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## Commissioners Oppose Air Quality Standard Permit Request



**DENTON COUNTY, TX-** Denton County Commissioners unanimously approved a resolution Tuesday in opposition of a permit request to authorize a permanent concrete crusher at 5120 E. University Drive.

The permit, submitted to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), also requests a screener, two diesel engines and stockpiling areas at the location. Old shingles and tires were

previously dumped at the location, which is in close proximity to a major public drinking water source. The county has received ongoing complaints about illegal dumping on the site, including in March 2019 when state inspectors found approximately 36,500 cubic yards of asphalt shingles on the property.

"This location is not suitable for the proposed use because of its proximity to Lewisville Lake," said Precinct 1 Commissioner Hugh Coleman. "In addition, concrete crushing is known to produce silica dust and particulate matter that can pose health risks for individuals

*Continued on A2*

## Southbound Lanes in Prosper Opened



**PROSPER, TX-** Commuters traveling north and south along the North Dallas Parkway north of US 380 will no longer have to share the access road on the east side of the planned extension of the North Dallas Tollway. The southbound access road, on the west side of the planned Tollway extension from FM 428 to US 380, is now open for traffic. Collin County Commis-

sioner Susan Fletcher (holding scissors) was joined by Prosper Mayor Ray Smith (holding the ribbon on the commissioner's right side) and Celina Mayor Sean Terry (holding the ribbon on the commissioner's left side) along with Prosper Town Manager Harlan Jefferson (holding the ribbon on the far left) and Celina City Manager Jason Laumer (holding the ribbon on the far right). Officials from both

communities, the North Texas Tollway Authority, Half & Associates, and Mario Sinicola and Sons joined in the opening. The two-lane concrete paved road carrying southbound traffic replaces the shared lane on the east side, which will now only carry northbound traffic. Prosper Police are assisting drivers as they navigate the new lanes and will remain in place for as long as necessary.

## Leigh Hilton Elected as a Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation



**DENTON, TX -** Leigh Hilton, PLLC is pleased to announce Leigh Hilton

has been elected to membership in the Fellows of the Texas Bar Foundation ("Foundation"). Fellows of the Foundation are selected for their outstanding professional achievements and their demonstrated commitment to the improvement of the justice system throughout the state of Texas. Election is a mark of distinction and recognition of contributions to the legal profession.

This is an honor reserved for the top one-third of one percent of attorneys in Texas. The Foundation is the largest charitably funded bar foundation in the country. Founded in 1965 by lawyers determined to assist the public and improve the profession of law, the Foundation has maintained its mission of using the financial contributions of its membership to build

*Continued on A5*

## TCAP Works to Prevent Canine Influenza Outbreaks in the North Texas Area

Human Flu season has arrived, but canine influenza never left, Photo Credit: Nivi ©



**DENTON, TX —** The human flu season is in full swing, and as everyone scurries to get his or her flu vaccine, there is one family member you should not forget—the dog.

Canine Influenza (H3N8 and H3N2) is highly contagious and, as a dog parent, it is always important to be prepared to face any risks to your dog's health. Unlike the human flu, canine influenza is not more prevalent from one season to the next, and dogs are faced with this threat all year. While most cases of Canine Influenza are not fatal, this virus can make your pup uncomfortably sick, causing your pup — and you — a lot of stress. Not to mention time and money spent at the vet's office.

"It can be severe if contracted, and your pet may need hospitalization with supportive care," said TCAP contracted wellness veterinarian Suzie Smith, DVM. "It's similar to kennel cough as far as contraction — coughing, sneezing, and nose to nose contact — but the symptoms of canine influenza are worse."

You don't need to panic about the dog flu, but pet owners should familiarize yourself with the symptoms, and use best practices to keep your pet from getting sick.

Keep an eye out for the following symptoms year-round:

- Coughing (both moist and dry)
- Sneezing
- Nasal discharge
- Purulent nasal discharge
- Runny eyes
- Fever
- Lethargy
- Difficulty breathing

Most cases of dog flu are mild, but severe cases do occur.

*Continued on A3*

## Texas HHS Expands Child Care Search Site to Help Families Find Quality Care

**AUSTIN, TX —** Texas Health and Human Services is expanding its child care search website to provide families additional information about child care providers in Texas. Now TXChildCareSearch.org lists five years of a regulated child care facility's compliance history. Previously the site only displayed information for the prior three years.

"We are so pleased to be able to provide more extensive information on how well a child care operation is meeting state health and safety standards," said David Kostroun, HHS deputy executive commissioner for Regulatory Services. "Parents and others will now have a more complete picture as they make the critically important decision about where a child receives care."

