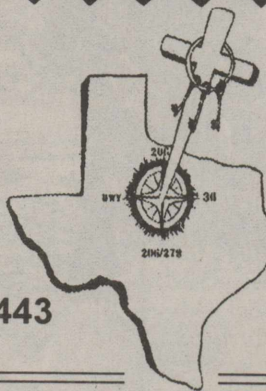


Cross Plains Review

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



Southwest
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116 S. E. 1st St. • P. O. Box 519 • Cross Plains, Tx. 76443

December 3, 2015 • 12 Pages

(254) 725-6111 • crossplainsreview@earthlink.net

Christmas Cantata at Methodist Church

"Joy! Unspeakable Joy!" This perfect musical message of Christmas will be presented by the First United Methodist Church choir and several community singers on Sunday, December 6 at 4:00. The combination of traditional Christmas songs interspersed with beautiful new songs and the narration of the Christmas story as found in the Bible will make the afternoon a meaningful experience for all. Beautiful poinsettias donated by members of the congregation

in memory of, or in honor of special people, will decorate the Sanctuary for the Advent Season, making the perfect backdrop for the celebration.

A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall immediately after the program. The afternoon schedule will allow folks to enjoy the program and still attend evening services at their own churches.

The First United Methodist Church invites all to join in the celebration of "Joy! Unspeakable Joy!"



Santa Claus is coming to Cross Plains

Santa Claus is coming to Cross Plains for the Annual Stew Supper/Fund-raiser hosted by the Kiwanis International. Mark your calendar for Friday, December 4th at the Cross Plains Senior Citizen Center. We ask your support with this fund-raiser in our endeavor to help local children's projects.

Supper will be served from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm with Santa arriving at 6:00 pm. Cost for the stew dinner is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children 12 and under. All children are invited to have their photo taken with Santa and will receive a bag of goodies. This year the Kiwanis will not offer the photos with Santa, but all parents are welcome to take pictures of their children with Santa on their personal phones or cameras.

The Senior Center will have an array of desserts available for purchase with will support their various projects. During the evening there will be drawings for turkeys and gifts. You must be present to win. We look forward to an enjoyable evening of fellowship in our community.

Cross Plains ISD Semester Exam Schedule

Semester exam schedule:
December 2015
Wednesday, December 16

1st period exam:
8:00-9:05 am
5th period exam:
9:10-10:10 am
8th period exam:
10:15-11:15 am
7th period exam:
11:20-12:30 pm
Lunch/tutorials:
12:30-1:00 pm
Thursday, December 17
2nd period exam:
8:00-9:05 am
3rd period exam:
9:10-10:10 am
4th period exam:
10:15-11:15 am
6th period exam:
11:20-12:30 pm
Lunch/tutorials:
12:30-1:00 pm
Friday, December 18
1st period:
8:00-8:47 am
2nd period:
8:51-9:39 am
3rd period:
9:43-10:30 am
4th period:
10:34-11:22 am
5th period:
11:26-12:30 pm
Lunch/tutorials:
12:30-1:00 pm

On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, all students will report to lunch/tutorials after their last class period of the day until 1:00 unless:
They are signed out by their parents or guardians, or
They have a valid driver's license on file and have a valid note from their parent or guardian. (no phone call permissions from parents will be granted), or
They are 18 or older and have a valid license and sign out appropriately. No students will be allowed to leave campus prior to 1:00 pm with anyone other than their parent or guardian who has followed the appropriate sign-out procedure.

Christmas House and Business Decorating Contest

Sponsored By: CP Chamber of Commerce

All homes within Cross Plains City Limits are welcome to participate. Pick up an entry form at the Chamber office. All entries must be received by not later than 3:00 pm Tuesday, December 15th. Judging will take place Wednesday Night,

December 16th. There will be a 1st and 2nd place business, and a 1st and 2nd place home. Prizes will be given for the winners.

For any question contact Myleah at the Chamber office, 254-725-7251.

4 HIS GLORY CHRISTMAS CANTATA DECEMBER 20TH

4His Glory presents "What Child is This?" their 8th Annual Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 20th at the First Presbyterian Church, 200 N. Avenue D in Cross Plains. The performance starts at 7 p.m.

The musical, arranged by Joel Raney, features memorable Christmas classics such as "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing," "Silent Night," and the title song "What Child is This?"

in a multi-media presentation including music, singing and visual accompaniment.

4His Glory, with the combined voices of Amanda Sowell, Matt Sowell, Connie Swift and Rhonda Swift, has performed in the Cross Plains area at churches and events since 1998.

Refreshments will be served after the performance. Everyone is welcome.

Old Fashion Christmas Open House

Come to an old fashion Christmas Open House this Saturday, December 12th between 6:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the home of Cliff & Connie Kirkham 20235 FM 2707, Cross Plains, Tx. Please come for fellowship, food, and fun as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

Library hosts

Computer Class

The computer class being held at the Cross Plains Public Library will meet for our third session on Thursday, December 10th at 6:30. We will be discussing how to download free programs for the Linux Mint system. This will be a "hands-on" training session.

Water Line

The City Contracting Crews will be abandoning old water lines beginning this week and some resident may experience water outage for a short period of time. If your water is off more than 3 hours, please call City Hall.

Cross Plains 4H News

Cross Plains 4-H will be holding their next meeting on Monday, December 7th. It is at 6:00 at the community Center, once again we are having a potluck; the menu will be soups, sandwiches, chips and dip... and of course desserts. This month's speaker will be Patrick Clark, from the Wildlife Nutrition Center.

2015 Officers elected October 5 2015

President - Spade Koenig
V. President - Adrien Canales
Secretary/Treasurer - Jayden Shank

Reporter - Reagan Nichols
Parliamentarian - Tyler Nichols
Voting Delegate - Shaylee Knight
County Treasure - Spade Koenig

As a reminder, if you haven't yet ordered your Rada Cutlery Fund, there is still time to order Christmas presents. You can get your stocking stuffers, presents for family, or dip mixes for your Christmas gathering. Rada Cutlery is 100% American Made, has items starting as low \$2.75, and has great quality. The website is www.helpourfundraiser.com, Internet ordering #505896, password(lower case) callahan. Then got to Browse All Categories. Items ship within 2-3 days.

American Legion Post 423 Christmas Party

Instead of the regular meeting, the Cross Plains American Legion Post 423 would like to invite you to a Christmas Party Thursday, December 10, 2015 at 6:30 in the evening at the Legion building located at 701 E 1st, Cross Plains, Tx. 76443. A meal will be served Please bring your favorite dessert.

Also, instead of a gift please bring a can food for the Cross Plains Food Pantry or a new unwrapped toy to donate to the Angel Tree.

For more information call (254) 725-4220



Angel Tree Applications

Applications for this year's Community Angel Tree at the bank are available at ResourceCare Community Health Center and Texas Heritage Bank. If you would like to sign your child/children up, please complete and return the application to either location by Thursday, December 10.



Making Ornaments

Hey kids, come join us at the Cross Plains Public Library on Friday, December 4th at 5:00 p.m. as we celebrate our 4th annual "Make an Ornament" craft workshop. The children will get to make two ornaments, one to hang on the Christmas tree in the Children's department and one to take home with them.

Texas Heritage Bank

"We're Proud of Our Local Heritage"

Member FDIC

Presents:

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Free Grab Bag Book Giveaway at Craft Fair

Parents and Grandparents: Looking for some gifts for the kids/grandkids? We are giving away free books - courtesy of Firstbook.org and the Cross Plains Public Library - at the annual Christmas Craft Sale on Friday, Dec.4, from noon-6:00 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 5, from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church in Cross Plains. Stop by and get a bundle of books appropriate for ages 0-8.

Peabody and Sherman," "Partners in Time" coloring book with stickers, "The Big Book of Ninja Turtles," "Bubble Party" with stencils, Disney's "Wonderful Princess World," Dora the Explorer's "Be a Ballerina," DC Super Friends' "Jailbreak," "Count With Us," Julius Jr.'s "To the Hall of Doors" and "This Box Rocks" sticker book. Each bag contains at least eight books. Sorry, but no substitutions or exchanges.

Lots of Prizes at the Christmas Craft Fair!

Do your Christmas shopping early at the Cross Plains Public Library's annual Christmas Craft Sale on Friday, Dec.4, from noon-6:00 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 5, from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church in Cross Plains. We have some new vendors this year that will feature jewelry, ironwork, and

Scentsy products. All visitors will be entered in a FREE raffle for a Kindle, and for other great door prizes. Parents and grandparents can visit the library booth and pick up a bundle of FREE NEW books to give as Christmas gifts. Join us for a great shopping experience!



A Free Concert!

"IT'S ALL ABOUT CHRISTMAS"

If you want to feel and enjoy the spirit of Christmas early, make plans to attend the free public concert of beautiful winter holiday music performed by our Big Country's premier adult show choir, Celebration Singers, in Abilene's historic Paramount Theater. The curtain opens with sounds of the season at 7:00 pm on Friday, December 4th. No advance reservations or tickets are needed. There is plenty of free and convenient parking available.

"It's All About Christmas" will feature a classic collection of sacred and secular selections including "Sing We Now of Christmas", "White Christmas Medley" (songs from the movie), "Five Favorite Holiday Songs" (done in different musical styles), the cantata "Love Came Down at Christmas", the hilarious "Grandma's Killer Fruitcake", special group numbers and many more Yuletide tunes.

Celebration Singers is a nonprofit charitable organization that has entertained Big Country audiences for 18 years. The performers are 50 talented singers and musicians selected by invitation and audition from all around the Big Country. All are non-paid volunteers who practice weekly and freely contribute their vocal and musical gifts. The group performs annual spring and winter concerts in the royally restored Paramount Theater as well as programs throughout the year at other area venues. The website is

www.celebrationsingersabilene.com.

The distinguished Director, Betty Ann Blackburn, is a renown professional who has appeared in every major concert hall in the USA, including New York's Lincoln Center, and abroad in concerts at Paris, Frankfurt and the World Trade Fair. She has performed twice for Presidents at the White House, toured Europe with legendary international entertainers, made many national television appearances, and performed with the Abilene Philharmonic, Abilene Opera and Abilene Collegiate Opera. Mrs. Blackburn has been staff accompanist with the Hardin-Simmons University vocal department for many years. She is also music director for Dyess Air Force Base Chapel.

Regular patrons seldom miss a Celebration Singers performance. New patrons always enjoy the excellent concerts and enthusiastically return for the next show. Choral music lovers everywhere proudly, profoundly and perennially proclaim:

"MUSIC IS WHAT FEELINGS SOUND LIKE."

and "MUSIC GETS YOU THROUGH HARD TIMES, HELPS HEAL YOUR HEART, IS ALWAYS THERE ON GOOD DAYS AND NEVER LEAVES YOU ON BAD DAYS."

You will agree when you hear the Celebration Singers!

John Compere
Baird, TX

The Kaleidoscope to Hold Christmas Open House

Christmas Open House at The Kaleidoscope will be Friday, December 4th from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

With a large variety of new merchandise and sales store-wide, you are sure to find something or everyone on your list.

Refreshments will be served throughout the day to enhance your shopping experience. Door prize drawings will be held every hour, so stop by Thursday or early Friday and sign up.

If you can't make it to the Open House, come by and check out our great selection of Christmas gifts. We will be open Thursday-Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. until Christmas. Merry Christmas and Happy Shopping!

TIME TO START GETTING YOUR CHRISTMAS FLOATS READY!

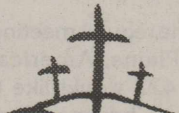
The Cross Plains Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Christmas Parade. Friday, December 4, 2015. The floats will be judged, so put your best into it! This will be a great parade for the family! Looking for something fun before the parade? Check out the Kiwanis Annual Stew Supper 5pm-7pm, and the library will be hosting the ornament painting for the children. Santa will also be at the Stew Supper for parents to take pictures. We hope to see you there! For more information Myleah at the chamber office 254-725-7251

CHURCH DIRECTORY

COTTONWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday School9:45 AM
 Morning Worship.....11:00 AM
 Ministry Activities
 Youth Meet at Pool House.....6:30PM
 Thomas Estes, Pastor
 Gregg Steinle, Youth Pastor
 Church (254) 725-6266 Bible Teaching

Triple Cross Cowboy Church

Every Sunday at 10:30 am
 Services held at 18071 CR 421, Cross Plains
 (1/2 mile North of Cross Plains city limits on Hwy 206)

Al Taylor, Preacher
 Phone: 254-725-7522
 Cell Phone: 325-370-6680

Pioneer Baptist Church

Pastor: Dwaine Clowers
Music Director: Barbara Jo Medley
 Sunday School.....10:00am
 Sunday Morning Worship.....11:00am
 Sunday Evening Worship.....6:00pm
 Wednesday Prayer Service.....7:00pm

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

First Baptist Church

Sunday Morning 10:45 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6:30 p.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6:30 pm Evening worship
 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

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

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 CALL 254-725-6111
 116 S.E 1st Street.
 Cross Plains, Tx.

