North & East Texas Press Association

Winners Circle 2025

North and East Texas Press Association Better Newspaper Contest Results

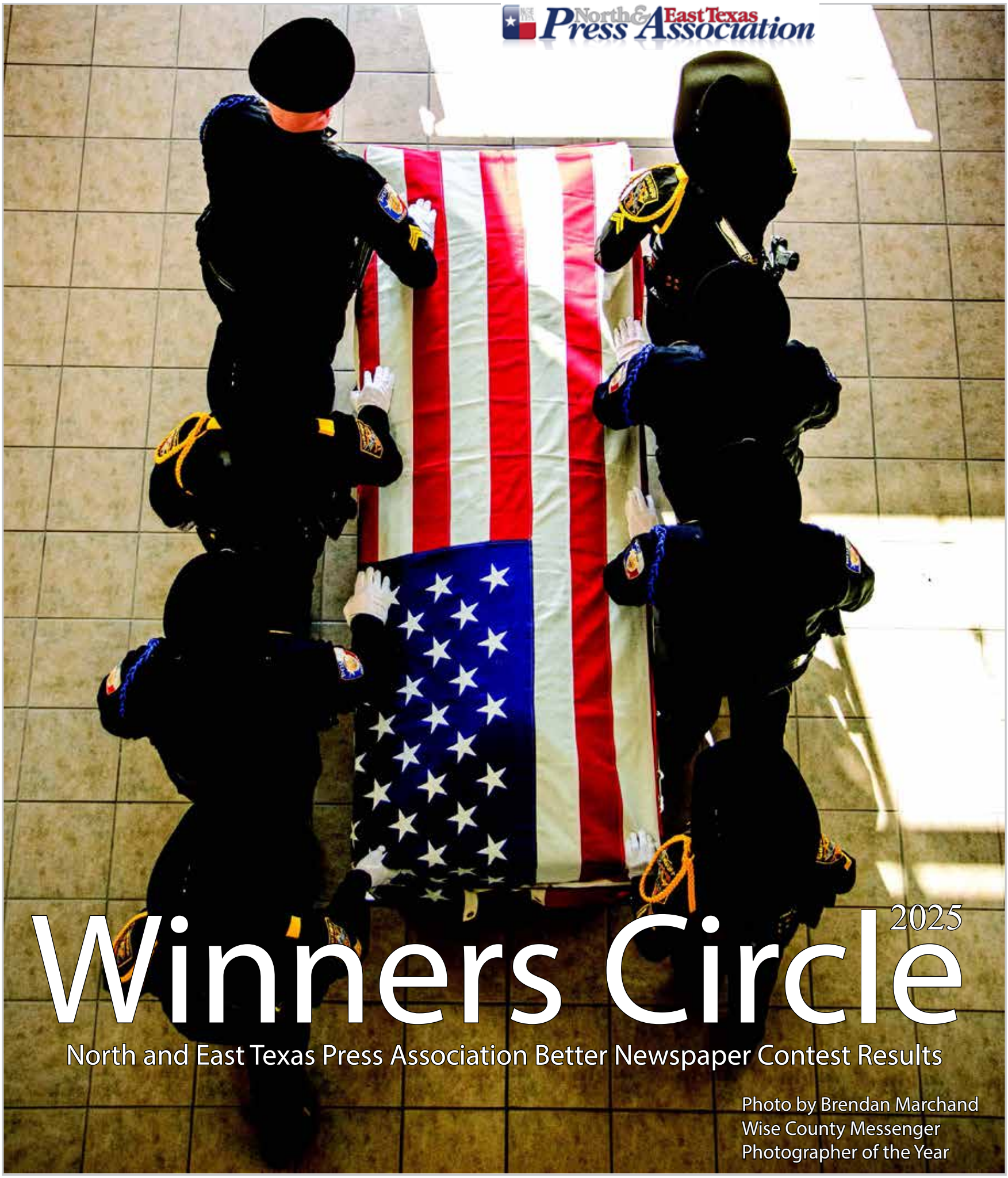


Photo by Brendan Marchand
Wise County Messenger
Photographer of the Year

Advertising

Large Semi-Weekly Division 2

Lufkin Daily News - 1st Place
"Great use of color, photos and call to action! Very appealing to the consumer eye."

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel - 2nd Place

Greenville Herald-Banner - 3rd Place

Small Semi Weekly Division 3

Cleburne Times-Review - 1st Place
"These are really unique! I saved all three to share with my team to remind them to think outside of the box. Way to go!"

Large Weekly Division 4

Rockwall Herald-Banner - 1st Place
"Absolutely beautiful ads. Way to stand out!"

Canton Herald - 2nd Place

Hood County News - 3rd Place

Pilot Point Post-Signal - 4th Place

Small Weekly Division 5

Light and Champion - 1st Place
"Absolutely fantastic. You really gave these customers their moneys worth. I'm headed out the door to visit all three places now ;)"

Wills Point Chronicle - 2nd Place
"Very close second."

Bowie County Citizens Tribune - 3rd Place

Gladewater Mirror - 4th Place

Cleburne Times-Review
Div. 3 1st place Advertising

Light and Champion
Div. 5 1st place Advertising

Column writing

Daily Division 1

Jennifer Scott and Phil Hicks/Tyler Morning Telegraph - 1st place
"Coming Full Circle: Sports is not usually my favorite thing to read, but this caught my attention. It's very cool to hear about the legacy of the players.
Fighting to Hear: I love when someone else's experience can help me learn something. Great job breaking it down to be easily understandable to someone who is not familiar with the differences in hearing loss!"

Large Semi Weekly Division 2

Kent Miller/Greenville Herald-Banner - 1st place

Greg Weatherbee/Lufkin Daily News - 2nd place

Guy Chapman/Athens Daily Review - 3rd place

Josh Edwards/Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel - 4th place

Small Semi-Weekly Division 3

Anna Beall/Gainesville Daily Register - 1st place
"It has been about a week since I read your column about eating the elephant for the first time, but didn't get to judge it immediately due to internet issues. I have to tell you, in the week that has passed, I have thought about this column more than a couple of times. So simply put, but it definitely stuck with me.
I also appreciate your thoughts about Indoctrination vs instruction. There is absolutely a difference that I think is not discussed enough."

Weatherford Democrat staff - 2nd place
"Ridiculousness- I appreciate this perspective so much. And honestly, that quiet period around elections sounds amazing!
Musings- if everyone could hear what you write in this column and truly take it to heart, I believe the world would be a better place."

Monica Faram/Cleburne Times-Review - 3rd place
"Judging- more people need to hear this. I love the comparison to youth sports and your insight.
Mothers Days- again, I wish more people could understand this. It's a beautiful story of how coparenting doesn't have to be toxic."

Guy Chapman/Corsicana Daily Sun - 4th place
"Small- This one had me hooked and interested in reading more and more."

Column writing
(continued)

Large Weekly Division 4

Kent Miller/Rockwall Herald-Banner - 1st place
"Very well done on both of these columns. I appreciate your well thought out approach. It is informative and matter of fact, without resorting to 'low blows.'"

Sam Houston/Hood County News - 2nd place
"Both thought provoking columns. I appreciate how they are done in a way to not alienate one side or the other."

Abigail Allen/Pilot Point Post-Signal - 3rd place
"Both of these columns are short, sweet and directly to the point. And they work that way! I love how I feel like I got all of the information within a fairly quick read."

Brendan Marchand, Austin Jackson/Wise County Messenger - 4th place
"Men behind the badge- a profound reminder of the type of people we all look up to.
Cellphone problem- well thought out and stops short of being extremely divisive on this hot topic, which I appreciate."

Small Weekly Division 5

Kenny Mitchell/Bowie County Citizens Tribune - 1st place
"Just be nice- This is a great column about the little things in life, also well stated information about the newspaper.
You can rest- Very thought provoking and relatable."

Paul Gaudette/The Dublin Citizen - 2nd place
"Multi-asking has me laughing. My my, how technology can be great and a pain all at the same time.
Mac- wonderful characterization, I could almost see him in my mind!"

Dennis H. Phillips/Light and Champion - 3rd place
"Takes a village- I love this column. So often, I wish I could add every detail to a news story, which is not usually possible. This follow up about the heart of the team is special.
Advertising works- as a former ad sales person, this has me cheering. Great little experiment and it's a great way to promote yourself in a subtle way!"

Karen Lance/Quanah Tribune Chief - 4th place
"Invasion of the flies- this is relatable and funny!
I have arrived- also funny, don't we all hate that word 'middle-aged.' I love how you take a struggle a lot of people have and bring it to light in a humorous way."

From the Greenville Herald-Banner's 1st place column writing entry by Kent Miller.

"I'm not a parent (greatest disappointment of my life) but I am a human being. With a heart.

The weekend story of the mother and father from unincorporated Lone Oak on the edge of Hunt and Rains counties who lost three members of their family – three children with their whole lives ahead of them – is simply too much for most of us to fathom. It's heartbreaking and soul crushing.

In the quiet little town of Lone Oak with fewer than a thousand residents, the community is grappling with a profound sense of loss. The news of the tragic car accident in Grayson County that claimed the lives of Alexander Grandy, 14; Amara Grandy, 13; and Alvin Grandy, 10, has left an indelible mark on the hearts of everyone who knew them. Strangers, too. The shockwaves of grief have rippled not just through Lone Oak, leaving everyone to question how such a tragedy could befall any family.

The Grandy children were not just names on a page; they were vibrant young souls who brought light and joy to everyone around them. Together, they were the heart of their family. And now that heart is broken.

From Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel's 1st place editorial writing

"The Nacogdoches City council made a power grab Dec. 17 in an attempt to erode democracy and the will of voters in a misguided attempt to regain a penny portion of sales tax.

The council in a spit vote narrowly approved a resolution asking the Texas Legislature to give the go-ahead to allow the city and county and, in Mayor Randy Johnson's words, 'possibly the hospital district' to appoint members of the hospital district board. The resolution also requests removal of limitations on how much of its 1% sales tax revenue the hospital district can redirect to economic development.

We and the voters of Nacogdoches County might be inclined to support removing limitations on redirected funding, but we cannot nor shall we ever support the shrinking of democracy.

Two things became apparent to us during the meeting. First, Johnson demonstrated time and again during the meeting that he has no idea how charity hospitals work. Second, he is so blinded by his ambition and cluelessness over this sliver of sales tax revenue that he's willing to undermine the voice of the people at the ballot box to get it.

Nacogdoches Memorial Hospital is designed to be a taxpayer supported hospital that provides charity care. That means the hospital cares for uninsured and indigent patients and is propped up by the taxpayers.

On more than half a dozen occasions we heard Johnson say 'They should be able to make their own way' and 'stand on their own feet.' Johnson also freely admitted he didn't have any idea when the hospital was last self-sufficient.

The answer is never."

Editorial writing

Large Semi -Weekly Division 2

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel - 1st place

"This was a close category. Everyone had strong editorials on some tough subjects.
I admire your willingness to inform the public when your mayor and the governor are "wrong." Your arguments are strong in both cases. Especially when you quote the governor and then say that he is talking about himself.
I also like that you are able to strongly tie state politics locally and include statistics to help strengthen your points.
Great job!!"

Greenville Herald-Banner - 2nd place

"I admire you taking on pornography and that a teacher should be held in a higher accountability system since he works with kids. Maybe include some stats about sentences for this crime to help strengthen your argument that this sentence was too lenient.
On the public hearing piece, making the public aware of the importance of attending them is key for being a local informed democracy. Thank you for this reminder."

The Lufkin Daily News - 3rd place

"I like the way you tied your opinion in with an event and the event information. It was a good way to have event information without it being dry and boring. However, though many would know who the speaker is, I would have liked to have seen a one paragraph mention about why she is relevant vs. just reference to another article.
The sports officials story is true across the state: fans, especially adults, are crossing lines out of civility. Maybe include a stat(s) about the state-wide problem to help support your stance."

Athens Daily Review - 4th place

"Nice opinion piece about why we matter as community newspapers."

Small Semi-Weekly Division 3

Weatherford Democrat - 1st place

"I like the pickleball piece, but I think you are trying to get a lot of information into it. Explaining HOT revenue and what the city can do with it is good. Including being involved vs. social media complaining is good. However, adding in the basketball court reference seemed to be just getting it in there, but it didn't belong.
I really like the holiday piece. It is truly a difficult time of year for many, so the reminder is appreciated."

