

Cross Plains Review

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THURSDAY, September 19, 2002



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THE FIGHTING BUFFALOES
Masthead designed by Barbara J. Sowell

94TH YEAR

CROSS PLAINS, CALLAHAN COUNTY, TEXAS 76443

NUMBER 26

DOWN HOME

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following poem was handed to me by subscriber Julia Devers of May after church one morning. This is a poem with a powerful message, that will make you think about your life. Vanda Anderson Creech

"The Dash"

I read of a reverend who stood to speak at the funeral of his friend. He referred to the dates on her tombstone from the beginning...to the end.

He noted that first came the date of her birth and spoke of the following dates with tears, but he said what mattered most of all was the dash between those years.

For that dash represents all the time that she spent alive on earth, and now only those who loved her know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not, how much we own; the cars, the house, the cash. What matters is how we live and love and how we spend our dash.

So think about this long and hard, are there things you'd like to change? For you never know how much time is left.

(You could be at "dash mid-range.")

If we could just slow down enough to consider what's true and real, and always try to understand the way other people feel.

And be less quick to anger, and show appreciation more and love the people in our lives like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect, and more often wear a smile, remembering that his special dash might only last a little while.

So, when your eulogy is being read with your life's actions to rehash... would you be pleased with the things they say about how you spent your dash?

Author Unknown

Love Fund Established for Jack Heinzman

A Love Fund has been established at Texas Heritage Bank for Jack Heinzman, of Cross Plains, who is currently in Hendrick Medical Center recovering from leg surgery.

Your generosity will be appreciated by his family.

See Deadline Page 3

Cottonwood Quilting Club Musical This Friday

The Cottonwood Quilting Club will be having their musical September 20 at the Cottonwood Community Center. Emcee for the evening will be Mary E. Weaver. There will be good ole country music and eats. Please come to meet old friends and make new ones. It will be great fun, food and entertainment. You don't want to miss out on Ethel's red beans and cornbread, served with peppers and onions.... all for \$3.00. They will also be serving those great sandwiches, pies, cake, soda, coffee and tea. Food will be served beginning at 5:30 p.m.

All money made from the food will go toward the upkeep of the Cottonwood Community Center. We appreciate your support.

Music begins at 6:00 p.m. There will be no charge for the musical.

Submitted by,
Mary St. Peter
Secretary

Deadline Extended for Flooding Assistance

SAN ANTONIO—Federal and state officials announced today that the deadline to register for disaster assistance as a result of the flooding in late June and July has been extended for a second time. The new deadline to register with FEMA is September 30.

"In tracking the registration numbers over the past 10 days, we continue to see a sufficiently large number of people calling to register to justify a second two-week extension for the June/July flooding," said Dell Greer, deputy state coordinating officer for the disaster recovery effort.

Federal Coordinating Officer Scott Wells of FEMA said, "We felt it necessary to keep the registration period open in order that we accommodate all who suffered damage."

The deadline extension only pertains to damage that took place as a result of the flooding between June 29 and July 31.

Homeowners, renters and business owners in the original 41-disaster declared counties, who qualify for the individual assistance programs, from damage between June 29 and July 30 can register by calling FEMA's toll free number 800-621-FEMA (3362). People who are speech and hearing impaired may call 800-462-7585. Operators are available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday Friday.

In addition, there was and con-

C.P. First Baptist Revival Sept. 22-25

Everyone in the community is invited to join us on Sunday, September 22, at 6 p.m. and Monday through Wednesday at 7 p.m. for Revival at First Baptist Church, Cross Plains.

Jason Craft and Billy Bob White will be leading the services. Jason is the Staff Evangelist at Paramount Baptist Church in Amarillo. Billy Bob White is with "Warrior Ministries" of Abilene.

Jason is not about games. He is not an entertainer. He is not a professional motivational speaker. He is not a comedian.

His calling is to preach the word of God, to share out of the abundance of what the Lord is doing in his life.

Billy Bob White will lead the people in worship through music. He is well known across Texas, Oklahoma and Colorado as an anointed worship leader.

It is our prayer that the music and teachings that we receive from the Lord will be used to bring us into a deeper understanding of the majestic power of our Lord. Please join us!



