

## 183 North officially reopens, construction complete

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After starting five years ago and experiencing numerous delays, lane changes, and adjustments, the US 183 North construction project is now complete.

The roadway, also known as North Breckenridge Avenue, is officially reopened with all four lanes—two northbound and two southbound.

Construction workers

See US 183, Page 2



Five years in the making, the US 183 North construction project was fully completed Monday, June 2 and all four lanes -- two northbound and two southbound -- are officially back open to traffic.

Photo/Alex Kielar



Les and Sherry Strickland stand in front of a Carter BloodCare van in which Les put signage on to make residents aware of the Battle of the Badges Blood Drive going on at Texas State Technical College last week. The Stricklands have been very involved in the community for many years.

Photo/Alex Kielar

## Les and Sherry Strickland, a community staple

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Being involved in the community takes more than just doing your day-to-day and hoping for change overnight. It takes grit, determination and a fellowship of like-minded people to make a difference. Two people within the community of Breckenridge who go above and beyond to work at making the city a better place while maintaining

the BRECK core values (Bold, Responsible, Educated, Compassionate and Knowledgeable) are Les and Sherry Strickland.

The married couple, who have been together for nearly 30 years, are heavily involved in the Breckenridge community, and that involvement dates back many years.

Les is a retired U.S. Marine with more than 20

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## Bufkin named acting Fire Marshal

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Following the Stephens County Commissioners Court's appointment of Brian McBride as county con-

stable last month, the county then requested that City of Breckenridge Fire Chief Malcolm Bufkin be named acting Stephens County Fire Marshal. These two appointments come as the

county and city work towards filling the tremendous void left by the death of Wayne McMullen in April, who wore many hats for both entities.

The city commission approved entering into an interlocal agreement with the city to name Bufkin as acting Fire Marshal at their Tuesday, June 3 meeting. While City Manager Cynthia Northrop said that she had a concern with the position

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Breckenridge Fire Chief Malcolm Bufkin has been at the forefront of many happenings in the City of Breckenridge and Stephens County, more recently being at the center of the BFD asking the city for a new fire station. Bufkin was recently appointed Stephens County Fire Marshal as part of an interlocal agreement between the two entities.

Photo/Alex Kielar

## County talks procedures for names on veterans memorial monument process

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The process for the names of deceased Stephens County veterans getting onto the veterans memorial monument, on the southwest lawn of the Stephens County courthouse, will soon undergo changes.

County commissioners, at a workshop in late May, agreed to take over the whole process of getting

names installed on the monument, including providing all of the funding and planning the Memorial Day ceremony. The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 7767 and Auxiliary had been in charge of everything but have recently struggled to keep afloat and hold a proper ceremony. The county had just been providing the lawn and the VFW was tak-

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Breckenridge Police Chief Blake Johnson, middle, prepares to donate blood during the Battle of the Badges Blood Drive Thursday, June 5 and is joined by other members of his department.

Photo/Alex Kielar

## Battle of the Badges brings in summer blood donations

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The ninth annual Battle of the Badges Blood Drive, coordinated by the Breckenridge Rotary Club and Carter Blood-

Care, took place last week.

The drive occurred Thursday, June 5 and June 6 at Texas State Technical College and Breckenridge Medical Center, with donors be-

ing invited to vote for their favorite local first responder group.

The badges that those who donated blood were able to vote for were

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### Weekly Local Forecast

<b>Wednesday, June 11</b> High 81   Low 68 Precipitation 48%	<b>Thursday, June 12</b> High 87   Low 71 Precipitation 38%	<b>Friday, June 13</b> High 92   Low 72 Precipitation 24%	<b>Saturday, June 14</b> High 93   Low 74 Precipitation 24%
<b>Sunday, June 15</b> High 96   Low 74 Precipitation 23%	<b>Monday, June 16</b> High 96   Low 75 Precipitation 22%	<b>Tuesday, June 17</b> High 98   Low 75 Precipitation 10%	<b>Hubbard Creek</b> At capacity: 1,183.00 Current: 1,171.59

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# Obituaries



## Johnny Wade, Sr.

November 2, 1958 – June 5, 2025

Johnny Clifton Wade, Sr., age 67 of Breckenridge, passed away Thursday, June 5, 2025. He resided in Stephens County. Graveside services were held at 10 a.m. Monday, June 9 at Wayland Cemetery. Interment followed under the direction of Morehart Mortuary.

Johnny was born Nov. 2, 1958, in Olney, to Robert Ivie Wade and Margrett Duggan Wade McKenzie. Johnny was raised in church and attended Seventh Day Adventist in Alabama as a child. He later attended

church at Calvary Baptist in Graham and was baptized at Shelton Avenue Baptist Church in Breckenridge, where he took his children. His mother, Margrett, made sure the Wade boys grew up having a relationship with God. The family lived on various ranches in Alabama and Texas where their father was a ranch foreman.

Johnny was always a very hard-working man. He worked for over 40 years before retiring. He started his career in oilfield construction, then worked on pulling units, and then later became one of the best dozer operators in Stephens County. He owned and operated his own dozer company, Wade Dozer, for many years. He loved being on heavy machinery and he was a fantastic operator on all equipment. His brother James said Johnny did his best work alone.

Johnny Wade had a humble personality, and he was a man of few words. He lived a simple life, and he never needed materialistic things to make him happy. Johnny found joy in his family. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and camping at the lake with family and friends. Johnny loved the outdoor life.

