

THE POST-SIGNAL.

STATE PARK UNIT REOPENS TO VISITORS / 6A

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

Est. 1878 Volume 146, Number 45

www.postsignal.com

Friday, July 12, 2024 \$1.00



When in drought

Water usage levels trigger Stage 1 restrictions

By Basil Gist
Staff Writer

So soon after the spring showers, the Ranch Cities angle into summer drought.

The Mustang Special Utilities District and Upper Trinity Regional Water District have moved into Stage 1 drought prevention despite the heavy storms having only ceased in recent weeks.

"We're looking at about a month or so that there has been no significant rainfall, and that's probably why those conservation efforts are starting to come

See WATER on Page 8A



A sign at the corner of FM 2931 and FM 428 shows Mustang Special Utility District customers are under Stage 1 drought conditions.

Abigail Allen/
The Post-Signal

Tioga examines staff pay rates

By Abigail Allen
Editor & Publisher

Public employee compensation was the primary focus of the Tioga City Council's budget workshop Monday evening.

The council members expressed concern about the salaries of the police officers, Public Works staff and City Secretary Donna Carney being far below the market average.

"It's going to take a while to get there," council member Kurt Hall said. "We can't do it all in one year. We just don't have the cash to do that."

Soon after the workshop began, council member Jim Coffey requested that the discussion include department heads only.

"One of the things I think might help us in the future is if we just had the directors in here instead of everyone," he said.

Mayor Craig Jezek clarified that the meetings have to be open to the public, but that staff asked to stay could be limited to the department directors.

He excused the other staff members, who opted to leave, then the workshop began in earnest.

Coffey said a cost-of-living adjustment alone would not help the city make up the gap between what the staff members are making and what they should be.

"We need to talk about a market adjustment," he said.

Council member Galen Jones talked about a comparison of starting salaries for area police departments and said the city would need to increase one officer's salary 17% to get it to that average.

Hall recommended setting the basic skeleton of the budget and then using remaining revenues to spread

across the city's departments in salary increases.

"If you just do all these averages, a lot of these cities are bigger and they have a much bigger tax base, and we'll just run ourselves into the ground trying to keep up with all of them," Hall said. "... We need to do something, but we need to do it responsibly."

Hall also added that if the city stays on track to have a budget surplus at the end of the fiscal year, there could be a budget amendment to apply that to salary increases.

Tioga Police Department Chief Curtis Macomb said he has limited his request for additional spending for anything but salaries to uniforms and training.

He also said there are ways to be creative to increase city revenues, such as increasing tap fees before more developments crop up around town.

"Our police department doesn't need to be the highest paid agency in Grayson County, but I think we need to be above the midrange," Macomb said.

Other departments have attempted to poach his current staff, he added, but they have opted to stay because they care about the community.

Public Works Director Jim Hale also said he was concerned about the turnover he has faced because of the opportunities his workers have to earn higher wages at area entities.

The last person who Hale spoke with about a job that had "a single license" wanted more than \$35,000, effectively ending the interview.

"When we get to 1,000 taps, we have to have two C operators," Hale said.

The city is within less

See TIOGA on Page 2A



Freely celebrating

Part of the 20 minute professional fireworks show lights up the night sky on July 4, courtesy of the Tioga Volunteer Fire Department. The annual event drew a wall-to-wall crowd.

Basil Gist/The Post-Signal

TFCCLA students bring home medals

By Basil Gist
Staff Writer

Nine Bulldogs across three teams competed at the national level in FCCLA competitions this year.

Coming from a program which has previously only qualified for nationals twice, Tioga took a leap forward after adding eighth graders to the FCCLA roster.

"This was our first time to even have students compete at the eighth-grade level," FCCLA sponsor Christi Crowe said. "It was quite an exciting week."

The two eighth grade teams competed in food innovations.

"The students have to come up with an original prototype recipe based

on guidelines FCCLA sets forth," Crowe said. "This year they had to come up with a snack food that their peers would enjoy."

One team, comprised of Kenna Smith, Lena Koiner and Logan Netterville netted seventh place at nationals.

The second team of Grace Lewter, Kenian Enriquez and Emorie Clayton did not place at the national level.

Both teams started with three rounds of focus group testing for their products, lemon bars and cheesecake bites before moving on to marketing.

"They even came up with a food package that had the nutrition label on

See FCCLA on Page 5A

Shining light on dark issue

By Abigail Allen
Editor & Publisher

Human trafficking, particularly that of children, is a growing issue throughout Texas.

That was the message Kathy Spicer shared with the Lake Ray Roberts Rotary Club on Tuesday at Chad Major's invitation.

"I was invited to a town hall as an elected official in Denton County," Major said. "We had a town hall meeting on human trafficking, child trafficking, and I've got four pages of notes I took that day. ... The whole point of that session was to educate communities on what's going on."

Spicer, who has worked with Shared Hope International in Washington state and in Texas, shared some of the statistics about child trafficking and the biggest danger areas that can lead victims to being swept up into that world.

"I believe it is our generation's form of modern-day slavery," Spicer

See KIDS on Page 2A



Kathy Spicer shares current statistics regarding human trafficking with the Lake Ray Roberts Rotary Club during the club's Tuesday meeting.

Abigail Allen/The Post-Signal

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KIDS

Continued from Page 1A

said. "It's one of those crimes that they refer to as often hidden in plain sight, and it affects roughly 50 million people around the globe."

That criminal industry generates more than \$150 billion annually, Spicer shared from the resources available on sharedhope.org.

