

SAN JACINTO NEWS-TIMES



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County delays action on ESD request

By Tony Farkas
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COLDSRING — The San Jacinto County Commissioners Court delayed action on a petition from residents of the Waterwood subdivision near Point Blank to create a second Emergency Services District.

County Commissioner Laddie McAnally said there were questions about how property owners who lived in other states would be affected.

The question was part of a public hearing at the Wednesday Commissioners Court meeting.

Jamie Groskopf, representing voters and property owners of the Waterwood Improvement Association Inc., said the idea was to ensure the subdivision residents had adequate fire and ambulance services, citing problems with their current service. He said putting the issue on the November ballot would be a good investment for them.

He said the WIA has been providing ambulance and fire services in the area of the Waterwood Municipal Utility District, and that there was no current contract with the current Emergency Services District that provides the bulk of the fire and EMS services in the area.



County Judge Fritz Faulkner and Commissioner Mark Nettuno discuss a document during the June 26 meeting of the Commissioners Court. PHOTO BY CHARLES BALLARD

County Judge Fritz Faulkner, while saying he wanted everyone to be happy, was concerned about how much revenue would be generated, since the estimates of \$100,000 would not be enough to fund a new district. "I want the Waterwood folks to have whatever they want, but I don't know how they're going to pay for it," he said.

Most area residents speaking before the court said it would be a simple matter to let the voters decide their fate. Positives for the district would be improvements in response

time and in homeowner's insurance costs. Not all residents were convinced a new district was a good idea.

Subdivision resident Brandon Lanscomb said he opposes the district.

"The question is not whether we want service, because everyone wants that; the reality is that it's not feasible, and there are so many people who own lots that don't live there will not be able to vote," he said. "There's just not the funds there. No base to support what they need."



A representative of proposed SJCESD #2 addressed the Commissioners Court on Wednesday to explain the benefits of having the new entity. PHOTO BY CHARLES BALLARD

Commissioner Donny Marrs said it's the court's intention to make sure everyone is protected.

In his motion to table the matter, McAnally said the court is not saying no, but that it needs some clarification.

In other business, the commissioners:

- approved a three-year lease extension for the Health and Human Services Commission and the Department of Family

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Greg Cones sang "God Bless America" to start the evening. PHOTOS BY CHARLES BALLARD



Shepherd Mayor Charles Minton welcomed everyone to the 47th Shepherd Fourth of July Celebration.. PHOTOS BY CHARLES BALLARD



Letting Freedom Ring

By Charles Ballard
SJNT correspondent

SHEPHERD — June 29 was the substitute Fourth of July this year in Shepherd, but the early celebration was just as stirring and patriotic.

The evening started around noon with the American Legion 629 Flag Ceremony followed by District Judge Travis Kitchens leading everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Greg Cones belted out "God Bless America," and a welcome speech was offered by Mayor Charles Minton. DJ Joe LeBlanc and MC for the night introduced Yvonne Cones, Chamber of Commerce president, and there were games, music, food sales for children young and old.

Around 9 p.m. or just shortly after, fireworks by Westcott Fireworks lit up the sky.

One killed in two-vehicle crash



A Navasota woman was killed in a collision with a semi truck on U.S. 190 on June 25. COURTESY PHOTO

Special to the News-Times

POINT BLANK — The Texas Department of Public Safety Troopers investigated a fatal crash on U.S. Highway 190, near Point Blank, that occurred June 25.

The preliminary crash investigation indicates that at approximately 9:44 a.m., a 2008 Honda Pilot was traveling east, while a 2016 International truck tractor was traveling west.

Reports indicated that the Honda crossed over in the westbound lane and collided with the truck tractor.

The driver of the Honda, 25-year-old Chelsey Munoz of Navasota, was pronounced deceased on scene by a Justice of the Peace.

The driver of the truck tractor, 46-year-old Joe Enloe of Cleveland, was not injured.

This is an ongoing investigation.

Lake Livingston Dam under failure watch

Special to the News-Times

The Trinity River Authority is confirming that the spillway of the Lake Livingston Dam and spillway have been adversely impacted by the recent heavy rainfall and flooding in the dam's drainage area, resulting in the declaration of a "potential failure watch" condition which requires

continued monitoring and evaluation of the spillway's integrity, as well as the implementation of necessary repairs and remedial actions. Although there is no immediate danger of either failure or breach of the dam, the potential does exist however remote it might be.

The day-to-day operation of the dam will continue as necessary, although

normal gate operations may vary as conditions dictate. This declaration is in conformance with the Emergency Action Plan as approved by the TRA, which will monitor the spillway's status and will issue updates as necessary. For additional information please contact Trinity River Authority at (877) 352-3247 or visit trinityra.org.

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LAKE LIVINGSTON DATA AS OF JULY 1

Current level.....	130.91 ft
Normal level.....	131.00 ft
Discharge.....	17579 cfs
Weekly rainfall total.....	0.19 in

TRINITY RIVER DATA AS OF JULY 1

Gauge Stage.....	17.15 ft
Category.....	Normal
Weekly rainfall.....	0.19 in



An early, happy celebration was had by all

Shepherd had a very busy and happy Independence Day on June 29. Yes, it was hot, but it didn't rain.

The Hot Steppers did a fabulous demonstration for everyone. She was so thrilled, one very small young girl hugged one dancer's leg till she was rescued by her sister.

The day started with the American Legion Post 629 and the Flag Ceremony for the heroes who did not return from war, conducted by Larry Lowe. Judge Travis Kitchens led with the Pledge and Brenda Myers gave the invocation. Gregg Cones sang "God Bless America" and Joe LeBlanc announced Mayor Charles Minton and myself to welcome everyone to our event.

