

# SAN JACINTO NEWS-TIMES

  
 easttexasnews.com

VOLUME 155 NUMBER 2 ©2025 USPS NO. 480-080 \$1 e-edition available at easttexasnews.com JANUARY 8, 2026

## County refills ESD panels

By Tony Farkas  
news@sanjacnews.com

**COLDSRING** — The last meeting of the San Jacinto County Commissioners Court in 2025 saw the acceptance of nominees for the two emergency service districts.

At the Dec. 22 meeting, County Judge Fritz Faulkner said that traditionally, there's five members on the boards, and each of the commissioners designates a nominee. For this time, members for Precincts 1 and 3 were nominated in each district.

In ESD 1, Roger Samoff was nominated by Precinct 1 Commissioner Luke Sweeney, and Carson Combs was nominated by Precinct 3 Commissioner Crystal Dominy. Both were approved unanimously.

In ESD 2, Lisa Hayman was nominated for Precinct 1, and Mickey Culpepper for Precinct 3. Both nominations also were approved.

In other business, commissioners:

- approved a contract with Polk County to house prisoners at \$65 per day;
- approved professional services agreements with Stanton Marsh Appraisers for \$600 per appraisal for work connected with grant funds;
- approved a plat revision in the Rolling Hills subdivision;
- gave its annual approval on a contract with WorkForce Solutions of Texas for work-based learning;
- approved renewal of surety bond for County Auditor Margie Ainsworth;
- approved the purchase of an electronic record-keeping system for the jail nurse;
- approved the purchase of two patrol vehicles;
- approved a request for the video magistrate system;
- took no action on the purchase of a jail transport van; and
- approved the purchase of a mobile workstation for \$808 for the detective squad.



## Join Texas Master Naturalist and be a force of nature

Special to the News-Times

Registration is now open for the Spring 2026 class of Piney Woods Lakes Texas Master Naturalists beginning Feb. 4.

Interested nature enthusiasts from Polk, San Jacinto, Trinity and Tyler counties will take part in 10 weeks of virtual and classroom training delivered by Master Naturalists and specialists from universities, Texas Parks and Wildlife, TAMU AgriLife and regional nature centers.

As a Master Naturalist, you will work with adults and schools as an advocate of land stewardship, explaining the benefits of native plantings and conservation management for home, ranch and farm properties. While most training will be in a classroom, trainees will also visit Big Thicket National Preserve, Watson Rare Native Plant Preserve and Trinity River Authority-Lake Livingston Dam for classes.

No special knowledge is required and there will be no tests. A "Meet & Greet" will connect you with members of PWLTMN to talk about the training process, why becoming a Master Naturalist is so beneficial, and how they will help.

Certification requires 40 hours of training and 40 hours of chapter and community service within one year of beginning training.



Registration is now open for the Spring 2026 class of Piney Woods Lakes Texas Master Naturalists beginning Feb. 4. The 2025 trainees filled the flower beds in front of the Livingston Municipal Library with Texas Native pollinator plants as a class project. COURTESY PHOTO

Topics covered include field interpretation, natural resource conservation, eco-regions in Texas, pollinators, bird and wildlife identification, and a lot of "ologies" – geology (land for-

mation), ornithology (birds), entomology (insects), ichthyology (fish), herpetology (snakes), mammalogy (critters), wetland ecology and other areas.

Each trainee must also complete the annual requirement for eight hours of advanced training in an area of personal interest. Various presentations offered at bi-monthly chapter meetings typically fulfill this requirement.

The class fee of \$150 for individuals covers a comprehensive state curriculum book, first year chapter annual dues of \$25, temporary and permanent name badge, fees for speakers and facilities, and the required Texas Parks and Wildlife background check. Couples registering together can share the book and pay only \$250.

Most classes will be held Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., beginning Feb. 4 and ending May 13 with a spring break March 30-April 3. Two Saturday classes will be held to accommodate instructors from Sam Houston State University. Class locations include Texas State University System Polk County Center in Livingston and field trips. Most classes will be available via recording if you miss one.

For more information email PWLTMN-Training@gmail.com. Download the membership application at training@pineywoodlakes.com.

## Property tax information now available for Texas taxpayers

Special to the News-Times

New and updated property tax information has just been compiled and is available to assist taxpayers. This property tax information is current and covers a wide range of topics, such as taxpayer remedies, exemptions and appraisals, and has information for select groups, such as disabled veterans and persons age 65 or older.

Whether you are a homeowner, business owner, disabled veteran or taxpayer, it's important you know your rights concerning property tax laws. You can contact us about any property tax issues with full confidence that we will provide the most complete, accurate and up-to-date information available to assist you.

This includes information about the following programs:

### Homestead Exemption

Persons who own and occupy their residence during 2025, may claim their home as a residential homestead. A homestead is generally defined as the home and land used as the owner's principal residence on Jan. 1 of the tax year. A person who acquires property after Jan. 1 may receive the residence homestead exemption for the applicable portion of that tax year immediately on qualification for the exemption if the preceding owner did not receive the same exemption for that tax year. A homestead exemption reduces the home's appraised value and, as a result, lowers property taxes. Applications are submitted to the appropriate local appraisal district.

### Residence Homestead Tax Deferral

Texas homeowners may postpone paying the currently delinquent property taxes due on the appreciating value of

See TAX → Page 2A



## Tree disposal done right

Special to the News-Times

As the holidays wrap up, it's time to safely and responsibly take care of the Christmas tree.

Live and artificial trees can be tossed, but there are some things to consider:

- Please do not dump trees in roadways, ditches, creeks, or wooded areas. Improper disposal can create safety hazards, block drainage, and increase fire risks once trees dry out.
- Before discarding a live Christmas tree, remove all decorations, lights, tinsel, nails, and the tree stand. Live trees can be recycled through local collection sites, curbside pickup where available, or approved recycling programs.

A local sheriff offers these helpful tips:

- Many landowners and anglers actively look for used live Christmas trees to place in farm ponds. These trees create excellent fish habitat by providing cover for baitfish and improving pond structure. If you're on Facebook, consider checking local community pages where people often post requests for live trees specifically for pond use. Always make sure the tree

See TREE → Page 3A

## DPS highlights Human Trafficking Prevention Month

Special to the News-Times

**AUSTIN** — Throughout January, the Texas Department of Public Safety is reminding Texans to be vigilant and educate themselves about the dangers of human trafficking as part of Human Trafficking Prevention Month.


"Protecting vulnerable Texans starts with all of us paying attention and speaking up when something doesn't feel right," said Criminal Investigations Division Chief Floyd Goodwin. "It is always better to report a concern and have it turn out to be nothing than to stay silent and miss a critical chance to intervene. When Texans trust their instincts and share what they see, they help save lives and stop traffickers in their tracks."

Human trafficking is the use of force, fraud or coercion in any type of labor exploitation or commercial sex act — or when an individual under the age of 18 is involved in commercial sex. It can happen to anyone, anywhere and it occurs in every state, every day and often goes unnoticed by communities.

DPS is charged with the overall direction of the state's human trafficking enforcement efforts. Through its Human Trafficking Program, Special Agents within the department's Criminal Investigations Division work with local, state and federal agencies in Texas and other states to identify, investigate, disrupt and/or dismantle major human trafficking organizations.

DPS Special Agents focus efforts to combat human trafficking by utilizing a victim-centered approach, which places equal importance and value on the identification, recovery, safety and stabilization of victims in addition to



See DPS → Page 3A

<b>6320 Hwy 59 South</b> <b>Shepherd, TX</b> <b>(936) 628-3347</b>	 <b>FIRST STATE BANK</b> <a href="http://www.fsbllivingston.bank">www.fsbllivingston.bank</a>	<b>112 West Polk</b> <b>Livingston, TX</b> <b>(936) 327-5211</b>	<b>2300 Hwy 190 West</b> <b>Livingston, TX</b> <b>(936) 327-5211</b>
--	--	--	--

**SERVING COLDSRING, LAKE LIVINGSTON,**

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY & ALL SURROUNDING AREAS**

**936-653-4907** [www.BearACandHeating.com](http://www.BearACandHeating.com)

 8 10499 02209 0	<b>INDEX</b> Senior Menus ..... <b>3A</b> Crossword ..... <b>1B</b> Church Directory ..... <b>5A</b> Sports ..... <b>1B</b> Public Notices ..... <b>4B</b> Classifieds ..... <b>6B</b>	<b>LAKE LIVINGSTON DATA AS OF JAN 5</b> Current level ..... 130.78 ft Normal level ..... 131.00 ft Discharge ..... 1795 cfs Weekly rainfall total ..... 0.00 in  <b>TRINITY RIVER DATA AS OF JAN 5</b> Gauge Stage ..... 4.81 ft Category ..... Normal Weekly rainfall ..... 0.00 in	 <b>TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION</b> BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST <b>AWARD WINNER</b> 2024
--	--	---	--



Alan looks at the cake Linda made for his birthday. The beautiful table runners decorated table were made by Johnne Engelman. COURTESY PHOTOS



A happy crowd at the New Year's family restaurant lunch, free to everyone.



Hummingbird eggs are so tiny.

## Ring in the new year with a free lunch

New Year's Day was celebrated at the Family Restaurant in Shepherd with free lunches for anyone who came. There were volunteers to help serve the food which offered everything from chicken and turkey, pork chops, ham with black eyed peas, greens, rolls etc. Desserts were scrumptious.

Many came and ate there while some took theirs home. Thank you, Walterine and Carla, for your generosity and your helpers who were so ready to serve.

• Coldspring Garden Club met on Dec. 2, 2025, with a wonderful program by Phyllis Campbell about hummingbirds and how to attract and feed them. Her slide show was spectacular with many useful tips.

Cleaning the bird feeder is essential, especially in hot weather since mold kills them. You can make your own nectar, which is sugar and water mixed (red dye is harmful to them). Phyllis has a website and also gives presentations on bluebirds. Look for Bluebird Blessings on Facebook.

• On Friday, Coldspring Senior Center held a New Year's party after the excellent meal. The tables were decorated with beautiful table runners made by Johnne Engelman with her flowers and vases adding a final touch. It was Alan Graves' birthday, so Linda Almaguer made a very large upside down pineapple cake which was shared with others and was delicious.

Charline Smith, the Center's Administrator, announced the Valentine's Day Dinner Dance will be on Saturday, Feb. 14, from 6-10 p.m. Tickets are \$20. Call to reserve your table at (936) 653-4175.

Also at the party was Melaney Strickland of Olive Branch Hospice. Melaney is the Volunteer Coordinator for the Hospice so if you want to be a volunteer, make a difference in someone's life, call her at (281) 659-6239. Email her at mstrickland@htohh.com.

## Did You Know

By Yvonne Cones



Melaney set up a table with delicious treats, fruit, cheese, sweets and fruit punch. This was her way of informing the gathering of her work at the Hospice and everyone enjoyed her goodies and the backdrop for photos opportunities.

• Last week I mentioned Business of the Month had gone to Will Hall Towing of Shepherd. Here is more information on this Shepherd Chamber of Commerce member. Located at 2800 S. Byrd, Will Hall runs his business with his son. They do more than towing, having a very large vehicle scrap yard. Will has more than 200 reviews on Google with 5 stars and has been voted 'Best of'

for the last 3 years. Call (832) 398-1647.

• The Reagan-Trump Dinner will be on Jan. 31 at the Coldspring Shelter. Go to the Facebook page or website for information. Meet the Candidates will be on Jan. 13 at the same location, tickets on sale now.

• The San Jacinto County Historical Commission will sponsor the Fish Friday lunch at the Coldspring Senior Center. Dale Everitt, longtime board member, sent this short piece of history to me:

"On Dec. 29, 1845, 180 years ago, the Republic of Texas granted admission to the United States of America to become part of Texas. The United States added the Texas star to their flag, and it was designated as the 28th star American Flag.

"It was to last only 1 year before another state was added. The only President to serve under this flag was James Polk (1845-1849).

"A replica of the 28 Star American Flag is on display in the Rotunda of the San Jacinto County Courthouse."

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

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



Melaney Strickland with her table of delightful treats at Coldspring Senior Center.



Phyllis Campbell at the Coldspring Garden Club meeting.

## TAX

Continued from page 1A

their homes by filing a tax deferral affidavit at their local appraisal district. This tax relief allows homeowners to pay the property taxes on 105 percent of the preceding year's appraised value of their homestead, plus the taxes on any new improvements to the homestead. The deferral postpones the remaining taxes, with interest accruing at 8 percent per year but does not cancel them.

### Disabled Persons

Persons who are disabled under Social Security law are entitled to additional exemptions on their residential homestead. Disabled applicants must apply with the appraisal district and furnish a determination letter from Social Security. Disabled persons now receive all benefits on their home that are available to persons who are over 65 years of age (see next paragraph).

### Property Tax Deferral for Persons Over 65 Years or Older or Disabled or Disabled Veteran Homeowners

Texans who are age 65 or older or disabled, as defined by law, or who qualify for a disabled veteran exemption may postpone paying current and delinquent property taxes on their homes by signing a tax deferral affidavit. Once the affidavit is on file, taxes are deferred, but not cancelled, as long as the owner continues to own and live in

the home. Interest continues to accrue at 5 percent per year on the unpaid taxes. You may obtain a deferral affidavit at the appraisal district.

### Property Tax Exemptions for Disabled Veterans

The law provides partial exemptions for any property owned by disabled veterans or surviving spouses and surviving children of deceased disabled veterans. Another partial exemption is for homesteads donated to disabled veterans by charitable organizations at no cost or not more than 50 percent of the good faith estimate of the homestead's market value to disabled veterans and their surviving spouses. The exemption amount is determined according to percentage of service-connected disability. The law also provides a 100 percent homestead exemption for 100 percent disabled veterans and their surviving spouses and surviving spouses of U.S. armed service members killed or fatally injured in the line of duty.

### Productivity Appraisal

Property owners who use land for timberland production, agricultural purposes or wildlife management can be granted property tax relief on their land. They may apply to their local appraisal district for an agricultural special appraisal which may result in a lower appraisal of the land based on production, versus market value. Productivity value appraisal provides tax relief on their land and is available to farms and ranches commercially raising crops or livestock

or used as a wildlife habitat granted under State guidelines. An application for agricultural use value and additional information is available from your appraisal district. Refiling an application is only necessary if requested to do so by the Chief Appraiser.

### Rendering Taxable Property (Business Personal Property Owners)

If a business owns tangible personal property that is used to produce income, the business must file a rendition with its local appraisal district by a specified date. Personal property includes inventory and equipment used by a business. Owners do not have to render exempt property such as church property or an agriculture producer's equipment used for farming. Personal property includes inventory and equipment used by a business. Failure to file the rendition by the specified date will result in a 10% penalty. If a fraudulent rendition is filed, a 50% penalty is mandated. A rendition can be obtained from the appraisal district office where the property is located. A 30-day filing extension is available by written request. Owners do not render exempt property such as church property or farming equipment. A new law on January 1, 2026, exempts up to \$125,000 of business personal property. A rendition is required in 2026 to receive this exemption but will not be required in future years if the total personal property value does not exceed \$125,000.

