

Spencer sentenced in federal court

Staff Report
news@breckenridgeamerican.com

Jacob Wayne Spencer, the Breckenridge man accused of hiring a man to kill his stepfather, was sentenced in federal court Tuesday.

Spencer, 45, accepted a plea deal for possessing a firearm with an obliterated serial number, one of two charges he was indicted for May 22. While also being indicted for possession of an unregistered and unserialized firearm, he only pleaded guilty to the single charge.

A federal judge in Lubbock sentenced Spencer to 60 months incarceration at a federal correctional institution in Seagoville. The sentence will run consecutively to any sentence imposed in the Stephens County case.

Stephens County Sheriff's Office arrested Spencer, after he allegedly hired a man, later identified as Walter Tarver, to kill his stepfather, Jay Marcom, in exchange for cash.

Following an April 23



The federal courthouse in Lubbock. Jacob Spencer, of Breckenridge, who is accused of orchestrating a murder-for-hire plot targeting his stepfather, was sentenced this week in Lubbock on a federal gun charge.

Contributed photo

tip and interviews with Tarver, agents executed a search warrant at Spencer's home May 2, where they located a safe. Included in the safe was over \$13,000 in cash and

a Smith & Wesson 9-millimeter pistol with the serial number obliterated, and homemade silencers.

As part of the judgment,

See Spencer, Page 3



Breckenridge City Manager Cynthia Northrop speaks during the latest city commission meeting Tuesday, Oct. 14 in which the construction contract for the first phase of the wastewater treatment plant improvement project was awarded.

Photo/Alex Kielar

City awards bid for wastewater treatment plant improvements

Alex Kielar
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The city of Breckenridge has awarded its construction contract bid for the first phase of its wastewater treatment plant improve-

ments utilizing funds from the Cleanwater State Revolving Fund.

The contract was awarded to Purcell Contracting, LLC from Meridian, out of six bid submissions. The proposals were opened Thursday, Aug. 28 and a scoring committee composed of city staff reviewed them per the Competitively Sealed Proposal (CSP) criteria.

City engineers then reviewed the score sheet and recommended the contract to be awarded to Purcell Contracting in the amount of \$696,150.

This recommendation

See Bids, Page 3

BISD works towards compliance on seatbelt law

Board approves purchase of two small buses

Alex Kielar
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A new state law is in place that requires all school buses in Texas to be equipped with three-point lap and shoulder seatbelts, regardless of production year. Breckenridge ISD has begun the process of getting into compliance with the law.

Through Senate Bill 546, Texas school districts must either retrofit their current buses with seatbelts, get rid of them and get new buses or declare that it's not in the budget to be able to do it.

That's according to Jeremy West, the district's director of district services, who is heading up the work on the buses. West presented to the BISD school

See Seatbelt, Page 2

Visiting local heroes



Kindergarten students from East Elementary School took a trip Thursday, Oct. 9 to the Breckenridge Fire Department. Students learned about fire safety through demonstrations from local firefighters.

Photos/Kaci Funderburg



County extends burn ban

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The Stephens County burn ban has been extended an additional 90 days from the date it was originally set to expire, as drought conditions have reached high levels.

The burn ban was first enacted beginning Monday, July 21 during a special meeting of the Stephens County Commissioners Court. With the initial ban set to expire Tuesday, Oct. 21, the court approved the 90-day extension recommended by Breckenridge Fire Chief and Stephens County Fire Marshal Malcolm Bufkin.

The drought conditions

See Ban, Page 3

Weekly Local Forecast

Saturday, Oct. 18
High 94 | Low 56
Precipitation 17%

Sunday, Oct. 19
High 81 | Low 62
Precipitation 2%

Monday, Oct. 20
High 97 | Low 61
Precipitation 1%

Tuesday, Oct. 21
High 80 | Low 53
Precipitation 5%

Wednesday, Oct. 22
High 83 | Low 57
Precipitation 4%

Thursday, Oct. 23
High 81 | Low 56
Precipitation 14%

Friday, Oct. 24
High 81 | Low 59
Precipitation 16%

Hubbard Creek
At capacity: 1,183.00
Current: 1,169.93

BFD Building 2-3 Obituaries 2
Classifieds 6-7 Opinion 4-5
Entertainment 7 Sports 8

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Obituaries

Victor Lee Verett

July 15, 1952 – October 9, 2025



Victor Lee Verett "Vic," age 73, passed away peacefully at home in Abilene on Oct. 9, 2025, after a long battle with Parkinson's disease.

Vic was born July 15, 1952, in Crosbyton, to C. A. and Millie Verett. Vic grew up in Crosbyton and graduated from Crosbyton High School as valedictorian and Mr. CHS in 1970. He attended Abilene Christian University and graduated magna cum laude in 1974 with a degree in accounting.

In May of 1974, Vic married the love of his life, Charlotte Holland, in a simple home ceremony. As newlyweds, they lived in San Antonio where Vic was employed as assistant vice president of accounting at First National Bank of San Antonio. They moved to Cisco, in 1976 where Vic bought an accounting practice that began his 40-plus year career as a self-employed CPA. Vic expanded his practice to Breckenridge, where they lived for 25 years, raised their three daughters, and made cherished lifelong friends. While living in Breckenridge, Vic served as a deacon and then as an elder at the Elliott Street Church of Christ. In 2006, Vic and Charlotte moved to Abilene where Vic continued to work in his CPA practice until forced into retirement by Parkinson's disease. Vic and Charlotte celebrated 51 years of marriage in May of this year.

