

THE **POST-SIGNAL.**

AUBREY'S ATHLETES DEVELOP AS TEAM, GO TO STATE / 8A

Pilot Point • Aubrey • Providence Village • Cross Roads • Krugerville • Tioga

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Council refuses to call recall election

By Basil Gist
Staff Writer

With the recall petition of council member Elizabeth Jones on the agenda, many members of the community spoke on one side of the question or the other during the June 27 Pilot Point City Council meeting.

After extensive discussion from the council and the community, the dais voted 5-1-1 against calling the election, with Jones abstaining and Mayor Elisa Beasley voting no.

"All of us, with the exception of you, have some hangups about the validity of this petition," Mayor Pro Tem Andrew Ambrosio said. "There are some serious issues that I have personally, ... and I don't think council can call an election when there is legal stuff way above us that needs to be decided, and that's why I think it needs to go to a judge."

Council came to its conclusion after a number of community members spoke not only to Jones' merit as an individual, but also against the validity of the petition after research which some of the council had also conducted on their own.

"I have some serious questions about the petition," council member Ray Dane said. "The petitioner submitted a notarized statement saying all signatures of registered voters were made in her presence. The notarized statement she submitted was dated April 17, 2024. Every single voter who signed the petition dated his or her signature on a date that came after April 17."

On the petition's grounds of fiduciary misconduct after Jones hosted the city's Christmas party in 2023 and received \$900 for her service, Tracy Glover, after a short cost analysis, calculated that between 10 propane heaters, decorations, and pre- and post-event cleaning, Jones would have spent \$1,200 to make the event happen.

Alternatively, the venue would have cost \$4,600 to rent flat out.

See **RECALL** on Page 2A



Celebrating freedom

Heather Powers and her daughter, Aria Powers, wave to their friends in the second annual Providence Village Independence Day Parade on Saturday.

Abigail Allen/The Post-Signal

Krugerville OKs station funding

By Basil Gist
Staff Writer

The city of Krugerville moved forward with its purchase of the police department building on June 26 by authorizing the sale of certificates of obligation.

After Mayor Jeff Parrent removed himself from the dais, Mayor Pro Tem Kristen Kromer passed the floor to Jake Lawrence from Government Capital Securities to elucidate the council on the \$2,048,000 sale.

"We went through the bid process over the last couple of months and are very happy with the results," Lawrence said. "PointBank ended up being the lowest bid."

Lawrence then explained the city's

taxable value increases over the last several years and the positive impact it's made on the tax rate.

"There has been an average of 12% taxable value increase for the city of Krugerville since 2012," Lawrence said. "Twelve percent is a very steady growth rate. The majority of Texas is not growing anywhere near that. Y'all have a very low tax rate compared to other cities around you as well as others around the state."

He explained that as the 2018 and 2021 bonds continue to fall off, at a conservative growth rate of 2.5%, the tax rate would still be set to remain low.

"We probably will not even go back to the 11 cents that we just were at back

in 2021," Lawrence said. "You'll probably still be below that in terms of the [debt service] tax rate because of the growth aspect of the community."

The project scope was left broad, Lawrence explained, to cover anything the city may need to do upon the purchase of the building.

"That's going towards a variety of projects that we included in the post notice from straight road repairs to equipment, technology and renovation of current facilities," Lawrence said. "We have a delivery date set up for July 17."

Lawrence explained that upon receiving the money, they could go into

See **COUNCIL** on Page 3A



Heritage on display

Isaac Cervantes shows the centerpiece of his Duck Tape tux creation, the monarch butterfly made of the U.S. and Mexican flags, which could help him earn scholarship money. Read the article on Page 5A.

Photo Courtesy of the Cervantes Family

Aubrey alters alcohol rules

By Abigail Allen
Editor & Publisher

Aubrey has updated its zoning ordinances to allow applicants to request a Special Use Permit within multiple zoning districts except the industrial areas.

However, the industrial area can still be home to "the winery, brewpub, distillery and winery/brewery retail sales," City Planner Helen-Eve Beadle said.

"We've also provided for an exception in residential areas for country clubs, public and municipal golf courses," she said.

The change helps incorporate related ordinances, such as the special event alcohol ordinance approved in March.

"We've not had an inquiries or support or opposition to the ordinance amendment," Beadle said.

The only input from the public on the item was a question from Jesse Auer about what the definition of volume for means for different businesses.

"It's 75% or more for a package store and restaurants, it's 51," Be-

See **AUBREY** on Page 3A



Hayes and Rhett Steddum work on pinning their dad Ryan Steddum as mom Dayna Steddum looks on with a grin.

Abigail Allen/The Post-Signal

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RECALL

Continued from Page 1A

“She was advised by city staff that if she provided a party for the city at no cost, it would be viewed as an attempt to bribe city officials for favors,” Glover said. “She had to charge the city something, so she agreed to take a loss and get paid for it.”

A letter from Lane Pierce read by council member Chad Major explained the charter does not forbid council members or even city staff from receiving money for services rendered on the city.

“There is nothing in the section that forbids a council person from conducting fair business with the city,” Major recited from Pierce’s email. “Money, being a resource used for payment of services that are customary, incidental or lawfully available to the public is expressly permitted in the charter.”

Amy Lanier brought up a message from Kelley Burgess to Adriana Midkiff, which included that “anyone can be recalled just for being disliked.”

“She continues to place the burden of the cost on Elizabeth rather than herself as the petitioner so my question is, how can this be OK for a citizen to just target and try to control one of you,” Lanier said. “That just does not seem right. It all seems dangerous in fact.”

Those who spoke in favor of the recall did not address the grounds nor the discrepancies with the notary.

Each spoke about what they see as Jones’ lack of value as a member of the dais.

“I’m sure you’re a wonderful person, but this is a job just like my job in the public sector,” Tom Burgess said. “It is an important job, and it must be done by people who are good at that job.”

Kelley, who filed the petition, spoke about the three types of people in Pilot Point as she sees it. There are those who love Jones, those who want her off of council and a third kind.

“I like logic and facts and procedures, so I have a hard time with all these testimonials, which I’m sure are true,” Kelley said. “There is a third group that really pushes me to be here, and those are the ones that are afraid of you. ... Whether that’s founded or true doesn’t make any difference because we know in politics



Steven Birkelbach wheels around to the council after repeatedly addressing the gallery at Pilot Point on June 27 as officer Shane Cole steps in behind him in case the situation escalates.

Photos by Basil Gist/ The Post-Signal

optics matter.”

The final community speaker, Tatiana Ambrosio, questioned what appeared to be Beasley’s calling for community members to speak in an order stilted in favor of the recall.

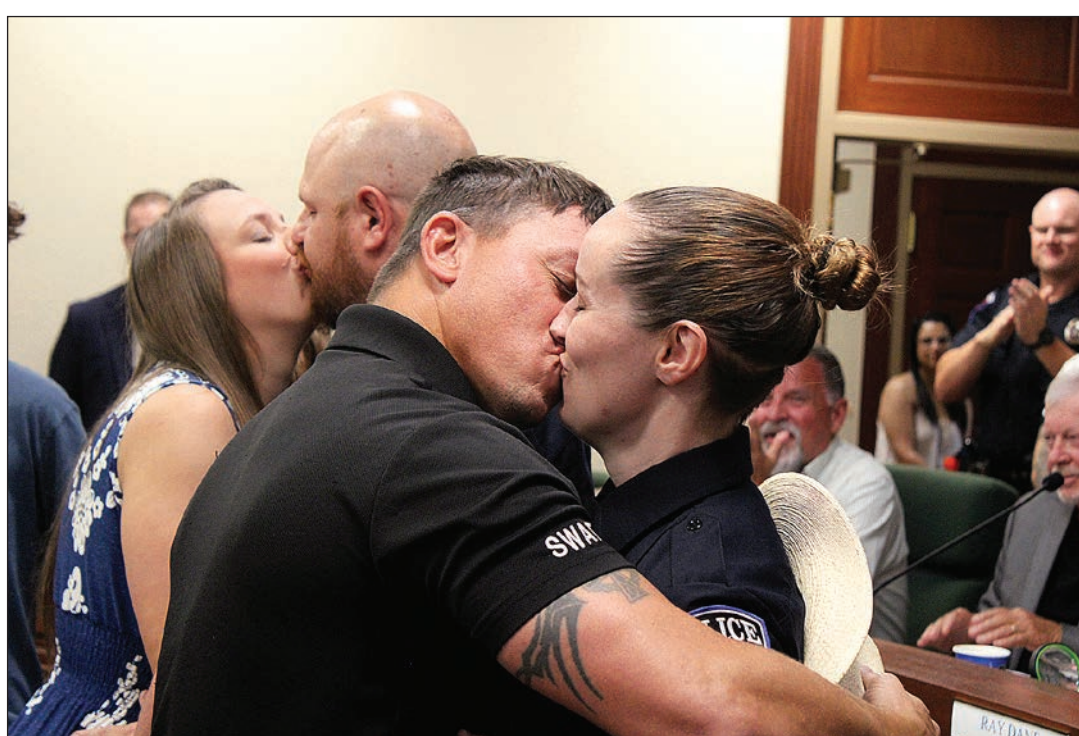
“I noticed that we received comments, but we had pro go first and to end the conversation was against to start this conversation for our council,” Tatiana said. “I don’t think that’s a correct way to hold a meeting. I think that’s manipulating the crowd and the conversation.”

Beasley denied both the allegation and any connection to the petition beyond answering Kelley’s initial question about how to call a recall.

