

Cross Plains Review

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75¢

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December 17, 2015 • 12 Pages
(254) 725-6111 • crossplainsreview@earthlink.net



Rudolph and the 4-H Club bring home Blue Ribbon

The Christmas Parade was a lot of fun for the 4-H kids. Creativity was running high as the parents collaborated to change a truck and flatbed trailer into Santa's sleigh, complete with flying reindeer. Rudolph and his two buddies managed to lead the 4-H club into a Blue ribbon, extra oats in the feed bucket for them.

We are very proud of Spade Koenig and Adrien Canales, who represented our club at the District livestock judging contest in San Angelo, December 2nd. If you are interested in learning more about livestock judging, stop in at the next meeting and ask questions.

The Dec 7th 4-H meeting was held at the Community Center, we had 30 members attend, and our guest speaker was Patrick Clark with the Wildlife Nutrition Center. Patrick answered questions from children and

parents regarding feed and show supplies and is eager to help us in ordering whatever we need. He has already helped one member simplify her feed purchasing. Now instead of having to go to two stores in Abilene and one in Brownwood to get her preferred goat feed, she can shop locally at one store saving both time and gas.

The Rada Cutlery order has arrived and you should be getting deliveries this week. If you have discovered that you forgot something, just want to order more, or if a friend ordered and after seeing

what they got, want to place an order of your own, feel free to contact a 4-H member or go to: www.helpourfundraiser.com, Internet ordering #505896, password (lower case) callahan. Then go to Browse All Categories. Items ship within 2-3 days

Our next meeting will be on Monday January 4th, at the First Baptist Church, at 6pm. If you would like to join, have any questions regarding what it's all about, we would love to have you. If you just can't wait, feel free to contact our 4-H leader, Terrie Parum at 254-725-6423.



Merry Christmas

From your Callahan County Sheriff's Office

4 HIS GLORY CHRISTMAS CANTATA DECEMBER 20TH

4His Glory presents "What Child is This?" their 8th Annual Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 20th at the First Presbyterian Church, 200 N. Avenue D in Cross Plains. The performance starts at 7 p.m.

The musical, arranged by Joel Raney, features memorable Christmas classics such as "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing," "Silent Night," and the title song "What Child is This?"

in a multi-media presentation including music, singing and visual accompaniment.

4His Glory, with the combined voices of Amanda Sowell, Matt Sowell, Connie Swift and Rhonda Swift, has performed in the Cross Plains area at churches and events since 1998.

Refreshments will be served after the performance. Everyone is welcome.



Cross Plains ISD Annual Christmas Concert

Please join us for Christmas cheer on Thursday, Dec 17th in the school auditorium for the CPISD Annual Christmas Concert.

The music will begin at 6pm and feature melodies performed by students ranging from the 5th-12th grade. It is sure to be an wonderful concert. Come out and support the Mighty Buffalo Band.

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!



Angel Tree at Texas Heritage Bank

Names are being added to the Community Angel Tree at Texas Heritage Bank.

If you would like to adopt an angel to buy gifts for, you may do so at the bank. Please return your gifts (unwrapped) to the bank by Thursday, December 17.

If you are not able to shop, but would like to make a monetary donation, you may also do this at Texas Heritage Bank.

Callahan County Historical Commission meeting

On Thursday, December 10, 2015 the Callahan County Historical Commission gathered at The Baird Depot for the annual Christmas Meeting.

Plans were discussed concerning new County Markers and an upcoming fund-raiser. Snacks and finger foods were served to members Judy Luter, Felix Manion, Bob and Cookie Robinson, Virginia and Billy Beard, Dana Voights, Beverly Ross and Elnora Scott.

Meet and Greet for Franklin Pierce "Bucky" Shackelford Candidate for Callahan County Sheriff

Concerned citizens of Callahan County are sponsoring a meet and greet for Bucky Shackelford on Friday, December 18th from 5 pm to 9 pm at the Clyde Chamber of Commerce building.

All Callahan County residents are welcome to attend and meet Bucky and have any questions you have

answered. If you would like a personal meeting with your group or association, please contact Hugh Gray at 325-669-8506.

Bucky is looking forward to meeting all of you. Please stop by even if it's for a few minutes.

Political advertisement paid for by Franklin P. "Bucky" Shackelford, 4186 Cr. 273, Clyde, Texas, 79510, Treasurer Patty Ellis.

Christmas Events Scheduled for Rising Star Nursing Home

Rising Star Nursing Center is pleased to announce our Christmas Holiday Event calendar for 2015. The Annual Christmas Nativity Play is scheduled for Sunday, December 13 at 2:00 PM. Come early to get a seat! Refreshments will be served.

Our Angel Tree Christmas Party is scheduled on Monday, December 21 from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. Margie Hartsfield will be here for Christmas Karaoke sing-a-long from 2:00 to 3:00. Santa Claus arrives at 3:00 to hand out gifts!

Buy a Brick and "Raise the Roof" locally

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

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

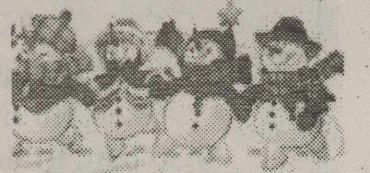
For private events, as well as general open use throughout the community.

To help raise the funds for the pavilion, the City and the EDC are offering engraved bricks for the low donation cost of \$50. Each of these bricks will be displayed on-site, and be used to finish out the walkway that will run from the Turkey Creek bridge within Treadway to the new slab and future structure. Each brick may have up to 4 lines engraved with your choice of wording, with everything from honoring a loved one, to a class year, business name, or birth announcement. What a unique and lasting memorial for future generations. The donations are tax deductible as well so with the end of the fiscal year approaching this provides another way to give in tax year 2015. If you are interested in purchasing a brick and raising the roof on the pavilion, contact Debbie Gosnell at City Hall or Dannes Turner at the Senior Citizen's Center.

Last chance for TV

The Cross Plains Senior Center is giving away a 42" TV just in time for Christmas. Drawing will be held December 18. Your chance to take this home is only \$1.00 or 6 for \$5.00.

Tickets available at the Senior Center or Texas Heritage Bank.



Texas Heritage Bank

"We're Proud of Our Local Heritage"

Member FDIC

Presents: **What's Inside**

Church Directory	2
Obituaries	2
Love Funds	2
Courthouse News	2
CP Basketball Pics	3
Texas Crossword Solutions ...	4
Cottonwood News	4
International Trade for Beef ..	4
Christmas Poem	4
Texas Crossword	5
Library Notes	5
Rehab Show Results	5
Classifieds	6 & 7
CP Retail Sales	7
Birthday	8
Senior Activities & Menu	8
CP Board Meeting Coming ...	8
Wild About Texas	9
What Are You Reading?	9
Recipe Corner	9
Sheriff's Corner	10
December Museum Visitors	10
Call. Co. Library News	10
10 Reasons to Visit Abilene ..	11
Grand Ole Oplin Dance	11
Grand Ole Oplin Line-up	11
Be A Blood Hero	11
Candidates in Call. Co.	11
The Market Raffle Winner ...	12
Call. Co. Holiday Schedule ..	12
Preparing Your Will	12
Recipe Corner	12

Cross Plains ISD Early Release

Early Release at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, December 16th, Thursday, December 17th, and Friday, December 18th for the Christmas Holidays.

School Resumes at regular time on Monday, January 4th.

Have a safe and happy Christmas Season.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

COTTONWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Triple Cross Cowboy Church

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

Pioneer Baptist Church

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

Living Water Ministries Fellowship

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

Rowden Baptist Church

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

First Baptist Church

Sunday Morning 10:45 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6:30 p.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6:30 pm Evening worship
 6:30 p.m. Bible Drill - 1st- 6th
 6:30 p.m. - Youth Discipleship
Wednesday
 6:30 p.m - Prayer/Worship
 Student & Children Ministies
 (254) 725-7629 301 N. Main, Cross Plains, TX 76443
www.firstbaptistcp.com

CROSS PLAINS CHURCH OF CHRIST

433 North Main Street
 Cross Plains, Texas 76443
Minister: RICK AUSTIN
SUNDAY:
 Morning Worship: 10:45 A.M.
 Bible Class: 9:45 A.M.
 Evening Worship: 5:00P.M.
 Wednesday: Evening: 7:00P.M.
 Ladies Class - Wednesday:
 10:00A.M. (at the church activity center on East Hwy 36)
 Office: (254-725-6117)
 Cell Phone: Rick - (918) 348-6859

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 116 S.E. 1st Street.
 Cross Plains, Tx.

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OBITUARIES



PEARL HARMES

Pearl Maddell Maxwell Harmes

Pearl Maddell Maxwell Harmes, age 84, of Cross Plains passed away, Thursday, December 10, 2015 in Abilene, Texas. Funeral services will be at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, December 13, 2015 at Higginbotham Funeral Home Chapel in Cross Plains, Texas with Rex Boggs officiating and Ronnie White assisting. Burial will follow after the service at Cross Plains Cemetery in Cross Plains, Texas.

Maddell was born on December 1, 1931 in Abilene, Texas to George T. Maxwell and Ina Pearl (Talley) Maxwell. She was a beautician. She married Luther Glen Harmes on January 17, 1975 who preceded her in death on February 13, 2004.

Maddell is survived by her

3 sons, Gary Richards and his wife, Deloris of Beeville, Texas; Steve Richards and his wife, Brenda of Cross Plains, Texas; Monty Richards and his wife, Melissa of Cross Plains, Texas; 2 daughters, Toni Shields and her husband, Rick of Snyder, Texas; Connie Boggs and her husband, Rex of Eastland, Texas; 2 brothers, George Maxwell and his wife, Lola of Abilene, Texas; Donnie Maxwell and his wife, Janie of Tuscola, Texas; sister, Annette Mills of Abilene, Texas; 13 grandchildren; 15 great grandchildren.

Maddell was preceded in death by her parents and husband.



Higginbotham FUNERAL HOME

309 N. E. 4th STREET
 P. O. BOX 9
 CROSS PLAINS, TX 76443

Billie Lee Freeman

Billie Lee Freeman, age 83, of Baird passed away, Sunday, December 13, 2015 in Abilene, Texas. Funeral services will be at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at Higginbotham Funeral Home Chapel in Cross Plains, Texas with Kevin Morton officiating. Burial will follow after the service at Cross Plains Cemetery in Cross Plains, Texas. The family will have a time of visitation on Monday, December 14, 2015 from 6:00-7:00 pm at Higginbotham Funeral Home.

Billie was born on November 5, 1932 in Olton, Texas to Calvin Rody and Nettie (Campbell) Rody. She married H.A. Freeman on February 1, 1950 who preceded her in death on March 24, 2006.

Billie is survived by her 2 brothers, N. A. Rody of Baird, Texas; Arthur Rody of Lake Coleman, Texas; sister, Sue McNeil of Baird, Texas.

Billie was preceded in death by her parents; husband, H.A. Freeman; 2 brother, Bobby Rody and Calvin Z. Rody; sister, Mary Jane Rody.



Higginbotham FUNERAL HOME

309 N. E. 4th STREET
 P. O. BOX 9
 CROSS PLAINS, TX 76443

COURTHOUSE NEWS

Callahan County Court
 Roger Corn, presiding

Misdemeanor Minutes

Lisa Wilson, motion to dismiss to theft by check granted in the interest of justice.

End of term order discharging defendants under deferred adjudication: Phillip Ormon; Amanda J. Stephens.

Darren E. Brown, motion to dismiss to evading arrest, sentenced to prison on another case.

Matthew R. Mear-Wilkinson, plea of guilty to possession of marijuana, 1 year probation, \$500 fine, \$329 court costs.

Matthew R. Mear-Wilkinson, order amending conditions of probation granted.

Jimmy L. Spencer, motion and affidavit of surety for warrant granted.

Joshua R. Patterson, plea of guilty to assault, family violence, 60 days in jail, \$269 court costs.

Marriage Licenses

Freddy Lee Thomas Jr. of Baird and Stacy Renee Silva of Abilene.

