



Breckenridge City Secretary shows new resident Caroline Gourley how she can sign up for the text update chain to receive updates from the city on important information and reporting issues. Photo/Alex Kielar

City shares strategic plan, zoning updates

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Community members were invited to the Breckenridge City Hall for a strategic planning and zoning open house Tuesday, May 27.

During the come and go event, updates were given on the city's strategic plan that was implemented two years ago, as well as a proposed future land use map being on display regarding the zoning ordinance updates.

The zoning updates are

the first such updates the city has done in several years, and they will help to modernize zoning rules to reflect current needs, growth patterns and development trends, according to a fact sheet put together by City Manager Cynthia Northrop.

The updates will also clarify permitted uses for each zoning district, which will reduce confusion for property owners and developers and support the goals of the strategic plan,

See Plan, Page 3

SMH taking final steps for critical access conversion

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Stephens Memorial Hospital is currently taking the final steps to convert to a Critical Access Hospital (CAH) from a Prospective Payment System (PPS) facility.

The hospital is currently on track to officially receive that designation in July and

they are currently in the process of switching over their billing processes to critical access billing.

The latest step, according to CEO Gena Speer, was having their PPS numbers deactivated and filing the critical access numbers in the system.

They are now waiting

See SMH, Page 2

BEDC approves \$150,000 for RE Dye Manufacturing

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As part of the primary job creation initiative that new CEO and executive director Michael Paris has emphasized during his first month, the Breckenridge Economic Development Corporation recently approved a \$150,000 incentive package for a local business.

That incentive package aims to strengthen the future of R.E. Dye Manufacturing.

This legacy business

serves key aerospace clients such as Bell Helicopter, Subaru Helicopter, Air Tractor, Able Aerospace, RBC Bearings, Inc., New Hampshire Ball Bearings, Inc., Superior Tread Rolling and Raytheon Technologies.

Founded in 1919 by Robert Edward (R.E.) Dye, the 106-year-old company is now under the ownership of his great-nephew Coby Dye, who assumed ownership after the passing of his father, former CEO Jimmy Dye.

See BEDC, Page 3



Breckenridge Class of 2020 graduate Aaliyah Lawson has earned two Bachelor's degrees and, most recently, a Master's of Business Administration degree from Texas Tech since graduation. Lawson is now pursuing a doctorate in the Caribbean, where she will attend medical school to become a pediatrician.

Contributed photo

Lawson earns Master's degree

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After already earning two Bachelor's degrees since graduating from Breckenridge High School in the Class of 2020, Aaliyah Lawson recently earned a Master's degree, as she pursues a healthcare career.

After leaving BHS, Lawson majored in Biology and Child Psychology at Texas Tech University. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology last May.

Just a year later, Lawson earned a Master's of Business Administration as a graduate student, receiving her degree Saturday, May 17.

Following graduation, Lawson, at just 22 years old, is now off to pursue a doctorate in the Caribbean, where she will attend medical school to become a pediatrician.

"To do all that at 22 years old is incredible. Usually people don't achieve that until 45 years old," Victor Lawson, Aaliyah's father, said. "I am very proud

of her."

Victor said that Aaliyah knew she wanted to become a doctor in the 10th grade, when she attended the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists in 2017, in Boston.

It was there that she received an Award of Excellence from the academy's medical advisory board and was awarded a spot on the Congress of Future Medical Leaders, the nationally recognized honors program for high school students.



An R.E. Dye Manufacturing employee works on a line of parts that he is tasked with completing.

Photo/Alex Kielar

Weekly Local Forecast

Wednesday, June 4
High 80 | Low 69
Precipitation 24%

Thursday, June 5
High 88 | Low 74
Precipitation 24%

Friday, June 6
High 95 | Low 74
Precipitation 15%

Saturday, June 7
High 96 | Low 73
Precipitation 11%

Sunday, June 8
High 95 | Low 69
Precipitation 24%

Monday, June 9
High 88 | Low 68
Precipitation 24%

Tuesday, June 10
High 88 | Low 69
Precipitation 24%

Hubbard Creek
At capacity: 1,183.31
Current: 1,171.22

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Due to a lack of funding and other factors, this year's Boomfest will not feature fireworks, but a drone show instead.

