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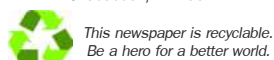


Photo by Skip Leon/The Groesbeck Journal

Goats hand state-ranked Blackcats first district loss

GOAT HOOPS - PG. 4

Projects improve fairgrounds, increase more opportunities



Photos by Jennifer Paul/ The Groesbeck Journal

"We shut down Dec. 13 to redo the barn and do the footing that the commissioners approved. We got that done. We moved the whole barn around," Burleson said. "We got all that done before a team-roping on January 1st."

FAIRGROUNDS - PG. 12

Figueroa springs into action as GISD Superintendent

"As a 2-A or 3-A superintendent, beyond the school district, you also affect the town, and you're really the number one employer of the entire town. The choices that are made and that your team is helping you make, are going to put the district and the city in a positive or a negative place for the next decade to come. That's very humbling and so it really is about the families and the entire city that you are

"My family and I are very excited to join such a wonderful community. From staff to students to programs, there are so many things to highlight and celebrate within GISD. Over the next several months, I plan to absorb Groesbeck ISD's mission, vision, and values. I plan to set up listening tours and to build relationships with students, staff, campuses and the community. My family and I are excited to be



Alexandra Cannon photo/Groesbeck Journal

Since being selected as Lone Finalist by the GISD Board of Trustees back in December, Figueroa has found a home in Groesbeck, moved in, and tied up loose ends.

at WCISD, taking time during Christmas break to set his previous district up for success without him at the helm.

FIGUEROA - PG. 4

OBITUARIES

Linda Louise Kelly Sunday

May 24, 1953 - November 25, 2022

On Friday, Nov. 25, 2022, Linda Louise Sunday, loving mother, grandmother, great grandmother and sister, passed away at the age of 69 in Mexia, Texas. A memorial mass will be held on Friday, Jan. 20, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Mexia. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023 at Glad Tidings Church in Mexia at 1:00 p.m.

Linda was born in 1953 in Wiesbaden, Germany, to the late Colonel John L. and Mary Lou Kelly. Raised in a military family with seven siblings, Linda traveled and lived in many locales throughout the United States and abroad. She met her former husband, Jackie Logan Sunday of Mexia, while in Darmstadt, Germany. They raised a son, John Reuben "J. R." Sunday, who resides in Mexia as well.

Linda had a passion for animals and worked as a pet groomer, having been featured by KENS TV5 news as one of the first groomers to transform dogs to look like wild animals. She was also a gifted artist and sought-after holiday



window dresser.

An accomplished horsewoman, Linda was skilled in both Western and English riding methods. She worked in various western film and television productions as a stuntwoman, location coordinator and production assistant. Her credits include the high-profile westerns "Larry McMurtry's Streets of Laredo," "Larry McMurtry's Dead Man's Walk," "Ned Blessing," "8 Seconds" and "Gambler V: Playing for Keeps."

Linda loved Texas and the "country way of life." Most of all, she treasured sharing in the daily lives of her beloved grandchildren.

Linda was preceded in death by her father, Colonel John L. Kelly II, and her mother, Mary Lou Kelly. She is survived by her son, J.R. Sunday and his wife, Debbie; her grandchildren; Abigail Sunday, Isabel Sunday, Jessica Arthur, Caleb Arthur, Justin Arthur and his wife Kaylee; her great-grandchildren Sophie and Jaxon Arthur, her former husband, Jackie Logan Sunday and his wife Beulah with whom she remained great friends; her siblings John Kelly, Maureen Levinson, Ann Broussard, Peggy Little, Shannon Thayer, Wendy Khalil, and Danielle Kelly; as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins

Please visit www.jonesfuneralservice.com to sign the guestbook & leave a message for the family.



Walter William Hewitt

Walter William Hewitt, also known as "Spock", of Groesbeck, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2023 at Baylor Scott & White-Hillcrest in Waco, at the age of 76.

Visitation with the family was held at 1:00 p.m., followed by the Celebration of Life at 2:00 p.m., Friday, Jan. 13, 2023 at the Faulkenberry Cemetery Pavilion with Rev. Ben Huebner officiating.

Walter was born May 14, 1946 to William Benjamin "Buster" and Ruth Margaret (Ransom) Hewitt at Cox's Hospital in Groesbeck, Texas. He attended Groesbeck schools and graduated from Groesbeck High School, Class of 1964. He was also



a member of the First United Methodist Church.

While attending high school, he worked with his parents at Hewitt's Grocery Store, which was located near the railroad tracks in Groesbeck. Walter, later, began working at the Limestone Theater, running films; he enjoyed this job so much that he become a "movie buff". In the late 60's, he worked for ABCO furniture factory in Mexia. Then he began his career at

the Mexia State School, as he also began his family. He decided he needed more to do, so he added an additional job, running films for the Corsicana Drive-In - in the mid 70's.

After Walter reached retirement age, he retired from the Mexia State School to run his own business, Fantasy Fashions, that he had already opened. After retirement, he, also, had more time to do other things that he loved, camping and attending renaissance festivals.

Walter was a loving son, father, and grandfather; there was nothing more important to him than family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William "Buster" and Ruth Hewitt; brother, David Hewitt.

Walter is survived by his son, Walter William Hewitt, II and wife, Melissa of Thornton; granddaughter, Kayla Hewitt and boyfriend, Daniel Dabney of Thornton; brother, Randy Hewitt of Groesbeck; and special friend, Lonnie Berkhemer of Harker Heights.

Please visit www.blairstubbbs.com to leave the family a message of condolence or sign the guest book.

NEED TO PLACE AN OBITUARY OR MEMORIAL?

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William "Bill" Luther Hunt

William "Bill" Luther Hunt, 87, went to be with the Lord on Friday, Dec. 30, 2022, as he passed away peacefully in Groesbeck, TX.

Graveside services were held Saturday, Jan. 14, 2023, in the Kosse City Cemetery, with Brother Richard Williams of the Church of Christ of Groesbeck officiating.

Bill was born in Fort Worth, TX. on July 15, 1935, the son of Virginia Jones Hunt and L. B. Hunt, Jr.

During his early years, he lived in North Fort Worth and attended Trimble Tech High School. After high school, Bill joined the US Navy and made cruises aboard the USS Bon Homme Richard aircraft carrier during the Korean war.

Bill met Norma Reynolds



in Fort Worth and they later married. They moved to Brenham, TX where Bill became a Supervisor for the City of Brenham.

Norma passed away in 2000, and Bill retired and moved to Kosse to be close to his parents, and later he moved to Groesbeck, where he started ranching. Bill loved fishing, hunting

and ranching.

Bill is preceded in death by wife, Norma Hunt; parents, L.B. Hunt, Jr. and Virginia Hunt; infant son, William Hunt, Jr.; brother, John Hunt; uncle, Jack Hunt; and nephew, David Hunt.

He is survived by his brother, James Hunt and wife, Peggy; nieces, Gina Todd and Jill Russell and her husband, Wayne Russell; nephew, Brandon Hunt and his wife Emily; David's mother, Jan Hunt; Norma's sister, Elsie DeMond; friends, Wes and Honey Suttle; numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews, cousins and extended family.

Visit www.groesbeckfuneralhome.com to leave messages of condolence on the guestbook.

EGG-tremely high prices hit Limestone County

By Katecey Harrell
news@themexianews.com

A high pathogenic avian influenza outbreak has resulted in a startling increase in the price of eggs in grocery stores across the nation, said livestock economist David Anderson.

"What made egg prices record high is the disease wiped out a whole bunch of chickens," Anderson said.

There are alternative options for those interested, said Jamie McLean, Limestone Farmers Market co-founder. It's common to pay more for local farm-raised eggs, but lately, McLean said a dozen eggs are priced higher at the store.

The Limestone Farmers Market serves the county and its surrounding communities to support the local economy by providing a gathering place to promote ethical and sustainable farming, clean local produce and products, and cultivate a productive and creative community.

A dozen eggs are priced anywhere from \$5.79 to \$6.26 at Limestone County grocery stores.

In December 2022, eggs were about \$4.25; in December 2021, a dozen eggs were \$1.48, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"It makes me thankful to live in a more rural region where I have friends that have chickens," McLean said. "But it made me sad for those who don't have those connections."

Anderson said the HPAI is a form of the flu in birds like egg-laying chickens, turkeys, broilers, ducks and other poultry.

The way a lot of producers have tried to control the disease is to euthanize all the birds, Anderson said.

Cluck-It Farms LLC.,

a local egg producer, has been able to keep up with the need so far, she said. She said a dozen eggs are priced at about \$3.50 at the Limestone Farmers Market.

"Last time, I picked up 12 dozen," she said. "It's sometimes hard to have a consistent supply ... but it seems that [Cluck-It Farms] can keep up with demand right now."

In November 2022, there were 309 million egg-laying chickens in the U.S. The year before, there were 327 million, Anderson said.

"In 2015, we lost about 50 million birds. In 2022, and now '23, we're up to over 57 million birds," Anderson said. "2022 had the worst outbreak of HPAI, I think, ever."

The disease appeared in the spring of 2021; by June, there were 299 million chickens.

"We've seen this sharp decline in chicken numbers because of the disease, and all the producers in the industry are trying to rebuild those flocks of chickens to increase production of eggs," he said.

The second big reason is feed costs, Anderson said.

"It costs more to feed a chicken because corn and soybean meal prices are higher, and so that higher cost is also affecting production," he said.

Raising chickens is more straightforward than it may seem, she said. People only need a few acres to raise chickens and have a supply for their families, and the people at the market are willing to share and teach those interested.

"We're fortunate to live in a region where it's probably easy to know someone that has chickens, so maybe even just getting together with friends and like learning to be a bit more self-sustained,"

McLean said.

Taking advantage of these resources may help people reduce the pressure of rising costs.