Zachary Dale Moeller of Abilene and Brandi Michelle Elkins of Clyde.

42nd District Court
 John Weeks, presiding

Civil Filings

Paul Yarbrough; Wanda Jo Windham McLaughlin; Marian Windham; Gwyn Hanes; Tracy Lynn Goble Lopez; and Glen Yarbrough vs. Frank Windham, Jr.; Frank Windham Management, LLC; Whitney Windham Clear Creek, LP; Matt Windham Bayou, LP; Paula Windham; The Paula Windham Management Trust; Mike Warren as trust officer of the Paula Windham Management Trust; Miles Moore, Inc.; Miles Moore, individually; Gerald Hess dba Jerry Hess Operating Co.; and Jerry Hess Operating Co., breach of contract.

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company as subrogee of Chris Carone vs. Lloyd Ray Kennedy, injury or damage, motor vehicle.

Karen Roberts and Raymond Lloyd Roberts, divorce.

Hollie Lafay Harrell and Calvin Wallace McCutchen, divorce.

Sarah Conyah Hawkins, name change.

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 116 S.E. 1st Street

Love Fund

has been opened for
Jesse Markham
 at Texas Heritage Bank
 for medical expenses

Love Fund

for **Lisa Floyd**
 has been set up at
 Texas Heritage Bank
 for medical expenses

Love Fund

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

Love Fund

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

Love Fund

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

Love Fund

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

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First United Methodist Church

Kevin Morton, Pastor

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

1000 North Main Street
www.crossplainsfumc.org

Mesothelioma

EXPERIENCE COUNTS
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 may occur 30 to 50 years after exposure to asbestos. Many workers were exposed from the 1940s through the 1970s. Industrial and construction workers, along with their families (second hand exposure) are among those at risk for mesothelioma, lung cancer or gastro cancer (throat, stomach, colon). Call us for professional insight.
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 Richard A. Dodd, L.L.C.
 Timothy R. Cappolino, P.C. Board Certified (Renowned) Trial Law and Civil Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization
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www.AsbestosLaw.com

Texas Heritage Bank

Bring in a Can of Food and Get a Chance to Win An Amazon Fire HD8 Tablet

All Can Goods Will Be Donated to the Senior Citizen's Center and the Food Pantry Non-perishable canned goods. One entry per person per day.



Drawing Held Wednesday, December 23

'Tis the Season...for BASKETBALL!

Come on out and support your Buffaloes



Varsity Buffalo #11 James Briggs with an offensive drive with #5 Rylan Laminack pictured right in Zephyr

Varsity Buffaloes travelled to Zephyr for a tournament December 10th-12th



Coach Jack Eison with the Varsity Buffaloes at the Zephyr Tournament December 10th-12th



JV Buffaloes on the defensive at the Zephyr Tournament December 10th-12th

JV Buffaloes travelled to Zephyr for a tournament December 10th-12th



Coach Mark Kelley and the 2015-2016 Junior Varsity Buffaloes



JV Buffaloes set to score in Zephyr Tournament

Varsity Boys Final:
NO SCORES REPORTED
JV Boys Final:
NO SCORES REPORTED

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Upcoming Schedule of Games

December 18th JVG VG
JVB VB vs. Gorman @
Gorman 4PM

December 29th-30th VGB
BurkBurnett Tournament
TBA

January 5th JVG VG JVB
VB vs. Blanket @ Cross Plains

i  basketball



JH Girls Basketball looking for a rebound under the basket against Eula

Junior High Basketball against the Eula Pirates December 14th.



JH Boys Basketball on offense looking to pass 12/14



JH Girls Basketball with a 2 point shot against the Pirates

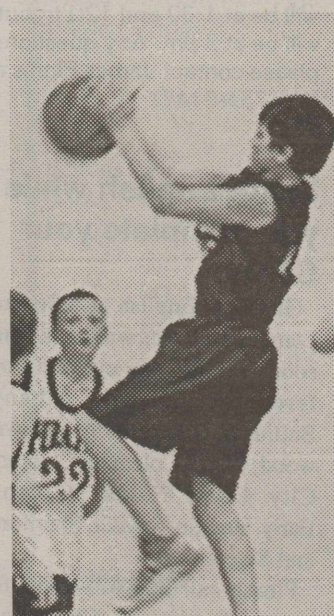


JH Boys Basketball covering Eula on defense December 14th

Junior High Boys Final:
NO SCORES REPORTED
Junior High Girls Final:
NO SCORES REPORTED



JH Boys Basketball with a two point shot



JH Boys Basketball with a rebound against Eula



Varsity Lady Buffs working hard on defense last Friday with #12 Shelby McWilliams in front with #3 Kelli Bennett behind and #21 Rebekah Crockett on right

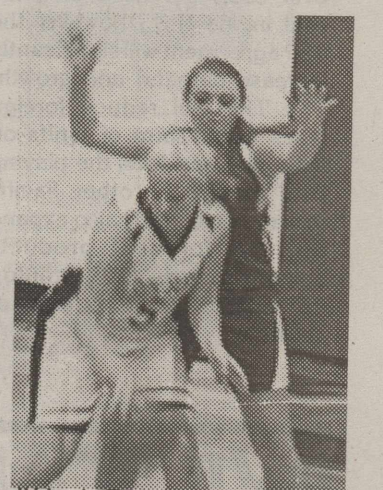
Varsity Lady Buffs Basketball vs. Cisco Loboes last Friday



Varsity Lady Buff #21 Rebekah Crockett on Offense looking to pass



Varsity Lady Buff #23 Grace Goode with a shot Friday



JV Lady Buff #5 Jaci Bien getting set for a shot

Varsity Girls Final:
CP 26 Cisco 53
JV Girls Final:
CP 18 Cisco 25

JV Lady Buffs Basketball vs. Cisco Loboes last Friday



JV Lady Buff #32 Hanna Fortune on offense against Cisco



JV Lady Buffs #5 Jaci Bien and #34 Brooklynn Bell on defense against the Cisco Loboes last Friday

The Following businesses support The Buffaloes

DALE MITCHELL BUILDING

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R.G. MAXWELL CONSTRUCTION

TIM'S FLORAL & GIFTS

CROSS PLAINS FOOD PANTRY

The Thumb Print

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CROSS PLAINS REVIEW

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HIGGINBOTHAM'S BROS.

Future of beef industry relies on international trade

By: Austin Brown III, Chairman, TSCRA Marketing Committee

In 1924, my great grandfather established a cattle operation north of Beeville, Texas. Over the years, the ranch has been passed down from generation to generation, and today I work alongside my wife, children and parents to keep the family ranching tradition going strong.

While my wife and I always encourage our children to follow their own paths, we work tirelessly to keep our ranch thriving so they can successfully run it, if they choose to do so, after we are gone.

In order for my children's generation to continue ranching, we must take full advantage of marketing our product to other countries. Finding new and innovative ways to boost the U.S. beef industry is important now and it will become even more crucial for generations to come.

Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) leaders and members readily recognize the importance of marketing our product internationally. A key component of foreign beef trade is included in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement that was announced by trade ministers on Oct. 5 in Atlanta, Georgia.

Beef exports currently add over \$350 per head of cattle sold in the U.S., however the TPP agreement will significantly increase demand and growth. The TPP will reduce foreign taxes in the form of tariffs on U.S. beef and level the playing field across 11 other Pacific Rim nations. It will also expand demand for beef products among nearly 500 million consumers in TPP partner countries.

The countries, other than the U.S., included in this agreement are Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam. These nations encompass nearly 40 percent of the global economy.

Since the U.S. already has free trade agreements with Canada, Mexico, Australia, Peru, Chile and Singapore, the U.S. beef industry is expected to reap the most benefit from the TPP by accessing additional markets in Japan and Vietnam.

Japan is currently our top export market with \$1.6 billion in beef sales in 2014. The TPP agreement will secure tremendous access to Japan's beef market. According to the USDA, Japan will eliminate duties on 74 percent of its beef product imports and reduce its tariffs on fresh, chilled and frozen beef cuts from the current rate of 38.5 percent to 9 percent within 16 years.

Most of the high-value U.S. beef is sold domestically. Low-value offal, such as tongues, livers, hearts, stomachs and kidneys are in higher demand in countries like Japan and Vietnam. Through the TPP, the current 21.3 percent tariff on these beef parts would, in some cases, be cut in half immediately and will be completely eliminated in 6-16 years. We need to take full advantage of exporting beef products that are less popular for Americans but considered a delicacy in other parts of the world.

The TPP will also create unprecedented trade opportunities in other Pacific Rim nations. In 2014, the U.S. exported \$22.1 million in beef products to Vietnam with tariffs as high as 34 percent. Through the TPP, these tariffs will be

eliminated in 3-8 years, and tariffs on fresh and frozen beef muscle cuts will be eliminated in 3 years. In Malaysia, New Zealand and Brunei, tariffs on beef will also be abolished if TPP is signed into law.

While the TPP has been successfully negotiated between the U.S. and other Pacific Rim nations, our work isn't nearly finished. The agreement must be passed in Congress and signed into law by the president. TSCRA leaders and staff are working diligently to make federal elected officials aware of the many economic benefits the U.S. beef industry could achieve through the TPP agreement. We will also continue working with other stakeholders to urge Congress to act swiftly on final passage.

For years, the U.S. has been missing out on some tremendous opportunities to market beef products to other countries due to inaction on the TPP. It is time to pass this important trade agreement and give my children and future generations the tools needed to be successful cattle ranchers.

###

Austin Brown III, has been the Chairman of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) Marketing Committee since 2013. Brown, his wife Jody, and their children, Cuatro and Addie Ruth, own and operate their family ranch in Beeville, Texas. Brown also serves as Chairman of the Texas Beef Council and has been involved in sharing Texas ranching heritage stories with consumers. Watch a video about the Brown family ranching tradition by clicking here <http://txbeef.org/texas-stories/stories/stewards-of-the-land>.

"No Christmas Trees in Heaven"

There are no Christmas trees in Heaven,

What a mistake that would be. And we don't say Merry Christmas, from such thing we are free!

And we don't look down and smile and smile,

At all the things you gathered up this while.

We never said there should be a Christmas, Just those called by Christ name,

We asked that you be set aside, not join in with all their claims!

No, there are no Christmas trees in Heaven,

No cakes for Jesus' birthday. Somehow the facts have been clouded

Made into some great big display.

If we could just get back to the basics,

Christ came to SAVE LOST SOULS!!

That would be a Christmas for ALL to behold.

Poem submitted by Geneva Nelson.

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Dec. 17, 2015

Cottonwood News by Beverly Brown

We'd like to wish everyone a blessed and merry Christmas filled with many happy memories filled with happy memories of Christmases past and of the memories you will make this year. Enjoy the time with your family, cherish every moment.

Please say a prayer for our soldiers that our overseas and their families this Christmas. It's so hard to be away from your loved ones.

The kids get out of school for the holidays this Friday.

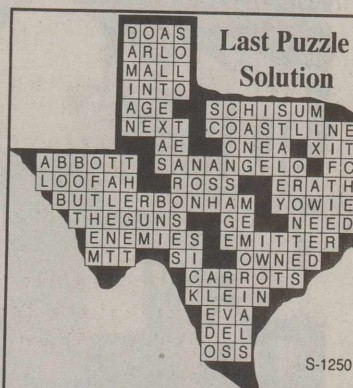
4His Glory's Christmas Cantata, "What Child Is This?", will be held at the First United Presbyterian Church this Sunday night, December 20th, starting at 7 p.m. The production features music, singing and visual presentation. Everyone is welcome to come and bring their friends for this enjoyable evening. Refreshment will be served after the performance.

Matt and Mandi Sowell, who grew up just down the road from me here in Cottonwood, have grown up to be two talented performers. They make up half of 4 His Glory, with mother and daughter team of Connie and Rhonda Swift being the other half. Their voices blend beautifully. If you haven't heard them - or if you haven't heard

them in a while - you really need to come hear them for the Christmas Cantata.

