

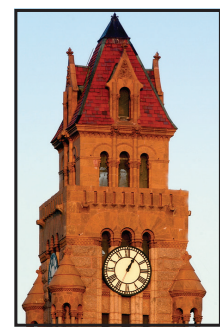
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SPRINGING FORWARD
 Sunday is the start of daylight saving time. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour.

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS
 The Decatur Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors will hold the Business Showcase 2022 later this month to promote local businesses and services. See page 6



WISE COUNTY MESSENGER

VOLUME 143 - NO. 20

FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2022

DECATUR, TEXAS

16 PAGES IN 1 SECTION PLUS INSERTS \$1

WISE COUNTY

Winter is back

BY AUSTIN JACKSON
 ajackson@wcmessenger.com

Winter is making a comeback in Wise County. The county is under winter weather advisory Friday, with a strong cold front expected to drop temperatures to below the freezing mark overnight. See Winter on page 4



SMOKE DAMAGE — Firefighters work a structure a fire on Private Road 4219 near Decatur Tuesday night.

AUSTIN JACKSON/WCMESSENGER

DECATUR

Home damaged after vape combusts

BY AUSTIN JACKSON
 ajackson@wcmessenger.com

A vape pen started a fire Tuesday night, damaging a home in the 900 block of Private Road 4219 near Decatur.

Firefighters and medics responded to the structure fire at 5:20 p.m.

"The fire was isolated to the bedroom on the mattress," said Decatur Fire Department Asst. Chief Deroy Bennett. "Reports

are that somebody was charging a vape on the bed."

No one was home at the time of the fire. As firefighters arrived, there was heavy black smoke inside the residence.

"The mattress was smoldering," Bennett said.

The home was primarily impacted by smoke damage.

Firefighters from Decatur, Rhome and East Wise responded to the scene, along with Wise County EMS.

COVID-19

5 more deaths reported

BY BRIAN KNOX
 bknox@wcmessenger.com

Despite low numbers of new confirmed COVID-19 case numbers in Wise County, the state reported multiple deaths related to the virus in the last week.

Since last Thursday, five more local COVID-19 deaths were reported by the Department of State Health Services, bringing the total related to the virus to 262 since March 2020.

Since Jan. 1, 42 Wise See COVID on page 2



Delayed honor

KAYLA JONES/WISE COUNTY VSO

LONG TIME COMING — Navy veteran Merle Wayne McConnell, 86, of Sunset, was presented with his Good Conduct medal Monday, 63 years after he was discharged. Wise County Judge J.D. Clark read his certificate and Wise County VSO Blake Walls presented his medal.



MACK THWEATT/WCMESSENGER

RACKING UP SALES — Parking lots around Wise County remain full as the economy continues to pick up steam. Through six months of the fiscal year, Wise County has collected \$3.2 million in sales taxes.

WISE COUNTY

Sales taxes continue to roll in

County hits \$3.2M at FY midpoint

BY RICHARD GREENE
 rgreene@wcmessenger.com

Midway through the fiscal year, Wise County and most cities are on pace to shatter sales tax projections.

With the March disbursement from the Texas Comptroller, Wise County eclipsed \$3.279 million in collections off its half-cent levy from

October until March.

The county's conservative projection for the year was \$5.1 million.

In March, the county received \$509,648, which was for sales in January. The county had received a record \$663,353 last month. Since the start of the year, the county's collections are \$1.692 million.

See Sales on page 6



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Navy vet receives medal after 63-year wait

BY AUSTIN JACKSON
ajackson@wcmessenger.com

An 86-year-old Navy Veteran from Wise County finally received the medal he earned for his service after a 63-year wait.

Merle Wayne McConnell, of Sunset, served in the United States Navy during the Korean War from 1955 to 1959.

When he was discharged, he never received his Good Conduct Medal, an award given for exemplary service, efficiency and fidelity in active federal military service.

He was eligible, but he just never received it.

The wait was finally over Monday.

When McConnell went to the Wise County Veterans Services Office in Decatur, he was surprised by Wise County Judge J.D. Clark and Veterans Service Officer Blake Walls, who presented him with the medal. In addition to his medal, the Wise County VSO also created a certificate, signed by Clark and U.S. Congressman Ronny Jackson, detailing the medal awarded by the secretary of the Navy.

"I wanted to cry," McConnell said. "I was flabbergasted. I figured they just forgot about me."

McConnell worked at a high-level security clearance during his military career. That clearance level, to McConnell, prevented him from divulging his service information to receive answers on receiving benefits or the medal after the seaman retired.

He waited 57 years before telling anybody details about his service, McConnell said.

"I couldn't even tell my mother and dad before they passed away," he said.

After being told to talk to Walls about his situation, McConnell was informed he could in fact release some of his information. After confirming records, Walls was able to secure McConnell's benefits that include monetary compensation, disability, medical and other benefits he had gone decades



KAYLA JONES/KAYLA'S UNIQUE EYE

SERVICE RECOGNIZED — Seaman Merle Wayne McConnell served in the United States Navy during the Korean War from 1955 to 1959. This week, he finally received his Good Conduct medal.

without.

He also has a shiny medal in a shadow box that he can proudly display.

"For Wayne, he had felt that he had been not helped," Walls said Thursday. "He felt neglected. When we got him his benefits, he was elated. To do anything else for him was an honor. This is why I do this. I'm here to make a difference in veterans' lives."

The medal was secured after a fam-

ily member contacted the office of U.S. Congressman Ronny Jackson about McConnell's military service. Doug Hight, a member of the Jackson's veterans support team, reached out to Walls to assist in getting Seaman McConnell his medal.

The medal was eventually delivered to McConnell's home. McConnell's wife, JoAnn, kept it hidden for months until they could make it to the VSO to surprise him.

"It was very touching, to my heart and my body," McConnell said. "I can't describe it."

After keeping the secrets that included a long-lost medal, JoAnn McConnell said she hopes her husband's story can benefit other veterans.

"I hope this encourages others in the county to not give up," she said.

COVID: Cases remain low

Continued from page 1
County residents have died due to COVID-19, according to DSHS, or about 16 percent of the total local COVID-19 deaths from the past two years.

DSHS reported 17 new confirmed cases in the county since last Thursday, virtually the same as the prior week.

Wise Health System in Decatur reported three COVID-19 positive patients admitted for treatment Thursday, down from nine last week. The med/surg/ICU capacity was holding

steady at 77 percent.

Statewide hospitalizations continued to decrease since last week. As of Wednesday, 2,483 COVID-19 patients were hospitalized across the state, down from 3,376 last week.

In Trauma Service Area E, which includes Wise County and the Metroplex, hospitalizations from the virus were at 3.18 percent Wednesday, down from 4.69 percent last week. The region of 8.04 million people had 143 adult ICU beds available and 21 pediatric beds

available.

According to DSHS, the state's positivity rate was at 3.12 percent Wednesday, a decrease from 4.81 percent last week. New daily case counts statewide also continue to decrease, with the seven day average of new confirmed cases at 2,037.

Of 64,679 residents of Wise County age 5 and older, 41.49 percent, 26,833 are fully vaccinated. A total of 8,662 residents have received a booster dose of the vaccine.

EYES ON THE ROAD


Road construction is a constant around Wise County. Here's a few spots to keep in mind next week:

- County Road 2224 is closed at the bridge over Catlett Creek in Precinct 1.
- County Road 4717 in Precinct 1 is under construction.
- County Road 2648 will be closed in Precinct 1 for a bridge replacement.
- Acorn Drive is closed off U.S. 380 for a bridge replacement. The road into the Seven Wires neighborhood will be closed for four to five months for the crews to complete the project.

An alternate route into the neighborhood is County Road 3001 to Preskitt and Hlavek roads.

■ Pecan Street in Paradise will have Precinct 4 crews making repairs on the side of the road.

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ALVORD

Board approves \$2.9 million renovation project



BRIAN KNOX/WCMESSENGER

NEW LIFE — The school building that previously served as a middle school and high school in Alvord is expected to house multiple intermediate grades following a renovation project approved by the school board last week.

BY BRIAN KNOX
bknox@wcmessenger.com

A nearly \$3 million renovation project at Alvord ISD got a green light from the school board last week.

The board approved a guaranteed maximum

price of \$2.9 million for the renovation of the old middle school/high school on the U.S. 81/287 access road near the elementary school.

The district is planning on turning the facility into an intermediate school campus that

will likely house either fourth and fifth grades or fifth and sixth grades, according to Superintendent Randy Brown.

“This will give us the classroom space needed to hire additional teachers at the elementary campus and reduce class

sizes,” he said.

Previously, the board tapped Mann Made Construction to manage the project. Mark Canterbury will be the architect. “This is the same team that worked on the elementary gym renovation project with us. We were very pleased with their work on that project,” Brown said.

During discussions about the project last fall, the board was considering a phased project rather than paying for the entire project at one time, but Brown said the board will consider borrowing money to pay for the project, with the loan being paid for out of fund balance. That will allow the project to be completed in one phase.

“The current and projected inflation drove this decision,” he said. “The projected increase in costs due to inflation if we phased the project outweigh the expected interest fees to finance the project.”

Brown said it will not impact tax rates.

Another \$500,000 of additional work and purchases were approved by the board:

- \$190,000 for architect/engineering fees
- \$112,000 for furniture
- \$100,000 for technology
- \$90,000 for an improved parent pickup driveway
- \$8,000 for fixtures/materials/books

Work on the project is tentatively scheduled to begin in May with a completion date of summer of 2023, but that could change.

“Potential delays in materials and supplies are a national and worldwide problem and could extend the completion of the project past the summer of 2023,” Brown said.

The facility has not been used as a full campus since the current middle school opened in 2008. In recent years, the district has upgraded portions of the building, including the gym, lobby and restrooms.

BRIDGEPORT

City adopts parks plan

BY AUSTIN JACKSON
ajackson@wcmessenger.com

The Bridgeport City Council has been busy over the past two weeks, meeting three times in 12 days to adopt a master parks plan, pick a new supplier for its fleet of city vehicles, move forward on a planned development and map out the future of the city as a whole.

Following a public hearing Monday night, council members approved the application for a community development block grant to develop a new comprehensive master plan.

The grant would be for \$55,000 with a \$7,173 match from the city. The match would be factored into next year’s budget.

Bridgeport City Manager Mike Murray said it’s time for an updated look at the city’s future considering projected growth. The last time the city adopted a master plan was in 2009.

“This is the grant that provides for a planning grant to be able to write a master plan for the city,” said City Manager Mike Murray. “The grant will help the city develop a new master plan. It’s similar to our current community plan. But this would be more in-depth in a good way. It will tell us where we’re going in the future, where we need to go... It will be one, big comprehensive map.”

An updated master plan would establish several benchmarks in various areas for the city, including streets, drainage, water, sewer, zoning, future land use, parks and community improvements.

public spoke during the hearing.

“We would like to have it updated,” said Bridgeport Mayor Randy Singleton.

Updating plans has been a running theme for the council recently. The council adopted the 2021 master parks plan Feb. 28 into its community development plan, representing a major step in a project that’s been in the works since last summer.

“I think it’s the perfect step to allow us to move forward,” said Parks and Recreation Director Chris Heasley. “We went out into the community for input, and we put together a road map to the future of the parks system.”

Some of the goals highlighted in the parks and recreation master plan include a basketball court, tennis court, pickle ball court, an obstacle course, splash pad and an all-inclusive playground at Harwood Park, camping and RV hookups at Endeavor OHV Park and dog parks at Payne Park.

In April, the council will begin evaluating the various projects and start prioritizing which areas to tackle first.

Bridgeport is now contracting with Enterprise Fleet Management for the acquisition, management, resale and maintenance of its fleet of vehicles. Enterprise projected the city would save \$413,000 in the next 10 years by making the change.

The decision came after the city’s analysis of its fleet of vehicles stemming from research into its 10-year capital improvement plan that emphasized the magni-

tude of the need.

The council agreed that the state of vehicles over the year has created morale issues.

“Historically, vehicles have always been a problem for the city to purchase and repair,” Singleton said. “That weighs heavily on the employees that have to operate those vehicles every year. It’s almost shameful sometimes to see them with a vehicle that’s being pieced together. This seems to be a fix.”

Council member Kathy Kennedy called area cities that have used Enterprise for fleet management, and she said they had no issues.

After discussion, the council approved a resolution authorizing Murray to execute agreements with Enterprise FM Trust and Enterprise Fleet Management, Inc.

In other business, the city also pressed forward on the Stagecoach Crossing development in Bridgeport.

The city entered into a Chapter 380 agreement with TA DFW Development, LLC, the developer of Stagecoach Crossing, also approving a preliminary plat of 75 acres for the development. The plat includes 117 lots for homes.

The Chapter 380 agreement provides a waiver on 0.5 percent of actual construction costs of public infrastructure improvements, with the developer agreeing to pay for the cost of a third-party building inspector, as well as paying an administrative fee of \$355 for each constructed home in lieu of traditional permits fees.

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BOYD

City moves into new city hall

BY RICHARD GREENE
rgreene@wcmessenger.com

Friday will be the first full day for Boyd city officials in their new offices.

City crews finished moving offices from 100 E. Rock to the remodeled police department/public services building at 731 East Rock Island Thursday.

Interim City Administrator Dwayne Taylor said the phone system was updated Thursday as the last part of the move.

Now, all city services will be under one roof — utility billing, court,

development services and administration. Before, utility billing was in the public services building and other services were at city hall. Also due to a lack of space, staff meetings and meetings with developers were held at the public services building.

