



Stephens County man arrested for murder for hire

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The Stephens County Sheriff's Office arrested a local man Friday, May 2, on charges related to the conspiracy to commit capital murder for hire.

Jacob Wayne Spencer, 45, was taken into custody at about 2 p.m. Friday after a search and arrest warrant was issued by 90th District Court Judge Phillip Gregory earlier that day, according to court documents.

According to the documents, the warrants issued for Spencer were for capital murder while remuneration-solicitation, capital murder while remuneration-conspiracy, and unlawful installation of a tracking device.

Spencer was arraigned Sunday, May 4 by County Judge Michael Roach and is currently in the Stephens County Jail with a \$1,275,000 bond.

See Spencer, Page 3

Frontier Days Fun



This year's Stephens County Frontier Days event was held Friday, May 2 and Saturday, May 3 at Breckenridge City Park and the Breckenridge Trade Barns. Top: Grace Raymond was crowned Miss Breckenridge 2025 during the Miss Breckenridge Pageant, held Saturday, May 3. Middle: Pony rides were offered to the young ones, as part of the various fun activities available for children and adults alike.

Photos / Alex Kielar



Election Day for the Breckenridge City Commission was held Saturday, May 3 in the commission meeting chambers at City Hall.

Photo / Alex Kielar

US 183 project on track for mid-May completion

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Following the recent completion of the FM 3099 and US 180 intersection construction project in mid-April, another construction project in the city of Breckenridge is nearing completion.

Frustration has continued to grow over the long-delayed US Highway 183 North construction project, which originally began in 2020 and was once scheduled for completion in 2022.

The contractor is actively working on the prepping

See Construction, Page 3



A view of US 183 North, whose two north-bound lanes have been blocked off for some time, awaiting final surface work.

Photo / Alex Kielar

Fernandez, Huntington win city seats

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Two new city commissioners will be sworn in, following the closing of Saturday's polls.

Voting in the two local elections concluded Saturday, May 3 as unofficial election results were released for the contested races for the Breckenridge City Commission and Stephens Memorial Hospital Board of Directors.

Six candidates were on the ballot for two city seats, Place 3 and Place 4 Commissioner.

Incumbent Place 3 Commissioner Vince Moore was ousted by challenger Junior Fernandez, while Paul J. Huntington Jr. won Place 4, outlasting Tony Patterson for the vacated position left by Rob Durham, who did not seek reelection.

In the SMH board election, all three incumbents, Kaylee Curtis, Tom Echols and Gregg Goodall won reelection against challenger John Powell.

See Results, Page 2

County begins application process for new constable

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Following an executive session, Stephens County Commissioners Court voted to start the formal process of receiving applications for county constable Monday, April 28.

The position is vacant due to the death of the late Wayne McMullen, who held the position since 2021.

Applications will be open to be submitted through 9 a.m. Monday, May 12, when the commissioners court will be meeting again. At that

meeting, the commissioners will review the applications, with Sheriff Kevin Roach being a part of the selection process. The court will then appoint whom they best feel fit for the position.

The job description

See Constable, Page 2

Weekly Local Forecast

Wednesday, May 7
High 78 | Low 57
Precipitation 22%

Thursday, May 8
High 79 | Low 57
Precipitation 20%

Friday, May 9
High 78 | Low 56
Precipitation 14%

Saturday, May 10
High 81 | Low 52
Precipitation 8%

Sunday, May 11
High 83 | Low 54
Precipitation 6%

Monday, May 12
High 86 | Low 63
Precipitation 5%

Tuesday, May 13
High 94 | Low 69
Precipitation 1%

Hubbard Creek
At capacity: 1,183.00
Current: 1,170.71

Athletes of the Week 8 Obituaries 2
Classifieds 6-7 Opinion 4-5
Entertainment 7 Sports 8

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Obituaries



Donna Strong

April 15, 1951 – April 25, 2025

Donna Strong, age 74 of Breckenridge, passed away Friday, April 25, 2025. Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. Thursday, May 1 at First Baptist Church with Pastor Andy Rodgers officiating. Interment followed in the Hart Cemetery under the direction of Morehart Mortuary. Visitation was held from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 30 at Morehart Mortuary.

Donna Kay Roberson was born April 15, 1951 in Young County to parents, Edward Harold Roberson and Wanda Joy Walker Roberson. She graduated high school and attended college. On Aug. 1, 1970, Donna married Richard Strong in Breckenridge. In 1982, the Strong family moved back to Breckenridge and Donna worked in childcare, running an in-home daycare. She later became a nail technician and worked at The Cottage for several years before she retired. She was an active member of First Baptist Church and had taught Sunday school and served as the daycare director. Donna was also a member of the Eastern Star. She loved spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; her sister, Sandra Shockley; one brother, Steven Roberson; and one grandson, Billy Duggan.

Mrs. Strong is survived by her husband, Rick Strong of Breckenridge; three children, Christina Duggan and husband Curtis of Breckenridge, Karin Boggs and husband John, Jr. of Abilene, Boyce Strong and wife Kelsi of Corinth; one brother, Ken Roberson and wife Karen of Breckenridge; nine grandchildren; three great grandchildren; two aunts, Wanda Roberson and Billie O'Neal; and several nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to Meals on Wheels and may be left at Morehart Mortuary. Condolences may be made online at www.morehart-mortuary.net.

Tackling mental health in Stephens County

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Since 1949, the United States has recognized May as Mental Health Awareness Month.

In Breckenridge and Stephens County as a whole, the effort to further raise awareness for mental health and get people struggling the help that they need is at the forefront of many important individuals' minds.

Breckenridge Police Chief Blake Johnson is one of the leaders in starting up more mental health initiatives in the area.