GARDEN CLUB PRESENTS CHECK TO SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER—Julene Franke (from left) and Barbara Powell, representatives from the Cross Plains Garden Club, presented a check for \$300 to Walter Thomason and Kathy Anderson, representing the Senior Citizen's Center, to purchase a new dishwasher for the center.

Garden Club Assists Senior Citizen's Center

The Cross Plains Garden Club presented the Senior Citizen's Center with a check for \$300 to purchase a new dishwasher on Tuesday, September 17.

The Senior Citizen's Center serves an average of 25 people Monday through Friday at noon, plus the home deliveries. Volunteers take care of serving the food, washing dishes and cleaning up the building.

Kathy Anderson, director for the Senior Citizen's Center, and all the senior citizens expressed their appreciation to the Cross

Plains Garden Club for their generous donation.

The Garden Club has been a friend to other organizations including the Cross Plains Public Library, the Cross Plains Volunteer Fire Department, and the Cross Plains EMS. They have also contributed to various murals that have been painted in the community. The Garden Club representatives, Barbara Powell and Julene Franke, reported that they are always interested in helping the community.

Kiwanis Charity Golf Tournament To Be Held

On Saturday, September 21st, the Kiwanis Club of Cross Plains will be holding a charity golf tournament at Rolling Oaks Golf Club in Rising Star. All proceeds will benefit the Children's Miracle Network and local Kiwanis projects.

The tournament is a 3-person best ball scramble. The cost is \$40 per person (does not include cart). Cart rental is available at the course for \$9 per person or bring your own cart.

The \$40 fee includes all of the following:

*Eligibility for all hole-in-one prizes

*Eligibility for closest to the pin prize

*Eligibility for longest drive prize

*One mulligan per player (3 max. per team)

*Free food and soft drinks.

Cash prizes will be given for first and second place (other prizes possible based on number of entries). There will also be a \$10,000 hole-in-one prize.

Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. with a shotgun start at 10:00 a.m. Rolling Oaks Golf Club is 2 miles west of Rising Star on Highway 36. For information call Rolling Oaks at (254) 643-4563.

Big Top Circus Is Coming to Town Tuesday, Oct. 1st

Culpepper & Merriweather Circus, America's favorite old-fashioned Big Top Circus, is coming to town. In its 19th season, the Culpepper & Merriweather Circus has become internationally known for quality family entertainment. This authentic One-Ring, Big Top Circus has been featured on National Geographic's Explorer TV Series, Entertainment Tonight, the Los Angeles Times, the Chicago Tribune, and most recently on the A&E Special: Under the Big Top.

This year's line-up includes an All-Star group of performers and entertainers, including: Cheeko the Clown, the Fabulous Tavana Luvas, Suzanne Annette on the Spanish Web, the Amazing Baltista Family, and the largest member of the Culpepper & Merriweather Circus Family-- African elephants Barbara and Connie.

Skeeter the Clown will be in Cross Plains on Monday, September 23rd, to entertain kids of all ages. The schedule for Skeeter the Clown is as follows:

K-6th Grade C. P. School
8:45 - 10:00 a.m.
April Cowan's Day Care
10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Senior Citizen's Center
11:30 a.m. - 12 noon
PreK Cross Plains School
1:30 p.m.
Rising Star Nursing Center
3:00 p.m.

The public is invited to watch Barbara and Connie erect the Big Top the way it's been done for over 200 years-- with elephant power! Tent Raising is at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, October 1st-- followed by the FREE Endangered Species Show at 10 a.m. The Endangered Species Show offers a unique face-to-face opportunity for families, schools and interested community members to meet and learn about Barbara, Connie and the rest of the animals in the Circus Family.

The Midway opens at 4:30 p.m. It will feature elephant rides, pony rides, concessions and Moon Bounce.

Show schedule:

First Show 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Second Show 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

SAVE MONEY by purchasing tickets in advance. Advance discount tickets are available at select area businesses--\$7.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children 12 and younger, and children under two are always FREE. Tickets are \$2 more on show day. Buy tickets early and save!