Congratulations go out to Mandi Sowell. Mandi received her Master's Degree from Tarleton State University last Friday night. Her proud parents are Barbara Sowell and Stuart Sowell.

Looking for something special to do on Christmas Eve? Christmas Eve Vespers at the First Baptist Church in Cross Plains start at 6 p.m. Candlelight and Communion Service over at the First United Methodist Church also starts at 6 p.m. Both on Christmas Eve. The Cottonwood Musicals are taking a break for the holidays and will return in January.



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 Baird, Texas - At Rowden

LEGENDS BASEBALL
 Legends Baseball Club from Sweetwater, Tx (A Select Baseball Group) will be having baseball tryouts this Sunday in Sweetwater at Newman Park..
 Tryouts from our 9U Team will be at 1:30 and 12U tryouts will be at 3 pm. Any questions, please contact James Flores at 325-733-8147.

Learn English while you complete your GED
 GED and English as a Second Language classes will be starting soon. Classes are currently offered in: Abilene, Albany, Ballinger, Breckenridge, Brownwood, Cisco, Coleman, Colorado City, Cross Plains, De Leon, Early, Hamlin, Snyder, Stamford, and Sweetwater.
 Please call 325-671-4419 for more information. Classes are free and sponsored by the Abilene Independent School District.

Bridging the Generation Gap
 Do you love kids? Do you love to read? Do you want to make a difference in the lives of children? Do your grandchildren live in other towns and you miss the opportunity to read with them? Whatever the circumstances, have we got a deal for you!!!
 Melissa Richards, reading teacher at Cross Plains Elementary began a successful program about 3 years ago. Each Thursday, she drives a bus load of 3rd grade boys and girls to the Senior Center at 9:45 and 1:05 and a student reads to an adult. It is an opportunity not only for the children to improve their abilities to read, but it gives the "older kids" a chance to share knowledge, life experiences and just a little extra love and care for the students.
 It is definitely a way to bridge the generation gap and everyone comes out a winner.
 If you are interested, join us at 108 N Main St beginning 9/10/15, or call Dannes Turner at 254 725-6521 for more information.

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Rehab Jackpot Show results from December 5th

Danny Isbell Memorial REHAB Jackpot Show December 5, 2015

LAMBS:
 Crossbred Champion: Wyatt Goodwin - Abilene, TX
 Breeder: Hyde Club Lambs - Rocksprings, TX
 Crossbred Reserve Champion: Thomas Mullen - Aspermont, TX
 Breeder: Neff Livestock - San Angelo, TX
 Finewool Champion: Adam Flores - Ballinger, TX
 Breeder: Doug Little - Ballinger, TX
 Finewool Reserve Champion: Mahalia Majors - Gorman, TX
 Breeder: Handley Driver - Sterling City, TX
 Medium Wool Champion: Kolten Hooten - Robert Lee, TX
 Breeder: Jim Miller - Seagraves, TX
 Medium Wool Reserve Champion: Lexi Hogan - Merkel, TX
 Breeder: Joe Harrell - Indianola, OK
 Southdown Champion: Reese Mascorro - Abilene, TX
 Breeder: Hindman Southdowns - Hawley, TX
 Southdown Reserve Champion: Taw Scitem - Gorman, TX
 Breeder: Scott Flanagan - Ballinger, TX
 Hair Sheep Champion: Shaiden Justice - Eastland, TX
 Breeder: Wesley & Ashley Glass - Sterling City, TX
 Grand Champion Lamb: Kolten Hooten - Robert Lee, TX
 Breeder: Jim Miller - Seagraves, TX
 Reserve Grand Champion Lamb: Wyatt Goodwin - Abilene, TX
 Breeder: Hyde Club Lambs - Rocksprings, TX
 Peeewe Showman: Dericka Vaughn - Abilene, TX
 Junior Showman: Taw Scitem

Gorman, TX
 Senior Showman: Lexi Hogan
 -Merkel, TX
 Prize Winners:
 Clippers
 Kathryn Cloud - Ovalo, TX
 Blocking Table
 Brentyn Covington - Roscoe, TX
 Blow Dryer
 Lexi Hogan - Merkel, TX
 This Jackpot Show was sponsored by: Lone Star Ag Credit and Friends of the Rehab.
 These sponsors allowed exhibitors to receive prize money & ribbons, show supply prizes, belt buckles, leather banners & jackets for the breeders.
 Special thanks to the Lamb & Goat Show Judge - Leo Sellers of Ira, TX.
HOGS:
 Black OPB Champion: Allie Hodges - Breckenridge, TX
 Breeder: Michel Show Pigs - North Manchester, IL
 BlackOPBReserveChampion: Makenley Salas - Merkel, TX
 Breeder: Vance Thompson/ Triple T Farms - Paducah, TX
 White OPB Champion: Dylan Furlong - Comanche, TX
 Breeder: Wingo Show Pigs - Henryetta, OK
 WhiteOPBReserveChampion: Trey Heard - San Angelo, TX
 Breeder: Carl Pyron - Tuscola, TX
 Duroc Champion: Bailee Hodges - Breckenridge, TX
 Breeder: Nathan Weisinger Farms - Fort Madison, IA
 Duroc Reserve Champion: Tallen Payne - Clyde, TX
 Breeder: Eggers Show Pigs - State Center, IA
 Crossbred Champion: Kambri Peyton - Seminole, TX
 Breeder: Drew Johnson - Fairfield, IA
 Crossbred Reserve Champion: Hayden Owens - Clyde, TX
 Breeder: Underdog Genetics - Merkel, TX

York Champion: Theron Ott - Big Spring, TX
 Breeder: Clarence/Barbara Schaefer - Rowena, TX
 York Reserve Champion: Kennedy Whitaker - Paducah, TX
 Breeder: Cooper & Flash Farms - Chickasha, OK
 Hampshire Champion: Brena Robinson - Roscoe, TX
 Breeder: Solid Rock Genetics - Coleman, TX
 Hampshire Reserve Champion: Vance Ott - Big Spring, TX
 Breeder: Cunningham Ranch - Cisco, TX
 Berk Champion: Cashlin Farr - Abilene, TX
 Breeder: Hampton Show Pigs - Gorman, TX
 Berk Reserve Champion: Kambri Peyton - Seminole, TX
 Breeder: Williams Show Pigs - Nocona, TX
 Overall Grand Champion Hog: Kambri Peyton - Seminole, TX
 Breeder: Drew Johnson - Fairfield, IA
 Overall Reserve Champion Hog: Dylan Furlong - Comanche, TX
 Breeder: Wingo Show Pigs - Henryetta, OK
 Junior Showman: Kylie Winge - Cisco, TX
 Senior Showman: Niven Yazdini - Abilene, TX
 PeeWee Showman: Kutter Peyton - Seminole, TX
 This Jackpot Show was sponsored by Lone Star Ag Credit, Dale Smith of Seminole, TX and Friends of the Rehab.
 These sponsors allowed each exhibitor to receive prize money & other prizes, leather banners, breed champion belt buckles, Grand Champion breeder belt buckle and jackets for the breeders.
 Special thanks to the Pig Show Judge - Jason Foote of Lubbock, TX.

New canine teams join DPS crime fighting efforts

AUSTIN - The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) today graduated three troopers and three canines from an eight-week training program. These canine teams will join 41 other DPS teams stationed throughout Texas, including six explosive-detection teams stationed in Austin.
 "DPS canine teams make tremendous contributions to the department's efforts to keep dangerous drugs out of Texas communities," said DPS Director Steven McCraw. "With their specialized skill set and keen abilities to detect illicit drugs, these graduating troopers and dogs will be instrumental in disrupting drug trafficking operations across the state."
 Two of the dogs were obtained from the U.S. Department of Defense, and the third dog was from a shelter. This canine graduation class includes two German Shepherds and one



Labrador. All the newly-trained dogs will be used for drug detection.
 In 2014, DPS canine teams assisted in the seizure of approximately 15,600 pounds of marijuana, 293 pounds of cocaine, 52 pounds of heroin, 441 pounds of methamphetamine, 21 pounds of hashish, 72 pounds of other drugs and \$5.4 million in cash.

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Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas to Host Job Fair for Mortenson Construction for Planned Alamo 7 Solar Project

Abilene, Texas— Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas is hosting a hiring event for Mortenson Construction on December 17th, 2015. Mortenson Construction is currently filling positions for the construction of the Alamo 7 Solar project, which will be built in the Haskell, Texas area. The current project has an immediate need for an estimated 150 workers. Currently, the company will be interviewing for project-based positions, such as superintendents, foremen/leads, inventory specialists, project clerks, laborers,

electricians, carpenters, equipment operators, safety professionals, and solar PV installers. The hiring event will be held on December 17th, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Workforce Solutions/Abilene, 500 Chestnut Street, Suite 1100, Abilene, Tex. For more information, contact Jorge Hernandez or Steve Collins, at (325) 795-4200. E-mail requests may be sent to Jorge.hernandez@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 www.workforcesystem.org. Equal Opportunity Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available, upon request, to individuals with disabilities. Relay Svc: 711

Library Notes

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 Mon. 1:00pm to 5:00pm
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 Thurs. 1:00pm to 5:00pm
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Patrons 74
 Books Checked 104
 Programs 29
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 MTA
 ASAP
 LAP/LAPSIT 23
 Other 3

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Cross Plains Review
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ACROSS

1 TXism: "got as much to ___ a hibernating bear"
 5 this Guthrie was in several of TX Willie's Farm Aids teen hangout
 7 TXism: "he'll kick you ___ a funeral home" (mean horse)
 8 get older
 9 TX cattle baron: John ___
 16 TX Freddy Fender hit: "Before the ___ Teardrop Falls"
 19 it's an arc from Bay City to South Padre Island
 21 first 2 vowels
 22 class for all TX 6-man football teams
 23 once a big TX Panhandle ranch
 24 48th TX governor, Greg ___
 30 seat of Tom Green County
 34 this Couples won 1987 Byron Nelson Classic in TX (init.)
 35 cucumber-like fruit
 36 this Sterling was 31st gov of TX
 37 Dublin's county
 39 Alamo hero: James ___
 43 Australian bigfoot
 44 TX Audie Murphy film: "___ of Fort Petticoat"
 45 Rice won the 1966 ___ College Bowl

46 in Fort Bend Co.: ___ ville, TX
 47 Giants, Redskins, & Eagles to the Cowboys
 49 one who gives off something
 52 assay for cell metabolic activity
 53 "yes" south of the border

54 Cowboys team is ___ by Jerry Jones
 55 Bugs Bunny treats
 58 Lyle Lovett's hometown
 59 ___ dale in Jasper Co.
 60 Austin suburb: ___ Valle
 61 forerunner of CIA

DOWN

1 Fray ___ Massanet established 1st Spanish mission in East TX
 2 easternmost city in TX, on Sabine
 3 truly TX ___
 4 TX Stephen Stills was in bands and also a ___ artist
 9 TX B-western star, Carson (init.)

10 TXism for "long time"
 11 TXism: "got the ___ of it"
 12 TX Tanya's "Can ___ You Tonight"
 13 actress Joan of 1966 film "Gunpoint" with TX Audie Murphy
 14 safety certification co.
 15 actor Tom of 1932 film "The Texas Bad Man"
 17 showy & aromatic flowers (2 wds.)
 19 more skunk ___
 20 ___ in stone
 24 league for Astros & Rangers (abbr.)
 25 famous TX western swing singer, Wills

26 TXism: "near
 27 TXism: "there's more ___ than liars in Texas"
 28 Joe Tex started his career by winning a ___ contest
 29 TXism: "right from ___"
 31 prefix meaning "not"
 32 TX Mary Kay of cosmetics fame

33 SW Asia river
 38 TXism: "growing like ___"
 40 pirates' drink
 41 NYSE symbol for TX Burlington Northern Santa Fe
 42 TX monuments
 48 TXism: "green around the gills"
 50 shout of victory (2 wds.)
 51 Turner Broadcasting cable channel
 56 in Parker Co. on FM 1187
 57 this Wendy was a TX philanthropist

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Classifieds must be received in the Review office by noon Tuesday to be published in the current week's edition.

