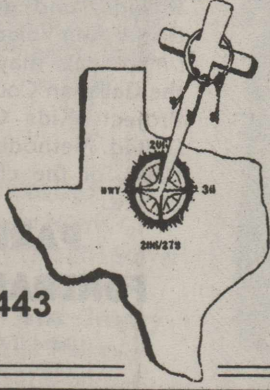


Cross Plains Review

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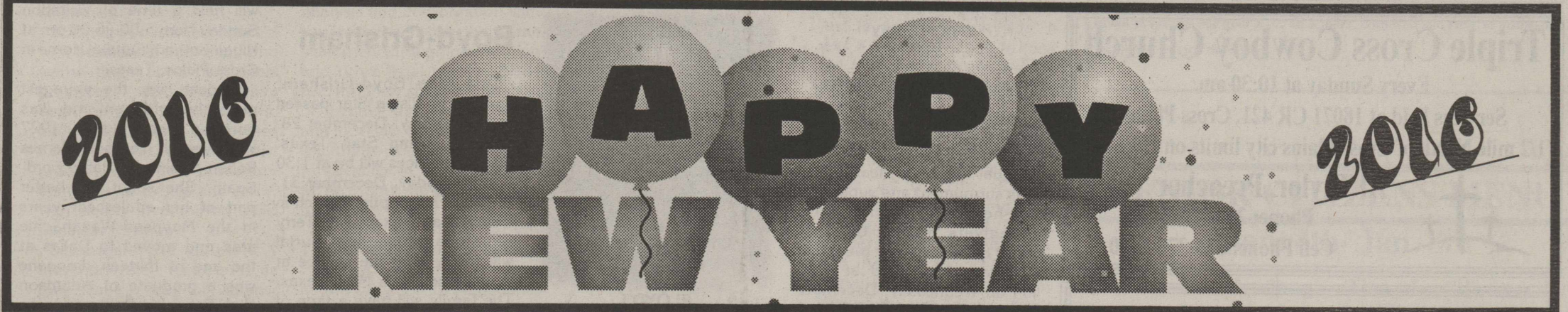


8/30/17
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Lubbock TX 79409-1041

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Volume 107 • Number 43
116 S. E. 1st St. • P. O. Box 519 • Cross Plains, Tx. 76443

December 31, 2015 • 10 Pages
(254) 725-6111 • crossplainsreview@earthlink.net



Bubba's Smoke House is Ringing in the New Year with a Free Bowl of Black-eyed Peas

Come by Bubba's Smoke House on January 1st for a free bowl of piping hot black-eyed peas with ham-hocks.

Bubba's Smoke House would like to take this opportunity to show their appreciation to all of their customers for all the support they have shown over

the years. Don't miss your chance for a free bowl of black-eyed peas, good company and great atmosphere. So come on down to Bubba's Smoke House located at 501 Ave. A off South Hwy 36 sit a while, visit, and enjoy.

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.

With its majestic trees and scenic surroundings, Treadway Park has been the home of Homecoming dances, Fourth of July Celebrations, Barbarian Festivals, rodeos, weddings, reunions, and many other events. The new structure will be an asset to the community and will be available for recreational/personal use for low to no cost. The space will be available for reservations

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.

After School program to meet Wednesday, January 6th

The After School Program will meet at the Cross Plains Public library on Wednesday, January 6th, at 4:00 p.m. Come and join us as we make a winter snow globe. See you there.

Cross Plains 4H

Cross Plains 4-H will be holding their next meeting on Monday, January 4th in the Old Fellowship Hall at the First Baptist Church, the meeting will start at 6:00pm.

Don't know what 4-H is all about? No problem!! Stop in and ask, meet other parents and kids, 4-H has something for everyone!

Upcoming Schedule of Games

December 29th-30th VGB BurkBurnett Tournament TBA

January 5th JVG VG JVB VB vs. Blanket @ Cross Plains 4PM

January 7th JHG JHB vs. Abilene Haws @ Cross Plains 6PM

January 8th JVG VG vs. May @ May 5PM

January 8th JVB VB vs. Gustine @ Gustine 6PM

January 9th JHB vs. Rising Star @ Rising Star TBD

Snow & the things we made of it!



SHARON YOUNG'S GRANDCHILDREN OF CLYDE: Katiyn & Tallen Payne build a snowman, a rabbit, & a large white Pig!



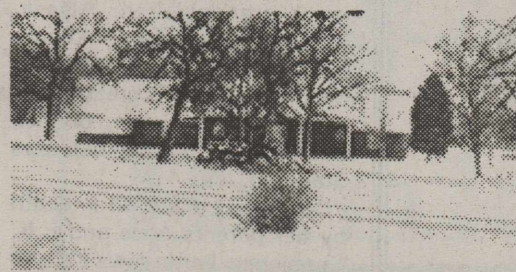
JAN RICE OF CLYDE: Just looking out her window!



WINDY WINDHAM'S (OF BAIRD) "SNOW ICE CREAM". Recipe- 8 cups of snow, 1 cup milk (but you can add more until creamy), 1/3 cup sugar, a pinch of salt and 1 teaspoon vanilla... and then just whip it up, and eat it up!!



KYLIE & LOGAN BROADUS OF CLYDE: Just enjoying the snow.



SUSAN MCNEEL'S HOME IN CROSS PLAINS: Waiting for Spring or Summer, anything but this!



KYLIE & RONNIE BROADUS OF CLYDE: Building a Snowball!!

Architectural firm meets with Commissioners about building new County Jail

Callahan County Commissioners heard a presentation from an architectural firm about building a new County Jail during the commissioners' court regular monthly meeting held on Monday, December 28th at the County Courthouse in Baird.

Wayne Gondeck and Gary Adams of DRG Architects, PLLC presented to the commissioners' court information on building a new County Jail.

The commissioners' court took no action concerning the presentation.

Due to crowded conditions at the County Jail in Baird, Callahan County has contracted with four other counties to take Callahan County prisoners, including Taylor and Shackelford County. Callahan County Sheriff Terry Joy said Callahan County has just recently contracted with Jones County and Comanche County to transfer Callahan County inmates.

Callahan County contract costs to house inmates currently include \$35 for Comanche County, \$35 for Jones County, \$45 for Shackelford County and \$48.50 for Taylor County.

Judge Corn said the architectural firm met with the commissioners' court to "just get their foot in the door"

about Callahan County's Jail overcrowding conditions.

Judge Corn said DRG Architects told the commissioners' court they recently completed a 72-bed jail for Mitchell County in Colorado City at a cost of \$8 million.

Judge Corn said that any discussion about building a new County Jail will be "a long drawn out process."

Other agenda items brought before the commissioners' court included:

—The Meeting of the Commissioners' Court was held at its regular meeting place in the Courthouse on December 28, 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 were: Sheriff Terry Joy, Chief Deputy Rick Jowers, Jail Administrator Julie Lemon, and Jailer Janet Walker.

—Judge Corn called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

—Under public comments, there was none.

—The minutes of the previous

commissioners' court meetings were reviewed and signed.

—County Attorney Shane Deel spoke to the commissioners' court about the new open carry laws and what it means for the County Courthouse in Baird. He explained that Callahan County Courthouse is a premise of government court and that a sign stating that should be displayed at the doors. Commissioner Farmer made a motion to have such signs made and displayed at the County Courthouse. Commissioner Kirkham seconded the motion and the motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

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

—Jan Windham gave the commissioners' court the overtime report. There was no call card report. No action was taken.

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

—Commissioner Windham made a motion to adjourn the commissioners' court meeting at 11:12 a.m. Commissioner Hicks seconded the motion and the motion carried with an unanimous 5-0 vote.

"Monumental" at the Triple Cross Cowboy Church

The Triple Cross Cowboy Church in Cross Plains would like to invite the community to come at 10:00AM on Sunday, January 2nd to enjoy "Monumental" a film by Kirk Cameron. This is a story of the Pilgrims and the sacrifices they made to leave a religiously-oppressive Europe and settle in a new land of freedom.

Viewers will get a taste of the people, places and principles of the founders of our nation and what is at the root of our America. Everyone is welcome. You may find the Triple Cross Cowboy Church 1/2 mile north of Cross Plains off Highway 206, at the junction of 206 and CR 421 on the left. 18071 CR 421, Cross Plains.

