

Panthers win bi-district crown with a sweep

INSIDE 4A

Van Alstyne Leader

FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2023 | VANALSTYNELEADER.COM

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Photos: Fun run welcomes hundreds

The VAEF Little Big Town 5K and fun run was held Saturday morning at Central Social District.
Griff Servati / Van Alstyne Leader



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See FUN RUN, Page 2A

Sounds of Summer kicks off with Neal McCoy



Sounds of Summer was a big hit last year with the Joe Nichols show bringing around 6,000 people out for the free event.
courtesy photo

By Future Brown
Van Alstyne Leader

Sounds of Summer kicks off this week with the first free concert of the series to be held Saturday at the Central Social District.

Neal McCoy will headline with opening act TikTok star Jaden Hamilton. Hamilton takes the stage at 7:30 p.m. and McCoy will take the stage at 8 p.m.

We wanted to start with a bang and end with a bang this year," Municipal Events Specialist Kandi Hessel said this week. "We wanted to make sure everything was prepared as far as security."

One of the biggest show's put on at the Central Social District last year featured Joe Nichols concert with about 6,000 visitors.

We added changes to the park this year. We added additional sound to the Central Social District Park. We want everyone including the vendors to be able to hear the music."

There will be six food trucks and 16 vendors on site.

"We have been very selective in the vendor process," Hessel said. "We wanted to make sure we have vendors that you do not often see at every day events."

While a lot of things will be the same as last year, there will be some changes for concert goers.

"One of the new things we had this year is an opener for all of our entertainment," Hessel said. "We are really lucky to have Jaden Hamilton. If you are on TikTok, you know him. I am really confident that he will be bigger than Van Alstyne could get in the near future. He is a singer songwriter with a huge following. He has more than 400,000 followers on TikTok."

Site patrons can bring their own chairs and pets may attend the event as long as they remain leashed.

"No glass containers," Hessel said. "We allow people to bring in coolers with the beverage of their choice, but no glass containers. That is for safety. We want this to be fun for everyone.

"No bicycles. That can be a hazard. There are signs posted that say no skateboards and no bicycles."

Also, remember to pick up your trash.

"Be a good neighbor," Hessel said. "Treat the park as if you were at your own home and take care of the things out there. Appreciate that we are able to do this to our community and look forward to the upcoming events."

After Saturday's show, the next event the city will put on will be the annual Splash Bash celebration of summer which will be held on June 3.

"Van Alstyne is growing and people know that," Hessel said. "We have a lot of fresh new faces in the town, and then there are those who have been here for generations who do not know each other. So, that is the whole purpose for our park, the Central Social District. We want people to come out and meet their neighbors. We also like to keep that sense of small town. You meet new people every time you come to the park. We want anyone that wants to come to come to Sounds of Summer. We want any one in Texoma to come if they want to."

There is a chance of rain Saturday, and so the designated alternate rain location for the event will be at the high school gym.

"We will not make an announcement about bad weather changes until 1 p.m. Saturday," Hessel said. "Check social media for updates."

Calendar May 11

Thurs., May 11
McKinney Unity Park Day, 11 a.m. Finch Park
Community Luncheon, 12 p.m., Melissa ISD
Van Alstyne FFA banquet, 6 p.m.
Van Alstyne High School
Theater Spring show and silent auction, 4 p.m.
Van Alstyne Middle School
Fri., May 12
Pet adoption event, 10 a.m. City of Anna
Vintage Market Days, Myers Park and Event Center
Cosplay Night, 3 p.m. Arcade 92
JB Wood Fire Pizza and Brandon Callies, 5 p.m. TUPPS
Brewery
Stoneleighs, 7 p.m. HUB 21
Sat., May 13
Cruisin for a Cause Car, Truck and Cycle Show, 8 a.m. Stonebridge United Methodist
Vintage Market Days, Myers Park and Event Center
National Train Day, 10 a.m. Sherley Heritage Park
National Train Day, 10 a.m. Anna Depot Museum
Pop up Recreation, 10 a.m. Sherley Heritage Park
Pet Adoption event, 10 a.m. City of Anna
Fire Truck push in ceremony, 10 a.m. Anna Fire Department
Spring Game Day, 7:30 p.m. Melissa Cardinal Stadium
Sounds of Summer Neal McCoy, 8 p.m. Central Social District
Live Music, 8 p.m. Zin Zen Wine Bistro
Sun., May 14
Sunday Pantry Market, 11 a.m. The Market at Luscombe
Farm
Mon., May 15
STEAM Kids Makerspace, 5 p.m. City of Anna
Tues., May 16
Membership meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Sue E. Rattan Elementary
Wed., May 17
Workout Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m. Slayter Creek Park
Thurs., May 18
Spring Show and Dinner, 5:30 p.m. Van Alstyne Middle School
Sat., May 20
Touch-a-truck, 10 a.m. City of Anna
Seis de Mayo with Drink Up, 7:30 p.m. The GAR Hole
Tennessee Whiskey, 7 p.m. HUB 21
Sun., May 21
Texas Sports Youth Wrestling Camp, 12 p.m. TBT
Gym McKinney
Car Meet, 9:30 a.m. Good Fellas Barber Shop
Mon., May 22
Mama Mondays and Mocktails, 12 p.m.
New Leaf Wellness Center
Kona Ice Day, 11 a.m. Bob and Lola Sandford Elementary
Jayson Starkey, 6:30 p.m. El Patio Escondido
Wed., May 24
Workout Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m. Slayter Creek Park
End of Year water balloon bash and free ice cream, 2 p.m.
Slayter Creek Park
Thurs., May 25
Newcomer Happy Hour, 5:30 p.m. La Cima Mexican Restaurant
Sat., May 27
Annal Memorial Day BBQ Pot luck, 1 p.m. Melissa
Sat. June 3
Cars and Coffee, 8 a.m. 200 E. Marshall, Van Alstyne
Splash Bash, 12 p.m. Central Social District
Fri., June 9
MikeS at the Red Feather, 6 p.m. The Red Feather
Sat., June 10
Sounds of Summer Desperado, 8 p.m. Central Social District

News
Howe gets new mayor; other election results. **2A**

News
Sherman sets end date for Howe wastewater services. **7A**

Weather
High 84° | Low 67°
Chance T-storms

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Howe gets new mayor; other election results



Grayson County Election Administration
Van Alstyne Leader

Staff reports

Note: Entities with the most votes have been italicized.

Only 11.11 percent of the registered voters in Grayson County cast ballots for Saturday's election but those who came out to vote supported local school bonds issues in Sherman, Denison and Bells.

In Grayson County, 9,462 people voted, 120 of those were absentees and 6,826 were early voters. The other 2,516 voted on election day.

Here are the results for the election:

Sherman Independent School District Special Election

Prop A

The issuance of $493,185,000 of bonds by the Sherman School District for the purpose of constructing, acquiring and equipping school buildings in the District and the acquisition of sites for school buildings and levying the tax in payment thereof and the costs of any credit agreements. This is a property tax increase.

For, 1,863 votes

Against, 770 votes

Proposition B

The issuance of $46,815 of bonds by the Sherman School District for the purpose of constructing, acquiring and equipping a stadium in the District and levying the tax in payment thereof and the costs of any credit agreements. This is a property tax increase.

