

MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBER AND HONOR



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CLIFTON RECORD TRIBUNE

SERVING BOSQUE COUNTY SINCE 1894

Aim for vibrant future

Meridian EDC discusses new website, several grant requests

By Simone Wichers-Voss
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Economic development corporations are by law limited to how they can allocate their funds. While encouraging arrival of new businesses and supporting existing businesses is important, stimulating tourism and improving quality of life is a main focus for the Meridian EDC.

In new business, MEDC business development coordinator Brooke DeZavala showed a prototype website

created by Golden Shovel, titled “Positioned for Growth, built for what’s next.” Toting “a vibrant tomorrow,” the website states Meridian offers a welcoming, business-friendly climate with direct routes to Waco, Dallas-Fort Worth, Austin and Stephenville.

“Location, lifestyle and growth, Meridian blends small-town hospitality with outdoor recreation, historic districts and a thriving local culture,” the website states.

With tabs “About,” “Live + Work,” “Why Meridian?” “Grow Your

Business,” “News and Media,” and an events calendar, the website states the MEDC partners with entrepreneurs, existing business and visitors to grow the local economy, while preserving Meridian’s historic charm. The MEDC’s focus lies with small businesses, downtown retail, hospitality, tourism, health, family services and light manufacturing that fit Meridian’s character. They emphasize practical support, targeted incentives and

see MEDC, page 4



SIMONE WICHERS-VOSS | CLIFTON RECORD TRIBUNE
Representing the National Championship Barbecue Cookoff, Todd Clift requests marketing funding at the Meridian EDC meeting May 11.

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Forage focus

FARM & RANCH, Page 11

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AMERICANISMS



“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.”

— Benjamin Franklin

SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS



WENDY OROZCO | CLIFTON RECORD TRIBUNE

Clifton Lady Cub junior Brystel Wise clears a new school record five feet, six inches on her way to a silver medal at the Class 3A Track & Field State Meet in Austin last Friday.

Clifton’s Wise wins silver medal in Class 3A State Meet’s high jump, sets new school record

By E. Brett Voss
PUBLISHER

Competing on the most prestigious stage of her life, Clifton Lady Cub junior Brystel Wise delivered the pinnacle performance of a lifetime. And she’s not done yet.

By setting a new school record, Wise soared to a silver medal in high jump at the Class 3A Track & Field State Meet last Thursday at the Mike A Myers Track & Soccer Stadium on the campus of the University of Texas in Austin.

Breaking out of a pack of five elite athletes, Wise cleared five feet, six inches on her first attempt to establish a new school record. And in the process, Wise set up a head-to-head showdown for the gold medal with Corpus Christi London freshman Alana Williams, who cleared 5-6 on her third and final attempt.

But with the bar set at five feet, seven inches, Wise came up short on three tries while Williams cleared it on her second attempt to capture the state title.

“Brystel had an awesome day at high jump,” Clifton girls track and field head coach Ryan Hunt said. “You could tell by watching her that she was comfortable from the start. She’s one of those athletes that seems to be at her best at the biggest meets. She really put the pressure on the other competitors by clearing 5-6 on her first attempt.

“It was a really exciting competition, and we are extremely proud that she came away with a silver medal and new school record.”

Once the Lady Cubs entered the post-season comprised of three progressive qualifying rounds leading to the state meet, Wise continued to improve at each level by rising

see STATE, page 9



NATHAN DIEBENOW | CLIFTON RECORD TRIBUNE
Cyclists begin their journey on the 14th Annual Bosque Tour de Norway hosted by the Clifton Chamber of Commerce May 16.

Every ride, tiny holiday

Tour de Norway bicycle rally rebounds with strong turnout in Bosque County

By Nathan Diebenow
MANAGING EDITOR

Cyclists from almost every time zone in the United States rolled through the limestone hills and green pastures of Bosque County May 16 as the 14th Annual Bosque Tour de Norway returned for another successful year, continuing the cycling event’s rebound after difficult cancellations in 2023 and 2024.

Hosted by the Clifton Chamber of Commerce, the ride welcomed cyclists from across Texas and as far as California and Louisiana winding through Clifton, Cranfills Gap and Meridian. Riders wearing fluorescent green, orange and yellow cycling kits sailed beneath cloudy and muggy skies early in the morning before blue skies gradually opened thanks to light winds.

The annual ride serves as the second

see CYCLISTS, page 4

Strapped for cash

School districts grapple with expensive bus requirements

By Simone Wichers-Voss
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The amount of time students spend on a school bus – either on a home to school and back route or to one of the many extra-curricular activities that take them all over the region – is staggering.

To ensure the best possible safety, a state bill requires all school buses to have

see MANDATE, page 5



NATHAN DIEBENOW | CLIFTON RECORD TRIBUNE
Gideon Lovell performs Brahms’s “Waltz” at the 8th Annual Showcase of Young Musicians in the Frazier Performance Hall at the Bosque Arts Center May 12.

Rising Musical Stars

Young music students display talents, shine at 8th annual BCMA showcase at BAC

By Nathan Diebenow
MANAGING EDITOR

Through performances by home-school and public-school students alike, the Showcase for Young Musicians reflected a broader community belief that music and art belong to everyone regardless of age, background, education or skill level.

Young musicians from across Bosque County took center stage May 12, as families, teachers and

community supporters gathered at the Bosque Art Center’s Frazier Performance Hall for the eighth annual Showcase hosted by the Bosque Civic Music Association.

The evening attended by over 80 people celebrated more than musical skill alone.

In an era dominated by smartphones, social media and constant digital distractions, the show that

see SHOWCASE, page 5

COMMUNITY

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BREATHE IN HISTORY

Historic Norse Ringness House Museum's Spring Fling fundraiser draws loyal & new supporters last Saturday

By Bryan Davis
 CORRESPONDENT

A gentle breeze blew through the open windows and doors. The air was heavy following spring rains, but the mood was sweet as laughter and music greeted guests. On the eve of Norwegian Constitution Day, Syttende Mai, the historic Ringness House Museum opened its doors for the annual Spring Fling Saturday.

Delicious hors d'oeuvres, beer and wine, good music, wonderful fellowship, and even a little dancing helped create a festive mood for the fundraiser which draws both locals and first-time visitors to the house. The historic home is situated in the heart of the historical Norse district in Bosque County, just west of Clifton, "the Norwegian Capital of Texas."

Several visitors to the house commented it is one of their favorite places in Bosque County.

"Like stepping back in time," one was overheard to say.

Another couple said the Ringness House and the historic Rock Church are what drew them to purchase

property in the area.

And as visitors sit in one of the rooms, surrounded by the limestone walls, they get to breathe in history. One can't help but imagine the music, laughter and love this house has witnessed within its walls for more than 165 years.

At one point while guests were leaving, 96-year-old Billye Bagley stopped to meet the youngest visitor of the evening, three-week-old Oaklynn Aars, who lives just down the road with her parents, Thomas and Jaycee Aars. Tiny Oaklynn is the eighth-generation Norwegian of her family living in the area, which in 1854 saw the arrival of several immigrant couples which led to the largest Norwegian settlement west of the Mississippi. Among those first settlers were the Jens and Kari Ringness family.

Ringness house volunteers, called "Ringers," made sure the house and grounds were ready for the popular evening. Fresh flowers dotted the tables and windowsills, and favorite foods including authentic Norwegian recipes passed down by generations, such as cookies and salmon spread, were made

at home and brought to the house.

Outdoors tents in front of the house sheltered the guests, who enjoyed appetizers and drinks while listening to the sweet sounds of "South 31st Street," featuring Clifton cousins Jimmy and Steve Schmidt. Ryan Pederson, who serves as pastor of both Our Savior's Lutheran Church at Norse and St. Olaf's Lutheran Church at Cranfills Gap, took the hand of his wife, Lilia, and the two danced to the music.

"The Spring Fling is the museum's biggest fundraiser," Teresa Ringness said. "Over the past years it has been growing. We really appreciate the community for coming out and supporting us."