Cleburne Times-Review - 2nd place

"About the Snapchat piece, I would have liked to see it tied in more locally, other than just one mention of a Mansfield man. The piece overall is well-written and very informative. Good wrap-up.

Jennifer Scott/Tyler Morning Telegraph
Div. 1 1st place Feature Photograph
"Students of Stepping Stone School hold hands and unite as they participate in their school's annual Independence Day parade."

I liked the way you tied the voting results to voter turn-out, basically it's the voters' fault that there is a run-off. Having that stance might make people think twice about not voting. My only issue with the piece is that you bounce back-and-forth a little with your blame and/or focus: third opponent to poor voter turnout, school vouchers to other platform issues. Maybe stay a little more focused on what the topic is that you want to write about."

Corsicana Daily Sun - 3rd place

"This is a great explanation of why community journalism is important. However, I am to judge two submissions for this category, and I only see one."

Large Weekly Division 4

Wise County Messenger - 1st place

"Excellent subject matter and local emphasis in both. Writing is well organized. Bus-ted could be more concise, while the Suggestion box could use a closing paragraph to reiterate local recognition stance."

Pilot Point Post-Signal - 2nd place

"Content is relevant to locals. 'Water' is well organized and focused; some phrasing could be clearer at start but actionable plan is good. "Sunlight" clearly shows passion (great) but lacks exposition."

Rockwall Herald-Banner - 3rd place

"Both involve local issues, great call to action in the concrete crusher article."

Editorial writing
(continued)

Small Weekly Division 5

Quanah Tribune-Chief - 1st place
"The content that is here is very good. More details would make it even stronger."

Bowie County Citizens Tribune - 2nd place
"Excellent lead and storytelling abilities in both of these articles. Local significance is clear and subject matter is engaging and well organized."

Light and Champion - 3rd place
"Writer has a good voice and ability to grab reader's attention. Subject matter could be related more to matters of local significance for more effect."

Royse City Herald-Banner - 4th place
"Well crafted articles with a good local emphasis and writing style. However, they lacked a strong opinion and read more like news than editorials."

Feature photo

Daily Division 1

Jennifer Scott, Les Hassell/Tyler Morning Telegraph - 1st place
"Good focus on the children; I love that they're holding hands. It makes for a very sweet photo. As far as the train photo, I love that the child drew it himself. It's a photo that I think not many would think to capture."

Large Semi Weekly Division 2

Andrew Hodge, Josh Edwards/Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel - 1st place
"The framing on the fan reaction at Summer Squash is amazing. The reader is still able to get the action, while feeling the community member's reaction. Additionally, I love that boy the little boy dressed as Woody is looking at the same person that the dog is. It's super cute."

Alexandra Meelbusch/Gatesville Messenger - 2nd place
"The sky, colors and angle of the cross photo are great. I actually like the fact that the ones carrying the cross cannot be identified; it makes it powerful. Similarly, the lighting on the nativity scene is stunning."

Laurie White King/Greenville Herald-Banner - 3rd place
"'Bois d'Arc Disciple' feels very professional. I love that the artist isn't looking at the camera and is instead in motion doing his craft. The graduation photo captures a happy and candid moment for students."

Joel Andrews/The Lufkin Daily News - 4th place
"The photographer could have chosen to focus the Special Olympics photo on the child, but I admire their choice to include the adult supporting them, as well. "

Basil Gist/Pilot Point Post-Signal
Div. 4 1st place Feature Photograph
"Nathan Roach turns a topped post oak into a work of art for the town of Cross Roads as Ron Zohfeld, a member of the Parks and Recreation board, stops by to watch the work in progress."

Small Semi Weekly Division 3

Guy Chapman/Corsicana Daily Sun - 1st place
"The tree looks beautiful. It's difficult to get good lighting when it's dark, so it's amazing that it looks like a postcard. The train looks very impressive, as well. I only wish that community members were more of the focus."

Anna Beall/Gainesville Daily Register - 2nd place
"The child with the sheep is precious; I love that the moment of her interacting with them is candid."

Sally Sexton/Weatherford Democrat - 3rd place
"The concentration on the children's faces are very sweet. The second photo is also a nice moment captured. Unfortunately, it is a little blurry."

Monica Faram/Cleburne Times-Review - 4th place
"This is a beautiful photo. The baseball photo shows professionalism, as well, but both photos are posed. I would have liked more movement or action shot in them."

Large Weekly Division 4

Abigail Allen, Basil Gist/Pilot Point Post-Signal - 1st place
"Both of these photos are very strong. The action shot of the man carving

Andrew Hodge/Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel
Div. 2 1st place Feature Photograph

"The parents of Ares Sanches, 1, dressed as Woody from "Toy Story," attempt to introduce him to Doogie the pug, dressed as a dinosaur, Wednesday at First United Methodist Church's Trunk or Treat at the church. See more photos of Halloween events on Pages 4A and 5A."

Feature photo

(continued)

Large Weekly Division 4 (continued)

wood is very capturing and it was a good choice on the photographer to include a slight view of the working piece to the right. The carnival ride photo is beautifully focused and the audience can clearly read the emotions on their face."

Brendan Marchand/Wise County Messenger - 2nd place
"The photo of the officer being laid to rest left me speechless. It's wonderful art. The fairground photo is a great example of making a standard crowd photo stand out."

Layth Taylor/Hood County News - 3rd place
"The photo from the Sleepy Hollow Experience is so magical; great job of capturing the atmosphere. The lighting is also very good in both photos."

Zach Freeman/Tri-County Reporter - 4th place
"Both photos provide a special moment for community members."

Small Weekly Division 5

Susan Lindsey/Bowie County Citizens Tribune - 1st place
"The shot of the boy with green powder is very well executed. The powder covering the lower half of the picture, while the boy is in motion and reacting is well done. Similarly to the first, I love the candid moment."

Paul Gaudette, Wyndi Veigel-Gaudette/The Dublin Citizen - 2nd place
"Both of these photos are very sweet. I love that there is an age difference between the boxers, but they're both celebrating together. The bubble photo is just a lot of fun."

Sam Major/Wood County Monitor - 3rd place
"The movement from the band shot is very good, especially since they are in motion. I wish more of the child's face was visible in the cotton candy photo, but it is very cute."

James Draper, Mike Peery/Gladewater Mirror - 4th place
"The moment shared between the mother and daughter captured on camera is very sweet. Additionally, Santa is not often seen on a bike, so this was a fun photo."

Feature Story

Daily Division 1

Katecey Harrell/Tyler Morning Telegraph - 1st place

"This is an excellent story with a wealth of information and a strong lede that captivates the reader. The story, and the accompanied photos, ensured that the humanity was highlighted amid the issues that were discussed. However, there were some punctuation errors and questionable wording choices. In addition, when the attorney stated that the case was flimsy, it was left somewhat unanswered as to why. Remember to include as many details and information as possible to answer all of the readers' potential questions. Ultimately, this is an impressive story!"

Large Semi-Weekly Division 2

Will Lanigan, Brock West/Lufkin Daily News - 1st place

"Moon: This was a great story! I enjoyed that you took a national topic from the very beginning and localized it with a Lufkin native. Good job on adding historic details, as well as ending the story with advice to kids! Cane: This story felt like stepping into a time machine. It was a refreshing take on a historical topic and relating it to today. Great use of new and old photos!"

Andrew Hodge, Nicole Bradford/Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel - 2nd place

"Gobel school: This was one of my favorites! I appreciated that you not only interviewed the instructor and staff, but also the students. Great use of photos in both color and black & white to showcase the work done in the studio. The lede was also very inviting. Seventeen: I would never have thought that this could happen and to write about this. Excellent job on selecting this topic! Though the U.S. Postal Service declined to comment, I liked how you still included a second person (the mother) in the story. However, I did feel like the ending was a little abrupt."

Jennifer Browning/Athens Daily Review - 3rd place

"Vietnam helicopter tales: Good story with descriptive and compelling imagery. Reading this, it made me feel like I was there listening to the veterans. It felt like a conversation. Typically, second person is not used in AP Style stories; however, I do understand it being used in this case at the end when thanking the veterans for their service. Cattle: The lede for this story really draws in the readers to keep going and learn about the Hannans. Good job on painting a picture of their lives! I would have preferred for the quotes to be on their own lines, rather than have them mixed in with the rest of the paragraph. Also, be sure to stay consistent in the tense you are using (i.e. said vs says)."

Palestine Herald Press - 4th place

"Community effort saves strays: Nice, heartfelt story. I would have liked more clarification on who this local woman was and her importance to the community. While her full name was given, there was no title associated with her. Rodney Howard, Sr.: Good choice of using quotes from various people! There were some minor punctuation and wording choice issues, but this was a ultimately a nice story about a community figure."

Small Semi-Weekly Division 3

Monica Faram/Cleburne Times Review - 1st place

"This was my favorite! I enjoyed getting to learn about the two coaches and, while they were from opposing teams, that did not stop one of them from stepping up for the other. Great storytelling!"

Guy Chapman/Corsicana Daily Sun - 2nd place

"'Unforgotten': Solid writing with a strong lede that captures the reader's attention about an important topic with a local angle. Also, great use of adding in the links of where to find the podcast at the end of the story! 'Rushing': This is a very interesting take on a lost, but unforgotten, small town. I really liked how you dived into something that related to the whole county."

Glenn Evans, Sally Sexton/Weatherford Democrat - 3rd place

"Leap Day: I enjoyed reading about different perspectives of Leap Year Day babies. Excellent job on not only focusing on one individual. There were some punctuation, capitalizing and wording choice issues throughout the story, but all in all, this was a good topic to tackle!
Chandor Gardens: Nice story on a local garden/trail. I enjoyed how the beginning of the story caught the reader's attention. However, I wish that the background information on the Chandor Gardens at the bottom of the story was moved to the top."

Large Weekly Division 4

Austin Jackson/Wise County Messenger - 1st place

"Red dirt redemption: Impressive, solid writing that was full of heart. It made me feel almost like I was watching a movie while reading this family's story. Great job!
Fighting fire with fire: Excellent job! I really enjoyed how the lede and beginning of the story were unique. It didn't feel like something I read before. It captivated me to keep on reading about prescribed burns, which is a topic that not many people understand. Solid job!"

Abigail Allen/Pilot Point Post-Signal - 2nd place

"Butterfly: I loved this story! It was one of my favorites. Great writing and I am happy that the writer brought it back full circle at the end with the alien book.
A promise fulfilled: This is an excellent take on a family receiving a new home through one of these types of organizations. This is solid, quality writing!"

Feature Story
(continued)

Large Weekly Division 4 (continued)

Eden Gilbreath/Hood County News - 3rd place

"Ukraine: This was a great, extensive story on how a family from Ukraine took refuge in a small, Texas town. I also like how the reporter did not solely focus on the husband and wife, but also the son. I do wish, however, that there was more clarification on if the first sentence was a quote or not: 'It's hard to imagine...'
Man behind the brew: Great writing and choice of headline for this conversational story. In the future, when speaking of a business, even if it is not fully open, add at the end where to find more information."

Susan Harris/Van Zandt News - 4th place

"Pat Summit: I love the pops of pink in this story to showcase breast cancer awareness. Good story! While there is another story about this same person in the same edition, I think this story would benefit from some more quotes from different family members, friends or those in the community that are close to her.
Virgil Melton: Great choice of story for an edition, or page, that honored veterans. However, it was easy to get lost when the subheads in the story were not in bold like the others were. In addition, it would have been great to have more extensive quotes from those in the community who knew Virgil."

Small Weekly Division 5

Bodey Cooper/The Terrell Tribune - 1st place

"A Century of Memories: Excellent job on making this story feel like stepping back into time, while also paving a way for the reader to feel like they are the ones having the conversation with Frances. Solid writing!
Pop's Fried Chicken: I enjoy small business feature stories like these. This is especially true in this case, when there is a history in the family that dates back several years. Great, concise writing that still showcases why Doug Keels keeps doing this in Terrell!"