During his younger years, Johnny was known as a rebel. He was raised in a family of five boys and was highly respected by his siblings due to his fighting abilities. He may have had a mean streak in his younger years, but later in life you could find him volunteering monthly at the local food pantry held at First Methodist Church Breckenridge.

He enjoyed helping others and was often seen lending a helping hand to others who were experiencing rough times. Johnny may have seemed "rough around the edges" because of his gruff demeanor, but he had a servant's heart. In his retirement years he never grew idle. He was always busy repairing motors and small machinery or gathering scrap iron.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and six brothers, Bill Wade, Don Wade, Bobby Wade, Ivie Wade, Danny Wade and Richard Whitmire.

Johnny is survived by his two sons, Johnny C. Wade, Jr. and Becky and William Robert "Billy Bob" Wade and Kim; and two stepdaughters, Christina Warner and Dan and Jennifer Pearce and Jen. He is also survived by his former spouse and mother of his children, Cindy Bernhardt, who was very dear to him.

Johnny had one surviving brother, James Wade and wife Donna; and numerous grandchildren that he loved dearly.

Memorials can be made to Café Love of First Methodist Church Breckenridge and may be left at Morehart Mortuary. Condolences may be made online at [www.morehartmortuary.net](http://www.morehartmortuary.net).

# Summer reading program underway



The Breckenridge Library summer reading program got underway last Tuesday, June 3 and will go on for another five weeks after yesterday's program. The library is following the state's theme for 2025, which is Color Our World. Each book that is read to the kids, from toddler age to fifth grade, will include a coloring activity that is related to the book. Breckenridge ISD Library Coordinator Abby Moore read the first book and other instructors will read for the other weeks.

Photo/Alex Kiehar

## Strickland

Continued from Page 1

years of service. Upon returning to the United States from Operation Desert Storm in 1991, he was sent to a U.S. Army reserve center in Abilene, according to a 2020 Breckenridge American article. It was during that time that he first started coming to Breckenridge and met Sherry. Retiring from the U.S. Military in 1994, Les quickly became embedded in the Breckenridge community along with Sherry.

Les provided advice for the youth of the community who have the possible inclination of entering the military and to assure them of the big commitment that it is, no matter how long a person serves.

In addition to helping out the youth, Les also ran Strickland's Inspection to assist residents of Breckenridge, Stephens County and surrounding areas for many years, providing home in-

spection and offering real estate inspections.

Both Les and Sherry have been involved with the Breckenridge Rotary Club for many years and each has been president at one time. Sherry joined the Rotary Club in 1993 and was president in 1995, while Les joined in 2013 and was president in 2015. While Les wasn't officially a member until 2013, he was still involved and remembers donating blood at drives put on by the club at Texas State Technical College (formerly Texas State Technical Institute) for at least 20 years.

Sherry also worked for Texas State Technical College for 26 years, starting there when it was still Texas State Technical Institute in 1989.

With the Breckenridge Rotary Club celebrating its 96th anniversary this year, the Stricklands have helped head up the support for the Ste-

phens County Humane Society and Breckenridge Animal Shelter this year with 96 donations of large bags of dog food. They also talked about coming up with other similar projects for each year leading up to and including the 100th anniversary in 2029.

The Stricklands have coordinated the Battle of the Badges Blood Drive with Carter BloodCare for all nine years of its existence and also coordinate blood drives throughout the year at TSTC, which they did even before the Battle of the Badges began.

Other work that the Stricklands have been involved with includes the "Reclaim Breckenridge" project, in which they worked towards cleaning up the streets and garbage, coordinating specific days for garbage pickup. They noted that they struggled getting volunteers for the project, which ultimately led to it going by the wayside.

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## US 183

Continued from Page 1

contracted through Texas Department of Transportation began the final striping of the roadway Monday, June 2 and were finished by the end of the day, as they cleaned up the cones and had all lanes ready for traffic in mid-afternoon.

The construction project originally began in 2020 and was once scheduled for completion in 2022, but had seen numerous delays, with severe weather and rainy conditions causing more delays on the project.

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A veteran points at a name on the Stephens County veterans monument in the courthouse lawn following the Memorial Day service Monday, May 26. The process of getting deceased veteran names and inscribing them onto the monument is going through changes,

Photo | Alex Kielar

## Memorial

Continued from Page 1

ing care of everything else.

“They used to get up in full uniform out on the lawn, play taps. I mean, it was a really nice celebration. Like they do in other counties, but that’s all gone away,” Judge Roach said. “So, the county actually started paying for it a couple of years ago in their budget. We started budgeting the engraving because they couldn’t afford to do it.”

The conversations on changing the process were sparked by Breckenridge Texan’s Tony Pilkington, a veteran himself, bringing it to the attention of the commissioner’s court that Vietnam War veteran Dwain “Pops” Brannan of Breckenridge was not included in the names added to the monument this year after he died last year, as well as a potential 11 other unverified veterans.

Brannan was a prominent member of the community and grew up in Breckenridge before being drafted into the United States Army after college. He served in the Vietnam War until his honorable discharge, according to his obituary, before coming back to Ste-

phens County. Before his death, Brannan was involved in the Stephens County Memorial Day services, playing Taps to conclude the ceremony for many years.

The process had been the county receiving a list of names from the VFW post and then reaching out to the families of the deceased veterans of Stephens County, and if the family filled out an application, the name would be added. The commissioners court and County Judge Michael Roach were on the same page, along with Pilkington and Stephens County Veterans Services Director Les Strickland, that any veterans who lived in Stephens County long-term and were honorably discharged, should be added to the monument the year after their death, no matter if the family applies or not. The only exception that the commissioners talked about is if the family can’t make it to the ceremony that year and wants to wait until the following year. The other sticking point was that if a family declines, they need to provide a valid reason for the county not to move forward with putting the name on the monument.