Teresa was very happy to see a lot of new and younger faces to the event, showing that the new generation is interested in learning about the Norwegian heritage and in particular are becoming more familiar with the beautiful historic home.

The funds raised help with the upkeep and maintenance of the home.

The story of the Ringness House, located midway between Clifton and Cran-

fills Gap on FM 219, has been one of resilience. The property was settled by the Ringness family in 1854. Arriving on the frontier, the family first built a log cabin on Neils Creek, but the need for more room led to the construction of this six-room dobbelhus in 1859. Dobbelhus meaning "double house." There's a central breezeway with a mirror image on either side on both floors, much like the familiar Texas "Dog Trot" houses. In 1867, the first Lutheran church services in Bosque County were held in the parlor of this house before the formation of Our Saviors Lutheran Church at Norse began a few miles away in 1869. The family hosted, and often housed, scores of Norwegian families arriving to the area until they could build homes of their own.

Vacant for many decades, the house eventually fell victim to time and the elements. Betty Tindall and her husband Virgil just retired back to Bosque County in 1997 and supported and helped Owen Ringness in his endeavors to preserve the home. Virgil and Betty both grew up in Bosque County. At the Spring Fling,



SIMONE WICHERS-VOSS | CLIFTON RECORD TRIBUNE
 Paula Ringness, Elaine Bell in her Bunad and Teresa Ringness at the Ringness House Spring Fling May 16.

Betty recalled how her grandparents kept the Norwegian culture and heritage alive.

Some 25 years ago, a great effort began among visionaries and the establishment of the Bosque County Chapter of the Norwegian Society of America to save the historic limestone structure, which played an important role in the history of the Norwegian immigration story in Bosque County and formation of the local Lutheran church.

Following fundraising efforts and hard work by many, including the Brandenberger family who owned the house and property, the Ringness House was moved a few hundred yards from its original location and painstakingly restored rock-by-rock and dedicated 20 years ago in 2006.

This year's fundraiser,

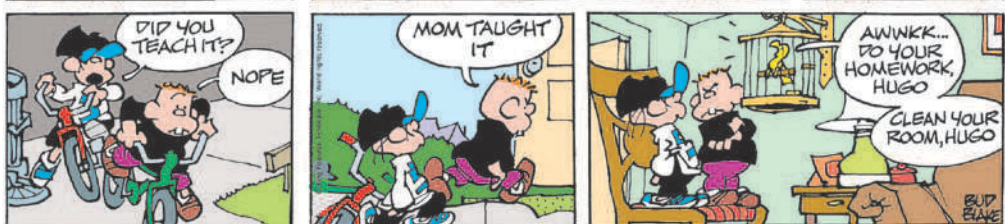
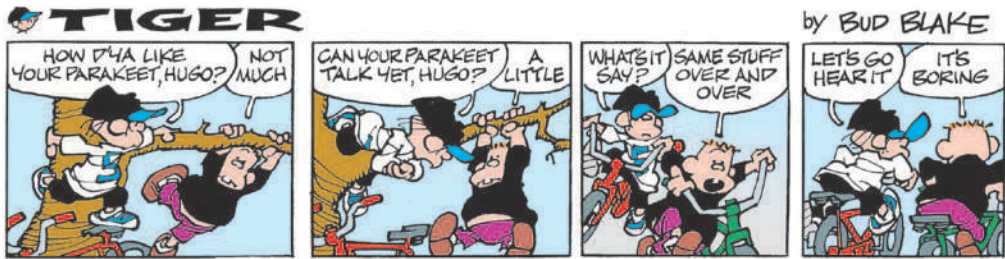
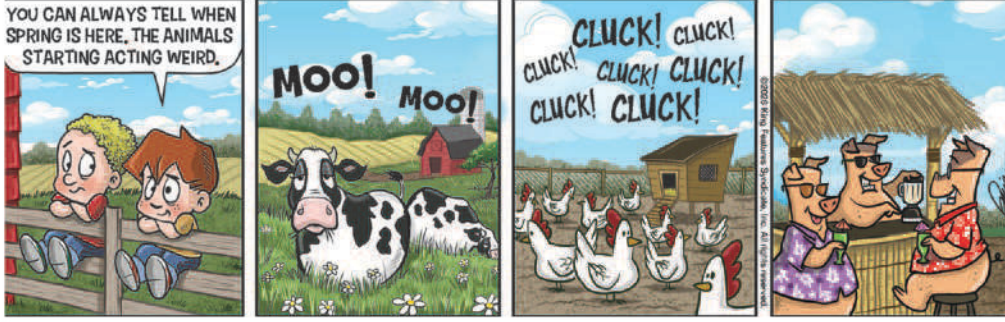
moved back a month from the traditional time in April, occurred on the evening before Norwegian Constitution Day on May 17.

Syttende Mai is celebrated throughout Norway and by Norwegian descendants in Norway, very much like Independence Day in the United States on July 4th. The Constitution of Norway, signed on May 17, 1814, declared Norway to be an independent kingdom to avoid the threat of being ceded to Sweden after Denmark and Norway's defeat in the Napoleonic Wars.

"Gratulerer med dagen," or Happy Constitution Day!

The Ringness family, patrons and volunteers look forward to representing the museum at Fall Fest in Clifton Oct. 17 and to opening the house again on Dec. 5 during the annual Norwegian Country Christmas Tour.

Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU

1	7	8		4	2			
			1		7			
8	2		9					
	1	5		6		3		
	3		5					
9	6	4			5	2	1	
				4	3			
	2	8						
				5	8	2	9	

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
 ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. The Z is different. 2. Hat is smaller. 3. Handle is added to purse. 4. Window is not as wide. 5. Man has more hair. 6. Arm is longer.

King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Detox center
 - 6 Gives up
 - 12 Swiss metropolis
 - 13 Unexpected
 - 14 Ingratiate
 - 15 Stahl of "60 Minutes"
 - 16 Disposition
 - 17 "La — Bonita"
 - 19 Casual shirt
 - 20 Third son
 - 22 Capote nickname
 - 24 Canine greeting
 - 27 Furnace fuel
 - 29 Branches
 - 32 President of South Africa, 1994-1999
 - 35 Pronto
 - 36 Monumental
 - 37 Half dozen
 - 38 Fannie —
 - 40 Former Laker Lamar
 - 42 Sashimi fish
 - 44 Neatnik's nightmare
 - 46 Jazzy James
 - 50 Legislative group
 - 52 Camelot king
 - 54 Aerie newborn
 - 55 Organize an art show
- DOWN**
- 1 Nevada city
 - 2 Within (Pref.)
 - 3 Obeyes
 - 4 "Selma" director DuVernay
 - 5 Male singing voice
 - 6 Humpty's perch
 - 7 Skip — (flutter)
 - 8 Tax-collecting org.
 - 9 Birds of prey
 - 10 Duel tool
 - 11 Ocular woe
 - 12 Tiara jewel
 - 18 Rug cleaner
 - 21 — -friendly
 - 23 "Awesome, dude!"
 - 24 Navarro of "The View"
 - 25 Scale members
 - 26 Pink wading bird
 - 28 Relaxed
 - 30 Roman 1051
 - 31 Coltrane's instrument
 - 33 Aromatherapy spot
 - 34 Sgt., e.g.
 - 39 Lauder of cosmetics
 - 41 Paris subway
 - 42 Cruising
 - 43 Lettuce unit
 - 45 Reply to "Shall we?"
 - 47 Spring meltdown
 - 48 Mild rebukes
 - 49 "How — you?"
 - 51 Cleric's tunic
 - 53 Scamper

	1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11
12									13			
14									15			
16							17	18			19	
20			20	21				22	23			
24	25	26		27			28		29	30	31	
32			33						34			
35							36				37	
38			38	39			40			41		
42	43			44	45				46	47	48	49
50			51					52	53			
54									55			
56									57			

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. FOOD & DRINK: When fish eggs are served as food, what are they called?
2. LITERATURE: Which Dr. Seuss book about trying new foods has a character called Sam-I-Am?
3. GEOGRAPHY: What is the most populated country in Africa?
4. U.S. STATES: Which state's nickname is The Pine Tree State?
5. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What kind of animal produces mohair?
6. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: How many tines does a standard dinner fork have?
7. FOOD & DRINK: In what year was Kool-Aid introduced?
8. TELEVISION: Which animated TV show features a baby named Stewie?
9. MOVIES: What is the name of the character played by John Travolta in "Saturday Night Fever"?
10. SCIENCE: What is a googol?

