



# TISD honors service Beta Award



Board Members Judy Bishop and Dorothy Franklin present service awards for five years of service at Trinity ISD to (from left) Kim Self, Aleta Meshell, Jon Holcomb, Cheri Salbeck, Kerri Campbell and Jacoby Mitchell. COURTESY PHOTOS



Board Members Judy Bishop and Dorothy Franklin present service awards for 15 years of service at Trinity ISD to (from left) to Monica Reddick and Shaun Stout. Not pictured is Maria Gaytan.



Of the three Trinity High School Beta members who represented Trinity at national competition, Alyssa Loesch placed second in onsite painting. COURTESY PHOTO



Board Members Judy Bishop and Dorothy Franklin present service awards for 20 years of service at Trinity ISD to (from left) Martha Farnsworth, Kara Huffman, Barry Coleman and Melenie Meredith.



Board Members Judy Bishop and Dorothy Franklin present an award to Gill Campbell for 30 years of service to Trinity ISD.



Board Members Judy Bishop and Dorothy Franklin present service awards 25 years of service to Trinity ISD to (from left) Laura Ellison and Ira Nell Rodgers.



## Time running out for FEMA assistance in Texas

Special to the News-Standard

AUSTIN — Texans who sustained losses from the storms and flooding April 26-June 5 have less than one month remaining to apply for federal assistance. The deadline is July 16.

One month after the disaster declaration, FEMA is helping 52,759 Texas households with \$110.4 million in financial assistance. The U.S. Small Business Administration has approved \$13.1 million in low-interest disaster loans to homeowners, renters, private nonprofit organizations and businesses.

FEMA specialists have been working in 35 counties helping people apply for assistance. They have visited 67,597 homes and 5,430 public locations. FEMA has operated 33 disaster recovery centers visited by 9,019 residents. More than 8,300 families with 25,000 members have stayed in hotels temporarily at FEMA expense because they could not return to their homes.

Homeowners and renters in Austin, Bell, Calhoun, Collin, Cooke, Coryell, Dallas, Denton, Eastland, Ellis, Falls, Guadalupe, Hardin, Harris, Henderson, Hockley, Jasper, Jones, Kaufman, Lamar, Leon, Liberty, Montague, Montgomery, Navarro, Newton, Polk, San Jacinto, Smith, Terrell, Trinity, Tyler, Van Zandt, Walker and Waller counties with uninsured losses from the storms and flooding April 26-June 5 may be eligible for FEMA assistance.

Texans have several options for how to apply for FEMA assistance. Homeowners and renters can:

- Go online to [DisasterAssistance.gov](http://DisasterAssistance.gov).
- Download the FEMA App for mobile devices.
- Call the FEMA helpline at 800-621-3362 between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. Help is available in most languages. If you use a relay service, such as video relay (VRS), captioned telephone or other service, give FEMA your number for that service.
- Visit a Disaster Recovery Center. To find the center location nearest

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## TxDOT spotlights impact, loss from drunk driving

Special to the News-Standard

AUSTIN — We all know that drunk driving is dangerous and yet people still choose to get behind the wheel impaired, causing on average of 65 alcohol-related crashes every day last year on Texas roadways. Three Texans died daily in 2023 as a result — their lives extinguished at the hands of those who never thought they would be responsible for a roadside tragedy.

Making the choice to drive drunk instead of finding a sober ride home can lead to se-

rious consequences, including a lifetime of anguish. This is the painful reality for Charles and Shenica Trammell of San Antonio, who will never see their child again.

"We taught our son to serve others, not knowing that he would actually die while doing so," said Shenica Trammel. Her 20-year-old son and Texas Wesleyan University football player Charles Jr. was killed while changing a friend's tire on the side of the road in Fort Worth.

"All because someone made the decision to get behind the wheel after drinking," she said.

Shenica and her husband Charles are among the faces seen and voices heard in an exhibit traveling across Texas to showcase first-person testimonial videos by survivors, offenders and those who've suffered the loss of a loved one to a drunk driver.

July and August are the calendar's two deadliest months for drunk-driving fatalities. Heading into these months, TxDOT's "Drive Sober. No Regrets" campaign is spotlighting these stories of grief and remorse to emphasize the importance of driving sober and the

See TxDOT → Page 5

# Texas passes on \$450 million summer lunch program for low-income families

By Nina Banks  
The Texas Tribune

A Facebook post on the page for Groveton ISD states, "As of Monday, June 17, per TDA, Groveton ISD will no longer continue the summer lunch program."

While 35 states will participate in a \$2.5 billion federal nutrition program that will help low-income parents buy groceries for their children, free school meals are unavailable during the summer months, since Texas, which has 3.8 million children eligible for the program, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, has opted not to join this national effort.

If it had, qualifying families would have received \$120 per child through a pre-loaded card for the three summer months. The USDA calculated that Texas is passing on a total of \$450 million in federal tax dollars that would have gone to eligible families here.

The reason for the pass is simple, according to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. When the USDA notified HHSC officials of their new Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer, or EBT program on Dec. 29, that gave the nation's sec-

ond largest state only six months to get it up and running and that's not enough time, said Tiffany Young, a spokesperson for the state agency. Although the summer program would involve two other agencies as well — the Texas Education Agency and the Texas Department of Agriculture — HHSC would have to bear the brunt of the work because they would have to coordinate and direct the distribution of the preloaded cards to qualifying families.

Already on their plate is the cumbersome unwinding of Medicaid coverage. Since last April, the agency has removed more than 2 million Texans from the program since the federal government lifted continuous coverage rules during the pandemic, forcing those who still qualify for coverage to reapply. From HHSC's perspective, launching an entirely new program wouldn't be possible at this time. Additionally, the USDA would only cover 50 percent of the administrative expenses for Summer EBT. It would be up to the state to cover the residual cost.

Young wrote that the HHSC, TDA and TEA have been in "active discussions" about each agencies' responsibilities in accordance with Summer EBT. The U.S. Department of Agriculture first piloted the

summer program with Pandemic EBT, or P-EBT, during the 2019-2020 school year in all 50 states. P-EBT was created in response to children from low-income families who qualified for free and reduced-price school meals during the COVID-19 pandemic. Federal officials estimate 21 million children in 35 states, five U.S. territories and four tribes participating in the program would receive the extra money during the summer months.

Texas is one of 15 states that will not participate. Among the 15 is Alabama — opting out with similar rationale to Texas — attributing their reasoning to an insufficient amount of time to appropriate the funds necessary for the program.

For more than 3 million Texas children, school lunch may be the only full meal they get each day. According to Feeding Texas, a nonprofit organization that supplies food banks across the state, one in five children are affected by food insecurity — defined as an insufficient amount or unreliable sources of food to sustain oneself.

The Texas Department of Agriculture administers the free and reduced meal program for students during the school year. Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller said he understands the disappointment some families have about Texas' decision not to

participate this year. He said his agency would have assisted if the decision was made to participate.

"The problem we're facing — and we face this at the TDA in our school meals program and our summer feeding programs — everything is so much more expensive," Miller said. "An extra 40 dollars could have gone a long way to offset that."

Every Texan petitioned alongside statewide and regional organizations for the program last November, signing a letter to Cecile Young, executive commissioner of HHSC.

"Summer EBT is something that we have been advocating for years, because we know how hard it is in a state as spread out as Texas to access enough food, to be able to afford enough food for their kids when school is closed," Rachel Cooper told The Texas Tribune.

Though not as comprehensive as Summer EBT, food insecure children still have options for food assistance during the summer. Miller told the Tribune that "kids aren't going to get fed any less" on account of the TDA's expansion of their Summer Meals Program. Children 18 and under are eligible to receive a free meal at their meal sites across the

See LUNCH → Page 5

**SIGNS OF Heat Exhaustion**

- Faint or Dizzy
- Cool, pale, clammy skin
- Excessive Sweating
- Muscle Cramps

**SIGNS OF Heat Stroke**

- Throbbing Headache
- Red, hot, dry skin
- No Sweating
- Change in Mental State

**Call 9-1-1**

## Parks department offers seven summer heat safety tips

Special to the News-Standard

AUSTIN — Rising temperatures and the month of June signal the arrival of the dog days of summer. With heat-related illnesses on the rise, Texas State Parks is sharing seven tips to help Texans beat the heat and enjoy their time in the outdoors safely.

Last year, 48 state parks reported 156 heat-related illnesses in humans and pets, but this year could well eclipse that. State parks have already fielded 51 heat-related incidents since Jan. 1, compared to 32 reported by this time last year.

Here are the top seven heat hacks recommended for park visitors:

- Hydrate. It's important to drink at least 16 ounces of water every hour to prevent dehy-

dration. Don't forget to bring enough for your four-legged family members too.

- Block the rays. Apply a generous amount of sunscreen or sunblock before heading outdoors. Be sure to reapply every couple of hours, and after swimming or sweating.
- Dress smart. Wear light, loose-fitting, breathable clothing; a hat, correct shoes, sunscreen and wet bandanas to keep you cool while in the sun. For pets, protect paws against blistering by hitting the trails during cooler times of the day when the ground isn't hot or by putting booties on pets to help shield paws from the hot ground. Touch the pavement or ground with the back of your hand. If you cannot hold it there for five seconds, the surface is too hot for your dog's paws.
- Stay salty. Food helps keep up energy and

replace salt lost from sweating. Eating snacks such as jerky, granola, trail mix, tuna and dried fruit is a fantastic way to nourish your body while on the trails.

- Buddy system. Two brains are better than one. It's beneficial to have someone with you in hot conditions so you can look after each other on the trail. With high temperatures hitting Texas, heat-related illnesses are common and having a friend around to help recognize the early symptoms can save you from getting sick.
- Plan ahead. Study the map and have it with you. Avoid relying on your phone for maps since service may be unavailable in back-country areas. Average hikers move at two miles per hour, so allow yourself plenty of

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RIVER & RAINFALL DATA AS OF JUNE 25

Gauge Height.....	32.77 ft
Condition.....	Normal Flood Stage
Weekly rainfall .....	0.00 in





# Despite the date, holiday to be happening

The Fourth of July is on Thursday this year and that creates havoc on celebrations on the real date as most people must go back to work the next day on Friday.

The city of Trinity is going to celebrate the Fourth of July on Friday, July 5th and not Thursday, because the fireworks display costs twice as much to buy it you pay to have them fire off on the Fourth of July.

Having fireworks displayed before or after the Fourth of July makes no sense to me either, so whatever will be will be. Please note, there are a few corrections to the July 4 activities listed below.

Fourth of July activities announced around the county so far are:

- Westwood Shores Subdivision on July 29.
- Valley Ranch Fourth of July Fest on July 4 from 5-10 p.m. in Montgomery.
- The city of Trinity's fireworks on July 5 at dusk.
- The city of Groveton annual celebration starts at 1 p.m. July 4 with a parade, then the park opens at 3 p.m. with a variety of entertainment. Fireworks go off at 9 p.m.
- McLeod Fireworks Show on July 6 at Barrett's Landing.
- A few more June events need to be announced and then on to the Vaca-



By Julia McMichael  
**Julia's Tidbits**

tion Bible School listings for July like I promised.

- Sundale Senior Living in Huntsville is holding its summer festival on June 29, and they are looking for vendors. No charge for vendors, and this is a free event for all of Huntsville community. Please contact Sarah at (936) 263-1468 if you are interested in becoming a vendor.

- The Summer Fest takes place at 679 Interstate 45 South and runs from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The events include a bouncy castle, a classic car show, food trucks, food vendors, and arts and craft vendors, so come join the fun in Huntsville.

- On June 30, First Methodist Church of Trinity is hosting a band called Southern Hope (singing gospel music) after the Fifth Sunday potluck dinner at noon. For more information call Laura at (936) 594-3826.