The child care search website, TXChildCareSearch.org, includes detailed information about regulated child care operations in Texas and shows the number of inspections an operation has

received and when, how many deficiencies have been found at the operation, and any actions taken to correct the deficiencies. Parents can also review specific services offered by the child care operations.

Last year, lawmakers and Gov. Greg Abbott approved several child care reform bills to increase transparency and safety for child care operations throughout the state. The expansion of TXChildCareSearch.org aligns with those goals.

"I am thrilled to see that the child care safety reforms that the Legislature enacted during the last legislative session are coming to fruition," said Sen. Joan Huffman. "Ensuring that parents and guardians have pertinent information about licensed child care facilities enables them to make informed decisions when choosing caretakers for their children."

*Continued on A4*

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**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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## Tips for Safety on Winter Roads



It's that time of year again when we all need a refresher course in our winter driving skills and need to make sure we have our vehicles adequately insured. Vehicular accidents are the leading cause of death during winter storms. Preparing yourself and your vehicle for winter weather are the keys to safe winter driving. Being in a wreck is never a good situation, but not having enough insurance coverage when it happens makes a bad situation even worse. Hopefully the following winter driving tips will help prevent you from getting into an accident once the wintery roads are upon us. Be sure to stop by or give Jeff Clarke Insurance Agency a call to make sure your current insurance has you adequately protected.

**Winter Driving Tips**

- Drive slowly. It's harder to control or stop your vehicle on a slick or snow-covered surface when you're travelling fast.
- Allow at least three times more space than usual between you and the car in front of you.
- Brake gently to avoid skidding. If you have antilock brakes, apply firm, continuous pressure. If not, pump the brakes gently.
- Don't use cruise control or overdrive on icy roads.
- Be especially careful on bridges and overpasses, which will freeze before road surfaces.
- Don't pass sanding trucks. The road in front of them is likely worse than the road behind.
- Don't be overconfident if you have a four-wheel drive vehicle. Even they can encounter trouble on snow or ice-covered roads.
- Black ice commonly occurs when light rain falls on a road that's cooler than 32 degrees or when roads are wet and the temp plummets. Bridges and overpasses are especially susceptible to black ice. If you do hit a patch of black ice, don't panic or hit the brakes, if possible, gently steer in the same direction as you are sliding.
- If your rear wheels skid, take your foot off the accelerator and steer in the direction you want the front wheels to go. If your rear wheels are sliding left, steer left. If they're sliding right, steer right. You might have to steer left

and right a few times to get your vehicle completely under control.

- Stay home. If you really don't have to go out, don't. Even if you can drive well in the snow, not everyone else can. Don't tempt fate: If you don't have somewhere you have to be, watch the snow from indoors.

**Prepare Your Vehicle**  
Visit your mechanic for a tune-up and other routine maintenance prior to the onset of winter weather. Be sure the following items are checked:

- Battery and charging system
- Cooling system and defrosters (front and rear)
- All hoses and belts
- Wipers and windshield washer fluid (keep extra washer fluid in the vehicle)
- Keep a windshield scraper and a small broom for ice and snow removal in your vehicle. Take time to completely remove snow and ice from all of the vehicle's windows and lights before driving; it's the law in many states.

**Winter Vehicle Survival Kit**  
In case you become stranded in severe winter weather, keep the following essential items in your vehicle:

- Cell phone with charger
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Booster cables and warning markers or flares
- Several blankets, extra gloves and a wool cap
- Small shovel and sand or cat litter for traction
- Brightly colored cloth to use as a flag

*We at Jeff Clarke Insurance Agency love meeting new people, so stop by or call our office today to say hi and see if there is anything we can do to help you with your insurance needs! Jeff Clarke Insurance Agency is located at 202 S Coleman St, Suite 200, Prosper, Texas, 75078, 469-525-7407, one block South of the Prosper Post Office on the West side of Coleman Street. We are open Mon-Fri from 8:30am to 6:00pm and also available after hours by appointment*

*Jeff Clarke Farmers Insurance Agency, www.farmersagent.com/jclarke21, https://www.facebook.com/jeffclarkefarmersinsurance, 202 S. Coleman Street, Ste. 200 Prosper, Texas 75078, 469-525-7407*

*For Additional Information, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration: www.nhtsa.gov, Federal Emergency Management Agency: www.fema.gov, Car Talk: www.cartalk.com, National Safety Council: www.nsc.org, American Red Cross: www.redcross.org*



**World Famous Moms located at 204 South Main Street in Aubrey was acknowledged for their dedication to the 380 Corridor. They were awarded 2019 Business of the Year by the Aubrey 380 Area Chamber of Commerce at the COC's January luncheon.**



**Rock Hill Counseling located at 4344 Rock Hill Road in Aubrey celebrated their new location opening with a ribbon cutting with Aubrey 380 Area Chamber of Commerce.**

## Commissioners Approve Bid for Rector Road Bridge Project



**DENTON COUNTY, TX**-Denton County Commissioners on Tuesday voted unanimously to approve a \$249,244 bid on the Rector Road Bridge Replacement Project to GRod Construction, LLC.