Scranton Musical Saturday, Jan. 2nd

The Scranton Musical will be held Saturday night, January 2nd at the community center. The kitchen will be hosted by Sis Starr. Serving starts at 5:00 with music to follow at 5:30. Buddy or Ruby Johnson will be handling the emcee job. We hope all can come out to have a good start for 2016.

Computer Classes Continue

The Cross Plains Public Library is continuing our computer class on Thursday, January 7th at 6:30 p.m. Hank Ball has been leading this class on the Linux operating system. It's not to late to join us and learn about this free operating system. There are over 74,000 free programs that will operate using the Linux system. The class is very informative with a lot of hands-on learning.

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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 Steidle, 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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Obituaries



DOROTHY PETTY

Dorothy Petty

Dorothy Petty passed peacefully from this life on December 26, 2015, after a gradual decline in health. She was surrounded and supported by her loving family and caregivers during the last days of her life. A memorial service will be held at 2:00 PM on Wednesday, December 30, 2015, at the First United Methodist Church in Baird, with Rev. Mike Kelley and Faye Simons officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Parker Funeral Home in Baird, Texas.

Dorothy was born November 6, 1929, in Cottonwood, Texas to E.K. and Alice Coppinger. She graduated as salutatorian from Cross Plains High School in 1946. She married Eddie Petty on October 5, 1947 in Cross Plains. Dorothy was employed as a hospital administrator. She and Eddie owned Cross Plains Discount Center. Most recently, she worked for nine years at the Callahan County Nutrition Center, only retiring July 1st of this year.

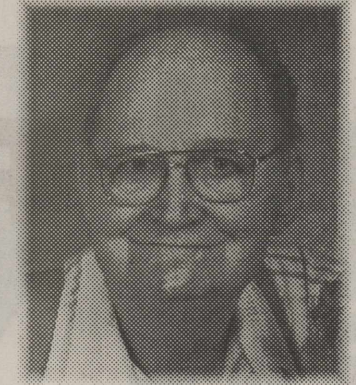
Aside from working, she spent years at the church volunteering weekly at Kids Club and was a long time member of the United Methodist Church. She was an avid reader and sports fan who loved her Cowboys and Rangers and never missed watching a game. She was beloved by her family and friends for her sweetness of spirit and amazing capacity for love. Those who called her Mom and Meema thank her for her tireless hours of kind nurturing, caretaking, consoling, encouraging, and teaching, with never a harsh word or spanking!

Dorothy is survived by her brother Reverend Joe Coppinger (Delma), three daughters: Marcia Voigts of Baird, TX, Dianne Gunter of Baird, TX, and Paula Kelley (Mike) of McEwen, TN; nine grandchildren: Kim, Bobby, Lori, Eddie Neal, Kellie, Ginger, Michelle, Allison, Kaci; 10 great grandchildren: Alyssa, Karyssa, Cheyenne, Abella, Erika, Ryker, Cody, Gordon, Jeb, Cedar; and 3 great-great-grandchildren, Cutter, Braylei, and Swayzee; and two nephews Stan and Jerry.

Dorothy is preceded in death by her parents Alice and E.K. Coppinger, her in-laws Ed and Pearl Petty, her husband of 56 years, Edward Paul Petty, daughter Doreen Shields, son

Steve Petty, son-in-law Randy Shields, and granddaughter Becky Ann Voigts. Memorials may be made to the Callahan County Nutrition Project, Kids Club of First United Methodist Church of Baird, or the charity of your choice.

PARKER FUNERAL HOME
141 E. 3rd St.
Baird, TX 79504
(325) 854-1333



FLOYD L. WOOD

Floyd L. Wood

CLYDE - Floyd L. Wood, 78, died Tuesday, December 22, 2015, at his home in Clyde. Funeral services were scheduled for 2:30 p.m. Sunday, December 27, 2015, at Bible Baptist Church in Clyde with Larry Hooper officiating. Burial followed in the Clyde Cemetery. Visitation was from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Saturday, December 26th at the funeral home.

Floyd was born January 6, 1937, in Baird, to Floyd E. and Annabell Kennedy Wood and was a 1956 graduate of Baird High School. He lived in Houston until returning to Clyde in 1997. Floyd retired after 41 years from his job as manager of the welding, fabricating and paint department for Stewart & Stephenson in Houston. He married Elena Jacups in Alvin, Texas, on May 21, 1988. He was a member of Bible Baptist Church in Clyde, and was a member of the Jaycees for four years in Pasadena.

Floyd is survived by his son, Keith Wood and wife Tina of Coleman; his daughter, Kellye Rodriguez and husband Frankie of Brady; his step-daughter, Pam Shaffer of Houston; his brother, Charles Wood of Abilene; two sisters, Connie Kerry of Dairy, Louisiana and Ava Dodd of Cross Plains; 12 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Elena; his daughter, Karen Holden; and his brother, Ev Wood.

Cross Plains Review
2
Dec. 31, 2015

Online condolences may be made at www.baileyhowardfuneralhome.com

Bailey-Howard FUNERAL HOME
P.O. Box 1900 100 Oak Street Clyde, Texas 79510
Phone: 254-725-4255 Fax: 254-725-2254
www.baileyhowardfuneralhome.com

Eula Mae Boyd-Grisham

Eula Mae Boyd-Grisham, age 94, of Rising Star passed away, Monday, December 28, 2015 in Rising Star, Texas. Funeral services will be at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, December 31, 2015 at First Baptist Church in Rising Star, Texas with Terry Simmons officiating. Burial will follow after the service at May Cemetery in May, Texas. The family will have a time of visitation at 11:00 a.m. before lunch and the funeral service at the First Baptist Church in Rising Star, Texas.

Eula Mae was born on May 23, 1921 in Brown County, Texas to John E. Boyd and Julia (Guynes) Boyd. She attended schools in and around Rising Star. She graduated from Williams High School. She married Tom Grisham on July 9, 1941 in Cisco, Texas. They celebrated 55 wonderful years together before he preceded her in death on 1996. She has lived in Rising Star most of her life. She worked at Higginbotham Brother & Company in Rising Star, Texas for 42 years. She always said Higginbotham was her second home. Eula Mae was also a member of the First Baptist Church of Rising Star. She was a member of the Saturday Club; Star Pride and the Senior Citizens.

Eula Mae is survived by her 3 sister-in-laws, Charlene Grisham; Juanita Grisham; Peggy Winfrey who was like a daughter to her and a loyal care giver; many nieces and nephews who loved her dearly.

Eula Mae was preceded in death by her parents, John E. and Julia Boyd; husband, Tom Grisham; 2 sisters, Ruby and Cora; 4 brothers, Edgar, Earl; Lonnie; Bernie.

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

Imogene Spain-Clark

Imogene Spain-Clark, age 88, of Cross Plains went to be with her Lord, Friday, December 25, 2015 in Abilene, Texas. Graveside services were held at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, December 28, 2015 at Cross Plains Cemetery in Cross Plains, Texas with Burlie Taylor officiating and Ronnie White assisting. The family will hold a time of Visitation Sunday from 5:00 - 6:00 pm at Higginbotham Funeral Home in Cross Plains, Texas.

Imogene was the youngest of twelve children and was born on December 7, 1927 in Maypearl, Texas to James Robert Spain and Hattie Ford Spain. She spent the better part of her adolescent years in the Maypearl-Waxahachie area and moved to Dallas at the age of thirteen. Imogene was a graduate of Adamson High School in Dallas and was a captain in the school's ROTC unit. She worked several years for the United States Army Eighth Service Command. She was employed by income tax firms in Dallas and was secretary to the executive staff of the Mercantile National Bank. Later, she was employed by the State Fair of Texas in the Livestock Department and retired from the Fair as the Executive Assistant to the Director of Livestock. She married Don Clark in 1981 in Dallas, Texas.

Imogene is survived by her husband, Don Clark of Cross Plains, Texas; 2 sons, Bill Wimberley and his wife, Toni of Sherman, Texas; Gary Wimberley and his wife, Janet of Dallas, Texas; 2 step-sons, Robert Clark and his wife, Becky of Houston, Texas; Les Clark and his wife, Lauri of Dallas, Texas; 10 grandchildren, Ashley; Beth; Brian; Cassie; Emily; Garret; Matt; Michael; Robert, Jr., and Sam; 3 great grandchildren, Austin; Hailey, and Isaac.

