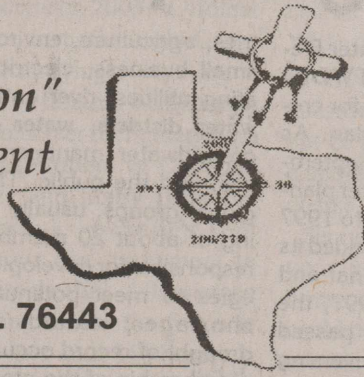


Cross Plains Review

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



"A Caring Community"
& Future Hinge on the Cross!

75¢

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December 25, 2014 • 10 Pages
(254) 725-6111 • crossplainsreview@earthlink.net



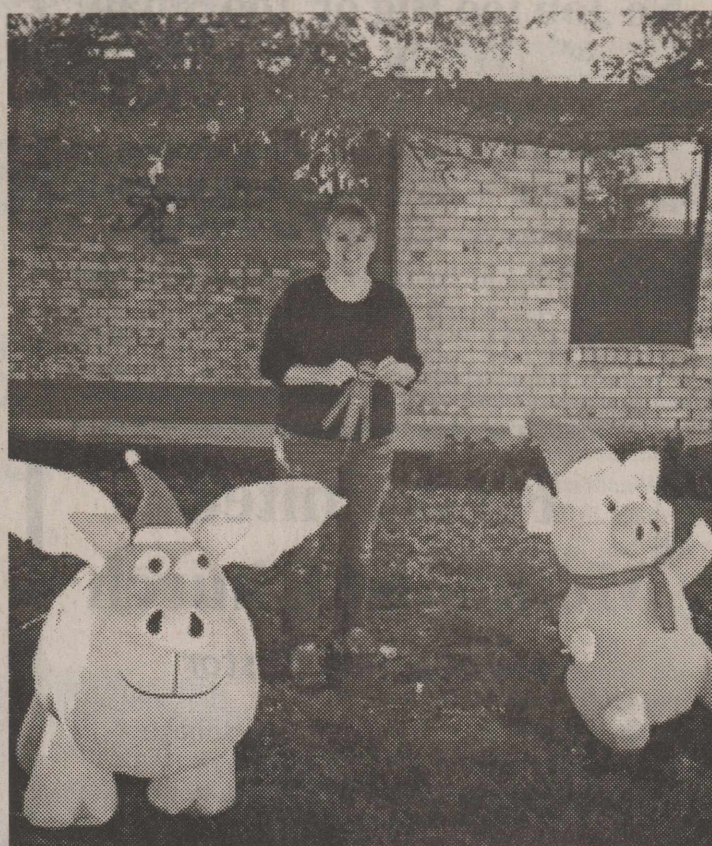
1st Place Home is Billy & Joyce Lee



1st Place Business- Bubba's Smoke House



2nd Place Business- Susan J Schaefer CPA Office



2nd Place Home- Jason & Stephanie Bien

Christmas Decorating Contest a Success!

The Cross Plains Chamber of Commerce Christmas house & business decorating contest went fantastic! The chamber hopes for this contest to continue to receive more entries with each year! Several homes were spotted that we hope will join in on this contest next year!

Congratulations to our winners and Merry Christmas from the Cross Plains Chamber of Commerce!

1st Place Business is Bubba's Smokehouse. In picture Sam Fleming
2nd Place Business is Susan Schaefer CPA Office. In picture Rickie Jo Brown

1st Place Home is Billy and Joyce Lee. In picture Billy Lee.
2nd Place Jason and Stephanie Bien. In picture Stephanie Bien.

Cross Plains Review
will be Closed on December 24th
and December 25th

CPVFD- Chili Supper January 9

Does good hot bowl of Chili sound good? Well, it's almost time for the Cross Plains Volunteer Fire Department's Annual Chili Supper!

The Chili Supper will be held on Friday, January 9th at the Family Life Center of the Cross Plains Baptist Church. Prepared by the local firefighters, the chili comes in two varieties — hot and mild. Frito Pie and Chili Dogs are also available. Chili is \$8, with Frito Pie \$2, and Chili Dogs \$2. Serving is from 5 until 7 p.m.

Plan now to come out and enjoy dinner, visit with friends and neighbors and help the CPVFD.

Proceeds benefit the new firehouse, which is getting closer to being completed. About \$20,000 more is needed to finish the building. If you can't make the Chili Supper, but would like to help with the building, you can send a check to Cross Plains VFD, P. O. Box 339, Cross Plains, TX 76443. Your support is appreciated

CROSS PLAINS VOLUNTEER
FIRE DEPARTMENT'S ANNUAL

CHILI



SUPPER FRIDAY JAN 9

CHILI \$8

FRITO PIE \$2

CHILI DOGS \$2

5-7 PM

Proceeds go toward the new firehouse. We need about \$20,000 to get 'er done.

Help Us Finish the Firehouse!

BAPTIST CHURCH
Cross Plains

Country Store Needs Donations

A favorite activity at the Rising Star Nursing center is the Country Store. The store gives the residents the opportunity to do some shopping with "money" won at bingo. Lately there has been a shortage of items for the store. If you would like to donate items for this much loved activity please contact Donna Ames at 325-669-4679. Some items that have been requested are lotions, deodorant, lap blankets and small items to give as gifts to family & friends. All donations will be very appreciated!

Christmas Holidays

Thursday, December 18 AND
Friday, December 19, 2014

School will dismiss at 1:00 p.m. Buses will run at 1:10 p.m.

Christmas Holidays -
December 20, 2014 through
January 4, 2015

School will resume on Monday,
January 5, 2015 at the regular
time.

Texas
Heritage
Bank

"We're Proud of Our Local Heritage"

Member
FDIC

Presents:
"What's Inside"

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CHURCH DIRECTORY

Choose The Church of
Your Choice
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

COTTONWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday School9:45 AM
Morning Worship.....11:00 AM
Ministry Activities
Youth Meet at Pool House.....6:30PM

Thomas Estes, Pastor
Gregg Steidle, Youth Pastor
Church (254) 725-6266 Bible Teaching

Living Water Ministries Fellowship

Restoring And Equipping The Saints

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

Pastor Max Evans

For Information Call (254) 725-7418

Rowden Baptist Church

Pastor: Wayne Lenz

Music: Karen Lenz & Diane Woods

Bible Study...10:00 am

Sunday Morning Worship...11:00 am

2990 Highway 36 at Rowden 12 Miles West of Cross Plains

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

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: 5:00P.M.

Wednesday: Evening: 7:00P.M.

Ladies Class - Wednesday:

10:00A.M. (at the church activity center on East Hwy 36)

Office: (254-725-6117)

Cell Phone: Rick - (918) 348-6859

From the ground up, regional water groups in Texas plan ahead

In 1997, the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) launched a new process for creating the state water plan. As referenced in TWDB's September feature story, the water planning process from 1957 to 1997 started at the top and trickled its way down to the regional and local level. Then, in 1997, the 75th Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 1 (SB1), reversing the process to start with input at the regional level, strategizing from the ground up.

As a result, 16 regional water planning areas across the state were established, each with its own water planning group to develop that region's specific water plan for the next 50 years. Every five years, plans from the 16 regional water areas are compiled into the official state water plan. The last state water plan was published in 2012, so the regional planning groups are currently in the midst of preparing their regional plans to submit for the next state water plan, to be published by January 2017.

"Engaging regional groups across the state from the beginning of the process was an important shift in the history of Texas water planning," says TWDB Board Member Bech Bruun. "After visiting each of the 16 regions this year, I'm proud to have seen firsthand the work they do to make our state water plan a comprehensive roadmap that is more in tune to the current and future needs of our fellow Texans and more beneficial to every city, town, and community in Texas."

Each regional planning group, by law, must include members that represent the interests of counties, municipalities, indus-

tries, agriculture, environment, small business, electric-generating utilities, river authorities, water districts, water utilities, groundwater management areas, and the public. These regional groups, usually consisting of about 20 members, are responsible for developing strategies to meet potential water shortages should another drought of record occur, so the membership of the groups was designed to take into account the needs of all regional interests during the planning process.

The strategies (known as water management strategies in the regional and state water plans) included in the regional water plans are informed by the comparison of future water demands (based on population projections) with existing water supplies for more than 3,000 different water user groups. Each specific group, whose water use ranges from municipal to industrial to rural populations, is planned for individually. The comparison reveals where or when there will be a surplus or shortage and dictates how the region should plan for entities in those scenarios. From there, potential strategies emerge.

"The amount of detail that goes into evaluating the needs of every water user group in our state is immense and vital to the regional planning process," says TWDB Board Member Kathleen Jackson. "The dedication to this process shown by the regional water planning groups and our TWDB staff is a true demonstration of our Texas work ethic."

The process for determining the best water plan for a region includes numerous evaluations and comparisons. Once the data

and strategies are recommended, the planning group drafts an Initially Prepared Plan (IPP) which, this planning cycle, is due to the TWDB on May 1, 2015. Around the time the IPP is submitted, each planning group holds a public hearing on their draft plan and then hosts a public comment period for the following 30 days which allows the public to voice feedback and the regional water planning groups to make changes. Final plans are due by November 2, 2015, for consideration by the TWDB for inclusion in the 2017 State Water Plan.

Many opportunities for the public to contribute to the regional water planning process exist in the five-year water planning cycle. The water planning groups hold regular meetings, generally once a quarter, that include a dedicated time for public comments. If an individual is interested in a topic relevant to the planning group as a whole, there is also the option to contact the administrator and chairman of the water planning group to request a spot on the formal agenda. Additionally, anyone may request to be added to the group mailing list to ensure that they are alerted to all planning group activities.