"It will help us a lot with communication and efficiency to have everyone in one spot," Taylor said.

In the new front lobby, there are four windows for the court, utility billing, permitting and human resources to address all the public's

needs.

Behind there, the city administrator and city secretary have offices. There are also be additional spots for support staff.

There are two conference rooms, a break room and an office that can be utilized by the mayor and the municipal judge.

The police department is at one side of the building with work stations for the officers and offices for the chief and assistant chief.

Upstairs is city records storage and a secure police property evidence room.

Winter: Snow to return

Continued from page 1

The forecast includes a 70 percent chance of rain, snow, freezing rain and sleet.

"At sunrise, you will probably see cold rain as it starts to develop that will transition to a rain-snow sleet mix, maybe even mixed in with freezing rain before it makes that transition," said meteorologist Sarah Barnes with the National Weather Service office in Fort Worth. "That will continue through the morning hours until the [storm] exits to the east by Friday afternoon."

Low temperatures are expected to be between 27 and 29 degrees in the afternoon with strong winds. Temperatures are expected to hover between 20 and 30 degrees. North winds are projected at 15 to 20 mph

with the possibility of wind gusts up to 35 mph.

Roads in the county may be slick as the storm develops throughout the day, especially bridges and overpasses.

"You'll probably see a thin glaze of ice and up to a half-inch of sleet and snow," Barnes said. "There's a possibility of slick spots on bridges and overpasses. Because Wise County is under a winter weather advisory, there's more of a chance of road impacts and slick spots on roadways that could deteriorate throughout the day. You'll want to be careful out there."

The cold front is expected to be short-lived, with highs in the mid-50s and mid-60's Saturday and Sunday.

NEW ARRIVALS

Easton Joe Hibbs March 7, 2022

Sarah Woodworth and Dalton Hibbs of Bridgeport announce the birth of a son, Easton Joe Hibbs, March 7, 2022, at Wise Health System in Decatur.

He weighed 6 pounds, 4 ounces and was 18 inches long.

He has a brother, Jace Hibbs, 3.

Grandparents are Heather Hibbs and Jeromi Hibbs of Rhome and Karen Woodworth of Bridgeport.

Great-grandparents are Larry Dalton and Cheryl Dalton of Wichita Falls and Diane Harris of Bridgeport.

Monica Elisa Martinez March 2, 2022

Maria Amador and Alexis Martinez of Paradise announce the birth of a daughter, Monica Elisa Martinez, March 2, 2022, at Wise Health System in Decatur.

She weighed 8 pounds, 11 ounces and was 21 1/2 inches long.

She has two sisters, Anna, 4, and Marcella, 1.

Grandparents are Irene Amador, Joaquin Amador, Anita Lopez and Juan Martinez, all of Bridgeport.

Amora S. Manuelito March 7, 2022

Jacinta and Theron Manuelito of Decatur announce the birth of a daughter, Amora S., March 7, 2022, at Wise Health System in Decatur.

She weighed 6 pounds, 4 ounces and was 18 1/2 inches long.

She has a sister, Alicia R., 9.

Ava Emma Weeks Leo Russell Weeks March 3, 2022

Matthew and Dr. Sara Weeks announce the birth of twins, Ava Emma and Leo Russell, March 3, 2022, at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas.

Ava weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces and was 19 3/4 inches long. Leo weighed 6 pounds, 2 ounces and was 19 inches long.

Grandparents are Terry and Jeff Eaton of Arlington and David and Dr. Susan Weeks of Aledo.

Great-grandparents are Roy and Jeannine Eaton of Decatur, Lucy Cleaver of Arlington, Claude Russell Jr. and the late Emma Weeks of Jacksonville, Fla. and Les and Virginia Mace of Springfield, Mo.

Odyssey Honor Lambert March 7, 2022

Audra Lambert of Boyd announces the birth of a daughter, Odyssey Honor, March 7, 2022, at Wise Health System in Decatur.

She weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces and was 19 inches long.

Grandparent is Gladys Lambert of Boyd.

Finn Everett Wilson March 4, 2022

Clint and Natalie Wilson of Decatur announce the birth of a son, Finn Everett, March 4, 2022, at Wise Health System in Decatur.

He weighed 6 pounds, 7 ounces and was 18 1/2 inches long.

He has two brothers, McCoy, 7, and Reed, 5. Grandparents are

Raymond and Pam Wood and Gary and Debra Wilson.

Great-grandparent is Shirley Wood.

Leonel Joel Infante March 6, 2022

Miguel Infante and Prisma Rincon of Decatur announce the birth of a son, Leonel Joel Infante, March 6, 2022, at Wise Health System in Decatur.

He weighed 7 pounds, 5 ounces and was 21 inches long.

He has two brothers, Arwin Rincon, 11, and Saul Infante, 2.

He has three sisters, Emily Rincon, 7, Jaslyn Infante, 8, and Leah Rincon, 10.

Grandparents are Baldemar and Mariabel Villareal of Decatur, Manuel Rincon and Elvia Balderas of Justin.

Hank Riley Wood Jan. 10, 2022

Matt and Abby Wood of Bowie announce the birth of a son, Hank Riley, Jan. 10, 2022, at Texas Health Harris Methodist in Fort Worth.

He weighed 7 pounds, 1 ounce and was 18 1/2 inches long.

He has two brothers, Luke, 12, Beau, 10, and a sister Molly Kay, 6.

Grandparents are Jimmy Horner and the late Teresa Horner of Decatur, David and Kim Lawson of Bridgeport and Jimmy Wood of Rhome.

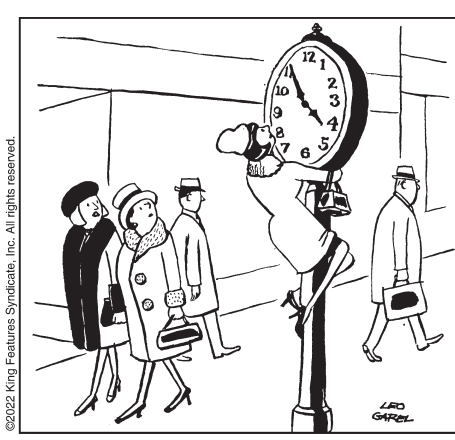
Great-grandparents are Carolyn Horner of Decatur, Debbie McCroskey of Pilot Point and Joyce Hillin of Baton Rouge, La.

PUZZLES

King Crossword

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 41 Luminary | 20 Refer to |
| 1 Taj Mahal city | 43 Charlton Heston film | 22 Messes up |
| 5 Chatter | 46 Seraglio | 23 Plane assignments |
| 8 Pugilist's weapon | 50 Aware of | 25 Peculiar |
| 12 Regrets | 51 Endless time or space | 26 Garden tool |
| 13 Half of bi- | 54 Burning heap | 27 Foot soldiers |
| 14 Bygone | 55 Automobile | 29 Sports figure? |
| 15 Peruvian | 56 Sci-fi fleet | 31 Bristle |
| 17 Diamond parts | 57 Miles away | 32 Chai, e.g. |
| 18 Thai or Korean | 58 Lock opener | 34 Diamond Head locale |
| 19 Oscar contenders | 59 Faxed | 38 Seventh planet |
| 21 Leaves | | 40 Loafers, e.g. |
| 24 Medit. nation | DOWN | 42 Sashimi fish |
| 25 Buckeye State | 1 Met solo | 43 Conks on the head |
| 28 Take five | 2 Weaponry | 44 "May It Be" singer |
| 30 Yoga pad | 3 Mortgage | 45 "Casablanca" cafe owner |
| 33 Mafia boss | 4 Italian cheese | 47 Teeming |
| 34 Emulate | 5 Actor Brynner | 48 Harrow rival |
| 35 Lincoln | 6 Moreover | 49 Island in a computer game |
| 36 Bedazzle | 7 Galileo's birthplace | 52 Scot's refusal |
| 37 Dict. info | 8 Decreases | 53 Saute |
| 38 Arm bone | 9 Casual | |
| 39 Fireplace residue | 10 Cicatrix | |
| | 11 Old salts | |
| | 16 Rock's Brian | |

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16				17		
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25	26	27		28		29		30	31	32
33				34				35		
36				37				38		
		39	40		41		42			
43	44			45			46	47	48	49
50				51	52	53				
54				55				56		
57				58				59		



"She'd rather die than wear _____."

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Thin
PASSER

Orange
ACTORR

Divine
SCARED

Blind
LARGE

TODAY'S WORD

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: P equals S

XO IKKF QGMMGVBCY HYQYMGVYP

GFXKPV QK BQVYMYPV KQ PKIBGF

XYZBG. BV'P G QYCYM-VMYQZBQH

PVKMO.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

RIVAL ■ FLATTEIST ■ ROBIN ■
IMAGO ■ REDALGAE ■ DIVISAC ■
SOURCE ■ FINCOME ■ MAIZUMA ■
GOALPOST ■ OPALIZER ■
AHU ■ MASH ■ SURFAND ■
ABANDON ■ FISHFOOD ■
FINDING ■ AGENCY ■ VETTED ■
CORPSE ■ TWA ■ ERLE ■
ENACT ■ LOU ■ ABHOR ■ LEVITIS ■
LOLL ■ CONTROL ■ MECHANISM ■
ABBESS ■ TRIA ■ EMILITO ■
PLEASANT ■ TOITHEEVE ■ ELON ■
SERVE ■ BIOTTA ■ RITE ■ TREND ■
SITE ■ PAIS ■ STERNO ■
STARVE ■ SCIENCE ■ HEALTHING ■
GRUPEOIL ■ LEDIER ■
FAVORITTE ■ SION ■ DEED ■ BOOR ■
ORE ■ L ■ CON ■ LEAN ■
RIALTO ■ FOLLOWITHECROWD ■
MALIBU ■ ETAILLERS ■ HONES ■
ASSISIS ■ ROOULIET ■ ONSET ■

Science is the best idea humans have ever had. The more people who embrace that idea, the better.

— Bill Nye

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

Today's Solutions will appear in Wednesday's paper

EDUCATION

DECATUR

Works of art

Students get active for masterpieces



ART ANGELS — Galia Andrade creates a performance art piece last Friday at Rann Elementary.

RICHARD GREENE/WCMESSENGER

BY RICHARD GREENE
rgreene@wcmessenger.com

Without using their hands, students leaned forward dipping the brushes strapped to their heads into a plate of paint being held by a partner. They then stepped to the wall of the Rann Elementary gym, swaying their heads back and forward to apply strokes on the pasted up canvas.

Across the gym, other students leapt into the air to draw, as others used salad spinners, long sticks and other untraditional methods to create masterpieces last Friday.

Throughout the day, Rann students from kindergarten through fifth grade had the opportunity to live out the lessons from their classes and create their own pieces using the different methods of performance art.

“It went really well. It got a little crazy, which is expected when you combine kids and paint,” said Rann art teacher Emily Buckland. “The kids were really engaged. I had sev-

eral parents comment that their kids were wanting to experiment at home.”

In her art classes, Buckland recently discussed the abstract expressionist works of American artist Jackson Pollock, along with Japanese avant-garde works of the Gutai group.

Using the gym to spread out, students had a chance to go through a variety of stations to practice the many methods of artistic expression and performance art. Students colored on a large canvas. They then mirrored a partner while drawing on large sheets of paper. Laying on their backs, students created works, making long sweeping strokes similar to snow angels. Students used their heads, feet and occasionally their hands to create art. There was one station where they got to see a painting being made using a pendulum.

“It was a chance to experiment and do things they don’t normally get to do in a normal class setting,” Buckland said. “It opened their minds to different ways of doing things.”

EDUCATION BRIEFS

ALL SCHOOLS

SPRING BREAK — All school districts will be out for spring break March 14 to 18.

STAAR TESTING — State testing is April 5 to 8 for fifth- and eighth-grade mathematics and reading. English I STAAR testing is April 5 and April 7 for English II.

VETERAN SCHOLARSHIP — The Rhome Veteran organization is offering scholarships for veterans of Wise County and their legal dependents. The application, with requirements, can be found on homeveterans.org. Download the form, fill it out and return through email or mail, info@homeveterans.org or P.O. Box 132, Rhome, TX 76078.

ALVORD

FCCLA WINNERS — The following students are advancing to the State FCCLA conference in April after competing at the Region II STAR event competition: Keylan Chambers, Public Policy Advocate; Andrea Mora, Kaydee Pointer, Makinna Hardee, Focus on the Children; Laramie Tidwell, Fashion Construction and Meredith Kent and Ella Wilcox, Chapter Service Project Display.

PROM — Alvord High School’s prom is 6 p.m. April 2 at Stone Bridge, in Bowie.

BOYD

MENTAL HEALTH ART — Boyd ISD is hosting the Youth Mental Health art contest for grades K through 12. Artworks will be displayed for judging March 21-24.

BOOK FAIR — Boyd Intermediate and Middle schools have spring book fairs March 21-25 at Boyd Intermediate.

SPRING PICTURES — The middle school’s spring pictures are 8 a.m. to noon March 24.

OPEN HOUSE — Boyd Elementary has open house 5 to 6:30 p.m. March 31.

THE BIG EVENT — The Big Event is April 30. The one-day community service event in which students of Boyd ISD give back to community members in need by completing exterior service projects is now accepting job site requests. Visit Boyd ISD’s Facebook page to fill out a job site request. Volunteer registration opens April 1.