### Property Tax Exemptions

Non-profit organizations that meet statutory requirements may seek property tax exemptions and must apply to their local county appraisal district by a specific date. Child-care facilities; medical or biomedical property; businesses that receive tax abatements granted by taxing units; ship inventory out of Texas that may be eligible for the freeport exemption; store certain goods in transit in warehouses that are moved within 175 days; construct, install or acquire pollution control property; own and operate energy storage systems; convert landfill-generated gas; or store offshore drilling equipment while not in

use may also be eligible for statutory exemptions.

### Appraisal Notices

Normally, taxpayers receive a notice of appraised value from the appropriate local appraisal district. The city, county, school districts and other local taxing units use the appraisal district's value to set property taxes for the coming year.

### Taxpayer Assistance Pamphlet

This Comptroller publication explains in detail the functions of a taxpayer liaison officer, how to protest a property appraisal, what issues the county appraisal review board (ARB) can consider and what to expect during a protest hearing. The publication also discusses the option to request limited binding arbitration to compel the ARB or chief appraiser to comply with a procedural requirement and the options of taking a taxpayer's case to district court, the State Office of Administrative Hearings or regular binding arbitration if the taxpayer is dissatisfied with the outcome of the ARB hearing.

### Protesting Property Appraisal Values

Property owners who disagree with the appraisal district's appraisal of their property for local taxes or for any other action that adversely affects them may protest their property value to their local appraisal district's ARB.

### Informal Meetings

Property owners can request an informal meeting with appraisal district staff to try and resolve their disputes prior to attending ARB hearings.

For more information you may contact:

San Jacinto County Appraisal District  
P.O. Box 1170  
Coldspring, TX 77331

(936) 653-1450

www.sjcad.org

sjcad@sjcad.org

•Property Tax Assistance Division Information Services, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts [comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax/](http://comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax/)

## Collision Repair

Let us make your vehicle look new again.

Paint & Body | Tune-Ups | Interior | Brakes | Oil Changes

Alignments | Diesel

Vehicle Detailing

936-380-5584

M-F 8am-5pm

Sat 8am-10pm only

1155 TX-150 | Coldspring

## DING DONG

## THE ROACH IS DEAD

BROKEN ARROW PEST CONTROL, LLC

Pests | Termites | Lawn

Since 1976 936-646-3600

### POLITICAL CALENDAR

258th District Judge

Travis Kitchens (R)

Rob Freyer (R)

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

### SAN JACINTO COUNTY WEATHER FORECAST

Information sourced from weather.com

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
AM Showers <b>77°/65°</b> Chance of Rain 34% Wind S 13mph	Scattered Thunderstorms <b>73°/47°</b> Chance of Rain 55% Wind SW 10mph	Mostly Cloudy <b>58°/41°</b> Chance of Rain 8% Wind NNW 11mph	Partly Cloudy <b>55°/32°</b> Chance of Rain 2% Wind N 8mph	Partly Cloudy <b>56°/35°</b> Chance of Rain 3% Wind NNW 3mph	Partly Cloudy <b>59°/36°</b> Chance of Rain 24% Wind NW 5mph	Partly Cloudy <b>63°/38°</b> Chance of Rain 11% Wind NW 5mph

### Forecast Fire Danger

twc.tamu.edu

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

## SENIOR MENUS

Jan. 12-16

### Menus Subject to Change

• **Senior Citizens of San Jacinto County** | (936) 653-4175

Call by 10:30 a.m. to reserve a meal. Monday, Wednesday, Friday is Texercise. Tuesday is line dancing. Thursday is bingo. Friday is karaoke.

**MONDAY:** Spaghetti, Italian green beans, Caesar salad, garlic rolls.

**TUESDAY:** Chicken-fried chicken and gravy, ranch potatoes, broccoli, rolls.

**WEDNESDAY:** Taco soup, fiesta salad, cheesy cornbread.

**THURSDAY:** Country-fried steak, scalloped potatoes, squash and zucchini casserole, rolls.

**FRIDAY:** Fish Friday, potato casserole, coleslaw, hush puppies.

• **Shepherd Senior Citizens Center** | (936) 628-3733

Second Tuesday of each month includes birthday cake for dessert.

Bingo is every Wednesday. Craft Days are every Thursday. Bag Days are Jan. 2, 16 and 30.

**MONDAY:** White chicken enchiladas, charro beans, Spanish rice, sopapilla cheese-cake.

**TUESDAY:** Lasagna, carrot and raisin salad, garlic bread, birthday cake.

**WEDNESDAY:** Taco soup, tortilla chips, fried okra, ice cream.

**THURSDAY:** Sausage and fried potatoes, pinto beans, cornbread, fresh fruit.

**FRIDAY:** Barbecue chicken, baked potato salad, baked beans, cobbler.

## TREE

Continued from page 1A

is completely clean and coordinate directly with the person collecting it.

• Artificial trees should be disposed of according to normal household trash guidelines.

### Lessening fire risks

According to the National Fire Protection Association, if you're struggling to part ways with your Christmas tree, consider this: More than one-third (35 percent) of U.S. home fires involving Christmas trees occur in January.

With this post-holiday fire hazard in mind, the NFPA strongly encourages prompt removal of Christmas trees after the holiday season.

"As much as we all enjoy the look and feel of Christmas trees in our homes, they're large combustible items that have the potential to result in serious fires," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA. "The longer they're in the home, the more of a risk they present."

According to NFPA data, Christmas tree fires don't happen often, but when they do occur, they're more likely to be serious. That's in part because fresh Christmas trees dry out over time, making them more flammable the longer they're in the home. A dried-out Christmas tree will burn much more quickly than a well-watered one.

Between 2020 and 2024, there was an esti-

mated annual average of 143 home structure fires that began with Christmas trees, resulting in seven civilian deaths, 13 civilian injuries, and \$15 million in direct property damage.

"Fires that begin with Christmas trees represent a very small but notable part of the U.S. fire problem, considering that they are generally in use for a short time each year," said Carli.

To safely dispose of a Christmas tree, NFPA recommends using the local community's recycling program, if possible; trees should not be put in the garage or left outside. NFPA also offers these tips for safely removing lighting and decorations to ensure that they remain in good condition:

- Use the gripping area on the plug when unplugging electrical decorations. Never pull the cord to unplug any device from an electrical outlet, as this can harm the wire and insulation of the cord, increasing the risk for shock or electrical fire.

- As you pack up light strings, inspect each set for damage. Throw out any that have loose connections, broken sockets or cracked or bare wires.

- Wrap each set of lights and put them in individual plastic bags or wrap them around a piece of cardboard.

- Store electrical decorations away from children and pets, and in a dry place where they will not be damaged by water or dampness.

Another word to the wise: Always check with your county administration for any burn bans that might be in place.

## DPS

Continued from page 1A

the investigation and prosecution of traffickers. From Sept. 1-Aug. 31, 2025, DPS Special Agents recovered 119 human trafficking victims and arrested an additional 690 suspects on human trafficking related charges.

Public awareness is critical to preventing and combating human trafficking, as these operations are often masked as legitimate businesses in obvious areas. Traffickers tend to prey on the vulnerabilities of high-risk populations, like those experiencing homelessness, juvenile runaways, historical or active drug users, individuals with difficult or abusive home lives and individuals with language barriers or a reason to want to avoid law enforcement personnel.

DPS reminds Texans to remain observant of their communities and take note of the following possible indicators of human trafficking:

- A person appears to be under the control of another person either physically (someone else controls the person's possessions i.e., ID, money, phone) or psychologically (little to no eye contact, unable to speak for themselves or unable to make simple decisions without approval).

- A person has little to no awareness of

their surroundings, including where they are or where they are headed.

- A person has an untreated illness or infection, visible injuries, or appears malnourished or sleep-deprived.

- A person's clothing is inappropriate for the weather or environment or is dressed in a manner that does not appear age-appropriate or makes them appear older.

- A person is being transported to and from work by their employer.

- A person lives where they work or works excessively long or unusual hours.

- A person's workplace has security measures that are unusual or excessive for the type of business (i.e., boarded or opaque windows, excessive security cameras).

The presence of an indicator does not confirm the occurrence of human trafficking; however, the combination and context of indicators may indicate human trafficking, pending law enforcement investigation. You are encouraged to report it.

If you see signs of human trafficking, call 911 immediately to report it and be ready to give as many details as possible. You can also make a report on iWatchTexas or call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or text "BeFree" to 233733.

Remember: do not endanger yourself or others by intervening or confronting someone you suspect of engaging in human trafficking.



SATURDAYS ❄️ 7 PM – 10 PM ❄️

# \$150K ❄️

# Winning Winter Wonderland

**It's Snowing FreePlay!**

Twenty lucky winners every Saturday will step up to the Snowflake Punchboard for their chance to claim a share of \$30,000 in FreePlay. And one grand winner will sled away with **\$20,000 in FreePlay!**



**NASKILA**  
CASINO

**THE LUCKIEST SPOT IN TEXAS**

540 State Park Road 56  
Livingston, Texas 77351  
936.563.2WIN  
NASKILA.COM

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



Your potential clients need you to watch their fur babies while they're on vacation.

## LET THEM KNOW YOU'RE AVAILABLE.

For advertising opportunities, call Pam. (936) 628-6851

# OPINION

## When the hired help turns out to be not enough, who should step in?

(Please read this slowly. I'm suffering from my Christmas gift given to me by my daughter — a cold.)

The mainstream media, and even quite a few of the smaller groups in and around Minnesota, were essentially caught flat-footed when a YouTube feller broke a story about billions of dollars fraudulently going to daycare centers in Minneapolis.

While this is the latest, and certainly the most publicized, bit of citizenry "journalism," it's not the first. It certainly begged the question on whether it is necessary, or even right, for people to jump into the fray. And yet ...

A few days ago, my former editor posted his thoughts on a similar subject. A social media quasi-journalist site was in a standoff with the local police department regarding a link to the online scanner frequency for the department and reporting on what was transmitted.

The site pointed out, rightly so, that this was freedom of the press as well as the public-record nature of the scanner frequency. The po-



**TONY FARKAS**  
MY TWO COMMON SENSE

lice claimed, also rightly so, that what was broadcast on the scanner wasn't the story, only part of it, and could paint the department in the wrong way or even put officers' lives in danger.

My friend didn't take a side, but it points to a couple of things that we as a society need to seriously consider. For instance, if you're like me and have spent any time watching videos on social media, you've run across those "gotcha" videos, where regular folks mousetrap potential child predators, all on video and posted on the internet, which everyone knows is forever.

These are a cut above the "caught cheating" reality shows that used to be popular (and mostly staged).

While I absolutely agree that child predators are a subset of society that needs to be erased, I'm not sure that civilians needs to be the

driving force there. What happens when things go sideways? Law enforcement officials have training and equipment to deal with problems, but a regular person armed with a cell phone could be walking into serious danger. Then there are proper procedures that need to be followed in order for an investigation to end with a conviction, which regular folks aren't bound to follow.

The other side of that coin, though, is that in general, resources available to most police departments makes it impossible to investigate every complaint, causing frustration on the part of parents and concerned adults. Many of us feel that if the authorities, or the media, do their jobs properly, then these approaches wouldn't be necessary.

For me, the underlying issues in all of this is consequence. The consequences of a legal system unwilling or unable to perform all of its duties is more and more bad behavior; the consequences of a press corps not operating in good faith to

seek the full truth is an ignorant society, ready to hare off and pursue its ends without the benefit of all the facts; the consequences of a society recklessly attempting to right wrongs where others fear to tread, all of which leaves us incorrectly believing that any response to a problem is the correct response.

It's not. But each of these areas, with a little trust and a lot more effort, can together become the answer to the ails of society. Truthful reporting can highlight a problem, society can come together to form a solution, and the proper authorities can perform their functions with the full backing of everyone except the criminals. When things are done right — from the start — the results will be right.

Vigilante justice, outlaw media and unsupported authorities lead to anarchy. We know how to work together, we just have to do it.

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

## Who's watching the most evil of content creators?

The latest thing I've fallen into on the universal rabbit hole that is YouTube is the series "Predator Poachers." For those unfamiliar with it, the concept is as follows: a Houston-based independent journalist "Gordon Flowers," a.k.a. Alex Rosen poses as a child, usually aged 11-13 to catfish online predators.

When Flowers meets up with the predators he has snared online, he gets them to admit to their crimes, on camera, in a stunning show of interrogation, with each segment utilizing some of the best reverse psychology and bro-down tactics you'll likely ever see, and typically, it always ends in an arrest.

The series has become a cult hit online, somewhat due to some of the gimmicks Flowers employs (e.g. consistent, friendly phrases to build the confidence of those whom he is interrogating and the use of his own slang, such as "fried pickles" to indicate when law enforcement is needed to be called upon). It's kind of a low-rent, online-only version of the long-running "To Catch a Predator" television series, and there's quite a few others out there, like Flowers, who also bait these fiends, yet "Predator Poachers" appears to be the most popular of this type of show online.

It is a mixed bag of rewarding and cringe to see these monsters apprehended. A lot of the cringe factor comes from hearing them describe the sorts of things they are into, but in watching several of the segments,



**CHRIS EDWARDS**  
MEDITATIONS 'N MUSINGS

a disturbing trend took hold in my mind. While it is a great thing that law enforcement takes these incidents seriously, and Flowers' efforts are appreciated, something really stuck out to me. I'd say a good 90% of the predators that Flowers interrogates claim they have been a victim of an online scam, initially, and once they warm up to him, they cop to downloading and possessing voluminous amounts of child pornography. Many times, these creeps even cop to possessing videos and/or photographs of infants. Unreal.

I thought to myself after several flimsy excuses given by Flowers' prey, that, alright, I've been online in some form or fashion since 1996, when I first ventured onto the old world wide waste of time (as we used to call it, before internet connectivity took over our lives) to research something for a school project. Since then, I have always had an email address and used the internet for a variety of things. Never once, in nearly 30 years, however, has anyone ever offered me child pornography, nor have I ever accidentally stumbled upon it.

This really got me to thinking, because I have seen all manner of odd things online: someone, somewhere is obviously creating these images

and videos, and it really is one of the most grievous crimes that our society can confront, but, I asked myself, where are the efforts of law enforcement, especially at the federal level, in combatting this?