At a young age, Vic enjoyed playing sports, particularly baseball. His love of sports and staying active continued as an adult, even into his later years. Playing golf with his brother became his favorite thing to do after tax season each year. Vic was a loving father to his three girls, a faithful friend to many, and an overall "good man."

Preceding Vic in death were his parents and several cousins. Survivors include his wife, daughters Jennifer (Nathan) Headrick of Tuscola, Cara (Warner) Phelps of Conroe, and Amy (Brandon) Booker of Richardson, and five grandchildren: Hagan Headrick, Delton Phelps, and Sloane, Nora and Zane Booker. He is also survived by his brother Kendall Verett of Scottsdale, Arizona, and numerous loving cousins, in-laws and friends.

The family would like to thank all of his wonderful caregivers from over the past couple of years: Maggie, Justice, Marco, Imagen, Carmen, and Amanda.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18, at Hillcrest Church of Christ in Abilene.

Memorials may be made to Hendrick Hospice Care, Christian Service Center, or the Faith, Family, Future capital campaign at Hillcrest Church of Christ.

City approves replats of current, potential future home of BFD

Alex Kielar
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The Breckenridge City Commission has approved a pair of items concerning the Breckenridge Fire Department's current location and a potential future new fire station.

During their meeting Tuesday, Oct. 14, the commission conducted three public hearings regarding matters of the city's code of ordinances. The most substantial matter was the approval of replating the property where the Breckenridge Fire Department currently resides.

The fire department property located at 120 West Elm,



Breckenridge Fire Chief Malcolm Bufkin speaks to the Breckenridge City Commission at their meeting Tuesday, Oct. 14 in which they approved replats of the current and potential future home of the Breckenridge Fire Department.

Photo/Alex Kielar

legally described as "Original Addition, Block 4, Lot SW/4 & NW/4," includes the old fire station on the southwest part of the lot, a truck bay on the southeast side and

temporary housing trailer on the northwest side.

Following a recommendation from the Planning and Zon-

See BFD, Page 3

Seatbelt

Continued from Page 1

board Monday, Oct. 13 about the bus situation.

West said that the cost to retrofit buses with seatbelts is about \$30,000 per bus, as they would have to physically take the seats out and replace them in order to put the seatbelts in.

This bill expands upon the 2017 requirement which only applied to buses manufactured in 2018 or later and allowed exemptions based on district budgets. School districts are able to apply for exemptions if costs are prohibitive according to the bill, but must report to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) before the 2025-26 school year ends.

"TEA wants the report by this school year because then, of course, they are going to take all those numbers from the state

and kind of see what that looks like," West said. "Then possibly decide that they want to provide some funding...So it's a little bit of a hurry up and wait, but we've got to decide something by the end of this school year and declare which route we want to go."

West added that districts then have until September 1, 2029 to get in full compliance with the bill. The bill states that TEA must collect all district data by January 1, 2027, then calculate statewide seatbelt retrofit costs and report findings to legislative leaders.

"I've talked to the board previously in closed session... we're behind schedule on buses. We know that; we've got to get up to speed," West said. "...If we stay on schedule, our bus fleet is 20. The recommendation is to

age buses out after 10 years."

The school board approved the purchase of two small buses for the total cost of \$112,248, which West said is in the budget as part of getting on schedule.

"If we can stay at that number...if we start this year and we buy two buses until 2029, we're going to have 10 new buses," West said.

While seatbelts must be implemented per the law, there is nothing in the bill that requires them to buckle students in.

"That's never been a recommendation on a school bus. I've been driving buses since 1997 and they've never had seatbelts; they're not recommended to have seatbelts," West said. "Now we have to have razor blades/cutters to be able to cut kids out of seatbelts, because they

don't compartmentalize seats. They're not meant to have seatbelts."

West added that in Stephens County it's more likely that a bus catches on fire than it is for the bus to hit something big enough to jar a kid out of a bus seat.

"Having a bunch of kids strapped in the seatbelts on a burning bus would be bad," West said.

The bill sponsored by Sen. Jose Menendez is a direct response to a fatal 2024 crash that involved a Hays CISD school bus and a cement truck that tragically claimed two lives including a pre-K student.

Following that tragedy, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) conducted a comprehensive investigation centered around school bus passenger safety.

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City celebrates Citizen's Academy graduates



The city of Breckenridge launched the inaugural Citizen's Academy this year, a nine-month program that met the second Monday of every month through September. Participants who attended eight of the nine classes graduated from the academy and were recognized at the Tuesday, Oct. 14 city commission meeting.

Photo/Alex Kielar

Spencer

Continued from Page 1

the silencers and pistol, along with any associated ammunition, are required to be forfeited by Spencer.

Spencer's sentencing in federal court is not the end of the road, as he was indicted on two felony charges in Stephens County in late July.

Spencer was indicted on two felony charges — criminal conspiracy and criminal sollicita-

tion to commit capital murder.

"The two offenses that were indicted are first-degree felonies punishable by five to 99 years or life in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000," special prosecutor Jeff Swain said. "That is the same range of punishment applicable for the offense of murder. No other charges were presented, dropped or no billed."

The court appointed Parker County District Attorney Jeff Swain as district attorney pro tem, also known as a special prosecutor, following the recusal of District Attorney Dee Peavy, due to a conflict of interest.

Spencer's arraignment in Stephens County is set for 1 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 23, with potential plea negotiations scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 20.

BFD

Continued from Page 2

ing Commission, which held a public hearing Monday, Oct. 6, the city approved the replatting of the property into two lots to separate the parking lot and bays from the old fire station. This move opens the possibility of facilitating a future sale of the building while preserving the parking lot.

