

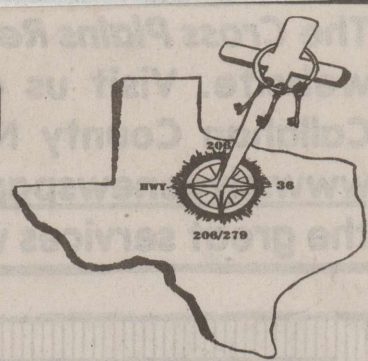
Rich in Agriculture
Abundant in Wildlife

Masthead Designed by Deborah Lowitzer

Cross Plains Review

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SOUTHWEST COLLECTION THURSDAY, June 1, 2006
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LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79409

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

98TH YEAR

CROSS PLAINS, CALLAHAN COUNTY, TEXAS 76443

PRICE 50¢

NUMBER 11

DOWN HOME

EDITOR'S NOTE: Linda Slaymaker faxed me this beautiful story with the request, "I hope you can use this sometime." Without question, this is a message for everyone. It appears lengthy, but it will only take a few minutes to read and you will be so changed.

Remember to always
CHOOSE LIFE!
Vanda Anderson

"The Choice"

He placed one scoop of clay upon another until a form lay lifeless on the ground. All of the Garden's inhabitants paused to witness the event. Hawks hovered. Giraffes stretched. Trees bowed. Butterflies paused on petals and watched.

"You will love me, nature," God said. "I made you that way. You will obey me, universe. For you were designed to do so. You will reflect my glory, skies, for that is how you were created. But this one is like me. This one will be able to choose."

All were silent as the Creator reached into Himself and removed something yet unseen. A seed. "It's called 'choice'. The seed of choice."

Creation stood in silence and gazed upon the lifeless form. An angel spoke, "But, what if he..."

"What if he chooses not to love?" the Creator finished. "Come, I will show you." Unbound by today, God and the angel walked into the realm of tomorrow. "There, see the fruit of the seed of choice, both the sweet and the bitter."

The angel gasped at what he saw. Spontaneous love. Voluntary devotion. Chosen tenderness. Never had he seen anything like these. He felt the love of the Adams. He heard the joy of Eve and her daughters. He saw the food and the burdens shared. He absorbed the kindness and marveled at the warmth.

"Heaven has never seen such beauty, my Lord. Truly, this is your greatest creation."

"Ah, but you've only seen the sweet. Now witness the bitter." A stench enveloped the pair. The angel turned in horror and proclaimed, "What is it?"

The Creator spoke only one word: "Selfishness."

The angel stood speechless as they passed through centuries of repugnance. Never had he seen such filth. Rotten hearts. Ruptured promises. Forgotten loyalties. Children of the creation wandering blindly in lonely labyrinths.

"This is the result of choice? the angel asked.

"Yes."

"They will forget you?"

"Yes."

"They will never come back?" said the angel.

"Some will. Most won't."

"What will it take to make them listen?"

The Creator walked on in time, further and further into the future, until he stood by a tree. A tree that would be fashioned into a cradle. Even then he could smell the hay that would surround Him.

With another step into the future, he paused before another tree. It stood alone, a stubborn ruler on a bald hill. The trunk was thick, and the wood was strong. Soon it would be cut. Soon it would be trimmed. Soon it would

See Down Home Page 12

Celebration of Rural Life in West Texas to Honor Cross Plains

You are cordially invited to a celebration of rural life in West Texas with the Bishop and the people of the Diocese of San Angelo. The Fifth Annual Rural Life Mass will be celebrated Tuesday, June 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the BK Ranch Pavilion located just one mile north of Coleman on Highway 283 North.

The theme for this year is *Our Faith Response to the Hardships of Rural Life*. In light of the many hardships we have experienced this year, such as the devastating fires and drought, we will gather to give thanks to God for the endurance of our people, the charity of our neighbors, and the

strength to endure and rise above these adversities.

The people of Cross Plains in Callahan County, have been an inspiring example to all of West Texas. Please come and join us in giving thanks to our God by gathering together and sharing in our faith stories.

A meal will be shared after the Mass and we invite you to bring members of your church community, your families, the people of Cross Plains and surrounding areas.

Submitted by
Deacon Beck Know
Rural Life Coordinator
(325) 280-8708

Callahan County receives clean audit report

Callahan County received a clean audit report during a presentation made to the County Commissioners' Court meeting held Monday, May 22 at the County Courthouse in Baird.

Melinda Brown with Stovall, Grandey & Allen, LLP, discussed the annual independent audit report with the court. The annual audit runs from October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2005. Ms. Brown commended Callahan County for a good clean audit.

On a motion by Commissioner Bryan Farmer and second by Commissioner Tommy Holland, the commissioners' court approved the independent audit by a 4-0 vote.

Other agenda items brought before the commissioners' court meeting included:

—County Judge Roger Corn called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. Present were Judge Corn, Commissioner Bryan Farmer, Commissioner Harold Hicks, Commissioner Tommy Holland, County Treasurer Dianne Alexander and County Clerk Jeanie Bohannon.

—The minutes of the May 8 commissioners' court meeting were approved as presented.

—There was no public comment received.

—Danny Ramos met with the commissioners' court to discuss the flooding on Bluebonnet Lane. The road is not a county maintained road. No action was taken.

—Eileen Manes discussed the Grant Works Program with the

commissioners' court and presented a Resolution for Callahan County to approve. Commissioner Farmer made a motion to table the item. Judge Corn seconded and the motion carried with a 4-0 vote.

—Commissioner Hicks made a motion to purchase two computers for the County Judge's office with funds out of the Records Management account. Commissioner Farmer seconded and the motion carried with a 4-0 vote.

—Commissioner Holland made a motion to allow the Texas Department of Transportation to rent space on Callahan County's radio communications tower for \$1,800 a year. Commissioner Farmer seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

—No action was taken by the commissioners' court concerning Texas Department of Transportation Mileage Certification.

—Commissioner Farmer made a motion to approve the Implementation Plan for 206 with the West Central Texas Council of Governments. Judge Corn seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

—Commissioner Holland made a motion to pay all approved bills. Commissioner Farmer seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

—Commissioner Holland made a motion to adjourn the commissioners' court meeting at 11:00 a.m. Commissioner Farmer seconded and the motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Come Experience a Wild Adventure during VBS at the First Baptist Church

Trek north to the Arctic Edge: **Where Adventure Meets Courage** to test your limits in the frozen frontier as you learn about Bible people who were pushed to the edge. You will learn that God is always with you and gain courage to follow Jesus in the everyday challenges of your life. Xtreme Polar Outlanders, or XPOs, can gather for this Vacation Bible School adventure at First Baptist Church. Children ages 4 through 6th grades are invited to join our Vacation Bible School from June 11 through 15th from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Built around a trip to the Arctic, the week will be full of exciting Bible stories, a Crafts Depot, fun music in Echo Bay, snacks

from Snowshoe Canteen, and recreation at Kayak Cove for everyone!

Additionally, teenagers can experience **"On the Edge: Where Adventure Meets Courage"** with Bible Study and special activities planned just for them. This week of fun, food and exciting learning opportunities is free of charge and open to everyone. Call First Baptist Church at 254-725-7629 or Charla White, VBS Director at 254-725-4510 for more information.

Get ready for a courageous adventure at the Arctic Edge: **Where Adventure Meets Courage.**

Submitted by Roxie Thomas



GLANCE TO THE PAST—The Violet Crown Radio Players even dress the part.

Old Time Radio Performance Returns to Cross Plains

Cross Plains will get a taste of the "Good Old Days" on Friday night, June 9, at 7:00 p.m. at the high school gymnasium when the Violet Crown Radio Players come for a visit during Robert E. Howard Days. One of the best-known old-time radio troupes in the country, the Violet Crown Radio Players perform original radio shows in front a live audience, complete with vintage costumes, swing music and live sound effects. Admission is free and the public is invited.

Who can forget those thrilling adventures of yesteryear, when the Lone Ranger, Little Orphan Annie and the Green Hornet roamed the "theater of the mind?" Long before the internet, and even television, radio was the popular entertainment of its day. Millions of listeners tuned in every night for their favorite shows, whether they were action-packed, romantic, dramatic or simply thrilling.

If you've never seen a radio

drama performed live, now is your chance. What makes the Violet Crown Radio Players show so unique is their ability to take audiences back in time to show them the ins and outs of a small town radio station in the 1930s. The Violet Crown Radio Players will present a double feature of family-friendly shows: an episode of their ongoing series, "The Adventures of Sailor Steve Costigan" and a haunting drama written by former Cross Plains High School teacher, Novalyne Price Ellis, called "Day of the Stranger."

"It's no accident that we're featuring Sailor Steve Costigan this June," said Creative Director Mark Finn. "This show is done in honor of Robert E. Howard's Centennial." Howard (1906-1936) is best known as the creator of Conan the barbarian, so much so that his other writing has become eclipsed by the character. "Robert was a Texan, and he

wrote in the tall tale tradition," said Finn, who has written the first book-length biography of the author in over twenty years. "These Costigan stories are great for a couple of reasons," said Finn. "They're really funny in that over-the-top Texas humor kind of way, and they showcase a different side of the creator who is associated with so serious a character as Conan."

Everyone in Cross Plains is invited to experience the golden age of radio as it was performed in the 1930s and 1940s on Friday night, June 9, at 7:00 p.m. at the high school gymnasium. There is no admission charge. The performance will begin immediately following the annual Robert E. Howard Days opening ceremonies and presentations. For more information about the Violet Crown Radio Players you can visit their website at www.violetcrownradio.com.

Immunization Clinics in Callahan County Announce Schedules

The Texas Department of State Health Services will hold an Immunization Clinics in Callahan as follows:

Monday, June 12th
Baird Cafetorium
400 West 7th
Baird, Texas
Time 10 a.m. -12 noon
Cross Plains Housing Authority
233 North Main
Cross Plains
Time 2-4

Wednesday, June 14th
Clyde First Baptist Church
216 Austin
Clyde, Texas
Time 10 a.m.-12 noon
and 1:30-3:00 p.m.
Please bring child's immunization records.
For more information call (325) 754-4945.