Cross Plains Review
2
 Dec. 3, 2015



Ryan Reed of Cross Plains, TX with his two grey fox



Cody Reed of Cross Plains, TX with his Mountain Lion

Two local hunters have great success

Ryan Reed, pictured above with his two gray fox, and his dad, Matt Reed called in using an audio varmint call in Dryden, TX on 11/28/15. Ryan harvested these two fox with his .17 caliber HMR. Watch for this young man in the future harvesting some great trophy animals!! Great job Ryan. Ryan is the son of Matt and Krisi Reed.

Cody Reed, also pictured above, with his Mt. Lion taken 11/28/15 in Dryden Tx. Facts about the animal, 48" from tip of nose to base of tail, 26" girth, 13" neck, 29" tail from base to tip with a 6.5" girth at base of tail, 5.5" front paws, weighed 138 pounds. Killed with a 22-250 at approximately 80 yards. Cody is the son of Rusty and Debbie Reed.

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 www.rustyreedconstruction.com - Tx. Cont. License # 4047

First United Methodist Church

Kevin Morton, Pastor

Office 254-725-7377 Parsonage 254-725-7694
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.

1000 North Main Street
 www.crossplainsfumc.org

Love Fund
 has been opened for
Jesse Markham
 at Texas Heritage Bank
 for medical expenses

Love Fund
 for **Lisa Floyd**
 has been set up at
 Texas Heritage Bank
 for medical expenses

Love Fund
 has been set up for
Darby Nichols
 at Texas Heritage Bank
 to help with expenses

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

Love Fund
 for
Sherryl Goble
 has been set up at
 Texas Heritage Bank
 for medical expenses

Love Fund
 has been set up for
Sue Neal
 at Texas Heritage Bank
 to help with financial expenses

Obituaries

James Robert Watson

James Robert Watson, age 87 of Cross Plains, died Thursday afternoon, November 26, 2015 at San Remo Nursing Home in Richardson, Texas. Funeral services were held at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 1, 2015 at First Baptist Church with Pastor Ronnie White officiating; burial followed in the New Cottonwood Cemetery. The Family received family and friends on Monday, November 30, from 5:00 to 6:00 pm at Higginbotham Chapel for remembering and visitation.

James was born on December 12, 1927 to Robert Troy and Myrtle Mae (Potter) Watson in Pampa, Texas. He was a hard worker and his early years were spent going to school and working on the family farm.

On April 23, 1946 James enlisted in the Army. After 2 months of basic training at Camp Polk, Louisiana he was transferred to Ladd Field in Alaska where he served the remainder of his enlistment as a military policeman. James was honorably discharged from the Army on October 15, 1947 with rank of Corporal.

After returning to Callahan County, Texas James met the love of his life, Kara Gale Murphy. James and Gale were married on June 2, 1950. James and Gale were blessed with 3 children, James, Mary, and Rebecca.

James was active in the church and was an ordained deacon. He and his wife Gale where caring and generous people who always shared

whatever they had with family and community. Thy were instrumental in building the Gateway Baptist Church near Tuscola.

James worked a wide range of jobs during his career, but worked the longest as a telephone man with the phone company. In 1992 he retired from the Taylor Telephone Cooperative after working 33 years.

He and Gale moved out to Gales farm after the death of her parents. James loved the farm and spent many hours watching the deer and wild turkeys as they came in to feed.

He is survived by on son, James M. Watson and wife Judy of Houston; two daughters, Mary Matulka and husband, Jerry of Richardson and Rebecca McCoy of Roanoke; three grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren; six brothers, Donald; Buck; Johnny; Jerry and Troy Ray Watson; three sisters Bobbie Stefford; Josephine; Norma Jean Tucker; and special friend Sharon and Richard Parr.

He was preceded in death by his wife Gale in 2014, his parents, two brother and one sister.



Higginbotham FUNERAL HOME
 309 N. E. 4th STREET
 P. O. BOX 9
 CROSS PLAINS, TX 76443

Sheriff's Monthly Reports for Oct. & Nov.

Dispatch Statistics Report November 2015

Case Count 221
 Average Response 8.18
 Average Call Time 32.24
 Manhours on Calls 142.95

Abandoned Vehicle 1
 Alarm Business 28
 Alarm Residence 7
 Animal Control 10
 Assault 4
 Attempt to Locate 1
 Burglary 3
 Civil Service 17
 Civil Standby 3
 Close Patrol Business 1
 Close Patrol Residence 5
 Discharge Weapon 1
 DOA 3
 Domestic 17
 Fight 4
 Fire 9
 Forgery 1
 Gas Drive Off 1
 Harassment 1
 Hazmat 1
 Hit & Run 1
 In Pursuit 1
 Intoxicated Motorist 2
 Intoxicated Pedestrian 1
 Investigation 1
 Juvenile 5
 Lift Assist 2
 Livestock Out 19
 Loud Music 4
 Medical/EMS 75
 Motorist Assist 6
 Prowler 2
 Public Service 1
 Reckless Driver 20
 Request Officer 6
 Road Hazard 6
 Runaway 1
 Smoke/Unknown Fire 1
 Stolen Vehicle 2
 Suicidal Subject/Suicide 4
 Suspicious Activity 12
 Suspicious Vehicle/Person 11
 Theft 11
 Threats 2
 Vandalism 2
 Welfare Check 8
 Total 334

Dispatch Statistics Report October 2015

Case Count 335
 Average Response 8.45
 Average Call Time 44.87
 Manhours On Calls 275.96

911 Hang Up 2
 911 Open Line 1
 Abandoned Vehicle 2
 Accident 28
 Alarm Business 15
 Alarm Residence 7
 Animal Control 13
 Assault 2
 Burglary 10
 Civil Service 10
 Civil Standby 10
 Close Patrol Residence 3
 Criminal Mischief 8
 Criminal Trespass 8
 Domestic 17
 Fight 3
 Fire 13
 Harassment 1
 Hit & Run 2
 Intoxicated Motorist 2
 Intoxicated Pedestrian 2
 Investigation 1
 Juvenile 2
 Lift Assist 1
 Livestock Out 30
 Loud Music 3
 Medical/EMS 108
 Mental Subject 1
 Motorist Assist 4
 Prowler 15
 Public Service 9
 Reckless Driver 19
 Request Officer 11
 Road Hazard 9
 Smoke/Unknown Fire 1
 Stolen Vehicle 3
 Subject with a Firearm 1
 Suicidal Subject/Suicide 8
 Suspicious Activity 30
 Suspicious Vehicle/Person 29
 Theft 12
 Traffic Stop 3
 Vandalism 4
 Warrant Service 2
 Welfare Check 28
 Total 533

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BOAZ	DR. MARK A. DAVIS DAVIS EYE CARE	BENJAPAWN KHAKAI REBECCA ROSE DARK FRANK L. DARK
TUCY HOME IMPR JERRY & DOR		
DONATED BY ANNY & MARY SMITH OWN STREET BOAZ	DONATED BY SHEREE L. PHILLIPS STACEY L. PHILLIPS	DONATED BY DANNY L. SMITH ATTORNEY AT LAW
ER AGER TION	THE HONORABLE MAYOR TIM WALKER ADMINISTRATION 2005	IN HONOR OF THE FAMILIES WE SERVE MCRAE FUNERAL HOME
NGIE & LARRY CRAIG AT LAST	REV ER & RUTH WALLER LOVING PARENTS OF BETTY BROWN MORGAN	REV ELMER BROWN US, BETTY BROWN, VIVI ERNE, BOBBIE, ER

CROSS PLAINS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

THE CROSS PLAINS EDC AND THE CITY OF CROSS PLAINS NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PAVILION OVER THE NEW SLAB POURED IN TREADWAY PARK. THE PURCHASE OF ONE BRICK FOR \$50 WILL HELP SECURE FUNDS TO BUILD THE STRUCTURE. THE BRICKS WILL FINISH OUT THE SIDEWALK FROM THE TURKEY CREEK BRIDGE TO THE NEW PAVILION. YOU CAN PURCHASE A BRICK IN MEMORY OR HONOR OF A LOVED ONE, OR JUST PUT YOUR NAME OR CLASS YEAR ON THE BRICK. THE DONATION IS TAX DEDUCTABLE.

THE BRICK WILL ALLOW UP TO FOUR (4) LINES. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PURCHASING A BRICK YOU MAY CONTACT DEBBIE GOSNELL OR DANNES TURNER.

PO Box 129
Cross Plains, Texas 76443
e-mail deb@crossplains.org
Phone (254) 725-6114
Fax (254) 725-6397

Commissioners reject bid on surplus equipment

Callahan County Commissioners rejected one bid for the sale of a 1982 Grader with Scrapers during the commissioners' court regular meeting held on Thursday, November 19th at the County Courthouse in Baird.

Commissioners opened one sealed bid received from Seth Goldsmith for \$47,521.00 on the sale of a 1982 Grader with Scrapers containing Serial No. 05685. Commissioner Cliff Kirkham made a motion to reject the bid, and Commissioner Bryan Farmer seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 4-0 vote.

Other agenda items brought before the commissioners' court included:

- The Meeting of the Commissioners' Court was held at its regular meeting

place in the Courthouse on November 16, 2015 A.D., with the following officers present to wit: Roger Corn, County Judge; Bryan Farmer, Commissioner Precinct No. 2; Cliff Kirkham, Commissioner Precinct No. 4; Angela Campbell, Deputy County Treasurer; and Nancy Charlton, Deputy County Clerk.

—The commissioners' court meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m. by Judge Corn with three commissioners present.

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

—Commissioner Farmer made a motion to adjourn the commissioners' court meeting at 9:38 a.m. Commissioner Hicks seconded the motion and the motion carried with an unanimous 4-0 vote.



December 6

Brian Couch
Joe Wyatt, Jr.
Debbie Jean (Potter) Gosnell
Phillip Perry
Frances Mote
Katerina Ring
Shawn Weatherman
Christi Burrhus
Dana Miller
Sam Gardner Sr.

December 7

Britney Hernandez
Mamie Webb
Mrs. Jean Clark
Mrs. Anne Burris
Michael Dean Wilson
Roy Richey
Estaline Gilmore
Allan Clark
Glen Lawrence
Mimmie Reynolds
Lovie Nichols
Christopher Michael Wheeler
Ann Marshal Burns
Frankie Hyles

December 8

Johnny Glen Clay II
Judy (Gibbs) Steele
Neva Joyce Dillard
Elmer Casey
Garrett Stephens
Juanita Smith

December 9

Rhonda (Jackson) Atchley
Bud McCorkle
Gerald Holcomb
Darlene Dillard
Gaye Archer
Dale Hunt
John Ingram
Bruce Region
Mrs. A.H. Ringhoffer
Tiffany Bush

December 10

Kelli Sue Bennett
Jimmy McCowen
Debbie Edington
Jessie (Foster) Raben
Jimmy Gilmore
Joe Dean Nunn
Mickie (Archer) Homans
Wayne Newton
Sheri Lyn Bassett
Dustin Meiron
Joshua Morris

December 11

Miles Hernandez
Tommy Cavanaugh Waggoner
Jill (Richardson) Betts
Pee Wee Pickett
Stuart Sowell
Peggy Purvis
Andrew Mark Young
Kay Horan
Tammy Wolfroft

December 12

Steve Franke
Mrs. Vernon Falkner
Michael Allen Johnson

What Are You Reading?

by the Bookworms

I just finished reading "The Boys in the Boat" by Daniel James Brown - a true story about nine Americans and their epic quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

As Joe Rantz lay dying, he shares the tale of the University of Washington nine-man rowing team, and their individual struggles to afford to continue their education because of the depression and their individual status in life.

But first you must meet George Yeoman Popcock ... one of a kind boat builder.

