

Cottonwood News

Beverly Brown

We've heard more reports of coyotes and other critters in the area. They coyotes are howling loudly in the afternoons. Keep a close watch out for coyotes, bobcats and wild hogs—and keep an eye on your dogs, cats and other small animals.

This Friday night is Cottonwood Musical Night at the Community Center. Come out and enjoy good country music.

The Cottonwood Volunteer Fire Control Group Bake Sale is coming up next **Saturday, December 15th**, at Lowe's Market in Cross Plains. Some of the Cottonwood bakers are already planning what they'll be making—sugar free cakes, pecan pies, banana bread, Christmas cakes and lots of other holiday

goodies. If you'd like to bake something for the bake sale, we'd greatly appreciate it, and we'll even come and pick it up from you. Be sure to stop by and see us at the bake sale.

Matt and Mandy Sowell, along with Rhonda and Connie Swift—better known as 4His Glory, will be performing their Annual Christmas Cantata "All is Well" on Sunday, December 16th at the Presbyterian Church in Cross Plains. The performance starts at 7 p.m.

Christmas will be here soon. Two Cottonwood-related Christmas presents come to mind. First you can get a *Cottonwood Cookbook Volume 1 or 2*, or the *Cookbook Supplement*. The

cookbook has wonderful recipes, photos and history of Cottonwood. Cookbooks are \$20 and the cookbook supplement is \$15. They're available at Texas Heritage Bank, the Cross Plains Public Library, Connie's Cuts and Curls and the Cross Plains Review.

Another good present—are the *Cross Plains Remembered* books. Volume 2 includes some of the Cottonwood families—Weaver, Bennett, Childers and others. Volume 3 has a section on Cottonwood. They're also \$20 and are available at the same places that you pick up the *Cottonwood Cookbook*, as well as the Senior Center, Lawrence Farm & Ranch and Salamanders.

James L. Wages to Perform "Sincerely Elvis"

James L. Wages will be performing "Sincerely Elvis" at Lake Brownwood Lions Club Friday, December 14th. The show and a barbecue sandwich meal will be available for \$10 each. Doors will open at 5:00 p.m.

Wages, a well known

impersonator, will be singing all your favorite Elvis hits.

A portion of the benefit proceeds will be donated to the Diabetes Foundation. Everyone is encouraged to come out for a great evening and help with a worthy cause.

Want to be a Santa's Helper?

Our Senior Citizens are often alone at Christmas and we are looking for Santa's helpers to fill their wish lists or just be willing to go by and visit for a few minutes. If you are interested in brightening the holiday season for men and women of our aging population, please contact Dannes Turner or Vivian Wooten at (254) 725-6521

Have a Used Car? Donate your used vehicle to the National Kidney Foundation

Donate your used vehicle to the National Kidney Foundation of Texas' Kidney Cars program and you can join the fight against kidney disease. Your vehicle donation will support the many prevention programs and direct patient services offered throughout Texas that are enhancing the lives of people with, and at risk for, kidney disease. In addition, your contribution can earn you a tax deduction. The National Kidney Foundation will pick up any used vehicle from any roadside or parking lot free of charge. Call 800-488-CARS or visit www.kidneycars.org.

Cross Plains Review



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December 6, 2012

Library Notes

Library Hours

Monday 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Tuesday 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Wednesday 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Thursday 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
CLOSED FRIDAY

November 26-29, 2012

Patrons	138
Books Checked Out	108
Programs	42
Book to Movie	5
GED Class	15
Lap	4
Lapsit	8
Copies	121
Internet	39
Interlibrary Loans	0
Reference	12

Donations

Sandy Doss
Billye Sinclair
Roy and Susan Hunter

Volunteers

Helen Parson

SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER ACTIVITIES:

DECEMBER 10-14

Monday, 10th - EXERCISE 11:45
Tuesday, 11th - EXERCISE 11:00/ Game Night 6:00
Wednesday, 12th - EXERCISE 11:00/ Girling Blood Pressure
Thursday, 13th - Exercise 11:00/ 3rd Graders 9:00 & 12:30/FBC Senior Adult Choir
Friday, 14th - Exercise 10:45/BINGO 11:15

HOME DELIVERED MEALS MUST CALL TO ORDER, AND OR CANCEL A MEAL NO LATER THAN 10:00 A.M.

SENIOR CITIZENS MENU

December 10-14

MONDAY-Cheeseburgers/ Lett/Tom/Onion/Pickle Chips/ Fruit Salad/Dessert/Drink
TUESDAY-Beef Taco Salad/ Lett/Tom/Cheese,Pinto Beans/ Chips/Dessert/Drink
WEDNESDAY -Tuna Salad Sandwich/Pasta Salad/ Chips/ Dessert/Drink
THURSDAY- White Chili (Chicken) Cheese/Sour Cream/ White* Cornbread/Dessert/ Drink
FRIDAY-Steak Sandwich/Lett/ Tom/Onion/Potato Wedges/ Fruit/Cookie/Drink



MEAL IS SERVED - 11:45 A.M. - 12:30 P.M

WIN a 51 Inch Television

Just in time for Christmas..... how would you like a 51" TV delivered to your home?

The Cross Plains Senior Citizens Center is offering chances for you to win a Samsung television. The drawing will be held at 5:00 p.m. on December 21, so you could have it setup by the time family gathered at your house for Christmas.

The tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00 and all proceeds benefit the Senior Citizens Center. Tickets are available at Texas Heritage Bank, Cross Plains City Hall and Cross Plains Senior Center. If you need more information, come by 108 N. Main St. or call (254) 725-6521.

