

BISD selects firm for facilities planning

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As they begin thinking about future improvements to their campuses and facilities, Breckenridge ISD approved Jacob & Martin Architecture and Engineering Firm to facilitate long-range facilities plan development, bond planning and project design for the school district.

The board listened to a presentation from the firm at a special meeting Tuesday, Feb. 24 in which they relayed what their previous

experience is in facilitating projects for other school districts and some of the types of projects that they can work on for BISD.

"[We offer] everything from civil engineering, structural, electrical, envi-

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Employees from Jacob & Martin Architecture and Engineering Firm speak to Breckenridge ISD board members during a special meeting Tuesday, Feb. 24.

Photo/Alex Kielar



Gena Speer

Speer named hospital CEO

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Stephens Memorial Hospital has a new CEO after a months-long search process.

Following a lengthy executive session Tuesday, March 25, the hospital's board of directors selected Gena Speer to fill the position.

Mike Easley has served as interim CEO since Dec. 5, 2024, following the resignation of former CEO Brian Roland.

In making this decision, the board opted to go with an internal option and someone familiar with the everyday operations of the hospital.

Speer has served as Chief Nursing Officer of SMH for the last four years. The transition into the new role is effective immediately as she hit the ground running Wednesday, March 26.

The board conducted official interviews with four candidates before narrowing down and selecting Speer, who had her third and final interview on the day of her selection to the position.

She brings a wealth of health care knowledge, experience and familiarity of the county and needs of the community to the CEO position.

Prior to coming to SMH, Speer said that she started as an LVN at Eastland Memorial Hospital where she got her Certified Professional in Healthcare Risk Management (CPHRM) certification.

While at EMH, she said that she mostly focused on medical-surgical nurs-

See CEO, Page 2

City Hall expansion complete



The expansion to the Breckenridge City Commission meeting quarters was completed last week. The work that began in early March opened the meeting room up by pushing the far wall 12 feet back to create a much more spacious room for community members, commissioners and others to congregate in. The work was completed within the time frame that the city gave to the contractor, as they had hoped to get it finished by the city commission's April meeting. The city commission held its first meeting in the newly expanded quarters Tuesday, April 1.

Photo/Alex Kielar



Yuri Huntington

Huntington leaves chamber to pursue passion

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Yuri Huntington's passion for wanting to help people has always been at the forefront of her mind ever since she was a young girl.

Now, she is taking that passion to the next level as she pursues her life coaching career full-time after announcing her resignation as Executive Director of the Breckenridge Chamber of Commerce. Her resignation from the top level of the chamber, which she announced last Thursday, March 27, will be effective Friday, May 30.

Huntington said she nominated current chamber Event Manager Maylun VanWinkle as a candidate.

Her favorite memories of working as the Executive Director are working with VanWinkle and having her

See Chamber, Page 3



The new traffic signals at the intersection of US 180 and FM 3099, which were installed a few weeks ago, became operational Monday, March 31.

Photo/Alex Kielar

Traffic signals at FM 3099 and US 180 operational

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The new traffic signals at the intersection of FM 3099 and US Highway 180, between Walmart and Tractor Supply, became operational Monday, March 31.

The traffic signals began operation with a flashing red light and should be treated as a four-way stop for the initial week.

After that initial traffic adjustment period, Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)

public information officer Lisa Tipton said that the traffic signals will become fully operational in regular signal phases.

"This signal is one of several safety improvements added to the in-

See Signal, Page 2

Weekly Local Forecast

Wednesday, April 2
High 84 | Low 55
Precipitation 18%

Thursday, April 3
High 69 | Low 55
Precipitation 23%

Friday, April 4
High 65 | Low 51
Precipitation 80%

Saturday, April 5
High 59 | Low 39
Precipitation 54%

Sunday, April 6
High 60 | Low 39
Precipitation 6%

Monday, April 7
High 69 | Low 43
Precipitation 4%

Tuesday, April 8
High 74 | Low 48
Precipitation 2%

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7

Opinion
Sports

4-5
8

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Beacon Grant awarded to local first responders

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Breckenridge Elks Lodge #1480 awarded its 2025 Beacon Grant to four local volunteer fire departments Saturday afternoon, March 29.

The Elks awarded \$1,000 to each of the fire departments for a total grant of \$4,000.

Those fire departments were Hubbard Creek Volunteer Fire Department, Caddo VFD, Wayland VFD and Olden VFD.

Included in the packages awarded to each department was a box of various supplies - nitrile gloves, lifevac, first aid kits and a \$100 visa gift card to purchase water.

"We're proud to be part of the community and to be able to help



Four local volunteer fire departments were each awarded \$1,000 from Breckenridge Elks Lodge #1480 as part of their 2025 Beacon Grant.

Photo / Alex Kielar

and support," Exalted Ruler John Powell said. "We've also given away over \$10,000 to the Breckenridge community locally, to veterans and nursing homes. We gave a grant to meals on wheels, to Dr. Goodall's house, which helps with foster children in the area, and then we also had two individual grants that were given

to kids in the area that had special needs. We gave them some supplies to help them cope and to deal with their condition."

The \$4,000 beacon grant is open to each Elks Lodge every year and can be used on various projects that are important to that specific lodge and its community.

CEO

Continued from Page 1

ing (med-surg) and worked in the operating room.

