



The City of Breckenridge Animal Control Operations (ACO) has begun to toughen up more since Steve Jennings was named supervisor a few months ago. Now fully staffed, the city's animal population has been controlled better, according to Police Chief Blake Johnson.

Photo/Alex Kielar

## City animal control toughens up on animal population

Alex Kielar  
news@breckenridgeamerican.com

In the three months since Steve Jennings was named the City of Breckenridge Animal Control Operations (ACO) new supervisor, improvements have been made within the shelter. Those improvements in-

clude ACO now being fully staffed, with Police Chief Blake Johnson saying they have recently hired a new animal control officer.

"The population is controlled much better. We have taken in more and we are working to follow through on dogs deemed dangerous and vicious,"

Johnson said. "We have to be tough in situations where a dog harms a person or another dog."

Johnson noted that a dog is deemed dangerous if it bites another person and is deemed vicious if it attacks another dog.

One such dog was recently deemed dangerous after biting Breckenridge resident Randy Ferrell, who tried to intervene and break up a fight between his dog, Oliver, and Beverly Ferrell's son Thomas Thompson's dog, Ty.

Oliver was the aggressor, according to the report from ACO Officer Jos-

See Animal, Page 3

## County terminates FBO lease agreement with Novan, selects new vendor

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A fixed-base operator (FBO) lease agreement between Stephens County, including Stephens County Airport, and lessee Novan Aviation Group LLC with Principal and Director of Operations Len Hobbs has been agreed upon to be terminated by the two parties.

The agreement was entered into October 15, 2024 for the lease of certain airport facilities, equipment and fuel inventory at the airport. The two sides agreed to terminate

the lease agreement at a special meeting of the Stephens County Commissioners' Court called Monday morning, April 7.

Hobbs had previously been invited to speak to the commissioner's court at their regular meeting in March. The commissioner's court then issued an order requiring a payment of at least 50 percent of the fuel inventory cost on or before April 1. With Hobbs not meeting this requirement, it was agreed by the court to terminate the contract,

See FBO, Page 3



The commissioner's court hears from Greg Grigry, who they agreed to sign as the new lessee for the fixed-base operator (FBO) lease agreement at Stephens County Airport after terminating their contract with delinquent lessee Novan Aviation Group and Len Hobbs.

Photo/Alex Kielar

## Breckenridge Junior High Band earns Sweepstakes at UIL

Alex Kielar  
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BHS Band Director Joe Barrow and his wife, Melissa, the Breckenridge Junior High Band Director, are in their first year of being a husband-wife band directing team. Both the BJHS and BHS bands have seen

plenty of success since they took over in early August, before the school year and marching band season.

Following the success of the Pride of Breckenridge Buckaroo High School Band, the Breckenridge Junior High Band also

See Band, Page 3



BJHS Band Director Melissa Barrow and BHS Band Director Joe Barrow with the UIL Sweepstakes trophy that the BJHS band earned earlier this month at the UIL junior high band competition at Stephenville High School.

Photos/Contributed

## Pit Stop Bar-B-Q closes, prospective new lessees interested in continuing BBQ tradition

Alex Kielar  
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After close to 20 years in business, Pit Stop Bar-B-Q, located at 303 S Breckenridge Ave, has recently closed its doors. However, several prospective new lessees of the building are interested in continuing its legacy as a barbecue restaurant, according to the building's owner, James Jackson.

Rodney Hartfield, the owner of Pit Stop Bar-B-Q, recently died after a long battle with an illness. His wife, Amanda, had been co-owner and manager of the business since they got together, and decided to

See BBQ, Page 10



Pit Stop Bar-B-Q was the lessee in this building for nearly 20 years, according to building owner James Jackson. Business owner Rodney Hartfield developed it into a popular local spot before his death this year and his wife Amanda took over as manager around the time of their marriage.

Photo/Alex Kielar

## Weekly Local Forecast

<b>Wednesday, April 16</b> High 89   Low 65 Precipitation 0%	<b>Thursday, April 17</b> High 92   Low 68 Precipitation 3%	<b>Friday, April 18</b> High 85   Low 63 Precipitation 7%	<b>Saturday, April 19</b> High 74   Low 60 Precipitation 76%
<b>Sunday, April 20</b> High 76   Low 53 Precipitation 57%	<b>Monday, April 21</b> High 86   Low 64 Precipitation 10%	<b>Tuesday, April 22</b> High 85   Low 62 Precipitation 30%	<b>Hubbard Creek</b> At capacity: 1,183.00 Current: 1,169.30

Classifieds	8-9	Obituaries	2
Local Candidates	6-7	Opinion	4-5
Entertainment	9	Sports	10

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# Obituaries



## Marcia Carr

Aug. 27, 1936 – April 9, 2025

Marcia Carr, 88 of Strawn, passed away Wednesday, April 9. Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 15 at Morehart Mortuary with Joe Knust officiating. A family only interment will follow at Scranton Cemetery in Eastland County. Visitation was held at 5:30 to 7 p.m. Monday, April 14 at Morehart Mortuary.

Marcia Jo Anderson was born Aug. 27, 1936 in Chickasha, Oklahoma to Joe Shelby Anderson and Ruby Emma May. She married Rufus A. Carr in Scranton, Texas on Aug. 16, 1952. Marcia started working for Eastland Memorial in 1972 as a medical records transcriptionist until she was promoted to the hospital administrator. She was on the steering committee for TORCH, where she served as president during her tenure. She was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star in Rising Star. She was preceded in death by her husband, Rufus Carr; her granddaughter, Jessica Carr.

Mrs. Carr is survived by her two children, John S. Carr and wife Bertha Carr of Brentwood, California, Alicia Whitt and husband Jay of Strawn; six grandchildren, Richard Whitt and wife Becky of Goldthwaite, Justin Whitt and wife Jessica of Breckenridge, Charlotte Carr of Paigeland, North Carolina, Jeremy Carr of Los Angeles, California, Brian Carr and wife Kimmie of Livermore, California, David Guy of Graford; seven great grandchildren, Kristin Whitt of Killeen, Jaythan Whitt of Goldthwaite, Mason Gilkey of Eastland, Miranda Gilkey of Breckenridge, Marley Gilkey of Breckenridge, John Belsher of Haltom City, Shelby Carr of Rhome; three great-grandchildren, Atlas Taylor, Eilidh Carr and Julien Rodriguez.

The family of Mrs. Carr would like to give a special thanks to Villa Haven Health and Rehabilitation and to Solaris Hospice for their love and care they provided for Mrs. Carr. Memorials may be made to either organizations and may be left at Morehart Mortuary.



## Walter M "Butch" Williams Jr.

May 10, 1944 – April 3, 2025

Walt was born May 10, 1944 in Breckenridge to Walter and Lorene (Layman) Williams and passed away at home in Boise, Idaho on April 3 with his wife Tammi by his side.

Walt graduated from Breckenridge High School in May 1962 and within weeks headed West with no clear plan. As he would tell it, he and his buddy Johnny got as far as Yuma, Arizona, ran out of money and spent the summer picking dates high up in the air in date palm trees to make a few bucks. That quickly grew old and on Oct. 11, 1962 Walt joined the US Navy Submarine Service.

Early on he was based in Washington State where he met and married Sandy Snodgrass in September 1964, eventually settling in the Federal Way, Washington area with their daughters Dawn and Tammy.

During his time in the Navy, Walt was trained in electronics and when his four years of Navy duty was up he joined IBM where he spent the next 26 years, retiring in 1992. He took a year off and eventually took a position at KeyBank in the data communications area because he realized that even though he was retired at 48, all of his friends were still working!!

Walt and Sandy separated and divorced in 1990 and on Oct. 13, 1990 he met Tammi Bourn who would become his companion (and eventually his wife) for the remainder of his life. Tammi moved to Boise in 1997 due to a job opportunity at KeyBank and in 2000, Walt tired of the long distance relationship and retired from KeyBank, sold their house in Des Moines, Washington and moved to Boise to join her - and fell in love with this city immediately. The weather gave him many opportunities to golf and work in the yard, and there were many fun week-end trips to the various mountains and lakes around and a LOT of time spent on the golf course with the friends he quickly made.

In the last few years Walt was physically limited so while golfing was no longer an option, he followed the PGA tour and loved to watch every moment of the final round on TV on Sundays (sometimes over Tammi's objections). Walt was also a devout fan of the Boise State Broncos and the Boise Hawks, as well as the Seattle Seahawks and Mariners, but held a special place in his heart for his Washington Huskies and Dallas Cowboys.

Walt and Tammi recently added a new great-granddaughter to the family and he remarked last week that he couldn't believe how much his little family had grown. He was so grateful to have lived long enough to see all of his kids and grandkids grow up, find their careers and passions in life and start their own families.

