

Cross Plains Review

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

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

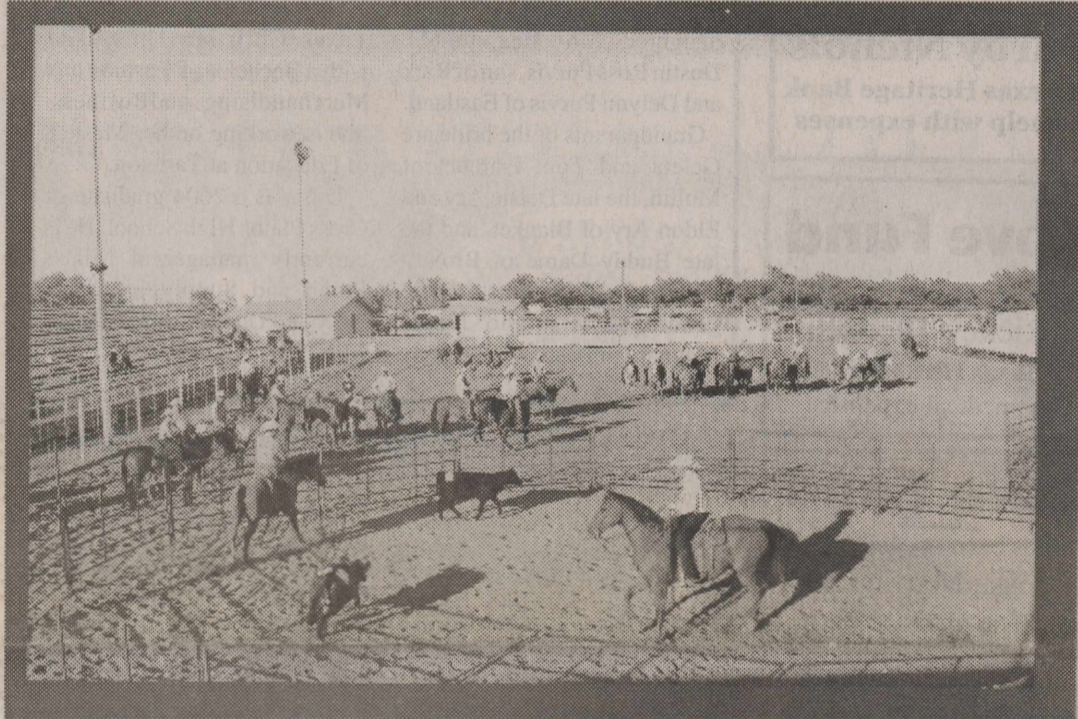
75¢

Volume 107 • Number 3
116 E. S. 1st St. • P. O. Box 519 • Cross Plains, Tx. 76443

March 26, 2015 • 16 Pages
(254) 725-6111 • crossplainsreview@earthlink.net



Cross Plains Chamber of Commerce held a Ribbon cutting for Country Donuts! Located at 416 SW 5th St. Phone: 254-725-6882. Open 7 days a week 5am-1pm. Hot and fresh everyday!



Ranch Sorting at the Baird Rodeo Arena.

Callahan County Sheriff's Posse Ranch Sorting this Saturday

The Callahan County Sheriff's Posse will hold its 1st ranch sorting for 2015 this Saturday, March 28th at the Baird rodeo arena. There will be an open division and a youth division. Open entry fee is \$50 per 2 person team and youth entry fee is \$40 per 2 person team (2 youth or 1 youth & 1 adult). Multiple entries are permitted. Full payment is due at entry time. Books open at 9 am & close at 12 noon. Youth division starts at 10 am and open division will follow. Pay-out for winners will be a percentage of the entry fees paid.

The concession stand will be open for refreshments. There will be a free hamburger, chips and drink with each payment of Callahan County Sheriff's Posse annual membership dues.

Ranch Sorting Rules -

1. Arena announcements supersede any advertisement.
2. Western ranch attire requested.
3. Full entry fee must be paid at entry time to compete.
4. Two minute time limit per sorting.

5. No loping or yelling in sorting pen.
6. No assistance from outside sorting pen.
7. For youth sorting, an adult must work gate and not sort.
8. No roughing cattle or horses allowed.
9. Judge decisions are final.
10. No beverages allowed in arena.

[Any rules not specified will be generally accepted sorting rules]

For information contact President Steve Goldsmith (518-8805) or Director Teri Hollis (668-4181).



Don and Ginger are the featured musicians this Friday.
Cottonwood Country Musical

The monthly Cottonwood Country Musical will be held on Friday, March 27, 2015 at the Cottonwood Community Center.

The featured musicians for the March Cottonwood Country Musical are Don and Ginger of Bangs, Texas. They sing old favorite country tunes and bluegrass tunes, along with a few 60's melodies. Don and Ginger hold the country musical at Bangs on the 4th Saturday each month. Their band "The Hazbins" perform on stage at Pearl, Texas often as well.

There will be guest musicians this month. They are "The States" a duo from Brownwood,

Texas. They sing a variety of tunes from bluegrass, to country and gospel.

Your all time favorite musicians are scheduled on the program as well. The musical lineup is a good one as usual.

Taco soup, sandwiches, chips, drinks, and desserts will be served in the concession.

The meal is served at 5:00 p.m. and the music starts at 5:30 p.m.

Mark your calendars and come to Cottonwood, Texas on Friday night, March 27, 2015 for good music and a enjoyable time with friends and neighbors.



Accepted Challenge

The challenge to raise \$500.00 toward the purchase of a commercial gas cook stove for the Cross Plains Senior Center by March 31, 2015, which will be matched by an anonymous donor has been accepted and conquered. The generous donations received the past three weeks exceeded the cost of the gas stove. The additional funds will be used for additional updates to the kitchen.

The Center was also blessed by a donor who purchased flooring that extended into the kitchen prior to installation of the new stove.

Thank you for your continued support of the Senior Center and all those who benefit from the nutritious meals and activities offered.

The Cross Plains Public Library Presents



Revolution Tuesday, March 31
7:00 p.m.
First United Methodist Church

Cost: \$12.00 Adults - \$8.00 Students
Call 254-725-7722 for reservations

Tickets available at the door

Holy Week to be Observed at First United Methodist Church

A traditional belief in the Methodist Church is that one cannot experience the true joy of the resurrection of Jesus without also experiencing the depth of the pain he suffered in death on the cross.

The time known as Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday (March 29) with Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem to participate in the Passover with his disciples. Maundy Thursday commemorates the last supper that Jesus served to his close followers. Good Friday is the somber acknowledgment of his crucifixion. Then comes the glorious Easter morning celebration of Christ overcoming death and arising from the grave.

Palm Sunday will be celebrated with the younger members waving the symbolic palm leaves as they progress down the aisle to begin the regular 10:45 worship service. Both the Maundy Thursday communion service and the Good Friday services will be at 6:00 p.m. in the church

sanctuary.

The Easter morning celebration on April 5 will begin with a 7:00 sunrise service in the Prayer Garden at the Church. This will include a short message and singing as those in attendance await the sun rising on 'the perfect day.' Everybody is then invited to enjoy a breakfast of pancakes, sausage, coffee and juice and an enjoyable time of fellowship.

Beautiful Easter lilies that have been donated by members of the church will line the aisles and the altar area, making the perfect background for the celebration service at 10:45 a.m.

The members of the Methodist Church warmly invite those who are looking for a special way to celebrate the message of Easter to attend these services.

Please feel free to call the church at 725-7377, e-mail to fumccrossplains@gmail.com or go to our Facebook page at First United Methodist Church, Cross Plains, TX for further information.



Texas Heritage Bank

"We're Proud of Our Local Heritage"

Member FDIC

Presents:

What's Inside

Church Directory	2
Love Funds	2
Engagement	2
REH Museum Visitors	2
Revolution Coming	2
Guest of Honor at Howard Days ..	2
CP School News & Pics	3-5
CP Board Meeting Minutes	4
Thank You from Kiwanis	4
CP School Lunch Menu	5
Texas Crossword Solution	5
Classifieds	6 & 7
Wild About Texas	7
Landscape Could Save Water	7
The Market in Clyde	8
Senior Activities & Menu	8
Grand Ole Oplin Line-up	8
Barbarian Festival Slated	9
Burkett VFD Pics	9
Cottonwood News	9
Texas Crossword	10
Angler Training	10
Community Garden	10
CP Garden Club	11
Egg Hunt is On!	11
Courthouse News	12
Birthdays	12
Sheriff's Corner	12
American Legion	12
Heart to Heart Donations	12
CP VFD Fish Fry	12
Library Notes	12
Historical Comm. Fundraiser	13
Call. County Library News	13
Commissioner's Report	13
Comm. Garden Meeting Held	14
CP Track Results	14

The Circus is Coming to Cross Plains

The Clark and Barns Family Fun Circus is coming to town, March 30th! The location will be the Callahan Show Barn in Cross Plains. One show time at 7pm! Ticket locations will be City Hall, and Chamber of Commerce Office. Ticket prices purchased early are at a discounted price! Adult Tickets are \$10 and children \$7.

The Family Fun Circus is a one ring European Style Circus with old circus traditions. The ring is surrounded with seating, and everyone is up close to the non-stop action. The show is family owned and operated and they travel to the smaller communities throughout the United States.

Circus goers are able to enjoy the Clowns, Acrobats, Aerialists, & many, many more. Each show lasts about an hour and a half. The tent opens an hour early so you can get a good seat, jump in the moon bounce, & ride the child friendly ponies. Don't forget about the elephant rides!

Cotton Candy, Popcorn, Hot dogs, & much more is available in our concessions area. For added excitement arrive early in the morning to see the tent go up, which is truly a fascinating sight! For more information contact 254-725-7251.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

Triple Cross Cowboy Church

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

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

Pioneer Baptist Church

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

Rowden Baptist Church

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

COTTONWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

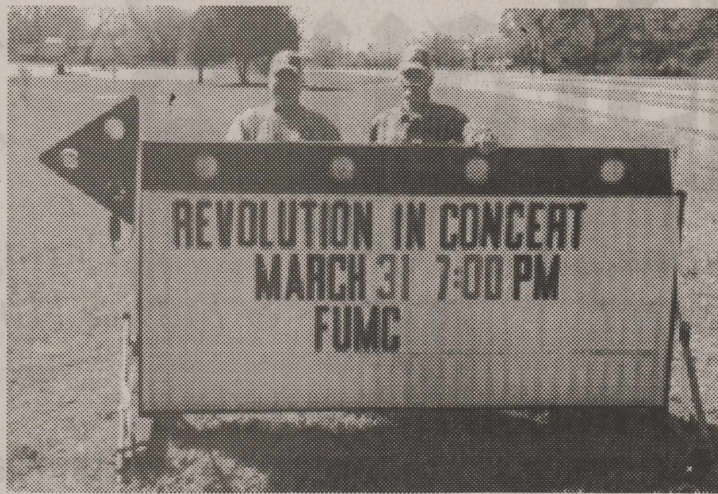
Sunday School9:45 AM
Morning Worship.....11:00 AM
Ministry Activities
Youth Meet at Pool House.....6:30PM
Thomas Estes, Pastor
Gregg Steinle, Youth Pastor
Friendly Church Church (254) 725-6266 Bible Teaching

First Presbyterian Church

SUNDAY SERVICE
9:00 AM
Pastor Kathy Monroe
208 N. Ave. D

CROSS PLAINS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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



Cross Plains Community prepping for Revolution

Join the Cross Plains Public Library For a REVOLUTION

The Cross Plains Public Library is pleased to present Revolution: a phenomenally talented fiddling troupe made up of students from Cooper and Abilene High. Revolution not only performs locally and throughout Texas, but also the U.S.; this June they will perform on a European Tour.

The performance will be Tuesday March 31st at 7:00 p.m. in the First United Methodist Church sanctuary located at 1000 N. Main Street in Cross Plains. Tickets will be \$12.00 for adults and \$8.00 for students under 18. To reserve your seat, please call the Cross Plains Public Library at 254-725-7722. You may also purchase tickets at the door the

night of the performance, however, with limited seating it is suggested you get your name on the reservation list.

This group of talented young people offers a genre to please everyone from jazz to classical, to country and everything in between. For the performance in Cross Plains, think Charlie Daniels times 13! You are guaranteed a rousing and energetic evening when you come to see Revolution. Don't miss your opportunity to see this phenomenon called REVOLUTION.



Amy Dame & Dustin Purvis

Engagement Announcement Purvis - Dame

Mr. and Mrs. Tim Dame of Eastland, proudly announce the engagement of their daughter, Amy Lea, to Mr. Dustin Ross Purvis, son of Rick and Delynn Purvis of Eastland.

Grandparents of the bride are Geleta and Tom Ishmael of Mullin, the late Delsie Ary and Eldon Ary of Blanket, and the late Buddy Dame of Brownwood. Grandparents of the groom are Pat and Jerald Maynard of Eastland, formerly

of Rising Star, and Audry and Jewell Purvis of Cross Plains. Amy is a 2008 graduate of Texas Christian University with a Bachelor of Fashion and Merchandising and Business. She is working on her Masters of Education at Tarleton.

Dusty is a 2004 graduate of Cross Plains High School. He is currently manager of Mike's Pump and Supply in Cisco. Amy and Dusty will be married May 30th in Eastland.

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

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

Love Fund

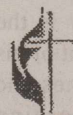
has been established at Texas Heritage Bank for **Teri Brown** in Memory of Gilbert Ibarra

Love Fund

has been established at Texas Heritage Bank for **Owen Turner** son of Joseph & Allison Turner and grandson of Greg & Dannes Turner

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First United Methodist Church

Kevin Morton, Pastor

Office 725-7377 Parsonage 325-725-7694
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 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

Oklahomans visit REH Museum

Spring break found Timothy S. Murphy and Juliana Overmier from Tulsa, OK stopping by the REH Museum on their way to Carlsbad Caverns. They both teach at the university level and made the trip to Cross Plains for Tim to do background research for a course he teaches on fantasy writing at Oklahoma State University. His Intro to fantasy fiction class will also cover J.T. Rowling (Harry Potter stories) and J.R.R. Tolkien (Hobbit and Lord of the Rings series) in addition to several of Howard's Conan stories. Murphy also enjoys

several of Howard's other books, but is concentrating on the sword and sorcery genre that was virtually invented by the local writer.

Julie is a professional flutist, playing in the Tulsa Opera Orchestra as well as giving private lessons. She is also an adjunct professor at East Central University in Ada, OK.

Two more additions to the list of occupations represented by tourists, the first university level professor of fantasy writing and the first professional flutist.

Everyday, a new adventure at the Museum.

Guest of Honor Announced for Howard Days

Project Pride is delighted that Mark Schultz has been selected as guest of honor for the annual Robert E. Howard Days scheduled for June 12-13 this year. The Robert E. Howard Foundation and the REH United Press Association make all the plans for this event and Project Pride facilitates all the local arrangements for the dozens of guests coming from around the world.

Although Schultz may be an unknown name locally, his work speaks for itself in areas familiar to all. He has either scripted or drawn many popular fiction icons, including Flash Gordon, Tarzan and Superman as well as scripting the classic comic strip Prince Valiant for last 11 years.

During the Howard Days, he will be sharing his extensive

career of illustrating many of Howard's characters for a variety of publications. His work has been on the covers of many of the books that are shipped locally for the REH Foundation Press.

He will be the speaker at the Friday night celebration dinner where he will share the "History of Illustrating Robert E. Howard."

Details for the weekend and how to purchase tickets for the dinner will be announced later.

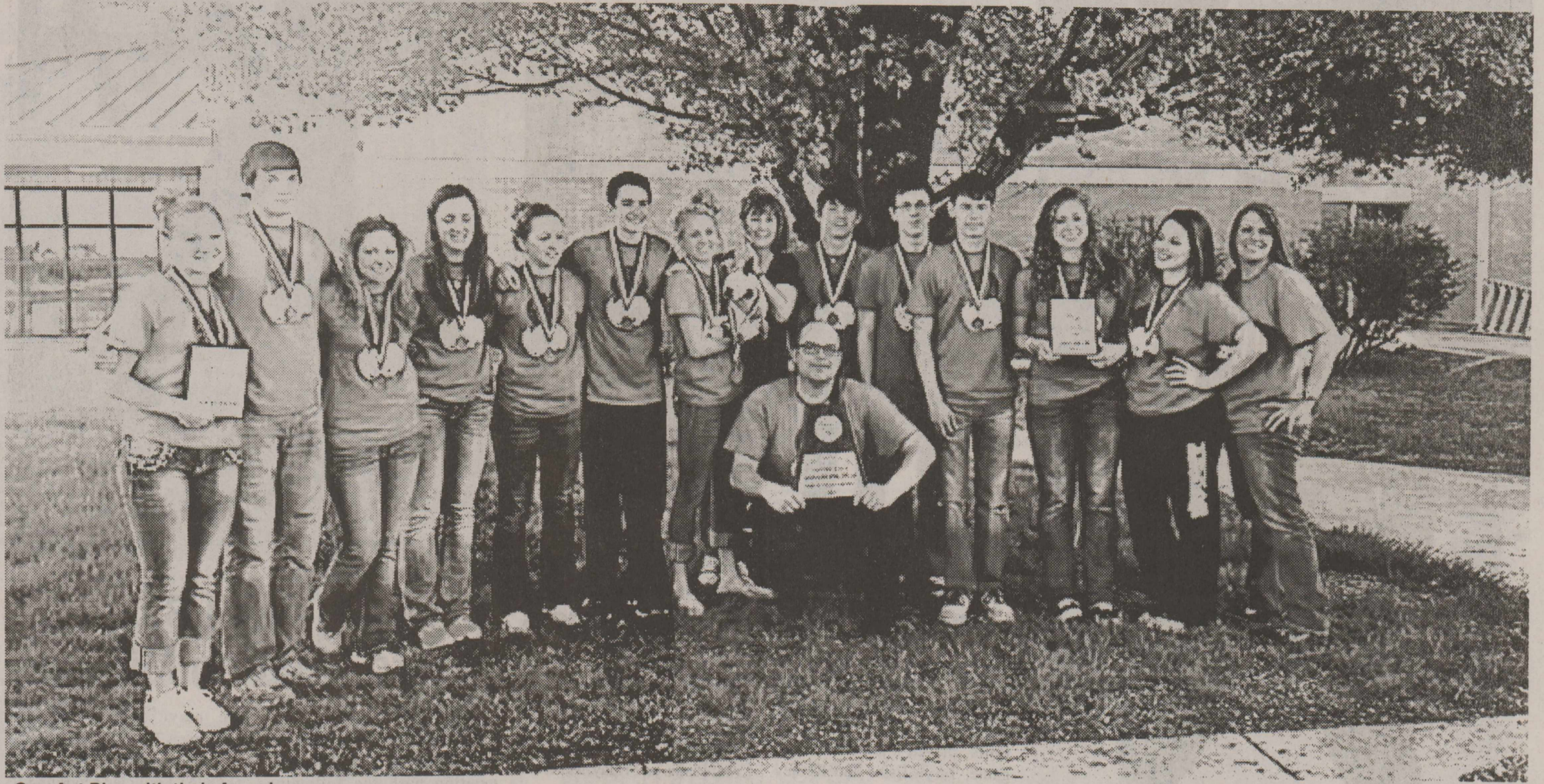
Cross Plains Review

2

Mar. 26, 2015

CROSS PLAINS BUFFALOES

Let's Go Buff's



One Act Play with their Award

Cross Plains One-Act Play Advances to Bi-District

The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds by Paul Zindel performed by the Cross Plains One-Act Play troupe was one of three plays that advanced from District competition held at Eula. The Bi-District competition is set for Thursday, April 9th in Anson. The directors, cast, and crew would like to thank all those that came to watch the District performance and would like your continued support in their journey.