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

Turkey Creek Cook-off and Bullriding Event was a GREAT Success

There were five main categories in the 2006 Turkey Creek Cook-off and one optional category. This year's cook-off winners are as follows:

BRISKET
1st place - Hillbillies & Hippies
Rick Bennett
2nd place - Double J Ranch
James Williams
3rd place - Dana's Famous
Brisket & Ribs
Dana Hall

RIBS
1st place - Double J Ranch
James Williams
2nd place - Flamin' Floozie's
Carol Bennett
3rd place - Smokin' Bones
Brian Moss

Cross Plains Cemetery Association Meeting
Monday, June 5th
6PM
@ City Hall
Everyone Is Welcome

CHICKEN
1st place - Smokin' Bones
Brian Moss
2nd place - Hazardous Cooking
Inez King
3rd place - 2 Girls & a BBQ Pit
Ashley Hall
See Cook-off Page 9

Texas Heritage Bank
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COTTONWOOD NEWS

By WALLACE BENNETT

Memorial Day Celebrations Take The Cake

Members of the Callahan County Historical Association joined forces with the Belle Plains Cemetery Association for its Memorial Day celebrations and enjoyed a "memorable" indeed presentation. Carol and I attended as members of the Historical group. That was the first Cottonwood connection.

Nancy Robinson Masters, another Cottonwood Connection, a granddaughter of the Belle Plains Cemetery Association led the celebrations which were, of course, to commemorate the servicemen who have died in past wars and those who are yet fighting all over the world to preserve American freedoms. The veterans of all military forces who are yet alive were honored in the celebrations.

It began as an honor guard marched into the cemetery to raise the American flag and accompanied by a three plane fly-over of the cemetery. A business meeting of the association was conducted by

Nancy Masters which revealed the dedication and pride of the people of Belle Plains as she cited project after project they were involved with in keeping the cemetery looking good and preserving the rich history of the first County Seat of Callahan County.

Then she read from her book, "All My Downs have been Ups" interspersed with bagpipe tunes as two bagpipe players blew the familiar tunes of hymns and patriotic songs. The celebration ended as the bagpipe players marched out of the cemetery and into the distance playing the familiar tunes of Amazing Grace, "just as Willie sings it."

As the tune faded away in the distance, the crowd sat in silence for a few minutes, feeling pride in America and reverence with the dead soldiers of all wars. The crowd stood in silence as the flag was raised to full mast and the celebration continued with food, fun and the memories of good old days.

Coats Reunion In Cottonwood
The descendants of John

Hawkins Coats and friends had a very good time getting together from far away-places such as Bend, Oregon, Alpine, Texas, Dallas, Grandview, Perryton, and other places, in Cottonwood, for the Annual Coats reunion. This was the second Cottonwood connection.

Remember to buy your ticket for a chance to win the Quilting Club's quilt this year. Look for the Club's display at the Barbarian Festival.

OOP's! I Goofed, Again
My apologies to Beth Bogue, for naming her "Mary Beth" in last week's column. Elizabeth Bogue is also a decedent of the legendary Judge Henry Robinson of Cottonwood. She and husband, Sidney, now live on the old Robinson place in Cottonwood. I promise to remember her correct name in the future, unless I lose my mind, again. This was the third Cottonwood connection.

(Remember I can't print it if I don't know it. For personal or news items: Contact Wallace Bennett at 725-7474 or email csb5@airmail.net.)

PIONEER NEWS

The Pioneer School Reunion will soon be here. Sally May is so excited that she is getting to attend this year. She has dusted off her hat and pressed her dress, now all she has to do is to get her matching accessories ready. See you there!

Yes, Sally May wants to see all the students and their families from the surrounding communities at the Cross Plains Community Center on Saturday, June 3.

Sandy Hutton attended the Ballet Sunday in Cisco. Her four year old granddaughter, Hannah Jordan had a wonderful recital with the cutest pineapple costume. Later Trisha and Sandy attended the Rising Star Bacca-Jaureate where their great-niece, Aliosha Evans participated by reading a scripture.

Some of our quilters, Laverne,

Sandy, Olena, Charlene, Glenda, and Melissa all went to Margaret Wilson's home last Wednesday for their last ladies Bible class until September. Margaret had a wonderful lesson and they had a delicious salad luncheon. Glenda went to Cross Plains to watch Logan in the grade school field events. There were a lot of blistered kids. Glenda said she would have been cooked if she hadn't carried her umbrella. She also ate lunch with Logan in the cafeteria. She said it was real good. Glenda went with Janice and Logan to Comanche last Saturday night to watch Krista play softball. Kali invited the family to her new home for lunch after church Sunday. Everyone enjoyed the meal. Glenda went to see the high school awards Monday to see Krista get awards. The children of Glen Fleming

gave a scholarship in memory of Glen to one of the senior boys. Glen's wife and sister, JoVeda were at the awards.

Melissa Jackson, mentioned above, is a new member of our quilting club. She is the wife of the new minister at the Rising Star Church of Christ. We are really glad to have her.

The quilting ladies worked on Laverne's top. We didn't finish it, but Frankie came back during the week and finished it. We have Sandy's top in and Lou put her top in. We have enough work to last through June. Come on out if you would like to do some quilting.

We are sure in the need for some good rain. Let's all pray for it. The grass is turning brown and the wild flowers look wilted.

Have a good week! Hope to see lots of you at the Reunion!

86th Annual Reunion of Pioneer and Area Schools Saturday, June 3rd

The 86th Annual Reunion of Pioneer and area schools will be June 3, 2006 at the Cross Plains Community Center. Registration and coffee will begin at 8:30 a.m.

A memorial service and business meeting will be held before lunch. Our caterer this year will be Del Rich of Eastland. Lunch has been very good the last three years. We have to commit to 100 lunch tickets, so bring spouses and friends.

You are encouraged to share memories of school days and old times. We would enjoy hearing how your life has been since the foundation of your education at Pioneer. Tell us about where you have lived, your occupation, your children and grands, great-grands and great-great-grands. Who was your favorite teacher? Bring pictures!

There will be recognition of oldest man and woman, longest distance traveled and families with the most members present. We hope you can come early and stay late.

Submitted by
Frances (Grider) Taylor

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

QUIPS, CLIPS & COMMENTS

By KAY MOSLEY

NOTE: Memories passed down through the years help us all to hear and sometimes know of the historic lives of our ancestors.

"She's From Texas Too!"

Our family moved to Cross Plains sometime between December 1938 and January 6, 1941, I was born in the hospital in Baird on December 23rd. About two years later, my sister Ann was born in Cross Plains on January 6th. She was delivered by Dr. Eli Powell in our home.

Early on the morning of her birth, my aunt Opal Gattis came to our house. She invited me to go home with her to her farm. Her

husband was Obie Gattis. I asked Mama, and she said I could go. My mother's parents and all her sisters and brothers lived in Cross Plains.

It was very near dark when I got home. I ran into the front room all excited and eager to tell Mama what fun I'd had that day, but I saw something in that room that caused me to stop in my tracks. Do you know what I saw? While I was gone, Mama and Daddy got me a grand spankin' "new" brown-eyed BABY sister!

And oh what a baby she was. It wasn't very long until she decided she didn't want to take her bottle with the nipple on it. However,

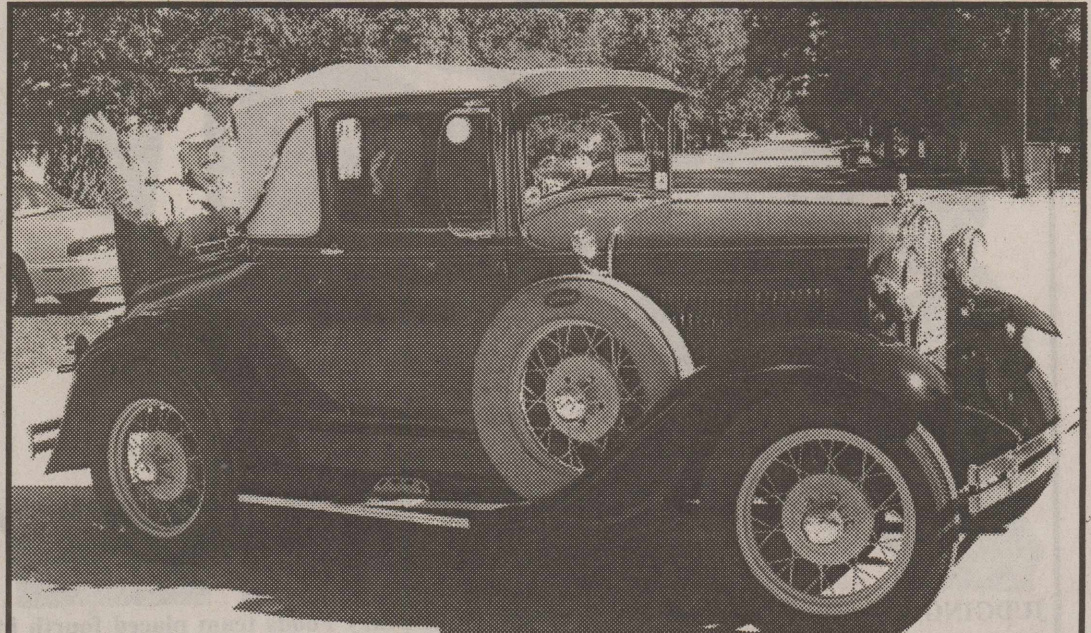
(as Mother found out) when you removed the nipple, she would turn it up and chug it right down. If you put the milk in a cup, she wouldn't drink it... only from a bottle with no nipple.

Ann was always laughing, cheerful and as bright as a button. She still is and lives in Texas. She still has those laughing cheerful brown eyes. She has a daughter and two sons. Her four grandsons are Drew, Landry, Evan and Hayes.

To sum it up, I would say leave things in as neat a condition as possible, because you never know what you might find when you get back home.

RISING STAR NURSING CENTER NEWS

By Linda Merritt



REMEMBER THE GOOD OLD DAYS—Jimmielee Payne (in back of car) and Nell Lancaster (passenger) enjoy a ride in this Model "A" car during the National Nursing Home Week.

LIBRARY NOTES

Statistics
May 22-26, 2006

Books	70
Internet Users	36
Memorials: Charles and Lou Rodenberger in memory of Mary Weaver	
Donations: Amber Thomas, Charles and Peggy Gann, Billye Sinclair and Sandy Doss	

Library Activity Report
May 22-26, 2006

Patron	89
Programs	12
Copies	23
Reference	2
Books Checked Out	70
Calls In	11
Internet Users	36

Cross Plains Review

3

June 1, 2006

SENIOR CITIZENS MENU

JUNE 5 - 9

MONDAY - Hearty Chicken Soup, Tossed Salad, Orange, Oatmeal Raisin Cookie, Crackers

TUESDAY - Meatloaf, Navy Beans, Turnip Greens, Banana Pudding w/Cookie, Bread

WEDNESDAY - Lima Beans, Beets w/Onions, Hominy Casserole, Tomatoes & Okra, Cheesecake, Cornbread

THURSDAY - Beef-Tomato & Macaroni, Broccoli, Waldorf Salad, Chocolate Pie w/Topping, Wheat Bread

FRIDAY - Oven Fried Chicken, Gravy, Whipped Potatoes, Green Beans, Gelatin w/Fruit, Roll

Join the Fun—June 10 42 Tournament and Bake Sale at Sr. Center

A 42 Tournament will be held Saturday, June 10, at 1:00 p.m. at the Senior Citizens' Center. Pre-registration fee is \$5.00 and \$7.00 the day of the event. Prizes will be awarded.

