWBOY CHURCH

Pastor: LEN SMITH

Join Us On Sunday Mornings At 10:30 a.m.

Wednesdays At 7:00 p.m.

16075 CR 459 Cross Plains, Texas

For Information

Call 254-725-6446 or 325-518-5514

COME AS YOU ARE!



UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

209 S.W. Hwy 36 CROSSPLAINS

Welcomes You!

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

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

"An Apostolic Church"

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

Living Water Ministries Fellowship

Full Gospel - Prophetic - Apostolic
"Restoring And Equipping The Saints"

It's not about where you've been... It's about where God wants you to go!

SUN. 10AM * TUES. PRAYER 7PM * THURS. 7PM

Pastors: Max Evans & Colleen Anderson

For Information Call (254) 725-7418

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

Sunday School.....10:00 A.M.

Sunday Morning Worship.....11:00 A.M.

Sunday Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.

Bill Armstrong - Pastor

At this time I would like to convey to the Voters of Precinct 4, Callahan County that I will not seek election to the office of County Commissioner Precinct 4 in the upcoming Primary.

Political Ad Paid by Doris Grider, County Commissioner
P.O. Box 668, Cross Plains, Texas 76443

First Baptist Church

SUNDAY

9:45 am Bible Study

11 am & 6 pm Worship

Wednesday

6:30 pm Prayer/Worship

Ronnie B. White, Pastor

(254) 725-7629

3rd & Main, Cross Plains, TX 76443

CHRISTMAS CANTATA



First United Methodist Church

Invites You to join us on

December 18th at 6:00 p.m.

for our Christmas Cantata

Led by Rhonda Swift

Accompanied by

Betty Lewis

Organ

Connie Swift

Piano

Choir Members

Carol Bennett, Jane Besselaar, Marie Besselaar, Richard Chaffin, Lindy Cooper, Eva Fleming, Treva Gambrell, Marian Goins, Patsy Harlik, Melanie Long, Margaret McGough, Matt Sowell, Amanda Sowell, Connie Swift, & John Swift

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

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

MEMBER
2005
TPA
TEXAS PRESS
ASSOCIATION

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COTTONWOOD NEWS

By Wallace Bennett

Cottonwood Christmas Party Set for This Thursday Night

Please remember the Cottonwood Christmas Party planned for this Thursday night at the Cottonwood Community Center for 7:00 p.m. Bring finger foods, your good cheer and greet neighbors and friends for Christmas. There will be singing of carols, other music and fun for everyone.

Texas 56th Combat Brigade Gets Huge Texas "Welcome Home" in Time for Christmas
Sergeant Robert Bennett of Cottonwood was among the 3,900 soldiers of the Texas 56th Combat Brigade welcomed home in force by nearly 25,000 Texans last Saturday. They were wives, children, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends of the Texas heroes who spent the last year in Iraq. The welcoming home ceremony took place in Baylor University's Floyd Casey Stadium in Waco.

It was an impressive ceremony,

with bands playing, big American Flags flapping in the breeze and a thousand small flags held by members of the welcoming crowd being waved in the air. It was truly a grand affair, with Texas dignitaries and National Guard leaders from Austin and military bases of Texas ready to deliver speeches of welcome to the troops.

Among the crowd from Cottonwood were John, Wallace and Phillip Bennett and others of Robert's family and friends from over the state. Another Cottonwood connection is that Margaret McGough's grandson, Anthony McGough, was among the soldiers that day.

By far, the most impressive part of the ceremony came as 29 soldiers were sworn in as citizens of the United States of America, and eight names were read as dead, killed in action. It was, it seems to me, as though the 29 soldiers were stepping up to fill the ranks

of those who had been killed in action. The 29 soldiers who chose to become American citizens were from Mexico, Bahrain, El Salvador, Canada, Nicaragua and Vietnam. Six of the dead were killed in Iraq and two were killed in training accidents in Fort Hood.

It was truly impressive as the District Judge read the vows of the citizenship and we all stood up and repeated the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America. The moment said, "It is true we are all, American citizens."

"PEACE": My littlest dictionary at home says that the definition of the word "Peace" is simply "quiet tranquility." I hope in your busy Christmas season you take time to find some quiet tranquility. (P.S. my littlest dictionary is a leather bound book, very small, each page is two thumb nails tall, with a complete dictionary from "A" to "Z".)

RISING STAR NURSING CENTER NEWS

By Linda Merritt

Everyone here at the Rising Star Nursing Center would like to express their appreciation to have been selected to be a part of the Star Pride Tour of Homes.

Our winners for the decoration of residents doors contest were: Darla Moore, **1st Place**; Carol Meador, **2nd Place**; and Jessica Nieto, **3rd Place**; Those receiving **Honorable Mention** were: Meghann Long and Darla Moore. Many thanks to everyone, they were all great. Our appreciation to our judges Sara McGowen and Jan Wise from First Financial Bank, Rising Star.

They made comments on how hard it was to choose and that each one was a winner.

We enjoyed a fine performance of the Twist & Shout Tumblers this week. Thank you Mindy Estes, girls and boys so much for coming.

The residents Christmas Party is Thursday, December 15th at 6:00 p.m. First United Methodist Church will be presenting the program. Santa will make his appearance and refreshments will be served. Family and friends are encouraged to come help make this a Merry Christmas for our

residents and your loved ones.

Next week the residents plan to show their cooking talents again by making pecan pies.

Appreciation to our Special friend for the beautiful poinsettias that were sent from Tim's Floral; to the Rising Star Girl Scouts, Brianna, Loreen, Destiny and leaders Brandy Patterson and Dona McIntire for the cute candy canes they made; to the Rising Star First Baptist Church for the Christmas cards; and to Jacque Childress for the pecans.

CHRISTMAS IS GOD'S WAY OF SAYING, I LOVE YOU.

Callahan County to host 3 hour CEU course on December 20th

Many producers that have a pesticide license have a hard time attending daytime educational programs that offer CEU's (Continuing Education Unit) for re-certification of their

license. Therefore, a special three (3) Hour pesticide re-certification night course for Texas Department of Agriculture applicator license holders is set for December 20 in the Callahan

County Extension Office located on the 2nd floor of the County Courthouse.

Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. and the program starts at 6:00 p.m. Texas Department of Agriculture has approved the program for 1 hour in laws and regulations, 1 hour in integrated pest management, and 1 hour of general. Those hours will apply to commercial, non-commercial, and private applicator license holders.

The program will begin with laws and regulations presentation followed by integrated pest management presentation discussing alternative approaches available when using pesticides. The night course will conclude after a 1 hour general presentation at 9:00 p.m. CEU certification will be awarded at the conclusion of the program. Cost for the training is \$5.00 for those that pre-register by December 16. To pre-register or for more information, contact the Callahan County Extension Office at (325) 854-5835.

Robert Pritz
County Extension Agent

LIBRARY NOTES

Behind the Books

Back in the Texas Room the other day, I was enjoying the LapSit time—watching the wee little ones watch their mothers learn little songs and finger plays. When they left, I realized I was in the midst of a whole bunch of small "bendy" books title "The Cimmerian". Being the inquisitive type that I am, really got excited when I found a big long story about Cross Plains and my own Library in one of them. But then talk about getting excited—the note in the back of the booklets made me flat fall off the shelf!

This little quarterly publication is "regularly collected and archived by the following distinguished institutions: University of California at Berkeley, Bowling Green State University in Ohio and The Cross Plains Public Library."

Does it get any better than this? Come check'em out and see for yourself.