- July Vacation Bible School Listings:
  - Dorcas Wills Memorial Baptist Church is hosting Vacation Bible School July 8-12 at 201 N. Robb St. in Trinity. School starts at 8 a.m. and ends at noon. The theme for this VBS is "Breaker Rock Beach." Children's ages are completed kindergarten and fifth grade. For more information, call the church office at (936) 594-3822.
  - First Methodist Church of Trinity is hosting Vacation Bible School July 15-19. You may register now. The hours are 9 a.m. until noon Monday through Friday. The Cokebury's VBS program this year is "Hero Hotline" called together to serve God. The church is located at 131 N. Elm St. For more information, call Laura at (936) 594-3826 or email firstmethodisttrinitytx.org to register.
  - More Community Activities for July:
    - VFW Post 6899 is hosting two events on July 6: a blood drive being held from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., and a Eddie & Maxie dance from noon until 4 p.m. The Texas Thunder Band of Vidor will perform classic country music for your enjoyment. The cantina and snack bar will be open at this time and admission is \$15.
    - For more information, call Marilyn Barnes at (281) 782-8309.

- SAAFE House will host its annual Denim & Diamonds Bingo fundraiser from 6 to 10 p.m. July 13 at The Manor on Pinecrest Drive in Trinity. There will be food, a silent and live auction, door prizes and of course 10 rounds of Bingo with prizes for the winners.

Tickets are available. Call SAAFE House at (936) 291-3529, Veronica at (936) 284-5580 or Tammy at (936) 284-5547.

- There are two back to school events planned to furnish school supplies and backpacks to Trinity County Students in July.

The Annual Summer conference for the ROTC church will be held July 20 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Trinity Community Center. Prayer in the Park is held each summer to provide music, free school items, food, door prizes and spiritual aspiration to the community of Trinity.

This event is sponsored by many churches in our city and county, and for more information or to sponsor a booth, donate gifts, provide music, food, or school supplies, your generosity would be greatly appreciated and welcomed, so contact Karen Dixon at (936) 581-6531.

Second, the second annual Back to School Supply Drive will be held July

27 and hosted by Lone Star Missionary Baptist Church, 502 W. Main St., in Trinity.

The event starts at 10 a.m. and ends when the school supplies are gone. Free backpacks and school supplies are to be given to pre-K to eighth-grade students.

Donations or money can be dropped off at the church on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. or Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m. at the church. Please help to make this a successful endeavor.

For more information, call Charolett Clayborne at (936) 662-5947, Pastor DeBose at (936) 355-1987 or Lula English-DeBose at (936) 355-3973.

- A horrible mistake was made last week. Aeria Bacon is the new president of the Trinity Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, not Aeria Baker. I have many good friends who have the last names of Baker, Baxter and Becker, so forgive me for my mental lapse. Aeria said she would forgive me this one time.

Under her direction, new officers and board members will take office on July 1 and a meet and greet will be held soon.

The next meeting will be held on July 2 since the new air conditioning units have been installed in the Chamber Building and it will be cool. The Chamber Building is at 103 Stadium St. See you there.

# Free disaster legal assistance available

Special to the News-Standard

**AUSTIN** — Free legal assistance is available to Texans who were affected by the storms, straight-line winds, tornadoes and flooding April 26-June 5.

Texans with disaster-related legal issues who cannot afford an attorney

may call the Texas State Bar Legal Hotline at 800-504-7030. Hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Phones are answered in English, Spanish and Vietnamese.

Legal aid may be able to help survivors in the following ways:

- Clarify home ownership/heir's property

- Assist with benefits, applications and appeals

- Support with fraud issues or landlord disputes

- Assist with disability issues related to the disaster

- Provide insurance policy assistance

- Assist community groups that

support long-term recovery

This assistance is available to eligible households in Austin, Bell, Calhoun, Collin, Cooke, Coryell, Dallas, Denton, Eastland, Ellis, Falls, Guadalupe, Hardin, Harris, Henderson, Hockley, Jasper, Jones, Kaufman, Lamar, Leon, Liberty, Montague, Montgomery, Navarro,

Newton, Polk, San Jacinto, Smith, Terrell, Trinity, Tyler, Van Zandt, Walker and Waller counties.

For more information about Texas disaster recovery, visit fema.gov/disaster/4781. Follow FEMA Region 6 on social media at x.com/FEMAREgion6 and on Facebook at facebook.com/FEMAREgion6/.



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2019 Chevy Impala	\$18,995	2020 GMC Acadia	\$24,995
2021 Nissan Rouge Sport	\$19,995	2019 Volkswagen Atlas	\$26,595
2022 Kia Sportage	\$22,746	2021 Cadillac XT4	\$32,995

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Every 2nd Wednesday of the Month

For information: www.dehartvetservices.com • 903-312-6422 or 903-590-7722

**Must have appointment for surgery**



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philhathorn@windstream.net • www.melderrealestate.com

**9 acres, Hwy. 94/Bill Jones Rd,** corner acreage with county road and paved frontage, new survey, utilities available, great location.

**Home on 2 acres,** Turner St., Groveton, 2/1, 1580 sq.ft, shop/equipment area, guest quarters, chicken area, no city taxes.

**Home near Lake Livingston,** off FM 356, recently remodeled, 4/2, water view, boat ramp, subdivision.

**2/2 Home in White Rock Estates** off FM 356 near Lake Livingston. Lots of storage for all of your toys and walking distance to the lake.

**Two vacant lots** in Harbor Point Subdivision, electrical and water lines already on property, patio and storage building. Ready for your RV.

**3/2, DWMH on 2 acres** and barn, in the Helmic community on Sullivan Rd.

**Church Building,** located on hwy. 287 S. in Groveton one acre, can be remodeled for home or business.

**2 Nice Lots, Harbor Point,** Trinity, water, electrical and sewer already established, storage bldg. and patio.

**3.49 Wooded Acres,** FM 233, public water and electrical available.

**Member of HAR, TAR, NAR, HOUSTON MLS**

## TRICARE authorizes temporary prescription refill waivers

Special to the News-Standard

**FALLS CHURCH, Va.** — The Defense Health Agency announced that TRICARE beneficiaries in Texas may receive emergency prescription refills now through June 29 due to the tropical cyclone.

All counties are impacted. To receive an emergency refill of prescription medications, TRICARE beneficiaries should take their prescription bottle to any TRICARE retail network pharmacy. If the bottle is unavailable or the label is damaged or missing, beneficiaries should contact Express Scripts, Inc., or their retail network pharmacy for assistance.

To find a network pharmacy, beneficiaries may call Express Scripts at 1-877-363-1303, or search the network pharmacy locator.

If possible, visit the pharmacy where the prescription was filled. Prescriptions filled by a retail chain may be filled at another store in that chain. If the clinician who prescribed the medication is available, beneficiaries can ask them to call in a new prescription to any network pharmacy.









As a reminder, TRICARE beneficiaries, other than active-duty service members, may receive urgent care from any TRICARE-authorized urgent care center or provider and do not need a referral. This allows beneficiaries to seek nonemergency care for illnesses or injuries if their primary care provider is unavailable because of emergencies.

Any TRICARE beneficiary who reasonably believes they have an emergency should always call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room.

Beneficiaries are advised to visit Express Scripts' Weather Alert page for updates.

## TRINITY COUNTY WEATHER FORECAST

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THURSDAY	THU NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
							
Partly sunny, a thunderstorm; humid	Clear and humid	Mostly sunny	Partly sunny and very warm	Hot; an afternoon t-storm or two	Partly sunny and hot	Hot with sun through high clouds	Partly sunny and hot with a shower
<b>HIGHS: 93 to 98</b>	<b>LOWS: 73 to 78</b>	<b>94 to 99</b>	<b>95 to 100</b>	<b>96 to 101</b>	<b>96 to 101</b>	<b>97 to 102</b>	<b>97 to 102</b>
RF: 105 to 110	RF: 80 to 85	RF: 104 to 109/81 to 86	RF: 107 to 112/81 to 86	RF: 107 to 112/79 to 84	RF: 100 to 105/76 to 81	RF: 103 to 108/75 to 80	RF: 103 to 108/79 to 84
<b>POP: 80%</b>	<b>POP: 10%</b>	<b>POP: 15%</b>	<b>POP: 25%</b>	<b>POP: 60%</b>	<b>POP: 5%</b>	<b>POP: 15%</b>	<b>POP: 40%</b>

RF: The patented AccuWeather.com RealFeel Temperature® is the only index that includes all the weather factors that play a role in how we perceive temperature, including the effects of wind, humidity, sunshine, precipitation, pressure, and elevation. Shown are the highest and lowest value ranges for each day. POP: Probability of Precipitation.

## WEEKLY ALMANAC

Statistics through 6/23

### Temperatures

Daily ranges — Normal high — Normal low

91	91	88	91	91	93	93
75	73	73	75	73	72	73

6/17 6/18 6/19 6/20 6/21 6/22 6/23

### Precipitation (in inches)

Daily totals — Normal amount

0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.02
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6/17 6/18 6/19 6/20 6/21 6/22 6/23

Month to date/normal 0.49 / 3.69  
Year to date/normal 29.52 / 22.44



## LIFE TRIBUTES

### Eldon Kirkpatrick

Dec. 28, 1944-June 6, 2024

Eldon Kirkpatrick, 79 of Trinity, formerly of Port Arthur and Snyder, passed away Thursday, June 6, 2024, following his lengthy battle with cancer. He was born on December 28, 1944, in Hobbs, N.M., to Goldie Chapman and Eldon Allison. He was a wonderful husband, father, friend, and his most favorite title was being Pawpaw to all of his grandbabies. He loved every single one of them.



**Eldon Kirkpatrick**  
Celebration of Life on June 28

One of his greatest accomplishments was earning his 32nd-degree Master Mason title with more than 40-plus years of service. He enjoyed being a Shriner for many years, as well. We all know that was a major part of him and something he has always been proud of.

Another major accomplishment of his was his love of truck- and tractor-pulling of almost 30 years and him being one of the original and founding members of the Outlaw Truck and Tractor Pulling Association being brought into Texas. He made so many lifelong friends along the way and is now reunited once again with all the friends that have passed since.

It all started with him owning Eldon's Machine Shop in Snyder that he had for many, many years, working in the oil industry for many years, and retirement from the TDCJ where he was employed for 20 years where he was Plant Manager at the Stiles Unit then being a Project Manager for TCI where he travelled the entire state of Texas. Learning every road there is in Texas and being able to tell you exactly how long any trip from any town would take without even looking. In addition to all his endeavors, he was always so smart and knew how to fix just about

everything. He was a jack of all trades and mastered every single one of them the Eldon way. Even after his retirement in 2011 and building his dream home with Connie, you would still catch him tinkering around in the shop and going to play poker on Saturday nights with his buddies.

He is survived by his wife of 31 years, Connie Nobles Kirkpatrick of Trinity; a sister, Lindy Fuller of Colorado City; daughters, Heather Kirkpatrick of Nederland;

Kimberly Escareno of Port Arthur; Carla Hamblen and husband, David, of Mildred; Sherry Pritchett of Flower Mound; Trina Fitzgerald of Bryan; Goldie Browning and husband, Michael, of Hermleigh; sons, Chris Way and wife, Amanda, of Trent; Joel Fitzgerald and wife, Tanya, of Caldwell; Casey Way and wife, Andrea, of Mertzon; Jody Fitzgerald and wife, Leslie, of Bryan; granddaughters, Lauren Defrancis, Mia Escareno, Allison Sautler, Jennifer Way, Trinity Fitzgerald, Kelbi Way, Raegan Fitzgerald, Amanda Browning, Hannah Browning, Jessica Hamblen, and Lauren Harman; grandsons, Tyler Way, Jonah Lofton, Jay Thielen, Noah Escareno, Keegan Way, Kameron Way, Ian Fitzgerald, Kai Fitzgerald, Andrew Garvin, Michael Hamblen, and Mathew Hale; great-granddaughters, Asa Turner, Adriana Hamblen, Libby Hamblen; and a great-grandson, Judah Harman.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Goldie Walker; fathers, Eldon Allison and George Kirkpatrick; wife of 25 years, Rita Lee Kirkpatrick; and infant daughter, Christina.

Eldon's Celebration of Life will be held at 4 p.m. Saturday, June 28, at Dorcas Wills Memorial Baptist Church, 201 N. Robb St.,

## LOOKING BACK

By Marlena Stubblefield

### 10 years ago

Trinity County Deputy constable under fire; Former Groveton Resident, Don Lippincott awarded Medal of Knight in the French Legion of Honor; Local 4-H Shooting Teams compete in state competition; VFW Trinity County High School Senior \$4000 Scholarship Award. No obituaries for the week.

