

Keys to our Past,
Present and Future
Hinge on the Cross

Cross Plains Review

"Cross Plains' Oldest Business Institution"

"A Caring Community"

DECEMBER 27, 2012



A Community of Faith,
Hope and Pride

101st YEAR

CROSS PLAINS, CALLAHAN COUNTY, TEXAS 76443

NUMBER 42

A letter to the people of Callahan County from Sheriff-elect Terry Joy

I will be sworn in at 12:01 AM January 1, 2013.

Very soon after that I will be visiting every school in the county. As the Sheriff and chief law enforcement officer of Callahan County, I will be meeting with each School Superintendent to discuss the safety plans and procedures of their school. I will be eating lunch from time to time with the students in the different school cafeterias. I like

all young people and I want to keep them safe and on my side of the law. I was a substitute teacher at Clyde High School for a few years after I retired from Texas Parks and Wildlife, and I recall participating in emergency drills with the students.

I worked to develop a good rapport with the teachers and students and that will be one of my goals as your Sheriff.

Terry Joy

Annual Baird Junior Livestock Show set for January 12th

The annual Baird Junior Livestock show will be held on Saturday, January 12th in Cross Plains, Tx, in the county show barn. The show will begin at 9 a.m. with weigh-ins starting at 8 a.m. All Baird students are eligible to show. There will be a concession stand available. Ribbons and trophies will be presented in each event. Belt buckles will be given to Grand Champions in each event.

Please come and show your support of the students and their projects. We would like to

say thank you to Tom and Jan Windham for donating the ribbons and trophies. A special thanks to the belt buckle donors, Burke and Cami Robinson family, Doug Johnston with Snap on Tools, Karen Johnston with Texas Farm Bureau Baird, J.W. and Sherry Miller.

If you have not purchased your raffle tickets for the trailer, you may call Danny Vestal at 325-370-0541 or contact any Baird 4-H or FFA member.

2010 Census Report Shows More Than 80 Percent of Centenarians are Women

The 2010 Census counted 53,364 people age 100 and older in the United States, and they were overwhelmingly female. For every 100 centenarian women, there were only 20.7 centenarian men.

These figures come from a special report released today based on the 2010 Census that provides a portrait of the centenarian population in the United States describing their age, sex, race, Hispanic origin and living arrangement characteristics. The report, Centenarians: 2010, also compares centenarians with other age groups in the older population.

According to the report, the population 100 and older made up a small proportion of the total U.S. population representing less than two per 10,000 people. Centenarians represented 19 per 10,000 people who were 70 and older. More than half (62.5 percent) of centenarians were age 100 or 101 while roughly 92 percent were ages 100 to 104. Supercentenarians—those ages 110 and older—represented 0.6 percent of the centenarian population.

Other highlights:
Race and Hispanic Origin
The 2010 Census showed that centenarians were less diverse than the total U.S. population. In 2010, 82.5 percent of centenarians were white alone, compared with 72.4 percent white alone in the total population. Among centenarians, 5.8 percent were Hispanic while the total population was 16.3 per-

cent Hispanic.

Living Arrangements

Centenarian women were slightly more likely to live in a nursing home (35.2 percent), and centenarian men were more likely to be living with others in a household (43.5 percent) than any other living arrangement.

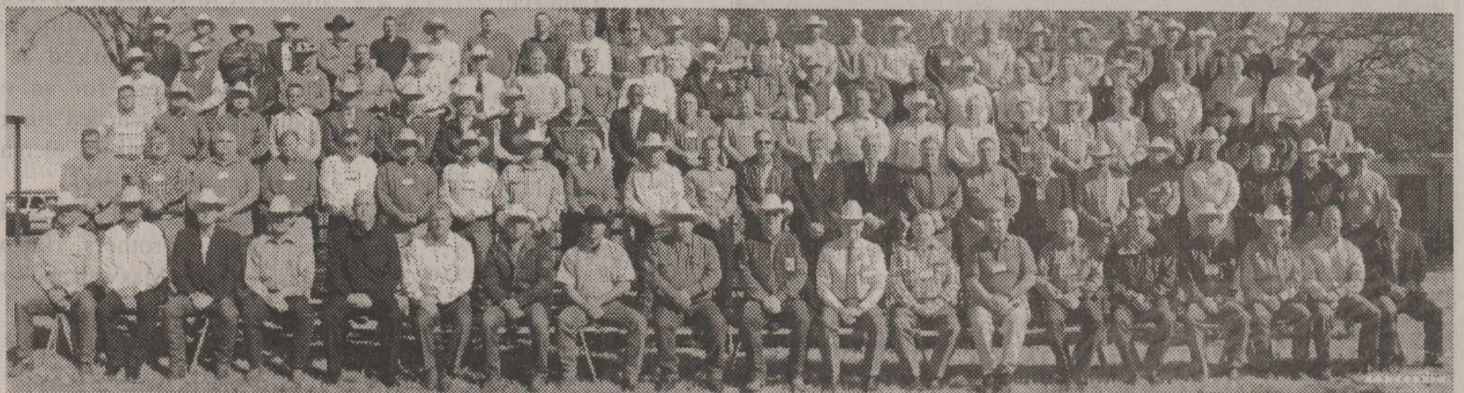
Comparing living arrangements across race and Hispanic-origin groups shows considerable differences in the living arrangements of each group's oldest members. Centenarians who were white or non-Hispanic had the highest likelihood of living alone (36.4 percent and 35.0 percent, respectively).

Geographic Distribution

In 2010, 85.7 percent of centenarians lived in an urban area. Most lived in the South (17,444), followed by the Midwest (13,112), Northeast (12,244) and West (10,564). States with the largest total populations generally had the most centenarians. California had the largest number of centenarians (5,921), followed by New York, Florida and Texas. Alaska had the fewest centenarians (40), followed by Wyoming (72), Vermont (133) and Delaware (146).

Additional Brief

In 2013, the Census Bureau plans to release a centenarians report based on the five-year data from the American Community Survey (2007-2011). The brief will provide more detailed characteristics about the centenarian population for the country.



SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS NEWLY ELECTED SHERIFF'S MANAGEMENT SEMINAR HELD DECEMBER 10TH-14TH IN AUSTIN. SHERIFF-ELECT TERRY JOY IS PICTURED ON TOP ROW, TWELFTH FROM LEFT

Sheriff-Elect Terry Joy, Chief Deputy Designee Adrian Huddleston attend training in Austin

Callahan County Sheriff-elect Terry Joy and Chief Deputy Designee Adrian Huddleston recently attended the Sheriffs' Association of Texas 2012 Newly Elected Sheriffs' School Training held in Austin, Texas, December 10-14, 2012. The Newly Elected Sheriffs' School is held every four years after election time for new sheriffs and chief deputies, educating, training and preparing them for office. This year, participants received training on a variety of topics includ-

ing: Duties and Responsibilities of the Sheriff, Critical Policy Liabilities for Sheriffs, Inmate Transportation, Open Records, Media Relations, Texas Department of Public Safety Resources, TDJC Intake and Classification, Estray Law, Parole Warrants, Civil Process, Texas Commission on Jail Standard Regulations, Cold Case Review Team, Criminal Profiling, Evidence and Property Room Liabilities, New Technology, Labor Laws and Ethics, and many more.

This seminar also allows them a comprehensive overview of the responsibilities of their new office and a chance to meet their peers to whom they can look to for support during the coming term.

The Sheriffs' Association of Texas (SAT) is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization dedicated to increasing the effectiveness of local law enforcement in Texas. Through the support of their Members, SAT pro-

vides training, legal/technical information, and other critical resources to Peace Officers in Texas. SAT also offers scholarships to Peace Officers and their children who wish to continue their education. In addition, they honor Fallen Officers with their Lost Lawman Memorial. For further information on the Sheriffs' Association of Texas and how to join as a member, visit www.txsheriffs.org or call (512) 445-5888.

