



# Commissioner pushes for operator pay raise

By Tony Farkas  
 editor@trinityconews.com

GROVETON — While Trinity County Commissioners say money is tight due to inflation and the costs of dealing with this year's weather disasters, Commissioner Tommy Park feels that unless they can find more money, the county could lose the operators and supervisors in the four Road and Bridge departments to neighboring counties.

The matter was brought up during a special budget meeting on Sept. 3.

Park said that during budget discussions in

the previous year, they discussed operator pay raises, and since the budget hasn't been finalized, there should be some consideration for the folks that operate the road equipment.

"My guys can go over to Polk County and make more money," he said. "They make roughly \$18 per hour, give or take, and can go across the county line and make \$40 an hour. Can we give them a little incentive to stay?"

Commissioner Steven Truss said the workers also do so much more than drive half-million-dollar machines all day — they do maintenance, change tires, drive multiple machines, do so much more, and you can't just

go out and find people to replace that kind of experience.

Part of the issue is that the recently adopted pay scales the county uses have several people maxed out or at lower levels. Park suggested that the scales be adjusted for both operators and supervisors; County Auditor Bonnie Kennedy said she will amend the figures and present a new budget for commissioners to look at.

In related budget matters, Commissioner Neal Smith expressed concern about the budgets for the four Justice of the Peace offices. He said that every year he looks at the JP budgets,

which should be even; however, the office budgets vary as much as \$6,000.

JP Richard Steptoe explained there are certain differences in things like jury trials and education, and that his precinct is the only one with a standalone building.

Kenned will adjust the budget to be more equal, including making the funds for education equal at \$3,500.

Other items discussed were allocations for the Groveton Library, which would be set at \$2,000; and the county's fire departments will each see a 25 percent increase in their allotments, which comes to \$17,280.



Firefighters had to use extrication tools after the driver lost control of a vehicle which then collided with a mobile home. COURTESY PHOTOS



A Trinity firefighter assisted Centerpoint in sealing a gas leak that developed at a job site. COURTESY PHOTOS

# Two wrecks, 1 gas leak, and 400 sammiches: VFD weekend

TCNS staff

TRINITY — Trinity Firefighters were kept busy this past weekend responding to two auto accidents and a gas leak, and later stepped up to hold a barbecue fundraiser.

Fire Chief Keith Johnson said that on Saturday afternoon, firefighters responded to a two vehicle accident on Highway 94 at Saron Cemetery Road. Department personnel performed traffic control while Ventura EMS transported two people with minor injuries and Texas State Troopers conducted the accident investigation.

The DPS preliminary crash investigation indicates that at approximately 2:50 p.m., a 2016 Nis-

san Altima was traveling southwest, followed by a 2021 Ford Escape. It is reported that the Nissan slowed down and came to a stop to yield to oncoming traffic prior to making the left turn onto Glendale Loop and was rear-ended by the Ford.

The driver of the Nissan, 47-year-old Dunte McAlister of Nacogdoches, and one passenger, 54-year-old Sheila Dobbins, was transported to MidCoast Medical Center Trinity for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries.

The driver of the Ford, 23-year-old Edwin Guevara of Huntsville, was not injured. His passenger, 28-year-old Adrian Ramirez, was transported to MidCoast Medical Center Trinity for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries.

Johnson said that later Saturday night, firefighters respond to a one-car accident on FM 356 and Lakewood Subdivision. A vehicle lost control and ran into a mobile home, trapping the driver.

Sheriff Woody Wallace said that Anthony Laroy Callahan Jr., 32, was involved in a domestic dispute; the wife ran off and was chased. During the chase, Callahan lost control of the vehicle and ran into the mobile home.

Trinity Fire responded with an engine and rescue and used the Jaws of Life to remove the driver, who was not immediately identified, from the vehicle.

Ventura EMS transported the driver to the helipad at MidCoast Medical Trinity and PHI Air

Medical transported to Conroe Medical Center.

Trinity County Sheriff's Office is investigating the accident; Wallace said Tuesday that Callahan was arrested on several felony charges in connection with the accident.

On Sunday, Trinity volunteers held a barbecue fundraiser at the station, serving more than 400 sandwiches. While firefighters were cleaning up afterwards, they were called to a report of a gas leak at Caroline and Cemetery streets. A contractor was cleaning up a fire damaged building and broke a natural gas line.

Centerpoint Entergy was contacted, and with assistance from Firefighter Bubba Blair, plugged the leak.



## MORE SHOWS, MORE AWARDS

Casaray Ranch, a Trinity County breeder of red Brahmans based near Groveton, won several awards at the Aug. 31 Sugar Classic Open Show held in New Iberian, La. The Aged Senior Champion Red Female was awarded to Casaray Yara, and the Reserve Senior Champion Red Bull went to Casaray. COURTESY PHOTO

## Still robust after 75 years

TCNS staff

TRINITY — For three quarters of a century, the Trinity Community Fair has been thrilling the town's residents with crafts, animals, carnivals and parades.

That tradition continues next week with the Hats Off to 75 Years fair, set for Sept. 19-21 at the Trinity Community Center on South Robb St.

Entertainment includes Sheila Ann on Friday, and Johnny Riley, Micah Cheatham and Caleb Young on Saturday, as well as the traditional livestock shows, a community pep rally, the crowning of the fair queen and a parade.

Of course, the carnival will be there, running Sept. 19 from 6-10 p.m., from 1-5 p.m., and 6-10 p.m., Sept. 20, and from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., and 5-10 p.m., Sept. 21.

### Schedule of Events

**Wednesday, Sept. 18**  
 Livestock Barn  
 12-4 p.m., Outside vendors with trailer move-in  
 6-8 p.m., Livestock exhibitor stall set-up and unloading of tack

**Thursday, Sept. 19**  
 10 a.m., begin commercial/exhibitor set-up, Exhibit Hall and Fairgrounds

See FAIR → Page 7A



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RIVER & RAINFALL DATA AS OF SEPT. 9  
 Gauge Height..... 5.20 ft  
 Condition.....Normal Flood Stage  
 Weekly rainfall .....2.49 in



# Your pooch could be the prince/princess of pets

Monday was the end of an era for me. So many memorial events, places and people passed and were born during this period. With the demise of James Earl Jones — I need to say only two words: “Darth Vader” — who lived to be 93 years old, I am truly sad. His career and voice were unbelievable.



## Julia's Tidbits

By Julia McMichael

The Trinity Lions Club is hosting their first Pet Show on Oct. 26 at the Trinity Community Center from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. PETS, or the Pet Expo and Talent Show, is a fundraiser and project to serve the community promoted by the Trinity Lions Club President, Dr. Garry Reece, the Trinity Pet Clinic, and its members.

The fundraiser is to benefit the Martin Senior Citizen Center and the charities of the Trinity Lions Club. Entry fee to attend the show, PETS, is a can of food. This will be a fun filled day with photos, games, contests, and raffles.

All activities will take place in the Trinity Community Center along with vendors, and exhibitors. There will be security, and rest (poop) areas for your pets. All animals must be vaccinated (Texas Law) which means all puppies under 3 months old will be excluded from this event.

Pet Registration starts at 10 am and animal behavior to enter show will be determined at this time. Set up starts at 8 am on Saturday morning in the Center for vendor booths and exhibitors. Displays and contests will start at 10 a.m. also.

These dog contests are planned: matching dog and

owner, best dog vocalist, best-dressed canine, fastest tail wag and best K9 Halloween costume. All events will take place in the Trinity Community Center, except for the food and drink vendor booths that will be located outside the building.

• It is hard to believe the 75th Trinity Community Fair is next week. The Trinity County News-Standard has the schedule, times, and animal events for you on the front page, so I will not elaborate here.

For the last five years, the Trinity Peninsula Chamber of Commerce has sponsored a 42 Domino Tournament at Joseph's Restaurant to commemorate the Trinity Community Fair. The older players outgrew the Annex Room at the Trinity Community Center, and the parking at Joseph's is easier here for this event.

The registration for the 42 Domino Tournament starts at 9 a.m. and the cost is \$15 for

each player. The games start at 10 a.m. At noon they break for lunch and start again at 1 p.m. and play until 3 p.m.

Cash prizes and certificates are presented to the top two partners for first-, second- and third-place winners. Our new host for the tournament this year is Kelly Hartsfield, who has overseen this event for the last two years and was mentored by Daisy Holland.

• Speaking of games, how about the Trinity Tigers and their first two wins of the 2024-2025 Football Season. Way to go, Tigers!

• **September dates:**  
 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

Sept. 29, First Methodist Church Concert. The Southern Plainsmen Quartet will perform Gospel Music at 11 a.m. at the First Methodist Church of Trinity located at 131 N. Elm St. in Trinity.