Speer then moved into her first management position at that hospital, taking over the Med-Surg department. Not long after moving into that position, the CNO position became open at EMH and she moved into that while completing her Master's of Science in Nursing (MSN). She received a master's degree from Excelsior College via its online program.

"I was there as the CNO and the Quality Director for several years and I went to Goodall Witcher Hospital in Clifton after that," she said. "I was there for about close to five years and then this position (CNO at SMH) came open."

Speer said that her work as a CNO in various facilities had her ingrained in the whole world as upper management and prepared her for the role.

"So the executive team usually functions very much as a team. I was very lucky in Eastland and in Clifton to work with a couple of the best CEOs that I have ever worked for in healthcare," Speer said. "They have mentored me and they have included me. They have allowed me to take on responsibility that doesn't fall into the CNO; give me a seat at the table, basically."

With Speer moving into the role of CEO, that leaves her previous position of CNO open.

Speer said that they have some possibilities already in mind, people who are familiar with the community and the hospital that she is talking to.

"Hopefully one of those works out because I think that is our best option to have someone who's invested here and committed here," Speer said. "It's

just about finding the right person, the right fit and getting them in here."

CAH, mammography updates

Speer is coming into the position with knowledge of upcoming changes within the hospital.

"We have a lot going on already that we've been working on because there's been kind of an interim period and transition period," Speer said. "I have been pretty involved in all of that anyway."

The biggest focus right now is their conversion to a critical access hospital as Speer said it is "key to everything else."

To be eligible for the CAH designation, a hospital has to be at 25 beds or less, while SMH was originally licensed at 40 beds and had never decreased that number.

Speer said that they have been in the process of trying to decrease that for a while and recently got approved in their final inspection, as well as having their license being modified.

"So we are now licensed for 20 beds instead of 40, which makes us eligible and kicks off that whole process," Speer said. "Now our application goes to the state and they have 15 days to do something with it. They will forward it to the regional office for CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) in Baltimore."

According to Speer, the regional office then has 45 days to act on it.

"We are in contact with them and with some of the key people there, and they have told us as soon as it leaves the state to call them and they will help get it through the process," she said.

Speer said that the process should be approved by early July — at the latest.

"They will most likely retroactively make that effective sometime between (March 19) and (March 26)," Speer said. "But it will take that long to get our medicaid number, which allows us to change our billing processes over to critical access billing."

One thing that Speer noted is that for some of the hospital's traditional Medicare patients that don't have a supplement, their co-pays may change a little.

"During that interim period — where if they make use retroactive back to this date but we can't bill as critical access until that date — during that time, they may pay a co-pay and it be incorrect and we have to reverse it and then adjust it," Speer said. "So they may have a few little things here and there on billing, but we are happy to work with them however long we need to make it work."

Another order of business on the new CEO's plate is the new mammography machine for the hospital. Speer said that they placed their order for their new 3D mammography unit last Tuesday and expect it to arrive at the hospital in mid-April.

"My first thing is to just kind of evaluate where we are on certain things; pull reports, pull data and look at where we can maybe offer some things that would be really beneficial to our community," Speer said. "I think there are some gaps and I think there are some things the community doesn't even know about that we do."

As far as growth, Speer said that she would love to bring in a small surgical area to the hospital at some point, which is a process to get up and going. But she added that work is underway.

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Signal

Continued from Page 1

tersection during the current realignment project. The installation of this signal is part of TxDOT's ongoing commitment to enhance road safety for all users, including drivers, cyclists and pedestrians," Tipton said. "The signal will help regulate traffic flow, reduce the risk of crashes and improve visibility at the busy intersection."

Tipton stressed the importance for drivers to familiarize themselves with the new traffic patterns and that paying attention will be crucial during the initial adjustment period.

"Drivers should remain vigilant ... when approaching the intersection, especially during the first few weeks," she said.

TxDOT expects the project to be fully complete by the end of April or the beginning of May.

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BISD

Continued from Page 1

ronmental, geo technical and we have a full survey department,” Senior Principal Engineer Tal Fillingim said. “So you name it, we do it for the most part. We worked very hard to become, as much as we can, a one stop shop for our clients.”

The duties of Jacob & Martin in this relationship include helping the school district review any plans for renovations, reviewing and gathering all the bids and helping to evaluate and select a general contractor.

“We’ll help with the execution of the construction... your contract is between you and the general contractor, but you don’t build buildings every day,” Fillingim said. “That’s where we come in, our contract allows us to stand between you and the general contractor and help to administrate that contract. We’ll be there to answer any ques-

tions that are coming on, we review submittals... we make sure that you’re getting the quality and a product that you paid for.”

Fillingim said that they will be on site to make sure that the products are being installed properly.

“There’s a thought that the work stops after the set of instructions or the construction documents are prepared, but that cannot be further from the truth,” Fillingim said. “It’s one thing to put the project on paper. It’s another to actually get it built. So we really take a lot of pride in the construction phase of all of our projects.”

The engineers will be on site at least every other week, according to Fillingim, and the amount of time they spend there can be flexible depending on where the district is at with projects.

“Once we start going vertical, we may need to meet once a week

for the next six weeks because this is a critical stage,” he said. “We have a set of inspectors, somebody’s here at least once a week on site, walking it, looking at progress, making sure that what’s going up is actually what’s on the plans and what you’ve paid for.”

