

Stone Portals for Spring Creek Nature Center and Dallas Municipal Building Recognized for Excellence

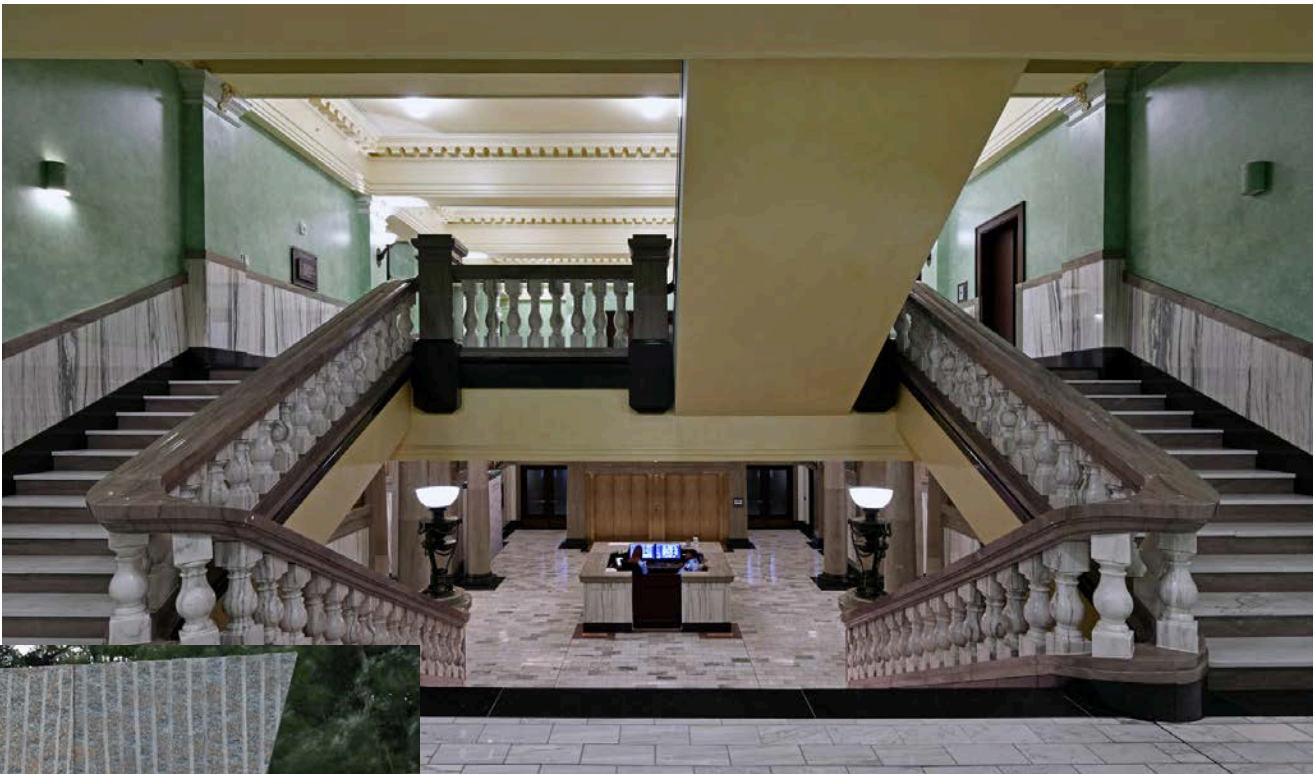
Dee Brown, Inc. has been awarded two 2020 Pinnacle Awards for Excellence by the Natural Stone Institute for stone projects completed in the Dallas area.

“It is a great honor to be recognized as a Natural Stone Institute Pinnacle Award Winner,” said Rob Barnes III, President & CEO of Dee Brown, Inc. “The Natural Stone Institute is comprised of companies representing over 50 countries. The Pinnacle Awards is a worldwide competition. It is one of the highest honors we can receive by our industry, and it speaks volumes to the quality of our team’s work. We had a great showing this year, being recognized for two out of the 14 projects recognized.”

