

Cross Plains Review

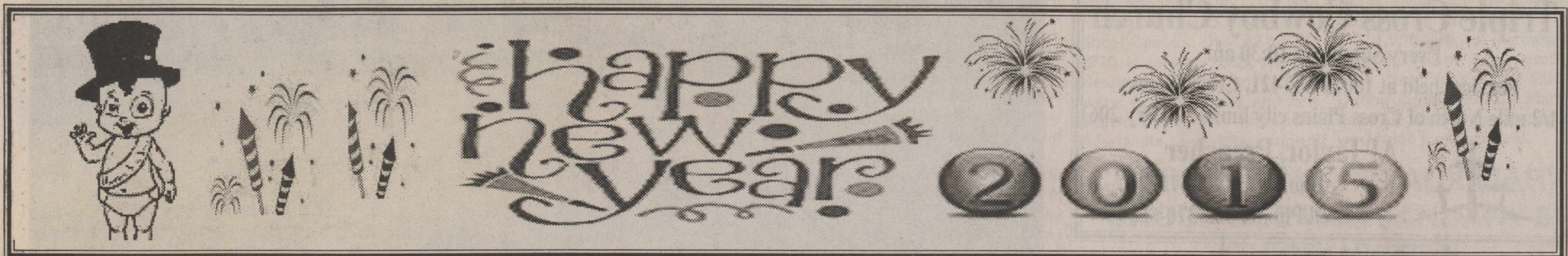
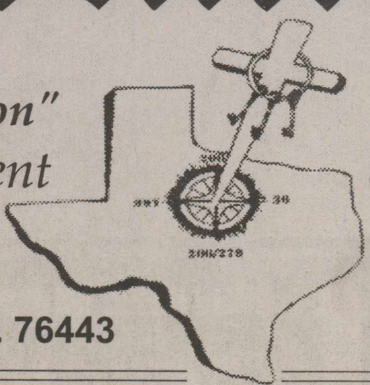
"Cross Plains' Oldest Business Institution"
Keys to Our Past, Present

"A Caring Community"
& Future Hinge on the Cross!

75¢

Volume 106 • Number 43
116 E. S. 1st St. • P. O. Box 519 • Cross Plains, Tx. 76443

January 1, 2015 • 10 Pages
(254) 725-6111 • crossplainsreview@earthlink.net



RETIRING COUNTY OFFICIALS—A retirement party for Dianne Gunter, at left, and Sharon Owens, at right, was held Monday, December 29th at the Callahan County Courthouse in Baird. Dianne has worked for at the County Courthouse for 26 years, including the last 16 years as County Treasurer. Sharon has worked at the County Courthouse for the previous 20 years, including the last 16 years as District Clerk. Their last day at the County is Wednesday, December 31st. Oaths of office will be given to all Callahan County elected officials on Thursday, January 1st at 1:30 p.m. in the County Courtroom, including new County Treasurer Jan Windham and new 42nd District Clerk Amber Tinsley.

Driver's License Office in Baird is open again

The Driver's License Office in the Callahan County Courthouse in Baird is now OPEN again. The Baird office will be open on the first, third and fifth Wednesday of each month. Office hours are 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon and from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Come Join the Weight Warriors

Weight Warriors is still meeting on Tuesdays at the First United Methodist Church fellowship hall. We are a group of like-minded folks with a common goal of health eating habits and group support. A new contest involving money challenge is beginning in September. Anyone is welcome to join our group. We meet at 5:30 every Tuesday. Come join the fun we share with each other.

SCHOOLBUS

Cross Plains Schools will resume Monday January 5th at regular time.

2015

New Years Eve at the Senior Center

If you are looking for a place to enjoy the company of friends, play all kinds of games, and welcome 2015 come to the Senior Center, Wednesday, December 31 at 6:00 pm till we all give out or the New Year rings in, whichever comes first! (19 people toasted the New Year in 2014).

Bring your favorite snack foods and games as we bid farewell to 2014 and wish everyone a Happy New Year as 2015 is ushered in at midnight.

9 Years After The 2006 Fire, Cross Plains Stays Strong

On December 27, 2005 a fire struck our small town. Over 100 homes and businesses were destroyed or damaged, thousands of acres burned and two lives lost. It started as a small grass fire in the ditch on Highway 36 outside Cross Plains. One ember jumped the road and caught the grassy fence line on fire and moved towards Cottonwood, then it took a hard turn towards Cross Plains. Our volunteer firefighters quickly called for back up and by the time the fire was out almost 30 units from surrounding towns came to help.

Many people were out of town visiting family for the holidays and received the devastating phone call that their houses had burned. Generous people from across the state traveled to Cross Plains to help volunteer or sent donations.

Though our small town experienced a devastating tragedy that would have made most towns give up and move on, our small community pulled together and built Cross Plains into the prosperous town it is today. Dozens of houses have been rebuilt including the Methodist Church. The lives of those lost in the fire have been honored in great ways in our community.

We are better prepared for emergency situations now than we were. Due to new fire trucks, more volunteers and the near completion of a new fire station. Donations for the Volunteer Fire Department are still needed. Any donations can be sent to P.O. Box 339, Cross Plains, Texas 76443.

Our community has only become closer and stronger since the fire and support each other with each anniversary of that day. It's been 9 years since the Cross

Plains fire and our little town is stronger than ever and still growing. We should all be so proud of how far we have come and keep looking forward to bigger and better things to come.

CROSS PLAINS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT'S ANNUAL

CHILI SUPPER

FRIDAY JAN 9

HOT AND MILD AVAILABLE

CHILI \$8
FRITO PIE \$2
CHILI DOGS \$2

5-7 PM

Proceeds go toward the new firehouse. We need about \$20,000 to get 'er done.

Help Us Finish the Firehouse!
BAPTIST CHURCH
Cross Plains

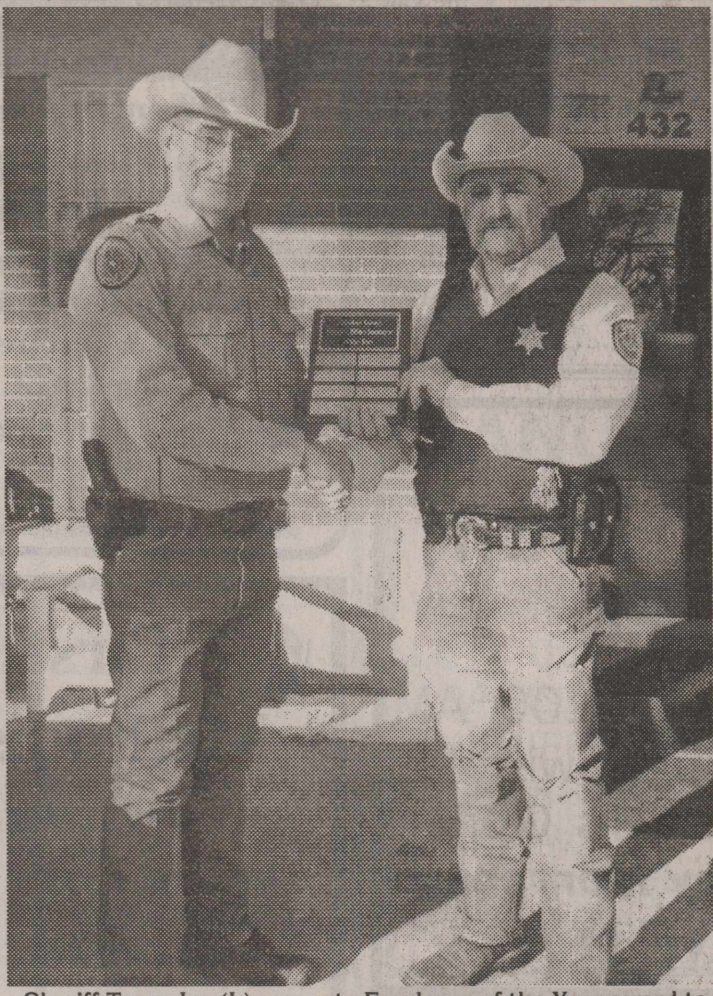
CPVFD- Chili Supper January 9

Does good hot bowl of Chili sound good? Well, it's almost time for the Cross Plains Volunteer Fire Department's Annual Chili Supper!

The Chili Supper will be held on Friday, January 9th at the Family Life Center of the Cross Plains Baptist Church. Prepared by the local firefighters, the chili comes in two varieties — hot and mild. Frito Pie and Chili Dogs are also available. Chili is \$8, with Frito Pie \$2, and Chili Dogs \$2. Serving is from 5 until 7 p.m.

Plan now to come out and enjoy dinner, visit with friends and neighbors and help the CPVFD. Proceeds benefit the new firehouse, which is getting closer to being completed. About \$20,000 more is needed to finish the building. If you can't make the Chili Supper, but would like to help with the building, you can send a check to Cross Plains VFD, P. O. Box 339, Cross Plains, TX 76443. Your support is appreciated

SHERIFF'S CORNER



Sheriff Terry Joy (L) presents Employee of the Year award to Chief Deputy Rick Jowers.