• **These are 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 See you at the fair next week.

# Assistance for 17 counties available

## Special to the News-Standard

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott announced that the federal government has amended the Hurricane Beryl Major Disaster Declaration to include 17 additional Texas counties that are now eligible for reimbursement for permanent work through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Public Assistance program.

“FEMA's approval of 17 coun-

ties that were impacted by Hurricane Beryl is an important step forward to help our communities rebuild and recover,” said Governor Abbott. “Texas continues to work closely with local and federal partners to rebuild any state or local infrastructure that was damaged during this devastating hurricane. I thank the Texas Division of Emergency Management and local emergency management personnel for their ongoing, tireless efforts to help their

fellow Texans in the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl.”

FEMA approved its Public Assistance program for permanent work in 17 counties, including repairs to public roads and bridges, water control facilities, public buildings and utilities, as well as parks and recreation facilities.

The 17 counties include: Angelina, Calhoun, Fort Bend, Galveston, Hardin, Jackson, Nacogdoches, Newton, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby, Trinity, Tyler,

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

FEMA has approved its Public Assistance program for certain emergency work, such as emergency protective measures and debris removal, for 67 Texas counties, including the 17 newly approved for the additional components of the program.



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2021 Chevrolet Traverse	\$24,991	2023 GMC Terrain	\$27,832
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**TRINITY COUNTY WEATHER FORECAST FOR SEPT 12- SEPT 18**

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly Cloudy <b>85°/67°</b> Chance of Rain 19% Wind NW 8mph	Mostly Sunny <b>91°/70°</b> Chance of Rain 14% Wind W 4 mph	Partly Cloudy <b>92°/70°</b> Chance of Rain 9% Wind SSW 4 mph	Partly Cloudy <b>91°/71°</b> Chance of Rain 9% Wind SSW 4 mph	PM Thunderstorms <b>89°/70°</b> Chance of Rain 39% Wind E 5 mph	Mostly Sunny <b>89°/70°</b> Chance of Rain 9% Wind E 5 mph	Mostly Sunny <b>88°/70°</b> Chance of Rain 15% Wind E5mph

**Forecast Fire Danger**  
twc.tamu.edu

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

LIFE TRIBUTES

Betty Brown

Betty Lou (Jordan) Brown passed away peacefully at her home in Trinity on Sept. 2, 2024. She was surrounded by her family and friends. She was born Feb. 1, 1943, in Trinity, to Arthur Leslie Jordan and Almeda Lahoma (Bryan) Jordan.

She is preceded in death by her parents; her husband, the Rev. A. Leroy Brown; sister, Bobbie Jean (Jordan) Smith; and brother-in-law, William D. (Bill) Smith.

Betty Lou is survived by her son, Bryan Jordan; daughter, Bethany (Jordan) Loving, and husband, Shane; and grandchildren, Brooke Jordan, Carter Jordan, Lauren Loving, and Shelby Loving. Numerous extended family and friends also survive.

She was a lifelong resident of Trinity and a Trinity High School graduate, class of 1961.

Betty Lou was a devoted Christian, a lifelong member of Dorcas Wills Memorial Baptist Church, as well as one of the founding members of the Chapel in the Pines in Westwood Shores. For many years she organized the Christmas Basket Program for those needing extra assistance during the holidays. She also donated her time to the Good Samaritan House. Betty Lou was a gifted pianist, starting at the age of 3 and continued to play for the church throughout her life. She was a Master Gardener and a member of the Texas Thyme Unit of The Herb Society of America. In her leisure time she enjoyed being outdoors and working in her garden. More than anything she loved spending time with her family, especially her precious grandchildren. She will be dearly missed by those she leaves behind



Betty Brown  
Feb. 1, 1943-Sept. 2, 2024

to cherish her memory and protect her legacy. Visitation will be held Friday, Sept. 13, from 6-8 p.m. at Waller-Thornton Funeral Home in Trinity. Funeral service will be Saturday, Sept. 14, at 11 a.m. at Dorcas Wills Memorial Baptist Church. Interment will follow at Glendale Cemetery. 310



Looking Back

By Marlena Stubblefield  
grovetonnews@gmail.com

10 years ago

Sheriff Wallace makes emotional plea to Commissioners Court; Lions to host annual chicken fried steak supper fundraiser Sept. 19; Groveton Police Department to host National Night Out event; Crockett Regional Detention center closed temporarily; Exotic Caracal Cat thrives in East Texas; Courthouse Centennial event Saturday. Obituaries for the week: Sidney McAdams Jr., 86, of Groveton; Linda Jean Miller, 64, of Groveton;

and Jimmie Franklin Yarbrough, 81, of Apple Springs.

20 years ago

Early voting ballots for Nov. 2 General Election now available; City passes "Sexually Oriented businesses' Ordinance; GISD earns highest rating; Driskell to speak at meeting; Apple Springs Elementary held "Spellathon." No obituaries for the week.

30 years ago

County revenue woes debated—again; Country Crusade comes to Lovelady; Council approves budget, lowers speed limits; GVFD benefit barbecue. Obituaries for the week: Myrna Lorene Barns, 56, of Bullard; Bertie Lee Freeman, 83, of LaPorte; Juanita M. Shaw, 71, of Trinity; George (Bud) McCoy, 80, of Apple Springs; Herman Muckleroy, 88, of Trinity; Hazel Blunt Roberts, 80, of Trinity; and Leola Starns Johnson, 86, of Trinity.

SENIOR MENUS

SENIOR MENUS  
Sept. 16-20

Menus Subject to Change  
• **Martin Senior Center** | 936-594-2625  
All meals are \$6.  
A limited fruit and salad bar is available, and drinks include lemonade, tea, water or coffee. Dessert is served with all meals.  
**MONDAY:** Chicken salad, pea salad, peaches, crackers.  
**TUESDAY:** Barbecue baked potatoes or barbecue on a bun, baked beans, broccoli.  
**WEDNESDAY:** Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls.  
**THURSDAY:** Pork roast, macaroni and cheese, peas and carrots, bread.  
**FRIDAY:** Fried catfish or chicken tenders, dirty rice, baked beans, deviled eggs.  
• **Groveton Senior Center** | 936-642-1541  
Bread, dessert, fruit, tea, coffee and milk are available.  
**MONDAY:** 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 strips, mixed vegetables, potatoes, rolls.  
**TUESDAY:** Salisbury steak, fried okra, blackeye peas, cornbread.  
**WEDNESDAY:** Enchiladas, pinto beans, Spanish rice.  
**THURSDAY:** Baked chicken, mashed potatoes, mixed greens, rolls.  
**FRIDAY:** Catfish, French fries, pinto beans, coleslaw.

ARREST RECORDS

The following people were arrested by Trinity County law enforcement officials through Sept. 9. All suspects are innocent until convicted in a court of law.

- **Brian Scott Simmons**, 35, public intoxication.
- **Weldon Warren**, 35, probation violation on a conviction for criminal mischief.
- **Brandon Rexroat**, 38, false statement to a peace officer.
- **Randy Lee Fuller**, 43, third or subsequent offense of driving while intoxicated.
- **Shawn Michael Alford**, 34, warrant for failure to appear on a charge of forgery.
- **Robert Leroy Girard**, 49, warrant for failure to register as a sex offender.

- **Edward Flores III**, 61, warrants for two counts of failure to comply with a sex offender's duty to register.
- **Karl Michael Engle**, 66, injury to a child, elderly individual or disabled individual.
- **Timothy Jonathan Kikly**, 51, assault causing bodily injury on a family member.
- **Wesley Dwayne Kornele**, 35, interference with public duties; assault causing bodily injury; assault on a peace officer.
- **Walker Price**, 64, criminal trespassing; resisting arrest.
- **John Wesley Collins**, 37, two counts of possession of a controlled substance; unlawful carrying of a weapon.

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# OPINION

## We've come a long way to go backwards

There was a phrase, now lost to antiquity and inconvenience, that President John F. Kennedy said during his inauguration speech in 1961 that galvanized a country into action: "Ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country."

To me, that meant that both the people and the federal government were pulling in the same direction to not only make the country a better place, but also to secure the rights we all enjoy. It also meant that it wasn't the government's place to pander to every whim and perceived need.

It also presupposes that we all understood that the government was focused on the interests of the people at large, and did not create divisions that were then pitted against each other to fight for scraps from the boss's table.

Sure, there were racial tensions, but I believe that we could have pulled together — as a country —



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

to defeat that nonsense. Three years later, the Civil Rights Act was passed, which shows what a country united can do.