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Cross Plains Review

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Dec. 17, 2015

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CROSS PLAINS REVIEW

MEMBER 2014

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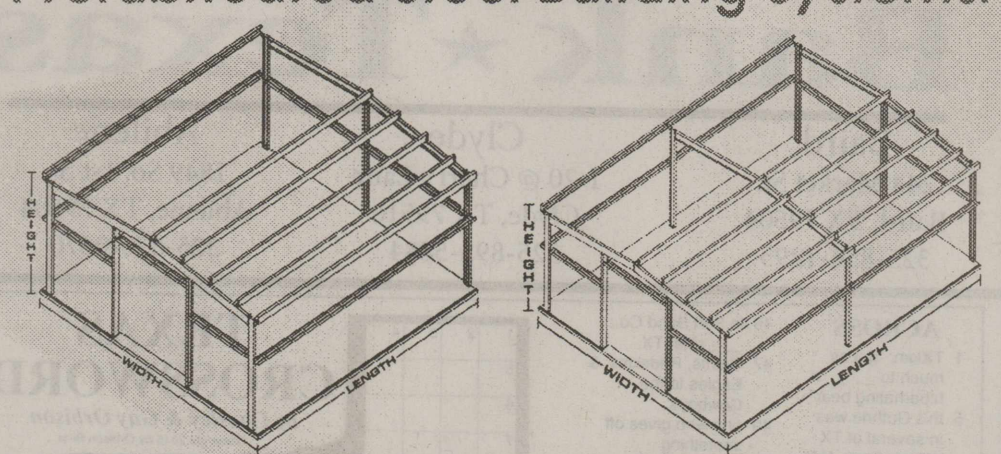
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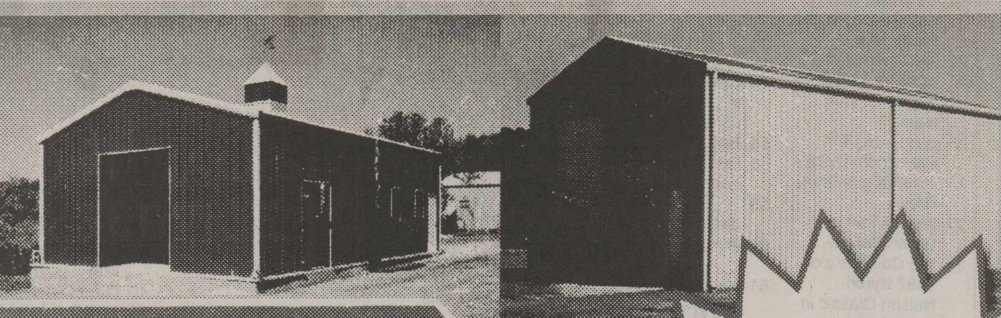
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Cross Plains 2015 retail sales higher by 4%

The City of Cross Plains' one percent city sales tax payments in 2015 are just over four percent higher than 2014, according to the Texas State Comptroller's office.

Texas State Comptroller Glenn Hegar reported the city's sales tax payment on Wednesday, December 9th.

Cross Plains' 2015 sales tax payments for the year totalled \$254,474.99, which is 4.66 percent higher than the \$243,126.38 in sales tax rebate payments collected in 2014.

The payment to the city for December 2015 was \$21,344.84, which is 10.71 percent lower than the \$23,906.43 payment made to Cross Plains in December 2014.

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar announced today he will send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts \$626.3 million in local sales tax allocations for December, 3 percent less than in December 2014. These allocations are based on sales made in October by businesses that report tax monthly.

Hegar also said today that sales tax revenue for the state in November was \$2.58 billion, down 3.3 percent compared to November 2014.

"Sales tax revenue declined again due to reduced spending in oil and gas-related sectors," Hegar said. "Remittances from other sectors, including construction, restaurants and retail trade, continued to grow. The net decrease in sales tax receipts is in line with the October Certification Revenue Estimate."

Hegar sent Texas cities \$407.03 million in December 2015, which is lower by 2.4 percent compared to December 2014 and higher by 3.6 percent year-to-date.

He reported \$37.5 million in December 2015 allocations to Texas counties, which is lower by 12.0 percent compared to December 2014 and lower by 0.5 percent year-to-date.

The Texas transit systems received \$143.9 million in December 2015 sales tax allocations, which is 2.1 percent lower than December 2014 and up 4.3 percent year-to-date.

Special Purpose Taxing Districts received \$37.7 million in December 2015 allocations, which is 3.3 percent lower than December 2014 and higher by 6.6 percent year-to-date.

The sales tax figures represent monthly sales made in October by businesses that report tax monthly.

For details of December sales tax allocations to individual

CROSS PLAINS SALES TAX PAYMENTS

	2014	2015
Total yearly sales tax payments	\$243,126.38	\$254,474.99
Total monthly sales tax payments	\$23,906.43	\$21,344.84

cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose districts, locate the Monthly Sales Tax Allocation Comparison Summary Reports on the Comptroller's Web site at <http://comptroller.texas.gov/taxinfo/allocsum/compsum.html>.

Other Callahan County towns reporting sales tax payments for this month include:

—The City of Baird reported that sales tax payments in 2015 started the year 37.99 percent higher than the 2014 payments. The city has received \$270,846.08 in 2015, while the 2014 tax payments to the city totalled \$196,272.77.

Baird's monthly payment for December 2015 was \$22,723.70, which is 50.73 percent ahead of the \$15,075.68 monthly payment made to the city in December 2014.

—The 2015 sales tax payments in the City of Clyde are 6.70 percent lower than the payments made to the city in 2014. The sales tax rebates for the City of Clyde have amounted to \$663,615.16 in 2015. The 2014 payments to the city during the same payment period were \$711,425.00.

The City of Clyde's monthly payment for December 2015 was \$53,052.57, which is 12.95 percent ahead of the \$46,966.33 payment made in December 2014.

—The City of Putnam reported the 2015 payments to the town totalled \$11,153.12, which is lower by 2.34 percent from the 2014 payments to the city in the amount of \$11,420.51.

Putnam's tax payment for the month of December 2015 was \$678.96 which is 59.29 percent lower than the payment of \$1,668.10 made to the city in December 2014.

—Countywide, sales tax payments for 2015 in Callahan County are higher by 3.26 percent compared to the 2014 payments in the county. Callahan County towns received sales tax payments in 2015 amounting to

\$1,200,189.35 while the 2014 payments to the county towns totalled \$1,162,244.66.

The tax rebates in Callahan County for the month of December 2015 was \$97,800.07, which is 11.62 percent higher than the December 2014 payments of \$87,616.54 made to the Callahan County cities.

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

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

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

Baird collects 2.00% in local sales tax of which 1.00% is allocated to the city, 0.50% is allocated to the community's economic development corporation and 0.50% of one percent to reduce property taxes.

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

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

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- NEW! 28+/-Ac-Beautiful acre: **UNDER CONTRACT** site, oaks, 1 pond, wildlife. **126,000**
- 50+/-Ac-Amazing views! Rolling terrain, oaks, cult. & pasture, 1 tank, creek draw, hunting. **225,000**
- NEW! 54 Ac, Heavy cover, gre **UNDER CONTRACT** ible, Spring Gap Mnts. **139,860**
- NEW! 56+/-Ac-Brown Co-Combo prop, water & electric at road, pond, hunting camp, views **182,000**
- NEW! 70+/- Ac-Fertile farmland w/ oa **SOLD** sq. & elm trees, good hunting. **98,000**
- NEW! 63.94 Ac-Cottonwood, CR 429 frontage , stock tank, peri fenced, electricity on site. **140,000**
- NEW! 69+/-Ac-Good hunting property, **SOLD** // thick brush & draws, water@CR. **155,250**
- 72+/-Ac-Weekend getaway! Private w/ thick brush & scattered oaks, 2 ponds, food plots. **162,000**
- NEW! 79 Ac-Hunters paradise, hvly wooded, nice stock tank, Hwy 36 frontage, wildlife. **221,200**
- NEW! 81+/-Ac-Split of cultivation & thick cover, excellent wildlife habitat, varied terrain. **226,800**
- NEW! 84+/-Ac-Versatile prop w/ lg oak **SOLD** seasonal creek, pond, well, hunting!. **182,850**
- NEW! 85+/-Ac-Gently sloping terrain, beautiful views, 2 tanks, hvly brush w/ cultivation. **119,000**
- NEW! 95+/-Ac-Weekend getaway! Part thick cover w/ 2 cult. fields, 1 pond, old homestead **266,000**
- 112.95 Ac-Cattle prop w/ mixed coastal/native pastures, 2 tanks, cross-fenced, elec. at rd. **290,846**
- 160 Ac-Hvy cover on N side of Spring Gap Mtn, good hunting, 2 tanks, fenced, elec on site **414,400**
- NEW! 162 Ac, Mostly fertile farm land, **SOLD** ivy wooded, beautiful views, 1 tank. **242,190**
- 225 Ac-Eas. Co-Ranching & hunting land, 4 tanks, elec on prop, addtl ac avbl. **517,500**
- 240 Ac-Morton Valley-Plenty of wildlife & suitable for cattle, 3 tanks, cross-fenced. **552,000**
- 275 Ac-Eas. Co-Nice bldg site! Bounteous wildlife, 4 tanks, creek thru prop, elec on site. **632,500**
- NEW! 326 Ac-Stephens Co-Perfect hunting/fishing/cattle combo, Battle Creek frontage. **570,500**
- 500 Ac-Eas. Co-Versatile for ranching or hunting, 8 tanks, Battle Creek thru prop. **1,150,000**
- 557 Ac-Eas. Co-Hunting/cattle combo, easy access, varied terrain, multiple tanks. **1,463,973**

HOME WITH ACREAGE

- NEW! 3 Ac-RS-3BR-2B brick hm blt in 2009, carport, metal stalls, stg bldg, fenced. **225,000**
- NEW! 3.5 Ac-RS, updated rus **UNDER CONTRACT** roof, lrg covered front porch. **72,000**
- 5 Ac-Custom landscaped 3BR-2B near CP, pool w/spa, 4 ac coastal, well, **Reduced**. **239,000**
- 7.5 Ac-Nice 2BR/1B hm w/ guesthouse, koi pond, sheds, pens, 2 water we **Reduced**. **225,000**
- 15 Ac-Extraordinary custom blt 5,169 sq ft hm w/ privacy & hilltop views, Jim **Reduced**. **636,000**
- NEW! 19 Ac-Lovely & updated, 100 yr old 4BR-2.5B hm, 1,800 sq ft metal barn. **230,000**
- 20 Ac-Zephyr- Mountaintop retreat! 3BR-2B 2-story hm w/ covered patio, w **Reduced**. **299,000**
- NEW! 26 Ac-Atwell, 2,255 sq ft, 3BR-2B Stone & hardy siding, metal roof, carport. **403,000**
- NEW! 27 Ac-3BR-2B brick hm w/game rm, wkshop, bam w/pens, 5 wells, addtl ac avbl. **399,900**
- 41.169 Ac-Carbon-Picturesq **UNDER CONTRACT** , shop/bam, corrals. **385,000**
- NEW! 41.27 Ac-Brown Co-Custom designed 3BR-2.5B hm w/upgrades, new fencing. **450,000**
- 82.93 Ac-Beautifully maintained 4BR-2.5B, 2 story hm, lg metal bam, stock **Reduced**. **370,000**
- 85 Ac-3BR-2B brick hm surrounded by oaks, nice blend of cultivation & treed pasture. **195,050**
- 97 Ac-CP-Coastal & native grasses, 2BR-2B brick hm w/ office & lg oaks, 10 wells. **289,900**
- 1,279 Ac-High-fenced ranch w/ genetically enhanced deer/facilities, 5 ponds, lodge. **3,710,057**

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Matt Gilmore 254-243-0557 Karen Lenz, Broker/Owner 325-668-3604
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Dec. 17, 2015

CROSS PLAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
700 NORTH MAIN STREET
CROSS PLAINS, TEXAS 76443

NOTICE OF MEETING---BOARD OF TRUSTEES
CROSS PLAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

A Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Cross Plains Independent School District will be held on December 16, 2015, beginning at 8:00 p.m. in the Board Room. The subjects to be discussed or considered upon which any formal action may be taken are as follows:

REGULAR MEETING
 December 16, 2015 (8:00 p.m.)

