

THE POST-SIGNAL.

51 GRADUATE FROM TIOGA HIGH SCHOOL / SECTION C

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Storms, flooding continue rolling

By Basil Gist
Staff Writer

Pilot Point and neighboring areas continue to pick up the pieces after the storms that have raged from late May on.

Though the tornado was the worst of it, continued downpours have left cleanup efforts playing catchup as strong winds keep blowing down trees with help from the flooded ground.

"There have been quite a few," Parks and Recreation Director Jason Poncio said. "We're in unprecedented times where we've gotten like 27 inches of rain in the last seven weeks, and these storms keep hitting. We keep getting the violent storms, so we're trying to do our due diligence and help the community as best we can."

City staff and contractors have been working overtime, Poncio said, upwards

of 100-hour weeks, trying to stay on top of the damages.

"From the great partnering with surrounding cities to all our contractors, this has been a whole community coming together," Poncio said. "As the city, we've gone above and beyond what we would normally do because our volunteers and contractors are going on property with permission to get trees out."

City Manager Britt Lusk gave thanks to the entire staff, especially those of police, fire, public works, parks and communication.

"It was all-hands-on-deck, and when we needed it, this team stood up and went to work," Lusk said. "I'm very proud to be a part of it."

He said in a world where the storms stopped tomorrow, the first stage of cleanup, getting it out of people's yards,

would be nearing conclusion, but actually disposing of the debris will be a greater undertaking.

"The cleanup that's happening at the treatment plant and at Groff Park is going to be an enduring mission," Lusk said. "It's not going to be overnight or even the next week or two. We're working to see what the actual cubic yards of debris will be, but it's in the thousands."

The city isn't alone in their cleanup efforts, with the state parks currently shut down due both the debris and flooding.

"Everything is closed," Isle du Bois Unit Superintendent Mark Stewart said. "The entire day use area is closed along with all our camp grounds. The entire park at Johnson Branch is also closed. All the beaches are underwater, along with most of the boat ramps."

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Trustees discuss budget

By Abigail Allen
Editor & Publisher

Tioga ISD's budget trajectory is on the right course, TEA Conservator Dr. Karen Wiesman said at the budget meeting May 30.

Wiesman told the trustees that the revenues the district earned from local sources—\$2.1 million—and the state—\$7.8 million—totaled roughly \$9,982,000, and the expenditures were roughly \$9.2 million.

"Great job of trying to hold the line on expenditures," Wiesman said. "Y'all have done what you needed to do on making sure that staff were aligned with students in the classroom. So, this is the fruit of your labor, is by having a surplus."

"Now, we've got \$3.4 million in the hole, so this \$700,000—you've still got a ways to go, ... but this is a start."

Although Tioga ISD will likely still receive a failing FIRST report in the fall based on the 2022-23 school year, the following FIRST report should be a marked improvement in 2025.

"Next year, you should pass FIRST," Wiesman said, adding that "I would love to see y'all get an A before I leave."

She also said the district "made basically a \$1.4 million swing from having a \$700,000 deficit to a \$700,000 surplus" at year end from one year to the next.

The trustees passed the budget amendments presented to work toward closing out the 2023-24 books.

Because Tioga ISD's fiscal year begins July 1 instead of Oct. 1, the budget must be set before the district will receive the certified tax values.

The preliminary value projection had fallen nearly \$28 million, which could have roughly a \$300,000 impact on the local revenues, Superintendent Josh Ballinger said.

"Certified values won't come out until July," he said.

Wiesman said there "should be some more coming" as the Appraisal

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LizzyGator applies for MDD grant

By Basil Gist
Staff Writer

The Pilot Point Municipal Development District processed a pair of grant applications at its Tuesday meeting—one of which is from the proprietors of LizzyGator and the other from GM Construction.

Applying for the full \$25,000 Property Enhancement Improvement, Grant Chris Duncan, husband to council member Elizabeth Jones, explained the grant money will reimburse the business after upgrading the septic system to keep water from running into the venue.

"I have water that seeps through the cold joints on the back of the building," Duncan said. "We're making a nice looking area for the grooms to hang out, and when we landscape that, it will redirect water to keep it from seeping into the building."

The upgrade to the septic system, Duncan said, is being required by the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality.

Board member Kent Billiter asked for several points of clarification, including whether or not Duncan and Jones live on the same property they would be renovating.

"There are three separate acres, and they're all plotted separate, so the one the building's on has nothing to do with where we live," Duncan said.

The business' application meets all of the board requirements, though Billiter inquired as to whether there was any conflict of interest related to a business owned by a council member receiving the grant.

"When I checked with the city secretary, she said she would defer to the city attorney," MDD Director Denise Morris said. "If there was, they would have a conflict of interest affidavit signed."

Board President Glen Ray confirmed that, even in moving forward with the grant process, that determination would be finalized before any funds were awarded.

"The actual payout would be when everything's finalized within the six month time period to complete the project," Ray said.

Billiter additionally pointed out the application lacked a second bid for gravel work, and the board asked that the applicants receive two bids for any

See **GRANTS** on Page 3A



Connection and congratulations

Pilot Point's Andrew Miller pauses for a moment with his mom as he heads back to his seat after graduating on May 30 at the University of North Texas. See Section B for more Pilot Point graduation coverage.

Abigail Allen/The Post-Signal

EquiFest perseveres despite weather

By Basil Gist
Staff Writer

The community got soggy for a good cause on Saturday during EquiHope's first EquiFest event at its new home on Friendship Road.

Despite rain turning to downpour partway through, Kent Billiter estimated 150 people stayed through the squall to support the nonprofit.

"I am so thankful for this community," Billiter said. "Pilot Point shows up. People could have gone home, chosen to do other things, but the fact people stood out in the rain just to listen to the stories and be there for the ribbon cutting is the reason we moved to this community."

Though both EquiHope and its sister organization, EquiPoint, have been in the area a number of years, the event served as a reintroduction at a larger facility and now officially inside Pilot Point's boundaries, complete with a ribbon cutting from the Pilot Point Chamber of Commerce.

"It's a great opportunity to get the

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Sadie Bass serenades from a horse stall after the storms on Saturday for EquiFest at EquiHope inside.

Basil Gist/The Post-Signal

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STORM

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Texas-New Mexico Power, however, after the storm settled, responded with several crews of linemen and tree servicers numbering over 30 people on the job.

“Once we started, we didn’t stop,” TNMP Area Manager Jeremy Norton said. “We worked around the clock, and from our records we had the majority of customers back on within 24 hours.”

He further shared that the smart grid system they’ve recently installed did its job in keeping most of Aubrey and Tioga online despite the heavy storm.

“Everything was pretty much right there in Pilot Point,” Norton said. “The heaviest damage was McFarland Street.”

The National Weather Service reports a likelihood of continued activity as far as two weeks out with a possibility of it persisting through the summer, depending on hurricane season.

“It’s looking likely that we’re going to have a pretty active tropical season, and right now the prediction center’s three-month outlook places us in equal chances where we could see below, normal or above average precipitation for the entire season,” Fort Worth NWS Meteorologist Monique Sellers said.



The Rotary Disaster Aid team takes a break on the Square after providing debris haul off, chainsaw work and other services to Pilot Point residents after the tornado on May 25 and subsequent storms.

Photo Courtesy of Rotary Disaster Aid USA

She explained the area usually sits just below the ‘normal’ line for a dry summer, so the chance for average or even above average precipitation is a

telling portent. In light of the damage caused on May 25 further north, organizations like the American Legion in Pilot Point have looked further abroad for opportunities to offer aid.

“One of our sons [John Payne Jr.] has a son who

is a lineman,” Kelli Niles said. “He got put on the midnight shift when this originally started. They were providing food during the day but nothing at night, so he decided he would cook for them a couple of times but decided to make an abundance and

take it out for anyone who is out there.” Payne and the rest of the Legion prepared and distributed over 600 warm meals, burgers and pulled pork over the course of three separate occasions and have further raised over \$600

for supplies and personal items alongside a trailer full of donations.

“It’s always appreciated when someone comes up and gives a cup of coffee or bottles of water and whatnot,” Norton said.

TISD

Continued from Page 1A

Review Board assesses the property tax protestations, but the amount can’t be projected before the cases are heard out.

Ballinger said the county has since explained that the values will not be drastically affected.

She based her budget estimate on the local amount that has been set and a percentage of the remaining values “because they’re not going to all be granted,” Wiesman said.