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7	6	2	8	5	3	1	4	9
4	9	7	6	1	8	2	3	5
8	1	3	4	9	2	6	7	5
1	5	2	1	3	4	7	4	6
9	6	1	9	8	6	5	9	8
3	4	7	9	8	6	5	7	3
3	4	6	1	4	1	2	2	9
6	7	8	7	1	2	9	3	4
2	3	5	4	6	2	8	7	1

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

A	D	O	B	E	S	K	N	O	W	S						
E	N	V	A	R	I	E	G	A	T	E						
S	E	N	A	T	A	R	I	E	S							
A	V	I	S	L	O	B	O	L	I	H	V					
M	O	G	O	W	A	V	E									
X	I	S	E	P	E	E	P	E	E	S						
L	A	V	E	D	E	N	M	A	N	O	S	L	E	T	E	N
A	R	F	E	S	C	E	L	E	T	R	I	E				
M	O	O	D	I	S	L	A	T	E							
E	N	D	E	A	R	A	B	R	A	U	P	T				
G	E	N	E	R	A	L	E	S	L	E	S					
R	E	H	A	B	W	A	L	I	V	E	S					

Solution time: 21 mins.

King Crossword

- Answers
1. Roet; 2. "Green Eggs and Ham"; 3. Nigeria; 4. Maine; 5. Angora goats; 6. Four; 7. 1927; 8. "Family Guy"; 9. Tony Manero; 10. The digit "1" followed by 100 zeros.
- Trivia Test Answers

ON this date

Events Calendar

To submit non-profit events to The On This Date Calendar
 Email: nathand.sxc@gmail.com
 SUBJECT: Calendar

MAY

- 21 – United States Post Office, Cranfills Gap, (Est. 1879)
- 21 – Stained Glass Guild, Regular meeting, Bosque Arts Center, 10AM
- 21 – Bosque County Rotary Club, Clifton Civic Center, 403 West Third Street, Clifton, 12PM
- 21 – Celebrate Recovery, Christ-centered 12-step program, childcare provided, First Baptist Church, Clifton. Large group starts at 6:30PM followed by women's and men's share groups
- 22 – Graduation, Meridian High School, 7PM
- 22 – Graduation, Clifton High School, 8PM
- 23 – Memorial Day Weekend fundraiser lunch, Hamburger and hot dog, West Shore Civic Association, 11AM-2PM
- 24 – West Shore Memorial Weekend Cook-Out, 11AM-2PM
- 25 – Memorial Day
- 25 – Bosque Film Society Film Appreciation Night (Members Only), *Key Largo* (1948), Cliftex Theatre, 7PM
- 25 – Clifton Masonic Lodge #360, Regular monthly meeting, All Masons and those interested are welcome, 315 West 7th Street, Clifton, Fellowship/meal at 6PM, Meeting at 7PM
- 26 – Early Childhood Education Webinar: Building Fine Motor Skills, Bosque County AgriLife Extension (in-person or online), 6:30-7:30PM
- 27 – Story Time For PreK & Early Elementary, Meridian Public Library, 204 Main Street, Meridian, 10AM
- 27 – Bosque Arts Center Book Club discussing *Goodbye to a River*, 10AM
- 28 – Bosque County Rotary Club, Clifton Civic Center, 403 West Third Street, Clifton, noon.
- 28 – Celebrate Recovery, Christ-centered 12-step program, childcare provided, First Baptist Church, Clifton. Large group starts at 6:30PM followed by women's and men's share groups
- 30 – SILO Project Workshop Fair, Silo on Six, 3608 S. Hwy 6, Clifton, 9AM-1PM
- 30 – Rise and Shine Dance Recital, Frazier Performance Hall, performances at 10:30AM and 1PM

JUNE

- 1-5 – VBS, First Baptist Church - Clifton, TBA
- 1 – Needle Arts, Regular Meeting, Bosque Arts Center, 10AM
- 2-6 – Central Texas Youth Fair, Central Texas Fair Grounds, Clifton, All Day
- Free Summer Kids Films: *Surf's Up* Benefiting Areli's Ohana, CLIFTEX Theatre, 10AM
- 2 – Art Club, Regular Meeting, Bosque Arts Center, 10AM
- 3 – Story Time For PreK & Early Elementary, Meridian Public Library, 204 Main Street, Meridian, 10AM
- 4 – Bosque County Rotary Club, Clifton Civic Center, 403 West Third Street, Clifton, noon
- 4 – Celebrate Recovery, Christ-centered 12-step program, Childcare provided, First Baptist Church, Clifton, Large group starts at 6:30PM followed by women's and men's share groups
- 4-5 – Carnival, Presented by Clifton Chamber of Commerce, Central Texas Fair Grounds, Clifton, 7:30PM
- 5-6 – 75th Annual Clifton Rodeo, Presented by Clifton Chamber of Commerce. Produced by Hat Brand/Rocking M, Clifton Rodeo Grounds, Tickets: \$10, adults; \$5, children under 12, 7:30PM
- 6 – Free First Saturday, Free Admission, Bosque Museum, 301 South Avenue Q, Clifton, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. For info, call (254) 675-3845 or visit www.bosquemuseum.org
- 6 – Play *Steel Magnolias* Dinner Theatre, Tin Building Theatre, 6:30PM
- 7 – Play *Steel Magnolias* Matinee, Tin Building Theatre, 2PM
- 8 – Rising Stars Theatre Camp Begins, Tin Building Theatre, 5PM
- 9 – Free Summer Kids Films: *Epic*, benefiting Areli's Ohana, CLIFTEX Theatre, 10AM



Love, Loss & LAUGHTER

Tin Building Theatre presents beloved 'Steel Magnolias' in four June shows

By Simone Wichers-Voss
 EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Because of its ancient lineage, the Magnolia flower represents strength and stability. In the southern parts of United States, the flower also represents hospitality, charm, and everlasting bonds.

The title *Steel Magnolias* of the play by Robert Harling suggests the female characters are – like women in the South tend to be – “as delicate as magnolias but as tough as steel.” The play is the ultimate tragi-comedy, with the characters coping with loss thanks to unconditional love, unwavering support and laughter through tears.

This is the fourth time the Bosque Arts Center's Tin Building Theatre stages this truly touching play about female bonds forged by life, experiences and love for each other. Expose yourself to a little Southern culture, camaraderie and community by reserving tickets by calling 254-675-3724 or by going online www.bosqueartscenter.org.

Tickets are now on sale for a dinner theatre June 6 and 13 at 6:30 p.m., a matinee June 7 at 2 p.m. and a regular performance June 12 at 7 p.m.

The dinner theatre menu pays into the southern roots with Cajun pasta with grilled chicken or smoked sausage, a medley of roasted veggies, and, of course, a red velvet cake dessert – if you know, you know. There will be tea and water served, but guests are invited to bring their adult beverage of choice. During intermission of the opening performance, the troupe will be auctioning off a “Bleeding Armadillo Cake.”

The cast features Connie Terry as M'Lynn, Andi Ward as Shelby, Danielle Ybarra as Truvy, JoAnne Grelle as Clairee, Belinda Prince as Ouiser, and newcomer Tia Oliver as Annelle. Having played the role of Shelby and M'Lynn in the past, play director Lorrana Rush knows the play in and out. She is assisted by TBT veteran Debbie Rollins.

“Our cast has become much like the women in the story itself – supportive, resilient and deeply connected,” Rush said. “Through rehearsals, laughter and shared vulnerability, we have formed a bond that shines both on-stage and off. That closeness has created a heartfelt authenticity audiences will truly feel in every scene.”