“First of all, false,” Beasley said. “I didn’t stack the conversations or who is going first. Lennette puts a number on them, and I went through that. There seems to be this idea that I’m just this grand manipulator. I honestly don’t have time for that, so that’s false.”

According to city records, the speaker order differed from the order in which cards were received by the city secretary.

During her comment, Kelley additionally referred to her conversation with the mayor, saying that Beas-



To celebrate their spouses’ promotions, Rebecca Hull, left, gives Sgt. Justin Hull a smooch while Chris Loughry does the same for Sgt. Madison Loughry on Interim Chief Charles Kimble’s order during the June 27 Pilot Point City Council meeting.

Basil Gist/ The Post-Signal

ley pointed her to the charter and nothing more, before the mayor publicly discussed the information request from the *Post-Signal*.

“You can have my texts. You can have my messages,” Beasley said. “Like any other citizen that calls me and asks me for information, I send that information, whatever that is.”

As of press time on Tuesday, the *Post-Signal’s* information requests filed on

June 24 and 25 had not been released.

Beasley argued that the charter “states, ‘the council shall call the election once the petition has been verified,’ which it has.”

“The charter reads shall, ... and in the past with other things that you all have brought to my attention, it has been that ‘shall’ means ‘shall,’ meaning ‘that is what we must do,’” she said.

Andrew asked City At-

torney Brenda McDonald to read more of the section of the charter regarding recall elections, where the initial “shall” in question is followed by an “if, then,” wherein the charter permits council to send the petition to a judge if, as a governing body, they disagree with its grounds.

“That implies that there would be an action taken that would potentially not call an election,” Major said.

Speaker order

When the order of speakers at the June 27 Pilot Point City Council meeting was questioned, Mayor Elisa Beasley said she called speakers in the order provided by City Secretary Lenette Cox.

Below are the city’s records.

The order in which Requests to Speak were turned in:

1. Cindy Faris-Withdrew form before meeting
2. Jennifer Sulak
3. Janet McGee
4. Lisa Jones
5. Monica David
6. Whitney Delcourt
7. Amy Lanier
8. Joyce Duesman
9. Justine Scott
10. Tracy Glover
11. Susan Hesse
12. Nathan Brown
13. Pearlie Mae Simpson
14. Tom Burgess
15. Kelley Burgess
16. Gary Garcin
17. David Paul Leach
18. Andrew Singleton
19. Steven Birkelbach
20. Brian Beasley
21. Tatiana Ambrosio

Letters to be read:

1. Bonnie Ambrose
2. Trey Hernandez
3. Daniella Koontz
4. Scott Cook
5. Ashley Bothwell and Stephanie Thompson
6. Trisha Richardson
7. Justin B. Hardesty
8. Marcus Smith
9. Donna Morgan
10. Debbie Martin
11. Bonnie Siegel
12. Buggy Siegel
13. Chip Knost

Called to speak during Public Forum:

1. Nathan Brown
2. Monica David
3. Pearlie Mae Simpson
4. Gary Garcin
5. Andy Singleton

Called to speak during Regular Agenda 1.2.:

- A. Jennifer Sulak
- B. Janet McGee
- C. Lisa Jones
- D. Whitney Delcourt
- E. Amy Lanier
- F. Joyce Duesman
- G. Justine Scott
- H. Tracy Glover
- I. Susan Hesse
- J. Tom Burgess
- K. David Paul Leach
- L. Steven Birkelbach
- M. Kelley Burgess
- N. Nathan Brown
- O. Brian Beasley
- P. Tatiana Ambrosio

Sunlight remains necessary in local politics

“In politics optics matter.”

That was a comment made by Kelley Burgess during the most recent Pilot Point City Council meeting.

She also happens to be the person who filed the recall petition that aims at removing Elizabeth Jones from public office, alleging fiscal impropriety as well as behavior unbecoming a council member.

For the fiscal portion, she cites payments by the city made to Jones’ company for use of her venue, compensation that falls well under the cap the charter sets for a “conflict of interest.”

For that last part on the petition itself, she cited the March 28 meeting as proof.

I was at that meeting. I heard the behavior of the gallery, where people jeered at Jones and the other council members.

I should have said so at the time, and for that I apologize to you, my readers.

I’ve been doing you a disservice. When I’ve observed concerning behavior, I haven’t been as quick to report on it as I should be, either in my articles or in my opinion pieces.

I’m resolving to do better for you, because that’s

my responsibility to you.

During the meeting on June 27, Burgess and Mayor Elisa Beasley mentioned public information requests I have filed.

Here’s the thing.

We wouldn’t report on the requests unless my staff and I deemed they were of significant public interest.

You can look at last week’s column to see that while I mentioned being inspired by the recent convention to file requests, I didn’t say what they were about or who was the subject of said requests.

That’s because I believe in waiting until you know what you’re talking about to put it out there publicly.

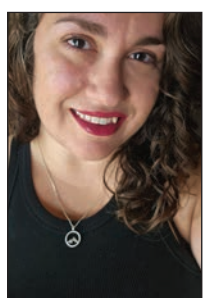
Even if I have a pretty good hunch that something is the case, or if I have off the record information that cannot be verified without additional sources and information, I will not report on something.

I require proof.

That’s one of the values of having professional journalism in our community.

I would hope that public officials, whether elected

OPINION



ABIGAIL ALLEN

or staff, would be grateful that I file information requests to receive the information I am looking for.

That is because that means equal treatment across the board.

I have used that resource sparingly, to the point that I embarrassingly had to have a refresher on how to do it.

However, I have used that tool in the past.

When former Mayor Shea Dane-Patterson was talking with former City Attorney Andrew Messer about former City Manager Alan Guard, pushing the city over its budgeted \$100,000 in legal fees in one fiscal year, this paper reported on it, and I was the one to write the article.

And being my friend doesn’t spare you from accountability.

When I found out that Mayor Pro Tem Andrew Ambrosio was arrested by the Pilot Point Police Department on a DWI charge, I reported on that.

His wife, Tatiana Ambrosio, has been my friend for years and has worked with and for me for nearly our entire friendship.

None of us have had any

difficulty meeting each other’s eye after that report ran in the Jan. 5 issue.

If a friendship I have with a public official only exists so long as I am shouting their praises and it ends when I attempt to do one of my basic professional responsibilities—find truth and report it—that’s not a friendship.

I find it telling that Beasley again felt the need to get out in front of a *Post-Signal* information request.

When former Assistant Editor Don Munsch reported questions regarding then-Elisa Carrasco’s residency while she served on the council before in the May 25, 2018, issue, she wrote in a letter to the editor titled “I am at your will.”

It begins “The *Post-Signal* has decided that my residency is somehow news that must be reported.”

Messer had deemed her change in residency from Pilot Point to Prosper acceptable for her to continue serving, but the archives show she resigned less than a month later.

Burgess might be right. In politics, optics really do matter.

Abigail Allen is the Editor & Publisher of the *Post-Signal*. She can be reached at aallen@postsignal.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Who says it’s bogus?

I am writing in response to Amy Lanier’s letter published June 21, 2024.

Ms. Lanier has made a strong accusation in her letter.

She refers to the re-

OPINION

call petition as “bogus.”

Bogus means not genuine.

When has proof of ‘conflict of interest’ been deemed bogus?

Aletha Maisie Birkelbach

Pilot Point

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Letters/Opinions Policy

The Post-Signal welcomes letters to the editor on any subject. All letters must be signed and will be published with the name of the writer. Letters must include an address and telephone number to allow verification. Please keep your letter to no more than 300 words. The editor reserves the right to edit all letters. Any letter may be rejected for publication without reason. The deadline to submit letters is 5 p.m. Monday. Send your letter to Abigail Allen, Editor & Publisher, Pilot Point Post-Signal, Box 249, Pilot Point TX 76258, or e-mail to aallen@postsignal.com. Opinions expressed in letters and guest columns are those of the writer.

AUBREY

Continued from Page 1A

dle said.

Following discussion in executive session, the council voted 4-0 to amend the ordinance.

It then also approved an ordinance for an SUP for Brothers Mexican Restaurant, which will be at 1001 U.S. 377, Ste. 109, for which Beadle gave a detailed presentation about the business' efforts to meet the requirements for the permit.

The council removed the public impact criteria from both ordinances.

Beadle also explained the site plan, which was granted conditional approval at the meeting, for the Shop at High Meadows, including a request for city work on improving drainage as well as a variance on the landscaping requirements typical of a retail development because of its location.

Wilson confirmed that drainage has been an issue for the developments surrounding the area near East Highmeadow Drive and Betty Lane.

"We've worked with the city engineer and have numerous options, but we're limited on what we can and can't do," she said. "... On Tuesday of next week, I should have Plan A and Plan B."

She gave a ballpark of nearly \$1 million for such a project at the meeting, adding that the city would be able to factor in a proportionate contribution from the other developments in the subdivision nearby.

"You're not agreeing to a dollar amount, because we don't have it yet," Wilson said. "We're not agreeing that we can pay it. It's a



Mayor Chris Rich, left, and council member Randy Jones listen as Leanne Wilson, the director of public works and development services, speaks at the June 26 meeting of the Aubrey City Council.

condition of the site plan approval."

Mayor Pro Tem Jeff Perry verified that the conditional approval did not bind the council to pay for the drainage without knowing the cost.

The council set a public hearing regarding the annexation petition for the 160-acre Duck Point development at the July 25 council meeting.