CHICO

BAD WEATHER DAY — No school for students and staff March 21.

BIG KAHUNA — Big Kahuna Delivery is 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 23. Big Kahuna Limo ride is to be announced.

DECATUR

FCCLA HONORS — Seven Decatur High School FCCLA members attended the Region II Conference. In the Interpersonal Communication Level 3 competition, Avery Thompson, Kaylee Miner, Macie Holcomb placed first as a team and qualified for state in April. Clarissa Salinas also qualified for

state and took second place for Professional Presentation Level 3.

BOOK FAIR — Rann Elementary is having a book fair March 25 through April 1.

DUAL LANGUAGE — Decatur ISD is offering two information sessions about their Two-Way Dual Language Immersion Program. Sessions will be held at Rann Elementary 6 to 7 p.m. March 29 and April 19.

PICTURE DAY — Rann Elementary’s picture day has been rescheduled to March 25. There will be no order forms; all orders will be placed online

after pictures are taken.

NORTHWEST

TOP HONORS — Northwest High School seniors Kayli Scott, Macy Cuthbertson, Laynie Moore and Madison Mollenhour placed among the top five programs in the country at the Student Television Network National Convention in Long Beach, Calif.

PTA SCHOLARSHIPS — Several Northwest ISD school associations and organizations are now accepting applications for scholarships to graduating seniors. NISD Council of PTAs’ and Clara Love Elementary PTA’s senior scholarship

applications are due April 1. Gene Pike Middle School PTA’s senior scholarship must be submitted by 4 p.m. April 15. To apply, visit nisdtx.org.

CALENDAR CHANGES — Due to schools closing for COVID and bad weather days, March 11 and May 26 have changed from half-days to full-days, March 22 is a regular school day and no longer a professional development day.

PARADISE

NJHS INDUCTION — The National Junior Honor Society induction is 6 to 7 p.m. March 24. Location is to be determined.



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BUSINESS

Sales: Taxes surpass projections

Cities	Rate	March 2022	March 2021	% change	Jan.'22-March'22	Jan.'21-March'21	% change
Alvord	1.5	\$20,026.39	\$15,974.79	25.36	\$66,454.28	\$51,908.44	28.02
Aurora	1	\$7,239.18	\$6,182.29	17.09	\$27,907.03	\$19,485.84	43.21
Boyd	1	\$38,032.12	\$32,646.43	16.49	\$160,115.04	\$98,847.74	61.98
Bridgeport	1.5	\$211,764.85	\$168,822.86	25.43	\$734,582.61	\$564,925.37	30.03
Chico	1.5	\$27,468.77	\$21,678.76	26.70	\$84,780.73	\$72,045.45	17.67
Decatur	1.5	\$429,072.35	\$380,070.31	12.89	\$1,467,826.32	\$1,295,541.68	13.29
Lake Bridgeport	1.5	\$1,348.40	\$1,546.86	-12.82	\$4,943.35	\$4,743.62	4.21
New Fairview	1.5	\$28,367.70	\$15,255.12	85.95	\$109,424.10	\$49,679.83	120.25
Newark	1	\$12,082.46	\$9,271.27	30.32	\$36,875.90	\$29,026.25	27.04
Paradise	1.5	\$37,158.36	\$27,263.49	36.29	\$103,824.39	\$79,140.58	31.18
Rhome	1.5	\$93,857.59	\$55,537.60	68.99	\$324,192.33	\$222,325.96	45.81
Runaway Bay	1.5	\$12,639.44	\$7,264.74	73.98	\$38,276.60	\$26,550.67	44.16
County							
Wise	0.5	\$509,648.43	\$335,484.44	51.91	\$1,692,194.33	\$1,208,887.25	39.97
Special districts							
Boyd MDD	0.5	\$18,274.38	\$15,662.72	16.67	\$76,298.40	\$46,482.22	64.14
Newark MDD	0.5	\$5,883.36	\$4,369.83	34.63	\$18,006.99	\$13,938.82	29.18

Continued from page 1

With gas prices at or above \$4 per gallon, local officials are watching to see if the current economy keeps its pace.

"If this continues we'll be well over \$6 million," said Wise County Judge J.D. Clark. "While locally we are doing well, there is a lot of uncertainty in the world and we don't know the impact that the increased gas prices and inflation will have. It makes you weary. While it's been good here locally that can change. We hope inflation and the gas prices can be addressed through policies."

"Consumer confidence here has been high but you wonder at some point will it take a dip. People have noticed in the past two years the importance of spending their dollars at home. Hopefully that continues."

Decatur's collections for jumped 12.89 percent from \$380,070 last March to \$429,072 this month off its 1.5-cent tax. Through the first six months of the fiscal year, Decatur has brought in \$2.873 million.

"Through January business locally has been good. Driving around town, it doesn't appear to be slowing down," said Decatur City Manager Brett Shannon.

"The longer these gas prices keep climbing that's got to have a major effect, especially if people are working for gas money. It'll be interesting to see the early returns this summer."

Bridgeport is at \$1.455 million at the midpoint of the fiscal year. This month the city received \$211,764, a jump of 25.43 percent from March 2021.

Rhome also had another big month, bringing in \$93,857 — a 68.99 percent hike from last March. Rhome is at \$621,649 through six months. It had projected \$975,000 for the year.

"We are always conservative in our projections," said City Manager Cynthia Northrop.

All Wise County cities other than Lake Bridgeport had double-digit increases in sales taxes compared to the previous March. New Fairview had the largest percentage of gain at 85.95 percent, going from \$15,255 to \$28,367. Since January, its returns are up 120.25 percent at \$109,424.

Showcase for businesses slated

BY RICHARD GREENE
rgreene@wcmessenger.com

With some community events canceled and other marketing opportunities limited in the past two years, local businesses have missed a chance to spread the word about the services they provide.

The Decatur Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors are looking to help Wise County businesses connect with potential customers during the 2022 Business Showcase. The event at Decatur Conference Center from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. March 31 will give businesses a chance to cultivate new relationships and grow their business. They will also receive valuable tips and advice from featured speakers — Ashlee Bohn, Keep Decatur Beautiful; Deborah King, Final Touch Finishing School; Ashley Smalley, Teaching People Truth; Beverly Ross, Wise Christian Counseling; and Debbie Waggoner, NODUS, Inc.

"It will showcase businesses in the community that people may not even know exist," said Kelly Bramlett, the ambassador chair. "During COVID, a lot of small businesses and a lot of start-ups may not have had a lot of marketing opportunities. This is to open up an opportunity to show the community what they have to offer. It'll also show people in the community that you don't have

to go out of Decatur or Wise County to find thing because they are offered locally."

The event is open to businesses throughout Wise County. Bramlett said some are services without a traditional brick and mortar building.

"It's for all businesses in Wise County. The collaboration of the entire community is important," she said.

Raquel's Refreshments and Crawldaddy's Cajun Kitchen food trucks will be at the event. Branded Film and Media will be doing interviews with vendors throughout the day.

For information or to reserve a booth, call Bramlett, 940-577-1187.

Bearden named Legend Bank president

Decatur resident Jay Bearden is now the President and CEO of Legend Bank.

Bearden, who has been with the bank for 22 years and served as president the past two years, replaces the retiring CEO Mickey Faulconer.

"I have the greatest appreciation for Mickey's outstanding leadership at our bank. He left a legendary legacy and set a remarkable example to follow," Bearden said. "Our team at Legend Bank truly cares for

each other, our customers and our communities and that is a culture that I want to continue as I take on the role of President and CEO. It is very important to me that our employees know they are valued and that their ideas and concerns are taken seriously. It is critical that we give our bankers opportunities for personal and professional growth while providing a fun environment to accomplish our mission of serving the banking needs of our communities."

Bearden and his wife, Jana, moved to Decatur in April 1999 after starting his banking career in East Texas.

"We moved up here and our kids were small and we knew no one. But we weren't here long before Decatur became what we considered home," Bearden said. "I can't imagine ever moving away. Our kids grew up here and both graduated from Decatur High School. Our core group of friends are here. It's just been a great place."

In his new role, Bearden recognizes the challenges ahead for the banking industry from new regulations and the economy. He said Legend Bank is positioned well to meet the challenges. The bank currently operates 13 locations with assets of more than \$954 million.

He said the bank's focus is meeting the needs of the community.

"As community bankers we go as our communities go. If our communities are doing well, we do well," Bearden said. "We're so tied in with the community. We compete with the other community banks but we're all in this boat together. We want each other to do well. If those guys are doing well, it means we're probably doing well also. We want to make sure small businesses as well as farmers and ranchers are doing well. The people wanting to buy or build a house, we want to give them that opportunity. At the end of the day, it's their money we're taking on deposit and lending out to their friends and neighbors."

Lemon honored

The Wise County Chamber of Commerce honored Wise County Clerk Sherry Lemon during its luncheon Monday.

Lemon will retire at the end of the year after not seeking reelection. She has served as county clerk since January 1991.

In the past 30 years, her office has been the "go-to" for information and the issuer of property records, marriage licenses, birth and death certificates, plats, livestock registration and assumed business names certificates. The office also kept records for the commissioners court and misdemeanor criminal filings in County Court-at-Law No. 1

and civil, probate and guardianship filings in County Court-at-Law No. 2.

"I always tell my staff, they hold people's lives in their hands," Lemon said.

"I appreciated the opportunity to serve as county clerk. It's hard to step away."

St. Patty's Day in Bridgeport

Put on your green and head to Bridgeport Saturday for the second St. Patty's Day on Halsell celebration.

The event will run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and feature vendors, food, contests and a kid's zone.

Mark your calendars

The Eigher Food Truck Challenge will return 11 a.m. May 21 to the Wise County Fairgrounds.

The Decatur Chamber of Commerce has announced the headliner for the concert will be Flatland Cavalry.

Before then, the Glitzy Girls Trailer Park will return to the Decatur Square April 16.

Still no CFA

A spring is just around the corner and Sunday we will spring clocks forward an hour.

It'll be nice to have the extra daylight in the evening, but still there's no Chick-fil-A to enjoy in Wise County.

Days without Chick-fil-A: 56.



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WISE COUNTY CRIME REPORT

Only in Wise...

FRIDAY, MARCH 4
CARPENTER STREET

A woman advised she and her husband got into an argument over the dishes. The husband left the residence. A Hurst location for the husband was obtained, and Hurst PD was contacted for a welfare check.

HUDSON STREET — Complainant stated someone ran over two stop signs and left the scene. A license plate was left behind.

COUNTY ROAD 4853 — After testifying in child custody court, deputy was informed the woman involved in the case had an active warrant for her arrest out of Fort Worth Police Department. Deputy arrived at the woman's residence and took her into custody without incident.

VISTA RIDGE NORTH — A woman stated her vehicle was broken into at approximately 7:30

a.m. The woman was not home until after 6 p.m. for the report. She had driven the vehicle. Due to evidence contamination, investigators were not contacted.

SALOON COVE EAST — A woman stated her ex-boyfriend was harassing her. The deputy had the woman send a message to the man advising him to cease all contact with her. The woman was also advised to not reply to the man.

TEXAS 114 — A vehicle was stopped and the driver was discovered to have outstanding warrants out of Parker

County. The driver was arrested and the vehicle was released to a third party.

NORTH BUFFALO — A disturbance took place between a third party and residents at the address. Prior to deputies' arrival, one of the parties left, but a second verbal disturbance was called in between the individuals who were still at the residence. Parties were separated.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5 PRIVATE ROAD 2639 — Numerous 911 calls were received from a public event advising

an intoxicated man was causing issues. Before deputies arrived, the man got into a vehicle with his juvenile daughter, struck a bystander and crashed the vehicle into a tree. The man was detained and arrested for numerous offenses.

BIG SALTY — Complainant advised a person they evicted took a firearm from a shared shop while the suspect was a tenant.

ASH STREET — A woman advised her husband choked her and was destroying the residence. When deputies arrived on scene, the parties' stories were inconsistent. Both suffered injuries. Both parties were arrested for assault family violence-Class A.

PRIVATE ROAD 4906 — Complainant called stating her husband assaulted her after returning from the bar. When deputy arrived, the complainant's story changed multiple times.

MONDAY, MARCH 7 MEADOW VISTA DRIVE — Caller advised someone damaged a new construction home

inside and outside. The caller stated this is the second time the house has been damaged and believes it to be three middle school boys from the neighborhood.

ROGERS ROAD — Complainant stated the suspect was arguing, shoving and chasing his mother with a metal pipe. Upon investigation, it was determined the suspect was only shoving the mother, resulting in her falling to the ground causing pain. The suspect was arrested. Upon arrival at the jail and subsequent search by jail staff, burnt marijuana was found inside a ratchet head.

ARBOR LAKE DRIVE — A woman stated her mother pointed a gun at her. Deputies confirmed the offense with the mother, and she was arrested.

WEST KENTUCKY — Complainant stated her son threw alcohol on her and was breaking items in the house. Investigation proved no offense, and both complainant and her son were counseled.

ARRESTED DEVELOPMENTS

Ware begins jail sentence

BY BRIAN KNOX
bknox@wcmessenger.com

Former C A S A executive director Shawne Ware began serving her jail sentence this month.



KNOX
Arrested Developments

Ware, who led the Court Appointed Special Advocates of Wise and Jack Counties program for several years, was booked into the Wise County Jail March 1, according to jail records. Last month, she pleaded guilty in 271st District Court to stealing more than \$50,000 from the organization. She was given a 10-year sus-

pending sentence with 10 years probation. According to the terms of the plea agreement, Ware had to serve 180 consecutive days in county jail within one year's time.