For, 1,687 votes

Against, 942 votes

Sherman Independent School District

Unopposed candidates declared elected

School Board Trustee Place 7

Wendy Vellotti

School Board Trustee, Place 6 three-year term

vote none or one

David Tarvin, 1,185 votes

Billy Minor. 560 votes

Jon T. Hill, 630 votes

Gunter Independent School District

School Board Trustee Election

School Board Trustee At-Large

Three-year term

Vote for none, one, two or three

Gary "Doc" Harris, 390 votes

Jim Scano, 393 votes

Jason Padgett,364 votes

John Jonas, 203 votes

Martha Paben, 117 votes

Jerry. C. Harris Jr., 312 votes

Deirdre Diamond, 215 votes

Natalie Bamard, 365 votes

Krista Pace, 90 votes

Van Alstyne Independent School District

District School Board Trustee Election

School Board Trustee Place 3

Three-year term

Vote for none or one

Diana McAfee, 153 votes

Michael Foley, 26 votes

Randall Morgan, 295 votes

School Board Trustee Place 4

Vote for none or one

Debbie Nance, 296 votes

Lindsay Resberger, 126 votes

Dee Greve, 69 votes

City of Howe

Mayor

Bill French, 65 votes

Cort Myrick, 101 votes

Karla McDonald 191 votes

Council member At-Large

Billie Ingram, 167 votes

Rodney Hough, 126 votes

Michael Hill, 182 votes

Rod Gross, 68 votes

Dale Rideout, 90 votes

Howe Independent School District

School Board Trustee Election

Lisa Tibbets, 189 votes

Brad Murphy, 245 votes

Clint Catching, 324 votes

Whitewright Independent School District Board of Trustee Election

Three-year term

Vote for none, one or two

Kelly Selman, 130 votes

Danielle LeDane Kennemur, 84 votes

Joshua Clouse, 71 votes

City of Tom Bean

Council member election

vote for none, one two or three

Dawson Nitcholas, 39 votes

Jerry McGee, 25 votes

Brittany Melton, 38 votes

Sam Ellis, 49 votes

Robert Deal, 22 votes

S&S Consolidated Independent School District

School Board Election

School Board Trustee Place 1

vote for none, or one

Daniel Brubaker, 125 votes

ZaVonna Torres, 32 votes

Randall Leach, 43 votes

School Board Trustee Place 4

vote for none or one

Donna Dolezalek,101 votes

Brian Clark, 100 votes

S&S Unopposed Candidates declared elected

School Board Trustee Place 3

Brittany Bennett

City of Gunter General Election

Mayor

vote for none or one

Mark Millar, 254 votes

Karen Souther, 271 votes

Council member Place 2

vote for none or one

Holly Moore, 247 votes

Patsy Whitaker, 270 votes

Council member Place 4

vote for none or one

Cheryle Cohagan, 302 votes

Jacob Buffington, 226 votes

City of Denison General Election

Council member Place 5 at-large

vote for none or one

Aaron "A.T." Thomas, 835 votes

Dennis McCabe, 138 votes

Charles Robert Pool, 783 votes

Council member Place 3 Single

vote for none or one

Josh Massey, 292 votes

Jason R Parks, 166 votes

Denison Independent School District

District Proposition A

The issuance of $ 132,000,000 of bonds by the Denison Independent School District for the construction, renovation, acquisition and equipment of school facilities in the district, including the acquisition of land therefor, and levying the tax in payment thereof. This is a property tax increase.

For, 1410 votes

Against, 931 votes

Denison Independent School District

Unopposed Candidates Declared Elected

School Board Trustee Place 6 Ward Zone 7

Scott Marr

Bells Independent School District

School Board Election

School Board Trustee At-Large

three-year term

vote for none, one or two

Stephanie Nettles, 345 votes

Brent Adams, 177 votes

Garyn Payne, 396 votes

Chuck Phillips, 201 votes

Bells School Bond Election

Proposition A

The Issuance of $24,755,000 of bonds by the Bells Independent School District for school facilities, and levying the tax In payment thereof. This is a property tax Increase.

For, 443 votes

Against, 292 votes

Proposition B

The Issuance of $900,000 of bonds by the Bells Independent School District for tennis courts, and levying the tax in payment thereof. This Is a property tax Increase.

For, 391 votes

Against, 346 votes

City of Bells General Election

Mayor

vote none or one

Joe Paul Smith, 170 votes

Terry Crumby, 92 votes

Councilmembers two-year term

vote none, one or two

Curtis Payne, 210 votes

Bill Richtemeyer, 87 votes

Dennis Allen, 15 votes

City of Southmayd

Special Election

City Council Member at-large two-year term

pick none, one or two

Michael Horstman, 25 votes

Tom Byler, 15 votes

Charles Orr, 12 votes

Unopposed candidates declared elected

Mayor at-large

David Turner

Proposition A

"The reauthorization of the local sales and use tax In the City of Southmayd at the rate of one-fourth of one percent to continue providing revenue for maintenance and repair of municipal streets."

For, 31 votes

Against, 4 votes

Whitesboro Independent School District

WISD School Board Trustee full term

vote for none, one, two or three

Austin Miles, 370 votes

Aaron Park, 294 votes

Michael Hinsley, 423 votes

Adrian Cleveland, 34 votes

Eddie Wood, 228 votes

City of Whitesboro

Mayor

vote for none or one

Ryan Kristepher Vance Jones, 64 votes

David "HappyDave" Blaylock, 262 votes

Alderman two-year term

vote none, one or two

Carla Woolsey, 171 votes

Berry Keller, 207 votes

Colby Meals, 146 votes

Collinsville Independent School District

CISD School Board Election

School Board Trustee, Place 3

vote for none or one

Ronnie O'Neal Sr., 99 votes

Jared Light, 206 votes

City of Collinsville

Mayor two-year term

vote for none or one

Derek Mark Kaye, 156 votes

Steve Ritchey, 86 votes

Alderman two-year term

vote none, one or two

Tina Stewart Ozuna,137 votes

Sheryl Reed, 114 votes

Benny McKee, 156 votes

Alderman one-year term

vote none or one

Chase Guidera, 69 votes

Stephen McDaniel, 169 votes

Tioga Independent School District

School Board Trustee Election

School Board Trustee Seat 1

vote for none or one

Kelle Hinson, 59 votes

Rick Staples, 88 votes

Mica Bates, 129 votes

School Board Trustee Seat 3

vote for none or one

Ryan Walters, 172 votes

Shaun Pittman, 91 votes

School Board Trustee Seat 7

vote for non or one

Trina Colteryahn, 156 votes

Jamie Chamberlain, 118 votes

City of Tioga

Council member Place 2 two-year term

William Fritcher, 92 votes

Galen Jones, 99 votes

Special Election Council member Place 3 one-year term

vote for none or one

Dale Thomas, 58 votes

Jim Coffey, 124 votes

Unopposed Candidate declared elected

Mayor

Craig Jezek

City of Pottsboro

Mayor

vote for none or one

Frank Budra, 147 votes

John Lewis, 136 votes

Council members at large

vote none, one or two

Reggie Perry, 209 votes

Micah Daughtery, 97 votes

Lainie Ramsey, 148 votes

Kelly Denham, 40 votes

Fun Run

Continued from Page A1



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Griff Servati / Van Alstyne Leader



The VAEF Little Big Town 5K and fun run was held Saturday morning at Central Social District.
Griff Servati / Van Alstyne Leader

ENTERTAINMENT

Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3 ends a cosmic trilogy on a high note

By Doug Laman
Special to the VA Leader



This image released by Marvel Studios shows, from left, Pom Klementieff as Mantis, Groot (voiced by Vin Diesel), Chris Pratt as Peter Quill/Star-Lord, Dave Bautista as Drax, Karen Gillan as Nebula in a scene from "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3."
(Marvel-Disney via AP)

Back in 2013, I wouldn't shut up about the Guardians of the Galaxy to my High School friends. That and Inside Llewyn Davis were the two upcoming movies I would blabber about endlessly to anyone within earshot. Of course, none of these teenagers (very understandably) knew or understood what I was talking about. After all, the general marketing campaigns for these movies hadn't kicked off yet. Rocket Raccoon and Groot were still just obscure figures from the pages of Marvel Comics. I'm sure my ceaseless ranting and raving about a tree voiced by Vin Diesel just sounded like nonsense. Flash forward a decade and the big screen Guardians of the Galaxy trilogy has come to a close with Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3. All those years ago I was just stoked to super unknown comic book characters leap onto the big screen. If only I'd known then what a great finale writer/director James Gunn had up his sleeve for these cosmic weirdos, then my pre-release excitement would've undoubtedly increased ten-fold.

Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3 begins on a somber note, with a flashback to the earliest days of Rocket Raccoon (Bradley Cooper) before settling down decades later with a now-adult Rocket. He and his fellow Guardians of the Galaxy are in a bit of a despondent mood, particularly de facto leader Peter Quill/Star-Lord (Chris Pratt), who's still reeling from the death of Gamora (Zoe Saldana). Their problems only get exacerbated when Rocket gets fatally harmed during a battle with the powerful being Adam Warlock (Will Poulter). With death lingering over the head of this Guardian, Star-Lord leads Drax (Dave Bautista), Nebula (Karen Gillan), and Mantis (Pom Klementieff) on a mission to save their pal. Such a quest will lead them into conflict with The High Evolutionary (Chukwudi Iwuji), the man responsible for the creation of Rocket and all kinds of other horrors.

Gunn's two preceding Guardians of the Galaxy movies were marked by a welcome embrace of comic book absurdity mixed in with deeply tangible human emotions. This filmmaker has shown a gift for balancing out both silliness and humanity and that talent has been further refined for this third solo outing for the Guardians of the Galaxy. Nowhere is this deft tone more apparent than in a collection of flashback scenes showing Rocket bonding with a trio of other animals that have been experimented on. These critters have extremely stylized designs, but the script treats them with such warmth and humanity. There's a coziness to the comfort they find in each other during horrific circumstances.

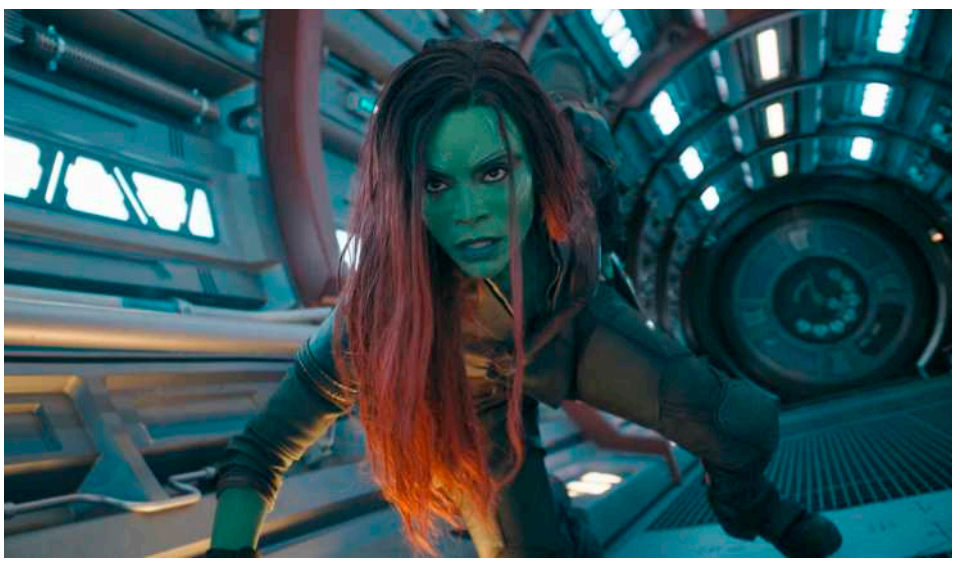
These intimate sequences are some of the best in Gunn's script, especially in its willingness to afford breathing room for raw depictions of sorrow. Rocket's always been such a compelling character because he seems like something that should be a quippy punchline, yet, dating back to the first Guardians of the Galaxy, has always expressed such fascinating displays of vulnerability and interior aching. Seeing his origins only enhances this furry hero's depth rather than taking away from his mystique. Plus, these sequences allow Iwuji to ham it up as an unabashedly evil guy with a capital E. How nice to see a modern Marvel Cinematic Universe villain unburdened by the need to be "serious" or a "misguided" good guy. Iwuji is a villain you can hate with your whole body.

Beyond Rocket, Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3 still proves mightily entertaining, though Gunn's script is undeniably a bit crowded. Most notably, sequences involving Adam Warlock are often entirely detached from the Guardians physically (he spends much of the story searching for them), which makes him feel like a more extraneous part of the screenplay. Poulter's enjoyable performance and an eventual reveal in the third-act on how he ties into a core theme of Vol. 3 ensures the character is far from a waste of time, but his earliest solo scenes certainly feel like they could've been trimmed down or condensed. In terms of critiques beyond an overstuffed script, composer John Murphy doesn't deliver as stirring or idiosyncratic a score as the work done by previous Guardians of the Galaxy composer Tyler Bates. So many other recurring elements of this trilogy are in such fine form this go-around, it would've been great for the score to also match the quality of preceding Guardians of the Galaxy movies.

By and large, though, Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3 delivers a rip-roaring great time, especially on a visual level. Best of all, the characters here remain as compelling as ever. Gunn's screenplay happily takes these figures into such interesting directions that subvert conventional fan theories or wishes in favor of more nuanced, mature end destinations for these characters. A subplot involving a new incarnation of Gamora is especially thoughtfully realized while Nebula continues to shine as one of the more unexpectedly complicated figures in the trilogy. There's such a love for every bizarre creation that traipses across the screen in Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3, from a telekinetic space pooch to a bug-lady who can control people's emotions. That affection is as infectious as ever and allows the pathos of this fond farewell to hit like a ton of bricks.

Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3 is a weird blockbuster, a movie as in love with depicting animal-based torment as it is with Nathan Fillion dropping comedic one-liners. In weaker hands, it's very easy to imagine how juggling such wildly disparate elements would've resulted in something annoyingly erratic. Thankfully, writer/director James Gunn has come armed with plenty of experience in handling bizarre tones, not to mention a bunch of memorable tunes, to ensure Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3 lives up to its potential. It's a film capable of tearing your heart to shreds before making it feel full. I'm sure it'll leave many people endlessly chatting up its virtues like they're me circa. 2013 describing my excitement for the then-upcoming blockbuster Guardians of the Galaxy...

A lifelong movie fan and writer, Douglas Laman graduated from UT Dallas and is currently a graduate student at the University of North Texas. The views and opinions expressed here are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect those of Anna-Melissa Tribune.



This image released by Marvel Studios shows Zoe Saldana as Gamora in a scene from "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3."
(Marvel Studios-Disney via AP)



This image released by Marvel Studios shows Rocket, voiced by Bradley Cooper, in a scene from "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3."
(Marvel-Disney via AP)

Pet talk: Prioritizing Health And Comfort For Show Animals

By Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine

Throughout the year, youth across the country prepare and travel to various events, such as livestock shows, rodeos, and fairs, to show their animals.

Because an animal's performance at an event can be impacted if they are stressed or sick, Dr. Kevin Washburn, a professor of large animal internal medicine at the Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, offers tips for keeping animals relaxed and healthy every step of the way.

First, owners should ensure that their animals are appropriately vaccinated so that they are healthy enough to travel.

"The best prevention of any disease process is proper vaccinations when they are young and booster vaccines when necessary," Washburn said. "Giving your animals booster vaccines about three weeks prior to the exhibition is a great practice for prevention."

Most importantly, show animals need to be vaccinated against respiratory disease before arriving at an exhibition.

"Respiratory disease is the most common problem in exhibition animals due to the stress of travel, a new environment, and comingling with animals from many different locations and backgrounds," Washburn said. "More specifically, cattle should be vaccinated against common respiratory pathogens before and at weaning."

Owners should also prepare trailers in a way that keeps show animals calm and comfortable, since traveling can be stressful for them.

