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Cross Plains Review

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.75

105th YEAR

CROSS PLAINS, CALLAHAN COUNTY, TEXAS 76443

ISSUE 42

2013 All District Football Team Announced

1st Team Offense

Running Back - Rylan Laminack
Fullback - Justin Willis
Quarterback - Josh Branch
Offensive Line - Bronc Dillard

1st Team Defense

Cornerback - Colton McWilliams
Safety - Tristen Stephenson
Defensive Utility - Kiefer Steinle

2nd Team Offense

Wide Receiver - Colton McWilliams
Offensive Line - Brayden Kennedy

2nd Team Defense

Defensive Line - Wesley Carver
Defensive End - Josh Branch
Inside Linebacker - Justin Willis
Outside Linebacker - Rylan Laminack
Cornerback - Korbin McLean
Outside Linebacker - Phoenix Sanders

Honorable Mention

Defensive Line - Dalton Gilliam
Offensive Line - Wesley Carver

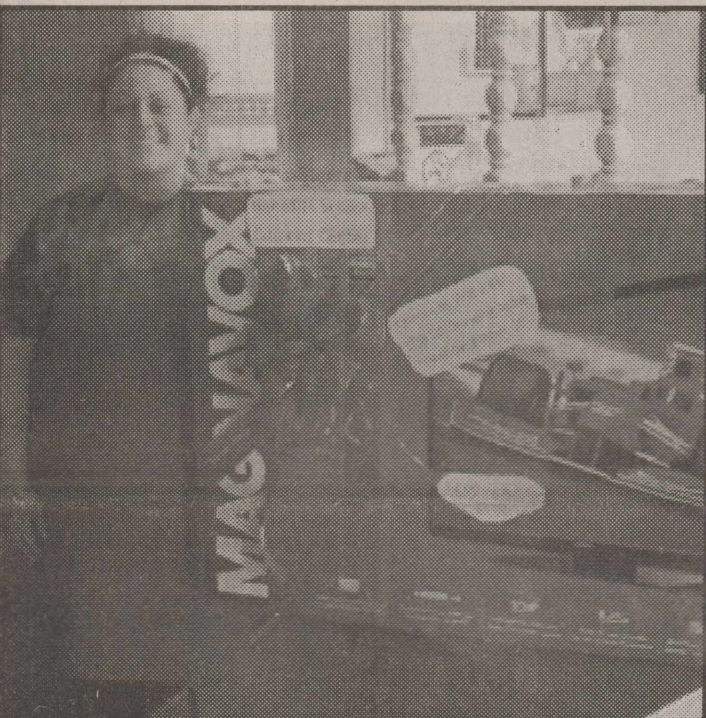
ALL ACADEMIC

Tristen Stephenson
Michael Carpenter
Justin Willis
Stephen Saltus
(90 average or above in every class for the first two six weeks)



LOCAL BUSINESS RECEIVES FUNDING—The United States Department of Agriculture awarded a Rural Business Enterprise Grant in the amount of \$75,000 to the City of Cross Plains. The grant award was presented in front of Last Shot Boots in Cross Plains, which received some of the funding. Pictured from left to right include: Hilary Stegemoller, Representative for Congressman

Mike Conaway; Debbie Gosnell, Cross Plains Economic Development Corporation Director; John M. Powell, Area Director for the US Department of Agriculture; Last Shot Boots owner Lynn Green; Dannes Turner, Cross Plains EDC; Era Lee Hanke, Cross Plains EDC; and Scott Byrd, Cross Plains EDC.



Winner of 46" TV — Darrin Ames was interrupted at the Library to come across the street to draw the winning ticket for a 46" television to be given away by the Cross Plains Senior Center. Ashlee Mathews was the winner and it was delivered to her at work. Ashlee was surprised and commented that she did not expect to win because she never wins anything. She was just wanting to make a donation. Donations for chance to win the TV raised approximately \$400.00 for the Center.

Greg Welch Elected to Statewide Association Board

Austin—The Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) has elected Greg Welch of Clyde CISD for an interim position on the TASB Board of Directors, representing TASB Region 14. With 16 years of experience on his local board, Welch has held the positions of vice-president and president, and is currently serving as the secretary of the Callahan County Appraisal District Board. Welch also is a graduate of the Leadership TASB Class of 2010, having earned the designation of master trustee.

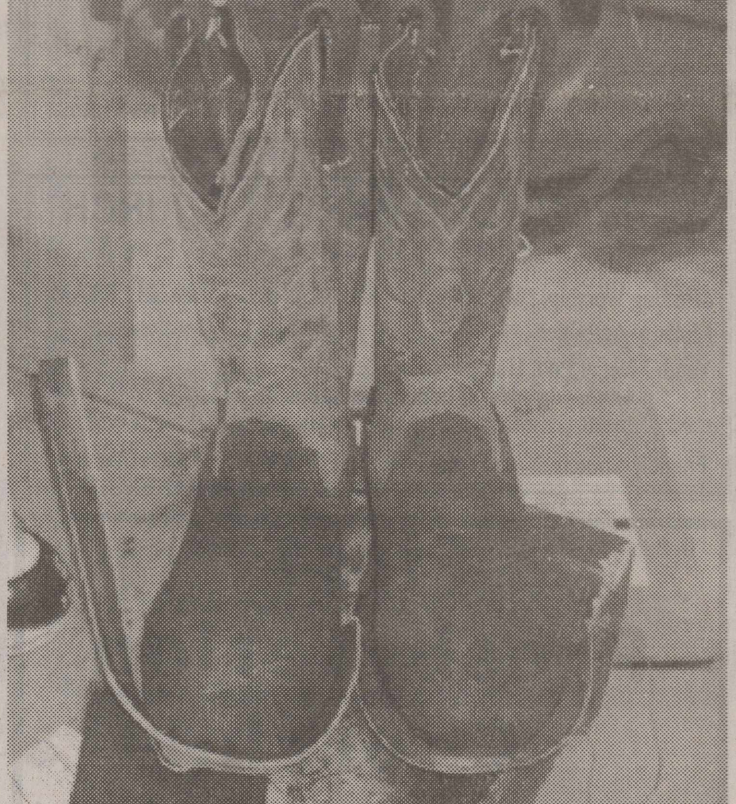
After attending Angelo State University, Welch has been employed in the manu-

facturing industry for 35 years, and currently is a production manager with Ludlum Measurements, Inc. in Sweetwater. Welch looks forward to serving as one of the 44 directors representing 20 regions across the state. Region 14 includes 13 counties and 42 local school districts serving approximately 50,000 students.

TASB is a nonprofit association established in 1949 to serve local public school districts. School board members are the largest group of publicly elected officials in the state. The districts they represent serve approximately 5 million students.



Hard at Work—Last Shot Boots has proved to be a great asset for the community. Custom made boots and boot repairs are now available, along with other western wear items. The new business will benefit from the U.S.D.A. grant that the City of Cross Plains recently received through the Economic Development Corporation.



Custom Made Boots—Now you can have a pair of boots made that fit you perfectly right here in Cross Plains. The EDC added \$7,500 to make a total of \$82,500 available in a revolving loan fund to loan eligible small and emerging businesses within the Cross Plains area. The Relending Loan Funds program will be a positive economic impact on the community.

Callahan County Sheriff's Posse annual meeting set for January 13th

The annual membership meeting of the Callahan County Sheriff's Posse will be held at 6pm, Monday, January 13th, in the rodeo arena clubhouse at 221 US Highway 80 East, Baird, TX 79504.

Officers and Directors for 2014 will be elected and other CCSP business transacted,

including plans for a ranch rodeo on April 26th in conjunction with Bankhead Highway Days.

All CCSP members are encouraged to attend as well as those who are interested in supporting, joining or participating in the Callahan County Sheriff's Posse.

DPS Increases DWI Enforcement During Holidays

AUSTIN - The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) will increase DWI patrols for a 21-day period that includes both the Christmas and New Year holidays. From December 13-January 2, DPS troopers will focus DWI patrols in high-risk locations at times when alcohol-related crashes are most frequent.

"Historically, the holiday season brings an increased potential for drinking and driving incidents, and these enhanced DPS patrols will help save lives," said DPS Director Steven McCraw. "Impaired driving can easily turn a holiday celebration into a tragic situation. By designating a sober driver or finding alternative transportation if drinking alcohol is expected, Texans can do their part in keeping our roadways safe and

making the holidays memorable for the right reasons."

The increased patrols that target impaired driving are funded through a grant from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). During the Christmas/New Year holiday enforcement effort last year, DPS troopers made more than 1,200 DWI arrests, and approximately 303 were the direct result of the increased patrols. DPS enforcement also resulted in more than 17,600 speeding citations and more than 2,000 seat belt/child safety seat citations. DPS patrols also resulted in 258 fugitive arrests and 211 felony arrests during the same time period.

DPS offers the following additional tips for safe travel during the holidays:

- Don't drink and drive. Designate a driver or take a cab.
- Eliminate distractions, including the use of mobile devices.
- Buckle up everyone in the vehicle - it's the law.
- Slow down - especially in bad weather, construction areas and heavy traffic.
- Slow down or move over for police, fire, EMS and Texas Department of Transportation vehicles and tow trucks that are stopped on the side of the road with emergency lights activated - it's the law.
- Don't drive fatigued.
- Drive defensively, as holiday travel may present additional challenges.
- Make sure your vehicle is properly maintained before your trip begins.