Cross Plains Genealogy Society Research Night Date Changed

The Cross Plains Area Genealogy Society will host a Research Night on Tuesday, December 11th, from 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. at the Cross Plains Public Library.

Volunteers will be there to assist anyone interested in doing family research. We will set up in the room where the genealogy materials are.

If you are interested in attending, please sign up at the Library. Be sure to bring a

family group sheet on your family member that you wish to research. There are sample family group sheets at the library which you may copy or you can download a free family group sheet at <http://www.ancestry.com/trees/charts/familysheet.aspx> or <http://helpdesk.rootsweb.com/get-started/charts/FamilyGroupRecord.pdf>

Hope to see you there!

Submitted by
Donna Irby

Get Your Office Supplies at The Cross Plains Review

Santa at the Bank 2012

Enjoy the season of giving of giving with "Santa at the Bank" this Christmas. There will be a Christmas tree in the bank after Thanksgiving with ornaments telling the gender and ages of children throughout the Cross Plains area. You may stop by the bank and choose an ornament with a child's information, then return your gifts to the bank by Friday, December 14, 2012. The gifts will be picked up by the parents as soon as possible with the help of the American Legion. A reasonable amount to spend on the gift is \$25-\$30. If you wish to give money, we will buy the gift for you. Some gift ideas include: cosmetics, hair accessories, perfume, sweaters, hats, gloves, and purses for older girls and video games, sport related items, sweaters, and hats for older boys. Younger girls might enjoy dolls, sweaters, jewelry, purses, backpacks or stuffed animals, while the younger boys might enjoy legos, trucks, cars, action figures, etc.. Christmas is a time for giving and kindness so please help us make Christmas brighter for the children of our community this year. If you know of any children in need please call Pat Stephens with your information. (Home 725-6819 School 725-6123). Also Dollar General has a box in the front of their store for donations to the Santa at the Bank tree. Thank you all so much for helping the children of our community.



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Chips (Lay's or Cheeto's).....\$1.00
Tea & Sodas(coke, diet coke, dr. pepper, diet dr.pepper, pepsi, diet pepsi or sprite)..\$1.79
Peach Cobbler..... 4 oz. \$.99..... pint \$5.00

Plates: (All plates come with 2 Sides)
#1..(1) Meat (1/2 lb)...\$8.99 #2..(2) Meat (3/4 lb)...\$10.99 #3..(3) Meat (1 lb)...\$12.99
Combo Meal #1 - Large BBQ Sandwich, Chips, Drink.....\$6.50
Combo Meal #2 - Small BBQ Sandwich, Chips, Drink.....\$5.50

FAMILY PACK SPECIAL
2 LBS. Meat, 2 Pint Sz. Sides -- \$24.00

•WATCH for BUBBA'S FAMOUS PINK PIG!!

By The Pound	Sides	Condiments
Brisket.....\$9.00 lb	Potato Salad, Beans & Cornbread, Coleslaw	Pickles, Onions, Jalapenos, BBQ Sauce, Hot-N-Spicy Sauce and Mustard
Sausage (Hot/Mild).....\$9.00 lb	Single Serving.....\$.99	(Tax Not Included)
Ribs.....\$9.00 lb	1/2 Pint.....\$2.00	
Chicken Breast.....\$5.50 lb	Pint.....\$4.00	

Come on by - 401 E. Ave. A & Hwy 36, Cross Plains (254)270-0040

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CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!

Cross Plains Elementary

2012-2013 U.I.L. A+ Academic Contest

1st Place School

Cross Plains Elementary News

It has been a great month at Cross Plains Elementary. We had a lot of things happen in November and even more to come. On the 12th we were able to attend the veteran's memorial event downtown and honor our local veterans. It was a special occasion in which we were proud to have a part. I want to thank Bob Kirkham and James Dixon for their help in making it happen with our students being involved.

The 26th of November we had the remarkable opportunity to meet a real life NASA Astronaut. Mr. Sid Gutierrez came to see us and visit with the students. It was a special time for our young people. The slideshow, remarks, and questions answered made his presentation outstanding to say the least. He is indeed an impressive individual. This would not have happened without the Cross Plains Public Library making it happen. They went above and beyond to make this event take place.

The November Teacher of the Month will be **Melissa Richards**. The Students of the Month are **Autum Nickerson and Lastyn Winfrey**. Congratulations to our winners

for all of their hard work. Mrs. Richards does a wonderful job with our third grade kids. I know that she wouldn't want me to leave out her helpers at the Senior Citizens Center with her reading program. She and all of us feel blessed to have this valuable resource.

We had a canned food drive that was organized by Leslie Lawrence and her fourth grade students. They did a wonderful job. We were able to donate 863 items to the Cross Plains Food Bank. Thank you to all of the students and parents who allowed us to be able to do this very rewarding task. Riley Lawrence, Chris French and Joe Holland helped me get all those heavy packed boxes to the food bank. I appreciate their help loading and unloading all those boxes.

Additionally the "Dads and Donuts" was held in November in the Elementary hallway. The building was packed full of Dads, Granddads, Moms and many other caring adults to share a little together.

Mrs. Taylor Dillard, PTO President, worked really hard to make it all happen. She deserves a big pat on the back. Our PTO

here is such a helpful group of people. They sponsored a fundraiser that the students sold over four thousand dollars' worth of merchandise. The kids and the parents who helped out have done an impressive job. The top sellers for the girls were **Callie Sutton 1st place, Alaina Potter 2nd place and Addison Long 3rd place**. The top sellers for the boys were **Dusty Wyatt 1st place, Ryan Reed 2nd place and Ryder Reed 3rd place**. The prizes for the winners are iPod Nanos for 1st, \$50 gift card for 2nd and \$25 gift card for 3rd.

