



County opts to keep tax rate as is

Increase in property valuations will give county and additional \$500k in revenue

By Tony Farkas
 editor@trinityconews.com

GROVETON — The Trinity County Commissioners Court gave its approval to leaving the property tax rate alone, even though the county is facing increased costs across the board.

County Judge Danny Martin said during the Aug. 27 that inflation a chief problem for the county; the actual inflation rate in the county is 27.2 percent, he said, higher than the 19 percent national average.

Commissioner Mike Loftin said the cost of living, insurance, Social Security have all increased.

Even so, Commissioner Neal Smith said that if the county leaves taxes exactly where they're at,

0.539 per \$100 valuation, it will bring in an additional \$505,048, and "I feel that's where it ought to be."

While the proposed budget has not yet been approved, it does reflect a 25 percent increase to the appropriations for the county's fire departments and a 1.5 percent increase for county employees.

However, the court chose to give elected officials a 1.99 percent raise to make salaries an even \$50,000 annually, giving those employees an average of \$939 per year additional income.

The court set Sept. 24 as the date for a public hearing on the proposed 2024-25 budget and tax rate.

In a related matter, the court approved the

property tax roll submitted by the Trinity County Appraisal District and reviewed the no-new income and rollback tax rates.

In other business, the court:

- approved invoices for disaster-related purchases;
- approved the sale of surplus trailers from the Road and Bridge Department;
- approved a \$1,500 donation to pet fixers from capital credit funds for animal control in the county;
- approved hauling services from Griner and Griner for hauling road materials;
- approved a county credit card for newly appointed Constable Mark Jones;
- set Oct. 5 as a county cleanup day;

• approved a measure to begin requiring heavy haulers to get a permit from the county, particularly if their work causes damage to county roads;

• approved an agreement between Commissioner Tommy Park and Joey Fowler to use private land to address drainage issues on French Road;

• approved an agreement between Commissioner Steven Truss and James Ivy to use private land to address drainage on Sullivan Road in Apple Springs;

• approved the order of election for Nov. 5; and
 • approved the holiday schedule for the county, with Smith stating that the various county departments essentially ignore the schedule, as well as close more frequently than they should.



FIRE DESTROYS MOTOR HOME

On Friday afternoon at approximately 5:30 p.m., the Trinity Volunteer Fire Department responded to a motor home fire in Lakewood Subdivision on FM 356. An engine, a tanker and 16 firefighters responded, where they found a large recreational vehicle completely on fire. It was quickly extinguished but the vehicle was a total loss. COURTESY PHOTO

Tractor trailer overturns

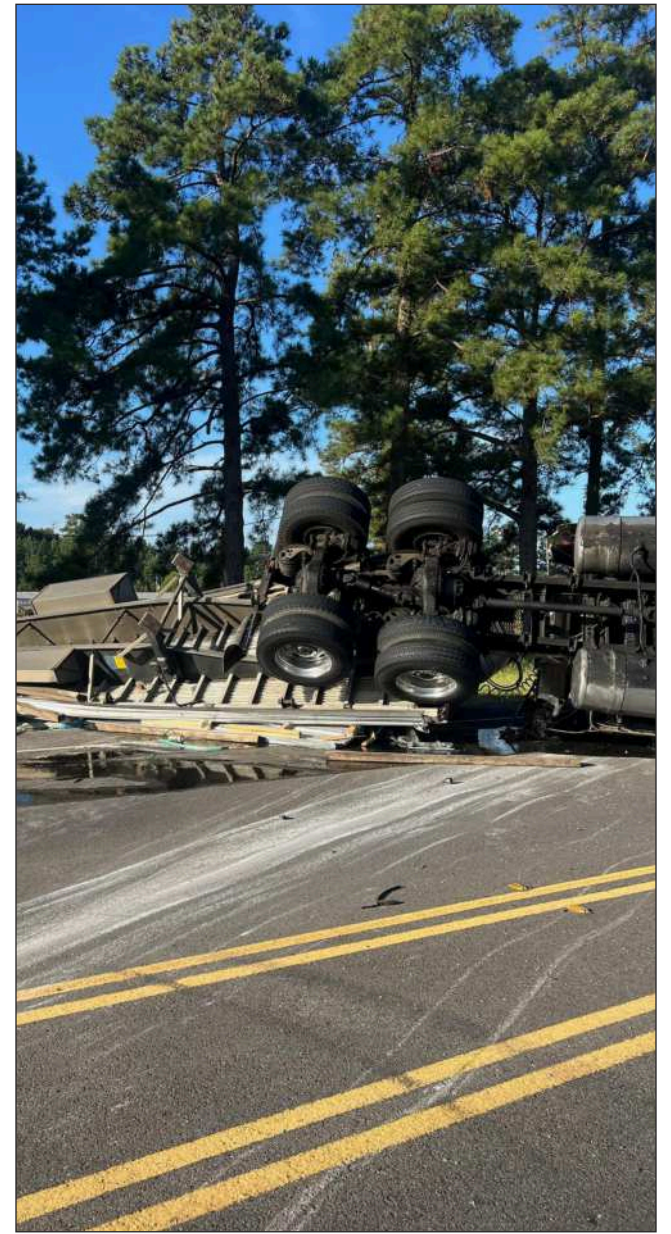
TCNS staff

GROVETON — Texas Department of Public Safety Troopers are investigating a one-vehicle crash on state Highway 94 west of Groveton that occurred Aug. 27.

The preliminary crash investigation indicates that at approximately 8:08 a.m., a 1990 Peterbilt truck-tractor semi-trailer was traveling south. It is reported that the driver was traveling at a speed which was unsafe around a curve and entered the east ditch, where the truck and trailer overturned.

The driver of the Peterbilt, 40-year-old Montrial Housley of Bossier City, La., was not injured.

This is an ongoing investigation.



Groveton VFD emergency personnel worked a scene at the Y in Groveton early on the morning of Aug. 27 after a tractor trailer overturned. COURTESY PHOTO

Groveton mayor fields complaints

Residents, council members seek answers for staff turnover

By Sandra Richards
 TCNS correspondent

GROVETON — The Groveton City Council Aug. 26 meeting before a standing room-only crowd saw concerns about city services.

Several residents voiced concerns about high water bills, a lack of trained city employees for street upkeep, street conditions around the school, lack of city employees in general, lack of animal control (specifically dogs running in packs), and lack of cooperation from the city office.

In a related discussion regarding the creation of a job description for city secretary position, Council member Joe Don Kennedy stated that the city's guidelines are specific: the City Council hires the City Secretary, not the mayor, and the vacancy of the utilities secretary must be filled by Sept. 27,

when City Secretary Melanie Smith's resignation is effective.

Discussion on that issue included the high rate of turnover of city employees. Council Member Casey Anderson said people have reported to him that a hostile work environment exists and contributes to the turnover. He went on to suggest that a committee of at least three council members and others be formed to investigate and to generate job descriptions for all paid employees.

Anderson said that in the spring there was a full replacement of city staff, and it seems to be happening again.

Mayor Ralph Bennett said that the new software was too much for the staff to handle; Anderson said that hiring replacements would keep the city spinning its wheels if there was not a good work environment.

Bennett said that the complaints of poor working conditions were not valid.

Regarding street concerns, the council adopted a Blighted Area Resolution to further a grant application for street repairs.

In other business, the council:

- discussed bids for updated software for the city's fees and fines, and that only one bid was received;
- approved an amendment to an engineering agreement with KSA regarding the construction of a 75,000-gallon storage tank and small pumping station for water the city purchases from Pennington Water Supply;
- approved the city property tax roll, but tabled a vote on setting a new tax rate;
- approved Groveton Economic

See COMPLAINTS → Page 3A

Board drops tax rate 3 cents

By Tony Farkas
 editor@trinityconews.com

TRINITY — The Trinity ISD Board of Trustees approved its FY 2024-25 budget and tax rate, and for the fifth year in a row, lower the tax rate.

Superintendent John Kaufman said that the tax rate was lowered 3 cents from last year for a total tax rate of 0.8866 per \$100 valuation, down from last year's rate of .9135.

Kaufman said the maintenance and operations budget will be \$15,066,844, an increase of \$600. He said the increase was necessary as federal because federal ESSER funds are no longer available. The budget for food service is \$1,036,191, and the budget for debt service is \$835,663.

The district was prepared for

the loss of federal ESSER funds; Kaufman said they anticipated it would run out and didn't use it for any recurring costs, such as salaries.

The budget does contain funds for a new ag vehicle, an additional Community in Schools person for Lansberry Elementary School, and an additional \$41,000 for liability insurance costs.

In other business, the trustees:

- approved 4-H as extracurricular activity so as not to cost students an unexcused absence;
- approved renew the contract with school lawyers Walsh Gallegos;
- nominated Board President Kevin Searcy as delegate and Board Member Monte Huffman for the Texas Association of School Boards convention; and



At the Aug. 26 meeting of the Trinity ISD Board of Trustees, the employees of the month for August were honored — Matt Curtis, Kelsey Huffman and Shambraill Woods. Pictured are (from left) John Smith, Matt Curtis, Gill Campbell, Kelsey Huffman, Jerry Herd, Shambraill Woods and Kent Copley.. COURTESY PHOTO



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RIVER & RAINFALL DATA AS OF SEPT. 1
 Gauge Height..... 5.20 ft
 Condition..... Normal Flood Stage
 Weekly rainfall..... 0.75 in



Free fair just a small two weeks away

When you get this issue of the Trinity Standard County Newspaper, I hope you realize how wonderful the last issue in August was with all the students in Trinity County photographed with their sports teams and schedules listed. Our county newspaper is the best.



Julia's Tidbits

By Julia McMichael

It is hard to believe that September is here and in less than 30 days we will have our 75th Community Fair. If you haven't gotten your application mailed to the fair association by Sept. 10, you will have to remit money orders as checks will not be accepted after this date.

September dates:

- Sept. 6-7, VFW Bake Sale and Bingo
- Sept. 10, FMC Fall Celebration
- Sept. 13-14, Stesti Beer Garden Music Festival

Sept. 19, TPCC 42 Tournament at Joseph's

- Sept. 19-21, TCFA Fair
- Sept. 20, TISD Fair Holiday
- Sept. 22, Knights of Columbus blood drive
- Sept. 24, FMC Dinner with Friends
- Sept. 27, Westwood Shores Subdivision Sale

Save the Dates for events in October:

- Oct. 4-6, Huntsville Fair on the Square in Huntsville.
- Oct. 12, Brick Street Harmony Quartet, First Presbyterian

Church on North Elm Street
 Oct. 15, Pumpkin Patch opens, First Methodist Church of Trinity downtown Lot
 Oct. 20, Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church Fall Festival
 Oct. 26, Trinity Lions Club Pet Expo and Talent Show, Trinity Community Center
 Oct. 26, Trinity County Veterans Wall of Honor, Scheelbills on FM 356 East.
 Oct. 31, Treats on the Street

• Trinity is so fortunate to have so many wonderful organizations and churches to present events for our families, friends, and relatives.
 Some are reported on Facebook before I get to them, but I am going to remind you of some important events that you may already know about, but I have not previously mentioned.
 For instance, there is a purse

bingo fundraiser for the Haley Burk Memorial Foundation that is sponsored by the YMCA Camp Cullen, 460 Cullen Loop in Trinity, on Oct. 5.

The event starts at 5 p.m. and tickets cost \$35 for each player, or you can buy a table that seats eight for \$300. A taco bar is happening, and door prizes will be abundant. For more information, call Shane Pringle at (936) 662-8180 for tickets and donations.

• First Methodist Church of Trinity's Fall Celebration that is to be held next Tuesday has a special speaker for the evening. Her name is Betty Carswell Webb.

Webb is a local songwriter, author of "Overshadowed by Jesus," and a motivational speaker who will speak after a light meal prepared by the Women's Min-

istry from the church at 6 p.m.
 Also on the agenda is gospel music to be performed by the McConnell's in the Fellowship Hall for your entertainment. The Church is located at 131 North Elm Street. For more information call Laura at (936) 594-3826.

• I am going to give you a heads up on some TISD Football dates as you will want to attend some of these dates such as Homecoming and Senior Night games.

- Sept. 13, open
 - Oct. 11, bye
 - Oct. 10, Homecoming
 - Nov. 1, Senior Night
- Don't forget other sports need your support. We have girls' volleyball and cross country races going on now at both Trinity Middle School and High School. See you at the games.



The Republican Women of Trinity County hosted Nick Adams at the River of Life Church last week. Adams is an author, a naturalized citizen and founder of FLAG — Foundation for Liberty and American Greatness, who speaks to groups and schools all over the country about the greatness of the United States. For more information on FLAG, visit flagusa.org. COURTESY PHOTOS

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1. Based on S&P Global Mobility March 2022-February 2024 new electric retail passenger car and light truck (GVW 12.3) registrations in the U.S. The growth calculation is based on percent change between March 2022-February 2023 and March 2023-February 2024. 2. Monthly payment is \$20.04 for every \$1,000 financed. Example down payment is 23.1%. Some customers may not qualify. Not available with lease and some other offers. Take new retail delivery by 9/30/24. 3. MUST FINANCE THROUGH CADILLAC FINANCIAL. Some customers may not qualify. Not available with lease and some other offers. Take new retail delivery by 9/30/24. 4. LYRIQ purchases may be eligible for a Clean Vehicle Federal Tax Credit of up to \$7,500. Consult your tax, legal or accounting professional for personal eligibility based on household income. Credit amount is subject to change. © 2024 General Motors. Cadillac Financial and the Cadillac logo are trademarks and/or service marks of General Motors LLC, used with permission. Cadillac Financial is a division of GM Financial. All rights reserved. Cadillac LYRIQ.

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2022 Kia Sportage	\$21,995	2021 Chrysler Pacifica	\$25,995
2022 Hyundai Sonata	\$23,995	2024 Chevrolet Trax	\$25,995
2017 Chevrolet Tahoe	\$24,995	2020 Chevrolet Silverado 1500	\$26,995
2024 Chevrolet Trax	\$24,995	2024 Nissan Ultima	\$27,839

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TRINITY COUNTY WEATHER FORECAST FOR SEPT 5- SEPT 11

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Thunderstorms 83°/73° Chance of Rain 734% Wind NE 9mph	Partly Cloudy 88°/70° Chance of Rain 21% Wind NNE 10 mph	Sunny 86°/62° Chance of Rain 5% Wind NNE 11 mph	Sunny 84°/60° Chance of Rain 1% Wind NE 8 mph	Sunny 84°/62° Chance of Rain 1% Wind NE 8 mph	Mostly Sunny 87°/65° Chance of Rain 10% Wind NE 6 mph	Mostly Sunny 87°/66° Chance of Rain 11% Wind ENE 7mph

Information sourced from weather.com

Forecast Fire Danger twc.tamu.edu

Fire Danger Rating
 Low Moderate High Very High Extreme



Looking Back

By Marlena Stubblefield
grovetonnews@gmail.com

10 years ago

Local musician aspires to greatness with inspired sound; GISD meets in special session Thursday; Centennial celebration planned for Courthouse; Suspect still at large following chase, crash. Obituary for the week: Gerald Dee Fails, 77, of Groveton.

20 years ago

Budget, tax rate approved by GISD; Command Center displayed locally; New Pastor at Josseland Baptist-Johnny Riley; CCC Reunion to be held this year at Caddo Lake State Park; A Legend Comes Home-Alphonso "Rooster" Wyatt. Obituaries for the week: Alphonso "Rooster" Wyatt, 70, of Dallas; and Wesley Gene Skidmore, 42, of Trinity.

