Cross Plains Review

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

Volume 108 • Number 43 116 S. E. 1st St. • P. O. Box 519 • Cross Plains, Tx. 76443 PO BOX 41041 LUBBOCK TX 79409-1041

December 29, 2016 •12 Pages (254) 725-6111 • crossplainsreview@earthlink.net

Blood drive in Cross Plains on December 29th

A blood drive will take place in Cross Plains on Thursday, December 29. The Meek Blood Center bloodmobile will be parked at First Baptist Church from 1 p.m. until 6 p.m.

"Blood shortages occur most often during the holidays," said Frances Baker, Meek Blood Center donor recruiter. The hour it takes to donate blood could give someone another Christmas or New Year with family and friends.."

Each donor will receive of a T-shirt, as well as a complimentary total cholesterol test. Those who have eligibility



questions may call 325-670-2880. For the latest news and updates follow us at facebook com/meekbloodcenter.

The Big Read "The Great Gatsby" 1920's ERA Postmark **Design Contest Begins**

In preparation for The Big Read in beginning February 28,

(in black and white only) is Thursday, January 5, 2017. 2017, the Cross Plains Public Entries should be submitted to Library is holding a Pictorial the Cross Plains Library. Any Postmark design contest. It age can enter. The winning must include "The Great Gatsby artist and their postmark will be Station", Cross Plains, TX announced in the Cross Plains 76443 and March 31, 2017. Review. Contact person for this The design area is 2" tall by event is Helen Parson at 254-4" wide. Deadline for entries 725-4422 (309 N Ave D).

Callahan County Historical Commission elects new officers

On December 6, 2016 the Callahan County Historical Commission held their annual Christmas party at the Baird Depot. Delicious refreshments were served to attending members, Felix Manion, Beverly Ross, Cookie and Bob accepted. Robinson, Virginia and Billy Beaird, Dana Voights, Judy Luter, Marlene and Hubert Donaway, Lee Abernathy and Elnora Scott. A great time was

During a short business meeting the minutes were read, the Orphan Train meeting, to be held in March, was discussed, and the resignation of long time commission member and secretary, Beverly Ross, was

New officers were elected for the coming term-Chairman-Judy Luter, Vice-Chairman-Bob Robinson, Secretary-Cookie Robinson, and Reporter-Elnora

Hanner Chevrolet to host blood drive Thursday, January 12th

Hanner Chevrolet will host a blood drive in Baird on Thursday, January 12. The Meek Blood Center bloodmobile will be there from 3 p.m. until 6 p.m.

"We appreciate the support we receive from the communities we serve," said Frances Baker, donor recruiter. "Blood donors play a vital role in the treatment of cancer patients, accident victims, surgical patients, newborn babies and people with blood diseases."

Each donor will receive a long-sleeve T-shirt, as well as a complimentary total cholesterol test. Those who



have eligibility questions may

call 325-670-2880. For the latest news and updates follow us at facebook. com/meekbloodcenter.



The First United Methodist Church, December 27, 2005. Remembering the Cross Plains Fire, eleven years later. Photo and story inside.

No Outdoor Burning Burn Ban Reinstated:

The meeting of the Commissioners' Court was held at its regular meeting place in the Courthouse on Monday, December 26, 2016 A.D., with the following officers present to wit: Roger Corn, County Judge; 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 and ex-Officio of Commissioners' Court. Also attending: Terry Joy, Sheriff;

Chris Levens, Sheriff's Deputy; Sam Goldsmith, Goldsmith Solutions Inc.; Lewis Bergman, Texas Communications: Art Reed; and Tammy Walker, Tax Assessor.

The following items of The meeting was called to order at 9:30 A.M. by Judge Corn. All commissioners were present.

-The minutes from the previous meetings were reviewed and signed.

-Under public comment Art Reed voiced some concerns he had. Mr. Reed was not happy with his county road and Commissioner Hick's response to Mr. Reed's phone call about the road. Mr. Reed had concerns with having no County regulations on the placement of private airports. And lastly he was upset about the newspapers used to advertise the property sold in tax sales. Mr. Reed feels the

Continued on page 2



CPHS Lady Buffs and Buffaloes Basketball is in full swing with district play resuming on Tuesday, December 3rd, at 4 p.m., when the teams and the Junior Varsity teams all play Baird here. Junior High plays Baird here two days later on Thursday, January 5th. Basketball photos and schedule inside. Above, Grace Goode (No. 23), Katie Jo Morgan (No. 22) and Macee Steigleder (No. 20) in December 20th's game against Merkel.



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Gregg Steinle, Youth Pastor
Church (254) 725-6266

Pioneer Baptist Church Pastor: Music Director:

Bible Teaching

Living Water Ministries Fellowship

Restoring And Equipping The Saints

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

Pastor Max Evans

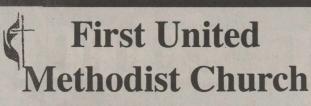
For Information Call (254) 725-7418

Rowden Baptist Church

Pastor: Wayne Lenz Music: Karen Lenz & Diane Woods

Bible Study...10:00 am Sunday Morning Worship...11:00 am

2990 Highway 36 at Rowden 12 Miles West of Cross Plains



Kevin Morton, Pastor

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

1000 North Main Street www.crossplainsfumc.org

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.

John Ward, Interim Pastor

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

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: 6:00P.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

OBITUARY



Verna B.Fuller Price

Verna B.Fuller Price

Verna B Fuller Price, age 90, made a grand entrance into Heaven on Christmas Day, December 25, 2016, into the arms of her Lord and Savior, and her waiting husband, Wright. She was born to Sim Fuller and Dora B (Frazier) Fuller on January 30, 1926, in Cameron, Texas. She grew up in North Elm, attending school there through 8th grade, then graduating from Yoe High in Cameron.

Verna married the love of her life, Wright Mose Price, Jr., on March 28, 1945. They were married 67 years, until his death in 2013. Verna was first and foremost a devout Christian, and showed the love and compassion of God to everyone she met. She instilled that love into her 5 children, 8 grandchildren, and thirteen great-grandchildren. Her husband, Wright, was a Baptist minister, and Verna supported that ministry as a quiet helpmate. Together, they touched so many lives, and the legacy lives on.

She sold Avon for over 40 years, making life-long friends along the way. Not only was her Avon business a way of helping her family financially, it was a pathway for her to help others. She was always looking out for someone in need. Although

she did not have many material possessions, she shared herself, as a friend. One of her greatest gifts was that of an encourager and mentor, a positive influence for those who needed a help up.

Verna traveled extensively with her husband, children, and grandchildren. She will be lovingly remembered by her grandchildren through her famous "quotes" and "sayings" which she documented in a notebook.

She is survived by daughter, Dianne Mobley and husband Jerry of Dallas; daughter, Dora Warlick and husband James of Cross Plains; daughter, Nora Odom of Cross Plains; son, Nathan Price and wife Troy of Brownwood; son, David Price of Dallas; daughter-in-law Lucinda Price of Brownwood and sister, Ailene Pickett of Dallas. She is also survived by eight loving grandchildren: Kyle King, Terrill Smith, Roger Rudloff, Brandon Smith, Rodney Rudloff, Tim Price, Amy Price, and Aaron Price;

thirteen great-grandchildren; and a host of extended family and friends. She was preceded in death by her husband and parents; sisters Nita Worley, Vida Carnathan, Billie Moore, and Barbara Bolling; and brother, Simmie Fuller.