Monday, December 3rd will be our A+ Academic contest at Rising Star. The students and teachers have been working very hard for the competition. I want to also thank our parents and caregivers for their support with the students who are preparing for the competition. I know that by the time you read this the contest will be over. However, let's hope that next week I am writing about what a victorious day it was for all of our competitors.

Thank you,

Jeremy Williams
Elementary Principal

CROSS PLAINS SCHOOL MENU

DECEMBER 10-14

BREAKFAST

Monday - Eggs & Biscuits Assorted juice & Milk
Tuesday - Breakfast Pizza, Assorted juice & Milk
Wednesday - French toast Sticks, Sausage, Assorted juice & Milk
Thursday - Cereal & Toast, Assorted juice & Milk
Friday - Cinnamon Roll & yogurt, Assorted juice & Milk

LUNCH

Monday - Toasted Ham & Cheese, Broccoli Bites, Garden salad, Baked Potato Chips, Milk
Tuesday - Crispy Tacos, Garden Salad, Charro Beans, Salsa, Rosy-Applesauce
Wednesday - Chicken Tenders & Gravy, whipped potatoes, Carrot coins, Roll & fruit cups
Thursday - Spaghetti w/meat sauce, Garden salad, Green Beans, sliced peaches, Breadsticks
Friday - Turkey & Cheese Wrap, Sweet Potato Rounds, Cucumber Dippers, Fresh Seasonal Fruit, Milk

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Thursday, December 20, 2012

School dismisses at 1:00 p.m. — Buses run at 1:10 p.m.

Christmas Holidays - Dec. 21, 2012 through January 1, 2013

Teachers & Staff
Wednesday, January 2, 2013
Day for Staff Development

STUDENTS: School resumes on Thursday, January 3, 2013 at regular time

Cross Plains Competes in Santo Tournament

The Cross Plains Buffaloes traveled to Santo over a three day event to compete in the Santo Varsity Tournament. The Buffaloes showed some good signs of things to come, but was unable to get in the win column in games versus Huckabay, Hico and Lake Country.

Thursday night the Buffaloes faced perennial power Huckabay, who only plays basketball, who went on to win the tournament. Outside shooting by the Indians was too much for the Buffaloes, as Huckabay knocked down seven total three point buckets in the contest.

The Buffaloes battled hard for four quarters but fell 69-42. Dakota Gilliam would lead the team in points with 11 in the game. Chris French followed with 9.

Friday morning, Cross Plains faced Hico in a defensive battle. C.P. struggled to get any offense going, but managed to take a 10-9 lead at half. Hico would use a strong fourth quarter to overcome the Buffaloes as they netted 15 in the fourth to Cross Plains 8. The final score 32-22, Hico.

In the final game of the tournament, Cross Plains would play their best basketball of the year offensively and defensively against Lake Country. Lake Country jumped out to a huge 13-0 lead, but a change in tempo

and a defensive adjustment gave the Buffaloes life as they chipped away at the lead the rest of the game. The Buffaloes would outscore Lake Country 42-39 after the bad start, but the 13 point hole proved to be too much. Dalton Gilliam had a big game with 15, as Blake Hutchins would come off the bench to spark the team with 9.

Game Recaps:

Game 1

	1	2	3	4	F
Huckabay	23	20	15	11	69
C.P.	11	12	9	10	42

Scoring: Gilliam 11, French 9, Hutchins 5, Holland 4, Branch 4, Willis 4, Henderson 3, Stephenson 2

Game 2

	1	2	3	4	F
Hico	5	4	8	15	32
CP	4	6	4	8	22

Scoring: French 6, Willis 4, Henderson 4, Holland 4, Stephenson 4

Game 3

	1	2	3	4	F
Lake Country	22	6	4	17	52
CP	8	14	10	10	42

Scoring: Gilliam 15, Hutchins 9, Stephenson 6, French 6, Branch 4, Holland 2

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Help Us Help Our School

Did you know there's an easy way to help us raise money for our school—for books, band uniforms, reading programs and anything else that can use extra funding? It's called Take Charge Education, and it's helping our school right now.

Here's how it works: Visit Target.com/tcoe or call 1-800-316-6142 to designate our school, then use your REDcard whenever you shop. When you use your REDcard (Target Credit Card, Target Debit Card or Target Visa Credit Card, Target

will donate up to 1 percent of your purchases to the eligible K-12 school of your choice.

Learn more at Target.com/redecard or stop in a Target store to apply.

Grandparents, alumni, friends and neighbors are all welcome to participate in the program. The more people we involve, the harder the program works for our school. If you're already participating, thank you! Check our school's progress anytime at Target.com/tcoe.

Cross Plains I.S.D. Participating in Labels for Education Program

Welcome to an exciting year at Cross Plains I.S.D! This year, our school will be participating in the Labels for Education program. Through the program we can collect UPCs and beverage/sauce caps from participating products to earn points that can be redeemed for FREE educational merchandise!

Our goal is to collect enough points so that we can redeem them for school materials. It's easy to help—simply save UPCs and beverage/sauce caps from participating products and drop them off at the Cross Plains I.S.D. offices. Cross Plains I.S.D. hopes

to be successful at this program.

If you have any questions, please contact Lurene McNutt at 254-725-6122 or via email at lmcnutt@cplains.esc14.net.

