

THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2024

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75¢ | **VOLUME 98 NUMBER 26**



US REP. BRIAN BABIN

MANDY RISINGER

SCOTT YOSKO

'If that hospital goes bye-bye, we're done for': Concerns expressed in TxDOT workshop

By Mollie LaSalle

news@tylercountybooster.com

WOODVILLE – Tyler County Commissioner's Court held a second workshop regarding the US Hwy 69 Relief Route last Thursday, June 20 at 5.

The agenda for this workshop included: reviewing alternative options proposed by Steve Pittman and Greg Adams and discussing an alternative option for Hwy 69 corridor to submit to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

County Judge Milton Powers began by thanking Pittman and Adams for all the hard work they have done for Tyler County in getting these revised maps/routes finalized. Powers said, "everything I have read, I am so thankful for all their hard work, they have put in a lot of hours on this, we are truly blessed to have them both, great citizens here in Tyler County to help and work for us and to offer their time and talent".

Steve Pittman spoke first, and said, "about three weeks ago, the county judge and the commissioners approached us after we had done some work in looking at Colmesneil and how we might utilize the railroad right-of-way in Colmesneil for the purpose of the Hwy 69 expansion project. It caught their attention that it was a pretty interesting plan as the railroad right-of-way is 200 feet already, so it presents an opportunity to use that railroad right-of-way and a little additional purchase to get through Colmesneil with no disruption to homes, businesses, or churches. We presented that plan to Mike Marshall, Commissioner of Pct #3, he took it to the other commissioners and the county judge, and that activity

got expanded."

Pittman commented further, "the court asked to see if we could duplicate it throughout the county, so we took it upon ourselves at their request to map out the entire railroad right-of-way and to be able to determine could we get through Tyler County in an effective way using the railroad right-of-way, and if we could, what impact that would be to businesses, homes, and churches".

As of press time, TxDOT has identified two routes through Tyler County. The western route would impact 15 homes; 1600+ acres of land and require 400' right-of-way. The eastern route would impact 46 homes; five businesses; 1200+ acres of land and require 400' right-of-way.

See **CONCERNS** ⇒ Page 5A

Special meeting called

By Chris Edwards news@tylercountybooster.com



WOODVILLE – The Tyler County Commissioners Court announced on Tuesday that it is calling a special meeting for Friday, June 28 at 10 a.m. to take place in the Commissioners Courtroom of the Tyler County Courthouse.

Under the six items up for consideration, approval or informational purposes on the agenda, three of them are focused on the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)'s US 69 Woodville-Colmesneil Relief Route project.

The commissioners are slated to accept a donation of time and service from attorney Brad Elrod to complete and submit the suggested proposal and resolution for the route to TxDOT.

The governing body of the county is also putting up for a vote to adopt both a resolution of support, from the commissioners, on a suggested route for the project, as well as the suggested route proposal, itself.

Elrod, along with another attorney, Tommy Don Fortenberry, had previously sent a letter to TxDOT on behalf of several citizens, in support of TxDOT utilizing the long-touted railroad right-of-way route, or the eastern route, as it was labelled on the current projected route maps. Among those citizens who signed on to the letter were Steve Pittman and Greg Adams, who have mapped out an alternate route, using the railroad ROW, but with adjustments from what TxDOT had mapped.

Those adjustments, according to Pittman and Adams, would cause minimal disruption to homes, churches and businesses, particularly in the Colmesneil area, where they began the mapping work.

Under the current route proposals from TxDOT, the proposed eastern route would affect 60 homes and 46 other structures, as well as seven businesses. The western route would displace 15 homes.

The route being developed for the commissioners' consideration would affect 12 homes total, with two homes in Warren, six in Hillister and four in Woodville, many of which are either unlivable or can be moved, according to the proposal information.

The proposal also highlights the possible "slow agonizing decline/death" of the county's business community and tax base if the relief route were to be located along TxDOT's western route, with a possible impact to Tyler County Hospital and up to a \$1.5 million shortfall in tax revenue to the city of Woodville.

The resolution up for consideration states, up front, that both of the current proposed routes "are not in the best interests of Tyler County and its citizens," with the "unnecessary taking of private land, businesses and homes."

Fourth of July celebrated at Heritage Village

By Chris Edwards

news@tylercountybooster.com

WOODVILLE – An Independence Day celebration is scheduled for Thursday, July 4 at Heritage Village in Woodville. The event will feature a picnic, live music and a speaker.

According to Heritage Village director Ofeira Gazzaway, the event is a way of bringing back the Village's Fourth of July celebration, which has not been held for several years. Previously, it was held out at the Cauble House, near Chester, which is one of the properties owned by the Tyler County Heritage Society. This time, attendees can come and tour the Village and enjoy the evening of festivities.

The gates are set to open at 5 p.m., Gazzway said, and Kylan Holloway will kick things off, musically, at 6 p.m.

The speaker for the event is Jim Boone. Boone is a longtime historian, educator and noted jazz musician. He will speak at 6:30.

Gazzaway encouraged everyone to bring picnic foods to share, and for those who want some hot dogs, Norm's Dogs and Brats will be set up on site, with a part of the proceeds going to TCHS.

There is a cooler charge of \$25 for one family, and organizers are requiring that attendees not bring alcohol or fireworks to the event.

Woodville adopts relief route resolution

By Mollie LaSalle and Chris Edwards news@tylercountybooster.com

WOODVILLE – Woodville City Council held a special called meeting to adopt a resolution regarding the Hwy 69 Relief Route.

The city of Woodville is the third entity to adopt a resolution regarding this, as Colmesneil ISD and the city of Colmesneil passed resolutions June 10 and 11. Woodville ISD is slated to adopt a resolution, as well as the city of Ivanhoe in the coming days.

Mayor Amy Bythewood opened the meeting by reading Resolution No. 20240624. The text of the resolution states an opposition to a relief route "without adequate utilities to support development and travelers, without opportunity for annexation resulting in reduction of tax base, and that would be detrimental to the local economy; further supporting an eastern route closer to the corporate limits with access to utilities and allowing for access to the existing business district of Woodville."

In a presentation previously to the Woodville ISD Board of Trustees, Woodville City Administrator Mandy Risinger said "we had all been under the assumption it would follow the old railbed" route, and said that no matter

See ROUTE => Page 5A





LAKE LEVELS

B.A. Steinhagen Lake Level: • As of 6-25: 82.25 feet

- 89.3 % full
- Sam Rayburn Reservoir Level: • As of 6-25: 172.18 feet
- 100 % full

INSIDE

Opinions.....4A Business Directory.....8A Legal/Public Notices......5B Church Directory and News....3B Classifieds......6B-7B Real Estate.....8B

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LIFE TRIBUTES Anthony "Tony"

Kalanta

Anthony John (Tony) Kalanta age 62 passed from this life on June 3, 2024, at his home in

Corpus Christi, Texas. Tony was born on March 19, 1962, the beloved son of Johnnie Lou and Richard Anthony Kalanta. He was preceded in death by his dad, Richard Anthony (Dickie) Kalanta, grandparents Anthony J. Kalanta, Zelma E Kalanta, JB (Red) Rawls, Lela Lucille Rawls Cook, and his nephew Richie Marlow. He is survived by his wife, Kathy, stepson Robert Berghund, son Matthew Kalanta in Corpus Christi, his loving mother Johnnie Lou Kalanta-Johnson of Buna, Texas, his sisters Velissa Godeaux-Bell of Woodville, Texas, Teresa Marlow and her husband Richard of Vidor Texas, nieces Amber Godeaux, Heather Godeaux Patrick and husband Sonny, Jennifer Wells and husband Philip, Taylor Bell and nephew Robby Marlow and his wife Cassie. Tony also leaves behind 5 great-nephews, 4 great nieces, his beloved Aunt Diane Mashaw, and many cousins and other family members who loved him and have many Precious Memories of him.

Tony graduated from Vidor High School in 1980 and studied drafting and piping design at A&M University in College Station, Texas. He was a member of Pipefitters Local 195 of Beaumont, Texas, and worked in Southeast Texas as a pipefitter and draftsman before moving to Corpus to continue his career.

Tony took pride in his work, and the men and women he worked with during the past 30 years described him as a "topnotch" piping designer and their "go-to man" for solving problems. He worked for several engineering companies: Indtech, Maverick, CDI Stubbs Overbeck, Fluor Daniel, BHP, and most recently, Wood Group formerly Mustang. He designed piping systems for several clients including Southwestern Refining, Citgo, Degussa Carbon Black, Coastal Refining, American Chrome, and others. He ended his career while working onsite at Flint Hills Resources in Corpus Christi, Texas. Tony made many life-long friendships with the men and women he worked with through the years, and especially held dear those he made with Owen Pittman, Ruben Ramos, Bill Allen, and Drew Atkinson, men he considered brothers. The love and support they, their families, and his work family provided Tony while he was in Corpus will be remembered and cherished. Tony loved and enjoyed sports and the outdoors, and in his youth, he spent many hours playing baseball, bowling, and golfing with his family and friends. He pitched in Little League and for his High School team the Vidor Pirates and



was an avid supporter of his favorite college, the University of Texas.

Hookem Horns! He grew up hunting, fishing, and camping in the Little Wolf Creek Hunting Club and at Dam B in Woodville with his om, dad, sisters, two brothers-in-law Richard Marlow and Vincent Godeaux, along with his nephews and nieces, uncles, aunts, and cousins. Tony continued enjoying life with his extended work family in Corpus, saltwater fishing, deer and dove hunting, and watching stock car races.

Tony was a kind-hearted loving family man. He leaves behind a legacy of love and kindness that will be remembered and cherished by all, who knew and loved him. He was laid to rest surrounded by his immediate family and friends on June 14, 2024, in Memory Gardens, 8200 Old Brownsville Road, Corpus Christi, Texas. He was carried to his resting place by his sons Robert and Matthew, nephew Robby Marlow, brother-in-law, Maurice Arage, and two of his closest friends Ruben Ramos and Owen Pittman.

724

I Am Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free

To follow the path God made for me.

I took His hand when I heard Him call.

I turned my back and left it all. *I* could not stay another day,

To love, to laugh, to work or play.

Tasks left undone must stay

Time running out for FEMA assistance in Texas

Special to the Booster

AUSTIN — Texans who sustained losses from the storms and flooding April 26-June 5 have less than one month remaining to apply for federal assistance.

The deadline is July 16.

One month after the disaster declaration, FEMA is helping 52,759 Texas households with \$110.4 million in financial assistance. The U.S. Small Business Administration has approved \$13.1 million in low-interest disaster loans to homeowners, renters, private nonprofit organizations and businesses.

FEMA specialists have been working in 35 counties helping people apply for assistance. They have visited 67,597 homes and 5,430 public locations. FEMA has operated 33 disaster recovery centers visited by 9,019 residents. More than 8,300 families with 25,000 members have stayed in hotels temporarily at FEMA expense because they could not re-

turn to their homes.

Homeowners and renters in Austin, Bell, Calhoun, Collin, Cooke, Coryell, Dallas, Denton, Eastland, Ellis, Falls, Guadalupe, Hardin, Harris, Henderson, Hockley, Jasper, Jones, Kaufman, Lamar, Leon, Liberty, Montague, Montgomery, Navarro, Newton, Polk, San Jacinto, Smith, Terrell, Trinity, Tyler, Van Zandt, Walker and Waller counties with uninsured losses from the storms and flooding April 26-June 5 may be eligible for FEMA assistance.

Texans have several options for how to apply for FEMA assistance. Homeowners and renters can:

•Go online to DisasterAssistance.gov.

•Download the FEMA App for mobile devices.

•Call the FEMA helpline at 800-621-3362 between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. Help is available in most languages. If you use a relay service, such as video relay (VRS), captioned telephone or other service, give FEMA your number for that service.

•Visit a Disaster Recovery Center. To find the center location nearest you go to fema.gov/drc.