"Get involved, and get involved as soon as you can," says TWDB Chairman Carlos Rubinstein. "Greater participation from the public and all regional interests makes for better water planning and a better future for all Texans."

The window of time for making an impact in the regional planning process often depends on the stage of the five-year planning cycle. Currently, for the 2017 State Water Plan, the

window of time for major suggestions is narrowing. The new funding program for state water plan projects becomes available next year, so it is crucial that communities ensure their needed strategies are included in their regional water plan as soon as possible.

However, regional planning in Texas is always moving forward, which means getting a foot in the door for the 2022 State Water Plan is just around the corner!

For more on the regional water planning process or to find your regional water planning group's next meeting, please visit the regional water planning schedule.

Region G Planning Group
Stretching from the piney woods of Grimes County in the southeast to the rolling plains of Kent County in the northwest, the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Area includes all or parts of 37 counties. Over 90 percent of the region lies within the Brazos River Basin, with the Brazos River being the region's primary source of water. The largest economic sectors in the region are service, manufacturing, and retail trade. Major cities in the region include Abilene, Bryan, College Station, Killeen, Round Rock, Temple, and Waco.

Region G Counties include: Bell, Brazos, Bosque, Burleson, Callahan, Comanche, Coryell, Eastland, Erath, Falls, Fisher, Grimes, Hamilton, Haskell, Hill, Hood, Johnson, Jones, Kent, Knox, Lampasas, Lee, Limestone, McLennan, Milam, Nolan, Palo Pinto, Robertson, Shackelford, Somervell, Stephens, Stonewall, Taylor, Throckmorton, Washington, Williamson (partial), and Young (partial).

Coaches Association eliminates All-Star games

San Marcos, TX — At the December meeting of the Texas High School Coaches Association's Board of Directors, the board was informed of the decision from the NCAA Legislative Relief Waiver Committee to deny the THSCA's request for exemption from the new NCAA Bylaw (13.1.7.9.6 — which prohibits Division I college football coaches from attending or speaking at a convention that has an all-star game affiliated with it). This decision has forced the Board to eliminate an 80-year tradition of hosting the Texas High School Coaches Association All-Star games.

While there is a sentimental attachment to the THSCA All-Star games which have had a rich history over the years, the THSCA Board of Directors felt it was in the best interest of the Texas High School Coaches

Association to make sure its Convention and Coaching School remained a quality event. Eliminating attendance by the Division I college coaches would be very detrimental to the success of the convention which is the main source of income for the Texas High School Coaches Association.

"This is not a decision we wanted to have to make at all. We felt our convention and all-star games were not a violation of the NCAA rule and took extra steps to separate the two events as best we could, but the Waiver Committee felt otherwise," said THSCA Executive Director D. W. Rutledge. "When faced with the burden of either excluding the college coaches from attending our convention or hosting the all-star games, the Board felt it was in the best interest of the association and its members to eliminate the all-star games."

To get your name on the Birthday Column, send your name and date of birth to *The Cross Plains Review*, P.O. Box 519, Cross Plains, Texas 76443. There is no charge for this service. To delete a name due to death or other reasons send name and birth date (Month and Day) or Call 254-725-6111

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First United Methodist Church

Kevin Morton, Pastor

Office 725-7377

Sunday School
9:30 a.m.

Parsonage

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

1000 North Main Street

www.gbmg-umc.org/crossplains/

First Baptist Church

Sunday Morning Sunday Evening

10:45 a.m. 6:30 p.m.

Sunday School

9:30 a.m.

Sunday Evening

6:30 pm Acts of God Video Series

6:30 p.m. Bible Drill - 1st- 6th

6:30 p.m. - Youth Discipleship

Wednesday

6:30 p.m - Prayer/Worship

Student & Children Ministries

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

76443

www.firstbaptistcp.com

Go Buffaloes

Love Fund

A Love Fund has been opened for Jesse Markham at Texas Heritage Bank for Medical Expenses.

Cross Plains Review

2

Dec. 25, 2014

Love Fund

Has been established at Texas Heritage Bank For Owen Turner son of Joseph and Allison Turner and grandson of Greg and Dannes Turner

Love Fund

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

LOVE FUND

A love fund has been set up at Texas Heritage Bank In Memory of Ricky Smith to help the family with expenses. Ricky is the son of Ileen Smith and the father of Holly Smith both of Cross Plains.

Love Fund

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

Grand Ole Oplin's Annual New Year's Eve dance

Everyone is invited out to The Grand Ole Oplin's ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S EVE dance. MUDDY CREEK will be here to bring in the New Year playing all your favorite two-steps and waltzes. Admission to our New Year's dance will be \$8.00 per person. Our dance will begin at 8:00 p.m. and end shortly after midnight. Some snacks will be provided, along with black-eye peas (for a little extra luck in the new year) and cornbread; but

everyone is invited and encouraged to bring snacks to be shared by all during the band's break. Please keep in mind that alcohol and smoking are not allowed at the Grand Ole Oplin. So make plans now for family and friends to come on out to The Grand Ole Oplin and we'll bring in the New Year together. The Grand Ole Oplin wishes everyone "HAPPY HOLIDAYS" and may all your journeys be safe.

DPS Graduates 109 State Troopers

AUSTIN — Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) Director Steven McCraw, Texas Public Safety Commission Chair Cynthia Leon, and the entire Public Safety Commission today were joined by Lieutenant Governor-Elect Dan Patrick as the department commissioned 109 men and women as Highway Patrol Troopers during the recruit graduation ceremony. Lieutenant Governor-Elect Patrick was the keynote speaker during the ceremony, which was held today, Friday, December 19th, in Austin.

"Texas is grateful for these men and women who have answered the call of duty, making the selfless commitment to protect and serve this great state," said Lieutenant Governor-Elect Patrick. "They say the stars at night are big and bright deep in the heart of Texas. Texans sleep better under those stars because of the men and women who wear the Texas Tan of the DPS."

The new troopers will report to duty stations across Texas in the coming weeks and spend the first six months in on-the-job training.

"Each of these dedicated recruits has earned the privilege to now be called a Texas State Trooper — a truly incredible achievement. You are among the select few who have what it takes to carry on the esteemed

tradition of this department," said Chair Leon. "I commend your selfless commitment to duty and thank you for your service to the great state of Texas."

The troopers began the 23-week training academy in July. Instruction covered more than 100 subjects, including counterterrorism, traffic and criminal law, arrest and control procedures, accident reconstruction, first aid and Spanish. They also received training in use of force, communication skills, firearms, driving, criminal interdiction, cultural diversity and physical fitness.

"Texas Highway Patrol Troopers work every day to fulfill the critical responsibility of protecting and serving the communities of Texas. Today, DPS is honored to welcome 109 new members of that elite force," said Director McCraw. "These specially-trained men and women will serve as front-line officers dedicated to protecting Texas from crime and all threats facing our state — and we are grateful for their courage and commitment to selfless service."

The department encourages individuals interested in joining the Texas Highway Patrol and becoming a state trooper to visit the DPS website, www.joindps.com, for more information.

Do you have what it takes to be a Firefighter?

In December 2005, a violent wildfire tore through Cross Plains destroying everything in its path — homes, businesses, lives. Volunteer firefighters from every department in Callahan County and many from the surrounding counties sent firefighters and equipment to extinguish the fire. After sixteen exhausting hours, the fire was out, but not until 116 homes, a church and two lives were lost.

In the nine years since the Cross Plains fire, the Callahan County's fire departments have updated their equipment, purchased larger and more durable brush trucks, equipped water tankers, and upgraded the county communications system.

In the same nine years, the number of volunteer firefighters in Callahan County has dropped 20%. That's 3 to 5 fewer volunteer firefighters in every department in Callahan County.

Fewer firefighters to rush to the scene of a fire, fewer firefighters to stop a brush fire before it reaches homes, fewer firefighters to pull stranded motorists from mangled automobiles, fewer firefighters to protect businesses, homes and lives.

The need for volunteer firefighters is critical. Without volunteer firefighters everything is at risk — businesses, homes, property, lives. Your home and your community depend on volunteer firefighters. Can you answer the call? Do you have what it takes to save a life. Can you put out the fire?

Callahan County's Fire Departments need you. Being a volunteer firefighter

can be a rewarding experience. With training you'll learn how to drive a firetruck, contain hazardous situations, cut people out of a wrecked vehicle, land emergency helicopters, and, of course, extinguish fires.

Serve your community. Protect your neighborhood and your home. Volunteer today. You could be a volunteer firefighter.

In Clyde, contact the Clyde Volunteer Fire Department at 325-893-5211, email clydevfd@valonet.com

In Baird, contact the Baird Volunteer Fire Department at 325-854-1212, email bairdfiredept@windstream.net

In Hamby, contact the Hamby Volunteer Fire Department at 325-267-0276, email ctke.50gp@taylorlortel.net

In Cross Plains, contact the Cross Plains Volunteer Fire Department at 325-660-3207, email ncarouth@windstream.net

In Eula, contact the Eula Volunteer Fire Department at 325-529-4205, email evfd@lanranch.com

In Putnam, contact the Putnam Volunteer Fire Department at 325-320-8862, email SmithMarty@windstream.net

In Oplin, contact the Oplin Volunteer Fire Department at 325-529-3129, email tarwood@taylorlortel.net

In Cottonwood, contact the Cottonwood Volunteer Fire Control at 254-725-6704, email Adrian76443@yahoo.com

Courthouse News

Callahan County Court
Roger Corn, presiding

Misdemeanor Filings

Jatana M. Lowe, driving while intoxicated (DWI).
Leslie A. Robinson, DWI.
Jarod D. McMorries, DWI.
Garrett C. Kennedy, possession of marijuana, less than 2 oz.
Jeremy D. Yokum, possession of marijuana, less than 2 oz.
Rodrick J. Stewart, possession of marijuana, less than 2 oz.
David R. Garrett, possession of marijuana, less than 2 oz.
Adrian E. Gonzales, DWI.
Tommy Turner, DWI.