Cross Plains
Review
will be
CLOSED

Monday and Tuesday
January 1 and 2,
2013

for New Year's
Holidays

Ads and Articles for
Next Week's Paper
Must be in by
December 27-28

Flu & Immunization Clinic in Clyde

The Texas Department of State Health Services will be offering a Flu and Immunization Clinic in Clyde Wednesday, January 9th from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, 216 Austin.

For your convenience, please call to schedule an appointment. If no answer, please leave a message. Please bring your child's immunization records. If you are on Medicaid or Medicare, please bring your card.

For more information, please call 325-754-4945.

New Year's Eve Game Night Planned at the Senior Center

Do you want to spend the last evening of the year with games, giggling and grub????

The Cross Plains Senior Citizens Center will be open New Years Eve and invites everyone to come join the fun.

We Do
Laminating
Come By The
Cross Plains
Review
116 S.E. 1st Street



Santa visits the Lap and Lapsit children at the Library — What a surprise our LAP and Lapsit children had at the Cross Plains Public Library last Wednesday morning. Santa Claus came in with a big Ho Ho Ho while Miss Sue was reading Christmas stories to the kids. He was warmly welcomed with excitement as he passed out special candy canes, then he proceeded to open his magic red bag where he found lots of gifts for each child We love Santa and look forward to his upcoming visit to our homes Christmas Eve with his special reindeer!

Input Requested on Historical Marker Application

The first burial in what is now the Cross Plains Cemetery was in 1882. The cemetery was designated a Texas State Historical Cemetery in 2005, but a marker has never been placed at this location. The Callahan County Historical Commission along with the Cross Plains Cemetery Association has applied for a Texas Historical Marker for the Cross Plains Cemetery. Accepted marker applications are limited.

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) welcomes your input on the 250 applications

received for Official Texas Historical Markers for 2013. The full list is at <http://thcmarker.wordpress.com/2012/11/28/official-texas-historical-marker-applications-received-for-2013/>.

Public comments will be accepted until December 28, 2012. The THC will consider comments and the complete list of historical marker applications at their quarterly meeting in January 2013. Thank you for your participation.

Send comments to: markerapplication@thc.state.tx.us

Bring in the New Year at the Grand Ole Oplin

The Grand Ole Oplin would like to invite everyone out to their Annual New Year's Eve Dance. MUDDY CREEK will be joining us to help bring in the New Year. Our dance will begin at 8:00 p.m. and end a little after midnight. Admission will be \$8.00 per person. Everyone is invited to bring a snack to be shared by all during the band's break. Black-eyed peas will be served to hopefully bring everyone a little luck in the coming new year.

The Grand Ole Oplin is hosted by the Oplin

Community Center and is located at the intersection of F.M. 604 S. and F.M. 2926. Alcohol and smoking are not allowed at any of our functions. Go to www.grandoleoplin.com for further information.

So begin to make plans and come on out to the Grand Ole Oplin's Annual New Year's Eve Dance for an evening of good music, good friends, and a real good time. The Oplin Community wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and the safest of Holidays

Texas
Heritage
Bank

"We're Proud of Our Local Heritage"

Member
FDIC



Presents:
"What's Inside"

Birthdays	2
Classifieds	6-7
Cottonwood News	3
Courthouse News	2
Death and Taxes	8
Obituaries	2
Taylor Electric Cooperative	10

Support our
Local
Community

Remember to
SHOP
at
HOME

Department of Motor
Vehicles
and
Justice of the Peace

Will Be Closed

It will be closed December 31, and January 1st, for
New Year.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

COTTONWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday School9:45 AM
 Morning Worship.....11:00 AM
 Evening Service.....6:00 PM
 Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer Time.....7:00 PM

David Braun, Pastor
 Church (254) 725-6266
 Friendly Church 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

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

Pioneer Baptist Church

Pastor: Dwaine Clowers Music Director: Barbara Jo Medley

Sunday School.....10:00am
 Sunday Morning Worship.....11:00am
 Sunday Evening Worship.....6:00pm
 Wednesday Prayer Service.....7:00pm

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 United Methodist Church

Kevin Morton, Pastor

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

1000 North Main Street

www.gbmg-umc.org/crossplains/

Cross Plains Church of Christ

433 North Main Street

Cross Plains, Texas 76443

Minister: RICK AUSTIN

Sunday:

Bible Class: 9:45 A.M.

Worship: 10:45 A.M.

Evening Worship: 6:00P.M.

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

Ladies Class - Wednesday: 10:00 A.M. (at the church activity center on east Hwy 36)

They are studying from a book written by Lottie Beth Hobbs entitled - "Your Best Friend" and when completed with that study they will start with her book - "If You Would See Good Days"

First Presbyterian Church

SUNDAY SERVICE 9:00 AM

MUSIC- CONNIE SWIFT

& BETTY LEWIS

LEAD SINGERS: 4HIS GLORY

Pastor Kathy Monroe

208 N. Ave. D



Obituaries

Billie Maxine Lee

Billie Maxine Lee, age 84, of Brownwood, passed away Tuesday, December 18, 2012 at a nursing home in Brownwood. Funeral services were held at 2:00 p.m. Friday, December 21, 2012 at Higginbotham Chapel in Cross Plains with Max Evans officiating. Burial followed in the Cross Cut Cemetery.

Billie was born on February 12, 1928 to William "Shorty" Thomas and Lois (Holder) Maxwell in Richland Springs, Texas. After finishing her education, she worked as a production clerk for an oil company. She married Jimmy Lee on April 4, 1948 in Coleman, Texas.

She was preceded in death by her parents, brothers, Harlow Maxwell, Jack Maxwell and son-in-law Richard Morris.

Francis Jones Boyle

Frances Jones Boyle, 81, joined her Lord and Savior on December 9, 2012. Graveside funeral services with Charles Kuhn officiating was held on Tuesday, December 11, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. in the Breckenridge Cemetery.

Mrs. Boyle was born in Pioneer, Texas on August 22, 1931 to parents Margaret and Dempsey Jones. She spent the majority of her life as a homemaker and loved nothing more than taking care of her family. Francis was the fifth of six siblings and the last, of which, to pass. Her siblings included Charlie Joe, Fay Reynolds, Earline Harrison, Pauline Dyches and June Zink.

She was the mother of of six children: Kerry Don Dansby (deceased 1960), Karon Jones of Comanche, Glinda Brown of Tye, Rick Dansby of Odessa, Mark Dansby (deceased 2000), and Margaret Ann (Missy) Pena of Comanche.