Susan Lindsey, Kenny Mitchell/Bowie County Citizens Tribune - 2nd place

"Everybody's journey is different: Good, heartfelt story with compelling emotion about a woman who is enduring a tough battle.
Kindness is a choice that matters: I thoroughly enjoyed this story and how the beginning was initially about one individual, but then it went into the whole community, like other NICU mothers and kindergarten students as well."

John Arbter/Wood County Monitor - 3rd place

"Football: This is a warm, homey story about an alternative way to watch the Friday night football game, but something that is normal for a small town. I enjoyed that the reporter spoke with multiple families, but I wish that it was broken up into sections or organized a little more because it was easy to get lost on who was being talked about. I hope the reporter continues to follow what's next for CR 2377!
Signs: What a cute story and great use of getting photos of both the signs, but also one of the couples. This story was a great read and felt like a conversation with the grandparents!"

Travis Hairgrove/Royse City Herald-Banner - 4th place

"'We lost an iconic member of our family': Nice, heartfelt story sharing a shocking event that affected many in the community. There were slight editorial statements made in the story, and there was some confusion on who was being quoted, but overall, it was a good story.
Let them eat pie: I love the topic of this story. Concise, quality writing. I am curious to see a few more quotes from either the co-owner or those who attended the festival in previous years."

General Excellence

Daily Division 1

Tyler Morning Telegraph staff - 1st place

"Nice coverage of community – politics, family ranching, hard-core news, and sports."

Large Semi-Weekly Division 2

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel staff - 1st place

"Nice coverage of two political opponents for the same office at the same time, while also covering Governor Abbott. Good job on covering the community equally. Layout is refreshing, crisp and clean."

Palestine Herald Press staff - 2nd place

"Lots of hard news. Good job on covering the hard issues. (If you can figure out how to combine each issue as 1 PDF file, that really makes it easier to look at!)"

Greenville Herald-Banner staff - 3rd place

"Clean cut, well laid out newspaper. Excellent slate of submissions."

Small Semi-Weekly Division 3

Anna Beall, Sally Sexton/Gainesville Daily Register - 1st place

"This newspaper was the clear winner out of the submissions in the general excellence category. Front pages carried eye appealing photos. Community and hard news stories, as well as full-page photo spreads, accompanied the entries. Good!"

General Excellence
(continued)

Weatherford Democrat staff - 2nd place
"The June 4 issue is the better of the two entries."

Monica Faram, Matt Smith, Armando Lutz/ Cleburne Times Review - 3rd place
"Photos of political candidates facing each other at those angles was nice. However, perhaps more local coverage of your community would be better, instead of national issues. Perhaps some feature stories on local members of your community, and some hard news photos would be better suited for the front page, and would enhance this newspaper's standing in the contest!"

Large Weekly Division 4
Pilot Point Post-Signal staff - 1st place
"Love the overall look and feel of the paper. Good local coverage."

Darren Clark, Hilary McAlister/Hood County News - 2nd place
"Good local coverage. Nice look overall."

Wise County Messenger staff - 3rd place
"Love the overall look and feel of the paper. Good local coverage. Not a fan of advertising on the front page."

Rockwall Herald-Banner staff - 4th place
"Nice paper. Just not as good as the others in the category."

Small Weekly Division 5
Shane Lance/Quanah Tribune-Chief - 1st place
"Love the murals. Like the homecoming pics. Good local coverage."

Royse City Herald-Banner staff - 2nd place
"Nice look overall. Like the local coverage.."

The Dublin Citizen staff - 3rd place
"Love the look of your paper. Like the meet the teachers article. Enjoyed the story on the little church."

Quanah Tribune-Chief

QUANAH, HARDEMAN COUNTY, TEXAS $1.00 FRIDAY, August 16, 2024 www.quanahtribunechief.com 8 PAGES VOL. 135 NO. 7

Town Transformed: Vibrant Murals Bringing New Life to City, Bringing Art to Every Corner

Reagan Students Greeted by New Mural in Cafeteria

When Reagan Elementary students returned for their first day of school on Wednesday, August 7th, they were welcomed by a vibrant new addition to the cafeteria—a colorful mural. This colorful artwork has transformed the cafeteria into a more visually appealing and inviting space for the students. The mural was creatively designed and brought to life by the Hillbilly PowWow Art Company from Quanah and thanks to a generous donation from North Texas Communications.

The Gallery on Main Set to Open in Quanah During Fall Fest, Aiming to Revitalize the Community

The Gallery on Main is owned and operated by Michael and Kai Helmer, founders of the Hillbilly PowWow Art Company. The gallery is set for its grand opening during Fall Fest on Saturday, September 14th. Shane Lance/Quanah Tribune-Chief

A new art gallery is opening in Quanah during Fall Fest, September 14th—The Gallery on Main by the Hillbilly PowWow Art Company. The gallery is owned and operated by Michael and Kai Helmer, founders of the Hillbilly PowWow Art Company and is located 122 South Main Street, at the corner of Main and 2nd Street in downtown Quanah. In speaking with the Helmers, they envision The Gallery

SEE GALLERY, PAGE 3

Vibrant Murals Unveiled, Infusing Quanah with Community Spirit

Fuqua's Quanah mural reflects the spirit of Quanah through contributions from the community. Courtesy

If you've recently driven down 3rd Street or follow Beauty by Summer on Facebook, you might have spotted two vibrant new murals on the business at 511 West 3rd St. Owner Summer Fuqua shared that her love for art inspired her to create these murals as a way to bring joy and excitement to Quanah. She aimed to add a visually appealing touch to the community, enhancing the local atmosphere with something both beautiful and enjoyable. Fuqua started designing the vibrant mural on the back

SEE MURALS, PAGE 3

New AD Aiming to Rejuvenate Program; Eyes Playoff Spot

The Indians practice handoffs during offensive drills Monday. They scrimmage Electra at Meet the Indians on August 22nd at Quanah Indian Stadium. Shane Lance/Quanah Tribune-Chief

After three tough seasons with records of 1-9, 2-8 and 2-9, it would be easy to assume that player turnout for the Indians would remain low. However, the arrival of new Athletic Director and Head Coach Mike Bowling has brought renewed excitement, resulting

SEE FOOTBALL, PAGE 3

Ring Ring Goes the Bell! Enrollment Down Again for Quanah ISD

Students and parents gather while waiting for Regan's doors to open for the first day of school. Shane Lance/Quanah Tribune-Chief

Wednesday morning marked an exciting start for Quanah ISD students as they embarked on the first day of school. All campuses kicked off the new year at 7:40 a.m. At Reagan Elementary, the staff warmly greeted students as they arrived, with hugs and smiles welcoming them back for the new school year. This year, enrollment has decreased,

SEE FIRST DAY, PAGE 3

Quanah Tribune-Chief
Div. 5 1st place General Excellence

Headline Writing

Daily Division 1
Jennifer Scott, Santana Wood/ Tyler Morning Telegraph - 1st place
"Needing A Refill – clever, water! Reel Good Day – Excellent correspondence to fishing! Kudos on this one! Budding Enthusiasts – Awesome! A+ 100 to the person coming up with these headlines!"

Large Semi-Weekly Division 2
Stacy Faison/Lufkin Daily News - 1st place
"These headlines are spectacular! Way-to-go! Sew Long, the opinion article on the UIL alignment and the fibs headlines were great."

Warren Morrison/Greenville Herald-Banner - 2nd place
"Total solar-bration is the biggest winner here. Saying Goodbye is on-point."

Jennifer Browning/Athens Daily Review - 3rd place
"Good job!"

Josh Edwards/ Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel - 4th place

Small Semi-Weekly Division 3
Guy Chapman/Corsicana Daily Sun - 1st place
"Good job."

Gladewater Mirror staff - 4th place
"Nice overall look. Good local coverage. Like the rodeo pics."

Monica Faram/Cleburne Times-Review
Div. 3 1st place News Photograph
"Bilung Gloria Gibbon Salii, the Queen of Palau, greets soon-to-be Southwestern Adventist University graduates on Wednesday as she arrives on campus. Bilung will receive an honorary degree from Southwestern on Sunday."

Headline Writing
(continued)

Large Weekly Division 4

Ashley Terry, Chloe Laing/Hood County News - 1st place

Kent Miller/Rockwall Herald-Banner - 2nd place

Abigail Allen/Martin Edwards/Pilot Point Post-Signal - 3rd place

Wise County Messenger staff - 4th place

Small Weekly Division 5

The Dublin Citizen staff - 1st place
"Dublin Under Sun Block was clever.
When the chips are down was a cool way to refer to road construction.
Price given state award for tending the nest (watching out for his students) is accurate."

Shane Lance/Quanah Tribune-Chief - 2nd place
"Ring Ring Goes the Bell! is creative for the start of school and announcing enrollment is down. Nearly 100 Anglers Hooked on Fishing After 13th Annual Kid Fish is clever, original, accurate, creative and impactful. The Family Finds headline was not as good."

Kenny Mitchell/Bowie County Citizens Tribune - 3rd place
"I loved Tick tock, not Tik Tok for a heading for that 'religious' column. Feeding the Playoff Hungry Bears was clever, too. The third Autumn Wind headline type was colorful."

Jim Bardwell, James Draper/Gladwater Mirror - 4th place
"Crime takes bite out of officer is clever, accurate and impactful. Gladewater woos inn crowd is somewhat clever, too. But Elected officials give themselves $1,200 raises while being accurate was not eye-catching."

News Photo

Daily Division 1

Jennifer Scott/Tyler Morning Telegraph - 1st place
"Great news coverage. Loved the up-close photo of the good samaritans. That photo is a winner!"

Large Semi Weekly Division 2

Josh Edwards, Andrew Hodge/Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel - 1st place
"For me, the best 'hard news' photo was the photo of the rollover crash in this category. That photo was crisp, cropped closely and showed first responders on the scene. Good job being on the spot!"

Joel Andrews/Lufkin Daily News - 2nd place
"Angle of the Under Construction photograph netted this one a second place award. Excellent thought on planning!"

Kaylee Dusang, Alexandra Meelbusch/Gatesville Messenger - 3rd place
"Good job capturing the excitement of the solar eclipse."

Small Semi Weekly Division 3

Monica Faram/Cleburne Times Review - 1st place
"I felt that the submissions could have used some more help. The photo of "complete darkness" is awesome. That photo won this category for placement. However, I wish the queen photo would have at least show a side profile of the queen's face in addition to the student. I realize that sometimes it is hard to get the perfect shot, but that photo could have used more of a side profile at least of her face."

Anna Beall/Gainesville Daily Register - 2nd place
"The 'signal to their supporters' photo is okay. I realize that is a significant moment. The 'safety drill' photo is what won this category's placement. "

Large Weekly Division 4

Zach Freeman/Tri-County Reporter - 1st place
"Capturing U.S. Navy's Blue Angels in the sky was impressive. Snow day photo of statue of girl with a book on a bench in freezing weather was striking."

Austin Jackson, Brendan Marchand/Wise County Messenger - 2nd place
"Very timely hard news photos of first responders rescuing a man. EMS Rescue-1 clearing debris to put out fire had good composition."

Abigail Allen, Basil Gist/Pilot Point Post-Signal 3rd place
"Giant tree damaged by tornado was eye-catching."

Mary Vinson/Hood County News - 4th place
"Folks watching total solar eclipse in Granbury was innovative. WFAA Daybreak Morning Show live in Granbury was fine."

Zach Freeman/Tri-County Reporter
Div. 4 1st place News Photograph
"The Blue Angels at the start of a Diamond Loop maneuver.."

Small Weekly Division 5

Shane Lance/Quanah Tribune-Chief - 1st place
"The burning house engulfed in flames was an impressive photo. The firefighter spraying water on flames had good composition and action."

Wyndi Veigel-Gaudette/The Dublin Citizen - 2nd place
"Air Evac responding to single vehicle motorcycle accident photo and the photo of Dublin firefighter working to extinguish house fire were both eye-catching and timely."

James Draper/Gladewater Mirror - 3rd place
"The two down, one to flow photo with reflection in water showing the 2 out of 3 water pump empty of water treatment plant was very interesting and nice composition. The firefighter comforting the child after a car wreck is heartwarming."

Bowie County Citizens Tribune - 4th place
"Photo of firefighters cleaning up remains of charred vehicle had goodcomposition. The photo of DPS agents preparing to enter house to get suspect was timely."