A Bake Sale is also planned for the same day. Please drop off

your baked goods at the Senior Center.

Proceeds from the 42 Tournament and Bake Sale will benefit the Senior Citizen's Center.

For more information, call Kathy Anderson (254) 725-6654

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Delivery will be **THURSDAY, June 8, 2006**, at the times listed for the following towns and locations.

Comanche-Gore Brothers (325) 356-2622 7-8 A.M.
Cross Plains-Cross Plains Grain & Peanut Co. (254)725-7345 9-10A.M.
Brownwood-Gore Brothers Inc. (325) 646-8966 11-12 A.M.
Bangs-Bob's LP Gas, Seed & Feed (325) 752-6422 12:30-1:30 P.M.
Santa Anna-Simmons Feed & Supply (325) 348-3168 2-3 P.M.
Winters-Alderman-Cave Feed (915) 754-4546 4-5 P.M.

To Place Your Order or for more information contact one of our Aquatic Consultants, your local dealer, or email sales@dunnsfishfarm.com. Our offices are now located in Oklahoma Mon-Fri 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. CST/Sat 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. CST. Call Toll Free 1-800-433-2950 or 1-580-777-2202 Fax 1-580-777-2899, or email us at www.dunnsfishfarm.com

Project Pride Meeting Tuesday, June 6th

Meeting date for Project Pride has changed to the first Tuesday evening of the month which calls for a meeting on Tuesday, June 6, at 6:00 p.m. at the Cross Plains

Public Library. Final plans will be outlined for Howard Days weekend. The public is welcome.
Submitted by Era Lee Hanke

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BREAKTHRU

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

In the comics, Linus asked Charlie Brown, "When you die, are you ever allowed to come back?" Charlie Brown replied, "Only if you had your hand stamped."

Lazarus, of the New Testament, "came back" but it wasn't because he "had his hand stamped," rather because Jesus wanted people to "see the glory of God" (John 11:4,40).

While God's glory was manifested then in Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead, the glory of God will be seen **nowadays** in Jesus' transformation of lives. Oh, the day of resurrection will be a glorious day, all right, but ones aren't "coming back" nowadays the way Linus meant — "hand stamped" or not. So, in the meantime, let's allow God's glory to be shown in our lives by being transformed into the likeness of His Son, Jesus (II Cor. 3:18) — with "unveiled faces" (the countenance of our lives reflecting the glory of God) rather than "stamped hands."

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

2006 Barbarian Festival Scholarship Winners Told

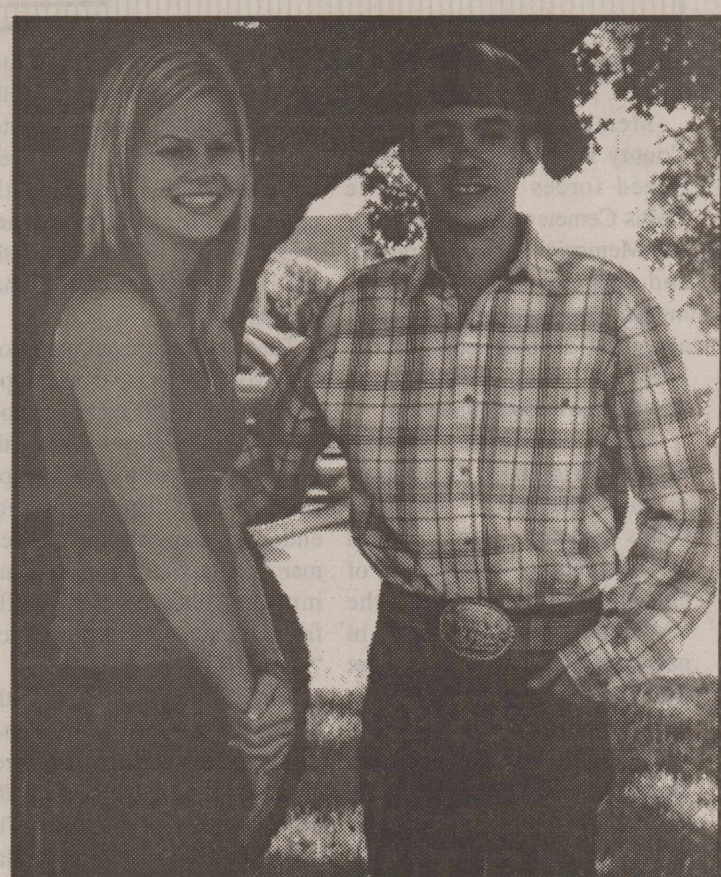
Jesse Norris and Ryan Payne have each been awarded a \$500.00 scholarship sponsored by the Cross Plains Barbarian Festival. This scholarship is made possible by the generous donations of local businesses in support of the festival. We are honored to award these scholarships in the memory of Terry Jane McWilliams Wyatt, who served as treasurer of the festival. Terry Jane was devoted to serving the community and had a love for her school. She devoted many hours to Project Graduation and showed great support and encouragement to our youth.

Requirements for the scholarship included an essay, list of awards, honors, and offices held, community service projects, GPA, as well as two (2) academic and two (2) personal reference letters.

Applications were judged by out of town retired teachers who did not know the students.

Jesse is the daughter of Mark and Rachelle Norris and the late Terry Norris. Her grandparents are Louis Brooks and the late Kenneth Brooks and Vicki Joan Bullard and the late Gene Norris.

Jesse has served as a member of the Key Club, PALS, Basketball, national Honor Society and FFA. She has served as Class Secretary, Class President, and Key Club President. She was placed on the National and Presidents Honor Rolls, Who's Who, and awarded the Hardin Simmons Top Junior Award. Jesse was chosen Most Beautiful, 1st Runner-Up Miss CPHS, Most Dependable, Most Likely to Succeed, and 2nd Team



SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS—Jesse Norris and Ryan Payne

All-District Basketball. Jesse plans to attend Hardin Simmons University and major in Elementary Education with a minor in mathematics.

Ryan is the son of Bobby and Cindy Payne and the grandson of Glenn and Lucille Payne and Audrey and Jewell Purvis. He is a member of the National Honor Society and the Principles Honor Roll. Ryan was awarded the Hardin Simmons Top Junior Award, and the Ag Mechanics award in memory of Leifton Hunter. He has been elected Greenhand FFA President, Class CPHS, Most Dependable, Most Likely to Succeed, and 2nd Team

and FFA serving on the Land Judging, Chapter Conducting, Dairy Cattle judging, Quiz and Skills team. He received the Greenhand and Lonestar Farmer Award, along with the Grain Proficiency Award. Ryan plans to attend Cisco Jr. College for two (2) years then transfer to Tarleton State University and major in Range and Pasture Management. A special thanks to all the sponsors who assist with festival expenses so these scholarships can be awarded each year, and to everyone who purchases tickets for the drawing with all proceeds going to the scholarship fund.



AREA IV POULTRY—The Statewide Area FFA Career Development Events competition was held this spring at Tarleton State University with the Poultry judging team from Cross Plains High School claiming first place in the Area IV poultry contest. Members of the team included (second from left) Russell Thomas (top high individual), Clayton Thomas (fourth high individual), Thomas Estes and Chance Watkins. At far right is Cross Plains FFA Advisor Marc Morgan and at far right is Dr. David Drueckhammer, Tarleton faculty member and Contest Director. (Tarleton News Service photo)



JUDGING TEAMS—The Cross Plains High School Dairy Foods team placed fourth in the Area IV Dairy Foods judging contest conducted at the Statewide FFA Area Career Development Event held this spring on the campus of Tarleton State University. Members of the team included Mandy Rose (from left), Hailey Biggs, Jake Snell, Terrah Augustine and Cross Plains FFA Advisor Roy Richey. (Tarleton News Service photo)

4-Cross Plains Review June 1, 2006

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Cross Plains Sports Camp Set for June 26-28

The Cross Plains Sports Camp is scheduled for Monday, June 26, thru Wednesday, June 28. This camp targets next year's 3rd graders thru 9th graders. Football emphasis will be from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. and basketball from 10:15 to 12 noon. The fee for one is \$20 and \$35 for both. Registration deadline is June 10th. Register in the superintendent's office at the Cross Plains I.S.D.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

School Board Meeting
 A called meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Cross Plains Independent School District will be held on **June 1, 2006**, beginning at **6:00 p.m.** in the High School Administrative Board Room. The subjects to be discussed or considered, or upon which any formal action may be taken are as follows:
 Open Meeting
 1. Discuss and take action on reassignment issue of an employee (exception consultation with attorney) Tex Gov.Code 551.071
 2. Adjourn
 This notice was posted in compliance with the Open Meeting Act on May 26, 2006, at 11:00 a.m. by Jackie Tennison for the Board of Trustees.



Send or Receive Faxes (254) 725-7225
 At The Cross Plains Review

THE MADNESS

ALL STUDENTS 7-12 GRADES AT
 CROSS PLAINS ARE INVITED!
 WEEK OF JUNE 19-23
 6:00 - 9:00 P.M.

MONDAY.....PAINT BALL
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Scranton Exes' Homecoming scheduled for June 3rd

Please mark your calendar for the annual Scranton Ex's Homecoming which will be held this year on the first Saturday in June, at the Scranton Community Center. We hope this change will increase the opportunities for each of you to attend, and to support the Scranton Community Center. Registration starts at 11:30 a.m. with a potluck lunch starting at noon. Our potluck lunch this year will be sandwiches, chips, dips and desserts. If you can, please bring these items for your family and to share with those who travel and are not able to bring food. After lunch, we will have a special memory time, a

business meeting, a music program by Roy Lee Williams, presentations, and our closing program will be musical performance by Yogi Baird. We look forward to seeing each one of you as your attendance is important to maintaining our Scranton community spirit and our traditions. We encourage you to wear our school colors of green and gold. We hope you will be able to come and enjoy our homecoming program, and then stay afterwards to enjoy the meal and the Scranton Musical. Yogi Baird will also be performing at the Scranton Musical. The kitchen opens at

5:30, and the musical starts at 6:00. This is the largest fund-raising event of the year for the Scranton Community Center, which provides the location for our homecoming each year. This year, the menu will be BBQ brisket, beans, slaw, potato salad, french bread, and a drink, all for \$7.00 per plate. We hope you will be able to stay, enjoy the meal, enjoy the entertainment, support the Scranton Community Center, and have more time for visitation. Please note the Scranton Ex's Homecoming Committee now has a permanent address, P.O. Box 149, Cisco, Texas 76437

Oplin Bi-Annual Homecoming and Community Wide Dinner Set for Saturday, June 3rd

The Oplin Community Center would like to invite everyone who has ever lived in the Oplin Community to mark their calendars for Saturday, June 3 for our bi-annual Homecoming and Community Wide Dinner. Folks will begin to gather at the community center about 9:00 a.m., bringing with them a side dish or dessert to accompany all the brisket that our volunteers will cook to perfection. Lunch will be served somewhere around noon and the visiting will continue until

around 3:00 p.m., or thereabouts.

