

SAN JACINTO NEWS-TIMES



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Jail problems occupy county court

By Tony Farkas
news@sanjacnews.com

COLDSRING — A variety of issues were handled by the San Jacinto County Commissioners Court on Wednesday, from an undisclosed settlement to roof repairs.

The county approved a contract with Beauregard Parish in Louisiana to house prisoners, since the jail has had to find facilities to take its prisoners while the roof of the jail is repaired. The roof sustained damage in the spring storms and Hurricane Beryl.

The Sheriff's Office is using area jails until the jail can be secured again; one jail is the Polk County facility, to which the county

also supplies jail officers.

Toward that end, the county left alone a policy that paid overtime for jail workers, since the facility is still understaffed by five people.

To fix the roof, the county had contracted with Dillon Construction for the repairs at a cost of just under \$400,000. On Wednesday, though, the county had to approve a change order, as the damage to the roof was more extensive than originally thought.

The additional funds amount to \$56,000. After starting the regular meeting, the county entered into a closed session to discuss legal matters, and after 1 1/2 hours of

discussions with attorneys, approved a settlement regarding a cybersecurity issue with the County Jail.

In other business, the court:

- approved changes to a road use agreement to include \$350 per day for monitoring and a \$1.89 million bond for any road use damages in connection with the Bahia pipeline project;
- approved accepting a culvert from the Bahia project for temporary placement during the project;
- approved adding B Hales Road to the permit regarding the pipeline project;
- approved the holiday and court sched-

ules for county offices;

- approved signatories for the regarding a disaster recovery block grant;
- proclaimed Sept. 5 as Dorothy J. Harrison Day in honor of her 80th birthday;
- approved two lot splits for Craig Jackson and Gloria Hicks;
- approved an \$8,500 transfer between two Road and Bridge precincts for the purchase of a used truck;
- approved changing county vehicle registration renewal to a weekly payable packet; and
- approved seeking bids for road materials and hauling for the coming fiscal year.

Family History on tap

Special to the News-Times

AUSTIN — The Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center in Liberty has announced that it will host its second Family History Day of 2024 on Oct. 5 from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

Steven Kantner, digital assets archivist at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, will share tips and tricks for preserving family photos and media.

Photos from yesterday or centuries past all present challenges to those hoping to make the images last for future generations. Morning and afternoon sessions will offer instructions on how to properly care for family photographs and ensure the information is not lost to time.

Participants will learn about photograph identification, proper storage and handling, safely creating digital images, digital archiving and other activities related to preserving personal collections.

Family History Day Schedule:

10 a.m.-noon, identification and preservation session

Noon-1:30 p.m., Lunch break (on your own)

1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m., Digitization and digital archiving session

A free preservation kit will be provided to pre-registered participants. Contact SHC via email at samhoustoncenter@tsl.texas.gov or call (936) 336-8821 to register. Seating is limited.

The Sam Houston Center is a component of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission and serves as the official regional historical resource depository for the 10 Southeast Texas counties of Chambers, Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Newton, Orange, Polk, San Jacinto and Tyler. The Center's primary mission is to collect, preserve and provide access to historically significant state and local government records

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COUNTY COLLISION

The Coldspring Air Force JROTC posts the Colors on Friday during the Battle of San Jacinto County, where the Coldspring-Oakhurst Trojans square off with the Shepherd Pirates. The Trojans edged out the Pirates 36-34. Full story on Page 1B.

PHOTO BY CHARLES BALLARD

Fabulous fair festivities

SJNT staff

COLDSRING — Starch up the Wranglers and shine the Tony Lamas, it's once again time for the San Jacinto County Fair and Rodeo.

From Sept. 20-28, it will be Rodeo Nights and Neon Lights at the SJC Fairgrounds, 50 Bar Park Loop in Coldspring.

There will be rodeo events, live music and dancing, a barbecue cook-off, competitions and, of course, animal shows and queen contests.

Full details can be found at sjcfairandrodeo.com.

2024 Fair Schedule of Events

Thursday, 9/19/24

5-8 p.m., barbecue early bird move-in as scheduled by Doug Camper move in per Doug Lilley

Friday, 9/20/24

8 a.m.- 6 p.m., barbecue Team move in
5:50 p.m., Registration and practice for Cornhole Under the Barn

7 p.m., Cornhole Tournament
6 p.m., barbecue cook-off activities as scheduled
Campers move in per Doug Lilley as scheduled
Concessions/vendors move in

Saturday, 9/21/24

9 a.m., varsity cheer-off and Battle of the Bands on the Square
10 a.m., Parade, followed by State 4-H Roadshow Fun and Games

Noon, baby contest registration
1 p.m., baby contest
4 p.m., barbecue contest winners announced
5 p.m., Queen's First Horsemanship pattern
6 p.m., 3rd annual Tame the Beast Bull riding
8 p.m., Still Broke Band

Sunday, 9/22/24

Quiet day
3-4 p.m., Swine check-in
4-7 p.m., Educational Barn Projects check-in
4-5 p.m., Poultry (4:30) and Lamb (4) check-in
5 p.m., Poultry Show begins
7 p.m., Lamb Show begins-junior and senior

Tuesday, 9/24/24

9 a.m., Fine Arts/Handicraft interviews
4:30-5 p.m., Rabbit check-in and pre-inspection
4-5 p.m., Goat check-in
5 p.m., Rabbit Show begins
7 p.m., Goat Show begins-junior and senior

Wednesday, 9/25/24

9 a.m., Horticulture/Food Interviews
3-4 p.m., Steers and all heifers check-in
TBA Carnival
6 p.m., Market Swine Show- junior then senior

Thursday, 9/26/24

9 a.m., Ag Mechanics Judging

See FAIR → Page 3A

Hearing in Capers-Houston case set for Monday

By Tony Farkas
news@sanjacnews.com

COLDSRING — While a trial regarding a lawsuit filed in May by Sheriff Greg Capers over the primary election results has been set for trial Sept. 25-27, a motion hearing set for Monday could end the contest.

A motion for summary judgment, which requests a judge render a verdict without a full trial, has been filed by the attorney for Sam Houston, and a hearing has been set for Monday.