Since that time, it's been a slow, inexorable reversal of that sentiment, culminating in what Sen. Bernie Sanders claimed Emergency Backup Candidate Kamala Harris doing — saying and doing whatever she has to in order to win.

Regardless of a \$34 trillion debt and a country that has operated without a budget since the Clinton administration, regardless of the limits of government enshrined in the Constitution, candidates are promis-

ing the people, in ever-shrinking interest groups, the kitchen sink, with the sole intention of maintaining power.

Want EV mandates? We gotcha. Don't want EV mandates? Sure thing! Think fracking is terrible, no good and awful? We'll ban it! Or not, if you really think that we shouldn't. Want cheap labor to pick your crops? OK, the border is open. And so on.

Any group that comes forward to make claims on the government, either for actual items and funds or for protection and recognition, will get that, essentially getting the country to do for them instead of doing for the country.

No longer is there a sense of pride in the country — the immigration debacle is evidence of that. Politicians claim that we are a nation of immigrants, and that we should provide amnesty for anyone that crosses the border, regardless of whether it was done legally or not.

Even if this were true, though, once here, and once made a citizen, shouldn't that actually make us a country of citizens? All people, cut from so many different cloths, making up one quilt of citizenry?

And if that's the case, shouldn't elections be about moving the whole country forward, not just certain aspects of it? Shouldn't candidates speak to the betterment of our nation, not about what giveaways that will keep power in the right hands?

Our Founding Fathers wanted people to be in charge and wanted those people to respect individual rights while the government kept us safe. It never was about what the country can do for us, because Washington, D.C., is not the North Pole, and Uncle Sam isn't Uncle Santa.

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

### CONTACT LIST

#### Elected and Appointed Officials Representing Trinity County

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**TX REPRESENTATIVE**  
House District 9  
Trent Ashby (R)  
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(D) 936-634-2762

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Groveton, TX 75845

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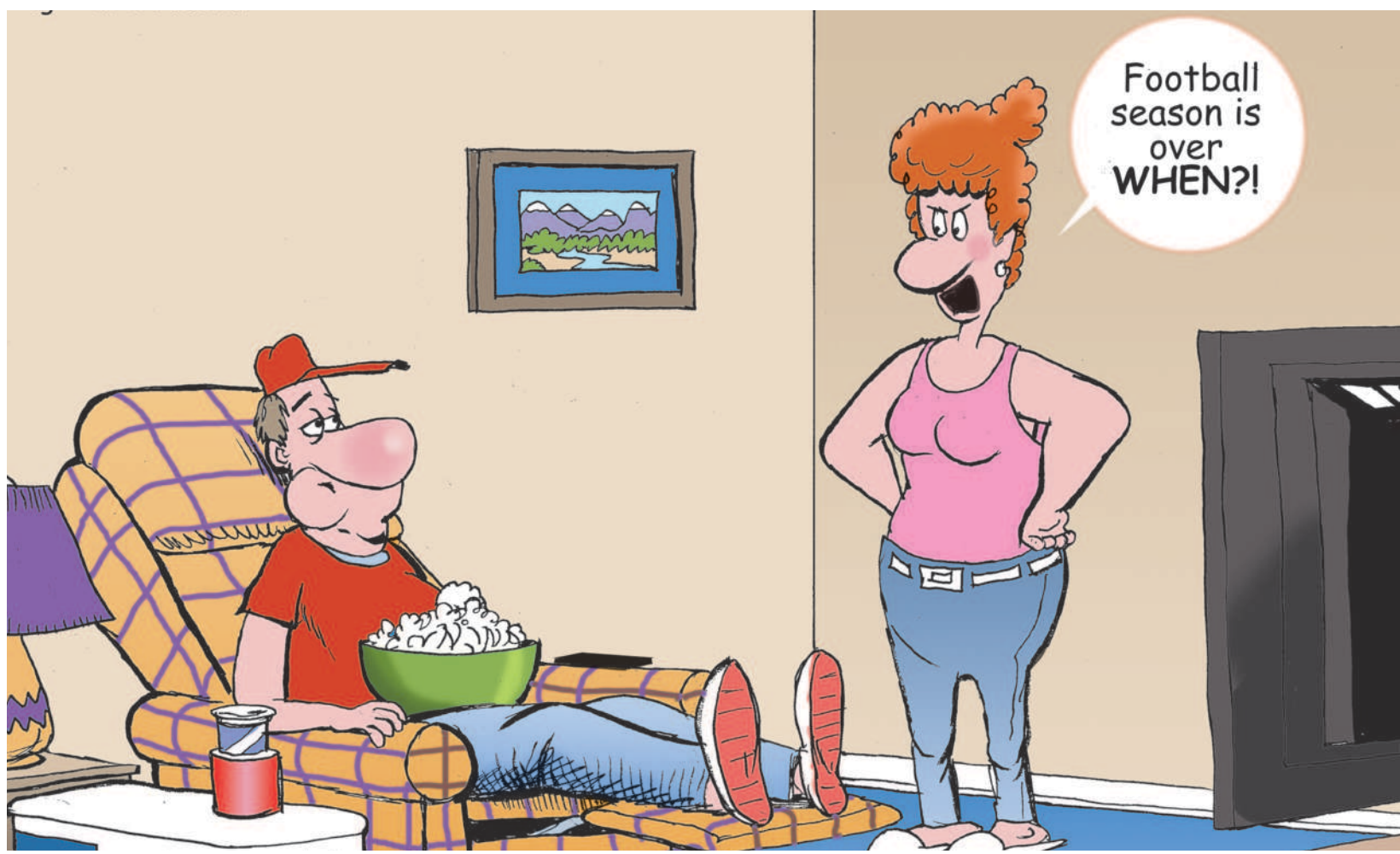
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cityofgroveton@valornet.com  
(936) 642-1122

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

(C) = Capitol number



## Keep information laws working as intended to help all Texans

When it's time to take a hard look at our public officials and decide which ones to re-elect — or reject — we need information.

A major source of that information is the government itself. Access to public records and meetings is essential for us to know the facts and speak out about how government is run, during election season or any time.

Among the tools at our disposal are the Texas Public Information Act, the Texas Open Meetings Act and the federal Freedom of Information Act along with transparency provisions in other Texas laws and the state constitution.

As strong as these tools are, we must be vigilant about keeping them sharp.

Our information laws at times require legislative updates to reflect how records are created, stored and used in the modern world. For example, providing easy-to-find online information and searchable-sortable spreadsheet data when it exists, instead of old-fashioned copies, should be the norm. Unfortunately, not all governments do this voluntarily.

Just as important is the need to overcome barriers some govern-



**FOIA of Texas**  
By Kelly Shannon

ments intentionally use to block information access. Loopholes in the laws must be closed. Enforcement should be fine-tuned.

The nonprofit Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas will explore these transparency issues and protection of First Amendment rights at its annual conference Friday, Sept. 13, in Austin. Conference registration is available to all who are interested.

The FOI Foundation also hosts regional training sessions to help Texans learn to use the Public Information Act and Open Meetings Act. The next seminar is Oct. 16 in Edinburg in the Rio Grande Valley.

Open records and meetings allow us to go beyond government officials' spoken words or spin and let us see how decisions are truly made and how governing is carried out.

How is taxpayer money spent? Are contractors who are building roads and bridges meeting deadlines and ensuring safety? Do school districts, cities and counties effectively manage programs and budgets?

Government information belongs to the people, and in almost all cases it needs to flow freely, without delay.

The "public's right to know does not depend on the whims of officials, elected or non-elected," former Texas Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby, who held office when the state's open records law was enacted in 1973, once explained at an FOI Foundation gathering.

"Winning an election or getting a government job doesn't make anybody smarter than they were before, or less subject to the law. In fact, public officials not only have to obey the law like everybody else, they have an even higher duty," he said.

The Texas Public Information Act presumes documents are open unless there's an exception in the law to releasing the record. Even then, in most instances a governmental entity must ask the Texas attorney general's office for per-

mission to withhold it. That's a safeguard that provides oversight and can deter the entity from acting in bad faith toward a requestor.

The Open Meetings Act, meanwhile, makes the meetings of many governmental bodies open to everyone unless there's a specific exception allowing a closed session, such as deliberation on a pending real estate transaction or personnel matter. But no action can be taken behind closed doors; the public has a right to know about and observe the body's decision-making.

These major transparency laws place power in the hands of the people. That's something we should treasure and use.

Making this state and nation a better place is our responsibility as Texans and Americans. Demanding change when necessary — and soaking up all the information we can along the way — helps get the job done.

Kelley Shannon is executive director of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas, a nonprofit organization based in Austin that advocates for open government and free speech. For more information go to www.foift.org.

