

Early voting begins Oct. 20

Alex Kielar
news@breckenridgeamerican.com

Early voting is quickly approaching for the November election, with just over a week away for Stephens County residents to vote on 17 constitutional amendments and a BISD bond.

Early voting in the election will take place from Monday, Oct. 20 through Friday, Oct. 31 in the first floor hallway of the Stephens County Courthouse.

Voting will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 20 through Friday, Oct. 24 and Monday, Oct. 27 through Wednesday, Oct. 29. The last two days will be from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 30 and Friday, Oct. 31.

Election day voting will take place from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 4. The five voting locations are Clear Fork Bank-Tower Room at 101 E. Walker St. (Precinct 1 and Precinct 5), Presbyterian Church-Fellowship Hall at 1601 W. Elliott (Precinct 2), Stephens County Annex Building at 222 N. Baylor (Precinct 3), BISD Support Center-Bus Barn at 907 US Hwy 183 N (Precinct 4).

The bond that residents within the Breckenridge ISD is \$39 million for the development of a new pre-kindergarten through 5th grade elementary school.

On the ballot, the BISD proposition will read: "This is a property tax increase. The issuance of not to exceed \$39,000,000 of bonds by the Breckenridge Independent School District for

the design, construction, rehabilitation, renovation, expansion, improvement, acquisition and equipment of school facilities and the necessary sites for school facilities with priority given to a new pre-kindergarten through 5th grade elementary school, and the levying

See Vote, Page 5



District Judge Phillip Gregory ruled Thursday, Oct. 2 in favor of the city of Breckenridge, granting the city's request for default judgment against sitting city commissioner Greg Akers.

Archive photo

Court grants default judgment

Alex Kielar
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A default judgment was granted last week in the case between the city of Breckenridge and a sitting city commissioner.

The city of Breckenridge received a favorable ruling Thursday, Oct. 2 from 90th Judicial District Judge Phillip Gregory, granting the city's request for a default judgment against city commissioner Greg Akers.

The court ruled that the city is entitled to recover over \$13,000 from Akers.

The case centers on a failed agreement to construct fencing for a proposed dog park. The city alleged that Akers accepted a \$6,076.24 down payment in April of 2024 to install fencing for the proposed dog park, but never delivered materials or began construction.

The judge ruled in favor of the city's request after Akers failed to respond to the city's civil complaint filed in July.

The city will recover \$6,076.24 in actual damages; \$62.43 in prejudgment interest; \$6,955 in attorneys' fees for trial-level proceedings; postjudgment interest at the rate of 7.5%; and court costs.

If the judgment is appealed, Akers would be required to pay an additional \$5,000 in the event of an unsuccessful appeal to the Court of Appeals; \$2,500 in the event of a Petition for Review to the Texas Supreme Court, wherein Plaintiff prevails; \$5,000 in the event of briefing on the merits in the Texas Supreme Court, wherein Plaintiff prevails; and \$3,000 in the event of an oral argument in the Texas Supreme Court in which Plaintiff prevails.

The judgment follows months of stalled negoti-

See Court, Page 3

National Night Out



The annual National Night Out event was held Tuesday, Oct. 7 at the Stephens County Law Enforcement Center. Free food and drinks were provided by Breckenridge Police Department and Breckenridge Fire Department. Representatives from local departments were in attendance, providing information on their services. BPD's animal control also showcased a pair of adoptable dogs.

Photos/Alex Kielar

How Texans can apply to college for free next week

Thomas Wallner
editor@grahamleader.com

The second week of October will be Free College Application Week throughout the state where admission application fees will be waived for Texas residents.

This year, the free application week will be held from Oct. 13-19. The week was created by Senate Bill 2231 during the 89th Texas Legislative Session for all public colleges and universities for all residents

who apply through ApplyTexas to undergraduate programs.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board established rules that state public institutions must waive applications submitted through ApplyTexas. It is up to individual institutions if they want to waive fees using other admission platforms.

Through applytexas.org, residents can apply to any Texas public university and many Texas community colleges and

private universities.

The ApplyTexas admission platform is for first-time students to two or four-year degree programs, transfer students, students applying for re-admission, students applying to take courses at a second school, college graduates applying to graduate programs, first-year international students, international transfer and graduate students and high school students

See College, Page 3



City extends deadline for art contest

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The deadline to enter into the City of Breckenridge public art contest, open to local artists and students, has been extended through the end of October.

Originally set to close Tuesday, Sept. 30, the contest will now accept entries through at 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 31, as announced by the Breckenridge Chamber of Commerce.

See Contest, Page 3

Weekly Local Forecast

Saturday, Oct. 11
High 93 | Low 66
Precipitation 2%

Sunday, Oct. 12
High 94 | Low 69
Precipitation 0%

Monday, Oct. 13
High 90 | Low 67
Precipitation 4%

Tuesday, Oct. 14
High 91 | Low 66
Precipitation 7%

Wednesday, Oct. 15
High 92 | Low 65
Precipitation 3%

Thursday, Oct. 16
High 93 | Low 66
Precipitation 2%

Friday, Oct. 17
High 92 | Low 65
Precipitation 3%

Hubbard Creek
At capacity: 1,183.00
Current: 1,170.09

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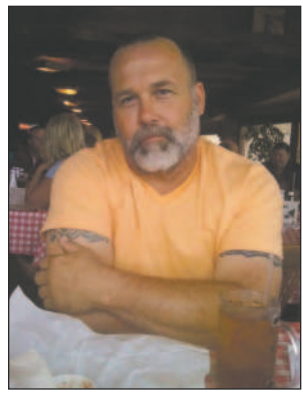


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Obituaries



Mike G. McCanlies

May 18, 1966 – October 4, 2025

Michael G. McCanlies, 59, of Collinsville, was called to his eternal home Saturday, Oct. 4, 2025.