Then at the end of the project, he said they also do a punch list to make sure that everything’s working and functioning properly.

When the district identifies projects they want to complete, the engineering firm will rank them starting with the highest priority first and also relay what the cost would be and if the district can afford it.

The board will have until Aug. 18 to submit bonds to be on the ballot and voted on during the November election, but the firm noted they should get a lot of the work done between now and June.

Time clocks implemented for county employees

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Stephens County Commissioners resolved to implement timeclocks for county employees at their meeting Monday, March 24.

County Treasurer Kelsey Cornwall said that her and Commissioner David Fambro went through a timeclock demo after last month’s meeting in which the idea of implementing the physical machines first came up as a possibility.

“I believe that [demo] answered the questions that we had regarding feasibility and operation,” Cornwall said. “They showed us how they operate and it’s pretty self-explanatory. You have a number code and then [it takes] your [fingerprint].”

Cornwall said that they will be purchasing the clocks themselves and they will use available capital funds.

She said that there is still about \$108,000 remaining in that budget, but about \$105,000 is earmarked for the jail’s camera system which has not been paid yet.

Cornwall said that they are left with about \$3,400 from the capital funds to use on the time clocks and the other \$3,810 to purchase the clocks will come from other sources.

The initial installation of the time clocks, according to Cornwall, will be \$6,304, the upfront implementation costs \$3,150 and the licensing will be an annual fee of \$1,800.

She also said that ex-

tra support and maintenance costs \$1,300 on an annual basis, putting the annual cost at \$3,100.

The physical machines are coming out of San Angelo, Cornwall said, which means they won’t take too long to be installed and the software to be implemented into them. The clocks will be installed at various locations for different county employees, with members of the sheriff’s office having them in their cars to clock in from there.

Cornwall also said that this system will include a phone app in which employees can see their hours and request time off, which goes through three levels of approval.

Chamber

Continued from Page 1

there to lean on during busy times.

Huntington began working at the chamber in October 2022 and had started her life coaching business, Huntington Coaching, around the same time. She had told the chamber when she was hired that she was looking at giving at least three years in the position, as she always knew she wanted to go the route of life coaching full time.

She noted that she was going to wait until the end of the year to put in her resignation to make it a full three years, but she felt that there are too many people in need that she can help mental health wise. Huntington said that when she asked a friend for advice, the friend asked her who is waiting on the mental health help that she can offer and was missing out on the life coaching if she stayed in the position.

Huntington said she is willing to stay on in a contractual aspect following May 30. She will also be staying on as an ambassador to the chamber with her life coaching business, as well as supporting the community in oth-

er ways.

At 22, Huntington went to bible college which she said was to lay a firm foundation for ministry and educate herself in a biblical way in order to build upon that. She graduated from bible college at 24, before pursuing an undergraduate degree in psychology and then ultimately a counseling degree, human service counseling with a cognitive of life coaching. She graduated with that degree in 2020.

“Knowing in my mind that my career goal... is what my degrees are in, which is psychology and counseling,” Huntington said. “So for me, that has always been the direction.”

Huntington told her mother at nine years old that she wanted to be a doctor so that she could pray for the people in the waiting rooms that they didn’t have to go to the emergency room and have surgery. “So that was always a desire, for people who were going through any type of struggles, in the hospital for physical things,” Huntington said. “So then as that developed for me, I found out that I wanted to be in the mental health field.”

What catapulted Hun-

tington’s desire towards the mental health field even further was when her nephew passed away from suicide in early 2023 after dealing with many mental health issues. She said that she had already gotten her degrees at that point and desired to go through mental health training.

After her nephew passed, Huntington began training with Psychiatrist Dr. Daniel Amen in February 2023 and became a licensed brain health trainer.

“I knew in my heart that I was going to eventually go into that field full time and my passion, like most people’s passion, doesn’t always come with the job that will pay well,” Huntington said. “So for me, I am exiting this job and going into a field that is more because I want to help save lives.”

One of the most notable issues that Huntington wants to tackle is brain health, because she said that a lot of the time, that is not something that is focused on when people talk about mental illness.

“That’s how I have been trained, is when people are struggling with depression or anxiety and things like that, we focus on what the

issue is instead of recognizing the organ of the mind, which is the brain,” she said. “So that is my desire, to bring awareness to the world of mental health. The way that has been handled has not been working, and so we need to change some things.”

Huntington said that she wants to even pursue trying to change laws that are currently in place regarding mental health.

“My personal experience with my nephew, we couldn’t help him because he was an adult. So when my sister tried to tell the facilities, the people and the doctors that he wasn’t taking his medication and ‘we need to do something,’ her hands were tied,” Huntington said. “That’s my passion, to help change the laws that would better facilitate people and rehabilitate them into a better place.”

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Aggie leader no joke...

Had a Texas Aggie been a Rip Van Winkle wannabe in 2011, he (she) might hardly recognize the university upon awakening from slumber in 2025.

There might be understandable confusion. Is real time clearly in focus or is the awakening accompanied by swirling figmentary dream extensions from a heap of sleep? Surely the eye-rubbing Aggie isn't experiencing the world's biggest Aggie joke.

Hardly. Retiring Chancellor John Sharp spent his tenure wielding political capital, vision and energy so expertly that when he retires on June 30, he will leave behind the nation's largest higher education system of on-campus students. Texas A&M has excelled academically, athletically and in numerous other ways. And that's no

joke.