The city of Shepherd had worked hard to have the park and center outside looking really smart and vendors and food vendors filled the outside under the Pavilion roof.

We had some vendors who were new to us. I personally had never heard of Freeze-Dried Candy, and being diabetic was not thinking of trying it. However, freeze-dried veggies and fruit made me rethink buying some and I am happy I did. There is also freeze-dried sugar free candy and I am try-

ing out some of that too.

The handmade leather goods were wonderful as were the jewelry vendors and all the food which was very popular. Thank you, The Impact Center and Brenda Myers. The kids' games were very popular, and Brenda introduced some of the girls who were responsible for the "Don't Mess With Me, I'll Tell" bracelets.

They have developed a project on behalf of those who have been sexually abused and apart from telling their stories, they are using these bracelets to promote their work in defeating this threat to keep the crime a secret through threats to the victims. Afterward, DJ Joe played line dance music for the crowd who all seemed to know the steps.

Thank you, Shepherd Chamber Board members, for your help in making the day a success and thank you Eddie Charles for cleaning the Center after we finished for the day.

•Did You Know? is online as well as in

See **HAPPY** → Page 7



(Above) Line dancers, the Hot Steppers, performed at Shepherd Independence Day celebration. (Right) Freeze dried candy, fruit and vegetables were available at a Shepherd event. (Below Left) Let's play the airplane game at Shepherd library. (Below Right) A customer buys tooled leather bags at a Shepherd event. COURTESY PHOTOS



Shepherd library summer program focused on adventure stories. Here some of the wizard of Oz characters portrayed by staff and volunteers, I'm getting out of the hot air balloon. COURTESY PHOTOS



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SAN JACINTO COUNTY WEATHER FORECAST ©2024; forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather Visit AccuWeather.com

THURSDAY	THU NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mostly sunny, hot and humid	Mainly clear and humid	Mostly sunny and hot	Hot with sunshine and patchy clouds	Partly sunny and hot	A couple of afternoon thunderstorms	Partly sunny with a t-storm or two	Cloudy with thunderstorms
HIGHS: 95 to 100 RF: 106 to 111 POP: 20%	LOWS: 74 to 79 RF: 81 to 86 POP: 15%	95 to 100 75 to 80 RF: 105 to 110/82 to 87 POP: 20%	96 to 101 74 to 79 RF: 108 to 113/77 to 82 POP: 25%	95 to 100 73 to 78 RF: 104 to 109/76 to 81 POP: 20%	93 to 98 72 to 77 RF: 107 to 112/81 to 86 POP: 75%	91 to 96 73 to 78 RF: 96 to 101/73 to 78 POP: 60%	89 to 94 74 to 79 RF: 97 to 102/74 to 79 POP: 60%

WEEKLY ALMANAC Statistics through 6/30

Temperatures
Daily ranges — Normal high — Normal low

95	96	96	96	96	97	96
75	77	77	76	78	78	77

6/24 6/25 6/26 6/27 6/28 6/29 6/30

Precipitation (in inches)
Daily totals — Normal amount

0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0.15	0.15					

6/24 6/25 6/26 6/27 6/28 6/29 6/30

Month to date/normal 1.15 / 5.76
Year to date/normal 24.84 / 26.67

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

Long-range rifle accuracy made easy

During the course of a year, readers of this column write about me shooting and hunting with all sorts of sporting arms. Part of the outdoor experience, at least for me, is learning about new methods and new tools for hunting.



I thoroughly enjoy hunting with my bows but also muzzleloaders, centerfires, occasionally handguns and even big bore air rifles. Like most rifle hunters, I considered 300 yards a long shot at deer, so for many years, I simply sight in my flat shooting calibers about an inch high at 100 yards knowing that I can hold center of shoulder on deer size game out to 300 yards and collect my venison.

Until last week down in Houston County near Crockett, I never considered shooting much past 300 yards, and shooting at yardages out to 1,200 yards with any accuracy was something accomplished at shooting matches by highly skilled shooters using very specialized rifles and scopes. Was I in for an eye-opener.

Dr. John McCall is a noted eye surgeon and traveled big-game hunter from Crockett that developed a line of state-of-the-art rifle scopes a few years ago and formed a company called Stealth Vision. The good doctor and one of his partners, Joe Cunningham, invited me to join a group of friends for the day and learn that any average shooter (me) with basic rifle shooting skills can, with a quality rifle, shoot accurately out to 1,000 yards and a bit beyond.

Describing the internal workings of the scope is way beyond my pay grade, but I did learn how simple long-range shooting can be with one of these scopes. The technology built into these scopes make them very easy to operate and use by the average shooter.

We met at the doctors hunting camp where targets are set at various yardages out to 1,200 yards. A shooting bench was constructed on the back porch of the lodge and even during a recent hot Texas summer morning we were shooting in comfort with a couple of shop fans keeping the air moving. My goal, other than to do some very long-

range shooting, was to have a new rifle scoped with one of the Stealth Vision scopes. Cunningham understands everything about long-range shooting and gave us an introduction to what we could expect when we took our turn at the bench.

At the start, he mounted one of the Stealth Vision scopes on my new CVA Cascade rifle chambered in 6.5 PRC, a very flat shooting round. It took only three shots to get the new rifle dead on at 100 yards and he set the rifle aside and informed me that he would need to 'break it in' with a bit of shooting the next few days. I was invited to come back when he had worked his magic on the rifle/scope combination.

In essence, he would shoot groups at various yardages out to 1,000 yards, record the data and then have a turret burned to match the various distances. When I come back for a test-shooting session, all I would need to do is dial in the yardage I wished to shoot, steady the rifle and squeeze the trigger.