The U.S. Small Business Administration is offering low-interest disaster loans to homeowners, renters, private nonprofit organizations and businesses of any size. Applicants may apply online and receive additional disaster assistance information at SBA.gov/disaster or by calling 800-659-2955. SBA representatives are available to provide one-on-one assistance to disaster loan applicants at the Disaster Recovery Centers throughout the affected area.

Business Recovery Centers are operating at University of Houston Downtown Marilyn Davies College of Business, Trini Mendenhall Community Center in Houston and East Montgomery County Improvement District in Montgomery County.

For more information, visit fema.gov/disaster/4781. Follow FEMA Region 6 on social media at x.com/FEMARegion6 and on Facebook at @femaregion6.

Parks department offers seven summer heat safety tips

Special to the Booster

AUSTIN — Rising temperatures and the month of June signal the arrival of the dog days of summer. With heat-related illnesses on the rise, Texas State Parks is sharing seven tips to help Texans beat the heat and enjoy their time in the outdoors safely.

Last year, 48 state parks reported 156 heat-related illnesses in humans and pets, but this year could well eclipse that. State parks have already fielded 51 heat-related incidents since Jan. 1, compared to 32 reported by this time last year.

Here are the top seven heat hacks recommended for park visitors:

•Hydrate. It's important to drink at least 16 ounces of water every hour to prevent dehydration. Don't forget to bring enough for your four-legged family members too.

•Block the rays. Apply a generous amount of sunscreen or sunblock before heading outdoors. Be sure to reapply every couple of hours, and after swimming or sweating.

•Dress smart. Wear light, loose-fitting, breathable clothing; a hat, correct shoes, sunscreen and wet bandanas to keep you cool while in the sun. For pets, protect paws against blistering by hitting the trails during cooler times of the day when the ground isn't hot or by putting booties on pets to help shield paws from the hot ground. Touch the pavement or ground with the back of your hand. If you cannot hold it there for five seconds, the surface is too hot for your dog's paws.

salt lost from sweating. Eating snacks such as jerky, granola, trail mix, tuna and dried fruit is a fantastic way to nourish your body while on the trails.

•Buddy system. Two brains are better than one. It's beneficial to have someone with you in hot conditions so you can look after each other on the trail. With high temperatures hitting Texas, heat-related illnesses are common and having a friend around to help recognize the early symptoms can save you from getting sick.

•Plan ahead. Study the map and have it with you. Avoid relying on your phone for maps since service may be unavailable in back-country areas. Average hikers move at two miles per hour, so allow yourself plenty of time to avoid hiking in the heat of the day. Make sure to rest in a cool or shaded area to recover from the heat if necessary. It is also a good idea to let someone know your plan before you hit the trails and what time you should be back. That way, if you become lost, people know where to look.

•Pup safety. Dogs are as susceptible to heat as their humans are, so it is good practice to ensure that you bring enough water and snacks for four-legged hiking buddies to last the entirety of the trip.

Additionally, visitors should heed notices posted at trailheads about site-specific conditions before setting out for the day. The park websites and staff are also a valuable resource for folks wanting to know about trail and forecasted conditions before starting their walk. Park alerts on the website are updated regularly and are a valuable resource for visitors prior to arrival at the park. For more information about heat safety, visit the TPWD website.

that way,

For I have found peace at last, that day.

If my parting has left a void, Then fill it with remembering

jov. A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss.

Oh yes, these things I too will miss.

Be not burdened with hearts of sorrow.

My wish for you is the hope of tomorrow.

My life's been full, I've savored much,

Good friends, good times, A loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seems much too brief,

lengthen Don't it now with undue grief. lift up your heart and share with me,

God wants me now---He's set me free.

•Stay salty. Food helps keep up energy and replace

Swimming skills key to summer water safety

Special to the Booster

The American Red Cross is stressing the importance of constant, active adult supervision, along in the family learns to swim well. with ensuring that everyone learns to swim, as critical layers of protection to help prevent drown-ing.

Unfortunately, tragic events where children and adults lose their lives to drowning occur all too often. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 10 people die from unin-tentional drowning every day.

"Drowning can occur quickly and silently, wherever there is water," said Vanessa Valdez, Regional Communications Manager. "Everyone should have basic water safety knowledge and skills to help them be safer and make good choices around the water."

WATER SAFETY TIPS

The following tips are layers of protection that will help people stay safe in, on and around the water:

Do your part, be water smart! Ensure that everyone

Adults: actively supervise children; stay within arm's reach of young children and newer swimmers. And kids: follow the rules.

Don't fool with a pool: fence it in. Enclose your pool and spa with four-sided, four-foot fencing and use selfclosing, self-latching gates.

Don't just pack it; wear your U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket - always when on a boat and if in a situation beyond your skill level. Inflatable children's toys and water wings can be fun, but they are no substitute for a life jacket and adult supervision.

Swim as a pair near a lifeguard's chair - everyone, including experienced swimmers, should swim with a buddy in areas protected by lifeguards.

See WATER ⇒ Page 7A

SICK? Be seen today. WALK-IN CLINIC

for acute illness 8-11:30 a.m. & 1-4:00 p.m. **Monday-Saturday**

Tyler County <u>Hospital</u> **Family Medical Clinic** 104 N. Beech Street Woodville, TX 409.283.2822

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Monday 7/1: Chicken Spaghetti, Mixed Vegetables, Garlic Toast, Rice Krispie Treats, Exercise 9:30, Bingo 10:00

Tuesday 7/2: Pizza, Corn, Salad, Apple Cobbler

Wednesday 7/3: Sausage Link, Baked Beans, Cheesy Potatoes, Bun, Chocolate Sundae, Exercise 9:30, Bingo 10:00

Thursday 7/4: CLOSED

Friday 7-5 Fish or Chicken, French Fries, Slaw, Hushpuppies, Assorted Dessert Choice, *Exercise* 9:30

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE Trent Ashby (R)

TYLER COUNTY SHERIFF

Bryan Weatherford (R)

Names within this calendar will appear in this column until election date. Candidates wishing to have their names appear in the calendar must contact the Tyler County Booster in person. Names are listed under each office according to the order in which candidates apply with the newspaper.





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DETCOG president Jeff Boyd presented the 2023 Ralph Steen East Texan of the Year Award to Horace McQueen at the DETCOG Annual Meeting last year. McQueen, a longtime voice of agricultural wisdom in the region, once had a morning show that aired on television stations, on which he dispensed homespun wisdom. COURTESY PHOTO

DETCOG to celebrate 58 years of service *Annual membership and awards luncheon is June 27*

Special to the Booster

LUFKIN – The presentation of the Ralph W. Steen East Texan of the Year Award will highlight the Annual Membership and Awards Luncheon of the Deep East Texas Council of Governments (DETCOG). The event will take place Thursday, June 27, at noon at the Pitser Garrison Convention Center in Lufkin. The public is invited to attend.

"We are gathering to celebrate Deep East Texas and our regional collaboration," said DETCOG President and San Augustine County Judge Jeff Boyd. "We'll be honoring some very deserving award recipients, celebrating another successful year of service, and looking forward to more progress in the future."

This marks the 49th consecutive year for presentation of the East Texan of the Year Award. In 1976, Dr. Ralph W. Steen was retiring as President of Stephen F. Austin State University. To honor his contributions to the region DETCOG presented the first East Texan of the Year Award to him and then decided to make it an annual presentation in his honor.

"The Steen award honors an individual who has played a major role in leadership and service to Deep East Texas," Judge Boyd added. "We're excited to carry on this tradition as we honor another worthy recipient who has done so much for all of us."

Other awards to be presented include the President's Award which recognizes outstanding service on a DETCOG committee. The Key Contributor Award recognizes a staff member who has contributed greatly to the organization's success. The Star Partner Award honors a partner at the state or federal level who supports the work of DETCOG. The DETCOG Employee of the Year and Program Director of the Year for 2023 will also be recognized at the event.

Luncheon tickets are \$25 and RS-VPs are appreciated. Anyone needing information may contact Executive Assistant Lacy Sargent at the DET-COG office in Lufkin at (936) 6342247 extension 5254 or by email at LSargent@detcog.gov.

Organized in 1966, DETCOG is both a Regional Planning Commission of the State of Texas and a federally designated Economic Development District. It serves an 11-county region encompassing all of Angelina, Houston, Nacogdoches, Newton, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity and Tyler counties

DETCOG's membership includes 11 counties, 34 cities, the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, plus a number of other entities including school districts, river authorities, special purpose districts and sustaining members.

"Above all, DETCOG is an organization of, by, and for the local governments of Deep East Texas," said Executive Director Lonnie Hunt. "We exist to support our member governments and serve their residents. We work together with our partners to build a brighter future for all Deep East Texans."

JAIL BOOKINGS

Tania Christine Argersinger, 51, of Montgomery – Criminal trespass

George Nolan Burke, 53, of Lyons – Assault causes bodily injury

Otto Collins, 48, of Woodville – Assault causes bodily injury

Granville Owen Dennis, Jr., 33, of Woodville – Resist arrest, search or transport; Public intoxication; Possession of drug paraphernalia



GO TEXAN SCHOLARSHIP WINNER NAMED

Andrew Craig, of Warren, was named the 2024 Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo \$20,000 Area Go Texan Scholarship recipient for Tyler County. Craig will attend Stephen F. Austin State University, where he will pursue a degree in forestry. PHOTO COURTESY OF WARREN ISD



Shivers Library hosting book fair

Special to the Booster

WOODVILLE – The Allan Shivers Library and Museum is hosting a Scholastic Book Fair open to all citizens of Tyler County beginning Monday, July 1 and continuing through Friday, July 12.

The book fair will be held in the Museum Exhibit Hall located at 302 N. Charlton St. in Woodville. Doors open each day at 9 a.m. and close at 4 p.m.

Hundreds of books will be available for purchase. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to support literacy development and encourage a love of reading. Call the ASLM at (409) 283-3709 for details.

Library & Museum

Don't miss the Summer Reading Program - register on our website and Facebook page! Scholastic Book Fair begins July 1!

Upcoming Events

• June 27 (Th): Day Camp-Movie Makers; 11am-1pm (pre-register) • June 27 (Th): Workforce Solutions; 10am-Noon • June 27 (Th): Medicare Information; 11am • June 27 (Th): Lunch and Learn; Banking, Loans & Finances; Noon; preregistration required • June 28 (Fr): Used Book Sale; 9am-4pm • June 28 (Fri): Day Camp-Chemistry; 11am-1pm (pre-register) • June 29 (Sat): Dungeons & Dragons 5e; 10am-1:45pm • July 1 (Mon): SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR BEGINS • July 1 (Mon): TDCJ Recruiting; 9am-3pm •July 1 (Mon): Needles and Pins Quilting Bee; 9am-1pm; new members welcome •July 2: (Tu): Senior Reading Group; Noon-2pm; new members welcome • July 4: (Th): CLOSED in observance of Independence Day We offer book checkout, ebooks, hotspots, DVDs, children's room, story time, and more. Use our computers, send a fax, print and copy documents, or relax with a book or magazine. For information, visit the Library, call (409) 283-3709, email ashivers. library@yahoo.com, view our website at www.allanshiverslibrary. com or see Facebook at "Allan Shivers Library and Museum".

Free Museum admission for individuals, families and small groups. Self-guided tours available Tues-Fri 10am-3pm; Sat 10am-2pm. Fee charged for docent-led and group (over 10 people/reservation required) tours. Donations accepted.

Support our programs through volunteering and donations.

We hope to see you soon!

INTRODUCING: SHALICIA RIGGINS MSN, APRN, FNP-BC



Shalicia Riggins MSN, APRN, FNP-BC is a boardcertified Family Nurse Practitioner certified by the American Nurse Credentialing Center in 2021. She earned her Licensed Vocational Nursing certification from Angelina College in 2004, Associates of Science degree in Nursing from Angelina College in 2007, graduated Magna Cum Laude and earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing from the University of Texas Arlington in 2016 and Master of Science in Nursing degree from the University of Texas Arlington in 2021.