Capers filed a suit contesting the results of the election, claiming that more than 200 votes were cast improperly because there were 503 people illegally registered to vote. At that time, Capers had lost his bid for the Republican nomination, garnering 2,887 votes to Houston's 2,994.

The result essentially gave Houston the position, as there are no Democrat candidates.

However, the suit claims 255 voters were registered improperly, and another 218 were not county residents. It also contends 30 felons voted.

The suit seeks to have the results of the election voided, and either name Capers the winner or a new election should be ordered.

The motion for summary judgment, filed by Houston's attorney John Raley, states Capers' suit was not filed by the proper deadline. It also includes statements from former Elections Administrator Vicki Shelly that gives the results of a recount that was requested by Capers, and that all records pertaining to the May primary election have been kept and made available according to state law.

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TRINITY RIVER DATA AS OF SEPT 9	
Gauge Stage	5.10 ft
Category	Normal
Weekly rainfall	2.49 in



New club year, new topics to grow on

Coldspring Garden Club started its new year with a very instructive talk by Emergency Management Coordinator Emmitt Eldridge on emergency preparedness.

Emmitt has his office in the Innovation Center in Coldspring, next to the Community Shelter. He talked about the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry; anyone can register with this program so that in an emergency, responders are aware of them and their special needs.

Who should register online? It is very important for those who are disabled, are medically fragile, have limited mobility, have transportation difficulties etc. Emmitt mentioned that the Red Cross comes to help when we need them, but they need local volunteers. If you are interested, you can go online to see what training is necessary and how to become a volunteer.

He said that the volunteers who came during our last storm were from California. We need some people closer to home too. If you want to know

Did You Know

By Yvonne Cones



more, go online. In the future there will be classes on How To Stop a Bleed, a training session in applying tourniquet and also CPR. You will be able to sign up for them as soon as they are ready. Call (936) 653-3395 for more information.

Next month on Oct. 3, Irene Pawlowski will demonstrate how to make living wreaths. This is in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness and members are asked to wear pink.

The San Jacinto County Master Gardeners will meet on Sept. 19 from 1-3 p.m. at Shepherd Public Library for a Q&A session. This will include how to join Master Gardeners and lots

of information on fall planting, propagation, native plants and much more. For information, call the Shepherd Library at (936) 628-3515.

• Shepherd Library will have a fall craft session from 3-4 p.m. Friday. Books and Banter is on Sept. 27 from 3-4 p.m. when you can talk about what books you recommend (or not) and exchange ideas with others. If you homeschool your children and would like to meet other parents who do the same, Shepherd Library will have a homeschool connection meet-up from 2-3 p.m. Sept. 26. Bring your children and meet others and enjoy swapping your stories and ideas.

Of course, crochet class is every Tuesday from 4-6 p.m., and watch for the book sale starting on Sept. 30 and going through Oct. 4.

• SJC Women's League will meet for the first time since the Summer Hiatus on Thursday September 12. The guest speaker will be Heaven's Army founder LaNora Purvis with a delicious lunch and good company for just \$15.

The Historical Commission of our county met last week in the Courthouse basement, a mini museum of local history that features many who fought in wars who came from our area. The Commission is busy planning The Haunted Jail weekend on the last October weekend. Details will follow. They were presented with a donation from Linda Almaguer of four books of letters written by soldiers during the Civil War. These are very interesting reading and the Commission will use them to create an event next year.

It is always beneficial when historical items are preserved for the use of future generations. There will be a fund raiser Raffle starting next month with first prize a large quilt depicting Bigfoot. Second prize is a Stereo Retro Entertainment Center and third is a Handmade Military design Guitar. The Raffle will be drawn during Christmas on the Square and will cost \$10 each.

This week McClain's Food Market

in Shepherd was named Business of the Month by Shepherd Chamber of Commerce. This has been the local food market for residents for generations. It is a family-run business and has been very generous to the Chamber for our July 4 event. During the big storm when many lost power, McClain's worked hard to stay open even though they had to work without registers. I know many people have expressed their gratitude to the owners and their staff for working through that difficult time. Call for information at (936) 628-6842.

• The new website for SJC Senior Center is www.sanjacintoseniors.com and SJC Resale Shop can open the new Facebook page.

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.



Emmitt Eldridge talks to Coldspring Garden Club. COURTESY PHOTO



The Bigfoot quilt will be first prize in the Historical Commission raffle. COURTESY PHOTO



McClain's Supermarket is Business of the Month in Shepherd. COURTESY PHOTO

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SAN JACINTO COUNTY WEATHER FORECAST FOR SEPT 5-11

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mostly Sunny 89°/69° Chance of Rain 15% Wind NW 6mph	Mostly Sunny 93°/71° Chance of Rain 13% Wind SW 4mph	Partly Cloudy 93°/72° Chance of Rain 9% Wind S 5mph	Partly Cloudy 92°/72° Chance of Rain 20% Wind SSE 5mph	Partly Cloudy 91°/72° Chance of Rain 22% Wind ESE 5mph	Mostly Sunny 90°/72° Chance of Rain 20% Wind ESE 6mph	Partly Cloudy 90°/71° Chance of Rain 11% Wind ESE 6mph

Information sourced from weather.com

Forecast Fire Danger

twc.tamu.edu

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

SENIOR MENUS

SENIOR MENUS Sept. 16-20

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 tenders and gravy, au gratin potatoes, pea salad, rolls.
TUESDAY: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, broccoli salad, rolls.
WEDNESDAY: Ham, cabbage, blackeye peas, cornbread.
THURSDAY: Grandma's hamburger casserole, California blend vegetables, rolls.
FRIDAY: Fish Friday, tater tot casserole,

coleslaw, hush puppies.
• Shepherd Senior Citizens Center | (936) 628-3733
 Second Tuesday of each month includes birthday cake for dessert.
 Bingo is Sept. 11, 18 and 25. Bag Days are Sept. 13 and 27. Craft Days are Sept. 12, 19 and 26.
MONDAY: Hamburger steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, broccoli, fruit.
TUESDAY: Pizza, corn nuggets, spinach, fruit.
WEDNESDAY: Chicken and dressing, yams, green beans, cranberry sauce, ambrosia salad.
THURSDAY: Sausage, pinto beans and rice, sliced onions, cornbread, ice cream.
FRIDAY: Fried pork chops, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, strawberry cobbler.