Archive photo

2025 Boomfest to feature drone show, no fireworks

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A decision was made by the Breckenridge Chamber of Commerce to do a drone show for this year's Boomfest, instead of the traditional fireworks show.

Factoring into the decision was the cost and having a more PTSD and animal-friendly show.

The Stephens County Commissioners' Court

approved the change to the Boomfest as well as agreeing to utilize \$7,500 available county funds at a special meeting Monday, May 19.

The two sides had previously discussed the proposal at a workshop Monday, May 12.

Chamber Executive Director Maylun VanWinkle noted that David Stowe, who normally took on the bulk of the show, was not able to secure the funding

last year and ended up paying \$10,000 out of his own pocket.

"[Stowe] decided that going forward, he would no longer take on the bulk of the event at the fireworks show. So he came to the chamber and told us that we can't let the event die," VanWinkle said. "It is the only event that we have that showcases the lake, and we have to keep it. There's no other way around that, and so we were looking into fireworks and all of that. For a 30-minute show, you're looking at about \$30,000 to \$40,000... they're about \$1,000 to \$1,500 per minute."

The estimated cost of the drone show, VanWinkle said, is \$25,000 and that is their request for that amount coming from hotel occupancy taxes (HOT) funds.

"The chamber would contribute marketing and all aspects of coordinating the event, as far as doing everything with the drone company themselves," VanWinkle said. "All of the rest, that goes

See Boomfest, Page 3

Gleitz introduced as new CNO at SMH

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Stephens Memorial Hospital recently underwent a search for a new Chief Nursing Officer to fill the vacancy left by former CNO Gena Speer, who was promoted to the hospital's CEO in March.

Hired in late April, Stephen Gleitz was officially introduced as the new CNO to the SMH Board of Directors at their Thursday, May 29 meeting.

"We are very happy that we have our new CNO in place," Speer said.

Gleitz has worked in the SMH emergency room for almost six years and has worked as the Director of Critical Care Services at Hendrick Health in Abilene for nearly 11 years.

Moving to this area from Houston in 2014, Gleitz currently lives in Albany with his wife and three children.

"I have really grown to love this hospital and the staff. This opportunity presented itself and I wanted to get to something a little smaller than Hendrick," Gleitz said.



Hired in April to fill the vacancy left by Gena Speer being promoted to the hospital's CEO, Stephen Gleitz was officially introduced as Stephens Memorial Hospital's new Chief Nursing Officer at the hospital board's Thursday, May 29 meeting.

Photo/Alex Kielar

along the way. I'm just happy to be a part of it, and hopefully we can continue to do all the great things that the team has been working on."

Gleitz earned a Bachelor's degree in Applied Exercise

Physiology from Texas A&M University in 2007, before earning an Associates of Nursing from Houston Community College in 2011.

In 2017, Gleitz pursued a Registered Nursing Bachelor's degree at the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) and received it in 2019. He earned a Master of Science in Nursing Administration from UTA in 2021.

SMH

Continued from Page 1

for approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the federal agency that goes through final reviews.

"Hopefully only a few more days for that to be fully active, so that we can start that," Speer said at the board's Thursday, May 29 meeting. "Right now, traditional Medicare and Medicare damage claims are just being covered. They will be dropped as soon as we can do that."

Speer noted that

there is about a month's worth of re-billing that needs to be done, because the application conversion was backdated to Tuesday, April 8.

Part of the process of receiving the designation, which was previously completed by the hospital, was decreasing its number of beds from 40 to 20.

Board President Tom Echols explained at an earlier meeting that the designation allows the hospital to receive better reimbursement and increase its compensa-

tion, leading to SMH being able to hire and retain staff.

"It doesn't really change anything about your care," Echols said. "It increases our compensation and we are able to keep the hospital open."

According to Dr. Kelli Windsor, switching over a critical access facility opens up some more options for SMH.

"... We're just so limited because some of the things that I would want to do, we can't get anymore. It just opens up a few more options," she said.

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Place 4 Commissioner-elect Paul Huntington Jr. scans the QR code for the Breckenridge Park survey as Public Management, Inc. Planner II Kaitlyn Higgins explains and PMI's Ken Coignet watches.

