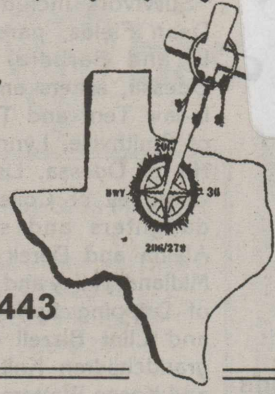


Cross Plains Review

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

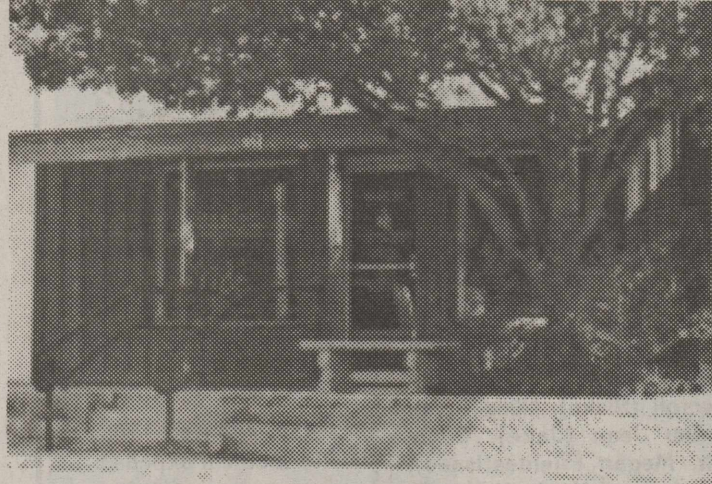
Volume 107 • Number 47
116 S. E. 1st St. • P. O. Box 519 • Cross Plains, Tx. 76443



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Community
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January 28, 2016 • 14 Pages
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Sparks Insurance Agency, Cross Plains

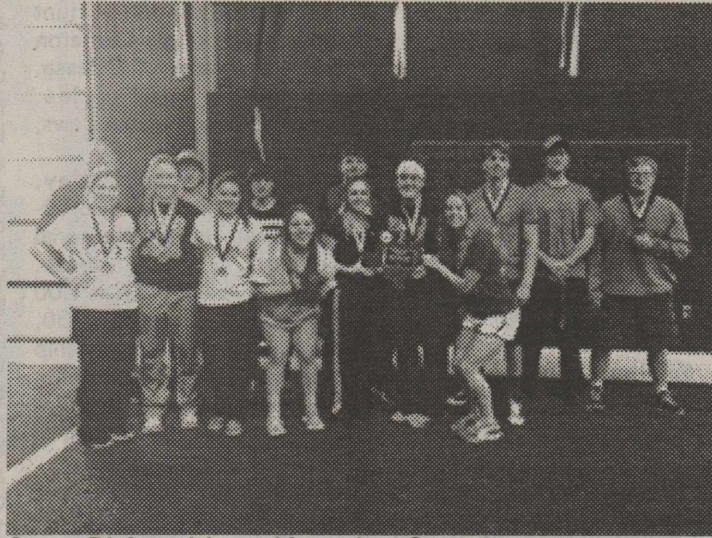
Cross Plains Chamber of Commerce Business Spotlight of the Month

This month's Cross Plains Chamber of Commerce Business Spot Light is Sparks Insurance Agency. Sparks offers home, auto, life, and commercial insurance. Sparks Insurance Agency has been in business for 11 years, and has recently opened a office in Cross Plains. Business information-Fax 254-725-6434, Email: kris@sparksia.com Location: 125 S Main, P.O. Box 189. Stop in for all your insurance needs.



Cross Plains VFD at work

The Cross Plains Volunteer Fire Department was seen January 19th at the corner of Highway 206 and Highway 36 cleaning up a fuel spill at the Food Plaza gas station and convenience store.



Cross Plains girls and boys last Saturday at the season opening at Abilene High

Cross Plains girls win powerlifting title

By Al Pickett
Special Writer

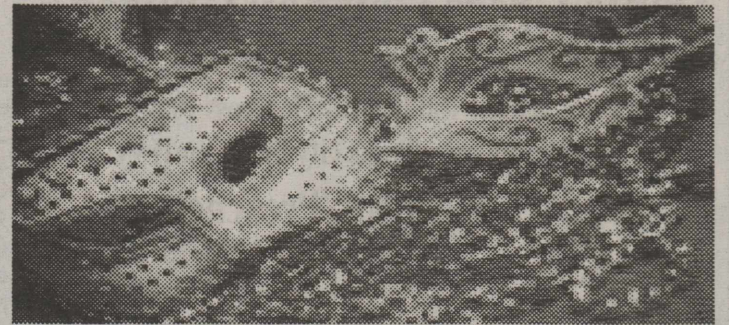
The Cross Plains girls captured the team title Saturday at the season-opening Abilene High Invitational powerlifting meet at Action Zone in Abilene.

Cross Plains totaled 39 points to win the girls team title. Hanna Cowen won the 148-pound class with a three-lift total of 685 pounds, beating teammate Teagan Fortune by 20 points. Kristi Ward claimed the 165-pound title with a total lift of 765 pounds, while Kaitlyn Potter won the 220-pound class at 875 pounds.

The Lady Buffaloes finished seven points ahead of runner-up Clyde. Hawley was third, Abilene High fourth, Sweetwater fifth, Midland High sixth, Cooper seventh and Merkel eighth in the girls' division.

The Cross Plains boys scored 15 points to finish sixth in the boys' division. Midland High won the boys' winner with 42 points, while Abilene High took second, Jim Ned third, Clyde fourth and Merkel fifth.

The Buffaloes' Dalton Gilliam lifted 1,170 pounds to win the 198-pound class by 20 pounds over teammate Zachery Garman.



Mardi Gras set for Feb. 9th at Cross Plains Senior Center

Come one come all! The Cross Plains Senior Citizen Center invites the community to attend and show their support. You will enjoy food and music and lots of fun.

Mardi Gras Cross Plains and New Orleans are approximately 700 miles apart, but we can still enjoy the Cajun cooking and sounds of jazz and blues. The Cross Plains Senior Center will host a Mardi Gras Party as a

fund raiser, Tuesday, February 9, 2016 5:30 - 7:30 pm.

The cost for the evening will only be \$12.50/person which includes Shrimp Boil (shrimp, sausage, corn on cob, potatoes, onions and anything else that sounds good), drink, dessert, and music. Masks and beads will be complete the Mardi Gras experience, Texas Style!

Literacy Night at Cross Plains Elementary

Cross Plains Elementary School will be hosting a Literacy Night January 28th. There will be family involvement and activities for all Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Graders and their Parents. So let's: "ROLL OUT THE RED CARPET FOR FUN AT LITERACY NIGHT"

On January 28, 2016, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. located in the north wing of the Elementary Building.

There will be 7 movie themed activities centered on reading. Popcorn and Fun will be included! Come on out and enjoy the red carpet for reading.

Three Openings on Cross Plains Board

Cross Plains ISD will have three openings on its Board when the voters go to the polls this May 7, 2016. Incumbents John Fred McWilliams and Roy Richey have already signed back up for the election.

Special Guest at the Library

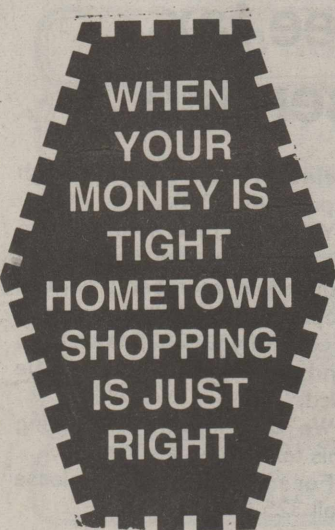
To recognize National Dental Month, the After School Adventure Program at the Cross Plains Public Library will be featuring Jan Trout from the Resource Care Dental Clinic on Wednesday, February 3rd at 4:00 p.m. Learn the importance of taking care of your teeth. Get your SMILE on!

Save the Date for BBQ

The Cross Plains Volunteer Fire Department is going to hold its barbecue dinner on Saturday, February 27th.

Mark your calendar now because the Cross Plains VFD will be serving barbecued brisket, chicken, ribs and sausage, along with homemade macaroni and cheese, that evening at the First United Methodist Church. Joe Terstegge is in charge of the cooking.

You won't want to miss this dinner.



Sheriff's Corner by Sheriff Terry Joy

The last week has been an extremely busy time for the County Deputies as well as all of the other law enforcement officers in Callahan County.

From time to time, we as citizens need to be reminded to always keep valuables safe, even in our own homes. Personal items such as jewelry, weapons, billfolds and purses, medicines, coin collections and other things of value that we all have in our homes should always be in secure places.

Doors should be locked at all times, keys should not be left in vehicles' and never leave an unattended vehicle running.

These are all simple measures of precaution; however, busy minds may forget from time to time. So just be cautious! In the past week, among many

other events, Lt. Leroy Foley recovered two items of stolen jewelry. One of the items is a diamond ring and the other was a golden wedding band.

These articles were stolen from a home in the rural area of Callahan County, near Cross Plains on December 23, 2015.

After investigating the offense, Lt. Foley was able to get a full confession from the suspect in the theft. The total value of the jewelry was \$8,500. A warrant was issued for the arrest of the suspect.

The Callahan County Sheriff's Department would like to thank the Cross Plains Police Department for their assistance in this investigation.

Citizens of Callahan County Please, continue to be observant, safe and secure!

Deadline Approaching Raise the Roof, One Brick at a Time

The Cross Plains Economic Development Corporation and the City of Cross Plains need the help of its community members. The city has laid the foundation for a new pavilion for community use in Treadway Park located on the west side of Cross Plains on Highway 36.

Funds are needed to erect the actual pavilion over the concrete slab. This pavilion will be in addition to the small covered stage and open area with surrounding benches already in place. The new structure will be 2600 square feet (60'x40') and will have electric lighting available.

With its majestic trees and scenic surroundings, Treadway Park has been the home of Homecoming dances, Fourth of July Celebrations, Barbarian Festivals, rodeos, weddings, reunions, and many other events. The new structure will be an asset to the community and will be available for recreational/personal use for low to no cost. The space will be available for reservations for private events, as well as general open use throughout the community.

To help raise the funds for the pavilion, the City and the EDC are offering engraved bricks for the low donation cost of \$50. **Deadline to place your order for a commemorative brick is March, 1st.** Each of these bricks will be displayed on-site, and be used to finish out the walkway that will run from the Turkey Creek bridge within Treadway to the new slab and future structure. Each brick may have up to 4 lines engraved with your choice of wording, with everything from honoring a loved one, to a class year, business name, or birth announcement. What a unique and lasting memorial for future generations. The donations are tax deductible as well so with the end of the fiscal year approaching this provides another way to give in tax year 2015.

If you are interested in purchasing a brick and raising the roof on the pavilion, contact Debbie Gosnell at City Hall or Dannes Turner at the Senior Citizen's Center. And remember, the deadline is March 1, 2016.

Cross Plains Remembered books available

Limited copies of three Cross Plains Remembered books are available. The three volumes each contain hundreds of photographs of people and places in Cross Plains, as well as stories and remembrances from the past.

The first book, Volume 1, has a little bit of everything in it: school photos, street scenes, gas station photos, family histories, and many other photographs.

Volume 2, has many family histories and family photographs, as well as, a little bit of everything else. And, many, many photos.

Volume 3 focuses on the ranches around Cross Plains that have been in businesses for 100 years or more, as well as, rodeo photographs, veterans photos, photos of Cottonwood, Pioneer and surrounding areas and other photos.

Each book is 352 pages and contains hundreds of photographs. At \$20 each, they are a great value. The books, printed in 2011 and 2012, will not be reprinted.

Cross Plains Remembered, Volumes 1, 2 and 3 are available at Texas Heritage Bank, the Senior Center, Salamander's, Lawrence Farm and Ranch Supply, Cross Plains Review, Cross Plains Library and Connie's Cuts and Curls.

You can also order the books by mail. Just specify which book or books you are ordering. Books are \$20 each, plus shipping - \$4.50 for one book, \$6 shipping for two books or \$9 shipping for all three books. Send a check to: Barbarian Festival Committee, P. O. Box 741, Cross Plains, TX 76443, and we'll send the books out to you.

Veterans Reunion Scheduled

The Texas Veterans and Abilene Grunts Association would like to invite all Veterans and their families to the 29th Annual "TET" Reunion to be held Saturday, February 6th, 12:00 noon, at the Taylor County Fairgrounds. There will be food, drinks, displays and an USO style show. All Veterans and their families are invited to attend and bring their "in Country" photo's and memorabilia, regardless of era of service or conflict.

It is sure to be a great time of fellowship and camaraderie. For more information contact the Abilene Grunts at (325) 690-0750, (325) 672-4003, (325) 676-2291. Or find them on Facebook at "Abilene Grunts".



Help in a Heartbeat

The Cross Plains EMS had a very busy 2015! There are 13 certified members and 7 driver/lift assist members and 5 of the uncertified members are well on their way to becoming certified members.

There were 168 Medical runs, 70 Trauma runs and 51 No Transports this last year. This totals 289 runs! All of our members work very hard to keep up all of their certifications as well as stay up to date with the newest ways to help save lives.

We would like to thank the community for all of their support over the years and hope that you continue to support us as we grow to meet the needs of the growing area.

We are always looking for more help, whether you want to become a certified member or be trained as a driver. And we always welcome anyone who wants to be a sponsor for new students. If you are interested in helping the Cross Plains EMS in any way please contact Susan Schaefer at (254)725-6747.

Cross Plains EMS & VFD Raffle!

The Cross Plains EMS and Volunteer Fire Department are raffling 2- 1/2 sides of beef! There will be 2 winners and each winner gets their 1/2 beef cut to order. The beef for this raffle was donated by Oran Baines. Chances are \$10.00 each and are available to buy at Texas Heritage Bank and Susan J. Schaefer CPA. One tickets gets you 2 chances to win! Drawing will be held on March 1, 2016.

Texas Heritage Bank
Member FDIC
Presents: What's Inside

Church Directory	2
Obituaries	2
Love Funds	2
Basketball Pics & Scores	3
CP Lunch Menu	3
Texas Crossword Solution	4
Cottonwood News	4
Farm Bureau Donation	4
College & Career Seminar	4
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Changes At Lowe's Market	5
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COC Supports Businesses	11
Cottonwood News	11
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What Are You Reading?	11
Texas Crossword	12
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Call. Co. Jobless Rate	12
Guitar Quartet to Perform	13
Two Steps, One Sticker	13
Tx. Warden Field Notes	14
"Woodlawn" Screening	14
Computer Class Feb. 4th	14

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 Steidle, Youth Pastor
Friendly Church 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.....6:00pm

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
Wednesday 6:30 pm Prayer/Worship
Student & Children Ministries 6:30 p.m.
Ronnie B. White, Pastor
(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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OBITUARIES



Gay Marie Vaught Fields

Gay Marie Vaught Fields

Gay Marie Vaught Fields, 57, of Odessa, TX, passed to life eternal after a long illness on January 25, 2016 in Odessa, attended by her loving family. Gay was born February 20, 1958 to Robert L. and Barbara (Hutchins) Vaught in Odessa as one of four daughters. She lived in the Odessa/Midland area all of her life. During her high school career, Gay excelled in academics and enjoyed serving as a Permian Panther cheerleader. After graduation in 1976, Gay went to work for NBO Bank and thus began a distinguished banking career that would span 34 years and see her advance to the position of Senior Vice President at Prosperity Bank.

On May 9, 1992, Gay married Wesley Dean Fields. They blended their families to include her daughters Alaina and Haley and his daughter Jessica, and together they eventually became known as Gammie and Pawpaw to eight precious grandchildren.

Gay worked tirelessly for the community and contributed significantly to several civic organizations, including serving as Director of the Odessa Chamber of Commerce, on the Council of the Permian Basin Girl Scouts, as President of the Odessa Rotary Club, holding many offices and winning several awards while in Beta Sigma Phi Sorority, Alpha Mu Kappa Chapter, and for the first year and many years afterward as an organizer of the 9/11 American Tribute event. The culmination of her public service career was in 2007 when she was awarded the prestigious Athena Leadership Award. This award honors women for professional excellence, community service and for actively assisting women in their attainment of professional excellence and leadership skills.