Spicer worked on some myth busting during her presentation.

"There are people that still think sex trafficking only happens overseas, that it only happens in person or they're usually people you don't know," she said. "The evidence just really does not support that."

She emphasized that social media has amplified the problem.

"It's very efficient; it's very effective," Spicer said. "It's a good way to lure in young, vulnerable teens or young preteens, and it's quickly becoming the most dangerous way to get to our children."

Family members can pose a danger, as well, Spicer said.

"The familial one is probably the saddest to me because it's a generation of survivors that are repeating the sexual abuse through their kids and selling them for sex," she said.

She shared an experience her sister, who was a teacher, had when she tried to report concerns about a young boy she taught who she feared was a victim of familial trafficking.

"That poor little child ended up dying; he got caught up into God knows what," she said. "That was kind of an eye opener for me, and it really was a kid down the street."

Traffickers online or who are known in person by



Pilot Point City Council member Chad Major shares some of the knowledge he gained about human trafficking at a town hall meeting for Denton County elected officials.

Abigail Allen/The Post-Signal

their victims often ingratiate themselves to the kids, connecting with them while driving the victim to away from their support network, Spicer said.

"Our kids in these vulnerable situations really need to know they're a target," she added.

Although the typical victim is in the 12-15 year old range, that is not the only group affected.

"But of course, there's younger and older cases as well," she said.

Often, Spicer said, people imagine the victims to be young girls, but that isn't the full pool of children affected.

She shared some statistics, which show "82% of girls and 91% of boys between 12 and 17 have received online solicitations," and that predators are actively pursuing the kids.

"And it's open season on our boys," she added. "... Any child can be targeted."

Spicer also mentioned that proximity to major road-

ways increases the risk of a child being abducted and introduced into the human trafficking world, with traffickers often moving them far from their home area to decrease the chance they will be found.

One of the goals of Shared Hope is to increase the number of safe harbor states for trafficking victims so they are not criminalized for their actions while under duress, Spicer said.

"In Texas, a 16-year-old trafficking victim awaited a buyer in a secluded room where she waited for her traffickers to rob and kill the man who came to exploit her," Spicer read. "The young girl was arrested for capital murder and received a 12-year sentence." She was just in the room.

Spicer also shared some of the warning signs of sex trafficking, which can be found at sharedhope.org/resources.

After Spicer's presentation, Major mentioned that the presenter at the town hall

explained that a trafficker doesn't look the way you would expect.

"You will not recognize them," he said. "They're clergy, they're teachers, they're engineers. ... They look normal."

Rotarian Mike Norvet asked whether there are stats regarding the effectiveness of helping victims rebuild their lives once they escape that environment, which Spicer said she did not have exact figures on but which can be a difficult process for several factors.

"It would seem to me that that's why prevention is such an essential part of this," Norvet said. "Because I can't imagine the success rate, once you've been in that system, to lead a normal life must be difficult."

More resources and information about preventing and identifying human trafficking are available at sharedhope.org.

OBITUARIES

Mathew Scott Dusenberry

Mathew Scott Dusenberry, 38, passed away in his home in Little Elm, Texas surrounded by loved ones on June 22, 2024. He was born to Lew and Susie Dusenberry in Lewisville, Texas, on August 27, 1985, and was raised in Pilot Point, Texas. Growing up in Pilot Point, Mat met many of his closest friends and the love of his life.



Mat married Krista Ann on May 23, 2015, after dating for 8 years. Together, Mat and Krista cared for their fur babies, Kai, Miley, Milo, Missy and Oreo.

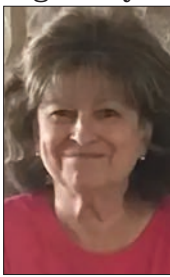
Mat was charismatic and outgoing. He enjoyed hunting, attending sporting events, listening to music and spending time with his amazing friends. All of these things brought the biggest smile to his face. An infectious smile that will be missed by many. Mat proudly worked at Leeward Energy for 13 years and held his position there close to his heart.

Mat is survived by his wife, Krista Ann; his parents, Lew and Susie Dusenberry; brother Billy (Heather) Dusenberry; sister, Julie (Kevin) Chesshir; father-in-law, Kevin Porter; mother-in-law, Lynda Peterson; sister-in-law, Ashley Porter (Stu); nieces and nephews Annie, Austin, Avery, Hunter, Kara, Karlie, Rory and Vivian; great nieces Hayvin, Nadia and Taylin; and fur babies, Kai, Miley and Missy. Mat is preceded in death by grandparents William Edward Dusenberry, Majorie Nell Dusenberry, Asa Williams and Joann Williams; fur babies Milo and Oreo.

Friends, family and others are invited to celebrate Mat's life at The Springs Event Venue in Valley View, Texas, at 7 p.m. on July 16, 2024.

Betty Jane Bedrick Maples Montgomery

Betty Jane Bedrick Maples Montgomery passed away July 2, 2024, at her residence following a battle with cancer.



Betty was born May 2, 1947, in Pilot Point, Texas, to John and Betty Bedrick. She graduated from Pilot Point Gee High School in 1965. She married Clifford Maples in 1967 and together they had two children. Later in life, she married John Montgomery and they resided in Acton, Texas.

She was employed by Alcon Laboratories in Fort Worth, Texas, as a Documentation Inspector for 23 years. Betty loved being with family, reading and taking care of her little Yorkie dogs.