Judges awarded Dee Brown and Cold-

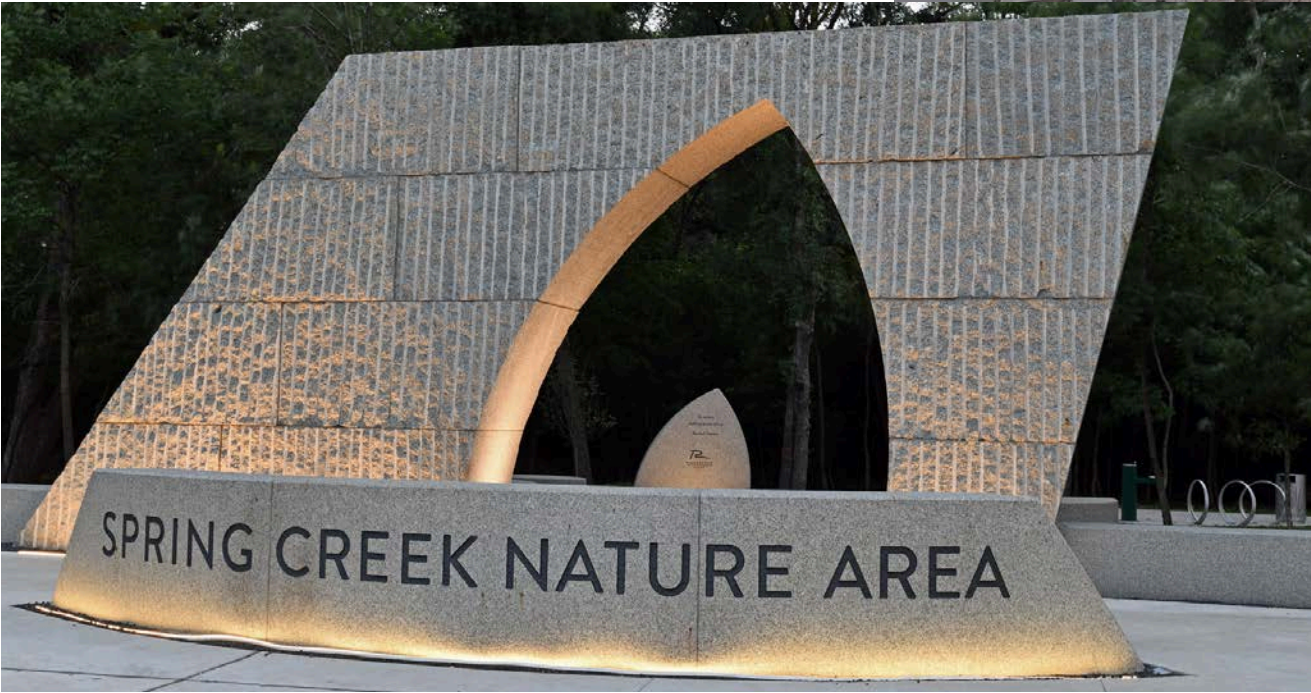
spring, a quarrier and fabricator of granite and natural stone located in Cold-spring, Minnesota, the 2020 Pinnacle Award for work done in the Public Landscape/Parks/Memorials category for their work with the City of Richardson on the Spring Creek Nature Area. More than 8,250 cubic feet of granite was used to create two unique entry portals, standing 16 feet and 20 feet tall, respectively. The heaviest stone used weighed approximately 40,000 pounds. The judges liked the massive scale of the stone sculptures and the simplicity as the gateway into a nature preserve.

Dee Brown was also recognized for its work with Tennessee Marble Company on the Dallas Municipal Building restoration. Completed in 1914 as Dallas’ fourth City Hall, the Municipal Build-



Completed in 1914 as Dallas’ fourth City Hall, after a recent restoration the Municipal Building was turned over to UNT Dallas - College of Law.

Photo by Nathan Shands



Richardson-based Dee Brown Inc. won an international Pinnacle Award for their work with the City of Richardson on the new stone portals leading into the Spring Creek Nature Area.

Photo by Nathan Shands

ing was later turned over to the University of North Texas at Dallas for the College of Law.

Damaged pieces of exterior granite and limestone were removed and shipped to the fabricator to create replacement pieces. Inside, five different types of domestic marble were identified, including one which was no longer being quarried.

Judges commented, “A mid-century renovation resulted in some missing details that had to be researched, recreated and impressively restored back to its original appearance with excellent workmanship.”

Located in Richardson, Texas, Dee Brown Inc. was founded by C. Dewitt Brown, Jr. in 1955, and is a leader in the stone and masonry industry, building and restoring iconic projects, including the American Airlines Center; Nasher Sculpture Center; George W. Bush Presidential Center; Old Red Courthouse; The Getty Center in Los Angeles; Meyerson Symphony Center; Houston Museum of Natural Science; Dallas Country Club; Hunt Oil Headquarters; Trammel Crow Center; AT&T Stadium and many others. More information about the company can be found at deebrowncompanies.com.