One such initiative, which he is working on with the Betty Hardwick Center, is going out and periodically meeting with their higher-risk assessment individuals.

It is an idea that he said sparked when he saw that Brown County was doing it, and he is using them as a model for how

Stephens County will do it. He also said that while he was with Bexar County, they were one of the frontrunners on the program.

"We're in the process of working with Betty Hardwick, where we will have a mental health professional go out with an officer and to our risk [individual]. We will keep a risk assessment folder of [the] people we are concerned about and we can continue to list them as high, medium or low risks," Johnson said. "Then that way, depending on that risk factor, our visits will be a lot shorter time between. Hopefully, we'll be able to go in and interact with them and try to cut off anything before it happens. If they get ideas that are going to be a threat to the community, then that's something we don't want to wait till it happens."

This is an initia-

tive that everyone involved is ready to go with, according to Johnson.

"I could tell you that I have not had any pushback about stating an initiative with mental health, because I think everybody knows it is needed," he said. "You try a project and if it doesn't work, then we can amend it or we can just scrap it and try something else."

Johnson said that they are meeting again with Betty Hardwick this month to set the groundwork for the initiative and hope to put it into place in June.

Once it is set up, Johnson said that they will run the program on a fiscal year basis and then make a reassessment at the end of the fiscal year.

In working on setting up this initiative, Johnson said that they are looking to be more proactive

See Health, Page 3

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Results

- Continued from Page 1
- Place 3 Commissioner**
Junior Fernandez - 104 (45.21%)
Vince Moore - 80 (34.78%)
Scott Ensey - 26 (11.30%)
Richard "Dicky" Russell - 20 (8.69%)
- Place 4 Commissioner**
Paul J. Huntington Jr. - 126 (60.57%)
Tony Patterson - 82 (39.42%)
- SMH Board**
Tom Echols - 130 (87.25%)
Kaylee Curtis - 124 (83.22%)
Gregg Goodall - 124 (83.22%)
John Powell - 34 (22.82%)

Constable

- Continued from Page 1
- for the constable, decided by the commission, will be for a part-time constable, while also factoring in the opportunity for candidates to work as a part-time code enforcement officer, as McMullen did, to make a full-time salary.
- Duties for code enforcement would include, according to the job description, investigating nuisance violations, illegal dumping, abandoned property issues and enforcing local ordinances across the county.
- The job description also states that appli-

cants must hold a current Texas Peace Officer License through TCOLE and meet all statutory requirements to serve as a constable in Texas.

The salary range will be from \$25,000 to \$54,600, based on the selected candidate's qualifications and their willingness to work as a part-time constable and part-time code enforcement officer.

Applications can be picked up at the Stephens County Judge's and Treasurer's offices, and are also available online at www.co.stephens.tx.us/page/

stephens.home. They can then be dropped off at either office at the Stephens County Courthouse emailed to cgonzales@stephenscountytexas.gov. For more information, contact the Stephens County Judge's Office at 254-559-2190.

The vacancy will be filled by the person the commissioner's court appoints at least until the next election, which will be in November 2028. McMullen had been voted in to serve his second term during last year's election and was officially sworn in Dec. 31, 2024.

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Health

Continued from Page 2

and ensure that the higher-risk individuals don't fall through the cracks.

"I think right now, it's just a matter of looking at our assessments of picking how many people we feel comfortable putting on our spectrum, so that we can go out and make contact," Johnson said. "Then [we will be] going out and making those contacts and seeing how they go. Then, if the program goes, we will be able to put more resources [out]. Hopefully, we'll get some people down into the low spectrum quick enough and we won't have to go see them all the time."

Johnson also said that a lot of times, when they get with people in distress, they are quick to say that they need help.

"So they can take voluntary assistance and we can help them and things like that," Johnson said. "So that's always a great thing because if they are on board with it or they feel that they need it, they are going to be a lot more apt to want to stay with the program."

Johnson noted that with the significant amount of mental health services in town, there aren't currently a lot of resources for them to be able to keep the higher-risk individuals here.

"Most of the time when we do get people in distress and we have to do emergency deten-



tions, they will always be taken out of county," Johnson said. "We're fortunate that Abilene is close... they're pretty good about us going out, but that's the closest one. Last trip, I think we had one that went up to Wichita Falls. There aren't a lot of places for them to go here."

With that in mind, Johnson also added that another problem is that, typically on a mental health warrant, a person might go in for a couple of days, before coming back out and making their way back to Stephens County.

"So we are just dealing with them again," he said.

That's what makes this initiative so important to Chief Johnson, and he said Stephens County Sheriff Kevin Roach told him he is also on board.

Another individual in the community who was on board with this idea is the current Breckenridge Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Yuri Huntington.

With her last day in the position set for Friday, May 30, Huntington will be more involved in the mental health side of things, as she transitions into her full-time life coaching business.

"[Huntington] is very progressive in a lot of that stuff. And I think that's key, is we have to be a lot more progressive about how we police," Johnson said. "In the past, we'd get in cars and we'd go arrest people or we'd sit around and wait for a call and then go out... and do it. Unfortunately, mental health is one of those things we have to be aware of... [Huntington] has a great passion for helping people."

Huntington talked about the importance of different people in the community coming together on mental health initiatives and what Chief Johnson being a part of it means to her.

"I am so thankful that Chief Johnson is ... not only considering it, but also putting action into it... When there's a call in the community ..., they call the cops because there's an issue in their household," Huntington said. "The cops come, and the cops are trained to protect in one aspect, and that is good. However, I believe that if there were mental health specialists, with the police department, to go with them, ... then that mental health specialist can intervene and protect in a different way."



Giddy up!

A young boy tries not to get thrown off of a mechanical bull as bull riding was one of the various fun activities that Stephens County Frontier Days goers were able to participate in last Friday, May 2 and Saturday, May 3.