It was decided between the commissioners and Strickland that the veteran services director will provide a monthly list of veteran names who passed away that he receives from the Texas Veterans Commission.

The commissioners also decided to have quarterly meetings to discuss the process and then have more frequent meetings as it gets closer to Memorial Day. They also agreed that they will give themselves a deadline of 45 days before the holiday to get the names finalized, which would allow enough time for the names to be engraved on the stone. Part of the process of getting the list of names together will also involve verifying everything and ensuring that every name was, in fact, a veteran.

As part of the planning for the ceremony itself, the court also decided that they will have the local funeral homes provide tents and chairs.

The next time the commissioners’ court and Strickland will meet regarding the veterans’ names is scheduled for sometime in July. Strickland said that he thought the county is going in a good direction as they take over the process.



The process of getting veterans’ names and inscribing them on the monument at the Stephens County Courthouse is going through changes as the county is taking control of both the name process and planning of the Memorial Day service.

Photo | Alex Kielar

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## Marshal

Continued from Page 1

not having any additional remuneration, she said that the work is a lot of what Bufkin is already involved in.

Per the interlocal agreement between the county and city for fire protection and first responder services, the fire marshal is “authorized to review and update all fire incident reports filed

by the fire department with the State Fire Marshal’s office.”

The fire marshal is also responsible for recommending burn bans to be implemented or lifted, as well as being part of investigating the causes of fires.

“In Malcolm’s opinion, it wouldn’t require a whole lot of extra work. There would be

some, but not a whole lot of extra work,” Northrop said. “And it is not a permanent thing, it’s acting.”

Bufkin has been the Breckenridge Fire Chief since September 2022, when he was appointed by the city commission following the resignation of former fire chief Calvin Chaney earlier that year.

## Badges

Continued from Page 1

the Breckenridge Police Department, the Breckenridge Fire Department, the Stephens County Sheriff’s Office or Sacred Cross EMS.

After the first day of donations, the drive had 26 donors and a total of 47 donations when the drive ended Friday.

The annual event, which is a dual effort between Rotary Club members Les and Strickland and Cater BloodCare, is a way for the organization to fill the void that they experience during summer months when they are unable to hold blood drives at schools.

While signing in for the blood drive, donors were asked to fill out a ballot to choose between BPD, BFD, SCSO or Sacred Cross.

The winner will be announced later this summer, and they will receive a plaque

and bragging rights for the year.

Last year’s winner was the Breckenridge Fire Department, which has won five of the eight years.

Every donor received a Battle of the Badges T-shirt.

The Stricklands hold about three to four other blood drives

throughout the year in conjunction with Carter BloodCare, typically at TSTC. The next drive will be in September.

Les Strickland said the blood drives have been ongoing for at least two decades at that location, well before the Battle of the Badges began.

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- 3 You'll boost the local economy**  
By advertising in your community newspaper, you'll be supporting the local economy. You'll help the papers' reporters, advertising representatives, carriers, graphic designers, copywriters and other employees keep their jobs. Moreover, you'll work with people who understand the local market.
- 4 You'll save money**  
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## Making do at London school...

The event is “brain-etched,” deeply embedded and validated by the calendar. It was May of 1962, all “heady stuff” for a one-year-out-of-college guy invited to make a commencement address.

The distance was 87 miles from Brownwood to London in Texas’ beautiful Hill Country, where I would speak at graduation exercises for four seniors at a school that would cease to exist a year later.

What did I know about speaking? Reeling after accepting Superintendent Doris Johnson’s invitation, my mind whirled with scattered thoughts of what I might say upon reaching the podium....

•••

She and her sister, Miss Freddie Johnson, school principal, had kept things stitched together as long as they could. Doris—no doubt

counting pennies to keep the school open—asked about my honorarium. I didn’t know an honorarium from a wheelbarrow, but later received a check for \$20.22. It included \$15 as the honorarium and three cents per mile for travel.

I know; I was overpaid. Most talks I’ve made have been without regard for remuneration, since I was typically representing institutions where I was employed—Sul Ross State University, Tarrant County Junior College, Western Texas College and Howard Payne University. It was my first monetary “thank you.”

I claimed my institutions to be “knowledge centers of the world.” what with freshmen bringing so much in and seniors taking so little out, knowledge was stacking up, I joked. This night in London—decades before

test scores, edicts from ill-advised state political leaders, skimpy funding and other factors forced closure of small schools—was magical.

Unquestionably, I gleaned more from the experience than the graduates did. That was more than 6,000 “talks” ago, including some 300 where I inflicted “go-forth-and-serve” verbiage on graduates salivating at thoughts of going out to parties—right after hugs, photos and abandoning graduation garb....

•••

Glances in every direction found expressions of pride. London—with 49 K-12 students when it closed—had a state-winning high school newspaper, *The Flash*, and fielded sports teams when there were enough students to do so. School personnel wore innumerable “hats.” I mean,



Don Newbury

### *The Idle American*

how many superintendents do you know who coached a girls’ volleyball team and crammed eight players into a sedan for the 125-mile trek to Austin for state competition? That was before seat belts, graduate and team member Barbara Stewart wrote in her memoirs.

The Flash was printed on a machine called a “spirit duplicator,” and staff members often were stained with the “purple stuff” each time they published.

