



The city of Breckenridge is taking steps to address the Breckenridge Fire Department's living quarters. The city commissioners approved a feasibility study regarding the quarters Tuesday, Jan. 7.

Photo/City of Breckenridge

## City addressing fire station living quarters

Alex Kielar

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The Breckenridge City Commission has gone through the process of considering obtaining a feasibility study on proposing to address the city's fire station living quarters — located at 102 West Elm — for its employees.

The beginning steps of the process began last

spring according to City Manager Cynthia Northrop, who created an ad hoc committee to brainstorm solutions of addressing the situation in alignment with the city's strategic plan goal of investing in its employees.

"There are health and safety issues where they are living right now," Northrop stated.

Assistant Fire Chief Wesley Turner voiced his con-

cerns with the current living conditions of the fire station.

"The firefighters are on board with tearing that building down," Turner said. "There's guys over there that have been 20-plus years in a building that has roof leaks, window leaks, plumbing issues, bathrooms with no hot wa-

See Station, Page 2



A property at 1208 W. 3rd that was one of six discussed by the Breckenridge City Commission which were determined to be dangerous.

Photo/City of Breckenridge

## Substandard housing movement made by city commissioners

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As they work to align with their strategic plan, the Breckenridge City Commission has been actively addressing several substandard housing units.

The City Commission spoke about six buildings which they have initially determined to be dangerous buildings at their meeting Tuesday, January 7.

Those six properties are as follows: 1409 E. Williams, 1208 W. 3rd, 614 S. O' Conner, 504 N. Rose, 302 N. Graham and 209 W. Hullum.

The city notified all six property owners that the buildings must be repaired or demolished in order to be in compliance with the city's minimum standards pursuant to Section 5-5 of the city code.

These buildings were in violation of several items on the dangerous building violation

checklist which led to the determination. Four of the property owners, or a representative of the property owner, were in attendance at the meeting to state their case.

The determination was made by the commission to order a demolition of 1409 E. Williams within 30 days, whose property owner was not in attendance. The property on 1208 W. 3rd features two mobile homes, one in which Zachary Smith is living in. However, the building in question is another mobile home east of that one, which does not have water or electricity and needs to be removed.

Speaking on behalf of Zachary was his father, Phillip, who pleaded to get an extension on forming a plan.

"I request that a determination on the building be postponed

See Housing, Page 3

## Phase 1 of street improvement project change order approved

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A change order for the City of Breckenridge Street Improvement Project - Phase 1 was unanimously passed by the Breckenridge City Commission during their meeting Tuesday, Jan. 7.

The change order includes seven modifications to the contract with contractor Raydon, Inc., which Sage Diller, Professional Contractor with Enprotec / Hibbs & Todd, Inc (eHT), explained.

The change order increases the contract price by \$214,593, from \$2,405,233.20 to \$2,619,827.18.

Diller told the commission that the bids for the project came in favorably which allowed them to add additional work per funds



A change order was approved Tuesday, Jan. 7 for the city's Street Improvement Project - Phase 1. The change order includes seven modifications with to the contract with Raydon, Inc.

Photo/City of Breckenridge

available.

"The increase of the contract is not even halfway to the allowable increase of 25%, which would come out to a total of \$600,000 available funding," Diller said.

The change order only includes additional street improvements and does not

add any additional time to the contract.

The changes, most of which were initiated by the city to address on-site issues, are as follows:

Hullum and Harvey Intersection - Additional con-

See Street, Page 3



A property located at 504 N. Rose that was deemed as dangerous by the city of Breckenridge. The city recently spoke about the property.

