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Pittsburg athletic director, head football coach resigns

By **HOLLY MCGONAGILL**
news@campcountynow.com

Pittsburg ISD's head football coach and athletic director, Brad Baca, has decided to resign. Baca and his wife have worked for the district for six years and state they have enjoyed every minute of it. While Baca resigned his wife will continue her position at the Pittsburg Elementary teaching fourth grade.



Brad Baca

"We feel like our goal when we got here was to invest everything we had into enhancing and bettering the culture of Pirates athletics family, Pittsburg football and the entire athletic program and we feel like we did that," said Baca. "Now we feel like our goal and our mission was accomplished here. Now it is time for a new challenge."

As of right now, Baca does not have any plans once his contract ends in the middle of the summer. He plans for his family to stay in Pittsburg for the time being unless an opportunity arises that he can't give up. Baca would like to stay in education and possibly pursue his Master's. He also stated that he wants more time with his family which is why he made this

decision before another football season and so that the school would have time to find a replacement.

"During football season I work seven days a week all of us coaches work seven days a week. From August to the end of football season. When spring comes I am involved with all the other sports and I am at any play-offs or home games we have," said Baca. "Don't get me wrong I love it and I love my job but it takes a lot of time. My oldest daughter will be in sixth grade next year and pretty soon she will be in Junior High athletics. I just wanted to be able to watch her and my other two who are in third-grade grow-up, be at their games and coach their little league teams more than I have been able to."

Baca stated that he wanted to say thank you to his staff, who truly gave Pittsburg their best effort every day and he can't thank them enough for it. Also a sincere thank you to the Pittsburg Pirate Football players, fans, alumni, administration, Judy Pollan, Terry Waldrep, and the past and present boards of trustees

See **BACA** Page 2



Mayor Abernathy and community discuss Governor Abbott's Executive Order 34

Governor Greg Abbott has approved executive order 34 (EO-GA-34) which will come into effect 12:01 a.m. March 10, 2021.

Abernathy states that the highlights of this order include:

- Removes state-imposed COVID-19-related operating limits for businesses and other establishments for all counties which are not in a Trauma Service Area (Hospital Region) with greater than 15% of COVID-19 hospitalized patients as a percentage of total hospital capacity for seven consecutive days.
- In counties that exceed that 15% for seven consecutive days, the County Judge may require businesses or other establishments to operate at less than 50% of total capacity, with no operating limits for religious services, public and private schools and institutes of higher education, and child-care services.

See **MASKS** Page 2

Pittsburg welcomes new businesses

By **HOLLY MCGONAGILL**
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Pittsburg has recently gained three new additions to the community. Kim's Convenience Store and IHOP and La Texana all opened at the beginning of March, while BeBe's CupCakery had its soft opening. Kim's Convenience Store and IHOP opened March 3 and are located in the same building at 2241 HWY 271 N, just south of the UT Health Hospital. The store part of the business offers an arrangement of food, snacks and other items commonly found at a convenience store. The other part of the business is IHOP which the community has been excited for seeing as the closest one is in Mount Pleasant.

La Texana is located at 903 N Greer Blvd. The new restaurant offers a wide variety of traditional Mexican food for the community. La Texana opened March 1 and has already been a hit within the community. Many residents of Pittsburg have posted on Facebook their liking after visiting the restaurant.

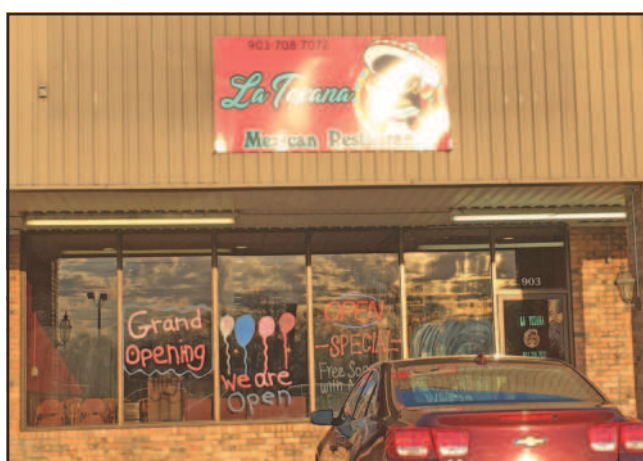
BeBe's CupCakery has been open for a while, but they recently just had their soft opening on March 6. The shop is located at 611 N Greer Blvd inside of the Be *YOU*tiful Salon & Boutique. BeBe's offers a variety of sweet treats like specialty-made cakes and icecream.

With the start of these new businesses, it gives Pittsburg residents more places to dine and spend locally. The cost spent will be going back into the community. As the city grows more of the residents will be benefited and it will help the town during these hard times.

"The Chamber is very excited about these new businesses. It means growth for our community. We are honored that they have chosen to invest in our community and our Chamber," said Chamber Manager Sandy Thompson. "As the Chamber celebrates its 75th Anniversary, we look forward to continuing to be a strong support for our new businesses. Good job to all who are involved."



Kim's Convenience Stores and IHOP



La Texana Mexican Restaurant



BeBe's CupCakery

COURTESY PHOTOS

Commissioners Court renews past agreements, opposes mandates



COURTESY PHOTO

By **HOLLY MCGONAGILL**
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The Camp County Commissioners Court has decided to agree to inmate housing at Franklin County, a Memorandum of Understanding with Douglass Alumni, while opposing unfunded mandates.

County Judge A.J. Mason said that the jail in Camp County has a maximum of 34 beds. Once the jail is at capacity, inmates are then sent for housing in Franklin County. This is an annual agreement between both parties. The cost of housing an inmate in Franklin County is 40 dollars a day per inmate.

The court also renewed the agreement between them and the Douglass Alumni. Every two years

See **COMMISSIONERS** Page 2

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NEWS

Texans should keep wearing masks, experts say

“It is now time to open Texas 100%”: Texas will end its mask mandate this week — making it the most populous state in the country not to have a one. Businesses can also operate at full capacity starting March 10. In a Lubbock Mexican restaurant on Tuesday, Gov. Greg Abbott argued that Texas had fought the coronavirus pandemic to the point that “people and businesses don’t need the state telling them how to operate” any longer. Abbott’s announcement capped a nearly yearlong stretch of the most intraparty dissent he has seen in his time as governor. The announcement comes as the state reports:

- Less than 7% of Texas’ population is fully vaccinated
- Over 71,000 new coronavirus cases in the past 14 days
- Over 5,600 people were hospitalized with COVID-19 on Tuesday
- Nearly 43,000 Texas who tested positive for the virus have died

New variants of the virus appear in Texas, with Houston being the first city in the nation to record all major COVID-19 strains

These numbers are likely undercounts due to delays in data reporting because of the recent winter storm that left dozens of Texans dead, millions without power and caused an 85% drop in vaccinations over two weeks.

What do health experts say? Texans should keep wearing their masks tightly over their nose and mouth and taking COVID-19 safety precautions. Doctors and health officials caution that Texans should not take Abbott’s announcement as a signal to relax the behavior that has led to a recent decrease in coronavirus infections and hospitalizations, such as avoiding large gatherings, washing hands frequently and wearing masks. Researchers also say it’s possible that people who already had COVID-19 could be reinfected. While the vaccines appear to be effective enough against current variants, new ones that show up as the pandemic stretches on could be more resistant.

Two men from Camp County arrested for narcotics trafficking

Three East Texans were sentenced for their roles in an international drug trafficking operation. Rodolfo Javier Falcon (36) of Camp County received 30 years in prison. Falcon agreed to forfeit \$5 million in drug proceeds. Eleazar Martinez Reyes (41) also of Camp County received 87 months and will forfeit \$150,000 in drug proceeds. The third person was Gerardo Cabrera Ramirez (28) of Franklin County, who received 151 months in prison and will forfeit \$7,500 in drug proceeds.

Commissioners

Continued from page 1

the court presents a Memorandum of Understanding with Douglass Alumni clarifying that if the court keeps the Douglass Alumni’s parking lot cleared and ready to use then the county is able to use their facility when it is time for voting.

Commissioners court has decided to oppose unfunded mandates imposed on local governments by the State of Texas.

“The Commissioners Court adopted a Resolution Opposing Unfunded Mandates. This is a formal communication of the Court to our State Representative Cole Hefner and State Senator Bryan Hughes to support legislation that will discontinue the practice of passing laws, or mandates, that place financial requirements on local governments with no funding to support those mandates,” said Mason. “Local governments are then placed in a position of having to pay for the mandates passed by the Legislature by taxing local citizens. On some occasions, partial funding is provided, however those always fall far short and local citizens are left to play the rest through local taxes.”

Baca

Continued from page 1

“It has been such an honor to be the Head Football Coach for the Pittsburg Pirates and live in this community for the past six years. From the first day I arrived on the job back in 2015 this place became home. Thank you to all my players over the years, you guys are truly an inspiration to my family and me.,” said Baca. “We love this district and this city, and that continues to this day. Coaches and players will come and go, but no one can take with them the accomplishments that belong to this Program. Our goal when we got here was to invest all our time, effort, and energy into enhancing the culture of Pirate Athletics and the Pitt Family. We believe the Pittsburg Pirate Football

Program, and Pittsburg Athletics as a whole, will continue to thrive and we will proudly watch from a distance as our family explores new opportunities.”

Pittsburg ISD Superintendent Terry Waldrop stated “Pittsburg ISD would like to express our thanks to Coach Baca for his six years of service to our district and community. Coach Baca has demonstrated a love for this district and community which was evident through the investment he made in his time, energy and efforts to see our student athletes and all athletics succeed. Coach Baca has tremendous character and professionalism which translated into him being a wonderful role model for our students. We thank him again for the six years he gave to the district and we wish him and his family all the best in their future endeavors.”

