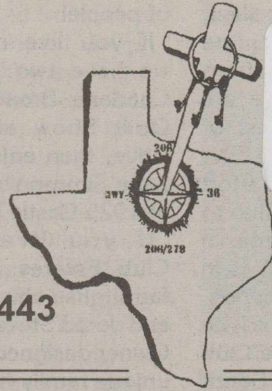


Cross Plains Review

"Cross Plains' Oldest Business Institution"
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Volume 108 • Number 40
116 S. E. 1st St. • P. O. Box 519 • Cross Plains, Tx. 76443

December 8, 2016 • 14 Pages
(254) 725-6111 • crossplainsreview@earthlink.net



Cross Plains High School Band performed in the Chamber of Commerce's Christmas Parade last Thursday night. The band will perform again on Thursday, December 15, in the CPISD Christmas Concert. The concert also features elementary music students. More parade photos inside.

Cross Plains Cheerleaders to Cheer for Iraan on Friday Night

The Cross Plains High School Cheerleaders will join cheerleaders from across the Big Country at Shotwell Stadium to cheer for the Iraan Indians when they face Wellington in a playoff game Friday night.

Iraan's cheerleaders were injured in a bus crash last Friday night that killed their Cheer Sponsor.

Cheerleaders from over 50 schools have stepped up to help cheer for the Iraan Indians.



Santa made a grand entrance Thursday evening riding on a CPVFD Firetruck and leading the Cross Plains Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade.

Chamber of Commerce Home and Business Decorating Contest Deadline Monday, December 12th

All homes and businesses within the Cross Plains city limits are welcome to participate in this annual event.

Entry forms are available at the Chamber of Commerce office with entry submission deadline at 3:00 pm on Monday, December 12th. Judging will take place the following day and

the winning home or business will receive a "best decorated" sign to display.

For any questions please contact the Chamber of Commerce office at 254-725-7251.

We appreciate your participation as we decorate Cross Plains.

Cross Plains VFD and All County Fire Departments Need Your Help

Are you concerned... The younger generation has all but stopped volunteering for fire services county-wide. All Volunteer Fire Departments are in need for younger people to help carry on all the VFD activity. The average department has around 14 firefighters mostly in their 50s-60s. What happens when there are no volunteers? What happens when all of the

firefighters show up in walkers to fight a fire?

Donations... Down! In years past, if someone died, people gave money instead of flowers. Now they don't do either. It takes everything little departments can scrap together to make ends meet. The CPVFD has to come up with \$25,000 per year just to operate. Callahan County donates \$600 per year. The rest is funded by the city donation, standing at the street corner on Memorial Day (of which half goes to the fire department and half to the EMS), Fish Fry, Chili Supper and donations from citizens of Cross Plains and surrounding communities. Thank you for your time and money given to the CPVFD. Without your help, you will not have a Fire Department.

Do You Remember the December 2005 Fire Storm? When the donations no longer support the expenses then the fire service will be forced to pass an ESD - Emergency Service District to help fund the cause. The ESD is a tax of up to 3% on property value. The ESD tax on a \$200,000 property would be about \$60.00 per year. This ESD will be put on the ballot to be voted on and the revenue from this tax will be divided among all the departments in the county.

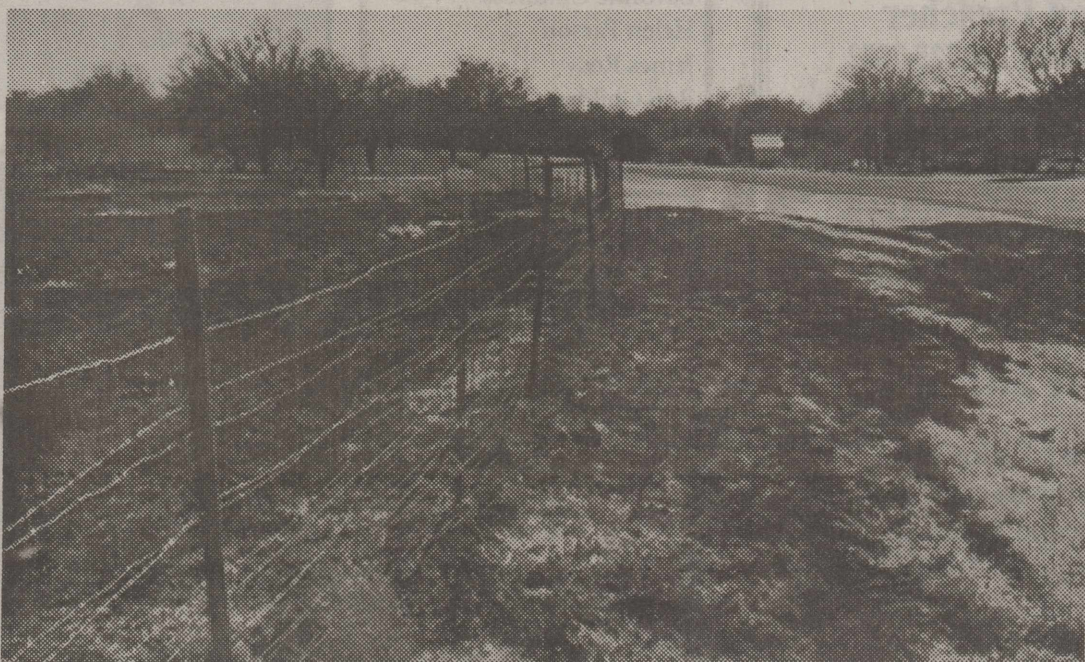
So, please donate your time and funding to help our all of the Volunteer Fire Departments. We're here for you. And we need your help.

Rickey Carouth, Chief
Cross Plains VFD
P. O. Box 339
Cross, Plains, Texas 76443

Cross Plains VFD and Area Firefighters Contain Grass Fire in Cottonwood



Cross Plains Volunteer Fire Department was called out to a grass fire on FM 880 near CR 429 in Cottonwood on Thursday afternoon. The fire threatened two homes and another building. Firefighters quickly contained and extinguished the blaze. Cottonwood Volunteer Fire Control and Rising Star Volunteer Fire Department assisted with the fire.



Firefighters kept the fire from jumping FM 880 and away from the structures.

4 His Glory Christmas Cantata "Joy" at Presbyterian Church, Sunday, December 18th

4His Glory will present their annual Christmas Cantata at the First Presbyterian Church on Sunday, December 18th at 7 p.m.

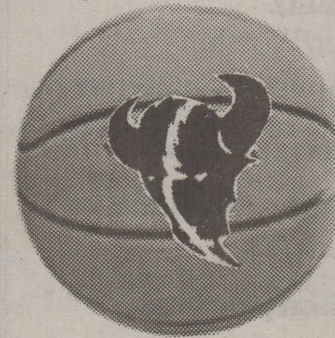
The program titled "Joy". Bring a friend and enjoy the free performance. Refreshments will be served afterward. Everyone is invited to attend.



Angel Tree Names Ready at the Bank; Return Gifts by December 16th

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 Friday, December 16. If you are not able to shop, but would like to make a monetary donation, you may also do this at Texas Heritage Bank.



Little Dribblers Basketball Meeting, Monday, December 12th

For any parents interested there will be a Little Dribblers Meeting on Monday, December 12th at the First Baptist Church starting at 7:00pm.

If you have any questions please call Matt Reed at (325) 660-4162

Christmas Cantata at First Baptist Church, Sunday, December 11th

The First Baptist Church's Christmas Cantata "He Shall Be Called" will be held on Sunday, December 11th at 6:30 p.m. The performance is free. Everyone is invited to attend.

Cross Plains ISD Christmas Concert to be held Thursday, December 15th

The Cross Plains ISD Christmas Concert will be held on Thursday, December 15th at 6 p.m. in the school auditorium.

The program "Amidst a Cold Winter: A Christmas Celebration" features Recorder Heehaws (5th Grade); 6th Grade Band; the Elementary Singers and the Junior High/High School Concert Band

The program will be conducted by Band Director Cathryn Rasbury.

Admission will be a canned good or non-perishable food item.

Texas Heritage Bank

"We're Proud of Our Local Heritage"

Member FDIC

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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 Steinle, Youth Pastor
 Friendly Church Church (254) 725-6266 Bible Teaching

Pioneer Baptist Church

Pastor: Dwaine Clowers
Music Director: Barbara Jo Medley
 Phone: 254-725-7574
 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 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

First Baptist Church

Sunday Morning 10:45 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6:30 p.m.
Sunday School 9:30
Wednesday 6:30 pm Prayer/Worship
 Student & Children Ministries 6:30 p.m.
John Ward, Interim Pastor
 (254) 725-7629 301 N. Main, Cross Plains, TX
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: 6:00P.M.
 Wednesday: Evening: 7:00P.M.
 Ladies Class - Wednesday: 10:00A.M. (at the church activity center on East Hwy 36)
 Office: (254-725-6117)
 Cell Phone: Rick - (918) 348-6859

Best Ever Tour of Homes ready for visitors December 11th

Rain or shine, snow or sleet, join the brave souls who venture forth on Sunday afternoon from 2:00 to 4:30. And where are they going in this busiest of seasons? Why, to the Best Ever Tour of Homes, the grand effort by our Clyde Woman's Club to share the glories of Christmas in five lovely homes as well as in the Christmas Bakery Shoppe, otherwise known as the Clyde Lions Club and Woman's Club building on the corner of South 1st and Rusk Street.

Come as you are to the most enjoyable event of the holidays (next to Santa's visit to the Clyde Chamber of Commerce, which is the day before, on Dec. 10). Our City decorations are up and shining, Christmas lights are decorating more homes every year, and many in Clyde are not forgetting to donate to those less fortunate. This season of sharing make us all feel appreciative of our many blessings.

And we are blessed five-fold for the homeowners who have generously opened their homes for a good cause, the proceeds from ticket and bakery sales going to support the Club's annual scholarship program for deserving Clyde Seniors. You may start your visit at any of the homes. No ticket? No problem. You can purchase the \$5 tickets at any home. All the homes will have signs in front of them, or just follow the steady stream

of people! If you live near Shalimar, we have two homes there: Charlene Broadfoot's Holiday Quilt Show at 2506 Castle Drive, then enjoy Virginia and Zane Simmon's major remodel at 1925 Castle Drive.

If you live in Country Club Estates, start with the farmhouse chic home of Randi and Jared Stevens, 618 Hilltop. Owner designed, this is a really unique family home.

Get ready for a lovely drive in the country. About halfway to Clyde Lake on South 604, you will find the ideal life, featuring a lot of peace and quiet. Joanne and Scott Kniffen have a lot to be proud of in their owner designed dream home and barn. You may even go home with a "Kniffen Kitten".

If you lived close to the elementary school, start out in Sherwood Estates, where the streets are fancifully named after Robin Hood and Maid Marion. The homeowners Jill and Dustin Morphis will welcome you to 601 Robin Hood Court. If you live near the elementary school, you are very close to the Morphis home. Sherwood Estates, like its namesake Sherwood Forest, is graced by oak trees...who knows, there may be a merry band of men hiding somewhere in there, so hold on to your purse! As you may know, Jill is the principal at Clyde Intermediate School and they have lived in this home for a year and a half. They were looking for a home with a spacious mother-in-law suite and this fit the bill perfectly. All the Christmas ornaments and decorations come from both sides of the family, and are full of sweet memories. All of us have certain Christmas keepsakes that we cherish as we are reminded every year of those who passed them down in the family. Christmas is truly the most special time of year, for many reasons.

21 Years Ago

From the Cross Plains Review... 21 years ago, December 14, 1995.

The 36 West Motel was recognized as the Best Decorated Business. Nell Bowden, owner, accepted the sign from the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. and Mrs. Joe Holland had the Best Decorated Home.

Kathryn and Jack Tunnell celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Collum's Restaurant has an "All You Can Eat Buffet" on Friday and Saturday Nights. Owned and operated by Jody and Dusty Finn.

Some of the Junior High Girls Basketball players were: Amber Wilson, Lindsey Merion, Jennifer Turner, Ashlee Hutchins, Ashley Harris, Lindsey Barnett, April Weaver, Kristin Hunter, Toni Wyatt, Amanda Goble, Elizabeth Cary (all seventh graders) and Tabby Clark, Jennifer Brame, Vanessa Webb, Nikki Bushnell, April Potter, Stephanie Childress, Mary Jo Nickerson, Amber Taff, Christy Beaty, Dani Prelsman, Ann Stephenson, Jody Payne, Brandi Richey, Misty Kelly and Brittany Bennett.

deeply grateful we are to these gracious hosts and we look forward to meeting with them at this week's luncheon meeting, as well as the members of the choir GOLD RUSH. What a "rush" it is to see their outstanding performance every year! We are ever so thankful for the ceaseless efforts of our chair of the Tour of Homes, Charlene Broadfoot, who is ALSO having an Open House at her home. And many thanks to Barbara Stepb as the "Chief Chef" organizing our fabulous bake sale at the Woman's Club Building, or for Sunday afternoon we will dub it the Christmas Tour Bakery Shoppe.

Help us make this our best ever season of sharing. Merry Christmas to all!

