



East Texans in search of power, fuel, supplies

By Brian Besch
Polk County Publishing

Many in East Texas are in need of supplies and options are slim on providers. A day after Hurricane Beryl barreled through this portion of the state, fuel, food and other necessities are in high demand.

A select few businesses have power, and those that do are experiencing long lines. Employees standing outside of Walmart in Livingston relayed rumors of opening as early as 2 p.m. Tuesday and as late as Thursday.

Gas stations are also a rarity, but two businesses had fuel pumps open in Goodrich, and the wait was substantial, beginning hundreds of feet down Highway 59.

Sam Houston Electric Cooperative (SHECO) provides power to 10 counties, including Polk, San Jacinto, Tyler and Trinity. The 91,000 service locations that rely on SHECO for electricity mostly all have one obvious question. However,

when the electricity will return is not a simple answer.

A total of 81,000 customers lost power from the impact of Beryl. That number was down to 70,000 as of Tuesday morning.

Those fortunate enough to not lose electricity depends a lot on their proximity to a substation. Sam Houston Electric Cooperative Chief Communications Officer Rachel Frey said parts of Tyler and Angelina County suffered less damage, which could also be a factor.

"It is incredible what our members went through. There are countless trees down, and most of them are green (not dead) trees," Frey explained. "We have a very robust right-of-way program and we can cut trees to clear on 10 feet of either side of the power lines. I believe we have cut 12,000 dead trees since January.

"We've got — from when the storm came on until (Tuesday) morning — around 10,000 customers (back on), but during that time, it took multiple attempts to get each one of those meters

on. They would go down the line and find another problem and then another problem. There is a lot of work that our crews are going through. We have 400 contractors right now and we anticipate another several hundred coming throughout (Tuesday and Wednesday). We are going to get more as they are released from other utilities."

Frey said contractors are traveling to East Texas from all over, including Oklahoma, Louisiana and different regions of Texas. Replacing poles and lines will be a lengthy task, but customer feedback can assist in the troubleshooting.

"On something like this, there is probably multiple different issues. They will start and work their way out. There is also a safety concern, because we have crews working on top of each other, and if they are not communicating clearly, that can lead to some scary situations."

Frey also stressed generator safety for homes or businesses temporarily supplying their own power. She said if generators are hooked up improperly, they can backfeed onto the grid and

increase voltage when reaching transformers, causing injury.

So, how about that timeframe for electricity? "There is no way to say at this moment, because there could be the potential for different areas," Frey said. "Right now, seven of our substations do not have any transmission, and we have to work with Entergy on that. We don't have a lot of information on the estimated time we will have everyone back up."

SHECO has received thousands of phone calls since the outages that have caused extended wait times. They are typically aware of outages, yet still encourage customers to call for more information. There are also online tools, including an app to assist in reporting outages or obtaining information on power usage and status of bills. The mySamHouston app is available in the Google Play Store, and SHECO may be reached by calling (936) 327-5711 in Livingston, (936) 653-5400 in Coldspring, (409) 283-8251 in Woodville, or long distance at (888) 444-1207.

American Birthdays

TCNS staff

Explosions, games and music helped honor Independence Day and the nation's birth in Trinity County Thursday and Friday.

Liberty and the Red, White and Blue were on full display, and Thursday in Groveton, the Lions Club offered games, a watermelon eating contest, a tug of war and even a raffle.

Patriotic, country and other music were supplied by Nathan James, Eddie Dyson and Carolina Slim, and vendors offered everything for a hot summer celebration.

In Trinity, despite the threat of a thunderstorm, Friday night saw a grand display of pyrotechnics courtesy of the city of Trinity.



It was all mouths on deck for the annual watermelon eating contest in Groveton. PHOTO BY TONY FARKAS



Carolina Slim plied the crowd with songs during the annual Groveton Independence Day celebration. PHOTO BY TONY FARKAS

Red Cross braces for Hurricane Beryl

Special to the News-Standard

The American Red Cross and our community partners are closely monitoring Hurricane Beryl and its potential impact on South Texas. The time to get ready is now.

Disasters won't stop. Hurricanes cause problems for people in coastal areas, but these storms can also cause damage hundreds of miles inland. People living inland should get ready too.

"As we watch the storm come closer to the Texas coast, we encourage our communities to get ready for the potential impact," said Shawn Schulze, Regional Executive for the Texas Gulf Coast. "The Red Cross stands ready to serve our community, and we encourage everyone to finalize their safety plans now."

With that thinking in mind, the American Red Cross has tips to help you prepare:

Make a plan
In light of the coronavirus, you may have to adjust any previous plans you made. You may need to leave your home quickly and travel to a safe place outside the affected area. If authorities advise you to evacuate, be prepared to leave immediately with your evacuation kit ("go bag" of emergency supplies).

Plan now if you will need help leaving or if you need to share transportation.

Ask friends or relatives outside your area if you would be able to stay with them. Check with hotels, motels and to see if they are open.

Check your local media, state, and county websites for local emergency information.

Plan ahead for your pets. Keep a phone list of

pet-friendly hotels/motels and animal shelters that are along your evacuation routes. Remember, if it's not safe for you to stay home, it's not safe for your pets either. Pet sheltering may be limited, so please consider staying with friends or family to ensure space is available for you and your pets. Pets are a part of your family, so please use resources such as RedRover to find out where they can safely stay.

Build a kit
Assemble two kits of emergency supplies and a one-month supply of prescription medication. Start with this basic supply list:

- Stay-at-home kit (2 weeks of emergency supplies): Include everything you need to stay at home for at least two weeks with items such as food, water, household cleaning and disinfectant supplies, soap, paper products, and personal hygiene items
- Evacuation kit (3 days of supplies in a "go bag"): Your second kit should be a lightweight, smaller version that you can take with you if you must leave your home quickly. Include everything you need to be on your own for three days:
 - Food and water
 - Personal hygiene items
 - Cleaning and disinfectant supplies that you can use on the go (tissues, hand sanitizer with 60 percent alcohol and disinfecting wipes)
 - Cloth face coverings for everyone in your household who can wear one safely. Cloth face coverings are not a substitute for physical distancing. Continue to keep about 6 feet between yourself and others in public. Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age

2, anyone who has trouble breathing or is unable to remove it without help.

- Infant formula, bottles, diapers, wipes, and diaper rash cream
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Cash or traveler's checks
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification, and bank account records saved electronically or in a waterproof, portable container
- 1-month supply of prescription medication, as well as over-the-counter medications like cough suppressants and fever-reducing drugs and medical supplies or equipment. Keep these items together in a separate container so you can take them with you if you have to evacuate.

Some supplies may be hard to get, and availability will worsen in a disaster, so start gathering supplies now.

- Be informed**
 - Have access to weather alerts and community notifications. Be sure that you can receive official notifications even during a power outage. Always follow the directions of your state and local authorities.
 - Use the Red Cross interactive map to identify likely disasters in your areas
 - Learn about your community's response plan for each disaster and determine if these plans have been adapted because of COVID-19
 - Find contact information for state, local and tribal governments and agencies.

Those staying in the evacuation shelter should bring prescription medications, extra clothing, pillows, blankets, hygiene supplies, impor-

tant documents, and other comfort items. They should also include any special items for children, such as diapers, formula and toys, and durable medical equipment and/or assistive technology if applicable. While Red Cross can provide medical equipment and/or assistive technology loaners, it may take a little time depending on inventory on hand and availability of delivery systems to get them to the shelter.

If someone needs to find a shelter, they can visit redcross.org/shelter, check the Red Cross Emergency App or call 1 800-RED CROSS. Red Cross also encourages residents to check their county's website for local shelter information.

Download the free Red Cross Emergency App to find shelter information and weather and emergency alerts for more than 35 different situations. Red Cross apps are available in smartphone app stores by searching for the American Red Cross or going to redcross.org/apps.

People living in the path of the hurricane should listen to local officials and obey any evacuation orders. As the storm passes, folks should stay informed by listening to local news or NOAA weather radio for updates. Other safety steps include:

Know the difference between a Hurricane Watch and a Hurricane Warning.

A Hurricane Watch means conditions are a threat within 48 hours. Review your hurricane plans. Get ready to act if a warning is issued and stay informed.

A Hurricane Warning means conditions are

See **RED CROSS** → Page 2A

Energy assistance available 81 counties added to disaster declaration

Special to the News-Standard

Hot temperatures and high humidity are being experienced across east Texas. Utility bills will be high in the coming months. Low-income households may be challenged to deal with these high bills.

Assistance may be available through federal LIHEAP funding. Funding is available for San Jacinto, Trinity and surrounding counties. The program targets vulnerable households such as elderly, disabled and the working poor. Greater East Texas Community Action Program administers the program in east Texas.

Eligibility is based on household income, citizenship and circumstances. Individuals may apply by mail or online. The website is www.get-cap.org. A face-to-face interview is not required. When the required information is mailed, emailed or done online that individual is contacted by telephone and

the case can be completed.

According to Teresa Land, Program Manager, "We are especially concerned about vulnerable households during times of extreme heat. It may take some time to complete the approval process so we hope individuals will apply soon. Multiple months of assistance could provide relief through the hot summer months and into the early fall."

Karen Swenson, Executive Director shared "San Jacinto and Trinity area residents have embraced our mail in and online process. Federal LIHEAP requirements must be documented, and help is not immediate. Residents are encouraged to act soon."

For more information and the application visit the website at www.get-cap.org or call 800-621-5746. Certain days there may be a high call volume so multiple attempts may be needed. GETCAP programs are available to all regardless of race, color, creed, or national origin.

Special to the News-Standard

AUSTIN — Acting Governor Dan Patrick today urged Texans to make final preparations and announced that he has added 81 counties to the state's Hurricane Beryl Disaster Declaration as storm forecasts have shifted the expected landfall north and east of previous projections.

This brings the total number of Texas counties included in the state's disaster declaration to 121 counties. Upon updating the disaster declaration, Acting Governor Patrick issued the following statement:

"As Hurricane Beryl approaches the Gulf Coast, today and tomorrow will be the last 2 days for Texans to make preparations for the coming storm. Beryl is a determined storm, and incoming winds and potential flooding will pose a serious threat to Texans who are in Beryl's path at landfall and as it makes its way across the state for the following 24 hours.

"Based on the current forecast, heavy rain and some localized flooding could occur all the way from the coast through areas near College Station, Tyler, and Texarkana as the storm moves through Texas on its current track. The track may change over the next 40 hours. Texans need to take heed, watch their local officials, and prepare today and tomorrow before the storm makes landfall early Monday morning.

"As Acting Governor, I've been in constant communication with Texas state agencies and local leaders to coordinate preparations and response, and I will continue to do so. Do not ignore this storm."

The 81 Texas counties added include Anderson, Angelina, Austin, Bastrop, Bell, Bowie, Brazoria, Brazos, Burleson, Caldwell, Camp, Cass, Chambers, Cherokee, Collin, Colorado, Comal, Dallas, Delta, Ellis, Falls, Fannin, Fayette, Fort Bend,

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Senior Menus3A
Life Tributes3A
Looking Back3A
Arrest Records3A

Opinion4A
Crossword6A
Sports1B
Classifieds6B

RIVER & RAINFALL DATA AS OF JULY 8
Gauge Height.....15.07 ft
Condition.....Normal Flood Stage
Weekly rainfall1.68 in



RED CROSS

Continued from page 1A

a threat within 48 hours. Review your hurricane plans. Get ready to act if a warning is issued and stay informed.

A Hurricane Warning means conditions are expected within

36 hours. Complete your storm preparations and leave the area if directed to do so by authorities.

Tropical Storm Watches and Warnings: Take these alerts seriously. They often bring life-threatening flooding and dangerous winds.

Listen to local radio, NOAA radio or TV stations for the lat-

est information and updates and obey any evacuation orders from local officials.

Be prepared to evacuate quickly. You can find shelters by visiting redcross.org or by downloading the free Red Cross Emergency App.