The approval continues

the process for the eventual reconstruction of the bridge on West Rector Road that has been closed for five months. Execution of a contract is the next step before final Commissioners Court approval. A preconstruction meeting is then held and work begins

on preparing and gathering construction materials.

Construction is slated to be underway in March.

"We understand the inconvenience of having this road closed for several months, but it is a process all government entities must follow to earmark funds, obtain bids, execute contracts as well as obtain official approval before work can begin," said Precinct One Commissioner Hugh Coleman.

"We look forward to beginning reconstruction of the bridge soon and want to thank our Precinct One residents for their patience and understanding."

The road, traveled by an estimated 1,000 vehicles daily, was closed on July 31, 2019, due to unrepairable deck failure.

## Prosper Residents Hear From the Top



Prosper Mayor Ray Smith (left) and Prosper ISD Superintendent Drew Watkins, EdD.

**PROSPER, TX** – Prosper Mayor Ray Smith and Prosper ISD Superintendent Drew Watkins, EdD, provided residents a comprehensive report on the growing community's overall health at the State of the Community

presentation on Jan. 16. Over 200 Town residents, Prosper ISD families, Prosper Chamber of Commerce members, and other stakeholders attended the event at Prosper ISD's Children's Health Stadium. The informational presentations included details on the Town's exceptional growth, and how both entities are dealing with Prosper's exciting future. The Prosper High School Culinary Arts Department catered the event, and donations to the Prosper Education Foundation were encouraged. The event was co-hosted by the Town of Prosper, Prosper ISD, and the Prosper Chamber of Commerce.

*'Commissioners Oppose...' continued from front page*

exposed to it for extended periods of time."

Coleman also expressed concerns about increased noise and traffic congestion that could negatively affect residents and the driving public along the busy U.S. 380 corridor.

"The Commissioners Court's opposition to the

permit demonstrates our collective concerns about the health and welfare of all Denton County residents," said Denton County Judge Andy Eads.

The resolution will be filed with TCEQ to show the county's opposition to and request for denial of the air quality standard permit request.

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# HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

## Texas HHS Receives Grant to Improve Nutrition for Older Texans

*State's Congregate Meal Program to Help More Seniors*

AUSTIN, TX – Texas Health and Human Services will use a three-year, \$750,000 grant to increase participation in the congregate meal program, which provides nutritious meals in a community setting to people age 60 and older.

"Having a place to go to share a meal and good company reduces hunger and food insecurity, and is important to maintaining good health," said Wayne Salter, deputy executive commissioner for HHS Access and Eligibility Services. "Serving meals in a group setting is more than just nourishment for the body; it nourishes the soul for those who participate."

While Texas' aging population continues to grow, participation in the congregate meal program is declining. Established through the

Older Americans Act of 1965, the program provides a wholesome meal in a community setting where people can socialize and participate in activities offered at the site, such as board games. The program includes nutrition education classes, chronic disease prevention classes, and other activities.

The grant will fund modernization of Texas' congregate meal program through the creation of the Texas Congregate Meal Initiative. As part of the initiative, HHS will partner with Texas A&M University to conduct research to identify causes for the decline in program participation.

The Texas Congregate Meal Initiative will also provide training and project development practices, inspire innovation, increase participation in local congregate meal

programs, and improve satisfaction, health, and well-being among the senior population in Texas.

"This is great news for our senior citizens," said Rep. James White. "We stand on the broad shoulders of these great Texans and I am elated that HHSC will provide our local communities with more resources to serve our seniors."

According to the US Census Bureau, between 2005 and 2017 the population of individuals age 60 and older has increased by 65 percent in Texas while the number of meals served through this program has decreased by nearly 25 percent. Participation in congregate meal programs has declined nationwide as well.

"We are especially pleased to be partnering with the Mays Business

School, Texas Health and Human Services, and the Area Agencies on Aging on a project with the potential for improving the quality of life for aging populations throughout Texas," said Nandita Chaudhuri, research scientist at the Public Policy Research Institute at Texas A&M University. "This type of project fits perfectly within the mission of the Public Policy Research Institute. The results have the potential to reduce social isolation among aging populations by connecting seniors to other members of their community through congregate meals."

