

Jennings hired as animal control supervisor

Alex Kielar
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The city of Breckenridge has worked to improve its animal control operations since last October, following the death and euthanization of several dogs at the animal shelter.

One of the steps for improvement was naming a new Animal Control Operations (ACO) supervisor to lead the shelter's new direction.

Steve Jennings was named to fill that role, for which the city did an internal job posting.

According to Breckenridge Police Chief Blake Johnson, Jennings comes in with over 30 years of experience as a leader.

Jennings was introduced as the new ACO supervisor during the city commission meeting Tuesday, Feb. 4.

"We have been very for-

See ACO, Page 3



New Animal Control Operations Supervisor Steve Jennings was introduced Tuesday, Feb. 4 by Breckenridge Police Chief Blake Johnson at the city commission meeting.

Photo/Alex Kielar



Kadynce Kennedy of Breckenridge earned Junior Heifer Calf Champion with Kenn Dixie Erica 434 in the Angus heifer division Sunday, Jan. 26 at the 2025 Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo (FWSSR).

Contributed photo

Students see success at FWSSR

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Stephens County 4-H will be coming home with plenty to be proud of after kicking off the major stock show season at the 2025 Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo in January and placing in a handful of categories.

In the Fort Worth Stock Show heifer show, Kadynce Kennedy continued her success from winning the Jacob Jackson Master Showman Award at the Stephens County Junior Livestock Show last month, as she won the Angus Champion Junior Heifer Calf with her heifer Kenn Dixie Erica 434.

Kaylee Langford won two reserve champion awards: Reserve Intermediate Heifer Champion with UDE Forever Lady 3037, as well as Reserve Junior Heifer Calf Champion in the Angus Cattle Show - Open Division, with UDE Saras Dream 4010.

See Show, Page 3

Filing deadline this Friday

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The filing window for local elections closes this Friday, Feb. 14 after opening Wednesday, Jan. 15. Eligible residents are open to run for a place on the Breckenridge City Commission, Breckenridge ISD and Stephens Memorial Hospital if they file to run by Friday.

Election day for these positions will be Saturday, May 3 and early voting will

See File, Page 2

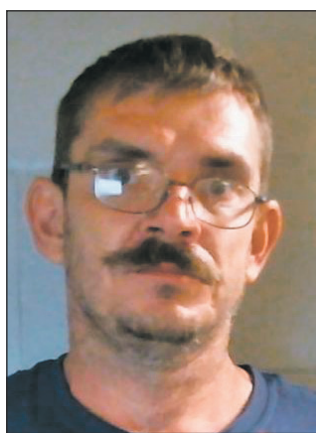
James, Clark plead guilty in child neglect, abuse case

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Breckenridge residents Johnny Lee James and Kayla Sharee Clark accepted plea deals and agreed to lengthy sentences in connection to the abuse of the 15-year-old daughter of James in Washington County, Oklahoma last July.

The sentencing for the couple came down Wednesday, Feb. 5 in the District Court of Washington County, as James received 35 years in prison and Clark received 30 years in prison, with credit for time served, about 197 days.

James pleaded guilty to five counts of child neglect and one count of child abuse. Clark pleaded guilty to four counts of child neglect, with the charge of enabling child abuse being dismissed. The sentences for both



Johnny Lee James



Kayla Sharee Clark

defendants will run concurrently.

Both defendants were also ordered by the court to each pay a \$500 fine, a \$100 victim compensation assessment and court costs of \$250.

James and Clark were both remanded into the custody of the Washington County Sheriff's Office. They are also forbidden from being in contact with the victim.

For her involvement

in the case, Linda Kay Reynolds was sentenced to three years on one count of child neglect last month.

According to probable cause affidavits, the Washington County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) responded to a call for service near Vera, Oklahoma at approximately 9:35 a.m. July 28, 2024.

Clark's sister, who the

See Abuse, Page 2

CDBG contract awarded to eHT

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After opening up Request for Qualifications (RFQs) regarding their pursuit of a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the 2025/26 CDBG in early January, the city received eight submissions by the January 23 deadline.

Of the eight submissions received, the recommendation based on the scoring committee's score was to select eHT as the winning proposal. The other seven submissions were received from Burkes & Walker Engi-

See Grant, Page 2

Weekly Local Forecast

Wednesday, Feb. 12
High 40 | Low 21
Precipitation 13%

Thursday, Feb. 13
High 39 | Low 28
Precipitation 8%

Friday, Feb. 14
High 60 | Low 50
Precipitation 8%

Saturday, Feb. 15
High 63 | Low 25
Precipitation 8%

Sunday, Feb. 16
High 50 | Low 31
Precipitation 1%

Monday, Feb. 17
High 65 | Low 47
Precipitation 2%

Tuesday, Feb. 18
High 67 | Low 36
Precipitation 10%

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Current: 1,169.89

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Obituaries

ElJoy Smith

Feb. 14, 1931 – Feb. 2, 2025

ElJoy Smith, age 93, of Breckenridge went to be with her lord and savior Jesus Christ on Sunday, Feb. 2. She passed away in her home surrounded by family. ElJoy Mueller was born Feb. 14, 1931 in Breckenridge to Edward and Mary Williams Mueller. She graduated from Breckenridge High in 1949. She attended Ranger Junior College and SulRoss College. She was employed by several local businesses such as Dunnigan Tool & Supply and Trammell-Swanson Insurance. She married Lloyd C. (Smittie) Smith on Aug. 14, 1954. She kept books for her husband's Exxon station and also for the ranch in Ivan.