Cross Plains Public Library News

New Books

Turbo Twenty-Three by Jan Evanovich (Book and CD)
Blue by Danielle Steele
The Forgotten Soldier by Brad Taylor

Library Hours

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

Nov 28-Dec 1, 2016

Patrons 375
 Books Checked 123

Programs 314
 GED 9
 LAP/LAPsit 17
 Ornament Workshop 170
 Craft Fair 118

Copies 184
 Internet 20
 Wi Fi 22
 Library Laptops 12
 Reference 10

Living Tribute

Jack and Donnie Brothers
 In Honor of Charles Rodenberger's 90th birthday

Memorial

Charles Rodenberger
 In Memory of Phillip Schaefer

Charles Rodenberger
 In Memory of Margaret McGough

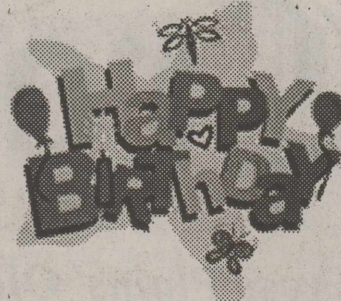
Charles Rodenberger
 In Memory of Therennie McCrohan

Books & Miscellaneous

Donations
 Judy Keel
 Wanda Gage
 Bill Rutledge
 Buck and BJ Moore

Volunteers

Jan Bond
 Sue Bennett
 Linda Burns
 Sandra Ross
 Michelle Kaiser
 Judy Luter
 Ginny Hoskins
 Lavonne Childress
 Helen Parson
 James Ross
 Bob Childress



December 11

Miles Hernandez
 Tommy Cavanaugh Waggoner
 Jill (Richardson) Betts
 Pee Wee Pickett
 Stuart Sowell
 Peggy Purvis
 Andrew Mark Young
 Kay Horan
 Tammy Wolfroth

December 12

Steve Franke
 Mrs. Vernon Falkner
 Michael Allen Johnson

December 13

Danny Hutton
 Wanetta Parson
 Stanley Rex Dickie
 Kathy Niger
 Tony Brand
 David Browning
 Mrs. Log Thompson
 Joe Everett Burkett
 Ken Horan
 Jeanie Giffand
 Dustin Anthony Morales
 Minnie Larkin
 Joy McKenzie

December 14

Bobbie Joe Grissom
 Bobby Jack McCowen
 Calvin Champion
 Gene Thomas
 Sherry Ann Wilson
 J.T. Merry
 Robert Grissom
 Rosie Parker
 Mrs. Essie V. Alexander
 Mrs. Clovis Simons
 Micky Lapata
 Troy Harris

December 15

Tommy Ames
 Shamby LeLayne Sanders
 Terry Brown
 Jessa Mae Reddick
 Carlton Newman
 Roy John Reddick
 Susanna DeBusk
 Linley Goble
 Janice Newman
 Billie Joe Sheppard
 Alton Sheppard
 Donna Grider
 Joni Irwin
 Alyssa Nicole Brown
 Andrew William Wheeler
 Robert Bennett

December 16

Kathy Jo Woody
 Bobby Taylor
 Amy Combs
 Emory Lusk
 Alicia (oberto) Martin
 Joe Holland II
 Jacob Pancake
 Larry Lee

December 17

Gary Rogers
 Shawn Tayer
 Pearl Perry
 Sheri Graham
 Terri Graham
 W.E. Walker
 Kasey L. Maynard
 Harold Hinkle
 Vickie I. Gilmore
 Dillon Heath
 John Paul Cowen II

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Dec. 8, 2016

Courthouse News

Callahan County Court
 Roger Corn, presiding

Misdemeanor Filings

Victor Castro, Jr., possession of marijuana, less than 2 oz.

Karena Aguirre, possession of marijuana, less than 2 oz.
 Blake Massey, criminal mischief, \$750 < \$2500.
 Shelby Borton, criminal mischief, \$750 < \$2500.

Misdemeanor Minutes

Victor Castro, Jr., plea of guilty to possession of marijuana, 90 days in jail, \$329 court costs.

Marriage Licenses

Cody Lee Wayland Hyles and Connie Elaine Stout, both of Cross Plains.

42nd District Court
 John Weeks, presiding

Civil Filings

Jefferson Capital Systems, LLC vs. Paula J. Barron, contract / commercial debt.
 Dale Mitchell vs. Robert M. Ossowski and Marsha L. Ossowski, contract/debt.
 Taylor Nicole Kohler and Nathan William Kohler, divorce.

Civil Minutes

Luis Manuel Cordova vs. Cheryl L. Armstrong and Daniel Shane Armstrong, order of dismissal with prejudice granted.

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

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW
 LAW OFFICES AT:

237 MARKET ST.
 BAIRD, TEXAS 79504
 (325) 854-1016

Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade



Don and Susan Childers and the Barbarian Festival Float

Hundreds of people turned out for the Kiwanis Stew Supper and the Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade.

Santa Claus led the parade riding on one of Cross Plains VFD's firetrucks.

First place winner in the parade was T & T Mini-Horse Training with their lighted mini horses.

Second place went to the Cross Plains 4-H Club for their Christmas tree float.

The third place winner was the Staghorn Cafe for their decorated golf cart.

Parade coordinator Terrie Parum did an excellent job announcing the parade.

Everyone enjoyed listening to the Cross Plains High School Band and viewing all the floats.

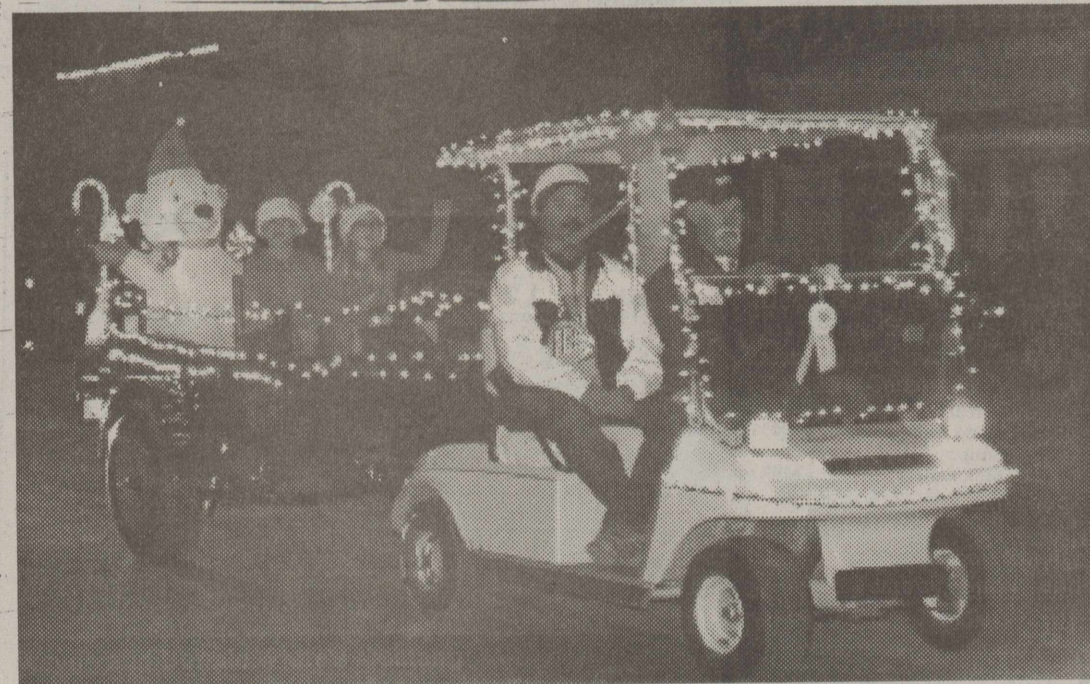


First Place Winner in the Christmas Parade - T & T Mini-Horse Training



Russ Miller on the back of the Barbarian Festival entry

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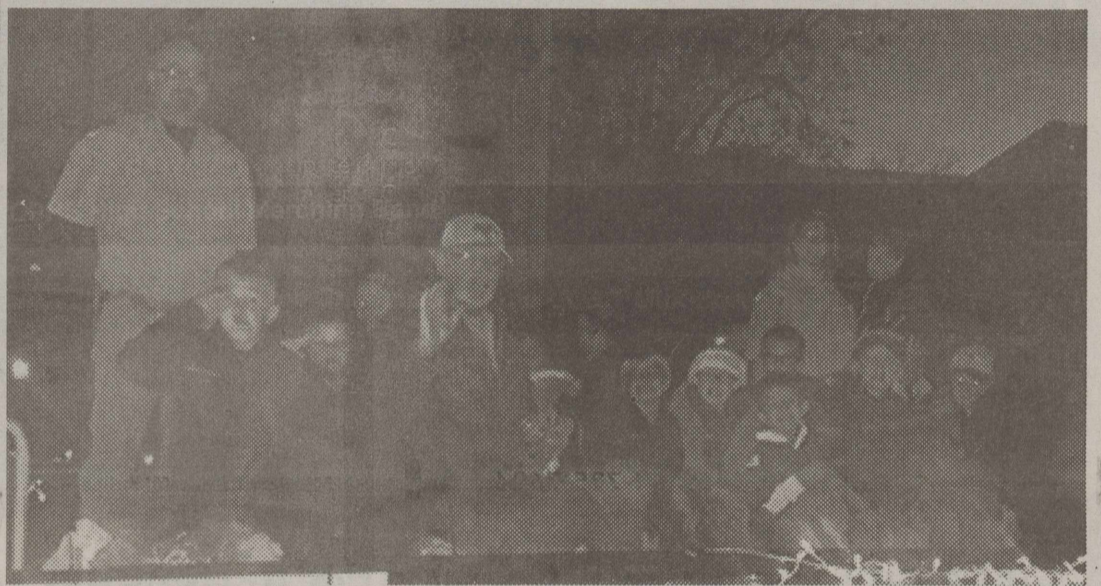


Second Place Winner - Cross Plains 4-H Float

Third Place Winner - Staghorn Cafe



Cross Plains 4-H Club



Cross Plains Boy Scout Troup



Staghorn Cafe Float

Cross Plains Community Calendar

December

Dec 11 - Christmas Cantata, First Baptist Church, "He Shall Be Called," 6:30 p.m.

Dec 15 - Open House, Cross Plains Senior Citizen's Center, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Dec 15 - Cross Plains I.S.D. Christmas Concert, 6 p.m.

Dec 16 - School's out for Christmas Holiday

Dec 18 - Christmas Cantata "Joy", 4His Glory, First United Presbyterian Church, 7 p.m.

Dec 25 - Christmas

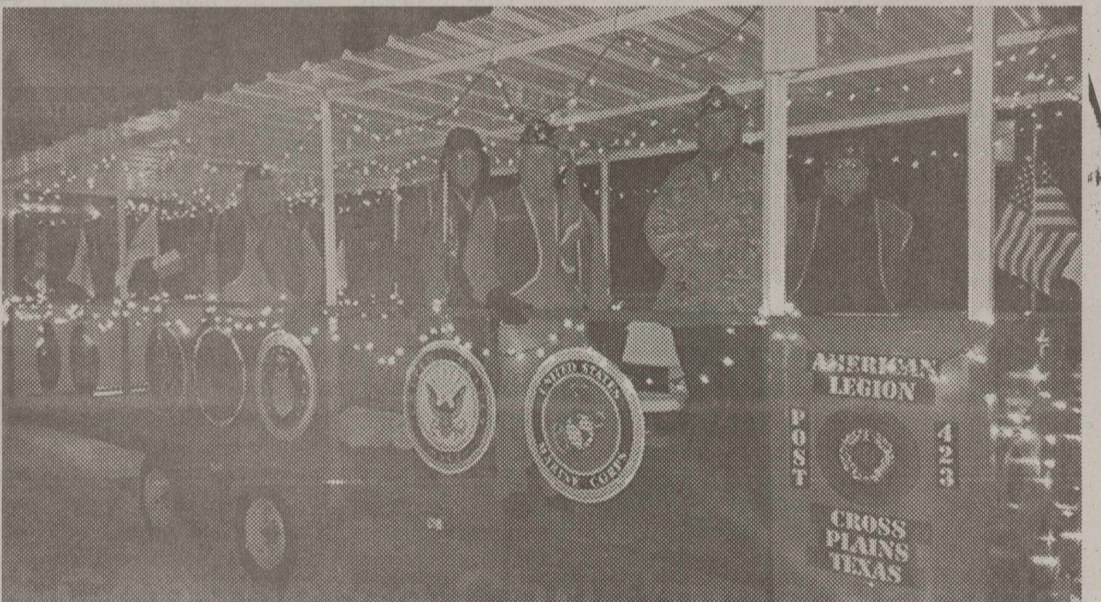
Dec 31 - New Year's Eve

January

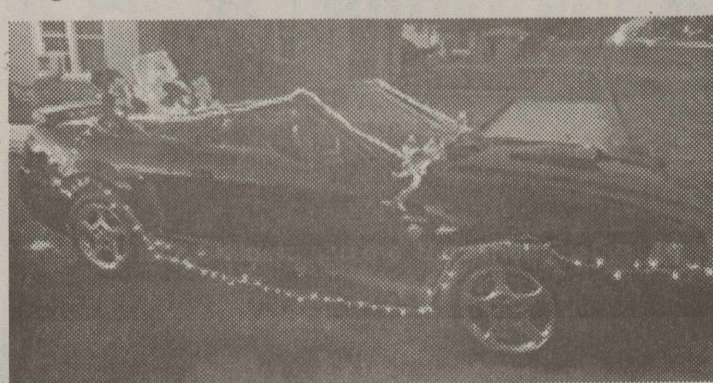
Jan 1 - Happy New Year!