News Writing

Daily Division 1

Jennifer Scott/Tyler Morning Telegraph - 1st place

"The dog-fighting ring was incredibly interesting and I'm sure broke many hearts upon reading. It is a very common occurrence that many may not be aware of, so extremely important news. I would have liked to see more transition sentences, along with some variation in syntax, rather than so many subtitles. The overcrowding in the animal shelter is also a very real issue for many cities in the nation. The breakdown of solutions and consequences was very well done and informative."

Large Semi-Weekly Division 2

Will Lanigan/Lufkin Daily News - 1st place

"The story of Cheshire is extremely relevant to the community. I feel that covering a trial is difficult, but the writer managed to fill the story with the necessary information without bogging it down. The same can be applied to the second story."

Andrew Hodge, Josh Edwards/Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel - 2nd place

"I'm so intrigued by the Christmas tree farm and I loved the story, but since many community members often forget that they exist, more information on how the farm runs and the work that goes into it would have filled out the story. The Lion Star story was well informed and I think gave the right amount of information without overwhelming an everyday reader."

Kent Miller/Greenville Herald-Banner - 3rd place

"The lede in the story involving the children lost in the fatal crash is beautifully done and intrigues the reader immediately. The repetition of "one" is powerful in this story, as well. The sentence structure could bit a bit stronger, as the short sentences pull me out of the story. For the officer story, I would have liked more detail on the incident and his family life."

David Scott/Gatesville Messenger - 4th place

"I can see how community members would be concerned about the future of the church building, but I would have like more information. The same can be said about the eclipse story, as it was mainly filled with quotes."

Small Semi-Weekly Division 3

Monica Faram, Matt Smith/Cleburne Times Review - 1st place

"The story of the child getting the help he needs in school through a translator is not only touching, but inspiring for families. This is the type of news that readers need to see. It was well delivered. The second story does a good job of providing ample background to catch a reader up who may not be familiar with the case, while not overloading them."

Anna Beall, Sally Sexton/Gainesville Daily Register - 2nd place

"The first piece was a very well written piece that is significant history for this town. The second, while interesting, could have been more localized by speaking to the juvenile center itself. That would have brought another interesting angle by getting the otherside of the story."

Sally Sexton/Weatherford Democrat - 3rd place

A property located on County Road 4136 in Tyler is being investigated after authorities discovered what they believed to be a dogfighting ring. Over 60 animals were seized from the home. Evidence of abuse was found at the scene, police said. (Jennifer Scott/Tyler Morning Telegraph)

Investigation Underway

Affidavit: Dogfighting arena found in home; 2 arrested after 61 animals seized

JENNIFER SCOTT AND SANTANA WOOD

Nearly 60 dogs were rescued this week from an alleged dogfighting operation in rural Tyler. Now, facilities are asking the public for help as dogs while a criminal investigation is underway.

Kerry Jermon Isiah Jones

Michael Jones

Amber Greene, supervisor of Smith County Animal Control, carries puppies rescued from a dogfighting operation in north Tyler. (Jennifer Scott/Tyler Morning Telegraph)

Here's what we know so far.

WHAT HAPPENED?

Sixty-one animals – 59 dogs, two cats – were rescued from a mobile home on County Road 4136. Smith County Animal Control was called out to the property Monday after an anonymous tipster told officials they believed dogs were living in horrible conditions and a dog was possibly eating another.

Animal control officers arrived at the 9-acre property to find dozens of injured dogs. Some were confined in cages or makeshift kennels while others were found in a shed, tied to treadmills where they were being forced to "work out" with heavy weights on their necks, police said. The dogs had no ventilation or air conditioning in 85-degree weather and were susceptible to heat stroke or death, an investigator said in an arrest affidavit. Others were chained in the yard.

The dogs were malnourished with their ribs showing, according to the affidavit. Smith County Animal Control Supervisor Amber Greene said the animals had no access to clean water.

Many of the dogs had fresh injuries with visible blood and scars "consistent with being fought," the affidavit states. Injuries ranged from minor to severe; one dog had part of its bottom jaw missing while another had its nose removed, possibly from a bite, the document states. Others had scars. Some of the dogs were lethargic and unable to move.

EVIDENCE OF DOGFIGHTING RUING

After a search warrant was executed, police searched a large wooden building that appeared to be under construction. Inside the building was mostly empty and there was a rectangular area that was boxed in with walls and carpet, which had "dark red stains consistent with dried blood," according to the affidavit. Police said it looked as though the building was being used as "a fighting arena."

Police also found bite or break sticks commonly used to break a dog's bite, with bite marks showing they had been used; weighted collars used to strengthen fighting dogs; and multiple vials and syringes of canine medicines including tranquilizer.

INVESTIGATION >> PAGE 8A

Tyler Morning Telegraph
Div. 1 1st place News Writing

"The public education story is very timely and offered numerous sources, but I wish that there was more focus on the local district. There was a small section, but I believe it could have been expanded."

Guy Chapman/Corsicana Daily Sun - 4th place

"The podcast story putting Corsicana on the map is definitely significant for readers. I would be curious to know more about how the creator began the podcast and what the creative process was like."

News Writing

(continued)

Large Weekly Division 4

Ashley Terry/Hood County News - 1st place
"The Hood County Heroes story is well done. It was able to combine sentimentality and information about the event without feeling disorganized. The second story was intriguing and I was surprised to see the writer was able to get quotes from the homeowner. Usually in stories like this, it's based off of reports, so good job in that aspect."

Abigail Allen, Basil Gist/Pilot Point Post-Signal - 2nd place
"The story in 'Damaged but grateful' was heartbreaking, while offering important infomation on the disaster. The council story gave a detailed account of the issue at play, but I feel that it could have used less quotes and more explanation."

Austin Jackson, Brian Knox/Wise County Messenger - 3rd place
"The biosolids story was informative and followed through in every section: what happened, what's currently going on and how it's affecting the individual."

Kent Miller/Rockwall Herald-Banner - 4th place
"The topic is extremely important and necessary for the community, though the writing could be stronger."

Small Weekly Division 5

Susan Lindsey/Bowie County Citizens Tribune - 1st place
"The shooting gave essential information and was intriguing to read. Additionally, it was very well formatted. The city of Hooks story also provided multiple sides and gave readers and opportunity to form their own opinions."

Phil Major/Wood County Monitor 2nd place
"Good job providing the background information about the club, it allows readers just tuning in to understand what's going on. The band piece really detailed the hard work that goes unnoticed in marching band."

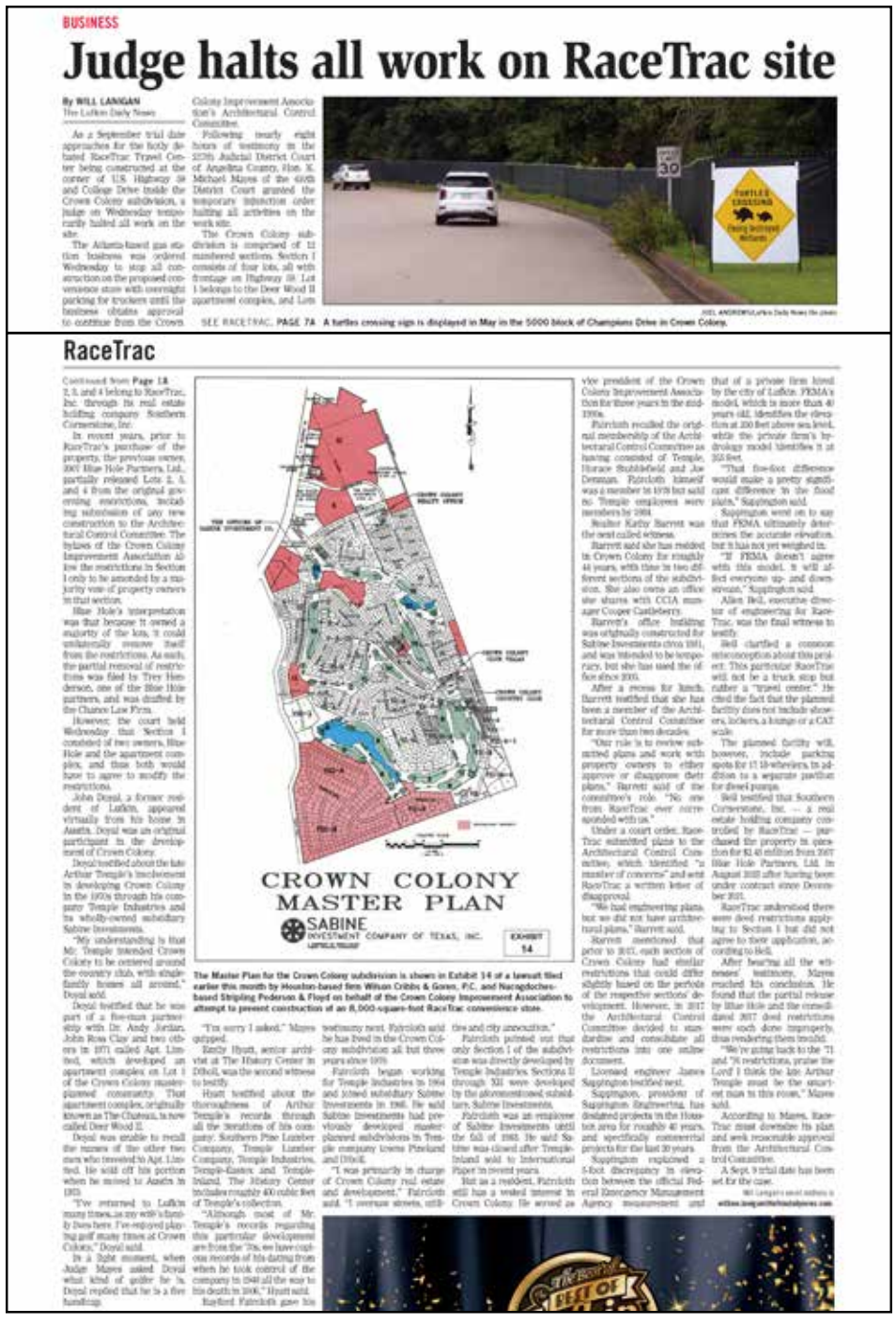
Bodey Cooper/The Terrell Tribune - 3rd place
"The officer story was succinct and well done."

James Draper/Gladewater Mirror - 4th place
"Both of these stories relay information well and explicitly express why this is a concern for community members."

Page Design

Large Semi-Weekly Division 2

Lufkin Daily News staff - 1st place
"Nice and clean. I liked the way you presented the photo on the LHS grad Wade releases latest novel story.."



BUSINESS

Judge halts all work on RaceTrac site

By WILL LANIGAN
The Lufkin Daily News

As a September trial date approaches for the hotly debated RaceTrac Travel Center being constructed at the corner of U.S. Highway 59 and College Drive inside the Crown Colony subdivision, a judge on Wednesday temporarily halted all work on the site.

The Atlanta-based gas station business was ordered Wednesday to stop all construction on the proposed convenience store with overnight parking for truckers until the business obtains approval to continue from the Crown Colony Improvement Association's Architectural Control Committee.

Following nearly eight hours of testimony in the 273th Judicial District Court of Angelina County, Hon. K. Michael Mayes of the 60th District Court granted the temporary injunction order halting all activities on the work site.

The Crown Colony subdivision is comprised of 13 numbered sections. Section 1 consists of four lots, all with frontage on Highway 59. Lot 1 belongs to the Deer Wood II apartment complex, and Lots

SEE RACETRAC, PAGE 7A

JOEL ANDREWS/Lufkin Daily News file photo

A turtles crossing sign is displayed in May in the 5000 block of Champions Drive in Crown Colony.

RaceTrac

Continued from Page 1A

2, 3, and 4 belong to RaceTrac, Inc. through its real estate holding company Southern Cornerstone, Inc.

In recent years, prior to RaceTrac's purchase of the property, the previous owner, 2007 Blue Hole Partners, Ltd., partially released Lots 2, 3, and 4 from the original governing restrictions, including submission of any new construction to the Architectural Control Committee. The bylaws of the Crown Colony Improvement Association allow the restrictions in Section 1 only to be amended by a majority vote of property owners in that section.