She was active in Mothers Club at North Elementary School and was a Girl Scout leader for several years. She was an active member of the Presbyterian Church, singing in the choir and attending Sunday school and the women's Bible Study group. She loved lake living at Hubbard Creek Lake and enjoyed outdoor activities such as boating, swimming, fishing and gardening. She loved her children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband of 62 years. She is survived by four children, Cynthia Smith of Breckenridge, Barbara Smith and partner William Winn of Addison, Lynn Woodley and husband Brian of Argyle, and Edward Smith of Breckenridge; one sister, Martha Halland and husband Jamie; four grandchildren, Zeke Smith and fiancé Brittaney Squibb, Bryce Woodley, Edward Smith, and Kimberley Smith; two great-grandchildren, Zaylee Smith and Zaiden Smith; nieces, Sarah Hall and partner Ellen Gandt, and Lia Fuson and husband Marc; and great nephews, Porter Fuson and Tobin Fuson.

The family gives heartfelt thanks to both Renew Home Health and Solaris Hospice for their wonderful, caring nurses and therapists.

Graveside services were held at 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7 at Post Oak Cemetery with Reverend Andy Channer and Reverend Linda Leveridge officiating. Memorials may be made to the First Presbyterian Church or the charity of your choice. Condolences may be made online at morehartmortuary.net

Grant

Continued from Page 1

neering, Freeman-Millican, Inc. (FMI), Jacobs & Martin, MRB Group, Mundo & Associates, Sealy Engineering, Inc. and WTC Engineers/Surveyors.

The city commission unanimously approved the selection of Enprotec/ Hibbs & Todd (eHT) Engineering as the winning proposer and authorized City Manager Cynthia Northrop to negotiate and execute the contract.

Sage Diller, the Project Manager of eHT, has also managed several projects for the City of Breckenridge, including DWSRF Water System Improvements,

Drought Management Strategies, Water Distribution System Improvements, CWSRF Wastewater Improvements and Park Street Paving and Drainage Improvements.

The city had previously pursued a grant during the prior period but was not selected, but Northrop said that there is a good chance that they will receive it as they were scored as the top application. The grant amount this time is for \$750,000.

While the city originally thought of using part of the grant for whatever plan they end up coming up with for the fire station,

Northrop said that it can't be applied to that building for several reasons.

"One of the things is that our LMI (low-and-moderate income) – basically the... income of people in the city, it was at 50% and now it is 49%," Northrop said. "So that's a whole other story and I have talked with our consultant [Morgan Verette] and some other folks on our team. Unfortunately, even though we don't believe that is actually accurate, there is no way we can fight it. It is what it is, they update those numbers every five years and that's what we got."

Abuse

Continued from Page 1

three defendants were visiting, advised dispatch that a 15-year-old female was being

abused and kept outside tied up between a red shed and chicken coop on her property.

The victim had reportedly been outside since arriving at the reporting party's house July 25, 2024, and had "a hole in her leg and lesions on her arms."

WCSO deputies located the victim sitting on a rectangle piece of carpet with a "ratchet-style, tie-down strap" around her.

Deputies made contact with James who said the victim was restrained in this fashion because "she cannot be trusted and likes to lie." James told deputies the victim is left outside because she allegedly goes to the bathroom on herself.

"Johnny stated he only does this until he gets back from somewhere, or when they are not outside to keep an eye on her," the affidavit states. "Johnny stated they let (the victim) out for about 20-30 minutes unrestrained to use the restroom and then she comes back in. Johnny said they send her outside when she needs

to use the restroom."

Clark confirmed that James and the victim had been living with her in Breckenridge for approximately three years. She told deputies that she was unaware of the victim being tied with a ratchet strap, and did not see the victim outside because she was too "frazzled" that morning.

Reynolds confirmed that the victim is one of four children living with Clark and James in Breckenridge. After originally denying any knowledge of the ongoing abuse, Reynolds later confirmed to deputies that she was aware the victim was forced to stay outside and was untruthful at first out of fear of James. She was later arrested Friday, Aug. 2.

According to a release from WCSO, the victim was taken to a hospital where she was treated for injuries. The Department of Human Services (Child Welfare Division) took the child, and several other children in the home, were also taken into custody.

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File

Continued from Page 1

run from Monday, April 21 to Friday, April 29.

The Breckenridge City Commission has two seats up for election this year, place 3 held by Vince Moore and place 4 held by Rob Durham.