Gay was a long-time member of Temple Baptist/Crossroads Fellowship Church. She was a devout Christian who loved her Lord. She found joy most in the family God gave her. She was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother, a precious daughter, and a dear friend to her sisters. Gay was also blessed with many faithful friends who were there for her during her illness, including Kandy Fields, Karen McCord, Barbara Norris, Yolanda Ferralez, Mary Collins, and The Courtyards and their staff.

Gay is preceded in death by

her grandparents, Robert and Alma Vaught and George and Viola Hutchins.

Survivors include husband Dean Fields, parents Robert L. and Barbara Vaught of Odessa, sisters and brothers-in-law Terri and Ted Krueger of Smithville, Lynn and Jerry Hix of Odessa, Lisa and Jim Campbell of College Station, daughters and sons-in-law Alaina and Derek Watters of Midland, Haley and Daniel Hunt of Dripping Springs, Jessica and Clint Bizzell of Odessa, grandchildren Kolten, Kambri and Kasen Watters of Midland, Kaly, Averi and Addison Hunt of Dripping Springs, Cameron and Kinley Bizzell of Odessa, many aunts and uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews, and loving friends.

Visitation will be Friday, January 29, 2016 from 6:00-8:00 pm at Sunset Memorial Gardens & Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 1:00 pm, Saturday, January 30, 2016 at Crossroads Fellowship Church with Reverend Griffin Jones officiating. Interment will follow immediately after at Sunset Memorial Gardens.

Pallbearers are Tyler Campbell, Eric Krueger, Justin Krueger, Ryan Krueger, Tim Rapp, Gavin Sheaffer and Kyle Trojacek.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Sunset Memorial Gardens & Funeral Home. To sign our guestbook, please go to www.sunsetodessa.com. For memorial contributions, the family has designated the Alzheimer's Association.



Lorene Ann McCall

Lorene Ann McCall

Lorene Ann McCall 77 of Cross plains passed away at Hendrick Medical Center Sunday January 24, 2016. A memorial service will be held Saturday January 30, 2016 at 1:00pm at the Brownwood Funeral Home located at 2512 Belle Plain St.

Lorene was born January 26, 1938 in Baird TX, to the parents of Dessa and Roscoe Higgins Lorene briefly attended school in Baird before the family moved to Rio Grande City TX. Lorene and the family lived there until the mid-50's and they then moved to Mathis TX where they would stay for several years before moving to Mission TX.

Lorene and family eventually settled in Cross plains in the 90's and would remain there until her recent passing. In her spare time and if the weather permitted Lorene would spend time gardening, Crocheting, and just being outside. Lorene loved to be around family and friends.

Lorene was preceded in death by both parents, 3 brothers David Lee Higgins, Paul Ray Higgins, Billy Dan Higgins, 2 great grandchildren Brielle Faith Becroft, and Stephanie Ann Miller.

Left to cherish her memories are 4 daughters Doris Fair (David) of McAllen TX, Caroline Guerra of Austin, Kathy Hurst of Houston, Alma Lee Miller of Houston, and 2 sons David Miller (Andi) of Rising Star, and Donald Miller of Cross Plains. 4 sisters Sue Higgins, Helen Cowan, Donna Whitten, Francis Goates and brother Roscoe Higgins. 8 grandchildren, Brandi Coley (Brian), Jimmy Hurst, Jen Becroft (Blake), Nikki Hurst, Amber Jean (Jake), Cayla Fair, Megan Fuentes (Isaac), and Jeramy Manis Miller, 10 Great Grandchildren Austin, Tyee, Ayden, Elle, Brynlee, Breck, Adysen, Emma, Sienna, and Autumn, and host of extended family and many friends. Online Condolences may be made at <http://www.brownwoodfuneralhome.net/>

Brownwood Funeral Home
2512 Belle Plain
Brownwood Tx, 76801
325-646-5551

Burtis Estle Huggins

Burtis Estle Huggins, age 80, of Cross Plains passed away, Sunday, January 24, 2016 in Cross Plains, Texas. Funeral services will be at 2:00 p.m. Thursday, January 28, 2016 at First Baptist Church in Cross Plains, Texas with Ronnie White officiating and Don Bearden Assisting. Burial will follow after the service at Pleasant Valley Cemetery in Brown County, Texas.

Burt was born on December 7, 1935 in Jester, Oklahoma to Ennis Edgar Huggins and Mollie Mae (Brothers) Huggins. He was a Co-op Elevator Manager. He married Marilyn Sue Evans on October 15, 1960.

Burt is survived by his wife, Marilyn Sue (Evans) Huggins of Cross Plains, Texas; Son, Gary Don Huggins of Ft. Smith, Arkansas; 3 daughters, Rebecca Ann Patterson of Weatherford, Texas; Lisa Kaye Brooks of Levelland, Texas; Mona Sue Rice of Sammamish, Washington; 11 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren.

Burt was preceded in death by his parents, Ennis Edgar Huggins and Mollie Mae (Brothers) Huggins; son, Harold Burt Huggins; daughter-in-law, Julie Huggins.

In lieu of flowers the family ask that you make a donation to Heart of Texas Baptist Camp and Conference Center, 8025 N FM 2125, Brownwood, Texas 76801.

Love Fund

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

Love Fund

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

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

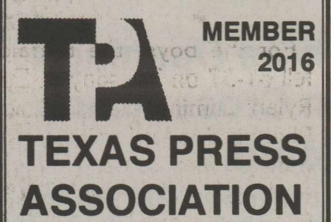
has been opened for **Rickey Thomas** at Texas Heritage Bank for medical expenses!

Love Fund

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

CROSS PLAINS REVIEW (USPS 138-660)

DON TABOR PUBLISHER
BECKY TABOR EDITOR
CROSS PLAINS REVIEW



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Cross Plains Review
2
Jan. 28, 2016

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

CTO offers free tax preparation service
Central Texas Opportunities, Inc. in partnership with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program will be offering free tax preparation for individuals and families that earned less than \$52,000 last year.
The free tax preparation service will be offered at TSTC in Brownwood Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 1:00pm-4:30pm beginning February 1st, 2016 through April 15th, 2016.
You must take a valid photo ID, social security cards for all household members, original copies of 2015 W2 statements, a copy of your 2015 tax return, and any other tax forms to be filed.
We look forward to making this tax season a success! For more information please call 325-625-4167.

'Tis the Season...for BASKETBALL!

Come on out and support your Buffaloes

hoop it up



Varsity Lady Buff #5 Teagan Fortune steals ball from Moran Bulldog offense January 22nd

Varsity Girls Final:
 Cross Plains vs. Eula
 1/19/2016
 Cross Plains 28
 Eula 38
 Cross Plains vs. Moran
 1/22/2016
 Cross Plains 52
 Moran 2



Varsity Buffaloes sink another shot against the Moran Bulldogs January 22nd



Varsity Buffaloes #11 James Briggs and #23 Holden Senclair blocking the shot from Moran Bulldog offense January 22nd



Varsity Lady Buff #22 Katy Jo Morgan knocking ball away from Moran Lady Bulldogs January 22nd



Varsity Buff #23 Grace Goode soars above Moran Bulldogs January 22nd

Upcoming Schedule of Games

January 28th & 30th
 Gorman Tournament
 JHB JHG TBD
 January 29th JVG VG JVB
 VB vs. Baird in Cross Plains
 at 4PM
 February 1st JHG JHB vs.
 Eula in Cross Plains at 5PM
 February 2nd JVB VG VB
 vs. Rising Star in Rising Star
 at 5PM
 February 5th JVG VG JVB
 VB vs. Eula in Cross Plains
 at 4PM



Varsity Buffaloes work their offensive magic against the Moran Bulldogs January 22nd

Cross Plains Split District Basketball Games Last Week

By: Al Pickett, Special Writer

Both the Cross Plains boys and girls basketball teams split in District 15-1A action last week.

For the boys, the Buffaloes fell 61-37 on Tuesday at Eula. Rylan Laminack scored nine, Phoenix Sanders seven, Holden Senclair and James Briggs six each, and J.C. McDonald, Joe Crockett and Creed Goode three points apiece for Cross Plains. The Buffaloes won the junior varsity boys game with a 45-42 victory over Eula.

Cross Plains bounced back on Friday with a 51-11 romp over Moran. Senclair led the Buffaloes with 14 points, while Goode and Larson Walker added eight points each, Briggs six, Crockett five, Joe Revoir four, and Laminack and Bryce Petree three points apiece. The Buffaloes are 11-8 overall and 2-1 in district.

The Cross Plains girls also

lost on Tuesday at Eula, suffering a 38-28 setback. Rebekah Crockett scored eight, Kelli Bennett seven, Shelby McWilliams six, Grace Goode two, and Katy Jo Morgan and Kaitlyn Potter one point each for the Lady Buffs.

Cross Plains came back on Friday with a 52-2 rout of Moran to improve to 3-2 in district. Hannah Conan led the Lady Buffaloes with 12 points, while Crockett added 10 points. Hanna Fortune contributed eight, Goode seven, Morgan six, Teagan Fortune four, Shana Yates three and Bennett two points. The Lady Buffaloes are in third place in the standings at the half-way point of the District 15-1A round-robin schedule.

The two Cross Plains teams, which hosted May on Tuesday, will also be at home Friday to face Baird in district play.



JV Lady Buff #5 Jaci Bien with a 3 pt. shot against the Mason Lady Punchers January 22nd

Cross Plains Review

3

Jan. 28, 2016

Varsity Boys Final:

Cross Plains vs. Eula
 1/19/2016
 Cross Plains 37
 Eula 61

Cross Plains vs. Moran
 1/22/2016
 Cross Plains 51
 Moran 11



JV Buffs battle Mason Lady Punchers January 22nd with #34 Brooklynn Bell front, #11 Kayla Barron center and #21 Hannah Crockett back on defense.

JV Boys Final:
 JV Boys vs. Eula
 1/19/2016
 Cross Plains 45
 Bangs 42

Junior Varsity Girls Final:

Cross Plains vs. Eula
 1/19/2016
 Cross Plains 32
 Eula 28

Cross Plains vs. Mason
 1/22/2016
 Cross Plains 36
 Mason (9th grade) 17

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

Tuesday, January 19, 2016 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

CROSS PLAINS FOOD PANTRY

The Thumb Print

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J & L SALES

COWBOY PUMP & SUPPLY

METHODIST YOUTH GROUP

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REED CONSTRUCTION

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CROSS PLAINS REVIEW

RISING STAR NURSING CENTER

SUSAN J. SCHAEFER, CPA

CROSS PLAINS GRAIN & PEANUT CO.

HIGGINBOTHAM'S BROS.

Cross Plains I.S.D. Weekly Menu February 1- 5, 2016

	MONDAY 1	TUESDAY 2	WEDNESDAY 3	THURSDAY 4	FRIDAY 5
B R E A K F A S T	Waffles Sausage Cereal Fruit Assorted juice milk	Breakfast strudel or Oatmeal round Cheese stick Cereal Fruit Assorted juice Milk	Muffin Yogurt Cereal Fruit Assorted juice Milk	Animal Crackers Cereal Cheese stick Fruit Assorted juice Milk	Breakfast Burrito Cereal Fruit Assorted juice Milk
L U N C H	Pizza Garden salad Baby carrots w/ranch Mixed fruit Milk	Chicken nuggets Gravy Mashed potatoes Green beans Peach slices Roll Milk	Taco salad Spanish rice Salsa Pinto beans Snowball salad Milk	Chicken Alfredo Breadstick Garden salad Carrot coins Apple slices Cookie Milk	Fish or chicken Cornbread Black eyed peas Coleslaw Diced Pears Milk

The 2016 State of Texas water

What a year it's been for Texas! The state experienced almost every imaginable type of weather. Areas of Texas that had been parched for years saw their reservoirs fill with much needed rainfall, while other parts of the state are still thirsty, and still others are recovering from floods. Much of the state bounced back and forth from drought to flood and back again. No matter what the weather brings, the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) is here to provide affordable and sustainable water for all Texans.

One of the ways we achieve this is by providing financial assistance for projects in the state water plan. We closed on nearly \$900 million in loans in the first round of funding from the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) program* in 2015. The projects funded through SWIFT include transmission pipelines, canal linings, brackish desalination, and metering systems. We estimate that the 20 project sponsors saved at least \$106 million on 30 projects through SWIFT's low-cost financing in this first year.

Abridged applications for the second round of the SWIFT program are due by February 5, 2016. We hope that this financial assistance will reach even more communities and continue to bring in projects that will help establish a reliable and dependable water future for our state.

Besides serving as a multi-billion dollar water infrastructure bank, we also advance water research, conservation, and science as well as innovative technologies.

To accomplish those goals, our agency has been tasked with a number of projects, including mapping brackish aquifers in Texas, which will help determine what areas of the state have a

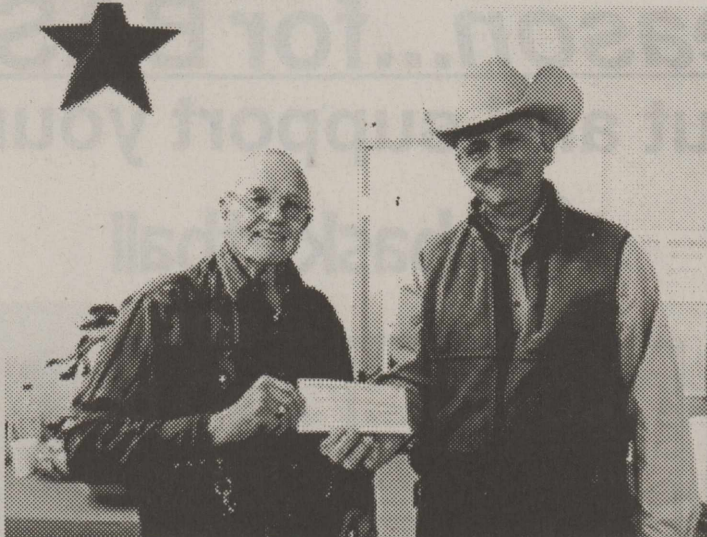
high availability of brackish groundwater. Additionally, we are working on aquifer storage and recovery feasibility studies and demonstration projects to increase the availability of water through the use of innovative storage approaches.

We've launched a new Water Data Interactive website this year that displays groundwater data sets with enhanced tools for viewing and downloading all our available groundwater data. The Texas Well Report Submission and Retrieval System for water well drillers has been redesigned to make it easier to enter well reports. It's also now simpler for water utilities to submit water loss audits, which are due May 1 of each year. Data entered into the Water Use Survey now auto-populates into the water loss audit database making for a more efficient process and ensuring consistent data.

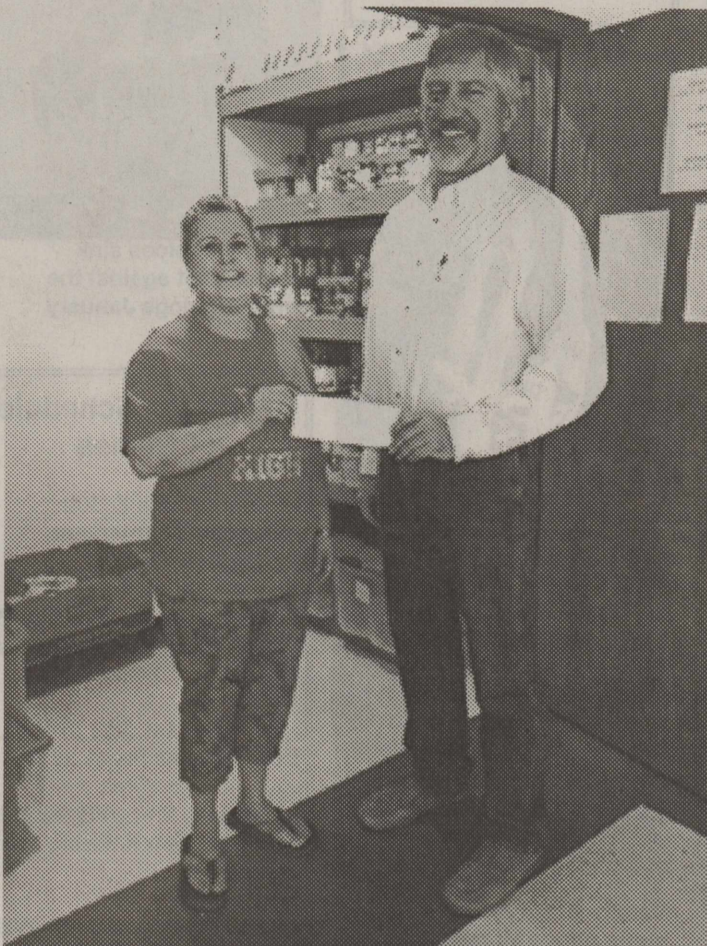
In November, Governor Greg Abbott authorized the transfer of \$6.8 million in emergency flood funding to the TWDB. The funds will be used to expand flood gaging and monitoring and to provide additional technical assistance and outreach for floodplain management and planning.