Those who have a predilection for children and acquire such images need to be taken off the streets, to be sure, and citizens devoted to that cause such as Gordon Flowers, are able to catch them in the act, but what about the creators of such evil? A basic Google search to inquire what law enforcement agencies are focused on taking down child porn creators, as well as another inquiry to see what kind of funding was allocated to that particular task, essentially produced nothing but result after result chronicling the take downs of those who possessed child porn. It was about 65 results down the list that a page on the Department of Justice's website had any information germane to my thought process.

Child pornography permanently harms the most vulnerable among us, and for that alone, there needs to be more law enforcement focus on identifying, investigating and prosecuting the monsters who create this material.

From what I imagine, and this is backed up by what little I could find on the topic, those who produce child porn usually operate within complex networks that utilize top-tier technology to evade detection. I get it that encryption, anonymous

platforms and international distribution can make these crimes difficult for investigators, but with so much money going into law enforcement at the federal level, one would think that this sort of thing would be more of a priority.

If child porn producers are caught and prosecuted effectively, it would send a clear-cut message that such crimes will be pursued, and reduce the likelihood of copycats, or "competition" in that evil underworld, with such monsters thinking they can act with impunity behind the shadows of the internet.

Budgets reflect values and moral priorities and investing in efforts to utilize technology and the long arm of the law to take down producers of child porn, would show society that a difference is being made, and actual criminals are being pursued. Also, the victims of these horrible crimes, as well as their families, need to know that the system is working on their behalf.

Protecting children, dismantling abusive networks and preventing irreversible harm should be among the top priorities of our law enforcers — from the federal levels to state prosecutors all the way down to the local beat cops.

*Chris Edwards is editor of the Tyler County Booster, a sister newspaper in the Polk County Publishing Group. He can be reached at cedwards@polkcountypublishing.com.*

### CONTACT LIST

ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS REPRESENTING SAN JACINTO COUNTY

#### U.S. Representative

**MORGAN LUTTRELL (R)**  
Washington DC Office  
1320 Longworth House  
Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
202-225-4901

Magnolia District Office  
18230 FM 1488  
Magnolia, TX 77354

#### State Senator

**DR. CHARLES SCHWERTNER (R)**  
P.O. Box 12068  
Capitol Station  
Austin, TX 78711  
512-463-0105

#### State Representative

**JANIS HOLT**  
Capitol Address:  
Room E1.416  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, TX 78768  
512-463-0570  
District Address:  
1023 N. Main St Suite 103  
Liberty, TX 77575

#### State Board of Education

**DR. AUDREY YOUNG**  
PO BOX 2683  
Trinity, Texas 75862  
936-662-4264  
audrey.young@tea.texas.gov

#### County Judge

**FRITZ FAULKNER**  
San Jacinto  
County Courthouse  
1 State Hwy. 150  
Coldspring Tx., 77331  
936-653-2199  
countyjudge@  
co.san-jacinto.tx.us  
www.co.san-jacinto.tx.us.com

#### Sheriff

**SAM HOUSTON**  
75 W. Cedar Avenue,  
Coldspring, Tx., 77331  
936-653-4367

#### Constables

**RAE LYNN PHILLIPS**  
Precinct 1 Constable  
111 State Hwy. 150,  
Room A3  
Coldspring, Texas 77331  
936-653-5614

#### RAY ATCHLEY

Precinct 2 Constable  
11020 Hwy 150  
Shepherd, TX 77371  
(936) 628-1439  
ray.atchley@san-jac.us

#### KEVIN FREED

Precinct 3 Constable  
Animal Control Officer  
6311 FM 945 S.  
Cleveland, Texas 77328  
281-592-0919

#### BRIAN A. COSME

Precinct 4 Constable  
227 Boat Launch Rd.  
Point Blank, Texas 77364  
(936) 377-5412  
bcosme@san-jac.us

#### Commissioners

**LUKE SWEENEY PT. 1**  
PO Box 997,  
Coldspring Tx., 77331  
936-653-5045

**DONNY MARRS, PT. 2**  
PO Box 203,  
Coldspring Tx., 77331  
936-653-3267

**CRYSTAL DOMINY PT. 3**  
31 Lilly Yeager  
Loop North, Cleveland Tx.  
281-592-1109

**MARK NETTUNO PT. 4**  
221 Boat Launch Road,  
Point Blank Tx., 77364  
936-377-2481

#### District Attorney

**TODD DILLON**  
1 State Hwy. 150, Room 21,  
Coldspring Tx., 77331  
936-653-2601

Subscribers Like You  
Make the Difference

## SAN JACINTO NEWS-TIMES

ALVIN HOLLEY, OWNER  
KELLI BARNES, PUBLISHER

**Newsroom**  
Tony Farkas, Editor  
news@sanjacnews.com

**Circulation**  
pcpcclassified@gmail.com

**Classified Advertising**  
pcpcclassified@gmail.com

**Display Advertising**  
advertising@sanjacnews.com

**Design Desk**  
Amy Holzworth, Design Editor  
Cheryl Lloyd, Graphic Designer

**Print Shop**  
printing@polkcountypublishing.com



936-628-6851  
easttexasnews.com

Our offices are closed on Wednesdays and weekends.

**CORRECTIONS:** If you see an error in this newspaper that reflects on the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation, please bring it to our attention. We will investigate and correct any errors.

**DISCLAIMERS:** Advertisements published in this newspaper are from organizations and citizens. The statements and opinions expressed in these advertisements are their own and do not imply an endorsement of the Polk County Publishing Company, its newspapers or employees. Opinions expressed in columns are those of the writer and not necessarily those of this newspaper. Opinions expressed in editorials are those of the News-Times.

**POSTMASTER:** Periodical postage paid at Shepherd, TX. Please send address changes to PO Box 1689, Shepherd, Texas 77371. (USPS 480-080)

To report undelivered newspaper or damaged machine call ext. 1000



"I SEE YOU MADE THE CHECK OUT TO 'INFERNAL REVENUE SERVICE.' DO YOU KNOW THE PENALTY FOR A FRIVOLOUS RETURN?"

# The wise bring Him gifts

My wife is smart and in possession of exciting information. She did some higher math calculations and figured out that June 11, 2027, is our 50th wedding anniversary.

That knowledge has led her to start scheming and planning a trip to celebrate, not just for the two of us, but also our five grown children and their families. She will rent a house on Cape Cod big enough for all 19 of us, and maybe some extended family, too.

It's a Herculean task trying to get six or more families on the same schedule and headed to the same location, but she is up to the challenge. Speaking of Herculean tasks, do you know about the smart men who planned a big trip to honor the newborn King of Kings?

In Matthew 2, these men are called magi, or wise men. They were not kings but the educated elite of their day, living most likely in ancient Persia, which is modern day Iran. They were scientists,



**DAN DARBY**

DAN'S DIVINITIES

medical doctors, magicians, and astrologers.

As astrologers, they believed that events on earth were influenced by events happening in the night sky. They saw two kinds of stars in the sky. One kind was the fixed stars, which were grouped in the ancient world by constellations. Each constellation was said to represent one of the nations of the earth.

For example, Pisces the Fish was said to represent the nation of Judea. When some astrological event occurred in one of the constellations, they believed that something was happening in the corresponding nation. There were also moving stars that we call planets. These traveled across the background of fixed stars.

Sometimes, the moving stars appeared from earth to pass very close to each other, an event that is called a conjunction. When a conjunction of two planets occurred, the magi believed that a king had been born in the country symbolized by the constellation in which the conjunction had occurred.

Many years ago, I attended a presentation at the planetarium of the Houston Museum on Natural Science. The speaker said that in 7 and 6 BC, a series of planetary conjunctions occurred within the constellation of Pisces the Fish, the constellation of the nation of Judea, with the final one being a triple conjunction of three planets in the winter of 6 BC.

According to the presentation, the magi of Persia would have concluded that not only a king, but a world ruler would have been born in Judea. We know that Jesus was born during the reign of Herod the Great who died in 4 B.C, and most

biblical scholars and historians believe that Jesus was born between 4 and 7 BC.

The scholars of the Middle Ages who came up with our current calendar intended their calendar to start with the birth of Christ, but they made a few historical and mathematical mistakes, which explains why Jesus was not born in the year zero, separating the BC and AD calendars.

According to the biblical story in Matthew 2, the magi organized a caravan and traveled some 2,000 miles across the Fertile Crescent to Jerusalem, the capital of Judea, as they sought the location and identity of the newborn king.

They asked Herod the Great, the king of the region, for the location of the birth of this new world ruler. Herod's scholars answered that the Old Testament prophets foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, a town southwest of Jerusalem where King David had

been born.

The wise men continued to Bethlehem, finding Mary, Joseph, and their young son, Jesus. They worshipped him and presented him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Afterward, having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they avoided the capital and left the country by another route.

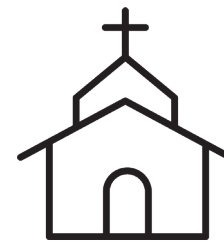
The primary intent of the story in Matthew 2 is to say that Jesus, the Messiah, was born to be the Savior not just of the Jews in Judea, but of people all over the world. Many people today think that Jesus was not born for them, but for someone else, while the wise realize that they themselves need a Savior.

Jesus can rescue us from our darkness, corruption, and violence. He can bring peace and purpose to every person who will look up, see a star in the east, travel to the cross, and worship the King of Kings.

*Dr. Dan Darby is a retired United Methodist pastor.*



## Visit the church of your choice



### SAN JACINTO COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY

**ASSEMBLY OF GOD**  
**FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD**  
 10621 Highway 150 Shepherd, Texas 77371  
 Jeremy Nicholson, Pastor | 936-628-6682  
 Sunday School ..... 9:45 AM  
 Worship Service ..... 10:45 AM  
 Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM  
 Wed. Night Service ..... 7:00 PM

**PEACE TABERNACLE ASSEMBLY OF GOD**  
 FM 2025  
 Sunday School ..... 9:30 AM  
 Worship Service ..... 10:45 AM  
 Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM  
 Wednesday Night Service ..... 7:30 PM

**BAPTIST**  
**BEAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 10001 FM 1725 Cleveland, Texas 77328  
 Pastor Johnny Whittiker | 214-986-8606  
 Sunday School 9:30 AM  
 Morning Worship 11 AM  
 Evening Worship 6 PM  
 Wednesday Prayer 6 PM

**CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 816 N. Blair @ FM 2025 Cleveland, Texas Pastor:  
 Rev. Carl Williamson | 281-593-1751  
 Sunday School ..... 9:45 AM  
 Sunday Morning Worship ..... 11:00 AM  
 Sunday Evening Worship ..... 6:30 PM  
 Wed. Evening Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM

**CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH COLDSRING**  
 65 Petroleum Road Coldspring, Texas  
 Dr. Frank M. Minter | 936-653-3960  
 Sunday Bible Study ..... 10:00 AM  
 Morning Service ..... 11:00 AM  
 Sunday Night ..... 6:00 PM  
 Wednesday Night ..... 7:00 PM

**CENTER HILL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 110 Center Hill Rd., Oakhurst  
 Pastor Jim Southern | 832-302-0229  
 Sunday School ..... 9:30 AM  
 Morning Worship ..... 11:00 AM  
 Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM  
 A.W.A.N.A.S Wed ..... 6:30 PM  
 Wednesday Prayer Service ..... 5:00 PM

**CHINA GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 6420 FM 3081 Willis, TX 77372  
 Pastor Johnny Dowell  
 Sunday School ..... 10:00 AM  
 Morning Worship ..... 11:00 AM  
 Evening Worship ..... 5:00 PM  
 Wednesday Evening ..... 7:00 PM

**DREW'S LANDING BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 161 Thomas Castleberry Rd • Shepherd  
 Pastor: Joshua Whitmire  
 Morning Worship ..... 11 AM  
 Wed. Evening Worship ..... 6:30 PM

**EVERGREEN BAPTIST**  
 Hwy. 150 & FM 945 (Blinking Light)  
 Dalton Currie, Pastor | 936-767-4426  
 Sunday School ..... 9:45 AM  
 Sunday Worship Service ..... 8:30 & 11 AM  
 Wednesday Choir Practice ..... 7:00 PM

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CAMILLA**  
 401 FM 3278  
 Pastor Mike Richard | 936-653-2202  
 Bible Study each Sunday at 10 a.m.  
 Preaching at 11 a.m.

**FIRST BAPTIST OF COLDSRING**  
 100 East Pine Ave. | 936-653-4197  
 Intentional Interim Pastor Rusty Walton  
 Sunday School ..... 9:00 AM  
 Worship Service ..... 10:30 AM  
 Kidz Worship (PreK - 6th Grade) ..... 10:30 AM  
 Tues. Ladies Bible Study ..... 9:30 - 11:30 AM  
 Wed. Teamkid (PreK - 6th Grade) ..... 5:30 PM  
 Wed. FUEI (7th - 12th Grade) ..... 5:30 PM  
 Wed. Men's Bible Study ..... 6:00 PM

**FIRST BAPTIST OF POINT BLANK**  
 Pastor Rev. Mickey Fountain | 936-377-2534  
 Sunday School ..... 10:00 AM  
 Morning Worship Service ..... 11:00 AM  
 Evening Worship Service ..... 6:00 PM  
 Wed. Prayer Service ..... 6:00 PM

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, SHEPHERD**  
 10850 Hwy 150 W. | P.O. BOX 187  
 Pastor Chester Holloway | 936-628-3130  
 Sunday Bible Study (all ages) ..... 9:45 AM  
 Worship Service ..... 11:00 AM  
 Wednesday Adult & Youth Bible Study ... 6 PM  
 Childcare Provided for all services

**GOOD SHEPHERD BAPTIST CHURCH, A.B.A.**  
 300 Church Street, Shepherd, Texas  
 Rev. Larry Allbritton, Pastor  
 Sunday School ..... 9:45 AM  
 Morning Worship Service ..... 10:50 AM  
 Evening Worship Service ..... 6:00 PM  
 Wednesday Worship ..... 7:00 PM

**GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 Hwy. 980 - 1 mi. N Waterwood Entrance  
 Rev. Kevin Hindmon, Pastor | 936-295-5137  
 Sunday Bible Study ..... 9:45 AM  
 Morning Worship ..... 11:00 AM  
 Children's Church ..... 11:00 AM  
 Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM  
 Wednesday Prayer Service ..... 7:00 PM

**GRACEVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 Pastor Lee Ainsworth  
 Sunday School ..... 9:45 AM  
 Morning Worship ..... 11:00 AM  
 Evening Worship ..... 5:30 PM  
 Wednesday Service ..... 7:00 PM

**HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 1002 FM 223 | 628-3292  
 Ben Cartwright - Pastor  
 Sunday School ..... 10:00 AM  
 Morning Worship ..... 11:00 AM  
 Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM  
 Wednesday Prayer Service ..... 7:00 PM

**LAKE POOL BAPTIST**  
 Rev. Mury Williams, Pastor | 628-3571  
 Cell | 713-254-7423  
 Sunday School ..... 10:30 AM  
 Morning Worship ..... 11:45 AM  
 Wed. Night Bible Study on Facebook  
 ..... 6:30 PM

