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Inside




Vote for your 'Best of the Best'

See Page 8, online



Enjoy some Sweet Treats

See Page 3



'Cat players make all-district first team

See Page 7

Weather

SATURDAY, JUNE 11
MOSTLY SUNNY
RAIN CHANCE: 5%
HIGH/LOW: 102/77
WIND: SSW 14 MPH

SUNDAY, JUNE 12
PARTLY CLOUDY
RAIN CHANCE: 4%
HIGH/LOW: 102/76
WIND: SSW 16 MPH

MONDAY, JUNE 13
SUNNY
RAIN CHANCE: 5%
HIGH/LOW: 101/76
WIND: S 16 MPH

TUESDAY, JUNE 14
SUNNY
RAIN CHANCE: 6%
HIGH/LOW: 100/75
WIND: S 17 MPH

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15
PARTLY CLOUDY
RAIN CHANCE: 9%
HIGH/LOW: 99/76
WIND: S 12 MPH



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Have a great day, Jauinette Medlock

The Mexia News

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Vol. 124 No. 47

Saturday, June 11, 2022 — Mexia, Texas

10 Pages - 75 Cents

Final preparations being made for 92nd Mexia Rodeo

By Skip Leon
sports@themexianews.com

With less than two weeks until the 92nd Mexia Rodeo, which is put on by the Mexia Area Chamber of Commerce, some final preparations are still taking shape, according to Traci LaFoy, executive director of the Chamber.

The rodeo will be June 23-25

with performances at 7:30 p.m. each night. There also will be a slack at 11 a.m. each day. It is sanctioned by the United Professional Rodeo Association (UPRA) and Cowboys Professional Rodeo Association (CPRA).

"The city has been working really hard to get the arena ready,"

See RODEO, Page 3



Landris White slides off his horse and get his arms around a steer's head during the steer wrestling event at the Mexia Chamber of Commerce Rodeo last year. This year's 92nd edition of the rodeo will be June 23-25.

File photo by Skip Leon/The Mexia News

Standing tall



Mexia Blackcat basketball player Hunter Fitch stands tall at the free-throw line among youngsters at the Youth Basketball Camp at the Mexia Junior High School gym Tuesday. The 6-foot-6 Fitch, who will be a junior at Mexia High School, was one of the instructors at the camp, which attracted more than 40 boys and girls. See more photos, Page 10.

Photo by Skip Leon/The Mexia News

Epic Women Survival offers funds, hope

By Katecey Harrell
news@themexianews.com

Shelia Hobbs, president of Epic Women Survival LLC, started her company during the pandemic to help women get back on their feet after leaving an abusive situation.

"I was at home and the Holy Spirit gave me this good work, because let me tell you, I myself have been a victim of abuse," Hobbs said. "I'm very passionate about helping these women."

Hobbs knows how women may feel when they first try to start over and get out on their own after an abusive situation. They need that support, and they need someone to help them get to the next step, she said.

This organization gives hope to women who are in abusive situations who might not otherwise feel like they have a way out, Traci LaFoy, Mexia Area Chamber of Commerce executive director, said in an email.

Leaving often means needing funds to get another place to live,

and often those funds are not available. This organization is able to help with that, Lafoy said.

"I pay the first month rent, application fee and the security de-

posit to get them back into a place," Hobbs said.

This is important. People need

See EPIC, Page 3



Shelia Hobbs, president of Epic Women Survival LLC, cut the ceremonial ribbon joining the Chamber of Commerce. Epic Women Survival LLC, provides support to women who've been a victim of domestic violence. There isn't another organization like this in the area.

Photo by Katecey Harrell / The Mexia News

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What's inside, where

Page 2 Community/Obits (none)	Page 6 News/Diversions
Page 3 News	Page 7 Classifieds
Page 4 Perspectives	Page 8 "Best Of" ballot
Page 5 Religion	



Recalling many summer revivals

JOHN 12:25 – If you love your life you will lose it, if you give it up in this world, you will be given eternal life.



Bob Wright

Brazos to Mexia Pipeline

school, but that's when many churches scheduled revivals. It was a time looked forward to by many church members, and perhaps others. I recall many of the services were conducted under tents, while many were under the open star-lighted skies. It seemed like when it came to be revival time (many were still inside of churches), lots of folks were anticipating the times when much spiritual renewals took place in communities.

I recall many revivals were held at Tehuacana "under the stars" in front of what was then Westminster Junior College. Anyone recall the evangelist, Del FAISENFELDT? I barely do, although he was a forceful evangelist. Now, this was in the late 1940s, although preparations were great as all the stops were pulled out to make the usual week-long event a meaningful one.

Many of us remember the tent meetings of Lester ROLOFF, who was raised in Dawson. Lester faithfully dispensed the Gospel until his small plane crashed, claiming the forceful preacher's life. I always enjoyed his sermons.

One of the better revivals in modern days came in about 1970 at old Black Cat Field (near the rodeo grounds). Angel MARTINEZ was the evangelist. The music was great, presented by a combined choir from local churches, and the preaching was outstanding. Rather large crowds, as you might expect at a football stadium, were in attendance. Many of you might recall that revival. Over the years, Mexiaites have been exposed to many revivals. Throughout the years, we've all been exposed to the Gospel. One just cannot top great music and fine preaching. I've always, since an early age, enjoyed all of that.

FIRST AMENDMENT QUOTE: "Reporters are supposed to explore the issues, not solve them. Reporters are supposed to expose the wrongdoers, not campaign against them." – Michael GARTNER, former editor and broadcast news executive, 1998.

The "good old summertime" back in another era at Tehuacana, Mexia and elsewhere, brought not only vacation from

I'm sure many of you will echo my sentiments.

If there was a lighter side to things, it might have come when preachers would take the liberty of thumping the pulpits while talking about the downside of dancing. Some of the girls and boys would try to circumvent their enjoyment of this by slipping off and heading toward Fort Parker State Park, where the lure of the dance floor was just too great. To my knowledge, no parent ever followed their offspring to Fort Parker for spying purposes. I've been told that Fort Parker was a lot better then trying to "get close" in a honky-tonk. Besides, I think when Jerry Lee LEWIS was on the piano, the young couples couldn't move fast enough to keep up with the music.

Seriously, the revivals were great, and resulted in many folks' making much-needed spiritual re-commitments. Today's world could stand a whole lot of this.

POLITICS CORNER: Here's a riddle for you. Anyone? A few days ago, the White House announced it had been working on the baby formula shortage since February. About the same day, or close by, President Biden said he knew nothing about the shortage until this April. How could this be?! Are his staffers not telling Joe about things on which they are working? I understand many of his staffers have walked out on him, due to his policies. I think we will have some new GOP voters in future elections. I do know if we win back the White House, several things will quickly emerge – energy independence will return, and the defeat of inflation. Considerably lower gasoline prices will ensue. Also, the best economy in history will reappear, established during the Trump administration.

COLUMN CLOSER: There were 73 police officers fatally shot in 2021 in the United States. Any of you recall any statues being erected in memory of those brave protectors of society? Me neither. A few criminals have been immortalized with statues. How could this be in the US of A?! Ask the LEFT.

Bob Wright is a retired editor of The News. Any opinions expressed in his column are his own and do not necessarily express the stance of the newspaper. He may be reached by email to bobwright59@gmail.com.



Swarco named Biz of the Month

Swarco was selected as June Business of the Month by the Mexia Area Chamber of Commerce, executive director Traci LaFoy said in an email. Swarco is very deserving of the recognition, as they are a great community partner, they are truly invested in the community, which is evident in the growth and expansion that they are going through, which helps create more revenue and jobs for our community.

Calendar Calendar

Saturday, June 11

7:30 a.m. – 2022 Kosse Homecoming – the 15th annual Kosse Greyhound 5k Run-Walk – at the Kosse City Park – professional chip timed event by Pro-Fit Event Timing – 5k and 1 mile fun run open to all ages – Register at RunSignup.com/kosse5k – Get more information by calling 254-375-2212 or KosseTexas.com/5k – BBQ Cookoff – Entry fee \$20/team – Located at 200 E. Adams in Kosse – Register at KosseTexas.com/cookoff – Call Karen at 254-275-1046, Kevin at 254-625-1820 or Ronnie at 254-645-0763 for more information

vary Baptist Church, 519 St. McKinney St. in Mexia. The VBS is for children in grades kindergarten through the fifth grade. For information call 254-562-2269.