Mike was born May 18, 1966 in Santa Clara, California, to Michael George and Patsy (Courson) McCanlies. He was a graduate of Sherman High School and Grayson County College Police Academy. He served for many years as an officer with Honey Grove, Ector, and Breckenridge Police and Sheriff Departments and more recently as a service manager with Bane Machinery in Dallas. He married Michelle Douthit on May 28, 1996 in Breckenridge. Mike enjoyed watching football, he was a big Dallas Cowboys fan, and occasionally he liked to go hunting. He especially enjoyed his time with his family, being with the grandkids was his favorite time.

He is survived by his wife, Michelle McCanlies of Collinsville; daughter, Shambrie Kemp of Madill, Oklahoma; son, Colby McCanlies of Pottsboro; son, Caleb McCanlies of White Oak, Texas; daughter, Rashae Grewing of Sherman; daughter, Kerigan McCanlies of Collinsville; daughter, Kristen McCanlies of Whitesboro; daughter, Clara McCanlies of Durant, Oklahoma; and son, Kayden Perkins of Breckenridge; eighteen grandchildren, brother, Jim McCanlies, sister, Iva Linsteadt, sister, Lisa Morgan, and sister, Vesta Sheren.

Mike was preceded in death by his parents, Michael and Patsy McCanlies.

Funeral services honoring Mike was held at 10 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 9, 2025 at Meador Funeral Home, officiated by Bro. Daniel Linsteadt. A time of visitation for family and friends was held from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2025 at the funeral home.

To sign the online registry, please go to www.meadorfuneral.com.



Eddie Joe Henry

December 8, 1937 – September 9, 2025

Carol Sue Henry

December 17, 1939 – September 30, 2025

Eddie Joe (Edd) Henry, and his wife Carol Sue (Sue) (DeWees) Henry, passed on to be together in eternal harmony. Edd first passed away Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2025. Sue followed him into Heaven on Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2025. They had been living in Arlington, with their son, Bill, since 2022.

Sue and Edd met in Denton, while attending North Texas State University (the University of North Texas) where Edd was a member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity and Sue was a member of the Alpha Delta Pi sorority. They were wed Dec. 22, 1960, at the Edgemont Methodist Church, in Dallas.

Edd was born Dec. 8, 1937, in Rising Star, to Edward Glen Henry and Lenell (Clark) Henry. He graduated from Rising Star High School in 1956, and from North Texas State University (The University of North Texas) in 1960. Edd was known to many as Coach Henry. He dedicated his life to the betterment of children and the community through his career as a high school math teacher and coach, and as an active member of the community. He dedicated a great share of his time to raising funds for multiple scholarships through the Breckenridge Bass Club and Breckenridge Country Club. The BBC Scholarship program was especially close to his heart. He organized and led the fundraising, and the club made opportunities available to deserving students, not solely based on grades, but for those who found themselves behind the eightball or had an uphill climb to college. Coach Henry was an avid sportsman and outdoorsman who loved his German Shorthair Pointers. He was a fierce and loyal competitor. (Shout out to all the Pipers who were in the Hamlin High School gym the day Coach Henry "scrapped Roy Guerra off the mat")

Whether coaching athletes, mentoring students, or competing with partners on the Honey Hole, and Anglers Choice, bass fishing circuits, or the Oil Belt seniors golf tour, Edd was committed to the highest standards based on the principles of Virtue, Diligence, and Brotherly Love. While he would cut your throat without a second glance in competition, he was there to share congratulations, shake hands and give hugs when the "game was over", every time. To say the least, if he was in, he was all in.

Sue was born Dec. 17, 1939, in Chicago, Illinois, to Charles Clifford DeWees, and Gretchen Callahan (Rowe) DeWees. Having grown up through the eighth grade in a home on the shores of Lake Winnebago, near Oshkosh, Wisconsin, her family then moved to Dallas. She graduated from W.H. Adamson High School in Dallas, in 1958. Sue attended the University of North Texas where she studied Design. She loved many subjects, especially art and science and was a dual major (Art and Biology) graduating from the University of Texas of the Permian Basin in 1976. Sue loved trips to the Texas Coast and had an affection for seashells, of which, she identified and assembled an impressive collection. She loved keeping the home and decorating for every season. Sue was a master at growing houseplants and loved landscaping and working in her flower beds. Sue was a talker and loved telling stories. It always thrilled her when boasting of having caught the "biggest fish". Like Edd, Sue devoted her life to the betterment of children and the community as an elementary school teacher and was active in the community. Of the grades she taught, Sue loved teaching third graders and believed the third grade was the most important and posed a tipping point where a child's academic fate could be won or lost.

She truly loved "her children" as well as the teams she taught with and her friends (shout out to the "Cesspool Girls"!). Sue's endeavors were grounded in principles of Character, Service, Knowledge, and Sisterhood. Sue loved her family and was "all in" with the Coaches' Wives. In keeping records for track meets and fomenting the spirit of the football team with weekly themes and locker room decorations for the Pied Pipers and Buckaroos, Sue valued school athletics as a vehicle to shape the character of young men and women through morals and values based in Christ. She was vested in the livelihood of her students and spent much of her time outside of work pulling together resources and making sure less fortunate children had what they needed. Whether it was a need for food, clothes, or a special item for a birthday or Christmas, she was dedicated to making sure every child felt special and loved. Through the years it was impossible to shop in town or dine in a restaurant without receiving an exuberant greeting and warm hugs from one or more of her former students. Ask any of her friends and former students and they will tell you Mrs. Henry's family extended far beyond flesh and blood.