Our group sat in the shade of the porch and one by one, each of us took our turn shooting various yardages with scopes mounted on quality precision rifles. I learned that Stealth Vision not only offers scopes but also rifle/scope combos that have guaranteed precision built in.

Our group was shooting a 7 mm PRC topped with a scope that had already been zeroed. I watched as each shooter shot targets ranging from 400 yards all the way out to 1,200 yards. All were veteran shooters and hunters and without exception, shooting from a good rest at the bench, all hit every target at all the yardages.

Canting a scope affects accuracy, especially on longer shots. Each scope has a green light that comes on when the scope is level or very close to level. Green light on, you're ready to begin your trigger squeeze knowing your rifle is very close to level.

I had a bit of an advantage as the last one to shoot. I had watched each shooter shooting the closer targets and then on out to 1,200 yards. In past years, I had shot out to 600 yards in what was then a long-range



Joe Cunningham with Stealth Vision setting up Luke's rifle for some long-range shooting fun. PHOTO BY LUKE CLAYTON

shooting class but never twice that range.

The sun was beginning to warm the ground by mid morning and I didn't want to miss the opportunity to shoot at the very long-range target. Heat waves were just beginning to form which makes shooting long range accuracy challenging. I opted to bypass the closer targets and shoot long before heat waves made the most distant target impossible to sight accurately.

With a spotter using a spotting scope trained on the 1,200-yard target, I made my first shot and was happy to learn that my first and the next few shots were hitting the bull's eye, in a group about the size of a basketball. Granted, my CVA is a stock rifle and not a custom rig like we were shooting. I am anxious to see what kind of accuracy Cunningham can get out of it.

To be honest, if my stock rifle consistently shoots a 10- or 12-inch group at 1,000 yards, I will be overjoyed. I plan to use it mostly for hunting and regardless the long range capabilities, I can't see myself shooting game out much past 500 or 600 yards. Target shooting is an entirely different proposition. It's a great deal of fun and very satisfying to know

your rig can reach out to 1,000 yards and beyond with accurate shot placement.

I wrapped up my morning of really long-range shooting with a totally new perspective. Do I plan to harvest deer at 1,000 yards this coming deer season? Probably not, because in the majority of country I hunt, I won't be able to see a deer at half that distance, but I did learn that I absolutely love shooting very long-range. Now, if I'm out west on a mule deer or elk rifle hunt and the buck or bull of a lifetime appears on a hillside across a big canyon, I will have a rifle/scope that is up to the task, assuming I do my part.

I'm counting the days until I return to Houston County and take delivery of my new rig after Cunningham works his magic. From now on, long-range shooting will have an entirely new meaning to me. This happens after you have punched a few holes into a relatively small target at almost three quarters mile away.

Learn more about Stealth Vision at the website www.stealthvision.com

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

SENIOR MENUS

July 8-12
Menus Subject to Change
• Senior Citizens of San Jacinto County | 936-653-4175
Call by 10:30 a.m. to reserve a meal.
Monday, Wednesday, Friday is Texercise. Tuesday is line dancing. Thursday is bingo. Friday is

karaoke.
MONDAY: Chicken spaghetti, mixed vegetables, carrot salad, garlic rolls.
TUESDAY: Smothered pork chops, rice and gravy, California blend vegetables, cheesy cornbread.
WEDNESDAY: Ham, sweet potatoes, butter beans, broccoli, cornbread.
THURSDAY: Country fried steak, au gratin potatoes, blackeye peas, cornbread.