Walt is survived by his wife, Tammi Bourn of Boise, Idaho. His children: Dawn (Jon) Byers of Auburn, Washington, Tammy Stinde of Auburn, Washington, and Serenity Bornstine of Boise, Idaho. His Grandchildren: Katelyn (Clay) Felt of Tacoma, Washington, Courtney (PJ) Tiemann of Auburn, Washington, Kyle Byers of Auburn, Washington, James Ellis of Nampa, Idaho, Jeff (Rebekah) Ellis of Killeen, and Savannah Ellis of Nampa, Idaho. His great-grandchildren: Evelyn, Teddy, Addy, Allison, Grace, Charlie, Aspen, Aubrey and Ivy. His brother Ron (Melinda) Williams of Troup, his sister Daphna Vincent of Breckenridge, his sister Tammy (Joe) Jones of Dublin and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Walt was not really a spiritual person but he often mentioned to Tammi his hope of being reunited with his family and friends who had gone before him. We have faith that's true and that he's surrounded by loved ones and now without pain and the constant struggle for breath that plagued him for the past four years.

At Walt's request he will be cremated and there will be no funeral.

Tammi would like to thank the St. Alphonsus Heart Institute in Boise for giving Walt so many quality bonus years after his bypass surgery in 2008. She would also like to thank Lauren Kenney at Cloverdale Funeral Home in Boise for her help and care with final arrangements.

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**Check out local Candidate Questionnaires on pages 6 and 7 before voting next week!**

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# FBO

Continued from Page 1

which the lessee agreed to sign.

The county then took full possession of the full inventory, and it was determined that the volume and value of the fuel on hand exceeds the amount already paid by the lessee. Given this information, the county will now pay the difference to Hobbs based on the county's original per-gallon cost of acquisition.

The lessee also agreed to return all leased equipment and property, which included but is not limited to fuel trucks (jet and aviation fuel), an old blue ford tractor, a 2000-gallon apron tank and point-of-sale system, as well as any and all courtesy cars pro-

vided by the county. The county ordered that all returned items be in good condition and returned no later than Thursday, April 10.

With the lease terminated, the county then agreed to select a new vendor in the form of Brett Grigry of Cisco. An initial 60-day lease agreement was signed between the two parties, which will only be temporary while the county works out a formal agreement with Grigry. The formal agreement is set to be ready at the next meeting of the commissioners' court.

Grigry has vast experience in overseeing the FBO operations at an airport and said that he has managed two small airports like the one in Stephens County. He

also has 28 years of experience as a pilot and is the president of Grigry Development Properties.

For the initial agreement, Grigry will not be responsible for paying a flowage fee. Per the agreement, the county will be responsible for the ground maintenance, landscaping and general repairs and maintenance to inventory.

Grigry will be responsible for janitorial duties as well as managing all duties with running the airport's FBO, purchasing and maintaining inventory of aviation fuel, managing fuel sales, managing the fleet of courtesy vehicles, managing the terminal building and taking calls pertaining to the airport.



The BJHS band poses with their UIL Sweepstakes trophy that they earned earlier this month at the UIL junior high band competition at Stephenville High School.

Photos/Contributed

# Band

Continued from Page 1

earned a Sweepstakes award at their University Interscholastic League (UIL) competition earlier this month.

The Breckenridge High School Band earned a Sweepstakes honor Wednesday, Feb. 26. They had also earned a Division 1 score in the UIL marching contest back in the fall.

The UIL competition

for Junior High bands took place Thursday, April 3, at Stephenville High School.

A Division 1 score in both the concert and sight reading contests earned the band a sweepstakes award.

Junior High Band Director Melissa Barrow said that this is the first time in at least three to four years that the junior high band received the Sweepstakes honor.

"I am very excited for the kids," Barrow said. "They really worked hard and that hard work paid off."

The pieces that the band played for the concert portion were "Fortitude" by William Owens, "Elizabethan Dance" by Mark Williams and "Pinnacle" by Rob Grice. The sightreading piece is prepared specifically for the competition.

# Animal

Continued from Page 1

lyn Boggs, who said the dog attacked Ty when Thompson came onto the property with him. Mr. Ferrell then tried to intervene, saying that he tried to pull the dogs' mouths apart and was bitten by Ty.

A vicious dog hearing would have also occurred on the same day as the dangerous dog hearing to determine if Oliver would be deemed a vicious dog. However, Oliver had already been put down prior to the date.

"I reached around his (Ty's) face and he was still attached to Oliver's mouth," Mr. Ferrell said. "He got a hold of my arm, so it wasn't intentional."

Whether or not it was intentional does not have an impact on the outcome of the case, as once the dog got a hold of Mr. Ferrell's arm, it resulted in serious bodily harm. He wound up being airlifted to JPS Health Network in Fort Worth with serious cuts and broken knuckles.

When it comes to a situation in which serious bodily harm is done by a dog to a human, Justice of the Peace Steve Spoon said that certain steps are then taken to deem the dog dangerous.

According to Chief Johnson, this was the third incident with the dog since Feb. 2.

In this case, it was never a question in anyone's mind whether or not the dog would be deemed dangerous.

However, it was up

to the Ferrells whether or not they wanted to take the necessary steps to register Ty as dangerous or have him put down. After thinking it over, Chief Johnson said that they opted to put the dog down instead of complying with the sanctions of a dangerous dog.

In situations where a dog owner decides to comply with the dangerous dog sanctions, the first step is for the Breckenridge Police Department to continue to impound the dog until the owner complies with the city ordinance regarding a dangerous dog.

They would first have to make sure to register the dog as dangerous within 10 days, which comes with a \$50 regis-

tration fee. They would also need to reimburse the city a \$25 impound fee as well as \$10 for each day he is in the shelter. Obtaining liability insurance coverage of \$250,000 to cover damages is also a requirement of the sanctions.

Other requirements include making sure the dog is restrained at all times, either in a secure enclosure or on a leash in the immediate control of a person; submitting proof of rabies vaccination and attaching an issued dangerous dog tag to the collar.

Judge Spoon added that if another attack had occurred, the owners could have been subject to a felony charge.

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1-3  
 Prescribed by Secretary of State  
 Sections 3.004, 3.005, 3.006, 4.008, 83.010, 85.004, 85.007 Texas Election Code  
 9/2023

**ORDER OF GENERAL ELECTION FOR OTHER POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS**  
**ORDEN DE ELECCIÓN GENERAL PARA OTRAS SUBDIVISIONES POLÍTICAS**

An election is hereby ordered to be held on 05 / 03 / 2025 for the purpose of voting on:  
 (date)

(Por la presente se ordena celebrar una elección el 05 / 03 / 2025 con el propósito de votar sobre.)  
 (fecha)

List Offices/Propositions/Measures on the ballot (Eñúmeros los puestos/proposiciones/medidas oficiales en la boleta)

3 at large Directors for Stephens Memorial Hospital District Board  
 Tres junta Directiva para Stephens Memorial Hospital District Board

Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted each weekday at:  
 (La votación adelantada en persona se llevará a cabo de lunes a viernes en:)

The Main Early Voting Location (sitio principal de votación adelantada)  
 Location (sitio) Hours (horas)  
1207 E. Williams Breckenridge, TX 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Branch Early Voting Locations (sucursal sitios de votación adelantada)

Location (sitio) Hours (horas)  
1207 E. Williams Breckenridge, TX 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted each weekend at:  
 (La votación adelantada en persona se llevará a cabo en el fin de semana en:)

The Main Early Voting Location (sitio principal de votación adelantada)  
 Location (sitio) Hours (horas)  
1207 E. Williams Breckenridge, TX 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Branch Early Voting Locations (sucursal sitios de votación adelantada)

Location (sitio) Hours (horas)  
1207 E. Williams Breckenridge, TX 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to:  
 (Las solicitudes para boletas que se votarán adelantada por correo deberán enviarse a:)

Samantha Palacios  
 Name of Early Voting Clerk (Nombre del Secretario/a de la Votación Adelantada)  
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 Address (Dirección)  
 Breckenridge 76424-3510  
 City (Ciudad) Zip Code (Código Postal)  
 (254) 559-9498  
 Telephone Number (Número de teléfono)  
Samantha.palacios@smhtx.com  
 Email Address (Dirección de Correo Electrónico)  
www.smhtx.com  
 Early Voting Clerk's Website (Sitio web del Secretario/a de Votación Adelantada)

Applications for Ballots by Mail (ABBMs) must be received no later than the close of business on:  
 (Las solicitudes para boletas que se votarán adelantada por correo deberán recibirse no más tardar de las horas de negocio el:)

04 / 22 / 2025  
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Federal Post Card Applications (FPCAs) must be received no later than the close of business on:  
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 (day) (month) (year)

(Emitida este día 27 de 02, 2025.)  
 (día) (mes) (año)

Signature of Presiding Officer (Firma del Dirigente que Preside)  
 Signature of Board Member (Firma del Director)  
 Signature of Board Member (Firma del Director)  
 Signature of Board Member (Firma del Director)  
 Signature of Board Member (Firma del Director)  
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 Signature of Board Member (Firma del Director)

Instruction Note: A copy of this election order must be delivered to the County Clerk/Elections Administrator and Voter Registrar not later than 60 days before election day.  
 Nota de Instrucción: Se deberá entregar una copia de esta orden de elección al/a la Secretario(a) del Condado/Administrador(a) de Elecciones y al/la Registrador(a) de Votantes a más tardar 60 días antes del día de elección.

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## Brigadier General Frank J. Collins

I was sitting around talking to the guys at the gun shop the other day. This is small world stuff.