Photo / Alex Kielar

Plan

Continued from Page 1

including economic development, neighborhood protection and infrastructure planning.

The five layers to the city's strategic plan are: invest in infrastructure, invest in employees, invest in beautification, promote economic development & tourism and promote transparency & communication.

The zoning update will begin laying the groundwork for a clearer and more effective system going forward. Part of the update includes the clarification of legal non-conforming use properties, which were developed under old zoning rules but no longer match the current zoning.

Owners of the legal non-conforming use properties can continue to operate the same way as long as they don't abandon the property or change it significantly, according

to the city's zoning update. Essentially, they are "grandfathered in" to the new zoning rules.

Examples of significant changes or updates to a legal non-conforming property that the new zoning rules would apply include: the use of the property changes (i.e. switching from a retail store to a restaurant), the property is sold to a new owner who wants to start a different use, the property is abandoned for a period of time or a major reconstruction or redevelopment occurs.

Providing the zoning updates at the open house was one of the first steps in sharing information with the community. The next steps will likely include city staff reviewing and making revisions based on feedback from the public and community stakeholders and the Planning & Zoning Commission having a discussion and refining

the changes, commencing with the city commission holding public hearings before adopting the zoning updates.

The "grandfathered in" approach of the zoning updates, according to the city, is to avoid forcing immediate changes and encourage gradual consistency throughout the community. The different stages of discussions, meetings and hearings before the city adopts the changes allow residents and property owners to have time to learn about them while asking questions and providing input.

During the open house, residents were invited to write out sticky notes of suggestions of improvements to various areas of the city, as well as provide their thoughts on what the city is doing well with. A Breckenridge Park survey is also available to be completed through Sunday, June 8.

Boomfest

Continued from Page 2

with the event, the music, the entertainment, the food trucks – all of that."

VanWinkle talked about other factors that played into the decision once they started looking more into it.

That includes fire hazards that come with fireworks and the loudness of fireworks that make them non-pet and non-PTSD friendly.

For a drone show, the drones are choreographed with lights to make animations in the sky. VanWinkle described that she met with a company called the Flylight Drone Show Company, which cre-

ated a rendition of a drone show for the chamber to see what it would look like.

"They would all be 4th of July related, obviously. We would love to do the Stephens County logo in the sky to be a part of that as well, and if we did sponsorships or things like that, we could do different logos in the sky," VanWinkle said. "They did tell me we don't want to do too many logos because that kind of overtakes the rest of the show... it just gives a little more versatility than the fireworks themselves."

In addition, this discussion was regarding only this year, but

VanWinkle hopes that if they get enough of a turnout and enough people interested in the show, they can continue to do it every year.

"If that is the case and then [we] book them annually, then that cost goes down to about \$10,000 to \$15,000 a year," she said. "It's just those initial ones where you're not on a contract with them."

One additional factor is that, while the fireworks show lasts about 30 minutes, the drone show will only be about 10 to 12 minutes, because the drones only stay charged for that long.

BEDC

Continued from Page 1

Under Coby Dye's leadership, Paris noted that the company is undergoing significant restructuring to improve operational efficiency and financial performance, which the CEO concurred with.

"R.E. Dye Manufacturing, Corp. is appreciative of and grateful to the BEDC for the recent incentive package generated for expansion and job retention in our home – Breckenridge," Coby Dye said in a statement to the Breckenridge American. "It is viewed as an investment by the community into the continued and future success of the company."

The approved \$150,000 incentive package includes cash-for-jobs incentives – monetary rewards provided by employers to encourage employees to reach specific goals.

This support will help the company modernize and adopt advanced machining technologies, ultimately enhancing profitability and ensuring long-term sustainability.

"Monies will be used to support improvement and modernization of equipment, which will performative-ly affect operational productivity and efficiency while also increasing financial stability. The company is aggressive-

ly pursuing diversification opportunities and exploring options for various processing possibilities," Dye said. "As the company expands, job opportunities in machining, quality, assembly and IT will be generated."

Paris talked about the investment that the BEDC made and what it means to Breckenridge as a whole.

"This is more than an investment in a company – it's an investment in Breckenridge jobs, skilled trades and our community's economic future," Paris said. "Coby's commitment to innovation and remaining competitive in Breckenridge aligns with the BEDC's mission to retain and grow local industry."

