

City approves water system improvement updates

Alex Kielar
news@breckenridgeamerican.com

The Breckenridge City Commission approved several major items tied to the city's ongoing water system improvements, including the issuance of more than \$1.7 million in Certificates of Obligation and acceptance of a \$4 million state grant to support

upcoming construction. The approvals from the city commission came at their latest meeting Tuesday, Jan. 6. Commissioners adopted Ordinance 2026-01, authorizing the sale of \$1.72 million in Combination Tax and Surplus Revenue Certificates of Obligation to the Texas Water Development Board. The fund-

ing will support planned upgrades to the city's water infrastructure, including projects outlined in the city's long-term capital plan. The commission also approved a \$4,003,900 grant agreement for additional water-system improvements. The grant

See Water, Page 2



The city of Breckenridge underwent a multi-day water system emergency last month. The city commission approved several major items Tuesday tied to the city's ongoing water-system improvements Tuesday, Jan. 6.

Photo/Alex Kielar

Hardy named Breckenridge Public Works Director

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The city of Breckenridge has appointed Taylor Hardy as its new Public Works Director, filling a leadership vacancy that has persisted since the unexpected resignation of the previous director just two months into the job. Hardy, who has served as Public Services Director for the past six months, officially assumed the new role Monday, Jan. 12. City Manager Cynthia Northrop announced the promotion during the city commission meeting Tuesday, Jan. 6, describing Hardy as a steady, capable leader who has already earned the confidence of staff across multiple departments. The position has been in flux since former director Kegan Burns resigned in September, only weeks after stepping into the role.

See Hardy, Page 3



Showcasing local talent

Local exhibitors presented their animals during the 67th annual Stephens County Junior Livestock show, where local 4-H and FFA members showcased months of work at the Stephens County Ag Barn from Thursday, Jan. 8 through Saturday, Jan. 10. Winning the Jacob Jackson Master Showman award was Sylee Mitchell.

Photos/Alex Kielar



Filing for local elections opened Wednesday, Jan. 14 and closes Friday, Feb. 13. Seats are up for election at multiple entities around the county.

Archive photo

Filing open for May local elections

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Filing for the May general election has officially opened, giving Breckenridge residents the opportunity to run for several key local offices, including seats on the Breckenridge City Commission, the Stephens Memorial Hospital District Board of Directors and the Brecken-

ridge ISD Board of Trustees. Candidate packets for city offices are available at the city secretary's office, 105 N. Rose Ave, with filing opening Wednesday, Jan. 14 and closing Friday, Feb. 13 at 5 p.m. Three city positions are up for election this year: Mayor, currently held by Bob Sims; Commissioner

See Filing, Page 2

BISD to take next steps on bond

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Breckenridge ISD trustees are expected to advance several major components of the new elementary school bond project during their next meeting this coming week. The board will discuss selecting the architectural and engineering firm that will design the new school and authorizing the process for hiring a construction manager at risk (CMAR). The meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 19 at the BISD administration building. The bond-related items, to be voted on following an executive session, come one month after the board voted to use the CMAR delivery method for the new pre-K through fifth-grade campus.

See Bond, Page 3

Weekly Local Forecast

Saturday, Jan. 17 High 51 Low 28 Precipitation 0%	Sunday, Jan. 18 High 65 Low 35 Precipitation 1%	Monday, Jan. 19 High 54 Low 29 Precipitation 0%	Tuesday, Jan. 20 High 54 Low 41 Precipitation 2%
Wednesday, Jan. 21 High 64 Low 44 Precipitation 13%	Thursday, Jan. 22 High 69 Low 48 Precipitation 20%	Friday, Jan. 23 High 72 Low 38 Precipitation 7%	Hubbard Creek At capacity: 1,183.00 Current: 1,168.84

Classifieds	6-7	Opinion	4-5
Entertainment	7	Sports	8
Obituaries	2	Water Update	1-2

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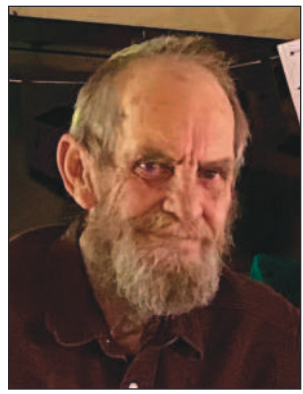
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Obituaries



Wayne Martin

Jan. 10, 1951 – Jan. 9, 2026

Wayne Jackson “Jack” Martin, Jr., age 74, passed away on Jan. 9, 2026, in Abilene. He was a resident of Breckenridge. Born on Jan. 10, 1951, in Monahans, Jack lived a full and vibrant life marked by service, skill, and deep devotion to his family.

Jack proudly served his country in the United States Navy, embodying a spirit of dedication and resilience that would define much of his life. After his military service, he built a respected career as a diesel mechanic. Known for his remarkable ability to fix just about anything, Jack was truly a jack of all trades—resourceful, hardworking, and always willing to lend a hand.