Sue and Edd were wonderful, dedicated, loving parents who worked to make sure their three boys had all the things and opportunities they needed. While Dad set the expectations, Mom was the glue that held it all together and everyone knew it. Raising a family of "lake rats" in parched West Texas required frequent, long trips and extended campouts to lakes across the state, to the Laguna Madre on the Texas Coast, and lakes hundreds of miles into Mexico. Summer adventures provided enough stories to fill a million pages and indelible images for everlasting memories. Edd and Sue are survived by their sons, William Glen (Bill) (63yrs), Don Alan (61yrs) and Granddaughter Morgan Marie (19 yrs), and Gregory Lee (55 yrs). Others include Sue's sister, Mary Ellen DeWees (87 yrs), her beloved nieces, Niece, Lee Ann English, Great Niece Lauren Helfrich, Great Niece Meigan Elise English, and Great-great Niece, Monroe Jean Powers.

Lord knows it has been quite a journey and we've shared more than a lifetime's worth of ups, downs, and all arounds; living and loving with Mom and Dad was, and will remain, a wonderful, rewarding, crazy adventure. Thank you for everything Mom and Dad. We will always love you, and each other, just as you expect. Please share condolences and stories at: kramerfamilytexas.com/obituaries.

Please do not send flowers. The family humbly appreciates donations for the betterment of underprivileged children and the advancement of Alzheimer's research to the following foundations: Hope for Children Foundation hopeforchildrenfoundation.org, or Alzheimer's Association www.alz.org.

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Contest

Continued from Page 1

The initiative was launched by the city in partnership with the chamber, the Breckenridge Downtown Development Council, the Breckenridge Fine Arts Center and with consent of TxDOT. It aims to promote beautification and community pride.

The contest theme is “Celebrate Breckenridge Heritage” and is open to area artists, community members and BISD High School and Junior High students. A \$25 entry fee applies to everyone except student participants.

Selected artwork will be displayed on four downtown infrastructure sites for five years, including signalization utility boxes at Hwy 180/Hwy 183, Hwy 183/

Court St. and Hwy 180/FM 3099, and the utility rock at Foundation Park.

The prizes for the contest include a \$500 scholarship and art displayed at Hwy 180/Court St. for the student entrants and \$200, \$150 and \$100 cash prizes plus art displayed for the community member entrants.

“Get your artwork in, take advantage of the deadline being extended and we will see your artwork beautifying Breckenridge soon,” City Manager Cynthia Northrop said.

Judging will be coordinated by the Breckenridge Fine Arts Center, with panelists to be announced.

Submissions should be delivered to City Hall at 105 North Rose Street, or artists can register online.

College

Continued from Page 1

enrolling in dual credit programs.

The online application process works by taking a screener with questions to figure out the best application type, completing core questions for use to apply at multiple schools and finishing submitting answers to school-specific ques-

tions or essays.

An account with ApplyTexas is not required to see a list of schools available to apply to using the admission platform.

The platform is partnered with 117 schools, which includes 37 public, 54 community, state and technical colleges, one health-related institution and 25 independent institutions.

Court

Continued from Page 1

ations and two formal demand letters sent in May and July. City Manager Cynthia Northrop confirmed in a sworn declaration that the project was informally bid out and that Akers’ company, Akers Investments LLC, was selected to build the fence for \$24,304.94.

The city agreed to a 25% down payment, which was paid April 30, 2024, and despite repeated requests, no

work was performed and no refund was issued. The city commission authorized legal action in June, with Akers abstaining from the vote.

Akers was elected to the city commission in May 2024 after submitting the bid.

The proposed dog park is planned for a lot between Elliott and Gaddis Streets and Robert and Dunnigan Avenues, southwest of the city park.

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MUDDPIE 5K @
MUDDY MIKES

NOTICE OF ELECTION FOR PUBLICATION (AVISO DE ELECCIÓN PARA PUBLICACIÓN)

To the registered voters of Breckenridge Independent School District:
(A los votantes registrados en el Distrito Escolar Independiente de Breckenridge:)

Notice is hereby given that the polling places below will be open from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm on November 4, 2025 election to consider the following proposition:

(Por la presente se da aviso de que los lugares de votación a continuación estarán abiertos de 7:00 am a 7:00 pm el 4 de noviembre de 2025 para votar en una elección especial para considerar la siguiente proposición:)

PROPOSITION A

“Shall the Board of Trustees of the Breckenridge Independent School District be authorized to issue and sell bonds of the District, in one or more series, in the aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$39,000,000 for the purposes of the design, construction, rehabilitation, renovation, expansion, improvement, acquisition, and equipment of school facilities (and any necessary or related removal of existing facilities), and the purchase of necessary sites for school facilities, with priority given to a new pre-kindergarten through 5th grade elementary school, and such bonds to mature serially or otherwise (not more than 40 years from their date) in accordance with law; any issue or series of such bonds to bear interest per annum at such rate or rates (fixed, floating, variable, or otherwise) as may be determined within the discretion of the Board of Trustees, provided that such rate or rates of interest shall not exceed the maximum rate per annum authorized by law at the time of the issuance of any issue or series of such bonds; and shall the Board of Trustees of the District be authorized to levy and pledge, and cause to be assessed and collected, annual ad valorem taxes on all taxable property in the District sufficient, without limit as to rate or amount, to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds and the cost of any credit agreements executed in connection with the bonds?”