Wednesday, June 15

6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. – Sign-up for Mexia Community Sports Youth Football and Cheerleading for the fall season will be at the old junior high gym. Boys and girls ages 4-12 are eligible to sign up. For information contact James Wiley at 903-388-5656, Jeff Proctor at 254-203-6360, Ike Jones at 254-625-0896, Jeffrey Smith at 254-625-2173, or Curtis Harris at 254-747-5791.

Sunday, June 19

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. – Blossom's Florist and Garden Center will be hosting a Juneteenth Celebration – 706-714 W. Palestine St. Mexia – This is open to the public and a family friendly event – Food, drinks, entertainment and much more will be provided at no charge – Vendors, water slides, and bounce houses will be available. Outdoor games, airbrush face painting will also be available – Everyone is invited! You don't want to miss it.

Wednesday, June 22

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. – Carter BloodCare Bus will be at Parkview Regional Hospital – 600 S. Bonham Street – May 30 – June 30 all donors are receiving \$25 gas card if they donate blood – Contact Haley at Burnett at 254-562-0408 #2531 for more information.

Sunday-Thursday June 12-16

5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. – Vacation Bible School at Cal-

Thursday-Saturday June 23 to 25

The 92nd Annual Mexia Area Chamber of Commerce Rodeo will be at the Mexia Rodeo Complex. Shows will be Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights at 7:30. A slack also will be held each day at 11 a.m. For information contact the Mexia Area Chamber of Commerce at 254-562-5569.

Friday-Saturday June 24-25

The Mexia Youth Volleyball Camp will be held at Mexia High School. The session for third- and fourth-graders will be from 8-11 a.m. each day. The session for fifth- and sixth-graders will be from 1-4 p.m. each day. The camp will be conducted by the Ladycat volleyball coaches. Registration fee is \$30. For information contact Mexia Ladycat volleyball coach Mariyah Wiley at mwiley@mexiaisd.net

Friday-Sunday June 24 to 26

The Christ Community Church in Palestine – Kid's Community Crusade at the Church – There is no charge for the event – Call 903-729-3178 to register or for additional information.

Ongoing

Mondays, 6-8 p.m. – First Baptist Church of Tehuacana still hosts a knitting/crocheting group in the fellowship hall, making prayer shawls or lap robes for people. Anyone wanting to learn to knit or crochet is invited. There is no cost, and yarn is provided. For more information, contact Angela Bailey at 409-782-0229.

Mondays, 7 p.m. – Celebrate Recovery for adults is still being held at Shiloh Baptist Church in Shiloh, with David Snow facilitating. For more information, contact Pastor David at 254-747-5847.

On the first Tuesday of each month from 9 a.m. to noon and the third Tuesday of each month from 4 to 6 p.m., Caritas of Mexia will hold drive-up food distributions.

Every Thursday in June, Kona Ice will be at Parkview. 20% off sales will benefit the Parkview Employee Engagement Planning & Service Committee (PEEPS) 12 Days of Christmas Fund.

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Sweet Treats offers '50s-themed diner experience

By **Katecey Harrell**
news@themexianews.com

Daniel Lima and his daughter, Danielle Anderson, used to drive to Corsicana to get snow cones. He realized he could do something similar, and that's where the dream to open Danny's Diner and Sweet Treats was born. He and his wife, Shirley, are co-owners and Danielle is the social media manager.

Daniel discussed an idea for a snow cone stand with his late friend, Cleatus Hall, who owned the tire shop next door to the new diner's location.

The Lima's got started on the project, with financial help from Hall. But, Hall was diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer and passed away three months later in 2015. Hall's wife, Glenda, who was Shirley's best friend, passed away in February this year.

"The day we opened, we prayed, and thanked God for the opportunity," Shirley said. "I know that (the Halls) would have been very proud."

Danny's Diner and Sweet Treats is a 1950s-inspired diner and dessert shop, located at 1660 W. US Highway 84. The diner, or Phase 2, is in progress, but Phase 1, the dessert shop, is open and ready for business.

The diner is about 1,500 square feet, and will eventually be available to rent for events, Daniel said. For now, individuals can come inside or use the



ABOVE: Danny's Diner and Sweet Treats is a 50s themed diner and dessert shop. The interior is decorated with red, white and black.

RIGHT: Daniel Lima makes a strawberry cheesecake snowball on June 3. Sweet Treats is a family-owned and operated business offering snow cones, snowballs, slushies and more.
Photos By Katecey Harrell / The Mexia News



drive-thru window to get a sweet treat of their choice.

Sweet Treats serves snowballs, slushies, shakes, sodas and Blue Bell ice cream, Daniel said.

Regular snow cones use ground-up cubed ice, but it's more granular. A snowball consists of a different type of ice, Danielle said.

"We have a Southern Snow Block Ice Machine. We make our own blocks of ice and we run it through there and then it comes out like snow," Daniel said.

"It's like a powder," Shirley added.

"We're working on creating a family-fun atmosphere," Daniel said. "At an affordable price."

They aim to create a place where families can get away and have a refreshment, Shirley said. A family-friendly atmosphere that includes a small outdoor area with picnic tables and canopies so individuals can relax and enjoy it.

"We want to create a whole new destination," Danielle said.

Daniel was in restaurant management for 25 years before he married her, Shirley said.

"Our main goal is to

have some of the best customer service," Daniel said.

People have been really receptive on social media, she said. Individuals have written encouraging reviews and are sharing the Facebook page with their friends. The page has about 600 followers, 500 likes and has been visible to almost 9,000 accounts.

"It's cool to see the people online, in-person that have been sharing or have been invited out and welcoming some of our family and friends in, and that we know personally, to be able to come take a seat with us and get their

personal feedback," Danielle said.

An old-fashioned diner, which serves burgers, fries, shakes, chicken fried steak and breakfast all day, is the next phase, Shirley said.

"We thought we were just about ready to open the diner. There were just a couple big items that we had left," she said. "We have a full industrial kitchen there already."

All that's left is the ancillary system, return air in the kitchen and to install a commercial septic system.

The Limas have a home on the lot, and Danielle has one too, so the family is able to work together at Sweet Treats, Shirley said. They each have certain talents and gifts to bring to the table, and they work very harmoniously together.

"Having our daughter show an interest beyond what we had expected, and just to be able to work side by side with each other," she said. "For me that's the biggest reward, is to be working with my family."

Epic

Continued from Page 1

to know where to go and who to turn to in need, LaFoy said.

Hobbs has invested into her company, but other revenue for housing services come from raffle tickets, fundraisers, auctions or personal donations from people, companies, banks and others.

Hobbs is currently selling raffle tickets for \$100 for the chance to win a Neverfull Louis Vuitton tote bag worth \$2,300. The raffle is being held Aug. 26.

Limestone County residents reported 173 incidents of family violence in 2018, according to the Crime in Texas Report.

"Domestic violence and violence between intimate partners is a problem for Limestone County, because the county lacks a cohesive plan for reducing the number of incidents and the resources to mediate the damage done to the victim families," according to the Limestone County Community Plan 2020.

There isn't another organization like this in the area, LaFoy said.

"We're so excited to have an organization such as Epic Women Survival LLC in our community and as a part of the Chamber of Commerce."

Domestic violence is the number one cause of injury to women in the

U.S. — more than muggings, rapes and auto accidents combined, according to the Surgeon General's Workshop on Violence and Public Health.

Domestic violence crosses all racial, ethnic, economic, social and religious barriers.

The escalation of violence in families has become a justice, public health and economic problem for the families themselves and society as a whole.

"A lot of people are afraid to talk about it. They feel shame, embarrassment; sometimes they blame themselves. That's the huge misconception that some women have," Hobbs said.

Epic Women Survival LLC is looking forward to helping women get out of those abusive, often life-threatening, situations, and they are also looking forward to being involved and giving back to the community, LaFoy said.

"Their commitment to the community, and those in it, is heartwarming," LaFoy said. "I'm looking forward to the things that they will do in the community. They plan to have a booth set up at the Boomin' on the 4th of July event to help share their message, and to let people know who they are and what they do."

Likewise, they may have opportunities for people to get involved with this organization and be able to further assist, whether it is financially, or just to volunteer time, she said.



ABOVE: Shelia Hobbs, president of Epic Women Survival LLC stands for a photo at the ribbon cutting ceremony welcoming her to the Chamber of Commerce June 8.