Masks

Continued from page 1

- Individuals are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings over the nose and mouth whenever it is not feasible to maintain six feet of social distancing from another person not in the same household, but no person may be required by any jurisdiction to wear or to mandate the wearing of a face covering.
- In providing or obtaining services, every person (including individuals, businesses, and other legal entities) is strongly encouraged to use good-faith efforts and available resources to follow the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) health recommendations, found at www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus.
- Nothing in EO-GA-34 precludes businesses or other establishments from requiring employees or customers to follow additional hygiene measures, including the wearing of a face covering.
- Nursing homes, state supported living centers, assisted living facilities, and long-term care facilities should follow guidance from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) regarding visitations, and should follow infection control policies and practices set forth by HHSC, including minimizing the movement of staff between facilities whenever possible.
- Public schools may operate as provided by, and under the minimum standard health protocols found in, guidance issued by the Texas Education Agency.
- County and municipal jails should follow guidance from the Texas Commission on Jail Standards regarding visitations.

Mayor David Abernathy stated the general public will mainly focus on two aspects of the order. Those would be the rescinding of the facial covering requirement and removing the operational limits for businesses and other establishments.

“Let me break those down. The facial covering language in previous COVID-19-related Executive Orders was purposely worded to make it next to impossible to enforce. So, facial coverings were, for all practical purposes, voluntary all along unless a business or other establishment required them,” said Abernathy. “However, it has been made clear from the beginning, and EO-GA-34 reinforces, that COVID-19 preventative measures are strongly encouraged and that businesses and other establishments can require facial coverings and additional COVID-19 hygiene measures.”

Abernathy continues by stating that he is in agreement with the preventative measures as recommended by our state health department and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

“Consider this, the overwhelming majority of people agree that smoking and second-hand smoke can be detrimental to one’s health. Yet, there is no Texas state law prohibiting the use of legal tobacco products in public,” said Abernathy. “However, businesses and other establishments can, and have, restricted it because the majority of their customers expect it and it helps protect their employees. Smoke and COVID-19 are both airborne particles.”

Abernathy finishes his statements by saying that the operational limits of a business and other establishments are building codes and life safety codes. The type of the business or establishment, the size of the structure and the number of ingress and egress openings are used to determine maximum occupancy. COVID-19 has nothing to do with the limits.

Here are a few more things to consider:

- According to the CDC, until more time has passed and research conducted, it’s unknown how long a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 has immunity to it nor how long a person who has been vaccinated will have immunity.
- The CDC recommends that people who have been fully vaccinated continue to practice COVID-19 precautions.

Even with the new single-dose vaccine, it will be months before enough people will be vaccinated to join with those who have tested positive, to achieve “herd immunity.” (There’s a definite distinction of “having enough vaccines

for those who want it” versus “having those people fully vaccinated.” Remember, two of these vaccines require two doses a few weeks apart and many of those who have had COVID-19 will probably want to be vaccinated.

- According to DSHS, there are over 11.3 million Texans in the 1A and 1B recipient categories alone. It’s taken almost three months to fully vaccinate 2.5 million of those people.
- At this time, vaccines have only been approved for those 16 years of age and above.
- No vaccine is 100% effective.
- COVID-19 variants are now in the United States. Some cause more severe disease, spread easier, require different treatments, and change the effectiveness of current vaccines.
- While new cases of COVID-19 and hospitalizations in Texas have decreased recently, the number of daily fatalities, as of this writing, has remained steady. DSHS has been researching why the fatalities are not decreasing proportionately.

Many in the community have stated their views on the approval of the executive order.

“Agree with it. Give us back the freedom to choose. He’s not telling us to not wear masks, he’s giving us a choice now,” said Brandi Michelle. “If you wanna wear a mask then keep doing it but don’t judge people who are ready for this 99.9% survival rate virus to not rule our lives anymore.”

“I think it’s fine, just like the flu season we should be accountable for ourselves. The one positive thing that has come out of covid mandates is that people will be more conscious about washing hands, staying home when sick and other risky behaviours that spread germs and viruses of all kinds,” said Pam Robertson. “Masks are not mandated but it was never really enforced so I do not think it will change anything for most people. Very few people ever understood how to wear it and what the true purpose it was for. I will be glad to see people live without fear of other people. We are not living a live version of The walking Dead. Respect and be kind to your neighbors. Just because it’s not a law, doesn’t mean you can’t wear a mask or be forced to shop and dine out. So, aside from this sparking up a lively conversation, I don’t see much changing people’s current point of view”

“I hope people with health issues are able to stay safe but I do not want my favorite small business to die,” said Jenefer Hatch. “We love our town and all our local businesses. I hope every small business comes back stronger than ever.”

“Masks have been proven to work along with social distancing and hand washing (ref: CDC and WHO). Many health professionals consider the governor’s ruling to be premature. Dr. Fauci and Dr. McDeavitt of Baylor Medical School, among many medical professionals, disagreed with the ruling,” said Ellen Matzenauer. “Many people in Camp County have chosen to make it difficult for those of us who have chosen from the beginning of the pandemic to give all we can to respect and protect our fellow citizens. But it has been difficult, as many have chosen to brush the pandemic off as if it were just a small bother. To do weekly shopping, one must enter a maze of the uncaring “unmasked” to get a few necessities. Their tetort, “If you don’t like it, stay home”. Well guess what? After friend’s deaths and numerous close friends with covid cases we’ve done a lot of staying home. Rest assured I was right on track for the vaccine too. Believe the science, this rodeo “ain’t” over folks. Those variants are out there just waiting to wrap their arms around one of you, your parents or even your child. Please be vigilant and read science not Facebook .Thank goodness PISD is choosing to continue masks. Please, let’s get those teachers vaccinated.”

“The freedom to protect oneself as they see fit isn’t being compromised. If maskless folks concern you, mask up and stay 6’ away which is your absolute right. If 100% capacity at a business concerns you, avoid that business and/or stay within the confines of your home or vehicle. Your freedoms to protect yourself have NEVER been compromised,” said Lynnea Mejia. “For those of us who feel that mandatory masking is a violation of our civil liberties, we now have our freedoms restored. I will respectfully stay away from you so as not to violate your freedom to protect yourself and I ask that you respectfully allow me to enjoy the freedom to breathe fresh air and frequent the businesses of my choice unencumbered by a device that I’ve never believed would protect me from any virus. The governor isn’t mandating that everyone has to go maskless. It’s a win-win for everyone.

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RECORDS

LOOKING BACK

15 YEARS AGO

• A line of storms sweep through East Texas, and the duration of the rainfall was short, but heavy, according to Mark Frazier, warning coordination meteorologist with the National Weather Service. Thunderstorms, along with gusty winds, were the cause of many outages and minor damage across Camp County.

• Seven community members vie for school board. Sarah Johns and Steve Parker faced off for Place 3. The incumbent, Dr. Dan Kincaid, chose not to seek re-election. Dr. Mary McKinney, the incumbent in Place 4, drew an opponent in Bob Roe. Place 5 featured three candidates, Tim Nicholson and Bobby Richardson are challenged incumbent board member Neal Hinson.

• To begin work on Broach Park, commissioners voted to transfer \$150,000 from one county account at Pilgrim Bank to another account at the same bank. The transferred money will go into an account used for Broach Park projects.

• Longtime resident and teacher, Ruth Ann Nickerson, passed away March 9 at Hospice of East Texas in Tyler after a short illness. She was born Sept. 10, 1916 in St. Charles, Mo. She was the daughter of Joseph and Emma Willott.

• Kendal Burns and Mark McKinney team up in the St. Patrick's Day golf tournament held at Princedale Country Club. Team winners were Pittsburg Hot Links, first; Hibernia Bank, second; and Pilgrim's Pride and Guaranty Bond Bank, third. The event was sponsored by Guaranty Bond Bank. All proceeds will benefit the chamber of commerce.

25 YEARS AGO

• Alan McCandless wins the Camp County sheriff's race, with 1,517 votes, over Carl Shelton who received 333 votes. Incumbent county attorney Michael Lantrip is unseated by James Wallace. O.C. Taylor, the Precinct 3 commissioner, was also defeated. James McElhaney and Hervy Hiner are headed for a runoff for that position.

• Unopposed candidates who will serve another term are Jack Efurud, Precinct 1 commissioner; Brenda Irby, tax assessor-collector, and Jerry Farmer, constable.

• Commissioners vote to finalize the 9-1-1 system.

• Davie 'Duck' Hughes is selected as Newcomer of the Year in district 14AAA for his performance on the basketball court. Terry Mitchell and Lesslee Parnell are selected to the First Team, and Cory Haley makes the Second Team.

35 YEARS AGO

• Linda Gale White, first lady of Texas, visits Pittsburg for Main Street dedication ceremony.

• Pittsburg National Bank reports total assets of \$37 million.

• School trustees review preliminary plans for new classroom wing at the primary school.

45 YEARS AGO

• Heavy rains break dry spell and help spring pasture growth.

• Commissioners hear progress report on Lake Bob Sandlin bridge study.

55 YEARS AGO

• Cypress Basin Association is formed.

• Joyce Bell and Sherry Pilgrim are members of Angel Flight at East Texas State University.

75 YEARS AGO

• R.L. Cure of Marshall puts in equipment for a soap factory in Pittsburg.

• Gilbert Wilson makes plans to can 10,000 cans of peas daily.

• Money is being raised for the construction of a home for the American Legion.

110 YEARS AGO

• The State Bank was being organized.

• A bank was being organized in Newsome.

115 YEARS AGO

• The city invested in a street grader which was recommended to do the work of 34 to 40 hands. • A freeze followed 65-degree weather.

• Men's socks were selling at 4 cents a pair.

FYI by CHUCK JOHNS

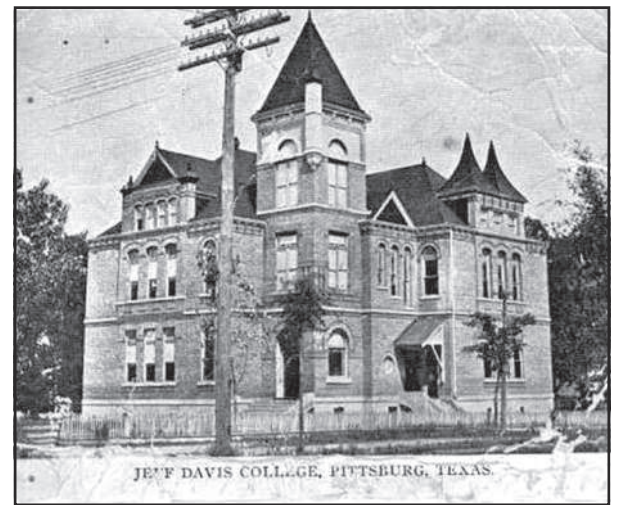
15 YRS AGO- Ruth Nickerson was an outstanding educator here for over thirty years. She taught me her first year in second grade in 1953.