George and his brother built boats in England, but when he left England he ended up in Seattle and started building boats, by himself, by hand, with a skill that was not to be matched by another builder in the U.S. He had been rowing since 14 years of age and understood the mentality of each member of a team and what made them successful. His influence is seen throughout the book; as a matter of fact, every chapter starts with a quote from George. He built the Husky Clipper that the team rowed to Olympic Gold.

We meet the freshman rowing coach, Tom Boles, who knew he had something special in the team, if they were kept under control, and Al Ulbrickson, the varsity coach who did whatever it took to keep the minds of the team "in the boat."

From the many who first tried out for the team to the nine who persevered, you find farmers, lumberjacks, and hardworking young men who struggled with both rowing and education; to make matters worse, they had to battle to win over their rival California and eastern schools, filled with wealthy students who did not face the day to day financial struggles of "The Boys in the Boat."

This book is a combination of a truly amazing story of the nine, their coaches, the newspapermen, and the history of what was going on in Germany. I was both educated in history and entertained.

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Cross Plains Review

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Dec. 3, 2015

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Third candidate files for Clyde Commissioner seat

A third candidate has filed for the position of Clyde County Commissioner Precinct #1, according to Callahan County Republican Chair Angela Campell.

Former County Sheriff John Windham filed for the position of Clyde Commissioner Precinct #1, bringing to three the number of candidates now seeking the office.

Windham, 46, has resided in the state all his life and in Callahan County eight years. He resides at 4093 Private Road 1195 in Baird and is employed with sales at Hanner Chevrolet in Baird.

Windham is being challenged for the office of Clyde Commissioner Precinct #1 by incumbent Commissioner Harold Hicks, 75, and Rick McGowen, 43.

Two of the positions up for election in the Callahan County Republican Primary Election are contested, according to new Callahan County Republican Chairwoman Angela Campell.

Candidate filing for positions up for election in the March 1, 2016 Republican Primary began on Saturday, November 14th and candidate filing will run through Monday,

December 14th. The offices of Callahan County Sheriff and Commissioner Precinct #1 (Clyde) are both contested, according to Campell.

For the office of Callahan County Sheriff, incumbent Sheriff Terry Joy, 74, is being challenged by Franklin P. "Bucky" Shackelford, 46.

Other candidates who have filed for election to their specific offices include:

Incumbent County Attorney Shane Deel has filed for re-election to the position of County Attorney. Deel, 43, has lived in the state and in Callahan County all his life. He resides at 1217 West 4th in Baird and is employed as the County Attorney.

Angela Bean Campell, 55, has filed for the position of Callahan County Republican Chair.

Ed C. Duncan, 76, has filed for re-election to the position of Constable Precinct #4 (Cross Plains).

Tom F. Windham, 64, has filed for re-election to the Callahan County Commissioner Precinct #3 in Baird.

Tammy T. Walker, 41, has filed for re-election as

the County Tax Assessor/Collector.

Republican Chairwoman Campbell reports candidate filing for the Republican Primary election is continuing now through Monday, December 14th. Candidates interested in running for an office can contact her at (817) 475-6376 for information.

Campbell said the position of County Attorney is also up for election in next year's Republican Primary.

She also reported information about the upcoming Primary election can be found on the website: www.callahangop.com.

Early voting for the upcoming Republican Primary Election will take place from February 16, 2016 through February 26, 2016.

Library Notes

Library Hours

Mon. 1:00pm to 5:00pm
Tues. 11:00am to 7:00pm
Wed. 1:00pm to 5:00pm
Thurs. 1:00pm to 5:00pm
Closed Thanksgiving
Closed Friday

Nov., 16 - Nov., 19 2015

Patrons 110
Books Checked 126
Programs
GED 1
MTA
LAP/LAPSIT
Other

Copies 61
Internet 14
Wi Fi 9
Reference 12

Memorials

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Wanda Bryant
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Donations

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Cross Plains Review

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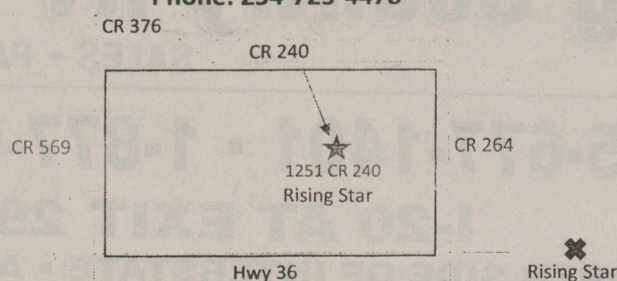
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Club Car (With Wench)	6 Ft. Harrow
6 Ft. Blade (6 Way Adjustment)	Bronze Statue's (Western)
8 Ft. Leather Couch & Matching Chair	End Table's (Marble/Wood)
Cow Horn Lamps	Antique Tire Changer
Palomino Cutting Horse (\$5,300 Earnings)	Various Tools
Sorrel Cutting Horse Brood Mare	Portable Air Compressor
5 Ft. Shop Fan	Portable Fuel Tank
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Decorative Border Rocks	Storage Racks
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Oak Hutch	55 Gal. Barrels
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Misc. RV Supplies	Louvered Closet Doors

*Many Other Items too many to List *
Phone: 254-725-4478



Clyde Woman's Club Holiday Tour of Homes & Bake Sale this Sunday from 2-4:30

Do you need fresh new ideas for Christmas this year? The Clyde Woman's Club Holiday Tour of Homes and Bake Sale on Sunday, December 6th from 2:00 to 4:30 pm is designed to do just that! In fact not only are there beautifully decorated homes to tour this year but there are also two special exhibits: a Christmas showcase of 12 table settings to view at the Chamber of Commerce Building and an extensive collection of Santas from many collectors.

With the tablescapes, displayed at the Chamber of Commerce building the decorators wish to demonstrate how one might combine china and crystal or everyday dishes and glassware with decor items found around the home, using such things as: paper napkins, antlers, candy canes and pinecones, to name a few. Guest will view a formal table, a children's table, a snowman themed table, a ten Days of Christmas table, a North Pole kitchen workspace and much more to total 12 table settings. Many surprises are in store for the viewers on this part of the tour.

The Callahan Hall at 209 South 1st Street, will have an extensive display of decorative Santa Clauses to view. Here a wide variety of Santas will be seen from Santas around the world, to hand carved and custom decorated Santas, to animated Santas and many other varieties of Ole Saint Nick.

Seeing this abundant collection will certainly put you in a jolly mood.

The beautifully decorated homes to tour are the homes of Amy and Jerod Yates and Makenzie and Chris Bingham. A detailed map will be on the ticket which is only \$5.00 and can be brought from any Club member or at First Financial Bank in Clyde or at the Chamber of Commerce Office at 106 Cedar Street. One home is themed "Home for the Holidays" and the other is "Christmas Everywhere, from Young to Old". This portion of the tour will definitely get you into the Christmas spirit!

Additionally, the ladies of Clyde Woman's Club will host a bake sale with delicious baked goods. These items can be frozen for later or served right away. The Holiday Tour of Homes and Bake Sale is an annual event which funds college scholarships for senior girls as they graduate and head to the college of their choice. The Scholarships are presented to the chosen girls each May in coordination with Clyde High School guidance counselors.

So what do you need to do in order to take advantage of this fun Christmas opportunity?

1. Buy a \$5.00 ticket at First Financial Bank or at the chamber office, or from any club member. You can buy tickets on the day of the Tour of Homes at the Clyde Woman's Club located on South 1st and

Rusk Street.

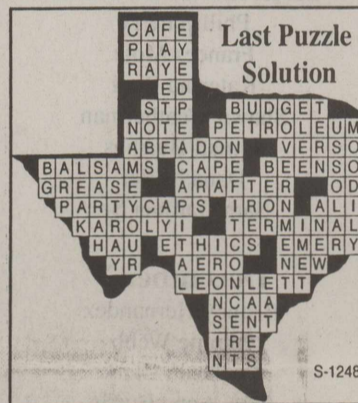
2. Check out the Bake sale at the Clyde Woman's Club on South 1st and Rusk Street to secure those Christmas goodies.

3. Go by Callahan Hall at 209 South 1st Street to view the display of the abundant of Santa Clauses.

4. Go to the Chamber of Commerce at 106 Cedar Street to view at least 12 tablescapes decorated in a wide variety of seasonal themes.

5. Visit two beautifully decorated homes depicting Christmas decorations in every room.

You can visit each aspect of the tour in the order you wish. So gather your friends and get into the Christmas spirit as you view two lovely homes which are decorated throughout with beautiful Christmas cheer, purchase delicious baked goods which you didn't have to bake, gain ideas for decorating holiday tables, and experience a viewing of delightful Santa Clauses which will make you think you are at the North Pole. A bonus is to know that after your afternoon of Christmas festivities, you helped to fund scholarships for our Clyde girls to attend college. What a delightful afternoon the Clyde Woman's Club has in store for each participant!





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Classifieds must be received in the Review office by noon Tuesday to be published in the current week's edition.

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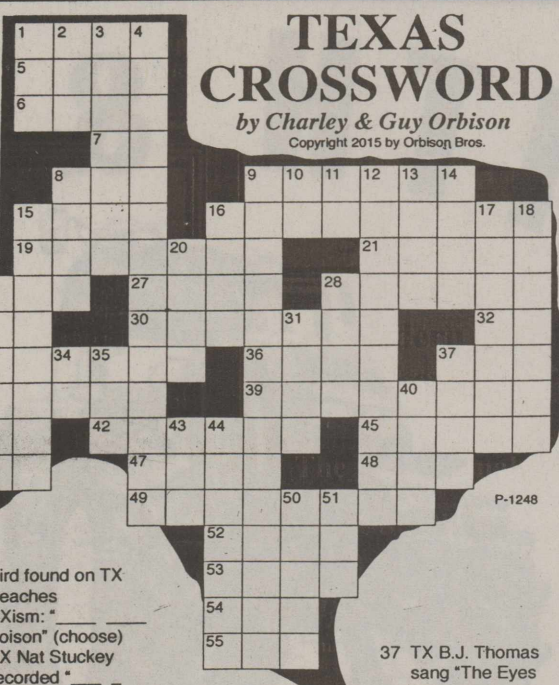
ACROSS

- 1 TXism: "hot as a griddle"
- 5 "No Pass No"
- 6 this Collin played throughout TX in his first band
- 7 this Harris was in "The Right Stuff" with TX Quaid
- 8 oil additive
- 9 it's out of control in Washington
- 15 promissory
- 16 in Midland: "Permian Basin Museum"
- 19 TXism: "drawing it"
- 21 left page of an open book
- 22 aromatic substances used in certain ointments
- 27 TX Joe Don Baker film: "Fear"
- 28 TX Charley Pride's "Never Loved" (1981)
- 29 TXism: "a squeaky wheel gets the"
- 30 TXism: "fast as a rat up"
- 32 TX Janis died of this (abbr.)
- 33 silly hats? (2 wds.)
- 36 TXism: "shootin" (pistol)
- 37 he took the title from TX George Foreman in 1974
- 38 Houston gymnastic coach, Bela
- 39 DFW Airport building
- 41 Asian surname
- 42 moral principles

- 45 this Ralph was host of "Nashville Now"
- 46 365 days (abbr.)
- 47 flight prefix
- 48 Braunfels, TX
- 49 Cowboys' "The Big Cat" (1991-2000)
- 52 collegiate athletic org.
- 53 TXism: "him packing" (kicked out)
- 54 anger

DOWN

- 1 TXism: "tax wrangler"
- 2 pie mode
- 3 La Grange is seat of this county
- 4 Athens, TX is the "Black" of the World
- 8 noisy cries
- 9 Kacey Musgraves put this on in 2015 in Mineola (2 wds.)
- 11 Red Duke
- 12 TXism: "close enough for work"
- 13 Confederate gen. Robert