As of Monday, Feb. 10, incumbent Moore and contender Scott Ensey had filed for Place 3.

The only candidate who has filed for Place 4 is Paul J. Huntington Jr.

The three BISSD school board seats up for election are Place 3 held by Roy Russell, place 4 held by Jimmy McKay and Place 5 held by Carrol Kanady.

For SMH, the seat held by current board president Tom Echols and the seats held by Kaylee Curtis and Gregg Goodall are up for election.



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ACO

Continued from Page 1

tunate in our process, looking for where we wanted to go as far as leadership within animal control. We were very blessed when Steve came to us because [he] came to us with not just a servant's heart, but with the desire to work and with our animals," Johnson said. "[He has] just a wealth of knowledge and [it is] just a great opportunity for us."

Johnson also noted that Jennings has already come in and started to write policies and procedures for ACO.

"We are just very blessed and we're moving forward in a good direction because he does present the correct values that we always seek in all of our employees," he said.

Jennings said that he and his wife came to Breckenridge four years ago, originally just as a weekend destination.

"We came to town and we fell in love with Breckenridge," he said. "It was so much like the community that we grew up in... a town called Smithville. We just fell in love with [the] town, so it went from 'I'm not going to retire for three more years,' to 'We need to retire and move out here'. ... we look forward to working with each and every one of you and just taking us from where we are to where we are going. It's a daily process, but I really look forward to it."

Animal control improvements

Chief Johnson also gave an update on the improvements that have been made over the last several months within animal control.

One of the big things he talked about was the standard operat-

ing procedures (SOP), which include intake protocols, cleaning protocols and researching vaccination at intake protocols.

"Cleaning has been a big thing because we are trying to make sure we're being consistent. Since we're bringing in all the different animals off the street... we don't know what we're bringing in, so we want to make sure we keep things clean all the time," Johnson said.

For the vaccinations, Johnson noted that they are writing protocols to make sure that they keep the at-risk animals, specifically younger pups, apart from the rest of the population.

He also said that they have spoken to several other cities' animal control to ask them what vaccinations they are using and what the costs are.

Johnson also said that there has been an increase in adoptions, which in turn has reduced euthanasia at the shelter.

"Our adoptions are largely in part to the commitments we have had from our humane society, their ability to come in and help us," he said. "We are looking at - we just had ten dogs Friday [Jan. 31]. [Stephens County Humane Society President] Kathy [O'Shields] and her people got [them placed]. We've been doing a lot more of that, so our increased adoptions are coming up."

Johnson also went over facility improvements that have been made. He said that they have put in all-new dog beds, worked on repairing indoor and outdoor kennel doors and various other internal improvements such as repairing plumbing issues and doors not

working or securing correctly.

Animal control has also had an increased effort to ensure that when they pick up dogs, they are posting them to their Facebook page, City of Breckenridge Animal Control Operations.

"One of the things we do now is we have folders for every dog that comes through so that we have an identity of them, we can identify the owners," Johnson said. "There's a lot of owners that were are getting reunited with their dogs in a short amount of time. That's a lot better for us in the long run."

Animal control has also made more of an effort to follow up on the dogs and enforce warnings and citations.

That includes making sure that the owners are maintaining compliance with controlled licensing, rabies and having a good environment for the animals.

"The enforcements are important, but a lot of times the warnings are opportunities for us to start talking to people and say here's the law," Johnson said. "Because a lot of times people just don't know how they're supposed to restrain their dogs."

According to the statistics Johnson provided, follow-ups went up from just 26 in 2023 to 108 in 2024, warnings went up from three in 2023 to 40 last year and citations went up from 65 in 2023 to 86 last year.

Along with that, adoptions, fosters and transfers went up from six in 2022, to 29 in 2023 to 45 in 2024. Johnson said that they are currently at about 15 adoptions already for this year.

"The numbers are increasing and our procedures are staying forward. I feel like we are



Breckenridge Police Chief Blake Johnson, right, introduced the new Animal Control Operations Supervisor for the city, Steve Jennings, last Tuesday, Feb. 4. Johnson also gave a rundown of the improvements made within ACO over the last several months.

Photo / Alex Kielar

certainly in an upward direction to make sure that we are continuing to not only service the community, but it is also a safety issue," Johnson said. "We have started working on getting vicious and dangerous dogs identified and holding our owners accountable. The court's been involved in a lot more... those are dogs that they have to bring up to code or

ultimately the court will deem vicious or dangerous, and we will end up having to put them down."

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Show

Continued from Page 1

The trio of Josiah Moreno, Kason Burchett and Isaac Tait were named as senior team champions in the Range and Pasture Plant ID contest, with Moreno earning a third place individual award.

Chloe Tait, Evelyn Halari and Marielle Green were the junior team champions in the Range and Pas-

ture Plant ID contest. Lydia Moreno, Sarah Moreno and Lexington Boulevard also earned a third place finish in the junior division of the same competition.