30 years ago

Commissioners discuss 3 cent tax increase; Champion signs on to protect woodpecker's; Landowners unite to protect property rights. Obituaries for the week:

Evelyn Bell, 83, of Houston; Vera Scruggs, 88, of Montgomery; and Bernice Alma Weslow, 89, of Trinity.

COMPLAINT

Continued from page 2

Development Corporation Treasurer Randi Johnson as a signatory on the GEDC accounts, and approved Allen Klare as a new member to the GEDC

Board;

- approved the monthly bill of \$14,191.81 for Inframark's work on the city water and sewer systems; and

- approved a request from Tim Coker of the Groveton Ex- Students Association to block city streets for a street dance following the Sept. 27 football game.

Help available for damaged wells, septic systems

Special to the News-Standard

Texans who lost access to water through a private well or damaged septic system as a result of Hurricane Beryl may be eligible for FEMA assistance.

What assistance is available?

For private wells and septic systems, FEMA may reimburse you for the cost of a professional licensed technician to visit your home and prepare an estimate detailing the necessary repairs or replacement of your disaster-damaged systems.

In addition to the technician's estimate, FEMA may also pay for the actual repair or replacement cost of your septic system or private well, which typically are not covered by homeowner's insurance.

If you have applied for FEMA assistance and have not had a home inspection, call the

FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362. At the time of your inspection, let the FEMA inspector know you have a private well and/or septic system that may have been damaged by Hurricane Beryl.

If the damage is determined to have been caused by the disaster, you may be eligible for FEMA assistance.

If you have already had an inspection and damage to the well or septic system wasn't reported, contact the FEMA Helpline to learn how to amend your application.

Who May Be Eligible

Homeowners and renters in 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 counties with uninsured losses from Hurricane Beryl.

Nominations open for Governor's volunteer awards

Special to the News-Standard

AUSTIN — Nominations are now being accepted for the 41st Annual Governor's Volunteer Awards.

Administered by the OneStar Foundation, the Governor's Volunteer Awards are an opportunity for the State of Texas to honor exemplary individuals who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to improving their communities through outstanding service and volunteering.

"Texans recognize that the heart of our communities lies in the selfless acts of service rendered by countless volunteers," said First Lady Cecilia Abbott. "Greg and I are inspired by the unwavering dedication and profound impact of organizations and individuals across the state who keep making a difference in the lives of so many Texans, and we are honored to recognize them through the Governor's Volunteer Awards. The work of all Texas volunteers inspires us all to build a better, brighter future through one act of kindness at a time."

"As we embark on the 41st Governor's Volunteer Awards in partnership with the Governor and First Lady of Texas, we will

continue shining a spotlight on individuals and organizations whose commitment to service illuminates the resilience and compassion that is the essence of Texas," said OneStar President and CEO Chris Bugbee.

Nominations are open in nine categories:

- Governor's Lifetime Achievement Award
- First Lady's Rising Star Award
- Volunteer of the Year Award
- Volunteer Family of the Year Award
- Community Champion Award
- Education Champion Award
- Corporate Champion Award
- Rebuild Texas Disaster Impact Award
- AmeriCorps Legacy of Service Award

To submit a nomination and view detailed descriptions and criteria for each award category, visit onestarfoundation.org/governors-volunteer-awards.

Nominations will close on Sept. 30. Awardees will be honored during National Volunteer Month in April 2025 at the Governor's Mansion during an awards ceremony hosted by First Lady Abbott, Honorary Chair of the Governor's Volunteer Awards.

Preliminary flood maps for Trinity County ready for public view

Special to the News-Standard

DENTON — Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps are available for review by residents and business owners in all communities and incorporated areas of Trinity County.

Property owners are encouraged to review the latest information to learn about local flood risks and potential future flood insurance requirements. Community stakeholders can identify any concerns or questions about the information provided and participate in the appeal and comment periods for the maps.

This is Trinity County's first complete set of digital FIRMs. These maps serve multiple purposes, including defining Special Flood Hazard Areas. SFHAs are areas at high risk for flooding. Communities and residents can use the information to make informed decisions about building, development and flood insurance.

FEMA stresses that flooding can and does happen outside of the most vulnerable areas.

Review the preliminary flood maps by visiting the local floodplain administrator. A

FEMA Map Specialist can help identify community FPAs. Specialists are available by telephone at 877-FEMA-MAP (877-336-2627) or by email at FEMA-FMIX@fema.dhs.gov.

The preliminary maps may also be viewed online:

- The Flood Map Changes Viewer at <http://msc.fema.gov/fmxcv>
- FEMA Map Service Center at <http://msc.fema.gov/portal>
- The Base Level Engineering-to-FIRM Viewer at https://webapps.usgs.gov/fema/ble_firm

For more information about the flood maps:

- Use a live chat service about flood maps at floodmaps.fema.gov/fhm/fmx_main.html (just click on the "Live Chat Open" icon).

- Contact a FEMA Map Specialist by telephone at 877-FEMA-MAP (877-336-2627) or by email at FEMA-FMIX@fema.dhs.gov.

There are cost-saving options available for those newly mapped into a high-risk flood zone. Learn more about your flood insurance options by talking with your insurance agent or visiting floodsmart.gov.



PEEPER PERFORMANCE

Lions Club members Harold Yost and Elizabeth Wulf of Lufkin, along with Heather Bordner Lion Garry Brown of the Groveton Lions Club, performed the annual Eye Screening for children at Groveton ISD and Angel Care Daycare. COURTESY PHOTO

SENIOR MENUS

Sept. 9-13

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.

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

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

MONDAY: Spaghetti and meatballs, green peas, corn, garlic bread.

TUESDAY: Hamburgers or cheeseburgers, baked beans, chips, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles.

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

THURSDAY: Chicken fried steak,

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 dumplings, baby lima beans, cabbage, cornbread.

TUESDAY: Barbecue on a bun, baked beans, potato salad.

WEDNESDAY: Sausage and potatoes, pinto beans, greens, cornbread.

THURSDAY: Beef tips and noodles, reads carrots, tossed salad.

FRIDAY: Hamburgers or cheeseburgers, French fries.

ARREST RECORDS

The following people were arrested by Trinity County law enforcement officials through Sept. 2. All suspects are innocent until convicted in a court of law.

- **JaKendrick McGregor**, 31, illegal commercial dumping.

- **Charlie Wright**, 32, illegal commercial dumping.

- **Devon Elam**, 27, illegal commercial dumping.

- **Robert Dewayne Presley**, 60, possession of a controlled substance.

- **Michael Anthony Miller**, 41, warrant for failure to appear on a charge of possession of a dangerous drug.

- **Viridiana Gonzales Garcia**, 37, no driver's license.

- **Ruben Reyes Barragan**, 37, no driver's license, failure to maintain financial responsibility.

- **Gerald Christopher Simoneaux**, 54, warrant for probation violation on a conviction for third or subsequent offense of driving while intoxicated.

- **Rebecca Richards**, 55, driving while intoxicated; driving while license invalid.

- **Jamie Rene Driggers**, 35, warrant for release of surety bond for a charge of prohibited substance in a correctional facility.

- **Kwame Arthur Moore**, 45, warrant for

failure to appear on a charge of criminal trespassing.

- **Tammy Kay Frith**, 50, warrant for failure to appear on a charge of unlawful use of a motor vehicle.

- **Timothy Mason Scott Gilsdorf**, 36, warrant for probation violation on a conviction for driving while intoxicated.

- **Joe David Sailer**, 38, warrant for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon; warrant for injury to a child, disabled or elderly person.

- **Michael Bass**, 38, warrant for failure to appear on a charge of evading arrest.

- **Angela Renee Villalobos**, 43, warrant for probation violation on a conviction for resisting arrest, search or transport.

- **Marty Cyndi Martin**, 30, expired driver's license.

- **Ronald Wayne Busby**, 54, warrant for probation violation on a conviction for possession of a controlled substance.

- **Mark Alexander Uresti**, 31, driving while license invalid.

- **Shelby Dawn Applewhite**, 33, warrant for theft of property with two or more previous convictions.

- **Cody Alen Weber**, 46, warrant for violation of order of protection on a conviction for battery on a law enforcement officer.

HONORS

SHSU

HUNTSVILLE — The following area students received degrees during the 2024 Summer semester at Sam Houston State University.

Groveton

Javier Chavez, master's of Business Administration

Trinity

Brianna Jackson, bachelor's degree in Mass Communication

Jace Stout, bachelor's degree in Agricultural Engineering Tech

Trinity River alligator gar harvest drawing opens

Special to the News-Standard

AUSTIN — The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department opens its annual alligator gar harvest authorization drawing application process Sept. 1.

The random drawing authorizes anglers to harvest one alligator gar over 48 inches from a section of the Trinity River.

From Sept. 1 through Sept. 30, anglers holding a valid license-year or year-from-purchase fishing license can use the Texas Hunt & Fish mobile app or online to enter the drawing, either as an individual or as part of a small group. Winners will be notified by Oct. 15, and authorizations will be valid from the date issued through Aug. 31, 2025.

Anglers can use any legal means or method to take qualifying alligator gar day or night from a section of the Trinity River from the I-30 bridge in Dallas downstream to the I-10 bridge in Chambers County. This section includes Lake Livingston and the East Fork of the Trinity River upstream to the dam at Lake Ray Hubbard. This includes the following counties: Anderson, Chambers, Dallas, Ellis, Freestone, Henderson, Houston, Kaufman, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Navarro, Polk, San Jacinto, Trinity and Walker.

"Fishing for alligator gar on the Trinity River is world renowned and truly a bucket list item for any angler," said Tim Birdsong, Director of TPWD's Inland Fisheries Division. "With this drawing system, we are able to offer 150 anglers the opportunity to harvest the fish of a lifetime while also fulfilling our resource management goal of conserving this unique resource for current and future generations of anglers."

In addition, all alligator gar harvested, including

those using a harvest authorization, from public freshwater and saltwater waterbodies (other than Falcon International Reservoir) must be reported on the Texas Hunt & Fish mobile app or online within 24 hours of harvest.

"Gathering data on alligator gar harvest through the Texas Hunt & Fish app and online enhances our understanding of their distribution, sizes and numbers, and helps us maintain the best possible fishing opportunities into the future," said Birdsong.

Other Trinity River alligator gar regulations remain in effect include a 48-inch maximum length limit from the I-30 bridge in Dallas downstream to the I-10 bridge in Chambers County, including Lake Livingston and the East Fork of the Trinity River upstream to the dam at Lake Ray Hubbard (see above for list of affected counties). Additionally, a ban on the take or possession of an alligator gar by means of lawful archery equipment or crossbow is in effect on the same section of the Trinity River between one half-hour after sunset and one half-hour before sunrise (unless using a harvest authorization through the drawing system).

A one-fish-per-day bag limit remains in effect for alligator gar statewide except for Falcon International Reservoir, where a daily bag limit of five fish and possession limit of 10 fish remains in effect.

The Texas Hunt & Fish app can be downloaded free from the Apple App Store and Google Play. For more information about alligator gar fishing regulations, visit The Outdoor Annual online and the Alligator Gar Harvest Restrictions and Harvest Reporting website.

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OPINION

Income taxation without representing income

In my 40 years of dancing around the halls of journalism, I have one story that when people ask me what my favorite interview was, I relate the story of the Szalows in Quay County, N.M.

The old man was the son of one of the original homesteaders of that area, around the turn of the last century, and his recounting of the events he lived through were riveting and peppered with humorous phrases.

One of the events in the early 1900s was a snowstorm that lasted for days, which for people at that time was very dangerous. The family had prepared by cutting firewood, but the storm was so bad and so long that they burned through their stockpile.

He then said, "After we burned all the firewood, we looked at the fence-



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

posts we had cut. At first, we burned only the crooked ones. Pretty soon they were all crooked."

The upshot was that at that time, what they had wasn't enough, at that has been the problem with the federal government for decades. Their spending habits have been out of control for so long that there seemingly is never enough cash around for them to fund everything they claim needs funding.

Or, as Margaret Thatcher said, "The problem with socialism is you eventually run out of other people's money."

So in the latest bid to elect an over-spender (Kamala Harris), a tax plan has come to light with is supposed to fix the money flow — the unrealized gains tax. In a very tiny nutshell, it's a tax on income that you could have made.

The income tax started in 1861 during the Civil War, a 3 percent flat tax on incomes over \$800, which was repealed 11 years later. In 1913, the 16th amendment gave the government power to levy taxes on income, since the money coming in from tariffs and excise taxes were not enough to cover the growing needs of the country. From there, the fenceposts started

to become crooked; initially, sales from stocks didn't qualify as income, but the money pit that Washington, D.C., has become needs to be fueled, so things were changed. Soon, anything that could remotely be considered as income — interest on bank accounts, rental income (if you own property), even the swag bags given to presenters at the Oscar celebrations.

In short, if you received it via any means, it was income — you know, crooked wood for the fire.

Of course, government's appetite for money has only grown exponentially (while our income hasn't), so now the definition is changing again.

Harris is touting the 25 percent unrealized capital gains tax, which would be placed on personal and business assets, nominally for people with \$100 million or more in wealth. We all know, though, that once the foot is in that particular door, it's only a matter of time before that changes, because the money must flow.

How it works is you own a piece of property that costs \$500,000 (a value, of course, set by the government as well). If the value of that property goes up \$50,000, then you own the feds \$12,500, whether you sold the property or not.

Guess what happens if it goes up again the following year?

If you can't pay, then of course, you can take out a loan, and if you can't, you lose the property. Simple, huh?

At no time, that I can see, has a plan been put into place to address debt, budget deficits or any government overspending; just more promises of giveaways in order to buy votes, which in turn creates an even greater need for money, and the beat goes on.

The Founding Fathers wanted to protect private property rights. Our current leaders want to protect your private property from, well, you.

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



Texans need a water path to self-reliance

By Sid Miller
Texas Agriculture Commissioner

Water is the lifeblood of Texas agriculture, and nowhere is that more critical than in the Rio Grande Valley. For too long, we've been at the mercy of Mexico, waiting on them to deliver on empty promises stemming back to a water treaty negotiated in 1944 — 80 years ago.

Mexico has now fallen behind, once again, in providing more than 900,000 acre-feet, or about 1.1 billion cubic meters of water they owe to Texas and the U.S., and again, they've shown they can't be trusted as reliable partners. It's time to stop whining about it and act. Texans need to pull themselves up by their bootstraps, take charge, and secure our water supply.

While I've called on the Biden-Harris Administration to put the heat on Mexico to hold up their end of the 1944 Water Treaty, we all know better than to count on them to get the job done. The last sugar mill in Texas shut down due to water shortages, and our citrus industry is barely hanging on.

We can't let this continue. It's time to bring some "cowboy logic" back to the situation and start taking smart, decisive action on water management. Our farmers, ranchers, and cities depend on us doing so if we are going to continue to help feed and fuel our nation.

To fully maximize our water resources, we must prioritize capturing stormwater, reusing treated wa-

ter, upgrading the efficiency of our delivery systems, increasing storage capacity, and ensuring long-term water movement across Texas.

All of this costs money. How do we pay for it? We pay for it by accessing funds already paid by Texas taxpayers from places like the Texas Water Development Board, various federal infrastructure programs, and accessing Texas Department of Agriculture grants. By doing that, we can tackle aging infrastructure, boost existing water supply projects, and kick-start new ones.

Our irrigation systems in Texas are among the oldest in the nation, and they're way past due for an upgrade. In the Rio Grande Valley, irrigation districts lose up to 40 percent of their water due to a myriad of reasons. And it's not just rural areas — our urban infrastructure is crumbling too, with water losses reaching as high as 30 percent. Just last year, outdated systems caused six major cities to lose a staggering 88 billion gallons of water, costing us millions and putting a serious strain on our already limited supply.