FRIDAY: Beef and cheese enchiladas, charro beans, Spanish rice.
• Shepherd Senior Citizens Center | 936-628-3733
Second Tuesday of each month includes birthday cake for dessert.
Bingo is July 11, 17, 24 and 31. Bag Days are July 5 and 19. Craft Days are July 8, 15, 22 and 29.
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beans, cranberry sauce, lemon pie.
TUESDAY: Lasagna, spinach, garlic bread, birthday cake.
WEDNESDAY: Sweet and sour pork, fried rice, egg rolls, broccoli, ice cream.
THURSDAY: Hamburger steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, greens, cookie bars.
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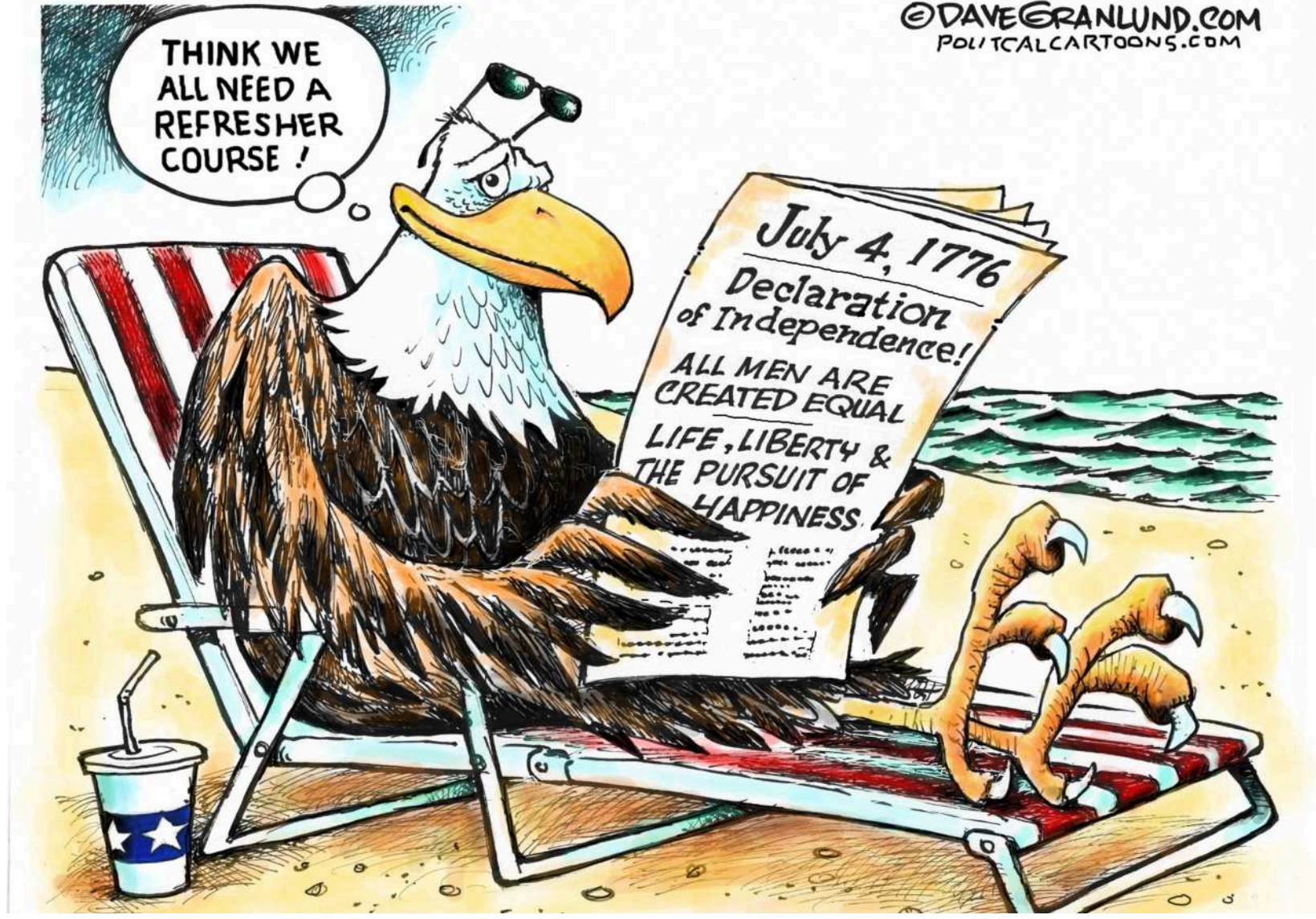
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OPINION



Reading between the chirps won't reveal substance

Many of you by now have formed an opinion on what happened in last week's debate between Joe Biden and Donald Trump.

You've either watched that slow-motion train wreck, or you've been inundated with social media posts and phone/email spam on who won, who lost and who was or wasn't coherent.

While on the surface, the performances left a lot to be desired (like an actual leader), underneath there was even less, unless you count golf game handicaps and the obvious dislike of each other.

There was one phrase, uttered off-hand by Biden, that was particularly telling and encapsulates the current mindset — and current problem — with government, and possibly the main one that has shaped my disappointment with our country's leaders.

Biden, in talking about assisting people of color, said the quiet thing out loud when he said, "we need to do more."

While he was talking in terms of race relations, this is exactly what the mindset is for everything and why the government has grown to its current behemoth size.

If somebody somewhere has a



My Two Common Sense
By Tony Farkas
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problem, they talk with legislators or their aides, which starts the ball rolling on legislation or regulation (more on that in a bit). Got issues with too many people dying in car crashes? Have the government make seat belt use mandatory, and arbitrarily create a point where a driver is considered impaired.

Have an issue with being denied health care procedures? The government can pass universal health care and dictate what can and can't be done, and how much it will cost.

Climate change making you hot under the collar? Convince your leaders that climate change is the "greatest existential threat to the planet" and create rules to reverse it, or whatever.

Our fearless leaders have taken that attitude toward every aspect of our lives. Homes must be built to government standards, children must be educated to government

standards, parks can be enjoyed by government standards, television and radio broadcasts must meet government standards, and so on and so on and scooby dooby dooby.

The useless sheeples do nothing but exclaim how the government cares, and the large media conglomerates toe the line and spin everything to make it palatable. It doesn't make a difference what brand of politician is in charge, since these days there's no real difference.

Several things occur to me about this, not the least of which is underscored by the word "more." It tells me that all of the efforts into control "for the good of the country" and "our democracy" have not been effective. This has been the fed modus operandi — patch after patch, law after law that have been applied to fix something fails till the government takes over completely.

Problem 1 is that has yet to work, and problem 2 is that many of these things — education, energy, banking, the marketplace, etc. — are not under the scope of government responsibility, at least not constitutionally.

There are remedies, such as trying to vote out the swamp dwellers and the courts, but that takes time and

perseverance, such as actually getting people out to vote or having the funds and actual time to run things through the gauntlet of government-appointed judges.

Recently, though, there was a bright spot: The Supreme Court last week gutted a "government doctrine" that allowed federal agencies to regulate business and industry into the ground. Seems the judges felt that actual laws need to be passed by Congress before a federal agency can issue regulations, instead of what was being followed for the last 40 years.

The Chevron deference doctrine allowed that in cases where law wasn't specific enough, a federal agency can interpret the law and courts were bound to uphold it. The new ruling puts the question of interpretation back in the hands of the courts.

Will it help? Probably, in the long run. But ultimately, unless the inexorable appetite of the government for control is ended, pretty soon there will be no freedom except what is granted to us by government, not endowed to us by the creator.