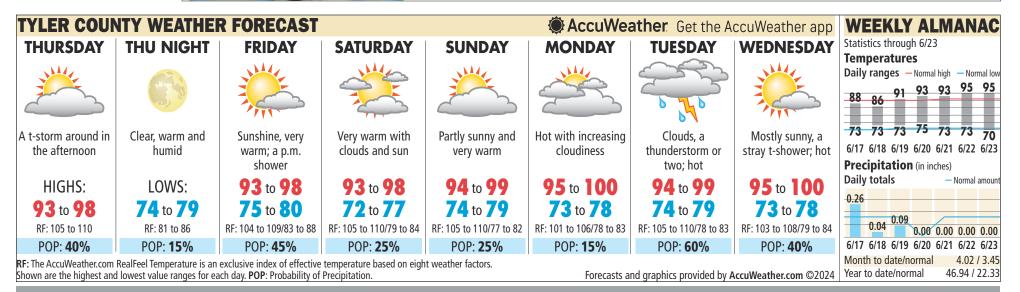
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OPINION An illegal act to legitimize an illegal act

country

law

By Tony Farkas

Apparently, the election polls aren't reflecting the required results for the ruling elites, so if it please the crown, which it does, we'll finance another boondoggle to erase the last couple of years of bad press regarding immigration.

The recent action by President Biden, who issued an edict last week that created 500 million new U.S. "citizens" with the stroke of a pen.

Lot to unpack here, not the least of which is the fact that the action wasn't his to take, but also that the history of the last few years shows the president cannot unilaterally create citizens unless there is the required congressional law behind his signature.

That was proven in court when Obama tried it with DACA and DAPA recipients.



things that have passed been and signed by other presidents states that people seeking to become Americans and are in the country illegally must return to their home country and apply the right way.

I've listened to a couple of interviews of naturalized citizens, who are rightly angered by this, since they went through the full, legal process while the current president awards people who "jumped the line" and sidestepped the law.

I'm thinking, though, that these

and other actions need to galvanize the electorate, the congressional denizens, and just about everybody into action against a government that is completely out of control, and a president that has taken actions that puts Americans last.

There are more issues as well, particularly from a man who claims that no one is above the law.

Despite the rantings of people about saving our democracy, we're actually a constitutional republic, which was designed to not only keep us away from the tyranny of the majority, which democracy is, but the tyranny of a king. The three-tiered system of checks and balances are supposed to ensure our government operates the way we want it.

The trend, however, has been to slow-boil away all the liberty, one stroke of the pen at a time, and we end up with the very thing we fought a war to eliminate.

Society — the legal kind, not the made-up, illegal kind granted rights for unknown reasons - needs to see the actions for what they are. These aren't to help anyone other than the entrenched elitists maintain the power base it has. It solves no problems, it burdens society through higher taxes and lost benefits, and creates a subset of society that has no regard for this country and what it stands for.

When election time rolls around - every time it rolls around - remember which candidate has the best interests of their constituents at heart, and which ones provide help to everyone but Americans.

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



U.S. PRESIDENT Joseph R. Biden The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Washington, D.C. 20500 Comments #: 202-456-1111

GOVERNOR **Greg Abbott** PO Box 12428 Austin, TX 78711-2428 Phone: 800-843-5789

US SENATORS John Cornyn 5300 Memorial Dr., Ste 980 Houston, TX 77007 713-572-3337

Ted Cruz The Mickey Leland Federal Building, 1919 Smith St., Suite 9047, Houston, TX 77007 713-718-3057

CONGRESS US Congressman 36th Dist. Brian Babin Tyler County Courthouse 100 W. Bluff St. Woodville, TX 75979

> **STATE SENATOR District 3 Robert Nichols:** 2915 Atkinson Dr. Lufkin, TX 75901 936-699-4988

409-331-8066

STATE REPRESENTATIVE District 57 Trent Ashby: 2915 Atkinson Dr. Lufkin, TX 75901 936-634-2762

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION District 7 **Matt Robinson** 313 FM 517 W

Dickinson, TX 77539 281-635-1962 matt.robinson@tea.texas.gov

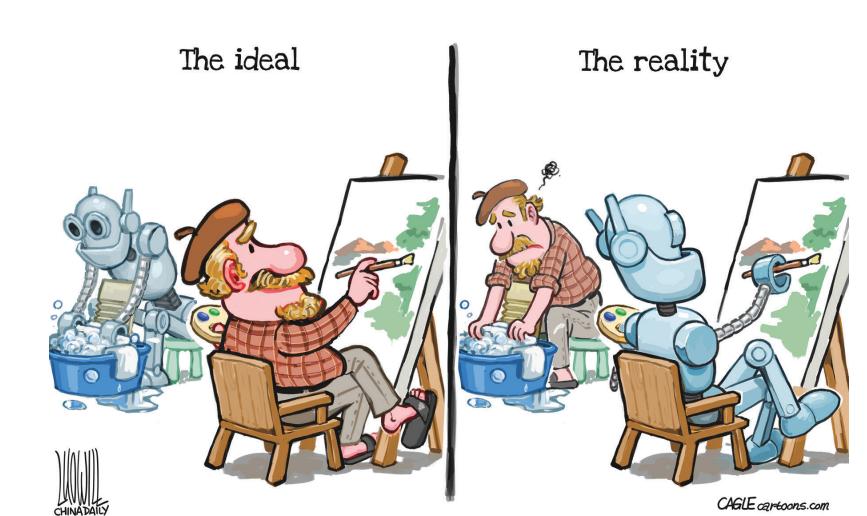
> **TYLER COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY** Lucas Babin: 409-283-8136

TYLER COUNTY SHERIFF Bryan Weatherford: 409-283-2172

COUNTY JUDGE: Milton Powers Phone: 409-283-2142

COMMISSIONERS 300 W Bluff St.

Woodville, TX 75979 Pct. 1 Joe Blacksher: 409-283-7013 Pct. 2 Doug Hughes: 409-283-7013



ESCAPE or ENDURANCE (**Part 6**)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR POLICY

It is the policy of The Tyler County Booster to encourage reader participation on its Opinion page. Diverse and varied opinions are welcomed. Because of space limitations, we must limit all contributors to one letter per person per month. Letters of 400 words or less will be published unless they contain language or content that the editors feel is inappropriate.

Letters must either be about Tyler County, from a resident of Tyler County, or in response to a story that appears in print or online in The Booster.

- Examples of content that will cause letters to be rejected include the following:
- Confusing or unclear points.
- Crude language.
- Poor taste.

• Disrespectful comments regarding a group's or individual's ethnicity, gender, religion, culture, sexual orientation or race.

• Other incendiary language or remarks.

• Endorsements for or complaints about individually named commercial products or services.

- Poetry.
- Personal attacks.

TYLER

• "Thank You" letters that go beyond general thanks to the community; attempt to serve as an advertisement for a company, individual or political party; or is submitted in lieu of a paid "Thank You" advertisement.

During periods ahead of an election, The Booster does not accept letters to the editor urging voters to vote for or against candidates in local elections.

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The Booster will not knowingly publish factually incorrect information. Only letters written exclusively to the newspaper will be published. Letters to a third party or those written to more than one newspaper are not accepted.

"Wallpaper" - submissions that are in large part copied-and-pasted from another author or organization - will not be published.

All letters must be signed and include the writer's street address or route address telephone number, which will be used for verification purposes only.

Letters may be submitted by mail to "Letters to the editor," Tyler County Booster, P.O. Box 309, Woodville, TX 75979; in person at 205 W. Bluff St., Woodville, TX; sent by fax to (409) 283-2560 or sent via e-mail to news@tylercountybooster. com

In last week's article we put John 14:2-3 under the microscope and revealed that those scriptures did not prove a pretrib rapture.

They "hinted" at that assumption but it is also very biased in the overall belief. There was no definitive proof those scriptures meant what the pretrib theorist want them to say and mean. I want to continue this week with some discussion on "resurrections".

Important facts to consider: I believe there are three resurrections recorded in NT scripture. Do not confuse these three with the "Raised to Life" from the dead to die again resurrections. They are not the same thing. Those in these resurrections will die again.

1) Yashua's resurrection -

1Cor 15:20 But now is Messiah risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

Rev 1:5 And from Messiah Yashua, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead

Col 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead;....

2) Believer's resurrection -

1Cor 15:23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Messiah's at his coming.

Joh 5:28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice.

Joh 5:29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

Joh 6:40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Mat 24:31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

1Th 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

1Th 4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air:....



Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in this newspaper will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

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MEETINGS

County • City **School Board**

COMMISSIONERS COURT 2nd Monday • 10am

CITY OF CHESTER 1st Monday • 6pm CHESTER ISD 2nd Monday • 6pm **CITY OF COLMESNEIL** 2nd Tuesday • 7pm **COLMESNEIL ISD** 2nd Monday • 6pm **CITY OF IVANHOE** 3rd Thursday • 6pm SPURGER ISD 3rd Thursday • 7pm WARREN ISD 4th Monday **CITY OF WOODVILLE** 2nd Monday • 6pm **WOODVILLE ISD** 3rd Monday • 7pm

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ROUTE

continued from page 1A

which route the state chooses to follow, "it's going to affect someone."

Risinger also noted that some significant tax revenue could drop if the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) were to go with the western route, which would be located four miles from the US 69 and 190 intersection.

Walmart, she said, pays roughly \$100K in ad valorem taxes each year and employs 200 people, many of whom are Woodville residents. If Walmart were to close, it would not likely reopen along that western route, she said, and other chains, such as McDonald's and Whataburger could be at risk.

"TxDOT is leaning on the western route option. I can confidently share that," she said.

Risinger referred to a meeting with Tx-DOT district engineer Martin Gonzalez, during which she estimated that Woodville could, potentially, lost 50% of its businesses if the western route were adopted. In response, Gonzalez said the figure would likely by closer to 60% impacted. Chains, she said, comprise 70% of the city's tax base.

The resolution states that a decline in downtown businesses will directly impact the city's sales tax revenue and tax base, which is currently 85% of the annual revenue funding police services, fire services, and street maintenance and improvements, animal control, parks and recreation and other services.

The text states that "a route closer in geographic proximity to the corporate limits of the city would provide an opportunity to retain/regain a portion of its current tax base; and Whereas, a route closer to the corporate limits would result in more resources and support of travelers along the route, specifically hurricane evacuees; and Whereas, an eastern route would provide the city with the opportunity to provide utilities along the relief route; and Whereas, the city does not feel the current proposed routes have adequate access to the city's current business district and routes intersecting with US 69, including but not limited to exits, interchanges and on/off-ramps; and Whereas, the city is concerned that the future maintenance of the existing US 69 route by TxDOT would be costly and impractical resulting in the State abandoning the route and further impact accessibility to homes and businesses located along the route and further compound financial burdens imposed upon the city and Tyler County to maintain abandoned roadway."

Bythewood closed out the meeting and urged everyone to make your voice heard. There is still time to submit comments on TxDOT's website, and you can also contact our state elected officials. Representative Trent Ashby can be reached at: 512-463-0508. Senator Robert Nichols can be reached at: 512-463-0103.

CONCERNS

continued from page 1A

The new route which Steve Pittman and Greg Adams have mapped out, which is being called the Tyler County Commissioner's Proposal for I 69 would impact 12 homes (two in Warren, six in Hillister, and four in Woodville), zero businesses, 350-360+acres of land, and require only 240' of right-of-way.

Pittman and Adams took the railroad route and made intelligent empathetic changes that minimized the impact. They were able to determine a route that would allow 25 miles north and south, taking out only 10 to 12 homes, which they believe that half of the homes are moveable, either mobile homes, RV's or homes on blocks. There are also no businesses or churches impacted with the plan they are putting forward.

Powers said "my biggest concern has been the economy of Tyler County, if the route does go west. I am very concerned about the problems we would have trying to keep businesses afloat. It is a very big thing that we are worried about. The eastern route is not a good one as well."

Woodville mayor Amy Bythewood said, "I spoke with our state senator Robert Nichols and I let him know real quick that the city of Woodville and Tyler County are united when it comes to this issue. We are united when it comes to being able to sustain our businesses, that we are opposed to a route that circumvents most of Tyler County, that we are looking towards an eastern route that's being proposed, so he is really aware that the community as a whole is united in this issue".