Jan 3 - School starts back after the holidays

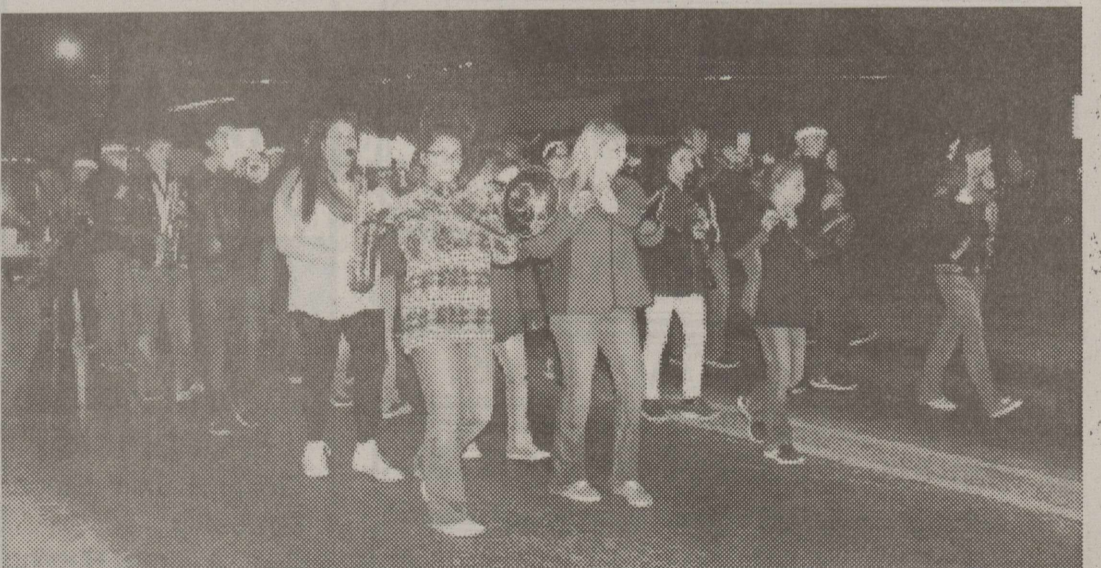
Jan 12-14 - Callahan County Junior Livestock Show and Rodeo



American Legion Members on their float



Wayne and Bonnie White's Mustang



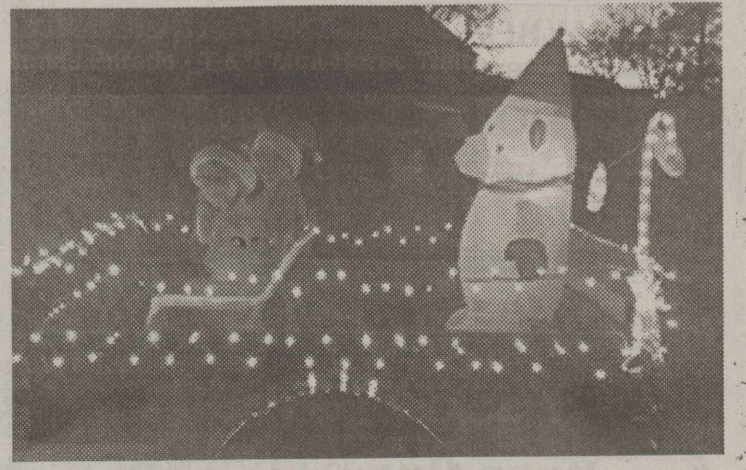
CPHS High School Marching Band



Cross Plains VFD and Santa Leading the Parade



Cross Plains Volunteer Fire Department



Back part of the Staghorn Cafe float

Lady Buffs Play in Albany Tournament, 5-5 On the Season

The Lady Buffs finished 2-2 in the Albany Tournament over the weekend. They will play Zephyr Tournament this Thursday through Saturday, December 8th - 10th.

Overall, the Lady Buffs are 5-5 on the season.

Results of the Albany Tournament Games:

Lady Buffs vs. Merkel JV
December 3, 2016
Merkel 52
Lady Buffs 31
Scoring:
Jacy Bien 8
Shana Yates 7
Hannah Crockett 2
Macee Steigleder 7
Brooke Lynn Bell 7

Lady Buffs vs. Cisco
December 2, 2016
Cisco 70
Lady Buffs 8
Scoring:
Jacy Bien 2
Jackilann Shepard 2
Shana Yates 2
Hannah Crockett 2

Lady Buffs vs. Coleman
December 1, 2016
Coleman 49
Lady Buffs 52
Scoring:
Jacy Bien 4
Shana Yates 14
Jackilann Shepard 2
Hannah Crockett 4
Macee Steigleder 4

Katy Jo Morgan 2
Grace Goode 14
Hanna Fortune 5
Brooke Lynn Bell 3

Lady Buffs vs. Snyder
December 1, 2016
Snyder 15
Lady Buffs 62
Scoring:
Jacy Bien 11
Shana Yates 7
Hannah Crockett 2
Macee Steigleder 2
Katy Jo Morgan 12
Grace Goode 14
Hanna Fortune 3
Brooke Lynn Bell 11

Other games so far this season:

Lady Buffs vs. Anson
November 29, 2016
Anson 53
Lady Buffs 36
Scoring:
Jacy Bien 4
Shana Yates 9
Hannah Crockett 2
Macee Steigleder 3
Katy Jo Morgan 7
Grace Goode 2
Hanna Fortune 7
Brooke Lynn Bell 2

Lady Buffs vs. Robert Lee
November 22, 2016
Robert Lee 63
Lady Buffs 49
Scoring:
Jacy Bien 1
Shana Yates 5

Macee Steigleder 2
Katy Jo Morgan 24
Grace Goode 13
Brooke Lynn Bell 4

Lady Buffs vs. Dublin
November 15, 2016
Dublin 40
Lady Buffs 50
Scoring:
Jacy Bien 6
Shana Yates 5
Hannah Crockett 4
Macee Steigleder 7
Katy Jo Morgan 14
Grace Goode 12
Brooke Lynn Bell 2

Lady Buffs vs. DeLeon
November 12, 2016
DeLeon 57
Lady Buffs 37
Scoring:
Jacy Bien 2
Hannah Cowan 2
Shana Yates 4
Katy Jo Morgan 18
Grace Goode 8
Brooke Lynn Bell 3

Lady Buffs vs. Strawn
November 8, 2016
Strawn 43
Lady Buffs 51
Scoring:
Hannah Cowan 2
Shana Yates 13
Hannah Crockett 2
Macee Steigleder 4
Katy Jo Morgan 19
Grace Goode 10
Brooke Lynn Bell 1



Lady Buffs vs. Brookesmith
November 2, 2016
Brookesmith 22
Lady Buffs 33
Scoring:
Jacy Bien 4
Hannah Cowan 8
Shana Yates 1
Macee Steigleder 2
Katy Jo Morgan 9
Grace Goode 7
Hanna Fortune 2

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Junior High and High School Basketball Schedule

December 8 - 10, Thursday - Saturday - Varsity Girls play in the Zephyr Tournament; Varsity Boys play in the Evant Tournament.

December 12, Monday - Junior High Girls and Boys A Teams play the Abilene Hawks here starting at 6 p.m.; Junior High Boys B Team plays Zephyr here.

December 13, Tuesday - Varsity Girls play Rising Star here starting at 6:30 p.m.; Junior Varsity Boys and Varsity Boys play Priddy there, starting at 4 p.m. District Game.

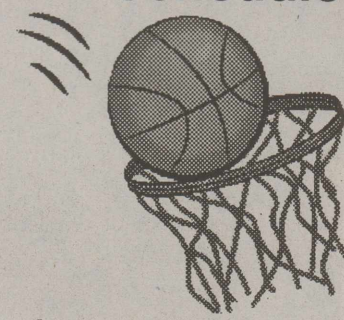
December 16, Friday - Varsity and Junior Varsity teams (Girls and Boys) play Eula there, starting at 4 p.m. District Game.

December 20, Tuesday - Varsity and Junior Varsity teams (Girls and Boys) play Roby there, starting at 4 p.m.

December 30, Friday - Varsity Girls and Junior Varsity Girls play Gorman there, starting at 1 p.m.

December 30, Friday - Varsity Boys and Junior Varsity Boys play Evant there.

January 3, Tuesday - Varsity and Junior Varsity teams (Girls and Boys) play Baird here starting at 5:00 p.m. District Games.



January 5, Thursday - Junior High Girls and Boys A and B Teams play Baird here starting at 5:00 p.m.

January 6, Friday - Varsity Girls and Varsity and Junior Varsity Boys play at Panther Creek starting at 5:00 p.m. District Games.

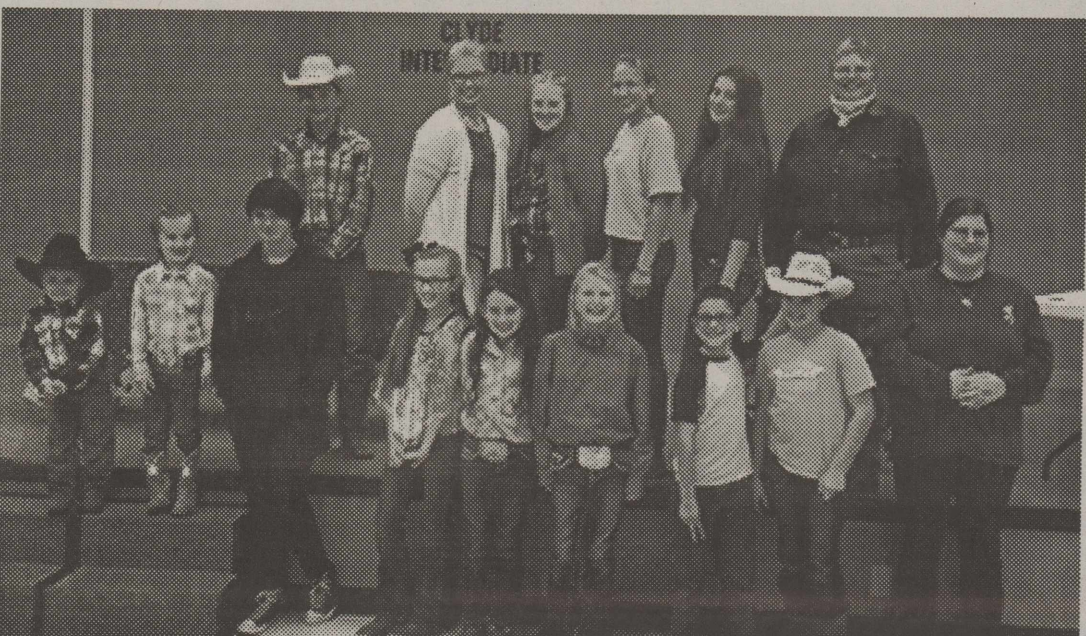
January 9, Monday - Junior High Girls and Boys A Teams play at Santa Anna starting at 6:00 p.m.

January 10, Tuesday - Varsity Junior Varsity teams (Boys and Girls) play May here starting at 4:00 p.m. District Games.

January 13, Friday - Junior Varsity Girls play Brownwood 9th Grade at Brownwood, starting at 4 p.m.

January 13, Friday - Varsity Girls and Boys and Junior Varsity Boys play Santa Anna there, starting at 5 p.m. District Game.

Schedule subject to change.



2016 Callahan County Riding Club end of year Banquet.

Callahan County Riding Club Year in Banquet

The end of the year awards for the Callahan County Riding Club was held on Saturday, December 3rd at the Clyde Intermediate cafeteria. Participants won trophies, buckles, bronc halters, saddle breast collars, and or a trophy saddle. CCRC would like to thank all of the sponsors for helping with the awards and the door prizes that were awarded during the event. Thank you to Metal Mart, Callahan County Vet Clinic, White's RV Park, Clyde Farm and Ranch, RDA Graphics, Clyde One Stop, Happy Trails, Sonic, Thrifty's Food Mart, Outlaw Cleaners, Pizza House, Rick Coats, Neil Schultz, Jackson Brothers Feed, Wasson's Dozer Work, and Cowboy Way.

In the Lead Line division, Jaxton Seabourn was the high point and Savannah Speer also buckled. In 6 & Under Haylee Foster was the high point, individual. In the 7 to 9 division, Ryli Hollis was the high point rider and Mikayla Kinslow, Aiden Stillabower, Monica Stillabower, and Lexi Foster buckled. In the 10 to 11 division, Rachel Lowe was the high point rider. In the 12 to 13, Kaylee Taylor was the high point rider and Devon Sowers, and Devon Speer buckled. In the 14 to 17 division, Mika Giddins was the high point and Tara Kinslow buckled. Others riding in this group were Macee Steigleder, Michael Stillabower, and Sydney Morgan. In the 18 and over division Tracy Davis

was the high point rider with Juanita Hollis buckling. Others that rode in this division were Connie Lowe, Jessi Speer, Paula Morgan, and Jennifer Aull. The overall high point for the year was Ryli Hollis and she was the trophy saddle. New officers were elected for 2017 and they are President Monte Sheppard, Vice President Teri Hollis, Treasurer Diana Wasson, Secretary Juanita Hollis, Arena Directors Steve and Connie Lowe, and Concession Director Ann Stillabower. New members of the board of directors were also added and they are Jason Foster, Justin Hollis, and Paula Kinslow. Follow us on Facebook at Callahan County Riding Club.

CROSS PLAINS I.S.D. WEEKLY MENU
December 12-16, 2016

	MONDAY 12	TUESDAY 13	WEDNESDAY 14	THURSDAY 15	FRIDAY 16
BREAKFAST	Muffin Yogurt Cereal 100% fruit juice Fruit Milk variety	Waffles Bacon Cereal 100% fruit juice Fruit Milk variety	Cinnamon roll Sausage Cereal 100% fruit juice Fruit Milk variety	PBJ Sandwich Cereal 100% fruit juice Fruit Milk variety	Breakfast Round Yogurt Cereal 100% fruit juice Fruit Milk variety
LUNCH	Chicken Alfredo Tuscan Vegetables Breadsticks Baby Carrots Apple slices Cookie Milk variety	Country Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes Gravy Roll Savory green beans Strawberry cup Milk variety	Taco Salad Salsa Charro Beans Garden salad Snowball Salad Milk variety	Fish or Chicken Strips Cornbread Coleslaw Black eyed peas Peaches Milk variety	Turkey & Ham Sandwich Baked Chips Corn Baby carrots Mixed fruit Milk variety