Set in the 1980s, *Steel Magnolias* is about the deep friendship among six witty – some wiser than others – women in a Louisiana small-town, centered around the life and tragic death of Shelby from diabetes complications. Set over three years, the play spans from Shelby's wedding, her high-risk pregnancy because of her illness, the premature birth of her



SIMONE WICHERS-VOSS | CLIFTON RECORD TRIBUNE

Six friends share life's major moments in a beauty salon in Tin Building Theatre's spring performances of *Steel Magnolias* early June (top); Belinda Prince, Tia Oliver, Danielle Ybarra, Connie Terry, JoAnn Grelle and Andi Ward at rehearsal.

son, the ensuing kidney failure to ultimately her funeral. While Shelby may be the protagonist in the story, it's the women that surround her that makes the play so beloved.

The play captures all of life's major moments and character eccentricities in the Chinquapin beauty salon, where it's all about getting hair and nails done, offering free advice, engaging in meaningful conversations, and some gossip thrown in.

“As the director, I cannot be happier with the beautiful design and work from this group,” Rush said. “TBT is an all-volunteer organization and each person commits their time with love and enthusiasm. The final set will transport audiences into the intimate world of Truvy's House of Beauty where our women of steel share life's joys, tears and laughter.”

Besides acting in the play, Prince, Grelle and Rush helped with set decoration, along with Shannon Birchum, Julie Pederson, Charla Rudd and Suzi Etheredge. Helping construct the set were Don Boysen, Michael Richardson and Jacob Reeves.

The play uses humor and witty dialogue to explore themes of love, loss and resilience, showcasing how the women cope with life's challenges together. It premiered off-Broadway in 1987 and was later adapted into the famous 1989 film.

Following his sister Susan's death, a writer-friend advised Harling to write his feelings down, to cope with the experience. He did but originally as a short story to give his nephew an understanding of the child's deceased mother. Later Harling wrote the play, to celebrate his sister, his mother and the loving community of Southern

belles that supported them through good times and bad.

“I guess a tale about people overcoming adversity together with love, support, courage, and respect never gets old,” writer Harding said in an interview for *Garden and Gun* in April 2018, trying to explain the play and movie's seemingly everlasting popularity.

There are so many incredible quotes in the play. Anything sharp-tongued Quiser says is memorable. The sassy ones include outspoken, wise-cracking Truvy's “The nicest thing I can say about her is all her tattoos are spelled correctly,” sweet blush and bashful Shelby's “Remember what Daddy always says an ounce of pretension is worth a pound of manure!” eccentric millionaire Clairee's “If you can't say anything nice about anybody, come sit by me,” and Ouiser's “Don't try to get on my good side....I no longer have one.”

Heartbreakers include Truvy's “Laughter through tears is my favorite emotion,” Shelby's “I would rather have thirty minutes of wonderful than a lifetime of nothing special,” and M'Lynn's

“I realize as a woman how lucky I am. I was there when that wonderful creature drifted into my life and I was there when she drifted out.”

Buy a ticket to this pinnacle of tragi-comedy and be prepared to encounter people in the audience that will recite the play's witty or heart-breaking signature one-liners, ladies that will clutch their hankies anticipating a heart-wrenching moment, and husband's holding their wives' hands in comfort, as they dab away a tear, either from sadness or laughter.



SINCE 1916



SHOW TIMES

THURSDAY 5/21

- 7:00 PM

FRIDAY 5/22

- 4:00 PM
- 7:00 PM

SATURDAY 5/23

- 4:00 PM
- 7:00 PM

SUNDAY 5/24

- 4:00 PM

CC
Every FRIDAY • 4:00 PM

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Entry Form



Friday and Saturday
August 7 & 8

9 am to 4 pm

Entry Form Deadline – Friday, July 10

Entry Fee - \$10.00 per quilt •• No Quilt Limit
Entry fee for Display only - \$5.00 non-refundable fee.

Quilts need to be delivered to the Bosque Arts Center July 22–July 29, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

OVER \$2,500 in cash prizes!

For more information contact Deb Phinney at dphinney@bosqueartscenter.org
215 S. College Hill Drive, PO Box 373, Clifton, TX 76634 254-675-3724

IN the news

News Briefs

'Battle for the Bosque' coed softball tournament May 23

Teams are being sought for the "Battle for the Bosque" adult coed softball tournament scheduled for Saturday, May 23, benefiting the Meridian Youth Baseball & Softball Association.

The tournament will feature coed rules with 10-player teams. Organizers said each team must have at least three women on the field during play. Entry fee is \$200 per team.

The event is designed as a fundraiser for the youth baseball and softball association while also giving area residents a chance to compete for local bragging rights.

Registration information and team sign-up forms are available online at the tournament registration page : <https://form.jotform.com/261325158310145>

Additional information and payments may also be made through Venmo at @meridianyouthbsa.

Bosque Museum presents 'A New Deal for Bosque County' exhibit through July

The Bosque Museum will open its newest exhibit, "A New Deal for Bosque County: The Legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration," on Thursday, April 23. The exhibit will remain on display through July 12.

The exhibit explores how New Deal-era programs launched under President Franklin D. Roosevelt during the Great Depression affected Bosque County through job creation, infrastructure projects and community development efforts. Museum officials said the exhibit highlights the long-term impact of programs including the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration.

Interactive activity stations will allow visitors to participate in hands-on experiences such as arch-building and poster-making.

Admission to the temporary exhibit is included with regular museum admission, which is \$5 for adults. Children younger than 10 and museum members receive free admission.

The museum is located at Bosque Museum. Current hours are 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Central Texas Youth Fair returns June 2-6 in Clifton

The Central Texas Youth Fair will return to the fair barns and grounds in Clifton June 2-6, featuring livestock competitions, home economics exhibits, rodeos and youth activities for Bosque County students.

Events throughout the week will include market swine, goat, lamb, steer, rabbit and broiler shows, along with ag mechanics, crop judging, cake contests and home economics exhibits. Rodeo performances are scheduled for Friday and Saturday nights at 7:30 p.m.

The fair will conclude Saturday, June 6 with the Sale of Champions at 1 p.m. in the main arena.

The annual event is open to eligible Bosque County 4-H, FFA and FCCLA students in grades 3-12. Organizers will also host free pre-4-H events for children younger than 8 years old.

Free Memorial Day film 'Flags of Our Fathers' at Cliftex Theatre

The historic Cliftex Theatre will host a free Memorial Day screening of the war drama "Flags of Our Fathers" at 2 p.m. Monday, May 25.

Doors open 45 minutes before showtime. Local veterans will also be present during the event to share stories and answer questions from attendees. The screening is sponsored by Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #8553.

Directed by Clint Eastwood, the 2006 film tells the story of the six men involved in the iconic flag-raising atop Mount Suribachi during the Battle of Iwo Jima in World War II, following the survivors as they return home and deal with the complications of becoming war hero symbols.

The R-rated film stars Ryan Phillippe, Barry Pepper and Joseph Cross.

CYCLISTS

From page 1

stop in Texas' four European heritage-themed cycling events, following April's Germanfest Bike Rally in Muenster. The series continues with Tour d'Italia in Italy in June and Tour de Paris in Paris in July.

This year's event reflected both perseverance and community support after weather and construction-related route challenges forced cancellations in 2023 and 2024. Organizers and volunteers said the continued turnout in 2025 and again in 2026 demonstrates the ride's resilience despite rising fuel and food costs that may have discouraged some out-of-town participants.

Clifton Chamber of Commerce president Paige Key was pleased with this year's turnout in light of the high fuel prices and competition with cycling events in north Texas.

Key noted that the riders brought their spouses and partners to the Bosque County event, some of whom participated in Clifton Main Street's Mingle on Main event in historic downtown Clifton.

"I was pleased with everything," Key said. "It was down a little bit, but the reason why is there were two new rides in Dallas on the same day."

"There were a lot of extra people, too. I would say, maybe about 50-100 more people that came with them."

Before the roughly 200-plus cyclists departed on the five different routes on the tour, tour organizer Mike Keel mixed route instructions with humor while addressing riders gathered near downtown Clifton.

