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Watch for Breaking News on the COVID-19 for Denton County at www.380News.com
Please visit to get updated information about Coronavirus in our area.

Denton ISD Teachers of the Year Honored at Special "Drive-Thru" Parade Denton ISD



DENTON ISD, TX- Denton ISD honored its 2020 Teachers of the Year with a "Drive-Thru" parade at C.H. Collins Athletic Complex on Tuesday, May 5. Elementary and secondary schools each nominated one



educator for Teacher of the Year. Members of the district's Teachers Communication Committee (TCC) reviewed the applications of the 38 campus winners and selected one elementary and one secondary teacher to advance to the Region XI Teacher of the Year Competition.

After each campus winner made it through the parade-route. Dr. Jamie Wilson, superintendent of schools, announced the Denton ISD Elementary and Secondary Teacher of the Year Winners.

This year's Elementary *Continued on A7*

Texas Launches SNAP Online Grocery Purchases Pilot



AUSTIN, TX – The Texas Health and Human Services Commission today announced the launch of a statewide pilot program allowing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients to purchase groceries online at participating retailers for curbside pickup or delivery starting Wednesday.

"As we respond to this pandemic, the state of Texas is

committed to helping SNAP recipients throughout the state access nutritious food for their families," said Governor Greg Abbott. "I thank HHSC for launching this new program and for its continued work to help Texans in need while containing the spread of COVID-19."

Now, SNAP recipients can visit participating retailer websites and use their Lone Star Card to purchase groceries for curbside pickup or delivery. Currently, participating retailers in Texas are Walmart and Amazon.

"This innovative initiative helps provide healthy food to *Continued on A3*

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Denton ISD Teachers of the Year Honored at Special "Drive-Thru" Parade continued

Regional Road and Bridge Updates

From the Desk of Hugh Coleman



DENTON COUNTY, TX-Regional road and bridge updates: FM 2181 North-South – A \$37.6 million project to widen FM 2181 from two lanes to a six-lane divided roadway from the Denton/Corinth

city limits to Lillian Miller Parkway is expected to be complete in November 2021. Activities expected include City of Denton water lines, storm water lines; possibly begin drilled shafts for noise walls and paving intersections.

U.S. 380/U.S. 377 – (Loop 288 to U.S. 377) – Utility coordination meeting held virtually on April 27, 2020. Anticipate clearance of utilities by end of May. Remaining utilities are Oncor and Frontier.

U.S. 380 East – (U.S. 377 to Collin County line) – Util-

ity coordination meeting held virtually on April 27, 2020.

U.S. 377 North – Technical reports are in progress. Three draft reports have been submitted to TxDOT for review. A virtual public meeting was held virtually on April 28, 2020. Meeting materials were posted to <http://www.keepitmovingdallas.com/US377> and remained online through the comment period deadline of May 13, 2020. There were 717 visitors to the website as of midnight on May 13, *Continued on A6*

Ag Exemptions a Popular Topic Zack Davis



DENTON COUNTY, TX- The most popular question we get in the office is related to agriculture exemptions on property. A lot of producers have the assumption that the extension office



- The land must be devoted to production at a level of intensity that is common for the prudent managers in the local area.
- The land must have been devoted to agricultural pro-

duction for at least five of the past seven years. Five of five years if within a city limits.

There are a few things to talk about here. The level of intensity of the property must be met for land to qualify. This basically means you cannot have a 200 acre ranch with one cow on it. This get more complicated in small tracts but the idea is to have enough animals on the property to justify agriculture production. Production is *Continued on A7*

IRS Adds Phone Operators to Answer Economic Impact Payment Questions

WASHINGTON – The Internal Revenue Service is starting to add 3,500 telephone representatives to answer some of the most common questions about Economic Impact Payments.

IRS telephone assistance and other services will remain limited, and answers for most of the common questions related to Economic Impact Payments are available on IRS.gov. The IRS anticipates bringing back additional assistors as state and local advisories permit.

Answers for most Economic Impact Payment questions are available on the automated message for people who call the phone number provided in the letter (Notice 1444). Those who need additional assistance at the conclusion of the message will have the option of talking to a

telephone representative.

Americans are encouraged to use IRS.gov

The IRS regularly posts new and updated answers to the most frequently asked questions about Economic Impact Payments and the Get My Payment tool. Those who wish to know the status of their Economic Impact Payment are reminded to check Get My Payment regularly; the information is frequently updated as the IRS continues to process the remaining payments for delivery.

For those who are eligible for an Economic Impact Payment but aren't required to file a tax return, the IRS reminds them the Non-Filers tool also remains available in English or Spanish for them to register for a payment.

TCAP'S Specials Help Families Financially Impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic

TCAP's specials aim to help families get essential wellness care for their pets



DALLAS-FORT WORTH, TX-The Texas Coalition for Animal Protection (TCAP) aims to help families across North Texas that were financially impacted, and continue to be financially impacted, by COVID-19. TCAP is committed to helping pet parents across the metroplex be able to afford essential wellness care *Continued on A4*



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380News is a regional publication covering local community news for Northeast Denton County and Northwest Collin County including the communities of Aubrey, Cross Roads, Krugerville, Pilot Point, Little Elm, Oak Point, Paloma Creek, Prosper, Providence, and Savannah. A direct mail newspaper, 380News has a monthly distribution of 15,000 papers including residential households, businesses, Chambers of Commerce, Master Planned Communities, and Home Owner Associations. 380News reaches almost 40,000 North Texas readers.