Nanny played by Kenzie Halsel
Janice Vickery played by Allanta Wheeler

Crew:
Taryn Estes Stage Manager
Kelli Bennett Assistant Stage Manager
Stephen Saltus Light Technician
Larson Walker Assistant Light Technician

Cast:
Tillie played by Hannah Cowan

Billy Woodard- Sound Technician
Directors: Matt Sowell, Debbie Mitchell, Robin Porter

Beatrice played by Grace Goode
Ruth played by Ariel Sneed Hutchins



One Act Play



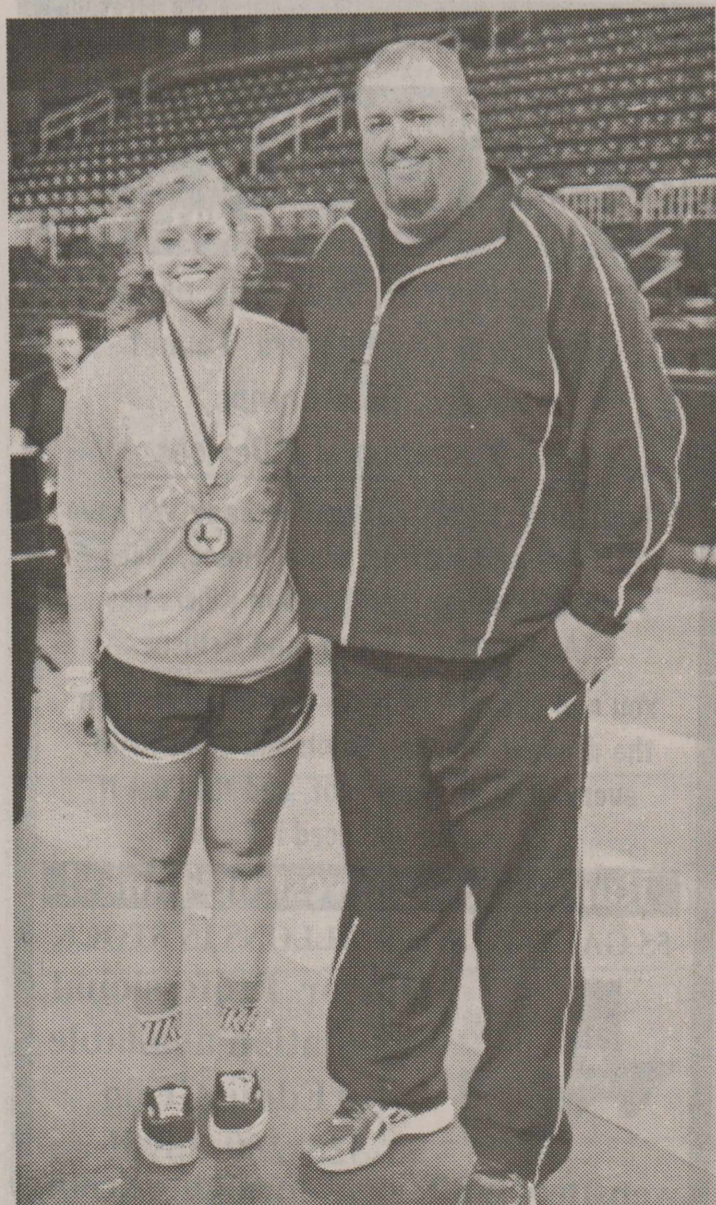
One Act Play



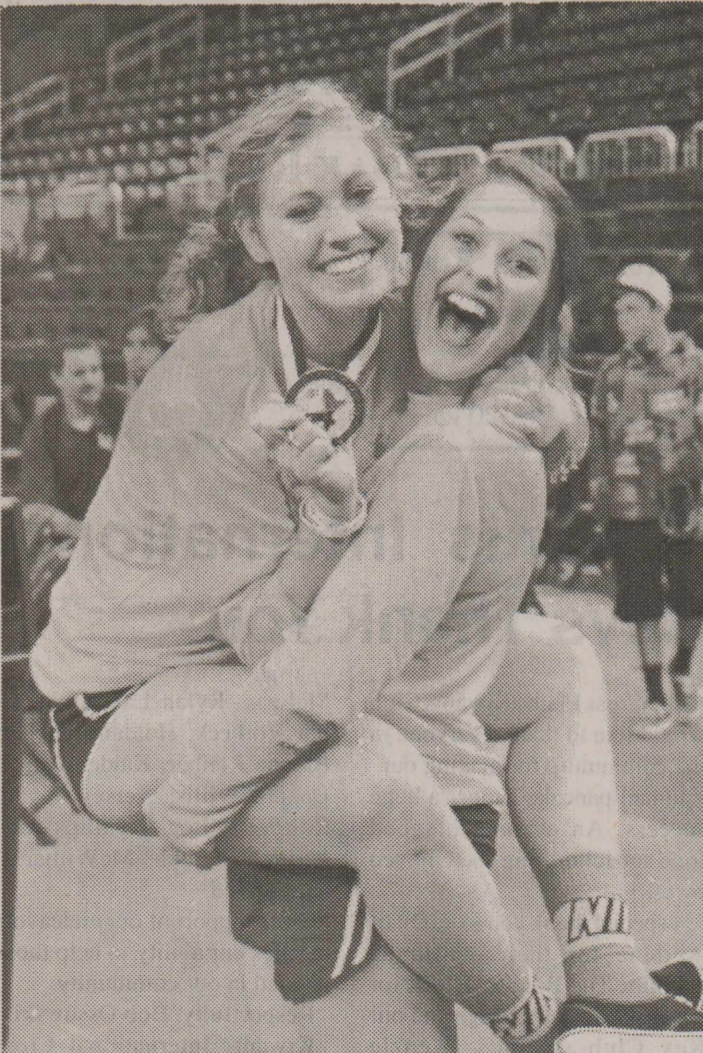
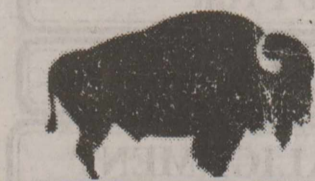
Girls Powerlifting Weight Class Winners - Taryn Estes on Left

Lady Buffs in State Powerlifting Event

On Saturday, March 21st Taryn Estes competed in Corpus Christi at the Girls State Powerlifting Meet. Taryn had her personal best overall total of 805. She placed 4th overall in the state of Texas.



Taryn Estes and Coach Kelley - Girls State Level 4th Place



Ariel Hutchins hugging Taryn Estes wearing State Ribbon

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CROSS PLAINS
CALLAHAN SHOW BARN
MON. MARCH 30,
SHOW @ 7:00 PM

Sponsored by Chamber of Commerce
Adv. tickets @ Chamber & City Hall

TICKETS NOT VALID FOR OTHER EVENTS

ACTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

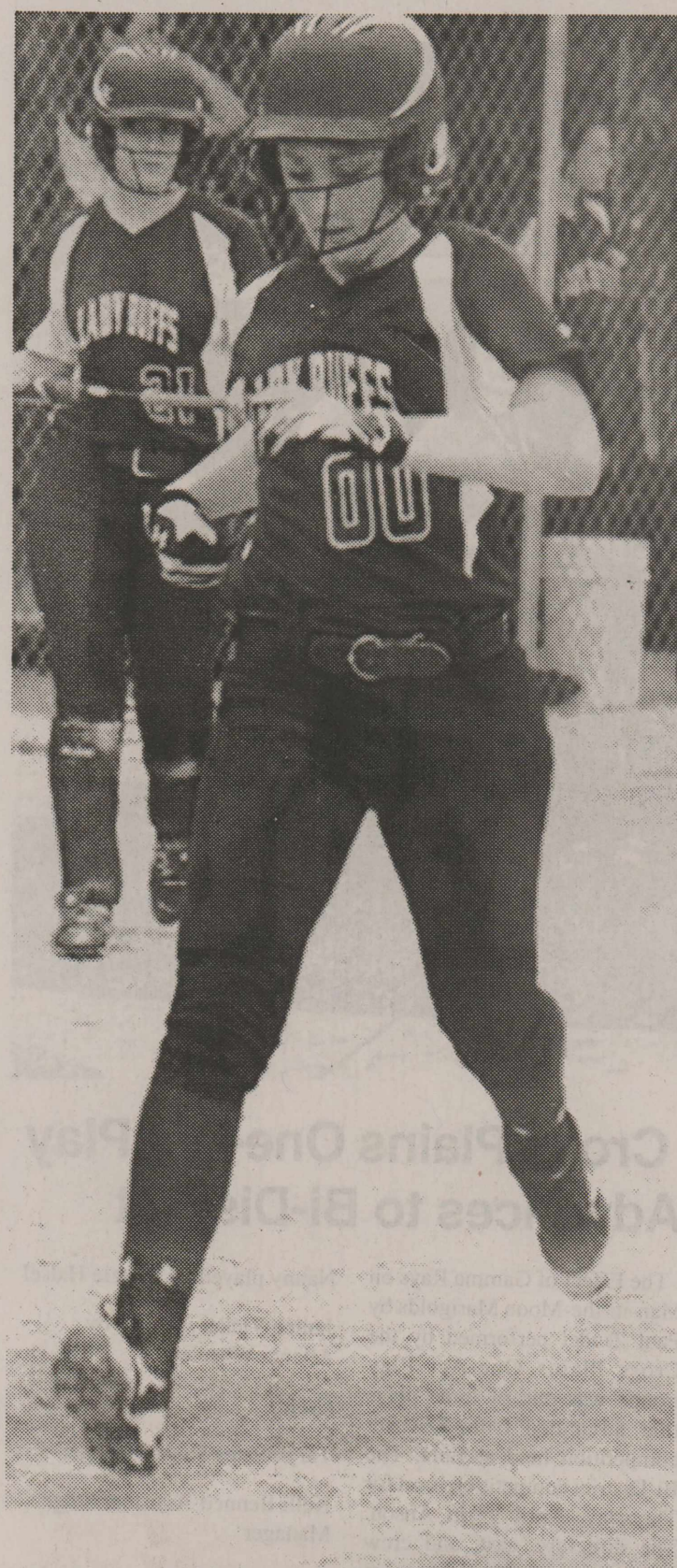
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Cross Plains Review

3

Mar. 26, 2015

CROSS PLAINS BUFFALOES



Lady Buff Katy Jo Morgan



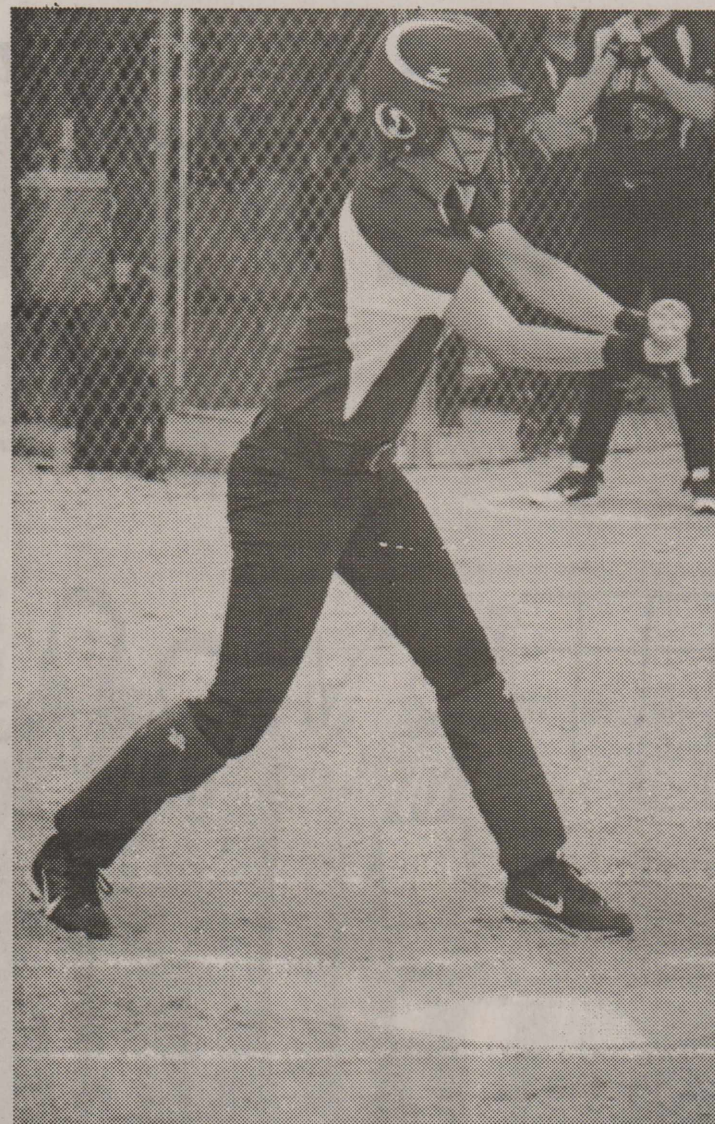
Lady Buffs Billie Pointer, Kersey Wyatt and Rebekah Crockett
Lady Buffs Defeat the Lady Tigers

On Tuesday, March 17, the May Lady Tigers traveled to Cross Plains only to be defeated 19-9 in 6 innings. The Lady Buffs played a good offensive game, Taryn Estes and Kersey Wyatt were the leading scorers with 3 runs scored a piece. Katy

Jo Morgan pitched the majority of the game and had 9 strike outs. The Lady Buffs are working hard to prepare for the upcoming game against Santa Anna in Cross Plains on Friday, March 20 at 5 o'clock.



Lady Buff Hannah Cowan



Lady Buff McKenzie Byrd

Cross Plains I.S.D. Board Meeting Minutes

On March 19, 2015

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

The following administrators and guests were also in attendance: Supt. Phil Mitchell, H.S. Principal Brad Jones, Elem. Principal Leslie Lawrence, Athletic Director Daniel Purvis and guest Mike Brady.

Prayer was led by Jack Shepard.

Motion was made by Cowan and seconded by Richey that we approve the minutes from the previous meeting as read. For 7/Against 0

Motion was made by Shepard and seconded by McWilliams that we approve Order of Cancellation for the May 9, 2015 board election and declare the unopposed candidates elected. For 7/Against 0

Motion was made by Cowan and seconded by Crockett that

we move that the Board authorizes TASB Policy Service to add, revise, or delete (LOCAL) policies according to the summary document resulting from the Policy Review Session conducted with the District on February 4, 2015. For 7/Against 0

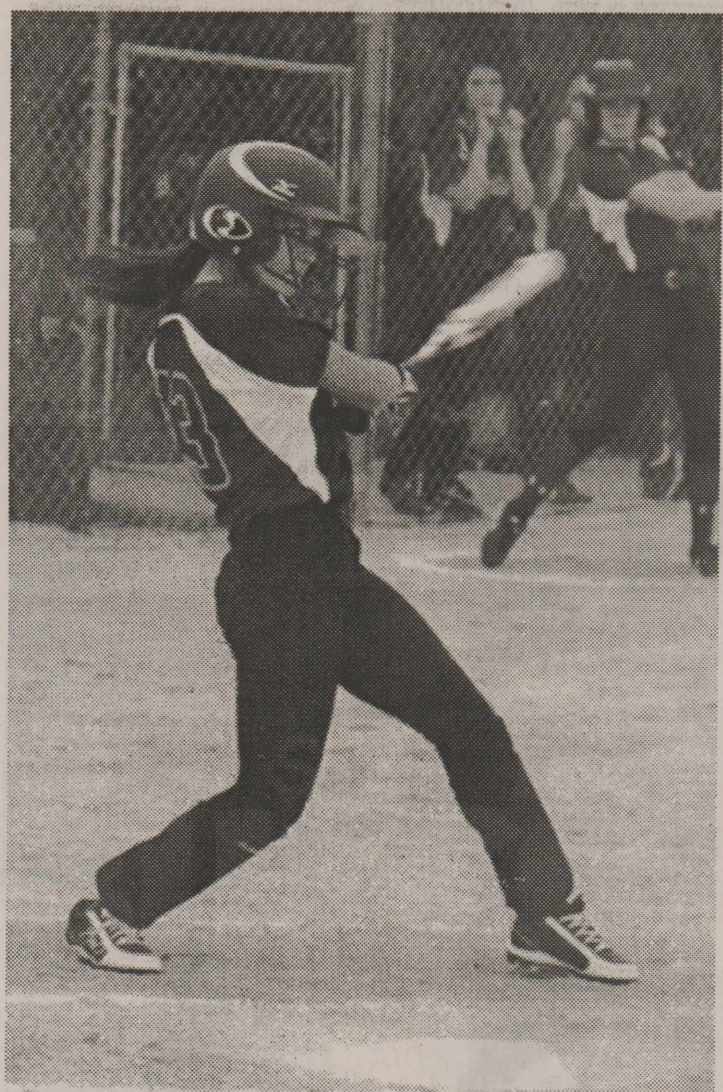
Motion was made by Cowan and seconded by McWilliams that we have excess Interest & Sinking revenue to be placed into the General Operating revenue. For 7/Against 0

The board went into executive session at 10:20 p.m. and returned at 10:52 p.m.