### 20 years ago

Two Trinity men arrested in crack house raid; Groveton VFD planning big Fourth of July Cele-

bration; Trinity County cemeteries to be surveyed; GHS board met Monday; County unemployment rate drops to 5.8%. Obituaries for the week: Myrtle Estelle Cathey, 95, of Groveton; Earlene McCollum, 61, of Diboll; and Roy Lee "Red" Goeys, 54, of Houston.

### 30 years ago

Officers seize marijuana and cash this week; Fun filled July 4th at Park; City council votes no new mayor, yes to new garbage service; Police warn parents. Obituaries for the week: Benjamin Lynn Burke, 33, of Centralia; Jodie Elliott, 88, of Lufkin; and Thomas M. Davis, 74, of Trinity.

## SENIOR MENUS

### July 1-5

Menus Subject to Change  
**• Martin Senior Center** | 936-594-2625  
 All meals are \$6.  
 A limited fruit and salad bar is available, and drinks include lemonade, tea, water or coffee. Dessert is served with all meals.  
**MONDAY:** Chicken and dumplings, peas and carrots, cornbread.  
**TUESDAY:** Barbecue baked potatoes, vegetables, baked beans.  
**WEDNESDAY:** Salmon croquettes, corn, ranch beans.  
**THURSDAY:** Closed for Fourth of July.  
**FRIDAY:** Fried fish or chicken tenders, baked beans, dirty rice, deviled eggs

**• Groveton Senior Center** | 936-642-1541  
 Bread, dessert, fruit, tea, coffee and milk are available.  
**MONDAY:** Chicken strips, new potatoes, lima beans, cornbread.

**TUESDAY:** Pork chops, rice, green beans, cornbread.  
**WEDNESDAY:** Steak fingers, mashed potatoes and gravy, blackeye peas, rolls.  
**THURSDAY:** Hot dogs, chips, baked beans.  
**FRIDAY:** Fried or baked catfish, French fries, potato salad, coleslaw, pinto beans, hush puppies.

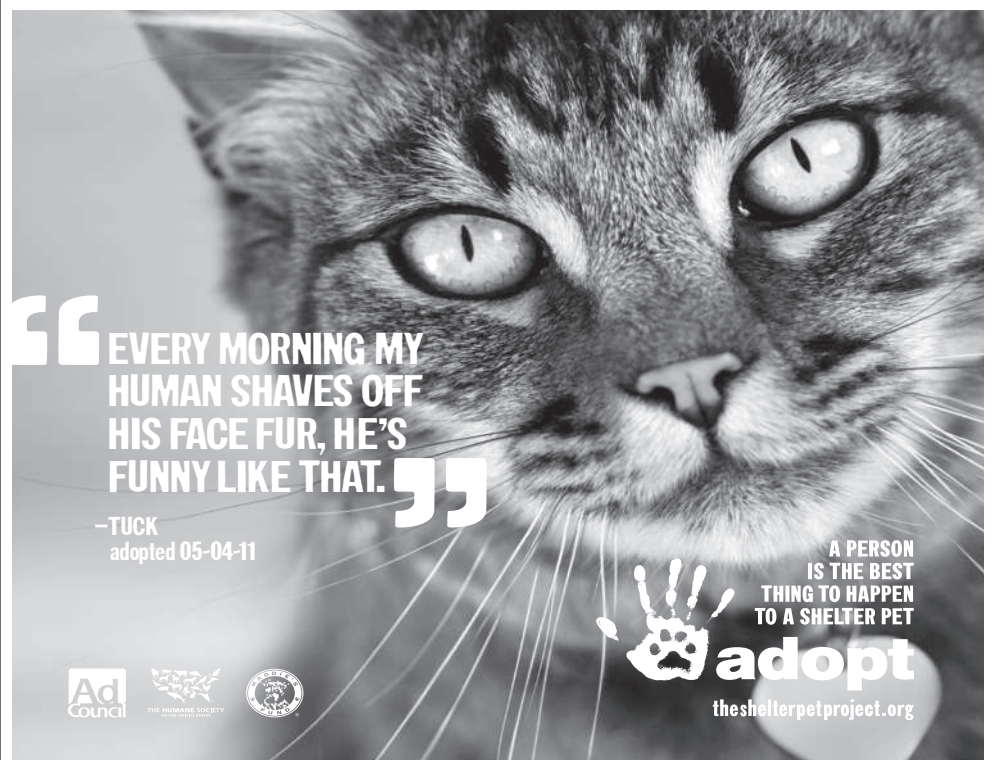
**• Apple Springs Senior Citizens Inc.** | 936-831-2671  
 Meals served with dessert and fruit and a choice of drink.  
**MONDAY:** Chicken and rice, sweet potatoes, green beans, rolls.  
**TUESDAY:** Meatloaf, greens, corn, cornbread.  
**WEDNESDAY:** Hot dogs, chili, chips.  
**THURSDAY:** Closed for Fourth of July.  
**FRIDAY:** Taco salad, pinto beans, chips and salsa

## ARREST RECORDS

The following people were arrested by Trinity County law enforcement officials through June 24. All suspects are innocent until convicted in a court of law.

- **David Allen Ennist**, 34, assault causing bodily injury; disorderly conduct.
- **Trenton James Meredith**, 23, public intoxication.
- **Taylor Leigh Cloud**, 33, warrant for motion to adjudicate on a charge of abandonment or endangerment of a child.
- **Cody Wayne Caffee**, 48, expired driver's license.
- **Mary Francis Edson**, 64, two counts of assault on a peace officer; resisting arrest or transport; assault on a family member.
- **Ronald Timothy Brothers**, 57, warrant

- for assault.
- **Dillon Ray McGilberry**, 37, abandonment or endangerment of a child.
- **Tiffany Marie Scott**, 46, possession of marijuana.
- **Joshua Jake Hales**, 45, warrant for parole violation on a conviction for unlawful possession of a firearm; warrant for tampering with physical evidence; warrant for manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance.
- **Sam William Thomas Allen**, 21, public intoxication.
- **Michael Louis McAleer**, 62, four counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.
- **Kory Weston Russell**, 38, driving while intoxicated



**June 18th – July 9th**

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# OPINION

## An illegal act to legitimize an illegal act

Apparently, the election polls aren't reflecting the required results for the ruling elites, so if it please the crown, which it does, we'll finance another boondoggle to erase the last couple of years of bad press regarding immigration.

The recent action by President Biden, who issued an edict last week that created 500 million new U.S. "citizens" with the stroke of a pen.

Lot to unpack here, not the least of which is the fact that the action wasn't his to take, but also that the history of the last few years shows the president cannot unilaterally create citizens unless there is the required congressional law behind his signature.

That was proven in court when Obama tried it with DACA and DAPA recipients.

Biden's action ups the ante a skosh, allowing these illegals to remain in country while seeking a green card. Current law —



those pesky things that have been passed and signed by other presidents — states that people seeking to become Americans and are in the country illegally must return to their home country and apply the right way.

I've listened to a couple of interviews of naturalized citizens, who are rightly angered by this, since they went through the full, legal process while the current president awards people who "jumped the line" and sidestepped the law.

I'm thinking, though, that these and other actions need to galvanize the electorate, the congressional denizens, and just about everybody into action against a government that is completely out of control, and a president that has taken actions that puts Americans last.

There are more issues as well, particularly from a man who claims that no one is above the law.

Despite the rantings of people about saving our democracy, we're actually a constitutional republic, which was designed to not only keep us away from the tyranny of the majority, which democracy is, but the tyranny of a king. The three-tiered system of checks and balances are supposed to ensure our government operates the way we want it.

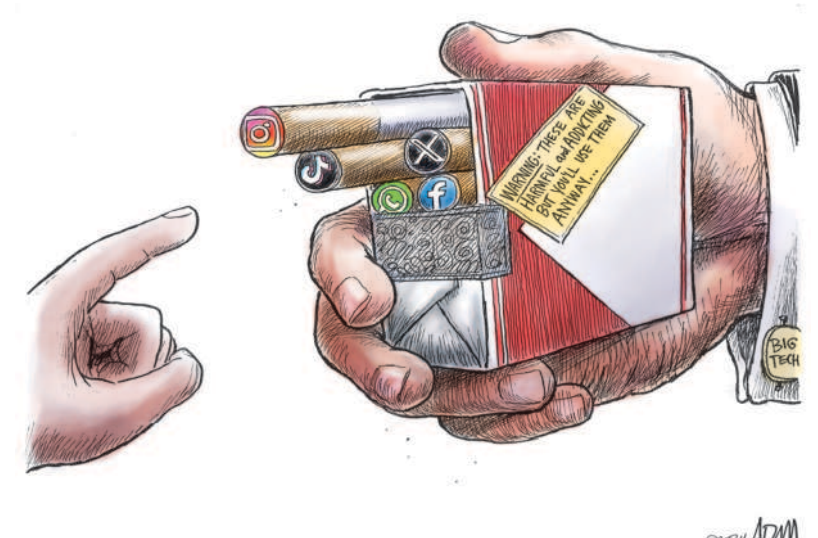
The trend, however, has been to slow-boil away all the liberty, one stroke of the pen at a time, and

we end up with the very thing we fought a war to eliminate.

Society — the legal kind, not the made-up, illegal kind granted rights for unknown reasons — needs to see the actions for what they are. These aren't to help anyone other than the entrenched elitists maintain the power base it has. It solves no problems, it burdens society through higher taxes and lost benefits, and creates a subset of society that has no regard for this country and what it stands for.

When election time rolls around — every time it rolls around — remember which candidate has the best interests of their constituents at heart, and which ones provide help to everyone but Americans.

Tony Farkas is editor of the San Jacinto News-Times and the Trinity County News-Standard. He can be reached at tony@polkcountypublishing.com.



## Electric demand could nearly double by 2030

The chief of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas told state lawmakers recently that the state's power demand could nearly double in just six years. The reasons: population growth, new requests for grid connections, and a rise in requests from data centers and other heavy users.

ERCOT chief executive officer Pablo Vegas told lawmakers the grid operator has sharply increased its prediction of power demand in coming years, The Texas Tribune reported.

"All of that is putting together a picture of a very significant, different demand growth that is forcing us to really re-think how we're looking at planning to make sure we can meet those needs and continue to deliver on the expectations of all Texans," Vegas told lawmakers.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick said the Legislature should "take a close look" at data centers and crypto operations.

"We want data centers, but it can't be the Wild, Wild West of data centers and crypto miners crashing our grid and turning the lights off," he wrote.

Vegas also recently warned the ERCOT board that new federal emission rules for fossil fuel power plants, to take effect July 8, are "exacerbating the reliability risks given forecasted load growth." The Dallas Morning News reported.

Vegas said the new regulations could lead to all 10 coal plants in Texas being decommissioned as the Environmental Protection Agency places new limits



on mercury and greenhouse gas emissions. Those backing the new regulations say they will help reduce air pollution and reduce climate change.

Central American Gyre could spawn more tropical storms

The first named system of this year's hurricane season made landfall last week in Mexico, bringing significant rain to South Texas. Alice, 40 miles west of Corpus Christi, received more than 6 inches of rain, and McAllen saw more than 4 inches, the San Antonio Express-News reported.

Now the Central American Gyre, a persistent rotating low-pressure system, is getting close scrutiny, as it may allow formation of other tropical depressions.

Hurricane forecasters predict an especially active season this season, which runs through Nov. 30. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts an 85 percent chance for an above-normal season. It is forecasting a range of 17 to 25 named storms this year.

STAAR scores in math, science decline

Texas student scores in math and science showed marked drops in science comprehension,

according to the Texas Education Agency. The 2024 results show declining math and science scores across all tested grade levels.

Only 34 percent of elementary and middle-school students met or mastered grade-level science, a drop of 5.7 percentage points from last year. Math scores also dropped slightly.

"Pandemic-induced disruptions to learning exacerbated students' difficulties in mastering fundamental math concepts, TEA Commissioner Mike Morath said. "As a result, we must keep our foot on the gas to intensify efforts in providing targeted interventions and research-based education strategies to ensure that students obtain necessary foundational skills and concepts and achieve the desired academic outcomes not only in math but across all subject areas."

More detailed results for individual districts can be found at texasassessment.gov. Seven state hospital projects announced

Bolstered by \$1.5 billion in funding passed last year by the Legislature, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission has announced seven new state hospital projects to serve people in need of inpatient psychiatric services.