CU-BW

Library Statistics December 5 - 9, 2005

Books:	82
Internet Users:	13
Memorials:	
Charles and Lou Rodenberger	
In Memory of Jack Scott	
Max M. Howell	
In Memory of Sam Odom	
Donations:	
Deverl and Nancy Harp	
Cecil and Mary Barton	
Alton and Joan McCowen	
Harold and Mary White	
Donations Books:	
Beth Meador	
Amber Kleiber	
Charles and Lou Rodenberger	
Curt Hoskins	

Library Activity Report December 5-9, 2005

Patrons:	62
Lap	9
LapSit	1
Other	52
Programs:	26
Copies:	205
Reference:	3
Check In/Out Books:	16
Calls In:	6
Internet Users:	13

SENIOR CITIZENS MENU

DECEMBER 19 - 23
MONDAY-Chicken Spagetti, Tossed Salad, Green Beans, Applesauce, Bread
TUESDAY-Sausage, Sauerkraut, Blackeyed Peas, Brownie, Bread
WEDNESDAY-Pork Chops w/Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Carrots, Cake, Bread
THURSDAY - Beef and Vegetable Soup, Pimento Cheese Sandwich, Pears, Ranger Cookie, Crackers
FRIDAY- CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
2nd & 4th Tuesdays
Domino Night (42 & 84)
Begins at 5:00 p.m.

QUIPS, CLIPS & COMMENTS

By Kay Mosley

Note: I have often heard of "Frost on the Pumpkins". Do apples get frost also, or are they long gone before frost time? What say you, Apple Orchard Annie? "While I'm in the apple tree, I don't worry about frost, I just eat and eat. Yumm!" she explained.

Workers, Smiles and Fun!

There are some great people who work here at the nursing home. They work hard and diligently; they are also mostly a friendly, jolly group. I get a good laugh sometimes; i.e. There are two aides who work nights and they always have to look in the mirror to be sure their halos are on straight. One of the two's halo seems to slide around quite a bit; sometimes it even goes askew.

The nurses are cheery. There is one I call "Pokey" because she's always poking my fingers to test my blood sugar and then pokes me with a needle to administer my insulin injection.

Sometimes, I tease a nurse by calling her "Vampira". When she takes blood from my fingers to get my blood sugar count, it lightens my mood and brightens my day. I've often heard it said, "A little levity goes a long way." Also, I enjoy those who work in housekeeping. One lady sings as she goes about her work. I really enjoy that, as she sings songs I

grew up with, country songs such as "I'm Walking the Floor Over You", "Clementine", "Your Cheating Heart" and many other classic country and western tunes.

I love to talk, make conversation, etc. Both my paternal and maternal grandfathers were Irish, so-oo, I guess you could say I got a double dose of Irish. Not only that, but I strongly suspect that a bunch of my ancestors surely must have kissed that Blarney Stone. It seems that once I learned to talk, I never, ever shut up.

My friend Apple Orchard Annie says from time to time, while laughing, "Kay, I thought I heard all your stories, but this is my first instance of hearing this one!"

Of all those who take care of me each day, each and everyone has their own way of accomplishment, and all are dedicated to providing elder-care. We banter back and forth throughout each shift, and go naturally. It's so fun!

It really makes your day when you look up and see that twinkle in their eye and that great big smile on their faces.

I guess now with winter and approaching cold, it could just be, that we need to start checking all their halos. A frozen halo just might slide around in the wind and go askew and freeze that way. What'cha think?????

C.P. GARDEN CLUB NEWS

By Joyce Odom

The Cross Plains Garden Club met for their regular monthly meeting on December 9, at 11:00 a.m. at the Dairy Queen, where we enjoyed a delicious lunch.

Guest Sally Crumley, retired National Parks Law Enforcement Officer, gave an informative and educational talk on her career. She has worked in a number of areas of the United States. She is now a resident of this area and is raising sheep.

Herman Weaver came in and he recited a cowboy poem titled "The Preacher's Horse".

Both guests were entertaining. Eva Fleming, president conducted the business meeting that followed.

Each member brought cans of food and on a motion by Barbara Powell and second by Wanda Hammel, it was voted to donate \$100.00 annually to the Food Pantry.

It was voted to make a special effort by the members to clean the grounds around our "Welcome Visitors" sign.

The meeting adjourned to reconvene January 13 at Mary Ella Weaver's home.

Members present were: Eva Fleming, Sandy Lusk, Wanda Hammel, Barbara Powell, James Nichols, Joyce Odom. Ray Dodds came by and Sally Crumley and Herman Weaver were guests.

To the Voters of Callahan County Precinct 4

I am seeking the office of County Commissioner Precinct 4 and I would appreciate your support.

As a lifelong resident and an independent business man in Cross Plains for 30+ years, I understand the challenges with budget spending. I believe that by making conservative and responsible decisions we can always be better stewards of taxpayers' dollars.

If elected, I commit to be honest, hard working, conservative, and to make decisions with integrity and thoughtfulness. I am asking for your vote in the Republican Primary March 7, 2006.

Cliff Kirkham

A conservative voice in County Government

Political Ad Paid For by the Cliff Kirkham Campaign Committee, Connie Kirkham, Treasurer
20235 FM 2707, Cross Plains, TX 76443

BREAKTHRU

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



As a child I well remember Christmas being the most exciting day and time of the year. And now that I'm much older I still find it to be a very delightful time! It seems that most people's spirits are lifted high and to a peak. The attitude of joy, peace, giving and best wishes prevails during the holiday season.

There are, however, a few sad things about Christmas. There are always some who can't be very happy this time of the year because of illness, poverty, death of a loved one, etc. And there are those who ruin Christmas for themselves and/or others by indulging in alcohol and other drugs, and in a state of stupor, kill and/or maim themselves, even others — innocent people.

I really hope this season will be a happy and joyous time for you in sharing love, togetherness, friendship, perhaps gifts (though they're not necessary!), and "Best Wishes." And I hope we all remember the spiritual along with the physical — even above the physical. Think about and thank God for all the rich gifts He has given and gives — Jesus, His Son, to come and live and show us how to live, and to die that we might really live! "Every good and perfect gift is from above and comes from the Father of lights" (James 1:17).

We encourage you to share in periods of life-changing 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

3-Cross Plains Review December 15, 2005

You are cordially invited to attend a
95th birthday celebration honoring

Gladys Barnes

Saturday

December 17, 2005

1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Church of Christ Activity Center

(Hwy 36 East)

No presents please, your presence is gift enough

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The Joy of Christmas

As we enjoy the Christmas Season, we're reminded of the miraculous birth of Christ, in Bethlehem 2,000 year ago.

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.
~ Matthew 1:21

We wish you and your family a Merry Christmas.

We invite you to join us for our

**Open House at
Texas Heritage Bank**

Thursday, December 22, 2005 from 9am - 3pm
Santa will be here from 1-3pm
Cookies and Punch will be served.