Fill your car's gas tank in case an evacuation notice is issued. Build an emergency kit that

contains supplies for about three days, to include a gallon of water per person per day, non-perishable food, a flashlight and extra batteries, a first aid kit, medications and copies of important documents. Remember items for young children such as diapers, and family members with special medical needs.

Follow evacuation orders. Don't forget your pets. Bring them indoors and maintain direct control of them. Prepare an emergency kit for your pets, including sturdy leashes or pet carriers, food and water, bowls, cat litter and pan, and photos of you with your pet in case they get lost. Additional pet safety tips are available.

DISASTER

Continued from page 1A

Franklin, Freestone, Galveston, Grayson, Gregg, Grimes, Guadalupe, Hardin, Harris, Harrison, Hays, Henderson, Hill, Hopkins, Houston, Hunt, Jasper, Jefferson, Kaufman, Lamar, Lee, Leon, Liberty, Limestone, Madison, Marion, McLennan, Milam, Montgomery, Morris, Nacogdoches, Navarro, Newton, Orange, Panola, Polk, Rains, Red River, Robertson, Rockwall, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Smith, Titus, Travis, Trinity, Tyler, Upshur, Van Zandt, Walker, Waller, Washington, Williamson, and Wood counties. Additional counties may be added as conditions warrant.

According to the National Hurricane Center, Tropical Storm Beryl is expected to intensify as it moves northwest through the Gulf of Mexico, before it takes a northerly turn to make landfall along the mid-Texas coast as a hurricane on Monday. Interests in

Texas should closely monitor this system and finalize preparations for hurricane impacts, including heavy rainfall, flooding, potential tornadoes, and damaging winds as the system moves inland across the state.

The Texas Division of Emergency Management increased the readiness level of the State Emergency Operations Center as of 10 a.m. Friday and Texas Emergency Management Council agencies are working 24-hour operations, while also continuing to preposition state emergency response resources that were readied for deployment by Governor Greg Abbott on Thursday.

The State of Texas currently has more than 2,000 responders and 850 assets rostered and deployed in support of the state's response to anticipated impacts from Hurricane Beryl. The following state emergency response resources have been rostered and deployed to support response operations:

- Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (Texas A&M Task Force 1 & Texas Task Force 2): Search and Rescue Personnel, and

Swiftwater Boat Squads.

- Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service: Texas A&M Public Works Response Team.

- Texas A&M Forest Service: Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS) All-Hazards Incident Strike Teams, including personnel and fire engines.

- Texas National Guard: National Guard Personnel, including High Profile Vehicles and Chinook & Black Hawk Helicopters.

- Texas Department of Public Safety: Texas Highway Patrol Troopers, the Tactical Marine Unit, and Helicopters with hoist capabilities.

- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department: Game Wardens and Park Police to provide law enforcement support, along with Swiftwater Boats, Airboats, Flat Bottom Boats, Four-wheel Drive Vehicles, and Helicopters.

- Texas Department of State Health Services (Emergency Medical Task Force): Medical Incident Support Teams and Severe Weather Packages, including Ambuses, Ambulances, and Command Vehicles.

- Texas Department of Transportation: Highway maintenance personnel and personnel to monitor roadway conditions.

- Texas Animal Health Commission: Personnel to provide livestock support.

- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service: Disaster Assessment and Recovery Agents as well as AgriLife Extension Agents to support agricultural and livestock needs.

- Texas Department of Information Resources: Monitoring for potential cyber-threats and impacts to technology infrastructure.

- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality: Air/water/wastewater monitoring

- Railroad Commission of Texas: Monitoring the state's natural gas supply, and communicating with the oil & gas industry.

- Public Utility Commission of Texas: Personnel to coordinate with utility providers across the threat area.

- Texas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster: Coordinating volunteer organizations across impacted areas.

- FEMA Region 6: More than 100 personnel, 500,000 Meals Ready to Eat, 800,000 liters of Water, 20,000 Tarps, 2,500 Rolls of Plastic Sheathing, Generators, Urban Search and Rescue Teams, Tractor-Trailers, Communications and Command Vehicles.

Texans are urged to stay informed, monitor local weather forecasts, follow directions from local officials, make an emergency plan, review hurricane evacuation routes, build a kit containing emergency supplies, and consider reviewing flood risk and insurance coverage. Additionally, visitors to Texas beaches should review beach safety tips and remain aware of the risks of rip currents during an approaching tropical system in the Gulf of Mexico.

Texans are encouraged to visit the TDEM Disaster Portal or Texas Hurricane Center webpages for storm information. Additional storm safety and preparedness information is available at TexasReady.gov and tdem.texas.gov/prepare.

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TRINITY COUNTY WEATHER FORECAST

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THURSDAY	THU NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
HIGHS: 89 to 94 RF: 102 to 107 POP: 55%	LOWS: 69 to 74 RF: 74 to 79 POP: 10%	88 to 93 72 to 77 RF: 99 to 104/80 to 85 POP: 40%	89 to 94 74 to 79 RF: 101 to 106/79 to 84 POP: 40%	89 to 94 73 to 78 RF: 101 to 106/77 to 82 POP: 50%	92 to 97 72 to 77 RF: 102 to 107/77 to 82 POP: 5%	93 to 98 71 to 76 RF: 101 to 106/75 to 80 POP: 0%	93 to 98 73 to 78 RF: 102 to 107/78 to 83 POP: 40%

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 7/7

Temperatures
Daily ranges — Normal high — Normal low

97	97	97	97	97	93	93
71	71	75	71	75	73	75

7/1 7/2 7/3 7/4 7/5 7/6 7/7

Precipitation (in inches)
Daily totals — Normal amount

0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00
7/1	7/2	7/3	7/4	7/5	7/6	7/7

Month to date/normal 0.04 / 0.86
Year to date/normal 30.09 / 24.25

LIFE TRIBUTE



Frankie Gallant

July 10, 1938-June 30, 2024

Frankie Joyce Gallant, 85, of Trinity, passed away Sunday, June 30, 2024, at River Pointe Nursing Home in Trinity. She was born July 10, 1938, in the Jones School House Community to parents Frank McKnight Allen and Viola Elizabeth Stapp Allen. She was a member of the Dorcas Wills Baptist Church and loved cooking for her family.

Frankie is survived by sons, Gary Gallant of Trinity, Jerry Gallant and wife, Teresa, of Spring; grandchildren, Amanda Gallant and husband, Chad Brown, of Spring, Dallas Gallant and wife, Cassie, of Magnolia, Ha-leigh Gallant of Spring, and Susannah Haggard of New Mexico; great-grandchildren, Kris Ware, Harper Gallant, and Beckett Gallant; and other loving relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by husband of 66 years, George Edward Gallant; parents, Frank and Viola Allen; sister, Doris Jackson; and brothers, Horace Allen, Harold Allen, Perry Allen, and Bill Allen.

Memorial services for Frankie Joyce Gallant were held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, July 9, at the Callaway-Allee Memorial Chapel with Greg Kitts officiating.

Online condolences may be left at www.callawayallee.com

Callaway-Allee Funeral Home, 700 East Houston Ave. Crockett.

ARREST RECORDS

The following people were arrested by Trinity County law enforcement officials through July 8. All suspects are innocent until convicted in a court of law.

- **Ashly Nichole Baker**, 35, assault on a family member.
- **Smith Lasean Brain**, 23, no driver's license, reckless driving.
- **Jennifer Kay Blackmon**, 49, manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance; abandonment or endangering a child.
- **Matthew Michael Hawkey**, 36, reckless driving.
- **Sean Michael Barrier**, 30, warrants for two counts of burglary of a habitation; warrant for burglary of a building.
- **Talan Shane Hathcock**, 17, public intoxication.
- **Joseph Andre Papuga Jr.**, 32, warrant for theft of property.

- **Logan Mitchel Dechert**, 29, public intoxication.
- **Bryan Patrick Murphy**, 43, warrant for assault causing bodily injury on a family member.
- **Shabocker Delron Rawls**, 48, warrant for criminal non-support of a child.
- **Crystal Shurbet Miller**, 52, warrant for manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance.
- **Kimberly Cheryl Freeman**, 43, warrant for probation violation on a conviction for possession of a controlled substance.
- **Shane Wesley Lord**, 40, warrant for failure to appear on a probation violation on a conviction for driving while intoxicated.
- **Michael Lynn Pyle**, 53, warrant for assault on a family member.
- **Zachary Stevens**, 17, assault.

SENIOR MENUS

July 15-19
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: Meatloaf, lima beans, cabbage, cornbread.

TUESDAY: Barbecue baked potatoes, chopped beef sandwich, corn on the cob, baked beans.

WEDNESDAY: Fried chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, homemade bread.

THURSDAY: Spaghetti, creamed corn, garlic bread.

FRIDAY: Fried fish or chicken tenders, French fries, California blend veg-

etables, baked beans, deviled eggs.

• **Groveton Senior Center** | 936-642-1541

Bread, dessert, fruit, tea, coffee and milk are available.

MONDAY: Steak fingers and gravy, scalloped potatoes, green beans, rolls.

TUESDAY: Chicken and spaghetti, blackeye peas, corn, cornbread.

WEDNESDAY: Chicken and dumplings, cabbage, mixed vegetables, cornbread.

THURSDAY: Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, broccoli with cheese sauce, rolls.

FRIDAY: Fried or baked catfish, French fries, potato salad, coleslaw, pinto beans, hush puppies.



New directors and board members, including San Jacinto County Commissioner Mark Nettuno, are sworn in during the June 27 meeting of the Deep East Texas Council of Governments. COURTESY PHOTO

Prescott Leads DETCOG for 2024-25

Special to the News-Standard

LUFKIN — Polk County Minority Representative Brandon Prescott has been sworn in as the new President of the Deep East Texas Council of Governments and Economic Development District.

The oath of office was administered to Prescott and other DETCOG officers during the organization's Annual Membership and Awards Luncheon held June 27 at the Pitzer Garrison Convention Center in Lufkin.

The other officers for 2024-2025 include San Jacinto County Commissioner Mark Nettuno who is President-Elect, Houston County Judge Jim Lovell serving as Vice President, and Lufkin City Councilman Robert Shankle who is the new Secretary. The immediate Past President, who also serves on the DETCOG Executive Committee, is San Augustine County Judge Jeff Boyd.

"I am excited to begin my year of service as President of DETCOG," Prescott said. "This is

an organization which provides many valuable services to the local governments and citizens of our region. Our goal is to bring people together to improve the lives of the people of this region. It's an honor to serve."

Organized in 1966, DETCOG is both a Regional Planning Commission of the State of Texas and a federally chartered Economic Development District. It serves an 11-county region encompassing all of Angelina, Houston, Nacogdoches, Newton, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity and Tyler counties.

The organization is governed by a 54-member Board of Directors, composed of elected officials of counties and cities, the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, and various other governmental entities in the region. The Board also includes a Minority Representative from each of its 11 counties. Prescott has represented Polk County in that capacity since 2019. He has served as a DETCOG officer for the past three years.

Looking Back
By Marlena Stubblefield
grovetonnews@gmail.com

10 years ago
Fire guts A-frame house on Rainey, occupants safe; Groveton celebrates Independence Day. Obituaries for the week: Joylea McClain, 86 of Groveton and Clarice Ramona Willis, 86, of Onalaska.

20 years ago

Indians rated No. 6 in State Class A; 4th celebration helps fire department; Groveton, Trinity and County population climbs. Obituary for the week: Evelyn Joyce Meshell, 61, of Groveton.

30 years ago
Commissioners restrict topless

clubs; Club manager arrested; Council balks then gives go ahead on backhoe purchase; Polk County man drowns in Neches River. Obituaries for the week: Clyde Young, 82, of Groveton; John Henry Clark, 80, of Carlisle; and Billy Ray Knight, 62, of Kittrell.