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Living thru our failures



Dan's Divinities
By Rev. Dr. Dan Darby

Jesus failed once. When He went to his hometown of Nazareth and preached, people at first were impressed with His wisdom and education, perhaps even a little proud of one of their own, but then they began to doubt Him because of their familiarity with Him (Mark 6:1-6).

They gossiped about Him, saying that this kid was just the village carpenter. How could He be an important, revolutionary rabbi? After all, they knew his mother Mary and her other children, James, Joses, Judas, and Simon, who were all still their neighbors. His family was all plain, simple, uneducated folks. Jesus could not be someone special, certainly not the Messiah.

So, they decided not to believe in Jesus as the Chosen One of God. Jesus did not make any disciples in his hometown, even among his family. He failed.

The next story in Mark's gospel is also, at least in part, about

failure. He sent his 12 disciples out in pairs to spread the news that God's Messianic Kingdom was at hand (Mark 6:7-13). They were called to be great evangelists with the most urgent message in all of history, but he told them to be prepared to fail sometimes.

His instructions to them were to quietly withdraw and move on from places where people rejected them. He said, "Don't make a scene. Shrug your shoulders and be on your way" (Mark 6:11, The Message).

It is easy for us to get trapped in failure or experiences of rejection. We want to succeed and be loved and appreciated, but suc-

cess and acceptance don't always happen. When we experience failure, it is important not to get trapped in feelings of defeat and inadequacy.

Mark Steele once said, "Jesus can turn water into wine, but he can't change your whining into anything." Even if things don't always go our way, Jesus still wants to use us for good. To be used, however, we must move on from negative experiences.

Evangelist and teacher Joyce Meyers said, "As a new creation in Christ you don't have to allow old things that happened to you to keep affecting your new life in Christ." She referenced St. Paul's words: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here." (2 Cor. 5:17, NIV).

When encountering negative situations, we must shake the dust off our feet and move on with courage to new opportunities.

Failure may be humbling to us, but humility is a very productive characteristic to have in life. It enables us to set aside our pride and learn new things that pride might have kept us from learning. Before he became a fabled NFL coach, a young Bill Parcells was coach at Texas Tech. Parcells said that during his spring practices at Tech, he began noticing a middled-aged man attending many of the sessions. Most of the time the man just silently watched, but occasionally he would catch Coach Parcells and ask him a question or two about his practices and methods.

One time the man said to Parcells, "You know, you're a pretty good coach." Only later did Parcells learn that the man was Gordon Wood, the coach at Brownwood High School, who was well on his way to winning over 400 games with his teams, more games than any other foot-

ball coach has won in history. Gordon Wood was already a legend at that time, but he regularly made the five-hour trip to Lubbock in the hope of picking up something useful and helpful from Bill Parcells, long before Parcells was famous.

Humility can facilitate personal growth and learning. No matter how good we are, we can still get better, but only if we are humble enough to open ourselves to learning.

Failure can be a good teacher if we are humble and courageous enough to learn the lessons it has to teach. When we experience failure, it is important that we don't get stuck in the mud of despair and discouragement. We must pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and try again.

We can learn much from our failures and they can be stepping stones to a new tomorrow.

Dr. Dan Darby is a retired United Methodist pastor.

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Sunday Night 6:00 PM
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Wed. Youth (7th-12th Grade) 5:30 PM
Wed. Men's Bible Study 6:00 PM

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Wednesday Worship 7:00 PM

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Rev. Kevin Hindmon, Pastor | 936-295-5137
Sunday Bible Study 9:45 AM
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Wednesday Prayer Service 7:00 PM

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Wednesday Service 7:00 PM

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Evening Worship 6:00 PM
Wednesday Prayer Service 7:00 PM

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Rev. Mury Williams, Pastor | 628-3571
Cell | 713-254-7423
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Morning Worship 11:45 AM
Wed. Night Bible Study on Facebook
..... 6:30 PM

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Pastor David Parish | 281-592-1772
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Worship Service 11:00 AM
Sunday Night Service 5:00 PM
Wed. Night Service 6:30 PM

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Sunday Worship 11:00 AM
Sunday Evening 6:00 PM
Wednesday Service 7:00 PM

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Sunday Worship 11:00 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM
Wednesday Worship 7:00 PM

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Pastor: Raymond R. Rice | 936-377-5612
Sunday School 10 AM
Morning Worship 11 AM
Evening Worship 6 PM
Wednesday Worship 6 PM

PINE VALLEY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor: Bob Hunt. FM 2693 | 409-377-4206
Sunday School 9:45 AM
Morning Worship 11:00 AM
Sunday Even. Wor. Serv 6:00 PM
Sunday Youth Class 4:00 PM
Wednesday Service 7:00 PM

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Morning Worship 11:00 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM
Wednesday Evening 7:00 PM

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Wednesday - Church School 7:00PM

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Sunday 7:30 AM/10:00 AM
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Sunday Mass 8:00 AM Spanish
..... 10:00 AM English
..... 12:00 PM Spanish

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Saturday 4:00-4:30 PM

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Evening Worship 6:00 PM
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Wed Ladies Bible Study 9:30 AM
Wednesday Worship 7:00 PM

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Point Blank, Coldspring, TX | 936-653-3447
Sunday Services 11:00 AM/2:00 PM
Bible Classes 10:00 AM
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 PM

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Morning Worship 11:00 AM

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Sunday School 10:00 AM
Worship Service 10:50 AM
Sunday Evening 6:00 PM
Wed. Ser. & Youth Service 7:00 PM

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Morning Worship 11:30 AM
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Sunday School 10:00 AM
Morning Worship 11:00 AM