The council also had its

first of two public hearings for the annexation of both all of the roadway and right of way of FM 428 from FM 1385 to FM 2931 as well as a portion of FM 1385 from Winn Ridge Boulevard to FM 428.

"In accordance with the boundary agreement with the city of Celina, the annexation will only cover the western half of the roadway right of way," City Manager Charles Kreidler said.

The second public hearing for both were held Saturday during a public council workshop.

After an additional executive session, the council authorized Rich and Kreidler to "negotiate and finalize documents for the funding obligations of the developer for the Phase 2 Offsites required under the High Pointe Development Agreement."

As has become custom,

the city celebrated exciting news about its first responders.

"Our family's growing," Aubrey Fire Department Chief Eric Schlotter said before Mayor Chris Rich swore in three new firefighters, Ryan Steddum, Michael Dulceak and Kyle Hoffman.

Schlotter also highlighted Trent Bell's promotion to captain and announced that Bell will be the Aubrey fire marshal.

The council also approved an encroachment agreement for Highpointe Ranch and approved an amended and restated development agreement with Lennar Homes.

The council cast its vote for Jim Carter to retain his Denco Area 9-1-1 Board of Managers seat.

Council member Erin Allen attended the meeting remotely and council member Matt Jones was absent.

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1A

PointBank or any other financial institution.

"When you put those dollars into an interest-bearing account, you're able to generate revenue and you're able to use that interest earned to go towards the project."

That comes with a few stipulations including a two-year cutoff.

Parrent had to step away from the dais once more toward the end of the meeting when council voted to replat.

"Your mayor happens to be a builder, a landowner, a developer, so the same thing citizens do when they come to us, tonight, I'm on here twice, so again I will let Mrs. Kromer take over," Parrent said.

Council had no comment after P&Z's unanimous recommendation.

Finally, the council approved the final plat for Industrial Reserve with four commercial lots on the southern edge of the city.

"I was at that P&Z meeting on June 12, and I can attest there was a lot of discussion," Parrent said. "In May, it was denied, and in June, P&Z approved it and asked us to approve it."

Kromer invited City Engineer Kevin Ware to affirm the decision.

"In addition to the CoServ easement, all the other requested documents and easements that I wanted are present," Ware said.



Jake Lawrence from Government Capital Securities discusses the \$2,048,000 in certificates of obligation for the city to purchase the Krugerville Police Department station, which can also fund additional named projects.

Basil Gist/The Post-Signal

Church Directory

BAPTIST

Antioch Baptist Church. FM 428W and FM 2931, Aubrey. Pastor V. Barry Mathis. Sunday Services: Morning Worship, 10:45 a.m.; Evening Worship, 6 p.m. 940-365-3521.

Bethel Baptist Church. 210 E. Main, Pilot Point. Pastor Buddy Garland. Sunday School 9:30; Morning Worship 10:30; Evening Service 6 p.m. 903-429-3661.

Calvary Baptist Church. 117 W. Walcott St., Pilot Point. Pastor Chance Perkins. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Worship, 10:45 a.m.; Youth Bible Study, 6 p.m.; Wednesday: AWANA & Youth Activities, 6 p.m.; Adult Bible Study/Prayer Service 6 p.m. 940-686-2274. calvarypilotpoint.org

County Line First Baptist Church. 512 E. Walcott St., Pilot Point. Rev. B.W. McClendon Jr. 512-698-0659.

First Rock Fellowship. 201 N. Cherry St. Pastor Christopher Walden. Sunday Services: 8:30, 11 a.m. 940-365-2445. firstrockfellowship.org.

First Baptist Church. 5021 U.S. 377, Krugerville. Pastor Sam Redfean. Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; Sunday Worship, 11 a.m.; Sunday Evening Worship, 6 p.m.; Tuesday Bible Study, 7 p.m.; Wednesday, AWANA & 24/7, 6:30 p.m. 940-365-2444. fbckrugerville.com.

Friendship Baptist Church. 220 S. Ray Roberts Parkway, Tioga. Rev. Justin Elwell. Pastor. Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; Sunday Worship, 10:45 a.m.; Bible Study Wednesday, 7-8 p.m. 940-437-2000.

Green Valley Baptist Church. FM 428, Aubrey. Pastor Frank Lott. Services: Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Worship/Message, 10:30 a.m.;

Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. 940-391-4283. www.greenvalleydenton.org.

Iglesia Bautista Hispana de Mustang. 8153 FM 1385, Pilot Point. 903-893-7976.

Midway Church. 9540 U.S. 377, Pilot Point. Pastor John Theisen. Sunday Services: 9:30, 11 a.m.; Spanish Sunday Service: 11 a.m.; Wednesday Activities: 6:30 p.m. 940-365-9312. midwaychurch.org.

Mountain Springs Fellowship Bible Church. 14777 S. FM 372, Valley View. Pastor James Reid. Sunday Fellowship 10 a.m.; Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m. 940-395-2777. msfbc.net.

Mt. Carmel Baptist Church. 27260 FM 121, Tioga. Pastor Allan Strickland. Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Sunday Worship, 11 a.m., AWANA 4:30 p.m. 940-437-0039.

Mt. Zion Baptist Church. 1940 CR 203, Collinsville. Pastor Tony Norman. Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Sunday Worship, 11 a.m.; Wednesday Bible Study, 7 p.m. 940-393-6821.

Mustang Baptist Church. 13335 Mustang Road, Pilot Point. Pastor Coach G.A. Moore Jr. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday, 6 p.m. mustangbaptistchurch.org.

New Hope Baptist Church. 5800 U.S. 377, Aubrey. Pastor Aaron Ashlock. Sunday Worship: 9, 11:30 a.m. 940-365-2542. newhopeaubrey.com.

St. James Baptist. 554 E. Burks St., Pilot Point. Pastor C.D. Lockhart. 469-215-7527, 214-449-1296. stjamesbpc.com.

CATHOLIC

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church. 925 N. Charcut St., Pilot Point. 940-686-2088. Mass Schedule:

Saturday, 5 p.m.; Sunday, 8, 9:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. (Spanish). 940-686-2088. office@sttpp.org.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Church of Christ. 426 S. Jefferson St., Pilot Point. Craig Tullis, minister. Sunday Worship, 10:45 a.m.; Sunday Bible Class, 9:45 a.m.; Wednesday Bible Class, 7:00 p.m. 940-293-5620.

Church of Christ. 307 Gene Autry Drive, Tioga. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m.

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Grace Point Nazarene Church. 611 E. Liberty, Pilot Point. Sunday Worship, 10 a.m. Rev. Dwayne Edwards. 760-518-6732. gracepointnaz.net.

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

Restored Faith Church of God in Christ. 535 E. Walcott St., Pilot Point. Elder M.L. Johnston, pastor. Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Wednesday Prayer, 7:30 p.m.; Thursday School, 7:30 p.m., online via free conference call at 844-744-0213. 940-230-9966.

CHRISTIAN

First Christian Church. 410 N. Main St., Aubrey. Rev. Sara Beckham. sarajonathan217@gmail.com. Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Sunday Worship, 11 a.m. 469-667-4233. 940-367-3591.

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Aubrey First Assembly of God. 819 W. Sherman Drive, Aubrey. Pastor Gary Sweatman. 940-300-6169. Cowboy Country Chapel. 603 S. Morrison St., Pilot



Point. Rev. Carl Smith. Sunday Worship, 10:45 a.m.; Sunday Night Bible Study, 5 p.m.; Wednesday Prayer Meeting, 6 p.m. 214-957-6111.

Tioga Community Church. 501 Cutler St., Tioga. Senior Pastor Mark Arrington. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.; Wednesday Bible Study, 6:30 p.m. 903-821-7152.

METHODIST

Aubrey First United Methodist Church. 113 W. Plum, Aubrey. Rev. Ernesto Sanchez. Sunday: Youth and Adult classes, 9:45 a.m.; Sunday Worship, 11 a.m.; Sunday Fellowship, 12:15 p.m. 940-365-3024. firstumcaubrey.com.

Bethel Methodist Church of Denton County (an Independent Methodist Denomination). 3126 FM 2931, Aubrey. Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Sunday Worship, 11 a.m. 409-543-8444.

Grace Chapel. 14632 Fishtrap Road, Aubrey. Sunday: Traditional Worship, 9:30 a.m.; Modern Worship, 10:45 a.m. 940-440-6626. www.grace380.org.

Oak Grove Church of Little Elm. 4725 FM 720 W., Aubrey. Rev. Kevin McClain. Sunday School, 9 a.m.; Sunday Worship, 10 a.m. 940-365-3027. oakgrovechurchle.org.

Pilot Point First United Methodist Church. 217 S. Church St., Pilot Point. Rev. Cindy Kennedy, office@pilotpointumc.org. Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Sunday Worship, 11 a.m. 940-686-2338. www.pilotpointumc.org.

Tioga Shiloh. 301 N. Porch St., Tioga. Senior Pastor Mead McGee. Sunday School, 9 a.m.; Sunday Worship, 10 a.m. 940-230-6627.

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

Aubrey Country Church. 3000 Rock Hill Road, Aubrey. Pastor Dewayne Brawner. Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. 214-697-2290.

Comerstone Church of Aubrey. 7850 FM 2931 (near Mustang Water office), Aubrey. Sunday Prayer, 10 a.m.; Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m.; Thursday Bible Study, 7 p.m. Pastor Dan Franke, pastorfirfranke@ccaubrey.com. 972-742-3308. www.ccaubrey.com.

Green Valley Community Church. FM 2153, Aubrey. Pastor Wendell Lillard; Youth Minister James Grider. Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Sunday Worship, 11 a.m. 940-440-9469.