Imogene was preceded in death by her parents; as well as 11 sisters and brothers. In lieu of flowers please send contributions to Cross Plains First Baptist Church P.O. Box 130, Cross Plains, Texas 76443.

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

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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www.crossplainsfumc.org

WE HAVE SELF-INKING AND RUBBER STAMPS CROSS PLAINS REVIEW 116 S.E. 1ST ST CROSS PLAINS, TX

New BBB web-based tool fights scams

Better Business Bureau has launched BBB Scam Tracker to provide consumers across North America with a place to report scams and fraud, and to warn others of malicious or suspicious activities. All 112 BBBs operating in Canada and the United States are now collecting information from consumers and processing data, which is shared with law enforcement agencies for use in identifying and prosecuting scammers.

BBB helps consumers connect with businesses they trust, and warns them about dishonest practices. BBB has always been able to track specific information about businesses as part of the complaint process, and that procedure continues to evolve and grow, with nearly five million BBB Business Reviews.

Scammers are different - they hone their techniques as they leave a trail of victims. As a crowdsourced tool with a human touch, BBB Scam Tracker exposes their fraudulent activity in real time.

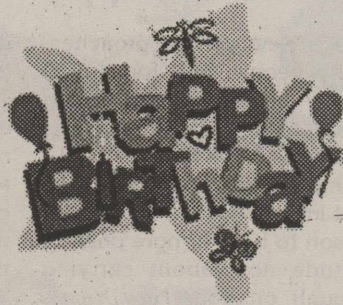
The free interactive online tool - found at bbb.org/scamtracker - offers a heat map showing where scams are being reported. Users can search using a variety of filters to see what scams are happening in their area, or track a particular type of scam, or even see how much money has been lost. Users can also report scams that they hear about, whether or not they have fallen victim.

BBB processes nearly a million complaints a year against legitimate businesses, but perpetrators of scams are not interested in resolving matters, even if they could be located. The data collection process for BBB Scam Tracker was designed to generate information that can be useful to law enforcement. Scam reports are being sent to the National Cyber-Forensics and Training Alliance (NCFTA) for analysis and collaboration with law enforcement to help stop the scammers through prosecution and other legal means. BBBs also routinely share information on scams with federal, state and local law enforcement, and will make the data available to agencies in other countries to help shut down scammers based overseas.

In addition, BBB Scam Tracker reports will also prompt BBB tips and alerts, or serve as the basis for investigations, news releases, warnings, and trends analysis. BBB Scam Tracker is of great interest to the media, and the intake form asks consumers if they are willing to speak to a reporter about their experience.

BBB Scam Tracker began in 2014 as an innovative test among nine local BBBs.

A grant from Target Corporation enabled CBBB to expand the service to all BBBs in Canada and the U.S. BBB Mexico is expected to join in the future.



December 31
Jesse Norris
Kimberly (Ratliff) Stover
Royce Lawrence
Rodney Gene Gregory
Austin Walker
Seth Wyatt
Kathy Denny
Johnny Combs
Shirley Emmons
Mrs. Norman Farr
Danielle Webster
George Randall Dickey
Vickie (Hickman) Walker

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

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

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

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

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

January 8
Austin Chastain
Joe McWilliams
Claude Boyd
Johny Nunn
Bill Forbes
Jimmy Hargrove
Jean Johnson
Mrs. L.M. Barrow
Allen Bland
Jay Staggs
Mrs. Eugene Strickland

January 9
Carol Parsons
Charles Williams
Alvie Hutchins
Karen (Dunn) Dooley
Ronny Nunn
Patrick Sadler
Cathy Meroney
Teri Brown
Kim Koenig
Joe Gardner

Cross Plains Review

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Dec. 31, 2015

Cottonwood News By Beverly Brown

Cottonwood's received a nice white blanket of snow this week.

On Christmas Eve, we attended the Candlelight Services at the Methodist Church. Then Teri and I took of the homes in Cross Plains that were all decorated up with Christmas lights. They were so nice, but when we got back to Cottonwood, we found Cottonwood lit up in a special way too. The Christmas moon just lit up the countryside. It was a beautiful scene to look out over the fields and see the moon bright and brilliant. Hope everyone got to see it.

Family visiting with Dena Nickerson over the holidays were: Glynn Nickerson and Olga of Boerne, Chase Nickerson of Birmingham, Alabama; Matt and Nicole Nickerson of Abilene; Bill and Annette Nickerson of Cottonwood; Willie and Jenny Nickerson and family; Kevin and Jessica Nickerson and family, all of Cross Plains; Mary Jo and Joe Pennington and family of South Lake; Jeanette and Johnny Kingery of Tye; Joanne and Harold Kingery of Clyde; Portious and Kara Potter and family of Cross Plains; Rickie Jo and Gerald Brown and boys of Cross Plains. Mary Ella Weaver joined them for Christmas dinner.

David Weaver of Corpus Christi is hear visiting with his mother, Mary Ella Weaver.

Wishing you all a happy and a blessed New Year.C

Senior Citizens Center Activities

Jan. 4th- Jan. 8th

Monday-4th Exercise 11:00
Tuesday-5th Crafts with Chris 10:00/ Exercise 11:00
Game Night 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday -6th Exercise 11:00

Thursday -7th Manacures 10:30 Girling Home
Health/Reading with 3rd graders 9:45 & 1:05

Friday -8th Exercise 11:00

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

SENIOR CITIZENS MENU

Jan. 4th- Jan. 8th

Monday 4th Hamburg- Thursday 7th Pork Cut-
er Steak, Potatoes w/gravy, English Peas/Carrots, Bread, Dessert
Tuesday 5th Vegetable Soup, Cornbread, Dessert
Friday 8th BBQ Sausage, Pinto Beans, Potatoes, Bread, Dessert

Wednesday 6th Chicken Salad Sandwich, Chips
Fruit, Cookie

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

Monthly Menu may be picked up at the Senior Citizen Center

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.

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.



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in celebration of

MYRNA MITCHELL'S BIRTHDAY

MONDAY JANUARY 4TH, 2015

11:00-1:00

CROSS PLAINS SENIOR CENTER

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ssb

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ACROSS

1 TXism: "hit the _____ (go to bed)"

5 succulent plant grown in the Valley

6 large book

7 do it quickly (abbr.)

8 cloistered religious woman

9 TX intoxication offense (abbr.)

12 TX Hagman 1972 TV film: "Getting Away From _____"

17 past title of TX LBJ, GHWB, & GWB: "Commander _____"

19 Clyde football class TXism: "in _____ with" (associated)

22 "_____ Santa," Holy Week

23 channel 8 in Dallas

28 UT Heisman RB, Campbell

29 natl workplace safety agcy.

30 1978 TV film: "See _____ Runs"

31 space between roof and ceiling

35 60 Minutes helped exonerate this TX Lenell in 1983

36 TXism: "happy as a kid in _____"

42 TX-born Debbie Reynolds 1961 film: "_____ Time Around"

44 TXism: "drawing _____ on it"

46 TXism: "he could shoot the _____ gnat" (marksman)

48 real estate reps

49 TXism: "does a wet dog stink?"

50 support board for older beds

51 Valentine flowers

52 Alamo daughters (abbr.)

53 TXism: "bright as _____ penny"

54 catcher's glove

56 Cowboys were great in the Johnson _____

57 TX film critic, Reed's defense program was called "Star Wars"

58 TXism: "in _____ with" (associated)

14 "brazos," south of the border

15 1962 Roy Orbison ballad about this girl

16 this Guerrero was 1st woman and 1st Hispanic on the Texas Railroad Comm.

18 subdivision assoc. De Leon h.s. class

20 this Huddle painted "Surrender of Santa Anna" (init.)

24 really low cloud

25 TXism: "mad as _____ hen"

26 TX Gary Busey 1971 biker film: "Angels Hard _____ Come"

1988 book shunned by Ayatollah Khomeini

he pitched for the Astros in 1990-93

this county was named after fierce Indians

TXism: "_____ it under your hat"

name in fashion: Christian-_____

growers with irrigation? (2 wds.)