LEFT: A group enjoys refreshments at the ribbon cutting ceremony welcoming Epic Women Survival LLC to the Mexia Chamber of Commerce.

Photos by Katecey Harrell / The Mexia News

Rodeo

Continued from Page 1

LaFoy said. "They've already tilled the arena. They've been mowing. They've been doing some cleanup work around there. There's still a bit more to be done, scrub up the concession stands good, make sure all pens and fencing are intact. Just making sure everything is in proper working order."

LaFoy said there will be a few new wrinkles to the rodeo this year. One will be how registration is done for the youth events, including the mutton bustin'.

LaFoy said all youth events registration will be done online, which is a switch from the past when people could register their youngsters at the Chamber office. She said the link will be published on the Chamber of Commerce's Mexia Rodeo Facebook page in the coming days.

Registration for the adult events, which includes roping and riding, is being handled by Champions Rodeo Company of Buffalo, which is the stock contractor for the event.

A spokesman at Champions Rodeo Company said the registration is not

available yet. It will open Wednesday, June 15, and close Tuesday, June 21, two days before the rodeo begins. Performers will register on their phones through the nextgen app.

The rodeo provides family entertainment every year, and this year will be no different, LaFoy said. To that end, there will be a new contest for children on the final night of the rodeo.

"On Saturday night we are doing something fun for the kids," LaFoy said. "Kids 10 and under can dress up like a bullfighter and we're going to have a contest. We're going to have a bullfighter dress-up contest."

She said the judge for the costume contest will be Sandy Lumley, a retired bullfighter and bull rider who lives in Donie. He was elected to the UPRA Hall of Fame in 2019.

In addition, LaFoy said, Ketch Weaver will perform trick roping one night during the rodeo. Weaver, who is from Wortham, does 200 shows per year and has been performing since he was a youngster. He performs throughout the state of Texas and nationally at numerous rodeo and entertainment events.

Ketch is the son of Ted-

dy Weaver, a local cowboy who has had a long career in rodeo and is a fixture in the wild cow-milking event in Mexia every year.

"We are super excited to be able to get him for one night," LaFoy said of Ketch

Weaver, who has a busy performance schedule.

Another part of the entertainment for the three-day event will be Ronald Burton, who will serve as the rodeo clown this year. Burton has been entertain-

ing rodeo audiences for more than 20 years and has won numerous awards from the CPRA during that span.

As the days wind down to the rodeo, sponsorship opportunities also are still

available, LaFoy said. There are many levels of sponsorship for businesses and individuals. For information or to become a sponsor, call the Mexia Area Chamber of Commerce at 254-562-5569.



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TEA directed to make schools safer

Gov. Greg Abbott has directed the Texas Education Agency to ensure school facilities are made safer in the wake of the killing of 19 children and two teachers at Robb Elementary in Uvalde.

In a letter to TEA Commissioner Mike Morath, the governor requested the agency:

- Instruct school districts to identify actions to make campuses more secure prior to the start of the new school year.
- Instruct all school districts to conduct weekly inspections of exterior doors to verify they are secure during school hours.
- Develop strategies to encourage school districts to increase the presence of trained law enforcement officers and school marshals on campuses.

The state has made an initial \$5 million investment to establish a Family Resiliency Center in Uvalde County. The center will provide psychological services, crisis counseling and other health services for those affected by the massacre.

To date, the governor has rejected calls for a special session to consider additional gun control measures. Instead, he has asked legislative leaders to convene special committees to develop recommendations on school safety, mental health, social media, police training, firearm safety and other issues.

GOP donors urge Congress to act on gun control

More than 250 major Republican donors in Texas signed an open letter published in The Dallas Morning News urging congressional action to increase gun restrictions. The letter was published as a full-page ad on Sunday. It endorses the creation of red-flag laws, raising the age to purchase a gun to 21, and expansion of background checks.

"Most law enforcement experts believe these measures would make a difference," the letter reads. "And recent polls of fellow conservatives suggest that there is strong support for such gun-safety measures."

Texas Sen. John Cornyn is leading bipartisan negotiations on possible gun reform measures.

"We are grateful that our Senator John Cornyn is leading efforts to address the recent tragedies in Uvalde and elsewhere across our great Country," the letter says. "He's the right man to lead this bipartisan effort, as he has demonstrated throughout his career."

Among those signing the letter are major financial supporters of Abbott.

Inflation increase is highest in 40 years

A report by the state comptroller's office notes that inflation increased to 8.5% nationally in March — "the highest year-over-year percent change in consumer prices since January 1982."

Food and energy prices were the leading contributors, with gas prices reaching record levels. The largest source of inflation in food products were in meat, poultry, fish and eggs, up 14.3% in the past year.

The comptroller's report said the increase in prices is likely a "confluence of economic pressures related to the coronavirus pandemic stemming from both the supply side and the demand side."

The pandemic disrupted pro-

Capital Highlights

Gary Borders

duction and transportation lines in the global supply chains, which are not expected to fully recover until next year. In addition, demand now exceeds production capacity, often leading to empty grocery shelves and nearly empty lots at car dealerships.

Finally, Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the subsequent sanctions on that country have contributed to driving up the cost of oil.

Inflation decreased slightly in April.

Emergency SNAP benefits again extended

Once again, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission has received approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to provide nearly \$318 million in emergency food benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for June.

All SNAP households will get a minimum of \$95 in additional food allotments on top of the regular allotment. More than \$6.9 billion in emergency benefits have been provided to Texans since April 2020.

"We're here to support families when they need us most," said Texas HHSC Access and Eligibility Services Deputy Executive Commissioner Wayne Salter. "Providing access to fresh, nutritious foods is essential for healthy families."

Vehicle deaths reach 41-year high in 2021

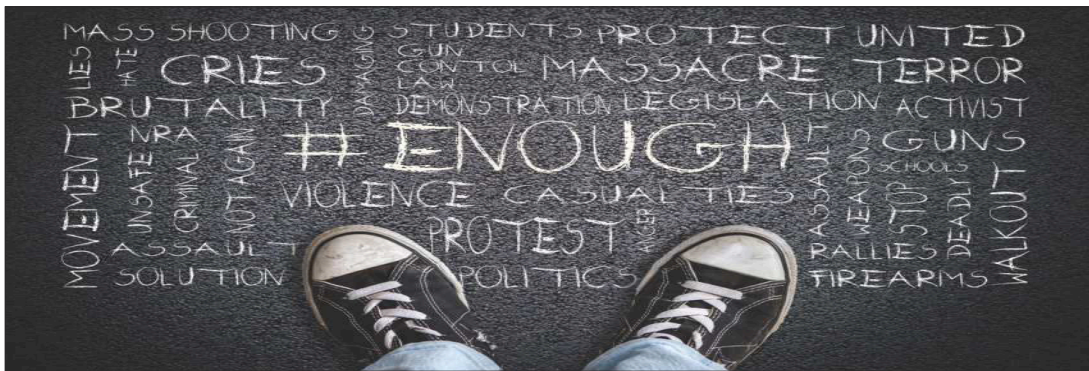
The number of people killed in vehicle crashes totaled 1,532 last year, with 6,493 major injuries — the highest level since 1981. More than a third of those deaths involved excessive speed, according to the Texas Department of Transportation. With a 16% increase last year in speed-related wrecks, TxDOT is urging drivers to slow down and drive to weather and traffic conditions.

"Speed is the number one factor in roadway crashes in our state, causing 1 out of every 3 traffic deaths," said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. "When you speed, you increase the risk of death and serious injury in a collision. By observing the speed limit and driving to specific weather and road conditions, Texans can make our roads safer for everyone."

COVID-19 cases continue to rise

The number of new COVID-19 cases in Texas during the past week rose to 46,946, with 42 new deaths reported by the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University. That is more than double the number of new cases reported a month ago. The number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations across the state also rose to 1,168, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services.

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



Texas politicians search for solutions after another mass shooting; experts say we have already found them

By Jolie McCullough and James Barragán
texas Tribune.org

A fruitless and predictable myopia tends to take over political discussion after gun-spawned tragedies like the massacre in Uvalde.

Already deeply entrenched in their positions, politicians mostly argue over the particulars of the most recent tragedy, and how it might have been prevented. A background check? A locked door? In narrow debates, policies are touted or decried based on how applicable they are to the latest killing.

Left aside is a broad range of gun policy proposals that experts in criminology, public health and law enforcement have for years believed are practical solutions to at least part of the nation's enduring problems with gun violence.