Living Faith Bible Church of Aubrey, Texas. 700 N. Harmon, Aubrey. Pastor Clarence Dalrymple. day Services: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 940-365-9360. aubreyfaith.org.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

Denton First Seventh-day Adventist. 11010 U.S. 377, Pilot Point. Senior Pastor Dr. Denton Rhone. Saturday Service, 10 a.m. 940-488-9656. dentonfirstsda.org.

Pilot Point Seventh-day Adventist. 990 W. Walcott St., Pilot Point. Pastor Carlos Rodriguez. Wednesday Prayer Meeting, 7 p.m.; Saturday Services: 9:15, 11 a.m. 651-263-4259.



Around Town

Ray Roberts State Park opens boat ramps

The Ray Roberts Lake State Park has opened the Jordan Branch and Isle du Bois boat ramps from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. daily. The Greenbelt hike and bike trails north of FM 428 remain open.

All other park facilities are closed temporarily during cleanup efforts because of recent storms.

For more information, call 940-637-2294 or 940-686-2148.

Marble coaster at PP library

The Pilot Point Community Library at 324 S. Washington St. will have Storytime (ages 0-5), 10 a.m. Tuesday; STEAM Lab: Marble Roller Coaster (ages 9-12), 2 p.m. Thursday; Game Day Saturdays, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. July 13 and 27; STEAM Explorers: Marble Maze (ages 6-8), 2 p.m. July 18; and Movie: "Wish," 11 a.m. July 20.

For more information or to register for classes, call 940-686-5004.

Movie party, games at Aubrey library

The Aubrey Area Library at 226 Countryside Drive will offer Movie Party - "Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron," 4 p.m. Friday; Saturday Shenanigan: Wild West Minute to Win It Games (ages 5 and up), 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday; Beachy Bubble Party, 4:30 p.m. Wednesday; Movie: "Finding Nemo," 4:30 p.m. Thursday; and Saturday Shenanigan: Ocean Ice Cream Steam Lab (ages 3 and up), 11 a.m. July 13.

For more information or to register for classes, call 940-365-9162.

Live music, karaoke at the Coffee House

The Pilot Point Coffee House will have Jam & Java with Deanie Deal and Dave Hollowell, 8 p.m. Friday; Karaoke Night, 7 p.m. Saturday; Dance Night, 8 p.m. July 13; Kids Dance Night, 6 p.m. July 19; and live music with Bronwyn, 8 p.m. July 20 at 110 W. Main St.

Summer Camps offered for students

There are several camps open throughout the summer to help families fill their free time.

•Christie's Golf Ranch has opened registration for the 2024 summer junior golf camps (ages 7-12) at 920 U.S. 377. For more information, go to christiesgolf ranch.com.

•Midway Church will have summer camps in July and August. For more information, go to midwaychurch.org.

•PYE (Pooky's Young Engineers) Club is now enrolling for summer camps including coding, robotics and automation for ages 10-14 taught by engineers and grad students. Classes will be from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday. For more information, go to pyeclub.com.

•Starbright Music and Performing Arts will host summer camps at 110 S. Washington St. For more information, go to starbrightmpa.com or call 940-647-4461.

Community Weave at Cross Roads

The town of Cross Roads will offer Community Weave from 9-11 a.m. each Saturday during the Cross Roads Community Market through Aug. 10 at the corner of FM 424 and Fishtrap Road.

Vendor applications open for B&C Days

Vendor applications open Monday for Bonnie and Clyde Days which will be held Oct. 12 on the Historic Pilot Point Square.

For more information, go to bonnieandclydedays.org, email Wendy Haun at whaun@cityofpilotpoint.org or call 940-293-7434.

Penny Paws vaccine clinic at Atwoods

Penny Paws will offer a low-cost vaccine and wellness clinic including heartworm testing, nail trims and microchips as well as heartworm and flea and tick prevention at 8 a.m. July 13 at Atwoods Ranch and Home Goods, 3401 U.S. 377 in Cross Roads.

To schedule an appointment, go to penny-

paws.com/book-mobile-vaccination/ or call 817-993-1234.

Mountain Springs plans ice cream social

The Mountain Springs Community Center will host an ice cream social at 6 p.m. July 13 at 173 Mountain Springs Lane in Valley View.

Upcoming auditions at the GDT

The Garage Door Theater will hold auditions for "Play On" from 6-8 p.m. July 21-22 at 110 S. Washington St. with performances planned in September. There are seven female and three male roles available.

This is the hilarious story of a theatre group trying desperately to put on a play in spite of maddening interference from a haughty author who keeps revising the script.

Pilot Point Market sets July date

The next Pilot Point Market will be held from 8 a.m.-noon July 27 on the Historic Downtown Square. There will be homegrown and handmade goods.

To become a vendor, go to the Pilot Point Market Facebook page. For any questions, email Wendy Haun at whaun@cityofpilotpoint.org.

Ray Roberts Rotary flag program

The Lake Ray Roberts Rotary Club will place an American flag in a yard or business for six holidays during the year for a \$50 annual fee. The program helps fund senior scholarships for Aubrey ISD and Pilot Point ISD, Shepherd's Storehouse, Love Pacts, Hopes Door, dictionaries for third graders, Pilot Point Angel Tree, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards and International Polio Drive.

To sign up, email lex@cityofpilotpoint.org or call 940-324-5027.

Drivers needed for Meals on Wheels

Volunteer drivers are needed to deliver

Meals on Wheels one day a week Monday-Friday for 2 to 2 1/2 hours from 10:15 a.m.-12:45 p.m. in Aubrey, Krugerville and Pilot Point.

For more information, call Cindy Faris at 972-838-3259.

Class of 1964 prepares for HOCO

Several members of the 1964 class of Pilot Point High School met on Saturday in the home of Sonny and Gail Gibbs to start preparations for their 60th class reunion. The next meeting will be Aug. 3 at 9436 Vail Eton Drive. All 1964 class members are invited to attend.

Lloyd earns President's List

Lacy Lloyd of Aubrey was named to the University of Alabama spring 2024 President's List in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, earning a 4.0 grade point average.

Sam Houston State announces honors

Tristen Anderson of Aubrey and Tessa Brown of Providence Village earned Dean's List honors at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville during the spring 2024 semester. A student must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 while enrolled in 12 semester hours.

Aubrey student graduates from RIT

Anurag Kacham of Aubrey graduated from Rochester Institute of Technology with a Master of Science in computer science.

Walker named to Dean's List

Christin Walker, a software development major from Aubrey, was named to the Champlain College Dean's List for the spring 2024 semester in Burlington, Vermont. To be eligible, a student must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

Around Town is published weekly. Submit information to aallen@postsignal.com.

Denton sheriff discusses jail, drug issues

By Basil Gist
Staff Writer

Denton County Sheriff Tracy Murphree gave insight on the issues he's currently working on at the Pilot Point's PointBank Business Breakfast on June 26.

Alongside understaffing at the county jail and inmate mental health, he opened with drugs as the three biggest concerns on his docket at present.

"It's the abuse of methamphetamines, the abuse of opioids," Murphree said. "Fentanyl is pouring across our border right now. I talked about those 1,200 inmates. Maybe all of them are connected to that drug in some way, whether it be directly to drugs, selling or buying drugs, stealing something to buy drugs or punch someone in the mouth or killed someone because of drugs."

He cited a recent county arrest that included 4 kilos of fentanyl.

"Denton County just hit 1 million people. That one arrest alone is enough to kill every man, woman and child in Denton County twice," Murphree said. "It's a problem folks. It's the leading killer of our

young people in this country right now."

He said the cartels have moved away from a business model that looks to keep its customers alive.

"In general, it's not good to kill your customers," Murphree said. "Recently, there has been an interview with a cartel higher-up who said they want to kill as many of us as they can."

Two, which goes hand in hand with three, Murphree said, is the mental health problem in the country and, by proxy, in the prison.

"Denton County Jail is the largest mental health facility in this county, and I'm not a mental health professional," Murphree said. "I don't know if we just didn't recognize it in the past or if all of the sudden there's just been a tsunami of people with mental health issues."

He laid out a cycle of petty issues that escalate into misdemeanor prison time growing to a felony charge, often from assaulting a police officer while in custody.

"Let's say the judge then says that guy needs to go to a mental health facility," Murphree said. "We call the mental health facility

and hear, and I'm not exaggerating, you are 852 on the list."

That's a six to eight month wait. While that inmate waits, deteriorating, it's up to the jail staff to look after them, Murphree said.

"We operated the county jail probably 2 1/2 to 3 years at 30% staff," Murphree said. "Since October, we've almost doubled our staff. It just comes down to paying people what they're worth."

Murphree wasn't all gloom and doom, however.

"One of the best things I love about Denton County as a whole is the relationship between the agencies," Murphree said. "Whether it's the sheriff's office or the fire department, we give each other a hard time, but we get along. I love that about the county. This is an amazing place."

After two terms as county sheriff, Murphree is running for a third.

"I'm at the end of my second term, and I haven't learned anything," Murphree said in jest. "I'm running for a third. I appreciate the support, not for me, but for my office."



Lisa Cave, left, looks to Assistant Fire Chief Bryan Cox as he recognizes her civic contributions at the PointBank Business Breakfast on June 26.