**MAGNOLIA BAPTIST**  
 Pastor David Parish | 281-592-1772  
 Sunday School ..... 9:45 AM  
 Worship Service ..... 11:00 AM  
 Sunday Night Service ..... 5:00 PM  
 Wed. Night Service ..... 6:30 PM

**NEW HOPE BAPTIST**  
 FM Rd. 2025, Coldspring Hwy.  
 Pastor, Jack Therrell | 281-592-4824  
 Sunday School ..... 10:00 AM  
 Sunday Worship ..... 11:00 AM  
 Sunday Evening ..... 6:00 PM  
 Wednesday Service ..... 7:00 PM

**NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH-BMA**  
 3400 WEST FM 2693 (Pine Valley)  
 New Waverly, Texas 77358 | 936-767-4742  
 Sunday School ..... 9:45 AM  
 Sunday Worship ..... 11:00 AM  
 Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM  
 Wednesday Worship ..... 7:00 PM

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

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

**PLEASANT GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 Robert Roth, Pastor  
 8751 FM 945 S. | 281-592-5874  
 Sunday School ..... 10:00 AM  
 Morning Worship ..... 11:00 AM  
 Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM  
 Wednesday Evening ..... 7:00 PM

**ST. GALILEE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH INCORPORATED**  
 Hwy. 156 @ Reese St. Coldspring, Texas  
 Pastor Michael Lee Darden Sr. | 936-653-2452  
 Sunday Morning Worship ..... 10:00AM  
 Wednesday - Church School ..... 7:00PM

**CATHOLIC**  
**SAINT JOSEPH, NEW WAVERLY**  
 Rev. Daokim Nguyen | 936-344-6104  
 Saturday Mass ..... 7:00 PM  
 Sunday ..... 7:30 AM/10:00 AM  
 Spanish Mass 12 Noon Every Sunday

**SAINT MARY'S CLEVELAND**  
 Father Andy Dinh Vu, S.V.D | 281-592-2985  
 Saturday Mass ..... 5:00 PM English  
 Sunday Mass ..... 8:00 AM Spanish  
 ..... 10:00 AM English  
 ..... 12:00 PM Spanish

**SAINT STEPHEN THE MARTYR**  
 Hwy. 156 at Stagecoach Road  
 Rev. Daokim Nguyen | 936-344-6104  
 Saturday Mass ..... 4:30PM  
 Sacrament of Reconciliation  
 Saturday ..... 4:00-4:30 PM

**WESLEYAN CHURCH**  
**CHRISTIAN FAITH CHURCH OF OAKHURST**  
 1040 Hwy. 190 Oakhurst, Tx.  
 Ron Mendleski, Pastor | 936-377-4795  
 Sunday Worship Service ..... 10:30 PM  
 Children's Church ..... 11:00AM  
 Prayer/Bible Study,Wed ..... 7:00 PM

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**EVERGREEN CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
 Located at corner of Dabney Bottom Rd. & FM 945  
 767-4533 | 767-4004  
 Sunday Morning Service ..... 10:30 AM

**ONALASKA CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
 Gary Bodine, Minister | 936-646-3517  
 Bible Class ..... 9:00 AM  
 Worship ..... 10:00 AM  
 Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM  
 Tues. Ladies Bible Class 10:00 AM Wednesday  
 6:30 PM

**SHEPHERD CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
 P.O. Box 460 Shepherd, Texas 77371  
 Corner of Smith and Bell | 936-628-6130  
 Bible Study ..... 10:00 AM  
 Morning Worship ..... 11:00 AM  
 Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM  
 Wednesday Worship ..... 7:00 PM

**MONTAGUE CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
 Ministers: Wendell Kimbrough & Ed Enloe  
 15151 FM 1725 Cleveland, TX | 281-593-0680  
 Sunday Morning ..... 10:30 AM  
 Wed Ladies Bible Study ..... 9:30 AM  
 Wednesday Worship ..... 7:00 PM

**COLDSRING CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
 151 Pinto Ln., 3 miles out Hwy. 156 toward  
 Point Blank, Coldspring, TX | 936-653-3447  
 Sunday Services ..... 11:00 AM/2:00 PM  
 Bible Classes ..... 10:00 AM  
 Wednesday Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM

**CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST**  
**FIRST CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST**  
 FM 1725 @ Hwy. 150, Maynard  
 Pastor: Elder Jack Wilson | 409-967-8217  
 Sunday School ..... 9:45 AM  
 Morning Worship ..... 11:00 AM

**LAKE LIVINGSTON CHURCH OF GOD**  
 Hwy. 350 S. of 190 | 936-967-0191  
 Pastor: Kevin Kleinhenz  
 Sunday School ..... 10:00 AM  
 Worship Service ..... 10:50 AM  
 Sunday Evening ..... 6:00 PM  
 Wed. Ser. & Youth Service ..... 7:00 PM

**LILLEY MEMORIAL CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST**  
 Elder Cleveland Thompson | Hwy. 156 N.  
 Sunday School ..... 10:00 AM  
 Morning Worship ..... 11:30 AM  
 Pastoral Day ..... 1st & 3rd Sunday

**RAVIN HILL OAKHURST CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST**  
 FM 946 North, Oakhurst | 936-377-5264  
 Elder Gray Robinson- Pastor  
 Sunday School ..... 10:00 AM  
 Morning Worship ..... 11:00 AM

**POINT BLANK COGIC**  
 Madden Lane at Hwy. 156  
 Pastor, Alfred Rhodes | 281-820-1834  
 Sunday School ..... 10:00 AM  
 Morning Worship ..... 11:30 AM  
 Thurs. Bible Band ..... 9:00 AM

**GOD'S RESTORATION REVIVAL CENTER HOLINESS CHURCH**  
 Located 411 Hughes Road, Coldspring  
 Pastor Joe Goffney, 936-653-4382  
 The Center Wed Bible Studies ..... 6:30 PM  
 Sunday School ..... 9:45AM  
 Sunday Service ..... 11:00 AM

**EPISCOPAL**  
**ST. LUKE'S**  
 Chester J. Makowski, Rector  
 Livingston | 936-327-8467  
 Holy Eucharist-Sunday ..... 10:30AM  
 Education ..... 9:30 AM  
 Christian Education For All Ages  
 Nursery Provided For Sunday 10:30 AM

**LUTHERAN**  
**FRIENDSHIP LUTHERAN CHURCH, E.L.C.A.**  
 900 Plum Grove Rd., Cleveland, TX 77327  
 Pastor: Ben Buehl | 281-593-0174  
 Sunday School ..... 9:30 AM  
 Worship Sunday ..... 10:30 AM  
 Wed. Bible Study ..... 6:30 PM

**GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN LCMS**  
 900 Plum Grove Rd. • Cleveland, TX 77327  
 Pastor: Mark Behring (281) 592-6803  
 Bible Study ..... 9:15 AM  
 Worship Service ..... 10:30 AM

**LAKE LIVINGSTON LUTHERAN CHURCH, E.L.C.A.**  
 F.M. 3152 at 190 W. Onalaska  
 Pastor: Sharon Kapsch | 646-5681  
 Bible Class ..... 10:00 AM  
 Worship Service ..... 11:00 AM

**TRINITY LUTHERAN LCMS**  
 Bus. 59 South Livingston  
 Alex Garber, pastor | 936-327-3239  
 Sun. School & Bible Class ..... 9 AM  
 Worship Service ..... 10:30 AM

**MESSIANIC FULL GOSPEL**  
**KING OF SAINTS TABERNACLE**  
 CR 1725, Cleveland, TX | 936-239-4971  
 Pastor, Phillip Missick  
 Saturday School ..... 10 AM  
 Saturday Worship ..... 11 AM  
 Saturday Evening Service ..... 6 PM  
 Wednesday Service ..... 7 PM

**METHODIST**  
**COLDSRING METHODIST CHURCH**  
 1 Cemetery Road, Coldspring, TX 77331  
 936-653-2287  
 Sunday School for all ages ..... 8:45 AM  
 Sunday Worship Service ..... 10:00 AM  
 Sunday Adult Choir ..... 11:00 AM  
 Monday Boy & Cub Scouts ..... 7:00 PM  
 Tuesday Cub Scouts ..... 7:00 PM  
 Wednesday Youth Group ..... 5:30 PM  
 7th -12th grade and Kings Kidz (K-6)

**MT. ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
 Corner of FM 222 & FM 3841 Camilla, Texas  
 Pastor Jason Copes | 936-252-1414

**PAUL HORTON METHODIST CHURCH**  
 3721 Hwy 156, Stephen Creek, Tx  
 Rev. Mariann Rayne | 713-816-2795  
 Sunday Worship Service ..... 10:00 AM  
 Wednesday Bible Study ..... 4:00 PM  
 Wednesday Prayer ..... 5:00 PM  
 Come Into God's Home & Worship with us!!!

**ONALASKA FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
 Hwy 356 South (1.5 Miles south of the  
 Onalaska 4 corner traffic light)  
 Pastor Jimmy Calvert | 936-646-5859  
 Sunday School ..... 9 AM  
 Sunday Worship ..... 10 AM

**SHEPHERD METHODIST CHURCH**  
 Hwy 150 @ FM 222 | 936-628-3861  
 Steven Lightfoot, Pastor  
 Sunday School ..... 10:00 AM  
 Sunday Worship ..... 11:00 AM  
 Tuesday Bible Study ..... 5:45 PM

**PENTECOSTAL**  
**APOSTOLIC PENTECOSTAL CHURCH**  
 Hwy. 150 Coldspring (Next to Roadside Park)  
 Pastor, Phil Runge | 653-3153  
 Sunday Morning ..... 10:00 AM  
 Sunday Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM  
 Tuesday Bible Study ..... 7:30 PM

**SHEPHERD UNITED PENTECOSTAL**  
 Hwy. 150 & Loop 424 | 936-628-6921  
 Greg Gerald, Pastor  
 Sunday School ..... 10:00 AM  
 Sunday Night ..... 6:00 PM  
 Thursday Night ..... 7:30 PM

**SHEPHERD FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER**  
 Hwy. 150 W., Shepherd • (936) 628-3942  
 Rev. Eddie Steward  
 Sunday School ..... 9:45 AM  
 Morning Worship ..... 10:45AM  
 Sunday Night ..... 6:00 PM  
 Wednesday Services ..... 7:30 PM

**PRESBYTERIAN**  
**WAVERLY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
 Old Waverly, Tx. | Rev. Dan Alexander  
 Sunday School ..... 10:00 AM  
 Morning Worship ..... 11:00 AM

**NON-DENOMINATIONAL**  
**ASCENDING DOVE FULL GOSPEL**  
 849-FM 2666 Shepherd, Tx.  
 Pastor: Rev. David Pate | 936-628-6706

**COVENANT CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
 66 Mosley Lane Willis, TX 77378  
 Rev. Everett Muirhead | 936-767-4526  
 Sunday School ..... 9:45 AM  
 Sunday Morning Worship ..... 11:00 AM  
 Sunday Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM  
 Tuesday Men's Missions ..... 6:00 PM  
 Wednesday Mid-Week Worship ... 6:00 PM  
 Thursday Women's Missions ..... 6:00 PM  
 Friday Youth For Christ ..... 6:00 PM  
 Saturday Gospel Singing ..... 6:00 PM

**COWBOY CHURCH OF SAN JACINTO COUNTY**  
 13271 Hwy. 150 Coldspring, Texas  
 Pastor Zack Currie | 832-401-1876

**BIG CREEK COWBOY CHURCH**  
 1391 North Butch Arthur Road Coldspring, Charlie  
 Lombardino, pastor | 936-661-7893  
 Sunday service ..... 11 AM  
 Wednesday night Bible Study ..... 6:30 PM

**FAMILY FAITH CHURCH**  
 12350 TX 150 Coldspring, Texas  
 Pastors Jeff & Eileen Hackleman | 936-291-9458  
 Sunday Worship ..... 10:00 AM  
 Monday Prayer Service ..... 10 AM

**MAYNARD FULL GOSPEL REVIVAL CENTER**  
 Hwy. 150, Maynard, Tx.  
 Sunday Morning Service ..... 11:00 AM  
 Sunday Evening Service ..... 6:30 PM  
 Wednesday Evening ..... 7:30 PM

**NEW COVENANT CHURCH**  
 Loop 424 N., Shepherd, Tx.  
 Mike Chapman-Pastor  
 Sunday Morning Service ..... 10:00 AM  
 Thursday Evening Service ..... 7:00 PM

**OAKHURST FULL GOSPEL**  
 441 FM 946 S. | John Pierce, Pastor  
 Sunday School ..... 9:45 AM  
 Sunday Morning ..... 11:00 AM  
 Sunday Evening ..... 6:00 PM  
 Wednesday Night ..... 7:00 PM

**OPEN DOOR CHURCH**  
 Corner of Byrd & Church St., Shepherd, Tx  
 Sunday Morning ..... 10:00 AM  
 Morning Worship ..... 11:00 AM  
 Evening Worship ..... 7:00 PM  
 Thursday Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM  
 Saturday Prayer Meeting ..... 7:00 PM

**POINT BLANK COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
 Rev. John McDonald  
 Robison Way, Point Blank | 377-2104  
 Worship Service ..... 9:00 AM  
 Sunday School ..... 10:30 AM  
 Sunday Night ..... 6:00 PM  
 Wed. Night Bible Study ..... 6:00 PM

**THE EVERGREEN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
 Hwy. 150 W., Evergreen | 936-767-8121 John  
 Davidhizar, Pastor  
 Sunday School ..... 9:45 AM  
 Morning Worship ..... 11:00 AM

**VICTORY GOSPEL CHURCH**  
 FM 222, Camilla  
 Sunday Morning ..... 10:30 AM  
 Children's Church ..... 10:30 AM  
 Sunday Evening ..... 6:00 PM  
 Youth service ..... 6:00 PM  
 Wednesday Evening ..... 7:00 PM

**THE UNIVERSAL ETHICIAN CHURCH**  
 FM 135 | Services are held each Saturday  
 one hour before sunset

**SIMPLY CHURCH**  
 800 Parkerson Road @ FM 1725  
 Cleveland, Texas 77328  
 Pastor William Collins  
 Sunday School ..... 10 AM  
 Morning worship ..... 11 AM

Being a church directory sponsor helps support local churches. If you are interested in advertising email Cheryl at cheryl@polkcountypublishing.com

**SAN JACINTO NEWS-TIMES**  
**936.628.6851**  
 WWW.SANJACNEWS.COM  
**SUBSCRIBE TODAY!**  
 PRINT & ONLINE EDITIONS AVAILABLE

**Eastex Telephone Cooperative, Inc.**  
*"A Phone For Every Farm"*  
*"Broadband For Every Barn"*  
 936-327-5224 • 800-732-7839  
 1704 US Hwy 59 Loop N • Livingston  
 www.eastex.com

**Pace-Stancil**  
 FUNERAL HOME AND CEMETERY  
**936-653-2641**  
 Cleveland Dayton Coldspring

Member FDIC  
**First State Bank**  
 Serving You At 4 Locations  

112 West Polk Livingston, TX (936) 327-5211	6320 Hwy 59 South Shepherd, TX (936) 628-3347
2300 US Hwy 190 West Livingston, TX (936) 327-5211	14200 Hwy 190 West Onalaska, TX (936) 646-6600

# New laws taking effect in New Year

A spate of new laws took effect on Jan. 1. The Dallas Morning News reported. Here's a brief summary of the most notable new laws now in force:

- County sheriff's offices are now required to cooperate with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement after the passage of Senate Bill 8. Local jail staff are now authorized to verify the immigration status of inmates and to honor certain federal immigration warrants. A grant program was created by the state to help sheriffs cover training and implementation costs related to the new law.