As a part of this initiative, HHS will utilize Texas' 28 Area Agencies on Aging and their congregate meal providers to gather comprehensive statewide data. Area Agencies on

Aging provide supportive services to people age 60 and older, their family members, and caregivers across the state's 254 counties. These services give individuals the resources to maintain healthy and independent lives in their communities.

Seniors interested in participating in the congregate meal program can call 2-1-1 for the nearest location.

For more information about HHS programs and services, visit [hhs.texas.gov](http://hhs.texas.gov).

*'TCAP Works to Prevent...' continued from front page*

cur. In those instances, dogs develop pneumonia, difficulty breathing, and a high fever. Luckily, the mortality rate is relatively low, with less than 10 percent of dog flu cases resulting in fatalities.

Like the human flu, Canine Influenza spreads through respiratory excretions like coughing, barking and sneezing. The virus is airborne, and easily spread from one infected host to the next.

The virus can also spread through contaminated objects like toys, kennels, and water bowls. The virus is also similar to its human counterparts in

that dogs are most contagious during the incubation period—two to four days from initial exposure—before symptoms are even shown.

"The vaccine is ideal for pets who spend time in boarding facilities, grooming salons, and dog parks," Smith said. "Since it is a viral infection, our only defense is restricting contact with infected pets, and ensuring pets are up to date on vaccines."

Crowded areas like boarding facilities, grooming parlors, and dog parks are breeding grounds for diseases like H3N8 and H3N2. Preventing

your pet from getting canine influenza is a pet owner's best bet in ensuring their pet stays happy and healthy. TCAP offers the canine influenza vaccine at all of our walk-in vaccine events for \$20. Pets getting their first canine influenza vaccine will need to have the vaccine boosted two to four weeks after the initial vaccine, but afterwards it only needs boosting annually. The canine influenza vaccine is recommended for healthy dogs seven weeks or older.

"Part of our mission is to improve community animal welfare," said TCAP Execu-

tive Director Stacey Schumacher. "Ensuring pet owners have access to vaccines at a more affordable cost, is one of the ways we accomplish this."

Find out more information about what vaccinations your pets needs at: <https://texasforthem.org/services/vaccinations/dog-vaccinations/>

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.



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# HOME & GARDEN

## Greater Aubrey Area Gardening Series

Liz Moyer

AUBREY, TX - Join the Denton County Master Gardener Association at the Greater Aubrey Area Gardening Series to get your landscape off to a good start, and learn new skills! This year's line-up includes:

- February 20 - Texas Plants
- March 19 - Texas Trees
- August 20 - Waterwise Gardening

- September 17 - Roses
- October 15 - Pots in Small Spots: Container Gardening

Each presentation is at 6:00-7:00pm at the Aubrey Area Library, 226 Countryside Drive, Aubrey. Registration is requested via email to kab@KeepAubreyBeautiful.org or by phone at 940-343-1313.

## FyreSyde Publishing in the Business of Finding Books Readers

Photo By Perry Toome

PILOT POINT, TX - As with many businesses, Greenwood Grove Booksellers grew out of an unanswered need. Residing in a town as small as Pilot Point, owners of FyreSyde Publishing, John and Blaise Senkel identified that necessity.

Due to the demands of owning a building, they sought to begin their business venture online utilizing popular social media venues and an established following in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. They attend multiple conventions a year, extending their reach beyond state borders to reach readers outside of Texas.

Being an Indie author, Blaise wanted to take the dream further and combined the call for a bookstore with an understanding of a dire cry in the Independent Publishing industry. A booming enterprise, Indie publishers often face similar problems when trying to get their books in large book chains and retail stores. This cuts them off from a large pool of potential buyers and longtime fans. Greenwood became a bookstore to cater to these authors by giving

their books homes. The store has worked with numerous local authors to buy and sell their books. Those located outside the state of Texas are offered consignment sales options. Our policy is, it's not our job to judge an author's story. It's our job to find them readers. "We are by Indie authors, for Indie authors" is their mission statement.

Like its fellows, Greenwood Grove has its best-seller lists which can often help authors get noticed and potentially bought by other stores. Best-sellers have the opportunity to have their stock purchased on a regular basis. But this isn't the end of the store's list of services. Life can get busy with many demands like work, school, and household responsibilities. Greenwood knew this and offers those clients its popular book tracking service. Sources used in this service offer the lowest priced books for clients from modern titles to harder to find and rare books.

Speaking of rare books, Greenwood works with local independent bookstores to find first edition, signed and hard to find books which are also sold on its shelves. If you're an independent author, Greenwood wants to speak with you. Get in touch with them on Facebook @GreenwoodGrovebooksellers or via email at greenwoodgrovebooks@yahoo.com.