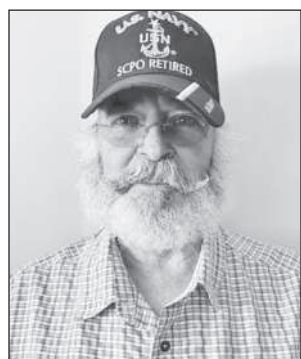
I was working on another write up of a local veteran and my good friend Ron tells me his Uncle Frank was a Retired Brigadier General, and had a great story to tell. So I started to look into the history of Mr. Frank J. Collins.

Frank was just another local boy who did good things for his love of this country. Hang on to your hat as they used to say. This is going to take a few turns and twists.

Frank Junior Collins was born June 19, 1918 in Breckenridge. He attended and played football for the Breckenridge Buckaroos in high school. In 1935 and 1936 he was an All-State guard.

Frank was known to all as "Spot." This was because he had a white spot of hair on the front of his head that could be seen from under his football helmet.

As a junior in high school he transferred to the Allen military academy, then went to junior college at Texas Technical College where he was then accepted into Texas Wesleyan College and earned his bachelors degree. While he was there, he played football and was an All-



Dan Ferris

### The Price of Freedom

State guard.

In 1942, Collins enlisted into the Army Air Corps at Kelly Field in San Antonio. He completed his primary training in Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

From there he went to basic training in Sherman, then onto his advanced flight training on the east coast in Rhode Island. He was then commissioned as a First Lieutenant in Victoria at Foster Field.

While all of this was happening, on July 30, 1942 President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared that American troops were to be deployed to French North Africa to provide support to the allied cause. This operation was called Operation "Torch."

This campaign was commanded by Major General Dwight D. Eisenhower. The operation was to provide help and relief to the Soviet Union on the Eastern Front.

This effort was to force the Germans and the Italians to shift their attention to the combined efforts of the Anglo-Americans troops and spread out the efforts of the war.

British and American troops landed in Morocco and into Algiers on Nov. 8, 1942. Frank was deployed to North Africa in 1943, and was assigned to the 319th Fighter Squadron of the 325th Fighter Group.

Collins, flying the P-40 Curtis, participated in air raids over Es-sen, Sardinia, Pantelleria, Italy, Tunisia, North Africa and Parts of Sicily. The name on his first airplane was "Lula" after his mother.

This airplane was said to have fallen out from underneath him and was no longer serviceable to fly. His second P-40 was named "Texas Tornado."

During his military tour Frank also flew the P-40 War Hawk, P-47 Thunderbolt and the F-100 Super Sabre.

During this time Collins was a flying ace, having shot down five enemy airplanes. He shot down his fifth plane Aug. 29, 1943. He was said to have strafed as many as nine different MI 43 Hawabusias airplanes while they were still on the ground trying to lift off.

He was then promot-

ed to the rank of captain and in that same time frame he was also awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. He was also awarded the Silver Star, and an Air Metal.

At the end of his career he retired with a total of 26 oak leaf clusters. The Silver Star is the third highest award you could earn for gallantry in action against the enemy of the United States.

His squadron flew 100 missions in 100 days. Frank flew on 52 of those missions. He flew a total of 79 combat missions during his career.

Once while flying, he was separated from the others planes in his squadron, but still managed to shoot down his fifth Messerschmidt, M-109 German fighter airplane, did a strafing run on a large convoy of trucks and did a bomb run doing major "sinking damage" to a merchant marine cargo ship. And then on his way back he shot down one MI-43 Japanese plane.

He flew a total of 79 missions. He shot down a total of nine enemy aircraft, and "two possibles." One went down damaged and landed, one unconfirmed downing.

During the Korean

See Ferris, Page 5

## Ask Rusty: When is the best time for me to claim Social Security?

**Dear Rusty:** I will be 66 1/2 in June and would like to discuss when would be the best time for me to start taking my social security benefits. I am still employed full time and don't want to be penalized because of that. Please let me know what I need to do to set up an appointment with you. I got your information from the AMAC website, and I look forward to hearing from you. **Signed: Ready to Claim**

**Dear Ready:** You can certainly call us on 1.888.750.2622 during normal EST business hours for a personal conversation. But to facilitate that conversation, be aware that deciding when to claim your Social Security benefit normally depends on just a few factors, including your financial need, your health and expected longevity, and your marital status. A few things to be aware of:

- Born in 1958, your "full retirement age" is age 66 years and 8 months. If you were born in October 1958, you will reach your FRA in June 2025, and that is the point you can get 100% of the SS benefit you've earned from a lifetime of working.

- Once you reach your FRA in June, Social Security's "annual earnings test" no longer applies. Thus, you can continue working after you start your SS benefits and your earnings will not negatively affect your monthly benefit amount. If you claim any earlier than your FRA, you will get a smaller benefit and also be subject to Social Security's annual earnings test (which for you this year - your FRA year - is \$62,160, or \$5,180/month after you start your SS benefits). If you decide to claim before



Russell Gloor

### Social Security Matters

your FRA, your benefit will be reduced by .556% for each month early (a permanent reduction).

- You can also wait beyond your FRA to claim and earn Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) at the rate of .667% per month (8% per year of delay), in order to get an even higher benefit later. If financially feasible, you can delay up to the age of 70 when your monthly benefit will reach maximum - about 27% more than it will be in June of this year.

- If you are single and will not be eligible for a spousal benefit, then you should make your claiming decision based only on your own needs. If, however, you are married and your spouse's FRA benefit is more than twice your FRA amount, you may be entitled to a "spousal boost" (a supplemental amount added to your own SS benefit).

- Your life expectancy should be considered when deciding when to claim your SS retirement benefits. If you expect to enjoy at least "average" longevity (about 87 for a woman your current age), then you might also consider delaying your claim (if financially feasible) and that is often a prudent choice. If you don't expect to achieve a long life, or if you need the money sooner, or if you are entitled to spousal benefits, then claiming at your FRA of 66 years and 8 months is like-

See Matters, Page 5

## The days of nickel drinks...

I might never have resented my brother if he'd have been born other than in 1944, when Grapette was getting a foothold in our town.

I had enjoyed "only child" perks for seven years, and in first grade observed that my "well-to-do" classmates brought squatty bottles of a purple soda to chase down their ham-and-cheese sandwiches made with real "light bread." My first brush with Grapette.

Admittedly, I was envious, because my lunch pail usually contained a floppity fried egg encased in a hard-over breakfast biscuit. On special days, I welcomed the variation of pimiento cheese. My thermos bottle held Kool-Aid, so watered down that it was hard to distinguish between

grape and strawberry. The "Grapette kids" might have enjoyed thermoses, too, but that would have precluded "bottle bragging."

•••

Anyways, on a Saturday morning shopping trip into town for groceries, I tagged along. Displayed in the shadows of well-known 12-ounce brands were several cases of Grapette. Clueless that it was available locally, I had assumed Grapette was imported from Paris or maybe ordered from Neiman-Marcus.

As if to reward my above-average marks in Miss Evrage's first-grade class, Mom bought a six-bottle carton of the six-ounce extravagance. I was euphoric, eager to open my very first bottle. I drank it slowly—this

wonderful beverage that made Kool-Aid (called "polypop" at the time) taste like swamp water. Grapette had to be the refreshment of angels.

I never wanted Kool-Aid again, even though Mom started making it stronger. Once I overheard her bragging about "Vacation Bible School" Kool-Aid. "The directions call for one packet in two quarts of water," she prattled. "But at VBS, it makes a gallon."

•••

What, you may reasonably inquire, does this have to do with sibling resentment?

Since you asked—or even if you didn't—already meager budgets tighten with the arrival of a second child. When Fred became a two-year-old, he was rewarded with a sip—just



Don Newbury

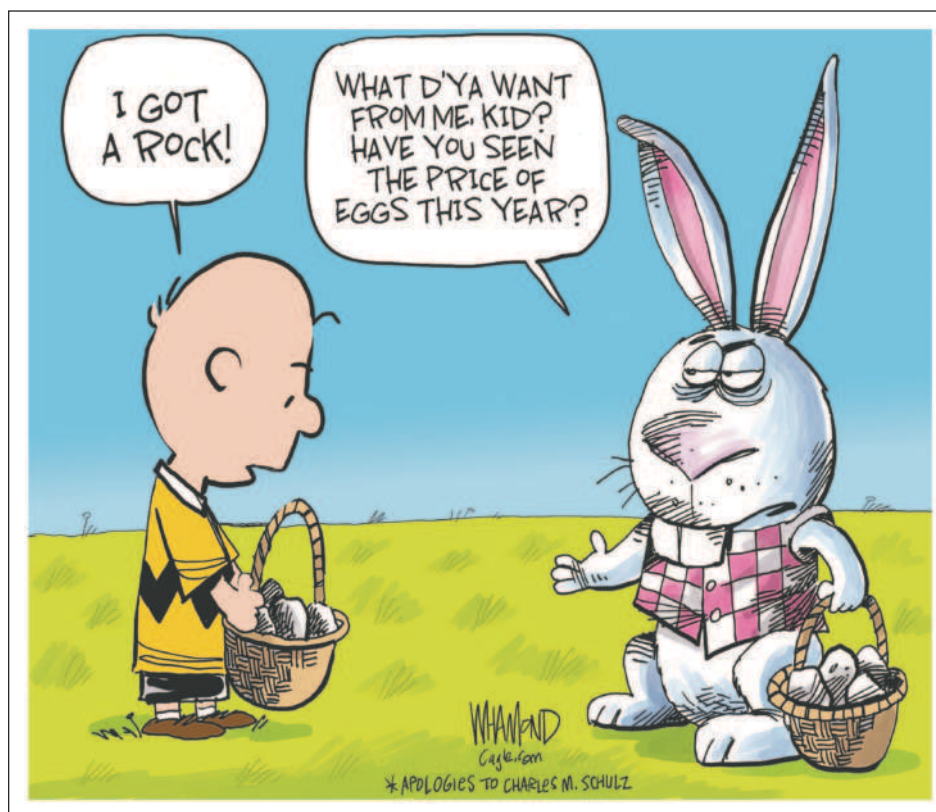
### The Idle American

a sip, mind you—of MY Grapette.