FAIR

Continued from page 1A

TBA Carnival
 5 p.m., Ed Barn Awards
 7:30 p.m., Rodeo and Queen's 2nd Horsemanship
Friday, 9/27/24
 9 a.m., Breeding Heifer Show, followed by Commercial Heifer Show, followed by Market Steer Show
 1 p.m., Auction set up. Volunteers appreciated!
 2 p.m., Species Chair Notify Sale Committee of Non-Sale animals after show until 4 p.m.; Non-Sale Animal check-out — all animals must

be released by species chairman; Carnival 7:30 p.m., Rodeo
Saturday, 9/28/24
 10 a.m., On-site buyer registration and exhibitor pick up numbers
 10:30 a.m., awards and recognition
 11 a.m., Youth Project Auction (Sale animals will not be released until Sunday)
 TBA Carnival
 7:30 p.m., Rodeo and crowning of 2024 Queen
 9 p.m., Dance-DJ
Sunday, 9/29/24
 8-10 a.m., mandatory: all exhibitor grounds clean-up, includes Ed Barn; Animal Check out and Load out
 7-11 a.m., Concessions/vendors move out

HISTORY

Continued from page 1A

and publications of the designated region and secondarily to serve as a library of Texana and genealogical resources.
 The Texas State Library and Archives Commission provides Texans access to the

information needed to be informed, productive citizens by preserving the archival record of Texas; enhancing the service capacity of public, academic and school libraries; assisting public agencies in the maintenance of their records; and meeting the reading needs of Texans with disabilities.
 For more information, visit www.tsl.texas.gov.

AREA DIGEST

Chamber seeks help

The Coldspring Chamber of Commerce is seeking donations for goodie bags to be given to car show contestants at this year's Wolf Creek Car, Truck, and Bike Show.
 Only the first 250 contestants to register get a goodie bag filled with these items.
 Contestants travel from all over to attend our car show, and this is a great opportunity to advertise a business; there also are many area residents who participate in the event.
 Items that are car-related, as well as pens, notepads, air fresheners, key chains, lanyards, stickers, chip clips, magnets, etc. are examples of the things that can be used.
 The chamber needs 250 of each item. To donate items, drop off items at the Chamber office during our hours, Monday-Thursday 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Fundraiser set

The SAAFE House annual Lures & Lace bingo fundraiser has been delayed until Aug. 23, 2025.

Organizers feel that in light of the serious weather events of the last several months, it is better that the community focus on rebuilding.

The event will be held at the San Jacinto County Storm Shelter, 255 Live Oak Drive, in Coldspring, to support SAAFE House and its endeavors in San Jacinto County. Money raised at the event stays in the county to help residents in need.
 Call SAAFE House at (936) 291-3529, Shelby at (936) 284-5580 or Tammy at (936) 284-5547 for information.

Certification training offered

San Jacinto County's SJC Master Gardeners is offering master gardener certification classes to interested individuals.

The 10 classes, which provide 50 required class hours, cover a wide range of gardening topics such as soil characteristics, trees, earth-kind landscaping, insects, roses, rainwater harvesting and drip irrigation, native grasses and weeds, veggies and herbs, lawn care and propagating plants.
 The classes are held from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., including lunch, at the new Innovations Center, 220 Live Oak St., in Coldspring on Tuesdays beginning Oct. 1.

There will be a meet-and-greet luncheon for students to pick up books and materials on Sept. 24 at 80 Berry St. in Coldspring.
 The club, an education-oriented organization certified through Texas A&M AgriLife Extension comprised of about 65 members, works together to provide educational opportunities to residents and property owners based on research and effective, sustainable practices on all matters related to gardening.

Registration is open to people regardless of county of residence. To register or for more information, contact Dianne Chrestopoulos at diannelmusic@gmail.com.

Association offers assistance

The Community Assistance Program offered by the Houston Food Bank provides application assistance for SNAP, Medicaid, and other state benefits. The Referral Partner Program goes a step further with assistance in finding resources beyond food assistance.

The goal is to help the individuals avoid sacrificing healthy nutritious food just so they can pay for their other expenses.

To apply, bring identification (driver's license, passport, work permit, residency card, or state ID), Birth certificates, Social Security cards and address verification (such as apartment lease, rental agreement, rent/mortgage payment receipt, utility bills, landlord letter) and income verification (last 3 paystubs, letter from employer, income tax, self-employment letter stating your weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly income, or award letters from child support, retirement, Social Security or disability).

For more information, call Houston Food Bank at (832) 586-8579 or visit www.houstonfoodbank.org/cap.

Libraries seeks donations

The Coldspring and Shepherd public libraries are partnering with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to provide free, high-quality, age-appropriate books to children from birth through 5 years.

To build a strong culture of reading for young children and increase early literacy in San Jacinto County, the library is seeking donors to contribute to our project.

For a \$25 annual donation, the Coldspring Library and the Imagination Library will mail 12 books directly to a registered child's home. The child must reside in San Jacinto County and be registered by an authorized adult.

Since launching in 1995, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has become the pre-eminent early childhood book-gifting program in the world. The flagship program of The Dollywood Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, has gifted more than 182 million free books in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, and The Republic of Ireland.

For more information on the program, please visit imaginationlibrary.com. To register, visit either library.

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.



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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 ensconced 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.