With a headline

See Newbury, Page 5

## Ask Rusty: Social Security questions asked over coffee

Dear Rusty: My coffee conversations among a group of friends have resulted in several questions about Social Security:

1. What happens to the Social Security account of someone who dies before retirement age. What happens to that money and where does it end up?

2. How does the decreased birth rate of the USA affect future Social Security benefits?

3. Is a person who has never contributed to the Social Security System entitled to any benefits from the Social Security Administration?

4. Is there a central location online that a person can access that explains the history and current status of the Social Security System, that explains all of it in simple terms. I would like to be able to give this location to people I talk with about Social Security.

Most of the articles we read are like slogging through mud! I enjoy AMAC articles and am college educated, but the average reading level in the US is less than 6th grade. Thank you for considering these questions. **Signed: Curious Reader**

Dear Curious: Thank you for your readership, and I’ll be happy to tackle your “over coffee” questions about Social Security:

1. Social Security is a “pay as you go” program, where all money collected from workers is used to pay benefits for all those who are currently receiving Social Security. In other words, all money contributed is used to pay benefits to others already receiving benefits. It is not put into a separate account for each person, and that is a good thing. Most people get more from Social Security than they ever contributed, but benefits are paid for life, regardless of how long one lives. The specific answer to your question is that if someone dies before retirement age, the money contributed has already been used to pay benefits to others. Keep in mind though, that a surviving spouse or minor or disabled adult child may also collect benefits on a deceased person’s Social Security record.

2. There are lots of places to get information about Social Security, but I suggest you start at our AMAC Foundation Social Security information website, which can be found at [www.socialsecurityreport.org](http://www.socialsecurityreport.org). Here you will find numerous articles about Social Security, retirement, Medicare, etc., as well as all the Ask Rusty articles I have published weekly over the last 8 years. You can also find excellent Social Security information on our AMAC Foundation main website, [www.amacfoundation.org](http://www.amacfoundation.org).



Russell Gloor

### *Social Security Matters*

3. The decreasing birth rate in the US hurts Social Security. That’s because fewer babies mean fewer future workers contributing to the Social Security program. FYI, in 1950 there were about 15 workers contributing to SS for every one person collecting benefits, but today there are less than 3 workers for each SS beneficiary. That problem is exacerbated by the steadily increasing U.S. life expectancy. Beneficiaries are now often collecting SS benefits for decades from a program designed to pay benefits for only a few years.

3. Only those who have worked and contributed to Social Security through payroll taxes for about 10 years (40 quarters of SS credit) are eligible to collect SS Retirement benefits. However, some dependent spouses and/or dependent minor or dependent disabled children who have never worked might also be eligible for benefits from the worker’s Social Security record. Along with each U.S. state, the SSA also administers another program, known as Supplement Security Income (SSI), on behalf of the federal government. However, federal “SSI” benefits are not paid with Social Security funds. “SSI” is a separate government benefit program, with federal benefits paid from the general U.S. Treasury.

4. There are lots of places to get information about Social Security, but I suggest you start at our AMAC Foundation Social Security information website, which can be found at [www.socialsecurityreport.org](http://www.socialsecurityreport.org). Here you will find numerous articles about Social Security, retirement, Medicare, etc., as well as all the Ask Rusty articles I have published weekly over the last 8 years. You can also find excellent Social Security information on our AMAC Foundation main website, [www.amacfoundation.org](http://www.amacfoundation.org).

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## Golden: Life is messy

Life is what happens while you are making other plans. I have devoted a lot of space in this column to planning and goal setting. Reality offers an endless barrage of diversions, detours, challenges, and obstacles. This fact doesn’t negate the benefit of preparation. It simply requires an understanding of the type of forces at work.

A sailor would be remiss if he didn’t understand how to handle storms, currents, tides, sandbars, fog, and darkness. Although the sailor has a clear desti-

nation in mind, the sea has its own characteristics that can’t be avoided or overcome. Should a mariner deny its existence his time afloat is certainly limited.

Just as the seasoned mariner recognizes and comprehends the behavior of the ocean, you need to accept the existence of life’s surprises. Once you do this, you will enhance your ability to successfully navigate the sea of life.

What should you do when your day becomes messy? How do

you weather storms and avoid being derailed by obstacles. How do you respond when your plans fall apart? What strategy is appropriate when you feel things are going from bad to worse?

A messy day is no more unusual than waves on the water. Just go with the flow. Don’t panic or despair. Problems will be resolved and pass. With time they will seem insignificant if they are remembered at all. Accept messy days as normal and a fact of nature. You can’t stop or



Bryan Golden

prevent them but you can ride them out.

Imagine walking down a bowling lane while people were bowling. You had no choice; you needed to get from one end to the other. What would you do? If you were to panic and stand still you would surely get hit by a bowling ball. To avoid injury, you would need to keep moving while constantly changing direction to avoid oncoming balls. Yet you would always have the other end of the lane in sight.

Employing this strategy, you would make it to the end of the lane unscathed. You begin each day at one end of the lane. The far end represents the end of the day. Some days there are no balls being thrown at you. Other days they are non-stop. Your life is no more than many days lined up in a row. If you get through each one, you get through life.

There are those days when everything feels like it’s going down hill fast. One problem is followed by another. You barely have time to catch your breath. So be it. It happens. The challenge is to maintain your attitude in the face of this barrage. This isn’t easy. But if you don’t do it you risk becoming overwhelmed.

Separate the issues. Deal with each one independently. Choose a course of action for each, take it, and then move onto the next

See Golden, 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](mailto: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.