Blue Hole's interpretation was that because it owned a majority of the lots, it could unilaterally remove itself from the restrictions. As such, the partial removal of restrictions was filed by Trey Henderson, one of the Blue Hole partners, and was drafted by the Chaney Law Firm.

However, the court held Wednesday that Section 1 consisted of two owners, Blue Hole and the apartment complex, and thus both would have to agree to modify the restrictions.

John Doyal, a former resident of Lufkin, appeared virtually from his home in Austin. Doyal was an original participant in the development of Crown Colony.

Doyal testified about the late Arthur Temple's involvement in developing Crown Colony in the 1970s through his company Temple Industries and its wholly-owned subsidiary Sabine Investments.

"My understanding is that Mr. Temple intended Crown Colony to be centered around the country club, with single-family homes all around," Doyal said.

Doyal testified that he was part of a five-man partnership with Dr. Andy Jordan, John Ross Clay and two others in 1971 called Apt. Limited, which developed an apartment complex on Lot 1 of the Crown Colony master-planned community. That apartment complex, originally known as The Chateau, is now called Deer Wood II.

Doyal was unable to recall the names of the other two men who invested in Apt. Limited. He sold off his portion when he moved to Austin in 1973.

"I've returned to Lufkin many times...in my wife's family. Been here. I've enjoyed playing golf many times at Crown Colony," Doyal said.

In a light moment, when Judge Mayes asked Doyal what kind of golfer he is, Doyal replied that he is a five handicap.

"I'm sorry I asked," Mayes quipped.

Rusty Hyatt, senior archivist at The History Center in Diboll, was the second witness to testify.

Hyatt testified about the thoroughness of Arthur Temple's records through all the iterations of his company: Southern Pine Lumber Company, Temple Lumber Company, Temple Industries, Temple-Eastex and Temple-Inland. The History Center includes roughly 400 cubic feet of Temple's collection.

"Although most of Mr. Temple's records regarding this particular development are from the '70s, we have copious records of his dating from when he took control of the company in 1946 all the way to his death in 1996," Hyatt said.

Bartlett Fairchild gave his testimony next. Fairchild said he has lived in the Crown Colony subdivision all but three years since 1970.

Fairchild began working for Temple Industries in 1964 and joined subsidiary Sabine Investments in 1968. He said Sabine Investments had previously developed master-planned subdivisions in Temple company towns Pineland and Diboll.

"I was primarily in charge of Crown Colony real estate and development," Fairchild said. "I oversaw streets, utilities and city annexation."

Fairchild pointed out that only Section 1 of the subdivision was directly developed by Temple Industries. Sections II through XII were developed by the aforementioned subsidiary, Sabine Investments.

Fairchild was an employee of Sabine Investments until the fall of 1983. He said Sabine was closed after Temple-Inland sold to International Paper in recent years.

But as a resident, Fairchild still has a vested interest in Crown Colony. He served as vice president of the Crown Colony Improvement Association for three years in the mid-1990s.

Fairchild recalled the original membership of the Architectural Control Committee as having consisted of Temple, Horace Stubblefield and Joe Donovan. Fairchild himself was a member in 1978 but said no Temple employees were members by 1984.

Realtor Kathy Barrett was the next called witness.

Barrett said she has resided in Crown Colony for roughly 44 years, with time in two different sections of the subdivision. She also owns an office she shares with CCIA manager Cooper Castleberry.

Barrett's office building was originally constructed for Sabine Investments circa 1981, and was intended to be temporary, but she has used the office since 2005.

After a recess for lunch, Barrett testified that she has been a member of the Architectural Control Committee for more than two decades.

"Our role is to review submitted plans and work with property owners to either approve or disapprove their plans," Barrett said of the committee's role. "No one from RaceTrac ever corresponded with us."

Under a court order, RaceTrac submitted plans to the Architectural Control Committee, which identified "a number of concerns" and sent RaceTrac a written letter of disapproval.

"We had engineering plans, but we did not have architectural plans," Barrett said.

Barrett mentioned that prior to 2015, each section of Crown Colony had similar restrictions that could differ slightly based on the periods of the respective sections' development. However, in 2017 the Architectural Control Committee decided to standardize and consolidate all restrictions into one online document.

Licensed engineer James Sappington testified next.

Sappington, president of Sappington Engineering, has designed projects in the Houston area for roughly 40 years, and specifically commercial projects for the last 30 years.

Sappington explained a 5-foot discrepancy in elevation between the official Federal Emergency Management Agency measurement and that of a private firm hired by the city of Lufkin. FEMA's model, which is more than 40 years old, identifies the elevation at 200 feet above sea level, while the private firm's hydrology model identifies it at 205 feet.

"That five-foot difference would make a pretty significant difference in the flood plain," Sappington said.

Sappington went on to say that FEMA ultimately determines the accurate elevation, but it has not yet weighed in.

"If FEMA doesn't agree with this model, it will affect everyone up- and downstream," Sappington said.

Allen Bell, executive director of engineering for RaceTrac, was the final witness to testify.

Bell clarified a common misconception about this project. This particular RaceTrac will not be a truck stop but rather a "travel center." He cited the fact that the planned facility does not include showers, lockers, a lounge or a CAT scale.

The planned facility will, however, include parking spots for 17 18-wheelers, in addition to a separate pavilion for diesel pumps.

Bell testified that Southern Cornerstone, Inc. — a real estate holding company controlled by RaceTrac — purchased the property in question for $2.45 million from 2007 Blue Hole Partners, Ltd. in August 2021 after having been under contract since December 2021.

RaceTrac understood there were deed restrictions applying to Section 1 but did not agree to their application, according to Bell.

After hearing all the witnesses' testimony, Mayes reached his conclusion. He found that the partial release by Blue Hole and the remaining 2017 deed restrictions were such done improperly, thus rendering them invalid.

"We're going back to the '71 and '76 restrictions, praise the Lord! I think the late Arthur Temple must be the smartest man in this room," Mayes said.

According to Mayes, RaceTrac must downsize its plat and seek reasonable approval from the Architectural Control Committee.

A Sept. 9 trial date has been set for the case.

CROWN COLONY MASTER PLAN
SABINE INVESTMENT COMPANY OF TEXAS, INC.
EXHIBIT 14

The Master Plan for the Crown Colony subdivision is shown in Exhibit 14 of a lawsuit filed earlier this month by Houston-based firm Wilson Cribbs & Goren, P.C. and Nacogdoches-based Stripling Pederson & Floyd on behalf of the Crown Colony Improvement Association to attempt to prevent construction of an 8,000-square-foot RaceTrac convenience store.

Lufkin Daily News
Div. 1 1st place News Writing

Warren Morrison/Greenville Herald-Banner - 2nd place
"Clean design."

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel staff - 3rd place
"I would have liked to have more use of white space on this or more photos to break up the text."

Page Design
(continued)

Small Semi-Weekly Division 3
Monica Faram/Cleburne Times Review - 1st place
"This was one of the best designs I saw in all the page design categories, I judged. Clean design, great use of white space and overall appealing to the reader."

Large Weekly Division 4
Kent Miller/Rockwall Herald-Banner - 1st place
"I found this to be a clean design. Great use of photos and headline fonts."

Hannah King, Austin Jackson/Wise County Messenger - 2nd place
"Nice design. I particularly like the the 40 over 40 layout."

Abigail Allen, Carrie Rodriguez - 3rd place
"Really liked the use of photos in this design. I felt like the style choice of headline format did not grab the reader, but other than that I think the layout is great."

Small Weekly Division 5
The Dublin Citizen staff - 1st place
"Front page design captured me. The other pages had clean design."

Gladewater Mirror staff - 2nd place
"Nice design. I really liked the Once in a Lifetime presentation.."

Shane Lance/Quanah Tribune-Chief - 3rd place
"Clean design and great use of white space."

Kenny Mitchell, Allyson Pebsworth/Bowie County Citizens Tribune - 4th place
"This design was very busy and it was hard to sometimes different one story from another. I think some more white space would help."

Sports Coverage

Large Semi-Weekly Division 2
Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel staff - 1st place
"Just a top-notch sports section all-around. Keep up the great work."

David Claybourn/Greenville Herald-Banner - 2nd place
"Clean layout, great content and lots of it. Particularly love the football capsules. Daily Sentinel just had a little more content and looked a bit more polished."

Lufkin Daily News staff - 3rd place
"Best sports photography in this class, but not enough volume of coverage to compete with the top two in this division. Fight your publisher to let ya'll have more space!"

Rich Flower/Athens Daily Review - 4th place

Small Semi-Weekly Division 3
Monica Faram/Cleburne Times Review - 1st place

Mike Phillips/Corsicana Daily Sun - 2nd place

Large Weekly Division 4
Pilot Point Post-Signal staff - 1st place
"An amazing level of strong writing and photography here across a wide variety of sports."

Micah McCartney, Brendan Marchand, Mack Thweatt/Wise County Messenger - 2nd place
"Lots of great coverage here, but a few problems that kept it from first. I found the cover shot of the volleyball section a little strange, a pose shot of a single player (albeit the state MVP) when there was much better action/emotion shots form the state tourney that would have been a better dominant choice ... and there was no noticeable ID for the cover ... also Brendan's column recounting the season made him sound like more fan than journalist."

Kent Miller, David Claybourn, Laurie White King/Rockwall Herald-Banner - 3rd place
"Great photography, great columns, but not a single quote from a player or coach to be found. Ask some questions!"

Small Weekly Division 5
Wood County Monitor staff 1st place
"Y'all have stunning photography and engaging writing. Really, really well done sports coverage."

Paul Gaudette/The Dublin Citizen - 2nd place
"Lots of great content that your readers will appreciate in theses two issues. Keep up the great work."

Dennis H. Phillips/Light and Champion - 3rd place
"I like your football contest (though it looks complicated). I enjoy your graphics and content. There is not the depth of local content here as some of the other entries."

David Claybourn/Royse City Herald-Banner - 4th place
"Solid sports coverage but would like to have more. That keeps this from placing higher."

Sports Photo

Large Semi-Weekly Division 2

Josh Edwards/Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel - 1st place

"This was a difficult division!! All entries were great!
What made yours stand out was the expression on the players' faces in both photos. I would have loved to have seen the soccer photo be larger so that I could really see the head collision, but the facial expression was great.
In the basketball photo, see the one player's face while having another on her head...that's just a 'money shot.' Keep up the great work!"

Joel Andrews/Lufkin Daily News - 2nd place

"I really loved the uniqueness of the baseball photo. The creativity really 'knocked it out of the park.'
The high jumper photo was nice and clear. I liked the way you were able to truly focus just on him. My only critique would be that I would have like more about the jump or the jumper in the cutline.
Top notch photography!"

Travis Tapley/Athens Daily Review - 3rd place

"I loved the basketball photo. The facial expressions on the two featured players were great. The action in the football photo is great, but the photo is a little dark. Also, part of the judging criteria is 'quality of cutline,' so I had to take that into consideration while judging a very strong division. Great camera work."

Small Semi-Weekly Division 3

Monica Faram/Cleburne Times-Review - 1st place

"The photo of the pitcher is nice with the necklace detail in the air. I would have liked to see you capture the ball in the photo. However, the way you have him in focus and the players beyond the mound blurred makes it a strong photo.
Part of the judging criteria is 'quality of cutline,' and there is no cutline with your volleyball photo. However, the action and clarity you were able to capture was good, but the photo is a little dark."

Paul Borsellino/Corsicana Daily Sun - 2nd place

"The tennis photo is very good. I like that I can see the concentration on her face and even the details on the ball.
The baseball photo is nice, but I would have liked to see a shot with more action. Also, the shadow from the brim of his cap makes his face definition difficult to see."