Photo/City of Breckenridge

## Weekly Local Forecast

**Wednesday, Jan. 15**  
High 60 | Low 33  
Precipitation 6%

**Thursday, Jan. 16**  
High 67 | Low 50  
Precipitation 5%

**Friday, Jan. 17**  
High 77 | Low 36  
Precipitation 2%

**Saturday, Jan. 18**  
High 49 | Low 21  
Precipitation 2%

**Sunday, Jan. 19**  
High 35 | Low 15  
Precipitation 5%

**Monday, Jan. 20**  
High 33 | Low 20  
Precipitation 5%

**Tuesday, Jan. 21**  
High 38 | Low 26  
Precipitation 0%

**Hubbard Creek**  
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Classifieds 6-7 SCJLS Preview 3  
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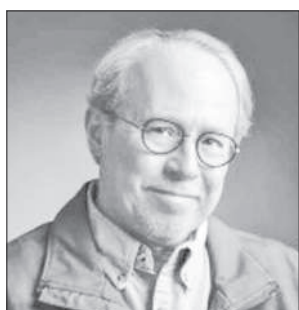
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# Agencies, universities seek \$24.6 billion in new funding

The Texas Senate's chief budget writer said state agencies and higher education institutions have requested nearly \$25 billion in funding as the legislative session gets underway. State Sen. Joan Huffman, R-Houston, told The Dallas Morning News that the requests for new money reflect the growing functions and purposes of state agencies that serve the public.



Gary Borders

### Capital Highlights

sector.

"I'm not surprised, overall, to see agencies continue to ask for more money to provide pay raises to stay competitive," said Rahul Sreenivasan, director of government performance and fiscal policy at Texas 2036, an Austin think tank.

Some examples:

- The Texas Department of Public Safety is asking for an additional \$1.58 billion to create more than 2,000 new

positions, mainly for driver's license offices.

- The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services wants to hire more than 600 new employees as it battles one of the highest turnover rates among state agencies.

- Texas Health and Human Services hopes to hire 1,772 new employees to check residents' eligibility for social services, such as food benefits.

The Legislature begins the session with more than \$20 billion in unspent tax money.

### Grid keeps humming during first wintry blast

The state's power grid withstood its first wintry blast last week with no major outages as snow blanketed much of West and North Texas, and heavy rains hit Central and South Texas. The Texas Tribune reported that energy supply comfortably exceeded demand during the latest cold snap.

Limited outages unrelated to grid capacity were reported, particularly in far Northeast Texas. Temperatures have since returned this to normal for this time of year across most of the state.

Most of the snow fell in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex and surrounding counties.

...

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers.

# Station

Continued from Page 1

ter in them. We're not against the feasibility study, we're concerned with what the feasibility study leads to."

Turner voiced his frustration to the commission that he has told the firefighters for a year that they wouldn't get stuck in temporary housing forever.

"We can absolutely put the firefighters back in a building that is halfway finished, with no plan or funding to finish the building out," Turner said. "Now they are coming back and asking if we are going to get stuck in temporary housing forever. I just don't want this to make a liar out of me when we come back and stir everything back up with something we can't finish."

After several options were analyzed, the ad hoc committee recommended a three-phased approach, starting with placing a temporary living quarters on the parking lot north of the fire station as phase 1 with an opinion of probable cost (OPC) of \$65,000.

The recommended phase 2 would be to demo the existing fire station building with an OPC of \$150,000. Phase 3 would be constructing a modest metal building on the remaining slab, coming with an OPC of \$500,000 to \$750,000 and grant opportunities available for exploration.

Following this step, the ad hoc committee recommended that



Breckenridge Fire Department works a structure fire Tuesday, Oct. 29 in the 200 block of East First Street in Breckenridge.

Photo/City of Breckenridge

the commission consider obtaining a feasibility study to get more definitive information on the condition of the existing fire station as well as comparing the cost to remodel against using an industry standard estimate.

Northrop noted that the committee is concerned with the validity of the numbers originally listed, as they are not hard numbers.

The commission received a building feasibility study proposal Dec. 16, 2024 from Gary Baker & Associates, LLC (GBA), of Wichita Falls, with a proposed cost of \$12,000.

The cost of the proposal is not budgeted, but staff would complete a budget amendment to use their available fund balance.