He had an enduring love for the outdoors and found peace in fishing. Whether or not he caught anything never mattered; it was the quiet moments by the water that brought him joy. Jack also had a passion for country dancing and was known for teaching all his nieces how to two-step with flair. His storytelling was legendary—he could captivate any room with tales that were as entertaining as they were heartfelt.

Above all else, Jack was devoted to his family. He was an amazing father, uncle, brother, and husband who loved deeply and gave generously of himself. He cherished his late wife Brenda Martin with unwavering affection and carried her memory with him always.

Jack is survived by his children: Jack and Virginia Martin of Breckenridge; Billy and Lisa Shelton of Bryson; Deanna and Phil Smith of Foss, Oklahoma; Pam and Donald Jones of Post; and Mark and Tammy Crosson of Haskell. He also leaves behind his siblings: sisters Kay Pelton, Kim Purcell, Kristy Giessmann; and brother Thomas Martin, Aunt, Sharon Jones. His legacy continues through 13 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren, along with numerous nieces, nephews and cousins who will remember him fondly.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife Brenda Martin; his parents Jack and Margueritte Martin; sister Karen Goode; and nephew Jeremy Martin.

A funeral service honoring Jack’s life will be held at 1 p.m. Jan. 20 at Texas State Veterans Cemetery 7457 West Lake Road Abilene, TX 79501.

May Wayne “Jack” Martin’s memory bring comfort to those who knew him and serve as a lasting reminder of a life well lived.

Filing

Continued from Page 1

Place 1, held by Blake Hamilton; and Commissioner Place 2, held by Greg Akers. All candidates must be U.S. cit-

izens, at least 18 years old, registered voters and meet state residency and eligibility requirements.

The Stephens Memo-

rial Hospital District has also posted its official filing notice. Applications may be submitted Wednesday, Jan. 14 through Friday, Feb. 13 at the Administration Office, 200 S. Geneva St. SMH will have four board seats on the ballot, currently held by Wade Toombs, Todd Tidwell, Bruce Curry and Kevin Simmons.

Breckenridge ISD will have two trustee positions on the May ballot – Place 6, held by Board President Nic McClymond and Place 7, held by TASB Delegate Chad Townson, scheduled for election as part of the district’s three-year rotation.

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The Breckenridge City Commission approved several major items Tuesday tied to the city’s ongoing water-system improvements Tuesday, Jan. 6.

Photo/Alex Kielar

Water

Continued from Page 1

is part of the same funding package and will help cover construction costs as the city moves into the next phase of water-line and system upgrades.

City Manager Cynthia Northrop told commissioners the upgrades are part of a broader, multi-year push to stabilize a system originally built for a population of 30,000 – five times the city’s current size. The system includes 80 miles of water line and 45 miles of sewer line, much of it dating back to the 1920s through 1940s.

Northrop presented a breakdown of recent investments, noting that since 2022 the city has budgeted approximately \$1.7 million for water-treatment plant repairs, lift-station upgrades, distribution-line work and wastewater-plant improvements. That figure does not include existing debt from earlier projects, including major water-plant and Lake Daniels improvements dating back to 2012-2017.

In a related action, commissioners authorized the creation



Cynthia Northrop outlines the water systems upgrades on the way for the city of Breckenridge and the funds up for approval by the commission Tuesday, Jan. 6.

Photo/Alex Kielar

of a construction account required under the bond ordinance and designated signatories for the account.

Earlier in the meeting, Northrop also walked commissioners through a timeline of last month’s multi-day water emergency, which involved three major leaks – two caused by contractors – and a broken valve that required outside assistance.

Repairs were completed within 12 hours, but the valve failure extended the outage and prompted a local disaster declaration.

Northrop said the city used seven com-

munication channels and logged 61 resident contacts during the four-day event. She also shared a letter from a Texas Division of Emergency Management representative commending the city, county and volunteer agencies for their coordination.

“We are making progress,” Northrop said, while acknowledging the scale of the challenge.

She estimated that fully modernizing the city’s water, wastewater and street systems would cost close to \$100 million. Commissioners approved the bond issuance and grant agreement unanimously.

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Lady Bucks celebrate teacher appreciation

The Lady Bucks celebrate their favorite teachers Tuesday, Jan. 13 before their home game against the Millsap Lady Bulldogs as part of teacher appreciation night, presenting the teachers with baskets and bags of goodies.

Photos / Alex Kielar



Bond

Continued from Page 1

This was a decision that allows the district to bring a construction manager into the project early to help refine costs, scheduling and materials.

Monday's agenda moves the district deeper into the design and procurement phase.

One of the key action items calls for the board to approve an agreement with Jacob & Martin, LLC to provide architectural and engineering services for the 2025 bond projects.

If approved, the firm will begin developing detailed plans for the new elementary school, including site layout, building design, utilities, safety features and interior spaces. Their work will shape the scope and cost of the project before it moves to construction.

Trustees will also consider authorizing Superintendent Prairie Freeman, or her designee, to begin the formal process of procuring a CMAR.