"There is an opportunity, if the commissioners so choose, that we would do a sealed bid for the fire department (building) and see if there's any interest or for private investors to reinvest in the property and do something with it to bring it back on the tax roll," City Manager Cynthia Northrop said. "So even if you (the commission) don't decide to do that, it still gives us flexibility on making sure that we've got that parking lot preserved."

The topic of the old fire station and a new location have been under discussion for much of the year. After months of evaluating

options, the commission approved actions related to city-owned property at 300 East Walker, the site of the former YMCA.

Currently, this property is at the top of the list for options for a new fire station according to Northrop.

"We are going to be bringing a proposal to you guys for consideration. One of the other properties we looked at when bringing options to you...fell through," she said. "So right now, this would be the top one. What we're doing is preparing for that eventuality."

The first agenda item approved was the closure of a platted alley running east to west through block 12. The city owns the property described as lots 2, 3, 4 and 5 (YMCA) and determined that the alley was not used as a public thoroughfare or for utility access.

Following that decision, the commission approved the replatting of the property containing the YMCA building. The proper-

ty consists of four lots, with the YMCA building on the southwest lot and the remaining three lots vacant. The replat separates the building from the vacant lots, creating the potential future site for a new fire station.

Northrop also added that there is a deed restriction on the YMCA property, which the city's attorneys are reviewing.

"It was basically given to use with the deed restriction of use for public use," she said. "So I don't know if that is one we are going to be able to do a sealed bid on or not. We have our attorney looking into that. But in any event, this prepares us to be able to potentially use the rest of that property for a fire station."

Breckenridge Fire Chief Malcolm Bufkin noted that while they don't have a new fire station design yet, there would be wide enough of a space to drive through at the YMCA property as well as public parking behind the building.



Following the recommendation from Breckenridge Fire Chief and Stephens County Fire Marshal Malcolm Bufkin, the county commissioners approved the extension of the county-wide burn ban.

Photo/Alex Kielar

Ban

Continued from Page 1

based on the Keetch-Bryam Drought Index (KBDDI) were averaging 630 for Stephens County on the 0 to 800 scale as of Sunday, Oct. 12 according to Bufkin. Anything above 570 on the scale is considered an emergency level.

There were addi-

tional restrictions to be enforced which included requiring a spotter for welding, cutting or anything else with an exposed flame, also known as "hot work", as well as needing about 50 gallons of water to ensure safety during such work.

The commissioners unanimously approved the extension of the burn ban for 90 days. If the KBDDI index falls or if conditions change to where Bufkin would want to relieve the restrictions, the court can lift them after they consult with the fire chief.

Bids

Continued from Page 1

was approved by the Breckenridge City Commission at their Tuesday, Oct. 14 meeting. Commissioner Blake Hamilton made the motion for approval, which was seconded by Commissioner Junior Fernandez, the only two commissioners to attend the meeting. Mayor Bob Sims also voted in favor.

The TWDB project also includes approximately \$3.15 million in loan/grant funding available for construction, according to the engineer.

"Phase two will (then) include other improvements for the wastewater treatment plant and sewer lines as well," City Manager Cynthia Northrop said. "Staff and engineers are recommending that Purcell Contracting is the highest ranking, basically the lowest and best bid."

Northrop added that the funding is a 70/30% matching grant.

The total base proposal price is broken down to \$33,000 for mobilization, bonds and insurance; \$375,000 for four horizontal brush aerators; \$182,000 for two dewatering containers, one polymer feed system, heat trace; \$1,200 for one frost proof fire hydrant, \$300 for 31 4" PVC pipe, \$500 for 108 2" ductile iron pipe and \$13,000 for one ultrasonic flow

meter.

The total score that Purcell received out of a possible 100 points was 92.9, beating out Dowtech Specialty Contractors (83.6). Purcell scored 46.4/50 for proposal pricing, 17.5/20 for contractors' qualifications, 15/15 for current and completed projects and references, 9/10 for adherence to technical requirements of the request for proposals and 5/5 for safety record.

The wastewater treatment plant improvements are fol-

lowing the city getting into compliance at its lift stations from several deficiencies found by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Those deficiencies were corrected by late August and work then began on putting out bids for the first phase of the wastewater treatment plant improvements. Work on the wastewater treatment plant accelerated when former Public Works Director Kegan Burns highlighted the deficiencies in his resignation letter.

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The Strength of a Lion, The Heart of a Neighbor.

Barney, Jerry and old jokes...

Gentle friends, if any such folks are reading, I wish to make it clear that during my 22+ years of writing this piece, I have avoided ever using “bad” words. If any sneaked in, they were mild, never thrown carelessly around like many words crossing the lips of broadcasters, particularly in the sports world.



Don Newbury

The Idle American

Admitting digression here on the sunrise of my latest column, I’ll leave today’s topic briefly, taking a side road to congratulate two well-known “goldy-throats” whom I’ve never heard resort to even mild profanity. They are Jim Nantz, longtime network sports icon, and Dave Raymond, play-by-play guy for the Texas Rangers. There are a few others, I’m sure, but the list is short.

Now, with such attention paid to my “keeping-it-clean” allegiance, I admit—up front—that within a few paragraphs, I will include a word nev-

er used in a previous column. I recently was reminded of an old joke that would have gone flat without the word “droppings” in it. (Horror! During my youth, my parents would have threatened a good mouth “soap-washing” had I told such a joke.)

I have a reader to thank (blame?) for this awakening. Let’s call him “Jerry,” and admit to him—and others—that from time to time, I have uttered questionable verbiage. Who hasn’t made the air blue upon hammering fingers instead of nails, even

worse if in a foul mood before letting the hammer down?