The estimated \$53,056.91 stolen from the organization has already been paid back by Ware, prosecutors said.

Gravely indicted in Parker County

In addition to keeping up with crime that happens in Wise County, I do my best to keep up with serious crimes committed by Wise County residents in nearby counties.

One such case is that of Anthony Glenn Gravely of Paradise, who was arrested on multiple felony charges for violent crimes against

a Springtown woman in December.

The 44-year-old Gravely was indicted in January by a Parker County grand jury on one count of aggravated sexual assault, a first degree felony; one count of aggravated kidnapping, a first degree felony; one count of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, a second degree felony; two counts of assault family/household member with previous convictions, a third degree felony; and one count of assault family/household member impede breath/circulation, a third degree felony.

The Parker County Sheriff's Office said Gravely followed the victim, who was in a relationship with Gravely, into her home and got

mad when she declined an offer from Gravely to move in with her.

PCSO Chief Deputy Mark Arnett said Gravely grabbed her by the throat and locked her in her bedroom. At one point, the victim managed to escape and run to a nearby house in an attempt to get help, but Gravely caught her and brought her back to her house where he threatened her with a knife and physically and sexually assaulted her, the victim told officers.

A family member came to the house the next day, and the victim was able to escape. Gravely was arrested the next day.

He has remained in the Parker County Jail since his arrest on Dec. 19, according to Parker County Jail records.

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WISE COUNTY TAX TIPS

Common Tax Return Mistakes That Can Cost Taxpayers

Filing too early. While taxpayers should not file late, they also should not file prematurely. People who don't wait to file before they receive all the proper tax reporting documents risk making a mistake that may lead to a processing delay.

Missing or Inaccurate Social Security Numbers (SSN). Each SSN on a tax return should appear exactly as printed on the Social Security card.

Misspelled Names. Likewise, a name listed on a tax return should match the name on that person's Social Security Card.

Entering Information Inaccurately. Wages, dividends, bank interest, and other income received and that was reported on an information return should be entered carefully. This includes any information needed to calculate credits and deductions.

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County considers radio system proposal

BY RICHARD GREENE
rgreene@wcmessenger.com

Wise County officials will look to address one of its most pressing public safety needs Monday morning, a new radio communications system. Wise County Commissioners will be presented a recommendation from

the county radio committee for purchasing an all-encompassing system to replace the current communications system that is nearing the end of its life during their meeting at 9 a.m. on the third floor of the historic courthouse. "My hope is the commissioners hear the recommendation and agree

to move forward," said County Judge J.D. Clark. "I've sat in on a lot of the meetings. Countywide there's a shared excitement about the project. It'll be a good day for all our first responders." The project is expected to cost approximately \$6 million. The county is planning to use money from its

\$13.5 million allotment from the America Rescue Plan to cover the costs. Clark said the overhaul will include everything from new console stations for dispatches, new radio towers and radios for first responders. "It's great for public safety. It's been much needed for years," Clark said.

DIRECTORY of AREA Churches

Church Briefs

JOIN US SAT., MARCH 12, 10A.M.-4P.M. IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL AT MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH, 615 CR 1280, ALVORD FOR MZ BEE, A DAY OF SCRAPBOOKING AND CRAFTING. BRING YOUR OWN PROJECTS, LUNCH AND SNACKS AND ENJOY FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHER CRAFTERS. KITCHEN AVAILABLE WITH REFRIGERATOR & MICROWAVE. NO CHARGE, BUT A \$5 DONATION TO OUR FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY FOR BACKPACKS AND ALVORD MEALS ON WHEELS IS APPRECIATED. FOR INFORMATION, CALL OR TEXT DONNA, (940)393-8662 OR CALL JEANNIE, (940)427-5941. FOLLOW MZ BEE FACEBOOK PAGE FOR UPDATES OR CANCELLATIONS. ALSO, FROM 3-5P.M. WE WILL BE PAINTING WITH WENDY. CALL FOR INFORMATION OR TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE ASAP.

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OBITUARIES

Charles Richard O'Hara

1946-2022

A Mass of Christian Burial for Charles Richard O'Hara, 76, of Paden, Okla. is Friday, March 11, 2022, 2 p.m. at St. Eugene Catholic Church.

Father Kelly Edwards is officiating. Burial will follow in Greenwood Cemetery under the direction of Lockstone Funeral Home. A vigil service will be held Thursday, March 10, 2022, 7 p.m. at Lockstone Funeral Home.

Richard was born Feb. 22, 1946, in Elk City, Okla. to John Anderson and Anna Faye (Clapp) O'Hara. He passed away Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at his home in Paden. Richard was second of four boys in his family. They grew up on a cotton and livestock farm east of Elk City. The hard work on the farm gave them the motivation and determination to excel and work hard in life. In his high school years, he played football, basketball and baseball. He was an all-around athlete and an all-stater in all three sports. Richard graduated from Elk City High School in 1964. He enrolled at Southwestern Oklahoma State University where he played basketball and baseball for the Bulldogs all four years. He earned several championship honors and was inducted into SWOSU Sports Hall of Fame in 2019. On Oct. 3, 1969, he married Melva Kimble in Fort Sill, Okla. and made their home in Elk City. Richard earned his

Wise County Messenger, March 11, 2022



O'HARA

Bachelor's degree in 1968 from SWOSU, his Master's in 1971 from SWOSU, and Superintendent Certificate in 1981 from Oklahoma State University. His 40-year working career was made in education. He was a coach, principal, adjunct professor, superintendent and served on many boards. He enjoyed retirement and spending time with his grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to: central-oklahoma-camp-conference-center.snbll.com/give-the-gift-of-camp-3.#oharastrong

Richard is survived by his wife of 53 years, Melva O'Hara of Paden.; one son, C.R. O'Hara of Cheyenne, Wyo.; two daughters, Gina Kardokus and husband, Matt, of Weatherford, Okla. and Nikki Witt of Jenks, Okla.; one brother, Tommy O'Hara and wife, Diane, of Sentinel, Okla.; sister-in-law, Sandra Boardman and husband, Duane, of Edmond, Okla.; 9 grandchildren, Kolton Kardokus and wife, Haley, Keaton Kardokus and wife, Lori, Kinzie Kardokus, Jaxon Witt, Lanie Witt, Walker Witt, Cagney O'Hara, Calvert O'Hara and Rhett O'Hara. He was loved by many nieces, nephews, teachers, former students and players. He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, John B. and Ronnie O'Hara.

Rebecka Ann Barnett

1976-2022

Services for Rebecka Ann Barnett, 45, of Sunset, are 2 p.m. Saturday, March 12, 2022, at U-Turn World Ministries in Chico.

Pastor Kevin Alexander will officiate. Burial will follow in Pleasant Grove Cemetery No. 3 in Chico. Visitation is 1 p.m. Saturday, also at the church. Becky passed away Monday, March 7, in Dallas.

She was born to Carl Ray and Deborah Sue (Jessup) Pearson in Kerrville Oct. 9, 1976.

Becky was a homemaker who absolutely adored her family, and she doted over them whenever they'd allow it. She also had long-lasting friendships which were very special to her.

She was very active in her church at U-Turn, and has been a faithful member since 2013. She was always stepping in to help in any way she

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BARNETT

could, from singing in the choir to helping with the children's ministry, as well as cooking, serving in the prison ministry and the food pantry. She and Chris were associate pastors for a period of time.

Becky is survived by husband, Chris Barnett, of Sunset; children Gracie Barnett of Sunset and Nathan Barnett of Paradise; mother, Deborah Pearson; sister, Amy Michelle Pearson; brother, Jason Scott Pearson; in-laws, Phillip and Brenda Blankenship and Cathryn Barnett; and a host of other family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her father, Carl Pearson.

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James Thomas Darwin

1933-2022

James Thomas Darwin was born April 13, 1933, in Decatur. He was the son of Dr. James T. Darwin and Cecil Taylor Darwin. He passed away Feb. 28 in Picayune, Miss. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

An avid reader and life-long learner, he enjoyed languages, music, genealogy, and travel. He was a mathematician, computer scientist and professor and was a member of the Methodist Faith. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran. James gradu-

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DARWIN

ated as valedictorian from Decatur High School. From there, he attended the University of Texas, eventually earning a doctorate in mathematics. James moved to Picayune, Miss., from Houston to be close to family a few years after he retired from work.

James was preceded in death by his parents.

Left to cherish his memory are his sister, Cecile Darwin Ingram; nieces and nephews, and great-niece and great-nephew.

Thomas Newton Kemp

1955-2022

Thomas Newton Kemp, Ph.D., went to be with our Lord March 9, 2022. He passed away peacefully at home on the family farm in Staples.

Visitation is 5 to 7 p.m. March 13, at the McCurdy Funeral Home in Lockhart. Funeral service is 10:30 a.m. March 14 at the First Christian Church in Lockhart. A graveside service will follow at the Staples Cemetery.

Thomas was born June 22, 1955, to Ira Newton and Sibelle Jan in Riverside, Calif. At the age of five, the family moved back to Texas where he and his brother grew up in Duncanville, surrounded by family and friends. Thomas graduated from Duncanville High School in 1974. He was an active member of the FFA chapter and played sports. He often spent his childhood in the Texas countryside near Hamilton with his many cousins, enjoying horseback riding, raising livestock, fishing and hunting.

A lifelong student and teacher, Thomas earned his bachelor's degree from Tarleton State University through scholarships. After graduation, Thomas married the love of his life, Evie Lou McCrury, July 28, 1979, in Lockhart. He began his career as an agriculture teacher at Manor and then DeSoto High School.

After obtaining a master's degree in agriculture, Thomas moved to take over the agriculture program at Tarrant County Junior College in Fort Worth. He would later earn an MBA and doctorate as head of the Business-Economics Department at Tarrant County College, where he devoted 35 years to education as a professor.

Thomas is a former resident of Decatur, where he and his wife raised their three children. Thomas' love of cattle and agriculture not only shaped his future but also how he and Evie raised their kids. Many remember him fondly

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KEMP

as a farmer, rancher, Angus cattle breeder and member of the First United Methodist Church in Decatur where he sang in the church choir. He was a member of the Texas Angus Association, American Angus Association, Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, National Cattlemen's Beef Association and Independent Cattlemen's Association. He devoted much of his life to helping youth in agriculture.

Upon retiring from Tarrant County College in 2017, he and Evie moved to Staples to build their home on the family farm where he would be a full-time farmer and cattle raiser. He was member of the First Christian Church in Lockhart and served as elder. He was a loving and devoted husband, Dad, Papa, brother, friend and mentor to many who will miss him dearly.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ira Newton and Sibelle Jan Kemp.

Those left behind to cherish his memory are his wife of 42 years, Evie Kemp, of Staples; son, Kyle Ira Kemp of College Station; daughters, Katy Nell Kemp of Staples, Kristi Lynn Summers and son-in-law, Cody James Summers, of Luling; grandchildren, Luke James Summers and Adelynn Grace Summers of Luling; brother, Donald Harvey Kemp of Seguin; brother-in-law, Cliff McCrury and wife, Trisha, of Stephenville; nephew, Clifton and nieces, Kayla and Kayci; numerous cousins, and a host of friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family encourages you to keep Thomas' passion for cattle and youth alive by donating to the Thomas Kemp Memorial Scholarship.

Donations can be sent to: Texas Angus Foundation, c/o Thomas Kemp Memorial Scholarship, 2441 B. Northwest Loop, Stephenville, TX 76401.

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ALL AROUND WISE

Cartwright's long-lasting legacy

BY MICAH MCCARTNEY
mmccartney@wcmessenger.com

It's rare to have the opportunity to physically hold a piece of history in your hands. But Thursday, an estate sale in Boyd gave me the chance to check that rarity off my list.

From first grade through the completion of my junior year of high school, I attended Boyd ISD. There are a lot of memories that come to mind, but none ring louder than seeing Coach J.G. Cartwright on the sidelines.

In middle school, I was an offensive lineman for the Yellowjackets, although I admit I didn't know much about the game back then. I really played because my friends were playing, and because a few coaches talked me into it due to my stocky size.

Coach would often come to our practices and games to look over his stock of young up-and-coming athletes who would soon join the freshman, JV and varsity teams over the next five years.

During his visits, coach would always repeat his mantra for the football program — "Play hard, play fast, play with class."

My football career ended my freshman year when I joined the high



MICAH MCCARTNEY/WCMESSENGER

HISTORIC TREASURES — An estate sale was held at the home of former Boyd football coach J.G. Cartwright Thursday, where a large amount of Yellowjacket football memorabilia was found.

school marching band. Coincidentally, that was in 2004, the year coach won his second state championship at Boyd. Looking back, I wish I hadn't hung up my pads early. Playing for coach would have been a dream, but my athletic ability was very subpar. But coach did just fine without me on the team.

Coach was a legend in our young eyes, and he

remains on that pedestal to this day. He retired in 2012 after 38 years with the school, spending 35 as head football coach.

He led the Yellowjackets to 273 wins in 400 games. Boyd won 12 district titles and made three Class 2A state championship appearances, winning crowns in 1983 and 2004.

Coach ranks 19th in career wins among Texas

high school coaches, averaging more than eight victories per season. His teams qualified for the playoffs 23 times.

Fast-forward to Thursday, where I found myself standing in line at coach's estate sale. Having seen the post for the sale the night before, I knew I needed to stop on my way to work to see if there were any pieces of history that could be

saved.