Basil Gist/The Post-Signal

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AROUND THE AREA

Patriotic celebration to benefit Frank Buck

The Frank Buck Zoological Society's annual summer concert, Red, White and Zoo benefitting the Frank Buck Zoo, will be held from 6-11 p.m. Friday at the Gainesville Farmers Market, 215 W. Elm St. There will be a kid's costume contest, splash zone, touch-a-truck, games and live music.

Whitesboro Riding Club plans rodeo

The Whitesboro Riding Club's 66th Annual Fourth of July Rodeo will be held at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday at 35 Noland Road in Whitesboro. There will be fireworks on Friday with a dance held on Saturday.

To purchase tickets, go to whitesbororidingclubrodeo.simpletix.com.

Farmers Market set for Sanger

The next Downtown Sanger Farmers Markets will be held from 8 a.m.-noon Saturday at Stephen Baker Field in Sanger.

Denton Market open on Saturdays

The Denton Community Market is open every Saturday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at 317 W. Mulberry St. There are over 80 vendors.

Low-cost pet vaccines in Celina

VaxShack will have a low-cost pet vaccination clinic from 9 a.m.-noon July 13 at D&L Farm and Home, 811 Louisiana Drive in Celina. No appointment is needed.

For more information, go to vaxshack.com.

Snow cones, chalk art at Denton library

The Denton Public Library will have Kona Ice

snow cones, chalk art and bookland themed activities from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. July 13 at 3020 N. Locust St.

Farmers Market, Movie Night planned

The city of Gainesville will host the next Farmers Market from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. July 13 followed by Movie Night at 8 p.m. at 215 W. Elm St. To become a vendor, email ksimmons@cogtx.org.

NCTC to offer Cub College

North Central Texas College will offer Cub College for ages 6-11 from 9 a.m.-noon July 15-18 at 1525 W. California St. in Gainesville. To register or for more information, email ace@nctc.edu or call 940-668-3373.

Chamber to sponsor Sundae Stroll

The Sanger Area Chamber of Commerce will sponsor Sundae Stroll from 5:30-7:30 p.m. July 21 at Switzer Park, 101 Freese Drive. Participants can build their own ice cream sundae while enjoying the splash pad.

Butterfield to present 'Into the Woods'

The Butterfield Stage Players will present "Into the Woods Jr." at 7 p.m. July 25-27 and Aug. 1-3 with matinees at 2:30 p.m. July 28 and Aug. 4 at 201 S. Denton St. in Gainesville. To purchase tickets, go to butterfieldstage.org/into-the-woods-jr-2/.

Valley View schedules next Farmers Market

The next Valley View Farmers Market will be held from 8 a.m.-noon July 27 on the town square.

Submit information for Around the Area to aallen@postsignal.com.

Aubrey grad sticks to goal

By Abigail Allen
Editor & Publisher

Isaac Cervantes is hoping being Stuck at Prom will be highly beneficial for him.

He is a finalist in the 2024 contest in which he and four other tux creators and five dress creators are vying for scholarship money, and Isaac poured himself into the project in every way he could think of—his heritage, his love of music and his faith.

"They make me who I am," he said. Isaac recruited the help of his family, including his mother, Judith Cervantes.

Crafting with his mom is something he has always enjoyed, and constructing the tux was an extreme version of that hobby.

"Every Sunday we would work on it," he said. "I did enjoy spending that time with my family that I usually don't spend with them."

As the second of eight children, Isaac set a great example of goal-setting, planning and persistence, Judith said.

"I also think it's a blessing that he's able to spend this time with them," she said.

The back of the tux jacket features a monarch butterfly that on the left side reflects his American heritage with half of the Stars and Stripes and the right reflects his Mexican roots with half of la Bandera de Mexico.

"[The monarch] doesn't just belong to one country," Judith said. "It belongs to both."

She also mentioned that the buttons on the front of the jacket were constructed using an origami butterfly pattern.

The recent Aubrey High School graduate plays clarinet and bass clarinet and is learning piano and trumpet, and that love of music is reflected in the mariachi look of the tux.

Along the bottom edge of the jacket, the edges of the vest and the outside of the pants, Isaac included a Greek meander that features a repeating pattern of the cross, the fish and the dove to represent his Christian faith.

"His Christianity, across both cultures, is highly important," Judith said.

His hat, a white and silver sombrero that continues the monarch



Isaac Cervantes demonstrates his tie to his musical side, something he reflected in his duct tape tux.

Photo Courtesy of the Cervantes Family

butterfly motif, features braiding work as well as some creative efforts to get the correct shape, with a cardboard core for the brim and a duct tape mold made from a real hat.

He matched the charro bow tie and belt to the hat, maintaining the white and silver.

He also included a red duct tape rose to complete the look.

Isaac is hoping to earn money before heading to Austin College in Sherman in the fall.

The top winners for the tux category and for the dress category will

both win \$15,000 cash scholarships, with the other eight earning a \$1,000 cash scholarship and a Duck Brand Prize Pack, according to the website.

In addition, there will be three special category prizes for Most Runway Worthy Prize for "the trendiest/most fashion-forward," Most Inspiring Prize and Trust E's Choice Prize.

Community voting ends on July 10, and each person can vote once daily.

To cast a vote in the contest, visit duckbrand.com/stuck-at-prom/vote/tux.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

These listings are based on information provided to The Post-Signal and are subject to change. Call ahead to verify meeting dates, locations and times.

Friday, July 5

- 8:30 a.m. Shepherd's Storehouse, 1189 U.S. 377, Pilot Point. 940-686-2620.
- 10 a.m. Exercise Class. Pilot Point Senior Center, 310 S. Washington St.
- 10:30 a.m. Toddler Storytime (ages 2-4). Aubrey Area Library, 226 Countryside Drive. 940-365-9162.
- 11 a.m. Congregate meals, conversation and games. Pilot Point Senior Center, 310 S. Washington St. 972-838-3259.
- 11:30 a.m. Baby & Me Storytime (ages 0-2). Aubrey Area Library, 226 Countryside Drive. 940-365-9162.
- 12:30 p.m. Little Readers Roundup. Aubrey Area Library, Community Center, 226 Countryside Drive. 940-365-9162.
- 4 p.m. Movie Party - "Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron." Aubrey Area Library, 226 Countryside Drive. 940-365-9162.
- 7:30 p.m. Karaoke with Pam and Dave. Vaughn-Walling American Legion Post 550, 905 N. Foundation St., Pilot Point.

Saturday, July 6

- 8 a.m. Cross Roads Community Farmers Market. Cross Roads Town Park, corner of FM 424 and Fishtrap Road.
 - 10 a.m. Clifton and Nadene Irick Museum, 201 S. Jefferson St., Pilot Point.
 - 10:30 a.m. The Aubrey Area Museum opens for walk-in tours. Tours can also be scheduled by appointment. 209 S. Main St. 940-343-1313.
 - 11 a.m. Saturday Shenanigan: Wild West Minute to Win It Games (ages 5 and up). Aubrey Area Library, 226 Countryside Drive. 940-365-9162.
 - Noon. Pioneer Baptist Food Bank. Pioneer Baptist Church, 100 Cumberland Trail, Valley View.
 - 8 p.m. Backroad Travelers. Vaughn-Walling American Legion Post 550, 905 N. Foundation St., Pilot Point.
- Monday, July 8**
- 8:30 a.m. Shepherd's Storehouse. 1189 U.S. 377, Pilot Point. 940-686-2620.
 - 10 a.m. Exercise Class. Pilot Point Senior Center, 310 S. Washington St.
 - 11 a.m. Congregate meals, conversation and games. Pilot Point

- Senior Center, 310 S. Washington St. 972-838-3259.
 - Noon. Aubrey 380 Area Chamber of Commerce directors meeting. 205 S. Main St., Aubrey. 940-365-9781.
 - 7 p.m. Tioga City Council. Tioga City Hall, 600 Main St. 940-437-2351.
- Tuesday, July 9**
- 9 a.m. Pilot Point Governance Committee. Pilot Point City Hall, 102 E. Main St. 940-686-2165.
 - 10 a.m. Game Day. Pilot Point Senior Center, 310 S. Washington St.
 - 10 a.m. Storytime (ages 0-5). Pilot Point Community Library, 324 S. Washington St. 940-686-5004.
 - 11 a.m. Congregate meals, conversation and games. Pilot Point Senior Center, 310 S. Washington St. 972-838-3259.
 - Noon. Lake Ray Roberts Rotary Club. LizzyGator.12222 Massey Road, Pilot Point.
 - 2 p.m. Book Club. Pilot Point Community Library, 324 S. Washington St. 940-686-5004.
 - 4:15 p.m. Storytime with Mrs. Carter. Aubrey Area Library, 226 Countryside Drive. 940-365-9162.
 - 6 p.m. Aubrey Municipal Development District. Aubrey Chamber

- of Commerce Conference Room, 205 S. Main St. 940-440-9343.
 - 6 p.m. Lake Ray Roberts Equestrian Trails Association board. Ernesto's, 10291 FM 455 E., Pilot Point.
- Wednesday, July 10**
- 8:30 a.m. Shepherd's Storehouse. 1189 U.S. 377, Pilot Point. 940-686-2620.
 - 10 a.m. Wacky Wednesdays - Talewise: Science Heroes. Pilot Point Community Library, 324 S. Washington St. 940-686-5004.
 - 11 a.m. Congregate meals, conversation and games. Pilot Point Senior Center, 310 S. Washington St. 972-838-3259.
 - 1:30 p.m. Local Vocals Community Singers. Contact Charlotte Petermeier, 214-514-4892.
 - 4:30 p.m. Beachy Bubble Party (ages 5 and up). Aubrey Area Library, 226 Countryside Drive. 940-365-9162.
 - 5 p.m. Pilot Point ISD board. Administration Building, 829 Harrison St. 940-686-8700. www.pilotpointisd.com.
 - 7 p.m. Karaoke Wednesdays with Pam and Dave. Lowbrows Saloon, 200 S. Washington St.
 - 7 p.m. Pool tournament. Vaughn-Walling American Legion Post 550, 905 N. Foundation St., Pilot Point.