The Duncanville Police Department to hold “Operation: Etch and Catch”

Trucks and Sport Utility Vehicles (SUVs) are prime targets for thieves looking to steal catalytic converters. The catalytic converter is part of the exhaust system located underneath the vehicle and is designed to reduce the toxicity of emissions from an internal combustion engine. Thieves steal the catalytic converters because they contain small amounts of precious metals including platinum – which is worth up to \$1,290 an ounce; palladium – which is worth up to \$2,300 an ounce; and rhodium – which can trade for up to \$24,000 an ounce on the market. Trucks

and SUVs have been specifically targeted due to their higher stock ground clearance levels. Owners often only realize their catalytic converter has been stolen when they hear an abnormally loud exhaust noise upon starting their vehicle.

Thieves can steal the converters in as little as 90 seconds and the cost to the owner for replacement of these devices can range between \$900 and \$2,000.

Catalytic converters do not have serial numbers or identifiable markings making it very difficult for law enforcement officers to return the property to the owner when suspects are arrested with these stolen vehicle parts in their possession.

To help combat these thefts, the Duncanville Police Department is offering FREE etching on catalytic converters. This identifiable etching will help law

enforcement officers identify the victim of the theft and return the property to the owner. At this time, we are going to be etching the vehicle’s license plate number on the converter till we come up with a better system to etch the entire VIN.

This FREE service will be offered on Saturday, March 27, 2021, between 9 am to noon. We just wanted other police agencies to be aware of this so if

they run across converters that have etched numbers or find grind marks on the converters this may be where a license plate number or VIN had been etched.

Event will be Saturday, March 27th, 2021, 9am to noon at 203 E. Wheatland Rd.(City Hall Parking Lot) Duncanville, Texas 75116.

If you want more information on this program please contact Officer Doug Sisk with the Duncanville Police Crime Prevention office at (972) 780-5027 or by email at dsisk@duncanvillepd.com.

Did you know ...

64% of survey respondents said they read a community newspaper either in print (43%) or online (6%) (15% reading both).

Texas Senate Panel Approves Slate of Abortion Restriction Bills

By **RICHARD LEE**
Senate Media Services

The Senate State Affairs Committee approved six bills related to the regulation of abortion Tuesday, including one that would reduce the time frame in which a woman can legally get an abortion. SB 8, by committee chair and Minoela Senator Bryan Hughes, would ban abortions after the point at which a fetal heartbeat can be detected.

This typically occurs at around six weeks gestation. Hughes said that a heartbeat is a definitive indicator of human life. Ten other states have passed similar "heartbeat" legislation; all have been enjoined by federal courts.

Hughes believes his bill would have a better chance of clearing court scrutiny because it assesses civil, rather than

criminal or administrative penalties.

As to what the US Supreme Court might eventually decide, Hughes said it's up in the air. "A number of states have passed heartbeat bills, and many take different approaches from this one," he said.

"Those bills are all wending their way to the Supreme Court, so I think there are a lot of questions about what the Supreme Court does with heartbeat bills".

Should the Court reverse itself, partially or totally, Senator Angela Paxton told the committee the state should be ready to immediately respond.

She offered SB 9, which would provide both criminal and civil penalties against abortion providers in the event that states are given full authority to regulate abortion, whether through a decision by the Supreme Court or amendment to the US Constitution.

"In view of the possibility that the current court could reconsider and recognize the authority of the states in this matter, prudence, compassion and justice all direct that we posture ourselves as a state to immediately implement in Texas this protection for the unborn," she said. Her bill would make it a first degree felony to intentionally perform an abortion.

Paxton also laid out a bill that would add on to the information a woman is required to receive before having an abortion procedure.

She said that surveys show that most women who have an abortion do so because they don't think they will have the financial or social support to raise a child. SB 808 would require that clinics give women information about available assistance for health care, employment, housing and other programs to

support the mother and the biological father should they bring the pregnancy to term.

Also in committee, Senator Eddie Lucio of Brownsville put forth SB 394, which anticipates a decision by the federal government to relax restrictions on mail-order of abortifacients or "abortion pills". Current FDA regulations prohibit the sale of certain drugs remotely due to a higher risk profile, but Lucio worries that those rules could change. His bill would codify current federal rules into Texas law and prevent the mail-order distribution of abortion-inducing drugs.

Senator Kelly Hancock of North Richland Hills presented legislation, SB 1135, that would outlaw any abortion based on race, ethnicity, gender or diagnosis of Down's Syndrome or other disability.

In cases where a severe abnormality indicates that a child will not long survive outside of the womb, the parents would be notified of palliative care options to support both them and the child should they choose not to have an abortion.

Finally, Senator Donna Campbell of New Braunfels offered a bill that would close a loophole in the state's law against public funding for abortion providers.

Some cities offered indirect logistical support to abortion providers, such as child care, transportation, food or lodging. SB 650 would ban that kind of assistance as well.