35 YRS AGO- Linda Gayle White was the wife of Governor Mark White.

75 YRS AGO- American Legion building was adjacent to Coca Cola Bottling plant on Marshall Street. It was demolished when the current post office was built.

110 YEARS AGO- Newsome was a thriving community at that time. The community had a school, post office, bank and some retail stores. The business area was north of Hwy 11 very near the 90 degree curve over the railroad track

Way Back When



GAZETTE ARCHIVE PHOTO

Jefferson Davis College was created in 1897. By 1909 the college was moved to a new building (the building pictured) which was demolished. The college held classes from first grade through twelfth grade and included a teachers' course which included all classes required for Texas teacher certification.

JAIL LOG

Holden Lee Elsea was arrested by PPD on 03/04 for unlawful possession of a firearm, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and resisting arrest.

Jose Gustavo Garcia was arrested by PPD on 03/04 for public intoxication.

Dakota Ray Drake was arrested by PPD on 03/04 for drug possession.

Alyssa Danielle Gale was arrested by PPD on 03/06 for drug possession, marijuana possession and public intoxication.

Ricardo Jose Gonzalez was arrested by CCSO on 03/07 for unlawful possession of a firearm, aggravated robbery and drug possession.

John Lee Lewis was arrested by PPD on 03/07 for assault causing bodily injury.

Rupert Wayne Joyner was arrested by CCSO on 03/07 for criminal trespassing.

Winnsboro Livestock & Dairy Auction

March 5, 2021	\$1.70 - lb
HEAD COUNT - 719 HD	400-500 LBS - \$1.10 - \$1.55 - lb
STEERS:	OVER 500 LBS - \$1.00 - \$1.45 - lb
UNDER 300 LBS - \$1.25 - \$1.95 - lb	
300-400 LBS - \$1.20 - \$1.75 - lb	PACKER COWS: \$0.30 - \$0.65 - lb
400-500 LBS - \$1.15 - \$1.65 - lb	PACKER BULLS: \$0.70 - \$1.01 - lb
OVER 500 LBS - \$1.05 - \$1.55 - lb	COWS & HEIFERS - \$650- \$1325 - HD
	COW/CALF PAIRS - \$700- \$1425 - HD
HEIFERS:	BABY CALVES - \$25- \$260 - HD
UNDER 300 LBS - \$1.20 - \$1.80 - lb	
300-400 LBS - \$1.15 -	

HAPPENINGS

MARCH 6 - 26

The Mt. Pleasant Art Society will have its Annual Spring Show at NTCC's Whatley Center for Performing Arts March 6th -March 26. The Reception will be held March 6 from 2-3 p.m.. There will be refreshments and masks are required per NTCC. The show will be closed during NTCC's Spring Break March 15-19. If you have any questions you can call or text 903-466-2254

MARCH 12-13

The March Pop UP Market will be at the Bleu Hen Crossing Event Center on 234 Rusk Street, Pittsburg. Friday from 3-7 p.m will be a shop & bop. There will be a DJ while you shop. Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. will be day two of shopping. Multiple local vendors selling a wide variety of products from leather goods to boutique clothing, arts and gifts, sweets and treats. For information call 972-693-8728.

MARCH 13

An informational meeting has been scheduled for Saturday, March 13, 2021, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at The Anvil Brewery in Pittsburg, Texas, to explain the Convention of States Project. Guest speaker will be John Van Compernelle, the Regional Captain of HD5. Susan Hamilton, HD5 District Captain, will host the meeting explaining the purpose, power and possibilities as the Convention of States grows across the nation. To find out more about the Convention of States Project and how you can volunteer, come to the March 13, 2021, meeting. You can also go to <https://conventionofstates.com/> or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/>

MARCH 14

Living Water of Pittsburg will be having a guest speaker March 14 at 10:30 a.m. The speaker will be Dr. Terry Sparks, who is known to be a dynamic speaker and Bible teacher with an emphasis on teaching "How to win In life."

MARCH 15

The NTCC Agriculture and Continuing Education Departments are pleased to announce an upcoming Spring Break "Life on the Farm" Camp with Rene McCracken (NTCC Ag Director). Do your kids have a green thumb or a love for animals? If so, this is the perfect opportunity for them to spend their spring break enjoying some fresh air and learning about farm life. The camp will be held March 15-18 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. It is designed for kids ages 8-16. The price is \$49 per person and students will need to bring a sack lunch and snack each day. To register for this event please call or email the Continuing Education Office at 903-434-8134 or continuinged@ntcc.edu. For more information about this or other upcoming courses, visit www.ntcc.edu/continuinged.

MARCH 16

March 16 at 7:00 p.m. you are invited to watch the LIVE Virtual 75th Anniversary Chamber Awards and Membership Meeting on the Pittsburg Camp County Chamber's Facebook page and Tri-County Press Facebook page. See who wins the awards for Volunteer of the Year, Educator of the Year, Man of the Year, Woman of the Year, Business of the Year and such. If you are a Chamber Member...there are prizes to win during the airing as well. Don't miss the fun. March 16, 7:00 p.m.

MARCH 18

March 18th the Pittsburg Lions Club will be meeting at Anvil Brewing from noon to 1:00 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Almelda from the East Texas Child Advocacy Center. April is Child Abuse Awareness Month. Please join us and bring a friend.

MARCH 20-23

Victory Church will be having a Revival March 20 through 23 at 108 quitman street in Pittsburg. The church will have Steven Ison speak March 20 through 21 at 6:30 p.m. Tom Ream will speak March 21 at 10:30 a.m. Roy Evans will speak on March 22 at 6:30 p.m. While Bobby Hall will close the revival on March 23 at 6:30 p.m.



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VIEWPOINTS



The View From A Farr

By TRACY FARR
Contributing Writer

Some days must be dark and dreary

It was the “could have been a whole lot worse” times, it was the “when are things going to start looking up” times; it was the winter we couldn’t believe the daffodils were already starting to bloom, it was the winter we thought we’d all freeze to death; we thought we had the answers to everything, we found out we had the answers to nothing; we knew we’d all end up in heaven, we knew that everybody else would end up going the other way. To be honest, if we were to be magically transported back to the Victorian Ages, we’d fit right in, except we’d miss our automobiles and weep for the fact that microwaves and packaged Ramen noodles hadn’t been invented yet.

In the East, there was a victorious chief sitting on the seat of power, one of the most powerful seats in all the world. He made plans to help the poor and the downtrodden, and the mass of his followers thought him honorable and trustworthy. In the South, there was a vanquished chief fuming in seclusion. He played lots of golf and made plans to take revenge on all who opposed him. Some of his followers fashioned a golden statue in his likeness to prove their continued fealty.

It was the year of Our Lord two thousand and twenty-one, and we were starting to think we’d never see snow in our front yards ever again. Gone were the days, we thought, of scarves, heavy coats and snowman building. But just as we opened our mouths and uttered remorse for the death of winter precipitation, the Earth blew its frozen breath across the land, and for seven days, we thought we’d all die from frostbite. When warmth returned, the skies opened up with drenching rain, and then we thought we’d all drown to death. And is there a one among us who would’ve been surprised to see Noah’s Ark drifting down I-30, carrying every pair of animals from aardvark to zebra? I think not.

A red fox passed through our neighborhood the other morning. I heard its distinctive scream and wondered what it was looking for. The ark, maybe? I like my neighborhood foxes. They remind me that I’m not the center of our universe, and that marvels can be found everywhere, if we only have the eyes to see them.

NASA’s rover “Perseverance” landed on Mars the other day. I watched as the SUV-sized machine was lowered to the Red Planet. I’m fascinated with the solar system and what lies beyond. It reminds me that we’re not the center of our universe, and that marvels are just waiting to be found if we only have the perseverance to look for them.

Lately, I’ve been reading a lot of novels by Charles Dickens. They are full of beautiful language, despicable characters, bad weather, meat pies and people who are barely surviving the times in which they are living – much like today. The novels are also filled with every-day heroes who are the embodiment of kindness, compassion, and empathy – again, much like today.

Mask mandate ends March 10; many entities to continue requiring them

While Gov. Gregg Abbott has lifted the statewide mandate to wear a mask in public and allowed all businesses to operate at full capacity, many businesses, schools and other entities say they will continue to require that masks be worn. Abbott issued the order last week, effective March 10.

“With the medical advancements of vaccines and antibody therapeutic drugs, Texas now has the tools to protect Texans from the virus,” Abbott said. “We must now do more to restore livelihoods and normalcy for Texans by opening Texas 100 percent.” He urged Texans to take responsibility for themselves when it comes to wearing masks and following other health safety practices.

Political leaders in several of the state’s largest cities criticized the decision. Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner tweeted, asking (and answering for himself) whether Abbott’s move was “an attempt to deflect from the winter storm systemwide state leadership failure. Yes.” San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg urged residents to join him in continuing to wear a mask, a sentiment echoed by Austin Mayor Steve Adler and Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins.

Meanwhile, the Texas Education Agency revised its health guidance policies, saying that “local school boards have full authority to determine their local mask policy.” Many of the state’s college campuses announced they would continue to require that masks be worn, including The University of Texas, the Texas A&M University System, Texas Tech, Southern Methodist University and others.

Several large retailers announced they would continue to require customers to wear masks, including Walmart, Target, Costco and Whole Foods. Grocery retailer H-E-B will “strongly encourage” they be worn, according to a company statement, and employees will continue to wear masks. HEB president Scott McClelland told the Houston Chronicle that antagonistic customers have caused nearly 2,000 in-store incidents regarding masks at Houston stores alone. He said customers not wearing a mask would be asked to do so, and an employee would offer them a mask if they didn’t have one. Store employees will not escalate the situation if a customer refuses, he said.