Other participants from Stephens County include Blanton Langford, who placed third in his class in the junior heifer show, with UDE Queen Ruth 4021; Krawford Kennedy,

who placed fifth in his class in the junior heifer show, with PSCS Kim 420L, and eighth in the junior steer show; Jack McKay, who placed seventh in the junior goat show; and Trinity Blackman, who placed 14th in her class in the junior lamb show.

Competitors are still in show mode, with students at San Antonio Stock Show this week.

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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

Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas

fect 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 ac-

cess. Loopholes in the laws must closed. Enforcement should be fine-tuned.

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

The FOI Foundation also hosts regional training sessions to help Texans learn to use the Public Information Act and Open Meetings Act. The next seminar is Oct. 16 in Edinburg in the Rio Grande Valley.

Open records and meetings allow us to go beyond government officials' spoken words or spin and let us 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,

See Shannon, Page 5

Ask Rusty: Why was Social Security money moved to the General Treasury?

Dear Rusty: Why were the Social Security funds moved from the Social Security account to the General Fund with the government? Is it not then called a tax making it an entitlement? That then gives the government control of our retirement. Most of us feel that someone should be in charge and use the Social Security fund with investments that grow our savings.

I invested my 401K and savings, and the original amount made me money during the Trump years, and I'm now trying to catch up. I make this statement because I draw more from my investments than I receive from Social Security. **Signed: Questioning Senior Citizen**

Dear Questioning Senior: I'm afraid I must inform you that no Social Security funds have ever been moved from the Social Security account to the government's General Fund – this is a pervasive myth which we have refuted many times over the years.

For information, here is one of many articles I have published on this topic, which I hope you find interesting: <https://socialsecurityreport.org/ask-rusty-about-repaying-social-security-money-taken-by-politicians/>.

Someone actually is charged with monitoring our Social Security funds – a board of Social Security Trustees consisting of the Secretaries of Treasury, Labor, and Health & Human Services, as well as the Commissioner of Social Security plus two Public Trustees. Each year the Social Se-



Russell Gloor

Social Security Matters

curity Trustees do a complete analysis of the Social Security program, especially its financial status and outlook for the future. If you have interest in the Trustee's latest annual report, here is a link to the 2024 analysis: <https://socialsecurityreport.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/tr-24summary.pdf>.

What you will find in the Trustees' report is that Social Security will run out of reserved funds in about 2033, necessitating an across the board cut of about 21% for everyone, unless Congress acts soon to reform the program and restore it to fiscal solvency. The Trustees have warned Congress about this problem for many years, but Congress has yet to find the bipartisan cooperation needed to fix the problem. AMAC (the Association of Mature American Citizens) has steadfastly offered proposals to Congress which would restore Social Security to solvency and will continue to do so with the new 119th Congress, which convened Jan. 3, 2025.

Please know that we appreciate your feedback and comment you for the wise use of your 401k investments, something that many of our members find necessary to supplement their Social Security. Remember, Social Se-

See Matters, Page 5

A hat that stays put...

My aged Uncle Mort admitted the other day that he feels like it's time for him to re-enter the stock market, and this time, "brimming with confidence."

He swore off trying to out-guess the market in the late 1990s.

Mort said he lumped all of his investments into "sweet chariot stocks." I'd never heard of such, but his next sentence clarified: "When I bought 'em, they swung low," he cackled...

He feels certain that wide-brimmed hats for ladies are going to make a comeback after several decades in storage, with owners hoping to live long enough to see them make a comeback.

Many after-the-fact comments about the recent presidential inauguration concern Melania Trump's hat, nearly as big as a covered wagon wheel and ample space to carve a turkey.

"Lots of women are on shopping sprees

right now, trying to find hats like hers," Mort said. "And they're not finding available at the Dollar Store."

It appears to me that her hat provided a personal "border wall," allowing "cheek pecks" to reach within two inches of intended targets.

I'm not sure how she'd make it flying coach on today's airliners. (Duh, she wouldn't be flying coach.) I guess she could take a middle seat, then buy seats on



Don Newbury

The Idle American

each side so she could leave her hat on.

The subject reminds me of my ingenious uncle who, as a lad, was usher at the local movie house. This was in the 1920s, before "talkies."

All they had were jumpy figures with captions.

He said the manager staged a contest among the ushers to see how the problem of women wearing huge hats could somehow be persuaded to remove them so folks behind them could see the screen...

Mort was creative even then. He made a printed sign and placed it at the entrance. It

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.

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Shannon

Continued from Page 4

or less subject to the law. In fact, public officials not only have to obey the law like everybody else, they have an even higher duty," he said.

The Texas Public Information Act presumes documents are open unless there's an exception in the law to releasing the record. Even then, in most instances a governmental entity must ask the Texas attorney general's office for 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 matter. But no action can be taken behind closed doors; the public has a right to know about and observe the body's decision-making.

These major transparency laws place power in the hands of the people. That's

something we should treasure and use.

Making this state and nation a better place is our responsibility as Texans and Americans. Demanding change when necessary – and soaking up all the information we can along the way – helps get the job done.

