



THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2024

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Board hires firm for field renovations

By Tony Farkas
editor@trinityconews.com

GROVETON — The Groveton ISD Board of Trustees has hired Drewery Construction of Nacogdoches to renovate the baseball/softball complex.

Superintendent Jim Dillard said the administration currently is in contract negotiations with the firm, which had the best price and timeline, as the district

wants the work to be completed before the spring season.

Dillard said the district and Drewery haven't settled on a price since there are discussions over the scope of work, but the cost is expected to be between \$800,000 and \$1.2 million. He also said the school staff did a lot of demolition work to help save the district some money.

Some of the work includes replacing

the surface on softball field, renovating the dugouts and concession stand, and improving drainage.

In other business, the board:

- approved property and casualty insurance through Texas Association of School Boards;
- approved a shared services agreement with Lufkin for students that are deaf and visually impaired;
- approved the campus needs assess-

ment and improvement plan;

- approved the 2024-25 student and employee handbooks;
- set budget approval for the Aug. 19 meeting; and
- held the annual public hearing for the Every Student Succeeds Act grant for the Title I program.

Dillard also reminded residents that students returned to school Wednesday and to be mindful while driving.



Firefighters from Trinity Fire & Rescue work to extinguish a blaze that occurred on a Union Pacific engine early Saturday morning in Trinity. COURTESY PHOTOS.



Trinity added to counties approved for assistance

Special to the News-Standard

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott announced that the federal government has updated the Major Disaster Declaration for Hurricane Beryl to include five additional Texas counties now eligible for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Individual Assistance program.

"This approval to include five additional counties for individual assistance is a critical step forward to ensure Texans can recover and rebuild from Hurricane Beryl," Abbott said. "As part of Texas' ongoing response to support impacted communities, we continue working closely with our federal and local partners to assess damages caused by this devastating hurricane. I thank the Texas Division of Emergency Management and local emergency management personnel for their tireless efforts to help their fellow Texans in the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl."

After the completion and verification of damage assessments, the following counties have been deemed eligible for FEMA's Individual Assistance program: Austin, Bowie, Shelby, Trinity, and Waller.

Qualifying Texans in the following counties are eligible for FEMA's Individual Assistance program: Austin, Bowie, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Nacogdoches, Orange, Polk, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, Walker, Waller, and Wharton. Texans can apply for FEMA disaster assistance online at disasterassistance.gov or by calling 800-621-3362.

FEMA's Individual Assistance program funding assists with expenses such as temporary housing, emergency home repairs, uninsured and underinsured personal property losses, disaster legal services, disaster unemployment assistance, and medical, dental, and funeral expenses caused by the disaster.

Texas may request additional counties for federal assistance based on completion of damage assessments in impacted communities.

Crews battle train fire

Special to the News-Standard

TRINITY — The Trinity Fire Department responded to a reported Union Pacific train engine on fire on Saturday morning.

Fire Chief Keith Johnson said the fire was reported to be on a train at the Tatom Street crossing on Highway 19 South at approximately 2 a.m. Saturday morning.

The first unit on scene reported the second engine be-

hind the lead engine had a fire right behind the conductor cabin. The engineer and conductor turned the motor and electrical feeds off and firefighters were able to control the fire.

Harris said Union Pacific dispatched a maintenance truck to the location as firefighters stood by until they arrived. The engine was unable to operate so it was taken to the Palestine yard and another engine was brought back and train was moving by 5:30 a.m., Harris said.

One killed in two-vehicle crash

TCNS staff

APPLE SPRINGS — Texas Department of Public Safety Troopers investigated a fatal crash on Farm-to-Market Road 357, near Farm-to-Market Road 2501, that occurred Monday.

The preliminary crash investigation indicates that at approximately 9:12 a.m., a Ford Edge was traveling south, while a GMC van was traveling north. It is reported that the Ford crossed over into the

oncoming lane and struck the GMC.

The driver of the Ford was transported to Woodland Heights Hospital and was pronounced deceased by medical staff.

According to the DPS, the driver information for both vehicles and the name of the victim is not available at this time.

This is an ongoing investigation.

DETCOG to hold August meeting in Groveton

Special to the News-Standard

LUFKIN — The Deep East Texas Council of Governments Board of Directors will hold its regular monthly meeting Aug. 22 at Methodist Church Edward Carter Hall, 181 E. First St., in Groveton.

A luncheon will be served at noon, and the Board meeting will be held immediately following.

Welcoming members and guests to Trinity County will be Trinity County Judge Danny Martin and Trinity County Commissioners Tommy Park, Mike Loftin, Neal Smith, and Steven Truss.

DETCOG's President, Polk County Minority Representative Brandon Prescott, would like to extend an invitation to the meeting to all interested parties. Anyone needing information concerning this event may contact the Deep East Texas Council of Governments office in Lufkin at (936) 634-2247.

Brahman breeds gain more awards

Special to the News-Standard

GROVETON — Casaray Ranch, a Trinity County breeder of red Brahmans, recently won awards at The Brahman Event in Lufkin held July 17 at the Angelina County Expo Center.

The ranch, owned by Cesar Castro Array, won Red Breeders' Herd

The Grand Aged Senior Champion Red Bull was IGL Rock 'n' Red Man ET, and the Reserve Aged Senior Champion Red Female was Casaray Yara.

The Champion Calf Red Female was Casaray HG Luna.

The PeeWee Class Showmanship Champion was 6-year-old Emily Castro, showing Casaray Sharapova.

The Red Bull Showmanship Champion was 8-year-old Cesar Eduardo Castro Diaz.



Emily Castro, 6, won PeeWee Class Showmanship Champion at The Brahman Event in Lufkin. COURTESY PHOTO



Cesar Eduardo Castro Diaz, 8, was Red Bull Showmanship Champion at The Brahman Event in Lufkin. COURTESY PHOTO

Fundraiser helps community safety

TCNS staff

TRINITY — For 40 years, SAAFE House and its team of advocates and volunteers have helped numerous people overcome sexual assault and domestic violence and rebuild their lives away from the trauma of abusive relationships.

As well as the dedication of its employees, the donations and funds provided by the people in its four-county service area ensure anyone needing those services can get help.

In Trinity County this year, the 40-year anniversary of the organization, SAAFE House again is holding its annual Denim & Diamonds from 6-10 p.m. Saturday at the Manor on Pinecrest Drive.

The price for the tickets and tables helps SAAFE House with its mission, and the money raised at the Trinity event is exclusively used in Trinity County.

Clients of SAAFE House are victims of sexual assault and domes-

tic violence.

Tracy Stoudt, executive director, said the organization is planning for the future, which includes improved client services, trauma-informed care and putting clients first while working to educate the community.

SAAFE House also is looking for area residents who are passionate about its mission to help the organization continue to grow and would like to see people from its service area — Polk, Trinity, San Jacinto and Walker counties — come forward as volunteers from the communities that are served.

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, to become a sponsor or to volunteer.

Boil water notice rescinded

Special to the News-Standard

TRINITY — The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on Friday has rescinded a boil water notice for the city of Trinity.

The notice was put into place July 30 because of problems that cropped up in the public water system, requiring water to be boiled prior to use for drinking water or human consumption purposes.

The city is in the process of upgrading its water storage systems.

On Friday, TCEQ states the city has taken the necessary corrective actions to restore the quality of the water distributed by this public water system used for drinking water or human consumption purposes and has provided TCEQ with laboratory test results that indicate that the water no longer requires boiling.

For questions concerning this matter, contact City Manager Tim King at (936) 594-2507.



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RIVER & RAINFALL DATA AS OF AUG 6
Gauge Height..... 11.02 ft
Condition..... Normal Flood Stage
Weekly rainfall..... 0.00 in



New school year begins throughout county

Last weekend I attended a performance by the Circus de Soleil in Sugarland. What a fabulous show. The theme was country and western music.

The crowd sang along with the performers, and the choice of songs and dances were to the sounds of Hank Williams to Garth Brooks.

The acrobats, tumblers, and jugglers were not overpowering, and the scenery was amazing. It is unbelievable what today's productions can do with lights and curtains. Kudos to technology.

This week is a banner week for Trinity ISD and its openings. Trinity Independent School District events occurring this week



Julia's Tidbits

By Julia McMichael

are the first day of school, Meet the Teacher Nights, and Meet the Tigers Night. Watch out for the yellow buses.

The first week of school is usually an adjustment for the students, teachers, and parents. Until the month of October, school occurs 5 days a week.

Students that must return to school hours and routines ad-

just better than the ones teaching them, as they are ready to see their friends again and participate in extracurricular activities.

Next week will be quieter, but the activities for the school district and the community are revving up. I have some news about old events, and soon you will have to make a choice of which event you want to attend in October.

I repeat events that are still pending so that you have time to make plans to attend.

News Alert: Do not forget the SAAFE House Purse Bingo Gala has been re-scheduled for Saturday, August 10, 2024, at the Manor on Pinecrest Road at 6:00 PM. For information on purchasing tickets

or tables, call Tammy at (936) 291-3529.

Here are some save the dates for September occasions:

Sept. 2, Labor Day holiday.
Sept. 20, TISD Student holiday
Sept. 19-21, Trinity Community Fair
Sept. 22, Blood Drive, Knights of Columbus

These are save the dates for October:
Oct. 4-6, Huntsville Fair on the Square
Oct. 12, Brick Street Harmony Quartet

Oct. 15, Pumpkin Patch Opens
Oct. 20, Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church Fall Festival, 401 Prospect Drive

Oct. 26, Trinity Lions Club Pet Show

Oct. 26, Trinity County Wall of Honor,

Oct. 31, Halloween Treats on the Street

I will elaborate on some of the occasions above that are newer and keep repeating regular events as they occur. In addition, I will announce new events as their dates become available in September, October, and November. (December/Christmas I do not want to think about right now.)

Also, different churches in town sponsor Treats in Trunk nights, so watch this space for times and location.

Bye for now.

PUC seeks feedback on utility performance

Special to the News-Standard

AUSTIN — The Public Utility Commission of Texas encourages consumers in the Greater Houston area to share their experiences with power outages and utility performance during the May 2024 derecho and Hurricane Beryl.

To share their experiences, Texans can use a questionnaire linked on the PUCT's homepage. The questionnaire is available in English and Spanish and only takes about five minutes to complete.

"The most important people in our investigation into the preparedness and response to these devastating storms are the Texans who experienced these storms firsthand," said PUCT Executive

Director Connie Corona. "We want to hear from you, whether you lost power during these storms or not. The information you provide will guide us in making changes to prevent a disaster of this scope in the future."

Nearly 1 million Texans lost power in May 2024 following the derecho. Hurricane Beryl stormed through the Greater Houston area as a Category 1 storm on July 8, leaving more than 2.6 million Texans without power.

At the direction of Gov. Greg Abbott, the PUCT is investigating the preparedness and response by utilities in the Greater Houston area to these extreme weather events. The PUCT must submit its findings with recommendations by Dec. 1.