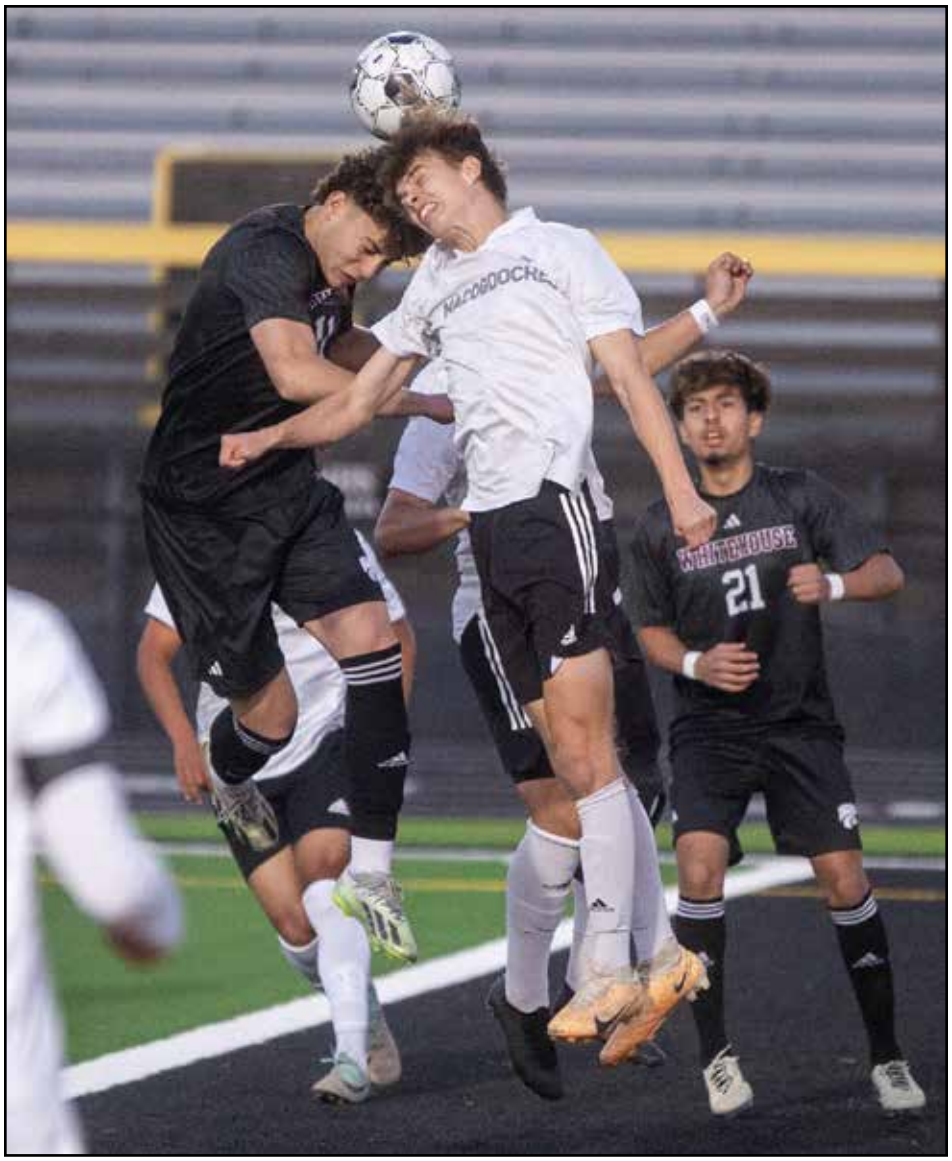
Large Weekly Division 4

Micah McCartney/Wise County Messenger staff - 1st place

"The action in both photos are great. I know Texas is a 'football state,' but I loved the track triple jump photo -- it had great detail in his face and muscle tone as well as the sand grains. The football photo was good as well, capturing the facial expression. Also, I appreciated the story within the cutlines. Great job!!"

Laurie White King/Rockwall Herald-Banner - 2nd place

"I loved the celebration shot with the football team and the band. The photo is a little dark, so some of the details are literally over-shadowed. In the other football photo, the focus on #22 is great -- with the other players blurred. The photo is nice and detailed, but a little dark. Great camera-work!"



Josh Edwards/Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel
Div. 2 1st place Sports Photograph
"Nacogdoches' Trace Finnerud (16) is headbutted by Whitehouse's Takfarinas Kadi (11) while going for a header during Tuesday's bi-district playoff game at Dragon Stadium."

Martin Edwards, Janette Pool/Pilot Point Post-Signal - 3rd place

"Great job capturing the expression on the wrestler's face as he celebrated. My only complaint would be that his feet are out of focus. I would also suggest a different crop so that the garbage can is not so prominent in the background.
The track photo has nice definition in muscles and the detail is good. I especially loved his facial expression of determination off the block.
Keep up the good work."

Layth Taylor, Mary Vinson/Hood County News - 4th place

"The gymnast photo was nice, but I would have liked to have seen her facial expression while in the air. ... The softball pitcher photo is nice and clear -- I could even see the stitching on the ball. My complaint would be to have a stronger cutline: include stats, was this a strikeout...something to add to the story of the win."

Sports Photo
(continued)

Small Weekly Division 5
Mike Peery/Gladewater Mirror - 1st place
"The basketball photo is great!! I love the action with the one player diving and the other off-balance. ... The celebration shot between player and coach is also good. I also like that the photo is nice and big to show off the great quality."

Sam Major/Wood County Monitor - 2nd place
"The expression on the faces of the volleyball players while attempting to block is good. Also, the ball is in focus, which is not easy to do. ... The XC photo is extremely dark. You might adjust the camera for lighting or adjust in the photo editing. Overall, good job capturing the action."

Quanah Tribune-Chief - 3rd place
"The silhouette cheerleading photo is nice. And, yes, cheerleading is a sport. The middle school runner is a little out of focus and the lighting angle kind of whites out his face. But, the muscle definition and detail you were able to capture is nice. Keep up the good work!"

Paul Gaudette/The Dublin Citizen - 4th place
"The football celebration in the end zone was nicely captured with the players leaping in the air. Also, you did a great job in telling the story by including the referee motioning touchdown. ... The volleyball photo shows some good action at the net. However, the ball is not in focus and the defender's hands are also slightly out of focus. Great job capturing the action."

Mike Peery/Gladewater Mirror
Div. 5 1st place Sports Photo
"Scotty Breitenberg lunges past a New Diana opponent and lofts the ball toward the basket in the last home game of the year for the Roughnecks. Breitenberg was fouled on the play. The Roughnecks lost to the Eagles 35-50."

Sports Writing

Daily Division 1
Brandon Ogden, Phil Hicks/Tyler Morning Telegraph - 1st place
"Good writing and use of quotes."

Large Semi-Weekly Division 2
Edwin Quarles/Lufkin Daily News - 1st place
"Quick feature draws the reader in from the very beginning. I found myself eager to read the jump, which is the mark of a great feature story."

Nathan Hague/Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel - 2nd place
"Interesting topics and the writer clearly had to do some traveling to secure the interviews. Nice entries."

David Claybourn/Greenville Herald-Banner - 3rd place
"Good entries and concise writing."

Small Semi-Weekly Division 3
Sally Sexton/Weatherford Democrat - 1st place
"Solid leads and very interesting and diverse topics. Very good entries. Congrats."

Monica Faram, Armando Lutz/Cleburne Times Review - 2nd place
"Very solid writing and use of multiple sources for quotes. Eye-catching layout and photos add to the overall appeal and readability."

Large Weekly Division 4
Rick Mauch/Hood County News - 1st place
"Great leads and solid writing throughout. Lots of detail. The clear winner in this category."

Martin Edwards/Pilot Point Post-Signal - 2nd place
"Good use of quotes. Solid use of style and easy to read. Nice work."

Micah McCartney, Brendan Marchand/Wise County Messenger - 3rd place
"Good entries. Very readable. State title entry takes readers behind the scenes to what made the championship special."

Small Weekly Division 5
Paul Gaudette/The Dublin Citizen - 1st place
"Great leads. Very nice use of quotes throughout. The Ortiz feature draws the reader in from the very beginning."

David Clabourn/Royse City Herald-Banner - 2nd place
"Feature on Brown is a timeless story of an athlete working to improve and reach new heights."

Community Service

Combined Division

Austin Jackson/Wise County Messenger - 1st place (Large weekly publication)
"By far, this is the most timely community service. I am so impressed that your newspaper carefully expressed the community concern for fire danger, while allowing the ESD to respectfully explain the facts for control burns and how they actually protect communities, saving lives and property. GO TEXAS! And of course, go firefighters, and community newspapers."

Glenn Evans/Weatherford Democrat - 2nd place (Small semi-weekly publication)
"I am impressed with the interviews of local pharmacies, and hearing their struggles explained in lay terms. I am also impressed that a local pharmacist was able to speak to congress as a representative of small local pharmacies across the state. This was educational, community forward, and definitely a service to your readers."

PennyLynn Webb/Palestine Herald Press - 3rd place (Large semi-weekly publication)
"My heartstrings have been tugged sufficiently. What a wonderful community effort to save the lives of 23 cats in a community. The photography and writing was worthy of the efforts of those who spent their time and money to help the animals in need. Thank you."

Special Section

Combined Division

(Semi-weekly, Weekly Divisions)

Semi-Weekly Division
Greenville Herald-Banner staff - 1st place (Large semi-weekly publication)

Monica Faram, Amy Lovelace/Cleburne Times-Review - 2nd place (Small semi-weekly publication)

Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel staff - 3rd place (Large semi-weekly publication)

Weatherford Democrat staff - 4th place (Small semi-weekly publication)

Weekly Division
Canton Herald staff - 1st place (Large weekly publication)

The Terrell Tribune staff - 2nd place (Small weekly publication)

Dennis H. Phillips/Light and Champion - 3rd place (Small weekly publication)

Bowie County Citizens Tribune staff - 4th place (Small weekly publication)

Canton Herald
Weekly Division 1st place Special Section

Journalist of the Year

Combined Division

Paul Gaudette/ The Dublin Citizen - 1st place (Small weekly publication)
"Dublin Citizen – this paper stood out from the other entries due to the types of articles submitted. In my opinion, this was a collaborative collection of a variety of topics, all well covered and touching the heart of the community."

Will Lanigan/Lufkin Daily News - 2nd place (Large semi-weekly publication)
"The articles submitted there were a VERY VERY close second to first place. Great, awesome coverage accompanied by photographs help tell the story and illustrate it for readers."

Ashley Terry/Hood County News - 3rd place (Large weekly publication)
"So many good writers in this category. It's difficult to chose. Keep up the good work."

Katecey Harrell/Tyler Morning Telegraph - 4th place (Daily publication)
"Excellent efforts!"

Photographer of the Year

Combined Division

Brendan Marchand/Wise County Messenger - 1st place

(Large weekly publication)

"Great shot of the football action in the end zone. You captured the players' facial expression well. Good volleyball tip shot. You kept the player and the ball in focus -- awesome job! The first responders photo is great. Normally, I would take exception to the darkness in the photo, but with the lighting the way it is, I love the photo. The arrest photo told the story -- which is what a photo is to do. I like that you focused on a fan versus the musician in your photo. It made for a more interesting photo. The casket photo was phenomenal. I appreciate getting the 'above' shot. It really drew me in."

Josh Edwards/Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel - 2nd place

(Large semi-weekly publication)

"I love the genuine reactions you are able to capture."

Mary Vinson/Hood County News - 3rd place

(Large weekly publication)

"Excellent photo of the bike riders! Most photographers will only capture a few riders at a time, but I appreciated the positioning you must have had to do to get more of a true 'race' photo."

Susan Lindsey/Bowie County Citizens Tribune - 4th place

(Small weekly publication)

"Great job capturing the fireworks over the flag. I would have liked it even more if both the flag and the fireworks were in focus. I know that might be difficult to capture, but that is the only critique I would have with it."

SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

Tyler Morning Telegraph

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Seniors receive funds from UT Tyler
EAST TEXAS

NEW COACH, NEW SEASON
Legacy baseball set for 2024 with new leader
SPORTS

County Democrats host candidate forum

KATECEY HARRELL

About 100 Smith County residents filled the pews Tuesday at Liberty Baptist Church, where the Smith County Democratic Party held a forum introducing candidates for county, state, and federal elected offices ahead of the March primary election.

The forum also featured candidates for city offices on the May ballot.

District 3 Councilwoman Dr. Shirley McKellar moderated and asked the candidates to introduce themselves, their qualifications and a question.

"So goes East Texas. So goes Texas," McKellar said. "If you want to win a statewide seat, you need to show up in East Texas."