Photo/Alex Kielar

Construction

Continued from Page 1

of the road to place the final surface and have traffic in final configuration by the targeted timeline of mid-May, according to Jordan Perry, Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Brownwood District's Eastland Area Engineer.

Stephens County Judge Michael Roach said that while talking to one of the construction workers early last week, the worker told him that they are set to drop the pavement and just need to wait for the rainy weather to pass. The projected date for a mid-May completion is weather permitting, as Perry told Roach, but the paving is expected to begin once there is a dry day.



The project being completed will be another step in improving the infrastructure of the city of Breckenridge, which recently saw the completion of the FM 3099 and US 180 intersection construction project.

Photo/Alex Kielar

In a previous email to Roach in March, Perry had given a possible date of final surface and final configuration as Friday, May 16, and the roadway would soon after be opened to traffic.

"Summer asphalt

season begins Thursday, May 15... when the temperatures will allow for final surface hot mix paving," Perry had said in the email. "[The work] requires consistent warm temperatures for placement and curing."

Spencer

Continued from Page 1

The bonds for each charge are broken down to \$1,000,000 for the charge of criminal conspiracy to commit capital murder, \$250,000 for the criminal solicitation to commit capital murder charge and \$25,000 for the charge of an unlawful tracking device.

After being arrested, an arrest warrant

was issued by the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas.

According to the warrant, Spencer knowingly possessing a firearm that had been "shipped and transported in interstate or foreign commerce, from which the manufacturer's serial number had been removed, altered and obliterated..."

The firearm in question was a Smith & Wesson, Model SD9 VE, semi-automatic pistol.

If Spencer posts bail, the bond conditions will include ankle monitoring, in-home confinement, drug testing, leaving the victim alone, conditions related to mental health checks and other standard bond conditions.

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A Pullman pushed, pulled...

It's got to be a borderline miracle when Eastland—a town with fewer than 5,000 people—can lay claim to not one, but TWO “facts” worthy of the Guinness Book of Records recognition.

“Facts” has quotation marks for a reason. It's not certain that a horned toad named Ol' Rip actually hibernated for 31 years in the Eastland County Courthouse cornerstone and found alive—sharing space with the Holy Bible and a bottle of whiskey—when the current courthouse construction began. Google for a trainload of stories, most alleging that this creature was featured in an around-the-world tour, and much else. They claim he had a noiseless “stare down”



Don Newbury

The Idle American

with then president Calvin Coolidge, whose nickname was “Silent Cal.”

Houston V. O'Brien, beloved editor/publisher of area newspapers for more than 60 years, is “H.V.” to many, maybe because he's not a “Houston” kind of guy. I usually call him “High Voltage” or “High Volume.” Anyway, he was pre-school age when Ol' Rip was first

encased. Honored by the Texas Press Association and many other groups, he's spent his life beating the drums for “America's best hometown” and perpetuating the story of Ol' Rip. At age 93, he's still drum-beating in his weekly newspaper, Eastland County Today. His zeal—coupled with substantiated claims of ongoing community progress by the Eastland Chamber of Commerce—make their assertions hard to argue!...

...

Guinness editors may require more proof. The CofC claims, however, can be “nailed down” as the Gospel, even though Ol' Rip stories and how a train car arrived in town aboard two trucks stretch cre-

dulity limits.

Many of us arrive on the backs of turnip trucks. The Pullman didn't, but if you guessed trucks were involved, you're on track. Fact is, the rail car—built in the 1930s and in service for some 30 years—made the 60-mile journey from Abilene to Eastland atop two 18-wheelers! (With today's regulations, there would have been “zilch” chances for the move.)

Don't get ahead of me. The 80-foot-long rail car was placed aboard BOTH trucks, with one backed against the other—reverse-gear—for the entire distance. Surely this is some kind of record!...

...

See Newbury, Page 5

Ask Rusty: Applying for Social Security at 62: When should I enroll in Medicare?

Dear Rusty: I am writing to ask for your advice on when I should sign up or enroll in a Medicare Plan. I have submitted an early retirement application to request benefits to begin 30 days after my 62nd birthday, in April 2025. I am a single lady with no dependents and currently rent my residence. Please advise. **Signed: Approaching Senior Citizenship**

Dear Approaching: I assume that when you say you have submitted “an early retirement application to request benefits to begin 30 days after my 62nd birthday” you mean you have applied for your Social Security retirement benefits to start in April 2025, and that you will be 62 in March.

To be sure you are clear, you must be 62 for an entire month to start your Social Security retirement benefits.

Even though you are starting your Social Security retirement benefits at age 62, you will not be eligible to enroll in Medicare until you are 65 years old.

Since you will be already receiving Social Security when you turn 65, you will be automatically enrolled in Medicare Part A (inpatient hospitalization coverage) and Medicare Part B (coverage for outpatient services), effective with the month you turn 65, and you will get a “Welcome to Medicare” packet about 3 months before your 65th birthday.

Your Medicare Part A (inpatient hospitalization coverage) will be free, but there will be a monthly premium (\$185 for 2025) associated with your Medicare Part B (coverage for outpatient services), which will be deducted from your Social Security pay-



Russell Gloor

Social Security Matters

ment.

Note that Medicare does not cover all healthcare expenses so, when the time comes, you may wish to explore other private healthcare coverage (either a Medicare Supplement plan, or a Medicare Advantage plan).

Also, Medicare Part A or Part B do not include coverage for prescription drugs, so you may wish to obtain such coverage separately.

One way to explore all of this is by, shortly before you are 65, contacting AMAC's Medicare department at 1.800.334.9330 or www.amac.us/medicare. And until you are eligible to enroll in Medicare at 65, you may wish to seek regular healthcare insurance for those under 65 years of age.