The public can view Gov. Abbott's directive and public documents related to the investigation through the PUCT's Interchange website under Project No. 56822.

Meanwhile, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick sent a letter to the PUC urging them to claw back \$800 million of ratepayer money from CenterPoint.

Upon sending the letter, Patrick said in a statement: "As promised, here is the letter I sent to the PUC urging them to claw back \$800 million of ratepayer money from CenterPoint. I remain committed to fighting on behalf of ratepayers to ensure they do not pay for CenterPoint's mismanagement."

In the letter, Patrick urged the Public Utility Commission of Texas to conduct an immediate

review of CenterPoint Energy's Temporary Emergency Electric Energy Facilities Rider.

Patrick's letter states that utility companies can lease mobile generation units for use during emergencies causing large-scale power outages, such as severe storms or hurricanes to quickly get power to critical facilities following a major emergency.

It states that while several firms, including AEP and Oncor, leased small mobile generators, CenterPoint deviated from this approach, instead appearing to choose to prioritize profits over effectiveness. Rather than leasing small mobile generators as intended by the legislation, CenterPoint squandered \$800 million of ratepayer funds on massive non-

mobile generators while spending only .000625% of that amount on what the legislation called for and would have actually helped their customers in the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl.

As a result, CenterPoint was forced to borrow small mobile units from other firms while the large non-mobile generators sat idle.

During the recent Senate Special Committee on Hurricane and Tropical Storm Preparedness, Recovery, and Electricity hearing, it was revealed that CenterPoint's strategy of leasing these large generators will result in at least \$30 million in profits, despite providing limited to no benefit during over 99 percent of emergencies, the letter states.

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TRINITY COUNTY WEATHER FORECAST FOR AUGUST 8-14
Information sourced from weather.com
Forecast Fire Danger twc.tamu.edu

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
101°/76°	99°/76°	97°/74°	97°/73°	96°/74°	97°/75°	96°/76°
Chance of Rain 6% Wind NNW 4 mph	Chance of Rain 4% Wind NE 7 mph	Chance of Rain 5% Wind NE 8 mph	Chance of Rain 2% Wind ENE 7 mph	Chance of Rain 15% Wind ESE 6 mph	Chance of Rain 12% Wind SE 6 mph	Chance of Rain 15% Wind SSE 7 mph

Fire Danger Rating
■ Low ■ Moderate ■ High ■ Very High ■ Extreme

Meal applications urged for schoolchildren

Special to the News-Standard

AUSTIN — Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller urges parents and guardians to request and return applications for free and reduced-price meals from their students' schools.

Submitting these applications ensures eligible children can receive meals at no cost or a reduced price during the 2024-2025 school year. Schools determine eligibility based on household income, participation in other federal nutrition programs, or status as a foster child, homeless, runaway, migrant, or displaced by a declared disaster.

"The household application is crucial for keeping our kids healthy with balanced, professionally prepared school meals," Miller said. "School partners across Texas work hard to plan, prepare, and serve nutritious meals to every student. Families can support these efforts by submitting applications for

free and reduced-price meals and encouraging their children to eat in the school cafeteria."

Schools provide the applications online, and in campus offices and cafeterias; only one application needs to be completed per household. The school will notify families of their eligibility once the application is processed.

Students at certain campuses that participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) are not required to submit a household application. Students at CEP campuses eat at no cost to the household.

The Texas Department of Agriculture administers the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs in Texas. In addition to requesting an application, Commissioner Miller and TDA encourage families to contact their school nutrition department for more information about school meals in the 2024-2025 school year. For more information, visit SquareMeals.org.



Looking Back

By Marlena Stubblefield
grovetonews@gmail.com

10 years ago

Democrats endorse local, state candidates; Commissioners address projects, grants. Obituary for the week: Estella Tullos Lee Gandy, 92, of Apple Springs.

20 years ago

City receives grant for airport maintenance; Area schools to begin Aug. 16; County Grand Jury indicts nine; Local new TxDOT buildings near completion. Obituaries for the week: Charlie Bill Sullivan, 61, of Groveton; Willie Pauline Holt, 85, of Apple Springs; and Joe Dean Osborn, 63, of Groveton.

30 years ago

County Judge blames JPs for revenue shortfall; Police chief resigns, Wright hired; TABC Sting Operation update; Florida Boys come to Crockett. Obituary for the week: Fannie Strickland Bean, 94, of Trinity.

SENIOR MENUS

Aug. 12-16
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: Fried chicken, pinto beans, corn on the cob, bread.
TUESDAY: Barbecue baked potatoes or chopped barbecue sandwich, baked beans, broccoli.
WEDNESDAY: Pork loin, mashed potatoes, green beans, bread.
THURSDAY: Hot dogs with chili and cheese, corn on the cob, chips.
FRIDAY: Fried fish or chicken tenders, dirty rice, 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, cabbage, cornbread.
- TUESDAY:** Hamburgers or cheeseburgers, baked beans, chips, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles.
- WEDNESDAY:** Chicken and spaghetti, corn, green beans, garlic bread.
- THURSDAY:** Chicken strips, mashed potatoes and gravy, broccoli and cheese sauce, rolls.
- FRIDAY:** Fried or baked catfish, French fries, potato salad, coleslaw, pinto beans, hush puppies.
- **Apple Springs Senior Citizens Inc.** | 936-831-2671
Meals served with dessert and fruit and a choice of drink.
MONDAY: Chicken and rice, sweet potatoes, green beans, rolls.
TUESDAY: Meatloaf, greens, corn, cornbread.
WEDNESDAY: Hot dogs, chili, chips.
THURSDAY: Beef stroganoff, reads carrots, tossed salad.
FRIDAY: Taco salad, pinto beans, chips and salsa.

LIFE TRIBUTE

Ruby Burleson

Dec. 18, 1952-July 30, 2024

Ruby Jane Burleson passed away in Trinity on July 30, 2024. She was born in Hamilton, Ohio, on Dec. 18, 1952, to Orville Glen and Lona Mae (Hamilton) Porter.

She is preceded in death by her parents; sister Donna Johnson; and brothers, Roy Porter and Steven Porter.

Ruby is survived by her loving husband of 25 years, Michael Burleson; children, Joann Singleton and husband, Tim, Jimmy Kessell, Amy Coker, and Brent Burleson and wife, Chanda; grandchildren, Levi, Emileigh, Travis, Katie, and Brooklyn; great-grandchildren, Layni, Todd, Calvin, and Ellanora; and brothers, Ronnie Porter and Rick Porter. Numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family and friends also survive.

Ruby spent the majority of career as a manager for Walmart and Sam's Club, also spending time as a florist and produce manager. She was a wonderful mother, always involved with

her children's activities. She served as president of the PTA, loved little league, and taught Bible class. In her leisure time, she enjoyed gardening and planning the next home project. More than anything, she treasured spending time on the screened porch with the love of her life, Mike, and their beloved grandkids and great-grandkids. Ruby will be dearly missed by those she leaves behind to cherish her memory and protect her legacy.

Memorial Service was held Aug. 3, 2024, at Waller-Thornton Funeral Home.



Ruby Burleson

ARREST RECORDS

The following people were arrested by Trinity County law enforcement officials through Aug. 5. All suspects are innocent until convicted in a court of law.

- **Billy Costlow**, 40, driving while license invalid.
- **William Christopher Ferguson**, 44, assault causing bodily injury.
- **Lanell Ferguson**, 52, assault causing bodily injury.
- **Trenton Tyler Powers**, 27, motion to revoke parole on a conviction for assault causing bodily injury.
- **Joshua Paul James**, 34, failure to comply with sex offender duty to register.
- **Enrique Antonio Burrola**, 48, warrant for theft of property of less than \$2,500 with previous convictions; warrants for two counts of forger of financial instruments.
- **James Richard Gregory**, 41, driving while license invalid with previous conviction and without financial responsibility.
- **Gwendolyn Rene O'Hern**, 58, warrant for possession of a controlled substance.
- **Tesha Denise Morgan**, 52, possession of a controlled substance.
- **Georgia Dustin Donnell**, 46, warrant for failure to appear on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

- **Jimmy Ray Voss**, 73, warrant for motion to revoke parole on a conviction for third or subsequent offense of driving while intoxicated.
- **Rhonda Lou Anderson**, 44, warrant for failure to appear on a charge of burglary of a habitation; warrant for bond violation on a charge of burglary of a habitation; warrant for failure to appear on a charge of theft of property; warrant for bond violation on a charge of theft of property.
- **Ashlie Renaye Harrington**, 30, possession of a controlled substance; warrant for motion to revoke parole on a conviction for prohibited substance in a correctional facility; warrant for motion to revoke parole on a conviction for possession of a controlled substance; warrants for three counts of theft of property.
- **Billie Jo War**, 58, possession of a controlled substance.
- **Amy Lynn Wilson**, 42, manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance.
- **Traci Danielle Roberts**, 38, warrant for motion to revoke parole on a conviction for manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance; warrants for two counts of motion to revoke parole on convictions for tampering with or fabricating evidence.

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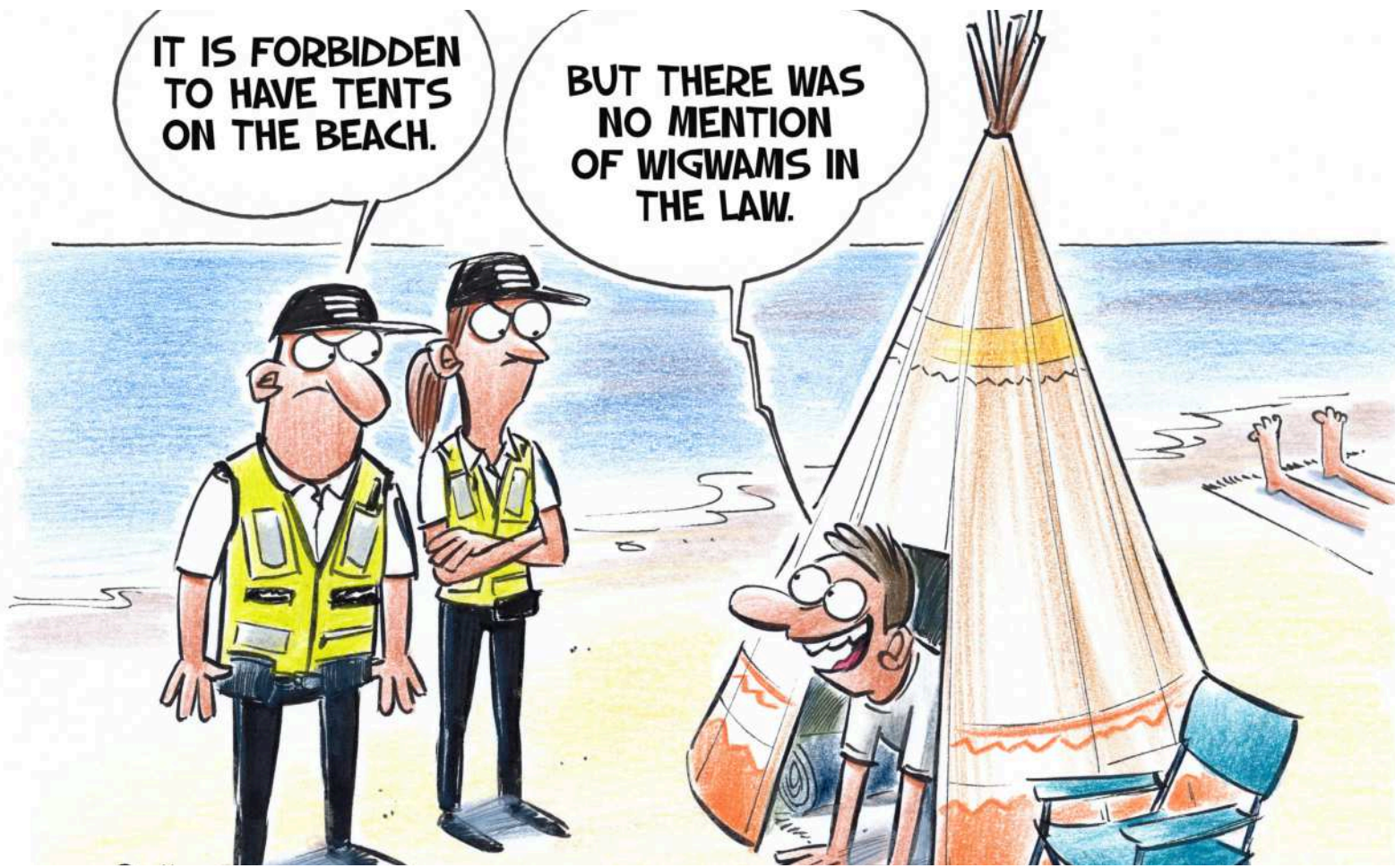
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OPINION