- Eviction proceedings involving unauthorized occupants must be held in court from 10 to 21 days of filing. Also, the new law limits legal delays occupants may take to avoid eviction.

- With the rapid expansion of artificial intelligence systems into many aspects of daily lives, House Bill 149 established a statewide framework for regulating AI and providing transparency. Companies using AI must notify people when they are interacting with an AI system. The law also created a state advisory group to oversee the implementation of oversight and compliance. Penalties can be assessed for violations of the new requirements.

- The business inventory tax exemption has been raised to \$125,000, cutting property taxes for small businesses that maintain stock. The previous exemption was \$2,500.

## Texas small businesses optimistic about 2026

Most Texas small-business owners are optimistic about 2026 and expect their businesses to grow, according to a survey conducted by Comerica Bank of roughly 1,000 small-business owners, the Houston Chronicle reported. Nearly 80 percent expect sales growth this year, and about 70 percent plan to make capital investments, the survey indicated.

"While the headlines about the economy can be disconcerting, small business owners are telling us that they see much



**GARY BORDERS**  
CAPITOL HIGHLIGHTS

brighter prospects for the part of the economy that touches their business directly," said Comerica Bank chief economist Bill Adams. "That's an encouraging sign that the underlying trend for small business is still solid."

Despite the uncertainty surrounding the impact of tariffs and a slowing of growth in the national economy, Adams said the recent interest rate cut by the Federal Reserve and lower effective tax rates for businesses under the major financial bill passed last summer are encouraging to small-business owners.

The state's gross domestic product grew at an annual rate of 6.8 percent in the second quarter of 2025, compared to 3.8 percent nationally.

## Texas student loan borrowers in default could see wages withheld

Beginning this month, the Trump administration has threatened to withhold wages from borrowers who have not made a student loan payment in the past nine months or longer, the San Antonio Express-News reported. An estimated \$131.9 billion in outstanding student loans are owed by Texans, according to the Education Data Initiative.

The federal Department of Education confirmed recently that it could begin seizing up to 15 percent of a person's disposable income from his or her employer until the defaulted loan is paid in full or removed from default. Nearly 5.5 million borrowers are currently in default. The pandemic-era pause on repayments was ended by the Trump administration last year.

Critics of the move worry about the effect of garnishing income in the current financial climate, the Express-News reported.

"At a time when families across the country are struggling with stagnant

wages and an affordability crisis, this Administration's decision to garnish wages from defaulted student loan borrowers is cruel, unnecessary, and irresponsible," Persis Yu, director of Protect Borrowers, an advocacy group, wrote in a statement.

## Texas to get \$281 million in federal funds for rural health care

Texas will receive the largest portion of the first rollout of the \$50 billion allocated under the Rural Transformation Program, The Texas Tribune reported. The state will receive \$281 million under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which also slashed Medicaid funding by an estimated \$1 trillion.

While Texas is receiving the most funds, when its population rank is calculated that amount comes to about \$60 per rural resident — the lowest rate in the nation. The funds come as the state's rural hospitals and clinics face budget shortfalls and rising costs. Fourteen rural hospitals in Texas closed in the last decade, according to a report from the Center for Healthcare Quality. Over half of the 82 remaining facilities are at risk of closing.

The funding will be used to strengthen rural health care clinics by educating and attracting health care professionals to work in rural areas, as well as modernizing resources and technology.

## Paxton loses bid to enforce rules on large-county prosecutors

A Texas appeals court has again blocked Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton from enforcing new rules that would require prosecutors in the state's largest counties to send his office detailed reports, according to the Denton Record-Chronicle.

The Texas Fifteenth Court of Appeals unanimously upheld a lower court order blocking the rules after several district attorneys filed suit. The court ruled that, under the Texas Government Code, Paxton lacks the legal authority to require the proposed reports.

"Based on the plain language of [the code], the Legislature did not expressly grant rulemaking authority to the Attorney General, nor can rulemaking power be implied where no such authority is expressly granted," Justice Scott K. Field wrote in the three-judge panel's opinion.

The rules were adopted last year and mandated that prosecutors in counties with populations of more than 400,000 turn over detailed information from case files from victims and witnesses, including internal emails. The appeals court ruling stays in place while the case continues in a lower court.

## At least 10 Texas incumbents in Congress not returning

At least one-fourth of Texas' congressional delegation will not be coming back in 2027, the Texas Standard reported. The massive departure likely will weaken the state's clout on Capitol Hill. Nine members of Congress from Texas — six Republicans, three Democrats — have already announced they will leave at the end of the year. Three incumbents in South Texas are facing competitive general election races.

In addition, a special election on Jan. 30 in a redrawn Houston district will elect a member of Congress who will then face U.S. Rep. Al Green, D-Houston, in the March primary. When the dust settles, between 10 and 17 of the 38-member delegation could end up leaving when this term ends.

"We're slim right now, [from] what we used to be," said U.S. Rep. Roger Williams, R-Willow Park, who, with 13 years, is one of the longest-tenured Texans in the House. "But that's because we've had a lot of retirements. That happens. Now you've got to rebuild."

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

# Pancho Villa plays himself in a movie

In an El Paso hotel room on the seventh day of January 1914, Pancho Villa came to terms with a Hollywood studio to make a silent movie about the role of the bandit-turned-rebel in the Mexican Revolution.

No one can say for sure whose idea it was to shoot the "Centaur of the North" and his peasant army in action or how much the "star" was paid. Villa may have approached director D.W. Griffith instead of the other way around because he grasped the importance of the new medium as a propaganda tool.

The money meant as much or more to Pancho, who never seemed to have enough to feed, clothe and arm his troops. According to one story, he received a lump-sum payment of \$25,000, a tale likely more folklore than fact, while another claims the contract entitled him to \$5,000 in gold coins for every month the movie was in production.

As soon as D.W. Griffith learned Villa had signed on the dotted line, he summoned 27-year-old Raoul Walsh to his office. In Griffith's legion of underpaid assistants, the former stage actor was the only one who had spent any time in Mexico. Based upon this bit of personal trivia, Griffith assigned the Pancho project to a novice who had yet to direct his first frame of film.

Later that day, young Walsh boarded the famous "Sunset Limited" for the express



**BARTEE HAILE**  
THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

train ride to Texas' westernmost town. The parting piece of advice from the studio executive, who saw him off at Union Station, was: "Think up a story that the general will like and for God's sake never refer to him as a bandit."

A trusted rebel lieutenant met Walsh at the El Paso depot and hustled him into a waiting car for the long drive over rough roads to Villa's headquarters in the Mexican state of Chihuahua. The fresh-faced visitor was warmly received by his host, who exchanged pleasantries before getting down to business.

"The general wants to see the money," the lieutenant gruffly informed the American. Walsh placed a satchel of twenty-dollar gold pieces on the table and leaned back in his chair to watch Villa inspect the contents.

Assured of Pancho's satisfaction with the payment, Walsh reviewed the script he had scribbled on the way from California. He sought to emphasize Villa's early life and the crimes committed by the federales against members of his family before filling the silent screen with live-action sequences.

Even before the translator passed on Villa's approval, Walsh could tell from the

pleased expression on his face that he liked the plan for the motion picture. He could also tell the Mexican leader understood more English than he ever let on.

"He wishes to congratulate you," the translator said. "The general says he will be pleased for you to make the story, and he will take good care of you because if you were killed, there will be no picture for the world to see."

Walsh and his German cameraman filmed the villistas' brief but bloody fight for Durango, which fell so fast the movie-maker felt forced to recreate the event. To give the mock battle a touch of realism, Villa ordered his reluctant soldiers to put on the uniforms of dead federales.

Their bellies full, their ranks more than replenished by fresh recruits and armed to the teeth with rifles, pistols and machineguns bought with Griffith's gold, the peasant force began the 500-mile march to Mexico City. To Walsh's disappointment, their triumphant taking of the capital on Feb. 17, 1914, was anti-climactic with most federales having long since deserted their posts.

Walsh devoted three days to filming scenes inside Chapultepec Castle before packing up his equipment and loading a trio of trucks for the teeth-rattling, three-week trek to Juarez. Then it was back to Hollywood for studio scenes with the di-

rector portraying a 20-something Pancho.

After pulling several all-nighters in the editing room, Walsh was ready to show the boss a rough cut of the five-reel flick. "Some of the shots are good and bloody," Griffith commented in an obvious reference to images of executed federales hanging by their necks from trees. He conceded the censors "may faint" but added he was willing to risk it.

"The Life of General Villa" premiered in New York on May 14, 1914 — four months after Pancho inked the contract. Shown in various major cities under different titles, Walsh's silent film is believed to have been a box-office success despite the fact that the actual ticket sales were kept secret.

By the time Pancho Villa was killed in an ambush in 1923, Raoul Walsh was making a name for himself behind the camera as one of film's finest directors. Hopefully he remembered that he owed his start to the most charismatic and colorful figure in the Mexican Revolution.

Don't bother looking for the Pancho Villa biopic. Like three out of every four films made during the silent era, it has vanished without a trace.

Start off the New Year with "Texas Depression Era Desperadoes." Order your autographed copy today by mailing a check for \$24 to Barte Haile, P.O. Box 130011, Spring, TX 77393.

# Words still work

Proudly and importantly, my niece informed me that she was going to "peecl" lessons. A bit taken aback, since this was a very bright and articulate child of four, I nonetheless understood my sister's concern as there were certain letter sounds and combinations this darling child just couldn't manage, and we all knew the importance of having her be able to be easily understood outside the family when she began kindergarten.

Words used in conversation, in writing, and in reading, were then, are now, and will continue to be, the single most important method of communication for us all. Words are simply tools, and like tools, must be obtained, polished, cared for, and used correctly to be of maximum benefit to us. Speech lessons for her were simply a way of sharpening her existing tools, her already wonderful vocabulary and speaking abilities, so she might use them most effectively.

Twenty years ago, my sister's child went to a "peecl" clinic to learn to speak more clearly.



**DARBY KETHAN**  
IT STILL MATTERS

Today, many children are referred for speech lessons for a very different reason, with a need that is often not identified until they begin school.

Normal, bright, intelligent, curious, and darling children are not learning words because they are not being taught words at home. These children enter school without having or understanding basic communication tools. The average 6-year-old knows about 6,000 words, so children without vocabulary are starting with an enormous handicap since school success is almost directly related to a child's ability to use language.

Children must understand words describing what teacher and school expectations are as well as develop the ability to use words correctly and well in reading, in speaking and in writing. Vocabulary, like everything else young children

learn, must be taught over time in real settings using real objects and interacting with adults who can help them learn. Children must have thousands of opportunities with words just as they must have with other experiences in order to fully develop understanding so words become meaningful symbols for communicating. If the appropriate "window," that time slot for primary vocabulary development from birth to four or five, is not used appropriately, the loss is nearly impossible to make up.

Parents are the first and most important teachers children have. This awesome job of teaching language to children is little understood by many and often thought to just "happen." It won't. Language development must take place over time, must be guided and made possible by parents interacting with children, and needs to take place in a variety of settings where there are objects and activities the child is interested in learning and communicating about. Almost any child's home meets all these

guidelines, and almost anyone can teach children to communicate. It takes time, it takes looking at some ways we as adults may hinder children in learning language, and it takes being willing to change some old ways of doing. However, if you think about a child with poor or limited vocabulary entering school being about 6,000 words behind their peers, you will understand the importance of knowing everything possible to help your child develop his own set of language tools.

My niece already had vocabulary and above average language skills; the work she did at her speech sessions was simply the "fine tuning" of an already well-developed communicator.

Darby Kethan has a master's degree in child development, and has experience as a social worker, educator of young children, educational consultant, and as a professional trainer for a national educational foundation providing professional development to teachers. Visit her website at [darbykethan.com](http://darbykethan.com).



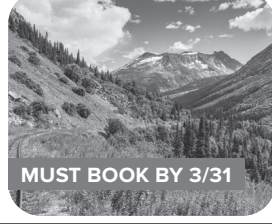
**Low Cost Pet Wellness & Spay/Neuter Clinic**

**Brookshire Brothers • 10am-3pm**  
501 S Robb St • Trinity

**2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month**

For information: [www.dehartvetservices.com](http://www.dehartvetservices.com) • 903-590-7722

**Must have appointment for surgery**



**Grand Alaskan Cruise & Tour**

**12 DAYS INSIDE CABIN**  
STARTING AT \$3,549 \$3,299\*

BASED ON JUL 8, 2026 DEPARTURE

**CALL US: 1-877-741-0071**

\*Per person based on double occupancy & includes tax service/gov't fees. Ask your Travel Consultant for terms & conditions. Add-on airfare with transfers available for most major gateways.



**WE BUY**  
Oil, Gas, & Mineral Rights

Both non-producing and producing including Non-Participating Royalty Interest (NPRI)  
Provide us your desired price for an offer evaluation.

**806.620.1422**  
**LOBO MINERALS, LLC**

PO Box 1800 • Lubbock, TX 79408 • [LoboMineralsLLC@gmail.com](mailto:LoboMineralsLLC@gmail.com)



SAN JACINTO COUNTY

## SPORTS



## Trojans lose four straight in Houston County Tournament

SJNT staff

**CROCKETT** — Trojan Head Coach Darrian Key said that while tournament play went well last week, the team went 0-4, including a 62-46 loss to DaVinci and a 80-49 loss to Fairfield.

However, Key said that Brennen Lilley had two 20-plus-point games in the effort.

Then on Saturday, the team bounced back with a 61-52 win over Hardin.

The Lady Trojans traveled to Tarkington for a tournament, going 2-1 over the weekend.

On Dec. 29, Coldspring lost to Splendor 58-30, but rebounded the next day, first defeating Navasota 51-46 and then Onalaska 50-38.