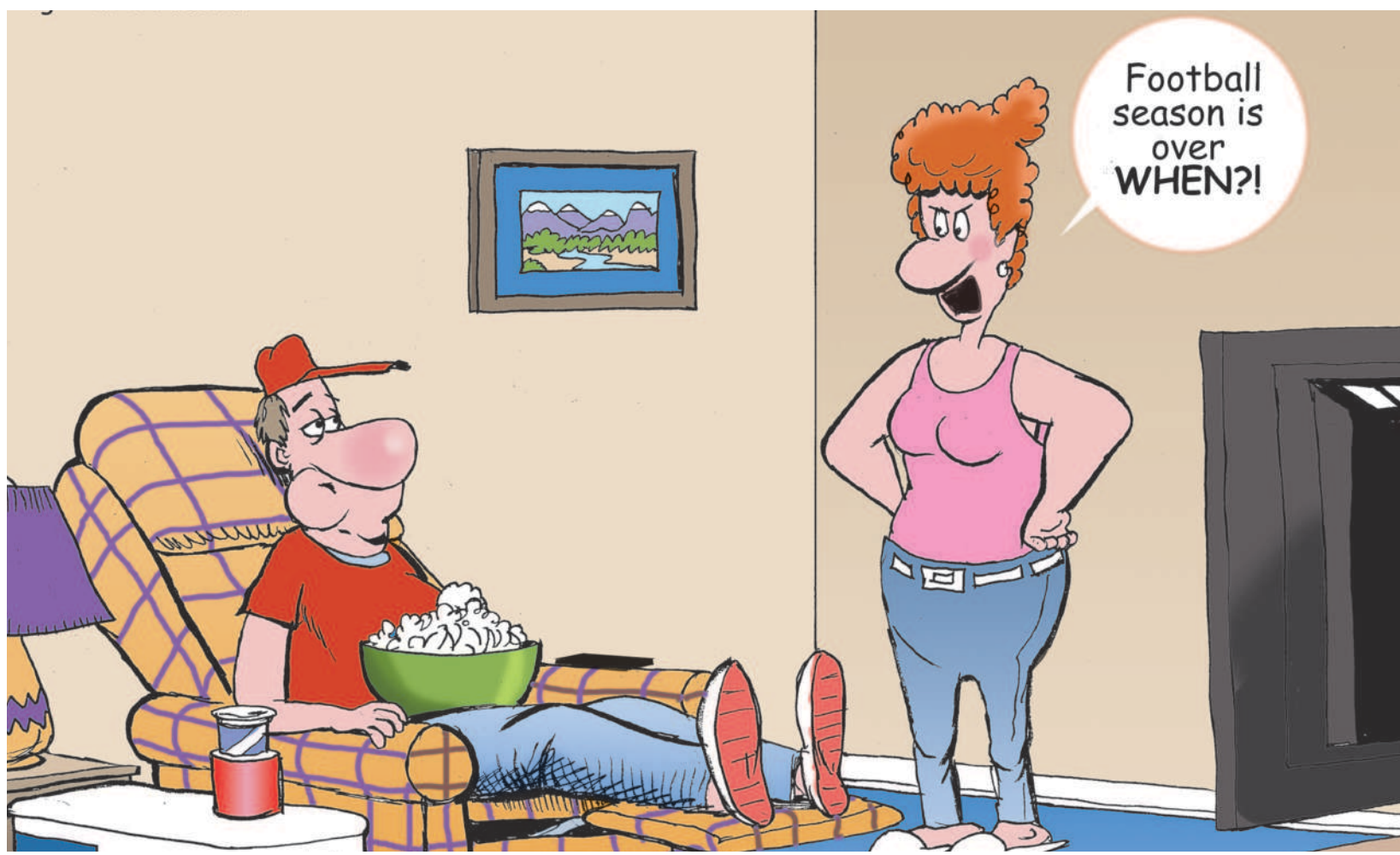
No longer is there a sense of pride in the country — the immigration debacle is evidence of that. Politicians claim that we are a nation of immigrants, and that we should provide amnesty for anyone that crosses the border, regardless of whether it was done legally or not.

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.



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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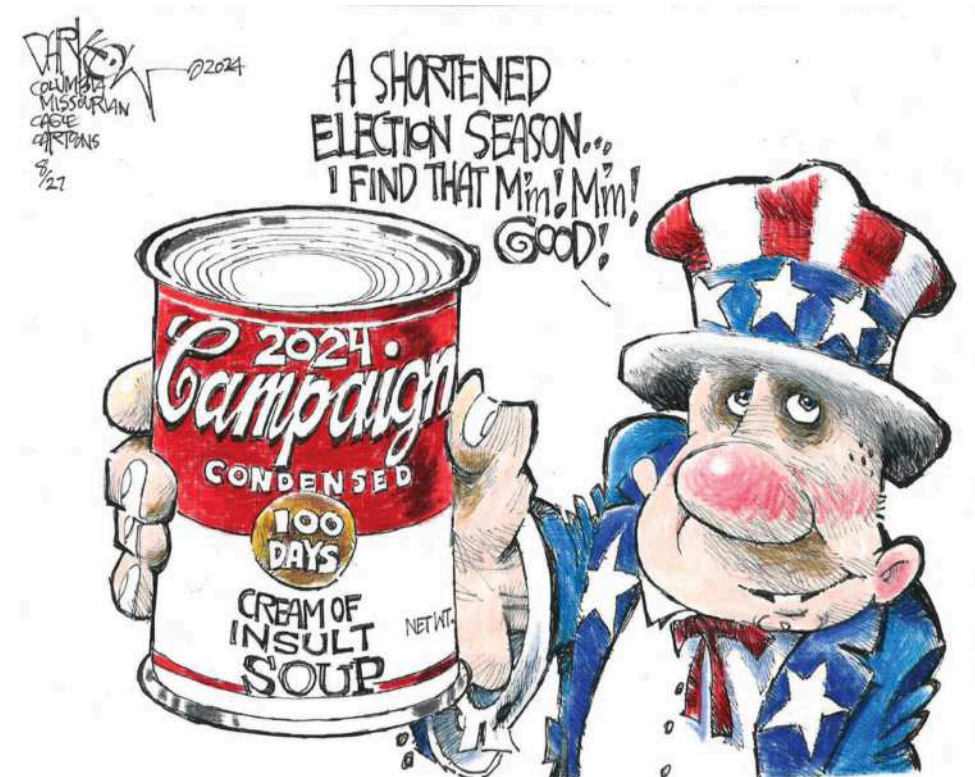
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Hundreds of new homes needed to cut costs

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.



Capitol Highlights
By Gary Borders
Texas Press Association

"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 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: gborder@texaspress.com.