Texas Heritage Bank
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Member FDIC
Presents: "What's Inside"

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Cross Plains Review Will Be CLOSED for the Christmas Holidays

Tuesday and Wednesday Dec. 24-25th

Love Fund
There is a Love Fund set up for the family of Billy Bell at the Texas Heritage Bank

ADVERTISE IN THE CROSS PLAINS REVIEW

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Choose The Church of
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A Church For ALL
God's People

Triple Cross Cowboy Church
Every Sunday at 10:30 am
Services held at 18071 CR 421, Cross Plains
(1/2 mile North of Cross Plains city limits on Hwy 206)
Al Taylor, Preacher
Phone: 254-725-7522
Cell Phone: 325-370-6680

Pioneer Baptist Church

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

Living Water Ministries Fellowship

Restoring And Equipping The Saints
Sunday....10:00 am Wednesday....7:00 pm
Pastor Max Evans
For Information Call (254) 725-7418

Rowden Baptist Church

Pastor: Wayne Lenz
Music: Karen Lenz & Diane Woods
Bible Study...10:00 am
Sunday Morning Worship...11:00 am
2990 Highway 36 at Rowden 12 Miles West of Cross Plains

COTTONWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

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

First Presbyterian Church

Sunday Service 9:00 AM
Music- Connie Swift
Lead Singers: 4His Glory
Pastor Kathy Monroe
208 N. Ave. D

CROSS PLAINS CHURCH OF CHRIST

433 North Main Street
Cross Plains, Texas 76443
Minister: RICK AUSTIN
SUNDAY:
Morning Worship: 10:45 A.M.
Bible Class: 9:45 A.M.
Evening Worship: 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

OBITUARIES

James "Jimmie" Mayes

James "Jimmie" Mayes died Friday, December 13, 2013. Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Monday, December 16, 2013, in the Davis-Morris Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Tim Skaggs presiding. Interment was in the Eastlawn Memorial Park in Early.

Ms. Mayes married Jay Mayes in 1940 at Cross Plains. Jay was a proud member of the Texas Highway Patrol stationed in Brownwood. Jimmie worked in the banking profession for Republic National Bank in Brownwood. She was a member of Coggin Avenue Baptist Church. Jimmie enjoyed bowling and won a number of awards in the ladies division in Brown County.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her beloved husband Jay and sisters, RosaVan (Lane) Cox and Mary Eloise Lane.

Survivors include her nephews, Franklin Cox and wife Sharolyn, James Cox and wife Doris, and a number of great-nieces and nephews.

Denny Joe Harper

Funeral services for Denny Joe Harper, 59, of Rising Star were held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, December 18, 2013 at the Higginbotham Funeral Home in Cross Plains, with Mike McGinn officiating. Burial followed in the Rising Star Cemetery.

Mr. Harper died Sunday, December 15, 2013, in Abilene at Hendrick Medical Center.

He was born August 14, 1954, in Cario, Illinois, to Otis and Juanita (Owens) Harper. He was married to Linda Hollis on May 12, 2006, in Rising Star. He spent most of his life working in the oil field as a rigger. He was a Baptist.

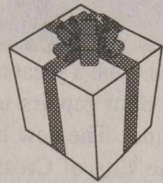
Survivors include his wife, Linda Harper of Rising Star; four daughters, Venice Harper of Fort Worth, Brandi Harper of Tyler, Lauren Ann Harper of Mesquite and Sherry White of Rising Star; brother, Maurice Harper of Seagoville; six grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and many other family members.

He was preceded in death by two brothers and one sister.

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Noon On Tuesday Of
That Week

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Street

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Kevin Morton, Pastor

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9:30 a.m.

Parsonage
325-624-5634
Sunday Worship
10:45 a.m.

1000 North Main Street
www.gbgm-umc.org/crossplains/

Christmas is about Hanging in There

By Glenn Mollette

A lot of people have given up. My father fell off a barn when I was about thirteen years old. He cracked his vertebrae and missed about six months of work. There was no unemployment insurance, or federal relief money. Everything became very lean as life was put on hold in hopes of better days.

By Christmas my father was getting around on crutches. We had a Christmas tree but I dared not ask for anything for Christmas. I knew we didn't have any money. On Christmas Eve we had a family gathering and we had food to eat. There actually was some exchanging of gifts and my mother handed me a small wrapped box. I was shocked. I anticipated nothing. Opening the present I found a simple watch. I would guess it cost eight to ten dollars at the most.

It might as well have been a Rolex. I was so surprised and couldn't believe my parents had bought me something for Christmas. I don't know how they did it.

A couple of months later my father was back to work and times became better as we hung in there and survived

difficult times. The Christmas gift is stuck in my head as being one of the all time best. The gift was simple but great.

Most of us know about a difficult time in life. We've all been there in some way. Maybe you are there now. Possibly your health is not so great and you are hoping for better days. You may be unemployed and you don't know how you are going to pay all the bills. Often life is never exactly as we had hoped or planned.

Every year of life is a little different and if you are reading this you still have hope. One of the keys to a better tomorrow is hanging in there today. It's easy to give up. Life can be discouraging. I heard an old preacher say one time, "The test of those who love God most are the ones at their post, when all the others have walked away."

Today...hang in there and remember what Christmas is about, "I... Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2: 10 - 11.

Texas Almanac available at Cross Plains Review

Texas Art & Historic Ranches featured in newly released Texas Almanac

DENTON, Texas — Discover the talent and motivation of early Texas artists through the eyes of Houston oilman J. P. Bryan, who has amassed the world's largest private collection of Texana. Bryan, along with Torch Collection Curator Jamie Christy, relate that as "French, Spanish, English, and German artists became Texans, a large body of their work bears visual testimony to their enduring affection for the region."

Be swept up in the history of the King Ranch and other storied Texas ranches by Texana writer Mike Cox. He presents them as "Lone Star icons, as much a part of the state's image as bluebonnets, oil wells, or rangy longhorns."

These articles are just part of the recently released *Texas Almanac 2014-2015*, published by the Texas State Historical Association. First published in 1857, the *Texas Almanac* has a long history of chronicling the Lone Star State and its residents.

The 752-page new edition also includes: coverage of the 2012 elections, 2012 Texas Olympic medalists, an update on Major League Baseball, and also lists of high school, college, and professional sports champions.

Every section of the Almanac—from the environment and weather to sports and recreation to government and elections—is updated with new data and information, including the latest population figures. With more than 300 color maps and 340-plus color photographs, the *Texas Almanac* spotlights all regions of the Lone Star State. For the traveler, the detailed maps of every one of Texas's 254 counties show the way to towns of all sizes, as well as to landmarks, lakes, rivers, parks, and back roads.

"This edition of the *Texas Almanac* is the largest, most col-



Corrida de la Sand'a aka Dia De San Juan (The Watermelon Race) by Jean Louis Thodore Gentilz, 1848, is one of the historic paintings that illustrates the article on Texas art and artists. From the Visions of the West Collection.



The Four Sixes Ranch chuck wagon illustrates Mike Cox's article on eight historic Texas ranches. This undated photo taken in King County is from the UNT Portal to Texas History and the Cattle Raisers Museum in Fort Worth.

orful *Texas Almanac* ever published," according to *Texas Almanac* editor Elizabeth Alvarez.

The flexbound editions of the *Texas Almanac* retails for \$24.95. Flexbound editions are now available at The Cross Plains Review.

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[About the Texas State Historical Association](http://www.tshahistory.org)

Founded as a private, non-profit educational organization on March 2, 1897 and housed at the University of North Texas,

the Texas State Historical Association (TSHA) is one of the nation's most dynamic regional history organizations. Reinforced by more than one hundred years of scholarship, its mission is to further the appreciation, understanding and teaching of the rich and unique history of Texas through research, writing, publication and educational programs. For more information please visit www.TSHAonline.org.

First Baptist Church

Sunday Morning 10:45 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6:30 p.m.

Sunday School
9:30

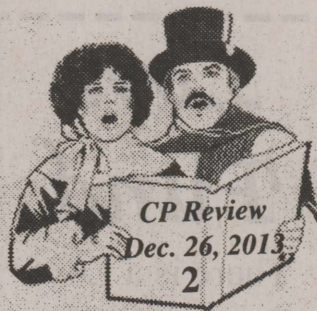
Wednesday

6:30 pm Prayer/Worship
Student & Children Ministries 6:30 p.m.

Ronnie B. White, Pastor

Tim Tolosa, Worship/Discipleship
Jared Huntley/Students

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



Cottonwood News

Beverly Brown

Merry Christmas to everyone. We wish you and your family a very happy holiday and pray for a safe journey as you or your family travels for the holiday. As we celebrate this season and the birth of our Lord, we give thanks for all the blessings bestowed on us throughout the past year.

Dena Nickerson, along with Matt and Nicole Nickerson of Abilene, flew to Tuscaloosa, Alabama for her grandson, Glynn Chase Nickerson's graduation from the University of Alabama on December 14th. Chase received two degrees -- a

Bachelor of Science in Commerce and Business Administration in Finance and a Bachelor of Science in Economics. He is the son of Glynn Nickerson and Terry Delgado. Glynn Nickerson and Olga and Blake Nickerson, all of Boerne, also made the trip to Alabama for the graduation ceremonies. Congratulations Chase! We are all so very proud of you!

January will be here soon. And with January comes the Cottonwood Volunteer Fire Control Group's Annual Fish Fry.

It's all in the planning stages now, but I know you won't want to miss it. Last year the onion rings were a big hit, so look for them to be added to the menu of fried catfish, chicken, french fries, beans, coleslaw, hushpuppies, iced tea and dessert.

Remember, the burn ban is still off. Please exercise caution if you plan to burn. Let the Sheriff's Office and your local fire chief know before you light the match. Here in Cottonwood, call Joe Terstege at 254-725-7281, and the Sheriff's Office at 325-854-1444.

LIBRARY NOTES

Library Hours

Monday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Tuesday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Wednesday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Thursday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
CLOSED FRIDAY

December 16 - 19, 2013

Patrons	101
Books Checked	71
Programs	24
LAP	3
Lapsit	2
GED Class	9
Other	10
Copies	139
Internet	29
WiFi	4
Interlibrary Loans	0
Reference	16

Donations

B.D. and Ellen Herbert
Ruth York
Cross Plains Garden Club
William Tommy Clark
Alan Ofe

Memorials

Cross Plains Class of 1954
In Memory of Ricky Smith

Kennith and Ann Beeler
In Memory of Ricky Smith

Living Tributes

Linda Burns
In Honor of the Cross Plains Library Board of Directors

Charles and Nancy Rodenberger
In Honor of Ray Purvis

Bob and Lavonne Childress
In Honor of Scott and Jacque Childress

Book and Miscellaneous

Donations
James Warlick
Michelle Kaiser
Fred and Cher Ptacek

Volunteers

Sue Bennett
Lavonne Childress
Wilma Lawrence
Helen Parsons

SUBSCRIBE TO THE CROSS PLAINS REVIEW

Senior Citizens Center Activities

December 30-31 & Jan. 1-2

Monday, 30th - Exercise 11:00
Tuesday, 31st - NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY 6:00-???
Wednesday, 1st - HAPPY NEW YEARS!!
Thursday, 2nd - Exercise 11:00
Friday, 3rd - Exercise 11:00

SENIOR CITIZENS MENU

December 30-31-January 1-3

Monday - Swiss Steak (vegs in entree), White Rice, Rice, Fruit, Dessert, Drink
Thursday - Turkey Salad Sandwich, Tomato Soup, Crackers, Dessert, Drink

Tuesday - Chicken & Rice Casserole, English Peas, Cheddar Cheese Biscuits, Dessert, Drink
FRIDAY - Sloppy Joes, sliced onion & pickles, Baked Beans, Chips, Dessert, Drink

Wednesday - HAPPY NEW YEAR!  MEAL IS SERVED - 11:45 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

When our money is tight, hometown shopping is just right.