Luckily, I found what I was looking for. I purchased a green and gold Boyd Jackets jacket, the same kind I remember coach wearing on the sidelines during the cold months of the season. I also dug through a closet full of Boyd hats to find the perfect one I wanted.

In front of the fireplace, there was a small picture frame. Coach had a

football story written in the *Pilot Point Post-Signal* framed, headlined "Boyd dominates early on, repels Pilot Point, 21-15". I don't know why he framed this particular story, but I couldn't pass it up.

I pushed my way through a room filled with knick knacks to find a mini Boyd football helmet with Jackets on the front and Coach Cartwright on the back.

In the same room as the helmet, I quickly grabbed a silver football paperweight that looked iconic to me. If I'm not mistaken, it's the same one coach had on the desk in the office.

Coach died Aug. 26, 2021, the day before the Yellowjackets' season home-opener against Van Alstyne, leaving a long-lasting legacy on Boyd ISD and Wise County athletics.

The majority of my estate sale treasures are now on my desk at work, a constant reminder of the legacy and impact Coach had not only on my life, but hundreds of others. As sports editor, I hope I'm making coach proud in the way I'm leading the *Messenger's* sports coverage.

Thanks for the memories, coach. May we all continue to play hard, play fast and play with class.

FROM THE MESSENGER VAULT

100 years ago
March 10, 1922

Jailbirds make try for freedom

The prisoners in the county jail made a desperate attempt to again break jail last Sunday. This time they started out through the ceiling of the upstairs cells, and when discovered by Sheriff Malone, had dug a hole in the concrete roof the size of a man's head. As a result of the recent successful jail breaks and this last attempt, Sheriff Malone is taking precaution against another escape.

Bonus: Decatur girl is contest winner

Miss Jamie Ruth Carter of Decatur won first prize in three settings of eggs offered by the Denver Railroad for the closest guess to the number of persons going through the Poultry Special Exhibit car on the 22-day poultry campaign recently conducted. Her guess was 12,126. The exact number was 12,147.

50 years ago
March 9, 1972

Mrs. James resigns after 34 years in classrooms

When school bells toll the beginning of a new semester in September Mrs. Elouise James will not answer for the first time since she was six years of age. She has submitted her resignation to Supt. Bill Allen and to board of trustees will have it on their agenda at their regular meeting March 14.

For 34 years Mrs. James reported for classes to three school levels in the Decatur Public School system. As public school music teacher she taught students from the first grade through high school, conducting classes to elementary, junior high and high school each week. The trophies and honors displayed at the schools attest to the efficiency and dedication of Mrs. James.

Since the beginning of school choir competition in the University Interscholastic League regional level 25 years ago Mrs. James' pupils have brought home 19 first-place titles in concert and nine sweepstakes trophies which include competition in concert and sight reading. Added to these are several trophies in the junior and elementary levels.

In the past 10 years, since its beginning, Mrs. James has had 38 vocal soloists go to state competition; five won first place, 11 second place and 19 third place and four won fourth.

25 years ago
March 13, 1997

Census takers will soon be knocking on doors in Decatur

The city council, convinced that the city has a population of at least 5,000, has contracted with a Dallas firm to conduct a private census at a cost of \$20,000.

"I've been on this council a long time and I don't know when we have ever agreed with (census bureau) figures," said Mayor Pro Tem Charles Burton.

The latest "official" population estimates put Decatur's population at 4,450. Those estimates are compiled by the North Central Texas Council of Governments using the 1990 Census as a foundation.

A population of 5,000 is key to Decatur considering a home rule charter.

Such a charter would ease restrictions on annexation imposed on smaller cities that operate under the state's general law statutes.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Brief Explanatory Statements of Proposed Constitutional Amendments Special Election, May 7, 2022

Proposition Number 1 (SJR 2)

SJR 2 proposes a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for the reduction of the amount of a limitation on the total amount of property taxes that may be imposed for general elementary and secondary public school purposes on the residence homestead of a person who is elderly or disabled in order to reflect any statutory reduction in the maximum compressed rate of the maintenance and operations taxes imposed for those purposes on the person's homestead from the preceding tax year.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for the reduction of the amount of a limitation on the total amount of ad valorem taxes that may be imposed for general elementary and secondary public school purposes on the residence homestead of a person who is elderly or disabled to reflect any statutory reduction from the preceding tax year in the maximum compressed rate of the maintenance and operations taxes imposed for those purposes on the homestead."**

Proposition Number 2 (SJR 2)

SJR 2 proposes a constitutional amendment increasing the amount of the residence homestead exemption from property taxes for public school purposes from \$25,000 to \$40,000.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment increasing the amount of the residence homestead exemption from ad valorem taxation for public school purposes from \$25,000 to \$40,000."**

Grave lesson



MICAH MCCARTNEY/WCMESSENGER

EVERY 15 MINUTES — Decatur High School held the Shattered Dreams Project Wednesday, a program used to remind students of the dangers of drinking and driving. The program included a mock drinking-related accident scene, with several emergency responders (police, fire, ambulance) participating.



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SOCCER

Bulls knock off Gainesville, Burk for top seed

BY MICAH MCCARTNEY
mmccartney@wcmessenger.com

After a 3-1 loss to Gainesville in the first loop of District 5-4A, the Bridgeport Bulls sought revenge in the rematch Friday.

The Bulls ran away with a 5-1 win, dealing Gainesville its first league loss in two seasons.

Leading 4-1 in the final seconds of the game, Bridgeport's Sebastian Iniguez put the Bulls' final strike in the net on a free kick.

Ruben Lara, David Kranz, Gerardo Martinez and Giovanni Lopez also scored goals. Assists were doled out by Erick Macias (2), Lopez, Lara and Iniguez.

Bridgeport goalkeeper Cayden Rangel stopped nine of 10 shots.

The Bulls (18-3-1) sit atop the 5-4A standings at 6-1 after a 7-0 shutout against Burkburnett Tuesday.

Lara scored five goals. Martinez and Fernando Santos added solo scores.

Kranz and Martinez passed out three assists each. Rangel tallied four saves to preserve the shutout.

Sissies drop two games

The Bridgeport Sissies suffered their third league loss 1-0 to Gainesville Friday.

Gainesville scored the lone goal of the game on a Jasmine Jackson kick in the final six minutes of the game, and secured the Lady Leopards' first league title.

Bridgeport (4-13-2) fell to 2-4-1 in 5-4A with a 1-0 loss to Burkburnett Tuesday.

Goalie Genny Santoyo recorded 10 saves on 11 shots on goal.

Lady Eagles defeat Hirschi

The Decatur Lady Eagles (12-5-1, 3-3-1) picked up their third league victory Tuesday over Hirschi, 6-3.

Miranda Mares led the Lady Eagles with four goals. Reagan Staab added a pair of scores.

Huskies trip up Eagles

The Decatur Eagles were unable to find their third district win Tuesday.

Decatur (6-9-1) fell to 2-4-1 in the league after a 2-1 loss to Hirschi.

Abel Rodriguez scored the Eagles' lone goal. Decatur goalie Clayton Fiderlick had 10 saves.

Orr leads Sissies to win over Graham



MAC K THWEATT/WCMESSENGER

LOOKING FOR AN OUT — Alvord pitcher Katie Gadoy attempts to throw a runner out at first base against Millsap in the Gorman tournament last week. Alvord went 2-2 in tournament play.

Bridgeport pitcher Paytin Orr allowed one run on six hits through seven innings Wednesday, helping the Sissies claim a 4-1 win over Graham.

Orr tallied four strikeouts in the victory.

Ashley Marschall led the Sissies with a single and a double in three at-bats, with one RBI. Sadee Carstens added three singles.

Bridgeport (8-7-1) started the Graham tournament Thursday with a 5-2 loss to Archer City. In their second game, the Sissies claimed a 5-4 walk-off win over Snyder.

On a 1-2 count, Bailey Brichetto swung for an infield single, allowing Makayla Orozco to score the winning run.

Jadyn McCoy hit a 2-run home run to center field in the fifth inning.

Orr picked up the win in relief, allowing one run on seven hits, with four strikeouts in five innings. Iva Marquesen threw two innings, surrendering three runs on four hits.

Last weekend the Sissies finished the Lindsay tournament 3-1-1.

Decatur wins 7-4A opener

Tied at 1 in the bottom of the seventh Tuesday, Decatur's Chayse Freeman's final swing earned the Lady Eagles their first District 7-4A win.

Freeman tripled on a line drive to left field, scoring Rynne Murphree to give Decatur a 2-1 walk-off win over

Springtown.

Decatur pitcher Macey Jones struck out 11, allowing one run on one hit in seven innings.

The Lady Eagles (5-8) went 2-3 at the Iowa Park tournament last week.

Boyd beats Paradise in 10-3A start

The Boyd Lady Jackets started District 10-3A Tuesday with a 12-5 Battle of 114 rivalry win over Paradise.

Boyd's Ryleigh Ashford hit a 2-run inside-the-park home run in the third inning, and finished 2-for-4 with three RBIs. Mckenzie Wilson added three singles and three RBIs.

Ashford earned the win, allowing five runs on six hits in seven innings. She finished with nine strikeouts.

For Paradise, Caiden Powell went 2-for-4 with one RBI. McKenna Snyder allowed six runs on four hits in 1 2/3 innings.

Boyd (13-5, 1-0) struggled at the Saginaw tournament last week, finishing 2-4.

Paradise (8-4-1, 0-1) went 2-1-1 at the Lindsay tournament.

Alvord routed in 10-2A opener

The Alvord Lady Bulldogs were on the losing end of a no-hitter in the 10-2A opener against Muenster Tuesday, 17-0.

Alvord is 3-5 after splitting four games at the Gorman tournament last week.

Meet: Chico takes silver, bronze at Bryson Relays

Continued from page 16
at the Bryson High School Relays Monday.

Brennan Anderle scored the fourth-highest individual point total with 20. He won the high jump (5-08) and finished second in the 200 (25.81).

Matthew Longacre took the silver in triple jump (26.07.5). Willie Lacey, Dayton Eslinger, Austin Cox, Angel Camacho and Arturo Parra added bronze medals.

Chico's 4x100 of Reese Hager, Xavier Martinez, Lacey and Parra clocked 49.27 to capture the gold medal.

The 4x200 (Eslinger, Lacey, Longacre and Parra) and 4x400 (Eslinger, Parra, Kaiden Penneke and Hager) finished second in 1:43.84 and 4:08.65.

The Chico Lady Dragons



ASHLEY KYLE

BIG LEAP — Decatur senior Will Quintana earned three individual medals at the Argyle Invitational last week. He won the 200 in 22.86, and finished second in the high jump (6-3) and 110 hurdles (15.81).

finished third with 112.

Linn Lunsford won Chico's lone individual gold medal, running 13.46 in the 100. Madison Brown claimed the silver in 13.50.

Aereonna Cardenas clocked 6:36.83 to finish second in the 1,600. Jana Warnock was third in the 3,200 in 13:33.02.

Carly Salazar threw 29-10 to place second in shot put. She added a bronze finish in discus with a 74-03.25 toss.

Chico's Kaylie Simmons, Lunsford, Makayla Hedrick and Brown won the 4x100 in 54.52. The Lady Dragons' 4x200 of Simmons, Lunsford, Hedrick and Brown clocked 1:59.43 to win the gold.

The 4x400 of Morgan Barfield, Carson Matlock, Hedrick and Edith Amador finished third.

Ashford: Senior leads Boyd in final season

Continued from page 16
RBIs.

"I believe that being a two-way player has benefited the entire team," Ashford said. "Some teams have good pitching but bad hitters, or good hitters but a bad defense. It's not just me — a bunch of my teammates can do the same thing. We're definitely a solid team all around."

"We basically have the same team as last year, with a few new freshmen mixed in who have helped the team a lot. We're doing a really job of bonding, more so than any other team I've been on. It's really like a family instead of a team."

Boyd is 1-0 in District 10-3A after claiming a 12-5

win against Wise County rival Paradise.

With new pieces added to Boyd's lineup this season, Ashford likes her team's chances to make the playoffs.

"I think we have the chance to be at least the second-place team in our district, maybe behind Whitesboro," Ashford said. "I feel we're able to go very far. We have a really good district this year, but we have a chance to be a real threat."

"My goal is to help my team get as far as we can in my last year. I want us to make it to the playoffs. If we lose the first game in the postseason, it'll be a tough loss but we'll have ended the playoff drought and have shown other teams that Boyd softball is for

real."

Boyd coach Brandon Hopkins is in his 25th year as the team's skipper. The coach praised Ashford for her efforts.

"Ryleigh's been a 4-year starter for us, and she's been a great leader for our program," Hopkins said. "Not only is she a dang good pitcher, she's also one of the leading hitters on the team in home runs and RBIs. We've got a really good chance this season to be a solid team, and Ryleigh's definitely one of the reasons why."

The Lady Jackets' next 10-3A game will be 2 p.m. Saturday at S&S.

WISE COUNTY MESSENGER Classifieds

ERROR RESPONSIBILITY
Customers are asked to check their ad immediately after it appears in the newspaper and report any error found. Claims for adjustment should be made at that time. The Wise County Messenger is responsible for an incorrect ad only the first time it runs, so check your ad carefully.