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Trojans march, Pirates fall in Battle of San Jacinto County

By Charles Ballard
SJNT correspondent

COLDSRING — On a windy and rainy evening, the Shepherd Pirates were hosted by the Coldspring Trojans in the annual Battle of San Jacinto County football event, one of the county's most anticipated events. This year delivered a thrilling matchup, which was decided by 2 points — a 36-34 win that went to the host Trojans. The opening kickoff went to the Shepherd Pirates and within a few minutes,

Preston Stephens found an opening in the Coldspring defense and managed to scamper 57 yards for the first TD of the night. The Trojans answered back with a TD, but at the end of the first half, the Pirates went into the locker room with a halftime lead of 22-14. Then with 6:25 on the clock in the third the Trojans posted another score, and then shortly after the fourth quarter started the Pirates boosted their lead to 28-20. The Trojans answered back quickly to knot the score at 28. Toward the end of the fourth

quarter the Trojans managed to score, and the Pirates answered back, but with the point after failing, the Trojans win. Shepherd Coach Miles Robinson said he was proud of how hard the kids played, and it was an amazing game to be a part of. Shepherd posted 331 yards total offense, with Preston Stephens carrying 38 times for 233 yards and 4 TDs. Quarterback Landen Dellinger had 53 yards rushing with 1 TD and 47 yards passing. Coldspring Head Coach Ken Stanley said the atmosphere was that of a playoff game,

and it was a gritty, tough win against a very good football team. "I'm super proud of how our kids fought," he said. Coldspring had 365 total yards of offense, 236 on the ground and 129 in the air, posting TDs. Tyga Parker had 190 yards on 24 carries and 4 TDs, and David Rowe had 166 all-purpose yards — 37 rushing on 5 carries and 129 yards passing. Antwan Phillips had 83 total yards, and T.J. Johnson had 41 yards on 3 receptions.



David Rowe, quarterback for the Coldspring Trojans, had 129 yards passing against the Shepherd Pirates. PHOTO BY CHARLES BALLARD



Preston Stephens hurdles over a Coldspring Trojan during the Battle of San Jacinto County. PHOTO BY CHARLES BALLARD



Cali Crowder, uses a reverse set up for save a ball for the Lady Trojans against Grapeland on Tuesday night. PHOTO BY CHARLES BALLARD

Coldspring overpowers week's opponents

By Charles Ballard
SJNT correspondent

COLDSRING — While it was clearly the Lady Trojans game with a 3-0 win over Silsbee on Friday, it gave the team a chance to work on a few new tactics to improve their game.

Coach Dwain Anderson called it a great opportunity for the younger players to step in and gain experience. The set scores were 25-19, 25-13 and 25-16.

"We have been working on playing the girls in different positions to mix up our attacks, and we were able to put that into tonight's game," he said. "We even finished the last set without any of the seniors on the court. The other girls stepped in and didn't miss a beat."

Anderson said they will continue to fine tune the things we need to work on as they get ready for district.

Top producers were Ella Phillips with 6 kills and 4 blocks, while Tess Phillips had 8 kills and Ashlynn Holley had 8 kills and 4 aces. Cali Crowder had 26 assists and 2

aces. On Sept. 3, Grapeland High School did not have an answer for the high-flying serves of the Lady Trojans.

Both Ashlynn Holley and Tess Phillips agreed that the game was clearly needed to work on several items before district play.

The scores were 25-12, 25-12 and 25-14.

Shepherd

On Sept. 3, the Lady Pirates beat Colmeston in 3 sets — 25-14, 25-14 and 25-10.

Callie Dean lead the team offensively with 8 kills, while Jayci Wilson contributed 6. Jazilyn Richardson served 6 aces, and Chloe Fuller chipped in 5. Neveah Murphy had 9 digs.

On Friday, the Lady Pirates fought through 5 sets but came up short to Corrigan. The scores were 15-25, 19-25, 25-20, 25-22 and 10-15.

Neveah Murphy led the team defensively with 28 digs, while Chole Fuller and Jazilyn Richardson helped with 19 each. Kiona King and Callie Dean lead the team offensively with 10 and 12 kills.



Ashlynn Holley sends a kill shot to the Silsbee Lady Wildcats on Friday night. PHOTO BY CHARLES BALLARD



Ella Phillips, Middle Blocker, takes down a serve from Grapeland on Tuesday night. PHOTO BY CHARLES BALLARD

Legal/Public Notices

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San Jacinto County is accepting bids for the 2024-2025 Annual Material and Contracted Services Requirements for:

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Bid deadline is 3:00 PM, Thursday, September 26, 2024. For the "Required Forms" and bid package specifications, contact **Brandi Birdsong**, in the Auditor's office at (936) 653-4461. **Sealed bids should be plainly marked as "2024-2025 Material and Contracted Services Bids" with bid number and should be addressed to Dawn Wright, County Clerk. Mail to 1 State HWY 150 RM 2, Coldspring, TX 77331 or Deliver to the 1st Floor, County Clerk's office of the San Jacinto County Courthouse, Coldspring, TX 77331.**

Teal season begins in Texas Sept. 14

Special to the News-Times

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 low," said Kevin Kraai, Waterfowl Program Leader for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). "The population estimate this past May was 4.55 mil-

lion 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

See TEAL → Page 4B

Deer hunting then and now

The boy, about 10 years old, occupied the front seat of the school bus, wide eyed and wishing the driver would put the pedal to the metal so he could make it home quicker, he had big plans for the evening. But the driver, also owner of the local country grocery, knew the roads well in very rural Red River County in northeast Texas.

This was way back in 1960 and potholes and occasional deep sand drifts was the norm and he had many years of safely transporting kids to and from school under his belt; slow and steady was his mantra.

After a bumpy 15-minute ride that seemed an eternity to the youngster, the bus came to a stop at the boy's front gate and he hopped off and made a mad dash up the gravel drive and grabbed a cold sweet potato his mother left on the stove for a quick snack — the boy loved sweet potatoes and he could eat one on the run while he rushed to water his little flock of laying hens and feed his horse a coffee can full of Horse and Mule feed.

He was on a mission: it was Nov. 16 and the opener of deer season. A few days before the boy and his Dad loaded up in the old '50 International pickup and drove into town to the court house where he purchased his deer permit, as the license was called back in the day.