Clyde Hardware & Supply

119 Pecan Clyde, Tx. 79510
325-893-4260 Fax: 325-893-5262
Website: <http://texasroomcatchers.webs.com>

Christmas Specials! LIMITED QUANTITIES

- * Travel Mug- 16oz. , colors, ea. \$5⁹⁹
- * LED Flashlights 5" colors ea. \$3⁹⁹
- * Children's Activity Pads ea. \$1⁰⁰

We have all the "Cold Weather" Merchandise! Heaters, pipe insulation, heat lamps, pipe repair PVC, CPVC, & fittings.

If we are closed, please call Pam at 260-3699 or Eddie at 260-3698 & we will open the store for your EMERGENCY Service!

We will be closed at noon on Tues., Dec. 25th. We will be open on Thurs. Dec. 26, 27, 28, 30. We will be closed on Tues Dec. 31st at noon & Wed. Jan 1, 2014. We will be open on Thurs. Jan. 2, 2014, back to our regular schedule!

Thank you All! Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

New Year's Day Hike coming to State Park near you

AUSTIN—Put your New Year's resolution into action by lacing up your shoes and joining thousands of others throughout the nation in more than 50 First Day Hikes taking place Jan. 1st in Texas State Parks.

For the third year in a row, dozens of Texas State Parks will participate in America's State Parks First Day Hikes initiative taking place in all 50 states. Last year, more than 1,000 hearty souls gave their soles a workout in less than ideal weather during First Day Hike events held in 57 Texas State Parks. Last year, 720 first-day hikes in state parks throughout the nation drew 22,000 park visitors who hiked 43,000 miles.

For the most up-to-date information about the more than 50 scheduled "First Day Hikes" in Texas State Parks, visit: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/calendar/first-day-hikes.

"First Day Hikes has become an established signature park event that helps Texas families create traditions they can follow year after year to get them outdoors in our state parks to share camaraderie and a renewed sense of adventure," says Karen Blizzard, Texas State Parks' First Day Hikes coordinator. "We are hoping even more Texas State Parks, many of

which offer guided and interpretive walks, will join in the fun this year."

Mother Neff State Park near Moody recorded 115 first-day hikers to lead the Texas State Park system turnout this past Jan. 1, followed by Franklin Mountains State Park in El Paso that hosted 78 visitors to the Chihuahuan Desert high country. Mother Neff will offer a guided hike over four miles of trails, starting at 2 p.m., while West Texas hikers up for more of a challenge can test their endurance in the Peak Fitness Challenge by climbing 1,000 feet in elevation on a 3.5 mile round-trip trek to Munday's Gap in the Franklin Mountains. Like most First Day events, there is no charge, but park entry fees apply.

Hiking in Texas state parks offer many health benefits that help combat childhood diabetes and adolescent obesity, provide a source of Vitamin D from sunshine and help burn off unwanted pounds. Did you know a 163-pound woman can burn nine calories a minute during a brisk one-hour walk, or about 555 calories, and a 190-pound man roughly 646 calories during a brisk, one-hour hike?

First Day Hikes vary in difficulty and required fitness levels, ranging from short, leisurely nature walks through

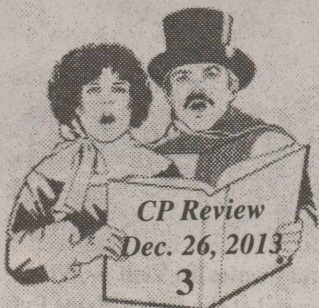
forested trails, the beach and along boardwalks to special bird watching and interpretive cultural/natural history hikes. Fort Richardson State Park & Historic Site in Jacksboro, for example, is hosting a one-half mile nature hike on the medium difficulty-rated Kicking Bird Trail. Participants are encouraged to bring a camera, binoculars, water and snacks.

Not all First Day Hikes are walking or hiking events. Look for a New Year's Day "paddle" at Ray Roberts Lake State Park's Johnson Branch, a "Boat-n-Hike" at Fort Parker State Park, a First Day Black-Eyed Pea Kids Run at Government Canyon State Natural Area and trails runs at Cedar Hill State Park.

To learn about other hiking opportunities available throughout the year in Texas State Parks, visit: www.texasstateparks.org/hiking.

The Maryland Park Service is coordinating the nation's 2014 events under the auspices of the National Association of State Parks Directors. This year, a NASPD affiliate member, the American Hiking Society, has joined to support the First Day Hikes around the country.

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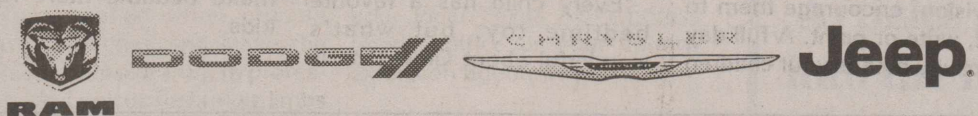
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SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

December 18, 2013

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

The following administrators and guests were also in attendance: Superintendent, H.S. Principal, Elementary Principal and guests Lindsey Barnett, Trenton Barnett, Teresta Barnett and Leslie Lawrence.

Prayer was led by Michael Cowan.

Motion was made by Shepard and seconded by Cowan that we recognize Teresta Hass-Barnett as the November 2013 Girl of the Month and Barrett Nickerson the November 2013 Boy of the Month as Cross Plains Students of the Month. For 6 Against 0

Motion was made by Shepard and seconded by Cowan that the board approve 2012-13 Financial Audit. For 6 Against 0

Motion was made by Shepard

and seconded by McWilliams that we accept minutes from the previous meeting. For 6 Against 0

Motion was made by Cowan and seconded by McWilliams that the Board give Superintendent Mitchell the authority to negotiate the price for a new track at \$288,000.00 to \$310,000.00. For 6 Against 0

Motion was made by Crockett and seconded by Shepard that motion was made to accept report on board members training hours. For 6 Against 0

Motion was made by Richey and seconded by McWilliams that we accept the Update Wellness Policy. For 6 Against 0

Motion was made by McWilliams and seconded by Shepard that we make a motion to accept the resignation of Mrs. Karen Richey effective December 31, 2013. For 6 Against 0

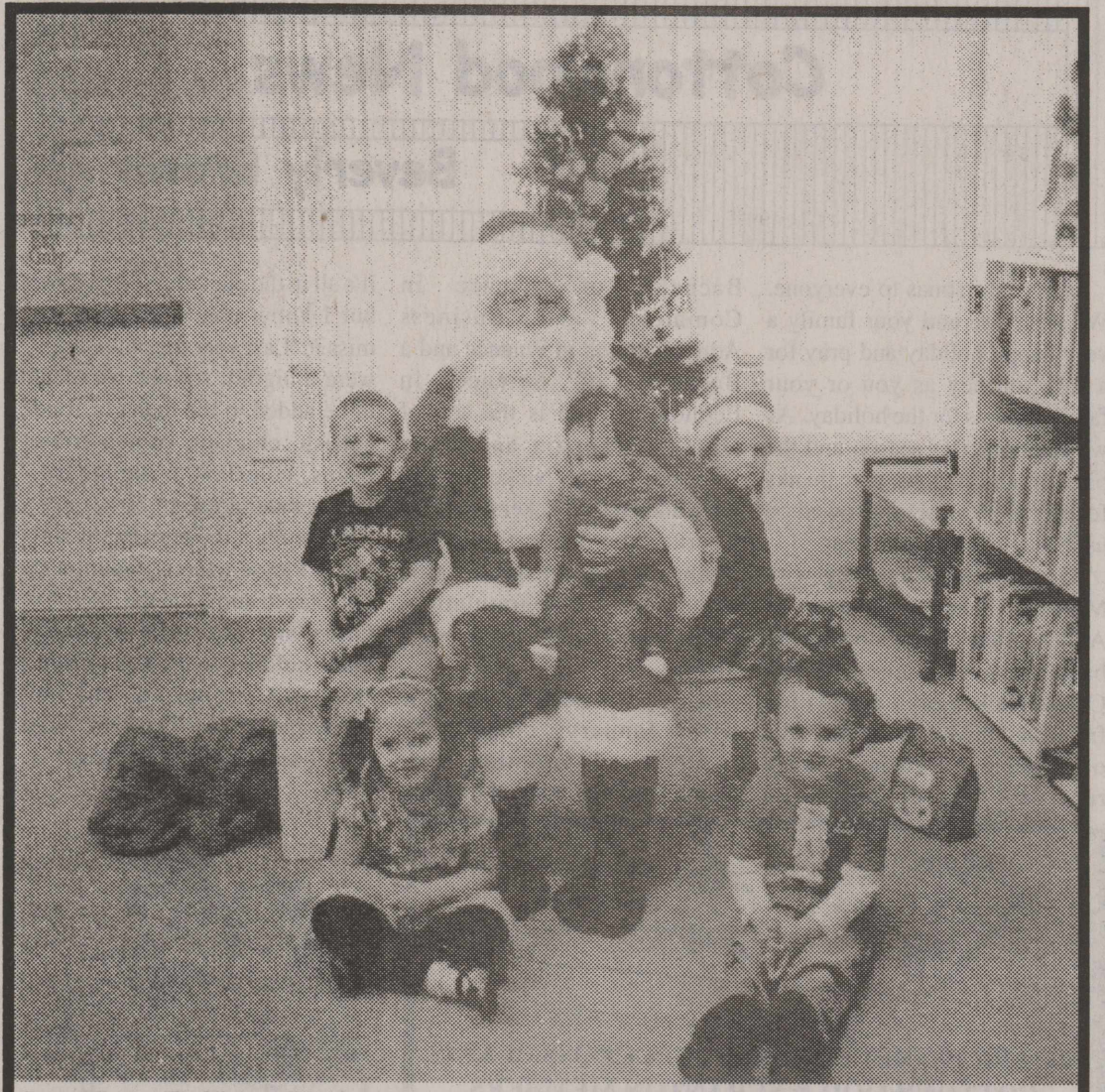
Motion was made by Shepard and seconded by Richey that we adjourn. For 6 Against 0



Texas Department of State Health Services Flu/Immunization Clinic in Clyde

Wednesday, January 8th
First Baptist Church
216 Austin
Time 10-12
&
1:30-3

For your Convenience, please call to schedule an appointment. If no answer, please leave a message. Please bring Child's Immunization Records. If on Medicaid or Medicare, please bring the card. For more information please call 325-754-4945.