Advertising and Editorial Submission Deadlines

The publication deadline for advertising, editorial submissions, guest editorials, and letters to the editor is the 15th day of the preceding month for each issue. Letters to the editor must be 400 words or less and include a name, address, and phone number (only name and city will be published). Content may be submitted via email to info@380news.com.

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Prosper Fire Department Attains Coveted Recognized Status

PROSPER, TX- The Prosper Fire Chiefs Association (TFCA) Best Practices Recognition Program has awarded the “Recognized Best Practices Fire Department” designation to the Prosper Fire Department following an exhaustive internal review that measured its level of adherence to a comprehensive list of best practices. The Fire Department was notified of the successful submission for the designation on May 5, and during a future Town Council meeting, the formal awarding will be symbolically accomplished.

“We are, of course, extremely honored to receive this prestigious recognition,” says Fire Chief Stuart Blasingame. “This accomplishment could not have been possible without the hard work of the Fire Department staff as well as the unconditional support of our Mayor, Council, and Town Manager. With over 1,500 fire departments in the state, it’s an honor to be one of only 23 departments that have achieved this recognition.”

For almost two years, the department embarked on a process of examining compli-

ance in areas such as Administration and Organization, Emergency Medical Service, Fire Prevention, Risk Reduction, Community Outreach, Safety and Health, and Professional Standards and Conduct based on the more than 117 best business practices for fire departments in the State of Texas. These best practices were developed by Fire Service professionals to assist agencies in the efficient and effective delivery of service to communities.

“This designation is certainly not a surprise to anyone who is familiar with our Fire Department,” says Town Manager Harlan Jefferson. “The work, the training, the dedication, the professionalism from top to bottom are evident on a daily basis. Our residents and business owners already know the extremely high value of our Fire Department, and now the entire state of Texas is aware.”

The Recognized Designation verifies that the Prosper Fire Department is using the most current best practices in the profession. It also means that the department is meeting its professional obligations to the Town’s residents and businesses.

Upon completion of the department’s internal review, an outside audit and review was requested. The final on-site review was conducted by trained Fire Chiefs and Assistant Fire Chiefs from other areas of the state. The result of this review was then sent to the Texas Fire Chiefs Best Practices Recognition Board for final analysis, resulting in the decision to award the “Recognized” status to the local department.

More information on the program can be found at: https://www.txfirechiefs.org/tfca_best_practices_recognition_program/.

Here’s why Some People’s Economic Impact Payment is Different than Expected

WASHINGTON - As people across the country receive their Economic Impact Payments, some might receive a different amount than they expected.

Eligible individuals receive a payment for \$1,200. Two eligible individuals filing a joint return receive \$2,400. And, eligible individuals receive up to an additional \$500 for each qualifying child who meets the conditions outlined on the Qualifying Child Requirements page.

The Economic Impact Payment is automatic for eligible people who filed a tax return in 2018 or 2019. They’re also automatic for those who aren’t required to file a tax return but who receive:

- Social Security retirement, survivor or disability benefits.
- Railroad Retirement benefits.
- Supplemental Security Income.
- Veterans Affairs benefits.

People who receive less than expected can go to IRS.gov and review this chart to check the payment they should receive. It has examples that use filing status and income to calculate the payment amount.

Here are some common

things that help explain what may have happened:

- The taxpayer hasn’t filed a 2019 tax return, and their payment was based on the 2018 return. This could also be the case if the IRS has not finished processing the 2019 return.

- The qualifying child is not under the age of 17. For purposes of the payment, the child’s age is how old they are at the end of the year for the tax return on which the IRS bases the payment amount. If a dependent is 17 or older, they don’t qualify for the additional \$500. This includes a parent or other relative, and college students.

- The Economic Impact Payment was offset by past-due child support. While this is the only offset that can affect the payment amount, federal law allows creditors to garnish a payment once it’s deposited into a bank account.

In many instances, eligible taxpayers who received a payment that was smaller than expected may get an additional amount early next year when they file their 2020 federal income tax return.

Anyone with questions about the payment can visit the Economic Impact Payments Information Center. It has answers to questions about eligibility, payment amounts, what to expect, and when to expect it.

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HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

Texas Health Care Association Responds to Governor Abbott's Directive to Test 100% of Nursing Home Facility Staff and Residents

Testing essential but major needs in fight against COVID-19 remain unmet

AUSTIN, TEXAS - On May 12, 2020, Kevin Warren, President and CEO of the Texas Health Care Association (THCA), issued the following statement on the directive issued late yesterday afternoon by Governor Greg Abbott calling for the testing of every resident and staff in Texas nursing homes:

"THCA is extremely pleased that our tireless workforce and the residents in their care are finally receiving priority testing. The population in our facilities are most at-risk to the worst

impacts of COVID-19 and their staff are at personal risk as well.