There is a danger in dealing with what may be viewed as a personal “holier than thou” assessment, but, here goes.

If this word “droppings” is offensive, you are excused from further reading...

In last week’s epistle, I wrote of a friend’s experience hiking with buddies in Glacier National Park environs, and their wearing small bells to keep bears at bay. I don’t know whether their concern was encountering black or grizzlies—or maybe both—but in the upcoming joke, both breeds are included.

Jerry emphasized that of the two breeds, grizzlies are to be most feared. I don’t know which bear breed “Barney” (he didn’t want his real name listed, either) and his bunch were trying to ward off.

The old yarn claims that long ago hikers not only wore bells, but also carried miniature air horns in case they came across grizzlies bristling with unusually foul temperaments...

It was claimed that black bears chow down largely on berries, while grizzlies are resolute carnivores.

Therefore, researchers scouring bear habitats doggedly examined “droppings” to determine which breed dominated their studied regions.

If such residue included berries, they figured that blacks ruled. However, if it included little bells and air horn fragments, they assumed that grizzlies were in charge...

While dealing with attention to detail, my Uncle Mort told me of his carelessness recently while scouring

See Newbury, Page 5

Ask Rusty: How do I navigate the Social Security maze?

Dear Rusty: I am a woman, turning 65 this October (2025). It seems that deciding when to claim Social Security is complicated. I would like more information to navigate through this maze. Thank you. **Signed: Ready to Claim**



Russell Gloor

Social Security Matters

Dear Ready: Deciding when to claim Social Security can be challenging, but we hope to make it a bit easier for you. You can, of course, call us at any time to speak to one of our certified Social Security Advisors, but I’ll share some pertinent information here as well.

Be aware that at age 65, you have not yet reached your Social Security (SS) full retirement age (FRA). Born in 1960, your FRA is age 67, and that is when you can get 100% of the SS benefit you’ve earned from a lifetime of working. If you claim SS at age 65, your monthly amount will be reduced by about 13.3% from your age 67 entitlement (a permanent reduction).

If you wait a bit more and claim at age 66 the reduction would be about 6.7%. To get 100% of your “primary insurance amount” you should wait until age 67 to claim. Note you can also wait longer than your FRA and earn Delayed Retirement Credits up to age 70, when your monthly amount would be about 24% more than your FRA entitlement.

If you are still working, at age 65 you will also be subject to Social Security’s Annual Earnings Test (AET) which limits how much you can earn when collecting SS benefits before your full retirement age. The earnings limit for 2025 is \$23,400 (changes annually) and if you earn more than that, SS will take away \$1 in benefits for every

\$2 you are over the limit. There is also a special rule for the first calendar year you are collecting early benefits, which will result in you not getting benefits for any month your work earnings are more than \$1950 after your early benefits start. So, if you claim SS at age 65 and continue to work, you won’t get any SS benefits in any 2025 month thereafter that you earn more than the monthly limit (unless your total annual; 2025 earnings are less than the annual limit). FYI, the earnings limit no longer applies once you attain your full retirement age.

In the end, deciding when you should claim Social Security should consider your need for Social Security money, your life expectancy, your plans for working, and your marital status. If you are (or were) married, you might be eligible for a spousal (or ex-spouse) benefit. You may also want to peruse the Social Security Q&A section at our website www.SocialSecurityReport.org. So, as you have already discerned, deciding when to claim Social Security can be confusing, but we are always here to assist you as needed. You can either call us directly at 1.888.750.2622 or email your specific Social Security questions to us at SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org. In either case, we will be most happy to help you decide when to claim, based on your unique personal circumstances.

Fail your way to success

Fear of failure is one of the biggest fears people have. Ironically, failure is an integral component of the success process. There are two distinctly different types of failure. Absolute failure is when you give up. Successful failure is when you get back up.

Of course, not everything you attempt works out as planned. When striving for a goal, you will likely discover many ways which don’t work as anticipated. Successful people throughout history have experienced this phenomenon.

It took Thomas Edison 10,000 tries before he finally discovered a workable formula for

a commercially viable lightbulb.

When asked how it felt to fail so many times, Edison explained that he hadn’t failed at all. Instead, he had discovered 9,999 ways a light bulb wouldn’t work.

Henry Ford went bankrupt twice before his third attempt at a successful automobile manufacturing company finally took hold. R. H. Macy went bankrupt three times before he came up with a successful business model. Dr. Seuss was rejected by 23 publishers before the 24th publisher sold millions of his books.

Most job seekers go through this process before landing a posi-

tion they want. They fail their way to success by sending out hundreds of resumes. Their goal is to get one or more interviews which ultimately lead to at least one job offer. Then, if the job doesn’t meet their expectations, they have to start the process over again.

You learned to walk by failing your way to success. Each time you fell down, you struggled to get back up. Each iteration of this process taught you muscle control and balance. You ultimately learned to walk because you refused to give up.

There are countless other examples of people who have failed



Bryan Golden

their way to success. Yet, there are also even more people who have failed and then given up. It’s up to you whether you will experience successful failure, or absolute failure.

Here are some strategies to use in order to fail your way to success. First, accept failure as a necessary ingredient for success. Each failure gets you one step closer to your objective. Failure is a learning opportunity which shows what requires adjustment.

After each failure, determine what went wrong and look for ways to make improvements. Success requires continuous learning. Seek to constantly add to your skills and knowledge. Study successful people to determine what they have done right. Learn from unsuccessful people what not to do.