Rainwater harvesting is a time-tested solution that's as old as Texas itself. It's not just for gardeners — it's a smart move for all of us. We pour millions into managing stormwater every year, only to watch it go to waste.

Instead, let's turn that runoff into a valuable resource by capturing and storing it. Investing in rainwater harvesting during heavy rains

can capture runoff before it reaches the Gulf of Mexico and develop off-channel storage to ensure we're making the most of every drop.

There's real hope for progress if we take charge of the problem instead of just complaining about it. Cities like Alice, Big Springs, and El Paso are already leading the way. Alice is set to open its brackish water treatment plant this year, providing 2.7 million gallons of fresh drinking water daily.

Meanwhile, El Paso has cut its reliance on the Rio Grande River by half with its wastewater treatment plant and reduced water losses by 475 million gallons in the past year, thanks to smart investments in pipeline replacements. All three of these cities are now or soon will be generating new sources of fresh water. Others need to follow their lead.

We also need to promote water-smart landscaping. Investing in community education on xeriscaping and promoting native grasses like buffalo grass can help reduce the strain on our water supply from urban areas.

Let's consider the potential for using brackish water instead of fresh water for fracking. We can treat it, use it, and then recycle it for another round of fracking. It's a smarter way to conserve freshwater supplies while still getting the job done and not harming our important oil and gas industry.

From hitting Mexico with sanctions to holding back State Depart-

ment funds and boosting United States Department of Agriculture relief, Texas lawmakers are stepping up to help our state recover from this relentless drought.

The Texas congressional delegation, including Sens. Ted Cruz and John Cornyn, and Rep. Monica De La Cruz, have joined me in calling out Mexico's total disregard for honoring the 1944 treaty. But let's be clear — Texans can't sit around waiting on Washington, D.C., or Mexico. It's time for Texans to roll up our sleeves and take charge of developing our own water-generation solutions across our great state.

The bottom line is this: Texans have the know-how, the technology, the grit, and the financing to secure our water future. But we must quit complaining, get off our tails, and act. Let's not leave the future of Texas agriculture — and our state's economy — to the chance that someday Mexico might uphold its end of the bargain.

We've waited long enough. The time for action is now, and it's up to us, as Texans, to determine our own destiny.

An eighth-generation Texas farmer and rancher, Sid Miller is the 12th Commissioner of the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). A twenty-six-time world champion rodeo cowboy, he has devoted his life to promoting Texas agriculture, rural communities, and the western heritage of Texas. Commissioner Miller will be available for live television, zoom, and phone interviews.

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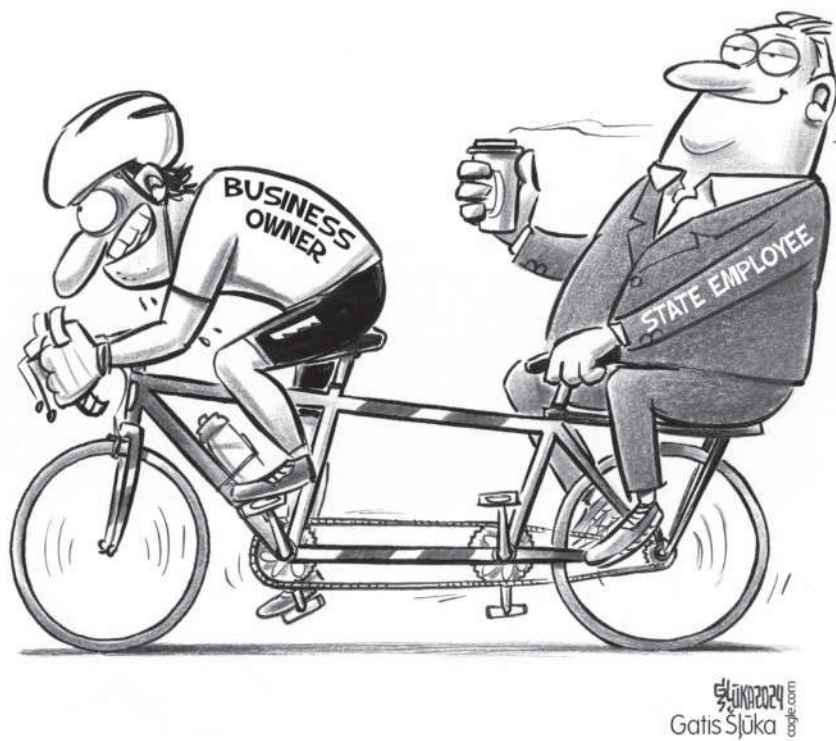
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Empathy

A few decades ago, sheep ranchers in the Western United States had a problem. In the early winter months, they would send the mother sheep with their lambs out to pasture.

Sometimes a cold front came through and snow began to fall. The mother sheep in their well-insulated coats did not feel the drop in temperature and continued to graze further and further from the barn despite the wind and falling snow. The lambs, however, were not as well insulated and would freeze to death with their mothers totally unaware of the peril at hand.

Finally, the ranchers came up with a solution. Before releasing the sheep from the corral, they sheared between the ears of the mother sheep, removing that little patch of fleece. With their heads exposed, the mothers felt the cold that their lambs were feeling and



Dan's Divinities
By Rev. Dan Darby

led them back to the shelter of the barn.

The root word of "empathy" is "pathos," which means suffering. Empathy is the ability to "suffer with" someone else. This is not an ingrained ability, for we naturally want to avoid suffering ourselves, and certainly don't want to participate in the suffering of others. Our inclination is to insulate ourselves from suffering, rather than participate in it.

However, others around us desperately need the healing presence of others willing to feel their pain and stand with them through

their trials and difficulties. To provide this kind of support, we need to let the Good Shepherd symbolically shear the wool between our ears so that we can learn the gift of empathy.

I ran across the following story that I think tells us something about empathy. The author is unknown: A farmer had some puppies he needed to sell. He painted a sign advertising the four pups and set about nailing it to a post on the edge of his yard. As he was driving the last nail into the post, he felt a tug on his overalls. He looked down into the eyes of a little boy.

"Mister," he said, "I want to buy one of your puppies."

"Well," said the farmer, "These puppies come from fine parents and cost a good deal of money."

The boy dropped his head for a moment. Then reaching deep into his pocket, he pulled out a hand-

ful of change and held it up to the farmer.

"I've got 39 cents. Is that enough to take a look?"

"Sure," said the farmer. Then he let out a whistle. "Here, Dolly," he called.

Out from the doghouse and down the ramp ran Dolly, followed by four little balls of fur. The little boy pressed his face against the chain link fence. His eyes danced with delight. As the dogs made their way to the fence, the little boy noticed something else stirring inside the doghouse.

Slowly another little ball appeared, this one noticeably smaller. Down the ramp it slid. Then in a somewhat awkward manner, the little pup began hobbling toward the others, doing its best to catch up.

"I want that one," the little boy said, pointing to the runt.

The farmer knelt at the boy's

side and said, "Son, you don't want that puppy. He will never be able to run and play with you like these other dogs would."

With that the little boy stepped back from the fence, reached down, and began rolling up one leg of his trousers. In doing so, he revealed a steel brace running down both sides of his leg attaching itself to a specially made shoe. Looking back up at the farmer, he said, "You see sir, I don't run too well myself, and he will need someone who understands."

With tears in his eyes, the farmer picked up the little pup. Holding it carefully, he handed it to the little boy.

"How much?" asked the little boy.

"No charge," answered the farmer, "There's no charge for love."

Dr. Dan Darby is a retired United Methodist pastor.



ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE



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ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

BAPTIST

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

- Country Campus Baptist**
Sunday School 10 AM
Morning Worship 11 AM
Evening Bible Study 4 PM
Thursday (May-Oct.) 6 PM
Wednesday (Nov.-April) 6 PM
- Dorcas Will Memorial Baptist**
Greg Kitts, Pastor 594-3822
www.dwmcb.org
Sunday School 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 8 and 10:45 AM
Sunday Evening 6 PM
Wednesday Service 6 PM
- Faith Baptist of Riverside**
Kyle Costos, Pastor
Sunday School 9:45 AM
Sunday Worship 11 AM
Sunday Evening 6 PM
Wednesday 6 PM
- First Baptist Church of Friday**
3247 FM 1280, Groveton
Wesley May, Pastor 936)204-0739
Sunday School 10 AM
Morning Worship 11 AM
Wednesday Meal 6 PM
Bible Study 7 PM
- First Baptist Church - Groveton**
Matt Sharrock, Pastor
126 N. Devine (936) 642-1475
Sunday School 9:45 AM
Morning Worship 11 AM
Evening Worship 7 PM
Wednesday 6:30 PM
- Glendale Baptist**
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Worship 11 AM
Evening 6 PM
Wednesday 6 PM
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Servicio - Domingo 11 AM
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Sunday School 10 AM
Morning Worship 11 AM
Evening Worship 5 PM
Wednesday 6 PM
- Lakeway Baptist of Carlisle**
Jerry Vincent, Pastor
12748 FM 356 594-0086
Sunday School 9:45 AM
Morning Worship 11 AM
Evening Worship 6:30 PM
Wednesday 6:30 PM
- Lone Star Baptist**
Isaac DeBose, Pastor
Sunday School 9:45 AM
Morning Worship 11:30 AM
Thursday Prayer 6 PM
- Mary's Chapel Missionary Baptist**
Rev. Nathaniel Jenkins, Pastor
Sunday School 10 AM
Morning Worship 11 AM
Wednesday 6 PM
- Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist**
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Sunday Service 11:15 AM
- Greater New Hope MBC**
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Sunday School 9:30 AM
Worship 11 AM
Wednesday 5:30 PM
Bible Study 6:30 PM
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Evening Worship 6 PM
Wednesday 7 PM

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

CATHOLIC

- Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church**
Fr. Cesar Betancourt, Administrator
401 Prospect Dr. 936-594-6664
Secretary | Thurs & Fri only
Saturday Vigil Mass, English 4 PM
Sunday Mass, English 10 AM
Sunday Mass en Espanol 1 PM
Weekday Mass, English 10 AM
Weekday Mass en Espanol 7 PM
Saturday Confession 2:30-3:45 PM

CHURCH OF CHRIST

- Groveton Church of Christ**
Tony Gains, Minister
169 Main St (936) 642-2382
Sunday School 10 AM
Morning Worship 11 AM
Evening Worship 6 PM
Wednesday 7 PM
- Riverside Church of Christ**
Brother Jerald D. Bass, Minister (936) 744-0093
Bible Class 9:30 AM
Worship 10:45 AM
- Trinity Church of Christ**
David D. Collier, Sr., Minister
Bible Class 10 AM
Worship 11:00 AM
Wednesday 6 PM

CHURCH OF GOD

- Campbell Memorial Church of God in Christ**
Elder Cleven V. Thompson, Pastor
600 W. Main
Sunday School 9:45 AM
Morning Worship 11:15 AM
YPWW- Sunday 6:30 PM
- Church of God**
Jack and Debbie Black, Pastors
Hwy. 94
Adult Bible Study 10 AM
Morning Worship 11 AM
Wednesday Evening 7 PM

- Revival Center Church of God, Onalaska**
Gerald Reeves, Pastor
Sunday School 9:45 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Sunday Evening 5 PM
Wednesday 7 PM
- Westside Church of God in Christ**
Bernard Boston, Pastor 594-7146
200 Israel Otis, Trinity,
Sunday School 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 11:30 AM
Evening Worship 7:45 PM

FULL GOSPEL

- Lighthouse Cowboy Church**
Len Smith, Pastor
Odessa St., Trinity 594-2228
Sunday Service 11 AM
Wednesday Service 7:30 PM
- New Beginning Full Gospel Church**
522 Josserand Rd. (936) 675-2848
Worship 10 AM
Wednesday Bible Study 6 PM
- The Risin' Sun Church**
Ron Conatser, Pastor
FM 356, Trinity
Sunday School 9 AM
Sunday Service 10 AM
Sunday Youth Church 7 PM
Wednesday Service 7 PM
Thursday Cowboy Church 7 PM
- Word of Love Worship Center**
Travis & Rebecca Beakley, Pastors 594-8014
101 Fillmore, Trinity
Sunday School 10 AM
Morning Worship 11 AM
Sunday Evening 6 PM
Tuesday Bible Study 6 PM
Thursday Worship 6 PM

LUTHERAN

- Faith Lutheran Church & School LCMS**
Rev. Travis A Pitlock Sr., Pastor
Hwy. 30W. & Sumac Rd., Huntsville(936) 295-5298
Sunday School 9:15 AM
Worship Service 10:30 AM
- Grace Lutheran Church**
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West Loop 304 at Hall's Bluff Rd., Crockett 936-544-3508
Sunday School 9 AM
Sunday Worship 10:30 AM

METHODIST

- First United Methodist-Groveton**
Jeff Hastings, Pastor
155 Church Ave. (936) 642-1249
Sunday School 10 AM
Sunday Worship 11 AM
Tuesday Bible Study 6:30 PM
- First Methodist Church**
Rev. Michael Bedevian
131 N. Elm (936) 594-3826
Sunday School 9:30 AM
Traditional Morning Worship 11 AM
- Glendale Congreg. Methodist**
Barbara Campbell, Pastor
184 Glendale Church Road
Sunday School 9:45 AM
Worship 11 AM
Evening Worship 7 PM
Wednesday 6:45 PM
- Prairie View United Methodist**
Jeff Hastings, Pastor
307 Denman Road (936) 642-1249
Sunday Worship 9 AM
Youth/Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM
Tuesday Bible Study 10:30 AM
Wednesday Nogalus Quilters 8 A.
- Riverside United Methodist**
Max Nichter, Pastor
Worship 9 AM
Sunday School 10 AM
2nd & 4th Wednesday 7:30 PM

- Sebastopol Congregational Methodist Church**
Pastor Sue Koenig
Intersection of FM 355 & FM 356 (936)594-2840
Sunday School 10:00 AM
Sunday Worship 11:00 AM
Singing on third Saturday

Sebastopol Community Church

- Marion & Sandi Morrison, Pastors
Sunday School 9:45 AM
Worship 11 AM
- Trinity Chapel A.M.E. Church**
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908 S. Robb St., Trinity (281) 847-3414
or (713) 206-6134
Sunday School 9:45 AM
Morning Worship 11 AM
Wednesday 7 PM

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

- Liberty Christian Center**
Kelly Barker, Pastor
101 W. Main, Trinity,
Church 10:30 AM
Sunday School 10:30 AM
Wednesday 7 PM
Friday Youth Impact 7-11 PM
- Living Word Outreach Church**
Lynn and Dana Gentry, Pastors (936) 594-8081
Sunday 11 AM
Wednesday 7 PM
- Open Door Outreach Ministry**
Billie J. Coleman Sr., Pastor
418 West Main St (936) 438-3923
Sunday Worship 11:30 AM
Wednesday Bible Study 6 PM
- Remnant Faith Church of Pegoda**
Jimmie and Maryann Carrico Pastors
662-8496 or 662-8926
Sunday School 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:45 AM
Sunday Evening 6 PM
Wednesday 7 PM
- River of Life**
Mike and Suzanne Loftin, Pastors
594-6262
Sunday School 9:30 AM
Sunday Morning 10:30 AM
Wednesday Night
Adult Bible Study
Youth Ministry 7:00 PM
- The Gathering**
301 Church Street 594-9559
Sunday School 10 AM
Sunday Worship 11 AM
Wednesday 6:30 PM
- Westwood Shores Chapel in the Pines**
A. Leroy Brown, Pastor
Worship Service 9 AM

PENTECOSTAL

- Calvary Tabernacle Apostolic P.C.**
Guy Hargrave, Pastor
(Nelson Amaya for Spanish services)
Highway 94/E. Caroline St.
Morning Service 11 AM
Sunday School 10 AM
Spanish Service 2 PM
Evening Worship 5 PM
Wednesday 7 PM
- Sebastopol Friendship Harbor**
Reagan Duncan, Pastor
Sunday School 9:30 AM
Worship Service 10:30 AM
Wednesday Service 7:30 PM
Saturday Service 7:30 PM

PRESBYTERIAN

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Dan Alexander, Pastor (936) 688-6674
Sunday Service 4 PM
Coffee & fellowship 5 PM
Sunday School 10 AM

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Comptroller: Hundreds of new homes needed to cut costs

A 26-page report from the Texas Comptroller concludes that the state needs 306,000 additional homes, a shortage that has sent housing costs soaring, The Texas Tribune reported. Homebuilding hasn't kept up with the booming economy as millions of new residents have moved here over the past decade, leaving more than half of the state's homeowners and renters struggling to find and keep affordable housing.