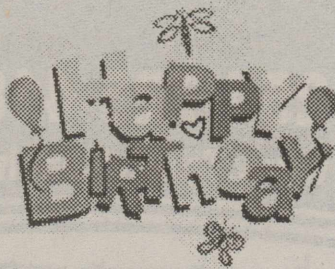
CALL MEETING TO ORDER

- Open Forum
- New Business
- Hear and Approve 2014-15 Financial Audit (Cam Gulley)
- Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting
- Review Bills/Finance Report
- Report Board Members Training Hours
- Approve Highly Qualified Report for 2015-16
- Consider Written Architectural Agreement with Cadco
- Consider Patching Gym Roof or Replace the Roof with a New One
- Personnel
- Consider Recommendations for Employment (Ashley Moses from aide to teacher)
- Superintendent's Report
- STAAR Scores Compared to

Other Schools
 Band Concert in Auditorium on December 17 at 6:00 p.m.
 Christmas Dinner - December 17 at 7:00 p.m.
 Select Construction Manager at January Meeting
 Superintendent Appraisal at January Meeting
 Questions from Comanche Training (300 sq. miles, dual credit, bad weather days)
 Review Building Needs and Plans
 UIL Academic Results
 Paying for Basketball Books and Clock Keeping?
 Next Year's Calendar
 Adjourn

If, during the course of the meeting, any discussion of any item on the agenda should be held in a closed meeting, the Board will convene in such closed meeting in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Government Code. Before any such meeting is convened, the presiding officer will publicly identify the section or sections of the Act authorizing the closed meeting. All final votes, actions, or decisions will be taken in open meeting.

This notice was posted in compliance with the Open Meetings Act on December 11, 2015, at 3:00 p.m.



December 20
 Candence Nadine Nickerson
 Shacla Fulcher
 Robert Ray Simons
 Don Penn
 William Reynolds
 Bonnie Sheppard
 Rocky Champion
 Ted Don Archer
 Peggy Lee Mireless
 Hannah Chambers
 Patricia (Meador) Hopkins
 Betty (Hicks) Gary

December 21
 Rylan Mills
 Allen Woody
 Cranz (Skipper) Nichols, Jr.
 Jimmy Crawford
 Carsyn Walker
 Eddie Hendrick
 Beth Meador
 Tommy Phillips, Jr.
 Riley Allen
 Peggy Brock

December 22
 James (Bim) Goble
 Cody Ford
 Cody Sliger
 James Illingworth

Peter Perry
 Mrs. B. Crow
 Gary D. Gilland
 Jerry Walker
 Thurman Furry
 Lindsey Meiron

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 Dec. 17, 2015



December 23
 Bo Barr
 Douglas Dallas
 Kenneth Sowell
 Jason Beauchamp
 Bobby Sipes
 Mrs. Kenneth Thate
 Janet Riser
 Cliff Waddell III
 Barbara (Purvis) Batton
 Lauretta Johnson
 Tommie Neff
 Star (Dobbs) Burleson
 Mrs. Bertha Hoyt
 Lawana Freeman
 Ida Witney
 Brian Haun
 Venessa (Taff) Mathison
 Sheila Mc Wherson
 Laura Johnson
 Danielle Marion
 Don Baskin

December 24
 Brandy (Hutton) Gaudin
 Judy Steele
 Tonya (Steele) Berge
 Courtney Taylor
 Dena Jo Nickerson
 Justin Richey
 Mike Moore
 Franke McGough

Christy (Dewbre) Fox
 Patricia Webb
 Gertrude McIntoch
 Carol (Foster) Bectold
 Ethel Eastham
 Mrs. Emma Morgan
 Laci J. Koenig
 Christy Driskill
 Rita Falkner
 Theresa Adams
 James Conor Sweetman

December 25
 Robert Floyd
 Klay Wilson
 Laeanne Gibson
 Donald Stover
 Leslie Reed
 Karin Sabatis
 Wesley Webb
 Brent Hutchins
 Blanche Thrasher
 Charlotte (Brown) Lee
 Joseph Jackson
 Daniel Bushnell

December 26
 Penny Miller
 Lindsey Ames
 Jay Ringhoffer
 Bill Slate
 Tom Robinson
 Loy Thompson
 Lisa Gardner
 Brandon Jones



Rising Star Nursing Home with cast, carolers and audience



Residents of Rising Star Nursing Home in full Nativity costume

Nursing Home Produces Theater

Rising Star Nursing Center held its Annual Christmas Nativity Play Sunday, December 13. Teresa Baird, Activity Director and Food Service Supervisor for RSNH directed the annual play this year to an overflowing,

standing room only crowd of 70 plus. The choir was graciously staffed by members of Cross Plains Methodist and Baptist Churches. For more photos go to www.risingstarnursing.com.

Calling 'Family' of Breathe Of Life Church and Pastor Jerry McCoy

He's back! Pastor Jerry McCoy, of the former Breathe of Life church in Early, is back for a reunion service this Sunday, December 20th at 10 am. He is inviting all his friends and 'family' of Breathe of Life to come and share a few moments with him. Have you missed those awesome blessings he brought in the message and songs written by him for us? Come to "The Worship Center" church at 506 Edwards St., here in Brownwood, to step back in time and be renewed again! It won't be the same, though, without the 'family' that helped to complete the services, so I am calling out for Marilyn, Dewey, Peggy, Billy, Meg, Heather, to name a few of the many whose presence touched us and are needed for

the Sunday Service! All are welcome to come and sing a song, give a short word, and let Pastor Jerry know how much he touched our lives.

Please take this opportunity to come and join us. Also, if you have struggled with life, sickness, loneliness, hurt or forgiveness, or just need a freshness of the Holy Spirit, come! Pastor Jerry moves in a level of the Spirit that seems to make things better, he loves others to Christ, fully believes in Jesus and His plan for your future... a plan that changes your life through the presence of God! God bless you all! We all hope to see you there!

For more information, contact Co Pastor Donna Harris, cell: 325 203 0766.

SENIOR CITIZENS MENU

Dec. 21st- Dec. 26th

Monday 21st Chicken Fried Steak, Potatoes, Gravy, Corn, Bread, Dessert

Thursday 24th Center Closed

Tuesday 22nd BBQ Chicken, Pinto Beans, Mac N Cheese, Bread, Dessert

Friday 25th Center Closed Merry Christmas

Wednesday 23rd Chicken Rice Soup, Crackers, Fruit Cup

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. 21st- Dec. 26th

- Monday-21st** Exercise 11:00
- Tuesday-22nd** Crafts with Chris 10:00/ Exercise 11:00
- Wednesday -23rd** Blood Pressure Check by Girling Home Health
- Thursday -24th** (Center Closed)
- Friday -25th** (Center Closed) Merry Christmas

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.

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"Feed a Mind; Feed a Body" Needs Your Help

The Cross Plains Public Library's program, "Feed a Mind; Feed a Body," was created to provide food for students working toward their GED. GED classes start at 5 P.M. and are not over until 9 P.M., so most students don't have time for supper, therefore meals and snacks are being provided by local businesses and patrons. We have plenty of donors for meals, but if you would like to help with snacks, we are always in need of bottled water, juice boxes, chips, cookies, etc. Classes are held every Monday and Tuesday evening at the library. Students can enroll at any time - just show up and someone will be available to get you started. All books and materials are free! There is no excuse for you to put this off any longer.

Thank you to everyone for the overwhelming support we have received in our community - you are helping our students take an important step in turning their dreams into reality.

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Crevice Spiny Lizard

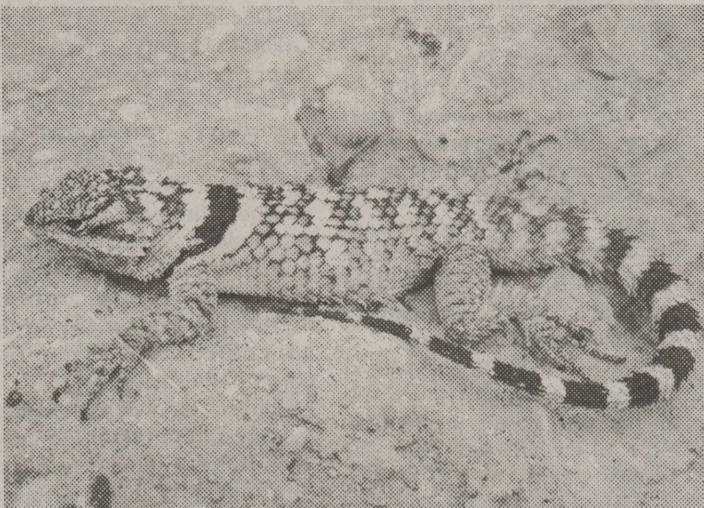
As a herpetologist (someone who studies reptiles and amphibians), I am often in the field making observations well beyond an hour that normal people consider to be acceptable. And it is during these nighttime forays into the Texas wilderness that I often observe the colorful tails of a lizard species as it sleeps within the confines of a very protected rock outcropping. The little explosions of color in the light of my flashlight alert me to the presence of the unique, and bashful, Crevice Spiny Lizard.

The Crevice Spiny Lizard (*Sceloporus poinsetti*) is one variety of ten species of spiny lizards that reside here in Texas, although it has a somewhat limited range in this state. It can be observed throughout the Trans-Pecos region eastward through the Edwards Plateau. Outside of Texas it can be viewed in southern New Mexico southward over the international boundary into the Mexican state of Durango.

Members of this genus are often called "tree-lizards" or "fence-lizards" by those who are observant enough to witness them, but this form is found almost exclusively in rocky areas, specifically areas that have many crevices and other vertical hiding places. Favorite haunts include limestone fissures found in outcroppings, as well as along the top of mesas that dot the Trans-Pecos. Another chosen habitat is the roadside "cuts" where a mesa has been segmented to allow a road (of any size) to pass. It is along this favored habitat that people who are not necessarily looking for this species happen upon it.

The Crevice Spiny Lizard is one of the larger members of its genus, with adult males frequently achieving lengths over eleven inches. It is quite spinose; its scales along the dorsal area being very large and spiny. The background coloration of this reptile varies depending on the location. Specimens from the western portions of their Texas range tend to be darker, often brown or even reddish, matching the dark igneous rocks where they live. Individuals from the Stockton and Edwards Plateau however, are often light olive gray, corresponding to the light color of the limestone rocks. The dorsal region is marked with numerous obscure, yet visible crossbands. There is a large, distinctive black collar that is outlined on both sides by a light ring on the neck. This characteristic is one that separates it from the other species of spiny lizards in this state.

The belly is usually cream colored and males have two dark blue patches on either side



Crevice Spiny Lizard (*Sceloporus poinsetti*)

of their belly, as well as on the throat. The tail is somewhat long, and when un-regenerated it is adorned with black and white bands. Just like other members of its genus, its tail can be utilized as a defensive strategy. If the tail is grabbed by a predator it is easily severed from the lizard. This defensive move is 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 colorfully banded as the original.

Crevice Spiny Lizards, 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 for heating and cooling. They are primarily active during the summer months, but can be seen occasionally during the winter months on warm days when temperatures achieve a level that allows activity.

This species of spiny lizard is the only variety that is not strictly carnivorous, although its primary food items include grasshoppers, wasps, and beetles. Smaller lizards will occasionally

be consumed as well. However, recent studies have shown that they will also sporadically feed upon flowers of dandelions and other plants when the availability of insect prey is compromised.

They are also unique to most other spiny lizards in the fact that rather than laying eggs, this type instead produces live young. After mating in the fall, the female will give birth to a dozen or so live babies the following summer. These delicate three inch long versions of the parents arrive in the world looking like the adults, save for a less obscure dorsal pattern.