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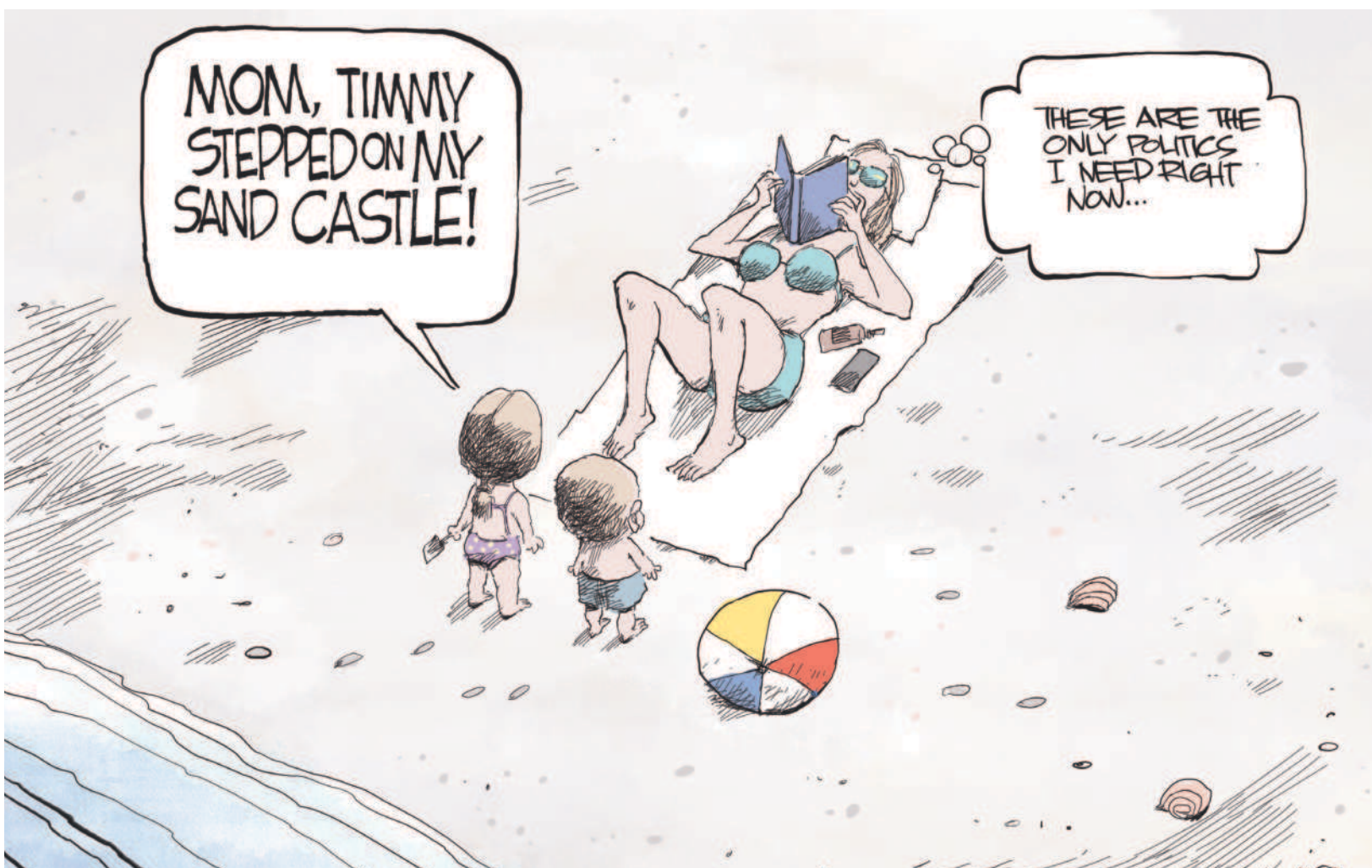
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OPINION



Media almost remembers how to do its job

I'm sure by now you've heard or read about the pretty rotten, awful, horrible performance by President Biden during the televised debate. While my previous column dealt with what was said, this will deal with how it was perceived, particularly in the delivery and what it says about the candidates.

We'll start with the obvious, in that the former president barked and chirped and fired back every time his foibles, both real and perceived, were put on display, because true to form, liberals will attack credibility and propriety when facts just won't do.

While I don't begrudge any man for defending himself against baseless accusations, particularly those that were based on fallacious information, wouldn't the American voters be better served hearing about how their lives will be made better and how problems will be solved?

On the even more obvious side,



My Two Common Sense

By Tony Farkas
tony@polkcountypublishing.com

the sitting president came off like an addled old man, mispronouncing words, jumbling phrases, and claiming accomplishments that were not his while touting victories that didn't exist.

I'm not going to fact-check every claim, because there isn't a point. What I will do is point out that the fallout of that debacle, and the subsequent speeches and interviews, has left the national news media, the supposed cream-of-the-information crop, aghast at Biden's condition.

What has been obvious to many

for the last three years has just landed with a wet thump in the laps of the overly paid talking heads and so-called journalists, and that is the commander-in-chief doesn't really have command of much.

These journalisms are reporting that there are serious issues with the president and are coming off like they've been duped for the majority of his presidency and before. They're also eagerly reporting on how many other similarly uninformed members of both the media and political classes have not only been duped but are now calling for Biden to be replaced.

All of this is being presented to us as if the media has swooped in to be the champions of truth, justice and the American way.

Reporting the truth always was considered a hallmark of government. Even Thomas Jefferson extolled the necessity of a free press, saying that "... were it left to me to

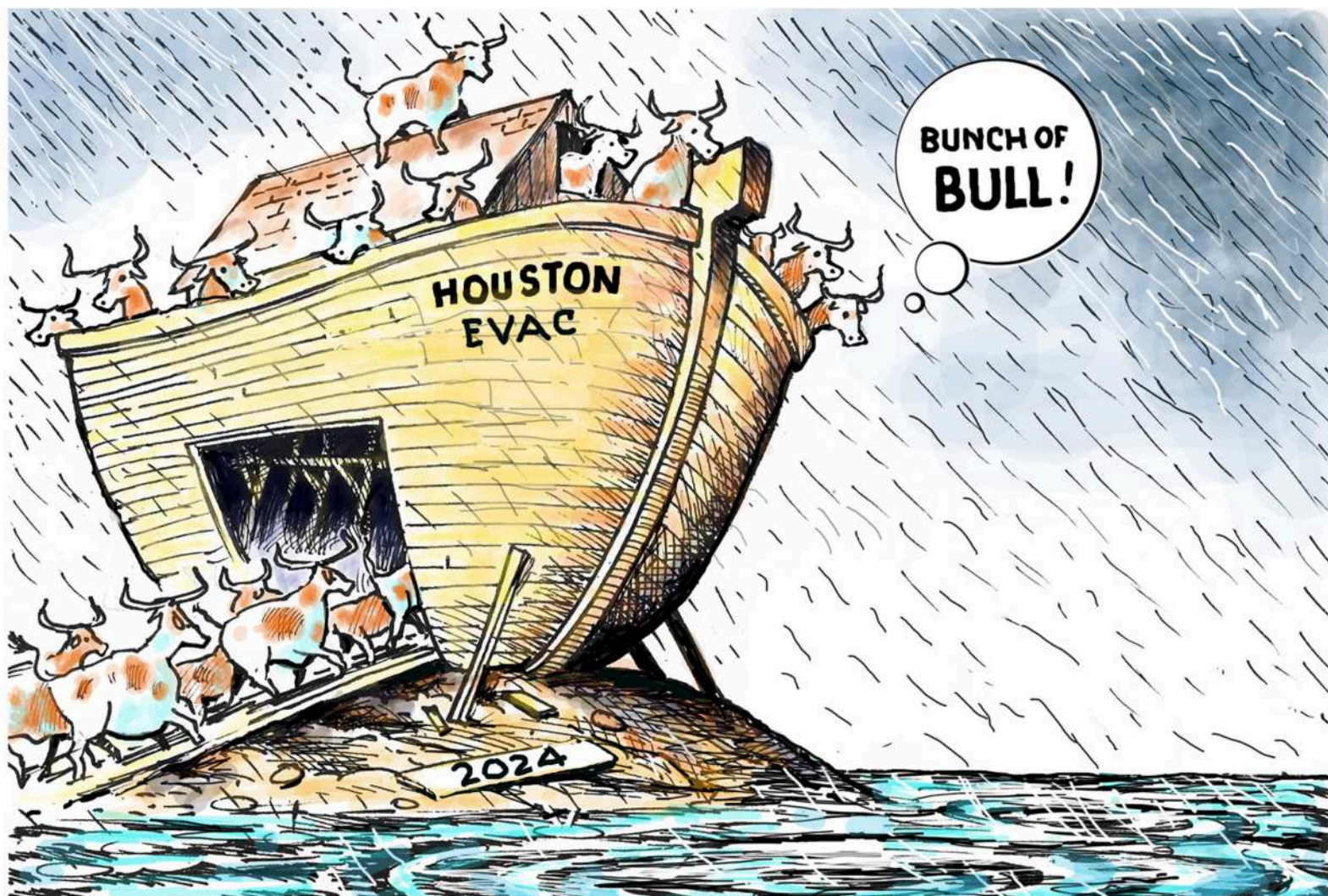
decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

Essentially, news sources, no matter the size, are the watchdogs of government, and because of that, need to be above reproach. Objectivity is a necessity, and most of all fully as truthful as they may be.

Because the alternative is years of bad decisions and crumbling society while we are told that everything is sunshine and puppy dogs.

Or, as Vladimir Lenin said, "The press should be not only a collective propagandist and a collective agitator but also a collective organizer of the masses."

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



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Groveton players named to state team

TCNS staff

GROVETON — Megan Luce and Lexi Easterling of Groveton were named to the Blue Bell/TSWA Class 2A Softball Team.

Easterling received honorable mention as an outfielder, while Luce received honorable mention as utility player.

Blue Bell/Texas Sports Writers Association Class 2A Softball team

First team
Pitchers: Lauren Springfield, Shiner; Bethany Grandgeorge, Beckville; Sidney Castillo, Woodsboro

Catcher: Paeden Vincik, Shiner
First baseman: Rylee Vancura, Shiner

Second baseman: Madi Green, Crawford

Shortstop: Landri Pick, Riesel
Third baseman: Kailey Boedeker,

Shiner
Outfielders: Carissa Fernandez, Floydada; London Minnix, Crawford; Brinley Ramirez, Shiner

Utility: Gaby Martinez, Ralls
DH/DP/Flex: Kalysa Roberts, Linden-Kildare

Player of the year: Vincik, Shiner
Coach of the year: Jason Keller, Shiner

Second team
Pitchers: Alanah Logan, Cross Roads; Kyleigh Benton, Riesel; Taylor Smith, Weimar

Catcher: Bryanna Munoz, Colorado High

First baseman: K'Leigh Williams, Forsan

Second baseman: Kayla Nobles, Overton

Shortstop: Adelynn Siegel, Shiner
Third baseman: Ameilia Meece, Riesel

Outfielders: Brook Locke, Cross Roads; Hailee Janzen, Alvord; Callie

Sevcik, Shiner
Utility: Kennadie Cummins, Clarendon

DH/DP/Flex: Kasha Williams, Overton senior

Third team
Pitchers: Maddie Roach, Forsan; Alexis Grigsby, Timpson; Skyler Ramos, Riviera Kaufer

Catcher: Emily Grandgeorge, Beckville

First baseman: Brittany Morgan, Holland

Second baseman: Ashlyn Jarosek, Thrall

Shortstop: Savanna Pogue, Crawford

Third baseman: Ireland Sutton, Italy

Outfielders: Ary'Anna Mealing, Forsan; Sadie Kasowski, Bremond; Layla Oliver, Riesel

Utility: Sara Henning, Refugio

Honorable mention
Pitchers: Emma Follis, Stamford;