This step establishes how firms will be evaluated and selected, setting the stage for competitive proposals in the coming weeks.

Under the CMAR model, the selected firm will collaborate with architects during design and eventually provide a guaranteed maximum price, giving the district more control over costs.

Another bond-related item asks the board to adopt prevailing wage rates published by the U.S. Department of Labor under the Davis-Bacon Act. The adoption of wage standards is required before the district can open construction bids and ensures contrac-

tors pay workers at consistent, federally recognized rates.

These steps continue the district's long-term plan to replace South Elementary with a new two-story, 80,000 square-foot campus designed to serve up to 700 students.

The project is funded through the \$39 million bond package approved by Stephens County voters in November, which also includes technology upgrades, safety improvements, new playgrounds and the demolition of East Elementary once the new campus is complete.

With design work and contractor procurement now underway, district officials expect to bring additional updates—including timelines, design drafts and cost estimates—to future board meetings as planning progresses.

Hardy

Continued from Page 1

Burns cited various ongoing issues with the city's water and wastewater systems as reasons for his departure in his resignation letter.

That left the city without a permanent director at a time when Breckenridge was preparing for major water-system upgrades and navigating ongoing infrastructure challenges.

Since then, Northrop and senior staff have been dividing responsibilities while searching for a long-term replacement.

Hardy's appointment, Northrop said, brings needed stability.

"Taylor has a lot of experience managing large teams, and he's already shown he can handle the pace and complexity of the work," she told commissioners. "He's here in Breckenridge, he's staying in Breckenridge and he's invested in this community."

Hardy's promotion comes as the city prepares to launch more than \$5.7 million in water-line and system improvements, funded through a combination of state grants and Certificates of Obligation approved at the meeting. The work follows a multi-day water emergency in December that required coordinated response from city crews, contractors, county officials and volunteer agencies.

As Public Works Director, Hardy will over-



The city of Breckenridge appointed Taylor Hardy as its new Public Works Director, introduced at the city commission meeting Tuesday, Jan. 6. He will officially step into the role Monday, Jan. 12.

Photo / Alex Kielar

see the departments most directly involved in those projects – including water distribution, wastewater collection, street maintenance and lift-station operations.

The role also places him at the center of long-term planning for a system that includes 80 miles of water line and 45 miles of sewer line, much of it nearly a century old.

Northrop said Hardy has already been working closely with staff during the transition and has demonstrated the communication skills and organizational discipline needed to lead the department

through the next phase of construction.

Commissioners praised Hardy's ethic and the stability his appointment brings to a department that has seen significant turnover in recent years.

Hardy received a round of applause from staff and commissioners for the appointment during the meeting.

Northrop said she expects a smooth transition as Hardy steps into the role, adding that she and other department heads will continue supporting him as the city moves into a demanding year of infrastructure work.

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A royal 'hang-up' in Dallas...

It's usually a "ho-hum" thing when my Uncle Mort calls. If it's about business, I make sure to "think monkey" in front of it.

Recently, his "jabber" included details of his "blind hog luck" while fetching groceries from the thicket's general store.

His visit coincided with the arrival of the bread truck, this time with a trainee.

"He was a talker, bringing me up to speed on the news in Dallas," Mort said. A conversational dark side soon loomed, according to my uncle, about AT&T's decision to move its global headquarters almost 20 miles north to Plano. Mort's voice tone ascended from barely neutral to full throttle...

...

"AT&T's 'hanging up' on Dallas is the biggest local news since sliced bread," the trainee joked, making sure Mort made the "sliced bread connection" with his job.

He added, "Looks like



Don Newbury

Idle American

this drama has more ups and downs than an elevator with its tail on fire."

The 20-minute conversation--coupled with mindless scouring of the internet--provided enough info for Mort to consider himself an authority on the world's largest communications company, Dallas' biggest employer.

He learned that the current digs in Dallas are rented, wondering if AT&T was required to pay first and last month in advance.

He's "right on" about this being big news. When the jousting includes so many players--including Texas

Governor Greg Abbott--it's like penny-pitching gambling elevating quickly to high dollar casinos. Know this: There's more spinning going on than all the tops of world toy stores strung together...

...

There's probably enough squirming in both corporate and city hall board rooms for new moves to be added at belly-dancing schools.

Reasons for the BIG MOVE come from many sources, some of them tepid at best. AT&T claims to need a "sub-urban campus" where it can spread out. Dallas--with several skyscrapers posting "for rent" signs--urges the behemoth bunch to "think tall."

This reminded Mort of the joke about overweight guys going to great lengths to avoid great widths, but I doubt this has much to do with the "Big D" brouhaha quickly skipping simmering to a full boil.

Cut to the chase, my

uncle is placing his bets on information provided by a bread truck trainee and internet sources. With him, "You pays your money and you takes your chances."

...