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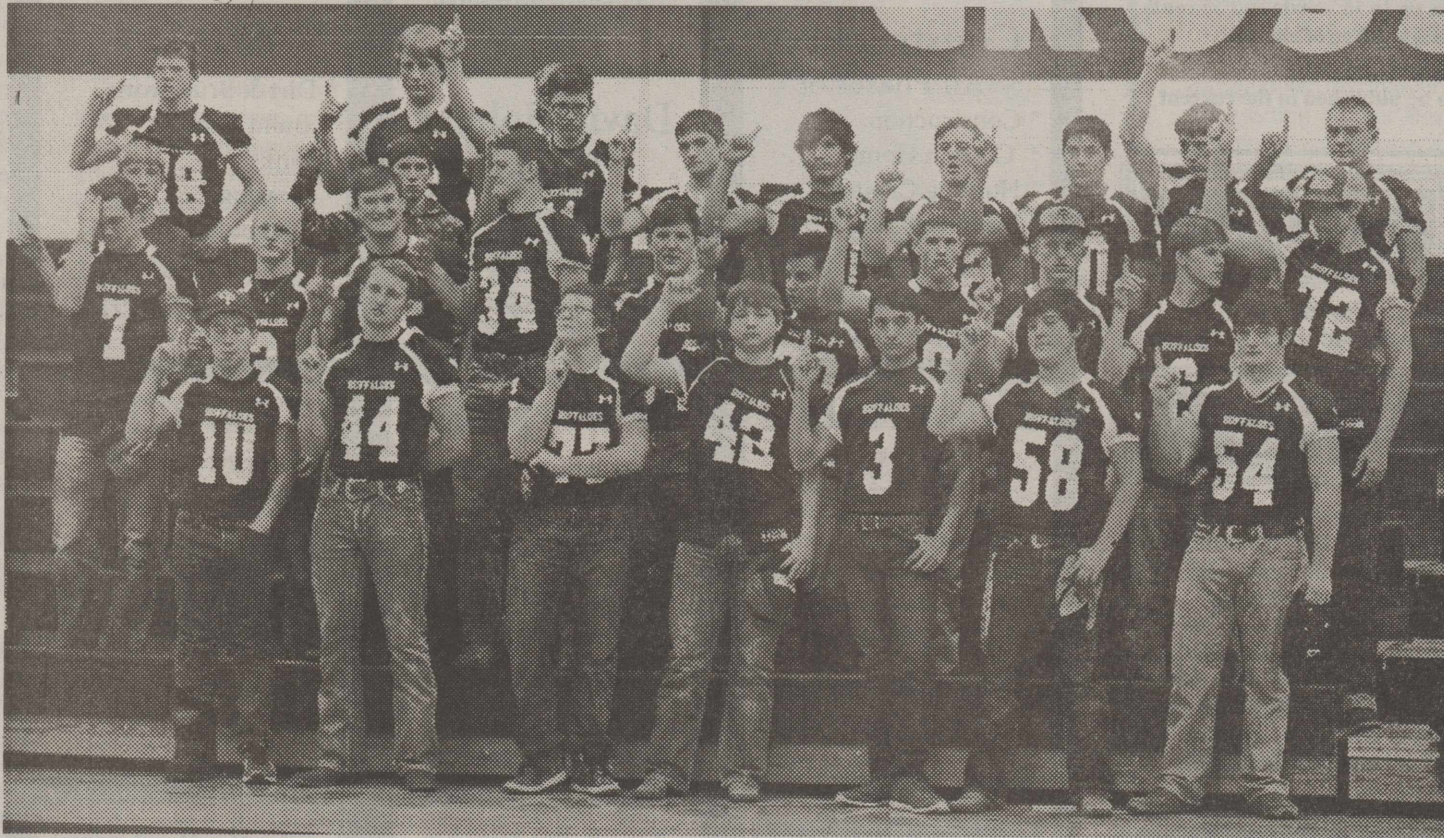
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Way to Go Buffaloes!



What a Great Season! The Buffaloes finished out the season as the Bi-District Champions! They were 7-3 on the regular season and placed 18 players on the All-District Teams! Good job, Buffaloes!

Cross Plains ISD Christmas Holidays Monday, December 19 - Monday, January 2

School will dismiss at 1 p.m. on
December 16th.

Buses will run at 1:10 p.m.

School will resume on Tuesday,
January 3, 2017 at the regular time

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Go Buffaloes! Go Buffaloes!

CPHS December 2016 Exam Schedule

Wednesday, December 14
3:00 PM Early Release
Afternoon Modified Bell
Schedule - Regular Classes
1:08 - 1:43 6th Period
1:47 - 2:22 7th Period
2:26 - 3:00 8th Period
3:15 - 5:45 Buffalo Academy

Thursday, December 15
3:00 PM Early Release
Exam Schedule
8:00 - 9:15 8th Period Regular
Class/Study Period
9:20 - 10:35 3rd Period Exam
10:40 - 12:00 5th Period Exam
12:00-12:45 Lunch (No
Tutorials)

* 12:00 JH Eats, HS Stays
at Picnic Tables
* 12:20 HS Eats, JH Stays
at Picnic Tables
12:50 - 1:55 6th Period Exam
2:00 - 3:00 1st Period Exam
3:15 - 5:00 Buffalo Academy

Friday, December 16
1:00 PM Early Release
Exam Schedule
8:00 - 9:05 2nd Period Exam
9:10 - 10:15 4th Period Exam
10:20 - 11:25 7th Period Exam
11:30 - 12:35 8th Period Exam
(Dismiss JH for lunch at 12:30)
12:35 - 1:00 JH/HS Lunch
(No Tutorials)

Cross Plains Review

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Dec. 8, 2016

From the Cross Plains Review - 100 Years Ago Dec 1, 1916

From the Cross Plains
Review... 100 years ago,
December 1, 1916.

Bill Davidson, Wakefield
Robbins and M. J. Manning,
hunters, returned from a
hunting trip to Llano Country.

Good Woolridge and Lonnie
Eddington of Cross Cut have
bought forty-one head of calves
from J. E. Harrell.

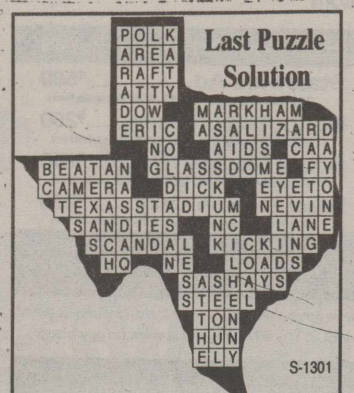
The Cross Cut Basketball
team played their first game
against the Burkett Ball Team.
The score was 25 to 9, with
Cross Cut winning. The Cross
Cut line up: Walter Chambers,
Luke Clark, Ralph Newsom, Bill
Baucum, Wilmer Triplitt. Prof.
Evans was the referee.

In the Business Directory....
E. Payne, M.D., office over
Farmer's Bank; Dr. Mary L.
S. Graves, Dentist, office in
residence north of Boydston's
store; Dr. E. H. Ramsey,
Dentist, office over Farmer's
National Bank; The Crystal
Cafe, Meals 35 cents, B.
S. Norris, proprietor; Suits
Sponged and Pressed 50 cents,
City Tailor Shop, in front of
Review Office.

In Cottonwood.... The school
girls have recently organized a
basketball team. Miss Obara
Johnson was elected captain.
Oral Strahan, Betah Freelan
and Bervel Ferguson attended
a ballgame in Baird. Bryan
Bennett left last week on a
business trip. John Coats and
family of Turkey Creek have
moved to Cottonwood. Mr. and
Mrs. Wes Everett are parents
of a girl.

Lost: a pair of pants, on road
to Cottonwood. Finder please
return to Davis-Garner's for
reward.

Eggs 35 cents at Neeb
Produce Co.



Cross Plains Public Library Annual Writing Contest

The Cross Plains Public
Library is accepting entries for
our annual writing contest. This
contest is open to all students
attending or eligible to attend
the Cross Plains Public Schools.
Poetry, essays or short stories
are allowed. Entries will
be accepted from grades K
through 12.

Home schooled students may
pick up the guidelines and entry
forms at the library. Parents/
guardians of home schooled
children are responsible for
inquiries to the awards
assembly date and time. The
library will not contact home
schooled recipients.

CPISD students should ask
their teachers in regard to
entering through the school or
they may enter at the library.
Only one entry per student will

be accepted.
Entries are to be submitted to
the library no later than March
31, 2017. Entries will be "blind
judged" with ribbons awarded
to the top three entries for grade
school students. Students in
grades 7-12 will receive a gift
card for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place
for each class.

The overall top winner will
receive a Kindle Fire (in
memory of Marilyn McBride)
their name will be added to a
plaque displayed at the library.
2nd and 3rd place overall
winners will receive a gift card.
In addition their papers will be
submitted to the Cross Plains
Review for publication.

For additional information
please contact the library at
725-7722 or Marsha Ossowski
at 325-201-4150.

Catch the Christmas Spirit December 11th: Best Ever Tour of Homes and Bake Sale

You may be one of the many
who love the Fixer Upper Show
on HG TV. You may think Chip
and Joanna Gaines have made
remodeling and decorating look
like so much fun that you might
be tempted to travel to Waco
and check out the Magnolia
Store. But wait...you can see
the "farmhouse décor" right
here in Clyde, Texas. Randi and
Jared Stevens HAVE traveled to
the Mecca of farmhouse chic
and brought back some great
pieces for their new home in
Country Club Estates. And
you are invited to their home
on Sunday, December 11 from
2:00 to 4:30.

Your Christmas spirit will be
off the charts when you take
in all five of the wonderful
homes on the tour. It's a great
way to spend the afternoon.
The Stevens home was
completed in February 2015.
Encompassing 2923 square
feet, the two story house is
perfect for the family of four
plus several dogs. Randi is a
school nurse for the Junior High
and High School and Jared is
an x-ray technician at Abilene
Regional Hospital, but his true
calling is woodworking. The
front porch swing, a farmhouse
table, picture frames and the
Christmas signs lining the front
walk are all his creations...look
out, Chip.

If you like real family heirloom
antiques, you will love the very
beautiful antique chandelier,
bought many years ago by

the great great grandparents
for their 50th anniversary,
handed down lovingly, and now
providing unique lighting for the
grateful descendants.

And what child, or the child
in all of us, doesn't delight in
a Christmas village display.
From the Christmas tree to
the framed recipes from great
grandparents, the farmhouse
charm will have YOU charmed,
but only if you plan to spend
your afternoon with us. Clyde
Woman's Club members will
help hostess the Tour and will
be glad you have purchased
the \$5 tickets, which goes
toward supporting the Senior
Girls Scholarship program. All
participating homeowners will
be invited to our regular meeting
luncheon on December 7th,
where we will enjoy a Christmas
music program by Gold Rush,
our amazing high school choir.

Don't forget the sugarplums,
gingerbread men, cookies,
cakes, pies and so much more
at the Bake Sale at the
Clyde Lions Club building on
the corner of South 1st and
Rusk. You can purchase tickets
there and also satisfy your
sweet tooth...or buy a gift
of home-baked goodness for
someone on your Christmas
list. Tickets can be bought
ahead of time from any Club
member, the First Bank of
Texas, First Financial Bank or
the Clyde Journal office. Merry
Christmas, one and all!

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Cross Plains Review Only - \$8.00 for up to 15 words and 35 cents each additional word. To run in Cross Plains Review/Clyde Journal/Baird Banner Combination - \$10.00 for up to 15 words and 35 cents each additional word. If you run for 4 consecutive weeks, the 5th week is free of charge.

Card of Thanks - \$8.95 per paper for up to 50 words.

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
6
Dec. 8, 2016

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LEGAL NOTICE

Legal Notice

1."The legal sale of beer and wine for off-premise consumption only."
"La venta legal de cerveza y vino para consumo solamente fuera del establecimiento."

Shawn Bullock will submit an application to the City of Cross Plains City Secretary and/or election administration in compliance with section 501.023 of the Texas Election code. In order to circulate petitions to the qualified voters of the city of Cross Plains, Callahan county (J.P #4 includes voting precincts 4) Texas, So that local option election can be on the following issue:

" TO ALLOW : THE LEGAL SALE OF BEER AND WINE FOR OFF-PREMISES, CONSUMPTION ONLY."

The public notice by Shawn Bullock at 648 SW 5th Street, CROSS PLAINS, TX, 76443.

Aviso Legal

1. "La venta de cerveza y vino para consumo fuera de las instalaciones." "La venta legal de cerveza y vino para consumo solamente fuera del establecimiento."

Shawn Bullock, tienda submitan aplicaci—n a City of Cross Plains City Secretary/o administracion electoral eri cumplimiento de la seccion 501,023 del Texas codigo electoral, con el fin de distribuir las peticiones a los votantes calificados de la ciudad de Cross Plains, Callahan county (J. P. 4 incluye recintos de votaci—n 4) Texas, a fin de que las elecciones pueden ser sobre el siguiente tema: "PARA PERMITIR LA VENTA LEGAL DE CERVEZA Y VINO POR FUERA DE LAS INSTALACIONES, EL CONSUMO SILO." El nuncio publico de la Nisarg Gosai & Narmadaben Patel Los administradores de Shawn Bullock, 648 SW 5th Street, CROSS PLAINS, TX ,76443.

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TPA MEMBER 2016
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

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More than 15 million awarded in grants to fire departments

COLLEGE STATION, Texas— Texas fire departments received more than \$15 million in grants Wednesday through the Texas A&M Forest Service Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program. In the first of three funding meetings for the year, the RVFDAP awarded 442 grants to 421 fire departments for firefighting vehicles, training and safety equipment. Texas A&M Forest Service has administered the grant program under the Texas Legislature since 2002, having awarded 1,655 fire engines, 69,140 pieces of protective clothing and 69,134 training tuitions to Texas fire departments since the program's inception.

"We are excited to provide the grant awards today. Whether it be a wildfire, flood, tornado or motor vehicle collision, fire departments valiantly make a difference in the protection of life and property," said Texas A&M Forest Service Capacity Building Department Head Jason Keiningham.

In Texas, local fire departments are the first line of defense against wildfires and more than 85 percent of our fire departments are volunteer. State funding helps maintain well-trained, safe and equipped firefighters.

Ingliside Volunteer Fire

Department was one of the departments to receive a grant Wednesday.

"The TFS grant program not only provides much needed resources for training and equipment, but it also is key to recruitment of personnel. The better equipped and trained your department is directly impacts the number of people wanting to be a member of your team," said Ingliside Volunteer Fire Department Chief R.J. Thomas.

The RVFDAP is one way that the state helps build the capacity of local fire departments. But the need is great. After awarding \$15,016,037 in grants this week there are still more than \$170 million in outstanding requests.

The next funding meeting is scheduled for March 2017.

Established by the 77th Texas Legislature, RVFDAP, commonly known as House Bill 2604, provides funding to eligible fire departments. This grant program allows Texas A&M Forest Service to build capacity of Texas communities by providing funds to purchase life-saving equipment and training, including firefighter protective clothing, rescue equipment, dry-hydrants and firefighting vehicles. To learn more visit www.texasfd.com

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TexSCAN Week of December 4, 2016

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Cross Plains Review

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Dec. 8, 2016

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The Texas History Minute

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The story of the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in Houston

The history of space flight is still relatively young, but it has already resulted in incredible accomplishments for humanity and lasting benefits for the world. Texas has been a part of the space program nearly from the beginning, including serving as the home of the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in Houston.

In 1957, at the height of the Cold War, Americans were shocked when the Soviet Union was able to put an artificial satellite into orbit. It prompted President Dwight D. Eisenhower to call for expanded science and math education and also for the creation of America's space exploration agency, NASA, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Senate Majority Leader Lyndon B. Johnson shared Eisenhower's concerns about Soviet expansion into orbit, and Johnson quickly became an outspoken supporter of the American space program.