"That's also a perk of small farming because I imagine if you're a massive egg-producing farm and your flock was wiped out, that would be devastating. Whereas smaller local farms, I'm sure it's much easier to replace," McLean said.

Eggs are a staple in most homes, Anderson said.

"We eat a lot of eggs," Anderson said. "The term we would use is elastic demand for eggs. That means the price goes up, and we still eat eggs. We don't cut back very much."

He said that people eat eggs for breakfast daily, and there is a holiday-driven boost in demand for eggs in the spring. This demand drives prices even higher.

"When profits go up, the market signal is to produce more. We need more eggs. I think we see egg farmers trying to produce more eggs, but it's that disease," he said.

Later in the year, he said that people might start to see prices decrease based on the idea that the disease should run its course and disappear for a while.

"I think we got to get to probably the second half of 2023 to catch up in the number of egg-laying chickens and see us getting back to pre-disease levels of egg production," he said.

McLean said that with inflation and how quickly the supply chain can be disrupted, it's nice to know there are alternatives.

"There are ways for you to get food, share food and have that without the luxuries we're used to. If those fail, it's nice to know that we have something else," McLean said.

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EDITOR/GENERAL MANAGER: JENNIFER PAUL
ADVERTISING SALES DIRECTOR: JENNIFER BYNUM
SUBSCRIPTION CLERK: TABATHA BLACKNALL
STAFF WRITERS: KATECEY HARRELL
SPORTS EDITOR: SKIP LEON
SPECIAL CONTRIBUTORS: ALEXANDRA CANNON, NUNO SELVERA
The Groesbeck Journal (USPS-230340) is published weekly by the Groesbeck Journal, 115 N. Ellis, Groesbeck, TX 76642.
Second Class Postage paid at Groesbeck, TX 76642. Phone: 254-729-5103
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Groesbeck Journal, Inc., P.O. Box 440, Groesbeck, TX 76642.

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TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

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STATE OF TEXAS.....\$35.00
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An honest conversation could prevent accidental falls

By Katecey Harrell
news@themexianews.com

Limestone Medical Center, Emergency Management Services, responds to accidental falls involving the elderly almost every week, director Shelton Chapman said.

“Tripping hazards at a younger age aren’t a problem, but as you get older, it can be,” Chapman said. “We may get three in one day and then go two weeks without one, but it’s frequent.”

As people age, their fall risk increases. Accidental falls are the leading cause of injury for people over 65, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Fall risk increases during the cold winter months, when people are more sedentary, said Jennifer Brown, regional therapy director for AccentCare.

Illness and medical flare-ups, like arthritis, can affect mobility, Brown said.

“Anytime a patient is

sick and not feeling well, you’re going to see fall risk increase,” she said.

Falls can happen indoors or outdoors, Chapman said. “It depends on the severity of their injuries. We protect patients and bandage them if they’re bleeding and often have a fracture, and we mobilize and get them to a hospital,” he said.

He said people could slip on a loose rug, miss an unlevel step, or trip over shifting concrete.

Brown said that making sure pathways are clear is perhaps the most crucial step to prevent accidental falls. Brown noted that people tend to shuffle their feet a little more as they age.

“It’s important to assess for trip hazards, such as rugs that aren’t properly attached to the floor or that a corner may be turned up that their foot may catch on,” she said. “Is there a change in flooring? Does it go from carpet to wood without a proper transition

piece?”

Chapman said to keep debris out of indoor and outdoor pathways.

“Try to remove anything that’s a tripping hazard inside and outside their home. Anything to keep a good walk space,” he said. “Anything you can do in their normal pattern of life to help keep it clean and clear.”

Pets can get entangled around people’s feet and be a hazard for the elderly, Brown said.

“We often think it’s a great idea to get our loved one, who might be a little lonely, a pet, but a young, rowdy pet may not be the best choice for them,” she said.

Proper footwear with a sturdy back, sole and laces or velcro straps to secure people’s feet can also reduce shuffling and fall hazards, Brown said. Wearing shoes at home, even though people tend to take them off, is important as we age.

Side effects from

different medications can also increase a person’s fall risk.

She said that vision changes are one of the most common factors for falls.

“When it’s dark in your home, or there’s not proper lighting, it’s going to be a lot more difficult to see objects in your pathway,” she said.

Sensation also changes as we age, she said. Patients with diabetes may have neuropathy that significantly affects the feeling in their feet.

“Your ability to have proprioception, which is your sensation, and your baring in your environment,” she said. “That changes, and it gets worse as we age.”

Brown said it becomes more challenging to combat obstacles in the home environment.

“We suggest putting night lights in places, especially a pathway to the bathroom, so that loved ones can see to get up in the middle of the night,” Brown said.

She said people must ensure their loved ones have an appropriately lit pathway to the restroom at night. Brown said the most common location where at-risk age groups are susceptible to a fall is in the bathtub or shower.

“A wet slippery surface is always going to put that patient at increased risk,” she said.

Families can do things at home to prevent this, like installing handrails or using a shower or tub chair.

Brown said that physical therapists often see patients in the home health setting because of an injury resulting from a fall. Home health services assess safety hazards and where a patient may have weaknesses at home.

“We see patients with broken bones or limbs. Maybe a patient that just had to stay in the hospital because of a bad fall has had a head injury, and they became very weak,” Brown said. “One of the jobs we do in home health is to

make sure those patients are safe at home and that we can keep them out of the hospital.”

Brown said older people have an increased risk, but a fall can happen to anyone. Many of the tips she recommends can be beneficial when implemented in the homes of anyone at any age.

It can be challenging to make aging adults understand the concerns of their loved ones, Brown said. Having honest conversations about avoiding injury and hospitalization is necessary.

Brown said one of the scariest things about aging is the fear of losing independence.

“Supporting them and knowing that you are making these changes to their home and suggesting these changes so that they can stay home and stay safe and independent can be impactful,” Brown said.

Speaker open to resort-style casinos in state



Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com.

House Speaker Dade Phelan, R-Beaumont, told The Dallas Morning News and other media outlets that he is open to bringing resort-style casinos to Texas. But don’t expect to find slot machines in 7-Eleven stores if casino gambling is legalized.

“What I don’t want to see is to walk into every convenience store and see 15 slot machines,” Phelan said. “I want to see destination-style casinos that are high quality and that create jobs and that improve the lifestyle of those communities.”

The gambling industry is preparing for another strong push to bring gaming to one of the few major markets that doesn’t allow it. But other state leaders seem more hesitant, including Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who said in December that he “doesn’t see any movement on it.”

Gov. Greg Abbott has softened his once-strong opposition to legalized gambling, echoing Phelan’s support for casinos that also feature golf courses, luxury hotels and other amenities.

The Morning News report said the Dallas-Fort Worth area would be a top location because of its strong convention and tourism industry, as well as access to major airports.

House rules allow Democrats to chair committees

New House rules adopted in the first week of the legislative session allow the appointment of Democrats to chair certain committees, despite being in the minority in that chamber. The Texas Standard reported that was a victory for Phelan, who defied Republicans wanting to ban Democrats from

holding chair positions.

In Phelan’s first speech after being reelected speaker, he talked about the importance of both parties working together.

“After watching Congress attempt to function last week, I cannot imagine why some want Texans to be like D.C.,” Phelan said, referring to the protracted battle over electing a U.S. Speaker of the House.

Another provision is aimed at stopping legislators from skipping sessions to break quorum by levying fines every day they are absent without leave. During the 2021 session, House Democrats left Texas for 38 days in an ultimately unsuccessful attempt to block passage of a slate of voting restrictions.

Wildfire danger returns to state

A series of dry cold fronts sweeping through the next this week bring the potential of increased wildfire risk to parts of the state, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service. On Jan. 11, the service responded to five requests for assistance on wildfires that burned more than 740 acres across the state. The largest of these was the Cellers Hill Fire in Throckmorton County.

As of Sunday, the only active blaze was the 23-acre Grub Hill Fire in Wise County, which was 90% contained. Currently, 69 counties are under burn bans.

Prisoners launch hunger strikes over solitary confinement

A large-scale hunger strike protesting the state’s solitary confinement practices began last Tuesday, with about 300 people in Texas prisons

reportedly participating, according to the Texas Standard. The prisoners are protesting the state’s practice of placing inmates in solitary indefinitely.

Michele Deitch, director of the Prison and Jail Innovation Lab at the University of Texas at Austin, said prisoners have gone on hunger strikes to push the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to meet months-long demands for change. Besides ending indefinite solitary confinement, also called restrictive housing, the prisoners want to move to a behavioral-based system rather than a status-based system. Under the latter, prisoners can be placed in solitary simply by being labeled a gang member, not necessarily for breaking any rules.

“I do believe that it is something that the agency should take a very hard look at, whether there are ways that they could be approaching this issue that are both safe and more appropriate,” Deitch told the Standard.

From La Niña to El Niño? Possibly

The 2022 drought didn’t turn out to be as severe as that of 2011, but it still caused widespread economic damage to crops and livestock, as well as shrinking water-supply reservoirs. As the state heads into 2023, Dr. Mark Wentzel, hydrologist with the Texas Water Development Board, is among forecasters predicting an end to the conditions that resulted in reduced rainfall and warmer temperatures for the last few years.

“The National Weather Service is expecting that La Niña will dissipate, and then,

possibly by the summer to next fall, we might actually be in El Niño conditions, the opposite to La Niña. And those conditions (could) actually bring Texas a wetter and cooler winter than is normal,” Wentzel wrote.

The most severe drought now is centered in the Texas Hill Country, in Kendall and surrounding counties, and in the extreme northern boundary of the Texas Panhandle. Drought conditions have ended in East and Southeast Texas.

Wentzel wrote he expects “some easing” of drought conditions this spring.

Wildlife vaccine bait airdrop underway

The Texas Department of State Health Services has renewed its battle against rabies along the Texas border by airdropping vaccine bait from planes leaving Edinburg, Del Rio and Alpine.