I could see it in his eyes; I could hear it from "lip smacks" louder than fights over prize finds at an Easter egg hunt. He, too, was hooked, but the resenting thing didn't start until our next visit to Piggly-Wiggly...

•••

See Newbury, Page 5



## Breckenridge American

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# Newbury

Continued from Page 4

Racing to the drink aisle, I grabbed a carton of Grapette.

“Put that back, Son,” Mom voiced in a tone not to be considered jocular. “From now on, we’ll buy Pepsi-Cola. Bottles can be shared so each of you will still have six ounces of soda.”

It’s probable that I snarled. I had hoped Mom hadn’t heard the radio commercial: “Pepsi-Cola, hits the spot, 12-ounce bottle, that’s a lot, twice as much for a nickel, too; Pepsi-Cola is the drink for you.” She’d heard it, alright, even humming the jingle when we passed the Post Toasties. “Don’t even think about that fancy cereal,” she said, apologetically, “You’ll have to make do with biscuits, eggs, sausage and gravy.”

Grapette never had massive advertising campaigns, but I do remember its big splash on billboards. (Pun intended.)

Maybe if they’d taken a page from the Budweiser ad book they could have capitalized on thinking “inside the box.” Instead of big wagons powered by handsome Clydes-

dales, they might have used a quartet of goats pulling a little red wagon.

Those “nickel drinks” of the 1940s now cost three or four dollars in restaurants, so look for a Kool-Aid come back. Fearing backlash when soft drink prices went from a nickel to six cents in the 1950s, some restaurateurs kidded about it. Some had signs reading, “Our Drinks Are All Sick Scents.” Another said, “We Don’t Know Where Mom Is, But We Got Pop On Ice.”

PepsiCo, pushing healthier beverages, recently purchased Poppi--a prebiotic soda company--for the whopping sum of \$1.95 billion.

As to the resentment thing, I finally accepted “soda-sharing” with my brother, Dr. Fred Newbury, a distinguished economics professor still dispensing knowledge after 53 years at Dallas College’s Richland Campus.

A textbook author, he can buy as much Grapette as he chooses...

*Dr. Newbury, a speaker in the Metroplex, may be reached at 817-447-3872, email:newbury@speakerdoc.com.*

# Ferris

Continued from Page 4

War, Frank also downed two MIG-17s earning oak leaf clusters 24-25-26. More on that part of his history later.

One of his missions was to escort a secret flight of several world leaders to Cairo, Egypt, for the historic “Tehran Conference” meeting. This flight was to guard President FDR, Winston Churchill and General Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Later on into the North Africa Campaign he also received a Purple Heart for being wounded on a mission

in Japan. On a bombing run July 12, 1945, while on a mission, Frank’s plane was hit by the concussion of a ship blowing up and he went down into the ocean.

He was captured by the Japanese and spent the remainder of the war as a P.O.W. in Japan.

Once he was released and returned to the USA, he spent many months in recovery.

He returned to the military and spent many more years in service..

He also served as a test pilot for the F-80 and the F-84. Frank retired as a Brigadier General in 1967. He died Dec. 13, 2000 and is buried at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio.

He served in the Army Reserves from 1934-1937, U.S. Army Air Corps from 1942-1947, U.S. Air Force from 1947-1967, was a World War II POW from 1942-1945 and was involved in the Cold War from 1945-1967.

Frank also received the Air Force Longevity Metal with five oak leaf

clusters, for 28 years of service to this country. He served two combat tours.

His list of decorations is long but includes the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Metal with 26 oak leaf clusters, Purple Heart, the POW metal, Air Force Commendation Metal, Air Defense Metal, the WWII Victory Metal, the Europe-African-Middle Eastern Metal, the Asiatic Pacific metal, the National Defense Metal with a Star and a small arms metal.

# Matters

Continued from Page 4

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# Breckenridge Devotional Page

1. Is the book of Gethsemane (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
  2. What’s the only book of the Bible that mentions Christ’s tomb being sealed? Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
  3. From Matthew 28:2, who rolled back the stone from the door of Jesus’ tomb and sat upon it? Simon, An angel, Villagers, Disciples
  4. When Mary Magdalene and “the other Mary” came upon the risen Jesus, who did He ask them to inform? Priests, Disciples, No one, Villagers
  5. From John 20, which disciple doubted Jesus had risen unless he could see the wounds? Peter, Andrew, Thomas, Thaddeus
  6. How long did Jesus remain after His resurrection before He ascended into heaven? Instantaneously, 1 hour, 7 days, 40 days
- ANSWERS: (1) Neither, (2) Matthew, (3) An angel, (4) Disciples, (5) Thomas (called Didymus), (6) 40 days

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <p><b>ANGLICAN</b><br/> <b>St. Andrews Anglican Church</b><br/>                 200 North Easton, 254-559-3172<br/>                 Donald Sackett, Priest</p> <p><b>ASSEMBLY OF GOD</b><br/> <b>Christian Fellowship Church</b><br/>                 810 E. Elm, 254-559-8436<br/>                 Tom Moore, Min.</p> <p><b>La Hermosa Assembly of God</b><br/>                 909 Jeanette St., 254-559-7329<br/>                 Raul Duran, Min.</p> <p><b>BAPTIST</b><br/> <b>Bethany Baptist</b><br/>                 1911 W. Walker, 254-559-5083<br/>                 Don Bearden, Min.</p> <p><b>Bethel Baptist</b><br/>                 804 S. James, 254-559-2072<br/>                 Clarence Holliman, Min.</p> <p><b>Calvary Baptist</b><br/>                 401 S. Camden, 254-559-7364<br/>                 Dan Nelson, Min.</p> <p><b>Crystal Falls Baptist</b><br/>                 FM 578, Crystal Falls<br/>                 Danny Lee, Min.</p> <p><b>Eliasville Baptist</b><br/>                 Eliasville<br/>                 Wayne Peters, Min.</p> <p><b>First Baptist Church</b><br/>                 301 S. Rose, 254-559-2295<br/>                 Andy Rodgers, Min.</p> <p><b>First Baptist Church of Woodson</b><br/>                 Woodson, Jeremy Smith, Min.</p> <p><b>Gunsight Baptist</b><br/>                 Hwy. 183 S., 254-559-1620<br/>                 Rex Boggs, Min.</p> <p><b>Mount Olive Baptist</b><br/>                 518 S. Dunnigan, 254-559-2500<br/>                 Gregory Morris, Sr., Min.</p> <p><b>Necessity Baptist</b><br/>                 7150 C.R. 144, Caddo, 254-559-6775,<br/>                 John Kinman, Pastor</p> <p><b>New Hope Baptist #3</b><br/>                 FM 717, Ranger, 254-647-1515<br/>                 Ronny Guess, Min.</p> | <p><b>Rose Avenue Baptist</b><br/>                 702 N. Rose Ave., 817-724-4047<br/>                 Russell Brock, Pastor</p> <p><b>Trinity Baptist</b><br/>                 36 CR 327, 254-559-7405<br/>                 Pastor Herman (Butch) Hinkle, Jr.</p> <p><b>BIBLE</b><br/> <b>Lord’s Old-Time Gospel</b><br/>                 West Elliott, 254-559-8051</p> <p><b>The Church of Breckenridge</b><br/>                 405 Sunset, 254-559-9790</p> <p><b>CATHOLIC</b><br/> <b>Sacred Heart Catholic</b><br/>                 208 S. Miller, 254-559-2860</p> <p><b>CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b><br/> <b>First Christian</b><br/>                 101 E. Williams, 254-559-2744</p> <p><b>First Christian of Woodson</b><br/>                 Michael Patrick, Min.</p> <p><b>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints</b><br/>                 530 CR 179, Eastland, 435-640-6103<br/>                 Doug Smith, Branch President</p> <p><b>CHRISTIAN SCIENCE</b><br/> <b>Christian Science</b><br/>                 401 S. McAmis</p> <p><b>CHURCH OF CHRIST</b><br/> <b>Central Church of Christ</b><br/>                 Woodson<br/>                 Royce Priddy, Min.</p> <p><b>Church of Christ</b><br/>                 1701 W. Elliott, 254-559-2558<br/>                 Don Nelson, Min.</p> <p><b>Church of Christ</b><br/>                 1314 W. Jeanette, 254-559-5001</p> <p><b>Albany Church of Christ</b><br/>                 417 N. Main Street, 325-762-2078<br/>                 Russell Scott, Minister</p> <p><b>Eliasville Church of Christ</b><br/>                 Eliasville - Norman Carpenter, Min.</p> <p><b>CONTEMPORARY</b><br/> <b>Real Church</b><br/>                 515 N. Graham Ave., W.S. 10:30 a.m.</p> | <p><b>INTERDENOMINATIONAL</b><br/> <b>Victory Life Church</b><br/>                 1612 Hwy. 180 E, 254-559-3600<br/>                 Dr. Craig Smeed, Lead Pastor</p> <p><b>JEHOVAH’S WITNESS</b><br/> <b>Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witnesses</b><br/>                 202 FM 3099, 254-559-6830</p> <p><b>LUTHERAN</b><br/> <b>Trinity Lutheran Church</b><br/>                 Hwy. 180, Albany, 915-762-3227<br/>                 Thomas Chandler, Min.</p> <p><b>METHODIST</b><br/> <b>First Methodist Church</b><br/>                 419 W. Walker, 254-559-8208<br/>                 Samantha Chambers, Pastor</p> <p><b>St. Paul United Methodist</b><br/>                 1504 E. Elm, 254-559-3685<br/>                 Samantha Chambers, Pastor</p> <p><b>NONDENOMINATIONAL</b><br/> <b>Eolian Community Church</b><br/>                 7162 CR 292, 254-559-3829<br/>                 Genoa Goad, Min.</p> <p><b>River of Life Fellowship</b><br/>                 122 E. Lindsey, 254-522-8981<br/>                 James Stewart, Min.</p> <p><b>The Light of the World</b><br/>                 600 N. Breckenridge Ave.<br/>                 Inocencio Briones, Min.</p> <p><b>The Ridge Cowboy Church @ Lakeside</b><br/>                 108 CR 221, 325-370-7673</p> <p><b>PENTECOSTAL</b><br/> <b>The Lighthouse</b><br/>                 1509 E. Walker, 254-559-6077<br/>                 Rev. Will Anderson</p> <p><b>PRESBYTERIAN</b><br/> <b>First Presbyterian Church</b><br/>                 1601 W. Elliott, 254-559-2484<br/>                 Pastor Linda Buchanan Leveridge</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Have changes?<br/>Need something added?<br/>Email design@grahamleader.com.</p> |
|--|---|--|