Services will be held at the Heartland Funeral Home in Early, Texas, with visitation and a celebration of her life at 6-8 p.m. on Tuesday, December 27. Funeral services was held Wednesday, December 28; at 1:00 p.m., followed by interment in Eastlawn Memorial Park.

Online Condolences may be left for the family at www. heartlandfuneralhome.net



303 Early Boulevard Early, Texas 76802 www. heartlandfuneralhome.

net

Local author Ed Walt of Pioneer has announced the release of "Holloway's Raiders"

SOUTHWEST COLLECTION TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Local author Ed Walt of Pioneer has announced the release of "Holloway's Raiders," a new book which examines the Dallas Police Department's deadly and controversial "Shotgun Squads" of the 1960s and 70s.

The stake-out units were created and led by the legendary Lieutenant H. C. Holloway to curtail a rash of violent and deadly armed robberies that were plaguing the city. The lieutenant had personal reasons to hate the criminals he referred to as "hi-jackers," having been shot in the leg by one a few years earlier in a wild gun battle that also resulted in the murder of one police officer and the wounding of two more.

In an age when such activities and attitudes were not only condoned but celebrated, he hid shotgun armed officers in liquor, grocery and convenience stores and ordered them to shoot armed robbers on sight and without warning. "The sound of a shotgun coming

off safety," he said, "should be warning enough."

The units existed for more than twenty years and were responsible for shooting, killing and arresting scores of vicious felons while losing two of their own, killed in the line of duty. The book details the exciting events of the many armed encounters that occurred and examines the gradual change in public sentiments that eventually led to the end of the shotgun squads.

The author is a 33 year veteran of the Dallas Police Department and a former commander of the Tactical Division of the DPD's Special Operations Bureau-the same unit that was once known as "Holloway's Raiders."

Copies of the book may_be purchased at the Cross Plains Public Library or ordered online at buybooksontheweb.com, Amazon, Kindle, etc. Proceeds from the sale of the book will be donated to the library and to fund the Cross Plains Masonic Lodge Scholarship program.

Comm. reinstated Co. Burn Ban

Continued from front page

notices should be published in the newspapers that the residents in the area of the property being sold might read. No discussion or actions were taken on these matters.

—Commissioner Hicks made a motion to reinstate the burn ban. Commissioner Kirkham seconded and the motion carried 4-0. The burn ban is in effect immediately.

—Commissioner Farmer made a motion to appoint Tom Windham as Judge Pro Tem for the year 2017. Commissioner Hicks seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0.

—Commissioner Kirkham made a motion to sign the Memorandumof Understanding (MOU) between Abilene Regional Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse & Callahan County. Commissioner Farmer seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0.

—After some discussion Commissioner Windham made a motion to accept the overtime report given by the Treasurer. Commissioner Hicks seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0.

—The Commissioners' Court and Tax Assessor Tammy Walker discussed her bonds and the coverage they provide. After this discussion Commissioner Windham made a motion to accept all employee bonds as they are written for now. Commissioner Kirkham seconded the motion. The

are included.

—The Policy for the Body
Worn Camera Grant had to
be revised to include training
on the cameras and a new
Resolution signed by the

Cross Plains Review

Dec. 29, 2016

motion carried 4-0. Exhibits

Court. This training will be conducted by Chris Levens. The Sheriff Deputies must receive this training to be issued the cameras and before the Department can receive the grant money. Commissioner Windham made a motion to approve the resolution and Commissioner Hicks seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

-Lewis Bergman with Texas Communications and Sam Goldsmith, Goldsmith Solutions, Inc. updated the Court on the work done on the Sheriff Department dispatch radio system. Texas Communications has worked on and improved the audio issues of Channels 1 and 2. It was discussed by all the age of the computer for the system. The situation of the backup generator and cleanup around the tower was also brought up. Commissioner Kirkham made a motion to release the budgeted money for the purchase of a new computer for the dispatch system and to use the older one as a backup. Commissioner Hicks seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

The motion carried 4-0.

—KevinScott, KBLRestoration was not available for the report on the windows and electrical updates. Judge Corn reported all windows should be in by end of the month. No action was taken.

—No action was taken on the Courthouse HVAC & Boiler agenda item.

—No new change orders were presented. No action taken.

—No action was taken on the appointment of a County representative to EMS Board.

—The agenda item concerning the railroad crossing at Copper Creek Road was tabled until Commissioners could talk to a TXDOT representative. This was done by a motion made by Commissioner Farmer. Commissioner Kirkham seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

—Commissioner Kirkham made a motion to keep the Term of Commissioners' Court to meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month for the year 2017. Commissioner Hicks seconded. The motion carried 4-0.

—The agenda item for an interlocal agreement with the City of Baird for email services is tabled to get current contract information. The motion made to table this item was made by Commissioner Farmer and seconded by Commissioner Kirkham. The motion carried 4-0.

—Commissioner Hicks made a motion to pay the approved bills. Commissioner Windhamseconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

-Sam Goldsmith requested a meeting of Commissioners' Court to discuss all of the problems and needs concerning the Courthouse structure. Also discuss getting paperwork together or in order to apply for Texas Historical Commission grants. The regular meeting for January 9th will start at regular time, take care of all other agenda items and then recess until 1:30 to continue with this discussion and to make a decision on how to go forward with these issues.

—Commissioner Windham made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Hicks seconded the motion, which then carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:57 A.M.

Martin Luther King banquet tickets now available

Award-winning veteran journalist Hazel Trice Edney is president & CEO of Trice Edney Communications and editor-in-chief of the 6-year-old Trice Edney News Wire, which recently became the only Blackowned and woman-owned news wire fully credentialed by the U. S. House and Senate Periodicals Press Gallery.

Edney has a Master's Degree

from the Harvard University

John F. Kennedy School of Government, where she was awarded the William S. Wasserman Jr. Fellowship on the Press, Politics and Public Policy. She is also a graduate of Harvard's Women and Power Executive Leadership program. Selected as graduate student orator for the Harvard University Commencement 1999, she is a visionary commentator on race and social justice issues. Her professional media appearances have included the Tavis Smiley Show; CNN; C-Span, Bishop T.D. Jakes' Potter's Touch; The Al Sharpton Show; NewsOne Now with Roland Martin; the Washington Journal and Igniting Change with Barbara Arnwine.

The MLK Banquet will be held



HAZEL TRICE EDNEY
...speaking at Abilene MLK
Banquet

Monday January 17th, at the Abilene Civic Center. The doors will open at 6:00 pm and the program will start at 6:30pm.

Tickets are priced as follows Gold Tables seating 10 are \$350.00, Opening seating is \$30.00 a ticket or an open seating table can be purchased for \$300.00. You may call 325-672-7950 or 325-338-7372. This years event is expected to be a sell out.

Triple Cross Cowboy Church Every Sunday at 10:30 am

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)

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Callahan County's jobless rate falls to 3.8% in October

Callahan County dropped twotenths of one percent to 3.8% in November 2016, according to jobless figures released Friday, December 16th by the Texas Workforce Commission. The unemployment rate in Callahan County one year ago in November 2015 was 4.4 percent.