The youngster didn't own a deer rifle but for the past couple years; he had been shooting squirrel, rabbit and quail when he caught one on the ground with the bolt action .410 shotgun his uncle had given him. He had recently purchased five rifled slugs for his little shotgun and sighted it in by shooting center of a 5-gallon bucket



placed in front of the dam of the half acre pond on the small farm.

He was only about 25 yards from the bucket for his sight in session, but he figured that was far enough, since he would be hunting a thick patch of woods behind the house, and surely the big buck he hoped for would offer a good close shot. The boy's optimism and confidence was soaring on that day long ago, but his experience hunting deer was sorely lacking. He had only seen a few wild deer in his short lifetime but he had a burning desire to learn more about them. Spirits were very high on that crisp fall afternoon 65 years ago.

Deer were precious few back in those days. Oh, there were some experienced deer hunters in the county, mostly World War II veterans that set up a tent camp each year and always managed to put a buck or two on the meat pole. The boy remembers their camp well and the day his brother-in-law took him there for a mid-day visit.

As they pulled up in their hunting car, a '56 Crown Victoria Ford sedan, the boy saw two giant bucks field dressed and hanging from the meat pole. The hunters were preparing lunch at camp and invited their guest to join them. The boy still remembers dining on that meal of chicken fried venison backstrap and boiled potatoes with plenty of

butter.

To this day, this visit to a sure 'nuff deer camp is engrained in the now 75-year-old hunter's brain. He remembers every detail with minute focus, everything from the smell of the cook fire to the red and black Woolrich jackets worn by all the hunters. In the boy's eyes, these guys held the keys of knowledge to something that he just had to learn about and become proficient doing. The boy wanted desperately to learn everything there is to know about deer and deer hunting.

Those early back-40 hunts were the training ground for a lifetime of pursuing whitetail deer. Nary a deer was spotted on those hunts, but that did little to diminish the boy's desire to hunt. It was several years before the young hunter had the opportunity to harvest a deer on his uncle's 80 acres not far from home. He remembers vividly hearing that young spike buck snort back in the brush.

The boy didn't know it at the time, but the inquisitive little buck that walked into the sights of his Marlin .30-.30 had winded him and in the thick cover, came in close in efforts to locate the origin of the foreign odor his sensitive nostrils had detected. At about 40 yards, the broadside shot was easy even for the young hunter that had become pretty proficient with iron sights but this was his first time to ever draw a bead on a big game animal.

Luckily the shot happened fast, and he didn't have time to get nervous, that happened after he walked up to his harvested buck. To him the little buck was a monster and as he began the field dressing chore, he had to stop to let his nerves and his knife



A 11-point buck in perfect view is a sight many young hunters hope to see. PHOTO BY LUKE CLAYTON

hand settle down. The buck was young and tasty and supplied many meals for the boy and his family. This is some of the first venison the family had eaten, and he remembers his mother being surprised at how tender the backstrap steaks were. This occurred way back in '65 and was the first of many, many deer put on the meat pole through the years.

About this time the boy began spending a week each fall with Poppa Dinkins, actually no blood kin but a dear family friend that owned a big ranch and woodland in south east Texas. The boy's family would drop him off at the bus station in Dallas with his rifle in a case and he would make the long bus ride down to south Texas. Looking back the boy, now a veteran of many years in the deer woods, could only imagine what might happen if someone entering a public place with a rifle these days. Back then it seemed as natural as carrying a suitcase and only prompted questions from other hunters as to where

the boy was heading to hunt.

Poppa was 86 years old back in 1965 when the boy first began visiting and hunting with him. The boy did the math and learned that Poppa was born back in 1879 when things were really wild in south Texas. He had 37 whitetail buck mounts adorning the walls of his old ranch house and the boy spent a great deal of time in the evenings studying them closely.

In retrospect, none of the bucks were giants, most probably scored about 130 BC inches, but at that stage of the boy's deer hunting career, they were giants. Poppa had shot most of them with the old 10-gauge double Damascus barrel shotgun that hung over the fireplace.

Poppa was a slightly built man but tough as nails. Just before he turned 90, he was gored by a buck in a chute as his ranch foreman was attempting to doctor a wound. The buck had become entangled in a wire fence and had some bad cuts to which they

were applying antibiotic. Poppa survived the wound to the stomach and lived another 6 years. The boy came to spend his week each fall with the veteran outdoorsman and rancher for the remainder of his long life.

The boy is now a very veteran hunter with about 65 opening days under his belt. His love for hunting has fueled his career as an outdoors writer. Filling his freezer with prime venison is no longer the challenge it was back in the old days. Deer are more than plentiful in his home state of Texas and across the majority of their range.

With several hunts in the plans beginning with the opener of bow season and through the end of February on managed ranches, meat for the freezer and possibly antlers for the wall is almost a given. May the tradition and lifestyle go on forever.

Listen to Luke's weekly radio show "Catfish Radio with Luke Clayton and Friends" on many radio stations and anywhere podcasts are found.

Last Puzzle Solution grid with crossword clues and answers.

Advertisement for 'MAKE IT YOUR GOAL TO EXTINGUISH HOT COALS' featuring a bear and a grill.

Texas Crossword puzzle by Charley & Guy Orbison with clues and grid.

Kid Scoop

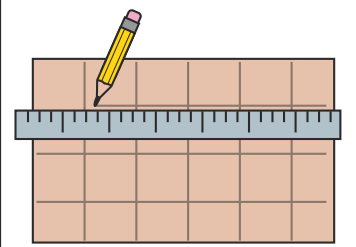
THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

Puzzle answers, recipes, videos and more at www.kidscoop.com

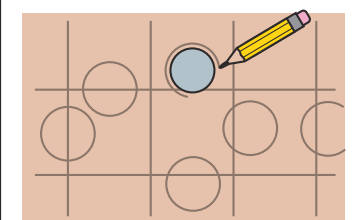
© 2024 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 40, No. 42

Kid Scoop Together Make a Cereal Box Puzzle

- Stuff You'll Need:**
- cereal box
 - adult helper
 - scissors
 - pencil
 - ruler
 - coin



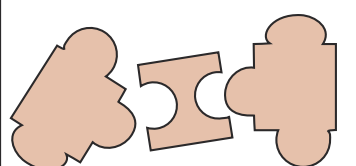
1. Cut the front panel off the box. Use the ruler to draw a grid on the back of the cardboard.