Thursday, July 11

- 8 a.m. Pilot Point Chamber of Commerce board. Pilot Point City Hall, 102 E. Main St. 940-686-5385.
- 10 a.m. Exercise Class/Crafting Day. Pilot Point Senior Center, 310 S. Washington St.
- 10:30 a.m. Little Reader's Book Club (ages 2-6). Aubrey Area Library, 226 Countryside Drive. 940-365-9162.
- 11 a.m. Yarn Buddies. Pilot Point Community Library, 324 S. Washington St. 940-686-5004.
- 11 a.m. Congregate meals, conversation and games. Pilot Point Senior Center, 310 S. Washington St. 972-838-3259.
- 2 p.m. STEAM Lab: Marble Roller Coaster (ages 9-12). Pilot Point Community Library, 324 S. Washington St. 940-686-5004.
- 4:30 p.m. Movie: "Finding Nemo." Aubrey Area Library, 226 Countryside Drive. 940-365-9162.
- 6 p.m. Aubrey Planning and Zoning. Aubrey City Hall, 107 S. Main St. 940-440-9343.
- 6 p.m. Cross Roads Municipal Development District. Town Hall, 3201 U.S. 380, Ste. 105. 940-365-9693.
- 6:30 p.m. Pilot Point City Council. Pilot Point City Hall, 102 E. Main

- St. 940-686-2165.
- Friday, July 12**
- 8:30 a.m. Shepherd's Storehouse, 1189 U.S. 377, Pilot Point. 940-686-2620.
 - 10 a.m. Exercise Class. Pilot Point Senior Center, 310 S. Washington St.
 - 10:30 a.m. Toddler Storytime (ages 2-4). Aubrey Area Library, 226 Countryside Drive. 940-365-9162.
 - 11 a.m. Congregate meals, conversation and games. Pilot Point Senior Center, 310 S. Washington St. 972-838-3259.
 - 11:30 a.m. Baby & Me Storytime (ages 0-2). Aubrey Area Library, 226 Countryside Drive. 940-365-9162.
 - 12:30 p.m. Little Readers Roundup. Aubrey Area Library, Community Center, 226 Countryside Drive. 940-365-9162.
 - 7:30 p.m. Karaoke with Pam and Dave. Vaughn-Walling American Legion Post 550, 905 N. Foundation St., Pilot Point.
- Community Calendar is published weekly. To add or change a listing, email aallen@postsignal.com.

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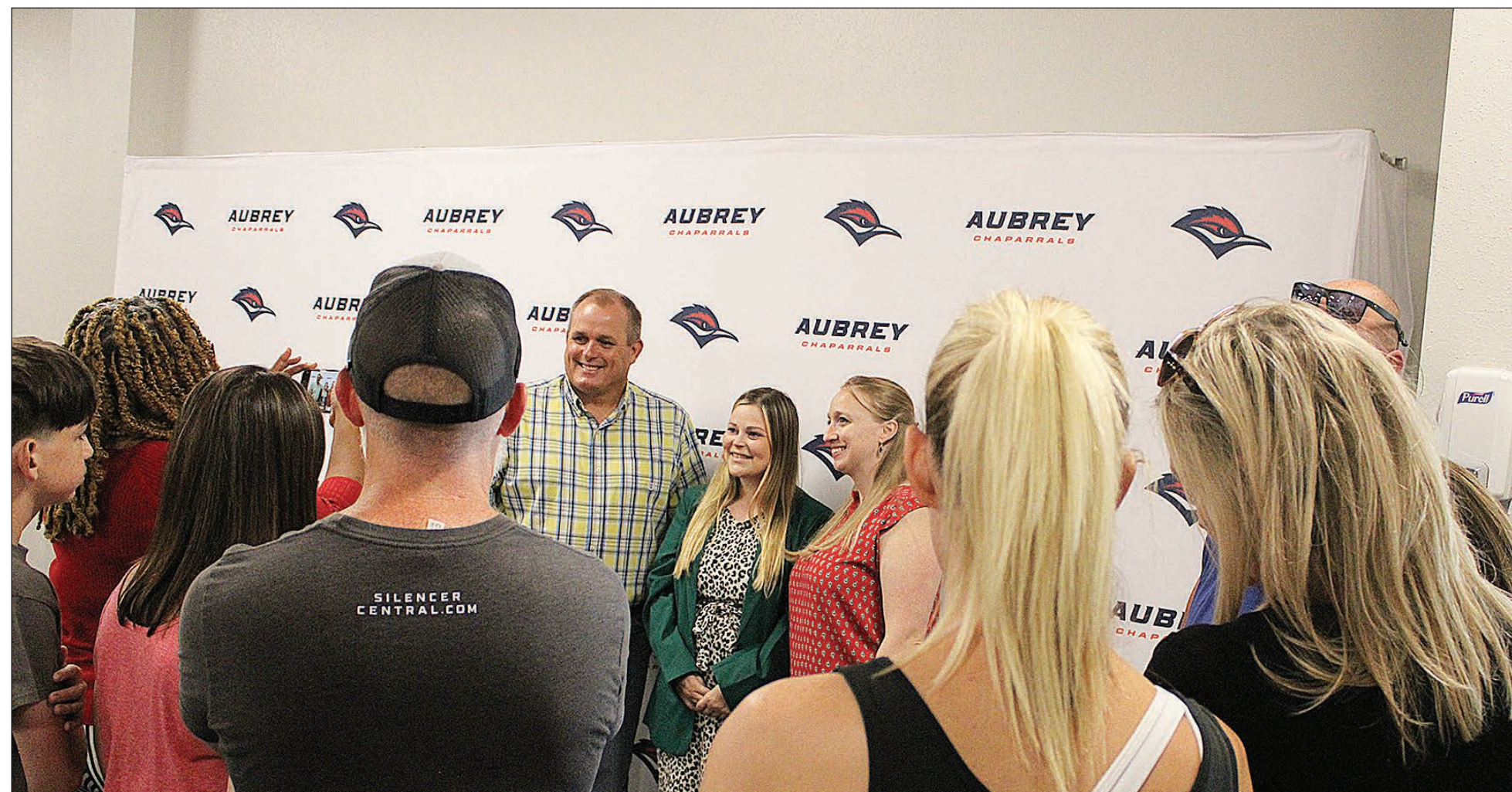
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A new team

New Aubrey agricultural sciences teachers Steve Seale, left, Blake Barbee and Chelsea Fewell pause the stream of introductions for a quick picture on Tuesday evening during a meet new team event.

Basil Gist/
The Post-Signal



Night Market, Art Walk draw crowd

By Basil Gist
Staff Writer

The Pilot Point Square was awash with attractions on Saturday during a three-pronged event.

Between the Main Street Board's Night Market, the Chamber's Art Walk and Development Services' Downtown Master Plan Community Forum, residents had a plethora of reasons to slip outdoors and endure the heat for a time.

"We got a lot of great feedback both from the vendors and attendees," Main Street Director Wendy Haun said. "They appreciated the diversity of events that were going on between the Western Son Art Walk, the live music at Lowbrows and the Coffee House—it was just a great night for downtown Pilot Point."

For the Western Son Art Walk, Pilot Point Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Evon Lusk explained the expected heat seemed to nearly make for a wash.

"Just this last week we only had six tickets sold," Lusk said. "I know it's hot, and I'm sure that was running through people's minds, but I had to get creative really quick."

Lusk said the event came together with an art scavenger hunt and commissioned piece courtesy of Justine Scott sponsored by Whitney Delcourt.

"She said she'd like to sponsor something if there was anything to sponsor," Lusk said. "Those tickets sold like hot cakes then. No one knew what that painting was going to look like, but they wanted to be a part of it."

As far as the community forum, LJA Engineering was joined by several members of council as they presented three



Colby Rybar, left, and son Mathias Rybar send a volley toward Rachel Rybar outside the LJA booth at the Night Market on the Square Saturday evening.

Photos by Basil Gist/The Post-Signal

conceptual ideas of far-ranging goals for the look of the Square in coming years.

"This is like a 20-year vision," LJA Project Manager Abra Nusser said explaining a new survey has been published to plan Pilot Point. "It's not going to happen overnight. We're proceeding in the process. We're getting more refined. It asks you to select which one is more appropriate."

The survey presents three options. The Square as it is sports 78 parking spaces, the conceptual design from 2017 bumps that to 117, while the design by LJA offers 108 square-adjacent spaces with room for up to 1,509 assuming property owners sell some

of their undeveloped space overtime.

"There is a lot of private property in here that's going to develop over time," Nusser said. "It's flexible, but we had to put something up conceptually to show that we can have parking in the core if we want it."

Lusk and Haun both said they'd like to make more evening events happen in the future.

"Celina does Friday evening market, but no one does a Saturday evening market," Lusk said. "If we were able to establish ourselves as 'the' evening market for Saturdays in our area, I think it would really be beneficial

for us."

With the growing number of open late businesses in the area, it would further give the Chamber a way to push business that direction from the market.

Haun explained she'd like to see a mix of the two, depending on where her vendors fall.