U.S. Rep. Brian Babin (R-Woodville) was present at the meeting and had some words to impart to the audience. He said "I am here to listen to my constituents. I am here to support you. I want to know what this is going to do to where I call home for the past 45 years, and we want to make sure that we don't kill this little town."

Babin expressed concern for the Tyler County Hospital. "I have served on the staff of the hospital for 35 years. If that hospital goes bye-bye, we're done for a retirement community and most of us who live here are 65 and up. Whatever the commissioners, judge and city do, I am going to support it. This resolution that you all are considering looks like the best scenario that you can make out of a bad situation. The ramifications of this thing impacts everybody in this county. No one is going to be untouched by this, and as the former mayor of this town, former board member of WISD, and your congressman, I want to know what's going to be best and I have heard the word unify a number of times tonight and this is exactly what this county needs to do".

Powers closed out the meeting when he said, "we want to see this community continue to thrive and grow. The only way we can do this is to work together and we are going to continue to work to work together for Tyler County".

Drought preparedness: Reduce wasteful water practices

By John Martin

It was just last year that much of the Southeast Texas Groundwater Conservation District (and east Texas in general) was experiencing very severe drought conditions. How quickly things have changed - from drought conditions to wet conditions in only a matter of months. It's times like now that it's difficult to talk to people about conserving water, especially when, as of June 1, some parts of the District have received or surpassed (in some instances significantly surpassed) the annual average rainfall for the entire year. Even in an average year we typically have an abundance of rain with an average annual of 52 -54 inches. Having already hit our annual average in some places and with a very active hurricane season predicted, it is quite possible that we could get 70 or more inches of rain in 2024 (one rain gauge in Tyler County has actually already surpassed 70 inches).

Although we have experienced wet conditions for the first five months of the year, predictions are that we will be transitioning back to a La Nina weather pattern which typically brings warmer and drier weather as was the case during the summer of 2023. Prolonged La Ninas are not unheard of, as was the case in 2010 - 2012 which was one of the driest periods in Texas history. Most areas within the Southeast Texas Groundwater Conservation District saw 30%

- 35% less rain than normal during that period. The northwestern portion of the District (Woodville area) saw closer to 50% less rainfall. Because drought is always possible, it is best that we conserve our most precious resource when we can so that it will be available in the future. Just because we have plenty right now, doesn't mean that we shouldn't stay water wise and conserve whenever we can. Don't forget, it was only last summer that some parts of the District were experiencing category D4 Exceptional Drought Conditions, the highest drought rating on the U.S. Drought Monitor, which is a weekly map of drought conditions that is produced jointly by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC).

Although it may seem unnecessary to conserve during wet periods, it is always a good practice so that when we are experiencing drought conditions, it doesn't hurt as much.

Here are some ways in which you can reduce your groundwater consumption and prevent waste: Conserving Water Indoors:

Using efficient showerheads and aerators on your faucets can significantly reduce the amount of water you use. In fact, installing an efficient showerhead is one of the most effective water saving steps you can take inside your house. You can save a little more water by getting into the shower as soon as possible - don't let the water run too long while warming it up.

When possible, update and replace old toilets,



washing machines, and dishwashers. New efficient models can save you thousands of gallons per year.

An older clothes washer will use up to 23 gallons per load, whereas a new energy efficient model may use as little as 13 gallons. Considering that the average household washes about 300 loads per year, the numbers add up quickly. Another thing to keep in mind is that if you wash with hot water, up to 90% of the cost to wash those clothes is simply for heating the water. Only use hot water when necessary so you'll save on your electrical bill and reduce the impact on the water-energy nexus (a complex relationship between the production of electricity and water).

In the kitchen, a water efficient dishwasher can save over 1,000 gallons per year. Keep in mind that 1,000 gallons per home may not seem significant but multiply that by a neighborhood and 1,000 gallons per home will add up to quite a lot very quickly.

Newer water efficient toilets will use only about 1-1.5 gallons of water per flush. You should always keep an eye out for any leaks in your toilet. A leaking toilet can waste quite a bit of water, possibly thousands of gallons a month in extreme cases. It is estimated that 10% of all homes in the U.S. have water leaks wasting 90+ gallons of water per day.

Conserving Water Outdoors and Reducing Waste:

If you have a swimming pool, consider covering it when not in use. In the summer, a pool can lose as much as half an inch per day due to evaporation, which can add up to the equivalent of your pool's entire volume each summer. You could potentially save 10,000 – 20,000 gallons or more depending on how big your pool is.

Water landscaping in the morning or late evening to reduce evaporation loss, and only water when needed. Most lawns only need 1 inch of water a week.

If you have a sprinkler system, keep it well maintained and keep an eye out for leaks.

If you have a vegetable or flower garden consider a drip irrigation system. It will water your plants more efficiently and with less waste.

Be conscientious when washing your vehicles at home. If you leave a hose running, you could use as much as 100 gallons or more washing your vehicle. Have a sprayer head on the hose to save water or consider a commercial car wash. A commercial car wash typically uses 35 – 70 gallons of water with newer high-tech facilities using as little as 15 gallons.

For more information on water conservation ideas visit the Southeast Texas Groundwater Conservation District's Website at: https://setgcd. org/,or the Texas Water Development Board's site at: https://www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation/

John Martin serves as the general manager for the Southeast Texas Groundwater Conservation District

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OPINION

continued from page 4A

3) The "rest of the dead" resurrection -Rev 20:5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Rev 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

Now I want you to pay particular close attention to what I say next. It is very important and what I have to say could quite possibly change your mind in regard to two comings of Messiah as taught by the Pretrib doctrine:

The Believer's resurrection - when will it happen? Pretrib or Post-trib. Let's look into the microscope again !!

These seven scriptures are foundational truths to the Pretrib Rapture doctrine:

1Th 4:15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

1Th 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

1Th 4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

What will happen to the dead and the living "in Messiah" when He descends from heaven?

1Cor 15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

1Cor 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

1Cor 15:53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

1Cor 15:54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. Now concerning 1Cor15:23: Who are the "they" that are Messiah's at His coming? The Pretrib doctrine insists that the "they" is the "church" about to be raptured just before the tribulation begins. Sounds good. Millions believe it. However, if we focus in closer,

1Cor 15:23 "But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming". All good. Still on track for a pretrib rapture. Nothing out of the ordinary here, right? Well, not so fast. Let's look more closely at the next verse. 1Cor 15:24 "THEN COMETH THE

1Cor 15:24 "THEN COMETH THE END, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power".

Christian, do you fully understand what you just read? The apostle Paul just told you that the "church" is raptured/resurrected at the "end of the age", not seven years prior to it. The same end of the age the apostles asked Yashua about in Mat24:3 and Yashua responded by saying it would happen immediately after the tribulation. Now consider this; what ties this event to a post-trib rapture/resurrection rather than a pretrib one? It's the trumpets!

Mat 24:31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

1Cor 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

1Th 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Rev 11:15 And the seventh angel sounded (the trumpet); and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever (compare 1Cor15:24).

Scripture interpreting scripture. Harmonizing perfectly. How anyone could see a pretrib resurrection in these scriptures is beyond me.

Next week we continue with revealing more error in their teaching. Until then remain steadfast in the faith, praying for this country and those who rule over us, and for our brother and sisters in Christ everywhere that are living in great tribulation even as you read this. Grace.

Max Hill Woodville maxhill5665@yahoo.com



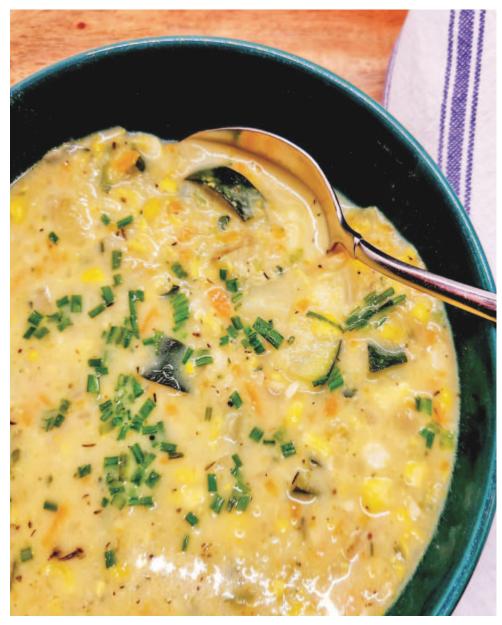
per drawing time. One entry for every 250 base points, June 1-29. See Players' Club for details or visit Naskila.com/promotions Page 6A | **TYLER COUNTY BOOSTER** | Thursday, June 27, 2024

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"Eat your vegetables, have a positive outlook, be kind to people, and smile." - DAN BUETTNER

The perfect vehicle for your summer vegetables Summer Corn & Zucchini Chowder



"Chowder breathes reassurance. It steams consolation." - CLEMENTINE PADDLEFORD won't lie. I enjoy scrolling through my social media feeds just as much as the next person, but good Lord, if you're not careful it can sure suck up some time. And that's probably the exact reason why I do it. I'll occasionally have a story or a project that, for whatever the reason, I simply put off ... until I can't anymore. I don't know why I do it, but it seems to be the case every now and then. So to prolong this self-induced torture, I turn to my social media feeds and start scrolling. However, this pesky exercise in procrastination recently yielded a delightful result when I came across a breathtaking, mouthwatering photograph of something called "Summer Corn & Zucchini Chowder." It looked amazing and I knew I had to have it. And it seemed pretty healthy as well, as it's basically fresh summer produce in a bowl. It came together easily in about a half hour.

It was very refreshing, and we thoroughly enjoyed it. It's safe to say this may become my go-to meal this summer when I'm tired and haven't given any thought to what's for dinner. And for all of you with summer gardens, this is a great way to use up all that zucchini. Mine didn't turn out as pretty as the picture on Facebook, but as Hubby said, "All that matters is that it tastes good." He's right and it did. Enjoy!

Summer Corn & Zucchini Chowder From: Facebook

- 4 cups fresh corn kernels (about 4 ears)
- 2 cups diced zucchini
- 1 cup diced potatoes
- 1 cup diced carrots
- 1 cup diced onions
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 cups vegetable broth
- 1 cup milk
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 teaspoon thyme
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper

In a large pot, heat olive oil over medium heat. Add diced onions, garlic, carrots, and potatoes. Cook until vegetables are softened, about 5-7 minutes.

Stir in diced zucchini and corn kernels. Cook for an additional 5



"THERE IS ONLY ONE CHOWDER. ALL ELSE IS SOUP. AND I'M A PURIST." - ANTHONY BOURDAIN

minutes.

Pour in vegetable broth. Add thyme, salt, and black pepper. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat and let simmer for 15 minutes.

Using an immersion blender, blend the chowder until partially smooth, leaving some chunks for texture. Stir in the milk and cook for another 5 minutes.

Ladle the chowder into bowls and garnish with fresh herbs if desired.



Kenney retires from DBCW role

By Chris Edwards

news@tylercountybooster.com

DAM B - Glen Kenney, who has served as the longtime public relations officer for the Dam B Community Watch (DBCW), recently announced his retirement from the position. In Kenney's place, the community watch group elected Capt. Tom Tray to take the reins as the new public relations officer.

"I've been an officer in the Community Watch for the last seven years, either as public relations officer or president," Kenney said. "It's time for me to slow down, and for new leadership to take over."

Kenney addressed the group at a recent meeting, and the DBCW current president Sallie Odom thanked him for his many years of service. "Glen Kennev has been an amazing public relations officer because of his willingness to go out and meet with our elected officials and become their friend," she said.

She added that Kenney's sense of humor and his willingness to promote the group as a positive outreach effort has contributed to its success. The DBCW was formed in 2017 and is one of the longest tenured community watch groups in the state, and the only one in Tyler County.

It began with a group of concerned Dam B residents,



GLEN KENNEY

in order to raise awareness of the problems caused by crime and drug use in the area.