"We like to have fun with you, just to make sure you're paying attention," Keel told riders before joking about one participant from last year's event. "We don't do like one of the riders did

last year, and keep coming back to that corner and making the right turn every time it says right turn."

Later along the route through the Norse Cultural District, Keel praised both the ride and the landscape surrounding it.

"Great morning for a bike ride," Keel said. "Beautiful area and a very smooth route. More people need to discover this ride."

The Bosque Tour de Norway also coincides with an important date in Norwegian history, as May 17 marks Norwegian Constitution Day – "Sytende Mai" – as well as the birthday of Cleng Peerson, often called "the father of Norwegian immigration to the United States," who is buried in Norse.

The tour's routes showcased Bosque County's rolling limestone hills, green pastures and expansive skies while also introducing riders to historic Texas-Norwegian landmarks. Five rest stops were spaced along the course.

"Here's where your rest stops are located," volunteer Rick Clark said pointing to the map. "About 10 miles apart, approximately."

One of the most notable stops was at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, which served as rest stop No. 1 near the nine-mile marker. Volunteers at churches and other community organizations along the route helped provide refreshments and encouragement to cyclists throughout the day.

"Our volunteers certainly enjoyed participating," Our Savior's volunteer wrote on social media. "All the participants that stopped were so kind, thankful and sure loved Bosque County."

Meanwhile, volunteers from First Baptist Church Cranfills Gap also welcomed riders passing through the Gap.

"We loved serving all the bikers who participated in Bosque County's Tour de Norway today!" the church posted online. "We met some great

people who came from all over! All bikers are welcome here!"

Among the cyclists were riders using electric bicycles, or e-bikes, which continue to grow in popularity among recreational riders. One older cyclist jokingly summed up the appeal while heading toward Cranfills Gap: "I got over being young a long time ago."

E-bikes use battery-powered motors to assist riders while pedaling, especially on steep hills common throughout Bosque County. Most North American models provide assistance up to 20-28 mph depending on their classification, while a single charge can typically last between 25 and 75 miles.

Behind the scenes, members of the Bosque County Amateur Radio Emergency Services Group helped maintain communications and logistics support along the sprawling routes.

"We are the communications for this race," volunteer Carl Irish said.

Irish explained that amateur radio volunteers staffed five support-and-gear vehicles (aka "SAG wagons") and maintained communications with all five rest stops. The group utilized a repeater tower in the Coyote community to maintain radio coverage across rural stretches of the route where cell-phone reception can become unreliable.

"Cell phones work pretty good for some of this stuff, but instead of having to use cell phones, you pick up a microphone and call," Irish said.

For organizers and supporters, the event represents more than a bicycle ride. The Tour de Norway continues to serve as a key foundational event for outdoor recreation and heritage tourism in Bosque County while also giving local residents opportunities to enjoy the county's scenic countryside in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere.

MEDC

From page 1

place-based improvements that strengthen Meridian's day-to-day business mix and quality of life for residents, families and visitors.

At their May 11 meeting, the MEDC board discussed several grant requests.

The National Championship Barbecue Cookoff regularly receives EDC funding to advertise the event, with the funds going towards radio advertising, road banners and flyers. Showing their support of the event, the MEDC approved the \$3,000 request.

The success of this year's event is critical. Representing the NCBC board, Todd Clift expressed the concern that should the event only draw around 10 cooks again, the NCBC board would have to reconsider putting on this specific type of event, which takes up a lot of volunteer time and effort.

Hoping to grow the amount of cooking teams to 30-50, Clift explained the board made several changes for this year, hoping to attract more cooks and visitors to the event. They include changing the event to the fourth weekend of September, increasing the guaranteed prize money to \$10,000, supplying beef tips for the People's Choice and requesting the organizing organization Outlaw BBQ Association to promote the Meridian event during other cook-offs and to commit to the NCBC being their only event on that

particular weekend.

"It's not just our place. It's down across the state," Clift said. "If you have a cook-off with 30 to 50, that's really good cook off. So that's what we're shooting for. If we pay out good money and stuff, and give them a great time, you know, show them good Meridian hospitality, just do whatever it takes."

The ever-increasing meat and gas prices are working against barbecue cookoffs at the moment. Ensuring good music, a good People's Choice award and a good car show always draw a better crowd. To Clift's request for ideas to enhance the event, the MEDC board suggested advertising sooner to draw more local cooks, free entry for the public, a kids' cookoff, margarita contest, and bringing back the celebrity cookoff. Apparently, Outlaw BBQ's cleaver and axe trophies are a draw for cooks.

Since CyrusOne paid the remaining funds to complete the Bosque County Veterans Memorial, the \$9,800 pledged by the MEDC for the project was applied to Andrea Wallum's request for funding of the July 11 event celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States. With a motorcycle group escorting the transport of the Veterans Wall secured for the event, music and other activities planned on the same day, it is turning out to be quite a significant event.

The MEDC board denied a request for funds to replace a storage building garage

door, citing the building was not a retail or commercial space. They also denied a nearly \$47,000 request to replace the scoreboard at the football field.

"This quality of life, since it directly affects the students and parents of the students," DeZavala said. "There is some tourism that could be linked into this, but because they are their own taxing entity, and it's not for our parks, such as the youth, the youth side of this, or volunteer boards, they [the Texas EDC] just recommend that you go on a ballot for it."

While the board understands sports events are important to a school, a scoreboard does not improve the quality of life for all of Meridian's citizens. The MEDC directors indicated that the school should focus on its curriculum, instead of a scoreboard, especially in view of the fact that everyone already pays taxes towards the school district.

During the meeting, Greater Meridian Chamber of Commerce office manager Angelica Smith provided the MEDC board of directors a proposal for a community branding and tourism initiative. Smith collaborated with DeZavala and Meridian city secretary Jennifer Brooks on the proposal after the trio attended the ARCIT annual conference in Granbury at the end of April. The conference brings together Texas leaders to examine issues affecting rural communities and the partnerships needed to address them. Par-

ticipants heard perspectives from business, economic development, and local government leaders and gain insight into challenges and opportunities facing rural cities and counties.

The proposal positions Meridian as a proud frontier town along the Chisholm Trail, and seeks to establish Meridian as a year-round cook-off destination, blending heritage, hospitality and hometown pride. The mission is to boost tourism, support local businesses and celebrate small-town culture through a series of family-friendly, high-energy events honoring the Chisholm Trail spirit and heritage.

The trio has ideas galore to make Meridian the Texas Cookoff Capital, utilizing the Chisholm Trail Plaza and the parks.

Focusing on what the town already has, and the NCBC being the inspiration for the cook-off theme, the April Meridi-gras could be expanded with a gumbo cookoff, Christmas on the Bosque could include a hot cocoa and cookies stroll. New ideas include a January Trail Boss Chuckwagon cookoff featuring frontier cooking, October having a scarecrow festival and harvest cookoff with chili, pumpkins and town-wide scarecrows, and August having a sandwich show-down and picnic days.

All in all, collaboration is bringing in new, exciting ideas benefitting the economy, local businesses and the town.

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AROUND THE COUNTY

SHOWCASE

From page 1

drew performers aged seven to 17 highlighted the importance of young people developing artistic expression for the health of the mind, body and spirit.

Master of Ceremonies Bryan Davis opened the evening by welcoming the audience and sharing the history of the Bosque Arts Center auditorium, originally built in 1923 as part of Clifton Lutheran College before later being restored into the present-day Frazier Performance Hall through a major fundraising effort completed in 2017.

“There’s nothing more important for this stage to showcase than the young talent you are about to see tonight,” Davis told the crowd. “It’s what this room was built 103 years ago, and it gives us great pride to see and hear this room filled once again with the songs, the sounds, and the talent of young people.”

The program began with 13-year-old Cora Cooper singing “The Sound of Music,” followed by Evelyn Troxell performing “When You Believe” from The Prince of Egypt. Davis noted that the showcase unusually featured more vocalists than normal and used one of several gentle jokes and puns throughout the evening to keep the mood light.