In the wake of Abbott’s announcement, the Texas Supreme Court removed requirements that most court proceedings in the state be held remotely and gave judges the authority to require masks and social distancing. It encouraged judges to hold trials remotely. Three justices dissented.

Texas getting more than 1 million COVID-19 vaccine doses this week

More than 1 million COVID-19 vaccine doses are shipping this week to providers across the state, a significant increase from previous weeks. That’s largely due to nearly a quarter-million doses of the new Johnson & Johnson vaccine coming to Texas. The single-dose vaccine began shipping last week. As of Sunday, more than 4.2 million Texans had received at least one dose and 2.319 million were fully vaccinated. That means about 22 percent of the state’s population has gotten at least one dose. Teachers and school staff have been added to the list of those eligible for one of the three vaccines being offered.



Capital Highlights

by GARY BORDERS,
Texas Press Association

COVID-19 cases drop, but deaths increase in past week

The number of new COVID-19 cases reported in Texas in the past week dropped to 43,328, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University of Medicine. That’s down

22 percent from the previous week and down nearly 73 percent from the record high of 158,922 recorded the week of Jan. 10. However, recorded deaths in Texas rose to 1,730, up 17 percent from the previous week. Hospitalizations for lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients totaled 4,921, down from the record high of more than 14,000 during the week of Jan. 11.

More heads roll in wake of widespread blackouts during winter storm

As state and federal investigations continue into the massive blackouts during the Valentine’s Day winter storm, leaders of both the Public Utility Commission and the Electric Reliability Council of Texas left their positions. DeAnn Walker, chairman of the PUC, resigned on March 1 and was replaced by fellow PUC member Arthur D’Andrea. Abbott will appoint someone to fill D’Andrea’s position. ERCOT’s CEO Bill Magness was fired a few days later by his board, which has lost nearly half its members to resignations. Magness, whose annual salary was at least \$800,000, soon said he would not seek or accept severance pay, which would have been equivalent to a year’s pay, according to the Texas Tribune.

School districts not penalized for high absences, remote learning

The Texas Education Agency announced last week that it will “hold harmless” school districts that have seen attendance declines because of the pandemic, as long as they at least maintain current levels of in-school learning. Districts will be funded on attendance projections made before the pandemic, allowing them to retain teachers who might have faced layoffs because of lower enrollment. The state’s top leaders announced their support for the hold-harmless provision in a March 4 press release.

Teens urged to buckle up

Car wrecks are the leading cause of death among teenagers, and 41% of Texas teen drivers killed in 2019 weren’t wearing a seat belt. That’s why the Texas Department of Transportation is conducting a “Teen Click It or Ticket” campaign in March. TxDOT is sending out safety messages via social media, TV, radio and digital media.

“Due to their limited driving experience, teens are far more susceptible to being in a crash,” said TxDOT Executive Director James Bass. “Far too many of these crashes are deadly because of the failure to buckle up. Wearing a seat belt is the single most effective thing you can do to protect yourself in a crash. Click it and be safe.”

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.

GOT AN OPINION?

Send a Letter to the Editor
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Camp County and surrounding areas - \$44.00 year
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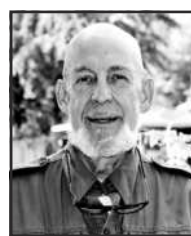
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Importance of healthy soil

We want the best, most nutritional vegetables, but we often incorrectly assume our gardens provide exactly that. When we talk about healthy vegetables, we really should be talking about healthy soil. If the soil is healthy, the plants and their vegetables will be healthy. Healthy plants can fight and repel pathogens (diseases).

Plants produce sugars that are used for growth, reproduction, and feeding roots and mycorrhizal fungi. The fungi, in turn, provide nutrients gathered from the soil for plant use. If a plant is attacked by a pathogen, the plant must allocate sugars to fight the pathogen that would otherwise be used for growth and reproduction. This is basically why you want healthy soil in your garden.

If you have healthy soil, your plants will be healthy. Healthy plants can more easily repel pathogens. Basically, healthy plants just don’t have pathogen problems. While this sounds simple, there are other things that have to occur.



On Gardening

By DAVID WALL

First, avoid harsh chemicals, especially synthetic fertilizers. Most don’t contain additional micronutrients needed by the plant. Also, they feed the plant; not the soil. Further, they may contain too much phosphorous or pot-

tassium. A 3-1-2/4-1-2 ratio of nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium is considered ideal IF you must use synthetic fertilizer. A 10-10-10, 13-13-13 or even 20-20-20 ratio should be avoided. Too much phosphorous locks out some micronutrients such as zinc, and too much potassium locks out manganese. Organic fertilizers avoid this, but like synthetics, don’t over use them.

Apply compost or, even better, humus which is completely decomposed organic matter. Humus can hold more nutrients than clay, which holds the most nutrients of any soil type. All these nutrients are then available to the mycorrhizae, and thus available to the plant.

Finally, add organic matter for long term nutrient availability. This article also applies to lawns.

GOT AN OPINION?

Send a Letter to the Editor

news@campcountynow.com

DEVOTIONAL

OBITUARIES

NICHOLS

Mr. Larry Fred Nichols, age 71, of Pittsburg passed away on Thursday, February 25, 2021 in Tyler. He was born April 1, 1949 to Sidney Nichols, Jr. and Lily Irene Culver Nichols in Waterford, Mississippi.

Mr. Nichols served in the United States Army and was retired from A&A Masonry in Pittsburg.

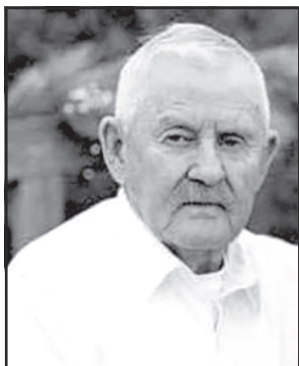
He is survived by his wife, Francis Nichols; daughter, Debra Kraus and husband James; son, Shawn Ybarra wife Connie; daughter, Angelique Ybarra; son, Larry Nichols, Jr. and family; daughter, Melissa Robbins and family; grandchildren, Michael Sharp and wife Lainey, Gutter Sharp and wife Brittany, Ismael Orozco, Zachary Kraus, Jacob Kraus, Amber Olsen, and Lincoln Woods; great-grandchildren, Reagan Sharp, Tucker Sharp, Eli McElhany, Maddox Sharp, Peyton Sharp, Julian Orozco, Blain Woods and Parker Woods; sisters, Carolyn Klingel, Aileen Holt and husband Ronnie, Glenda Denton and husband Steve; and brothers, David Nichols and Doyle Nichols.

Graveside Services was held at 2:00 P.M. Sunday, February 28, 2021 at Crossroads Cemetery in Camp County with Bro. Steve Denton officiating with burial to follow in Crossroads Cemetery. There will be a time of visitation before the service beginning at 1:00 P.M. at the Cemetery.

IRBY

Funeral services for Dorothy Faye Jordan Irby, 98, of Pittsburg was held from 3:30 p.m., Saturday, March 6, 2021 at Erman Smith Funeral Home Chapel with Reverend John R. Wade and Jimmy Jordan officiating. Interment will be in Maple Springs Cemetery. Mrs. Irby passed away March 2, 2021 at Southern Wind Assisted Living in Pittsburg, Texas. She was born December 12, 1922 to Roy Lester Jordan and Dovie Lea Loftis Jordan in Newsome, Texas. She married Lollis C. Irby on August 2, 1941. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, a brother, James O. Jordan, Sr., two sisters, Marguerite Morgan Marshall and Bettye Hearn. She is survived by several nieces and nephews.

Dorothy attended school in Newsome and Winnsboro, graduating from Winnsboro High School in 1940. Her work experience included working in a department store, being a dental assistant for a local dentist, and being a bank teller in local banks. She retired from the



Larry Fred Nichols



Dorothy Faye Jordan Irby

Pittsburg National Bank in 1985.

After retirement, she spent twenty-six years as a member of the Pioneer Club, serving as president for two years. She held other offices in the club and served on the District Board for years. In 2011, the Pioneer Club celebrated one hundred years of service. Dorothy wrote and compiled a book that included the one hundred years of the club roster and the community improvements that the club had made. She gave copies of the book to the Camp County Library and to the local museum.

Dorothy then became involved in genealogy. She spent countless hours researching at the library, searching the internet, writing letters, and talking to people. The end product was a Jordan family notebook and an Irby family notebook consisting of many, many pages of information. She gave copies of these books to nieces and nephews. This work of the heart showed the passion she had for the younger generations to know their ancestry.

Dorothy led a life of service to others. When she was a girl, she attended singing schools during the summer. She learned the names of the notes and how to read music at that time. Since she knew these things, she didn't see any reason why she couldn't teach herself how to play the piano. This became a ministry for her. She played the piano at the Presbyterian Church in Newsome for thirty years. She told the story about a couple who came by their house in Newsome looking for someone to play at a funeral at Maple Springs. She didn't know the people, but she realized their need. She agreed to help them out and play at the funeral; however, she said, "I'm not very good, but I am willing."

Dorothy loved opening her home for family and friends. She hosted many bridal showers, supper clubs, and family dinners. She loved hosting Thanksgiving and Christmas Day meals with her delicious chicken and dressing and homemade yeast rolls. Dorothy loved working in the yard and taking care of her flowerbeds. She also liked to do needlepoint.

Those who knew Dorothy very well, knew that she had an uncanny memory. She remembered names, birthdays, anniversaries, and just about anything else one might want to know. She was our "go to" person for information.

She was a member of the First United Methodist Church. After moving to Southern Wind six years ago and unable to attend church, she still provided a service to her church by folding the church bulletins every week. Dorothy also enjoyed going to the Sunday School taught by Barbara Brieger from First Baptist Church. She really missed this when visitors were no longer permitted to come to the facility. However, Dorothy continued to faithfully read her Bible and study.