Chief Deputy Rick Jowers Voted Officer of the Year

Each year the Sheriff's Office employees vote on someone in the Department to be employee of the year. Each Callahan County Sheriff's Department employee votes for the employee that they think is doing the best job for the Sheriff's Department and the people of Callahan County. Rick Jowers was their choice for 2014.

Chief Deputy Jowers has many law enforcement skills. He was a jailer for Taylor County Sheriff's Department before coming to work for Callahan County as a Deputy. His work skills, honesty, dedication and what I call good old fashioned work ethics were recognized early on. He was promoted to Sergeant and has since been promoted to Chief Deputy.

Chief Deputy Jowers is a working supervisor and sets the example of good, ethical law enforcement working skills for all

Sheriff's Deputies to follow. He trains and leads others by setting a good example. On dangerous emergency calls, or all calls, if he is not the first to arrive on the scene he soon arrives at the scene as backup. He takes charge of the emergency and sometimes dangerous situations, where instant decisions that involve liability must be made. He makes good decisions and is fair, honest, and compassionate when dealing with the public.

He is loved and respected by his family and he is a good father. His family understands the demands of the law enforcement profession that he chose. They give him the support and encouragement that allows him to be the best. I can depend on him when law enforcement situations get tough. I am proud to have him for my Chief Deputy.



Texas Heritage Bank

"We're Proud of Our Local Heritage"

Member FDIC

Presents: "What's Inside"

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Sunday School9:45 AM

Morning Worship.....11:00 AM

Ministry Activities

Youth Meet at Pool House.....6:30PM

Thomas Estes, Pastor

Gregg Steidle, Youth Pastor

Friendly Church

Church (254) 725-6266

Bible Teaching

Living Water Ministries Fellowship

Restoring And Equipping The Saints

Sunday....10:00 am Wednesday....7:00 pm

Pastor Max Evans

For Information Call (254) 725-7418

Rowden Baptist Church

Pastor: Wayne Lenz

Music: Karen Lenz & Diane Woods

Bible Study...10:00 am

Sunday Morning Worship...11:00 am

2990 Highway 36 at Rowden 12 Miles West of Cross Plains

Pioneer Baptist Church

Pastor:

Music Director:

Dwaine Clowers

Barbara Jo Medley

Sunday School.....10:00am

Sunday Morning Worship.....11:00am

Sunday Evening Worship.....6:00pm

Wednesday Prayer Service.....7:00pm

First Presbyterian Church

Sunday Service 9:00 AM

Music- Connie Swift

Lead Singers: 4His Glory

Pastor Kathy Monroe

208 N. Ave. D

CROSS PLAINS CHURCH OF CHRIST

433 North Main Street

Cross Plains, Texas 76443

Minister: RICK AUSTIN

SUNDAY:

Morning Worship: 10:45 A.M.

Bible Class: 9:45 A.M.

Evening Worship: 5:00P.M.

Wednesday: Evening: 7:00P.M.

Ladies Class - Wednesday:

10:00A.M. (at the church activity center on East Hwy 36)

Office: (254-725-6117)

Cell Phone: Rick - (918) 348-6859



LOVE'S TRAVEL STOP TAKING SHAPE—The new Love's Travel Stop that will be situated on 12 1/2 acres of land on the northeast corner of I-20 & Highway 283 in Baird continues to take shape in preparation for a spring 2015 opening. Bill Gleason, Real Estate Project Manager for Love's, said the Love's Travel Stop to be located in Baird will consist of a 10,000 square foot store, with either one or two restaurants inside the travel stop. Gleason said the restaurant brands coming to Baird have yet to be determined. There will be eight gas pumps on the site, and another eight diesel pumps for truckers, Gleason said. He said there will be paved parking for 80 semi-trucks at the travel stop. Gleason added there will be a tire store inside the travel stop, and Love's Travel Stop in Baird will also provide roadside assistance along Interstate 20 through Love's Truck Tire Care vehicle fleet. Currently there is one Love's Travel Stop on the western edge of Sweetwater along I-20 and a smaller Love's convenience store located in Ranger, also on

I-20. Gleason said the Baird Love's Travel Stop will be similar in size to the Loves in Sweetwater. Gleason said the Love's in Baird will cater to the truckers along I-20. He said the Baird travel stop will have five shower stalls inside the travel stop for the truckers. He said all the restrooms in the Love's Travel Stop will have extra-large facilities. Gleason said Loves makes it a mission to provide big clean restrooms for the traveling public. Gleason said the Baird Love's Travel Stop will employ between 40-50 full-time employees. He said these jobs are good paying, with 401K retirement benefits and insurance offered to its employees. He pointed out that these jobs in Baird will stay in Baird, that Love's will remain a fixture of the community for generations to come. Construction of the Love's Travel Stop is expected to be completed by mid-spring 2015, Gleason said. He said Love's builds about 20 stores a year and will be general contractor for the Baird Love's construction.

Heart to Heart Food Drive Jan 10th, at the Old Firehouse

On January 10th, from 10:00am-4:00pm, bring non-perishable food items to the Old Firehouse on North First Street in Clyde, as a donation to the Heart to Heart Ministry.

Every person that brings at least one item will be entered into a drawing for a gift basket that is filled with items donated by the vendors that participate in the Market at Clyde. If you

have shopped at The Market in Clyde in the past, you know that this will be a nice gift. The names will be collected through the day and one name will be drawn at 4:00pm, at the completion of the market. The person will not have to be present to win.

Any non-perishable item will be helpful but these are some suggestions; canned meats,

soups, chili, canned sausage, stews, canned beans, green beans, corn, mixed vegetables or any vegetable, canned fruit or fruit juices, pastas, cereals, crackers and healthy snack foods. All donations will be appreciated.

Heart to Heart Ministry helps families and individuals all over Callahan County. The need for good food is great. Healthy proteins, fruits, vegetables, and whole grain products are important for the children of our communities to grow and learn well. Many working families in our community are not able to provide adequate nutrition without a little extra help. Every donation is important. If you can participate in this food drive we ask you to please give what you can.

"Elf on the Shelf" Hides All Over the Cross Plains Public Library

January 5th is the deadline at the Cross Plains Public Library for our "Elf on the Shelf" contests. Our girl elf has been hiding all over the library. Each time she is found, the discoverer receives a treat from the library director. Our elf is then hidden again for the next discoverer, repeating until January 5th. Come see if you can find her!

While you're here, our girl Elf on the Shelf needs a name, so we've come up with 26 possible names to choose from. Our books from the Libri Foundation and donor Terry Meany, plus STEM books from Bill Strawbridge and Meg Wallhagen are being featured. Stop in and check out a book from this new collection and you'll receive a chance to name our elf. On January 5th, the name with the most votes will be the winner.

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Jan. 1, 2015

Love Fund
Has been established at Texas Heritage Bank
For
Owen Turner
son of Joseph and Allison Turner and grandson of Greg and Dannes Turner

Obituaries

J.D. Moore

J.D. Moore, age 82, passed away Monday evening, December 22, 2014 at Hendrick Medical Center with his family by his side. Funeral services will be on Saturday, December 27, 2014 at 10:30 a.m. in the Higginbotham Chapel with Rich Austin officiating assisted by Charles Chesshir; burial will follow in the Smith Springs Cemetery near Stephenville. Visitation will be Friday evening from 6 to 7 p.m. December 26th at the funeral home.

He was born on March 4, 1932 in Erath County, Texas to Herbert and Millie (Chaney) Moore. He married Jean Hook on September 12, 1953 in Stephenville. He worked for the telephone company for many years and was a member of the Cross Plains Volunteer Fire Department for 12 years. He was a member of the Church of Christ. J.D. served in the U.S. Army as an MP from 1952-1954 in Staubing, Germany. After returning home from the military he and the family would travel around searching for antiques, old watches and clocks. He loved watching football, crime shows as well as western movies. His hobbies included gardening, fishing and refinishing furniture.

J.D. is survived by his wife Jean of 61 years of Cross Plains; son Johnny Moore of Cross Plains; two daughters, Vicky Worley and husband David of Cross Plains and Malinda Calcote and husband Bill of Winters; sister, Jo Odum of Baird; five grandsons, Jaden Winfrey, Ben Worley, Riley Moore, Jeff Worley, Joby Winfrey; and seven great grandchildren.

Pallbearers will be the grandsons and Danny Odum.

Love Fund

A Love Fund has been opened for Jesse Markham at Texas Heritage Bank for Medical Expenses.

Love Fund

A Love Fund has been opened for Rickey Thomas at Texas Heritage Bank for medical Expenses!

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Kevin Morton, Pastor

Office 725-7377

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Parsonage

325-624-5634

Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.

1000 North Main Street

www.gbgm-umc.org/crossplains/

First Baptist Church

Sunday Morning Sunday Evening

10:45 a.m. 6:30 p.m.

Sunday School

9:30 a.m.