"Is it a crisis today? I wouldn't call it a crisis," Comptroller Glenn Hegar told The Tribune. "But if we don't find some more solutions, we're going to be in a crisis."

Gov. Greg Abbott, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and House Speaker Dade Phelan have each indicated that addressing the state's housing affordability issues will be on lawmakers' agenda when they return in January for the next legislative session.

One suggestion drawing attention is reducing minimum lot size requirements. A bill to do so passed the Texas Senate last year but died in the Texas House.

Median home prices in Texas rose nearly 40 percent from 2019 to 2023, the comptroller's report indicated. Nearly 2 out of 5 Texas households are paying more than 30 percent of their income on housing. Texas is one of the toughest states for extremely low-income renters, with a shortage of nearly 700,000 units, according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

More than 1 million ineligible voters stricken from rolls

Texas has removed more than 1 million people from the state's voter rolls, including people who have moved out-of-state, have died, or are noncitizens.

"Illegal voting in Texas will never be tolerated. We will continue to actively safeguard



Capitol Highlights

By Gary Borders
Texas Press Association

Texans' sacred right to vote while also aggressively protecting our elections from illegal voting," Gov. Greg Abbott said, touting a 2021 legislative overhaul of election laws.

However, some election experts point out both federal and state law already required voter roll maintenance and that this is a routine process.

"Year after year, people are taken off the voting rolls for all manner of innocuous reasons," said Sarah Xiyi Chen, an attorney at the Texas Civil Rights Project.

Some watchdog groups are questioning whether the state is mistakenly removing voters it considers "noncitizens." In 2019, the state flagged 95,000 voters identified as such. Many of them turned out to be naturalized citizens, and the secretary of state at the time resigned, The Tribune reported.

The law that took effect in 2021 set new rules and penalties for assisting voters. The measure made it a felony for local officials to proactively distribute applications for mail-in ballots, gave partisan poll watchers increased autonomy inside polling places, and banned local attempts to expand voting hours and drive-through voting, among other practices.

Record transportation investment announced

The state plans to spend a record \$148 billion for transportation infrastructure over the next decade, the Texas Department of Transportation and Abbott announced. That includes more than \$104 billion in a 10-year transportation plan to improve safety, address congestion and connectivity, and maintain roadways. It also includes more than \$43 billion for development and routine maintenance - a \$5.6 billion increase from the previous year.

"With a booming population and economy, TxDOT is meeting the moment with a record investment in our state roadway system to ensure Texas remains the preferred destination for families and businesses," said Texas Transportation Commission Chairman J. Bruce Bugg Jr.

Many of the projects in the 2025 Unified Transportation Program are roadways noted on the state's most congested roadways list. TxDOT is overseeing a record number of active projects this year.

Regulators approve \$5.4 billion in gas plant loans

The Public Utilities Commission has picked 17 companies to move forward with natural gas power plants financed with low-cost state loans, The Dallas Morning News reported. PUC commissioners approved \$5.4 billion in proposals for plants capable of generating enough electricity to power 2.4 million homes.

The current \$5 billion fund is expected to double to \$10 billion as state leaders seek to address the power blackouts of the 2021 winter storm that killed more than 200 Texans.

PUC Executive Director Connie Corona said regulators favored power plant construction proposals that can be completed

quickly, are spread throughout the state, and reduce strain on Texas' electricity transmission network, The News reported.

"The awardee must complete a rigorous due diligence phase, wherein they provide documentation similar to, you know, when you apply for a mortgage," Corona said last week.

Hunters urged to prevent wildfires during dove season

Dove hunting season began over the Labor Day weekend, and hunters are urged to be mindful of activities that could cause a wildfire, officials with Texas A&M Forest Service said. Hot and dry conditions in August resulted in increased wildfires in North and Northwest Texas, with 281 wildfires burning 24,333 acres.

"Forecast rain will help to decrease wildfire potential across most of the state," said Jared Karns, Texas A&M Forest Service interim fire chief. "We encourage everyone to be careful with outdoor activities this holiday and throughout the fall."

Vehicles, trailers and all-terrain vehicles frequently used while hunting and camping are capable of inadvertently causing wildfires through sparks, hot mufflers and tow chains dragging along roadways. Nine of 10 wildfires are caused by humans, according to the forest service. Hunters are urged to be aware of burn bans across the state, which as of Sunday included 138 Texas counties. The bans cover much of the state except for East and Southeast Texas.

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@texapress.com.

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New month brings a variety of activities

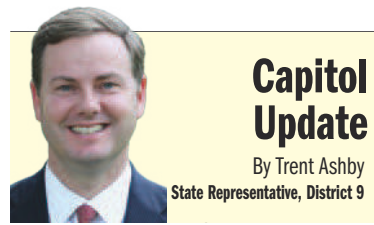
With September upon us, the school year is in full swing, football stadiums will light up the Friday night sky, and hunters across the state are chomping at the bit to get back into the field.

As I'm sure many of you know, this year's dove season starts on September 1 and will run until the end of October, just in time for the duck and deer season.

Here's a friendly reminder to all my fellow sportsmen and women to purchase a hunting license if you haven't already done so. You can pick one up at your local gun shop or sporting goods store as you're loading up for the season or even purchase one online through the Texas Parks & Wildlife Outdoor Annual App or on the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department's website, www.tpwd.texas.gov.

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

The House Committee on Culture, Recreation, and Tourism, which I am proud to serve on as Chairman,



Capitol Update

By Trent Ashby
State Representative, District 9

has jurisdiction over bills regarding the creation, operation, and control of state parks, the regulation of hunting and fishing in the state, historical sites and their promotion, development, and regulation, and many other issues. The Committee also oversees state agencies such as the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Texas Historical Commission, and the Texas Arts Commission.

Over the interim, the Committee will monitor the implementation of House Bill 2719 and Senate Bill 1648. HB 2719 authorized the Texas Historical Commission to acquire new historic sites, granted the Commis-

sion sole jurisdiction of 26 historic sites, and allowed the Commission to sell merchandise online. As the author of HB 2179, I was proud to carry this bill to ensure that the Commission is run efficiently and enabled to promote Texas' valuable and diverse historical legacy.

SB 1648 established the monumental Centennial Parks Conservation Fund, which appropriated \$1 billion for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to acquire new land for future state parks. Voters approved the new fund in the November Constitutional Election last year as Proposition 14 with a whopping 74 percent of the vote.

Additionally, the Committee will evaluate the impact of excessive shrimp imports from foreign countries on local economies, domestic shrimp populations, and public health. Over the next few months, the Committee will identify measures to promote Texas Gulf shrimp and support local fishermen and coastal communities.

Finally, the Committee will study the purpose and efficacy of the Texas Farm and Ranch Lands Conservation Program. The Program conserves natural resources by protecting working agricultural lands from fragmentation and development. This program is vital to protecting the future production and prosperity of agriculture in Texas, the preservation of Texas's natural resources, and Texas's heritage as a proud agricultural and rural state.

Over the next few months, the Committee will identify the trends and impacts of land fragmentation given the state's rapid population growth, evaluate the risks of increased foreign ownership of Texas land resulting from fragmentation, and examine the ecological and economic benefits of existing and future land conservation programs.

The mobile office is on the road again in September, and our District Director looks forward to seeing you on the following dates at the following times: Sept. 4 at the San Augustine

County Courthouse in San Augustine from 9-11 a.m.; Sept. 11 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 Sept. 18 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.

AI, voter registration concerns of the state

Here are five things happening around your state:

• Committee discusses AI, Texas Energy Fund

The Senate Business and Commerce Committee held a hearing on two interim charges, one regarding Artificial Intelligence and the other on the Texas Energy Fund.

The charge asks the committee to recommend a responsible regulator framework for AI development, including data privacy, industry standards, consumer protections, risk mitigation, and compliance processes. The committee heard from higher education professionals that study AI about how AI works, the levels of AI, and how it's commonly used.

Panels also discussed AI in the public sector at state agencies, AI in the private sector, and AI in media, like the press, music, movies, and broadcasting.

Ultimately, the state should develop a framework that addresses AI responsibly with the consumer in mind but is not overly burdensome on new technology. It's an intricate, but important balance to strike.



My Five Cents...

By Robert Nichols
State Representative, District 3

The second charge the committee discussed was on the Texas Energy Fund. The TEF was created last session by Senate Bill 2627, by Sen. Charles Schwertner. It created four programs designed to incentivize the construction of more generation for the power grid. The fund was appropriated \$5 billion last session.

This week, the Public Utility Commission of Texas selected the initial projects that will be funded by one of the programs. Out of 72 applications, 17 projects were selected to move on to the due diligence phase of the program. These projects represent 9,781 megawatts of new generation and a technologically and geographically diverse portfolio.

This is another critical step forward toward the state's commitment

to enhancing the stability of the grid and increasing generation resources.

• 1 million ineligible voters removed from rolls

Gov. Greg Abbott announced that Texas has removed more than 1 million ineligible people from the voting rolls since 2021. That year, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 1, by Sen. Bryan Hughes, which further enhanced election security and integrity.

Of the 1 million people removed from the rolls, more than 6,500 were noncitizens, more than 6,000 had felony convictions, more than 457,000 were deceased, more than 463,000 were on the suspension list, more than 134,000 had moved, more than 19,000 requested to cancel their registration, and 65,000 failed to respond to a notice of examination.

The safety and security of our elections is paramount and it's our duty to maintain accurate voter registration rolls.

• TxDOT announces \$148 billion plan

The Texas Department of Trans-

portation and Gov. Abbott announced a record \$148 billion investment in Texas' transportation infrastructure. That includes a \$104 billion 10-year transportation plan and over \$43 billion for development and routine maintenance. This plan is a \$5.6 billion increase in total investment from the previous year.

According to the department, many of the projects on the Unified Transportation Program are roads included on Texas' 100 most congested roadways list. Also included in the UTP is \$17.3 billion for safety and \$1.7 billion in funding for rural corridors and key roadways in economic hubs.

• HHSC awarding \$3.3 million to rural hospitals

Last month, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission announced the Rural Hospital Maternal Care Operations Grant for rural hospitals that are not currently providing in patient labor and delivery services.

The funding totals \$3.3 million and provides qualifying hospitals a one-time payment of \$35,000 to

purchase neonatal equipment, supplies, and training for emergency labor and delivery services.

Grant applications are open now and close on Sept. 13.

• Big Time Texas Hunts open for applications

The Big Time Texas Hunts draw is open for applications. There are 10 premium guided hunt packages and new opportunity this year to win a chance to free-range hunt a mature male aoudad ram in the Trans-Pecos region.

Also new this year, wild game chef Jesse Griffiths will join the draw winners of the Big Time Bird Hunt and give a private cooking lesson to the winner on the turkey hunt. Entries are available online for \$9 each or at a licensed retailer for \$10 each.

The deadline to purchase is Oct. 15 with winners announced within two weeks.

Additionally, Texas hunting and fishing licenses also went on sale this month. Happy hunting.

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

Halls of learning back after summer break

It is back to school season.

I dropped by Sam Houston State University to wish the president of SHSU, Dr. Alisa White, and the Bearkats good luck on their first day in classes. Sam Houston State is a university of high academic standing, offering over 90 undergraduate degrees.

I am excited to see where these students will take the future of Texas and our country. Texas' 17th is home to many quality schools and universities. Students, good luck this semester.



In Session

By Pete Sessions
US Representative, District 17

Remembering Abbey Gate
Last Monday solemnly marked three years since 13 heroic U.S. service members lost their lives in the Abbey Gate terrorist attack in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Their names are Sgt. Johanny Rosario Pichardo, Sgt. Nicole L. Gee, Staff Sgt. Darin T. Hoover, Cpl. Hunter Lopez, Cpl. Daegan W. Page, Cpl. Humberto A. Sanchez, Lance Cpl. David L. Espinoza, Lance Cpl. Jared M. Schmitz, Lance Cpl. Rylee J. McCollum, Lance Cpl. Dylan R. Merola, Lance Cpl. Kareem M. Nikou, Navy Corpsman Maxton W. Sowiak, and Staff Sgt. Ryan C. Knauss.

Next month, Congress will present a Congressional Gold Medal to the Gold Star families of each service member.

I am proud to have supported legislation to posthumously award these service members for their sacrifice and bravery. We will never forget their sacrifice and forever honor their memory.

Service Academy Forum
I would like to remind each of you to save the date for Sept. 14, when my office will be putting on the 2024 Central Texas U.S. Service Academy Forum. This is a great opportunity for students, parents, and educators to come and learn about the admissions process to all five U.S. service

academies.

The forum will include an academy admissions panel, and congressional panel. There will also be opportunities to hear about the admissions process from parents, the Academy Board, and cadets/midshipmen.

Labor Day Weekend
Happy Labor Day. I hope everyone had the opportunity to enjoy some end-of-summer activities with loved ones. Have a wonderful weekend.

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

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BITE by BITE
 Conquering My Culinary
 Bucket List One Dish at a Time
 By Emily Banks Wooten

“Texas does not, like any other region, simply have indigenous dishes. It proclaims them. It congratulates you, on your arrival, at having escaped from the slop-pails of the other forty-nine states.” – Alistair Cooke

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Iceberg wedge
 - Moonshine Patio Bar & Grill



Horseradish crusted salmon with lemon dill butter sauce and brussels sprouts
 - Moonshine Patio Bar & Grill



Chorizo hash
 - Phoebe’s Diner



Jalapeno hanger steak with salsa verde, demi-glace and yukon mashers
 - Moonshine Patio Bar & Grill

“I feel like everyone who goes to The University of Texas is blessed and lucky to be there because they’re getting a chance to be as good as they can be.” – Alan Bean

We recently went through a monumental parental rite of passage – moving Daughter, our one and only child, into her college dorm and leaving her there, approximately 200 miles away. It was a long, quiet drive home, to an even quieter house.

I’m sure I’ll write all about it at some point ... but not today. It’s bittersweet and still too fresh and personal to share with my readers. So instead, I’ll pivot and tell you about all the good food we enjoyed. Just as Austin is known for its live music and vibrant culture, it is also known for its food – of which we happily took advantage.

Unlike back in my day when it was all done wily-nilly, students are required to make appointments these days to move into their dorms. Our appointment was on a Friday evening and after being given wrong information regarding check-in not just once, but twice in fact, we finally arrived where we were supposed to be and began unloading the vehicle right about the time the rains started.

A couple hours and a few choice words later we had everything unpacked and set up. We were hot, sweaty, tired and just ready for a quick bite before we crashed for the night. (By this time I’d already clocked 16,682 steps according to my Fitbit.) We settled for a quick, easy meal at Zombie Taco, located in the lobby of our hotel, Moxy-Austin University, at 2552 Guadalupe St. It was filling, yet light, and the perfect way to end a long day.