Dorothy had a servant's heart. She was kind and gracious, always willing to help others. She was a perfect example of the faithful wife, the loving aunt, and the loyal friend. She was dearly loved by many and will be truly missed. The family would like to thank Cypress Basin Hospice for their tender care of their loved one.

Visitation was held from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Saturday, March 6, 2021 at Erman Smith Funeral Home Chapel.

WHITE

Mr. Glennis Floyd White, age 84, of Leesburg, passed away on Sunday, March 7, 2021 at his home in Leesburg. He was born June 9, 1936 to Truman and Hazel Buhl White in Williamsburg, KY.

Mr. White was a retired Truck Driver.

He is survived by his wife, Wilma Perkins White; son, Richard Perkins and wife Jasmine; daughters, Tamela Owen, Teresa Mendez, Trisha Winder and husband Antonio, Tonya Perkins, and Leann Smith; 31 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; sister, Rose Lawson and husband Allen; and brothers, David White and wife Mary, and Arville White and wife Inez.

He is preceded in death by his parents; and two sons, Robert White and Paul White.

There will be a Memorial Service held at 2:00 P.M. Saturday, March 20, 2021 at the home of Mr. White, 436 CR 3545 Leesburg, Texas 75451.

DUFFEY

Melton E. Duffey passed away February 26, 2021 at Greenhill Villa of Mt. Pleasant, Texas at the age of 59. His funeral service was held Saturday, March 6, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. at Johnson Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Terry Moton as eulogist and burial will be at Cedar Grove Cemetery, Pittsburg, under the direction of Johnson Funeral Home, Pittsburg, Texas.

KENNEDY

Willie D. Kennedy passed away March 2, 2021 at the Pittsburg Nursing Center at the age of 84. His graveside service was held Sunday, March 7, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. at Cedar Grove Cemetery, Pittsburg, with Rev. Eddie A. Ballard, Jr. as eulogist under the direction of Johnson Funeral Home, Pittsburg, Texas.

JOHNSON

Richard Earl Johnson, Sr. passed away March 4, 2021 at his home in Pittsburg at the age of 65. His funeral service will be Sunday, March 14, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. at Emmanuel Baptist Church, Pittsburg, with Rev. Patrick Lloyd as eulogist and burial will be at Cedar Grove Cemetery, Pittsburg, under the direction of Johnson Funeral Home, Pittsburg, Texas.

Church Directory

This church directory is made possible by these businesses who encourage all of us to attend worship services.

Leesburg Baptist Church

Pastor – Wyman Steptoe

SERVICE TIMES
Sunday School 10 a.m.

Worship:
Sunday 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.
Wednesday 6 p.m.

647 Hwy. 11 West
Leesburg, Texas
903-856-8100

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

VICTORY CHURCH
102 Fulton, 276-2775, Pastor Tom Ream

BAPTIST

NEW WAY COUNTRY CHURCH
7 miles South 271, 402-0214

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Farm Road 1975

BETHEL BAPTIST
Mt. Pleasant St., 856-5650

BIBLE BAPTIST
Hull St.

CENTER POINT BAPTIST

CROSSROADS MISSIONARY BAPTIST
856-2749

EVES TABERNACLE BAPTIST
214-771-6288

EBENEZER FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST
FM 557

EMMANUEL BAPTIST
831 Loop 179, Pittsburg, 856-3411

FELLOWSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST
FM 1520, 767-1151

FIRST BAPTIST
300 Jefferson, 856-3654

FIRST BAPTIST NEWSOME

HEAVENLY HIGHWAY BAPTIST
365 CR 2208, 856-5805

HOLLY SPRINGS MISSIONARY BAPTIST
FM 557, 856-1322

INDEPENDENT HOPE BAPTIST
Lafayette Rd, 6 mi. South

LAFAYETTE BAPTIST
10 miles out on 993

LEESBURG BAPTIST
Hwy. 11 West, 856-7539

LIVING GREEN BAPTIST
856-3068, 6.5 mi. SW of Pittsburg, FM 1519

MACEDONIA MISSIONARY BAPTIST
CR 2110, 856-3557

MATINBURG BAPTIST
Thomas Road (FM 556), 762-6158

METROPOLITAN BAPTIST
Clayton Street

MIDWAY BAPTIST CHURCH
8831 US Hwy. 271 N., Gilmer, 903-918-4623

NEW LIFE BAPTIST
Hwy. 271 North, 856-7584

NEW MINE BAPTIST
856-6728

PINE BAPTIST
Pine Community, 856-2775

PINE BLUFF BAPTIST
406 Fulton, 856-3861

PINEY GROVE BAPTIST
4942 FM 2455, Leesburg, 856-7448

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SPRING HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST
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407 Milligan, 856-7150

MATINBURG BAPTIST CHURCH
FM 556, 903-762-6158

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HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH
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BLODGETT CHURCH OF CHRIST
Highway 21 (2 mil. N. Bob Sandlin)

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S. Greer Blvd., 856-3530

GREER BLVD. CHURCH OF CHRIST
700 S GREER BLVD., PITTSBURG, 903-856-3530

FRANKLIN ST. CHURCH OF CHRIST
309 Franklin St., 856-0420

UNION CHURCH OF CHRIST
FM 1519, Pittsburg, 856-2405

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304 Terry, 572-2438

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REFUGE HOLY TEMPLE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST
CR 3420, Leesburg, 855-0946

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554 North Ave., 856-6922

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419 West St., 856-2971

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NEW WEST CHAPEL CME
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NORTH CHAPEL CME

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Spearman Rd., Leesburg, 856-5115

ROCKY MOUND CME
Box 1089, Pittsburg, 855-1040

ST. BEULAH CME
105 Lewis, 856-2590

PERRYVILLE UNITED METHODIST
FM 852

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FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
350 CR 2110, 856-7113

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4120 Wilson Rd. 903-767-2469

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105 Arch Davis Rd., 903-946-1817

IGLESIA PENTECOSTES JESUS ES DIOS 663 Daingerfield St., 856-5837

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450 Rusk

PRESBYTERIAN

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111 Martin Luther King Dr., 572-8832

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1308 Loop 179, Pittsburg, 903-853-5008, Sunday Service 10:30 am

LIVING WORD CHURCH
1/4 mile W of Hwy 21 on Hwy 11, 856-6416

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Pastor Victorio Fernando, 577-9223

THE CHURCH OF PITTSBURG
Center Point, 856-2177

THE NEW TESTAMENT TABERNACLE
Arch Davis Rd., 856-2197

NORTHEAST TEXAS BIBLE CHURCH
Hwy 271 North

NEWSOME CHRISTIAN OUTREACH CENTER
856-5147

HOPE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH
408 Terry St., Pittsburg Texas, 903-339-0735, Sunday services: 10 am

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BUSINESS

All taxpayers have the right to pay no more than the correct amount of tax

When taxpayers complete their tax returns, they may discover they will owe taxes. By law, they have the right to pay no more than the correct amount of tax.

This is one of ten Taxpayer Bill of Rights. These are fundamental rights taxpayers have when dealing with the IRS. One of which is the right to pay no more than the correct amount of tax, including interest and penalties, and to have the IRS apply all tax payments properly.

This means taxpayers are entitled to:

- File for a refund if they believe they overpaid.
- Write or call the IRS office that sent the notice or bill. Taxpayers can do this if they believe the notice or bill is incorrect in any way. When challenging information in a bill or notice, taxpayers should be ready to provide copies of any records that may help correct the error. If the taxpayer is correct, the IRS will make the necessary adjustment to their account and send a corrected notice.
- Amend a tax return if they discover an error. They can also amend this return if there were mistakes in their filing status, income, deductions or credits.
- Request any amount owed be removed if it's more than the correct amount due.
- Request the IRS remove any interest from their account if the IRS caused unreasonable errors or delays.
- Submit an offer in compromise, asking the agency to accept less than the full tax debt, if the taxpayer believes they don't owe all or part of the debt.

Texas ranks 12th in nation for reported cases of identity theft

In the latest Consumer Sentinel Network (CSN) report issued by the Federal Trade Commission, Texas ranks No. 12 in the nation for the most reported cases of identity theft per 100,000 residents. Nearly 135,000 Identity theft cases were



Marketplace Issues

by MECHELE MILLS

documented with those aged 30-39 being the most heavily targeted group. More than \$203 million in total fraud losses were reported. The most common type of identity theft reported was Government documents or benefits fraud. This aligns with BBB reports for 2020 where government/benefits fraud reports increased by nearly 3,000% over 2019 numbers.

"It's important to be watchful for government benefits fraud," Mechele Agbayani, President and CEO of BBB serving Central East Texas, "Particularly as we are in the middle of tax season and with a new round of stimulus checks on the horizon."

Another fundamental way to avoid falling victim to identity theft is to shred all documents which contain personally identifiable information. BBB invites consumers to bring documents to be shredded to Secure Your ID Day, which will be held on Saturday, June 19 at BBB offices in Tyler. BBB will host additional Secure Your ID Days in Jacksonville, Lindale, and Longview later this year.

BBB also advises consumers to have a document retention schedule and offers the following suggestions:

- Insurance documentation. Keep everything in a secure compartment for as long as you have the policy. Also, save any paperwork regarding unresolved claims/coverage.
- Keep utility, cell phone and similar bills only until you receive confirmation that your payment has been processed. The only exception to this is if you are self-employed. Self-employed people should keep these records longer so they can prove any deductions

on their tax forms.

- Keep all loan paperwork until you pay off the loan. Then shred everything except the document that proves you paid in full.
- Find out how much time your bank and/or credit cards give you to challenge incorrect statements. Keep them until you are no longer able to challenge them. This is typically between 60 days to one year after the mistake is made.
- Keep pay stubs for one year. Don't throw away your paycheck stubs until you receive your annual W-2 form from your employer. If everything matches, feel free to shred your pay stubs. Then, keep your W-2 forms for at least a few years.
- Keep bank statements and expired insurance policies for three years
- Keep tax returns, canceled checks/receipts, and records for tax deductions taken for seven years. The IRS has six years to challenge your return if they believe that you underreported your gross income by 25 percent or more.