While testing will be essential for our fight against COVID-19, we have to ensure we have the necessary resources to prepare for what those results may bring.

We have seen that with expanded testing, we have to be prepared for a higher number of cases and facilities identified. As a result, this expansion will be additional burden and pressure on the challenges of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) access and on a staffing

shortage that is already of significant concern.

Additionally, we ask the Legislative Budget Board to approve the request for relief funding submitted by the Health and Human Services Commission in April so that the much needed resources are available. The financial assistance is desperately needed to offset the costs of increased expenses such as PPE, direct care staffing and other increased costs that were occurring even before statewide testing was announced.

It is clear that long-term care facilities across Texas are at ground-zero in the fight against this virus. And while this announcement is a positive step forward, without access to increased need for PPE and the much needed financial assistance to address the staffing shortages that challenge our profession, we will not be prepared for what comes next.

We are committed to being a part of the solution to defeat COVID-19 as we stand ready to do our part to see Texas reopen its economy. We want to

see families and visitors back in facilities and experience the joy on the faces of families, residents, and staff once again. But when we're through this, we also want to be able to look

back and say we did everything we could and everything that needed to be done to fight against COVID-19 in our facilities and treat it like the public health crisis that it is."

Denton County Unveils Plans for CARES Act Funds



DENTON COUNTY, TX - Denton County Commissioners Court recently unveiled plans for \$147 million from the Coronavirus Relief Fund, the CARES Act that provided payments to states and local governments impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The U.S. Treasury set aside \$150 billion in the CARES Relief Act and calculated payments based on total population counts. Counties and cities with popula-

tions greater than 500,000 received funds directly from the federal government.

Denton County is working with each municipality on expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic by providing a \$55 per capita distribution of funds. Eligible expenses range from facilitating compliance to medical and public health expenses to providing economic support in connection with the COVID-19 public health emergency as well as any other expense reasonably necessary to the function of the government. Funds cannot be used to fill shortfalls in governmental revenue.

The county will work with communities as needed on

grants to local businesses as well as to ensure residents have access to food and housing assistance programs.

Commissioners Court approved a general outline for how the funds will be earmarked moving forward along with an estimate of current expenditures incurred by the County:

- \$45M to municipalities for COVID-19-related expenses
- \$24M allocated for local business grants (includes \$2.2M in existing business grant program)
- \$20M for housing assistance program
- \$10M for food programs
- \$6M estimated expendi-

tures to date on COVID-19

- \$2M to support local nonprofit efforts
- \$40M for the county's ongoing expenses, personal protection equipment and public health

As part of this effort, Commissioners Court announced Denton County CARES (Coalition of Agencies to Restore Essential Services) to help easily identify the different elements of the program. Denton County CARES also is in memoriam to Gene Gumfory, a longtime Denton County businessman and philanthropist who gave generously of his time and money to support many programs over the years.

'Texas Launches...' continued from front page

Texas families who need it the most during this challenging time," said HHS Access and Eligibility Deputy Executive Commissioner Wayne Salter. "We're committed to reducing food insecurity for at-risk Texans."

SNAP funds may only be used for grocery purchases. Other associated charges such as delivery or convenience

fees may not be paid for with SNAP benefits. SNAP recipients do not need to make any changes or updates to their account to use this new benefit and only need their PIN to complete transactions.

This expedited launch is the latest in the COVID-19 response for SNAP recipients in Texas, which includes

recipients having their renewal requirements temporarily waived and receiving the maximum eligible allotment by household. SNAP recipients will see the maximum allotment amount on their Lone Star Card and do not need to take any further action to receive additional benefits.

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HOME & GARDEN

Bugs and Blisters *Janet Laminack*



DENTON COUNTY, TX- Insects often come in droves. Some years we have fall armyworms, some years it's a plague of grasshoppers, some years we have mysterious webs appearing all over hackberry trees. We just never know what insect might decide to show-off that season. And inexplicably, that insect is not a problem again next year. Occasionally, what seems like "an outbreak" or "something I've never seen before" is actually just that the insect got in your way or you were particularly observant this season. Entomologists and our phone lines can attest to actual surges in populations. We don't always

know why this occurs; it seems the environment is nice and the opportunistic little buggers take advantage of it.

A couple of insects that we can always count on to show up in North Texas are mosquitos and fire ants. Isn't it nice to have a few constants in an ever-changing world? If you have fire ants, we recommend using a bait product. A bait is a tiny bit of toxic material disguised as a tasty treat for the ant. They take the bait back to their mound and eventually it kills them all. You can bet that ant is not invited to the next party. Baits are highly effective and have low toxicity to non-target organisms like you, your pets, and even your children. Baits are broadcast over a large area, but they do take a while (weeks, maybe a month) to do their job. If you have problematic mounds in high-use areas, you would want to do a spot treatment with an insecticide,

rather than wait for the bait.