Crevice Spiny Lizards are quite numerous within the boundaries of their selected habitat and range. In many instances, I have witnessed a dozen or more along one roadside "cut". They are also extremely wary, and at the first hint of danger from a perceived predator they will dash for cover in the nearest crevice, leaving only their banded tail exposed. Once in a crevice (hence the common name), they will engage in a defensive poise where they will inhale to fill their lungs to capacity, and that behavior, coupled with the spiny dorsal scales, makes this species virtually impossible to remove from their designated hideout.

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

What Are You Reading?

by the Bookworms

Book #8 in Robert Thornhill's Lady Justice Series, "Lady Justice and the Watchers," explores the conundrum of modern technology: how can we maintain our privacy without giving up cellphones, computers, and other conveniences in our everyday lives? How far will the government go to protect us from crooks and terrorists and not abuse their power? Is George Orwell's novel "1984" actually coming to fruition before our very eyes? How aware are we of the threats to our freedom caused by the misuse of technology?

As usual, Thornhill approaches this subject with humor in this fast-paced mystery-comedy novel. The main character, Walt Williams, is a Kansas City cop who is caught in this moral dilemma as many good things come from the technology available to him, but at what price? OnStar tracking in a car, a micro-chip sewn into clothing, and a cellphone are just some of the technology that helps Walt defeat the bad guys. When a terrorist cell is working in Kansas City, Walt is recruited to infiltrate the group. He meets up with a band called "The Watchers" whose purpose is to watch those who are watching us. Of course, his band of senior citizen friends and family are there, as always, to support him and provide the comic relief.

These books are such an easy read (you have to overlook the occasional typo) and yet cause the reader to really think about the subject matter. Thornhill doesn't preach, but gives a fairly balanced view of both sides. As many of us do, Walt walks away without solving the moral dilemma placed before him. After reading this book, I will certainly be more aware of what the consequences are for living a more convenient lifestyle.

Without giving away the ending, I was pleased that friendship won - just goes to show what reaching out to others can do.

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Chamber of Commerce Spot Light

This month's Cross Plains Chamber of Commerce Business Spot Light is The Butcher Block owned and operated by Robert & Charlotte Lee. The Butcher Block specializes in custom meat processing, including domestic, wild game, and retail meats. Located at 125 N Avenue D in Cross Plains. For more information contact them at phone 254-725-4035.



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Dec. 17, 2015



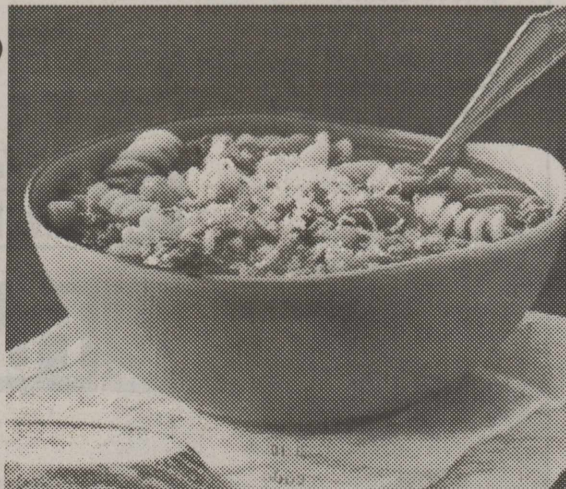
The Recipe Corner

Best Lasagna Soup

Prep/Total Time: 30 minutes

Ingredients:

- * 1 pound lean ground beef (90% lean)
- * 1 large green pepper, chopped
- * 1 medium onion, chopped
- * 2 garlic cloves, minced
- * 2 cans (14-1/2 ounces each) diced tomatoes, undrained
- * 2 cans (14-1/2 ounces each) reduced-sodium beef broth
- * 1 can (8 ounces) tomato sauce
- * 1 cup frozen corn
- * 1/4 cup tomato paste
- * 2 teaspoons Italian seasoning
- * 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- * 2-1/2 cups uncooked spiral pasta
- * 1/2 cup shredded Parmesan cheese



Directions

- In a large saucepan, cook beef, green pepper and onion over medium heat 6-8 minutes or until meat is no longer pink, breaking up beef into crumbles. Add garlic; cook 1 minute longer. Drain.
- Stir in tomatoes, broth, tomato sauce, corn, tomato paste, Italian seasoning and pepper. Bring to a boil. Stir in pasta. Return to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, covered, 10-12 minutes or until pasta is tender. Sprinkle with cheese. Yield: 8 servings (2-3/4 quarts).



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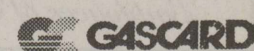
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Dan Lighter, Ed Lighter, Mark Lighter from Arlington



John Barlow & Suze Crump from Manchester, England

December brings Museum visitors

Coming across from Manchester, England gave Jonathan Barlow and Suzanne Crump a good reason to see some mid-west Texas tourist attractions on their way to visit friends in the Waco area. In amongst Palo Duro Canyon, Frontier Texas, Buffalo Gap Village, they included the Robert E. Howard Museum right here in town.

Barlow has recently completed his Master's Degree in English Literature with dreams of writing in the fantasy realm. This is somewhat the foundation of his interest of Howard's fantasy stories. As is typical of many visitors, he had become acquainted with Howard's stories as a teenager and gradually developed an interest in several of the author's characters.

Suzanne has a degree in psychology and philosophy and works as a career advisor to young people making the transition from high school to the job market or to some type of higher education. A lot of her time is spent coordinating apprenticeships with various career opportunities in nursing, child care, accounting, engineering, etc.

Both were impressed with the hands on environment of our local museum as compared to museums with recorded messages or a bunch of signs to read.

A couple of days later, three brothers from Arlington and Fort Worth drove out for a visit. Dan (left in the picture) works at one of the Half Price Books in Fort Worth, Ed (center) works at the Arlington office of United Health Care while Mark (right) is retired from many, many years with the Fort Worth Star Telegram.

All of the family are definitely Howard scholars and shared their earliest recollections of the Conan comic books and of their gradual growth into Howard's other writings. They were all familiar with both the book "One Who Walked Alone" and the ensuing movie, "The Whole Wide World."

Mark, having worked in the newspaper business, was familiar with many of the stories related to the museum as he had read about them in various publications.

The guys had enjoyed a lunch at Jean's Feed Barn before touring the museum.

Callahan County Library news

New books at the library are: *Dying in the Wool* by Frances Brody, *The Crossing* by Michael Connelly, *Depraved Heart* (large print) by Patricia Cornwell and *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Old School*.

From the Past
Callahan County Clarendon
Saturday September 23,
1882 Vol. 3, No. 25

Over the State
Four hundred thousand head of cattle have been driven from Texas this year. Not less than five millions of dollars were paid for them.

Denton has voted a tax on her citizens of one and a half per cent on the \$100 and with the money received from the State, will now have a school lasting ten months in the year.

Local News
Two small buildings have been moved from Newlon's addition into town.

Roger's new two story building has been placed in position and makes quite an improved appearance in that part of town.

Our town can now boast of one of the best schools in this section. Prof. Oliver informs us that he has about ninety enrolled for next week. Besides a full attendance from this town and vicinity there are some from other parts of the State.

Mr. E. L. Huffman shipped 730 head of sheep from this place to St. Louis last Tuesday.

T. J. Dean is the happiest man in town. He says it's a big boy—a regular stricker.

Mr. Harry Merchant has purchased the half interest of Mr. Stevens in the Parlor Saloon.

Mr. John Rice has moved his building from near the creek to a lot nearer town where he expects to make his permanent home.

Rev. Geo. W. Riley has procured 500 Merino ewes for

his ranch near Abilene. His father and mother will soon move to that neighborhood.

County Court has been in session this week and the combined legal talent of Baird and Belle Plain are gathered there and are busily hammering a way on some old continued cases.

We speak with much pride when we say that our school is now attended by eighty-four scholars and more coming. At this rate of increase we will soon have a hundred scholars in daily attendance, and steps will soon necessarily be taken for a larger building. Families are constantly coming in, and let us not forget to look to our school interests, while we agitate others important matters.

Mr. R. L. McCamey returned Thursday morning from a trip to his old home in Mexico, Mo., where he has been for several weeks; he will receive in a few days 450 head of fine sheep which Mr. James E. Ross has purchased to stock his pastures which Mr. McCamey has recently completed. That gentleman will have charge of the ranch and stock. We hope fortune will reward them for the enterprise.

Mr. Ed. Seay has had an awning built the whole length of this store on the north side.

Charley Smith, the blacksmith absconded last night, leaving many of our citizens disconsolate.

We learn that Messrs. Chew and Thompson of the T. & P. and Mo. P. railroads are prospecting for a sheep ranch north of Baird.

Mr. Jesse Cannon, of Sherman, has bought land south-west of Baird near Jas. Massy's for the purpose of stocking it as a sheep ranch.

We learn from employees of the T. & P. land office here that there is just now a greater demand for ranch and farm locations here than ever before.

SHERIFF'S CORNER

BY SHERIFF TERRY JOY

The Callahan County Sheriff's Department and the Prevention Resource Center - Region 2 partnered and held a Community Focus Group on December 8, 2015 at the Callahan County Courthouse.

Approximately 50 County officials and community members attended the meeting. Some of the persons attending were the County attorney, fire and medical first responders, law enforcement, school officials, the chaplain, the mayor, city council members, and many other concerned and committed community members.

Sheriff Terry Joy presented the latest information on crime and drugs within the county. The Regional Evaluator, Rachel Saxton presented data on environmental risk and protective factors within Callahan County. The presentation is a representation of a new data sharing partnership the

agencies have developed.

The Prevention Resource Center is one of eleven centers in the State of Texas funded through the Department of State Health Services. The Center focuses on collecting, identifying resources, and disseminating data to the 30 counties served.

The Center also serves as a training liaison for local, county and regional agencies on substance abuse and prevention strategies. Rachael Saxton says "I am pleased to be a part of this new partnership and look forward to working with the people of Callahan County. After meeting the many caring individuals of Callahan County, I am beginning to understand the heart of the community. Thank you for allowing me to speak, inform and begin new partnerships. If I can be of assistance, I would be glad to do so."

Calling All High School Students Who Love to Read a Good Book!

If you have some time over the winter break, you might want to check out this science fiction novel from the Cross Plains Public Library.

Cinder by Marissa Meyer
The Cinderella fantasy is updated for the 21st Century in this first novel by a promising new writer. Even more good news: it's the first in a series.

Cinder is a 16-year old cyborg living with her evil stepmother and an evil stepsister. Her only human friend is her younger stepsister, who dies tragically. Cyborgs are hated in Cinder's culture, but being a cyborg has its good side: she's an expert mechanic and can fix everything from robots to space

ships. That's how she makes her living (you didn't think her stepmother would support her, did you?), and that's how she meets Prince Kai.

Turns out Cinder has some other talents and strengths, too. And she may not be "just another" cyborg... The truth about Cinder's past slowly comes out in this entertaining space-age fantasy.

The characters are very well-drawn, and the plot moves along at a good pace. Cinder herself is an especially admirable and appealing character. This is truly a great read and fantastic first novel. Stay tuned for a review of Meyer's second novel in the trilogy: *Scarlet*.



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WIC Serving Cross Plains

WIC, the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children in Clyde serves Cross Plains in Callahan County. We are at the Community Center, 108 North Beech on the 1st Wednesday 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. (closed for lunch 12-1 P.M.) and the 3rd Wednesday 8:30 A.M. - 12 noon

Call for an appointment during these hours at 254-212-9914 or 325-893-4552 in Clyde at other times. We are also now serving Comanche County in Comanche (325-330-3351). Visit www.texasWIC.org for nutritious recipes, health tips and what to bring to your WIC appointment. WIC: We are here for you!

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Political Calendar

The Cross Plains Review is authorized to publish the following political announcements for the office filings in the Republican Primary Election set for Tuesday, March 1, 2016.