As the state's lead water planners, we are finalizing the 2017 State Water Plan, starting the next regional planning process, working on how to improve and automate drought early warning tools, and providing outreach throughout the state. Come drought or high water, we're prepared to take on future water challenges.

*The SWIFT program includes two funds, the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) and the State Water Implementation Revenue Fund for Texas (SWIRFT). Revenue bonds for the program are issued through the SWIRFT.



Phil Williams (left) presenting donation check of 250.00 to Cross Plains Senior Center



Mr. Kelly Head is presenting a donation check of \$500.00 to Albany Bethel

Callahan-Shackelford County Farm Bureau donates money to coincide with Texas Food Connection Day

Callahan-Shackelford CFB donated \$500.00 to Callahan County Meals on Wheels, \$500 to Albany Bethel & \$250.00 to the Cross Plains Senior Citizens to coincide with Texas Food Connection Day.

Farmers in Callahan-Shackelford County will reach out to local customers to talk with them about how their food is grown during Texas Food Connection Day.

"Texas Food Connection Day is about sharing what we do on our farms and ranches to grow our food, fuel and fiber," said Sam Snyder, Callahan-Shackelford County Farm Bureau president. "Young people and adults have questions about their food and agriculture. This event gives farmers the opportunity to start a conversation with them."

Because food connects everyone-rural or urban, rich or poor. And, although Food Connection Day is only a once a year event, Callahan-Shackelford County farmers are open to having more conversations.

"We work hard every day to provide families with fresh, nutritious and affordable food," Sam Snyder said. "We're looking forward to connecting with our consumers today, tomorrow and in the future."

Texas Food connection Day was established to connect farmers with their customers and spur conversations about agriculture and food-related issues, including affordability, nutrition, animal welfare, profitability and productivity.

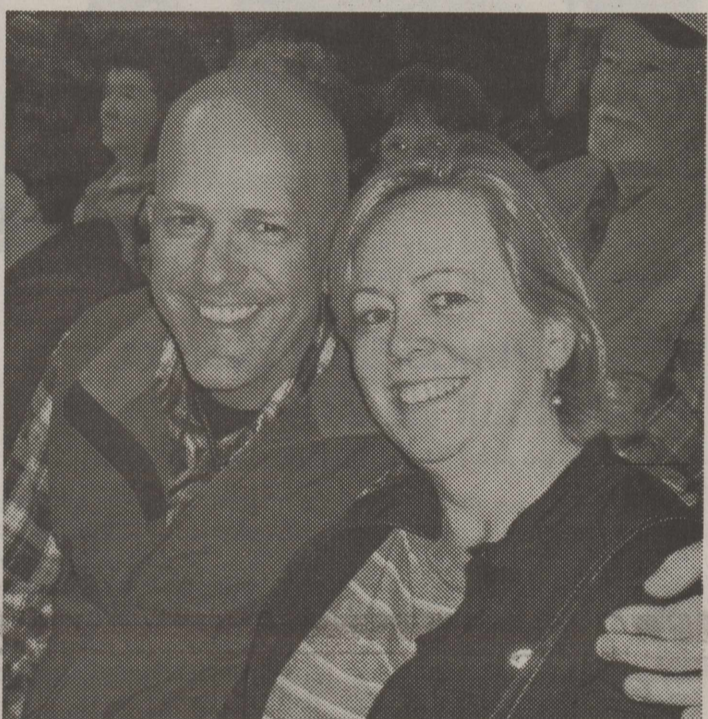
For more information about local activities and media opportunities, contact the Callahan-Shackelford County Farm Bureau office at 325-854-1044.



MUSICIANS (L-R)—JOHN HAYES, DON SHIRLEY, GEORGE ALLISON, GINGER SHIRLEY, JACKIE COLLINS - NOT PICTURED ARLETA DAMERON ON THE KEYBOARD.



PEOPLE CAME FROM ALL AROUND TO ENJOY THE MUSICAL.



IN ATTENDANCE WERE RUSSELL AND WHITNEY LLOYD OF HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA.

Cottonwood Country Musical

All I can say about the January 2016 start up of the Cottonwood Country Musicals is "WOW!"

People came "from all around" to enjoy the music and the food at the Cottonwood Community Center. There are extra tables put up in another room for extra seating, but an additional table had to be put up!

Russell and Whitney Lloyd, from Huntsville, Alabama attended the Cottonwood Country Musical. They came with her parents, Don and Latoma Doty of Anson who are fans of the musicals. We felt special that they came to the

Cottonwood musical.

Some of the musicians that regularly play were not able to attend. Those who were there did a fantastic job in taking up the slack. Some that had not performed at Cottonwood before shared their singing talents as well.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the food and the old country and gospel tunes.

I would like to invite everyone back again February 26th for another night of good food and good country music at the Cottonwood Community Center, Cottonwood, Texas.

Planning for College & Career Seminar Saturday, January 30th

All seniors, juniors and sophomores and parents are invited to attend. FREE ADMISSION-LUNCH PROVIDED

Abilene: The Hispanic Leadership Council will be hosting its annual Planning for College & Career Seminar on Saturday, January 30, 2016 at Cisco College-Abilene Campus. This event is free and both students and parents are welcomed. Sessions for parents, seniors, juniors and sophomores. Come

and learn more about college admissions, financial aid and scholarship searches. Various college representatives from area colleges and universities will be on hand. Spanish session for parents also available. This year's career track is a session on First Responders; learn about this career field from the experts.

Students may also tour Cisco at the end of the program. Participating students will have an opportunity to win door prizes including a laptop.

For more information you can all Samuel Garcia, 325-677-1900 or register online at: <http://www.acu.edu/hccollegeseminar>

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Last Puzzle Solution

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CELEBRATE RECOVERY

Celebrate Recovery meets every Monday & Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Pioneer Baptist Church Fellowship Hall.

12 Step Program based on eight principles from the Beatitudes.

Parole & Probation AA & NA Papers signed.

For More Information -254-725-7574



Samantha Beaty new Manager of Lowe's Market in Cross Plains, TX

Changes at Lowe's Market of Cross Plains

The Lowe's Market of Cross Plains has new management. Mrs. Samantha Beaty, nee Bomar, of Cross Plains became the local grocers new manager late last year. The former manager, Steve, was offered a managerial position in Tulia, TX, at another Lowe's Market location in the fall of last year and when he accepted that position, Cross Plains had an immediate need for a new store manager.

Just over one year ago, Ms. Beaty (or Samantha as most residents know her) had stopped in Lowe's for groceries when Steve approached her to take on a part time cashier's position. Samantha had worked at the local Dollar General for several years and was not actually looking for work when Steve approached her. "When he asked me if I was interested in working here I was surprised." Steve knew of her experience at the Dollar General and must have known of her work ethic because within 10

weeks she was promoted from a part time cashier to working in the office which came with new responsibilities and opening and closing duties.

When Steve left, Lowe's Market Corporate sent in an Area Manager to conduct the interviews for his replacement. After several interviews, Ms. Beaty was selected.

Samantha's family has deep roots in the community with both of her children having attended Cross Plains ISD and her husband, James Beaty, working with Rusty Reed Construction. Samantha is excited to be our new store manager is dedicated to making every day a great day at Lowe's.

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Bubba's Smokehouse of Cross Plains has new signs up at the intersection of Highway 206 and Highway 36 letting hungry passers-by know where to find fresh BBQ.

TxDot urges drivers to make a sober ride part of their football playoff and big game plans

'PLAN WHILE YOU CAN' IMPAIRED DRIVING CAMPAIGN AIMS TO REVERSE TREND IN ALCOHOL-RELATED CRASHES DURING FOOTBALL SEASON

The Texas Department of Transportation's statewide "Plan While You Can" campaign is reminding football fans to make a sober ride part of their game-watching plans for the upcoming playoffs and the big game. The campaign runs through Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 7, 2016.

"As many Texans will be watching football playoffs leading up to the big game, we strongly urge drivers to plan for a sober ride to attend watch parties," said Carol Rawson, TxDOT Traffic Operations Division Director. "Crashes caused by drinking and driving are 100 percent preventable. Before you drink, make a game plan to get home safely. It's a decision that could save a life."

During the 2014 football season (Sept. 4, 2014 - Feb. 1, 2015), there were 10,676 alcohol-related traffic crashes in Texas. Those crashes

resulted in 492 fatalities - an increase of 7 percent over the previous year.

Central to the "Plan While You Can" football campaign is a multi-city tour featuring an interactive dodgeball game that uses custom gaming technology to replicate the effects of alcohol on a person's reflexes. As participants play, virtual drinks are added and the players' on-screen avatars become less able to dodge incoming "footballs." The game demonstrates how even one drink can slow reaction times. The tour visits Wingstop restaurants in Austin (1/11), San Marcos (1/16), Corpus Christi (1/17), Houston (1/24) and San Antonio (2/7).

Additionally, TxDOT is hosting an online contest on its Twitter and Instagram social media accounts for a chance to win one of five \$100 gift cards donated by Wingstop. Participants can enter the contest by creating a tweet or post using the hashtag #PlanWhileYouCan. To learn more about the contest, follow TxDOT on its social media accounts.

Drivers under the influence of alcohol can face up to \$17,000 in fines, legal fees, impoundment and other costs. As always, TxDOT strongly encourages everyone to plan for a sober ride before going out. Visit SoberRides.org to find alternatives to drinking and driving, such as:

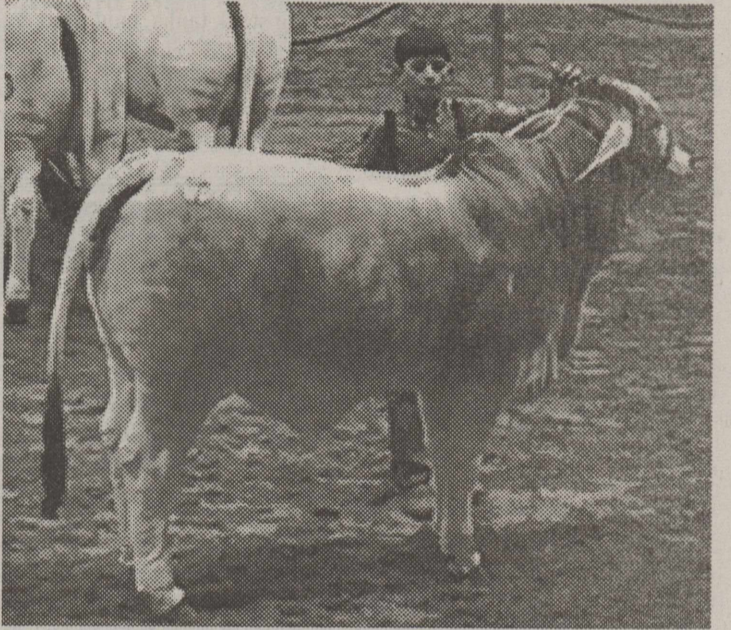
- Calling a taxi or using a transportation app on your smartphone.
- Using mass transit.
- Asking a sober friend or family member for a ride home.
- Spending the night.

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

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 Nov. 30, 2015.



Chase Rutland of Cross Plains 4H placed both 4th and 5th place with his market goat projects at the Callahan County Jr. Livestock Show



Spade Koenig of Cross Plains 4H with CT Lady King Manseaux at the Brahman Show in Fort Worth, TX



Spade Koenig of Cross Plains 4H placed both 2nd and 6th with his swine projects at the Callahan County Jr. Livestock Show

Cross Plains 4H News

Cross Plains 4-H is excited and proud of Spade Koenig for his 2nd place in the Open Brahman Show at Ft Worth, and winning 1st in his class for March born heifers in the Jr Brahman Breeding Heifer Show in Ft Worth with CT Lady King Manseaux (aka Josie).

Are you on Facebook? So is 4-H!! Both the Cross Plains 4-H and the Callahan County 4-H have site, be sure and friend request them so you can see what's happening in your area. If you have any questions about 4-H call our local leader Terrie Parum at 254-725-6423.

Callahan County Livestock Producers reminded to report forage losses by Feb. 1st

USDA LFP Covers Eligible Grazing Losses Due to Drought and Wildfire

Callahan County USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director Robert Frost reminds livestock producers who suffered grazing losses that occurred throughout 2015 due to drought or wildfire that they have until Feb. 1, 2016, to report their losses and to enroll in the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP).

LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffered grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought on privately-owned or cash-leased land or fire on federally-managed land. Producers in Callahan County are eligible to apply for 2015 LFP benefits on full season small grains, native pasture, improved pasture, or annual

ryegrass. Livestock producers are encouraged to contact the Callahan County FSA Office with any questions regarding specific forage crops that are eligible.

"Prolonged drought conditions have created a need for livestock disaster assistance programs in Callahan County," said Frost. "I encourage all affected livestock producers to contact the Callahan County FSA Office to schedule an appointment to enroll in the program before the Feb. 1 deadline."

Livestock producers must complete the LFP application and required supporting documentation no later than Feb. 1, 2016, for losses that occurred throughout 2015.

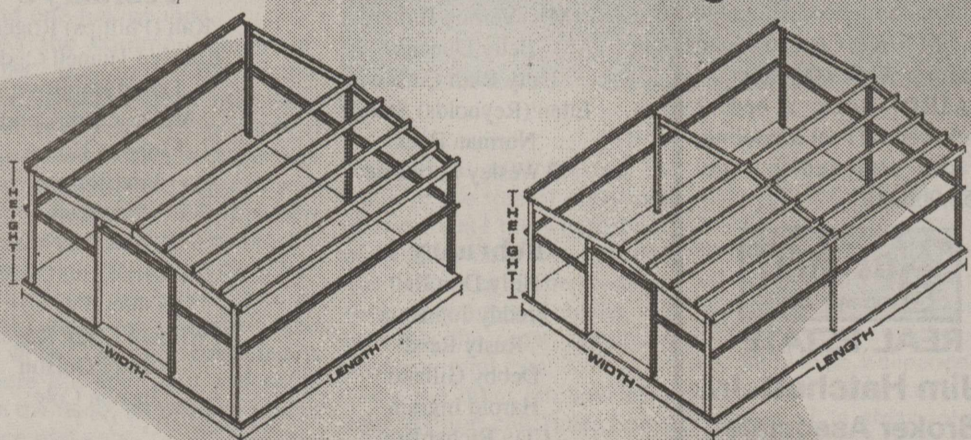
Producers who already have appointments scheduled require no additional action to meet the deadline.

Eligible livestock includes alpacas, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, dairy cattle, deer, elk, emus, equine, goats, llamas, poultry, reindeer, sheep or swine that have been or would have been grazing the eligible grazing land or pastureland.

For more information about LFP, contact the Callahan County FSA Office at 325-854-1049 ext 2. To find a local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>. Visit www.usda.gov/disaster to learn more about FSA disaster assistance programs.

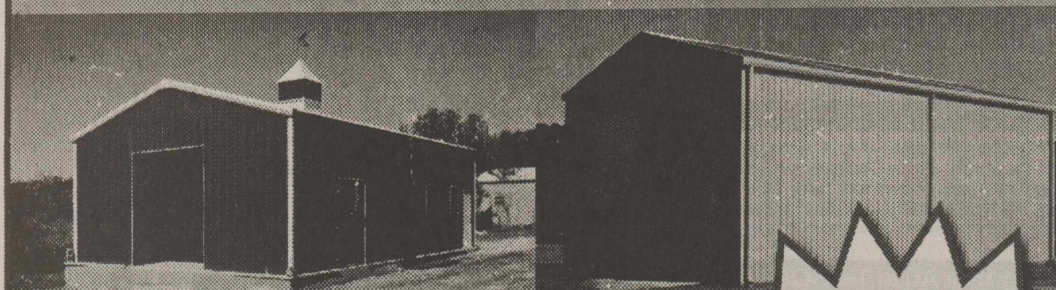
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COURTHOUSE NEWS

Callahan County Court
Roger Corn, presiding

Misdemeanor Filings

Bobbie Jo Leigh Lotter, leaving the scene of an accident.

