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| **Reminder for Jan. Permian Basin ASSP Meeting**Jeffrey  Wirth of R&T Ellis Excavating, Inc will be our speaker at the meeting tomorrow noon.  The meeing will be held at the Ranchland Hills Golf Club at 1600 E. Wadley, Midland, Texas.  The program will start at 12 noon; and a buffet lunch will be served for $20, cash, credit cards, checks or Eventbrite tickets will be accepted at the door. -----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------  November in Review Sargent Oscar Villareal with the Texas Department of Public Safety was our speaker. He said that the Thanksgiving weekend was the busiest travel holiday of the whole year. The two most dangerous times were the night before Thanksgiving and the Sunday after the holiday. He asked, "Which is the hardest to prove in court?" The answer was **DWI.** That may be one of the reasons that there are multiple drivers on the road that still have their driver's license, even after being arrested for DWI. Once you are pulled over, the officer runs your license plate on their computer, and he will know instantly if you have auto insurance on your car. The car insurance industry has linked their information directly to the DPS and your car tags. If you are stopped twice and still have no car insurance, you will go to jail. We need to hold people accountable for their actions! He said that he was asked frequently what we as a driving public could do to make his job easier? He said, "Do what's right! Follow the Golden Rule—Do to others what you would want them to do to you. He mentioned that his barber was taunting him, with the question, "Would you stop me for going 3 miles over the speed limit on 191?" He replied, "If your child swiped a piece of bubble gum from the grocery store that cost 3?, what would you do to him?" She replied that she would beat his bottom, and take him back to the store to apologize. He replied, "All that for just 3 ??" He then stated that we all make exceptions for what we choose to do.  There are **five** things that a driver needs to take in consideration when driving, they are: the condition of the road, the condition of the car, weather, your physical condition, and how populated the location of the road is. **November 7th, 2000**, (18 years ago) was a Red Letter Day, because it was the last day that Texas had **no** fatalities in the state. Life is the most valuable possession we have; but **car keys are the most dangerous weapon we own.** Motor Vehicle Crashes kill more people than all illnesses combined. The problem with our lives is that we are multitasking all the time. We are always making bad decisions, but there is no reason to **drive while intoxicated, or even buzzed.** The police are calling car wrecks crashes instead of accidents. Accidents are non-preventable such as: deer crossing the road, tree limbs falling. Crashes are preventable; such as the vehicle crash a year or so ago that killed 13 elderly people, in a bus wreck, coming from a church camp. The 19 year old that ran into the bus was texting. **99.7% of crashes are preventable!** Sargent Villareal emphasized **W I N—do What Is Important Now!** He said that we drive like we take a shower, using muscle memory, and not thinking about what we are doing. Auto makers have made driving much more dangerous with touch screens on the display panels in our cars; because they are very distracting. 40,000 people died in 2016 in Texas, (he didn't have current figures for '17;) and 4.6 million people were injured. The cost of these wrecks was $**439 Billion.**  Every **6 seconds of the day a crash is reported to law enforcement** in the state, **every 14 seconds someone was injured** in the state, and **every 15 minutes someone dies on the highways of Texas.** We were told that no one will ever replace a single person that was killed in a car crash. To illustrate this, he had 4 people who were sitting together stand and tell us who was at home and significant to them that would miss them if they didn't come home; for me that was very sobering, and really brought his message home. |
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