Student body president, he also was a charter member of the anything-for-a-laugh crowd, where loose boundaries started. He was challenged to lead some fellow Aggies in rounding up a passel of armadillos, cover them with burnt orange paint and set them free in Austin.

Actually, the challenge was more specific. They were to be loosed in equal numbers from all corners of the field during half-time of the 1971 A&M-UT game, when the Longhorn band was ready for its halftime show. It was "mission accomplished" when 33 armadillos scurried through the ranks, setting the band asunder before the first formation was in. (Okay, one of the corners had an extra critter, so here's

fodder for an Aggie math joke....

Turns out that a prominent former A&M student planned the prank, so all John got was a wrist-slapping, perhaps with an "at-a-boy wink" to boot.

R. C. Slocum—winner and longest-tenured head football coach who led the Aggies to their last conference championship 26 years ago—and quite simply is as good as it gets—dared to remind Sharp of the prank recently on the chancellor's weekly TV show, "Around Texas."

It was all in good fun. The affable Slocum—given walking papers in 2002 despite compiling the Aggies' best record of 123-47-2 and climbing to number six in wins nationally by coaches at major schools—stayed on as a special presiden-



Don Newbury

The Idle American

tial assistant until January. Just turned 80, he is cancer free, closing out 53 years of service to Texas A&M. (First member of his family to graduate from college, he LOVES TEXAS A&M, where 15 members have graduated—so far....)

Back to Sharp: He thinks at warp speed, mastering political maneuverings honed during Austin years. He's as comfortable

See Newbury, Page 5

Ask Rusty: Can my wife and I get spouse benefits from each other?

Dear Rusty: My wife and I are currently collecting Social Security. We both started receiving SS at 62 years old. That said, we get by on a tight budget.



Russell Gloor

Social Security Matters

A retired friend told us about an option which allows a spouse to collect half (1/2) of the other spouse's SS monthly income. My question has two parts: 1. Can we both collect on each other's SS? And 2. Are there any pitfalls? **Signed: Seeking an Increase**

Dear Seeking: Well, I'm afraid spousal benefits aren't quite that simple. One spouse may be eligible for additional benefits from the other, but only if that spouse's personal Social Security retirement benefit at their full retirement age (FRA) is less than half (50%) of the other spouse's FRA entitlement. Note that for spouse benefits, FRA amounts are used regardless of when you actually claim benefits. Full retirement age for both you and your wife is 66, so that means that if you both claimed at 62 your FRA entitlements were higher — about 25% more — than you are both currently receiving.

Since you applied for benefits some time ago at about the same age, one way to estimate if one of you may be entitled to an additional amount as a spouse is to evaluate your current monthly amounts. If either of you are getting a benefit which is less than half of the other's amount, it's possible that the one with the lower benefit may be entitled to more as a spouse. And note, only one spouse is eligible for benefits — you cannot both get spouse benefits from each other.

Another way to ex-

plore this is for the spouse with the lowest monthly Social Security benefit to contact Social Security at 1.800.772.1213 to ask if spouse benefits are available. Noting that contacting SS these days can be a time-consuming process, yet another way is for you to provide us (the AMAC Foundation's SS Advisory Service) with both of your current monthly SS benefit amounts (before any deductions) and the exact ages when each of you claimed. Using that information, we can do the math to see if either of you might be entitled to more as a spouse. But, in the end, only the spouse with the lower benefit may be eligible, and then, only if their FRA entitlement (not their actual current amount) is less than 50% of the other spouse's FRA entitlement.

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Release of school accountability ratings is urgently needed

Texas has gone two years without publishing A-F academic accountability ratings, which are vital for fostering student progress, transparency, and continuous improvement in public schools. A coalition of Texas leaders representing parents, businesses and education nonprofits filed an amicus brief in *Morath v. Pecos-Barstow-Toyah Independent School District* urging the 15th Court of Appeals to lift the injunction prevent-

ing the release of these critical ratings.

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) data underscore the need for clear information on public school performance to propel academic progress. Texas currently ranks in the bottom 25% of states in 4th grade reading, which drops to 12% for 8th grade. A-F ratings allow for comparisons between school districts across the state to identify bright spots that can

TEXAS 2036

be scaled and areas for improvement that need additional support.

"We can't hope to improve our education system if we aren't clear-eyed about our current outcomes," said Commit Partnership Founding Chairman and CEO Todd Wil-

liams, "Without these letter grades, students remain on failing campuses that otherwise could have received greater resources and interventions — and we also lose the ability to celebrate the schools and systems that see remarkable improvement and sustained success."

The amicus brief highlights the negative impacts of withholding A-F ratings, emphasizing the needs of stakeholders who depend on school performance data:

Students: Accountability ratings track how well school systems are meeting student academic needs and drive improvements in learning outcomes to eliminate achievement gaps for students and prepare

See Ratings, 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 midweek 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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FOIA BILL

RING BELL

LAN GREEN

Newbury

Continued from Page 4

there as Roy Rogers was on Trigger. Visionary, hard-working, courageous, thick-skinned and doggedly committed, he has “bulls-eyed” numerous targets that arguably make him the most effective CEO in the history of higher education. The oft-quoted late Houston Oilers Coach “Bum” Phillips comes to mind. When asked if Earl Campbell was in a class by himself, “Bum” drawled, “If he ain’t, it don’t take long to call the roll.”