Carlos Hernandez, driving while license invalid.

Kayla Marie Hazelwood, assault causing bodily injury / family violence.

William T. Ward, possession of marijuana, less than 2 oz.

Anthony Miller, possession of marijuana, less than 2 oz.

Tina Lynn James, driving while intoxicated (DWI).

Carlos Martinez, DWI.

Judy McCrary, assault.

Robert D. Chaney, possession of marijuana, less than 2 oz.

Wesley D. King, possession of marijuana, less than 2 oz.

Nicholas A. Szerlong, resist arrest / search / transport.

Misdemeanor Minutes

Miranda D. Willis, motion to dismiss to theft by check granted for completion of PTD Program.

Roland L. Rivers, Jr., motion

to dismiss to open container granted in the interest of justice.

Roland L. Rivers, Jr., motion to dismiss to consumption of alcohol on an off premise licensed property granted in the interest of justice.

Brandon Hall, motion to dismiss to possession of marijuana granted for plea to other case.

Marriage Licenses

Richard Michael Craig of Tye and Emily Diane Cole of Clyde.

42nd District Court
John Weeks, presiding

Civil Filings

Cody Matthew Hodge and Kristi Michelle Hodge, divorce.

Joshua Lee Tidwell and Alicyn Tidwell, divorce.

Carian Johnson and Richard Johnson, divorce.

Merri Lee Ann St. Cyr and Shawn Bryan St. Cyr, divorce.

Carlton Ray Jones and Maria Salome Jones, divorce.

Sheana Ann Cleaver and Matthew Scott Cleaver, divorce.

Spring Planting is Near: Join the Arbor Day Foundation in February and Receive 10 Free Redbud Trees

Joining the Arbor Day Foundation is an ideal way to get in the mood for spring planting. Anyone from Texas who joins the Foundation in February 2016 will receive 10 free Eastern redbud trees to plant when the weather turns warm.

The free trees are part of the nonprofit Foundation's Trees for America campaign.

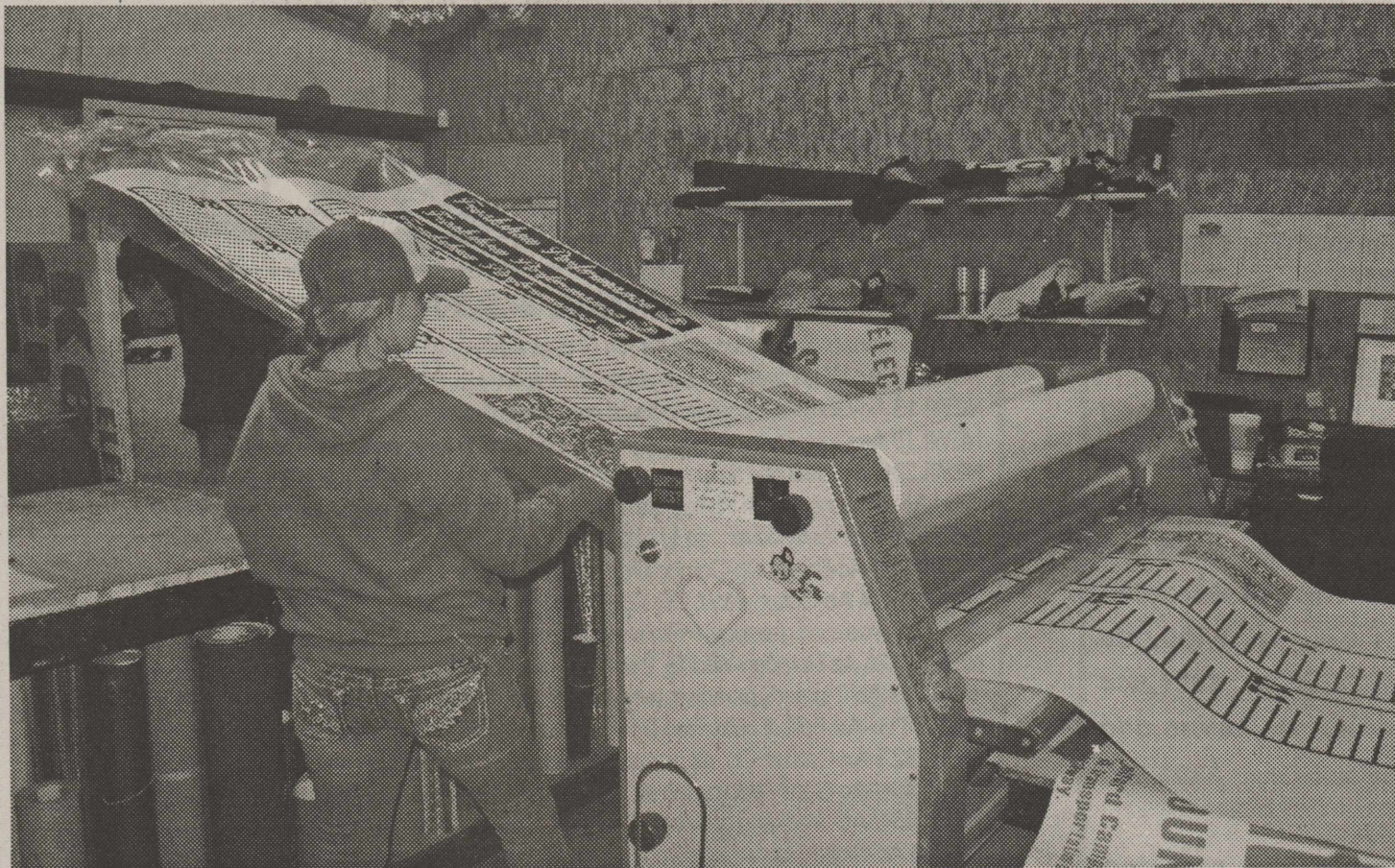
"Redbuds will help beautify Texas for many years to come," said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "They will also add to the proud heritage of Texas' existing Tree City USA communities."

The Tree City USA program has supported community forestry throughout the country for the past 40 years.

The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting, between March 1 and May 31, with enclosed planting instructions. The 6- to 12-inch trees are guaranteed to grow, or they will be replaced free of charge.

Members also receive a subscription to the Foundation's colorful bimonthly publication, Arbor Day, and The Tree Book, which contains information about planting and care.

To become a member of the Foundation and receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution to TEN FREE EASTERN REDBUD TREES, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410, by February 29, 2016, or visit arborday.org/february.



TWO RDA GRAPHICS EMPLOYEES COAT A 48 INCH WIDE VINYL MATERIAL WITH SEVERAL JOBS AT THE COMPANY'S FACILITY AT 120 NORTH FIRST STREET IN DOWNTOWN CLYDE LAST FRIDAY, JANUARY 22ND

RDA Graphics expanding by finding a new niche market

RDA Graphics is expanding its operation with the construction of a new addition which will more than double the company's manufacturing facility, located at 120 North First Street in Clyde.

RDA Graphics and Sportswear owner Tim Atkinson offered a tour of the current facility last week. The company is currently located in a 1,500 square foot facility and construction of a 40x60 foot addition will expand the facility to 4,200 square feet.

Atkinson said the majority of the political signs you see around the community are signs designed by RDA Graphics. He said of the eight candidates running for contested positions in Callahan County, RDA Graphics designed the political signs for seven of the candidates. "We can manufacture a sign 48 inches wide by 150 feet long," Atkinson said using the company's full color vinyl graphic machine. He said of the vinyl graphic designs, the company either creates or recreates 80 percent of the designs and logos produced by the graphic company.

Atkinson said the company can also produce any type of embroidery for custom head caps, jackets, windbreakers and

hoodies. "We can personalize any design using a stitch file to stitch the hat or jacket," Atkinson said. He said the company has one stitching machine which can produce six different color threads to produce letters or logos on a hat or jacket. Atkinson said the company has one stitching machine purchased at a cost of \$12,000 which has been running every minute of the business day to produce caps or jackets. He said although it depends on the design of the embroidery, it can take up to 16 minutes to manufacture just one cap. He said no job is too small and there is no minimum required to design and produce a custom cap or jacket.

Atkinson said the company can also produce any type of design or photograph and put it on any t-shirt. He said the company can produce a design three different ways, using a direct to garment machine, or using a screen printing machine.

He said the company can also design and produce custom wraps to put on your favorite Yeti cup or cooler.

The company can also design and produce business window logos or signs. He said the

Market Street Beverage window and City of Baird window designs were produced by RDA Graphics.

Atkinson said the new 40x60 foot addition now under construction should be completed by March. He said the new addition will house a conference room where the company can sit down with a client and design any type of product they want. The new addition will also have two offices for employees and two small offices for the company's design team. The north end of the new addition will have an overhead door and shop area which will allow them to put a vehicle indoors to place on a vehicle wrap designed by the company. Atkinson said the company now rents out a portion of the old fire station to place vehicle wraps. He said the new shop area will allow them to do 90 percent of the vehicle wraps indoors.

He said along with the additional space, the company will be expanding its retail side of the building as well, more than doubling their inventory of t-shirts, caps, jackets and hoodies.

Atkinson said in an effort to improve the store front, Gomez Construction will be putting a brick face on the building's store front on North First Street as well. Atkinson said the company is using as many local businesses as possible during this expansion. He said One-Shot Construction and Kevin Hagan are erecting the metal building, while Gray Electric will be wiring the new addition and Tytan Cooling & Heating will be installing the heating/AC system of the addition.

Atkinson said the company designed and produced the vehicle wraps on two Clyde CISD athletic buses now being used by the school district.

Atkinson said vehicle wraps to promote a company business is really inexpensive when you know that the vehicle wrap can last up to 10 years without having to be replaced.

The company owner said there business depends mostly on the season. He said during the spring and summer months, they tend to do most of their vehicle wraps, while during the start of school, the t-shirt business steps up. Atkinson said the company designs many of the t-shirts worn by Clyde, Baird and Eula students during the athletic playoff seasons.

Atkinson said one thing about the t-shirt business is that it is changing every year. He said each year, the company's t-shirt orders change because the names of the players change, and when a new coach takes over a sport, he or she wants a t-shirt that's unique. "This is a repetitive business," Atkinson said of the company's t-shirt business.

He said the company can also design and produce trophies and medals for any type of athletic events. He said RDA Graphics will be producing all the trophies and medals for the Clyde Golden Shoe Relays track meet this spring.

Atkinson said the company is now working with Nike products and is attempting to get Under Armour athletic wear as well to custom design any of their athletic products.

RDA Graphics was started in November 2014. Atkinson said he originally started the company when he purchased the full-color vinyl sign making machine and its grown from there. Atkinson said the company still produces Cowboy Candles as well, noting the company's corporate name is Cowboy Candles Inc.

Atkinson and his wife, Sarah also own four beauty products stores in the Abilene, Brownwood, Stephenville and San Angelo communities.

He said when the new addition is complete, he will be putting on additional employees as well as hiring a field agent to go out and get the business. "We currently have no field agent. All our business is from word-of-mouth and walk-in business," Atkinson said. He said the company now has two full-time employees, besides he and his wife, and two part-time employees. He said with the new addition, he'll add one more full-time employee and will make one of the two part-time employees full-time.

Atkinson said the Clyde EDC provided the company with a \$20,000 grant and another \$20,000 "no interest" loan to expand its business in Clyde. He said the company's new addition will cost well over \$70,000 and he'll also be obtaining a loan from his bank to complete the addition.

Atkinson said there are many graphic companies out there that can do some but not all of what RDA Graphics can do. "Nobody goes from producing a business wrap to a hat in one shop," Atkinson said of RDA Graphics. "We're a one-stop shop, and being in a rural town, many of our clients like that ability," Atkinson concluded.

RDA Graphics and Sportswear is open from 8:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on Saturday. The company's telephone number is (325) 893-1546 and is located just west of Clyde Farm & Ranch at 120 North First Street.

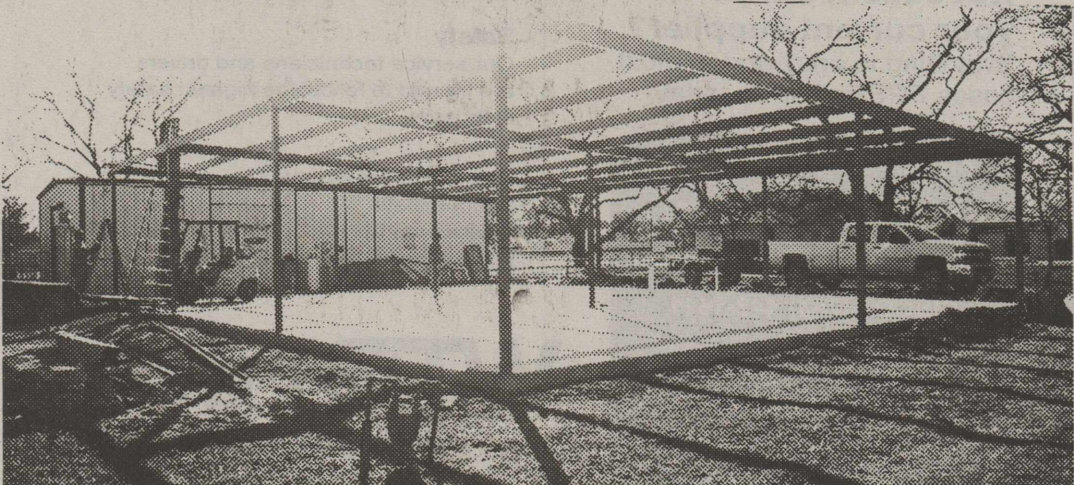
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THIS SIX COLOR THREAD STITCHING MACHINE PLACES A DESIGN ON A CAP AT THE RDA GRAPHICS & SPORTSWEAR FACILITY AT 120 NORTH FIRST STREET IN CLYDE LAST FRIDAY, JANUARY 22ND



ONE-SHOT CONSTRUCTION IS ERECTING A 40X60 FOOT METAL BUILDING TO MORE THAN DOUBLE THE SIZE OF THE RDA GRAPHICS & SPORTSWEAR BUILDING'S SQUARE FOOTAGE

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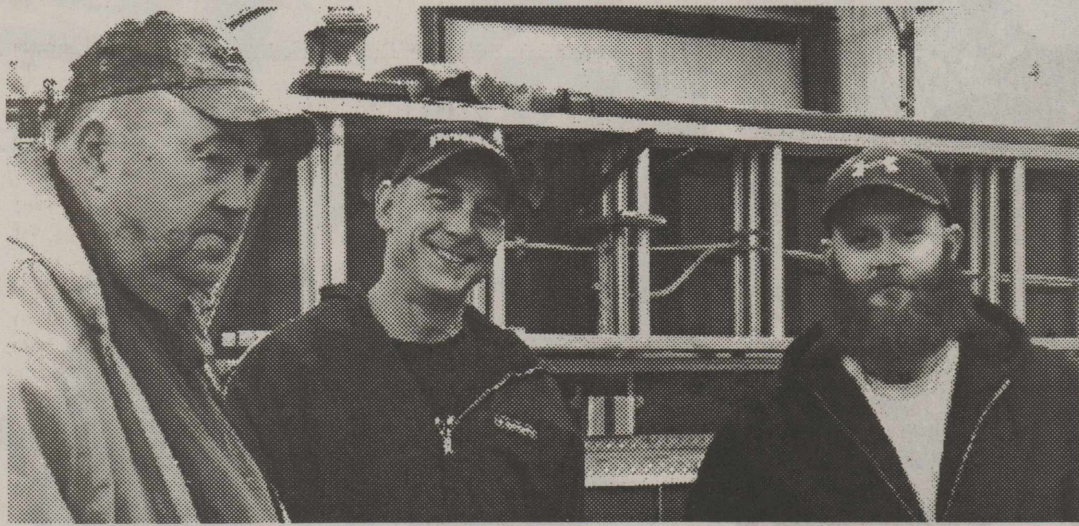
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Rural Fire Chief Les Cowan, Firefighter JD Huddleston and Assistant Fire Chief Byron McNutt

Cross Plains Volunteer Fire Department is ready to serve

Firefighters JD Huddleston, Joe Terstegge, Josh Loftis, Rural Fire Chief Les Cowan, Assistant Fire Chief Byron McNutt and Fire Chief Rickey Carouth taking the time to look at the firetrucks to be sure they are ready for the next cold spell.