Keep the following items indefinitely:

- All paperwork related to bankruptcy, inheritance and wills.
- Auditor's reports.
- House/Condominium records: It is a good idea to keep documents of expenditures related to house/condominium improvements. Capital purchases that improve or enhance the value of your home when you sell your property may lower your capital gains tax.
- IRA contribution records: If you made a nondeductible contribution to an IRA plan, such as a Roth IRA, keep your records to show that you were already taxed for this money.

For more information on how to be a savvy consumer, go to bbb.org. To report fraudulent activity or unscrupulous business practices, go to BBB Scam Tracker.

Free electronic filing options for military members and their families

Active duty military personnel have multiple options for free federal tax preparation. One is IRS Free File. This program offers online tax preparation, electronic filing and direct deposit of refunds, at no cost.

Members of military and their families who have income below \$72,000 may choose from any of the Free File tax software companies to help them prepare their tax returns online.

Free File Fillable Forms is available for those who have income above \$72,000. Taxpayers who choose Free File Fillable Forms as their Free File option should be comfortable completing their own tax forms without the help of tax preparation software.

Taxpayers can use Free File on any personal computer, tablet or smartphone. Here's how it works:

The taxpayer goes to the Free File page on IRS.gov to see all Free File options. Some products are available in Spanish.

Military personnel who meet the income requirement can select from any of the providers that have "Free for Active Military for Adjusted Gross Income of \$72,000 or less in their offer."

The taxpayer selects a provider and follows the links to their web page to complete and electronically file their tax return.

Electronic filing, including Free File is the best way to

avoid pandemic-related paper delays. E-filing combined with direct deposit is the fastest way to get a refund.

Using Free File can help taxpayers figuring things like their earned income tax credit, child and dependent care credit and recovery rebate credit. If someone is eligible for a recovery rebate credit – and either didn't receive Economic Impact Payments or received less than the full amounts – they must file a 2020 tax return to claim the credit even if they don't usually file.

Taxpayers using Free File will need their prior-year adjusted gross income. This is required for all electronic tax returns as part of the user's electronic signature. For taxpayers who have filed before, their 2019 tax return will show their adjusted gross income. If their 2019 return has not yet been processed, they may enter zero as their prior-year adjusted gross income. People who used the Non-File: Enter Payment Info Here tool last year to register for an Economic Impact Payment, should enter \$1 as their prior year AGI. People can visit IRS.gov for details on, claiming the recovery rebate credit if they aren't required to file a tax return.

Miltax is another free tax resource available for the military community, offered through the Department of Defense. MilTax is a suite of tax services available for members of the military, as well as qualifying veterans and family members. There are no income limits. MilTax includes tax preparation and electronic filing software, personalized support from tax consultants and current information about filing taxes. It's designed to address the realities of military life – including deployments, combat and training pay, housing and rentals and multi-state filings. Eligible taxpayers can use MilTax to electronically file a federal tax return and up to three state returns for free.

Active duty military stationed in combat zones have more time to file their tax returns. However, those with spouses and families may choose to file as soon as they can to claim various tax benefits for which they may be eligible. If only one spouse is present to file a joint return, they must have proper authorization to file a joint tax return on behalf of their spouse. The IRS website has more tax information for members of the military.

Guest Speaker!
Living Water Of Pittsburg
Sunday March 14, 2021
10:30 a.m. Service

Dr. Terry Sparks is a dynamic speaker and Bible teacher with an emphasis on teaching "How to win In life." He has preached to thousands in massive crusades and equipped thousands of ministers in seminars all over the world. He has served the local church as pastor and church planter with over 40 years of pastoral experience. He was professor at Christ For The Nations, Dallas, Texas. He helped found Christ For The Nations in Ghana, Africa. He serves as field representative for all the Associated Bible Schools for Christ For The Nations.

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CROSSWORD

THEME: BASEBALL

ACROSS

1. Turkey trot, e.g.
6. Dadaist Jean
9. * ____ crew, Milwaukee Brewers fan base
13. Poppy seed derivative
14. Afghan monetary unit
15. Hotel room option
16. Category of artistic composition
17. Between northeast and east
18. Relating to pond scum
19. *Babe Ruth's first major league team
21. * ____-and-____ sport
23. Dog command
24. Bald eagle's home
25. Witchy woman
28. Back wound?
30. Siskel or Ebert
35. Smoothing appliance
37. Distinctive flair
39. Stomata, sing.
40. Burlap fiber
41. Archeologist's find
43. Estimated arrivals
44. Discompose
46. Cobbler's concern
47. Merlin or Gandalf
48. *B in RBI
50. Close by
52. Spade for stony ground
53. Karl of politics
55. Between ready and go
57. *Left, center or right one
61. *Yankees' only #4
64. Blast from the past
65. Crew tool
69. ____ one's time, past tense
70. Schiller's poem
71. Express contempt
72. What Simon does
73. Cut grass
74. Intoxicating

DOWN

1. *Eat a hot one at the game
2. Copycat
3. *Number of standard baseball positions
4. Miss Muffet's meal
5. Vomiting
6. Highest point
7. *Scoring unit
8. Annapolis frosh
9. Tulip's early stage
10. Capital of Latvia
11. Et alibi (2 words)
12. Water source
15. Bacchus' attendants
20. Weasel's aquatic cousin
22. *Baseball trajectory
24. Diver's edible reward
25. Muslim woman's headscarf
26. Caribbean island destination
27. Gained access to (2 words)
29. Hoppy beers
31. Individual unit
32. Bottom line
33. Idealized image
34. *Katie ____ or ____ at the Bat"
36. Empty when kids leave
38. World's longest river
42. Cut it out
45. Moved a flock of sheep
49. Certain John's or Jane's last name
51. Re-use old ideas
54. Car sound, to a toddler
56. Trinity
57. Small door-opening devices
58. One of the hipbones, pl.
59. Whirlpool
60. *Big Little ____
61. What Jack's beanstalk did
62. It comes to mind
63. Turned to the right, like a horse
66. Commotion or fuss
68. Wine quality

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NEWS

Dr. Andrea Cooley, board-certified cardiothoracic surgeon at UT Health Tyler, answers questions about COVID-19 and heart disease

Does having heart disease put someone at a higher risk for COVID-19 and why?

Having heart disease, among other comorbidities (chronic medical conditions), does put you at a high risk for having higher severe COVID-19 and complications, including dying of it. Hypertension (high blood pressure) and coronary disease are specific heart diseases that can cause worse outcomes. Unfortunately, we are going to need a lot more time and research to figure out the why.

Are there specific heart conditions that would put someone at a greater risk than others?

Coronary disease and high blood pressure have been the most studied and the easiest to pinpoint in the research we have so far. We do think other heart conditions, such as chronic heart failure and congenital heart disease, will also play a role in how people recover and how severe their COVID-19 disease is.

The other thing to consider is people who have coronary disease and other heart problems usually have a whole cluster of diseases and comorbidities that cause problems on their own with COVID-19. So usually it can come along with diabetes, obesity, older age, etc. All of those on their own are increased risks for how severe your COVID-19 course will be. So when you start putting it together, usually people don't have just one comorbidity at a time. The studies are showing that having just one of those things, like just being overweight, or having high blood pressure or being 65 years or older, is enough to put you in that high-risk category.

The other thing we've found with COVID is that we don't have a good handle on who is going to be hit hard and who won't be hit at all. There are people who are perfectly healthy who are having a severe course and ending up in the ICU, and there are people who have a lot of medical problems and they get through relatively unscathed. So this is another thing that we really need more research on to determine who is going to be higher risk overall.

What do we know about the short-term effects on the heart?

The short-term effects have mostly been studied in people who are having complications with their heart related to COVID. Unfortunately, we are finding more and more that COVID is a cardiac disease as well as a lung disease. In addition to the lung problems associated with COVID, it also can directly infect your heart, liver and kidneys. It causes this big inflammation in your body. It can also increase and cause a clotting disease. So the short-term effects we're seeing are things like heart attacks. Sometimes that's because people already have coronary disease, and that's putting extra stress on their body from being sick and not having enough oxygen, and that's enough to trigger a heart attack. But we are also seeing people who don't have coronary disease, and then their body starts clotting and that causes a heart attack.

The next big thing we're seeing is inflammation of the heart that causes a lot of irritation. So we'll see bad heart rhythms, sometimes the kind that we need to shock people out of. We are very commonly seeing very slow heart rates, where your heart is not pumping fast enough. This is something called myocarditis, when that heart gets really inflamed. When people are in the hospital, we're finding that their heart can't squeeze hard enough sometimes to pump blood around their body, so they start having very low blood pressure and they go into organ failure from their heart. Interestingly, some new studies are finding now that about 25% of people admitted to the hospital are having cardiac complications, so this is something we're watching very closely.

What do we know about the long-term effects of COVID-19 on the heart?

COVID-19 hasn't been around that long, so there is some speculation about what might happen in the long-term. One of the main things studies are finding is inflammation in the heart months after someone had COVID. In one study, 60% of those who were two to three months after their COVID diagnosis still had active inflammation. That's the type of thing that can cause heart failure symptoms, irritability of the heart and a lot of issues with that. The concern, especially with this study, is that the people they were studying were not those patients who had been hospitalized because of COVID. The majority of people in the study had a very mild disease. They were sick at home, did not require oxygen and some of them were even asymptomatic. So we're very concerned that we are going to see long-term effects of this myocarditis in the population going months and years forward.

The next question usually is, "What does myocarditis do long-term?" We have other viruses that cause myocarditis, not nearly as common as COVID, and sometimes people get those immediate complications, but most people that have a viral myocarditis end up recovering if you can get them through that active phase of it. So we're hoping that all these cases with COVID, with four out of five people in this study that ended up with myocarditis after COVID, that their bodies are able to clean it up long-term and not have any permanent damage. The problem with inflammatory issues with the heart is that it starts laying down scar tissue. So anytime we have inflammation in the body, it lays down little bits of scar tissue. Once that's there, it's called remodeling of the heart and it's not a good thing because it makes it where the

heart can't squeeze efficiently and gets tired out. That's when people start getting an enlarged heart and sometimes can't recover from that.