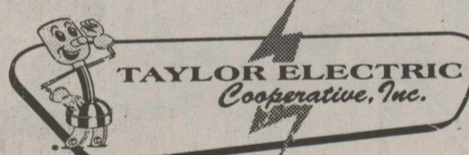
For Callahan County Sheriff Franklin P. "Bucky" Shackelford

Political advertisement paid for by Franklin P. "Bucky" Shackelford, 4186 CR 273, Clyde, Texas, 79510, Treasurer Patty Ellis.

Terry Joy

Political advertisement paid for by Lenora Joy Treasurer, Terry Joy, 525 Stella, Baird, Texas 79510

All political calendar advertising for the Tuesday, March 1, 2016 Republican Primary Election is payable in advance, at a cost of \$125.00. A free press release and photograph will be published one time with each announcement.



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Thursday, December 17th
You are Invited to stop by & give a Big "Thank You!" to
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\$1,000 Chrysler Capital Rebate
\$4,500 Blake's Preferred Discount

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2015 RAM 1500 LONESTAR 4X4 5.7 HEMI GAS

Stk# R49537
\$51320 Before Package
\$5,000 Package Discount
\$4,500 REBATE
\$1,000 Chrysler Capital Rebate
\$4,500 Blake's Preferred Discount

\$36,320 Sale Price
\$15000 OFF!!



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Grand Ole Oplin New Year's Eve Dance

The Oplin Community Center wishes everyone the safest and merriest of holidays. After all the shopping, after all the gifts have been opened, after all the Christmas dinners have been ate; it's time for a celebration!

The Grand Ole Oplin hopes everyone will join us in celebrating the New Year! Our New Year's Eve dance will begin at 8:00 p.m. and end shortly after midnight. MUDDY CREEK will be playing all your favorite two-steps and waltzes. Admission to our New Year's dance will be \$8.00 per person. Some snacks will be provided but everyone is invited

Grand Ole Oplin December lineup

Everyone is invited out each Friday to the Grand Ole Oplin for an evening of good music, good friends and a real good time. On Dec. 18th MIDNIGHT BLUE returns playing the kind of country music that is sure to make you want to get up and dance. On Friday, Dec. 25th, Christmas Day there will be no dance but on Thursday, Dec. 31st we hope everyone will come out and ring in the New Year with us. Our New Year's Eve dance will be held from 8:00 p.m. until shortly after midnight with admission being \$8.00 per person. MUDDY CREEK will be here to ring in the New Year. There will also be no dance on New Year's Day, January 1st.

The Grand Ole Oplin is hosted

10 reasons to visit Abilene, Texas in 2016

Abilene is known for its Western flavor, small-town charm, Texas-sized hospitality and family-friendly attitude. But did you know that "Abi" hosts a mean country music festival, is the Storybook Capital of Texas, and has one of the best little zoos in the state? Here are 10 fun things you can do in Abilene in 2016:

1. Get a bird's eye view of the giraffes at the Abilene Zoo. One of Texas' best small zoos, this walkable oasis will open its new "Giraffe Safari" this spring, providing visitors with a close encounter they'll never forget. www.abilenezoo.org

2. Have a glass of wine...in a vineyard. The Mill Wine Bar opened recently in the former Texas Mill & Elevator Co, built in 1930. You can sip your wine or craft beer among the vines (there's a small Petite Syrah vineyard on property) or in one of the gazebos that were converted from grain silo pads. There's live music, frequent food truck visits, and a weekly steak night. www.themillwinery.com

3. Get caught in a buffalo stampede at Frontier Texas, an interactive history museum that lets visitors relive the Wild West and meet some of its most infamous characters through state-of-the-art technology. www.frontiertexas.com

4. Bring the kids (and your own inner child) to the Storybook Capital of Texas for June's annual C.A.L.F. --- The Children's Art and Literacy Festival. Rub elbows with this year's honoree, author and illustrator Mark Teague, and

to bring a snack to be shared by all during the band's break. Black-eyed peas will be served during the break to hopefully bring us all a little luck in the coming year. Please remember that alcohol and smoking are not allowed at any community center functions.

So gather the family and all of your friends and come on out to the Grand Ole Oplin and we'll all celebrate the New Year together! Whether you join us or choose to celebrate somewhere else, please drive safely and responsibly and have a great Happy New Year!

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 community center functions. Our regular Friday night dances begin at 7:30 p.m. and end at 10:30 p.m. Admission to our regular Friday night dance is \$5.00 per person.

Everyone is invited to bring a snack to be shared by all during the band's break.

Our dance hall is beautifully decorated for the holidays (Alice Denunzio along with Judy and Regina Woodard and their helpers did a fantastic job!) So gather the family and all your friends and come on out to the Grand Ole Oplin!

frolic among the storybook character statues that stand guard over downtown Abilene.

5. Step back in time at Buffalo Gap Historic Village. See what an early doctor's office looks like, explore fascinating artifacts, and if it's October, go on the ghost tour!

www.tfhcc.com/tour-the-village

6. Then, head next door for juicy steak at Perini's Ranch. www.periniranch.com

7. Be a little bit (or a lot) country at Outlaws & Legends, the country music festival now in its 6th tune-fest year. April 1-2. www.outlawsandlegends.com

8. Stay in one of Abilene's most historic and beloved homes, now transformed into a gracious boutique hotel alternative. The Sayles Landmark has six rooms, each individually decorated with locally sourced materials and antiques. In summer, enjoy the Rose Garden and the Victorian fish pond-style swimming pool. www.sayleslandmark.com

9. Visit a children's museum, an art museum and a history museum all in one at the Grace, a beautifully restored Mission Revival style building that opened as a hotel in 1909 to serve Texas & Pacific Railroad travelers. www.thegracemuseum.org

10. Catch a classic flick or a live dance or musical performance in an old-fashioned, ornate movie palace complete with gilded moldings, domed ceiling and velvet seats - The Paramount Theatre. www.paramount-abilene.org

Time to be a Blood Hero

The next United Blood Service Blood Drive will be Tuesday, January 12th from 10am - 2 pm in Brownwood. It will be held in the Meeting Room of the 2nd floor outpatient building at the Brownwood Regional Medical Center. Please plan on starting your year off right by helping save lives by donating your blood.

For scheduling you may either head to the link <https://www.bloodhero.com> or call Andrea Lee at the BRMC at 325-649-3392.

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Baird Commissioner Precinct #3 seat is being contested

Both Callahan County Commissioner positions up for election in the March 1st Republican Primary are now being contested after a second candidate filed for the Baird Commissioner place #3 seat, according to Callahan County Republican Chairwoman Angela Campbell.

According to Campbell, Kevin Curtis, 43, filed for the Baird Commissioner Precinct #3 position recently. Curtis, who resides at 940 Cherry Street in Baird, has resided in the state all his life and in the county two years. Curtis is employed by FedEx Freight.

Curtis will be challenged by incumbent Precinct #3 Commissioner Tom F. Windham, 64.

According to Callahan County Republican Chair Angela Campbell, there are three candidates who have

announced for the Clyde Commissioner Precinct #1 seat. They include incumbent Commissioner Harold Hicks, 75, Rick McGowen, 43 and John Windham, 46.

This now brings to three, the number of the positions up for election in the Callahan County Republican Primary Election which will be contested.

For the office of Callahan County Sheriff, incumbent Sheriff Terry Joy, 74, is being challenged by Franklin P. "Bucky" Shackelford, 46.

Candidate filing for positions in the March 1st Republican Primary Election ended on Monday, December 14th.

Other candidates who have filed for election to their specific offices include:

Incumbent County Attorney Shane Deel, 43, has filed for re-election to the position of County Attorney.

Angela Bean Campbell, 55, has filed for the position of Callahan County Republican Chair.


Ed C. Duncan, 76, has filed for re-election to the position of Constable Precinct #4 (Cross Plains).

Tammy T. Walker, 41, has filed for re-election as the County Tax Assessor/Collector.

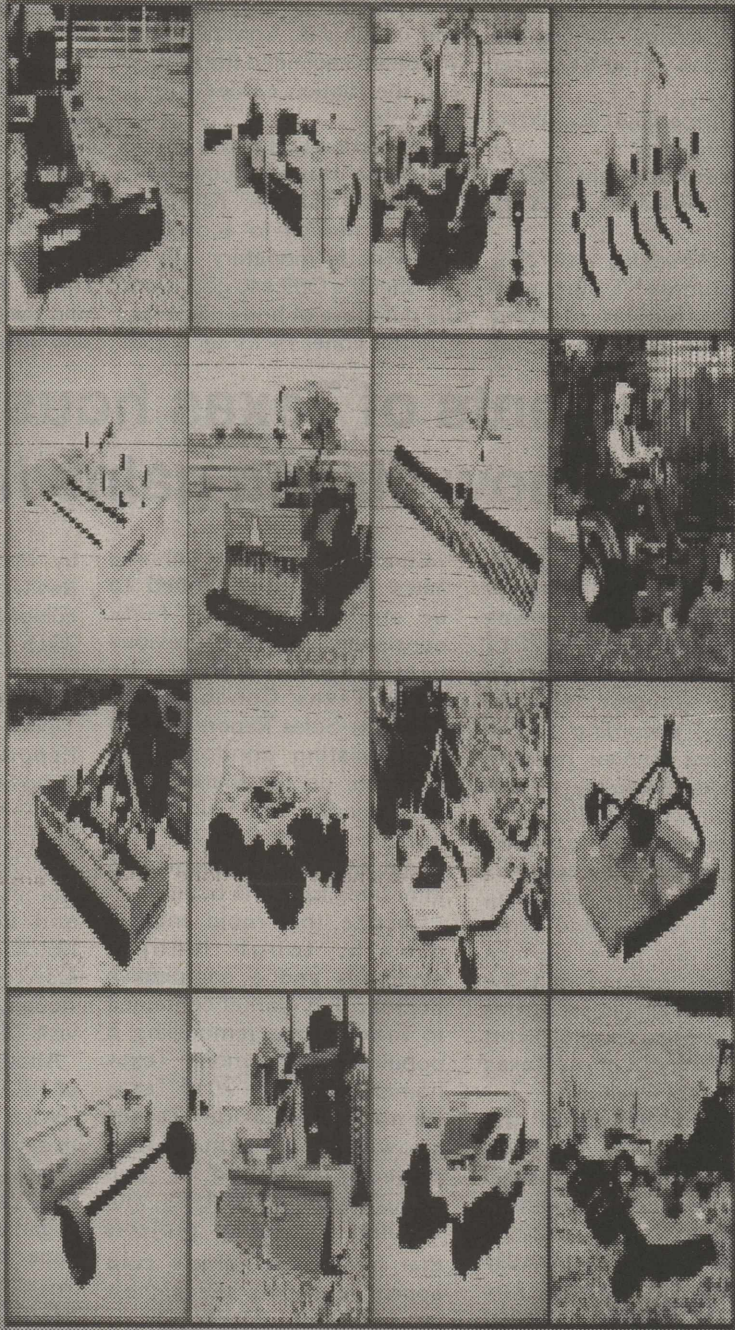
Republican Chairwoman Campbell reports candidate filing for the Republican Primary election ended on Monday, December 14th.

She also reported information about the upcoming Primary election can be found on the website: www.callahangop.com.

Early voting for the upcoming Republican Primary Election will take place from February 16, 2016 through February 26, 2016.




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Callahan County 2016 Holiday schedule approved

The Callahan County Commissioners voted to approve the 2016 County Holiday schedule during the commissioners' court meeting held Monday, December 14th at the County Courthouse in Baird.

On a motion by Commissioner 4 Harold Hicks and a second by Commissioner Bryan Farmer, the commissioners' court voted 5-0 to approve the 2016 County Holiday schedule.