## Breckenridge American

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# Golden

Continued from Page 4

one. Don't analyze things to death. Make a decision. If you don't, someone or something will make it for you and it may not be one you are happy with.

All the problems together are like a big box filled with bricks. Trying to move the box while it's full is extremely difficult, if not impossible. Take one brick at a time and you can move any size box regardless of what it weighs when it's loaded to capacity.

These are just a few suggestions. Find the one that works for you and stick with it. You

have to get through each day anyway, so you may as well be an active participant. If you through your hands up in frustration, you throw away your rudder and make yourself vulnerable to drifting out of control.

Life is messy. Develop techniques to make the best of things and do what it takes to get the most from each day.

*Bryan is the author of "Dare to Live Without Limits." Contact Bryan at Bryan@columnist.com or visit www.DareToLiveWithoutLimits.com Copyright 2025 Bryan Golden*

# Matters

Continued from Page 4

org. And, of course, you can always ask any questions you have via email to SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org. Or, if you prefer, you can just call us on 1.888.750.2622 if you have questions about Social Security or about Medicare enrollment.

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# Newbury

Continued from Page 4

announcing "Don Newbury to Speak at Commencement," I was flattered by the generous welcome. After all, they didn't know me from a Fuller Brush salesman! Sadly, the school—the very soul of the community—was teetering toward closure that would lead to a withering of the community. It always does....

Would you believe, though, that now—more than 60 years later—the community again has a newspaper? The London Lobo—also printed on 8.5x11 paper—is highlighted by photos in living color.

The free monthly publication is available at London and nearby Junction store locations, featuring mostly announcements, poetry and historical accounts.

A recent ad announced a missing Black Angus bull....

Editor/publisher Brian Jeter came to town a few years back, tired of a "cubical life" as a San Antonio engineer. He's the "go to" guy for London items, beating the drums promoting the good life there. Like the mythical Don Quixote—the windmill-tilting figure in 17th century fiction—Jeter is a "one-man band" in London, always around and always helping others.

I learned much during my long-ago London visit. I salute those who "made do" back then. Today, I wish only good things for Jeter and London residents as they continue a daunting, arms-wide-open invitation to a place where there are frequent pauses to

smell the roses, stare at beautiful sunsets and make new friends.

Such can be the new norm, or is it a welcome return to an old one?....

*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 Proverbs (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
  2. Where did Jesus ride a colt as people strewed branches along His path? Derbe, Jericho, Jerusalem, Joppa
  3. Who promised God if He gave her a baby boy no razor would ever touch his head? Rachel, Hannah, Lois, Jezebel
  4. What was the river that the Israelites crossed when they entered Canaan? Pison, River of Fire, Jordan, Tigris
  5. From 1 Kings 20, which city's walls fell on 27,000 men? Jericho, Samaria, Sodom, Aphek
  6. Who sold his birthright to his brother? Cain, Esau, Judas, Isaiah
- ANSWERS: (1) Old, (2) Jerusalem, (3) Hannah, (4) Jezebel, (5) Aphek, (6) Esau

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

Abraham and Abimelech  
 From Genesis 20 and 21

Abraham was living in Gerar where he claimed that Sarah was his sister, fearing that one of the inhabitants would want her for himself and would kill Abraham. Abimelech did just as Abraham had thought and sent for Sarah to live with him.

God came to Abimelech in a dream told him that Sarah was a married woman. Abimelech pleaded his innocence explaining that Abraham had claimed Sarah was his sister. Abimelech had not yet gone near Sarah.

Abimelech approaches Abraham and asks for an explanation. Abraham defended his action by saying that he thought no one in that region would fear God and would likely kill him for his wife. He explained that Sarah was really his half sister.

Abimelech sent Sarah back to Abraham along with many head of cattle and sheep and much silver.

Peace was made and God healed Abimelech, his wife and his slave girls so that they could have children again, for he had closed up their wombs because of Abraham's wife Sarah.

Later there was a conflict between Abraham and Abimelech over a well Abraham had dug. Peace was made and Abraham planted a tree and called upon the name of the Lord.

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**June 11, 2025**  
**REQUEST FOR BANK DEPOSITORY BIDS**

The City of Breckenridge, a municipal corporation of Stephens County, Texas, will receive sealed, marked bids at the office of the City Manager, 105 North Rose Avenue, until 10:00 A.M., Friday, June 27, 2025, for the following:

**Bid Call 25-10**  
**Request for Bank Depository Bids for Fiscal Year 2025-2030**

All bids will be publicly opened and tabulated by city staff at 10:00 A.M., Friday, June 27, 2025, at the City Offices, 105 North Rose Avenue, for consideration by the City Commission in a regular meeting on Tuesday, July 1, 2025, at 5:30 P.M. in the City Commission Chambers, 105 North Rose Avenue.