Betty is survived by her husband, John Montgomery; daughter, Gina Maples of Youngstown, N.Y.; son, Christopher (Brittany) Maples of Yoakum, Texas, and stepson, Lonnie Montgomery of Cleburne, Texas; grandchildren, Vivian, Coleman, Sajad, Bobby Ray and Cash. She is also survived by her brother, John Bedrick of Arlington, Texas; sisters, Mary (Dennis) Smith of Tioga and Debbie (Garry) Burchett of Tioga, as well as several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents and niece Katie Burchett.

There will be no funeral service.

TIOGA

Continued from Page 1A

than 400 taps away from that milestone.

"One addition puts us over that," Jezek said.

Carney, when told she needs a salary adjustment, pushed against the idea.

"Just make sure my girls are taken care of," she said.

She values that they are cross trained to handle court, permitting and water customers, adding "they're worth more than a person that can just do one thing."

The council also touched on possibly increasing Judge Deborah Hale's compensation.

The mayor and council spoke about certain fees for new developments that can help generate revenue to cover the city's needs, such as street impact fees and park



Mayor Craig Jezek looks over the budget information prepared by City Secretary Donna Carney, left.

Abigail Allen/The Post-Signal

fees.

Also at the earlier council meeting, the council unanimously approved the pro-

posed cyber fund interlocal agreement with the Texas Municipal League for \$1,000, which was previously no

more than \$100.

Council member William Fritcher was absent from the meeting and workshop.

Shopping small retains community character

Small businesses make the difference in the feel of a community.

This is far too belated, but I want to thank a few such fellow small businesses—the Martin General Store, Notoriously Yours, Southern Junkiez, the Pilot Point Coffee House and Casey & Co.—for helping me create and fill a beautiful auction basket that I took to the North and East Texas Press Association Convention in April.

Those contributions helped raise scholarship money while trying to entice the winner to come to our area.

By the way, the Horse's Butt candle from Casey & Co. smells pretty phenomenal.

Small businesses help the health of a community, creating jobs and giving residents options for anything from dinner to gift-buying close to

home.

Saturday, there's a chance for anyone who wants to participate in the Pilot Point Chamber's Christmas in July—bit.ly/PPChristmasInJuly—for \$20, with the proceeds raised from ticket sales going toward helping teachers buy school supplies.

Several businesses, including all of the Pilot Point shops I listed at the start of this column, will be part of the event.

Here's the less rosy side of the situation: Small businesses need support to survive.

A friend of mine who owns a local small business mentioned to me that her

OPINION



ABIGAIL ALLEN

business handles far more national and international transactions than it does local.

Another works diligently to find creative ways to draw people into her shop.

We all know times are tough, and this year seems particularly difficult for everyone's bottom line.

I would encourage you to go visit places like Over Yonder (formerly Buff's), Nick's, Yearby's, Uncle Beto's, Giulia's, Luigi's, Ernesto's, Clark's, La Cima or Prairie House over driving to Frisco, Denton or Gainesville for your next meal out.

When you're looking for a present for someone, go visit shops like Martin General

Store, Casey & Co., Rooted In, D&L or Dennards to find something instead of searching on Amazon.

If you want to grab a cup of coffee, head to the Pilot Point Coffee House, Elevated Grounds or Upper Park Café over Starbucks.

If your kids are involved in extracurriculars, enroll them in places like Starbright Music and Performing Arts, Dreams Music Academy or Davis Dance for local options with staffs who really care.

Small businesses are the lifeblood of our area, keeping its character as the growth comes.

Let's keep that blood pumping.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let's get this in check

While reading last week's article re the vote to recall a PP City Council member, I was quite taken aback at the photo of a police

officer who had to step in should there be a reaction from the gallery.

What has Pilot Point become that a police presence is required at an official proceeding to keep a (poten-

OPINION

tially) unruly crowd in check?

For a small community, we seem to have become hyper-politicized, polarized and extremely unprofessional bordering on hateful.

It's disgraceful.

Everyone needs to take a step back to reconsider their behavior, elected officials and citizens alike.

Chris Winter
Pilot Point

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Published by Post-Signal Newspapers Inc.
Abigail Allen, Editor & Publisher
111 E. Main · Box 249
Pilot Point, Tex. 76258
940-686-2169

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Web site: www.postsignal.com
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Member Texas Press Assn.
Established Aug. 31, 1878, By D.J. Moffitt and J.T. Jones
Published Every Friday

Deadline: To place news or advertising, call by noon the Monday prior to publication. Second Class Postage paid at Pilot Point, Texas 76258.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Pilot Point Post-Signal, P.O. Box 249, Pilot Point TX 76258. Subscription Rate: One year \$49⁹⁰; Two years \$59⁹⁰.

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POLICE REPORT

Aubrey Police Department logged 214 calls from July 1-7. Cross Roads Police Department received 60 calls for service between July 1-7. Krugerville Police Department reported calls the week of July 1-7.

CRIMINAL TRESPASS – Two men, 26 and 39, were issued criminal trespass warnings by Cross Roads police Sunday in the 11700 block of U.S. 380.

DWI – A man, 22, was arrested Sunday by APD on a charge of driving while intoxicated near the intersection of Cerro Ranch Road and Frontier Parkway.

POSSESSION – A man, 19, was arrested by Aubrey police Sunday on a charge of possession of a dangerous drug near the intersection of Oak Grove Lane and U.S. 380.

WARRANT – A Krugerville woman, 57, was arrested at 6:30 p.m. Sunday by Krugerville PD on warrant charges of assault causing bodily injury and terroristic threat family violence in the 200 block

of Surveyors Road. **DWI** – A traffic stop investigation by Cross Roads police Saturday resulted in the arrest of a man, 48, on a charge of driving while intoxicated with a child passenger in the 7500 block of U.S. 380.