The Texas A&M System now includes eight universities with total enrollments exceeding 150,000. There are some 75,000 at College Station, more than double the number enrolled when Sharp took over.

Both dental and law schools were acquired, with the latter ranked 57th nationally five years later and now in the top 30. Sharp’s accomplishments are many, including his successful pursuit of an appropriation of more than \$1 billion for Texas A&M projects last year from the Texas Legislature....

Sharp, 73, isn’t being fitted for a rocking chair. He has already

volunteered to help his successor, fellow Aggie and current Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar, in all the ways that he can. (Maroon blood doesn’t change colors at retirement.)

Finally, I’m given the chance to expound on the correct pronunciation of “comptroller.” It is exactly the same as the pronunciation of “controller.” True, most comptrollers call themselves “KOMP-trollers.” Superb “audience-reader” that he is, Sharp likely claimed he was “controller” in the presence of academicians, and KOMP-troller when addressing most Aggies....

My 30 years of “chancellor” falls light years short of Sharp’s. I was elected “most likely to remain left-handed” in high school, though, but never once trapped an armadillo....

Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, continues to speak and write. *The Idle American*, begun in 2003, appears weekly in newspapers throughout Texas. Contact: 817-447-3872. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Audio version at www.speakerdoc.com.

Ratings

Continued from Page 4

them for success after graduation.

Parents: Clear, accessible information about their child’s school performance helps families make informed decisions and advocate for necessary educational resources.

School Districts & Community Partners: The A-F system enables school districts and their network of partners to identify underperforming campuses and allocate resources to support better outcomes.

Businesses: Employers rely on A-F ratings to attract and retain qualified workers in the communities where they operate and ensure a pipeline of qualified employees.

The Public: The system provides every Texan with a tool to monitor progress

and ensure public funds are used effectively to improve public education.

“For parents trying to make the best decisions for their children, for businesses hiring the next generation of workers, and for communities striving to strengthen their local schools, the A-F accountability system is a lifeline,” Good Reason Houston CEO Cary Wright said. “The impact of withholding these ratings is that Texans are left in the dark.”

While the organizations defer to the court system and the parties to the lawsuit to resolve the underlying dispute, they emphasized that depriving the public of performance information for the 1200-plus school districts in the state is not an appropriate solution.

“Parents, students and community leaders have not had access to these important measures of school performance since the 2018-19 school year,” said Texas 2036 Education and Workforce Policy Director Mary Lynn Pruneda. “Texas families should be able to know more about the performance of their schools following the disruptions caused by the pandemic. Continuing to withhold these performance scores is making a lasting impact on Tex-

as families as they try to prepare the next generation for success as they graduate high school.”

About Texas 2036
Texas 2036 is a non-profit public policy organization committed to building long-term, data-driven strategies to ensure Texas’ prosperity up to its bicentennial and beyond. Our solutions are non-partisan, grounded in thorough research and focus on critical issues that seek to improve lives and opportunities for all Texans.

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Breckenridge Devotional Page

1. Is the book of 2 Peter (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. How did God identify Himself when speaking from the burning bush? I am who I am, King of all, Jesus Christ, Lord of Jehovah
3. Which of these was not one of the 10 plagues in Egypt? Locusts, Wicked skins to stone, Water turned to blood, Livestock diseased
4. 2 Kings 19 and which other book and chapter are almost alike word for word? Jeremiah 50, Job 16, Isaiah 37, Deuteronomy 7
5. Which judge of Israel had 30 sons? Samson, Jair, Ephraim, Gideon
6. What king dug wells in the desert? Abner, Isaac, Uzziah, Abimelech

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) I am who I am, 3) Wicked skins to stone, 4) Isaiah 37, 5) Jair, 6) Uzziah

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- Eliasville Church of Christ**
Eliasville – Norman Carpenter, Min.
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FEATURES FROM THE BIBLE

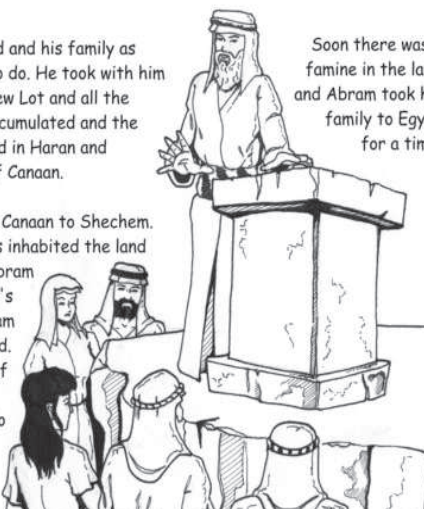
TRUTH IN SCRIPTURE

Abram Builds Altars
Genesis 12

Abram left his homeland and his family as the Lord had told him to do. He took with him his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot and all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Haran and they went to the land of Canaan.

Soon there was a famine in the land and Abram took his family to Egypt for a time.

The group traveled into Canaan to Shechem. Although the Canaanites inhabited the land the Lord appeared to Abram and promised to Abram's offspring the land. Abram built an altar to the Lord. Next he traveled east of Bethel and pitched his tent and built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord.