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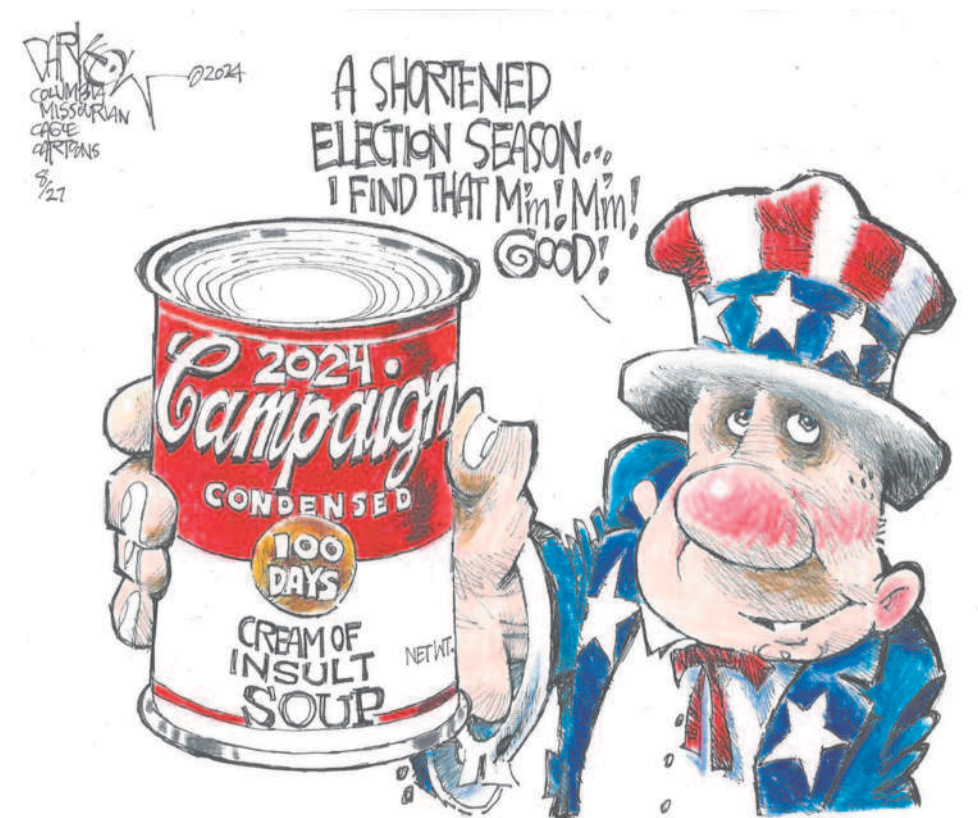
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# New Texas laws now in effect

It took some time, but a set of new laws and rules passed by the Texas Legislature in 2023 went into effect on Sept. 1, the Houston Chronicle reported. Prominent among these are the SCOPE Act, or Securing Children Online Through Parental Empowerment Act, which tightens restrictions for online users younger than 18.

Under the SCOPE Act, users must register their age on social media and other websites. Minors are prohibited from making purchases from those sites, which are also required to filter and block certain material. Examples include content that promotes suicide or bullying, as well as trafficking and other forms of exploitation.

Violators could be fined up to \$10,000 per incident.

One of the bill's co-authors defended its intent. "Testimony from parents and children in committee gave graphic examples underscoring how desperately we need to better protect kids online," state Rep. Shelby Slawson, R-Granbury, wrote. "The SCOPE Act will do just that."

Others don't agree. The nonprofit Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression sued the state on Aug. 16, challenging the government restrictions.

"While these efforts to protect young people are well-intentioned, they lack perspective," the lawsuit states.

Another measure that took effect Sept. 1 updates qualifications for family violence shelters that provide lodging and care for domestic abuse victims in order to receive state funding. Criteria now includes providing direct services, establishing a referral service for victims, and having been in operation at least a year.

**Eliminating property taxes would require massive funding**

Eliminating the state's property taxes is high on the wish list of some Republican lawmakers. They received a reality check last week when state



## Capitol Highlights

By Gary Borders  
Texas Press Association

budget officials said doing so would require the state to produce \$81 billion each year to cover the costs of public schools, as well as the revenue now received by cities, counties and special taxing districts through property taxes.

The Texas Tribune reported that Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick directed the Legislative Budget Board to tally the costs of replacing property tax revenue, which funds teacher salaries, law enforcement and many other government functions. Eliminating the tax likely would require a massive increase in sales tax rates – something that appears highly unlikely.

State Sen. Paul Bettencourt, R-Houston, is Patrick's chief lieutenant on property taxes. He noted \$81.5 billion is "a huge amount of money to be able to replicate."

Lawmakers have worked to lower property tax bills the past few sessions by raising the homestead exemption and limiting how much school districts and local governments can collect. But without a state income tax, lawmakers are limited in how to completely replace property taxes with another form of revenue.

**Perry joins Phelan's team as adviser**

Former Gov. Rick Perry has joined House Speaker Dade Phelan's office as a senior adviser, the Texas Standard reported. The embattled speaker, who survived a tough runoff race, now faces at least three Republican challengers to his

speakership.

"[Gov. Perry] understands every facet of the legislative process, and that will be a tremendous asset as we work to strengthen our state's economy, improve education and ensure every member's voice is heard in the Texas House this session," Phelan said in a statement.

Phelan has been under fire for backing an ultimately unsuccessful attempt to impeach Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and for being perceived as not conservative enough by some of his Republican colleagues.

Perry will serve as a volunteer adviser until the 89th Legislature begins in January.

**Schools hiring more uncertified teachers**

Critical teaching shortages in Texas are compelling school districts to hire more teachers who have not received formal classroom training, The Texas Tribune reported.

The number of uncertified teachers in the state's public schools has risen dramatically since the COVID-19 pandemic, which prompted many longtime educators to leave the profession for various reasons – health concerns, lack of resources, and feeling burned out. As a result, uncertified teachers, many of whom work in rural school districts, accounted for about 38 percent of newly hired instructors last year.

Since 2015, school districts under the District of Innovation law have been able to hire people with different professional experience who then would work on getting certified through alternative certification programs. The last legislative session ended with no significant base funding increases, leaving many school districts with budget shortfalls, and making it even harder to fill teacher vacancies.

"When you have a state where their coffers are full and local school districts where their coffers are empty, or in the process of being empty, you're going to have to have some state help to make sure

that we're funding these types of programs," said Mark Henry, who served as Cy-Fair ISD's superintendent for more than a decade.

According to the Texas Education Agency, the attrition rate among Texas teachers has increased since the start of the pandemic from 9 percent to 12 percent. Texas ranks 30th in the nation for average teacher pay — \$8,828 less than the national average, according to the National Education Association.

**Paxton suing Bexar County over mail voter plan**

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is suing Bexar County over its plan to mail voter registration forms to unregistered residents en masse, the Austin American-Statesman reported. The Bexar County Commissioners Court approved the voter registration plan last week, defying Paxton's warning that he would take them to court.

Paxton's suit argues that mail applications could entice felons and other ineligible people to register to vote. Commissioner Justin Rodriguez defended the plan.

"From our perspective, this was never a Democrat or Republican endeavor," Rodriguez told the Statesman. "It was making sure we used the resources within the elections office to be innovative, to be proactive when it came to registering voters, and we felt pretty strongly that we're doing everything (as it is) allowed by the Elections Code."

Paxton has warned repeatedly of potential voter fraud in November's general election. However, he has not provided evidence of widespread voter fraud in Texas, the Statesman reported.

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

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# Hurricane Beryl survivors can apply for a SBA Loan

Special to the News-Standard

AUSTIN — FEMA partners with other agencies to help meet the needs of disaster survivors. The U.S. Small Business Administration offers low-interest disaster loans in a declared major disaster area.

As a matter of fact, 80 percent of SBA loans are approved homeowners and renters. Low-interest federal disaster loans are available to businesses and residents impacted by Hurricane Beryl.

Residents and businesses 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 are eligible to apply.

SBA is the largest source of funds to help private property owners pay for disaster losses not covered by insurance or other programs. The program may cover deductibles and increased cost of compliance. Survivors should not wait for an insurance settlement before submitting an SBA loan application.

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

Homeowners may be eligible for a disaster loan up to \$500,000 for primary residence repairs or re-

building. SBA may also be able to help homeowners and renters with up to \$100,000 to replace important personal property, including automobiles damaged or destroyed in the disaster.

Applicants may apply online and can find additional disaster assistance information at [SBA.gov/disaster](http://SBA.gov/disaster).