"Trailers should have adequate protection from extreme weather conditions and need to have a non-slip surface on them regardless of whether they are bedded or not," Washburn said. "Non-slip surfaces prevent animals from slipping, losing balance, and falling in trailers, so it is less likely for animals to be injured."



Owners should also prepare trailers in a way that keeps show animals calm and comfortable, since traveling can be stressful for them.
courtesy photo

Washburn explained that ensuring an animal is as comfortable as possible in their trailer will reduce stress, which is better for their immune system.

"If cattle are tied, they should have enough length of rope to hold their heads in a natural position; for longer trips, cattle should be untied, the floor should be deeply bedded with mats or straw, and there should be enough room for them to lie down," Washburn said. "For pigs and small ruminants like sheep and goats, there should be comfortable bedding so they can lie down during travel."

Once animals arrive at the show barn, they will need frequent access to fresh water to prevent dehydration and be fed their normal portion of food since dietary changes can cause digestive issues. Washburn also suggests owners provide fans or misters in warmer months and space heaters in colder months to improve animal comfort.

To maintain an animal's health at an exhibition and decrease the risk of spreading diseases, especially when surrounded by other animals, Washburn encourages owners to be careful when walking from one animal stall to another.

"Many diseases are spread through fecal-oral transmission, and contaminating bedding with fecal material from other farms can lead to animals picking up diseases," Washburn explained. "So pens and tie stalls should only be entered by their owners to avoid bringing fecal material from one farm to another. If fecal material is picked up on boots and shoes from other places at the exhibition area, owners should wash them off prior to handling their own animals."

As another method of disease prevention, owners should avoid sharing with other animal caretakers their combs, brushes, clippers, feed tubs, water buckets, and tools used to clean bedding and stalls.

Lastly, Washburn pointed out that an animal's health should continue to be a priority when they arrive back home.

"Any exhibition animal should return to their normal environment and be allowed to rest from further training for at least the first five to seven days after returning home," Washburn said.

By practicing good health management before, during, and after 4-H events, you can ensure that your show animals are healthy and comfortable every step of the way to the exhibition so that they have a successful performance.

Pet Talk is a service of the School of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, Texas A&M University. Stories can be viewed on the web at vetmed.tamu.edu/news/pet-talk. Suggestions for future topics may be directed to vmbs-editor@tamu.edu.

SPORTS

Panthers win bi-district crown with a sweep

By Griff Servati
For the Van Alstyne Leader

The Van Alstyne Panthers claimed the Bi-District Championship with a best-of-three sweep of the North Dallas Bulldogs.

Leading the Panthers was Luke Juarez was 3-for-4, drove in two, and scored. Riley Dancer was 3-for-4 and a home run shy of the cycle, drove in a run, and scored twice; Weston Johnston singled, walked, and drove in three; Preston Blankenship singled, walked three times, drove in a run, and scored; Jackson Allen singled and scored twice, Dakota Howard doubled and scored, Maddyx Young was 2-for-2 and Carter Upton and Brady Skipworth combined on a two-hitter with eight strikeouts and four walks for the Panthers.

Dakota Howard was 3-for-4 and a home run shy of the cycle with two RBI and scored twice as the Van Alstyne Panthers beat North Dallas, 7-0, to finish off a sweep of their Class 4A Region II series.

Jace Gailley and Kyle Greve combined on the four-hitter with nine strikeouts and two walks; Riley Dancer was 2-for-3, walked, drove in a run, and scored twice; Luke Juarez doubled and drove in a run, Weston Johnston singled, walked, and scored, and Jackson Allen singled and walked for Van Alstyne (16-15), which will face Benbrook in an area round series at Carrollton Ranchview. Game 1 is at 7 p.m. on Friday, with Games 2 and 3 at 1 p.m. on Saturday.





Caden Whitley on track to drive the ball.
Griff Servati / For the Van Alstyne Leader



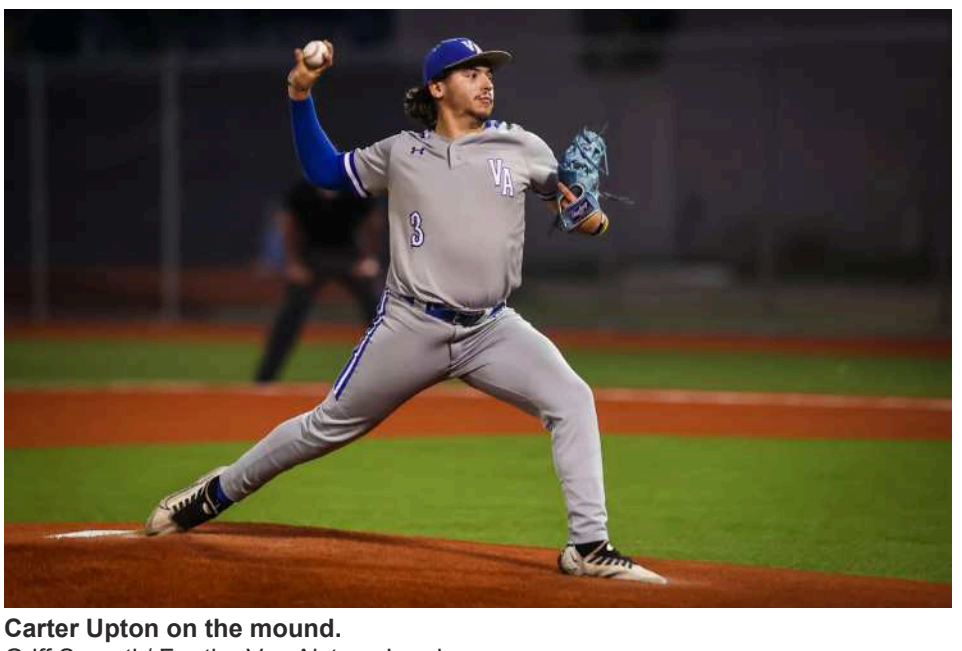
Riley Hunter making a throw to get the out at first.
Griff Servati / Van Alstyne Leader



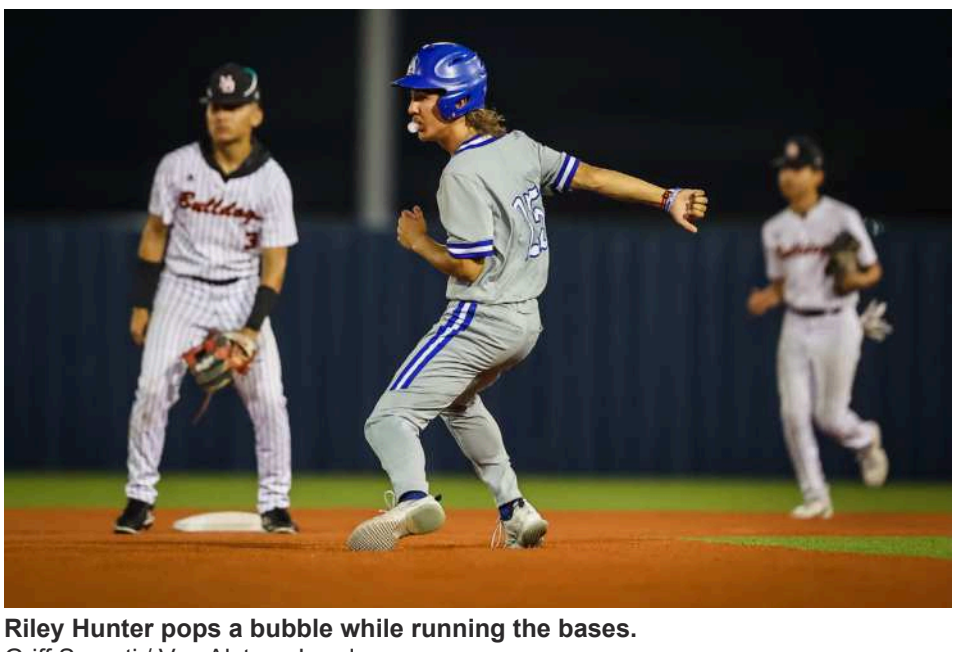
Dakota Howard puts the bat to the ball.
Griff Servati / For the Van Alstyne Leader