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6. Flute, Slate
2. Crest, Crust
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3. Litter, Litter
8. Danny, Dandy
4. Chill, Chili
9. Forge, Force
5. Talker, Tanker
10. Auslin, Austen

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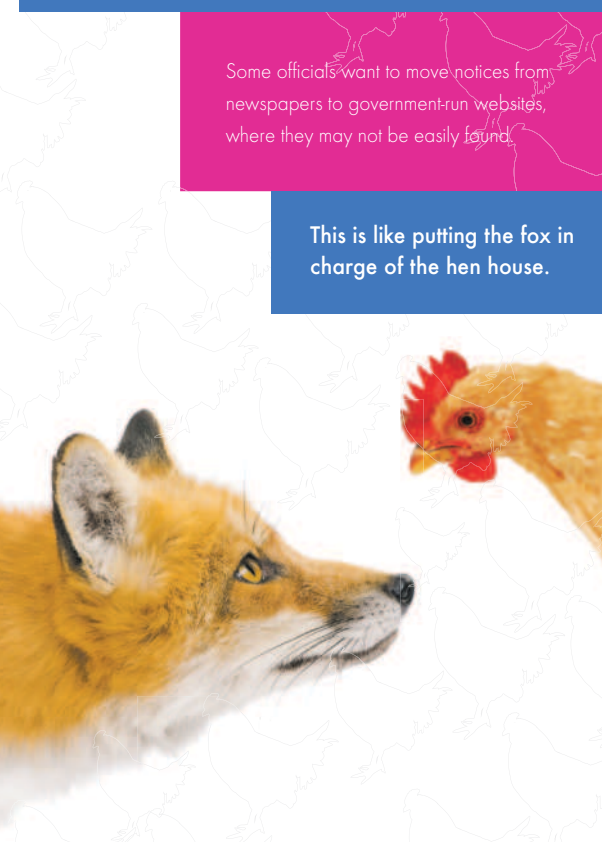
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Solution time: 23 mins.

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F	E	R	O	C	I	T	Y	L	I	R	E
M	A	C	L	E	A	N	I	N			
R	A	S	P	Y	R	A	N	T			
I	C	E	T	F	E	R	V	I	D	L	Y
F	R	A	T	A	N	G	O	O			
F	E	R	N	A	N	D	O	A	L	L	Y
A	R	C	S	J	E	L	L	O			
M	A	I	T	A	I	F	I	G			
A	S	T	I	F	E	R	M	E	N	T	S
L	I	E	V	U	N	O	A	E	R	O	
E	S	M	E	L	E	G	N	E	E	D	


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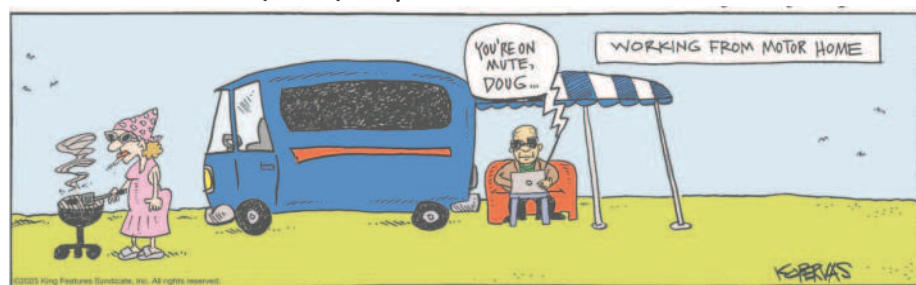
Specifications will be mailed upon request by calling 254-559-2371. Bids will be accepted until 10:00 a.m. on Monday, April 14, 2025, at which time bids will be considered by the Commissioner's Court during their regular meeting. Faxed bids will not be accepted. Any bid may be withdrawn before the scheduled time. Any bid received after the stated deadline will be returned unopened.

Stephens County, Texas, reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids or to accept the bid or bids that appear to best serve the interests of Stephens County, TX. STEPHENS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT By: /s/ Michael C. Roach Michael C. Roach, County Judge

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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. Wedding star	___ D ___	Salt water	___ N ___
2. Top of the wave	___ E ___	Loaf's outer layer	___ U ___
3. Second of two	___ A ___	Highway debris	___ I ___
4. Relax, will you?	___ L ___	Tex-Mex stew	___ I ___
5. Chatterbox	___ L ___	Oil ship	___ N ___
6. Fill with joy	E ___	Blue-gray color	S ___
7. 5-cent piece	___ L ___	Scratched	___ D ___
8. "Oh, ___ boy"	___ N ___	Fine and	___ D ___
9. Kiln	___ G ___	Power, strength	___ C ___
10. Texas capital	___ I ___	Novelist Jane	___ E ___

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!

Soothe
SUSARE [] [] [] [] [] []

Blend
GEMER [] [] [] [] [] []

End
SOCRUEL [] [] [] [] [] []

Cute
TRYPET [] [] [] [] [] []

Boxed letters: S, U, R, E, M, E, S, O, C, R, U, E, L, T, R, Y, P, E, T

Today's Word: [] [] [] [] [] []

"Before I give my report, remember — I warned you about electing me as []!"