Kelley Shannon is executive director of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas, a nonprofit organization based in Austin that advocates for open government and free speech. For more information go to www.foift.org.

Matters

Continued from Page 4

curity was never intended to provide all your retirement income, so earlier saving to supplement your retirement financial needs was a very wise move on your part.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It 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-secu-

ity-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Newbury

Continued from Page 4

read: "Ladies over age 40 need not remove their hats."

Problem solved; Mort won the contest...

Meanwhile, President 47 took time from signing executive orders to decree that the Gulf of Mexico will henceforth be named "Gulf of America."

Such may have occurred to other folks, but I've never heard it mentioned.

The decree begs numerous questions. First of all, who named it, and when? How much of the gulf is owned by the US of A? Finally, is it really a gulf?

Cursory research reveals that the gulf had no name until the 1540s, when most maps and documents referred to it as the "Golfo de Nueva Espanol," from Greek mythology and its Sea of Atlas...

People who know far more than I about such say that it is not really a gulf, but more nearly a sea, in many cases larger than bodies of water that are called oceans and seas.

I dunno, but Mort might want to consider investing in map-making and/or T-shirt lettering.

Presses already are rolling...

"Loyalty" was a word frequently heard during the recent inauguration, and likely in all the ones before it. It's a trait to be valued, but

few have seen evidence "up close" to match Dr. Charles Wade's recollection. He was pastor of Arlington First Baptist Church for 23 years until 1999, when he became Executive Director of the Baptist General Convention.

In Arlington, he succeeded Dr. Henard E. East, on staff there for 53 years. Someone asked him about loyalty to Dr. Wade.

"Let me put it this way," he said. "If Dr. Wade decides to paint the steeple pink, I'll climb up there with him and hold the bucket."

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Breckenridge Devotional Page

1. Is the book of Jeremiah (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What's the finish to this Proverbs 14:23 verse: "In all labor there is ..."? Profit, Righteousness, Grace, Rewarding
3. At whose well did Jesus meet the Samaritan woman? Joshua's, Jonah's, Jacob's, Judas'
4. From Revelation 21, how many gates does the New Jerusalem have? 1, 4, 12, 16
5. Who was king during Zechariah's time of prophecy? David, Daniel, Darius, Saul
6. How long did Aaron's followers mourn him? 3 days, 13 days, 30 days, 3 months

ANSWERS: (1) Old, (2) Profit, (3) Jacob's, (4) Twelve, (5) Darius, (6) 30 days

FEATURES FROM THE BIBLE
TRUTH IN SCRIPTURE

Cain, After He Kills His Brother (from Genesis 4)

Following the killing of Abel, God came asking Cain where his brother was. Cain replied, "I don't know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

But God knew what had happened. He told Cain, "Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground." Then he told Cain that he would be a restless wanderer upon the earth and the land would not produce for him.

Cain complained about the harsh punishment he received and feared that whoever found him would kill him. God puts a mark upon him as a protection from being killed by those who found him. And God pronounced a sevenfold vengeance upon anyone who killed Cain.

Cain went from the Lord's presence to the land of Nod, east of Eden (the garden where God has placed Adam and Eve).

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Answers

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P	O	L	I	T	I	C	O	D	E	M
D	O	D	T	I	L	S	I	T		
A	I	M	E	V	I	L	E			
T	H	I	S	P	O	L	E	M	I	C
M	O	S	T	A	L	L	S	M	O	W
P	O	L	E	N	T	A	T	A	P	E
I	M	P	S	V	O	C	A	B		
W	H	O	P	I	A	E	R			
H	O	R	N	P	O	L	I	S	H	E
E	P	E	E	E	X	P	L	O	R	E
Y	E	L	L	S	O	S	S	S	N	S

Even Exchange answers

- Clewer, Clover
- Marsh, March
- Sritch Sizzt
- Pueker, Husker
- Ac.dil. A.d.a
- Utter, Otter
- Rravo, Rrrive
- Sensor, Sorio
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SCRAMBLERS solution

- Canopy
- Ascend;
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Breckenridge City Commission will conduct a public hearing:
DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2025
TIME: 5:30 P.M.
PLACE: CITY HALL, 105 NORTH ROSE AVE. - COMMISSION CHAMBERS

Said public hearing will be for the purpose of:
Determining whether or not the building on property located at 1208 W. 3rd - Mountain Heights Addition, Block 6, Lot 4, 5, 6, 7 is a dangerous building pursuant to Chapter 5, Article I of the Breckenridge Code of Ordinances.

The record owner of the property according to the official public records of Stephens County, Texas is Phillip Smith - 21381 Hwy. 73, Foss, OK 73647. The Commission may issue an order requiring the owner to secure or vacate the building; to relocate occupants; and/or repair, demolish or remove the building.

Any and all persons interested in the above-referenced item(s) may appear at such hearing, be heard, and present evidence in reference to the condition of the buildings.