"no _____ ands, or butts"

TX Jenkins book: "Life _____ Ownself"

1990 action film by TX rancher Norris

39 TXism: "fat as a boardinghouse cat"

40 regenerate

41 TXism: "_____ high on the hog" (rich)

43 "_____ Slickie State Forest"

45 this Smith was a 1960 All-AFL FB for the old Houston Oilers (init.)

47 dressed up

48 "I smell _____"

55 transport to DFW Airport or Houston Intercontinental Airport

The Market at Clyde at The Old Firehouse January 9th 10am-4pm

The second Saturday of each month local artist, artisans, crafters, home cooks and gardeners gather to show and sell their creations at The Old Firehouse in Clyde. The weather may be cold outside, but the Firehouse will be heated and vendors and shoppers will be protected from the cold.

This area is blessed with many creative individuals. Each month the items presented vary depending on the season, the vendors that come and the inspiration of those individuals. Before you drive away from Clyde to shop for a gift, home or yard décor, toys, baked goods, or art, why not plan a trip to The Old Firehouse and support

a local person? Each item is individually made by hand.

This is a list of just a few of the items offered. When shopping for Valentine gifts consider one of these items. Hand crafted and collector dolls and wooden toys, Doll clothing and baby items, Scroll saw art, Handcrafted furniture, Handmade soaps and personal products, Soy wax melts and candles, Homemade jams, jellies and breads and other baked goods, Wall hangings, Yard art, Fine jewelry and so much more. See this paper next week for more information.

If you would like to be a vendor email themaketatclyde@gmail.com or call 325-518-3939.

Rural America gets a lump of coal for Christmas

By Traci Bruckner,
tracib@cfra.org,
Center for Rural Affairs

On December 17, 2015, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued their final rule defining what it means to be actively engaged in farming, and thereby eligible to receive federal farm payments. The final rule serves only to ensure access to unlimited farm program payments for the vast majority of the nation's largest and wealthiest farms, and writes loopholes directly into regulation.

USDA is more interested in allowing the nation's largest farms to avoid meaningful payment limits than in making farm payment limits more effective - the intended purpose of a new rule. USDA stated that the 2014 Farm Bill prohibits them from applying any new rule to farms structured solely of family members. We disagree. In fact, if USDA had interpreted the 2014 Farm Bill language correctly, they would have crafted a rule requiring that

for farms structured solely of family members, those family members qualify for farm payments only if they provide labor - meaning they actually work on the farm.

The new rule affects less than 4% of farm operations. It leaves the loophole door wide open for the other 96%. USDA has issued an invitation to farm reorganizations undertaken to maximize subsidies beyond the payment limit. Even for those farms who choose to keep their business structures organized as part of the 4%, the new rule provides for a limit over \$1 million in subsidies per year for the largest farms. This is the antithesis of reform, or more aptly for the season, a lump of coal.

Established in 1973, the Center for Rural Affairs is a private, non-profit organization working to strengthen small businesses, family farms and ranches, and rural communities through action oriented programs addressing social, economic, and environmental issues.

What Are You Reading?

by the Bookworms



I just finished listening to the next installment in Janet Evanovich's Stephanie Plum Series, "Tricky Twenty-Two," and although I enjoyed it, in some ways it was disappointing. If you have read the books in this series, but haven't listened to one of them recorded on CD and read by Lorelei King, then you are missing out - Ms. King brings the characters of Stephanie, Lula, Connie, Vinnie, Morelli and Ranger to life. Her interpretations carry over to the written books and I find myself imagining the voices as I read them in print! (Note: Ms. King doesn't read the first several books in this series.)

In this installment, bounty hunter Stephanie finds herself at Kiltman College searching for an FTA (that's Failure to Appear - in court, that is) and encounters the members of Zeta Fraternity. These pranksters model themselves after characters in the movie "Animal House," but not everyone thinks they are funny. There are the usual demolished cars and Ranger rescues (although Ranger does not appear much in this novel; neither does Morelli). It seems as though the author is just re-hashing pieces from her twenty-one previous books.

Stephanie's mother takes down a bad guy and finally gains respect for her daughter's profession and Grandma Mazur goes "catfishing" on the internet, providing her usual comic relief; but I miss the earlier books that contained more interaction among the family. This book contains some discrepancies from the earlier novels, which is disturbing. Although this book is also available in print at the library, it would be a boring read - listen to the audiobook with Ms. King's narration. And you don't have to start with the first book - each one can stand alone.

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How to be happier with your New Year's resolutions

As a new year approaches, many people look forward to a new beginning by making promises to better themselves in various ways in the next 12 months-usually to have those best intentions fade away. One reason to have a more positive attitude now about carrying through on your New Year's resolutions is that the science of how to be happier with your choices has changed a lot.

The new field of Positive Psychology has emerged in the last 20 years. Rather than dwelling on people's shortcomings, it focuses on people's strengths and how to build on those characteristics. The resulting research offers some hope for improving your happiness and well-being in the coming year, says Pamela M. Propsom, a professor of psychology who teaches a course on Psychology of Happiness at DePaul University.

Propsom recommends the following ways to shape achievable New Year's resolutions through which you can build life satisfaction:

Change activities rather than life circumstances.

Many of us feel that if we just get a nicer house or move somewhere else we will be happier, but changing life circumstances is less likely to produce improvements in well-being than voluntary changes in one's activities. Once you get that new house, you become used to it, and it no longer brings you the same joy it did initially. On the other hand, activities provide an opportunity for a steady stream of fresh positive experiences.

Set a goal and pursue it.

People are happier when they set a goal for themselves and work toward it. Whether it's getting a better job or learning a new hobby, goal pursuit gives us a purpose, a chance to

develop mastery, and can lead to engaging with other people. As Sonya Lyubomirsky, an expert in the new field of happiness, advises: Just remember: that happiness will come from pursuing goals, and not necessarily from achieving them.

Volunteer to help others. We all know that helping others makes us feel good, but sometimes it's hard to see others' needs when we're depressed or worried about ourselves. Often, the best thing we can do for ourselves is to focus on others. This can bring genuine benefit to others, and it has the positive side effect of distracting the helper from his or her own woes and making the helper feel more competent. Research suggests that providing social support for others can be even more beneficial than receiving it oneself.

Focus on people, not money. Sure, we need money to survive, but once we have a basic level of income, more money doesn't add that much to our happiness. A variety of studies conclude that people (even toddlers) were happier when they gave their resources to other people rather than themselves.

If you have to focus on money, spend it on experiences rather than on material possessions. Researchers have found that people are happier when they spend their discretionary income on having life experiences rather than acquiring new possessions. As noted above, we tend to get used to our possessions and adapt to them; over time they don't continue to make us happy, and therefore, we're on a constant treadmill, always requiring something new to give us that mood boost. On the other hand, experiences keep on giving: they can be relived through memories and

talking about the event with others, continuing to give us that positive glow.

Follow religious practices.

Generally, religious people tend to be happier and healthier than those who aren't religious. You can reap some of the benefits found in religion by emulating religious practices: be grateful, forgive, hope, serve others, have a sense of purpose or meaning, and engage in community.

Shut off the television and social media, and get outside instead.

Although TV is relaxing, it tends to make people feel weak and passive compared to other leisure activities. And although social media can keep you connected to your friends, it also has its downsides. The constant comparison with what and how well our Facebook friends are doing can lead us to feel bad about ourselves. Disconnect from your electronics and reconnect with nature. There is a growing body of research suggesting that nature can restore us: refocusing our attention, calming us, and making us happier.

Be a satisficer (satisfy + suffice) rather than a maximizer.

We all want to make the best choice when arriving at a decision, but how far are we willing to go to achieve that outcome? Is a good option (rather than a perfect one) good enough? Satisficers (those with the goal of finding good enough option) tend to be happier with their choices than maximizers, who continue to question whether they made the best decision and are more dissatisfied.

So, try to set goals for the coming year that are good enough, and you might just be happy enough.