COUNTY SEATS

Smith County Constable – Precinct 1

Ralph Caraway Jr., Derrick P. Holman and Willie Mims are running for Smith County Precinct 1 Constable.

Caraway was appointed interim constable on July 8, 2022, and was appointed by the commissioners court Jan. 24, 2023. He highlights his Tyler roots, law enforcement experience, education and licenses.

According to his campaign website, Caraway is restoring integrity and service with experience.

A former deputy of Smith County, Derrick Holman, reminisced about his ten-year tenure at the department and how the late former Pct. 1 Constable Henry Jackson helped him start his career in law enforcement.

FORUM >> PAGE 2A

'One Acre at a Time'

East Texas rancher upholds family ranching legacy, breaks through racial barriers

Jennifer Scott/Tyler Morning Telegraph

Winford Bowie, who will be 88 years old next month, is a proud to carry on the legacy of a 132-year-old ranch in East Texas.

Editor's Note: This is one of a series of feature stories published in honor of Black History Month.

JENNIFER SCOTT

An East Texas rancher is upholding his family's legacy and has broken through racial barriers to get to where he is today.

Winford Bowie, who will turn 88 next month, said he remembers the days when he and his ancestors couldn't do anything but work. Bowie's grandfather came to East Texas from Alabama in 1892 to purchase land with the objective of being a farmer. Bowie, 87, upholds the family legacy today as he runs the 132-year-old ranch.

"For a Black man, there was nothing for us to do but farm work," Bowie said. "But my granddaddy was what we would call a farmhand rancher because at that time there wasn't any work to do other than farm work."

Bowie's grandfather bought 162 acres of land, becoming among the first of many Black ranchers in Texas.

RANCHER >> PAGE 5A

Jennifer Scott/Tyler Morning Telegraph

An aerial shot of Winford Bowie's ranch sits on a mantle in his home.

Police arrest murder suspect

SANTANA GALLACHER

Police have arrested a 16-year-old capital murder suspect.

Caleb Austin Ward, who has been at large for over a week, was located in Anderson County and arrested Friday, according to Tyler Police Department Public Information Officer Andy Erbaugh. He will be booked into the Smith County juvenile center.

MURDER >> PAGE 5A

Court at Law 2 candidates face off in GOP primary

Editor's Note: This is part of a series of candidate profile stories ahead of the March primary elections.

KATECEY HARRELL

Republican candidates Judges Sara Maynard and Amy McCullough are running for preside over Smith County Court at Law 2.

In larger counties, county courts-at-law are established by statute to supplement the single county court's judicial functions.

County courts-at-law are responsible for handling criminal misdemeanor Class A

Sara Maynard

Amy McCullough

JUDGE >> PAGE 2A

FIND UP-TO-DATE COVERAGE OF EAST TEXAS AT TYLERPAPER.COM

"For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another." (1 John 3:11)

Weather High 48 Low 30 Breezy and cold. See the Tyler-East Texas 3-day forecast on Page 5A.

Stocks DOW -145.13 NASDAQ -130.52

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Daily Division 1

1st place - Tyler Morning Telegraph (1000)

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

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Vol. No. 125 Issue 43 • $2 NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS Home of Stephen F. Austin State University

Candidates draw battle lines at dueling rallies

Andrew Hodge/The Daily Sentinel

Supporters of House District 11 candidate Joanne Shofner watch as Gov. Greg Abbott speaks Monday at the Fredonia Hotel. Abbott was in town endorsing Shofner while incumbnet Rep. Travis Clardy held his own rally outside the hotel.

Shofner, Abbott take jabs at Clardy

BY ANDREW HODGE
Staff Writer

Gov. Greg Abbott and House District 11 challenger Joanne Shofner went on the attack during a campaign rally Monday while incumbent Rep. Travis Clardy hosted his own gathering a few hundred feet away.

Shofner took jabs at Clardy during her event inside the Fredonia Hotel saying he has "no plans," "no serious legislation" and "no leadership in Austin," while Abbot accused him of undermining his priority legislation on school vouchers.

Shofner

"What's amazing is now in East Texas we finally have a choice," Shofner said.

Abbott accused Clardy of voting to kill teacher pay raises, but not vote was every taken on teacher compensation.

"I put together a bill that not only would provide school choice but also would provide $6 billion for our public schools, teacher pay raises, and would get rid of the dreaded STAAR test in Texas," Abbott said. "He voted to kill that."

Clardy was one of nearly two dozen rural Republicans who voted to strip vouchers from a school funding bill during a fourth special session.

Abbott has endorsed the primary opponents of several Republican representa-

Shofner » 3A

Clardy: 'I'm not going to bend the knee' to governor

BY JOSH EDWARDS
Managing Editor

State Rep. Travis Clardy staged a Fredonia Rebellion of sorts Monday as he and supporters rallied a few hundred feet from where his primary opponent, Joanne Shofner, was rallying with Gov. Greg Abbott.

Clardy

Clardy referenced the historic 1826 rebellion that led to the Texas Revolution on several occasions as he railed against Abbott, who endorsed Shofner after Clardy and other rural Republicans killed the governor's school voucher legislation.

"I represent the district. I'm not here for the out-of-state billionaires," Clardy said. "I'm not going to bend the knee. I'm not going to kiss the ring."

Abbott has endorsed the primary opponents of many of the House Republicans who voted against his plan, and the governor has helped finance attack ads against them.

The advertising blitz is being overwhelmingly funded by one man: Jeff Yass, a Pennsylvania billionaire whose top issue is alternatives to public education.

"They're saying I'm going to raise your taxes; I'm going to kill all the babies; I'm going to confiscate your guns, burn your Bibles; I'm going to shoot

Clardy » 3A

Josh Edwards/The Daily Sentinel

Supporters of Rep. Travis Clardy rally Monday at the Fredonia Hotel where Gov. Greg Abbott was speaking in support of Clardy's opponent, Joanne Shofner.

NAC CORE

Student group works to curb cat overpopulation

BY NICOLE BRADFORD
Staff Writer

With just a dish of pet food, a stray cat will seemingly become 20 overnight.

A group of Stephen F. Austin State University students determined to curb Nacogdoches' cat overpopulation problem got an unnerving glimpse at what lay ahead last semester.

"The first house we went to, she said there were maybe 20 animals," said Tanner Haynes, vice president of the group known as Nac CORE. "Then she shook the feed bag and at least 25 cats came running out from under the house."

One by one, the students began taking members of the colony to local vets for spaying and neutering funded through the Humane Society of Nacogdoches County "Trap, Neuter, Return," or TNR program.

"When people come in and say they need vouchers for a colony, I ask how many cats they think they have, and then I automatically double it," said local Humane Society director Jennifer Bryant. "Many times you don't see all of them, and males come from miles around when females are in heat."

In 2022, an estimated 33,000 cats and kittens

Josh Edwards/The Daily Sentinel

Karly Alexander attempts to trap a stray cat near the Stone Fort Museum on the Stephen F. Austin State University campus.

Cats » 3A

POLITICS

Dems refocus on future of party, sharing values

BY ANDREW HODGE
Staff Writer

Former Houston Mayor Annise Parker encouraged Nacogdoches County Democrats to work together and fight for the future of Texas at the party's Beans and Jeans fundraiser Friday.

Around 300 people attended the event, exceeding expectations despite a last-minute change of venue to the County Courthouse Annex due to plumbing issues at Liberty Hall.

"At least three times tonight I heard someone say 'I didn't know there were this many Democrats in Nacogdoches,'" Parker said.

The event included a silent auction and a live music performance from local musician Don Clark and daughters Heather Yeargan and Emily Gautraud. Former Nacogdoches Mayor Judy McDonald introduced Parker.

Parker's speech focused on "family, faith and freedom," values which she said the Democrats embodied.

Parker said presumptive Republican Party nominee Donald Trump instead represents "fear, fury, failure, and fundamentalism."

Andrew Hodge/The Daily Sentinel

Former Houston mayor Annise Parker speaks during the Nacogdoches County Democratic Party's fundraiser Friday at the county courthouse annex.

Democrats » 3A

Classified » 7B Comics » 8B Dear Abby/Weather » 8A Obituaries » 6A Opinion » 6B Puzzles » 5B Sports » 1B

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Large Semi-Weekly Division 2

1st place - Nacodoches Daily Sentinel (1150)
2nd place - Lufkin Daily News (1000)
3rd place - Greenville Herald-Banner (700)
4th place - Athens Daily Review (250)
5th place - Gatesville Messenger (150)
6th place - Palestine Herald Press (100)

SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

INSIDE | B1
Johnson County Junior Livestock Show & Youth Fair

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CLEBURNE RAILROADERS

World Series stop

Commissioner's Trophy visits La Moderna Field

BY MONICA FARAM
MFARAM@TRCLLC.COM

The Texas Rangers Winter Caravan rolled through Cleburne on Wednesday night, giving fans a chance to see the team's coveted World Series Commissioner's Trophy up close and personal. Over 600 people walked through the doors at La Moderna Field and took their quick moment to snap a photo with the trophy.

The trophy, which is made of sterling silver, weighs about 30 pounds. It features 30 gold-plated flags, one for each Major League team. The flags rise above a silver baseball with latitude and longitude lines, symbolizing the world. The baseball also has 24-karat vermeil stitching and the signature of the commissioner.

"I would like to thank the Cleburne Railroaders for bringing the trophy to Cleburne for the community to experience this," Angela Reynolds of Cleburne said. "As a lifelong Texas Rangers fan it was so exciting to see the trophy in person. I think I watched most of the games this last season and I am so happy and proud to see their hard work come to fruition. It's been a long time coming and was very well deserved."

Garey Wylie, who is called the Railroaders' biggest fan by many, was the first person to purchase season tickets during the inaugural season. He was also in line Wednesday to see the Rangers' trophy.

"Having the World Series trophy here in Cleburne for us to see was awesome," he said. "Most baseball fans will never get to experience it in person. We are very fortunate to have the Cleburne Railroaders here and the World Series Champions, Texas Rangers, just up the road in Arlington. A dream come true!"

Another longtime season ticket holder, Vance Wakeland of Cleburne said it was a great night to be a Texas Rangers fan.

"What a thrill it was to see the World series trophy in person," he said. "Thanks to the Cleburne Railroaders organization we got to be a part of it."

In addition to getting to see the

SEE TROPHY, PAGE A3

Monica Faram | Times-Review

The Texas Rangers' World Series Commissioner's Trophy shined under lights set up for Wednesday's photo opportunity at La Moderna Field.

Cleburne, Burleson mayors call for unity

BY MATT SMITH
MSMITH@TRCLLC.COM

Both in conquering challenges and creating opportunity, togetherness is the key, Cleburne Mayor Scott Cain and Burleson Mayor Chris Fletcher said.

Both spoke at the Jan. 17 quarterly luncheon of the Johnson County Builder's Association.

"I remember when I first met Mayor Fletcher," Cain said. "It was at a Cleburne Railroaders game, and he asked me, 'What is this Burleson versus Cleburne thing?'

"And I've got to say that Chris has been very instrumental in getting all of us to work together as a community."

With growth exploding throughout Johnson County, not to mention north Texas, now more than ever is the time for unity, Fletcher said.

"We've got to work together on this stuff," Fletcher said. "We have 200,000 people heading this way according to projections but the issue we have right now is that Johnson County acts like a collection of individual towns."

Cain agreed.

"If we want to compete with Fort Worth and Dallas when it comes to economic development opportunities, we've got to come together as Johnson County," Cain said. "If we don't, when those 200,000 people come, they're going to bring their way of life. So we need to work together to welcome growth but also to ensure that we keep our small town feel and character that we all love."

Both mayors spoke of opportunity as well as steps underway to increase partnership and unity between the county's cities.

"[Johnson County Judge Chris Boedeker] has really stepped up through calling for creation of a county transportation masterplan," Fletcher said. "That is

SEE JCBA, PAGE A3

Good citizen students celebrated by DAR

BY MATT SMITH
MSMITH@TRCLLC.COM

The four qualities of good citizenship — dependability, service, leadership and patriotism - shared the stage with pirates during the Jan. 11 meeting of the Nathaniel Winston Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The awards scholarship event paid tribute to good citizen students from several Johnson County high schools.