An investment of approximately \$3,261 per job retained or creat-

ed is reflected in the incentive package and works towards bolstering R.E. Dye's competitiveness in the precision manufacturing sector.

"Aircraft, aerospace and defense systems require constant updates and adjustments in standardization upgrades to sustain contractual relationships. For more than a century, the company has established itself as a leader, recognized for precision machining excellence throughout the industries we serve," Dye concluded. "The recent financial award by the BEDC, with future approval by the City of Breckenridge, will facilitate the company's continued role as a major player in the precision-machining world."

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Castro patriarch at 100...

For the next three weeks, there'll be too much about me, even if I apologize in advance for citing personal experiences, but they're the only kinds I've had.

At their core will be remembrances of commencement ceremonies, mostly where I've been privileged to speak. For brief and shining moments, I've joined graduates, families and fellow educators in celebrating familial love, joy and unbounded hopes and prayers that graduates might make this world a better place.

Would that our culture could emerge once more from the paintings of the late Norman Rockwell, whose artistry on The Saturday Evening Post magazine covers was reason enough to subscribe. Or perhaps reclaim the rhymes and cartoons penned by the inimitable "Dr. Seuss" (actual name: Theodore Geisel). You'll be better for

"Googling" the lives of these men and/or visiting their museums in Massachusetts and California, respectively....

•••
Digression aside, I'm re-claiming stand-out memories from some 300 ceremonies, spotlighting four from 1962, 1985 and 2025. At the first two, I was commencement speaker, and more recently, "punch proud" of two grandchildren who'll be freshmen at Howard Payne University this fall. That's where I was a freshman in 1956 and later was president, 1985-1997.

This day, the focus is on two ceremonies, both funeral in that they were the final school functions in rural locations where the good fight had been waged for several years before dwindling enrollment forced closure.

In 1963, it was London High School (near Junc-

tion), and in 1985, Old Glory (near Abilene). I was assured in both cases that my stumbling remarks weren't totally to blame....

•••
Weeping was heavy on both occasions. Undergirding, however, were memories of accomplishments that buoyed the communities' souls. Both ceremonies were held in simple structures, London's in an old barracks hauled in from a defunct military base, and Old Glory's last school remnant now serving as the community center. London's final class had four members, with Barbara Carpenter as valedictorian; Old Glory had three, with Maribel Castro as top student. Now Maribel Castro Garcia, she was one of a dozen children birthed by Isaac D. and Felicitas Mendoza Castro. Five siblings won the same honor.

Felicitas, born in Bry-



Don Newbury

The Idle American

an, TX, arrived in Mexico with her parents as a toddler. She met her true love in the State of Guanajuato, Mexico. They joined three other couples at 5 a.m. to be married following early mass.

The couple came to Texas in 1960, with the children—speaking only Spanish—arriving two years later.

Four had attended school in Mexico, but they all were Old Glory students, warmly received there. All graduated there except the two youngest who

See Newbury, Page 5

Ask Rusty: I'm a retired veteran; Why must I pay for Medicare?

Dear Rusty: I'm a retired Navy veteran who is going to be turning 65 years old this year. My question is concerning mandatory Medicare sign-up requirements. Why do I have to sign up for Medicare coverage at 65 when I can't start collecting full Social Security benefits until I turn 67? My Social Security benefits will not pay for my mandatory Medicare because I can't start collecting full Social Security benefits until I'm 67!

I currently pay for Tricare and utilize my local Veterans Administration medical facilities and referrals for my healthcare. With me turning 65 and having to wait until I'm 67 for my full Social Security benefits, it just seems unfair that I'll have to pay out of pocket Medicare monthly expenses for two years! Is there any way to avoid this unfair penalty?

Signed: Retired Navy Vet
Dear Retired Navy Vet: First, I want to thank you for your military service to our country.