## Make Your Heart Go Pitter-Patter with Double D

from Pilot Point Feed  
Jodie Linton-Prickett



and a wide variety of other apparel available in all price ranges you can't go wrong. Don't be surprised when you also find beautiful chandeliers, furnishing and idiosyncratic jewelry, along with a long list of other items.

If you are not familiar with Double D it is a collision of Boho and ranch-wear. Super feminine with an authentic cultural undertone. It is a style that makes you want to know more about the person wearing it. When you see the apparel you know it is distinctive and creative. It is a must have in any Texas girls wardrobe!

Besides super exciting fashion, Pilot Point Feed also offers a lovely assortment of impeccable gifts for any occasion. Who wouldn't enjoy something beautifully wrapped that has been thoughtfully selected by a loved one. The quality of items available at Pilot Point Feed will emphasize your flawless taste.

Oh, while you're there you can pick up something for your four legged family member as well! It is Pilot Point Feed after all.

Drop in and meet the friendly team that will make sure you have an excellent shopping experience. They are located at 1156 North Highway 377 in Pilot Point.



**Nancy Cates Bakery Shop, located in Historic Downtown Aubrey on Main Street celebrated a ribbon cutting with Aubrey 380 Area Chamber of Commerce.**



**Brad Kiesling Farmers Insurance Agency located at Navo and Highway 380 celebrated with a ribbon cutting hosted by Aubrey 380 Area Chamber of Commerce.**



**Cooks Children's Hospital on Highway 380 celebrated their grand opening with a ribbon cutting hosted by the Aubrey 380 Area Chamber of Commerce.**



**State Representative Jared Patterson celebrated a ribbon cutting with the Aubrey 380 Area Chamber of Commerce.**

*"Texas HHS..." continued from front page*

There is no greater priority for parents and guardians than protecting the safety and welfare of their children, and I am hopeful that they will utilize this valuable resource."

HHS urges parents and guardians to use the searchable website to learn more about child care providers in their area. After caregivers narrow down a list of potential operations, they should tour each one while children are in care. This will give parents and

guardians a chance to speak with the director and caregivers and ask questions.

"Over one million families sent their kids to child care centers or homes this year, faced with the daunting task of determining whether their kids will be safe, nurtured, and positively engaged in an enriching educational environment," said David Feigen, early childhood policy associate for the children's advocacy group Texans Care

for Children. "Because of TXChildCareSearch.org, families are able to see which providers in their region are licensed and assess whether the facilities they are considering meet minimum safety requirements."

HHS works to protect the health, safety and well-being of children in care. The agency's Child Care Licensing team regulates and regularly inspects and investigates child care operations throughout

Texas to ensure compliance with state laws, rules and standards. When there are deficiencies, HHS takes enforcement actions as necessary.

Parents are highly encouraged to only use regulated child care providers. Unregulated providers are not inspected to make sure they are properly caring for children and keeping them safe. You can view a list of regulated child care operations on TXChildCareSearch.org.



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# EDUCATION

## Rachel Black Named to All-State Band

Amy Ruggini



ethic," AHS director of bands Jason Noyes said.

Rachel was among four AHS band members that competed at the Association of Texas Small School Bands Area North tryouts at Argyle High. Rachel, Erin Lim, Megan Wright, Aaron Cajilema and Ashlynn Reynolds advanced out of the regional competition in December.

Rachel earned first chair on alto sax.

Rachel will perform with the all-state band at the TMEA Convention in San Antonio on February 12-15.

**AUBREY ISD, TX-** For the third straight year, Aubrey High School senior Rachel Black was named to the all-state band.

"We are all extremely proud of her dedication and work

## Aubrey ISD's Golf Ball Drop

Amy Ruggini



**AUBREY ISD, TX-** The Aubrey Education Foundation will be hosting a Golf Ball Drop fundraiser on Saturday, March 28, 2020 at the Aubrey Festival Grounds. The grand prize winner has a chance to win a \$10,000 prize.

First, second and third place prizes will also be awarded. Proceeds will benefit Aubrey Independent School District's students and teachers. Numbered golf balls can be purchased for \$10 each or in bundles.

The numbered golf balls will be dropped out of a Co-Serv bucket truck at 4:30 p.m. on the 28th. The ball closest to the Aubrey ISD flag is the winner. The winner will receive an envelope with a number inside. If the number matches the number on the winning ball, that person will receive the \$10,000 grand prize in addition to the first place prize.

The first place winner receives a \$1250 gift card plus a \$1250 grant will be awarded to the Aubrey ISD teacher of the winner's choice. The second place winner will receive a \$500 gift card plus a \$500 grant to the teacher of the winner's choice. The third place winner will receive a \$250 gift card and a \$250 grant goes to the teacher of the winner's choice.