The group's mission statement includes the text that it aims to "help make Dam B a safer and more attractive community in which to live."

Kenney said that he is still going to be an active member within the group's ranks. Odom said "I told him I would be keeping him on 'speed dial," and added that she is not only thankful to have Kenney as a member of the watch group, but also as a friend.

Kenney said his initial involvement with the group came about out of curiosity - he saw many cars parked at a church where the meetings were held and decided to attend a meeting and join. "Our original president had decided to write a letter to the editor of the Booster and passed it around for us to read. It was a grammatical nightmare. I asked if I could perhaps tidy it up, and he reluctantly agreed."

Kenney said his expert editorial eye got him a shooin job within the organization as its public relations officer, which he had been doing since he announced his retirement.

He said that some of the accomplishments that the watch group has fought for in the Dam B community were the stop sign at the US 190 and FM 92 intersection. "We were the only ones fighting for a stop sign and caution light," after several fatal accidents at the intersection, he said.

"I am very pleased that we haven't had a single fatality accident since the sign went up," he said.

The group has also supported several service-based efforts in the county and has provided scholarships for graduating high school seniors.

Kenney added that it also fought hard against a potential meat packing plant coming to the county in 2018, as well as a halfway house at an old motel in Dam B.

The DBCW meets at 6 p.m. each Thursday, normally at the Hilltop Baptist Church, and once every other month at Fairview Baptist Church. Meeting dates, locations and speakers are listed on the group's Facebook page. Members of the public are encouraged to attend.





Tommy Simpson, singer-songwriter and frontman of Tommy Simpson and the Loaded Dice, is one of the performers to take the stage at the inaugural Black Creek Rising festival on Saturday, July 6. COURTESY PHOTO

'Black Creek Rising' to present music, fun

By Mollie LaSalle

news@tylercountybooster.com

WARREN - Black Creek Ranch in Warren is preparing for a high time on Saturday, July 6.

The owners of the venue and organizers of the coming, inaugural "Black Creek Rising: A Grassroots Music Fest" promise a good day of great music, food and familyfriendly fun, beginning at 10 a.m.

The event is being promoted as a celebration of American Freedom. Live music, food, drinks, games, raffles, and vendors comprise the day's activities, and a portion of the proceeds will benefit local VFW Post 2033. The organizers said that the cause of veterans, especially within Tyler County, is near and dear to their heart, and wanted to give the community a good, fun event for a good cause.

Entry price at the gate is \$10, Kids 12

Swim as a pair

near a lifeguard's

WATER continued from page 2A

including experienced swim-

mers, should swim with a buddy in areas protected by lifeguards.

Reach or throw, don't go! Know what to do to help someone in trouble, without endanand under get in Free. Wristbands will be on sale for \$10, and it is BYOB (beverages) and BYOC (chairs).

Black Creek has lined up some top-notch musical talent for this event. Performers include: Tommy Simpson and the Loaded Dice; No Chaser; Tyler Dozier; Jace Nunnelly; the Miller Highlights; Chance Sims; Chris Edwards; Paige Price; Michael Paul and more surprises in store, according to the organizers.

Vendors and Food Trucks include: Hog Heaven BBQ, That Food truck, Honey's Hollow Custom Vinyl Designs and More, Blingz for Divaz, Country to Classy Boutique, Planet Zero Freeze Dried Treats, Dana Martin Insurance, Xflora Designs and Angela Miller Face and Body Painting. Sponsors for the event include: Tyler County Hospital, Riley Funeral Home, Ariel Digital, Streamline Production Services, Angela Marie Photography and Texas Farm Bureau Insurance.

• Swim 25 yards to the exit; and

• Exit from the water. If in a pool, be able to chair - everyone, exit without using the ladder.

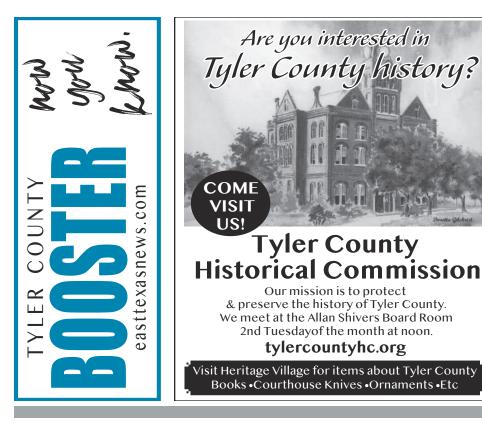
"People should be able to perform all five water competency skills. Those who can't, should enroll in Red Cross Learn-to-Swim classes offered in their area," added Vanessa Valdez, Regional Com-munications Manager.

SWIM LESSONS Red Cross swim lessons gering your-self; know how and when to call help people develop skills and water safety be-



BIG WOODS PHOTO CONTEST WINNER

The Tyler County Art League Judge selected Elton Gish's photo as the May Photo-of-the-Month for the Big Woods Nature Trail. The judge stated that the photo "looks like a documentary photo showing the resilience of the Big Thicket... new life replacing the old..." Elton is from Lumberton and is a frequently visitor of the Pickett House Restaurant and the Big Woods Nature Trail. The trail kiosk across the parking lot from the Pickett House displays a map from which you can choose your own path the woods. Please take time to enjoy the trail and share your photos.



-1-1; and know CPR. WATER COMPETENCY

According to a Red Cross survey, more than half of all Americans (54 per-cent) either can't swim or don't have all of the basic swimming skills. The Red Cross and its Scien-tific Advisory Council recommend that everyone learn to perform critical water safety skills, re-ferred to as 'water competency.' The skills, performed in a sequence, include being able to:

• Step or jump into the water over your head;

• Return to the surface and float or tread water for one minute;

• Rotate in a full circle and find an exit;

haviors that help them be more comfortable and safe when they are in, on and around the water. People can find age-appropriate water orientation and Learn-to-Swim programs for themselves and their fami-ly members by contacting their local aquatic facility and asking for Red Cross swimming and water safety programs, or by visiting redcross.org/ takeaclass.

SWIM APP The Red Cross Swim App promotes water safety education and helps parents and care-givers of young people learning how to swim. People can download the app for free by searching for 'American Red Cross' in their app store or at http://3cu.be/shareswim.



A NEW FAMILY PROVIDER IS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD. **INTRODUCING:** SEBRINA ALIVERNINI, ACNP, FNP-BC



Sebrina Alivernini is originally from the Southeast Texas area and will be relocating to this area. She has served the Beaumont area over the past twenty years as an Acute Care and Family nurse practitioner. She graduated in 1997 from Lamar University with her Bachelors in science of Nursing. She then earned her Masters with a focus in Acute/Critical Care in 2004 and went back for her post masters in Family Practice in 2012 both degrees are from the University of Texas in Houston. She is looking forward serving this community for many years to come.

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The fiel croaker and speckled southeast Oklahoma to

Ive fried croaker and speckled trout from a fire fueled by driftwood on the beach and I've fried freshly caught catfish and white bass on the banks of remote east Texas creeks. I'm not sure I've eaten fish better than those walleye or northern pike fillets cooked over an open fire on a beautiful little island on a remote lake in northern Saskatchewan. The iconic 'shore lunch' is a way of life when fishing up in Canada.

These days, \overline{I} often fry fish in the shade of some big oaks in front of the little cabin on our few acres. I love everything about a fish fry, everything from catching the fish to cleaning them properly to hearing that first fillet, well seasoned and dusted with a mixture of corn meal and flour, hitting the grease. And the smell of that tasty fish bubbling in a skillet of hot cooking oil, it's the stuff that great outdoor memories are made! I want my fish to be crunchy but not over cooked. I have known folks that like 'soft fried' fillets. To my way of thinking a fried fish should be crunchy and it's that additional minute or two in the hot grease that does the trick!

My early recollections of fish cooking over a hot fire in the outdoors goes way back to the fifties when I was a little whipper snapper growing up in very rural Red River County in northeast Texas. After my dad sold the 14,000 broiler chickens he raised every 10 weeks or so, he declared a holiday and loaded up the 1950 model International pickup and we headed to southeast Oklahoma to set up camp and enjoy a couple of glorious days running our trotlines, spending time together as a family and catching and eating tasty channel catfish. The meals always consisted of

plenty of fish, fried potatoes, canned pork n beans and plenty of fresh onions, usually right out of the garden. Daddy had hinged plywood tables that mounted to the sides of the truck and this is where the fish frying usually took place. Occasionally he would cook fish over an open fire but not for that first evening meal. We were always in a rush to get the trotlines set, usually before we made camp. Our goal was to have enough channel catfish for the first evening meal. It was much quicker to fire up the Coleman stove than fool with building a wood fire to cook on. Back then we used what we called 'white gas' for fuel. I often wonder if the unleaded gasoline we fuel our vehicles with today would also serve as fuel for modern day Coleman stoves, I'm guessing it would but with today's prices of gasoline, clean burning Coleman fuel is a much better option.

I have done my share of fish frying through the years and also been the guest at many other folk's 'fish fries'. I can honestly say I've never known two cookers that when about the task of frying fish in exactly the same manner. There are many variations when it comes to batter, sea-

sonings and oils. Some fish cookers swear by peanut oil and it is a good choice but I just don't see the need to pay the extra dollars. I usually fry fish with the cheapest canola oil I can find but honestly prefer using lard. Up in Canada, all the good fish cooks use lard and snub their noses as poly unsaturated oils. They say that if the lard is sufficiently hot, hot enough for a match to strike when dropped in, the fish doesn't actually soak up and lard. I agree and would use lard all the time if it wasn't so dog gone expensive. Lard is always available at Hispanic grocery stores but because of cost, I usually go for the cheaper cooking oils.

The sky is the limit when it comes to batters. Some prefer straight corn meal, others a mixture of corn meal and flour. Some folks use straight flour as a batter but for me, a good batter must consist of mostly corn meal. I've even on occasion used yellow corn grits as a batter. This gives the fish more of a crunch but can be a bit 'grainy' for some fish eaters. There are also many pre packaged fish batters on the marked and on occasion I use some of the Cajun batters.

Years ago, I learned to place fillets in a zip lock bag and add buttermilk

and Louisiana hot sauce. A couple hours marinating in this mixture is all the seasoning necessary for a tasty fillet, no need to add anything to the cornmeal/flour mix when using this method. Some fish cookers season their batter with their favorite dry seasonings, everything for salt and pepper to garlic powder, paprika, or lemon pepper. The good thing about making your own batter is that you can experiment and create the flavor you like best. Growing up, I don't remember us using anything other than salt and pepper and for many that is all that's needed. Through the years, I have developed a taste for more spicy fillets, thus the Louisiana hot sauce.

Back in the day, we fished for not only sport but food as well. We ate everything from blue gills, to catfish to largemouth bass. I know for many the thought of actually eating a bass ruffles feathers but even the fisheries biologists recommend taking smaller bass to keep balance in a farm pond or a larger reservoir for that matter. There is a whole generation of fish eaters that have never tasted a crunchy fired 'yearling' largemouth bass. Honestly it's one of my favorite fish to eat. Some not so popular fish that I consider excellent eating are freshwater drum and yellow bass. Most fishermen have no idea how tasty they are. There is no 'red meat' in yellow bass to trim away and many consider the little fillets to be a delicacy. Buffalofish are snow white and flaky and make excellent baked fish cakes but they also have the tiny Y bones which makes them challenging to clean. Note I haven't mentioned crappie. In my opinion, crappie are fish for what I refer to as 'non fish eaters'. I know this statement is considered blasphemy for many fish eaters but crappie, to me at least, don't really taste like fish, they have a neutral flavor that takes on the spices they are seasoned with. In self defense, be it known Ole' Luke enjoys a big platter of crispy fried crappie fillets as much as the next person but given a choice, I'd have yellow bass fillets on that platter!

I'd better close for this week, I have a stainless steel sink full of blue catfish fillets defrosting and need to trim them up and make ready for a later afternoon fish fry. Until next week!