And while those experts acknowledge that some of the relatively minor changes might not have prevented the massacre fresh in the public's mind, they can reduce mass shootings. Even more, the policies could greatly reduce gun violence overall, which kills more people in the United States than car crashes.

"The idea that gun laws won't have an impact in reducing mass shootings and school shooting violence is a myth," said Louis Klarevas, a research professor at Teachers College at Columbia University who studies gun violence.

Simply requiring guns to be stored safely, for example, or outlawing high-capacity magazines wouldn't eliminate mass shootings, he said, but "the idea is to reduce the gun violence."

Texans and other Americans support many of the proposals, according to recent polling. What gets in the way, various experts said, is politics.

In the nearly two weeks since a gunman killed 19 elementary schoolchildren and two teachers and injured 17 others in Uvalde, Texas' Republican leaders have shunned possible gun restrictions. They say common proposals like universal background checks and red flag laws won't work. In recent years, the GOP-controlled Legislature's most common response to mass shootings has been loosening gun laws so more people can carry weapons in more places.

"The narrative in our country is that there's a great divide by gun ownership or political party on solutions to gun violence, and that's why we can't get anything done," said Cassandra Crifasi, associate professor of health policy at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, which conducts regular polling on gun violence solutions. "I say gun policy is mostly political among politicians. Americans, including the majority of gun owners, support evidence-based policy."

For example, a majority of Texans support requiring background checks for gun purchases, including at gun shows or through private sellers — which aren't regulated in Texas — according to a 2021 poll by the University of Texas at Austin. In February, 43% of Texans surveyed told the university that the state should strengthen gun laws, with only 16% seeking looser gun laws.

Studies and experts from various fields say less controversial steps short of an assault weapons ban would have an impact on all gun violence. Those include raising the age for legal purchase of a long arm from 18 to 21, as is typically the case for handguns, or banning large-capacity magazines, a move studies have shown can at least limit fatalities in mass shootings.

Experts also point to successes with red flag laws, which allow courts to temporarily take guns away from people judged to be a danger to themselves or others, and safe storage laws that require firearms to be locked when stored. They have also urged implementing universal background checks.

James Alan Fox, a criminol-

ogist at Northeastern University who has long studied mass killings, said the policy changes are the right things to do, but not only for mass shootings.

"If we reduce mass shootings by 10%, we can reduce homicides by 20%," he said.

After the Uvalde massacre, like the ones before it, a groundswell of support from the left rose for gun restrictions ranging from raising age requirements to assault weapon bans. It was immediately met with a clamor from the right to protect individuals' right to bear arms, echoed by Texas leaders. Laws won't stop bad guys from getting guns, they say, so the best solutions are increasing mental health resources in a state notoriously lacking access to such initiatives, fortifying schools and, of course, more good guys with guns.

"What stops armed bad guys is armed good guys," U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, said at the National Rifle Association's convention in Houston days after the Uvalde shooting.

In Uvalde, however, the gunman waited until the law allowed him to purchase particularly lethal weaponry — buying two AR-style rifles shortly after his 18th birthday after he failed to convince his sister to buy him one earlier, police said. The armed police staged outside the classrooms where students and teachers were dead and dying for more than an hour before killing the gunman.

Klarevas at Columbia University said the law enforcement response in Uvalde this month knocks down the argument that good guys with guns are the solution to shootings. He hopes lawmakers and policymakers can find compromise by shifting their framework for debate.

"What we really want isn't good guys with guns stopping bad guys with guns," Klarevas said. "What we really want is bad guys without guns. That's a better strategy."

At the congressional level, U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, has been able to push minor gun safety policies after mass shootings — like legislation meant to improve background checks after the gunman in 2017's Sutherland Springs slaying was able to purchase a gun despite a domestic violence conviction. Cornyn is again leading bipartisan talks, but many of his Republican colleagues said they will only support measures that would have made a difference in Uvalde.

"We're reactive, that's human nature," Fox said, though he encouraged lawmakers to look at the bigger picture.

Beyond difficulties in looking at gun violence with a broader lens, a major hurdle for Texas policymakers is agreeing that changes to gun policy should be part of the solution at all. Focusing exclusively on mental health initiatives or fortifying schools won't adequately address the problem if gun access isn't also restricted, a variety of experts agreed.

"A challenge we face here is that everybody is looking for one answer, one thing. That doesn't exist," said Jaclyn Schildkraut, associate professor of criminal justice at State University of New York at Oswego. "We're dealing with very complex phenomena that go in spider webs in so many different directions but all weaved together."

Jimmy Perdue, president of the Texas Police Chiefs Association, said last week he agrees with the argument that those with ill intent will find a way to get guns. He argued that mental illness and a societal devaluation of the sanctity of life are causes of mass shootings. Still, he said, access does matter.

He said "the time has come" for the state to make it harder for some people to get firearms, especially with a continuing rise in gun violence in Texas and throughout the country.

"There are certainly measures that could be put into place that limit access, whether that be raising

the age or some sort of background checks or waiting periods," Perdue said. "No one thing is going to prevent it from happening, but I tend to come down on the side of if we can put some measures in place that can prevent one or two, it's better than nothing."

Going through background checks or having to wait several days to buy a gun, he argued, isn't an infringement on someone's Second Amendment rights.

"Guns are a part of our natural fabric of being Texan, but some things have changed," he added. "Society's changed, and we're at the point where we've got to look at it from a total complexity perspective."

Klarevas said an effective response to prevent future gun violence would include layers of checks and barriers aimed at preventing different types of bad actors from getting their hands on guns that could inflict mass damage. A background check may not stop all potential shooters, he said, but laws limiting their access to assault weapons or large-capacity magazines can decrease the fatality rates.

"One law is good, but it's just a starting point," he said. "The more laws you have, the more effective your framework will be. If you want to do the best job possible, you have to take a comprehensive approach."

For public health researchers, a helpful guide is looking at car crashes. While the rate of gun deaths has increased over the years, the rate of people killed in motor vehicle accidents has steadily fallen, according to Charles DiMaggio, an injury epidemiologist at New York University. That's in part because states have adopted a more uniform approach to driving safety, like seatbelt laws and drunken driving penalties.

"The other issue is that there was a willingness and acceptance that motor vehicle crash injuries [and] pedestrian injuries are in fact a public health problem, and it requires public health approaches," DiMaggio said. "I don't think there's that kind of consensus for gun violence."

Sheldon Jacobson, a professor of computer sciences at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, said the idea of creating layers of gun policies to prevent future mass shootings is similar to the work he did in creating risk-based assessments that led to the development of Transportation Security Administration PreCheck in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks of 2001.

"One thing [TSA does] really well is layers," he said. "They look for multiple ways to mitigate risks, and when you put them together you come up with a fairly impenetrable fortress."

The PreCheck process expedites airport screening for frequent travelers. In exchange, those travelers submit themselves to background checks that allow the government to vet them ahead of their travels. As a result, those travelers get less-intrusive screenings when entering their terminals.

But the agency is not limited to background checks on travelers who sign up for the program. Regular travelers have a more intrusive screening process, and TSA has cameras at terminals that monitor for suspicious activity. It also limits the items that can be taken on planes, including guns.

"Have we seen incidents? We have not," Jacobson said. "And that's because there are layers."

Jacobson also sees another parallel to the gun debate. In trying to implement different kinds of security screenings for different passengers, the TSA got political pushback.

"To do differential screening meant you had to treat people differently. That's a bit of a sticky wicket, to say the least," he said. "But the fact is if you can justify doing that on the basis of the well-being of the population, it got through."



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Plastic Bags and Bibles and fun are all needed

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness so that every person would be complete and equipped for every good work. — 2 Timothy 3:16

Currently I am in the process of distributing and mailing out 185 personalized leather-bound Bibles around Texas and the United States.

As I have written about recently, this Bible Ministry started out in an innocuous way several weeks ago. I teach a Wednesday evening 30-minute Bible study for elementary boys at Wortham United Methodist Church. The first week I discovered that most of the 12 boys did not even own a Bible.

I told them I would buy each of them a Bible with their name on the front. They got more excited than I anticipated they would get!

Mardell Christian Book store in Waco has a wonderful selection of Bibles.

PONDERINGS ... FROM POINT ENTERPRISE

The Rev. Gary L. Smith

The original order for 12 Bibles for the boys in my class has now grown into a full-fledged Bibles to Kids and Adults Bible Ministry. I have purchased and distributed more than 180 Bibles to date. Nice, personalized Bibles with names on each.