"That would give us a clearer picture of where we are at, whether we are going to demo or remodel the fire station," Northrop said.

GBA would like to meet with the commission and the fire department to find out all the moving pieces in the building, what the issues are, what the concerns are, what the footprint needs to look like and what the growth pattern for

the fire station needs to be.

"We'd like to see a little more information before we tear down the existing building in the event that it could be done cheaper and if it will fit the needs," said Wade Bradley Smith, Civil Project Manager at Enprotec/Hibbs & Todd (eHT). "I have zero issue with the temporary living facility that is being put out there, I think that is a phenomenal idea."

According to the commission, once a contract on the feasibility study was executed, it would be back within 30 days.

Smith said that they would be onsite to find out the concerns the week immediately following the contract execution.

Commissioner Rob Durham made the motion to approve the ad hoc committee's recommendation of a feasibility study, which was seconded by Commissioner Vince Moore and opposed by Mayor Bob Sims, passing 2-1.

In their proposal, GBA also proposed a design build option by utilizing Gary Baker Construction as the general contractor, as a cost savings to the city.

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## Youth talent on display

The 67th Stephens County Livestock Show took off last week with multiple events for county youth. Shown at top are rabbits being shown off during the show. Shown at bottom are goat herders participate in the showmanship competition.

Photos / Alex Kielar



## Streets

Continued from Page 1

crete pavement, curb and gutter and residential concrete driveways to improve drainage conditions.

4th and Live Oak intersection-Reconstruction of the roadway to improve drainage, grades and rideability.

Payne Street - Installation of concrete pavement in front of dumpster pads to improve the structural integrity of the pavement to better withstand heavy traffic.

Pecan Street - Reconstruction of the asphalt pavement and curb and gutter along the median, approaching the intersection with Hullum Street, to improve drainage conditions.

Gaddis Street - Alterations to the scope to limit the improvements along Gaddis Street from Dunnigan Street to S. Butte Street.

3rd Street - Provide pre-lay asphalt pavement to roadway surface to improve conditions.

Hullum Street - Replace the failing curb along Hullum Street from S. Oakwood Street to S. Court Street.

### Solid Waste proposals

The commission is also preparing to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the expiring contract of current solid waste provider, Republic Services.

The contract is for eight years with an option to renew for an additional eight years, with the first eight expiring this July.

In issuing the RFP, competitive rates are kept for the citizens of Breckenridge. The commission is required to give 90-day notice on its intent to not renew the contract with Republic Services.

The projected timeline to issue the RFP according to City Manager Cynthia Northrop is notifying current provider Republic Services of their intent not to renew the contract on

April 1 and then advertise the RFP on April 9.

The timeline has bid submissions being due on May 2 and the commission would award a bid on June 3. The transition period if it is a new company would occur in June or July.

### Lead Service Line Project Update

Diller also provided an update on the lead service line replacement project, saying that crews and contractors were out to check all service lines in the city for lead.

City water/wastewater foreman Billy Smith estimates that the city has replaced five lines a month since 2001, and all lines with lead must be replaced.

Diller stated that they have done inventory on the current service lines and posted an interactive map on their website which shows where lead lines must be replaced with non-lead water lines.

Diller also said that since the inventory is already completed, he does not recommend the city to apply for Texas Water Development Board inventory funding as it would be asking for reimbursement at that point.

According to Northrop, about 50% of the inventory is galvanized and that is part of the inventory that must be replaced, according to Diller.

"That is going to be a substantial cost and there is going to be funding out there that you can apply for," Diller said. "That funding will most likely be 50% grant and 0% interest on the remainder of it. It will be a significant project and they are allowing until 2037 to address the issues and complete the project. That length of time has been changing with guidance as it comes down from the federal government."

## Housing

Continued from Page 1

30 or 60 days so that I can actually put together a proposal and present something to you that is legitimate," he said.