Misdemeanor Minutes

Lisa Lee, plea of guilty to theft by check, 60 days in jail, \$319 court costs.
Stacy E. Clasby, motion to dismiss to DWI granted for plea to other case.
Kyrie B. Gambrell, motion to dismiss to open container granted for plea to other case.
Kyrie B. Gambrell, plea of guilty to driving while license invalid, 30 day probation, \$252 fine, \$169 court costs.
Sarah E. Dorrough, end of term order discharging defendant under deferred adjudication.
William B. Schulte, motion to dismiss to theft by check granted in the interest of justice.
Andrea Coolman, motion to dismiss to possession of a dangerous drug granted for plea to other case.

Jacob L. Melton, plea of guilty to possession of marijuana, 15 days in jail, \$329 court costs.

Priscilla Kirkland, motion to dismiss to theft by check granted in the interest of justice.

Melissa A. Wyatt, plea of guilty to deadly conduct, 1 year probation, \$750 fine, \$269 court costs.

Guy D. Matlock, motion to dismiss to theft by check granted in the interest of justice.

Deangelo M. Dickerson, motion to dismiss motion to revoke probation granted.

Andrea Coolman, motion to dismiss to leaving the scene of an accident granted for plea to other case.

Jason R. Underwood, motion to dismiss to criminal mischief granted for plea to other case.

Ashley N. Phipps, plea of guilty to hindering apprehension, 1 year probation, \$200 fine, \$319 court costs.

Jason R. Underwood, plea of guilty to resisting arrest, 1 year probation, \$269 court costs.

Regan B. Gamble, motion to dismiss to theft by check granted in the interest of justice.

Cindy L. Renfro, motion to dismiss to theft by check granted in the interest of justice.

Marriage Licenses

Edward Berry Brumbaugh of Baird and Bonnie Kay Bamber of Abilene.

Ryan Alexander Davis of Clyde and Brandi Lyn Anderson of Hawley.

Cottonwood News

By Beverly Brown

We want to wish all our friends and neighbors Happy Holidays, and a safe journey as you travel to and from during this joyous season.

Cottonwood Volunteer Fire Control's Annual Meeting will be held the third Tuesday in January, 20th, at the Cottonwood Community Center at 7 p.m. Board members for the new year will be elected. Current board members are Roy Boyd, Chairman of the Board; Norma Farmer, Fred St Peter, Roger Hinkle, Bob Ossowski and Omer Rivard. Adrian Allen is Fire Chief; Roger Hinkle, Asst. Fire Chief; Norma Farmer, Secretary; and Sheila Allen, Treasurer.

The next musical is on Friday, January 23 and this musical will be a special one, as the Cotton-

wood Volunteer Fire Control will hold their Annual Fish Fry at the musical! You can come and have a great fish dinner and then listen to some good ole country music! Dinner includes fish or chicken, beans, coleslaw, french fries, hush puppies, drink, and dessert for \$7 for adults and \$3.50 for children under 10 years of age. Dinner will be served from 5 until 7 p.m. The Cottonwood Volunteer Fire Control Group is supported solely by your donations, so come out and help the Fire Control.

The Burn Ban is off. Remember to exercise extreme caution if you do decide to burn — and call the Sheriff's office to let them know you will be burning before you light the match. Their number: 325-854-1444.

Writing Contest

The Cross Plains Public Library is looking for entries for our annual writing contest which is open to all students attending or eligible to attend the Cross Plains Schools. Poetry, essay and short story are allowed. Entries will be accepted from grades K through 12. Home-schooled students may come by the library to pick up a set of guidelines and an entry form. CPISD students should ask their teachers about entering through the school, or they may enter at the library. Only one entry per student will be accepted.

Entries are to be submitted to the library no later than Wednesday January 21, 2015. Entries will be "blind judged," and ribbons will be awarded to the top three entries in each grade. Plaques will be awarded to the top three overall winners from all grades. The three overall winning papers will be submitted to the Cross Plains Review for publication. For more information call the library at 725-7722.

Cross Plains Review

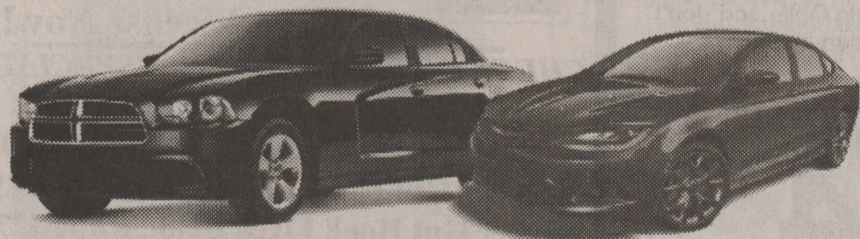
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Dec. 25, 2014

Get ready for a Big Finish

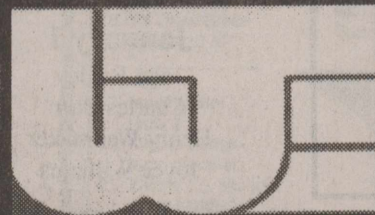
BIG FINISH 2014

RAM DODGE CHRYSLER Jeep



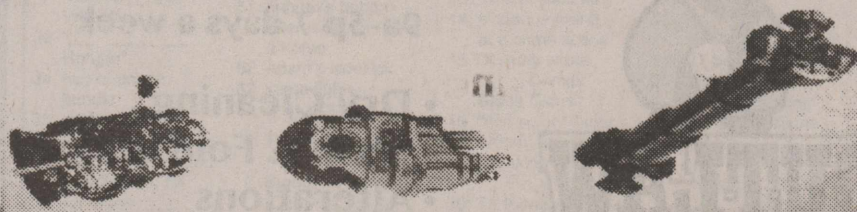
Blake Fulenwider

RAM DODGE CHRYSLER Jeep



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Yes, Virginia There Is A Jesus Christ

By Geneva Nelson of Cross Plains

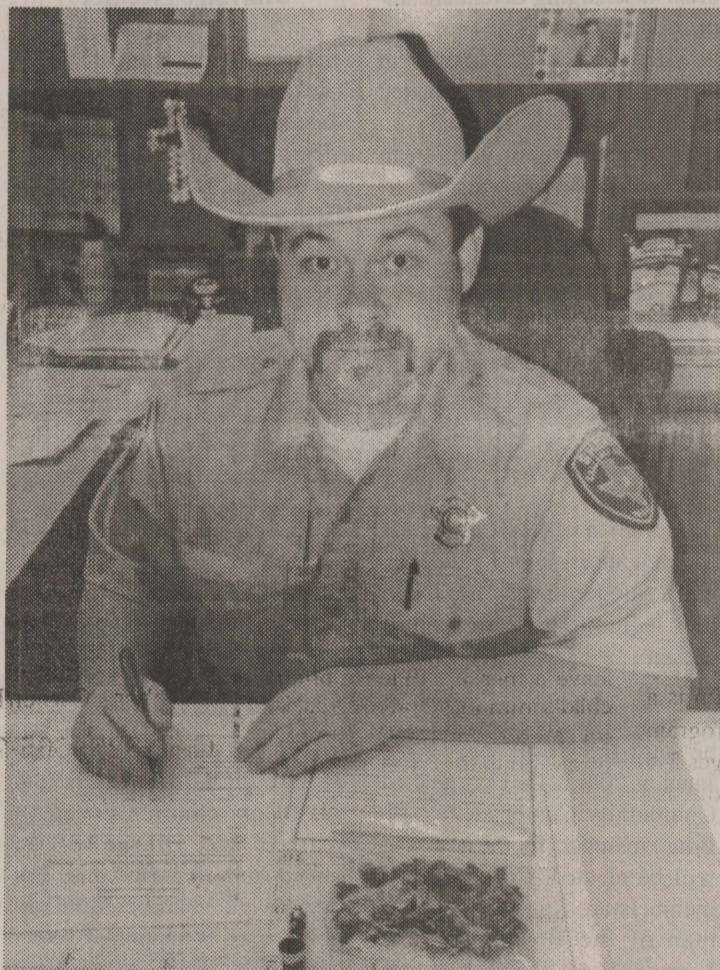
*He is the happy in your Holidays,
The twinkle in the lights.
He is in the "Hellos" and "How are yas,"
And the heavenly Silent Nites.*

*He is the peace that stands beside you,
When you have lost family or friends.
He is the Savior with arms wide open,
Asking you to come in.*

*He is the laughter that fills you,
When things have gone just right.
The caring arms that have held you,
Through your longest, scary night.*

*He is the Christ in Christmas,
The Spirit that fills your soul.
You have heard of that first Christmas,
Passed down from Saints of ole.*

*But Virginia the thing about "Christ in Christmas",
As He is not just here once a year.
For one quick happy celebration,
He is with you forever, my dear.*

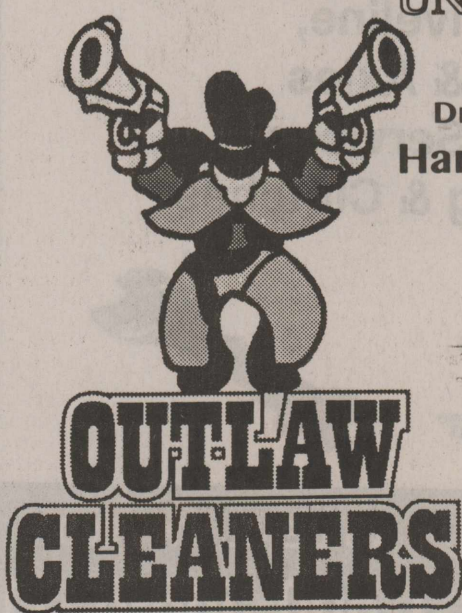


SHERIFF'S DEPUTY JACOB STENNETT.