**Shepherd**

At the East Chambers Tournament in Winnie, the Shepherd Pirates lost in five outings.

In a Pirates battle against Vidor on Dec. 29, Shepherd lost 61-42. Brayden White had 26 points and 12 rebounds, and Benjamin Coyle posted 12 points.

Later that day, the Pirates lost to East

Chambers 80-55. White and Coyle again led scoring with 14 and 10, respectively.

On Dec. 30, Shepherd lost to Kelly Catholic 70-49, and then to Evadale 63-29. Against KC, Rogelio Covarrubias led the team with 15 points, followed by Bryson Goodman and Jamal Horton, both with 10.

On Wednesday, the Pirates lost to West Orange-Stark 73-36. Jeremy Bennett led scoring with 10.

## Looking back

Looking back over the past years, I have seen many changes in the way we hunt and fish. My friends often joke with me saying things like, "Luke, all you do is hunt and fish and talk about it on your radio shows, the TV show you do and then write about the adventure in the newspapers and magazines."

They are at least partially correct, I do spend a lot of time in the outdoors fishing and hunting, I always have but when I became an outdoors writer 40 years ago, these outings changed from being all fun to fun with some work involved. I learned about photography and how to capture the images I needed to complement my articles. I later bumbled my way through radio, luckily, I had some very experienced radio personalities such as Dan Foster to help me along the way.

Dan was the news man for radio icon Bill Mack for many years. I used to drive 50 miles each way every week to a little recording studio where Dan flipped the switches and produced my show. Now, I can record excellent digital sound right at home, email the file to my producer and bingo, it appears on a total of 41 radio stations the next weekend and becomes a podcast everywhere.

In the beginning as a fledging writer, it was sometime difficult to make the connections necessary to provide good content for my readers but as the years passed, so did my knowledge of the outdoors and my connections with professionals that made their living as guides, outfitters, etc. I've learned a great deal from these guys and gals and to this day, seldom go afield or out on the water without learning something new.

I remember writing my articles on paper and then typing and



mailing or delivering the copy to editors. Photos were a real challenge, I would rush to get the film developed, hoping I got some good shots, and then deliver or mail the photos. These days, a click of my computer button sends the images anywhere in a matter of seconds.

As you might imagine, there have been a great deal of changes in the way most hunters and anglers pursue their sports. It's difficult for young fishermen to fathom but back then there was no GPS nor spot lock that keeps your boat perfectly positioned over a fishing hot spot.

I remember well lining up with features on the shore, triangulating we called it in order to get close to a fishing hot spot. A marker buoy would be tossed out; the anchor would then be let out upwind a good distance and anchor line let out until the boat was on the buoy.

In the early days of civilian GPS, the government scrambled the coordinates so that precise positioning was impossible. One could get within about 50 feet of pre-determined coordinates. We all thought this was awesome, it was much better than lining up with reference points on shore but nothing like the pinpoint positioning today.

I don't think many anglers under the age of thirty could imagine lining up a water tower and

barn or radio antenna on shore to locate a good fishing spot. This method would get you close out in open water and then it was necessary to turn on your flasher unit to find the structure/fish you were looking for.

"What is a flasher?" young anglers will ask. Well, it has absolutely nothing to do with quick removal of one's clothing in a crowd. It was a device before the advent of the modern-day graph that would indicate the depth of water and, if you learned how to read the flashers properly, show you the fish.

I never became really good at reading anything but the depth and structure such as trees and bottom structure but I fished with guides that could accurately identify baitfish and gamefish just by looking at how the flashes appeared on the unit.

Beyond doubt, the biggest change in fishing sonar is the introduction of forward-facing sonar a few years ago. With these units, the angler actually sees his bait below the boat and the fish he is trying to catch. These units have become hugely popular and are in widespread use by both amateur anglers and pros alike. I've fished with several guides that put the technology to good use and won't deny that it is highly effective.

Personally, I don't enjoy keeping my head glued to a little computer screen that shows my bait and the target fish, but I must admit I've learned a lot about what triggers strikes, especially with white bass. They almost always chase the bait up vertically before striking.

I remember hunting hogs at night with an electrician buddy before thermal scopes were invented. We wired several DC light bulbs in series to a car battery way back in the woods and



Luke talks about the many changes in hunting and fishing that have occurred during his lengthy 40-year career as an outdoors writer. COURTESY PHOTO

baited the spot heavily for a few days until we saw hog sign and then set up at night nearby with shotguns loaded with double-ought buckshot. We managed to put some fresh pork in the freezer in this manner.

Live feed trail cameras common today were light years ahead of the technology 40 years ago. Many hunters have a cell phone app that instantly sends them a photo from a game camera back in the woods somewhere. Some cameras transmit live feed video. Many hog trappers use this system to drop the gate on their hog traps. They watch the video, real time within a couple seconds until all the desired hogs are inside the trap and then, press the drop gate button.

My first "trail camera" was a 35 mm film camera with a trip wire that ran across a game trail, connected to a little shutter connector. The idea was to run the trip wire across the trail and the deer would trip the shutter as it walked past.

I would then get the film from the camera, get it developed and in a week or so see what had tripped the shutter. Well, that was the plan. I don't remember actually getting the photo of deer but I did get some fuzzy photos of a skunk and armadillo.

Email Luke through his website [www.catfishradio.org](http://www.catfishradio.org) Listen to his weekly hour-long podcast "Catfish Radio with Luke Clayton and Friends" just about everywhere podcasts are found.

**Bob Sandlin**

**EXCELLENT.** Water stained; 56 degrees; 1.29 feet below pool. Crappie are excellent with jigs or minnows. Stay west of the Highway 21 Bridge and focus on timber in 30-50 feet of water. Report by River Bottom Boys Guide Service.

**Caddo**

**GOOD.** Water stained; 62 degrees; water level at 168.78 feet. The water temperature rose 15 degrees during the warming trend. This disrupted the winter bass pattern, but now that cold nights have returned the water temperature should drop to back into the low to mid 50s. When this happens expect the bite to be good on rattletrap, chatterbait, swimbait, Alabama rig and jerkbaits. A fluke is still handy to keep around for when you miss a fish, or if they jump in the salvina. The white bass can be caught in the river system on rooster tails and Alabama rigs. Crappie are good in the same area. It is a fun time to be out fishing on this majestic and divine lake we call Caddo. Report by Vince Richards, Caddo Lake Fishing & Fellowship.

**Conroe**

**GREAT.** Water stained; 60.3 degrees; 1.03 feet above pool. With a cold front arriving Monday, falling water temperatures may shift fishing conditions across the lake. Catfish have been good, though they're spread out with bait scattering in the recent warm spell; eater-sized fish are still coming from baited holes on ledges near cover using Catfish Bubblegum, liver, worms, and punch bait, while drifting natural baits continue to produce both eaters and trophies. Creek channels leading to shallow water may be worth targeting as temperatures cool. Bass remain active offshore, chasing shad schools and pushing onto shallower areas. Report by Brad Doyle with Bradley's Guide Service. Crappie have been productive on structure in 13-24 feet, with hair jigs producing best, though plastics and minnows also work. Many bites are light, but numbers have been solid. Hybrid stripers



are being caught in good numbers on slabs, spoons, large minnows, and shad, with a few taken dead-sticking in 17-33 feet; dead-sticking should improve as water temperatures drop. Always check hybrid identification via TPWD tooth patch guidelines or the Outdoor Annual app. Always wear your life jacket. Report by Mike Cason, Fishical Therapy.

**Fork**

**FAIR.** normal stain; 51 degrees; 2.85 feet below pool. Water temperatures were ranging 55-63 degrees before the front. The morning bite is fair on flukes and yum dingers around grass 1-3 feet. Mid morning to noon target flats, or isolated grass spots 2-5 feet with chatterbaits, spinnerbaits and lipless crankbaits. Texas rigs, jigs, and square bill crankbaits are on big wood in 3-7 feet of water. Report by Marc Mitchell, Mitchell's Guide Service. Lake Fork crappie fishing is finally in a wintertime pattern. There are some fish on brush piles, tire reefs, lay downs and points in 18-25 feet of water. You can also find fish on bridges as fish move to deeper water. Tons of fish have moved into the deeper water areas following bait fish. You can find large schools of crappie congregating on timber along creek channels in 35-60 feet of water. These fish may only be 12-25 feet deep grouped up on tree tops or limbs. They will bite anything you put in front of them. We are having great success with hand tied jigs in all kinds of color combinations. Minnows will most certainly work as well as soft plastics of all shapes and sizes. The winter bite on Lake Fork is

the best time of year to catch a limit of crappie quickly and even catch some giant crappie mixed in with the eater size fish. Report by Jacky Wiggins, Jacky Wiggins Guide Service.

**Houston County**

**FAIR.** Water stained; 53 degrees; 0.08 feet above pool. As the weather cools, bass should transition to shallow water to feed on bait fish. Cast reaction baits to land a catch.

**Lake O' the Pines**

**GOOD.** Water normal stain; 53 degrees; 0.12 feet above pool. The pattern has been consistent but may change after this cold front. Anticipate fish clumping together in the creek channel and on structure off the creek channel as the fish move back to deeper water. Crappie are very good on jigs or minnows. Crappie can be found in 30 feet of water suspended at 22-24 feet on trees. Bass have slowed down some but can still be found on structure in 10-15 feet of water. Jigs, crankbaits and jerkbaits fished in and over brush piles along the 10-15 feet on structure lines have taken the best bass. Catfish reports have been very few due to the colder water temperatures. Report by ETX Outdoors. Lake of the Pines. Fishing is good on timber in the main channel from mid lake to the dam. The biggest concentration of fish will be 30 feet of water holding 15-25 feet down on timber. Report by River Bottom Boys Guide Service.

**Livingston**

**GOOD.** Normal stain; 55 degrees; 0.01 feet above pool. Water conditions on Lake Livingston remain typical for this time of year, with moderately to highly turbid water and fluctuating levels depending on recent rain or drawdowns. Fishing is productive for a variety of species: white bass are actively chasing shad in open water and creeks, with slabs and spoons working best in 10-25 feet. Catfish, especially blues, are biting on cut or drifted bait along river channels and flats. Large-mouth bass can be found around wood, brush, and grass edges using plastics, crankbaits, and spinnerbaits.

And while crappie and striped bass are present, they are less consistent, with crappie on deeper structure and stripers following bait or current. Weather and water temperature shifts strongly influence the bite, so anglers should adjust tactics accordingly, using shallow, structure-focused presentations during stable conditions and deeper, slower methods after cool fronts.

**Murvaul**

**GOOD.** Stained; 57 degrees; 0.76 below pool. Fishing conditions and patterns remain consistent for the holiday weekend. Largemouth bass are fair with a Colorado bladed spinnerbait on main lake points in 5 feet of water or a shallow diving crankbait. Crappie are excellent on chartreuse and black crappie jigs on a split shot rig or live minnows. Crappie are deep and suspended on timber, so it is best to timber hop with live-scope. Catfish are excellent with live minnows, cut bait. Report by Cal Cameron, Cal's ETX Guide Service.

**Pinkston**

**FAIR.** Water slightly stain; 53 degrees. The bite is consistent. Largemouth bass are good suspending jerkbaits or small swimbaits in shallow water. Crappie are good on deep brush piles with white and clear crappie jigs. Catfish are fair on stink bait. Report by Cal Cameron, Cal's ETX Guide Service.

**Raven**

**FAIR.** Water stained; 55 degrees. Not much has changed from last week, with fishing patterns holding steady across the lake. Bank anglers continue to see the most consistent action, while overall conditions and species activity remain similar to recent reports. Report by Aric Brooks, Huntsville State Park.

**Sam Rayburn**

**SLOW.** Water muddy; 54 degrees; 9.25 feet below pool. Water temperature is 57 degrees this morning, and the lake level is holding at 9.25 feet low. Overall fishing patterns remain unchanged from recent days. Previous report-Fishing conditions remain

about the same as recent reports, with no major changes in patterns. Water temperatures are holding in the high 50s to low 60s, keeping fish activity steady but somewhat limited across the lake. Report by Captain Lynn Atkinson, Reel Um N Guide Service. Bass are still heavily targeting bait balls and feeding up during this winter time. Focus on main lake drains that feed into flats that are holding bait. If bait is not present, continue to look with electronics. Throw Alabama rigs, Carolina rigs, dropshots and crankbaits for fish grouped up on the sides, and in the backs of drains and on points. Target suspended fish with Alabama rigs and jighead minnows. Shallow flats near deep water that have bait pushing up on them are holding situational fish. Target these with crankbaits, Alabama rigs and Carolina rigs. Report by Captain Hank Harrison, Double H Precision Fishing.

**Toledo Bend**

**FAIR.** 56 degrees; 3.96 feet below pool. Spring-like conditions held most of the week, but a weather shift overnight is expected to bring a big change. Water temperatures are currently 59-63 degrees but will likely fall. The shallow bite has been on fire, with fish hitting wacky-rig worms, swimbaits, chatterbaits, and just about anything you like to throw. As temperatures drop, expect the bite to slow, with the best action likely coming in 12 feet of water to the bank; plan to slow down presentations in the mornings and speed them up in the afternoons. The deeper bite faded last week, but cooling conditions should help it rebound, with spoons and dropshots working in 22-28 feet. Report by Stephen Johnston, Johnston Fishing.

**Wesh**

**GOOD.** Water stained. 61 degrees. Crappie are good with fish loaded up on brush piles in 12-25 feet of water. The best bite is on hand tied jigs. Report by River Bottom Boys Guide Service.



“WINTER IS THE TIME FOR COMFORT,  
FOR GOOD FOOD AND WARMTH,  
FOR THE TOUCH OF A FRIENDLY HAND  
AND FOR A TALK BESIDE THE FIRE:  
IT IS THE TIME FOR HOME.”

– EDITH SITWELL

# A hearty meal sure to stick to your ribs

**W**ith the ubiquitous temperature changes that occur in East Texas this time of year – you know what I’m talking about: coats, mittens and boots one day and T-shirts and flip flops the next – it’s hard to know how to dress in the mornings. However, it can also be challenging to know what to cook. One particularly cold day recently, I knew I wanted something hot and filling for supper, something that would “stick to my ribs” as they say.

A perfunctory internet search yielded the perfect solution – “Creamy Chicken Tamale Pie.” It looked and sounded wonderful. And it also provided an opportunity for me to experiment with polenta, an ingredient that I’d eaten before, but never cooked. Let’s just say I’m now a polenta convert.

What is polenta, you may be asking

Polenta is an Italian dish made of boiled cornmeal that can be served hot and creamy like a porridge or cooled and solidified into a loaf that may be baked, fried or grilled. It’s known for its versatility and is often paired with meats, stews, sauces or vegetables, though it can also be used in sweet dishes. The texture varies from soft and creamy with fine cornmeal to firm and coarse with a coarser grind.