Ella Hudson, Italy; Marlie Rogers, Simms Bowie; Kalyn Ellison, Hawkins; Lanie Bass, Shelbyville; Rylee Spivey, Kerens; Chani Sonntag, Cooper; Lexie Rainey, Como-Pickton; Karis Ginn, Thorndale; Reese Tyron, Tolar; Kelsey Vaught, Overton; Payton Filla, Granger

Catchers: Ryli Williams, Hawkins; Shanna Berryhill, Alto; Allyson Dobbs, Tolar; Addison Monk, Como-Pickton; Kinslee Dowdle, Cumby; Addy Peters, Archer City; Hannah Fisbeck, Weimar; Audrey Miller, Collinsville; Maddie King, Harleton; Carsey Lovell, Shelbyville; Anna Perkins, Overton

First basemen: Bailey Quinn, Beckville; Brooke Sikes, Kerens; Halle Mayfield, Overton; Allyson Mathews, Hawkins

Second basemen: K'Dynce Spegk, Forsan; Brittany Morgan, Holland; Olivia Ramirez, Italy; Montana Moore, Granger

Shortstops: Lexi Barr, Beckville; Dezi Lopez, Thrall; Isabella Romero, Como-Pickton; Ella Horne, Cumby; Jazaelynne Lewis, Refugio; Taetum Smith, Hawkins; Hannah Wall, Linden-Kildare

Third basemen: Kaycee Neville, Linden-Kildare; Izzy Reeves, Weimar; Gracey Struwe, Beckville; Maggie Hess, Muenster; Gracie Thompson, Como-Pickton; Gabby Spears, Mart; Harly Pence, Cumby

Outfielders: Charles Padilla, Italy; Saylor Smith, Como-Pickton; Paisley Watkins, Como-Pickton; Melissa DeLeon, Refugio; Kadee Pettit, Cumby; Lexi Easterling, Groveton; Serenity Canady, Honey Grove

Utility: Tandie Cummins, Clarendon; Megan Luce, Groveton; Daylee Fite, North Hopkins; Jackie Earley, Johnson City; Brenley Kelso, Holland; Jaycee Yezak, Bremond; Kinley Tillery, Schulenburg; Cedie Wills, Refugio

Regulation, policy purview of interim committee

Our region of Texas is all too familiar with the impacts of hurricane season. With Hurricane Beryl moving west across the Caribbean, the Texas Division of Emergency Management is urging Texans to keep a close eye on the Gulf, heed local officials' warnings, and have a plan in place should tropical weather reach Deep East Texas.

I want to reiterate TDEM's call for preparedness which includes staying informed, monitoring local weather forecasts, having an emergency plan, and preparing an emergency kit.

The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) recommends that you prioritize acquiring non-perishable food, water, and essential supplies for your emergency kit. You can find DSHS's Disaster Supply Checklist at <https://texasready.gov/build-a-kit/disaster-supply-checklist.html> to ensure that you and your loved ones are ready for any disaster that may occur.

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

Ashby Briefings

By Trent Ashby
District 9 Representative



charges.

State Affairs

The House Committee on State Affairs has jurisdiction over all matters relating to state policy, the regulation of electric utilities and the electric industry, cybersecurity, telecommunications utilities, and many other important issues that affect our state.

The Committee also oversees many state agencies, such as the Public Utilities Commission, the Texas Ethics Commission, and the Department of Information Resources.

The Committee has been charged with monitoring the implementation of five important bills passed during the 2023 Legislative Session, includ-

ing SB 1699, HB 2555, HB 5174, SB 2627, and HB 9.

SB 1699 allowed distributed energy resources, which are small-scale power generators such as home solar panels, small wind farms, or backup natural gas generators, to become part of the ERCOT grid system to provide more power to the grid.

HB 2555 allows electric utilities to formulate and file resiliency plans with the Public Utility Commission to plan for extreme weather events that may impact electric services. HB 5174 established the Texas Semiconductor Innovation Consortium to formulate a strategic long-term plan for research, design, and manufacturing of semiconductors in Texas.

SB 2627 created the Texas Energy Fund, which set aside \$5 billion for low-interest loans to construct new power plants, which we desperately need. The bill also allocated funds to repair existing power plants, fortify the grid around hospitals, and upgrade grid infrastructure outside of

the ERCOT service area.

HB 9 created the Texas Broadband Infrastructure Fund, which allocated \$1.5 billion to expand broadband internet services to the nearly 7 million Texans who currently lack reliable home internet access. I was proud to author HB 9 and pass it through the Legislature, and I was equally pleased to see voters overwhelmingly approve the program in the November constitutional election.

Additionally, the Committee is charged with reviewing how state agencies have carried out Operation Lone Star along our southern border and make recommendations on how to increase the safety and well-being of our military and agency personnel, as well as the overall efficiency of our border security operations.

The Committee is also charged with reviewing the operation and funding of the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association and evaluating the ability of state agencies to secure

the Texas coast's ability to produce energy while maintaining adequate coverage for policyholders.

Finally, the Committee is tasked with evaluating the findings of the Investigative Committee on the Panhandle Wildfires and developing legislative solutions for preventing future wildfires and improving wildfire mitigation, preparedness, and response.

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.

Brookshire Brothers matching bag donations

Special to the News-Times

LUFKIN — Brookshire Brothers has a special initiative in celebration of National Paper Bag Day on Friday.

On this day, Brookshire Brothers will match every donation made to the Brown Bag of Hope program, doubling the impact of community contributions and extending much-needed support to local families in need.

The Brown Bag of Hope program, a vital community outreach effort, provides essential, shelf-stable groceries to families facing food insecurity. For just \$10, customers can participate in this special initiative by purchasing a Brown Bag of Hope at any Brookshire Brothers location.

Each bag contains a selection of nutritious food items to provide immediate relief to families in need. With the generous support of Brookshire Brothers, this matching campaign aims to amplify the spirit of giving and ensure that more families receive the help they need during challenging times.

"Our stores distribute the bags to local schools, nonprofits, and others within their own communities," said Brookshire Brothers Public Relations & Corporate Responsibility Manager Melissa Crager. "As a company, we believe in the power of community and the importance of giving back, and by matching all donations on National Paper Bag Day, we hope to inspire our customers and partners to join us in making a meaningful difference in the lives of our neighbors. With so many residents impacted by Hurricane Beryl, these donations are more critical than ever."

The regional grocery chain is celebrating its third annual Brown Bag of Hope matching day. With the help of their customers last year, Brookshire Brothers gave away 478 bags of food company-wide with the potential to feed nearly 2,000 people. Shoppers are encouraged to visit their local store on July 12 to learn more about the program and make a donation.

For more information about the Brown Bag of Hope program, visit BrookshireBrothers.com/brown-bag-of-hope or ask your local store cashier.




Grocery donations will be doubled by the Lufkin-based grocer Brookshire Brothers on Friday. COURTESY PHOTO

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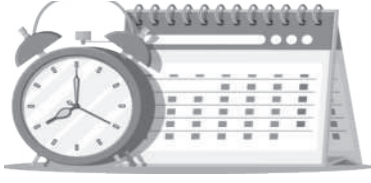


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At Sam Houston EC, we are active members of our community. We take pride in serving our members and going the extra mile in everything we do.

AREA DIGEST



Fundraiser set

The SAAFE House annual Dem- and Diamonds bingo fundraiser set for Saturday has been moved to Aug. 10 because of the damage from Hurricane Beryl.

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. and 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, Shelby at (936) 284-5580 or Tammy at (936) 284-5547 to purchase tickets or tables, to donate, or to become a sponsor.

No-cost meals

The Houston Food Bank will be at the Blanche K. Werner Library in Trinity on several Saturdays from 11

a.m.-1 p.m. Those days are July 13, 20 and 27 and Aug. 3.

This is for all children 18 years and younger. If your child is not present, you must bring proof that you are the parent or guardian. Examples of this are an official letter or email from school enrollment, student ID cards, report cards, attendance record, birth certificate, or state ID.

Each child will be provided with a bundle that includes breakfast and lunch for 5 days, while supplies last.

Veterans event set

The Huntsville Elks Lodge 1981 is hosting a veterans' barbecue and bingo to raise awareness of suicide and post-traumatic stress disorder.

The event is set for 2 p.m. Aug. 17 at the Huntsville lodge, 3206 Elks Drive.

The event is an educational opportunity to help veterans and their families, and will feature food, fun and games and guest speakers.

For information, call (936) 296-2881 or text Irene at (281) 928-8382.

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@trinityco.com, message our Facebook page or text (281)

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 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.

Proposed fed rule would protect workers from extreme heat

A year after a new state law ended mandatory water breaks in Texas, a proposed federal rule would protect millions of workers from the risks caused by extreme heat, The Texas Tribune reported.

The rule would require employers to create plans to prevent heat injuries and illnesses and ensure workers get access to drinking water, rest breaks and control of indoor heat. It would apply to all employers whose businesses are under the jurisdiction of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Last year, Texas legislators passed House Bill 2127, which barred cities and counties from passing ordinances that go farther than state law in a number of areas, including labor regulations. That measure eliminated ordinances in Austin and Dallas that mandated water breaks for construction workers, The Tribune reported.

"Greg Abbott tried to take rest breaks away from everyday Texans, but now we're one step closer to securing heat protections for all Americans on the job," U.S. Rep. Greg Casar, D-Austin, said last week. "Employers can adopt OSHA's proposed rule and protect their workers today."

The proposed rule still has to go through the regulatory approval process. It likely will face opposition from industry groups.

AG's office must collect fines from its boss

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton owes the state of Texas more than

\$11,000 in fines for filing late campaign finance reports, and the office



Capitol Highlights

By Gary Borders Texas Press Association

he heads is now charged with collecting the money, the Houston Chronicle reported.

The Texas Ethics Commission referred Paxton's unpaid fines to the attorney general's office in April, according to public records. Paxton is not the only elected official who owes the state for campaign violation fines. Hundreds of candidates and elected officials together owe the state more than \$700,000. His office has declined to sue to collect the unpaid fines, according to the Chronicle.

The executive director of Common Cause, a watchdog group, called the situation a clear conflict of interest.

"If I didn't pay a parking ticket and incurred a fine as a penalty, most Texans would find it absurd if I also got to review my fine and have a role in deciding whether any action should be taken to collect that fine," Anthony Gutierrez said.

The office has only filed one lawsuit against a public official who owes ethics fines since September 2023.

Abbott's border wall decades away from completion

The state-funded border wall announced by Gov. Greg Abbott three years ago is proceeding at about a half mile a week, The Tribune reported. At that rate, completion of the wall along the state's 1,254-mile border will take about 30 years and cost around \$20 billion to complete. Thus far, 34 miles of wall have been completed at a price tag of about \$25 million per mile.

State lawmakers thus far have approved more than \$3 billion for the wall, out of the \$11 billion allocated for the border crackdown known as Operation Lone Star. The remainder of the money has gone to sending state troopers and National Guard soldiers to the border, as well as transporting migrants to Democrat-controlled cities outside of Texas.

Some Republicans are expressing concern about the rising costs of the wall.

"I am, too, concerned that we're spending a whole lot of money to give the appearance of doing something rather than taking the problem on to actually solve it, and until we do that, I don't expect to see much happen," state Sen. Bob Hall, R-Edgewood.

Abbott's office did not respond to a request for comment.

TxDOT asks for feedback on 10-year plan

The Texas Department of Transportation is seeking input on a proposed 10-year plan that proposes spending a record \$104.2 billion for transporta-

tion to improve safety, address congestion and improve roadways.

The plan also addresses public transportation, maritime, aviation, rail, freight and international trade, and bicycle and pedestrian connectivity, according to TxDOT.

The Unified Transportation Program is updated annually and serves as the agency's 10-year blueprint for statewide projects.

"Collaborating with our transportation partners and communities ensures that we continue connecting you with Texas while prioritizing safety, delivery, innovation and stewardship," said Marc Williams, TxDOT executive director.

The comment period is underway and ends on Aug. 5. To learn about different ways to comment, go to: https://www.txdot.gov/projects/planning/utp/utp-public-involvement.html.