Mae Smith from Boston worked for me twice as my Religious Education director at two different Air Force Base Chapel ministries over my 31-year USAF chaplain ministry. She worked for me at Gila Bend AFB, Arizona 1989-1991 and again for me at Hanscom AFB, Massachusetts 1997-2000.

When I ordered her Bible, I ordered her name as follow — “4-star General RE Director Mae Smith.”

Mae wrote this week after receiving their two Bibles: “I wanted to thank you so very much today for the Bibles. Oh my goodness David was

so surprised and moved and I love my promotion. We were also excited to see plastic store bags. They are banned in Massachusetts and Maine and I use them for so many things. The rock in the picture behind me is from Gila Bend to remind us Jesus was changed in the desert and so were we, met your family and it has never been the same. We love you all and cannot thank you enough for your everything and including us in this Bible Ministry.”

Mae included two photos in her email of thanks.

One photo was of her and David with their new Bibles.

The other photo was of the pile of plastic H-E-B bags and Mardell Book Store bags that I used to stuff the box as packing. Bags that I have to argue with my wife Pam about keeping. She wants to toss them into the trash. I keep them just in case we need them for something!

I argue that we MIGHT need these little plastic bags someday!

Well, someday came! I have

packed and mailed 10s and 10s of boxes of Bibles, stuffing the Bibles tightly into the boxes with HEB and Walmart and Mardell Bookstore plastic bags!

I never thought someone would write and thank me for the plastic bag packing material I used!

It is so funny to me.

Thank God we live in Texas where plastic bags are legal!

I told Mae Smith in Boston to make Sunday school FUN for the kids. She looked at me and said, “FUN? Make Sunday school FUN?”

I said, “Yes, I want FUN for the kids. I want my two kids and your two kids and the other kids to look forward to having FUN in Sunday school and I want you to give them FUN memories that they laugh about and remember for the rest of their lives!”

Mae being Mae said, “Ok. FUN it is.”

The next Sunday it was cold and snowing in Boston on Sunday morning.

I drove over to the school we rented for our Sunday school classes.

All the kids were outside IN the snow with heavy coats on. Mae and David were there.

They were having a Frozen Turkey Bowling Tournament. David would set up the 10 bowling pins in the snow. The kids would roll a frozen turkey down a lane made in the snow and knock down the bowling pins.

The kids LOVED it all. I loved seeing the kids laugh and have such an enjoyable time in Sunday school. Knowing Mae, she had some exceptionally good lessons about God connected to the Frozen Turkey Bowling in the Snow Tournament.

The kids went home telling their parents about Sunday school Frozen Turkey Bowling Tournament. I am sure the parents asked what the Biblical lesson was that went along with the tournament! Many parents thanked me for making it easier to get their kids to want to go to Sunday school!

The Mexia News - Church Directory

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

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1100 N. Ross, Mexia
562-9216
Nueva Vida Assembly of God
210 E. Commerce, Mexia
903-388-9991

Baptist

Alexander Chapel
201 N. Baker, Mexia
562-3163
Antioch Baptist Church
610 N. Denton St., Mexia
562-7673
Bethsaida Missionary Baptist Church
3422 Hwy 84 W., Mexia
562-6777
Beulah Missionary Baptist Church
814 Martin Luther King Blvd, Wortham
903-915-9471
Calvary Baptist Church
519 S. McKinney, Mexia
562-2269
Canaan Baptist Church
FM Road 445, Springfield
First Missionary Baptist Church
104 St. John Street, Coolidge
786-2407
First Baptist Church
307 Bell, Coolidge 786-2232
First Baptist Church
500 E. Carthage, Mexia
562-5576
First Baptist Church
Tehuacana
First Baptist Church
Highway 14, Wortham
765-3412
Ford Chapel Primitive Baptist Church
800 W. Palestine St., Mexia
562-6275
Forest Glade Baptist Church
4275 N. Hwy 14, Mexia, 562-2426
Freedom Missionary Baptist Church
932 Hwy 171, Mexia, 472-9821
Full Faith P.B. Church
501 S. 3rd Street, Wortham
254-300-2096
Landmark Baptist Church
Hwy 171 & State School Rd.
562-2400

Little Zion Baptist Church

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562-7598
Mexia First Baptist Church
304 N. Denton St., Mexia
254-472-0940
Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist Church
LCR 502 - Point Enterprise
Mustang Baptist Church of Prairie Hill
5021 N. FM 339, Prairie Hill
254-344-2370
New Home Baptist Church
Highway 14 North, Mexia
562-3376
Northside Baptist Church
910 N. Kaufman, Mexia
562-6341
Prairie Grove Baptist Church
Hwy 1953 - 562-3730
Prairie Hill First Baptist Church
Hwy 339 - 254-344-2333
Pt. Enterprise First Baptist Church
RFD 3, Pt. Enterprise 562-5016
Rocky Branch Primitive Baptist Church
Wortham
Co. Rd. 970W 2 mile on left
214-774-7267
254-562-2901
Sandy Grove Primitive Baptist Church
Sandy Grove 353-2367
Sardis Primitive Baptist Church
1021 E. Palestine St., Mexia
562-7314
Shiloh Baptist Church
Shiloh
Smith Chapel Primitive Baptist Church
620 MLK Ave, Wortham
765-0186
South McKinney Street Baptist Church
828 S. McKinney St., Mexia
St. James Primitive Baptist Church
606 Bell, Coolidge, 786-4874
Sweet Home Baptist Church
311 N. Baker St., Mexia
562-3330
Tabernacle of Faith Primitive Baptist
600 E. Sumpter St., Mexia
472-0013
Pastor Henry V. Chambers Jr.
Temple Baptist Church
719 S. Red River St., Mexia
562-6314
Union Missionary Baptist Church
207 S. Denton St., Mexia
562-2612

Catholic

Saint Mary's Catholic Church
506 E. Sumpter, Mexia, 562-3619

Church of Christ

Church of Christ
405 S. McKinney St, Mexia
472-0936
Church of Christ
Hwy 39 at Fallon
Northcrest Church of Christ
918 Tehuacana Rd., Mexia
562-3533
Shiloh Church of Christ
Off Hwy 39 in Shiloh, 562-5957
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308 W. Bowie St., Mexia
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Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
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Church of God

Church of God
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562-5918

Lutheran

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562-7756

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Pastor Jorge Hernandez 254-366-3700

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221 S. Hwy 14, Mexia, 254-472-5140
Rev. Tom Rasey Sr.
New Life Tabernacle
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562-9656
Mission Pentecostal Church
301 E. Main St., Mexia, 562-6427
Trinity Pentecostal Church of God
2 1/2 miles east on Hwy 84

Presbyterian

First Presbyterian Church
209 E. Carthage St., Mexia
562-3344

Other

Calvary Full Gospel Church
Hwy. 171
Christ the King Fellowship
706 Hwy 171, Mexia
903-388-9782
Covenant Life Fellowship
515 S. Canton, Mexia
254-562-6636
First Christian Church
(Disciples House)
Corner of Main and Sherman Streets,
Mexia
Glad Tidings Fellowship
825 Tehuacana Rd., Mexia
562-6125
God's Cathedral of Praise and Worship
1866 Hwy. 171, Mexia, 562-0425
God's House of Deliverance
530 W. Hopkins St., Mexia
562-9101
God's House of Prayer for All People
202 First St., Coolidge
254-786-4855
Greater Haynes Temple Church of God in Christ
601 N. Denton St., Mexia
562-0177
Iron Horse Gathering Bikers Church
VFW Post, 317 S. MLK Jr. Hwy,
Mexia
903-641-9438
Life Fellowship
712 Hwy. 171, Mexia
254-472-9122

Lone Star Cowboy Church of Limestone County

2244 W. Hwy 84, Mexia
Mexia Revival Center
121 N. Hwy 14, Mexia, 562-5068

Mexia State School All Faith Chapel-

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708 S. Waco St., Groesbeck
254-729-3742
Outreach Ministries Church
400 Askew St., Coolidge
Covenant Life Fellowship
515 S. Canton St., Mexia, 562-6636
Salvation Lighthouse Church of God in Christ
915 N. Lena St., Mexia, 562-6205
Rising Star Community Church
1203 N. Ross Ave., Mexia
Elder Leroy Goff
Unidos En Cristo
Rt. 2 Box 159A, Mexia, 562-2300
Victory Full Gospel Fellowship
620 S. 3rd St., Wortham, 765-3002
Wortham Christian Fellowship
Wortham
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115 E. Commerce St., Mexia
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Yahweh's Rock Community Church
1126 E. Sumpter St., Mexia
903-388-8296, 254-855-0918
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Uvalde native McConaughey pushes for stricter gun laws, mental health reform

By Jaden Edison
texastribune.org

Actor Matthew McConaughey, a Uvalde native, called for bipartisan action on mental health reform, stricter gun legislation and consequences for people who violate gun laws in his appearance at the White House on Tuesday.