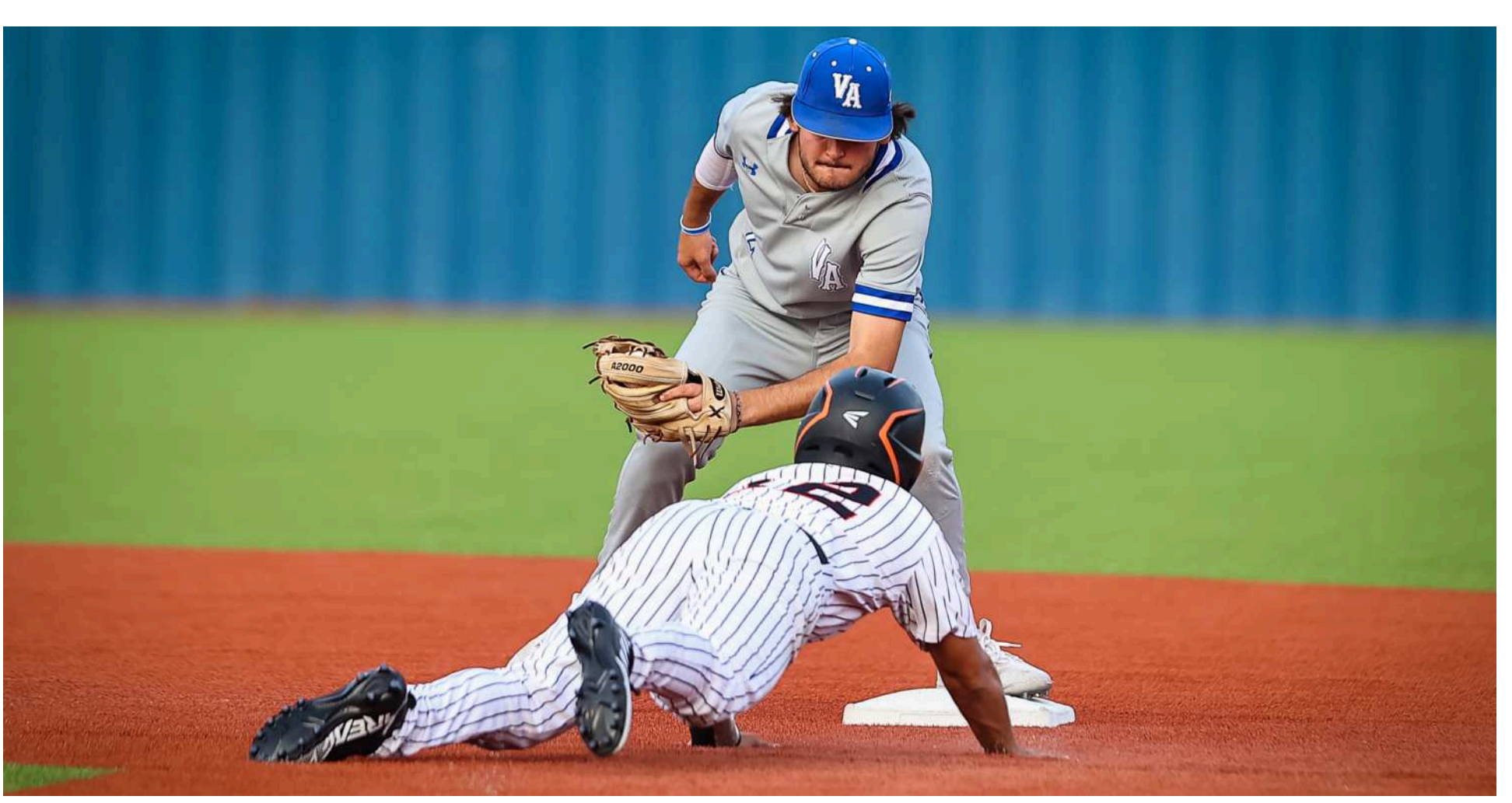
Luke Juarez in swing to make contact with the ball.
Griff Servati / For the Van Alstyne Leader



Carter Upton on the mound.
Griff Servati / For the Van Alstyne Leader



Riley Hunter pops a bubble while running the bases.
Griff Servati / Van Alstyne Leader



Riley Dancer making the out at second base.
Griff Servati / For the Van Alstyne Leader

SPORTS

Just the facts, as they used to say on Dragnet

By JB Webb
Special to the VA Leader

As you have read from prior articles, my fishing had not been anything major to write about the last four weeks. It's not much fun fishing by yourself as it is with friend Charlie (Goober) Hill in the boat.

This week's article is about three days of fishing. We caught fish on all our trips. Now my fishing days seldom make it to noon. Generally, I'm on the water around 7 a.m. and out about 10-11 a.m.

Every morning our goldie Peaches and I have to go to the boat ramp. We get there, I get her leash and we start around on our walk but often stopped as she has to have pets from people going fishing with the guides working out of their new boathouse.

Somedays I think she might have sled dog genes in her; all I need is a sled as she pulls me around. Monday morning when we got to the ramp gulls, egrets, cranes and other birds were working the water. I rushed to get our walk over and raised dust with the golf cart as I hurried back to the house. We got in, I grabbed some more coffee and left the queen with her breakfast.

As I was already hooked up and on the road, in less than 15 minutes I was backing into the water. The rush reason was and still is that when the birds are there, fish are too. When the birds leave, they seem to take the fish with them.

Monday it was lights out as My Blakemore Road Runner with a white Plastic Swim Bait was working overtime. Switching rods, I went to throwing a Bomber Fat Free Fry Crankbait, with a little careful filing I made into a true Square Bill. It took up where the Blakemore Road Runner bite had slowed and I kept fishing. I caught 26 sandbass and a few stripers. I got tired and went to the house with eight of my biggest. I filleted them and supper was served.

Tuesday the birds were scarce and so were the fish. I worked for an hour or more and had only caught two big, bluetail sandbass. This day I made a short run to another cove. Now Pradco Fishing Pro Jason Christie had designed a new Convert 3/8 oz. Spinnerbait. I got some and they look and work great in the clear water in Texoma now.

I was working around some boat houses and as I came by a float a four-pound largemouth inhaled it. After a tussle and two nervous moments as it ran under a pontoon boat, I got it in the boat. A fish like that makes a day good.

Besides the Spinnerbaits Pradco Fishing's YUM Plastic Wooly Bug lure in Virgo Red carried Luke Palmer to a big win in the Elite Bass Tournament on Santee Cooper. I called it a day and released all three of them.

Day 3 saw the birds back in our cove. After another rushed morning for Peaches, I headed home, grabbed my coffee and still hooked up I was off. Getting in the water my first cast got a small striper; after that it was sandbass and stripers. I was using the Blakemore Road Runner and Bomber Fat Free fry Crankbait I have been scoring with.

I honestly lost count of how many fish I caught. It was well over 20. I know my hand was cut up and my cranking hand was getting sore. Now I have a little problem with my right thumb and this day it was bought out. Still, it was a great day of fishing despite getting a little pain.

The other good news I haven't checked out yet is that the crappie have showed up in our cove. I can't say yes or no yet but I'm going to switch from other fish to crappie to see if it's true.

Got to get Goober in the boat again as he fishes slow and comfortable in a new seat I put in just for him. After launching Wednesday Barney a.k.a me locked up his truck keys with it running and on the ramp. I carry a hidden key just for such happenings but missed out on what Charlie's comments would be.