Member FDIC

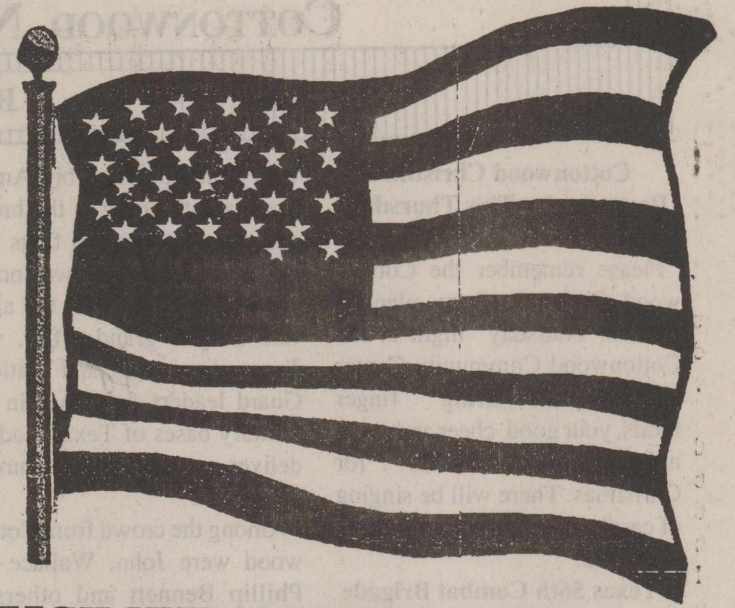
SEMESTER EXAM SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 14, 2005	Thursday, December 15, 2005	Friday, December 16, 2005
Period 1st 8:00-10:08	Period 2nd 8:00-10:08	Period 7th 8:00-10:08
Period 3rd 10:12-12:20	Period 4th 10:12-12:20	Period 8th 10:12-12:20
Lunch	Lunch 12:20-12:58	Lunch 12:20-1:00
Period 5th 12:58-2:45	Period 6th 12:58-2:45	Buses will run at 1:00 p.m.
Buses will run at 2:45 p.m.	Buses will run at 2:45 p.m.	

Cross Plains Review

4

December 15, 2005



EACH STAR REPRESENTS 500.00

CROSS PLAINS ELEMENTARY 2005-2006 PRINCIPAL'S HONOR ROLL 2ND SIX WEEKS

First Grade: Caitlyn Bland, Hannah Brown, Andy Byerly, Mackenzie Byrd, Orion Childers, Hannah Cowan, Tassaney Garza, Grace Goode, Taylor Hicks, Logan Phillips, Tristan Potter-Hargrove, Jared Reynolds, Kersey Wyatt

Second Grade: Kelli Bennett, Colton Bradley, Brittany Bush, Blayne Childers, Rebekah Crockett, Megan Hagler, Brayden Kennedy, Justin Whiteley

Third Grade: Taryn Estes

Fourth Grade: Shelby Thomas

Fifth Grade: None

Sixth Grade: Zoie Walker

CROSS PLAINS ELEMENTARY 2005-2006 "A" HONOR ROLL 2ND SIX WEEKS

First Grade: Belinda Booth, Jacob Castleberry, Alexis Mauricio, Joseph Revoir, Alicia Sanchez, Jayme Tennon, Piper Winfrey, Jamye Wootton

Second Grade: Tucker Brown, Elissa Cantu, Caden Creach, Teagan Fortune, Laramie Gambrell, Debra Land, Shelby McWilliams, Billie Pointer, Chance Thompson, Shyler Tillery

Third Grade: Bronc Dillard, Kaitlyn Koettel, Morgan Manley

Fourth Grade: Wyatt Gambrell

Fifth Grade: Cheyenne Cowan, Katharine Goode, Riley Lawrence

Sixth Grade: Lauren Goode, Payton Porter, Rosa Salazar, Kenzie Taff

CROSS PLAINS ELEMENTARY 2005-2006 "AB" HONOR ROLL 2ND SIX WEEKS

First Grade: Alexander French, Isaiah Guerrero, Alex Stout

Second Grade: Michael Foster, Inez Salazar, Hunter Thomas, Charles Thompson

Third Grade: Cheyenne Bomar, Kelbi Hyles, Brenna Kleiber, Kaylee Potter, Jurnee Thomas, Mikera Walker

Fourth Grade: Colton McWilliams, Christa Potter, Meagan Roberts, Tristen Stephenson

Fifth Grade: Sara Hagler, Joe Holland

Sixth Grade: Shelby Ames, Ryder Foster, Ashley Jamison

CROSS PLAINS HIGH SCHOOL 2005-2006 PRINCIPAL HONOR ROLL 2ND SIX WEEKS

7th Grade: Tyler Avants, Savana Wyatt

8th Grade: Melissa Black, Tiffany Holland, Kayla Lawrence, Benjamin Schaefer, Cody Sliger, Zachary Snell

9th Grade: Jacob Estes, Krista Phillips, Mandy Rose

Sophomore: Tiffany Walker

Junior: Thomas Estes, Russell Thomas, Michaela Wallace

Senior: Brittany Adams, Rainey Bacon, Travis Golson, Jesse Norris, Ryan Payne, Jake Snell

CROSS PLAINS HIGH SCHOOL 2005-2006 "A" HONOR ROLL 2ND SIX WEEKS

7th Grade: Delany Ames, Cody Ford, Shawna Lewis

8th Grade: None

9th Grade: Emily Harris

Sophomore: Hailey Biggs, Macayla Cook, Starla Schaefer

Junior: None

Senior: Samantha Hutton, Levi Wooten

CROSS PLAINS HIGH SCHOOL 2005-2006 "AB" HONOR ROLL 2ND SIX WEEKS

7th Grade: Justin Golson, Joel Hinten, Hayden Wyatt

8th Grade: Nathan Creamer, Amanda Dunaway, Emily Foster, Jacob McCutchen, Amber Parker

9th Grade: Ashleigh Gallaway, Quenton Koettel, Acaila Radle

Sophomore: Joseph Callaway

Junior: Jonathan Hopkins, Karen Scott

Senior: Britta Scruggs

Buy Tickets for Celebration Park and Benefit Cross Plains High School Project Graduation

Experience a unique West Texas Christmas by visiting Celebration Park. Enjoy a mile long winding road of Christmas lights and animated scenes from the comfort of your own vehicle.

Come inside Santa's igloos for the "FREE" Laser Show and refreshments.

In the Gift Shop you will find lots of unusual gifts and Christmas decorations with a country and western flair. There are many handmade items for that special person on your gift list.

Visit Santa and have pictures made.

Be sure and enjoy roasting smores at Santa's campfire and grill.

Project Graduation will be selling tickets for \$5.00 and then you will pay additional \$10 gate admission at the park (regular admission is \$15.00 for a car of 6 people). Your advance purchase will benefit Project Graduation 2006, so see Lurene McNutt for tickets.

Celebration Park is open every evening through December 30, 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. It is located on I-20, 3 miles east of Abilene.

Applications Being Taken for The Ten Star All Star Summer Basketball Camp

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

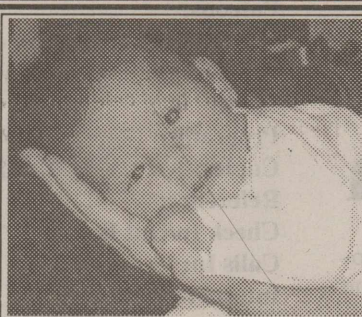
Past participants include: Michael Jordan, Tim Duncan, Vince Carter, Jerry Stackhouse, Grant Hill and Antawn Jamison.

Players from 50 states and 18 foreign countries attended the 2005 Camp.

College basketball scholarships are possible for players selected

to the All-American Team. Camp locations include; Commerce, TX, Prescott, AZ, Thousand Oaks, CA, Sterling, CO, Bridgeport, CT, Babson Park, FL, Gainesville, GA, Champaign, IL, North Manchester, IN, Towson, MD, Ypsilanti, MI, Glassboro, NJ, Schenectady, NY, Hickory, NC, Lebanon, TN, Blackburg, VA, Lyndonville, VT and Beloit, WI.

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



IT'S A BOY!

Teagan and Hanna Fortune of Cross Plains are proud to announce the arrival of their baby brother, **Gage Brycen Fortune.**

Gage was born November 18, 2005 at Abilene Regional Medical Center.

He weighed 7 pounds 4 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long. Proud parents are Trey and Heather Fortune of Cross Plains. Maternal grandparents are Jimmy and Sherry Johnson of Eastland. Paternal grandparents are Steve Fortune of Cross Plains and Linda Fortune of Abilene.