Ultimately, the commission allowed for a 60 day extension on the property owners to form a plan, with Mayor Bob Sims voting no and Commissioners Rob Durham and Vince Moore voting yes.

The property owner for 614 S. O'Conner is Brandi Wilson, whose father JD Wilson told the board that they are trying to do what they can to tear it down.

"We did receive a bid to get rid of it for \$6,000 and are trying to get a reasonable deal," Wilson said. "I want to see if we can get a local contractor to do it."

Wilson also added that they want to fix the property up and restore it once the demolition is complete. The commission approved allowing 60 days to demolish, with Mayor Sims voting no.

The owner of 504 N. Rose, Dominga Bagget, said that she is willing to fix up the house, but needs more time.

Bagget stated that she had to move out due to the fact it needed so much work. The commission approved giving the owner 60 days to make proper repairs.

Anthony Price, the owner of 302 N. Graham said that he has been trying to give



A property at 302 N. Graham that was deemed dangerous by the city of Breckenridge and was part of a discussion by the city commission.

Photo / City of Breckenridge

the house away to someone who is willing to tear it down for some time now.

Price had bought the house next door after being in the aforementioned house for about 20 years, and hasn't been able to afford maintaining the original.

Price said he has a friend who wants the lumber and a contractor who can tear it down. He noted that they will begin the teardown process after the cold weather comes to an end.

"There is a lot of good cedar in that house," he said. "I'm surprised no one was jumping on taking it from me sooner."

Price said that he can have it torn down for the lumber, clean it up and make the appropriate improvements within 60 days. The commission ordered that the dem-

olition be completed within 90 days, with Mayor Sims the only one opposed.

For 209 W. Hullum, the property owner was not in attendance and the commission ordered a demolition of the property within 30 days.

If the owner of any of the buildings that were deemed to be dangerous do not repair or vacate within a certain time as ordered, the city then has the go-ahead to go in and demolish the structures.

From there, the city would either contract the demolition out and pay disposal costs at a total estimated cost of \$20,000 or city crews could demolish at estimated cost of disposal of \$10,000.

The city would place a lien on the property to recover the costs of the demolition in both cases.

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

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

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

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

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

Our information laws at times require legislative updates to re-



Kelley Shannon

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

Just as important is the need to overcome barriers some governments intentionally use to block information access. Loopholes in

the laws must be closed. Enforcement should be fine-tuned.

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

The FOI Foundation also hosts regional training sessions to help Texans learn to use the Public Information Act and Open Meetings Act.

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

How is taxpayer money spent? Are contractors who are building roads and bridges

meeting deadlines and ensuring safety? Do school districts, cities and counties effectively manage programs and budgets?

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

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

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

See Shannon, Page 5

## Ask Rusty: About investing social security money in the stock market

Dear Rusty: For most folks collecting Social Security, you get back what you put in within 3-5 years, so for those that scream - "SS is not an entitlement, it is my money" - that is not entirely accurate beyond 3-5 years. For me personally 4.4 years is the number. But had I been able to invest that money over the 43 years.

I worked at a modest 6% interest, I expect the amount would have been a lot more. And of course, the stock market averaged 9.5% over that time. Perhaps Social Security should invest in the stock market instead of U.S. Government treasury bonds. **Signed: Interested Observer**

Dear Observer: You bring up a point we frequently hear - that if, instead of paying into Social Security, I had invested the same money in the stock market I would have gotten more. That, of course, might be the case if you had the unwavering discipline to religiously invest the equivalent amount in the market, avoiding the temptation to use that investment for any other reason. And life is full of good reasons - financial emergencies, for example, or the simple temptation to buy something desperately needed, or just occasionally skipping a month to pay bills. Also, the stock market is notoriously volatile, which can create substantial angst for investors who are faint of heart.