"We're going to be talking to vendors and merchants to see in retrospect how they did and see if this is something we want to pursue," Haun said. "Maybe it won't move to full-time night market in the future, but maybe we'll have a couple of special ones in a calendar year."



Amanda Ball with Sugar Amma Cakes fights the heat one wave at a time in front of her baked treats at the Night Market on the Square Saturday.

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POLICE REPORT

Aubrey Police Department logged 187 calls from June 24-30. Cross Roads Police Department received 51 calls for service between June 24-30. Krugerville Police Department reported calls the week of June 24-30. Pilot Point Police Department had 161 events from June 23-29.

CRASH – A three-vehicle accident Sunday involving minor injuries was reported to Cross Roads police near the intersection of U.S. 380 and Walmart Drive.

CITIZEN ASSIST – Around 10 a.m. Sunday, KVPD responded to a citizen assist call in the 300 block of Ranch Road.

AGENCY ASSIST – Pilot Point PD assisted an outside agency around 11:30 p.m. Saturday in the 300 block of North Prairie Street.

UNCONSCIOUS PERSON – An unconscious person was reported to Cross Roads PD on Saturday in the 1600 block of Tipps Road. When officers arrived, they found a conscious man lying in a ditch. He was transported by ambulance for medical treatment.

UNLAWFUL CARRYING – A traffic stop investigation Saturday by Cross Roads police resulted in the arrest of a man, 27, for possession of a controlled substance and unlawful carrying of a weapon in the 4000 block of U.S. 380.

RECKLESS DRIVER – At 12:51 a.m. Saturday, a reckless driver was reported to PPPD near the intersection of FM 455 and FM 1385.

SUSPICIOUS PERSON – Pilot Point police investigated a suspicious person/vehicle at 12:43 a.m. Saturday in the 300 block of U.S. 377.

NOISE COMPLAINT – A noise complaint was received by Pilot Point PD around 10:30 p.m. June 28 in the 600 block of Copenhagen Street.

POSSESSION – On June 28, a woman, 23, was arrested by APD on a charge of possession of a

controlled substance penalty group 4, less than 28, grams, in the 5000 block of FM 2931.

SHOPLIFTING – A woman, 49, was issued a criminal trespass warning June 28 by CRPD for shoplifting in the 11700 block of U.S. 380.

CRASH – Cross Roads police investigated a single-vehicle crash June 28 in the 8600 block of Liberty Road with no injuries.

ASSAULT – A teenager was arrested June 27 by Aubrey PD on a charge of assault causes bodily injury in the 700 block of West Sherman Drive.

WARRANT – A woman, 39, was arrested by Aubrey police June 27 on a warrant charge from Bowie County for probation violation larceny near the intersection of West Drive and Winn Ridge Boulevard.

INTOXICATED PERSON – Krugerville PD investigated a report of an intoxicated person at 2:49 p.m. June 27 in the 100 block of Baseline Road.

CITATION – A man, 44, received a citation for possession of drug paraphernalia during a traffic stop investigation June 27 by CRPD in the 8000 block of U.S. 380.

WELFARE CONCERN – A welfare concern call was dispatched to Pilot Point police at 10:18 a.m. June 27 in the 500 block of Cheryl Street.

POSSESSION – Aubrey police arrested a man, 41, on a charge of possession of a controlled substance penalty group 2, less than 1 gram, in the 2900 block of FM 1385 on June 26.

AUTO THEFT – An auto theft was reported to PPPD at 5 p.m. June 26 in the 300 block of East Wilson Avenue.

EVADING ARREST – A man, 35, was arrested by Aubrey police June 26 on a charge of evading arrest detention with a previous conviction in the 500 block of Hill Street.

CRIMINAL TRESPASS – A criminal trespass call was reported to

Pilot Point PD at 1:21 p.m. June 26 in the 100 block of West Walcott Street.

POSSESSION – A man, 32, was arrested June 26 by APD on a charge of possession of marijuana near the intersection of Silverado and O'Connell Circle.

ANIMAL CRUELTY – An animal cruelty report was received by Pilot Point PD around 6:30 p.m. June 25.

CRASH – A crash involving three vehicles was investigated by Cross Roads police June 25 near the intersection of U.S. 377 and FM 424. No injuries were reported.

TRAFFIC – A Dallas man was arrested by Krugerville PD around 3 p.m. June 25 during a traffic stop near the intersection of U.S. 377 and FM 424. A TCIC/NCIC check revealed a warrant charge from Dallas County for assault intentionally impeding breath family member with previous convictions as well as a charge from Denton County for failure to appear possession of marijuana. He also received a charge for failure to identify fugitive with intent to give false information. He was taken to the Denton County Jail.

THEFT – A theft was reported to PPPD around 9 a.m. June 25 in the 200 block of North Prairie Street.

NARCOTICS – Pilot Point PD responded to a report of narcotics around 8:30 a.m. June 25 in the 600 block of U.S. 377.

CRASH – A single-vehicle rollover crash with one injury was reported to CRPD on June 24 near the intersection of U.S. 377 and U.S. 380.

DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE – Pilot Point PD responded to a domestic disturbance around 5:30 p.m. June 23 in the 700 block of East Main Street.

DISTURBANCE – A disturbance was investigated by Pilot Point police around 10:30 a.m. June 23 in the 700 block of South U.S. 377.

– Kim Fleming

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Sports

A forward look

DCTF projects football season outcomes

By Martin Edwards
Staff Writer

Dave Campbell's Texas Football season preview is hot off of the press with in-depth analysis and predictions for the 2024 season.

DCTF projects marked improvement for Pilot Point, growing pains for Aubrey and another step forward for Tioga this fall.

"Honestly, I don't feel comfortable where they picked us," said Chad Worrell, Pilot Point athletic director and head football coach. "We're going to be much improved over the bunch that was on the field last year. We understand where we're at, ... but we're going to be the hunters this year. I'm excited about this group. No matter where we're picked, we're going to surprise some people."

DCTF predicts that the Bearcats will finish the season ranked sixth in District 6-3A DI.

Despite the projection, the magazine highlights Pilot Point's winning pedigree and how that may help the team exceed expectations sooner rather than later.

Worrell shared how Pilot Point's history of winning has impacted the teams' offseason preparations.

"There's a lot of pride in this program," he said. "It's one of the best places in the state of Texas to play football and coach it in. I can't stress how the month of June has been to us and how much [our athletes] have improved. Our staff [has done] a great job with them this summer."

Worrell went on to highlight two Bearcat greats who shaped him as a coach.

"I grew up with family playing under coach [G. A.] Moore, and I was a waterboy on his teams," he said. "He had a huge impact on me. He's been one of my role models in coaching along with Jerry Jones. I've taken a lot from both of those guys that I've used. There are so many great players and coaches that have come through Pilot Point, and there's a lot to uphold."

The Bearcats will be relying on new faces to contribute this season, being tied for the second-lowest total of returning starters on offense and defense, 10, in their district.

Worrell explained that every player will have to earn their place on the field.

"They have to earn our trust and their teammates' trust," he



The Bearcats storm the field during the early portion of last season. Dave Campbell's Texas Football predicts Pilot Point to finish sixth in their district this season.

File Photo /The Post-Signal



The Chaparrals carry the stars and bars onto the field, honoring their country. Dave Campbell's Texas Football picks Aubrey to finish fourth in their district this season.

File Photo /The Post-Signal

said. "That's what it takes to get on the field. To earn that [confidence], you've got to be willing to battle and do the right thing. It's all about relying on each other."

Worrell emphasized that the Bearcats will be ready for August.

"We're just gonna play hard, and we're going to put the kids in position to be successful," he said. "We're going to put a product on the field that will play hard no matter who we're going against [and] no matter what the conditions may be. They're going to be mentally tough, physically tough and that's what we've seen in the last month."

After going undefeated in district play last season, the Chaparrals will be moving up from Division 2 to Division 1, which also

means new district opponents.

"Our district is hands down the toughest in the state of Texas in 4A Division 1," said Keith Ivy, Aubrey athletic director and head football coach. "To have four teams in the Top 25 is just unreal. It's going to be unbelievably competitive. We know we [have] our work cut out for us. [We're] just trying to get better each and every day."

DCTF ranks Aubrey at 23rd in the state and projects them to finish fourth in District 7-4A DI.

The publication highlighted that the Chaps look to be loaded at the skill positions, spearheaded by State Champion sprinter Tyler Brown.

Ivy echoed DCTF's sentiments. "Our kids are the most talented

that we've had since I've been here," he said. "Majority of our skill [positions] are back on offense and defense. They're talented. They're fast. They know our system, and they play hard. Their expectations are extremely high like their coaches."

Despite all the talent on the back end, Ivy stressed that everything the Chaps build this season starts with the young men up front.

"What we do have to replace are a lot of our linemen," he said. "You're only as good as your offensive and defensive line. That's the key to our season. Our big challenge going in is to go in there and identify those kids. The cream will rise to the top, and [we'll] see who will get in there and earn those spots."



Tioga bullies its way onto the gridiron. Dave Campbell's Texas Football picks the Bulldogs to repeat as district champs this season.

File Photo /The Post-Signal

With nine returning starters on both sides of the ball, the Chaps will be leaning heavily on the experience of their upperclassmen to help get everyone up to speed as quickly as possible.

"We graduated a lot of two- and three-year starters that we leaned on the previous season," Ivy said. "We're going to look to [our] nine returning starters. They're going to have to come in and lead our team and teach the young guys how to work to our expectations."