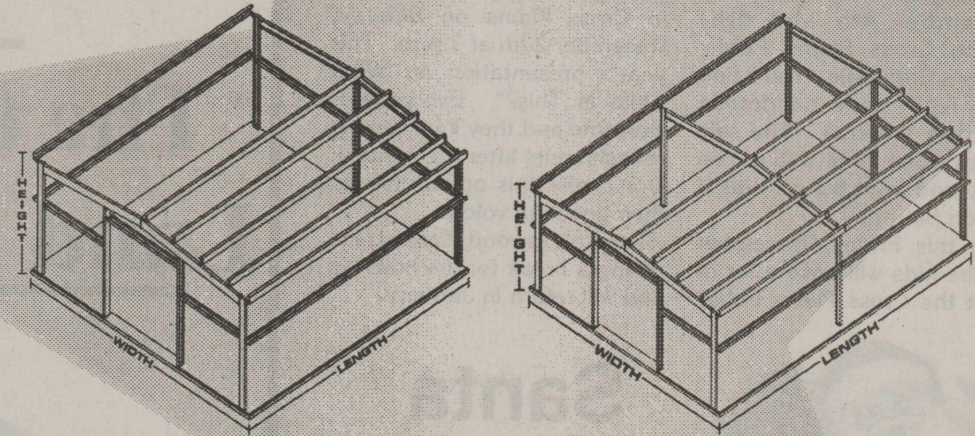


TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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- 14 bird found on TX beaches
- 15 TXism: " (choose) poison" (choose)
- 16 TX Nat Stuckey recorded "Top" in 1966, and it was revived in 1999 by Alan Jackson
- 17 SEIA is a trade assoc. for the industry
- 18 gloomily
- 20 TX agcy. that works with disabled (abbr.)
- 22 this Gaine was a coach & GM for the Dallas Stars (init.)
- 23 in Smith Co. on hwy. 135
- 24 pumping problem wife of Abraham
- 25 affirmative vote
- 37 TX B.J. Thomas sang "The Eyes of a ___ York Woman"
- 40 TX Ivory Joe wrote "Since ___ You Baby" (1956)
- 43 TX Buck Owens TV show on CBS: "___ Haw" (1969-71)
- 44 TXism: "too many ___ the fire"
- 50 narrow rural roads
- 51 "The Big Texan" will give you a 72-oz. steak if you can ___ it all in an hour

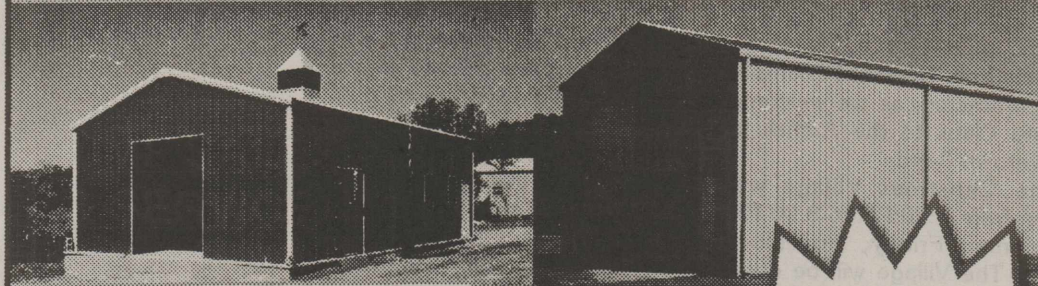
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Senior Citizens Center Activities

Dec. 7th- Dec. 11th

Monday-7th Exercise 11:00

Tuesday-8th Crafts with Chris 10:00/Exercise 11:00

Wednesday-9th Blood Pressure Check Girling Home Health

Thursday -10th Exercise 11:00, Reading with 3rd Graders 9:45, 1:05

Friday -11th Exercise 11:00 Integra Care Bingo 11:15

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.

SENIOR CITIZENS MENU

Dec. 7th- Dec. 11th

Monday 7th Salisbury Steak, Potatoes, Pea, Bread, Dessert

Tuesday 8th Chicken Tenders w/gravy, Potatoes Lima Beans, Bread, Dessert

Wednesday 9th- Chili Beans, Spinach, Cornbread, Dessert

Thursday 10th- Steak Fingers, Potatoes, Green Beans, Bread, Dessert

Friday 11th- Chopped BBQ on Bun, Pinto Beans, Onion, Pickles Slices, Dessert

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

Monthly Menu may be picked up at the Senior Citizen Center

Cottonwood News by Beverly Brown

Cottonwood received a little over 6 inches of rain from last Thursday through Sunday. Cold weather kept a lot of people in over the holidays.

Our sympathy goes out to the family of James Watson your all in our prayers.

David Weaver and Gabriel Cuellar spent the week before Thanksgiving with David's mother, Mary Ella Weaver. They helped with chores around her place and got a lot done.

Those visiting with Dena Nickerson over the holiday were: Cecil and Jackie Nickerson of Conroe; Randy and Karen Nickerson and Randa of Houston; Dena Jo and Curtis Hines of Weatherford; Bill and Annette Nickerson of Cottonwood; Willie Nickerson and family of Cross Plains; Mary Jo and Jo Pennington and family of South Lake; Connie Potter, Portious and Kara Potter and family of Cross Plains; and Rickey Jo and Gerald Brown and family of Cross Plains.

Crafters will gather at the First United Methodist Church this Friday and Saturday (December 4th and 5th) for the Cross Plains Public Library's Craft Sale. You'll find some really nice handmade Christmas presents. The sale is from noon until 6 p.m. on Friday and from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Saturday.

Also this Friday, December 4th, the kids will have a lot of fun at the Cross Plains Public

Library painting Christmas ornaments.

Santa Claus comes to town Friday night with the Cross Plains in the Chamber of Commerce's Lighted Christmas Parade. Parade starts at 6:30 p.m. with the parade line up being at 6:00 p.m. at the Church of Christ in Cross Plains.

Kiwanis Annual Stew Supper will also be held this Friday, December 4th at the Senior Center from 5 until 7 p.m. We hear that they will again be making their delicious taco stew. Dinner is only \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children. Santa will make his entrance during the Stew Supper, so all the kids can line up and visit with Santa. Bring a camera or use your phone so you can take a photo of your children with Santa. They'll be prize drawings in the evening, as well.

4His Glory, which features two kids who grew up in Cottonwood Matt Sowell and Mandi Sowell, along with Connie Swift and Rhonda Swift, will perform their annual Christmas Cantata at the First Presbyterian Church in Cross Plains on Sunday, December 20th at 7 p.m. This year's presentation is "What Child is This?" Everyone is welcome and they'll be serving refreshments after the cantata. Don't miss this opportunity to their beautiful voices.

The Cottonwood Musicals are taking a break for the holidays and will return in January.



Santa Claus is coming to town

Please join The Baird Chamber of Commerce, as we welcome Santa Claus to the Arches in downtown Baird.

The Christmas Village will open from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM beginning Friday, November 27th. The Village will be open every Friday and Saturday evening up until December 19th.

We would like to extend a

big hearted Thank you to the Chamber, City Hall, Homestead Nursing Rehab of Baird and the other many volunteers for their help in creating this fun event.

Entrance into the Christmas Village will be free to all, with donations being accepted. Please come celebrate the holiday season and enjoy hot cocoa and cookies.

Courthouse News

42nd District Court
John Weeks, presiding

Civil Filings

Petroleum Exploration Co., LTD dba Petex vs. Winiford M. Davis aka Winiford Main Davis, appointment of receiver of mineral interest.

Marilyn J. Powers and Johnny E. Powers, divorce.

Leila A. Gustafason and Donald G. Gustafason, divorce.
Marshall Alan Fiscus and Nicole Rae Fiscus, divorce.

Criminal Indictments

Violet Maree Walter, Ct. I - murder, Ct. II - robbery, Ct. III - theft of a firearm.

Phillip Jay Walter, Ct. I - murder, Ct. II - robbery, Ct. III - theft of a firearm.

Cross Plains Public Library presents...

Christmas Craft Fair

Fri., Dec. 4 from Noon - 6:00 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 5 from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

at **First United Methodist Church**
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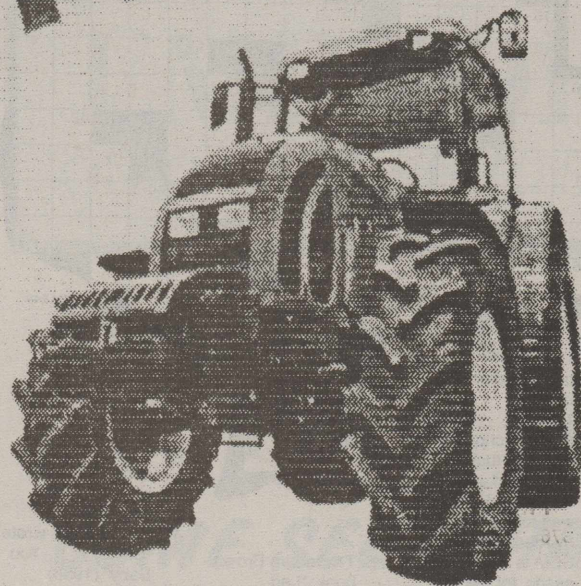
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- 41.91 ACRES** — 3 BR-2 BA home at Lake Brownwood, 1 tank, oaks...**\$400,000**
- 77.84 ACRES** — Hwy 183 frontage near May in Brown Cty, well, electricity...**\$221,844**
- 124 +/- ACRES** — Excellent get away, recreational hunting or home site...**\$303,800**
- 150.04 ACRES** — Extraordinary farming & hunting, 4 irrigation wells **SOLD**...**\$475,000**

FEATURED LISTINGS

- 250.54 ACRES** — Premium hunting & cattle property on Home Creek...**\$550,000**
- 330 +/- ACRES** — Secluded ranch with soil conservation dam, Bull Creek.....**\$726,000**

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TexSCAN Week of
November 29, 2015

LEGAL

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY BENEFITS: Unable to work? Denied benefits? We Can Help! WIN or Pay Nothing! Contact Bill Gordon & Associates at 1-800-755-0168 to start your application today!

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41.49 ACRES, north of Comstock. End of road privacy. Heavy cover. Deer, hogs, quail. \$2272 down, \$414/mo. (9.9%, 20 yrs.) or TX Vet financing. 1-800-876-9720. www.ranchenterprisesllc.com

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GOT KNEE PAIN? Back Pain? Shoulder Pain? Get a pain-relieving brace - little or NO cost to you. Medicare Patients Call Health Hotline Now! 1-800-519-0173

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- 3.56 Ac-Pioneer**-Scenic location for hm or business w/ hwy frontage, oaks/mesq, pole barn.**35,000**
- NEW! 12.28Ac**-Great home site or cor **SOLD** eat town spriged in coastal in 2015.....**39,910**
- NEW! 28+/-Ac**-Beautiful acreage w/ great locations for home site, oaks, 1 pond, wildlife.....**126,000**
- 50+/-Ac**-Amazing views! Rolling terrain, oaks, cult. & pasture, 1 tank, creek draw, hunting...**225,000**
- NEW! 54 Ac**, Heavy cover, great for hunting, more acres available, Spring Gap Mnts.**139,860**
- NEW! 56+/-Ac**-Brown Co-Com **UNDER CONTRACT**, pond, hunting camp,views**182,000**
- NEW! 70+/- Ac**-Fertile farmland w/ oaks, pecan, mesq. & elm trees, good hunting.....**98,000**
- NEW! 69+/-Ac**-Good hunting property, hwy wooded w/ thick brush & draws, water@CR....**155,250**
- 72+/-Ac**-Weekend getaway! Pri **UNDER CONTRACT** raks, 2 ponds, food plots....**162,000**
- NEW! 81+/-Ac**-Split of cultivation & thick cover, excellent wildlife habitat, varied terrain.....**226,800**
- NEW! 84+/-Ac**-Versatile prop w/ lg oaks, thick cover, seasonal creek, pond, well, hunting!..**182,850**
- NEW! 85+/-Ac**-Gently sloping terrain, beautiful views, 2 tanks, hvy brush w/ cultivation.....**119,000**
- NEW! 95+/-Ac**-Weekend getaway! Part thick cover w/ 2 cult. fields, 1 pond, old homestead**266,000**
- 112.95 Ac**-Cattle prop w/ mixed coastal/native pastures, 2 tanks, cross-fenced, elec. at rd. **290,846**
- NEW! 117 Ac**-Eas Co-Productive & t **SOLD** l prop, suitable for hay/cattle, 4 wells...**320,000**
- 120 Ac**-Ranching or hunting prop, 45 ac cultivation/mdr pasture, 2 tanks, 1 well.....**259,900**
- 160 Ac**-Hvy cover on N side of Spring Gap Mtn, good hunting, 2 tanks, fenced,elec on site**414,400**
- NEW! 162 Ac**, Mostly fertile fan **UNDER CONTRACT** ed, beautiful views, 1 tank...**242,190**
- 225 Ac**-Eas. Co-Ranching & hunting land, 4 tanks, elec on prop, addtl ac avbl.....**517,500**
- 240 Ac**-Morton Valley-Plenty of wildlife & suitable for cattle, 3 tanks, cross-fenced.....**552,000**
- 275 Ac**-Eas. Co-Nice bldg site! Bounteous wildlife, 4 tanks, creek thru property,elec on site**414,400**
- NEW! 326 Ac**-Stephens Co-Perfect hunting/fishing/cattle combo, Battle Creek frontage.....**570,500**
- 500 Ac**-Eas.Co-Versatile for ranching or hunting, 8 tanks, Battle Creek thru prop.....**1,150,000**
- 557 Ac**-Eas.Co-Hunting/cattle combo, easy access, varied terrain, multiple tanks.....**1,463,973**