While a launch center was soon built at Cape Canaveral, Florida, NASA still needed an observation, flight control, and training center. Because of the orbital dynamics of potential manned missions, twenty sites in the southernmost states were considered. Leading Texas sites included Victoria and Corpus Christi. Three sites in the Houston area were considered before a selection committee made its final choice. And Houston, given its well-developed infrastructure and proximity to Rice University and the University of Houston, had many factors working well in its favor.

On September 19, 1961, NASA announced the selection of the Manned Spacecraft Center in southeastern Harris County near Clear Lake. Johnson, at this point the vice-president and also chairman of the National Aeronautics and Space Council which oversaw NASA, and House Speaker Sam Rayburn of Bonham teamed up to make sure that the Houston site would be approved and funded by Congress.

Construction was not completed on the facility until September 1963, not until the first American manned missions, the Mercury program, was nearing its end. However, by the following June, the Manned Spacecraft Center formally became Mission Con-

trol with the Gemini 4 manned mission. The Gemini program focused on orbital flights and some of the earliest spacewalks to see how human beings could work and cope with the rigors of space travel. Along the way, new groups of astronauts would receive part of their training at the Space Center. In the meantime, now-President Johnson made sure that exploration efforts had all the funding and political support it needed.

By 1966, the center had more than five thousand people working in fifteen buildings on a multitude of projects on nearly two thousand acres. It also served as Mission Control with the Apollo missions starting in 1968 as NASA prepared to send men to the Moon. During the Apollo flights which saw astronauts walk on another world for the first time, astronauts reported back to the facility at each step, simply referring to the center as "Houston." Six manned landings and four moonshots were directed from Houston.

After Lyndon Johnson died in January 1973, the center was renamed the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in his memory.

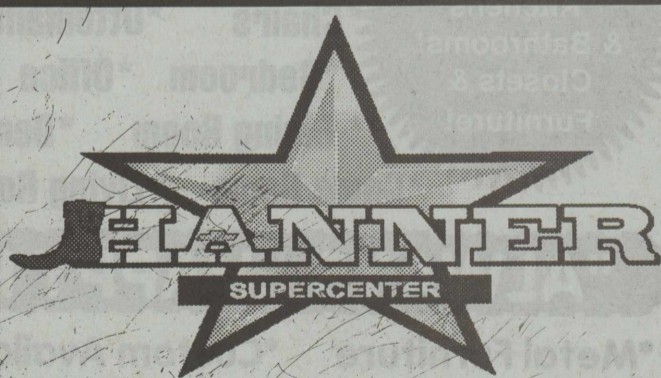
The Space Center continued to expand, incorporating more research and training projects, including the space shuttle program starting in the 1980s.

By the 1990s, more than 19,000 people worked at the Space Center, including more than one hundred astronauts. In 1992, a new visitor center was completed at the facility. More than \$50 billion in federal funding had been appropriated for the facility by the time it reached its thirtieth anniversary in 1993, which had resulted in billions of dollars being pumped into the local economy.

Today, the LBJ Space Center remains an integral part of the Houston economy and the cornerstone of NASA's mission to explore the universe. It will be the focal point for future manned NASA missions, including future trips to the Moon and even to Mars. So much of the future is built on the foundation of the past.

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Dr. Ken Bridges is a Texas native, writer, and history professor. He can be reached at drkenbridges@gmail.com.



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Commercial Property

- 700 N. Ave A, CP-Potential investment property! 7,767 sq ft brick bldg,C/H/A, formerly nursing home-needs TLC.....\$25,000**
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Featured Property of the Week:

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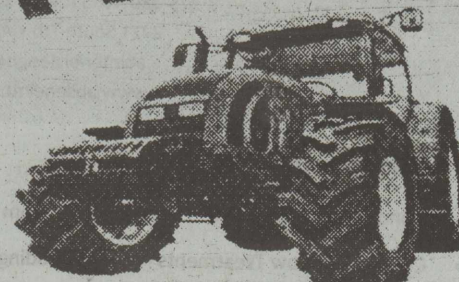
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Congratulations and a Big Thank you!

Congratulations to Alicia Bacon of Cisco, Texas! She is the winner of the beautiful bow tie quilt that was raffled December 1st at the Cross Plains Senior Center. Alicia is the director of nursing at the Rising Star Nursing Center. We want to thank everyone who purchased tickets to make this raffle a success. And we give a special thank you to Dannes Turner and the staff at the Senior Center for all of their help and allowing us to show our quilt there. All the proceeds from this raffle go to preserving and maintaining the Pioneer Community Building. Pictured here are Barbara Jo Medley of the Pioneer Quilting Club and Alicia Bacon. Thanks again, everyone!

Market at Clyde Saturday Dec. 10th from 2pm-8pm

Saturday December 10th will be an exciting time in downtown Clyde. Market at Clyde has changed its hours for December only so that shoppers can make one trip to shop as well as watch the parade and participate in all of the activities in the Old Firehouse and the Chamber Building.

Market at Clyde will be inside The Old Firehouse on North First. Shop with local artist, artisans and home cooks. In addition the children may be entertained by participating in a coloring contest. Prizes will be awarded at the end of the evening. All children will receive a gift just for participating. The contest is free to all children. Local artist Danni Louw will also be doing face painting. Organizers are working on other activities as well so be sure to check out this paper next week for more details.

Market at Clyde has a full house of vendors scheduled with all three bays of The Old Firehouse filled. All spaces are taken for December, however if you are a vendor and would like a space in a future Market at Clyde all spaces are \$10. Email themarketatclyde@gmail.com to reserve a space. You may also call 325-518-3939 to find out more. You may see more by visiting Facebook page The Market at Clyde, Texas or the web site The Market at Clyde. All items sold are hand crafted,

hand embellished, home made or home cooked.

There is no way to list all of the items that will be for sale. This list will give you an idea. Hand bags made of both fabric and leather; Shopping and tote bags; Home décor of all kinds from sewn items, wood craft, metal, ceramic and much more; pillows, towels, plates, mugs, wall hangings, wreaths, crosses, crochet; Hand tooled leather, holsters, knife cases, bags; Hand crafted wooden pens; small furniture; Christmas ornaments and decorations; Handcrafted candles and soaps; Foods (all home cooks meet State and Federal regulations), pickles, jellies, jams, yeast breads, zucchini bread and other sweet breads; candy bouquets and special candy creations; Beautiful jewelry from award winning jewelry artist; Small items for stocking stuffers such as fridge magnets and book marks; toys and wooden puzzles; lots of bling; Beautiful scroll saw art; Paintings; and the list continues as our creative vendors still have a few days to let their busy hands create just what you are looking for. Remember that most of these vendors also take special orders.

Be sure to check out the article and ad in this paper next week and watch KTB4U at 4PM Thursday next week for more details.

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Dec. 8, 2016



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Anson's Cowboys' Christmas Ball - A Texas Original

The original Texas Cowboys' Christmas Ball was held in 1885 at Anson to honor area cowboys, their ladies and families. This 132-year-old winter holiday celebration includes traditional western music, poetry, dancing, listening, refreshments and fellowship. The 82nd consecutive annual re-enactment will be held on December 15, 16 & 17. It is a festive family event always open to the public and a bucket-list must for all western history lovers.

Historic Pioneer Hall (and museum) at Anson has been the Ball home since its construction completion in 1940. The Ball is designated an official state historical event by the Texas Historical Commission to promote its historic preservation and celebrate its Texas history.

1885 Ball rules remain in effect. Ladies are required to wear dresses on the dance floor. Gentlemen must check in hats, spurs and guns. No drinking, smoking, spitting, fighting, cussing, shooting or riding horses is allowed in the Hall.

The Ball was memorialized by rancher/poet Larry Chittenden with his famous poem "The Cowboys' Christmas Ball" (Ranch Verses, Knickerbocker Press, 1893). The poem with music was later published in the John Lomax classic compilation Cowboy Songs & Other Frontier Ballads (Macmillan Company, 1910) and Lomax attended the 1939 Ball. It was first performed at the 1946 Ball by cowboy folklorist Gordon Graham. The Ball is portrayed in the large 1930s mural at the Anson Post Office and the 1930 watercolor painting by Maxine Walker Perini on permanent display at Abilene's Grace Museum. Pulitzer Prize winning novelist

Edna Ferber recognized the "Cowboy Christmas Ball at Anson in Jones County" in her memorable novel Giant. There is also a permanent historical exhibit of the Ball and Hall in the Southwest Collections Library at Texas Tech University in Lubbock.

The preminent history of the Ball, its origin, preservation and continuation has been written by Dr. Paul H. Carson, emeritus professor of history at Texas Tech University. It is a classic, impeccably researched, historically accurate and thoroughly documented story (DANCIN' IN ANSON - A History of the Texas Cowboys' Christmas Ball, Texas Tech University Press, 2014, www.ttupress.org).

The Ball is also the acknowledged genesis for the Cowboy Christmas concerts throughout the country performed by America's #1 cowboy singer Michael Martin Murphey and his Rio Grande Band. They have highlighted the Ball one night for the past 21 years (www.michaelmartinmurphey.com). Muddy Creek is the faithful house band that has played the other two nights for many years.

2016 SCHEDULE:

Thursday, December 15 - Michael Martin Murphey & his Rio Grande Band (\$20 per person). For advance tickets, call (325)669-2063 or email TCCBofAnsonTX@yahoo.com.

Friday, December 16 - Muddy Creek Band & old-time square dance exhibition (\$10 adults, \$5 seniors & ages 13-18, children 12 & under + active duty military free).

Saturday, December 17 - Muddy Creek Band & Texas Cowboy Santa with candy for kids (\$10 adults, \$5 seniors

& ages 13-18, children 12 & under + active duty military free).

The nightly Ball begins at 8 pm and concludes at 12 midnight in old Pioneer Hall, 2300 Avenue G, Anson, TX 79501. It is held the Thursday, Friday & Saturday before December 25th. Additional information may be obtained from the website at www.ansoncowboyschristmasball.com.

The Texas Cowboys' Christmas Ball Association conducts the annual 3 day Ball as well as owns and maintains Pioneer Hall. It is a Texas non-profit corporation organized in 1937, an IRS 501(3)(c) tax-exempt public historical charity, and composed of area couples and a few local volunteers who freely contribute their time, service and resources. The Ball was copyrighted in 1937 and remains exclusive Association property. A \$500 college or vocational school scholarship is available annually to the Jones County high school student writing the best Ball history paper. Jones County high school students also run the hat/coat check booth and concessions stand keeping all proceeds for their school projects.

Our area "...offers visitors the look, taste and feel of the West. Events such as... THE TEXAS COWBOYS' CHRISTMAS BALL in Anson are celebrations of who we are and are authentic. People come from across miles and miles of Texas, other states and even other countries to experience Texas as it was and still is." - Abilene Reporter-News editorial promoting National Travel & Tourism Week (May 3, 2015).

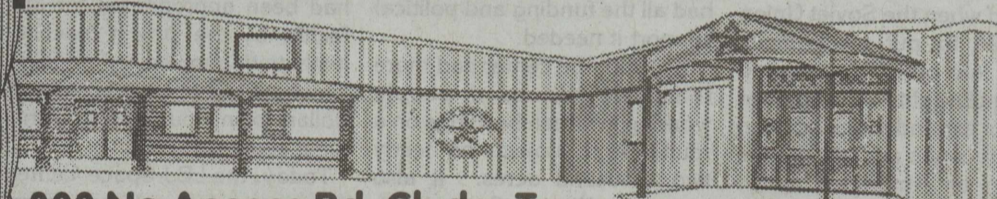
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Local author Ed Walt of Pioneer has announced the release of "Holloway's Raiders"

Local author Ed Walt of Pioneer has announced the release of "Holloway's Raiders," a new book which examines the Dallas Police Department's deadly and controversial "Shotgun Squads" of the 1960s and 70s.

The stake-out units were created and led by the legendary Lieutenant H. C. Holloway to curtail a rash of violent and deadly armed robberies that were plaguing the city. The lieutenant had personal reasons to hate the criminals he referred to as "hi-jackers," having been shot in the leg by one a few years earlier in a wild gun battle that also resulted in the murder of one police officer and the wounding of two more.

In an age when such activities and attitudes were not only condoned but celebrated, he hid shotgun armed officers in liquor, grocery and convenience stores and ordered them to shoot armed robbers on sight and without warning. "The sound of a shotgun coming

off safety," he said, "should be warning enough."

The units existed for more than twenty years and were responsible for shooting, killing and arresting scores of vicious felons while losing two of their own, killed in the line of duty. The book details the exciting events of the many armed encounters that occurred and examines the gradual change in public sentiments that eventually led to the end of the shotgun squads.

The author is a 33 year veteran of the Dallas Police Department and a former commander of the Tactical Division of the DPD's Special Operations Bureau—the same unit that was once known as "Holloway's Raiders."

Copies of the book may be purchased at the Cross Plains Public Library or ordered online at buybooksontheweb.com, Amazon, Kindle, etc. Proceeds from the sale of the book will be donated to the library and to fund the Cross Plains Masonic Lodge Scholarship program.



Kayaker visits REH Museum

Curtis Bonin of Houston is the first ever visitor to stop with a kayak strapped onto his pickup. Bonin was returning from a hiking and kayaking vacation with some friends in Colorado and stopped to check one thing off of his bucket list.

Bonin has been a fan of Howard's fantasy writing since reading and collecting books as a teenager. He commented that he seen the 2012 release of

"Solomon Kane" that had been filmed in the Czech Republic. Although he had appreciated Howard's original story, he found the movie rather lacking in authenticity. More recently he had become interested in Howard's boxing stories that read much like the "Rocky Balboa" series.

Bonin is a martial arts instructor and does some writing on the side.

Join the Cross Plains EMS

The Cross Plains EMS is always looking for new members. Whether you are interested in becoming a certified member (18 year old and up) or an uncertified driver (25 year old and up) it is a great way to give back to your community.

Being part of a small service like ours gives you the freedom to take the shifts that work for you. This is also a great way for young people who think they would be interested in working in the medical field as a career to test the waters.