Taking action is cru-

See Golden, Page 5

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

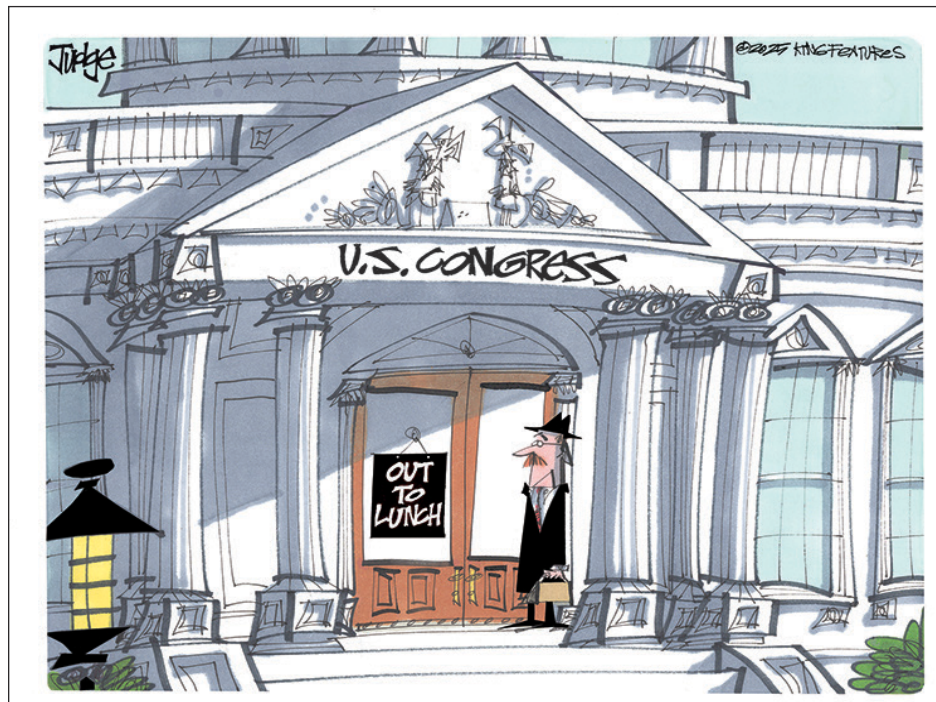
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Redistricting attracts a spate of GOP candidates

Redrawing the state's congressional maps, though being challenged in court, has drawn 114 Republican candidates in the state's 38 districts with nearly two months left until the filing deadline, the Houston Chronicle reported.

The Texas Legislature redrew the maps at the request of President Donald Trump in hopes of gaining five additional GOP seats. As a result, there are winnable seats for Repub-



Gary Borders

Capital Highlights

licans in Houston, San Antonio and Dallas that have drawn 19 GOP candidates to date.

Two Republican members of Congress

are seeking statewide office instead of trying to hold on to their current seats. Chip Roy, who represents a Central Texas district, is running for Texas attorney general, while Houston Republican Wesley Hunt recently jumped into the U.S. Senate race.

In addition, Michael McCaul, R-Austin, and Morgan Luttrell, R-Houston, are not seeking reelection. Those four open seats have drawn 25 GOP candidates.

Newbury

Continued from Page 4

his attic, where hundreds of cigar boxes clutter. One was labeled "Grandmother's Things," followed by a name he didn't recognize. "I can't imagine how many 'grandmothers ago' it was," he related.

He pulled out a bracelet, eager to slip it on Maude's wrist.

His wife, initially pleased, examined it closely, asking, "Why is it inscribed 'Do Not Resuscitate?'" He had no words, and her "cold-shouldering" continued...

...

Ok. Ok. Let's re-

turn to the real world, where truth is unvarnished and the government is here to help us.

Dr. Larry McGraw, beloved Hardin-Simmons religion professor for 44 years, is both deeply committed and clever. He's everywhere, including decades of service at public address microphones for H-SU sporting events. Additionally, he's taught First Baptist Church's Primetime Sunday School class for some 35 years. He's always coming up with jokes, stories and assorted

observations that usually elicit grins, but sometimes groans.

Recently, he provided a "groan moment" upon proposing a new class motto: "We don't care." It didn't gain traction.

Of course they care, and are immensely revered for their prayerful lives of unselfish service—even during the week! They'd never agree to such a motto...

...

Dr. Newbury, a speaker in the Metroplex, may be reached at 817-447-3872.

Golden

Continued from Page 4

cial for producing results. Always be in motion working towards your objective. Keep trying new approaches until you find a working formula. Get up right away each time you stumble or fall.

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By taking smaller, more manageable steps, failures are more readily recoverable.

Don't fear failure. Embrace successful failure as essential for goal at-

tainment. Use each failure as the invaluable learning tool it is. The way you fail yourself to success is by getting right up whenever you fall down.

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Breckenridge Devotional Page

1. Is the book of Mark (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
 2. From Genesis 32, who was "greatly afraid and distressed" about a reunion with a brother he had wronged? Joseph, Jacob, Cain, Peter
 3. What city was beat down and sowed with salt? Shechem, Caesarea, Gaza, Berea
 4. From Numbers 20, who died on a mountaintop after having his garment stripped? Moses, Abraham, Noah, Aaron
 5. Who lost all his horse-drawn chariots in a sea? Ornan, Balaam, Pharaoh, Benaiah
 6. Where did Abraham meet angels? River, Tent door, Juniper tree, Prison
- ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Jacob, 3) Shechem, 4) Ar- on, 5) Pharaoh, 6) Tent door

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- Have changes?
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FEATURES FROM THE BIBLE

TRUTH IN SCRIPTURE

Miriam
Exodus

Miriam was Moses' sister. It was Miriam who was charged with watching over Moses when he was placed in the tar-coated basket and placed in the water.