The deadline to apply for assistance for property damage is October 10, 2024. The deadline to apply for economic injury is April 14, 2025. If your application is approved, you are not obligated to accept an SBA loan.

SBA representatives are also available to provide one-on-one assistance to disaster loan applicants at FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers. Disaster Recovery Centers operate from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Saturday, closed Sunday. To find a center location near you, go to [fema.gov/drc](http://fema.gov/drc).

All centers are accessible to people with disabilities or access and functional needs and are equipped with assistive technology.

Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov) for more information on SBA disaster assistance. For people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services. There is no cost to apply for an SBA disaster loan.

## FAIR

Continued from page 1A

4-6 p.m., livestock and shop project check-in, Livestock Barn

4-8 p.m., receiving non-commercial exhibits, Exhibit Hall

**Friday, Sept. 20**

8-9:30 a.m., receive non-commercial exhibits, Exhibit Hall

8 a.m., Swine Judging, Livestock Barn

9 a.m., Fryer (Rabbit) Judging, Livestock Barn

10 a.m., Lamb Judging, Livestock Barn (Exhibit Hall closed immediately following the lamb contest)

10 a.m., Judging inside exhibits, shop project judging, livestock area

Noon, Community Pep Rally, front stage

Noon-9 p.m., Exhibit Hall open to the public

1 p.m., Goat Judging, Livestock Barn

2 p.m., Steer Judging, Livestock Barn

3 p.m., Heifer Judging, Livestock Barn

6 p.m., Little Miss September contest, Pavilion

7-11 p.m., Sheila Ann Band, front stage

**Saturday, Sept. 23**

8 a.m., Exhibit Hall opens

10 a.m., Grand Parade, North Highway 19

11 a.m.-3 p.m., Johnny Riley, front stage

Noon, 2024 Fair Queen Coronation, parade awards to follow, Pavilion

3-7 p.m., Micah Chetham, front stage

4:30-6 p.m., Buyer's Reception, Exhibit Hall Annex Room

5:45 p.m., Drawing and awards, Livestock Barn

6 p.m., Youth Livestock Auction, Livestock Barn

8-11 p.m., Caleb Young, sponsored by Wischnewsky Dodge and Stubbs Feed, Pavilion

9 p.m., exhibitor pick-up, Exhibit Hall

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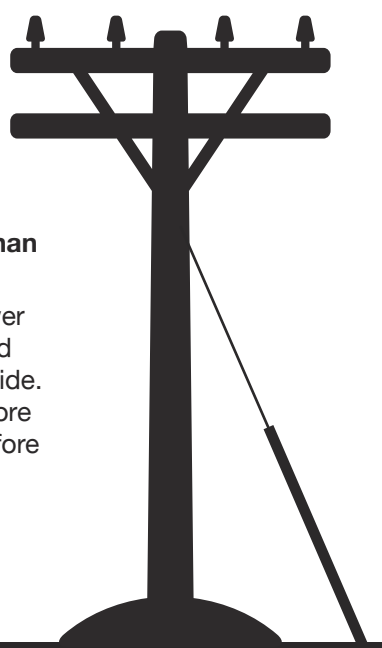
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# Hawaii field hearing held

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Government Operations and the Federal Workforce, I am committed to ensuring the government works for all Americans.

Last week, I was in Hawaii on official business to hold a hearing entitled "Assessing the Federal Government's Response to the 2023 Maui Wildfires." This was to oversee federal recovery efforts in Lahaina, Hawaii, following last August's devastating wildfires that claimed 102 lives.

This hearing was an opportunity for me and other Members of Congress to hear from federal agencies as well as state and local leaders to identify issues and further improve recovery efforts. At the hearing, we discussed challenges and successes in response to

the fires and long-term recovery.



### In Session

By Pete Sessions  
US Representative, District 17

Some key takeaways revealed that building trust with the local community has been essential for recovery and while temporary housing is an essential priority, there have been unintended consequences in the community.

For example, while temporary housing solutions are crucial, their implementation can cause strain on existing resources. Mov-

ing forward, the government will continue to address uncertainty in recovery resources.

I speak for the entire Oversight Committee when I say that we are committed to ensuring effective government response and working closely with local stakeholders to enhance recovery efforts and support the community's resilience.

Happy college football season  
College football has finally kicked off. I always enjoy cheering for the teams of Texas' 17th Congressional District. Game days are more than sports events, they are opportunities for us to unite, celebrate, and create memories. So, whether you are saying "Sic 'em, Bears," "Axe 'em, Jacks," or "Eat 'em up, Bearkats," I hope you can make

it out to a game this season.

District work month wrap-up  
This week wrapped up the August district work period and Members of Congress will be heading back to Washington next week for legislative business. The focus in Congress is clear: passing a Continuing Resolution to keep the government running past Sept. 30.

However, there's an important debate unfolding over the inclusion of the SAVE Act in this funding measure. The SAVE Act, which I co-sponsored, requires proof of U.S. citizenship to vote in federal elections.

It is unclear how this will play out, but if we decide to pass the SAVE Act attached to the CR, the House will effectively dare the Sen-

ate to remove the bill and telegraph their lack of commitment to securing elections for American citizens only. As for my part, I will keep pushing to ensure the federal government doesn't overreach and we act in a fiscally responsible manner.

Moreover, the month of September bodes lots of committee work for me, in both the Oversight and Accountability Committee and Financial Services Committee. Other important topics that will be hitting the floor include deterring China and border security. I will be sure to keep you informed as Congress returns back to Washington.

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

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## NOTICE OF HEARING TO ADOPT BUDGET

Trinity County will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, September 24, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. in the Commissioners' Courtroom, at 162 West First Street, Trinity County Courthouse, Groveton, Texas, on the adoption of the FY 2025 County Budget.

This budget will raise more revenue from property taxes than last year's budget by an amount of \$505,049 which is a 7.29 percent increase from last year's budget. The property tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year is \$101,406.

DANNY R. MARTIN  
TRINITY COUNTY JUDGE

## TRINITY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT

### ELECTED OFFICIALS PROPOSED SALARIES AND OTHER COMPENSATION

In accordance with Vernon's Civil Statutes-Local Government Code, Chapter 152, Section 152.013(a), the Trinity County Commissioners' Court meeting in Regular Session on September 24, 2024, is proposing to adopt the following schedule for Trinity County Elected Officials salaries, expenses and/or allowances which have been included in the proposed FY 2025 Budget.

Official	Position	Annual Salary	Annual Fringe / Amount
Danny Martin	County Judge	52,043.00	Vehicle Allowance, 4,500
Tommy Park	Commissioner Pct 1	50,000.00	Vehicle Allowance, 18,000
Mike Loftin	Commissioner Pct 2	50,000.00	Vehicle Allowance, 12,000
Neal Smith	Commissioner Pct 3	50,000.00	Vehicle Allowance, 18,000
Steven Truss	Commissioner Pct 4	50,000.00	Vehicle Allowance, 18,000
Colton Hay	County Attorney	52,825.00	
Jillian Steptoe	District Clerk	50,000.00	
Shasta Bergman	County Clerk	50,000.00	
Woody Wallace	Sheriff	75,000.00	County Vehicle
Nancy Shanafelt	Tax Assessor	50,000.00	Vehicle Allowance, 2,500
Orrin Hargrave	County Treasurer	50,000.00	
Mary Wallace	J. P. Pct 1	50,000.00	Vehicle Allowance, 7,000
Lyle Stubbs	J. P. Pct 2	50,000.00	Vehicle Allowance, 7,000
Byron Johnson	J. P. Pct 3	50,000.00	Vehicle Allowance, 7,000
Richard Steptoe	J. P. Pct 4	50,000.00	Vehicle Allowance, 7,000
Lawrence Adamick	Constable Pct 1	45,000.00	
Mark Cole	Constable Pct 2	45,000.00	
Carl Casey	Constable Pct 3	45,000.00	
Brian McMullen	Constable Pct 4	45,000.00	
Bennie Schiro Jr	District Attorney	9,762.00	

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# TRINITY COUNTY SPORTS



Trinity Quarterback Terian Maxie looks to break free from Groveton's Gunner Wilson. PHOTO BY TONY FARKAS

Tiger Jammale Johnson slow-walks his way into the end zone. PHOTO BY TONY FARKAS



Groveton's Ramello Wolfe (No. 6) stays ahead of Trinity's Landon Sweeting. PHOTO BY TONY FARKAS



Groveton's Gunner Wilson escapes a Trinity defender.. PHOTO BY TONY FARKAS



Trinity's Jammale Johnson stiffarms his way past the Groveton line on his way to a touchdown. PHOTO BY TONY FARKAS

## Indians mauled by Tigers in Clash of Trinity County

By Scott Wornack  
TCNS correspondent

GROVETON — With bragging rights on the line, the Tigers took the short trip down 94 Friday night to renew their long-time rivalry with the Indians. Both teams were well-prepared and excited to make an impact on the game, and the final score — 33-32 — showed how important it was.