Maternal great-grandmothers are Ethleen Johnson of Eastland and Fran Staggs of Valera. Paternal great-grandparents are Lewis Fortune, Betty Bean and Bob Eppard all of Cross Plains. Paternal great-great-grandmothers are Lerlene Fortune (Mamaw) of Cross Plains and Mable Clark (Nannie) of Austin.

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West Tex Connect has been providing Broad Band Internet in Clyde for 3 years.

500 Chestnut, Abilene

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You Are Invited to a Wedding Shower honoring

Melanie Chesshir and Andrew Masters
Sunday, December 18, 2005
2:00-4:00 p.m.

at the home of
James and Wilma Lawrence
18156 CR 411 Cross Plains, Texas

Gift Selections at:
Higginbothams, Johnson's, Wal-Mart, Sears and Target

Veterans Memorial Fund Grows Closer to the \$26,000 Goal with Every Donation

The Veterans Memorial Fund continues to grow as contributions arrive daily. As the end of 2005 grows near, please remember to mail in donations and names of veterans. Publication 557 of the Department of Treasury Internal Revenue Service, states that "donations to war veterans' organizations are deductible as charitable contributions on the donors income tax return."

Recent contributors include: Noah S. Johnson; W.O. Russell; Gaylan Schroeder; Dorothy Woody; Dr. Paul Whitton, Jr.; Sylvia's Hair Shack; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Arledge; Terry Lichty;

David Jones; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Isbell III; Rolan Jones; Cross Plains Quilting Club; A.D. Hutton; Don and Wanda Nelson; D.E. White; Mr. and Mrs. Alton McCowen; Betty Browning; Frances Jones; and Eunice Pointer.

You may mail contributions and names to:

Cross Plains and Area Veterans Memorial Fund
P.O. Box 711
Cross Plains, Texas 76443.

Your donations are truly appreciated.

Submitted by
Cindy Payne

Tennison Announces for Callahan County Commissioner Precinct 4

I am Larry Tennison and I would like to formally announce that I will be a candidate for the position of Callahan County Commissioner Precinct #4 on the Republican ticket.

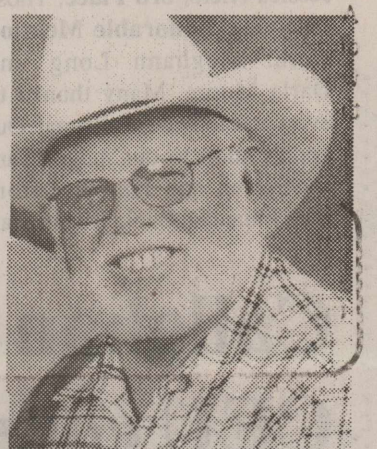
Except for a few years spent in Taylor and Comanche counties, I am a lifelong resident of Callahan County and of Clyde. I attended school at Clyde, Texas and Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas.

Then I began my trucking career. I have been a self-employed trucker for the past thirty-four years. In the late 1970s and early 1980s I owned and operated Buffalo Gap Construction Company in Taylor County.

I was responsible for building and maintaining roads and drilling sites within a one hundred mile radius of Abilene.

So, I am experienced in building and maintaining roads and maintaining and servicing heavy equipment and trucks.

My wife Betsy and I have three kids and three grandkids. We also own a small farm here in Clyde and enjoy raising Boer Goats.



Larry Tennison

I believe a County Commissioner's job is to maintain County roads so they are safe to travel, to ensure the county has strong law enforcement and take care of County Business while at the same time keeping taxes as low as possible.

Your support will be appreciated! Vote Larry Tennison, Family man - Business Man - Farmer - In Touch with Callahan County.

Thank You, Larry Tennison
Pol. Ad. P# for by Betsy Tennison, Treasurer for Larry Tennison for County Commissioner, 4266 CR 273 Clyde, Texas 79510



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Coupon expires 4-30-06

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Coupon expires 4-30-06

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Toys For Kids!

Come Pick Out Your FREE Toy

December 17, 2005
From 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.

At the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall

2000 North Main Cross Plains, Texas

This event has grown so large we are moving it from Conway's Bitter Creek Ranch to the church to accommodate all of the children and toys.

Refreshments will be served.

See you there and have a

Safe and Merry Christmas



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Cross Plains Roping Club Fun Day was a Hoot

We couldn't have asked for a more beautiful day. Although we didn't have a huge turnout, those who participated had a great time.

The kids really enjoyed themselves in all the events, but I believe their favorite was being towed behind Dustin White's horse while riding a scoop shovel. They all were pretty good at it too!

Spectators got a good laugh during the Rescue Race and Balloon Burst competitions. There's just something about watching a person gallop their horse down the arena, jump off their horse, blow up a balloon, put the balloon on the bucket and sit and bounce on it until it pops. Then, get back on their horse, who isn't too happy about the loud bang, and gallop back down the arena. It's just too funny.

We would like to thank all of you who participated in the events and made the day a fun one to remember. We would also like to thank Higginbothams', Conway's Bitter Creek Ranch, Lawrence's Farm & Ranch, 3-D Ag, and Johnson's Dry Goods, for donating the items we used for prizes. As always, your generosity and interest is greatly appreciated.

A special thanks to Kristy Hubbard and Dustin White for all the time and hard work they put in, in order to have "Fun Day". A big "Thank You" to P.J. Perkins who did a great job announcing and having fun with the kids. Also, thank you to the members of the Cross Plains Roping Club who helped, participated, and ran the concession stand.

We are hoping to do this again



1st PLACE COSTUME CONTEST WINNER—Billie Jane Pointer on "Little Joe".



HAVING A GOOD TIME—The children observe the games and talk with announcer P.J. Perkins.

in the near future. I'd also like to add that on January 2, 2006, we will be electing officers. Anyone interested in joining the club and

all members are urged to attend this meeting.

Submitted by Tani Pointer

Commissioners approve 2006 County holidays

Callahan County Commissioners voted to set the county holidays during the commissioners' court meeting held Monday, December 12 at the County Courthouse in Baird.

On a motion by Commissioners Tommy Holland and second by Commissioner Bryan Farmer, commissioners voted 5-0 to set the county holidays for 2006.

County holidays include: Monday, January 2-New Year's Day.

Monday, January 16-Martin Luther King Day.

Monday, February 20-Presidents Day.

Friday, April 14-Good Friday.

Monday, May 29-Memorial Day.

Tuesday, July 4-Independence Day.

Monday, September 4-Labor Day.

Monday, October 9-Columbus Day.

Friday, November 10-Veterans Day.

Thursday/Friday, November 23-24-Thanksgiving.

Friday/Monday, December 22-25-Christmas.

Other agenda items brought before the commissioners' court included:

—County Judge Roger Corn called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Present at the meeting included Judge Corn, Commissioners Harold Hicks, Tommy Holland, Bryan Farmer and Doris Grider, County Treasurer Dianne Alexander and County Clerk Jeanie Bohannon.

—The minutes of November 28 were approved as presented.

—There was no public comments received.

—Mickey West, Joe Davis and Judson Clark with Direct Energy met with the commissioners' court to discuss a preliminary Energy Audit and a RFQ (Request for Qualification). Commissioner Farmer made a motion to table this item for 30

days. Commissioner Hicks seconded and the motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

—Commissioner Holland made a motion to appoint Dr. Raul Calvo for a two-year term as Local Health Authority for Callahan County. Commissioner Farmer seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

—Commissioner Holland made a motion to reappoint Jimmy Easter as a director for Callahan County on the Appraisal Board of Directors. Commissioner Grider seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

—Judge Corn made a motion to ratify and approve the Electricity Service Agreement with

Direct Energy for four months. Commissioner Hicks seconded and the motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

—The court contends the portion at the end of County Road 10-6 at Dr. Robert L. Dickey's is not a county road. No action was taken.