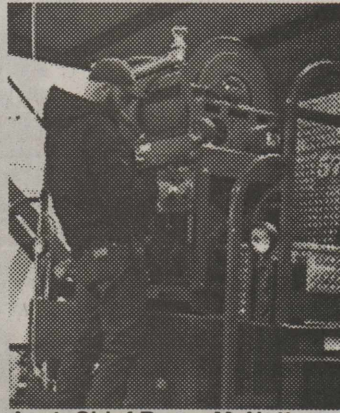
Learn English while you complete your GED

GED and English as a Second Language classes will be starting soon. Classes are currently offered in: Abilene, Albany, Ballinger, Breckenridge, Brownwood, Cisco, Coleman, Colorado City, Cross Plains, De Leon, Early, Hamlin, Snyder, Stamford, and Sweetwater.

Please call 325-671-4419 for more information. Classes are free and sponsored by the Abilene Independent School District.



Rural Chief Les Cowan with Joe Terstegge



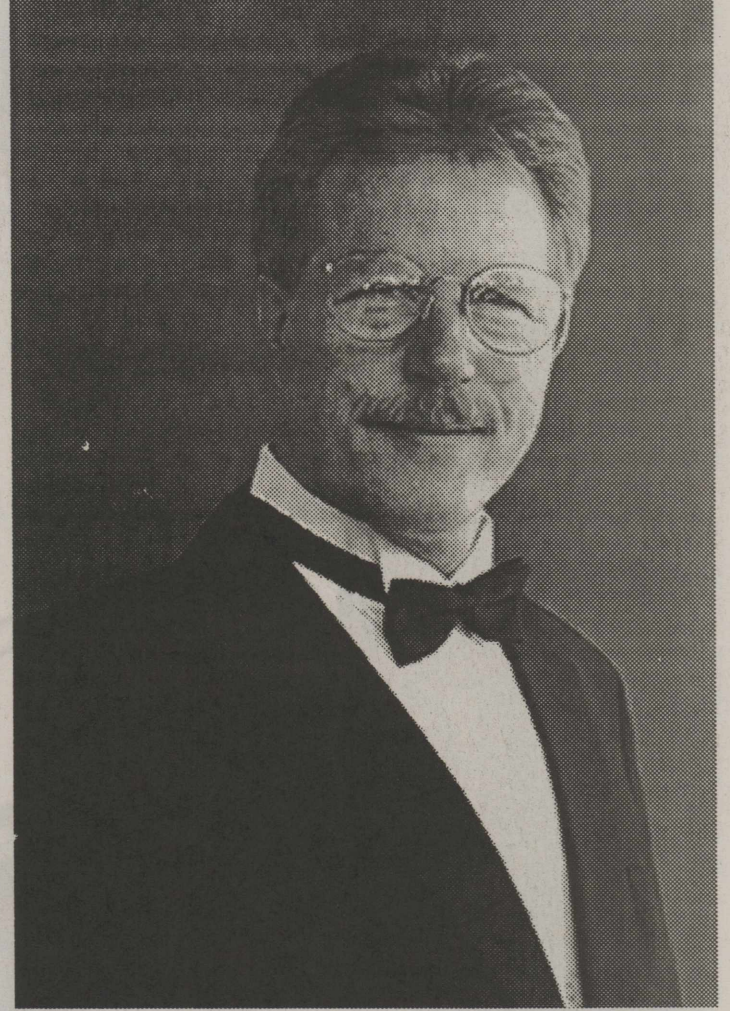
Asst. Chief Byron McNutt



Firefighter JD Huddleston



Rural Chief Les Cowan



John McCulloch Minister of Music at First Baptist Church, Cross Plains, TX

New Faces at First Baptist Church of Cross Plains

John McCulloch recently was called as minister of music and education at First Baptist Church.

McCulloch has served as a professional church musician for 31 years. He has served in the music ministry, youth and education at churches in Colorado and New Mexico, and Texas churches including First Baptist Church, Llano; First Baptist Church, Bandera; and Lytle South Baptist Church in Abilene.

Having earned his master's degree in church music from Hardin-Simmons University in 2014, McCulloch also received his undergraduate degree in church music from Hardin-Simmons in 1987.

He has been featured soloist for the World Famous Cowboy Band, performing to audiences in Germany, France, Monaco, Italy, Switzerland, England and Wales.

In more recent years, he has been featured tenor soloist for colleges and universities in central and west Texas and traveled to Austria and Italy, where he had the privilege of performing at the Basilica San Marco in Venice and the Dom Cathedral in Innsbruck. During his varied tenures in church music, he has composed a number of worship songs for adult and children's choirs, as well as for university and church worship teams throughout Texas and Colorado.

Known for convergence worship as a ministry philosophy, he says one of his greatest joys has been re-introducing church music from all musical eras, while sharing the latest anointed worship songs. Choir, he said, is a passion of his. One of the reasons he returned to Abilene to earn his master's degree was to strengthen his skills as a conductor and a vocalist. He served two years as assistant conductor of the Hardin-Simmons Concert

Choir and continues to be an active member of the Abilene Chamber Singers.

"The choir of First Baptist Church, Cross Plains, is a great bunch of people," he said. "They are eager to gain skills in musicianship, and they take their role as a ministry team seriously. I am excited to pick up the mantle of leadership in such a delightful church, and the choir and congregation seem excited to see what lies ahead for us as a group." McCulloch brings with him some unique experiences also, because of his background and work he has done during bi-vocational ministry.

He grew up in Ouray and Gunnison, Colo., and moved to Kerrville his senior year in high school, where he graduated from Tivy High School. In his youth on the Western Slope of Colorado, he picked up ranch work, hard-rock mining and was even a pinsetter in a bowling alley. He has worked as a chef and as a certified nursing assistant in New Mexico and Colorado.

During his bi-vocational years, he was a newspaper section editor for the Hobbs Daily News-Sun for five years and was photographer and lab tech for the Gunnison County Times for two years. He served eight years as director of marketing and foundation for Nor-Lea Hospital District, while serving as music minister for First Baptist Church, Lovington, N.M.

McCulloch and his wife, Lori, have been married for 28 years. They have four children, Caitlin McCulloch, 27, of Abilene; Emily Cargile, 25, of Hobbs, N.M.; Heidi McCulloch, 21, a of Abilene, and John Ross McCulloch, 18, also of Abilene. He and Lori have three granddaughters, Mae Williams of Abilene and Willow Cargile and River Cargile, both of Hobbs.

Wet weather expected to linger a few more months

2015 was truly a roller-coaster year when it came to weather conditions in the Brazos basin, as the region went from prolonged drought and low reservoirs to heavy rains, flooding and extended reservoir releases. With the El Niño weather pattern expected to linger into 2016, what can we expect over the next few months? Plenty more precipitation, weather forecasters say.

The end of the drought

What is certain is that 2015 was a year of record rainfalls for the state. State climatologist John Nielson-Gammon notes that May 2015 was the wettest month on record going back to 1895. Texas was drenched with 9.05 inches of rain that month, far surpassing the previous record of 6.66 set in June 2014.

After Texas - and the Brazos basin - dried out during the summer and early fall, the rains and flood conditions returned in force, thanks in large part to the strongest El Niño pattern since 1997. Heavy rains inundated the Brazos basin in October and November, filling reservoirs to capacity.

With such a soggy spring and fall in 2015, how much precipitation can we expect in early 2016?

"A strong El Niño is in place and should continue to exert a considerable influence over our weather this winter," said Mike Halpert, deputy director of the weather service's Climate Prediction Center. "While temperature and precipitation impacts associated with El Niño are favored, El Niño is not the



only player. Cold-air outbreaks and snow storms (in the Texas Panhandle and northward) will likely occur at times this winter. However, the frequency, number and intensity of these events cannot be predicted on a seasonal timescale."

Nielson-Gammon agrees with Deputy Director Halpert. "With El Niño still in place, additional wet weather this winter and spring is likely, though it would be difficult to top the individual rain events that have already occurred," Nielson-Gammon said. "The first few months of 2016 should be saturation or over-saturation/flooding. There's very little chance of an extended dry spell at this point. The current El Niño is expected to end sometime between May and September. This means increased chances of above normal rainfall through May. As with 2015, the summer can always dry out, but at least we should be off to a good start."

According to the National Weather Service (NWS), higher than usual rainfall is

expected in the Brazos basin and throughout Texas through at least the end of February.

Another consequence of El Niño for the southern portion of the United States, including Texas, is cooler than average temperatures through at least February, according to weather forecasters for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association. The reason? The subtropical jet stream brings more rain and clouds to the area during El Niño as compared to average Texas winters. The clouds and rain combine to help keep the temperatures cooler.

And chances are strong that the wet weather will still drench the Brazos basin in the near future. "There is a greater than 90 percent chance that El Niño will continue through ... winter 2015-16, and around an 85 percent chance it will last into early spring 2016," according to a NOAA statement.

By early summer, El Niño is expected to vanish altogether. While El Niño does have a significant impact on weather

patterns, according to the NWS it is not the only factor determining weather conditions. They report that "day-to-day variability in the weather pattern, including blocking patterns (nearly stationary atmospheric pressure fields), climate change and other factors all work together with El Niño to determine the overall weather experienced over the timeframe of a few months."

While the long term forecast is harder to pin down at this point, Nielsen-Gammon notes that about half of the strong El Niño's in the past have evolved into extended La Niña conditions by the following winter.

La Niña is basically the opposite of the El Niño weather phenomenon, which brings with it drier conditions. La Niña conditions affected the state in 2011-12, during a multi-year drought.

"Each year in a La Niña year is different," Nielsen-Gammon said. "Some differences are due to the particular year's pattern of La Niña Pacific Ocean temperatures, some of it is due to what's happening in the Atlantic Ocean, and some of it is just the randomness of the weather." La Niña can form at any time, and can last anywhere from six months to three years.

What we can expect is that above average precipitation is likely to continue throughout the Brazos basin through the spring. Only time will tell if a La Niña year will follow.

The Recipe Corner

Potato Kielbasa Skillet

Prep/Total Time: 30 minutes

Ingredients:

- *1 pound red potatoes, cubed
- * 3 tablespoons water
- * 3/4 pound smoked kielbasa or Polish sausage, cut into 1/4-inch slices
- * 1/2 cup chopped onion
- * 1 tablespoon olive oil
- * 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- * 2 tablespoons cider vinegar
- * 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- * 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
- * 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- * 4 cups fresh baby spinach
- * 5 bacon strips, cooked and crumbled

Directions

1. Place potatoes and water in a microwave-safe dish. Cover and microwave on high for 4 minutes or until tender; drain.
2. In a large skillet, saute kielbasa and onion in oil until onion is tender. Add potatoes; saute 3-5 minutes longer or until kielbasa and potatoes are lightly browned.
3. Combine the brown sugar, vinegar, mustard, thyme and pepper; stir into skillet. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, for 2-3 minutes or until heated through. Add spinach and bacon; cook and stir until spinach is wilted. Yield: 4 servings.

Community Members for Promoting Cross Plains Luncheon Set

Mark your calendars! The Cross Plains Chamber of Commerce will be sponsoring a Luncheon for discussion forum on ideas to help promote the City of Cross Plains.

When: Thursday February 18th, 2016

Where: Jean's Feedbar.

Time: Lunch 12:30pm-1pm, Your Dutch Treat. Please call ahead to order.

Please select one representative from your community group, or business. Open to community individuals also.

Bring your idea's of what you would like to see utilized in our community!

Cross Plains Review

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WILSON PLUMBING

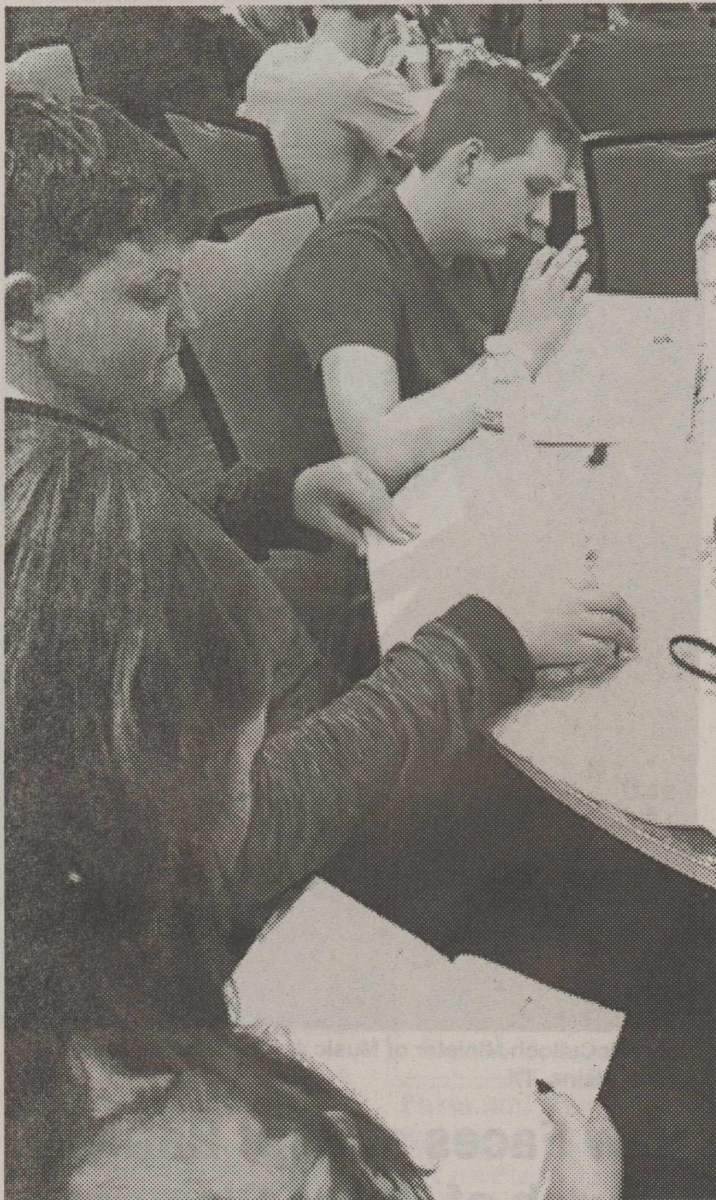
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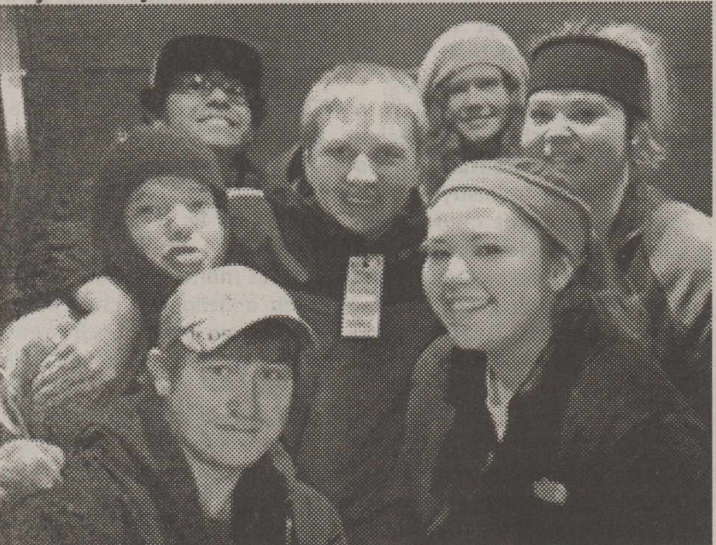
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Nightly Bible conference. Andrew Carey, Nicholas Meador and Shyler Tillery.