CONTACT LIST

Elected and Appointed Officials Representing Trinity County

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

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

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

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

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

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Nacogdoches Office
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Nacogdoches,
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Lawrence Adamick (C)
(936) 642-1424
Mary Wallace (JP)
(936) 642-1224

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cityofgroveton@valornet.com
(936) 642-1122

TRINITY MAYOR
Billy Goodin
936-594-2507

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

Equality must be relative, not absolute

A phrase tossed about by the recently canonized presidential candidate Kamala Harris is as frightening as its achievement is untenable.

Harris claims that it's her desire to use the sledgehammer of government to ultimately create equality of outcome for everyone.

That particular stance is the actual preferred endgame for those of the liberal persuasion. It's no longer good enough to legislate equality of opportunity — removing the barriers of discrimination against different races. It has become now that everyone deserves everything they ever wanted, and if they cannot get it themselves, then the nannies in D.C. will provide.

Several problems present themselves with that scenario. For instance, there are certain differences between the sexes that regardless of intent cannot be bridged. Sure, women and men can perform the same actions, but frankly, not together; look at the boxing fiasco in the Olympic



My Two Common Sense
By Tony Farkas
tony@polkcountypublishing.com

games. Genetically verified males are pounding the snot out of women and winning medals.

That's just one of the myriad physical differences. Separately, women could win against men, but this is not equality of outcome.

Another problem with the idea is what will be considered the baseline. Who in the government will decide what will be the equal everyone gets?

More importantly, will that equality include those in the ruling class, the elites that buzz around in the halls of government, that have become millionaires while working at a job that doesn't pay millionaire-level

wages.

Will it mean that everyone gets personal security, several thousand square foot homes and beaucoup bucks in the bank? If it does, then where is that coming from? Who's generating the income for that? Who's paying to build all the homes necessary for that?

Will there be a limit on anything? With people flowing over the border like water from a tap, does that mean they automatically get the gold star concierge service? Or what about the opposites? Will everyone be subject to home invasions? Thefts? What is and who decides the definitions?

Obviously that answer is the government, and that brings us to the very last problem. It is not now, nor has it ever been, the responsibility of the federal, or for that matter the state, government to provide whatever is lacking for anyone with a need.

Taking the phrase in the Preamble of the U.S. Constitution — promote

the general welfare — to mean ensure is a misreading of our basis of government. The folks in Washington, D.C., are just there to keep us safe while we pursue our dreams. That means all of us, by the way.

It doesn't give them license to create disparity and division and then create programs and policy to fix them. In fact, it doesn't give them the power to do much at all, certainly not to create an equality of outcome.

Governments do not create anything, and because of this, can only provide some things to some people at the expense of others. That means, to build the disenfranchised up, it must tear the franchised down.

And you can bet your sweet bippy that these elite leaders and what they enjoy won't be part of that equation.

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

Committees deal with HHS, welfare, health

It's back to school time, and last week, the Texas Comptroller announced the 25th Annual Texas Sales Tax Holiday, which will take place from Friday-Sunday.

This year, the holiday is estimated to save Texans more than \$140 million at the checkout, and it has saved Texans nearly \$2 billion since its inception in 1999.

The holiday exempts sales tax on qualified items, such as clothing, footwear, school supplies, and backpacks, priced below \$100, saving shoppers about \$8 per \$100 they spend. As the start of the new school year draws near, Deep East Texans should take advantage of this savings opportunity to stock up for the new school year.

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

House Interim Charge: Human Services

The House Committee on Human Services has jurisdiction over bills regarding welfare and rehabilitation programs, intellectual disability support programs, and the prevention and treatment of intellectual disabilities. The Committee also oversees state agencies such as the Health and Human Services Commission, the Department of Family and Protective Services, the Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners, and the Texas



Capitol Update
By Trent Ashby
State Representative, District 9

State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors.

Over the interim, the Committee will monitor the implementation of House Bill 1575 and Senate Bill 24. HB 1575, which was passed to improve health results for pregnant women, created an enhanced screening process for expecting mothers to identify better nonmedical health-related needs.

The bill also sought to increase access to existing support services by reimbursing community health workers to provide services to improve maternal and infant health outcomes.

SB 24 consolidated programs offered during pregnancy, childhood, and to disadvantaged families for prevention and early intervention under the Health and Human Services Commission. The bill also established the Thriving Texas Families Program to fund services to families to promote healthy pregnancy, childbirth, and family formation and to help families achieve economic self-sufficiency.

Additionally, the Committee will evaluate the appropriate role of the state in overseeing Medicaid managed care and will also study access to Home and Community-based Services Waiver, including the interest list, effects of inflation on the cost of services, and availability of services and service providers.

House Interim Charge: Public Health
The House Committee on Public Health has jurisdiction over bills regarding the protection of public health, the practice of medicine and dentistry, mental health support programs, and the treatment of mental health.

The Committee also oversees state agencies such as the Health and Human Services Commission, the Texas Medical Board, the Texas State Board of Pharmacy, and many other agencies.

Over the interim, the Committee will monitor the implementation of Senate Bill 26, which seeks to expand mental health capacity, especially for children and adolescents, by creating an innovation grant program. The bill also implements a methodology for transitioning patients out of state hospitals.

Additionally, the Committee will study the best practices of procedures for the emergency detention of a person with mental illness. The Committee will also examine the causes contributing to the closures of obstetrics units in rural areas

and the effects of the closures on births, infant mortality, and maternal mortality and will make recommendations to ensure access to prenatal and obstetrical care in rural Texas.

The mobile office is on the road again in Aug., and our District Director looks forward to seeing you on the following dates at the following times: Aug. 7 at the San Augustine County Courthouse in San Augustine from 9-11 a.m.; Aug. 14 at the Polk County Commissioner's Courtroom in Livingston from 9-11 a.m. and the Tyler County Commissioner's Courtroom in Woodville from 1:30-3:30 p.m.; and Aug. 21 at the Houston County Courthouse Annex in Crockett from 9-11 a.m. and the Trinity County Courthouse in Groveton from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

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

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

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Broadband funds now available

Houston and the Gulf Coast were devastated by Hurricane Beryl, which made landfall July 8 near Matagorda. Thirty-six Texans died during and after the storm and 2.3 million were left without power, some for almost two weeks.

Hearings were held in Austin to assess the response and hold utility companies accountable that did not perform well, including CenterPoint Energy.

Here are five things happening around your state.

• BDO accepting proposals for broadband grant funding

The Broadband Development Office recently released a Notice of Funding Availability for \$729.9 million in state and federal funds. Bringing Online Opportunities to Texas is a competitive grant program to build last-mile broadband connections that increase high-speed broadband service to Texans.

Proposed projects for this funding will provide service to unserved and underserved locations in targeted counties that demonstrate the greatest need for broadband service, as determined by the BDO. Qualifying projects must deploy broadband service to the entirety of the un-



My Five Cents...

By Robert Nichols
State Representative, District 3

served and underserved broadband serviceable locations in an eligible county.

Eligible counties in East Texas include Liberty County, Trinity County, and Newton County. While these are the counties eligible for this program, other programs exist that extend to other areas. Awards will be a minimum of \$1 million and a maximum of \$125 million. Proposed projects must be complete and operational no later than Dec. 31, 2026.

Applications are due by Aug. 26.

• TRS lowering premiums for next year

The Teachers Retirement System announced it will be lowering TRS-Care Medicare Advantage monthly premiums for next year. This is due to a current surplus balance of over \$3 billion.

Retirees will see a decrease in premium costs between \$60

and \$407 per month next year. In addition, TRS also is allowing a limited-time enrollment opportunity for eligible TRS-Care Medicare Advantage participants. Most TRS-Care retirees who are eligible for Medicare will be eligible for the limited-time enrollment opportunity.

For more information, visit <https://www.tris.texas.gov/Pages/Homepage.aspx>.

• Texas AG secures \$1.4B settlement with Meta over biometric data privacy

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton secured a \$1.4 billion settlement with Meta, formerly known as Facebook, over capture of personal biometric data without authorization required by law. It is the largest settlement ever obtained from an action brought by a single state.

This is the first lawsuit brought and settlement obtained under Texas' Capture or Use of Biometric Identifier Act. The lawsuit centered on a feature Meta added in 2011 initially called Tag Suggestions. The feature used facial recognition software on virtually every face contained in the photographs uploaded to Facebook, capturing records of the facial geometry of the people

depicted.

Actions such as these are considered capturing biometric identifiers of Texans, which is against the law unless the business informs the person and receives their consent first. Meta will pay the state \$1.4 billion over the next five years.

• TWIA considering up to 10 percent rate hike

The Texas Windstorm Insurance Association's Actuarial and Underwriting Committee recommended that the TWIA Board of Directors approve a rate filing to increase rates by 10 percent for 2025 TWIA policies.

The TWIA Board will meet on Aug. 6 to consider the Committee's recommendation, the rate adequacy analysis, and stakeholder feedback when voting to decide the required rate filing with the Texas Department of Insurance. TWIA's board is mindful of insurance costs on policyholders and has only raised rates once over the past five years.