The fact is that Social Security provides guaranteed financial growth from the age of eligibility (normally 62), up to age 70 when the maximum benefit is attained. Benefits claimed at one's full retirement age are about 24% - 32%



Russell Gloor

### Social Security Matters

more than if taken at age 62 (depending on full retirement age), and benefits taken at age 70 are about 75% more than benefits taken at age 62. And that is guaranteed growth for those with the patience to wait longer to claim.

You may recall that the idea of investing Social Security reserves in the stock market has been floated a few times in previous years, but accompanying risks made Congress essentially unwilling to even entertain the idea. It has always been a political "hot potato" and those who suggest it are usually castigated for wanting to "give SS money to Wall Street," so I expect it is unlikely to happen.

Guess we'll need to be satisfied with the interest on those Special Issue Government Bonds (which, by the way, returned about \$67 billion to the Social Security Trust Fund in 2023).

FYI, average interest rate for new deposits to the Trust Fund in 2023 was 4.1%, and the overall effective rate of return on all Trust Fund assets was 2.4%.

Social Security has some issues and will face some financial difficulty in less than a decade unless Congress enacts program reform soon.

But it is a program which most seniors rely on for a major part of their retirement income and

See Matters, Page 5

## Spell check runs amok...

"Spell Check" - first thought to be a handy computer feature to help us use the correct letters in the proper order for word formation - often goes haywire.

Like oft-discussed Artificial Intelligence (AI is the abbreviation, despite my thinking it to be short for "Alfred" in the early going), it can be dead wrong, reddened faces and run far afield from what is intended. This may be true when the name of our current hometown-

Burleson, TX, where we have domiciled in semi-retirement since 2002 - is typed...

Burleson had hardly gotten the "sleepy" rubbed from its eyes when we moved into our modest tract home on a cul-de-sac near Interstate Highway 35W. Longtime residents at the time bragged about the community's immense growth, its population reaching 20,000 shortly before the turn of the century.

Old-timers rattled on

about memories of one traffic light, a couple of eating places and it being the "crepe myrtle capital" of Texas. Many comments seemed trivial, usually trailing off to other topics like grandchildren and the weather. (Similarly, Brownwood, TX, where I grew up, once was known as "the feather duster capital of the world," to which millions of deceased turkeys might attest.)

Over the past two decades, though, there've been interesting - or at



Don Newbury

### The Idle American

least, semi-interesting - facts surfacing long enough to pique interest about Burleson, now wide awake...

Interestingly (and most sentences beginning with this word aren't), our town is named for a university president, Dr. Rufus Columbus Burleson.

Not only was the late educator a president, he took on the task twice - 25 years apart - at Baylor University, which was chartered by the State of Texas in 1845. (BU almost moved to Dallas in 1929, but in that initial year of the Great Depression, most every-

See Newbury, Page 5

The Breckenridge American offers local readers an opportunity to share their opinions on community topics and issues of public importance. Mail or deliver letters to the office at 114 E. Elm Street in Breckenridge, or e-mail letters to editor@breckenridgeamerican.com. The deadline is 5 p.m. Friday for the mid-week edition. Letters that do not meet the deadline will not be printed in the paper. Letters must be submitted by the author/signee, and not by a third-party on behalf of the author/signee. Letters must contain the author's first name, last name, complete address, and telephone number. Only the writer's name and title of the letter, as appropriate, will be published with the letter. Names cannot be withheld. Letters from any candidate who is actively running for any political office will not be published. Writers may submit letters of up to 500 words. Letters are not guaranteed to be published in the next edition, but every effort to do so will be made. Unverified letters and letters containing personal attacks the newspaper deems to be of a libelous nature will not be published. In any event, the newspaper reserves the sole discretion to decide whether or not a reader submission will be published. All letters and columns featured on the Opinion Page are the views of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Breckenridge American.