The Indians received the opening kickoff, and with a combination of running and passing, took just 1:28 to take an early 8-0 lead over the Tigers. Not to be outdone, the Tigers took just 1:17 off the clock to find the end zone on a 30-yard run by Jammale Johnson, but a failed extra point attempt gave the Indians an 8-0 lead.

The second quarter opened with the Indians driving the ball deep into Tiger territory, but a fumble on the Tiger 18-yard line ended the drive. The Tigers took over and drove the ball to the Indian 36-yard

line where a fumble gave the ball back to the Indians. On the third play for the Indians, Chance Barron intercepted the ball and returned it to the Indian 28-yard line. Four plays later, Johnson again found the end zone with a 5-yard run. A failed 2-point attempt gave the Tigers a 12-8 lead.

The Indians took their next drive to the Tiger 30-yard line, and again the Tigers forced an Indian fumble. The Indians forced a punt and with the aid of Tiger penalties were able to retake the lead 16-12 with just 39 seconds left before halftime. The Tigers took possession on their own 24-yard line and after a 4-yard run on first down, Turbo Maxie was able to complete a pass to Ayden DeBose who took the ball down the Tiger sideline for a 72-yard touchdown as time expired in the first half.

With the successful 2-point attempt, the Tigers took a 20-16 lead into the locker room.

The third quarter opened with the Tigers in possession and John-

son was able to break free again for a 59-yard run for the score, and after the extra point kick, the Tigers extended their lead to 27-16. The Tigers stopped the Indians on downs and took over at their own 45-yard line, taking 9 plays capped off by a 24-yard Maxie-Johnson pass for a touchdown. After the failed extra point try the Tigers took a 33-16 lead with 5:40 remaining in the third quarter.

The Indians next possession ended with a Maxie interception, with a defensive hold and a bad snap on a punt, set the Indians up deep in Tiger territory at the 22-yard line. The Indians capitalized on the good field possession and cut into the Tiger lead with a 6-play scoring drive, adding the 2-point attempt, the Tigers lead 33-24.

The Tigers fumbled on their next possession and the Indians opened the 4th quarter marching down the field, but the Tigers were able to force an incompletion on 4th down ending the Indians drive at

the Tiger 7-yard line. The Indians were able to force a punt and taking over at the 50-yard line, the Indians marched down the field and were able to tighten the score with a touchdown and 2-point conversion giving the Tigers a 1-point lead 33-32.

The Tigers fumbled the ball at the Indian 40-yard line giving the Indians a final opportunity to take the lead, but the opening play of the Indian drive the Tigers forced a fumble and with the recovery, the Tigers were able to run out the clock and seal the victory over the Indians.

The Tigers ended the evening with 258 rushing yards and 172 passing yards, 4 forced turnovers and a 2-0 record to start the season. The Indians rushed for 215 yards and passed for 61 yards with 3 forced turnovers and an 0-2 record.

The Indians will travel to Lovelady on Friday night to challenge the Lions, while the Tigers will have the week off as they prepare to host Colmesneil on September 20th at

Tiger Stadium.

### Apple Springs

Head Coach Cody Moree said it was a tough night for the Eagles, who were hammered by Penelope 80-42.

For Apple Springs, Freshman Nate Sanders went 25 for 38 in the air for 342 yards and 4 TDs.

Freshman Peyton Williams caught 12 of 14 passes for 162 yards and 1 TD; Junior Zeth Dugat caught 8 of 12 for 129 yards for 2 TDs; Freshman Blaize McSwain caught 3 passes for 40 yards and 1 TD; and Freshman Kane Dugat caught 2 for 36 yards and 1 TD.

Leading tacklers were Junior Brady Kaufman with 12 solo and 5 assists; Freshman Peyton Williams had 6 solo and 5 assists; and Freshman Joseph Ocasiones had 2 solo and 7 assists.

Sophomore Nathan Smith had one fumble recovery and one on-side kick recovery, and Freshman Peyton Williams had a 36-yard kickoff return for a touchdown.



The Centerville Lady Bulldogs won first place in their home tournament over the weekend. COURTESY PHOTO

## Centerville girls dominate home tournament

TCNS staff

CENTERVILLE — At the Centerville tournament last week, the Lady Bulldogs pulled off a first place win by running through the brackets.

Centerville eighth-grader Avery Brown earned tournament MVP honors after scoring 26, 35 and 32 points in the three games, the highest scorer in the entire tournament. Eighth-graders Olivia Teeters and Aiden Conner earned first-team all-tournament player awards for their outstanding play throughout the tournament.

Girls team results: Centerville-1st place, Leggett 2nd place, Wells 3rd place and Ken-

nard 4th place.

Boys team results Wells 1st place, Leggett 2nd place, Kennard 3rd place and Centerville 4th place

On Tuesday, Centerville traveled to Slocum, where the boys lost two games, and the girls won one.

The boys A team lost 62-16. Tanner Kellum scored 6 points, Daniel Brister 6 points and Drew Larsen 4. The boys B team lost 32-5. John Corley scored 3 points and Cash Noack scored 2.

The girls' team won 28-14. Avery Brown scored 14 points, Laura Rogers 9 points, Rebecca Brasuell 2 points and Olivia Teeters 2 points.



# Groveton girls 11th, Trinity 22nd at UIL preview meet

TCNS staff

HUNTSVILLE — The Trinity and Groveton Cross Country teams participated at the UIL Region 3 preview at Sam Houston State University, and each team posted outstanding individual achievements.

Trinity Senior Cade Mauldin led the way, securing a fourth-place finish out of 208 runners in the Varsity Boys 1A-4A division. Freshman Jasmine Jordan also excelled, finishing 63rd out of 163 runners.

Among the 51 girls' teams in attendance, the Lady Tigers, comprised of Jasmine Jordan, Karissa Rangel, Alexa Manzaneras-Cerda, Alianna Reyes, and Natalie Stansberry, placed 22nd overall.

The Groveton Varsity boys cross country placed 13th in the meet on Saturday division 1A-4A. Indian Varsity, JV, and JH boys cross country will compete in the Red Devil Invitational in Huntington on Saturday.

### Region III Preview Meet 2024 Sep 7

Kate Barr Ross Memorial Park, Huntsville

#### Trinity Results

Team Results: 22nd

Girls

Individual results (time, athlete, place)

2-mile run

14:41.10, Jasmine Jordan, 63rd  
15:25.60, Karissia Rangle, 94th  
17:25.90, Alexa Manzaneras, 147th  
18:05.20, Aliana Reyes, 160th  
18:08.30, Natalie Stansberry, 163rd  
Boys Results  
5,000-meter run  
16:55.50, Cade Mauldin, 4th  
20:55.50, Austin Beasley, 119th  
28:33.20, Horacio Silva, 134th

#### Groveton Results

2-mile run  
13:08.00, Janette Bautista, 7th  
15:01.00, Kayleigh Albus, 74th  
15:13.90, Laney Peterson, 86th  
16:23.80, Madison Hobbs, 126th  
16:46.40, Anahi Hernandez, 133rd  
17:07.50, Marie Gonzalez, 142nd  
Boys Results  
5,000-meter run  
19:38.30, Gabriel Constante, 73rd  
19:52.30, Austin Williams, 81st  
19:55.10, Jay Smith, 82nd  
20:11.40, Jack Sullivan, 95th  
20:16.30, Landon Conley, 98th  
21:02.30, Hunter Bowling, 123rd  
22:16.60, Luis Chavez, 156th  
23:11.60, Jesus Maldonado, 172nd  
24:58.30, Dylan Newman, 198th



Trinity's Cade Mauldin runs his way to a fourth-place finish in the UIL Region 3 cross country meet on Saturday. COURTESY PHOTO

# Lady Indians post 2 wins

TCNS staff

The Groveton volleyball squad won both week's outings on the court, downing Onalaska 3-1 on Friday and Crockett 3-0 on Sept. 3.

Against Onalaska, the scores were 19-25, 25-8, 25-11 and 25-12. Aubrey Alexander led with 11 kills, followed by Caila Antley and Kayleigh Albus with 9. Alinda Veng served up 4 aces.

Aubrey Alexander had 29 digs and 19 assists, and Alinda Veng had 21 digs and 16 as-

sists.

Against Crockett, the scores were 25-6, 25-8 and 25-6. Jannett Bautista had 9 kills, while Kayleigh Albus had 8. Alinda Veng and Jannett Bautista each had 5 aces.