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				52				53		

ACROSS

1 "Li'l Abner" creator
5 Yellowstone grazer
8 Cymbal's kin
12 Petri dish gel
13 Sturgeon product
14 Ancient Dead Sea land
15 Fierceness
17 Milan money, once
18 PC alternative
19 Sheryl Sandberg best seller
21 Grating
24 Harangue
25 "Rhyme Pays" rapper
26 With passion
30 Monk's title
31 Piquant
32 Tic-tac-toe win
33 Hit song by ABBA
35 Friend
36 Curved lines
37 Jiggly dessert
38 Rum cocktail
41 Pear-shaped fruit
42 Spumante source
43 Agitates
48 Actor Schreiber

DOWN

1 Half- (latte option)
2 Candle count
3 Standard
4 On time
5 Idle or Bana
6 Parcel of land
7 Bogart/Bacall classic
8 Trattoria deserts
9 Valhalla VIP
10 Sushi wrapper
11 Fed. agents
16 Low isle
20 Jealousy
21 Jazz phrase
22 Estate measure
23 Burn something
24 Tears apart
26 Imaginary
27 Toy store buy
28 Lounge
29 Cellist Ma

31 Actress Reid
34 Indigenous
35 Sea off Greece
37 Comic Carrey
38 Like ganders
39 Unrepaired
40 Detail
41 Toad's kin
44 Away from WSW
45 Formerly called
46 Three, in Rome
47 Turf

Look for answers in the Classifieds.

Errors & Adjustments: Please check your ad the first day that it runs to see that all of the information is correct. This will ensure that your ad is exactly what you want readers to see. Call us at 254-559-5412 the first day if you find an error. We must limit our financial responsibilities, if any, to the charge for the space and cannot be responsible for incorrect ads after the first day of publication.

Why Public Notice Should Remain in Newspapers

Along with open meeting and freedom of information laws, public notice is an essential element of the **three-legged stool** of government transparency.

Newspapers remain the primary vehicle for public notice in **all 50 states**.

This is **not** about "newspapers vs the internet". It's **newspapers and newspaper websites vs government websites** and newspaper websites have a much larger audience. Moving notice from newspapers to government websites would **reduce the presence of public notices on the internet**.

Newsprint is inherently superior to the internet for public notice because reading a newspaper is a serendipitous process. We find things in newspapers we weren't expecting to see. On the internet, we search for specific information and ignore everything else.

Significant numbers of people in rural areas still lack high-speed internet access. Moreover, the real **digital divide for public notice is growing** due to the massive migration to smartphones and other small-screen digital devices.

Requiring independent, third-party newspapers to ensure that public notices run in accordance with the law helps **prevent government officials from hiding information** they would prefer the public not to see.

Governments aren't very good at publishing information on the internet. Unlike newspaper publishers, **public officials aren't compelled by the free market to operate effective websites.**

Check us out online at
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SPORTS

Lady Bucks struggle against Maidens

Alex Kielar
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After narrowly falling last Tuesday to the Peaster Lady Greyhounds, 3-2, the Lady Bucks were the first to get on the scoreboard to start the game Friday, March 28 against the Comanche Maidens.

In the first inning, Rae-gan Robinson ripped a rocket double off the right field wall to drive in Olyvia Perez with two outs.

The Maidens took the lead in the third inning on a two RBI double to the left-center gap before two more runs were scored on an error later in the inning and another on a sac-

rifice fly.

The Lady Bucks got one back in the bottom of the third as Paisley Herring scored on an error after a groundout by Joni Jackson.

The Maidens were leading 5-2 after three innings and that was as close as the game would be.

The Lady Bucks struggled to get outs in the fourth inning as the Maidens scored eight more runs in that frame, capped with a bases-clearing triple.

An RBI single by Jackson, a two RBI double by Robinson and a run scored on an error got the Lady Bucks back to within seven runs at 13-6.

But the Maidens add-



Joni Jackson swings at a pitch in the Lady Bucks loss to the Maidens last week, in which she recorded two singles. Jackson walked four times in four plate appearances in their loss to Peaster earlier in the week.

Photo/Alex Kielar



Olyvia Perez singled twice in three at-bats Friday night against Comanche, coming around to score three runs and walked twice against Peaster last Tuesday.

Photo/Alex Kielar

BHS track competes at Stephenville

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For their final tuneup before the district meet starting today, Breckenridge High School competed Thursday, March 27 in the Colonel Mobley Optimist Relays in Stephenville.

The Buckaroos and Lady Buckaroos each had a handful of top six finishers, including a first-place finish for

Chance Stewart in the varsity boys 1600-meter run, a first-place finish for Kamden Tidwell in the varsity girls pole vault and a first-place finish for Rihana Fuller in the JV girls discus.

Both varsity teams will compete today, Wednesday, April 2 and tomorrow, Thursday, April 3, in the district meet at Bob and Norma Cervetto Stadium in Dublin.



Chance Stewart leads the pack in the opening lap of the 1600-meter run final of the Colonel Mobley Relays in Stephenville, in which he finished in under five minutes to earn first place Thursday, March 27.

Photo/Alex Kielar

ed 10 more runs in the sixth, capped by a three-run homer to make it 23-6. An infield single by Aurrin Mathe-son got the score to 23-7 and that would be the final.

Bucks sweep Lions

Alex Kielar
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With two 11-1 wins Tuesday, March 25 and Friday, March 28, the Buckaroos (7-8-1, 5-1) swept the Dublin Lions (5-10, 0-6) last week for their fourth and fifth wins in a row.

Nieko Martinez went 4-for-4 in the first game, doubling in the second and fifth innings and singling in the first and fourth innings.