## FEATURES FROM THE BIBLE

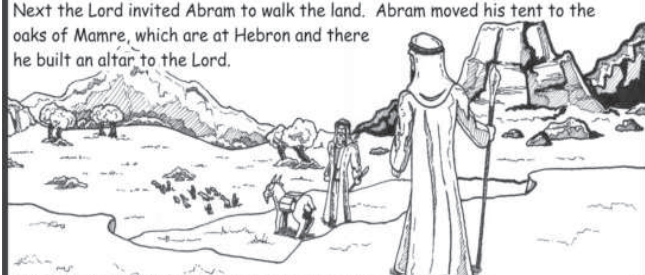
### TRUTH IN SCRIPTURE

**More Land for Abram**  
Genesis 13

Abram and Lot separated because the land would not support both families. Abram permitted Lot to inhabit the more fertile land which Lot chose.

Soon the Lord came to Abram and invited him to look to the north, to the south, to the east and to the west. All the land that Abram could see, the Lord gave to Abram and his descendants. The Lord also promised Abram that his descendants would be as the dust of the earth, too many to count.

Next the Lord invited Abram to walk the land. Abram moved his tent to the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron and there he built an altar to the Lord.



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# CHOOSE YOUR CANDIDATE

## 2025

The *Breckenridge American* provided the candidates in the upcoming May election, in races in which there is more than one candidate, with questionnaires to fill out to let the citizens know a little more about their choices.

Each candidate received the same questionnaire, and their answers are provided in alphabetical order. Answers were limited to 200 words per question, and edited down if over that amount.

If a candidate in a contested race is not included, it is because they did not respond to a request for submission or did not submit a questionnaire in time for publication. If no photo is included, or not all questions are answered, it is because they were not provided by the candidate who made the submission.

### City Commission Place 3

#### Scott Ensey

**Current Occupation**  
Painter

**Family**

My family has always been rooted in the community.

**Education**

I graduated from BHS in 1985 and I am a disabled Army veteran.

**Objectives**

Hopefully, to be able to be a voice for the people of our little town.

**Qualifications**

I have been in a Managerial position for 20 years

**Major Issues**

The most important issues that we face right now are being addressed, but there are many more that still need to be done. I would hope to be able to work with the community and be able to satisfy the majority of the issues that we face.

### Junior Fernandez



**Current Occupation**

I am the owner of a local business, Fernandez Plumbing.

**Family**

I am blessed with a wonderful family. I have been married to my wife Cynthia Fernandez for 22 years. We now have 4 amazing kids ranging from teens in high school down to nine years old. We are proud to be raising Buckaroos.

**Education**

I graduated from Breckenridge High School in 1996. I decided to pursue a career in Plumbing, I worked for a couple of different companies and then received my Master License.

**Objectives**

I want to help Breckenridge grow in all aspects. I want to advocate for our residents in our community to voice their opinions and needs while collaborating with the City Commissioners.

**Qualifications**

I have the characteristics that it takes to collaborate with others to improve our community. Most importantly, I possess integrity and leadership skills. I have gained experience during my previous jobs in the areas of administration, where I managed team members and I was involved in decision-making, policy planning, dispute resolution and financial budgeting. Additionally, as a plumber for the past 15 years, I have seen major needs of improvement in our water and sewer lines.

**Benefit to Voters**

Considering that I am a lifetime resident of Breckenridge along with my wife, I truly care to see our community prosper in many aspects. I also truly care about our residents and their concerns. I feel like it is essential to be transparent to them in all areas on what is going on and listen to their ideas.

**Major Issues**

The most obvious issue would be our infrastructure. Our roads still need lots of work, especially around some of the schools and their parking lots. There also needs to be a standard set on how to fix potholes and water leaks so that the maintenance is less every time. Continuation of Beautifying Breckenridge, by offering city-wide cleanups and continuing to allow residents to use the Convenience Station. There also needs to be

a better procedure plan for animal control. Secondly, the City budget. I find it crucially important to manage the budget wisely. This is the public's tax dollars we are talking about, it needs to be managed efficiently in all ways. Local people need to be hired instead of hiring outside entities and costs need to be cut where necessary to use in areas that need the most attention. The renovation of the City park was a great idea. Thirdly, I would like to see a Senior Citizen facility again for our citizens to be able to go eat a meal and socialize, as well as a recreational center for our youth and teens. It would also be great to see more restaurants and retail shops come in and be successful. It would make sense to contribute to our community more instead of going to other towns for recreation, dining or shopping.

#### Vince Moore



**Current Occupation**

Chief Technology Officer for Breckenridge ISD

**Family**

My wife, Abby, is the Director of Library Services for BISD. We've been married for over two decades and have two wonderful boys—Marvin, a third grader at South Elementary, and Max, who is in kindergarten at East Elementary. They keep us on our toes with activities like baseball, soccer, piano and art. Our sons also love spending time with their grandparents, Virgil and Elaine Moore and Lee and Beverly Olson, each of whom has made lasting contributions to Breckenridge through both business and community ser-

vice. Their example of civic involvement continues to inspire me in my own role on the city commission.

**Education**

Breckenridge High School Honor Graduate, 2000; B.A. in Geography, University of Texas at Austin, 2003; M.Ed. in Gifted/Talented, Hardin-Simmons University, 2006; Ph.D. in Learning Technologies, University of North Texas, 2018.

**Objectives**

As a city commissioner, my goal is to be a thoughtful and accountable steward of public resources. I am committed to enhancing our community's quality of life, improving city services and helping build a town we can all be proud to call home.

**Qualifications**

First and foremost, I care deeply about Breckenridge and its people. My roots here run deep—my family has called this area home since the 1800s—and I feel privileged to raise my children here.

I'm committed to making level-headed, informed decisions that reflect the best interests of the community as a whole. I understand that city leadership requires balancing a tight budget with a wide range of priorities. My focus is on smart, strategic planning that leads to long-term improvements for Breckenridge.

**Benefit to Voters**

When I first joined the city commission, it was out of a genuine desire to give back. I had no personal agenda—just a passion for service and a love for this community. That mindset hasn't changed.

I believe in listening to our citizens, understanding their concerns, working collaboratively to find solutions, and taking action to move Breckenridge forward. That's been my approach over the past four years, and it's the approach I'll continue to take if re-elected.

**Major Issues**

In my time on the commission, we have worked to stabilize our finances, support staff retention, and launch long-overdue infrastructure projects. Looking ahead, I see three main priorities:

1. Building Stronger Partnerships – We will continue working to strengthen relationships with community stakeholders like the County and the Humane Society to improve the services our residents rely on. These partnerships allow us to share resources, reduce duplication, and provide better outcomes for the people of Breckenridge.