Thank you for your support. Together with the Labels for Education program—we can build a better school for our children.

Some examples of participants include: Campbells, V8, Prego, Pepperidge Farm, Post, People, Bic, Emerald, Glad, Dannon, Pop Secret and Goldfish.

Submitted by
Lurene McNutt

Support Our Students at Cross Plains Elementary School

Help our school earn FREE educational equipment by shopping at your local Lowe's Supermarkets and saving your receipts from 9/1/2012 to 3/31/2013. Send them to school with

your child and we can turn them into FREE educational equipment.

Fill out the entry form below and send it to school with your receipt tapes by January 15th to get a

chance to win a \$500 Lowe's gift card and an iPod Shuffle. Please see complete contest rules at: www.registertapesforeducation.com/shopperscontest.

Lowe's Register Tapes Entry Form

Please enter me for a chance to win a \$500 Lowe's gift card plus an iPod Shuffle

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Phone Number (_____) _____

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Cross Plains Review Wedding Announcement POLICIES

\$15.00 CHARGE IF YOU DESCRIBE CLOTHING, TABLE/ROOM DECORATIONS, ETC

There is **NO** Charge for Announcements Without Descriptions

Call 254-725-6111 For Details



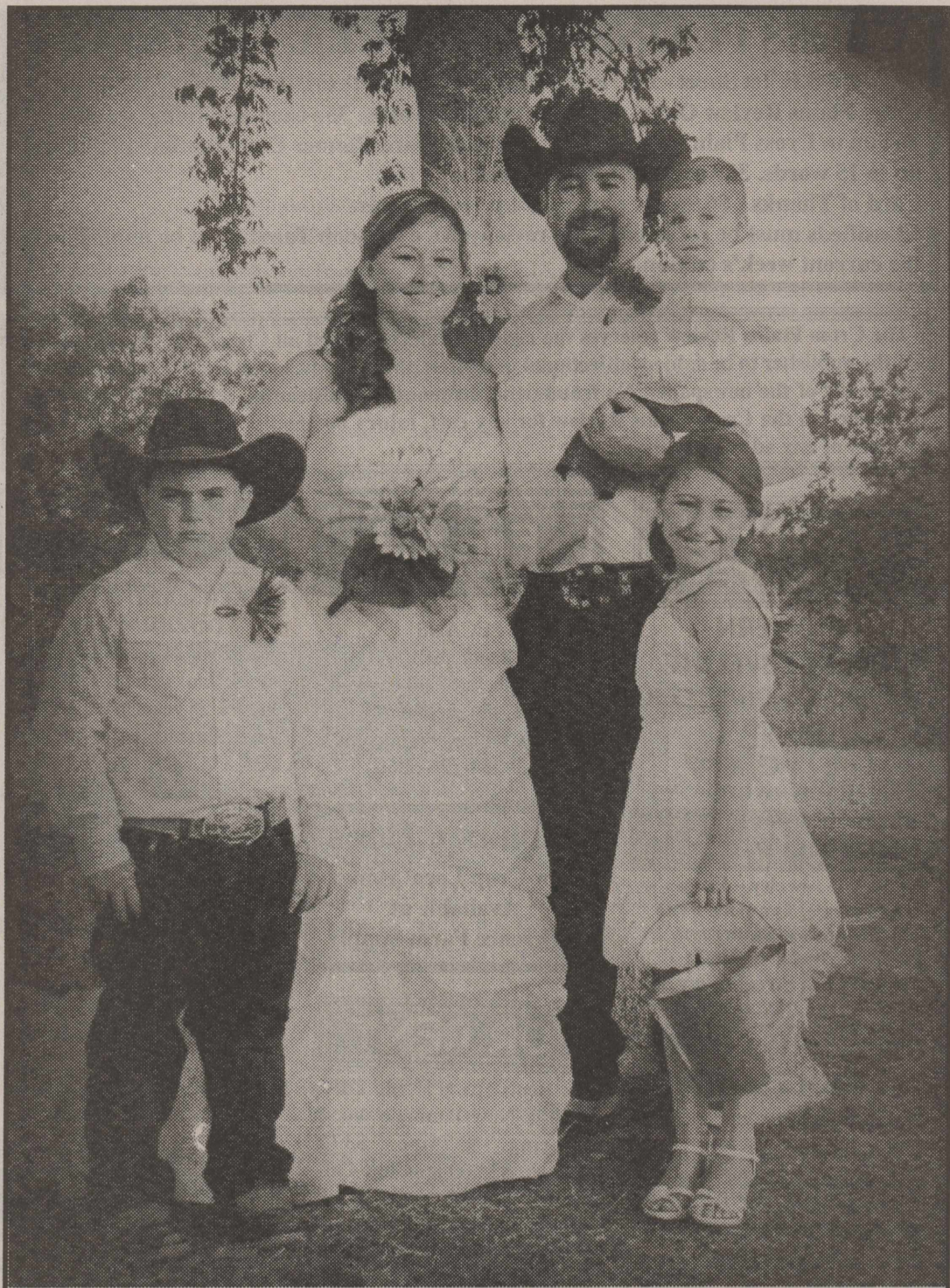
Kindle Fire HD Drawing

Sponsored by Cross Plains Chamber of Commerce. Kindle donated by a private donor. Proceeds go to Cross Plains Cancer Fund. Raffle ticket sold at Mexico City Cafe, Jean's Feedbarn, Chamber Board, and the Chamber office. Tickets are \$1 or 6 tickets for \$5. Drawing will be held Friday December 21, 2012. This could make a great Christmas present!