So we're concerned long-term — at one year, five years, 10 years down the road — that we're going to start seeing a higher increase in heart failure over time.

If someone with heart disease tests positive for COVID-19, what do you recommend for them to do to minimize the effects on their heart?

Unfortunately, there's really not much you can do. Once you have COVID, most of our care is what we call supportive. We try to support your body, we give you oxygen if you need it, if you're having problems with your heart rhythms, we give you medications if you're sick from it. One of the better options overall for COVID if you're infected and in the early phase, are the monoclonal antibodies. That's pretty much the best option we have to prevent you from moving into that second phase of the disease, which is that heavy inflammatory phase where people really decompensate. But unfortunately right now, we don't have much besides just prevention.

What are the best ways to prevent COVID-19?

I'm going to sound like a broken record on this one, but it's because it's what works. The first one is all of our measures of social distancing — stay home if you don't need to be out, don't get together in large groups or even medium-sized groups and of course wear your mask. I really encourage you to stick with it because it's really the best option we have right now. Having a mask on helps. We're not going to pretend that it makes you absolutely bulletproof, but if everyone does that, it does help. Hanging with it a little bit longer is going to help us get out of this.

The second thing is vaccinations. It's really important for people to get vaccinated. I get asked every single day by my patients who are going to have heart surgery, just had heart surgery, who have other lung conditions, "Should I get the vaccine?" The answer is yes, yes, yes. The studies that have been done took tens of thousands of people together. They had all of these medical conditions, it wasn't just a small group of really healthy people. It took all comers and this is really who we want to protect the most, which is why these tiers are open to people with comorbidities. And again, you only have to have one to count, so if you're 65 or older, that counts. If you are overweight, have hypertension or have heart disease, those things are going to qualify you for getting the vaccine.

The next thing people usually ask is, "Which one should I get?" That answer is whichever one you can get. Pfizer and Moderna are the same style of vaccine — they're both very similar in how well they work and their side-effect profile. They're both safe and work extremely well. When the Johnson and Johnson vaccine is approved, I would encourage that one as well. Even though you're going to hear all these different statistics in the news, a lot of that is a numbers game that we're talking about in these papers. We need to get our death rate down. We need to get our serious complications and hospitalizations down, and all of these vaccines can do that. So I would strongly encourage you to go for the vaccine. If you have questions, I completely understand. It's new and it seemed like everything went really fast, so I would encourage you to ask questions and get your information from a good source so you feel comfortable getting the vaccine when it's your turn.

Are there other ways COVID-19 can affect my heart?

Specifically looking at your heart, another thing we've seen, which is a little bit different than COVID's effect on your heart, is COVID's effect on our patients who don't have COVID. We are seeing people stay at home because they're afraid of coming to the hospital because of COVID. We are seeing people right now come in when they're having big heart attacks or things have kind of progressed to a more serious state when we get them, so they're coming in sicker and we're having a harder time taking care of their heart, even when they don't have COVID. I would encourage you, if you are having problems, if you're having chest pain or signs of heart failure, to still go to your doctor, still come in so we can take care of your heart. We will take care of your heart and we have COVID safety protocols in place. We have everything separate.

The American Heart Association has developed a campaign called Don't Die of Doubt because people are doubting that they need to come in or that they'll be safe if they do. This is nationwide, so I really encourage you to listen to your body, listen to your heart. If you're having problems that are new, if your legs are swelling up, if you can't lay down flat without having really bad shortness of breath or new chest pain, those are things you need to talk to your physician about to see if it needs to be checked out. Don't die of doubt just because you aren't sure if it means something or if it doesn't — we have ways to test it and figure it out. Worst case, we say you're fine and you're just recovering and we're glad you're doing great. If not, if there's something that needs to be done, then we'll take care of you.

UT Health Tyler is an accredited chest pain center, recognized for excellence in treating heart attack symptoms. For more information, visit UTHealthEastTexas.com/Heart-Month.

TxDOT urges teens to buckle up to save lives

41% of teen drivers killed in 2019 were not wearing a seat belt

AUSTIN – Vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among teenagers, which is why TxDOT is urging teens to make one simple click to save their lives and the lives of others.

This month, TxDOT's "Teen Click It or Ticket" campaign aims to remind teens to buckle up in every seat and for every ride – no matter where they're sitting, or how far they're going. Safety messages will go out through TV, radio, digital advertising and social media.

In 2019, 41% (109 of 266) of the teen drivers and passengers killed in vehicle crashes in Texas were unrestrained.

"Due to their limited driving experience, teens are far more susceptible to being in a crash," said TxDOT Executive Director James Bass. "Far too many of these crashes are deadly because of the failure to buckle up. Wearing a seat belt is the single most effective thing you can do to protect yourself in a crash. Click it and be safe."

Texas law requires drivers and all passengers to wear a seat belt. Unbuckled drivers and passengers—even those in the back seat—can face fines and fees of up to \$200.

Seat belts prevent drivers and passengers from getting ejected from a vehicle, which is almost always deadly. Wearing a seat belt reduces the risk of dying in a crash by 45%. That number jumps to 60% for pickup truck crashes.

"Teen Click It or Ticket" is a key component of #EndTheStreakTX, a broader social media and word-of-mouth effort that encourages drivers to make safer choices while behind the wheel, like wearing a seat belt, driving the speed limit, never texting and driving and never driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. Nov. 7, 2000 was the last deathless day on Texas roadways. #EndTheStreakTX asks all Texans to commit to driving safely to help end the streak of daily deaths.

For media inquiries, contact TxDOT Media Relations at MediaRelations@txdot.gov or (512) 463-8700.

The information contained in this report represents reportable data collected from the Texas Peace Officer's Crash Report (CR-3). This information was received and processed by the department as of November 24, 2020

pet of the week

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Request for Proposals

Northeast Texas Community College (NTCC) District invites all "qualified professional firm(s)" to submit request for Proposals (RFP) responses for NTCC's Pre-Engineered Building for the following solicitation:

• Request for Proposals (RFP) # RFP-2021-01RFP can be found at www.ntcc.edu/about-us/public-notice

Submit response to:
Northeast Texas Community College (NTCC) Attention: Jeff Chambers # RFP-2021-01 2886 FM 1735 Mount Pleasant, Texas 75455

By no later than: March 23, 2021 at 2:00 p.m., Central Standard Time (CST)

On the date and at the time for submission of proposals, responses will be opened and identified by proposer name. However, proposals will not be read aloud. Proposals that arrive after the date and time for submission of proposals will be considered late and will not be opened.

Proposals from respondents may not be withdrawn for a period of one hundred twenty

(120) days subsequent to the date and time for submission without the consent of the Workforce Program Developer.

NTCC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals in whole or in part, to waive informalities or technicalities, to clarify ambiguities, and to award items or groups of items as may be in the best interest of NTCC.

Request for Proposals

Northeast Texas Community College (NTCC) District invites all "qualified professional service firm(s)" to submit request for Proposals (RFP) responses for NTCC's Landscaping Services for the following solicitation:

• Request for Proposals (RFP) # RFP-2021-02

Submit response to:
Northeast Texas Community College (NTCC)
Attention: Jeff Chambers # RFP-2021-02 2886 FM 1735 Mount Pleasant, Texas 75455

By no later than: March 24, 2021 at 2:00 p.m., Central Standard Time (CST)

On the date and at the time for submission of proposals, responses will be opened and identified by proposer name. However, proposals will not be read aloud. Proposals that arrive after the date and time for submission of proposals will be considered late and will not be opened.

Proposals from respondents may not be withdrawn for a period of one hundred twenty (120) days subsequent to the date and time for submission without the consent of the Workforce Program Developer.

NTCC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals in whole or in part, to waive informalities or technicalities, to clarify ambiguities, and to award items or groups of items as may be in the best interest of NTCC.

The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS) has posted procurement solicitations at www.tips-usa.com for the following categories:

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210302 Music Instruments, Sheet Music and Repair Services

210303 Telephone and Communications Data

Systems and Solutions

210304 MRO (Maintenance, Repair and Operations of Facilities and Grounds) Supplies, Equipment, Tool Rental, Sales and Services

210305 Furniture, Furnishings, and Services

Proposals are due and will be opened on April 16, 2021 at 3:00 pm local time. Call 866-839-8477 for problems with website or questions.

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SCHOOLS

Pre-Kindergarten celebrates Texas Day



Pittsburg High School student of the month



Jared Rowe and Brooke Ramsey COURTESY PHOTO

Pittsburg ISD celebrates texas educational diagnosticians' week

Texas Educational Diagnosticians' Week was held March 1 through 5 at the local schools. The Pittsburg Pirates were no exception. The school district wanted to thank each diagnostician at their school.

- Primary: Shana Rivas
 - Elementary: Christy Richardson
 - Intermediate: Deanna Martin
 - Junior High: Karen Bates
 - High School: Kristen Jernigan
- Educational diagnosticians are experts on learning disabilities, teaching methods and academic testing.

Pittsburg Junior High students of the month



8th Grade: Audrey Lowe COURTESY PHOTO



7th Grade: Toribio Willis COURTESY PHOTO

Pittsburg ISD continues current Covid guidelines

In response to Governor Abbott's new executive order to remove the statewide mask mandate, effective March 10, 2021. Pittsburg ISD schools will continue to operate under our current guidelines, which include the requirement to wear masks during school, on school busses and at school activities.

The Pittsburg ISD administrative staff along with input from federal, state and local authorities have reviewed the guidelines and protocols that have worked best for our school system. Through following our current COVID-19 guidelines and protocols we have successfully been able to keep our campuses open this year with minimal disruptions. This has been accomplished through the tremendous efforts of our staff, students, parents and community. PISD will continue to make the overall health and safety of our students, faculty and staff our number one priority.

We thank you for your cooperation and ask for your continued support to help PISD schools complete this year successfully.