Please understand that we are here to answer all your questions about Social Security and Medicare enrollment. However, at the AMAC Foundation, we are not insurance specialists, which is why I suggest contacting an insurance specialist as described above.

I hope this is helpful, but please don't hesitate to contact us again at any time.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the Na-

See Matters, Page 5

Opening college doors behind bars: Why higher education in Texas prisons matters to us all

Over 90% of incarcerated people will eventually be released from prison, and how they reenter society can make or break their chance for success. By expanding access to postsecondary education within prison facilities, we can turn them into launchpads for rehabilitation and workforce readiness, ensuring that those who have paid their debt to society return prepared to contribute meaningfully to their communities.

A growing body of evidence outlined in the Texas 2036 report, “Opening Doors: The State of Higher Education in Texas Prisons,”

confirms what educators and policymakers have known for years: education reduces recidivism. Inmates who participate in postsecondary education programs are significantly less likely to return to prison. That saves taxpayer dollars and improves public safety.

Historically, access to college courses behind bars has been extremely limited. But recent changes in federal policy, including the reinstatement of Pell Grant eligibility for incarcerated students, are opening the door to new possibilities. Texas can lead the nation by building a prison education system that



Luis Soberon

truly prepares individuals for successful re-entry.

Unfortunately, our report highlighted a 50% decline in incarcerated Texans enrolled in postsecondary programs between 2011 and 2022. This drop wasn't for a lack of interest among incarcerated students; it

was due to limited educational capacity within the prison system.

In April 2024, only 1,800 incarcerated students in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice were enrolled in college-level programs, but over 8,300 eligible individuals were waiting for open seats.

Expanding higher education capacity in prisons is not without its challenges. One is financial. In Texas, incarcerated individuals bear the responsibility of paying for their education, with some federal and state aid available to qualified students.

It also requires thoughtful coordination between correctional officials, academic institutions and policymakers as well as a cultural shift that recognizes education as a fundamental tool of rehabilitation.

Here's the bottom line: Incarcerated Texans in college programs are less likely to return to prison and more likely to get a job—boosting public safety and offering a path for former inmates to return home to stable, productive lives.

Our Opening Doors report identifies a handful of key steps to

See Doors, 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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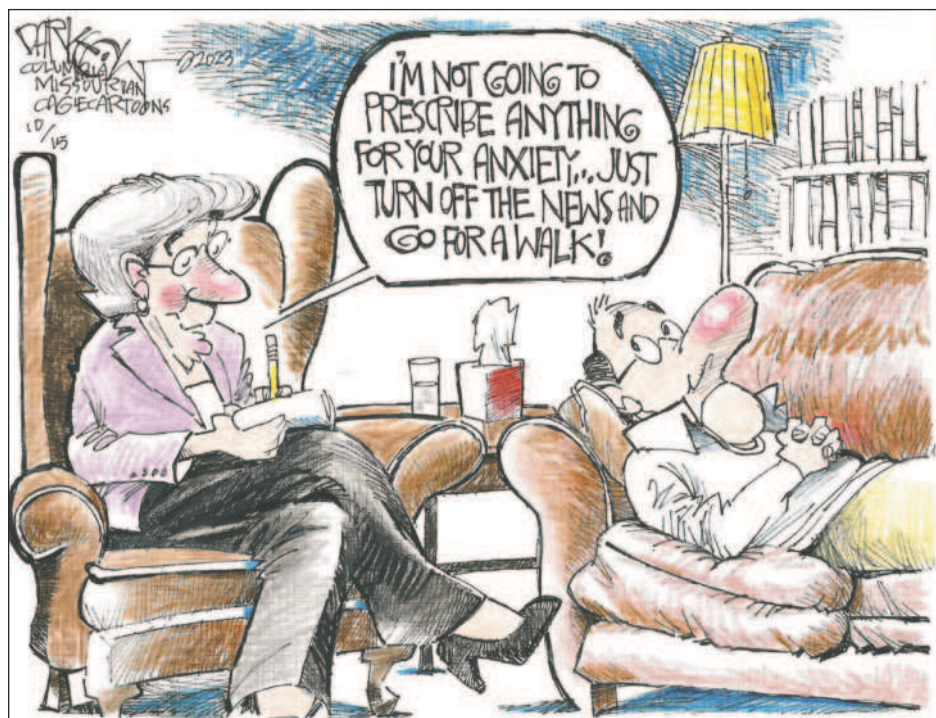
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Newbury

Continued from Page 4

Originally, the plan was for what is now Bank One Abilene to use the Pullman as an advertising tool. This didn't work out, so the late Don Pierson, an Eastland community leader, bought it for his daughter's 16th birthday some 60 years ago, moving it to Eastland.

For several years, the iconic rail car was the scene of parties and celebrations, visited by celebrities and ordinary folks alike.

Come 2021, Brandon and Crickett Abbott purchased property that includes both the Piersons' former residence, with "The Train"—a new Airbnb attraction—100 yards out back. It's on West Plummer, near the South Hillcrest intersection. Spending \$70,000 and thousands of hours of "elbow grease," the Abbotts are ready for their May 1 Grand Opening!...

Craig Murphy, a busy vocalist, maintains a frenetic schedule that makes the Energizer Bunny's pace look best fit for runner-up finishes in turtle races.

Making more than 500 appearances annually since 2011—largely at care centers and often

thrice daily—he's a former "spring chicken" morphed into mid-autumn. His "busyness" didn't faze the traffic officer who flagged him down on I-20.

There was no talking his way out of this citation. "I've been waiting for you all day," the officer wise-cracked. "I got here as fast as I could," Murphy cracked back. (He also jokes about a friend addicted to brake fluid "who can stop when he gets ready.")