She is survived by 14 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

Francis will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

JANUARY 2

Tami Hall
 Lessa Higginbotham
 Jimmy Harris
 Patsy Letney
 Cherilyn Fleming
 Linda Reed
 Cameron Cobb

JANUARY 3

Sandy (Bailey) Hunter
 Teck Whitney
 Cookie Robinson
 Kathy Pippins
 Mrs. Donald Baird
 Billy Joe Lofton
 Eddie Wade Dillard
 Joan Womack

JANUARY 4

Shana (Bagley) Hunter
 Myrna Mitchell
 Jim Forbes
 Armando Sifuentes
 Mrs. Treva Garrett
 Danny Myrick
 Michael Chase Childers
 Nicholas Meador
 Troy Stone
 George Hoover
 Brian Odum
 Ronald Allen Steele
 Kayla (Cupit) Rogers
 Lowell Clark
 Douglas Bowden
 Mitchell Munson

JANUARY 5

Sawyer James Hamilton
 Peggy Hilburn
 Donald Rhodes
 Ronald Rhodes
 Clara Smart
 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. O.B. Byrd
 Mrs. Jerry Whiteside
 Mellisa (Clark) Mauricio
 Jessica Sue Hall

JANUARY 7

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

JANUARY 8

Austin Chastain
 Joe McWilliams
 Claude Boyd
 Johnny Nunn
 Bill Forbes
 Jimmy Hargrove
 Jean Johnson
 Mrs. L.M. Barrow
 Allen Bland
 Jay Staggs
 Mrs. Eugene Strickland

WHEN RENEWING YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TO THE CROSS PLAINS REVIEW PLEASE BRING THE RENEWAL CARD SENT TO YOU IN THE MAIL THANK YOU

Cross Plains Review
 2
 December 27, 2012

Cross Plains Review Wedding Announcement POLICIES
 \$15.00 CHARGE
 IF YOU DESCRIBE CLOTHING, TABLE/ROOM DECORATIONS, ETC
 There is NO Charge for Announcements Without Descriptions
 Call 254-725-6111 For Details

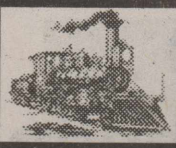
DQ SOME LIKE IT HOT.
 \$5 4 pc. Chick'n Strip Country Basket
 AVAILABLE IN SPICY
 Sweeten the deal by adding the NEW Chocolate Candy Shop Blizzard® Treat.
 That's What I Like About Texas.
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First Baptist Church
 Sunday School
 Sunday 9:30 am Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
 Evening Small Groups 6:00 p.m.
 Wednesday 6:30 pm Prayer/Worship
 Youth Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
 Children's Power Hour 6:30 p.m.
 Ronnie B. White, Pastor
 Tim Tolosa/Music/Education Minister
 (254) 725-7629 3rd & Main, Cross Plains, TX 76443
www.firstbaptistcp.com



Whistle Stop Cafe

228 Market Street - Baird

Original Breakfast

2 eggs, hashbrowns, bacon or sausage & 1 biscuit or Texas toast **\$4.75**

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FRI., DEC. 28 & SAT., DEC. 29 ONLY
CALL IN ORDERS WELCOME! 854-1325
CASH - CHECK - CREDIT CARD

2 Lunch Specials Daily **\$6.95**
Hearty & Light Special Dessert Included

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325-893-4260 Fax: 325-893-5262
HOURS: MON.-FRI. 7:30 AM TO 5:30 PM SAT. 7:30 AM TO 12:30 PM

- New Items!! SPECIALS!**
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 - TRIPLE EXPANDING FOAM \$3.25 CAN
 - 3-WAY ELECTRICAL OUTLET \$2.50 EACH
 - COMPACT CERAMIC HEATER \$20.00
 - 24 GAL BLUE TOTE W/LID \$20.00 EACH
 - USB WALL CHARGER \$12.00
 - USB CAR CHARGER \$12.00



- LARRY LIGHT LED FLASHLIGHT W/ MAGNET \$9.99
- ROCKET NUTCRACKER \$17.99
- TEXAS NUT SHELLER \$12.99
- PECAN GATHERER \$12.99

WE WILL BE CLOSED DEC. 24TH & 25TH FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS!
HAVE A SAFE & MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

Cottonwood News

Beverly Brown

Wishing everyone a safe and happy New Year. May 2013 bring you joy and peace.

It's hard to think of the New Year without reflecting on 2012 and remembering those in our community that we've said "goodbye" to in the past year.

Critter Report—folks are still hearing coyotes in the late afternoon/early evening. Please watch out for them and other wild animals, including the wild hogs. The burn ban is on. No outdoor burning or welding and be extremely careful with your outdoor activities.

Firefighters from the Cottonwood Volunteer Fire Control Group assisted Cross Plains on a fire west of town last Wednesday night. The wind was blowing something fierce. So thankful that God kept all of the firemen safe and they were able to get the fire contained and put out. Trucks from Baird and Burkett also came and helped out.

We are so fortunate to have the brave men (and women) on our fire departments here and in Cross

Plains. Whenever there's a call they go running, day or night, to keep our communities safe.

Also, at the fire Wednesday night the new brush truck (or at least new to Cottonwood) was in service and on the scene. Roger drove with Joe and Kathleen on the hoses. Kathleen is one of our firewomen. Norma and Adrian fought the fire from the new 2010 firetruck.

The Annual Meeting for the Cottonwood Volunteer Fire Control Group is set for Friday, January 4th at 5:00 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall in the Cottonwood Baptist Church. And thinking about it, it'll soon be January and there should be a Fish Fry coming up soon. Thanks to the church for letting us use the

building for our functions. We greatly appreciate it.

A couple of weeks ago, we mentioned a couple of Cottonwood World War II veterans. W.D. Clark is another local brave man who fought in World War II. Their sacrifices ensure the freedoms we have today. We should salute all veterans and soldiers, not just on holidays, but everyday.

Cross Plains Review



December 27, 2012

SENIOR CITIZENS MENU

JANUARY 1-4

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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

God won't ask what kind of car you drove, He'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation

Whistle Stop Cafe

228 Market Street - Baird

CALL IN ORDERS WELCOME!
854-1325

CASH - CHECK - CREDIT CARD

SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER ACTIVITIES:

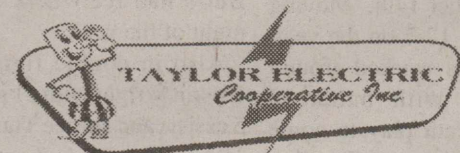
JANUARY 1-4

NEW YEARS EVE PARTY !!!!

Starts at 6:00 at Senior Citizens. Food and Games!

Everyone come and enjoy!

Do you have any talents that you would like to share? Call the Senior Citizens Center at 254-725-6521 so you can share your talent with the Seniors during lunch time.



WE ARE PROUD TO SERVE OUR CROSS PLAINS, COTTONWOOD & SCRANTON MEMBERS
WE ARE HERE TO MEET YOUR NEEDS
Phone: 877-TEC-1939

Bubba's BBQ Smokehouse

Best BBQ Brisket and Smoked Sausage in West Texas
10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Monday thru Saturday

- Sandwiches --(brisket/sausage/chicken).....Sm. or Lg.....\$4.00 & \$5.00
- Turkey Legs.....\$6.00
- Chips (Lay's or Cheeto's).....\$1.00
- Tea & Sodas(coke, diet coke, dr. pepper, diet dr.pepper, pepsi, diet pepsi or sprite)..\$1.79
- Peach Cobbler..... 4 oz. \$.99..... pint \$5.00

Plates: (All plates come with 2 Sides)

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

• WATCH for BUBBA'S FAMOUS PINK PIG!!

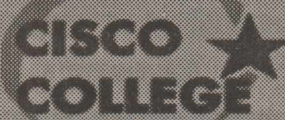
FAMILY PACK SPECIAL
2 LBS. Meat, 2 Pint Sz. Sides -- \$24.00

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

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

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of all you can be...



www.Cisco.edu

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Early Registration Begins Both Campuses November 26, 2012

Spring 2013 Semester
December Mini-Mester
Three-hour credit for 4 weeks of study

Regular Registration Spring 2013

Abilene - January 8, 2013
8:00 a.m - 2:30 p.m & 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m
Cisco - January 10, 2013

Courses available include
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Cisco, TX 76437

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- ★ Log & Rustic Furniture!! Custom Available!
- ★ Sofas ★ Loveseats ★ Chairs
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- ★ Bedroom ★ Living Room ★ Dining Room
- ★ Game Room ★ Den
- ★ Office ★ Mattresses

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- ★ Happy Trails Gourmet Foods ★ Jewelry
- ★ Happy Trails Products: ★ Wholesale & Retail!