—Commissioner Holland made a motion to pay approved bills. Commissioner Farmer seconded and the motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

—Commissioner Hicks made a motion to adjourn the commissioners' court meet at 11:00 a.m. Commissioner Grider seconded and the motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

Commissioners approve order prohibiting fireworks in County

Callahan County Commissioners voted Monday, December 12 to approve an order prohibiting the use of fireworks in unincorporated areas of Callahan County for the upcoming Christmas and New Year's holiday season.

On a motion by Commissioner Harold Hicks and second by Commissioner Doris Grider, commissioners voted 5-0 to approve the motion. The order follows:

Callahan County Order Prohibiting Fireworks in Unincorporated Areas of Callahan County

A. The order states a person commits an offense if he or she intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly detonates, ignites, or in any way uses fireworks on a county road or in the right-of-way of a county road.

B. If the landowner's permission is obtained prior thereto, persons may detonate, ignite, or use fireworks on private property in unincorporated areas of the county, as long as:

1. The person using the fireworks is not intoxicated as defined in Vernon's Act. Civil Statutes Article 62011-1 (a) (2).

2. Reasonable precautions are taken concerning proximity to structures and flammable vegetation.

3. Children are adequately supervised by adults.

4. Water is readily available for extinguishing fires.

C. An offense under this order is a Class C Misdemeanor punishable by fine up to \$500.00.

The order was approved the 12th day of December, 2005, by the Callahan County Commissioners Court.

(s) Roger Corn
County Judge
(s) Harold Hicks
Commissioner Precinct #1
(s) Bryan Farmer
Commissioner Precinct #2
(s) Tommy Holland
Commissioner Precinct #3
(s) Doris Grider
Commissioner, Precinct #4
(s) Jeanie Bohannon
County Clerk

Grand Ole Oplin New Year's Eve Party Plans Announced

The Grand Ole Oplin invites everyone out to the Oplin Community Center on Saturday, December 31st, New Year's Eve to help celebrate the New Year. Music for our New Year's Eve dance will be

provided by Muddy Creek. Our dance will begin at 8:00 p.m. and will end at 12:00 a.m. Admission to our New Year's Eve dance will be \$5.00. Black-eyed peas will be served in hopes of good luck for the coming year and everyone is encouraged to bring a snack to be enjoyed by all during the band's break.

The Grand Ole Oplin is located at the intersection of FM 604 S.

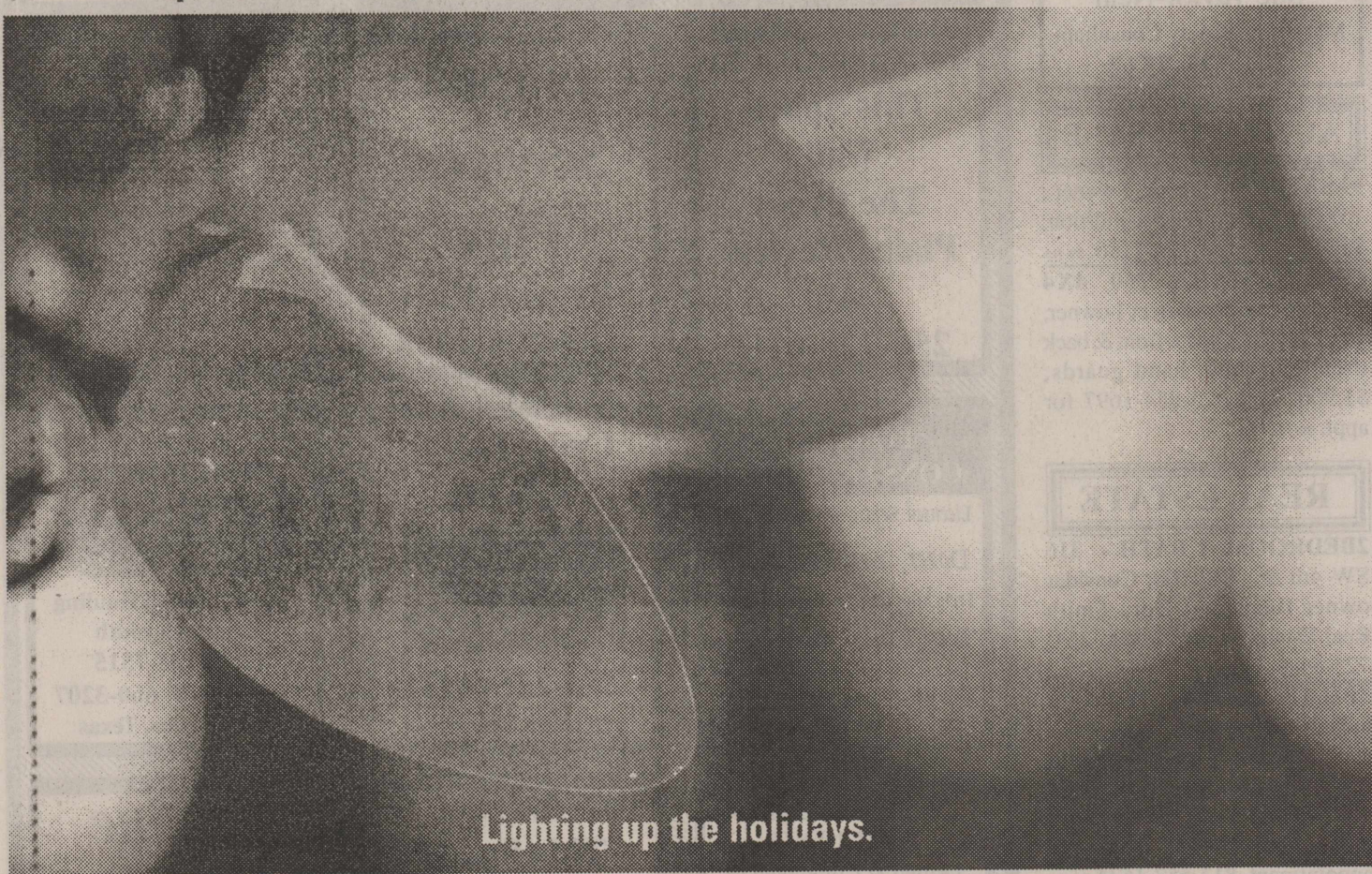
and FM 2926. Smoking and alcoholic beverages are not allowed in our facilities.

So gather your family and all your friends and come on out to the Grand Ole Oplin for an evening of good music and good friends. If we don't see you, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very safe holiday.

Submitted by Pam Rumfield

5 - Cross Plains Review December 15, 2005

5:35 p.m. Thursday



Lighting up the holidays.

As you begin using decorative lighting in and around your home this holiday season, AEP Texas reminds you to keep safety in mind. Check light strings for frayed cords, and use only UL-approved lights and extension cords. Remember not to overload circuits, and remind children not to touch lights or outlets. And on behalf of all of us here at AEP Texas, please enjoy a safe, bright holiday season with your family and friends. AEP Texas is there, always working for you.