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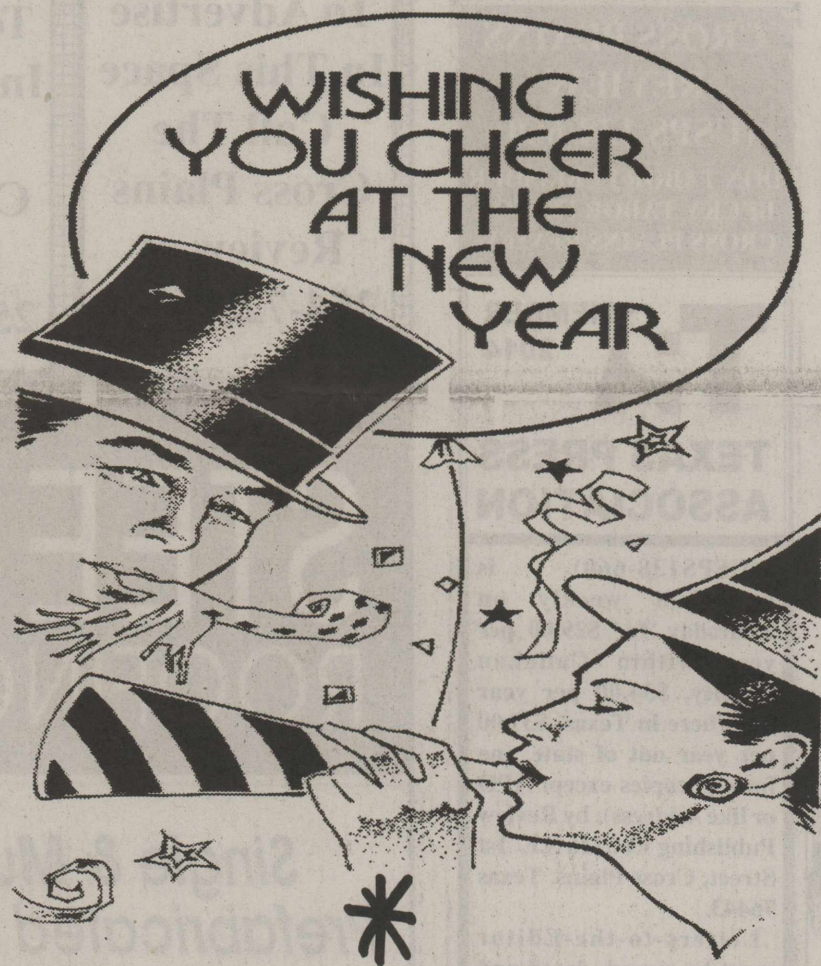
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2- LOST DOGS

Two of our dogs escaped the garage on 12/26/15. We have searched but believe someone took them in since they are quite friendly. Howard, a full blood beagle is very friendly and will come when called. Holly, a HUGE white dog is also very friendly and will want to dance with you. We have searched for days to no avail. We hope someone has them and will let us know. We miss them very much. There is a reward for their return. Please call Jane Holmes, 254/725-7217.

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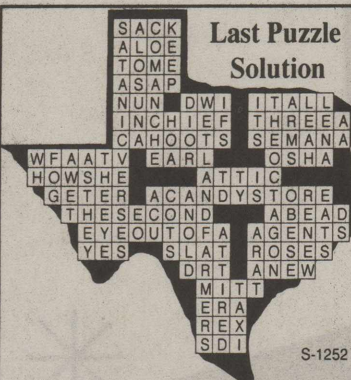
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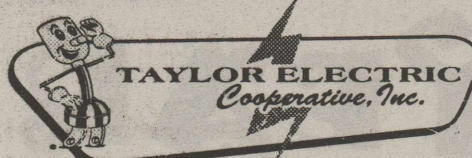
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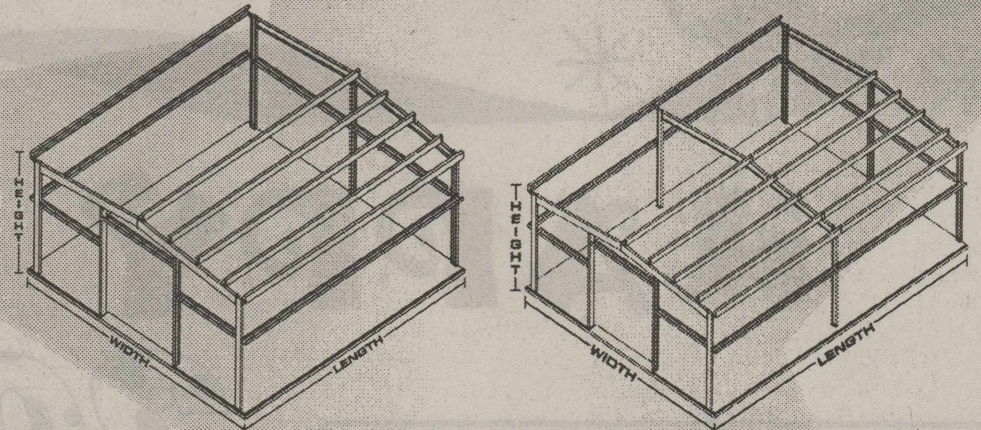
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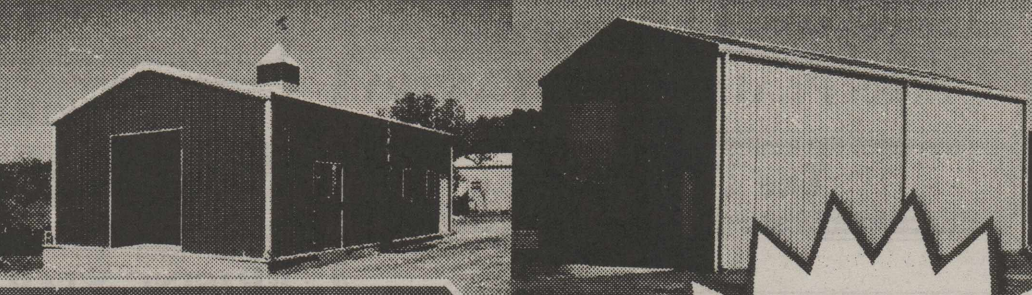
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Dec. 31, 2015



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Trans-Pecos Scorpion

People as a whole have a greater understanding of the natural world in regards to animals that they are familiar with, or ones that are "cute". Most folks know that there are multiple species of dogs, cats, and birds that are known to science. However, when it comes to those animals whose very presence can elicit fear, well, then that group is lumped together. For example, most people are not aware that we have well over a dozen species of scorpions that call Texas home, and one in particular, has only recently been known to science.

The Trans-Pecos Scorpion (*Diplocentrus lindo*) is a variety of arachnid whose species scientific name is the Spanish word for pretty, and while most of the human population would not refer to any scorpion as attractive, its subtle coloration can be somewhat comely. The tubular body is typically a shade of illuminant dark brown to virtually black in coloration. Like most other scorpions, it has two pinchers, or pedipalps. However, the pedipalps in this type of scorpion are nearly as wide as they are long, one characteristic that can be utilized to distinguish this race from the far more familiar Bark Scorpion. Also like most other scorpions, the Trans-Pecos Scorpion is equipped with a tail adorned with a needle-like stinger at the end.

It is an arachnid, and as such, it has four pairs of legs that it uses for crawling and climbing about. It also has two body parts, the front being the cephalothorax and the rear being the abdomen. Despite having a pair of eyes on top of and another two pair on the front of the cephalothorax, it cannot see well. It relies primarily on its sense of feel as it navigates its way searching for mates and for food. It is a small scorpion with adults reaching a total length of about two inches, females being the larger sex.

Despite being virtually unknown to science and not officially recognized as a species until 2001, this scorpion can be extremely common in the ten counties of the Trans-Pecos region of Texas that it inhabits. It seems to thrive on rocky slopes, and it apparently prefers to dwell under surface debris such as fallen logs, rocks and dead vegetation. In order to prevent desiccation and overheating, it routinely searches for its primary prey items of other smaller invertebrates such as spiders and small insects in the darkness of night. These prey items are seized with the extremely slender pinchers and subdued with the



Trans-Pecos Scorpion (*Diplocentrus lindo*)

venom of the stinger, which immobilizes the victim before consumption. In times of limited food availability, it is able to slow its metabolism to a virtual standstill to prevent starvation.

To put human terms on animals, known as anthropomorphism, is usually inapplicable, but this is a case where I have to make an exception. Male Trans-Pecos Scorpions are known to be extremely romantic as they pursue their mates. Once a receptive female is detected, the pair will clasp pinchers and engage in an elaborate dance routine, sometimes for several hours before actually mating. This mating can take place at any time during the year, save the coldest months. Gestation typically lasts for nearly eight months, after which time the average of thirty-one young are born alive. The mother is the primary caregiver and the young hitch a ride on her back for about two weeks as they rapidly mature and molt for the first

time. Maturity is reached within the first year of being born, and Trans-Pecos Scorpions can live up to seven years or more.