Little Dixie Bass Club Tournament is this weekendon Lake Bonham. I'll give you the scores next week.

Going over to the carp side of fly fishing, finally that is

By Lynn Burkhead
Special to the VA Leader

Pink.

Hot pink, to be exact, that's the bright hue of the fly line backing on one of my fly reels.

It's a color that I had all but forgotten until a bass fishing trip a few years back was slowed thanks to the parade of endless springtime cold fronts, stout winds, and thunderstorms that conspired to limit my fishing success that year.

On this particular day in question, I had landed but one bass, a big-time disappointment on my day off that yet again had coincided with a shifting of the wind to the north.

All but ready to concede the day, that's when I happened to stumble across a firm bottomed flat occupied by a couple of dozen...ahem...carp.

That's right, carp.

As in the common carp, or Cyprinus carpio to be more exact if Latin is your thing.

Yeah, yeah, I know, the carp is nothing more than a fancy minnow, a rough fish, a trash fish according to some.

I had similar thoughts until that fruitless day of springtime bass fishing on Lake Ray Roberts, arguably the carp fishing capital of North Texas.

Battling a paint peeling southerly wind that had muddied up the water in Ray Bob's prime largemouth areas, my day of kayaking around had produced exactly nothing in the bass department.

That's when I started to see these alien like ghosts feeding all over the place in the dingy water, pods of two, three, five, ten and at times, a dozen or more of the somewhat lowly esteemed carp.

Hey, with nothing else going on, why not?

So I rummaged around in the fly boxes and come up with a black Wooly Bugger with an orange conehead, a Rob Woodruff East Texas chain pickerel special.

Would it work on carpe diem? There was only one way to find out.

An hour of fruitless casts later, I was more than a little frustrated. And that's when I finally heard the Darth Vader-like voice in my head. Cue the heavy breathing and start the familiar chant "Luke, come to the dark side."

One cast with the newly tied on fly, and it was fish on as my first Ray Bob carp on the fly produced a bulldog like tussle and a fairly good fight that took a few minutes. When it was over, I slid the fish in gently and took a photo, and then let the fish slide out of my hand as we both tried to figure out what had just happened.

For the carp, it was an unusual meal. For the angler, it was the doorway into a type of angling that he had never envisioned himself being a part of. But after putting a quarter into the carp fly fishing juke box and finding out that I liked the song that was playing, well, I have to admit that I was hooked and wanted to try and do it all again.

After all, in Europe, the common carp… well, may my high school English teachers forgive me here...ain't so common.

In fact, on the other side of the big Atlantic pond where the carp is highly esteemed as a hard fighting sport-fish in much of Europe, including France, anglers are passionate about the pursuit of carp, and especially giants of the piscatorial species. In fact, the International Game Fish Association all-tackle world record for the common carp was set in France back in 1987 at a hefty 75 pounds, 11 ounces after angler Leo van der Gugten pulled it in.

On this side of the Atlantic, the IGFA's North American record is in excess of 57-pounds, a common carp pulled from the Potomac River in the District of Columbia by angler David Nikolow. Closer to home in the Lone Star State, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's rod-and-reel record is currently 44.25-lbs., a benchmark set only a couple of years ago on March 28, 2021 when Kevin Olivier pulled the big fish from Lady Bird Lake in downtown Austin.

While I've had no desire to ever catch a carp with anything but a fly, I'm not alone in that ambition. Even in the bass crazy Lone Star State where late University of Texas professor, Texas Parks and Wildlife Magazine columnist and Lone Star State fly fishing expert Gibbs Milliken set the TPWD fly rod record in March 1999 when he pulled a 33-pound carp out of the waters of the same Lady Bird Lake noted above.

And incidentally, the IGFA world record fly rod caught carp is a 2017 bruiser landed from South Dakota's Lake Poinsett on April 22, 2017 by fly angler Kurt Gutormson, a huge carp specimen that tipped the scales at 43-pounds, 2-ounces.

While carp haven't always been sought after by a big number of anglers here in the U.S., fly fishing for the species — and for huge grass carp too, but that's another story for another day — actually began to gain some notoriety several years ago when Oklahoma's late fly fishing legend Dave Whitlock began to champion fly fishing for carp on the pristine flats of Lake Michigan.

A "poor man's" freshwater bonefish if you will.

Not to be outdone, fly fishing authors and expert fly rod anglers like Barry Reynolds, Brad Befus and John Berryman combined their writing skills to produce the 1997 tome Carp on the Fly, something short of a cult classic on the topic.

Even renowned fly fishing essay writers John Gierach and E. Donnal Thomas, Jr. have paid homage to the humble carp by casting flies in the species' direction and then writing about the experience in books that they have penned.

Thanks to the attention of writers in mainstream fly fishing literature, not to mention the gonzo appeal that fly fishing for carp has for some younger anglers — I'm not one of those in body, but certainly remain so in spirit, right? — those who choose to chase carp with the long rod have grown increasingly interested in the species being pursued with fly tackle.

Why is that? Partly because the species, complete with its whisker-like barbells, is somewhat persnickety in what flies it will take as it roots around on a flat looking for a meal.

Once a fly angler has cracked the code and found a fly that might actually interest a feeding carp, then there is the matter of delicately placing the offering in close proximity to the mouth of a feeding fish without spooking it.

Which isn't hard to do, mind you. The mere shadow of a fly line passing overhead; the too hard plop of a small fly landing in the water; a slight noise made while wading, paddling a kayak, or shuffling in a boat, can all cause a carp filled flat to suddenly be devoid of life with nothing but puffs of mud left in the fish's retreating wakes.

Much like the spot-and-stalk game of bowhunting pronghorn antelope that I've tried in past years out West, sight fishing for carp on the fly rod can be, well, it can be insanely challenging and quite frustrating at times.

Especially when nothing else is biting... like the local largemouth bass.

Which brings me back to the hot pink fly line backing that this story opened up with. After quietly wading into casting range on this carp filled flat at Lake Texoma this time, I had cast my own carp fly design — the "Burkhead Carp Ugly Special" — into position a few times with nary a glance from a feeding carp.

But suddenly, a very large fish saw my fly hit the water. The coppery hued fish promptly moved to it. I felt the take a nano-second after I saw it, then strip set the hook hard, and felt sudden and solid resistance at the end of the fly line.

With the sting of the hook, this carp — probably 15 pounds or more — began to peel fly line off my reel with a surge of strength and explosive energy that belied the humble reputation of the species in my mind, if not elsewhere.

For nearly a full minute, I was holding on for dear life as this carp evacuated the flats, raced for the other side of the lake, bent my eight-weight fly rod nearly double, and exposed the hot pink color of my fly line backing.

In fact, I was really beginning to wonder whether this fish would be too much for me to land on my fly rod.

And then suddenly, the tussle was over as the fish inexplicably became "unbuttoned" as the saying goes.

Leaving me to reel in nearly 100 yards of empty fly line.

All the while wondering why it took me so confounded long for yours truly to cross on over to the "dark side" of fly fishing.

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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P-1636

ACROSS

1 TXism: "let him ____ in his own juice"
5 in Hays County on I-35
6 Jimmy Johnson was NFL "Coach of the ____" in 1990
7 dir. from Dublin to McGregor
8 TX Dan Jenkins' "Life ___ Ownself"
9 labor union federation that represents 240,000 Texans
15 TX Brickell who married Paul Simon
16 "____ __ ___ finger" (done easily)
19 TX Willingham film: "Of ____ ___ Men"
21 woodworking "joint"
22 "simple __ _ ____ with no laces"
27 TXism: "_ ___ sheared like a spring lamb" (swindled)
28 acetone is the simplest _____
29 "____ __ alone" (did not bother)
30 a change in Astro headwear (2 wds.)
32 San Antoniio Spurs CEO: _ _ Buford
33 TX Nolan Ryan had knee _____ repaired in 1993
36 historical periods
37 TXism: "___ the trail"
38 tasty orange Texas melon: can_____
39 yearly earnings
41 writer with ink
42 TXism: "he could shoot the ___ ___ of a gnat" (good marksman)
45 pecans, e.g.
46 graduating h.s. students
47 TXism: "gotta ____ your spurs" (achieve)
48 Cowboy scores (abbr.)
49 Texas Tiguas use this in some pottery (2 wds.)
52 "on a grand _____"
53 "__ _ heap of trouble"
54 Fort Worth univer.
55 TXism: "does a wet dog stink?"