The following day we enjoyed an incredible brunch at a place called Phoebe’s Diner, the downtown location at 408 West 11th St. I selected the chorizo hash, which was green chorizo, crispy masa cakes, over-easy eggs, corn, onion, sweet potatoes, spinach, guacamole, pickled chiles, cotija cheese and cilantro. Hubby ordered migas, which entailed Hatch chile hollandaise, scrambled eggs, onion, tomatoes, Hatch chiles, crispy masa cakes, cotija cheese and cilantro served with red potatoes and chorizo. Daughter chose Phoebe’s Benedict, which was ham, over-easy eggs, buttermilk biscuits, hollandaise and green onion and was served with a hash brown casserole. Every single bite was incredible and we all agreed that we look forward to heading back to Phoebe’s first chance we get.

For supper on Saturday evening we went to Moonshine Patio Bar & Grill, the downtown loca-

tion at 303 Red River. As of this writing, I truly believe that Moonshine may be my favorite restaurant in Austin. I first discovered it numerous years ago when I was attending a court coordinator conference there. That first time, I enjoyed the seared rainbow trout with cornbread stuffing, chile sage butter and green beans with bacon and it was all wonderful. I couldn’t wait to take Hubby there. If there’s anything we’ve learned over the years, it is that I should trust him when it comes to TV shows and he should trust me when it comes to restaurants.

His first trip to Moonshine was back in July when we were in Austin for freshman orientation and family orientation. Moonshine is one of those places where you can’t go wrong, regardless of what you order. That trip, I started with an iceberg wedge composed of bacon, tomato, blue cheese, candied pecans and ranch and then selected the horseradish crusted salmon with lemon dill butter sauce and brussels sprouts. He chose the jalapeno hanger steak with salsa verde, demi-glace and yukon mashers. Every single bite was divine. Commenting that his jalapeno hanger steak was the tenderest piece of steak he’d ever eaten, Hubby shared a bite with me and it melted in my mouth like butter. I knew that’s what I would be ordering on our next trip to Moonshine.

FOR FUTURE REFERENCE:
zombietacoaustin.com
phoebesdiner.com
moonshinegrill.com
kerbeylanecafe.com

Sure enough, I ordered it during move-in weekend and was not disappointed one bit. Hubby selected the center cut pork chop with bourbon cherry chutney, herb salad, demi-glace and yukon mashers. It may have been the thickest pork chop I’ve ever seen at about three inches thick. He shared a bite with me and it was moist, tender and absolutely delicious.

Daughter ordered a Sunday house club with turkey, ham, bacon, pimento cheese, red onion, house mayo, lettuce and tomato (minus the red onion) and accompanied that with baked macaroni pimen-

to cheese with a bacon gratin.

Moonshine is located in a building that is a Texas Historic Landmark, having formerly served as the Hofheintz-Reissig Store. According to the Texas Historical Commission marker erected out front, the structure served as a grocery and dry goods store for nearly 100 years, having been built between 1850 and 1875 for German Emigrant Henry Hofheintz. A one-story addition was later added and was used as a saloon and a residence. Hofheintz’ eldest child, Catherine Louise, and her husband, Adolph Reissig, inherited the store, and the property remained in the family until 1966. The building is a beautiful example of the German-influenced architecture found in many 19th-century Texas buildings.

Before heading home on Sunday, we met for brunch at Kerbey Lane Cafe, the University location at 2606 Guadalupe. With multiple locations, we’d previously eaten at the original (on Kerbey Lane) on a long-ago spring break trip to Austin, so we knew we would be treated to some excellent food.

I ordered the Cuban Benedict which was Cuban-style pulled pork, poached eggs, hollandaise, bacon, cilantro and onion atop a toasted hoagie roll and served with breakfast potatoes. Hubby chose migas, a Tex-Mex classic of scrambled eggs with pico de gallo and tortilla chips, topped with a choice of homemade sauce and melted cheddar jack cheese. It was served with black beans and Mexican rice and a choice of tortillas. Daughter selected biscuits, eggs, sausage and gravy which was two homemade biscuits topped with peppered gravy, two eggs over-easy and two sausage patties.

As you can see, we certainly didn’t go hungry. With Daughter now ensconced on “The Forty Acres,” I think I can safely predict that our trips to Austin will increase dramatically. If you have any suggestions or preferences regarding your favorite places to eat there, I’d definitely love to hear them. You may email me at editor@polkenterprise.com. I realize we haven’t even scratched the surface yet.

Oh, and by the way, for those unaware of the terminology, “The Forty Acres” is the nickname for the campus of The University of Texas at Austin because that was the size of the original tract set aside by the state. Today, however, UT’s main campus comprises 431 acres with a perimeter of more than four miles. ■



Cuban Benedict- Kerbey Lane Cafe



Center cut pork chop with bourbon cherry chutney, herb salad, demi-glace and yukon mashers - Moonshine Patio Bar & Grill



Sunday house club with turkey, ham, bacon, pimento cheese, red onion, house mayo, lettuce and tomato - Moonshine Patio Bar & Grill

“Only a rank degenerate would drive 1,500 miles across Texas without eating a chicken-fried steak.” – Larry McMurtry

TRINITY COUNTY
SPORTS

Football's back, baby!



Indian running back Ruger McLain breaks through the Alto line for a short gain. PHOTO BY TONY FARKAS
Groveton's Ty Torregrossa looks for the call after scoring the Indians' first touchdown of the 2024 season. PHOTO BY TONY FARKAS

Trinity Tigers break two-season losing streak

Team opens with 41-6 win over Hull-Daisetta

By SCOTT WOMACK
TCNS correspondent

TRINITY — After a long off season and endless practices in the August heat, the Tigers were finally able to display the results, and after two consecutive winless seasons, the young Tiger team came up with an impressive win.

Trinity downed stepped onto the turf at Tiger Stadium determined to erase the pain of the past and open a new chapter in Tiger Football.

The Tigers opened the game on defense and set the tone for the game, keeping the Bobcats to 3-and-out on their drives.

The first play of the Tiger drive resulted in a fumble that gave the Bobcats great field position at the Tiger 20-yard line, but the swarming Tiger defense was able to push them back 11 yards to take over on downs. Seven plays later the Tigers put together a drive which included a 22-yard pass completion to Ayden DeBose and a 21-yard touchdown run by Jammele Johnson. The extra point kick was added by Daniel Sanchez giving the Tigers a 7-point lead.

The Tiger Defense continued to keep the Bobcats from moving the ball and on the Tigers next offensive possession, Johnson broke away from the pack for a 46-yard

touchdown run, with the extra point the Tigers led 14-0. The defense continued to stifle the Bobcat offense, and the Tigers got one last possession before halftime and put together an 8-play drive capped off by a 20-yard touchdown run by Terian Maxie, with the extra point the Tigers took a 21-0 lead into the locker room at halftime.

The Tigers took the opening kickoff of the third quarter and took just five plays for Johnson to find the end zone after breaking away for a 46-yard run. The failed extra point gave the Tigers a 26-0 lead. The Tigers kicked the ball deep into the Bobcat end of the field setting the stage for another defensive stand capped by a muffed punt in the end zone recovered by the Tigers and extending their lead to 34-0.

The next Bobcat possession resulted in another forced turnover by the defense which led to another score for the Tigers off a 15-yard run by Ayden DeBose. Again, the Tiger Defense was able to come up with a big play when #9 Darrin Bass intercepted a Bobcat pass and took it to the Bobcat 8yard line.

The 4th quarter opened with the Tigers attempting a field goal, but the kick was blocked and scooped up by the Bobcats and in what appeared to be a breakaway touchdown for the Bobcats, resulted in a showcase of the Tigers speed when DeBose ran down the runner at the Tiger 22-yard line.

Trailing by 41 points, the Bobcats were able to find a hole in the Tiger defense and punch the ball



Trinity's quarterback Terian Maxie looks for room during a play against Hull-Daisetta. PHOTO BY SCOTT WOMACK

into the end zone. The next possession for the Tigers was capped off by a 15-yard touchdown run by DeBose, giving the Tigers a much-needed opening 41-6 victory.

In the game, the Tigers forced 5 turnovers, 2 on special teams and 3 on defense; and had 6 offensive touchdowns and one touchdown on special teams. Jammele Johnson led the rushing attack with 148 yards and 3 touchdowns, followed by Ayden DeBose with 2 touchdowns and 90 rushing yards and Turbo Maxie capped off the scoring with 52 yards and one touchdown.

The coaching staff and players were both incredibly pleased with the victory and Coach Shaun Stout complimented the team on their victory and reminded them there is still more work to be done as

they prepare to travel to Groveton for the Trinity County rivalry. Kick-off is set for 7 p.m. at Indian Stadium in Groveton.

Groveton

The Indians showed promise during their opening game against the Alto Yellowjackets on Friday, but ultimately ended up with a 28-12 loss.

Head Coach Michael Waldie said he was proud of the team's effort but was disappointed in the execution.

"We had a blocked punt for (Alto's) first TD, a pick-6 for another (Alto) TD, a snap over our head led to another TD," he said. "We didn't finish two drives, and that combined with the blocked punt and interception, the two-score game changed."

Waldie said he was proud of the defense which played hard in some bad situations, and while the offense did some good things, Alto was very talented and athletic on defense, making for a tough matchup.

"I expect massive improvements this week, and we are working hard to take big steps towards that," he said.

Standouts in the game were Carter Cox and Haygen Townsend on the offensive line, and Wyatt Snead at running back.

Apple Springs

Even after losing nine seniors, the Eagles opened up their 6-man season with a huge 42-26 win over Fruitvale on Friday.

Offensively, Zeth Dugat had 9 carries for 145 yards, 3 catches for 31 yards, and 3 TDs; Nate Sanders went 9-of-22 for 149 yards passing and 3 TDs; and Kane Dugat pulled in 5 catches for 108 yards and 2 TDs.

On defense, Noah Thompson had 16 tackles; Bradyn Kaufman had 12 tackles; Kayden Roden had 7 tackles; Nathan Smith had 5 tackles; Peyton Williams and Blaize McSwain had 4 tackles each; Colton Brasuell had 3 tackles; Rance Howell and Kason Harris had 2 tackles each; and Zeth Dugat, Kane Dugat, Preston Murray and Drake Pierce each had 1.

On special teams, Zeth Dugat had a 61-yard kick return for a TD; Kayden Roden converted 3 out of 5 PATs; and Peyton Williams blocked a Fruitvale PAT.



Above: Groveton's Head Football Coach Michael Waldie offers advice to Jaime Maldonado during the teams opening game on Friday against Alto. At right: Indian defensive back Armando Bautista pulls in an interception to keep Alto from scoring. PHOTOS BY TONY FARKAS



Groveton goes 2-2 at tourney

TCNS staff

HUDSON — The Lady Indians won 2 and lost 2 at the Hudson Varsity Tournament over the weekend.

While Groveton won over Onalaska 2-0 (25-0, 25-0) and 2-0 over Hemp-hill (25-15, 25-11), they lost 2-0 to Tarkington (23-25, 21-25) and 2-1 to Huntington (22-25, 25-14, 21-25).

Apple Springs

The Lady Eagles down Leggett 3-0 (25-18, 26-24, 25-13) on Friday.

Trinity

The Lady Tigers lost three straight to Shepherd on Aug. 27 — 6-25, 18-25 and 20-25.



At right: Trinity's Jasmine Jordan starts the volley. COURTESY PHOTO



Trinity's Chrissie Vaughn lifts up the ball for the setter. PHOTO BY TONY FARKAS



Lady Tiger Carolyn Cleveland goes for the save. PHOTO BY TONY FARKAS



An Apple Springs hitter goes for the long kill shot. COURTESY PHOTO



Ashara English of Trinity returns a Shepherd Lady Pirate serve. PHOTO BY TONY FARKAS



STAYING UP

Wyatt Sneed of the Groveton Indians stumbles a bit after pulling in a lateral. PHOTO BY TONY FARKAS



Trinity's Cade Mauldin displays his first-place medal from the BFND 4K Invitational. COURTESY PHOTO

Runners go the distance for medals

TCNS staff

CORRIGAN — Groveton boys cross country had a solid opening weekend at the Jana Broxson Invitational.

Held Aug. 24, the varsity boys placed third, the junior varsity first, and Junior High runners second.

Trinity

On Aug. 24, the Trinity Cross Country team kicked off the season at the Tomball Meet, hosted by CyFair High School. Both the boys and girls teams had impressive times to start the season.

Senior Cade Mauldin took top honors with a first-place finish in his division.

Then on Wednesday, the Trinity High School Cross Country team competed at the Madisonville meet. Mauldin led the Boys team to a first-place finish in the varsity division. On the girls team, freshman Jasmine Jordan placed sixth overall and securing a medal. Junior Karrisia Rangle narrowly missed the top 10, finishing 11th out of 55-plus runners.

Jana Broxson CC Invitational 2024

Aug. 24

Corrigan-Camden Elementary/ Primary Campus
Corrigan

Groveton girls individual results (time, athlete, place)

2,400-meter run

10:54.00, Lexan Peterson, 2nd
Groveton boys individual results (time, athlete, place)

2,400-meter run

9:11.00, Jett Arbuckle, 1st
9:48.00, Khelton Hunt, 4th
10:05.00, Jasper Due, 9th
10:15.00, Cooper Shanafelt, 12th
10:22.00, Andres Lopez, 13th
10:37.00, Ethan Bowling, 20th
10:49.00, Raysen Phillips, 25th
11:34.00, Jace Taylor, 32nd
13:13.00, Brady Thornton, 42nd
15:26.00, Giovanni Bautista, 49th

2-mile run

17:09.00, Jay Smith, 2nd
18:03.00, Hunter Bowling, 3rd
19:47.00, Jesus Maldonado, 11th
20:28.00, Dylan Newman, 12th
21:29.00, Colton Cox, 16th
24:12.00, Aiden Conley, 27th

4,000-meter run

16:58.00, Austin Williams, 12th
17:04.00, Landon Conley, 13th
17:24.00, Jack Sullivan, 19th
17:29.00, Armando Bautista, 21st
18:34.00, Luise Chavez, 29th
19:40.00, Trey Rose, 40th

BFND 4K Invitational 2024

Aug. 24

Spring Creek Park
Tomball

Trinity girls results (time, athlete, place)

2-mile run

18:01.20, Alexa Manzaneras, 122nd
19:15.30, Aliana Reyes, 149th
19:24.20, Natalie Stansberry, 151st

Trinity boys results (time, athlete, place)

2-mile run

14:25.10, Daniel Sanchez, 37th
15:16.30, Imanol (Alex) Sanchez, 40th

4,000-meter run

14:18.20, Cade Mauldin, 1st
17:48.10, Austin Beasley, 83rd
18:02.10, John Prarish, 90th
18:12.00, Christian Lopez, 95th
18:22.40, Alejandro Zavala, 100th

Bulldogs drop 2 to Neches

TCNS staff

CENTERVILLE — The Centerville Bulldog hosted Neches, coming away with two losses

There were no girls' games because Neches girls play volleyball.

For the Boys B team, Neches won 16-14. Cash Noack scored all 14 of Centerville's points

For the Boys A game, Neches won 49-10. Top producers for Centerville were Trinity Nerren with 4 points,

Drew Larsen with 3 points and Aiden Conner with 3 points.

Hunting the easy way



Since I began writing this weekly column almost 40 years ago, I've always tried to take you with me each week, regardless what I might be doing in the outdoors.