This is an opportunity for the newcomers to meet the old-timers, for the young to meet the young at heart, and for folks to meet their neighbors. So be sure to mark your calendar and come on out for a day of good folks and plenty of good food. For further information about our homecoming please contact Doug or Judi Campbell at 529-4301 or Tom and Pam Rumfield at 529-4522.

Submitted by: Pam Rumfield

5-Cross Plains Review June 1, 2006

BENZENE ALERT

If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with **Acute Myelogenous Leukemia (AML)** or **Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS)**, please call us today toll free at 1-866-369-3476 to discuss your legal rights.

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Help Eastland Healthcare Center Buy a New Van (You can Help)

A fund-raiser of Friends and Family Support Group of Eastland Healthcare will be holding a drawing for a 3 wheel scooter or a power chair.

You may purchase a ticket for \$5.00 to win your choice of either a Pride Legend 3 Wheel Scooter or a Pride Jet 2 Power Chair donated by Allegro Mobility, 209 South Lamar, Eastland.

The proceeds from this project will be used to purchase a van to transport residents at the nursing home (Eastland Healthcare).

Local businesses selling tickets include Lawrence Farm and Ranch Supply, Inc.; TNT Auto Care; Jean's Feed Barn; Mexico City Cafe; Ray's Barber Shop and Cross Plains Grain and Peanut.

If you need additional information call (254) 631-0085.

Donations Needed for 2 New Shuttle Vans for Disabled Vets

The Veterans Memorial Clinic is accepting donations for two new shuttle vans. These vans are used to transport disabled veterans to the Temple/Waco hospitals for their appointments. The shuttle vans are in operation Monday through Friday, departing the clinic at 7:30 a.m. and returning after the last appointment is finished.

The drivers are all dedicated volunteers who give in excess of 270 hours per month. Approximately 220 patients per month are transported an average of 8100 miles.

The veteran's administration does not provide the vans, but they do provide all the maintenance, insurance, rules, safety measures and fuel. The VA is currently running on a \$35,000,000 deficit. Budget cuts are expected to continue. Your assistance is requested to continue this worthy program.

A shuttle fund has been set up at Bank of America, 1 Center Avenue, Brownwood, Texas 76801. All donations will go strictly toward the purchase of two new shuttle vans, the approximate cost of both is \$45,000.00. Those needing a tax number please make all donations payable to VFW Shuttle Fund, all others can make the donations payable to Veterans Shuttle Fund.

Submitted by
Cookie James
Brownwood VA Clinic
325-642-4264
Shuttle Promotions
Rocky Dudley

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CROSS PLAINS REVIEW

Baird Antiques Market/ Trade Days set for June 9-10

The Baird Chamber of Commerce is planning its annual Antiques Market/Trade Days celebration June 9th and 10th.

The affair will take place on historic Market Street with shopping indoors and outside where there will be plenty of antiques, collectibles and crafts offered, and plenty of good food vendors all weekend.

Saturday events include a Little Miss Trade Days Pageant, quilt show, music, line dancing, dunking booth, antique cars; and don't miss the antique pedal cars. Gymnastics teams will be performing throughout the day. A Fort Griffin Historical Reenactment will be performed and antique buggies will be displayed.

For the children and the young at heart, there will be air castles, face painting, a pet show, and at 4:00 p.m. There will be a bicycle, pedal car, go cart, antique car and pet parade. This you do not want to miss.

There will be storytelling and the Chamber Train will be

offering rides to children all day. The Callahan County Courthouse will be open for the quilt show, viewing the War Veterans Hall of Fame, and perusing the museum and library.

There will be a Tea Time Appraisal Fair from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m., at the historical home in downtown Baird. Appraisal Fair tickets must be purchased in advance. For information and tickets call 854-1756.

A chili, chicken, ribs and brisket cookoff will get underway Friday with awards presentation at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Weekend activities will wind down Saturday night with a street dance featuring Southern Edge. Tickets are \$10 per person, \$5 for children, \$5 cooler fee.

For information, tickets, booth space reservation, or to enter any of the events call the Baird Chamber of Commerce at 854-2003 or Barbara Corn at 854-1137.

Submitted by: Tommie Jones

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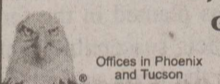
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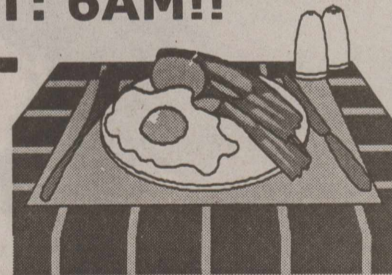
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Lower electricity rates approved for WTU Retail Energy customers

HOUSTON—Residential and small commercial customers of WTU Retail Energy who are currently paying discounted Price-to-Beat rates will see those discounts deepened and extended through the summer months.

The Public Utility Commission of Texas has approved a filing by WTU Retail Energy, a Direct Energy company, requesting an increase in residential discounts to an average 13.5 percent for July through September, and small commercial discounts to approximately 6.5 percent discounts off the Price-to-Beat during those same months. Under the approved plan, fixed-discounted rates will also be maintained through the end of the year.

Unlike other plans available to West Texas customers, the discount will be applied unilaterally to WTU's residential and small commercial customer bills without requiring any action on the customer's behalf—no switching or long-term, contract commitments, or potential early termination penalties. Customers must be receiving service from WTU Retail Energy by June 30, 2006, to receive these discounts.

The average summer savings for WTU Retail Energy residential customers will be \$25.89 per month, based on the PUCT-approved Price-to-Beat rate of \$0.191 per kWh and average monthly consumption of 1,000 kWh.

"We have been able to provide

discounts to help stabilize our customers' electric bills for the better part of the last 12 months, and we believe that continuing to pass savings through to our customers is the right thing to do," said Phil Tonge, President, Direct Energy Texas, WTU's parent company. Direct Energy recently announced it is more closely aligning its brand to WTU Retail Energy. "We commend the Public Utility Commission for reviewing our filing on an expedited basis to allow the discounts to be applied to customer bills in July. The unprecedented actions we've taken over the last year to help mitigate price volatility and provide competitive pricing for Price-to-Beat customers in West Texas provide a strong signal to the market that retail electric competition does benefit the consumer."

The company has also committed to extend additional discounts to its West Texas customers most in need of financial support. WTU Retail Energy customers who would have received assistance through the state's LITE-UP Texas program which was discontinued in 2005 will receive an additional five percent discount off the rebated Price-to-Beat rate from June 1 to December 31, 2006. Direct Energy, through its affiliate brand WTU Retail Energy, voluntarily reinstated and funded a low-income discount for its customers following the Legislature's decision to quit

funding the program last year. In addition, WTU Retail Energy and its affiliate, CPL Retail Energy, agreed to provide \$500,000 to the Texas Association of Community Action Agencies (TACAA) to augment funding for member agencies that provide low-income energy assistance and support. In addition, Direct Energy will be making an additional \$500,000 contribution to its Neighbor to Neighbor fund.

About Direct Energy
Direct Energy is part of the Centrica group of companies, the largest non-utility retail energy provider in North America. The North American operations have grown to over 5 million customer relationships. In Texas, the company is the third largest retail energy provider in the state and provides services to homebuilders and homeowners through Direct Energy, CPL Retail Energy, WTU Retail Energy and its Residential Services Group of Airtron, Hallmark Air Conditioning and Heating, a-abc Appliance & Air Conditioning, and K&N Plumbing and Jarrell Plumbing. Its Texas based customer service call center supports approximately one million customer relationships in the state. Globally, the Centrica group of companies is a leading provider of energy and other essential services with approximately 31 million customer relationships. For more information, visit www.directenergy.com.

Producers reminded of June 1 sign-up deadline for 2006 crop Direct and Counter-cyclical payment program

(Baird, TX)-- May 22, 2006 – Agricultural producers have until June 1, 2006, to sign up for the 2006-crop Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP), said Robert Frost, County Executive Director with the Callahan County Farm Service Agency (FSA).

USDA will accept late-filed DCP applications through Sept. 30, 2006, if accompanied by a \$100 late fee. Producers will be unable to apply for 2006 DCP payments after Sept. 30, 2006. Sign-up for the 2006 DCP began Oct. 1, 2005.

"I encourage farmers and growers to sign up for DCP by June 1 by visiting the USDA FSA office or by using the convenient online DCP service," said Frost. "This program plays an important role in providing producers income support."

The program provides payments to eligible owners, operators, landlords, tenants, or sharecroppers on farms enrolled for the 2002 through 2007 crop years. There are two types of DCP payments – direct payments and counter-cyclical pay-

ments. Direct payments are tied to acreage bases and yields. Because direct payments provide no incentive to increase production of any certain crop, the payments support farm income without distorting producers' current production decisions.

Counter-cyclical payments provide support counter to the cycle of market prices as part of a federal farm program "safety net" in the event of low crop prices. Counter-cyclical payments for a commodity are only issued if the effective price for a commodity is below the target price for that commodity.

The 2002 Farm Bill requires producers sign annual contracts through 2007 to participate in DCP. Producers may choose not to participate in DCP in any year. USDA has issued more than \$28 billion in DCP payments to producers since the program began in October 2002.

ONLINE DCP SIGN-UP
Producers may also sign up for DCP online at http://www.fsa.usda.gov/egov/edcp_default.htm. Applicants

must have an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account to use the service. This requires filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> and visiting the local FSA office for identity verification.

The online service allows producers to choose 2006 DCP payment options, assign crop shares, as well as sign and submit their contracts over the Internet. The service was designed to reduce paperwork and speed up contract processing at FSA offices.

The DCP was authorized by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (2002 Farm Bill) and is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency.

More information on DCP is available at local FSA offices, and in the DCP fact sheet posted online at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/publications/facts/html/dcp06.htm>. FSA's Web site is www.fsa.usda.gov.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

What if there is an unseen, yet very calculating deceptive enemy in our midst whose sole purpose is to corrupt the truth, and therefore cause confusion and doubt to blind the eyes of God's people?