The City reserves the right to accept the bid or bids determined most advantageous to the City or to reject any or all bids. Detailed specifications are available at the City Offices, 105 North Rose Avenue, Breckenridge, Texas as well as online: [https://www.breckenridgetx.gov/departments/city\\_secretary/public\\_notices.php](https://www.breckenridgetx.gov/departments/city_secretary/public_notices.php)

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

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**Even Exchange answers**

1. Cannon, Canyon	6. Joint, Joist
2. Walter, Wagon	7. Patron, Patrol
3. String, Spring	8. Model, Yodel
4. Ballet, Bullat	9. Repeat, Repeal
5. Hardy, Harty	10. Miner, Mier

**SCRAMBLERS solution**

1. Dread 2. Gust;  
3. Slump; 4. Censor

Today's Word  
**USELESS**

— **King Crossword** —  
Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

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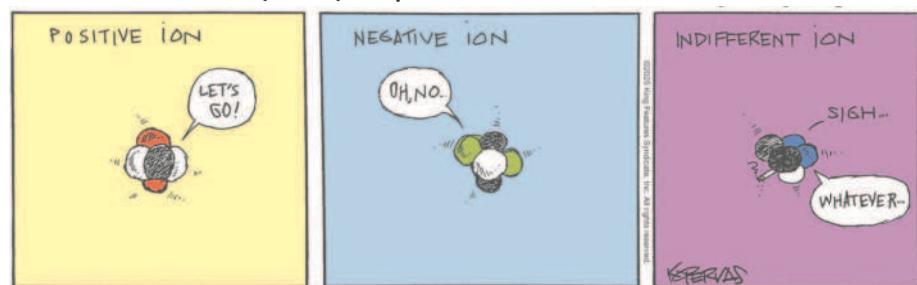
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# ENTERTAINMENT

 Midweek Edition

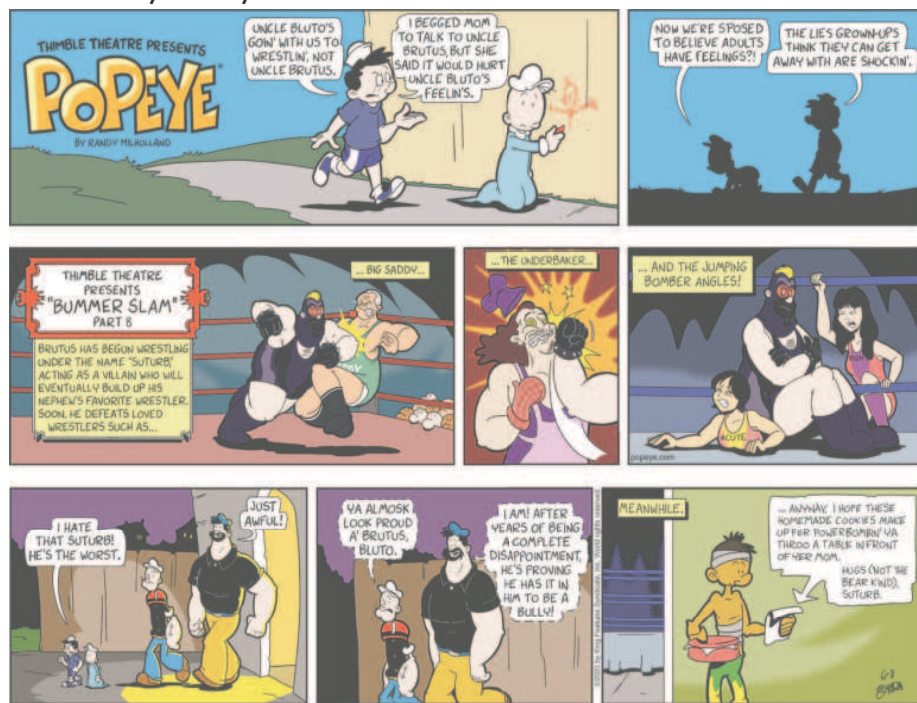
## OUT ON A LIMB by Gary Kopervas



## 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 MISILER. Do not change the order of the letters.

- |                     |           |                  |           |
|---------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|
| 1. Field gun        | ___ N ___ | Arizona's Grand  | ___ Y ___ |
| 2. Oasis attraction | ___ T ___ | Place a bet      | ___ G ___ |
| 3. Thread           | T         | Planting season  | P         |
| 4. Pavlova act      | ___ A ___ | Ammunition       | ___ U ___ |
| 5. Within reach     | ___ N ___ | Laurel's partner | ___ R ___ |
| 6. Knee or elbow    | ___ N     | Roof beam        | ___ S     |
| 7. Customer         | ___ N     | Walk a beat      | ___ L     |
| 8. Runway walker    | M         | Swiss song       | Y         |
| 9. Of late          | C         | Confess          | P         |
| 10. Gold digger     | ___ N     | Skinflint        | ___ S     |

## 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 gap!

Dismay  
**RAED**

Flurry  
**TUGS**

Drop  
**PLUMS**

Restrict  
**SCORNE**

**TODAY'S WORD**

## ACROSS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12						13				
14						15				
16					17	18			19	
20			20	21			22	23		
24	25	26		27		28		29	30	31
32			33				34			
35					36				37	
		38	39		40			41		
42	43			44	45			46	47	48
50			51				52	53		
54							55			
56							57			

1 Bog  
 6 Sidesteps  
 12 Net defender  
 13 Swiss metropolis  
 14 "The Joy Luck Club" author  
 15 Porter  
 16 Cuban money  
 17 Despot  
 19 Mormon church, for short  
 20 "Shoot!"  
 22 Hot tub  
 24 Egyptian cobra  
 27 Curved molding  
 29 Ethereal  
 32 2002 Aerosmith single  
 35 Lamb alias  
 36 Salt formula  
 37 "Mayday!"  
 38 "Ain't — Sweet" (classic song)  
 40 Memorandum  
 42 Halloween  
 44 "Star Wars" actor  
 46 Bulletproof garment  
 50 Enter  
 52 Asian capital  
 54 Expired  
 55 Roast hosts  
 56 Off the hook  
 57 Indulgent  
 9 Captures again  
 10 Tube spot  
 11 Chumps  
 12 Hiatus  
 18 Pop rocker  
 21 Lettuce variety  
 23 Shriver of tennis  
 24 Mature  
 25 Part of RSVP  
 26 Immaculate  
 28 Accompanied  
 30 Classic car  
 31 Cen. parts  
 33 — -di-dah  
 34 Last (Abbr.)  
 39 Devour  
 41 Kick out  
 42 Folklore monster  
 43 Cajole  
 45 Abolitionist  
 47 "En garde" weapon  
 48 Crystal gazer  
 49 Poetic contraction  
 51 — de plume  
 53 I love (Lat.)