Elevator Madness. Back: Eddie Calvagna, Brooklynn Bell. Center: James Willis, Andrew Carey, Kristin Willis. Front: Aaron Willis and Shyler Tillery.



Andrew Carey braving the slopes.



Crested Butte Historic District Visitors Left: Kristin Willis and Shyler Tillery. Right: Nicholas Meador and Andrew Carey.



Simultaneous Jumps of Joy. Left: Shyler Tillery, James Willis, Eddie Calvagna, Andrew Carey and Aaron Willis.



Jevon Tillery having fun with Crested Butte Ski Patrol.



Fun and Games: from center bottom clockwise Amber Fidler, Niara Gums, Jackilann Shepard, Ryan Carey, Shyler Tillery, Madilynn Shepard and Brooklynn Bell.

First Baptist of Cross Plains goes skiing

The First Baptist Church held a Youth Ski Bible Conference in Crested Butte, Colorado December 29th through January 2nd. Seventeen students went on the trip, and it was full of first time experiences for many of them. Some had never seen snow, while others had never left the state of Texas. The students were accompanied by the First Baptist Church youth pastor, Dalton Clark, and 6 sponsors: Karri & Jack Shepard, Jason & Melonie Carey, Kristin Willis, and Scott Byrd.

The trip almost ended before it began because of the bad weather and snow storms that hit Texas right after Christmas. Jason Carey drove the church bus, and Scott Byrd and Jack Shepard drove the van. They successfully maneuvered through the hazardous road conditions, and the group arrived safely to the Crested Butte Mountain Resort.

Most of the students had never been on snow skis, but they were given lessons by the sponsors. It didn't take long before they were riding the lifts and skiing down the slopes. Before lunch on the first day of skiing, Aaron Willis took a tumble that dislocated his shoulder. After a visit to the clinic, it was determined that he would not be able to ski for the remainder of the trip. Aaron had a positive attitude about the situation, and he had several friends who always made sure to stay behind and keep him company.

Each afternoon after the ski lifts were closed, the group would gather in the common room for the Bible Conference. Dalton Clark led the bible studies each night, and then the students would break out into small groups which were led by the sponsors. One night after bible study, they went to the hotel's outside deck and made S'mores around the fire pit.

On the last day of skiing, the students were divided into groups and given a photo scavenger hunt list. They had to take pictures of their particular group doing each of the things listed, such as posing like Charlie's Angels or reenacting a scene from a Disney movie. The winners of the contest were treated to homemade ice cream at a little shop in the town of Crested Butte.

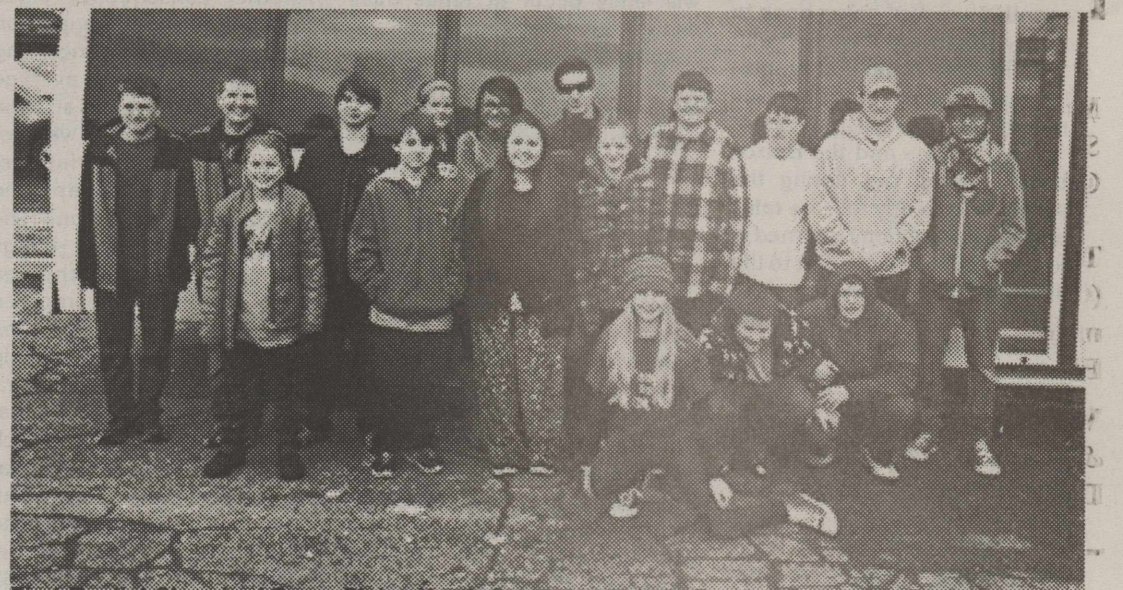
On the last night of the trip, Dalton Clark gave out special awards to some of the youth.

Ryan Carey was given the Tumbler award for the most dramatic fall of the trip. Aaron Willis was awarded the Patch Adams award for the worst injury, and Eddy Calvagna was given the Failure To Launch award for his inability to get on and off the ski lifts without crashing. Anthony Fidler won the Yeti award, for being the most elusive and hard to find student during the trip. Madalyn Shepard won the Golden Plunger award for "taking the plunge" and being the outstanding skier of the trip.

The trip was a great success and Dalton Clark is already making plans for another Youth Ski Bible Conference in 2016.



Heads together in Crested Butte. From bottom center clockwise: Brooklynn Bell, Shyler Tillery, Andrew Carey, Eddie Calvagna, Aaron Willis and James Willis.



First Baptist Church of Cross Plains Youth Group en route to Crested Butte, CO. Back: Ryan Carey, Andrew Carey, Paxton Byrd, Brooklynn Bell, Niara Gums, Bryce Hamlin, Nicholas Meador, Jevon Tillery, Aaron Willis, and Eddie Calvagna. Center: Madilynn Shepard, Wade Byrd, Shyler Tillery, and Amber Fidler. Front bottom: Jackilann Shepard, Anthony Fidler and James Willis.

Pleas email any of your school related news to the Cross Plains Review at

crossplainsreview@earthlink.net



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

Cross Plains Review

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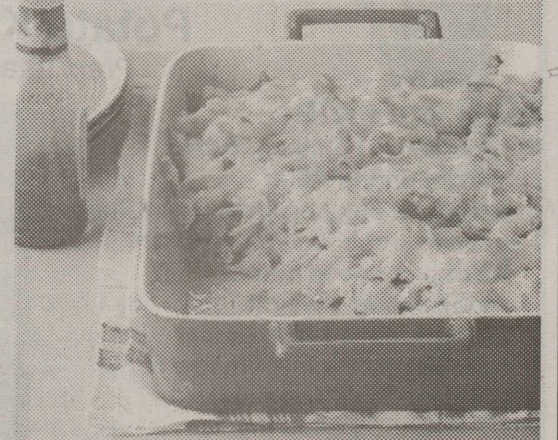
The Recipe Corner

Chicken Noodle Casserole

Prep Time: 15 Minutes Bake Time: 40 minutes

Ingredients:

- * 1 can (10-3/4 ounces) condensed cream of chicken soup, undiluted
- * 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- * 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- * 2 cups cubed cooked chicken
- * 1 small onion, chopped
- * 1/4 cup chopped green pepper
- * 1/4 cup chopped sweet red pepper
- * 1 cup (4 ounces) shredded Monterey Jack cheese, divided
- * 1 cup (4 ounces) shredded sharp Cheddar cheese, divided
- * 12 ounces medium egg noodles, cooked and drained



Directions

1. In a large bowl, combine the soup, mayonnaise and lemon juice. Stir in the chicken, onion, peppers, 1/2 cup Monterey Jack cheese and 1/2 cup cheddar cheese. Add noodles and toss to coat.
2. Transfer to a greased 2-qt. baking dish. Bake, uncovered, at 350° for 30-35 minutes. Sprinkle with remaining cheeses. Bake 10 minutes longer or until vegetables are tender and cheese is melted.
3. Freeze option: Sprinkle remaining cheeses over unbaked casserole. Cover and freeze. To use, partially thaw in refrigerator overnight. Remove from refrigerator 30 minutes before baking. Preheat oven to 350°. Bake casserole as directed, increasing time as necessary to heat through and for a thermometer inserted in center to read 165°. Yield: 6 servings.

Cross Plains Chamber of Commerce supports local businesses

The Cross Plains Chamber of Commerce has had a great year, and we are very excited to see what the New Year has in store!

We have added new chamber members, and chamber events! At our annual chamber banquet J & S Ag Fabrication was recognized as Business of the Year and their 10 years in business. Great guest speaker Pay (Sissy) Weise shared wonderful funny stories about growing up in Cross Plains.

We added a new event our Easter Eggstravaganza where over 30 children took pictures with the Easter Bunny! We hope to continue this event with the help of supporting sponsors.

The Christmas Parade and Kiwanis Stew Supper brought out over a hundred people in the community that we hoped help boost our Chamber Member businesses sales that evening. We added a new online Valentine's event that some of our great Chamber members help contribute to and made happen. With that online event we were able to grow our online reach to get our member business names out there!

July 4th was a huge splash with the addition of the dunking booth and some great items

were donated for bingo from our members!

Our biggest event of all is our Annual Hunter's Feed and there is no way we could do it without all the community businesses and volunteers! With over 300 in attendance and great BBQ cooked by The Butcher Block and the best cookies from Subway. We hope that from that event that all those hunters fill our businesses and shop local through out the season!

We have had a business spotlight in the newspaper through out the year to share our members important information.

We want to share in this article a piece straight from our by-laws the chambers purpose. The Cross Plains Chamber of Commerce is organized to achieve the objectives of:

(1) Preserving the competitive enterprisystemofbusinessby: creating a better understanding and appreciation of the importance of business people andaconcernfortheirproblems; educating the business community and representing them in city, county, state and national legislative and political affairs; preventing or addressing controversies which are detrimental to expansion

and growth of business and the community if they arise; creating a greater appreciation of the value of a more liberal investment of substance and self on behalf of the interest of competitive business;

(2) Promoting business and community growth and development by: promoting economic programs designed to strengthen and expand the income of potential of all business within the trade area; promoting programs of civic, social and cultural nature which are designed to increase the functional and aesthetic values of the community; and discovering and correction abuses which prevent the promotion of business expansion and community growth.

(3) Promoting the citizens & workforce of Cross Plains by helping make the town & businesses the best possible.

We wish all our businesses a year of growth and prosperity.

Thank you for everyone's support over this past year.

Please stop by or call the Chamber for any questions you have! We would love to have you as a new member!

Weight Warriors: Less is Less

Weight Warriors is still alive and well and going strong in 2016. We are looking forward to a new year with new plans, new challenges, and achieving our goals. Together we will journey toward our healthiest year yet.

As we meet to share our joys and concerns, there is also a short topic of encouragement each week. A celebration bracelet or necklace is padded every week to the one who has lost the most that week. It serves as an anchor to reinforce your weekly motivation. Also, we have door prize drawings weekly, and if you stay for the meeting, you just might be the lucky one to receive the gift brought by the previous week winner. We also have a Biggest Loser contest two-three times a year. (Scales are provided if you choose to weigh. It's your choice.)

There is no charge, membership fees, or requirements. Just a sincere desire to be healthy and share group support. All we ask is donations of non-perishable food items for our local food pantry. We are helping others as we help ourselves.

You are welcome to come check us out as we meet every Tuesday afternoon. Come, bring a friend and find out how this energetic and fun group just might be the little boost you need to be more successful on your weight loss journey.

Weight Warriors meet at 5:30 PM every Tuesday at the First United Methodist Church. Come join us and we will see less of you every week!

Library Notes

Library Hours

Mon. Closed for MLK Day
Tues. 11:00pm to 7:00pm
Wed. 1:00pm to 5:00pm
Thurs. 1:00pm to 5:00pm
Closed Friday

Jan., 18 - Jan., 21, 2016

Patrons 66
Books Checked 91
Programs 34

ASAP
GED 7
LAP/LAPSIT 22
Other5

Copies 158
Internet 15
Wi Fi 18
Reference 13

Book & Misc. Donats.

Michelle Payne
Patricia Posuk

Memorials

Class of 1954
In Memory of Imogene Newto
Haun

Kennith and Ann Beeler
In Memory of Imogene Newto
Haun

Volunteers

Sue Bennett
Linda Burns
Lavonne Childress
Beverly Ross

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What Are You Reading?

by the Bookworms



I just finished reading "Doll-Baby," a debut book by Laura Lane McNeal. The book came highly recommended by a patron of the library, and after reading it, I agree. It is high on my list of "must reads." This is a story of family & friends during the segregation of the 1960s. It could be compared to "The Help" and "The Secret Life of Bees." It is an uplifting, poignant story that weaves together the lives of five women who prove that "family" can be found where you least expect it.

The story is told through the eyes of a young girl named Ibby, who is learning to understand race for the first time. It starts during the summer of 1964 when

Ibby's father dies and her mother deposits her in New Orleans with her eccentric grandmother, Fannie. Fannie has a mother and daughter working for her as domestic help; the daughter happens to have a girl near Ibby's age, and of course they become friends. The heart of this story involves Fannie and her feelings toward her domestic help and how intertwined their lives are during a time of racial unrest.

I classify this book as "wonderful;" it has humor, sadness, and faith, plus an ending that I absolutely did not see coming, but sure wrapped up the story. Be sure to check it out at the library!

Cottonwood News by Beverly Brown

The temperatures have been ranging from in the 40s to in the 80s.

January is almost over and February will be here in a few days. Many things are going on in February.

On Fat Tuesday, February 9th, there's a Mardi Gras benefit fund-raiser for the Senior Citizens Center. You can go and enjoy a shrimp and crawfish boil, complete with all the trimmings and celebrate Mardi Gras in style, right in Cross Plains! Dinner is \$12.50 and all the proceeds go to the Senior Center. The event lasts from 5:30 to 7:30. Look for you best - purple, green and gold (Mardi Gras colors)... and go and have a great time while helping out the Senior Center. Marsha Ossowski is one of the organizers of the event.

The next day, February 10th, is Ash Wednesday and the

beginning of lent.

And, of course, Sunday, February 14th is Valentine's Day. Better just go ahead now and plan dinner and chocolates for that special someone.

Joe Terstegge will be cooking brisket, ribs, sausage and chicken for a Cross Plains Volunteer Fire Department Barbecue Dinner on Saturday, February 27. Joe cooked macaroni and cheese for a dinner sometime back and everyone loved it. We've talked him into making it again for the barbecue dinner. Go ahead and mark your calendars now for this one. It should be a great dinner. Held at the First United Methodist Church in Cross Plains.

And, don't forget, this year is Leap Year. You get one extra day of February - Monday, February 29th.

Senior Citizens Center Activities

Feb. 1st- 5th

Monday-1st Crafts with Chris 10:30 /Exercise 11:00

Crafts with Chris 10:30

Tuesday-2nd Exercise 11:00/Game Night 6:00

Wednesday-3rd Exercise 11:00

Thursday -4th Exercise 11:00/Reading with 3rd Graders 9:45 and 1:05

Friday -5th Exercise 11:00

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

Feb. 1st- Feb. 5th

Monday 1st Hamburger Steak, Potatoes, Peas and Carrots, Bread, Dessert

Thursday 4th Bake Frito Pie, Lettuce/Tomato Salad, Mexican Corn Dessert

Tuesday 2nd Burritos (Chili/Cheese) Lettuce Tomato Salad, Spanish Rice- Bread, Dessert

Friday 5th BBQ on a Bun, Onion, Pickle Slices, Oven Fries, Fruit, Cookie

Wednesday 3rd Chicken & Rice, Broccoli Fruit, Derrest,

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

Monthly Menu may be picked up at the Senior Citizen Center

Rising Star Independent School District is accepting student transfer applications for the 2016 spring semester to include students in Pre-K through 12th grades who are of eligible age.

RSISD offers:

Small school atmosphere

Online credit recovery program for high school
Credit by Exam for students desiring to graduate early or for credit recovery

On-campus college courses available in grades 9-12 (as offered by the college)

Met all academic standards on STAAR Tests at each campus
Successful extra-curricular programs

For information regarding student transfers, call 254-643-1981. The administration office is located at 107 West Newton Street in Rising Star.