By: /s/ Cynthia Northrop
Cynthia Northrop, City Manager

NOTICE OF REQUIREMENT TO COMPLY WITH THE SUBDIVISION AND SERVICE EXTENSION POLICY OF STEPHENS REGIONAL SPECIAL UTILITY DISTRICT

Pursuant to Chapter §13.2502 of the Texas Water Code, Stephens Regional Special Utility District hereby gives notice that any person who subdivides land by dividing any lot, tract, or parcel of land, within the service area of Stephens Regional Special Utility District, Certificate of Convenience and Necessity No. 11456, located in Stephens, Throckmorton, Palo Pinto, Shackelford, Eastland, and Young Counties, into two or more lots or sites for the purpose of sale or development, whether immediate or future, including re-subdivision of land for which a plat has been filed and recorded or requests for more than two water service connections on a single contiguous tract of land must comply with SECTION F: DEVELOPER, SUBDIVISION, and NON-STANDARD SERVICE REQUIREMENTS (the "Subdivision Policy") contained in Stephens Regional Special Utility District's Service Policies. **Stephens Regional Special Utility District**

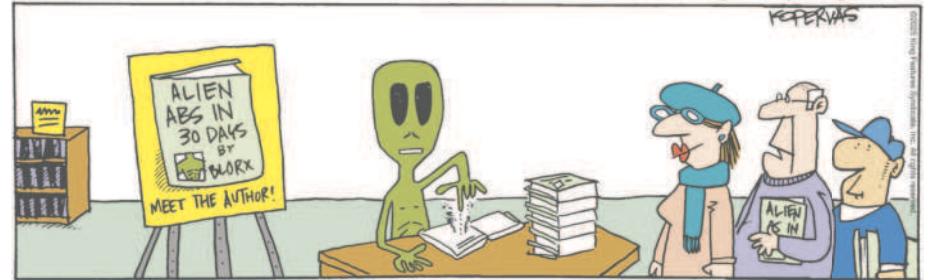
is not required to extend retail water utility service to a service applicant in a subdivision where the developer of the subdivision has failed to comply with the Subdivision Policy.

Applicable elements of the Subdivision include: Evaluation by Stephens Regional Special Utility District of the impact a proposed subdivision service extension will make on Stephens Regional Special Utility District's water supply service system and payment of the costs for this evaluation; Payment of reasonable costs or fees by the developer for providing water supply service capacity; Payment of fees for reserving water supply capacity; Forfeiture of reserved water supply service capacity for failure to pay applicable fees; Payment of costs of any improvements to Stephens Regional Special Utility District system that are necessary to provide the water service; Construction according to design approved by Stephens Regional Special Utility District and dedication by the developer of water facilities within the subdivision following inspection.

Stephens Regional Special Utility District Service Policy and a map Stephens Regional Special Utility District service area may be reviewed at Stephens Regional Special Utility District office, at 206 FM 3099, Breckenridge, Texas. The Service Policy and service area map also are files of record at the Public Utility Commission of Texas, 1701 N. Congress Ave., P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711. The map can also be viewed on their website at: <https://www.puc.texas.gov/industry/water/utilities/map.aspx>

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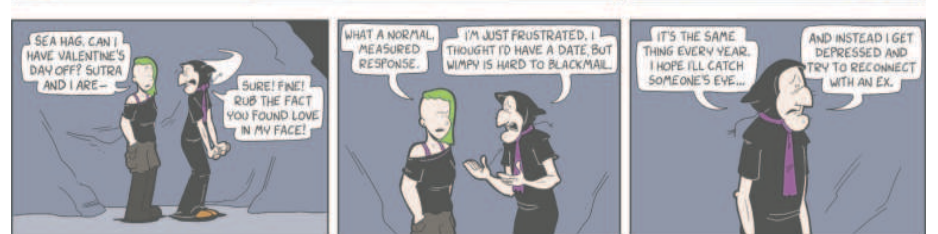
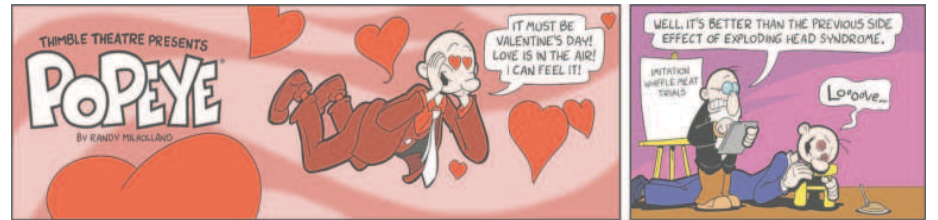
OUT ON A LIMB by Gary Kopervas



THE SPATS by Jeff Pickering



POPEYE by Randy Milholland



Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

- | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------|------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Ingenious | ___ E ___ | Four-leaf | ___ O ___ |
| 2. Swamp | ___ S | Join the parade | ___ C |
| 3. Tattle | ___ N | Sew up | ___ T |
| 4. Wanted sign | P ___ | List of names | R ___ |
| 5. Examine the books | ___ T | Of the ear | ___ O |
| 6. Speak | U ___ | Playful water mammal | O ___ |
| 7. Way to go! | ___ O | Having courage | ___ E |
| 8. Heat gauge | ___ S | Final high school year | ___ I |
| 9. Full of energy | ___ E | Young canine | ___ U |
| 10. Unpretentious | H ___ | Take a fall | ___ T |