Jaxon Escalon singled in the first two runs of the game in the first inning and the Bucks added to their early lead when Hudson Woodward singled in a run in the second before Martinez drove in two more on his first double of the game.

The lead got out to 6-1 in the third inning when Cooper Wimberley drove in a run on a ground ball.

On the mound for the Bucks was Cameron David, who allowed one run on four hits and four walks while striking out two over five innings.



Nieko Martinez waits on second during the Bucks game against Early. The Bucks swept the Dublin Lions last week, with Martinez recording four hits in the win Tuesday as they won 11-1 in both that game and Friday.

Photo/Alex Kielar

In Friday's game, Zachary Beltran led the way with three hits in four at-bats. Dublin got on the board first this time around, but it was all that the Bucks would allow in the game.

It didn't take long for the Bucks to take the lead as they scored four runs in the second inning. Hunter Davis drove in two runs on a single and David and Wimberley each drove in a run on RBI grounders.

Beltran singled to center field to add a

fifth run for the Bucks in the third inning. Canyon Shirley was on the hill for Buckaroos and allowed a run on four hits and no walks over 4 1/3 innings while striking out four.

Woodward recorded two hits over four at-bats and Davis led the walk party with three out of the Bucks 10 total free passes.

As of the end of the game Friday, the Bucks sit in second place in 3A Region 1 District 8, just behind Peaster, who is 4-0 in district play.

Boys' Varsity Results

1. Abilene Wylie 139; 2. Stephenville 114; 3. Granbury 107; 4. Breckenridge 69; 5. Decatur 64; 6. Brownwood 58; 7. Abilene Cooper 54; 8. Glen Rose 15

Buckaroos Results

100-meter Dash: 4. Glen Thibodeaux 11.14; 12. Jaime Cruz 11.64; 20. Cameron David 12.15

200-meter Dash: 3. Sawyer Wimberley 23.03; 5. Kennet Medina 23.86; 6. Jaime Cruz 24.07; 15. Lesavier Gutierrez 24.87; 17. Cameron David 24.94

400-meter Dash: 4. Carlos Alvarado 51.58

800-meter Run: 4. Chance Stewart 2:08.13; 8. Carlos Alvarado 2:10.64; 14. Andrew White; 2:18.73

1600-meter Run: 1. Chance Stewart; 4:46.19; 10. Kasen Ferguson 5:06.96; 11. Gabriel Garcia 5:11.32

3200-meter Run: 5. Gabriel Garcia 10:53.29; 6. Kasen Ferguson 10:56.05

110-meter Hurdles: 7. Slayden Young 18.28; 8. John Sackett 18.59

300-meter Hurdles: 2. Slayden Young 41.63; 14. John Sackett 47.79

4x100 Relay: 6. Breckenridge 44.94

4x200 Relay: 4. Breckenridge 1:30.62

4x400 Relay: 2. Breckenridge 3:27.09

Long Jump: 16. Lesavier Gutierrez 17-05

Triple Jump: 6. Andrew White 39-06

Pole Vault: 7. Emilio Castorena 11-06; 7. Cameron David 11-06

Discus: 11. Christian Flores 121-10; 12. Nathan Roberts 117-01; 16. Dogulas White 110-11.5

Shot Put: 8. Christian Flores 45-7.25; 15. Douglas White 40-2.5; 17. Brandon Niblett 38-7.5

Girls' Varsity Results

1. Abilene Wylie 122.60; 2. Stephenville 120.60; 3. Brownwood 105; 4. Decatur 95.60; 5. Granbury 47.20; 6. Breckenridge 38; 7. Glen Rose 37; 8. Abilene Cooper 36; 9. Coahoma

16; 10. Dublin 2

Lady Bucks Results

100-meter Dash: 7. Paisley Herring 13.30; 12. Ava Russell 13.70

200-meter Dash: 11. Abigail Duran 29.13; 13. Lane Bartoskewitz 29.23; 14. Ava Russell 29.90

400-meter Dash: 7. Saylor Townson 1:05.33; 11. Ruthie Valdez 1:06.83; 13. Karsyn Smalley 1:07.96

800-meter Run: 15. Saylor Townson 2:40.09; 22. Isabelle Bid-dison 2:54.96

1600-meter Run: 13. Lizandra Rubio 6:12.25; 19. Haylee Stinnett 6:40.30; 20. Kendra Palacios 6:47.31

3200-meter Run: 8. Lizanadra Rubio 13:51.91; 13. Kendra Palacios 15:23.82; 14. Emma McIntosh 16:17.73

100-meter Hurdles: 17. Emily Jones 20.73

300-meter Hurdles: 15. Emily Jones 56.45

4x100 Relay: 5. Breckenridge 52.11

4x200 Relay: 4. Breckenridge 1:49.38

4x400 Relay: 6. Breckenridge 4:18.59

High Jump: 10. Miley Roberts 4-06

Long Jump: 18. Isabelle Biddison 13-02; 19. Paisley Herring 12-11.5

Triple Jump: 7. Kamden Tidwell 33-3.5

Pole Vault: 1. Kamden Tidwell 10-09

Discus: 2. Joni Jackson 113-07; 7. Maria Duran 94-5.5; 10. Rylee Fuller 88-2.5

Shot Put: 3. Joni Jackson 35-01; 7. Maria Duran 30-7.75; 15. Rylee Fuller 28-5.5

See our website for JV results.