Motion was made by Cowan and seconded by Richey that we extend the Elementary Principal's contract through 2017. For 7/Against 0

Motion was made by Crockett and seconded by Shepard that we extend the Athletic Director's contract through 2017. For 6/Against 0/Abstain: 1 (Richey)

Motion was made by Bennett and seconded by Crockett that we adjourn. For 7/Against 0



Lady Buff Alexis Mauricio



Lady Buff Rebekah Crockett

The Following businesses support The Buffaloes

The Thumb Print

LOWE'S

T&K TIRE & ALIGNMENT

TEXAS HERITAGE BANK

TRINITY LIVEOAK REAL ESTATE

Cross Plains Review

4

Mar. 26, 2015



Kiwanis International Says Thank You

The Cross Plains Kiwanis Club would like to thank everyone in the community for making our annual pancake supper a huge success. An evening of good food and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

A special thank you to IHOP of Abilene for their continued support; The Butcher Block for their wonderful sausage and our Key Club students (Kenzie Byrd, Dreleud Smith, Korbin

McLean, Rylan Laminack, Tibor Vorbeck, Holden Senclair, Brenna Kleiber, Kaiden Petree, Dakota Willis, Kersey Wyatt, Rile Potter, Logan Phillips, A.G. Partin and Dobbs McWilliams) who served.

Your support of our endeavors ensures our ability to help those in need in our community.

Respectfully, Bob Ossowski
Kiwanis International Cross Plains, TX

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Feed Fertilizer, and Fire Ant Killers like
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**You can expect RAIN to give us relief from
the drought. You can catch and store RAIN,
every drop off your roof, and then use it
when you need it!!!**

Rainwater Harvesting Tanks!

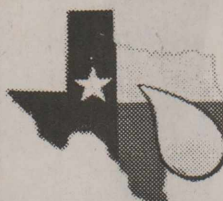
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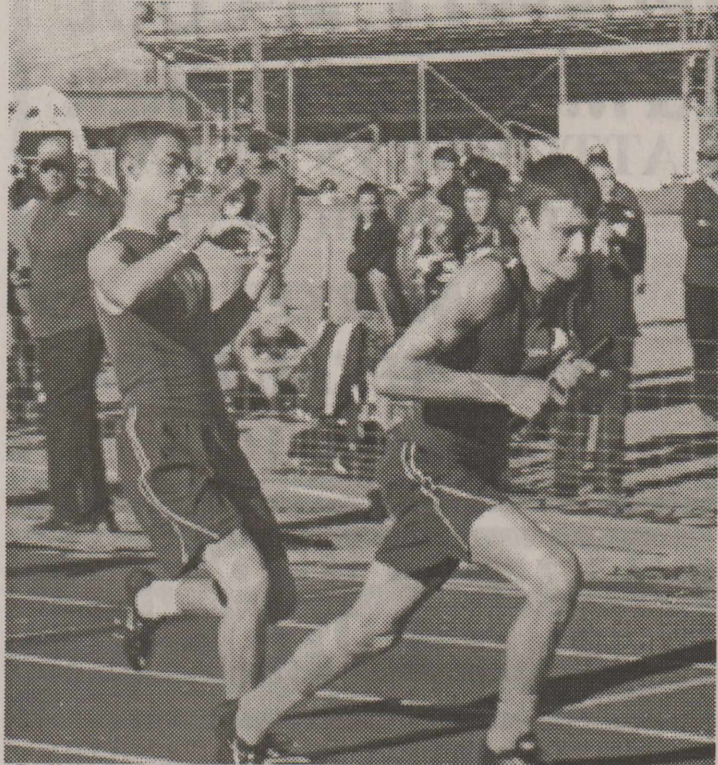
by Eddie Craig

325-260-3698!

website www.texasraincatchers.com

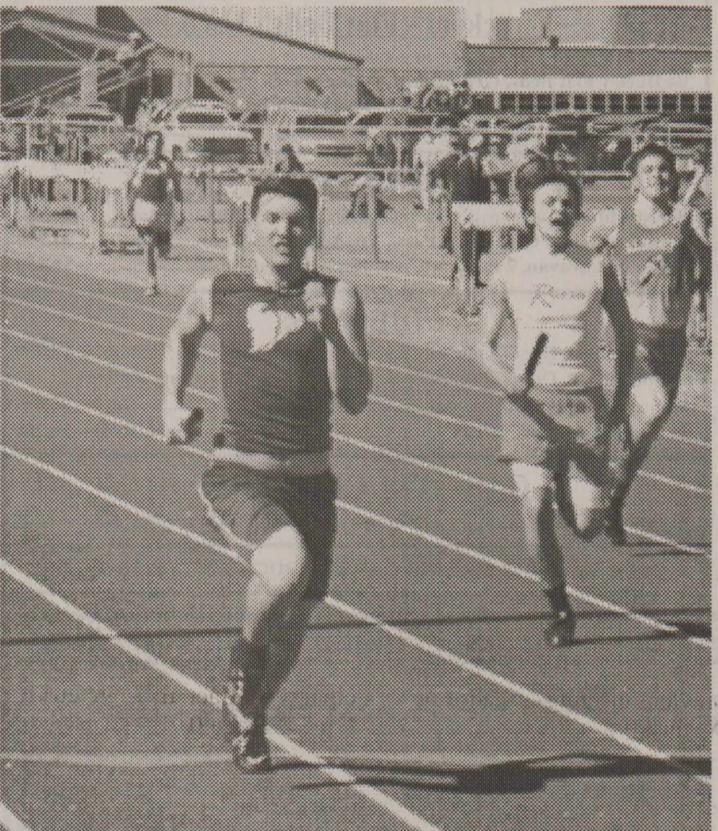


CROSS PLAINS BUFFALOES



Buffalo Dobbs McWilliams handing baton to Creed Goode

Cross Plains Buffaloes at Hamlin Track Meet



Buffalo Keifer Stienle

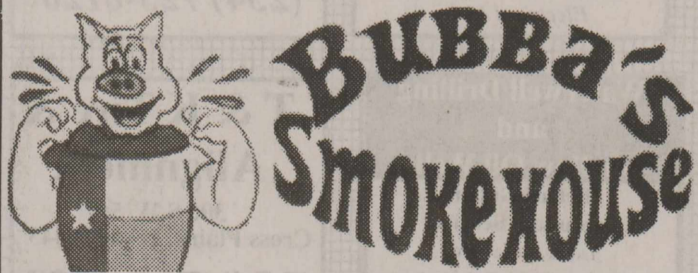
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 Baird, Tx. 325-338-2355
 325-338-5170

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 Turkey or Chicken Plate with 2 sides & bread
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Lady Buff Kenzie Haisel



Lady Buff Macee Steigleder

Junior High Lady Buff Soars

On Saturday, March 21st, the Cross Plains Junior High attended the Santo Track Meet. Macee Steigleder, a 7th grade student took first place in the 100 meter hurdles.



Lady Buff Grace Goode



Buffalo Rylan Laminack

The Following businesses support The Buffaloes

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CROSS PLAINS REVIEW

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METHODIST YOUTH GROUP

TIM'S FLORAL & GIFTS

HIGGINBOTHAM FUNERAL HOME

CROSS PLAINS FOOD PANTRY

REED CONSTRUCTION

Let's Go Buffaloes!

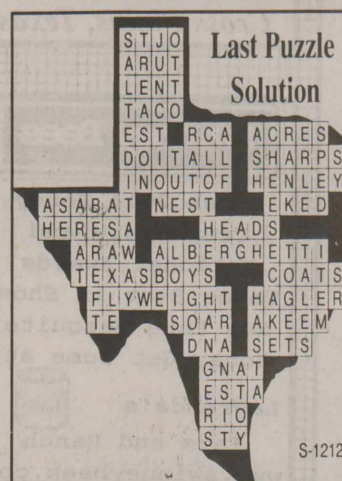
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Cross Plains Review

5

Mar. 26, 2015



CROSS PLAINS I.S.D. BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETINGS

Cross Plains ISD will conduct its Regular Monthly Meetings on the third Wednesday of each month beginning at 8:00 p.m. The next Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting will be Wednesday, April 15, 2015. If conflicts arise with the third Wednesday of the month, the superintendent will take the necessary steps to notify the public.

Cross Plains I.S.D. Weekly Menu March 30 - April 3, 2015

	MONDAY 30	TUESDAY 31	WEDNESDAY 1	THURSDAY 2	FRIDAY 3
B R E A K F A S T	Sausage Biscuit Cheese Stick Cereal Fruit Juice Milk	Muffin choice Scrambled Eggs Cereal Fruit Juice Milk	French Toast Bacon Cereal Fruit Juice Milk	Cereal Toast Cheese Stick Fruit Juice Milk	Easter Holiday
L U N C H	Cheese Enchiladas Spanish Rice Black Beans Garden Salad Cinnamon Apples Milk	Philly Cheese Steak Sandwich Potato Rounds Fresh Veggie cup Diced Pears Milk	Grilled Cheese Vegetable Soup Baby Carrots Fruit cup Milk	Chicken nuggets Mac & Cheese Garden Salad Green Beans Apple slices Crispy Cereal Treat Milk	

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

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CROSS PLAINS REVIEW (USPS 138-660)

DON TABOR PUBLISHER
BECKY TABOR EDITOR
CROSS PLAINS REVIEW

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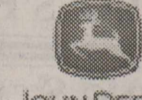
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6

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Western Diamondback Rattlesnake

There are times when I write this column that the information about an animal is scarce and hard to come by. However, at other times the material that is available is almost overwhelming. There is so much information (true and false) that I would like to present that a column like this would quickly take up more space than is allowed, and such is the case with the Western Diamondback Rattlesnake.



Western Diamondback Rattlesnake (Crotalus atrox)

The Western Diamondback Rattlesnake (*Crotalus atrox*) occurs from central Oklahoma through the western two-thirds of Texas westward to the southeastern border of California south to the state of San Luis Potosi, Mexico. In Texas, it is the most commonly encountered venomous snake in the Trans-Pecos eco-region, as well as the Tamaulipan thornscrub of south Texas. It is a habitat generalist, occupying a variety of habitats ranging from desert scrub near the Permian Basin to high elevation pine-oak forests of the Davis Mountains.

Western Diamondbacks are the second largest venomous snake in the United States, slightly exceeded in size only by the Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake of Florida and other east coast states. It is by far the largest venomous snake that occurs in Texas. Adult Western Diamondbacks can achieve lengths of up to seven feet in length, although the average is much smaller than this. Most individuals max out at a length between four and five feet in total length.

The body coloration of Western Diamondbacks can vary (depending on the soil type where it occurs) from a chalky gray to a dull reddish brown. Along the spine is a series of darker diamond-shaped markings that are bordered by a black and white border, hence the name diamondback. A common nickname among those who encounter this serpent frequently is coon-tail which refers to the black and white banded tail. These tail bands are of nearly equal width, one characteristic that is used to determine this animal from the more dangerous Mojave Rattlesnake that inhabits the Trans-Pecos area of Texas as well. The head is distinctly wider than the neck, giving this animal the famous "diamond-shaped" head. The pupils are elliptical, and the rattle is large and is capable of being heard from several yards away.

Diamondbacks, like other snakes, do not hibernate in the true sense of the word, but rather employ an activity known as brumation. This means that the snake's metabolism, heart rate and breathing all slow down to a near stop, but they are quite awake and aware of their surroundings. They will often congregate in large numbers in "dens" to spend the long periods

of inactivity of winter and once temperatures achieve a level of warmth that the snake finds tolerable, usually in early to mid-March, then the males begin leaving the densite in their quest to mate. Females release a pheromone that attracts the males, and many times more than one male will encounter a female that is receptive. During these encounters, the males will participate in a dramatic "dance" as they entwine their bodies together in a wrestling match style event. The winner is the one who is able to pin the other to the ground, and mating ensues upon the dominant male's victory. Diamondbacks are oviparous, which means they give birth to living young, and the foot-long neonates (which number from 4 to 25) are typically born in late summer and early fall. Other than having a "button" on the end of the tail, they are exact replicas of the adults and are fully capable of fending for themselves, including having fully functional fangs and venom apparatus.

Western Diamondbacks defend themselves in a variety of ways, with the main defensive mechanism being that of camouflage. Even with the gaudy patterns and colors, this snake blends in well with its primarily brushy habitats. The second defensive plan is that of crawling away from a potential predator while rattling its tail slightly. If this does not deter its assailant, then it will begin to curl up in a defensive "s-coiled" stance

and aggressively vibrate it's tail, causing the rattling sound to get louder. This behavior is typically a final stand so to speak, and many times an encounter with a diamondback does not come to this point. Out of the 300 or so diamondbacks that I encounter each summer, less than 10 percent resort to this tactic, with most being satisfied to avoid any confrontations. The last defensive mechanism is that of biting and injecting a deadly venom into a would-be attacker. This venom, depending on a huge variety of factors, can be lethal to humans, although few human fatalities actually occur. Despite these venomous propensities, the Western Diamondback is actually beneficial in the fact that it preys primarily on small mammals such as mice and rats.

When participating in outdoor activities, the risk of encountering a Western Diamondback is slim, although it can and does happen occasionally. If such an encounter occurs, remember that this animal, despite its harmful capability, is more afraid of you than you are of it and it would prefer to be left alone. Most bites from this species occur when people make an attempt to either capture or kill this snake. The best course of action is to walk, don't run, in the opposite direction, making both you and the snake more at ease.

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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Cross Plains Review
Mar. 26, 2015

7

Your landscape could save water and help struggling bee and butterfly populations

Spring is around the corner and for many of us that means it's time to think about the coming year's landscape around our homes. Sure, we design those gardens, flowerbeds and other lawn fixtures with an eye towards beauty. But if you're not careful, what's trendy and attractive can be difficult to keep alive in the Texas heat. Moreover, many plants could cost you in maintenance time and the amount of water needed to keep them alive.

What if by using a little care in choosing the varieties of plants, you could save money, time, water and help our local farmers produce food? Winged insects such as bees and butterflies play a role in pollinating many of the plants we rely upon for food and unfortunately the populations of these insects have been struggling in the past few years.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, surveys conducted during the winter of 2013-2014 found managed bee colonies experienced a 23.2 percent drop in numbers from the year before. And the situation was worse a year earlier, with losses of 30.5 percent, and in the winter of 2006-2007, a 32 percent decrease. These numbers don't include wild bee losses.

Monarch butterflies too have experienced severe drops in their numbers of late. Each year, the orange, black and white butterflies make the roughly 1,500-mile journey from the northern United States and Canada to their winter home in Mexico, only to return north in the spring. According to the World Wildlife Fund, last winter enough monarchs arrived in Mexico to cover .67 hectares, or about 1.66 acres. Contrast that with the winter of 1996-1997, when they covered 20.97 hectares, about 51.82 acres.

Among the possible causes for the losses in both bees and butterflies are pesticides, parasites, fungal infections and loss of habitat, exacerbated by the ongoing drought. The situation



Monarch butterfly numbers experience severe drop

remains under investigation. These insects help spread pollen between flowering plants, including many of the vegetables we depend on. A decrease in their numbers could have a negative impact on agricultural production and the diversity of our planet's plant life.

Fortunately, there is something easy anyone can do to help these important insects, by restoring some of their habitat through planting butterfly gardens and bee-friendly plants around our homes this spring. Not only can we help provide a place for bees to gather nectar and pollen and butterflies to rest, eat and thrive, but also we can beautify our yards — and if we do it right, conserve water. There are numerous beautiful native plants, well-suited for Texas' dry climate, that take little care — or water — to grow.

Here are a few examples:

- **Milkweed:** Well-loved by both butterflies and bees. It may not sound like much of a landscape plant, but milkweed comes in many varieties and colors. You might be surprised. Monarchs

love them both for nectar and as a nursery where they can lay their eggs.

- **Lantana:** is a popular landscaping plant that features clumps of multicolored flowers. These not only provide nectar but they have proven to be very hearty in the dry Texas heat.
- **Verbena:** This plant comes in about 250 varieties and thrives in full sun and with little water.
- **Aster:** There are many varieties of these small daisy-like flowers that thrive in Texas in partial to full sun.
- **Foxglove** presents its flowers in tall spikes where they hang with a bell-like appearance.

In addition, those who like to grow herb gardens may notice some of their plants are favored by monarchs, including dill, fennel, chives and garlic, to name a few. Bees are drawn to just about anything that blooms — and they sure can be helpful in spreading pollen around your vegetable plants.

For additional tips on conserving water in a variety of ways, check out the Brazos River Authority's conservation pages.