And what if this dark force knows mankind well enough to be assured that a lot of them will be snared by this trap, as it tickles their intellect and is peppered with compelling mystery?

If this plot consists of just enough truth, mingled with speculation and intriguing fiction -- wouldn't it be just the ticket to cause hundreds, if not thousands

to doubt not only the validity of the Bible, but also that Jesus is the only sinless Savior?

This cunning force, in the form of a snake posed this same scenario to the first man and woman like this, "Has God indeed said...?" (paraphrase mine) "Is the word of God really true...or is there some hidden agenda He's hiding from you...?"

With this, a perverse seed of doubt was planted in the fertile soil of their susceptible minds. They bit the hook and plunged into chaos, bondage and spiritual death.

Then, two thousand years ago,

the ONE in the middle of all this controversy asked His followers, "Who do men say that I, the Son of man, am?" But He also looked them square in the eye and asked point blank, "Who do you say that I am?"

Something tells me He's just as interested today in asking you and I the very same question.

So, in the face of the Da Vinci Code craze, Who will we believe Jesus is...Who He says He is, and always has been... or what various men speculate?

The choice is ours.

~Mrs. Deborah Lowitzer

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The movie, "The Whole Wide World", starring Renee Zellweger and Vincent D'onofrio, tells the story of a love that never gets off the ground, focusing on Robert E. Howard, the author who wrote such pulp classics as "Conan The Barbarian" and "Red Sonja". Howard, who wrote during the 30's struck up a relationship with a Cross Plains High School teacher, Novalyne Price, but his insecurities and a devotion to his ailing mother kept him from what could have been the love of his life.

6-Cross Plains Review June 1, 2006

Energy conservation tips for the summer months

HOUSTON—With warmer weather here, it's time to start preparing your home for the summer heat. WTU Retail Energy offers some simple tips that can help you stay cool, conserve energy and save on energy costs.

1. **Keep your thermostat setting under control.** During the summer, turn up the thermostat to 78 degrees or higher throughout the day and turn the air conditioner off when you are not at home.

2. **Cover the windows.** Keep your window coverings closed on the south, east, and west windows during the hot months to help maintain a comfortable climate inside.

3. **Switch from Incandescent to Compact Florescent Bulbs (CFLs).** CFLs last four to 10 times longer than traditional incandescent light bulbs—and they only require one quarter of the energy! Take a look at all of those bulbs around the apartment—it adds up.

4. **Use appliances efficiently.** Do only full loads when using your dishwasher and clothes washer. Use the cold water setting on your clothes washer when you can. You can conserve up to 75% of the energy required to run the washer by using cold water. Also, be sure to clean your clothes dryer's lint trap after each use and use the moisture-sensing automatic drying setting on your dryer if you have one.

5. **Save the dryer.** Use a stand-alone clothes rack to dry your clothes. If you must use your dryer, try to dry two loads consecutively to make the most of the heat you generated in the first load.

6. **Install Low-flow water fixtures:** Save energy while saving water. A low-flow showerhead

can reduce your water usage by two thirds.

7. **Take Showers.** Start taking showers instead of baths. Baths consume two and a half times more hot water than a shower.

8. **Set your ceiling fan in reverse.** Something as simple as setting your ceiling fan in reverse will circulate the warm air, pulling it away from the ceiling and cooling off the room. Ceiling fans use about the same electricity as a 100-watt light bulb and costs just pennies a day to run.

9. **Use the microwave.** Whenever possible, use the microwave instead of the oven. The microwave uses two-thirds the amount of energy as a regular oven.

10. **Be smart with home electronics.** Turn off your computer and any other home office equipment when you're not using them. Also switch to a flat-panel monitor and you'll use one third of the power compared to conventional monitors.

For additional tips or more information about WTU Retail Energy, please call 1-866-322-5563, visit wturetailenergy.com or e-mail them at customer@wturetailenergy.com. Customer care representatives are available from 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. CST, Monday through Saturday.

About WTU Retail Energy
For more than 75 years, WTU Retail Energy and its predecessors have provided electricity to residential and small business customers in West Texas, including Abilene, Alpine and San Angelo. WTU Retail Energy, a Direct Energy company, is part of Centuca's international group of companies providing retail energy and other essential services across Texas and worldwide.

Floral Gallery, Hot Rocks and Cool Stones, Tomboy Tools, Lin's, Greenbelt Gardens, and vendors for wonderful crafts, health products, and cookbooks.

A bake sale will be in full swing all day for the perfect goodie to take with you.

Is there a hitch to this wonderful event? Only one...you must purchase your brunch tickets (\$15.00 each) and/or your tea and entertainment tickets (\$10.00 each) by June 9th. It is easy to do, however, just call the Abilene Woman's Club office at 325-698-1768! Along with each ticket comes the opportunity to win A Day at the Spa at Absolute Perfection. Additional tickets for this drawing (\$5.00 each) may also be purchased at the Abilene Woman's Club.

Can't come for the brunch or tea? Then join them on June 17th for browsing at no charge. The facility at 3425 South 14th will be open from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Don't wait...put us on your calendar now for June 17th!

Want to know a little more about the Abilene Woman's Club? The Texas Historical Commission recently awarded the Club an historical designation. The Club is in the process of restoring the clubhouse to its original beauty. Members are funding the project with special benefits and donations and appreciate the public's support in attending special events such as A Day to Celebrate Women.

The Abilene Woman's Club was organized in December, 1928 and chartered in 1929. The current clubhouse, built in 1954, is a landmark in the community and is used by many organizations and individuals throughout the year. The membership is involved in all facets of Abilene civic life through their contribution of professional, volunteer and financial support. The Club sponsors and fetes the Girls of the Month program, which honors students named by their respective middle schools, as well as granting some 18-20 scholarships given annually to those who chose to go back to school in spite of severe hardships as well as area high school graduates.

Come join us on June 17th for a great day of food, fun, and fantastic items to purchase.

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Editorial—The state's role in school reform

By Jim Nelson and Abe Saavedra

The Texas Supreme Court has given the state a June 1 deadline to come up with a new method to fund public schools that lowers property taxes. With this deadline looming, focusing on school finance must clearly be the priority this special session.

The Texas Education Reform Caucus—a bipartisan group of educators and business leaders—urges our state's leaders to get the job done quickly so that they can move onto education reform issues either during this special session or in January. If the Legislature allocates any new money for education, we ask that those dollars be tied to education improvements that are measurable and most directly improve classroom learning.

To improve our schools will take a broad partnership of stakeholders. We urge lawmakers to aggressively meet with educators and business leaders to discuss and debate the proposed education reforms. This collaborative process begs the question—what is the role of the Legislature in school reform?

Two decades ago, Texas did not have a high performing school system. Today, however, our state is a leader in preparing students for college, enabling students to reach a standard of excellence and closing the

achievement gap.

We've seen marked improvement, thanks to a balance of three elements: accountability of schools for results, local control and building capacity of the system.

The state's role has been to set high standards and holds districts accountable for meeting them, give districts the freedom to design their own policy framework for results and provide adequate resources and other capacity measures. The state has not been in the business of micromanaging schools.

Since 1995 when the Education Code was revised, the state's share of public education funding has dropped to its lowest level in decades while it has passed dozens of new requirements that impinge on local control, such as the 65 percent rule restricting districts from allocating resources to best meet their needs. Recent proposals for a uniform school start date and November school board elections would have no impact on student learning. The state must maintain its role of focusing on the results, not the "how to" so that local school districts can innovate and develop their own reforms.

Clearly, districts have different needs that will largely determine how they manage their human resources and allocate their dollars. The Legislature must give

districts more flexibility to allocate and target resources where they will make the most improvements in a school.

School districts should have more flexibility to hire the teachers and administrators who will most effectively improve student achievement and operations. Districts should be encouraged to incorporate incentive pay for teachers in shortage areas or low-performing campuses and merit pay for improved student performance. Without competitive compensation, Texas cannot staff its high schools with qualified science and math teachers.

Ultimately, education reform should be about improving the quality of education our children receive. Texas policymakers have helped lead a revolution in our public schools over the past decade. But many of the regulations and some of the new proposals under consideration may no longer be necessary. In fact, they could stand in the way of the next giant step on the journey to better schools for all Texas children and a prosperous future for all Texans.

Jim Nelson is a former Commissioner of Education and superintendent of the Richardson Independent School District. Abe Saavedra is superintendent of the Houston Independent School District.

Control Pond Algae for Clean, Healthy, Beautiful Water

No matter if it is a decorative pond, water garden, golf course pond or stock tank, nothing drives pond owners crazier than an infestation of pond scum or pond algae. The only thing that equals the frustration of seeing it, is trying to control it. The ability to identify the type of algae in a pond and then to limit the nutrients available to it goes a long way in preventing pond algae growth.

There are 3 basic types of pond algae:

1. **Plankton algae** are microscopic, free floating algae that gives ponds their clear green color.

A normal population of planktonic algae is mandatory for a healthy pond, as they are the base of the food chain and are responsible for supplying the pond with dissolved oxygen, essential for the health of the other aquatic life. When planktonic algae start to bloom, they will give ponds a pea soup coloration. This usually takes place in summer months.

2. **Filamentous algae**, often called pond scum or pond moss, begins growing on the bottom of pond surfaces like rocks and logs and resemble green fur. As the clumps grow, they break loose from the bottom and float to the top, causing ugly green mats on the pond surface. Filamentous algae begins growing in the early

spring and is noticed around the edges of the pond in shallow water. It has no redeemable value to a pond.

3. **Attached-erect algae** commonly are mistaken for a higher vascular plant due to its dense, gritty appearance and its resemblance to aquatic plants with leaf-like structures. Attached-erect algae are less common, but due to its thickness, blooms can be dangerous to swimmers along with being a nuisance to other water activities. Attached-erect algae provide no significant value to a pond system.

Algae blooms in ponds are stimulated by the availability of excess nutrients in the pond and sunlight penetration. Excess nutrients usually come from fish feces, decaying vegetation, fish food and fertilization run-off. Shallow, clear ponds are often the most likely environments for algae to occur, due to the ability of sunlight to penetrate through to the bottom soil.

The options available for algae control are wide. Herbicides/algacides like copper sulfate are common solutions used, due to its ability to kill the algae quickly. However, a quick kill off of algae will actually work against the health of the pond. Large algae kills will result in a decrease in available oxygen for other

aquatic life and the increase in nutrients stemming from the dead algae, which leads to new cycles of algae growth.