The committee heard from the public on these bills until midnight Monday, then approved all six Tuesday afternoon. The bills will now head to the full Senate for consideration.



Representative Carl Sherman files legislation on transparency of catfish mislabeling

Austin, Texas – Next time you order catfish from a restaurant menu thank State Representative Carl O. Sherman (D-109) if House Bill 928 passes this legislative session.

Representative Sherman’s House Bill relates to the sale and identification of Swai fish, since currently restaurants are not required to label Swai fish resulting in restaurant and food service providers many times mislabeling it as catfish.

“I believe in the transparency of

proper labeling in regard to the type of fish a consumer is being served when ordering a meal or buying a product,” Representative Sherman said. “Swai fish, also known as Pangasius or Basa, is a type of fish that is often used to make fish fillets. It is a less expensive catfish substitution and I believe consumers have a right to know what they are being served.”

Swai fish has, over the years, been sold under the false identity of as many as 19 various types of fish. It is usually

farmed in crowded, large scale fish farms and imported from Asia.

“I also have concern with the type of farming being done regarding Swai fish since the methods used to farm elicit environmental concerns as well as a disturbing mercury level that questions health safety.”

With this bill being passed consumers will not have to worry about the current mislabeling of Swai fish and can be assured what they order, or purchase is indeed the product they are receiving.

To watch the procedure of this House Bill follow the Public Health committee at <https://house.texas.gov/video-audio/>

Representative Sherman represents the citizens of House District 109, which includes DeSoto, Cedar Hill, Glenn Heights, Hutchins, Lancaster, Wilmer, as well as parts of Ovilla, Ferris, Seagoville, and Dallas. He sits on the House Appropriations Committee, the House Corrections Committee and, also sat on the special select judicial committee.

Claiming Social Security Now to Preserve Savings



By **RUSSELL GLOOR**
Assn of Mature American Citizens–

Dear Rusty: One of the big pieces of the Social Security puzzle that everyone seems to miss is the protection of other retirement funds. If I did not take SS, I

would have to dip into my retirement savings to fund the early part of my retirement. I took SS at my full retirement age rather than wait, so I am preserving my retirement account that has historically been getting 8-9% interest over the last 30 years. Social Security will never give me anything close to those returns.

Signed: Smart Investor

Dear Smart Investor: You are, of course, correct that preservation of retirement savings is important. It's also correct that everyone's personal financial situation is different.

If your retirement nest egg has historically provided a return of 8-9% over the last 30 years and will continue to do so, then I believe you made the right choice by claiming at your full retirement age (FRA) and preserving those high-return investments.

But many are not as fortunate as you and have their nest egg sitting in low interest IRAs and bank savings accounts, and those folks may have a different perspective. They may choose an option to delay claiming Social Security to get a higher monthly benefit, initially using some of their low-return savings but allowing them to preserve their overall savings much further into their retirement because of a higher SS benefit.

And most often, continuing to work provides them added ability to delay claiming Social Security to get that higher benefit.

Personally, I do not advocate withdrawing from retirement funds in lieu of claiming Social Security. But I do suggest that waiting past FRA to claim a higher benefit may be wiser than claiming earlier and investing the SS money, trying to beat the 8% yearly benefit growth realized by waiting to

claim. It's an unfortunate reality that high-return/low-risk investments are very difficult to find these days, and most seniors are loathed to put their money in high-risk investments to get higher returns.

Again, everyone's situation is different, and each must choose based upon their own circumstances. Many who contact us about their Social Security options intend to continue working beyond their full retirement age. Those folks might adopt a strategy where they delay past their FRA to get a higher SS benefit for the rest of their life, made possible because they are still working and earning (rather than withdrawing from investments).

If they're in good health and will achieve at least average life expectancy, they will not only enjoy a much higher monthly benefit, but they'll also receive more in cumulative lifetime benefits by

waiting longer to claim Social Security.

Finally, often lost in the argument to claim at or after FRA is that, for a married couple, a surviving spouse receives 100% of the benefit the deceased spouse was receiving at death.

That surviving spouse benefit will either be a smaller FRA amount or a larger (e.g., age 70) amount, depending upon when the higher earning spouse claimed.

Point is, if you are married, when you claim may also affect your spouse's survivor benefit, so life expectancy of both spouses should always be included in the decision on when to claim. In any case, from what you've written

I believe that your choice to claim at your FRA in order to preserve your high-return investments was a prudent move for your personal circumstances. And I admire the careful thought you put into that decision.

Big Event in Grand Prairie Scheduled For April 24

Spring is in the air, and it's time to get stuff done. While last year’s Big Event was scheduled for March, the event had to be cancelled due to COVID. This year Grand Prairie has made some modifications so the city can celebrate Unity in the Community and promote safe city wide volunteerism.