“Our goal is to vaccinate wildlife, with target species being coyotes and gray foxes, along the border to maintain herd immunity and to keep past variants from being reintroduced or new variants from entering Texas,” said Dr. Susan Rollo, director of the Oral Rabies Vaccination Program. “We will be

delivering vaccine baits to 18 counties this year.”

About 814,000 oral rabies vaccine baits will be dropped in the 29th year of the program.

COVID-19 cases rise slightly

New cases of COVID-19 in Texas in the past week rose to 35,632 with 148 deaths, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. DSHS reported 3,427 lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients in Texas hospitals, also an increase.



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Mexia races to victory over Lady Goats in district outing

By Skip Leon
sports@themexianews.com

The Groesbeck girls basketball team ran into a buzzsaw in the Mexia Ladycats and were beaten 76-16 in a District 20-3A contest at the Groesbeck High School gym Tuesday night, Jan. 17.

The loss drops Groesbeck to 2-6 in district. Mexia, which is ranked No. 7 in the state, improved to 25-3 overall and 6-2 in district.

Mexia scored the first eight points of the game, but Groesbeck answered with four to pull within 8-4 late in the first quarter.

Makayla Banks passed to Alexis Rivero, who put in a layup, to start the Lady Goats’ scoring. Banks hit a pair of free throws to cut the deficit in half with 2 minutes, 53 seconds left in the opening quarter.

But Mexia ran off the next 14 points to take a 22-4 lead. The Ladycats led 14-4 after one quarter.

RIGHT: Groesbeck’s Alexis Rivero (13) dribbles past a falling Gwen Johnson of Mexia during a game Tuesday night. The Lady Goats fell to 2-6 in District 20-3A with a loss to state-ranked Mexia.

After Alyssa Hill broke the drought with a layup, Mexia kicked into high gear. They held Groesbeck scoreless for the next 16 minutes and scored 41 consecutive points.

Mexia led 34-6 at halftime and shut out the Lady Goats in the third quarter while netting 21 points to take a 55-6 lead into the fourth quarter.

Mexia held the Lady Goats to just four field goals in the game.

Banks scored a team-high six points for Groesbeck, all on free throws. Hill notched four points. Jamekia Hutchison had three points on a shot from beyond the arc. Alexis Rivero had two points and Alyssa “Marie” Ramirez had one point.

Mycah Miller paced Mexia with 21 points and Michaiah Miller added 20 points.

Groesbeck returns to action Friday, Jan. 20, when it hosts Elkhart in a 6:15 p.m. contest



ABOVE: Groesbeck’s Alyssa Hill (10) battles Mexia’s Faith Abron (12) for a rebound as Mexia’s Haylee Fitch (11) looks on during a game at the Groesbeck High School gym Tuesday night.

Photo by Skip Leon/The Groesbeck Journal



Goats defeat Westwood, improve to .500 in district

Groesbeck Journal Staff Report
sports@themexianews.com

The Groesbeck boys basketball team evened its District 20-3A record to 2-2 with a 55-36 victory at Palestine Westwood on Tuesday, Jan. 10. The Goats are 12-10 overall.

The previous week they split two games, losing to Buffalo, 62-57, on Friday, Jan. 6, and beating Teague, 55-36, on Tuesday, Jan. 3.

Groesbeck jumped on Westwood early and never looked back. They raced out to a 10-2 lead after one quarter. Braden Hurt scored seven points in the opening stanza and Ca’Zian Bradley made a three-pointer to account for the other points.

The Goats expanded the lead to 28-16 at halftime and were ahead 44-25 after three quarters.

Allen Lewis led Groesbeck with 19 points, including four three-pointers. Lamodrick Greer and Bradley netted 12 points each. Hurt had 10 points and Anthony Lewis had two points to round out Groesbeck’s scoring.

Against Buffalo, the Goats led 46-41 after three quarters, but Buffalo outscored them 21-11 in the final eight minutes to claim the victory.

Hurt and Anthony Lewis scored 18 points each for the Goats. Allen Lewis tallied nine points. Greer finished with eight points.

Bradley had four points to finish Groesbeck’s scoring

Against Teague, the Goats erupted for 25 points in the third quarter en route to the victory. They led 13-7 after the first quarter, 30-25 at halftime and 55-38 after three quarters.

Allen Lewis led the way with 22 points and Hurt poured in 21 points. Bradley had eight points and Greer had seven points. Bryan Dancer had four points and Anthony Lewis had two points for the Goats.

Groesbeck is set to host Franklin on Friday, Jan. 13, at 7:30 p.m. The Goats will be at home again Tuesday when they take on Mexia at 7:30 p.m.



New Groesbeck Independent School District (GISD) Superintendent Anthony Figueroa was the guest speaker for the monthly Chamber Lunch n Learn event on Thursday, Jan. 12. After Chamber Executive Director Jennifer Paul provided a brief introduction for him, attendees were encouraged to mingle and speak with Figueroa directly about the district, their businesses, and ideas for collaboration in the future. The Groesbeck Chamber of Commerce hosts general community meetings every 2nd Thursday of the month unless specified otherwise. Speakers and Topics vary. If you are interested in being a speaker for a Lunch and Learn meeting contact the chamber at 254-729-3894 or info@groesbeckchamber.com

Alexandra Cannon photo/Groesbeck Journal

FIGUEROA FROM PG. 1

He has been warmly received by the GISD Board, staff and several community members.

“The reception was great around 50 or 60 people were there, and it was very nice. I went to dinner with the Board President and his wife over at the Sale Barn, and so we had a good dinner there. I got to go and meet with the Region 12 superintendents of the area and they were great people. As far as the staff, I’ve just been spending a lot of time with the principals and the directors, trying to get them to know me.”

Beyond the administrative staff he will work closely with regularly, Figueroa has already penciled in plans to set up shop at each campus for a day so he can meet with staff and teachers during their conference periods and lunch breaks to get to know them and also hear their thoughts on their respective corners of the district.

“I hope they’ll tell me what they love about Groesbeck, what they would love to keep, and some things they see that’s maybe a frustration, where they want to be and what they want to see for the district. There are going to be a lot of people and a lot of opinions. I’m not here

GOAT HOOPS FROM PG. 1

Ca’Zian Bradley came up big in the final minute on both ends of the floor for Groesbeck. He swished a three-pointer from the left baseline to put the Goats ahead 62-61.

Then, with Groesbeck leading by three and Mexia sharpshooter Landon Anderson looking for a possible game-tying shot, Bradley slapped the ball away from Anderson with five seconds left and was fouled. He made two free throws with 1.3 seconds remaining to seal the victory.

Trailing 59-51, Groesbeck ended the game with a 15-2 run over the final four and a half minutes.

Lamodrick Greer buried a three-pointer to start the rally. Allen Lewis nailed a three-pointer from the left baseline and then hit two free throws to tie the game 59-59 with 3 minutes, 1 second remaining.

Mexia took the lead with 2:01 left when Kelan Collins penetrated to the basket and dished off to Tej Bryant for a layup.

Mexia had a chance to expand the lead, but missed a layup with 1:20 remaining. A fight for the rebound resulted in a jump ball with the possession arrow favoring Groesbeck. On the ensuing trip down the court Bradley hit the three to put the Goats ahead.

Mexia turned the ball over with 42 seconds left and the

Goats spread the court and took the air out of the ball. Lewis was fouled with 22 ticks left on the clock. He made both ends of the one-and-one to put Groesbeck up by three.

Groesbeck came out firing on all cylinders. With a raucous crowd behind them, the Goats erupted for a 15-2 lead five and a half minutes into the game. Bradley and Lewis had three-pointers during the run.

The Goats led 19-10 after one quarter. Mexia battled back and the second half of the second quarter turned into a see-saw affair with the Goats taking a 31-30 lead into intermission.

Mexia inched ahead, 48-44, after three quarters.

Both teams were on fire from three-point range. Groesbeck drained nine three-pointers and the Blackcats made seven shots from beyond the arc.

Lewis led all scorers with 27 points. He made five three-pointers. Bradley netted 16 points, including a trio of three-pointers. Braden Hurt added 15 points. Greer and JJ Hutchison had four points each to round out Groesbeck’s scoring.

Anderson and Collins paced Mexia with 18 points each.

Groesbeck will return to action Friday, Jan. 20, when they host Elkhart in a 7:30 p.m. contest. That will be the final game in the first round of district play.

exactly what vehicles we’re going to need? Do we know exactly what kind of HVAC systems we will need? Do we know lighting for the theater? If you’re not planning for it five years ahead of time, you’re in trouble because it’s just going to hit you. I’m now the CEO of a 15-million dollar business, so we’ve got to make sure we are good stewards of taxpayer dollars.”

His two sons, Oscar and Max are both Wolfe City ISD graduates and are currently attending Texas A&M University-Commerce. Oscar is majoring in criminal justice and sociology with a minor in chemistry, planning to become either a lawyer or police officer. Max is following in his father’s footsteps with plans to become a teacher, specifically a reading teacher and dyslexia specialist, a learning disorder that affected his own experience in school.

His wife, Carie, is a nurse supervisor at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas and hopes to find a job in this area soon. She will soon be joining him here in Groesbeck and will make the commute until a closer position can be found. In his limited free time, Figueroa loves spending time with his family and serving his community.

“I was a coach, and I love volleyball. I love hanging out with my kids and playing chess, and we’ll play video games. My wife’s a big outdoorsy kind of person. It’s been 20-something years, but she’s still working on me to be more outdoorsy. We have the river right there, so I’m excited about when the weather warms up. She’s into this whole paddle boarding fad going on. So I said, ‘I’m not a paddle boarder, but I’ll get a canoe or kayak or something, and I’ll go out there with you.’ Just having fun with family and friends and that’s really what it’s about.”