The ball drop is at 4:30 p.m. and everyone is invited to stay for food and entertainment starting at 5:00 p.m. The Aubrey Jazz Band will be performing along with other bands.

AEF is a public 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation dedicated to supporting excellence in education for Aubrey ISD students and teachers. The mission of AEF is to enhance the quality of education and educational opportunities for Aubrey ISD students by raising and providing extra-budgetary financial resources through teacher grants and student scholarships.

For more information and to buy tickets, please visit [aubreycyf.org](http://aubreycyf.org).

*'Leigh Hilton...' continued from front page*

a strong justice system for all Texans. To date, the Foundation has distributed more than \$20 million throughout Texas to assist nonprofit organizations with a wide range of justice-related programs and services. For more information, visit [www.txbf.org](http://www.txbf.org).

Leigh Hilton is an estate planning attorney in Denton, Texas. She has authored three books "Who Gets Your Stuff When You Die?" and two books on Alzheimer's Disease "You're Not Alone: Living with Alzheimer's Disease" and "You're Not Alone: Living as an Alzheimer's Caregiver". Leigh Hilton, PLLC has offices in Denton, Aubrey and Bartonville, Texas. For more information go to [www.dentonestateplanninglawyer.com](http://www.dentonestateplanninglawyer.com)

## Liz Raftery Named Director of Child Nutrition at Denton ISD



with a food service company managing nutrition services for the King County Community College system. She also worked in Tumwater ISD, serving more than 6,000 students, in a 12-campus school system that encompasses more than 117 square miles.

Mrs. Raftery spent 11 years in child nutrition in Connecticut working for Brookfield ISD, a public-school system with four campuses. In 2014 after moving to Texas, she began her tenure in Denton ISD as the district's Nutrition Coordinator, before transitioning into the Assistant Director of Operations in 2018.

Mrs. Raftery earned her bachelor's degree in Dietetics from The University of Kentucky. She holds certifications in dietetics, nutrition and physical fitness from the National Academy of Sports Nutrition.

Mrs. Raftery's son, Austin, recently graduated from the University of Texas and her daughter, Abby, attends the University of Oklahoma. Her husband serves as a General Manager with Turner Construction.

**DENTON ISD, TX-** Elizabeth "Liz" Raftery has been named Director of Child Nutrition for the Denton ISD. She supports Chris Bomberger who now serves as the district's Executive Director of Child Nutrition, Risk Management and Benefits.

"Leading the Child Nutrition department in continual improvement and customer satisfaction is a tremendous opportunity. I look forward to sharing my passion for promoting the health and wellness of the students in Denton ISD," said Mrs. Raftery. "I am thrilled to continue supporting the growth and innovation in the District."

Mrs. Raftery has more than 20 years of experience in nutrition services. Her career began in Seattle, WA



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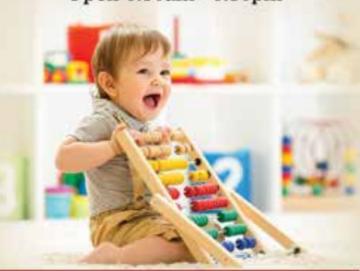
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# COMMUNITY

## More Texas Children and Youth to Receive Mental Health Services and Remain with Families

*State Funding More Residential Treatment Center Beds*

AUSTIN, TX – The Texas Health and Human Services Commission and Texas Department of Family and Protective Services are helping more children and youth receive mental health residential treatment services and remain in the custody of their parents or guardians through an increase in availability of residential treatment center beds.

“Supporting families and connecting children with intensive mental health services is at the heart of what this program is about,” said Trina Ita, HHSC associate commissioner of Behavioral Health Services. “This additional funding will expand access to mental health care for Texas youth and help keep families together.”

With an additional \$2.5 million from the 86th Texas Legislature and Governor Greg Abbott, HHSC is increasing the number of beds at residential treatment centers for children and youth with severe emotional disturbance. The increase brings the number available statewide to 50, up from 40.

“The investments we make in mental health services are critical to ensuring positive outcomes for Texas children,” said Sen. Jane Nelson. “As chair of Senate Finance, I am encouraged the Legislature’s \$2.5 million investment this session is helping more Texas

children access the mental health services they need to lead healthy lives.”

A collaboration between HHSC and DFPS, the Children’s Mental Health Residential Treatment Center Relinquishment Avoidance Project, helps parents maintain custody of their children in their effort to receive needed treatment services.

The project, established in 2013, is a successful alternative to parents legally relinquishing custody of their children to Child Protective Services. It provides care to children and youth with severe emotional disturbance who need intensive residential treatment services without placing them in foster care. This helps keep the child with their family due to the improvement of family relationships and ability of the caregiver to support and care for their child.