Marijuana and Marijuana Pipe Seized and Charges Filed

Wednesday evening about 7:00 pm Sheriff's Deputy Jacob Stennett and Chief Deputy Rick Jowers were observing a suspicious vehicle coming off a back road in a remote part of Callahan County. The vehicle was driving slowly and as it approached them they could see the vehicle swerving from side to side. They stopped the vehicle and observed a marijuana pipe in the ashtray still smoking. They suspected the driver of smoking marijuana and after professionally and properly investigating further they found a bag of marijuana in his possession. The individual was arrested, his vehicle was impounded, and he was taken to the Callahan County Jail. Marijuana, methamphetamines, or any type of illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia is not tolerated in Callahan County. If anyone in Callahan County has a drug addiction or alcohol addiction and truly desires help the Sheriff's Department will assist in finding that help.

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



UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP!

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- Wash & Fold Service
- Alterations
- Next Day Service

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SENIOR CITIZENS MENU

Dec. 29th - Jan. 2nd

Monday 29th - Chicken Strips, Potatoes w Gravy, Peas & Carrots, Bread, Dessert
Tuesday 30th - Cheese Burger, (Pickles, Onion), Oven Fries, Fruit & Dessert
Wednesday 31st - Ham Black Eye, Peas, Cabbage Cornbread, Dessert
Thursday 1st - Closed-Holiday Happy New Year
Friday 2nd - Turkey Sandwich w/ Cheese, Pasta salad, Chips, Dessert

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

Monthly Menu may be picked up at the Senior Citizen Center

Senior Citizens Center Activities

Dec. 29th - Jan. 2nd

Monday-29th Exercise
Tuesday-30th Exercise 11:00
Wednesday-31st New Year's Eve Party 6:00- ?
Food Fun & Games
Thursday -1st Closed- Holiday- Happy New Year
Friday -2nd Exercise 11:00

Cross Plains Senior Citizens Center seeks to nurture our aging population through nutritional, social and educational programs our goal is for all seniors, both well and frail, to utilize our services to enrich their lives.



December 28

January 2

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

January 3

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

December 29

Dianne Johnson
Mrs. Earl Allen
Johnnie Strickland
Kenneth D. Brown
Frances Knott
Vicky (Morre) Worley
Michael Blake Foster
D.J. Roe
Jacob Strickland
Peyton Wood
Shelby Wood
Jon Tonne
Hunter Thomas

December 30

Keith Hopson
Billy Gene Spoon
Carol Bartes
Mrs. Bob Dean
Christopher Hamer
Gertrude Johnson
Wanda Jennings
Milton Bates
Billy King
Joseph L. Hopkins
Nancy Sheppard
Randy Duncan
Sambo Fleming

December 31

Jesse Norris
Kimberly (Ratliff) Stover
Royce Lawrence
Rodney Gene Gregory

January 1

John Bagley
Charles Barr
Henry Wellmaker
Joyce Williams

Grand Ole Oplin December Line up

The Grand Ole Oplin invites everyone out each Friday for an evening of good music, good friends and a real good time.

On Dec 26th there will be no dance but on Dec. 31st MUDDY CREEK will be joining us to ring in the New Year.

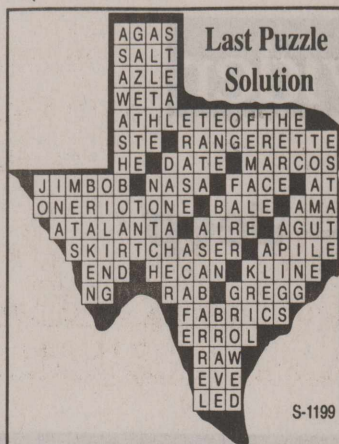
The Grand Ole Oplin is hosted by the Oplin Community Center and is located at the intersection of F.M. 604 S. and F.M. 2926. Alcohol and smoking are not allowed at any of our functions. Our Friday night dances begin at 7:30 p.m. and end at 10:30 p.m. Admission is \$5.00 per person (with the exception of our Christmas Ball and our New Year's Eve dances). Everyone is invited to bring a snack to be shared by all during the band's break.

So gather the family and all of your friends and come on out to the Grand Ole Oplin and don't forget your dancing boots.

Cross Plains Review

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Dec. 25, 2014



"Elf on the Shelf" Hides All Over the Cross Plains Public Library

Kids have been busy spying our Elf on the Shelf." She has been hiding atop the Christmas tree, on the bookshelves, and inside glass-front cabinets this past week. Each time she is found, the discoverer receives a candy bar from the library director. Our elf is then hidden again for the next discoverer, repeating until January 5th. Come see if you can find her!
Also, our girl "Elf on the Shelf" needs a name, so we've come up with 26 possible names to choose from. Our books from the Libri Foundation and donor Terry Meany, plus STEM books from Bill Strawbridge and Meg Wallhagen are being featured. Stop in and check out a book from this new collection and you'll receive a chance to name our elf. On January 5, 2015, the name with the most votes will be the winner.



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38.686 Acres — Beautiful country home with large oaks, 2 water wells...\$389,900
76.196 ACRES — Excellent productive property w/ utilities near Cross Plains...\$173,250
77.84 ACRES — Hwy 183 frontage near May in Brown Cty, well, electricity...\$221,844
95.405 ACRES — Exceptional oak property with custom built 2 BR home...\$495,000
102 ACRES — 4 BR-2.5 BA western style home, 2 wells + 2 tanks, scenic...\$559,000
111 +/- Acres — Productive land with 3 irrigation wells & good fences...\$244,200
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420 Acres — Productive farm, good underground water, brick home...\$1,260,000

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836 +/- ACRES — Recreational ranch with weekend home. 15-acre lake...\$1,750,000

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MOORE TEXAS

by Roger Todd Moore

Dec. 22, 1996 : The Houston Oilers play their last game in Houston and officially head for Tennessee.



Cross Plains Review

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Dec. 25, 2014

Math and Science—not just for rocket scientists

Looking to get rich? Try welding.

For the third consecutive year, positions in the skilled trades are the hardest to fill, according to a Manpower Group survey of American employers. This shortage is why a master welder can earn a six-figure salary — without a college degree.

There aren't enough skilled tradesmen because our nation's schools aren't producing graduates with the math and science knowledge needed to fill these skilled jobs.

That has to change. Educators must rethink the way they teach math and science — especially to students who may not go to college. The best way to reach these kids is to scrap the age-old lecture and empower them to learn by doing.

International rankings reveal the depths of America's underachievement. Among 34 developed nations, the United States ranks 27th in math and 20th in science. More than one-quarter of U.S. students lack even basic proficiency in math. That's 13 percent higher than the global average.

This poor performance is concerning, as these students risk economic marginalization.

A million people drop out of high school each year. Most don't participate in the labor force. Those that do face an unemployment rate 50 percent higher than their graduating peers.

That low-performing quarter

of students also includes many who complete high school yet still lack the math skills needed for most entry-level manufacturing jobs — let alone the skilled-trade positions that could vault them into the middle class.

Philadelphia Federal Reserve President Charles Plosser said earlier this year, "We are seeing a mismatch of skills in the workforce and the jobs that are being created."

To fill these jobs — and provide livelihoods for millions — we must keep students who struggle with math in school and find ways to boost their achievement.

According to the National Training Laboratories, the traditional lecture format yields only a 5 percent learning retention rate. Allowing students to practice by doing, in contrast, results in a whopping 75 percent retention rate.

The way forward is clear: Embrace technology, collaboration, and hands-on learning.

Already, colleges are adopting this approach. The University of Pennsylvania has built a new classroom with customized, powered round tables so students can collaborate using all manner of technology. It plans to add three to four more such classrooms over the next year.

MIT's Technology-Enabled Active Learning (TEAL) Project merges lecture, simulation, collaborative learning, and hands-on experiments in one classroom.

Failure rates for freshmen in a TEAL physics course were one-third those in the traditional setting. Average gains in understanding were more than double. Gains were highest among students at the bottom of the achievement ladder.

Engaged learning models are trickling down into elementary and secondary schools, too. In Philadelphia, several schools are using the Full Option Science System, a hands-on, activity-based approach that empowers students to investigate, experiment, and collaborate to discover the material in each lesson.

Students at FOSS schools have scored higher on standardized tests. The longer they're in the program, the greater the gains in achievement.

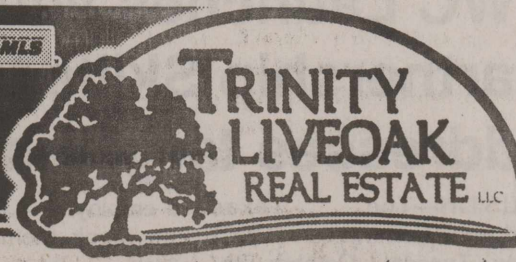
Administrators across the country are enlisting the firm I lead, KI, to help them transform their traditional classrooms into technology-enhanced learning environments, where students work in small groups while instructors rove about, offering individualized help and coaching.

To refill the ranks of the middle class with good-paying manufacturing jobs, we must address our nation's math and science achievement gap. The instructional status quo isn't working. There's ample evidence that a more active, engaged approach will.

Submitted by Disk Resch. Dick Resch is the CEO of KI Furniture in Wisconsin (www.ki.com).