To keep up with Figueroa in his role as GISD Superintendent, feel free to attend the GISD School Board meetings at 6 p.m. on the third Monday of each month or contact the main office at 254-729-4100 to schedule a meeting with him.



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Bass Cash

Boats, trucks and cash rewards offered for reeling in tagged fish on select public lakes

By Matt Williams
Outdoors Writer

It happens pretty often this time of year. P.D. Vinson of Leesville, Louisiana gets a phone call from a fisherman who reeled in a bass wearing a plastic tag with his phone number and the “BassCashBash” insignia streaming down the side.

Some anglers know exactly what the tag means.

Others call the number anxious to learn what the colorful marker is all about, thinking they may have won something.

“It doesn’t happen near as often as it used to, but it still happens,” says Vinson. “We’ve been around awhile and most fishermen know what BassCashBash is. What I hear from guys more than anything else nowadays is that they thought about entering, but didn’t follow through. They just don’t think they will catch a tagged fish.”

For those who may not know, BCB is a multi-month tournament that pays out big prize money and/or merchandise to anglers who reel in tagged bass during the designated tournament time frame on a number of lakes across Texas and beyond.

The only catch is anglers must be preregistered before they are eligible to win some significant prizes. Each year, hundreds of fish are finning around out there worth \$1,000 cash bounties. Others could fetch you a \$65,000 Phoenix bass boat or a brand new RAM pick-up valued at \$35,000. Catching one can make a good day fishing even better.

Around since 2015,

Vinson says BCB has paid out well over \$1 million in loot to participating anglers. Three trucks and seven boats have been given away since 2018.

It can’t be a good feeling for the angler who catches a winning fish but isn’t eligible for the prize because he or she isn’t registered beforehand. Vinson says it happens more often than he would like.

“You don’t want to be that guy who misses out,” he said.

A few years back, Tyler Craig lived the nightmare twice in two days on Sam Rayburn. He was a member the University of Louisiana-Monroe fishing team at the time.

Craig and his team partner, Spencer Lambert, were practicing for a college tournament when Craig caught a five-pound bass that was wearing a tag. Craig, who wasn’t entered in BashCashBash at the time, released the fish with the tag still intact. With several days still left to fish, he registered for the contest later that night.

The following day, when the tournament was underway, the two anglers returned to the same fishing spot. Craig caught another tagged bass and placed it in the livewell as part of their five-fish limit.

The anglers eventually had to cull the tagged fish in order to make room for a larger one. In the heat of the moment, Lambert removed the tagged bass from the livewell and tossed it back into the lake. Had he removed the tag, Craig could have used it to claim

his prize.

In 2018, 126 unregistered anglers caught tagged fish valued at nearly \$200,000, Vinson said. Several have missed out on boats and trucks because they either didn’t know about BCB or chose not to enter.

Nearly a half dozen anglers have already felt the sting of ineligibility since BCB’s 2023 tournament campaign got underway January 1 on Sam Rayburn. Vinson said he received phone calls from five anglers who caught tagged fish within the first week. None had entered the event before they caught the tagged fish.

All five anglers told Vinson they knew about BCB before they went fishing, and they were frustrated about not preregistering ahead of time.

“Every one of those fish was worth a \$1000,” Vinson said. The value increases to \$1,500 if the angler has a bonus T-shirt.

This year marks BCB’s 9th anniversary. The month’s long tournament originated at Toledo Bend on the heels of an idea hatched in 2014 as Vinson was driving home from work. The concept has since spread to other lakes throughout Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, Tennessee and Georgia.

Vinson said seven events are scheduled for 11 different lakes between now and early July 2023. BCB events always focus on large, public impoundments and rivers that see boat loads of bass fishing traffic from spring through early summer.

Texas and Louisiana waters in the mix include Sam Rayburn, Toledo

Bend, Caddo Lake and the Louisiana Delta. Other tournament waters include the South Coosa River, Pickwick/Wilson lakes and Lake Guntersville.

Vinson says Lake Guntersville in Alabama always draws more participation than another lake, about 2,000 entries annually. Sam Rayburn and Toledo Bend average about 1,000 entries.

He added that events at Lake Fork in Texas and Lake Eufaula in Alabama were discontinued this year due to limited participation in recent times. Fork had about 500 entries last year.

How It Works

The BCB format is different from traditional fishing tournaments. Each event lasts four months and there are no daily weigh-ins.

Preregistered anglers who are legally licensed can fish casually and go after bass that are caught, tagged and released on designated lakes by organizers before the tournament gets underway. Most of the fish are tagged in cooperation with local tournament organizations.

You don’t necessarily need a boat to win, either. “We’ve had anglers land tagged fish from the bank and off docks,” Vinson said.

The money fish are easily identifiable by the plastic T-Bar Anchor tags on their backs, near their dorsal fins. The 2023 tags are purple in color, about 1 1/2 inches long. The tag number, BassCashBash label and Vinson’s phone number are listed on the side.

Registered anglers needn’t keep the fish



BassCashBash founder P.D. Vinson (right) gets some help from the Fort Polk Bassmasters in tagging fish ahead of the upcoming 2023 Toledo Bend BassCashBash event set for March 1 - July 4. BCB is currently underway on Sam Rayburn, where 200 bass are wearing tags worth \$400,000 in cash and prizes including a Phoenix bass boat and and RAM pick-up. The ‘Rayburn event runs through April 30.

(Courtesy Photo)

to redeem their prize. Just remove the tag and take it to any number of lakeside tackle shops and other businesses listed as official check stations at basscashbash.com. All prize winners are required to pass a polygraph test before receiving their prize.

Anglers should also be aware there are plenty of previously tagged fish from previous seasons in tournament waters. The cash bounty is expired of these fish, but anglers can still claim some neat prizes from BCB sponsors.

Entry fee for a single lake event is \$60 or adults and \$40 for youths 16 and under; a \$20 bonus T-shirt adds \$500 to the prize for a winning fish. A \$100 entry

covers eligibility for all BCB waters and the bonus T-shirt. Registration can be completed online or in person at an official check station.

BCB is advertising \$2.75 million in tagged fish finning around in tournament waters this year. Vinson says 200 fish valued at \$400,000 were tagged for Sam Rayburn event, which runs though April 30. The Toledo Bend (200 tagged fish) and Caddo Lake (150 tagged fish) events run March 1 - July 4.

Check out basscashbash.com for complete details on the 2023 schedule. Let’s fish.

Matt Williams is a freelance writer based in Nacogdoches. He can be reached by email, mattwillwrite4u@yahoo.com.

OUTDOORS BRIEFS “Mr. Crappie” Wally Marshall gets nod for Texas Hall of Fame

By Matt Williams
Outdoors Writer

“Mr. Crappie” is headed to the 2023 Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame.

Mr. Crappie is the moniker pinned on Wally Marshall of Anna decades ago. And it stuck.

Marshall is a plumber by trade, but a crappie fisherman at heart. He’s made a big name for himself chasing crappie in fishing tournaments around the country, but is better known for the wide range of of baits, fishing rods, reels, lines and other gear that wear the trademarked Mr. Crappie brand.

Not everyone finds their niche’ life, but Marshall found his in a popular panfish that is fun to chase and even greater to eat. His knack for catching crappie and passion for promoting the sport led to the creation of the first Crappie Expo in 2019. The annual three-day consumer show in Branson, Missouri is highlighted by the Mr. Crappie \$300,000 Invitational Tournament and the world largest crappie fry.

Marshall also is known for giving back to the fish community, teaching youths to fish and has a history of donating products and time to charitable organizations and events.

“Wally Marshall’s outstanding accomplishments as a trailblazer in the sport of crappie fishing are unparalleled,” said Dan Kessler, Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame selection committee chairman. “His leadership in bringing forth new ideas and innovative products to crappie fishing and the fishing community in general are second to none. On their own merits, these accomplishments warranted Wally’s consideration for membership in The Hall of Fame. However, it is Wally’s commitment to a lifelong passion for educating current and future anglers as well as the willingness to give his time and resources back to the fishing community that resulted in unanimous support for his induction to the Hall of Fame.”

Marshall will be the 38th member inducted into the Hall of Fame since it was founded in 1997. The ceremony will be held October 6 at a the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens.

Heck reels in top prize at ‘Rayburn BFL opener, Toyota Series coming

Hayden Heck of Lufkin weighed in 28 pounds, 11 ounces to top a field of 230 boaters in the MLF Phoenix Bass Fishing League Cowboy Division season opener held January 8 Sam Rayburn Reservoir.

A California transplant and offshore specialist, Heck targeted hard bottom structure spots in 8-20 feet of water that were occupied by small groups of bass. He used a combination of crank baits, worms and jigs to do the damage. His sack was anchored by an 8 pound, 5 ounce largemouth, the biggest bass of the event.

Heck earned \$14,000 for the win, including \$7,000 in contingency money for running a Phoenix boat.

“These spots were

nothing special,” Heck told MLF. “It was just a lot of graphing to find the little areas that the fish get on in the winter time. I had three areas I felt really confident in, and there were little schools of four or five fish on them – nothing crazy.”

Heck is no stranger to the winner’s circle on ‘Rayburn. He also won the MLF Toyota Series Southwestern Division event there last May. That win paid \$75,300, including a \$35,000 Phoenix contingency bonus.

The popular Toyota Series opens its 2023 season January 25-27 on Sam Rayburn. Anglers are anticipating a three-day shootout with number of patterns in play ranging from targeting shallow grass beds with lipless cranks and other moving baits to working offshore structure with deep cranks, Carolina rigs and jigs.

Daily weigh-ins will begin at 3 p.m. at Umphrey Family Pavilion.



Texas crappie pro and tackle innovator Wally Marshall of Anna will be inducted to the Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame in October. A plumber by trade and crappie fisherman at heart, Marshall is well known for the wide range of baits, fishing rods, reels, lines and other fishing gear that wear the trademarked Mr. Crappie brand.