However, based on a 2024 actuarial analysis, TWIA rates would need to increase by 39 percent for residential policies and 45 percent for commercial policies in order to be actuarially adequate. TWIA is inviting

the public to comment on the potential rate increases either virtually or in-person during the meeting or ahead of the meeting via email.

The public is welcome to attend the meeting at the Tremont House Hotel in Galveston. Submit written comments via email to PublicComment@TWIA.org. If you wish to make verbal public comment via Zoom, find more information on how to register at <https://www.twia.org/>.

• SpaceX, Twitter moving headquarters to Texas

Elon Musk announced he is moving the headquarters of two of his companies to Texas. SpaceX and X, formerly known as Twitter, will both be relocating from California to Texas after California Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a law preventing schools from requiring employees to notify parents if a student requests to use different pronouns.

SpaceX will move from Hawthorne, Calif., to Starbase, a complex and launch site near Brownsville. X will move its headquarters from San Francisco to Austin.

Sen. Robert Nichols represents District 3, which includes Trinity County, in the Texas Legislature.

Pattern of abuse at Texas juvenile facilities

A federal investigation into five state facilities concluded children in custody face excessive force, sexual abuse and a lack of vital services, The Dallas Morning News reported.

At a news conference last week, Kristen Clarke, assistant attorney general in the Justice Department's civil rights division, said children held in those facilities are not receiving the treatment and rehabilitation they are supposed to get.

"Our investigation provides reasonable cause to believe that, far from achieving those objectives, TJJD engaged in a pattern of abuse, deprivation of essential services and disability-related discrimination that seriously harms children and undermines their rehabilitation, all in violation of their rights," Clarke said.

In response, the Texas Juvenile Justice Department said it had made "several significant improvements" in staffing, educational programs and mental health care. The Legislature appropriated more than \$1 billion last session to improve youth facilities.

The youth facilities are located in Gainesville, Edinburg, Brownwood, Giddings and Mart.

Investigators found evidence of physical and sexual abuse, according to the report.

TxDOT adopts long-range transportation plan

"Connecting Texas 2050" was adopted recently by the Texas Transportation Commission to help guide priorities in the next



Capitol Highlights

By Gary Borders
Texas Press Association

quarter-century. The plan establishes the vision, goals, objectives and strategic recommendations for the state's transportation system.

"With a growing population and new technologies changing how we move, these goals will help us plan for decades to come and connect future generations of Texans," Marc Williams, TxDOT executive director, said.

The agency held a series of public meetings to gather input from the state's citizens. Among the priorities listed were safety, alternative modes of travel, public transportation options and maintaining the state's existing transportation infrastructure.

To learn more about the plan, go to www.ConnectingTexas2050.com.

• Court: Buoys can stay in Rio Grande until trial

A full panel of the U.S. Fifth Circuit of Appeals ruled last week that a 1,000-foot-long barrier of buoys can stay in the Rio Grande until a full trial is held. The buoys, meant to deter illegal migrants, were placed on orders by Gov. Greg Abbott. Their legality was challenged by the federal government, which argues their placement violates federal treaties

between the United States and Mexico.

At issue is whether this stretch of river is navigable, according to a report in the Texas Standard. A trial over the legal merits was slated to start in an Austin federal court this week.

• Flesh-eating bacteria on rise along coast

Authorities are warning of an outbreak of flesh-eating bacteria, with nearly a dozen people infected thus far, The News reported. Galveston County officials said 11 cases of vibrio infections have been reported this summer, compared to just two at this time last year.

The bacteria occur in coastal waters and are found in higher concentrations when water temperatures are warmer. It can be contracted when an open wound comes into contact with coastal waters, or from eating raw or undercooked shellfish.

"There's no need to panic," Dr. Phillip Keiser, CEO of the Galveston County Health District, said in a statement. "Use common sense: avoid raw seafood, practice good hygiene, and stay informed to keep safe."

The Centers for Disease Control estimates 80,000 cases of vibrio occur in the U.S. each year.

• PUC gets 72 applications for energy loan program

The Public Utility Commission received 72 applications for loans available through the Texas Energy Fund, which if all granted would provide \$24.41 billion to finance 38,379 megawatts of power

generation projects in the region served by the Electric Reliability Council of Texas.

"Texans have made it clear that they expect reliable electricity today and well into the future, and I am pleased to see industry leaders responding to that call and planning for major investments in dispatchable power for the state," PUCT Chairman Thomas Gleason said.

The program will provide low-interest loans to finance new construction or upgrades to existing power-generating facilities within the ERCOT region, which serves most of the state. Funding for the loan program was approved by Texas voters in a constitutional amendment election last November.

• Nine Texas courthouses get historic grant funding

The Texas Historical Commission recently awarded more than \$46 million in preservation grants to historic courthouses in nine counties. Four grants for full restoration were awarded for courthouses in Comanche, Kimble, Van Zandt and Willacy counties.

Castro and Gonzales counties received planning grants that will create planning road maps for future restoration work. Donley, Duval and Refugio counties received emergency grants to address critical issues endangering these courthouse buildings and affecting their use.

THC has awarded more than \$400 million since the program's inception to restore courthouses in Texas.

"As part of our mission to save the real places that tell the real stories of Texas, we hope to work with even more counties in the future," Joseph Bell, THC executive director, said.

• Water board details how it will spend \$1 billion

The Texas Water Development Board last week began detailing how it will divide \$1 billion in taxpayer approved funds for water infrastructure and supply projects throughout the state, The Tribune reported. Up to \$45 million will be reserved for towns with fewer than 1,000 residents, while about \$130 million will go to towns with 1,001 to 10,000 residents.

The board said it plans to spend up to \$450 million toward existing financial assistance programs, \$90 million on water loss and conservation programs, and \$15 million on awareness and educational programming.

"We have a whole lot more applications that are submitted than we have capacity in any given program year to provide financial assistance," said Kathleen Ligon, interim assistant executive administrator at the Water Development Board.

The board has already received 68 requests for funding from this pot of money.

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.

Notice of Estimated Taxes

Form 50-313

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information regarding the amount of taxes that each entity that taxes your property will impose if the entity adopts its proposed tax rate. Your local property tax database will be updated regularly during August and September as local elected officials propose and adopt the property tax rates that will determine how much you pay in property taxes.

Follow the instructions to register to receive notifications regarding updates to the property database.

You may request the same information from the assessor of each taxing unit for your property, by requesting their contact information from your county's assessor at:

County's Assessor Gary Allant
Contact Name Gary Gallant
Address PO Box 920, Groveton, TX 75845
Address 123 S Main St, Groveton, TX 75845
Phone Number 936-642-1502

Farm Safety Is A Year-Round Concern

Here are a few safety reminders for our farm customers:

- Always know the whereabouts of your children.
- Don't allow children to ride or play on farm machinery.
- Have another person present when loading or unloading grain.
- Avoid breathing harmful contaminants.

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PENCIL PUZZLER

Can you find the pencil with two pointed ends in less than 60 seconds? When you find it, share this puzzle with a friend or family member!

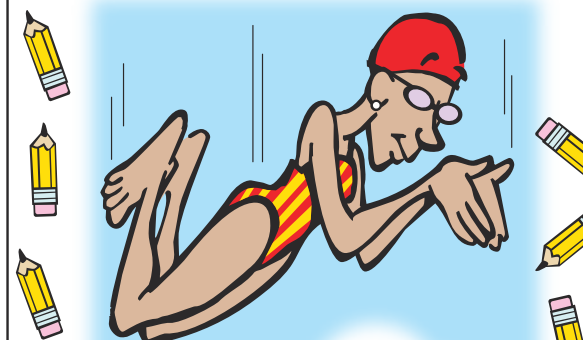
PENCILYMPICS!

Get your brain and your hands in shape with a pencil-grabbing, pencil-pushing, pencilicious workout!



Tally your score from each pencil event on this page. Then, have a friend try!

EVENT	ME	YOU
HIGH DIVE		
ARCHERY		
HURDLES		
RUNNERS		
BOXING		
SEARCH		
TOTAL		



High Dive

There are five differences between these divers. Score 1 point for each one you find.

Standards Link: Find similarities and differences in common objects.

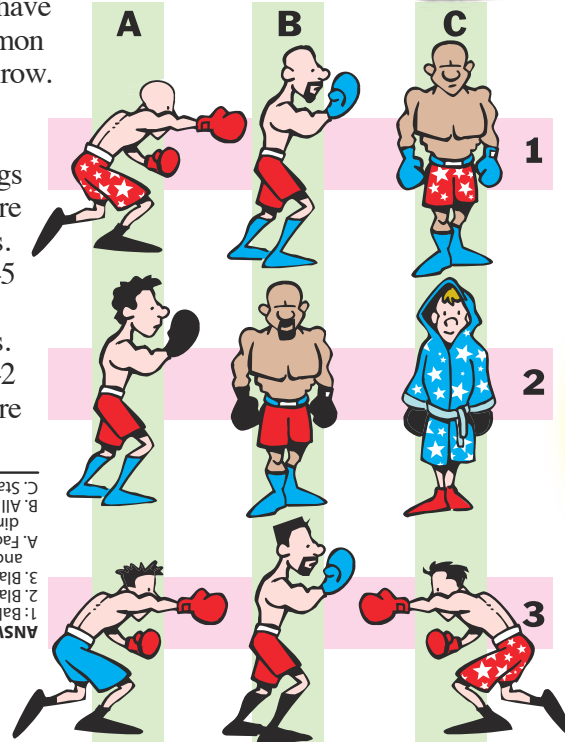


Boxing

Look at the rows going up and down. Circle the things that the boxers have in common in each row.

Find all six things and score 5 points. Find 3-5 to earn 3 points. Find 1-2 and score 1 point.

ANSWERS:
1: Bald boxers.
2: Black gloves.
3: Black hair.
4: Black boots.
5: Facing same direction.
6: Stars on clothes.



SEARCH: Get the Lead Out!

There are lots of pencils on this page, but only one crayon. Find that crayon in less than 30 seconds and you earn 10 points; 60+ seconds earns you 5 points.

Extra! Extra!

Go the Distance!

On one newspaper page, find and circle the letters that spell each of the following words:

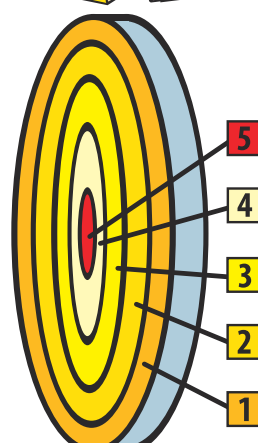
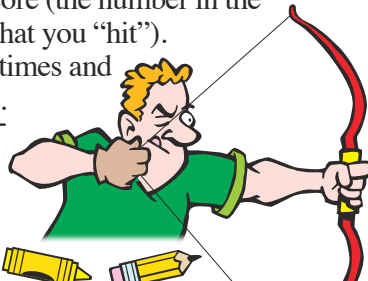
- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Archery
- Cycling
- Pentathlon

Standards Link: Spelling: Spell grade level words correctly.