Uncle Mort lives in a tiny community where most motorists are lost, confounded when "beats me" shows up on their GPS. Many law enforcement officials may not know it exists. Mort laughs when asked if there's even a map dot.

"Heavens no! There's little between the two highway signs that read 'Litter Barrel Ahead' and 'Resume Speed'..."

Dr. Newbury, a long-time speaker in the Metroplex, may be contacted at 817-447-3872 or newbury@speakerdoc.com. His column may be accessed on his website, www.speakerdoc.com, where he reads it aloud, sometimes without stumbling.

Doors

Continued from Page 4

expand college opportunities for inmates, such as:

- Letting Texas's prison education experts, Windham School District, take the lead in coordinating prison-based college programs
- Improving access and utility of corrections, education, and workforce data to track success
- Aligning prison postsecondary education with statutes and state workforce goals

The rewards far outweigh the costs. Education behind bars builds safer prisons, reduces repeat offenses and prepares individuals for the dignity of work. And there's

the fiscal benefit as well. A recent study found that for every dollar invested in prison-based college education, the return is estimated at \$1.61.

Every Texan deserves the opportunity to learn, grow and contribute to our state's future, no matter where they begin, and every Texan benefits when those opportunities are expanded.

By investing in higher education in our prisons, we open doors. The benefits are not just for incarcerated Texans, but also for the communities that surround them and the entire state.

Luis Soberon is the senior policy advisor

for justice and safety issues at Texas 2036, a nonpartisan, non-profit public policy organization.

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Matters

Continued from Page 4

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Breckenridge Devotional Page

1. Is the book of Lamentations (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Romans 11, which tribe did Paul describe himself as a member of? Benjamin, Rome, Barnabus, Tarsus
3. What's the "Decalogue" another name for? Ark of Covenant, Holy Grail, Ten Commandments, Last Supper
4. In which "Garden of" did Adam and Eve live? Everest, Eden, Heaven, Paradise
5. From Romans 5:6, Paul noted that Christ died for the ... Believers, Unbelievers, Righteous, Ungodly
6. What was Adam made of/from? Eve's rib, Earth's dust, Ray of light, Fig leaf

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Benjamin, 3) Ten Commandments, 4) Eden, 5) Ungodly, 6) Earth's dust

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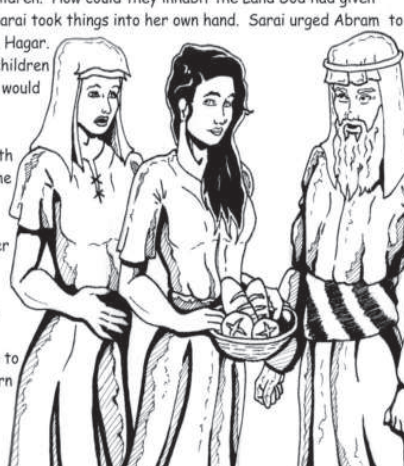
FEATURES FROM THE BIBLE
TRUTH IN SCRIPTURE

Sarai and Hagar
Genesis 16

Sarai and Abram had no children. How could they inhabit the Land God had given Abram and his offspring. Sarai took things into her own hand. Sarai urged Abram to sleep with her servant girl, Hagar. Sarai contended that any children from this relationship, she would claim.

Abram agreed and slept with Hagar. Hagar conceived. She became very proud and arrogant toward Sarai. Sarai blamed Abram for her trouble. With Abram's permission, Sarai beat Hagar and Hagar ran away.

An angel of the Lord spoke to Hagar and told her to return to Sarai. She obeyed and bore a son, Ishmael.



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9:00 am Monday

(Classified line ad: an ad that runs with only words, no box)

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GET IT SOLD with a Classified Ad

510 HELP WANTED

Stephens County Seeking Part-Time Constable Potential for Full-Time Based on Code Enforcement Duties

Stephens County is now accepting applications for the position of Part-Time Constable. The Constable will serve traditional law enforcement duties, including serving the civil process, assisting the Justice of the Peace Court, and providing security for the Stephens County Courthouse.

The position is part-time at the time of hire. However, there is an opportunity for the role to become full-time if the selected candidate is willing to take on additional responsibilities as a County Code Enforcement Officer. Payscale \$25,000 to \$54,600 depending upon experience and duties assigned.

Code Enforcement duties would include investigating nuisance violations, illegal dumping, abandoned property issues, and enforcing local ordinances across the county.

Applicants must hold a current Texas Peace Officer License through TCOLE and meet all statutory requirements to serve as a Constable in Texas. Previous experience in law enforcement, court security, or code enforcement is preferred but not required.

Applications are available at the Stephens County Judge's and Treasurer's office, as well as accessible on the Stephens County Homepage (www.co.stephens.tx.us/page/stephens.home).

Applications can be dropped off at either office at the Stephens County Courthouse or emailed to cgonzales@stephenscountytexas.gov. Interested candidates must submit an application, resume, and a copy of all current certifications. Final applicants are subject to a background check.

The deadline to apply is Monday, May 12, 2025, before 9:00 AM.

For more information, contact the Stephens County Judge's Office at (254) 559-2190.