Darbi Parker had 8 digs, and Alinda Veng had 8 assists.

#### Apple Springs

The Lady Eagles were downed by the Burkeville Lady Mustangs 3-1 on Sept. 3. Scores were 25-13, 18-25, 13-25, 12-25.



*It's time to vote for your favorite businesses and services for Best of Trinity County.*

**Go to [easttexasnews.com](http://easttexasnews.com)  
Voting lasts September 1st-30th.**





AREA DIGEST



Farm Bureau to meet

Trinity County Farm Bureau will have its annual meeting at 6 p.m. Oct. 1 at the Friday Community Center.

The meeting will start at 6 p.m. A meal will be served and door prizes given away. For information or to RSVP, call (936) 642-1231.

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 TCEA 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 Com-

merce 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 Trinity County meet the third Tuesday of each month. All Republican

women are welcome to attend.

Meetings are held at the Trinity County Community Center at 2693 US Hwy 297, Groveton. For more information, contact republicanwomentrinityco@gmail.com, message our Facebook page or text (281) 467-8626.

Church program set

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

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

Band holds fundraiser

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

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

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

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

Veterans museum hosts events

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

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

Delivery available

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

Guests also are welcome to enjoy 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.

Advertisement for Hometown Banking featuring a pig and the text 'Pork... The Other White Meat'. Includes contact information for Citizens State Bank locations in Groveton and Corrigan.

Vehicle repair, replacement available

Texans impacted by Hurricane Beryl may be eligible for FEMA assistance to repair or replace a vehicle. Special to the News-Standard

FEMA provides financial help after a disaster for eligible expenses not paid by insurance or other sources which may include repair or replacement of a vehicle. The vehicle's damage must have been caused by the disaster and the vehicle must be no longer operable or safe to drive.

Assistance is usually limited to one vehicle. If there is a second functional vehicle in the household, the applicant must certify in writing that the damaged vehicle is essential for the household's daily use.

- Other conditions for assistance include:
• The vehicle must comply with state registration and insurance requirements.
• The vehicle must be owned or leased (not a rental) by the applicant, co-applicant, or household member.

- The damaged vehicle must be an approved vehicle type such as a car, truck, SUV or van.

To find out if you are eligible, you can apply to FEMA in several ways:

- Go online to DisasterAssistance.gov
• Download the FEMA App for mobile devices
• Call the FEMA helpline at 800-621-3362 between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. Help is available in most languages.

If you use a relay service, such as video relay, captioned telephone or other service, give FEMA your number for that service.

Visit any Disaster Recovery Center. For locations and hours, go online to fema.gov/drc.

If you would rather not receive future communications from Federal Emergency Management Agency, let us know by clicking here.

Federal Emergency Management Agency, Office of External Affairs 500 C Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20472 United States

Crossword puzzle sponsored by Consumers's LP Gas & Appliance Co. with clues and a solution grid. Includes the title 'TEXAS CROSSWORD by Charley & Guy Orbison'.

Advertisement for Georgia-Pacific lumber operations. Includes the title 'Georgia-Pacific modifies lumber operations' and text about facility changes in Camden and Prosperity, S.C.

Advertisement for Custom PRINTING featuring a large graphic of the word 'PRINTING' and a list of services: Invitations, Business Cards, Business Forms, Envelopes | Banners, Stamps | Stickers, Brochures.

Legal Notices

City of Trinity receiving bids

ADVERTISEMENT AND INVITATION FOR BIDS  
 The CITY OF TRINITY will receive bids for WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS - Site 18 Rockdale Booster GLO MIT 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 assistance

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

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	\$ 0.5390	per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$ 0.5111	per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$ 0.5565	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 Trinity County 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 Trinity County 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 Trinity County is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2024 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON 09/24/2024 09:00 AM at Trinity County Courthouse, 162 West First St, Groveton, TX

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, Trinity County 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 Trinity County of Trinity County 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:

Property tax amount = ( tax rate ) x ( 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: Neal Smith, Tommy Park, Mike Lotin, Steven Truss, Danny Martin

AGAINST the proposal: None

PRESENT and not voting: None

ABSENT: None

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.

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 Trinity County last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by Trinity County this year.

	2023	2024	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.5390	\$0.5390	0% increase
Average homestead taxable value	\$119,712	\$132,326	10.53% increase
Tax on average homestead	\$645	\$713	10.53% increase
Total tax levy on all properties	\$5,891,095	\$6,400,091	8.64% increase

(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 County 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 Trinity County spent \$ 116,611 from July 1 2023 to June 30 2024 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 \$ 38,221

This increased the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate by 0.0033 /\$100.

Indigent Defense Compensation Expenditures (counties)

The 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 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 at or , or visit 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 Trinity County at (936) 642-1502 or gary.gallant@trinitycad.net

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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	\$	0.9100	per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$	0.8301	per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$	0.9138	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 City of Groveton 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 City of Groveton 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 City of Groveton is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2024 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON 09/23/2024 05:00 PM at Groveton City Hall, 115 W Front St, Groveton, TX, 75845, Groveton, TX.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, City of Groveton 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 of Groveton of City of Groveton 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: Joe Kennedy, Robert Smith, Autumn Dial, Billy Jones, Casey Anderson

AGAINST the proposal: n/a

PRESENT and not voting: Ralph Bennett

ABSENT: n/a

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.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.

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 City of Groveton last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by City of Groveton this year.

	2023	2024	Change
<b>Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)</b>	\$0.9100	\$0.9100	0% increase
<b>Average homestead taxable value</b>	\$76,656	\$85,776	11.89% increase
<b>Tax on average homestead</b>	\$697	\$780	11.89% increase
<b>Total tax levy on all properties</b>	\$302,750	\$336,955	11.29% increase

(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 \_\_\_\_\_ County 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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_, or visit \_\_\_\_\_ 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 City of Groveton at (936) 642-1502 or gary.gallant@trinitycad.net.

# Teal Season begins in Texas on Sept. 14

Special to the News-Standard

AUSTIN — Teal hunting season opens Sept. 14, and with wet conditions prevailing in many areas of Texas, hunters will have ample opportunities to harvest birds.

Habitat conditions across much of the state are currently above average to excellent. In East Texas, near record precipitation filled reservoirs to capacity and created tens of thousands of acres of flooded shorelines rich in food for teal. Tropical weather along the Gulf Coast this summer established an abundance of fresh shallow water, a significant improvement for habitat compared to last year.

Blue-winged teal are the second most abundant duck in North America and by far the most prevalent duck found in Texas during the special early teal season. They primarily breed in the Prairie Pothole Regions of North Dakota, South Dakota, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

The Canadian portion of their breeding grounds is in its fifth consecutive year of significant drought. Parts of North and South Dakota have also experienced multiple years of drought, though conditions began to improve in May across key areas.

"Unfortunately, the final blue-winged teal breeding population estimates are now at a two decade long low," said Kevin Kraai, Waterfowl Program Leader for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). "The population estimate this past May was 4.55 million birds and is down 15 percent from last year's estimate."

The upshot is that above average summer rainfall across much of the breeding grounds is expected to have a positive impact on duckling production and survival for 2024.

"Despite the decade-long decline in the breeding population, production of blue-winged teal is expected to be strong," said Kraai. "Overall, I anticipate an above-average teal season this September across much of Texas due to the wet conditions."

The 16-day statewide 2024 early teal season in Texas will run Sept. 14 through 29. The daily bag limit on teal is six, with a possession limit of 18. Kraai said the threshold for a liberal 16-day early teal season is 4.7. Due to the decline in population, the 2025 early teal season will be restricted to nine days for the first time since 2005.

As for conditions and prospects for teal season around the state, TPWD waterfowl biologists report:

- Water restrictions, due to the continued drought in Central Texas, will play a significant role in the availability of waterfowl habitat this fall and winter. Most of the rice prairies will not have access to canal water and will have to rely on rainfall to fill wetlands and fallow rice fields.

- Landowners and managers that have access to irrigation water/groundwater will have a distinct advantage. Birds will concentrate heavily in these areas and reports indicate birds are arriving daily at these locations. These areas should expect an excellent teal season.

Kraai reminds migratory bird hunters that they need to make sure they are Harvest Information Program certified and confirm the HIP questions are answered correctly. HIP surveys allow biologists to get an accurate sample of hunters so the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can deliver harvest surveys to a subsample of hunters later in the year.

Hunters should purchase their new 2024-25 Texas hunting license prior to hitting the field. In addition, teal/waterfowl hunters will also need a migratory game bird endorsement, federal duck stamp and HIP certification. It's also required by law that hunters have proof of their completion of a hunter education course.