I've recounted my adventures fishing in Japan and shared my trips up in the wild of Canada with you. I've shared my North Dakota bow hunting adventure and detailed the days when I guided for elk and bear in the mountain states. But I've also shared my day-to-day adventures right here in Texas close to home, sometimes catching sunfish from a neighbor's pond or shooting ducks and geese along the Texas coast.

I've been sticking pretty close to the homestead the past couple weeks but there's lots of fun things to do in the outdoors that don't include travel if we look for them. There's some of the best hog hunting I know of within a mile of my house, and I have some great friends that allow me to hunt their land.

In the winter after the wild porkers have devoured all the acorns in the wood, I've been awakened many times by hogs as close as 20 feet from my bedroom window, feeding under the big oak by the house. During the period of January through March, acorns under the 10 or so big oaks in front of our home pulls hogs in by the scores. But right now, hogs are in the woods feeding on green pecans, hickory nuts, persimmons and acorns the squirrels knock out of the trees.

Through the years, I have devised many ways to hunt my close-to-home hogs, everything from bow hunting in my yard to

using thermal scopes at night on the larger tracts of land owned by my neighbors.

A couple weeks ago, I decided I wanted to use my Seneca .50 caliber Dragon Claw air rifle topped with an AGM Global Vision thermal scope to put some pork in the freezer. My plan was to smoke the choice cuts of meat and make a huge pot of chili and freeze it for use at upcoming hunting camps this fall.

I usually decide just how I want to prepare the pork before each hunt, sometime the dish is a Mexican stew or chopped barbeque and sometimes it's smoked chili. I love the flavor of fresh pork that has been slow smoked with hickory in chili.

Needless to say, it's been hot lately and my plan needed to facilitate a quick way to chill the meat. It would also be nice to get up off the ground and away from the swarms of mosquitoes common this time of year. But I didn't want to hunt at night in one of my tree stands.

After much thought, I devised a plan to use my truck bed as a hunting stand. I found a spot about 50 yards from my feeder where I could pull my truck between two big trees, with heavy cover of brush on either side, the outline of my pickup was all but hidden from view. The hogs were coming to the feeder around 9 p.m. each evening and by then it is pitch dark. They would never see me and hopefully never smell me with the truck parked to the west of the feeder. No chance of a south or possibly north wind carrying my scent to approaching porkers.

I placed my most comfortable lawn chair in the bed to the truck and pushed it up against the toolbox which serves as a convenient table for my glass of cold tea, and resting spot for my rifle. I have a cooler with ice that serves as a footrest while I am waiting for the hogs. I kick my boots off and get comfortable, with Thermocell to deter mosquitoes, I'm all set to hunt in comfort.

I'm always conscious of snakes



Luke has hunted wild hogs just about every way imaginable including this very comfortable stand in the back of his truck. PHOTO BY LUKE CLAYTON

when hunting at night and slip into my snake-proof boots when I step out of my blind to the ground. I usually take only the quarters and backstraps of wild hogs when hunting at night. The last thing I wish to do is shoot a hog and stay up half the night butchering the meat. I can remove the backstraps and quarters in a matter of a few minutes, place them in the cooler and get back home in time so I don't miss too much sleep. I have the self-imposed deadline of 10 p.m. as time to fire up the truck and make the 5-minute drive back home.

I could use my centerfire rifle with thermal scope and back away 100 or more yards from the feeder, but I like getting close to hogs. I like to set up so that I can hear them coming through the woods long before I actually see them. I limit my shots to 50 yards with

the big bore air rifle and prefer them even closer. I don't want to be traipsing around the woods after dark in attempts to recover a wounded hog. A close shot with precise bullet placement almost always drops the hog in its tracks.

My first hunt was last night from my truck bed blind, and I thoroughly enjoyed sipping iced tea while setting out in the woods listening to the coyote serenade and the hooting of a couple barred owls that I spotted with the thermal scope in nearby trees.

About 9 p.m. I heard the telltale sound of a big sounder (herd) of hogs approaching off to my right. My feeder is on the edge of a field, and rather than head to the corn, the porkers went straight across the field, probably heading for the 4-acre gravel pit to cool off and quench their thirst. No doubt they would be back at the feeder

sometime during the night, but I had no intentions of staying past 10 p.m.

I love trying to outsmart hogs and have learned a few tricks through my many years of hunting them. Tonight, I will string corn on the ground from the travel route the hogs use going to water back to my feeder. I am pretty sure they will smell the corn when they cross it and follow the kernels back to the feeder. I'm hoping they will eat first and hit the water later after all the corn is gone.

I will be able to film the entire hunt through the camera on my Rattler thermal scope. Wish me luck. Hopefully I can also take you with me via our weekly TV show "A Sportsman's Life" on Carbon TV and YouTube.

Email outdoors writer Luke Clayton through his website www.catfishradio.org.

B.A. Steinhagen

FAIR. Water stain; 85 degrees; 0.55 feet below pool. Water is being released into the lake from Sam Rayburn Reservoir. Mayflies are hatching, so expect some top-water 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 jugs. Anticipate increased boater traffic due to the Labor Day weekend.

Bob Sandlin

GOOD. Water slightly stained; 93 degrees; 0.29 feet below pool. Summer fishing patterns are holding steady. Big blue catfish 15 feet or less. Channel catfish are fair in 15-20 feet of water on baited holes with stink bait. Crappie are good in 30 feet of water, or suspended in 15 feet of water with minnows. White bass are good at night in the lights with a white spinnerbaits. A few catches of white bass while targeting crappie with a crappie jig and white curly tailed jig. 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 woolly 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. Anticipate increased boater traffic due to the Labor Day weekend.

Caddo

GOOD. Water stained; 80 degrees; 0.06 feet above pool. Never thought I would say this about Caddo this year after all the rain we had in the spring, but we need some rain. Lake is falling quickly now and the bite has slowed down some but there are still some big ones being caught on topwater lures early. River fish are still setting up decently and can be caught on june bug colored Texas rigs, dropshots and shaky heads in your cuts and curves of the river plus along the grass pad lines. Looks like some lower temperatures and chance of rain is on the forecast, so maybe the bite will pick back up some. If you are new to Caddo just put in on the river and have a fluke, pop r or Texas rig tied on and just cover the grass line on edge and you should get bit. Lake is setting up



holding lots of fish are the ticket. Lots of single fish on pole timber and some trees may have several fish in the branches. Brush piles, bridges and lay downs have been slow the last few weeks. For the best bite try to find a structure that has not experienced a lot of fishing pressure. Minnows are working well, but some anglers are having success with hand tied jigs and soft plastics. The catfish bite is absolutely on fire on Lake Fork. We still have loads of fish in shallow trees around roosting birds. I'm also seeing a big migration of catfish moving into the 18-28 feet range along creek channels. Catfish may be following bait fish just like other fish will do as we head into the fall months. Baiting holes with cattle cubes or sour grains will hold fish to your area. Use any preferred catfish bait to load the boat once you get the fish stacked up. You can catch 100 fish in just a few hours right now. Report by Jacky Wiggins, Jacky Wiggins Guide Service. Anticipate increased boater traffic due to the Labor Day weekend.

Houston County

SLOW. Water stained; 85 degrees; 0.15 feet below 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. Anticipate increased boater traffic due to the Labor Day weekend.

Lake O' the Pines

GOOD. Water stained; 90 degrees; 0.29 feet below 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 in the grass and bushes. Report by Mike Stroman, R & R Marine. Anticipate increased boater traffic due to the Labor Day weekend.

Livingston

GOOD. slightly stained; 89 degrees; 0.26 feet below pool. Catching a lot of white bass in 8-12 feet of water with white and chartreuse slabs. Report by Michael Richardson, Lake Livingston Adventures. Anticipate increased boater traffic due to the Labor Day weekend.

Martin Creek

GOOD. Water normal stain; 98 degrees; 0.99 feet below pool.

Nacogdoches
GOOD. Water stained; 87 degrees; 0.92 feet below pool. Large-mouth bass are good on standing timber and hard spots with a Carolina rig or deep crankbait in 15-20 feet of water. The size of bass are 2-4 pounds on average. Crappie are fair in brush with 1/2 ounce white or chartreuse crappie jigs. Catfish are poor on cut bait and live minnows. Report by Cal Cameron, Cal's ETX Guide Service. Anticipate increased boater traffic due to the Labor Day weekend.

Naconiche

GOOD. Water slightly stained; 87 degrees; 1.00 foot below pool. Keep an eye on the thermocline because this tells you the exact depth to present your offering. Even over deep water, do not go below this line. The jerkbait Jr. Plus-1 got the most bites over the weekend. If you find them hugging the bottom in 8-10 feet, dragging a Texas rig Mag-worm can be effective. Crappie population is good. Catfish are slow. Report by Eric Wolfe, NacoTack Fishing Services. Largemouth bass are excellent on Carolina rigs and small paddle tail swimbaits in 8-12 feet of water. Fish might be suspended over 20 feet of water but they are 8-10 feet below the surface. Crappie are excellent with numbers around standing timber. Fish are 10-13 inch stacked up in large groups. Catfish are fair on cut bait and live minnows, especially near the pier. Report by Cal Cameron, Cal's ETX Guide Service. Anticipate increased boater traffic due to the Labor Day weekend.

Raven

FAIR. Water stained; 83 degrees. There is some rain and cooler temperatures in the forecast to help improve the bite. Crappie are fair on minnows and artificial grubs. Bass are fair on soft plastic artificials. Catfish are fair on worms fished off the bottom. Bluegill are excellent at the boathouse dock on crappie bites and worms. Anticipate increased boater traffic due to the Labor Day weekend.

Sam Rayburn

GOOD. Water stained; 87 degrees; 0.40 feet above pool. Water is off-colored like the lake is trying to turnover. Water is being released. Hydrilla is surfacing and could be a good place to cast for bass. Bass are slow in shallow water in brush with many small-

er fish being caught on frogs, and spinnerbaits. Deeper bass bite is fair with Carolina rigs. Crappie are slow moving to and from the brush to timber. 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. Bass are feeling the heat as well. Lake level is fluctuating due to recent rains. Bass are biting on finesse baits, dropshot or jig head minnow or Carolina rig. Mid lake to north lake is the most productive area. Lots of fish schooling on main lake flats and ledges. Falling water creates current so fish congregate and now that the lake is risen again the fish are scattered. Report by Hank Harrison, Double H Precision Fishing. Anticipate increased boater traffic due to the Labor Day weekend.

Toledo Bend

FAIR. Water normal stain; 92 degrees; 3.60 feet below pool. With the moon on the fall, the night fishing has slowed down. Few fish are still being caught on Texas rig big worms in 12-18 feet, but for most part, it is slow at night. The day fishing continues to be tough, just very little to no early topwater bite at all. A few good reports of fish schooling in the afternoon, this is happening when we get few clouds around the lake, not many good fish, but reports saying good numbers and some large groups are showing up all around the lake. The deeper bite should get back going anytime. Crappie are slow too, but the few that are being caught are good size, these coming on minnows on standing trees and brush piles. Report by Stephen Johnston, Johnston Fishing. Anticipate increased boater traffic due to the Labor Day weekend.

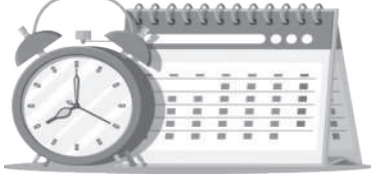
Tyler

SLOW. Water normal stain; 91 degrees; 0.50 feet below pool. Rain in the forecast heading into the weekend. This should cool the water and improve the bite. Night fishing is good for catfish and crappie in the lights. Crappie are slow using minnows on brush in 16-25 feet of water. Catfish are slow in 16 feet of water shrimp, and liver. Bream are slow on red worms off the barge and throughout the lake. Bass are slow in 10-12 feet of water with topwaters, spinnerbaits and crankbaits. Report by The Boulders at Lake Tyler. Anticipate increased boater traffic due to the Labor Day weekend.

Welsh

FAIR. Water stained. 106 degrees. Few reports from anglers.

AREA DIGEST



Nigton schedules homecoming

The Nigton Historical Development Project has set the sixth annual Nigton Days for Saturday at the Nigton multipurpose building.

The event, which begins at 9 a.m., includes vendors, games, live music and a parade that begins at 2:26 PM 2262 in Apple Springs.

For information, inquiries about being a vendor or to RSVP for the parade, email info@nigtonhdp.org.

Fair donations needed

The 2024 Trinity Community Fair and Livestock Show is coming up Sept. 19-21 at the Trinity Community Center and Sale Barn.

The theme for the TCFA Fair this year is "Hats Off to 75 Years."

These kids work hard to raise their animals, and the Trinity Youth Livestock Show and Auction is very important to them. Please help by donating to the Trinity Buyer's Group.

Donations can be sent to Trinity Buyer's Group, P.O. Box 1362, Trinity, TX 75862. For information, call George or Theresa Gallagher at (936) 661-5707.

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.

Fall celebration to be held

Celebration Women's Ministry's Fall Celebration will be held at First Methodist Church in Trinity at 6 p.m. Sept. 10.

The speaker will be Betty Carswell Webb, a local songwriter, author, and speaker who is also well-known out of state. She presents gospel messages in a practical and powerful manner, and her testimony has helped women of all ages to get past the darkest moments in their lives. Her book, "Overshadowed by Jesus," will be available.

The McConnells will entertain with special gospel music. Women of all ages and denominations are invited. A light meal will be served.

For information, call Yvonne Hastings at (936) 828-7582.

Conservation expo set

The Piney Wood Lakes Chapter of Texas Master Naturalist is

presenting an East Texas Conservation Expo, set for 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Sept. 14 at the Polk County Commerce Center in Livingston.

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

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

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

For information, email etconservationexpo@gmail.com.

Exercise class offered

First Methodist Church of Groveton is hosting chair yoga every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome.

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 Trin-

ity 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 mahjong 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.

Counting down to the big homecoming celebration

Homecoming 2024 is fast approaching. The schedule for the weekend of Sept. 27-28 will be printed along with this article. Check out the events of the weekend and come join us.

Registration and reception of members, pep rally, business meeting, football game, after-game street dance, parade, and Hall of Fame induction are some of our activities. We are most excited to welcome our four new inductees into our Groveton Ex-Students Hall of Fame.

Nominations were received in June, reviewed and approved by our nomination committee. We appreciate their time in selecting Taylor Hemness, Class of 2000; Gina and Jimmie Price, Class of 1973; and Jean Parker Rasbeary, Class of 1958. We are so proud of this most deserving group of inductees.

The induction will be on Sept. 28 at 2:30 p.m. in the old gym. Please come celebrate with us. Please be aware of our Facebook page where you can stay updated on all the good news from Groveton schools and ex-students. Lots

of good news and celebrations of accomplishments are posted there. Notifications of our Indian family's final homecomings are also posted on this site.

Our sympathies to the families of Herman Nelms, GHS Class of 1962; Neil Kemper, GHS Class of 1960; Gerald Bloomfield, Class of 1945; Jeb Isaac Clemons, Class of 2002; Wynell Thompson Willis, Class of 1954; and Evelyn Courtney Clements, Class of 1953. Our prayers for comfort and peace are with all these families.

See you at homecoming.
GHS Homecoming 2024 Schedule
Sept. 27

8 a.m. — Meet and Greet, High School (Old Gym); Registration: Chairman Betty Kennedy Whittlesey; refreshments: Debbie Bailey Wilson and Maria Plotts. Cookbooks will be available for purchase.