Look for answers in the Classifieds.

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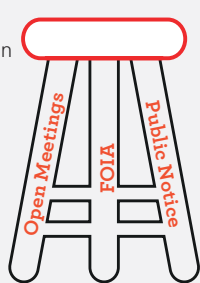
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## Why Public Notice Should Remain in Newspapers

Along with open meeting and freedom of information laws, public notice is an essential element of the

**three-legged stool** of government transparency



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



This is **not** about "newspapers vs the internet". It's **newspapers and newspaper websites vs government websites**

and newspaper websites have a much larger audience. Moving notice from newspapers to government websites would **reduce the presence of public notices on the internet**

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

**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.**



## Gravitt throws five touchdowns in Oil Bowl Classic win

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Before he ventures off to Cisco College, Zage Gravitt showed off a strong representation of the Breckenridge Buckaroo way at the Masket Shrine Oil Bowl Football Classic at Memorial Stadium in Wichita Falls over the weekend.

Not only did he represent the Buckaroos, but he also represented Wichita Falls, where he went his first three years before transferring to Breckenridge for his senior year.

As a member of the East Texas All-Stars, Gravitt took to the field Saturday, June 7 for the 88th annual Oil Bowl. He wasted no time making his mark on the game. After a failed first drive for the West Texas All-Stars, Gravitt threw a deep ball over the middle to Ashtyn Berry of Holliday for a touchdown two plays into the drive.

East later added a field goal to make it 10-0 following a fumble recovery in the red zone. Bouncing back from an interception on the previous drive, Gravitt scrambled from his own 39 yard line all the way down to the West 38 yard line on a 3rd and 10. Then on 3rd and 14, he once again found Berry, this time in the corner of the end zone for his second touchdown at 4:06 remaining in the opening quarter.

After a quarter of play, East was leading 16-0 and spent a ma-



A Cisco College commit, Zage Gravitt represented Breckenridge and Wichita Falls at the Oil Bowl Football Classic at Memorial Stadium in Wichita Falls over the weekend. The gunslinger threw for five touchdowns as a member of the East All-Stars.

Photo/Alex Kielar

majority of the second quarter with possession of the ball. Gravitt ran away from defenders on multiple occasions and was cool under pressure. With 10 seconds left, he snapped the ball at the West 20 yard line and ran out of the pocket to his right before firing across his body to find Braden Rhyne in the right corner of the endzone for his third touchdown to end the half.

Neither team could capitalize on chances in a scoreless third quarter. The third quarter ended with another fumble recovery for East inside the West 15 yard line. Gravitt began the fourth quarter throwing his fourth touchdown pass on the day, this one to

Jaedin Kim of Holliday.

West could not get anything going on offense and East began to run the ball as they worked some clock with under six minutes to go. Then on 3rd and 11, Gravitt put a stamp on his day with another bomb over the middle of the field for his fifth touchdown. East All-Stars went for two as it was 38-0 with under three minutes to go and that would be the final.

"It was good, I had a fun weekend playing with the guys... I just came in here and played the game I know how to play and we had a great time," Gravitt said after the game. "It was a good feeling to represent the schools that I came from."

## Breck athletes represent at FCA All-Star Festival

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The Breckenridge Buckaroos had a strong presence at the Big Country Fellowship of Christian Athletes All-Star Festival, which took place in Abilene and Brownwood. In total, Breckenridge had five athletes participating in the festivities and two coaches.

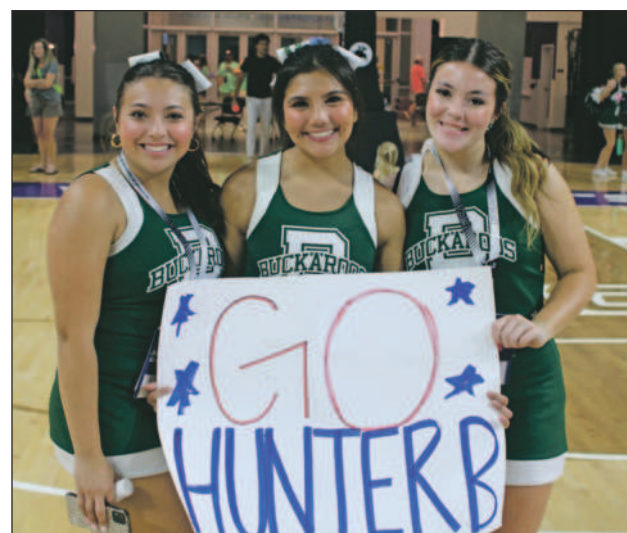
The first athlete up was Joni Jackson, who took part in the Big Country FCA All-Star softball all-star game Thursday, June 5, at Lady Lion Field in Brownwood. Her former coach, Jocelyn Gonzales, had the opportunity to coach against her as she coached the Blue team against Jackson's Red team.

In the game, Jackson continued her dominance on the softball field as she prepares for her college career at Weatherford College. She was 2-for-2 with a triple, single and two runs scored. Splitting innings behind the plate, Jackson also threw out a runner at second attempting to steal.