For more information, contact the Cross Plains Chamber of Commerce at (254) 725-7251 or 1866-BIGTOP6.

CPISD Open House Jr. High & High School

Tuesday, September 24, 2002

Financial Aid Workshop
in High School Library
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Melanie Long from McMurry University will present Admissions Requirements, Financial Aid & Other information for enrolling in Colleges and Universities
Teachers To Be In Rooms At 7:00 p.m.

Texas Heritage Bank

"We're Proud of Our Local Heritage"

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Presents:

"What's Inside"

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C.P. Junior High vs. Rotan
September 19, 2002

5:00 P.M. Home J.V. vs. Rotan
Immediately following



Varisty vs. Rotan
September 20, 2002

8:00 P.M. Rotan

C.P. STUDENT REVIEW



VARSITY BUFFALO CAPTAINS AWAIT THE COIN TOSS



BUFFALOES STAMPEDE THE FIELD



JUNIOR HIGH BUFFS ON THE MOVE

J.H. Buffs Fall to Bearcats

The Buffs took a hard loss last week to the Hawley Bearcats 56-0.

Captains for the week were Zach Bennett and Clay Koenig.

It just wasn't the Buff's night for football. Even with Cross Plains winning the toss, the Bearcats scored on their first drive.

The kickoff left the Buffs on the 35 yard line. Clay Koenig stepped in for injured quarterback Russell Thomas. Koenig attempted to hand off to Saul Reyes and run with the ball himself, but

ended up with the Buffs punting. The Buffs had several other plays up the sides and through the middle that were some shining moments during the game.

Individual Stats:
Saul Reyes - 1 tackle, 10 carries for 68 yds, 2 kickoff returns for 35 yds.

Clay Koenig - 1 hurry, 4 carries for 17 yds, 1 fumble recovery
Ricky Daniels - 40 yds kickoff return
Sean Williams - 4 carries for 40 yards

Cody Baker - 1 carry for 2 yds.
Anthony Gonzales - 2 tackles
J.J. Callaway - 1 kickoff return for 11 yards

Justin Dickson - 2 carries for 4 yds.
Jacob Melton - 1 tackle
Steve Garrett - 1 tackle
Colton Manley - 1 tackle
Jonathan Hopkins - 1 tackle.

The Buffs will be at home again this week taking on the Rotan Yellowhammers.

Submitted by
Teresa Koenig

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Cross Plains Independent School District will be held on September 17, beginning at 7:00 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. Prayer
 2. Open Forum
 3. Read and Accept Minutes
 4. Technology Director Report to the Board
 5. Review and Approve IPM Plan
 6. Set Credit by Exam Dates for CPISD Students
 7. Update and Approve ESL Report
 8. Discuss and Take Action on Waiver Days for CPISD
 9. Discuss and Take Action on TASB Update 68
 10. Financial Report/Pay Bills
 11. Executive Session, if Needed
 12. Adjourn

This notice was posted in compliance with the Open Meeting Act on September 11, 2002, at 2:00 p.m. by Jackie Tennison for the Board of Trustees.

Callahan County Shooting Sports Winners

The Callahan County 4-H Shooting Sports Rifle and Pistol Shooters did very good at the Annual State 4-H Shooting Sports Event in San Antonio, July 16th through July 20th. Most of all the 4-H Shooters placed in the top 10 or 15 positions in the events they entered.

James Saunders, a Junior Division Shooter received a second place Plaque in Muzzle Loading Rifle -25- yard Bottles and Haffner and a third place Plaque in Muzzle Loading Rifle Silhouette. James also, got a Plaque for the Over-all Runner-up in Muzzle Loading Rifle, Junior Division. There were six (6) of the 4-H Shooters in the Senior Division and three (3) of them received plaques for their shooting. Plaques were given through Third Place only in the Rifle and Pistol Events. Greg Black received a Third Place Plaque in the 100 yard High Power Sporting Rifle Event. Greg also, competed in two (2) other Rifle events. Craig Jackson and Ashlie Green received a Second and Third Place Plaque respectively in the Smallbore Hunter Pistol Silhouette Event. Craig Jackson also, competed in two (2) other Rifle and Pistol events. Ashlie Green competed in five (5) other Rifle and/or Pistol events.