Individuals or groups who want to sponsor a student to become certified are also always welcomed.

If you are interested in becoming part of our EMS family please contact Susan Schaefer at (254)725-6747 or susan.schaefer49@gmail.com

Grand Ole Oplin December Line-Up

You'll find the Holiday Spirit at the Grand Ole Oplin, located at the intersection of FM 604 and FM 2926. Our country western dances are alcohol and tobacco free. If you'd like to share the refreshments at intermission, bring snacks or goodies.

Special Event:
• December 9th and 16th—Midnight Blue plays your favorite dance tunes.

Regular prices at the door.
• No dances December 23rd or 30th.

Special Event:
• December 31st—New Year's Eve Dance with Muddy Creek ringing in the new year. \$8.00 per person at the door.

These great bands work hard to provide your entertainment, so join us at The Grand Ole Oplin!

Cottonwood News by Beverly Brown

Light rain fell over Cottonwood over this past week. Some rain gauges filled up close to an inch. It's starting to feel like winter. The temperatures are dropping and the National Weather Service predicts freezing drizzle or snow by Friday or over the weekend.

Be careful on FM2228. The deer are out running across the road, day and night. One local resident has hit so many deer with his car that he may need to get a hunting license from the game warden.

Adrian Allen, Roy Boyd, Erik Woodard, Marsha and Bob Ossowski all worked the Kiwanis Stew Supper on Thursday night. Carlisle Albrecht was also on hand wearing a red suit and beard at the event.

Sue Bennett and Bob and Lavonne Childress were part of the Ornament Workshop at the Library on Thursday evening.

Those visiting with Annette and Bill Nickerson over Thanksgiving were: Mary Jo and Joe Pennington, Wyatt and Cheyenne of South Lake; Jennie Nickerson, Autum, Cadence and Barrett of Cross Plains; Kevin Nickerson, Gus and Hayley; Connie Potter, Rickie Jo and Gerald Brown, Braxton and Lawson of Cross Plains; Harold and Joan Kingerty; Jeanette and Johnny Kingery of Tye; Roxanne and Ben Hemke, Lille and Liam; Nicole Core, Andrew and Jack; Cecil and Jackie Nickerson and Randy and Karen Nickerson of Houston were also at Glynn

Nickerson's home in Boerne over the Thanksgiving holiday. Strena Cunningham did an excellent job on her solo at the Methodist Church Christmas Cantata. The whole program was wonderful and the church was packed for the event.

The First Baptist Church's Christmas Cantata "He Shall Be Called" will be held on Sunday, December 11th at 6:30 p.m.

4His Glory and the First Presbyterian Church will have their Christmas Cantata "Joy" on Sunday, December 18th at 7 p.m. 4His Glory features the voices of Matthew and Mandi Sowell, formerly of Cottonwood, along with Connie and Rhonda Swift.

On December 15th, the Cross Plains ISD Christmas Concert will be held in the school auditorium at 6 p.m.

In observance of the holidays, no Cottonwood Musical will be held in December.

Roy Boyd, Adrian Allen, Roger Hinkle and Dennis Hinkle attended the Callahan County Firefighters Association meeting in Cross Plains on Saturday Morning.

The Cottonwood Volunteer Fire Control and The Cross Plains Volunteer Fire Department extinguished a grass fire off of FM880 on Thursday. We appreciate the quick response from all the departments that responded and contained and put out the fire.

The Burn Ban is OFF. Please call the Sheriff's Office at 325-854-1444 to let them know you are planning to burn.



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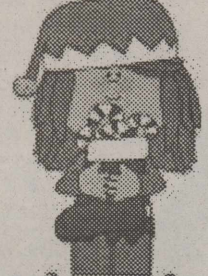




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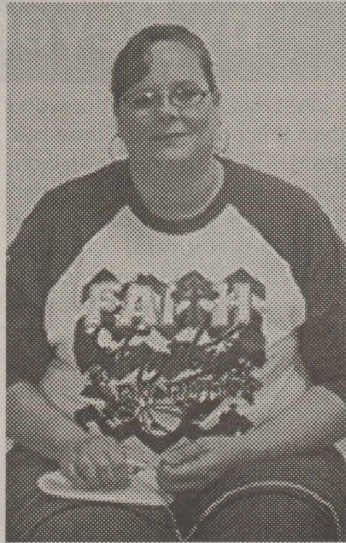
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Cross Plains Library's Annual Craft Fair

The Methodist Church Fellowship Hall was turned into the Cross Plains Library's Annual Craft Fair last Thursday and Friday. Local residents came out and brought their handmade items and homemade jellies, pickles, breads, fudge and other items.

The Cross Plains Library wrapped Christmas Presents at the fair.

Everyone had a great time and left with something that was handmade in Cross Plains.



Stephanie Thompson had handmade hats and other items at the show.



Nora and Larry Pointer displayed homemade jellies and handmade wooden 18-wheeler trucks



Judy Luter and Brandy Daliege of the Cross Plains Library wrapped Christmas presents

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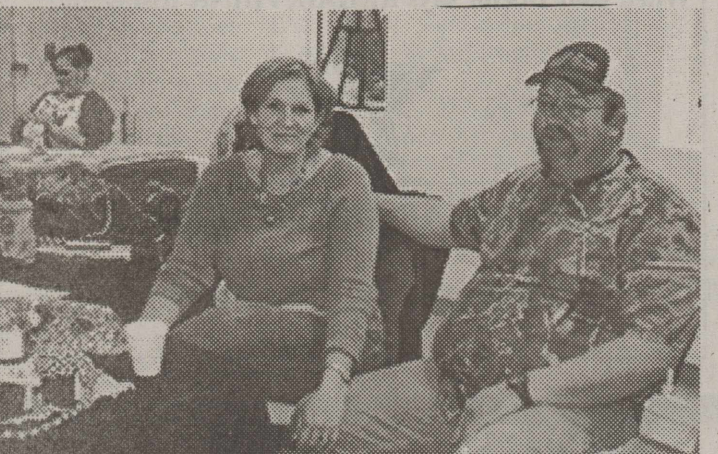
Visiting at the Craft Fair - Christine Evans, Michelle Kaiser, Margaret Hoegler with Karin Mayberry and her service dog



Melody Jones and Ann Powers with their homemade breads and fudge.



Kentra Summerville, Izaya Castro and Vincent Valencia showing their crocheted ear warmers, beanies, scarves, fingerless gloves and other items.



Vicki and Wes Larimore sold homemade jellies, pickles and other items.



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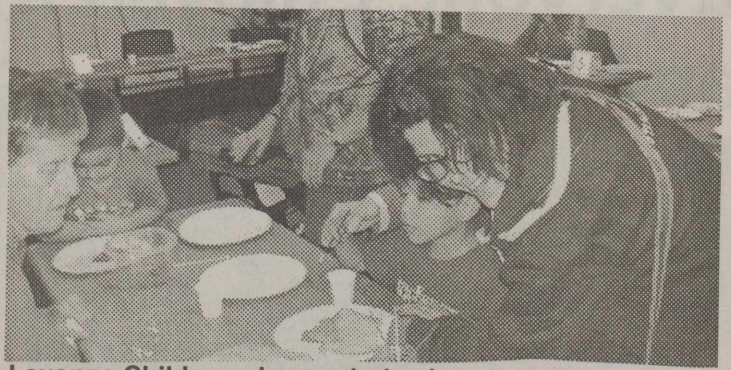
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Ornament Workshop at the Library

The Cross Plains Public Library held their annual Christmas ornament workshop this past week. We had a fantastic turnout - a record of 170 in attendance for the event - and the children enjoyed making the ornaments. Each child made one to take home and a second ornament to hang on our tree.



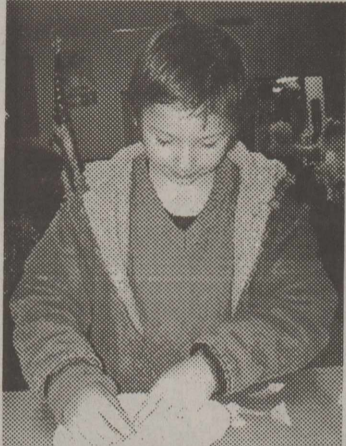
Everyone had fun at the library



Lavonne Childress demonstrates how to make the ornaments



Helen Parson



Linda Burns



Sue Bennett shows how to make the ornaments at her station



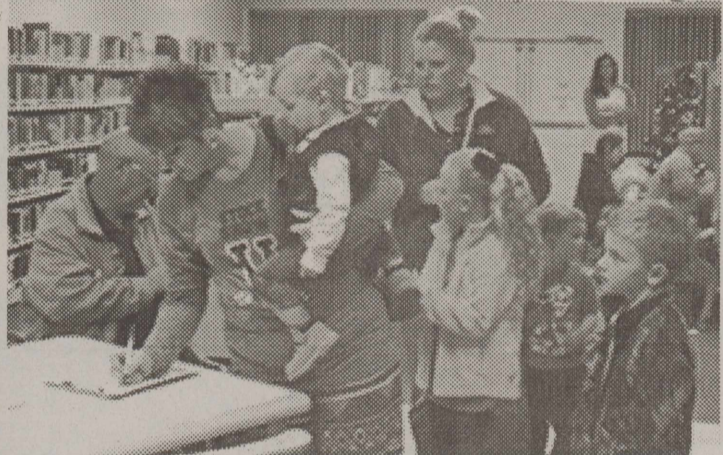
Crystal Conway and son stop by Bob Childress' ornament station



Building the ornaments was so much fun



Heather Rose and her son decorate an ornament



Lots of kids came to the ornament workshop

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Cross Plains Review

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What Are You Reading?

by the Bookworms 

Want to read a fun book with impossible situations surrounding the main characters? Then I highly recommend "Rugged & Relentless: Husbands for Hire" by Kelly Eileen Hake.

Jacob Granger leaves wealth, a sawmill, and parents back east to track down his brother's killer. (His family has kept hidden the circumstances surrounding the man's death.)

Evelyn Thompson, with her engaged sister and two friends, place an ad in the local newspapers for husbands to help them start a sawmill on land they own in a town they named "Hope Falls." Their real intention is to read through the responses to their ad and select men they think they want to meet. When they arrive in "Hope Falls" two dozen men are already there... ready and waiting... and on their best behavior

Jacob Granger tracks his brother's killer to "Hope Falls" and becomes one of the foremen for the sawmill. While there, he is trying to narrow down the list of suspects, based on the vague description he was given. You can imagine the turmoil as men continue to arrive daily in answer to the ad.

You can check out this book in the Christian section of your Cross Plains Public Library.



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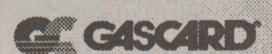
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Eva 325 201-8085 **254-270-0040**

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Cross Plains, TX

Family Sandwich Special
4 Chopped Sandwiches
4 Chips 1 gallon unsweet Tea
\$25.90 + tax

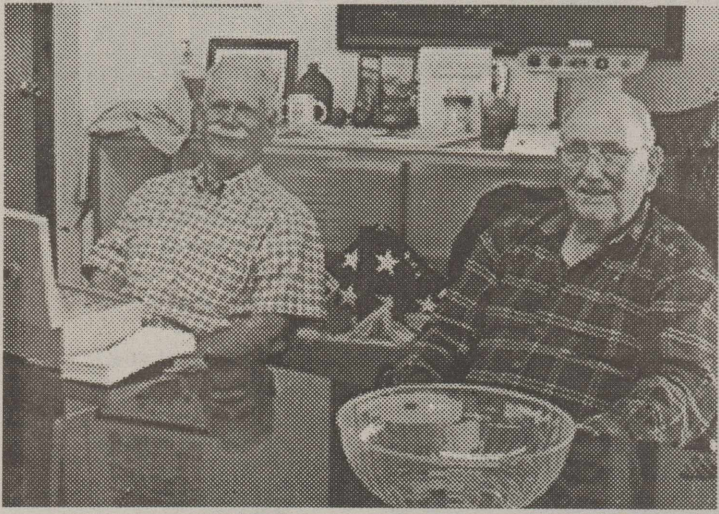
2-3 LB Meat Family Deal
2 Pint Sides, Bread
1 Gallon Unsweet Tea

Weekly Specials

- **Monday**- All you can eat Beans & Cornbread \$4.00 + tax
- **Tuesday**-Senior Plate, 1/4 Meat, 2 sides, bread, peach cobbler \$6.00 + tax
- **Wednesday**-Pulled Pork Sandwich \$2.00 + tax
- **Thursday** -Loaded Baked Potatoes, choice of meat, w/ all the fixins \$6.00 + tax
- **Friday**- Loaded Buritto choice of meat \$6.00 + tax

Now Offering Chicken & Sausage Gumbo or Crawfish Etouffe!
Only \$7.00 + tax

Everyone Enjoyed Kiwanis Stew Supper and Santa Claus on Thursday Night

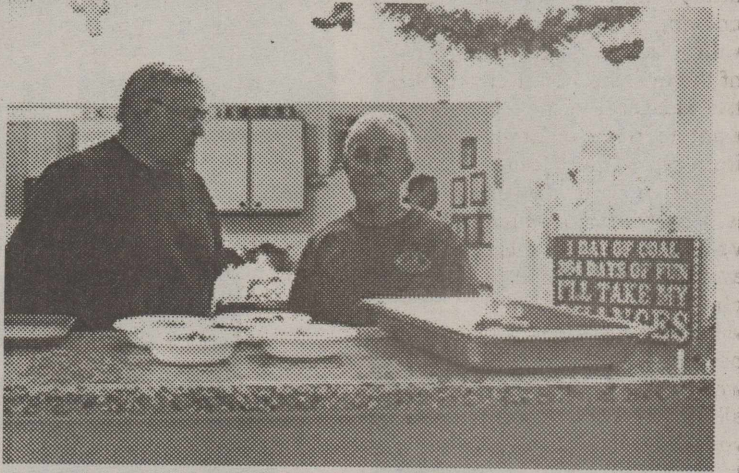


Kiwanis Members Roy Boyd and Dale Bishop working the door

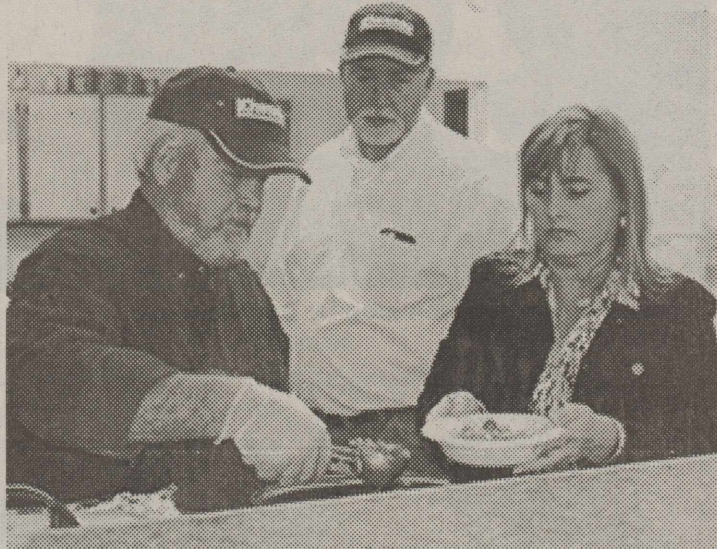
Everyone came out and enjoyed the Kiwanis International Annual Stew Supper. Children had their pictures with Santa Claus received gift bags for the children. The crowd enjoyed the door prizes from the Kiwanis. The Stew Supper and Santa Claus was a great way to kick-off the Christmas season.