Final Model Year End Selections

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Callahan County's jobless rate drops to 4.3% in December 2015

The unemployment rate in Callahan County dropped one-tenth of one percent to 4.4% in December 2015, according to jobless figures released Friday, January 22nd by the Texas Workforce Commission. The unemployment rate in Callahan County one year ago in December 2014 was 3.1 percent.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Callahan County Unemployment	Nov. 4.4%	Dec. 4.3%
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Callahan County's unemployment rate was 4.4% in November, 2015.

Previous monthly jobless rates in Callahan County included: 4.3% in October 2015, 4.2% in September 2015, 4.3% in August, 4.4% in July, 4.0% in June, 3.9% in May, 3.7% in April, 4.1% in March, 4.0% in February, and 4.1% in January 2015, according to the unemployment figures.

Big Country area counties, bordering Callahan County, and the counties' unemployment rates for December 2015 include: Brown, 4.0%; Coleman, 5.2%; Eastland, 4.8%; Jones, 5.0%; Runnels, 3.4%; Shackelford, 2.8%; Stephens, 4.5%; and Taylor County, 3.3%.

The Abilene MSA (Metropolitan Statistical Area) unemployment rate, which includes Taylor, Callahan and Jones Counties, stood at 3.5% in December, 2015, according to the Texas Workforce Commission. The Abilene MSA Combined Labor Force is 75,400. There were 72,700 employed during December 2015, while 2,700 were unemployed, giving the Abilene MSA an unemployment rate of 3.5%.

The Abilene MSA reported the workforce was 75,500 in November, 2015. Total employment of 72,600 was reported in November 2015, while 2,900, or 3.9% were unemployed in November 2015.

The Abilene MSA unemployment rate for December, 2014 was 3.4%. The total workforce was reported at 76,700, with 74,100 employed and 2,600 or 3.7% unemployed in December, 2014.

The state's unemployment rate for the month of December, 2015 was 4.2 percent. The total Texas labor force was 13,077,400 in December 2015. The total number of Texans employed is 12,522,200. The total number of unemployed Texans was 555,200 in December 2015.

Last month's statewide unemployment rate was 4.5 percent in November 2015. The state's unemployment rate in December of 2014 was 4.1 percent.

The United States unemployment rate for December, 2015 was 4.8 percent. The nation's unemployment rate for the pre-

vious month of November, 2015 was 4.8%. The United States unemployment rate one year ago in December, 2014 was 5.4%.

Highlights of the Texas Labor Force (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

The Texas unemployment rate in December decreased by three-tenths of a percentage point to 4.2 percent. This was one-tenth of a percentage point higher than last year's December unemployment rate. Over the previous five years, the unemployment rate declined by an average of two-tenths of a percentage point between November and December. The national unemployment rate remained unchanged at 4.8 percent. The Texas unemployment rate has remained below the national unemployment rate since December 2006.

The Texas Civilian Labor Force decreased by 22,600 to a total of 13,077,400 people. The past three months have shown a total increase in the labor force of 32,000 people. Over the year, the Texas labor force has contracted by 74,800 people.

The number of employed Texans increased by 15,700 over the month to a total of 12,522,200 people. Over the previous five years, the number of employed Texans increased by an average of 12,700 people in the month of December. The number of jobholders has decreased by 89,900 over the year.

The number of unemployed Texans decreased in December by 38,300 to a total of 555,200 people. Over the previous five years, the number of unemployed people decreased by an average of 26,400 in the month of December. Since December of last year, the number of unemployed people has increased by 15,100 individuals.

Between November and December, the unemployment rate decreased in all 25 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) in Texas. The Amarillo MSA continued to have the lowest unemployment rate at 2.9 percent.

The number of Texans continuing to seek unemployment insurance benefits increased by 4,527 over the month to 138,530. Over the year, the number of individuals seeking unemployment insurance benefits has increased by 32,515 claimants.

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE STATE

GM Financial to Build Servicing Center

SAN ANTONIO, TX (Fort Worth Star-Telegram)—Steve Kaskovich—GM Financial, which is expanding in south Arlington, announced it will build another servicing center in San Antonio to accommodate as many as 700 workers. The Fort Worth-based finance arm of General Motors said construction on the 100,000-square-foot facility is expected to be finished by the first quarter of 2017.

San Antonio Mayor Irvy R. Taylor said the project is expected to bring at least 490 full-time jobs, and Governor Greg Abbott estimated the capital investment at more than \$20 million. GM Financial will receive a \$2.5 million grant from the Texas Enterprise Fund. Company CEO Dan Berce said the additional facility would help support General Motors and service to customers "by expanding our workforce and service capacity in a strong and vibrant employment market."

Microsoft Buys Nearly 160 Acres for Data Center

SAN ANTONIO, TX (Dallas Business Journal)—Microsoft Corporation has bought 158 acres controlled by the Texas Research & Technology Foundation (TRTF). TRTF officials said the company plans to develop one of the largest data

centers in the country at the far West San Antonio site. TRTF President York Duncan said it was a "great deal for Microsoft and a great deal for the Texas Research Park." Construction is slated to begin this month and will consist of four phases in the eight-building data center. As many as 900 construction jobs are expected on the 1.2-to-1.3-million-square-foot project that is expected to take five years to finish.

Software Giant to Build Major Campus

AUSTIN, TX (Austin American-Statesman)—Lori Hawkins, Shonda Novak—Oracle Corporation, the world's second largest software company, plans to build a new corporate campus in Austin on 27 acres of land just southeast of downtown. With the new campus, Oracle plans to increase its Austin workforce by 50 percent over the next few years.

The move expands the presence of another rapidly growing California-based technology giant in Central Texas, as such companies, including Apple, Google and Facebook, are aggressively boosting their workforce here.

Oracle declined to disclose the size of its current local workforce, although the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce's website estimates Oracle has between 1,000 and 2,000 employees.

Incentives Lure Jobs to New Braunfels

NEW BRAUNFELS, TX (Austin American-Statesman)—A Canadian company will receive \$2-million in incentives from the state to build a 240,000 square foot manufacturing facility in New Braunfels that will create around 275 jobs, the governor's office reported. The company, CGT U.S. Limited, will also be expected to make at least an \$80 million capital investment in New Braunfels to receive the grant from the Texas Enterprise Fund, Governor Greg Abbott's office said. CGT is also expected to receive property tax rebates from Comal County. New Braunfels Mayor Barron Casteel said he is pleased the new manufacturing facility will be "providing critical career opportunities for our residents and helping in the continuing effort to diversify our economic base."

Are you ready for Winter?

New arrivals at the "Kingdom's Door"

Fall and winter clothing is arriving almost daily, flowing right through the "Kingdom's Door" into the clothes closet at the First Baptist Church. Sizes range from infant all the way through adult.

The public is invited to come and shop. You are encouraged to take advantage of this free service offered by the Women's Ministry of the church. There is absolutely no charge, no questions asked and no papers to fill out.

We are located inside the second portable building west of the children's playground at the corner of N. Main and W. 3rd Street. We open each Saturday afternoon from 1:00 to 4:00 PM for your convenience. For more information please call Anne at 254-725-9480

Cross Plains I.S.D. School Board Minutes

January 21, 2016

The Cross Plains I.S.D. Board of Trustees met in a regular meeting with the following members present: Jack Shepard, Tommy Ames, Davy Crockett, John McWilliams, Michael Cowan, Roy Richey and Bryan Bennett.

The following administrators and guests were also in attendance: Superintendent Phil Mitchell, H.S. Principal Brad Jones, Elem. Principal Leslie Lawrence, Athletic Director Daniel Purvis and guest representatives from Waldrop Construction and Kibler Construction.

Prayer was led by Leslie Lawrence.

Motion was made by Bennett and seconded by McWilliams that we hire Waldrop Construction as our Construction Manager At Risk. For 7/Against 0

Motion was made by Richey and seconded by Cowan that

we accept the minutes from the previous meeting as read. For 7/Against 0

Motion was made by Cowan and seconded by McWilliams that we call for School Board election for May 7, 2016. For 7/Against 0

Motion was made by Bennett and seconded by Ames that we have a joint election with the City of Cross Plains. For 7/Against 0

Motion was made by Shepard and seconded by McWilliams that we use the Cross Plains Community Center with John Swift as Election Judge and Debbie Gosnell as Early Voting Clerk and Early Voting Center will be City Hall. For 7/Against 0

The board went into executive session at 10:10 and returned 11:16.

Motion was made by Bennett and seconded by Richey that we adjourn. For 7/Against 0

Texas Silver-Haired Legislature sponsors local town hall in Abilene

The 2nd Biennial Intergenerational Town Hall Forum will be conducted on the ACU campus at the Hunter Welcome Center, Feb 4, 2016, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm to discuss concerns and aging issues affecting seniors. Registration begins at 9:30 am. The town hall is one of several being conducted throughout Texas by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature. TSHL delegates of West Central Texas are conducting the Abilene forum in partnership with ACU Pruet Gerontology Center, ACU Foundation and WCT Area Agency on Aging. More than 80 students, current and retired faculty are participating with senior citizens, elected officials and delegates from several TSHL districts throughout Texas.

The event is sponsored by the Abilene Regional Medical Center Senior Circle, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas, ACU Pruet Gerontology Center, ACU Foundation, West Central Texas Area Agency on Aging, Wesley Court and the TSHL Foundation.

Results will be considered by the 16th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature Session, meeting at the State Capitol, April 4-8, 2016. TSHL members representing West Central Texas are Nancy Byler, TSHL Speaker of Brownwood, Walter Graham, Speaker Pro Tem of Cisco, Chris Kyker, Speaker Emeritus of Abilene, Bruce Davis of Abilene, and Dolan Brinson of Rochester.

There is no charge for the event. Lunch will be provided, but reservations are required. For reservations: Call Linda Rutledge 325-428-4935 before February 1st.

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ACROSS

- 1 this actor Andrews was in "Laura" with TX Gene Tierney
- 5 TX-based "Giant" was an ___ film
- 6 TX Dabney Coleman 1980 film: "___ to Five"
- 7 golf ball holders
- 8 state fair mo. (abbr.)
- 9 African hunting expedition (2 wds.)
- 16 TXism: "I ___ that like an armadillo needs an interstate"
- 18 TXism: "hunkered down and ___ go"
- 20 Parkland Hospital's receiving area for the injured (abbr.)
- 21 A&M started as a ___ grant college
- 22 Houston Oilers old league (abbr.)
- 24 ___ E. Myers designed the state capitol
- 30 bad dream
- 34 airline once headquartered in Dallas (abbr.)
- 35 "42" tile piece
- 36 TX "Moonraker" actress Chiles
- 37 TX Luby's CEO at time of '91 killings
- 39 abrasive ABC reporter from TX
- 43 what consumers expect after Thanksgiving and Christmas (2 wds.)
- 44 most secure
- 45 TXism: "cut ___ some slack"

- 46 once a Texarkana AM
- 47 what the faucet did before it was fixed
- 49 Boerne has a llama, kid, and ___ fair
- 52 TXism: "let ___ rip!"
- 53 Ozona football class
- 54 a hot time at the spa
- 55 TX Gale Storm TV show: "___ Margie"
- 58 San Marcos dance hall: Cheyenne Club
- 59 TX LBJ's party (abbr.)
- 60 ___ whiz
- 61 road curve

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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DOWN

- 1 home of TWU and UNT
- 2 TXism: "just down the road ___"
- 3 teen age
- 4 high poker cards
- 9 late "Cowpokes" artist Reid (init.)
- 10 TXism: "___ away" (save)
- 11 male sheep (2 wds.)
- 12 former Dallas-based oil co., now Alon USA
- 13 TX Cullen Davis was accused of killing this daughter of Priscilla
- 14 a TX Gattin (init.)
- 15 TXism: "call ___ day" (quit)
- 17 football precision dancers (2 wds.)
- 19 1953 film about the offspring of a TX woman: "Son ___ Starr"
- 23 lumber is sold by the ___ foot
- 24 TV's talking horse: "Mr. ___"
- 25 ___ Ebanos, TX
- 26 Gov. Hogg's daughter
- 27 TXns Bowie, Hogg & Reeves
- 28 TX "Steak ___" will try to make a comeback in 2016
- 29 TXism for "dancer" arms of ___
- 32 TXism: "he's lying through ___ teeth"
- 33 this Dodger Carl was a TX Nokona ball glove signee
- 38 TX Trini also sang "La ___"
- 40 org. for some TX teachers (abbr.)
- 41 "___ and ye shall receive"
- 42 Shepherd, TX newspaper: San Jacinto
- 48 TXism: "never in all my born ___"
- 50 Texans ___ mess of chili
- 51 TXism: "he's ___ of spit and vinegar" (energetic)
- 56 big mountain cabin predecessor of TX 7-11's "Sturpees"



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County looking to grant to repair Courthouse elevator

Callahan County commissioners took no action following discussion of the County Courthouse elevator during the commissioners' court meeting held Monday, January 25th.

Callahan County Judge Roger Corn stated the commissioners are applying for a grant through the Texas Historical Commission to repair the Courthouse elevator, which was originally installed in 1958.

According to Judge Corn, the elevator was not working for about two weeks, however it is now working properly.

He said Otis Elevator stated because of the size of the space inside the courthouse building for the elevator, it would be more advantageous to rebuild the elevator rather than to replace it. He said the elevator could be rebuilt for \$150,000, but to replace it would cost about \$500,000.

Judge Corn said the County is applying for a grant through the Texas Historical Commission to rebuild the elevator. He said this particular grant is not associated with the county's grant from the Texas Historical Commission, which has been approved, to rewiring the County Courthouse.

Other agenda items brought before the commissioners' court included:

—The Meeting of the Commissioners' Court was called to order at 9:37 a.m. with the following officers present: Roger Corn, Judge Presiding, Harold Hicks, Commissioner Precinct No.

1, Bryan Farmer, Commissioner Precinct No. 2, Tom Windham, Commissioner Precinct No. 3, Cliff Kirkham, Commissioner Precinct No. 4, Jan Windham, County Treasurer, and Donna Bell, County Clerk. Also present were: Sheriff Terry Joy, and Chief Deputy Rick Jowers.

—The minutes of the previous commissioners' court meeting were reviewed and signed.

—Under public comments, there was none.

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

—The Overtime Report & Sheriff's Call Card Report was presented to the commissioners' court by the Treasurer and the Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Windham made a motion to accept the reports and Commissioner Hicks seconded the motion, which was approved with a 5-0 vote.

—After discussion of the Courthouse repairs through the Texas Historical Commission grant to rewire the County Courthouse, no action was taken. Judge Corn said the commissioners' court is still waiting on the architect to complete its work.

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

—Commissioner Hicks made a motion to adjourn the commissioners' court meeting at 9:50 a.m. Commissioner Windham seconded the motion, which carried with an unanimous 5-0 vote.

Texas Guitar Quartet to perform with Abilene Philharmonic on January 30th

The virtuosos of the Texas Guitar Quartet -- Isaac Bustos, Jonathan Dotson, Alejandro Montiel and Joseph Williams II -- play Rodrigo's rousing *Concierto Andaluz* with the Abilene Philharmonic on Saturday, January 30. The program also includes classical favorites Beethoven's *Egmont Overture*, Debussy's *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun*, and Faure's *Suite from Pelleas and Melisande*. The performance begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Abilene Civic Center's auditorium. Concert *Conversations with Music Director David Iltin* takes place backstage at 6:45 p.m. Tickets range from \$18-\$42.

Sponsors for the concert are Kiowa Casino, Pete and Karen Renick, and Frank, Rebecca, and Bobby Johnson.

Texas Guitar Quartet

The four players of the Texas Guitar Quartet are Isaac Bustos, Jonathan Dotson, Alejandro Montiel and Joseph Williams II. As soloists, they have garnered acclaim on concert stages around the world and prizes in dozens of international guitar competitions. Together, they bring their unique passions and talents to an ensemble dedicated to presenting chamber music of the highest quality.

Recent performances were presented by the New York City Classical Guitar Society, Victoria Bach Festival, Austin Classical Guitar Society, Guitar Houston, Texas Music Festival, Troubadour Series at Wofford College, University of Texas at Brownsville Guitar Ensemble Festival and Competition, and Austin Chamber Music. Their critically acclaimed 2012 debut recording, *RED*, was featured on the internationally syndicated radio show *Classical Guitar Alive*.