SENIOR CITIZENS MENU

March 30th - April 3rd

Monday 30th - Chili Dogs (onion/cheese/relish)
Oven Fries, Fruit Cup, Cookie

Tuesday 31st - Steak Fingers w/ gravy, Potatoes, Spinach, Bread, Dessert

Wednesday 1st - BBQ Sausage, Pinto Beans, Potatoes, Bread Dessert.

Thursday 2nd - Roast Sweet Potatoes, Green Beans, Bread, Dessert

Friday 3rd - Good Friday (Center Closed)

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

Monthly Menu may be picked up at the Senior Citizen Center

Senior Citizens Center Activities

March 30th - April 3rd

Monday-30th Exercise 11:00

Tuesday-31st Exercise 11:00 Bingo 11:15

Wednesday-1st Exercise 11:00

Thursday -2nd Exercise 11:00/ Easter Egg Hunt/ Wear Easter Bonnet. / Manicures Girling Home Health.

Friday -3rd Good Friday (Center Closed)

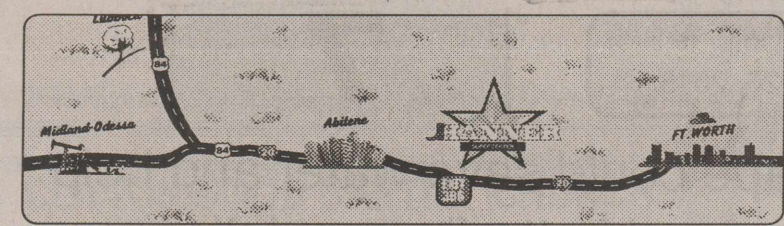
Cross Plains Senior Citizens Center seeks to nurture our aging population through nutritional, social and educational programs our goal is for all seniors, both well and frail, to utilize our services to enrich their lives.



BAIRD MARSHAL'S OFFICE—seize more than 2 ounces of Marijuana On Monday, March 23rd, Deputy Marshal Tricia Simcik initiated a traffic contact on a vehicle on I-20 for a traffic violation. Upon further investigation, and a search of the vehicle, 21 year old Christopher Schaeffer of Ruidoso, NM was arrested for Possession of Marijuana with over 2 ounces seized. DPS State Trooper Eric Pechacek assisted in the contact. Thanks to both for all that you do for this community.

HANNER CHEVROLET • GMC DEMO SALE

 <p>STOCK#55326.0</p> <p>2015 CHEVY EQUINOX FWD LS STOCK MSRP \$25,395 SALE PRICE \$24,228 REBATE: \$2,250 ONLY \$21,978</p>	 <p>STOCK#54551.0</p> <p>2014 GMC TERRAIN FWD SLE-1 STOCK MSRP \$27,390 SALE PRICE \$26,327 REBATE: \$2,000 ONLY \$24,327</p>	 <p>STOCK#54425.0</p> <p>2014 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 2WD CREW STOCK MSRP \$38,105 SALE PRICE \$36,544 REBATE: \$2,500 GM TRADE ALLOWANCE \$2,000 ONLY \$32,044</p>	 <p>STOCK#54170.0</p> <p>2014 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 2WD 2WT CREW STOCK MSRP \$36,380 SALE PRICE \$34,692 REBATE: \$2,500 GM TRADE ALLOWANCE \$2,000 ONLY \$30,192</p>	 <p>STOCK#54490.0</p> <p>2014 GMC SIERRA 1500 2WD DBLCAB SLE STOCK MSRP \$39,655 SALE PRICE \$37,104 REBATE: \$5,000 ONLY \$32,104</p>	
 <p>STOCK#54873.0</p> <p>2014 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 DBLCAB 2WD LT STOCK MSRP \$38,605 SALE PRICE \$34,998 REBATE: \$3,500 GM TRADE ALLOWANCE \$2,000 ONLY \$29,498</p>	 <p>STOCK#55218.0</p> <p>2015 CHEVY SILVERADO 2500 4WD LT CREW STOCK MSRP \$47,975 SALE PRICE \$43,333 REBATE: \$2,000 ONLY \$41,333</p>	 <p>STOCK#55126.0</p> <p>2015 CHEVY SILVERADO 2500 4WD LT CREW, CURT HITCH MSRP \$58,285 SALE PRICE \$53,998 REBATE: \$2,000 ONLY \$51,998</p>	 <p>STOCK#14336.0</p> <p>2014 CHEVY SONIC LT MSRP \$17,890 SALE PRICE \$16,890 REBATE: \$1,000 ONLY \$15,890</p>	 <p>STOCK#14618.0</p> <p>2014 CHEVY IMPALA 1LS SEDAN MSRP \$28,240 SALE PRICE \$27,348 REBATE: \$2,000 ONLY \$25,348</p>	 <p>STOCK#55282.0</p> <p>2015 GMC ACADIA SLE MSRP \$37,725 SALE PRICE \$36,000 REBATE: \$2,500 ONLY \$33,500</p>



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 <p>2014 PJ 24' Tilt Stock # 94046.0 Retail \$7,550 Sale \$6,795 \$101.94 MONTHLY PAYMENT</p>	 <p>2015 S&H Cattleman OT 24x6'8x6'6 Stock # 95065.0 Retail \$12,192 Sale \$10,972 \$136.02 MONTHLY PAYMENT</p>	 <p>2015 S&H Rustler 24x6'8x6'6 Stock # 95066.0 Retail \$9,940 Sale \$8,946 \$134.19 MONTHLY PAYMENT</p>	 <p>2015 S&H Contender BP 2H 14x6'8x6'6 Stock # 95067.0 Retail \$7,137 Sale \$6,423 \$96.34 MONTHLY PAYMENT</p>
 <p>2014 Cargo Mate Cargo Trailer 6x10' Stock # 94006.0 Retail \$2,849 Sale \$2,750 \$41.71 MONTHLY PAYMENT</p>	 <p>Forest River Cargo Mate 5x8 SA Stock # 95049.0 Retail \$2,079 Sale \$1,871 \$28.07 MONTHLY PAYMENT</p>	 <p>Installed PJ Flatbed Starting at \$2,995 \$44.93 MONTHLY PAYMENT</p>	 <p>Installed J&I Flatbed Starting at \$2,995 \$44.93 MONTHLY PAYMENT</p>
 <p>Installed Pronghorn 8700 SRW Bed Starting at \$6,995 \$104.93 MONTHLY PAYMENT</p>			

*PAYMENTS BASED ON 0% FOR 60 MONTHS AND 10% DOWN PLUS TTL FEES.

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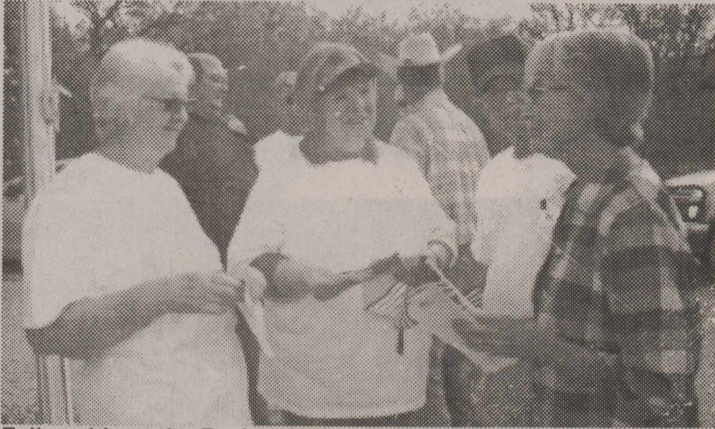
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8

Cross Plains Review
Mar. 26, 2015



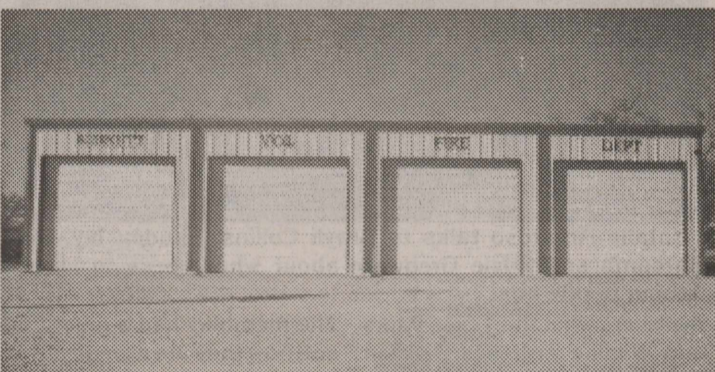
Ladies of the Burkett VFD serving dinner last spring



Fellowship at the Burkett VFD's Flag Dedication Ceremony



Burkett VFD new 5 ton truck



Burkett VFD Building

Burkett VFD 7th Annual BBQ and Open House

The Burkett VFD is having their annual supper and open house on Saturday, April 4th from 5-8 p.m. this year.

They will be cooking up brisket, sausage, and chicken with all the trimmings to tantalize the taste buds (takeout available). Everyone is invited to come eat, get in on the raffles, and visit.

The proceeds from this event will be used to purchase a slip-on unit for their new 5 ton truck as well as help with their operating expenses. Between the door prizes, cake auction and 'Split the Boot', it's sure to be a good time and a great way to finish out a busy Saturday.

Cottonwood News by Beverly Brown

Reports of rainfall in Cottonwood were about 1/12 to 2 inches of rain.

Julie and Dustin Hoffman of Abilene are parents of a baby girl, weighing 7 lbs and 8 oz, and 19 inches long. Little Ava Leigh was born on Saturday. Grandparents are Dena Jo and Curtis Hines. Great-Grandmother is Dena Nickerson. Kathy Franke was surprised with a birthday party on Saturday. Those attending were: Dena Nickerson, Glynn Nickerson and Olga Villalobos of Boerne, Dena Jo Hines of Weatherford, Connie Potter and grandson Lawson of Cross Plains, Annette Nickerson of Cottonwood, Kevin and Jessica Nickerson and Haylee and Gus of Cross Plains, Kellie and Chris Dodson and Jayden of Abilene, Amy and Armando Felan and children of Abilene, Matt and Nichole Nickerson, Jeremy and Whitney Franke and Jewel of Abilene.

Brennan Albrecht of Georgetown spent Spring Break with his Grandmother, Barbara and Donnie Worley. While here he also visited with Gayla and Lee Creamer's family and Carlise and Summer and family and helped out with odd jobs.

The Cottonwood Musical is this Friday night, March 27th at the Cottonwood Community Center.

This Sunday is Palm Sunday.

Monday, March 30th, the Circus comes to town - Cross in Cross Plains. Show time is 7 p.m. at the Callahan County

Livestock Barn. Tickets are available in Cross Plains at the Chamber of Commerce and City Hall.

Tuesday evening, March 31st, *Revolution* will perform at the First United Methodist Church in Cross Plains. *Revolution* is a group of musicians - the most talented kids from Cooper High and Abilene High - on violin, guitar, viola and other stringed instruments. They will play music from jazz to classical to country and everything in between. Tickets are available at the library or at the door.

The First United Methodist Church in Cross Plains is hold special Holy Week services - Maundy Thursday Service on Thursday, April 2nd at 6 p.m. and Good Friday Service on Friday, April 3 at 6 p.m. Followed by Easter Sunday Services at 7 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Take the kids out to the CPISD Practice Field on Saturday, April 4th for an old fashioned Easter Egg Hunt! From 10 a.m. until 12 p.m., kids 9 years and under can hunt for eggs and get their photo taken with the Easter bunny.

The Burn Ban is off. If you are planning a control burn, call the Sheriff's Office at 325-854-1444 to let them know before you light the match. Also, contact the fire departments - the fire chiefs of both departments - to let them know you are going to burn. It's always better to be prepared, just in case the wind kicks up unexpectedly.

Barbarian Festival Slated for Saturday June 13th

Mark your calendars now for the 17th Annual Barbarian Festival on Saturday, June 13th.

The Barbarian Festival features handmade items, arts, jewelry, candles, and other crafts booths, as well as, an Inflatable Obstacle Course Bounce House, face painting, kid's rides and games and live music.

An Antique Tractor Show and an Antique and Classic Car and Truck show round out the event. Hot dogs, hamburgers, barbeque sandwiches, sausage on a stick and other tasty treats can be

found at the festival.

Make plans for your booth now! Booth space is available at the festival at a discounted rate of \$35 - until May 10th. Details on line at barbarianfestival.net

The festival is held the second Saturday each June at the same time as Robert Howard Days, a celebration of life of noted author Robert E. Howard creator of Conan the Barbarian.

Don't miss out on the fun! Circle the date on your calendar now - Saturday, June 13th from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m., at Treadway Park

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CROSS PLAINS
REVIEW

Cross Plains Review

9

Mar. 26, 2015

Grand Ole Oplin March Line-up

The Grand Ole Oplin invites everyone out to their weekly Friday evening dance. On March 27th MUDDY CREEK returns playing some more of your favorite two-step and waltzes.

The Grand Ole Oplin is hosted by the Oplin Community Center and is located at the intersection of F.M. 604 S. and F.M. 2926. Our dances begin at 7:30

p.m. and end at 10:30 p.m. Admission is still only \$5.00 per person. Alcohol and smoking is not allowed at any of our functions. Everyone is invited to bring a snack to be enjoyed by all during the band's break.

So gather the family and all of your friends and come on out to The Grand Ole Oplin and dance the evening away!

Zofran Birth Defect Lawsuit

Were you or a loved one given Zofran for nausea during the 1st trimester? Birth defects including cleft palate, heart defects, club foot/hand may be linked to Zofran. If you took Zofran during pregnancy and your child suffers from any of these birth defects, call today for professional insight.

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40th Anniversary Open House

April 25th 9 a.m.- 4p.m.

- ★ Hot Dogs & Drinks from 11:00 to 3:00 p.m.
- ★ \$40 Gift Certificate Drawings on the hour beginning at 10 a.m.
- ★ \$400. Gift Certificate Drawing at 3:00 p.m.
- ★ \$400. Discounts on New Kioti Tractors
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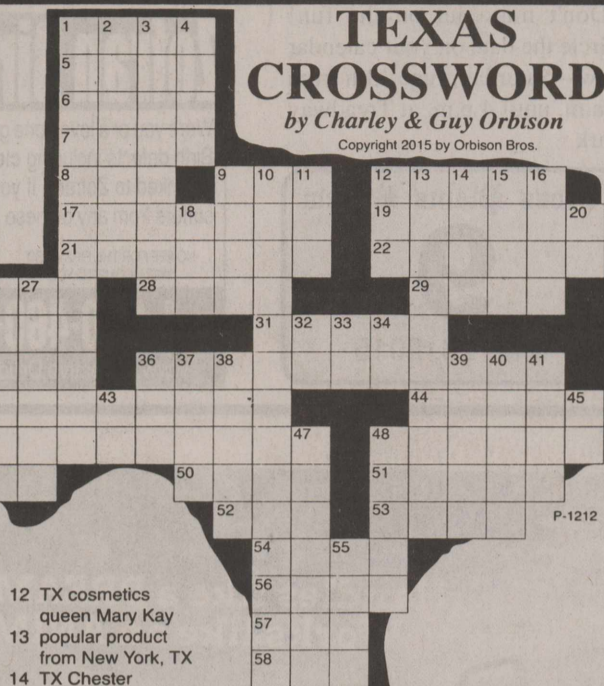
ACROSS

- 1 in Montague Co. on hwy. 82
- 5 TXism: "lower than a snake's belly in _____"
- 6 the East TX Dairy Finance Corp. once _____ money to buy dairy cows
- 7 Tex-Mex tasty superlative suffix
- 9 TX singer Jim Reeves recorded for _____ Victor
- 12 TX King Ranch has 825,000 of _____
- 17 goal at Six Flags over TX? (3 wds.)
- 19 TX _____ town Scandal? stock fraud (1971-72)
- 21 TXism: "doesn't know enough to come _____ the rain"
- 22 TX "Eagle" Don
- 23 TXism: "blind _____"
- 28 TXism: "stirred up a hornet's _____"
- 29 "_____ out a living"
- 30 Travis Tritt's "_____ Quarter (Call Somebody Who Cares)"
- 31 it ain't "tails"
- 35 "I got _____ deal"
- 36 this Anna Maria was in 1955 Alamo film, "Last Command"
- 42 "_____ Choir" is based in Fort Worth
- 44 paint layers
- 46 a very light TX boxer

- 48 this Skeeter won a Pulitzer for photography at the Dallas Times Herald
- 49 Cowboy Jason Witten's position (abbr.)
- 50 fly high
- 51 Olajuwon as a Cougar
- 52 DA evidence (abbr.)

- 23 _____
- 24 _____
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- DOWN**
- 1 TXism for "saved" (3 wds.)
 - 2 betraying your country
 - 3 Kimble Co. seat
 - 4 this Preminger directed TX Gene Tierney in "Laura"
 - 9 barn critters
 - 10 closet items (2 wds.)
 - 11 TX Jim J. Bullock was on this TV "alien" series



TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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- 12 TX cosmetics queen Many Kay popular product from New York, TX
- 14 TX Chester Nimitz's _____ in WWII was admiral
- 15 UT has _____ Stanley Gardner's complete study
- 16 drove fast
- 18 election day (abbr.)
- 20 this Young created storied "Curtain Club" at UT (init.)
- 23 _____ Belo Corp. is a TX newspaper co. dir. to Corpus from San Antonio (abbr.)
- 24 TXism: "fast as _____ up a rafter"
- 25 TXism: "fast as _____ up a rafter"
- 26 desolate by death

- 27 TXism: "unnecessary _____ grease on a jackrabbit"
- 32 TXism: "let _____ rip!"
- 33 Ken Paxton's TX position, starting in 2015 (abbr.)
- 34 22-across init.
- 36 "Honest _____"
- 37 TX "Moonraker" actress Chile
- 38 outlaw Wes Hardin quote: "Texas, _____"
- 39 TXism: "I'd have _____ better to die" (very sick)
- 40 "tall Texas _____"
- 41 bit of gossip
- 43 dir. to Austin from Dallas
- 45 George H. to George W. (abbr.)
- 47 DART is Dallas mass _____
- 48 "_____ la vista"
- 55 X-mas gift (2 wds.)