To defend itself, *Diplocentrus lindo* will utilize the venom-packed stinger on the end of its tail to inject said venom into its harasser. Its sting, although being likened to a wasp sting from victims unlucky enough to have been evenomated, is not known to be deadly. However, there are many factors that must be taken into consideration if a sting occurs. These factors include things such as the age and health of the victim, the area of the body where the bite occurred, and the possibility of an allergic reaction to the venom. Because of this possible allergic reaction that certain people have towards arthropod venom, a licensed physician should be consulted immediately if a sting occurs.

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

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- NEW! 19 Ac-Lovely & updated, 100 yr old 4BR-2.5B hm, 1,800 sq ft metal bam.....**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-Picturesqu**UNDER CONTRACT**., shop/bam, corrals.....**385,000**
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Vietnam Veteran's photo sought for "The Wall"

The Cross Plains Review was contacted by a volunteer from the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington, D.C. this past week seeking our help. The Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Fund has been putting together a virtual wall of faces for each name on the Wall for several years and is using volunteers and community resources to find photographs of soldiers. Callahan County lost two soldiers in Vietnam and one has yet to have his picture sent in to the VVMF.

The photo that is needed is of George D. Weeks. His date of

birth is 1939 and the year of his death in combat is 1966. His home of record with the Veteran's Administration is Cross Plains. As we know in this community, that could mean Burkett, Pioneer, Putnam, Admiral, Cottonwood, etc. If you have any information or a picture of George D. Weeks, please send it to Ms. Janna Hoehn neverforgotten2014@gmail.com she is the volunteer working on obtaining Texas Veteran's pictures for the Wall. For more information on the Virtual Wall of Faces go to: www.vvmf.org/thewall.

Registration Underway for Children's Program

Registration is now underway for "Learn About" Program and LAPSit Program at the Cross Plains Public Library.

The "Learn About" Program is a pre-school program for ages 3-5. Your child must be age 3 by September 1, 2015. The Children will have the opportunity to do finger plays, sing hear stories, have refreshments, check out books, and "learn about" a variety of activities.

The Lapsit Program is for children birth to 3 years (not yet

eligible for the LAP Program). Each Child enrolled must be accompanied by an adult. The Children listen to stories and do finger plays and other activities.

Both Programs will meet on Wednesday morning from 10:00 to 10:45, beginning November 4th and continuing until the end of April 2016.

You may register your children at the library Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 1-5pm and on Tuesday from 11am-7pm. The library is closed on Fridays.

Historic Texas State Capitol Gates to be offered at Austin Auction Gallery

Austin, Texas (MMD Newswire) December 29, 2015 -- Austin Auction Gallery's January New Year's Estates Auction will feature numerous offerings spanning fine art, dazzling estate jewelry, antiques and mid-century design decor from Italy and Spain, and a rare and important piece of Texas History.

For the history buff, Austin Auction Gallery will present a pair of late 19th century gates and accompanying fencing designed for the perimeter of the Texas State Capitol in 1888 by William Munro Johnson. The wrought-and-cast iron fencing uniquely features gilt and black stars, with the gates centered by the Texas State Seal. They were transferred to the grounds of the Texas Governor's mansion. In 2008 after the fire at the Governor's mansion the gates and fencing were removed and placed in storage until 2014.

Another highlight of the auction weekend is a selection of incredibly fine antiques from Italy, Spain and a prominent Austin Estate, including a group of monumental cabinets with leaded glass doors and grand relief carved sideboards. For those who prefer more

streamlined furniture a wonderful selection of Mid-Century décor by designers such as Paolo Buffa and Vittorio Dassi will be available.

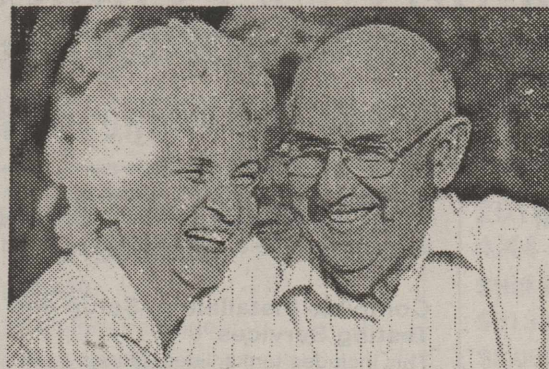
A diverse decorative arts category boasts everything from fine Chinese porcelains to Waterford crystal. A collection of 250 knives will also cross the block with moderate estimates. Original "Peanuts" comic strips drawn by Charles Schulz.

The fine estate jewelry category is outstanding. A special collection of antique diamond and gemstone jewelry from a private Texas estate highlight the group. Leading the way are an Art Deco platinum diamond bracelet and Art Deco diamond set platinum clip brooch.

The auctions will take place January 9th and 10th, 2016 at 10am. Contact Ross Featherston at 512-258-5479 or visit www.austinauction.com for complete information. Live and internet bidding will be available for this auction.

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Take Charge America shares strategies for paying off credit card debt

PHOENIX, ARIZONA (Oct. 13, 2015) -- Consumers faced with high credit card debt face another challenge, too: picking and choosing from various techniques, strategies and "must-do" approaches to bringing balances to zero.

"Paying off credit cards is an important step toward financial health, but people get hung up on the right method for paying down debt," said Mike Sullivan, spokesperson for Take Charge America, a national nonprofit credit counseling and debt management agency. "There are many approaches, but the right strategy depends on an individual's financial habits, personality and motivation for paying balances." Sullivan outlines the following strategies consumers may employ to pay off their credit cards:

* The Snowball: This method works well for consumers who are juggling several credit cards. They pick the smallest balance, pay it off as quickly as possible, and make only minimum pay-

ments on other credit cards. Though they may pay more interest over time, the snowball works well for people who need help building good financial habits and will be motivated by early successes.

* The Avalanche: Instead of picking the credit card with the smallest balance, consumers attack the debt with the highest interest rate first, paying only minimums on their other cards. Since the avalanche may feel slower than the snowball, this strategy is best for consumers who can stick to a long-term goal.

* The Middle: The middle is exactly as it sounds -- somewhere in the middle of the snowball and the avalanche. This strategy does not prescribe how to pay off debt -- consumers simply pay down balances on all of their cards, all at the same time. This is best for people who feel they need to make a dent on all of their cards, even if the process is slower than the snowball or less strategic than the

avalanche.

* The Request: Consumers paying debt on high-interest cards may succeed in simply calling their credit card company and requesting a lower rate -- especially if they're long-time customers with a good payment history.

* The Balance-Transfer: Credit card companies flood mailboxes with balance-transfer offers, promising low interest rates for people who move old balances to a new card. While this may prove a good solution for consumers with high debt and high interest rates, it's important to read the fine print; many balance transfer offers only provide a low interest rate for a few months, or charge a transfer fee that may offset any savings in interest.

* The Auto Payment: Once consumers determine their pay-off plan, they should consider setting up automatic payments through their bank's bill pay system or directly through the credit card's website.

For more tips on paying down debt, visit Take Charge America's Financial Education Library. People who are overwhelmed with credit card debt and are unsure which strategy is best for their situation can contact Take Charge America for a free financial assessment at (866) 528-0588, or set up a credit counseling session online.

About Take Charge America, Inc.

Founded in 1987, Take Charge America, Inc. is a nonprofit agency offering financial education and counseling services including credit counseling, debt management, student loan counseling, housing counseling and bankruptcy counseling. It has helped more than 1.6 million consumers nationwide manage their personal finances and debts. To learn more, visit www.takechargeamerica.org or call (888) 822-9193.