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www.trinityliveoak.com



Residential & Lake Property

- NEW! Lots at 232 SW 4th, CP-Nice homesite! Well maintained w/ oaks...\$9,000
Lot 100 Oak Pt. Drive-105x209 lot w/mesquites & native grass, fenced...\$12,000
Lot at 423 N Ave A, CP-Pecan trees, 3/4 of a block, will divide.....\$16,000
624 Chestnut-2BR-1B frame hm, all new plumbing, all new electrical.....\$22,500
308 N Ave. D - 2BR-1B home w/ metal roof, 1 car garage, 2 lots.....\$28,000
633 NE 3rd, CP-3BR-1B hm, C/H/A, workshop, owner financing avbl.....\$29,900
000 George Scott , CP-Vacant lots 1-6, nice area to build, avbl separate\$30,000
NEW! 301 E. Walnut, Coleman-Charming 3BR-1B,new paint/plumbing\$34,500
301 Reed, R.S.-Completely remodeled 1BR-1B, owner finance.....\$34,900
4411 Cherokee Dr, Lake B'wood- 2BR-1.5B MH at Thunderbird Bay....\$44,000
324 NE 7th, CP-2BR-2B hr UNDER CONTRACT eat location.....\$45,000
NEW! 208 NE 6th-Charming 2BR-1B hm w/ carport & privacy fence.....\$46,500
520 Pine, Ranger-3BR-1 3/4B, C/H/A, hardwood floors in living room.....\$49,000
507 W Mill St, R.S.-2BR-1B w/ 2 living areas, metal roof, new wiring.....\$49,500
NEW! 322 S. Ave E-Quaint 2BR-1B, landscaped yard, wkshop, lg lot.....\$65,000
5822 Hwy 36, R.S.- 3BR-1B, wkshop, covered arena w/ lights, 2 wells....\$90,000
325 NW 4th, CP-Beautifully landscaped 3BR-2B MH w/ 2-car garage...\$119,900
341 NW 4th, CP-3BR-2.5B, Lot SOLD † Acres, metal workshop....\$174,900

Commercial Property

- 217 N. Main, CP-Inviting country & western store w/ 2,600 sq ft, rustic brick walls, high ceilings, great curb appeal! Inventory included. Repair/custom boot shop/equipment also included or can purchase without.....\$150,000
NEW! 901 W. College/Hwy 36, RS-Small cafe w/ seating capacity for approx. 40 customers; tables, booths & stainless steel appliances convey.....\$40,000

Featured Property of the Week:

- 15.644 Acres, FM 880, Cottonwood area-Spacious 3BR-2B brick home w/ 2 living & dining areas on sloping tract, 2,200 sq ft workshop with electricity, horse pens with 4 stalls, 1 tank, 1 water well.....\$250,000

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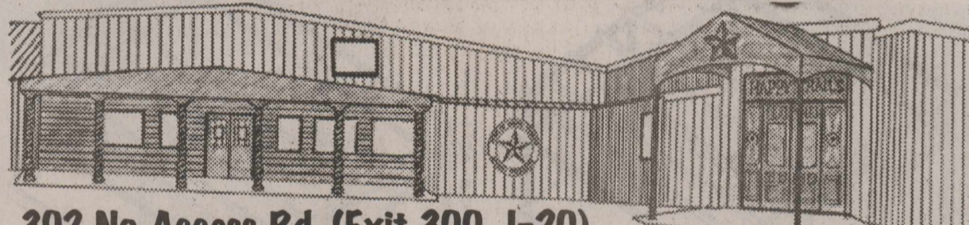
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Texas Game Warden Field Notes

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

• **Missed a Spot**—When a landowner in Red River County heard gunshots near his property, he called his local game warden for help. The warden searched several deer camps and found evidence of blood at an unoccupied camp. There, the warden observed that the hunter had made an effort to rake up the remaining debris and place it in a nearby burn barrel. When the warden located the hunter, he had power-washed his vehicle in an attempt to remove blood evidence. After questioning, the hunter admitted to shooting an 11-point buck with his .30-.30 rifle during archery season. Case pending.

• **If At First You Don't Succeed...**—A Titus County game warden received a call from a hunter about a trespasser on a nearby ranch. The hunter approached the trespasser and attempted to escort him off of the property, but the trespasser refused and continued across the ranch. The hunter then took video and photos of the male suspect, who was later identified and arrested for Class B criminal trespass and an active felony warrant from the neighboring county.

• **Who Let the Drugs Out?**—Two game wardens from Gregg and Upshur County were conducting surveillance near their county line when they observed an individual stop near their location and collect a whitetail buck from the roadway. The subject became increasingly irritable and uncooperative after contact was made. When consent to search was given, the wardens located multiple containers of methamphetamine,

drug paraphernalia, suspected meth lab components and an illegal firearm. The subject was arrested for manufacture or delivery of controlled substance and unlawful carry of firearm. Additional charges and cases pending.

• **Dude, Where's My Boat?**—A Jefferson County game warden responded to a call about a possible stolen boat and motor recovered from the Neches River. When the boat was towed in and contact was made with the owner, he said he had gotten hung up on a pipe and left his boat. When he returned, he discovered it was missing. The value of the recovery was estimated at \$15,000.

• **"I'm Sure Glad to See You"**—As a Real County game warden pulled into a hunting camp to check for hunting violations, he was greeted by a hunter who said, "I'm sure glad to see you." When the warden asked why, the hunter replied, "Seeing you reminds me that I have to put my tag on my deer." The deer was already quartered in the ice chest and the cape in a trash bag. The hunter was cited for possession of untagged deer. Case is pending.

• **Oh Deer**—Two Bandera County game wardens and one Uvalde County warden responded to information about a few deer that had been illegally taken. At the residence, the wardens located meat from a freshly killed whitetail deer. During the investigation, it was learned that two 17-year-old males had killed one whitetail deer with a bow from a public road that night and also killed another whitetail deer by running it over with a truck a few nights earlier. The Uvalde County game warden obtained written statements from both suspects,

and multiple charges have been filed.

• **Darkness Falls**—While a Hill County warden was patrolling Aquilla Lake for illegal hunting activity, he noticed a boat returning without running lights. As the warden performed a water safety inspection and license check, one of the hunters said he had left his license at his residence. When asked why he wasn't displaying his running lights, the hunter said the lights had broken while traveling to the lake. The warden found that the vehicle and trailer registrations were expired, so citations were issued for failing to produce a resident hunting license and no running lights on a vessel while underway. A warning was also given for the expired registrations. Cases pending.

• **The Duping Deer Dumper**—A McCulloch County game warden received a call that a deer carcass had been dumped in the middle of a street in downtown Brady. A police officer removed the deer from the street and relayed to dispatch the name on the permit attached to the deer. Before the warden arrived, a bystander reported that someone jumped out of a dark-colored sedan, removed the tag and drove off, leaving the deer at the curb. Using the name that was reported, the warden traced the deer to a local property owner who informed the warden that he had donated the deer. The following morning, the warden went to the suspects' place of employment. The individual admitted to dumping the deer and then returning later to remove the tag.

• **Scared Fishless**—Two Travis County game wardens were checking a known fishing area that has issues with trespassers. As the wardens ap-

proached the fishing tank, a male subject saw their truck, which he later said he thought was the landowner, and took off running into the wooded area. One of the wardens then requested assistance from a third Travis County game warden and K9 partner Ruger to track for the evading trespasser. Also deployed was a fourth Travis County warden who was positioned across the wooded area, which was the subject's most probable path of escape. K9 Ruger tracked the male subject and assisted with flushing him out of the wooded area, where the game warden was in a position to observe the male cross the river and quickly take him into custody. The male subject told the wardens that he had placed his shirt along the river and hidden his fishing poles. Ruger was deployed for an article search and recovered the items. The subject was filed on for criminal trespass and fishing without a valid fishing license. Cases pending.

• **Baited and Booked**—A Cameron County game warden received notification of an individual offering protected fish and shrimp for sale. He made contact with the seller and arranged to buy some fish. The Cameron County sergeant met with the seller at a public parking lot and negotiated the buy of several spotted seatrout and a few bags of gulf shrimp for \$100. Shortly after the sale, the Cameron County game warden along with a warden from Hidalgo County were on scene and apprehended the subject. The following were seized: 29 spotted seatrout, of which 26 were undersized; 20 black drum; 28 gallon-size bags of gulf shrimp; and two gallon-size bags of squid. Multiple charges filed.

Christmas Eve Service at Methodist Church

By Christmas Eve, the details have all been nailed down for family gatherings on Christmas Day and it's time to slow down and ponder the reality of that first Christmas so long ago. As the Christian world prepares to celebrate the birth of our Savior, the Methodist Church warmly invites the community to its traditional candlelight service.

Beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve, the congregation will share in the anticipation of God's greatest gift to mankind—His Son, Jesus Christ.

Following the story of Christ's

holy birth through scripture readings and music, everybody will be invited to share the Lord's Table where Communion will be offered to all who believe in this miracle. We welcome Jesus into our hearts as a reminder of God's love for us and share that gift with others as a token of our love for God.

The community is invited to share in this special time of worship in the Sanctuary made beautiful by poinsettias donated by members of the church. What a meaningful way to move into the real meaning of Christmas.