The 2021 Big Event in Grand Prairie will be April 24, 2021. To submit a job request or to register to volunteer visit

the <http://ow.ly/U7cC50DRCCV> website,

Safety is our #1 priority and to ensure this, these modifications have been made:

Group sizes will be limited to 10.

No individual sign ups this year, find your group and sign up together!

There will not be the normal Kick-Off as in years past, however we are working out the details and will post ad-

ditional info on this website.

Teams will dispatch to their service projects for the morning by 9 a.m.

The event is cancelled if raining and not rescheduled

All event participants should register to receive important event updates. Text GPBIGEVENT to 888777.

Deadline for volunteer sign ups is April 1. Volunteer Packet pickups will be April 20 & 21.

Details will be emailed to your team captain


Job Requests

Deadline to submit a job request is April 1, 2021. While the City would like to assist every job request applicant, the number of job requests that can be granted is directly dependent upon volunteer and resource capacity.

All jobs are outside and do not require power tools.

Jobs may include raking leaves, hauling debris, weeding, planting flowers, mulching, spring-cleaning and litter patrol.

All jobs are vetted in advance, in Grand Prairie, one-time only, outside of homes or businesses.



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We will not publish any letter without such information.

Writers must assume complete responsibility for all information contained in letters submitted and by submitting said letters they agree to accept such and hold Focus Daily News and

it’s publishers and employees harmless for allowing them to communicate that opinion.

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There is no guarantee, express or implied, that any letter or opinion submitted will be published at any time.

All such submissions will be subject to space available and suitability for the audience.


Comments should be limited to 300 words

or less and priority will be given to issues affecting the cities and school districts we cover.

Submissions may be emailed to Focus Daily News at editor@focusdailynews.com or mailed to Focus Daily News, Opinions Editor, P.O. Box 1714, DeSoto, Texas 75123.

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Any letters published are the sole opinion of the writer and do not reflect the opinions or policies of this newspaper.

Priority will be given to letters commenting on issues germane to local events or comments on news articles which have appeared in the paper.

Texas' last Public Utility Commission member resigns

BY CASSANDRA POLLOCK
AND SHAWN MULCAHY
Texas Tribune

Public Utility Commission Chair Arthur D'Andrea, the only remaining member of the three-seat board that regulates Texas utilities, is resigning from his post, Gov. Greg Abbott said Tuesday night.

Abbott said in a statement that he asked for and accepted D'Andrea's resignation and plans to name "a replacement in the coming days who will have the responsibility of charting a new and fresh course for the agency." D'Andrea's resignation will be effective immediately upon the appointment of a successor, according to a copy of D'Andrea's resignation letter that was obtained by The Texas Tribune.

He is the latest in a long line of officials who have left the PUC or the Electric Reliability Council of Texas since last month's deadly winter storm plunged large swaths of Texas into sub-freezing temperatures and overwhelmed the state's electricity infrastructure, causing massive power outages. At least 57 people died in Texas as a result of the storm — most of them from hypothermia — according to preliminary data the state health department released Monday.

The reason for D'Andrea's resignation was not immediately clear late Tuesday. It came hours after Texas Monthly reported

that he told out-of-state investors on a call he would work to throw "the weight of the commission" behind stopping calls to reverse billions of dollars in charges for wholesale electricity during the storm. The cost of electricity last month has emerged as a hot-button issue in this year's legislative session after an independent market monitor estimated that the electric grid operator over-billed power companies around the time of the storm.

On Monday, the Texas Senate suspended its own rules to quickly pass a bill to force the PUC to reverse billions of dollars in charges for wholesale electricity during the winter storm. D'Andrea has publicly resisted such calls.

The PUC regulates the state's electric, telecommunication and water and sewer utilities. D'Andrea was promoted to chair by Abbott less than two weeks ago to replace the chair at the time, DeAnn Walker, who resigned at the beginning of the month over fallout related to the winter storm. The other commissioner, Shelly Botkin, resigned a week after Walker.

According to a recording of the call obtained by Texas Monthly, D'Andrea at one point said he expected to remain the sole member of the commission for now, adding he did not think Abbott would want to appoint new commissioners during the legislative session since the Senate would have to confirm appoint-



Gov. Greg Abbott has accepted Public Utility Commission Chair Arthur D'Andrea's resignation

ees.

"I went from being on a very hot seat to having one of the safest jobs in Texas," D'Andrea said during the call. "I think it's just going to be me for a while."

A spokesperson for the commission did not immediately respond to a request for comment. A lawyer by trade, D'Andrea previously served as assistant general counsel to Abbott.