Archery

Place a pencil on the archer's bow. Close your eyes. Trace a path to the target. Open your eyes and check your score (the number in the ring of the target that you "hit"). Repeat two more times and add up your score.

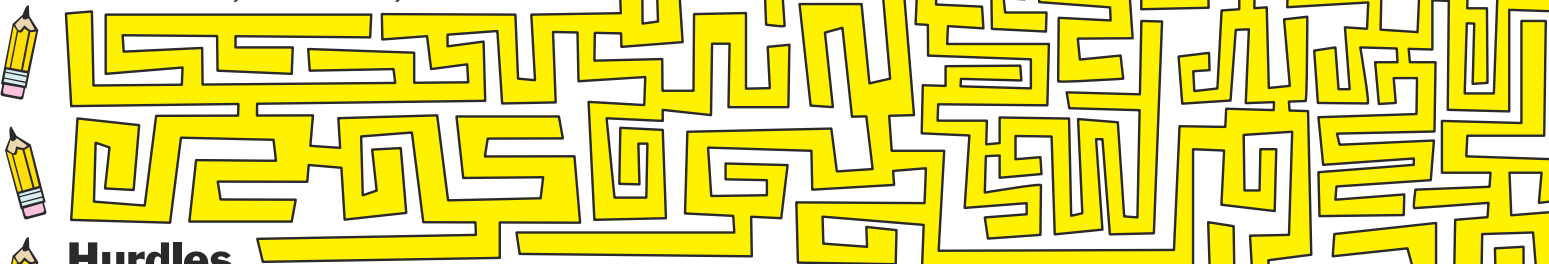
Standards Link: Math: Compute sums.



A-MAZE-ing Runner

Only one will take you to the finish. Find it in less than 30 seconds and score 5 points! 30-60 seconds earns 3 points. 60+ seconds earns 1 point.

Standards Link: Physical Education: Eye-hand coordination.



Hurdles

Place your pencil on START. Close your eyes. Draw 10 dots, trying to put one on each hurdle. Score 1 point for each hurdle that contains one, and only one, dot.

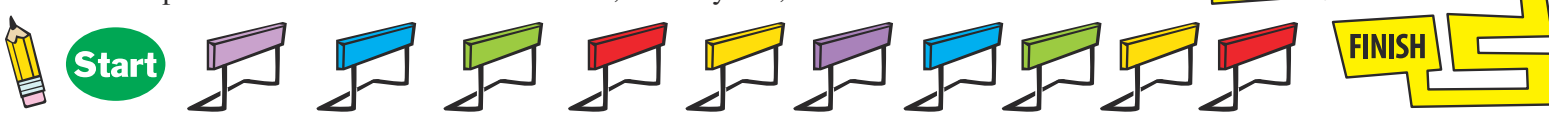
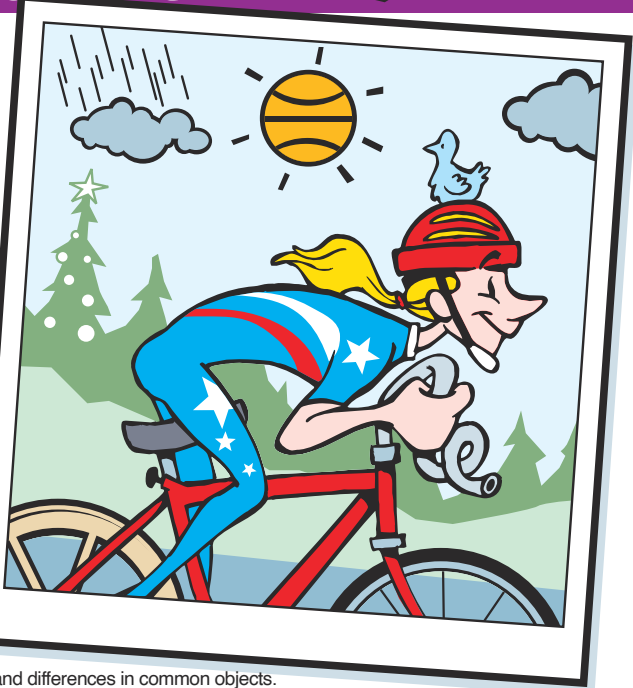


Photo Finish

Sonia took a picture of the bike races.

Find five or more silly things in Sonia's cycling photo.

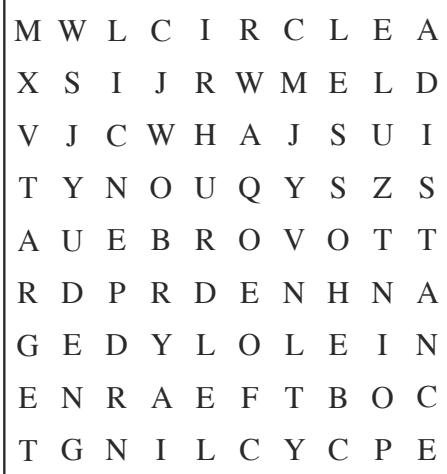
Standards Link: Investigation: Find similarities and differences in common objects.



Double Double Word Search

- ADD
- BOW
- CIRCLE
- CRAYON
- CYCLING
- DISTANCE
- DOT
- EARN
- HURDLE
- LESS
- ONE
- PENCIL
- POINT
- SCORE
- TARGET

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?



Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Build Your Muscles!

The newspaper has great tips for building your muscles! Look through your newspaper for running events, hikes and other outdoor activities. Sign up and go! Get the whole family in on the fun!

Standards Link: Health: Identify behaviors that promote healthy lifestyles.

Why don't pencils have erasers on both ends?



ANSWER: Because that would be pointless.

Write On!

My Olympic Achievement

Write about a time you did something really great—something you didn't think you could do, but you tried anyway and did it.

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Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: PENTATHLON

The noun pentathlon means an Olympic competition consisting of five track and field events usually sprinting, hurdling, long jump, discus and javelin.

Originally the pentathlon was competed for over four or five days.

Try to use the word pentathlon in a sentence today.

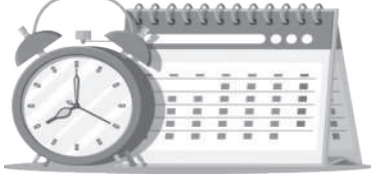
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AREA DIGEST



Fundraiser set

The SAAFE House annual Denim & 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.

Hunting course set

TCSO is sponsoring a Texas Hunter Education Course on Aug. 17 at the Courtroom Annex in Groveton.

Lunch is included and will be provided by Taco's by the Trax. Instructors will be Sheriff Woody A. Wallace, Game Warden Randy Watts and Game Warden Anthony King.

For additional information contact Felicia at 936-642-0761.

Vets hold raffle

Trinity County Veterans Wall of Honor Society is holding its annual fundraiser, and tickets for the raffle are available.

The 17th annual fundraiser will be held from noon to 6 p.m. Oct. 26 at Scheelbillies Saloon, 5665 FM 356, in Trinity.

Costs for the raffle tickets are \$1, or six tickets for \$5, and the drawing will be held at the event, which includes food and a live auction.

Raffle prizes include a 9 mm pistol, lottery tickets, gift cards and cash, and 12 numbers will be drawn.

For information or to purchase raffle tickets, call Bill Reeves at (936) 661-7107, Trish Meigs at (713) 589-8731 or Craig Hatton at (832) 992-6352.

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 Chap-

ter 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 republicanwomentrinityco@gmail.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 prior and removed two to four days after, weather permitting. The flag, pole and pole mount will be property of the band.

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

Veterans museum hosts events

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

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

Delivery available

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

Guests also are welcome to enjoy mahjogg 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.

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ACROSS

- 1 oil rich countries
- 5 Patricia of Texas-based film "Hud"
- 6 "____-farty" (pretentious)
- 7 made a run for it
- 8 San Antonio Zoo has several of these (2 wds.)
- 16 ambulance services (abbr.)
- 17 Galveston County town (2 wds.)
- 21 TX Ernie who was "Mr. Cub" (init.)
- 22 New England _____ chowder
- 23 TXism: "____ a bug in a rug"
- 24 TXism: "from womb _____" (lifetime)
- 29 TXism: "at the drop of _____" (impulsive)
- 30 rose stalk
- 31 t-shirt size
- 32 TX Gary Morris hit: "The Love _____ Me"
- 34 planting dirt
- 35 LBJ Supreme Court nominee, Fortas
- 36 in the 1990s, it was easy to find one in Texas (2 wds.)
- 37 TX Ronnie who sang with Brooks
- 38 long, narrow cut
- 39 in Columbus, TX: "Tate-____ Brandon House"
- 41 TXism for "fellow"
- 42 enjoyed a meal

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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DOWN

- 1 TXism: "attacked like conventioners _____"
- 2 how shearers charge? (2 wds.)
- 3 cowboys are big _____
- 4 in Callahan County on I-20
- 9 37th governor, Shivers
- 10 tidy
- 11 Neil Diamond's "____ I Said"
- 12 late Texas singer, Gilley (init.)
- 13 live music TV show: "____ City Limits"
- 14 with "S2," name of a security system
- 15 TXism: "he's lower than pond _____"
- 18 Army inspector, e.g. (abbr.)
- 19 in 1991, IRS sold some of TX Willie Nelson's property to pay this (2 wds.)
- 20 "____ Mission" is oldest in Texas
- 22 smokestack
- 24 TXism: "dot the i's and cross the _____"
- 25 TX Roy Orbison's "____, Pretty Woman"
- 26 golf ball holders
- 27 sirlain and brisket are cuts _____
- 28 TXism: "he wouldn't know how to _____ stick horse" (dude)
- 29 frock (2 wds.)
- 30 TXism: "gave me a _____ and dance" (runaround)
- 33 Texas country singer, Stuckey
- 34 TXism: "he's a _____ nuff Texan"
- 35 star of "Bandit Kings of Texas," Lane
- 37 former San Angelo festival: "Fiesta _____"
- 38 "mister" in Mexico in Brown County on U.S. 67 & 84
- 41 taxi cost
- 44 illegal motion by a Ranger pitcher
- 47 corporate raider, TX _____ Pickens
- 49 how unhappy fans showed disapproval

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Wind Point Park, past and present



This past week, I had the opportunity to take a step back in time to Wind Point at Lake Tawakoni.

More than four decades ago, I remember fishing here from the bank near the end of the point with a buddy and catching a bunch of catfish. Back in those days the park was pretty much just a place to catch fish, nothing like the manicured 180-acre park it is today.

Wind Point has long been known for good fishing because of the topography, the point runs out into the lake and attracts baitfish and lots and lots of catfish. For many years, fishermen have timed their fishing trips here to coincide with a couple days of steady wind that pushes baitfish up close to shore where catfish and white bass follow to chow down on the easy pickings.

I was greeted at the park headquarters by Ryan Fergus, the head honcho who operates the park. Ryan gave me a tour of all the cabins, RV sites, swimming beach, Marina, boat ramps and what I was most interested in, the long T shaped fishing pier situated at the very end of the park. He also introduced me to one of the most interesting gentlemen that I've met in some time, Mr. Charles Glasscock. 87 years young and a veteran of more than 50 years catching fish at Wind Point.