AEP TEXAS
A unit of American Electric Power

For more information about electrical safety, visit aep.com

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

DECEMBER 17

Ike Neal
Gary Rogers
Shawn Thayer
Pearl Perry
Sheri Graham
Terri Graham
W.E. Walker
Kasey L. Maynard
Harold Hinkle
Vickie I. Gilmore
Dillon Heath
John Paul Cowan II

Patricia (Meador) Hopkins

DECEMBER 21

Allen Woody
Cranz (Skipper) Nichols, Jr.
Jimmy Crawford
Carsyn Walker
Eddie Hedrick
Beth Meador
Tommy Phillips, Jr.
Riley Allen
Peggy Brock

DECEMBER 22

James (Bim) Goble
Cody Ford
Cody Joe Sliger
James Illingworth
Peter Perry
Mrs. B. Crow
Gary D. Gilland
Jerry Walker
Thurman Furry
Lindsey Meiron

DECEMBER 18

JayIn Danee Koenig
Max Miller
Cindy Chapman
Dwayne Clark
Deltha Hollingshead
Sheral McCorkle
Sharron Petty
Samual Ray Fritchlee
Daniel W. Ingram

DECEMBER 19

Dwayne Wilson
Ruth Letney
Weldon McCorkle
Melissa Parrish
Max Watson
Mrs. Betty Jones
Greg McNutt
David Reed
Betty Micham
Regina Curry

DECEMBER 23

Kay Dennis Mosley
Bo Barr
Douglas Dallas
Kenneth Sowell
Jason Beauchamp
Bobby Sipes
Roselyn Holmans
Mrs. Kenneth Thate
Janet Rister
Weston Jones
Cliff Waddell III

DECEMBER 20

Shaela Fulcher
Robert Ray Simons
Don Penn
William Reynolds
Bonnie Sheppard
James Lawrence
Rocky Champion
Ted Don Archer
Peggy Lee
Beck (Hicks) Lockyear
Hannah Chambers

Barbara (Purvis) Batton
Lauretta Johnson
Tommie Neff
Star (Dodds) Burlison
Mrs. Bertha Hoyt
Lawana Freeman
Ida Withney
Brian Haun
Vanessa (Taff) Mathison
Sheila McWherson
Laura Johnson
Danielle Marion

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CARD OF THANKS

The CP Athletic Booster Club would like to say thank you to all the parents who worked concession during the recent Christmas Classic Basketball Tournament.

We would also like to send a special thank you to the CP Key Club for their hard work with the concession stand. We really appreciate all who showed up to help make this a successful tournament.

Cross Plains Athletic
Booster Club

FLEA MARKETS

LIBRARY FLEA MARKET, Saturday, December 17, 8-12; Christmas items, Deacon's bench, accent tables, crafting supplies, antiques, Childress pecans, hand-crafted items, lots of books and a new vendor. ^{39-1tc}

HOPKINS' BITTER CREEK RANCH - Handcrafted furniture, metal art, & western gift items available at our booth at the Cross Plains Library Flea Market. Come by start your Christmas Shopping. Lay-A-Way and special orders available, 254-725-6355. ^{39-1tc}

BLOCK 1 FLEA MARKET - Open Thursday, Friday & Saturday at 301 East Pecan in Coleman. ^{36fc}

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MANAGER NEEDED FOR SUBWAY- Seeking energetic, self-motivated, friendly individual who can provide a pleasant working atmosphere. Must be able to inspire others to perform. One week paid vacation after one year. Health insurance available. Earning potential up to \$25,000 per year. Previous management and food service experience desired. Please fax your resume to 254-725-7338 or email to denise@camalott.com or call 325-665-9183. ^{39-2tc}

SUBWAY, now hiring part-time office help. Call Denise at 325-665-9183. ^{39-2tc}

FOR SALE

USED FURNITURE FOR SALE- Couch, love seat, chair, coffee table, 2 end tables, and 2 lamps; \$750.00; If you want to see, call Kathy Purvis at 254-725-6219 after 6:00 p.m. and make appointment. ^{39-1tp}

OPEN SUNDAY AFTERNOONS- 1-5 PM, until Christmas; Johnson's Dry Goods, Cross Plains, 254-725-6211. ^{39-1tc}

CHRISTMAS TREE- Cut or dig your own. PECANS - inshell \$1.70 or shelled \$5.50; ChildressFarm.com; 254-725-4321. ^{36-5tp}

MIX 30-16% PROTEIN, 10% FAT- The alternative to the traditional urea/molasses liquid feed, call Jeff Key 254-725-4139 or Brent Key 254-643-4234. ^{36-4tp}

BROWN DUCK HOODED JACKETS- Cell phone pocket, quilted lining, Size M-2XL; \$39.99; Ring around the moon Sunday night; Johnson's Dry Good, Cross Plains, 254-725-6211. ^{39-1tc}

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99 SATURN - 3 door, 1 owner; 153,000 miles, good condition; \$2,995; Call 254-725-7186. ^{39-1tp}

1994 YAMAHA 250 4X4 Timberwolf 4-wheeler; 1 owner, new 6 ply tires, spare front & back tires, gun rack, hand guards; \$1,900; Call 325-854-1697 for appt. ^{39-1tp}

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2BEDROOM, 1 BATH - 316 SW 4th St.; \$12,500. Consider owner financing; Dora Smith Real Estate, owner/broker, 254-725-6489. ^{35fc}

3BD/1B BRICK HOME, includes 3 large lots with water well, detached 1 car garage with rentable efficiency apartment. 109 NE 4th St., Central Cross Plains. Call Gayna Dodds for appointment, 817-557-1574. ^{14fc}

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PUPPIES FOR SALE- 6 weeks old, Border Collie/Australian Shepherd mix; Excellent farm dog; \$75; Call; 254-725-7140 or 6747 (Susan Schaefer). ^{37-3tc}

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ACREAGE:

NEW LISTING--7/A located 4 miles North of Cross Plains, great location, lots of trees, good water well, great home site. \$24,535.

NEW LISTING--12.13/A at Clyde, Callahan County, on FM 604, Excellent development property and home site. \$48,000

* 21.35/A in Cottonwood, large Oak tress, orchard, water well, secluded, good home site. \$2,000/A

NEW LISTING--62/A mostly heavily wooded, 2 water wells, pond, nice hunter's cabin, secluded, pretty, perfect getaway, good hunting, Eastland County. \$99,000.

NEW LISTING--180/A, Coleman County, good hunting, 3 water wells, rural water meter, approx. 80/A cultivation, good fences, on pavement. \$1,200/A

NEW LISTING--240/A, creek, 2 ponds, approx. 80/A in cultivation, 1/4 minerals, approx. 160/A native pasture, Jones County, North Abilene. \$192,000

* 240/A in Callahan County, 2 ponds, 40/A cultivation, Oak, Mesquite, Liveoak, on county road, deer, turkey, dove, hogs, good home sites, some minerals \$1,300/A.

* 401.682/A approx. 100/A in cultivation & sunflowers, remaining in large mesquite trees, county road access, excellent hunting, deer, turkey, quail, dove, hog & ducks in the winter, very good fences, electricity, old home site, western Eastland County, Possible Owner Finance. \$522,186

* 465.494/A Eastland County, heavily wooded, mostly Oak & mesquite, several ponds stocked with fish, excellent hunting, deer, turkey, quail, good home sites, water line on county road, pavement on south side, good grass & fences. Call about Financing if Needed! \$651,169

NEW LISTING--766/A Turnkey Trophy Deer Ranch--high fenced 18/A deer breeding facility, 6 mile dirt landing strip, 36'X75' new 5 stall Horse barn, all weather pavilion, cook house, bunk houses, 5 large ponds stocked with Florida bass and cat fish, 2 large creeks with water holes, Indian mounds & artifacts, hills, Live Oak & Large Post Oak, heavily wooded, remodeled ranch house, abundant deer, turkey, hogs, quail, dove, large valley, 10 deer stands, approx. 100 deer in breeding pens, some bred to 200 B & C bucks, 80/A in food plots, ranch manager can convey with property, 1/2 minerals - oil & gas income -- Production can be purchased also. Brown County. \$3,000,000.