Callahan County's unemployment rate was 4.0% in October,

Previous monthly jobless rates in Callahan County included: 4.6% in July 2016, 4.7% in June, 3.9% in May, 3.9% in April, 4.3% in March, 4.2% in February, 4.2% in January 2016, 4.4% in December 2015, according to the unemployment figures.

Big Country area counties, bordering Callahan County, and the counties' unemployment rates for November 2016 include: Brown, 3.9%; Coleman, 5.4%; Eastland, 4.8%; Jones, 5.5%; Runnels, 3.9%; Shackelford, 3.6%; Stephens, 4.9%; and Taylor County, 3.4%.

The Abilene MSA (Metropolitan Statistical Area) unemployment rate, which includes Taylor, Callahan and Jones Counties, stood at 3.6% in November, 2016, according to the Texas Workforce Commission. The Abilene MSA Combined Labor Force is 76,200. There were 73,500 employed during November 2016, while 2,700 were unemployed, giving the Abilene MSA an unemployment rate of 3.6%.

The Abilene MSA reported the workforce was 76,000 in October, 2016. Total employment of 73,100 was reported in October 2016, while 2,900, or 3.8% were unemployed in October 2016.

The Abilene MSA unemployment rate for November, 2015 was 3.8%. The total workforce was reported at 75,000, with 72,200 employed and 2,800 or 3.8% unemployed in November,

The state's unemployment rate for the month of November, 2016 was 4.2 percent. The total Texas labor force was 13,391,200 in November 2016. The total number of Texans employed is 12,824,300. The total number years, the number of unemof unemployed Texans was ployed people decreased by an 566,900 in November 2016.

ployment rate was 4.4 percent of last year, the number of unin October 2016. The state's employed people has decreased unemployment rate in November

Baird

Member

ssb

Callahan County Unemployment

of 2015 was 4.4 percent.

Oct. 4.0%

The United States unemployment rate for November, 2016 was 4.4 percent. The nation's unemployment rate for the previous month of October, 2016 was 4.7%. The United States unemployment rate one year ago

Highlights of the Texas Labor Force (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

in November, 2015 was 4.8%.

The Texas unemployment rate decreased by two-tenths of a percentage point in November to 4.2 percent. This was two-tenths of a percentage point lower than last year's November unemployment rate. Over the previous five years, the unemployment rate decreased by an average of two-tenths of a percentage point from October to November. The national unemployment rate decreased by three-tenths of a percentage point to 4.4 percent.

The Texas Civilian Labor Force increased in November by 56,600 to a total of 13,391,200 people. The past three months have shown a total increase in the labor force of 12,800 people. Over the year, the Texas labor force has increased by 243,800

The number of employed Texans increased by 74,300 over the month to a total of 12,824,300 people. Over the previous five years, the number of employed Texans increased by an average of 32,700 people in the month of November. The number of jobholders has increased by 260,200 over the year.

The number of unemployed Texans decreased in November by 17,700 to a total of 566,900 people. Over the previous five average of 22,700 in the month Last month's statewide unem- of November. Since November by 16,400 individuals.

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Bank * lexas

Clyde

Between October and November, the unemployment rate decreased in 21 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) in Texas. The Odessa MSA experienced the largest over the month rate decrease, with the unemployment rate dropping by fourtenths of a percentage point. The Amarillo, Austin-Round Rock, and Lubbock MSAs tied for the lowest November unemployment rate at 3.0 percent.

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE STATE

GM Finance to Add Jobs

ARLINGTON, TX (Dallas Business Journal)—A \$35 million expansion at GM Financial's south Arlington campus will accommodate 1,300 employees being added to handle rapid growth in loan originations the lender has experienced since Plastics Plant, about 30 miles becoming the automaker's inhouse finance company two years ago. The 250,000-square- company's U.S. polyethylene feet of new office space at the production, and make Texas now 800,000-square-foot facility will allow GM Financial to grow its employment base to over ability of vast new supplies of 4,000 workers, according to Dan Berce, GM Financial's president

Financial before being acquired by General Motors in 2010, polyethylene," Cindy Shulman, now has about 3,400 workers, including hundreds added in the new facility, which has been said. opening in phases, Berce said. GM Financial also has 700 employees at its headquarters in downtown Fort Worth and plans KWES Channel 9)—Gestamp to add several hundred more in Renewable Industries (GRI) has 2017 in Arlington and at a new customer service center under construction in San Antonio.

Employees

DALLAS, TX (Dallas Business Journal)-With a new CEO in than expected," said GRI plant place and plans for massive manager, John Mulhall. He growth, Irving-based national adds, "Were going to be around mortgage firm Caliber Home 300 employees, possibly later Loans Inc. plans to consolidate in 2017 close to 400.'

Abilene

its North Texas regional operations within the "mortgage mecca," of the United State. Caliber Home Loans has signed a 10-year lease for a three-story, 182,700-square-foot office building in Coppell. It will give the mortgage firm enough room to add 300 new employees in the next year. By the end of 2017, Caliber Home Loans plans to have an employee base totaling about 1,700 workers.

Exxon Mobile Announce **Beaumont Expansion**

BEAUMONT, TX (Houston Business Journal)—Exxon Mobil Corp. announced that construction has begun on a new production unit at its polyethylene plant in Beaumont, about 80 miles east of Houston. The cost of the project was not disclosed, but Exxon said it is part of a multibillion-dollar investment along the Gulf Coast. Expanding the Beaumont polyethylene plant will create 1,400 construction jobs and 40 permanent jobs. The new unit is expected to start up in 2019 and expand capacity by about 650,000 tons per year.

Exxon is also expanding two similar units at its Mont Belvieu east of Houston. Combined, the two projects will expand the the largest polyethylene supply point for Exxon. "The avail-U.S. shale gas and associated liquids for feedstock and energy is a significant advantage that GM Financial, which was Allied enables expansion to meet strong global demand growth in vice president of Exxon Mobil's plastics and resins business,

GRI Looking for More Em-

AMARILLO, TX (Midland been in Amarillo and needs more employees, especially welders. The Spanish compa-Company to Hire 300 New ny's first American wind tower manufacturing plant is growing. "We've been running better

Cross Plains

Community

Calendar

~~ December ~~

Dec 31 - New Year's Eve ~~ January ~~

Jan 1 - Happy New Year!

Jan 3 - School starts back

after the holidays; Library open

after the holidays



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BEGINNING JANUARY 2017 SALE DATE WILL CHANGE TO THURSDAYS @ 11 AM First Sale Jan. 5th, 2017

MERRY CHRISTMAS & **HAPPY NEW YEARS!** NO SALES Dec. 23rd, or Dec. 30th.

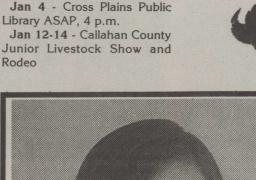
We Look Forward to seeing you on our new Sale day Thursday, Jan. 5th, 2017.