The 2016 Holiday schedule follows:

- Friday, January 1, 2016 New Year's Day
 - Monday, January 18, 2016 Martin Luther King Day
 - Monday, February 15, 2016 Presidents Day
 - Friday, March 25, 2016 Good Friday
 - Monday, May 30, 2016 Memorial Day
 - Monday, July 4, 2016 Independence Day
 - Monday, September 5, 2016 Labor Day
 - Monday, October 10, 2016 Columbus Day
 - Friday, November 11, 2016 Veterans Day
 - Thursday/Friday, November 24-25, 2016 Thanksgiving Holiday
 - Friday, December 23, 2016 Christmas Holiday
- Other items brought before the commissioners' court included:
- The Meeting of the Commissioners' Court was held at its regular meeting place in the Courthouse on

Monday, December 14, 2015 A.D., with the following officers present to wit: Roger Corn, Judge Presiding, Harold Hicks, Commissioner Precinct No. 1, Bryan Farmer, Commissioner Precinct No. 2, Tom Windham, Commissioner Precinct No. 3, Cliff Kirkham, Commissioner Precinct No. 4, Jan Windham, County Treasurer, and Donna Bell, County Clerk. Also present at the meeting were Sheriff Terry Joy, Chief Deputy Rick Jowers, and Julie Lemons with the Sheriff's Office.

—The meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m. by Judge Corn.

—Under public comments, there was none.

—Commissioner Kirkham made a motion to accept the Overtime Report and the Call Card Report. Commissioner Windham seconded the motion and the motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

—Commissioner Kirkham made a motion to accept the sub recipient grant award, approve sub grant award letter and to accept the scope of work for the DPS grant terms and conditions. Commissioner Windham seconded the motion and the motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

—No action was taken on the regulation of use of fireworks.

—Commissioner Kirkham made a motion to accept an anonymous monetary gift to the Sheriff's Office to go toward the purchase of body cameras. Commissioner Hicks seconded

the motion. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

—No action was taken on the elevator repairs.

—Commissioner Farmer made a motion to table renewing the service contract with Otis Elevator. Commissioner Windham seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 5-0.

—Commissioner Windham made a motion to sign an interlocal agreement between the City of Putnam and County Commissioner Precinct #3. The work would be for street improvement for Pecan and Pine Streets. Commissioner Hicks seconded the motion and the motion was approved with a 5-0 vote.

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

—Commissioner Farmer made a motion to pay the approved bills. Commissioner Hicks seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

—Commissioners discussed and considered the Countywide Burn Ban and fire conditions around the county. Doug Campbell will be put on the next meeting agenda. Doug Campbell did not attend the meeting.

—Commissioner Farmer made a motion to adjourn the commissioners' court meeting at 10:15 a.m. Commissioner Hicks seconded the motion and the motion carried with an unanimous 5-0 vote.



PICTURED ABOVE IS SHERIFF TERRY JOY BEING CONGRATULATED BY GINGER VINSON (REPRESENTING AT THE MARKET IN CLYDE) PRESENTING HIM WITH PRIZES HE WON DURING THE RAFFLE AT CLYDE, ON SATURDAY. THE MONEY WILL GO TO SHERIFF'S DEPUTY BRIAN CAMPBELL TO HELP WITH HIS BATTLE AGAINST CANCER.

Callahan County Sheriff Terry Joy wins 'at the Market in Clyde' raffle

Callahan County Sheriff Terry Joy won the gift basket, comprised of the wares offered for sale by the Market at Clyde vendors and raffled off to raised funds for Callahan County Deputy Brian Campbell in his fight against lung cancer.

Following this congratulatory picture of the Sheriff and his wonderful prizes, he boxed it all back up and gave it back to Ginger Vinson saying "do it

again next month!"

In an email, Vinson said she did talk him into keeping a few items given especially for him once vendors knew who had won the raffle.

A small gift with the word "JOY" on it and a Badge saying Sheriff.

The jams, jellies pictures, soap, cup and other tasty and cute things, he gave back to the cause.

Organizers of the Market at

Clyde say they do not normally do the same benefit twice, but since this lovely gift was given back. They will raffle it again next month.

Organizers of the Market at Clyde would like to thank all the vendors who donated there beautiful handmade wares to be placed in this raffle. If you would like a chance to win the beautiful gifts in this raffle again, be sure to stop by the Market next month.

All segments of Texas housing market show strong gains in 2015

Dec. 1, 2015—AUSTIN, Texas — Texas real estate made a strong showing in all segments of the housing market in 2015 due to continued growth in the state's economy, jobs and population, according to the 2015 Texas Annual Housing Report released today by the Texas Association of Realtors.

"The Texas real estate market has been firing on all cylinders in 2015. People are relocating to Texas from far and wide, homes in all price classes are in high demand and the number of available properties is slowly rising," said Scott Kesner, chairman of the Texas Association of Realtors.

The 2015 editions of the Texas Quarterly Housing Report indicated that Texas real estate is on pace to potentially have a record year in 2015. Home sales and prices steadily increased throughout the year, while statewide housing inventory reached a two-year high—4.0 months—in 2015-Q3. Once again, the 2015 Texas Homebuyers and Sellers Report showed that Texas is outpacing the nation in home sales, as median incomes for Texans rose 5.9 percent year-over-year—more than double the growth rate of incomes nationally during the same time frame.

Texas's business-friendly environment and strong job growth continued to attract new residents from out-of-state and internationally in 2015. Texas was the No. 2 state for gains in out-of-state residents, with more than 538,000 Americans relocating to Texas, according to the 2015 Texas Relocation Report. Additionally, international homebuyers contributed more than \$8.32 billion to the Texas economy in a 12-month period, according to the 2015 Texas International Homebuyers Report.

"Texas's diversified economy and our state's enduring real estate demand shows that Texas remains to be a great place to live, work and do business," said Kesner.

Two of the strongest segments of the Texas housing market were luxury home sales and small land sales. According to the 2015 Texas Luxury Home Sales Report, home sales priced at \$1 million or higher grew between 9 percent and 26 percent year-over-year in the state's four largest metros. Small land sales throughout Texas also experienced double-digit growth, with 5,282 small land sales statewide. This was a 20.69 percent increase from the year prior, according to the 2015 Texas Small Land Sales Report.

Condominium and townhome sales in Texas continued to be strong, remaining fairly consistent with the previous year's sales volume. The 2015 Texas Condominium Mid-Year Sales Report showed that existing condos spent less time on the market than new condos, as rising land and development costs may make new condominiums less affordable for some buyers.

Despite this rapid market growth, tough lending standards and a competitive homebuying market continued to make home remodeling a popular option among Texas homeowners. The 2015 Texas Remodel Valuation Report showed that remodeling projects continued to gain popularity and profitability, with smaller, functional projects that boosted a home's curb appeal recouping the highest percentage of project costs.

Kesner concluded, "Once again, the Texas housing market has exceeded expectations and is on pace to possibly set another record for home sales. The market will remain highly competitive in 2016, making housing development and affordability key areas of focus throughout the state."

About the Texas Annual Housing Report

The Texas Annual Housing Report is a recap of all market research reports distributed

by the Texas Association of Realtors each year. The 2015 edition includes insights from the 2015 Texas Relocation Report, 2015 Texas International Homebuyers Report, 2015 Texas Luxury Home Sales Report, 2015 Texas Small Land Sales Report, 2015 Texas Remodel Valuation Report, 2015 Texas Condominium Mid-Year Sales Report, 2015 Texas Homebuyers and Sellers Report, and 2015 Texas Quarterly Housing Reports for Q1, Q2 and Q3. To view the Texas Annual Housing Report in its entirety, visit TexasRealEstate.com.

About the Texas Association of REALTORS®

With more than 100,000 members, the Texas Association of REALTORS® is a professional membership organization that represents all aspects of real estate in Texas. We advocate on behalf of Texas REALTORS® and private-property owners to keep homeownership affordable, protect private-property rights, and promote public policies that benefit homeowners. Visit TexasRealEstate.com to learn more.

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The Recipe Corner

Chicken Cordon Bleu Pasta

Prep Time: 25 Minutes Bake Time: 20 Minutes

Ingredients:

- * 3 cups uncooked penne pasta
- * 2 cups heavy whipping cream
- * 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened and cubed
- * 1 1/2 cups (6 ounces) shredded Swiss cheese, divided
- * 1/2 teaspoon onion powder
- * 1/2 teaspoon garlic salt
- * 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- * 3 cups sliced cooked chicken breasts
- * 3/4 cup crumbled cooked bacon
- * 3/4 cups cubed fully cooked ham
- * 3 tablespoons dry bread crumbs



Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cook pasta according to package directions for al dente.
2. Meanwhile, in a large saucepan, heat cream and cream cheese over medium heat until smooth, stirring occasionally. Stir in 1 cup Swiss cheese, onion powder, garlic salt and pepper until blended.
3. Drain pasta; stir in chicken, bacon and ham. Add sauce; toss to coat. Transfer to a greased 13x9-in. baking dish. Sprinkle with remaining cheese and the bread crumbs.

Bake, uncovered, 18-22 minutes or until heated through. **Yield:** 6 servings.

Preparing Your Will

AUSTIN, Texas -- Writing your will isn't a task anyone looks forward to doing. You're not only acknowledging your own inevitable demise but actively planning for it. In fact, an AARP survey found that two out of five Americans over the age of 45 don't have a will. However, creating a will is one of the most important things you can do for your loved ones.

By placing your wishes on paper, you help ensure that your heirs avoid unnecessary hassles and that a life's worth of possessions end up in the right hands. While preparing a will may seem like an overwhelming task, in most cases it is simple and straightforward. Below are tips to help you get started.

Options for Creating Your Will

Hiring a lawyer is the surest way to get peace of mind that your wishes will be fulfilled. The cost can vary depending on the experience of the lawyer, the complexity of your estate and the going rates in your area. If you live in a metropolitan area, call around to see if you can save money with a lawyer in a

nearby small town. If you belong to a group legal service plan, a simple will may be offered at a reduced price or even free. You can also check with your state's bar association for an attorney or legal clinic in your area.

In the last couple of decades, several Internet-based products have become available that allow consumers to create their own will. Also, it is strongly advised that spouses create separate wills, rather than a joint will.

Think About the Small Stuff

While partners generally list each other in their wills, it's helpful to prepare for the situation if you and your partner pass away at the same time by naming the beneficiaries in that instance. Retirement accounts and life insurance policies name beneficiaries and aren't typically included in wills. If you want to leave sentimental items to particular people, specify that in your will, not in a non-binding note left with your will.

If you are a small business owner, talk to your accountant, banker and lawyer about what will happen to your business after your death to help avoid hardship for family and employees.

Name a Guardian

For parents it is extremely important that your will names a guardian for your minor children. Otherwise, a court will make this decision for you following your death. While it's an enormous decision, it's certainly one you would like to make rather than have made for you should a tragic event occur.

Name an Executor

In your will, you will also need to name the executor. This is the person who carries out the wishes stated in your will and wraps everything up after your death—paying taxes and debts, distributing the property in your will, closing your accounts, etc. This person needs to be responsible and trustworthy.

Updates to Your Will

It's important to keep your will accurate and up to date. Because life changes very well may occur after you write your will, it is important to review it periodically and amend when necessary.

Where to Store Your Will

You may store your will in a safe deposit box or a waterproof and fireproof safe in your house.

Many attorneys will store clients' wills. Otherwise, ensure that a family member or close friend has a signed copy. Just remember, your executor will need access to it after your death.

Big picture—creating a will isn't fun for anyone but it's easier than you think. You just need to sit down and do it.

The above is provided by the Independent Bankers Association of Texas as a public service. This information is provided with the understanding that the association is not engaged in rendering specific legal, accounting or other professional services. If specific expert assistance is required, the services of a competent profession should be sought.

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About the Independent Bankers Association of Texas (IBAT)

Formed in 1974, the Independent Bankers Association of Texas (IBAT) represents Texas community banks. The Austin-based group is the largest state community banking organization in the nation, with membership comprised of more than 2,000 banks and branches in 700 Texas communities. Providing safe and responsible financial services to all Texans, IBAT member bank assets range in size from \$10 million to more than \$20 billion with combined assets statewide of nearly \$165 billion. IBAT member banks are committed to supporting and investing in their local communities.

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