Santa Comes To Visit — What a surprise the children had last Wednesday morning when Santa Claus appeared at the Cross Plains Public Library. Miss Sue read a Christmas story to the LAP and Lapsit Kids. After the story they started singing Jingle Bells when another sound was heard! It was the HO HO HO of Santa! He visited with each child and then opened his magic red bag pulled out gifts for everyone. Santa finally had to say goodbye telling he would see them next week!

Five ways to teach your children to give back during the holidays

The holidays are a good time to talk to your children about being thankful for their health, family, friends, and all the other good things they have in life.

It's also a good time to teach kids about giving back to the community and the less fortunate. We hope everyone can experience the joy that comes from serving others this Christmas season."

Here are five ways to teach children to give back during the holidays: 1. Make Christmas cards. Kids will love being able to create and decorate their own holiday cards to send to the troops, sick children in hospitals, or people in nursing homes. You can even include some candy, Christmas cookies, or small items that might be helpful for the recipient. Each of these groups of people need an incredible amount of support and love; a simple card can make a huge difference.

2. Volunteer at a soup kitchen. You can find a local soup kitchen or homeless shelter near you in need of volunteers to help provide, prepare, and serve food to the homeless and hungry in your neighborhood. It's a great way to give back to your community and your child can help with little things like serving the food.

3. Adopt a family for the holidays. The Salvation Army and other organizations offer Adopt-a-Family programs for the holidays so you can sign up to buy gifts for families in need. Your children can help you pick out presents, clothes and toys for each member of the family. Let them know that not everyone can afford to buy presents at Christmas which is why it's good to share what you have.

4. Donate old toys and clothes. This is something the

whole family can get in on. Everyone should go through their closets and find clothes that no longer fit or that they no longer wear that they can donate. Coats and jackets are always in demand during the cold winter months so it's a great idea to donate them to a coat drive.

Kids will be getting new toys to play with at Christmas so use this to encourage them to give away old toys to children whose parents can't afford to buy them new toys.

5. Thank those who serve. Sometimes we forget to thank the people who help us out every day and we take their services for granted. Have your children help you give out cookies, candy canes, cards, or even a flower to the people who help you. These people include the postman, doorman, grocery store clerk, church workers, office receptionists, etc.

Clyde Livestock Show to be held in Cross Plains on January 4th

It's almost stock show season again and with that a few updates from the Clyde FFA regarding the local stock show.

It was voted on Sunday night at a meeting of the Clyde Jr. Livestock Association that this year the local show will be held in Cross Plains at the county show barn. We understand this is not the ideal situation, however, with all of the positive growth our chapter has experienced and the construction projects scheduled to take place after Thanksgiving we felt the county barn in Cross Plains would be the best fit.

This year's Clyde FFA Community Livestock Show will be held on Saturday, January 4, 2014 at the County Livestock Show Barn in Cross Plains. This year's show will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. with the weigh-in of animals beginning at 9:00 a.m.

With that being said our school is building a new addition to the field house, as well as, a new feeding barn for our FFA students. We as members of the faculty at Clyde High School felt it was in the best interest of all the students involved to accommodate for these times of growth by allowing access to one side of our Ag Building for use by the athletic department.

This is only a temporary move and once these construction projects are complete the local show will again be held in Clyde. It is our hope that the community will understand this decision and continue to show their support for the young people in Clyde by attending the show in Cross Plains.

Also, this year's local livestock show will again have silent auction items to bid on all day during the show. Be sure and place your bids on various items being offered.

Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas Honored Buzzi Unicem USA and Region XIV Education Service Center at Wednesday Board Meeting

Abilene—On Wednesday, December 18th, Buzzi Unicem USA, located in Maryneal, Texas, was honored at the Workforce Solutions Board meeting, at 12:00 noon, 400 Oak Street, Abilene, Texas. They were recognized for receiving the Local Employer of Excellence Award for the Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas, at the Texas Workforce Commission's (TWC) 17th Annual Texas Workforce Conference held Dec. 4th-6th in San Antonio. The Local Employer Award of Excellence Award honors employers that are actively involved with their local Workforce Board and have made a positive impact on employers, workers and the community.

Also honored was the Early Childhood Leadership Academy (ECLA). This is a partnership between Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas and Region XIV Education Service Center. The nine-month ECLA course is designed to improve the skills of child care administrators, help them develop and strengthen the leadership skills needed to successfully operate a quality early childhood program.

Questions regarding this



Pictured (L to R)—Ronnie Kincaid/Executive Director Region 14 Education Service Center, Ken Thompson, Lenora Peterson/Region 14 Staff, Laura Terhune/Workforce Solutions Board President.

event may be directed to Steve Collins, Business Resources Consultant, for the West Central Texas Workforce Board, at 325-795-4304 or by e-mail to HYPERLINK steve.collins@workforcesystem.org.

The Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas Board is one of 28 boards in the state charged with oversight and policy-making responsibility for workforce and training programs in a nineteen county

region. Additional information on the Board's economic development efforts or services for business customers may be obtained by calling the Workforce Board at (325) 795-4200 or by visiting the website at HYPERLINK <http://www.workforcesystem.org> Equal Opportunity Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available, upon request, to individuals with disabilities. Relay Svc: 711

REMEMBER the Library's Student Writing Contest

The Cross Plains Public Library has made changes in the writing contest. The 2014 entries may be submitted anytime between November 15 and January 10. The contest is still open to all students grades K-12 who are eligible to go to Cross Plains ISD whether in public school or home-school. Contestants can pick up an entry form at school or the library. Only one entry is allowed per student, and there is

a five page limit. As always, writings will be "blind judged."

Ribbons will be awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners from each grade. Lou Rodenberger Outstanding Achievement plaques will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place overall winners. Winners will be awarded during a special program on the afternoon of Sunday, March 23, 2014. Family and friends will be invited to attend.

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Give your kids the gift of a Good Night Sleep this Holiday Season

StatePoint—When your children have trouble sleeping at night it can be just as tiring for you as for your little ones.

And no matter what the source of the issue is, a full night's sleep is important for everybody's physical and mental health.

But during the busy holiday season, unpredictable sleeping schedules and big family gatherings can contribute to poor sleep. Take steps to help children rest better at night this season by trying these sleep tips to make bedtime easier for the whole family:

Stay Active
Don't be afraid to tire children out! When they aren't attending school or their regular activities, they aren't expending as much energy. During the winter break, take long walks or simply visit the park each day for a game of tag, catch or a bike ride.

Keep your kids mentally active, as well. Instead of zoning out in front of the television, encourage them to read, write or paint. A full day of activity means your children

will be ready for some shut-eye by bedtime.

Mindful Eating
Everyone knows that caffeine before bedtime is a no-no. While your children are probably not coffee drinkers, don't forget that soda and chocolate contain caffeine too. While it can be tricky to mind one's eating habits during the holidays, try to avoid feeding kids sugary or spicy foods before bedtime, as both can have a tossing and turning effect.

Brighten Up
For many kids, settling into bedtime after the excitement of the holidays can be difficult. Instead of opting for a standard nightlight, try a soft and cuddly option that may make sleeping fun and comforting, even in an unfamiliar place. Conveniently, you can now help remedy your children's sleep issues while traveling during the holidays with a Glow Pet, a loveable and portable light up pet pillow.

"Every child has a favorite bedtime toy, but what's wonderful about Glow Pets is

they are so much more than just another stuffed animal," advises Laurie Schacht, Toy Insider Mom. "Glow Pets triple function as nightlight, pillow and friend making it the perfect addition to a child's bedroom, particularly for those kids who have trouble sleeping."

For more information, visit www.GlowPets.com.

Rituals
A schedule helps the body know when to be alert and when to be sleepy. Over the holidays, don't let kids deviate too much from their regular routine.

Nighttime rituals, such as bedtime reading, can help create a sleepy mood at night. Anxieties may make sleep a troublesome prospect for some kids, so another great bedtime ritual is simply spending time talking with your kids each night. This gives them the opportunity to open up and discuss what's bothering them.

With a few tricks, you can make bedtime more fun for kids.

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Paramount Theater to screen Hornet's Nest January 25, 2014

Submitted by: Terry Burgess

I am Terry Burgess, and my son, SSG Bryan A. Burgess was Killed In Action on March 29th, 2011. Bryan was also their grandson of Chal Burgess of Clyde.

Bryan served with the United States Army 2nd Battalion 327th Infantry of *No Slack* with the 101st Airborne of Fort Campbell, KY.

No Slack was deployed on Strong Eagle III that morning in Afghanistan. With them was Mike Boettcher, of ABC News, a 32 year veteran war correspondent. When *No Slack* was ambushed by the Taliban forces, Mike was right there with his camera and recorded the entire battle. Six men were killed that first morning, including SPC Jameson Lindsog, a medic who was shot multiple times while trying to save the lives of three other men.

The Hornet's Nest is a war documentary unlike any you have ever seen before. There are no special effects. The bullets are real, the explosions are real, and the emotions are real.

This film, however, is not just about my son or the five others who died that day. The Hornet's Nest is about anyone who has ever served in the Armed Forces.