As a result of several

questions from trustee Brandon Miller about the way the state funding is accounted for on the books, Wiesman specified that it is accounted for as revenues and expenditures based on the average daily attendance figure of 642 and the summary of finance, “not on a cash basis.”

The cash position of the district is being tracked and reported separately.

Wiesman projected that there should be a surplus of \$1.8 million at the

end of the 2024-25 fiscal year, which is largely because of the refunding of the facility debt for the high school.

Despite being on a better course, the district is not out of the woods.

TISD has received confirmation that the state will not back the bond sale through the Texas Permanent School Fund, a decision with which Vice President Dallas Slay took issue.

“We’ve done everything they’ve asked us to do,” he said. “They told

us we needed to do a bond election, and we did that and it passed, so we’ve continued to do our part. And they are now telling [us], ‘Thanks for doing all that, but, sorry, we’re not going to help you still.’”

Wiesman explained that the law does not provide an appeal process on the decision from the state because of the way the debt was originally structured.

Insurance companies are also not biting at guaranteeing the debt, which means the district

would not have a \$172,000 insurance payment but which also means the rate for repaying the debt might not be as favorable.

The ceiling that financial adviser David Webb has shared so far is still 8%, even without the backing of the state or an insurance institution.

Bond counsel Jeff Golbus is working with BOK Financial, the firm underwriting the sale, which Ballinger said he believes is beneficial.

“We’re designating that 50 cents and it’s

a new deal, and, quite frankly, I think reputation matters a lot, and people trust what BOK is going to put together for us,” Ballinger said.

“Thank goodness.” After the executive session, the trustees voted to hire Halie Martin, who the district had hired through its District of Innovation status previously and who has now completed her teaching certification.

Editor offers advice for seniors

Some people dread events with a lot of pomp and circumstance.

I love them. This year, I had the joy of being able to attend the graduation ceremonies for Aubrey, Pilot Point and Tioga.

It was so fun to have a sideline view of the students looking out to their families with all of their regalia on.

I got to see kids who I have watched grow up through a mix of my personal and professional lives celebrate this milestone.

Graduates, this is a time in your life when you get so much unsolicited advice.

Be warned, that usually accompanies major milestones—graduations, engagements, weddings, parenthood.

I’m also warning you that I’m about to add to that gaggle of people giving you unsolicited advice.

As with anything in life, take what works best for you and don’t feel obligated to apply everything I or any of the rest of us have to say to your

every action.

Whether your next step is to continue your education at a community college, university or trade school, to jump into the workforce or to serve in the military, some experiences are universal.

Here are those suggestions:

•Don’t be afraid to fail.

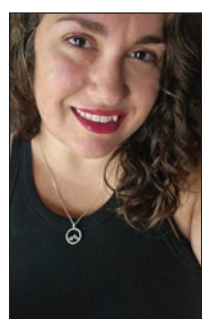
That’s tricky, especially for my fellow perfectionists out there.

As you get older, the stakes typically get more serious.

This is probably the best time in your life to try something you don’t know that you’ll excel at, whether that’s taking courses in school that are completely outside of your comfort zone or deciding to move somewhere you’ve always wanted to be.

Allow yourself to take risks because they will teach you more about yourself than

OPINION



ABIGAIL ALLEN

staying where it’s safe will.

•Give yourself room to change your mind.

Making goals and forming plans are a great approach to life.

Often, though, life has a way of disrupting that roadmap you build for yourself.

If, when you start on the path you believed would be the right one for

you, you find yourself stumbling and struggling, give yourself the chance to reassess and chart a new course.

Sometimes the best discoveries you will make in life are the result of saying yes to something you planned to say no to.

•Work on your relationship with yourself.

Not everyone is good at taking care of themselves.

Some of us are people-pleasers who want to tend to prioritize the needs of others

who have to continually learn this lesson.

I started to say life gets busy after high school, but that feels insulting to those of you who have been in activity upon activity, often while holding down a job and striving for good grades.

The way life is busy after high school is different.

It’s often less structured and more chaotic, especially when you’re a young adult.

If you can learn early how to prioritize your own wellbeing, that will serve you in the long run.

Care for yourself the way you would care for a friend, because you’re the only guaranteed company you will always have.

To all of you, I hope you thrive as you move into the next phase of your lives.

Thanks for the chance to tell your stories.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Recall petition, election is a waste

This past week served as reminder that we are a community and connected to one other.

It was remarkable how our neighbors volunteered to help clean up for those impacted by the storm, assuring them that not all was lost.

Mother Nature gave us an opportunity to think about what is important to our community and what work still needs to be accomplished.

Recently a distractor, the recall election, has attempted to divide our community.

This distractor is causing confusion. It’s redirecting tax dollars away from sorely needed projects, while causing dissention within the council chambers.

This distractor is also preventing real conversations from occurring.

Voters should elect representatives that have the best interest of the community in mind.

If a representative is not carrying out their duties, they should be voted out in the next scheduled election.

Special elections should not be focused on hearsay or arbitrary items.

OPINION

In Pilot Point, each council member, including the mayor, has an equal vote. No one member has more power than any other.

The mayor serves as the facilitator, ensuring that all council voices are heard and if required, the mayor’s vote breaks a tie.

Once a decision is made it is important that all council members align with the decision.

Alignment does not mean that all agree.

It means that as a member of the governing body they trust and respect the decisions made by the governing

body and support those decisions.

We, the public, should thank all volunteers who get involved and hold public office.

We elected them; therefore, we are accountable to stay informed and cast knowledgeable votes.

Civic engagement requires we listen and understand before giving an opinion, have a true face-to-face conversation, begin respectfully by listening and taking the time to learn from each other.

Bonnie Ambrose
Pilot Point

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EQUIFEST

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word out there—to get the word out about your organization,” Chamber President Jimerson Adkins said. “We’re really excited about the current showing and what EquiHope and EquiPoint are doing for the community.”

In further partnership with the city, Billiter and the Equi-Hope board joined Mayor Elisa Beasley in sponsoring two \$6,000 scholarships awarded to Liam Rubio and the family of Joe Nunez to be used on EquiHope lessons.

EquiHope’s therapeutic riding program offers help through horses to all ages, from young people with disabilities to veterans with PTSD or individuals struggling with anxiety.

The program’s goal for the event, in addition to raising awareness, was to raise \$50,000 for lessons. However, thanks, Billiter said, to the rain and more limited turnout, they raised \$13,000.

“Fifty thousand dollars would have been around 200 supported riding lessons we could give back to the community,” Billiter said. “I, Marge Nicholson and Brandon Clinton personally fund any differences within what’s needed. Our goal is to leave no one unserved and to not have a waitlist, and we’ll do whatever we have to do to make that happen.”

He said one major reason for the event, complete with ven-



Brandon Clinton, left, Kent Billiter and the rest of the Equi-Hope crew celebrate their new facility with a ribbon cutting from the Pilot Point Chamber of Commerce during the non-profit’s first EquiFest at its new location.

**Basil Gist/
The Post-Signal**

dors, a rider showcase and a concert, is to keep raising awareness as most similar programs with large waitlists don’t refer their customers out even if they’re currently incapable of serving.

“We have to throw a concert and invite everyone for free just to say, hey, we have services to help you, your friends and your neighbors,” Billiter said. “For who came out and stayed, we are beyond impressed. Now questions like, ‘how can I get involved’ and ‘how can I help’ are

being asked, and that’s what we really want.”

The headliner, Sadie Bass of The Voice fame, had to pivot off the stage and set up in a much more intimate setting to make good on her commitment to perform.

“I couldn’t be happier with the turnout,” Bass said. “People still came, they’re still raising money and I got to check playing in a horse stall in Texas off my bucket list. If the days are open, someone reaches out to me, and I can

make it happen for a cause like this, we’ll put it on the calendar.”

After her appearance at EquiFest, her fourth concert in Texas, Bass is headed out on tour with Kid Rock this summer.

“For Sadie to be so gracious and pivot to an acoustic performance, that’s not going to happen again,” Billiter said. “That’s a once in a lifetime opportunity. It was such an incredible experience. Sadie was on Season 22 of The Voice, [and] she’s on a fishing and hunting show. She’s get-

ting ready to explode, and we got to have that experience.”

Bass signed three guitars for the auction, which brought in over \$6,000 between them.

The auction, sponsored by Pilot Point Neighborhood Events, featured two other guitars, each marked by a few other well-known artists.

“It’s easy to put this stuff together when you have a great cause behind it and a great community with generosity,” Katie Scott said. “It was a combination of having great partnerships through companies like Charity Auctions and also the community coming together for our local items.”