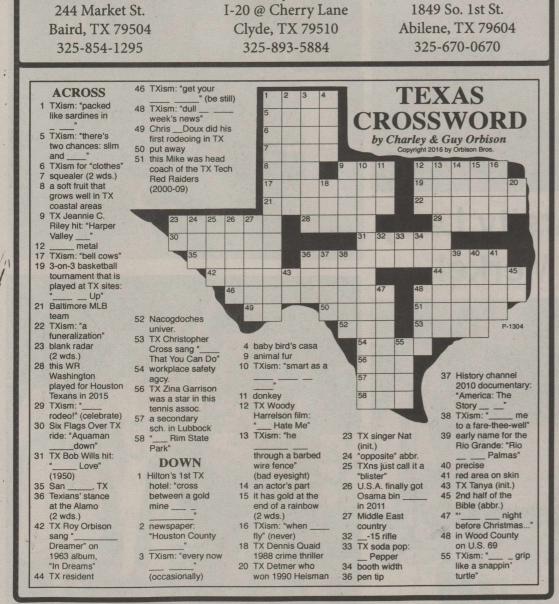


Cross Plains Rebiew

Dec. 29, 2016

Wallpaper, etc.)





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Buffaloes vs. Merkel



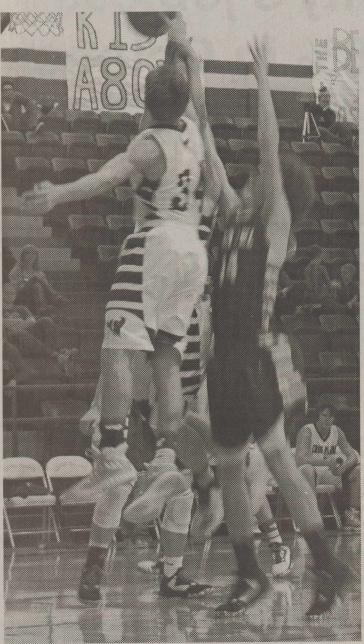


Lady Buffs vs. Junior Varsity Merkel





Public Fax (254) 725-7225



Buffaloes vs. Merkel





Junior Varsity Lady Buffs vs. Merkel



Dec. 29, 2016



Junior High and High School Basketball Schedule

December 30, Friday - Varsity Girls and Junior Varsity Girls play Gorman there, starting at

December 30, Friday - Varsity Boys and Junior Varsity Boys play Evant there.

January 3, Tuesday - Varsity and Junior Varsity teams (Girls and Boys) play Baird here starting at 5:00 p.m. District Games.

January 5, Thursday - Junior High Girls and Boys A and B Teams play Baird here starting at 5:00 p.m.

January 6, Friday - Varsity Girls and Varsity and Junior Varsity Boys play at Panther Creek starting at 5:00 p.m. District Games.

January 9, Monday - Junior High Girls and Boys A Teams play at Santa Anna starting at 6:00 p.m.

January 10, Tuesday - Varsity and Junior Varsity teams (Boys and Girls) play May here starting at 4:00 p.m. District

January 13, Friday - Junior Varsity Girls play Brownwood 9th Grade at Brownwood, starting at 4 p.m.

January 13, Friday - Varsity Girls and Boys and Junior Varsity Boys play Santa Anna there, starting at 5 p.m. District

January 16, Monday - Junior High Boys and Girls A and B Teams play May here, starting at 5 p.m.

January 17, Tuesday - Varsity Boys and Junior Varsity Boys play Anson there, starting at

January 20, Friday - Junior Varsity Girls play Eula there,



starting at 4 p.m. District Game. January 20, Friday - Varsity Girls and Boys play Rising Star there, starting at 5 p.m. District

January 20, Friday - Junior Varsity Boys play in the Zephyr Tournament.

January 21, Saturday - Junior High Girls B Team plays in the Cross Plains Junior High Girls B Tournament.

January 23, Monday - Junior High Boys and Girls A and B Teams play Eula here, starting

at 5 p.m. January 24, Tuesday - Varsity and Junior Varsity teams (Boys and Girls) play Eula here starting at 4:00 p.m. District

January 26-28, Thursday-Saturday - Junior High Girls Boys play in the Zephyr Tournament.

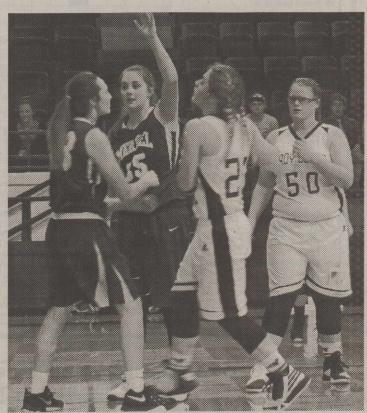
January 27, Friday - Varsity Junior Varsity teams (Boys and Girls) play Baird there starting

at 4:00 p.m. District Games. January 30, Monday - Junior High Boys A and B Teams and Junior High Girls A team play

Eula here starting at 6:00 p.m. January 31, Tuesday - Varsity Girls and Varsity and Junior Varsity Boys play Panther Creek here starting at 5:00 p.m. District Games.

Schedule subject to change.







remains of the McClure residence



The massive cleanup after the fire.



may occur 30 to 60 years after exposure to asbestos. Many workers were exposed from the 1940s through the 1970s. Industrial and construction workers, along with their families (second hand exposure) are among those at risk for mesothelioma, lung cancer or gastro cancer (throat, stomach, colon). Call us for professional insight.

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1 Gallon Unsweet

Tea

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play

Ryan A. Krebs, M.D., J.D. Richard A. Dodd, L.C. Timothy R. Cappolino, P.C.

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• Tuesday-Senior Plate, 1/4

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• Wednesday-Pulled Pork

• Thursday - Loaded Baked

Potatoes, choice of meat, w/

• Friday- Loaded Buritto

choice of meat \$6.00 + tax

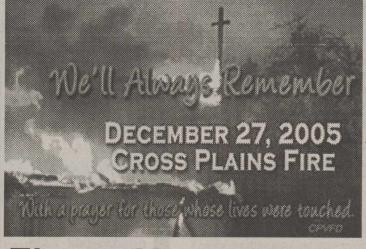
cobbler \$6.00 + tax

Sandwich \$2.00 + tax

all the fixins \$6.00 + tax

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Eleven Years Ago: Cross Plains Fire Storm Remembered

December 27, 2005 -- A day that will ever define Cross Plains' history into two parts "before the fire" and "since the

It was a windy morning. The wind was blowing about 30 miles an hour with gusts coming in a lot stronger.

About 12:45 a fire call came in of a grass fire on Highway 36. In just a short time that grass fire became a wildfire and a raging inferno that ripped through Cross Plains.

The fire was everywhere - west side of town, near the school, north side of town, out 36 east, and in other parts of town - as the strong winds spread the fire

Fire departments came from surrounding communities to render aid and try to help contain the fire. 29 departments were in Cross Plains that day: Cottonwood, Rising Star, Sipe Springs, Coleman, Brady, Lawn, Oplin, DeLeon, Stamford, Putnam, Burkett, Gorman, Dublin, Comanche, Santa Anna, May, Potosi, Anson, Merkel, Dyess AFT, Abilene Airport, Stephenville, Brownwood, Lake Brownwood,

30 hours later, by 6 p.m.on the 28th the fire was reported contained. After the loss of 116 homes, the First United Methodist Church, one business

Early and Abilene.

and two of our residents. Ms. Mattie Faye Wilson and Ms. Maudie Shepard both perished in the fire.

The First Baptist Church Family Life Center became the disaster headquarters. The local churches prepared food and fed the volunteers and works and prisoners who had come to help with the cleanup.

The First United Methodist Church, whose building was destroyed in the fire, held services on Sunday morning in the parking lot.

People came from all over to help. Donations poured in from across the country. School children in other towns took up collections for Cross Plains. Mattresses and clothing and food came by the truckloads.