Report: Weed is essentially legal in Texas

A Texas Monthly investigation into eight hemp dispensaries across the state found that all were selling cannabis with potent levels of THC, the psychoactive compound still considered illegal in Texas beyond low levels.

In 2018, the Farm Bill passed by Congress said cannabis plants with less than 0.3 percent delta-9 THC is considered hemp and not restricted under the Federal Controlled Substances Act. Texas adopted these standards the following year, making hemp legal in the state. That resulted in hemp dispensaries sprouting across the state.

Russell Gold with Texas Monthly told the Texas Standard that samples purchased at dispensaries across the state were sent off for testing.

"The lowest amount of THC we found was nine times the legal limit, but we actually purchased some that was 40 times the legal limit," Gold said. "And what that means is that this isn't hemp. It is marijuana by any definition."

Gold said he was unaware of any dispensary in the state being shut down for selling what is essentially cannabis.

"I mean, there are penalties because they're not supposed to, but nobody's paying attention," he said.

Shark attack injures 4 on the Fourth at South Padre

Four people were injured after a shark attack on South Padre Island, the Austin American-Statesman reported. A news release from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department said two people were bitten and two slightly injured when encountering the shark.

Authorities believe a single shark was behind all four incidents, occurring over two hours. Such attacks are rare, with 36 reported last year in the United States, according to the University of Florida's Shark Attack File.

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.

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Grilling the perfect steak



I absolutely love steak, regardless if it's from the back strap of a whitetail or loin of grain-fed beef but there are vast differences in the way each is cooked, or I might say the way each should be cooked. I'm referring to grilled steaks here, not chicken fried.

Tenderness and fat or marbling is the primary difference between venison and beef. Beef are fattened but deer use all their muscles for survival and their meat is naturally not as tender. All fat must be removed from that thick cut venison back strap steak. Fat is what gives venison that gamey flavor some folks complain about. Remove all fat from venison, regardless of how you plan to prepare it.

On the other hand, fat is a good thing with beef, it's what keeps the steak moist when cooking and adds a great deal of flavor. I must add a disclaimer here in the beginning: I like steaks — all type of steaks — well done. Not charred but cooked to the point there can only be a trace of pink in the center of the steak. I fully understand why the majority of hunters want their grilled back strap steaks cooked medium rare or even rare. Without the fat to marble the venison steak when cooking over a very hot fire of charcoal or wood, it becomes as tough as a boot, yes even the back strap or inner loin steaks which are the most tender cut of the deer would become tough if cooked well done directly over coals.

A couple weeks ago, I bought several pounds of sirloin steak at a very good price. My wife loves

grilled steak and so do I, but I happen to have a supply of venison back strap in the freezer that I wanted to cook along with the sirloin. As most know, sirloin is not the most tender cut of beef. Oh, it's tasty when grilled over coals but also a bit chewy.

I have a method of grilling less than tender cuts of beef or venison back strap that makes both not only well done and flavorful but tender as well. I cut my venison steaks about three quarter inch thick and dust them liberally with garlic powder, salt and coarse ground black pepper. The sirloin beef steak is seasoned the same and both are placed into a freezer bag in the frig for a couple days to marinate. I add a bit of Louisiana Hot Sauce to help distribute the dry seasonings.

I like a bit of smoke flavor on grilled steaks and put the steaks over a charcoal or wood embers until almost done to my liking. If cooking with wood, make sure and let the fire burn down to embers before putting the steaks on to cook, this will avoid getting too much smoke on the steaks.

Next, I finely chop several garlic cloves and heat some cooking oil and butter in my cast iron skillet. Butter alone will scorch when exposed to high heat and the oil seems to allow the steaks to finish cooking without charring. I'll begin at medium temperature and sear the steaks on both sides then add the diced pieces of garlic and flip the steaks to insure garlic is thoroughly distributed on both sides.

When the steaks are seared on both sides, it's time to place a lid on the skillet and turn the heat down very low. Let the meat simmer for 20 minutes or so, this will further help tenderize it. After this slow cooking period, remove the lid, turn the heat back up and again sear each side of the steak.

I always reserve a bit of the garlic butter to drizzle over the steak before serving. I'm not saying steaks cooked in this manner are



These 'tougher' cuts of steak have been grilled over hot coals until medium well and now are being finished in a cast iron skillet with butter and fresh garlic. Thirty minutes of slow heat will make them tender, and the butter will ensure they don't dry out. PHOTO BY LUKE CLAYTON

as tender as a choice ribeye, but they are very flavorful and much, much more affordable. Obviously, if you like your steaks rare or medium rare, this is not the method for you.

Slow cooking in moisture is the key to making tougher cuts of meat tender and this method uses butter and a bit of oil to do the trick. The finished product is a well-done and tender steak. Through the years, this is the only way I've found to tenderize grilled venison. But if you like venison rare, simply pull your steak off the grill when it reaches the desired doneness.

I've watched many of my friends cook their venison at camp in this manner. Ole' Luke always has his cast iron skillet handy with some butter and garlic and after the steak gets a bit of wood smoke flavor, off the grill and into the skillet it goes.

I also love chicken fried venison

and use the same marinade as when I'm grilling. A couple days marinating in the fridge works wonders on venison regardless if you're using ham steak or back strap.

I always tenderize steak I use for the chicken fry method. This can be accomplished many ways, everything from scoring with a sharp knife to running the meat through a tenderizer works. Some cooks dip the steak in egg and milk then into flour twice before frying but I prefer a lighter batter. I simply lightly season flour and thoroughly coat each of the side of the steak. The trick, just like when frying fish, is to have the oil really hot but not smoking. It only takes 6 or 8 minutes to chicken fry a venison steak to the point that the crust is crunchy and the meat well done.

Chicken fried venison is the perfect candidate for a liberal amount of cream gravy and rice served on

the side. After the steaks have been cooked, remove most of the cooking oil but not all, leave enough to moisten a few tablespoons of flour and be sure to leave the little bits of browned flour, they add a lot of flavor to the gravy. Stir the flour constantly for a few minutes to make the roux or gravy. I like to season with a bit more coarsely ground pepper and salt to taste then stir in milk or water to finish the gravy.

If you're at camp, canned milk is much easier to work with and the flavor is excellent. Served with some hot homemade biscuits, this is a meal fit for a king or queen, regardless if cooked at camp or home.

Email Luke through his website www.catfishradio.org and check out his radio show on many radio stations across the state or listen to his weekly podcast Catfish Radio with Luke Clayton and Friends wherever podcast are heard.

Pineywoods Region Week of July 3, 2024

B.A. Steinhagen

FAIR. Water stain; 75 degrees; 0.01 feet above pool. Anticipate increased recreational boater traffic for the Fourth of July holiday weekend. Bass are good on soft plastics in the cuts, or with frogs over grass. Crappie are good with jigs in flooded timber. Catfish are fair.

Bob Sandlin

GOOD. Water slightly stained; 89 degrees; 0.01 feet above pool. Anticipate increased recreational boater traffic for the Fourth of July holiday weekend. Channel catfish are excellent in 20-25 feet of water on baited holes with stinkbait. Crappie are good on brush piles and standing timber in 25-30 feet of water with jigs or minnows. White bass are schooling on the main lake in 35-40 feet of water. Report by Joey Crews, Lake Bob Sandlin Chubby Chaser Guide Service. Black bass should be receptive to topwater frogs in shad or bream patterns, and clouser type baits around grass and retaining walls. Bream are slow with water clarity and high water is not good. Report by Guide Alex Guthrie, Fly Fish Fork Guide Service. Bass are good on points in 18-22 feet of water using deep water baits. Deep diving crankbaits, dropshots and Texas rigs. Night fishing has the best bite and is an escape from the heat and recreational boaters. Report by Mike Stroman, R & R Marine.

Caddo

FAIR. Water stained; 80 degrees; 1.12 feet above pool. Anticipate increased recreational boater traffic for the Fourth of July holiday weekend. Caddo is really looking good and healthy after the wet spring. The lake level is still up a little with some current still flowing down the river, but it is not in a flood stage so it is safe to navigate and fish. Bass are starting to school and can be caught on top waters, flukes, Texas rigs or dropshot worms and even rattle traps. The frog bite, choppo or buzz bait bite is starting to produce some giants as it does every July and August around lily pads, grass and trees. You will not get numbers of bites but the ones you do will be big. Water is clearing nicely on the main lake but is still little stained near the river with all the current. July on Caddo Lake is beautiful every year, so prepare for amazing sunrises and sunsets when you come to fish this majestic lake that God spoke into existence. Report provided by Vince Richards, Caddo Lake Fishing & Fellowship.

Conroe

GOOD. Water slightly stained; 89 degrees; 0.65 feet above pool. Anticipate increased recreational boater traffic for the Fourth of July holiday weekend. Largemouth bass fishing is good flipping under docks and around bluegill beds. Bigger fish are related to offshore structure and brush-piles. Texas Rigs, Carolina Rigs, and Crank-baits are still catching them. Report by Roy Crush IV Fishing. Catfish are great and near the end of their spawning patterns. With afternoon surface temperatures around 93 degrees, it appears that the dog days of summer have arrived. Report by Brad Doyle with Bradley's Guide Service. Some hybrids are scattered while some are schooling in 19-26 feet biting live bait, jigging with a spoon, or trolling with



a deep diver with a pet spoon as a trailer. Crappie are in or around structure 12-21 feet using minnows or jigs. Hair jigs are outproducing plastics. Always wear your life jacket and stay hydrated in this heat. Happy July 4th! Report by Mike Cason, Fishal Therapy.

Fork

GOOD. Water Stained; 81 degrees; 0.05 feet above pool. Anticipate increased recreational boater traffic for the Fourth of July holiday weekend. Bass are good shallow in the mornings on chatterbaits and flukes until about an hour after sunrise. Then there is a decent bite in 5-8 feet on crankbaits and light Carolina rigs. High spots are best with deeper water close by. June bug or green pumpkin are best on plastics and bream pattern square bills in a 2.5 are best. Offshore the bite continues to improve, if you can find the group of fish that wants to bite. Target humps, roadbeds, and long points in 18-25 feet of water with Carolina rigs with big worms. Blue fleck or watermelon red are best. Crankbaits are still good over deeper points. Report by Marc Mitchell, Lake Fork Guide Service. Black bass are chasing topwater patterns early in the day and later in the day when it is dark. Check out the brush piles as big bass are using them to feed on crappie. Bream are excellent in the shallows on wooly buggers and small poppers. Report by Guide Alex Guthrie, Fly Fish Fork Guide Service. Lake Fork crappie fishing continues to be excellent going into the dog days of summer. Fish are in all the places they should be for this time of year. Look for crappie holding on brush piles, summer time trees, lay downs, bridges and docks. You can find fish in 14-30 feet right now but it seems like those fish will be above 14-16 feet as that is where the thermocline is showing up. One of the biggest keys to loading the boat with crappie has been finding the fish that haven't been pressured as much. We are still having a lot of success with very small hand tied jigs in 1/16 ounce. Cut the tails down shorter to get those finicky bites to hook up. Minnows are producing bites but it seems the hook up ratio is much lower and we end up losing a lot of minnows to those finicky fish. Soft plastics will work on the more aggressive crappie too. Staying off huge groups of fish, pitching and swimming jigs will also help to keep those fish put a little longer. If you get the boat right over fish with the really bright sunny skies they will move off most times and relocate. Report by Jacky Wiggins, Jacky Wiggins Guide Service.

Houston County

GOOD. Water stained; 80 degrees; 0.05 feet above pool. Anticipate increased recreational boater traffic for the Fourth of July holiday weekend. Largemouth bass

are hitting square bill crankbaits or shaky heads on docks, and swim jigs in shallow water around vegetation. Crappie are on minnows around standing timber and offshore brush in 8-14 feet. Report by Colan Gonzales, CG's Just Fishing Guide Service.