Sunday Evening

6:30 pm Acts of God Video Series

6:30 p.m. Bible Drill - 1st- 6th

6:30 p.m. - Youth Discipleship

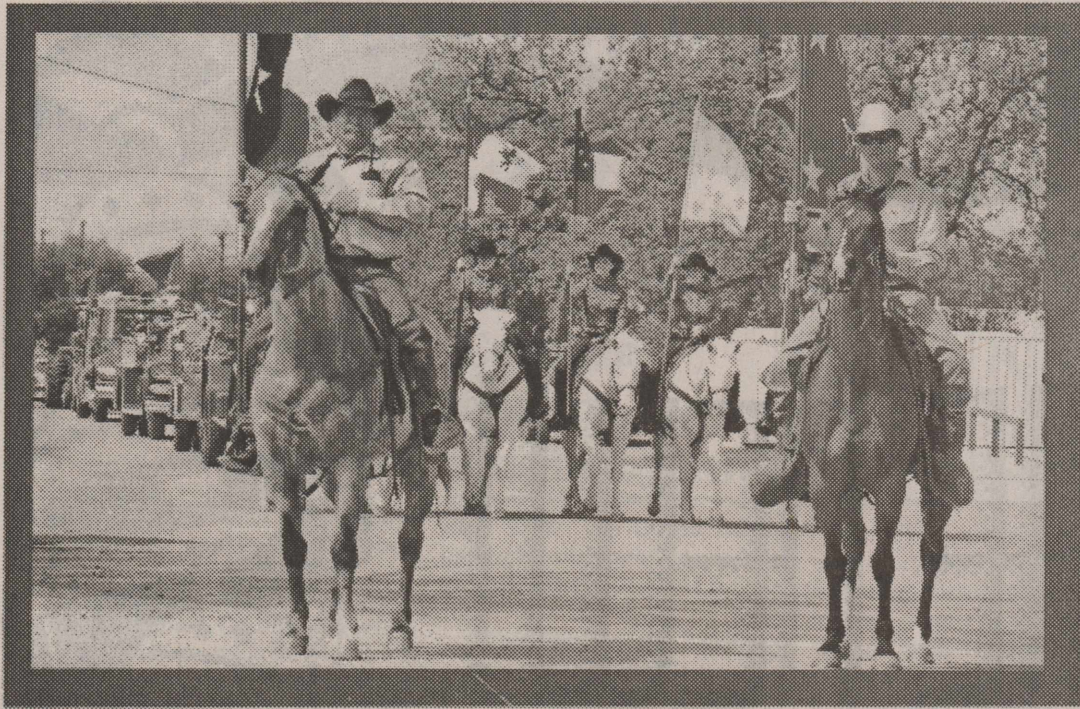
Wednesday

6:30 p.m - Prayer/Worship

Student & Children Ministies

(254) 725-7629 301 N. Main, Cross Plains, TX 76443

www.firstbaptistcp.com



Callahan County Sheriff's Posse 2015 Membership Meeting & Drive set for January 12th

The Callahan County Sheriff's Posse will hold its 2015 annual membership meeting and membership drive beginning at 6pm on Monday, January 12th at the rodeo grounds on US Highway 80 East, one block east of its intersection with US Highway 280 South in Baird. There will be a cook-out with free ribeye steaks, beans, potato salad and drinks for all prepaid

2015 members attending. New officers and directors will also be elected.

All interested in supporting this continuing county historical restoration and maintenance project whose purpose is community enjoyment and economic benefit are invited to attend and join the non-profit organization.

Annual individual member-

ships are \$25, annual family memberships are \$35 and lifetime memberships are \$500. Business sponsors may purchase an advertising banner to be displayed at all events at \$1,500 for 5 years. Other donations and work volunteers are always welcomed and appreciated.

SENIOR CITIZENS MENU

Jan. 5th - Jan. 9th

Monday 5th - Salisbury Steak w/Gravy, Potatoes, Corn, Bread, Dessert

Tuesday 6th - Baked Chicken, Green Beans, Sweet Potatoes, Bread, Dessert

Wednesday 7th - Spaghetti w/ meat sauce Lettuce/ Tomato Salad, Bread, Dessert

Thursday 8th - Frito Pie, (meat, cheese, chips) Fruit Salad, Cookie

Friday 9th - Tuna Salad Sandwich, Pickled Beets, Chips, Dessert

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

Monthly Menu may be picked up at the Senior Citizen Center

BBB warns of a Too Good to be True Travel scam

More than a dozen international students studying in Texas have lost thousands of dollars in a bogus travel agent scam. Campus police at Texas A&M University report 17 students tried to purchase airline tickets from Jasmine Travel. One of the students had done a search online as "airline tickets to India", and this site popped up: www.sulekha.com, which was described as India's version of Craigslist. From there she found Jasmine Travel was offering airfare to India for \$700 cheaper than anyone else. Without checking into the company, she wired \$1000 to them and contacted her friends, all of whom did the exact same thing. No one stopped to wonder why or how this company could offer such low airfare.

Investigators have found that they were using an address in Forest Hills, NY that was actually a Citibank office. In Los Alamitos, CA the office was actually another travel agency called Adam Intelligent Travel.

BBB is requesting assistance in alerting international students and anyone planning overseas visits about this scam.

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Jan. 1, 2015

Senior Citizens Center Activities

Jan. 5th - Jan. 9th

Monday-5th Exercise 11:00

Tuesday-6th Exercise 11:00 Game Night 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday-7th Exercise 11:00

Thursday -8th Exercise 10:45/ Bingo 11:15

Friday -9th Exercise 11:00 (Chili Supper at CPVFP From 5 p.m.-7p.m.)

Cross Plains Senior Citizens Center seeks to nurture our aging population through nutritional, social and educational programs our goal is for all seniors, both well and frail, to utilize our services to enrich their lives.

Census Bureau Projects U.S. and World Populations on New Year's Day

As our nation prepares to ring in the new year, the U.S. Census Bureau today projected the United States population will be 320,090,857 on Jan. 1, 2015. This represents an increase of 2,334,187, or 0.73 percent, from New Year's Day 2014, and 11,345,319, or 3.67 percent, since Census Day (April 1) 2010. In January 2015, the U.S. is expected to experience a birth every eight seconds and one death every 12 seconds. Meanwhile, net international

migration is expected to add one person to the U.S. population every 33 seconds. The combination of births, deaths and net international migration increases the U.S. population by one person every 16 seconds. The projected world population on Jan. 1, is 7,214,958,996, an increase of 77,381,246, or 1.08 percent, from New Year's Day 2014. During January 2015, 4.3 births and 1.8 deaths are expected worldwide every second.

CROSS PLAINS VFD AUXILIARY GROUP MEETING JANUARY 6 YOU'RE INVITED

The Cross Plains Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary Groups next meeting is on Tuesday, January 6th at 6:30 at the firehouse. You are invited to join us and be a part of the Auxiliary that will help the CPVFD with fundraisers and other activities. Both men and women of all ages are welcome.

We'll be talking about the CPVFD's upcoming Chili Sup-

per on Friday, January 9th, and other events.

Other Auxiliary projects include: Planning and helping with bake sales, dinners and other fundraisers, organizing and getting water and food to the firemen when they're out on a fire.

Joe Terstegge is president of the CPVFD Auxiliary.

Grand Ole Oplin's Annual New Year's Eve dance

Everyone is invited out to The Grand Ole Oplin's ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S EVE dance. MUDDY CREEK will be here to bring in the New Year playing all your favorite two-steps and waltzes. Admission to our New Year's dance will be \$8.00 per person. Our dance will begin at 8:00 p.m. and end shortly after midnight. Some snacks will be provided, along with black-eye peas (for a little extra luck in the new year) and cornbread; but

everyone is invited and encouraged to bring snacks to be shared by all during the band's break. Please keep in mind that alcohol and smoking are not allowed at the Grand Ole Oplin. So make plans now for family and friends to come on out to The Grand Ole Oplin and we'll bring in the New Year together. The Grand Ole Oplin wishes everyone "HAPPY HOLIDAYS" and may all your journeys be safe.

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put a price on happiness.*
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VERY REASONABLE.**



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Library Notes

Library Hours

Mon. 1:00pm to 5:00pm
Tues. 11:00pm to 7:00pm
Wed. 1:00pm to 5:00pm
Turs. 1:00pm to 5:00pm
Closed Friday

Dec 22-Dec 23, 2014

Patrons 35
Books Checked 41
Programs

GED
Lap & Lapsit
ASAP
Other

Copies 39
Internet 19
Wi Fi 3

Memorials

Volunteers

Sue Bennett
Linda Burns
Helen Parson
Jan Bond
Lavonne Childress
Ginny Hoskins
Polly Beeler
Michelle Kaiser
Beverly Ross
Wilma Lawrence

The Library will be Closed
December 31-January 1.
Thank you and have a
Happy New Year.

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CROSS PLAINS
REVIEW

AN INVITATION

STOP BY FOR
DONUTS AND COFFEE
VISIT THE SECOND OLDEST
OPERATING JAIL IN TEXAS

**NEW YEAR'S DAY
JANUARY 1, 2015
BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 10-2**

VISIT WITH SHERIFF TERRY JOY,
LET US KNOW WHAT YOU
APPRECIATE ABOUT THE
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT AND
DISCUSS CONCERNS THAT YOU
MAY HAVE
SHERIFF JOY AND HIS STAFF LOOK
FORWARD TO SEEING YOU

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RING IN THE NEW!

As another year draws to a close,
we'd like to chime in with our warm wishes
to all of you for a happy, healthy and
prosperous new year.

We thank you for making this past year
a ringing success for us.