Regarding your question, you should be aware that enrolling in Medicare is not mandatory, but there are consequences if you do not enroll when you become eligible (normally at age 65). For one thing, if you are a retired veteran on military TriCare, you will lose your TriCare benefits if you don't enroll in Medicare when you are eligible (TriCare requires that you enroll in Medicare when eligible). And, since you are not yet collecting Social Security, you will be required to separately pay the Medicare Part B premium directly to Medicare (they will bill you when you enroll in Medicare). Another potential consequence is that if you do not enroll in Medicare Part B when you are first eligible, you may incur a lifetime late enrollment penalty for enrolling in Part B later.

Something else to keep in mind is that there are two "parts" to Medicare - Part A (which is coverage for inpatient hospitalization services), and Part B, which is coverage for outpatient healthcare services (doctors, medical tests, etc.). Medicare Part A is free to you, but there is a premium for Medicare Part B (\$185/month for 2025). Note that you will need to pay a



Russell Gloor

Social Security Matters

Part B premium as long as you are enrolled in Medicare Part B (it doesn't go away after you are collecting Social Security, but it is taken from your Social Security payment). And there is no way for you to avoid the Part B premium after enrolling, and enrolling in Part B is necessary for you to continue your military TriCare-for-life benefits. Note that Medicare Part A and Part B do not include prescription drug coverage, but your TriCare coverage usually does.

It's important to note that Medicare and Social Security are two independent senior programs with different eligibility rules. As you may know, you can collect early (reduced) Social Security at age 65 (and have your Medicare Part B premium deducted from your SS payment). But you would be collecting Social Security early and, in addition to a reduced benefit, you would also be subject to Social Security's annual earnings test if you are still working. The SS earnings test limits how much you can earn before some of your SS benefits are taken away (if you exceed the earning limit prior to your full retirement age).

So, is it unfair that you must pay for Medicare Part B before you are collecting Social Security? Well, I think not, because the two programs are completely independent benefits (the Social Security Administration merely administers Medicare payments as a convenience). Remember your Medicare Part A is free, but you must pay a premium for Part B, and you must take both to retain your military TriCare-for-Life benefits. You can visit this site to see how to pay your Medicare premiums until it is later deducted from your Social Security payment: www.medicare.gov/basics/costs/pay-premiums/online-bill-pay.

Once again, thank you for your service to our country.

Rogers: Texas GOP is becoming anti-rural

Our great state is experiencing an explosive population boom. Yet most of the growth is in the Texas Triangle — anchored by Dallas-Fort Worth, San Antonio and Houston — with a combined population over 20 million. Many rural counties are declining. According to the Texas Demographic Center, more than half of the 254 counties in Texas decreased in population between 2010 and 2020, and 75 counties shrank in population between 2022 and 2023. Our state, once an agrarian and rural bastion, is urbanizing rapidly.

Texans, while living in mostly suburban and urban environments, should still care deeply about the issues facing their rural neighbors. Maintaining and strengthening rural America is crucial for food and water security, energy security and, ultimately, national security.

Historically, and by their chosen location, most rural Texans are independent-minded and support traditional conservative values of limited government (both federal and state) and local control. On red meat issues such as abortion

and guns, most rural Texans lean strongly to the right. Republicans have politically dominated rural Texas, everywhere except the Rio Grande valley, for decades.

Despite overwhelming rural support, the Republican Party of Texas is surprisingly anti-rural and opposed to legislative solutions for the most critical issues facing rural Texans. To get elected and stay elected in Texas, Republicans have to take their marching orders from organizations linked to party leadership and megadonors — organizations such as the Texas Public Policy Foundation, Texans for Fiscal Responsibility and the True Texas Project. These and other Republican-led advocacy groups make recommendations in elections and take positions on pending legislation. Their track record is consistently anti-rural.

Rural priorities

Based on my personal experience and discussions with rural-focused organizations, I would say the top priorities for rural Texas are supporting public schools, providing access to quality

health care, improving the quantity and quality of water resources, and improving communication capabilities. These four categories are important to all Texans, but the effects may be more acute in rural communities. Rural Texans struggle to access resources that their urban and suburban counterparts take for granted.

Unfortunately, these topics are not listed as legislative priorities by the current Republican Party of Texas, and bills dealing with these issues are consistently opposed by allied groups funded primarily by the party's biggest donors.

Public education

Public schools are the backbone and leading employers in rural communities. Without their public schools, small towns like Gordon and Strawn in southern Palo Pinto County, each with fewer than 250 students, would be devastated.