People came together, people helped each other; neighbors cared for neighbors. Cross Plains rebuilt. Our caring community became even stronger.

A year later, close to the anniversary of the fire, Cross Plains had made an amazing comeback. While some citizens left and some moved a few miles out to the country, many rebuilt.

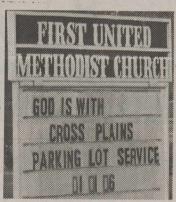
Texas Forest Service noted on the first anniversary that, "As the initial shock of the devastation set in just days after the fire, some people had predicted the town could never rebuild. But that never crossed the minds of the city officials and volunteers who fumed at the thought and vowed even more vehemently to rebuild."



116 home were lost in the fire. Residents stuggled to find mementoes among the ashes.



Covering the horizon, the fire storm burns wildly.



The First United Methodist Church held services in the parking lot the Sunday after



Cross Plains Review Dec. 29, 2016

Scrapbook Program for After School Adventure on

Wednesday, January 4th

The After School Adventure be on scrap booking and will Program will meet at the Wednesday, January 4, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. Our program will

be presented by Linda Burns Cross Plains Public Library on and Sue Bennett. Come join us in learning how to scrap book. Hope to see you there.





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Senior Citizens Center Activities

Jan. 2nd -Jan. 6th

Monday-2nd Exercise 11:00/Sing and Play Along

Tuesday 3rd Exercise 11:00/Game Night 6:00 pm Wednesday4th Exercise 11:00

Thursday-5th Exercise 11:00/Manicures by Kindred at home of Eastland

Friday-6th Exercise 11:00/Bingo 11:15 Cross Plains Senior Citizens Center seeks to nurture our aging population through nutritional, social and educational programs our goal is for all seniors, both well and frail, to utilize our services to enrich their lives.

SENIOR CITIZENS MENU

Jan. 2nd - Jan. 6th

English Peas/Carrots

Tuesday3rd- Vegetable Friday 6th-Chicken Sand-Beef Soup, Cornbread Des-

Wednesday 4th-BBQ Chicken, Potatoes, Ranch

Refried Beans, Crackers

Fruit Cookie

Monday 2nd-Hamburger Thursday 5th - Enchiladas Steak, Potatoes with Gravy Lettuce & Tomato Salad, Bread, Dessert Dessert

wich, Pea Salad, Chips,-

MEAL IS SERVED -11:45 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. Style Beans, Bread Dessert

Monthly Menu may be picked up at the Senior Citizen Center

Lewy Body Dementia?

Parkinson's Disease Dementia?

Suffer From Visual Hallucinations? Been hearing or seeing things that are not actually present?

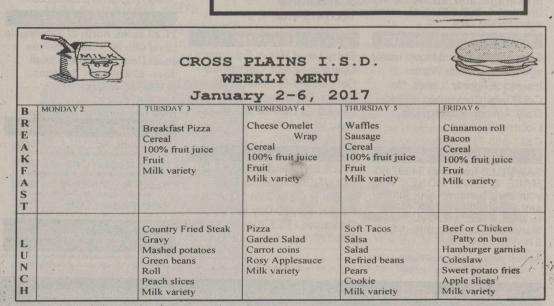
You may qualify for a research study that is evaluating the safety and effectiveness of a new investigational medication that may help to reduce the symptoms of Lewy Body Dementia or Parkinson's Disease Dementia if:

- You are aged 50 85 years with a diagnosis of Dementia with Lewy Bodies
- You suffer from visual hallucinations that
- occur on more days than not
- · Medications you take have been on a consistent dose for at least 4 weeks

For More Information, Please Contact Sleep Therapy and Research Center, Dr. James Andry or Sue Rafati at (210) 614-6000



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PUBLIC NOTICE

THE CITY OF CROSS PLAINS

TEXAS COMMUNITY **DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM**

CROSS PLAINS is giving notice of the city's intent to submit Texas Community Development Block Grant Program grant applications for a 2017/2018 Community Development Fund grant request of \$275,000 for the installation of water improvements for the City of Cross Plains. The application will be available for review on or after February 1, 2017, at the City Hall (201 S. Main), Cross Plains, TX 76443 during regular business hours. Para obtener una copia en espanol, comuníquese con la Secretaría de la ciudad al (254) 725-6397.

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Cross Plains Review

Dec. 29, 2016

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County, Texas; (2) 56 acres,

more or less, within Survey

No. 8., Abstract No. 966,

Bayland Orphan Home Survey,

Callahan County, Texas; and

(3) 118 acres, more or less,

within Survey No. 3, Abstract

Home Survey, Callahan

If this citation is not served

within ninety (90) days after the

date of its issuance, it shall be

ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER

MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF

THIS COURT on this the 16th

day of December, 2016, at

Baird, Callahan County, Texas.

By: (s) Susan Sain, Deputy

AMBER TINSLEY

Clerk

Suite 300

County, Texas;

returned unserved.

Rick G. Strange

Stephanie D. Lee

P. O. Box 2776

Midland, TX 79702

Attorneys for Plaintiff

Dawson,

Cotton, Bledsoe, Tighe &

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TO: J.I. DAVIS A/K/A JOHN I. DAVIS and THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF J.I. DAVIS A/K/A JOHN I. DAVIS, DECEASED.

TO: All persons claiming any title or interest through J.I. Davis a/k/a John I. Davis in land known as an undivided 1/6 interest in the minerals and an undivided 1/6 interest in the surface estate of 255 acres, more or less, which consists of: (1) 81 acres, more or less, within Survey No. 4, Abstract No. 958, Bayland Orphan Home Survey, Callahan County, Texas; (2) 56 acres, more or less, within Survey No. 8., Abstract No. 966, Bayland Orphan Home Survey, Callahan County, Texas; and (3) 118 acres, more or less, within Survey No. 3, Abstract No. 957, Bayland Orphan Home Survey, Callahan County, Texas;

Defendants in the cause described in this citation.

NOTICE: You have been sued. You may employ an attorney.

You, and each of you, or your attorney, are commanded to appear and to answer before the 42nd Judicial District Country, Callahan County Courthouse in Baird, Callahan County, Texas at or before 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of forty-two (42) days from the date of issuance of this citation, being at or before 10:00 a.m. on Monday, the 1st day of February, 2017, then and there to answer the Original Petition of MERKAZ HOLDINGS, LTD. and SMRB HOLDINGS, LLC, Plaintiffs, in Cause No. 20892, styled Merkaz Holdings, Ltd. and SMRB Holdings, LLC v. J.I. Davis A/K/A John I. Davis and the Unknown Heirs of J.I. Davis A/K/A John I. Davis.

In case of failure of you or your attorney to file an answer, judgment by default may be rendered for the relief demanded in the petition. The petition, filed on the 8th day of December, 2016, discloses that the nature of the suit is as

Suit to quiet title through of land known as an undivided 1/6 intere3st in the minerals and an undivided 1/6 interest in the surface estate of 255 acres, more or less, which consists of: (1) 81 acres, more or less, within Survey No. 4, Abstract No. 958, Bayland Orphan Home Survey, Callahan

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COURTHOUSE NEWS

Callahan County Court Roger Corn, presiding

Misdemeanor Filings

Paula Phelix, driving while No. 957, Bayland Orphan intoxicated.