A good friend of mine told me "It puts you face first down in the dirt with these guys."

After seeing this film, you will know without a doubt why it is so important and appreciated when you thank Active Duty Service Members and Veterans for their service.

You can read about the film and see the Trailer on www.thehornetsnestmovie.com

The film is scheduled to show at The Historic Paramount Theatre in Abilene on January 25, 2014.

This is a non-profit showing before the film is released nationally in May 2014.

"The Hornet's Nest is a riveting, powerful film that every American should see," said Dr. William Perry, Former Secretary of Defense under President Clinton and Current National Security Advisor.

"Everyone, especially non-military, should see this movie. Unless you've fought in a war, you have no idea what our

service men and women go through, how close they become, or the incredible lengths to which they will go for one another," remarked Donna Walker, Gold Star Mother.

Col. J.B. Vowell, a career ARMY infantry officer and commanding officer of the Task Force *No Slack* in the 101st Airborne Division commented, "This film is and will be a phenomenal picture for a wide audience across the country. It is dramatic, unscripted, visceral and real."

Nothing I have ever seen comes close. People in the general public who have so far been deprived of knowing and understanding what is happening in Afghanistan will be awed. It achieves what no screenplay can: it places you in the most harrowing combat scenes against a hostile enemy in the most complex terrain imaginable where buddies fight for each other's survival and mission accomplishment."

NOTE: "The Hornet's Nest" is a documentary that contains adult language and an unflinching look at the war in Afghanistan. It is for mature audiences.

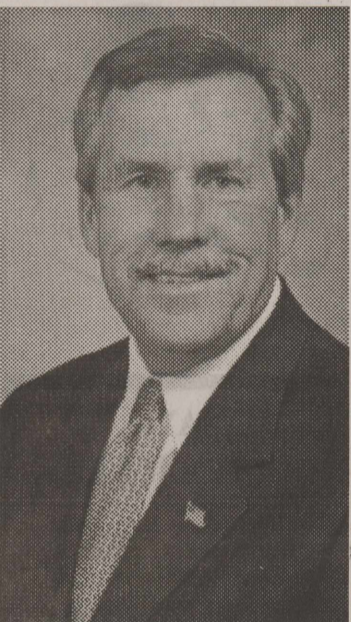
Senator Troy Fraser Reflects on Christmas

By State Senator Troy Fraser

With all the hustle and bustle surrounding the holidays, it's easy to lose sight of what Christmas is truly about. While we're busy perfecting our wish lists or dropping hints about what would look perfect under the tree, it's important to realize that the spirit of Christmas lies in generosity. Although braving the cold and crowds to find that last minute gift is commendable in its own right, I'd like to encourage you to find a way to give that doesn't necessarily require wrapping paper or a bow.

Sometimes, the best gifts truly are free. If you can't afford to give financially, consider giving your time or your compassion. All across our great state, opportunities abound for Texans to help one another. Perhaps you've always considered lending a hand at the local soup kitchen or you've noticed that your neighbor could use some assistance around the house. What better time to reach out than in this season of giving? Even though those gifts don't cost a dime, their worth is immeasurable.

I know it may seem like Thanksgiving was just here and we're still full from the turkey dinners, but Christmas is also a holiday for giving thanks. I'd like to encourage you to give the gift of appreciation over the holidays. Whether it be our men and



STATE SENATOR TROY FRASER

women in uniform serving abroad or our first responders here at home, we owe them our thanks and gratitude. While we're all huddled around the tree with a fire crackling in the fireplace, take a moment to reflect on the selflessness of those who protect us and defend our freedom.

It's my hope that you are able to enjoy the company of your family and friends this Christmas and celebrate the true meaning of the holiday. From me and my family to you and yours, best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Use Caution When Dealing With Winter Storm-Damaged Trees

COLLEGE STATION, Texas—Winter storms this month left parts of northeast Texas with downed limbs and split trees. Power has been restored and attention has now turned to the devastating effects the weather had on their trees.

Texas A&M Forest Service reminds homeowners to be careful with damaged trees. Trunks and branches are heavy and should be considered dangerous until they can be brought to the ground. Even limbs as small as two inches can cause injury if they fall on someone. The only deaths from Hurricane Claudette that hit South Texas in July, 2003 were from falling tree limbs.

"It is a common occurrence to have people survive storms and natural disasters only to be injured while cleaning up afterwards," said Pete Smith, state urban forestry program manager. "We want people to be as safe as possible while dealing with damaged and fallen trees."

Take caution when pruning small branches and leave the heavy chainsaw work to professionals. Look up for broken limbs

that may fall, and look down to avoid fallen power lines. Any damage to limbs within 10 ft. of power lines needs the work of a professional arborist. They have the equipment and knowledge needed, and are usually listed in the telephone book under "Tree Service." Ask for certification through the International Society of Arboriculture.

Be cautious of tree services soliciting door to door. A qualified arborist should have Workers' Compensation insurance, liability insurance and experience in the tree care industry. If their services include tree topping, beware. Tree topping is the worst treatment for trees because it reduces the amount of leaves the tree needs to recover from the storm on its own.

Check with your city or county officials to see if they are providing assistance with disposal of tree debris from private property.

For further assistance, contact your local Texas A&M Forest Service office or your county extension agent.



Take a pass on high gas. Don't Roam...Shop at Home!

Game Warden Field Notes

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

• **DWI Lands Woman in Jail**—After observing a sports car speeding and veering into a median just north of Del Rio, a Val Verde County game warden pulled the car over. The female driver showed signs of intoxication, but refused all field sobriety tests. She was arrested for suspicion of driving while intoxicated and placed in the county jail. Case pending.

• **Chase Nets Pot**—Game wardens were patrolling the western edge of their far west Texas district for deer poaching late one night when they saw a vehicle turn around suspiciously on a highway. Before the wardens could activate their emergency lights to pull the vehicle over, the car accelerated rapidly and gained distance. The wardens found the vehicle ditched on a side road after a short pursuit, but the occupants had abandoned the vehicle and disappeared into the darkness. After securing the scene, the wardens inspected the vehicle and called for backup after finding multiple bundles of suspected marijuana. When backup arrived, an extensive search of the surrounding area for suspects began, but the officers were unable to locate the suspects. The 430.2 pounds of marijuana found in the bundles, as well as the vehicle were seized as part of an ongoing investigation.

• **Running Out of Excuses**—A Parker County game warden completed an investigation and charges were brought against three subjects for killing six deer from a public road and dumping the deer off a bridge. It is unknown how many deer the sub-

jects actually wounded and never found. One of the men said that they had run out of ammunition for the rifle and were shooting at the deer with a shotgun, using duck load. Restitution is pending for the three does and three fawns that were dumped.

• **Sniffing Out the Truth**—While checking for fishing violations in east Travis County, two game wardens saw three male subjects smoking marijuana in plain view at a picnic table. The wardens along with K9 partner, Ruger, contacted the subject and the dog searched the vehicle previously occupied by the subjects and alerted the warden to the driver's-side door. Inside the vehicle, Ruger located a marijuana roach. Paraphernalia citations were issued to all subjects, who admitted to partaking in the illegal activity.

• **Aiming for Trouble**—A Williamson County game warden met with a hunter who had made an Operation Game Thief call about a hog hunter who shot across the property line about 15 yards from his position. The hunter shouted at the shooter after they shot onto private property. The hunter said the shooter wasn't shooting at a hog or deer. The warden tracked down the hunters who lived nearby along the San Gabriel River and found the person he was searching for. Within a couple of minutes, the man confessed to shooting across the property line. Case is pending.

• **Case of the Missing Antler**—A Polk County game warden discovered a white-tailed buck, with a missing antler, at a local processor. The antler looked to have been recently broken off. After speaking to the hunter, the warden discov-

ered that the deer was originally a six-point buck, which is under the 13-inch antler restrictions. Case pending for taking an illegal white-tailed buck with less than a 13-inch antler spread.

• **Un-licensed to Kill**—Seeing a fresh, clean tag on a large buck brought into a local deer processor, a Polk County game warden became a little suspicious. After checking the license with dispatch, the warden learned that it had been purchased a few minutes before the deer was dropped off at the processor. Several interviews later, the warden found that the man had already killed a large buck on opening day, also killed the buck in question on the same property. To avoid getting caught, the hunter called his brother and asked him to go and buy a license for another family member, who was not a hunter, and bring him a tag. The plan backfired when they forgot to get their stories straight. Charges filed included exceeding the annual bag limit of white-tailed buck deer less than 13-inch antler spread, hunting under the license of another, and possession of an illegally taken white-tailed deer. Cases and restitution on a 140 Boone and Crockett whitetail pending.

• **Too Many Deer, Too Little Spread**—Two Polk County game wardens investigated a local man suspected of exceeding his white-tailed deer bag limit. After a short interview, the subject confessed and produced the antlers from 8-point and 10-point white-tailed bucks he killed during the first week of the season. Case filed for exceeding the annual bag limit of white-tailed buck deer with less than 13-inch antler spread.

• **A Photo Speaks 1,000**

Words—After a detailed investigation, two game wardens served a felony warrant after a subject was caught on a trail camera with a beer in one hand and a rifle slung over his shoulder. The wardens partnered with the justice of the peace and several community members and identified the subject. It was found that the subject had been convicted of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon in the late '80s. With the photograph as evidence, wardens provided their case a few weeks later and acquired the arrest warrant.

• **Shining a Light on Untagged Deer**—An Atascosa County game warden was assisting the Jourdanton Police Department and the Department of Public Safety with the search for an intoxicated man who was causing problems. The warden shined his flashlight in a driveway of a residence and saw a buck deer hanging. After making contact with three men, two citations were issued for two untagged deer and warnings for not filling out the hunter harvest log. Cases pending.

• **Trail of Bread Crumbs Leads Wardens to Guilty Hunters**—While checking duck hunters on Redfish Bay, two San Patricio County game wardens encountered a group of hunters using bread crumbs as bait. As the wardens approached the blind, they noticed pieces of what turned out to be bread floating in the water around the blind. The hunters said that since they did not have decoys they decided to use the bread to lure in the ducks. Inspecting the hunter's bag, the wardens found a cormorant, which the hunters claimed was a pintail. Cases pending.