CITATION – On Saturday, a man, 34, was issued a citation for possession of drug paraphernalia by Cross Roads PD in the 7500 block of U.S. 377.

POSSESSION – Two women, 39 and 40, were arrested July 5 by APD on charges of possession of a controlled substance penalty group 1 and possession of a controlled substance penalty group 2 in the 1900 block of West Sherman Drive.

WARRANT – A man, 29, was arrested by Aubrey police July 5 on warrant charges of violation of bond/court order and assault causes bodily injury in the 26600 block of East University Drive.

DWI – A man, 33, was arrested by CRPD during a traffic stop investigation July 5 in the 6500 block of U.S. 380 on a

charge of driving while intoxicated with an open container.

POSSESSION – Aubrey PD arrested a man, 24, on charges of possession of a controlled substance penalty group 2; possession of marijuana, less than 2 ounces; manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance penalty group 2; and unlawful carrying of a weapon July 5 near the intersection of Fishtrap Road and Oak Grove Lane.

DWI – A woman, 45, was arrested July 4 by APD on a charge of driving while intoxicated third or more near the intersection of Tobias Lane and Gideon Way.

CRASH – A Krugerville police officer responded to a two-vehicle crash around 4:30 p.m. July 4 near the intersection of U.S. 377 and Brumley Road. An Aubrey woman, 42, hit the back of a vehicle driven by a Prosper man, 42, as he was waiting to turn onto Brumley Road, according to the report. The woman was issued a citation for an invalid driver's li-

cense. Both driver's declined medical treatment.

TERRORISTIC THREAT – A man, 36, was arrested by Aubrey police July 4 on a charge of terroristic threat household/family member in the 2100 block of Prospect Lane.

AGENCY ASSIST – Around noon July 4, KVPD assisted an outside agency on a medical call in the 300 block of Ranch Road.

THEFT – Aubrey police arrested a man, 38, on a charge of theft of property, greater than \$100, less than \$750, in the 11100 block of Ranchera Drive on July 3.

RECKLESS DRIVER – A reckless driver was reported to Cross Roads police July 3 resulting in the arrest of a woman, 55, on a charge of driving while intoxicated near the intersection of FM 424 and U.S. 377.

ASSAULT – A man, 36, was arrested July 2 by Aubrey PD on a charge of assault by contact and warrant charges of assault causes bodily injury and criminal mischief

from Grayson County in the 1800 block of Cambridge Drive.

SHOPLIFTING – A man, 19, and woman, 19, were arrested July 2 by CRPD on a charge of shoplifting.

POSSESSION – Aubrey PD served a warrant July 2 for possession of a controlled substance penalty group 1 in the 800 block of Oakcrest Drive.

FIRE – A garbage truck load caught on fire and had to be dumped on the road July 2 in the 900 block of FM 424.

WARRANT – On July 1, Aubrey police arrested a woman, 29, on a Dallas County warrant charge of larceny in the 11200 block of Blaze Street.

AGENCY ASSIST –

Krugerville PD were dispatched to an agency assist call around 3:30 p.m. July 1 in the 100 block of Ranch Road.

CRASH – Cross Roads police investigated a hit and run crash involving a white truck running a red light and leaving the scene July 1 near the intersection of U.S. 380 and FM 424. No injuries were reported.

POSSESSION – A man, 47, was arrested July 1 by APD on charges of possession of a controlled substance penalty group 1 and unlawful carrying of a weapon in the 800 block of West Sherman Drive.

– Kim Fleming

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it, everything you would see on a regular food package," Crowe said. "That's what they presented to the judges. They never ate the actual food. It was more about them coming up with the recipe and using the marketing strategies to create a final product."

Because these two teams got both first and second place in the event at the state level, Tioga was the sole representative for Texas in eighth grade food innovations during the national competition.

The sophomores also created a new product but did so by repurposing an old one.

"They cleaned out their closets of old clothes and turned them into doll clothes," Crowe said. "The cool thing about their project is they didn't know how to sew."

After extensive practice, the team of Cambree Pelley, McKen-

ley Clay and Chloe Moore created a collection of doll-sized clothes and home furnishings repurposed from their own wardrobes.

"For their project display, they even upcycled a bookcase from the library," Crowe said. "They put their product and all their information on that. It was a cool and different way to recycle."

The project which included both digital and physical how-to books and an active TikTok account, saw the team take home sixth place at nationals.

"Just the excitement and commitment that all nine of them had to their projects I think is what got them there," Crowe said. "It was just the right mix of kids. They just enjoyed it so much that they kept adding to their projects. For the eighth grade kids, it was just so new for them and they were so excited."



Nine Tioga students and their sponsor, Christi Crowe, pause their time in Seattle for a photo op at the FCCLA National Convention. Photo Courtesy of Tioga FCCLA

Noah's Ark holds Empty the Shelter

Noah's Ark Animal Shelter will have Empty the Shelter the month of July. The adoption fee for cats is \$25 and \$50 for dogs at 2501 N. Weaver St. in Gainesville. For more information, go to noahsarktx.com.

Low-cost pet vaccines in Celina

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

For more information, go to vaxshack.com.

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.

Snow cones, creatures at Denton library

The Denton Public Library at 3020 N. Locust St. will have Kona Ice snow cones, chalk art and book land themed activities from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday.