"Texas continues working to increase access to critical behavioral health treatments for Texans in every corner of our state," Gov. Greg Abbott said.

The projects are in various stages of planning and design. They include:

Panhandle State Hospital (Amarillo): Constructing a new state hospital to serve 75 patients in a non-maximum-security unit. Budget: \$159 million.

Lubbock Psychiatric Center: Constructing a new state hospital with a 50-bed maximum-security unit. Budget: \$121 million.

Terrell State Hospital: Constructing a 250-bed replacement hospital. Budget: \$573 million.

North Texas State Hospital - Wichita Falls: Constructing a 200-bed replacement hospital. Budget: \$452 million.

Rio Grande State Center (Harlingen): Expanding current facility to add a 50-bed maximum-security unit. Budget: \$120 million.

San Antonio State Hospital: Renovating an existing building to add a 40-bed maximum-security unit. Budget: \$15 million.

El Paso Psychiatric Center: Planning and land acquisition to expand the current facility by 50 non-maximum-security beds. Budget: \$50 million.

Influencers must disclose political payments

The Texas Ethics Commission will now require social media influencers to disclose if their content is a paid political advertisement, the Texas Standard reported.

The Texas Tribune previously reported that a company called Influenceable hired Gen-Z influencers to defend Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton ahead of his impeachment trial last year.

"You know, attacking the House members who had been involved in the impeachment

and overall just urging the Senate to acquit him," Tribune managing editor Matthew Watkins told the Standard. "This was silently paid for by some right-wing activists and big-money people in Texas. Those influencers did not disclose that they were getting paid."

The ethics commission did not mention the company by name while voting unanimously to require disclosure in the future of paid political content.

Military bases provide \$151.2 billion economic impact

U.S. military installations in Texas contributed at least \$151.2 billion to the state's economy last year and supported more than 677,000 jobs across the state, according to a study by the state comptroller's office.

The state is home to 15 major U.S. military installations, as well as the Army Futures Command headquarters.

Besides the economic impact, the military bases contribute to the state's culture, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar said.

"The installations are also vibrant and dynamic partners in the community, supporting not just business and industry but also schools, charities, youth sports and cultural events," he said.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches, Lufkin and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com.

## TRINITY COUNTY News Standard

(USPS 230-680)

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## Celebrating community commitment this Fourth of July

Dear Editor, As the Postmaster of Trinity, I am writing to express the unwavering commitment of our postal staff to serving our wonderful community. With the Fourth of July approaching, a time when we celebrate our nation's independence and the freedoms we cherish, it is also a fitting moment to reflect on the values that bind us together.

The Postal Service has been an integral part of American life for centuries, connecting people across vast distances, facilitating communication and commerce. Here in Trinity, my team and I take immense pride in continu-

ing this tradition. Our dedication goes beyond simply delivering mail and packages; it extends to being a reliable and supportive presence in our community.

Every day, our staff works diligently to ensure that your letters, packages, and essential communications reach their destinations promptly and securely. We understand that the trust you place in us is vital, and we strive to uphold that trust through our hard work and dedication.

As we celebrate Independence Day, let us also celebrate the spirit of community and the importance of staying connected. The Fourth of July is a reminder of

the strength and resilience that define our nation. It is these same qualities that our postal employees embody each day as they serve you.

We are honored to be a part of this community and to contribute to its well-being. On behalf of the entire postal staff, I wish you all a joyful and safe 4th of July. Let us come together to celebrate not only our nation's independence but also the unity and dedication that make Trinity a special place to live.

Thank you for your continued trust and support.  
Terry McDougald  
Trinity, Texas, Postmaster

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## CONTACT LIST

### Elected and Appointed Officials Representing Trinity County

**PRESIDENT**  
Joseph R. Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20500

**GOVERNOR**  
Greg Abbott (R)  
512-463-2000  
P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, TX 78711-2428

**ATTORNEY GENERAL**  
Ken Paxton (R)  
512-463-2100

**U.S. SENATOR**  
John Cornyn (R)  
(C) 202-224-2934  
(D) 903-593-0902

**U.S. SENATOR**  
Ted Cruz (R)  
(C) 202-224-5922  
(D) 512-916-5834

**U.S. CONGRESSMAN**  
Congressional Dist. 8  
Pete Sessions (R)

**Washington, DC Office**  
204 Rayburn Hob  
Washington, DC 20515-6105  
(202) 225-6105

**Waco Office**  
00 Austin Ave,  
Ste 302,  
Waco, Tx 76701-2139  
(254) 633-4500

**Huntsville Office**  
901 Normal Park Dr., Ste 208  
Huntsville, Tx 77320-3770

**Nacogdoches Office**  
3034 Raguet St.,  
Nacogdoches,  
Tx 75902-3252

**Lufkin Office**  
300 E Shepherd Ave.,  
Ste 210 Lufkin,  
Tx 75902-3252

**State Board of Education**  
Dr. Audrey Young  
PO BOX 2683  
Trinity, Texas 75862  
(936) 662 - 4264  
audrey.young@tea.texas.gov

**TX SENATOR**  
Senate District 3  
Robert Nichols (R)  
robert.nichols@senate.texas.gov  
(C) 512-463-0103  
(D) 903-589-3003

**TX REPRESENTATIVE**  
House District 9  
Trent Ashby (R)  
trent.ashby@house.texas.gov  
(C) 512-463-0508  
(D) 936-634-2762

**COUNTY JUDGE**  
Danny Martin  
(936) 642-1746  
P.O. Box 457  
Groveton, TX 75845

**SHERIFF**  
Woody Wallace  
(936) 642-2414

### JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

**Precinct 1**  
Tommy Park (com)  
(936) 642-2743  
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(936) 642-1424  
Mary Wallace (JP)  
(936) 642-1224

**Precinct 2**  
Mike Loftin (com)  
(936) 642-2743  
Mark Cole (C)  
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Lyle Stubbs (JP)  
(936) 594-2011

**Precinct 3**  
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(936) 642-2743  
Carl Casey (C)

**Precinct 4**  
Steven Truss (com)  
(936) 642-2743  
Brian McMullin (C)  
(936) 831-3778 Ext. 278  
Richard Steptoe (JP)  
(936) 831-3778

**GROVETON MAYOR**  
Ralph Bennett  
cityofgroveton@valornet.com  
(936) 642-1122

**TRINITY MAYOR**  
Billy Goodin  
936-594-2507

(C) = Capitol number  
(D) = District number



## Centerville discusses roof repairs

TCNS staff

**CENTERVILLE** — The Centerville ISD Board of Trustees tossed around options for repairing school roofs. Superintendent Mark Brown said that at Thursday's meeting, the board considered either replacing

or restoring the roof, damaged in recent storms. Brown said funds for the repairs already have been approved. In other business, the trustees: •held a first hearing on policy update 123, suggested by the Texas Association of School Boards; and •approved invoices and vouchers.

## TXDOT

Continued from page 1

when there isn't a crash, the decision to drink and drive can ruin careers and relationships. That's why we want everyone to know how important and easy it is to always plan ahead for a sober ride."

Beyond the possibility of taking a life — including your own — driving impaired and getting a DWI can result in time-consuming legal hassles and fines and fees up to \$17,000.

The "Drive Sober. No Regrets" campaign's "Faces of Drunk Driving" initiative overlaps with

heightened law enforcement efforts to keep Texas roads safe during the Independence Day holiday. From June 21 through July 7, increased patrols aim to reduce the number of DUI-related crashes, injuries, and fatalities. Even though the number of drunk driving deaths on Texas roadways in 2023 is down 15 percent from 2022, we must strive to continue that trend.

TxDOT's Drive Sober. No Regrets. campaign is a key component of #EndTheStreakTX, a broader social media and word-of-mouth effort that encourages drivers to make safer choices while behind the wheel to help end the streak of daily deaths. Nov. 7, 2000, was the last deathless day on Texas roadways.

## FEMA

Continued from page 1

you go to [fema.gov/drc](https://fema.gov/drc).

The U.S. Small Business Administration is offering low-interest disaster loans to homeowners, renters, private nonprofit organizations and businesses of any size. Applicants may apply online

and receive additional disaster assistance information at [SBA.gov/disaster](https://SBA.gov/disaster) or by calling 800-659-2955. SBA representatives are available to provide one-on-one assistance to disaster loan applicants at the Disaster Recovery Centers throughout the affected area.

Business Recovery Centers are operating at University of Houston Downtown

Marilyn Davies College of Business, Trinity Mendenhall Community Center in Houston and East Montgomery County Improvement District in Montgomery County.

For more information, visit [fema.gov/disaster/4781](https://fema.gov/disaster/4781). Follow FEMA Region 6 on social media at [x.com/FEMARegion6](https://x.com/FEMARegion6) and on Facebook at @femaregion6.

## LUNCH

Continued from page 1

state. Parents can also find out if their child's school district is one of many that provide free meals during the summer. National organizations, such as the YMCA and Boys & Girls Club, provide summer meal assistance at select locations.

Though it remains possible to secure a balanced meal without Summer EBT, Cooper believes it is still possible and necessary for Texas to join the program in 2025.

"Our kids need it," Cooper said. "They deserve it, and we just need to do our part." Disclosure: Every Texan and Feeding Texas have been financial supporters of The Texas Tribune, a nonprofit, nonpartisan news organization that is funded in part by donations from members, foundations and cor-

porate sponsors. Financial supporters play no role in the Tribune's journalism. Find a complete list of them here.

This article originally appeared in The Texas Tribune at <https://www.texastribune.org/2024/02/22/texas-federal-summer-lunch-program/>.

The Texas Tribune is a member-supported, nonpartisan newsroom informing and engaging Texans on state politics and policy. Learn more at [texastribune.org](https://www.texastribune.org).

## HEAT

Continued from page 1

time to avoid hiking in the heat of the day. Make sure to rest in a cool or shaded area to recover from the heat if necessary. It is also a good idea to let someone know your plan before you hit the trails and what time

you should be back. That way, if you become lost, people know where to look.

•Pup safety. Dogs are as susceptible to heat as their humans are, so it is good practice to ensure that you bring enough water and snacks for four-legged hiking buddies to last the entirety of the trip.

Additionally, visitors should heed notices posted at trailheads about site-specific con-

ditions before setting out for the day. The park websites and staff are also a valuable resource for folks wanting to know about trail and forecasted conditions before starting their walk. Park alerts on the website are updated regularly and are a valuable resource for visitors prior to arrival at the park.

For more information about heat safety, visit the TPWD website.