It was Miriam who saw Pharaoh's daughter retrieve the basket and discover Moses inside.

It was Miriam who offered to find a maid/servant to nurse and care for the baby Moses.

It was Miriam who brought her own mother to Pharaoh's daughter and introduced them.

Pharaoh's daughter paid Moses' mother to care for him until he was old enough to be weaned and go and live in Pharaoh's palace.

Exodus 15 records a song that Miriam sang and led the women to sing.

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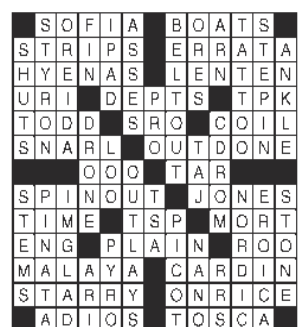
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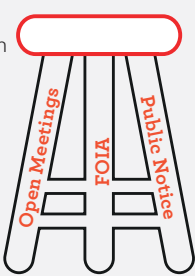
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Why Public Notice Should Remain in Newspapers

Along with open meeting and freedom of information laws, public notice is an essential element of the **three-legged stool of government transparency**



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

essential elements of public notice:

Accessibility

Independence

Verifiability

Archivability



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



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

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



Newsprint is inherently superior to the internet for public notice because reading a newspaper is a serendipitous process.

We find things in newspapers we weren't expecting to see. On the internet, we search for specific information and ignore everything else.



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

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

Verifying publication is difficult-to-impossible on the web.

That's why the courts subject digital evidence to far greater scrutiny than evidence published in newspapers

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

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



Moreover, the real digital divide for public notice is growing

due to the massive migration to smartphones and other small-screen digital devices



Requiring independent, third-party newspapers to ensure that public notices run in accordance with the law helps

prevent government officials from hiding information

they would prefer the public not to see

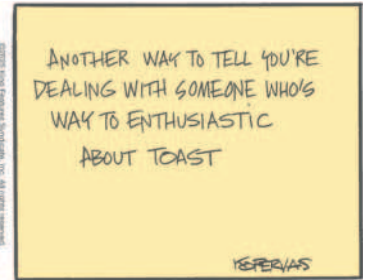
Governments aren't very good at publishing information on the internet. Unlike newspaper publishers,

public officials aren't compelled by the free market to operate effective websites.



ENTERTAINMENT Midweek Edition

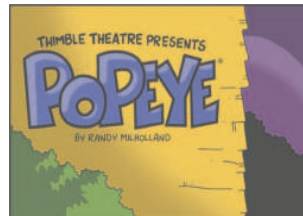
OUT ON A LIMB by Gary Kopervas



THE SPATS by Jeff Pickering



POPEYE by Randy Milholland



Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|
| 1. More than enough | ___ M ___ | Granny Smith, e.g. | ___ P ___ |
| 2. Veranda | ___ R ___ | Kangaroo's pocket | ___ U ___ |
| 3. Lag behind | ___ I ___ | Extended | ___ O ___ |
| 4. Hay measure | ___ L ___ | Completely worn out | ___ D ___ |
| 5. Model Crawford | ___ I ___ | Gum drop or licorice | ___ A ___ |
| 6. Span | ___ H ___ | Respond | ___ T ___ |
| 7. Realm | E ___ | Baseball referee | U ___ |
| 8. Coldplay singer | ___ T ___ | Singer Gaye | ___ V ___ |
| 9. Theme | ___ P ___ | Gin and | ___ N ___ |
| 10. Brag | ___ O ___ | Explosion | ___ L ___ |



"Fourteen frozen dinners? You and the wife still taking vacations?"

SCRAMBLERS

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

- Fish: **CLEARD** [] [] [] [] [] []
- Guide: **MERNOT** [] [] [] [] [] []
- Elude: **PEACES** [] [] [] [] [] []
- Bundle: **CARPLE** [] [] [] [] [] []

TODAY'S WORD

Crossword

ACROSS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11									13	
14										
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

- | | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 30 Roofing goo | 52 How chicken may be served | 8 Prince Valiant's son | 33 "That makes me happy!" |
| 31 Indy 500 skid | 53 Juan's farewell | 9 Body art | 34 Airport screening org. |
| 35 Singer Norah | 54 Puccini opera stat | 10 Intervene | 36 Type of skiing |
| 39 Marathoner's | 40 Recipe abbr. | 11 Closes | 37 Beethoven's Third |
| 42 Humorist Sahl | 42 Humorist Sahl | 13 Bracelet site | 38 Sculptor's material |
| 43 Chang's brother | 44 Unadorned | 18 Expert | 41 Loop of lace |
| 44 Unadorned | 46 Kanga's kid | 21 Unmanned plane | 44 Arsonist |
| 46 Kanga's kid | 47 Asian peninsula | 23 PC drive insert | 45 iPod model |
| 47 Asian peninsula | 49 Designer Pierre | 25 Bathroom, to a Brit | 48 Onassis nickname |
| 49 Designer Pierre | 51 Van Gogh's "— Night" | 27 — Mahal | 50 Train lines (Abbr.) |
| | | 29 Expenditures | |
| | | 31 Sing loudly | |
| | | 32 Rose parts | |
| | | 32 Target at a fiesta | |

Look for answers in the Classifieds.