The sense of community created by these public schools is exhibited by the large attendance at the revered six-man football games. The community fills the stands, often with more fans than the town population.

Yet Texans for Fiscal



Glenn Rogers

Responsibility supported Senate Bill 2, now signed into law, creating a multibillion-dollar voucher entitlement program that will compete for funding with public schools. And that group opposed House Bill 2, which would provide a long-overdue boost to the per-student funding allotment, calling it a "massive new funding for public schools," as if paying teachers a competitive salary were a bad thing.

Rural health care

According to the Texas Organization of Rural and Community Hospitals, Texas' rural hospitals provide health care access for 13% of the population yet cover 85% of the state's geography. At least 20 rural hospitals have closed since 2010, and only 40% of our state's 158 rural hospitals still provide obstetrical care. The most isolated areas of Texas are more than 75 miles from the nearest hospital, and 74 counties do not have a hospital at all. More than 100,000 Texans live in one of 32 counties with no primary care doctor.

In the current legislative session, House Bill 18 by Rep Gary Vanderbeek, R-New Boston, seeks to stabilize rural health care delivery, support workforce development and enhance telemedicine access to ensure that rural Texans can receive high-quality care close to home. But

See Rogers, Page 5

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Breckenridge American (USPS 063-720/ISSN 2834-1082) is a publication of Palo Pinto Communications, LP and is published every Wednesday by Palo Pinto Communications LP, 1108 W. Walker St., Breckenridge, Texas 76424.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

Stephens Co. — \$45.00/yr
Adjoining County — \$55.00/yr
In-State — \$65.00/yr
Outside of Texas — \$84.00/yr

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Rogers

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Texans for Fiscal Responsibility opposes HB 18 because it “expands rural hospital grants and bureaucracy.”

Water resources

The Texas population is expected to exceed 51 million by 2070 and current water resources to supply this growing population are grossly inadequate. Texas will need to invest at least \$154 billion over the next 50 years in new supplies and infrastructure to meet the demand, according to Texas 2036.

Agriculture is the largest user of Texas water, with irrigation using 53% of total water and 74% of Texas groundwater, according to the Texas Water Development Board. Needless to say, water shortages, while affecting all Texans, are even more acutely felt by rural citizens in drought prone areas.

In 2023, a constitutional amendment creating the Texas Water Fund to assist in financing water projects in the state was approved by almost 78% of Texas voters. But the True Texas Project opposed the amendment, and stated, “This fund is socialistic and is government ownership of means of production.”

This session, House

Joint Resolution 7 by Rep. Cody Harris, R-Palvestine, satisfies Gov. Greg Abbott’s emergency request for action on this issue and proposes a constitutional amendment to dedicate a portion of the revenue derived from state sales taxes to the Texas Water Fund. This would follow the designated funds model used by the Texas Department of Transportation. But Texans for Fiscal Responsibility opposed it due to “billions in new constitutional spending.”

It would appear from the stances taken against funds dedicated to statewide water development that these groups, and the party they control, seek privatization of water, similar to their stance on schools.

Communication

Nearly a third of rural Texans don’t have internet access at adequate speeds, according to Texas 2036. This digital divide costs the state more than \$5 billion in lost economic activity. Nearly 1 million rural Texans cannot participate in remote learning, telemedicine or e-commerce. Rural communities sometimes pay up to five times more for at-home broadband

services than suburban communities.

A constitutional amendment was passed in 2023 that created the broadband infrastructure fund to expand high-speed internet access and assist in the financing of connectivity projects. Texans for Fiscal Responsibility opposed the measure, calling the amendment “corporate welfare.”

Shortsighted decisions like these will increase the rural exodus and ultimately increase costs for the rural Republican base.

How long will rural Texans continue supporting Republican politicians who clearly do not listen to the needs of rural Texas? To quote the classic Wolf Brand Chili commercial, “Well, that’s too long!”

This column originally appeared in The Dallas Morning News where Rogers is a contributing columnist.

Newbury

Continued from Page 4

transferred to Aspermont after Old Glory closed....