2. Pursuing Grants and Outside Funding – Many of the improvements our community needs—like replacing aging water lines or adding family-friendly amenities such as a splash pad—require significant investment. We should stay focused on finding grants and low-interest loans so we can move forward without overloading local taxpayers.

3. Smart, Responsible Spending – My approach to city budgeting is grounded in common sense and long-term thinking. I'll advocate for careful, transparent spending that ensures taxpayer dollars are used efficiently and effectively. That means prioritizing projects with the greatest impact and making sure every investment benefits the broader community.

These efforts are about keeping Breckenridge on the right path—strengthening what's working and improving where we can. With continued teamwork and strategic planning, we can keep making meaningful progress for our city.

#### Richard "Dicky" Russell

**Current Occupation**  
Retired

**Family**

Married to Candy Russell. 4 Adult Children/11 grandchildren from previous marriage

**Education**

1976 Graduate of Breckenridge HS; Angelo State University; North Central Texas College, Texas A&M Extension service

**Objectives**

Bring my knowledge of numerous city departments and experiences in public safety, city planning and emergency management to the town

**Qualifications**

Master Peace Officer, Advanced Firefighter, Fire Service Instructor, Class A Inspector, Fire Investigator, Post Blast Investigator, Emergency Medical Technician, Tarrant County Arson Task Force, DFW Fire Marshals Association.

**Major Issues**

1. Cleaning the town up and bringing life back to the city; 2. Downtown revitalization; 3. Keep progressing and provide public safety departments the needed equipment to keep the city safe.

### City Commission Place 4

#### Paul J. Huntington Jr.



**Current Occupation**

Disabled Veteran, serving as a volunteer Chaplain.

**Family**

I'm married to my wonderful wife, Yuri Huntington, who has supported me for 13 incredible years and currently serves as the Executive Director at the Chamber of Commerce.

**Education**

2.5 years at Christ for the Nations Bible College.

**Objectives**

As a member of the Breckenridge City Commission, I strive to improve residents' quality of life through community engagement, promoting open communication and citizen participation. I would also like to help improve infrastructure with economic vitality, supporting local businesses and attracting investments for job creation.

**Qualifications**

My time in the military instilled in me a strong sense of discipline and commitment, while my education and pastoral work have deepened my understanding of community needs and the power

## City of Breckenridge Early Voting Information

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 22–April 29

Breckenridge City Offices

105 N. Rose Avenue, Breckenridge, TX 76424

## Election Day Information

7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, May 3

Breckenridge City Offices

105 N. Rose Avenue, Breckenridge, TX 76424

of effective communication. I am passionate about bringing these skills to the role of City Commissioner, where I hope to bring unity and growth in Breckenridge.

**Benefit to Voters**

Ultimately, my vision is for a Breckenridge where everyone feels valued and can contribute to our collective success, honoring our past while embracing future possibilities. I assure you that I will dedicate myself wholeheartedly to serving you with integrity and transparency. Let's make Breckenridge boom again.

**Major Issues**

I believe the three main issues I observe in the city of Breckenridge are a lack of unity, accountability, and collaboration. To address these issues, I would prioritize the following:

1. Establish regular community forums for open dialogue to bridge gaps and build a shared Vision
2. Champion transparency in governance with clear communication and accessible information for residents
3. Strengthen partnerships among businesses, non-profits, and government to leverage resources and promote innovation.

**Tony Patterson**



**Current Occupation**

Self-employed: Edibility, an artificial intelligence, instructional technology company

**Family**

I'm a single father of a severely autistic 19 year old son. I have two daughters in college.

**Qualifications**

I was born in Breckenridge and I have a deep connection with my hometown

Noticed that so many businesses are closing and Breckenridge doesn't have much for young people to do; the roads are in poor condition; the water pipelines are ancient and there aren't many job opportunities.

**Benefit to Voters**

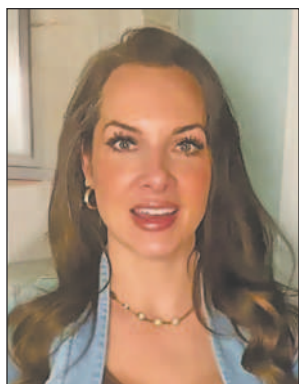
I want to see Breckenridge grow and prosper while keeping its small

town charm.

I want to become a City Commissioner so that I can give the people in Breckenridge a voice in how we can make that happen and to ensure that their tax money is being used effectively to actually achieve the city's promised goals and outcomes.

**Stephens Memorial Hospital Board**

**Kaylee Curtis**



**Current Occupation**

Professionally, I serve as the Director of Growth and Development for Solaris Healthcare, overseeing Hospice, Home Health, Palliative Care and HomeCare service lines. I also lead as the Program Director for Solaris Institute Nurse Aide Training Program, where I am dedicated to shaping the next generation of caregivers. As a Registered Nurse, my passion lies in improving access to healthcare in rural communities that provide high-quality care for individuals and families across all stages of life.

**Family**

I grew up in Breckenridge and have deep roots here - several family members call it home. I also decided to raise my own family here. My husband James and I share five children and three amazing grandchildren.

**Education**

I am a 2005 graduate of Breckenridge High School and began my healthcare journey shortly thereafter. In 2006, I earned my Certified Nurse Aide credential through training at Villa Haven Nursing and Rehab. I continued advancing my education by completing the Vocational Nursing Program at TSTC, becoming a Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) in 2009. In 2012, I earned my Associate Degree in Nursing from TSTC and became a Registered Nurse (RN)

**Objectives**

My primary objective in seeking this po-

sition is to help ensure that our community has consistent and reliable access to essential healthcare services. I am deeply committed to supporting initiatives that deliver high quality, compassionate care - particularly in rural communities that are underserved and vulnerable. By leveraging my clinical background and leadership experience, I aim to contribute to the continued development and growth of programs that meet the evolving needs of our community while upholding the highest standards of care.

**Qualifications**

Throughout my career, I have remained committed to professional growth and excellence in patient care. I have completed additional specialized training, including certification as a Certified Hospice and Palliative Nurse (CHPN), which reflects my dedication to providing compassionate care during final stages of life.

**John Echols**



**Current Occupation**

Recently retired veterinarian of 45 years, rancher and grandfather.

**Family**

Wife, Lisa Swanson Echols, Daughter, Lauren E. Decker of Stamford and Son, William Echols of Tomball

**Education**

Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University

**Objectives**

I am running to ensure that Stephen's County has a hospital they can be proud of and rely on.

**Qualifications**

Having served on the board for 12 years, my objective is to maintain continuity for the hospital and the citizens of Stephens County. As mentioned earlier, I have lived in Stephens County for 45 years and have served on the board for the past 12 years. Previously, I held the positions of president and board member of Stephens County Farm Bureau and Ste-

phens County Junior Livestock Board.

**Benefit to Voters**

My election would bring consistency, given the recent changes made at the hospital. I took on this role 12 years ago because I genuinely believed I could make a positive difference.

**Major Issues**

In the last quarter alone, the hospital has made significant strides. They have hired a new chief executive officer, a new director of nursing and brought on two consulting firms to help with the revenue cycle. Additionally, the hospital is in the final stages of becoming a critical access hospital. In this changing and dynamic landscape, given knowledge and understanding of current events, I am well-equipped to assist the hospital during this period of change.

**Gregg Goodall**

**Current Occupation**

Oil producer

**Family**

Jan Goodall, wife

**Education**

B.S., Business Administration, Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas

**Objectives**

Ensure everyday quality medical care in a rural setting.

**Qualifications**

Lifetime community member, Board Member for past 6+ years

**Benefit to Voters**

I was born and raised in Breckenridge and have spent my entire adult life and business career supporting our community in many ways. Serving on this board is both a privilege and a responsibility that I do not take lightly. The present members of the board work well together and we all have the same goal: Provide quality health care to our community.

**Major Issues**

Providing quality health care in a rural setting today presents quite a challenge. The main issue for a community of our size is making sure we continue to have medical care locally available and accessible. The reality is it is not possible for a hospital located in a community our size to provide all the services available at larger more advanced facilities such as those located in Abilene, Wichita

Falls or Fort Worth/Dallas. However, it is still possible to provide a quality health care facility including a Clinic and a Hospital with emergency services adequate for many illnesses, and at the same time provide the support for those patients needing intermediate care before transfer to a facility which provides those more specialized/advanced treatments.

Accordingly, and as a Member of this Board, it is my mission to make sure that the citizens of Breckenridge and Stephens County continue to have access to a quality medical facility properly staffed to meet as many medical needs as is reasonably possible for a community our size. As well, it is my mission that our hospital be the first stop for a patient requiring immediate medical attention before transfer to an advanced facility for specialized treatment. The Board with its current board members today is also unified in this mission.

**John Powell**



**Current Occupation**

Lead Medical Science Liaison, Bayer Pharmaceuticals, Oncology division

**Family**

Wife, Desiree

**Education**

Bachelor's Degree in Pharmacy, also Board Certified Oncology Pharmacist

**Objectives**

First to get more involved in my community. We moved to Breckenridge in June of 2023 and I want to give back to the community.