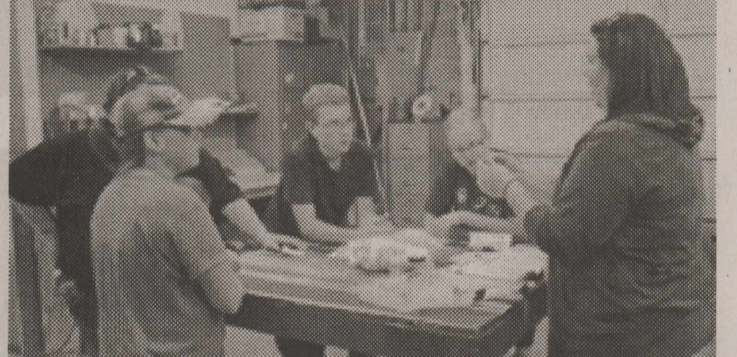
The staff of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Fisheries Department in Abilene with members of the Callahan County 4H.

Angler Training

Members of Callahan County 4H kicked off their Sport Fishing project on Friday, March 13th, with the help of the staff at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Fisheries Division in Abilene. Michael Homer taught members about the habitats in a lake or pond and where the best places to catch specific breeds of fish are. Robert Cole taught basic knot tying skills and how to properly set up their fishing pole. Lance Benson taught members how to cast in the Backyard Bass booth. In this activity they also learned casting safety and how to read the guidelines and determine how a fish is a keeper based on length and breed of the fish. Natalie Amoroso taught members what is needed in a tackle box for a successful day of fishing. She also did an activity where they learned how long various types of trash takes to decompose and how to properly dispose of or recycle their trash.



Mr. Michael Homer explains to Gracelyn Ivy, Ricky Arispe, Rylan Ivy-Tate, and Blane Pach about the habitats and food webs and chains in a lake and river.



Natalie Amoroso talks to Brayli Collins, Landon Ivy, Rose Barcomb and Rosie Gregware about what needs to be in a fishing tackle box.

A very special thank you goes out to Natalie Amoroso who worked so hard to set this up for us and her co-workers for all their help. Mrs. Amoroso also did a great presentation about the tools and supplies that are needed to do their jobs and how it all works. She explained to

members what the Texas Parks and Wildlife Fisheries Division does and why it is important. The members had a great time and now they are all ready to go fishing for real!

10

Cross Plains Review
Mar. 26, 2015



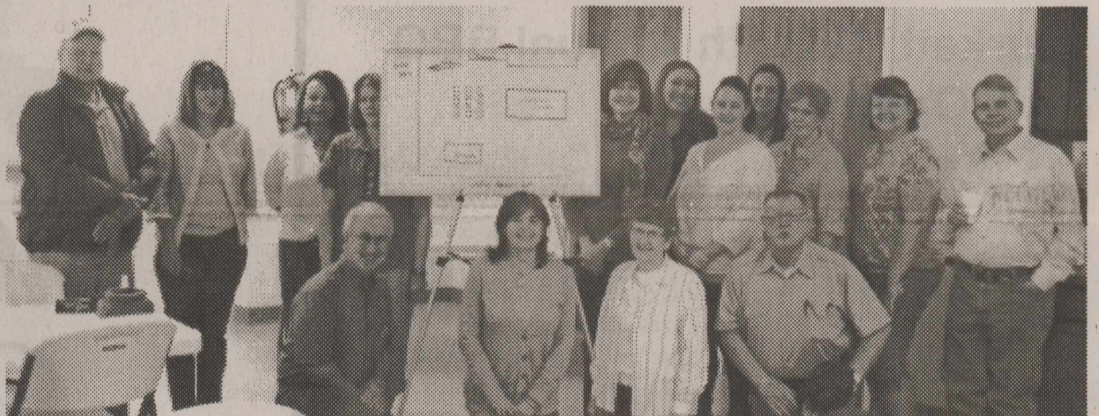
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Community Garden Moving Forward

A planning meeting for the Lord's Acre Community Garden was held at the Methodist Church last Tuesday and was well attended by a good

representation of interested organizations and individuals. Many ideas were discussed concerning the actual construction of the raised beds, obtaining good top soil and fertilizer for the beds and developing a watering system. The Church has a well on the property that provides water for landscaping around the building and this will be tapped into for a soaker system in the beds.

Nine raised beds will be available for the first year of the project with the land available for considerable expansion in the future. As five of the beds are already spoken for, those interested in taking responsibility for planting and caring for a bed are encouraged to contact the church at 725-7377 as soon as

possible. There is no charge for the boxes, just a commitment for working the summer and fall season.

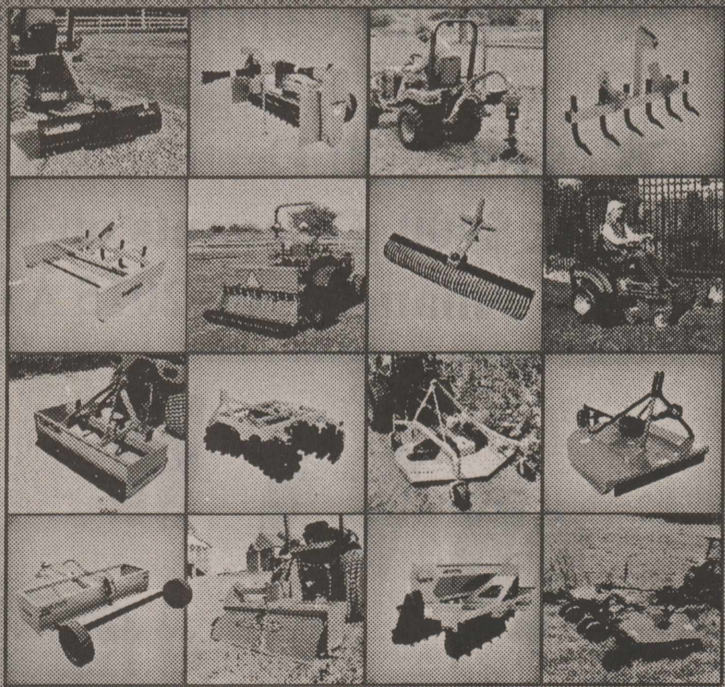
All of the tools are being provided by a grant from the Fiskar company that was obtained by Michelle Kaiser. A small storage shed for the tools will be obtained with part of the \$2000 gift card that came with the grant and only participants will have access to the tools at any time.

Anybody interested in any aspect of construction is also encouraged to contact the church to see where their particular skills can be utilized.

The Lord's Acre Community Garden...a wonderful opportunity to plant, care and share to help others.

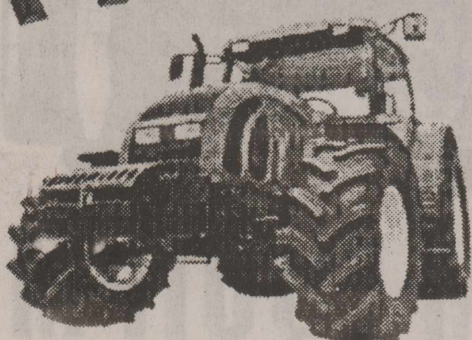
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FISH FRY
FRI APR 10
5-8 P.M.

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HUSHPUPPIES
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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
FAMILY LIFE CENTER



Planting



Diana Miller teaching



The kids planting

Cross Plains Garden Club "After School Adventure" Program and

Upcoming Plant and Yard Art Sale

The Cross Plains Garden Club joined the kids for the March 18th "After School Adventure" program hosted by the CP Public Library. Garden club members joining in the fun were Lexi Bagley, Debbie Eudy, Carlene Howard, Diana Miller, Sarah Stone and Julia Wheeler.

The garden club chose the Stella de Oro daylily for this year's discussion and planting demonstration. Diana Miller led the discussion informing the children about the history, care and maintenance of the daylily.

Afterward, the group gathered in the library park for a hands on planting experience. The children showed their interest in their liveliness and excitement. It allowed them the opportunity to "dig in the dirt" and bring home their very own plant. The Cross Plains Garden Club would like to recognize Mary's Garden Patch of Lockhart, TX for co-

sponsoring this event. Mary's Garden Patch can be found at www.marysgardenpatch.com.

NOTE: The Cross Plains Plant and Yard Art Sale will be held on Friday, April 10th from 9:00 a.m. until we sell out on the grounds of the Library Park. Come early for the best assortment of plants and related items. Plants will include flowering plants, vegetables, cactus and assorted succulents, indoor plants, a large assortment of bulbs and more.

Experts will be on hand to answer your planting questions. A silent auction for yard art items and gift certificates will be available throughout the day. This year's event promises to be bigger and better than ever, so bring your checkbook.



Getting ready

USDA Finalizes Procedures for Sorghum Referendum

WASHINGTON, Mar. 17, 2015 — The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is announcing procedures for the upcoming referendum regarding the continuation of the Sorghum Checkoff Program and is announcing the dates it will conduct the referendum.

The Sorghum Promotion, Research, and Information Order requires that a referendum be conducted no later than seven years after the start of assessments, which began on July 1, 2008. For the program to continue, a majority of those voting must favor the continuation of the order.

USDA will conduct the referendum beginning on March 23, 2015, through April 21, 2015, at county USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices for producers and the Agricultural Marketing Service office for importers. Ballots may be obtained in person, by mail or facsimile at county FSA offices, or via the Internet.

Any eligible person engaged in the production or importation of sorghum from January 1, 2011, to December 31, 2014, is eligible to participate. Individuals are required to provide documentation such as a sales receipt or remittance form that shows they engaged in the production or importation of sorghum.

The Sorghum Checkoff Program, and its 13-member board,

is authorized by the Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996. The Sorghum Checkoff is intended to be a national, coordinated, self-help marketing program designed to strengthen the position of sorghum in the marketplace, maintain and expand existing domestic and foreign markets and uses for sorghum, and develop new markets and uses for sorghum.

The final procedures were published in the Nov. 18, 2010, *Federal Register*. The notice announcing the dates of the referendum were published in the Feb. 19, 2015, *Federal Register*.

For more information, contact Craig Shackelford, Marketing Specialist, Research and Promotion Division, Livestock, Poultry, and Seed Program, AMS, USDA, 22 Jamesport Lane, White, GA 30184; Telephone: (470) 315-4246; craig.shackelford@ams.usda.gov. Procedures and additional information about the referendum can be found at: www.ams.usda.gov/SorghumReferendum.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).



The Egg Hunt is On!

The Cross Plains Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Community Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 4th. The location for this event will be at the Cross Plains ISD Practice Field. Starting time for 'the hunt' will be 10am and it 'closes' at 12pm. Bring out the kids to get their picture taken with the Easter Bunny. This event is for children ages 0-9 years.

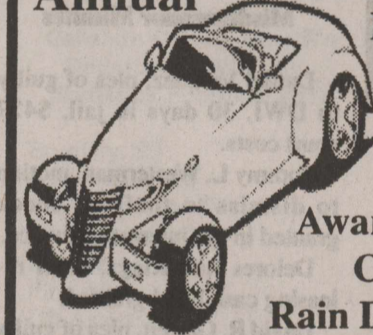
This event is sponsored by TunnellConstruction. For more information call the Cross Plains Chamber of Commerce at 254-725-7251.

Cross Plains Review
Mar. 26, 2015

11

Albany Classic Car Show

9th Annual April 18, 2015



Downtown Albany
Registration
8 a.m. to 11 a.m.
day of show!

Awards in every class!
Cash Drawings!
Rain Date May 16, 2015

For more info call 325-762-2800

Farm and Equipment Auction

Saturday, March 28 - 10 A.M.

(Take FM 603 from I-20 south appx. 7 miles to CR 234)

802 County Road 223, Clyde, Texas 79510

Retirement Auction - Winfred Gardner

Hyster telescopic forklift**Genie 45-22 boom**hydro-mulcher**2005 Dodge 3500**Case 2590**Kubota 3710 w/ loader**trailers**53 ft. - 74K - drop deck float**16 ft. offset**IH grain drill**

shredders**cattle trailers**2 7/8 & 4 Ω structural pipe**approx. 5000 ft of New 8 x 10 in. C & Z

iron**New trusses**lots of New & used sheet iron, pipe racks & Etc.**LARGE AUCTION W/LOTS

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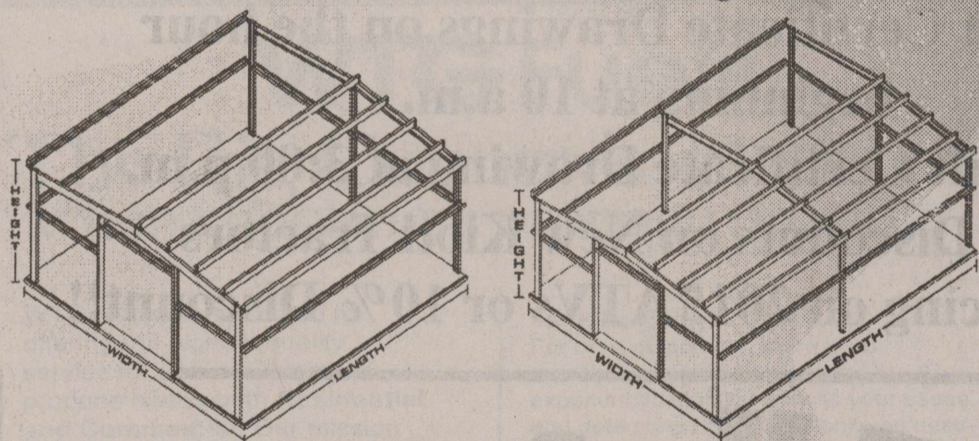
Tommy Storey Tx 12831

Henry Storey Tx 6487

DON'T MISS

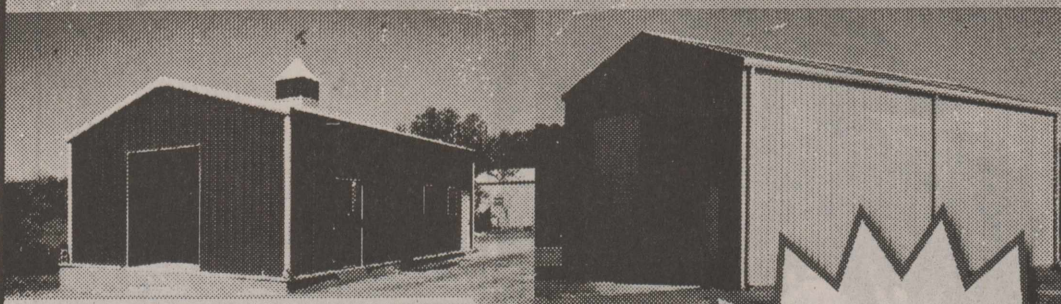
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Cross Plains VFD Fish Fry slated for April 10th

Mark your calendar now for Friday, April 10th for the Cross Plains Volunteer Fire Department's Annual Fish Fry! Your local firefighters will be frying fish, chicken, onion rings and fries.

They'll be preparing all the fixings for the dinner. Peach cobbler will be on the dessert menu. The dinner will be held at the First Baptist Church Family Life Center.



March 29

Tonja C. Davis
Randy Reddick
Bill Hendrick
Homer Parson
Randy Jones
Tiffany Aiken
C.M. Fitzgerald
Stephen Baugh
Joyce Marie Wilson
Randall Lynn Jones

April 1

April Hall
Shae (Pancake) White
Virginia Sheppard
Edna M. McCormich
Bonnie Rogers
Bethany (Meador) Parker
Bob Kirkham
April (Jennings) Netzhammer
Forance Stewart
Bill Strength
Glen Maxwell
Linda Boudreaux
Logan McDaniel

April 2

Ronnie Pittman
Mrs. Sterling Odom
Kailea Hunter
Cody Self
April Shay Foster
Charlesca Jean Ethington
Kathy Anderson
Mildred Smith
Mark A. Ring
Tina Purdy

April 3

Louis Cavage
Steve Letney

April 4

Shelby Ames
Gleen Phillips
Orean Peevy
Gregory Wilson
Debbie Meroney
Sonya Bradsheet

Cross Plains News
12
Mar. 26, 2015

Library Notes

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

March 16-March 19, 2015

Patrons 118
Books Checked 88
Programs
GED
Lap & Lapsit 25
ASAP 29
Other
Copies 55
Internet 17
Wi Fi

Memorials
Class of '61
In Memory of Dorothy Ramey

Volunteers
Sue Bennett
Linda Burns
Helen Parson
Jan Bond
Ginny Hoskins
Wilma Lawrence
Beverly Ross
C.P. Garden Club

It's Our Turn To Give Back

Volunteer: person or organization that gives of their time, talent, and personal resources to help another improve their circumstances.

Cross Plains and the surrounding area are so very blessed to have the number of people who share their lives with others without any monetary compensation.

Where would we be without the EMS, Fire Departments, people that deliver meals, help men and women earn their GED, sponsor reading programs for children, just stop by to help dust or sweep, stay with a shut-in so their caretaker can breathe for a few minutes, or take blood pressure and offer diabetic foot care and manicures, at no cost, to anyone who needs it, and the list just goes on and on.

April 12-17 is National Volunteer Week. Please take this opportunity to write a note, place a phone call or just give a hug to a volunteer that has touched your life.

Cross Plains Senior Center would like to honor ALL volunteers. Volunteers will be the guests of honor as the community stops in for punch and cookies, **Wednesday, April 15 from 10:00-2:00.** This will be our opportunity say 'Thank You' to our hometown heroes.