Mosquitos are not all the same. Some are early risers, some are night owls, which is why we recommend to always wear an insect repellent when outside. An effective natural repellent is oil of lemon eucalyptus. It has shown to be as effective as DEET repellents, but it does need to be reapplied more frequently. And don't forget to dump out standing water, even a tiny bit of water can turn into an incubator for mosquito larvae.

Plant disease can also show up when conditions are just so and cause a lot of damage some years. This year we are seeing oak leaf blister. This is a fungus that causes the leaves to look blistered (surprise!), maybe even twisted or folded, discolored, withered and overall unhealthy.

This can cause distress to the tree owner and to the tree, but most of the time it is simply

aesthetics. The disease doesn't typically cause a lot of damage. However you do want functioning leaves because, as you know, the leaves are the food factory for the tree. Therefore, we might consider the tree stressed and we would want to be especially kind to it that season. Which means ensure proper watering and watch for secondary pests or problems that a healthy tree could shake off. Sound familiar? Plants aren't always that different from people.

Just like with insects, this fungus is probably always around. However, when we have cool and moist weather at the same time the leaves are budding out, that's when we start to see oak leaf blister. If you see that your tree has the fungus, we don't recommend any kind of chemical control. Perhaps you want to do a preventative treatment next spring just to be sure. And if you have a lot of other oaks, you might want to do a preventative treat-

ment on them. However, the fungus likes the new growth of the tree, so by the time you see it on any of your trees, the rest of them are probably safe. As with most plant diseases and especially fungus, sanitation can make a big difference. This means cleaning up the diseased leaves once they fall to the ground and removing them. Fungi make spores and those spores can linger around on the infected leaves. It's a good practice that reduces the disease pressure of the area.

If you haven't yet, check out the AgriLife Extension horticulture team on Facebook live every Wednesday and Friday at 1 pm. Even without a Facebook account, you can watch live. To see what's coming up and check out the recordings of the previous live videos visit <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/fblive/>.

'TCAPs Specials...' continued from front page

for their pets and will continue to launch special pricing that further discounts the organization's already low prices for sterilization surgeries and wellness care.

In June, TCAP will offer \$20 spays and neuters for puppies and kittens less than 6 months old as part of their #PreciousNotParents campaign. This special follows their May special that lent a helping hand to cat owners by offering free cat sterilizations.

"We want to support North Texas people and pets, and we believe this is the best way to do this for our community with the methods at our disposal," said Robert Knox, TCAP Director of Programs. "We want to thank everyone who has supported us during this time by trusting TCAP with their pets' care."

The #PreciousNotParents special will begin June 1 and run through June 30, 2020, and is valid at any TCAP location. Pets must be less than six months old to qualify for the special. Both dogs and cats are eligible. The goal of the #PreciousNotParents campaign is to make spaying and neutering affordable to pet owners. The campaign is another step toward ending pet overpopulation in North Texas shelters by spaying and neutering pets before they can have their first litter.

"We know that this is a really hard time for many families in our area, and now more than ever, Texas needs TCAP," said Stacey Schumacher, TCAP Executive Director. "Our mission is to end pet overpopulation in North Texas Shelters, and we can't accomplish that goal by promoting adoption alone. We must spay and neuter pets."

Texas Coalition for Animal Protection is a 501c3 non-profit that works to end pet overpopulation and improve community animal welfare. TCAP accomplishes this goal by making affordable, high-quality preventative services available to Texas pet owners.

Come Grow with O'Dells Nursery!

Everyone is Invited to the June 13th Celebration
By Jodie Linton-Prickett



AUBREY, TX -Imagine taking a deep breath and inhaling the lovely delicate scents of spring as you walk through O'Dells Nursery on a sunny day. Peonies, lavender and marigolds offering pops of vibrant colors and graceful magnolia blossoms peeking out of evergreen leaves as you

stroll around and pick out your favorites for your home garden. All of your spring gardening needs can be found at the locally owned and operated O'Dells Nursery located at 4765 on Highway 377 in Aubrey, TX. This family business has been a staple in the 380 Corridor since 1995 with Dwayne O'Dell

Landscaping. After 40 years in the landscaping business and the O'Dell children Devin and Kyler growing up and following in the family footsteps, the O'Dell's decided to expand to include the nursery side of the business.

O'Dells Nursery opened up two years ago with Devin O'Dell as the manager. The business has flourished and they continue to add new products and inventory.

While you are there you can receive helpful advice from the O'Dell family to help you be a successful home gardener.

Inside you will also find a lovely boutique Elizabeth Lauren Creations. This micro-boutique offers handmade items, home décor and one of a kind gifts.

On June 13th 2020, everyone is invited to come out and celebrate with their family. There will be discounts and sales

from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. throughout the entire nursery along with lip smacking barbeque. Hillbilly's Cooking will be there serving brisket and pulled pork sandwiches with all the fixings. Meals will be served starting at 11:00 until it's all gone.

Come out and join the celebration. Keep in touch and look for updates by following O'Dells Nursery on Facebook or visit www.ODellsNursery.com.