(PROPUESTA A)

“¿Deberá la Junta de Síndicos del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Breckenridge recibir la autorización para emitir y vender bonos del Distrito, en una o más series, por un monto de capital total que no excederá de \$39,000,000 con el fin de diseñar, construir, rehabilitar, renovar, ampliar, mejorar, adquirir y equipar instalaciones escolares (y cualquier remoción necesaria o relacionada de las instalaciones existentes) y la compra de los predios necesarios para las instalaciones escolares, dando prioridad a una nueva escuela primaria desde prekínder hasta 5º grado, y tales bonos vencerán en serie o de otra manera (a no más de 40 años a partir de su fecha) de acuerdo con la ley; cualquier emisión o serie de dichos bonos devengará un interés anual a una tasa o tasas (fija, flotante, variable o de otra naturaleza) según sea determinado a discreción de la Junta de Síndicos, siempre que dicha tasa o tasas de interés no excedan la tasa máxima anual autorizada por la ley en el momento de la emisión de cualquier emisión o serie de dichos bonos; y deberá autorizarse a la Junta de Síndicos del Distrito para imponer y comprometer, y hacer que se calculen y recauden impuestos anuales ad valorem sobre toda propiedad gravable en el Distrito de manera suficiente, sin límite en cuanto a la tasa o cantidad, para pagar el capital y los intereses de los bonos y el costo de cualquier contrato crediticio celebrado en relación con los bonos?”

Stephens County

(Condado de Stephens)

Stephens County website (Sitio web del Condado de Stephens):

<https://www.co.stephens.tx.us/page/stephens.Elections>

District website (Sitio web del Distrito): <https://www.breckenridgeisd.org/>

Election Day: Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Día de la Elección: martes, 4 de noviembre de 2025

Election Day Polling Locations open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. (Lugares de votación del día de la Elección abiertos de 7 a.m. a 7 p.m.)

LOCATIONS OF POLLING PLACES* (UBICACIÓN DE LOS LUGARES DE VOTACIÓN*):

Precinct (Precinto)	Location (Ubicación)	Physical Address (Dirección física)
1	Clear Fork Bank Tower Room (formerly known as First National Bank) – Tower Room (Clear Fork Bank – Sala de Torre, anteriormente conocida como First National Bank)	101 E. Walker St. Breckenridge, TX 76424
2	Presbyterian Church – Fellowship Hall (Iglesia Presbiteriana – Salón de reuniones)	1601 W. Elliott Breckenridge, TX 76424
3	Stephens County Annex Building (Edificio anexo del condado de Stephens)	222 N. Baylor Breckenridge, TX 76424
4	Breckenridge ISD Support Center – Bus Barn (Centro de Apoyo del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Breckenridge – Cochera de Autobuses)	907 US Hwy 183 N Breckenridge, TX 76424
5	Clear Fork Bank Tower Room (formerly known as First National Bank) – Tower Room (Clear Fork Bank – Sala de Torre, anteriormente conocida como First National Bank)	101 E. Walker St. Breckenridge, TX 76424

*Subject to change. For additional polling locations, please visit:

Sujeto a cambio. Para ver otros lugares de votación, por favor consulte:

<https://www.co.stephens.tx.us/page/stephens.Elections>

For early voting, a voter may vote at any of the locations listed below:

(Para votación anticipada, los votantes podrán votar en cualquiera de los lugares nombradas abajo:)

Early Voting Locations and Times (Lugares y Horario para la Votación Anticipada)

Early Voting Clerk (Secretario de Votación Anticipada): Jackie Ensey

Presiding Judge of the Early Voting Ballot Board: to be determined by Elections Administrator
(Juez Presidente de la Junta de Boletas para la Votación Anticipada: a ser determinado por la administradora de elecciones)

Early Voting Locations and Times* (Lugares y Horario para la Votación Anticipada)

Dates and Hours (fechas y horario)

Dates (Fechas)	Times (Horario)
Monday, October 20- Friday, October 24 lunes, 20 de octubre – viernes, 24 de octubre	8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Monday, October 27 – Wednesday, October 29 lunes, 27 de octubre – miércoles, 29 de octubre	8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Thursday, October 30 – Friday, October 31 jueves, 30 de octubre – viernes, 31 de octubre	7:00 am – 7:00 pm

Main Early Voting Polling Location (Lugar Principal de Votación Anticipada)

Stephen County Courthouse, First Floor Hallway/Corridor
(Palacio de Justicia del Condado de Stephens, Pasillo del Primer Piso)
200 W. Walker St.
Breckenridge, TX 76424

*Subject to change. For additional polling locations, please visit:

Sujeto a cambio. Para ver otros lugares de votación, por favor consulte:

<https://www.co.stephens.tx.us/page/stephens.Elections>

Early Voting By Mail (Votación Anticipada por correo)

Applications should be sent to (Las solicitudes deben dirigirse a):

Jackie Ensey
Stephens County Clerk/Early Voting Clerk
200 West Walker
Breckenridge, Texas 76424
Phone: 254-559-3700
Fax: 254-559-5892

Fancy meeting you here...

My friend--call him Barney--has jumped through hoops and negotiated mazes that are part and parcel of a long and successful professional communications career. Now, he is spending well-earned retirement years on an East Texas farm.

He's learning to be a "yes" man to his wife and daughter, and he's said "yes" repeatedly to his alma mater, College of the Ozarks. During his 22 years on the Board of Trustees, he has served in many leadership roles, including chairman. The college is well known for its Christian values, promotion of patriotism and dedication to hard work. Students at CofO are provided campus employment, enabling them to attend and graduate "tuition free."