Students honored that night included: Skyler Moore, Grandview High School; Olivia Monroe, Alvarado High School; Abigail Lopez, Burleson Collegiate High School; and Destiny Lawson, Burleson Crossroads High School.

Moore received a $500

SEE DAR, PAGE A3

Nathaniel Winston Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution member Iva Foster presents a scholarship and Good Citizen Award to Grandview High School student Skyler Moore.

Courtesy photo

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Small Semi-Weekly Division 3

1st place - Cleburne Times-Review (1150)
2nd place - Corsicana Daily Sun (575)
3rd place - Weatherford Democrat (550)
4th place - Gainesville Daily Register (475)

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Aubrey band goes to state

By Basil Gist
Staff Writer

The future is now for the Mighty Aubrey Marching Band as they performed "Futurescape" on Wednesday in San Antonio.

With lead director Jason Noyes at its head, the AHS Marching Band traveled to the state competition for the first time since 2009 and the first time ever since pushing into the 4A division.

"I talk to the kids all the time about the journey we're on," Noyes said. "It's not about the trophies, it's not about the placement. It's about enjoying the time with each other and getting to perform with your friends and having the special moments happen together. To get that added reward is nice. It's like having a dessert after a really good meal."

Noyes praised his kids for their growth he's seen in them since he became a Chaparral in 2019 just before the pandemic struck.

"I came to Aubrey in 2019," Noyes said. "That was the first year of the COVID shutdown. I stepped into a program, and a few months later we were not coming back to school. I felt like that fifth year was the

See BAND on Page 7A

Wrapped in freedom

Army veteran Rene Scott shares her view of serving in the military as President Barbara Angel and Sandra Schon of the Red, White and Blue Bee present her quilt to her for her two decades of military service.

Abigail Allen/The Post-Signal

Veterans receive quilts of red, white, blue

By Abigail Allen
Editor & Publisher

Eight veterans received a token of appreciation from the members of the Red, White, & Blue Bee: Quilts of Valor.

The third annual Pilot Point ceremony for delivering the quilts to the veterans was a joint effort by the quilting bee and the 19th Century Club.

"Just as Rev. [Cindy] Kennedy prayed, we are here to recognize you, we are here to honor you, we're here to give thanks to each one of you and your service to our country," said Paula McCoy, president of the 19th Century Club, to the veterans.

Pilot Point musician Francis Vidil played his trumpet at the start of the program.

As an introduction, Red, White and Blue Bee President Barbara Angel shared how the Quilts of Valor Foundation was started.

"Quilts of valor was founded 21 years ago by a mother who wanted to make her son feel more comfortable," she said. "He had been wounded in Afghanistan and he was recovering. She realized how much a quilt helped."

The quilts were then distributed to the veterans—Hallie Crawford, who served in the Marines from 2002-22; Rene Scott, who served in the Army and the Reserves from 2001-22; Ray Schaerer, who served in the Army from 1966-79; Don Ambrose, who

See QUILTS on Page 8A

Serving those who served

Pilot Point High offers annual veteran breakfast

By Basil Gist
Staff Writer

The Pilot Point culinary arts classes treated local veterans to a handmade breakfast on Monday morning in celebration of Veterans Day.

For their 10th annual breakfast, the Bearcats added steak and eggs to the menu in addition to the growing selection and buffet.

"Every year we try to do something a little different, but we definitely have a new menu and new waiters every year and try to treat our veterans as the heroes they are," culinary arts teacher Judy Nelson said.

Veterans didn't have to be connected to the community or Pilot Point students.

See BREAKFAST on Page 2A

David Benson, left, a Navy veteran from the Persian Gulf War, has a quick chat with fellow Navy vet Bridget Heilsberg. Both enjoyed a thank you breakfast on behalf of the Pilot Point High School culinary arts program Monday morning.

Basil Gist/The Post-Signal

Tioga approves zoning request

By Abigail Allen
Editor & Publisher

A little over 200 acres at the intersection of FM 121 and Buck Creek Road is set to become a planned development featuring more than 700 single-family homes.

The Tioga City Council voted to approve the zoning request from Craig and Mari Calhoun to allow the development to move forward after hearing from several Tioga area residents, with the caveat that the 13.9 acres promised for a school site go to Tioga ISD at no cost to the district.

"[Growth] is something that we can't avoid," council member Jim Coffey said. "... Part of my platform, if you will, ... was managing the growth, controlling the growth and using the increased income to build up in the infrastructure within the city. So again, it kind of gets me back to, which came first, the chicken or the egg?"

He added that if he is able to stay on his current land, which is a question because of personal circumstances, he will live next to the development.

"I get everyone's concern," Coffey said. "I get the issues, and I will be living the issues."

Galen Jones raised a concern based on Texas Senate Bill 2038, enacted in 2023, that allows a property owner to disannex from

See COUNCIL on Page 7A

PVHF holds Veterans event

By Basil Gist
Staff Writer

The Providence Village Hope Foundation hosted a Veterans Day block party to gather the community and honor its many veterans.

The foundation partnered with several other organizations including the American Legion, the PTSD Foundation of America, Moon Markets and others to offer an event which honored the foundation's founders in addition to other local veterans.

"The Hope Foundation stands for helping first responders veterans and residents of Providence Village during their times of need and also building comradery among the community," Hope Vice President Elise Jumbelick said. "Since that has kind of been lost over the years, we want to bring that back and get the Hope Foundation to be the catalyst of all that."

Both Erie and Karen Mattson, the organization's founders and veterans themselves, have recently passed.

"He loved Providence Village, and it was his dream to give back to the community in any way he could," Jumbelick said. "I only met Karen briefly working with her on the Hope Foundation board, but she unexpectedly died so that's brought a lot more meaning to this event because both of our founders are no longer with us."

Honoring the two in their place, the foundation presented flags to Erie's father Tony Mattson and Karen's mother Paula Allman.

"We presented a full military flag to Erie's father Tony," Jumbelick said. "Erie was a U.S. Army and Marine Corps veteran. We presented another flag to Karen's mom Paula as a token of our appreciation for all that her daughter did for our foundation and the community at large."

Allman said she was surprised when she learned her daughter and son-in-law would

See HOPE on Page 3A

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Large Weekly Division 4

1st place - Pilot Point Post-Signal (950)
2nd place - Wise County Messenger (875)
3rd place - Hood County News (725)
4th place - Rockwall Herald-Banner (675)
5th place - Tri-County Reporter (150)
6th place - Canton Herald (75)
7th place - Van Zandt News (25)

The Dublin Citizen
Thursday, August 29, 2024 | Vol. 35, No. 44 | dublincitizen.com | $1

Fall SPORTS Section Inside!

Work complete on Little Church on Grafton, A8

Slew of Sept. events planned

Wyndi Veigel-Gaudette
Content Editor

September will offer several events and citizens are encouraged to mark their calendars now.

Rylan's Colors for Courage will be held from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 7 at the Dublin Public Library.

Everyone is invited to join Servant Souls RC Erath in decorating the sidewalks to pay tribute to those who are fighting or have fought cancer with chalk drawings on the sidewalks.

Chalk will be provided and donations will be accepted for the Rylan Strong Network.

The Dublin Rodeo Heritage Association Annual Honoree Dinner is set for 6 pm. Saturday, Sept. 14 at Rancho Viejo, located at 11875 S. FM 219 outside Dublin.

There will be a catfish dinner and live entertainment by Teresa Burleson and Miss Devon Dawson.

New inductees will include Johnny Wayne Hampton, Row Hampton and Living Legends JJ Hampton and Jim Sharp.

There will also be a live auction benefitting the rodeo. The event serves as one of the major fundraisers for the museum and everyone is encouraged to attend.

EVENTS, Page A6

Erath County Commissioners Court

Road use agreement approved for battery storage

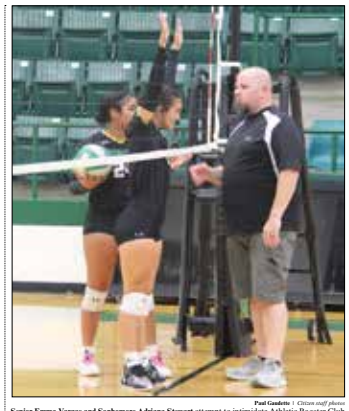
Wyndi Veigel-Gaudette
Content Editor

Commissioners Court approved a road use agreement between the county and Lucky Bluff Bess, LLC. for use of County Road 300 and CR 299 to put in a battery storage facility.

The county and the County Assistant Attorney Bethany Espinosa went back and forth with the company's legal team to make sure the taxpayers were protected should the roads be damaged in the process. A $1 million bond is included in the road use agreement.

"I really appreciate the coverage to the citizens," Commissioner Sherman Edwards said. "I do like this agreement in place because it protects the county

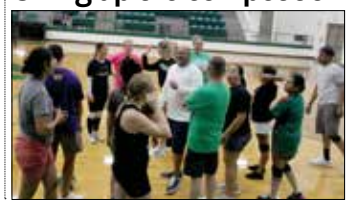
COURT, Page A6



Paul Gaudette | *Citizen staff photo*

Senior Emma Vargas and Sophomore Adriana Stewart attempt to intimidate Athletic Booster Club President Ryan Mitchell before the start of the alumni vs Lady Lions games Tuesday, Aug. 20. The alumni teams beat both JV Green and Gold but fell (despite some creative scoring) to the Varsity Lady Lions. Below, the alumni team gathers to take on the Lady Lions. For full story see B1.

Sizing up the competition



Humane Society to get new home

Wyndi Veigel-Gaudette
Content Editor

Excitement is in the air as the Erath County Humane Society begins to move towards a new, much needed animal shelter.

The move towards the new shelter began with the help of a $200,000 grant from Cross Works Foundation, which was used to buy the 17 acres off CR 454 in 2022.

"A person associated with the foundation had adopted a dog from us in 2017 and was shocked at how little space we had," said Executive Director Serena Wright.

Then in October 2023, another $50,000 grant was received from Cross Works Foundation allowing them to move forward with Shelter Planners of America to have architectural designs drawn up.

"It's almost completely done. We are expecting the final plans in September," she said.

Once plans are in hand, the Humane

ANIMALS, Page A4

DISD School Board

District approves lower tax rate, deficit budget

Wyndi Veigel-Gaudette
Content Editor

Dublin ISD School Board set its tax rate and approved the budget at the Monday, Aug. 26 school board meeting.

The adopted tax rate was lower than last year with $.8551 per $100 valuation, with $.7552 for the purpose of maintenance and operations and $.0999 for the purpose of payment of principal and interest on debts. Last year's tax rate was $.8732.

"The district is lowering the rate from what it was last year," Business Manager Kassi Eads explained.

However, with an increase in property values, homeowners will most likely see an increase in taxes.

The board encouraged those who are unhappy about property values to contact state legislators in an effort to slow down property value appraisals.

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Following the lead

Families enjoy watching other competitors at the first Double N Cowboy Church Fall Playdate Saturday, Aug. 24. For more playdate photos see the Dublin Citizen Facebook page and A2.

Paul Gaudette | *Citizen staff photo*

Newspaper closed for Labor Day

The Dublin Citizen will be closed Monday, Sept. 2 in observance of Labor Day.

Ad deadlines, including classifieds, are moved to Friday, Aug. 30 at 5 p.m. Classifieds and legals can be submitted at classifieds@dublincitizen.com.

Editorial content can be submitted via email at publisher@dublincitizen.com.

We hope you have a Happy Labor Day!

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Weather Thurs Sunny 96/71 | Fri Rainy 93/70 | Sat Rainy 90/70 | Sun Sunny 87/68 | Mon Rainy 81/65 | Tues Rainy 83/62 | Rise 7:07 a.m. Set 8:00 p.m.

Small Weekly Division 5

1st place - The Dublin Citizen (750)
2nd place - Bowie County Citizens Tribune (675)
3rd place - Quanah Tribune-Chief (575)
4th place - Wood County Monitor (375)
5th place - Gladewater Mirror (375)
6th place - Light and Champion (275)
7th place - Royse City Herald-Banner (225)
8th place - The Terrell Tribune (175)
9th place - Wills Point Chronicle (75)

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Don't forget to follow NETPA on Facebook for photos of this year's convention and award winners!

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