Other Senior Shooters from Callahan County were Zack Green who participated in two (2) Rifle events and Cody White who participated in seven (7) shooting events. Cody placed Fourth in Air Pistol Target and Fifth in Air Pistol Silhouette.

There were two (2) Sub-Junior Division Shooters, Emily Green who participated in three (3) events and Tony Held III who participated in the 100 yard High Power Sporting Rifle Event along with his Shotgun Events.

Rifle Coaches Charlie Greenway and Bill Jackson and Pistol Coach Steve Jackson are very proud of all of the 4-H Shooters from Callahan County. This Event has some of the best 4-H Shooters in the State of Texas as participants.

Everyone had a good time and are looking forward to next year's 4-H Shooting Events.



Lauren Opperman

Ag Student Teacher Announcement

Lauren Opperman, senior Agricultural Services and Development major from Tarleton State University, has begun her teaching in the Cross Plains Public Schools. She is under the supervision of Roy Richey and Marc Morgan, agricultural science teachers.

Miss Opperman will be in the community for ten weeks for the purpose of receiving training in agricultural science teaching.

This agreement has been made by the mutual agreement between Cross Plains I.S.D. and Tarleton State University. The student teacher will assist with all activities concerning the local agricultural science program. Upon completion of this training period, she will receive a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Services & Development from Tarleton State University.

Junior High Cross Country Results

Last week Bryan Rivers was inadvertently left out of the article. He placed 26th at the Aula meet.

Last Saturday, September 14, the Junior High Cross Country teams ran in the ACU Classic in Abilene at Sherrod Park. Many 1A thru 5A schools competed here.

In the 1600 meters run the girls placed 10th out of 19 teams (182 runners). The following are the placings:

- 26th Beth Savell
- 56th Christi Burrhus
- 57th Brittani Libey
- 86th Starla Schaefer
- 95th Kassie Milam

- 148th Christina Avants
- 149th Renee Byars
- 157th Bryanna Santos.

In the 1600 meters run the boys placed 8th out of 13 teams (139 runners). Their results are below:

- *11th Saul Reyes
 - 34th Justin Dickson
 - 44th Chris McBride
 - 51st Russell Thomas
 - 68th J.J. Callaway
 - 70th Bryan Rivers
 - 114th J.T. Isbell
 - 118th David Peters
 - 122nd William Meador.
 - * Indicates Medal Winner
- This Saturday, September 21, the teams will compete at Brownwood.

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SCHOOL MENU

SEPTEMBER 23 - SEPTEMBER 27
BREAKFAST LUNCH

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MONDAY--Cream of Wheat, Toast, Assorted Juice | MONDAY-- Chicken Patty on Bun, Chips, Salad, Pickles, Brownies |
| TUESDAY-- Pancakes, Sausage, Assorted Juice | TUESDAY-- Ham Slices, Scalloped Potatoes, Spinach, Rolls, Peaches |
| WEDNESDAY-- Breakfast Burrito, Assorted Juice | WEDNESDAY-- Chalupas, Salad, Corn, Pudding |
| THURSDAY--Cereal, Toast Assorted Juice | THURSDAY--BBQ Franks, Creamed Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls, Apricots |
| FRIDAY--Donuts, Assorted Juice | FRIDAY-- Hamburger, lettuce, tomato, pickles, Fries, Cookie |

BUFFALO
BREAKFAST
AT DQ
Every Friday
Morning
7:00 A.M.

Everyone Invited
(Come Support the Buffs)

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PLEASE BRING THE RENEWAL CARD SENT TO YOU IN THE MAIL
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Look to the
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for results

Disaster Aid for Texans After Flood Nears \$71 Million

SAN ANTONIO—As the recovery effort continues for those affected by the Texas Floods of 2002, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announces nearly \$71 million in disaster assistance has been approved. In the counties designated for individual disaster assistance, more than 25,000 applications have been received from individuals, families and business owners who sustained disaster losses.