Lake O' the Pines

GOOD. Water stained; 87 degrees; 2.75 feet above pool. Anticipate increased recreational boater traffic for the Fourth of July holiday weekend. Channel catfish are good in 15-20 feet of water in the bridge shade. Crappie are good in 16-25 feet in standing timber with minnows on a cork. Report by Joey Crews, Lake Bob Sandlin Chubby Chaser Guide Service. Bass are good in the bushes along the banks pitching Texas rigged worms and jigs, or wacky rigs. Bass are good on brush piles on points on the south end of the lake in 15-25 feet of water with deep running crankbaits, jigs, wacky worms and Texas rigs. The north end of the lake is producing catches on the grass and bushes. Report by Mike Stroman, R & R Marine.

Livingston

GOOD. Stained; 87 degrees; 0.14 feet below pool. Anticipate increased recreational boater traffic for the Fourth of July holiday weekend. The bite is as good as it gets! White bass have been schooling and have been mainly in 10-20 feet of water. Report by Michael Richardson, Lake Livingston Adventures.

Martin Creek

GOOD. Water slightly stained; 101 degrees; 0.31 feet below pool. Anticipate increased recreational boater traffic for the Fourth of July holiday weekend. The water temperature is 101 degrees mid lake. Bass are good targeting the edge of the hydrilla around points at night and early morning. Weightless senkos and Texas rigged worms with 1/8 ounce weights are catching fish. Crappie are good in 20-28 feet on brush and standing timber with fish suspended around 15 feet. Minnows and electric chicken pintail jigs are catching fish. Seeing many jug lines out for catfish from 8-20 feet of water using live bait. Report by Hambone Guide Service.

Nacogdoches

GOOD. Water stained; 90 degrees; 0.49 feet below pool. Anticipate increased recreational boater traffic for the Fourth of July holiday weekend. Largemouth bass are good on Carolina rigs and dropshots in 18 feet of water. Crappie are good on brush piles with live minnows or natural colored crappie jigs. Catfish are slow on cut bait and live minnows. Report by Cal Cameron, Cal's ETX Guide Service.

Nacogdoches

FAIR. Water slightly stained; 90 degrees; 0.50 feet above full pool. Anticipate increased recreational boater traffic for the Fourth of July holiday weekend. The heat is on so the fish should be in full summer mode. Keep an eye on the thermocline. This tells you the exact depth to present your offering. Even over deep water, don't go below this line. Found quality bass holding tight to submerged timber with a Texas rigged Mag-worm. The days of Mag-worm fishing are probably here for the next several months. This is a common approach, so do not be afraid to do something different like Tokyo-rig instead. If you catch them schooling, chunk an underspin at them. Crappie population is good. Catfish are slow. Report by Eric

Wolfe, NacoTack Fishing Services Report by Eric Wolfe, NacoTack Fishing Services. Largemouth bass are excellent on Carolina rigs and large swimbaits. Crappie are slow on live minnows. Catfish are slow on cut bait. Report by Cal Cameron, Cal's ETX Guide Service.

Pinkston

FAIR. normal stain; 89 degrees. Anticipate increased recreational boater traffic for the Fourth of July holiday weekend. Largemouth bass are excellent with large glide baits and 3 inch shad colored swimbaits. Crappie are slow on live minnows on standing timber and brush piles. Catfish are slow on cut bait. Report by Cal Cameron, Cal's ETX Guide Service.

Sam Rayburn

GOOD. Water stained; 90 degrees; 6.56 feet above pool. Anticipate increased recreational boater traffic for the Fourth of July holiday weekend. Water level is slowly dropping, but fishing conditions and patterns are holding steady. Summer bite is just around the corner when we will see the bass draw to deeper water points and white bass schooling. Bass are good on topwaters, or flipping soft plastics into submerged brush and points, or deeper humps and points with Carolina rigs. Crappie are in 12-16 feet of water, 20-30 feet on timber and brush. Catfish are in 22 feet of water in the creek channels. White bass are in 26 feet of water off of points on jigging spoons. Report by Captain Lynn Atkinson, Reel Um N Guide Service. Water temperatures are rapidly rising to the mid 90s. Thermocline is 15-25 feet of water depending on where you are in the lake. Morning until 10 a.m or after 3 p.m. Largemouth bass are good on submerged main lake points and ledges in 16-24 feet of water with crankbaits, jig head minnow or Carolina rig. Report by Hank Harrison, Double H Precision Fishing.

Toledo Bend

GOOD. Water slightly stained; 92 degrees; 0.27 feet below pool. Anticipate increased recreational boater traffic for the Fourth of July holiday weekend. Fishing patterns are holding steady with a tougher bite this week. Bass are good shallow to deep all over the lake however you like to fish. The best baits for shallow water are frogs, pop r's, buzz baits and senko. The mid range fish are good on Texas rig and mid running crankbait in 8-12 feet range. The deep fish are coming on big crankbaits, Texas rigs and Carolina rigs. With the full moon coming, the night fishing will be back on fire with buzz baits and spinnerbaits around the shallow water. Watch for snakes in the flooded bushes at night. Crappie are fair while there continues to be a current from the influx of freshwater coming down the lake. Fish deep docks and lighted docks at night and shallow brush piles with jigs and live bait. Thanks Report by Stephen Johnston, Johnston Fishing.

Tyler

GOOD. Water stained; 80 degrees; 0.07 feet full pool. Anticipate increased recreational boater traffic for the Fourth of July holiday weekend. Crappie are good using minnows and jigs on brush in 16 feet of water. Catfish are good all over the lake on shrimp, and liver. Bream are over on red worms off the barge and throughout the lake. Bass are good on crankbaits, plastic worms and topwater frogs.

Hurricane readiness procedures activated

Special to the News-Standard

AUSTIN — Texas Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, M.D., announced that the Texas General Land Office is monitoring storm conditions and activated several storm readiness procedures in anticipation of Hurricane Beryl.

Heavy rain from the hurricane could cause flooding. Texans should monitor weather advisories and avoid driving or walking in flooded areas.

“The GLO’s disaster response teams are preparing to help Texas respond to the damage Hurricane Beryl brings to our shores,” said Commissioner Buckingham. “The GLO’s Coastal Protection, Disaster Recovery and Mitigation, Oil Spill Prevention and

Response, and Storm Team staff are continuing to monitor potential impacts to the Texas Coast. The Texas General Land Office has elevated the readiness of all divisions to assist Texas communities in the storm’s path and provide information on resources available to assist. I urge all Texans to take the appropriate precautions to keep your family and neighbors safe including remaining alert to local weather predictions and heeding warnings from local officials.”

The GLO has activated readiness and response procedures across all divisions of the agency:

- The GLO’s Oil Spill Prevention and Response team has been coordinating with local disaster districts and is preparing to deploy resources in affected coastal communities.

- The GLO’s Natural Disaster Operational Workgroup (NDOW) team members have been placed on standby and are preparing for activation.

- The GLO’s geospatial team is analyzing potential storm impact and providing predictive analysis for possible equipment deployment.

- GLO Storm Team is embedded at the Texas Division of Emergency Management’s State Operations Center.

- The GLO’s Disaster Recovery and Mitigation team is engaged with federal counterparts regarding potential disaster housing operations.

- The GLO’s Coastal Protection division is preparing to conduct damage assessments along beaches in the impact area to characterize erosion/accretion, debris documen-

tion, damage to structures, accessibility, utilities, environmental damage, and emergency needs.

- The GLO’s Debris Removal Unit is preparing and revising its debris removal strategy for potential implementation as needed.

- The GLO’s Veterans Land Board is initiating preparedness measures for Texas State Veterans Homes and Cemeteries. Decisions about evacuation and closures will be communicated to residents and families should they be initiated.

The GLO has prepositioned contracts in place in anticipation of potential disaster recovery needs. The agency is coordinating with local officials in the storm’s path as well as state and federal partners to ensure all preparedness and response measures are in place prior to landfall.

Texas drawn hunt program opens applications

Special to the News-Standard

AUSTIN — Hunters will have new opportunities and scenery this fall through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department’s drawn hunt permits program.

The program, which issues permits for drawn hunts on both public and private lands throughout Texas, is now accepting applications for a shot at nearly 9,400 permits in more than 60 high-quality hunt categories.

“The opportunities offered through our online Public Hunt Draw System give hunters a tremendous variety to hunt and see Texas at an affordable cost” said Kelly Edmiston, TPWD public hunting coordinator. “Throughout the state, we have seen lack of access to land being a major barrier of entry for folks interested in hunting. The public hunt program gives everyone an opportunity to hunt without the costly investment.”

Among the offerings available through the Texas Public Drawn Hunts system: hunts for white-tailed and mule

deer, pronghorn, turkey, alligator and dove, plus guided packages for exotic species and bighorn sheep. There were 292,000 applications last year.

Applicants for e-Postcard hunts and U.S. Forest Service Antlerless Deer Permits must have a current Annual Public Hunt Permit to apply. APH permits go on sale annually on Aug. 15. Last year, the sale of 58,417 APH permits generated approximately \$2.7 million in revenue for wildlife conservation and public hunting opportunities.

The Drawn Hunts Catalog interactive map shows all drawn hunt opportunities by category or by area. All applications, fee payments and permit issuance are handled electronically. To participate, applicants will need internet access, an email address and a credit or debit card. The customer ID number from the applicant’s hunting or fishing license is the most effective way to access the system.

Application fees range from free to \$3 or \$10, depending on the hunt category. Adult hunters who are selected

may need to pay a special permit fee of \$80 for regular hunts and \$130 for extended hunts. Some categories, such as the youth-only hunts, require no application fees or permit fees. Permits are open to resident and non-resident hunters alike.

Application deadlines are the 1st and 15th of each month between Aug. 1 and Nov. 1. Aug. 1 is the deadline for all alligator hunt categories and private lands dove hunts. Aug. 15 is the deadline for archery deer, archery mule deer, pronghorn, private land pronghorn and javelina.

A full list of category deadlines can be found on the Drawn Hunts Deadlines webpage. Hunters can apply until 11:59 p.m. (CDT) on the application deadline. Applicants can check their drawing status online at any time.

For more information or to start the application process, visit TPWD Drawn Hunts. For questions, contact hunt@tpwd.texas.gov or call (512) 389-4505 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

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A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches. Proverbs 22:1

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Lions Club member David Robison sets up the night's activities. PHOTOS BY TONY FARKAS



The first tug of war involved the youngest generation of Groveton residents.



Nathan James (left) and Lions Club member Garry Brown lay down smooth music at the Groveton Independence Day Celebration on Thursday.



Fireworks light up the air above and the water below during the display at the Groveton Independence Day Celebration.



Trinity residents get prime viewing for the fireworks on Friday.



It was a bright night on Friday in Trinity as the town celebrated the nation's independence.



Six-year-old Kali Richardson, daughter of Krystal and Kyle Richardson, shows off her patriotic light saber skills before the Trinity fireworks



Fireworks form a "monster" of liberty during the Friday Trinity celebration.

Preparations for 'big' homecoming under way

We were so excited to present more than \$80,000 in scholarships to our Groveton graduates and college students on May 24. It was an exciting night, and we look forward to the fall semester for our Ex-Student's recipients.

We give them our best wishes as they move toward achieving their college degrees. Our treasurer is in the process of submitting checks to the colleges that our students are attending. They will be ready for the semester and achieving their goals. Go, Big Red.

•We are preparing for homecoming 2024. The first part of that process will be asking for nominations of worthy persons for our Groveton Ex-Students Distinguished Students Hall of Fame. Please find the process delineated below and on the GSD website where you can find the nomination information.

The form is available at grovetonisd.net/ex-students then click on Our District then Ex-Students. You can type directly on the form. We thank Jack and Liz Ledbetter for their assistance in making this available in one place. Deadline for nominations is July 31.

The homecoming game for this year will be played on Sept. 27. A detailed schedule of all events will be mailed to our roster of members. This year is "big" homecoming. We will play Frankston and we will have lots of activities planned for the weekend. We will be asking for input from the school and community to determine a theme as we get closer to the event.