Mort's thoughts are all over the charts, but I'll relay some of 'em:

1) Don't expect President Trump to get involved. He's too busy trying to convince Canada NOT to build a wall to keep us out. He's also busy with threats to Denmark that if co-operation with the US isn't forthcoming, he'll place a 300% tariff on Danish rolls. Mort, who still hoists a Confederate flag daily, is more worried about Yankees headed south than illegal immigration. Every time there's news about Federal troops on the Rio Grande River, Mort thinks they ought to be at the Red River gateway from Oklahoma. "The Feds are guarding the wrong river," he fumes.

See Newbury, Page 5

Ask Rusty:

I'm divorced. Can I get benefits from my ex-husband?

Dear Rusty: After 16 years of marriage, we were divorced. I have never remarried, but he has.

When he starts collecting Social Security (he is 64 now and still working), is it true that I can claim ex-spousal benefits or does that go to the current wife? How would I find this info? **Signed: A Divorced Spouse**

Dear Divorced Spouse: The fact that your ex-husband has remarried has no influence on your ability to collect benefits based on his record.

If you are eligible for ex-spouse benefits (because you did not remarry), you can get those benefits regardless of whether his current wife collects benefits on his record.

In other words, both you and his current wife can both collect spousal benefits from your ex-husband's earnings record.

Your eligibility for an ex-spouse benefit is determined by comparing your own SS retirement benefit amount at full retirement age (FRA) to his--if your own SS benefit at your FRA is less than 50% of your ex's FRA benefit entitlement, and you were married to your ex for more than 10 years, are not currently married and are at least 62 years old, then you can get a "spousal boost" (an amount added to your own Social Security retirement amount).

In fact, if you have been divorced for over two years, you can get an ex-spouse benefit even though he is not yet receiving his own SS retirement benefit.

Be aware, however, if you claim any Social Security benefit (both your own SS retirement amount and your ex-spouse "spousal boost") before you reach your full



Russell Gloor

Social Security Matters

retirement age, the monthly amount you get will be reduced according to how much before your full retirement age you claim.

Spouse and ex-spouse benefits reach maximum at your full retirement age but are reduced if claimed earlier than your full retirement age.

Claiming your benefits as an ex-spouse will also result in you receiving your own SS retirement benefit (reduced if you haven't yet reached FRA).

I suggest you contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 to make a telephone appointment to evaluate whether you are entitled to benefits as an ex-spouse.

If your own SS retirement benefit at your FRA is less than half of your ex's FRA entitlement, you will be.

To apply for those benefits you will need a copy of your divorce decree (and perhaps your marriage certificate), and your ex-husband's Social Security number (if you do not have his SSN, you can provide his date and place of birth and his parents' names, and SSA will likely be able to locate your ex's SS record).

SSA will be able to tell you what your total monthly benefit as an ex-spouse will be when you meet with them, at which point you can decide whether to claim your benefits early or wait until your FRA to achieve your maximum amount as an

See Matters, Page 5

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 his-

tory 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 position 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 expecta-



Bryan Golden

tions, 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 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

See Golden, Page 5



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Newbury

Continued from Page 4

2) Jerry Jones might move the Cowboys north, too; they could start over as the "Plano Plowboys."

3) Think of the possibilities for utilizing emptiness left behind. "They could house the homeless and operate city hall in the same building," he claims. (Right now, Mort is trying to find out if it's true that AT&T has ordered flak jackets for the company's nearly 6,000 Dallas employ-

ees traveling to and from work daily.)

4) City leaders, trying to call AT&T brain trusts, may mostly get busy signals.

5) Mort doesn't fault Alexander Graham Bell, who invented the telephone. A college professor, Bell was trying to create some different sound pitches to help his deaf wife. (Answering the first ring in 1844 was a "Mr. Watson," who heard Alex's request, "Come here,

I need to see you.") Watson wasn't needed for long, though, since he soon scored big in the ship-building business.

But that's another story.

Foregoing are Mort's stories, and he's stickin' to 'em. My case is rested...

•••

Dr. Newbury and his wife reside in the Metroplex. Speaking inquiries, newbury@speakerdoc.com, phone 817-447-3872.

Matters

Continued from Page 4

ex-spouse.

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Golden

Continued from Page 4

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 crucial 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.

Leave your comfort zone. You've got to try things you have not done before. When what you are doing is not working, you must

make positive changes. This requires venturing into the unknown.

Failure is likely if you take steps which are too big. Big steps are difficult to manage and complete. Big steps should be broken down into a number of smaller, more manageable steps. For example, opening a large restaurant from scratch is fraught with challenges. If you have little or no experience, your chances of failure increase.

Instead, start with a small sandwich shop. As you gain success and

experience, you could expand your business. By taking smaller, more manageable steps, failures are more readily recoverable.

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

•••

Bryan is the author of "Dare to Live Without Limits." Contact Bryan at Bryan@columnist.com.