FEMA has approved more than \$22.6 million for disaster housing assistance that provides assistance for those who require temporary housing. The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has approved low interest disaster recovery loans of more than \$36 million. More than \$12.2 million has been approved by the Texas Department of Human Services for disaster-related necessary ex-

penses or serious needs for families unable to meet such expenses under other disaster assistance programs.

Scott Wells, federal coordinating officer said, "With the recent extension for registrations, we want to stress that everyone who has experienced losses from these floods, whether it is home, personal, business or income losses, is encouraged to register for assistance."

Duke Mazurek, state coordination office for disaster recovery, added, "You only need to make that one toll-free phone call to begin the process. You'll be asked to give some basic information that usually takes about 15 minutes."

The FEMA toll-free registration number is 1-800-621-FEMA (3362). The number for the hearing or speech impaired to call is 1-800-462-7585 TTY.

Doug Ford is Callahan County's representative to Hardwick Center

The Betty Hardwick Center's board of trustees has named officers for fiscal year 2003. Larry D. Hopkins is chairman. Robert C. Monk, Ph.D. is vice-chairman. Mary Lou Gilbreath is secretary, and J. Steven Austin is treasurer.

The Service Management Committee is composed of David F. Scott, chairman, Martin Hernandez, vice-chairman, Mary Lou Gilbreath, and Harold Siglar. Resource Management Commit-

tee members include Robert Monk, chairman, Steve Austin, vice-chairman, Jann Todd, and Doug Ford.

Callahan County's representative to the board of trustees is Douglas Ford, president of People's State Bank.

The board of trustees meets monthly, usually on the first Tuesday, beginning at 5:15 p.m. at 2616 South Clack, Suite 150. Meetings are open to the public.



PRESENTATION OF AWARD—Host and hostess of the golf tourney, Dean and Vicki Dillard (from left), are presenting Jimmy Long, accompanied by his wife, Melanie, with a plaque for his hole-in-one achievement.

UNEMPLOYMENT		
Callahan County Unemployment	July 4.4%	Aug. 4.2%
Total Labor Force	6,858	7,193
Total Employed	6,553	6,893
Total Unemployed	305	300

County's unemployment rate drops to 4.2%

The unemployment rate in Callahan County for the month of August 2002 fell two-tenths of one percent to 4.2% from July's 4.4%, according to jobless figures released Monday, September 9 by the Texas Workforce Commission.

Of the 7,193 civilian labor force in Callahan County, 6,893 were employed during August 2002, and 300 were unemployed, giving the county an unemployment rate of 4.2%. The county's unemployment rate one year ago in August 2001 was 3.9%.

Callahan County's unemployment rate was 4.4% in July 2001. Of the 6,858 civilian labor force in the county during July, 6,553 had jobs while 305 or 4.4% were unemployed.

Previous monthly jobless rates in Callahan County included: 3.9% in June 2002, 3.1% in May, 3.3% in April, 3.5% in March, 3.8% in February, 3.8% in January 2002, 3.3% in December 2001, 3.6% in November, 3.6% in October, and 3.8% in September, according to the unemployment figures.

Big Country area counties, bordering Callahan County, and those counties' unemployment rates for August 2002 include: Brown, 4.6%; Coleman, 6.5%; Eastland, 4.4%; Jones,

4.3%; Runnels, 3.8%; Shackelford, 3.3%; Stephens, 5.4%; and Taylor County, 4.4%.

The Texas actual series unemployment rate dipped by four-tenths of a percentage point from a June rate of 6.9 to 6.5 percent in July. This month's decrease is one-tenth of a percentage point less than the average June-to-July change of five-tenths of a percentage point. July's rate is the highest Texas has experienced for the month since 1994 when it stood at 6.7 percent. The United States' unemployment rate remained flat for a second straight month holding at 6.0 percent in July. This the fourth consecutive month the state rate has been tied with or higher than the national rate.

Of the 10,809,800 civilian labor force in the state, total employment was 10,104,500 in July. The total number of unemployed in July 2002 was 705,300. The state's unemployment rate during the same month last year was 5.4%.

The United States unemployment rate was 6.0% in July 2002. The nation's unemployment rate for the previous month of June 2002 was 6.0%. The United States unemployment rate one year ago in July 2001 was 4.7%.