Cross Plains Review Deadline

Ads Noon on Tuesday Articles Noon on Monday

254-725-6111 e-mail crossplainsreview@earthlink.net



In Appreciation — Words cannot express how truly grateful we are for the outpouring of love and support we have received for Kyle and our family over the past several months. We are touched by the numerous ways our friends and the community have been so generous and caring through words of encouragement, thoughtful cards, donations, visits and food. We would like to thank the organizers, volunteers, participants and all those who attended the Team Kyle fundraiser and for Salamanders who generously donated/designed the Team Kyle T-shirts. We also deeply appreciate the bake sale and gun raffle benefits and are grateful for the time and effort that was put into each. We would like to extend a special thank you to those who established the love fund to collect money for Kyle's medical expenses and the local churches for their donations of food and money to the love fund. Above all, we would like to give thanks for the ongoing prayers. The Lord has sustained us and we ask that you continue to lift us up in the months to come. May the Lord richly bless you for your love and generosity. "I always thank my God for you because of His grace given you in Christ Jesus."

1 Corinthians 1:4

Blessings and love,
Kyle and Kristin McClure and Family

Tucking In Your Garden Bed for Winter

Are your plants ready for winter?

We are often asked about what, when, and how to trim plants for over wintering. Eventually you will want to remove the plant's spent foliage as most will be wintering at or below the soil line. (New growth is coming next spring, don't worry!) Cutting the plant back to 4-6" high is a good rule of thumb. You can use almost anything from scissors, hand pruners, grass shears, to hedge shears (my personal favorite). Now is also a good time to pull out any annuals, as they won't be coming back like your perennials will.

You don't have to cut back everything in the fall. Here are some guidelines we like to use.

Why cut back now?

- **Appearances.** You just want to tidy up and get everything ship shape before storing your tools.
- **Dried Bouquets.** You want to harvest some of the dried flowers, stalks, and seed heads for winter bouquets.
- **To make raking easier.** Tree leaves drifting in will turn into a wet smothering blanket over the winter which will harm your plants.

Why wait until spring time?

- You like how they look and want some winter interest. Examples would be Sedums, Hydrangeas and dark-leaved

Heucheras which look great with snow.

- **The flowers heads will provide food for birds.** Echinacea After Midnight, Echinacea Purpurea and Rudbeckia Goldsturm and others will help our feathered friends when food is scarce.

- **You have a windswept location** and want to help drift snow to insulate your plants. I'll tend to cut back to 12" for winter, then go to 4-6" as the weather breaks in spring.

What should I leave alone?

- **Shrubs and evergreens.** You'll be pruning for shape and health, as they will be growing on last year's growth and not starting over like a perennial. You can tell where to stop as you are cutting back as you will see some green inside the stem (they won't totally die back). Just start out at the tip and work your way down the stem if you are not sure. Perovskia would be a good example of one that you would not take to the ground.
- **Winter flowering plants like Helleborus.**

Our website offers tips on caring and pruning for each plant. As always, we are standing by if you ever have any questions!

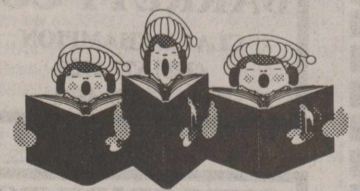
Happy gardening!
William Boonstras
Second Generation Owner
& Grower

"Cross Plains Remembered" Volumes Make GREAT!!!!!!! Christmas Gifts

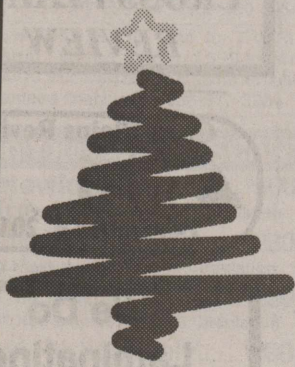
Cross Plains Remembered Volume 1, 2 and 3 are available at Texas Heritage Bank, the Senior Center, Salamander's, Lawrence Farm and Ranch Supply, Cross Plains Review, Cross Plains Public Library and Connie's Cuts and Curlys. The books are \$20.00 each and would make wonderful Christmas gifts. You can complete someone's collection, start with Volume 1 or send the entire collection. There are limited numbers of Volume 1 and 2.

To order specify which Volume(s) you are requesting along with \$20 each book, plus \$4.50 shipping for one; shipping for two books is \$6.00 and three books \$8.00 to:

Barbarian Festival Committee
P.O. Box 741
Cross Plains, TX 76443



Cross Plains Review



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December 6, 2012

Don't Raise Taxes on Small Businesses

By Senator
Kay Bailey Hutchison

Americans are understandably uncertain about the full extent of the damage to our economy if Congress and the White House fail to agree on deficit reduction and taxes to avoid the January 1, 2013 "fiscal cliff." But most taxpayers do know that their taxes are going up on January 1st if agreement isn't reached.

I still believe that a timely, bipartisan agreement can be finalized. But time is growing short, and the White House and Congressional leaders need to commit to serious negotiations.

Thus far, the President has only talked about tax increases on "wealthy" taxpayers (individuals who make more than \$200,000 and joint filers who make more than \$250,000). If the President gets his way, however, hundreds of thousands of small businesses would be hit by these higher taxes and new hiring would remain weak.