Callahan County Historical Commission

On Thursday, December 11, 2014 members of the Callahan County Historical Commission met in the T & P Depot in Baird, Texas for the CCHC Christmas Party. Margaret Hoogstra, Director of the Texas Forts Trail Region, presented an informative and interesting program on the Forts Trail Region, of which Callahan County is a part. There are historic forts and one presidio in this region that reflects part of our great states pioneer days. Some are just crumbling walls or rock chimneys, such as the ones at Ft. Phantom Hill Historic Site. Some have restored structures or replicas of post headquarters, barracks, officers quarters, etc. The historic sites are Fort Belknap, Graham, Tx., Fort Chadbourne, Bronte, Tx., Fort Concho, San Angelo, Tx., Fort Griffin, Al-

bany, Tx., Fort McKavett, Menard, Tx., Fort Mason, Mason, Tx., Fort Phantom Hill, Abilene, Tx., Fort Richardson, Jacksboro, Tx., and Presidio San Luis de Las Amarillas, Menard, Tx. The cities within this region benefit greatly from the tourism generated by the promotion of these forts.

During the business portion of the meeting, new officers were elected and will be installed during the January, 2015 meeting.

Christmas Wassil, coffee, and an array of delicious snacks were served to Paula Windham, Virginia and Billy Baird, Marlene and Hubert Donaway, Bob and Cookie Robinson, Joanne and Ted Moomaw, Felix Manion, Dana Voights, Beverly Ross, Judy Luter and Elnora Scott.

Flu/Immunization Clinic in Callahan County set for January 14th

The Texas Department of State Health Services has set up a flu/immunization clinic at the Clyde First Baptist Church, located at 216 Austin on Wednesday, January 14th. The Clinic will be open from 10 am -12 pm & 1:30 pm -3pm.

For Children with Medicaid, no insurance or underinsured and for adults with no insurance. For your convenience please call to schedule an appointment. If no answer 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.

Cross Plains Review
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Dec. 25, 2014

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Library Offers Children Programs

Cross Plains Public Library "Learn About..." Program is a structured readiness program for preschool children ages 3-5 every Wednesday Morning from 10:00 to 10:45 a.m. November through April. There will also be a Lapsit program available at the same time for children under the age of 3. A parent must accompany the child for this program.

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21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60

ACROSS

- "it's ___" (fun)
- deposits of this are near Grand Saline
- near Eagle Mountain Lake in Tarrant Co.
- TXism: "___ beak" (drink)
- TX Drew Brees was 2010 AP ___
- Year ___
- female saint (abbr.)
- Kilgore dance team member
- TXism: "___ sits tall in the saddle"
- 3/2/1836 is the ___ TX declared its independence
- San ___ TX
- ___ Helduser coached at TCU and A&M
- Houston is the site for ___ astronauts
- TXism: "plain as the nose on your ___"
- Austin band: "Asleep ___ the Wheel"
- ___
- Ranger
- hay or cotton bundle
- nat'l doctor grp.
- Jay Gould's private railroad car located in Jefferson, TX
- TX billion ___
- Ross Perot
- TXism: "split ___" (tried hard)
- TXism for "womanizer" (2 wds.)
- TXism: "dark as ___ of black cats"
- TXism "bister ___" (handle)
- TXism: "he bit off more than ___ chew"
- this Kevin starred in "Violets Are Blue" with TX Sissy Spacek
- this Norman moved the Stars to Dallas in 1993 (init.)
- Croatian island
- Longview is the seat of this county
- 48 cloths
- Flynn of '48 film "Silver River" with TX Ann Sheridan
- linhorn's bottom after a day of riding a horse
- Adam's sidekick
- some lights
- TXism: "wipe the slate clean"
- this vocalist Vega once lived in TX
- dir. from Midland to Abilene
- Biblical king
- TXism: "little lady"
- evidence found at a crime scene
- TX Autry wrote "___ Comes Santa Claus"
- "and so on" (abbr.)
- TXism: "useless as speaking Chinese"
- TX Howard Hughes left a big one
- TX pilot stunt double, Tom
- TX actress ___ Beth Williams
- TXism: "fits like sardines ___ can"
- NY baseball team
- this Comal Co. cave is summer home for millions of bats
- early use of TX petroleum was the ___ of streets
- mark on a gunfighter's belt
- this TX pro RB, Mel, played only for the Detroit Lions
- Spurs, Mavs, & Rockets can sometimes be seen on this cable net.
- "well" south of the border
- growing old
- TXism: "crooked ___ of snakes"
- TXism: "in ___ eye" (never)
- TXism: "hot as ___ griddle"
- this Baldwin was in '97 film "The Edge" with TX L.Q. Jones
- Odessa AM that went silent in 2014
- "lully ___" (adult)
- TXism: "___ as a rodeo clown"

DOWN

- TXism: "rough ___"
- Burnet newspaper: "Citizens ___"
- TXism: "put ___ cards on the table"
- good Astro theft: ___ second

To get your name on the Birthday Column, send your name and date of birth to *The Cross Plains Review*, P.O. Box 519, Cross Plains, Texas 76443. There is no charge for this service. To delete a name due to death or other reasons send name and birth date (Month and Day) or Call 254-725-6111

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TWC Launches Veteran and Industry Partnership Skills training initiative addresses targeted industry needs

AUSTIN—The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) today, Tuesday, October 7th, announced the launch of the Veteran and Industry Partnership (VIP), an initiative to create jobs for veterans and supply a skilled and ready workforce for some of the state's most high-demand industries: petrochemical, advanced manufacturing and information technology. TWC has designated \$4.3 million from the state's Skills Development Fund to establish the initiative, which brings together industry associations, local Workforce Solutions partners and community colleges to develop training in key industry occupations for veterans.

"VIP recognizes the exceptional skills that veterans bring to the workforce and strives to connect them with jobs in expanding industries," said TWC Chairman Andres Alcantar. "We are proud to partner with these community colleges and Texas employers to train and place our heroes in high-demand occupations."

Local workforce development boards have partnered with industry leaders and 17 colleges throughout Texas to identify high-demand workforce needs in local areas and develop expedited training programs for veterans as part of the VIP initiative. Short-term certificate attainment and industry-recognized credentials will be included in all three industry training initiatives.

"The training developed by VIP will give veterans credit for their years of training and experience in the military, and emphasize the need for immediate job placement after completion," said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. "Texas veterans and service members have answered the call to serve our nation in large numbers, and providing a fast path

to employment is one way we can thank them for that service."

Among the benefits of hiring veterans, the Work Opportunity Tax Credit allows employers to receive up to a \$9,600 tax credit on federal business income or payroll tax benefits when they hire a qualifying veteran.

"The availability of veterans who have the discipline, work ethic and capacity to learn new skills quickly, presents a favorable environment to respond to industry needs while enhancing the professional skills of veterans and providing further job opportunities in high-demand, high-wage industries," said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Hope Andrade.

All eligible U.S. veterans will have the opportunity to participate in VIP. Funds have been allocated to eligible colleges on a regional basis, based on veteran population and available industry jobs.

"The Texas Chemical Council is proud to collaborate with TWC and our workforce and education partners to help develop curricula to meet the workforce needs of Texas' petrochemical employers and help our returning veterans transitioning into civilian life," said Texas Chemical Council President and CEO Hector Rivero.

The Veterans and Industry Partnership Petrochemical Industry initiative will train veterans for high-demand occupations in the petrochemical industry. Colleges participating in this program include: Alvin Community College in Alvin, Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, Lee College in Baytown, Lone Star College in Houston, Houston Community College in Houston, San Jacinto College in Pasadena and Victoria College in Victoria.

"Texas' growing manufacturing industry is the perfect place

for many Texas military veterans to launch their civilian careers," said Texas Association of Manufacturers President Tony Bennett. "The many technical skills, leadership and teamwork capabilities of Texas veterans is exactly what we need to keep Texas an industry-leader."

The Veterans and Industry Partnership Advanced Manufacturing Industry initiative will train veterans for high-demand occupations in the fabrication industry. Colleges participating in this program include: Alamo Colleges in San Antonio, Collin College in Plano, Dallas County Community College District in Dallas, Navarro College in Corsicana, North Central Texas College in Gainesville and Tarrant County Community College District in Fort Worth.

The Veteran and Industry Partnership Information Technology initiative will train veterans in high-demand occupations in the computing industry. Colleges participating in this program include: Austin Community College in Austin, Central Texas College in Killeen, El Paso Community College in El Paso and Temple College in Temple.

For more information on this program, visit www.texasworkforce.org/skills. For more information about workforce programs available to veterans and their employers, visit www.texasworkforce.org/veterans.

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The Texas Workforce Commission is a state agency dedicated to helping Texas employers, workers and communities prosper economically. For details on TWC and the services it offers in coordination with its network of local workforce development boards, call 512-463-8942 or visit www.texasworkforce.org.



(L-R)-Cathy Ballard-Concho Valley Workforce Board, Alyssa Yingst-West Tx. Energy Consortium, Kathy Stokes- West Tx. Energy Consortium, Ken Becker-Vice Chair West Tx. Energy Consortium and John Beckmeyer-Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas Board Chair.

West Texas Energy Consortium Receives Industry Sector Outreach Award

ABILENE, TEXAS- On Wednesday December 17th, at the regularly scheduled Workforce Solutions Board Meeting, the West Texas Energy Consortium was honored for their commitment to workforce development by developing and implementing strategies to address labor shortages, employer training needs, and employee retention in competing sectors.

Embracing a need for collaboration in order to meet unmatched demands experienced in wake of the rapidly growing energy sector, the West Texas Energy Consortium was officially formed in 2013 by three local workforce boards in the Permian Basin, Concho Valley, and West Central Texas areas. This was an unprecedented effort to address growing workforce needs as well as other key topics including infrastructure, emergency response, and community development. According to West Central

Texas Workforce Development Board Executive Director, Mary Ross, "Forming the Consortium was a natural extension of the long-standing relationships among the local workforce boards. We've worked together on many projects over the last ten years, but this is the most significant venture yet."