En respuesta a la nueva orden ejecutiva del gober-

nador Abbott para eliminar el mandato de máscara en todo el estado, vigente a partir del 10 de marzo de 2021. Las escuelas de Pittsburg ISD continuarán operando bajo nuestras pautas actuales, que incluyen el requisito de usar máscaras durante la escuela, en los autobuses escolares y en las actividades escolares.

El personal administrativo de Pittsburg ISD, junto con las opiniones de las autoridades federales, estatales y locales, han revisado las pautas y protocolos que han funcionado mejor para nuestro sistema escolar. Al seguir nuestras pautas y protocolos COVID-19 actuales, hemos podido mantener nuestras escuelas abiertas este año con un mínimo de interrupciones. Esto se ha logrado gracias a los tremendos esfuerzos de nuestro personal, estudiantes, padres y comunidad. PISD continuará considerar la salud y seguridad general de nuestros estudiantes, profesores y personal nuestra prioridad número uno.

Le agradecemos su cooperación y le pedimos su apoyo continuo para ayudar a las escuelas de PISD a completar este año con éxito.

Cheerleaders for 2021-2022 announced

Pittsburg ISD released the names of the 2021-2022 cheerleaders that will cheer the pirates on the victory.

Varsity 2021-2022 Cheerleaders

Sarah Burrow, Zaydin Dobby, Madison Cooper, Bayli Oglesby, Alexis Morse, Kate Sansom, Layton Hood, Itzel Noriega, Madalynn Rompf, Melani Flores, Taliyah Rockwell, Karli Berry, Allie Parker, Brooklyn Rompf, Emily Dorris, Sadie Burrow, Mascot Lanna Wilkes, Managers Taylor Lanfrey and Jael Delgado.

Junior Varsity 2021-2022 Cheerleaders

Emma Gilbert, Grace Reagan, Keely Marshall, Kady Stanley, Terryani Lloyd, Aubrey Chalmers, Jaycee Lanfrey, Kadence Weatherall, Sunny Lankford, Aniyah Bruins, Breana Clark, Mascot Mikaylann Zachery, Manager Evelyn Enriques and Jasmin Smith.

PJH 2021-2022 Cheerleaders

Tatum Reynolds, Kenlie Mayben, Sadie Barrett, Sophie Smith, Saniyah Taylor, Ma'Kieya Gray, Era Osornio, Reagan Lowe, Hanna Fluellen, Nataly Gonzalez, Manager Falyn Ramsey and Manager Gracie Ragsdale.

GOT NEWS?

Letter to the Editor
Ask the Editor

Please send to
news@campcountynow.com

SPORTS

National athletic training month

The National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA) membership celebrate the Athletic Training profession each March to spread awareness of the important work Athletic Trainers (AT's) do. This year's slogan is "Essential to Health Care". This past year showed this more and more as athletic trainers worked to develop COVID-19 protocols to help combat the Coronavirus Pandemic. Athletic Trainers not only assisted their teams, schools, and companies in developing and implementing risk mitigation protocols but safe return to work and play protocols.

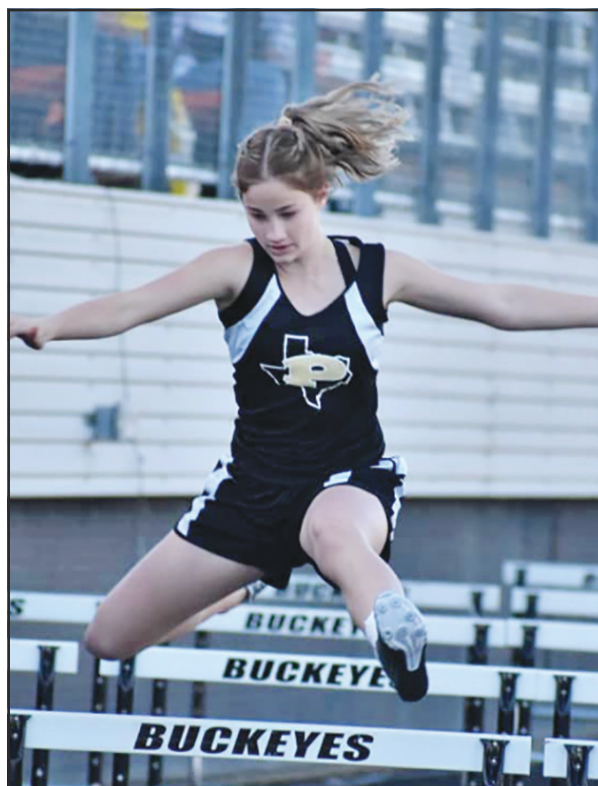
Athletic Trainers are licensed/certified experts who work to prevent and treat musculoskeletal injuries and sports-related illnesses, athletic trainers offer an unparalleled continuum of care. AT's are part of a team of health care professionals; they practice under the direction of and in collaboration with physicians. Athletic Trainers work with individuals who are physically active or involved in sports participation through all the stages of life to prevent, treat, and rehabilitate injuries and medical conditions. Athletic Trainers should not be confused with personal trainers or "trainers" who focus solely on fitness and conditioning.

Sports injuries can be serious. Brain and spinal cord injuries and conditions such as heat illness can be life threatening if not recognized and properly managed. AT's are equipped to treat acute injuries on the spot. Athletic Trainers mitigate risk for school administrators, athletic directors, and coaches who have their own jobs, which may pose a conflict of interest with athlete safety; coaches are not experts in managing injuries or sport-related illnesses, nor should they be responsible for doing so. Treating injuries at school or at work, rather than sending the patient to the emergency department, saves money and time loss and gets the patient back to activity faster.

Northeast Texas Community College would like to recognize our Athletic Training staff, Justin Hargrove (Head Athletic Trainer) and student athletic trainers Erica Austin and Marissa Nolan along with the athletic trainers of Mount Pleasant ISD, Alex Fellows and Trenton Gardner, Daingerfield ISD AT Averil Nelson, Pittsburg ISD AT Tyler Nugent, and Mount Vernon ISD AT KaTerria Epps for all their hard work in taking care of our area athletes.

For more information about athletic training you can visit the NATA website at www.nata.org or for more information on how to get an athletic trainer at your school visit www.atyourownrisk.org.

First Junior High track meet of the season



COURTESY PHOTOS

Pittsburg Lady Pirates Varsity grabs lead in fifth inning to defeat Linden-Kildare



COURTESY PHOTO

Pittsburg Lady Pirates Varsity took the lead late in the game in a 12-9 victory over Linden-Kildare on Saturday. The game was tied at nine with Pittsburg Lady Pirates Varsity batting in the top of the fifth when Bayli Oglesby singled on a 3-2 count, scoring one run. Pittsburg Lady Pirates Varsity earned the victory despite allowing Linden-Kildare to score nine runs in the third inning. #12, #6, #16, #17, #8, and #19 each had RBIs in the big inning. Pittsburg Lady Pirates Varsity opened up scoring in the first inning. An error scored one run for Pittsburg Lady Pirates Varsity.

Kylie Fitch led things off on the rubber for Pittsburg Lady Pirates Varsity. The fireballer surrendered nine runs on seven hits over two and a third innings, striking out four.

Pittsburg Lady Pirates Varsity saw the ball well today, racking up 11 hits in the game. Elyssia Lemelle, Fitch, and Daytona Torrey all had multiple hits for Pittsburg Lady Pirates Varsity. Lemelle led Pittsburg Lady Pirates Varsity with three hits in three at bats. Linden-Kildare scattered eight hits in the game. #18, #17, and #12 all managed multiple hits for Linden-Kildare.

Eagle Baseball loses a close contest to Panola

Northeast Texas Community College Baseball traveled to Carthage, Texas to take on the Panola Ponies in a conference showdown on Thursday. Panola would make a last inning comeback to defeat NTCC 7-6.

The Eagles would get on the board early, scoring runs in the first four innings of play but the early offensive effort was not enough to seal the victory. Cole Modgling (Medina Valley HS) would lead off the game with a walk and moved to third base on a single by Sawyre Thornhill (Huntington HS), and later scored on a single by Nico Baumbach (Eules Trinity HS) to take a 1-0 lead.

NTCC added two runs in the second and then two more runs in the third inning when Jason Schneider hit his second home run in as many days to increase the lead to 5-0.

Panola got on the board in the bottom of the third to cut the lead to 5-1. Both teams would add a run in the fourth to bring the game to 6-2, with NTCC leading. Panola would add one run in the sixth to cut the lead to 6-3, and tie the game in the eighth when they plated three runs to bring the game to 6-6. A two out single by Panola would score the winning run in the bottom of the ninth to give the Ponies the 7-6 victory over the Eagles.

Mikel Howell (Huntsville HS) would start for NTCC and went four innings giving up 2 runs on four hits with five strikeouts.

Thornhill would lead the way offensively for NTCC going three for three with a walk and one run scored. Baumbach and Khalon Clayton (Kilgore HS) would each have two hits to help pace the offense.

Productivity Appraisal may lower the property taxes on your farm, ranch or timberland!

Texas law allows farmers, ranchers, wildlife managers and timber growers to pay property taxes based upon the productivity value of their land rather than on market value. This means qualified land is taxed based on its ability to produce crops, livestock or timber---not on its value on the real estate market. And it can mean substantial property tax savings.

When is the application deadline?

If your land has never had a productivity appraisal or you are a new owner, you must apply to your local appraisal district before May 1 to take advantage of this benefit on your property taxes. You may get up to 60 extra days if you have a good reason and ask for it before May 1. If you miss this deadline, you may still be able to apply, but you will pay a penalty. Check with your appraisal district office.

Do you need to reapply annually?

If your land already receives agricultural or timber productivity appraisal, you normally don't need to reapply unless the chief appraiser requires you to do so. If a new application is required, the appraisal district will notify you by mail.

For more information, call or come by:

Camp Central Appraisal District
143 Quitman Street
Pittsburg, TX 75686
(903) 856-6538
j.tinsley@campcad.org

A public service announcement courtesy of your county appraisal district.