**Qualifications**

I am a registered

pharmacist in the state of Texas and have been involved in Health Care for 33 years. I have worked in and with many health care systems across the US.

**Benefit to Voters**

I believe that my knowledge of health care systems would benefit voters and having a new perspective would help the hospital district to get better. I have heard from residents of this community that some lack confidence in the hospital and I would work to help to improve health care in Stephens County.

**Major issues**

First is the reputation of the hospital. While my family has received good care at the hospital, I have heard from some residents that they lack confidence in the hospital. It is imperative that if the hospital that serves this community be a center that residents have confidence that they will receive quality care, and that if services are not offered here that they will be referred to a quality hospital that can provide the care they need.

Second, I have heard that the billing procedures are not efficient. In order to stay in business, this needs to be addressed.

I have heard that some don't get a bill or that claims are being submitted to insurance too long after services are provided and insurance companies decline to pay the charges due to the time that has elapsed.

The third issue is around having the providers needed to provide both quality and efficient care. I want Stephens Memorial Hospital to be a place that providers want to work for. Some of the providers come from a long distance and work on a contract basis. While this might meet the needs, it would be better to have providers who are a part of this community to provide quality care for their fellow residents.



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**Stephens Memorial Hospital**

**Early Voting Information**

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Stephens Memorial Hospital

1207 E. Williams, Breckenridge, TX 76424

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Stephens Memorial Hospital

1207 E. Williams, Breckenridge, TX 76424

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**Even Exchange answers**

- Divor, Dover
- B ank, Bland
- Reveal, Repeal
- Jelly, Jolly
- Wreat, Breath
- Moose, Moors
- Trails, Treely
- Badger, Bagger
- Limbs, Limbr
- Never, Newer

**— King Crossword — Answers**  
Solution time: 25 mins.

O	W	L	S	N	A	P	B	L	A	H			
G	E	E	K	I	S	H	E	I	R	E			
R	A	N	T	G	E	E	U	B	E	R			
E	N	A	B	L	E	W	A	E	S	A			
	O	E	R	W	A	R							
A	H	A	B	I	N	A	W	H	I	L			
B	E	L		A	A	U		A	E	S			
S	E	G	M	E	N	T	S	M	N	O	P		
	E	E	L	T	R	I							
D	A	R	N	I	T	R	A	S	H	A	D		
A	S	T	A		A	L	I	T	A	R	E		
S	T	A	G		L	E	A		J	I	D	E	A
H	O	N	E		K	I	N		C	A	A	N	

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solution  
1. Certify 2. Chaste;  
3. Extend; 4. Scope  
Today's Word  
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notification and storage  
fees and reclaim this  
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person of all right, title,  
and interest in the vehicle  
and personal property;  
and constitutes a consent  
to the sale of the vehicle  
at public sale.

INVITATION FOR BID

The City of Breckenridge will receive sealed Bids addressed to the City of Breckenridge for the TWDB DWSRF #62913 Water Distribution System Improvements project until 11:00 a.m. local time on Tuesday, April 29, 2025 at Breckenridge City Hall, located at 105 N. Rose Ave, Breckenridge, Texas 76424. Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud immediately thereafter at same location. The work generally includes construction of: Approximately 7,000 LF (Base Bid) of existing water lines will be removed, disposed, and replaced with new DR18 C-900 PVC water lines in various locations throughout the City, including the installation of new gate valves, fire hydrants, and all related appurtenances. Replacement of asphalt, concrete and gravel pavements, including curbs and gutters in all disturbed areas as necessary. Installation of water service reconnects where new water lines are installed.

The Bidding Documents may be obtained from Civcast at [www.civcastusa.com](http://www.civcastusa.com). Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents at the Engineer's Office on Monday through Thursday between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Each Bid shall be accompanied by a Cashier's Check or Bid Bond, acceptable to the Owner, in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the total amount bid, as a guarantee that the successful bidder will enter into a proper Contract and execute Bonds on the forms provided in the Contract Documents. Bid sureties will be returned to all but the three lowest acceptable bidders within five days after the opening of Bids. Remaining bid sureties will be returned after complete execution of the Contract. The surety company providing the Bid Bond must conform to the same requirements for surety companies providing Performance and Payment Bonds described below. The successful bidder must furnish Performance and Payment Bond on

the forms furnished with the Contract Documents in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the total Contract price, from a surety company holding a permit from the State of Texas to act as surety. The surety company must have a minimum Best's Key Rating of "B" or better. The surety company, the agency and agent issuing the Performance and Payment Bond must be authorized to issue such bonds in Texas in an amount equal to or greater than the total contract price. This contract is contingent upon release of funds from the Texas Water Development Board. Any contract or contracts awarded under this Invitation for Bids are expected to be funded in part by financial assistance from the Texas Water Development Board. Neither the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or the State of Texas, nor any of its departments, agencies, or employees, are or will be a party to this Invitation for Bids or any resulting contract.

Equal Opportunity in Employment: All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age (40 or older), disability, or genetic information. Bidders on this work will be required to comply with the Department of Labor regulations at 41 CFR Part 60-4, relating to Construction Contractors-Affirmative Action Requirements, which include the President's Executive Order No. 11246, as amended by Executive Order No. 11375 and Executive Order No. 13672, in the award and administration of contracts awarded under TWDB financial assistance agreements. Failure by the Contractor to carry out these requirements is a material breach, which may result in the termination of the awarded financial assistance.

The City of Breckenridge reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding. All laborers and mechanics working on the work site and employed by contractors and subcontractors on projects funded directly by or assisted in whole or in part by and through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund shall by paid wages as described in the section, Mandatory Davis-Bacon Act Contract Conditions. Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements apply to the construction, alteration or repair of treatment works carried out, in whole or in part, with assistance made available by the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) or a construction project financed, in whole or in part, from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). The Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements apply to Contractors and Subcontractors performing on federally

funded or assisted contracts in excess of \$2,000 for the construction, alteration or repair (including painting) of a treatment works project under the CWSRF or a construction project under the DWSRF. For prime contracts in excess of \$100,000, Contractors and Subcontractors must also, under the provisions of the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, as amended, pay laborers and mechanics, including guards and watchmen, at least one and one-half times their regular rate of pay for all hours worked over 40 in a workweek. The Fair Labor Standards Act may also apply to Davis-Bacon covered contracts.

Any contracts or subcontracts in excess of \$2,000 must include the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Wage Rate Requirements found in TWDB Guidance No. DB-0156. This contract is subject to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program, which includes EPA-approved fair share goals toward procurement of Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE) businesses. EPA rules require that applicants and prime contractors make a good faith effort to award a fair share of contracts, subcontracts, and procurements to M/WBEs through demonstration of the six affirmative steps. For more details of the DBE Program and the current, applicable fair share goals, please visit <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/dbe>.

Each Bidder must submit the **PRIME CONTRACTOR AFFIRMATIVE STEPS CERTIFICATION AND GOALS (WRD-0217) with the bid**, to demonstrate the Bidder's understanding and commitment to taking affirmative steps. Upon request, the Bidder must provide the information required for DBE Certification and Participation Summary, TWDB document TWDB-0373 and provide sufficient documentation (TWDB-0216) that a "good faith effort" was made in offering fair opportunity for participation by qualified DBE firms. This information must be submitted prior to the contract award so the information can be approved and presented to the TWDB for funding of this contract. This project is subject to the American Iron and Steel (AIS) requirements of 33 U.S.C §1388 for Clean Water State Revolving Fund projects or Public Law 114-113, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016, or subsequent appropriations acts, for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund projects. Any contract(s) awarded under this Invitation for Proposals is/are subject to the American Iron and Steel (AIS) requirements of Section 608 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act." Date Issued: April 16, 2025 By: Cynthia Northrop, City Manager

# ENTERTAINMENT

Midweek Edition

## OUT ON A LIMB by Gary Kopervas



## THE SPATS by Jeff Pickering



## POPEYE by Randy Milholland



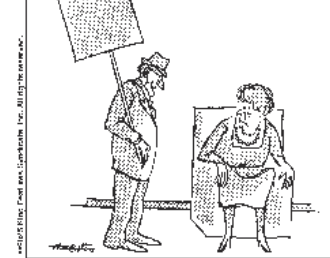
## Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

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 L, you get MISTLER. Do not change the order of the letters.

- |                        |           |                        |           |
|------------------------|-----------|------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Pearl collector     | ___ I ___ | White Cliffs location  | ___ O ___ |
| 2. Plain Scrabble tile | ___ _ _ K | Tasteless              | ___ _ _ D |
| 3. Make public         | ___ V ___ | Overturn in Congress   | ___ P ___ |
| 4. Toast topping       | ___ E ___ | Like St Nick           | ___ O ___ |
| 5. Door decoration     | W ___ _   | Intake of air          | ___ B ___ |
| 6. Bullwinkle, e.g.    | ___ S ___ | Mandy or Roger         | ___ R ___ |
| 7. Halloween gifts     | ___ _ _ S | Peace pact             | ___ _ _ Y |
| 8. Wisconsin mascot    | ___ D ___ | Grocery store employee | ___ G ___ |
| 9. Arms and legs       | ___ S ___ | Caribbean dance        | ___ O ___ |
| 10. At no time         | ___ V ___ | More recent            | ___ W ___ |

## 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!



"Care to join the senior citizens' march on City Hall? It's good..."