(Photo by Matt Williams)

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Friday Drive thru 7:30-5:30 • Lobby 9-5:30
Mexia & Fairfield Saturday Drive-thru 8-12

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GROESBECK PD BLOTTER

January 9, 2023

7:30 a.m. Officer Cardenas to 900 block South Ellis for reported loose livestock. Determined to be outside city limits. Referred to appropriate agency.

12:12 p.m. Detective Cox to police department for reported civil matter. Complainant reported child custody dispute with former significant other. Non-law enforcement matter.

1:58 p.m. Officer Cardenas to city park for reported ATVs on roadway. ATVs located at nearby residence. Operators identified and warned.

6:40 p.m. Cpl. Hobbs to 500 block East Yeagua for reported illegal dumping. Complainant reported boxes placed in commercial dumpster without permission. Responsible party identified and instructed to remove contents.

9:00 p.m. Cpl. Hobbs to 100 block Rocky Creek for reported shots fired. Complainant reported hearing gunshots in the area. Unable to locate source.

10:05 p.m. Cpl. Hobbs to 700 block McClintic for reported disturbance. Determined to be verbal only. Resolved on scene.

January 10, 2023

6:10 p.m. Officer Pantalici to 800 block Gala for reported welfare concern. Complainant requested check of family member. Reported person located and determined to be okay.

7:25 p.m. Officer Pantalici to 700 block Henderson for reported suspicious vehicle. Unable to locate reported vehicle.

8:35 p.m. Officer Pantalici to 700 block McClintic for reported 911 hang-up. Determined to be accidental dial. No emergency.

January 11, 2023

12:46 p.m. Sgt. Bell to 400 block South Ellis for requested criminal trespass notice. Complainant requested notice be served to former employee.

2:38 p.m. Sgt. Bell to 800 block East Walker for reported suspicious person. Complainant reported unfamiliar person going door-to-door. Reported person located and determined to be unpermitted solicitor. Reported person informed of permitting procedure.

4:00 p.m. Sgt. Bell to 800 block

West State for reported open door. Complainant reported open door on vacant residence. Residence checked and secured. Property management notified.

4:25 p.m. Sgt. Bell to police department for reported found property. Complainant reported finding wallet on roadway. Wallet recovered pending return to owner.

5:53 p.m. Sgt. Bell to 400 block North Grayson for reported suspicious vehicle. Complainant reported suspicious vehicle at nearby neighbor's residence. Vehicle determined to belong to resident. No offense.

6:52 p.m. Officer Martin to 300 block South Houston for reported traffic complaint. Complainant reported driver speeding by residence. Driver identified and residence located. Unable to make contact with reported driver.

January 12, 2023

9:00 a.m. Officer Cardenas to 900 block East Yeagua for reported suspicious person. Complainant reported unfamiliar person on property. Reported person located, identified, and released to family member.

1:50 p.m. Officer Cardenas to 800 block North Grayson for reported burglary of habitation. Complainant reported person entering residence without permission and removing property. Reported person located and arrested.

9:10 p.m. Cpl. Hobbs to 700 block East Yeagua for reported suspicious vehicle. Complainant reported unfamiliar vehicle on property. Vehicle left prior to officer arrival. Unable to locate.

9:17 p.m. Officer Martin to 800 block Culberson for reported suspicious person. Complainant reported unfamiliar person on property. Reported person located and determined to have permission from property owner. No offense.

January 13, 2023

1:50 a.m. Cpl. Hobbs to 900 block West Angeline for reported burglary in progress. Call was unfounded.

11:05 a.m. Officer Cardenas to 600 block Parkside for reported welfare concern. Complainant requested check of children. Children determined to be with

grandparents and not at reported address.

2:02 p.m. Officer Cardenas to 900 block Deborah for reported disturbance. Involved parties refused to cooperate with investigation.

9:45 p.m. Officer Martin to 100 block South Ellis for reported fireworks complaint. Complainant reported known person discharging fireworks. Reported person located and cited for offense. Reported person also arrested on outstanding warrants.

10:13 p.m. Officer Martin to 200 block North Ellis for reported business alarm. Building checked and secured.

January 14, 2023

7:49 a.m. Sgt. Bell to 800 block North Tyus for reported open door. Complainant reported open door on building. Building checked and secured.

12:20 p.m. Sgt. Bell to 700 block West Jacinto for reported harassment. Complainant reported unwanted contact by known suspect. Investigation initiated.

12:55 p.m. Sgt. Bell to 500 block West State for reported suspicious vehicle. Complainant reported unfamiliar vehicle parked on roadway near residence. Reported vehicle and driver located. Determined to be private investigator. No offense.

1:49 p.m. Sgt. Bell to 900 block South Ellis for reported ordinance violation. Complainant reported contractor burning on property. Reported person located and cited for violation.

2:20 p.m. Sgt. Bell to 1100 block East Navasota for reported crash. Call was unfounded.

7:15 p.m. Officer Pantalici to 300 block South Ellis for reported animal complaint. Complainant reported animal left by previous tenant. Investigation initiated.

January 15, 2023

No calls for service this day.

***This weekly Groesbeck Police blotter is a summary of the calls for service Groesbeck PD has received throughout the week. The blotter does not include all self-initiated activities or traffic stops conducted by the officers.**

— Contributed by Groesbeck Police Chief Chris Henson



Larry and Kathy Reed celebrate 50 years of matrimony

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Reed of Thornton announces their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married Dec. 28, 1972, in San Antonio. Mrs. Reed is the former Kathy Mask and bank employee of San Antonio, and Mr. Reed was in the Air Force at Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio. After his discharge in January 1973, they moved to Angleton. He worked for Dow Chemical Co. in Freeport for over 30 years, first in their research department and then in several laboratory positions. They retired to Thornton in July 2003.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

“...Repent and turn YOURSELVES from all your transgressions; so inequity shall not be your ruin.”
- Ezekiel 18:30

North & East Texas Press Association scholarship application available

The North & East Texas Press Association, in conjunction with the Texas Press Association, will once again award two \$1,500 scholarships to eligible candidates at its April 27-29, 2023 convention held in Nacogdoches.

Over the years, NETPA has helped college-bound journalism students with tuition and books through this scholarship program which is funded by private donations and through the annual auction held at the convention.

Scholarships will be payable to the registrar of the college/university upon proof of enrollment as a full-time student majoring in journalism and the deadline for applying is no later than March 25.

Applicants must be from the geographic area served by NETPA and have a declared major in journalism/communications/photojournalism. Preference is given to print majors.

Applications may be downloaded from the NETPA website: www.netpa.org.

High school applicants should submit the following materials in the scholarship application submission, while college applicants should submit only (b) and (c).

1. Complete the attached application and include a resume that includes scholastic, athletic and

community activities.

2. Provide a current official transcript certified by school or college registrar.

3. High school applicants should submit letters of recommendation from two of the following:

a) senior, junior or dual credit college English instructor

b) publication adviser or local newspaper supervisor student has been employed

c) from a person of the applicant's choice

4. All applicants should submit digital or print clips of published work. Include publication dates.

May send photocopies of work as published in yearbook or magazine. Please mount all photocopies and newspaper clippings on paper and place in folder or binder IF submitting hardcopy.

Also, Please include a cover sheet with the following information:

Student's Name, Address, Phone number and email

Send the completed print application to:

Jim Bardwell, Gladewater Mirror, 211 North Main St., Gladewater, TX. 75647

Please call Jim Bardwell at 903-845-2235 with any questions.

Jim Bardwell
Scholarship Chair

NETPA
903-845-2235
gladewatermirror@aol.com

Cleanliness campaign

By Rix Quinn

I'm often shocked to see dirty public bathrooms with phone numbers scribbled on the walls. Did you know that half those phones are disconnected?

People have gone to the bathroom for thousands of years. Facilities will be needed as long as folks drink water, or take a long car trip.

So why can't we develop quality bathrooms that meet minimum national standards? Wouldn't it be nice to go to a four-star restroom? (I'd like to see

where they put the stars.)

How about a national "Potty Policy?" Here are some basic requirements:

1. The room should be attractively decorated with plastic flowers, landscape prints, tasteful advertising or — in the case of graffiti — clean poetry.

2. Toilets should be mounted securely on walls, not hung by a rope from the ceiling.

3. Toilet stalls should not

require paid entry. The stall doors should be secured by a lock, not a rubber band.

4. The toilet bowl should be a regulation model, not a bucket. And despite its disposal power, users should be warned that it's virtually impossible to flush a thong.

5. Finally, the toilet area should be well lighted. I once washed my hands in a basin, and later discovered the restroom had no sink.

Kaleigh Radney named to SNHU President's List

Kaleigh Radney of Groesbeck was named to Southern New Hampshire University's Fall 2022 President's List. The fall terms run from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate

students with a minimum grade-point average of 3.5 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired eight-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring and summer.