•••

So, they’re having Old Glory’s biggest party this century at 3 p.m., Saturday, May 31, 2025, to celebrate the 100th birthday of Isaac D. Castro. It’ll be held at the community center, where the couple will be honored by all 11 surviving children and spouses, 27 grandchildren, 23 “greats” and six “great-greats.” Seventy relatives in all, they’ll eat, laugh, love and share stories while listening to Papa’s favorite music.

It would be difficult to find a more thrilling story than the Castro’s. Space precludes details, but consider this: Children are Manuel, Joe, Violet (deceased in 2010 at age 59), Eustaquio, Isaac M., Pete, Sil-

via, Janie, Laura, Maribel, Marcos and Angela. They’ve become doctors, nurses, therapists, teachers, child protective service leaders and US Navy retirees. Isaac M. Castro is currently District Attorney for the 259 th Judicial District (Jones and Shackelford Counties).

It’ll be much more than a birthday party. They’ll honor a marriage of 79 years, and a work ethic spawned by the Bracero Program that enabled this wonderful family to live, learn and work on

Hal Yakey’s farm....

•••

Truly, they’ve lived the American dream.

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Live on, Castros, to serve. Live on.... (Next week’s column, the 1962 London graduation.)

•••

Dr. Newbury, a long-time speaker, may be contacted at 817-447-3872 or newbury@speakerdoc.com. At website www.speakerdoc.com, he reads his columns aloud, sometimes without stumbling...


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Breckenridge Devotional Page

1. Is the book of Hagarites (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Daniel 5, who was holding a great feast when handwriting appeared on the wall? Job, Belshazzar, Hagar, Hanun
3. Where did Jesus cause demons to go out of two men into a herd of pigs? Appii, Assos, Damascus, Gadarenes
4. Who used unfair labor practices at his brick-making establishment? Pharaoh, Silas, Joash, Jonathan
5. What did Nebuchadnezzar dream of that reached into heaven? Tree, River, Ladder, Rope
6. Who fasted 40 days and nights after being fed by an angel? Darius, Paul, Elijah, Ahab

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Belshazzar, 3) Gadarenes, 4) Pharaoh, 5) Tree, 6) Elijah

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FEATURES FROM THE BIBLE
TRUTH IN SCRIPTURE

Hagar and Ishmael Banished
Genesis 21


To celebrate Isaac being weaned, Abraham held a great feast. As Isaac and Ishmael were together, Sarah noticed that Ishmael was mocking Isaac. She demanded that Abraham get rid of Hagar and Ishmael.

Abraham was distressed, but the Lord told him to follow Sarah's demand because He had plans for Isaac. And the Lord promised to make Ishmael into a great nation too.

Early the next day Abraham sent Hagar and Ishmael into the desert of Beersheba with food and water. When the water was gone, Hagar came to tears. Ishmael was also crying. God heard Ishmael's crying and called to Hagar to assure her of His intention to care for her and Ishmael and make him into a great nation.

God opened Hagar's eyes and she saw a well of water from which she filled the water skins and gave Ishmael a drink.

Ishmael became an archer and at the proper age Hagar got him a wife from Egypt.



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E	N	S	I	G	N	A	V	A			
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Gravitt to compete Saturday in Oil Bowl

Alex Kielar
news@breckenridgeamerican.com

The 88th annual Maskat Shrine Oil Bowl Classic between the East and West Texas All-Stars takes place this weekend, with one former Buckaroo football player on the roster.

Breckenridge Class of 2025 graduate Zage Gravitt will be taking part as a member of the East Texas football All-Stars.

Kickoff is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 7 at Memorial Stadium in Wichita Falls. The Oil Bowl also features basketball and volleyball.

The 6'3", 170-pound quarterback is one of 15 athletes on the roster and only one of two quarterbacks.

The inception of the Oil Bowl started as a simple summertime West Texas versus East Texas high school all-star football game in 1938, according to its website, oilbowl.com.

Then, from 1945 through 2013, except for one year, the format was Texas versus Oklahoma.



Zage Gravitt started at quarterback for the Buckaroos during his senior year in the 2024 season and will now be competing in the 88th annual Maskat Shrine Oil Bowl Classic in Wichita Falls this weekend.

Archive photo

After Oklahoma decided not to participate in the bowl in 2014, the format went to a regional contest between East and West Texas footballers, with Wichita Falls as the north central point of the region.