The Austin-area resident was visibly choked up while sharing stories of the families affected by the mass shooting at Robb Elementary that left 19 fourth graders and two teachers dead and at least 17 others injured.

"There is a sense that perhaps there's a viable path forward," McConaughey said at a press briefing in the James S. Brady briefing room after he met with President Joe Biden. "Responsible parties in this debate seem to at least be committed to sitting down and having a real

conversation about a new and improved path forward, a path that can bring us closer together and make us safer as a country, a path that can actually get something done this time."

McConaughey did not take questions from reporters after his remarks, which followed a recently published op-ed in the Austin American-Statesman, in which he declared that "business as usual isn't working."

McConaughey flirted with the idea of running for Texas governor last year but later opted out, saying he wanted to instead focus on "creating pathways for people to succeed in life." The self-proclaimed responsible gun owner was noncommittal to a political party at the time, describing himself as "aggressively centrist."

"We need responsible gun ownership. ... We need background checks," he said

Tuesday. "We need to raise the minimum age to purchase an AR-15 rifle to 21. We need a waiting period for those rifles. We need red flag laws and consequences for those who abuse them."

In Texas, 18 is the legal age to buy a rifle. The Uvalde shooter purchased two AR-platform rifles within days of turning 18 last month.

Since the shooting in Uvalde, Texas Republican officials have repeatedly made calls for action on mental health but have otherwise been noncommittal to reforming gun laws. Gov. Greg Abbott recently asked the state Legislature to form special committees to make recommendations in the aftermath of the massacre.

Meanwhile, U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, the lead GOP negotiator in the Senate's efforts to pass bipartisan gun safety legislation, expressed little interest in Democrats'

proposals, which include raising the age to purchase semi-automatic weapons to 21 and outlawing the sale, manufacture, transfer or possession of large-capacity magazines.

"What I'm interested in is keeping guns out of the hands of those who, by current law, are not supposed to have them," Cornyn said Monday in a Senate floor speech. "People with mental health problems, people ... who have criminal records."

Standing in the White House with a Texas-shaped pin on his black suit jacket, McConaughey said responses to the Uvalde shooting should be "a nonpartisan issue."

"There is not a Democratic or Republican value in one single act of these shooters," McConaughey said. "But people in power have failed to act. So we're ask-

ing you and I'm asking you ... can both sides rise above? Can both sides see beyond the political problem at hand and admit that we have a

life-preservation problem on our hands? We got a chance right now to reach for and to grasp a higher ground above our political affiliations."

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S	P	I	G	O	L	T	O	A

PLASTIC BAGS

Dear Heloise: We save plastic bags for many uses (T-shirt and newspaper types).

* Fold the bags smooth. This will remove most of the wrinkles and the bags will look nicer when carrying a gift or treat to a friend. Store them in a container so you can get one at a time.

* Pull the bag over your hand and up the arm to pull up poison ivy. Then pull down over the plant and trash it without getting the oil on your skin. A newspaper bag works best for handling poison ivy.

* Line small trash cans throughout the home. It saves on buying liners and keeps trash cans clean.



Hints
from Heloise

* Collect coffee grounds for composting. There will be liquid, so double-bag the trash can, remove the paper filters and dump into the compost container or on your acid-loving plants once a week.

* Keep one in your car to collect trash.

* Put one in your handbag. You never know when you might need it. -- B.B. in Virginia

CLUMPY MASCARA

Dear Heloise: This is a

problem that every woman who wears makeup deals with at some point. So often, mascara begins to clump way before its usefulness has ended. Or eyelashes get stuck together and need to be separated so you don't get the tarantula look. It is entirely too expensive to toss sooner than necessary. Using the mascara brush over and over only makes the problem worse.

One day while cleaning my teeth I noticed the interdental brushes used to clean between teeth were simply a miniature of the mascara brush. So after applying my mascara I used the tiny brush just like I would the mascara brush to remove the tiny clumps and separate the mascara-fused eyelashes. It worked perfectly. I clean the tiny brush with a tissue, which allows me to use it several times before pulling out a new interdental brush. They come 20 to a package. It's an inexpensive solution to tossing mascara too soon. -- Debbie, via email

VINEGAR DEGREASING

Dear Readers: After you cook hamburgers, you can remove the splattered grease easily. Just spray the stovetop with vinegar and then wipe it down for a shiny, clean result. -- Heloise

FLOWER VASES

Dear Heloise: Instead of throwing out flower vases after the flowers have dried, please drop them off at your local flower shop. It saves the landfill and reduces cost for the flower shop. Thank you. -- Janet Lee, in North Dakota

TELEPHONE DISTURBANCE SOLUTION

Dear Heloise: If Leo T. doesn't want to be awakened by a phone call in the morning, all he has to do is turn the ringer off at night when he goes to bed. I've been doing this for years. -- Margaret S., La Mirada, California

PET PAL

This is our favorite pet. His name is Rosko, and he is a 6-year-old Catahoula Leopard dog. He loves to swim and retrieve. He's very sweet and amazingly smart. -- Catherine West, Van Nuys, California

Readers, to see Rosko and our other Pet Pals, go to www.Heloise.com and click on "Pet of the Week."

Do you have a furry friend to share with us? Send a photo and description to Heloise@Heloise.com. -- Heloise

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Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/15

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-27 CRYPTOQUOTE

BLEC AOASQFOGY EC RSQX
EVBSQSCBEVK, FTB E WEVI EB
MENN VRSRQ QSANOGS O
LOQIGZRSQ FZZY — EB HOYSC
O RSQX AZZQ IZZQCBZA.

— ONWQSI LEBGLGZGY

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: ALL OF US LEARN TO WRITE IN THE SECOND GRADE. MOST OF US GO ON TO GREATER THINGS. — BOBBY KNIGHT

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 40 Makes fun of | DOWN | 1 Picnic side dishes |
| 1 Tap | | 2 Organ part | |
| 7 Exactly | | 3 Nepal neighbor | |
| 11 "The Raven" lady | | 4 Driver's place | 16 Suit |
| 12 Foot part | | 5 Mine output | 18 Burgundy city |
| 13 Mixed up | | 6 TV's Danson | 20 Dodge, as duty |
| 14 Folded food | | 7 Mythical giant | 22 Malevolent |
| 15 Homeless children | | 8 Just for fun | 23 Chants |
| 16 Farm machine | | 9 Gives in | 24 Neighbor of Botswana |
| 17 Thick slice | | 10 Insect section | 25 One of the Magi |
| 18 Reply to "Gracias" | | 11 King, in Latin | 26 D.C. baseballer |
| 19 "In your dreams!" | | 12 Tomfoolery | |
| 21 King, in Latin | | 13 Take in | |
| 22 Tomfoolery | | 14 Wee bit | |
| 25 Take in | | 15 Toward the wake | |
| 26 Wee bit | | 16 Oodles of bird | |
| 27 Toward the wake | | 17 Wading bird | |
| 29 Oodles of bird | | 18 Plantation setting | |
| 33 Wading bird | | 19 Freshener scent | |
| 34 Plantation setting | | 20 Titled ones | |
| 35 Freshener scent | | 21 Guinness of film | |
| 36 Titled ones | | 22 Each | |
| 37 Guinness of film | | 23 Take ten | |
| 38 Each | | | |
| 39 Take ten | | | |



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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11						12			
13						14			
15						16			
17						18			
			19	20			21		
	22	23				24			
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33						34			
35						36			
37						38			
39						40			