Increasing RTC bed availability is a key goal of the agency’s strategy to help people access behavioral health services, as outlined in HHS’ business plan, Blueprint for a Healthy Texas. HHS anticipates serving an additional 19 children and adolescents in FY 2020. The RTC Relinquishment Avoidance Project served 31 children and youth in FY 2019.

Children and youth receive room and board; intensive mental health services that include group, individ-

ual and family therapy; and educational and recreational activities. Meanwhile, parents or guardians receive family case management, family partner services and skills training from their local mental health authority.

“This is a terrific program, and will get these children, from very young to teenagers, the kind of help they need,” said Kristene Blackstone, associate commissioner for Child Protective Services at DFPS. “It also eliminates the stress on parents that comes with being involved with CPS and the courts. That worry is no longer there.”

The project not only helps families stay together but also reduces the need for DFPS to add more children and youth into the foster care system.

The Residential Treatment Center Relinquishment Avoidance Project has successfully provided children and youth the mental health services they need and reunited them with their families. In state fiscal year 2018, 96.8 percent of the children who received care under the project remained in the custody of their families. Since 2016, the state has served 170 children and youth.

For more information visit the RTC Relinquishment Avoidance Project page on the HHS website.

## A Vision that Came to Life

*Fitzel Winery in Gordonville, Krista Hartman*

GORDONVILLE, TX—The Fitzel Winery, the vision of Jeanette Fitzgerald, is now open at 125 Heritage Road in Gordonville, about five minutes from Lake Texoma less than an hour from the 380 Corridor. Come out and relax in their beautiful tasting room perched in a great spot for enjoying Texoma sunsets. They also have a permanent (gourmet) food truck, cozy cabins, honey bees, local artwork display, and of course, a vineyard. The Fitzel Winery brings to life a family friendly, family operated, easy going winery experience for all to enjoy.

When you visit, you’ll enjoy a picturesque winding drive from the main highway directly to the winery parking. Once inside, you will find the high ceilings of the tasting room complete with a gallery wall featuring local artists. You’ll likely be greeted by Vintner Jeanette or her mom, perhaps her son (and Chef) Mack – unless he’s in the Food Truck preparing something fabulous.

At Fitzel Winery you can stand or sit at the tasting bar to enjoy tastings, flights or simply hang out and chat. You can enjoy a variety of seating options depending upon how many are in your party, including a great outdoor space overlooking a small lake on the property. For the local families who visit, this is popular because there are lawn games like corn hole, horse shoes and giant Jenga.

Currently there are eight wines on the menu.

- White wines:*
- The Wildflower – sweeter blend
  - Star White – semi-dry
  - Sam’s White – white blend
  - Birds and the Bees – dry white
- Red wines:*
- Preston Bend Bandit – dolce red blend
  - Texas Tiki Torch – dry red blend
  - Gramp’s Red – dry red
  - Mike’s Red – dry red

There are three cabins located at the far north end of the property. Each one is outfitted with

kitchenette, full bath, queen sized bed, and loft for either kids or extra party crashers. These are ideal for an easy overnight in Texoma after a day of winery stops. And because of their position on the property a clear starry night sky is an added bonus here in North Texas.

It is exciting to visit the vision Jeanette brought to life in Gordonville. The wines, the food, the winery atmosphere and



entire property create a beautiful destination here in Texoma. Please go see for yourselves. You’ll soon learn “when Jeanette puts her mind to it...” it’s happening and the outcome is amazing! For more information please visit fitzelwinery.com.



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# SPIRITUAL

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 600 Liberty Blvd, Cross Roads, TX 76227  
 469.708.7654  
 www.trilogy.church  
**Cowboy Country Chapel**  
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**Baha'i Faith**  
**Baha'i Faith In Aubrey**  
 800-22-UNITE or 972-632-6904  
 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  
 972-841-3331  
 http://www.cowboychurchofcoopercreek.org/  
**Cross Fellowship Church**  
 Meets at Savannah Elementary  
 1101 Cotton Exchange Dr  
 Aubrey, TX 76227  
 www.crossfellowship380.com  
**CrossRidge Church**  
 1701 Walker Lane  
 (Across From Little Elm High School)  
 www.crossridgeonline.org  
 972-292-1953  
**First Rock Fellowship**  
 201 N. Cherry Street, Aubrey  
 www.firstrockfellowship.org