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Breckenridge Devotional Page

1. Is the book of Nahum (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Man and woman came into being on what day of creation? First, Second, Third, Sixth
3. How many windows were in Noah's Ark? Zero, 1, 52, 100
4. From Proverbs 15, what does a soft answer turneth away? Wisdom, Scorn, Wrath, Fear
5. Which apostle was shipwrecked three different times? Paul, Peter, Philip, James
6. Who was the father of David? Moses, Noah, Abraham, Jesse

ANSWERS: (1) Old, (2) Sixth, (3) One, (4) Wrath, (5) Paul, (6) Jesse

FEATURES FROM THE BIBLE
TRUTH IN SCRIPTURE

All was wonderful with Adam and Eve in the garden God had placed them in... Until the serpent tempted Eve to eat of the forbidden fruit, the fruit of the TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL. She did eat. And then she invited Adam to join her.

Soon thereafter they heard the voice of the Lord walking in the garden in the cool of the day and they hid from God because they were afraid.

When God questioned them, Adam confesses that he did eat of the forbidden fruit - but he protested that the woman gave it to him. Eve, when questioned, blamed the serpent.

And Adam and Eve were driven from the garden and were caused to labor for their food by tilling the ground from which man had been taken.

Next week: All about Eve.

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FSA is looking for Temporary Program Analyst to help deliver "The American Relief Act of 2025," which was signed into law on Dec. 21, 2024 and provided the U.S. Department of Agriculture with more than \$30 billion to deliver disaster recovery assistance for farmers and livestock producers. This position will help support the implementation of the Emergency Livestock Relief Program and the Supplemental Disaster Relief Program which will provide assistance to producers for necessary expenses due to losses due to weather related events in 2023 and 2024. Resumes can be submitted by email to jacob.chapman@usda.gov. Resumes must be emailed no later than the close of business on January 22, 2026. Basic requirements include general office clerical work, computer operation and customer service. Background investigation required. For more information, contact Jacob Chapman, County Executive Director at (254) 559-2444. FSA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



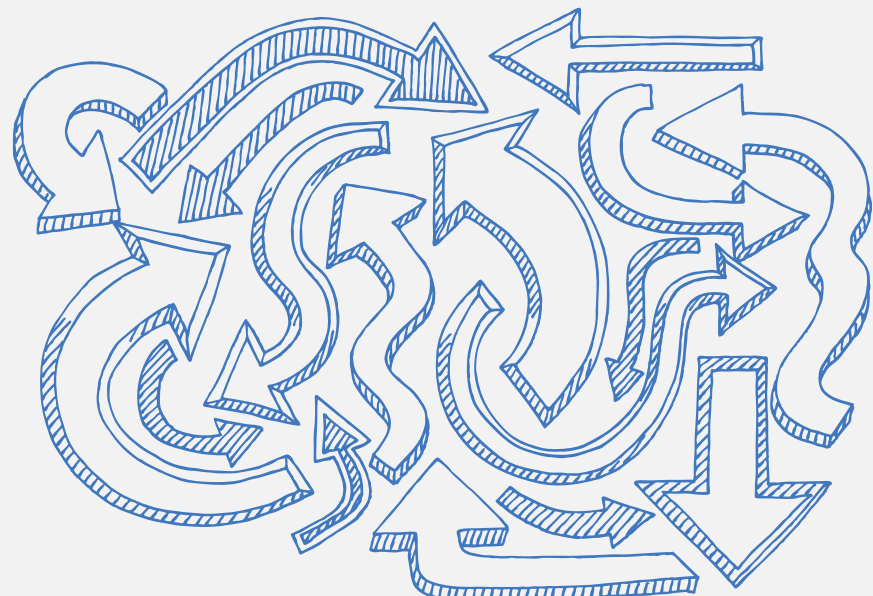
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Today's Word
VOTERS

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800 PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICES

CITY OF BRECKENRIDGE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Pursuant to Section 22-4-(B)(3) of the Breckenridge Code of Ordinances, the Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on:
DATE: Monday, February 2, 2026
TIME: 5:30 PM
PLACE: City Commission Chambers, 105 N. Rose Ave.
 The public hearing will be to consider:
 Repeal of existing zoning regulations in Chapter 22 of the Breckenridge Code of Ordinances and adoption of a new Chapter 22, Zoning, to establish new zoning districts, new zoning regulations for uses of property in all zoning districts, and adopt a new zoning map. Any and all persons interested in the above referenced item may attend such hearing and will be given an opportunity to be heard.
 By: /s/ Cynthia Northrop
 Cynthia Northrop
 City Manager
 City of Breckenridge, Texas

CITY OF BRECKENRIDGE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Pursuant to Section 22-4-(B)(5) of the Breckenridge Code of Ordinances, the City Commission will hold a public hearing on:
DATE: Tuesday, February 3, 2026
TIME: 5:30 PM
PLACE: City Commission Chambers, 105 N. Rose Ave.
 The public hearing will be to consider:
 Repeal of existing zoning regulations in Chapter 22 of the Breckenridge Code of Ordinances and adoption of a new Chapter 22, Zoning, to establish new zoning districts, new zoning regulations for uses of property in all zoning districts, and adopt a new zoning map. Any and all persons interested in the above referenced item may attend such hearing and will be given an opportunity to be heard.
 By: /s/ Cynthia Northrop
 Cynthia Northrop
 City Manager
 City of Breckenridge, Texas