A guitar signed by Taylor Swift went for \$2,800 while one signed by 19 country western legends including Dolly Parton, Keith Urban, Brad Paisley, Faith Hill, Willie Nelson, Shania Twain and George Strait brought in \$4,800.

“We were able to raise 13k despite it being terrible weather, and we’re so grateful for that, but we still have a lot of work to do,” Billiter said. “There are ways [the community] can sign up to volunteer or donate to help with services.”

To get involved with Equi-Hope, visit EquiHope.org/take-action.

GRANTS

Continued from Page 1A

given project.

“In the past, it’s at the board’s discretion,” Morris said. “Some of our applicants have not always been able to give two quotes. It’s more an exercise in that they make sure they’re not being taken advantage of.”

Board member Dennis Fritz further asked if awarding this grant was prudent in light of the recent recall petition asking for Jones’ removal from council.

“I understand your concern, but there has never

been any issue with an applicant, regardless of who they are, coming to this board and meeting the requirements,” Ray said. “We’ve never denied any individual. I don’t see how there are any grounds to deny the request in staying with what the committee has done in the past.”

The rest of the board, including council members Andrew Ambrosio and Everett Cummings as well as board member Rowland Funk, spoke to the fact that the MDD is designed to

drive business to Pilot Point and Jones’ business does just that.

“In this situation, it’s a business that brings both sales tax and property tax dollars to Pilot Point,” Ambrosio said.

Funk spoke to the intangible.

“When you see her venue on the news and TV, it brings interest into Pilot Point,” Funk said.

The board voted five in favor with Billiter abstaining.



Municipal Development District board members address concerns regarding grant applications from LizzyGator and GM Construction on Tuesday.

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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. 9901 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.; 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. stjamesbpt.org.

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.; Sunday 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, pastorfranke@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.

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AROUND THE AREA

Ready for retirement

Diane Phillips from Brockett Elementary celebrates her retirement with family and friends. Other Aubrey ISD retirees this year include Mary Andes, Valerie Clark and Barbara McKissick from Aubrey Middle School; Craig Lock and Toby Perkins from Aubrey High School; Robert McKissick from the AISD Police Department; and Jon Boettcher from DAEP.

Abigail Allen/
The Post-Signal

Farmers Market in Gainesville

The Gainesville Farmers Market will be from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday at 215 W. Elm St. in Gainesville. Movie Night will start at dark featuring "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem."

To become a vendor, email ksimmons@cogtx.org.

Low cost pet vaccines at D&L in Celina

D&L Farm and Home will offer low cost pet vaccinations with Vax Shack from 9 a.m.-noon Saturday at 811 N. Louisiana Drive in Celina. No appointment is needed. For more information, go to vaxshack.com.

Denton County Farm Heritage Day

The Denton County Office of History and Culture will be hosting the fifth annual Denton County Farm Heritage Day from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday at the Denton County Historical Park, 317 W. Mulberry St.

This is a free educational event and open to the public. There will be antique tractor displays provided by the Denton County Antique Tractor Club, multi-era displays and crafts.

NCTC to offer

ESL summer class

North Central Texas College will offer English as a Second Language on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-9 p.m. through July 30 at the Gainesville campus.

To register, call 940-669-3373, text 940-353-1098 or email ace@nctc.edu.

Butterfield Stage to perform

'Legally Blonde The Musical'

The Butterfield Stage Players will perform "Legally Blonde The Musical" at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday and June 14-15 with a matinee at 2:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and June 15-16 at 201 S. Denton St. in Gainesville.

To purchase tickets or for more information, go to butterfieldstage.org.

Gainesville Lion's Club

golf tournament

The Gainesville Lion's Club Golf Tournament will have registration at 7 a.m. with an 8 a.m. shotgun start June 15 for a 4 man scramble format at the Gainesville Golf Course. For more information or to register, call Brian Pearson at 940-634-1234.

Fruit, vegetable, flower show

at North Texas Fairgrounds

The Fruit, Vegetable, Herb and Flower Show will be held from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. June 15 at the North Texas Fair Grounds, 2217 N. Carroll Blvd. in Denton. To enter or for more information, go to demga.com.

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



Pilot Point 2024 retirees Rebecca Gilmer, left, Allison House, Rae Ann Strittmatter, Angie Jurecka, Cathy Malone and Carol Wooley sit in front of Marilyn Pelzel as Superintendent Dr. Shannon Fuller recognizes the seven women for their service, several reaching 26 years, to the district.

Photo Courtesy of Pilot Point ISD



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, June 7
 •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.
 •2 p.m. Friends of the Pilot Point Community Library. Pilot Point Community Library, 324 S. Washington St. 940-686-5004.
 •7:30 p.m. Karaoke with Pam and Dave. Vaughn-Walling American Legion Post 550, 905 N. Foundation St., Pilot Point.
Saturday, June 8
 •8 a.m. Cross Roads Community Farmers Market. Cross Roads Town Park, corner of FM 424 and Fishtrap Road.
 •8 a.m. Mountain Springs Market. Mountain Springs Community Center, 173 Mountain Springs Lane.
 •9 a.m. Blue Sky Therapeutic Riding and Respite Purpose Mercantile, 5098 U.S. 377, Krugerville.
 •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. Movie: "Trolls Band Together." Pilot Point Community Library, 324 S. Washington St. 940-686-5004.
 •11 a.m. STEAM Safari Stops (ages 5-12). Aubrey Area Library, 226 Countryside Drive. 940-365-9162.
 •7 p.m. Karaoke Night. Pilot Point Coffee House, 110 W. Main St.
 •7:30 p.m. Pool Tournament. Vaughn-Walling American Legion Post 550, 905 N. Foundation St., Pilot Point.
 •8 p.m. Renegade Band. Vaughn-Walling American Legion Post 550, 905 N. Foundation St., Pilot Point.
Sunday, June 9
 •10 a.m. Krugerville Farmers Market. Woodland Park, 5200 U.S. 377, Krugerville.org.
Monday, June 10
 •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, June 11
 •9 a.m. Governance Sub 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.
 •10:30 a.m. Senior Fit. 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.
 •Noon. Lake Ray Roberts Rotary Club. LizzyGar-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.
 •5:30 p.m. Pilot Point Community Input Night. Pilot Point Senior Center, 310 S. Washington St. 940-686-2165.
 •6 p.m. Aubrey Municipal Development District. Aubrey City Hall, 107 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, June 12
 •8:30 a.m. Shepherd's Storehouse. 1189 U.S. 377, Pilot Point. 940-686-2620.
 •10 a.m. Wacky Wednesdays. 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. Bella Cavalli, 1661 W. Sherman Drive. 940-365-9781. www.aubreycoc.org.
 •1:30 p.m. Local Vocals Community Singers. Contact Charlotte Petermeier, 214-514-4892.
 •4:30 p.m. Blast off Bubble Party (ages 5 and under). 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. Low-brows Saloon, 200 S. Washington St.
 •7 p.m. Pool tournament. Vaughn-Walling American Legion Post 550, 905 N. Foundation St., Pilot Point.
Thursday, June 13
 •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. Pilot Point Senior Center, 310 S. Washington St.
 •10 a.m. 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 (ages 9-12). Pilot Point Community Library, 324 S. Washington St. 940-686-5004.
 •4:30 p.m. Movie: "Treasure Planet." 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, June 14
 •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.
 •2 p.m. Cookbook Club (adults). Pilot Point Community Library, 324 S. Washington St. 940-686-5004.
 •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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POLICE REPORT

Aubrey Police Department logged 208 calls from May 27-June 2. Cross Roads Police Department received 51 calls for service between May 27-June 2. Krugerville Police Department reported calls the week of May 27-June 2. Pilot Point Police Department had 148 events from May 26-31.

ASSAULT - On Sunday, Aubrey police arrested a man, 23, on a charge of assault causes bodily injury family violence with previous conviction.

REPORT - Krugerville PD received a report of a person with a gun at 8:19 p.m. Sunday in the 200 block of Surveyors Road.

DWI - A man, 27, was arrested Saturday by Aubrey police on a charge of driving while intoxicated in the 500 block of East Highmeadow Drive.

WELFARE CONCERN - At 6:17 p.m. Sunday, KVPD responded to a welfare concern call in the 5200 block of U.S. 377.

ASSAULT - Aubrey PD arrested a woman, 30, on charges of assault causes bodily injury family violence and violation

of bond/protective order Saturday in the 13000 block of Don Fisher Lane.