Two of the senior leaders the Chaps will be relying on are defensive end Brock Temple and free safety Jeremiah Harper, who were both named as players to watch this season.

"We did have quite a few kids that had backup roles last year that are going to be asked to step into starting roles now," he said.

Ivy pointed to the team's preparation during the summer as the foundation for everything that comes this fall.

"Our program is completely built on the culture of our offseason [workouts]," he said. "That's what we base it all on. Hard work during this time and trying to outwork our competitors. We know it's going to be a tall task, but at the same time, we look forward to it. If anybody believes in [our team], I do. They expect to win, and they'll put it all on the line. I guarantee you that."

After making program history last season, DCTF has Tioga ranked at No. 16 in the state and poised for an even bigger sophomore season under second-year athletic director and head football coach Zach Birdwell.

"It's a testament to our kids' hard work," Birdwell said. "This is the first time Tioga has ever been in the Top 20 in the history of the school, so it's a big deal for us. [We're] getting some recognition, but we also know that it is nothing but a prediction, [and] we don't bank on predictions. We bank on our standard, and we're looking forward to putting that in place in year two."

The publication predicts that the Bulldogs will repeat as District Champs.

"We're looking forward to district play," he said. "We got a couple of licks; we want to get back. It's going to be a competitive district, ... and [I'm] excited to see that they have us predicted to be No. 1, but we know we [have] a big road ahead of us to be able to fulfill that."

DCTF went on to highlight the "remarkable depth" the Bulldogs have going into the fall.

"We're blessed with some great kids," Birdwell said. "We've done a really good job of building

See FOOTBALL on Page 10A

AHS Esports team grows all way to state

By Martin Edwards
Staff Writer

Aubrey's Esports team capped off a stellar season with an appearance at the Texas Scholastic Esports Federation's Undisputed State Championship Tournament.

The Chaps athletes competed with over 100 different schools and over 1,000 players at the two-day event, May 3-4, at Six Flags Fiesta Texas in San Antonio.

"I was proud of every single one of our guys," team sponsor and coach Paul Burrow said. "They put in a lot of work during the week to practice and make sure they [were] ready for games. Their dedication and their friendship that they got while playing the games ... helped them bond, and those bonds showed through when we went to state. All of them did fantastic, and I can't wait to see what they do this year."

Every team that Aubrey sent to the state tournament finished in the Top 20.

Team president and Overwatch 2 Captain Mitchell Ermey shared how the Esports program has grown, helping the players go from being uncoordinated to working together as a team.



Ethletes Savion Still, left, Mitchell Ermey and Finneas Mundy stand with their coach and sponsor Paul Burrow. The three students participated in the Texas Scholastic Esports Federation's Undisputed State Championship Tournament.

Martin Edwards/The Post-Signal

"My junior year, we started getting really big," he said. "We had at least 10 people, [and] we had the two different games we were playing. ... We just had a lot of fun."

Super Smash Bros. Ultimate team captain Savion Still expressed his excitement for the upward trajectory has also witnessed in the program over the last season.

"The growth has only gone up," he said. "I joined late in 10th grade, [and] we had a Smash Bros. team, [but] it wasn't all that big. All it's done is improve, and this last year we made it to state."

Still finished in the Top 9 at the tournament.

Burrow also shared how the team prepared for the hectic five-on-five first-person shooter game-play of Overwatch 2.

"We'll reach out to other schools and schedule scrimmages during the week so we can play against some of the other people that we're in the league that we're in," he said. "We do a lot of work on strategies, ... and then making sure communication is good. Com-

See STATE on Page 9A

STATE

Continued from Page 8A

munication was a real big deal for our team and why we went so far.”

Team secretary and Overwatch 2 team member Finneas Mundy echoed his coach’s sentiments, sharing how the team breaks down the film of their opponents.

“We look at how close they are [and] how coordinated ... and [develop] an overall tactic that we figure out and dig into,” he said.

The team members shared their hopes to help the sport continue to grow and for it to be recognized by the UIL.

“We’ve [seen] tremendous growth, especially when schools are scouting [our kids] every week,” Burrow said. “I hope people can take a look at [Esports] and see that it’s more than just playing video games. It’s building camaraderie, teamwork, discipline [and] strategy. ... That can help you get the next level of education if you want it to. It’s another avenue that can open up doors.”



Members of the Aubrey Esports team were honored for their state championship tournament appearance at the Aubrey ISD meeting on June 26.

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CITY OF AUBREY
Jenny Hicks
City Secretary
Jn28-2t

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APPROVED: CHRIS RICH MAYOR

ATTEST: JENNY HICKS CITY SECRETARY J15-1t

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Tioga makes 7-on-7 state appearance, 3-1

By Martin Edwards
Staff Writer

Tioga's 7-on-7 team made a big splash at the state tournament, with an overall record of 3-1 on June 27-29 in College Station.

In their second appearance at the state level, the Bulldogs dominated pool play before falling to Sunray in the opening round of bracket play.

"It was a great weekend for us," said Zach Birdwell, Tioga athletic director and head football coach. "Being able to go 3 and 0 with none of the games being close was a huge accomplishment. Bracket play was exactly what we were looking for. We were looking to go down there and compete against the best. Losing by a point on the last play of the game to No. 10 ranked Sunray is nothing to hang our heads about. It wasn't how we wanted to end the week, but it was a good week for us."

Tioga defeated Wallis Brazos, 46-19, in its first game of the tournament.

The Bulldogs were highly efficient, scoring seven touchdowns on seven possessions.

Tioga faced Bremond in its second game, defeating the Tigers 26-7.

The third game was delayed until the following day because



Tioga 7-on-7 team celebrates after defeating Jacksboro, 28-13, at the state qualifying tournament in Jacksboro. Tioga went 3-1 in the state tournament on June 27-29 in College Station.

Photo Courtesy of Tioga ISD

of lightning.

"We ran into a crazy storm," Birdwell said. "In order for us to get the rest of our pool play in and get an entire bracket tournament all before 1 o'clock when the 5A and 6A start, ... their workaroud was to shorten the games."

Tournament officials elected

to shorten the remaining games of the tournament from 45 minutes to 20 minutes to account for the shift in scheduling.

This cut the number of offensive possessions for each team from seven to three.

Once play resumed on June 28, Tioga defeated Iraan 19-7 to close out pool play.

Tioga was then matched up with the Sunray High School Bobcats in the first round of bracket play.

The Bulldogs took the lead, 13-6, with a minute left in the game, but were unable to keep the Bobcats out of the endzone on their final drive.

Sunray followed up its last-

second touchdown with a game-winning 2-point conversion.

Birdwell highlighted the performances of multiple Bulldogs.

"Both quarterbacks played extremely well," he said about Rocky Urich and Cole Boyd. "It was another huge weekend for Austin Norwood. He scored on the first play of the whole tournament and never looked back."

Norwood was Tioga's leading scorer at the event.

Birdwell also spoke highly of the play of Johnny Dorpinghaus, Slade Babbitt and Greeley McAden.

"It was [also] nice to see some of those younger guys—Jake David and Justin Arrington—step up," he said.

Despite the loss, Birdwell emphasized how playing in the tournament was an excellent learning experience for the Bulldogs.

"This is another outlet for our kids to display [our] brand," he said. "It's a brand that's built around our four core values."

Those values are energy, to compete, being elite and building confidence.

"[We] were able to go toe-to-toe with Sunray, who is No. 10 in the state," Birdwell said. "It was a huge weekend for our kids."

FOOTBALL

Continued from Page 8A

a program and a brand that kids want to come and be a part of, and our coaching staff does a good job of developing [them]. That's the recipe for creating depth. The magazine is spot on. We have the most depth at the skill position of any 2A [school] in the state, ... and there's not a lot of schools that can say that."

Birdwell shared his keys for the Bulldogs' roster as the season approaches.

"Any offense is going to be as good, or bad, as their

offensive line," he said. "To bring four key pieces to that five-man [unit] back is going to be huge. The big question mark offensively with the graduation of [Hayden] Hilliard is the quarterback [position]. [Rocky Urich and Cole Boyd], have done everything that's been asked in the offseason."

Birdwell went on to stress how the Bulldogs' season will lean heavily on their play in the trenches, which will be led by four se-

niors—Cason Serna, Manuel Molina, Jesus Molina and Tyson Monk.

Serna was named to the Texas Sports Writers Association's 2A All-State second-team at offensive guard for the '23 season and named to DCTF's 2A Class "Need to Know List" for this season.

"Our season will go as far as those guys are going to take us," he said. "That's the challenge we put on those guys' shoulders. All of them have an-

swered this offseason by gaining weight and gaining strength."

The unit will be led by new offensive line coach Cole Wills, who previously worked with Birdwell at Groveton and Lubbock Coronado.

Birdwell hopes the Bulldogs' depth will help fill the vacancies within the team's linebacking unit.

"We're going to be very experienced on the front and the back end, and it's going to be [about] replac-

ing the linebacker core," he said. "We graduated [almost] all of them, but we have a really strong incoming senior class that's filled with leaders. We [also] have a couple of [underclassmen] that are good leaders as well. We want a program that builds leaders at every grade, so every year you're never rebuilding, you're just reloading."

Birdwell said that the team is focused on using the success of last season as a stepping stone to

continue the program's growth.

"It's just us constantly striving to be better at this standard that we're building," he said. "It's been our No. 1 thing this offseason, ... but we [have] to take a step past that. We [have] to push harder in everything that we do, so [we're] finding ways to take that next step and protect our craft wherever we can every single day."

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