Its ingredients are primarily yellow cornmeal, water or broth, and seasonings, with butter and cheese added for richness. It has a mildly sweet corn flavor that readily takes on other tastes from broth, herbs or cheese.

Is polenta the same thing as grits, you may be asking.

No, though they are both corn-based porridges. The main differences are the type of corn, the traditional grind, and cultural origins (Italian vs. American South), leading to variations in texture, flavor, and culinary uses, but they are often used interchangeably in modern cooking.

Don’t be scared of the polenta.

Knowing that this would most likely be a heavy dish, I knew I wanted something lighter and brighter to balance it, so I paired it with a big bowl of “Simple Mexican Coleslaw.” We enjoyed every bite of the meal, with both of us even going back for seconds. Give this a try. I think you’ll like it. It’ll definitely warm you up on a cold winter day. ■



“WHAT GOOD IS  
THE WARMTH OF  
SUMMER, WITHOUT THE  
COLD OF WINTER  
TO GIVE IT SWEETNESS.”

– JOHN STEINBECK

## Creamy Chicken Tamale Pie From [halfbakedharvest.com](http://halfbakedharvest.com)

### INGREDIENTS:

2 pounds chicken breasts  
2 yellow onions, chopped  
2 poblano peppers, seeded, and chopped  
2 tablespoons chili powder  
2 teaspoons smoked paprika  
1 teaspoon ground cumin  
½ teaspoon cayenne  
1 15-oz. can of red enchilada sauce  
Salt  
1 can black beans, drained  
1 cup dry polenta  
½ cup cheddar cheese, melted  
2 tablespoons salted butter  
Salt and black pepper

### DIRECTIONS:

Preheat the oven to 400°F.

In a large Dutch oven, combine the chicken, onions, peppers, chili powder, paprika, cumin, and cayenne. Pour over the enchilada sauce. Fill the can with water and pour it over the chicken. Season with salt. Set over high heat and cook for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Stir to combine.

Reduce the heat to medium, partially cover, and cook for 15 minutes, until the chicken is cooked through. Shred the chicken. Stir in the black beans.

Meanwhile, make the polenta. In a medium pot, bring 3 cups of water to a low boil, then whisk in the polenta, stirring until the polenta is soft and thick, about 3-5 minutes. Stir in the cheese, butter, and season with salt and pepper. Turn the heat off, cover the pot, and let the polenta sit for 5 minutes.

Spoon the polenta over the chicken. Bake for 20 minutes, until browned on top.

Scoop into bowls. Top, as desired, with Greek yogurt/sour cream, avocado, cilantro, and green onions.

## Simple Mexican Coleslaw From [thekitchenmaggie.com](http://thekitchenmaggie.com)

### INGREDIENTS:

14 ounces shredded coleslaw mix  
⅓ cup chopped cilantro  
¼ cup minced green onion

### Lime dressing:

½ cup olive oil  
¼ cup lime juice  
1-3 tablespoons honey, to taste  
1 teaspoon minced garlic  
1 teaspoon ground cumin  
½ teaspoon oregano  
¼ teaspoon chili powder  
salt and pepper, to taste

### DIRECTIONS:

Toss together the salad ingredients in a large bowl; set aside.

Combine the dressing ingredients in a lidded jar and shake until combined. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Drizzle the dressing over the salad, then toss together in the large bowl until the salad is completely covered in dressing.

“PEOPLE DON’T NOTICE WHETHER IT’S WINTER  
OR SUMMER WHEN THEY’RE HAPPY.”

– ANTON CHEKHOV



**Think that's scary?**

Sharks can be terrifying. But what's really scary, and even deadly, is distracted driving.

**Eyes forward. Don't drive distracted.**

NHTSA ad

## AREA DIGEST

**Candidate meet-up**  
The San Jacinto County Democrat Party is hosting a Meet the Candidate event Tuesday, Jan. 13, at 6 p.m. at La Place Restaurant in Coldspring.

Confirmed speakers include Paul Thomasson, candidate for Texas Senate District 5; Valorie Barton, candidate for Texas House District 18; and Caitlin Rourk, candidate for U.S. Congress District 10.

**Meet the candidates**  
The San Jacinto County Republican Party is hosting a Meet the Candidate event Tuesday, Jan. 13, at 6 p.m. at the County Storm Shelter, 255 Live Oak St., in Coldspring.

The event will run from 6-8 p.m. and is open to the public. For information, visit sanjacgop.com/events.

**Trump/Reagan Dinner**  
The annual San Jacinto Republican Party Trump/Reagan Dinner will be held at 5 p.m. Jan. 31 at County Storm Shelter, 255 Live Oak St., in Coldspring.

The guest speaker will be U.S. Rep. Wesley Hunt, R-Texas 38, and the keynote speaker will be Texas Ag Commissioner Sid Miller.

Tickets for the event are \$100 and are available at sanjacgop.com.

**Alcoholics Anonymous**  
AA meetings at 7 p.m. Sundays at Shepherd Methodist Church at the intersection of Highway 150 and FM 222.

For information, call (936) 628-3861.

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

The goal is to help the individuals avoid sacrificing healthy nutritious food just so they can pay for their other expenses. To apply, bring identification (driver's license, passport, work permit, residency card, or state ID), Birth certificates, Social Security cards and address verification (such as apartment lease, rental agreement, rent/mortgage payment receipt, utility bills, landlord letter) and income verification (last 3 paystubs, letter from employer, income tax, self-employment letter stating your weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly income, or award letters from child support, retirement, Social Security or disability).

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

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

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

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

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

For more information on the program, please visit [imaginationlibrary.com](http://imaginationlibrary.com). To register, visit either library.

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

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

Texas Crossword is brought to you by your State Farm agent.

**State Farm** Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.

255 FM 350, Livingston, TX 77351 • 936-327-4141 • Christopher Scott, Agent

### TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison  
Copyright 2026 by Orbison Bros.

**ACROSS**

- this Alan starred in TX-based film "The Big Land"
- TXism: "\_\_\_ piece" (long way)
- Jacksonville AM
- TX singer \_\_\_ Mae Morse
- TXism: "you got two chances: \_\_\_" (not likely)
- XIT Ranch covered \_\_\_ counties
- Gov. Wilbert \_\_\_ was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1941
- Texas "Cowpokes" creator Reid (init.)
- barbed-wire tycoon, TX John "\_\_\_ Million" Gates
- submissive, obedient
- 21-across, e.g.
- bundles of money
- bullets and shells
- init. of TX Stevie Ray without the "R"
- this woman was an famous gambler in early Texas (2 wds.)
- Kingsville FM
- famous Texas case: "\_\_\_ vs. Wade"
- TXism: "lower \_\_\_ scum"
- TXism: "packed like sardines in \_\_\_"
- TXism: "ole \_\_\_ and chain" (spouse)
- hymn: "\_\_\_ the Promises"
- Texas singer, Charley
- TXism: "sells like \_\_\_ at the State Fair"
- small burger
- UT has handwritten songs by this Paul
- hockey legend, Bobby
- large Texas families
- car's \_\_\_ wheel
- waterfowl found at Texas estuary, Laguna Madre
- TXism: "the bigger they \_\_\_, the harder they fall"
- TXism: "close but \_\_\_ cigar"
- "\_\_\_ out" (not like the rest of a group)
- poet, TX Shihab Nye
- name before Exxon
- TX Kenny's "The Gambler, Part \_\_\_"
- "\_\_\_ Texas" (the Texas sun)
- adjustable washing machine foot, e.g.
- outlaw motorcycle club formed in Texas
- nickname for retailer Abraham Lincoln
- Neiman
- TXism: "\_\_\_ gut" (liquor)
- in Hidalgo County off U.S. 83
- El Paso TV station
- surprise attacks
- sum of its parts
- TXism: "\_\_\_ home the bacon"
- Mexican name: "Rio Grande del \_\_\_"
- in Hill County on I-35
- seat of San Patricio County
- fast food restaurant was named for this daughter of founder
- "\_\_\_ impasse"
- 33 in Hidalgo County off U.S. 83
- El Paso TV station
- surprise attacks
- sum of its parts
- TXism: "\_\_\_ home the bacon"
- Mexican name: "Rio Grande del \_\_\_"
- in Hill County on I-35
- seat of San Patricio County
- fast food restaurant was named for this daughter of founder
- "\_\_\_ impasse"

**DOWN**

- "Caddo \_\_\_" near Karnack
- TXism: "red and yeller, kill \_\_\_" (coral snake)
- in Erath County on U.S. 377
- TX Hagman's "I \_\_\_ of Jeannie"
- in Parker County on FM 1187
- Gulf shrimp catchers
- agcy. that watches for drugs on the so. border
- TXism: "close but \_\_\_ cigar"
- "\_\_\_ out" (not like the rest of a group)
- poet, TX Shihab Nye
- name before Exxon
- TX Kenny's "The Gambler, Part \_\_\_"
- "\_\_\_ Texas" (the Texas sun)
- adjustable washing machine foot, e.g.
- outlaw motorcycle club formed in Texas
- nickname for retailer Abraham Lincoln
- Neiman
- TXism: "\_\_\_ gut" (liquor)
- in Hidalgo County off U.S. 83
- El Paso TV station
- surprise attacks
- sum of its parts
- TXism: "\_\_\_ home the bacon"
- Mexican name: "Rio Grande del \_\_\_"
- in Hill County on I-35
- seat of San Patricio County
- fast food restaurant was named for this daughter of founder
- "\_\_\_ impasse"

P-1775

## WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR LOCAL NEWS?

SAN JACINTO NEWS-TIMES

### Last Puzzle Solution

S-1774

Do you need...  
Business Cards? Forms? Commercial Checks?  
Notary Stamps? Envelopes? Letterhead?

Your one stop Print Shop has **YOU** covered!

**POLK COUNTY ENTERPRISE**  
THE DOMINANT NEWS AND ADVERTISING SOURCE IN POLK COUNTY SINCE 1904

Call Cheryl at 936-327-4357

# EAST TEXAS BUSINESS DIRECTORY

POLK COUNTY ENTERPRISE • SAN JACINTO NEWS-TIMES

*Advertising builds business*

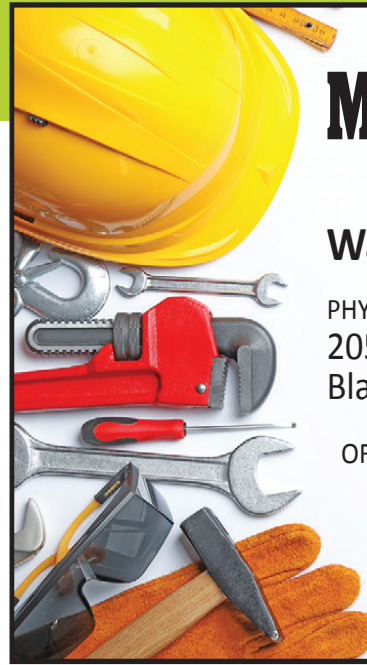
Reach 50,000 homes & businesses in four newspapers!

Starting at \$30/week (minimum 4 weeks)

To advertise, call your local newspaper

TRINITY COUNTY NEWS-STANDARD • TYLER COUNTY BOOSTER

## FEATURED BUSINESS OF THE WEEK



### Moseley Construction

General Contractor  
Waterfront Construction Specialist

PHYSICAL 2055 FM 3126 Blanchard, Texas  
MAILING 296 Fern Livingston, Texas 77351

OFFICE 936-967-8032 FAX 936-967-8033  
EMAIL mosco@dmosley.com

*A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches. - Proverbs 22:1*

### A/C & HEATING

Call us for your A/C, Heating, or Insulation needs

WOLF CREEK AIR CONDITIONING  
HEATING COOLING

936-653-3888  
service@wolfcreekair.com

3601 FM 224 | Coldspring TACLBO21695C



### AUTO REPAIRS



Complete Body & Frame Repair  
Free Estimates  
All Insurance Claims Welcome

4300 US Hwy 190 W | Livingston  
whitestarrcollision@gmail.com | 936-967-2777  
Chris White, owner | 1-CAR • ASE • STG

### BOWLING

16 Lanes • Kitchen • Party Rooms  
Full Bar • Leagues • Pool Tables  
Arcade • 5 Flat Screen TVs  
936-967-BOWL (2695)  
6900 US Hwy 190 W • Livingston

**Triple Lanes**

### CONSTRUCTION

**Bulkheads & Boathouses**

**Ivy Construction, LLC**  
936-239-2357  
www.ivy-construction.com

**Moseley Construction**  
General Contractor  
Waterfront Construction Specialist

PHYSICAL 2055 FM 3126 Blanchard, Texas  
MAILING 296 Fern Livingston, Texas 77351

OFFICE 936-967-8032 FAX 936-967-8033  
EMAIL mosco@dmosley.com

*A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches. - Proverbs 22:1*

JOBS BIG OR SMALL, WE DO THEM ALL!

**RILEY'S**

We build Metal Buildings & Barndominiums  
Ponds • Site Prep • Land Clearing • Pads • Dirt/Clay • Rock Road Base • Stabilized Sand • Driveway • Concrete Work

**936-707-9178**  
JAMES RILEY jamesrileyinc@yahoo.com

### CONSTRUCTION

Boathouses - Piers - Docks - Decks  
Steel & Wood Bulkheads  
Timber Bridges - Marinas

Shoretech Marine  
Design & Construction

Over 40 years of Design & Construction Experience

www.shoretechmarine.com  
936-662-5100

**Shirley Electric**

**GENERAC**

SALES & SERVICE DEALER  
409-429-0368

Available 24/7  
E-mail: sales.service@shirleyelectric.com  
Financing Available  
Woodville, Texas

Residential & Commercial  
40+ Years  
Electrical Experience  
In God We Trust T.E.C.L.# 35239

Competitive Pricing and excellent service on all your propane needs.

Propane • Cylinder & Motorhome Filling  
Home Deliveries • Tanks • Sales and Rentals  
GE & Hotpoint Appliances • Sales and Service Heaters  
Rheem Water Heaters • Rinnai Water Heaters  
(Propane, Natural & Electric) In House Financing

**Consumers L-P Gas & Appliance Co.**  
FM 1617 at Hwy. 195 • Trinity, TX (behind Roadside Park)  
You can be sure day or night!  
Call 936-594-2156

### GENERAC CONTRACTOR/INSTALLATION

**GENERAC**

SALES & SERVICE DEALER  
409-429-0368

E-mail: sales.service@shirleyelectric.com  
Available 24/7  
Shirley Electric  
Woodville, Texas In God We Trust T.E.C.L.# 35239

**CARTER INSURANCE**  
Your Protection Is Our Business

Auto | Home | Mobile Home | RV  
Boat | Motorcycle | Life | Commercial  
SR-22s

612 Pan American Dr. (next to Boot Barn) • 936-327-3804  
Call today for a free quote!

**HIGHLINE**  
Welcome to real high-speed internet.

701 W. Church  
LIVINGSTON, TEXAS 77351  
888-212-0054  
HighlineFast.com

### PAINTING

**Schulze's Painting, Inc.**  
Interior • Exterior • Pressure Washing

25+ Years of Experience!