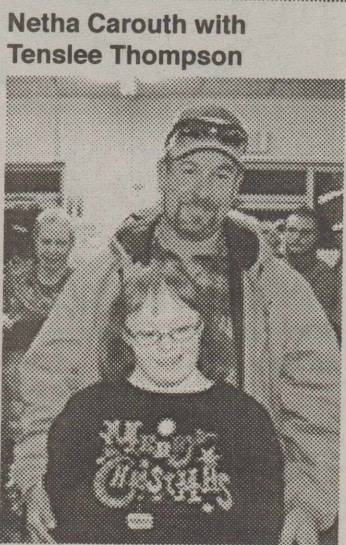
Wanda Bryant and her grandchildren enjoy stew



Bob Ossowski and Kevin Morton serving stew



Adrian Allen, David Estes and Karen Lenz serving stew



Netha Carouth with Tenslee Thompson



The Reed boys waiting for Santa Claus



Arlene and Tom Stephenson visit with Diana and Russ



Kyle and Madison Foster

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Kris Sparks and Marsha Ossowski, both of the Cross Plains Chamber of Commerce selling tickets on the rifle at the event



Kris Sparks with Karen Lenz, the winner of the Savage 10BA Stealth rifle donated J and L Sales, and Sparks Insurance



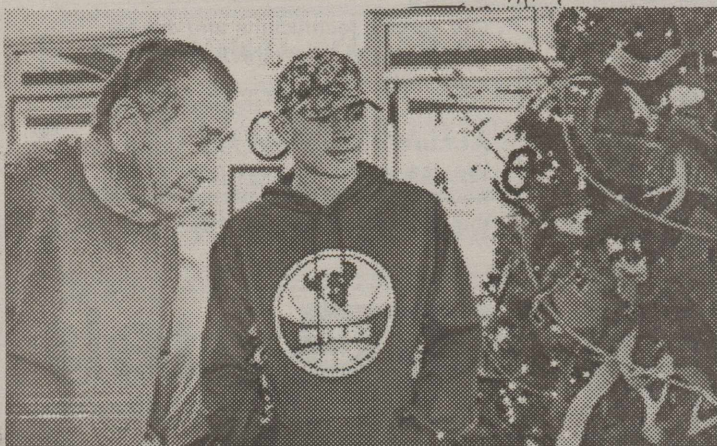
Samantha Beaty and family



Mrs. Claus with Santa Claus



Robert and Charlotte Lee



Don Bryant and Dobbs McWilliams check out the Christmas Tree at the Senior Center



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Texas Department of Criminal Justice

Lots of vender's to attend Market at Clyde Saturday from 2pm-8pm

Anticipation is high for Market at Clyde this coming Saturday. All three bays of The Old Firehouse on North First Street will be filled with vendors. Some will be favorites that return each month as well as several vendors that are new to Market at Clyde. This market is a true craft market with all items being hand crafted, embellished or home cooked. Admission is always free. There will be a coloring contest for the children with prizes awarded at the end of the evening. Of course all of the kids and some adults will want to have a face painting from artist Danni Louw.

One of the newer items is personalized plates. This vendor will have cute, funny and pretty plates for you to choose from. However she will be set up to create and personalize a plate just for you while you shop. But that is not all. In addition another new vendor will be personalizing mugs. Team logos, names and numbers are just a few of the choices. These items are perfect gifts for any occasion.

Market at Clyde is well known for jewelry. And of course this is a great time of year to purchase jewelry for others or for you. Jewelry prices vary greatly,

from a couple of dollars to \$75 or more, thus making it easy to find the right gift in all price ranges.

One of the other specialties of this market is the many varieties of wood craft and wood art. Two of the favorite scroll saw artist will be in attendance this month. Their creations are always amazing and they love to explain their craft to customers. One of the returning wood artist produces beautiful writing pens that are turned on a lathe. There are many other forms of wood work available; wall hangings, crosses, small furniture, shelves, boxes and much more. If you love rustic, reclaimed or finely finished wood you will like the selections.

Of course no craft market would be complete without wreaths. You will not be disappointed when you see the many different styles. Some are seasonal, but many will beautify your home throughout the year.

That brings us to handcrafted soaps and candles. Not only are these great gifts, but once you have tried them you will be a return customer. It is nice to know that the beautiful products you are using are crafted in your home town.

The items created from fabric are amazing. Hand bags, shopping bags, kitchen items, home décor, quilted items, soft blankets and scarves. The list is endless. You just have to look.

Many come for the tooled leather. Word has gotten out that this vendor will create special items for his customers.

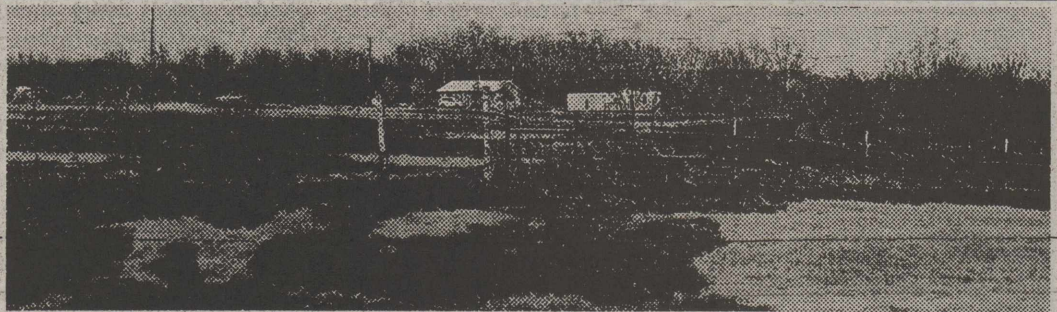
All home cooks will display certificates showing that they have completed training to meet all State requirements. There will be baked items, pickles, jams, jellies and more. Let these home cooks help you set your holiday table. Oh, and don't forget a candy bouquet or candy arrangement.

Downtown Clyde will be the place to be Saturday afternoon and evening. Shop, watch a parade, see Santa and then eat at one of the local restaurants. If you would like to know more and see some of the items to be offered on Saturday visit the Facebook page, The Market at Clyde, Texas. Check the ad in this newspaper. Also watch KTAB4U (local channel 32) on Friday at 4PM.

If you are interested in becoming a vendor at a future market email themarketatclyde@gmail.com or call 325-518-3939.

Sheriff's Corner

By Sheriff Terry Joy



DECEMBER 3, 2016 WILDFIRE REPORTED AT COTTONWOOD, TEXAS.

Rapid Response keeps potential wildfire in Check

Friday, December 3, 2016 a wildfire was reported in Cottonwood. The wind was blowing hard enough to cause the fire to spread rapidly.

Both the Cross Plains and Cottonwood Fire Departments sprung into swift and immediate action. The fire was in a field of dry grass just to the left of Highway 880 as it makes the 90 degree curve at Cottonwood.

The Cross Plains and Cottonwood fire chiefs and firemen responded immediately. A fire truck from Rising Star, also came to help. The Callahan County Sheriff's Department responded for traffic control. The Command Center Trailer was made ready for action and hitched to a Sheriff's Department Pickup. Callahan County Commissioner of precinct 3 responded with a county maintainer. All of this swift action and team work by volunteer firemen, the Sheriff's Department, the Callahan County Precinct 3 and Cottonwood Citizens prevented a wildfire from getting out of control.

Friday night there was a vehicle accident on Highway 36 about 6 miles west of Cross Plains. The Cross Plains Volunteer Fire Department responded for assistance. There were wrecks on Interstate 20 near Baird Saturday evening and the Baird Volunteer Fire Department responded with needed traffic control assistance.

There were also several wrecks during the Thanksgiving Holidays that slowed traffic on I-20 to almost a standstill.

Motorists were trying to go around the traffic jam by exiting onto Hwy 2228 and then turning onto the backside of Baird Lake Road #484 to then hit Highway 283, go north into Baird and them get back onto I-20.

County Road #484 is a gravel road and one motorist who had detoured onto it, thinking he would get back onto the interstate faster, instead turned his vehicle over on the gravel roadway, temporarily blocking that road.

A Texas Tech Student on her way back to college was involved in one of the many wrecks on I-20 and her car caught fire. The Baird Volunteer Fire Department responded super fast and put out the fire. A wrecker was called for the auto and the firemen made sure the driver was taken to safety.

That same night another call came from dispatch concerning a vehicle that had quit running and stopped on I-20 near mile marker 308. This was a very dangerous spot in the east cuts with concrete barriers to keep a vehicle from pulling off the highway. I was close to the location and got behind the vehicle with my red lights flashing. I carefully walked up to the vehicle and found it was occupied by 2 young ladies on their way back to Texas Tech. The driver of the vehicle was on the phone with her father. I could see that

the 308 exit was only about 150 yards ahead of us. I asked her father if he would mind if I pushed her car to the 308 exit where they would be safe. He said please do and to not worry about hurting the bumper. I slowly pushed the vehicle to the exit and she coasted downhill and off the exit ramp away for the never ending, fast moving traffic. Her father had already called a wrecker and he was on his way to assist them. I went out to another call.

Every time there is a rain or even a sprinkle there are always wrecks on the Interstate. I am

not looking forward to this winter when there is ice and snow on the roads. I want all the volunteer firemen in Callahan County to know that the Callahan County Sheriff's Department appreciates all that you do for this Sheriff's Department and the Citizens of Callahan County; Baird, Clyde, Cross Plains, Eula, Putnam, Oplin and Cottonwood Fire Departments are Super! If there is any possible way that this Sheriff's Office can help you to better serve the citizens of Callahan County we want to do so!

Senior Citizens Center Activities

Dec. 12th - Dec. 16th

Monday-12th Crafts with Chris 10:30/Exercise 11:00/ Music Monday - Sing & Play Along 6:00 pm

Tuesday 13th Exercise 11:00/Carol Diabetic Education Resource Care

Wednesday-14th Exercise 11:00/Blood Pressure Check by Kindrick at home of Eastland

Thursday-15th Exercise 11:00/Open House/Reading with 3rd Graders 9:45 & 12:25

Friday-16th Exercise 11:00/Manicures Kendrick at Home of Eastland

Cross Plains Senior Citizens Center seeks to nurture our aging population through nutritional, social and educational programs our goal is for all

SENIOR CITIZENS MENU

Dec. 12th - Dec. 16th

Monday 12th- Salisbury Thursday 15th - **Open Steak, Potatoes, Black Eye House** Fried Fish, Oven Peas, Bread, Dessert. Fried Okra, Coleslaw, Baked Beans, Hushpuppies

Tuesday 13th- Sweet & Sour Chicken, Rice, Vegetable Egg Roll, Dessert. Friday 16th- Chicken Spaghetti, Lettuce, Spinach, Tomato Salad, Hominy, Bread, Dessert

Wednesday 14th- Stuffed Baked Potato with Chili & Cheese, Broccoli Cuts, Bread Dessert. MEAL IS SERVED - 11:45 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

Monthly Menu may be picked up at the Senior Citizen Center

Clyde Chamber of Commerce Annual Christmas Parade and Pictures with Santa this Saturday!

The Clyde Chamber of Commerce will host the annual Christmas Lights Parade and pictures with Santa Claus on Saturday, December 10th. Parade participants will line up on Elm Street in the parking lot across from First Financial at 6:00pm and the Parade will begin at 6:30pm; the parade will travel south on Elm, east on North 1st Street, north on Oak St, west on North 3rd Street, and will turn north on Elm Street ending back in the First Financial Bank auxiliary parking lot beside Dollar General. All parade participants are encouraged to return to the Chamber for photos, hot chocolate, cookies, shopping, and FUN!

Immediately following the parade, everyone is invited to join us at the Chamber of Commerce building on North 1st Street for cookies, hot chocolate, and pictures with Santa Claus! Santa is making

a special stop here in Clyde because he's heard about all the good boys and girls we have here so be sure to come take your picture with him and tell him what you'd like for Christmas! You won't want to miss any part of this event, it's going to be lots of fun! Parents, be sure to bring your camera to snag a photo of your little ones with Santa!

It takes a lot of people to help put this event together. Special Thanks goes to the following groups and individuals for helping to Make Clyde Shine!

- To First Financial Bank, Gray Electric, and First Bank Texas for sponsoring our event and Christmas Light's Contest
- To Gray Electric for testing all of our Christmas Tree and Candlestick lights that hang on the electric poles and for preparing and delivering them to be hung
- To AEP for hanging our pole lights



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JOY!

A Gospel Christmas Celebration
Composed & Arranged by
Joel Raney

Sunday, December 18th
7 p.m

Everyone Welcome

Bring a Friend and Enjoy Joy!