“Play along with me... Knock, knock. Little old lady,” Davis said before adding, “Wow, I didn’t know ya’ll could yodel.”

Seven-year-old Gideon Lovell, the youngest performer of the night, performed Brahms’ “Waltz” on violin, accompanied on piano by his mother, Heather Lovell. Reagan McKenzie followed with “Someone Like You” from Jekyll & Hyde, while Eli Lovell later performed Bach’s “Concerto for Two Violins in D minor” alongside sister Anna Lovell and their mother on piano.

Davis also highlighted the role of



NATHAN DIEBENOW | CLIFTON RECORD TRIBUNE
Fourteen young musicians performed at the Eighth Annual Showcase of Young Musicians in the Frazier Performance Hall at the Bosque Arts Center May 12.

the BCMA in supporting music opportunities throughout the county. Davis explained that the organization oversees the Bosque Chorale, sponsors the Steve Watson Piano Lab and supports the Bosque County Children’s Choir under the direction of Beth Fry and Brandi Blair. He also mentioned the annual Children’s Music Camp planned for July 13-16.

During the evening, Davis recognized this year’s Steve Watson Scholarship recipients Ellie Baker, Noah Smith, Sophia Ritzmann and Jacob Humphries.

Joy Blair then performed the folk ballad “Homeward Bound,” followed by Meridian student Dawson Cummings playing “Auld Lang Syne” on the Arts Center’s historic 1923 Chickering grand piano. Aubree Smith later sang “I See the Light” from Disney’s Tangled.

The Bosque County Children’s Choir then performed “Sanctus” and “The Lord Is My Shepherd.” Davis noted that the choir was created in response to the decline of school choir programs in Bosque County and praised the efforts of organizers who worked to create a county-wide opportunity for children interested in music.

Additional performances included Colby Cummings on tenor saxophone, sisters Karis and Cora Cooper performing a duet from Wicked, Dawson Cummings returning on trombone, and Anna Lovell closing the evening with the “Mendelssohn Violin Concerto in E minor, First Movement.”

Throughout the night, Davis also recognized volunteers and staff who helped make the production possible, including retiring BAC technician Steve Schmidt and backstage volunteer Debra Evans. Davis also thanked scholarship coordinator Steve James and Showcase chair Paige Bizzell for their longtime efforts supporting young musicians.

At the conclusion of the concert, Bizzell thanked parents and students for their dedication. “I would just like to thank all of the parents for doing the job of getting your kids to the lessons that they take,” Bizzell said. “We appreciate so much their talent and the efforts that they give.”

“I just want to thank everyone and all kids for being here,” Bizzell added. “They have had such a great attitude. I’ve enjoyed so much working with them.”

Following the program, Bizzell and Lisa Heitman-Payne presented medals to the performers before audience members gathered with students and families for a reception in the Atrium Gallery downstairs.

IN memory

Bosque County Obituaries

MARIE WHITEHEAD

OCTOBER 20, 1945 - MAY 9, 2026



Marie Whitehead of Clifton, age 80, passed away peacefully at her Clifton home on May 9, surrounded by family. A service to celebrate her life will be held on Saturday, May 23, at 2 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Clifton, Rev. Jerry Smith officiating. A visitation will be held prior to the service at 1 p.m.

in the church.

Born Marie Wiseman on October 20, 1945, in Houston, Texas, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Wiseman. Marie and John Whitehead were married on September 16, 1970, a partnership that was a testament to their love and dedication.

Together, they made history as the first foster family in Bosque County, opening their hearts and home to more than forty children and countless others who became part of their extended family.

Marie was a dedicated member of the First Baptist Church of Clifton. Her love of God and her deep faith was her guiding light and evident in all she did throughout her years. She would often attend the early worship at First Baptist Clifton and then walk across the street to worship at the First Presbyterian Church, where her daughter served as music and youth director. Marie’s work life was spent in service to her community. Over the years, she managed Fishhook Lodge of Lake Whitney, worked as a CNA for Clifton Lutheran Sunset Home, and retired from Clifton ISD as a paraprofessional and bus driver. Each job allowing Marie opportunities to touch countless lives. Family say her greatest passion was helping others, a calling she embraced wholeheartedly throughout her life. She was blessed with an ability to light a room with her stories, laughter, and warmth.

Her greatest joy came being a loving grandmother to all her grandchildren, who brought her great happiness. Her love was a constant presence, her hugs a source of comfort, and her wisdom a guiding force.

Marie was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, brothers Clyde and Jack Wiseman, Jr., and two stepsons, Ray and Ronnie Whitehead. She leaves to cherish her memory three daughters, Belinda Honea, Natalie Galbreth and Tammy Ashton; one son, Joey Whitehead; stepchildren Ramona Sowder and Randy Whitehead; and bonus children Jennifer and Pedro Ramirez, and Tracy and Robi Kunkel. She was the proud “Mamaw” to 35 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren, all of whom brought her great pride.

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Bred Cows 2500-3000	401-500 lbs 480-555
Replacement Bulls..... NO TEST	501-600 lbs 430-495
Stocker Cows NO TEST	601-700 lbs 405-435
	#1 Type Heifers:
	200-300 lbs..... 550-575
	301-400 lbs 515-550
	401-500 lbs 465-515
	501-600 lbs 400-460
	601-700 lbs 350-420

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SHEEP & GOAT MARKET ANALYSIS FOR SALE AS OF 5-13-26

SHEEP	GOATS
Dorper & Dorper x Lambs:	Kids:
20-40 lbs..... 280-345 cwt	20-30 lbs..... 330-440 cwt
40-70 lbs 330-390 cwt	40-70 lbs 375-430 cwt
70 lbs & up..... 350-390 cwt	70 lbs & up..... 350-415 cwt
Dorper & Dorper x Ewes & Rams:	Nannies:
Replacement Ewes: 185-395 HD	Replacement Nannies: 210-310 HD
Replacement Rams: NT HD	Light Slaughter: 130-155 cwt
Slaughter Ewes: 130-165 cwt	Heavy Slaughter: 125-215 cwt
Slaughter Rams: 140-185 cwt	Thin Slaughter: 100-135 cwt
Wool Lambs:	Boer, Boerx & Spanish Billies:
20-40 lbs 300-320 cwt	Replacement Billies: NT HD
40-70 lbs NT cwt	Light Slaughter: 230-270 cwt
Show Lambs: NT cwt	Heavy Slaughter: 200-285 cwt
Wool Ewes & Bucks:	Pygmy/Nigerian Dwarfs & Dairy:
Stocker Ewes: 140-155 cwt	Kids: 280-300 cwt
Slaughter Ewes: NT cwt	Nannies: 75-115 HD
Bucks: NT cwt	Billies: 150-195 cwt
Barbado & Barbado x Lambs:	
20-30 lbs..... 280-330 cwt	Dorper Lambs: Steady to 25 Higher
40-70 lbs 300-345 cwt	Wool Lambs: Steady
70 lbs & up..... NT cwt	Barbados Lambs: Steady
Barbado & Barbado x Ewes & Rams:	Ewes: Steady to 30 Higher
Replacement Ewes..... NT HD	Kids: Steady to 15 Higher
Replacement Rams NT HD	Nannies: Steady to 25 Higher
Slaughter Ewes..... NT cwt	

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MANDATE

From page 1

three-point seat belts for every passenger, including the driver, by Sept. 1, 2029. Passed during the 89th Texas Legislature, Senate Bill 546 strengthens standards for school buses transporting students in Texas and eliminates the option for two-point belts entirely.

The law requires school districts to report by May 29 what type of belts each bus has – none, lap belts, or three-point – and what it would cost to bring any buses up to the three-point standard. With the data, the state can review the expenditures and plan for possible future support.

At this time, the retrofitting of existing or purchase of new buses with the required seatbelts is an unfunded mandate. In the case of many Bosque County schools, the cost incurred to comply is detrimental to their already meager budgets.

The Meridian Independent School District’s Board of Education discussed the high cost of retrofitting or replacing buses and the potential impact on the district’s budget during their April 20 monthly meeting.