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Morning Worship 11:30 AM
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Worship Sunday 10:30 AM
Wed. Bible Study 6:30 PM

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Pastor: Mark Behring (281) 592-6803
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Worship Service 10:30 AM

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Worship Service 11:00 AM

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Wednesday Service 7 PM

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Sunday School 9:45 AM
Sunday Worship 11:00 AM

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APOSTOLIC PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
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Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 PM
Tuesday Bible Study 7:30 PM

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Sunday Night 6:00 PM
Thursday Night 7:30 PM

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Sunday School 9:45 AM
Morning Worship 10:45AM
Sunday Night 6:00 PM
Wednesday Services 7:30 PM

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Morning Worship 11:00 AM

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66 Mosley Lane Willis, TX 77378
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Sunday School 9:45 AM
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 AM
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 PM
Tuesday Men's Missions 6:00 PM
Wednesday Mid-Week Worship 6:00 PM
Thursday Women's Missions 6:00 PM
Friday Youth For Christ 6:00 PM
Saturday Gospel Singing 6:00 PM

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Tuesday Worship 7:30 PM
Thursday Spanish Worship 7:30 PM
Alpha Omega (college/singles) 7:30 PM
Friday Youth Explosion 7:00 PM
Sat. Spanish Bible Study 7:00 PM

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Thursday Evening Service 7:00 PM

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Wednesday Night 7:00 PM

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Thursday Bible Study 7:00 PM
Saturday Prayer Meeting 7:00 PM

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Fire safety urged for Fourth

With the Fourth of July bringing a possible four-day weekend for lucky Texans, the Texas A&M Forest Service urges outdoor enthusiasts to exercise fire safety outdoors, especially when using fireworks or starting campfires to roast hot dogs and toast marshmallows.

Approximately 90 percent of wildfires are caused by humans and their activities, and the Fourth of July is one of the top days for reported wildfires, according to the forest service.

Large wildfires generally are not expected, and none are prevalent currently, but north and northeast Texas has received little to no rainfall since early June. That reduces moisture content and increases the potential for wildfires to start.

"As we start to observe typical summer weather with conditions becoming hotter and drier, we anticipate wildfire activity to increase," said forest service chief Wes Moorehead. "State and local firefighters are prepared to respond quickly, but we need Texans to be careful and prevent wildfire ignitions while conditions are hot and dry."

Anyone considering using fireworks is urged to comply with any burn bans in place, follow the warning labels on fireworks, use only under close adult supervision and keep them away from structures, dry grass and brush.

Cornyn bill would increase security for judges

Legislation sponsored by U.S. Sen. John Cornyn would, if



Capitol Highlights

By Gary Borders
Texas Press Association

passed, establish a new resource center that would monitor threats to local judges and provide training for both judges and staff at state and local courts, The Dallas Morning News reported.

At a panel held recently at the University of North Texas law school, participating judges and prosecutors expressed support for the measure, which passed the Senate unanimously in mid-June and awaits consideration in the House.

A consultant for the nonprofit National Center for State Courts said attacks and threats against members of the federal judiciary increased 400 percent from 2015 through 2021. In Texas, security incidents involving local judiciary have increased four-fold on average since fiscal year 2017, though the number dropped slightly last fiscal year.

"This isn't partisan. It's just common sense," Cornyn said during a news conference after the roundtable discussion.

Top 10 state parks listed by TPWD

With summer in full swing, Texas' 89 state parks are expecting an influx of visitors. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department recently

released the top 10 parks in terms of visitors. The top 10 in reverse order are, according to the Austin American-Statesman:

10. Ink Lakes State Park, Burnet County
9. Dinosaur Valley State Park, near Glen Rose in Somervell County
8. Brazos Bend State Park, Fort Bend County
7. Enchanted Rock State Natural Area, between Fredericksburg and Llano
6. McKinney Falls State Park, Travis County
5. Ray Roberts State Park Isle du Bois, Denton County
4. Cedar Hill State Park, Dallas County
3. Ray Roberts Lake State Park, Sanger Unit, Denton County
2. Palo Duro Canyon State Park, Armstrong County
- And the top state park for visitors: Garner State Park, located in Uvalde County, which hosted more than 475,000 visitors in 2023.

Paxton probe appears headed to grand jury

A federal appeals court appears to have cleared the way for officials in Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton's office to testify before a grand jury probing alleged corruption, the Houston Chronicle reported.

While the case before the 5th Circuit of Appeals remains under seal, last week the court last rejected an unnamed state agency's attempt to stymie federal investigators from calling top officials.

While the case is under seal, the

Chronicle reported, "the dates and details line up with those in the years-long federal probe into allegations by Paxton's former top deputies, who say the attorney general took bribes to benefit Nate Paul, an Austin developer who is a friend and donor of Paxton's."

The court said that the AG officials may have evidence of a potential crime, and that the Department of Justice can invoke the "crime-fraud exception" to get around potential attorney-client privileges.

Paxton did not respond to requests for comment.

Fewer students seek financial aid after FAFSA glitches
Nearly 30,000 fewer Texas students have filled out the federal form this year to apply for financial aid after a new rollout was beset with complications and delays, the Texas Tribune reported.

A revamped Free Application for Federal Student Aid has resulted in hurdles that have led to fewer high-school students seeking financial aid for college, with FAFSA completion rates for Texas students dropping by 8.8 percentage points. That decline is sharper than what the state experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"These are by far the steepest declines that I have observed," said Bill DeBaun, the senior director of data and strategic initiatives at the National College Attainment Network. "It's going to take a really significant push this summer to continue to connect students with the FAFSA completion support

they need and keep them on track for the post-secondary pathways to which they aspire."