WISHING
YOU CHEER
AT THE
NEW
YEAR

Cross Plains Review

4

Jan. 1, 2015

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2015

BAGLEY INSURANCE AGENCY, INC

CROSS PLAINS FOOD PANTRY

The Thumb Print

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Callahan County's jobless rate drops to 3.4% in November

The unemployment rate in Callahan County dropped two-tenths of one percent to 3.4% in November 2014, according to jobless figures released Friday, December 19th by the Texas Workforce Commission. The unemployment rate in Callahan County one year ago in November 2013 was 4.3 percent.

Callahan County's unemployment rate was 3.6% in October, 2014.

Previous monthly jobless rates in Callahan County included: 3.9% in September 2014, 4.1% in August, 4.1% in July, 4.1% in June, 3.6% in May, 3.4% in April, 4.0% in March, 4.3% in February, 4.2% in January 2014, and 4.1% in December 2013 according to the unemployment figures.

Big Country area counties, bordering Callahan County, and the counties' unemployment rates for November 2014 include: Brown, 4.1%; Coleman, 4.3%; Eastland, 4.0%; Jones, 4.7%; Runnels, 4.2%; Shackelford, 1.9%; Stephens, 3.8%; and Taylor County, 3.6%.

The Abilene MSA (Metropolitan Statistical Area) unemployment rate, which includes Taylor, Callahan and Jones Counties, stood at 3.7% in November, 2014, according to the Texas Workforce Commission. The Abilene MSA Combined Labor Force is 83,100. There were 80,100 employed during November 2014, while 3,000 were unemployed, giving the Abilene MSA an unemployment rate of 3.7%.

The Abilene MSA reported the workforce was 83,300 in October, 2014. Total employment of 80,100 was reported in October 2014, while 3,200, or 3.9% were unemployed in October 2014.

The Abilene MSA unemployment rate for November, 2013 was 4.6%. The total workforce was reported at 84,300, with 80,400 employed and 3,900 or 4.6% unemployed in November, 2013.

The state's unemployment rate for the month of November, 2014 was 4.6 percent. The total Texas labor force was 13,069,200 in November 2014. The total number of Texans employed is 12,464,400. The total number of unemployed Texans was 604,800 in November 2014.

Last month's statewide unemployment rate was 4.8 percent in October 2014. The state's unemployment rate in November of 2013 was 5.8 percent.

The United States unemployment rate for November, 2014 was 5.5 percent. The nation's unemployment rate for the previous month of October, 2014

UNEMPLOYMENT

Callahan County Unemployment	Oct.	Nov.
	3.6%	3.4%

was 5.5%. The United States unemployment rate one year ago in November, 2013 was 6.6%.

Highlights of the Texas Labor Force (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

The Texas unemployment rate decreased by two-tenths of a percentage point to 4.6 percent in November. The drop in the unemployment rate was typical for November due in part to the holiday season. The past three months have shown an average rate decline of three-tenths of a percentage point.

The November unemployment rate was the lowest Texas has seen since May 2008. Over the year, the unemployment rate decreased 1.2 percentage points. The national unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.5 percent. The Texas unemployment rate was 0.9 percentage points below the national rate and has remained at or below the national unemployment rate since December 2006.

The Civilian Labor Force increased by 1,500 people to a total of 13,069,200 Texans. This was the lowest October-to-November over-the-month change in the Civilian Labor Force since 2005. The past three months have shown an average gain of 18,000 individuals. The Civilian Labor Force had an annual growth of 187,000 persons, a growth rate of 1.5 percent.

The number of jobholders increased in November by 22,100 individuals, bringing the number of employed Texans to 12,464,400 persons. This increase tracked the five-year average October-to-November gain of 30,600 jobholders. The number of employed Texans grew by 333,700 individuals over the year. The number of jobseekers fell by 20,600 individuals over the month to a total of 604,800 persons. This was the lowest number of unemployed Texans since June 2008. Since January, the number of jobseekers has declined by 138,800 people.

The unemployment rate dropped in 22 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), while two MSAs remained unchanged, and

one showed an increase over the month. The McAllen-Edinburg-Mission MSA had the largest over-the-month rate change as it rose by 0.3 percentage points. The lowest unemployment rate was in the Midland MSA at 2.3 percent.

The number of Texans seeking continued unemployment insurance benefits increased by 1,500 people over the month to 100,800 individuals. This was the fourth increase in claims for benefits since January. Texas has shown a decline of 21,100 unemployment insurance claims over the year.

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE STATE

Web Company Plans to Add Jobs

AUSTIN, TX (Austin American-Statesman)—Rackspace, a San Antonio-based web hosting company, is one step closer to receiving state incentives for a planned \$32-million expansion into Austin Community College's Highland Campus in north Austin. The Travis County Commissioners Court voted unanimously to designate the project as an Enterprise Project under the state Enterprise Zone program. The designation allows Rackspace to seek up to \$1.25 million in state tax incentives.

The company says it will create 500 jobs, at least 25 percent of which must go to residents in the Enterprise Zone drawn around the old Highland Mall.

The average salary would be more than \$88,000. Rackspace will enter into a public-private partnership with ACC, which would include paid internships and scholarships for ACC students, advising ACC on technology, and helping to develop curriculum and create programs.

IBEX Global Adds More Jobs

SAN ANTONIO, TX (San Antonio Business Journal)—IBEX, the Washington, D.C.-based call center that had previously announced it would create 600 jobs in San Antonio, has now revised that number upwards to 1,000. The com-

pany plans initially to hire 300 customer service and technical support agents this month to support a major telecommunications client, with additional hiring to follow early next year.

Once fully operational, the San Antonio location will represent the company's largest presence in Texas. IBEX opened its first Texas site in New Braunfels in November 2013 where it now employs more than 750 people. IBEX provide inbound and outbound communications via phone, Web, email, and direct mail in 20 languages.

Company Doubles its Dallas Home Size

DALLAS, TX (Dallas Business Journal)—After more than a year since IBM purchased Dallas-based cloud infrastructure provider SoftLayer, a global growth spurt has spurred the company to double the size of its headquarters.

The aggressive growth plan—fueled by a \$1.2 billion investment by IBM to expand the company's cloud infrastructure—led up to SoftLayer needing to relocate and double the size of its corporate headquarters, according to company COO Francisco Romero. At the start of the year, SoftLayer employed 250 in Dallas, but Romero expects that number to grow to about 500 employees. By next year, SoftLayer could top nearly 800 workers, according to Romero.

Compressor Plant Construction Continues

PEARLAND, TX (Houston Chronicle)—A manufacturing plant being built in Pearland, south of Houston, hopes to capitalize on opportunities arising from the petrochemical industry's plans to boost U.S. production of gas from shale. Site works continues on the 26-acre site that is the future home of MHI Compressor Manufacturing LLC, the first American facility for Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Compressor International Corporation, a Japanese firm.

When completed, the facility will have a staff of more than 100 at the plant, including local hires and some employees from Japan. The plant will provide manufacturing, packaging, repair maintenance, and training services for its growing regional and national customer base of petrochemical plants. The company plans to have the plant fully operational in early 2015.

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Our School Will be participating in the Box Tops for Education™ program. My name is Lurene McNutt and I am the Box Tops Coordinator for Cross Plains. Clippin Box Tops is an easy way for you to help our school buy what it needs. Box Tops are each worth 10 cents and they quickly add up to real cash for our school. This school year, our school's earning goal is \$1,000.00.

To help our school, just look for pink Box Tops on products, clip them, and send them to school. For a list of participation products and our school's progress, visit www.BTFE.com. Be sure to become a member to receive exclusive coupons and recipes and learn about extra ways for our school to earn.

I hope you're excited for everything we can do this year with Box Tops! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at lmcnutt@cplains.esc14.net or 254-725-6122, ext 223. I'm here to make our school's Box Tops for Education program a huge success this year. Thanks for your help!

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Notice of Application for Fluid Injection well Permit.

RYHOLLAND FIELDER, INC., P.O. BOX 1021, ABILENE, TX 79604 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas.

The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the HOPE FORMATION, SNYDER-SEALES, Lease, Well Number 34. The proposed injection well is located approximately 6 miles SW of BAIRD, in the Callahan County Regular Field, in Callahan County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth intervals from 1448 to 1460 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Request for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or request for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas P.O. 12967, Austin Texas, 78711 (Telephone 512-463-6792).

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Reward \$1000.00 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons who stole priefert squeeze chute and semen tank from barn in Cross Cut. \$1000.00 additional reward if stolen property is returned intact. Contact Scott Byrd 325-669-4917 stolen December 19th. p44

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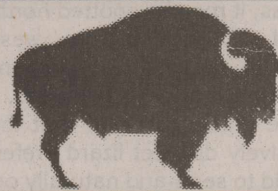


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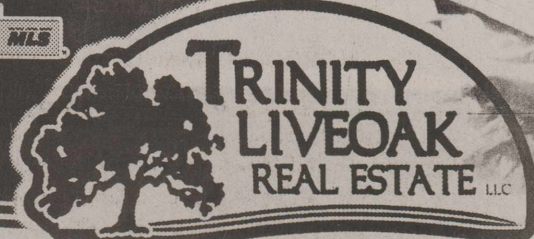
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Giving Thanks for unexpected things submitted by John Crabtree Center for Rural Affairs

Thanksgiving is when, as a nation, we give thanks for the important blessings in our lives.