HOME WITH ACREAGE

- NEW! 3 Ac**-RS-3BR-2B brick hm bit in 2009, carport, metal stalls, stg bldg, fenced.....**225,000**
- 5 Ac**-Custom landscaped 3BF **UNDER CONTRACT** coastal, well, **Reduced**. **239,000**
- 6+/- Ac** -R.S.- Lovely 4BR-2B w/ sunroom & half basement, surrounded by**Reduced**. **119,900**
- 7.5 Ac**-Nice 2BR/1B hm w/ guesthouse, koi pond, sheds, pens, 2 water we**Reduced** **225,000**
- 15 Ac**-Extraordinary custom bit 5,169 sq ft hm w/ privacy & hilltop views, Jim**Reduced**. **697,000**
- NEW! 19 Ac**-Lovely & updated, 100 yr old 4BR-2.5B hm, 1,800 sq ft metal barn.....**230,000**
- 20 Ac**-Zephyr- Mountaintop retreat! 3BR-2B 2-story hm w/ covered patio, w**Reduced**...**299,000**
- NEW! 27 Ac**-3BR-2B brick hm w/game rm, wkshop, bam w/pens, 5 wells, addtl ac avbl.**399,900**
- 41.169 Ac**-Carbon-Picturesque 3BR-3B w/ 714 sq ft log cabin, shop/bam, corral.....**385,000**
- NEW! 41.27 Ac**-Brown Co-C **UNDER CONTRACT** w/upgrades, new fencing...**450,000**
- 82.93 Ac**-Beautifully maintained 4BR-2.5B, 2 story hm, lg metal barn, stock **Reduced**. **370,000**
- 85 Ac**-3BR-2B brick hm surrounded by oaks, nice blend of cultivation & treed pasture...**195,050**
- 97 Ac**-CP-Coastal & native grasses, 2BR-2B brick hm w/ office & lg oaks, 10 wells.....**289,900**
- NEW! 147 Ac**-3BR.2B Brick hm, lg gameroom, workshop, bam & pens, wildlife.....**\$659,800**
- 545.11 Ac**-R.S.-Organic farming! 10 **SOLD** 2,500sq ft hm&bunkho**Reduced**. **1,600,000**
- 1,279 Ac**-High-fenced ranch w/ genetically enhanced deer/facilities, 5 ponds, lodge....**3,710,057**

Inga Brennan 325-642-1878 **Shana Hinyard, Broker Associate 325-660-5719**
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Cross Plains Review 7 Dec. 3, 2015

TEES START AS LOW AS \$5.00 EA.

WE NOW DO EMBROIDERY ON CAPS, T-SHIRTS, BAGS, ETC.

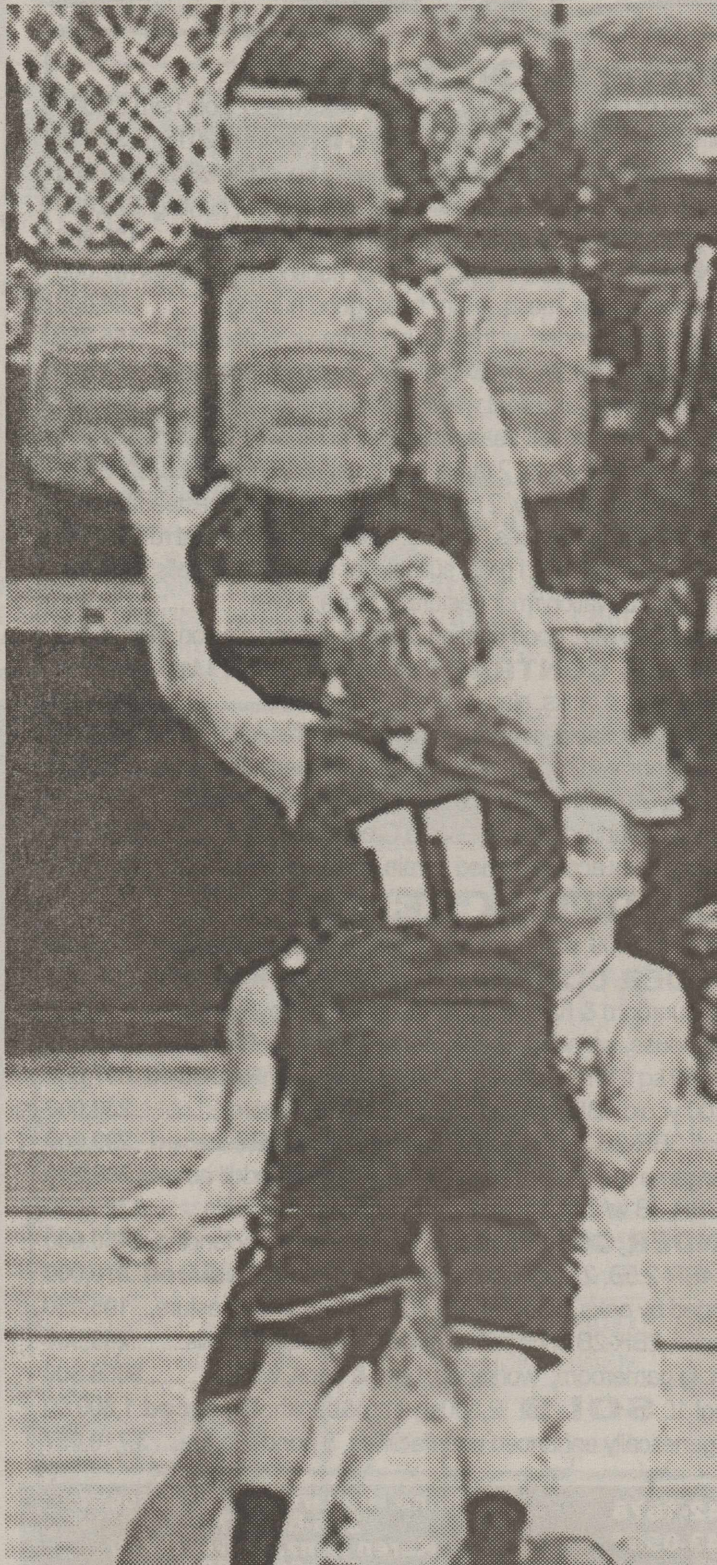
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New Hours— Mon. - Fri.
Open 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
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'Tis the Season...for BASKETBALL!

Come on out and support your Buffaloes

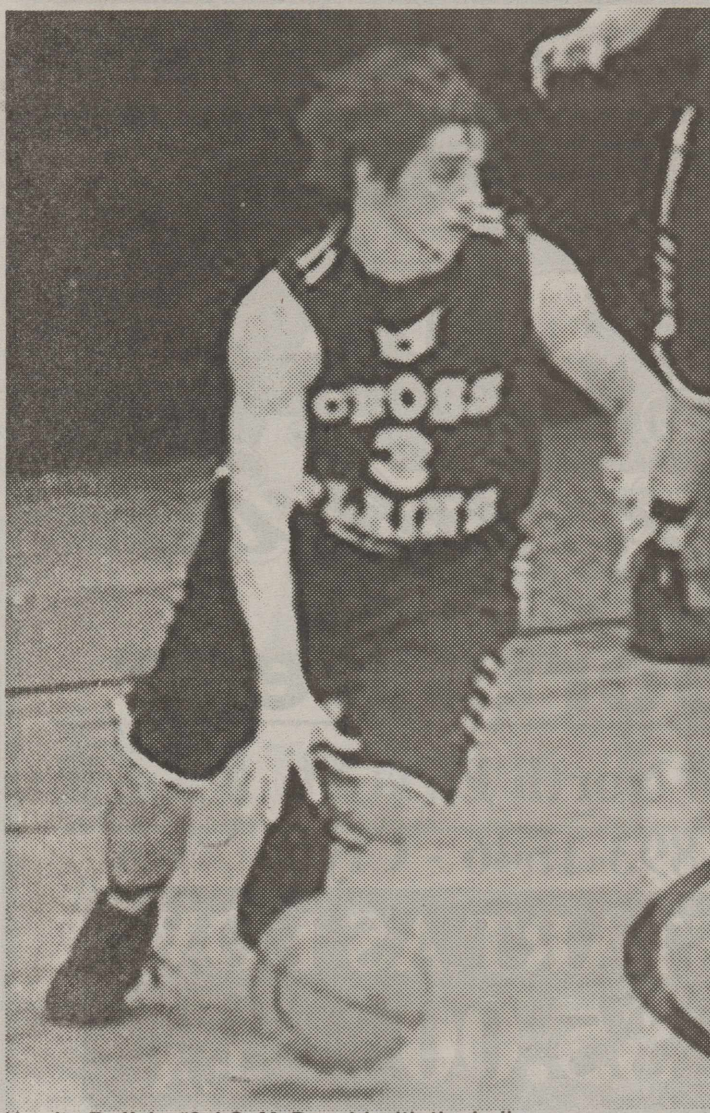


Varsity Buffalo #11 James Briggs working the net against Robert Lee



#40 Joe Revoir and #14 Phoenix Sanders looking for the ball as it comes inbound from Senclair

Cross Plains High School basketball teams travelled to Robert Lee to take on the Steer's November 24th.



Varsity Buffalo #3 J.C. McDonald with the ball



Varsity Buffalo, #23 Holden Senclair with a shot against the Robert Lee Steer's November 24th

The Following businesses support The Buffaloes

RAY'S BARBER SHOP

CROSS PLAINS GRAIN & PEANUT CO.

HIGGINBOTHAM'S BROS.

R.G. MAXWELL CONSTRUCTION

TIM'S FLORAL & GIFTS

Cross Plains I.S.D. Weekly Menu December 7 - 11, 2015

	MONDAY 7	TUESDAY 8	WEDNESDAY 9	THURSDAY 10	FRIDAY 11
B R E A K F A S T	Chicken-n-waffles Cereal Fruit Assorted juice Milk	PBJ sandwich Cereal Fruit Assorted juice milk	Texas toast Scrambled eggs Sausage Cereal Fruit Assorted juice Milk	Muffin Yogurt Cereal Fruit Assorted juice Milk	Breakfast Pizza Cereal Fruit Assorted juice Milk
L U N C H	BBQ Rib Sandwich Baked chips Broccoli Garden salad Orange smiles Milk	Steak fingers w/gravy Mashed potatoes Green beans Roll Cinnamon applesauce Milk	Chicken Quesadillas Garden salad Charro beans Salsa Strawberries & Bananas Milk	Breaded Pork Chop Breadstick Corn Glazed Carrots Sliced peaches Pudding	Beef or Chicken Patty on bun Sweet potato fries Cucumber dippers Tropical fruit Cookie Milk

Cross Plains Review

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Dec. 3, 2015

Large Manila ENVELOPES

7.5"x10.5"
9"x12"
10"x13"
10"x15"
12.5"x15"

now available at the
Cross Plains Review

Sheriff's Corner

Officer Brian Campbell & Canine Officer "Gracy" join Callahan Co. Sheriff's Dept.

We at the Callahan County Sheriff's Office are pleased to have Brian Campbell join us as a Deputy Sheriff. Brian will be a big asset to the Sheriff's Office. Before coming to the Sheriff's Office as a Deputy, Brian had worked with the Clyde Police Department for 6 years. Prior to that, Brian had graduated from the Law Enforcement Academy.

At the time he enrolled in the Academy, Brian was working as a dispatcher with former Callahan County Sheriff Eddie Curtis. It was during this time as a dispatcher that Brian realized he wanted to work from the other end of the dispatch radio and enrolled in the Academy.

Counting the time Brian was a dispatcher and his years working with the Clyde PD. Brian knows his way around the jail. And...Brian also comes with an additional and valuable, ability. He is trained in handling drug dogs and currently works with his drug dog "Pal" Gracy.