The U.S. Education Department was ordered by Congress to revamp FAFSA in 2020 to make it simpler to fill out, but the new form's release came out three months late, cutting the time high school counselors had to help students with the form. Glitches were reported by many students attempting to complete the form, The Tribune reported.

Abbott appoints new PUC member

Gov. Greg Abbott has appointed Courtney Hjalmtan to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, filling the final vacancy on that board. The PUC regulates the state's utility industries — electric, water, wastewater, and telecommunications.

Hjalmtan has been chief executive and public counsel for the Office of Public Utility Counsel since December 2022. She has worked in state service for more than 17 years.

"Courtney Hjalmtan's longtime service to the State of Texas and extensive legal expertise makes her the ideal choice to serve on the Public Utility Commission," Abbott said.

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

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Shepherd ISD prepares for another successful school year

As summer arrives, many people imagine a break from the hustle and bustle of a busy school year. However, summer is our Super Bowl for the leadership staff at Shepherd ISD.



The Super Says
By Jason Hewitt
Superintendent Shepherd ISD

It's our time to shine and lay the groundwork for another successful school year. Like the Super Bowl, preparation for the event is crucial. We are scrubbing the building clean, maintaining the facilities, repairing and painting. In addition, we are adding some flash to our professional development and leadership training.

Our planning for the upcoming year starts with reflecting on the remarkable achievements of the past school year. Shepherd ISD has so much to celebrate. For the second consecutive year, Shepherd ISD has been recognized as a Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase District. We also successfully completed the second year of our NSPIRE teaching "grow your own" program with a 100 percent success rate, with all staff returning for the upcoming year.

Our district implemented an APEX classroom setting, featuring our first APEX master teacher and three high school students qualified for the National Merit Scholars Recognition Program. A high school student was elected as a Texas FFA State Officer for the first time in our history

and a SHS theater student advanced to the National Thespy's Finals.

Our students earned a total of 845 Career and Technical Education certifications, and our high school football team won their first playoff game in 56 years, securing the Bi-District Championship. These are just a few of the highlights.

Despite these successes, like all Texas districts, we face budget shortfalls for the 2024-25 school year, making it challenging to replicate the results. However, our commitment to excellence still remains strong. Our district administrators and campus principals are working hard to ensure that this upcoming school year is the best yet for our students.

Shepherd ISD is also in strong financial standing with 7 1/2 months of fund balance remaining and the SISK Board of Managers passed a 2 percent raise for the upcoming school year.

Even with a restricted budget, we are refining our academic baseline and creating new targeted interventions. We are also fostering a community of practice amongst campus leadership and teachers to exchange ideas, share successes, and

discuss challenges. This professional network aims to inspire innovation and provide valuable insights on common issues in the education sector.

Additionally, we are assessing student and school performance to identify trends and areas for improvement. This data-driven approach will inform our decision-making and help us develop strategies to reduce achievement gaps. Upcoming in the new school year is our "Growing Leaders" program which aims to build a classroom-to-office pipeline within our school district.

Effective communication within the district is also crucial. We are committed to keeping our school community informed and engaged through regular newsletters, online platforms, social media, and other means. Stay tuned to future updates about strategic planning, long-range facilities review, and school calendars.

As we move forward, the dedication and hard work of our leadership team during the summer months will set the stage for another year of excellence at Shepherd ISD. Together, we will continue to strive for success, ensuring that our students receive the highest quality education possible.

Dr. Jason Hewitt is Superintendent of Shepherd Independent School District.



The sack race competitors line up for a heated race during the Shepherd Fourth of July Celebration. PHOTOS BY CHARLES BALLARD

Help possible for loss of tools, equipment

Special to the News-Times

If you are self-employed, FEMA may be able to provide funds to repair or replace disaster-damaged tools and equipment required for your work. This help is available to a wide range of applicants, including farmers, artists, musicians, mechanics and many other occupations.

FEMA may also be able to help if you are an employee and you lost tools or equipment required for your job and not reimbursable by your employer.

Eligible work tools

Tools and equipment required for self-employment or required, but not provided, by an employer. Examples of tools include:

- Computers required by an employer or for self-employment when you are responsible for the replacement of the computer.

- Tools and equipment such as power tools, art materials, musical instruments, tractors, utility vehicles, lawnmowers, ladders, etc.
- Uniforms required for work when you are responsible for replacement of the uniforms.

This assistance may be available if the items were damaged by the Texas storms and flooding April 26-June 5, and you do not have another working item that can meet this need and the loss of the item was not covered by insurance.

Required documentation

To be eligible for self-employment assistance, you must provide documentation that proves you're self-employed, such as federal tax return documents, and must meet the eligibility criteria for FEMA assistance. Self-employed Texans

should provide FEMA with:

- Insurance documents for all potential coverages and benefits
 - Itemized receipts or estimates for repairing or replacing the requested items
 - A written statement that explains the items are needed for self-employment
- To find out if you are eligible, apply to FEMA:
- Go online to disasterassistance.gov.
 - Download the FEMA App for mobile devices.
 - Call the FEMA helpline at 800-621-3362 any day from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. CT. Help is available in most languages. If you use a relay service, such as video relay (VRS), captioned telephone or other service, give FEMA your number for that service.
 - Visit any Disaster Recovery Center. For operating hours and addresses, go online to fema.gov/drc.

COUNTY

Continued from page 1

Protective Services;

- approved Mark Nettuno as DETCOG representative for another year;
- approved the renewal of health benefits for county employees through the

Texas Association of Counties;

- approved combining two lots in the Waterwood subdivision;
- declared numerous pieces of electronic and office equipment as salvage and surplus;
- approved the refund of an alcohol fee for an event

that was canceled because of flooding;

- approved the sale of surplus items from Precinct 1 Road and Bridge Department; and
- approved paying overtime to employees working through the flooding disaster, provided there is proper documentation.