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Awning
ANYCOP

Climb
DANCES

Stir
OURSEA

Delight
TATER

TODAY'S WORD

Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13					14		
15									16		
			17			18	19				
20	21	22			23						
24					25				26	27	
28				29					30	31	
	32		33						34		
				35					36		
37	38	39					40				
41					42	43			44	45	46
47					48						
49					50				51		

ACROSS

1 Water, in Mexico
5 Sprite
8 Pedestal
12 Like holiday decorations
14 Ogled
15 D.C. veteran
16 Ms. Moore
17 Pentagon gp.
18 Mild cheese
20 Singer Mann
23 "— Las Vegas"
24 Not that
25 Verbal attack
28 Yr. parts
29 Some latte sizes
30 Cut the lawn
32 Italian corn-meal recipe
34 Race finish
35 Rapsallions
36 Word list, for short
37 Goldberg on "The View"
40 — Lingus
41 Honker
42 Refines
47 Duel tool
48 Investigates
49 Holler
50 "Mayday!"
51 Taxpayer IDs

DOWN

1 Venomous viper
2 Earth (Pref.)
3 "Friendly skies" co.
4 Stage comments
5 Oklahoma city
6 Fond du —
7 Fleet of ships
8 Pandemonium
9 Pro votes
10 Big rig
11 Tend texts
13 Oklahoma tribe
19 Currier's partner
21 Denny's rival
22 Japanese soup
23 Battery measures
25 Primitive flutes
26 Apple desk-top
27 Club in a Manilow song
29 Office part-timer
31 Charlotte's creation
33 Toy train maker
34 Sculpted trunks
36 Bridal cover
37 Curds' partner
38 Great expectation
39 Hurler
40 Swiss peaks
43 Tic-tac-toe loser
44 Storefront sign abbr.
45 Poetic dusk
46 Hot wok sound

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SPORTS



The Lady Buckaroo powerlifting teams finished 11th overall with 5 points in the Hawley Invitational. A number of their lifters were scratched from their competitions, with Maria Duran and Kaisan Thompson the only to officially compete in the meet.

Photo/Contributed

Powerlifting teams compete at Tribe Classic, Bearcat Invitational

Alex Kielar
news@breckenridgeamerican.com

The Buckaroos and Lady Buckaroo powerlifting teams continued their seasons last week as they competed in the Comanche Tribe Powerlifting Classic Thursday, Feb. 6 and in the Hawley Bearcat Invitational Saturday, Feb. 8.

The Buckaroos took first place in the Saturday meet with 28 points. Of their 13 competitors, Trevin McAlmond placed first in his 114 weight class, while they had three second-place finishers, two third-place finishers, two fifth-place finishers and one sixth-

pace finisher.

The girls finished 11th overall with 5 points in the Hawley Invitational. A number of their lifters were scratched from their competitions, with Maria Duran and Kaisan Thompson the only to officially compete in the meet.

Duran posted a squat of 345 pounds, a bench press of 170 pounds and a 300-pound dead lift, for a total of 815 pounds. Thompson posted a 225-pound squat, 100-pound bench press and a dead lift of 185 pounds, for a total of 510 pounds.

The Lady Bucks

took third place in the Thursday meet with 34 points. Two of their lifters earned first place in their weight classes and Joni Jackson won best lifter on the platform 165-242+.

The Buckaroos scored 24 points in the Tribe Classic and had two second-place finishers and three third-place finishers in their respective weight classes.

Listed below are weight classes, placement among those in that class and lift results in pounds for the Buckaroos and Lady Bucks in the Thursday meet. The weights are listed in the or-

der of squat, bench press, deadlift and total weight.

Lady Bucks

- 105: 2. Isabelle Biddison 250, 110, 245, 605.
- 123: 4. Collum Perkins 240, 115, 215, 570.
- 132: 2. Lizandra Rubio 210, 105, 250, 565; 4. Sofia Lopez 230, 105, 215, 550; 6. Preslie Malcuit 205, 105, 215.
- 165: 3. Cabel Perkins 300, 165, 290, 755; 5. Bianca Gotschall 225, 140, 280, 645; 7. Maddison Shockley 250, 125, 240, 615.
- 181: 1. Joni Jackson 355, 180, 330, 865.
- 220: 1. Rihana Fuller 350, 155, 330, 835.
- 242+: 4. Rylee Fuller 315, 230, 280, 825.