PAYMENTS
In Person: 115 South Trinity, Decatur
By Mail: Wise County Messenger, P.O. Box 149, Decatur, TX 76234
By Phone: 940-627-5987

DEADLINES:
Wednesday Edition: Noon on Tuesday
Friday Edition: Noon on Thursday
All ads must be pre-paid. Ads can be submitted online at www.wcmessenger.com/place-an-ad

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

Acreage

Cherokee Trails - A New Subdivision 18 miles North of Decatur on Hwy 287 at Sunset 3-8 Acres, beautiful wooded lots with electricity & coop water. \$62,500-\$92,500

Sunset - 1.5 acre, 100% ownership, heavily wooded, great Hunting Place. \$180,000

East of Decatur - 58 acre, 100% ownership, 380 - Property on Loop 1401/1400/Acre

Alvord ISD - 1.2 miles off Hwy 287 on CR 159. 11 Acres, good sandy soil, good horse property. \$187,000

SUN SET REALTY
Jim Boyd, Associate
940-393-0421 Cell

Looking to Buy a House?

Subscribe to Wise County Messenger to see the Latest Classifieds Listings

wcmessenger.com

RENTALS

Apartment

Cabins & efficiency apartments for rent, including some as low as \$500/month w/all bills paid. Boyd area. Excellent location. (940)433-3133.

Business Property

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY DECATUR:

New shop or warehouse buildings, 1,500 square feet. Super lease! **\$695/month**, move-in special!

Cannon Property Management, (940)627-6265.

For lease, 2093 W. Highway 380, Bridgeport. 2.6 acres with 36x62 modular office building and 60x60 metal shop building. (940)683-1400.

Duplexes

Unfurnished 1/1 duplex near Briar. No smoking, no pets. \$600/month. (817)296-6169.

Homes

3-bedroom, 1-bath house for rent located at 911 CR4227, Decatur. \$1000/month, \$1000/deposit. Call (940)627-6434.

2-BED, 1-BATH
no appliances, bills not included. Monthly rent payment, \$950. For more info, text (940)210-5214.

Wanted to Rent

Responsible gentleman looking for rental for one person. Country setting preferred, Decatur area. Call (505)231-3931.

EMPLOYMENT

Childcare

Katie's Kids Place has immediate openings for part- or full-time childcare teachers. No experience required. Email katielm07@yahoo.com or apply in person at 1714 Stadium Dr., Bridgeport.

Food Service

Seeking food service & hospitality manager, overseeing all aspects of food service and hospitality for Camp Summit, Paradise. 2-years of kitchen management with experience organizing and maintaining a commercial kitchen required. Send cover letter with salary requirements & resume to careers@campsummittx.org.

EMPLOYMENT

Medical & Dental

DECATUR MEDICAL LODGE
Now hiring for the following positions:

- **LVN**
\$2,500 Sign-On Bonus
- **RN**
\$4,000 Sign-On Bonus
- **CNA's**
\$2,000 Sign-On Bonus

• **Housekeeping/Laundry**
\$1,500 Sign-On Bonus

• **Cook**

• **Assistant Director of Nursing**

• **Part-Time Dietary Aide**

Apply In Person At
701 West Bennett Rd., DECATUR
or FAX to: 940-626-2801 or call **940-626-2800**

NOW HIRING

BRIDGEPORT MEDICAL LODGE

- **5 Charge Nurse Positions**
(3) 6 am - 6 pm & (2) 6 pm - 6 am
- **1 CNA Position**
(1) 6 am - 6 pm
CNA Sign-on Bonus is \$2,000
- **3 Housekeeping/Laundry Positions**
- **Director of Nursing**
- **Dietary Aide**
- **LVN**
LVN Sign-on Bonus is \$2,500
- **RN**
RN Sign-on Bonus is \$4,000

Send Resume to KBrowning@bridgeportml.com or call 940-683-5023 EEO/DFW

Miscellaneous

AQUALINE MANUFACTURING CORP.
Hiring full-time customer service representative, Decatur office. Benefits: 401k, medical, vacation, holidays. Send resume to: hr@aqualineinc.com.

Commercial kitchen installers needed. Drivers license and travel required. Please email resume to: sheririchardson@scobertinc.com.

Custodian needed for cleaning & light maintenance duties. 20 hours/week. Must be honest, dependable, able to lift 50 pounds. Submit resume to admin@decaturmethodist.org or pick up application at First United Methodist Church, 104 S. Miller, Decatur. No phone calls please.

Experienced office cleaners. Decatur area, part-time Sundays, \$375/month. Also, Paradise, part-time Tues. and Fri. evenings, \$750/month. Call Bob, (214)535-8738; or bobcardinal@sbcglobal.net.

Industrial Supply Solutions, Inc. in Bridgeport has temporary position as warehouse/parts driver with opportunity to full-time. Send resume to: mcrall@issimro.com; or pick up application at 3312 S. Highway 101, Bridgeport, TX.

Meals on Wheels Wise County has openings for early morning kitchen help. 30 hours/week, Mon.-Fri. Volunteers always welcome! For information or to apply, call (940)627-5329.

Office

Now hiring office manager/secretary. Must be computer literate with QuickBooks experience preferred. Mon.-Fri., 8a.m.-5p.m. Call (817)253-8191 for details.

Office assistant needed. QuickBooks preferred. Please email resume to: sheririchardson@scobertinc.com.

Trades

Now hiring Class B-CDL mixer drivers. Production & safety bonuses paid monthly, retirement plan available. Apply in person at Wise Ready Mix, 2005 16th Street, Bridgeport.

SERVICES

Trades

Septic pump driver with clean driving record. Job description: uncover lid, pump septic tanks, occasional repairs, customer interaction. Training available. Contact Nina, (940)627-3385 or email: nina@taylorsepticvc.com.

Truck driver needed. CDL required. \$23-\$27/hour. 5 days/week, extra hours if needed, home each night. Operate forklift. Call (940)466-7999.

SERVICES

Business

CATE CONCRETE
30-years experience, residential, commercial. Patios, driveways, slabs, retaining walls, tear out & replace. Dirt work. Free estimates. (817)395-2321.

GRAVEL DRIVEWAYS
K's Hauling & Services. Water erosion problems, culverts, dirt-work, house-pads, materials hauled. In business over 30-years. Credit cards accepted. Kevin, (940)627-4550.

EMPLOYMENT

WE'RE HIRING

Part time Shelter Advocate
24 Hours guaranteed
+PRN opportunities available
Saturday and Sunday 12p-12am

MUST PASS BACKGROUND CHECK, CLIMB STAIRS AND LIFT UP TO 25 LBS.

Wise Hope
Shelter & Crisis Center

Please send resumes to bmott@wisehope.org
or call **Brittany at 940.683.5790**

Applications can also be picked up at our Outreach Office at 608 N. Business 287 in Decatur. M-TR 9am-5pm and Friday 9am-1pm

WISE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Accounting Supervisor
Wise Electric Cooperative is looking for qualified individual to join the WEC Family and lead a growing Accounting Department. The qualified individual will have:
Bachelors in Accounting, Business or equivalent
CPA Certificate (Preferred)
3 Years Utility Accounting (Preferred)
Strong Leadership, Communication and Analytical Skills
WEC offers:
Competitive Salary
Medical, Dental, Vision, and Life Insurance Benefits
Retirement Plan and 401k (after 1 year service)

Email Resume to bshriver@wiseec.com

First State Bank has openings in these locations:

GAINESVILLE:

- ITM Teller
- Personal Banker-Teller
- Accountant
- Treasury Management
- Personal Banker Floater
- Help Desk Technician
- Deposit Operations/Processing Specialist
- Commercial Real Estate Loan

DENTON:

- Personal Banker

Apply today to join the First State Bank family!
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EOE/AA/M/F/Vets/Disabled

Dustrol, Inc. 817-430-3958

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HIRING
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A Current and Valid Driver's License is required
Benefits Include:

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Please Apply in Person 2801 Hwy 114, Fort Worth 76177
Next to Texas Motor Speedway
EOE

FARM AND RANCH

Fencing

AFFORDABLE FENCING
All types, including chain link, wood privacy, vinyl, farm fencing. Installation or repair. (940)626-9290. www.affordablefencing.net

BOBBY'S FENCE
All types fencing. Free estimates. Over 25 years experience. (817)444-3213.

Lawn & Garden

ALL PRO LAWN CARE
Spring clean-up, landscape design/installation, residential/commercial lawn care, outdoor kitchens. Sod install, trees, flowerbeds. Roll-off dumpster rental. Dylan Hall, (817)891-1600.

Livestock Care & Training

J BAR 2 HORSEHOEING & TRIMMING
30 years experience, certified. Affordable rates. Serving all Wise County. Clay Johnson, (940)453-2364.

Livestock Stud Service

BULLS
Have small herd to breed? Don't want to buy bull? Quality Black Brangus bulls for lease. Trich./fertility tested. (940)393-9665. www.bullsforlease.com.

Subscribe
for the latest news at wcmessenger.com

EMPLOYMENT

KARL KLEMENT

Body Shop Porter
Performs duties throughout the Body Shop. Must be responsible, dependable and have a valid TXDL. Monday to Friday work week.

Parts Drivers/ Warehouse Associates
Must have valid TXDL with acceptable driving record. Overtime available and room for advancement. Monday-Friday work week.

Service Technician
Experience required. We offer competitive pay plus bonus, tool allowance, insurance and 401(K). Paid holidays, vacation and sick days, plus paid training and uniforms.

Administrative Assistant
Must be detail oriented, organized and have experience with Microsoft Word and Excel. Experience preferred. Monday to Friday work week.

Lube Technician
Experience a plus, but willing to train the right candidates. Must have a valid TXDL with acceptable driving record. Must be responsible and dependable. Monday-Friday work week.

Service Advisor
Must be committed to customer satisfaction and be honest and dependable. Previous experience preferred, but willing to train the right candidate.

KLEMENT DISTRIBUTION, INC. (Hershey Ice Cream Distributor)

Route Driver
\$2,500 Hiring Bonus

No CDL required, but must have valid TXDL with acceptable driving record. Monday through Friday. Fun work environment! Promote from within advancement opportunities. Flexible time-off schedules, often 3-day weekends during summer months.

Karl Klement Properties, Inc.

Accounting Professional
Must have strong knowledge of Accounts Payable & Receivables, Payroll, and Financial Reporting. Ability to ensure accuracy, attention to detail, work independently and as a team in a fast-paced office.

For consideration of all positions apply to:
Alyssa Jacobs, Assistant H/R Manager
605 N. Business 287, Suite 102, Decatur, Texas
hr@klementford.com
940-627-6362
We offer Benefits, Paid Holidays, Vacation & Training

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

FARM AND RANCH

Mowing

WISE OUTDOOR SOLUTIONS
Residential/commercial mowing. Pasture mowing, 15 acres and less. (940)399-1677.

Hunting

YEARLY HUNTING LEASE
Dove, turkey, deer, hogs. Call (940)229-1045.

Pasture & Feed

ACREAGE SERVICES
Spraying, Fertilizing, Seeding. Tommy (940)390-3130.

LIQUID FERTILIZER

Mix 30 liquid feed. Hay for sale. Custom round/square baling, mowing/plowing, grain drill, aerating. No till drill. Hay hauling. (940)393-9616.

PRICED FERTILIZER LATELY?

We offer organic spraying, hay fields and pastures. Hay, \$28/acre. Pastures, \$25/acre. Dave, (817)944-5725, or visit biglittlefarm.com.

SPRIGGING

5 Counties
Wise, Jack, Tarrant,
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COASTAL OR TIFTON

50 YEARS EXPERIENCE

940-229-1045
or 940-229-1046

MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

Garage sales

Decatur, 149 PR 1123, Thur., Sat.-Sun., March 10, 12-13, 8a.m.-? Estate sale. Tools, hunting/fishing, engine parts, furniture, antiques. Everything must go!

Decatur, 731 Acorn Drive, 7 Wires, Sat., March 12, 8a.m.-noon. ESTATE SALE! TONS of furniture, including king-size bed, armoire, crib, highchair, dining room table, sectional sofa and more!

Decatur, Dallas Street/Proctor Street, watch for neon green signs! Walnut Grove Estates neighborhood sales, March 11-12, Fri., 7:30a.m.-4p.m., Sat., 7:30a.m.-1p.m.

Garage Sale Package

Only \$27!
(20 words or less)

Ad runs in the
Wise County Messenger,
Twice a Week - Wed. AND Fri.

Plus Front of the Update Thursday
AND
Posted on the WC Messenger
Facebook Page Thurs.

Deadline NOON on Tuesday!
(940)-627-5987

Fence Pipe and Supplies

2³/₈ - 2⁷/₈ - 3¹/₂ - 4¹/₂ - 5¹/₂
Square & Rectangular Tubing
C-Purlin
Domed Caps and Springs
All Types of Steel

Flusche Enterprises, Inc.
940-759-2203 Muenster, TX

NOTICES

Notice to Creditors

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Theo Morris Wilson, Deceased, were issued on October 26, 2021, in Cause No. PR-4869, pending in the County Court at Law No. 2, Wise County, Texas, to: Kenneth Lynn Wilson.
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
c/o: **William K. Clary**
Bridgeport, Texas 76426
DATED the 7th day of February, 2022.
William K. Clary
Attorney for Kenneth Lynn Wilson
State Bar No.: 04325500
P.O. Box 98
Bridgeport, Texas 76426
Telephone: (940)683-6722
Facsimile: (940)683-4029
Email: clarylaw@embarqmail.com

Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, TEXAS
TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM
The City of Bridgeport is giving notice of the city's intent to submit a Texas Community Development Block Grant Program grant application for a Planning & Capacity Building Fund grant request of \$47,826 for the development of a comprehensive plan for the City of Bridgeport. The application is available for review at the Bridgeport City Hall during regular business hours.
NOTICIA PÚBLICA
CIUDAD DE BRIDGEPORT, TEXAS
PROGRAMA DE SUBVENCIÓNES
EN BLOQUE PARA EL DESARROLLO COMUNITARIO DE TEXAS
La Ciudad de Bridgeport notifica la intención de la ciudad de presentar una solicitud de subvención del Programa de Subsidios en Bloque para el Desarrollo Comunitario de Texas para una solicitud de subvención del Fondo de Planificación y Desarrollo de Capacidades de \$47,826 para el desarrollo de un plan integral para la Ciudad de Bridgeport. La solicitud está disponible para su revisión en el Ayuntamiento de Bridgeport durante el horario comercial habitual.