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# TRINITY COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY

### ASSEMBLY OF GOD

- Calvary Temple Assembly of God**  
Lonnie Vallance, Pastor  
287 West First St. (936) 831-2797  
Sunday School 9:45 AM  
Morning Worship 10:55 AM  
Evening Worship 7 PM  
Wednesday 6:30 PM
- Lovelady Assembly of God**  
Gary Johnson, Pastor  
1 Mi. S of Lovelady, Hwy. 19  
Sunday Bible Class 9:45 AM  
Sunday Worship 11 AM  
Sunday evening 6 PM  
Wednesday 7 PM
- Trinity Fellowship Church**  
Richard & Jane Gonzales, Pastors 594-2423  
Foundation For Life 9:45 AM  
Morning Worship 10:45 AM  
Evening Worship 6 PM  
Wednesday 7 PM
- Trinity Tabernacle**  
Kevin Williams, Pastor Hwy 19 N  
Sunday School 9:45 AM  
Morning Worship 10:45 AM  
Wednesday 7 PM  
Sunday evening 6:30 PM

### BAPTIST

- Apple Springs Baptist**  
Mike Due, Pastor  
9286 FM 357 (936) 831-3114  
Sunday School 10 AM  
Morning Worship 11 AM  
Evening Worship 6 PM  
Wednesday 5 PM
- Baldwin Chapel Baptist**  
Curtis L. Owens, Jr., Pastor  
288 Martin Luther King (936) 642-1466  
Morning Worship 9 AM  
Wednesday 6 PM
- Bowen-Pilgrim Missionary Baptist**  
Carl L. Brock, Pastor  
Sunday School 9:15 AM  
Morning Worship 11:15 AM  
Wednesday 5:30, 6 PM
- Burning Hope Baptist Church**  
Jim Parrish, Pastor 594-3623  
Sunday School 9:45 AM  
Morning Worship 10:45 AM  
Friday Nite Church 7:00 PM
- Calvary Baptist Trinity**  
Dr. Randall Lowe, Pastor  
Sunday School 9:45 AM  
Morning Worship 10:50 AM  
Sunday evening 6 PM  
Wednesday 6 PM
- Calvary Baptist Nogalus Prairie**  
James Whittlesey, Pastor  
2975 FM 357  
Sunday School 10 AM  
Morning Worship 11 AM  
Evening Worship 6 PM
- Carlisle Baptist**  
Donnie Lawrence, Pastor  
Sunday School 9:45 AM  
Morning Worship 11 AM  
Sunday evening 6 PM  
Wednesday 6 PM
- Chita Grace Church**  
Russell Lee Jr., Pastor  
Morning Worship 10:45 AM  
Sunday evening 5 PM  
Wednesday 7 PM
- Clegg Chapel Missionary**  
Henry Lovelady, Pastor  
Sunday School 9:30 AM  
Morning Worship 11 AM  
Sunday evening 5 PM  
Brotherhood Tuesday 6 PM  
Wednesday 7 PM
- Community Missionary Baptist**  
Dennis McKnight, Pastor 594-1615  
Sunday School 10 AM  
Morning Worship 1:30 AM  
Wednesday 6:30 PM

### Country Campus Baptist

- Sunday School 10 AM  
Morning Worship 11 AM  
Evening Bible Study 4 PM  
Thursday (May-Oct.) 6 PM  
Wednesday (Nov.-April) 6 PM
- Dorcas Will Memorial Baptist**  
Greg Kitts, Pastor 594-3822  
www.dwmabc.org  
Sunday School 9:30 AM  
Morning Worship 8 and 10:45 AM  
Sunday Evening 6 PM  
Wednesday Service 6 PM
- Faith Baptist of Riverside**  
Kyle Costos, Pastor  
Sunday School 9:45 AM  
Sunday Worship 11 AM  
Sunday Evening 6 PM  
Wednesday 6 PM
- First Baptist Church of Friday**  
3247 FM 1280, Groveton  
Wesley May, Pastor 936)204-0739  
Sunday School 10 AM  
Morning Worship 11 AM  
Wednesday 6 PM  
Meal 6 PM  
Bible Study 7 PM
- First Baptist Church - Groveton**  
Matt Sharrock, Pastor  
126 N. Devine (936) 642-1475  
Sunday School 9:45 AM  
Morning Worship 11 AM  
Evening Worship 7 PM  
Wednesday 6:30 PM
- Glendale Baptist**  
Harold Gates, Pastor  
Sunday School 10 AM  
Worship 11 AM  
Evening 6 PM  
Wednesday 6 PM
- Iglesia Bautista Hispana (Groveton)**  
Oscar Campos, Pastor  
East Second St. 936-222-0241  
Escuela Dominical - Domingo 10 AM  
Servicio - Domingo 11 AM
- Josserand Independent Baptist**  
Bueford Rogers, Pastor  
449 Josserand Rd. (936) 642-1403  
Sunday School 10 AM  
Morning Worship 11 AM  
Evening Worship 5 PM  
Wednesday 6 PM
- Lakeway Baptist of Carlisle**  
Jerry Vincent, Pastor  
12748 FM 356 594-0086  
Sunday School 9:45 AM  
Morning Worship 11 AM  
Evening Worship 6:30 PM  
Wednesday 6:30 PM
- Lone Star Baptist**  
Isaac DeBose, Pastor  
Sunday School 9:45 AM  
Morning Worship 11:30 AM  
Thursday Prayer 6 PM
- Mary's Chapel Missionary Baptist**  
Rev. Nathaniel Jenkins, Pastor  
Sunday School 10 AM  
Morning Worship 11 AM  
Wednesday 6 PM
- Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist**  
Jasper Callahan, Pastor  
Sunday School 10 AM  
Sunday Service 11:15 AM
- Greater New Hope MBC**  
Garry L. Brown Sr., Pastor  
790 FM 3317 (936) 642-6991  
Sunday School 9:30 AM  
Worship 11 AM  
Wednesday 5:30 PM  
Bible Study 6:30 PM
- Oaklawn Baptist Church**  
Lester McAdams, Pastor  
4833 N. SH 94 (936) 642-1314  
Sunday School 10 AM  
Worship 11 AM  
Evening Worship 6 PM  
Wednesday 7 PM

### Pennington Baptist Church

- Bud Magee, Pastor  
6828 FM 2781 (936) 638-4311  
Sunday School 10 AM  
Morning Worship 11 AM  
Evening Worship 5 PM  
Wednesday 6:30 PM
- Pleasant Grove Baptist**  
Kenneth Myers, Pastor  
Sunday School 10 AM  
Worship Service 11 AM
- Riverside Baptist Church**  
Jim Newton, Pastor  
Sunday School 9:45 AM  
Worship 11 AM  
Evening 6 PM  
Wednesday Service 7 PM
- Trinity Missionary Baptist**  
Jim Golden, Pastor  
Hwy. 94 & Jack Shaffer Rd.  
(936) 594-4974  
Sunday School 10 AM  
Morning Worship 11 AM  
Evening Worship 6 PM
- Trinity Pines Baptist**  
Jonathan Davidson, Pastor  
Hwy. 356 at Pegoda  
Sunday School 9:30 AM  
Morning Worship 10:45 AM  
Wednesday 6:00 PM
- Weldon Baptist**  
Reggie Gregory, Pastor  
Sunday School 10 AM  
Morning Worship 11 AM  
Evening Worship 5 PM
- Zion Hill Baptist**  
Dee Queen, Pastor  
917 Zion Hill Rd.  
Sunday School 10 AM  
Morning Worship 11 AM

### CATHOLIC

- Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church**  
Fr. Cesar Betancourt, Administrator  
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Saturday Vigil Mass, English 4 PM  
Sunday Mass, English 10 AM  
Sunday Mass en Espanol 1 PM  
Weekday Mass, English 10 AM  
Weekday Mass en Espanol 7 PM  
Saturday Confession 2:30-3:45 PM
- CHURCH OF CHRIST**
- Groveton Church of Christ**  
Tony Goins, Minister  
169 Main St (936) 642-2382  
Sunday School 10 AM  
Morning Worship 11 AM  
Evening Worship 6 PM  
Wednesday 7 PM
- Riverside Church of Christ**  
Brother Jerald D. Bass, Minister (936) 744-0093  
Bible Class 9:30 AM  
Worship 10:45 AM
- Trinity Church of Christ**  
David D. Collier, Sr., Minister  
Bible Class 10 AM  
Worship 11:00AM  
Wednesday 6 PM
- CHURCH OF GOD**
- Campbell Memorial Church of God in Christ**  
Elder Cleven V. Thompson, Pastor  
600 W. Main  
Sunday School 9:45 AM  
Morning Worship 11:15 AM  
YPPW- Sunday 6:30 PM
- Church of God**  
Jack and Debbie Black, Pastors  
Hwy. 94  
Adult Bible Study 10 AM  
Morning Worship 11 AM  
Wednesday Evening 7 PM

### Revival Center Church of God, Onalaska

- Gerald Reeves, Pastor  
Sunday School 9:45 AM  
Morning Worship 10:30 AM  
Sunday Evening 5 PM  
Wednesday 7 PM
- Westside Church of God in Christ**  
Bernard Boston, Pastor 594-7146  
200 Israel Otis, Trinity,  
Sunday School 9:30 AM  
Morning Worship 11:30 AM  
Evening Worship 7:45 PM
- FULL GOSPEL**
- Lighthouse Cowboy Church**  
Len Smith, Pastor  
Odessa St., Trinity 594-2228  
Sunday Service 11 AM  
Wednesday Service 7:30 PM
- New Beginning Full Gospel Church**  
522 Josserand Rd. (936) 675-2848  
Worship 10 AM  
Wednesday Bible Study 6 PM
- The Risin' Sun Church**  
Ron Conatser, Pastor  
FM 356, Trinity  
Sunday School 9 AM  
Sunday Service 10 AM  
Sunday Youth Church 7 PM  
Wednesday Service 7 PM  
Thursday Cowboy Church 7 PM
- Word of Love Worship Center**  
Travis & Rebecca Beakley, Pastors 594-8014  
101 Filmore, Trinity  
Sunday School 10 AM  
Morning Worship 11 AM  
Sunday Evening 6 PM  
Tuesday Bible Study 6 PM  
Thursday Worship 6 PM

### LUTHERAN

- Faith Lutheran Church & School LCMS**  
Rev. Travis A Pitlock Sr., Pastor  
Hwy. 30W. & Sumac Rd., Huntsville(936) 295-5298  
Sunday School 9:15 AM  
Worship Service 10:30 AM
- Grace Lutheran Church**  
Rev. Thomas St. Jean  
West Loop 304 at Hall's Bluff Rd., Crockett 936-544-3508  
Sunday School 9 AM  
Sunday Worship 10:30 AM
- METHODIST**
- First United Methodist-Groveton**  
Jeff Hastings, Pastor  
155 Church Ave. (936) 642-1249  
Sunday School 10 AM  
Sunday Worship 11 AM  
Tuesday Bible Study 6:30 PM
- First Methodist Church**  
Rev. Michael Bedevian  
131 N. Elm (936) 594-3826  
Sunday School 9:30 AM  
Traditional Morning Worship 11AM
- Glendale Congreg. Methodist**  
Barbara Campbell, Pastor  
184 Glendale Church Road  
Sunday School 9:45 AM  
Worship 11 AM  
Evening Worship 7 PM  
Wednesday 6:45 PM
- Prairie View United Methodist**  
Jeff Hastings, Pastor  
307 Denman Road (936) 642-1249  
Sunday Worship 9AM  
Youth/Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM  
Tuesday Bible Study 10:30 AM  
Wednesday Nogalus Quilters 8 A
- Riverside United Methodist**  
Max Nichte, Pastor  
Worship 9 AM  
Sunday School 10 AM  
2nd & 4th Wednesday 7:30 PM

### Sebastopol Congregational Methodist Church

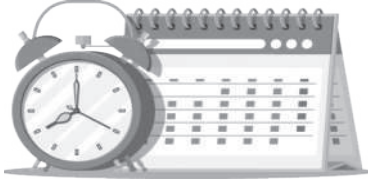
- Pastor Sue Koenig  
Intersection of FM 355 & FM 356 (936)594-2840  
Sunday School 10:00AM  
Sunday Worship 11:00AM  
Singing on third Saturday
- Sebastopol Community Church**  
Marion & Sandi Morrison, Pastors  
Sunday School 9:45 AM  
Worship 11 AM
- Trinity Chapel A.M.E. Church**  
E. Sterling Lewis Jr., Pastor  
908 S. Robb St., Trinity  
(281) 847-3414  
or (713) 206-6134  
Sunday School 9:45 AM  
Morning Worship 11 AM  
Wednesday 7 PM

### NON-DENOMINATIONAL

- Liberty Christian Center**  
Kelly Barker, Pastor  
101 W. Main, Trinity,  
Church 10:30 AM  
Sunday School 10:30 AM  
Wednesday 7 PM  
Friday Youth Impact 7-11 PM
- Living Word Outreach Church**  
Lynn and Dana Gentry, Pastors (936) 594-8081  
Sunday 11 AM  
Wednesday 7 PM
- Open Door Outreach Ministry**  
Billie J. Coleman Sr., Pastor  
418 West Main St (936) 438-3923  
Sunday Worship 11:30 AM  
Wednesday Bible Study 6 PM
- Remnant Faith Church of Pegoda**  
Jimmie and Marynn Carrico Pastors  
662-8496 or 662-8926  
Sunday School 9:30 AM  
Morning Worship 10:45 AM  
Sunday Evening 6 PM  
Wednesday 7 PM
- River of Life**  
Mike and Suzanne Loftin, Pastors  
594-6262  
Sunday School 9:30 AM  
Sunday Morning 10:30 AM  
Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study Youth Ministry 7:00 PM
- The Gathering**  
301 Church Street 594-9559  
Sunday School 10 AM  
Sunday Worship 11 AM  
Wednesday 6:30 PM
- Westwood Shores Chapel in the Pines**  
A. Leroy Brown, Pastor  
Worship Service 9 AM
- PENTECOSTAL**
- Calvary Tabernacle Apostolic P.C.**  
Guy Hargrave, Pastor  
(Nelson Amaya for Spanish services)  
Highway 94/E. Caroline St.  
Morning Service 11 AM  
Sunday School 10 AM  
Spanish Service 2 PM  
Evening Worship 5 PM  
Wednesday 7 PM
- Sebastopol Friendship Harbor**  
Reagan Duncan, Pastor  
Sunday School 9:30 AM  
Worship Service 10:30 AM  
Wednesday Service 7:30 PM  
Saturday Service 7:30 PM
- PRESBYTERIAN**
- First Presbyterian**  
Dan Alexander, Pastor  
(936) 688-6674  
Sunday Service 4 PM  
Coffee & fellowship 5 PM  
Sunday School 10 AM



# AREA DIGEST



**Fundraiser set**  
SAAFE House is looking for donations and sponsors for the annual Denim & Diamonds bingo fundraiser, set for July 13 at the Manor on Pinecrest Drive.