DOWN

1 TXism: "___ pilot" (preacher)
2 in Taylor County on highway 84
3 TXism: "his facts are _____" (liar)
4 TXism: "____ _____ ___ to eye" (agreeing)
8 TX Tanya's "Texas When _ ___"
9 TX B.J. Thomas sang song from "Butch Cassidy ___ ___ _____ Kid"
10 TX Ginger's dance partner, Fred (init.)
11 RV gas (abbr.)
12 Texas-born Gene Autry wrote "Here ____ _____ Claus"
13 TXism: "__ __ ain't true, there ain't a cow in Texas"
14 director Preminger
15 intense feelings
16 winter flurries rarely seen in the Rio Grande Valley
17 units of electrical inductance
18 constructs a building
20 Tommie of 1990 Cowboys or 1973 Astros
22 MLB leag. of Astros and Rangers
23 Texas A&M confer.
24 TXism: "tight as a cinch on _ ___ horse"
25 TXism: "pull yourself up by the boot _____" (recover)
26 Nazi leader
28 television station in Texarkana
31 "I smell _ ___" (suspect betrayal)
34 TX Preston Jones' "__ Ann Hampton Laverty Oberlander"
35 large primate
37 TX Don Henley had a lot of these with the Eagles
40 a Texas Gatlin
43 TXism: "plain as the ____ on a mule"
44 in Upshur County on FM 450 (2 wds.)
50 Santa _____
51 she was "The Big Valley's" Audra (init.)



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OUTDOORS

Outdoor digest

Calendar

Through May 14 – Texas North Zone Rio Grande turkey spring season.

Through May 14 – Texas Eastern turkey spring season for 12 counties including Grayson, Fannin, and Lamar Counties.

Through May 16 – Oklahoma spring turkey season.

May 5-7 – 3rd Annual Ducks Unlimited DUX Expo at Texas Motor Speedway. For information, visit www.duckexpo.com .

May 20-21 – Texas North Zone Rio Grande turkey youth-only spring season.

May 20 – Future Bass Trails Texoma Division Tournament out of Alberta Creek. For information, call Joe Copeland at (580) 504-7320 or visit www.futurebasstrails.com/divisions/lake-texoma.

May 22 – Application deadline for 2023-24 ODWC Controlled Hunts across Oklahoma. For information, visit www.wildlifedepartment.com.

Notes

Sooner State youth Cord Smith of Cheyenne, Okla., recently landed the state's new state record redear sunfish with a Roger Mills County catch. Caught in the western reaches of Oklahoma, Smith's redear, or shellcracker, measured 13.5-inches long and weighed 2-pounds, 5.6-ounces…Did you know? The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation is engaged in a five-year, $2 million research project to learn what is causing turkey population declines in the Sooner State and what can be done long-term to manage turkey populations. According to an ODWC news release, the research is focusing on demographic parameters of turkeys at sites in southeastern and southwestern Oklahoma, and genetic variation in wild turkeys across the state. Specifically, researchers are examining nesting success, nesting site characteristics, and cause-specific mortality of poults and hens…

Tip of the Week

It has arrived! The third annual Ducks Unlimited Expo opens up its gates just north of Cowtown! That quacker backer event, known to many as DUX, is slated for May 5-7 at the Texas Motor Speedway north of Fort Worth. For tickets and information, visit www.duckexpo.com.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice
South Grayson Special Utility District Monthly Meeting

South Grayson Special Utility District will hold their regular monthly meeting on Thursday May 18th, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. at the corporate office.
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Sherman sets end date for Howe wastewater services

By Michael Hutchins
Van Alstyne Leader

Howe will soon have to seek out new options for wastewater treatment services. Sherman officials sent a letter to Howe city officials this week, notifying them of its plans to cease wastewater services by May 15, 2025.

This is the latest update in yearslong tension between the two cities regarding wastewater services and outstanding debt related to the services that was owed to the city of Sherman. The shift in services also comes as the city is preparing for new industrial users who will put an increased strain on city municipal utilities and resources.

"The city of Sherman this week took several steps toward preparing our utility system for the arrival of Texas Instruments and GlobalWafers, two companies that will invest $35 billion in our community and bring along with them more than 4,500 jobs," the city of Sherman wrote in a post on its Facebook page Thursday.

"... As part of these preparations and because of the increasingly high demand on Sherman's water and wastewater treatment systems, the City has begun the process of informing outside, wholesale utility customers that the City will not be able to provide services past the spring of 2025 - when Texas Instruments and GlobalWafers begin to ramp-up their operations."

In 2021, officials for Sherman said that Howe owed hundreds of thousands of dollars for wastewater services that dated back two years. As of July 2021, the city of Howe owed about $540,000 in debt for these services.

Sherman officials confirmed this week that the city of Howe is current on its payments and has been making regular payments on its debt. However, city officials said Howe is still not in compliance with an agreement the two entities signed to address the debt.

"On April 29, 2021, I wrote to you and the then-current City Administrator to provide notice of multiple Events of Default under the agreement along with a two-year notice of cancellation of the agreement pursuant to Section II of the agreement," Sherman City Attorney Ryan Pittman said in a letter to Howe dated May 3, 2023.

"Sherman appreciates Howe making efforts to pay the amounts it promised and was required to pay under the Agreement in response to that written demand. However, in the two years since that written demand, Howe has failed to provide evidence that it has taken necessary actions to establish alternative means for wastewater treatment and processing, as required under Section II of the agreement."

In the letter to Howe, Pittman said Sherman has asked for evidence of Howe looking into alternative treatment services on multiple occasions but has received none since then.

"Howe has not identified a viable alternative, much less established a wastewater system that did not rely solely on Sherman," he said. "Sherman is no longer willing to reserve capacity in its wastewater system for the benefit of Howe to the detriment of Sherman citizens, businesses and other ratepayers."

Sherman has offered to temporarily continue wastewater services if Howe agrees to several conditions including acknowledgment that Sherman has no contractual obligation to provide service and that Howe provides monthly proof of continued efforts to find another service provider.

"If and when requested by Sherman, Howe will provide to Sherman a detailed, written accounting of all uses and expenditures of funds received by Howe from its wastewater ratepayers for the preceding twenty-four months or subsequent reporting period," Pittman continued.

The letter between the two cities was shared on social media Thursday morning. City Council Member Sarah Myrick said she received a copy of the letter, but it was not provided by Howe city leadership.

"I did not get it from City of Howe management or hear from them about it at all," she said in a Facebook post. "I'm posting it here because you have a right to know the situation is not resolved!"

The post by Myrick comes two weeks after the "Re Elect Bill French Mayor of Howe Texas" Facebook page posted about an conversation between French and Sherman Mayor David Plyler in which French said Sherman had no plans to cease service.

"The City of Sherman will NOT cancel the existing Wastewater Treatment Agreement with Howe and the City of Howe is not delinquent in its payments to Sherman for treating the city's wastewater and sewage," French said in the post. "This is not speculation, rumor, or innuendo, but information straight from the leadership of the city of Sherman.

"... Howe's relationship with Sherman is not only strong, but thriving, and I look forward to working with our neighbor to the north as Howe continues to grow in a responsible manner.