An effective, long term method to control pond algae is the use of a live microbial product, like *Natural Enviro 4000* that utilizes special beneficial bacteria to break the growth cycle of pond algae. The microbes, once introduced into the pond, consume the excess nutrients, limiting the amount available for the algae. They also break down the decaying vegetation and other organic matter that algae get nutrients from, while at the same time releasing oxygen back into the pond. The products are also all-natural and completely safe for fish, animals and turf plants.

This introduction of increased oxygen levels creates two positive effects. Increased levels of oxygen in the water will cause decomposition of organic matter to occur faster, thus limiting the amount of nutrients available. Increased amounts of oxygen also squeeze out other gasses like carbon dioxide, which aquatic like algae need to survive.

The fight to control pond algae is a formidable challenge, but with knowledge and the help from a live microbial product, a clean, healthy and beautiful pond can be achieved. For further info call: 1-800-999-9345

EIGHTH ANNUAL BARBARIAN FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2006

MAIN STREET—CROSS PLAINS, TEXAS

BARBARIAN SPONSORS

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CHILDRESS FARMS
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K-9 KUTS
RAY'S BARBER SHOP
STAGHORN CAFE

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

9:30 PARADE
KIDS AREA & VENDORS OPEN
CAR, TRACTOR & MOTORCYCLE DISPLAY
BAKE SALE—SR CITIZENS CENTER
TEXAS TORNADOES—STAGE
10:00 ENTERTAINMENT BY:
10:30-4:00 CLASS OF '57 & THE BUFFALO GAP
BLUE GRASS BAND
RAFFLE DRAWINGS
1:00 42 TOURNAMENT—SR. CENTER
4:00 AWARDS—STAGE

WATCH KTXS TV-KTAB TV-KRBC TV FOR
COMMERCIAL BEGINNING MAY 22ND



Victor Carrillo named oil commission vice chairman

At its recent Midyear Summit Meeting in Billings, Montana, the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC) named Texas Railroad Commissioner Victor G. Carrillo as its Vice Chairman for a one-year term beginning in October 2006. Commissioner Carrillo is currently the Second Vice Chair of the organization. The group also named Governor John Hoeven of North Dakota as its Chairman and Lynn Helms of North Dakota as Second Vice Chair.

Congressionally chartered in 1935, the IOGCC is the largest compact of states and represents the regulatory and policy

interests of the nation's petroleum producing states. The IOGCC represents the governors of 37 states. Its mission is to champion the efficient recovery of domestic oil and natural gas resources while protecting health, safety, and the environment. The IOGCC is an effective and strong advocate of the states on these important issues.

The newly chosen IOGCC officers will begin their term of office at the IOGCC Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas, on October 15-18, 2006.

To learn more about the IOGCC, go to: <http://www.iogcc.state.ok.us/>

Summer beef campaign addresses oversupply

AUSTIN—Seasonal increases in beef supply coupled with higher costs and oversupply of competing proteins make for a bleak outlook as summer approaches, but the Beef Checkoff Program has a plan.

In an effort to keep beef in high demand, TBC will expand current marketing programs, while working to extend the national effort. The \$400,000 state campaign, approved by the TBC Executive Committee in April, centers around summer grilling and runs through September, extending the promotion through Labor Day.

Efforts include expanded radio advertising in smaller markets to build on the national extension in the major markets, and increased consumer promotions including retail storefront events in Houston, Dallas/Fort Worth, Austin, San Antonio and the Rio Grande Valley. TBC will work in cooperation with partners and major retailers to expand in-store promotions and point of sale materials.

"Summer grilling and beef go hand in hand," said Leo Vermedahl of Dalhart, chairman of TBC's Board of Directors,

"therefore it is the perfect time to 'beef up' our marketing efforts."

On the national level, funded by the Beef Checkoff Program through the Federation of State Beef Councils, the Federation leadership approved two million dollars to expand existing efforts while focusing on aggressive consumer advertising and a promotional campaign. The effort includes radio advertising, retail promotions, an intensive public relations push and widespread product sampling in cooperation with major retailers.

"The goal of the beef checkoff is to build long term beef demand, with the understanding that there are times when supply issues create the need to increase program areas that have proven effective in moving additional tonnage in brief periods of time," said Vermedahl. "This state and national effort is a good example of the partnership working together to move beef during the summer months," he added.

For more information on these and other TBC programs, please visit www.texasbeef.org or call (800) 846-4113.

2006 Cross Plains High School Homecoming Letters READY

The 2006 Cross Plains High School Homecoming letters are ready to be picked up at Texas Heritage Bank. Just ask to see Dannes Turner.

Please return the letters to her by the middle to the end of June. **The deadline is July 1st.**

Dannes will make sure they are stamped and mailed!

Your kind cooperation is appreciated, as everyone strives for another truly outstanding Homecoming.

Ex-students are encouraged to start making plans to attend.

Callahan County DPS Report

Calls received by the Callahan County Department of Public Safety from May 21, 2006 through May 27, 2006 include:

Cases Investigated
Warnings—167
Complaints—144
DWI—2
Fugitive Arrest—3

Subscribe To The Cross Plains Review

NRC's announces \$1 million to protect farm & ranch land

Temple, TX— Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist Larry Butler recently announced the availability of more than \$1 million to protect agricultural land in Texas through the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) in fiscal year 2006.

"Preserving the state's prime agricultural farm and ranch lands helps to ensure a vibrant future for American agriculture," said Butler. "Once protected by conservation easements, this land will be shielded from development pressure and continue to support our safe and abundant food supply."

The NRCS is seeking proposals from state, federally recognized tribal and local governments, and nongovernmental organizations interested in working together to acquire conservation easements on

farms and ranches. NRCS State Offices must receive proposals by 5:00 p.m. EDT on May 11, 2006. NRCS is expected to announce final project selections in June.

Since the program's inception in 1996, more than 2,000 acres of farm and ranch land have been protected in Texas. FRPP protects productive agricultural land by purchasing conservation easements to limit conversion of farm and ranch lands to non-agricultural uses. Using existing programs, USDA partners with state, tribal, or local governments and nongovernmental organizations to acquire conservation easements or other interests in land from landowners. USDA provides up to 50 percent of the appraised fair market value of the conservation easement in this voluntary program. State and local entities can match

that amount, including the use of landowner donations.

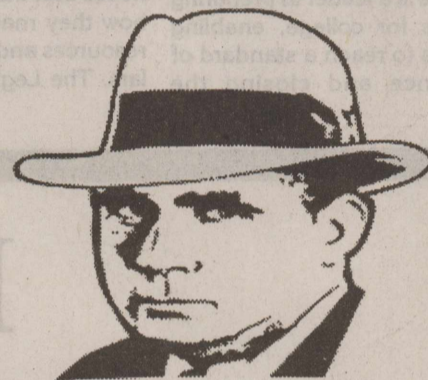
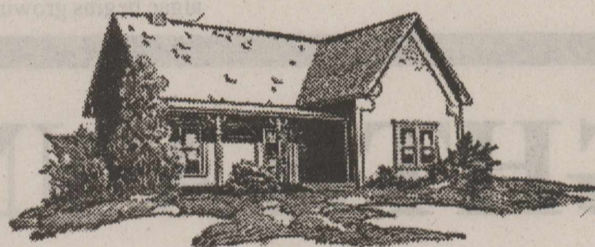
The eligible farm or ranch must have the following components:
· contain productive soils or historic or archaeological sites
· be part of a pending offer from a non-governmental organization, state, tribe or local farmland protection program
· be privately owned
· covered by a conservation plan

· large enough to sustain agricultural production
· accessible to markets for what the land produces
· surrounded by parcels of land that can support long-term agricultural production.

The Announcement of Program Funding can be found at <http://www.grants.gov> and <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/frpp>. Additional FRPP information also can be found at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/frpp>.

Send or Receive Faxes
(254) 725-7225
At The Cross Plains Review

The Cross Plains
Home of Robert E. Howard 1919-1936



Robert E. Howard Days Cross Plains, Texas June 8, 9, 10, 2006 Centennial Celebration

Three Day Schedule

THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2006

8:00 - 9:00am	Breakfast on your own	1:00 - 4:00pm	Howard House Reopened for Tours
8:00 - 5:00pm	Howard Payne University Library's REH Book Collection Available for Viewing (Brownwood)	1:00 - 5:00pm	Library Open for Viewing of Howard Holdings (Cross Plains Public Library)
9:00 - 11:30am	Howard House Open for Tours	3:00 - 4:00pm	"Working With Howard Manuscripts" (Burke, Genzel, Gruber, Herman, Lord, Louinet—Library)
10:00 - 10:45am	"REHupa: What We Are, What We Do" (Cavalier et al. —Pavilion)	4:00 - 4:30pm	Mark Finn reads from his new REH bio (Finn—Library)
10:45 - 11:30am	"Hyborian Scholarship" (Rippke-Pavilion)	5:00 - 6:00pm	Ethan Nahte screens part of his REH documentary (Nahte — Community Center)
11:30 - 12:30pm	Catered Luncheon (Pavilion)	6:00 - 7:30pm	Dinner on your own
12:30 - 2:30pm	Bus Tour of Cross Plains and Environs (Meet at Pavilion)	7:30 - 9:30pm	Screening of <i>The Whole Wide World</i> (Myers — Community Center)
12:30 - 2:00pm	Walking Tour of Cross Plains (Burke, Baum —Meet at Pavilion)		

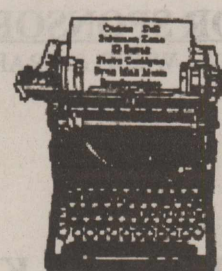
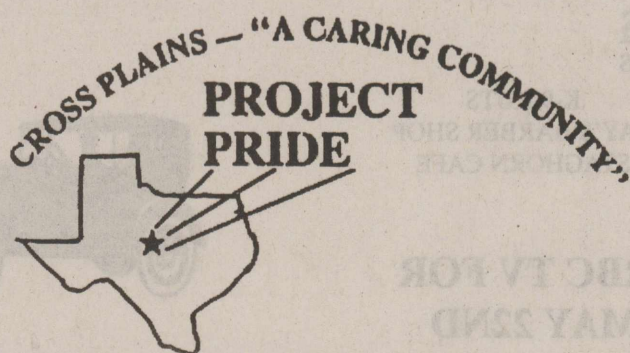
FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 2006