LEGAL NOTICE

AT A MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL ON FEBRUARY 15, 2022, THE CITY OF CHICO, TEXAS, PASSED AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY, ADOPTING THE INTERNATIONAL PLUMBING CODE, 2015 EDITION, TO ESTABLISH MINIMUM REGULATIONS FOR MECHANICAL SYSTEMS USING PRESCRIPTIVE AND PERFORMANCE-RELATED PROVISIONS; ESTABLISHING PERMIT AND INSPECTION FEES; PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY FOR EACH INSTANCE OF VIOLATION OF THE ORDINANCE; PROVIDING A REPEAL AND SEVERANCE CLAUSE; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
COLLEEN SELF, MAYOR, CITY OF CHICO, TEXAS

Legal Notices

Attention Private Non-Profit Schools
Under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Districts assure that "services" will be provided to eligible students attending private elementary and secondary schools.
Private Non-Profit Schools (PNP) may be eligible to receive educational services from certain Federal Title Programs under Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
If the non-profit private school has students living in the Alvord ISD attendance area and are interested in more information, please contact Central Office for more details:
Contact Person:
Dr. Randy Brown
Phone: (940)427-5975
Fax: (940)427-2313
Email: rbrown@alvordisd.net
Mailing Address:
PO Box 70
Alvord, TX 76225

LEGAL NOTICE

Planning is critical to the success of the Title programs of ESSA. In order to provide an appropriate level of planning for both the LEA and the private school programs, the LEA requests that the PNP indicate its interest in participating in the 2022-2023 program **no later than April 30, 2022**. If the PNP declines services, or if no response is received by that date, the LEA will redirect the funding set aside for the PNP portion of this program back into the LEA's Title I program. If the PNP decides at a later date that it wishes to participate, the LEA will work with the PNP to plan for the following school year.
"Eligible students" for funding purposes are those that "reside" in the LEA attendance area and qualify to participate in the National School Lunch Program.

LEGAL NOTICE

AT A MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL ON FEBRUARY 15, 2022, THE CITY OF CHICO, TEXAS, PASSED AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY, ADOPTING THE INTERNATIONAL PLUMBING CODE, 2015 EDITION, TO ESTABLISH MINIMUM REGULATIONS FOR PLUMBING FACILITIES IN TERMS OF BOTH PERFORMANCE AND PRESCRIPTIVE OBJECTIVES; ESTABLISHING PERMIT AND INSPECTION FEES; PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY FOR EACH INSTANCE OF VIOLATION OF THE ORDINANCE; PROVIDING A REPEAL AND SEVERANCE CLAUSE; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
COLLEEN SELF, MAYOR, CITY OF CHICO, TEXAS

LEGAL NOTICE

AT A MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL ON FEBRUARY 15, 2022, THE CITY OF CHICO, TEXAS, PASSED AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY, ADOPTING THE NFPA 70 NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE, 2015 EDITION, TO ESTABLISH MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR SAFE

Legal Notices

ELECTRICAL DESIGN, INSTALLATION, AND INSPECTION TO PROTECT PEOPLE AND PROPERTY FROM ELECTRICAL HAZARDS; ESTABLISHING PERMIT AND INSPECTION FEES; PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY FOR EACH INSTANCE OF VIOLATION OF THE ORDINANCE; PROVIDING A REPEAL AND SEVERANCE CLAUSE; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
COLLEEN SELF, MAYOR, CITY OF CHICO, TEXAS

LEGAL NOTICE

AT A MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL ON FEBRUARY 15, 2022, THE CITY OF CHICO, TEXAS, PASSED AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY, ADOPTING THE 2018 INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE TO ESTABLISH MINIMUM MAINTENANCE STANDARDS FOR BASIC EQUIPMENT, LIGHT, VENTILATION, HEATING, SANITATION, AND FIRE SAFETY IN EXISTING RESIDENTIAL AND NONRESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES; PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY FOR EACH INSTANCE OF VIOLATION OF THE ORDINANCE; PROVIDING A REPEAL AND SEVERANCE CLAUSE; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
COLLEEN SELF, MAYOR, CITY OF CHICO, TEXAS

NOTICE OF SALE

NEW FAIRVIEW MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1
(A Political Subdivision of the State of Texas Located within Wise County, Texas)
\$4,400,000
Unlimited Tax Road Bonds, Series 2022

NOTICE OF SALE

NEW FAIRVIEW MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1
(A Political Subdivision of the State of Texas Located within Wise County, Texas)
\$4,400,000
Unlimited Tax Road Bonds, Series 2022
Bids to be Submitted: 10:30 A.M., Central Time
Bids to be Opened: 2:30 P.M., Central Time
Tuesday, March 22, 2022
Place and Time of Sale: The Board of Directors of New Fairview Municipal Utility District No. 1 (the "District") will receive and publicly read bids for the purchase of the Bonds at the designated meeting place outside the boundaries of the District, at the offices of at Lackland Holdings, LLC, 3045 Lackland Rd., Fort Worth, Texas 76116 at 2:30 P.M., Central Time, Tuesday, March 22, 2022.

Address of Bids: Bids for the Bonds may be delivered to the District electronically, by telephone or delivered directly to the District in a sealed envelope, addressed to the "President and Board of Directors of New Fairview Municipal Utility District No. 1 and delivered to the District's Financial Advisor, Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated, 1331 Lamar, Suite 1360, Houston, Texas 77010 prior to 10:30 A.M., Central Time on the date of the bid opening. Any bid received after 10:30 A.M. Central Time, Tuesday, March 22, 2022, will not be accepted and will be returned unopened. All bidders must sub-

Legal Notices

mit a signed "Official Bid Form" and a Cashier's Check in the amount of \$88,000 payable to the order of the District as a good faith deposit.
Information: The Bonds are more completely described in the "Official Notice of Sale" and the "Preliminary Official Statement" which may be obtained from Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated, 1331 Lamar, Suite 1360, Houston, Texas 77010; Financial Advisor to the District. The District reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any and all irregularities except time of filing. This notice does not constitute an offer to sell the Bonds but is merely notice of sale of the Bonds as required by law. The offer to sell the Bonds will be made only by means of the "Official Notice of Sale," "Preliminary Official Statement," and the "Official Bid Form."
Board of Directors
New Fairview Municipal Utility District No. 1

NOTICE OF SALE

NEW FAIRVIEW MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1
(A Political Subdivision of the State of Texas Located within Wise County, Texas)
\$4,170,000
Unlimited Tax Utility Bonds, Series 2022
Bids to be Submitted: 10:00 A.M., Central Time
Bids to be Opened: 2:30 P.M., Central Time
Tuesday, March 22, 2022
Place and Time of Sale: The Board of Directors of New Fairview Municipal Utility District No. 1 (the "District") will receive and publicly read bids for the purchase of the Bonds at the designated meeting place outside the boundaries of the District, at the offices of at Lackland Holdings, LLC, 3045 Lackland Rd., Fort Worth, Texas 76116 at 2:30 P.M., Central Time, Tuesday, March 22, 2022.
Address of Bids: Bids for the Bonds may be delivered to the District electronically, by telephone or delivered directly to the District in a sealed envelope, addressed to the "President and Board of Directors of New Fairview Municipal Utility District No. 1 and delivered to the District's Financial Advisor, Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated, 1331 Lamar, Suite 1360, Houston, Texas 77010 prior to 10:00 A.M., Central Time on the date of the bid opening. Any bid received after 10:00 A.M. Central Time, Tuesday, March 22, 2022, will not be accepted and will be returned unopened. All bidders must sub-

Legal Notices

mit a signed "Official Bid Form" and a Cashier's Check in the amount of \$83,400 payable to the order of the District as a good faith deposit.
Information: The Bonds are more completely described in the "Official Notice of Sale" and the "Preliminary Official Statement" which may be obtained from Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated, 1331 Lamar, Suite 1360, Houston, Texas 77010; Financial Advisor to the District. The District reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any and all irregularities except time of filing. This notice does not constitute an offer to sell the Bonds but is merely notice of sale of the Bonds as required by law. The offer to sell the Bonds will be made only by means of the "Official Notice of Sale," "Preliminary Official Statement," and the "Official Bid Form."
Board of Directors
New Fairview Municipal Utility District No. 1

NOTICE OF SALE

NEW FAIRVIEW MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1
(A Political Subdivision of the State of Texas Located within Wise County, Texas)
\$4,170,000
Unlimited Tax Utility Bonds, Series 2022
Bids to be Submitted: 10:00 A.M., Central Time
Bids to be Opened: 2:30 P.M., Central Time
Tuesday, March 22, 2022
Place and Time of Sale: The Board of Directors of New Fairview Municipal Utility District No. 1 (the "District") will receive and publicly read bids for the purchase of the Bonds at the designated meeting place outside the boundaries of the District, at the offices of at Lackland Holdings, LLC, 3045 Lackland Rd., Fort Worth, Texas 76116 at 2:30 P.M., Central Time, Tuesday, March 22, 2022.
Address of Bids: Bids for the Bonds may be delivered to the District electronically, by telephone or delivered directly to the District in a sealed envelope, addressed to the "President and Board of Directors of New Fairview Municipal Utility District No. 1 and delivered to the District's Financial Advisor, Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated, 1331 Lamar, Suite 1360, Houston, Texas 77010 prior to 10:00 A.M., Central Time on the date of the bid opening. Any bid received after 10:00 A.M. Central Time, Tuesday, March 22, 2022, will not be accepted and will be returned unopened. All bidders must sub-

Public Hearings

CITY OF RHOME, TEXAS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PROPOSED REPLAT
The City of Rhome Planning & Zoning will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, April 4, 2022, at 6 pm for the purpose of hearing comments regarding a proposed Replat for a property currently legally described as being Acres: 0.321, Lot: 1, Blk: 2, Subd: 2 BC Rhome Addition; also described as located at 290 Aurora Street, Rhome, TX 76078; You are encouraged to attend the Public Hearing to provide oral testimony. Written testimony will also be accepted, addressed to Shaina Odom, City Secretary, City of Rhome, PO Box 228, Rhome, Texas 76087 or by email at citysecretary@cityofrhome.com.
The City of Rhome City Council will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, April 14, 2022, at 7 pm for the purpose of hearing comments regarding a proposed Replat for a property currently legally described as being Acres: 0.321, Lot: 1, Blk: 2, Subd: 2 BC Rhome Addition; also described as located at 290 Aurora Street, Rhome, TX 76078; You are encouraged to attend the Public Hearing to provide oral testimony. Written testimony will also be accepted, addressed to Shaina Odom, City Secretary, City of Rhome, PO Box 228, Rhome, Texas 76087 or by email at citysecretary@cityofrhome.com.

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POWERLIFTING

Decatur claims third place at regionals

Bridgeport's Parker earns second state berth

BY MICAH MCCARTNEY
mmccartney@wcmessenger.com

Behind three silver medals, the Decatur Eagles claimed third place at the Texas High School Powerlifting Association's Region 6 Division 2 meet Tuesday at Gainesville High School.

Decatur finished with 24 points. Celina won the regional title with 27.

"Going into the meet, I thought we would actually finish around fifth or sixth," said Decatur coach Mark Zimmer. "I'm really proud of how the guys competed. There were some things that took place during the meet for other teams, and it allowed us to move up and finish third. It was a true team effort. To have been only three points away from winning it all, I think we've set a pretty good foundation for the boys program."

After placing second in their weight classes, Decatur's Isaac Herrera, Jimmy Gamino and Hayden Philpot punched their tickets to the state meet March 26 at the Taylor County Expo Center in Abilene.

"This is the first time to advance to state for all three guys," Zimmer said. "I'm expecting them to do what they do every day — go out there and give it everything they have. There'll probably be a little nervous because it is a state meet, but it all comes down to a bar on a

platform that they have to squat, bench and deadlift. These guys are pretty level-headed, and they're always ready to compete."

At the regional meet, Decatur Anthony Salas finished third. Wyatt Vinzant and Collins Rohan finished in the top five of their weight classes.

Bridgeport was ninth. After taking a break from powerlifting in his sophomore season, junior Rowdy Parker claimed the regional title in the 132-pound class.

Parker qualified for the 2020 state meet as a freshman, but did not get to participate in the final meet due to COVID-19.

"Rowdy actually didn't lift last year because of COVID, but he made it back this year and is now a regional champion," said Bridgeport coach Robbie Deheck. "I'm excited for him because he earned this opportunity two years ago, and after a lot of hard work he'll finally get to walk into the state meet and compete."