Isaac Bustos
A top prize-winner in 13 international guitar



competitions. Bustos's extensive performing career has taken him all over the world. Isaac holds both Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from the University of Texas at Austin earned under the tutelage of world-renowned American guitarist Adam Holzman. Dr. Bustos is Director of Guitar Studies at Texas A&M University's Department of Performance Studies and he directs the university's International Guitar Symposium and Competition.

Jonathan Dotson

A passionate ambassador for the classical guitar, Dotson has concertized in venues ranging from nightclubs in Austin, Texas, to gothic cathedrals in Palencia, Spain. Jon holds degrees in guitar performance from Kennesaw State University and the University of Texas at Austin, where he received his doctorate under Adam Holzman. Dotson has claimed top prizes at several international competitions. He is presently teaching at Texas Southmost College in Brownsville.

Alejandro Montiel
Described by *Soundboard Magazine* as a "flawless musician, filled to the brim

with polished technique," guitarist Alejandro Montiel enjoys a performing career that has taken him throughout the United States and Italy. He holds graduate degrees from the Peabody Conservatory and the University of Texas where he studied with Julian Gray and Adam Holzman, respectively. In addition to performing, arranging and recording, Dr. Montiel directs the guitar programs at Sam Houston State University and Lone Star College.

Joseph V. Williams, II

Joseph Williams II has performed throughout North America and Brazil. He has won prizes in 12 international guitar competitions. He is an in-demand composer, having written major new works for the Miró String Quartet, Les Freres Meduse, Cavatina Duo, and many more. A native of New Mexico, he finished his Doctorate of Music Arts at the University of Texas with Adam Holzman. Dr. Williams is the guitar instructor at University of Mary Hardin Baylor.

Rodrigo's *Concierto Andaluz*
Blind from age three, Joaquin Rodrigo was one of the 20th century's most important composers for the guitar. The

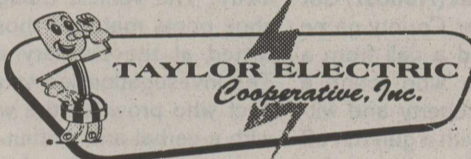
Concierto Andaluz, inspired by the Andalusian Mountains of southern Spain, shows the composer's love of his homeland. The concerto was commissioned by the San Antonio Symphony Orchestra for performance with the esteemed Los Romanos Guitar Quartet. The melodies are deliberately styled as popular folk music from Andalusia though in fact they are original. The popular and dance character is undeniable. The first movement prominently features a flamenco-inspired conclusion. The second movement begins with an elegant, simple melody intermixed with exciting cadenzas featuring impressive technical displays from the guitarists. The finale is constructed of two different dances: the sevillanas (a lighthearted dance in waltz-meter derived from the Sevilla) and the zapateado (a flamenco-like dance that accentuates the dancer's footwork).

Tickets and Pricing

Tickets may be purchased online at www.abilenephilharmonic.org, by calling (325) 677-6710, or visiting the Philharmonic's office located at 401 Cypress Street, Suite 520.

Abilene Philharmonic Season Sponsors

Season sponsors are the Abilene Philharmonic Guild, Abilene Scene, Townsquare Media, Sleep Inn, Abilene Cultural Affairs Council, Abilene Regional Airport, KACU, SignTEX, KWKC, Abilene Reporter News and The Flour Shop. Philharmonic concerts are also made possible in part by grants from the Abilene Cultural Affairs Council, Hearts for the Arts, the Abilene Arts Alliance, the City of Abilene, and the Texas Commission on the Arts.



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Jan. 28, 2016

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.

Texas Big Game Awards 2016-2017 College Scholarship Applications Now Available

San Antonio - Applications are now available for the 16th Annual Texas Big Game Awards (TBGA) Wildlife Conservation College Scholarship Program, sponsored by Carter's Country Outdoor Stores and the Wildlife Heritage Foundation of Texas. Celebrating its 25th Anniversary this year, the Texas Big Game Awards will awarding \$15,000 in college scholarships for the 2016-2017 school year.

All applicants for the TBGA scholarship program must major in an agriculture and/or natural resource-related field

of study. Based on where you live within the TBGA program's regional designations, one (1) \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded in each of the eight TBGA Regions at their respective regional banquets. The overall top scholarship applicant will receive a \$3,000 college scholarship to be awarded at the Texas Wildlife Association's (TWA) 31st annual convention in July.

Any entering college freshman (graduating high school senior), or entering college sophomore, or entering college

junior is eligible to apply for one of the available scholarships.

The scholarship applications will be reviewed and ranked by a scoring committee using set criteria. Applicants do not have to participate in the TBGA to be eligible for the scholarships.

To download the application, please visit www.TexasBigGameAwards.org/scholarships.php and all applications must be postmarked by March 31, 2016.

Preparing for Year Two of "Two Steps, One Sticker" Texans will have one convenient expiration date for vehicle inspection & registration

AUSTIN - As Texas steps into the second year of the "Two Steps, One Sticker" program for vehicle inspection and registration, vehicle owners can look forward to a simpler process for these two important annual vehicle requirements.

Beginning on March 1, 2016, the transition year ends, and vehicles will have one convenient expiration date for inspection and registration. Here is what Texans need to do from that point forward: Take a look at the date on your vehicle registration sticker and then follow the two steps.

Step 1: Pass a vehicle inspection no earlier than 90 days prior to your registration expiration and retain your vehicle inspection report. To find your nearest inspection station, visit the Texas Department of Public Safety's (DPS) website.

Step 2: After your vehicle passes inspection, renew your registration online, by mail or in person at your county tax office, and your inspection status will be verified electronically.

Remember that your vehicle inspection and registration will expire on the last day of whatever month is indicated on your sticker. You will have

plenty of time to complete the two steps. Just be sure to pass inspection and renew your registration no earlier than 90 days before your sticker expires.

For example, if your registration sticker expires in March 2016, you can pass your inspection as early as January 2nd which is 90 days before your sticker expires.

"By now most vehicles in the state have successfully transitioned to a single sticker as proof of both inspection and registration," said TxDMV Executive Director Whitney Brewster. "Streamlining the process for both inspection and registration is consistent with the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles' goal to continue to simplify and automate motor vehicle services for Texas drivers."

2 Benefits of the "Two Steps, One Sticker" program:

- One sticker, one date: With "Two Steps, One Sticker" you have just one sticker with one expiration date.
- Less clutter, better view: With "Two Steps, One Sticker" you have just the familiar blue-bordered registration sticker in the corner of your windshield.
- Safer streets, cleaner air:

Because a passing vehicle inspection is a requirement to renew your registration, more Texans comply with the safety and emissions testing laws.

• Fraud prevention: With inspection stickers no longer needed under "Two Steps, One Sticker," this change eliminates the risk of inspection sticker fraud and theft.

The state of Texas stopped issuing vehicle inspection stickers on March 1, 2015, as a result of House Bill 2305 that passed during the 83rd legislative session (2013). The implementation of the change in law is a joint effort among three state agencies:

- The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV): The TxDMV administers the state's vehicle registration program.
- The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS): DPS administers the state's vehicle safety inspection program.
- The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ): The TCEQ administers the state's vehicle emissions testing program.

For more information, visit www.TwoStepsOneSticker.com.

The Recipe Corner

Aunt Frances' Lemonade

Prep /Total Time: 15 Minutes

- Ingredients:
- * 5 Lemons
 - * 5 Limes
 - * 5 Oranges
 - * 3 quarters water
 - * 1 1/2 to 2 cups sugar

Directions

1. Squeeze the juice from four of the lemons, limes and oranges; pour into a gallon container.
2. Thinly slice the remaining fruit and set aside for garnish. Add water and sugar; mix well. Store in the refrigerator. Serve over ice with fruit slices. Yield: 12-16 servings (1 gallon).

Servings: 12-18



First Baptist Church Screens "Woodlawn"

The First Baptist Church will have an open screening of the hit movie "Woodlawn", Sunday, January 31st at 6 PM. "Woodlawn" is based on the true story of a high school football player who must learn to balance his life when racial tensions collide with his faith both on and off the field.

In a world filled with strife and choices, students face

obstacles and faith choices daily. With a message that pertains to both students and adults alike, please consider attending the screening of this wonderful movie this Sunday at 6PM at the First Baptist Church of Cross Plains. This is a free, family event. Any questions? Contact First Baptist Church at 254-725-7629 or 254-725-9490

To Advertise in this Space call the Cross Plains Review at 254-725-6111

Cross Plains Review

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Jan. 28, 2016

Computer Class to be held Feb. 4th

The Cross Plains Public Library will be holding a computer class to continue to learn about the linux Mint Operating system.

The next class will be held on Thursday, February, 4th at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

Come learn with hands on training. Bring your Laptop and Thumb drive to try out this system before you decide to switch over.

This class is being taught by Hank Ball from Cottonwood.



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Texas Game Warden Field Notes

The following items are compiled from recent Texas Parks and Wildlife Department law enforcement reports.

• **Drunk in Love**—While patrolling near the Trinity River in Walker County, the local game warden stopped a vehicle for failing to maintain a single lane of traffic. When the warden made contact with the driver, he showed signs of impairment. After performing poorly on the standard field sobriety test, the driver was arrested for driving while intoxicated. This was his second offense. Shortly after, the suspect's wife arrived at the scene and stopped behind the warden's patrol vehicle. She also displayed signs of impairment and did poorly on the standard field sobriety tests. She was subsequently arrested for driving while intoxicated, her first offense.

• **A Shot in the Foot**—A Montgomery County game warden received a call regarding a hunter who accidentally shot himself in the foot while loading a deer he had killed. During the investigation, it was found that the hunter did not possess a valid license and had tagged the deer with another hunter's tag. Additionally, the buck was not legal, and the hunter had never taken a hunter education class. The buck was seized and donated; the hunter was issued three citations plus a warning, and restitution was assessed.

• **Captain Confused**—Two Calhoun County game wardens made contact with a commercial oyster vessel while patrolling San Antonio Bay doing commercial oyster enforcement. The vessel's captain said that he did not know he needed an oyster boat captain's license to harvest oysters commercially. He was escorted to the docks and placed under arrest for taking oysters without an oyster boat captain's license, a Class B misdemeanor. The oysters were sold to the highest bidder. Case pending.

• **Don't Mess With Texas...** or Arkansas—A Gregg County game warden responded to a Longview Animal Control call regarding a decaying doe hanging in a resident's tree. When the

warden located the deer, he also discovered an additional untagged doe behind the property and an untagged nine-point buck. Two of the four individuals interviewed claimed they harvested the two deer in Ar-

kansas. One of the subjects confessed to taking a fourth deer in Texas, which was wasted and dumped in Arkansas. When questioned about the discrepancy between their harvest dates versus the date printed on their Arkansas hunting licenses, two of the subjects acknowledged hunting without a license. The warden then contacted Arkansas Game and Fish Commission wildlife officers who advised that they were pursuing more than \$2,500 in charges. They also said that two of the men face one year suspensions, while another would receive a lifetime hunting license suspension in Arkansas. Civil restitution and multiple charges were filed, including no hunting license; hunting during closed season; failure to keep game in edible condition; untagged deer; and no harvest log. Investigation is ongoing and cases pending.

• **For Medicinal Purposes**—A landowner was watching deer on his property when he heard a gunshot nearby. He called the Montgomery County game warden to report someone hunting without landowner consent. He believed that his neighbor had attempted to shoot a deer. When the warden made contact with the neighbor at his home, he immediately noticed a strong odor consistent with marijuana. After a short interview, the man admitted to growing marijuana plants in his home "for medicinal purposes." Four plants of varying sizes were seized, and the subject was arrested for Class A possession of marijuana. The plants were taken to the Montgomery County crime lab. It turned out that the subject had nothing to do with the original call. Cases pending.

• **Wrong State of Mind**—A Bowie County game warden received a call from Arkansas Game and Fish officers in reference to a truck they had stopped that was traveling east on Interstate 30 from Texas. The vehicle contained 10 whitetail deer, a bobcat and a turkey breast that had all been harvested in Central Texas. It is illegal to transport a deer with bones from a chronic wasting disease state into the state of Arkansas. Since the wildlife officers in Arkansas were not entirely familiar with Texas laws, they requested the Bowie County warden to inspect the subject's game for any Texas violations. The warden inspected

the deer at the Arkansas Game and Fish district office and wrote several citations for tagging proof-of-sex violations. The state of Arkansas filed several cases for transporting deer with bone still attached, seized all of the animals and parts for their violations, and tested the deer for chronic wasting disease.

• **A Loon on the Pontoon**—While on boat patrol in the Rio Grande near Chimney Park, the local game warden noticed a pontoon boat traveling east-bound. As he passed the boat, he immediately recognized one of the passengers as someone who had a felony and misdemeanor warrant pending in Cameron County. The warden stopped the pontoon, identifying himself as a state game warden. He then asked the passenger on the pontoon boat to board the patrol boat and advised him of two warrants for his arrest. The man was then transported to Cameron County Jail for warrants that included a felony charge of false financial statements and a misdemeanor charge of tampering with ID numbers.

• **Escaping the Line of Fire**—A Harris County game warden was investigating poaching activity on the north side of the county, when he noticed a dim light and moved toward the source. He then saw a man aiming a rifle at him, quickly announced his presence and positioned himself out of the line of fire. The poacher fled on foot into the woods. Two wardens, a captain and Harris County sheriff deputies responded. While conducting a search of the area, the county K-9 officer located the poacher's rifle and hunting gear hidden in the woods. Investigation is pending.

• **The One That (Almost) Got Away**—A Karnes County game warden received a call from a ranch caretaker who found a truck on the property and witnessed a man with a gun run off into a bush. When the warden made contact with the suspected poacher, he stated that he knew the ranch owners but admitted that he did not have permission to be hunting there. The hunter informed the warden that he was hunting hogs but got scared when he saw the truck and ran. Because the owners did not want to file charges, no citation was issued for hunting without landowner consent. However, since

the hunter did not have a valid Texas hunting license, a citation was issued for hunting without a license. The following day, the warden received a call from the landowner's daughter, informing him that there was a gutted buck on the ranch. The suspected poacher was interviewed again and confessed that he had shot the deer but left it because he was afraid someone would catch him. Cases for hunting whitetail deer without a hunting license and waste of game are pending.

• **Honey, I'm Home—and so is Your Uncle**—Two Nacogdoches County game wardens noticed an individual cleaning a deer in his garage. The deer was not tagged. When questioned, the subject claimed he had taken the tag off and placed it in his wallet to prevent losing it. The subject then said that his wife had taken his wallet to purchase ice. Once the man's wife returned, a brief interview was conducted, and it was determined that she had shot the deer without a hunting license. During the interview, the husband's uncle arrived and told the wardens he had shot a doe earlier. The uncle claimed that his hunting license was at his house with the deer, but it was determined that he did not have a hunting license. The deer meat was donated, and citations were issued for antler restrictions and criminal trespassing. Cases and restitution pending.

• **Shoe's Clues**—A Zavala County landowner called his local game warden to express concern about a burglary that occurred on a neighboring ranch several days earlier. When the warden arrived at the ranch, he found tire tracks and shoe prints leading to a ranch several miles away. The vehicle tracks and shoe prints matched those detected at the burglary scene. The investigation led to a suspect who provided the warden with a verbal and written statement regarding his involvement. The suspect also gave consent to search his residence. There, the warden found various amounts of heroin and cocaine. The individual was turned over to Zavala County Sheriff's Department with first and second degree felony charges pending. In addition, three other burglaries were cleared due to this suspect's arrest. All stolen items were recovered.

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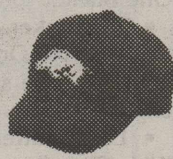
Embroidery

CUSTOM CAPS

NO MINIMUM REQUIRED!
BRING IN YOUR JACKETS-
CAPS-WINDBREAKERS, ETC.

WE CAN PERSONALIZE ANY DESIGN!!

LET US PUT A FULL-WRAP ON YOUR YETI CUPS!!



New Hours— Mon. - Fri.
Open 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Sat. 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

MOORE TEXAS

by Roger Todd Moore

Happy Texas once had as a slogan "The town without a frown"