8:00 - 9:00am	Breakfast on your own	1:00 - 4:00pm	Howard House Reopened for Tours
8:00 - 5:00	Howard Payne University Library's REH Book Collection Available for Viewing (Brownwood)	1:00 - 5:00pm	Library Open for Viewing of Howard Holdings
9:00 - 11:30am	Howard House Open for Tours	2:00 - 3:00pm	"Fists at the Icehouse" (Finn, Gruber —Meet at Pavilion)
10:30 - 12:00pm	"The Coming of Conan" (Lord, Thomas — High School Gym)	3:00 - 6:30pm	Dinner on your own
12:30 - 2:30pm	Bus Tour of Cross Plains and Environs (Meet at Pavilion)	3:30 - 6:30pm	Silent Auction, Swap Meet, and Autographing (Community Center)
12:30 - 2:00pm	Walking Tour of Cross Plains (Burke, Baum — Meet at Pavilion)	7:00 - 9:00pm	The Violet Crown Radio Theatre (Finn, et al. — High School Gym)

SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2006

9:00 - 11:30am	Howard House Open for Tours	1:00 - 2:00pm	"Lone Star Fictioneer" (Burke, Finn, Herron, Louinet, Romeo — Pavilion)
9:30 - 10:00am	The Barbarian Festival Parade	1:00 - 3:00pm	Library Open for Viewing of Howard Holdings
10:00 - 4:00pm	Barbarian Festival On Main Street	2:00 - 4:00pm	Howard House Reopened for Tours
10:30 - 11:30am	"A Barbarian for All Media" (Thomas — High School Gym)	3:00 - 4:00pm	"A Conversation with Glenn Lord (Lord, Herman — High School Gym)
12:30 - 2:30pm	Bus Tour of Cross Plains and Environs (Meet at Pavilion)		
12:30 - 1:00pm	"The Poetry of REH" (Sidney-Fryer — Pavilion)		

Information Available at <http://www.REHUPA.com>

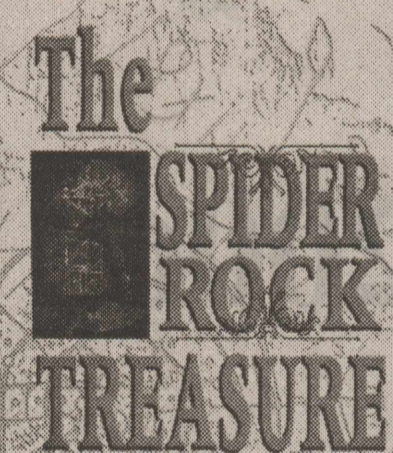


Robert E. Howard.
STATION June -9- 2006
Cross Plains, TX 76443
1906-2006 REH Centennial

Postal Cancellation
Design by Bill Cavalier

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THE CROSS PLAINS REVIEW

CALLAHAN COUNTY SEARCH FOR TREASURE



A Texas Mystery of
Lost Spanish Gold

STEVE WILSON

One hundred years ago, the Big news here was the search for \$60 million in gold and an underground city north of Clyde.

Read all about it in

THE SPIDER ROCK TREASURE:

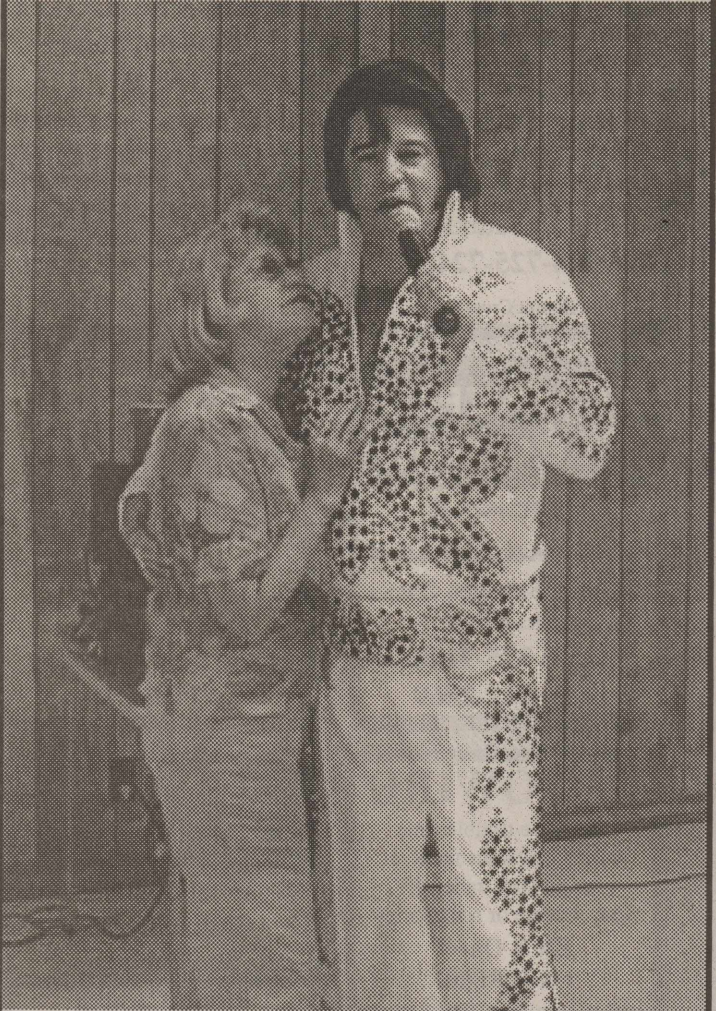
a Texas Mystery of Lost Spanish Gold

Now available at the Clyde Journal and Cross Plains Review. This 202 page book gives fascinating accounts and pictures of the search for hidden Treasure in West Texas!

Price: \$26⁹⁵



HOMEMADE CAKE CONTEST WINNER—Eddie Faye Dillard won 1st place with her German Chocolate cake Friday evening at the Sincerely Elvis Concert. 2nd place went to Ileen Smith, 3rd place Linda Ring and 4th place Linda Pringle, all of Cross Plains. Everyone tasted the goodies following the voting that was based on appearance.



ELVIS SINGS TO LOU—Lou Parrish enjoyed the personal serenade. James L. Wages performed a 2 hour tribute to Elvis Presley. (Photos courtesy of Vanda Anderson)

Barb's Cues

By Barbara Holmes Worcester

A Free Land?

Is our land a free land? We may think "Of course it is" but we may be wrong. I think that many parts of our society are caught in the grips of a tenacious enemy and are unaware of its grip. Some of the tentacles of this foe are immorality, greed, profanity, apathy and general unconcern about sin.

God said in the Bible that if His people which are called by His name, (He is not talking to unbelievers, but to us) shall humble ourselves and pray and seek His face and turn from our wicked ways, then He will hear from heaven and will forgive our sin and heal our land. Does our land need God's healing? I believe it does.

Some time ago in Kansas, Rev. Joe Wright prayed a prayer in the Kansas senate. I have extrapolated from Rev Wright's prayer: Heavenly Father, We come before you today to ask Your forgiveness and guidance. We know Your word says, "Woe to them who call evil good," but that's what we have done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and inverted our values. Your word has been ridiculed and called moral pluralism. Worshipping other gods, has been called multi-culturalism. Perversion has been endorsed and called alternative lifestyle. The poor have been exploited and it was called self-preservation. We have killed our unborn and called it choice. Shooting abortionists was called justifiable. We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self-esteem. We have abused power and called it political savvy. We have polluted the air with profanity and por-

nography and called it freedom of speech. We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment.

Search us, O God, and know our hearts today. Try us and see if there be some wicked way in us; cleanse us from every sin and set us free."

Freedom is not free. We must continually monitor our land and our lives to keep them free of that which would destroy.

I have mentioned mostly negative influences which eat at our freedom, but there are many positive forces in our land which need protecting. We still have some freedoms in our schools and churches. We have the right to gather and give thanks for our freedoms. We have a newspaper which will print this article. We have men and women who are fighting for the freedom of mankind. We still have some of the freedoms our forefathers fought for. These will slip away unless we protect them.

During the recent acts of nature, we have seen much good done from one person to help another, and our soldiers tell of many acts of bravery among the forces in battle zones. We probably each could name a freedom for which we are grateful. These are the freedoms we need to guard and protect.

Edmund Burke, British House of Commons, said something to the effect that "all it takes for evil men to prevail is for righteous men to do nothing." (Barb's paraphrase) Let's be active in fighting wrong and standing for the right.

I hope your Memorial Day was a good one.

BHW

**WE HAVE
SELF-INKING AND RUBBER STAMPS
CROSS PLAINS REVIEW
116 S.E. 1ST ST
CROSS PLAINS, TX**

Turkey Creek Cook-off and Bullriding Results—

CHILI

1st place - Too Much Fun
Waylon Prather

2nd place - The Traylor
Sherman Traylor

3rd place - Smokin' Bones
Brian Moss

BEANS

1st place - Too Much Fun
Waylon Prather

2nd place - 2 Girls & a BBQ Pit
Ashley Hall

3rd place - Dana's Famous
Brisket & Ribs
Dana Hall

Optional Category - Jackpot
Cobbler

Winner - Double J Ranch
James Williams

Showmanship -
Flamin Floozies

Friendliest Cook-
Hillbillies & Hippies

People's Choice -
Too Much Fun.

All of our participants did a wonderful job! A special thank to all our cook-off judges. They of course had the toughest job, trying to decide the winners. Thanks to Marlene Baker for keeping the numbers straight.

In the bullriding event there were the PSBR riders and the open riders. The results are as follows:

PSBR

1st place - Ricky Walker
Abilene - 77 points

2nd place - Pat Reedy
Zephyr - 76 points

3rd place - Donnie Ray Howard
Pampa - 76 points

Open Bullriding

1st place - Ryan Aguirrel
Kerrville - 80 pts.

2nd place - Jack Caldwell
Odessa - 62 pts.

3rd place - Jason Marks
Cross Plains 56 pts.

These cowboys rode hard on some of the best bulls around to earn points in the PSBR standings, plus they put on a great show.

"Thank you" to Jim Sadler for another wonderful night of music and dancing.

To our Cross Plains Roping Club members and volunteers, your hard work paid off to make a successful event!

We had a terrific day with lots of fun and excitement. If you couldn't join us, we're sorry to have missed you. If you were there, let everyone know what a

good time you had. We appreciated you coming to see the show.

The Cross Plains Roping Club would like to thank everyone and that is a huge list! First and foremost our appreciation to the sponsors because without them the event wouldn't be possible. Sponsors are as follows: KEAN 105; Abilene Tile and Construction; The Park Car Wash; Blake Fulenwider Dodge, Clyde; Texas Heritage Bank; Welch Stone; The Economic Development Corporation; the City of Cross Plains; *Cross Plains Review*; Bill Pancake; Annie's Pest Control; Village Market; Ranchers Choice Realty; Anna Chesshir; Ron Conway's Bitter Creek Ranch; Cross Plains Frozen Food; Moss Bros. Ranch; Bless'd Automotive; Cross Plains Grain and Peanut; Johnson's Dry Goods; Potter's Game Tables; Higginbotham's; Gozzy's Pizza; The Staghorn Cafe; and 36 West Motel.