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EDUCATION

Aubrey ISD Announces 2020 Valedictorian and Salutatorian *Amy Ruggini*



AUBREY ISD, TX- Aubrey High School has named Kirsten Rollwage as valedictorian and Rachel Black as salutatorian for the Class of 2020.

The valedictorian is the senior with the highest cumulative grade point average. The salutatorian is the senior with the second-highest cumulative GPA.

"I am so very proud of Kirsten and Rachel," Aubrey ISD Superintendent Dr. David Belding said. "To achieve valedictorian and salutatorian in a graduating class at Aubrey High School is a huge accomplishment. These two young women are exceptional students and most importantly, people of excellent character. I know they will continue to achieve at the highest levels at their chosen university and will make a real difference in our world."

Kirsten Rollwage is the daughter of Chris and Angela Rollwage. She has earned the distinction of valedictorian for the AHS Class of 2020 and plans to attend Baylor University as an honors biology major in the Pre-Med program and minor in religious studies.

Her favorite classes included anatomy and physiology, calculus, AP biology, and communications.

Kirsten received the Pre-AP English I Honors award and the UIL Testing Breakthrough award last year.

Kirsten was a member of the AHS Beta Club, Student Council and National Honor Society. She served as student council president this past year, was class president for three years and was Beta Club treasurer the last two years. She competed in science, number sense and mathematics with the UIL academic teams.

Kirsten volunteers with the preschool, kids and students' areas at Midway Church.

Looking back at her time at AHS, Kirsten's advice to the underclassmen is, "don't be afraid to ask questions. They don't bite back."

Rachel Black is the daughter of Daniel and Joy Black. She will attend the University of North Texas and was accepted into the Honors College. She plans on majoring in hospitality and minoring in Spanish.

Some of her favorite classes were Ms. Harris' AP environmental science class, Mrs. Krol's Spanish class and Mr. Whitmire's pre-calculus class.

She was named Miss AHS this spring, was a Rotary Club Student of the Month in September and has received the Pre-AP World History, the Pre-AP Geometry and the Pre-UT Physics awards.

Rachel was very involved with the band program at AHS. She was band chaplain this past year and was the saxophone section leader the last three years. She was the first sophomore from AHS to play in the ATSSB All-State Band and was named to the all-state band as a sophomore, junior and senior.

She also qualified for the ATSSB All-Region Symphonic Band and All-Area Band all four years of high school as well as the ATSSB All-Region Jazz Band and All-Area Jazz Band.

Rachel is also a member of the Spanish Club, National Honor Society and Beta Club. She volunteers with the Midway Preschool Ministry and Midway Kidz.

Rachel's advice to her underclassmen is "Don't put too much pressure on yourself. Try your best, but also enjoy your time in high school. All anyone should expect of you is that you try your best."

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Choice Learning believes strongly in educating "ALL" aspects of the student, including, mind, heart, and

soul! The school strives to develop personal relationships with its students and families. A parent partnership is critical to the students' success, hence, teamwork and continuous communication between parents, teachers, and students is key!

CLA is a university model school, where 3 and 4 day programs are available. This simply means that 3 or 4 days of the week are spent at school, while the other days are spent in the "satellite" classroom, at home, with planned lessons. This model takes the best attributes of traditional private school education and combines them with the best attributes of homeschooling. It allows parents an opportunity

to contribute more to their child's education.

Special programs include: Texas A&M Vet Science Program, Exotic Animal Zookeeper days, College & Career Days, American Sign Language class, and coming soon, Nursing/Health Prep courses! CLA feels it is important to give back and share talents, therefore, it collaborates with local shelters, nursing homes, and other organizations for outreach and community service projects.

CLA is currently enrolling for the 2020-2021 school year, but space is limited! Please contact the school for a tour or visit their website: www.choice-learningacademy.net

Pre-Registration for Pre-K and Kindergarten Is Open at Aubrey ISD *Amy Ruggini*

AUBREY ISD, TX- Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students at Aubrey ISD is open. Due to the district closure because of the COVID-19 virus, all registration will be done virtually. Registration will be ongoing through the summer, but in order to get anticipated enrollment for staffing purposes, families are encouraged to register as soon as possible.

Children who are at least five years old on September 1, 2020 are eligible to enroll in

kindergarten classes at Aubrey ISD. Students who reside in the Aubrey ISD attendance zone will attend classes at one of three campuses: Brockett Elementary, Monaco Elementary or Fuller Elementary. Students who reside outside of the Aubrey ISD boundary can apply to be an interdistrict transfer to Fuller Elementary School by submitting an application.

Aubrey ISD is expanding its public pre-K program for eligible 4-year-olds to a full-day program beginning in the 2020-21 school year and will be

open to Aubrey ISD teachers and staff and the local community on a tuition basis. Only the free pre-K program for qualifying students has moved to Fuller Elementary.

Families residing outside of the Aubrey ISD attendance zones can complete a transfer application if they are interested in having their children

enroll in pre-K or kindergarten classes. Space is limited and transfer decisions will not be made until August. All transfer students will attend Fuller Elementary.