Gravitt was the starting quarterback for the Buckaroos in his senior season this past year and also played on the basketball team in the winter.

Defensive end Adler Loftis was the last Buckaroo football player to participate in the Oil Bowl in 2023. Breckenridge also had

two football players at the Oil Bowl in 2022 and 2019, as well as one in 2016.

Jessi Warren was part of the East Texas Volleyball team in 2023.

Gravitt is committed to Cisco College, where he will compete as part of the quarterback room.

The coaches for East Texas All-Stars are Weatherford's Michael Swenson and Clifford Watkins of Glen Rose, while assistant coaches are Brad Blassingame of Petrolia and Iowa Park's Tyler Duggins.



Bucks baseball camp

Future Buckaroos from incoming first through incoming ninth grades participated in a three-day baseball camp from Tuesday, May 27 to Thursday, May 29. The camp culminated in the young participants playing a wiffle game. Assistant baseball coach Elijah McLane led the camp and was assisted by past and present Buckaroos, such as Nieko Martinez and Gunnar Pearce.

Photos / Alex Kielar

Skills camps begin next week

Alex Kielar
news@breckenridgeamerican.com

Future Buckaroos will soon have the chance to hone their skills and learn from the Breckenridge coaching staff as well as current and former student-athletes. There are a handful of summer skills camps coming up in multiple sports.

The Breckenridge High School basketball coaching staff, led by head coach Brent Lucas, will conduct the 2025 Buckaroo basketball camp Monday, June 9, through Wednesday, June 11, at the Breckenridge Athletic and Fine Arts Center Main Gym and Auxiliary Gym.

There will be two sessions each day of the camp: incoming first through fourth grade students from 9:15 to 11:15 a.m. and incoming fifth grade through ninth grade students from 1 to 3 p.m.

Also happening every Tuesday in June is a boys basketball spring league in which eight other schools will be participating in at BFAC.

Skills that campers will work on range from basic fundamental ball handling, dribbling, passing, shooting techniques and other offensive and defensive skills.

Players will also participate in various shooting competitions from layups to jump shots, set shots and free throws. A "hot

shot" competition will also occur each day, which is where players shoot from different "hot spots" marked on the court. A team competition will occur at the conclusion of the camp.

Camp goals, as set by Lucas, are for campers to have fun and to learn something about the game of basketball that can make them a better player.

The cost of the camp is \$40 per camper, and a discount will be provided if two or more campers from the same family sign up (\$70 for two from the same family).

A Lady Bucks sixth through eighth grade volleyball skills camp will take place Monday, June 16 and Tuesday, June 17, conducted by former Lady Buckaroo Jessi Warren.

Warren is currently attending Clarendon College, where she is a member of the women's volleyball team.

Beginning Monday, June 23 through Thursday, June 26, will be the inaugural BHS Softball Joni Jackson Hitting and Skills Camp at the Lady Bucks softball field. Jackson herself will help run the camp with head coach Jocelyn Gonzales.

Kindergarten through fourth graders will have the opportunity to participate the first two days from 8 a.m. to noon and fifth through eighth-graders will participate the final two days through the

same times.

The cost of the softball camp is \$55 per camper.

Following the success of the girls' basketball camp with the younger girls a couple of weeks ago, Lady Bucks head coach Sidnee Martinez will be hosting another skills camp for incoming seventh and eighth grade girls Friday, June 27.

Beginning at 10 a.m., the campers will work on various skills until noon, and then they are given an hour lunch break. Then, at 1 p.m., they will participate in a scrimmage with the green team versus the white team and the camp will conclude at 3 p.m.

The cost of this camp is \$40 per camper.

The summer strength and conditioning plans are also starting up in June, beginning next week. There will be a morning session from 8 to 10:30 a.m. and an evening session from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The evening session will not include skills. The schedule includes every Monday through Thursday from June through July, except for the Fourth of July holiday week.

Volleyball practices will begin Friday, Aug. 1, followed by football Monday, Aug. 4 and then classes begin Tuesday, Aug. 5.

The Buckaroos will hold their media day and intra-squad scrimmage Saturday, Aug. 9 at Buckaroo Stadium.

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