Soon after deciding to join the Sheriff's Department as a Deputy, Brian learned that he had lung cancer. Brian has been undergoing chemotherapy at M.D. Anderson in Houston. The treatments leave him extremely tired, but he feels confident each time he returns from a treatment and believes he will win this battle.

Brian is looking forward to settling in the Cross Plains area and becoming a part of that community and the area surrounding Cross Plains. His search has already started for a place to live in that area and, hopefully, he will be able to continue that search soon.

Be in prayer for Brian. Prayer is always important, but during

the Holiday Season, through Thanksgiving and Christmas, and the New Year, maybe even more so. These times can be exceptionally happy and joyous; they can also be exceptionally hard on Brian and on anyone else who is, or who has a family member who is fighting an illness, whether that illness is cancer or any of the deadly health issues being faced, even drug or alcohol addiction, or anything that seeks to destroy the health and well-being of a person.

And another thing that I, as a Law Enforcement Officer, am thankful for today. Although the rains came as predicted, the accompanying freezing temperatures did not...at least not for any extended period of time.

The Interstate can be a dangerous place for an Officer working an accident even in perfect weather, but during freezing weather following a heavy rain, it can be exceptionally so. To any of the First Responders assisting at the scene with traffic control or vehicle removal, being at the scene during this kind of weather can be doubly hazardous. Then add to that the possibility that it might still be raining or sleet or snow may be falling, making the blinking lights warning of an accident ahead harder to see. And yet, considering that multiple accidents, of varying degrees, were worked or investigated, makes me wonder how much worse it might have been if an extended freezing period had come.

I urge each of you as concerned Citizens, to be especially cautious as you travel the Interstate or any of the roadways in Texas.

Registration Underway for Children's Program

Registration is now underway for "Learn About"... Program and LAPSit Program at the Cross Plains Public Library.

The "Learn About"... Program is a pre-school program for ages 3-5. Your child must be age 3 by September 1, 2015. The Children will have the opportunity to do finger plays, sing hear stories, have refreshments, check out books, and "learn about" a variety of activities.

The Lapsit Program is for children birth to 3 years (not yet

eligible for the LAP Program). Each Child enrolled must be accompanied by an adult. The Children listen to stories and do finger plays and other activities.

Both Programs will meet on Wednesday morning from 10:00 to 10:45, beginning November 4th and continuing until the end of April 2016.

You may register your children at the library Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 1-5pm and on Tuesday from 11am-7pm. The library is closed on Fridays.

Clyde Hardware & Supply

119 Pecan Clyde, Tx. 79510
325-893-4260 Fax: 325-893-5262

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Fall is HERE!!!**

20" Box Fan... \$24.00

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5 styles & sizes -in stock NOW!**

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New Styles
of LED**

2015-2016

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Available Now!!!**

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**WE WILL CLOSE WED. NOON & BE CLOSED ALL
DAY THURS. FOR THANKSGIVING AND
REOPEN NORMAL HOURS FRI. & SAT.**

Cross Plains Review

SUPPORTS THE

BUFFALOES



JV Lady Buffs vs. Robert Lee November 24th



JV Lady Buffs vs. Robert Lee November 24th



JV Buffaloes vs. Robert Lee Nov., 24th

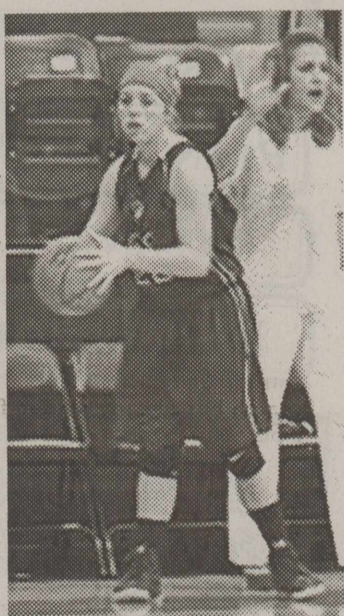


JV Buffaloes vs. Robert Lee Nov., 24th

Junior Varsity



JV Lady Buffs vs. Robert Lee November 24th



JV Lady Buffs vs. Robert Lee November 24th



JV Buffaloes vs. Robert Lee



JV Buffaloes vs. Robert Lee Nov., 24th

Political Calendar

The Cross Plains Review is authorized to publish the following political announcements for the office filings in the Republican Primary Election set for Tuesday, March 1, 2016.

For Callahan County Sheriff Franklin P. "Bucky" Shackelford

Political advertisement paid for by Franklin P. "Bucky" Shackelford, 4186 CR 273, Clyde, Texas, 79510, Treasurer Patty Ellis.

Terry Joy

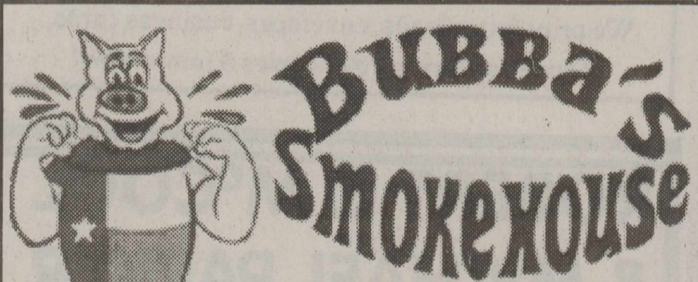
Political advertisement paid for by Lenora Joy Treasurer, Terry Joy, 525 Stella, Baird, Texas 79510

All political calendar advertising for the Tuesday, March 1, 2016 Republican Primary Election is payable in advance, at a cost of \$125.00. A free press release and photograph will be published one time with each announcement.

Cross Plains Review

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Dec. 3, 2015



Eva 325 201-8085

254-270-0040

Hours: 10:00 am -9:00 p.m. - Monday- Saturday

501 Ave A off South Hwy 36
Cross Plains, TX

Family Sandwich Special
4 Chopped Sandwiches
4 Chips 1 gallon unsweet Tea
\$25.00 + tax

ALL DAY
* Wednesdays
Pulled Pork Sandwiches
\$2.00 + tax

2 -3 LB Meat Family Deal
2 Pint sides, Bread
1 gallon unsweet Tea

*Mondays Beans & Cornbread- All you can eat \$5.00 + tax

Now Offering
Chicken Leg Quarter Plate with 2 sides & bread
Only \$7.00 + tax




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Texas Heritage Bank



Bring in a Can of Food and Get a Chance to Win An Amazon Fire HD8 Tablet

All Can Goods Will Be Donated to the Senior Citizen's Center and the Food Pantry
Non-perishable canned goods.
One entry per person per day.



Drawing Held Wednesday, December 23

CROSS PLAINS BUFFALOES

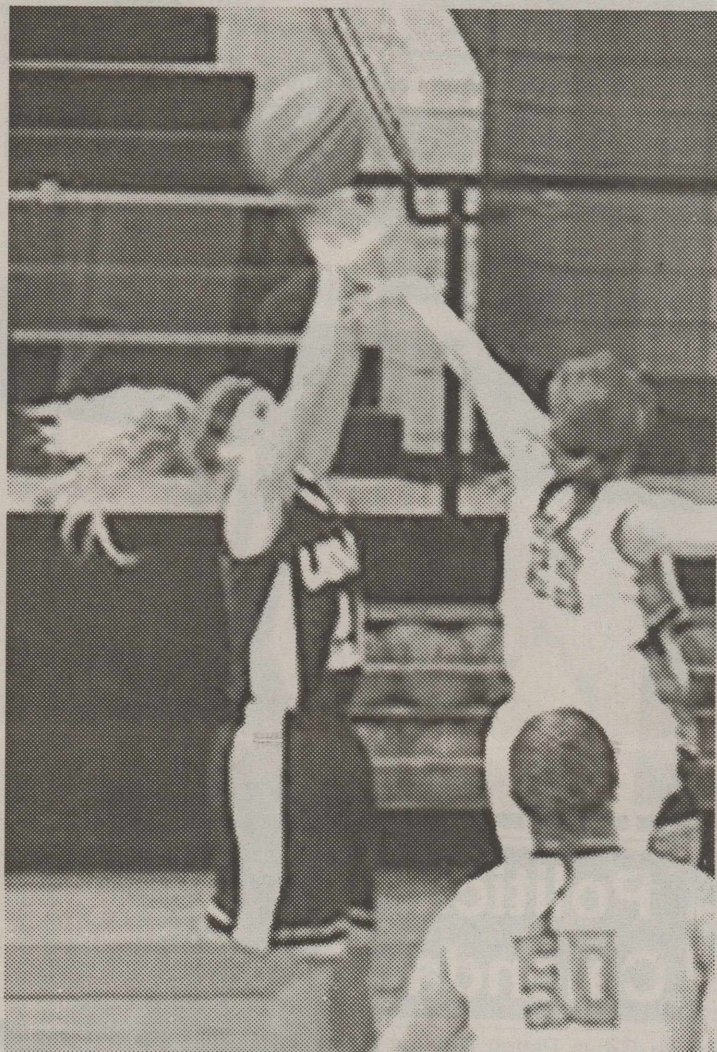


Varsity Lady Buff, #10 Hannah Cowan with a drive to the basket against Robert Lee

Varsity Lady Buffs over Robert Lee 49-35



Varsity Lady Buff, #22 Katy Jo Morgan at the tip off against Robert Lee



Varsity Lady Buff, #21 Rebekah Crockett with a shot from inside the key



Cross Plains Review

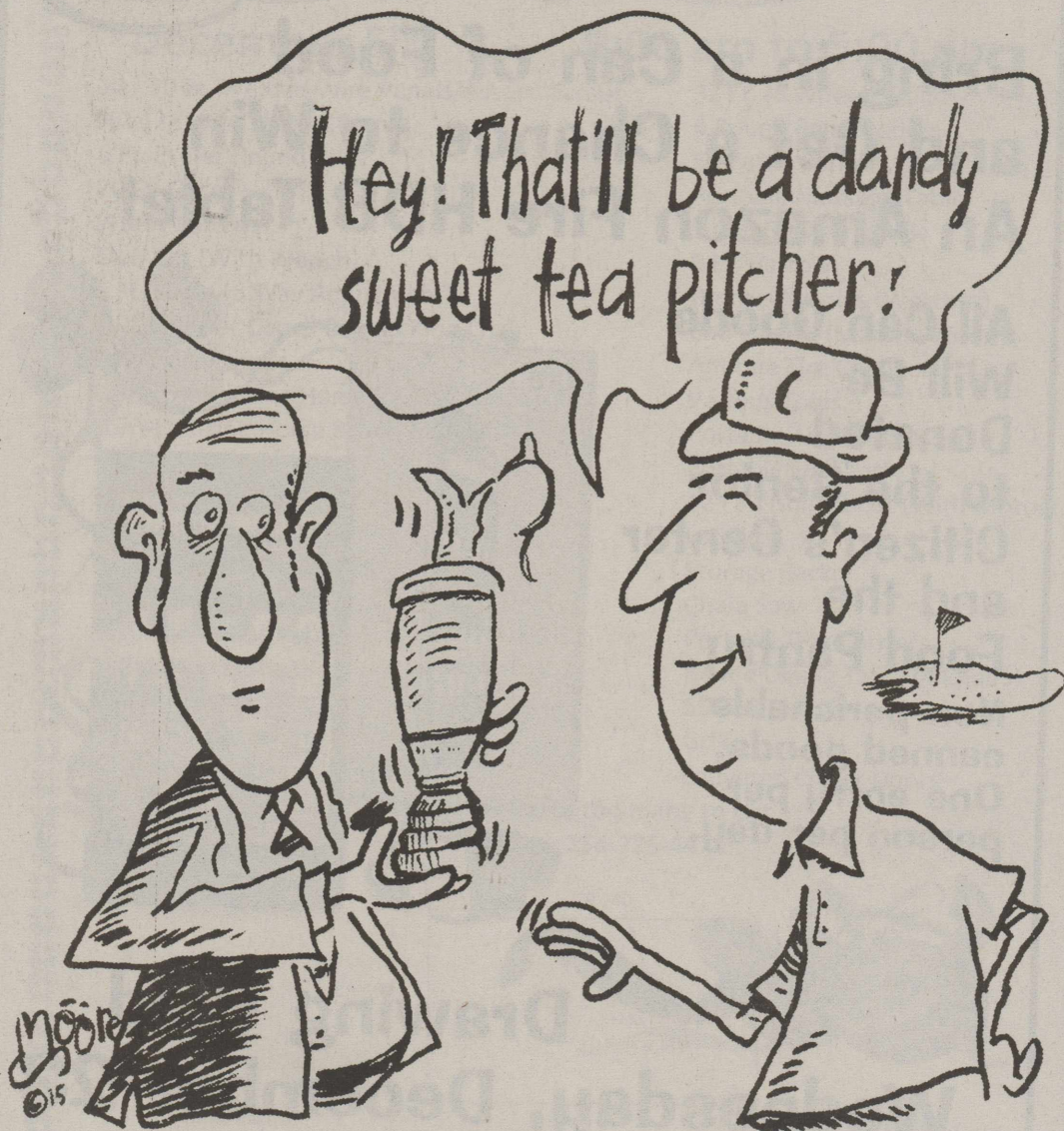
Dec. 3, 2015

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MOORE TEXAS

by Roger Todd Moore

Ben Hogan was the first native Texan to win the British Open and receive the famous Claret Jug.