Most small business owners declare business profits on their personal tax returns and are taxed at the personal tax rates. In the most recent year for which data is available, 4.3 million small businesses filed and paid taxes at individual tax rates. Of those, 1.2 million would be affected by the proposed tax increase. Small businesses are the engines of our economy. They are responsible for driving most of the job growth in this country, providing approximately 55 percent of

private sector jobs. And the most dynamic job-creators are found within the 1.2 million small businesses that would be hit with higher taxes.

On my June bus tour in central and south Texas, I talked to a number of small business owners about what higher taxes would mean. In Uvalde, I talked to Donald McLaughlin of DKM Enterprises, who owns a steel salvage and distribution company. His is among America's tens of thousands of small and medium-sized manufacturers, many of them centers of cutting-edge technology and employers of some of the most skilled workers in the world. Nearly seven out of eight of small manufacturers pay their taxes at personal income tax rates. These companies already pay higher taxes than competitors in Germany and China. Raising their taxes even more will make them less competitive, and opportunities to grow and create more good-paying jobs will be lost.

Also set to take effect on January 1st is a huge jump in the estate tax, referred to as the "death tax" by small-business owners. If action isn't taken, when a family business owner dies, his or her survivors will pay a 55 percent estate tax on assets: equipment, land and inventory. The increase will boost death tax liabilities by more than one-third on most family-owned businesses and threaten to force many to close and liquidate in

order to pay the IRS. Particularly hard-hit will be ranchers and farmers, who could be forced to sell land in an unfavorable real-estate market.

Proposed tax rate hikes would come on top of the Obamacare taxes that begin in earnest in 2013: higher Medicare health-insurance taxes, a new health-insurance penalty tax, costs of government health-insurance mandates, and taxes on employers that provide relatively generous coverage. The Joint Committee on Taxation projects that, beginning in 2013, the costs of Obamacare on small businesses will rise to more than \$100 billion per year. In addition there will be a 3.8 percent surcharge on capital gains and dividend taxes.

The looming fiscal cliff could set back our economy and our small businesses for years. Higher taxes will hammer down job growth and make only a small dent in the huge budget deficit — which will exceed \$1 trillion for the fourth consecutive year. We need serious engagement in Washington on the two critical issues: reducing skyrocketing federal spending and enacting comprehensive tax reform. It is the only way to get the economy back on track. In the next few weeks, I'll be putting forward my ideas on these two crucial problems.

Hutchison, a Republican, is the senior U.S. senator from Texas.

Comptroller announces Final Report in the Texas, It's Your Money Series

(AUSTIN)—Texas Comptroller Susan Combs released today the final report in the Texas, It's your Money series titled, *Your Money and Pension Obligations*. Combs also announced recommendations aimed at improving government transparency for legislative leadership to consider in the upcoming session.

This latest report provides a detailed look at state and local pension programs, while the overall report series offers Texans a clear picture of who is taxing them, how their money is being spent and how public debt is growing. Each one of the reports focuses on financial obligations of taxpayers and provides suggestions on how government should provide more transparency regarding those obligations. Combs is now recommending the Legislature consider these suggestions in the upcoming session.

"What comes through in each of these reports is a set of recommendations which shows where we fall short of talking straight to the taxpayer and providing a more transparent government," Combs said. "I am working with leadership on leg-

islative ideas to embody these recommendations and principles."

The first of these reports, *Your Money and The Taxing Facts*, examines all the local entities that contribute to a taxpayer's bill, such as cities, counties, special-purpose districts and transit authorities, and identifies trends in spending. Combs is calling for these taxing entities to post more information on the Web and for local taxing districts to send that information to the Comptroller's office so the agency can put all local sales and property tax information on one public website.

The second report, *Your Money and Local Debt*, zeroes in on the debt issued by local governments. Combs suggests ballots for new debt contain information both on current and proposed debt obligations, including the following: the debt's stated purpose, total outstanding debt, total debt per capita and annual debt service requirements.

The third report, *Your Money and Education Debt*, examines the indebtedness of Texas' public schools and higher education

institutions. Because most of this debt is used for school construction, Combs wants information on the cost of each facility, cost per square foot and space per student be posted on the Web.

The fourth report, *Your Money and Pension Obligations*, looks at public pension debt, which has made national headlines recently. Combs urges public pension funds in Texas to report on a public website such line items as their actual investment returns for the past 10 years and the plans' assumed rates of return.

"We want to give taxpayers the same kind of information on government debt and spending that they would need to prepare and balance their own budgets, to handle a mortgage or buy a car—a clear knowledge of what we're spending and what we owe," Combs said. "It's your money. If you don't know how it's being used, you need to know. And it's our job to let you know."

Each of the four reports along with interactive Web tools can be seen at www.texasits-yourmoney.org.