"I hope this information eases any fears or concerns held by the citizens of Howe about our city's relationship with Sherman. It is unfortunate that candidates are using this issue to create fear among our citizens to support their own political agenda."

Calls to the city of Howe for comment were no by the time of writing for this article.

Local attorney indicted; other May 2023 indictments

Staff reports

Grayson County attorney Lester Vance, 65, was indicted this week on a charge of DWI 3rd. The charge stems from an offense dated June 6, 2022.

Vance has remained in the Grayson County Jail since his arrest and court records do not list an attorney of record for him at this time.

The indictment is a formal charge and not an indication of guilt.

The following people were also indicted this week:

David Bryan Story, 25, of Howe — three counts of possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver, one each of meth, methylenedioxymethamphetamine, fentanyl and cocaine;

Saul Perez Rios, 37, of Van Alstyne — DWI 3rd or more;

David William Gravette, 53, of Whitesboro — possession of a controlled substance (meth);

Dwayne Marcell Cleveland, 22, of Denison — bail jumping, failure to appear;

Freedom Christopher Demoure,21, of Sherman — two counts of bail jumping and failure to appear;

Daniel Rodriguez, 40, of Sherman — indecency with a child sexual contact;

Bryan Allen Reider, 43, of Whitesboro — aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, possession of marijuana in a drug free zone, criminal mischief and obstruction or retaliation;

Hayden Craig Lerond, 20, of Bells — two counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon;

Johnny Ray Kellis, 44, of Pottsboro — possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver (meth);

Michael William Bishop, 44, of Garland —unauthorized use of a motor vehicle;

Blake Mitchell Shaffer, 38, of Whitewright — DWI 3rd or more;

Jeremy Hugh Young, 44, of Sherman — two counts of indecency with a child sexual contact and one of injury to a child, elderly or disabled person with intentional bodily injury;

Russell Wells Taylor, 48, of Bells — injury to a child, elderly or disabled person with intentional bodily injury;

Skylar Ray Carter, 32, of Denison — evading arrest and detention with a previous conviction;

Nathan Leonard, 40, of Bells — possession of a controlled substance (meth) and unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon;

Anthony Glen Moores, 47, of Denison — two counts of possession of a controlled substance (meth) and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle ;

Frankie Di'Medici, 34, of Jacksonville — aggravated assault with a deadly weapon;

Robert Patrick Romanski, 38, of Denison — possession of a controlled substance (meth);

William Bruce Foster, 38, of Denison — possession of a controlled substance (meth);

Dustin Lee Bradshaw, 34, of Denison — prohibited substance in a correctional facility (marijuana) and possession of a controlled substance (meth);

Shawn Alan Gravette, 33, of Sherman — evading arrest with a previous conviction;

Larry Jarrod Williams, 34, of Sherman — possession of a controlled substance (amphetamines);

Casey Lynn Underwood, 49, of Denison — possession of a controlled substance (meth);

Hurlus Ray Taylor, 55, of Denison —possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver (meth);

Benjamin Tyrone Jenkins, 40,of Denison — possession of a controlled substance (meth);

Lester Jermaine Taylor, 41, of Denison — possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver (cocaine) and DWI 3rd or more;

Stephen Richard Sheppard, 51, of Sherman — aggravated sexual assault of a child, two counts of indecency with a child sexual contact and failure to register as a sex offender;

Adrienne Deturo, 52, of Sherman — aggravated assault with a deadly weapon;

Don Lorne Alvrenga, 28, of Sherman — five counts of possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver for one each of hydrocodone, cocaine, fentanyl, alprazolam and tetrahydrocannabinol and one of possession of marijuana;

Michelle Renea Hughes, 44, of Sherman — burglary of a building;

Ryan Terry Pratt, 41, of Sherman — possession of a controlled substance (meth);

Shawn Beard, 41, of Sherman — unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and two counts of theft of property;

Tyrone Jermaine Nelson, 37, of Sherman — possession of a controlled substance (cocaine);

De'Jeaus Martin Gonzalez,20, of Sherman — tamper with physical evidence;

Temeika Lashae Linzy, 34, of Sherman — possession of a controlled substance (meth);

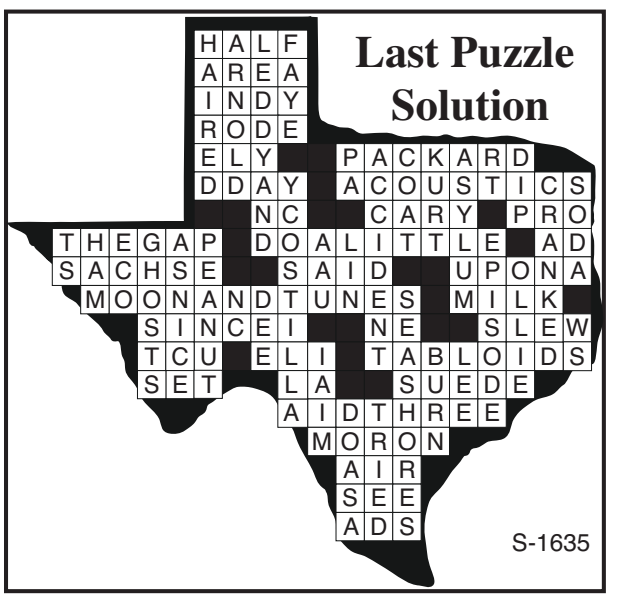
Katrina JoMuschke, 51, of Bells — theft of property;

Gabriel Cain Arrieta, 22, of Sherman — assault family member impair breathing;

Jason Corey Arnold, 35, of Sherman — aggravated assault with a deadly weapon;

Michael James Barber, 73, of Sherman — aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

Last Puzzle Solution





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PHOTOS: Howe celebrate 37th Founder's Day

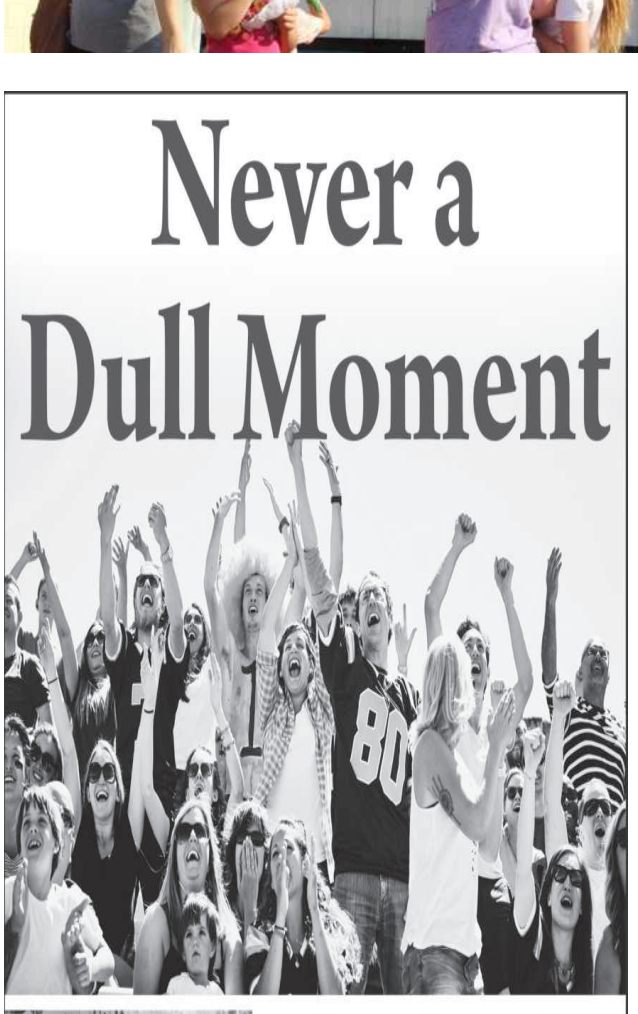








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