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



What could possibly be tastier than freshly caught, fried fish fillets? In this week's column, Luke discusses a lifetime of enjoying fish fries everywhere from the wilds of Canada to the banks of a local creek. PHOTO BY LUKE CLAYTON







All-State. Lowe was also selected for UILAII-State Tournament Team. BECKI BYRD | TCB

'Jackets named to District, All-State honors

By Becki Byrd

part in the success of this past season, which ended with the 'Jackets earning the title of UIL State Semi-Finalists..

Pitcher; Jayse Gay as Second Team Infield; Rex Gilzow First Team Infield; Jaxon Gay First Team Infield; Turner Johnson was named Newcomer Of The Year; Will Thomason, Pitcher Several of the Chester Yellowjackets have earned District 24-1A baseball awards for their Of The Year; Jesse Bittick Co-Defensive MVP and Waylon Sturrock was named Offensive MVP.

Jesse Bittick, Will Thomason and Cutter Lowe were also named to the THSBCA All-State Trayce Knox was named Second Team Infielder; Brad Davison named to Second Team team. Lowe was also selected as part of the UIL All-State Tournament Team for first base.



Lady Eagles getting in summer workout time

By Jason Drake

The Woodville Lady Eagles have been Groveton, Crockett, Lovelady, and Kentaking advantage of summer workouts. nard. Corbin stated, "The girls who The summer conditioning program con- are playing in the Groveton league and sists of an aerobic workout followed by a summer workouts will have an advantage weight training regimen. The final phase allows athletes the use conditioning testing. We need to be in of open gym hours to work on specific great shape to play the Lady Eagle style sports related skills. The times are from of basketball." 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., Monday through Thursday for athletes going into 8th-12th grade. represented the Lady Eagles in the on the Volleyball and cross-country practices begin August 5 with an emphasis on team ing Association (SETCA) game held in bonding for all athletes. Head girls basketball coach Reginald Both senior center fielder and senior first Corbin has used this summer to prepare for next year's season.

ketball in Groveton. Teams participating in the summer league are Woodville,

Lady Eagle athletes, pictured left-to-right: Top: Aeva Corbin; Nataiyah Morrison; Jewelia Foxworth; Treasyre Hunter; Chloe Warnock and Aleiah Burkes. Bottom: Haley Limbrick and Karmen Sylestine. JASON DRAKE | TCB

very competitive in summer league bas- team overtook the West 1-0.

next year, especially when it comes to

Two Woodville senior softball players West Team in the SouthEast Texas Coach-Mont Belvieu at Barbers Hill High School. baseman Jade McQueen and shortstop Mallory Dunn will continue their softball The girls are participating and being careers at the collegiate level. The East

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Please send us your upcoming church events. Church news is published on a space-available basis free of charge. Send us an email at news@tylercountybooster.com or bring your event information to our office located at 205 W Bluff in Woodville. You can also call us at 409-283-2516.

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but not what it means

By Keith Bellamy

Many years ago, my dad was sharing with my uncle how far New Orleans was from the Gulf of Mexico. My dad told my uncle it was 110 miles. My uncle proceeded to argue with my dad, so my dad suggested getting the

encyclopedia out and looking it up. After my uncle was shown what the encyclopedia showed, my uncle said the encyclopedia was wrong.

On another occasion, I was studying with a person. We were using the Bible to see what God's word had to say on a given subject. The person studying with me, said, "That's what it

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That's what it says,

says, but that's not what it means."

The Apostle Paul wrote these words in Ephesians 3:2-7. Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, 3 that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. 6 This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in

Did you notice he said that we can read and understand?

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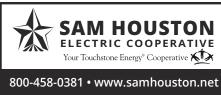
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STATE

Electric demand could nearly double by 2030

CAPITOL HIGHLIGHTS by Gary Borders



The chief of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas told state lawmakers re-

cently that the state's power demand could nearly double in just six years. The reasons: population growth, new requests for grid connections, and a rise in requests from data centers and other heavy users.

ERCOT chief executive officer Pablo Vegas told lawmakers the grid operator has sharply increased its prediction of power demand in coming years, The Texas Tribune reported.

"All of that is putting together a picture of a very significant, different demand growth that is forcing us to really re-think how we're looking at planning to make sure we can meet those needs and continue to deliver on the expectations of all Texans," Vegas told lawmakers.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick said the Legislature should "take a close look" at data centers and crypto operations.

"We want data centers, but it can't be the Wild, Wild West of data centers and crypto miners crashing our grid and turning the lights off," he wrote.

Vegas also recently warned the ERCOT board that new federal emission rules for fossil fuel power plants, to take effect July 8, are "exacerbating the reliability risks given forecasted load growth," The Dallas Morning News reported.

Vegas said the new regulations could lead to all 10 coal plants in Texas being decommissioned as the Environmental Protection Agency places new limits on mercury and greenhouse gas emissions. Those backing the new regulations say they will help reduce air pollution and reduce climate change.

Central American Gyre could spawn more tropical storms

The first named system of this year's hurricane season made landfall last week in Mexico, bringing significant rain to South Texas. Alice, 40 miles west of Corpus Christi, received more than 6 inches of rain, and McAllen saw more than 4 inches, the San Antonio Express-News reported.

Now the Central American Gyre, a persistent rotating low-pressure system, is getting close scrutiny, as it may allow formation of other tropical depressions.

Hurricane forecasters predict an especially active season this season, which runs through Nov. 30. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts an 85 percent chance for an above-normal season. It is forecasting a range of 17 to 25 named storms this year.

STAAR scores in math, science decline Texas student scores in math and science showed marked drops in science comprehension, according to the Texas Education Agency. The 2024 results show declining math and science scores across all tested grade levels.

Only 34 percent of elementary and middle-school students met or mastered grade-level science, a drop of 5.7 percentage points from last year. Math scores also dropped slightly.

"Pandemic-induced disruptions to learning exacerbated students' difficulties in mastering fundamental math concepts, TEA Commissioner Mike Morath said. "As a result, we must keep our foot on the gas to intensify efforts in providing targeted interventions and research-based education strategies to ensure that students obtain necessary foundational skills and concepts and achieve the desired academic outcomes not only in math but across all subject areas." More detailed results for individual districts can be found at texasassessment.gov. **Seven state hospital projects announced**

Bolstered by \$1.5 billion in funding passed last year by the Legislature, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission has announced seven new state hospital projects to serve people in need of inpatient psychiatric services.

"Texas continues working to increase access to critical behavioral health treatments for Texans in every corner of our state," Gov. Greg Abbott said.

The projects are in various stages of planning and design. They include:

Panhandle State Hospital (Amarillo): Constructing a new state hospital to serve 75 patients in a non-maximum-security unit. Budget: \$159 million.

Lubbock Psychiatric Center: Constructing a new state hospital with a 50-bed maximum-security unit. Budget: \$121 million.

Terrell State Hospital: Constructing a 250-bed replacement hospital. Budget: \$573 million.

North Texas State Hospital – Wichita Falls: Constructing a 200-bed replacement hospital. Budget: \$452 million.

Rio Grande State Center (Harlingen): Expanding current facility to add a 50-bed maximum-security unit. Budget: \$120 million.

San Antonio State Hospital: Renovating an existing building to add a 40-bed maximum-security unit. Budget: \$15 million.

El Paso Psychiatric Center: Planning and land acquisition to expand the current facility by 50 non-maximum-security beds. Budget: \$50 million.

Influencers must disclose political payments

The Texas Ethics Commission will now require social media influencers to disclose if their content is a paid political advertisement, the Texas Standard reported.

The Texas Tribune previously reported that a company called Influenceable hired Gen-Z influencers to defend Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton ahead of his impeachment trial last year.

"You know, attacking the House members who had been involved in the impeachment and overall just urging the Senate to acquit him," Tribune managing editor Matthew Watkins told the Standard. "This was silently paid for by some rightwing activists and big-money people in Texas. Those influencers did not disclose that they were getting paid."

The ethics commission did not mention the company by name while voting unanimously to require disclosure in the future of paid political content.

Military bases provide \$151.2 billion economic impact

U.S. military installations in Texas contributed at least \$151.2 billion to the state's economy last year and supported more than 677,000 jobs across the state, according to a study by the state comptroller's office.

The state is home to 15 major U.S. military installations, as well as the Army Futures Command headquarters.

Besides the economic impact, the military bases contribute to the state's culture, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar said.

"The installations are also vibrant and dynamic partners in the community, supporting not just business and industry but also schools, charities, youth sports and cultural events," he 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.

CAPITOL UPDATE by Rep. Trent Ashby



House committees in charge of appropriations, finances

On an unseasonably cool Thursday, July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress declared total independence from King George III and Great Britain. In doing so, the founding fathers threw off the yoke of tyranny,

creating a new form of government whose power was to be derived only from the consent of the people they govern. Radical at the time, the actions of men such as John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson paved the way for the United States Constitution just 13 years later and what we know today as the longest-standing democracy in the world.

Next week, many of us will enjoy an afternoon cookout with family and friends, attend a patriotic parade, or celebrate with fireworks. While we celebrate our great nation, let

4, interim charges...

House Interim Charge: Appropriations

The House Committee on Appropriations has jurisdiction over bills appropriating money from the state treasury, bills containing provisions resulting in the automatic allocation of funds from the state treasury, and all matters of claims and accounts filed with the legislature against the state.

Over the interim, the Committee will study the funding streams from different sections of the state budget to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to determine where overlapping programs are most efficiently funded and placed. The study will also make policy changes to improve transparency and accountability between state agencies involved in programs under TEA's jurisdiction.

The Committee is also tasked with monitoring the imple-

to banking, savings and loans, the regulation of state and local debt, and the benefits and financial obligations of public retirement systems. The Committee also oversees many state agencies, such as the Finance Commission of Texas, the Teacher Retirement System of Texas, and the Employee Retirement System of Texas.

The Committee has been charged with monitoring the implementation of SB 10, which provided a much-needed Cost-Of-Living Adjustment to retired teachers. I was proud to be a Cosponsor for SB 10 during the 2023 Legislative Session and was happy to see Proposition 9, which amended the Texas Constitution to enable the COLA, pass with 84% of the vote in November. Our retired teachers have given so much to this state, and it was well past time to help them with the continued rise in inflation for essential goods and

us remember that we, as citizens of the greatest country on God's Earth, must continue to strive to create a more perfect Union and make good on the promise of our Declaration of Independence:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

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

mentation and impact of additional funding to reduce the cost of higher education, funding for specific programs at medical schools, implementation and impact of additional funding for healthcare reimbursement rates, and programs assisting victims of crimes.

House Interim Charge: Pensions, Investments and Financial Resources

The House Committee on Pensions, Investments, and Financial Resources has jurisdiction over all matters relating

ACROSS 47 TXism: "_ **TEXAS** on her" (pretty girl) "got a ____ _ in my 49 degraded throat" (emotional) **CROSSWORD** 5 TX Roy Orbison hit 52 Texas-based American " (1964) Airlines would hire this "It's _ 6 home of Baylor aircraft mainten. worker by Charley & Guy Orbison 53 dir. from Andrews 7 flim (scam) Copyright 2024 by Orbison Bros 8 commercials, e.g. to Junction 9 Clay Allison epitaph: 54 wind turbine part 12 13 14 55 TXism: "never sign any-"He never killed 20 16 18 19 did not thing in . _ of a need killing" neon light" 2 21 16 pekoe and green 18 in Bandera, "Dixie 30 28 29 31 32 33 " for city slickers 36 38 21 Campo, Texas 43 40 22 Maureen O' of film "Rio Grande" 45 23 TXism: "his facts 58 out" _elastic" (liar) (in golf) 49 48 24 TXism: "it 59 Slim Whitman's poke in the eye 53 "A Travelin' with a sharp stick" 60 "and so on" abbr. 55 56 57 P-1696 30 TX-based Sunoco 61 TX George Strait's once was " "Marina del _ 12 noted fictional 58 Company detective, Wolfe DOWN 34 TXism: "bend 13 thin, ghostly figure 38 in Duval County 59 elbow" (drink) 1 Texas Registered 14 laugh word on U.S. 59 35 record companies Longhorn Beef 15 TXism: "plain as the 40 Ross State 60 ears ____ mule" 36 TX Roy Bean's is this (2 wds.) University in Alpine 61 2 birth town of TX 17 7-Eleven slushies court was in 41 once a rival to the his Langtry saloon **McConaughey** 19 Texas Nokona AP news agency 37 petty quarrels 3 TXism: ' baseball gloves are 42 "E" of "EMT" 39 su casa hand_ Ward, Texas 27 Bank in East Texas 48 20 this Josh was Aggie Court is last resort (neighborly) 28 Olympic ski race in Hale County for civil appeals 4 seniors dance offensive line coach 29 TXism: " 50 TX Kenny sang you 43 TX Gene Tierney 9 just one of 8-across (2019-22)gotta know when to as a baby's 1945 film: "Leave 10 this Ali took TX 24 great NFL and UT backside" hold 'em and when Foreman's title in Heaven" quarterback, Bobby 31 neither's sidekick 'em to 44 delicious melon: 1974 "Rumble" (init.) 51 OJ's judge, Lance 32 abortion case that's "Pecos Can 11 TX singer Meat 25 enjoy fried okra been overturned 56 four-bagger by an 45 WBAP __/FM Loaf was born 26 you can make __ v. Wade" Astro or Ranger 46 "it's ____ better days" Marvin Lee at Lone Star Park 57 make ecstatic 33 hides out (2 wds.)