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★ OUTDOOR

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Phone:

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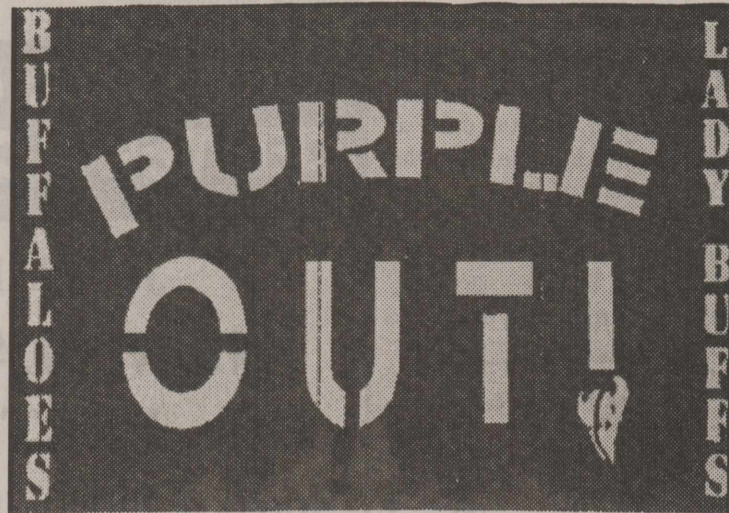
(325) 669-7210

PURPLE OUT T-SHIRTS JAN. 8 VS MAY TIGERS

Tuesday, January 8th, the Cross Plains Buffaloes and Lady Buffs will host the May Tigers in an important district battle as both teams will face up with the Tigers in their quest for a District Championship. The Buffaloes and Lady Buffs are asking for help from the school and the community to "PACK THE GYM" and purchase a "PURPLE OUT" shirt and wear it to the game!

The goal is no empty seats and a solid house of purple in the gym. The Lady Buffs start at 6:30 p.m. and the Buffaloes follow at 8:00 p.m. in the all important matchup. The shirt will be purple with the words "PURPLE OUT" in the middle with "BUFFALOES" and "LADY BUFFS" going down each side as seen below. The Buffaloes and Lady Buffs appreciate your support in packing the gym and giving them

a true home court advantage in the all important match up versus the May Tigers!
Price of the Shirt: \$8
Sizes 2X and 3X and 4X Add \$3
Money and order forms can be turned into the High School Offices. Elementary students may turn their money into their teacher or the office.
Please make CHECKS payable to Cross Plains High School.



Cross Plains "CP" will be in the middle of the "O"

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

Amount Paid: _____

Sizes AS ___ AM ___ AL ___
XL ___ 2XL ___ 3XL ___ 4XL ___

Youth Sizes: YS ___ YM ___ YL ___

Deadline is January 4th — Final orders will be taken at the games VS Rising Star and Ranger that night.

Lady Buffs Basketball Update

The state ranked (TABC #23, TGCA #14) Cross Plains Buffs held off former district rival Albany 37-35 at Albany on Friday December 14th. Moving their record to 12-7 on the year, the Lady Buffs worked around foul trouble with balanced scoring and team play to come away with the victory. Leading the scorers was Cheyenne Cowan with 9 points, followed by Kathrine Goode with 6, Kristin Wright, Texas Sanders and Jurnee Thomas with 4, Kaycee Long 3 and Nicole Eisenbach 2.

Tuesday, December 14th, at Cross Plains the Lady Buffs led from start to finish in a convincing 64-28 win over another former district rival, the De Leon Lady Bearcats. The Lady Buffs improved their record

to 13-7. Paced by Nicole Eisenbach's 20 points and 5 assists and Cheyenne Cowan's 15 points and 9 rebounds, the Lady Buffs had their best offensive night of the year.

Also in double figures were Kristin Wright with 11 points and 5 assists and Jurnee Thomas with 10 points and 7 rebounds. Rounding out the scoring were Kaycee Long with 4 points, Texas Sanders 3 and Alyssa Wheeler with 1 point.

The Lady Buffs' last game before the Christmas Holidays was Thursday with Albany coming to town with a 5:00 p.m. JV girl's start followed by Varsity Girls at 6:15 p.m. The Lady Buffs play Lohn on December 28th here before opening district play with Rising Star on January 4th.

ASAP on Wednesday, January 2, Features "Charlotte's Web"

The Cross Plains Public Library's After School Adventure Program (ASAP) on Wednesday, January 2, 2013, will present a Book-to-Movie Event featuring the E.B. White classic "Charlotte's Web".

The related 94-minute movie will begin at 4:00 p.m. in the Children's Discovery Center.

Both the book and movie are about a courageous spider that helps save the life of an ill-fated pig.

All attendees will receive a free surprise! This event is made possible by a grant from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

CROSS PLAINS SCHOOL MENU

January 1-4
BREAKFAST

Monday - no school

Tuesday - no school

Wednesday - no school

Thursday - Hot or Cold Cereal,

Toast, Assorted juice, Milk

Friday - Breakfast Pizza, Assorted juice, Milk

LUNCH

Monday - no school

Tuesday - no school

Wednesday - no school

Thursday - Chicken Nuggets,

Gravy, Mashed potatoes, glazed carrots, sliced peaches, Roll, Milk

Friday - Hot dog, Potato Tots, Baked beans, Mixed fruit, Milk

Cross Plains Review

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December 27, 2012

DPS Program Saving Lives, Protecting Children

AUSTIN—The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) today highlighted the success of the unparalleled interdiction for the Protection of Children (IPC) program, which helps officers identify and recover missing or exploited children. In 2009, DPS launched the IPC program to teach troopers and officers how to identify, recognize, intervene and remove endangered children without obvious signs of abuse being present.

"DPS identified and filled a law enforcement void with an invaluable program that trains officers to identify children in danger during traffic stops, including human trafficking," said DPS Director Steven McCraw. "This program will continue to yield results and our officers will continue to protect innocent children, save lives and stop predatory criminals from committing the most heinous crimes."

IPC is a valuable program that provides sophisticated training to help law enforcement officers identify and recover missing or

exploited children and arrest suspects for sexual assault of children, including possession of child pornography.

As a result of this training, DPS has made 20 criminal arrests and recovered 62 missing or exploited children since 2010. Since the program's inception, DPS has provided the IPC training to its own officers as well as other law enforcement, including more than 2,600 officers in Texas and approximately 1,900 officers nationally and internationally outside of Texas. A variety of other groups interested in the protection of children have also attended the training.

Numerous organizations interested in the IPC program have requested and received presentations and classes from DPS about the training, including the Georgia Bureau of Investigation; Canadian Center for Child Protection Conference; University of Arkansas - Criminal Justice Institute; and Child Advocacy Center of Texas Conference.

Pharmacist Warns: with Natural Supplements, Cheap can be bad for your health

He details potential problems and how consumers can protect themselves. Of the 15 toys recalled in the United States so far this year because of the dangers they pose to children, 10 were manufactured in China. Chinese drywall imported from 2001 to 2007 released sulfur gas that sickened homeowners and corroded wiring, air-conditioning systems and other metal surfaces. Many of those homeowners are still trying to win compensation.

In recent years, U.S. dogs and cats died from eating Chinese pet food made with melamine, and the FDA warned consumers to throw away toothpastes made in China because of the risk they included an antifreeze ingredient.