Stephens County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

600 AUCTIONS

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1800 N. Jefferson Ave, Mt Pleasant, TX



918.550.8118 CJ-AUCTIONS.COM

650 FOR SALE-FARM & RANCH

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STEPHENS COUNTY	YOUNG COUNTY	JACK COUNTY
742ac- Near Town, 5Ponds, \$3,965,000	594ac- Home, 6Ponds, \$3,450,000	427ac- Cabin, Deer Blinds, \$2,823,678
450ac- Home, Lodge, Exotics, \$5,950,000	180ac- 75% Woods, 3Ponds, \$1,024,650	63ac- 22 Barns, 3Shops, \$1,490,000
320ac- Cabin, Creek, \$1,880,000	178ac- 3Ponds, Woods, \$895,000	39ac- Lake Byson, Hunting, \$574,925
254ac- 2Ponds, Woods, \$1,220,736	160ac- Hunting, 2Ponds, \$920,000	
181ac- 322 Home, 2Ponds, \$995,000	150ac- 3Ponds, Home, \$937,500	KNOX COUNTY
128ac- 3Ponds, Electricity, \$655,200	118ac- 2Ponds, Waterline, \$885,500	252ac- Cultivation, Minerals, SOLD
87ac- Clear Fork River, \$730,500	100ac- Lodge w/ High Fence, \$1,750,000	ARCHER COUNTY
50ac- 1 Pond, Near Stawm, \$301,290	75ac- Brazos River, FM 926, \$500,000	14ac- Home or Commercial, \$175,000
19ac- Cabin, Big Deer, SOLD	74ac- 2Ponds, Great Hunting, \$550,000	
	50ac- 2Ponds, Home, Barn, \$735,000	HASKELL COUNTY
THROCKMORTON COUNTY	45ac- Creek, Pond, In-Town, \$795,000	640ac- Minerals, 7Ponds, \$1,600,000
671ac- Hunting, 10Ponds, \$3,894,625	20ac- 322 Home, Pond, Barn, \$499,000	
629ac- Cabin, 9Ponds, \$2,780,000	18ac- 42.5 Home, Creek, \$530,000	SHACKELFORD COUNTY
315ac- Home, 6Ponds, PENDING	15ac- 32.5 Home, Fish Pond, \$575,000	180ac- 32 Home, Minerals, \$650,000
160ac- 45% Wooded, 2Ponds, \$499,200		



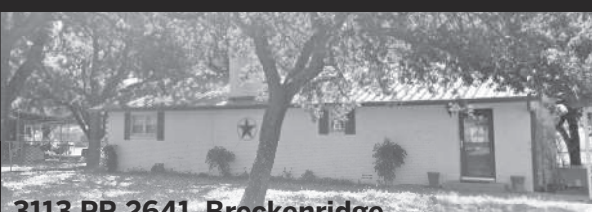
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Even Exchange answers

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Remove, Rarrrols | 8. Sprain, Strain |
| 2. Plate, Pluto | 7. Amber, Embar |
| 3. Timer, Tamer | 6. Recipe, Racte |
| 4. Mortar, Morzel | 9. Copper, Cooper |
| 5. Wondy, Windy | 10. Thick, hink |

SCRAMBLERS solution

1. Pardon 2. Allure;
3. Abide; 4. Allot

Today's Word
LOADED

King Crossword - Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

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

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Lake City Area Medical Center is hiring a Mid-Level Provider. Benefit package, retirement, PTO, conference/CE allowance, HSA. \$95,000-\$110,000/yr. EOE: Send CV's to lcmecenter@lcamc.net or request job descriptions.

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Submit employment application and resume to:
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800 PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICES

Canyon Road Club Annual Meeting will start at High Noon Sunday, May 18 at 5790 FM 3418, Breckenridge, TX 76424.

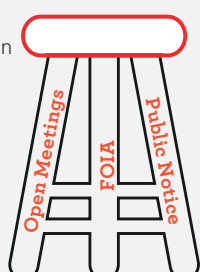
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Please check your ad the first day that it runs to see that all of the information is correct. This will ensure that your ad is exactly what you want readers to see. Call us at 254-559-5412 the first day if you find an error. We must limit our financial 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



Since the first U.S. Congress, public officials have understood that newspapers are the best medium to notify the public about official matters because they contain the

essential elements of public notice:



Accessibility



Independence



Verifiability



Archivability



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**

Publishing notices on the internet is neither cheap nor free



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.



Citizens continue to learn about vital civic matters from newspaper notices.

Documented examples of people taking action and alerting their community after reading a newspaper notice are reported on a regular basis.

Verifying publication is difficult-to-impossible on the web. That's why the courts subject digital evidence to far greater scrutiny than evidence published in newspapers



Significant numbers of people in rural areas still lack high-speed internet access.

Those who are older than 65 or who have lower incomes or lack high-school diplomas are also cut off from the internet in far higher numbers than the average.



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

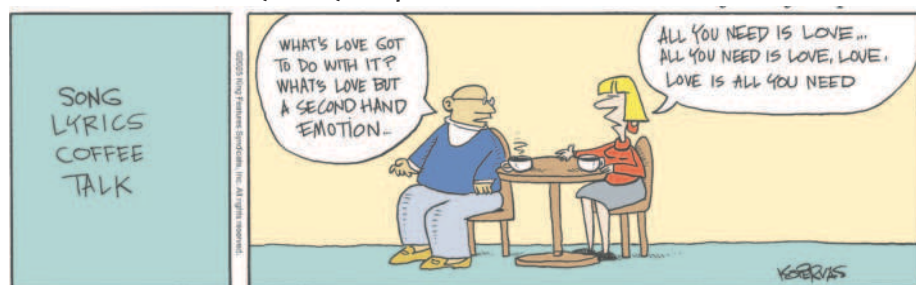
Governments aren't very good at publishing information on the internet. Unlike newspaper publishers, **public officials aren't compelled by the free market to operate effective websites.**



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 I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

- Do away with _____ V _____ Isolated and distant _____ T _____
- Greek philosopher _____ A _____ Mickey Mouse's pet _____ U _____
- Stopwatch _____ I _____ Circus performer _____ A _____
- Bonding cement _____ _____ R _____ Corporeal _____ _____ L _____
- Peter Pan's friend _____ E _____ Breezy _____ I _____
- Twist one's ankle _____ P _____ Run through a sieve _____ T _____
- Fossil resin _____ A _____ Leftover charcoal _____ E _____
- Culinary instructions _____ P _____ Read out loud _____ T _____
- Penny metal _____ P _____ James Fenimore _____ O _____
- Dense _____ C _____ Ponder _____ N _____

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!