WARRANT - A man, 35, was arrested Saturday by APD on a Denton County warrant for driving while intoxicated in the 400 block of Highmeadow Drive.

TAMPERING - A driver, 33, was arrested Saturday by Krugerville PD on a charge of tampering with a government document involving fictitious motor vehicle documents.

ASSAULT - A woman, 39, was arrested Saturday by Aubrey PD on a charge of assault causes bodily injury family member in the 6000 block of Hailey Court.

CRIMINAL TRESPASS - Pilot Point PD investigated a criminal trespass call at 10:44 p.m. May 31 in the 900 block of South Washington Street.

POSSESSION - A man, 32, was arrested May 31 by APD on charges of possession of a controlled substance penalty group 1, greater than 4 grams less than 200 grams, and unlawful carrying of a weapon.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF - At 9:18 p.m. May 31, Pilot Point police were dispatched to a criminal mischief call in the 14000 block of Aberavon Drive.

CITATIONS - Two men, 18 and 19, were given citations May 31 for retail theft by CRPD in the 11700 block of U.S. 380.

FORGERY FRAUD - A forgery fraud was reported to PPPD at 3:48 p.m. May 31 in the 200 block of Lakeview Circle.

PUBLIC INTOXICATION - Aubrey police arrested a man, 41, on a charge of public intoxication May 30 near the intersection of Rockhill Road and Caddell Street.

DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE - Pilot Point PD responded to a domestic disturbance around 8:30 p.m. May 30 in the 1300 block of U.S. 377.

ACCIDENT - At 6:25 p.m. May 30, KVPD were dispatched to a motor vehicle accident involving a vehicle and a bicyclist near the intersection of Brumley Road and Carolina Street. Upon arrival, the officer found off-duty fire personnel taking care of a man, 69, who was hit

by a pickup truck, according to the report. The man was taken to Medical City Denton.

DWI - A woman, 35, was arrested May 30 by Aubrey police on a charge of driving while intoxicated in the 200 block of Michelle Street.

REPORT - On May 30, a teenager reported to CRPD that an unknown person driving a white truck confronted and pointed a gun at him in the 1300 block of U.S. 380.

CRASH - A crash was dispatched to Krugerville PD at 1:11 p.m. May 30 in the 4800 block of U.S. 377 with no reported injuries.

WELFARE CONCERN - A welfare concern call was received by Pilot Point police around 9 a.m. May 30 in the 200 block of East White Street.

DWI - A man, 56, was arrested May 29 by Aubrey PD on a charge of driving while intoxicated in the 1700 block of Barberry Hill Road.

SUSPICIOUS PERSON - A suspicious person/vehicle was investigated by Pilot Point PD at 12:19 a.m. May 29 in the 9500 block of U.S. 377.

WARRANT - A man, 44, was arrested May 29 by APD on a Denton County Sheriff's Office warrant for violation of protective order near the intersection of Main Street and Spring Hill Road.

CRIMINAL TRESPASS - A man, 23, received a criminal trespass warning from Cross Roads police May 29 for soliciting at two businesses in the 11700 block of U.S. 380.

ASSAULT - On May 28, Aubrey police arrested a man, 39, on charges of assault causes bodily injury family violence, continuous violence against family, interfering with emergency request for assistance and violation of bond/protective order in the 10300 block of Waterbury Drive.

HARASSMENT - Around 7:30 p.m. May 28, PPPD responded to a harassment call in the 10200 block of FM 455.

ASSAULT - A man, 56, was arrested May 28 by APD on charges of assault causes bodily injury family violence and interfering with emergency re-

quest for assistance with previous convictions in the 2900 block of Cerro Ranch Road.

ANIMAL BITE - An animal bite was reported to Pilot Point police at 4:41 p.m. May 28 in the 700 block of North Prairie Street.

CRASH - On May 27, a two-vehicle crash was dispatched to CRPD in the 11700 block of U.S. 380.

EVADING ARREST - A teenager was arrested May 27 by Aubrey police on charges of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, evading arrest and detention with vehicle in the 10500 block of Cedar Lake Drive.

THEFT - A theft was investigated by Pilot Point PD around 4:30 p.m. May 27 in the 11500 block of U.S. 377.

AGENCY ASSIST - Pilot Point police assisted an outside agency at 12:43 p.m. May 26 in the 1800 block of U.S. 377.

DISTURBANCE - A disturbance was dispatched to PPPD around 5:30 a.m. May 26 in the 100 block of East Grove Street.

- Kim Fleming

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Providence preps for Main utility relocation

By Basil Gist
Staff Writer

The Providence Village Town Council prepared to spend \$300,000 on pipe relocations along Main Street during its Tuesday evening meeting.

In response to the Texas Department of Transportation roadway expansion, the town will have to move several water and sewer lines and, in two agenda items, approved a project with Kimley-Horn to do the requisite work before going to bid.

“There are four different tasks associated with this,” Town Manager Brian Roberson said. “The estimate is approximately \$300,000 for those four tasks, and the additional \$15,000 is for the work they’ve done to get us up to this point.”

The four tasks, Roberson said, include: design, subsurface exploration, lab service, Geotech and coordination with TxDOT; the bidding and advertisement and recommendation for an award option; construction and administration; and easement acquisition.

“We have funds available from the coronavirus state and local fund—\$1.8 million in there for that,” Roberson said. “It keeps growing because it’s a great interest at a great rate. That’s what we would use to fund this project.”



SoSo Benton, left, and Sara Benton join Stephen Benton as he takes his oath as administered by Town Secretary Hilary McConnell and joins the Providence Village Town Council on Tuesday evening. Abigail Allen/The Post-Signal

The process of making the relocations happen, Roberson said, will be much more expensive and, when the time comes, he recommended the city use the remainder of the coronavirus money subsidized be reserve monies, if feasible, to avoid issuing bonds.

“We’re about to be in a place where a lot of our old debt is rolling off, so

we could theoretically accommodate some of this stuff without actually increasing the rate,” Roberson said, in consolation of bonds later coming into the picture. “We don’t know yet.”

Stephen Benton, who ran unopposed in the May 5 election and took his oath earlier in the meeting, joined the council in a unanimous vote to be-

gin the process.

Roberson also gave updates during his staff report on the meter vault construction and registered solicitors as well as on other items.

“The meter vault construction at the water tower is still underway,” Roberson said. “We do not have any details on when that will be finished at this point. It will im-

compact town hall, the daycare, the police annex and possibly 7-Eleven, but we’ve been through a couple of these already.”

Regarding solicitors, Roberson presented two to his own surprise.

“We actually have two of them, [and] they work for Advocate Construction,” Roberson said. “That’s probably the first time in over a year that

I’ve been able to say we actually have someone, so if you see anybody from Advocate Construction, they’re legit. Anyone else though, is not.”

Council later recessed to executive session though did not take any action upon their return.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Tioga Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 7:00 PM, June 17, 2024 in the Tioga High School Library Tioga, Texas. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax \$.7292 /\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax
Approved by Local Voters \$.50 /\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and operations	<u>0</u>	% increase	or	<u>9.01</u>	% (decrease)
Debt service	<u>26.12</u>	% increase	or	<u>0</u>	% (decrease)
Total expenditures	<u>17.11</u>	% increase	or	<u>0</u>	% (decrease)

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Tax Code Section 26.04)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ <u>442,599,082</u>	\$ <u>452,758,417</u>
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ <u>20,994,689</u>	\$ <u>9,770,357</u>
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ <u>258,281,830</u>	\$ <u>243,232,125</u>
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ <u>20,981,916</u>	\$ <u>9,496,899</u>

* "Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Tax Code Section 1.04(8).
** "New property" is defined by Tax Code Section 26.012(17).
*** "Taxable value" is defined by Tax Code Section 1.04(10).

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$ 11,244,036

* Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$.7292	\$.36 *	\$ 1.0892	\$ 3,210	\$ 10,305
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$.6891	\$.50 *	\$ 1.1891	\$ 3,697	\$ 9,818
Proposed Rate	\$.7292	\$.50 *	\$ 1.2292	\$ 3,822	\$ 9,818

* The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 349,751	\$ 358,639
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 179,989	\$ 220,523
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.0892	\$ 1.2292
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 1,960	\$ 2,710
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 750

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 1.2292. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of N/A.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 662,347
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 418,956

A school district may not increase the district's maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district's debt service.

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

Sports

Bulldogs to return to College Station

By Martin Edwards
Staff Writer

Tioga's 7-on-7 team defeated Jacksboro 28-13 in the championship round of the state qualifying tournament held in Jacksboro on Saturday.