Tara Placker, hindering apprehension. Courtney Phariss, failure to

identify. Misty Moore, assault. Christopher Bottoms, possession of controlled

substance. Cindy Burks, false alarm or

Preston Humphrey, false alarm or report. Bree Stephens, burglary of

vehicle. Jay L. Tully, unlawful

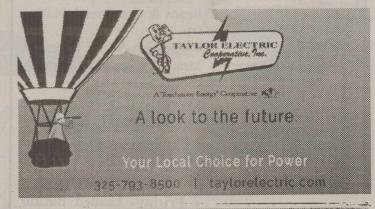
Callahan County District carrying of weapon. Timothy Brown, possession 100 West Fourth Street, of marijuana, less than 2 oz. Michael David Whitlock, Baird, Texas 79504

than 2 oz. **Misdemeanor Minutes** Danyell V. Black, motion

to dismiss to theft by check

granted due to forgery. Marriage Licenses

Jimmy Dayle Culwell of Cross Plains and Marissa I. Moore of Spring Branch.





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The Texas History Minute Sponsored by: HANNER CHEVROLET

The controversy surrounding Brushy Bill Roberts a/k/a Billy the Kid

· Estate auction

management.

clear-cut end to a violent career. that conformed to known scars proof as many people have In 1881, Billy the Kid, by then and injuries of the famous similar features. Modern DNA convicted for murder in the chaos outlaw. In 1950, Morrison contests could solve the question of surrounding the Lincoln County vinced Roberts to approach New identity, but even the supposed War, was killed in a night-time Mexico Gov. Thomas Mabry to resting places of Billy the Kid and shootout by Sheriff Pat Garrett, a collect the pardon that Territorial his mother are both in dispute. one-time Texas Ranger. A cor- Gov. Lew Wallace had suppos- As a result, no definitive sources oner's jury confirmed the body edly promised Billy the Kid in of DNA exist. was that of 21-year-old Billy the Kid, also known as William H. Bonney or Henry McCarty, and the body was buried. However, decades later, a Texas man stepped forward and claimed to be Billy the Kid.

In 1948, William Morrison happened across a man claiming to be outlaw Jesse Evans who further claimed that Billy the Kid was still alive and living in Hamilton County. This man, Ollie P. "Brushy Bill" Roberts, claimed to be Billy the Kid. Roberts claimed that Garrett had killed another outlaw. Billy Barlow, while he escaped. Afterward, he alleged that he took a series of ranching jobs and traveled under the Ollie P. Roberts alias.

Most stories claimed Billy the Kid was born in New York City in 1859 as Henry McCarty. His father died while he was young, and his mother, Catherine Antrim, moved west, later remarrying. By 1873, they had made their way to the New Mexico Territory, where his mother died of tuberculosis in 1874. Afterward, he descended into a series of petty thefts. In 1877, he shot and killed a man after getting into a fight over a card game. After taking the alias of William H. Bonney, he eventually found work as a ranch hand for John Tunstall in Lincoln County. Tunstall's disputes with other cattle barons in the county escalated into a series of shooting deaths from which Billy the Kid became famous.

Roberts claimed to have been born William Henry Roberts in Buffalo Gap, near Abilene, in 1859. He claimed that Catherine Antrim was not his mother but his aunt. After 1881, he began going by the name Ollie L. Roberts, supposedly a deceased cousin, to protect his identity. Some family members, however, disputed his claims.

Allegedly, Morrison was able to secure signed affidavits from several men who knew Billy the Kid and confirmed that Roberts was Billy the Kid. Roberts also

For years, it was considered a seemed to have several scars appearance is not conclusive 1879. According to witnesses Roberts was overwhelmed and confused by the crush of people in the governor's office and the rapid-fire questions which he had difficulty answering. Afterward, Mabry dismissed his claims.

By the time Roberts met with Mabry, his health was declining rapidly. Roberts died of a heart attack at his home in Hico in December 1950, just a month after his meeting with the governor.

In 1990, the story was brought back into the popular imagination with the movie Young Guns II, with Emilio Estevez as Billy the Kid and an aged Brushy Bill Roberts telling of how he escaped. The story was further fueled by a 1990 digital analysis of a picture of Roberts in 1950 and the famous picture of Billy the Kid that showed a 93% match. However, similarity of

Many historians and investigators dismiss the Roberts claim and are satisfied with the original story that Billy the Kid died at the hands of Pat Garrett in 1881. If Brushy Bill Roberts was indeed Billy the Kid, he may have covered his tracks so well that no one believed him even if he told the truth. Regardless, the story has only added to the mystique of the Billy the Kid legend and the glamour of the Old West. The debate may well continue for years. In spite of the controversy, a Billy the Kid museum opened in Hico some years after the death of Roberts and is still a popular attraction.

Dr. Ken Bridges is a Texas native, writer, and history professor. He can be reached at drkenbridges@gmail.com.



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CROSS PLAINS REVIEW

RISING STAR NURSING CENTER

SUSAN J. SCHAEFER, CPA

Cross Plains Review

Dec. 29, 2016

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Hollywood Legend Texas Bob Is Coming to Dinner

we are excited to announce he had done for James Dean that Bob Hinkle, author of "Call Me Lucky - A Texan in Hollywood" will be our speaker at a fundraising dinner at First United Methodist Church on January 21st, so mark your calendars!

"From the rodeo to the studio, Bob Hinkle's career has spanned the latter half of the 20th century. Whether acting, directing or producing. Texas Bob has touched the lives of many of the entertainment industry's marquis names. His own accomplishments can be attributed to a passion for living, a talent for entertaining, and flair for the dramatic."

Hinkle had many roles in movies and TV, including "Hud," "Wagon Train," "Wells Fargo," "Gunsmoke," "Bonanza," and "Walker Texas Ranger," just to name a few.

Then, in 1955, the classic movie "Giant" marked a turning point for Hinkle. His down-home drawl made him the perfect candidate to coach Rock Hudson, Carroll Baker, Dennis Hopper, Mercedes McCambridge and James Dean to "talk Texan." (Dean later presented his friend Hinkle with an Oscar for his contribution to the film's towering success.) Hinkle then took his experience from "Giant" to the set of "Hud"

Happy New Year! We wish

you a happy and prosperous

2017. Be sure you have Black-

Eyed Peas on New Year's Day

for luck. The old traditions say

that eating Cabbage on New

Brandon and Ethan Maxwell

were here over the holidays

visiting with their dad James

Maxwell and their grandparents,

Be really careful outside.

We've had two fires here in

Cottonwood in the past month.

As of Monday, the Burn Ban is

ON. No Control Burns, trash

burning or welding. If you see

smoke, it's a fire. Call the 911

to reach the Sheriff's Office to

It's been eleven years since performance.

report the fire.

Joe and Deana Terstegge.

Year's Day will bring money.

Plans are still underway, but and did for Paul Newman what by coaching Newman, Patricia Neal and Melvin Douglas to be Texans. Neal and Douglas won Oscars for their roles.

Hinkle's career was not limited to "talking Texan." He did a variety of notable things: creating and directing the pig scramble in "Hud," signing an unknown singer named Glen Campbell to a country music series, developing and promoting "Evel Knievel" as he became the world's best known showman-daredevil, and being the personal manager for Marty Robbins.