Cross Plains Garden Club

Diana Miller



Garden Club Meeting at Texas Heritage Bank — Garden Club members are Carlene Howard, (from left) Diana Miller, Marqueta Westbrook, Debbie Eudy, Mary Ella Weaver and Eva Fleming. Not shown: Mary Dean.

Thank you Lord for blessing us with nourishing moisture and we pray for more. Please be with our families and friends during this busy Christmas season, keeping everyone healthy and safe.

The Cross Plains Garden Club met in the Mozelle Richardson room of the Texas Heritage Bank at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, December 13, 2013 for their regularly scheduled business meeting and Christmas luncheon provided by Bubba's B-B-Q.

President Eva Fleming opened the meeting with a beautiful prayer of blessing and thanksgiving. Members present were Mary Dean, Debbie Eudy, Eva Fleming, Carlene Howard, Diana Miller, Mary Ella Weaver and Marqueta Westbrook.

A special note of thanks to the Texas Heritage Bank for opening their meeting room to our club. In appreciation, a child's name

was selected from their Angel Tree.

Annual donations were discussed and finalized. Donations will be made to the Cross Plains Cancer Fun, the Cross Plains EMS; the Burkett, Cottonwood and Cross Plains Volunteer Fire Departments; the Cross Plains Food Pantry; Project Pride; the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority and the Cross Plains Senior Citizen's Center.

The Garden Club also offers a \$500.00 scholarship to a qualifying graduating senior.

We are currently collecting plastic plan containers for use in our March 2014 after school program at the library and our upcoming April 2014 plant sale. Please contact one of our members if you have pots available.

Garden Tips: Remember to

cover your decorative plants and vegetables when weather dips below freezing. You can also use straw or leaves mixed with compost to help protect your plants. If the recent freeze has killed some of your plants, pull them up and add them to your compost pile. Although asparagus can be planted at anytime, now is an ideal time to get new plants into the ground.

The next Garden Club meeting will be held at the home of Mary Ella Weaver on Friday, January 10, 2014. The program will include bird watching and a discussion about organic gardening.

If you've been thinking about visiting the Cross Plains Garden Club or would like to become a member, please contact us at 254-725-9418. Visitors and newcomers are always welcome.

ATTENTION

Articles and Ads for the Cross Plains Review need to be turned into the newspaper office by noon on Thursday, December 26th, as the paper will be printed December 27th due to the holidays.

Thank you for your cooperation.

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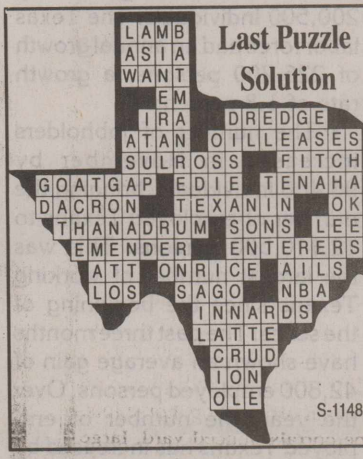

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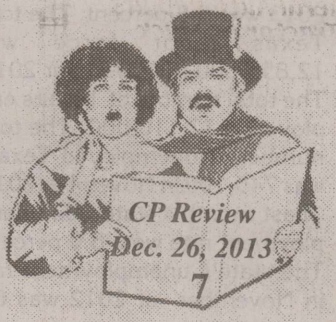
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Texas versus New Mexico Water Lawsuit Should Move Forward

Austin (December 11, 2013) - In an important legal action, the U.S. Solicitor General's office said Tuesday that the State of Texas has provided enough legal evidence at this stage to move forward with its water compact dispute case against the state of New Mexico before the U.S. Supreme Court. Earlier this year, Texas filed its original action claim against New Mexico regarding damages to Texas from New Mexico's illegal and unauthorized diversions of project water below Elephant Butte that have harmed Texas' allocation in accordance with the Rio Grande Project and the 1938 Rio Grande Compact. Texas, New Mexico and Colorado each filed briefs on the case. The Supreme Court asked the U.S. Solicitor General to write in on the case before deciding to take the action.

The brief says in part, "The Court should grant Texas' leave to file its complaint. Texas alleges an interstate dispute of sufficient importance to warrant this Court's exercise of its original jurisdiction, and there is no other forum in which the controversy practically can be resolved."

Texas Rio Grande Compact Commissioner Patrick Gordon said, "I'm extremely appreciative and supportive of the United States amicus brief filed today. It is critical for this case to advance so that Texas' water under the Compact and Rio Grande Project is protected and the damaging impacts to Texas can be addressed and reversed."

"The Rio Grande is a critical water supply for our state, and I fully support the decision to file the lawsuit in order to protect water due to Texas under the Compact. I greatly appreciate the federal government recognizing the validity of the claim and the reasons for our action," said Texas Water Development Board Chairman Carlos

Rubinstein. "I believe that this statement from the Solicitor General is an important milestone in protecting Texas' water rights," said TCEQ Chairman Bryan W. Shaw, Ph.D., P.E. "While Texas is loath to sue our New Mexico neighbor, river compacts are law, Texas rightfully depends on water apportioned under the law, and the compacts must be enforced."

The legal brief agrees with Texas' view of the compact, which apportioned the waters of the Rio Grande Basin—from its headwaters to Fort Quitman—among the three compacting States. The Solicitor General's brief states that New Mexico's view of the Compact is also inconsistent with the requirement that New Mexico "deliver" a specific quantity of water to Elephant Butte.

In addition, according to the Solicitor General's brief, New Mexico does not appear to contest that there have been substantial diversions of surface water and groundwater in New Mexico below Elephant Butte Reservoir.

The Solicitor General's legal brief states that Texas should be granted leave to file its complaint, and New Mexico invited to file a motion to dismiss the complaint. The brief states that the Supreme Court might consider the motions, or refer the matter to a court-appointed Special Master.

The TWDB is the state agency charged with collecting and disseminating water-related data, assisting with regional planning and preparing the State Water Plan for the development of the state's water resources. The TWDB administers cost-effective financial programs for the construction of water supply, wastewater treatment, flood control, and agricultural water conservation projects.

Callahan County's jobless rate drops to 4.3% in October

The unemployment rate in Callahan County dropped two-tenths of one percent to 4.3% in November 2013, according to jobless figures released Friday, December 20th by the Texas Workforce Commission. The unemployment rate in Callahan County one year ago in November 2012 was 4.4 percent.

Callahan County's unemployment rate was 4.5% in October, 2013.

Previous monthly jobless rates in Callahan County included: 4.9% in September, 4.7% in August, 4.7% in July, 5.3% in June 2013, 5.2% in May, 4.5% in April, 4.8% in March, 5.2% in February, 5.3% in January, and 4.5% in December 2012, according to the unemployment figures.

Big Country area counties, bordering Callahan County, and the counties' unemployment rates for November 2013 include: Brown, 5.3%; Coleman, 5.4%; Eastland, 5.3%; Jones, 5.6%; Runnels, 5.1%; Shackelford, 2.3%; Stephens, 4.4%; and Taylor County, 4.4%.

The Abilene MSA (Metropolitan Statistical Area) unemployment rate, which includes Taylor, Callahan and Jones Counties, stood at 4.5% in November, 2013, according to the Texas Workforce Commission. The Abilene MSA Combined Labor Force is 85,900. There were 82,000 employed during November 2013, while 3,900 were unemployed, giving the Abilene MSA an unemployment rate of 4.5%.

The Abilene MSA reported the workforce was 85,500 in October, 2013. Total employment of 81,400 was reported in October 2013, while 4,100, or 4.7% were unemployed in October 2013.

The Abilene MSA unemployment rate for November, 2012 was 4.6%. The total workforce was reported at 84,500, with 80,600 employed and 3,900 or 4.6% unemployed in November, 2012.

The state's unemployment rate for the month of November, 2013 was 5.8 percent. The total Texas labor force was 12,855,600 in November 2013. The total number of Texans employed is 12,110,500. The total number of unemployed Texans was 745,100 in November 2013.

Last month's statewide unemployment rate was 6.0 percent. The state's unemployment rate in November of 2012 was 6.0 percent.

The United States unemployment rate for November, 2013 was 6.6 percent. The nation's unemployment rate for the pre-

UNEMPLOYMENT

Callahan County Unemployment	Oct.	Nov.
	4.5%	4.3%

vious month of October, 2013 was 7.0%. The United States unemployment rate one year ago in November, 2012 was 7.4%.

Highlights of the Texas Labor Force (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

The November unemployment rate decreased two-tenths of a percentage point to 5.8 percent. This was the lowest unemployment rate for Texas since December 2008. Over the year, the unemployment rate decreased by two-tenths of a percentage point. The national unemployment rate dropped 0.4 percentage points over the month to a rate of 6.6 percent. The Texas unemployment rate was 0.8 percentage points below the national rate and has remained at or below the national rate for 84 consecutive months.

The civilian labor force grew by 71,500 individuals to 12,855,600 Texans. This was the largest over-the-month growth for the Texas labor force since June 2012. Since the beginning of the year, the civilian labor force has grown by 200,500 individuals. The Texas labor force had an annual growth of 226,200 persons, a growth rate of 1.8 percent.

The number of jobholders increased in November by 96,400 individuals, bringing the number of employed Texans to 12,110,500 persons. This was the largest number of working Texans since the beginning of the series. The past three months have shown an average gain of 42,800 employed persons. Over the year, the number of employed Texans has increased by 236,100 jobholders. The number of Texans seeking work was 745,100 individuals, a decrease of 24,900 persons over the month. This was the lowest number of unemployed Texans this year. Since January 2013, the number of jobseekers has declined by 127,500 persons.

The unemployment rate declined in 24 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) over the month, with the Austin-Round

Rock-San Marcos MSA showing the largest decrease at 0.4 percentage points. The lowest unemployment rate was held by the Midland MSA at 2.9 percent.

The number of Texans continuing to seek unemployment insurance increased by 1,300 people to a level of 120,300 individuals. This was the first month in which there was an increase in continued claimants since July.

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE STATE

Exxon to Boost North Houston Presence

HOUSTON, TX (Houston Business Journal)—Exxon Mobile Corporation's massive footprint north of Houston is going to be even larger. The Irving-based company plans to occupy about 480,000 square feet in Hughes Landing in the Woodlands, according to media reports. Exxon will occupy a 12-story building that includes an 11-story parking garage, and half of another 12-story building.