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COMMUNITY

'Regional Road and Bridge Updates...' continued from front page

2020. There were 76 comments received; most comments were related to ROW acquisition, driveway access median openings, and roadway footprint. Ongoing property owner contacts are being made as follow-up to e-mail comments generated from the virtual public meeting. Follow-up stakeholder meeting with Pilot Point held on May 16, 2020. VE study was held virtually May 4-7, 2020. There were nine recommendations made to identify cost savings and improve function. Virtual VE study presentation conducted for project stakeholders. TxDOT provided 60% review comments on April 23, 2020. TNP is addressing TxDOT comments and anticipates submittal of 95% schematic at the end of May 2020.

U.S. 380 Feasibility Study – TxDOT provided feedback to NCTCOG and has requested model runs for same. NCTCOG and TxDOT to meet on June 2, 2020, to discuss.

FM 428 – Project is from Loop 288 to West Sherman Drive/proposed outer loop. TxDOT is negotiating with HDR to add FM 428 study to existing feasibility study contract.

FM 1385 – Survey was completed in May 2020. SUE efforts continue. Consultant is developing layouts for initial conceptual alternatives. Continuing to develop base hydrologic drainage design analysis for 23 drainage crossings along project limits. Continued review of Little Elm Creek drainage sub basin.

FM 2931 – Consultant continues work on layout of

proposed typical sections and adding driveway cuts, left-turn lanes, and median noses. Aerial survey was completed on April 28, 2020. Consultant submitted Traffic Methodology Report to TxDOT for review on April 10, 2020. Consultant obtained plats and as-builts for residential developments from Little Elm and Providence Village as available to insert into schematic. Anticipate submittal of 30% schematic in early June 2020. Anticipate first public meeting in late June 2020 to gather local comments before moving toward completion of 60% schematic.

FM 455 – From west of FM 2450 to east of Marion Road; the project is slated to have 100% plans ready in September 2020 with a January 2022 let date. Consultant sent clarifications to TxDOT for review on May 12, 2020. Consultant continues adjusting roadway profile to take drainage runoff to the roadway, adjusting driveway profiles based on roadway profile adjustments, checking driveway grades and tie-in points, and evaluating driveways for retaining walls. Pre-meeting with Consultant and TxDOT Dallas District scheduled for June 2, 2020, and meeting on June 3, 2020, with full TxDOT Dallas District Staff to coordinate on TCP roll plot submittal. Comments received from BNSF on April 25, 2020 on Revised Railroad Exhibit A. Utilities are working to provide plans to TxDOT for review in the summer of 2020. Consultant is coordinating WebEx meeting

with TxDOT to coordinate utility relocation eligibility for Bolivar Water Supply.

I-35 at FM 455 – Estimated cost of reconstruction of approximately 4,500 feet of I-35 over FM 455 is projected at \$27,231,547 with a let date of August 2022. Consultant sent comments to TxDOT for review on May 12, 2020. Profile updates are in progress; Consultant is updating retaining wall location and drainage to match ultimate design location. Pre-meeting with Consultant and TxDOT Dallas District on June 2, 2020, and meeting on June 3, 2020 with full TxDOT Dallas District Staff to coordinate on TCP roll plot submittal. Level A SUE completed.

I-35 North (Segments 1 and 2) – The project from U.S. 377 to FM 3002 is projected to cost \$573,740,000 with a ready to let date of October 2022 and a let date of December 2022. Consultant submitted the 30% PS&E plan set to TxDOT in January 2020. Plan set is under TxDOT review.

I-35E/Mayhill – This \$62.2 million project to reconstruct the interchange at Mayhill and I-35E is projected to begin in June 2022. The 95% plans are underway and are expected in June 2020; the 95% plan set will incorporate traffic and final survey. Level A SUE north of Mayhill and south of Loop 288 is underway and is expected to be complete in June 2020. Utility coordination meetings are temporarily suspended, but coordination

efforts continue.

I-35/35E/35W Merge – City of Denton Bonnie Brae project requested files from City of Denton to assist with tie-in were received on April 21, 2020. Dallas District Bridge Section completed review and sent comments on May 4, 2020. The 30% plan set is expected on May 29, 2020. Design coordination meeting was held on May 4, 2020. Level B SUE is in progress and expected to be complete by the end of May 2020.

I-35E/Loop 288/Brinker/Mayhill – This \$27.5 million project was expected to be completed in May 2020. TxDOT is working to complete the punch list.

I-35E/US 77/Dallas Drive Interim Improvements – TxDOT to review possibility of interim design and construction to address safety concerns at I-35E exit to Dallas Drive, the northbound I-35E service road where it crosses the northbound exit ramp, and the southbound lanes of Dallas Drive.

I-35E/Dobbs/Lake Sharon – This project involves reconstruction of the interchange and existing frontage roads. TxDOT is coordinating a CSJ for the project. TxDOT is working to acquire PS&E consultant. TxDOT is working with ROW to determine what parcels would need to be acquired for the project.

County road and bridge updates

Arvin Hill Road Project US 377 to Red Mesa – Red Mesa to New Hope construction completed. New Hope to US 377 scheduled

completion September 2020.