Refreshments Served Afterward
First Presbyterian Church 200 N. Avenue D



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THE BETTER BUILT

HAWK

PORTABLE BUILDINGS
1-20 EAST 1 MILE
CLYDE 893-5120
ABILENE 677-8636
WE FINANCE!
WE DELIVER!
OWNER: ENDGATE HAWK

Family shares story after losing daughter to drunk driver

AUSTIN - The Stephens family is planning their annual holiday feast, but this year, one seat will remain empty. Their daughter Jade was killed when a drunk driver ran a stop sign and T-boned their car, just days before her 10th birthday. "We miss her every day, but we feel the loss of her presence particularly around the holidays," said Eric Stephens, Jade's father. "We miss her joy, wit and infectious laugh. No other family should experience a loss like ours due to drinking and driving. All it

takes is planning ahead for a sober ride." The Stephens family is sharing Jade's story through the Texas Department of Transportation's "Plan While You Can" campaign to communicate the devastating consequences of drinking and driving. The goal is to save lives and decrease alcohol-related crashes, with special emphasis during the holidays when alcohol consumption is more prevalent.

As a combined result of the "Plan While You Can" campaign and the efforts of many state and local community partners, including law enforcement, Texas experienced a 9-percent decrease in alcohol-related traffic fatalities during last year's holiday season (Dec. 1, 2015 - Jan. 1, 2016) compared to the previous holiday season. Still, during last year's holiday season, there were 2,374 alcohol-related crashes in Texas, resulting in 102 fatalities and 205 serious injuries.

"We are saving lives through our education efforts and by sharing compelling stories from families who have lost loved ones," said TxDOT Executive Director James Bass. "However, one life lost is one too many. Finding a sober ride is easy and it can save you from being arrested or from injuring or killing yourself or others. By making an effort to plan ahead for a sober ride, together, we can continue to save lives."

The "Plan While You Can" campaign includes a statewide tour featuring an interactive dodgeball game, where participants dodge "snowballs" as virtual drinks are added to the screen. As more drinks are added, the players' on-screen avatars respond more slowly to players' movements. Participants experience how drinking can slow their reaction times.

As always, TxDOT strongly encourages everyone to plan for a sober ride before going out. Visit SoberRides.org to find alternatives to drinking and driving, such as:

Calling a taxi or using a transportation app on your smartphone.

Using mass transit.

Asking a sober friend or family member for a ride home.

Spending the night.

For more information, contact TxDOT Media Relations at MediaRelations@txdot.gov or (512) 463-8700.

Capital Farm Credit members receive fall 2016 payout totaling \$36.8 million

BRYAN, Texas - Capital Farm Credit's Board of Directors approved a \$36.8 million cash retirement of allocated equities issued in 2010. Borrowers with loans in 2010 will receive their share of the cash payment in checks mailed last week.

Combined with the \$56.7 million cash patronage paid in March of this year, Capital Farm Credit will have returned total cash distributions of more than \$93.5 million to our members in 2016.

"Capital Farm Credit has one of the strongest patronage dividend programs in the country," said Ben Novosad, chief executive officer. "Over the past 10 years, we have returned more than 95 percent of our earnings back to our members - more than half a

billion dollars. By comparison, our competitors that have patronage programs returned less than 50 percent of their earnings."

Capital Farm Credit has a long tradition of strong earnings, which accrues to the benefit of our members. We bring value to our members by delivering credit and other financially related services to them effectively and efficiently.

As we return the earnings through our patronage dividend program, we effectively lower the cost of doing business for these farmers and ranchers, which helps to strengthen the agricultural economy and rural communities we serve.

"As a borrower-owned cooperative, we are controlled by the farmers and ranchers

who borrow from us," added Novosad. "Our patronage dividend program is a unique benefit to our members that sets us apart from other lenders. We're proud to support rural Texas communities and agriculture with reliable, consistent credit and financial services by providing farmers and ranchers with the capital they need to make their businesses successful."

Capital Farm Credit has provided financing to Texas farmers, ranchers, rural property owners and agribusinesses for 100 years. Headquartered in Bryan, CFC has nearly 70 offices spanning most of Texas. For more information about its patronage dividend program, financial services and office locations, visit www.CapitalFarmCredit.com.

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Clyde, TX 79510
325-893-5884

Abilene

1849 So. 1st St.
Abilene, TX 79604
325-670-0670

ACROSS

- 1 TX newspaper: _____ County Enterprise
- 5 "Hill Country State Natural _____"
- 6 flat floater
- 7 profession of TX Dick DeGuerrin (abbr.)
- 8 this chemical company has a plant in Freepport, TX
- 9 in Matagorda County on FM 1488 & FM 2431
- 16 this Lindros finished his career with the Dallas Stars
- 18 TXism: "skinny _____ eating cat"
- 21 "_____ way, Jose"
- 22 HIV/_____ pandemic
- 23 Chester, TX was named after this president (init.)
- 24 TXism: "he couldn't _____ egg" (weaking)
- 29 historic Highlands Mansion in Marlin has stained-_____
- 34 TX Willie wrote "Hello Walls" for this Faron (init.)
- 35 memory maker
- 36 this Cheney was VP for TX George W.
- 37 TXism: "we're seein' _____ eye" (in agreement)
- 39 former Cowboys' arena (2 wds.)

- 43 this Phil was Astros' 1st pick in 1992 rather than Derek Jeter
- 44 Amarillo High mascots
- 45 former First Lady of TX, Connally (init.)
- 46 HOV _____
- 47 TX Jaworski was special prosecutor in Watergate _____
- 49 punting, e.g. _____
- 52 Alon USA has this in Dallas (abbr.)
- 53 dir. from Abilene to Iowa Park _____
- 54 "_____ of fun"
- 55 square dance strides
- 58 iron alloy
- 59 2,000 pounds
- 60 "Attila the _____"
- 61 TX TV Tarzan, Ron _____

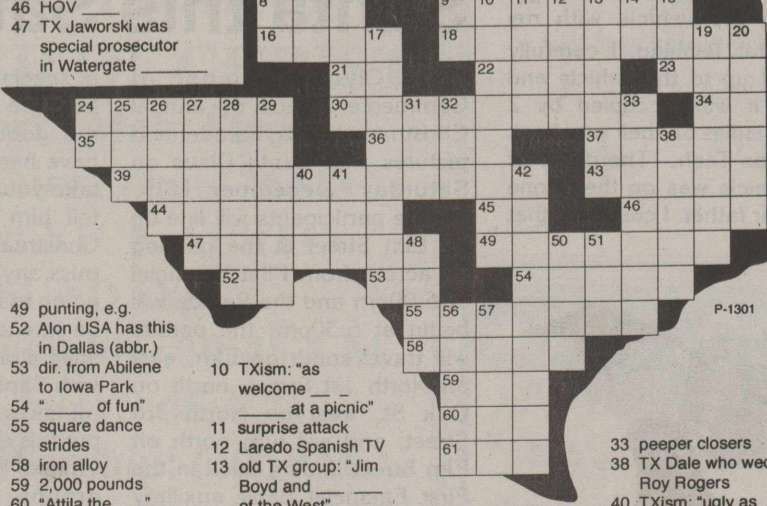
DOWN

- 1 1925 film directed by TX King Vidor: "The Big _____"
- 2 "speechifier"
- 3 Dallas Stars position or liberal politics (2 wds.)
- 4 TX birth town of Renée Zellweger
- 9 nickname of first female governor of TX
- 10 TXism: "as welcome _____ at a picnic"
- 11 surprise attack
- 12 Laredo Spanish TV
- 13 old TX group: "Jim Boyd and _____ of the West"
- 14 this Zaprunder caught JFK assassination on film (init.)
- 15 TX songwriter & performer, Davis _____
- 17 TXism: "_____ outhouse seat in January"
- 19 tubing
- 20 "from _____" (from the very beginning)
- 24 "Before Christ" abbr. _____
- 25 "_____ More Beef"
- 26 IA or TX town
- 27 TXism: "got a heart as big as _____"
- 28 TX hunting site near Bandera: "Flying _____"
- 29 TX-based Alon USA Energy is ALJ on this exchange
- 31 TX Willie's "Farm _____" concerts
- 32 TX Rip Torn _____ film: "Men in Black"
- 33 peeper closers
- 38 TX Dale who wed Roy Rogers
- 40 TXism: "ugly as _____"
- 41 Dallasite Cassidy who was "Lurch"
- 42 great SMU option QB, Lance _____
- 48 "_____ is more"
- 50 TX Sissy Spacek film: "_____ Miner's Daughter" (1980)
- 51 TX-based "Mary _____" Cosmetics
- 56 TXism: "chompin' _____ bit"
- 57 South Korea capital

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

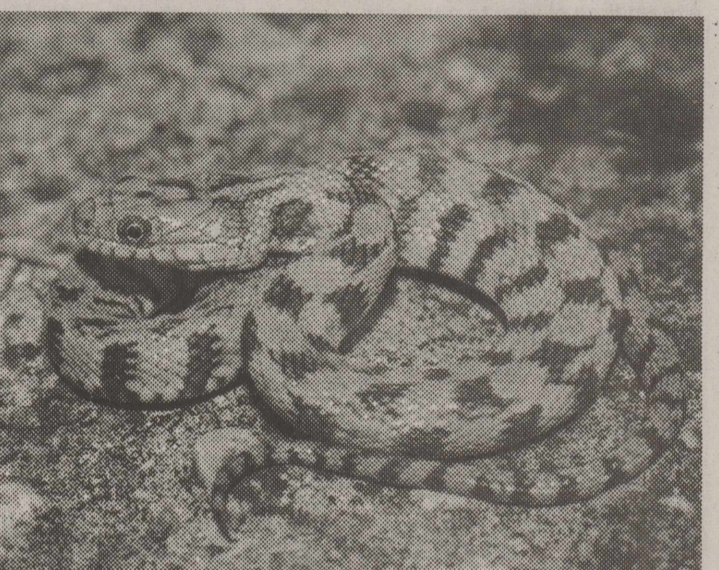
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Wild About Texas Sponsored by: Happy Trails Rustic Western

Diamond-Backed Watersnake

Old wives tales are often based on something that cannot be explained at the time, so of course when the big thinkers in Hollywood give their explanation, well then, it is taken as serious as something written on stone tablets. In the movie "Lonesome Dove" we see a group of cowboys "attacked" by nest of deadly aquatic snakes as they transverse the mighty Pecos River. But the facts remain: there are no venomous aquatic snakes in the Pecos River, and the old wives tale about a "nest" of aquatic snakes is based on the romantic forays of the pestilent, but harmless, Diamond-backed watersnake.



Diamond-backed Watersnake (Nerodia rhombifera)

The Diamond-backed Watersnake (Nerodia rhombifera) is a moderately sized non-venomous serpent, with most adults reaching sexual maturity between twenty four and thirty six inches in total length. The largest specimen recorded, however, was just over sixty inches, but that enormous example was definitely an exception to this species size rule. Like most other species in the genus Nerodia, it is rather drab in coloration and pattern. The background pigmentation varies from olive green in young adults to dark brown in more mature specimens. Along the spine, there is a network of dark brown or black lines that form a diamond-shaped pattern, giving this variety of aquatic serpent its namesake. The belly is colored yellowish-cream and has numerous dark crescents randomly interspaced along the belly scales. The head is elongated and flat while the pupils are round, characteristics that can easily separate this harmless species with the venomous Cottonmouth. However, when this species feels threatened, it will often flatten its head into a "diamond-shaped" defensive posture, causing many individuals to be mistaken for the Cottonmouth, even in areas where the water moccasin does not occur.

Found throughout the southeastern United States, this species can be seen in the eastern two-thirds of the state of Texas. It ranges much further north and west than the serpent that it is most often confused with, the venomous Cottonmouth. As the name implies, most of the watersnake species are rarely

encountered far from water, and this one is no exception. In fact, it is rarely seen more than twenty feet or so from the edge of the shoreline that it calls home. Like most of the other nine species of watersnakes that occur in Texas, this type can survive in just about any body of permanent water, including creeks, rivers, lakes, and stock tanks. As a budding naturalist, I fondly recall observing this gregarious species inhabiting golf course water hazards.

As with almost all other reptiles that reside in temperate climates, they undergo a period of inactivity during the coldest months of the year, allowing sexually mature adults to generate the sperm and eggs necessary for successful reproduction in the spring. However, unlike most other harmless snakes found in Texas, Diamond-backed Watersnakes are ovoviviparous, or live-bearing animals. Mating occurs primarily during the months of April and May, and the breeding "masses" that this species congregates in is very well documented. In fact, the stories of "nests of water moccasins" can be attributed to the Diamond-backed watersnake. What generally happens is up to twenty (yes twenty!) males may vie and compete with each other for the attention of one female, and despite any activities by potential threats around them, the males remain engaged with their one tract mindset. It can be quite disconcerting for someone with an aversion to snakes to witness a large group of serpents

at one time, especially near the water's edge.

The young are usually born sometime between early August and mid-October. This species is quite prolific, with litter sizes averaging just over thirty young. The feisty babies, who are between eight and ten inches in length, resemble the adults in color and pattern and are quite capable of fending for themselves from the moment they are born.

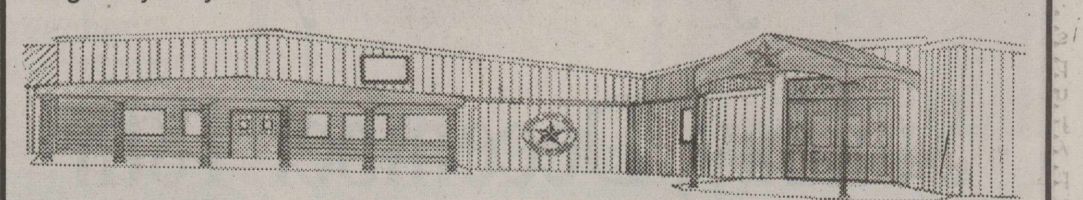
Like the majority of other watersnakes, this species is diurnal (daytime active) during its foraging activities in the spring and fall, then it becomes nocturnal when the temperatures of summer reach temperatures too unbearable for most ectothermic animals. Like other members of the watersnake clan, they feed primarily on small fish, including minnows, shad, and sunfish, although frogs, toads, crayfish, and turtles have also known to have been consumed. Although not nearly adept at capturing game fish as it is accused of, it is opportunistic enough of a predator that many a fisherman have had a Diamond-backed watersnake attach itself to a stringer of fish.

Despite the persecution due to its belligerent behavior, population studies of this species have shown that it is quite common in the areas that it occurs and therefore it is afforded no special protection from the state.

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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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