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!



With hundreds of topics, every **Kid Scoop** printable activity pack features six-to-seven pages of high-interest extra learning activities for home and school! Get your free sample today at: kidscoop.com/activity-pages/

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?

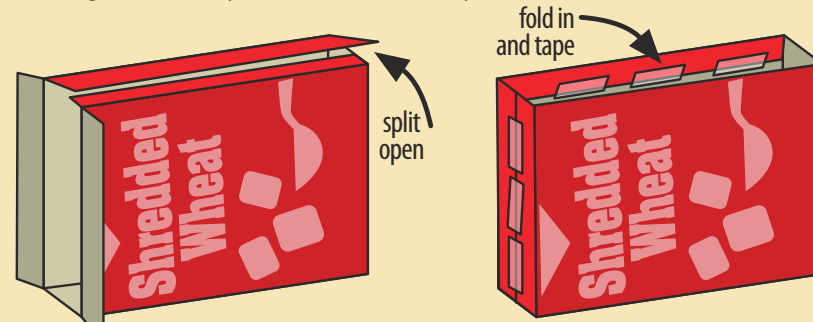


Make a Paper Pal

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.

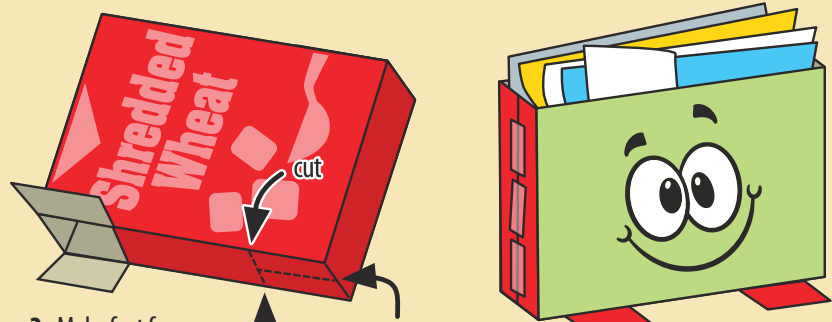
Stuff You'll Need:

- 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?

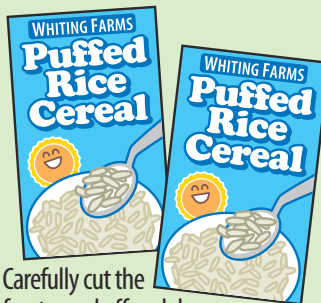
Standards Link: Follow written instructions.

Cereal Box Matching Game

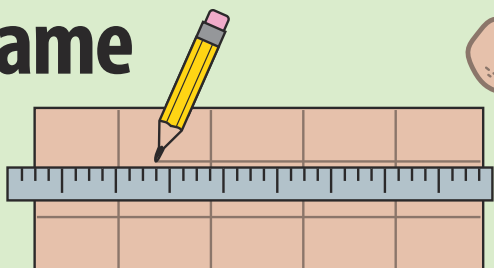
Create a game that's fun and challenging for all ages.

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.

Extra! Extra! 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.

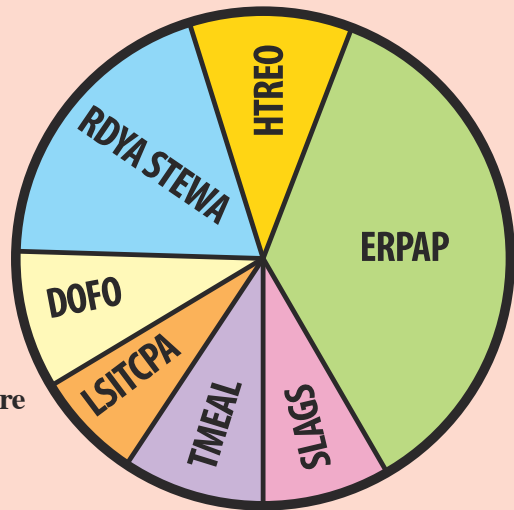
Kid Scoop Puzzler

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?

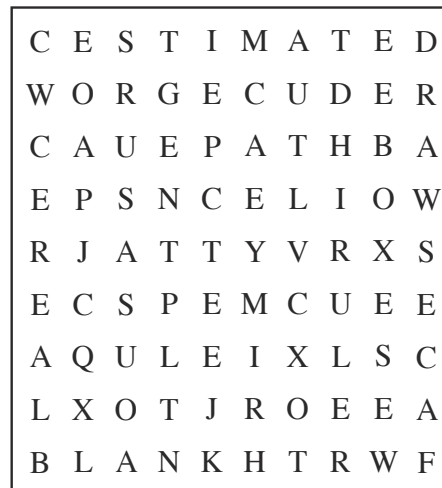


Standards Link: Math: Interpret information using graphs.

Double Double Word Search

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

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



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
Attorney At Law
130 S. Charlton St., Woodville, TX 75979
409.283.8288 | elrodlawtx.com

Legal/Public Notices

Estate of John Ray McGaugh

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JOHN RAY MCGAUGH were issued on September 5, 2024, in Cause No. P2023-76, pending in the County Court of San Jacinto County, Texas, to FRANCES L. GUENTHER. All persons having claims against the estate, which is presently being administered, are

required to submit them, within the time and manner prescribed by law, and before the estate is closed, addressed as follows: c/o FRANCES L. GUENTHER 550 Dogwood Road Cleveland, Texas 77328 Dated September 6, 2024 /s/ GWENDOLYN GUINN TAYLOR GWENDOLYN GUINN TAYLOR Attorney for Executor of the Estate of JOHN RAY MCGAUGH

Court accepting bids

NOTICE OF SALE Pursuant to Section 263.153 through 263.154 of Texas Government Code, notice is hereby given that San Jacinto County Commissioners Court has declared certain items as surplus, abandoned and forfeited property, together with property seized under Chapter 59 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. To obtain Bid Information and to see items placed for bid as Surplus, Salvage, Abandoned or Forfeited, go to Rene Bates Auctioneers, Inc. at <http://www.renebates.com>. The opening date of the sale

will be August 29, 2024 and ending at 2:00 pm on September 27, 2024. If you have any questions, you may call Brandi Birdsong at 936-653-4461. All sales shall be finalized on an "as is, where is" basis and no warranties, either expressed or implied, shall be applicable to any property sold. The county reserves the right to withhold any item from sale and the Commissioners Court or its designated representative conducting the sale may reject any offer to purchase property if the Court or representative finds the rejection to be in the best interest of the County.