The event this year will be held at the Manor on Pinecrest Drive, but as always, it is being organized to support SAAFE House and its endeavors in Trinity County. Money raised at the event stays in Trinity to help Trinity County residents in need.

The bingo fundraiser will take place from 6-10 p.m. Saturday, July 13, at The Manor, 2005 Pinecrest Drive in Trinity. It includes 10 rounds of bingo with prizes for the winners, as well as food, silent and live auctions and door prizes.

Call SAAFE House at (936) 291-3529, Veronica at (936) 284-5580 or Tammy at (936) 284-5547.

**Fourth of July**  
The Groveton Lions Club will host

the annual Fourth of July celebration at the Y on Thursday, July 4.

Events include a parade at 1 p.m., and the area around the Community Center will open at 3 p.m. with vendors, games, live music and fun for all. Fireworks will kick off at 9 p.m.

**Holiday happenings**  
The office at the city of Trinity will be closed July 4 in observance of Independence Day.

The city of Trinity fireworks display will be July 5 at dusk.

**Conservation expo set**  
The Piney Wood Lakes Chapter of Texas Master Naturalist is presenting an East Texas Conservation Expo, set for 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Sept. 14 at the Polk County Commerce Center in Livingston.

Topics include forestry, pond management, wildlife management, pasture restoration, native planting and youth activities, among others.

There will be boots, workshops, demonstrations and speakers, as well as vendors both inside and outside of the exhibition hall.

The event is free to the public; however, Texas Parks and Wildlife will offer a hunter education course for \$15.

For information, email etconservationexpo@gmail.com.

**Open gym night**  
The Groveton Change Club presents Open Gym Night on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning Tuesday.

The times will be from 6-7 p.m. at First Baptist Church Gymnasium, 126 N. Devine Ave., in Groveton.

Activities include basketball, pickleball, volleyball and badminton with adult fitness classes coming soon. All children under 18 must be supervised by a parent or guardian.

For more information, please call (936) 642-1421.

**GOP Ladies meet**  
The Republican Women of Trinity County meet the third Tuesday of each month. All Republican women are welcome to attend.

Meetings are held at the Trinity County Community Center at 2693 US Hwy 297, Groveton. For more information, contact republicanwomen Trinity County at (936) 467-8626.

**Church program set**  
Calvary Baptist Church in Trinity invites children from 3 years old through the fifth grade to join in a fun-filled AWANA program that runs every Wednesday night from 6-8 p.m.

For information, contact the church at (936) 594-3611.

**Band holds fundraiser**  
The Roaring Tiger High School Band is holding a flag subscription fundraiser.

For a \$50 annual fee, a member of the band will deliver and pick up an American flag with an 8-inch flagpole for each patriotic holiday throughout the year. Presidents Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Flag Day, Labor Day, Patriots Day and Veterans Day.

A PVC pipe should be placed in the soil below the grass level for the flag, which will be placed two to four days prior and removed two to four days after, weather permitting. The flag, pole and pole mount will be property of the band.

Contact roaringtigerband@trinityisd.net for more information or to obtain a registration document.

**Veterans museum hosts events**  
HEARTS Veterans Museum hosts HAM radio class/testing at the Walker County Storm Shelter on the second Saturday of every month from 9-11 a.m.

For more info email festival@heartsmuseum.com or call (936) 295-5959.

**Delivery available**  
Martin Senior Center in Trinity now offers meal delivery to those over 60 that qualify for the service.

Guests also are welcome to enjoy mahjongg on Monday afternoons, bingo on Tuesday mornings, dominoes on Friday mornings and puzzle at any time.

The center is looking to hold health and exercise programs in the near future.

For information, call the center at (936) 254-2625.

**Helping hands**  
Ladies in Action, 307 N. Main St. in Groveton, will hand out bags of food the third Thursday of every month from 8-10 a.m.

Additionally, the group is having a clothing sale through the end of January on all clothes.

**Soup kitchen available**  
Burning Hope Baptist Church on FM 356 in Trinity is offering a soup kitchen.

Meals will be served beginning at 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays to anyone. There is no charge for the meal, but donations will be accepted.

For information, call the church at (936) 594-3623.

# Committees focus spending, savings

On an unseasonably cool Thursday, July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress declared total independence from King George III and Great Britain. In doing so, the founding fathers threw off the yoke of tyranny, creating a new form of government whose power was to be derived only from the consent of the people they govern.

Radical at the time, the actions of men such as John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson paved the way for the United States Constitution just 13 years later and what we know today as the longest-standing democracy in the world.

Next week, many of us will enjoy an afternoon cookout with family and friends, attend a patri-

**Ashby Briefing**  
By Trent Ashby



otic parade, or celebrate with fireworks. While we celebrate our great nation, let us remember that we, as citizens of the greatest country on God's Earth, must continue to strive to create a more perfect Union and make good on the promise of our Declaration of Independence:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

With that, we'll dive back into our examination of House interim charges.

**Appropriations**  
The House Committee on Appropriations has jurisdiction over bills appropriating money from the state treasury, bills containing provisions resulting in the automatic allocation of funds from the state treasury, and all matters of claims and accounts filed with the legislature against the state.

Over the interim, the Committee will study the funding streams from different sections of the state budget to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to determine where overlapping programs are most efficiently funded and placed. The study will also make policy changes to improve transparency and accountability between state agencies involved in programs under TEA's jurisdiction.

The Committee is also tasked with monitoring the implementation and impact of additional funding to reduce the cost of higher education, funding for specific programs at medical schools, implementation and impact of additional funding for healthcare reimbursement rates, and programs assisting victims of crimes.

**Pensions, Investments and Financial Resources**  
The House Committee on Pensions, Invest-

ments, and Financial Resources has jurisdiction over all matters relating to banking, savings and loans, the regulation of state and local debt, and the benefits and financial obligations of public retirement systems. The Committee also oversees many state agencies, such as the Finance Commission of Texas, the Teacher Retirement System of Texas, and the Employee Retirement System of Texas.

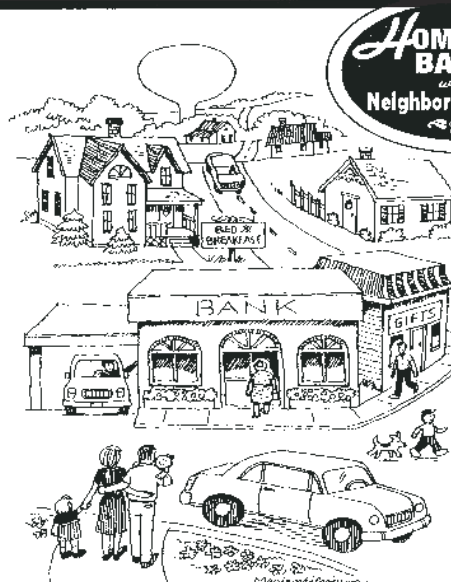
The Committee has been charged with monitoring the implementation of SB 10, which provided a much-needed Cost-Of-Living Adjustment to retired teachers. I was proud to be a Cosponsor for SB 10 during the 2023 Legislative Session and was happy to see Proposition 9, which amended the Texas Constitution to enable the COLA, pass with 84 percent of the vote in November.

Our retired teachers have given so much to this state, and it was well past time to help them with the continued rise in inflation for essential goods and services.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact my office if we can help you in any way. My district office may be reached at (936) 634-2762 and my Capitol office may be reached at (512) 463-0508. Additionally, I welcome you to follow along on my Official Facebook Page, where I will be posting regular updates on what's happening in your State Capitol and sharing information that could be useful to you and your family: <https://www.facebook.com/RepTrentAshby/>.

Trent Ashby represents District 9, which includes Trinity County, in the Texas Legislature.

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**ACROSS**

- 1 TX Tommy Lee film: "Eyes of Laura..."
- 5 TXism: "chew \_\_\_ awhile" (ponder)
- 6 San Antonio "Roadrunners" univ.
- 7 classic western: "High \_\_\_" (1952)
- 8 basic cable net.
- 9 "it don't \_\_\_ up" (makes no sense)
- 12 seat of Callahan County on I-20
- 17 position of Texas legend Nolan Ryan
- 19 TXism: "got as much chance as \_\_\_ in a packing plant"
- 21 TXism: "\_\_\_ a goose"
- 22 apprehended
- 23 popular TV dog
- 28 Monahans \_\_\_ hills State Park
- 29 TX Joe Don Baker film: "Cape \_\_\_"
- 30 one name for the earliest country in Texas
- 31 Cowboys won \_\_\_ Bowl five times
- 35 TX-born Keyes book "Scarlett O' \_\_\_ Younger Sister"
- 36 TXism: "three \_\_\_ wind" (drunk)
- 42 large hairy spider
- 44 Karmann \_\_\_ (old Volkswagens)
- 46 melons grown in the Rio Grande Valley
- 48 Cowboys hated foe

**DOWN**

- 1 seat of Titus County (2 wds.)
- 2 San \_\_\_ TX
- 3 Italian rice dishes
- 4 Marsh, creator of the "Cadillac Ranch," for short
- 9 TXism: "active as a fox in \_\_\_ house"
- 10 TXism: "he was around when the \_\_\_ sick" (old)
- 11 physicians (abbr.)
- 12 legally prohibit
- 13 TXism: "nervous \_\_\_ frying pan"
- 14 TXism: "let \_\_\_ (leave it alone)"
- 15 singer McEntire from Texas' northern neighbor
- 16 \_\_\_ Park, Texas
- 18 southern states gov. in Civil War
- 20 ave. or st., e.g. Chris \_\_\_Doux is in the "Texas Trail Hall of Fame"
- 24 Texas cosmetics founder Mary Kay
- 25 expectorated
- 26 \_\_\_ T. Hughes swore in LBJ on Air Force One in 1963
- 27 TXism: "get your ducks \_\_\_"
- 32 Austin univ.
- 33 Xbox competitor (abbr.)
- 34 martian? (abbr.)
- 36 pigpen
- 37 Paul Newman 1963 film about Texas
- 38 7-\_\_\_ (Texas convenience store)
- 39 TXism: "\_\_\_ the unvarnished truth"
- 40 Texas Southern sprinter Jim who won 1968 Gold
- 41 TXism: "\_\_\_ high on the hog" (rich)
- 43 Rangers drafted this Robb in 1987
- 45 Jeremy Pena pos. with the Astros
- 47 this promotes the growth of muscles
- 48 TXism: "boring as a fishing trip with a \_\_\_ warden"
- 55 TX ZZ Top breakthrough album: "\_\_\_ Hombres"

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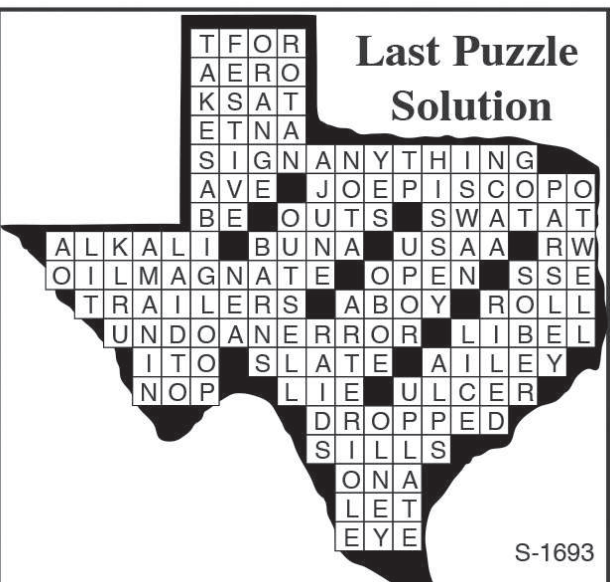
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S-1693



# The Fish Fry



By Luke Clayton  
Outdoors columnist

I've fried croaker and speckled trout from a fire fueled by driftwood on the beach and I've fried freshly caught catfish and white bass on the banks of remote east Texas creeks. I'm not sure I've eaten fish better than those walleye or northern pike fillets cooked over an open fire on a beautiful little island on a remote lake in northern Saskatchewan. The iconic shore lunch is a way of life when fishing up in Canada.