Nowadays, he is open to taking on projects assigned to him by his wife and daughter, but not always in that order....

•••

Barney and his wife never thought themselves to be "cat people," but their horizons have broadened to appreciate felines.

"We have no grandchildren, but we enjoy four 'grandcats,'" he

mentioned recently, calling out one, Pippin, as the family favorite. Even as a kitten, Pippin enjoyed being outdoors, where he tolerates walking on a leash, and formerly sneaked out when doors were left ajar.

Barney's daughter loves Pippin, too, and figured that if the pet had a "catio" (rhymes with "patio"), he could safely spend more time outdoors. Dear ole' dad hopped right on the project, and the "catio" now provides a bit of heaven on earth for Pippin, as well as the three other cats. The "catio"--more like the Waldorf Astoria Hotel than a Motel 6--spans 70 square feet of partially-roofed, screened-in porch, equipped with benches, climbing poles, cat walks, lounging shelves and more. The cats are perfectly content; Pippin pays no mind now to finding doors left ajar; the "catio" exceeds standards of the most discriminating felines....

•••

A man with many interests, Barney and his back-packing buddies paid close attention to suggestions for trekking in the Bob Marshall National Wilderness near Glacier

National Park. Warned that they'd be hiking through many miles inhabited by grizzly bears, the group wore "bear bells." It was theorized that upon hearing the jingling, bears might "vamoose" to avoid the hikers.

They encountered no bears, and ended their adventure on rented bikes in the park. Learning that bears abided there, too, they transferred their bells from their backpacks to bicycles.

Later, they joked that the bells jingling may or may not have "repelled" bears, they had no clue about the next and best benefit. It was at ride's end at one of the park's most scenic views....

•••

So many people stop there, it has a tunnel for pedestrians to cross safely under the road. As the bikers crossed through the tunnel, no one could miss hearing the bells' loud and constant jingling. Many stopped instead of exiting.

As they biked slowly, a gaggle of young children came running back through the tunnel, closely followed by parents, who likewise were mystified by the "jingling." Soon, the confusion cleared.



Don Newbury

The Idle American

Upon hearing the bells, the children thought it might be reindeer pulling Santa through the tunnel.

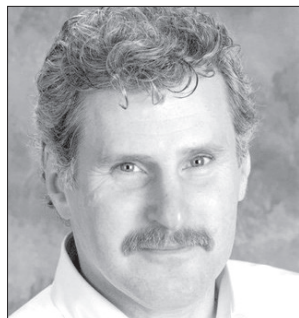
Barney isn't sure if the bells repelled the bears, but will always fondly remember how they attracted a bunch of youngsters....

•••

Speaking of surprises, our daughters, Jana Penney and Jeanie McDaniel were on separate hotel floors with their husbands at a recent Howard Payne University reception in Brownwood. (Their children--cousins Kerdren Penney and Addison McDaniel--are HPU freshmen.) Jana and Jeanie both rose early, opting to take the stairs to the coffee bar.

They made the coffee decision a few minutes apart. When one was on the stairs downward,

See Newbury, Page 5



Bryan Golden

structive, you hesitate letting them go. After all, they've been your companions for a lifetime.

Worry and stress never make circumstances better. They can make them worse. Worry and stress never make you feel better. They can make you feel worse. Since worry and stress are so negative, your best option is just letting them go.

Letting go of stress and worry requires reconditioning on your part. You have to alter your way of thinking along with your reaction to problems. No excuses. No justification. Don't say to yourself or others any of the

See Golden, Page 5

Ask Rusty: When will my disability become my regular Social Security?

Dear Rusty: I hope you can answer this question. I'm currently receiving Social Security Disability benefits, and I will be turning 65 in February 2026. I'm confused as to how Social Security Disability transitions to regular Social Security, and when. I assume it's age 65 but maybe it's my retirement date? Also, does the amount remain the same or will it change? I've been on SSDI for about 15 years. Thank you.

Signed: Disabled Senior

Dear Disabled Senior: If you are collecting Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits, those SSDI benefits will automatically convert to become your regular Social Security retirement benefit when you reach your SS full retirement age (FRA) which, in your case, is age 67.

For information, FRA today is somewhere between age 66 and 67, depending on your year of birth, and the full retirement age for everyone born in 1960 or later is age 67.

The change from SSDI to your regular Social Security benefit will be transparent to you because your monthly benefit amount will remain the same.

SSDI benefits were originally awarded to you based upon your full retirement age entitlement when you applied for SSDI (even though you hadn't yet reached your FRA when you went on SSDI).

Thus, the monthly benefit amount will not change because it is based on your lifetime earnings record, from before you became disabled.

FYI, although age 65 was once Social Security's "retirement age," full re-



Russell Gloor

Social Security Matters

retirement age for Social Security today is based on the year you were born.

So, your SSDI benefit will automatically switch to become your regular Social Security retirement benefit as soon as you reach age 67.

Essentially, the only thing that will change is the Social Security Trust Fund from which your benefits will be paid.

This article is intended for informational purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity.

To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

•••

About AMAC The 2.4 million member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] www.amac.us is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. AMAC Action is a non-profit, non-partisan organization representing the membership in our nation's capital and in local Congressional Districts throughout the country.

Golden: Let go of stress and worry

Imagine carrying a heavy weight around with you every day. With it, you can't move fast or far. Your back hurts. Your legs are sore. Your burden is exhausting. Would you continue holding onto this weight if you didn't have to? Of course not, you would drop it as soon as possible. With-

out the weight, your quality of life would improve immensely.