Exxon will create a combined 1,430 jobs with a combined annual salary of about \$179 million. Montgomery County Commissioners approved two 10-year, 100-percent property tax abatements for the buildings earlier this month. Exxon currently is building a 385-acre campus south of the Woodlands in Springwoods Village. The campus will consist of about 20 office and specialty buildings, and at least 10,000 employees are expected to be working at the site by 2015.

Cognizant Planning to Add Jobs in Texas

COLLEGE STATION, TX (Associated Press—Will Weissert)—A major information technology outsourcing company announced it is moving its U.S. operations hub from New Jersey to Texas. Cognizant already employs about 2,000 people in Texas. The company recently purchased a local firm in College Station and will ramp up

operations here in the coming months, said Cognizant President Gordon Coburn.

Cognizant expects to hire 10,000 U.S. employees in three years and that at least 750 of those will likely be in Texas. "These are good jobs for America," said Coburn, who praised Texas' business climate and low cost of living, as well as a deep pool of potential employees at Texas A&M. He and Governor Rick Perry appeared at a university therapeutic manufacturing center to also announce Cognizant's three-year, \$150,000 grant to support science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education at Texas A&M.

Hawaiian Falls Breaks Ground

FORT WORTH, TX (Dallas Business Journal)—Hawaiian Falls broke ground for its new \$13-million water park and entertainment complex in White Settlement in western Tarrant County. The new facility will be the company's first combination attraction and will include a water park and an adventure park. It will sit on 16 acres adjacent to Veterans Park in White Settlement. Hawaiian Falls said the facility will employ more than 300 seasonal and 100 year-round workers for the adventure park and a conference center. The company said the park will open in May.

APAC Customer Services to Add Jobs

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX (APAC News Release)—APAC Customer Services, Inc., announced that it will add 150 jobs in its Corpus Christi service center before the end of the year. These new positions will provide customer service support via phone for a major healthcare client. David Flores, General Manager of APAC Customer Services' Corpus Christi location, stated, "Corpus Christi is such a great place to live and work! It feels really good to bring great jobs in an excellent company to our community. I'm excited about the opportunity to expand our business here in Corpus Christi and am confident that we will continue to deliver exceptional service to our new client." APAC is a global leader of Customer Care business process outsourcing (BPO) services.



JANUARY 2

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Patsy Letney
Cherilyn Fleming
Linda Reed
Cameron Cobb

JANUARY 3

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Teck Whitney
Cookie Robinson
Kahy 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
Michael Chase Childers
Nicholas Meador
Troy Stone
George Hoover
Brian Odom
Ronald Allen Steele
Kayla (Cupit) Rogers
Lowell Clark
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Mitchell Munson



JANUARY 5

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Donald Rhodes
Ronald Rhodes
Clara Smith
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JANUARY 6

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Betsy (Bowden) Kington
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Bobby Oliver
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Betty Strength
Bridgette Allen
Shae Connelly

JANUARY 8

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

Bovine TB Monitoring Effort Expanded to Include Mule Deer and Elk

AUSTIN - Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) are seeking input on a cooperative effort to monitor for Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) in Texas, which would include sampling hunter-harvested mule deer and elk. The tissue samples used for this effort would be the same samples currently collected as part of the ongoing Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) monitoring effort.

The expanded TB surveillance is in response to a bill passed during the 83rd Legislative Session charging the TAHC with conducting a

study regarding the current risk level for TB in parts of El Paso and Hudspeth counties. As part of the study, susceptible animals in these counties will be tested for TB. Testing will include cattle, goats, sheep, swine, exotic hoof-stock, captive deer and free ranging deer.

Bovine TB is a bacterial disease found in cattle, but can also be found in deer. CWD is a progressive, fatal disease that attacks the brain of affected animals. Both diseases have the potential to affect the health of the state's deer population.

A public meeting will be held on Thursday, December 19th at 7 p.m. Mountain Time at the courthouse in Sierra Blanca to discuss this expanded surveillance effort with landowners and other interested parties.

Hunters are being urged to take advantage of the opportunity to provide valuable test samples. All mule deer and elk harvested within the CWD Containment Zone, which covers portions of Hudspeth, Culberson, and El Paso counties, are required to be submitted for testing at mandatory hunter check stations within 24 hours of harvest. See map of CWD zones at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/cwd.

Mandatory check stations will be open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. through Dec. 16th. Stations will be located in Cornudas at May's Caf (on US 62-180) and in Van Horn at Van Horn Convention Center (1801 West Broadway).

Hunters who harvest deer in

the Containment Zone outside the general season under the authority of MLDP (Managed Lands Deer Permits) will need to call TPWD at (512) 221-8491 the day the deer is harvested to make arrangements to have the deer sampled for CWD and TB.

In addition to protocols within the Containment Zone, TPWD has established check stations for voluntary sampling for deer harvested in other parts of West Texas.

Voluntary check stations will be established at the following locations Saturday through Dec. 14th-16th, from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Monday:

- Midland at Naturally Fresh (Deer Processor) (1501 E l w y n)
- Bakersfield at Chevron Station (south of I10; Exit 294)
- Sanderson at Slim's Auto Repair (823 West Oak; Intersection of US 90 and 285)
- Alpine at Hip-O Taxidermy (east side of town on US 90, across from Dairy Queen)

More information on CWD can be found on TPWD's website, www.tpwd.state.tx.us/cwd or at the Chronic Wasting Disease Alliance website, www.cwd-info.org.

Information on Bovine TB can be found on TAHC's website: www.tahc.state.tx.us/animal_health/cattle_tb/cattle_tb.html

Founded in 1893, the Texas Animal Health Commission works to protect the health of all Texas livestock, including: cattle, swine, poultry, sheep, goats, equine animals, and exotic livestock.

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TPPF statement on the 2014-15 Certification Revenue Estimate

Statement by The Honorable Talmadge Hefflin, Director of the Center for Fiscal Policy:

The Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts published the state's 2014-15 Certification Revenue Estimate which provides an update on the state's fiscal position. As detailed in the report, Texas state government revenues are outperforming initial estimates thanks to economic and employment growth that have benefitted from the Texas Model.

"The Texas Model of low taxes and limited government continues to impress. As the Comptroller's new 2014-15 Certification Estimate shows, Texas' conservative public policy prescription has created the ideal environment for businesses, jobs, and people to prosper—and when the private sector produces, the public sector benefits. The report shows that the state ended the 2012-13 biennium with a \$2.6 billion surplus and the state's rainy day fund will be at least \$2 billion higher than earlier projections.

"Moving forward, it is critical that lawmakers resist the temptation to grow government unnecessarily and instead use the state's enhanced fiscal position to provide meaningful tax relief to Texas families and businesses that provide jobs and ultimately prosperity to the Lone Star State.

The Honorable Talmadge Hefflin is Director of the Center for Fiscal Policy at the Texas Public Policy Foundation. Hefflin served 11 terms in the Texas House of Representatives and chaired the House Appropriations Committee in 2003, leading the Texas Legislature's successful efforts to close a \$10 billion budget deficit without a tax increase.

The Texas Public Policy Foundation is a non-profit, free-market research institute based in Austin.

Better Business Bureau Alert

The following is an E-Alert from your Better Business Bureau.

Unauthorized Access to Payment Card Data @ Target Stores. If you used a credit card at Target in the past few weeks, don't panic! You are not liable for ANY fraudulent charges on your account.

Monitor your credit card statements carefully (go online; don't wait for the paper statement). If you see a fraudulent charge, report it to your bank or credit card issuer immediately so the charge can be reversed and a new card issued. Keep receipts in case you need to prove which charges you authorized and which ones you did not.

If you used a debit card at Target in the past few weeks, you should be more assertive in paying attention to your account. With credit cards, you can withhold payment of an amount in dispute, but debit card transactions remove funds directly from your bank account, potentially wreaking havoc on your finances. What's more, you may have some liability if you fail to report unauthorized charges within 60 days after your statement is sent to you. Target is in the process of notifying banks and credit card issuers, who will in turn notify affected customers. You can contact your bank or credit card issuer for more information if you want to pre-emptively request a new debit card or put a security block on your account. For more on the difference between credit and debit card protections: bbb.org/blog/2013/11/debit-cards-and-credit-cards-hav-the-same-protection/

For EVERYONE, not just those who shopped at Target:

Scammers will likely use this highly public event to create emails purporting to be from Target, your bank or your credit card issuer, telling you your card was compromised and suggesting actions to "fix" the problem. Phishing emails may attempt to fool you into providing your credit card information or ask you to click on a link or open an attachment, which can download malware on your computer that are designed to steal your identity. Don't click on any email links or attachments unless you are absolutely certain the sender is authentic.

If your credit card is physically lost or stolen, you may be liable for no more than \$50. In the Target case, the liability is zero for credit cards because the cards were not physically stolen. There may be some liability in the case of compromised debit card numbers where the fraud is not reported for more than 60 days after a statement is issued.

You can check your credit reports annually for free to make sure no one has fraudulently opened credit accounts in your name. Go to www.annualcreditreport.com.

This is a great time to remember, make sure you protect your customers' data. Better Business Bureau just updated our Data Security - Made Simpler guide for businesses. Go bbb.org/data-security for this free information.

Texas Animal Health Commission conducts successful National Veterinary Stockpile Exercise

AUSTIN—As a part of ongoing efforts to prepare for large-scale foreign or emerging animal disease emergencies, the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) partnered with personnel from other state and local agencies to conduct the Texas and National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS) Logistics Exercise October 30, 2013 in San Antonio. The full-scale exercise focused on the logistical requirements for delivering and managing all of the supplies, vaccines, and equipment responders would need during the initial stages of a damaging animal disease outbreak.

The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) provided a warehouse facility and equipment, as well as key staff who participated in planning and conducting the exercise. The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) also provided support to protect the health of

agricultural responders in the simulated scenario. Personnel from seventeen state and local agencies, industry and non-governmental organizations, and federal entities such as FEMA Region VI and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) attended the exercise.