These days, I often fry fish in the shade of some big oaks in front of the little cabin on our few acres. I love everything about a fish fry, everything from catching the fish to cleaning them properly to hearing that first fillet, well seasoned and dusted with a mixture of corn meal and flour, hitting the grease. And the smell of that tasty fish bubbling in a skillet of hot cooking oil, it's the stuff that great outdoor memories are made.

I want my fish to be crunchy but not overcooked. I have known folks that like soft-fried fillets. To my way of thinking a fried fish should be crunchy and it's that additional minute or two in the hot grease that does the trick.

My early recollections of fish cooking over a hot fire in the outdoors goes way back to the '50s when I was a little whippersnapper growing up in very rural Red River County in northeast Texas. After my dad sold the 14,000 broiler chickens he raised every 10 weeks or so, he declared a holiday and loaded up the 1950 model International pickup and we headed to southeast Oklahoma to set up camp and enjoy a couple of glorious days running our trotlines, spending time together as a family and catching and eating tasty channel catfish.

The meals always consisted of plenty of fish, fried potatoes, canned pork and beans and plenty of fresh

onions, usually right out of the garden. Daddy had hinged plywood tables that mounted to the sides of the truck and this is where the fish frying usually took place. Occasionally he would cook fish over an open fire but not for that first evening meal.

We were always in a rush to get the trotlines set, usually before we made camp. Our goal was to have enough channel catfish for the first evening meal. It was much quicker to fire up the Coleman stove than fool with building a wood fire to cook on.

Back then we used what we called white gas for fuel. I often wonder if the unleaded gasoline we fuel our vehicles with today would also serve as fuel for modern day Coleman stoves, I'm guessing it would but with today's prices of gasoline, clean burning Coleman fuel is a much better option.

I have done my share of fish frying through the years and also been the guest at many other folk's fish fries. I can honestly say I've never known two cooks that went about the task of frying fish in exactly the same manner.

There are many variations when it comes to batter, seasonings and oils. Some fish cooks swear by peanut oil and it is a good choice but I just don't see the need to pay the extra dollars. I usually fry fish with the cheapest canola oil I can find but honestly prefer using lard. Up in Canada, all the good fish cooks use lard and snub their noses as poly unsaturated oils. They say that if the lard is sufficiently hot, hot enough for a match to strike when dropped in, the fish doesn't actually soak up and lard. I agree and would use lard all the time if it wasn't so dog gone expensive. Lard is always available at Hispanic grocery stores but because of cost, I usually go for the cheaper cooking oils.

The sky is the limit when it comes to batters. Some prefer straight corn meal, others a mixture of corn meal and flour. Some folks use straight flour as a batter but for me, a good batter must consist of mostly corn meal. I've even on occasion used yellow corn grits as a batter. This gives the fish more of a crunch but can be a bit 'grainy' for some fish eaters. There are also many pre packaged fish batters on the market and on occasion I use some of the Cajun batters.

Years ago, I learned to place fillets



What could possibly be tastier than freshly caught, fried fish fillets? In this week's column, Luke discusses a lifetime of enjoying fish fries everywhere from the wilds of Canada to the banks of a local creek. PHOTO BY LUKE CLAYTON

in a Ziplock bag and add buttermilk and Louisiana hot sauce. A couple hours marinating in this mixture is all the seasoning necessary for a tasty fillet, no need to add anything to the cornmeal/flour mix when using this method. Some fish cooks season their batter with their favorite dry seasonings, everything from salt and pepper to garlic powder, paprika, or lemon pepper. The good thing about making your own batter is that you can experiment and create the flavor you like best.

Growing up, I don't remember us using anything other than salt and pepper and for many that is all that's needed. Through the years, I have developed a taste for more spicy fillets, thus the Louisiana hot sauce.

Back in the day, we fished for not only sport but food as well. We ate everything from blue gills to catfish to largemouth bass. I know for

many the thought of actually eating a bass ruffles feathers but even the fisheries biologists recommend taking smaller bass to keep balance in a farm pond or a larger reservoir for that matter.

There is a whole generation of fish eaters that have never tasted a crunchy fried yearling largemouth bass. Honestly it's one of my favorite fish to eat. Some not so popular fish that I consider excellent eating are freshwater drum and yellow bass. Most fishermen have no idea how tasty they are. There is no 'red meat' in yellow bass to trim away and many consider the little fillets to be a delicacy.

Buffalo fish are snow white and flaky and make excellent baked fish cakes, but they also have the tiny Y bones which makes them challenging to clean. Note I haven't mentioned crappie. In my opinion,

crappie are fish for what I refer to as non-fish eaters. I know this statement is considered blasphemy for many fish eaters but crappie, to me at least, don't really taste like fish, they have a neutral flavor that takes on the spices they are seasoned with.

In self-defense, be it known Ole' Luke enjoys a big platter of crispy fried crappie fillets as much as the next person but given a choice, I'd have yellow bass fillets on that platter.

I'd better close for this week, I have a stainless steel sink full of blue catfish fillets defrosting and need to trim them up and make ready for a later afternoon fish fry. Until next week.

Email outdoors writer Luke Clayton through his website [www.cattfishradio.org](http://www.cattfishradio.org).

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# Congressman addresses the town hall

On Saturday, I had the privilege of hosting a town hall in Robertson County, where we engaged in meaningful discussions about the issues affecting our community, our nation, and the world.

The solutions to America's problems originate from the local level, and town halls are essential for fostering this dialogue. Thank you to all who came out and participated.

I enjoyed meeting everyone and seeing local leaders including Mayor of Calvert



**Pete Sessions**  
District 3

Layla Wright, Robertson County Sheriff Gerald Yezak, Robertson County Sheriff Elect Bill Ruland, Mayor of

Bremont Rick Swick, Robertson County Judge Joe D. Scarpinato, and Milam County Judge Bill Whitmire.

Supporting neighbors in need. In the intense Texas heat, access to cooling can mean the difference between life and death. That's why I participated in the Salvation Army's "Biggest Fans" fan drive again this year.

Community donors including TXU Energy and Walmart joined me in donating fans to the Salvation Army Family Thrift Store. I

commend their commitment to aiding our neighbors in all circumstances. If you would like to get involved, please consider donating box fans at the Salvation Army Family Thrift Store located at 4721 W. Waco Drive.

Celebrating community leadership

Last week, I spoke at a handful of events across Texas's 17th Congressional District. In Limestone County, I was honored to present a scholarship from the Thornton Ex-Students Association to a deserving

young man, Caden Hughes, who has deep roots in the community.

Caden will be attending the University of Texas at Tyler to pursue a degree in nursing. Although Thornton High School closed its doors in 1961, the surrounding community continues to demonstrate a commitment to education through their annual scholarship fund.

In Waco, I addressed this year's cohort of Leadership Waco at the Federal Courthouse. This program unites individuals from all corners

of the Waco community that are eager to solve local problems through informed engagement. I applauded these students for their remarkable passion and underscored the vital importance of active civic engagement.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to making our community strong. Your involvement in roles both elected and unelected truly makes a difference.

Pete Sessions represents District 17, which includes Trinity County, in the U.S. House of Representatives.

# Sam Houston EC's dead tree program explained

By Emily Banks Wooten  
editor@polkcenterprise.com

During an average year, Sam Houston Electric Cooperative cuts 7,000 dead trees, an average of one dead tree per mile of line.

In 2023, Sam Houston EC cut 26,000 dead trees, which is an average of 3.6 trees per mile of line. So far for 2024, 11,000 dead trees have been cut, averaging 6.9 trees per mile of line.

Sam Houston EC began its "dead tree program" in 2021, Chad Simon said during a recent

program for the Livingston-Polk County Chamber of Commerce.

"Following Winter Storm Uri, a lot of the hardier trees were damaged, causing problems on our lines. Then, we had the drought last year," Simon said.

"It's a huge expense for us and it's time-consuming, so we start on the west side and then make our way east," he said.

Expensive and time-consuming though it may be, with more than 7,000 miles of power lines, it's almost imperative.

"It's part of our right of way

program, but not to be confused with trimming the rights of way," he said, commenting that Sam Houston EC currently has 10 different contractor crews working across the system, specifically on the dead tree program.

He said the power lines are on a five-year trim cycle, but that if a branch is noticed near a line, it can be reported, and they will inspect it. Every mile of the 7,000-plus miles of line is patrolled annually across the 10 counties the electric cooperative serves.

Upon discovery of the dead and hazardous trees, Simon said crews identify them, cut them, and leave them there.

"We will leave the tree in a safe area for you," he said. "We do not remove debris from dead trees, as they are your property. We don't actually own the trees. We own the power lines. We can't pay to have them cut up and removed."

"As for the recent storms, I wasn't here during Hurricane Harvey, but those who were, compared them to Harvey,"

Simon said. "These were not your typical East Texas weather storms."

"We're in hurricane season now. Make sure you have battery-powered backups. Be prepared to evacuate the area. If we get a major hurricane — Category 3 or above — it can take up to two weeks to repair and restore our system," Simon said.

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# American Red Cross promotes water safety

Special to the News-Standard

The American Red Cross is stressing the importance of constant, active adult supervision, along with ensuring that everyone learns to swim, as critical layers of protection to help prevent drowning.

Unfortunately, tragic events where children and adults lose their lives to drowning occur all too often. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 10 people die from unintentional drowning every day.

"Drowning can occur quickly and silently, wherever there is water," said Vanessa Valdez, Regional Communications Manager. "Everyone should have basic water safety knowledge and skills to help them be safer and make good choices around the water."

### Water safety tips

- Do your part, be water smart. Ensure that everyone in the family learns to swim well.
- Adults: actively supervise children; stay within arm's reach of young children and newer swimmers. And kids: follow the rules.
- Don't fool with a pool: fence it in. Enclose your pool and spa with four-sided, four-foot fencing and use self-closing, self-latching gates.

- Don't just pack it; wear your U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket – always when on a boat and if in a situation beyond your skill level. Inflatable children's toys and water wings can be fun, but they are no substitute for a life jacket and adult supervision.
- Swim as a pair near a lifeguard's chair - everyone, including experienced swimmers, should swim with a buddy in areas protected by lifeguards.
- Reach or throw, don't go. Know what to do to help someone in trouble, without endangering yourself; know how and when to call 9-1-1; and know CPR.

### Water competency

According to a Red Cross survey, more than half of all Americans (54 percent) either can't swim or don't have all of the basic swimming skills. The Red Cross and its Scientific Advisory Council recommend that everyone learn to perform critical water safety skills, referred to as 'water competency'. The skills, performed in a sequence, include being able to:

- Step or jump into the water over your head;
- Return to the surface and float or tread water for one minute;
- Rotate in a full circle and find an exit;
- Swim 25 yards to the exit; and



- Exit from the water. If in a pool, be able to exit without using the ladder.

"People should be able to perform all five water competency skills. Those who can't, should enroll in Red Cross Learn-to-Swim classes offered in their area," added Vanessa Valdez, Regional Communications Manager.

### Swim lessons

Red Cross swim lessons help people develop skills and water safety behaviors that help them be more comfortable and safer when they are in, on and around the water. People can find age-appropriate water orientation and Learn-to-Swim programs for themselves and their family members by contacting their local aquatic facility and asking for Red Cross swimming and water safety programs, or by visiting [redcross.org/takeaclass](http://redcross.org/takeaclass).