Courthouse News

Callahan County Court
Roger Corn, presiding

Misdemeanor Filings

Rebecca C. Carrion, theft by check.
Terry A. Tate, theft by check.
Lynn D. Watson, theft by check.
Andy M. Taylor, terroristic threat.
Aaron Pratt, driving while intoxicated (DWI).

Misdemeanor Minutes

Daniel Vasquez, plea of guilty to DWI, 30 days in jail, \$429 court costs.
Tommy L. Westerman, motion to dismiss to theft by check granted in the interest of justice.
Delores Ann Riggs, order releasing cash bond granted.
David R. Garrett, plea of guilty to possession of marijuana, 1 year probation, \$500 fine, \$329 court costs.
Noe R. Villeda, plea of guilty to possession of marijuana, 18 month probation, \$329 court costs.
Justin M. Gardner, plea of guilty to possession of marijuana, 1 year probation, \$500 fine, \$329 court costs.
Noe R. Villeda, plea of guilty to possession of marijuana, 18 month probation, \$500 fine, \$329 court costs.
Tina James, plea of guilty to assault, 1 year probation, \$500 fine, \$319 court costs.

42nd District Court
John Weeks, presiding

Civil Filings

Joshua Dean Miller and Misty May Miller, divorce.

TEX'S PLACE

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Sheriff's Corner

By Callahan County Sheriff Terry Joy



CALLAHAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT'S NEW RIDE!

New 2015 Chevrolet Tahoe recently purchased by the Callahan County Sheriff's Department.

The funds for the purchase of this fully equipped law enforcement vehicle were provided by grant funds that were administered by the West

Texas Council of Government Criminal Justice Department.

Callahan County Commissioners and Judge Roger Corn approved application for the grant in February 2014; funds were made available in October 2014. Total amount received from the grant were \$39,700.

American Legion to host Annual Good Friday Fish Fry April 3rd, 5 to 7 P.M.

The American Legion Post 82 in Baird will host its Annual "Good Friday Fish Fry" on Friday, April 3, 2015 from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M.

Immediately following the "Fish Fry" there will be a Birthday Party to celebrate the

Birthday of Janis GoForth, who is Crystal McGuiness' mother.

The Birthday party will be complete with a Band. Everyone is invited to come out and support the "Fish Fry" and help Janis and her family celebrate her Birthday!!

Thank You for Donations

Thank you to all that brought donations to the Heart to Heart Ministry on March 14th during the Market at Clyde at the Old Firehouse. At total of \$285 in First Aide Supplies and cash was received on that day.

Each person that brought a donation to Heart to Heart was entered into a drawing for a gift basket. This basket contained gifts donated by the vendors from The Market at Clyde. Willie Gallagher was the winner of the

gift basket for March. Each month The Market at Clyde highlights a cause for the community. Watch this paper for information on events for the future.

For more information on Heart to Heart Ministry contact Vivian Smith at 325-893-5459. Heart to Heart ministers to families and individuals of the communities of Callahan County by helping with food and other needs.



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40th Anniversary Open House

April 25th 9 a.m.- 4p.m.

- ★ Hot Dogs & Drinks from 11:00 to 3:00 p.m.
- ★ \$40 Gift Certificate Drawings on the hour beginning at 10 a.m.
- ★ \$400. Gift Certificate Drawing at 3:00 p.m.
- ★ \$400. Discounts on New Kioti Tractors
- ★ 0% Financing on 2015 ATVs or 10% Discount!!

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Callahan Co. Library news

*Some more large print paperbooks at the Callahan County Library are: **Countdown to Danger** by Hannah Alexander and Jill Elizabeth Nelson, **To Save Her Child** by Margaret Daley, **Buried** by Elizabeth Goddard and **Taken** by Lisa Harris.

TexShare Databases, available to the citizens of Texas by the Texas State Library are: EBSCO E-Books has more than 27,000 eBooks available for browsing, searching, and virtual check-out TexShare eBook collection includes titles from the world's leading business, technology, trade, reference, academic, and scholarly publishers. Search by title, author, keyword, publisher, publication date or ISBN number. HeritageQuest Online is a comprehensive treasury of American genealogical sources—rich in unique primary sources, local and family histories, and finding aids. It delivers an essential collection of genealogical and historical sources—with coverage dating back to the 1700s—that can help people find their ancestors and discover a place's past. The collection consists of six core data sets: *U.S. Federal Censuses, Genealogy and local history books, Periodical Source Index (PERSI), Revo-*

lutionary War Records, Freedman's Bank Records, The LexisNexis U.S. Serial Set.

**From the Past
Callahan County Clarendon
Saturday, May 13, 1882
Vol. 3, No. 6**

We are sorry to note that our neighbor, Mr. Parish, living a few miles east of Baird, and whose wheat field is on the railroad, had the misfortune to lose two acres by fire, caused by sparks from a passing engine. We think the company will make fair settlement for such damages as result from such accidents, where a liberal settlement is offered by those who sustain such losses.

The T&P line of railroad from Fort Worth west is now doing a good business. We learn from a friend just out from the Fort that, at one time last week, there were more than 100 west-bound loaded cars on the Fort Worth yard, with all engines available on the division out on duty—thus showing business just now in excess of the available motive power of the road.

**Saturday, May 20, 1882
Vol. 3, No. 7**

Luncheon to discuss rural healthcare

Eastland community leaders will host a regional network luncheon sponsored by Texas Midwest Community Network (TMCN) on Wednesday, April 1st at the Connellee Hotel, 209 W. Main St. Community leaders from neighboring communities are invited to attend, enjoy the local cuisine and discuss mutual concerns.

The luncheon is held from 11:30 to 1:30; cost is \$12.50/person; reservations are requested.

Reservations are requested in advance and can be made by calling or emailing the TMCN Office at 325-795-8626 or <http://tmcn.org/event-registration>. Reservations for the luncheon can also be made by calling Cecil Funderburgh, Eastland Chamber of Commerce at 254-629-2332.

The focus of the luncheon will be "Healthcare in Rural Texas:

Successes, Challenges and the Future". Discussions will by local hospital administrators and Kelly Cheek, Center Director at the West Texas Area Health Education Center — Big Country Region. Speakers will provide insight into their respective healthcare stories, services offered and their perspective of the future of rural healthcare.

Texas Midwest Community Network is a regional organization for community and economic development, regional promotion, education, and legislative awareness. It is an organization of "communities working together to accomplish what one community cannot do alone." TMCN sponsors networking events during the year and projects to market the region for business and tourism development.

TMCN Member cities are:

Local News

A good rain fell at this place last Thursday evening.

We regret to learn of the illness of the infant son of Mr. William Kenum.

Mr. Boatright has 800 head of mutton sheep, which he will ship east as soon as cards can be furnished.

Wool continues to come in a lively rate.

Mr. J.F. Taylor shipped four cars of mutton sheep to St. Louis Thursday night.

The weather in the early part of the week was unusually cool for the season.

In the county court last Monday the case of Joseph H. Brown against West & Fraser was continued until next term.

The entire families of Messrs. Sharp and Wright have been quite sick recently.

There has been a bath house erected at the northeast corner of the city reservoir, at Belle Plain, under the supervision of J.W. Newman.

Mr. Jake Banman, commonly known as dutch Jake, while asleep, walked out of a window in the second story of the Seay building, at Belle Plain, last week, and was quite seriously injured.

Callahan County Historical Commissioner Fundraiser 'The Comanche Empire' is April 11th

Dr. Donald S. Frazier will present "The Comanche Empire" on Saturday, April 11, 2015 at the First Baptist Church Family Life Center in Cross Plains. Reservations can be made by calling the County Judges Office in Baird, Texas at 325-854-5805. The cost of the meal and program is \$15.00. "Indian Tacos, beans, salad, dessert, and drink will be served at 6:30 pm and the program will start at 6:30 p.m.

Donald S. Frazier is professor of history at McMurry University in Abilene, Texas. He is the award-winning author of three books on the Civil War including *Blood and Treasure, Cottonclads, and Fire in the Cane Field*. His other work includes serving as co-author of *Frontier Texas, Historic Abilene, and The Texas You Expect*, as well as general editor of *The U.S. and Mexico at War*.

In addition to his teaching duties, Frazier has been very involved in a variety of heritage and cultural tourism projects, including consulting on the development of three museums; two research centers; a Mexican War battlefield; work on Civil War and frontier heritage trails in Texas, New Mexico, and Louisiana; and work on historical projects in Europe and Mexico.



Dr. Donald S. Frazier to present program in Cross Plains on Saturday, April 11th

He also helped Abilene, Texas achieve recognition as a *Preserve America* city and grant recipient. He is the writer and director for the video *Our Home, Our Rights: Texas and Texans in the Civil War*, a winner of the Mitchell Wilder Award for Excellence in Publications and Media Design from the Texas Association of Museums.

Frazier is also active in historic preservation projects. He is currently serving as President and CEO of the McWhiney Foundation, a Texas-based educational

non-profit which, among its various activities, manages and preserves the Buffalo Gap Historic Village, a museum that includes a collection of more than a dozen antique buildings. He has served as a consultant with several communities as they develop their heritage and cultural assets, and has been recognized for his efforts by numerous organizations including the American Association for State and Local History, The Texas Historical Foundation, the Historical Society of New Mexico, and the Louisiana Historical Association. Frazier is also involved in two highly regarded history publishing enterprises, State House Press and McWhiney Foundation Press.

Dr. Frazier has received accolades and honors for his contributions to the historical dialogue in the United States. He was chosen for a military history fellowship at the United States Military Academy at West Point, a fellowship at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, and is in high demand as a thinker, consultant, and speaker. Frazier is also an elected member of the prestigious Philosophical Society of Texas, the oldest learned organization in the state, as well as the Texas Historical Foundation.

Extension Agent Jerry Warren presents quarterly report to Co. Commissioners

Callahan County Extension Agent Jerry Warren presented the quarterly report for the Callahan County Extension Office to the Commissioners' Court on Monday, March 23rd at the County Courthouse in Baird.

On a motion by Commissioner Harold Hicks and a second by Commissioner Tom Windham, the commissioners' court voted 5-0 to accept the report.

The report follows:
Agriculture & Natural Resources

The Callahan County Extension Office and Ag & NR Committee held the 5th Grade Field Day on October 14th. The Field Day tells the story of agriculture in Callahan County to participating 5th grade students. The Field Day is designed to teach Callahan County 5th graders the importance of some of the agricultural products produced in Callahan County and how important agriculture is to the economy of the county.

The Callahan County Extension Office participated in a Multi-County Wheat/Stocker Cattle Program on October 14th in Cross Plains. Topics discussed at this program include: Importance of Wheat Forage availability, Importance of the value of weight gain in Stocker Cattle, Expected returns of wheat pasture cattle, Decision making of dual production.

The Callahan County Extension Office held a Farm Bill Update on October 16th: Bill Thompson, Associate Professor and Extension Economist, was the principal speaker.

The County Extension Office held a 3 CEU Nightcourse on December 8th for the Texas Department of Agriculture applicator license holders.

The Callahan County Extension Office held a Multi-County Forage Conference in Cross

Plains. Participating counties included: Callahan, Brown, Eastland, and Coleman. The Seminar focused on pasture management-prescribe burns vs. chemical control of brush & prickly pear; Herbicide impregnated fertilizers use on pastures; livestock pest management; & pesticide laws and regulations.

4-H & Youth Development

On October 11th Callahan County 4-H members participated in the One Day 4-H Community project. Callahan County 4-H participated in the Pecan Fest held in Clyde. Callahan County 4-H had a float in the parade, a booth at the festival, members handed out information about 4-H, and helped with cleanup after the festival, and also volunteered to help at the Abilene Food Bank sorting food for food pantries in Callahan County.

On October 18th Callahan County 4-H held its County Food

Show. The top 3 places advanced to the District Show.

On November 15th the Callahan County 4-H Horse Club held a 4-H & Open Horse Show at the Baird Rodeo Arena.

On December 6th Callahan County 4-H held a Lamb, Goat & Swine Clinic in Cross Plains.

In the months of January, February and March Callahan County 4-H members participated in the Veterinary Science project. 4-H members met once per month at the Callahan County Vet Clinic with the help of Dr. Monty Ancinec.

In the months of January, February & March Callahan County 4-H members who were involved in the animal projects competed at Major Livestock Shows throughout the state.

On January 10th Callahan County 4-H members who were involved in the animal projects competed at their local Livestock Shows.

Sheriff's Department Monthly Report for February 2015

Callahan County Sheriff's Department Monthly Statistics February 2015

Burglary: 95
Alarm Calls: 20
Assist Motorist: 5
Disturbances: 28
Dog Bite: 0
Fire: 10
Lift Assist: 4
Mental Subject: 3
Missing Person: 3
Noise Calls: 7
Theft: 17
Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle: 2
Vandalism/Suspicious Activity: 51
Welfare Checks: 8
911 Hangup: 2

Fraud Calls: 3
Officer Assist: 1
Bomb Threat: 1
Burglary: 7
Assault: 0
Civil Matter: 18
Medical Calls: 115
Traffic Hazard: 5
Reckless Driver: 22
Suicide Threat: 3
Unlawful Burn: 0
Chase: 2
Harassment/Trespass: 15
Utility: 1
Suicide: 0
Stray Livestock: 20
Animal Calls: 22
Impersonating an Officer: 1
Death: 1
Total Arrests: 38



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COLEMAN - (325) 625-2925
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Don't let government keep you in the dark

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KEEP THE LIGHT ON PUBLIC NOTICES

Cross Plains Review
116 E.S. 1st Street, Cross Plains, Texas 76443

Wildcat Track Meet Results

Cross Plains Varsity girls win track meet

Cross Plains Varsity boys place 2nd

Cross Plains JV Boys place 2nd in JV division

Girls 4x100 Yard Relay Varsity

1st Place Cross Plains 'A' 54.90

- 1) Crockett, Rebekah
- 2) Wheeler, Allanta
- 3) Woodard, Lorelei
- 4) Goode, Grace

Boys 4x100 Yard Relay Junior Varsity

2nd Place Cross Plains 'A' 49.66

- 1) McMillian, James
- 2) Crockett, Joe
- 3) Sanders, Phoenix
- 4) Woodard, Billy

Boys 4x100 Yard Relay Varsity

3rd Place Cross Plains 'A' 46.89

- 1) McWilliams, Dobbs
- 2) Laminack, Rylan
- 3) Petree, Kaiden
- 4) Steinle, Kiefer

Girls 800 Yard Run Varsity

1st Place McWilliams, Shelby Cross Plains 2:34.00

Boys 800 Yard Run Junior Varsity

1st Place Willis, Dakota Cross Plains 2:19.00
2nd Place Vorbeck, Tibor Cross Plains 2:23.00
3rd Place Calvagna, Eddie Cross Plains 2:24.00

Girls 100 Yard Hurdles Varsity

2nd Place Wyatt, Kersey Cross Plains 16.73
5th Place Alford, Chloe Cross Plains 21.25
6th Place Mauricio, Alexis Cross Plains 21.72

Boys 110 Yard Hurdles Junior Varsity

2nd Place Kennedy, Brayden Cross Plains 19.83
3rd Place Partin, AG Cross Plains 20.41

Boys 110 Yard Hurdles Varsity

3rd Place Briggs, James Cross Plains 17.90
5th Place Goode, Creed Cross Plains 18.80
6th Place Senclair, Holden Cross Plains 19.42

Girls 100 Yard Dash Varsity

3rd Place Crockett, Rebekah Cross Plains 14.24
7th Place Cowan, Hannah Cross Plains 14.92
8th Place Yates, Shana Cross Plains 15.21

Boys 100 Yard Dash Junior Varsity

2nd place Woodard, Billy Cross Plains 12.52
7th place Wyatt, Seth Cross Plains 13.01
8th place Sanders, Phoenix Cross Plains 13.12

Boys 100 Yard Dash Varsity

4th place Laminack, Rylan Cross Plains 12.04
10th place Gilliam, Dalton Cross Plains 13.03

Girls 4x200 Yard Relay Varsity

1st place Cross Plains 'A' 1:54.00

- 1) Goode, Grace
- 2) Wheeler, Allanta
- 3) McWilliams, Shelby
- 4) Halsel, Kenzie

Boys 4x200 Yard Relay Junior Varsity

1 Cross Plains 'A' 1:43.00

- 1) McMillian, James
- 2) Crockett, Joe
- 3) Woodard, Billy
- 4) Wyatt, Seth

Boys 4x200 Yard Relay Varsity

2nd place Cross Plains 'A' 1:37.69

- 1) McWilliams, Dobbs
- 2) Petree, Kaiden
- 3) Laminack, Rylan
- 4) Steinle, Kiefer

Girls 400 Yard Dash Varsity

4th place Woodard, Lorelei Cross Plains 1:10.00

6th place Armer, Morgan Cross Plains 1:12.00
7th place Bennett, Kelli Cross Plains 1:13.00

Boys 400 Yard Dash Junior Varsity

3rd place Walker, Larson Cross Plains 1:00.29

4th place Calvagna, Eddie Cross Plains 1:00.44
7th place Phillips, Logan Cross Plains 1:05.00

Girls 300 Yard Hurdles Varsity

1st place Halsel, Kenzie Cross Plains 51.48
3rd place Wyatt, Kersey Cross Plains 55.60
4th place Yates, Shana Cross Plains 1:00.40

Boys 300 Yard Hurdles Junior Varsity

2nd place Partin, AG Cross Plains 48.22
5th place Armer, Sean Cross Plains 53.75

Boys 300 Yard Hurdles Varsity

3rd place Briggs, James Cross Plains 44.74
4th place Goode, Creed Cross Plains 45.39
5th place Senclair, Holden Cross Plains 46.40

Girls 200 Yard Dash Varsity

3rd place Woodard, Lorelei Cross Plains 30.56
4th place Armer, Morgan Cross Plains 30.64