* 1,920/A Ranch, rough, scenic, Audad sheep, deer, hogs, blue & Bob White Quail, turkey, several large ponds, excellent fishing, several elevations, water line, \$600/A, won't last long! \$1,152,000

ACREAGE WITH HOME:

NEW LISTING!!!3BD/2B Frame home on 4.89/A, water well, city water on pavement, new shop, good small farm or commercial, close to town, Cross Plains. \$95,000.

NEW LISTING--5.5/A with 2BD/1B home east of Cross Plains on Hwy 36, very good condition, landscaped, shop building, 2 water wells, small barn and pens, small pond, pretty! \$72,000

NEW LISTING--10/A place at edge of town with 3BD/2B mobile home, Pecan trees, coastal, 14' X 32' shop bldg with electricity & water, goat fenced, Rising Star, Eastland County. \$45,000

NEW LISTING--80/A with small, good condition home, 2BD/1B, frame, carport, 4 water wells, one pond, good set of cattle pens, good fences, on pavement. \$120,000

* 93.85/A with 2,624 sq. ft. Brick home, Central H/A, fireplace, wood stove, glassed in sun porch, large trees, on pavement, guest house, 3 barns, creek, new fences, pond, some Coastal, good hunting. Western Eastland Co. \$280,000.

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

NEW LISTING--100/A, large Live oak, Oak, Pecan, stock pond, creek, good cattle pens, older farm home, shop bldg., 2 water wells, excellent hunting, very pretty! \$210,000

* 102.31/A with 3BD/2B, 2,495 sq. ft., brick home, 3 stock ponds, great hunting, deer, turkey, quail, barn, rural water, paved frontage, Oak, Pecan, & Mesquite trees, good fences, 6 miles south of Cross Plains. \$200,000

* 106/A beautiful horse ranch, with new horse barn, pens, fences, newly remodeled farm home, on pavement, close to town, coastal hay operation, 2 water wells, wildlife. Must See! Callahan County. \$325,000

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

NEW LISTING!!!!Beautiful 200/A with 3 single family residences, office, Indoor Arena with water misting dust control system, 9 stall horse barn, Tack Room, 22X30 shop, Utility/Storage Barn, 75X40 Storage Barn with restroom facilities, wash rack, dog kennel, 5 water wells, 6 septic systems, cross fenced, Coastal Bermuda Grass, wildlife food plot, 4 tanks, Great Hunting, Good 6 wire barbed wire fences, Post Oak, Live Oak, 7 miles East of Cross Plains. **ONLY \$995,000. MUST SEE!!!** Crystal Davis 325-370-7790.

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Lake Brownwood - Beautiful home site in gated community, short walk to lake	7,000
120 Angela Dr. - 3BR-2B, split level, hot tub, fireplace, 3 lots @ Lake Coleman, REDUCED	49,500
186 Lakeview Dr. - Nice newly finished 2BR-1B lake house with wrap around deck & lake frontage	79,500
616 Ave. E - 1BR-1B, completely remodeled, new roof, front porch, new 12x14 utility bldg.	13,900
260 Edgewood - Cozy 3BR-2B with fireplace, tile roof at edge of town	65,000
3 Ac. - 3BR-2B, new granite counter tops & AC unit, large oaks	104,900
10 Ac. & Home - 3/2 nice MH secluded & quiet, lots of oaks, garden, N. of Cross Plains	55,800
10 Ac. - Highway frontage, water well, electricity, good home site, mostly open	20,000
18.5 Ac. - 3BR-1B quaint farm house on paved road with good underground water	99,500

HUNTING & RECREATIONAL PROPERTY

11 Ac. - Rolling homesite with limited hunting & seasonal creek. Cottonwood area	29,500
13 Ac. - nice property with pond, great for a great homesite	39,000
18 Ac. - Post oak, live oak, on pavement, south of Cross Plains	36,000
20 Ac. - South of Cross Plains, oak trees, rolling, nice building sites	30,000
48 Ac. - Great location, good soil, good for livestock, may divide, REDUCED	71,280
59 Ac. - County water, beautiful views, oak trees, hwy frontage	87,000
60 Ac. - 3BR-2B home on edge of town, good land w/good barn & pens. N of Abilene	179,900
94 Ac. - Nice building sites, good fences, 1 tank, deer, turkey, quail, dove. May divide	169,200
97 Ac. - 5 tanks, post oak, hay barns, 4BR-2B stone home, deer, quail, dove, 1-20 frontage	450,000
108 Ac. - 2 tanks & rough beautiful oak pastures with ridges & views. Lots of natural beauty	157,325
125 Ac. - Excellent for cattle or hunting. Hwy/county road frontage, new fences, 1 tank, deer/bird hunting	118,750
164 Ac. - 2 tanks, beautiful place, remote, rolling hills, great hunting	288,900
168 Ac. - Rolling hills, with great deer hunting, pecan, live oak, & post oak, N of Eastland	275,000
233 Ac. - High fences on 2 sides, 1 excellent tank, rolling with mesquite & native grass	279,600

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NEW LISTING--NEAR BURKETT, 110/A, m/l, with older house, garage, pens. 1/4 Pecan Bayou, high hill and good trees. City water, county road frontage. \$225,000

* Very nice 3/3/2 on 1.5/A, City water and well. CH/A, Gas log Fireplace, Extra storage bldg w/nice office, 2 story house, nice yard with big trees. \$169,500

* Brick home, 3BR/2B, CH/A, privacy fence, corner lot, metal shop building. Owner finance with approved credit. Seller motivated. Bring offer. Will consider dividing. PRICE REDUCED FOR QUICK SALE. \$80,000.

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Beautiful and Spacious Country Home 1334 Lewis Lane. MLS# 101354, 3 bedrooms 3 full baths Formal Dining. Awesome Hilltop View. Clyde I.S.D. 2731 Square Feet \$210,000. Call Glenna to view this fabulous home at 325-665-7034

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Cross Plains Review

7

December 15, 2005

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TexSCAN Week of December 11, 2005

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Barb's Cues

By Barbara Holmes Worcester

Christmas at the Gas Station

George sat in his gas station on a cold Christmas Eve. It was just another day to him. He was sitting there looking at the snow when the door opened and a homeless man stepped through. George told the man to come and sit by the heater and warm up. He opened a wide mouth Thermos and handed it to the stranger. "Stew...I made it myself. When you're done, there's coffee and it's fresh."

Then he heard the "ding" of the driveway bell. "Be right back," George said. There was an old '53 Chevy. Steam was rolling out of the front. The driver was panicked. "Mister can you help me!" said the driver, with a deep Spanish accent. "My wife is with child and my car is broken."

George opened the hood. It was bad. "You ain't goin in this thing," George said. He went to the office wall and got the keys to his old truck, and went back outside. "Here, take my truck. George helped the woman into the truck and they sped off.

As he was working, he heard shots being fired. He ran outside and beside a police car an officer lay moaning. George helped the officer inside as he remembered the training he had received in the Army as a medic. "Pressure to stop the bleeding," he thought. The uniform company had just been there and had left clean shop

towels. He used those and duct tape to bind the wound.

George found the phone was dead. "Maybe I can get one of your buddies on that there talk box out in your car." He went out only to find that a bullet had gone into the dashboard destroying the two-way radio.

He went back in to find the policeman sitting up. "Thanks," said the officer, "The guy that shot me is still in the area." George pulled back the bandage to check for bleeding. "Looks worse than what it is. Bullet passed right through 'ya...I think with time your gonna be right as rain"

Just then, the office door flew open. In burst a young man with a gun. "Give me all your cash!" the young man yelled. His hand was shaking and George could tell that he had never done anything like this before. "That's the guy that shot me!" exclaimed the officer.