### Swim app

The Red Cross Swim App promotes water safety education and helps parents and caregivers of young people learning how to swim. The app has features specifically designed for children, including a variety of kid-friendly games, videos and quizzes. People can download the app for free by searching for 'American Red Cross' in their app store or at <http://3cu.be/shareswim>.

### Home pool essentials course

The Red Cross and National Swimming Pool Foundation have developed an online safety course for pool and hot tub owners. Home Pool Essentials (HomePoolEssentials.org) helps people understand the risks of pool ownership, how to maintain a safer and cleaner pool, what safety equipment is appropriate, how to prevent pool and hot tub entrapment hazards, and how to respond to an emergency.

## Legal Notices

### Land title, 1041 Shore Shadow Dr., Harris County

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, I desire to confirm, certify, declare, convey and give notice of claim by this Land Title for the following parcel located at 1041 Shore Shadow Drive, Texas Republic, (Harris County) usA NON-DOMESTIC. Let the record show the Grantor grants this private property to: EL SHADDAI EXPRESS TRUST hereinafter called the Grantee for and in consideration of the sum of ten silver dollars (\$10.00) and no other valuable

consideration, receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, hereby grants, bargains, sells, aliens, remises, releases, conveys and confirms unto the Grantee all that certain land situate in Harris County, Texas Republic. This land now titled, is FEE SIMPLE ABSOLUTE and also known as an Allodial title. Done under my hand and seal of my own freewill act and deed. Any party interested in viewing this claim can view the associated documents at <https://bit.ly/4bam1wY>.

### Live birth certificate claim

AFFIDAVIT Claim of Ownership of Certificate of Title i,anthony maurice woods,states that I am familiar with the facts recited,i state that I am the party named in said Certificate of Live Birth,and I am the same party as one of the owners named in Certificate Of Title;i,man;verify under penalty of per-

jury under the laws of the United States of America that the forgoing is true and correct; Executed on the twenty-seventh day of June 2024. by:Woods,Anthony Maurice, Not in Individual Capacity,Without the United States, Held in Trust. All Rights Under Reserve.

### Land patent in Harris County

KNOW ALL MEN BY THE PRESENTS: We, Maricella Ana Benavente, Alan Ismael Pagan Perez; desires to confirm, certify, declare, convey and give notice of claim by this Land Patent for the following parcel located at 6039 Spring Creek Lane, Texas Republic, (Harris County) usA NON-DOMESTIC. Coordinates:Latitude 30.035708 and Longitude -95.507732. Let the record show the Grantors grant this private property to: DE NOVO DYMANTE EXPRESS TRUST hereinafter called the Grantee. Consideration of the sum of ten silver dollars (\$10.00) and no other valuable consideration was paid in full. This land, now patented, is FEE SIMPLE ABSOLUTE and also known as an Allodial title. Done under our hand and seal of our freewill act and deed. Any party interested in viewing this claim can view the associated documents here: <https://bit.ly/3VxUZlg>.



The Texas Veterans Commission has awarded Trinity County its Fund for Veterans' Assistance Grant 2024/2025 to provide services for qualifying veterans and their families beginning July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, for \$180,000.

Grants like these can make a significant difference in supporting veterans and their families who have sacrificed so much for their country. Trinity County is proud to have received this grant to provide essential services to its veterans.

By providing food allowance, rent, utility support, and transportation support, Trinity County helps alleviate financial burdens and ensure basic needs are met. Assistive technology includes hearing aids, mobility devices, Orthotics, and other devices that will greatly improve the quality of life for veterans with disabilities.

\*This program is supported by a grant from the Texas Veterans Commission Fund for Veterans' Assistance. The Fund for Veterans' Assistance provides grants to organizations serving veterans and their families. For more information, visit [www.tvc.texas.gov](http://www.tvc.texas.gov).

Legal notices in Texas are searchable by newspaper, by county, and statewide. Visit [easttexasnews.com](http://easttexasnews.com)

## SBA offers help to Texas businesses

Special to the News-Standard

SACRAMENTO — Low-interest federal disaster loans are now available to Texas businesses and residents as a result of President Biden's major disaster declaration, U.S. Small Business Administration's Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman announced.

The declaration covers Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, Polk, San Jacinto, Trinity and Walker counties because of the severe storms, straight-line winds, tornadoes and flooding that began on April 26.

"SBA's mission-driven team stands ready to help Texas's small businesses and residents impacted by severe storms," Guzman said. "We're committed to providing federal disaster loans swiftly and efficiently, with a customer-centric approach to help businesses and communities recover and rebuild."

Businesses of all sizes and private nonprofit organizations may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory and other business assets. SBA can also lend additional funds to help with the cost of improvements to protect, prevent or minimize disaster damage from occurring in the future.

For small businesses, small agricultural coop-

eratives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private nonprofit organizations of any size, SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. Economic injury assistance is available to businesses regardless of any property damage.

Disaster loans up to \$500,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$100,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property, including personal vehicles.

Interest rates can be as low as 4 percent for businesses, 3.25 percent for private nonprofit organizations and 2.688 percent for homeowners and renters with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by SBA and are based on each applicant's financial condition.

Interest does not begin to accrue until 12 months from the date of the first disaster loan disbursement. SBA disaster loan repayment begins 12 months from the date of the first disbursement.

As soon as Federal-State Disaster Recovery Centers open throughout the affected area, SBA will provide one-on-one assistance to disaster loan applicants. Additional information and details on the location of disaster recovery centers is available by calling the SBA Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955.



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### Public Notice

**Neyland Notice of Public Sale**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends to sell the personal property described below to satisfy a landlord's lien imposed on said property under The Self-Storage Act. The undersigned will sell at public sale by competitive bidding on Thursday the 1st day of August 2024 at 9:00am. The said property is Neyland Storage 7272 FM 3126, Livingston. Unit 17 Household and garage items. Purchases must be paid for at the time of sale by cash only. All purchased items are sold as is, and must be removed within 48 hours of the sale. Sales are subject to cancellation if settlement between owner and obligated party. (25-2t-pd-PCE)

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**Announcements**  
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CHRISTINE'S PLACE Resale Shop accepts donations and is open M-F, 501 W. Bluff in Woodville. 409-331-9939. www.westrengthenfamilies.org. (1-tfn-nc-TCB)

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**Garage Sale Thursday-Saturday, June 27th-29th, 9am-3pm 595 Commodore Drive, Livingston. Follow the signs. Antiques, collectibles, tools, household items, furniture, toys.** (26-1t-pd-PCE)

**FREE**  
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\*Residential \*Commercial  
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Trimming, Top Removal, Haul Off, Tractor Work. Now accepting credit cards.  
Call for Free Estimate Insured  
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936-223-9265  
or  
936-365-4955  
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(23-tfn-b-PCE)

**Storage**  
DAVID NORTON TIRE CENTER, Woodville, TX is accepting applications for a mechanic. Apply in person, 1116 S. Magnolia. (46-tfn-b-TCB)

Actively seeking a dynamic individual from the Trinity area to fill a part-time sales position. The position offers a base pay plus commission, and bonuses. The ideal candidate should be enthusiastic, highly motivated, and well acquainted with the local community. If you're interested in joining our team, please email your resume to ashley@polkcountypublishing.com. (5-tfn-nc-TCNS)

### Apartment

We ❤️ our readers  
**Trinity County News-Standard**

**S & L Tree Service**  
Tree removal, clean up, stump grinding  
New bucket truck  
Fully insured  
Serving the local and surrounding areas  
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Insured since 1980  
Lake Livingston area  
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(1-tfn-b-PCE)

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\*Land Clearing  
\*Tractor Work  
\*Driveways  
Fully Insured  
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Livingston, TX  
(1-tfn-b-PCE)

**Plumas House Leveling**  
w/Water Level & Concrete  
20 Yrs Exp, Senior Citizen Discount  
Insured  
936-433-6304  
if no answer call for appt  
Livingston, TX  
936-513-0783  
(1-tfn-b-PCE)

### Cleaning Services

**S & S Cleaning and Maintenance**  
Residential Commercial Construction  
936-714-6226  
(32-tfn-b-PCE)

### Employment

WESTWOOD SHORES 3/2/2 lake front \$2,100/month plus deposit. WWS Realty (936)594-1234. (8-tfn-b-TCNS)

2-BEDROOM 1-BATH with lake view in Indian Hills, Livingston, large yard, \$845/month. For info call (409)256-8365. (21-6t-cc-PCE)

HOUSE FOR rent in Woodville area, good references and deposit required. Call 409-283-8286. (43-tfn-b-TCB)

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Call 1-888-925-0261  
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Apply at www.burgerworkshr.com (1-tfn-b-PCE)

### For Sale

CHINA HUTCH \$150; Electric wood splitter \$150, located in the Livingston area. Call (281)226-3258. (25-3t-pd-PCE)

FOR SALE Set of 4 20" rims and low profile tires. Fits 2016 Buick Regal or comparable. \$300 for all. 409-594-7408. (2-tfn-nc-TCB)

2018 WINNEBAGO VISTA XL, 12,000 miles, always garaged, like nes, (not driving anymore), \$59,000.00. 409-782-0282. (26-2t-cc-TCB)

2004 HITCHHIKER II 32.5ft 5th wheel trailer with 3 slide outs. Excellent condition. Garage kept. Includes 5th wheel hitch. \$9,500. 936-662-9742. Trinity, TX. (26-4t-cc-TCNS)

### Business Property

OFFICE/RETAIL for lease- Includes all utilities, WiFi & business sign. Good location, good traffic. 111 Hwy 59 S Loop (behind McDonalds) (936)328-9358. (22-tfn-cc-PCE)

KNEBEL PROFESSIONAL Center; Individual office suites for rent! \$700 Includes: shared lobby, conference room, internet, utilities, signage space, 2120 US Hwy 190 West, (936)239-7178. (24-4t-cc-PCE)

### Rentals

3-BEDROOM 2-BATH mobile home on 5-acres, available July 1st. Very wooded and private, Soda area, \$950/month, (936)714-4839. (25-tfn-cc-PCE)

1-BEDROOM HOME available for rent in Leggett, DIRECTV/ water/trash pick-up included \$600/month plus deposit Call (832)277-3737. (49-tfn-cc-PCE)

FULLY FURNISHED Room for rent. All bills paid, \$450/month. Located in Ivanhoe ( near Woodville ), washer/dryer included. Call or text 409-655-1691. (24-4t-cc-TCB)

HOMES FOR rent and ready for move in! One-three bedrooms one-two bath \$700 to \$1600 a month. Call 281-914-3810. (26-4t-cc-PCE)

BRICK HOUSE in quiet neighborhood. 3/2/2, central AC, fireplace, office, big garage, 148 Cardinal, Livingston. No pets. No smoking. \$1,400/month (936)329-2213. (26-tfn-pd-PCE)

3 BD/2 BA Mobile Home in Colmesneil. Washer, Dryer, Fridge, and Stove. All electric, \$950.00/month, plus deposit. 936-707-1258. (25-2t-p-TCB)

EXECUTIVE HOME WATER VIEW Lake Livingston, 2/2/2 handicap friendly, fenced yard. Includes all appliances and can include washer/dryer, storage building, yard maintenance, pets accepted, water paid. References required, \$1,429/month, (281)798-8638. (14-tfn-cc-PCE)

WESTWOOD SHORES 3/2/2 lake front \$2,100/month plus deposit. WWS Realty (936)594-1234. (8-tfn-b-TCNS)

2-BEDROOM 1-BATH with lake view in Indian Hills, Livingston, large yard, \$845/month. For info call (409)256-8365. (21-6t-cc-PCE)

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### Employment/Medical

**Tyler County Hospital**  
OPEN POSITIONS  
•Administrative Assistant  
•Vocational School of Nursing FT  
•Respiratory Therapist PRN  
•Pharmacy Technician FT  
•Admissions Clerk 7-7a FT | •Admissions Clerk 7-7p FT  
•Admissions Clerk PRN | •IT Assistant FT  
•Vocational Nursing School Instructor @ Woodland Heights PT  
•Vocational Nursing School Instructor @ Woodville PT  
•Dietary Cook PRN | •LVN - Med Surg. Nights FT  
•Environmental Services Technician PRN  
•Radiology Technician FT | •RN ED, Nights FT  
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