Creature Teacher will be held from 4-5 p.m. Monday for ages 5-10. Participants will meet real animals. Seating is limited.

Farmers Market, Movie Night in Gainesville

The city of Gainesville will host the next Farmers Market from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday 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 Monday-Thursday at 1525 W. California St. in Gainesville. To register or for more information, email ace@nctc.edu or call 940-668-3373.

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

Providence works on PID bond

By Basil Gist
Staff Writer

The Providence Village Town Council moved forward with Foree Ranch Phases 1 and 2 by authorizing Hilltop Securities to progress a \$7,085,000 PID bond assessment.

Though the final action item will be on the Aug. 6 agenda, Hilltop Securities Senior Vice President Jorge Delgado presented council with a look at the process.

"The assessments were levied for \$7,085,000," Delgado said. "That is what our cap is here today. It can come down based on what interest rates do whenever you reappraise these bonds, but it cannot exceed that."

The two phases which will encompass 455 homes with average values of \$326,000 is projected to value at \$148.7 million as additional tax base to Providence Village.

"To quantify that based on your current tax rate today, this generates \$760,000 of conditional property tax revenues," Delgado said. "That's not counting any additional sales taxes that come from individual homeowners."

In brief conversation, several



Aubrey Police Chief Richard Brooks presents Providence Village resident Sydney Neubauer with the Aubrey Police Department Citizen Achievement Award for saving a drowning 9-year-old on May 10 during the July 2 meeting of the Providence Village Town Council.

Basil Gist/The Post-Signal

council members specified with Delgado that these bonds, being part of a PID, lay exclusively on the future homeowners of Phases 1 and 2.

"There will be additional future phases," Delgado said. "You'll issue bonds specific to those phases."

Council member Dustin Clay asked for clarification offered by Town Manager Brian Roberson.

"It doesn't impact our town funds," Roberson said. "It's a separate debt service fund that's only for the PID. It shouldn't help or hurt."

Clay further asked what happens if people don't move in at the projected rate and thus the development isn't paying off the debt as quickly.

"There are reserves in place that are funded at closing to take care of potential delinquencies," Delgado said. "Those other homeowners don't get a higher bill. The assessment revenue is fixed. The risk is on the developer until they are bought."

Earlier in the meeting, Roberson updated the council on several street improvements completed since the last meeting.

"The Charity Hill Street rehab is complete, Brewer to 2931 is complete, [and] Powell Road is complete," Roberson said. "The Lakeview bump at 2931 is no longer a bump, but if people start complaining about speeding through there because they don't have the speed bump, it wasn't intentional, but it kind of worked that way."

Council later went into executive session with a full agenda including a claim by several residents though took no action upon their return.

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 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.
- Saturday, July 13**
- 8 a.m. Cross Roads Community Farmers Market. Cross Roads Town Park, corner of FM 424 and

Fishtrap Road.

- 9 a.m. Blue Sky Therapeutic Riding and Respite Purpose Mercantile, 5098 U.S. 377, Krugerville.
 - 9:30 a.m. Saturday Game Day. Pilot Point Community Library, 324 S. Washington St. 940-686-5004.
 - 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: Ocean Ice Cream Steam Lab (ages 3 and up). Aubrey Area Library, 226 Countryside Drive. 940-365-9162.
 - 7 p.m. Pool tournament. Vaughn-Walling American Legion Post 550, 905 N. Foundation St., Pilot Point.
- Sunday, July 14**
- 9 a.m. Krugerville Farmers Market. Woodland Park, 5200 U.S. 377, krugerville.org.
- Monday, July 15**
- 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.
 - 6 p.m. Cross Roads Town Council. Town Hall, 3201 U.S. 380, Ste.105. 940-365-9693.
 - 7 p.m. Tioga ISD board. 405 N. Florence, Tioga. 940-437-2366.
- Tuesday, July 16**
- 8:30 a.m. Positive Pilot Point meets for breakfast and fellowship. Bebo's Café, 8470 U.S. 377.
 - 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.
 - 4:15 p.m. Storytime with Mrs. Carter. Aubrey Area Library, 226 Countryside Drive. 940-365-9162.
 - 5:30 p.m. Pilot Point Library and Cultural Arts. Pilot Point Community Library, 324 S. Washington St. 940-686-5004.
 - 7 p.m. Pilot Point Community Opera House board. Pilot Point Com-

- munity Opera House, 110 S. Washington St. 817-403-3821. 940-686-0737.
 - 7:30 p.m. Providence Village Town Council. Providence Village Town Hall, 1755 Main St. 940-365-9333.
- Wednesday, July 17**
- 8:30 a.m. Shepherd's Storehouse. 1189 U.S. 377, Pilot Point. 940-686-2620.
 - 10 a.m. Wacky Wednesdays - Laser Tag (ages 6 and up). 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.
 - 11:30 a.m. Aubrey 380 Area Chamber of Commerce networking luncheon. The Brass Tap, 11450 U.S. 380, Ste. 160, Cross Roads. 940-365-9781. www.aubreycoc.org.
 - 1:30 p.m. Local Vocals Community Singers. Contact Charlotte Petermeier, 214-514-4892.
 - 2 p.m. Bishop Brigade (ages 6-12). Aubrey Area Library, 226 Countryside Drive. 940-365-9162.
 - 6:30 p.m. Aubrey ISD board. 421 Tisdell Lane, Aubrey. 940-668-0060. www.aubreysd.net.
 - 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 18**
- 7 a.m. Coffee and Conversation with the Pilot Point City Manager. Pilot Point Coffee House, 110 W. Main St.
 - 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.
 - 10:30 a.m. Providence Village Storytime (ages 5 and under). Town Hall, 1755 Main St.
 - 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 Explorers: Marble Maze (ages 6-8). Pilot Point Community Library, 324 S. Washington St. 940-686-5004.
 - 4:30 p.m. Movie: "Up." Aubrey Area Library, 226 Countryside Drive. 940-365-9162.
 - 6:30 p.m. Pilot Point Planning and Zoning Commission. Pilot Point City Hall, 102 E. Main St. 940-686-2165.