"Rowdy is just mentally and physically tough, and he embodies of what it means to be a Bridgeport Bull. He puts in the work during off-season, and he's always lifting in his free time to get stronger. I'm sure that toughness will beat out the nerves of competing at state, and he'll get down to business."



HEADING TO STATE — Above, Decatur's Isaac Herrera, Hayden Philpot and Jimmy Gamino claimed silver medals at the THSPA Region 6 Division 2 meet Tuesday, and will advance to the state meet. At right, Bridgeport junior Rowdy Parker won the regional title in the 132-pound weight class and qualified for his second state meet.

ASHLEY KYLE

Region 3 Division 2 Championships (Bridgeport and Decatur results)

- 114 — 2. Isaac Herrera, Decatur, 805; 11. Cason Wilbanks, Decatur, 605
- 132 — 1. Rowdy Parker, Bridgeport, 1,035; 4. Drew Gam, Decatur, 885
- 148 — 4. Erick Macias, Bridgeport, 1,155; 8. Zane White, Bridgeport, 1,015; 9. Colton Rudder, Bridgeport, 1,000
- 181 — 8. Kevin Salas, Decatur, 1,200; 9. Aden Hinshaw, Decatur, 1,195; 11. Abel Aldape, Decatur,

- 1,155
- 198 — 3. Anthony Salas, Decatur, 1,370; 7. Jorge Padron, Decatur, 1,215
- 220 — 2. Jimmy Gamino, Decatur, 1,550; 6. Gustavo Isaac, Decatur, 1,330; 9. Korbin Owens, Decatur, 1,255
- 242 — 4. Wyatt Vinzant, Decatur, 1,390; 8. Toben Petree, Decatur, 1,310
- 308 — 2. Hayden Philpot, Decatur, 1,720; 4. Carson Cortez, Bridgeport, 1,135
- SHW — 4. Collins Rohan, Decatur, 1,330

Tournament: Chico wins first game

Continued from page 16
Walker Stallcup tournament this week.

Panthers go 3-1 at ACS tourney
The Paradise Panthers improved to 4-1 after going 3-1 at the American Cancer Society tournament.

Paradise beat Henrietta (14-4), Sanger (11-0) and La Grange (5-0). The Panthers fell to Iowa Park in the finale, 10-7.

Alvord wins one, loses two

The Alvord Bulldogs are 2-2 after going 1-2 at the American Cancer Society tournament last weekend.

Alvord won its first game against Archer City 7-3, but fell to Fort

Worth Southwest Christian (14-2) and Bowie (5-4).

Alvord's District 10-2A opener against Perrin-Whitt scheduled for Tuesday was postponed due to field conditions.

Dragons claim first win

After an 0-1 start to the season, the Chico Dragons broke out the big bats for their first win last week.

Chico routed Hirschi 18-3, but finished 1-3 in the American Cancer Society tournament.

The Dragons' losses were to Archer City (10-4), Petrolia (9-5) and Vernon (15-0).

Chico (1-5, 0-1) fell to Poolville in the 9-2A opener Tuesday, 8-4.

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SPORTS

SOFTBALL

Diamond dual threat

Ashford leads Boyd on fast start

BY MICAH MCCARTNEY
mmccartney@wcmessenger.com

In her final season with the Lady Jackets, Boyd senior Ryleigh Ashford is hoping to taste the postseason for the first time in her career.

Behind Ashford's two-way play, the Lady Jackets are off to a 13-5 start, including a pair of no-hitters from the senior star.

"I definitely feel like this how I wanted my senior year to start," Ashford said. "I wanted to go out with a bang and trying as hard as I can. I always want to do my best for my team."

"I've always had a love for softball. I've been playing since I was 4 years old. Not only do I play on my high

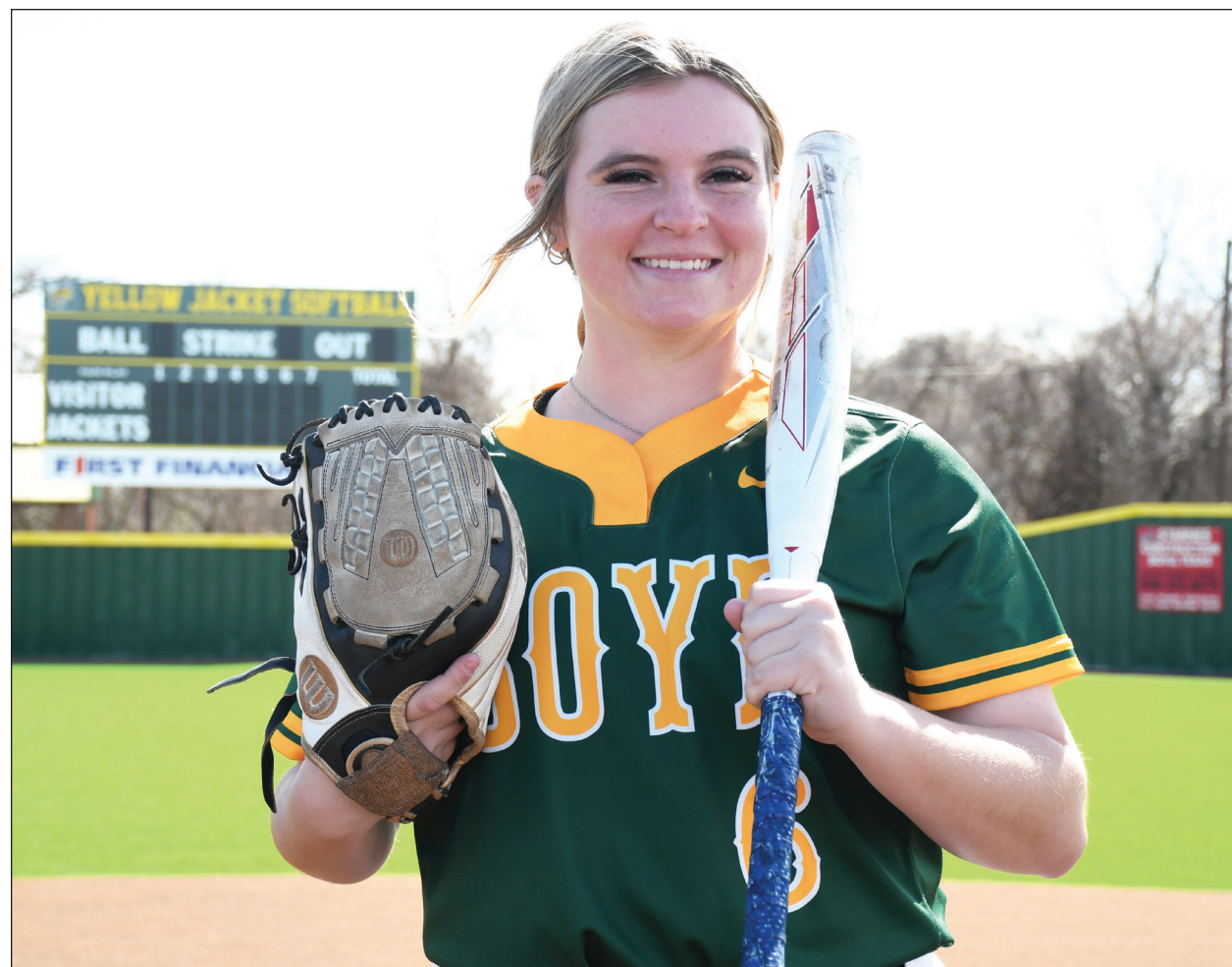
school team, but I also play on a select team. So I'm playing softball all year around. I love the adrenaline of the game. I don't think I've ever loved another sport so much."

Through 18 games, Ashford is 8-3 with a 2.56 ERA and 59 strikeouts. Her no-hitters came against Diamond Hill-Jarvis (15-0) and Castleberry (16-0).

"I don't think I'm cocky when it comes to my pitching. I honestly feel confident because I know what I'm capable of doing. With my abilities, I feel like the circle is home for me."

The senior is leading the Lady Jackets at the plate, swinging for a .542 average with four home runs and 31

See Ashford on page 12



MICAH MCCARTNEY/WCMESSENGER

STRONG START — Through 18 games, Boyd pitcher Ryleigh Ashford holds an 8-3 record in the circle with 59 strikeouts and a 2.56 ERA. At the plate, she is batting .542 with four home runs and 31 RBIs.

TRACK AND FIELD

Eagles take bronze at Argyle meet



ASHLEY KYLE

IN FLIGHT — Decatur's Cade Johnson clocked 43:60 for a fourth-place finish in the 300 hurdles at the Argyle Relays Friday. The Eagles claimed third with 86.75 points, while the Lady Eagles were fourth with 44.

In their first meet of the season, the Decatur Eagles claimed third at the Argyle Invitational Friday.

Decatur finished third with 86.75 points.

Senior Will Quintana, a 2021 state qualifier, earned three individual medals. He won the 200 in 22.86, and finished second in the 110 hurdles (15.81) and high jump (6-3).

Quintana, along with teammates Cooper Stastny,

Jake Poteet and Brody Eddins clocked 1:31.45 to claim silver in the 4x200.

Junior Hunter Smith's leap of 42-5.5 earned him a gold medal in the triple jump. He also took the bronze in the 400 (51.71).

Derrick Bible was third in the 800 in 2:04.37. The Eagles' 4x400 of Danner Holmes, Poteet, Eddins and Bible finished third in 3:33.50.

The Lady Eagles finished fourth with 44 points.

Ellie Ware's vault of 10-6 secured the silver medal. Maggie Hamm was second in the shot put (34.03).

The Lady Eagles' 4x100 of Maya Conrad, Grace Knight, Allie Watkins and Izzy Zayas clocked 51.55 to pick up the bronze.

The Chico Dragons finished second with 142 points
See Meet on page 12

BASEBALL

Jackets add four wins at Stephenville tournament

Going 4-0-1 at the Stephenville tournament last week, the Boyd Yellowjackets moved up in the state rankings.

Boyd (7-0-1) is now ninth in the Texas High School Baseball 3A poll.

In Stephenville, the Yellowjackets collected wins against Lampasas (11-2), Decatur (5-1), Fort Worth All Saints (4-0) and Krum (8-3).

Boyd finished in a scoreless draw with 2021 4A state semifinalist

Stephenville.

The Yellowjackets are scheduled to play in the Walker Stallcup tournament this weekend.

Eagles struggle at Stephenville tourney

The Decatur Eagles found the win column one time in five tries at the Stephenville tournament.

Decatur finished 1-3-1, and is now

2-4-1.

The Eagles' lone win was an 11-6 over Brownwood. Decatur fell to Fort Worth Trinity Valley (3-1), Abilene Wylie (10-2) and Boyd (5-1).

Decatur's final contest was a tie 2 with Godley.

The Eagles started the Anna tournament Thursday.

Bulls finish 1-4 at MW tournament

The Bridgeport Bulls (1-7) picked up their first win at the Mineral Wells tournament.

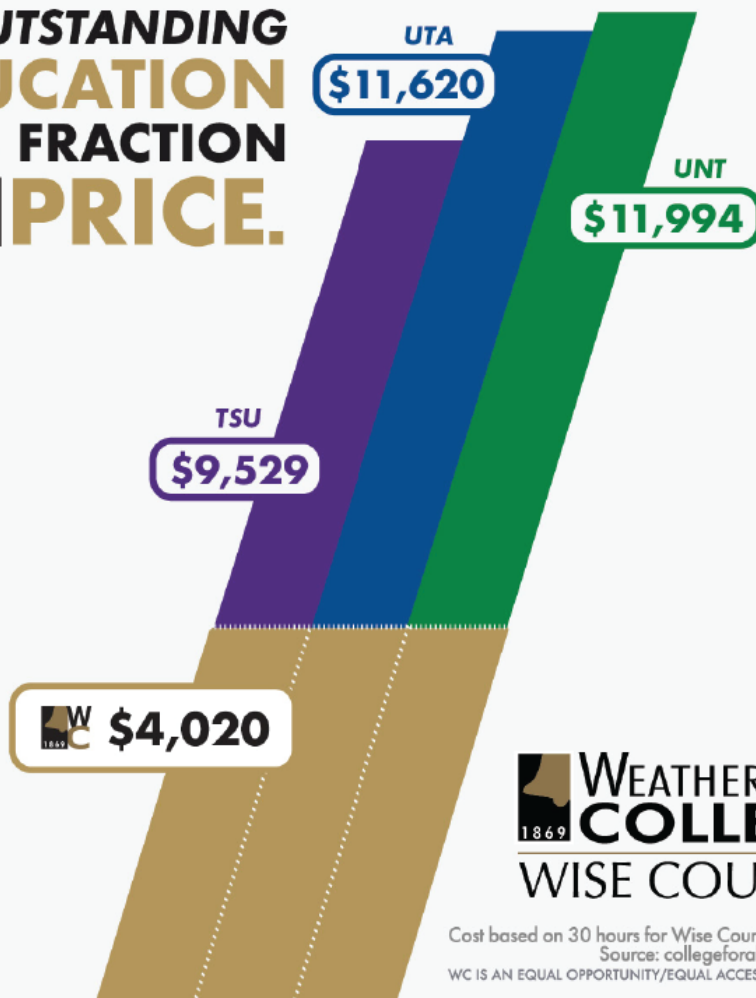
Bridgeport defeated Valley View 12-2, but fell to Mineral Wells (6-2), Covenant Christian (13-1), Alvarado (4-1) and Burkburnett (1-0), finishing the tournament 1-4.

The Bulls are participating in the
See Tournament on page 15

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