Please plan a reunion/class meeting to catch up with your classmates from days gone by. Kathleen and the staff at GHS will reserve a room for your class to meet.

A complete, detailed schedule for homecoming will be developed and mailed as time gets closer. A Smoke Signal publication will be created, chronicling the highlights of GHS and homecoming. We will be selling ads so that we can create a great publication for the 2024 homecoming celebration. Watch for Marlana and me peddling ads.

The Ex-Students Association will welcome you at registration on the morning of Sept. 27 in the old gym, and it is a great opportunity to visit with other graduates as they come and go during the day. The pep rally will be that afternoon and we will have our biennial business meeting at 3 p.m. that day. The classes of 1960-1964 will meet at 4 p.m. in the Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.

If you plan a class meeting, let me or Kathleen know, and I will include it in the schedule. That night, the homecoming queen will be crowned, and an after-game dance will be held in downtown Groveton. It is a fun time. Please come and enjoy the events of homecoming.

On the following Saturday, we will sponsor a homecoming parade. There will be lots of floats and fun for everyone. Winners will earn cash prizes. That afternoon, we will hold an induction reception for those honored as Hall of Fame recipients. Those people will be determined through the nomination process included in this article. A committee will meet, review applications, and select honorees. We will celebrate them on Saturday afternoon in the Old Gym.

If you have questions about how to nominate a deserving person, please see the information reported in this article or call me at (936) 537-1969. I'll be glad to help.

Please be aware that the writers of the By-Laws for the Groveton Ex-Students Association defined the following criteria to determine eligible candidates for the honor:

Criteria for the Groveton Ex-Student's Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame

The purpose of the Groveton Ex-Student's Hall of Fame is to honor and recognize former students and other individuals:

- who have made significant contributions to the education of students in the Groveton Independent School District;
- who have attained distinction in a chosen field of endeavor. The recipient attained prominence through his or her efforts in worthy endeavors that form a record of accomplishment impressive to the citizens of our community/school district;
- who have motivated others to attain greatness by exhibiting integrity and a demonstrated commitment to service through an interest in bettering the lives of others through volunteer efforts; and
- who have influenced and inspired others toward attainment of moral and spiritual values demonstrated by their pride in alma mater and loyalty to Groveton ISD, as demonstrated through their interest in and support of Groveton ISD.

The Hall of Fame Committee is appointed by the President of the Groveton Ex-Student's Association as required by the by-laws. At least five persons are selected for induction into the Distinguished Alumni, Hall of Fame at each biennial Homecoming, if there are five qualified nominees.

Method of nomination
Distinguished Alumni, Hall of Fame nominations may be made by any of the following individuals or groups:

- Any member of The Groveton Ex-Student's Association.
- Any member of the Groveton ISD administration, faculty or staff.
- Any friend of Groveton ISD.

Nominations will be accepted using the following guidelines:

1. The Groveton Ex-Student's Association will provide a Nomination Form on the Groveton ISD website. It is grovetonisd.net/ex-students then click on Our District then Ex-Students.

2. In addition to completing and submitting the Award Nomination Form, a brief bio of the nominee should be provided (Times New Roman, size 12, single-spaced, 500 words or less), as well as a letter of nomination written by the nominator explaining the outstanding attributes of the nominee and why they are distinguished from all others.

Therefore, completed nominations will include (a) the Nomination Form, (b) a brief biography of the nominee, and (c) letter of nomination written by the nominator stating why the person nominated is distinguished from all

other former students, staff, or supporters.

Nominators are also encouraged to provide the Groveton Ex-Student's Distinguished Alumni, Hall of Fame Selection Committee with supporting items that further distinguish the nominee from all other former students, staff, or supporters. Such items include, but are not limited to:

- Current resume or biography for the individual;
- Newspaper and magazine articles;
- Awards or certificates of achievement;
- Letters of support from others that specifically addresses the award criteria; or
- Other items of interest.

The committee will review completed nominations and make the determination as to whether the nominee meets the criteria for induction in the Hall of Fame. Nominees selected by the committee will be notified by the President of the association for their induction on Sept. 28 at the Hall of Fame induction reception.

Groveton Ex-Student's Association Distinguished Alumnus, Hall of Fame Nomination

The Distinguished Alumnus, Hall of Fame Award is the highest honor bestowed upon a former student or supporter of Groveton Independent School District. It is presented to those former students or supporters who, through their distinction in their chosen field of endeavor, selfless service to society, and/or dedication and loyalty to Groveton ISD, exemplify excellence in integrity, leadership, loyalty, respect, and selfless service.

Submission deadline is July 31.

Please use a printed form to make your nomination for the 2024 Distinguished Alumnus, Hall of Fame Award or use the one on the GSD website. Please indicate with 'NA' if a criterion listed on the form is not applicable to your nominee. Use whatever space you need to complete information but please limit the bio to 500 words or less. Supporting documentation may be sent with this nomination form via email to ghsstudentsassociation@gmail.com or by mail to Groveton Ex-Students Association, P.O. Box 70, Groveton TX 75845.

If you have questions or need help, please call Jo Ann Beken at (936) 537-1969.

Please note that incomplete nominations will not be considered by the committee.

•We are saddened to announce the passing of Letisha Ann Witt, Class of 1968; Davis Lee Dove, Class of 1982; Dan Womack, Class of 1956; Paulette Bates Dunaway, Class of 1960; and Jay Reynolds, Class of 1962. Our sympathy and prayers go to their friends and family as they go on without them.

Enjoy the Olympics, the summer weather and plan a meeting for your class for homecoming. I look forward to seeing you all in September.

Jo Ann Anderson Beken is President of the Groveton Ex-Students Association.

Wildlife photography contest deadline extended

Special to the News-Standard

SAN ANTONIO — Wildlife in Focus, a non-profit organization which targets wildlife and ecosystem conservation in Texas, recently expanded its popular biennial photography competition in order to reach more landowners and photographers across the state.

The expansion includes plans to encourage the owners of any and all privately owned land across the state to participate in the contest. In addition, the organization has added a new category that allows individual photographers to compete for separate prize purses without being part of a landowner/photographer team.

The competition, which has existed for 20 years, has three entry levels: landowner/photographer team, videographer, and individual photographer. The two photography contests

both span 50 categories and the videography contest has 8 opportunities for entries.

The total prize purse for all three contests, all categories, is \$45,000. The goal of the competitions is to promote conservationism and to create a visual story of the beauty of native Texas land and wildlife, from insects to sunsets, from borders to bayous. The prize-winning photos for each competition are then used to produce a coffee-table book as well as promoting the educational outreach program of the organization, Krittters 4 Kids, which targets school-age children grades K-8.

"We are very excited to share that our upcoming contests are now available for landowners anywhere in the entire state of Texas," said Miles Phillips, Wildlife in Focus photo contest director. "Photographers and videographers from anywhere and with all levels of skill and time now have additional entry options."

Registration for the competition is now open at the wildlifeinfocus.org website. Deadline for entry is Dec. 1. The active window for photography is from Feb. 21, 2025, to May 31, 2025. Photographers and landowners can set up their own teams, or WiF will assist in pairing teams.

The registration fee is \$500 for each participant on the landowner/photographer teams. The individual photographer entry fee is based on the number of categories and photos entered and includes entry into the videography competition. The fee for entering the videography contest alone is \$100 each for landowner and videographer.

Full rules for the contest, including equipment requirements, technology specifications, categories and prize purses, are available at wildlifeinfocus.org.

Any questions or concerns regarding the competition can be emailed to info@wildlifeinfocus.org or left in a voicemail at 361-342-9585.



KEEPING HYDRATED

Stevenson Distribution of Trinity delivered several pallets of Prime hydration drinks to the Trinity Fire Station on Thursday to help stave off the heat. COURTESY PHOTO



HONORS

LeTourneau University

LONGVIEW — LeTourneau University recognizes our spring graduates who received bachelor's and master's degrees.

Graduates with summa cum laude honors maintained a cumulative grade point average between 3.8 and a perfect 4.0 throughout their college coursework. Those with magna cum laude honors maintained a cumulative grade point average between 3.6 and 3.79, and cum laude

graduates maintained a cumulative grade point average between 3.40 and 3.59.

Local graduates include Matthew Leftwich of Trinity, with a bachelor's degree in aviation management-Professional Pilot.

LeTourneau University is the Christian polytechnic university where educators engage students to nurture Christian virtue, develop competency and ingenuity in their professional fields, integrate faith and work, and serve the local and global community.

Help a lost pet get home

Posting a lost pet notice can reunite a family for a lifetime.



PetsAndPeopleTogether.org





Trinity County seeks bids for road materials and services

NOTICE TO BIDDERS BID NO. 2024.06.26 Trinity County Road & Bridge Precincts 1-4 will be accepting sealed bids for the following road materials and services for local disaster road repairs and Fiscal Year 2025 contracts. Type A - Oil Sand, Clay, Contract Hauling - Delivery of Materials. Specifications and required submittal forms may found under Bid Notices and Proposals on the Trinity County website www.co.trinity.tx.us or obtained by contacting the Trinity County Auditor's Office, Trinity County Courthouse, 162 W. 1st Street, 3rd

Floor, P.O. Box 1030, Groveton, Texas 75845 (936-642-2233). Bids must be sealed and identified on the exterior of the envelope per bid specifications and received at the office of the County Auditor by Friday, July 19, 2024, at 12:00 noon. The subject bids are scheduled to be opened, read, and awarded by the Commissioners' Court on Tuesday, July 23, 2024, at 9:00 AM. Trinity County reserves the right, under Local Government Code, to reject any and all bids or to accept the bid deemed to serve the best interest of Trinity County.

Disaster debris lawful disposal proposals due July 15

TRINITY COUNTY NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR DISASTER DEBRIS REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL SERVICES RFP #2024.06.004 Trinity County is soliciting proposals to obtain the services of a qualified firm(s) to provide services to remove, process, and lawfully dispose of disaster generated debris from public property and public rights-of-way in Trinity County to temporary debris staging sites and reduction areas, and ultimate disposal of the debris and waste. This RFP is available through the Trinity County website <http://co.trinity.tx.us/page/trinity.bid.notices>. Go to the appropriate RFP#, click on appropriate hyperlink for viewing and/or downloading. All sealed proposals must be clearly marked with the proposal number and proposal name and submitted to Trinity County Auditor, Attn: Bonnie Kennedy, 162 West 1st Street, 3rd

Floor, P.O. Box 1030, Groveton, Texas 75845. Proposals must be received by the County no later than July 15, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. The scheduled date and time for the opening of proposals is July 23, 2024, at 9:00 in the Trinity County Commissioner's Court Room located at 162 West 1st Street, Groveton, Texas, 75845. Trinity County reserves the right to change the date of the opening, to waive any informalities, and to accept the proposal deemed most advantageous for Trinity County. Residents and Business Concerns, Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises, Women Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Area firms are encouraged to submit proposals. The County of Trinity is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Servicios de traducción están disponibles por petición.

Land patent, 6039 Spring Creek Lane, 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-DO-MESTIC. 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>

Live birth certificate claim: by Anthony Maurice Woods

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.

Live birth certificate claim: by Monique Alexis Richardson

AFFIDAVIT Claim of Ownership of Certificate of Title i, monique alexis richardson, state 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 woman; verify under

penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct; Executed on this second day, of July, 2024 by:Richardson, Monique Alexis, Not in Individual Capacity, Without the United States, Held in Trust. All Rights Under Reserve.