For many, that likely includes family, good health, a decent job, and the like. And we should be thankful if we enjoy any or all of those things.

For some in our society, however, working hard doesn't always produce enough income to make ends meet. And many rural and small town Americans depend on something that the rest of us don't likely think about that often, the Earned Income Tax

Credit (EITC), to help get through some of the tough times.

The EITC is a credit against federal personal income taxes for working people who have low to moderate income, particularly those with children. The Census Bureau estimates that in 2012 the EITC kept an additional 5.4 million Americans, including 3 million children, above the official poverty line.

A recent Center for Rural Affairs report (http://www.cfra.org/news/141107/

impact-earned-income-tax-credit-rural-people) found that the EITC has become a rural program, vital to rural people and their well-being and important to the economies of the small towns they live in. Over one in five rural Americans claimed the EITC, a greater percentage than among our urban neighbors.

Being thankful for the EITC may seem odd to those who have never used it, but to one out of every five of my rural and small town neighbors, it has made all the difference, and for that I am truly thankful.

Steel safety cables on I-20 fail to prevent head-on collision with fatality

The steel safety cables designed to prevent head-on collisions on Interstate 20 failed to prevent one collision which killed a Georgia man Sunday morning, December 28th east of Clyde.

Clyde Police Chief Robert Dalton said the Clyde PD responded to a head-on vehicle accident around 10:00 a.m. Sunday morning, December 28th near the 303 mile marker of Interstate 20, east of Clyde.

A 2003 Honda Accord, driven by Rashmi Shringer, 30, of Abilene, was travelling west bound on I-20 when the vehicle lost control, went through the center median through the safety cables and collided head-on with a 2014 Nissan Rogue, driven by Michael Hamelin, 43, of Georgia.

Chief Dalton said Hamelin and his wife, Elizabeth, were travelling back to Georgia at the time of the accident. Elizabeth was transported by helicopter to John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth and is listed in serious but stable condition.

Shringer was also transported by helicopter ambulance to Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene and has since been released, Chief Dalton said.

He said both of the Hamelins had to be cut out of their vehicle by the Clyde Volunteer Fire Department personnel.

Chief Dalton said all involved were wearing their seat belts. He said he's not sure why Shringer lost control of her vehicle, but said blood samples were taken from her, as is the case in all fatalities. He said there was no indication she was intoxicated.

Chief Dalton said the Clyde Police Department is handling the investigation of the case because the accident scene is inside the city limits of Clyde. He said the Clyde city limits extends along I-20 to the Baird Hill west all the way to near the FM



FATALITY ACCIDENT—This 2014 Nissan Rogue was involved in a two vehicle head-on collision at the 303 mile marker of Interstate 20 which resulted in the death of a Georgia man, Michael Hamelin, 43, of Georgia

603 exit at Eula.

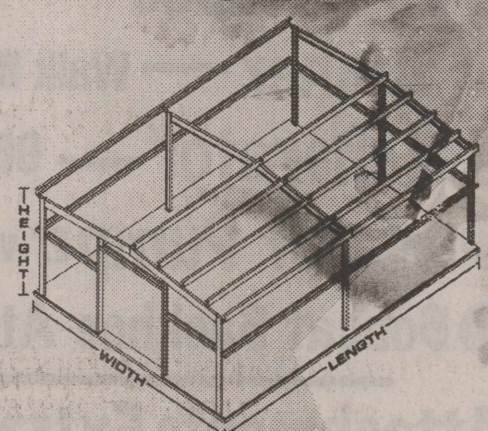
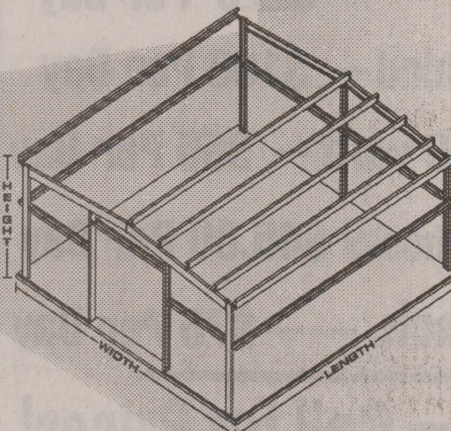
Chief Dalton said he is still determining why the Shringer vehicle went through the cable barrier which is designed to prevent such head-on collisions.

was killed when his Nissan Rogue collided with a 2003 Honda Accord after the driver of the Accord lost control of the vehicle, which went through the steel safety cables and collided head-on with the Rogue.

Chief Dalton said he's seen these safety cables prevent many vehicle accidents, and has even seen them stop an 18-wheel tractor/trailer rig from crossing the center median.

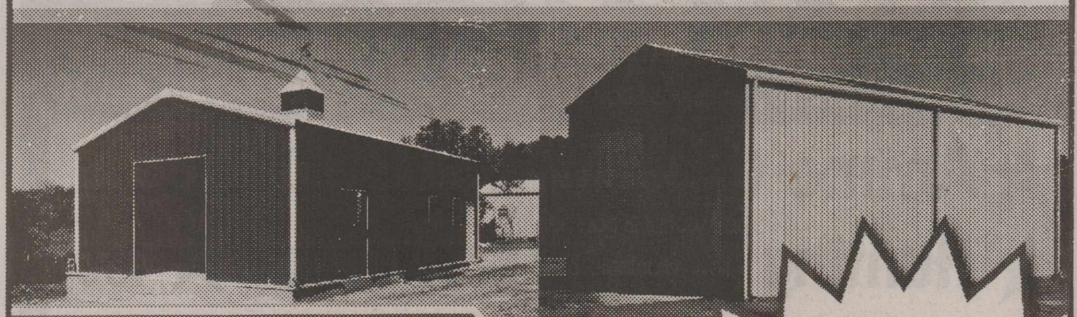
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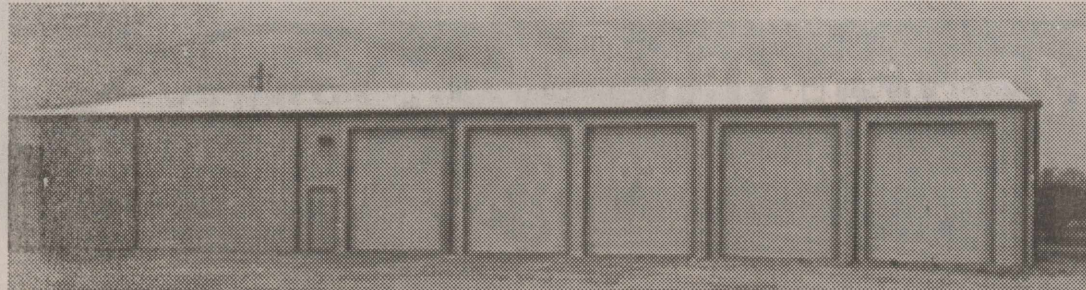
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Cross Plains Volunteer Fire Department's new building is almost finished! CPVFD needs about \$20,000 to finish the building. Your donations and support helped us get this far. If you'd like to help with the completion of the firehouse, you can send a donation to Cross Plains VFD, P. O. Box 339, Cross Plains, Texas 76443. Again, thank you for your support.

New Helicopter Strengthens Texas Game Wardens

AUSTIN - The Texas Game Warden's today unveiled its new Airbus AS350B3e helicopter that will enhance the department's statewide law enforcement apparatus and assist with its search and rescue and disaster response efforts.

The aircraft is outfitted with the latest law enforcement technology and emergency response equipment including a rescue hoist, thermal imager, searchlight, public address system, satellite communication and night vision. Funding for the new aircraft, which was approximately \$5 million, was made possible through legislative appropriation during the 83rd Texas Legislative session.

"This helicopter is going to be a tremendous asset and force

multiplier for the Texas Game Wardens," said Col. Craig Hunter, TPWD Law Enforcement Director. "We will not only be able to more efficiently move personnel and equipment across the state, but with the addition of the new hoist system, we will be able to better leverage our marine and ground assets to enhance our search and rescue capabilities during times of disaster."

Among the new aircraft advantages are its ability to carry additional game wardens including its K9 teams during remote search and rescue missions or other specially trained personnel for specific assignments. In addition to the new helicopter, the department also has a fixed wing 2009 Turbo Cessna Model 206 aircraft.

Scranton Musical will be held January 3rd

The musical will be held on Saturday, January 3rd at the Scranton Community Center. Sis Starr of Scranton will be the hostess in the kitchen. The kitchen opens at 5:00. She will have a special plus sandwiches and homemade pies.

Buddy Johnson is the emcee and starts the line up of music at 5:30. Buddy always has a fantastic line up of musicians to perform for your enjoyment.

Start out 2015 with good entertainment and good food. See you at the musical.

Flu/Immunization Clinic in Callahan County set for January 14th

The Texas Department of State Health Services has set up a flu/immunization clinic at the Clyde First Baptist Church, located at 216 Austin on Wednesday, January 14th. The Clinic will be open from 10 am -12 pm & 1:30 pm -3pm.

For Children with Medicaid, no insurance or underinsured and for adults with no insurance. For your convenience please call to schedule an appointment. If no answer leave a message. Please bring child's immunization records. If on Medicaid or Medicare, please bring the card. For more information please call 325-754-4945.