"The problem is, manufacturers, distributors and consumers alike are attracted to inexpensive goods, and in countries like China, things can be produced cheaply in part because there are fewer regulations regarding quality control," says Joe Veilleux, president of Euromed USA (www.euromedusa.com) and a registered pharmacist.

"That's why I warn people who buy all-natural nutritional supplements not to buy the cheapest products available. If the ingredients in them are not subject to regulatory oversight, they can be dangerous."

The active ingredients in many natural supplements are botanicals - extracts from

herbs and other medicinal plants. Some of the dangerous potential problems that can occur without rigorous quality control include:

- Contamination by pesticides and other heavy metals. Exposure to these contaminants can be hazardous to humans and can be present if growing conditions and plant materials are not carefully monitored. Manufacturers who aren't held to government standards may not even check for contamination.

- Radiation exposure. The ground the plants are grown in may have radiation, which is absorbed by the plants. This is another contaminant for which regulated manufacturers carefully test.

- Species misidentification. Slightly different varieties of a plant may have vastly different properties. Black cohosh, for example, is a member of the buttercup family and is used to treat menopause symptoms like hot flashes. Some varieties of the genus Actaea may look similar to Actaea racemosa, but they do not have the same effect and, in fact, can be harmful.

While price can be a red flag for consumers, surprisingly, one sign that a product meets high quality standards is if it comes from a company that incorporates environmental sustainability practices, Veilleux says.

"A company that's making an effort to address issues such as sustainability is farther along in the evolutionary

process," Veilleux explains. "A company's first mission will be to provide the best quality of product it can. Once it has achieved that, it looks to improve in other ways, including sustainability, reducing its impact on the environment and social responsibility. But it can't get to step 2 until it has mastered step 1."

Veilleux says a reliable sign that a company is serious about "green" issues is if it has earned ISO 14001 certification.

"ISO stands for International Standardization Organization. Its criteria can be applied and measured uniformly in countries around the world," Veilleux says. "So whether a company's in China or the United States, if it has ISO 14001 certification, you can be assured it takes sustainability and environmental issues seriously."

Euromed's factory in Barcelona earned the ISO 14001 certification in July of this year.

Another way to safeguard yourself is to buy products from major U.S. brands, such as GNC and Whole Foods, Veilleux says.

"The big brands have a lot to lose, so they're not as likely to take chances by obtaining their ingredients from unregulated sources," Veilleux says. "Having their products blamed for a public health crisis would be disastrous to them."

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Cross Plains resident honored — David Switzer receives award for 10 years of Service to Parts Plus Store in Cross Plains. There was an error in last weeks cutline.

Two Locally Known Young Ladies Graduated from Texas Women's University

Two young ladies received Nursing Degrees Cum Laude from Texas Women's University in Denton last weekend.

Kari Kirkham, daughter-in-law of Cliff and Connie Kirkham (Bay's wife), and Marian Jones, granddaughter of James and Gale

Watson, were among the graduates. They received their pins at a ceremony at Texas Women's University in Dallas.

Gale Watson was honored to attend both ceremonies. Congratulations to Kari and Marian for their achievements!

Celebrate the New Year in Texas With 10 Free Flowering Trees from the Arbor Day Foundation

Residents of Texas can ring in the New Year with 10 free flowering trees by joining the Arbor Day Foundation any time during January 2013.

By becoming a part of the nonprofit Arbor Day Foundation, new members will receive two white flowering dogwoods, two flowering crabapples, two Washington hawthorns, two American redbuds and two goldenraintrees.

"These beautiful trees will give your home in Texas lovely flowers with pink, yellow and white colors," said John Rosenow, founder and chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "These trees are perfect for large and small spaces, and they will provide food and habitat for songbirds."

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

campaign.

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

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

To become a member of the Foundation and to receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution to TEN FREE FLOWERING TREES, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410, by January 31, 2013. Texas residents can also join online at arborday.org/january.

SWCD Now taking Windbreak Tree Orders

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

These windbreak trees come fresh from the Texas Forest Service Nursery out of Idalou, Texas. This year's selection of available trees include a variety of evergreens. They are: Afghanistan Pine, Pinyon Pine and Austrian Pine. These Evergreen Seedlings are being offered for 5 for \$20.00 or \$105.00 for a box of 30 per species.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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PUBLIC NOTICE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Let it be known that, pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has determined that a conflict of interest exists in regard to provision of up to \$20,000 to Josh Schulze and Cierra Schulze for federal housing assistance awarded to eligible low-income households under the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program for Homebuyer Assistance being administered by Central Texas Opportunities, Inc. (CTO). In accordance with 24 CFR 92.356 (e), CTO intends to request an exception to HUD's determination of conflict of interest. Please contact Tammy Smith at 325-625-4167 Ext. 224 or P.O. Box 820, Coleman, Texas 76834 with any questions, comments or concerns regarding this issue.

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- 404 Joyce - Rising Star- 2BR-1B, 847 sq. ft, great little starter home priced to sell. 13,500
- 524 SE 1st - Rental Income! Cute home with new roof. 3BR-1B, central heat/air. 31,900
- 624 SW 5th - 2BR-1.5B home w/1,264 sq. ft, carport & attached garage, hwy. frontage 40,000
- 633 NE 3rd - 3BR-1B, central h/a. New roof - Owner financing available 35,000
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- 805 N. Main St. - 4BR-2B 1876 sq. ft., energy efficient, new electricity, plumbing and a/c 65,000
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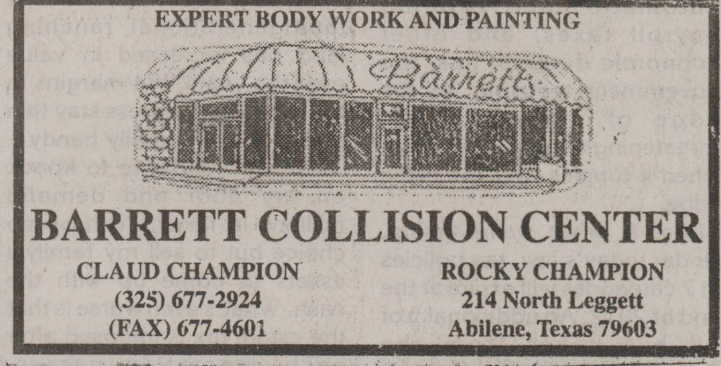
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WTIN receives \$15,000 grant to support veteran entrepreneur training

ABILENE, TEXAS—The West Texas Innovation Network (WTIN) has received a \$15,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Abilene. These funds will be allocated toward supporting entrepreneur training to veterans, veterans' spouses and those active duty military personnel who will be successfully separating from the service.

Since a veteran is significantly more likely to pursue self-employment relative to his non-veteran peers, these funds will provide the necessary support to assist those who are most worthy among us to pursue their dreams of business ownership. Veteran-only classes are being planned for late spring or early summer in the Abilene area. WTIN is currently offering discounts to veterans for the FastTrac NewVenture® being offered in Brownwood starting February 12, 2013.

For more information visit [HYPERLINK "http://www.wtin.org"](http://www.wtin.org) under the TRAINING tab or call Mike at 325-795-4313.

The 30-hour, FastTrac NewVenture® course is designed to teach individuals how to successfully launch their business ideas in a group-oriented environment. Participants will learn how to set realistic financial goals, determine the unique fea-

tures and benefits of their product/service and find their target market and discover their competitive advantage. Other topics of this course will include development of the essential framework for starting a business, identifying potential sources of funding. Seasoned entrepreneurs, guest speakers, and business owners will share unique experiences and perspectives on starting a new business. The participant's business idea will be evaluated as they present to the group.