Comic Corner

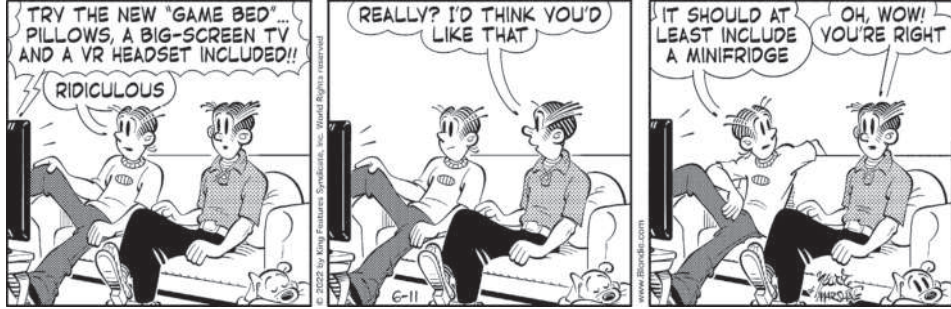
—Barney Google and Snuffy Smith—



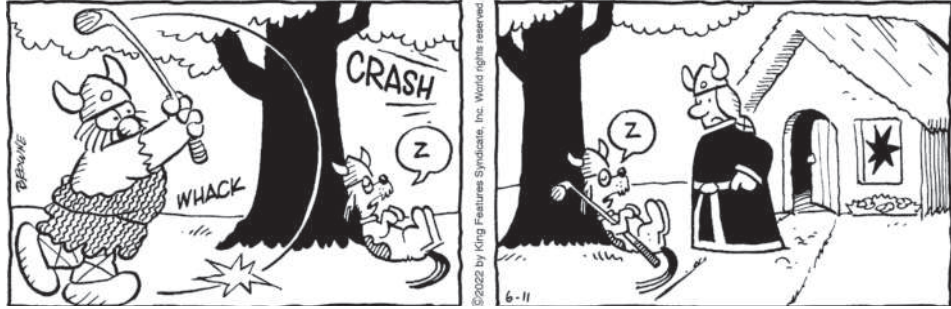
—Beetle Bailey—



—Blondie—



—Hagar the Horrible—



—Marvin—



DON'T DRINK & DRIVE.

Pitcher Murphy gains first team all-district honors

Six Blackcats on second team

Mexia News Staff Report
sports@themexianews.com

The Mexia baseball team had one first team All-District 18-4A selection and six second-teamers this season.

The first-team choice was sophomore pitcher Hunter Murphy. It was the second consecutive year he earned first-team honors.

Murphy pitched in six of Mexia's 10 district games, starting four of them. He had a 1-3 record, but his earned-run average



Hunter Murphy fires a pitch during a District 18-4A game this season. The sophomore right-hander earned first team all-district honors for the second consecutive season.

Photo by Skip Leon/The Mexia News

was just 2.47 in 26 1/3 innings of work.

The right-hander beat then state-ranked Madisonville in April with a complete-game, six-hitter. He did not allow an earned run and did not walk a batter in the victory.

Overall, Murphy allowed 30 hits in district play and 14 runs, nine of which were earned. He showed superb control with just two walks in 26 1/3 innings. He struck out 17. The two bases on balls came in his first district outing against Waco La Vega. After that, he did not walk a batter in 21 1/3 innings encompassing five games.

In addition to his district feats, Murphy fired a

no-hitter in a non-district game against Hillsboro.

Four sophomores and a freshman were among Mexia's second-team selections.

The sophomores were catcher Nate Burns, first baseman Brett Swift, third baseman Keydren Majors and outfielder Andres Venegas. Freshman designated hitter Adriano Mendoza and senior outfielder Nate Pina were the other second-teamers.

Senior shortstop Isai Garcia earned honorable mention.

At the state level, Chris Bradley was a Class 4A Academic All-State second team selection.

Bradley also was one of 11 Blackcats who earned Academic All-District honors. The others were Burns, Garcia, Mendoza, Swift, Venegas, Jarrett Floyd, Miguel Gonzalez, Asa Guzman, Anthony Schaff and Boyd Sterling.

Livestock Reports

BUFFALO LIVESTOCK & MARKETING REPORT

The Buffalo Livestock Auction held its weekly livestock auction on Saturday, June 4. The sale is held every Saturday. Total head sold were 1406, total head last sale was 906. There were 194 sellers and 71 buyers.

SLAUGHTER COWS & BULLS:

Cutter cows, \$70 - \$92
Fat cows, \$65 - \$89

Canner cows, \$25 - \$55

SLAUGHTER BULLS:

Heavy bulls, \$70 - \$118
Light Bulls, \$75 - \$105

COW/CALF PAIRS & BRED COWS:

Choice pairs, \$1350-\$1700
Good pairs, \$1150 - \$1300

Plain pairs, \$750 - \$1100
Bred cows 3-6 yr. old, \$750 - \$1100

STEER/BULL CALVES & YEARLINGS:

150-200 lbs., \$155 - \$190
200-300 lbs., \$150 - \$185

300-400 lbs., \$150 - \$196
400-500 lbs., \$140 - \$184

500-600 lbs., \$140 - \$175
600-700 lbs., \$135 - \$160

700-800 lbs., \$120 - \$150

HEIFER CALVES & YEARLINGS:

150-200 lbs., \$135 - \$150
200-300 lbs., \$125 - \$170

300-400 lbs., \$120 - \$165
400-500 lbs., \$120 - \$160

500-600 lbs., \$115 - \$160
600-700 lbs., \$110 - \$157
700-800 lbs., \$105 - \$140

GROESBECK AUCTION & LIVESTOCK COMPANY

The Groesbeck Auction & Livestock Company held its weekly livestock auction sale on June 2. The sale is held each Thursday beginning at 12 noon. Sellers 86 and 48 buyers. Total 606 head sold. The market report from last week's sale is given below:

Packer Cows: \$50-\$90

Packer Bulls: \$80-\$114

STOCKER COWS:

Young Bred Cows: \$1000 - \$1350

Older Plain Bred Cows: \$350 - \$850

Good Choice Pair: \$1300-\$1675

Common Medium Pairs: \$750-\$1150

STOCKER & FEEDERS & YEARLINGS STEERS

GOOD AND CHOICE:

300-400 lbs: \$165 - \$192

400-500 lbs: \$165 - \$187

500-600 lbs: \$150 - \$180

600-700 lbs: \$142 - \$162

700-800 lbs: \$113 - \$150

HEIFERS GOOD AND CHOICE:

300-400 lbs: \$145-\$180

400-500 lbs: \$140-\$175

500-600 lbs: \$130-\$195

600-700 lbs: \$125-\$155

700-800 lbs: \$110 - \$140

True Defenders



Johnson

Marquez

The True Defenders of the Week for Week 2 of the Mexia summer strength-and-conditioning program are Gwen Johnson for the Ladycats and Ivan Marquez for the Blackcats.

Marquez will be a senior. He is a lineman and one of the captains for the Blackcat football team this year. He also is an all-district goalkeeper for the soccer team.

Johnson, who will be a junior, is a four-sport standout for the Ladycats. She was a regional qualifier as a sprinter on the track team. She is an all-district basketball and softball player and also is entering her third year on the varsity volleyball team.

Coach Aaron Nowell says, "Both have shown exceptional leadership, desire, dedication and determination this week."

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You are the Judge!

You, our readers, will tell us who is the best in Mexia, Texas in each category listed below. Vote for your favorites in all the categories that you can. Just complete the entry form and ballot below, drop off The Mexia News located at 214 N. Railroad in Mexia or mail it to 214 N. Railroad, Mexia TX 76667 no later than June 28, 2022.

Results will be published in the 2022 Best of the Best special supplement.
Rules: Businesses must be located, and individuals must reside in the Mexia area. Please print. Illegible ballots will be discarded. Original forms only; no photocopies.