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Lesser Earless Lizard

This column is being written based on the conversation that I had recently with two separate farmers in the Texas Panhandle who had both observed (and one photographed) a species of lizard that they had never witnessed before in their lifetime. Whether this lack of notice was due to them not being observant previously or just the plain innocuousness of just an "ordinary" lizard, I will not even begin to speculate. However, it was clear that both of these gentlemen had observed a very unpretentious lacertian species that is fairly common, and that variety was the Lesser Earless Lizard.

The Lesser Earless Lizard (*Holbrookia maculata*) is one of three species of this genus that occurs in Texas. It can be commonly observed throughout the Panhandle region, the Big Country, the Trans-Pecos, and less frequently along the northern periphery of the Edwards Plateau. Outside of the borders of Texas, it may be spotted northward to South Dakota, westward to southern Arizona, and southward to central Mexico.

The primary habitat that this relatively discreet lizard prefers is arid to semi-arid naturally occurring grasslands. However, most of the native grasslands in this state have been severely overgrazed or completely replaced by agriculture fields of plants like cotton and wheat. It is in these areas where this species has adapted to thrive in spite of the exposed soil with less covering. A less frequented habitat selected is the creosote-strewn gravelly soils of the Trans-Pecos.

The Lesser Earless Lizard is taxonomically divided into three races within the confines of the state of Texas: the Great Plains Earless Lizard (*H.m.maculata*) which inhabits the entire Texas Panhandle; the Eastern Earless Lizard (*H.m.perspicua*) that resides in the Big Country and western Cross Timbers eco-regions; and the Speckled Earless Lizard (*H.m.approximans*) which can be seen in the Trans-Pecos areas east of the Guadalupe Mountains. Because these three races are almost identical to one another save for a few color discrepancies, there is a considerable amount of discussion among biologists in regards to the taxonomy of this species.

The dorsal coloration of this sexually dimorphic lacertian species depends greatly on the sex. Adult males are typically some shade of light brown while the females are usually reddish. Regardless of the sex, this homely lizard sports 7-8 pairs of darker dorsal spots that are separated by a distinctive light stripe



Lesser Earless Lizard
(*Holbrookia maculata*)

down the center of the back. On some individuals there is a secondary row of obscure blotches along the sides of the body; these spots are divided from the primary blotches by a faint light stripe. Both sexes are decorated with 2 vertical black bars immediately behind the forelegs; these bars are more prominent in the males than in the females. The scales on the back are small and granular in appearance and texture, and as the common name implies, there are no external ear openings. Males are the larger sex, achieving total lengths of nearly five inches. Unlike many other lizard species, the tail is quite short, usually only 35% of the total length of the lizard.

Lesser Earless Lizards, like other lizard species, are "cold-blooded", or ectothermic. This means that they do not generate heat from the inside of their body, as mammals and birds do, but rather are dependent on outside sources for heating and cooling. They are active throughout the day from early April to October, and unlike many other reptile species, the high metabolism of this lizard enables it to be observed as they scamper from hiding place to hiding place during the hottest part of the summer afternoons.

This species of lacertian feeds exclusively on insects, particularly ones that fit easily into its

small mouth. Moths and flies are apparent favorites, although any small beetles are consumed with great enthusiasm.

The Lesser Earless Lizard is oviparous, which is a fancy way of saying that it lays eggs. After emerging from the winter-long brumation period (reptiles do not hibernate in the true sense of the word), males will search out females to mate. After mating, the female will lay a small clutch of eggs (between two and six, average of four) in moisture retaining soil. After approximately two months of incubation, the 1.5 inch long young replicas of their parents emerge from their underground nest prepared to fend for and care for themselves. Depending on the summer rainfall amounts, a female may lay anywhere from 2 to 5 clutches of eggs during a 5-month spring/summer span.

Lesser Earless Lizards are common, but not commonly seen. They are adept at quickly running short distances between shaded areas, quickly disappearing into the shadows of small covered areas. It is often found in Prairie Dog towns, and many individuals will utilize the burrows of this rodent for shelter.

Editor's Note: Michael Price would love to hear from folks! He can be reached by email at www.fullprice71@gmail.com.

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Law Enforcement Ramps up Patrols for Drunk Drivers over New Years Eve Holiday

TxDOT encourages Texans to find a sober ride

AUSTIN - The Texas Department of Transportation reminds motorists that law enforcement will be out in force on New Years Eve and New Years Day in an effort to reduce crashes and discourage drunk driving.

"The New Years Eve holiday has historically been a dangerous time on our roadways," said TxDOT Executive Director LtGen Joe Weber, USMC (Ret). "Texans should plan ahead for a sober ride or risk suffering the consequences. Drunk driving will not be tolerated in Texas."

TxDOT's annual Holiday Impaired Driving Campaign began Dec. 1 and runs through

New Years Day to promote the importance of planning for a sober ride. The campaign coincides with an increase in law enforcement patrols aimed at reducing the number of impaired driving crashes in Texas during the holiday season. Numerous law enforcement agencies throughout the state also will implement no-refusal initiatives. Drivers arrested for DWI can face jail time and up to \$17,000 in court costs and legal fees. The legal limit for intoxication in Texas is .08 blood or breath alcohol concentration (BAC).

During last years New Years holiday (from 6 p.m. on Dec. 31st to midnight on Jan. 1st),

there were 218 DUI alcohol-related traffic crashes in Texas resulting in 10 fatalities and 76 injuries (both incapacitating and non-incapacitating). These DUI alcohol-related fatalities marked an increase of 25 percent from the previous New Years holiday.

Other TxDOT efforts to curb impaired driving include partnering with the National Safety Council and some of the states largest employers to promote the safe and sober message; working with the Texas Hospitality Association and Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission to distribute sober ride materials in stores and venues where alcohol is sold; and working with transit authorities to encourage people to take public transportation to and from holiday celebrations.

Additionally, Texans looking for a sober ride can visit SoberRides.org for assistance. The information contained in this report represents reportable data collected from the Texas Peace Officer's Crash Report (CR-3). This information was received and processed by the department as of Oct. 31, 2014.

For media inquiries, contact TxDOT Media Relations at MediaRelations@txdot.gov or (512) 463-8700.

Cottonwood News

By Beverly Brown

We want to wish all our friends and neighbors a Blessed and Happy New Year! Cooler temperatures and some rain are scheduled to arrive this week. The Cottonwood Baptist Church held Candlelight Services for Christmas last Tuesday evening. It was good to visit with so many friends and neighbors. The Methodist and Baptist Churches in Cross Plains held services the next evening. All the services were well attended.

Saturday marked the Nine Year Anniversary of the Cross Plains fire. All three of the television stations ran stories about the anniversary this week. Roger Hinkle, who both fought the fire and lost his home in the fire, was interviewed by KTAB and KRBC. A sad day. Doesn't seem possible that it has been nine years since the fire.

Family members visiting with Dena Nickerson over the holiday: Kathy and Randall Franke and their children: Jeremy Franke and family of Abilene, Amy and Armando Felan and family, Kellie and Jayden Dodson of Abilene; Bill and Annette Nickerson and their children: Willie and Jennifer Nickerson and family, Jessica Nickerson and family, and Mary Jo and Joe Pennington and family of Southlake; Connie Potter and her children: Porcius and Kara Potter and family and Rickie Jo and Gerald Brown and family, all of Cross Plains; Dena Jo and Curtis Hines of Weatherford and their children: Jeffrey Hines and family of Weatherford, Julie and Dustin Hoffman and family of Abilene; Matt and Nichole Nickerson of Abilene. Jackie and Cecil Nickerson of Conroe have been visiting here with family through the holidays.

David Weaver is here visiting with his mother Mary Ella Weaver over the New Year.

Cottonwood Volunteer Fire Control's Annual Meeting will be held the third Tuesday in January, January 20th, at the Cottonwood Community Center at 7 p.m. Board members for the new year will be elected. Current board members are Roy Boyd, Chairman of the Board; Norma Farmer, Fred St Peter, Roger Hinkle, Bob Ossowski and Omer Rivard. Adrian Allen is Fire Chief; Roger Hinkle, Asst. Fire Chief; Norma Farmer, Secretary; and Sheila Allen, Treasurer.

The next musical is on Friday, January 23 and this musical will be a special one, as the Cottonwood Volunteer Fire Control will hold their Annual Fish Fry at the musical! You can come and have a great fish dinner and then listen to some good ole country music! Dinner includes fish or chicken, beans, coleslaw, french fries, hush puppies, drink, and dessert for \$7 for adults and \$3.50 for children under 10 years of age. Dinner will be served from 5 until 7 p.m. The Cottonwood Volunteer Fire Control Group is supported solely by your donations, so come out and help the Fire Control.

The Burn Ban is off. Remember to exercise extreme caution if you do decide to burn - and call the Sheriff's office to let them know you will be burning before you light the match. Their number: 325-854-1444.

Courthouse News

Callahan County Court
Roger Corn, presiding

Misdemeanor Filings

Brandy A. Kellar, driving while license invalid (DWLI).
Camri Chapman, DWLI.
Michael A. Wode, possession of marijuana, less than 2 oz.
Billy J. Clayton, possession of marijuana, less than 2 oz.
Johnny G. Valero, criminal trespass.