Indigent health care & treatment

INDIGENT HEALTH CARE & TREATMENT ACT AS REQUIREMENT BY TITLE II, SECTION 2.940 OF THE INDIGENT HEALTH CARE AND TREATMENT ACT. SAN JACINTO COUNTY WILL USE THE FOLLOWING RULES AND PROCEDURES TO COMPLY WITH THIS ACT. 1. Applications for assistance are available in the office of the Indigent Health Care Director, San Jacinto County Courthouse, Basement. Assistance in com-

pleting the application will be provided. 2. Eligibility will be determined in accordance with procedures established by the Texas Department of Human Resources and promulgated in the Texas Department of Human Service County Indigent Health Care Program Handbook. 3. Information provided by all applicants will be verified and documented in accordance with the procedures established by the Texas Department of Human Resources.

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Legal/Public Notices

City of Coldspring accepting bids for improvements

ADVERTISEMENT AND INVITATION FOR BIDS The City of Coldspring will receive bids for Pea Patch Lift Station Improvements (ARPA-CLFRF) until 11:00 AM on September 28, 2024 at City Hall located at 14211 S.H. 150, Coldspring, Texas 77331. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at this location. Bids are invited for several items and quantities of work as follows: 1. Removal of existing submersible pumps / motors and related appurtenances. 2. Provide and construct two (2) new submersible pumps / motors / controls / power wiring and lifting rails with related improvements. 3. Removal and relocation of the existing standby power generator. 4. Provide and construct a new three (s) phase standby diesel electrical power generator with matching automatic transfer switch and related electrical improvements. 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 [for those contracts that exceed \$100,000]. A certified check or bank draft payable to City of Coldspring or negotiable U.S. Government Bonds (as par value) may be submitted in lieu of the Bid Bond. 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. City of Coldspring reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding. Bids may be held by City of Coldspring for a period not to exceed 30 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. All contractors/subcontractors who's 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 Coldspring, John Benestante, Mayor, August 21, 2024.

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Waterwood Municipal Utility District No. 1 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on September 20, 2024 at 3:00 PM at WATERWOOD IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION OFFICE in WATERWOOD, WATERWOOD PARKWAY, 24518 PECAN TREE LN, HUNTSVILLE TX. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners. Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

For the proposal:	Roy Knapp John Dagleish Ed Kile	Jeffrey Measamer Donnie Marshall
Against the proposal:	none	
Present and not voting:	none	
Absent:	none	

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

	Last Year \$0.84000/\$100 Adopted	This Year \$0.76000/\$100 Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.84000/\$100	\$0.76000/\$100
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$-0.08000
Percentage increase/decrease in rates(+/-)		-9.52%
Average residence homestead appraised value	\$267,639	\$352,784
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$64,192	\$124,539
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$203,447	\$228,245
Tax on average residence homestead	\$1,708.95	\$1,734.66
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted(+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$25.71 1.50%

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

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

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

NOTICE OF 2024-2025 PROPOSED SALARIES FOR SAN JACINTO COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS

In accordance with Vernon's Texas Codes Annotated - Local Government Code, Chapter 152, Sec. 152.013 (b) (1), notice is hereby given of the San Jacinto County Elected Officials' salaries which have been included in the 2024-2025 Proposed Budget.

Official	Position	2023-2024 Salary	2024-2025 Proposed Salary	2024-2025 Proposed Vehicle Allowance	2025 Longevity
FRITZ FAULKNER	County Judge	\$79,500.58	\$62,500.58	\$18,000.00	\$395.00
LADDIE MCANALLY	Commissioner, Pct 1	\$79,498.56	\$62,498.56	\$18,000.00	\$470.00
DONNY MARRS	Commissioner, Pct 2	\$79,498.56	\$62,498.56	\$18,000.00	\$830.00
DAVID BRANDON	Commissioner, Pct 3	\$79,498.56	\$62,498.56	\$18,000.00	\$430.00
MARK NETTUNO	Commissioner, Pct 4	\$79,498.56	\$62,498.56	\$18,000.00	\$1,070.00
DAWN WRIGHT	County Clerk	\$63,498.56	\$62,498.56	\$2,000.00	\$590.00
TAMMY CURRIE	District Clerk	\$63,498.56	\$62,498.56	\$2,000.00	\$670.00
DIANNA ADAMS	Treasurer	\$63,498.56	\$62,498.56	\$2,000.00	\$875.00
BETTY DAVIS	Tax Assessor/Collector	\$63,498.56	\$62,498.56	\$2,000.00	\$355.00
GREG CAPERS	Sheriff	\$75,000.00	\$76,000.00	\$0.00	\$600.00
CHRISTINA MCGEE	Justice of the Peace, Pct 1	\$53,460.38	\$47,460.38	\$7,000.00	\$350.00
HARRIS "RED" BLANCHETTE	Justice of the Peace, Pct 2	\$53,460.38	\$47,460.38	\$7,000.00	\$1,440.00
RANDY ELLISOR	Justice of the Peace, Pct 3	\$53,460.38	\$47,460.38	\$7,000.00	\$1,560.00
KIM WEBB	Justice of the Peace, Pct 4	\$53,460.38	\$47,460.38	\$7,000.00	\$0.00
ROY ROGERS	Constable, Pct 1	\$64,098.72	\$46,898.72	\$18,200.00	\$710.00
RAY ATCHLEY	Constable, Pct 2	\$64,098.72	\$46,898.72	\$18,200.00	\$0.00
SAM HOUSTON	Constable, Pct 3	\$64,098.72	\$46,898.72	\$18,200.00	\$710.00
BRIAN COSME	Constable, Pct 4	\$64,098.72	\$46,898.72	\$18,200.00	\$840.00

Does your spare room look more like a storage unit than an inviting place for your guest?

Place a classified ad to sell your unwanted items.

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