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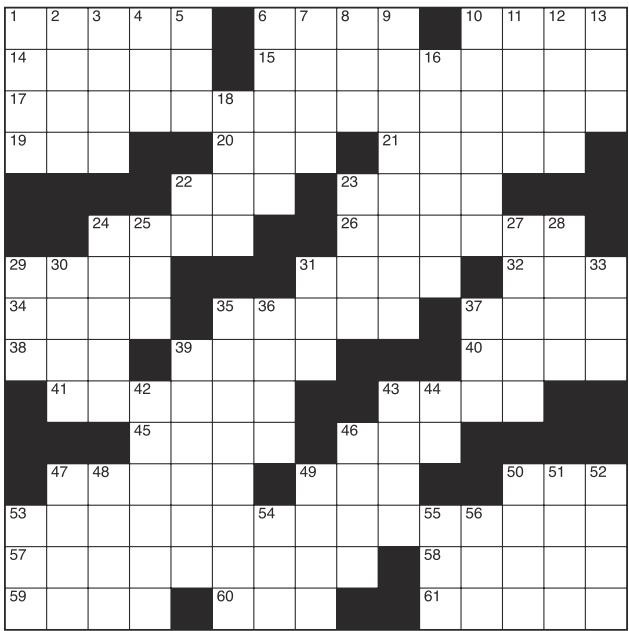
SUDOKU Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- Not invited
- Whale ship captain
- One point south of southwest
- Small cavity in a rock
- Recidivists
- City of Angels hoopster
- A way to mark with one's signature
- OJ trial judge
- Rice cooked in broth
- One point east of due south
- One point east of southeast
- Complements an entree
- Grouped by twos
- Disfigure
- Woods
- Political action committee
- Longer of 2 bones in the forearm
- Kin groups
- Philippine Island
- Contrary to
- Bluish-gray fur
- Comprehend the written word
- Natural depressions
- Felines
- Breathe noisily
- Taxi
- Pancake made from buckwheat flour

- Swiss river
- Foot (Latin)
- Have surgery
- Formal withdrawal
- Monetary units of Peru
- Greek war god
- 2,000 lbs.
- High points
- Green and yellow citrus fruit
- A bright color
- Thicket
- Journalist Tarbell
- A place to work or relax
- Sharp mountain ridge
- Helicopter
- Mimic
- Suggests
- More musty
- Large, flightless rail
- Make beer
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- People who can account for you
- Taunt
- South Dakota
- Cover the entirety of
- Kids' favorite visitor
- A way to save for retirement
- Fencing swords
- C. China mountain range
- Type of sandwich



- Team
- Paddle
- Partly digested food
- Most cagey
- Shoppers make one
- Cathode-ray tube
- Food supplies
- Backbones
- Concern
- Blood group
- Broadway songwriter Sammy

- Dutch colonist
- Full-grown pike fish
- Deity of a monotheistic cult
- Type of bread
- S. Nigerian people
- Scottish tax
- Young women's association
- Brazilian city
- Hide of a young animal
- Midway between north and northeast



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\$125,000 Groesbeck 8.5 acres 325 S FM 39
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\$76,500 Kosse 6.0 acres LCR 731
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PRICE IMPROVEMENT 1.13 AC. 3 LOTS TANGELWOOD ADD. LAKE BELTON SALADO DR. TEMPLE.....\$99,500
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10.01 +- ACRES, TRACT 6 WITH WATER METER, FM 147 (MCCLANAHAN).....\$102,960
PRICE IMPROVEMENT 5.72 +- ACRES, TRACT S3 WITH WATER METER, CR 137 (MCCLANAHAN).....\$91,520
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10.16 +- ACRES, TRACT 5 WITH WATER METER, FM 147 (MCCLANAHAN).....\$121,920
PRICE IMPROVEMENT LOT 6, 11 ACRES MART, LCR 300 OPEN & WOODED.....UNDER CONTRACT
405 E. TITUS, MEXIA.....SOLD
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PRICE IMPROVEMENT 11.25 +- AC, STOCK TANK, CREEK & WATER METER, FM 147 (MCCLANAHAN).....\$174,375
14.63 +- ACRES, TRACT 2 WITH CREEK & WATER METER, FM 147 (MCCLANAHAN).....\$175,560
PRICE IMPROVEMENT 8.06 +- ACRES, TRACT S10 WITH STOCK TANK & WATER METER, CRL 137 (MCCLANAHAN).....\$145,080
PRICE IMPROVEMENT 3-2-2 BRICK 209 N. BROWNING ON A LARGE, OVERSIZED LOT.....\$179,900
18.37 +- ACRES, TRACT 3 WITH CREEK & WATER METER, FM 147 (MCCLANAHAN).....\$202,440
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REDUCED TRACT 117 AC. ROAD FRONTAGE ON 2 SIDES & POND 170 FM 2749 THORNTON.....\$195,500
NEW 23.84 AC. W/ UTILITIES, NO RESTRICTIONS, 457 LCR 464, MEXIA.....\$234,824
3/2 1453 FM 1953 2.52 AC.....UNDER CONTRACT
UNRESTRICTED 9.31 AC. 3-2 MOBILE HOME, WELL, TBD 14 S.....\$248,500
22.0 +- ACRES, TRACT 4 WITH CREEK & WATER METER, FM 147 (MCCLANAHAN).....\$264,000
16.70 ACRES HEAVILY WOODED LCR 750.....\$267,200
PRICE IMPROVEMENT 802 E NAVASOTA, 3/2 LG. LOT +- 1 AC.....\$199,000
3 AC. PRIME W/IF EAST SIDE LAKE LIMESTONE.....\$319,000
3-2-2 BRICK HOME ON CORNER LOT 102 BOLD RULER, GROESBECK.....\$325,000
38.5 +- AC. W/ STOCK POND LCR 780, THORNTON.....\$327,250
TRACT 4 - 27 AC. STOCK POND NEWER FENCING ON 3 SIDES.....\$418,500
4/3 ON 5.97 AC. 506 E ELEVENTH, THORNTON.....\$399,500
79.8 AC. WITH POND, FM 339 PRAIRIE HILL.....\$594,510
83.61 +- AC. GREAT MIX WITH 2 STOCK PONDS, LCR 780, THORNTON.....\$627,075
87 +- AC. 3 AC LAKE, STOCK TANK, CREEK, HARDWOODS, FM 739 E. CORSICANA MILDRED ISD.....\$999,000
NEW 90.28 AC. WITH BARDOMINIUM 4759 FM 147, THORNTON.....\$1,100,000
143.6 AC. W/IF LCR 755 LAKE LIMESTONE...PRIME DEVELOPMENT.....\$2,297,600

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HOROSCOPES

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

You may be in a meditative mood this week, Aries. You may think about mundane things or even complex issues. It's an ideal time to stay indoors and relax with your thoughts.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Obligations to friends or family could interfere with other things you had intended, such as spending time with your partner. As more people call upon you, step back and consider.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21

You have a strong desire to clean and organize your home this week, Gemini. Spring cleaning certainly comes early. Conquer that clutter.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

All of that extra work on the job will pay off in the days to come, Cancer. Expect an email or personal meeting from a supervisor to discuss.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Practical matters, such as the household budget, may need your attention this week, Leo. A big purchase is on the horizon, so get your finances sorted out.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Giving back to the community can boost your morale, Virgo. Think about offering to shop for an elderly neighbor or volunteer at a food pantry a few days a week.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Careful penny pinching may now result in a nice nest egg you can use any way you desire, Libra. Enjoy the fruits of your labor when you can loosen the pursestrings.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, a sense of duty to loved ones may have you taking on tasks that you otherwise may never consider. Your willingness to pitch in won't go unnoticed.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Don't be surprised if the people you help this week are willing to go to bat for you in the future. Consider any assistance you provide an investment in friendship.

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CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Some people know exactly which buttons to push to get a rise out of you, Capricorn. Try to be the bigger person and turn the other cheek.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

A momentary loss of confidence may catch you off-guard, Aquarius. Brush these feelings aside and take on any task or challenge that comes your way.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Nostalgia could hit you hard this week Pisces. Enjoy an unexpected trip down Memory Lane. Contact others who might enjoy it as well.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY 15
Dove Cameron, Actress (27)
JANUARY 16
Lin-Manuel Miranda, Actor (43)
JANUARY 17
Steve Harvey, Comic (66)
JANUARY 18
Dave Bautista, Wrestler (54)
JANUARY 19
Dolly Parton, Singer (77)
JANUARY 20
Skeet Ulrich, Actor (53)
JANUARY 21
Emma Bunton, Singer (47)



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Deborah L. Fittie on January 10, 2023,

in Cause Number 9174, in the County

Court of Limestone County, Texas,

which is still pending. All persons having

claims against such estate are required

to present the same within the time

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9	4	1	3	7	2	5	8	6
6	5	3	1	8	9	4	2	7
2	8	7	5	6	4	9	3	1
8	7	4	2	5	3	6	1	9
3	1	6	7	9	8	2	5	4
5	2	9	4	1	6	8	7	3
1	9	5	8	4	7	3	6	2
7	6	2	9	3	5	1	4	8
4	3	8	6	2	1	7	9	5

CROSSWORD

U	N	B
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Almost half a million dollars has been appropriated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for a new and improved, larger Kosse Volunteer Fire Department (KVFD) station, which the City of Kosse will also contribute to, and the building is expected to begin later this year. A plot of land donated by the city will be used for the seven-bay station and is located on N. Hwy. 14, just south of the FM 339 intersection.

Alexandra Cannon photo/Groesbeck Journal

KOSSE FIRE
FROM PG. 1

The City of Kosse is also participating with \$100,000 from its American Rescue Plan funds which includes acquisition of the old fire department buildings. The new seven bay station will be located on 1.75 acres donated by the city on N Hwy 14, just south of the FM 339 intersection.

Mayor Brooks Valls and Fire Chief Kendall Funderburk wish to thank Congressman Sessions and his excellent staff over the past year in helping to make this important building a reality and for their commitment to keeping us up to date on events and status.

2023 Bingo nights to start

The Kosse Volunteer Fire Department will host the first Kosse Bingo Night at 6:00PM on Friday, January 27, 2023. Join us at the Kosse

Work on the new station may go out for bid but work cannot begin until funding is made available to the department.

“We’ll have a project manager, and it has to meet certain criteria, like handicapped bathrooms and maybe some other things we wouldn’t have built-in but we have to wait and see what their qualifications are,” said Fire Chief Kendall Funderburk. “Sessions said it could be early May.”

Construction plans and updates will be provided over the coming months. Keep an eye on future editions of The Journal for more information about the groundbreaking and progress of KVFD’s new station.