## Breckenridge American

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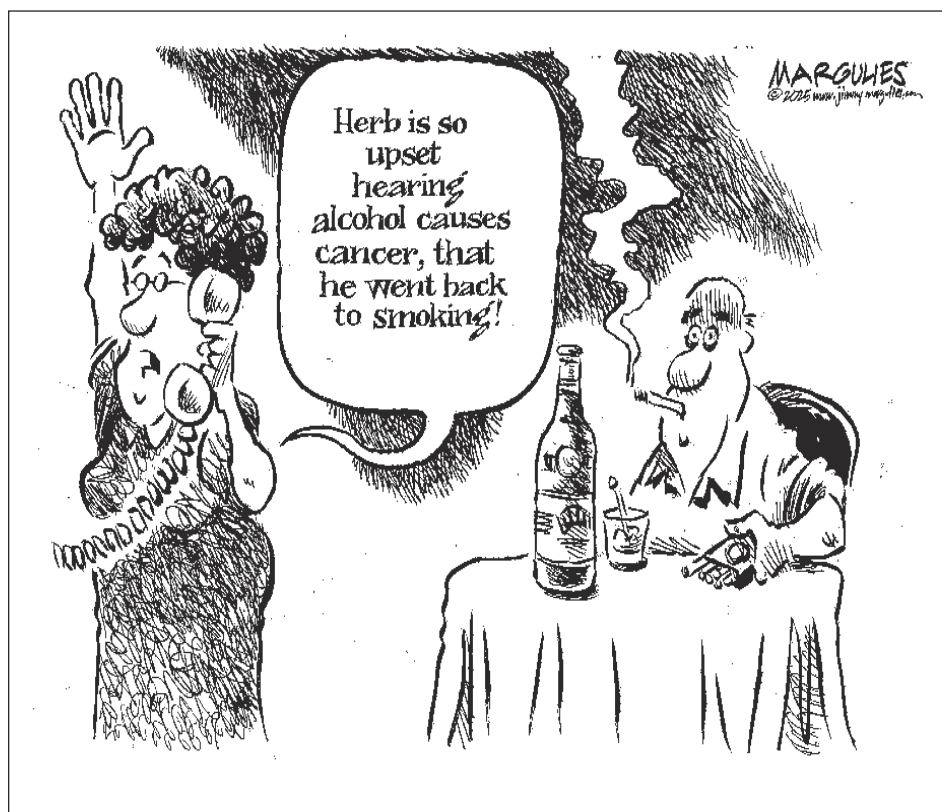
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# Newbury

Continued from Page 4

thing huddled in place.) That a man would serve in this role for a decade (1851-1861) and be asked to return in 1886 for 11 more years defies both probability and imagination...

I have digressed shamelessly. Research entices with "rabbit trails," many of which I traverse gleefully. Initially, I was addressing spell check.

But wait. There is a connection. Often when I type the word "Burlleson," spell check suggests that my intent might have been to type "burlesque." It even offers to make the correction for me with the click of a key. Burlleson was a good ten miles from any known sin at

the time of its founding in 1912...

Fact is, there were only a few hundred people to sin and/or walk the straight and narrow at the time. Humbly begun, Burlleson was but a stop on the Interurban (tram-like electrical rail cars) that ran 10 times daily between Fort Worth and Cleburne.

Henry Renfro, a visionary who owned much land and cut a wide swath politically, wanted to honor the man who had been his teacher, then president, at Baylor. Thus Burlleson was born, even if spell check doesn't cotton to the choice...

We'll never know for

sure, of course, whether Dr. Burlleson cared to have his name on a city limits sign. He might have wished his middle name—Columbus—had been chosen. But, another community had chosen that historic name a half-century earlier.

"Rufus" doesn't set well, either.

Neither do "Rufusville," "Rufusburg" or perhaps "Crepe Myrtleville". We can only guess how spell check might have mangled these...

Burlleson has grown threefold, now around 60,000, since our arrival, with no end in sight. (Proximity to Fort Worth—now ahead of Austin as Texas' fourth-largest city—

helps.) Our family name identifies buildings at Howard Payne University in Brownwood, TX, where I graduated in 1961 and served as president, 1986-1997.