Legal Notices get noticed in the Trinity County News-Standard

Sheriff sale August 6

THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF TRINITY NOTICE OF SHERIFF SALE By virtue of Tax Warrant issued out of the 411TH DISTRICT COURT of TRINITY County in the following cases on the 6th day of June, 2024, and to me, as Sheriff, directed and delivered, I will proceed to sell at 10:00 AM on the 6th DAY OF AUGUST, 2024, which is the first Tuesday of said month, at the Official Door of the Courthouse of said TRINITY County, in the City of GROVETON, Texas, the following described property, to wit: Cause No: 5598 TRINITY COUNTY, ET AL vs. MICHAEL L. DAVIS, Tract 1: LOT 19, BLOCK 1, DEER RUN SUBDIVISION, PID 26821 Tract 2: LOT 20, BLOCK 1, DEER RUN SUBDIVISION, PID 26822, Cause No: 5639 TRINITY COUNTY, ET AL vs. KURT BLACKBURN, ET AL, Tract 1: LOT 11, BLOCK 5, SECTION 5 WESTWOOD SHORES SUBDIVISION, PID 28374, Cause No: 5640 TRINITY COUNTY, ET AL vs. JAMES BLANKENSHIP, ET AL, Tract 1: LOT 15 AND 1/2 OF 14, BLOCK 5, SECTION 5, WESTWOOD SHORES SUBDIVISION, PID 21977, Cause No: 5641 TRINITY COUNTY ET AL vs. CORY L. MULLINS, Tracy 1: LOT 6, BLOCK 9, SECTION A OF LAKE L. ACRES SUBDIVISION PID 30826, Cause No: 5642 TRINITY COUNTY, ET AL vs. GINNY L. ANGLIN, ET AL, Tract 1: LOT 4, BLOCK 5, SECTION 2 TRINITY FOREST SUBDIVISION PID 13450 Tract 2: LOT 7, BLOCK 1, SECTION 1, TRINITY FOREST SUBDIVISION, PID 27211, Tract 3: LOT 10, BLOCK 1, SECTION 1, TRINITY FOREST SUBDIVISION, PID 23173 Tract 4: LOT 9, BLOCK 1, SECTION 1, TRINITY FOREST SUBDIVISION, PID 26117 Tract 5: LOT 37 (1/2 OF), BLOCK 5, SECTION 2, TRINITY FOREST SUBDIVISION, PID 27324 Tract 6: LOT 37 (1/2 OF), BLOCK 5, SECTION 2, TRINITY FOREST SUBDIVISION, PID35696 Tract 7: LOT 23, BLOCK 5, SECTION 2, TRINITY FOREST SUBDIVISION, PID 17027, Tract 8: LOT 17, SECTION 3, TRINITY FOREST SUBDIVISION, PID 17614 Tract 9: LOT 52, SECTION 3, TRINITY FOREST SUBDIVISION PID 24091, Tract 10: LOT 8, BLOCK 1, SECTION 1, TRINITY FOREST SUBDIVISION, PID 27212, Tract 11: LOT 3, BLOCK 1, SECTION 2, TRINITY FOREST SUBDIVISION, PID 27273 Tract 12: LOT 6, BLOCK 1, SECTION 1, TRINITY FOREST SUBDIVISION, PID 27210 Tract 13: LOT 9, BLOCK 1, SECTION 4, TRINITY FOREST SUBDIVISION, PID 16587 Tract 14: LOT 24, BLOCK 5, SECTION 2, TRINITY FOREST SUBDIVISION, PID 17028 Tract 15: LOT 5A, BLOCK 3, SECTION 2, TRINITY FOREST SUBDIVISION, PID 27296 Tract 16: LOT 16, BLOCK 2, SECTION 2, TRINITY FOREST SUBDIVISION, PID 27696 Tract 17: LOT 11, BLOCK 4, SECTION 2, TRINITY FOREST SUBDIVISION, PID 25649. Levied on the 18 day of June.2024. as the property of said Defendants to satisfy the judgements rendered in the above styled and numbered causes, plus all taxes, penalties, interest, and attorney fees accrued to the date of sale and all costs recoverable by law in favor of each jurisdiction. GIVEN UNDER MY HAND ON THE 18 DAY OF June 2024 Woody Wallace, SHERIFF, TRINITY County, Texas By: DEPUTY TRINITY County, Texas.

Constable Sale at Trinity County courthouse August 6

On August 6, 2024 a Constable's Sale will occur at the Trinity County Courthouse front doors between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., concerning an Order of Sale (Real Property), Cause # 24168 dated May 30, 2024, and a Final Summary Judgement, Cause #24168, dated August, 29, 2023. The property is described as Lots twenty-three

(23) and twenty-four (24), block four (4), section eight (8), of Westwood Shores, a subdivision in Trinity County, Texas, shown by the map or plat there of recorded in volume 2, page 117 and re-corded in cabinet A, slide 186 of the plat records, Trinity County, Texas APN#: 24572

Disaster debris lawful disposal proposals due July 15

TRINITY COUNTY NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR DISASTER DEBRIS REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL SERVICES RFP #2024.06.004 Trinity County is soliciting proposals to obtain the services of a qualified firm(s) to provide services to remove, process, and lawfully dispose of disaster generated debris from public property and public rights-of-way in Trinity County to temporary debris staging sites and reduction areas, and ultimate disposal of the debris and waste. This RFP is available through the Trinity County website <http://co.trinity.tx.us/page/trinity.bid.notices>. Go to the appropriate RFP#, click on appropriate hyperlink for viewing and/or downloading. All sealed proposals must be clearly marked with the proposal number and proposal name and submitted to Trinity County Auditor, Attn: Bonnie Kennedy, 162 West 1st Street, 3rd

Floor, P.O. Box 1030, Groveton, Texas 75845. Proposals must be received by the County no later than July 15, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. The scheduled date and time for the opening of proposals is July 23, 2024, at 9:00 in the Trinity County Commissioner's Court Room located at 162 West 1st Street, Groveton, Texas, 75845. Trinity County reserves the right to change the date of the opening, to waive any informalities, and to accept the proposal deemed most advantageous for Trinity County. Residents and Business Concerns, Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises, Women Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Area firms are encouraged to submit proposals. The County of Trinity is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Servicios de traducción están disponibles por petición.

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-DO-MESTIC. Let the record show the Grantor grants this private property to: EL SHAD-DAI 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 where-

of 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/4bamIwY>.

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Policy

PLEASE CHECK your ad the first day it appears. We will correct any error as quickly as possible. TO PLACE your classified ad in the Trinity County News- Standard call (936) 642-1726.

Announcements

POLK COUNTY SPCA urges everyone to do their part to control the pet population in Polk County. Have your pets spayed and neutered to avoid dealing with unwanted puppies and kittens. To adopt a pet, come by SPCA at 802 South Houston, corner of Mary St. and Hwy. 146 or call (936) 755-3020. (1-tfn-nc-PCE)

Kids Free Clothing Exchange is a non-profit organization providing free, gently used clothing for children ages 0-18 years of age living in Polk and the other 6 surrounding counties of Lake Livingston. Donations of new and gently used clothing are appreciated. We are in Onalaska, Hwy 190 at 3186. Open Friday and Saturday, 10-3. Kfceonallas-katx.com. (49-tfn-nc-PCE)

Auctions & Sales

Call or Come by Today
Livingston
Senior Citizens
Country Store
1310 North Houston
Open 8:00 am - 1:00 pm
Weekdays
Open during noon hour
Come by for bargains anytime (1-tfn-nc-PCE)

MOVING SALE, 8 am-1 pm, Saturday, July 13, located in Colmesneil behind Valero at the mini storgae. Quality items, y'all come. (28-1t-pp-TCB)

LARGE GARAGE SALE - 85% must go: antique furniture, shop smith, plus size 18 up to 4x clothing, niknaks from Hawaii, china. 3260 CR 3000, Doucette. July 11, 12, 13. Use GPS. (28-1t-cc-TCB)

ESTATE SALE July 19 - July 21. 652 East Taylor Lake Circle, Livingston. Vintage solid wood furniture, tools, men's clothing, books, computer desk and printer. (28-2t-cc-TCB)

Auctions & Sales

ESTATE/AUCTION SALE, Saturday, July 13, 9 am. 23rd Street Loop 383, Ivanhoe. No buyers premium, no absolute sales, no reserves. Whole house of beautiful furnishings, antiques galore. Hoosier cabinet, drop-leaf table and four chairs, antique wood icebox, king-size bed, bedding, linens, and nightstands, wicker chair, leather couch and recliner, all pictures, kitchen stuff, mirrors, rugs, wood game table, barstools, vintage toys, oak table, tools, shopvac, fishing rods, BBQ pit, 2, 5 and 6 foot ladders, quilts, shovels, rakes, extension cords. Charles Rawls, 409-377-1771 or 409-283-3484. (27-2t-p-TCB)

Work Wanted

Fenced Yard or Field Stump Grinding Remote Controlled Precision Work Any Size or Amount Insured Free Estimates David Holley 936-433-2371 (1-tfn-nc-PCE)

HARD WORKING TYLER COUNTY WOMAN, Landscaping, fence line clearing, painting, clean out flower beds, ant outdoor jobs. Christal-409-224-5293. (27-tfn-p-TCB)

PRESSURE WASHING: Mobile homes, roofs, driveways, vehicles, boats, decks, and businesses. Discounts: Senior and local churches (Polk County). Call/text (936)223-0953. (27-4t-pd-PCE)

RN Available to babysit your children or help with senior care in Woodville and surrounding cities. Call Cheryl at 713-340-8524 (27-2t-pp-TCB)

Work Wanted

Work Wanted

HOUSE CLEANING SERVICES with Affordable Sparkle Cleaning in Woodville and surrounding cities. Call Cheryl at 713-340-8524 for information. (27-2t-pp-TCB)

HOKE STUMP Grinding- No job too large or too small. Call (936)295-6089 or (936) 581-3781. Trinity, TX. (11-tfn-b-TCNS)

Vickery Dirt
Dirt, Clay, Sand
Free Delivery
Rock, Dozer Work, Land Clearing, Tractor Work, Driveways, House Pads
www.vickerydirt.com

936-329-4159
Vickery Propane
Tanks & Service
936-327-HEAT
(50-tfn-b-PCE)

LLOYD'S REMODELING located in Tyler County (Serving all areas) Add-ons, decks, metal roofs, cabinets, piers, docks, and boat houses. No job too small. Call 409-429-6164. (1-tfn-b-TCB)

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Toole's Lawn Care & Landscaping
*Drainage
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*Residential *Commercial
Year round full service maintenance- design, build & install flower beds, hydroseeding.
Fully Insured
Tree Removal, Irrigation
Livingston, TX
936-646-2661
(1-tfn-b-PCE)

I WILL clean out your garage, barn, old building and/or haul off your old junk like cars, trucks, tractors, etc. (936)328-1679. (26-5t-pd-PCE)

Work Wanted

Work Wanted

Lester Bros.
Tree Service
Trimming, Top Removal, Haul Off, Tractor Work. Now accepting credit cards.
Call for Free Estimate
Insured
25 yrs experience
936-223-9265
or
936-365-4955
Livingston, TX
(23-tfn-b-PCE)

S & L Tree Service
Tree removal, clean up, stump grinding
New bucket truck
Fully insured
Serving the local and surrounding areas
Call Richard
832-401-4081
(2-tfn-b-PCE)

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Beams- Pylons
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For your protection
Insured since 1980
Lake Livingston area
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(1-tfn-b-PCE)

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Lawn Service
*Stump Grinding
*Land Mulching
*Land Clearing
*Tractor Work
*Driveways
Fully Insured
936-329-1653
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

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)

Now Hiring!
Looking for honest, hard working, outgoing, self motivated individuals with a good attitude looking to build a career in the fast food industry. Looking for a Team Leader with one year experience and an assistant with 2-3 years experience. Must have good references, Livingston, TX.

Apply at www.burgerworkshr.com (1-tfn-b-PCE)

For Sale

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)

2004 HITCHHIKER II 32.5ft 5th wheel trailer with 3 silde 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

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 house for rent in Ivanhoe. All bills paid, \$700/month. Washer/Dryer on site. 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. (28-tfn-cc-PCE)

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- Vocational Nursing School Instructor @ Woodville PRN
- Dietary Cook PRN | •LVN - Med Surg, Nights FT
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