The WEST TEXAS INNOVATION NETWORK (WTIN) provides access to training opportunities for entrepreneurs aspiring to start their own businesses. Mike Mikeworth, Project Manager states "We work with a variety of community partners, small business owners and other entrepreneurship interests in the Big Country in order to make available quality training, consulting and events to local entrepreneurs."

For more information and to register online, visit [HYPERLINK "http://www.wtin.org"](http://www.wtin.org)

Funding for the West Texas Innovation Network was initially provided through a grant from the Texas Workforce Commission, but is currently supported by local Economic Development Corporations and nonprofit founda-

tions.

The West Texas Innovation Network is a collaborative effort of the ACU Griggs Center for Entrepreneurship and Philanthropy, the Texas Tech Small Business Development Center and the Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas Board focused on supporting entrepreneurs by providing networking, training, mentoring and resources. Additional information about WTIN may be obtained by visiting our website at [HYPERLINK "http://www.wtin.org"](http://www.wtin.org)

The Community Foundation of Abilene collects, invests and administers charitable endowments for the benefit of our community. We make grants that make our community better.

The Community Foundation of Abilene is a permanent collection of charitable funds supported by the general public and serving the greater Abilene region. The Foundation serves the entire community by raising, managing, and distributing funds for charitable purposes. In many cases, contributions are pooled and invested, so that the earnings provide a permanent source of grant monies for general or specific purposes.

Death and Taxes

By: Joe Parker, Jr.

If it's true that the only 2 things certain in this earthly life are death and taxes, then we can be sure of one thing. We will all feel the sting of higher taxes come Jan. 1, 2013, if Congress does not act during the lame duck session.

Most experts agree that we are facing approximately \$500 billion in new taxes in 2013 alone. This isn't a tax on the wealthy. On the contrary, the so called "Taxmageddon" will affect all taxpaying individuals and small businesses adding up to the largest tax increase in American history. This combined with a series of automatic cuts, expiring payroll taxes, and other economic factors has the government teetering on the edge of a fiscal cliff, threatening to take us all down when it topples over the cliff's edge.

Here is what we're facing. Under today's law, tax policies in 7 categories will expire at the end of 2012. An additional 5 of 18 new taxes from the President's health care law will begin. Some of the expiring tax policies include an increase of the current tax rates. Without action from Congress, the current lowest tax bracket of 10% will revert to 15%. Each tax bracket above that will increase 3% with the top individual tax rate increasing from 35% to almost 40%.

The capital gains tax will jump from 15% to 20% and the maximum rate on dividends will skyrocket to 39.6%. These taxes will go up for everyone, including those in the lower income tax bracket who pay no taxes on long-term gains.

These and other increases will affect each of us in different

ways, but the single expiring tax policy with the potential to wipe out large parts of rural Texas and the ranching industry is the estate tax, or more commonly known as the death tax. Without reform by the end of the year, estate tax rates will rise to 55 percent on estates worth just \$1 million per person.

A million dollars sounds like a lot of money, but when you talk about ranchers, very few of us are millionaires. Our wealth lies in our assets—all of which have been paid for over generations of hard work. These assets include livestock, equipment, structures like barns and fences, and of course, land. Most multigenerational ranching land has increased in value over the years, but margins in the ranching business stay thin and cash isn't readily handy.

If Uncle Sam were to knock on my door and demand millions in taxes, I'd have no choice but to sell my family's assets to come up with the cash. What's even worse is that the estate tax is imposed after each generation passes, meaning it's paid over and over every time it's handed down. Coincidentally, my family's land and heritage are sold off piece by piece over the years to pay the tax bill.

It's important to remember that this is the same land that provides us with a safe and abundant food supply here at home.

Approximately 97 percent of American farms and ranches are owned and operated by families. The estate tax is considered to be one of the leading causes of the breakup of these multigenerational farms and ranches. If this tax is not reformed by the end of the

year, many ranchers will have to pay the 55 percent tax and/or continue to pay thousands of dollars in legal fees trying to avoid the tax. Those who can't afford the tax or the legal fees stand to lose it all.

Congress has a golden opportunity to fix this problem. Members of Congress have a few options from which to choose. They can eliminate the estate tax all together. This would be the first choice for most ranchers since it would eliminate uncertainty. It would also allow us to pass on the ranch to our children and grandchildren without penalty.

If elimination of the estate tax for ranchers isn't possible because of gridlock in Congress, then they could make the current estate tax rates and exemption amounts permanent. This would make the 35 percent tax rate on everything greater than the \$5 million per person exemption permanent and go a long way to help ease the tax burden for ranchers.

We do know that doing nothing is a bad option, and if this is the route Congress takes, it will be a very sad day for the U.S. cattle industry and the rural way of life we've worked hard to preserve. Members of Congress and the President must come together and reform the taxes that are scheduled to expire. If they fail to do so, it will be ranchers and consumers who pay the price.

Joe Parker Jr. is a third generation rancher from Clay County, Texas. He is president of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association. He is also chairman of the board and president of the First National Bank of Byers.

Texas Unemployment Rate falls to 6.2 percent in November Rate down over a full point since beginning of 2012

AUSTIN — The Texas unemployment rate fell to 6.2 percent in November, down from 6.6 percent in October and 7.3 percent at the start of 2012. The unemployment rate in Texas remains well below the national rate of 7.7 percent. Texas employers added 22,100 total nonfarm jobs in November for a total of 278,800 jobs added over the year.

"Texas employers have added 278,800 jobs over the past 12 months with growth in 10 of 11 industry sectors during that period," said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chairman Andres Alcantar. "TWC is committed to working with our local workforce development boards and other partners to deliver quality workforce solutions that contribute to economic success."

Eight out of 11 major industries in Texas added jobs in November. Trade,

Transportation, and Utilities led the way with 20,600 jobs added over the month—the largest monthly jump ever seen in that industry. Trade, Transportation, and Utilities has added a total of 69,600 jobs over the last year.

"Texas is showing sustained economic strength, and our unemployment rate is now the lowest that it has been since December 2008," said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. "For those Texans still looking for work, TWC can help. Visit WorkInTexas.com to find a job that's right for you."

Leisure and Hospitality employment grew by 6,500 positions in November. This industry has now experienced growth for four consecutive months. Leisure and Hospitality has added 49,900 jobs since November 2011. Education and Health Services added 4,700 jobs over the month, totaling 45,700 jobs

added over the year.

"Private sector employers continue to lead the way to growth and prosperity in Texas," said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Tom Pauken. "We've seen 266,400 private sector jobs added in Texas over the past year, and we're maintaining a 3.0 percent annual growth rate."

The Midland Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) had the lowest November unemployment rate in the state at 3.0 percent. The Odessa MSA came in second at 3.6 percent, and the Amarillo MSA third at 4.1 percent (not seasonally adjusted).

Audio downloads from TWC Chairman Andres Alcantar on the latest labor market data are available at the following link: www.texasworkforce.org/news/press/2012/praudio12.html.

California and Texas are opposites Differences on taxes and spending provide even more contrast to the nation's public policy rivalry

By James Quintero

The public policy contrast between California and Texas could not be any clearer.

Take the issue of taxes, for example.

In the Golden State, voters just approved Proposition 30, an epic tax hike that pushes the state's sales tax up by a quarter cent for four years and increases the income tax on those earning \$250,000 or more a year for seven years. Even before Prop. 30 though, California already had the second highest personal income tax rate and the highest state sales tax rate in the nation. Now it's all but cemented its image as a taxpayer-crushing state.

Then there is the Lone Star State. While the next legislative session has yet to convene, there is already plenty of talk about cutting taxes and a number of bills have been pre-filed to do just that. One of the more promising bills, Senate Bill 113, would do away with the state's revised franchise tax entirely, making Texas the only state in the nation without a personal income tax or a business tax if it were enacted.