This past year, the Duck Stamp Modernization Act of 2023 passed into law. This act modifies provisions of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, commonly referred to as the Duck Stamp, now allowing an individual to carry an electronic stamp (E-stamp) for the entire waterfowl hunting season. A physical Federal Duck Stamp will be mailed to each E-stamp purchaser after the hunting season between May 10-June 30, 2025.

Hunters can find teal season dates, regulations, bag limits and more on this year's Outdoor Annual. Hunters can also access digital copies of their licenses via the Outdoor Annual and Texas Hunt & Fish apps.

Anyone hunting on Texas public hunting lands must purchase an Annual Public Hunting Permit. Texas has more than one million acres of land for public access. More information about these lands and locations can be found on the TPWD website. Hunters using public lands can complete their on-site registration via the Texas Hunt & Fish app.

We asked our readers, "What EXTRAordinary results have you gotten from the Classifieds?" They answered. "I found my best friend thanks to the Trinity County News-Standard Classifieds."

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# Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

Puzzle answers, recipes, videos and more at [www.kidscoop.com](http://www.kidscoop.com)

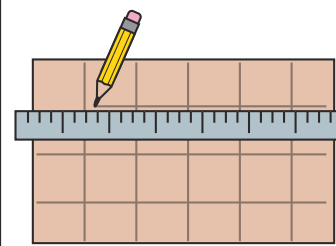
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**Kid Scoop Together**

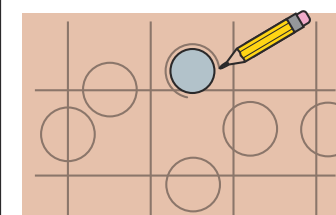
## Make a Cereal Box Puzzle

### Stuff You'll Need:

- cereal box
- adult helper
- scissors
- pencil
- ruler
- coin



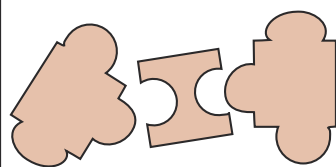
1. Cut the front panel off the box. Use the ruler to draw a grid on the back of the cardboard.



2. Use the coin to draw puzzle piece shapes as shown.



3. Carefully cut out the puzzle shapes and see if a family member can put it together in under two minutes.



4. If the puzzle is too easy, have them try assembling it with the blank cardboard side up!



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## Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **ESTIMATE**

The verb **estimate** means to make a careful guess about the amount of something.

We made an **estimate** that there were 50 pieces of paper litter on the playground.

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

## Can a Cereal Box Save the World?



With the projects on this page, you can find new uses for empty cereal boxes. That will help reduce the amount of waste that goes into landfills, and make fun and useful gifts for family and friends at the same time! Will it save the world? Well, it's a start!

How many differences can you spot between these two boxes of cereal?

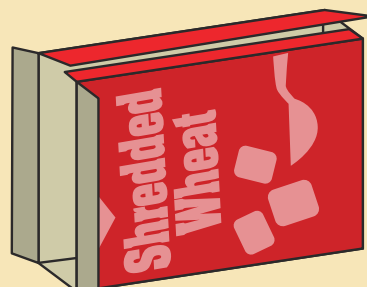


## Make a Paper Pal

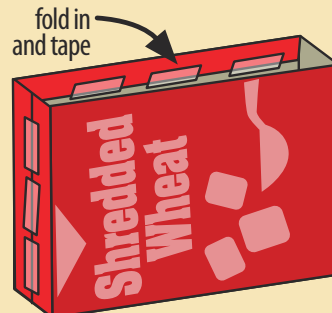
Follow the directions to make a simple holder that helps people collect school and office paper for recycling. You can make one or more Paper Pals and give them to your friends and family.

### Stuff You'll Need:

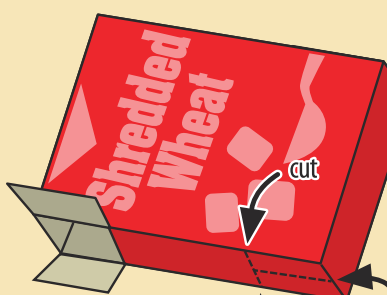
- cereal box
- scissors
- tape or glue stick
- construction paper
- pen



1. Carefully split open a cereal box along the side edge where the box is glued together.



2. Tape or glue the original box lid closed. Tape or glue the side flaps down inside the cereal box to create an opening.



3. Make feet for your Paper Pal. Use a pen to poke a hole for starting your cuts.



4. Glue a sheet of construction paper on the front of the box. Draw a funny face on your new Paper Pal!

## Can You Guess?

How many sheets of paper will your Paper Pal hold? Write your guess, or estimate here:

Once your Paper Pal is full, count the number of sheets of paper it holds. How close was your guess?

Standards Link: Follow written instructions.

## Cereal Box Matching Game

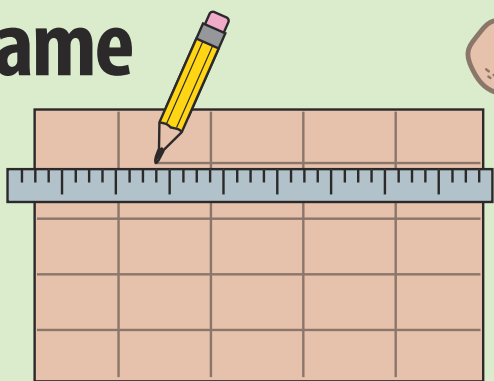
Create a game that's fun and challenging for all ages.

### Stuff You'll Need:

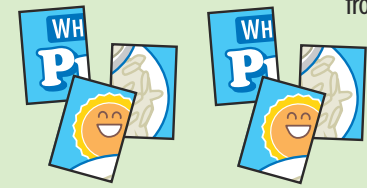
- two identical cereal boxes
- scissors
- ruler
- pencil
- adult helper



1. Carefully cut the front panel off each box.



2. Have an adult help you measure 2" x 4" rectangles\* on the blank side of the cardboard. Repeat for the second box.



3. Carefully cut out the rectangles from both boxes to create the game cards. Be sure each card has an exact duplicate.



4. Shuffle the cards and place them face down in rows. Take turns turning over two cards at a time to create pairs.



5. If you make a match, keep those two cards. The person with the most cards wins.

\*NOTE: Cards can be cut to any size as long as you end up with TWO identical matching sets. For a bigger challenge, use the back panels of each box, too!

## Recycle It!

Look through the newspaper to find:

- Something that can be recycled.
- Something that can be used in more than one way.
- Something you could use to make a gift.

Standards Link: Follow simple written directions.

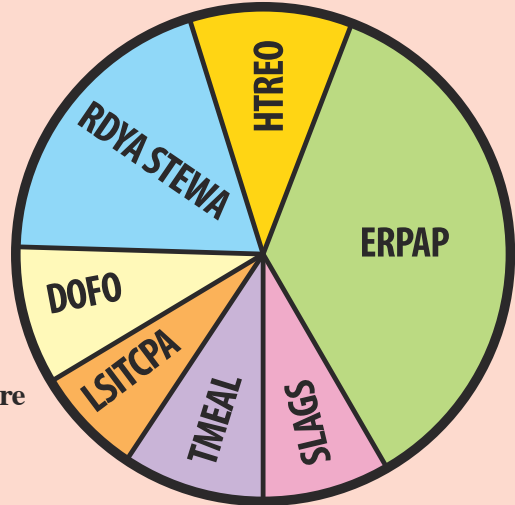
## Kid Scoop Puzzler

Nearly everything we throw away ends up in a landfill. And landfills are filling up. By recycling, you can send less trash to the landfill. Unscramble the words on the pie chart to answer these questions:

What do we toss the most?

How many different kinds of trash are in landfills?

Do landfills have more yard waste or glass?



Standards Link: Math: Interpret information using graphs.

## Double Double Word Search

- BLANK
- BOXES
- CEREAL
- COUNT
- CUT
- DRAW
- ESTIMATE
- FACE
- HOLES
- PAPER
- RECYCLE
- REDUCE
- RULER
- TAPE
- WASTE

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

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

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

## FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

### New and Better?

Find three items in today's newspaper that you think were NOT around 15 years ago. What advantages does each offer? What disadvantages? Are there more advantages or disadvantages?

Standards Link: Use the newspaper to locate information.

**What kind of cereal is the smartest of all?**

ANSWER: Raisin Bran!

## Write On!

### Reuse It!

Can you think of some creative ways to reuse plastic containers or cardboard boxes? Write your ideas and include instructions.

**Brad Elrod**  
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409.283.8288 | [elrodlawtx.com](http://elrodlawtx.com)