Charles, Ryan and I set at a picnic table near the fishing pier had a great visit and, yes, I took notes. Ten years ago, the park began a major facelift with lots of

improvements that transformed it into first class outdoor destination it is today.

The park offers long- and short-term RV camping. Ryan says a lot of RV owners that have spent a few years towing their RVs around the country, or spent their weekends keeping up lake lots, enjoy being able to drive up to their camp and enjoy the amenities of the park without the work necessary to keep up a lake lot, nor the challenge of pulling a big RV through today's traffic.

During the tour, I noted there were lakeside spots that offered fishing a few yards outside the campers. But not all guests at the park are fishermen, many come to enjoy the swimming beach, boating and just being in the great outdoors in gated setting that is safe and relaxing.

I counted more than 40 white-tail deer during our tour, including a couple of bucks still in velvet that I plan to photograph this fall when the antlers are fully developed, Ryan says during deer surveys, he has counted more than 200 deer in the park. Many of the guests feed the deer with a blend of grains available at the park store.

In addition to everything else, the park is a drive-through deer viewing park as well. Golf carts are available for rent which make getting up close and personal to the deer easier. They don't seem to be spooked by the approach of the carts.

Ryan says he has a lot of fishermen that rent the smaller cabins close to shore where they can dock their boats and fish out on the main lake. Larger fully furnished cabins are ideal for family or larger groups.

On to the fishing
Mr. Glasscock (Charles) says wind is the key to really good fishing. A steady south wind pushes the bait up against the rocks on the south side of the point and in the fall and winter, and the north



Charles Glasscock has been catching catfish at Wind Point Park for more than fifty years, using "Big Yellow," the long-distance casting rod he built back in 1959. PHOTO BY LUKE CLAYTON

side is often more productive with a prevailing north wind.

A stand of hardwoods is situated in the water out near the end of the T-shaped fishing pier. A few years ago, Glasscock depended upon his long homemade rod, Big Yellow, to cast baits far from the pier out to the edge of the timber, and he convinced Fergus that the pier needed to be extended a bit which gives better access to deeper water where the big blue catfish often hang out.

At the end of the pier a section is cut out to facilitate fishing straight down. The spot has a covered roof to provide shade which is a big plus during the summer months. I am planning to chum a spot with cattle range cubes later this week and see if I can collect enough catfish for a lakeside fish fry.

I've fished such areas from a boat this time of year and loaded up on channel catfish. The pier has everything a catfish/cat fisherman could ask for — cover and shall-

lower water close to deep.

Even when fishing with chicken livers or nightcrawlers under slip corks around the shoreline, he always keeps Big Yellow rigged with shad or pieces of cut bait and targets the big blue catfish the lake is known for. Charles occasionally catches a big blue during the summer months, but says come October and cooler weather the action really picks up. To date, his biggest blue catfish tipped the scales at 64 pounds.

Big Yellow obviously proved her worth that chilly day and the fight lasted several minutes, according to Charles. It's one thing to land a giant catfish when fishing from a boat in open water, but skill is required to catch one from the bank. One doesn't simply reel in a catfish of this size and Charles said this one make several strong runs which required moving along the bank as the fish moved out to deeper water.

Charles fishes for catfish using

circle hooks and this includes the smaller channel catfish. Hooks of this construction have a slight twist and when a catfish grabs the bait and swims away, the hook twists into the corner of the fish's mouth. With circle hooks, there is a saying: "crank it, don't yank it."

Jerking back on the rod before the fish is hooked often results in slack line and a lost fish. I hope to fish with Mr. Charles soon and learn his technique of using circle hooks under slip corks for catching channel catfish. I always fish with treble hooks and punch bait for channel catfish but, on this trip I will use the method of the old master, chicken livers or cut bait on a circle hook.

If you haven't visited Wind Point Park in the past decade, you are in for quite a treat. To learn more, visit the website www.windpointparktx.com

Catch Luke's podcast "Catfish Radio with Luke Clayton and friends" wherever podcasts are found.

B.A. Steinhagen

FAIR. Water stain; 85 degrees; 0.10 feet below pool. Water is being released into the lake from Sam Rayburn Reservoir. Mayflies are hatching, so expect some topwater bass action. Bass are fair on soft plastics in the cuts, or with frogs over grass. Crappie are fair with jigs in flooded timber. Catfish are fair on juglines.

Bob Sandlin

GOOD. Water slightly stained; 90 degrees; 0.30 feet above pool. Summer fishing patterns are holding steady. Big blue catfish up to 30 pounds are in 30-35 feet of water with live or cut bait. Channel catfish are fair in 10-15 feet of water on baited holes with stink bait. A few catches of blue catfish in the same areas with cut bait. Crappie are good on brush piles and standing timber in 20-25 feet of water, or suspended in 15 feet of water with minnows. White bass are slow with a few catches near the railroad bridge. Report by Joey Crews, Lake Bob Sandlin Chubby Chaser Guide Service. Black bass are feeding early on shad patterns around grass and retaining walls. Main lake points are good for bass using clouser type patterns. Bream are plentiful with wooly buggers and small worm patterns. 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 like deep diving crankbaits, dropshots and Texas rigs. Night fishing has the best bite and is an escape from the heat and recreational boaters. Sand bass and black bass schooling together near the dam, and bridges. Report by Mike Stroman, R & R Marine.

Caddo

FAIR. Water stained; 80 degrees; 0.78 feet above pool. Fishing on Caddo Lake is heating up with the temperatures. Bass are schooling throughout the lake and can be caught with a fluke, or small topwater bait. For the bigger fish try a buzz bait or frog around or over cover early in the day. The river bite is just now starting to set up with the current slowing down. Cast a dropshot, Carolina rig, Texas rig, small June bug finesse worm, or shaky head in the cuts of the river. Lake is setting up nicely with all the rain we have had this year and it's an absolutely great time to come fish and see this majestic lake that God spoke into existence Report provided by Vince Richards, Caddo Lake Fishing & Fellowship.

Conroe

GOOD. Water slightly stained; 85 degrees; 0.20 feet above pool. The thermocline is in 31 feet of water. Bass are good on big



worms and creature baits around structure and under docks when the sun is out. Report by Brad Doyle with Bradley's Guide Service. Catfish spawn is over and the fishing is good but there are a lot of tiny fish out there. Baited holes and catfish bubblegum have been working great. Report by Brad Doyle with Bradley's Guide Service. Hybrids and whites are schooling in 18-26 feet of water biting live shad and live large minnows, or trolling with a deep diver with a pet spoon as a trailer. Some are scattered but also finding schools. Some anglers are jigging spoons too aggressively, get more hits with a calmer jigging motion, white or chartreuse slabs from MT Pockets have been working well. Crappie are in or around structure and timber in 12-21 feet using minnows, jigs, and or hair jigs, the bite has been very light, and have shut off as quickly as you get one in the boat, but some are getting a great catch. If you can get a few, hit the next spot. Always wear your life jacket & stay hydrated in this heat. Report by Mike Cason, Fishical Therapy.

Fork

GOOD. Water Stained; 81 degrees; 0.24 feet below pool. Bass are good in the mornings in 1-3 feet of water in the shallow grass with frogs and swimbaits, and Viper XP swim jigs. White has been the best color. Offshore in 18-25 feet of water is good midday on humps, road beds and long points near channels with Carolina rigs and big shaky heads best with big worms in blue fleck, plum, red bug. Deep diving crankbaits like XD 6-XD 8 from Strike King chart blue back and shad patterns are best over humps and road beds in 15-27 feet. Report by Marc Mitchell, Lake Fork Guide Service. August brings in hot temperatures. Bass are feeding in 10-12 feet where the thermocline is not present. Look for schooling bass in the open water and creeks as shad hatch is in full swing. Also, check out the brush piles as big bass are using them to feed on crappie. Bream are excellent in the shallows, wooly buggers and small poppers should bring a strike. Report by Guide Alex Guthrie, Fly Fish Fork Guide Service. The crappie fishing on Lake Fork continues to be excellent as we get deeper into the summer pattern. Fish are still stacked up on

brush, trees and some lay downs. Best depths are 14-28 feet with a few fish a little shallower and a little deeper. The bite has been somewhat finicky lately. Minnows are a good choice to help overcome the slower bite. You can still catch fish on smaller hand tied baits or soft plastics. I've also noticed that rotating spots or finding new spots with less pressured fish has been important. The catfishing on Lake Fork is excellent like it seems to always be for eater sized channel cats. There are still tons of fish under roosting trees in 14-22 feet of water on the north ends of the lake. Bait a hole with cattle cubes or sour grains to get those fish concentrated. Then use any catfish bait of choice to load the boat. Report by Jacky Wiggins, Jacky Wiggins Guide Service.

Houston County

SLOW. Water stained; 85 degrees; 0.27 feet above pool. Fishing patterns are consistent. Sunfish are good. Crappie are slow on minnows and jigs. Bass are slow midday, with the best bite in the morning.

Lake O' the Pines

GOOD. Water stained; 90 degrees; 0.37 feet above pool. Solid summer pattern is holding steady for the bass. Bass are good with schooling activity starting to pick up. Follow the shad to find the bass. There is still some bass 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

GREAT. slightly stained; 88 degrees; 0.25 feet above pool. Some of the water is slightly stained, and water is muddy north of U.S. 190 bridge. White bass are great in 2-15 feet of water. Report by Michael Richardson, Lake Livingston Adventures.

Martin Creek

GOOD. Water stained; 87 degrees; 0.14 feet below pool. Bass are fair on lipless crankbaits, swimbaits with underspin and senko weightless worm. Crappie remains good in 20-25 feet of water with fish suspended in brush piles with minnows as the best bait. Catfish are in the deeper waters along with the crappie using live bait on rod and reel. Report by Hambone guide service. Report by Hambone Guide Service.

Nacogdoches

EXCELLENT. Water stained; 87 degrees; 0.01 feet below pool. Largemouth bass are excellent

on heavy weighted Carolina rigs, deep crankbaits, medium to deep diving crankbaits. Bass are set up in large groups on hard spots like shell bottom. Lots of catches in the 2-4 pound range with only a few 5 pound or more being caught. Crappie are good with swarms of fish on brush piles with any colored crappie jigs. Catfish are fair on cut bait and live minnows. Report by Cal Cameron, Cal's ETX Guide Service.

Nacogdoches

GOOD. Water stained; 88 degrees; 0.50 feet above full pool. The rains, last week, and the cooler weather had the water temperatures 6 degrees lower than average. However, the forecast heat will drive it back up quickly. 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 fish, in open gaps between the submerged timber, with a Jr. jerkbait +1 that gets to 8-9 feet with 12 pound Fluoro. If you catch them schooling, chunk an underspin atem, or a "spook" style topwater. Otherwise, you cannot go wrong with a Texas rig Mag-worm. Crappie population is good. Catfish are slow. Report by Eric Wolfe, NacoTack Fishing Services. Largemouth bass are excellent on big swimbaits and Carolina rigs on timber lines and the bottom of shallow points on clumps of grass. Crappie are good cruising around the timber lines with some brush piles with live minnows or chartreuse crappie jigs. Catfish are slow on cut bait and live minnows. Report by Cal Cameron, Cal's ETX Guide Service.