In addition to tackling workforce issues, the WTxE has also launched a training cooperative to support local board efforts in response to rising demand. This includes a regional welding certificate among seven local community colleges, Regional Advisory Council, and Regional Centers of Excellence. Beyond workforce, the Consortium is also working to equip localities with the information and tools necessary for disaster preparedness and emergency response in oilfield-affected areas.

The consortium is comprised of economic development, education, business, local

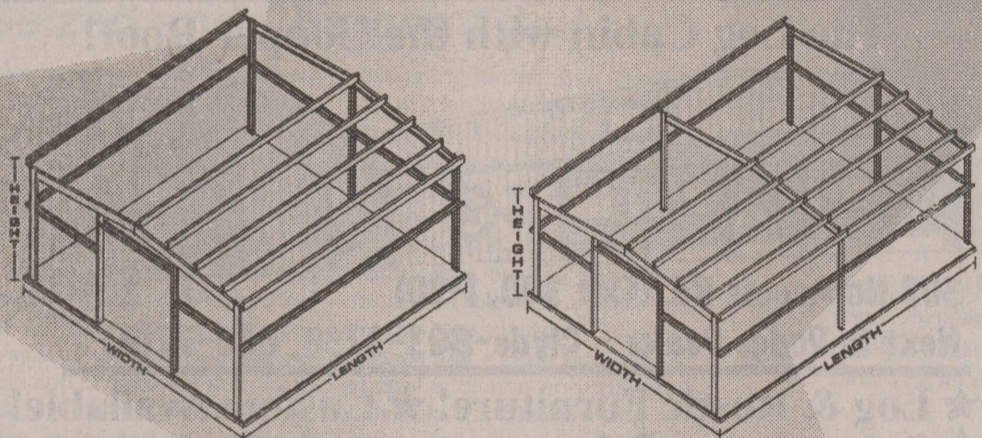
government, nonprofit and community leaders. In just one year, the group has formed five issue committees, launched a website, hosted two regional conferences, trained or certified 133 individuals, awarded 80 scholarships specific to training for the oil and gas sector, commissioned a regional economic impact study and provided career information to over 1,650 youth.

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

The West Central Texas Workforce Development Board is an equal opportunity employer. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities (1-800-735-2989 TDD or 1-800-735-2988 voice) for accessible communication.

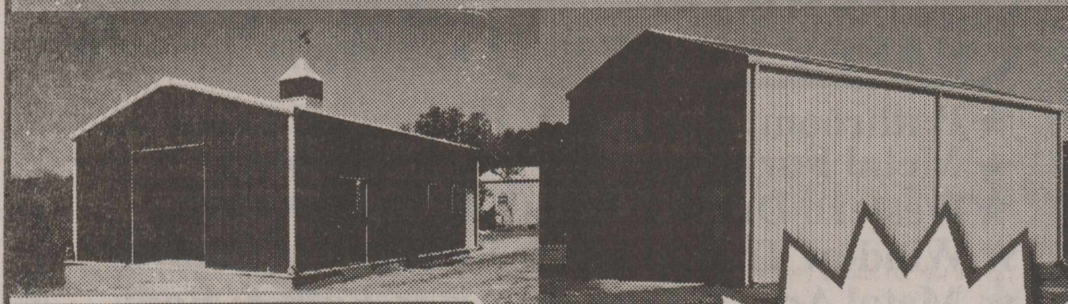
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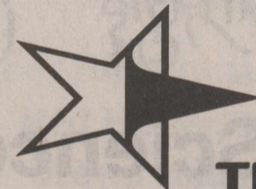
To help our school, just look for pink Box Tops on products, clip them, and send them to school. For a list of participation products and our school's progress, visit www.BTFE.com. Be sure to become a member to receive exclusive coupons and recipes and learn about extra ways for our school to earn.

I hope you're excited for everything we can do this year with Box Tops! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at lmcnutt@eplains.escl4.net or 254-725-6122, ext 223. I'm here to make our school's Box Tops for Education program a huge success this year. Thanks for your help!

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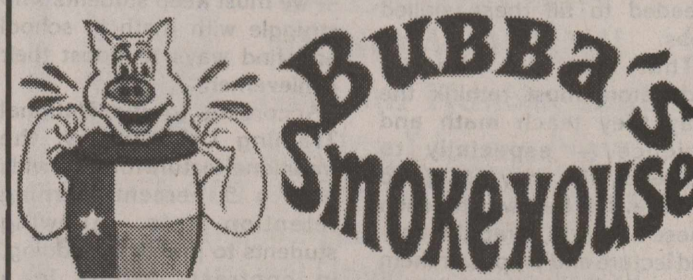


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Sense of touch linked to memories: Local families making memory boxes to help ones remember

One Of Many Free Tools Provided for Local Families and Those Living with Alzheimer's

Abilene - People with Alzheimer's or related dementias generally experience problems with memory and thinking. To the extent their ability to store new information efficiently becomes compromised, they may use past experiences to make sense of the present. Therefore, the Home Instead Senior Care network is inviting Abilene families and friends of loved ones living with Alzheimer's to share the gift of memory, by creating a Memory Box with their loved one that tells the story of their past experiences.

This is just one innovative tool to help capture and stimulate the memories of loved ones living with the disease.

Research has shown that talking with people with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias about their lives can create positive emotional experiences, reduce stress and provide a better quality of life. A memory box is a tool that can help stimulate memory as loved ones get older.

"For those struggling with Alzheimer's or a related dementia, smell, touch, taste and sound can be a powerful memory trigger," says Derral Reed owner of the Home Instead Senior Care office serving Abilene. "Something as simple as the feel of an old baseball

glove, the familiar texture of seashells collected on vacation or childhood photos are the types of items that hold classic memories. A Memory Box containing these meaningful memory joggers can be a source of pleasure and encouragement for a loved one as they make the journey into old age."

Here are a few tips on how to construct a Memory Box:

- It needs to be strong, robust and easy to store. A box 12 inches by 9 inches is ideal.
- Each item should relate to a memory that can be revisited time and time again. Be aware that some items may open the door to unhappy memories, and you may want to be sensitive to avoid or carefully address discussing these items.
- Remember that experiences memorized by the brain are not just visual! Diaries, letters, newspaper articles and the like may be invaluable reminders.
- Look to include items that can not only be touched but also heard and smelled.
- It is important to label photos and other items clearly. It may be helpful to include a note that explains why certain objects have been included.

The Memory Box is one of the many tools and ideas the Home Instead Senior Care network recommends for families caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's

or any other form of dementia. Other useful and free tools available through the network include:

- Alzheimer's & Other Dementias Daily Companion App for real-time, on-the-go tips and suggestions to help manage and alleviate behavioral symptoms typically associated with dementia (available for download on Google Play and iTunes),
- Live online chats with Alzheimer's experts accessed through the website www.HelpForAlzheimersFamilies.com,
- Family caregiver Alzheimer's training workshops available at franchise locations across the United States, and
- Confidence to Care: A Resource for Family Caregivers Providing Alzheimer's Disease or Other Dementias Care at Home, a new dementia care handbook for the family caregiver available for purchase through www.Amazon.com.

"Until we have a cure, we need to do everything we can to ensure caregivers and their families have the best support possible to help manage this devastating disease," said Reed.

For more information on the Home Instead Senior Care network and its available Alzheimer's care resources, visit www.HelpForAlzheimersFamilies.com or call 325-670-9610.



Wild About Texas

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Mediterranean Gecko

With all of the political banter that is hurled about regarding illegal immigration, it is hard to imagine that this issue is prevalent within the natural world as well. Here in west Texas, there is a lizard that comes not from the borders to the north or south, but rather all the way from the Mediterranean regions of the Old World.

The Mediterranean Gecko (*Hemidactylus turcicus*) is one of four species of non-native geckos that now are established here in Texas, and it undeniably has the largest area of distribution. It has been thriving in the southern third of Texas for almost half a century, but it was unknown from the Panhandle, Trans-Pecos and northern Edwards Plateau until the past couple of decades. Now it is firmly rooted in most towns along the Rio Grande, as well as ranging as far north to the Lubbock area.

The habitats that this invasive lizard prefers are strongly linked to human habitations. While the vast majority are observed on (and occasionally in) houses and buildings at night, they can occasionally be found in piles of debris. Another place to look to observe them is along the outer halos of the lighting from advertising billboards.

The Mediterranean Gecko is a small (up to five inches), delicate lizard that has many prominent bumps, or tubercles, along the back and upper sides. The coloration of this animal depends largely on temperature and time of day. During the daylight hours, the background coloration is typically a darker shade of brown to gray, while at night, the coloration changes shades to a light gray to almost pasty-white. Usually there are patches of darker brown that form a random pattern along the back. The un-regenerated tail is ringed with black and white. There are no movable eyelids, and signifying that the animal is nocturnal, the pupils are elliptical in shape. The toe pads are expanded, and rather complex in design. Rather than going into all of the detail of these appendages, here they are best described as "suction-cups" that allow the lizard to climb even the smoothest panes of glass with ease.

House Geckos, as they are often called, like other lizard species, are "cold-blooded", or ectothermic. This means that they do not generate heat from the inside of their body, as mammals and birds do, but rather are dependent on outside sources



Mediterranean Gecko (*Hemidactylus turcicus*)

for heating and cooling. They are primarily active during the summer months, but can be seen occasionally during the winter months on heated buildings.

This species of lizard is strictly carnivorous, feeding on small moths and other invertebrates that are drawn to the porch (and other) lights. They are also egg-layers, and after mating, the female will lay a clutch of two eggs. These eggs are adhesive, and many times will be laid in the ceiling corners of garages and other like areas. After approximately forty-eight days of incubation, the delicate two inch long young emerge prepared to fend for and care for themselves. Many females can lay up to six clutches of eggs in a summer.