Boys 200 Yard Dash Junior Varsity

1st place McMillian, James Cross Plains 25.85
6th place Wyatt, Seth Cross Plains 26.68

Boys 200 Yard Dash Varsity

6th place Steinle, Kiefer Cross Plains 24.93
12th place Gilliam, Dalton Cross Plains 26.31

Boys 1600 Yard Run Junior Varsity

1st place Willis, Dakota Cross Plains 5:35.00
5th place Vorbeck, Tibor Cross Plains 5:51.00

Girls 4x400 Yard Relay Varsity

1st place Cross Plains 'A' 4:26.00

- 1) Wheeler, Allanta
- 2) Goode, Grace
- 3) Halsel, Kenzie
- 4) McWilliams, Shelby

Boys 4x400 Yard Relay Junior Varsity

1st place Cross Plains 'A' 4:02.08

- 1) Crockett, Joe
- 2) Calvagna, Eddie
- 3) Armer, Sean
- 4) Walker, Larson

Boys 4x400 Yard Relay Varsity

3rd place Cross Plains 'A' 3:37.50

- 1) McWilliams, Dobbs
- 2) Petree, Kaiden
- 3) Goode, Creed
- 4) Senclair, Holden

Girls High Jump Varsity

1st place Halsel, Kenzie Cross Plains 5-00.00

Boys High Jump Varsity

3rd place Goode, Creed Cross Plains 5-04.00

4th place Senclair, Holden Cross Plains 5-02.00

Girls Pole Vault Varsity

1st place Wheeler, Allanta Cross Plains 7-06.00

Boys Pole Vault Junior Varsity

2nd place Phillips, Logan Cross Plains 9-00.00

3rd place Willis, Dakota Cross Plains 8-06.00

Boys Pole Vault Varsity

3rd place McLean, Korbin Cross Plains 9-00.00

Girls Long Jump Varsity

3rd place Goode, Grace Cross Plains 13-11.75
8th place Armer, Morgan Cross Plains 12-06.25

Boys Long Jump Junior Varsity

7th place Crockett, Joe Cross Plains 14-10.00

Boys Long Jump Varsity

2nd place Briggs, James Cross Plains 18-00.50
4th place Laminack, Rylan Cross Plains 17-11.00
6th place Petree, Kaiden Cross Plains 17-06.25

Girls Triple Jump Varsity

5th place McWilliams, Shelby Cross Plains 27-11.00

Boys Triple Jump Junior Varsity

4th place Willis, Dakota Cross Plains 31-04.25
6th place Armer, Sean Cross Plains 29-03.00

Boys Triple Jump Varsity

4th place Laminack, Rylan Cross Plains 37-01.00
5th place Petree, Kaiden Cross Plains 36-05.00
7th place Senclair, Holden Cross Plains 35-02.50

Girls Discus Throw Varsity

1st place Thomas, Jurnee Cross Plains 90-06.50
2nd place Morgan, Katy Cross Plains 59-03
4th place Bennett, Kelli Cross Plains 49-09.50

Boys Discus Throw Junior Varsity

3rd place Kennedy, Brayden Cross Plains 79-01

6th place Willis, Aaron Cross Plains 69-09.50

Boys Discus Throw Varsity

2nd place Dillard, Bronc Cross Plains 105-06

Girls Shot Put Varsity

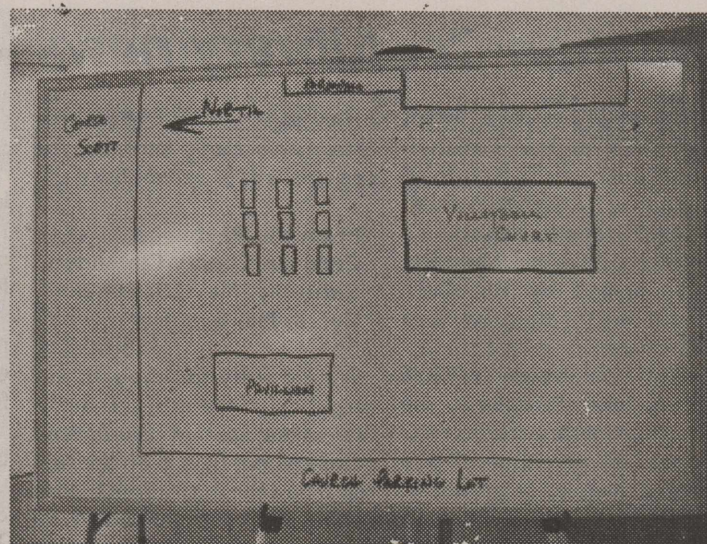
2nd place Bennett, Kelli Cross Plains 24-09.00
3rd place Cowan, Hannah Cross Plains 23-05.00
4th place Crockett, Rebecca Cross Plains 21-09.00

Boys Shot Put Junior Varsity

3rd place Rhyne, James Cross Plains 30-08.00
4th place Willis, Aaron Cross Plains 30-05.00
7th place Sanders, Phoenix Cross Plains 28-09

Boys Shot Put Varsity

1st place Dillard, Bronc Cross Plains 38-08.50
3rd place Briggs, James Cross Plains 34-07.00



Prospective Layout for Garden



Land for Community Garden

Community Garden held general meeting

On Tuesday, March 17th, many members of the Cross Plains community gathered in a general meeting to exchange ideas about the upcoming Community Garden.

The garden is being sponsored by a \$3500.00 grant from the Fiskar's Corporation. This grant consists of \$1500.00 of top notch gardening tools as well as \$2000.00 to purchase items such as lumber and soil to construct raised beds.

The Cross Plains community has wanted to create a Community Garden for some time, but the cost of water and a proper location prohibited the project from coming to fruition until recently. The breakthrough happened when the old well behind the parsonage at The First United Methodist Church was offered as a free water source for the garden and a plot of land between the church and the parking area was deemed

acceptable to Fiskar's due to its excellent drainage and slope.

There were several groups represented at the meeting: The Cross Plains Chamber of Commerce, Cross Plains Garden Club, Kiwanis, Cross Plains Library, FFA, Cross Plains Senior Center, members of several local churches and the Cross Plains Food Pantry.

There will be future meetings and work days set for the building of the beds and planting of the gardens. The entire community is invited to participate. As Pastor Kevin Morton said, "This is not a Methodist project. This is a Community project. We are just blessed to have the water and land that met Fiskar's grant parameters." The Cross Plains Chamber of Commerce will head up getting the information to our community as dates and times are set.

Lowe's Receipt Program Ends March 31st

Cross Plains I.S.D. would like to thank all the parents and supporters who have been saving their receipts from Lowe's. Each time you shop at the store and submit your register receipts to us, our school earns credit towards free educational equipment and supplies, all do-

nated from Lowe's. The program runs through March 31, so keep on shopping and sending receipts in to school with your child. We will ship receipts on April 10th. That will be the last day we can take receipts before shipment.

TxDOT projects March 23rd-27th Area highway construction and maintenance projects

ABILENE — Construction and maintenance projects continue in the Abilene area. Below is a list of upcoming projects for the week of March 23-27, 2015. As always, progress and completion of these projects is dependent upon weather and other potential delays.

Construction

- BI-20 (East Hwy 80): The westbound exit ramp from I-20 to BI-20R (East Hwy 80) will be closed during daytime hours for approximately three days for repairs. The ramp will be re-opened at night. Following completion of the pavement repairs on the exit ramp, TxDOT will continue with pavement repairs in the driving lanes of BI-20R with various daytime lane closures. This temporary ramp closure is part of a pavement repair project that is expected to be completed in the fall of 2015.

- LP 322 one-way frontage road (Lytle Creek to Maple): Southbound FM 1750 entrance ramp (across from WTCOG) is closed due to pavement issues resulting from inclement weather and will remain closed until the weather clears to allow for the contractor to properly repair. Southbound Industrial entrance

ramp (across from AEP) is now open.

Maintenance

- FM 3438, US 277, FM 1750, Danville Drive, Clack Street, I-20, FM 89, FM 707: Pot hole repair in various locations along these roadways

- FM 707, FM 1750, US 83, FM 614, US 84, FM 604: Repair edges

- FM 89, BI 83: Mill driveways to improve drainage capabilities. Drivers should watch for crew members and large, slow moving equipment in project areas, and always drive to conditions.

Follow TxDOT Abilene at Twitter.com/TxDOTAbilene for travel and roadway information. ###

(The Texas Department of Transportation is responsible for maintaining 80,000 miles of road and for supporting aviation, rail, and public transportation across the state. TxDOT and its 12,000 employees are committed to working with others to provide safe and reliable transportation solutions for Texas by maintaining a safe system, addressing congestion, connecting Texas communities, and being a Best in Class state agency.

Cross Plains Review
14
Mar. 26, 2015

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Wildcat Relay Results

8th grade girls placed 2nd as a team over all with 138 points.

7th grade boys placed 4th as a team with 49 points.

8th grade boys placed 2nd as a team with 145 points.

Girls 4x100 Yard Relay 8th Grade

- 1st Cross Plains 'A' 58.62
1)Crockett,Hannah
2)Stiegleder, Macee
3) Parsons, Chelsea
4) Shepard, Jacklynn

Boys 4x100 Yard Relay 8th Grade

- 1st Cross Plains 'A' 51.23
1) Switzer, Sterling
2)Tillery,Jevon
3) Jones, Ethan
4) Brock, Gage

Boys 800 Yard Run 7th Grade

- 4th French, Ben
Cross Plains 3:12.00

Boys 800 Yard Run 8th Grade

- 1st Tillery, Jevon
Cross Plains 2:27.00

6th Farley, Evan

- Cross Plains 2:58.00

Girls 100 Yard Hurdles 8th Grade

- 1st Stiegleder, Macee
Cross Plains 20.95

4th Kleiber, Kenzie

- Cross Plains 23.27

Boys 110 Yard Hurdles 8th Grade

- 4thPetree,Bryce
Cross Plains 21.62 1

5th Potter, Trent

- Cross Plains 22.72

Girls 100 Yard Dash 8th Grade

- 3rdCrockett,Hannah
Cross Plains 14.51

- 6th Cooper, Destinee
Cross Plains 15.32

- 8th Barron, Cayla
Cross Plains 16.44

Boys 100 Yard Dash 7th Grade

- 5th Hernandez, Nathan
Cross Plains 14.05

- 9th Tollett, Trent
Cross Plains 14.82

Boys 100 Yard Dash 8th Grade

- 2nd Switzer, Sterling
Cross Plains 13.36

- 5th Byrd, Paxton
Cross Plains 13.92

Boys 4x200 Yard Relay 7th Grade

- 2nd Cross Plains 'A' 1:56.00
1) Hernandez, Nathan
2) Tollett, Trent
3) Armer, Jared
4) Proctor, Logan

Boys 4x200 Yard Relay 8th Grade

- 2nd Cross Plains 'A' 1:56.00
1) Petree, Bryce
2) Potter, Trent
3) Morales, Brian
4) Byrd, Paxton

Girls 400 Yard Dash 8th Grade

- 2nd Cooper, Destinee
Cross Plains 1:21.47

- 5th Fortune, Hanna
Cross Plains 1:17.00

- 6th Barron, Cayla
Cross Plains 1:22.00

Boys 400 Yard Dash 8th Grade

- 1st Brock, Gage
Cross Plains 58.00

- 9th Farley, Evan
Cross Plains 1:16.00

Girls 300 Yard Hurdles 8th Grade

- 1st Shepard, Jacklynn

- Cross Plains 56.47

- 2nd Kleiber, Kenzie
Cross Plains 1:08.00

Boys 300 Yard Hurdles 8th Grade

- 1st Potter, Trent
Cross Plains 56.72

- 2nd Petree, Bryce
Cross Plains 57.16

Girls 200 Yard Dash 8th Grade

- 3rd Cooper, Destinee
Cross Plains 32.33 2

- 4th Fortune, Hanna
Cross Plains 33.30

Boys 200 Yard Dash 7th Grade

- 3rd Proctor, Logan
Cross Plains 27.73

- 5th Armer, Jared
Cross Plains 28.24

Boys 200 Yard Dash 8th Grade

- 3rd Jones, Ethan
Cross Plains 27.88

- 6th Morales, Brian
Cross Plains 30.05

- 7th Byrd, Paxton
Cross Plains 30.18

Girls 4x400 Yard Relay 8th Grade

- 1st Cross Plains 'A' 4:47.00
1) Stiegleder, Macee
2) Parsons, Chelsea
3) Shepard, Jacklynn
4) Crockett, Hannah

Boys 4x400 Yard Relay 7th Grade

- 3rdCross Plains 'A' 4:34.00
1) Hernandez, Nathan
2) Tollett, Trent
3) Proctor, Logan
4) Armer, Jared

Boys 4x400 Yard Relay 8th Grade

- 2nd Cross Plains 'A' 4:07.00

- 1) Switzer, Sterling
2) Tillery, Jevon
3) Jones, Ethan
4) Brock, Gage

Boys High Jump 8th Grade

- 5th Petree, Bryce
Cross Plains J4-10.00

- 6th Tillery, Jevon
Cross Plains J4-10.00

Girls Long Jump 8th Grade

- 2nd Stiegleder, Macee
Cross Plains 12-09.50

- 3rd Parsons, Chelsea
Cross Plains 12-08.00

Boys Long Jump 7th Grade

- 3rd Armer, Jared
Cross Plains 14-06.50

- 7th Proctor, Logan
Cross Plains 12-10.50

- 11th Hernandez, Nathan
Cross Plains 12-00.50

Boys Long Jump 8th Grade

- 6th Switzer, Sterling
Cross Plains 14-09.00

- 10th Brock, Gage
Cross Plains 13-07.50

- 11th Byrd, Paxton
Cross Plains 13-01.00

Girls Triple Jump 8th Grade

- 5th Kleiber, Kenzie
Cross Plains 24-03.00

- 6th Shepard, Jacklynn
Cross Plains 23-11.50

Boys Triple Jump 7th Grade

- 7th Tollett, Trent
Cross Plains 20-03.50

Boys Triple Jump 8th Grade

- 2nd Petree, Bryce
Cross Plains 33-00.00

- 4th Jones, Ethan
Cross Plains 30-06.50

Cross Plains Review

15

Mar. 26, 2015

Girls Discus Throw 8th Grade

- 1st Bien, Jacy
Cross Plains 65-04

- 3rd Jones, Allie
Cross Plains 48-04

- 8th Thompson, Lexie
Cross Plains 34-08

Boys Discus Throw 8th Grade

- 1st Potter, Trent
Cross Plains 85-09

- 4th Jones, Ethan
Cross Plains 77-07

- 7th Thomas, Tripp
Cross Plains 69-04

Girls Shot Put 8th Grade

- 4th Jones, Allie
Cross Plains 21-07.00

- 6th Bien, Jacy
Cross Plains 20-07.00

- 8th Thompson, Lexie
Cross Plains 17-08.50

Boys Shot Put 7th Grade

- 6th Proctor, Logan
Cross Plains 25-02.00

Seth Rogen's Hilarity for Charity and Home Instead Senior Care Donate 6,000 Hours of Free In-Home Care to Families Living with Alzheimer's Disease Inaugural Alzheimer's Care Grant Recipients Announced, Additional Applications Still Being Accepted

More than 130 families coping with Alzheimer's disease will now receive much-needed support thanks to the Hilarity for Charity and Home Instead Senior Care Alzheimer's and Dementia Care Relief Grant Program. "Hilarity for Charity", a movement established with the Alzheimer's Association, led by actors and writers Lauren Miller Rogen and Seth Rogen to inspire change and raise awareness of Alzheimer's disease, announced the partnership with Home Instead Senior Care to offer grants for in-home care services to eligible U.S. and Canadian families in October of 2014. Today, the first grants were awarded to Alzheimer's families in need, totaling more than 6,000 hours of care.

Grant recipients will be connected with a Home Instead

franchise in their community, which provide a professional CAREGiverSM specially trained in how to most effectively and compassionately assist individuals with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Grants range from short-term grants of 25 hours to long-term care, based on the need of the family.

"Sometimes, just a few hours a week can provide a welcome break for family caregivers," explains Jeff Huber, president of Home Instead Senior Care. "Having the peace of mind that your loved one is being cared for by a highly-skilled CAREGiver can allow families to focus on the other areas of their life that they may have neglected since an Alzheimer's diagnosis."

The Alzheimer's and Dementia

Care Relief Grant Program is funded by Hilarity for Charity donations, including the organization's annual Variety Show fundraiser in which nearly \$1 million was raised in 2014. To supplement this funding, United States- and Canada-based Home Instead Senior Care franchise owners pledged more than 37,000 hours of in-home care services, valued at \$740,000. Individuals living in Canada or the U.S. and providing care to the nearly six million loved ones in North America living with Alzheimer's disease are eligible to apply.

For more information about the Alzheimer's Care Grant Program, including how you can donate or apply for future respite care grants, visit www.HelpForAlzheimersFamilies.com.

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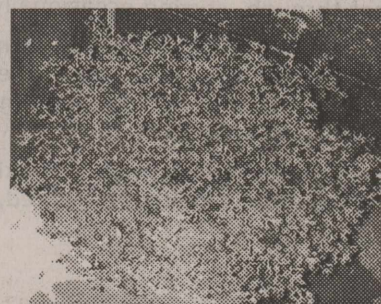
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Yes, we still have Ammo,
handbags, food, snacks
& drinks, But you've just
gotta see these
Flowers!!

Texas Game Warden Field Notes

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

• **Up to No(se) Good**—A Travis County game warden and K-9 partner, Ruger, were requested by the Jonestown Police Department and the Travis County Sheriff's Office for a canine sniff search of a vehicle. The vehicle had been stopped for a traffic violation and was deemed stolen. Ruger alerted and indicated to the presence of controlled substances. While searching the vehicle, officers found about 1 gram of methamphetamines, a glass meth pipe, a scale with residue, potential stolen phones and SIM cards, birth certificates and documents with other individuals' social security numbers. Charges were filed for possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of controlled substance and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. Further investigation of the potential stolen phones, SIM cards and sensitive documents is ongoing. Cases pending.