"Son, why are you doing this?" asked George, "You need to put the cannon away. Somebody else might get hurt." The young man was confused. "Shut up old man, or I'll shoot you, too. Now give me the cash!"

George spoke to the young man. "Son, it's Christmas Eve. If you need money, take this. It is all I have. Now give me that gun. The young man released the gun, and began to cry. "I'm not very good at this am I? All I wanted was to buy something for my wife and son," he went on. "I've lost my job, my rent is

due, my car got repossessed last week."

The young man looked over to the cop. "Sorry I shot you. It just went off. I'm sorry officer."

George could hear the sounds of sirens outside. A police car and an ambulance skidded to a halt. Two cops came in, guns drawn. "Chuck! You ok?" one of the cops asked the wounded officer.

"Not bad for a guy who took a bullet. How did you find me?"

"GPS locator in the car. Best thing since sliced bread. Who did this?" the other cop asked as he approached the young man.

Chuck answered him, "I don't know. The guy ran off into the dark. Just dropped his gun and ran."

"That guy work here?" the cop asked. "Yep," George said, "just hired him this morning. Boy lost his job."

The paramedics came in and loaded Chuck onto the stretcher. "Thanks for everything" he said as he left.

George went into the back room and came out with a ring box. Here is something for the little woman. I don't think Martha would mind. She said it would come in handy some day."

George reached into a box on the floor. An airplane, a car and a truck appeared next. They were toys that the oil company had left for him to sell. "Here's something for that little man of yours."

The young man turned with tears streaming down his face. "I'll be here in the morning for work, if that job offer is still good."

"Nope. I'm closed Christmas day," George said. "See ya the day after."

George turned around to find that the stranger returned. "Where'd you come from? I thought you left?" The stranger put his hand on George's shoulder.

You gave me food and drink and warmed me when I was cold and hungry. The woman with child will bear a son and he will become a great doctor. The policeman you helped will go on to save 19 people from being killed. The young man who tried to rob you will make you a rich man and not take any for himself. That is the spirit of the season and you keep it as well as any man. And when your days are done, you will be with Martha again.

"You see, George...it's My birthday. Merry Christmas." George fell to his knees and replied, "Happy Birthday, Lord."

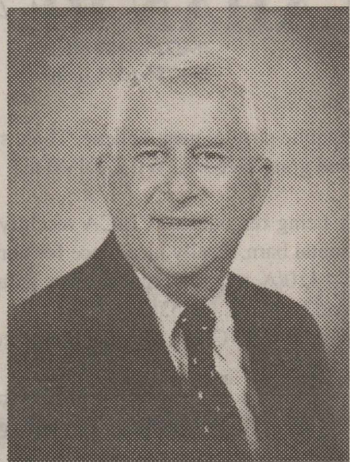
Roger Corn announces re-election bid for County Judge

Callahan County Judge Roger Corn is seeking Democratic nomination for re-election to the office of County Judge of Callahan County.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve you as your County Judge. I would like to thank each of you for this opportunity to serve, and for your support. Now I am asking each of you for your help and support for another term as your County Judge.

For those of you that do not know me, allow me to tell you a little about myself. I am a dedicated family man, who has worked most of my life as a business man, my family is a very important part of my life. Barbara (formerly Barbara Waldon of Clyde) my wife of 42 years, who after retiring from 27 years of teaching in the public schools, now runs an antique shop in Baird. We have three grown children and 3 beautiful grandchildren, our oldest son Kye of Dallas, our son Kelly and his wife Buffy with grandson Kade and granddaughter Kloe of Baird, our daughter Kristi and her husband John Belcher with granddaughter Libby of Clyde, and my mother-in-law Corinne Waldon of Clyde.

I will continue to support the Senior Citizens, the youth, and will continue to work for the best interest of all the tax payers and Callahan County. I believe in the "Golden Rule", and as Judge, have treated, not only all County employees, but all citizens of the County, just as I would like to be treated. I will



ROGER CORN

continue to run the office of County Judge with a no-nonsense, common sense, open door policy approach. As I have said in the past, and can still repeat, I still have no axes to grind, no personal hidden agenda and am not obligated to any group or individual and will continue to run the County in a conservative manner.

The office will continue to be run ethically and with honesty, always representing the entire County, never representing only a few. I will continue the fight against unfunded mandates from the State, that put more burdens on our local tax payers.

Each of you are important to me and I appreciate your support and influences and a "Sincere Thanks" for the opportunity to serve each of you and Callahan County as your County Judge.

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

Cross Plains Public Library Cedar Coffee Table drawing to be held soon

Time's running out to get your tickets for the drawing of the Solid Cedar Coffee Table built by Ron Conway and donated to the Cross Plains Public Library.

Tickets are just \$1.00 each, or 6 for \$5.00, and the drawing will be held at Texas Heritage Bank's Christmas Open House on Thursday, December 22. You can see this gorgeous table at the bank

and buy your tickets there, or you can buy tickets at Higginbotham's, Lawrence Farm & Ranch, Mexico City Cafe, Conway's Bitter Creek Ranch, Jean's Feed Barn, or the Library. You don't have to be at the drawing to win — we'll call the winner just as soon as we know who it is.

Wouldn't you love to have this handmade coffee table in your living or family room? Especially knowing that every dollar spent on tickets goes to help defray the operating expenses of your Cross Plains Public Library. The Friends of the Library would like to once again thank all of you who have donated financially and/or given of your time during 2005.

Submitted by Ginny Hoskins



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,
My reason for writing this piece is to share with others how a deepened awareness of the meaning of Christmas helped to overcome the feeling of dread that often accompanies the commercialism of the holiday. The gift of the Christ light can not be overshadowed. I hope you will find it a message you will want to share.

Sincerely, Shellie Evans
Abilene, TX 79602
The Christmas Gift
Giving and receiving ... a wonderful Christmas tradition. It began when the wise men brought their treasures to the baby Jesus and shared them with reverence and love. How did that wonderful event become so commercialized?

I remember the year it peaked for me. My children were young and did not shop for themselves. My weeks before Christmas were filled with rushing, shopping, wrapping, and complaining.

When Christmas morning arrived, I was exhausted. I found myself saying, "What is this all about?" I yearned in my heart to feel something more. I had to look for its meaning.

Is Christmas just about the birth of the baby Jesus? As I have read and studied What Christmas Means to Me and other Christmas Messages by author Mary Baker Eddy, I see that it is so much more. It is seeing the light, the Christ, which is for all mankind and for all time. In her message, "Christmas, 1900", she said, "Today the Christ is, more than ever before, "the way, the truth, and the life," "which lighteth every man that cometh into the world," healing all sorrow, sickness and sin."

When light shines through a prism, we see many colors. When the light of Christ shines in our lives, we see love, joy, peace, hope, healing.

I became more aware of this Christ light while working in an elementary school. Children came to my office to bring gifts. It was not the trinket they had purchased or picture they had drawn, but the love in their smile and joy in their eyes that made me realize "this is what it is about."

Several years ago as we were decorating the Christmas tree, my daughter who was home from college, said, "Mom, I just love Christmas." I smiled. I knew I loved Christmas too.

In spite of the commercialism and shopping crowds, I no longer look on the weeks before Christmas with dread, but with anticipation of peace, joy and love to share. I realized the light of the Christ can not be overshadowed. This was not a sudden happen-

ing, but has come gradually. I have deepened my awareness of the gift God gave.

"God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son." What gift could be more wonderful than that!

I am not sure who coined the phrase "the gift that keeps on giving," but it does describe what we have been given. So with Paul we can rejoice, "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."

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