Noon — Lunch, Elementary Cafeteria or a downtown location of your choice

1 p.m. — Pep Rally, High School Gym
3 p.m. — Biennial Business Meeting-

Old Gym
4 p.m. — Class reunions 1960-64, First Methodist Church Fellowship Hall
7:30 p.m. — Groveton Indians vs. Frankston Indians, John W. Reynolds Football Field
Half-time Crowning of our 2024 Homecoming Queen, Band Sweetheart and Beau
After game Street Dance, Downtown
Sept. 28

8:30 a.m. — Parade Lineup at Football Field parking lot, Tim Coker, Chair
9:15 a.m. — Parade entry judging (Cash prizes for first, second and third places)

10 a.m. — Parade Begins; route will be through downtown

11 a.m. — Parade will disburse at the football field via North Kenley Street

2:30 p.m. — Hall of Fame Reception, Old Gym; induction of honorees and announcement of parade winners

5 p.m. — Class reunions 1970-74 at Riata on Main Street

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



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6 rattling sound made by unhealthy lungs

7 TXism: "that gets my dander up"

8 Texan guard Kenyon Green was ___ twice

18 TXism: "___ earned his spurs" (achieve)

19 TXism: "limp ___"

21 Faye of 1978 "Eyes of Laura Mars" with TX Tommy Lee Jones (init.)

22 Dallas community college: "Mountain ___"

23 "___ it" (do it quicker)

24 "___ quarter, call someone who cares"

29 camping shelter

30 cat with a mane found in zoos

31 TX Dabney Coleman 1990 film: "Where the Heart ___"

32 TX Jack Johnson defeated "the ___ hope" (1910)

34 TXism: "thinking ___ doing"

35 swab the floor

36 "Staked Plains" in NW Texas: "Llano ___"

37 woman's purse (2 wds.)

38 of sound mind

39 TXism: "I'd have ___ to die" (sick)

41 flower bud protector

42 "surf the ___"

43 TXism: "chucklehead"

44 "know-___" (smarty-pants)

45 one hour ahead of CST

46 not describing Texas

47 no longer fresh

48 lab cylinder (2 wds.)

DOWN

1 "Charlie's Angel" from Texas (2 wds.)

2 TXism: "mad as ___ on rooster"

3 "Big D"

4 newspaper in Daingerfield: "___ County Bee"

9 Shirley Mac ___ starred in Texas-based "Terms of Endearment"

10 ___ of dominoes has 28 pieces

11 JD Vance's grandmother: "Mee ___"

12 Harris of Texas based 1985 film "Alamo Bay"

13 ___ Star, TX in Eastland County

14 "this ___ a drill" (real danger)

15 former Cowboys coach, Gailey

16 in Smith County on highway 135

17 "Davy Crockett ___ Forest"

20 Oak Ridge Boys sing country and music

22 what Gov Abbott did with a bill he didn't like? (2 wds.)

24 ___ Bissinger wrote "Friday Night Lights"

25 archaic "before"

26 "___ in Peace"

27 "I can't ___ more bite" (full)

28 coaches in frontier Texas

29 piece of gossip

30 teller of fibs

33 ten-gallon ___

34 it's placed at "Lone Star Park" (2 wds.)

35 Texas has Bigtooth ___ trees

37 TXism: "happy as a kid in ___"

38 TX Bobby who co-founded Black Panther Party

40 fork prongs

41 thrust a knife

44 TXism: "cough ___" (pay me)

47 Joan of "Gunpoint" with TX Audie

49 ___-and-error

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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Kid Scoop Together

Missing Words

Replace the missing words in this article.



Jesse Owens: Olympic Speed and Achievement in 1936

Jesse Owens is widely regarded as one of the greatest athletes in sports _____. He is remembered for several reasons.

Owens won four _____ medals and set two Olympic _____ at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Germany.

This was an important athletic achievement, and a significant social achievement. In 1936, Adolph Hitler was the _____ of Germany. Hitler hoped to show the _____ that Aryans, or northern Europeans, were the best at everything.

When Jesse Owens, a Black American, dominated the Olympic track-and-field _____, he showed the world that people of all races are capable of excellence.

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **SPRINTER**

The noun **sprinter** means a person or animal who runs, swims, or does something else very fast over a short distance in a race.

A cheetah is a **sprinter** because it can run short distances very fast.

Try to use the word **sprinter** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

On the Fast Track!

What is the fastest animal?

Add the numbers from the start to the finish of each animal's path to find out how fast they move in miles per hour (MPH).

Peregrine Falcon 14 3 50 50 50 _____ mph

Cheetah 30 9 30 1 _____ mph

Sailfish 30 15 8 15 _____ mph

Dragonfly 5 10 5 5 5 _____ mph

Pronghorn Antelope 20 20 20 _____ mph

Tiger Beetle 2 1.6 2 _____ mph

What about humans?

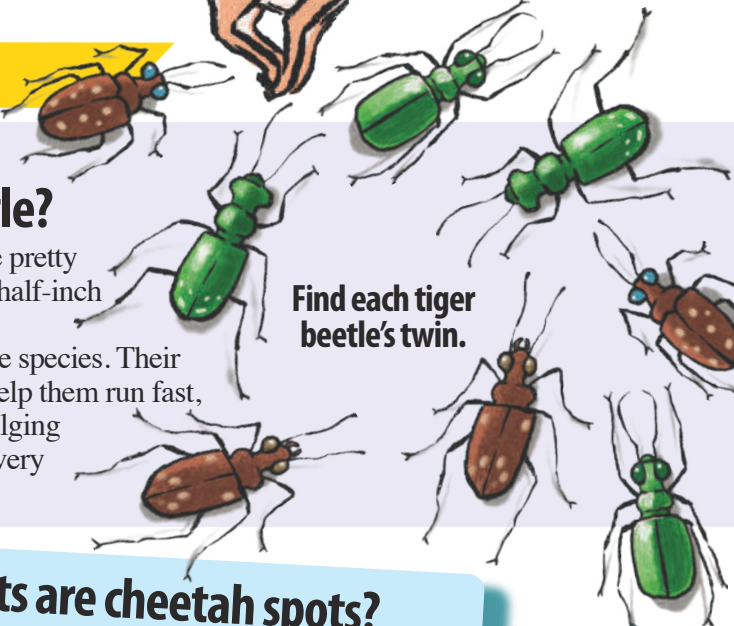
Running at top speeds of about 20 mph, human beings are one of the slower-moving animals on Earth.



What's a Tiger Beetle?

Tiger beetles are pretty small—about a half-inch to an inch long, depending on the species. Their long, thin legs help them run fast, and their big, bulging eyes give them very good vision.

Find each tiger beetle's twin.

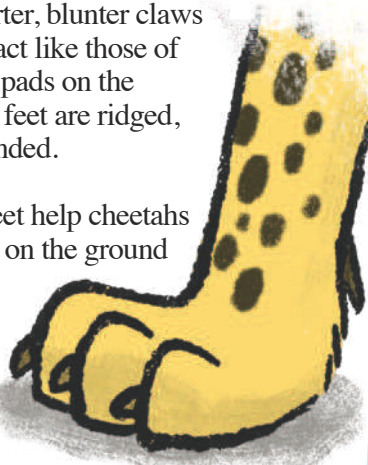


Top Sprinter

The cheetah is the fastest land animal. Cheetah paws are more like a dog's than a cat's.

They have shorter, blunter claws that do not retract like those of other cats. The pads on the bottom of their feet are ridged, rather than rounded.

Their special feet help cheetahs get a good grip on the ground and push off firmly for the next bound. No wonder cheetahs can run so fast! But cheetahs can only run at top speed for a short distance.



Standards Link: Animals have special adaptations for survival.

Which spots are cheetah spots?

How can you tell a leopard from a cheetah? Both have spots—but their spots are not the same. Read below to find out how their spots are different. Then circle the cheetah spots.



A leopard's spots are grouped in clusters called **rosettes**, while a cheetah's spots are scattered evenly.

Extra! Extra!

Speed Grammar

Select one page of the newspaper. Time yourself to see how quickly you can find two of each of the following:

- Nouns
- Adjectives
- Verbs
- Pronouns

Standards Link: Language Arts: Identify parts of speech.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

The Slowest Animal

The snail is certainly one of the slowest animals on Earth.

At .03 mph, it would take a snail 30 minutes to move around the outside edge of this newspaper page.

Find the differences between the two snails.



Standards Link: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

- BIG
- CHEETAH
- FALCON
- FAST
- HELP
- HUMAN
- LEGS
- MILES
- PAWS
- RUN
- SPEEDS
- SPOTS
- START
- TIGER
- VISION

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

L	N	S	T	A	R	T	Y	M	V
F	O	J	R	G	P	U	L	I	A
A	C	L	A	E	W	P	N	L	Q
S	L	H	U	S	G	V	T	E	B
T	A	E	E	D	E	I	J	S	N
B	F	L	L	E	G	S	T	V	A
W	I	P	K	E	T	O	K	X	M
Z	O	G	R	P	P	A	W	S	U
A	N	O	I	S	I	V	H	A	H

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Fast, Faster, Fastest

Find three newspaper pictures and/or words that show things that move. Put them in order and label them **FAST**, **FASTER**, and **FASTEST**. Do the same with other adjectives such as **happy**, **sloppy**, and **funny**.

Standards Link: Use main idea and supporting details in writing.



What's harder to catch the faster you run?

ANSWER: Your breath!

Write On!

Fast Animal Report

Write a paragraph with 3 facts and opinions about your favorite fast animal.

Standards Link: Recognize the difference between fact and opinion.



Brad Elrod

Attorney At Law

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Wardens offer tips for safe, enjoyable dove hunt

Special to the News-Standard

AUSTIN — Hunters preparing for the Sept. 1 opening of dove season have much to look forward to, with significant increases in both mourning and white-wing dove populations.

While hunters prepare to take to the field for their shot at the most popular game bird in North America, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Game Wardens have some recommendations for a memorable but safe experience.

Have valid hunting licenses, stamps and permits: Hunters must purchase valid hunting licenses for the 2024-25 before hitting the field. Hunters must also have a Migratory Game Bird Endorsement (Stamp) and Harvest Information Program certification to hunt dove.

In addition to obtaining the above licenses and endorsements, purchasing an Annual Public Hunting Permit gives hunters access to more than one million acres throughout the year to hunt multiple species. This must be purchased in addition to a hunting license.

Have Hunter Education Certification: Game wardens across the state say the number one problem they run into is the lack of hunter education, which is required for anyone born after Sept. 1, 1971. TPWD's Hunter Education certification is valid for life and is honored in all other states and provinces. Texas also honors Hunter Education certification obtained in other states, but hunters must be able to provide proof upon request. Hunters can find more information on requirements, exemptions or print a replacement card at no cost online.

"I highly recommend everyone stepping out into the field to hunt,

whether they are exempt or not, obtain their Hunter Education Certification," said Roel Cantu Jr., Hidalgo County game warden. "Many of the safety issues and violations we run into are topics covered in the course that could have been easily prevented if the hunter had received that prior education."

Know your firearm and handle it safely: The safest practice when handling firearms of any kind is to treat them like they are loaded. Maintain muzzle awareness, avoid pointing at any accidental targets and always have the safety engaged until you're ready to fire. It's also important to make sure you use the correct ammunition for your shotgun. Using the wrong size shell can result in accidents and injuries.

"Accidents can happen quickly and can result in very unfortunate outcomes," said Kevin Frazier, Frio County game warden. "I've seen things as simple as not being aware your shotgun is loaded while packing the ATV or falling while walking through the field carrying a gun with the safety off end in injuries to others or the hunters themselves."

Hunt with a legal firearm: A shotgun is the only legal firearm for hunting migratory game birds. It also must not be larger than 10-gauge, and if applicable, must be plugged. When purchasing a new shotgun, pay attention to what is in the box, wardens caution. While manufacturers sell shotguns with plugs, they may not be installed in the gun.

"Because our very mission statement is to conserve wildlife resources for present and future generations, many of our laws and regulations are based upon the fair chase principle," said Drew Spencer, Lubbock County game warden. "One such

example pertaining to dove hunting is that shotguns cannot be capable of holding more than three shells at any given time, including one in the chamber."

Know your target and what's behind it: Stay within your lane of fire so you aren't shooting toward anyone else. Don't shoot toward people or homes and know how far your shot can travel. While not required on private property, Fraiser recommends wearing hunter orange clothing if hunting in a group for high visibility.

"With many of our area properties being rural and unfenced, I occasionally see hunters getting lax regarding shooting over or across our many dirt county roads," said Spencer. "Those are still public roadways and still a public safety issue. We want to encourage mindfulness when it comes to shot angles and direction."

Don't trespass: Hunters are responsible for knowing property boundaries and making sure they have landowner consent. This applies to hunting and retrieving birds from neighboring properties. If pellets cross onto another property, that is considered trespass by projectile, which is a violation and potentially unsafe.

"If you are invited on a hunt or book one online, do your homework first," said Frazier. "I've run into instances where hunters book a hunt online, believing they have landowner consent to hunt a property when in fact, it was a scam neither the landowner nor hunter were aware of. I recommend doing some research to make sure things are legitimate."

Follow state and federal regulations, including daily bag and possession limits: Be aware of what zone you're hunting in and what the daily bag and possession limits are. Hunt-

ers must also keep their birds separate and identifiable from other hunters' birds. This will make interactions with wardens smoother and faster and is required by law while in the field and absent proper documentation.

Hunters in the South Zone should be aware of dates for the special white-wing dove days, which can be found in the Texas Outdoor Annual. Additionally, hunters are responsible for knowing whether they're hunting a baited area or not. Hunting over a baited field is prohibited by federal and state law.

"A fairly common violation we run into is hunters trying to 'double dip,'" said Cameron Ramsey, Coleman County game warden. "Fifteen birds per day means 15 birds per day. Not 15 birds every time you go out to the field. If you reach your limit in the morning, you can't hunt again until the next day."

Bring the kids: Involving children in hunting is vital to continuing the hunting heritage of Texas. Wardens recommended eye and hearing protection for children and adults.

"I love to see people take their children hunting," said Cody Buckaloo, Medina County game warden. "We want future generations to get involved and the best way to do so is by making that a safe and memorable experience for them and setting a good example through ethical hunting practices and adherence to safety."

Be weather aware: Elevated temperatures will likely continue through the first part of dove season. Being aware of temperatures, staying hydrated and taking proper precautions is vital. If you feel dizzy or begin to exhibit signs of heat exhaustion, let someone know and find a spot to cool off. You should also always make

sure someone knows your plans for the hunt like where you'll be, when you'll be done, etc.

Don't forget about your four-legged friends. If you are hunting with dogs, make sure to bring plenty of water for them and monitor them closely for signs of heat stress.

Leave the alcohol at camp: Alcohol and firearms don't mix. Consuming alcohol while hunting can lead to careless actions and potential accidents. It's best to avoid it.

At the end of the day, the best tip is to practice common courtesy.

Wardens enjoy getting out in the field, engaging with hunters and want every contact to be positive. Having your license and other documentation readily available, leaving heads or fully feathered wings attached for bird identification, and unloading your shotgun before handing it over for inspection go a long way.

"I always appreciate when everyone in the group stops hunting while I'm doing a compliance check," said Calvin Atkinson, Cameron County game warden. "It can make things difficult and even unsafe if you continue hunting while a warden is checking your hunting partner's information. Pausing to get your stuff together will make the entire contact go quicker so you can get back to hunting and I can hit the road to the next field."

Many of the tips above focus on regulations and the issues wardens commonly come across in the field. All hunting regulations for this year's hunting season can be found in the Texas Outdoor Annual mobile app or at OutdoorAnnual.com. Being aware of the specific regulations for the county you are hunting in and the species you are pursuing will likely alleviate many of the above problems.