Until last month, the PUC op-

erated largely outside of the limelight. Though the agency held regular public meetings, they were usually sparsely attended and often featured arcane policy discussions that could last for six to eight hours.

D'Andrea has fielded criticism over the repricing debate at the Legislature — and was grilled by Lt. Gov Dan Patrick himself during a Senate hearing Thursday, a highly unusual move by

the head of the Texas Senate.

The next day, a spokesperson for Abbott said the governor "absolutely" still remained confident in D'Andrea's ability to chair the commission. Hours later Friday, Patrick called on Abbott to "intercede" and replace D'Andrea.

"Texans deserve to have trust and confidence in the Public Utility Commission, and this action is one of many steps that will be taken to achieve that goal," Abbott said Tuesday night.

Several bills have been filed in the aftermath of the power outages, yet there's no clear understanding of who's at fault and no consensus on what should be done. And beyond Austin, congressional subcommittees have launched their own investigations into February's events and into the state's electric grid operator.

At the height of the power crisis, nearly 4.5 million Texas homes and businesses were without power. That's because nearly half of the total power generation capacity for the main state electricity grid was offline as weather conditions caused failures in every type of power source: natural gas, coal, wind and nuclear.

The PUC is one of the state's smaller agencies, with about 170 full-time employees. By contrast, the Texas Railroad Commission — the state's oil and natural gas regulator — employs

about five times as many people.

Under normal circumstances, the utility regulator is helmed by a three-person board, each of whom is appointed by the governor and subject to approval by the Texas Senate. Commissioners have small teams of advisers and are bound by a strict set of laws laid out in the Public Utility Regulatory Act, or PURA. So much as a stray hallway conversation is a violation of open meeting requirements.

During a PUC meeting last week, as the last remaining commissioner, D'Andrea heard more than 20 minutes of public testimony, soared through the agenda and even voted on a couple of items. It lasted fewer than 45 minutes.

This is not the first time the PUC served with one commissioner. In 2001, Max Yzaguirre served on the commission alone after Pat Wood's term expired and Judy Walsh resigned. PURA, the agency's governing law, states that "a vacancy or disqualification does not prevent the remaining commissioner or commissioners from exercising the powers of the commission."


The PUC is scheduled to meet again today.



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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City Council Meetings

City of Cedar Hill Council Meetings are held every second and fourth Tuesday in the T.W. "Turk" Cannady/Cedar Hill Room of the Cedar Hill Government Center (285 Uptown Blvd., Bldg. 100, Cedar Hill, Texas 75104). Regular meetings are scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. City council briefing sessions usually begin at 6:00 p.m. All are open to the public.

City of DeSoto Council Meetings are open to the public and

are held on the first and third Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers in City Hall at Town Center (211 East Pleasant Run Road, at the corner of Pleasant Run and Hampton Roads).

City of Duncanville Council meets twice per month at City Hall. On the first Tuesday and on the third Tuesday of every month: 6:00 PM: Work Session/Briefing – Briefing Room. 7:00 PM: Regular Session – Council Chambers.

City of Glenn Heights Council Meetings. 7 p.m.; 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month; City Hall 1938 S Hampton Road Glenn Heights, TX 75154

City of Grand Prairie Council meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday of each month. City Council meetings are open to the public and citizen input is welcome. Watch live broadcasts or view archives of Grand Prairie City Council meeting

City of Hutchins Council meetings are held on the first and third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 300 N. Main St. City Council meetings are open to the public and citizen input is welcome.

City of Lancaster Council meets the second and fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 211 N. Henry St.

Meetings are open to the public.

City of Red Oak City Council meets the second Monday of every month in the council chambers of the Red Oak Municipal Center, 200 Lakeview Parkway, Red Oak, Texas

City of Mansfield Council meets at 7 p.m. on the Second and Fourth Monday of every month; City Hall 1200 E Broad St. Mansfield, TX 76063t at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 1200 E. Broad St. Meetings are open to the public.

City of Midlothian Council Council meetings are held the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall,

104 West Avenue E. Meetings are open to the public.

School Board Meetings

Cedar Hill ISD School Board holds a regular meeting on the third Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Cannady Cedar Hill Room of the Municipal Government Center located at 285 Uptown Blvd., Cedar Hill, Texas 75104. Meetings are open to the public.