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Douglas White goes down to recover a Clyde fumble in the first quarter of the district opener Friday, Oct. 10. The Buckaroos fell 22-14 to the Bulldogs in their district opener.

Photo/Alex Kielar

Bucks fall short in district opener

Alex Kielar
news@breckenridgeamerican.com

The Breckenridge Buckaroos fell 22-14 to the Clyde Bulldogs in their district opener Friday, Oct. 10. Despite a strong effort, early mistakes and missed opportunities cost the Bucks a chance at victory.

The Bucks opened with a promising drive, highlighted by a 37-yard catch and run from Cameron David, but a fumble by Jaime



Cameron David runs after the catch following one of his two catches for 48 yards against Clyde. The second reception was an 11-yard touchdown

Photo/Alex Kielar

Cruz halted momentum. The defense responded with a turnover on downs, but

a tipped interception gave Clyde the ball back. A personal foul penalty helped set up a

touchdown pass from Devan Wright to Hunter Dematties, putting the Bulldogs up 7-0.

The Bucks tied it in the second quarter after a pass interference call set them up in the red zone before Cruz finished it off with a 14-yard touchdown run.

A tipped interception gave Breckenridge a chance to take the lead before halftime, but they failed to capitalize. The game remained tied at 7-7 at the break.

In the third quarter, Joseph Juneau connected with Ryan Waller for a deep pass before finding David for an 11-yard touchdown. A Josiah Acosta extra point gave the Bucks a 14-7 lead.

But Wright's scrambling proved difficult for the Bucks to contain. He ran in a touchdown early in the fourth quarter after scrambling for long runs, then completed a two-point conversion for the 15-14 lead.

Clyde added another score later on a designed quarterback run to seal the win.

Christian Flores returned from injury, rushing nine times for 33 yards as a running back. He also led the team with 14 tackles and pressured the quarterback throughout the night. Head Coach Casey Pearce praised his impact, noting the team got more banged up and likely wouldn't have been in the game without him.

"It was great to have him. We had to have him tonight," Pearce said. "We lost four more dudes... We don't have him, it looks different... great to see him out here."

The game was the Bucks' fourth one possession game of the season.

"Disappointing loss, we had opportunities to do some things with it and we didn't capitalize," Pearce said.

Following their home game Friday, Oct. 17 against Jim Ned, the Bucks now travel to Comanche and Sweetwater, before finishing up the season at home against SATLCA.

Bucks go 1-1 in final week of Graham fall basketball league

Alex Kielar
news@breckenridgeamerican.com

The final week of the Graham fall basketball league recently took place and the Buckaroos split the two games that they played.

In the games that took place Tuesday, Oct. 14, The Bucks defeated the Olney Cubs in the first game, 60-37, before falling to Jacksboro Tigers, 44-32, in the second.

The Bucks got on the scoreboard first against Olney when Andrew White found Connor Salazar who finished it off for a fastbreak layup. A little later in the action, Salazar hit a layup to cut into a deficit at 6-4.

Gavin Harrison fought his way inside the paint and hit a layup to cut back into the deficit, with the Bucks trailing 9-6 at that point.

The deficit was back to just one point at 9-8 when Salazar dropped in a layup in the middle of the defense. Andrew White then laid one in to take the lead for Breckenridge, 12-11.

The Bucks were able to take momentum and go on a scoring run for a 21-11 lead. In that run, Salazar knocked down a shot from downtown and White hit a midrange jumper.

Kevin Araujo recorded two baskets as the Breckenridge lead got out to 27-16 and White knocked down his own putback as the Bucks led 31-21 at half.

The lead continued to grow in the second half, getting out to 54-28 before a timeout was called. With-

in that time, Salazar recorded two layups and White recorded three with Salazar assisting on one. Kaden Shooke also knocked down a three-pointer and Bry Armstrong made a free throw.

After the timeout, the Bucks scored six more points including two layups from White and one from Araujo to close out a 60-37 win.

In the game against Jacksboro, the Bucks got the first points on free throws from Armstrong. The scoring went back-and-forth for a while before the Bucks took a 9-5 lead with Salazar hitting a midrange, White knocking down a three-pointer and Armstrong putting back his own rebound.

Jacksboro scored two straight baskets to tie the score at 9-9, before a Bucks three-pointer gave them the lead back, 12-9.

The back-and-forth scoring continued until it was again tied, 21-21, as White tied it with a three. Araujo and Armstrong also knocked down three-pointers. After a half, the score was tied at 23-all.

Jacksboro began the second half going on a run and kept the momentum going as they closed out a 44-32 win. Armstrong hit another three as well as a free throw in the half.

The Buckaroos winter basketball season begins Friday, Nov. 14 at home against Clyde. They are once again led by head coach Brent Lucas with assistant coaches Tanner Crain and Clay Boaz.



Connor Salazar dribbles up court alongside an Olney defender during the final week of the Graham fall basketball league Monday, Oct. 13.

Photo/Alex Havardasny

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BPD Police Chief Blake Johnson at the Breckenridge City Commission meeting Tuesday, Oct. 14. The city of Breckenridge announced at the meeting that they have received a Criminal Justice Division grant through the governor's Public Safety Office for the implementation of new body-worn cameras for all 11 officers of the police department.

Photo | Alex Kielar

City receives grant for BPD body cams

Alex Kielar
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The Breckenridge Police Department will soon be equipped with new body cameras after receiving a grant for the purchase of the equipment.

The Breckenridge City Commission authorized applying for the Criminal Justice Division grant through Gov. Greg Abbott's office Tuesday, Feb. 4 with the deadline for application Thursday, Feb. 13.