Community Center for cash prizes, door prizes, raffles, food and snacks. Proceeds support the The Kosse Volunteer Fire Department.

THE THORNTON
HUSTLER
A SUPPLEMENT TO THE JOURNAL

Thornton Senior News

Our numbers were down quite a bit this week but expect them to start getting back to normal soon. We had Michele Cochran from Reliant at Home Health Caregivers back with us for lunch and to call bingo. We do so appreciate her coming and keeping a check on our blood pressure. She’s such a delight to all. The others in attendance were Janice Bilbrey, site manager, Ann Brown, Wilma Lee, Sammy Cooper, Hank and Elle Staniszewski, Elizabeth Neason, Sheryl Davis, Lorene Stenbridge, Wayne Sharp, Alma McCurry, Ann McBride and myself.

The menu for Thursday, Jan. 19, is scheduled to be BBQ weiners, creamed corn, Brussel sprouts, spiced apples, and tea/milk. Please let Janice know of your intentions for the meal by Wednesday noon at 254-203-2769. Very important.

Seems I somehow wiped the bingo winners out of my cellphone again. Congratulations to the winners once again. I’ll try

to do better in the future.

We are so grateful to Central Baptist Church for our meeting place each week. This is a gift to the senior citizens each month. Other centers have to pay rent and utilities. When you see Bro. Tracy Sims or a deacon, be sure and tell them “thank you”. Also, thanks, Candise Neal, for the fresh eggs.

Also, we should thank County Judge Duncan and the Commissioners for donating to Limestone County Senior Citizens as a whole for the generous donation from Limestone County. At present time a new meeting place is being looked at in Groesbeck as the present building is getting in very bad need of major repairs which are not feasible. All donations are appreciated.

The Lord who loves you and holds you in the palm of His hand wants to bless you today in amazing, humbling and breathtaking ways.

God bless you, and God bless America.

HAVE A LIFESTYLE OR
OPINION PIECE?
CONTACT US TODAY!

THE KOSSE
CYCLONE
A SUPPLEMENT TO THE JOURNAL SINCE 1943

CORRECTION: In the Thursday, Jan. 12 issue of the Groesbeck Journal the Kosse Community Center (KCC) Board meeting was mistakenly reported on as a Kosse Economic

Development Corporation (EDC) meeting. The Kosse EDC Board meeting was held Tuesday, Jan. 17 and coverage will be available in next week’s edition of the Journal.

KOSSE/THORNTON CALENDAR

Friday, Jan. 27
6 to 8 p.m. – Kosse Charitable Bingo hosted by the Kosse Volunteer Fire Department. A complete list of all eighteen 2023 Kosse Bingo Nights can be found at www.KosseTexas.com/bingo.

Friday, Feb. 17
6 to 11 p.m. – Bingo & Band Night at the Kosse Community Center Bingo. There will be a special evening of live music with Kosse and Central Texas favorite Gordon Collier, with new partner Dave Innis, founding member of the famous group “Restless Heart.” Only \$10 for the whole evening of food, soft drinks, raffles and cash prize Bingo! It’s only \$2 for just Bingo. Call 254-375-2212 for more details.

Friday, March 3
6 to 8 p.m. – Kosse Charitable Bingo hosted by the Kosse Heritage Society. A complete list of all eighteen 2023 Kosse Bingo Nights can be found at www.KosseTexas.com/bingo.

Friday, March 24
6 to 8 p.m. – Kosse Charitable Bingo hosted by the Kosse Heritage Society. A complete list of all eighteen 2023 Kosse Bingo Nights can be found at www.KosseTexas.com/bingo.

Friday, April 14
6 to 8 p.m. – Kosse Charitable Bingo hosted by the Kosse Volunteer Fire Department. A complete list of all eighteen 2023 Kosse Bingo Nights can be found at www.KosseTexas.com/bingo.

Friday, May 12
6 to 8 p.m. – Kosse Charitable Bingo hosted by the Kosse Volunteer Fire Department. A complete list of all eighteen 2023 Kosse Bingo Nights can be found at www.KosseTexas.com/bingo.

Friday and Saturday, June 9 and 10
Kosse Homecoming 2023 – BBQ Cookoff, Homecoming Bingo, Kosse Greyhound 5K Run, Homecoming Parade, Kosse VFD Fish Fry and auction, Basset Farm-Heritage tours, Homecoming Street dance. See more information at www.KosseTexas.com

Friday, Sept. 15
6 to 8 p.m. – Kosse

Charitable Bingo hosted by the Kosse Community Center. A complete list of all eighteen 2023 Kosse Bingo Nights can be found at www.KosseTexas.com/bingo.

Friday, Sept. 29
6 to 8 p.m. – Kosse Charitable Bingo hosted by the Kosse Volunteer Fire Department. A complete list of all eighteen 2023 Kosse Bingo Nights can be found at www.KosseTexas.com/bingo.

Friday, Oct. 13
6 to 8 p.m. – Kosse Charitable Bingo hosted by the Kosse Heritage Society. A complete list of all eighteen 2023 Kosse Bingo Nights can be found at www.KosseTexas.com/bingo.

Friday, Nov. 3
6 to 8 p.m. – Kosse Charitable Bingo hosted by the Kosse Community Center. A complete list of all eighteen 2023 Kosse Bingo Nights can be found at www.KosseTexas.com/bingo.

Friday, Nov. 17
6 to 8 p.m. – Kosse Charitable Bingo hosted by the Kosse Heritage Society. A complete list of all eighteen 2023 Kosse Bingo Nights can be found at www.KosseTexas.com/bingo.

Friday, Dec. 1
6 to 8 p.m. – Kosse Charitable Bingo hosted by the Kosse Volunteer Fire Department. A complete list of all eighteen 2023 Kosse Bingo Nights can be found at www.KosseTexas.com/bingo.

Ongoing Every Tuesday
6 to 7:30 p.m. – The Kosse Lions Club meets at the Kosse Cafe.

First Tuesdays
6 p.m. – The Thornton Masonic Lodge #486 meets, meal at 6 p.m. and meeting at 7 pm. All Masons are invited to attend.

Submissions?
To submit an item for the community calendar, email news@groesbeckjournal.com, or bring it to our office at 115 N. Ellis in Groesbeck. **Questions?** Call 254-729-5103.

Defending Our Local Schools!

Editors Note: Mexia resident Jeri McBay requested the publication of this article. Opinions and letters published in The Groesbeck Journal are not the views of The Groesbeck Journal. The Groesbeck Journal reserves the right to edit or omit copy, in accordance with newspaper policies. Letters to the Editor may be submitted via email to editor@groesbeckjournal.com or mailed to PO Box 440 Groesbeck, Tx. 76642. Letters to the Editor should be limited to 300 to 500 words, and any more would have to be a paid advertisement.

As I watched schools from my current and new districts at the UIL High School Football state championships at AT&T Stadium, surrounded by 40,000 fans, parents, teachers and students, one recurring sight truly inspired me—players taking a knee to pray.

Public schools and teachers are under attack more than ever. The 88th legislative session will be the most challenging in Texas history as some politicians seek to defund public schools, privatize education and make school board elections hyper-partisan. The hatred and

vitriol seem to have no bounds.

Michael Quinn Sullivan, the publisher of Texas Scorecard, tweeted last January that public education is a “babysitting” service offered at the convenience of government employees. “Public education in Texas is about employing otherwise unemployable adults, not educating kids,” he tweeted.

Jonathan Stickland, who heads up the Defend Texas Liberty PAC, tweeted recently, “If you love your kids, you will do everything possible to keep them out of government (public) schools.” The billionaire financiers of these groups, such as Tim Dunn and Faris Wilks, have long advocated privatizing public schools. Former gubernatorial candidate Don Huffines recently referred to public schools as “underperforming woke schools.”

Recently, I listened to the Perrin FFA Ag Issues contest team as they prepared for the state contest. The public

speaking skills and poise of these FFA young people demonstrate the impact of a quality public education experience. I also attended events to support Palo Pinto County youth that shows livestock. These young people represent a bright future for our local communities, state and nation. Leadership development and respect for others are core principles of FFA programs in public schools. At the Capitol in November, I welcomed the award-winning Santo High School Marching band for a capitol tour, and it was incredible to interact with these talented students.

In December, while watching several high school playoff and state championship games, there was nothing “woke” about the competition, patriotism and community pride I witnessed.

It was uplifting to watch the Brock Eagles and their opposing team come together in the middle of the field after the game for a moment of silence and prayer. Then I watched the Aledo Bearcats win their

11th state championship. Coach Tim Buchanan and his staff, the Bearcat Regiment, Bearcat cheerleaders, the Bearcats dance team, parents, fans and the great community of Aledo all contributed!

These are not “woke” public schools. Branding all public schools as “woke” or as “a babysitting service” with a broad brush is, quite frankly, a lie. Politicians or pundits without a real message simply attack with venom and hate.

Article 7, Section 1 of the Texas Constitution requires the Texas Legislature to maintain a system of free public schools for all Texans.

My goal for the 88th legislative session, which starts January 10th, is to support and help improve our Texas public schools.

“Pot shots” aimed at our public schools by politicians and political operatives to score points with their radical base is not productive and do not represent Texas ideals. Over five million Texas public school students, over one thousand districts and 400,000 teachers and staff deserve better.

Ongoing
Events

Every third Tuesday – The Stone County Conservative Coalition meets. – For the place of the meeting, please email stonecountyycc@gmail.com.

Every Wednesday – A group seeks people to play 42 at the Mexia Senior Citizens Center, 111 N. Sherman St. – Call 254-472-0230 for more information.

Every Monday – 6 to 8 p.m. – First Baptist Church of Tehuacana still hosts a knitting/crocheting group in the Fellowship Hall. – Anyone wanting to learn to knit or crochet is invited. There is no cost, and the yarn is provided. – For more information, contact Angela Bailey at 409-782-0229.