But even if the next legislative session passed and no changes were made to lighten the load on taxpayers, Texans would still enjoy one of the lowest state and local tax burdens of anywhere around (45th in the nation).

Then there is the issue of spend-

ing.

In recent years, California has become a caricature of the big spending state while Texas has come to represent its polar opposite. This juxtaposition has really only been popularized as of late, but the data shows that this contrast has been ongoing for quite some time.

From 1978 through 2009, using 2009 inflation-adjusted dollars, California state and local governments spent a total of \$7.69 trillion dollars providing generous goods and services to its residents, according to the Tax Foundation. By comparison, Texas' more frugal state and local governments spent only a total of \$3.42 trillion over the same period, or about half what California spent.

True, California's population is bigger than Texas', but even when looking at the data on a per capita basis, the comparison is just as compelling. Consider that from fiscal 1978 to 2009, again using inflation-adjusted dollars, California's state and local government per capita spending grew from \$6,232 to over \$11,200. In contrast, Texas' state and local government per capita spending rose from \$4,046 to \$7,736 over the same period, still far below that of the Golden State.

Finally, there is the issue of debt.

California again shows its largesse in this category while Texas takes the opposite ap-

proach. According to the Texas Comptroller's new report on state and local debt, *Your Money and Local Debt*, California state government's per capita debt for 2009 totaled \$3,641, while Texas state government's per capita debt came out to be a much more manageable \$1,228. Even accounting for the local component, Texas' debt levels are still well below the Golden State's.

And so when it comes to matters of fiscal policy, it seems that Texas and California are on two radically different paths with the former having clearly embraced the free market mantra of low taxes, spending, and debt while the latter continues to tax-and-spend at an accelerated rate. At this point, one can only speculate on the endgame, but if history is our guide, then California faces a difficult road ahead as it tries to maintain its ever-growing style of government.

People sometimes forget that policies, like elections, have consequences. It is an important point to remember because the way a state's policies tend to skew will have a big impact on the quality of life and future prospects.

James Quintero is senior policy analyst for the Center for Fiscal Policy with the Texas Public Policy Foundation, a nonprofit, free-market research institute based in Austin. He may be reached at jquintero@texaspolicy.com.

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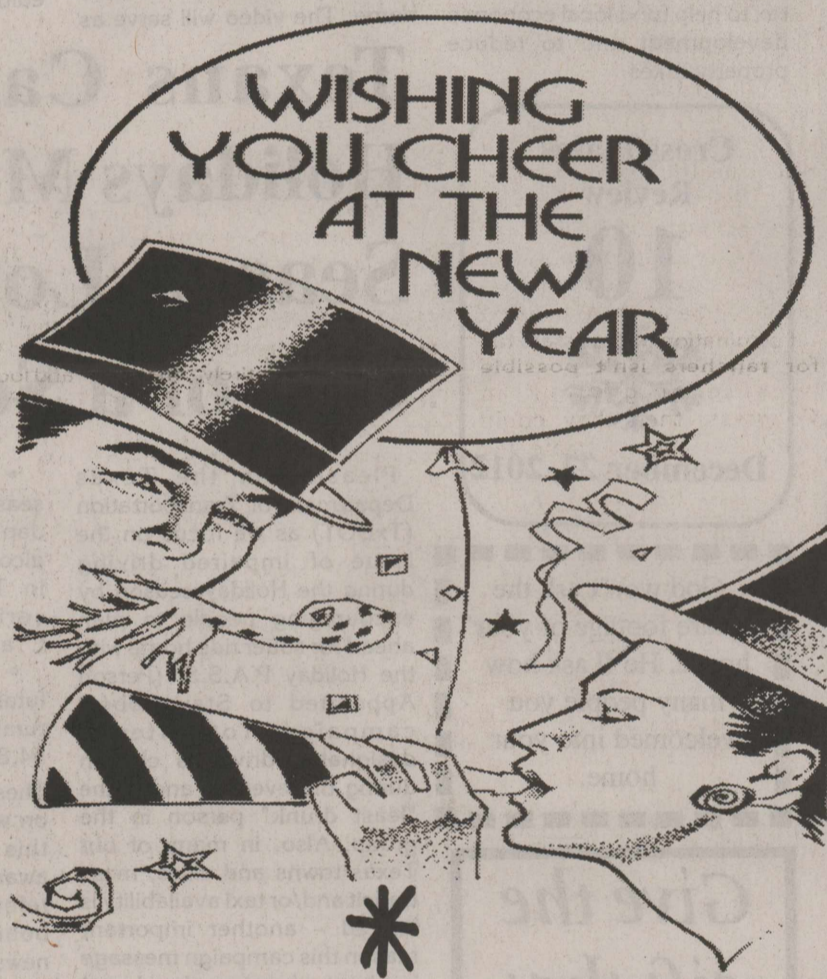
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Cross Plains' retail sales in 2012 are 3% higher

The City of Cross Plains' one percent city sales tax payments in 2012 are higher by just over three percent, according to the Texas State Comptroller's office.

Texas State Comptroller Susan Combs reported the city's sales tax payment on Wednesday, December 12th.

Cross Plains' 2012 sales tax payments for the year totalled \$216,848.12, which is 3.27 percent higher than the \$209,968.03 in sales tax rebate payments collected in 2011.

The payment to the city for December 2012 was \$18,225.95, which is 2.17 percent lower than the December 2011 payment of \$18,630.26 to the city.

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs announced today, Wednesday, December 12th, that state sales tax revenue in November was \$2.34 billion, up 13.1 percent compared to November 2011.

"Gains across major sectors boosted state sales tax revenue," Combs said. "Collections were strong in sectors such as retail trade, manufacturing, oil and natural gas, construction and telecommunications."

Combs will send December local sales tax allocations totaling \$552 million to cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts, up 15.5 percent compared to December 2011.

Combs distributed \$360.8 million in December 2012 allocations to Texas cities, which is up 14.2 percent from December 2011 and higher by 8.2 percent year-to-date.

She reported \$37.2 million in December 2012 allocations to Texas counties, which is higher by 18.9 percent compared to December 2011 and higher by 14.7 percent year-to-date.

The Texas transit systems received \$125.3 million in December 2012 sales tax allocations, which is 15.2 percent higher than December 2011 and up 10.0 percent year-to-date.

Special Purpose Taxing Districts received \$29.0 million in December 2012 allocations, which is 29.3 percent higher than December 2011 and higher by 23.3 percent year-to-date.

Total sales tax allocations were \$552.3 million in December 2012, which is 15.5 percent higher than December 2011 and up 9.7 percent year-to-date.

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

For details of local sales tax allocations in December to individual cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose districts, locate the Monthly Sales Tax Allocation Comparison Summary Reports on the Comptroller's Web site at www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/allocsum/compsum.html.

Other Callahan County towns reporting sales tax payments include:

CROSS PLAINS SALES TAX PAYMENTS		
	2011	2012
Total yearly sales tax payments	\$209,968.03	\$216,848.12
Total monthly sales tax payments	\$18,630.26	\$18,225.95

—The City of Baird reported that sales tax payments in 2012 started the year 6.81 percent lower than the 2011 payments. The city has received \$124,016.77 in 2012, while the 2011 tax payments to the city totalled \$133,088.25.

Baird's monthly payment for December 2012 was \$11,005.56, which is 17.00 percent higher than the \$9,405.99 payment made to the city in December 2011.

—The 2012 sales tax payments in the City of Clyde are 2.41 percent higher than the payments made to the city in 2011. The sales tax rebates for the City of Clyde have amounted to \$549,527.61 in 2012. The 2011 payments to the city during the same payment period were \$536,552.19.