Brush and Prickly Pear Control Seminar

A special 3 CEU Brush and Prickly Pear control seminar is set for Tuesday, September 24th. The seminar will begin in the field at the Dement property located 3 miles south of Baird on Highway 283. The program will begin at 9:00 a.m., with Dr. Allen McGinity, Extension Range specialist from San Angelo. Dr. McGinity will discuss the pros and cons to both chemical and mechanical control options of prickly pear. Dr. McGinity will also discuss treatment procedures to maximize prickly pear control as well as control of problem brush species. Mr. John Tate, District Conservationist-NRCS, will follow with a presentation on the use of Prescribed burns for pear control. Mr. Tate will be discussing some of the procedures and key ingredients needed to plan a successful prescribed burn.

Following the field session of program, we will travel to the Baird Activity Center where we will discuss some of the more

technical aspects available to producers in the battle against brush and prickly pear. Dr. Charles Hart, Extension Range specialist from Fort Stockton, will get things started with his presentation entitled "What is GPS?" Cynthia Castle with Remme Corp will discuss GIS for ranch mapping and planning and Barney Lee with North Star Helicopters will be on hand to discuss GIS applications for aerial brush control. Lunch will be served at the conclusion of the program.

The seminar and meal are free to those that pre-register by September 20th, 2002. Registration the day of program will be \$5.00 per person. This program is presented by the Callahan County Extension office, the Callahan Divide Soil & Water Conservation District and the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. To pre-register, contact the Callahan County Extension Office at (915) 854-1518.

Robert Pritz
County Extension Agent-Ag

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Notice of Requirement Compliance for Callahan County Water Supply Corp.

Pursuant to Chapter 13.2502 of the Texas Water Code, Callahan County Water Supply Corporation hereby gives notice that any person who subdivides land by dividing any lot, tract, or parcel of land, within the service area of Callahan County Water Supply Corporation, Certificate of Convenience and Necessity No. 31238-C, in Callahan County, into two or more lots or sites for the purpose of sale or development, whether immediate or future, including re-subdivision of land for which a plat has been filed and recorded or requests more than two water or sewer service connections on a single contiguous tract of land must comply with [title of subdivision service extension policy stated in the tariff] (the "Subdivision Policy") contained in Callahan County Water Supply Corporation's tariff.

CALLAHAN COUNTY WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION IS NOT REQUIRED TO EXTEND RETAIL WATER OR SEWER UTILITY SERVICE TO A SERVICE APPLICANT IN A SUBDIVISION WHERE THE DEVELOPER OF THE SUBDIVISION HAS FAILED TO COMPLY WITH THE SUBDIVISION POLICY.

Applicable elements of the Subdivision Policy include:
Evaluation by Callahan County Water Supply Corporation of the impact a proposed subdivision service extension will make on Callahan

County Water Supply Corporation's water supply system and payment of the costs for this evaluation;
Payment of reasonable costs or fees by the developer for providing water supply service capacity;
Payment of fees for reserving water supply capacity;
Forfeiture of reserved water supply service capacity for failure to pay applicable fees;
Payment of costs of any improvements to Callahan County Water Supply Corporation's system that are necessary to provide the water service;
Construction according to design approved by Callahan County Water Supply Corporation and dedication by the developer of water facilities within the subdivision following inspection.

Callahan County Water Supply Corporation's tariff and a map showing Callahan County Water Supply Corporation's service area may be reviewed at Callahan County Water Supply Corporation's offices, at 218 North Access Rd, Clyde, Texas; the tariff and service area map also are filed of record at the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission in Austin, Texas, and may be reviewed by contacting the TNRCC, c/o Utility Rates and Services Section, Water Utilities Division, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711.

OFFICE SUPPLIES AT THE CROSS PLAINS REVIEW

★ CIRCUS ★
CROSS PLAINS
Tuesday • October 1 • Behind Dairy Queen

Tent Raising 9:00 am

Show Times 5:00 & 7:30

FREE Endangered Species Show 10:00 am Circus Morning

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Block and tackle...