All personal information must be completed to be considered a valid ballot.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

Best People

- Community Volunteer _____
- Elected Official _____
- Minister _____
- Youth Minister _____
- Law Enforcement Officer _____
- Firefighter/EMT _____
- Manicurist _____
- Banker _____
- Bank Teller _____
- New Vehicle Salesperson _____
- Used Vehicle Salesperson _____
- Administrative Assistant _____
- Financial Advisor _____
- Real Estate Agent _____
- Insurance Agent _____
- Waitperson _____
- Veterinarian/Assistant _____
- Massage Therapist _____
- Physical Therapist _____
- Chiropractor _____
- Plumber _____
- Pharmacists/Tech _____
- Checker _____
- Mechanic _____
- Photographer _____
- A/C Serviceman _____
- Pet Groomer _____
- Hair Stylist _____
- Doctor _____
- Employer _____
- Optometrist _____
- Orthodontist _____
- Barber _____
- Customer Service Rep _____
- Nurse _____
- Real Estate Appraiser _____
- Friendliest Service _____

Best Food & Drink

- Restaurant _____
- Fast Food _____
- Breakfast _____
- Italian Food _____
- Mexican Food _____
- Barbecue _____
- Chicken _____
- Fish _____
- Chicken Fried Steak _____
- Pizza _____
- Chinese _____
- Hamburgers _____
- Sandwich _____
- French Fries _____
- Salad _____
- Steaks _____
- Donuts _____
- Desserts _____
- Coffee _____
- Iced Tea _____

Best Stores

- Wine Retailer _____
- Appliance Store _____
- Cell Phone _____
- Retail _____
- Clothing _____
- Gift Shop _____
- Furniture _____
- New Vehicles _____
- Used Vehicles _____
- Feed _____
- Lumber _____
- Farm Equipment _____
- Auto Parts _____
- Grocery _____

- Tire Dealer _____
- Pet Food/Supplies _____
- Antiques _____
- Convenience _____
- Florist _____
- Pharmacy _____
- Floor Covering _____
- Western Wear _____
- Trailer Dealer _____
- Thrift Store _____
- Tobacco _____

Best Services

- Funeral Home _____
- Air Conditioning Co. _____
- Bank/Credit Union _____
- Loan Co. _____
- Printing/Graphics _____
- Lawncare _____
- Landscaping _____
- Real Estate _____
- Insurance _____
- Plumbing _____
- Towing _____
- Internet _____
- Hospital _____
- Title Co. _____
- Sign Co. _____
- Storage Facility _____
- Paint & Body _____
- Automotive Repair _____
- CPA/Accountant _____
- Beauty Salon _____
- Cleaners _____
- Child Care _____
- Dentist _____
- Electrician _____
- Construction Co. _____
- Home Remodeler _____
- Tanning _____
- Nail Salon _____
- Caterer _____
- Nursing Home _____
- Assisted Living Center _____
- Carpet Cleaning _____
- Vet Clinic _____
- Hardware _____
- Auto Glass _____
- Car Wash _____
- Window Tinting _____
- Hearing Aid Provider _____
- Auto Oil Change _____
- Medical Equipment _____
- Tree Service _____
- Sand/Gravel Supplier _____
- Propane/Gas Supplier _____
- Lawn/Garden Equipment _____
- Recycling Center _____
- Roofing Contractor _____
- Muffler/Exhaust _____
- Septic System Supplier _____
- Transmission Repair _____
- Insulation _____
- Fitness Center _____
- Pest Control _____
- Attorney _____
- Hospice _____
- Home Health _____
- Other**
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- Motel/Hotel _____
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- Night Club _____
- Best Looking Business _____

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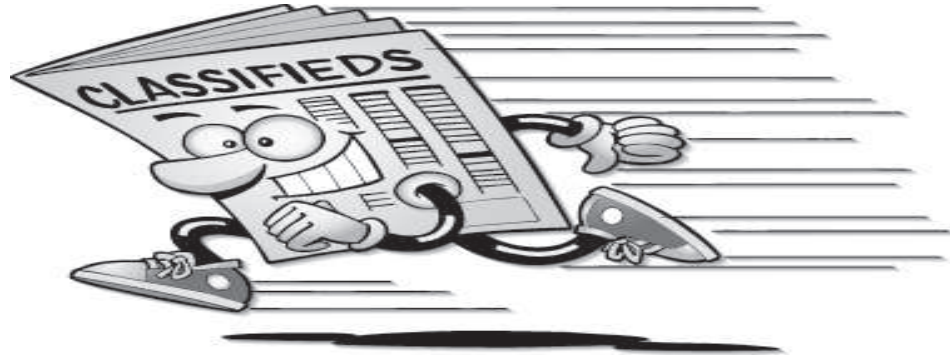


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Applicant must be 18 years of age; have a High School Diploma/GED; and have no outstanding tickets or warrants. Applicant must be able to obtain a Class D Water license within 6 months of employment. You will be required to pass a physical, a drug and alcohol screening test, as well as a criminal history background check prior to employment.

Applications must be submitted on a City Application available from and returnable to Dee Lindvay at the City Manager's Office, 101 N. McKinney, Mexia, Texas 76667. The City of Mexia is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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The City of Mexia is accepting applications for the position of Sewer Department.

Applicants must be 18 years of age; have a current Texas Class C Driver's License; must have a High School Diploma/GED; and have no outstanding tickets or warrants. Applicants will be required to pass a physical, a drug and alcohol screening test, as well as a criminal history background check prior to employment. Applicant must be able to obtain a class D wastewater license within a year of employment.

Applications must be submitted on a City Application available from and returnable to Dee Lindvay at the City Manager's Office, City Hall, P.O. Box 207, 101 N. McKinney, Mexia, Texas 76667. The City of Mexia is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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NOTICES

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INVITATION TO BID

Limestone County is accepting annual bids for the following services and supplies for Limestone County for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

A) Janitorial Supplies	BID # 220524-01
B) Pest Control	BID # 220524-02
C) Road Oil	BID # 220524-03
D) Crushed Limestone Base	BID # 220524-04
E) Steel Culverts	BID # 220524-05
F) Bridge Lumber	BID # 220524-06
G) Diesel	BID # 220524-07
H) Unleaded Fuel	BID # 220524-08
I) Contract Hauling	BID # 220524-09
J) Sand	BID # 220524-10

Sealed bids must be submitted to Limestone County Judge's Office, 200 West State Street, Suite 101, Groesbeck, Texas 76642. Bids must be received by 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 19, 2022 and must be marked on the outside "BID NO. (Use appropriate bid #) -OPENING DATE - TUESDAY, July 19, 2022." Bids will be presented to Commissioners' Court at a regular meeting on Tuesday July 26, 2022.

Specifications are available in the County Judge's Office, 200 West State Street, Suite 101, Groesbeck, Texas 76642.

Limestone County Commissioners' Court reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

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The Mexia News

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Wortham Avant Guard Art Show

Wortham High School hosted its 5th annual Avant Guard Art Show last month. The show was held to present works of art created by Wortham High School students to the community.

Senior Brenna Lewis, is pictured with her "Best in Show" artwork.

The show featured sketches, paintings, jewelry and various other types of art created by WHS students. The art show gave students the opportunity to showcase their creativity and skills.



" ITS A JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION!!

JUNE 19TH

FROM 10:AM -6PM

706-714 W Palestine St., Mexia Blossom's Florist & Garden Center will be hosting a Juneteenth Celebration.

This is open to the public and a Family friendly event. Food, Drinks, Entertainment, and much more will be provided at no charge. Vendors, Water Slides, and Bounce Houses will be available.

Outdoor games, Airbrush Face Painting will also be available.

Everyone is invited! You don't want to miss it... ITS A BIG DEAL!"



Future 'Cats hit the court

More than 40 boys and girls attended the Mexia Youth Basketball Camp at the junior high school gym Tuesday. The camp was conducted by Blackcat basketball coach Stephen Massington and Ladycat basketball coach Carlos Daniels, with assistance from some players.

Contributed photo



A future Ladycat gets help from a former Ladyjacket

Na'Taezia Hatton helps a youngster with her shot during the Mexia Youth Basketball Camp at the junior high gym Tuesday. More than 40 youngsters attended the camp. Hatton is a recent graduate of Coolidge High School and was a four-year standout for the Ladyjackets.

Contributed photo

92nd Annual 3-Night Event

MEXIA RODEO

JUNE 23-25, 2022

UPRA * CPRA SANCTIONED RODEO
ADDED MONEY \$12,500

NIGHTLY
YOUTH EVENTS
MUTTON BUSTIN'
6:00 PM

RODEO
PERFORMANCE
7:30 PM

SATURDAY NIGHT
KIDS: SANDY LUMLEY
BULL FIGHTER DRESS CONTEST,
AGES 10 AND UNDER

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE GATE
MEXIA, TEXAS - RODEO ARENA

Follow @MexiaRodeo on Facebook for more details and registration information.

Helping Here

KONA ICE

IS COMING!

PARKVIEW REGIONAL HOSPITAL
THURSDAYS IN JUNE @ 2PM

BRING \$4-7 TO COOL OFF WITH KONA ICE! 20% OF SALES GOES BACK TO THE PEEPS COMMITTEE!

KONA ICE OF HUNTSVILLE
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