The Bulldogs are becoming familiar faces in College Station, booking their second trip to the state tournament in as many years.

"Overall, it went really well," said Zach Birdwell, Tioga athletic director and head football coach. "We made big strides this spring and [got] to see it all come together last Saturday. We're a program that wants to respond [instead of] reacting, and to see our kids show up and put three solid games together and qualify was good to see."

That lesson was put to the test after the Bulldogs found themselves down 13-0 to Jacksboro in the final game of the tournament.

"They could have started blaming each other and pointing the finger, but we just played our game," Birdwell said. "We responded with four straight touchdowns, and Jacksboro didn't score again."

Tioga also defeated Henrietta, 42-28, and Howe, 28-14, in the first and second rounds of the tournament.

"It was our most complete day," Birdwell said. "Both quarterbacks—Rocky Ulrich and Cole Boyd—had a great day, and it was another day where there was nobody that could guard Austin Norwood. He had a huge day."

The team leaned on the receiving duo of Norwood and Sam Mott, along with crucial contributions from Johnny Dorpinghaus, Greeley McAden and Slade Babbitt on its way to victory.

Birdwell's lessons appear to be resonating with his team, with the players going 6-1 in tournament play over the last two weeks.

"We want to continually take



Tioga receiver Austin Norwood shakes a defender at the 7-on-7 tournament on May 18 in Dublin. The Bulldogs qualified for the state tournament in College Station on Saturday.

Bill Norwood/The Post-Signal

the next step here," he said. "We feel like anything less than qualifying [for State] again would have been a setback. It's a good first step for what's about to be an exceptional season."

Birdwell expressed how much it means to him and his team to have another opportunity to compete on the big stage.

"To get to go down there and get

out of the little bubble that we're in and see what the rest of the state is all about, it's gonna be a fun time," he said. "At the end of the day, it's free practice against some of the best teams in the state, and it's real practice for us because it's exactly what we're going to do in the fall."

Some programs treat 7-on-7 as more of an afterthought compared to full-contact football, but Tioga's

string of success suggests a different approach.

"There is no difference for us," Birdwell said. "There's not a single play on offense [or defense] that we aren't going to run this fall. It's big for us. We're able to build some reps before August gets here."

Birdwell also shared that the coaching staff is using this time to assess where players are before the

fall.

"This a huge evaluation period for us to have a plan," he said. "We're a staff that's always evaluating. Nothing is ever set in stone here. We want the kids to always compete, and this is a chance to."

The Bulldogs will look to continue their momentum June 27-28 at Veterans Park and Athletic Complex in College Station.

Tioga, Pilot Point part of summer league

By Martin Edwards
Staff Writer

The Whitesboro High School gymnasium was packed on the opening night of the North Texas Volleyball League on Tuesday.

In its second year, the league consists of teams from eight area schools—Pilot Point, Tioga, Celina, Whitesboro, Anna, Bells, Van Alstyne and Gunter—with Whitesboro, Gunter, Tioga and Celina taking turns hosting the league, which runs through June.

"It went really well," Tioga head volleyball coach and league founder Andrea Osborn said. "The kids are getting a lot of [reps] in, [and] they're excited about next week."

Osborn shared her inspiration for creating the NTVL.

"I wanted [the girls] to be able to play on this side [of the area]," she said. "A lot of things are down in the McKinney-Dallas area and there was nothing up here, so I thought I would create



this."

Osborn also expressed how the league provides an opportunity for local athletes to compete against opponents they won't see in

the fall because of UIL enrollment classifications.

The league has expanded in its second season from two levels of play—junior varsity and varsity—to

three, allowing each school to field a freshmen-only team.

The gym floor was separated into four courts, which allowed all eight

teams to play simultaneously.

Each team played two 40-minute games, with the freshmen group leading things off at 4:30 p.m.

Pilot Point's McKayla Rushing, right, tries to sneak the ball past the Tioga defender Kennedy Slay in Whitesboro. Pilot Point and Tioga both took part in the opening night of the North Texas Volleyball League on Tuesday.

Martin Edwards/The Post-Signal

Junior varsity play began at 6 p.m. and was followed by the varsity squads at 7:45 p.m.

The highlight of the night was an inspiring matchup between Pilot Point and Tioga.

The hotly contested scrimmage saw outstanding plays from both teams with the Lady Bulldogs taking the win in the scrimmage.

The NTVL also provides an opportunity for the Red River Volleyball Officials Chapter to train new and returning referees.

"I [have] a head trainer here, and they try to show the new officials what we do [and] how we go about [things]," Chapter President and assigner Steve Atkins said. "I also bring in our senior officials to knock the rust off and get ready for the upcoming season."

Atkins stressed communication and relationship building as key focal points during the training.

See LEAGUE on Page 9A

Aubrey hires new girls soccer head coach

By Martin Edwards
Staff Writer

Aubrey Independent School District has appointed Kelli Baker as the new head coach of the Lady Chaps' varsity soccer team.

The Lady Chaps soccer program enters its third season on a high note after progressing to the third round of the playoffs under the direction of former head coach Monica Woodward.

Baker joins the Chapar-

al's athletic program after serving as the assistant coach for varsity girls soccer at Central High School in Keller

ISD, where he helped the Lady Chargers earn a bi-



KELLI BAKER

district championship and two playoff appearances.

Baker also earned three playoff appearances during his time as head girls soccer coach at Boswell High School in Fort Worth.

Baker brings with him over a decade of experience in coaching and training after serving in those roles at Eagle Mountain Saginaw ISD, Westlake Academy, Southlake Carroll High School and Challenger British Soccer Camps.

"Coach Baker has a good head coaching track record with extensive experience," Aubrey ISD Superintendent Dr. Shannon Saylor said in a Aubrey ISD press release. "I'm very confident he's going to bring in a program with the ability to really develop our players and get us to the next level."

Aubrey Athletic Director Keith Ivy spoke highly of the new addition to the Chaps' staff.

"He brings a wealth of

knowledge and success as a head coach and is a great fit in the Aubrey ISD athletics department," he said in the release. "We're excited for the future of the program under his leadership."

Baker expressed his eagerness at the change in environment, moving to Aubrey from 6A school.

"I'm [thrilled] to come be a part of a close-knit community and bring my whole family to Aubrey ISD," Baker said in the release.

His children will attend Aubrey High School and his wife will be joining the faculty at Monaco Elementary in the fall.

Baker also shared his vision for the Lady Chaps' soccer program.

"I hope they establish lifelong [friendships], become lifelong athletes and be upstanding citizens with relationships beyond high school," Baker said in the release.

Willmon to continue cheer career at college

By Martin Edwards
Staff Writer

A senior from Tioga High School signed her letter of intent to continue her athletic career on May 29.

Debbie Willmon was honored at the Tioga High School library as she signed her commitment letter in front of family, friends and peers.

Willmon will be attending Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas, where she will part of the Moundbuilders cheerleading squad.

She expressed her eagerness to continue her cheer career at the next level.

"I'm super excited to join the program because they're very welcoming," she said. "I haven't actually got to meet the girls on the team, but several have reached out and talked to me. I'm just super excited to get to meet them and [work] with them this season."

Willmon is hoping to learn more than just her new squad's routines during her time at Southwestern College, with hopes of pursuing a career in health care.

"I'm going to major in nursing, and [I] hope to earn my BSN," she said.

Willmon emphasized the role Lady Bulldogs cheerleading coach Terri Tackett played in her success along with her parents and friends.

"I've always cheered, but I had a lot of self-doubt that I wouldn't be able to cheer at the next level," she said. "[Coach Tackett] has encour-



Debbie Willmon, center, commemorates signing her letter of intent with her parents and cheerleading coach on May 29. Willmon will be attending Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas, this fall.

aged me all throughout this year to go achieve that goal, and she showed me that I really [could]

achieve it. Tackett spoke highly of Willmon and all the hard work she contributed over

the last four years. "Debbie has been an asset to this cheerleading squad," she said. "I am

so proud of her. She is a great leader, and I expect she will go on [to] do great things at Southwestern.

Martin Edwards/The Post-Signal
Go Purple and White!"

LEAGUE

Continued from Page 8A

"The coaches get to know the referees, [and] the referees get to know the coaches and the girls," he said. "When the [fall] season gets here, it makes things go a little more smoothly."

Osborn hopes the event will continue to grow and provide opportunities for area athletes to sharpen their skills on the court.

"Volleyball is a real popular sport around here," she said. "I want the girls to keep playing, and they want to keep [improving]."