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Cross Plains I.S.D. Weekly Menu January 4 - 8, 2015					
	MONDAY 4	TUESDAY 5	WEDNESDAY 6	THURSDAY 7	FRIDAY 8
B R E A K F A S T	Sausage Biscuit Cereal Fruit Assorted juice Milk	PBJ Sandwich Cereal Fruit Assorted juice Milk	Breakfast Boat Cereal Fruit Assorted juice Milk	Stuffed bagel Sausage Cereal Fruit Assorted juice Milk	Pancakes Bacon Cereal Fruit Assorted juice Milk
L U N C H	Steak fingers Gravy Mashed potatoes Carrot coins Roll Mixed fruit Milk	Philly cheese steak Sandwich or Chicken Potato rounds Broccoli Pears Pudding Milk	Pizza Garden salad Petite Tomato Seasoned Corn Fruit cup Milk	Chicken nuggets Mac & cheese Baked Beans Garden salad Apple slices Milk	Beef or Chicken On bun Hamburger garnish Oven fries Baby carrots w/ranch Sliced peaches Crispy cereal treat

Sheriff's Corner

By Sheriff Terry Joy

The Christmas Season came, a happy time, a family time, and it is also a time when stress can cause undue tension in families.

Monday night, December 21st, a mother and her family, traveling through Callahan County, headed to Eden, Texas for Christmas, had stopped at the westbound I-20 roadside rest area. One of her daughters, a 14 year old, reported by her mother to be bi-polar, became unhappy and ran away when they were stopped at the rest area. Chief Deputy Rick Jowers was immediately notified of this 911 call. The mother reported that her daughter had run away before and sometimes would be gone for a day or two.

Deputy Jowers located the mother at the rest area and gathered what information he could, concerning the description of the girl and the type of clothing she was wearing. Other officers in the county were notified and Taylor County and Eastland County were notified and given a description of the missing 14 year old girl. I contacted a private helicopter pilot who had volunteered before to help locate a missing person. He said he would be there at first light. I notified dispatch to alert Clyde

Volunteer Fire Department but before they could get there the girl was found.

After unsuccessfully searching the surrounding area I went back to talk to the mother again about her missing daughter. I saw a woman and a young lad walking toward the rest area facility. The young lady was wearing jeans and a shirt that, in the night light, could have been mistaken for the shirt the missing girl was reported to have been wearing. As I approached the two, it was evident that the young girl was not the one of our search. I asked the two if they would look in the ladies restroom for the missing 14 year old.

They came out and told me that they saw the runaway girl in the restroom. As they were speaking to me, the missing girl ran out the entrance and around the side of the building. I ran after her but by the time I got to the side of the building, she was not in sight. The young girl that was helping me called to me and said that she could see her in the garbage collection area. As I approached the young girl she jumped up and attempted to run again, but I was fortunate enough to get hold of her and encouraged her not to run again. As I escorted her toward the mothers' vehicle, the mother approached me and

was concerned that she might break free and run again. But she did not; I settled her back into the vehicle with the rest of the family and the family dog, and suggested to her mother that they not stop again until they were, at the least, out of Callahan County.

And many of you have read in the Abilene Reported News on Thursday, December 24th, of the "coming home" of Gracie the drug dog. Gracie's handler, Deputy Brian Campbell was away receiving cancer treatments and had left Gracie with his dad who lives in the county near Baird. Maybe it was the freedom of the wide open country that spurred Gracie's animal instinct to run free. The night of December 23rd, Gracie did not return to the Campbell home. Thus began a night of anxiety and concern for the family. But, thankfully, as Brian said, he considered it a Christmas miracle when Gracie showed up the next day completely unharmed.

So during the week of Christmas, family time, and sharing of good things, that was true in these two families and for the Clyde VFD and all the law enforcement officers involved and the helicopter pilot, AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!

NFPA urges timely disposal of Christmas trees and safe removal of lights

December 29, 2015 - With the holiday now behind us, O Christmas tree, how saggy are your branches? The gifts have been removed from under the pine, the tree is swiftly losing its coat of green, and the needles are piling up on the floor, which means it's time to remove the tree from your home.

"Christmas trees are very flammable," said Lorraine Carli, the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) vice president of Outreach and Advocacy. "Trees dry out the longer they remain in the home, and can be consumed by fire in a matter of seconds." All trees can burn, though dry ones can be engulfed by flames significantly more quickly.

NFPA statistics indicate that nearly 40 percent of home fires that begin with Christmas trees occur in January. Although these fires are not common, they are much more likely to be serious when they do occur. On average, one of every 31 reported home structure Christmas tree fires resulted in a death. Compare that to an average of one death per 144 total reported home structure fires.

Christmas trees are decorations, and people may want to continue the festive

spirit and leave up their ever-drying pines long after the last of the gifts have been opened. It's good to remember, however, that the longer the tree remains in the home, the greater the fire risk becomes.

"We hope that by educating people about the extreme fire hazards, people will be prompted to remove their trees in a timely manner, giving their families the gift of fire safety as the season winds down," said Carli.

If available, NFPA recommends using the local community's recycling program for tree disposal. Trees should not be put in the garage or left outside.

NFPA also offers tips on removing lighting and decorations from trees to ensure they are taken down safely this year and in the right condition for Christmas 2016:

Use the gripping area on the plug when unplugging electrical decorations. Never pull the cord to unplug any device from an electrical outlet, as this can harm the wire and insulation of the cord, increasing the risk for shock or electrical fire.

As you pack up light strings, inspect each line for damage, throwing out any sets that have loose connections, broken

sockets or cracked or bare wires.

Wrap each set of lights and put them in individual plastic bags, or wrap them around a piece of cardboard.

Store electrical decorations in a dry place away from children and pets where they will not be damaged by water or dampness.

For additional resources and information for a fire-safe winter season, visit "Put a Freeze on Winter Fires", NFPA's campaign with the United States Fire Administration (USFA).

About the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Founded in 1896, NFPA is a global, nonprofit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards. The association delivers information and knowledge through more than 300 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission. For more information visit www.nfpa.org. All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed online for free at www.nfpa.org/freeaccess.

SWCD Directors Support Development of Brackish Water Supplies

TEMPLE, TX (November 2, 2016) --Soil and water conservation district directors representing 216 Texas soil and water conservation districts (SWCDS) in attendance at the 75th Annual Meeting of SWCDS in Corpus Christi October 26-28, are in unified accord for the development of brackish water supplies to supplement dwindling fresh water supplies.

Brackish water does not have an exact definition, but is typically defined as distastefully salty but less saline than seawater. Brackish water contains between 1,000 to 10,000 parts per million (ppm) in total dissolved solids compared to highly saline water and ocean water which contains from 10 to 35,000 ppm in total dissolved solids.

Billy Mann Jr., chairman of the Matagorda County SWCD headquartered in Bay City that sponsored the resolution calling for greater efforts on the part of the state to develop and implement brackish water supplies said, "Unprecedented growth in Texas has overburdened conventional sources of water resulting in a drawdown of water tables in underground aquifers coupled with the dilemma that surface water resources have also been impacted with near record reductions in storage levels."

"Texas may have already reached at least a short term

limit of water readily available to support continued growth without adversely affecting already designated supplies for human consumption, agriculture and economic development. That's why Texas SWCDS support this effort," added Mann.

According to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), the population of Texas is expected to double within the next 50 years and water demand to increase almost 27 percent in that time period. During that same time period, groundwater supplies which is the volume of groundwater that can be produced with current permits and existing infrastructure is expected to decrease about 32 percent.

The TWDB estimates that the state has more than 2.7 billion acre-feet of brackish groundwater resources. In the 2012 State Water Plan, five regional water planning groups recommended brackish groundwater desalination as a water management strategy to meet at least some projected water needs. In total, the regional water planning groups foresee that desalination of brackish groundwater would create about 184,704 acre-feet of new water supplies per year by 2060.

The TWDB recently held a public meeting in Austin to gain input to identify and designate

local or regional brackish groundwater production zones in areas of the state with moderate to high availability and productivity of brackish groundwater that can be used to reduce the use of fresh groundwater.

"As water scarcity issues increase in the state and desalination technology becomes more affordable, there is going to be more thought to considering brackish groundwater as part of the mix of available water resources", said Mann.

Local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDS) coordinate the implementation and deliverance of corresponding natural resource conservation programs to farmers and ranchers throughout the state. Additionally, SWCDS participate in planning, implementing, and managing programs for preventing and abating agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint sources of water pollution.

In other areas of responsibility, SWCDS participate in a state water supply enhancement program through the targeted control of water-depleting brush. An added area of responsibility permits SWCDS to engage in work to ensure local flood control dams are protecting lives and property by providing operation, maintenance, and structural repairs.