City Manager Cynthia Northrop announced at the Tuesday, Oct. 14 meeting that they received the grant, administered by the governor's Public Safety Office (PSO).

Northrop said that it is a 75/25% match grant for \$65,741, while they had originally requested for \$137,242.85. The 75% covered by the grant is \$49,305.75, while the

25% city responsibility is \$16,435.25.

The grant is for 11 body cams from Axon, in order to provide one for each officer of the police department. Northrop said that Axon is the top of the line, latest technology body cams.

"It has two charging and download stations, insurance for damaged equipment and unlimited storage," she said.

The grant is for one year and the city will again apply in two years to maintain the funding for the cameras. The need to go out for the grant was first brought to the city's attention by BPD Police Chief Blake Johnson and Sergeant Justin Shockley at the Tuesday, Feb. 4 meeting. Commissioner Greg Akers made the motion to authorize the grant application and it passed unanimously, 3-0.

"They (BPD) received the equipment Monday, (Oct. 13) and

they are scheduled for training on how to use the equipment with the vendor-Axon," Northrop said. "They will conduct training over the next several weeks."

The total funds made available across the state for body-worn cameras through PSO was \$10 million. PSO screened all applicants to ensure that they met all requirements for the funding. Applications were then reviewed by PSO staff members or a review group selected by the executive director, according to the fund announcement.

"PSO will make all final funding decisions based on eligibility, reasonableness, availability of funding, geographic distribution, cost effectiveness or other relevant factors," the announcement stated. "The office of the governor may not fund all applications or may only award part of the amount requested."

City sees modest sales tax growth amid statewide surge

Alex Kielar
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The city of Breckenridge has seen a modest increase in their sales tax based on numbers from the same time last year.

Breckenridge received \$179,092.44 in local sales tax revenue for October, a 1.65% increase over the same period last year, according to figures released Thursday, Oct. 9, by Acting Texas Comptroller Kelly Hancock.

The uptick reflects continued consumer activity in the region, contributing to a broader statewide trend of rising sales allocations.

Statewide, Hancock announced \$1.1 billion in October sales tax distributions to cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose districts—a 3.9% increase compared to October of last year. These payments are based on taxable sales made in August by businesses that report monthly, according to the press release sent out by Hancock.

Breckenridge's year-to-date sales tax collections now total \$1,951,450.88, up 3.53% from the \$1.88 million collected during the same period last year. While the city's monthly growth trails the

state average, the steady climb underscores local economic resilience.

Across Texas, cities received \$715.1 million, up 3.3% last year; counties saw a 5.4% increase totaling \$70.8 million; special purpose districts experienced the largest jump at 7% and transit systems received \$238.5 million, an increase of 3%.

For a full breakdown of October allocations, including figures for surrounding communities, visit the comptroller's monthly sales tax allocation comparison summary reports on the Comptroller website.



BPD Police Chief Blake Johnson at the Breckenridge City Commission meeting Tuesday, Oct. 14. The city of Breckenridge announced at the meeting that they have received a Criminal Justice Division grant through the governor's Public Safety Office for the implementation of new body-worn cameras for all 11 officers of the police department.

Photo | Alex Kielar



Kamden Tidwell takes the baton from Abigail Duran during last track season's girls 4x200 of the Buckaroo Relays at the track behind South Elementary. The track is set to be resurfaced over the next couple of months after the BISD school board approved the construction bid Monday, Oct. 13.

Photo | Alex Kielar

BISD set to resurface track before spring season

Alex Kielar
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The Breckenridge ISD track behind South Elementary is set to get a makeover before the upcoming spring track season.

The BISD Board of Trustees approved awarding the construction bid for a resurface project to Tarkett Sports Construction of Burlison at its Monday, Oct. 13 meeting. This was per the recom-

mendation of Athletic Director Casey Pearce, deciding between two bids the school board received.

The other bid that came in was from Gary Carter of G. Carter Construction of Austin.

The project from start to finish will take about nine weeks to complete, according to Pearce, as long as there is normal weather over the next couple of months.

Pearce said that they

were set to have a walk around of the track this past week to start the process of skinning the surface off and having an asphalt evaluation.

"I don't believe there's any asphalt damage to the base. Just need to reskin it, top it with a sealer and then we can start with the surface," Pearce said.

The colors of the track that the AD wants to go with is gray for the lanes and green for the exchanges. Beynon

Sports is the company being utilized for the resurface through Tarkett, used in the country's most prestigious track and field facilities.

The school district is five years removed from the remodel of Buckaroo Stadium, when they installed AstroTurf in spring 2020. The Lady Bucks softball field was also recently upgraded with real grass sod over the summer to allow for easier maintenance.

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Best Automotive Businesses

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Auto Repair (Mechanical) _____

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Tire Dealer _____

Best General Businesses

Business with most helpful employees _____

Antiques Store _____

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Bank _____

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Convenience Store _____

Day Care Center _____

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Best Professionals & Professional Businesses

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Physician (General Practice) _____

Pharmacist _____

Real Estate Company _____

Real Estate Title Company _____

Veterinary Clinic _____

Best Service Businesses & Trades

Air Conditioning/Heating _____

Barber Shop _____

Hair Salon _____

Nail Salon _____

Plumbing Company _____

Roofing Company _____

Places to Have Fun

Best Picnic Spot _____

Scenic View _____

Camping Site _____

Place for a Birthday Party _____

Best in Their Business

(Please provide Business Affiliation or Contact Info)

Bank Teller _____

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Boss _____

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Coach _____

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School _____

Secretary _____

School _____

Sport _____

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