The second night of the NTVL will start at 4:30 p.m. June 11 and will be hosted by Gunter.



Lady Cats come together to celebrate after scoring a big point against the Lady Bulldogs.

Martin Edwards/The Post-Signal

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CITY OF AUBREY
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The City Council of the City of Aubrey, Texas will hold a public hearing on Thursday, June 27, 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:
Being the portion of FM 1385, beginning at the city limits just south of the intersec-



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Farm & Estate Auction Thurs., June 13, 2024, Onsite & Online, starts @ 9:37 a.m. 32806 West Liberty Rd, Quinton, OK. Tractors, vehicles, trailers, hay equip., mowers, portable building, welders, guns and rifles, cattle chutes and panels and more. More Info: www.chuppsauction.com.

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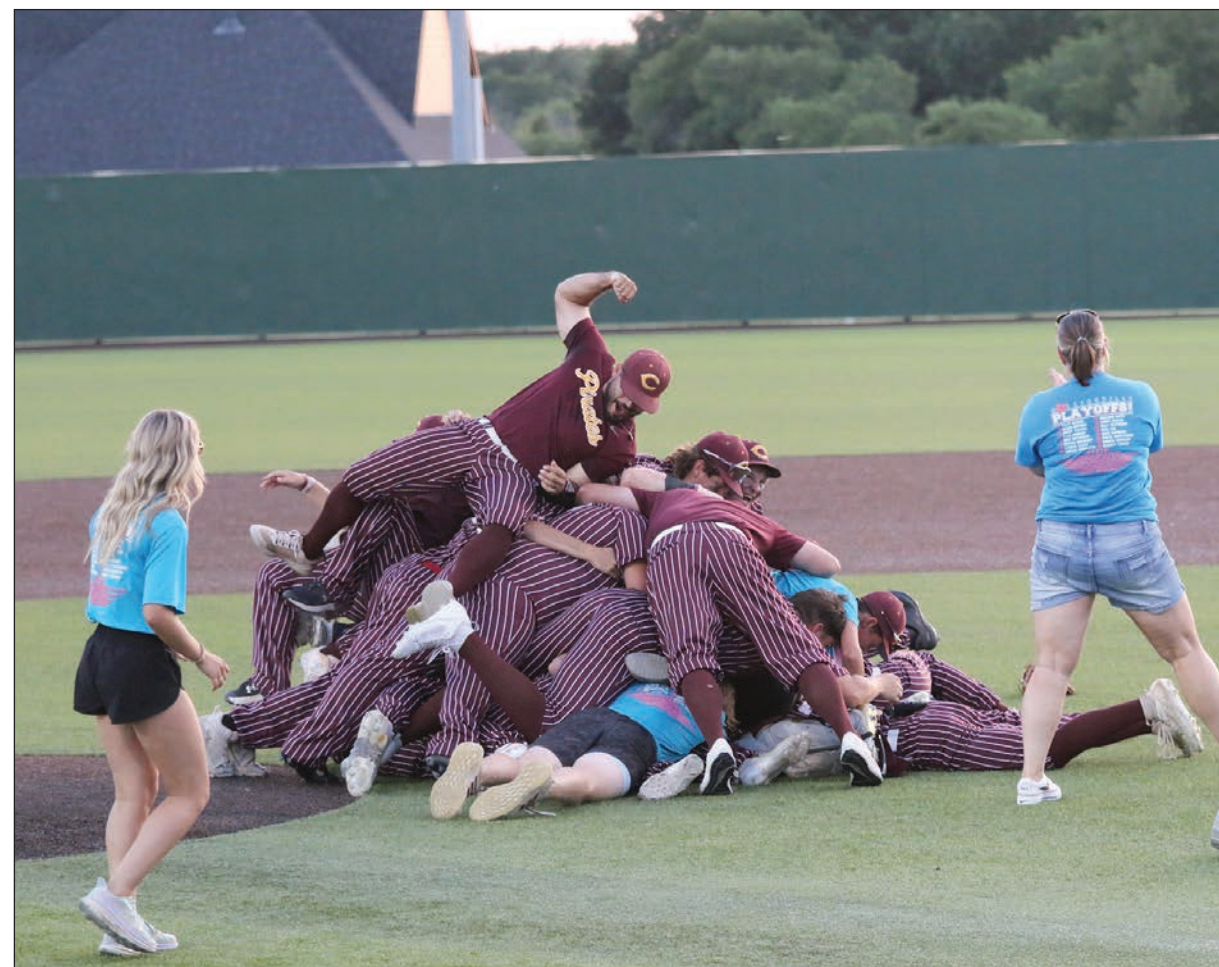
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State bound

The Pirates celebrate their Regional Finals victory over Valley Mills on May 31. Collinsville won the series two games to one and moved on to play Centerville in the State Semi-Finals on Wednesday. The results were not available by press time.

Jenna Agerlid/
The Post-Signal

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Class of 2024

The Post-Signal Section B

Friday, June 7, 2024



Pilot Point graduates cross the stage



Juan Dominguez looks up at his cap at the end of the Pilot Point High School graduation ceremony on May 30 in the University of North Texas Coliseum.

Photos by Abigail Allen/The Post-Signal

By Abigail Allen
Editor & Publisher

The Pilot Point Class of 2024 graduated in a short but sweet ceremony on May 30 in the University of North Texas Coliseum.

With a high school career bookended by the COVID-19 pandemic and a tornado, the graduates celebrated their resiliency and accomplishments together.

“Graduation is a memorable occasion for every high school student,” Pilot Point High School Principal Jason Crow said during his introduction. “It represents an achievement of a goal that students, their parents and their teachers have worked for years with diligence and care to obtain.”

Logan Stahurski took to the podium next, leading the graduates, Pilot Point ISD leaders and staff, and the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

Addison Hite followed him, giving the invocation.

“We ask that you please cover us as we enter this new chapter of our lives,” Hite said. “As we encounter new challenges, we pray that you give us the strength to persevere and to follow the path you have set for us.”



Billy Chandler Jr. and Crew Chandler chat about the diplomas they just received during their high school graduation.

See PPHS on Page 2B

CONGRATULATIONS
to the
CLASS OF 2024

MAY YOUR FUTURE ENDEAVORS
BE BLESSED!





The members of the Class of 2024 Top 10 percent chuckle while listening to Salutatorian Jacob Patterson's graduation speech.



Class Vice President Leila Norris shares the benediction toward the close of the ceremony at UNT on May 30.

Class President Jesus Gutierrez Hernandez provided the welcome address.

"As we turn the page, I ask my fellow classmates to take a moment and look back on previous chapters," he said. "Chapters filled with our favorite teachers. Chapters filled with fieldtrips. Chapters filled with UIL competitions. And chapters filled with friends—friends such as Ty Trubenbach."

He described the grade of his classmate, who died in 2019, as "a friend to all, and to many, even considered a brother."

"Even though he's not here with us today, his memory and impact he has had on others will never be forgotten by the Class of 2024," Her-

andez said. "We hope to have made you proud, and we miss you every day."

He also encouraged his fellow graduates to push through challenges.

"You must understand that the real strength lies in your ability to look back and smile as you succeed in the face of adversity," Hernandez said.

As Hernandez left the stage, Salutatorian Jacob Patterson took to the podium.

He took the time to appreciate the teachers and staff of Pilot Point ISD, especially PPHS receptionist Amanda Jimenez.

"Mrs. J cares about each student in the school and will go above and beyond," he said. "... I have watched countless

days when Mrs. J has worked through lunch breaks to give others the chance to eat and get their necessary work done."

He thanked the families who have supported him and his classmates, including his own parents.

"I would not be standing before you today without the profound influence of my father, Wesley Patterson, and late mother, Shea Dane-Patterson," Patterson said.

He spoke, too, of the "profound sense of unity and camaraderie" he feels about his class.

"We have faced a global pandemic, academic pressure, and family and personal struggles," Patterson said. "We have pushed through and

fought to succeed."

He specifically congratulated his life-long friend, Andrew "Drew" Juarez, who followed him to the stage to speak as the class valedictorian.

"This life as we've known it for the past 13 years is now officially over," Juarez said.

He credited his participation in FFA and other extracurriculars with helping him have the confidence to stand in front of the crowd.

"There's a big question that's going through my mind right now, and most likely some of y'all's as well," Juarez said. "It's two words—what now? The routine we've all known for so long is gone. ... I mean, I was devastated when we lost recess, and now you're telling me that I

have responsibilities."

Juarez referenced advice shared by new Superintendent Dr. Shannon Fuller to the graduates in his speech about the nature of friendships—"ones for the season, a reason and ones for a lifetime."