Construction Invitation for Bids

The City of Breckenridge will receive bids for the 2022 TxDBG No. CDM22-0020 Downtown Revitalization Program Sidewalk Improvements - Phase 2 project until **10:00 a.m. on Monday, February 2, 2026** at the Breckenridge City Hall, located at 105 N. Rose Avenue, Breckenridge, Texas 76424, at which time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud.
 Bids are invited for several items and quantities of work as follows: Remove and replace West Elm Street asphalt pavement from North McAmis Street to North Rose Street. Additional improvements

include removal and replacement of existing concrete curb and gutter, driveway approaches, and sidewalk. Other additional work includes a concrete manhole collar and various pavement markings.

The Bidding Documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications may be obtained from Civcast at www.civcastusa.com. Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents, Drawings and Technical Specifications at the Engineer's Office on Monday through Thursday between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., and the City of Breckenridge's office, on Mondays through Fridays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. A bid bond in the amount of 5 percent of the bid issued by an acceptable surety shall be submitted with each bid [for those contracts that exceed \$100,000]. A certified check or bank draft payable to the City of Breckenridge or negotiable U.S. Government Bonds (as par value) may be submitted in lieu of the Bid Bond. Attention is called to the fact that not less than, the federally determined prevailing (Davis-Bacon and Related Acts) wage rate, as issued by the Texas Department of Agriculture Office of Rural Affairs and contained in the contract documents, must be paid on this project. In addition, the successful bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual identity, gender identity, or national origin. The City of Breckenridge reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding. Bids may be held by City of Breckenridge for a period not to exceed 60 days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the bidder's qualifications prior to the contract award.

The City of Breckenridge is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The lobbying certification must be submitted with the bid packet to be considered complete and responsive. All contractors/subcontractors that are debarred, suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation on federal assistance programs may not undertake any activity in part or in full under this project. The Owner will award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder or to the bidder who provides goods or services at the best value for the Owner. Such considerations may include multiple awards from one solicitation.

City of Breckenridge
 Cynthia Northrop, City Manager
 January 17, 2026

FILING NOTICE Board of Directors Region XIV Education Service Center

Candidates for Place 4 (Stephens, Eastland, and Comanche Counties); and Place 6 (Abilene Independent School District) may file between February 1 and February 20, 2026, either in person at 1850 State Highway 351, Abilene, Texas between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Monday – Friday, or by certified mail to Mr. Chris Wigington, Executive Director, Region XIV Education Service Center, 1850 Highway 351, Abilene, Texas 79601. There is no filing fee.

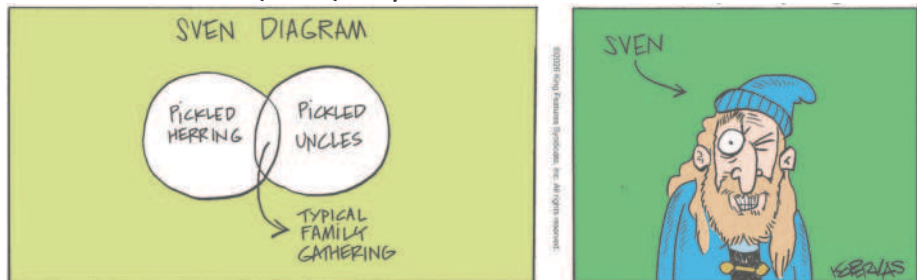
Eligibility requirements, further information, and filing forms may be received from Mr. Chris Wigington, Executive Director, Region XIV Education Service Center.

NOTICE DE REGISTRACION PARA LA JUNTA DIRECTIVA DE REGION XIV EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER

Candidatos para el Lugar 4 (los condados de Stephens, Eastland, and Comanche), y para el Lugar 6 (los condados de Abilene Independent School District) pueden registrarse entre las fechas del primero de Febrero hasta el veinte de Febrero, 2026, en persona en las oficinas del Region XIV, en calle 1850 State Highway 351, Abilene, Texas, desde las ocho de la mañana hasta las tres de la tarde de Lunes a Viernes: o por carta certificada dirigida al director ejecutivo, Region XIV Education Service Center, 1850 Highway 351, Abilene, Texas 79601. No hay cobro para registrarse. Mas informacion sobre las formas de registracion, y sobre los requisitos necesarios para estos puestos pueden ser obtenidos de Chris Wigington, el director ejecutivo, Region XIV Education Service Center.