Approve  
**RECTIFY** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Pure  
**CHEATS** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Increase  
**DENTEX** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Outlook  
**PECOS** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

## 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			52		
53				54				55		
56				57				58		

- |                         |                           |                                     |                         |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 27 Shortly              | 53 Male deer              | 7 "That was close!"                 | 30 Summer sign          |
| 32 - canto              | 54 Meadow                 | 8 Biondi in "It's a Wonderful Life" | 31 Mentalist's gift     |
| 33 Nonpro sports org.   | 55 Inventor's inspiration | 9 Resident of Monrovia              | 36 Household            |
| 34 DDE's opponent       | 56 Sharpen                | 10 War god                          | 37 Yale grad            |
| 35 Parts                | 57 Family                 | 11 Wife of Zeus                     | 38 Spiritualist         |
| 38 L-Q bridge           | 58 "Brian's Song" star    | 19 French article                   | 41 Egyptian sun god     |
| 39 Moray, for one       |                           | 21 "Adorbs!"                        | 42 Sprint               |
| 40 Attempt              |                           | 24 Sit-up targets                   | 43 Regarding            |
| 42 "Rats!"              |                           | 25 Haw preceder                     | 44 Chat                 |
| 45 Actress Phylcia      |                           | 26 Resident of Oran                 | 46 "Mary - Little Lamb" |
| 49 China setting        |                           | 28 D.C. baseballer                  | 47 Bailiwick            |
| 50 "The Greatest"       |                           | 29 Resident of Vienna               | 48 Campus big-wig       |
| 52 Empty truck's weight |                           |                                     | 51 Island garland       |

Look for answers in the Classifieds.

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## BHS track teams advance to regionals in 13 events

**Alex Kielar**  
news@breckenridgeamerican.com

The Bucks and Lady Bucks competed in the Area track meet Thursday, April 10 at Newton Field in Graham. With the top four of each event advancing to the Regional, the girls had four individual qualifiers and one relay team qualifier, while the boys had six individual qualifiers and two relay team qualifiers.

With no first-place finishers, Kamden Tidwell was the top finisher for the girls as she placed second in the girls pole vault. For the boys, Slayden Young finished in second place in the boys' 300-meter hurdles, Sawyer Wimber-

ly placed second in the 200-meter dash and the relay team of Young, Carlos Alvarado, Ryan Waller and Wimberley placed second in the 4x400-meter relay.

Overall, the boys earned fourth place in the meet with 73 points, behind Vernon (76), Peaster (80) and Holliday (134).

"I am truly blessed to have boys that show up every day and work their tails off for me and their brothers," boys' track Head Coach Mark Young said. "They all laid it on the line and I am super proud of their effort. I look forward to doing some great things at Regionals and punching their ticket to Austin."

The girls were in seventh place overall with 43 points, one point behind Early in sixth place, preceded by Wichita Falls (50), Vernon (59), Comanche (61), Jacksboro (68) and Holliday (141).

"It has been such a fulfilling feeling to see the girls' hard work pay off and advance to regionals. Throughout the season, they've really pushed themselves to new limits and found success in various ways, like advancing, achieving new personal bests and overcoming mental blocks," girls' track Head Coach Valeria Williams said. "As their coach, my biggest hope is that they walk away from each season feeling more confident in themselves and aware of their true potential. I truly believe that once a young lady develops confidence, a strong work ethic, relentlessness and leadership skills, there's nothing she can't achieve."

Coach Williams also added that Coach Jarrod Sheppard has done an incredible job with their throwers, focusing on the technical aspects of their throwing form and helping them be explosive to reach new personal bests.

The Regional meet will take place Friday, April 18 and Saturday, April 19, at Elmer Gray Stadium at Abilene Christian University.

Regional qualifiers in the results listed below are marked with an asterisk in front of them.

**Bucks Results**  
Discus Throw: \*4.

Douglas White, 123'06"  
High Jump: 7. Ryan Waller, 5'10.00"

Pole Vault: 5. Cameron David, 12'-00.00"  
Shot Put: \*3. Christian Flores, 45'-02.75"; 6. Brandon Niblett, 42'-02.50"

Triple Jump: 8. Andrew White, 38'-07.25"  
100m Dash: \*3. Glen Thibodeaux, 10.97  
200m Dash: \*2. Sawyer Wimberley, 21.95  
300m Hurdles: \*2. Slayden Young, 40.27  
400m Dash: \*4. Carlos Alvarado, 51.63; 7. Ryan Waller, 52.48  
800m Run: \*4. Chance Stewart, 1:59.63

1600m Run: 8. Chance Stewart, 5:01.57  
3200m Run: 6. Chance Stewart, 10:17.14

4x100m Relay: 5. Breckenridge (Jaime Cruz, Truett Trammel, Lesavier Gutierrez, Glen Thibodeaux), 43.79

4x200m Relay: \*3. Breckenridge (Glen Thibodeaux, Truett Trammel, Erik Saucedo, Sawyer Wimberley), 1:29.17

4x400m Relay: \*2. Breckenridge (Slayden Young, Carlos Alvarado, Ryan Waller, Sawyer Wimberley)

**Lady Bucks Results**  
Discus Throw: \*4.



Glen Thibodeaux races in the 100-meter dash at the Area track meet Thursday, April 10, in Graham. The junior runner placed third in the race to qualify for the Regional meet Friday, April 18 and Saturday, April 19 at Abilene Christian University.

Photo/Alex Havardansky

Maria Duran, 102'-02"  
High Jump: 7. Miley Roberts, 5'-00.00"

Pole Vault: \*2. Kamden Tidwell, 10'-00.00"  
Shot Put: \*4. Joni Jackson, 34'-03.00"

Triple Jump: \*3. Kamden Tidwell, 34'-06.50"  
200m Dash: 8. Karsyn Smalley, 27.56

400m Dash: 5. Kamden Tidwell, 1:02.54  
1600m Run: 5. Lizandra Rubio, 6:09.45

3200m Run: 6. Lizandra Rubio, 13:22.91

4x100m Relay: 8. Breckenridge (Abigail Duran, Kamden Tidwell, Ava Russell, Paisley Herring), 51.62

4x200m Relay: 5. Breckenridge (Abigail Duran, Paisley Herring, Lane Bartoskowitz, Karsyn Smalley), 1:49.45

4x400m Relay: \*3. Breckenridge (Kamden Tidwell, Ruthie Valdez, Lane Bartoskowitz, Karsyn Smalley), 4:08.31



Kamden Tidwell qualified for the regional meet in both of her field events at the Area meet Thursday, April 10 in Graham, including a second-place finish in the pole vault. She also placed third in the triple jump and was the lead leg of the third-place 4x400-meter relay team.

Photo/Alex Havardansky



In his lone solo race of the day at the Area meet Thursday, April 10 in Graham, Carlos Alvarado earned a qualifying fourth-place finish in the 400-meter dash. He was also the second leg of the 4x400-meter relay team that placed second to qualify for regionals.

Photo/Alex Havardansky

2025 | May 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> | 7PM  
Palo Pinto Co. Livestock Association

# RODEO

Mineral Wells, TX  
FWSSR  
QUALIFIER

**April 26<sup>th</sup>**  
Mutton Bustin' Qualifier  
7:30am | PPCLA Arena  
Parade | 5:30pm  
Street Dance | 7:00pm | Poston's Square  
Lynn Massey and Justice

**April 30<sup>th</sup>**  
Slack  
10am Barrels | 5pm Cattle

<b>May 1<sup>st</sup></b> Military Night	<b>May 2<sup>nd</sup></b> Pink-Out Night	<b>May 3<sup>rd</sup></b> Bad Enough to Wear Blue
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## BBQ

Continued from Page 1

close the restaurant after his death.

"They were the kind of people that they needed to be. If there was an issue or a problem, if we had something going on down there," Jackson said. "Rodney was in it quite a number of years before Amanda got involved in it...It was a good relationship between him and I. We didn't have any problems."

Amanda also said that whenever someone in the community died, she and Rodney would always provide the families with food and make sure that they were taken care of. During the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, when Pit Stop had to temporarily close, Rodney turned

the restaurant into a staging area for volunteers to put together backpacks of food for local kids.

"It meant everything to me," Amanda said of running the restaurant with her husband.

Jackson said that he has had several people contact him about the building, whom he has shown the building to and most of them, he has had the impression that they want to put a barbecue restaurant back in there.

"I own the equipment in the building, so they're just trying to get an opportunity to put one in," Jackson said.

Jackson also said one of the local people he talked to already has a restau-

rant in the area and is thinking the same thing regarding keeping a barbecue restaurant in the building. He also said that a couple of out-of-town people have contacted him.

"So we've got quite a bit of interest in the building," he said. "So I think it will all work out and get it going again, hopefully."

Jackson also said that he has gotten the sentiment that most of the staff are interested in returning, which includes Amanda and the cook.

Pit Stop Bar-B-Q was presented with the Breckenridge Chamber of Commerce's Business of the Year Award in 2022.