The district has only one route bus equipped with three-point seatbelts. The activity buses do have three-point seat belts. Thanks to a TURF grant with a 20-percent match by the district, MISD will be able to purchase three 71-passenger buses.

The district has five 34-passenger buses that

would cost \$18,180 per bus to retrofit for a total of \$90,900. The 60-passenger bus would cost \$32,938 to retrofit. And there are six 71-passenger buses that would cost \$35,726 per bus to retrofit. The total cost to retrofit all the buses adds up to \$338,194.

“As a general rule, [school buses] are not super unsafe, like they don’t have a lot of accidents, and they don’t roll very easily, so it’s very unlikely that you’re going to have an accident,” MISD superintendent Dana Davis said.

While retrofitting is pricey, replacing the buses with new vehicles would cost between \$140,000 and \$170,000 per bus, totaling \$1,875,000. million.

And added complication is, by adding seatbelts to the existing buses voids their safety warranty because they’re not built to have seat belts attached to them.

“My personal conclusions are, that along with our current budget deficit, it would deplete our fund balance to replace for school buses and retrofitting older buses,” Davis said.

In her opinion no area school can afford the expense, and many are hopeful that the next legislative session, armed with the information provided by the schools, will offer financial relief.

Following discussion, the Clifton ISD’s Board of Education April 20 agreed to report to the state that the required upgrades were “not reasonable” or not financially feasible within the

current budget.

CISD superintendent Andy Ball presented information showing that the district currently has six buses that are not eligible for retrofitting with three-point seat belts and would need to be replaced entirely. Ball told trustees that updated estimates had increased the cost of new buses

from approximately \$150,000 to about \$160,000 each. Ball said the district’s estimated total cost for compliance would exceed \$1 million, including both bus replacements and retrofits for two buses eligible for upgrades.

Ball explained that districts statewide are reporting their projected costs to the state, which could later influence possible grant funding or legislative assistance.

Ball also noted that the district recently purchased a new-generation bus featuring upgraded safety technology, including collision-avoidance systems similar to those found in modern passenger vehicles.

Valley Mills ISD has seven buses without seatbelts, one with two-point seat belts and three already complying with the three-point seat belt requirement. The approximate retrofit cost would be \$250,000 and replacement cost would be \$1,200,000.

“We’re hoping TEA and the State of Texas, after passing this new law, will realize the extreme costs that will be involved and provide school districts with financial assistance,”

Valley Mills ISD superintendent Chris Dowdy said. “This should not be another unfunded mandate.”

Morgan ISD has five buses, none are equipped with three-point seatbelts.

According to Morgan ISD superintendent John Bullion, the total cost to retrofit is between \$150,000 and \$200,000, and retrofitting would likely void all manufacturer warranties. The total cost to replace all buses would be between \$700,000 and \$750,000.

“We currently do not have a plan to retrofit or replace our buses,” Bullion said. “We have heard that funds may be allocated to help with these costs in the next legislative session. However, I am doubtful that any additional allocations of funds will fall short of retrofitting all buses statewide and would not even come close to replacement costs.”

School districts will be able to participate in a grant opportunity related to seat belt installation, but no details were as yet released on how that would be implemented. School districts are explicitly authorized to accept private funding, including gifts, grants, and donations, to implement the requirements.

Under current law, school districts could opt out of the seat belt mandate for certain bus models based on financial constraints or vehicle warranties. Senate Bill 546 removes outdated model-year exemptions and revises the criteria for financial exemptions.

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IN policy

Editorial Policy

CLIFTON RECORD TRIBUNE opinion pages will publish staff produced and syndicated editorials and columns, as well as letters to the editor from readers of up to 150 words on any public issue. We will welcome, read and consider all letters from readers for publication.

We salute those people willing to sign their names to their opinions as well as provide an address and daytime phone number so that the author's identity can be verified. Unsigned letters will not be published, and no letters will be published until authorship is confirmed.

The letters chosen for publication must be a representative sampling of the opinions shared with us from citizens throughout Bosque County. We will publish selected letters in this publication and encourage readers to engage in a civil debate. But the Clifton Record Tribune asks readers to debate ideas and policies, not criticize one another personally.

Those who write letters are asked to limit their entries to one per month. We reserve the right to refuse or edit all material submitted for publication due to space, language or legal requirements. We will publish selected letters in this publication and encourage readers to engage in a civil debate.

Letters political in nature will not be printed within the six weeks prior to an election. Individuals may purchase advertising space during the period prior to the election in support of candidates or issues to be voted upon.



LET FREEDOM READ

Nathan Diebenow
 Managing Editor

Toot, toot: Cool your jets in six seconds with this simple trick

For the longest time, when I stopped in my truck waiting for a loud whistling train to cross Hwy 219 in Clifton, I'd get angry.

"Why do I have to wait for this stupid locomotive?" I'd think to myself. "Shouldn't there be a law against this?"

The longer the train, the slower it moved, the angrier I'd get.

Trains came before automobiles, so we must live in their technological wake, but knowing this didn't really help curb my frustration.

Over time, while trapped at the railroad crossing, I slowly noticed some different things about these trains and their cars.

Their cars' identity numbers. Their shapes. Their colors. The screech of their metal wheels on the rails.

Somewhere along the way, I started playing a game.

I imagined the graffiti painted on the cars – these bright words and elabo-

rate designs – as a code I could translate into a news report or a personal note from people in our neighboring regions.

I'd interpret one graffiti display to say: "Sally's dad is ill." Another: "Eat at Joe's Place." Next: "Wheat prices are too damn high." Or: "Racine won the state championship."

I found that making up stories from all the graffiti strung together calmed me down, and the wait didn't bother me as much.

Here's what I figured out sitting there in my truck: the train wasn't changing, but my attention was.

At first, my mind filled the space with irritation. It told me a fast story – that I was being delayed, inconvenienced, wronged. And the more I listened to that story, the worse I felt.

But once I started making up those little graffiti stories, something shifted. I gave my mind a different

see DIEBENOW, page 7

Justice Brown Jackson's campaign against the U.S. Supreme Court

The call is coming from inside the house. The Supreme Court's decision in Louisiana v. Callais has made progressives even more determined to delegitimize the Supreme Court, and Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson is among them.



POLITICAL COMMENTARY

Rich Lowry
 National Review Editor-in-Chief

In a dissent involving a post-decision procedural question, Jackson accused the majority of acting out of pure partisanship. Her opinion said that the court "unshackles itself" from all constraint and "dives into the fray" (meaning the partisan fray). In its jurisprudence, "principles give way to power." It is acting with an "abandon" that is "unwarranted and unwise."

These harsh charges occasioned a stinging and well-deserved rebuttal from Justice Samuel Alito, but, merits aside, the tenor and substance of the Jackson dissent capture the mindset of a Left that is increasingly determined to destroy the Supreme Court in order to save it.

The technical matter under dispute was whether the Supreme Court would wait 32 days to finalize its decision in Louisiana v. Callais. This is the usual practice under Rule 45.3 of the court; the idea is to allow the losing party time to file a petition for re-hearing. But the rule is flexible, a default "unless the court or a justice shortens or extends the time."

The winning side in the case asked

to get the decision finalized quickly, since time is of the essence. With the state's scheduled May 16 primaries rapidly approaching (now delayed), Louisiana wants to redraw its maps in keeping with the court's decision.

Jackson's dissent quotes a 2019 decision of the court in Rucho v. Common Cause for the proposition that courts should not "risk assuming political ... responsibility for a [partisan map-drawing] process that often produces ill will and distrust."

But this was a warning against courts involving themselves in minute questions of partisan gerrymandering. Here, the court has set out a bright-line principle that district lines can't be race-based, but otherwise said that the political authorities are welcome to gerrymander or not.

Jackson also slaps the court for creating "chaos in the State of Louisiana." This is quite rich given the history.

When Louisiana created a congressional map after the 2020 census with just one majority-minority district, it got sued for not sufficiently taking race into account; a judge ordered it to make a second minority district. When Louisiana com-

plied by manufacturing a monstrosity of a district stretching 250 miles to randomly scoop up black voters, it got sued again – this time, for taking race too much into account – and the case made it to the Supreme Court.