- Friday, July 19**
- 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. Lego Club (ages 5-15). 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.
- Community Calendar is published weekly. To add or change a listing, email aallen@postsignal.com.*

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Sports

Isle du Bois reopens multiple areas of park

By Martin Edwards
Staff Writer

Battered and bruised but as resilient as the community around it, Isle du Bois unit will reopen large portions of the park to the public Friday.

The entire Ray Roberts Lake State Park experienced large amounts of tornado damage over Memorial Day weekend but appears to be making progress on the road to recovery.

Ray Roberts Lake State Park Superintendent Robbie Merritt shared how badly damaged the park system was by the catastrophic weather.

"We actually got a double whammy," he said. "First, the tornadoes that ripped through, but [then] also the subsequent lake flooding, which we're not unfamiliar with."

Merritt went on to say that the Ray Roberts Lake State Park system is used to dealing with flooding, which happens periodically, but the damage caused by the tornadoes left the parks in rough shape.

"There [were] probably several tornadoes that ripped through," he said. "The biggest hit was the west side of the lake, and the Sanger marina got torn up badly, and they're still reeling from that. Johnson Branch on the north side got hit pretty hard as well. ... It was a really holistic event; it impacted everywhere."

Isle du Bois, Lone Star Lodge and Marina, and Jordan Park were also affected but were not as severely damaged.

Merritt went on to detail what the recovery process has been like within the parks.

"It's been hard," he said. "Many of our campgrounds and day-use areas that were not flooded—that we've been working on for the last month—[have] basically been a tangled web of downed trees."

The jump from rainy weather to the extreme heat of summer has also complicated the efforts to clean up those hazards.

"It's a really tough time of year for us to do sawing and chipping work, which is mostly what we've been doing for the last month on both sides of the lake," Merritt said. "... We've been working hard trying to get things back open, and we are staging things open as the



Ray Roberts Lake State Park Superintendent Robbie Merritt surveys the boat ramp and beach area at Isle du Bois on Tuesday. Both areas are scheduled to resume normal hours of operation on Friday.

lake level [drops], and our ability to make them safe comes about."

Merritt shared the park staff's approach to combating the high summer temperatures.

"It's been day in and day out," he said. "We've had to kind of be careful with our teams and make sure we're not pushing them too

hard because it does take a toll over time, but we've been getting some help from other parks in the region, sending crews to help us as well."

He also highlighted the work of the volunteers that have contributed to the parks' cleanup efforts.

"In the first weeks after the storm, we had numerous volun-

teers that came out," Merritt said. "... [They] helped us pick up the little things and little debris type of stuff. We're probably going to have some more organized volunteer events coming up soon that people will be able to sign up for if they want to."

Merritt recommended that any-

Martin Edwards/The Post-Signal

one interested in volunteering follow the park's Facebook page for updates and information.

He shared that the first areas to reopen to the public were the boat ramps at Isle du Bois and Jordan, which were more affected by the

See LAKE on Page 7A

Hamblin, Brown secure Bassmaster spot

By Martin Edwards
Staff Writer

Two recent graduates of Pilot Point High School took home first place in the Strike King Bassmaster High School Series Open on May 19 at Sam Rayburn Reservoir.

Aiden Hamblin and Austin Brown competed at the national level event against 130 of the best anglers from across the country, securing the win with a total of 18 pounds, 2 ounces.

"We'd been really close in a few tournaments," Brown said. "We finally won out there on Sam Rayburn. ... It's definitely a legendary lake. It's called 'Big Sam' for a reason, so to get it done [there] was more special than getting it done on some [other] random lake."