Misdemeanor Minutes

Ashley N. Phipps, order amending conditions of probation granted.

Marriage Licenses

Rielly Blake Hutchins and Ariel Kay Sneed, both of Cross Plains.
Carlos Enrique Yoc-Paz and Mary Jane Gomez, both of Abilene.

42nd District Court
John Weeks, presiding

Civil Filings

Karen Barton and Derek Patterson, divorce.
Jennifer L. Erixson and Steven Edward Erixson, divorce.
Sharon Kay Jobe and James Darrell Jobe, divorce.
David Lee Moreland and Eva Michelle Moreland, divorce.
Kimberlee Brewer and Stephen Brewer, divorce.

Jennifer Denise Jones and Brent Matthew Jones, divorce.
Amanda Sandoval and Ricardo Miguel Sandoval, divorce.
Merkaz Oil and Gas Development, LLC vs. Treaty Energy

LLC, Treaty Energy, Inc., Treaty Energy, Corp., damages.

Gary W. Shores and Margaret A. Shores, divorce.
Kathy Goble and Richard Goble, divorce.
Wade Adam Konecny and Melisa Konecny, divorce.

Civil Minutes

Lone Star Transmission, LLC vs. Herd Ranch, LP, a Texas Limited Partnership, agreed final judgment granted.

Renee Rose Herrmann and Ralph Peter Herrmann, divorce granted.

Ramona J. Brown and Gary N. Brown, divorce granted.

Lee Ann Hines and Michael E. Hines, divorce granted.

Brandy Ann Cauble and Joe Bob Cauble, divorce granted.

Criminal Information & Complaints

Timothy A. Houlihan, debit card abuse.

Criminal Indictments

Mickey D. Butler, murder.
Nicholas B. Covington, murder.

Jacob A. Good, burglary of a habitation.

Dakota S. Flock, burglary of a habitation.

Timothy D. Freeman, driving while intoxicated (DWI), 3rd or more.

Ricardo Gomez, DWI, 3rd or more.

Criminal Minutes

Margaret A. Gomez, plea of guilty to theft, 90 days in jail, \$339 court costs.

County Commissioners approve purchase of dump truck

Callahan County Commissioners voted to purchase a new dump truck for Precinct #3 after a brief commissioners' court meeting was held Monday, December 29th at the Callahan County Courthouse in Baird.

Four sealed bids were opened and reviewed for a decision to accept or reject bids for a new dump truck for Precinct #3. The following bids were submitted: Bruckner's \$127,995.00
Summit Truck Group \$125,519.75
Summit Truck Group \$126,926.75
Warren Cat \$139,500.00

After reviewing all bids, Commissioner Tom Windham made a motion to accept the bid made by Summit Truck Group in the amount of \$126,926.75. Commissioner Harold Hicks seconded the motion, which passed with a 5-0 vote.

Other agenda items brought before the commissioners' court included:

The meeting of the commissioners' court was called to order at 9:37 a.m. by Judge Roger Corn with Commissioner Precinct #1 Harold Hicks, Commissioner Precinct #2 Bryan Farmer, Commissioner Precinct #3 Tom Windham, Commissioner Precinct #4 Cliff Kirkham, Deputy County Treasurer Jan Windham and County Clerk Donna Bell present.

The commissioners' court meeting minutes from the previous meetings were reviewed and signed.

Under public comments, there was none.

No action was taken on the Countywide Burn Ban. The Burn Ban remains lifted.

Commissioner Farmer made a motion to pay the approved bills. Commissioner Kirkham seconded the motion, which was approved with a 5-0 vote.

Commissioner Hicks made a motion to adjourn the commissioners' court meeting at 9:58 a.m. Commissioner Farmer seconded the motion, and the motion was approved with an unanimous 5-0 vote.

Cottonwood Volunteer Fire Control Group will hold their Annual Fish Fry fundraiser in conjunction with Cottonwood Country Musical

Friday night, January 23, 2015 will be a special night at the Cottonwood Community Center, Cottonwood, Texas!

Not only is it the regular Cottonwood Country Musical but the Cottonwood Volunteer Fire Control Group will hold their Annual Fish Fry fundraiser in conjunction with the musical.

Those of you who live in the rural areas know how important the smaller volunteer fire groups are when a brush fire breaks out. These volunteers are your neighbors who have donated their time to attend training in the fire fighting and they are there fighting to extinguish the fire and protect your property.

The Cottonwood Volunteer Fire Control Group, like most

volunteer groups is funded solely by donations and fundraisers.

Mark your calendars for Friday night, January 23, 2015, and travel to the Cottonwood Community Center, Cottonwood, Texas to enjoy a meal of fish, chicken, beans, coleslaw, fries, hush puppies, with a dessert and drink. All for \$7.00 adult plate and \$3.50 child plate (for children under 10 years of age). Serving will be from 5-7 p.m.

After you've enjoyed the meal, stroll into the auditorium for the Cottonwood Country Musical.

Plans are for toe tapping, hand clapping good country music with the possibility of special guests.



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L U N C H	Cheese Enchiladas Spanish Rice Salsa Black Beans Seasoned Corn Cinnamon Apples Milk	Philly Cheese Steak Sandwich Potato Rounds Broccoli Diced pears Milk	Grilled Cheese Vegetable Soup Baby Carrots Fruit cup Milk	Chicken nuggets Mac and Cheese Garden Salad Green Beans Apple slices Crispy Cereal Treat Milk	Beef or Chicken Patty on bun Hamburger Garnish Baby carrots w/ranch Potato wedges Sliced Peaches Milk

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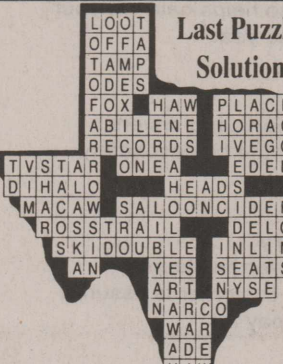


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The Five Most Significant Weather Events for 2014

Weather across West Central Texas can change dramatically and is typically characterized by flash floods, drought, wildfires, hail, wind storms, winter storms and tornadoes. Below are five of the most significant weather events for 2014 that impacted the region.

Location/Storm Event, Date, Fatalities, Injuries.

Three Fatalities from Icy Roads on U.S. Highway 87 Feb. 11 Three 1

Abilene and West Central Texas Hail and Wind Event June 12 None 12

San Angelo and West Central Texas Severe Weather Outbreak June 11 None 0

West Central Texas Hard Freeze April 15 None 0

West Central Texas Drought 2014 None 0

Our hearts and prayers are with those who lost loved ones, and we are very sorry if you experienced injury or property damage this past year. Since the potential is always there for devastating fires or storms, it is always important to be weather ready. You can also learn how your NWS is making every effort to prepare for extreme weather through its Weather Ready Nation Initiative at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation/>

Here are a few safety tips.

1) Know the name of your county and those around you.
2) Have at least two ways to receive forecasts, watches and warnings such as your local Radio and TV Station, Cable, Internet Provider, Cell Phone, and/or NOAA Weather Radio 24 hours a day.

3) Take appropriate action when a watch or warning is issued for your area.

Thank you to all of our partners who assist us with our mission of protecting life and property. We cannot fulfill our mission without you! On behalf of your NWS crew, we wish you and yours Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

1) February 11, Three Fatalities from Icy Roads on U.S. Highway 87

Widespread light freezing drizzle caused a thin glaze of ice to form on roads and walkways throughout the morning across a large part of West Central Texas. Many school districts and government offices in Abilene, San Angelo, Brownwood, Brady, Haskell, and surrounding areas closed for the day. Three people were killed and one was injured in Tom Green County when an ambulance traveling from Sterling City to San Angelo on U.S. Highway 87 flipped over and burned.

2) June 12, Abilene and West Central Texas Hail and Wind Event

Severe thunderstorms resulted in giant hail and damaging downburst winds mainly along and east of a line from Anson to Abilene to Junction. One of the severe thunderstorms pelted the city of Abilene with hail the size of softballs (4.5 in.) and DVDs (4.75 in.), causing 12 injuries and about 400 million dollars of damage to vehicles, roofs and windows. It may have been one of the costliest hail storms to ever impact Abilene. The town of Rochelle was also severely impacted by the destructive thunderstorm winds estimated near 95 m.p.h.. Ballinger and Junction reported 4.50 inch size hail, while Brady Airport measured a thunderstorm wind gust at 78 m.p.h..

3) June 11, San Angelo and West Central Texas Severe Weather Outbreak

Another round of severe thunderstorms mainly along and west of a line from Anson to near Wall (located just east of San Angelo) produced downburst winds extending from 1 mile northwest of Carlsbad to 3 miles east northeast of Wall. These winds damaged roofs, uprooted trees, broke tree limbs and knocked utility lines and poles across the north half of the city of San Angelo as thunderstorm winds gusted to approximately 95 m.p.h.. Two weak tornadoes formed on the leading edge of the damaging winds. A severe thunderstorm with damaging thunderstorm winds around 80 m.p.h. also produced a haboob

or a wall of dust as it impacted Rotan. These high winds also peeled a section of a metal roof off of the Rotan Baptist Church, uprooted numerous trees and knocked down power lines in Rotan.