Donald Schulze  
FREE ESTIMATES!  
Cell: 281-381-0244

### RESTAURANT

**El Burrito**  
MEXICAN RESTAURANT

100 Southpoint Loop [Southpoint Shopping Center] Livingston • 936-327-3770

### ROOFING

Call us and get a *lott* better roof!

**JAY LOTT**  
409-382-7186 OFFICE  
sales@jaylottroofing.com

### ROOFING

**WILL COX**  
*Roofing*

"We are the Experts"  
Serving for 40 years  
281-592-4997  
willcoxroofing.com

### SEPTIC

**WANNA GET ON OUR LIST?**  
409-283-4507

**PUMPING • NEW INSTALLS • REPAIRS**

### TREE SERVICE

**GREAT SATISFACTION GUARANTEED!**

INSURED  
Free Estimates  
Reasonable Rates  
Tree Removal  
Trimming  
Storm Damage  
Tree Topping  
Lot Clearing  
Bush Hogging  
Stump Grinding


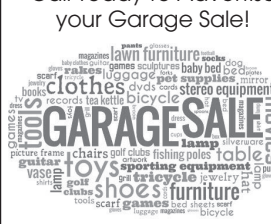
**PROFESSIONAL TREE SERVICE**  
E&A

WE SPECIALIZE IN:  
DANGEROUS TAKE DOWNS  
DEAD TREE REMOVAL  
COMPLETE CLEAN-UP

Owner:  
Emmanuel Jasso  
Phone: (936) 225-2630  
or (946) 707-9661  
eaprofessionaltreeservice@gmail.com  
www.eandtreeservice.com

# CLASSIFIEDS

**We've Got You Covered in 4 Counties!**  
San Jacinto | Trinity | Tyler | Polk

Announcements	Cleaning Services	Items for Sale	Work Wanted	Work Wanted	Work Wanted
<p><b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH</b>, Woodville is gearing up to begin our Coats for Kids giveaway at the House of Hope, located between the Post Office and the Church. While supplies last, each child will receive two coats, one heavy, and one light weight. Kids must be accompanied by an adult. Give away runs every Thursday, beginning October 30 thru January 8, 2026, from 3:30-5:30 pm. Will be closed, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's day. (45-tfn-nc-TCB)</p>	<p><b>S &amp; S Cleaning and Maintenance</b></p>  <p><b>Residential Commercial Construction</b></p> <p><b>936-714-6226</b> (32-tfn-b-PCE)</p>	<p><b>VINTAGE CLOSET CLEAN-OUT! I'LL BUY YOUR OLD CLOTHES (2000s OR OLDER. THE OLDER THE BETTER!)</b></p> <p>Have old clothes taking up space? I'm looking for women's clothing from the early 2000s or earlier 90s, 80s, 70s, 60s, 50s and beyond! Let me make it easy for you: I'll come to you. Clean out your closet. Pay you on the spot. Whether it's a few pieces or a whole wardrobe. I'm interested in vintage, trendy, funky, or forgotten fashion. Text or call Madison at (832)540-2275 to set up a time! Let's give your clothes a second life! (33-tfn-nc-PCE)</p>	<p><b>House Leveling</b></p> <p><b>Pier &amp; Beam Single &amp; Doublewide Mobile Homes</b></p> <p>Call <b>936-328-1434</b> (37-tfn-b-PCE)</p>	<p><b>Lester Bros. Tree Service</b></p> <p>Trimming, Top Removal, Haul Off, Tractor Work. Now accepting credit cards. Call for Free Estimate Insured</p> <p>25 yrs experience <b>936-223-9265</b> OR <b>936-365-4955</b> Livingston, TX (23-tfn-b-PCE)</p>	<p><b>Fenced Yard or Field Stump Grinding</b></p> <p>Remote Controlled Precision Work Any Size or Amount Insured Free Estimates</p> <p><b>David Holley</b> <b>936-433-2371</b> (1-tfn-nc-PCE)</p>
<p><b>POLK COUNTY SPCA</b> urges everyone to do their part to control the pet population in Polk County. Have your pets spayed and neutered to avoid dealing with unwanted puppies and kittens. To adopt a pet, come by SPCA at 802 South Houston, corner of Mary St. and Hwy. 146 or call (936) 755-3020. (1-tfn-nc-PCE)</p>	<p><b>Employment</b></p> <p>Part-Time Driver Needed; Seeking a reliable part-time driver, 10-15 hours per week, Monday- Friday. Must have a valid driver's license and clean driving record. Vehicle Provided. Perfect for someone retired or looking for light part-time work. Call 936- 327-7147 Ext 107 if interested and for more details. (1-6t-b-PCE)</p>	<p><b>Pets &amp; Supplies</b></p> <p>FREE TO good home(s). We will spay/neuter and vaccinate at no charge for the new owner, one kitten. Call Area Wide Vet Clinic (936)327-0014. (42-nc-tfn-PCE)</p>	<p><b>Plumas House Leveling w/Water Level &amp; Concrete</b></p> <p>20 Yrs Exp, Senior Citizen Discount Insured</p> <p><b>936-433-6304</b> if no answer call for appt Livingston, TX <b>936-513-0783</b> (1-tfn-b-PCE)</p>	<p><b>TLC Toole's Lawn Care &amp; Landscaping</b></p> <p>*Drainage *Retaining Walls *Residential *Commercial</p> <p>Year round full service maintenance- design, build &amp; install flower beds, hydroseeding.</p> <p>Fully Insured Tree Removal, Irrigation Livingston, TX</p> <p><b>936-646-2661</b> (1-tfn-b-PCE)</p>	<p>Call Today to Advertise your Garage Sale!</p>  <p><b>San Jacinto News-Times</b> 100 Calhoun • Livingston • 936.327.4357</p>
<p><b>A BOOKSTORE FOR CHARITY</b> is located inside the Tyler County Booster newspaper office located at 205 W. Bluff in Woodville. All books are 25 cents each, or fill a bag for \$2. All proceeds benefit Tyler County non profits. (2-tfn-nc-TCB)</p>	<p><b>Pedigo Furniture is accepting applications</b> for a Full Time Sales and Design Consultant Position for an enthusiastic and goal-oriented individual. Previous experience in retails or sales is required. Must be able to work Saturday and holidays. Excellent opportunity to join a dynamic company. Apply in person at 3785 U.S. Highway 190 West in Livingston. (25-tfn-b-PCE)</p>	<p><b>Personal Notices</b></p> <p>62 YEAR old financially secure white male looking to meet a female to hang out with and date. If you are looking for a nice guy call Brad (936)268-5896. (2-1-pd-PCE)</p>	<p><b>Vickery Dirt</b></p> <p>Dirt, Clay, Sand Free Delivery</p> <p>Rock, Dozer Work, Land Clearing, Tractor Work, Driveways, House Pads <a href="http://www.vickerydirt.com">www.vickerydirt.com</a></p> <p><b>936-329-4159</b></p> <p><b>Vickery Propane Tanks &amp; Service</b> <b>936-327-HEAT</b> (50-tfn-b-PCE)</p>	<p><b>Vickery Lawn Service</b></p> <p>*Stump Grinding *Land Mulching *Land Clearing *Tractor Work *Driveways</p> <p>Fully Insured</p> <p><b>936-329-1653</b> Livingston, TX (1-tfn-b-PCE)</p>	 <p>Are you looking for <b>Air Guitar Lessons?</b></p> <p>That's kind of odd but maybe next week someone will advertise for it here!</p> <p><b>SAN JACINTO NEWS-TIMES</b> <b>936.628.6851</b></p>
<p><b>KIDS FREE Clothing Exchange</b> is a non-profit organization providing free, gently used clothing for children ages 0-18 years of age living in Polk and the other 6 surrounding counties of Lake Livingston. Donations of new and gently used clothing are appreciated. We are in Onalaska, Hwy 190 at 3186. Open Friday and Saturday, 10-3. <a href="http://kfceonlaska.com">kfceonlaska.com</a>. (49-tfn-nc-PCE)</p>	<p><b>THE PICKETT HOUSE</b> in Woodville is now hiring wait staff and kitchen staff, pay depending on experience. Call 409-283-3371, or come by between 9-2 for application. (19-tfn-b-TCB)</p>	<p><b>Real Estate</b></p> <p>ATTENTION INVESTORS! 2800sq. ft. plus 1-car garage and 1-bedroom apartment. Take a look! Just out of the city limits. Owner financing. Wiggins Village. (936)329-1484. (2-2t-cc-PCE)</p>	<p><b>S &amp; L Tree Service</b></p> <p>Tree removal, clean up, stump grinding</p> <p>New bucket truck Fully insured</p> <p>Serving the local and surrounding areas</p> <p>Call Richard <b>832-401-4081</b> (2-tfn-b-PCE)</p>	<p><b>HARD WORKING TYLER COUNTY WOMAN</b>, Landscaping, fence line clearing, painting, clean out flower beds, any outdoor jobs. Christal-409-224-5293. (49-tfn-p-TCB)</p>	
<p><b>HABITAT FOR Humanity</b> located at 321 N. Beatty, Livingston. Tuesday-Friday 9 a m - 3 p m Saturday 9am-1pm. (35-tfn-nc-PCE)</p>	<p><b>NOW HIRING</b> Looking for honest, hard working, outgoing, self motivated individuals with a good attitude looking to build a career in the fast food industry. Looking for a Team Leader with one year experience and an assistant with 2-3 years experience. Must have good references, Livingston, TX. Apply at <a href="http://www.burgerworkshr.com">www.burgerworkshr.com</a> (1-tfn-b-PCE)</p>	<p><b>Rentals-Houses</b></p> <p>ONE, TWO and three bedroom, very nice, in Ivanhoe, located in Tyler County. Call 409-429-4752. (24-tfn-b-TCB)</p>	<p><b>Storage</b></p> <p>ENCLOSED BOAT STORAGE - Also climate &amp; self storage. White Rock Storage. 6216 FM 356 Trinity (936)594-9283 or (713)249-1033. (45-tfn-b-TCNS)</p>		
<p><b>CHRISTINE'S PLACE Resale Shop</b> accepts donations and is open M-F, 501 W. Bluff in Woodville. 409-331-9939. <a href="http://www.westrengthenthefamilies.org">www.westrengthenthefamilies.org</a>. (1-tfn-nc-TCB)</p>	<p><b>SAN JACINTO NEWS-TIMES</b> <b>936.628.6851</b> <a href="http://WWW.SANJACNEWS.COM">WWW.SANJACNEWS.COM</a> <b>SUBSCRIBE TODAY!</b> PRINT &amp; ONLINE EDITIONS AVAILABLE</p>	<p><b>Very Nice One Bedroom</b>, out building, in Ivanhoe. 409-429-4752. (39-tfn-b-TCB)</p>	<p><b>Subscriptions</b></p> <p>We ♥ our readers</p> <p><b>San Jacinto New-Times</b></p>		

**SUBSCRIBE TODAY!**

**936-628-6851**

[easttexasnews.com](http://easttexasnews.com)

TEXAS STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK



**TexSCAN Week of Jan. 4-10, 2026**

**CELLULAR PHONE SERVICE**

**Consumer Cellular** - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-855-493-3803.

**CHARITY**

**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!

**ENERGY**

**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.

**OIL & GAS**

**We buy oil, gas & mineral rights.** Both non-producing and producing including Non-Participating Royalty Homes -Travel Trailers, 5th Wheels, Goosenecks, Interest (NPRI). Provide us your desired price for an Bumper Pulls. In Any Area, Any Condition - Old/offer evaluation. Call today: 806-620-1422. Lobo New, Dirty or Clean! I PAY CASH. No Title - No Minerals, LLC, PO Box 1800, Lubbock, TX Problem, we can apply for one. We go anywhere 79408-1800, [LoboMineralsLLC@gmail.com](mailto:LoboMineralsLLC@gmail.com).

**HOME IMPROVEMENT**

**Jim's Metal Roof Coatings**, licensed and insured, statewide service. Roof coating, painting, leak repair, bin tops, roofing (metal/galvanized), metal building (steel or aluminum), house (exterior). Call your local contractor, Jim's Metal Farm Coatings at (325) 436-4039 or (469) 315-0002.

**No more cleaning out gutters.** Guaranteed! LeafFilter is backed by a no-clog guarantee and lifetime transferrable warranty. Call today 1-833-460-3020 to schedule a FREE inspection and no obligation estimate. Get 15% off your entire order. Plus, Military & Seniors get an additional 10% off. Limited time only. Restrictions apply, see representative for warranty and offer details.

**VACATION**

**YMT Vacations.** Over 50 guided tours available. Affordable, social and stress-free travel designed for mature travelers. Our tours include accommodations, transportation, baggage handling, sightseeing, entrance fees, a professional Tour Director and select meals. For a limited time SAVE \$250 on all tours. Call YMT today. 1-877-741-0071.

**WANTED**

**Need Extra Cash** - I Buy RVs & Mobile and producing including Non-Participating Royalty Homes -Travel Trailers, 5th Wheels, Goosenecks, Interest (NPRI). Provide us your desired price for an Bumper Pulls. In Any Area, Any Condition - Old/offer evaluation. Call today: 806-620-1422. Lobo New, Dirty or Clean! I PAY CASH. No Title - No Minerals, LLC, PO Box 1800, Lubbock, TX Problem, we can apply for one. We go anywhere in Texas. ANR Enterprises, 956-466-7001!

**Texas Press Statewide Classified Network**  
184 Participating Texas Newspapers • Regional Ads  
Start At \$250 • Email [ads@texaspress.com](mailto:ads@texaspress.com)

NOTICE: While most advertisers are reputable, we cannot guarantee products or services advertised. We urge readers to use caution and when in doubt, contact the Texas Attorney General at 800-621-0508 or the Federal Trade Commission at 877-FTC-HELP. The FTC web site is [www.ftc.gov/bizop](http://www.ftc.gov/bizop).

**THE PAPER YOU LOVE! SUBSCRIBE TODAY!**

**SAN JACINTO NEWS-TIMES**

**936.628.6851**



**SAN JACINTO NEWS-TIMES**



1-YEAR SUBSCRIPTION		
In County	Out of County	Out of State
\$45	\$55	\$65
E-Edition \$35		

Send in this form today along with your check or money order!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**YOU CAN ALSO PAY BY PHONE OR ONLINE | ALL CARDS ACCEPTED**

**PO Box 1689**  
**Shepherd, Tx 77371**  
**936-628-6851**

**easttexasnews.com**  
**circulation@easttexasnews.com**