This is not a football story. Nor is it a story about pulleys and lifting equipment. The block I'm talking about is writer's block. I've got it bad. This could be a very short column. I can't think of a thing to say. And further, I'm nearly convinced at this point that I never will again.

Words are what I love, and the writing process. Twenty-six little letters can be arranged to make thousands of words. The words can be used over and over to put the thoughts from my head onto paper that can be read.

When I'm writing, I'm whisked off to another world, so deep - so high - so far away I lose myself in it. Everything is shut out - kid's noises, TV noises, the buzz of the clothes dryer, the ding of the microwave that tries to remind me it has heated that same cup of water three times now. If I remember to start dinner, it still might end up burned. I've missed appointments and left kids waiting to be picked up.

Sometimes I get hung up on an awkward phrase or paragraph. It's frustrating. I fidget in my chair, casting about in a mental void for the right words or the right way to use them. When I'm worn to the nub and all seems hopeless, I have to tell myself very firmly - There ARE enough words in this language to say what you mean!

I get my second wind, charge forward, tackle the problem paragraph and wrestle it to the floor. I'm left sweating, exhausted, and shaky. It takes a lot out of me, but it's a glorious

and victorious feeling when that certain "something" says "That'll Work."

But this week there is no story in my head. I'm blocked. Maybe it's the season change, or the pressures of a busy fall schedule, or the weather. Too much gray sky takes the wind out of my sails. Worries multiply like virus and squeeze out creative thoughts.

There's a lot of reasons for writer's block, but reasons don't really matter. All that matters is that I somehow manage to plow through this paralysis. Avoidance is the first thing I always try. It never works, but I still try. I make a phone call, or fold clothes - crucial tasks like that. I go to the mailbox, walk with the goats, pick up a book, wash dishes, stare out the window, pick lint off my shirt.

Finally, I have to sit down and put words on paper. Any words. Words call up more words. It makes me understand what W. H. Auden meant when he said, "How do I know what I think, until I see what I say?" I dread those days when I feel like a robin tugging on a worm that does not want to come loose of the earth.

I just checked the word count for the fifty zillionth time. The computer says it has dutifully produced 537 of my words. That's enough for a dry spell. I can quit now. See you next week, hopefully blessed with lots of words.

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Write Ginny at Rosegreen@aol.com



WITH CAKE ON THEIR FACE AND LOVE IN THEIR EYES— Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Key

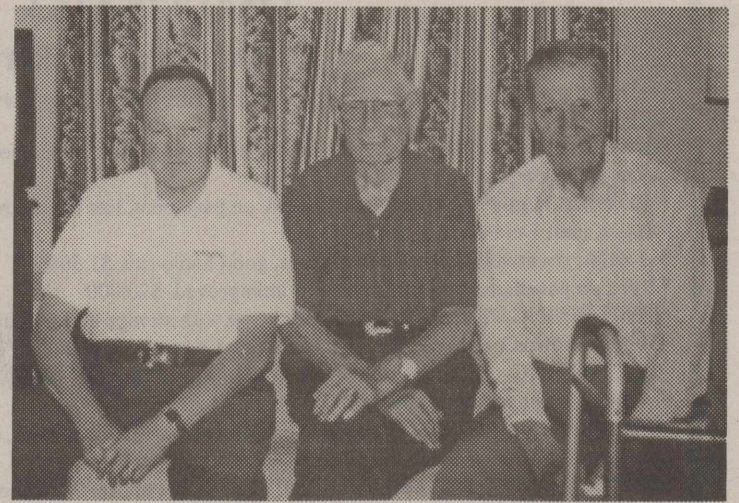
Phillips-Key Wed Friday, August 23

Wendy Lane Phillips, daughter of Tommy and Pam Phillips of Cross Plains, and Jeffery Cammeron Key of Pioneer, son of Brent and Yvonne Key of Sabanna, were united in holy matrimony Friday, August 23, 2002, at the beautiful home of Michael and Ila Gilliam. The decorations were purple and lavender.

Wendy was a student of Cross Plains High School, but obtained her general education diploma in April of 2002.

Jeff is a 1996 graduate of Cross Plains High School and is a self-employed farmer.