4) April 15, West Central Texas Hard Freeze

A late season arctic cold front brought freezing temperatures on the morning of April 15. Temperatures dropped into the lower to mid 20's for several hours across a large part of the area. There were a few readings around 30 degrees near Mason, San Saba, Coleman and Sonora. These freezing temperatures damaged a significant amount of winter wheat and young garden plants across the area. Cost was unknown.

5) West Central Texas Drought

The U.S. Drought Monitor placed much of West Central Texas in extreme to exceptional drought categories during the month of May. As welcome rainfall fell in late May, this moisture alleviated the intense drought south of Interstate 20. Meanwhile, the severe to exceptional drought persisted along and north of Interstate 20 until beneficial rainfall arrived in November. Although the drought loosened its grip across a large part of West Central Texas by late December, the severe to extreme drought continued to plague Haskell, Throckmorton and the northwest corner of Shackelford County.

Fax Any School Related News To Us At 254-725-7225

Cross Plains Review 10 Jan. 1, 2015

Cross Plains' retail sales in 2014 are 5% ahead of 2013

The City of Cross Plains' one percent city sales tax payments in 2014 are just over five percent higher than 2013, according to the Texas State Comptroller's office.

Texas State Comptroller Susan Combs reported the city's sales tax payment on Wednesday, December 10th.

Cross Plains' 2014 sales tax payments for the year totalled \$243,126.38, which is 5.47 percent higher than the \$230,498.83 in sales tax rebate payments collected in 2013.

The payment to the city for December 2014 was \$23,906.43, which is 18.46 percent higher than the \$20,180.31 payment made in December 2013.

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs said today, Wednesday, December 10th, that states sales tax revenue in November was \$2.66 billion, up 10.7 percent compared to November 2013.

"The growth in sales tax collections was fueled by increased remittances from both business and consumer driven sectors," Combs said. "The gains were led by oil and natural gas-related sectors, while collections from retail trade and restaurants also rose strongly."

Combs will send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts their December local sales tax allocations totaling \$645.9 million, up 11.4 percent compared to December 2013.

Combs sent Texas cities \$417.3 million in December 2014, which is higher by 10.7 percent compared to December 2013 and higher by 7.0 percent year-to-date.

She reported \$42.6 million in December 2014 allocations to Texas counties, which is higher by 11.5 percent compared to December 2013 and higher by 6.3 percent year-to-date.

The Texas transit systems received \$147.0 million in December 2014 sales tax allocations, which is 11.9 percent higher than December 2013 and up 7.6 percent year-to-date.

Special Purpose Taxing Districts received \$39.0 million in December 2014 allocations, which is 18.1 percent higher than December 2013 and higher by 20.1 percent year-to-date.

Total sales tax allocations were \$645.9 million in December 2014, which is 11.4 percent higher than December 2013 and up 7.8 percent year-to-date.

The sales tax figures represent October sales reported by monthly tax filers.

For details of December sales tax allocations to individual cities, counties, transit systems and

CROSS PLAINS SALES TAX PAYMENTS		
Total yearly sales tax payments	2013	2014
	\$230,498.83	\$243,126.38
Total monthly sales tax payments	2013	2014
	\$20,180.31	\$23,906.43

special purpose districts, locate the Monthly Sales Tax Allocation Comparison Summary Reports on the Comptroller's Web site at www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/allocsum/compsum.html.

Other Callahan County towns reporting sales tax payments for this month include:

—The City of Baird reported that sales tax payments in 2014 started the year 25.52 percent higher than the 2013 payments. The city has received \$196,272.77 in 2014, while the 2013 tax payments to the city totalled \$156,360.65.

Baird's monthly payment for December 2014 was \$15,075.68, which is 2.60 percent higher than the \$14,693.02 payment made in December 2013.

—The 2014 sales tax payments in the City of Clyde are 15.82 percent higher than the payments made to the city in 2013. The sales tax rebates for the City of Clyde have amounted to \$711,425.00 in 2014. The 2013 payments to the city during the same payment period were \$614,245.78.

The City of Clyde's monthly payment for December 2014 was \$46,966.33, which is higher by 11.08 percent compared to December 2013 when \$42,278.78 was reported.

—The City of Putnam reported the 2014 payments to the town totalled \$11,420.51, which is lower by 37.61 percent from the 2013 payments to the city in the amount of \$18,305.07.

Putnam's tax payment for the month of December 2014 was \$1,668.10, which is lower by 44.05 percent compared to the December 2013 payment of \$2,981.49.

—Countywide, sales tax payments for 2014 in Callahan County are higher by 14.01 percent compared to the 2013 payments in the county. Callahan County towns received sales tax payments in 2014

amounting to \$1,162,244.66 while the 2013 payments to the county towns totalled \$1,019,410.33.

The tax rebates in Callahan County for the month of December 2014 was \$87,616.54, which is higher by 9.33 percent compared to the December 2013 payment in the amount of \$80,133.60.

Merchants collect the state and local sales tax and send it to the Comptroller's office with their tax returns. The state keeps its 6 1/4 percent share and returns the local one percent sales tax each month to the local governments. Cities and counties may levy a combined tax of up to two percent above the state's sales tax.

Clyde businesses collect 2.00%, including one percent for the City of Clyde, one-half of one percent for the Clyde Economic Development Corporation and one-half of one percent to reduce property taxes (Proceeds to benefit the Clyde Volunteer Fire Department).

Cross Plains collects 2.00% in local sales taxes, of which 1.00 percent is allocated to the city and 1.00% is allocated for economic development in the town.

Baird collects 2.00% in local sales tax of which 1.00% is allocated to the city, 0.50% is allocated to the community's economic development corporation and 0.50% of one percent to reduce property taxes.

Putnam collects 1.00% in local sales tax of which all 1.00 percent is allocated to the city.

All local sales taxes must be approved by local voters and may be used for any legal city or county expenses. Most areas put the money in their General Fund and use it for normal operations like fire fighting, maintaining roads and law enforcement, the Comptroller said. Some cities use up to an additional one percent of city sales tax to help fund local economic development and to reduce property taxes.



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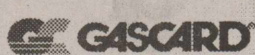
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TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- 1 stolen money
- 5 TXism: "it's all water"
- 6 duck's back (unconcerned)
- 6 ram or pack firmly
- 7 lyric poems
- 8 network where TX Kelly Clarkson won first "American Idol" competition
- 9 TX Buck Owens' old TV show: "Hee ___"
- 12 TXism: "between a rock and a hard ___"
- 17 home to ACU, MU, and HSU
- 19 this Carswell was namesake of past Fort Worth AFB
- 21 "Guinness World ___"
- 22 9-across singer's ___ Tiger By the Tail
- 23 TX Katherine Helmond (2 wds.)
- 28 Crowell h.s. class
- 29 in Concho Co. on hwy. 83 & 87
- 30 halogens group
- 31 coin toss call
- 35 colorful, long-tailed parrot
- 36 fruit drink order at an old TX bar? (2 wds.)
- 42 hiking path near Mt. Enterprise, TX in Rusk Co.: "Griff ___"
- 44 Alain of "Texas Across the River"
- 46 slide downhill with a partner? (2 wds.)
- 48 rollerblade skate
- 49 TXism: "bat ___ eyelash"
- 50 TXism: "darn tootin'"
- 51 pews
- 52 part of "Fiesta San Antonio": River ___
- 53 TX "Dr Pepper Snapple Group" is "DPS" on this
- 54 narcotics criminal
- 56 TX Audie was a hero in World II Show
- 57 lemon ___ (drink)
- 58 ship movement

DOWN

- 1 TXism: "he's got a ___ his quiver" (capable)
- 2 "Battle ___ Walls" (panhandle)
- 3 "Gulf ___"
- 4 bugle sound at military funerals
- 9 TXism: "skeddaddle out of ___"
- 10 TXism: "just two whoops ___"
- 11 this Studt was in TV series "Into the West" with TX Gary Busey (2005)
- 12 UH BB team in '83: "___ Slama Jama"
- 13 1982 NBC sitcom based on TX Oliver Hailey's teleplay, "Sidney Shorr" TXism: "mad as ___-eyed cow"
- 14 what motorcyclists call a car
- 16 college subject (abbr.)
- 18 this Tinkle wrote Alamo book "13 Days to Glory"
- 20 actress in TX-based "Giant" (init.)
- 23 great ex-Cowboy RB, Dorsett (init.)
- 24 "___ and vigor"
- 25 wrinkled dog: ___ Pei
- 26 Tex-Mex tortilla snacks
- 27 TX Horton '60 hit: "North to ___"
- 32 "___ Sieckle State Forest"
- 33 TXism: "big enough to shade ___ elephant"
- 34 a couple of TX Bushes have lived here
- 36 no seats left (abbr.)
- 37 amateur sports org.
- 38 resident of Tripoli in North Africa
- 39 Rio Grande earliest name: "Rio ___ Palmas"
- 40 TX is ___ among the states
- 41 TX Ely & Regan
- 43 Cowboy or Texan score (abbr.)
- 45 dir. from Mineola to Texarkana
- 47 Erik of TV film "Honeyboy" with TX Morgan Fairchild
- 48 "that ___ excuse"
- 55 ship's complement