Buckaroos

- 123: 3. Jaydev Fernandez 270, 150, 310, 730.
- 132: 2. Crispin Pineda 320, 185, 345, 850.
- 148: 5. Tristen McNett 390, 175, 365, 930.
- 165: 3. Alex Saucedo 430, 280, 500, 1210; 10. John Sackett 355, 225, 405, 985.
- 181: 5. Gunnar Pearce 430, 270, 405, 1105.
- 220: 2. Fabricio Davila 450, 275, 580, 1305; 9. Xavier Ortiz 315, 195, 375, 885.
- 242: 3. Braxton Knight 475, 210, 405, 1090.

In unofficial regional rankings, Carlos Alvarado sits in third with Eduardo Salazar right behind him in

fourth, followed by Leo Mendoza in 11th, Julio Chavez and Carson Couch tied for 13th and Brenham Walker in 14th.

BHS Powerlifting will compete again Saturday, Feb. 15 at the Bulldog Invitational at Wylie High School. This meet will be an invitational for the boys and the last chance qualifier for the girls to earn a spot in the regional meet.

The girls' regional meet is scheduled for Saturday, March 2 at

Bells High Schools. The boys' regional meet will be Tuesday, March 4 at Decatur High School.

Boys and girls powerlifting win Buckaroo Bash meet

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For their first meet of the season, both the Breckenridge boys and girls powerlifting teams earned first place at the Buckaroo Bash powerlifting meet Thursday, Jan. 30.

Of the 25 boys lifters, six of them earned

first-place finishes in their weight classes and there were 15 total medalists. A team total of 66 points earned them the win, while first, second and third place all went to the Buckaroos in the Light Platform.

Nathan Roberts won the best lifter, followed by Jack McKay and Eduardo Salazar.

For the girls, seven of their 20 lifters earned first-place finishes and 18 medaled. To win first place in the meet, they scored 70 total points.

Listed below are weight classes, placement among those in that class and lift results in pounds for the Buckaroos and Lady Bucks. The weights are listed in the order of squat, bench press, deadlift and total weight.

Buckaroos

- 114: 1. Trevin McAlmond 235, 160, 270, 665.
- 123: 1. Jaydev Fernandez 280, 135, 300, 715.
- 132: 1. Lesavier Gutierrez 370, 200, 340, 910; 2. Crispin Pineda 325, 195, 330, 850; 5. Carlos Alvarado 305, 185, 335, 825; 8. Christian Lechner 285, 175, 300, 760.
- 148: 1. Alex Saucedo 405, 280, 500, 1185; 2.



BHS junior Bianca Gotschall competing in the squat lift at the Buckaroo Bash powerlifting meet Thursday, Jan. 30. Gotschall earned a third-place finish in her weight class with a 250-pound squat.

Photo/Contributed



Buckaroo senior Alex Saucedo deadlifted 500 pounds for the first time during a competition in his four-year career, a goal he set when he was a freshman. He completed this feat Thursday, Jan. 30 at the Buckaroo Bash powerlifting meet and was one of six boys lifters to place first in their weight class at the meet.

Photo/Contributed

- Eduardo Salazar 425, 255, 425, 1105; 3. Erik Saucedo 380, 245, 435, 1060; 7. Brenham Walker 365, 230, 315, 910; 9. Tristen McNett 365, 165, 325, 855.
- 165: 1. Jack McKay 500, 305, 475, 1280; 2. Julio Chavez 405, 230, 475, 1110; 3. Andre Reyes 405, 260, 420, 1085; 7. John Sackett 375, 225, 385; 11. Aiden Tyson 310, 195, 365, 870.
- 181: 1. Nathan Roberts 525, 405, 500; 4. Leo Mendoza 405, 265, 420, 1090; 8. Gunnar Pearce 405, 235, 365.
- 198: 3. Ethan Thorn-

- ton 375, 220, 325, 920.
- 220: 4. Xavier Ortiz 285, 185, 335, 810.

Lady Bucks

- 105: 1. Isabelle Biddison 235, 120, 225, 580.
- 114: 1. Kamden Tidwell 210, 100, 215, 525; 4. Madai Alvarado 210, 105, 170, 485.
- 123: 1. Ashlyn Owen 285, 135, 230, 650; 2. Collum Perkins 260, 110, 205, 575; 5. Ruthie Valdez 180, 110, 225, 515.
- 132: 3. Sofia Lopez 250, 105, 210, 565; 5. Lizandra Rubio 200, 105, 230, 535; 6. Preslie Malcuit 210, 105, 210, 525.

- 148: 7. Kaisan Thompson 200, 95, 200, 495.
- 165: 1. Cabel Perkins 315, 150, 270, 735; 3. Bianca Gotschall 250, 145, 280, 675; 6. Maddison Shockley 250, 140, 240, 630.
- 181: 2. Joni Jackson 335, 175, 325, 835; 3. Kyra Canada 305, 105, 275, 685.
- 198: 2. Maria Duran 310, 150, 340, 800.
- 220: 1. Rihana Fuller 305, 155, 305, 765; 5. Raegan Robinson 240, 135, 265, 640.
- 242: 1. Dustie Lowrey 250, 150, 225, 625.
- 242+: 1. Rylee Fuller 260, 205, 250, 715.