"This exercise is a great example of multi-agency coordination, and we are grateful for the support from other state agencies including TDEM throughout our planning and exercise process," said Dr. T.R. Lansford, TAHC Assistant Executive Director. "In the event of a catastrophic animal disease outbreak, we will count on these other agencies for support, and help with coordinating the resources that would be needed to mount an effective response."

"One of the unique components of the exercise was that we simulated the receipt of antiviral medications that might be needed to protect our animal health responders in a zoonotic disease event.

Our state public health counterparts at the DSHS have embraced this as part of their mission and it's a great partnership and example of 'One Health,'" said Dr. Holly Hughes-Garza, lead NVS planner for the TAHC.

Continued improvement and regular testing of the NVS capabilities with exercises like the one held here in Texas helps to ensure that Texas and the U.S. is prepared to deploy vital resources to quickly stop the spread of animal diseases to protect the health and value of animal agriculture. According to Rodney White, NVS Director, "This full-scale exercise demonstrated the commitment of the NVS program to support our state animal health partners. It provided emergency responders in Texas an opportunity to have hands-on experience working with the NVS countermeasures they would need in the event of an animal disease outbreak, and allowed an equal opportunity for the NVS personnel to respond as they would in a real

emergency."

The NVS is the national repository of critical veterinary supplies, equipment, vaccines, and services that can be deployed to the site of a damaging animal disease outbreak. A major goal of the NVS program is to help states, tribal nations, and U.S. territories to plan, train, and exercise for the receipt, management, and distribution of NVS countermeasures during an emergency response.

For more information on TAHC Emergency Management preparedness efforts, visit www.taahc.texas.gov/emergency or call the TAHC Emergency Management Coordinator at 1-800-550-8242.

Founded in 1893, the Texas Animal Health Commission works to protect the health of all Texas livestock, including: cattle, swine, poultry, sheep, goats, equine animals, and exotic livestock.

Callahan County December Agricultural newsletter

Wheat Crop Condition

I have received a few calls with questions about their wheat crop following the recent ice storm.

Most of, if not all wheat has yellowing on the tops and older leaves. As long as you still have green close to the ground wheat should be fine. If you see plants that the crown or parts of the plant near the roots are dead then that would be winter kill and a concern.

2013 Multi County Forage Seminar

A special 5-hour CEU Forage Seminar is set for January 28th at the First Baptist Church in Cross Plains. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. The program begins at 9:00 a.m. The goal of this program is to provide producers with information on forage management strategies to help them produce uniform, high quality forage to meet their production goals.

Speakers for the Seminar will include: Gerald Hobson, Dupont, Robert Frost, FSA County Executive Director, Sammy Wilson, NRCS District Conservationist, Dr. Rob Harle, DVM/Rancher, Dr. Charles Allen, Entomologist Specialist, Bill Thompson, Extension Economist Dr. David Drake, Agronomy Specialist, and Paul Weiser, Texas Department of Agriculture.

Gerald Hobson will discuss "Weed Control Options on Native and Improved Pastures"; Robert Frost and Sammy Wilson will discuss "FSA & NRCS Program updates"; Dr. Rob Harle will discuss "Let the cows bale your hay"; Dr. Drake will discuss "Wheat variety trials"; Bill Thompson will discuss "Economics of Graze out vs. Grain"; Dr. Charles Allen will discuss "Insect Control on Coastal and Native Pastures"; and Paul Weiser with the Texas Department of Agriculture will be on hand to give an hour of Laws and Regulation for pesticide applicators.

The cost of the Seminar and accompanying meal is \$20 to those that pre-register by January 21st, after January 21st there will be a \$25 fee to be paid at the door. This program is presented by the AgriLife Extension offices in Brown, Callahan, Coleman, and Eastland Counties. For further information, contact the Callahan County Extension Office at (325) 854-5835.

Callahan County Predators Association invites landowners join the Feral Hog Control Effort

The objectives of this organization are to assist landowners and tenants in eradicating the feral hogs throughout the county. Over the past 3 years we have participated in the USDA Services Program and the Texas Department of Agriculture Grant Program. During this time we have eradicated over 2,725 feral

hogs and 679 coyotes. The Association has received a total of \$17,500 in TDA Grant Funds that have been used to pay a large portion of the aerial services.

The Board of Directors would like to see this program continued as we have received feedback from landowners and hunters that the turkey and quail seem to be making a comeback during the past year. We feel that part of this is due to the success in removing at least a number of the feral hog population in the county.

The agriculture department estimates that hogs cause about \$450 million in damage yearly. They are predators of lambs, kids and calves as well as nesting birds such as turkey and quail. They also destroy crops and wildlife habitats rooting for bugs and seeds for food and wallowing during the hotter months. "Feral Hogs commonly destroy urban yards, parks and golf courses, as well as rangeland, pastures, crops, fencing, wildlife feeders and other property," according to the agriculture department. The hogs also spread E. coli and other diseases through streams, ponds and watersheds.

Beef Demand Is Up

On the production side of the industry, the focus has become whether the nation's beef cow herd will begin to grow and eventually result in more beef production. On the demand side of the industry, such growth could mean an increase in beef consumption. However, even if beef cow numbers are modestly higher at the beginning of 2014, it will likely be 2016 before beef production, and therefore beef consumption, begins to increase. In fact, beef consumption is forecasted to decline about 5% in 2014 to about 53 pounds per person (retail weight equivalent).

In 2015, beef consumption could drop to 52 pounds per person.

The reduced quantities of beef available have translated into record beef prices this year. From January through October, the price of all fresh retail beef averaged \$4.925/lb. That's up 5.3% compared to the same time period in 2012. In October, the price of all fresh beef set a new record high at \$4.977/lb. Such higher prices, driven by smaller quantities, have many wondering whether consumers will be willing and able to continuously pay more for beef. It's a valid concern and is difficult to project for future years (because it involves forecasting changing consumer tastes and preferences). However, available information about beef demand thus far in 2013 (while beef prices were continuously setting new record highs) would suggest that beef demand has been better than would have been expected.

Protect your investment in beef replacement heifers

After reaching historically low numbers in recent years, the U.S. cattle herd is on its way back. "There are parts of the country coming into green again that haven't been able to run cattle for several years, or who need to increase herd numbers," says Mac Devin, DVM, Professional Services Veterinarian with Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc. "It's exciting to see the industry building back up."

Healthy market prices for beef, plenty of feedlot space and strong export demand also are fueling the rebound, says Devin, who is based in College Station, Texas. But he adds that rebuilding herds can be a costly proposition, noting that replacement heifers and bred cows also are making history with near-record-high prices. Depending on region, bred replacement heifers are bringing upward of \$1,200 per head; bred cows \$1,650 or more; and bred cows with calves \$2,000 or more per pair. For producers purchasing these animals, Devin says it makes sense to protect their investments to ensure that they make a positive addition to the herd.

"Cattle coming from different regions of the country may carry with them their own unique disease experience," he advises. "For example, we know that BVD tends to mutate, and animals can be exposed, develop immunity to that local strain, and bring the disease under control. But new animals won't necessarily have that same natural immunity, plus they may be carrying their own, unique strains. Suddenly, you've got two sets of animals exposed to novel BVD strains, and the potential for a major disaster."

To prevent situations like this and otherwise capture the full value of replacement heifers, Devin advises:

(1) Whenever possible, purchase heifers with known history of their herd of origin, vaccination status and genetic background.

(2) Quarantine new animals for at least 30 days and observe daily to detect expression of clinical disease.

(3) Working with your herd veterinarian, establish a vaccination protocol for incoming animals to protect against potential disease outbreaks.

(4) Consider asking your veterinarian to perform reproductive tract scoring and pelvic scoring of every new heifer to minimize breeding failure and/or calving difficulty. Devin advises that such receiving vaccination programs should include, along with IBR, BVD, BRSV and PI-3, coverage of diseases specific to the local environment, such as leptospirosis and Red Water Disease. "Be sure to choose BVD

vaccines that have enough antigenic diversity to protect against strains that may be introduced with herd additions," he adds.

December Check List

✓ Now is an excellent time to transplant mature or established trees and shrubs.

✓ Be sure to prune back the top of established trees and shrubs before moving. Remove about one-third to one-half of the top to compensate for roots lost in digging.

✓ Make flower and vegetable garden plans now before the rush of spring planting. Time spent in armchair gardening will pay off in improved plant selection.

✓ Sow seeds in flats or containers to get a jump on plant growth before hot weather arrives. Warm temperature plants such as tomatoes, peppers, marigolds and periwinkles should be sown in late January or early February.

✓ Prepare beds and garden areas for spring planting.

✓ Select and order gladiolus corms for February and March planting. Plant at two-week intervals to prolong flowering period.

✓ Check junipers and other narrow-leaf evergreens for bagworm pouches. The insect eggs overwinter in the pouch, and start the cycle again by emerging in spring to begin feeding on the foliage. Hand removal and burning of the pouches are ways of reducing the potential damage next spring.

✓ Don't fertilize newly set out trees or shrubs until after they have started to grow, and then very lightly the first year.

!!!CONTINUING TO RECEIVE AG NEWSLETTERS!!!

Due to the increasing cost of postage and our shrinking post-age budget, the Callahan County Extension office is having to make some changes in the way that the Ag. Newsletters are distributed. The newsletter is currently posted on the county website and mailed to producers. However, at some point in the future we will be going to email only. We are asking producers to email the County Extension office at Callahan@ag.tamu.edu with your email addresses.

Sincerely,
Jerry Warren
County Extension Agent

Educational programs for the Texas AgriLife Extension are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age or national origin. We will seek to provide reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities for this meeting. We request that you contact the County Extension Office as soon as possible to advise us of the auxiliary aid or service that you will require.

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



Clyde Jr. Livestock Association's

HOLIDAY DANCE

Beef Plain Revival

JANUARY 11, 2014 7-11 P.M.

at the Clyde Intermediate Cafeteria

\$5.00 per person!

Everyone Welcome!

Students, Adults, Everyone! Come Listen & Dance to one of the biggest & very best up & coming Bands in Texas! And they are all Clyde natives!

Don't miss this opportunity to hear them!

Major fundraiser for Clyde Jr. Livestock Assn. All proceeds benefit the Clyde Jr. Livestock Assn.

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