HAPPY

Continued from page 2

print. So is the whole newspaper now and you can even find back issues available at San Jacinto News-Times. It includes phone numbers for elected officials, menus for both Senior Citizen Centers and lots of other useful information as well as the community news.

Kris Eastham, who is the County Liaison Officer for SJC Texas Division of Emergency Management, told me that there is an extension on the date for those public buildings which were damaged in the floods. The deadline now is Aug. 9. Residents with damage to homes and businesses need not worry, there is no deadline for you at this time. If you want to know more call Kris at (936) 2252-0193. The office is in the Innovation Center in Coldspring.

•Coldspring Chamber of Commerce has some new Board members. Several members resigned recently and new Board members replacing them are Jon Burns, LaNora Purvis and Mark Mears. Dianne

Griffiths is named City Chair since she is the Coldspring Mayor Pro Tem, and Savannah Steffy is named School Chair for CO-CISD.

Shepherd Chamber of Commerce also has some new Board members. Faith Hartman and LaNora Purvis were voted in last month. LaNora opened the Brewtique in Shepherd and is the Founder of Heaven's Army.

•Shepherd Library finished its summer program on Friday last week. Adventure in the Library saw the children getting into a hot air balloon and emerging into a time of adventure as shown in legendary stories featuring pirates, "The Wizard of Oz," how to conquer fear and much more with games and stories, snacks and fun.

•Next up in July? Celebrate the Fourth and look for Christmas in July in Coldspring.

Contact the Shepherd Chamber of Commerce at (210) 995-7420 or the Coldspring Chamber at (936) 653-2184.

Yvonne Cones is president of the Shepherd Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Coldspring Chamber of Commerce.



Competition was high during the father-son sack race as the evening closes for the 4th of July Celebration in Shepherd. See additional coverage on page 1 PHOTOS BY CHARLES BALLARD

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San Jacinto News-Times

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Visit [Naskila.com/promotions](https://naskila.com/promotions) or see Players' Club for details.

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Policy	Public Notice	Announcements	Work Wanted	Work Wanted	Employment
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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. TO PLACE your classified ad in the San Jacinto News-Times call (936) 327-4357 ext. 1002.

LOST; RED/BLACK lawn mower, RWD. Fell off my trailer somewhere between Onalaska Church of Christ and the Onalaska High School. If found please call (936)525-8668. (26-1t-cc-PCE)

Public Notice

Neyland
Notice of Public Sale
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends to sell the personal property described below to satisfy a landlord's lien imposed on said property under The Self-Storage Act. The undersigned will sell at public sale by competitive bidding on **Thursday the 1st day of August 2024 at 9:00am.** The said property is **Neyland Storage 7272 FM 3126, Livingston.** Unit 17 Household items. Unit 87 Household and garage items. Purchases must be paid for at the time of sale by cash only. All purchased items are sold as is, and must be removed within 48 hours of the sale. Sales are subject to cancellation if settlement between owner and obligated party. (25-2t-pd-PCE)

Country Boy Towing
2972 US HWY 190
Livingston, Tx 77351
Date: 6/27/2024
Contact: (936)933-3124
Storage Facility
#:0657878VSF

Private Property Towing Notice We impounded a 2020 Load Trail Trailer Flatbed; and are currently trying to find the owners of the trailer. This vehicle will be disposed of in accordance with applicable laws of the State Of Texas if not claimed within 45 days. Charges are as listed below. Total storage charges cannot be computed until the vehicle is claimed. The storage charges will accrue daily until the vehicle is released. Vehicles are released 24 HRS a day with a ONE HOUR notice. Proof of ownership is required to reclaim the vehicle. Thank you for your immediate attention to this notice. The following is a list of charges and total due as of today's date: 06/27/2024
Tow: \$272.00
Storage: (\$39.99 a day) \$799.80
Notification Fee: \$50.00
Impound Fee: \$22.85
Tax: \$67.86
TOTAL DUE: \$1,212.51
Direct unresolved complaints regarding the STORAGE of the vehicle to: Texas Department of Licensing and Regulations P.O. Box 12157 Austin, Texas 78711 WWW.TDLR.Texas.gov/ complaints or email @ enforcement @ tdlr.texas.gov 512-436-6599 or 1-800-803-9202 (within Texas) (26-1t-cc-PCE)

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

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

Auctions & Sales

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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)

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

ESTATE SALE
June 28th and 29th
8 am -5 pm
1173 S. FM 1988
past Thomas Supply on the left
CASH ONLY!!
Late 1800s vintage glassware, tools, men's & women's clothing, shoes, cowboy boots & hats, books, kitchen items, vintage costume jewelry, jewelry boxes, pictures, stationary bike, upright walkers, Christmas decorations, and so much more!
Everything MUST go! (26-1t-cc-PCE)

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

SUPER YARD SALE July 4th & 5th-9am-4pm. 3525 FM 356 Trinity, TX. Furniture, tools, fishing stuff, antiques & glassware. Lots of bargains! (26-2t-cc-TCNS)

Work Wanted

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

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

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

PART-TIME yard worker needed. General yard work, no mowing, two days a month, \$15/hour. Call (936)327-5109. (26-1t-cc-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)

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

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

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

FOR SALE: Couch, love seat and recliner. Old Avon bottles and other old bottles, ceramics, and other items. For information call Susan at (281)659-3630. (27-1t-cc-SJNT)

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

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