Hinkle says his most memorable achievement, however, goes back to winning a \$20 bet that he could get a date with the Queen of the Rodeo in Moses Lake. After introducing himself to Sandra Larson, he dedicated his bull ride to her along with a tip of his hat from the center of the arena. Sandra not only went to the dance with him that night. but married him a year-and-ahalf later! The Hinkles raised three children and now live back

After our dinner, Hinkle will be available to autograph copies of his book, which will be available for sale. Join us for a fun and entertaining evening!

the horrible wildfire that claimed

homes and lives in Cross Plains.

Our local Fire Control Group

and the Cross Plains Volunteer

Fire Department work hard

to take care of Cottonwood.

Please remember both of

them with your end of year (or

Diana Miller and former

Cottonwood resident Fred Dill

both were part of the program

at the Christmas Eve Services

at the First United Methodist

Church. Regular church

organist Joe Perry played "O Holy Night" on the piano

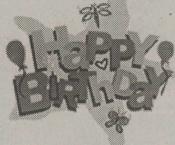
and he was just fantastic. He

brought a very special special.

Everyone just raved about the

beginning of year) donations.

We all remember that day.



January 1 John Bagley Henry Wellmaker Joyce Williams

January 2 Tami Hall Lessa Higginbotham Jimmy Harris Patsy Letney Cherilyn Fleming Linda Reed

Camron Cobb

January 3 Sandy (Bailey) Low Teck Whitney Cookie Robinson Kathy Pippins Mrs. Donald Baird Billy Joe Lofton Eddie Wade Dillard Jane Womack

January 4 Shana (Bagley) Hinyard Myrna Mitchell Jim Forbes **Armando Sifuentes** Danny Myrick Micheal Chase Childers Nicholas Meador Troy Stone George Hoover Brian Odom Ronald Allen Steele Kayla (Cupit) Rogers Lowell Clark Douglas Bowden Michell Munson

January 5 Sawyer James Hamilton Peggy Hilburn **Donald Rhodes** Ronald Rhodes Clara Smith Tye A. Flippin Vernon H. Simpson Debbie Sheppard

January 6 Brenna Michelle Kleiber Mrs. Bob Henderson Kathy Parrish Cole Betsy (Bowden) Kington Troy Shane Knowles Betty Holland Mrs. Jerry Whiteside Mellisa (Clark) Mauricio Jessica Sue Hall

January 7 Randall Kyle Foster Mrs. Roy Thornton Dick Koenig Glenda Lane **Deloras Stover** Karen (Ringhoffer) Combs **Bobby Oliver** Ricky Purvis Mrs. Carl King James Crowley Betty Strength Bridgette Allen Shae Connelly

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Cross Plains Review Dec. 29, 2016





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Cottonwood News

by Beverly Brown

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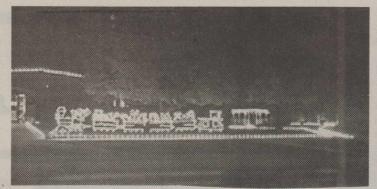
Cross Plains Chamber House and Business Decorating Contest -Darlene Meador and City of Cross Plains are 1st Place Winners

Commerce Christmas house and business decorating contest went fantastic. The Chamber hopes for this contest to continue to receive more entries with each year Several homes were spotted that we hope will join in on this contest next year. Each winner received a "best decorated" sign to display with their decorations.

The Cross Plains Chamber of winners and Merry Christmas from the Cross Plains Chamber of Commerce.

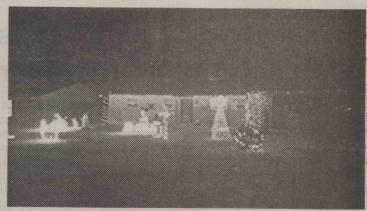
> 1st Place Business is City of Cross Plains 1st Place Home is Darlene Meador.

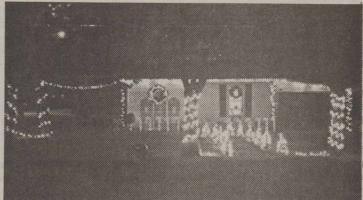
> > Dec. 29, 2016



The City of Cross Plains won Best Decorated Business.









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Santa, Mrs. Claus and Their Elf Visit School Children

Santa and Mrs. Claus and their elf visited the school Friday, December 16. Santa, played by Coach John Ward, gave out candy canes to the children he saw 6th grades and he saw the seniors class at the High School. Sheena Apple was Mrs. Claus and Melinda Dixon played the elf. The students were happy to see Santa and Mrs. Claus and their elf.



325.854.1390



Callahan County Firefighters Association communicates with communities

FIRST ALARM

Merry Christmas! My name is Travis Hudspeth, I am a father, husband, business owner, lifelong community resident, volunteer firefighter and President of the Callahan County Firefighters Association. The latter is the reason for this article. I think many of you may not be aware of how the local fire departments in Callahan County function and what you can do to help us help you. So, we the Callahan County Firefighters Association have decided to openly reach out to you and help keep our communities engaged with us. Hopefully this will be the start of a regularly published article that will allow us to communicate with you information about who we are and what we are doing in the cities and communities of Callahan County.

The Callahan County Firefighters Association consists of eight volunteer fire departments that proudly serve the residents and visitors in the county and surrounding communities of the county. Those departments are Baird, Clyde, Cottonwood, Cross Plains, Eula, Hamby, Oplin and Putnam Volunteer Fire Department. We learned quite a while back that independently we are unable to meet the needs of this growing county, and we must work together

in order to provide necessary services and ensure the safety of our neighbors. We are 100% Volunteer, no members receive a salary or payment for services we provide. We are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days per year ready to lend assistance to you, the members of our community. Those who come to assist you are your family, friends, and neighbors. We provide direct protection for approximately 1,000 square miles with a population of over 14,000 people. We accomplish this with approximately 150 firefighters. All of whom go through exhaustive training, and spend countless hours working on equipment, aiding in community services and conducting fund raisers. In the last 26 years I have worked alongside many of these firefighters and can say without a doubt they are some of the most dedicated, honest, and hardworking people I have ever had the privilege of knowing. Our duties are necessary and much needed. In the United States 69% of the fire departments are volunteer. In Texas out of 1,524 fire departments 85% are volunteer.

My goal with this article was to tell you a little about us, but I would be remiss not to mention that there is always two huge obstacles that plague our departments. The

Cross Plains Review's

crossplainsreview@earthlink.net

Please Send Us Your

E-mail Address:

first being lack of volunteers. This problem is one that hasbecome increasingly more difficult over the years. As you can imagine, a lot of work and no pay is not too enticing to most folks. One hundred fifty firefighters sounds like a bunch, but as you can imagine between work, family, little league, softball, school events, our time and availability is very limited and what started out as a large number in reality has dwindled to only a few available to react to a fire or vehicle crash. If you think you would like to be a part of one of the most-historical services in the world, come on, we would like to use you. Each department will have various requirements for membership. Our second greatest need is funding. The fire stations, trucks, protective gear, rescue equipment don't pay for themselves and tax payer support is nonexistent or minimal at best. Some of the departments have trucks that date back 50 years, to be used for daily operations. Simply stated we need more money to keep things working.

I welcome your stories, questions or comments and can be reached at 325-673-0867, email: ccfa@lanranch. com CCFA PO Box 55 Clyde, TX 79510

Cross Plains Public Library News

New Books Chaos by Patricia Cornwell The Wrong Side of Goodbye by Michael Connelly Play-Doh Pioneer: Joseph McVicker by Lee Slater

Library Hours

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

The Library will be closed until January 2 for the Holidays.