Juarez also took the time to thank many of his family members, especially his grandfather, Glen Dill.

"I know he's still listening and looking out for his partner," he said. "Thank you for being the role model I needed and the man who taught me everything from how to run the bases and how to tend to a garden, and values like selflessness, compassion and a pretty good sense for a good meal."

After the graduates

crossed the stage to receive their diplomas, class Vice President Leila Norris gave the benediction.

"I'd like to thank you for allowing us all to be here tonight to celebrate a very important milestone in our lives," she said. "You've pushed us through many days of health and sickness, senioritis—if you know you know, and gave us the strength to walk across the stage tonight."



The four senior cheerleaders—Castle Chandler, Emilie David, Savannah Fowler and Kyra Vaughner—sang the school song, with the graduates sending their caps flying as the final line wrapped up.




Kaitlynn Clay fixes the position of her tassel quickly before walking the stage.

Photos by Abigail Allen/The Post-Signal



Congratulations, Pilot Point High School Class of 2024


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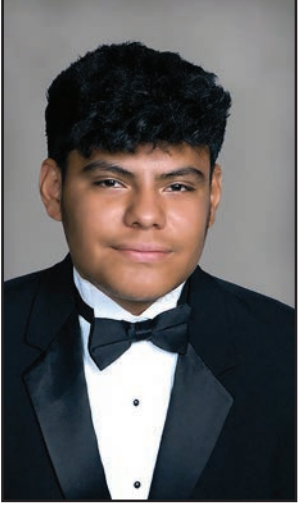

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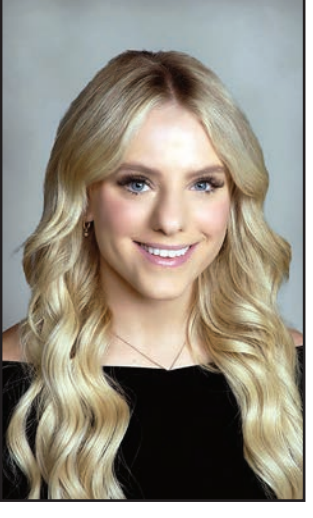

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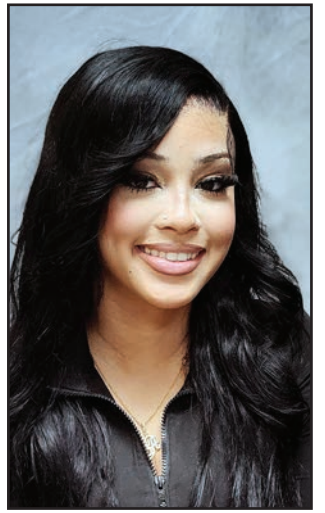
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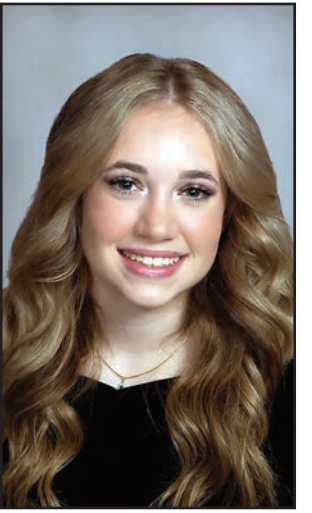
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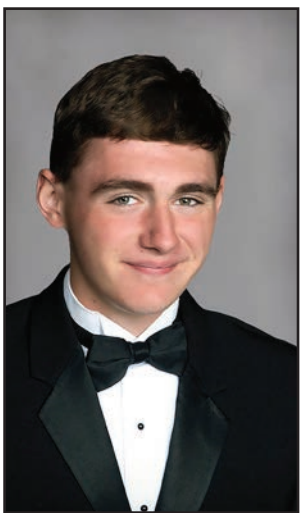


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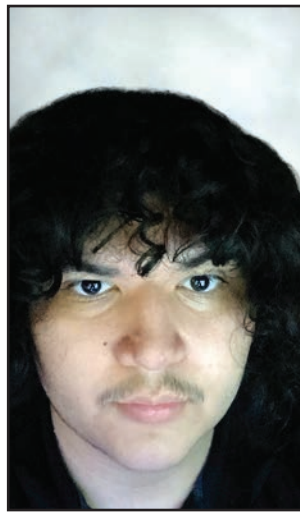
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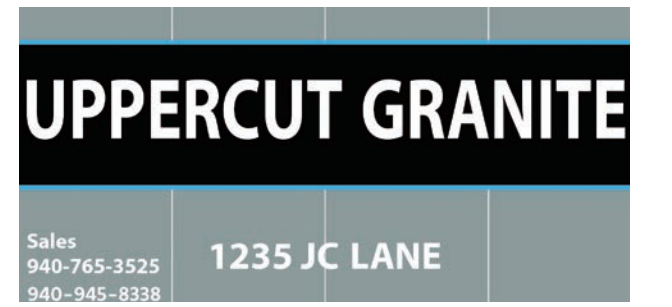
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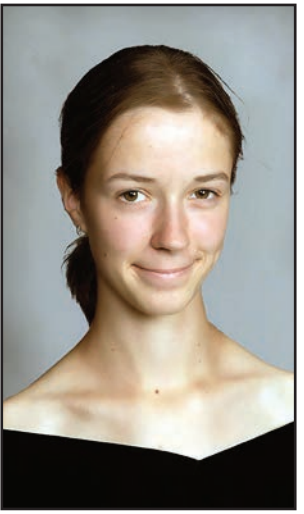
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Class of 2024 celebrates ties



The members of the Pilot Point High School Class of 2024 snip the ribbon between their roses during the ceremonial celebration of their growth as individuals during Rose Cutting.

Basil Gist/The Post-Signal

By Basil Gist
Staff Writer

The Bearcat class of '24 is one step closer to leaving high school behind, but many of them are going with the communities' hands on their shoulders. Held at Midway Church, the seniors enjoyed their Rose Cutting, received \$36,000 in local scholarships from the education foundation and other local organizations, and said a ceremonial goodbye to their classmates. "The Pilot Point Educational Foundation was established in 1997 to provide funds to teachers and scholarships to graduating

seniors in the Pilot Point Independent School District," PPEF President Lee Ann Ray said. "Since its inception, the foundation has awarded over \$1 million in grants and scholarships back to Pilot Point ISD." Several organizations, such as the Chamber of Commerce, included scholarships to trade schools among their endowments. "There is no wrong path to take, as long as the choices you make are right for you, you should be proud of those choices," Chamber President Jimerson Adkins said. "Congratulations again to the Class of 2024."

High School Principal Jason Crow further demonstrated this point when he announced the bevy of students who will graduate with industry certifications. Exterior scholarships, such as those offered from universities or other outside entities awarded to a number of students, approached a seventh figure after tallying. "The total estimated monies accepted by the Class of 2024 is over \$850,000," High School Assistant Principal Dr. John Middleton said. Following the awards, the senior slide show gave students, their peers and their parents a

brief look at student's individual progressions to young adulthood and old memories from yet another class of Bearcats who grew up alongside one another. Crow returned to the podium when the time came for students to offer one another their symbolic final farewell. "These ribbons are cut to symbolize that each student now goes individually into the real world," Crow said before moving to the symbolism of the rose. "The students will undoubtedly face thorns along the way, but if they work hard to overcome these thorns, the end result will be

beautiful." Superintendent Dr. Shannon Fuller, who watched her first Rose Cutting that day, said she was touched by the ceremony. "I love this symbolic approach to just being together as one class then going separate ways but still being a part of the whole," Fuller said. "It's not a common tradition. You can always do an award assembly, but this was a nice twist. I don't know if there were any kids that didn't get an award, but even they had a part in it with the Rose Cutting."

Congratulations, Pilot Point High School Class of 2024



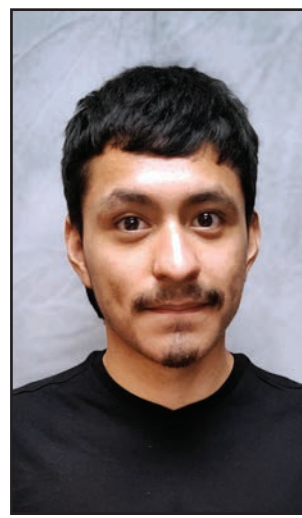
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Life-long friends push each other to end

Juarez, Patterson earn top PPHS graduate honors

By Basil Gist
Staff Writer

The top two students of Pilot Point's Class of 2024 were both quick to offer thanks to their support systems when asked about their accomplishments.