A couple of dozen students gathered for the naming of Newbury Place Apartments, claiming it to be an historic day. "Now they'll know where to deliver the pizza," one student bragged, seemingly relieved...

Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, continues to speak and write. *The Idle American*, is one of the nation's longest-running syndicated humor columns. Contact: 817-447-3872. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com.

# Matters

Continued from Page 4

one which keeps over 22 million Americans out of poverty. Here at the AMAC Foundation, we strongly advocate for sensible Social Security reform and we're very optimistic about the program's future. But Congress needs to act soon to avoid a cut to everyone's Social Security amount in about 2033.

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presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website ([amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory)) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org).

# Shannon

Continued from Page 4

higher duty," he said. The Texas Public Information Act presumes documents are open unless there's an exception in the law to releasing the record. Even then, in most instances a governmental entity must ask the Texas attorney general's office for permission to withhold it. That's a safeguard that provides

oversight and can deter the entity from acting in bad faith toward a requestor.

The Open Meetings Act, meanwhile, makes the meetings of many governmental bodies open to everyone unless there's a specific exception allowing a closed session, such as deliberation on a pending real estate transaction or personnel mat-

ter. But no action can be taken behind closed doors; the public has a right to know about and observe the body's decision-making.

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

Making this state and nation a better place is our responsibility as

Texans and Americans. Demanding change when necessary – and soaking up all the information we can along the way – helps get the job done.

Kelley Shannon is executive director of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas, a nonprofit that advocates for open government and free speech.

# Breckenridge Devotional Page

1. Is the book of Hebrews (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. In Matthew 16:23, to whom did Jesus say, "Get thee behind me, Satan"? Andrew, Rizpah, Elijah, Peter
3. Who was stoned to death for preaching that Jesus was the Savior? Stephen, Joel, Asa, Malachi
4. How many men did Nebuchadnezzar see walking in the fiery furnace? 2, 4, 20, 40
5. According to Luke 2:4, what village was known as "The City of David"? Nimrod, Antioch, Bethlehem, Babylon
6. From the Bible, who could be called "Mr. Patience"? Naaman, Jairus, Philippi, Job

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Peter, 3) Stephen, 4) Four, 5) Bethlehem, 6) Job

All was wonderful with Adam and Eve in the garden God had placed them in... Until the serpent tempted Eve to eat of the forbidden fruit, the fruit of the TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL. She did eat. And then she invited Adam to join her.

Soon thereafter they heard the voice of the Lord walking in the garden in the cool of the day and they hid from God because they were afraid.

When God questioned them, Adam confesses that he did eat of the forbidden fruit - but he protested that the woman gave it to him. Eve, when questioned, blamed the serpent.

And Adam and Eve were driven from the garden and were caused to labor for their food by tilling the ground from which man had been taken.

Next week: All about Eve.

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	P	S	A	S		S	H	U	T					
S	K	I	T	S		T	R	Y	S	T				
S	W	A	T		T	R	O	N						
P	E	N		A	R	O	O	M		M	T	A		
F	A	S	T		F	O	O	D		C	H	A	I	N
T	A	R	T		A	N		O	I	L	E	D		
S	E	E	D	S		M	R	I	S					
E	R	S		S	E	A								

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## Buckaroos fight, fall to Greyhounds

Alex Kielar  
news@breckenridgeamerican.com

The Breckenridge Buckaroos fell to Peaster at home, 50-31 on Saturday, January 11, after last week's snow storm pushed the games back a day. The girls dropped their contest, 33-28, before the boys lost, 50-31.

The Buckaroos found themselves behind the 8-ball from the opening tip of their game as they were unable to find the back of the net until three minutes into the action. Following a quarter of play, the Greyhounds were leading 14-6.