U.S. 377/Stewart/Arvin Hill Intersection Improvements – Preconstruction meeting held. Notice to Proceed in July 2020 and scheduled completion in November 2020.

Rockhill Road/Arvin Hill Road Project Red Mesa to UP RR – Revisions to 100% plans for USACE comments underway. Utility relocation coordination ongoing.

Sam Bass Road Project - FM 455 North of Nance Road – Construction started. Estimated completion November 2020.

Pecan Valley Road Culvert Replacement – Construction started. Estimated completion May 2020.

Hackberry Creek Park Road Project – Construction request and mitigation plan submitted to USACE.

Lois Road West Culvert Replacement – Survey and Engineering study ongoing.

Rector Road West Culvert – Construction completed and road now open.

Hickory Creek Road Street Lights – Oncor has completed installation of street lights. Project completed.

Indian Trail Improvements – Engineering underway. Estimate 100% plans and bid package October 2020.

Mayhill Road – As of May 12, 2020, new lanes are opened to traffic. Punch-list items continue to be addressed for water, sanitary sewer, streets, and drainage. Sodding, striping, and minor work continues. Project will be moving forward with 4-lane bridge with option to widen to 6-lane, similar to roadway.

Funding has allowed for sidewalks and completion of trail and signal at Colorado and Mayhill.

Dallas North Tollway, Extension 4B – Consultant completed the 100% plans and submitted to NTTA. NTTA is making minor revisions to plans. Board will not act on advertising project for construction until ROW has been acquired.

Lake Sharon Extension – Bonds are being obtained, and construction contract finalized. Corinth City Council will take action on May 21, 2020.

Sam Bass Road – From FM 455 to approximately 500 feet north of Nance Road, this estimated \$3.5 million project will be rebuilt as a two-lane rural road and realign the intersection with FM 455. Utility coordination efforts are ongoing. Construction is underway. Current activities include headwall construction. Asphalt removal scheduled for next month.

Shady Shores Road – An estimated \$10 million in STBG funds have been allocated for this project. TxDOT has drafted a funding agreement. Consultant submitted scope for review. ITS has reviewed and provided feedback.

Denton County Precinct One Commissioner Hugh Coleman can be reached at (940) 349-2810. The main office is located at 1175 Union Hill Road in Sanger. He is also available by appointment only at the Steven E. Copeland Government Center at 1400 FM 424, Suite 139 in Cross Roads or the Denton County Courthouse-on-the-Square at 110 W. Hickory St., Suite 323 in Denton.

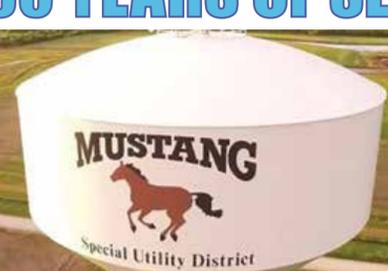


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469.708.7654
www.trilogy.church

Cowboy Country Chapel
603 Morrison
Pilot Point, TX 76258

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www.bahai.org and www.bahai.us

Baptist
Antioch Baptist Church
Hwy 428 & Hwy 2931
Aubrey, Texas 76227

Bethel Baptist Church
210 E. Main Street
Pilot Point, Texas 76258
903-429-3661

Calvary Baptist Church
Corner of 125 N. Jefferson & Walcott St., Pilot Point
www.calvarypilotpoint.com

Cowboy Church of Cooper Creek
3000 Rock Hill Rd.
Aubrey, TX 76227
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http://www.cowboychurchofcoopercreek.org/

Cross Fellowship Church
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1101 Cotton Exchange Dr
Aubrey, TX 76227
www.crossfellowship380.com

CrossRidge Church
1701 Walker Lane
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First Baptist of Krugerville
Hwy. 377 South, Krugerville
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www.livingwordbaptist.net

Midway Baptist Church
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940-365-9312
www.midwaychurch.org

Mustang Baptist Church
Corner of I-385 & Mustang Rd. in Aubrey
New Hope Baptist Church
Highway 377, South, Aubrey
www.newhopeaubrey.com

Prestonwood Baptist Church
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972-798-6700

Providence Village Church
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www.providencevillagechurch.com

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www.rheasmill.org

Catholic
St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church
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469-287-7624
www.saintmartindp.org

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First Christian Church of Denton
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www.graceprosper.org

Church of Christ
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504 Carlisle Dr.
Lake Dallas, TX 75065
940-497-5510

Rock Hill Church of Christ
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Frisco, Texas
972-347-1919

Episcopal
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972-347-9700
www.stpaulsprosper.org

Lutheran
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113 West Plum, Aubrey
www.aubreyfumc.com

Bethel Methodist Church of Denton County
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www.betheldenton.com

Button Memorial United Methodist Church
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www.bmumc.org, 972-292-1465

Cross Way United Methodist
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www.crosswayumc.org

First United Methodist Church
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Pilot Point, TX 76258
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Harvest Bible Fellowship, CMC
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church.netministries.org/ch30630

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Pilot Point, Texas
760-518-6132

Circle of Love Fellowship Church
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972-816-6445