DeSoto ISD Board of Trustees meet twice Monthly (2nd & 4th Monday of each month) EXCEPT November, December, March, July). Meetings take place at the DeSoto Independent School District Board Room,

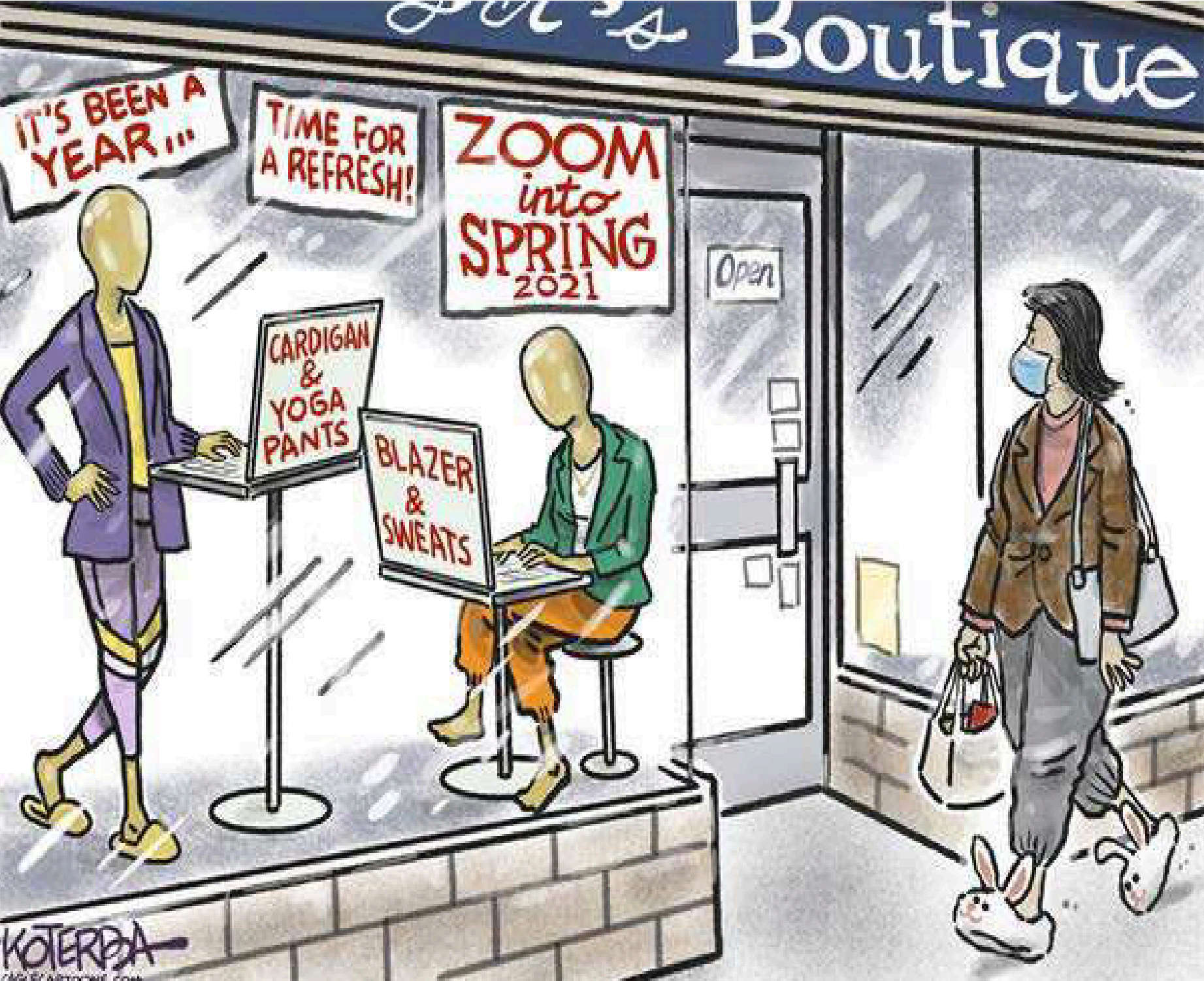
200 E. Belt Line Road, DeSoto. **Duncanville ISD Board of Trustees** meets the third Monday of each month, unless otherwise posted, at the Duncanville ISD Education Plaza (710 S. Cedar Ridge Drive, Duncanville 75137). The Board Room entry is in the rear of the building. Board meetings begin with an executive session at 6:30 pm.

Midlothian ISD Board of Trustees meet on the third Monday of each month beginning at 5:00pm. (Immediately after opening, the Board of Trustees will convene in Closed Session and will return to Open Session at 6:00 p.m.) The meetings are held at the L.A. Mills Administration Board Room, 100 Walter Stephenson Road. The School Board may change meeting dates at their discretion.

Mansfield ISD School Board meetings usually begin with a closed session starting at 6:00 p.m. followed by regular business (open to the public) at 7:00 p.m. In general, regular school board meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of each month at the MISD Center for the Performing Arts 1110 W. Debbie Lane. Meetings are open to the public.