Breckenridge struggled to come down with defensive rebounds and allowed several second chance points. The Greyhounds expanded their lead even further and were up by 14 points, 29-15, going into the locker room. The Buckaroos had good looks at the basket, but couldn't get many of their shots to fall. On the other hand, Peaster seemed to hit all of their open looks and were leading 40-20 after three quarters.

Even when it seemed that Breckenridge had something good going and were able to score more points in the fourth quarter (11)



Junior point guard Jaime Cruz, the Buckaroos leading scorer with 11 points, works against Peaster's Rhett Kelley.

Photo/Alex Kielar

than they did in any quarter, it was too little too late.

With the loss, the Buckaroos fell to 11-12 overall and 3-2 in 3A Region 1 District 8.

Leading the way in scoring for the home team was junior point guard Jaime Cruz with

11 points, seven of which came in the second half. Junior shooting guard Christian Flores was second in points for the Buckaroos with eight in the game, five in the second quarter and three in the fourth quarter.

"Offense has been our problem all year and it showed up again today," said Buckaroos head coach Brent Lucas. "You shoot, you run sets and you just have to keep playing. We're in a fourteen round fight, we're three up, two down. We're in the third spot right now [in the district] but we've got a long way to go, a lot of games left."

After hosting Comanche on Tuesday night, the Buckaroos next game will be at Tolar on Friday.

"We're all right," Lucas said. "As long as we're learning. We lost a lot of our seniors and all of our guys that used to come off the bench are now having to be the guys, and they've never been the guys. They're learning and we've got a couple of injuries; hopefully they will get back pretty quick and give us a little more depth."



Junior shooting guard Christian Flores puts up a shot attempt in the loss in which he scored 8 points.

Photo/Alex Kielar



Senior center Hunter Clayton attempts to drive past Peaster's Carter Fidler in the home loss to the team Saturday, Jan. 11.

Photo/Alex Kielar



Lady Bucks senior Ruthie Valdez, who recorded three points and three rebounds, works in the corner against Peaster's Londyn Wakeman.

Photo/Alex Kielar

## Lady Bucks drop close game to Peaster

Alex Kielar  
news@breckenridgeamerican.com

The Breckenridge Lady Bucks dropped a back-and-forth contest to the Peaster Lady Hounds at home, 33-28 Saturday, January 11, after last week's snow storm pushed the game back a day.

The Lady Bucks started off strong as they got off to an early lead, 8-4 after a quarter of play and 16-10 at halftime. But then the Lady Hounds came alive in the second half, clawing their way back into the game and tying it up at 18 over three minutes into the third quarter. Peaster would then take the lead with under four minutes to go in the quarter and the teams would trade leads for the next few minutes.

Freshman Kamden Tidwell hit a three-pointer to take the lead right back for the Lady Bucks, but the Lady Hounds answered back with a three of their own. With a blocked attempted Breck shot at the buzzer, Peaster led 26-23 after three quarters.

The Lady Bucks tied it back up at 28 all with a layup with 1:16 to play in the game, but the Lady Hounds would hit clutch free throws to take the lead back. The Lady Bucks struggled to get their shots to fall and had to foul with time winding down.

Leading the Lady Bucks in scoring was senior Karsyn Smalley with eight points, who also came down with a team-leading six rebounds. Following Smalley in scoring was Preslie Malcuit with six points, Analia Palacios and Allie Valdez with four points each and Ruthie Valdez and Kamden Tidwell with



Lady Bucks junior Preslie Malcuit drives to the hoop between two Peaster defenders.

Photo/Alex Kielar



Senior Karysn Smalley shoots in the first half of the loss against the Lady Hounds. Smalley was the leading scorer for the Lady Bucks with eight points.

Photo/Alex Kielar

three points each.

Malcuit was injured in the third quarter, after which Allie Valdez came off the bench and added a rebound and two steals to go along with her four points.

The Lady Bucks fell to 2-22 overall in the season and 1-6 in 3A Region 1 District 8.

After hosting Comanche on Tuesday night, the Lady Bucks will travel to face Tolar Friday.