• **Well-Hidden**—The Delta County Sheriff's Office requested assistance from their game warden after burglary suspects fled from a deputy. The deputy was unable to continue pursuit of the suspects due to the condition of the road, but the warden was able to locate the suspects' vehicle, which had become stuck in the mud. With the assistance of a Department of Public Safety helicopter and a Texas Department of Corrections K-9 team, the subjects were found clinging to the inside of an abandoned well. The well was covered by a cedar tree and appeared to be about 20 feet deep. A large amount of methamphetamines was also located a few yards from the vehicle.

• **Poachers See, Poachers Do**—A Harris County game warden responded to an Operation Game Thief tip about a man seen walking around with a rifle in the Addicks Reservoir. When the warden arrived, he spotted a vehicle and tracked footprints

that led inside the reservoir. After waiting in the brush alongside a nearby path, the warden heard a shot fired in the distance. Nearly 40 minutes later, the subject came down the path and was subsequently apprehended. After the warden spent some time questioning and investigating, two of the man's friends also poaching in the reservoir, turned themselves in without incident. Cases pending.

• **Five of a Kind**—While a Starr County game warden was on patrol, he came across an open gate leading to a ranch and decided to investigate. Upon entering the ranch, the warden spotted two vehicles and five people dressed in camouflage, standing around a hunting blind. At first the individuals said they were working on the ranch, but, after some questioning, admitted they were hunting. The warden followed the hunters down to where one of the hunters had shot an eight-point buck and helped the hunter load the deer. After further inspection, however, it was found that the hunter had marked the deer with a tag that expired in 2012 and also did not have a valid hunting license. The buck was seized and the meat was donated to a local family. Cases and civil restitution pending.

• **Poacher Scissorhands**—A Webb County game warden received a call from a landowner who believed someone poached a deer on his ranch. The warden arrived at the ranch and began to investigate the area. There, he found evidence of a deer being shot, a fence being cut and a deer dragged under the fence. The warden then went to the adjacent property to see if anyone was at the deer camp and to begin looking for evidence. There was no contact made at the camp, but the warden saw evidence of a deer that was recently processed at the cleaning station. The material used to repair the cut fence was also at the camp. After investigating further and talking to landowners plus the hunters leasing

the property, one of the men said he had shot the deer on the neighboring property and cut the fence to retrieve the dead deer. Multiple cases pending.

• **A Perfect Match**—One evening, a La Salle County game warden set up on a back road near Los Angeles, Texas, where poaching activity was known to take place. Around 8:30 p.m. a slow moving truck made its way past the warden while shining a bright light. After following the vehicle for a short distance, the warden initiated a traffic stop. The two people in the car had a loaded rifle lying across their laps. A set of fresh deer antlers was also discovered in the bed of the truck. The two occupants were taken to jail for several Class A violations. A few days later, a deer carcass was discovered on a nearby ranch. The deer antlers from the truck bed matched perfectly. It was also discovered that one subject was a convicted felon. Felony charges are pending.

• **Three Strikes, You're Out**—When a frustrated rancher in La Salle County discovered his neighbor trespassing on his ranch, for the third time, he decided he needed to call the local game warden. Unlike the previous two times he had trespassed, this time the neighbor notified the rancher of his intent to enter the property. The neighbor said that he had crossed the fence the previous evening while hog hunting and shot a hog. The hog was too heavy to drag back, so it was left behind. The neighbor thought he could make it right if he called and told the rancher about what he had done. Charges pending.

• **Man Overboard**—Two Calhoun County game wardens spotted a skiff oystering in closed waters. As the wardens moved in, one of the occupants threw the oyster dredge overboard, along with himself. When the warden was able to get the man back in the boat, both subjects were arrested. Multiple charges pending.

Commissioners approve implementing network security solutions

The Callahan County Commissioners' Court approved the implementation of new network security issues during the commissioners' court monthly meeting held Monday, March 23rd at the County Courthouse in Baird.

Sam Goldsmith, with Goldsmith Solutions addressed the commissioners' court concerning network security issues and recommended solutions. Commissioner Tom Windham made a motion to have Mr. Goldsmith implement these network solutions and to send out a memo reminding computer users of the importance of protecting the county's IT resources. Commissioner Harold Hicks seconded the motion and the motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Goldsmith also presented the commissioners' court with different options for upgrading internet service with Windstream to meet current needs. After discussion, Commissioner Bryan Farmer made a motion to upgrade the county equipment and the internet speed to 50 Mbps and to allow Judge Roger Corn to sign the contracts with Windstream. Commissioner Windham seconded the motion, and the motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Other agenda items brought before the commissioners' court

included:

—The meeting of the commissioners' court was called to order at 9:34 a.m. by Judge Roger Corn with Commissioner Precinct #1 Harold Hicks, Commissioner Precinct #2 Bryan Farmer, Commissioner Precinct #3 Tom Windham, Commissioner Precinct #4 Cliff Kirkham, County Treasurer Jan Windham and County Clerk Donna Bell present.

—The minutes from the previous commissioners' court meeting were reviewed and signed.

—There was no public comment.

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

—Commissioner Kirkham made a motion to purchase two lots in Cross Plains that join the Commissioner's Precinct #4 barn property. Commissioner Farmer seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

—The Monthly Sheriff's Report for the month of February was given by Julie Lemon. Commissioner Kirkham made a motion to approve the report. Commissioner Farmer seconded the motion, and the motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

—TxDOT officials Michael Haithcock, David Caffey, Daniel Richardson and Kristi Harwell

spoke to the commissioners' court about the Highway Bridge Program. No action was taken at this time by the commissioners' court.

—There was discussion of the Callahan County Dispatch fees. No action was taken at this time.

—No action was taken on the Courthouse Repairs Project.

—The commissioners' court took no action on the agenda item of Request for Unclaimed Property-Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. Commissioner Farmer made a motion to pursue the request. Commissioner Kirkham seconded the motion, and the motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

—Under the item of Resolution to Support Palo Pinto Mountains State Park, the commissioners' court took no action.

—The commissioners' court did not go into executive/closed session.

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

—Commissioner Farmer made a motion to adjourn the commissioners' court meeting at 11:50 a.m. Commissioner Windham seconded the motion, which carried with an unanimous 5-0 vote.

Support Legislation to Preserve Our Hunting Heritage

By Jenny Sanders

A disturbing trend in Texas and across the nation is drawing attention from hunters and non-hunters alike – raising deer in captivity, much like livestock, and then releasing them to be hunted as little as 10 days later. Extreme animal husbandry practices such as repeated forced semen collection, artificial insemination, bottle raising, and often cavalier use of drugs to create abnormally large antlers are common in this industry, but have no place in wildlife management. Shooting a deer 10 days after it was released from a lifetime of these practices is not hunting.

Throughout history, hunters have held themselves to superior ethical standards and have sought to halt practices that violate those standards. Texas hunters should work to promote the values and tradition of sustainable, fair-chase hunting while exposing practices that threaten the future of the sport. While many believe that ethical deer breeding can be used as a bona-fide tool to enhance wildlife

populations, reform is needed in the industry to protect human health, animal welfare and our precious hunting heritage.

On March 13, Rep. Kyle Kacal took a step toward that much-needed reform by filing HB 2471, which would require that pen-raised deer only be released from captivity in the spring, when climatological and physiological factors are most conducive to a smooth transition to the wild. This move would also alleviate many ethical concerns regarding "canned hunting" of pen-raised animals.

Hunting is a deeply personal sport, and the means by which a hunter bags his quarry should be determined by that hunter's personal ethical compass. However, when the actions of a small group of individuals put the greater hunting community at risk, we must be willing to draw ethical boundaries. Hunting largely occurs on private land in Texas, and wildlife populations and rural economies have thrived under this scenario. But wildlife, including white-tailed deer, remain public trust resources,

managed by the State (Texas Parks & Wildlife Department) for the benefit of the people. It is, therefore, the prerogative of the people to speak up when certain practices are identified that threaten the future of this great public-private partnership that provides the basis for hunting and wildlife management in our state.

These irresponsible practices could expose hunters and their families to residual pharmaceuticals in venison, facilitate the spread of disease to wild deer, and lend themselves to the perception of put-and-take-hunting.

There are 4 million wild deer in Texas, attracting more than 1 million hunters, and generating more than \$2 billion for the state's economy, and hundreds of thousands of dollars for wildlife conservation. Alternately, there are just over 1,200 deer breeders in Texas, a cottage industry that, left unchecked, threatens the greater hunting community, wildlife populations and habitats. It is time for hunters to take a stand against practices that damage our image with the non-hunting public.

Please contact Rep. Kyle Kacal and thank him for his efforts to promote hunting and conservation through HB 2471 - Spring Release of Breeder Deer. His Capitol office phone number is 512-463-0412 or you can email him here: Kyle.Kacal@house.state.tx.us. Hunting is part of the fabric of Texas. It is about camaraderie, family values, conservation and tradition. Texans for Saving Our Hunting Heritage calls on Texans and Texas hunters to unite in opposition to these practices that threaten the perception and future of our sport. Please join us as we "Hunt Real. Hunt Wild. Hunt Texas Proud."

Jenny Sanders is the executive director of Texans for Saving Our Hunting Heritage. For more information, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/texasnhuntingheritage>.

Country Store Needs Donations

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

16

Mar. 26, 2015

Sign Up for Great Texas Birding Classic by April 1 – No Foolin' Binoculars, Enthusiasm All That's Required for Texas Birding Event

AUSTIN — Hundreds of avid and backyard birders alike will head to the coast, forests, prairies and mountains next month to compete in the nation's biggest, longest and wildest bird watching tournament. The registration deadline for the 19th annual Great Texas Birding Classic, which runs from April 15 to May 15, is April 1.

Last year, more than 400 competitors – individuals and teams – competed in the Birding Classic, documenting a record 425 species out of Texas' 639 documented avian species. The 2014 event attracted a record-breaking 81 teams that competed from the Texas Panhandle to the Golden Triangle in southeast Texas in a host of regional and statewide daylong and weeklong tournaments.

"The Birding Classic is a wonderful opportunity for bird watching enthusiasts and all nature lovers to gather with family and friends to see how many bird species they can spot in a few hours, a full day, or even a few days in a row," says Shelly Plante, nature tourism manager for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. "I want everyone to know that this is a fun event that anyone, regardless of their age or ability, will enjoy."

One of last year's participants, teen birder Hannah Franklin of San Antonio, joined a team sponsored by the Texas Ornithological Society that competed in an age group competition in Central Texas.

"I enjoyed birding with my friends, as well as knowing that we were raising money for Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Mitchell Lake Audubon Center so that other kids like me can have the same chance to be out in nature in the future," Franklin says.

A number of competitors, such as Rick Laughlin and Elizabeth Eddins, blogged about their Birding Classic experience. You can read what Eddins posted while competing in Beaumont's first ever Big Sit! Team: <http://www.beaumontcvb.com/blog/index.cfm/2014/4/24/The-Big-Sit/>.

Overall last year, the tournament raised \$18,000 through registration fees and sponsorships for conservation grants awarded to help preserve critical bird habitat and support nature tourism in Texas. Since its inception in 1997, the Great Texas Birding Classic has awarded conservation grants totaling \$819,500.

Competitors can choose from

more than 40 tournament categories to test their birding skills, participating from as little as half a day to as long as a week in a statewide tourney. Some participants form a team and compete in such categories as the Big Sit!, in which birders must remain within a 17-foot diameter circle to count their birds. Others choose to enter one of the other categories, including a sunrise-to-noon event, youth-only tournaments, a human-powered contest and one tournament held entirely within Texas state parks.

To register online and learn the rules and tournament details, visit: www.BirdingClassic.org. This event is made possible by donations from event sponsor Toyota, Awards Ceremony sponsor Audubon Texas, and individual team sponsorship and registration fees. All registration fees and sponsorship dollars go toward conservation grants benefiting birding, nature tourism, and habitat restoration and enhancement projects throughout Texas. Some winning teams even help select which projects will be funded.

For more information about the Birding Classic, call (512) 389-4500.

Protect Your Family from Tick Bites and Lyme Disease

StatePoint— More than 30,000 cases of Lyme disease are reported each year, making it the most commonly reported vector-borne illness in the US, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Make sure your family isn't part of that number.

As the warmer months coax us outside, reducing the risk of tick bites is essential to protecting your family from Lyme disease and its potential long-term, devastating effects.

Lyme disease can cause facial or Bell's palsy, severe headaches, neck stiffness, heart palpitations, and pain and swelling in large joints. However, it's difficult to diagnose, as symptoms can be attributed to other health problems. Left untreated, approximately 60 percent of Lyme disease sufferers experience arthritis, while five percent develop chronic neurological challenges months or years after the infection.

"Had I understood the potential severity of Lyme disease and taken the threat seriously, I might have saved my children from years of

suffering," says Jennifer Reid, a mother of two children affected by Lyme disease and Community Coordinator for the BLAST Lyme Disease Prevention Program. "Prevention is possible."

BLAST is a helpful acronym representing basic tick bite prevention measures -- Bathe, Look for ticks, Apply repellents, Spray the yard and Treat your pets. Additionally, Reid recommends taking these simple steps:

- For People
 - Avoid wooded and busy areas with high grass and leaf litter.
 - Apply repellent to exposed skin and clothing before outdoor activities.
 - Bathe or shower right after spending time outdoors and conduct a full-body tick check. Use a mirror to see hard to reach places such as the under arms, belly button, scalp, and behind the knees.

- For Pets
 - Check pets for ticks daily and remove them as soon as possible.
 - Talk with your veterinarian about using tick preventatives on your pet.
 - Watch pets closely for

changes in behavior of appetite. This may indicate Lyme disease infection.

- In Your Yard
 - Place a wood chip or gravel barrier between your lawn, patio, and play equipment and any wooded areas. This will restrict tick migration into recreational areas.

- Mow the lawn frequently and keep leaves raked.
- Keep playground equipment and patios away from yard edges and trees and place them in sunny locations, if possible.

- Pest control products can help protect your family from tick bites, according to RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment), a national trade association. On a seasonal basis, consult a professional to spray the perimeter.

Get more tips to become a "backyard boss" and protect your family against hidden lawn and landscape risks by visiting <http://blog.debugthemyth.com>. This season, take charge of your backyard and learn how to protect your family.

USDA Finalizes Procedures for Sorghum Referendum

WASHINGTON, Mar. 17, 2015 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is announcing procedures for the upcoming referendum regarding the continuation of the Sorghum Checkoff Program and is announcing the dates it will conduct the referendum.

The Sorghum Promotion, Research, and Information Order requires that a referendum be conducted no later than seven years after the start of assessments, which began on July 1, 2008. For the program to continue, a majority of those voting must favor the continuation of the order.

USDA will conduct the referendum beginning on March 23, 2015, through April 21, 2015, at county USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices for producers and the Agricultural Marketing Service office for importers. Ballots may be obtained in person, by mail or facsimile at county FSA offices, or via the Internet.

Any eligible person engaged in the production or importation of sorghum from January 1, 2011, to December 31, 2014, is eligible to participate. Individuals are required to provide documentation such as a sales receipt or remittance form that shows they engaged in the

production or importation of sorghum.

The Sorghum Checkoff Program, and its 13-member board, is authorized by the Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996. The Sorghum Checkoff is intended to be a national, coordinated, self-help marketing program designed to strengthen the position of sorghum in the marketplace, maintain and expand existing domestic and foreign markets and uses for sorghum, and develop new markets and uses for sorghum.

The final procedures were published in the Nov. 18, 2010, Federal Register. The notice announcing the dates of the referendum were published in the Feb. 19, 2015, Federal Register.

For more information, contact Craig Shackelford, Marketing Specialist, Research and Promotion Division, Livestock, Poultry, and Seed Program, AMS, USDA, 22 Jamesport Lane, White, GA 30184; Telephone: (470) 315-4246; craig.shackelford@ams.usda.gov. Procedures and additional information about the referendum can be found at: www.ams.usda.gov/SorghumReferendum.

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The Recipe Corner

Taco Cornbread Casserole

Prep Time: 15 minutes Bake Time: 1 Hour

Ingredients:

- * 2 pounds ground beef
- * 2 envelopes taco seasoning
- * 2 cans (14-1/2 ounces each) diced tomatoes, drained
- * 1 cup water
- * 1 cup cooked rice
- * 1 can (4 ounces) chopped green chilies
- * 2 packages (8-1/2 ounces) cornbread/muffin mix
- * 1 can (8-3/4 ounces) whole kernel corn, drained
- * 1 cup (8 ounces) sour cream
- * 2 cups corn chips
- * 2 cups (8 ounces) shredded Mexican or cheddar cheese, divided
- * 1 can (2-1/4 ounces) sliced ripe olives, drained
- * Shredded lettuce and chopped tomatoes, optional



Directions

- * Preheat oven to 400 degrees. In a Dutch oven, cook beef over medium heat 8-10 minutes or until no longer pink, breaking into crumbles; drain. Stir in taco seasoning. Add tomatoes, water, rice and green chilies; heat through, stirring occasionally.
- * Meanwhile, prepare cornbread mix according to package directions; stir in corn. Pour half of the batter into a greased 13x9 inch baking dish. Layer with half of the meat mixture, all the sour cream, half of the corn chips and 1 cup cheese. Top with remaining batter, remaining meat mixture, olives and remaining corn chips.
- * Bake, uncovered, 55-60 minutes or until cornbread is cooked through. Sprinkle with remaining cheese; bake 3-5 minutes longer or until cheese is melted. If desired, serve with lettuce and chopped tomatoes.

Yield: 8 Servings