The City of Clyde's monthly payment for December 2012 was \$42,367.93, which is higher by 6.42 percent compared to December 2011 in which a payment of \$39,809.99 was received.

—The City of Putnam reported the 2012 payments to the town totalled \$16,323.46, lower by 1.89 percent from the 2011 payments to the city in the amount of \$16,637.94.

Putnam's tax payment for the month of December 2012 was \$1,339.97, which is 9.02 percent lower than the December 2011 payment of \$1,229.00.

—Countywide, sales tax payments for 2012 in Callahan County are higher by 1.16 percent compared to the 2011 payments in the county. Callahan County towns received sales tax payments in 2012 amounting to \$906,715.96 while the 2011 payments to the county towns totalled \$896,246.51.

The tax rebates in Callahan County for the month of December 2012 were \$72,939.41, which is 5.59 percent higher than the December 2011 payment of \$69,075.24.

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

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

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

Baird collects 1.50% in local sales tax of which 1.00% is allocated to the city and 0.50% is allocated to the community's economic development corporation.

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

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

Taylor Electric Cooperative offers free trip to Washington, D.C., for three area students

Taylor Electric Cooperative invites all area high school students who live within its 11-county service area to participate in the annual Government-in-Action-Youth Tour essay contest and win a trip to the nation's capital.

The contest and trip to Washington, D.C., is part of a national program that brings together high-achieving students from all over the country for meetings with legislators, social events and educational tours.

Winning essays will address "What are the biggest energy issues for your generation?" Students should write between 1,500 and 2,000 words on the

topic. Essays will be judged by local educators.

The contest is open to any high school student who is currently a sophomore or will be 16 years of age by this summer and who attends classes in the following school districts: Abilene, Baird, Blackwell, Clyde, Cross Plains, Eula, Hawley, Highland, Jim Ned, Merkel, Trent, Sweetwater, or Wylie.

Winners will receive an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., leaving June 13th and returning home June 21, 2013.

The itinerary will include tours to national monuments, the Smithsonian, the FBI, the

Capitol building, the Supreme Court, the National Cathedral, the Ford Theater, time for shopping and many more activities.

For more details, contest information is available from local school counselors and entry forms and details can be downloaded online at www.taylorlectric.com. Click the "Community Connections" tab to learn more about the Youth Tour, as well as the Taylor Electric Scholarship program.

The contest deadline is Feb. 1, 2013, when submission entries will close at 5 p.m. For more information, call 325-793-8538.

Taylor Electric Cooperative announces \$4,000 award in youth video contest

Taylor Electric Cooperative, in conjunction with *Texas Co-op Power* magazine, announces the launch of the 2013 Co-op Teens Power Texas video contest.

For the fourth consecutive year, Taylor Electric Cooperative and *Texas Co-op Power* will award up to \$4,000 in cash prizes for winners of the competition.

Students in grades 6 through 12 whose parents or legal guardians are current members of an electric cooperative in Texas can participate.

This year, students are asked to create a five- to 10-minute video interviewing someone who remembers the era when electricity first came to their home. The video will serve as

an oral history of the time before the interviewee received electricity and how life was changed afterwards. All videos have the potential to be included in a full-length documentary to be produced by *Texas Co-op Power* at a later date.

The grand prizewinner will receive \$1,500 and be profiled in *Texas Co-op Power* magazine. If a school is involved as a sponsor of the first-place winner it will receive \$1,000.


The second-place winner, determined by the most YouTube views, will receive \$500. Four runners-up will each receive \$250 for best performance in one of four judging categories: creativity, educational value, video editing and technical quality.

The contest opens ends April 1. Winners will be announced April 23.

For full contest rules and entry forms, go to www.TexasCoopPower.com scroll down and click on the Co-op Teens Power Texas button on the right side of the page.

See last year's winning videos at www.youtube.com/TXCOOPPOWER. For contest updates and tips, "Like" Texas Co-op Power magazine or Facebook or follow on Twitter @TexasCoopPower.

Texas Co-op Power is a monthly magazine published by Texas Electric Cooperatives and distributed to 1.3 million households and businesses receiving electricity from electric cooperatives in Texas.

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God won't ask the square footage of your house, He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.

Give the gift that will last all year long!



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Texans Can Help Make the Holidays Merry and Bright All Season Long by Giving the Gift of a Sober Drive Home

Please join the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) as we focus on the issue of impaired driving during the Holiday season by encouraging people to plan ahead for sober ride home with the Holiday P.A.S.S. (Person Appointed to Stay Sober) campaign. (Too often a designated driver is chosen during the evening and is the "least drunk" person in the group. Also, in many of our Texas towns and cities, mass transit and/or taxi availability is limited - another important reason this campaign message is about planning ahead and reminding our fellow Texans that "Sober drivers make great gifts."

• During last year's Holiday season (Dec. 1 2011, through Jan. 1, 2012) there were 2,462 alcohol-related traffic crashes in Texas, resulting in 842 serious injuries and 78 fatalities.

• And in 2011, 53.92% of fatal DUI crashes took place in rural areas and accounted for 54.86% of all DUI fatalities. These are just a few statistics on why TxDOT has launched this new statewide public awareness campaign utilizing television, radio, outdoor boards, digital media and newspaper PSAs. TxDOT has produced English and Spanish posters that will have an attachable plastic container to hold pre-printed Holiday P.A.S.S. gift certificates that

people can give to friends, family and co-workers - offering their services as a sober driver on dates the giver identifies on the gift P.A.S.S.

Texans can help make the holidays merry and bright all season long by giving the gift of a sober drive home. Remember, it's the most wonderful time of the year, but one poor decision to drink and drive could bring a devastating end to holiday celebrations. This new campaign includes the elements listed at the right that are available for download and usage.

For more information or printed materials, contact passinfo@thinkstreet.net

Comptroller Announces New Website to Help in Fight Against Obesity

AUSTIN—More than 1 in 5 Texas children aged 10 to 17 are obese, and obesity puts millions of Texans at risk for chronic disease. In response to the state's obesity epidemic, Texas Comptroller Susan Combs today announced the launch of ReshapingTexas, a new online resource that examines the economic impacts of obesity and identifies areas in the state where children are at risk.

The Web portal contains an interactive mapping function that uses FITNESSGRAM® data and Body Mass Index (BMI) results, collected by school districts and reported to the Texas Education Agency, to visualize where in Texas students are most at risk. The site also spotlights costs associated with obesity, obesity related news, medical research and initiatives across the state aimed at fighting obesity.

"Our goal is to provide a collaborative, interactive clearinghouse of news, data, research and success stories involving Texas' fight to treat and prevent obesity," Combs said. "ReshapingTexas is part of our ongoing effort to give Texans

the tools and information they need on the frontlines of this issue. We need people across the state to help tackle obesity head-on, in order to avoid future health and economic pitfalls."

ReshapingTexas encourages users to suggest articles and success stories that may be beneficial to others, and also to get involved. The site will continue to expand as public participation grows and content and tools are added.

The Comptroller's 2011 report Gaining Costs, Losing Time found obesity and related health expenses could cost Texas businesses \$32.5 billion annually by 2030 if current trends continue. Last April, Combs appeared in the HBO documentary *The Weight of the Nation*, which outlined the social and economic costs of obesity throughout the nation.

This effort, www.ReshapingTexas.org, is the result of legislation in 2011, which instructed the Comptroller's office to build a Web portal to collect research and information on the economic effects of obesity and areas in which children are at risk.

Please Continue to Pray for RAIN to Heal our Land

2 Chronicles 7:14

If my people who are called by My name will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive them their sin and will heal their land.