In the end, Gonzales got the bragging rights, as the Blue team ended up walking it off in the bottom of the ninth inning to win, 9-8.

"These were our last moments to share the field with each other. It was seemingly a wonderful experience for both her and myself," Gonzales said. "We praised God, played for him and met some great people. She says herself that she has grown in her walk with Christ as a player and, more importantly, as a person. I am so proud to know her."

There were three cheerleaders to represent Breckenridge throughout the week-



Breckenridge cheerleaders Solae Mendez, left, Giselle Reyes, middle and Cabel Perkins cheered on their fellow BHS Class of 2025 graduate Hunter Clayton during the Big Country All-Star basketball game Friday, June 6 at Moody Coliseum at Abilene Christian University.

Photo/Alex Kielar

end at the festival, as they cheered at the Bev Ball All-Star Volleyball Classic Thursday, June 5, in both girls and boys basketball games Friday, June 6 and at the Myrle Greathouse All-Star Football Classic Saturday morning, June 7. Those three cheerleaders were Solae Mendez, Cabel Perkins and Giselle Reyes over the past five years. From junior high to now, they've been pillars of our cheer team - each bringing something uniquely special," Breckenridge Cheerleading Coach Kaitlan Prewitt said.

"These three are truly irreplaceable, and their impact will be felt long after they've moved on. I'm incredibly proud of them and forever grateful for their dedication."

Those three cheerleaders were on the court to cheer on their fellow BHS Class of 2025 graduate, Hunter Clayton, who took part in the FCA All-Star basketball game as a member of the Blue team. It was one last chance for him

and his coach, Brent Lucas, to be on the court together as Lucas coached the Blue team.

Clayton was part of the second line in the game as he was switched in about every five minutes. While he didn't score, he crashed the boards for a few strong offensive and defensive rebounds. The Blue team wound up pulling off a comeback after trailing 18-11 after the first quarter and 34-30 at halftime.

After getting it to 48-46 after three quarters, the Blue team tied it at 60 all with just seconds on the clock. The Red team missed a would-be game-winning three-pointer at the buzzer, as it went to overtime.

The Blue team played stout defense in the extra quarter, not allowing any points. With 3:09 remaining, they hit a three-pointer, which was all that they really needed. But for extra measure, they scored a two-point basket with under a minute and knocked down two game-sealing free throws with under 20 seconds left, to win 67-60.

## Buckaroo Breakdown: Implementing the Prewitt philosophy

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As he officially transitions into his new role as the head boys' track coach for the Buckaroos, Coach Cameron Prewitt is beginning to implement his coaching philosophy into the Breckenridge track program.

Prewitt was a sprinter during his high school days at S&S Consolidated, where he graduated in 2016. Using his knowledge of the sport and his past experiences, he wants to bring a more sprinter-based philosophy to the Buckaroo track program, while working off the baseline established by outgoing Head Boys Track Coach Mark Young.

"I just kind of want to tweak some things here and there. From when I was in charge



Cameron Prewitt is taking over the Breckenridge boys track program as the new head coach following the departure of Mark Young.

Photo/Alex Kielar

of them and putting them in events in junior high, their bodies have changed, and they've developed a little bit more," Prewitt said. "Some kid that, in junior high, wasn't really

a sprinter is now filled out, and they can run. I'll have to adapt, and they'll have to adapt with some different coaching philosophies, because they've been pretty set for the past six years...But I think we can overcome it and I think it will be a pretty good year."

Prewitt talked about the group of runners that are returning this year, and he said that he thinks they are ready to prove their potential and grow from this past year. The group of runners that he said he sees as the top leaders and returners includes regional qualifiers Glenn Thibodeaux and Chance Stewart, incoming sophomores Ryan Waller and Trammel and incoming seniors Christian Flores, Jaime Cruz and Erik Saucedo.

"They've earned it

and I think if we keep the young guys interested, then they'll be pretty good," Prewitt said.

Coach Prewitt described some of the lessons that he was able to learn from Coach Young, which will help him in his transition to the role.

"[Coach Young] is a go-getter. He knows his stuff, no matter if it was working with hurdles, any field event or any relay. He just knew how to train different events...just watching him kind of break stuff up or structure where to put kids," Prewitt said. "Because the track program is pretty big... just figuring out where to put kids to make sure that they'll be the most successful."

Another lesson that Prewitt learned from watching and working

alongside Young is that he always encouraged the Breckenridge student-athletes in any event they were participating in.

Prewitt, who has been the assistant boys track coach and junior high track coach since 2020, said that he had found out that he had landed the head coaching role from Athletic Director Casey Pearce a couple of weeks ago.

"I've told Coach Pearce that if it (the position) ever came open, I'd be more than happy to take on the responsibilities," Prewitt said. "These incoming seniors were seventh graders when I first got here. So it's been pretty cool to watch them develop and change, and I think it'll be pretty cool to give me the opportunity to kind of finish out their high school season."

One challenge that Prewitt said could arise as he fully entrenches himself into the role is the fact that kids could ask about why a certain thing is done now if it wasn't done in the past.

"With change, you have to adapt and you have to kind of overcome. Because my goal is to try and get these athletes ready to try and be the most successful that they can be. I'm going to do all that I can to get them there by the point of a district track meet, hopefully they can advance, go to area and so forth," Prewitt said. "So my main job is to try to get them as far as they can go, because I see potential in every single one of them. I've seen that for the past five years that I've been here. But I'm excited and I'm thankful for the opportunity."