December 19-22, 2016

Patrons 70 **Books Checked 79** Copies 119 Internet 19

Wi Fi 24 Library Laptops 3 Reference 10

Living Tribute Margaret Lovell

In Honor of Jan Boud and

Scott & Jacque Childress In Honor of Bob and Lavonne Childress

Memorial

Anonymous In Memory of Juanita Byrd

Anonymous In Memory of Danny Wood

Elzie Wilson In Memory of Evelyn Wilson

Books & Miscellaneous

Donations Ruth York

Charles Rodenberger Dick and Mary Lowe Ginny Hoskins Dr. and Mrs. Jack Baum

Volunteers

Jan Bond James Ross Ginny Hoskins Michelle Kaiser Peggy Brock Jolene Nussbauer

What Are You Reading?

by the Bookworms



For a fun read, try "The Half-Stitched Amish Quilting Club Trilogy" by Wanda E. Brunstetter. In this series Emma is a widow and needs something to fill her time, so she decides to advertise to teach a 6-week quilting class. The trilogy is comprised of three separate quilting classes she has and the interaction of the students and the teachers. Yes, I said "teachers" as Emma remarries and her husband has designed

quilts and helps her out. Now the unlikely groups that attend the three different classes include a biker whose probation officer suggested he get creative, a young girl paralyzed in a wheel chair who thinks life is not fun anymore, a young girl whose dead grandmother has enrolled her in the class, an artist who is dying of cancer and does not want his children to know the seriousness of his situation, a lady who is a grouch... her class is paid for by her "biker" neighbor, plus a minister's wife who is concerned about her husband's job security at his church. This is only half of the characters - you will need to read the book to learn about the others.

Students find long-lost friends, acquaintances, and relatives in the classes. Also, they find thoughtfulness and understanding thru Emma. They learn to trust in God and leave things in His hands.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book and it reads like one book - not three. I was surprised many times about the relationships of the students, and you will be surprised also. This is my favorite book so far by this

Cross Plains Rebiew

Dec. 29, 2016



Kyle York and Patrick Blankenship

Oregon to Oklahoma by way of Cross Plains?

The Robert E. Howard Museum does indeed draw people from all over the place and from all walks of life. The latest twosome were Kyle York (left in the picture) from Cave Junction, OR and Patrick Blankenship from Laguna, CA on their way to Ardmore, OK for the holidays. Both men had grown up in Ardmore and their parents still live there; thus the

Kyle is the Howard fan while Patrick shares a related interest in the sword and sorcery style of stories, although he leans toward H.P. Lovecraft's work. York had a passing knowledge of all of Howard's stories, but he favored the Solomon Kane character and had named his little Yorkie after the character. "Solly" definitely enjoyed the short break at the Museum.

Blankenship calls himself a mechanic who just happens to specialize in working on Ferraris

while his boss works strictly on Lamborghinis. Although he is a certified race car driver, he doesn't race a whole lot because, as he quipped, "I usually beat my boss and that is not a good thing."

York has an art degree from East Central College in Ada, OK and works in advertising for vineyards there in Oregon, doing all the design lay-outs. He was quite surprised to learn about our local vineyards and the Texas vineyard business in general. He has considered teaching art in Oregon, but the state requires a Master's Degree to teach in the high schools; thus he says he's not qualified and not interested in becoming qualified.

Managing to catch both the library open and the Museum available, the guys were happy campers as they headed on north for a home cooked

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Email Fear-Mongering

Like many of you, I utilize the internet as a legitimate resource of doing business and communications. And like you, I receive emails from time to time that make me want to just toss my computer right out of the window. Generally, the ones that end with "forward this email to 10 of your friends, blah, blah, blah" are the ones that hack me off the most. However, there are some that frustrate me even more than the ones that make promises of prosperity and those are the emails that play on the fear and emotions of people in regards to the natural world. There are three in particular that I would like to use this column to address, and while the first one is actually several years old, the other two are relatively new to the fear-mongering scene.

The first email that I would like to spend some time on is the one with a photo attached of a man holding a large Western Diamond-backed Rattlesnake (Crotalus atrox) by the neck with the use of commercial snake-grabbers. The snake looks really big in comparison to goes along with the photo is that the man, who just happens to be someone's sister's husband from high school, was out in the wilderness minding his own business when this gigantic snake jumps out of nowhere and attacks him. Luckily, he has the snake-grabbers and a camera with him so he can document the whole thing on film. The email goes on to describe how big the rattlers in Texas are getting, and that this one is 8 feet long and weighs a whopping 100 pounds. And the photo is sent along to show how huge this animal is in comparison to this man.

However, the Western Diamond-backed Rattlesnake does not achieve lengths of 8 feet, and by no means do they weigh 100 pounds. The photo is an optical illusion, as the snake is held out away from the man towards the camera, giving the snake the appearance of being humongous. And common sense dictates that even the strongest of men are incapable of holding 100 pounds out straight four feet from their body! Add to this fact that the



Western Diamond-backed Rattlesnake (Crotalus atrox)

this story is getting far-fetched. This email has been circulating Texas county, and amazingly and bitten. enough, it is the same photo of Now, I am not a "snake-snob"

the same man!

ones encountered even rattled public. until they were thoroughly dis-

San Angelo in regards to a local fullprice71@gmail.com.

snake-grabbers are less than an area interviewing a snake "expert" inch in diameter and made of and this "expert" stating that due aluminum, and you can see how to the drought conditions, there was about to be an infestation of all kinds of snakes in neighborhoods around the internet the past throughout Texas. And of course several years and every year with more snake encounters, more the animal resides in a different people are going to be attacked

and I know that there are people The second email is in regards who have a wealth of knowledge to the myth that rattlesnakes on the subject, many more than are rapidly evolving to NOT use I do. However, this "expert" is their rattle to sound a warning. giving out false information to This proposed evolution is due apparently sensationalize what to the rampant numbers of feral normally happens in the natural hogs that are thriving in this state world. In all honesty, it is all about (this part of the email is true!) numbers and the time of the year. and these varmints are feeding Most snakes in Texas breed in the on rattlesnakes. So to stay un- spring and the evidence of these detected by the pesky vermin, breeding events become apparent rattlesnakes are learning how to in the fall as baby snakes of all not rattle, thus becoming more types begin to make their appeardeadly to humans because we ance. The more snakes that there don't even know that they are are, there is more of a chance of an encounter with one. But this The simple truth is this. Rat- is nothing to fear as this is nothtlesnakes would prefer to be ing new. This is how the cycle of left alone. Believe it or not, but things has been progressing for they truly are much more afraid decades, and the drought does of us than we are of them. Over nothing more than LOWER the the last several years of field numbers of snakes as most do not research in Texas, New Mexico, reproduce as much in dry years as and most of northeastern Mexico in years with more precipitation. (where there is not a huge feral Basically what I am rambling hog problem) I have had the about is to take a lot of the infor-

opportunity to observe literally mation that is passed along via hundreds of rattlesnakes in the email with a grain of salt, at least field. And I would guesstimate when it comes to animals that that less than 10 percent of the create fear among the general

Editor's Note: Michael Price The last email came to me from would love to hear from folks! He a concerned lady from here in can be reached by email at www.



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