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

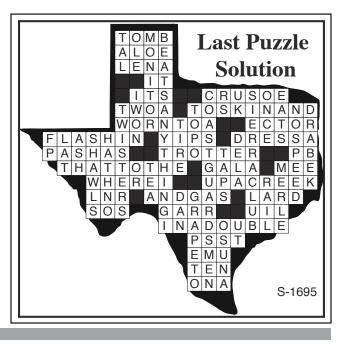
Abbott celebrates Texas as 'Best Business Climate'

Special to the Booster

AUSTIN – Governor Greg Abbott today celebrated Texas being recognized the Best Business Climate in the nation for the second year in a row by Business Facilities magazine in their 20th Annual Rankings Report.

"Texas continues to lead the nation as the Best Business Climate," said Abbott. "When businesses succeed, Texans succeed. That is why we are outpacing the nation in job growth and expanding in both existing and emerging industries. Texas offers unmatched business advantages — a welcoming business climate, no corporate or personal income tax, a highly skilled and diverse workforce, easy access to global markets, robust infrastructure, and a reasonable regulatory environment. Every region of our state provides innovative businesses and hardworking Texans the opportunity to aspire and thrive. I thank Business Facilities magazine for again recognizing Texas as the best in the nation, and I congratulate all of our communities and our local, regional, and statewide economic development partners."

Focused on more than 60 factors pertinent to site selection teams during a corporate relocation or expansion project, Business Facilities' Annual Rankings Report has been a valuable and timely resource for corporate site selectors and site selection consultants for two decades.



By Jeremy Schwartz, The Texas Tribune

As proponents of private school vouchers racked up win after win across the country in along partisan lines. But over the years, rural in the nation remained stubbornly outside their grasp — until now.

suading primary voters to remove from office members of his party who had defied him than half of Texas registered voters support by voting against legislation that would allow the use of state money to pay for private can voters listed vouchers as a key issue in the school tuition.

Abbott's success campaigning against fellow Republicans during the primary election sent a clear message that disloyalty would not were two incumbents he had endorsed two be tolerated even for those who supported years earlier. other priorities he outlined.

the culmination of more than three decades of campaign advertising but rather accused of work by Christian conservative donors, them of being soft on issues like border sewhose influence in Texas politics has never curity. been more pronounced. They have poured millions of dollars into candidates and helped lead or fund a network of organizations, such lionaire donors like TikTok investor Jeffrey as the influential Texas Public Policy Foundation, a conservative think tank, to galvanize Republicans around the issue.

national voucher crowd in the sense that the more than \$4 million attacking incumbents, biggest state down South still hasn't done it," said Joshua Cowen, an education policy professor at Michigan State University who opposes vouchers. "When your whole national messaging strategy is based on this unstoppable flood of parents rising up to defeat the more than \$700,000 in support from Abbott's woke left in the public schools and Texas is standing there in the middle of the map, the biggest state saying no, that's just a problem for the overall strategy.

Abbott was relatively quiet on vouchers. In he turned on those of us that just couldn't go 2017, he called on lawmakers to pass such along with him on it. And I have been with a program for students with disabilities. But him on everything, every single issue request Abbott, who did not respond to questions he's made, except this one." from ProPublica and The Texas Tribune, hadn't engaged in political warfare on the issue until last year, when he made passing vouchers for all Texas students a top priority. He joined the Texas Public Policy Foundation on a "parent empowerment" tour across the state and urged church pastors to advocate for such legislation from the pulpit.

emergency legislative sessions to pass measures related to "school choice," a term supporters have used to describe programs that operate outside of the traditional public school system, including private or religious his own par-ty, rejected the legislation.

Republicans with national ambitions are increasingly expected to fully support vouchers, Cowen said, adding that Abbott's GOP tian conservative donor James Leininger, counterparts in states like Arizona and Flor- who funded a pilot voucher program in his ida had overseen successful pushes in their hometown of San Antonio for several years. state legislatures.

the top issue areas of the litmus test for Re- a decade as he became one of the state's most in which "a child's public school funding folpublican Party power politics," Cowen said. prolific campaign donors. Dunn later helped lows him or her to the school of their parents' If you want to be a player, you have to really push on the doctrine."

lars from public education and allow funding dia operation. to flow into private schools without holding them accountable if they fail children.

The issue has generally been one that falls Texas Gov. Greg Abbott succeeded in per- munities where private options are limited.

Despite polling showing that slightly less against vouchers the following year. vouchers and only 2% of registered Republi-GOP primary election, Abbott pursued aggressive campaigns against lawmakers in his party who did not fall in line. Among them

In targeting them, Abbott and his billion-The governor's voucher crusade represents aire allies didn't make vouchers the focus

The primary challenges drew millions in contributions from national groups and bil-Yass, a Pennsylvania vouch-er advocate who poured \$6 million into Abbott's campaign. A Texas affiliate of the Betsy DeVos-funded private school he founded more than two de- throated embrace of vouchers as a top legisla-⁶Texas has been kind of an Alamo to the American Federation for Children spent and the federal Club for Growth political actargeting Texas voucher opponents.

Allison lost to a challenger who received campaign.

"Ever since I've been in the Legislature, he's never shown any interest in private school vouchers," Allison said. "It's just troubling the During his first eight years as governor, way it came out of nowhere and then the way

A long push supercharged

Shortly after the March GOP primaries, Abbott received a hero's welcome while addressing attendees at the Texas Public Policy Foundation's annual policy summit in Austin. He celebrated unseating five Republicans and stoked enthusiasm for the runoff elec-He also twice ordered lawmakers into tions, which he hoped would secure enough wins to pass voucher legislation in 2024. (In the May primary runoff, another three antivoucher Republicans were unseat-ed.)

"We would not be on the threshold of success if it were not for TPPF," Abbott told the with a heart of gratitude."

The group has pushed for vouchers since its founding in 1989 by Republican Chris-In 1998, billionaire oilman Tim Dunn joined "Vouchers have absolutely become one of the board, serving as vice chair for more than form Empower Texans, a more confronta- choice." tional organization that graded Republican

The groups and the pro-voucher billionaires made strategic investments over the years to advance their cause. In 2006, Leininger, who did not respond to questions from recent years, the largest Republican-led state Republicans have broken with their party to the news organizations, spent \$2.5 million vote against vouchers. Public schools, they've in an attempt to oust five House Republireasoned, often play a vital role in local com- cans who voted against vouchers. Two lost over public schools, Abbott had not fully their seats. Still, the Texas House voted 129-8

> Dunn and West Texas billionaire evangelical donors Dan and Farris Wilks later contributed millions to Lt. Gov. Dan Pat- the 2021 Republican primary. Their politirick, who breathed new life into the voucher cal action committee Defend Texas Liberty push. "As a conservative leader on many is- poured \$3.7 million into Huffines' campaign. sues, it should be no sur-prise that conservatives support me," Patrick said in a statement various issues, including criticizing him for about the campaign contributions. He added not doing as much to promote school choice that his support for school choice initiatives, as Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis did. including vouchers, spans decades.

> sponded to questions about the donations or win the election, he "knew that the campaign the voucher push. In an opinion piece pub- would force the Governor to adopt many of lished by the Midland Reporter-Telegram my policy positions, including school choice, last year, Dunn said he has never led state- which has been a priority of the National and wide school choice efforts. Instead, Dunn State Republican Party for decades.' argued, he has spent his energy building up Midland Classical Academy, the religious 2022 signaled a new phase for Abbott: a fullcades ago.

Despite Patrick's influence in the Senate, which passed voucher legislation in 2015 tion committee said it coordinated with an- and 2017, the Texas House rejected the plans lic school, charter school or private school other PAC to spend about \$8 million on ads those years, and the voucher push largely died out afterward.

The arrival of COVID-19 helped reignite the embers of the movement. TPPF promot- 2023 legislative session, Abbott joined TPPF ed vouchers as the solution to anger over CO-VID-19 restrictions and political battles over what is taught in schools.

"I think a lot of voucher supporters saw COVID and some of the culture wars as a window for pushing vouchers," said David DeMatthews, a University of Texas educational leadership and policy professor who does not support using taxpayer money to pay for private schools. "Conservative think tanks like TPPF can help with the framing and crafting a narrative to make a very unpopular policy seem more palatable."

Brian Phillips, a spokesperson for TPPF, did not respond to specific questions about the group's advocacy but issued a statement anticipating victory next year. "When school choice legislation passes next year, it will be due to the amazing vigilance of thousands of parents, students, educators, policymakers, activists, pastors, volunteers, and, yes, even a few think tanks," he said in a statement.

While pushing for vouchers, TPPF also schools. But lawmakers, including 21 from packed room in March. "I come here today capitalized on debates about how race is taught in public schools. The group published a series of stories attacking critical race theory, an advanced academic concept that examines systemic racism. The "long-term solution to fighting CRT begins with parents fighting for the right to choose the best education for their children," TPPF wrote in a July 2021 article that advocated for a system

Later that year, the focus among pro-Supporters say voucher programs give par- lawmakers according to their adherence to voucher forces turned to books with LG- lead. ents more control over their children's educa- hard-right principles and funneled money BTQ+ themes in Texas school libraries. In tion by allowing them to use public dollars into campaigns against Republicans deemed a November 2021 fundraising letter, TPPF did not respond to a request for comment. to choose the schools they believe are best, insufficiently supportive. Those campaigns CEO Kevin Roberts claimed that "pornogra-" "When Texas comes, the rest of the monopoly including those that are privately run. Op- featured what opponents have called decep- phy and explicit literature" could be found in dominoes will start to fall all across the coun-

students as a "captive audience to both Marxist and sexual indoctrination."

He told potential donors that the solution was an all-out push for school vouchers.

A full-throated embrace

As TPPF worked to stoke parental anger jumped into the fray.

Dunn and the Wilks brothers heavily supported Dallas real estate developer Don Huffines, one of Abbott's far-right challengers, in Huffines hammered Abbott from the right on

Huffines wrote in a statement to ProPubli-Neither Dunn nor the Wilks brothers re- ca and the Tribune that while his goal was to

A campaign stop in San Antonio in May tive priority.

"Empowering parents means giving them the choice to send their children to any pubwith state funding following the student," Abbott said.

After his reelection and throughout the campaign director Mandy Drogin in a series of "parent empowerment" rallies across the state that promoted the benefits of vouchers.

But even with Abbott's campaigning, the voucher push failed by the end of the session in May

In September, a month before Abbott called awmakers back to Austin for an emergency session, TPPF helped organize a teleconference call in which the governor urged pastors to promote vouchers during Sunday church services. During the call, Abbott announced his plan to target Republicans in upcoming rimaries if they did not support vouchers during the special session.