Too many people carry around the heavy emotional weight of worry and stress. This burden has destructive effects. When it's held onto constantly, physical and mental ailments are common. Since you would readily drop a

heavy physical weight, why is it so hard to let go of these mental burdens?

You have become conditioned throughout life to hold onto worry and stress. People all around you set the wrong example by their own incessant worry. Although worry and stress are so de-

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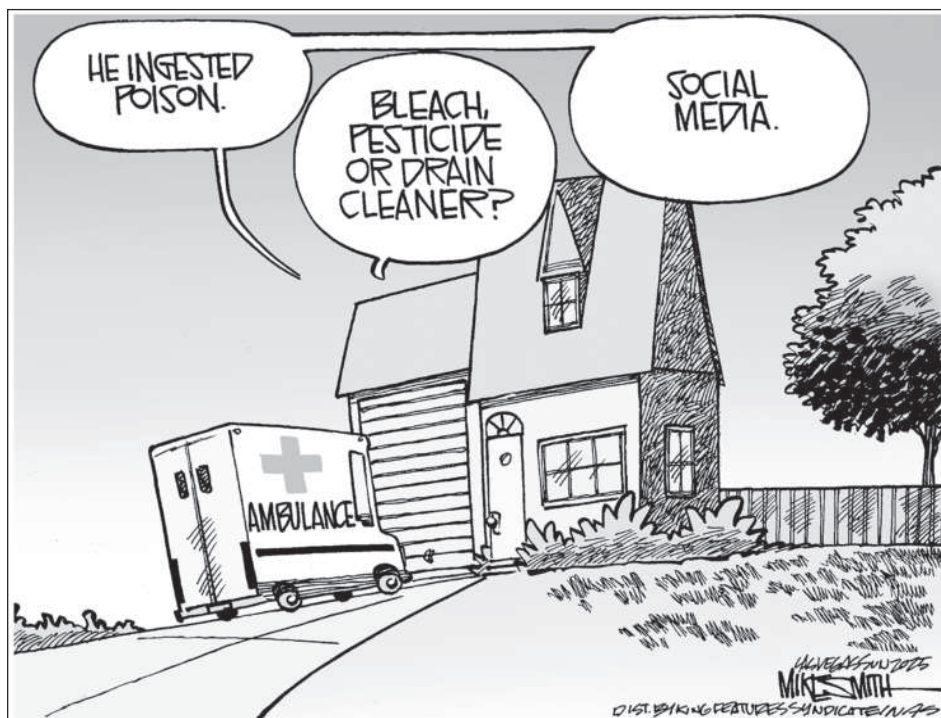
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Golden

Continued from Page 4

following: "I have good reason to worry." "I'm always so stressed out by this." "What am I supposed to do?" "It's so unfair." "Why does this always happen?" "I am so worried it makes me sick."

Any of these justifications cause stress and worry to become engrained as a way of life. Letting them go requires changing your thinking. Different results require a different approach. Don't blame other people or circumstances. You are the only one who can let it go.

Letting it go is a simple concept which seems difficult. In the same manner you would open your hand to drop a weight, you can release your worry and stress. Visualize a trap door in your mind. All of your worries and troubles are piled right on top of the trap door. Now open the trap door and imagine all of your stress and worries falling into oblivion.

Each time you feel stress and worry accumulating, open your trap door and watch the stress and worry drop away. You are striving to develop a new habit which lets

go of stress and worry. Telling yourself that this approach is not so easy sabotages your success. Conditioning yourself to let it go does take effort and determination, but it is doable. At first, you may find yourself instinctively holding onto stress and worry instead of letting them go. Whenever you start to hold on, open the trap door. As you repeat this process, you will begin letting stuff go more often than holding onto it.

There are numerous benefits to letting go of stress and worry. You will be more relaxed. You will be happier. You will feel better physically and emo-

tionally. You will be less irritable. As a result, you will have a clearer perspective so you will make better decisions.

Although you are letting go of stress and worry you must still take action to deal with pertinent issues. You should be concerned about circumstances which require your attention. Being proactive is prudent.

As the trap door strategy becomes your automatic response to stress and worry, you will wonder why you didn't utilize this strategy sooner. All that matters is that you are letting stuff go now. It is a much better way to live.

Newbury

Continued from Page 4

the other was returning from the lobby headed upward. Each heard the other's footsteps, and each tightened grips on mace spray, just in case.

Their paths crossed on the second floor landing. They laughed heartily without spilling

their coffee, and no, it wasn't the recently renamed "Maxwell Apartment" blend....

•••
Dr. Newbury, a speaker in the Metroplex, may be reached at 817-447-3872; email: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Column audio version at www.speakerdoc.com.

Vote

Continued from Page 1

of a tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds and the cost of any credit agreements executed in connection with the bonds."

According to the notice of election document, the estimated maximum annual increase in the amount of taxes on a residence with a \$140,000 state homestead exemption and an appraised value of \$200,000 to repay the bonds would be \$218.44. There would be no increase in the tax amount for residences with an appraised value of \$100,000 under the same state homestead exemption. This would also only be the case if State of Texas Proposition 13 passes, the constitutional amendment to increase the amount of residence homestead taxation by a school district from \$100,000 to \$140,000. State Proposition 11 would also increase the amount of homestead exemption for residents 65 years of age and older and disabled from \$10,000 to \$60,000.

The deadline to register to vote was Monday, Oct. 6; you can visit votetexas.gov to check your registration sta-

tus. For constitutional amendment text, visit the same site.

The last day to apply for a ballot by mail is Friday, Oct. 24 and applications are available online at co.stephens.tx.us.