Pinkston

GOOD. slightly stained; 88 degrees. Largemouth bass are good on timber lines with big swimbaits, and small paddle tail swimbaits. Crappie are slow live minnows or natural colored crappie jigs on standing timber. Catfish are good on live minnows. Report by Cal Cameron, Cal's ETX Guide Service.

Sam Rayburn

GOOD. Water stained; 83 degrees; 5.26 feet above pool. The bite for all species seems to improve when the water is being generated. This stirs the water, breaking up the thermocline. Bass are slow in shallow water with many smaller fish being caught on frogs, and spinnerbaits. Deeper bass bite is fair with Carolina rigs. Crappie are slow in the morning, but improve midday. Catfish are all over the lake in 20 feet of water and in 12 feet of water in the creek channels. White bass are on points in the south end of the lake near the

dam. Report by Captain Lynn Atkinson, Reel Um N Guide Service. As the lake continues to drop fish are going to be moving to traditional summer locations pending the thermocline depth. Bass are good early morning on shallow main lake points with medium or deep diving crankbaits, and topwaters. Main lake ledges with Carolina rig shaky head and spoons. Brush piles shallower than the thermocline with Texas rigs, jigs or Carolina rigs. The thermocline is actively fluctuating and will continue to do so while lake level changes. Navigate with caution watching for floating debris, trees, and stumps. Report by Hank Harrison, Double H Precision Fishing.

Toledo Bend

GOOD. Water slightly stained; 91 degrees; 0.85 feet below pool. Water level is still on the rise, but we have finally dried out after 6 days of straight rain. Lake is stained in some of the main creeks, but still clear out on the main lake. Crappie fishing is just slow. It is always slow this time of year, but it is really slow due to the rising water. Few catches on deep brush and lighted boat docks at night. Use live bait, as it is hard to get them to bite a jig right now. Bass fishing is still fair. Water temperature cooled off the lower 80s, but has increased to the upper 80s and low 90s. Very few bites on topwater now that all the clouds are gone, best bite still has been from 8-14 feet on Texas and Carolina rig worm and mid-running crankbait. An 80 year old birthday boy caught a 7 pound fish on a Texas rig, so while the action may be slow quality is present. There are few small fish being caught out deeper in 18-25 feet on drop shot and spoons, these fish are small and most are Kentucky bass. With no moon and poor weather the night fishing has slowed down this past week, but a big Texas rigged worm at night in 14-20 feet is hard to beat, especially with the hot daytime temperatures. Report by Stephen Johnston, Johnston Fishing.

Tyler

GOOD. Water normal stain; 80 degrees; 0.18 feet above pool. Summer fishing patterns are holding steady. Night fishing is good for catfish and crappie in the lights. Crappie are good using minnows and jigs on brush in 16 feet of water. Catfish are fair in 12-16 feet of water nightcrawlers, shrimp, and liver. Bream are good on red worms off the barge and throughout the lake. Bass are fair biting off the barge with a variety of baits. Carp are biting minnows, worms, and dough bait. Report by The Boulders at Lake Tyler.

Safety checklist offered for back-to-school

Special to the News-Standard

The American Red Cross offers this checklist you can follow to help make sure your student is safe as they go back to the classroom.

If your student is younger or going to school for the first time, teach them:

- Their phone number, address, how to get in touch with their parents at work, how to get in touch with another trusted adult and how to dial 911.
- Not to talk to strangers or accept rides from someone they don't know.

If your child walks to school, teach them to:

- Walk on the sidewalk. If no sidewalk is available, walk facing traffic.
- Stop and look left, right and left again to see if cars are coming.
- Cross the street at the corner, obey traffic signals and stay in the crosswalk.
- Never run out into the street or cross between parked cars.

If your student takes the bus to school, teach them to:

- Get to their bus stop early and stand away from the curb while waiting for the bus to arrive.
- Board the bus only after it has come to a complete stop and the driver or attendant has instructed them to get on. And only board their bus, never an alternate one.

• Stay in clear view of the bus driver and never walk behind the bus.
If your student rides their bike to school, teach them to:

- Always wear a helmet.
- Ride on the right in the same direction as the traffic is going.

If you drive your child to school, teach them to:

- Always wear a seat belt. Younger children should use car seats or booster seats until the lap-shoulder belt fits properly (typically for children ages 8-12 and over 4'9"), and ride in the back seat until they

are at least 13 years old.

If you have a teenager driving to school, make sure they:

- Use seat belts.
- Don't use their cell phone to text or make calls and avoid eating or drinking while driving.

If you are considering getting your student a cell phone:

- Download the free Red Cross First Aid and Emergency apps to give them access to first aid tips for common emergencies and real-time weather alerts. Find the apps in smartphone app stores by searching for the American Red Cross or going to redcross.org/apps.

If your student is joining a sports team, make sure they:

- Wear protective gear, such as helmets, protective pads, etc.
- Warm up and cool down.
- Watch out for others.
- Know the location of the closest first aid kit and AED.

Back-to-school checklist for drivers

- Slow down.
- Yellow flashing lights indicate the bus is getting ready to stop. Red flashing lights and an extended stop sign indicate the bus is stopped and children are getting on or off.

• Motorists must stop when they are behind a bus, meeting the bus or approaching an intersection where a bus is stopped.

• Motorists following or traveling alongside a school bus must also stop until the red lights have stopped flashing, the stop arm is withdrawn, and all children have reached safety. This includes two and four-lane highways.

- If physical barriers such as grassy medians, guide rails or concrete median barriers separate oncoming traffic from the bus, motorists in the opposing lanes may proceed without stopping. Do not proceed until all the children have reached a place of safety.

Weak infrastructure, distrust make communication during natural disasters hard on rural Texas

By Jess Huff
The Texas Tribune

LIVINGSTON — In the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Beryl, Marilyn Mayville wasn't sure where to go.

The 72-year-old East Texan was without power and reliable cell service. Her phone was quickly running out of power. A heat wave had settled in. A nephew in Dallas eventually reached the widow and told her about a cooling center just on the other side of Highway 59 from her apartment.

"I didn't really know what to do, but it gets pretty warm at night," Mayville said. "He's in Dallas and he knows more than I do."

On that first day after Beryl, Mayville said she was one of just five people at the cooling station. If Beryl was quick to drench Livingston, a town still recovering from a rash of floods earlier this year, news of community resources was slow to reach residents.

By the next day Mayville was joined by dozens of other Livingston residents.

At the cooling station, Mayville kept up with neighbors and her church family in those periods where cell service returned. [More than 100 Texas counties lack plans to curb damage from natural disasters]

Communication is key for keeping residents safe during a disaster. Rural communities, especially in East Texas, start from a deficit. Much of the region lacks quality broadband and cellphone access making it difficult for residents to track developments from news organizations online.

And there is a growing distrust in institutions such as the news media and government.

It comes as no surprise to Jennifer Horney, a professor of epidemiology at the University of Delaware and former associate professor at Texas A&M, that rural residents say they feel uninformed during and after disasters.

"When official notifications come out, people either don't trust it or they believe that their local knowledge is more accurate than a recommendation from the state or federal government," Horney said.

Rural residents often prefer to find their information through social media, friends and neighbors, Horney said.

Most residents in Deep East Texas, which includes Polk County and Livingston, should receive alerts through the Genasys Mass Notification System operated by the Deep East Texas Council of Governments, a coalition of local governments.

"The Genasys Platform utilizes voice, text and email messages as well as geofencing to select certain areas of a city

or county to be targeted for messages," said Lonnie Hunt, the council's director. "The Genasys Platform sends messages to landline phones, obtained through an interlocal agreement with the DETCOG Regional 9-1-1 Program, and the numbers are updated quarterly."

It is also very common for the counties to maintain active social media accounts, even if just to share information from the National Weather Service, Texas Storm Chasers or the Texas Division of Emergency Management.

Polk County also utilizes its own text message system, AlertMePolkCounty, and County Judge Sydney Murphy keeps the messaging consistent across platforms and news releases. As the county's chief executive and head of emergency management, she believes her job is to keep residents informed when disaster strikes — which it has multiple times this year.

Regular posts with information ranging from weather alerts to opportunities for assistance litter the emergency management Facebook page in a bid to keep residents safe, but also help them rebuild.

"I'm the one that's sitting there, answering questions and sending out information to make sure that it is immediate," Murphy said. "The minute we receive notice that this road is caving, or that road is closed, we immediately send out the notification so there's no confusion about it."

Beryl, the most recent storm to roll through East Texas, was the second natural disaster to hit the community in a matter of months and followed a stormy winter season that kept Polk County residents on alert.

But these attempts at communication can only go so far as infrastructure allows. Whether it is a news organization posting regular updates online, or a county judge making Facebook posts, someone without service won't see it. Likewise, systems like AlertMe or Genasys can relay information quickly and effectively, but only if the person on the receiving end has actual cell service.

A lack of access to broadband has long beleaguered communities like those Murphy serves. The council conducted a broadband study in partnership with in-Code Consulting, a global telecommunications consulting firm in 2019.

The study determined that broadband only effectively served 15 percent of what was needed. High speed internet was most accessible near schools and utility co-ops but was limited otherwise.

Texas approved \$1.5 billion in tax dollars to expand broadband access and emergency communications in 2023. The federal government allocated billions more. So more of the state should be on the path for connectivity but developing



Floodwater accumulates on May 4 in a residential area following significant rainstorms in Coldspring. PHOTO BY CALLAGHAN O'HARE

that infrastructure will take time.

Furthermore, cellular service — which is reportedly better than broadband throughout the region — is still unreliable, especially in the unincorporated communities between established towns.

Murphy is actively expanding broadband across the county to provide full coverage for all her residents. Polk County parlayed a grant to multiple telecommunications providers to expand broadband to the entirety of Polk County.

"By the end of 2025, Polk County will have full fiber connectivity north to south and east to west and redundancy," Murphy said. "No other rural community around us has that right or even or even as close to it."

And Polk County used American Rescue Plan Act funds to construct a 440-foot communications tower that cellular providers can rent space on to provide better cell service.

Building trust is a different challenge.

There are still days when Murphy's inboxes are filled with people complaining about how things are handled. Which she tends to ignore, unless they're regarding something she can actually fix. But there are also moments when residents ask a poignant question that would benefit the rest of the community to know, so Murphy does her best to answer those effectively and broadcast them.

She has found that her methods of communication have established some trust not just among her constituents, but of those in surrounding communities. After each disaster, she sees an uptick in subscriptions to the county's text service and followers on social media.