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

- | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------|
| 1. Chimpanzee's home | U _ _ _ _ _ | Catchy tune | I _ _ _ _ _ |
| 2. Bank safe | V _ _ _ _ _ | Flaw | F _ _ _ _ _ |
| 3. Spring month | C _ _ _ _ _ | Swamp | S _ _ _ _ _ |
| 4. From Deutschland | G _ _ _ _ _ | Novelist Melville | H _ _ _ _ _ |
| 5. Eatery | N _ _ _ _ _ | Frogman | V _ _ _ _ _ |
| 6. Ice cream spoon | C _ _ _ _ _ | Sailing vessel | L _ _ _ _ _ |
| 7. Food cupboard | N _ _ _ _ _ | Trifling | L _ _ _ _ _ |
| 8. Fire-starting stone | N _ _ _ _ _ | Coquette | R _ _ _ _ _ |
| 9. Physical well-being | H _ _ _ _ _ | Financial prosperity | W _ _ _ _ _ |
| 10. Goblet or beaker | L _ _ _ _ _ | Lawnmower target | R _ _ _ _ _ |

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!

Discuss: ENFORC [] [] [] [] [] []

Inherent: ANTENI [] [] [] [] [] []

Classic: GIANTEV [] [] [] [] [] []

Plod: MCHEES [] [] [] [] [] []

TODAY'S WORD [] [] [] [] [] []

"Frankly, I'm against aid to education — we've got too many educated _____ on hand as it is."

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		

ACROSS

1 Post-WWII alliance
 5 Life story
 8 Quick kiss
 12 Challenger's words
 14 Oklahoma tribe
 15 Misses an opportunity
 16 Without acting
 17 Prattle
 18 Contacts, e.g.
 20 Vowel group
 23 " — Misbehavin' "
 24 Japanese noodle
 25 Anthology
 28 Pvt.'s superior
 29 To the third power
 30 Green shade
 32 Cruised in style
 34 Furnace fuel
 35 Region (Abbr.)
 36 Natural talents
 37 Nap
 40 Extinct bird
 41 "Hulk" star
 42 Bana
 42 Distributes
 47 "Smallville" girl
 48 Coffee bar order

DOWN

1 Zilch
 2 Hubbub
 3 Prof's aides
 4 Salem's state
 5 Invitation initials
 6 Debtor's letters
 7 Summarized
 8 Unspecified travel destination
 9 LAX postings
 10 Natalie or Nat
 11 Piano pieces?
 13 Isaac's eldest
 19 Author
 20 Ger. neighbor
 21 Jittery
 22 Speck
 23 Fossil resin
 25 Incensed
 26 Atop
 27 Bicycle part
 29 Guitarist
 31 Gore and Pacino

33 MD's diagnostic order
 34 Stopped
 36 Dutch word for "farmer"
 37 Actress Ward
 38 401(k) relatives
 39 Drei minus zwei
 40 Star athletes, briefly
 43 Equi-
 44 Sugary suffix
 45 Mex. neighbor
 46 Great weight

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Bucks overwhelm Bulldogs to stay undefeated in district

Alex Kielar
news@breckenridgeamerican.com

The Breckenridge Buckaroos (13-8, 4-0) tightened their grip on the district race as they overwhelmed the Millsap Bulldogs (5-17, 1-3), 67-35, behind a wave of defensive pressure, transition scoring and a balanced offensive night that never really let the Bulldogs breathe.

The win Tuesday night, Jan. 13 moved the Bucks to 4-0 in district play.

The opening quarter was a back-and-forth sprint, with Ryan Waller drilling a three and Douglas White attacking the rim before cleaning up the glass for second-chance points.

Millsap countered with perimeter shooting, including a tying three in the final minute, and teams ended the first knotted at 11-all.

Breckenridge seized control in the second quarter. Joseph Juneau's feed to Joaquin Fernandez for a clean inside finish gave the Bucks the lead for good. Hudson Woodward's free throws extended it, and Waller drawing a charge swung momentum sharply. Moments later, Douglas White jumped a passing lane, pushed the break and delivered a behind-the-back assist to Waller – one of the night's signature plays.

The Bucks kept stacking stops to extend their lead further before halftime. Fernandez split a pair at the charity stripe, Waller hit Cooper



Douglas White works against a Millsap defender in the paint in the first half of the Bucks' 67-35 win Tuesday, Jan. 13 over the Bulldogs. White scored 14 points in the win that improved the Bucks to 4-0 in district.

Photo/Alex Kielar

Wimberley in stride for a fastbreak layup and Douglas White closed the half with a turnaround jumper and a steal-and-score in the final seconds to send the Bucks into half up 24-14.

The third quarter broke the game wide open for Breckenridge. Douglas White set the tone early with more scoring, with the defense igniting the run. Christian Flores' steal leading to a Waller three stretched the margin and Douglas White kept orchestrating, finding Waller for a layup at 3:06.

Wimberley buried a three-pointer of his own to add to the surge, and Waller piled on with a fastbreak layup, another finish inside and a deep three with 44 seconds left. The Bucks erupted for a 19-point quarter and built a commanding 43-23 lead.

The fourth quarter became a showcase of depth and ex-

ecution. Jaime Cruz turned a steal into free throws, Juneau found Woodward for a layup and Waller added two more at the line to keep the pressure on.