Every first Monday – 6 p.m. – Groesbeck Masonic Lodge #354 Meal and meeting.

Every second Monday – 5:30 p.m. – The Limestone Cancer Support Group meets at the Mexia EDC boardroom, 214 N. Sherman in Mexia. – Anyone interested in helping those going through cancer treatment or who wants more information all are welcome to attend. – For more information, email everycancermatters@yahoo.com.

Every Monday – 7 p.m. – Celebrate Recovery for adults is held at Shiloh Baptist Church – For more information, contact Pastor David at 254-747-5847.

First and third Tuesday of each month – 9 a.m. to noon and 4 to 6 p.m. – Caritas of Mexia will hold drive-up food distributions.

Every first Tuesday – 7 p.m. – WestLake Limestone WLLVFD Station 1 regular

business meeting at 6614 FM 937 in Thornton – Public welcome.

Every first Tuesday – at 6 p.m. – The Thornton Masonic Lodge #486 meets – All Masons are invited to attend.

Every Tuesday and Thursday – from 7 to 8 p.m. – Crystal Meth Anonymous meets at First Baptist Church Tehuacana. – For questions, call 254-625-1665.

Every third Monday – 6 p.m. – Mexia ISD Regular Meeting at the Administration Building, 616 N. Red River St. – Called meetings are conducted at times and dates as the need arises.

Every third Tuesday – 5:30 p.m. – Mexia City Council Regular Meeting at City Hall, 101 N. McKinney in Mexia – Called meetings are conducted at times and dates as needed.

Every Wednesday –

Noon – Groesbeck Lions Club meets at Mi Rancho Mexican Restaurant.

Every first and third Wednesday – 9:30 a.m. to noon – Fishes and Loaves – Food Pantry at Church on the Rock in Groesbeck at 1470 Highway 14 is open to those in need. – You can come as many times as needed. – For more information, call 254-729-5200.

Every Thursday – from 4 to 6:30 p.m. – Limestone Farmers Market at the Groesbeck Parkette, 302 W. Navasota. – For vendor applications and information, email limestonetxfm@gmail.com.

Every Thursday – 10 a.m. or 6:30 p.m. – GriefShare, a grief support group at Calvary Baptist Church, 519 McKinney, in Mexia. – Entrance and parking in the back of the building – For more information, call 254-562-2269.

Every fourth Tuesday – 5:30 p.m. – Tri-County Beekeepers meet at Sam’s Restaurant in Fairfield.

Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday – from 7 to 8 pm – Narcotics Anonymous meets at the building beside 401 W. Sabine in Groesbeck. – For questions, email journeyin2recovery@gmail.com.

Last Monday of each month – Noon – American Legion Department of Texas Post 288 brunch, meeting immediately after at 213 West Navasota Street.

Second Monday of every month – at 5:30 p.m. – The Limestone Cancer Support Group meets – at the Mexia EDC boardroom at 214 N. Sherman – Anyone interested in helping those going through cancer treatment or who wants more information is welcome to attend – For more information: everycancermatters@yahoo.com.

com.

If you are interested in taking free GED classes, please contact us via email at director@groesbecklibrary.org or a phone call at 254-729-3667 – If it is after hours, please leave a message and a callback number.

Veterans who need someone to talk to are invited to call the Veterans Partners of Texas to talk to a volunteer who will listen. Call 254-562-9270 and text Joe “JoeRob” Roberts to arrange a date.

Submissions: To submit an item for the community calendar, email The Mexia News or The Groesbeck Journal at news@groesbeckjournal.com or news@themexianews.com.

Got questions? Call The Journal office at 254-729-5103 or The News at 254-562-2868.

Straten hired to maintain Limestone County fairgrounds

By Katecey Harrell
news@themexianews.com

The Limestone County Commissioners Court during the regular meeting Jan. 10 hired Kevin Straten to work as the full-time Limestone County Fairgrounds Showbarn

associate. “It just seemed liked a perfect fit,” Straten said. A full-time employee maintaining the grounds would ensure fairgrounds director Tiffany Burleson can focus on managing, coordinating and

supervising business activities. The community can hold events like livestock shows, circuses and concerts at the fairgrounds. Straten has experience building houses and metal buildings, welding,

electrical and plumbing. He said he has worked on tractors and has fork truck and skylift certifications. Straten said his No. 1 job is to maintain the arena by watering, leveling and designing layouts for livestock pins for significant

shows. He ensures the fences, bleachers and the entirety of the fairgrounds are clean. Straten and his wife, Connie, have been married for about 37 years and live in Kosse. Straten said he feels great

about the position and can sleep better now. “I like it; it’s low pressure and Tiffany is great to work for,” he said. “There’s nothing tough about it. There’s just plenty of work to do. We have to stay at it and knock it out.”

COUNCIL FROM PG. 1

“Money aside, we really just want support and to build a relationship with the city,” said Vasquez. “Sometimes small towns kind of go by the wayside, and we don’t keep each other in mind. This would just keep the city involved going forward.” After City Administrator Chris Henson explained the money would need to come from the special events line, Council Member Lee Cox moved to give LCFA \$1,500 for advertising purposes, and his motion

was approved by the council. Council also approved the consent agenda for minutes of the regular session in December and the quarterly investment report through December. For Council and City Administrator comments, Warren Anglin brought up a letter that had been attached to his trash can from the city’s waste disposal company regarding the need for all trash items to be bagged, an issue Henson stated he would pursue personally at the soonest available opportunity. Henson noted that road repair projects (Bradley

followed by Rocky Creek) would begin Jan. 23. He also stated that the city was currently being audited, an annual affair and findings could be expected in a presentation in April. Henson also stated that the public library’s newer addition may require some repair work and that equipment for the prison’s lift station had been delivered, but the city was still waiting for parts for the water/sewer plant. The next City Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 21 at 6 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at 317 W. Navasota in Groesbeck.



Roy Vasquez of the Limestone County Fair Association (LCFA) sought Groesbeck City Council support in the amount of \$2,500 for funding of the annual county fair at the council meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 17, but instead received \$1,500 for advertising purposes from the city in a unanimous vote.

Alexandra Cannon photo/Groesbeck Journal



Construction employees hang a tarp on the Limestone County Fairgrounds Showbarn. Photos by Jennifer Paul/ The Groesbeck Journal

FAIRGROUNDS FROM PG. 1

She said that the Road and Bridge Department cleared many dead trees and limbs and made an outdoor warm-up area. Inside, they did a lot of welding projects that helped make the barn safer. Burleson said Waco Towing helped move the announcer’s stand near the bleachers. Other entities and individuals helped install adjustable roping boxes and move the bucking chutes to the south end of the barn, and format

it in a new setup. Burleson thanked various other business and community members who volunteered their time. She said a lot of community involvement is happening at the fairgrounds. “A lot of feedback from it is people love it. They’ve always wanted the bucking chutes where they are and for the arena to be turned around. They love the new warm-up area. They like everything we have going on,” she said. Burleson said three big producers had scheduled shows at the Limestone County Fairgrounds because of the

improvement. The U.S. Team Penning Association will have seven shows, the Texas Truck and Towing tour will have its world series qualifier at the fairgrounds, and many others have expressed interest in hosting events at the barn, Burleson said. Burleson’s projected revenue total is \$94,350 for the first year. She said that the projected revenue is a conservative estimate because she still has dates to fill. “The amount of revenue we’ll have coming in because of those changes is more than going to pay for itself,” Burleson said.

Texas A&M Forest Service warns of increased wildfire danger

Texas A&M Forest Service firefighting resources are prepared to respond to wildfires as a cold front moves into the state this week. Today, the fire environment may support increased potential for wildfire activity for communities near Amarillo, Childress, Lubbock, San Angelo, Wichita Falls, Abilene and Eastland. “Dry, dormant grasses will be exposed to elevated or critical fire weather and well above normal temperatures ahead of an approaching cold front,” said Luke Kanclerz, Texas A&M Forest Service Fire Analyst. “The risk of significant fires that are highly resistant to control is expected to be limited due to the lack of critically dry fuel and less grass observed across the West Texas landscape.” Last year, grass production was limited during the growing season as a result of the drought and from livestock grazing. Below normal grass production may limit wildfire growth and aid firefighters in keeping wildfires small. On Thursday, the potential for wildfire activity is expected to shift south and

east as the cold front exits the state. Elevated fire weather following the front, combined with dry, dormant grasses may support increased wildfire potential for communities near Waco, San Antonio, Austin, Victoria, Kingsville and Brownsville/McAllen. The threat for large, significant fires will remain low for these areas. In Texas, the dormant fire season, occurring during winter and spring, is generally characterized by freeze-cured grasses across the landscape and increased wind speeds surrounding dry cold fronts. Freeze-cured grasses are the catalyst for the dormant fire season, requiring less drying and moderate fire weather for wildfire activity. After a hard freeze Dec. 23-24, 2022, freeze-cured, dormant grasses are present across the entire state. Texas A&M Forest Service is monitoring the situation and working with state and local partners to prepare and respond to any wildfire incident. “When the forecast indicates an increased

potential for wildfire activity, our agency strategically positions personnel and equipment in areas of concern to quickly respond to requests for assistance from local fire departments who are our first line of defense,” said Wes Moorehead, Texas A&M Forest Service Fire Chief. “Personnel and equipment, including fully staffed task forces, dozers and engines, are prepared for a quick and effective response to any new wildfire ignition in these areas.” Since Jan. 1, 2023, state and local firefighters have responded to 27 wildfires burning 97 acres across the state. Texas A&M Forest Service encourages the public to avoid outdoor activities that may cause a spark while dry and windy conditions are present. Stay wildfire aware. If a wildfire is spotted, immediately contact local authorities. A quick response can help save lives and property. For current conditions and wildfire outlook, visit the Texas Fire Potential Outlook <https://bit.ly/3kemhbG>.



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