He fulfilled his promise this spring.

Kel Seliger, a former state senator who recalls being unsuccessfully targeted by Dunnafter voting against vouchers, warned that Abbott's campaign against fellow Republicans sends a chilling message.

"It says, 'Do not disagree. We don't necessarily care about people of conscience or anything like that," said Seliger, who in 2021 decided not to seek reelection. "We have no interest in any diversity of opinion.' And that's a tough message to send to people you are obligated to work with."

Two days after the May primary runoffs, TPPF hosted another celebratory event at its Austin headquarters.

Corey DeAngelis, a senior fellow with the national voucher advocacy group American Federation for Children, whose PAC had spent more than \$7 million in the state as of June, declared Texas the "crown jewel" of the national voucher movement. He predicted even Democratic-led states would follow its

'We gotta get Texas," said DeAngelis, who

ponents argue that vouchers siphon tax dol- tive mailers and an aggressive in-house me- school libraries and that public schools held try."

Legal Notices

Estsate of Larry Alton Barry

Legal Notices

THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY and address of the attorney for applicant, or PUBLICATION TO ALL PERSONS inter- the address of applicant is: GARY W. COKested in the estate of LARRY A. BARRY aka ER, P.O. BOX 4915, BEAMOUNT, TEXAS LARRY ALTON BARRY, Deceased. KATHY 77704. Issued this the 20th day of June, A. BARRY has filed in the County Court of Ty- D., 2024. The officer executing this Citation ler County, an Application for Letters of In- shall post the copy of this citation at the dependent Administration upon the estate Courthouse door of this County in which of LARRY A. BARRY aka LARRY ALTON this proceeding is pending, or at the place in BARRY, Deceased. The file number of such or near said Courthouse where public notices application and the Probate Docket Number customarily are posted, for not less than 10 being PR-10018. The style of the case begun days before the return day thereof, exclusive by said application being: Estate of LARRY of the date of posting and return the original A. BARRY aka LARRY ALTON BARRY, De- copy of this Citation to the clerk stating in ceased. All persons interested in said estate a written return thereon the time and place ARE CITED TO APPEAR in the County where he posted such copy. Given under my Court of Tyler County, Texas, in the Court- hand and the seal of said Court, at office in house thereof, at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. Woodville, Texas this the 20th day of June, on the first Monday after service is perfected A. D., 2024. DONECE GREGORY County by the completion of such posting, which Court of Tyler County, Texas By: /s/ Janet will be the IST day of July, 2024, to contest Brown, Deputy, 116 South Charlton, Woodsaid application, if they should desire to do ville, Texas 75979. so, by filing opposition in writing. The name

Harris County notice

INTERVENE WITH INJUNCTION: NO- MARICELLA ANA BENAVENTE located TICE OF DEFAULT. DE NOVO DYMAN- in (Harris County) Republic of Texas of the TE EXPRESS TRUST Beneficial Owner, 1st United States of America. Case Number: lien holder of MARI CATALYNA DE LA 0220220421. Documents are viewable at: REIGN & BENAVENTE, MARICELLA; https://bit.ly/3XgUkGb.

NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION TO BENAVENTE, MARICELLA ANA DBA

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Seeking unknown heirs of Chrystal Perkins

LICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS TO: The Perkins as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Unknown Heirs at law, if any, of Chrystal Per- Original Petition on file in this suit. The ofkins, Greeting: YOU (AND EACH OF YOU) ficer executing this writ shall promptly serve ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear the same according to requirements of law, before the District Court of Tyler County at and the mandates thereof, and make due rethe Courthouse being located at 100 West turn as the law directs. 2024. Witness, Pamela Bluff, in the City of Woodville, Tyler County, Reneé Crews, Clerk of the District Court of Texas, by filing a written answer at or before Tyler County, Texas. Issued and given under 10 o'clock A.M. of the first Monday next after my hand and the seal of said court at office the expiration of forty-two days from the date this the 16th day of May, A.D. Pamela Reneé of the issuance of this citation, the date for an- Crews, Clerk District Court, Tyler County, swer being the 27th day of June, A.D. 2024, to Texas By Katehower Deputy Katelyn Bowen, Plaintiff's Petition filed in said court, on the 100 West Bluff, Room 203 Woodville, Texas 15th day of March, A.D. 2024, in this cause 75979. NOTICE "You have been sued. You numbered 27,226 on the docket of said court may employ an attorney. If you or your atand styled. "In addition to filing a written an- torney do not file a written answer with the swer with the clerk, you may be required to clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. make initial disclosures to the other parties of on the Monday next following the expiration this suit. These disclosures generally must be of forty-two days after the date of issuance of made no later than 30 days after you file your this citation and petition, a default judgment answer with the clerk. Find out more at Texas may be taken against you. In addition to fil-LawHelp.org." GLOBE LIFE AND ACCI- ing a written answer with the clerk, you may DENT INSURANCE COMPANY, Plaintiff v. be required to make initial disclosures to the MATTHEW C. DENT, UNKNOWN HEIRS other parties of this suit. These disclosures OF CHRYSTAL PERKINS, CRYSTAL PER- generally must be made no later than 30 days KINS, AND THE OFFICE OF THE ATTOR- after you file your answer with the clerk. Find NEY GENERAL OF TEXAS, CHILD SUP- out more at Texas LawHelp.org." Attorney PORT DIVISION, Defendant(s) TE A brief for Plaintiff Bill E. Davidoff, 901 Main Street, statement of the nature of this suit is as fol- Suite 3400 Dallas, TX 75202-3796.

ORIGINAL RETURN CITATION BY PUB- lows, to-wit: The Unknown Heirs of Chrystal

Water System notice: Windmill Trailer Park

Notice to Tenants Regarding Water Notice to days at Windmill Mobile Home Estates post review for the year 2023 for a period of 30 call 409.200.1970.

Windmill Mobile Home Tenants regarding office boxes, Hwy 69 N, Colmesneil, Texas Water System: All results from Texas Water begining on June 11, 2024. A copy will be Commission will be available for tenants to provided to anyone who requests it. Please

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

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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)

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Announcements

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Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-855-808-4152 today!

EVENTS

Bluegrass on Ballard -Wylie, TX, Sat. June 29. Arts & Crafts, Car Show, Music, Food & Fun in Historic Downtown Wylie on Ballard Ave. For more info or to pre-register for car show, visit DiscoverWylie.com.

ICA's 50th Annual Convention & Trade Show, July 1-3, San Marcos, TX. Cattle producers don't want to miss this! Top industry speakers, BQA certification, 4-5 CEU credits for pesticide applicator license, live cattle handling, 50+ vendors, golf tournament, and more. 512-620-0162, ICATexas.com

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Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-855-704-8579 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

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open on a regular schedule, but if you are in need of a coat for your child, you can contact FBC Office at 409-283-2588 and leave a phone number where you can be reached. Someone will then contact you and arrange to meet you at the House of Hope to help you get a coat. (4-3t-nc-TCB)

HARD WORKING TYLER COUNTY WOMAN, Landscaping, fence line clearing, painting, clean out flower beds, ant outdoor jobs. Christal-409-224-5293. (22-tfn-p-TCB)

Employment/Medical



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

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

Cleaning Services



needed at Lone Star Charlie's, 4591 US Hwy 59 S, Livingston. 936-365-3017. (26-1t-b-PCE)

-Admissions Clerk 7-7a FT | -Admissions Clerk 7-7p FT

Radiology Technician FT | -RN ED, Nights FT



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Thursday, June 27, 2024 | **TYLER COUNTY BOOSTER** Page 7B

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Tyler County plus Polk | San Jacinto | Trinity counties

Employment

DAVID NORTON TIRE CENTER, WANT TO purchase 2-bedroom person, 1116 S. Magnolia. (46-tfn-b-TCB)

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)

LOOKING FOR a manager for a world-famous restaurant - The Tyler County Heritage Society is looking for the right person to run our world-famous Pickett House restaurant, a mainstay of the Woodville community and a hot spot for tourists since 1965. The right person must have prior experience in restaurant management; current food manager certification within the State of Texas and the ability to super- 1-BEDROOM HOME available vise a diverse staff of kitchen for rent in Leggett, DIRECTV/ workers and wait-staff. Ideally, water/trash pick-up included the candidate will also be a great "people" person with enthusiasm about the restaurant and with new ideas to help market our brand further. For a list of job require-ments and an application, please email president@ heritage-village.org or call 409-(26-4t-b-TCB) 381-1151.

Now Hiring!

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

Apply at www.

burgerworkshr.com (1-tfn-b-PCE)

For Sale

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

Want to Buy

SSIFIEDS

Woodville, TX is accepting appli- mobile-home in good condition cations for a mechanic. Apply in to be moved. Call (936)646-2628.

(24-2t-cc-PCE)

Business Property

OFFICE/RETAIL for lease- Includes all utilities, WiFi & business sign. Good location, good traffic. 111 Hwy 59 S Loop (behind McDonalds) (936)328-9358

(22-tfn-cc-PCE)

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)

Rentals

3-BEDROOM 2-BATH mobile home on 5-acres, available July 1st. Very wooded and private, \$950/month, area, Soda (936)714-4839. (25-tfn-cc-PCE)

\$600/month plus deposit Call (832)277-3737. (49-tfn-cc-PCE)

FULLY FURNISHED Room for rent. All bills paid, \$450/month. Located in Ivanhoe (near Woodville), washer/dryer included. Call or text 409-655-1691. (24-4t-cc-TCB)

HOMES FOR rent and ready for move in! One-three bedrooms one-two bath \$700 to \$1600 a month. Call 281-914-3810. (26-4t-cc-PCE)

Colmesneil. Washer, Dryer, Fridge, and Stove. All electric, \$950.00/month, plus deposit. 936-707-1258. (25-2t-p-TCB)

EXECUTIVE HOME WATER VIEW Lake Livingston, 2/2/2 handicap friendly, fenced yard. Includes all appliances and can include washer/dryer, storage building, yard maintenance, pets accepted, water paid. References required, \$1,429/month, (281)798-8638. (14-tfn-cc-PCE)

2-BEDROOM 1-BATH with lake FOR SALE Set of 4 20" rims and view in Indian Hills, Livingston, large vard, \$845/month, For info



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roof, 27th St\$86,500
MOVE-IN READY, Brick, 21, Lg sunroom, CH/A, Woodburning fireplace, double pane windows, all appli-
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3 LOT PACKAGE FOR CAMPING, approx57 acre, cleared, water, electric, Katherine Dr\$35,000
WOODED 3.45 acre Ranchette, Sir Henry\$40,000
WATERVIEW LOT, approx. 35 acre homes only, Galahad Lp\$18,000
CAMP, Mobile home or build, approx. 18 acre, watertap, 14th StSOLD \$7,500
CAMPER, mobile home or build, approx. 18 acre, electric, watertap, cleared, Emily Ln PENDING \$12,000
SKI LAKE WATER FRONT, Landscaped, homes only, Charmaine S

THANK YOU, TYLER COUNTY FOR VOTING



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---- LAND & ACREAGE ---

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access to elect., potential homesite, lv.crk.\$6,490/Ac 19+/- AC: Nice **PENDING** terrain for building site, end of private rd, access to electricity **\$6,900/Ac** 17+/- AC: Outside of Woodville, fronts two roads, 3+ AC: Bld site, Col S O L D n.Deason Cr. \$26,900 3+/- AC: Open, real S O L D near Warren. \$49,500 LOTS: Woodville lots ready-to-build, off 69.\$24,900 LOTS: .50 wood ac. on US 69N, elecricity .\$14,500 LOT: 411 W. Wheat St, Wdvile, lot in town.....\$5,000 -- COMMERCIAL ---18.96 AC: Woodvil S O L D on US 695..\$495,000 INDUSTRIAL: 20 S O L D build., ofice.\$999,000 KIRBYVILLE: Com property downtown..\$384,560 IN TOWN: 3/2 Cor S O L D 995,W.Bluff; \$199,500

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