Juneau followed with a putback, then later drilled a trailing three off a no-look pass from Douglas White at 3:26. Cruz set up Douglas White for another finish as the starters handed things off to the bench.

The closing minutes belonged to the reserves. Bry Armstrong's layup at 1:02 drew a roar, Andrew White's jumper added to the cushion and Armstrong capped the night with a block that sprung Andrew White for a final midrange jumper with three seconds left.

After the complete win, the Bucks were headed to Peaster for their next game Friday, Jan. 16 before taking on the Comanche Indians on the road Tuesday, Jan. 20.



Ashlyn Owen, seen lifting in a meet last year, is one of the four returning lifters who competed at the state meet in Edinburg last season. Breckenridge powerlifters get their season started with the Buckaroo Bash powerlifting meet Thursday, Jan. 22.

Photo/Alex Kielar

Powerlifting season begins with Buckaroo Bash

Alex Kielar
news@breckenridgeamerican.com

The Breckenridge High School powerlifting season is set to begin this coming week as the Buckaroos seek to build on last year's momentum, a campaign that saw eight girl lifters and three boy lifters qualify for the state meet.

This year's opener will again be the Buckaroo Bash, taking place Thursday, Jan. 22 in the Breckenridge ISD Athletics and Fine Arts Center Main Gym.

The meet will feature lifters from across the region and serve as a key early test for the Buckaroos.

Last year, both the girls and boys teams won the meet. Head coach Jarrod Shepperd said that they have added an additional rack this year to speed up the meet, allowing six racks to run simultaneously.

Last season's post-season run was anchored by a strong senior class. For the Lady Bucks, Cabel Perkins, Joni Jackson and Maria Duran all closed out their careers on the state platform, with Duran earning a medal at the state meet in Edinburg.

Returning lifters Isabelle Biddison, Ashlyn Owen, Sofia Lopez, Rihanna Fuller and Rylee Fuller also represented at the state meet. On the boys' side, Jack McKay and Nathan Roberts graduated after competing at the state meet in Abilene,

alongside returning lifter Lesavier Gutierrez.

With those seniors moving on, the Buckaroos now turn to a new group of returners and newcomers expected to carry the program forward. Shepperd said he expects both the boys and girls teams "to be competitive at every meet," noting that the program is entering what he described as a new era of powerlifting.

This season marks the inaugural year of the Unequipped division for the boys, a format the girls have tested in recent years. Breckenridge has not previously had female lifters compete in the category, but Shepperd said several young athletes – along with a few veterans – plan to give it a try. The division removes all supportive gear, replacing squat suits, knee wraps and bench shirts with a standard wrestling singlet.

"It is powerlifting in its purest form," Shepperd said, adding that he is excited to see how the Bucks and Lady Bucks respond to the challenge.

Shepperd added that returning six of last year's 11 state qualifiers is promising on its own, and many of last year's regional qualifiers are also back in the lineup.

Breckenridge will compete in six regular season meets before shifting into regional qualification. After the season opener, the Buckaroos travel to

Dublin on Thursday, Jan. 29, Stephenville on Thursday, Feb. 5 and Munday on Saturday, Feb. 7. The team then heads to Comanche for the Indian Invitational on Thursday, Feb. 12, followed by the Bulldog Invitational in Wylie on Saturday, Feb. 21.

The girls' regional certification and declaration deadline is Monday, Feb. 23, while the boys' last chance qualifier is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 26 at Wichita Falls Legacy High School. Boys must complete their certification and declaration by Monday, March 2.

Postseason competition begins with the girls unequipped regionals Tuesday, March 3 in Sherman, followed by the girls regional meet Thursday, March 5 in Breckenridge.

"We have the privilege of hosting the girls regional meeting on March 5," Shepperd said. "It will be much smaller than our invitational because it will not be co-ed and it is only the Big 3A division."

The girls regional meet will also take place in the Main Gym of the Athletic and Fine Arts Center.

The boys regional meet will take place Thursday, March 12 in Decatur.

The season concludes with the girls state meet March 18-20 in Edinburg, and the boys state meet March 27-28 in Abilene, where the Buckaroos hope to return after last year's strong showing.

Thank you

January is Texas School Board Recognition Month, and Breckenridge ISD is proud to recognize our Board of Trustees for their dedicated service to our students, staff, and community.

We thank our trustees for their unwavering support and for leading with Buckaroo pride. Breckenridge ISD is better because of your service.

Thank you, BISD Trustees!

Ty Bartoskewitz, Cheyanna Gill, Carrol Kanady, Ky Kennedy, Nic McClymond, Chad Townson, and Paul Lippe



Seen lifting in the state powerlifting meet in Abilene last year, Lesavier Gutierrez is one of the top returning lifters for the Buckaroos as they get set to begin the 2026 season with the Buckaroo Bash powerlifting meet Thursday, Jan. 22.

Photo/Alex Kielar