"We have a lot of people that follow our Facebook page that are from San Jacinto County, Tyler County and Trinity Coun-

ty," Murphy said. "During the pandemic and during (Hurricane) Harvey, we even had people from Harris County sending us questions."

Polk County residents, Marissa Suski and her husband, Brian, felt lost about who to believe as Hurricane Beryl began to turn north.

The path of the hurricane had changed and was barreling directly toward them. Further exacerbating their worries, rumors of the Lake Livingston Dam failing had spread like wildfire.

"One person says one thing and you call, and another person says something else," Brian Suski said. "One person said the dam was going to fail. Another person said no, we're just taking precautions to notify everybody. It was a lot of back and forth."

They looked to news outlets, social media and made their own calls to government agencies but felt the answers were different from every source.

The one system they found had the most reliable information was text messages that came unbidden to their phones. The Suskis didn't know where the texts were coming from, but they told them about boil-water notices in the past and kept them up to date with the flooding in April. Following Beryl, they learned quickly about the Polk County cooling stations, what help the state was sending and where to pick up MREs.

"I'm not going to lie, believe it or not, I trust those things more than what's coming out of a human's mouth," Marissa said. "They've been pretty right on key."

The texts were coming from Murphy. This article originally appeared in The Texas Tribune at <https://www.texastribune.org/2024/07/31/natural-disaster-crisis-communication-rural-texas/>.

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Legal Notices

Land title for 1041 Shore Shadow Drive

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

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

Child announcement

For the record, I, Monique Alexis Richardson, and my partner, Victor Van Rocker, do hereby proclaim and announce that we have created a child whose name shall be Aaliyah Summer Rocker and we claim our new creation as our true legitimate natural-born daughter, heir, and dependent. We jointly agree to emancipate her when she becomes

of the age of majority. We further declare that she is of American National status, and not a ward of the state, nor a stateless person, U.S. citizen, resident, or any artificial person classification. Our child is subject only to the divine creator of the universe. By: Monique Alexis Aichardson and Victor Van Rocker, All Rights Reserved

TABC application filed

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the terms and provisions of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code that Texas Wild Child LLC dba Texas Wild Child has filed application for Wine and Malt Beverage Retail Dealer's On-Prem-

ise Permit; Late Hour Certificate. Said business to be conducted at 22711 N State Highway 94, Apple Springs (Trinity County), Tx 75926 Texas Wild Child LLC dba Texas Wild Child Jake S Holland - Manager.

Sherriff's sale September 3rd

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF TRINITY By virtue of Tax Warrant issued out of the 411 th District Court of Trinity County, Texas in Cause No. 5643 on the 2nd day of August, 2024 by the Clerk thereof, and to me as Sheriff, directed and delivered, I will proceed to sell at 10:00 a.m. on the 3rd day of September, 2024 at the Official Door of the Trinity County Courthouse, in Groveton, Texas, the properties described below: CAUSE NO 5643 STYLING Trinity County, et al vs. Owners of Various Properties Located Within Trinity County, Texas LEGAL DESCRIPTION Tract 1. Lot 2, Blk 2, Sec. 13, Westwood Shores Subdn, described in Vol. 736, Pg. 253. R22930 Tract 2. Lot 8, Blk 9, Sec. 11, Westwood Shores Subdn, described in Vol. 840, Pg. 546. R24324 Tract 3. Lot 3, Blk 2, Sec. 13, Westwood Shores Subdn, described in Vol. 719, Pg. 592. R28365 Tract 4. Lot 1, Blk 10, Sec. 9, Westwood Shores Subdn, described in Vol. 539, Pg. 807. R29097 Tract 5. Lot 4, Blk 10, Sec. 9, Westwood Shores Subdn, described in Vol. 632, Pg. 156. R17169 Tract 6. Lot 2, Blk 8, Sec. 9, Westwood Shores Subdn, described in Vol. 702, Pg. 620. R25724 Tract 7. Lot 7, Blk 14, Sec. 9, Westwood Shores Subdn, described in Vol. 709, Pg. 42. R22508 Tract 8. Lot 29, Blk 12, Sec. 1, Westwood Shores Subdn, described in Vol. 735, Pg. 767. R12186 Tract 9.

Lot 36, Blk 1, Sec. 9, Westwood Shores Subdn, described in Vol. 636, Pg. 465. R12381 Tract 10. Lot 38, Blk 1, Sec. 9, Westwood Shores Subdn, described in Vol. 655, Pg. 206. R21727 Tract 11. Lot 4, Blk 13, Sec. 11, Westwood Shores Subdn, described in Vol. 738, Pg. 324. R22974 Tract 12. Lot 9, Blk 5, Sec. 9, Westwood Shores Subdn, described in Vol. 637, Pg. 21. R24983 Tract 13. Lot 6, Blk 14, Sec. 9, Westwood Shores Subdn, described in Vol. 741, Pg. 584. R24358 Tract 14. Lot 3, Blk 6, Sec. 12, Westwood Shores Subdn, described in Vol. 862, Pg. 828. R28357 Tract 15. Lot 3, Blk 9, Sec. 9, Westwood Shores Subdn, described in Vol. 768, Pg. 93. R19009 Tract 16. Lot 36, Blk 20, Sec. 9, Westwood Shores Subdn, described in Vol. 738, Pg. 320. R27119 ALL BIDDERS MUST NOW DISPLAY PROOF OF COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 34.015 OF THE TEXAS PROPERTY TAX CODE. LEVIED ON the 2nd day of August, 2024, as the property of those persons listed above to satisfy taxes, penalties, and interest and all costs of seizure and sale against those persons listed in said Warrant and any other unknown owners in favor of the Taxing Units listed in said Tax Warrants. GIVEN UNDER MY HAND THIS THE 2nd DAY OF AUGUST, 2024. WOODY WALLACE Woody Wallace, Sheriff, Trinity County, Texas



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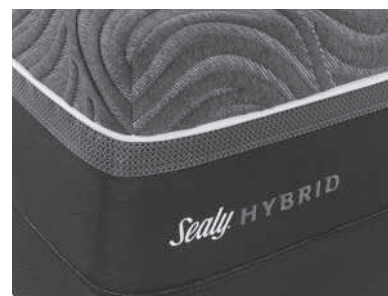
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Any error on a bordered ad must be brought to the attention of the classified department immediately. A correction will run in the following issue.

It is the intent and goal of this newspaper to have each advertiser who wishes to place an advertisement in the newspaper comply with Fair Housing laws. Any advertisement, which is perceived to contain language contrary to these laws, will be rejected or changed to remove the offending statement.

TO PLACE your classified ad in the Polk County Enterprise or the San Jacinto News-Times call (936) 327-4357 ext. 1002, for the Trinity County News-Standard call (936) 642-1726, for the Tyler County Booster call (409) 283-2516.

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)

We ♥ our readers
Trinity County News-Standard

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. Kfceilonalaskatx.com (49-tfn-nc-PCE)

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

BRIAN DEAN am no longer financially responsible for Rebecca Irene Carnes. (32-1t-pp-TCB)

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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)

HUGE INDOOR GARAGE SALE, Our Lady of the Pines Annual Garage Sale, at the corner of Hwy 287 & Eagle Drive, Woodville, Friday & Saturday, August 9 & 10, 7 a.m. -2:00 p.m. Furniture, kitchen items, linens, clothes, too many items to mention. (31-2t-b-TCB)

A Gnome Christmas in July at Sassy Soul Boutique
Numerous choices of Gnome decorations, all shoes 30% off, select clothing 20-30% off.
111 Hwy 59 Loop S Livingston, behind McDonalds
Tues-Thurs 10am-4pm
Fri-Sat 10am-5pm
(29-4t-cc-PCE)

Garage/Bake Sale
Friday-Saturday
Aug. 9th-10th
8am-2pm
200 Springview Dr. Oak Crest Estates Sec. #4 Livingston
Jewelry, books, toys, clothes, furniture, dishes, kitchenware, pet items, hats, purses and an assortment of much more along with our yummy baked goods for sale. (32-1t-pd-PCE)

HUGE YARD sale-August 9, 10, & 11th 9am-6pm. Too much to list. Jewelry, tools, rock saw, toys, books, clothes, antiques, furniture, lamps, cages, tons of antique glassware, patio furniture, tons of camping gear and Halloween stuff. Rattling Gourds Trading Post 304 Prospect Drive, Trinity, TX. Buy, Sale, Trade. Always open. Spaces for rent. Garage sale buyout. Lots of \$1 items. 936-327-0323. (32-1t-TCNS-cc)

YARD SALE/Moving Sale, Saturday, August 10, starting at 8 am, 209 Kings Row, Livingston, across from Gokey Bowling Alley. (32-1t-pp-TCB)

GARAGE SALE Saturday, August 10th, 8am-5pm 485 East Lake Drive, Livingston. Clothing, furniture, decor, toys, accessories and more. (32-1t-cc-PCE)

A BOOKSTORE FOR CHARITY is located inside the Tyler County Booster newspaper office located at 205 W. Bluff in Woodville. All books are 25 cents each, or fill a bag for \$2. All proceeds benefit Tyler County non profits. Come shop with us for a good cause. (2-tfn-nc-TCB)

FREE
FREE - Coats for Kids is no longer open on a regular schedule, but if you are in need of a coat for your child, you can contact FBC Office at 409-283-2588 and leave a phone number where you can be reached. Someone will then contact you and arrange to meet you at the House of Hope to help you get a coat. (4-3t-nc-TCB)

Work Wanted

HARD WORKING TYLER COUNTY WOMAN, Landscaping, fence line clearing, painting, clean out flower beds, any outdoor jobs. Christal-409-224-5293. (31-tfn-p-TCB)

Home Repair Specialist

Can repair any type of siding, piers, decks, stairs, ramps, and hurricane and weather damages. Can install windows, doors, ceiling fans, and flooring. Can build pergolas and room additions.
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Call 903-330-9011 (ask for Jerry)
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Employment

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

YARD PERSON wanted, property is in Crescent Shores, Livingston. Push mower or trim bern, 60"x25", 1st and 15th of the month. Earn \$100/month. Call (281)928-9248. (32-1t-cc-PCE)

NOW HIRING; Local cleaning company looking for new hires, must have your own transportation and be reliable. Call or text (936)714-6226. (29-4-pd-PCE)

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)

Notice of Position Opening
SCHOOL-BASED
POLICE OFFICER
August 1, 2024

The CITY OF LIVINGSTON is accepting applications for (1) SCHOOL-BASED POLICE OFFICER for the Livingston Police Department. Experience preferred, but not required. This is a full-time position with benefits. Subject to emergency call-in and weekend duty. Must be Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) certified. Applications will be accepted at the Police Department, 208 W. Church Street, Livingston, Texas from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday - Friday. The deadline for accepting applications will be through Friday, Aug. 16, 2024, at 5:00 pm. For more information, a copy of the job description and summary of benefits, please contact Trisha Patton, Administrative Assistant to the Police Chief, at 936.327.3117. The City of Livingston is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. (31-3t-b-PCE)

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.
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