Thanks to Gene Fortune and Jason Marks for helping with the bull pens and arena; Ricky Adams for his assistance with the trash barrels; and Rod Middleton on horseback!

Our appreciation to Bob Golson for the great job he did of announcing. He added that hometown touch. Thanks to all the judges, Arena Director Ricky Walker, and the secretaries, Rene McWhorter and Crystal Messick, and all the PSBR organization.

A big hats off to the bullfighters, Josh Hudspeth of Goldthwaite and Ross Burroughs of Lubbock. Thanks to the stock contractor for some great bulls! They won again! Stock contractors include Ruff Ride Rodeo - Mark Huff of Odessa; Hogg Creek Ranch - Jerry Linley of May; H&D Bucking Bulls - Dickie Williams of Odessa; 3E Bucking Bulls - Mackey Elliott of Rising Star; Jess Gorley of Carbon; and Jason Marks of Cross Plains.

The assistance of the local law enforcement and EMS was appreciated.

Members—remember that our regular meeting will be Monday, June 5th at 7:00 p.m. at the arena grounds. We hope to see you there!

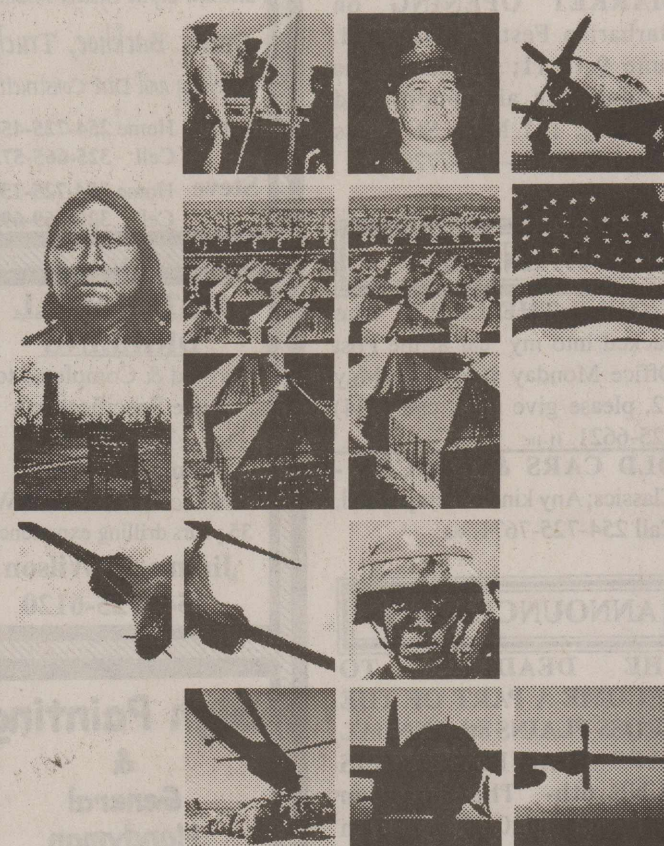
Submitted by
Lorna Muniain
and Dana Hall

9-Cross Plains Review June 1, 2006

HOMELAND SECURITY

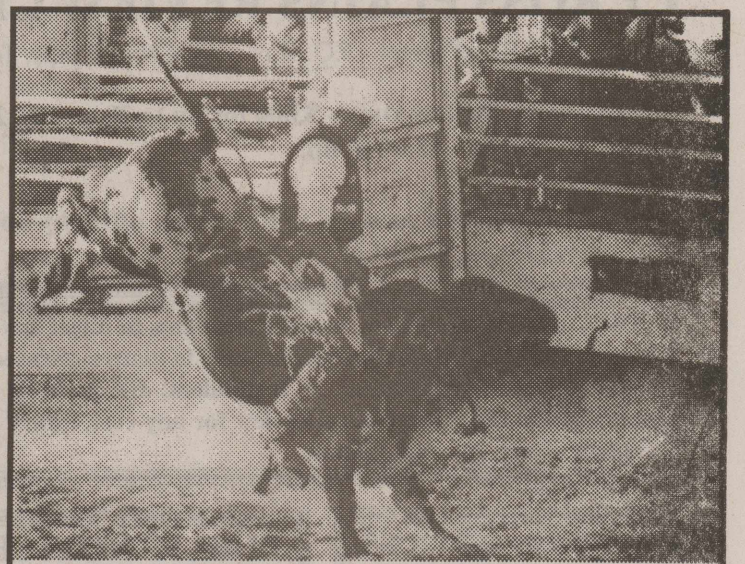
THE TEXAS FORTS TRAIL PAST & PRESENT

May 2 - August 28, 2006

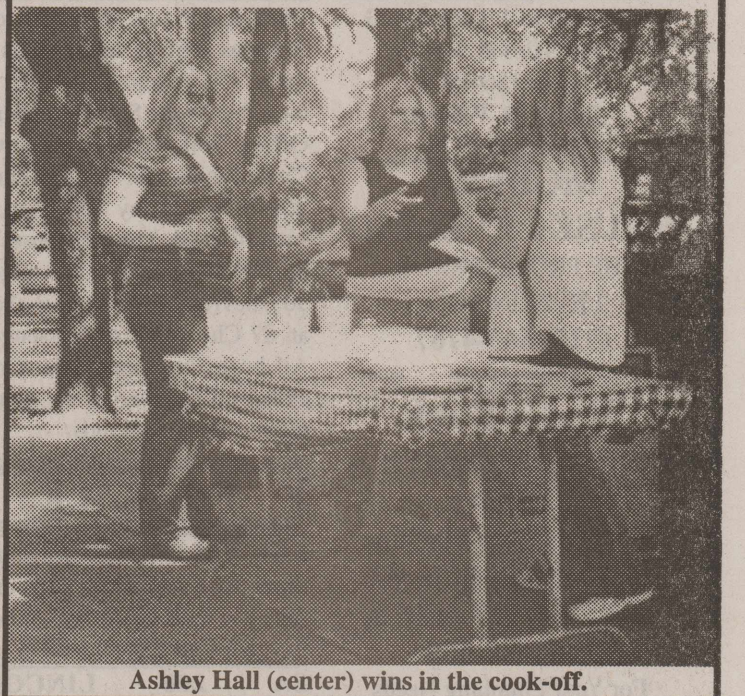


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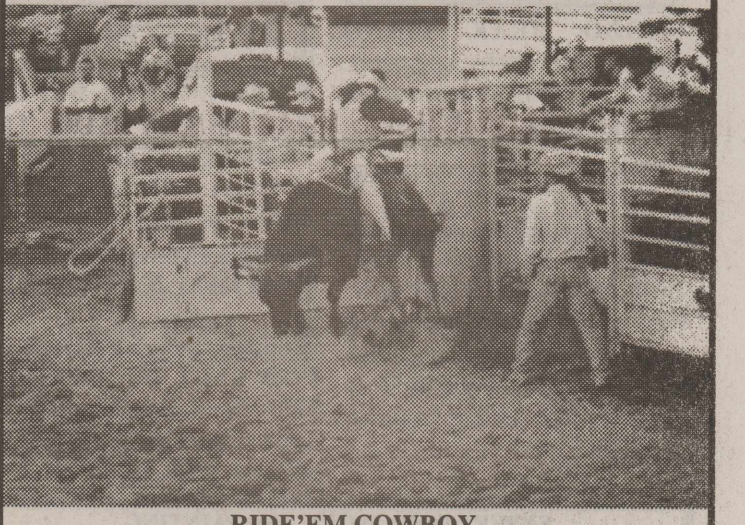
Rick Walker rides to 1st Place.



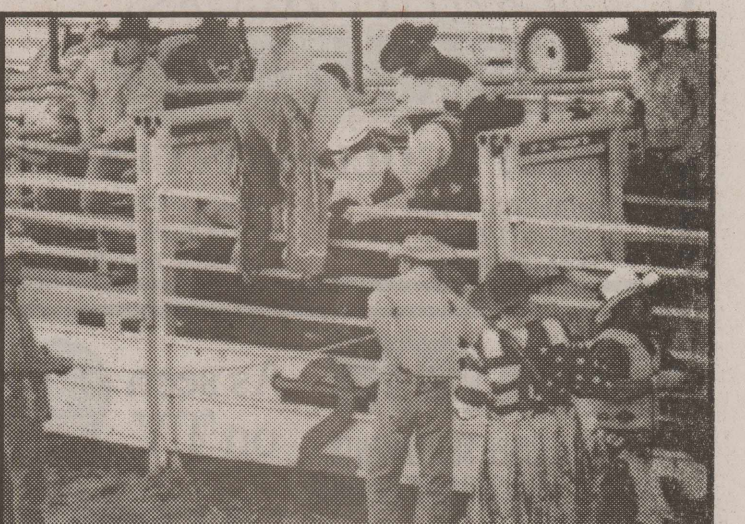
Ashley Hall (center) wins in the cook-off.



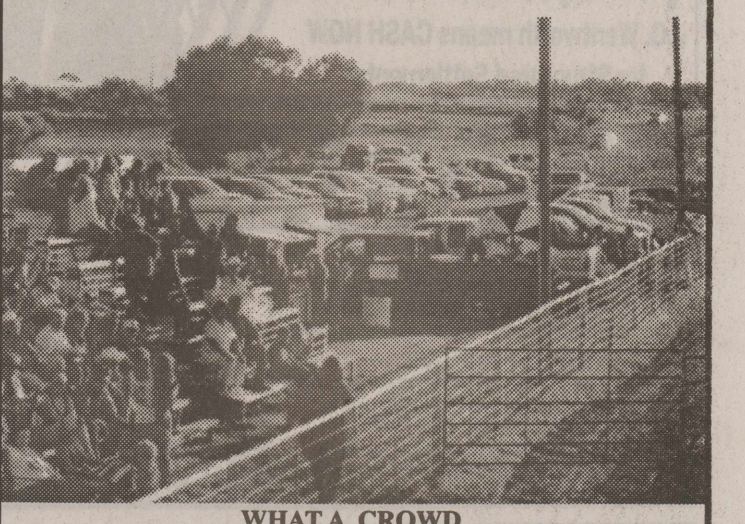
PSBR RIDERS READY TO GO



RIDE'EM COWBOY



GETTING READY TO RIDE



WHAT A CROWD

To get your name on the Birthday Column, send your name and date of birth to

The Cross Plains Review

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There is no charge for this service.

To delete a name due to death or other reasons send name and birth date (Month and Day) or Call 254-725-6111