CROSS PLAINS REVIEW
(USPS 138-660)
DON TABOR PUBLISHER
BECKY TABOR EDITOR
CROSS PLAINS REVIEW

MEMBER 2014
TPA
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

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- The Thumb Print
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- TEXAS HERITAGE BANK
- TRINITY LIVEOAK REAL ESTATE
- LOWE'S
- COWBOY PUMP & SUPPLY
- METHODIST YOUTH GROUP
- HIGGINBOTHAM FUNERAL HOME
- REED CONSTRUCTION
- AAA STOWAWAY STORAGE
- AUTOWIRE- J.D. HUTTON
- CROSS PLAINS REVIEW
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Junior High 7th and 8th grade Buffaloes vs. Baird Bears Nov., 30th



JH 8th grade Buffaloes vs. Baird Bears Nov., 30th



JH 8th grade Buffaloes vs. Baird Bears Nov., 30th



JH 7th grade Buffaloes vs. Baird Bears Nov., 30th

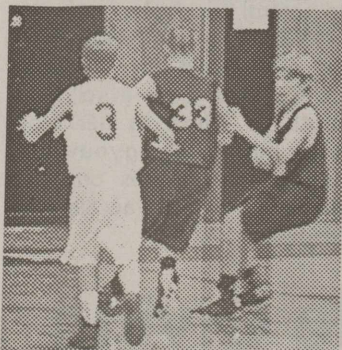


JH 8th grade Buffaloes vs. Baird Bears Nov., 30th

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Dec. 3, 2015



JH 7th grade Buffaloes vs. Baird Bears Nov., 30th



JH 7th grade Buffaloes vs. Baird Bears Nov., 30th



JH 7th grade Buffaloes vs. Baird Bears Nov., 30th



7th & 8th grade Lady Buffs vs. Baird Bears Nov., 30th

Junior High 7th & 8th grade Lady Buffs vs. Baird Bears Nov., 30th

Dunk Dribble Defense



7th & 8th grade Lady Buffs vs. Baird Bears Nov., 30th



7th & 8th grade Lady Buffs vs. Baird Bears Nov., 30th



7th & 8th grade Lady Buffs vs. Baird Bears Nov., 30th

TSCRA Statement on North Dakota Federal Court Ruling on WOTUS

Fort Worth, Texas - Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) President Pete Bonds today made the following statement on the North Dakota federal court decision on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule: "TSCRA applauds the North Dakota federal judge's decision to block the EPA water rule from going into effect," said Bonds. "Ranchers and landowners across the country have raised serious concerns about this rule and have worried about their private property rights being taken by the federal government. Even the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), which shares jurisdiction over the rule, finds the scientific basis of the rule severely flawed. "The EPA is interpreting the

court decision to apply only to the 13 states involved in the litigation, however there is a strong case being built to prove the ruling applies to the entire U.S. If the EPA water rule does not work for 13 states, there is no way it will work for the rest of the country. "This court ruling, along with the many concerns raised by relevant stakeholders, should compel the EPA to scrap the WOTUS rule for the entire U.S. and start over with ranchers and landowners at the table. "TSCRA will continue fighting against the federal government's agenda-driven plan to expand its jurisdiction over our nation's land and resources. We encourage state and federal elected officials to do everything in their power to force the EPA to eliminate the flawed WOTUS rule."

The Grand Ole Oplin Annual Christmas Ball decorations are up and the dance hall is beautiful!

Everyone is invited to attend the Grand Ole Oplin's Annual Christmas Ball to be held on Friday, Dec. 4th. MUDDY CREEK will be playing all your favorite two-steps, waltzes and an occasional Jingle Bell Rock. Some snacks will be provided but everyone is invited to bring a snack to be shared by all during the band's break. Admission

to our Christmas Ball will be \$8.00 per person. Alcohol and smoking are not allowed. So get together with your favorite dance partner or partners, don your favorite Christmas duds and come on out to The Grand Ole Oplin, the decorations and music are sure to put you in the holiday spirit!

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Muddy Creek the house band with our officers and directors on the band stand in historic Pioneer Hall.

A West Texas original-The Cowboys' Christmas Ball

The first Texas Cowboys' Christmas Ball was held in 1885 at Anson to honor area cowboys and their ladies. This 131 year old winter holiday celebration includes traditional western music, poetry, dancing, listening, refreshments and fellowship. The 81st consecutive annual re-enactment will be held on December 17, 18 & 19. It is a family event always open to the public.

The preminent history of the Ball, its origin, preservation and continuation has been written by Dr. Paul H. Carson, emeritus professor of history at Texas Tech University. It is a classic, impeccably researched, historically accurate and thoroughly documented story (DANCIN' IN ANSON - A History of the Texas Cowboys' Christmas Ball, Texas Tech University Press, 2014, www.ttpress.org). The Ball is also the acknowledged genesis for the Cowboy Christmas concerts throughout the country performed by America's #1 cowboy singer Michael Martin Murphey and his Rio Grande Band. They have highlighted the Ball one night for the past 21 years (www.michaelmartinmurphey.com). Muddy Creek is the faithful house band that has played the other two nights for many years.

2015 SCHEDULE:
Thursday, December 17 - Michael Martin Murphey & his Rio Grande Band (\$20 per person). For advance tickets, call (325)537-2589 or email suanneholtman@yahoo.com.
Friday, December 18 - Muddy Creek Band & old-time square dance exhibition (\$10 adults, \$5 seniors & ages 13-18, children 12 & under + active duty military free).

Saturday, December 19 - Muddy Creek Band & Texas Cowboy Santa with candy for kids (\$10 adults, \$5 seniors & ages 13-18, children 12 & under + active duty military free). The nightly Ball begins at 8 pm and concludes at 12 midnight in Pioneer Hall, 2300 Avenue G, Anson, TX 79501. It is always held the Thursday, Friday & Saturday before December 25th. Additional information may be obtained from the musical website at www.ansoncowboyschristmasball.com or by calling (325)537-2589.

The Texas Cowboys' Christmas



Texas Cowboy Santa makes grand entrance at Christmas Ball with candy filled saddle bags for the children that attended the ball.

Ball Association conducts the annual 3 day Ball as well as owns and maintains Pioneer Hall. It is a Texas non-profit corporation organized in 1937, an IRS 501(3)(c) tax-exempt public historical charity, and composed of couples who voluntarily contribute their time, service and resources. The Ball was copyrighted in 1937 and remains exclusive Association property. A \$500 college or vocational school scholarship is awarded annually to the Jones County high school student writing the best Ball history paper. Jones County high school students also run the hat/coat check and concessions

keeping all proceeds for school projects.

Our area "...offers visitors the look, taste and feel of the West. Events such as...THE TEXAS COWBOYS' CHRISTMAS BALL in Anson are celebrations of who we are and are authentic. People come from across miles and miles of Texas, other states and even other countries to experience Texas as it was and still is." - Abilene Reporter-News editorial promoting National Travel & Tourism Week (May 3, 2015).

John Compere
(Texas Cowboys' Christmas Ball Association Historian and Santa)



Wild About Texas

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Gray-banded Kingsnake

As a child growing up long before the "Internet age", I can remember spending hours in the library reading various nature books. More often than not, these books would be about the group of reptiles that elicit fear in most folks, the snakes. I still remember the first time that I saw a photograph of what I considered to be one of the most beautiful colored snakes on the planet. I could not wait until the day that I was able to see one in person.

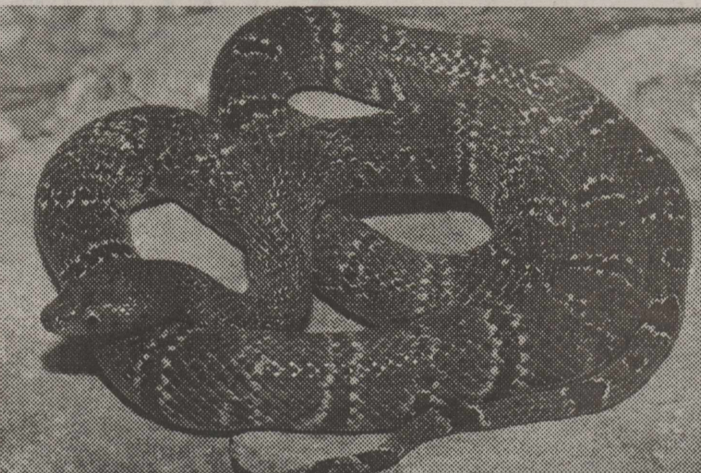
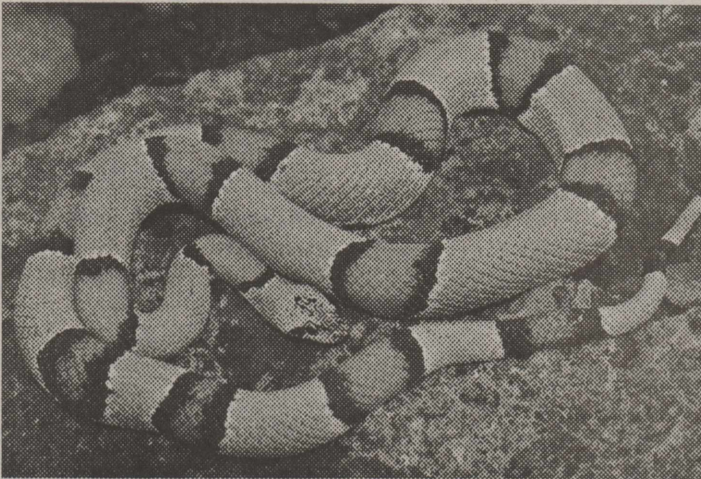
That opportunity eventually came while in junior high while I was a budding child naturalist interning at the Abilene Zoo. I vividly recall the first time I saw in person a species of kingsnake that has captivated me from that moment on. I remember telling myself that I would someday look for, and find on my own, one of these remarkable animals. Even today, I spend several nights every summer walking alongside the back-roads of west Texas in search of the elusive and extremely variable Gray-banded Kingsnake, also known simply in the herpetological world as "alterna".

The Gray-banded Kingsnake (*Lampropeltis alterna*) is a shiny and colorful snake that occurs from extreme southern New Mexico (the Guadalupe Mountains) southward to eastern Durango, Mexico. In Texas, it can be encountered predominately west of the Pecos River, as well as the Chihuahuan Desert areas of Del Rio.

Like other members of the Kingsnake and Milksnake genus, the Gray-banded Kingsnake is covered by smooth, glossy scales that give the appearance of the animal being waxed and shiny. In fact, the genus name *Lampropeltis* is derived from Latin words meaning "shiny shield".

It has been said that no two "alterna" look alike, and that is probably not far from the truth! In fact, it was thought that there were two different species of kingsnake living in western Texas because there was so much variability. Very generally speaking, there are two color morphs generally recognized, the "blairs" morph and the "alterna" morph. In the "blairs" morph there are wide saddles of orange on a background coloration of gray. Of course this background coloration can vary from a light gray to almost black, while the saddles can range from bright neon orange to a dark, muddy brown. In the "alterna" morph, the orange saddles are greatly reduced, and there tends to be alternating bands in between the primary bands. Just as in the "blairs" morph, the coloration is highly variable. To even further the variability, there can be intermediate color and pattern forms in between the two more common ones!