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 www.fbckrugerville.com  
**Green Valley Baptist Church**  
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**Living Word Baptist Church**  
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 (469) 362-9010  
 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**  
 1001 West Prosper Trail, Prosper, TX  
 972-796-6700  
**Providence Village Church**  
 Providence Elementary  
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 www.providencevillagechurch.com  
**Rhea's Mill Baptist Church**  
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**Catholic**  
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 www.saintmartindp.org  
**St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church**  
 925 N. Charcut St., Pilot Point, TX 76258  
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 www.stthomaspilotpoint.org  
**St. Sophia Ukrainian Catholic Church**  
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 The Colony, Texas 75056  
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 www.stsophiakrainian.cc

**Christian First Christian Church in Aubrey**  
 410 N. Main St.  
 rtaocsw.org/pages/minisite\_fc Aubrey\_home  
**Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
**First Christian Church**  
 410 N. Main St. in Aubrey  
**First Christian Church of Denton**  
 1203 Fulton Street  
 Denton, Texas 76210  
 www.fcddenton.org  
**Grace Christian Church**  
 Baker Elementary School  
 Prosper ISD (Heatherwood Subdivision)  
 www.graceprosper.org  
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**Aubrey Church of Christ**  
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**Lake Dallas Church of Christ**  
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 www.RejoiceLutheran.com  
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**Aubrey First United Methodist**  
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 www.aubreyfumc.com  
**Bethel Methodist Church of Denton County**  
 3126 FM 2931, Aubrey Texas  
 409-543-8444  
 www.betheldenton.com

**Button Memorial United Methodist Church**  
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 www.bmunmc.org, 972-292-1465  
**Cross Way United Methodist**  
 14632 Fishtrap Road, Aubrey, Texas 76227  
 www.crosswayumc.org  
**First United Methodist Church**  
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 (940) 686-2338  
**Harvest Bible Fellowship, CMC**  
 3121 FM 2931  
 church.netministries.org/ch30630  
**New Leaf Church at Children's Lighthouse**  
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 www.oakgroveunitedmethodist.org  
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 8801 Martop Road, Aubrey Texas 76227  
 www.churchofjesuschrist.org  
**Non-Denominational**  
**The Alabaster Box Ministries**  
 1728 Flamingo Dr., Little Elm, TX 75068  
 www.thealabasterboxministries.com  
 817-262-9640  
**Bold Cross Cowboy Church**  
 Sunday "Church in the Dirt"  
 3612 FM 1385, Aubrey, TX 76227  
**The Bridge Church**  
 4682 Fishtrap Road, Denton, TX, 76208.  
 findthebridge.com,(940)735-2080  
**Grace Point Nazarene Church**  
 611 East Liberty  
 Pilot Point, Texas  
 780-518-6132  
**Circle of Love Fellowship Church**  
 16611 FM 428 W., Celina, TX 75009  
 972-816-6445

**City of Transformation Church**  
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 www.northtexascowboy.org  
**The Summit Church**  
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 www.oursummitchurch.com  
 940-453-4152  
**Relate Church**  
 1400 FM 424  
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 www.irelatechurch.com

**Restoration Cowboy Church**  
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 Restorationcowboychurch.org  
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 www.ridinforthebrand.org  
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 rockcreektx.church  
 469-815-5353  
 2860 Fishtrap Rd, Prosper, TX 75078  
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 940-453-3953  
 www.savannahlifechurch.com  
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## Hope's Door New Beginning Center Names

Christina Coultas, MSSW, as new CEO



Board members with new CEO, from left to right: Curtis Howard, Rhonda Aicklen, Cindy Moseley, Christina Coultas, Valerie Englert, Gwen Berner, Jessica Salcito and Mark Sprunger // courtesy Hope's Door New Beginning Center

sexual violence. Most recently she served as Director of Training at the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault in Austin (2016 – 2019) and before that as Senior Director of Community Collaboration at The Family Place (2014 – 2016). Other past positions include two years as Regional Training Coordinator in the Family Violence Division of the Dallas County District Attorney's Office and two years as the Community Education & Public Relations Coordinator for New Beginning Center in Garland, one of two agencies that since merged to form Hope's Door New Beginning Center. She is also a Founding Board Member of the Dallas Area Rape Crisis Center.

(MSSW) at the University of Texas at Arlington and Bachelor of Social Work at the University of North Texas.

"Christina brings a broad range of experience in intimate partner and family violence and a deep commitment to help those affected by it," said Curtis Howard, president of the Board of Directors for Hope's Door New Beginning Center. "That makes her an ideal choice to lead Hope's Door New Beginning Center in the next decade. We look forward to working with her.

Coultas replaces Jim Malatich, who retired in late 2019 after serving in the nonprofit arena for more than 40 years, including four years at Hope's Door New Beginning Center.

Chick-fil-A celebrated their ribbon cutting and grand opening with Prosper Chamber of Commerce. Come visit the new location at Windsong and Highway 380 in front of Kroger.

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