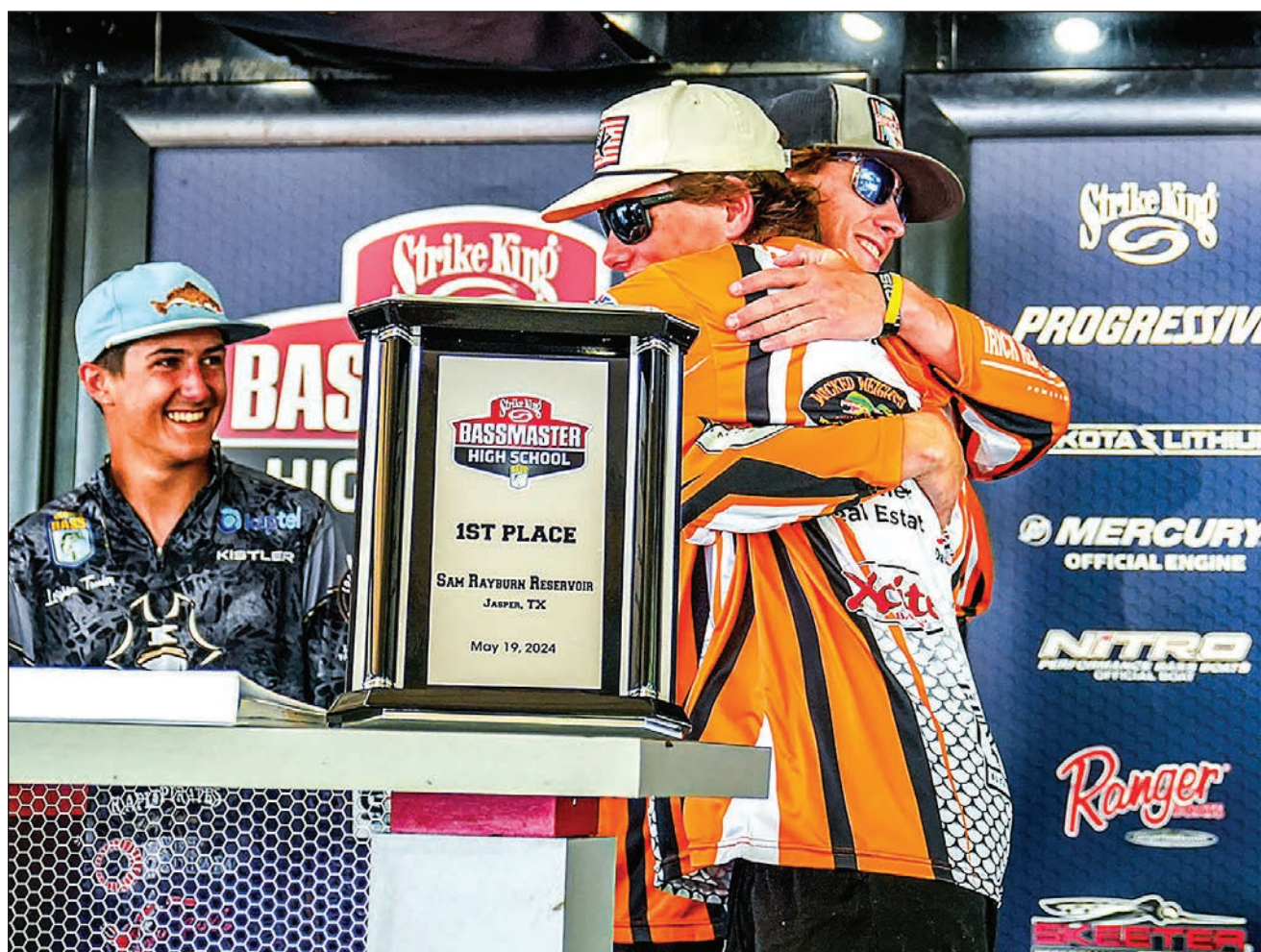
Aiden echoed his teammate's excitement at taking the tournament's top spot.

"We knew that we'd do pretty good, but we didn't think that we would win," he said. "... It was kind of a surreal experience."

The victory secured Aiden and Brown the opportunity to compete at the Strike King Bassmaster High School Series Championship scheduled for Aug. 1-3 at Chickamauga Lake in Dayton, Tennessee.

They also secured a spot at the Strike King Bassmaster High School Classic that will be held during the Bassmaster Classic next spring on Lake Ray Roberts.

"To go on the same stage as the pros, ... I don't have the words to explain how I feel," Brown said. "It's just crazy that we have this



Pilot Point competitive fishing duo Aiden Hamblin and Austin Brown embrace after winning the Strike King Bassmaster High School Series Open Tournament at Sam Rayburn Reservoir on May 19. The tournament marks their first win together and secured them a spot at the Strike King Bassmaster High School Series Championship Tournament on Aug. 1-3 at Chickamauga Lake in Dayton, Tennessee.

Tommy Sendek/B.A.S.S.

opportunity."

Aiden reiterated his teammate's appreciation for the chance to be on the big stage.

"Austin and I have been chasing something like this forever,"

he said. "We're excited to be able to represent our sponsors and community as best we can, and, hopefully, get a win."

Both Aiden and Brown discovered their love for fishing through

their family.

Aiden was introduced to the sport by his grandfather, William "Bill" Hamblin, who was a competitive fisherman in the '70s and '80s, but it was the time he shared

on the water with his father, William "Will" Hamblin, that helped cement it in his life.

"My dad took me and my friend, Max, and [I] just fell in love with it," Aiden said. "[Fishing] is all we would talk about."

Like his teammate, Brown cited his father as the driving force behind his deep affection for the art of angling.

"My dad took me out a few times, and I fell in love with it," he said. "I've been fishing ever since."

The duo of Aiden and Brown, nicknamed A-Squared, met during their sophomore year at Denton Guyer High School and fished together off and on in the following years before officially becoming teammates during their senior season.

"The summer after our sophomore year, there was a tournament that I wanted to fish, but I wanted to take it seriously," Aiden said. "... I knew Austin was a good fisherman, [and] I asked him and he said, 'Yeah!' That was our first tournament together."

Aiden and Brown cited their hard work and preparation as the reasons for their success this season.

"You really [have] to put in the work behind the scenes to find the spots that are going to produce the fish you need," Brown said. "It's definitely a lot more work than you would think. You can't just roll up to the tournament, tournament day, and go out there and try [to]

See FISHING on Page 7A

LAKE

Continued from Page 6A

flooding than the tornadoes.

The higher water levels soften the ground below the asphalt, which can cause the asphalt to break and crumble as the ground shifts underneath it when driven over.

“We were able to get Isle du Bois and Jordan open last week because the lake level finally dropped,” Merritt said. “Unfortunately, Sanger side is still pretty torn up from the storm damage and the marina situation, so it’ll probably [be] much later before we can get that one back going again.”