This unique little lizard has a variety of ways of defending itself from predators. The first is the fact that their tail is easily broken, known as autotomy. This is where the tail comes off rather easily, and while the potential predator is pre-occupied with the still moving tail, the lizard can crawl

away to safety. Over time, the lizard will regenerate a new tail, although this new one is never as long or as colorful as the original. Most geckos are seen with regenerated tails. Geckos are among the few lizards with a voice, and many will squeak when grasped, although apparently it is only the males that have this ability.

There are many theories as to how these invasive animals arrived in the New World, ranging from accidental travelers to intentional releases. All that is known for sure is that when non-native animals get established in a new area, the local wildlife is typically adversely affected. However, with the Mediterranean Gecko this does not appear to be the case. In fact, they have exploited a niche that was unavailable to our native lizard populations, so the arrival of this little lizard seems to be un-harmful.

Editor's Note: Michael Price would love to hear from folks! He can be reached by email at www.fullprice71@gmail.com.

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Good News Is What We Are About!!!!

DPS Honors Exemplary Employees, Texas Police Officer

AUSTIN - The Texas Public Safety Commission (PSC) and the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) Director Steven McCraw presented a Purple Heart and two Director's Citations to DPS employees for their outstanding service. In addition, a Center Police Department officer received a Director's Award for his efforts during an emergency situation. "Law enforcement is a line of work that requires individuals to put the safety of others first, and these outstanding officers did just that - running toward danger when duty called," said Director McCraw. "Today is a proud moment for these award recipients and their families. Texas is a safer place with them on the job."

The following awards were presented today:

- Trooper Dustin Ramos, Texas Highway Patrol in Center, received a Director's Citation for his actions during a dangerous incident. On May 4, 2014, Ramos responded to a call from the Shelby County Sheriff's Office for assistance in apprehending a suspect allegedly under the influence of PCP, who had fled a scene. Ramos located the driver and attempted a traffic stop, but the suspect continued to evade police. Sgt. Duane Gordon of the Center Police Department and DPS Trooper Zachary Mills also assisted by deploying two separate sets of spikes across State Highway 87. The suspect then drove off the roadway, striking Mills with his vehicle. The suspect then maneuvered his vehicle back toward the injured Mills, and officers Ramos and Gordon fired at the suspect,

mortally wounding him. Ramos then administered first aid on Mills until EMS personnel arrived. Trooper Zachary Mills, Texas Highway Patrol in Center, received a Purple Heart for his personal sacrifice and efforts to apprehend a dangerous suspect. Sergeant Duane Gordon, Center Police Department, received the Director's Award for his efforts to rescue an injured officer and apprehend a dangerous suspect.

- Trooper Laurence Adams Jr., Texas Highway Patrol in Haskell, received a Director's Citation for his actions during a life-threatening situation. While on duty traveling to Austin on State Highway 36 in Callahan County on June 17, 2014, Adams observed smoke in the distance and ultimately discovered a home on fire. Adams entered the home and evacuated a woman and pets inside, helping to save their lives.

In addition to the awards above, DPS and two individual troopers were recognized at the annual Motor Vehicle Criminal Interdiction Assistance Program conference in Michigan. DPS received the Department of the Year Award for being the top interdiction state in the nation. Trooper Ben Dollar, Texas Highway Patrol in Panhandle, was honored in the "largest seizure" category for his 100-pound methamphetamine seizure; and Lt. Richard Jankovsky, Texas Highway Patrol in Corpus Christi, received the Networker of the Year Award.

Cottonwood Volunteer Fire Control Group will hold their Annual Fish Fry fundraiser in conjunction with Cottonwood Country Musical

Friday night, January 23, 2015 will be a special night at the Cottonwood Community Center, Cottonwood, Texas!

Not only is it the regular Cottonwood Country Musical but the Cottonwood Volunteer Fire Control Group will hold their Annual Fish Fry fundraiser in conjunction with the musical.

Those of you who live in the rural areas know how important the smaller volunteer fire groups are when a brush fire breaks out. These volunteers are your neighbors who have donated their time to attend training in fire fighting and they are there fighting to extinguish the fire and protect your property.

The Cottonwood Volunteer Fire Control Group, like most

volunteer groups is funded solely by donations and fundraisers.

Mark your calendars for Friday night, January 23, 2015, and travel to the Cottonwood Community Center, Cottonwood, Texas to enjoy a meal of fish, chicken, beans, coleslaw, fries, hush puppies, with a dessert and drink. All for \$7.00 adult plate and \$3.50 child plate (for children under 10 years of age). Serving will be from 5-7 p.m.

After you've enjoyed the meal, stroll into the auditorium for the Cottonwood Country Musical.

Plans are for toe tapping, hand clapping good country music with the possibility of special guests.

BBB warns of a Too Good to be True Travel scam

More than a dozen international students studying in Texas have lost thousands of dollars in a bogus travel agent scam. Campus police at Texas A&M University report 17 students tried to purchase airline tickets from Jasmine Travel. One of the students had done a search online as "airline tickets to India", and this site popped up: www.sulekha.com, which was described as India's version of Craigslist. From there she found Jasmine Travel was offering airfare to India for \$700 cheaper than anyone else. Without checking into the company, she wired \$1000 to them and contacted her friends, all of whom did the exact same thing. No one stopped to wonder why or how this company could offer such low airfare.

Investigators have found that they were using an address in Forest Hills, NY that was actually a Citibank office. In Los Alamitos, CA the office was actually another travel agency called Adam Intelligent Travel.

BBB is requesting assistance in alerting international students and anyone planning overseas visits about this scam.

Narcotics & Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings

Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are under way every Wednesday & Thursday evening from 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. located at 108 N. Main in Cross Plains, Tx. in the Senior Citizen Center building phone number is 254-270-0162.

"We are a people in the grip of a continuing and progressive illness who's ends are always the same: jails, institutions and death. We are addicts that understand and are willing to go the lengths to help you. There is no charge for the meetings as we are a non profit organization. We hope to see you at the next meeting."

Atmos Energy Urges Customers to Prepare for Winter Today

DALLAS (September 24, 2014) - Atmos Energy is urging its customers to prepare today for what could be another bone-chilling winter. The United States faced extreme temperatures and record-setting natural gas consumption during the 2013-2014 winter heating season and according to industry leaders, the same may hold true this winter.

"The lessons learned from last year's polar vortex is that there is no such thing as too much preparations," said John Paris. "Last year we were able to provide affordable natural gas during critical periods thanks to our investments in our infrastructure and our underground storage. With winter on the horizon, Atmos Energy is planning for another robust heating season."

Tips for customers:
In order to prepare for winter today, Atmos Energy advises all customers review their natural gas accounts. If you are a new customer or your service is currently inactive, call 1-888-286-6700 today to avoid long wait times on the phone and possible days without heat or hot water.

Tips for calling:
• The best time to call is weekday afternoons. Mornings are typically the busiest time at our call centers.

• Atmos Energy's two customer contact centers, which are located in Texas, receive approximately 17,000 calls per day.

• Customers who call during a busy time can use the automated phone system to schedule a return call from an agent, rather than wait on hold.

• Contact us Monday-Friday from 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. (CST); Saturday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. at 1-888-286-6700; and for emergency calls 24/7 at 1-866-322-8667.

Energy conservation:

- Learn how to save energy throughout the winter at www.atmosenergy.com/wintertips

- The best way to lower your energy bill is to use energy more wisely. A programmable thermostat allows you to keep your house cooler at night and when you're away, and will automatically warm your house to comfortable levels for the hours you are home.

- Try Atmos Energy's online tools such as an Energy Calculator to help manage your energy use. Inspect your windows and doors for drafts. Use caulk or sealant to insulate as needed.

Energy assistance:

If you are having trouble paying your utility bill, please visit our website to learn more about energy assistance programs. Low-income customers are eligible for federal energy assistance through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which helps pay energy bills and weatherize homes.

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About Atmos Energy

Atmos Energy Corporation, headquartered in Dallas, is one of the country's largest natural-gas-only distributors, serving over three million natural gas distribution customers in over 1,400 communities in eight states from the Blue Ridge Mountains in the East to the Rocky Mountains in the West. Atmos Energy manages company-owned natural gas pipeline and storage assets, including one of the largest intrastate natural gas pipeline systems in Texas and also provides natural gas marketing and procurement services to industrial, commercial and municipal customers primarily in the Midwest and Southeast. For more information, visit www.atmosenergy.com.

Library Notes

Library Hours

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

Dec 15-Dec 18, 2014

Patrons 112
Books Checked 123

Programs
GED 6
Lap & Lapsit 24
ASAP
Other 28

Copies 11
Internet 22
Wi Fi 15

Memorials

Scott & Jacque Childress
In Honor of Bob & Laverne Childress

Volunteers

Sue Bennett
Linda Burns
Helen Parson
Jan Bond
Laverne Childress
Ginny Hoskins
Polly Beeler
Michelle Kaiser
Beverly Ross
Wilma Lawrence

The Library will be Closed
December 24-25 and
December 31-January 1.
Thank you and have a
Merry Christmas.

Cross Plains Review

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Dec. 25, 2014

**AN INVITATION
STOP BY FOR
DONUTS AND COFFEE
VISIT THE SECOND OLDEST
OPERATING JAIL IN TEXAS**

**NEW YEAR'S DAY
JANUARY 1, 2015
BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 10-2**

VISIT WITH SHERIFF TERRY JOY,
LET US KNOW WHAT YOU
APPRECIATE ABOUT THE
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT AND
DISCUSS CONCERNS THAT YOU
MAY HAVE
SHERIFF JOY AND HIS STAFF LOOK
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