Valedictorian Andrew Juarez and Salutatorian Jacob Patterson gave thanks to the people they felt help make their current trajectories possible with one accrediting a promise to someone very important to him.

"It's nice to see all my work come to fruition," Patterson said. "I made a promise to my late mother that I would be here, and I am. I'm only able to be here through family, friends and the faculty at our school."

Juarez followed suit. "This accomplishment means a lot to me," Juarez said. "I've put a lot of work towards it. I thank the people that have helped me get this far. My family and friends have been a great influence on that and the school has as well."

He will head to take several scholarships, including the President's Distinguished Scholarship, with him to Oklahoma State University.

"I'm going to pursue a degree in natural resource management," Juarez said. "I hope to either work public or private in land management



Valedictorian Andrew Juarez, left, and Salutatorian Jacob Patterson stand together while preparing to enter the University of North Texas Super Pit for their graduation ceremony. The two friends helped push each other to succeed academically throughout school.

Abigail Allen/The Post-Signal

and do something where I can further our agricultural needs and advocate for what we need to sustain our lives right now."

He said he'd taken high school as a sort of preparation for the higher level and is looking to just enjoy his time as he

works toward his degree.

"I've used this high school career as something to prepare me for college, so now I really just want to enjoy what I can do there," Juarez said. "I'm looking forward to being a part of some of their student

organizations. I'd also just like to hang out with friends, ... and make some connections.

Patterson, who is bringing the Texas Aggie Award with him to A&M, is also looking forward to embracing collegiate life.

"I'm looking forward

to learning and growing on my own and the Aggie culture," Patterson said. "I can't wait to go to the games and have and feel the college lifestyle."

He plans to study civil engineering, and said he credits high school with giving him a work ethic

he'll carry forward.

"I learned that hard work pays off, and you only get back what you put into it," Patterson said. "As long as you work hard and stay true to yourself, you'll be able to succeed."

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Class of 2024

The Post-Signal Section C

Friday, June 7, 2024



Going forward

Class of 2024 graduates from Tioga High

By Abigail Allen
Editor & Publisher

The Tioga Class of 2024 shared an enthusiastic and happy graduation ceremony in the high school gym on May 31.

The evening kicked off with a welcome and invocation offered by Dallin Beedle.

"Today not only symbolizes the end of our time as Tioga Bulldogs, but also a beginning as we embark on the journey to the rest of our lives," Beedle said.

Krysta Stanley lead the graduates and the crowd in honoring the national anthem and in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Superintendent Josh Ballinger spoke about the class that sat before him.

He encouraged the graduates to "always embrace change," "remember to always be a learner," "always be flexible," "always have relationships," "always have integrity," "always give back" and "always take care of yourself."

"If you've noticed, I said the word always ahead of every statement I just shared," Ballinger said. "Always is a high task to try and accomplish, no matter your age. Here's some breaking news. Always is not possible in any and all situations. But setting the bar high for yourself is possible."

He reminded the graduates that while their paths will diverge, they are still connected.

"You will forever be linked



Kelsee Vandagriff looks up with her classmates at the confetti and graduation caps that they sent into the air to celebrate their high school graduation.

Abigail Allen/The Post-Signal

See THS on Page 2C

Top Tioga grads prepare for

By Basil Gist
Staff Writer

A pair of young women make up the Bulldog's top students in the Class of 2024.

Maria Colmenares-Balestrini and Molly Moncrief are Tioga's valedictorian and salutatorian, though the latter took her spot largely by happenstance.

"I thought maybe Top 10," Moncrief said. "Then sophomore year I found out I was Top 5 and thought, 'OK, maybe we can work a bit harder to get there. I found out that I was in the second spot last year and just worked to maintain that.'"

Moncrief said she believes her spot came as a result of her course load stacked with honors and college classes and a few late game transfers which served to elevate her.

Outside of class, the salutatorian participates in Beta Club and Phi Theta Kappa through Grayson College and works locally at Clark's Outpost Restaurant. She'll continue her career at Grayson College after graduation as she pursues a nursing degree.

"I'm wanting to become a nurse, hopefully a forensic nurse



Tioga Salutatorian Molly Moncrief, left, and Valedictorian Maria Colmenares-Balestrini smile for the camera as the top two graduates for the Class of 2024.

Basil Gist/The Post-Signal

in the future," Moncrief said. "I wanted to be a forensic pathologist, but that's a lot of school and I'm not about to do that."

Colmenares-Balestrini is a different story, saying she's spent her time developing herself both in and outside the classroom.

"I learned time management skills because I do a lot of extra-curriculars plus my college classes at the same time, so I learned management skills and to push myself," Colmenares-Balestrini said. "I like to be busy."

She participates in Beta Club, marching and concert band, FCCLA, theater and theatrical design.

"In band, I learned leadership skills and in FCCLA, I learned more about public speaking," Colmenares-Balestrini said. "In theatrical design I made sets, and I'm going into architecture which is kind of similar to that."

She's headed to the University of Texas-Arlington in the fall.

"It's kind of close to home and has a good program," Colmenares-Balestrini said. "I just really love both math and drawing, and it combines both of them."

CONGRATULATIONS
to the
CLASS OF 2024

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by the shared experience of your school years here at Tioga,” Ballinger said. “And please always remember that while you may no longer be physically together, the bonds you formed here will continue.”

Following Ballinger’s remarks, Salutatorian Molly Moncrief took to the podium.

She thanked the family, friends and Tioga ISD staff who helped her and her fellow graduates get to the finish line of high school, thanking Garra Ballinger in specific.

“Mrs. Ballinger, every senior in here would not be here without you,” she said. “You always make sure each student has everything they need and are always willing to help, whatever we ask.”

She encouraged her fellow graduates. “I do strongly believe that each graduating senior has the ability to do something great,” Moncrief said.

Principal Keith Kirkland spoke of the “hard work, determination and growth” of the graduates.

“As I look out at all of you, I don’t just see students, but young adults, ready to embark on new journeys, each of you carrying unique stories of triumphs and challenges overcome,” he said.

Kirkland shared “12 Choices for the Graduate” with his outgoing students.

“Congratulations, Class of 2024,” Kirkland said. “The future is yours, and I can’t wait to see what you will achieve.”

Valedictorian Maria Colmenares-Balestrini shared the impact her parents, who immigrated to the United States from Venezuela, have had on her life.

“They sacrificed everything and left our whole family behind so me and my sister could have a better future and education,” she said.

She spoke briefly to her parents in Spanish, then sharing a translation in English for the crowd.

“Thank you to all the parents and guardians for the graduates of this class and know that we appreciate you more than you know,” Colmenares-Balestrini said.

She talked about the memories and connections the seniors had formed over the years with each other, the faculty and the staff.

“Now, as I look back on every moment I used the phrase, ‘Time flies,’



Graduate Elizabeth Arroyo holds her hands out as the final senior to give a signed ping pong ball to Tioga High School Principal Keith Kirkland as a parting prank.

Abigail Allen/The Post-Signal

the moment turned into a memory,” she said. “So, live in the moment now and not in the future.”

Class President Savannah Taffi Adams invited the graduates to participate in the traditional rose ceremony, in which the graduates give a rose to the people who have been instrumental in their lives.

When Colmenares-Balestrini crossed the stage, she handed Kirkland a small pail.

Then, Moncrief and the subsequent graduates gave him a signed ping pong ball on their way to receiving their diplomas.

Justice Babbitt was the final graduate to speak, offering the benediction.

“I pray that you will protect us so our journey can continue,” she said.

After a premature confetti and cap celebration, Kirkland declared the students graduates of Tioga High School, and again, confetti and mortarboards soared.

Congratulations Tioga High School Class of 2024

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Two dozen Grayson grads

Before graduating from Tioga High School on May 31, 24 Tioga seniors obtain their associate's degree from Grayson College. The Grayson graduates, in alphabetical order, were Savannah Taffi Adams, Elizabeth Arroyo, Justice Babbitt, Dallin Beedle, Raimee Boren, Makenzie Boroski, Kinley Chandler, Maria Colmenares-Balestrini, Ainsley Denham, Cooper Evans, Jonah Grubbs, Channing Hurst, Ashley Mahoney, Molly Moncreif, Mikayla Reed, Sydney Marie Reynolds, Madison Roberts, Lauren Sheppard, Kristian Smith, Krystalyna Stanley, Kelsee Vandagriff, Karson Whitley and Debra Willmon.

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