Local fishing guide Dak Poston expressed gratitude for the boat ramps reopening.

“The devastation that we had was terrible,” he said. “... We’re definitely fortunate that they opened the ramp [here]. ... As soon as they opened it up, I was one of the first ones in the gate, so I appreciate it. It helps my business, and there [are] several guides out here on the lake that it benefits having [Isle du Bois] and Jordan being open.”

The two boat ramps in operation have experienced have levels of usage since reopening.

“It’s been very busy,” Merritt said. “Unfortunately, two is not enough with the demand here. We need more of them open for sure.”

He went on to say that Johnson Branch will be the next boat ramp to reopen in the weeks to come.

Merritt highlighted the efforts of the people working behind the scenes to help the Ray Roberts



Local fishing guide Dak Poston, left, cleans the catch of the Moore family as Ray Roberts Lake State Park Superintendent Robbie Merritt looks on. Teran Moore enjoyed a day of fishing on the lake with his sons Brendan and Dawson.

Martin Edwards/
The Post-Signal

Lake State Park get back on track.

“We want to get back open just as much as everybody else wants us to get back open,” he said. “Our teams have been doing a fantas-

tic job trying to work towards that end on every front. Big shout out to all of our staff, our park volunteers and everybody putting in extra effort here in these hot months.”

Friday will be a big step toward that goal with Isle du Bois’ boat ramp and beach area resuming normal hours of operation.

The Randy Bell Trail, DORBA

trails, multiple campgrounds and at least one equestrian trail are also scheduled to reopen to the public on Friday.

FISHING

Continued from Page 6A

win it.”

Aiden shared how they analyze and use as much information as possible to help.

“We’re researching, we’re watching videos, [and] we’re watching weigh-ins of other tournaments,” Aiden said. “One of the main things that helped with Sam Rayburn [was] a Bassmaster Elite Series tournament, that same week a couple of years prior, ... and

they had a picture of the baits that the [Top 50] used. That helped a lot.”

With the end of their high school fishing careers on the horizon, both Aiden and Brown shared their appreciation for the time they’ve had together.

“[Austin] takes every tournament seriously,” Aiden said. “Sometimes I get a little discouraged, but he’ll snap me out of it.

It’s nice to have somebody that values it as much as I do.”

Brown spoke just as highly of Aiden and the Hamblin family.

“My fishing career probably would have ended at Texas High School Bass Association without them,” Brown said. “I’m blessed to have them in my life because they opened my eyes and gave me opportunities that I would have never been able to [otherwise].”

Aiden will be joining the fishing team at Tarleton State University this fall.

Brown will be attending North Central Texas College this fall with plans to rejoin his teammate next year at Tarleton State.

Will, the team’s boat captain, expressed what it’s meant to him to have a front-row seat to watch the two young men achieve goals in the sport they love.

“It was amazing to see the path to success for both boys,” he said. “... Aiden and Austin have learned to work together in so many ways. Their strengths and weaknesses complement each other, but they both have a level of determination that is rare to see in young men. I’m eager to see what this next chapter brings for them.”

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PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF AUBREY PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The City Council of the City of Aubrey, Texas will hold a public hearing on Thursday, July 25, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at Aubrey City Hall located at 107 S. Main Street, Aubrey, Texas 76227, giving all interested persons the right to appear and be heard on the following proposed voluntary annexation by the City of Aubrey. Of all said matters and things, all persons interested in the things and matters herein mentioned, will take notice. A map and detailed information on the property proposed for annexation is available at Aubrey City Hall. The City of Aubrey proposes to institute voluntary annexation proceedings to enlarge and extend the boundary limits of said city to include the following territory, to wit: Denton CAD ID 52165, being approximately 159.941 acres of land, generally located south of FM 428, west of FM 1385 and east of Coffey Road out of the F.H. pollard Survey,

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Riding the waves

Emma Thompson slips along at Cedar Ridge Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center during the facility's Fourth of July event on July 3. The facility works to provide creative ways for its residents to celebrate the holidays. Carrie Rodriguez/The Post-Signal

WATER

Continued from Page 1A

back," National Weather Service meteorologist Juan Hernandez said. "There is no widespread rainfall that has happened in the last month, and there is none expected in the next couple of weeks."

The prevention methods, watering no more than twice a week and between the hours of 6 p.m. and 10 a.m., are designed

to manage the direction, but drought is all but seasonal for North Texas.

"The soil is beginning to dry out, the grass is beginning to brown, and that's where the drought begins," Hernandez said. "As we continue through the summer, we normally see it's our driest period, so looking forward we're expecting conditions to dry out a little more."

Jason Pierce, manager of Governmental Affairs and Communications for Upper Trinity Regional Water District, said a few other factors contributed to the quick turnaround from awash to parched.

"Continued growth and development and extremely high water usage have placed ... strain on our existing infrastructure," Pierce said.

If there is excess water usage, that results in runoff which is "wasted water," Pierce said, as that treated water makes its way into the nearby creeks to feed into the lakes downstream, which is where much of the area's water is already being retained and pumped from.

"Across North Texas,

all the water for the most part falls into a lake," Hernandez said. "The lake retains water, then it's going to retain a certain amount until it's released. All that water that fell through the spring has for the most part been retained in area lakes. So, the lakes themselves are in good condi-

tion, but once it's retained in the lakes, it's not being spread across the area."

As it stands, the area sits in 'abnormally dry conditions,' though as the summer continues, the odds are it will further dry out.

"Often it's a precursor," Hernandez said.

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