Mercy
PONDAR _____

Charm
LAUREL _____

Accept
BADIE _____

Assign
TALLO _____

TODAY'S WORD _____

Crossword

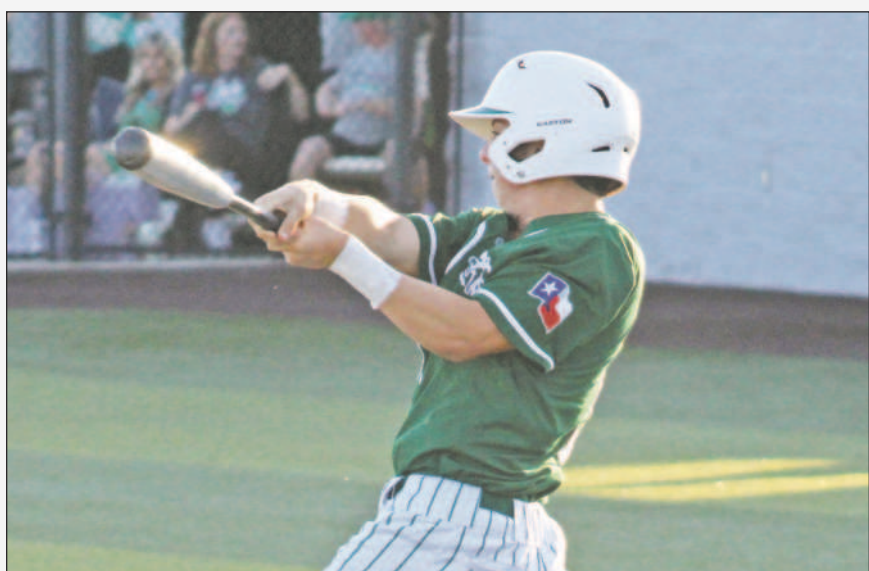
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		44		45	46	47	48	49	
50	51	52		53	54	55			
56			57			58			
59			60					61	

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 33 Grassy area | 56 Vegetarian's no-no | 7 Exciting Broadway event | 28 Trudge |
| 34 Shade provider | 57 Mine material | 8 YouTube clip, for short | 29 Actor Malek |
| 36 FBI guy | 58 Russian ruler | 9 Clean air org. | 30 Dazzles |
| 37 Alpha's opposite | 59 Saturates | 10 "The One I Love" band | 31 Caribou kin |
| 39 "The Hunger Games" heroine | 60 Scale member | 11 Secular | 35 Yoga pad |
| 41 Dance clubs | 61 Blasting stick | 12 Loan application fees | 38 Fine, to NASA |
| 43 Prefix with athlete | | 13 Collection | 40 Italian "three" |
| 44 Tom Joad, for one | | 14 Water carrier | 42 Farm towers |
| 46 Urged (on) | | 15 Airline to Tel Aviv | 45 Franc replacement |
| 50 Hive population | | 16 ET's craft | 47 Sudden wind |
| 53 Schlep | | 17 Dutch cheese | 48 Flair |
| 55 Luau dance | | 18 Ersatz chocolate | 49 Scurry |
| | | 20 One-named supermodel | 50 German auto |
| | | 22 Tree fluid | 51 Shoe width |
| | | 24 Trombone parts | 52 Have breakfast |
| | | 28 Grassy tract | 54 Solidify |
| | | 32 January, to Juan | |
| | | 33 Grassy area | |
| | | 34 Shade provider | |
| | | 36 FBI guy | |
| | | 37 Alpha's opposite | |
| | | 39 "The Hunger Games" heroine | |
| | | 41 Dance clubs | |
| | | 43 Prefix with athlete | |
| | | 44 Tom Joad, for one | |
| | | 46 Urged (on) | |
| | | 50 Hive population | |
| | | 53 Schlep | |
| | | 55 Luau dance | |
| | | 56 Vegetarian's no-no | |
| | | 57 Mine material | |
| | | 58 Russian ruler | |
| | | 59 Saturates | |
| | | 60 Scale member | |
| | | 61 Blasting stick | |
| | | 7 Exciting Broadway event | |
| | | 8 YouTube clip, for short | |
| | | 9 Clean air org. | |
| | | 10 "The One I Love" band | |
| | | 11 Secular | |
| | | 12 Loan application fees | |
| | | 13 Collection | |
| | | 14 Water carrier | |
| | | 15 Airline to Tel Aviv | |
| | | 16 ET's craft | |
| | | 17 Dutch cheese | |
| | | 18 Ersatz chocolate | |
| | | 20 One-named supermodel | |
| | | 22 Tree fluid | |
| | | 24 Trombone parts | |
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| | | 35 Yoga pad | |
| | | 38 Fine, to NASA | |
| | | 40 Italian "three" | |
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| | | 45 Franc replacement | |
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Brenham Walker recorded the third of four total hits in the game for the Bucks as they struggled to get much going beyond the first inning against tough Iowa Park pitcher, AJ Ramirez, in a 6-1 loss Thursday, May 1.

Photo/Alex Kiejar

Mistakes hurt Bucks in bi-district loss to Hawks

Alex Kiejar
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Coming into their bi-district match-up Thursday, May 1 against the Iowa Park Hawks, the Bucks knew they would have to play a clean, near-perfect game. It started off that way, as they pounced early on Hawks' pitcher AJ Ramirez and got a run on the board in the first inning. Getting to him early was exactly what needed to be done for the Bucks to have a shot at winning.