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Breckenridge Devotional Page

1. Is the book of Acts (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
 2. Who honored a man by letting him ride the royal steed through city streets? Silas, Hosea, Ahasuerus, Asa
 3. From Job 4, who was so frightened by a dream that his hair stood on end? James, Eliphaz, Noah, Cain
 4. Pharaoh gave what burnt city to his daughter for a gift? Cana, Gezer, Joppa, Bethel
 5. From Acts 9, what dressmaker was restored to life by Peter's prayers? Dorcas, Leah, Jezebel, Miriam
 6. Where did Gideon meet an angel? Prison, Field, Oak tree, Well
- ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Ahasuerus, 3) Eliphaz, 4) Gezer, 5) Dorcas, 6) Oak tree

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FEATURES FROM THE BIBLE

TRUTH IN SCRIPTURE

At Sinai: Commandments Given
Exodus 19-20

When the Israelites arrived at Sinai, Moses went up into the mountain to meet with God and the Lord gave him the Ten Commandments, writing them on stone tablets.

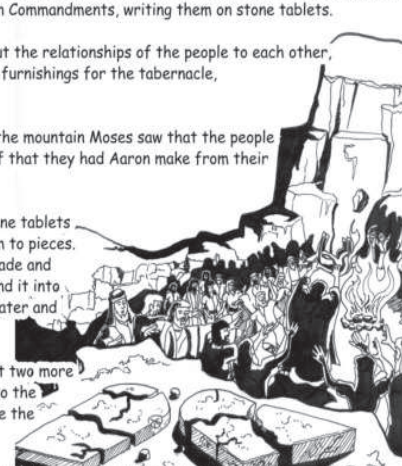
He also gave instructions about the relationships of the people to each other, festivals, the tabernacle and furnishings for the tabernacle, the Sabbath observance, etc.

As he was coming down from the mountain Moses saw that the people were worshipping a golden calf that they had Aaron make from their jewelry.

In anger Moses threw the stone tablets out of his hand, breaking them to pieces. He took the calf Aaron had made and burned it in the fire and ground it into powder, scattered it on the water and made the Israelites drink it.

The Lord had Moses chisel out two more stone tablets and take them to the mountain where he would write the commandments again.
Exodus 34

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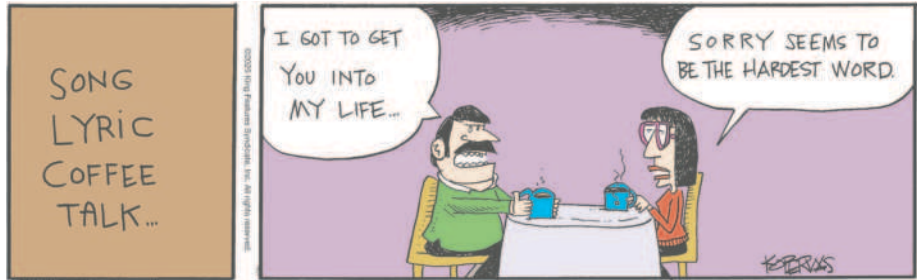
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ENTERTAINMENT Midweek Edition

OUT ON A LIMB by Gary Kopervas



THE SPATS by Jeff Pickering



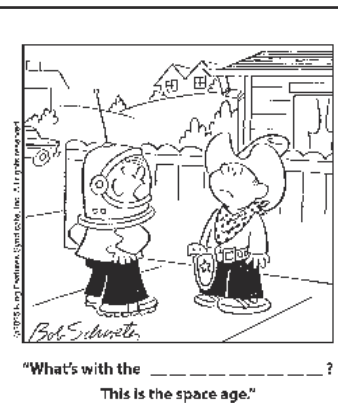
POPEYE by Randy Milholland



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 MISTLE. Do not change the order of the letters.

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------|------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Water flow | ___ T ___ | Munch painting | ___ C ___ |
| 2. Creek | ___ K | Witch's transportation | ___ M |
| 3. dioxide | ___ B | Milk container | ___ T |
| 4. Beauty's admirer | B ___ | Banquet | ___ F ___ |
| 5. Appropriate | ___ R | Power forward | ___ L |
| 6. Scare | ___ R | Air journey | ___ L |
| 7. Similar | ___ K | Have being | ___ V |
| 8. Inn's guest | ___ D | Forest worker | ___ G |
| 9. Harmony | ___ E | Come in second | ___ L |
| 10. Up and about | ___ K | Cognizant | ___ R |



SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the board letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Fifth: **MIRGE**

Grasp: **HALEND**

Find: **ELTACO**

Expire: **RESHIP**

TODAY'S WORD:

Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12					13			14			
15					16			17			
18				19				20			
21	22			23				24			
25			26		27		28				
29				30			31		32	33	34
35				36				37			
38	39	40			41		42		43		
44				45			46				
47				48			49		50	51	
52				53			54				
55				56			57				

ACROSS

- 1 Surrenders
- 6 Tennis match division
- 9 Cover
- 12 Fold
- 13 Sch. founded by Jefferson
- 14 Blackbird
- 15 Shadow
- 16 Utter disaster
- 18 Author Lurie
- 20 Bump into
- 21 Soup cooker
- 23 Cowboys quarterback Prescott
- 24 Has an intense craving
- 25 Actor Guinness
- 27 Toothpaste holders
- 29 Strange thing
- 31 Deceived
- 35 Welsh pooch
- 37 Bargain
- 38 "Downton —"
- 41 ER workers
- 43 Quilters' get-together
- 44 Tragic king
- 45 Rum cocktail
- 47 TV anchor
- 49 "Glee" guitarist
- 52 Packed away
- 53 Historic period