The happy couple spent their honeymoon in Fredericksburg, and will be making their home in Pioneer.



VISITING IN AUSTIN—Jim Rice (from left) of Fairport, New York and his wife, Pat (not pictured), were in Texas to attend a Lions Club Convention and they stopped by to visit with friends, O.B. "Prof" Edmondson (middle) and Jack Scott. Rice, an ex-student of Cross Plains High School, reported that the two former residents were doing well and they look great!

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Social Security Rep. Schedule

A Social Security representative from the Abilene office will be at Eastland, 1st Floor of the Courthouse, on Tuesdays October 22, November 26 and December 17 at 9:30 a.m. for your convenience.

You can call Social Security toll-free any weekday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at 1-800-772-1213.

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"Old Ripfest" Slated for September 21 in Eastland

Big plans are underway at the Eastland Chamber of Commerce for the 2002 "Old Ripfest and Parade", September 21. A giant kiddie carnival will be a new, feature attraction this year.

Other highlights include the always favorite, Texas' longest parade, the 5K Rip-Roaring Run, Kid 1-mile Fun Run, the "Horned Toad Derby", and Bryan's Auto Antique Car Show, just to mention a few. Booths will be set up all around the square, with everything from turkey legs and sausage on a stick, to sterling silver jewelry for sale. A giant blow up slide, games, arts and crafts, and even cast horned toads will occupy the "Bonnie and Nick Norris" of Denton.

Make plans now to attend the "Old Ripfest and Parade" in downtown Eastland. We are located on I 20, 90 miles west of Fort Worth and 55 miles east of Abilene. Join us September 21, for a "Rip-Roaring" good time! For more information, call the Chamber of Commerce toll free at 1-877-2OldRip. Entry forms may also be downloaded from the internet at www.eastland.net/eastland/parade.htm

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Happy Birthday!

SEPTEMBER 21

- Donna Burks Bell
- Alton Strickland
- Tammy Worley
- Mrs. T.M. Davis
- F.C. Scott
- Sharyon Lee Childers
- Billie Kelly
- (Lt. Col./Retired) Bill Payne
- Charline Green
- Michael Lee

- Eddie Lawayne Rose
- Sheree Knight
- LeJean Wyatt
- Annie Lee Bickford
- Pauniece Oglesby

SEPTEMBER 25

- Britain Hollingshead
- Shelly (Strength) Taylor
- Steve Strickland
- Mrs. Karon Huckabee
- Bonita Horton
- Richard Allen
- Ed Stephenson

SEPTEMBER 26

- Rusty Dimitri
- R.D. Corley
- Robert Merrill
- Jennifer Pope
- Elaine Denney
- Mrs. Jim Casey
- R.D. Young
- Billy Wayne Teague
- Faye Freeman
- Randy Hunter
- Bob Illingworth
- Erica (Robertson) Allen
- Mrs. Curtis J. Simpson
- Daniel Higgins
- Marsha Harris

SEPTEMBER 27

- Alice Aiken
- Betty Montgomery
- Vita Johnson
- Judy Porter
- Mary Jane Apple
- Ray Purvis
- Mrs. Joe Hanke, Jr.
- Jessica Ann Kitchens

SEPTEMBER 22

- David Hokie Gray
- Mrs. Karen Jordan
- Donna Lyn Clyatt
- Jo Veda Watson
- Betty Beggs
- Mrs. J.W. Fore
- Sharon Baugh
- Edgar H. Albrecht, Jr.
- Gerald Randel Williams
- Mary Alice Wilson
- James C. Wood

SEPTEMBER 23

- Al Bland
- Debbie (Dillard) Glasscock
- Don Wiggins
- Bruce Adams
- Derrell Wayne Hollis
- Mrs. Bill Smoot
- Kenny Berry
- James Nichols
- Stevie Letney
- Lee Roberts
- Mrs. Charles Dillard
- Freddie Childers
- Jimmy G. Meador
- Amber Phillips

SEPTEMBER 24

- Sharon Thornton
- Elmer Graham
- Clayton Smart
- Mrs. Sam Clark
- Shirley Simpson
- Faye Smith
- Dianna Mobley

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