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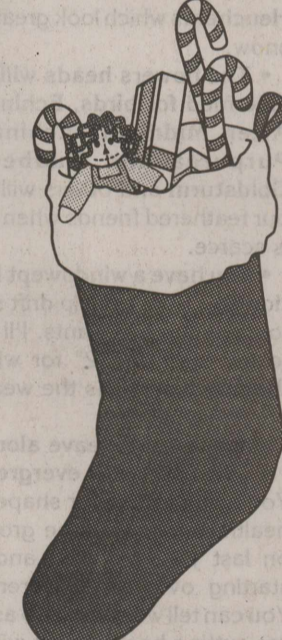
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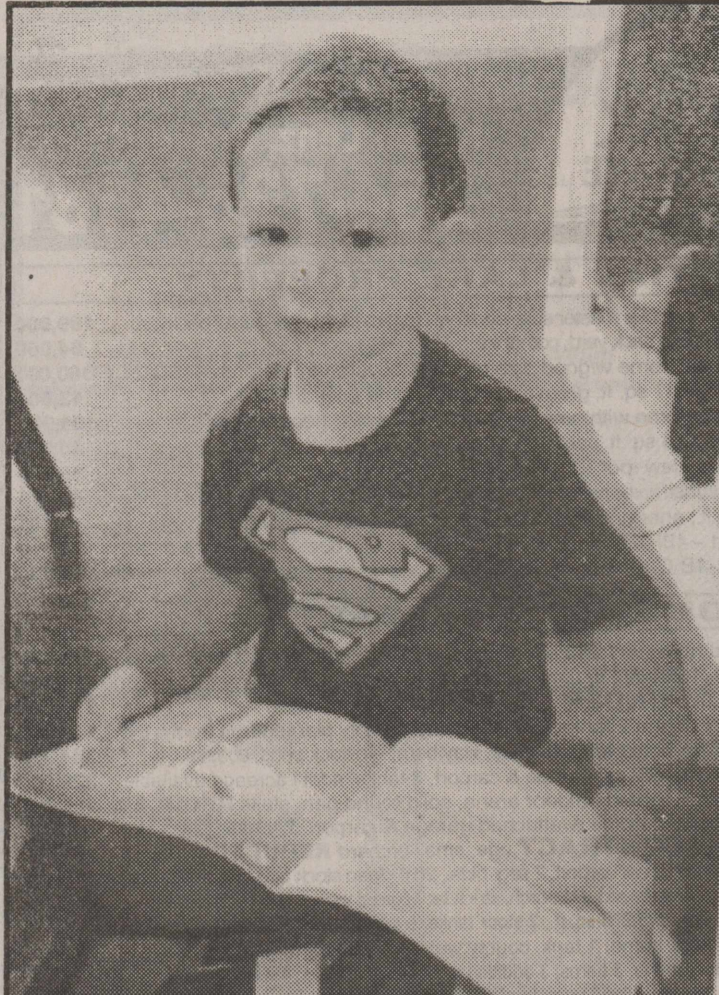


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Reading Is Fun — This little one seems to be enjoying Carol's latest children's book.

Children Enjoy New Book for Christmas

Children continue to enjoy the new book by Carol Walt, "Santa Is A Cowboy". This story-poem has proved to be a hit with preschoolers and kids in first and second grades.

With illustrations by the children's book artist Simon Goodway of England, the book tells a sweet and colorful story of one boy's visit to his Grandpa's ranch at Christmas.

The cost of the book is \$10. You

can get an autographed copy by contacting Carol Walt at 254-643-4612, 3101 CR 239, Rising Star, TX 76471 or waltscrosstexas@gmail.com.

You can obtain the book by ordering directly from AuthorHouse.com publisher or by going to Google.books to get a copy delivered as an e-book.

This is a great Christmas gift or stocking stuffer for young children.

Latest Eula burglary results in gunshots fired at victim

Three residential burglaries have residents on edge in the Eula community after the latest burglary attempt resulted in gunshots being fired at the victims.

Callahan County Sheriff John Windham reported three home burglaries have been reported in the Eula community in the last three months.

The latest burglary, which occurred last week resulted in gunshots fired upon the victim after they drove upon the burglars making their getaway. Sheriff Windham said its unclear where the gunshots were fired at, and is unknown how many shots were fired when the suspects drove away.

"We do have suspects in this case," Sheriff Windham said and he reports the latest burglary is possibly related to the first two.

Sheriff Windham said in the latest burglary, a young man who lives at the residence, actually caught the suspects pulling out of the residence and that's when they fired shots in the vicinity of the victim.

Sheriff Windham said all three burglaries have occurred within two and one-half miles of each other.

In all three burglaries, Sheriff Windham reported the crime occurred when the homeowners were away. He said two of the

burglaries have occurred after dark, while one occurred during daylight hours. He said the items stolen included household items, jewelry, televisions, and any items the suspects can sell or pawn quickly.

"They're just trying to make some fast cash," the County Sheriff said. He said all the burglaries have occurred by breaking into a door.

Sheriff Windham said he's notified all the pawn shops in the area to look out for certain stolen items.

Sheriff Windham said part-time County Deputy Daniel Vinson is investigating all three burglaries. The County Sheriff also said he's asked the Texas Rangers to help with the investigation. Sheriff Windham said Texas Ranger Shane Morrow, who is assigned to Callahan County, is assisting with the investigation.

Sheriff Windham said because he's leaving office at the end of December, he wants all ongoing investigations caught up before he leaves office. "I don't want to leave Terry (newly elected Sheriff Terry Joy) with a lot of cases," Sheriff Windham said.

Terry Joy was elected as the new County Sheriff on Tuesday, November 6th and will officially take office on January 1, 2013.

SWCD Now taking Windbreak Tree Orders

The Callahan Divide Soil & Water Conservation District is now taking orders for their Annual Windbreak Tree Program. Each year the District offers these trees to the general public on a first come first serve basis at a very inexpensive price.

These windbreak trees come fresh from the Texas Forest Service Nursery out of Idalou, Texas.

This year's selection of available trees include a variety of evergreens. They are: Afghanistan Pine, Pinyon Pine and Austrian Pine. These Evergreen Seedlings are being offered for \$5 for \$20.00 or \$105.00 for a box of 30 per species.

In addition to the Evergreens, a variety of bare-rooted hardwood seedlings are being offered this year. The list includes,

Bur Oak, Redbud and Pecan. These hardwood seedlings are offered in bundles of 5 for \$20.00 or 25 for \$65.00

Orders will be taken until January 31, 2013 expected delivery date on February 15, 2013.