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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Texas Game Warden Field Notes

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

• **Going Through a Rough Patch**—After a couple flipped their boat in a swift water section of the Colorado River, they borrowed a phone from some passing kayakers and called a Bastrop County game warden. Since the couple did not know where they were, the warden had them text a dropped pin from the cell phone they were using. With the location sent, the warden located the young husband and wife. The warden and the man were able to drag the aluminum boat up to the bank and load it onto his state vehicle. He then took the couple back to their vehicle.

• **Girl's Got a Gun**—A game warden in Angelina County was on patrol when he heard two shots fired. The warden soon found a suburban warden in the road and a subject walking with a flashlight. Inside the suburban were two males, two females and a toddler. A second warden came to assist and received confirmation from each person that the male with the flashlight had shot a doe with a pistol belonging to one of the females. During the investigation, the warden also found that one of the females had an outstanding theft by check warrant from 1997. Cases pending.

• **Trail of Clues**—Two Tyler County game wardens received information that a felon with a firearm killed several deer. The wardens found an all-terrain vehicle trail in the woods behind the subject's residence and followed the trail onto another piece of property. There, they observed a corn pile and a feeder.

The wardens then followed the trail to a game cleaning pole directly behind the subject's house, where they found a freshly cleaned carcass and a nearby cooler of meat. After a brief investigation, the resident said that the deer was his. The wardens also discovered an eight-point buck head near an outbuilding that the subject claimed as well. The man could not produce a hunting license and was arrested for unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon, drug paraphernalia, possession of illegally taken white-tail deer, and given several warnings. Case pending.

• **Locked (In) and Loaded**—After a Gregg County game warden received a call about a suspicious gunshot and wounded buck, he arrived at the scene and received assistance from the landowner, rancher and neighbors to confirm whether or not the suspect was the landowner's former employee. When the warden located the subject, he confessed to shooting the deer from the roadway and leaving the wounded buck in the field after he saw the neighbor approaching and couldn't get the gate open. A firearm was seized and the following charges were filed: hunting deer from public roadway; discharging firearm from public roadway; failing to retrieve; untagged deer; and no hunter education certification. Charges and restitution pending.

• **If It Looks Like a Duck**—An Angelina County game warden received a call that a six-point buck had been dumped in a ditch. After receiving a vehicle description of the suspected violator and where he hunted, the warden went to check the area. There, he made contact with a subject who was holding a rifle and dressed in camouflage. The warden asked to see the subject's hunting license, but the subject said he wasn't hunting—he was scouting. The subject was filed on for hunting without a license and no proof of hunter education. Cases pending.

• **Don't Tell Mom**—Two wardens in Harris County responded to a call for assistance from the Harris County Sheriff's Office about a group of people trespassing with a bow and pellet gun on private property. When the wardens arrived on scene, they interviewed the subjects who said that they were just taking the kids to target shoot. After searching the area, the wardens discovered a shotgun, additional pellet gun, rifle and ammo hidden amongst pine needles. The wardens also found a freshly killed six-point buck nearby. The suspects admitted to hunting without landowner consent and criminal trespassing. Cases pending.

• **Takes Two to Tango**—A Grimes County game warden noticed two vehicles parked along the side of the road. As the warden approached, he saw the occupants engaged in what he believed to be a hand-to-hand drug transaction. The warden followed the vehicles and requested assistance from the Grimes County Sheriff's Department. The warden and a sheriff's deputy stopped both cars, and a subsequent search yielded a total of 28 grams of methamphetamine and a stolen pistol. The occupants of the vehicles were placed under arrest. Numerous charges pending.

• **That's What Friends Are For**—An anonymous tip was given to a Grimes County game warden regarding a group of individuals who placed a photo of two illegally taken deer on a social media site. The warden followed up on the lead and eventually tracked down one of the individuals involved. After a short interview, the warden secured a statement from the individual who shot the two deer and also received the names of the other people in the vehicle. The warden was able to recover meat from the two deer and the firearms used in the offense. He was also able to get statements from four other individuals involved. Numerous charges pending.

• **Deerly Beloved**—A Karnes County game warden entered a camp to check reports of possible illegal deer being shot. As he approached, he saw a buck hanging from a tree and two antlerless deer in the bed of a truck. A female had harvested the buck, and her husband had taken the two antlerless deer. All deer were not tagged, and neither the ranch nor hunter had permits for the two antlerless deer. The warden seized all three deer. Cases pending.

• **In the Spotlight**—A Real County resident called the local game warden to report hunters who were riding around in a pasture and shining a spotlight into homes of the neighboring subdivision. When the warden arrived on scene and made contact with four individuals, he found three whitetail doe in the bed of the truck. When asked if the deer had been shot after legal hunting hours, all individuals stated that the deer were shot around 5 p.m. The warden confirmed with the caller that no shots were heard after legal hunting hours. When asked why they were shining a spotlight into people's homes, all four said that they were looking for a wounded deer. The warden then asked why the gutted deer hadn't been tagged, to which both subjects replied that they didn't have time or something to tag them with. Both subjects were cited for possession of untagged whitetail deer. Cases pending.

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*.

Texas Comptroller releases state's Certification Revenue Estimate

(AUSTIN) -- Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar announced today the release of the Certification Revenue Estimate (CRE) for the fiscal 2016-17 biennium.

Prior to each regular legislative session, the Comptroller's office issues a Biennial Revenue Estimate (BRE) that estimates how much revenue will be available for spending in the state's next two-year budget cycle. After the session, the agency releases the CRE to provide the detailed basis by which the Comptroller certified the budget and to revise estimates in the BRE to reflect new laws and current economic information, as well as to take into account final numbers for the recently ended fiscal year.

The Comptroller's BRE projections, released in January, have proven to be remarkably accurate thus far. Actual fiscal 2015 revenues for all funds fell just 0.3 percent short of BRE estimates, while General Revenue-related totals came in 0.1 percent ahead. This level of accuracy provides a strong basis for forecasting revenues in the current economic landscape.

"Despite the significant re-entrenchment in the oil and gas sector we witnessed in fiscal 2015, revenues remained in line with the estimates we made in January," said Hegar. "That said, we anticipate that prolonged weakness in oil and gas markets will continue to slow our economy. While the CRE still predicts moderate growth for the state, current economic conditions dictate slightly lower revenue projections than those we released in January."

As a result of actions taken by the Legislature and an updated economic forecast, the Comptroller's office now expects

revenue available for general spending in 2016 and 2017 to total about \$110.4 billion, versus the BRE estimate of about \$113 billion. A larger-than-expected beginning balance, coupled with conservative budgeting from the 2015 Legislature, will provide an ample cushion for the state to absorb the 2.3 percent reduction in estimated revenue.

Texas' State Highway Fund (SHF) and the Economic Stabilization Fund (ESF) -- the state's "Rainy Day Fund" -- both receive funding from oil and gas severance taxes, and thus will feel the impact of the downturn in energy production. The CRE predicts fiscal 2016 transfers of \$1.1 billion each to ESF and SHF, in line with the BRE estimate, but fiscal 2017 estimates have been revised downward to approximately \$594 million for each fund.

However, the Legislature passed a proposed constitutional amendment that would direct more revenue to the state's transportation needs. If in November 2015 voters approve the proposed constitutional amendment, then a portion of state sales tax and motor vehicle sales tax revenue will be deposited to the SHF. The deposits will not begin until fiscal 2018 and therefore will have no effect on the 2016-17 biennium.

"I will continue to monitor the Texas economy and state revenues closely, and will keep the public informed of significant events as they arise," added Hegar.

The Comptroller's office has created this useful infographic featuring highlights from the full CRE. Detailed tables and the full CRE can be found on the Comptroller's website.

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COURTHOUSE NEWS

Callahan County Court
Roger Corn, presiding

Marriage Licenses

Asa Vion Reefsneider of Clyde and Deborah Denise Emery of Abilene.

42nd District Court
John Weeks, presiding

Civil Filings

Artisan and Ruckers Casualty Co. vs. Londell Gilmore, Sr., as independent administrator of the estate of Sandra Kaye Gilmore-Lewis, deceased, Sanika Gilmore, Shanna Gilmore, the estate of William Edward Lewis, deceased, VI Motion, Inc., U. S. Freightways Logistics, Inc., and Xtra Lease, LLC, injury or damage motor vehicle.

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Dec. 31, 2015

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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