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Water District

Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Westwood Shores MUD will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on September 16, 2024 9:30 am at Westwood Shores MUD Board Room, 75 Cottonwood, Trinity, TX. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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 about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

FOR the proposal: Joan Gallagher, Robert Stoddard, John Wolf, Bryan Holmes

AGAINST the proposal: None

PRESENT and not voting: None

ABSENT: Jim Atkinson

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	<u>0.6400</u> /\$100 Adopted	<u>0.6379</u> /\$100 Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	\$ <u>-0.0021</u>	/\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates(+/-)	<u>0.3281</u> %	
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$ <u>213,564</u>	\$ <u>225,892</u>
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ <u>15,450</u>	\$ <u>11,310</u>
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ <u>198,114</u>	\$ <u>214,582</u>
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ <u>1,267.93</u>	\$ <u>1,368.82</u>
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)	\$ <u>100.89</u>	
and percentage of increase (+/-)	<u>7.96</u> %	

If the proposed combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate requires or authorizes an election to approve or reduce the tax rate the Westwood Shores MUD proposes to use the tax increase for the purpose of Maintenance and Operations, Debt Services.

If the district is a district described by Section 49.23601:

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than eight percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23601, Water Code.

If the district is a district described by Section 49.23602:

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code. An election is not required if the adopted tax rate is less than or equal to the voter-approval tax rate.

If the district is a district described in by Section 49.23603

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

Legal Notices

Claim of ownership

Affidavit Claim of Ownership of Certificate of Title I, Brian Anthony Paige, states that I am familiar with the facts recited, I state that I am the party named in said Certificate of Live Birth, and I am the same party as one of the owners named in the Certificate of Title; I, man; verify under penalty of perjury under

the laws of the United States of America that the forgoing is true and correct; Executed on this the fifteenth day of August, 2024 By: Paige, Brian Anthony, Not in Individual Capacity, Without the United States, Held in Trust. All rights under reserve Publication dates : 8/15-8/22, 8/22-8/29, 8/29-9/5-9/5-9/12.

Trinity county policy for heavy haul permits

Trinity County has a new policy for all Heavy Haul Permits. Permits are free of charge and must be filled out 3 days prior to the jobs starting on each county road in each precinct. You may get a Heavy Haul Permit on the Trin-

ity County website or in the Commissioner's office Monday-Thursday 7am to 5pm, Friday 7am to 11am. You may contact our office at 936-642-2743 or email permits.brandy.welker@co.trinity.tx.us

Public hearing set for September 11

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PROPOSED ANNUAL COMPENSATION FOR COUNTY AUDITOR, AUDITOR'S ASSISTANTS AND PROPOSED BUDGET FOR COUNTY AUDITOR DEPARTMENT STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF Trinity County Notice is hereby given that the Board of District Judges of Trinity County, Texas will conduct a public hearing at 8:30 AM on the 11 day of September 2024, in the second-floor jury room of the Trinity County Courthouse in Groveton, Texas. The purpose of this public hearing is: 1. To receive public comment on the proposed

compensation for the County Auditor, Auditor's Assistants and on the proposed Budget for the County Auditor's Department for the budget year ending September 30, 2025. 2. To set the annual compensation for the County Auditor, Auditor's Assistants and the Budget for the County Auditor's Department for the budget year ending September 30, 2025. The public is invited to attend and make comments. Signed this 14th day of August 2024. Travis S. Kitchens, Tro Travis E. Kitchens, Jr. 258TH DISTRICT COURT PRESIDING ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

City of Trinity receiving bids for water system

ADVERTISEMENT AND INVITATION FOR BIDS The CITY OF TRINITY will receive bids for WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS - Site 18 Rockdale Booster GLOMIT 22-082-021-D447 until 3:30 PM on September 19, 2024 at City of Trinity City Hall Council Room, 101 West Madison Street, Trinity, Texas 75862. At said time and place, the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud Bids are invited for several items and quantities of work as follows: • 30,000 gallon ground storage tank • Two centrifugal booster pumps • CMU Pump Building • Chloramination system with FRP enclosure • Fencing • Piping • Generator • Associated Work Bid/Contract Documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications are on file at GLS, 1609 South Chestnut, Suite 202, Lufkin, TX 75901 Bid/Contract Documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications are on file and may be reviewed at GLS, 1609 S. Chestnut, Suite 202, Lufkin, Texas 75901 (936) 637-4900. Bid/Contract Documents may be viewed and downloaded free of charge (with the option to purchase hard copies) at www.civcastusa.com. A bid bond in the amount of 5 percent of the bid issued by an acceptable surety shall be submitted with each bid. A certified check or bank draft payable to the CITY OF TRINITY or negotiable U.S. Government Bonds (as par value) may be submitted in lieu of the Bid Bond. The successful Bidder will be required to furnish a Performance Bond, Payment Bond and Maintenance Bond each in the amount of the contract. The award will be made on the basis of the lowest responsive, responsible bidder. The project will be financed with as-

sistance from the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and is subject to all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations. Attention is called to the fact that not less than, the federally determined prevailing (Davis-Bacon and Related Acts) wage rate, as issued by the Texas Department of Agriculture Office of Rural Affairs and contained in the contract documents, must be paid on this project. In addition, the successful bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual identity, gender identity, or national origin. Section 3, Minority Business Enterprises, and Women Business Enterprises, and Historically Underutilized Business firms are encouraged to submit bids. The CITY OF TRINITY reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding. Bids may be held by CITY OF TRINITY for a period not to exceed 75 days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the bidder's qualifications prior to the contract award. Adherence to the grant recipient's Section 3 Policy is required for all contracts and subcontracts. All contractors/subcontractors whose System for Award Management (SAM.gov) registration is not active or that are debarred, suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation on federal assistance programs may not undertake any activity in part or in full under this project. CITY OF TRINITY Billy Goodin, Mayor August 22, 2024

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Form 50-876

Statements required in notice if the proposed tax rate exceeds the no-new-revenue tax rate but does not exceed the voter-approval tax rate, as prescribed by Tax Code §§26.06(b-2).

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

This notice only applies to a taxing unit other than a special taxing unit or municipality with a population of less than 30,000, regardless of whether it is a special taxing unit.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.6000	per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.5735	per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.7083	per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2024 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for the City of Trinity from the same properties in both the 2023 tax year and the 2024 tax year.

The voter-approval tax rate is the highest tax rate that The City of Trinity may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that The City of Trinity is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2024 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON September 19, 2024 at 6:00 pm at Trinity City Hall

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, The City of Trinity is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the City Council of The City of Trinity at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE TAX RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

$$\text{Property tax amount} = (\text{tax rate}) \times (\text{taxable value of your property}) / 100$$

(List names of all members of the governing body below, showing how each voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase or, if one or more were absent, indicating absences.)

FOR the proposal: Phillip Morrison, Clegg Dewalt, Jason Smith, Scott Womack, Bryan Buck
AGAINST the proposal: None
PRESENT and not voting: Billy Goodin
ABSENT: None

(Include the following text if these no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate adjustments apply for the taxing unit)
No-New-Revenue Maintenance and Operations Rate Adjustments

State Criminal Justice Mandate (counties)

The County Auditor certifies that County has spent \$ in the previous 12 months for the maintenance and operations cost of keeping inmates sentenced to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. County Sheriff has provided information on these costs, minus the state revenues received for the reimbursement of such costs. This increased the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate by /\$100.

Indigent Health Care Compensation Expenditures (counties)

The City of Trinity spent \$ from July 1 to June 30 on indigent health care compensation procedures at the increased minimum eligibility standards, less the amount of state assistance. For current tax year, the amount of increase above last year's enhanced indigent health care expenditures is \$ This increased the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate by /\$100.

Indigent Defense Compensation Expenditures (counties)

The City of Trinity spent \$ from July 1 to June 30 to provide appointed counsel for indigent individuals in criminal or civil proceedings in accordance with the schedule of fees adopted under Article 26.05, Code of Criminal Procedure, and to fund the operations of a public defender's office under Article 26.044, Code of Criminal Procedure, less the amount of any state grants received. For current tax year, the amount of increase above last year's enhanced indigent defense compensation expenditures is \$ This increased the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate by /\$100.

Eligible County Hospital Expenditures (cities and counties)

The City of Trinity spent \$ from July 1 to June 30 on expenditures to maintain and operate an eligible county hospital. For current tax year, the amount of increase above last year's eligible county hospital expenditures is \$ This increased the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate by /\$100.

(If the tax assessor for the taxing unit maintains an internet website)

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for The City of Trinity at (936) 642-1502 or gary.gallant@trinitycad.net, or visit www.trinitycad.net for more information.

(If the tax assessor for the taxing unit does not maintain an internet website)

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for The City of Trinity at (936) 642-1502 or gary.gallant@trinitycad.net.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by The City of Trinity last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by The City of Trinity this year.

	2023	2024	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	0.5837	0.6000	2.79% increase
Average homestead taxable value	64,085	68,630	7.09% increase
Tax on average homestead	374.06	411.78	10.08% increase
Total tax levy on all properties	744,527	799,828	7.43% increase

CLASSIFIEDS

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Trinity | Polk | San Jacinto | Tyler

Policy

PLEASE CHECK your ad the first day it appears. We will correct any error as quickly as possible. However, we cannot be responsible for errors beyond the first day of publication day.

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)

HABITAT FOR Humanity located at 321 N. Beatty, Livingston. Tuesday-Friday 9am-3pm Saturday 9am-1pm. (35-tfn-nc-PCE)

Kids Free Clothing Exchange is a non-profit organization providing free, gently used clothing for children ages 0-18 years of age living in Polk and the other 6 surrounding counties of Lake Livingston. Donations of new and gently used clothing are appreciated. We are in Onalaska, Hwy 190 at 3186. Open Friday and Saturday, 10-3. Kfceonalaskatx.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.westrengthenthefamilies.org. (1-tfn-nc-TCB)

Deer Hunters

DEER HUNTERS WANTED: Have camp with power and water, Tyler County. Call 409-356-5767, leave message. (35-4t-cc-TCB)

Auctions & Sales

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

HUGE MOVING SALE, Wednesday-Saturday, September 4-7, 7-5, 99 Forse Drive, Woodville. Blue Cobalt Glass, Porcelain China. Kilns, Crafts, Crystal, lot of Furniture, Household items, Fine Home Furnishings, Collectibles, TV's, Ladders, Fishing, Hunting, Seasonal Decorations, Tools, Kitchen, Glassware, paintings by Mrs. Glenda Nalley. Too much to list, something for everyone, everything must go, rain or shine. CASH ONLY, No refunds. (36-1t-p-TCB)

Auctions & Sales

Garage Sale for Loving Life Missions at the Loving's Sept 5th-7th Thurs-Sat 5688 FM 92 S Woodville

Clothes, appliances, jewelry, plants and so much more!
(36-1t-cc-PCE)

ESTATE SALE September 6th-8th Friday 9am-3pm, Saturday 10am-3pm, 158 Teal Circle, Livingston. Yard art, Coca Cola collectibles, telescopes, clock collection, radios, cameras, jewelry and more.
(36-1t-cc-PCE)

MULTI FAMILY yard sale Friday-Saturday, 9AM-3PM September 6th-7th, 191 E. Dove, Livingston, Escapees. Too much to mention!
(36-1t-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)

Work Wanted

HARD WORKING TYLER COUNTY WOMAN, Landscaping, fence line clearing, painting, clean out flower beds, any outdoor jobs. Christal-409-224-5293. (38-tfn-p-TCB)

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

E's Construction General Contractor For all your construction & handyman needs Carpentry, painting, decks, siding, fencing, pressure washing, rotten wood replacement, electrical, and much more FREE estimates 281-433-8105 (36-2t-cc-PCE)

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

We ♥ our readers
Trinity County News-Standard

Work Wanted

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

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

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

TLC

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

J.W. COLE Construction and Renovations. We do it all! No job too big or too small. Call (936)200-1254 or email jamescole1982@gmail.com. (35-4t-cc-PCE)

Field's Paint Contracting PROFESSIONALS *Commercial & Residential Painting *Commercial & Residential Building Restoration Free Estimates INSURED 40+ Years Experience DAVID FIELDS/OWNER 936-933-7454 www.fieldspaintcontracting.com (34-12-cc-PCE)

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

I WILL clean out your garage, barn, old building and/or haul off your old junk like cars, trucks, tractors, etc. (936)328-1679. (35-4t-pd-PCE)

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

Work Wanted

AMTEK House Leveling Leveling- Water leveling- Beams- Pylons Concrete Blocks Roof Covers- Decks- Floors Senior Citizen Discount Serving the Lake Livingston and Tyler County areas 936-328-1434 (1-tfn-b-PCE)

Vickery Lawn Service *Stump Grinding *Land Mulching *Land Clearing *Tractor Work *Driveways Fully Insured 936-329-1653 Livingston, TX (1-tfn-b-PCE)

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

Services Offered

PRIVATE DUTY caregiver looking for clients in the Onalaska, Point Blank and Livingston areas. Monday-Friday only. Call (936)933-6926. (35-2t-cc-PCE)

Cleaning Services

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

Call Today to Advertise your Garage Sale!

Trinity County News-Standard 936-642-1726

Cleaning Services

Rockin' Rhonda Detail Specialist! Top to bottom deep clean! Trusted Reputation! 25 Years in business! 936-239-5466



Also specialize in remodeling cleanup and antique furniture! We will travel! (36-5t-cc-PCE)

Employment

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

NOW HIRING; Local cleaning company looking for new hires, must have your own transportation and be reliable. Call or text (936) 714-6226. (33-4-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)

NOW TAKING applications at Red Barn Builders Supply for yard help. Apply in person only 4683 St. Hwy. 146, Livingston. Ask for Randy. (36-tfn-bill-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.

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

1st Quality Hospice Woodville, TX

Homemaker for Hospice needed, full or part-time 409-331-9909 (33-2t-b-TCB)

For Sale

70x12' MOBILE HOME, 3BD, two hallways, kitchen, dining room, antique window bars. Call 409-489-8095. (34-2t-p-TCB)

For Sale

LAND FOR SALE, 6.8 Acres, 5 minutes from town, Woodville. \$7,000 per acre. Call 409-719-8888. (34-4t-p-TCB)

Rentals

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

2-BEDROOM home with lake view in Indian Hills, Livingston, large yard, \$810/month. For info call (409)256-8365 (31-6t-cc-PCE)

BRICK HOUSE in quiet neighborhood. 3/2/2, central AC, fireplace, office, big garage, 148 Cardinal, Livingston. No pets. No smoking. \$1,400/month (936)329-2213. (28-tfn-cc-PCE)

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

Pets & Supplies

THREE MONTH old kittens, neutered, vaccinated and dewormed. Free to good home(s). (936)327-0014. (32-tfn-nc-PCE)

TWO MONTH old puppies, they look like lab mix. Free to good home(s). (34-2t-nc-PCE)

Storage

ENCLOSED BOAT STORAGE - Also climate & self storage. White Rock Storage. 6216 FM 356 Trinity (936)594-9283 or (713)249-1033. (25-tfn-b-TCNS)

easttexasnews.com

GARAGE SALE

September 27-28, 2024
8 AM - 5 PM
Maps available Sept. 27th at access control
936-594-3805 ext. 4

Employment/Medical

TYLER COUNTY HOSPITAL

OPEN POSITIONS

- LVN-Med Surg. Nights-FT
- RN ED Nights-FT
- Clinic Medical Assistant/LVN-FT
- Environmental Services Technician-FT
- Administrative Assistant School-FT
- Admissions Clerk-PRN
- Maintenance Technician-FT
- Dietary Cook-FT
- Pharmacy Technician, CPHT-FT

Equal Opportunity Employer. To inquire about positions at the hospital, check the employment section of our website at: www.tchospital.us Human Resources Department: (409) 283-6590 • 1100 West Bluff • Woodville