This relatively common, but highly elusive snake is a small to medium-sized non-venomous serpent, with most adults reaching sexual maturity between twenty-six and thirty inches in total length. The largest specimen ever recorded was just shy of four feet, although this size is definitely not the norm for this species. The Gray-banded Kingsnake has adapted to life in the Chi-



Gray-banded Kingsnake (*Lampropeltis alterna*)

huahuan Desert, one of the driest areas of the state. It prefers to live in the limestone ridges and canyons, and it can be quite common in the catacombs underneath the surface of the Edwards and Stockton Plateaus. It also occurs, albeit less frequently, in the igneous rock formations of the various mountains of far west Texas such as the Chisos Mountains, the Davis Mountains, and the Santana Mesa.

This species of kingsnake forages for food almost exclusively at night. During these nocturnal forays it searches for its primary food item, lizards. It also feeds less frequently on small and nestling rodents. "Alterna", unlike other members of this genus, do not feed on other snakes, and in fact is the only member of the kingsnake family in Texas that refuses to do so.

As with almost all other reptiles that reside in temperate climates, they undergo a period of inactivity during the coldest months of the year, allowing sexually mature adults to generate the sperm and eggs necessary for successful reproduction in the spring. Like most other harmless snakes found in Texas, Gray-banded Kingsnakes are egg-laying creatures. Mating occurs primarily during the months of May and June with egg deposition happening in early June or early July. Egg clutches vary in size from three

to twelve, depending on the size and age of the female. The eggs are of moderate size, generally just over an inch in length. The soft, permeable eggs are buried deep in the cracks and crevices that it calls home to hold the humidity levels at a premium to avoid desiccation.

The neonates hatch from the eggs roughly two months after deposition and average eight inches at hatching. After hatching, the young are carbon copies of the adults in appearance, except they typically are a tad brighter. And like other snake species, they require no assistance from the parents as they are capable of fending for themselves at birth.

In 1977, it was afforded protection from the state of Texas. However, in 1984, it was determined scientifically that it was not at all rare, but that it was just rarely surface active. Now, every summer, dozens of reptile enthusiasts from all over the world converge on some of the most remote areas of west Texas just hoping to catch a glimpse of an "alterna" in the wild. I have encountered people from Israel, Germany, and Sweden, as well as from other areas of the United States that descend upon western Texas, each one spending hundreds of tourist dollars in their efforts.

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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SEE WHAT'S NEW FOR THE BEDROOM!

Abilene area Mom's Club invites you to our monthly meeting

Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at 6:45 pm at 1470 Woodland Trail, Abilene.

Please join us for a light meal. You will get to meet other Aggie Moms and learn a little more about Texas A&M and all of its traditions! Whoop!

We meet the third Tuesday of each month, at 6:45 pm for refreshments and fun.

If you can't make the meeting but would like more information, please call or email either of the following:

- Emily Meador
325-864-3902
emilymeador@gmail.com
- Shelley Hughes
325-669-6271
ramhughes@hotmail.com

Scranton Musical

The musical will be held Saturday, December 5, 2015 at the community center.

The kitchen begins serving at 5:00 with Robert & Sue Shrader of Austin as host & hostess.

What a great night for homemade chili they are preparing for the cold weather. There will also be sandwiches and homemade pies.

The music that Buddy & Ruby Johnson have lined up will start at 5:30. A good program is always scheduled and we need you to support the musicians that come to provide your entertainment.

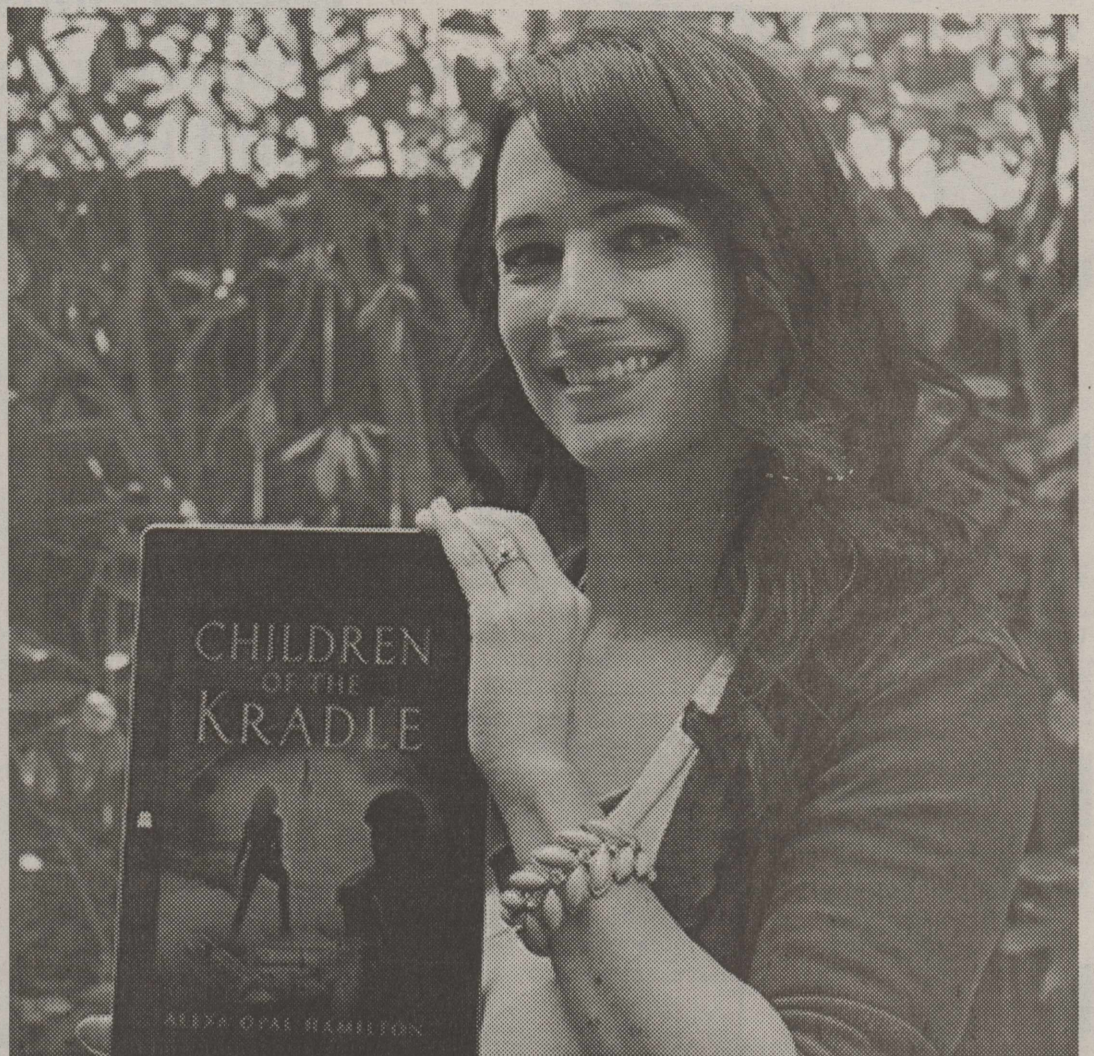
X-Treme N'Tensity collecting items for needy in community

X-Treme N'Tensity, located at the Old Gymnasium next to Clyde Junior High School, is collecting non-perishable food items, unwrapped new toys and blankets for the needy in the Clyde, Baird, Cross Plains and Abilene communities this Christmas.

X-Treme N'Tensity owner Tamsey Johnson said collection

boxes are available for parents to place donated items for distribution inside the Old Gymnasium front door during cheer and tumbling class hours from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

If you're unable to drop by donated items, Johnson said she can come by and pick-up the donated items by calling her at (325) 725-3719.



ALEXA OPAL (KORZENIEWSKI) HAMILTON

...with her new book "Children of the Kradle" available from Amazon.com

CHS graduate Alex (Korzenewski) Hamilton making her career as a fiction writer

Alexa Opal Hamilton (formerly Korzenewski) is a class of 2001 Clyde High School graduate, who is making a career as a fiction writer.

Her novel "Children of the Kradle" is the first of a trilogy and is sold as an e-book.

The novel, which Hamilton classifies as "dystopian fiction" is an epic story told from the points of view from three main characters: Mevia, Eli and Kilt,

who were children when a virus erupted, killing most of the population. Those that didn't get sick were wiped out soon after by the nuclear war that resulted.

The story begins when they are grown and are in different parts of the world trying to get back to one another. However, each of them are forced to overcome nearly impossible

obstacles brought on as a result of their heavy-handed government that uses drones to control its people.

"Children of the Kradle" can be purchased on Amazon.com. You can also find more on Alexa at her blog www.allthethingyouwant.com which focuses on time management and accelerated learning.

End-of-Year Charitable Giving

AUSTIN, Texas --As both the holidays and end of year get closer, it always seems that requests for charitable donations increase. Be it the Salvation Army Santa outside of the grocery store or a call from your favorite charity that you give to annually, there is a push for giving in the last few weeks of the year. This is most likely attributed to the fact that we are more inclined to help those less fortunate and causes we care about during the holiday season.

In addition to feeling good about helping others, this year-end generosity can pay off months later at tax time if you follow Internal Revenue Service rules on tax deductions. Below are a few tips to help turn these donations into tax savings:

Itemizing is Required
No matter the amount you give, your charitable gifts will not help your tax situation if you claim the standard deduction amount on your tax return. You must itemize expenses on Schedule A to deduct charitable donations. However, in most cases, there is no limit on how much you can deduct.

Timing is Everything
Donations must be made by the end of the tax year for which you want to claim the deduction. For example, if you put a check dated December 31, 2015 in the mail on that day, it will count toward your 2015 taxes. Mail containing a donation must be postmarked by the last day of the year to count for that year, regardless of when it is received. The same applies to donations made on a credit card. As long as it is charged by the last day of the year, it doesn't matter that you might not pay it until the following month.

Know the Tax Status
Research your charity of choice to ensure it is a tax-exempt organization. Only contributions to IRS-qualified charities--those with 501 (c) (3) status--are deductible. Feel free to ask the charity that you plan to give to for its tax status. Any reputable

organization will be happy to share this information and offer proof. Another option is to use the searchable database of exempt organizations found on the IRS website.

Now that you know the guidelines to deduct your donation for tax purposes, here comes the fun part--picking your charity. With all of the charitable organizations that exist today, you need to be smart to ensure your hard-earned money will make an impact. Below are tips to help you select and feel good about where your money is going and how it will be spent.

Narrow Your Focus
Experts advise that it's more impactful to donate what you can to one or two organizations, instead of spreading it among 20 organizations. Think about the cause that most touches you and research related charities to help find the right one for you. Keep in mind that you can switch it up every year, or every few months, depending on what your budget allows.

Give to Reputable Groups You Know

If you have volunteered at an organization or are otherwise familiar with the work it does, that's always a safe bet. Particularly if the mission is important to you, you'll be able to donate with confidence. While you may give to an organization you know this year, take time before next year-end to learn about other organizations that interest you. Being reluctant to give to strangers is natural. Wherever you give, be educated about it first.

Let the Internet Help
There are a handful of websites that provide in-depth information about charities. Using these is a good place to start your research.

Try www.charitynavigator.org, www.charitywatch.org or www.give.org (the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance). While religious organizations aren't typically required to publicly disclose how they spend donated money, many do re-

veal this information to the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability--www.ecfa.org--so check this site as well.

Don't be Fooled
Often times, a fake charity will have a name very similar to a well-known one so make sure you're donating to the correct organization.

Protect Yourself
Lastly, remember to protect your identity. Scam artists will also take advantage of the season of goodwill to steal your money or worse, your identity. Never give out credit card or personal information in response to phone, email or door-to-door solicitations. Ask for the charity's website so you can donate that way or a mailing address where you can send a check. Also, don't ever give anyone cash. There's no way to guarantee where it will end up.

Happy Giving!
The above is provided by the Independent Bankers Association of Texas as a public service. This information is provided with the understanding that the association is not engaged in rendering specific legal, accounting or other professional services. If specific expert assistance is required, the services of a competent professional should be sought.

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About the Independent Bankers Association of Texas (IBAT)

Formed in 1974, the Independent Bankers Association of Texas (IBAT) represents Texas community banks. The Austin-based group is the largest state community banking organization in the nation, with membership comprised of more than 2,000 banks and branches in 700 Texas communities. Providing safe and responsible financial services to all Texans, IBAT member bank assets range in size from \$10 million to more than \$20 billion with combined assets statewide of nearly \$165 billion. IBAT member banks are committed to supporting and investing in their local communities.

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Dec. 3, 2015

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