All orders are pre-paid with check or money order. These trees are delivered fresh from the Texas Forest Service Nursery.

For more information on planning, planting and maintenance of windbreak trees or how to purchase these low cost seedlings contact the Callahan Divide Soil & Water Conservation District, Texas at (325) 854-1349 Extension 3.

The office in Baird is located at 141 W. 4th - Suite B.

Looking for a Stocking Stuffer? Try Classic Books on CD

The Cross Plains Public Library is selling classic books on CD featuring 34 titles from Listener's Digest. Each CD is \$5 or 6 for \$25.

The list of titles are: *Around the World in Eighty Days, Favorite Tales for Children, Frankenstein, My Antonia, Peter the Great, Silas Marner, Tales of Beatrix Potter, The Call of the Wild, Hans Christian Andersen Classic Fairy Tales, O. Henry's Christmas Stories, Tales of Oscar Wilde Children Stories, The Last of the Mohicans, The Open Boat, The Private History of a Campaign That Failed, This Side of Paradise, Anna Karenina, Black Beauty, The Invisible Man, The*

Legend of Sleepy Hollow, The Moon and Sixpence, The Red Badge of Courage, Nicolas and Alexandria, War and Peace, The Scarlet Letter, The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mrs. Hyde, and these Sherlock Holmes adventures: *Silver Blaze, The Crooked Man, The Final Problem, The Red Circle, The Second Stain and The Priory School.*

Think of those hours you spend in the car traveling with the kids over the holidays. Instead of them watching a DVD, they can be entertained by a classic! Stop by the library and buy some today.

Submitted by Michelle Kaiser

Resource Care Clinic Giving Back to the Community

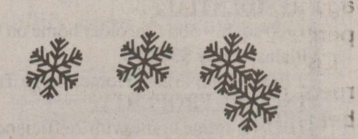
'Tis the season of giving and Thanksgiving. We at the Resource Care Clinic would like to give back to our community by sponsoring a canned food drive to benefit the Cross Plains Senior Center and the local Food Bank.

We are blessed to have these organizations to assist our community members in need.

Donations may be dropped off at both Cross Plains clinic locations, at Lowe's Market and at the Cross Plains Senior Center. Please help us fill the cupboards this holiday season for those in need.

Submitted by Cindy Payne

Cross Plains Review
8
December 6, 2012



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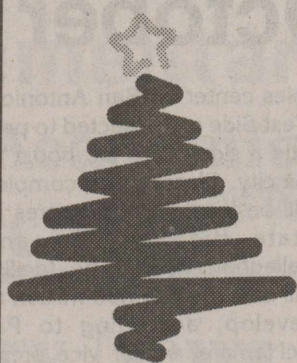
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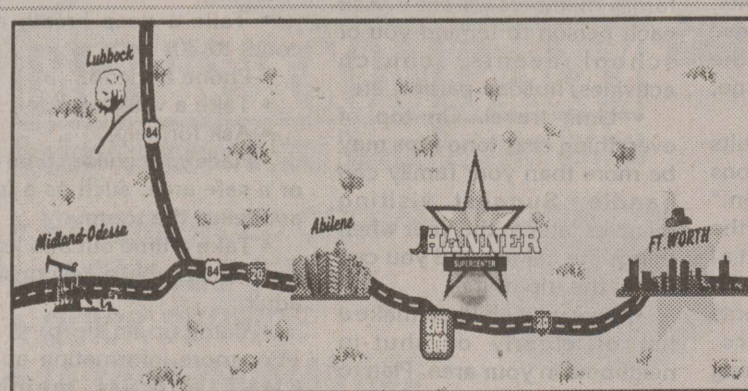
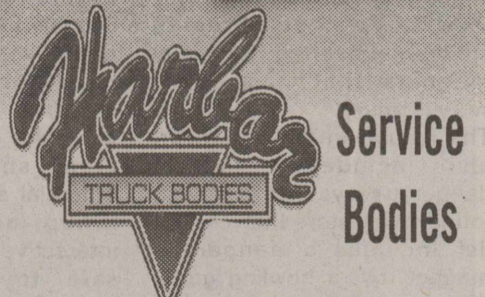
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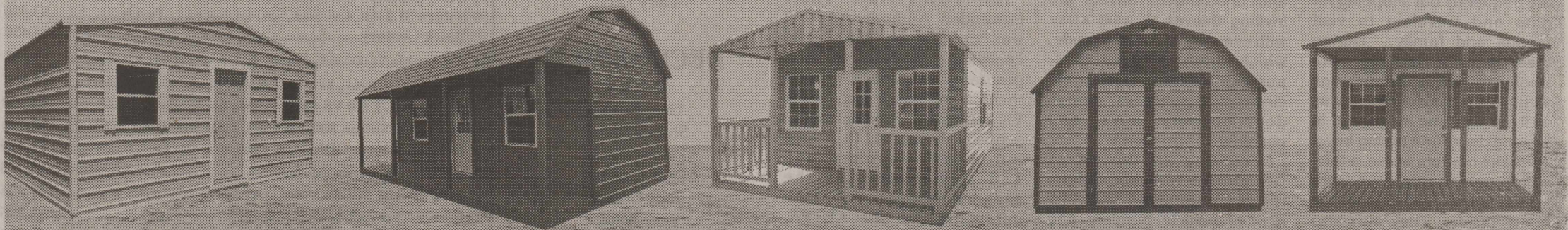
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