DOWN

- 1 PC's brain
- 2 Shade tree
- 3 Battled verbally
- 4 — Grey tea
- 5 Composed
- 6 Number puzzle
- 7 Divisible by two
- 8 Bar bill
- 9 Shoe fasteners
- 10 Cove
- 11 Losing ventures?
- 17 Tickled
- 19 Nymph pursuer
- 21 Kung — chicken
- 22 Vintage
- 24 Floral garland
- 26 Roman orator
- 28 Russian pancakes
- 30 Playpen item
- 32 Deducted
- 33 — kwon do
- 34 Flamenco cheer
- 36 Cracker type
- 38 Actors Robert and Alan
- 39 Borscht base
- 40 Innocents
- 42 Play for time
- 45 Stallion's mate
- 46 Operatic solo
- 48 Rule, for short
- 50 Chemical suffix
- 51 Curved letter

Look for answers in the Classifieds.

800 PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICES

Notice for Application for Fluid Injection Well Permit
 Parks, Rhone Inc., 6335 Hwy. 180 East, Breckenridge, TX 76424 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas.

The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Strawn Formation, Harris, Rou L. Lease, Well Number 1, 6335 Hwy. 180 East, Breckenridge, TX 76424 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas. The proposed injection well is located 5 miles NW of Frankel in the Stephens County Regular Field, in Stephens County. Fluid will be injected in strata in the subsurface depth interval from 2130 to 2170 feet. LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the

Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas. Requests for public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil & Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, PO Box 12967, Capital Station, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone: 512-463-6792)

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Lady Bucks bit by Rattlers

Alex Kielar
news@breckenridgeamerican.com

The Lady Bucks volleyball team hosted the Tolar Rattlers for their annual Pink Out night Tuesday, Oct. 7, but were unable to secure a win, falling in straight sets.

Despite a strong start in the second set and standout performances from several players, the Lady Bucks couldn't hold off the Rattlers' momentum, dropping the match 3-0.

Tolar jumped ahead early, capitalizing on Breckenridge errors and net violations.

Kills from Paisley Thibodeaux, Preslie Malcuit, Kamden Tidwell and Lane Bartoskewitz helped the Lady Bucks stay competitive, but the Rattlers maintained their lead throughout.

LaKyla Bartley added a late kill, but Tolar closed out the set, 25-12.

The Lady Bucks opened the second set with a 3-1 lead be-



Preslie Malcuit and Lane Bartoskewitz attempt a block at the net during the Lady Bucks three-set loss Tuesday, Oct. 7 to Tolar.

Photo / Alex Kielar

hind kills from Bartoskewitz and Malcuit. Thibodeaux and Bartley added key points and Analia Palacios delivered an ace to bring the score to 22-9 Tolar.

A late block by Thibodeaux and Malcuit gave the Lady Bucks a spark, but the Rattlers sealed the set, 25-12.

The third set saw a tighter battle, with kills from Tidwell and Bartoskewitz and an ace from Malcuit eve-

ning the score at 4-4. The Lady Bucks kept pace through the middle of the set, with blocks and kills from multiple players, including a late push from Tidwell.

However, Tolar pulled away in the final stretch to take the set 25-13 and the match.

Following their match Friday, Oct. 10 at Eastland, the Lady Bucks travel to Early for their next match Tuesday, Oct. 14.



Breckenridge cross country runners Andrew White, left, and Saylor Townson compete in last week's meet. Both the Bucks and Lady Bucks advanced to regionals after their performance at the district meet Wednesday, Oct. 8 in Dublin.

Photos / Kylie Bailey

BHS cross country teams advance to regional meet

Alex Kielar
news@breckenridgeamerican.com

The Bucks and Lady Bucks cross country teams each had a successful district meet in Dublin and are advancing to the regional meet later this month.

The meet, which took place Wednesday, Oct. 8, saw the boys' varsity runners place sec-

ond overall behind only Eastland and the girls finished in third place behind Comanche and Peaster.

The top finisher for both teams placed fifth in the individual results, Saylor Townson for the girls and Andrew White for the boys.

"I'm incredibly proud of how both teams

performed at the district meet. Our motto this season has been 'Built From Within,' and I think that really showed out there," head coach Valeria Williams said. "These athletes have pushed through tough workouts, early morning and mental challenges all season. It was rewarding to see their hard work pay off."

Williams talked about their goals going into the regional meet.

"Advancing to regionals is a huge accomplishment for our program; our athletes are looking to compete with confidence and composure against some of the best in the region," she said. "Our goals are to continue closing the gaps between our runners, staying mentally tough when it hurts and trusting the work we've put in all season. If we can do that and they can walk away knowing they gave everything they had, then we will be successful no matter what."

Regionals will be held Tuesday, Oct. 20 and Wednesday, Oct. 21 in Lubbock.

Bucks Results

2. Breckenridge, 44

Individual results

- 5. Andrew White, 16:47.43
- 6. Gabriel Garcia, 16:59.00
- 10. Bodie Skiles, 17:17.83
- 11. Agustin Byrd, 17:30.41
- 15. Landon Elting, 17:54.23
- 17. Logan Thompson, 18:03.34
- 23. Malaki Smith, 18:52.21

Lady Bucks Results

3. Breckenridge, 78

Individual results

- 5. Saylor Townson, 12:37.98
- 12. Lizandra Rubio, 13:00.79
- 17. Maylea Townson, 13:13.95
- 21. Miley Ramirez, 13:27.04
- 23. Abigail Duran, 13:34.19
- 25. Lane Bartoskewitz, 13:36.73
- 28. Ellisa Duran, 14:03.96

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