City of Transformation Church
Lakeside Manor Theater
902 W. Eldorado Pkwy, Little Elm, TX 75068
469-247-1863
www.cityoftransformation.org

Covenant Church
Cross Roads Campus
8690 Liberty Road
Cross Roads, TX 76227
940-365-1395
www.covenantcrossroads.org

Covenant Word Ministries Church
1501 Bluebird Dr.
(Paloma Creek South Clubhouse)
Little Elm, TX 75068
www.covenantwordministrieschurch.org

Faith Assembly Church
700 N. Harmon Road, Aubrey, TX 76227
(940) 365-9360
aubreyfaithassembly.weebly.com

Gateway Church
7125 Legacy Drive
Frisco, 75034
Frs.GatewayPeople.com
469.238.1000

Grace Village Community Church
5325-B Highway 377
Krugerville, TX 76227
www.gracevillagechurch.org

Lighthouse Christian Fellowship
4331 E. Prosper Tr.
Prosper, TX 75078
972-662-2500
www.lighthousecnfx.com

New Leaf Church
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3100 Woodlake Pkwy, Little Elm
www.newleafnow.org
972 325-8939

North Texas Trinity Cowboy Church
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www.northtexascowboy.org

The Summit Church
910 S Hwy 377, Aubrey, TX 76227
www.oursummitchurch.com
940-453-4152

Relate Church
1400 FM 424
Cross Roads, TX. 76227
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Restoration Cowboy Church
910 South Hwy 377
Aubrey, Texas 76227
Restorationcowboychurch.org
940-343-5377

Ridin' for the Brand Cowboy Church
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Sanger, Texas 76266
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'Denton ISD...' continued from front page




Teacher of the Year is Megan Trammell, art teacher at Stephens Elementary.

Mrs. Trammell has served as the art teacher for the past ten years at Stephens Elementary School. For ten consecutive years, one of her students has been selected to exhibit his/her artwork at the state capitol during Texas Art Educators Youth Art Month. One of the many community service projects she facilitates includes clay bowls that are created by her students and auctioned to support the Denton Community Food Center and Our Daily Bread. As an artist, Ms. Trammell has painted murals in several common spaces on campus to beautify the Stephens Elementary campus.

This year's Secondary Teacher of the Year is Chris Long, math teacher at Calhoun Middle School.

Mr. Long is completing his eighth year as an educator in our district and all of those have been teaching math at Calhoun Middle School. His passion for developing personal connections with his students has been the foundation for his teaching success. And, his volunteer work through the Calhoun GOAL program has helped him relate to more students on multiple levels.

'Ag Exemptions...' continued from front page

another key word. A property cannot have ten cows on it that never produce any offspring. They are not producing a commodity. If the cows get bred each year and the landowner sales the offspring, they are producing something.

Another area of emphasis is that land must be devoted to agricultural production for five out of seven years. This is really important if you are purchasing a property and are curious about an Ag exemption. Try to get records from the previous landowner or reach out to the CAD to make sure your Ag exemption will transfer. If you are purchasing a property that never had an exemption on it you have to have that land in production for at least five years before you can get an exemption on

the property. A lot of you right now might be thinking, there is no way I am going to start raising cows, or baling hay or whatever practice you have in mind. There is some good news on that front, you can lease the property to someone that is already involved in agriculture. The guidelines say that "the land" must be devoted to agriculture. It does not say that you the landowner must be. If you would like to be an agriculture producer like I am, by all means get after it, but I'm letting you know there are other options.

You must apply for Ag use between January 1 and April 30 of current year, there are forms on the CAD website. They do have a late filing period listed that comes with a fee but you would have to

check with them to see when that date is. It varies by when their appraisal review board meets. Denton County is a good county in which to pursue an Ag exemption. There is no minimum acreage except for beekeeping practices. In one of my previous counties you had to have 14.5 acres to qualify. Another helpful guideline in this county is horse production. In many counties this is not included. With that being said there are some sticking points, horse production must, again, mean producing something. If you have to geldings out eating grass, that doesn't count. You must have females that produce offspring to be sold. The same qualifiers apply to facilities. A horse racetrack would not count as an agriculture production, but a barn with stalls for foaling, and small pens for breeding would count. Ag production is a necessary practice for society to feed everyone. It is hard work, and not everyone wants to do it that's why the benefit of exemptions are given. It can be a great way to teach a family about the production process, or just help a landowner get out of the office and get active. If you are curious about guidelines or the application you can find it under "exemptions" on the CAD website. While you're filling it out and trying to decide what you want to do, feel free to call my office and we can review your options.

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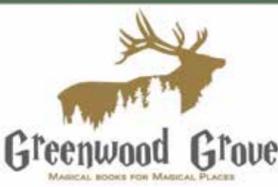
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2020 is here! Another year, a new decade is before us, we can only Thank God, for His Watch-care, His Protection, and His Love for us all! Feel free to join us for worship, on Saturdays, at 10:00am for small groups, or 11:10am for worship!

From our DFSDA family,
we wish you all a Blessed 2020!

Let's get ready, Jesus is coming soon!

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