Upcoming Events

March 27
Expo at Chautauqua
Ellis County Master Gardeners
Date March 27, 2021
Time: 9am to 3 PM
Address: 400 S Grand Avenue, Waxahachie, TX 75165
Website: ecmga.com
Speakers – Greg Grant and Daniel Cunningham
Plant Sales – Perennials, vegetables, herbs and more
The Speakers will be in the Chautauqua so the plant sale will be outside so we should be able to keep this a safe event.
Email Information on Your Upcoming Event to Editor@FocusDailyNews.com
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Texas Senate’s First Bill Would Guarantee Right to Visit

By **RICHARD LEE**
Senate Media Services

In order to protect the most vulnerable Americans from COVID infection as the disease spread across the country, visitations to long-term care facilities, including nursing homes, were suspended last March. This well-intentioned decision led to untold suffering as residents in these homes were cut off from friends and family, said Brenham Senator Lois Kolkhorst.

“We didn’t understand the pandemic, we had not seen something like this and we were working to protect all of Texas,” she said. “But when we were doing some of those protections, we were also creating some harm.” She put forth legislation Tuesday that would create a guaranteed right to visit loved ones in long-term care facilities, even in the middle of a pandemic, in both state law and the Texas Constitution.

Following federal guidelines, Governor Greg Abbott suspended nursing home visits on March 19, 2020.

Those guidelines say that the older a person is, the greater the risk from the virus, and out of more than 2,000 nursing homes in Texas, the state health department says only five avoided an outbreak. Even with visitation suspended and heightened safety measures, 8,000 residents died from COVID-19. The risk was real, and the government and healthcare community did what they thought was best, said Kolkhorst. “That’s not the nursing homes’ fault, at all,” she said.

“It was a mandate; we were trying to protect them.” Nevertheless, “we were saving the body but killing the soul,” as New Braunfels Senator and ER physician Donna Campbell put it during the hearing on this bill. Kolkhorst said that after the initial shock of COVID passed, the number one call her office received was from sons, daughters, and other family members, all distraught and angry that they couldn’t visit loved ones in these long-term care facilities. Other members said they heard the same pleas. Senator Judith Zaffirini of Laredo held virtual

meetings on the issue, watched by thousands across the state. She said those Texans who participated in the first one were furious about being kept from visitation. “So much so that I called the Lt. Governor’s staff, I called the Governor’s staff, I called the agency’s staff,” said Zaffirini. “We had an immediate meeting afterwards and said, ‘we have a problem’.”

By September, the Governor eased visitation restrictions, giving residents or their legal guardians the right to designate one or more “essential caregivers” who were permitted reg-

ular visitations with long-term care residents. This was not restricted to healthcare workers nor did it require designated family members to provide medical care but recognized the critical need for family interaction. “I really call it an emotional care giver,” said Houston Senator Paul Bettencourt. “That’s really what we walled off for a year.” SB 25 would make the governor’s order part of state law. Its companion measure, SJR 19, would put the question on the ballot in November, allowing Texans the chance to enshrine a right to visitation in the state

constitution.

These rules would only apply in the middle of an infectious health emergency, such as the COVID pandemic, and otherwise general visitation policies would apply. If there is another pandemic and visitation rights are restricted, SB 25 would require facilities to permit up to two hours of visitation between designated essential caregivers and residents. Caregivers would be permitted physical contact with loved ones and could not be placed under safety protocols stricter than those for facility staff.

At one point in the discussion with Senator Bettencourt, Kolkhorst became overwhelmed with emotion as she recounted the fraught calls with constituents desperate to visit a loved one, who they had only seen through a window or only talked with over the phone for months. “We can’t do this to people,” she said. Bettencourt assured her that he believed we wouldn’t ever again. “I think this constitutional amendment will pass by ninety-some-odd-plus percent,” he told Kolkhorst. “No one wants to have this experience again.”



LEGAL NOTICES

City of Duncanville

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE DUNCANVILLE COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (DCEDC)

A public hearing will be held before the Duncanville Com-

munity and Economic Development Corporation (DCEDC) on Monday, March 22, 2021 at 6:00 PM via ZOOM Conference to receive comments on a request from Mr. Tracy Shook with Take Out Burgers for a signage grant for the property located at 795 W. Wheatland Rd.

in an amount not to exceed \$3,475.00.

As an interested citizen, you may speak at the hearing via ZOOM Conferencing or you may send a notice to the Duncanville Community and Economic Development Corporation (DCEDC) Board at

P.O. Box 380280, Duncanville, TX 75138 - 0280.

CITY OF DUNCANVILLE
Cynthia D. Williams, Economic Development Coordinator

DV 7-14-21-7D - Williams
37L

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