However, Ramirez locked in for the rest of the game, allowing no more runs over the final six innings and it was mistakes that ultimately did the Bucks in, as they lost, 6-1.

The second batter to the plate in the game, Cooper Wimberley, smacked a double to left center field and promptly celebrated at second base to get the bench hyped up. Nieko Martinez immediately drove Wimberley in on a single to center field.

"We kind of jumped out there and I thought maybe, that's exactly what you hoped for," Coach Jeremy West said. "Try to get something going early, get a little momentum, let our kids see that we could hit off of him and it started out well."

That was all the Bucks were able to manage off the Hawks' starter, who came into the game with a sub-1.00 ERA (0.88) on the season. The rest of the way, the Bucks had just four more base runners - two singles and two walks.

"[Ramirez] was pretty impressive. He settled in there after that and kind of found another gear," Coach West said. "He was able to get through it and finished the game. So it was a pretty impressive performance by



Bucks Coach Jeremy West gives a pep talk to his pitcher, Hudson Woodward, during their bi-district matchup against Iowa Park.

Photo/Alex Kiejar

him."

Overall, Ramirez allowed one run, four hits and two walks, while striking out 14 Bucks over seven innings. Wimberley singled for his second hit of the game in the third inning and Brenham Walker recorded a single in the second inning.

Things started to unravel in the second inning for the Bucks. Three errors, an unlucky break on a hard hit off starter Hudson Woodward's leg and a bloop single to no man's land in left field, led to two runs being scored and the Hawks taking the lead. The Hawks added another run in the third inning as a leadoff walk came around to score on an RBI double.

The hosting team scored another run in the fourth and two more insurance runs in the sixth, before setting the Bucks down in order in the seventh to end the game.

There were four seniors for the Bucks this season who saw their high school baseball careers come to an end, Jaxon Escalon, Nieko Martinez, Carson Duran and Junior Duran. Escalon was 0-for-3 with three groundouts and Martinez was 1-for-3 with an RBI single. Carson Duran played second and was hit for by Escalon as the designated hitter. Junior Duran, meanwhile, was unable to play a single game during his senior season, as he

was dealing with a bad back.

"There were four [guys] in that class that stuck it out and made four years out of it... Nieko had surgery, so he was limited, played half the season and was restricted to hitting early. Then Jaxon, what a wonder. The kid is lucky to be alive after having a wreck a year ago in March, and really not knowing what he was going to be able to do for us coming into the season," Coach West said. "So we had a ton of question marks with those guys coming in and you just didn't know what was going to happen... I've had that group for all four years and those three guys were all four-year varsity players. It's always tough when you play that last one for sure. But I'm very appreciative to those guys for putting in their time."

Coach West described how they are feeling good about what's coming back for the Bucks next year.

"We got a lot of innings on those young guys this year, so that's always very promising going forward," Coach West said. "We've got to continue to develop those young guys, have got to continue to work and continue to get better. But it's a good outlook and we've got a lot of young pups, and we'll still be young next year. So the future looks pretty bright."

Robinson, Wimberley named Athletes of the Week

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Spring sports are now officially wrapped up for Breckenridge following Bucks baseball falling to Iowa Park in the bi-district playoffs Thursday, May 1. Cooper Wimberley had a strong performance in the bi-district match-up, which earns him this week's Breckenridge American Boys Athlete of the Week.

While the Lady Bucks' softball season ended a couple of weeks ago, the All-District awards were announced last week and junior Raegan Robinson was honored with a couple of awards. With that, Robinson is this week's Breckenridge American Girls Athlete of the Week.



Junior Raegan Robinson received 1st Team All-District and Academic All-District honors last week as the All-District awards were announced. Robinson had a consistent season on and off the field, and she is this week's Breckenridge American Girls Athlete of the Week.

Photo/Alex Kiejar

Raegan Robinson

The junior infielder had a strong season in the middle of the Lady Bucks' lineup and stayed consistent on and off the field. With her performance, she was honored with 1st Team All-District and Academic All-District. In 26 games on the season, Robinson posted a .519 batting average, .552 on-base percentage, 27 RBI, 15 doubles,

six walks and 17 runs scored. With seniors Joni Jackson and Olivia Perez graduating this spring, Robinson is set to be a top leader for the Lady Bucks next season.

"I hope Raegan takes

the time to develop physically in the game and mentally as well," Coach Jocelyn Gonzalez said. "She was able to backpack off of Joni [Jackson], so I want her to become more of Raegan and let herself shine. Leading our team will hopefully come naturally to her."



Cooper Wimberley was a tablesetter for the Bucks all season at the top of their lineup, and that continued in the bi-district playoffs as he recorded two hits and scored the first and only run for the team in a loss. With that, he is the Breckenridge American Boys Athlete of the Week.

Photo/Alex Kiejar

Cooper Wimberley

In the Bucks' loss to Iowa Park, Wimberley facilitated the hitting as he doubled with one out in the first inning. After coming around to score the first and only run of the game for the Bucks, Wimberley later added another hit, a single in the third inning. A table setter at the top of the Bucks' lineup all season, Wimberley was the only hitter for them to record two hits in the loss.

"[Wimberley] has been hitting in the one and two hole all year, and he's been really, really consistent," Coach Jeremy West said. "Average-wise, he's our second leading hitter, and just like he did [Thursday] night, he just doesn't try to do too much. He hits the ball hard up the middle, and he's done that all year for us."

Lady Bucks skills camps



Kindergarten through third-grade girls took part in volleyball and basketball camps put on by the Lady Bucks Monday, April 28, through Thursday, May 1. The first two days of the camp were for working on volleyball skills and the next two days were for basketball skills. Campers were invited to attend one camp or both camps.

Photo/Alex Kiejar