It is a sign of how weak the Jackson dissent is that the other progressives haven't joined it, not even Sonia Sotomayor. It certainly would have been much better if this case had been decided sooner, but Alito drops a suggestive footnote in his rejoinder to Jackson. He notes that the constitutional question was "argued and conferenced nearly seven months ago."

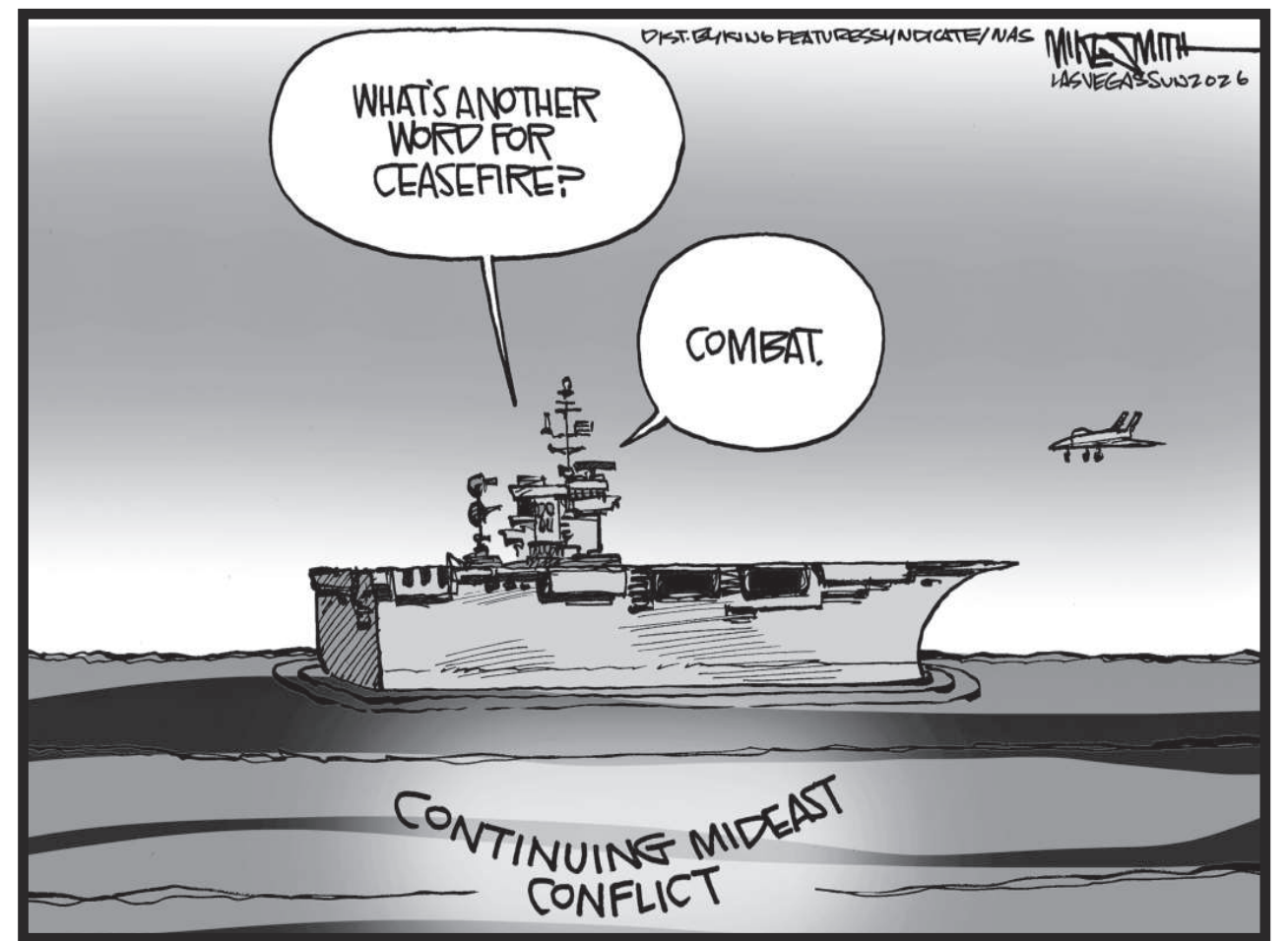
This implies that the case was effectively decided right after oral arguments in October of last year, and that the dissenters slow-walked it.

Now, Jackson wants more delay – it serves the partisan interests of Democrats to preserve unconstitutional race-based congressional districts as long as possible.

The reaction to Louisiana v. Callais has been so incandescent on the Left because it believes that unless black voters have black representatives, they are disenfranchised. But this is not how representative democracy works.

Were white voters in Georgia disenfranchised in the 2022 Senate race when two African-American candi-

see LOWRY, page 7



Happenings at the Texas Capitol

Runoff early voting ends Friday; Paxton increases investigations

Early voting in both the Democratic and Republican runoff races ends this Friday with the election on next Tuesday.

On the GOP side, the statewide runoff are:

U.S. Senate: John Cornyn and Ken Paxton

Texas attorney general: Mayes Middleton and Chip Roy

Texas Railroad Commission: Jim Wright and Bo French

Texas Court of Criminal Appeals Place 3: Alison Fox and Thomas Smith

The statewide Democratic runoffs are:

Lieutenant governor: Vikki Goodwin and Marcos Vélez

Attorney general: Nathan Johnson and Joe Jaworski

There are also runoff races for several House seats, the State Board of Education, and Texas Senate District 19, which runs along the U.S.-Mexico border. Voters who cast ballots in the March GOP primary can't vote in the Democratic runoff races, and vice versa. Registered voters who did not participate in the March primary can vote in either party's runoff election, but not both.

Texas oil industry at war with itself

The GOP runoff race for a seat on the Texas Railroad Commission is pitting oil industry leaders against each other. Many small-scale oil companies are supporting former Tarrant County Republican Party chair Bo French because of incumbent Jim Wright's efforts to lead reforms at the commission, the *Houston Chronicle* reported.

"I can't support Jim Wright, because Jim Wright makes rules that are silly for lots and lots and lots of



CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

Gary Borders
 Texas Press Association

A political action committee associated with oil billionaire Tim Dunn, a conservative megadonor, has contributed at least \$350,000 to French's campaign. On the flip side, Chevron, Exxon Mobil, and other major oil companies have contributed to PACs backing Wright.

French has drawn controversy for public comments he has made about Muslims and DEI.

Paxton steps up investigations as runoff nears

Attorney General Ken Paxton has steadily increased his lawsuits, investigations, and public threats around many of the conservative causes that energize Republicans, *The Dallas Morning News* reported. More than 100 news releases announcing such actions have been issued since early January.

Critics say he is using the attorney general's office for political gain rather than enforcement. Supporters say Paxton is pursuing the issues Texas conservatives elected him to champion.

"He's been suing the pants off people. I like that," said Laura Oakley, president of the Grapevine Republican Club.

The topics since the March primary included immigration, Islam, China, visa fraud, election maps, birthright citizenship and foreign influence, according to *The News* report. A spokesman for Paxton's campaign called the review of Paxton's investigations "garbage"

see CAPITOL, page 7

CLIFTON RECORD TRIBUNE

SERVING BOSQUE COUNTY SINCE 1895

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Scientology ranks as America's newest religion

Scientology is frequently in the news. But what is it? Its founder, L. Ron Hubbard, claimed it is a religion. Critics say it is a clever commercial enterprise, and not a religion at all.



RELIGIOSITY

Ral Aars
Comparative Religions

It now reports a worldwide membership of millions. But others say it is more like 30,000. It does have a dedicated following among several of the rich and famous.

Tom Cruise, Catherine Bell, John Travolta, and Jenna Elfman are probably the best known of the advocates. What's more, the entertainment industry claims that at least 21 of its own have embraced Scientology.

However, there are the 17 celebrities who once acknowledged being Scientologists, but now, say they are not, including Katie Holmes, Nicole Kidman, and Mimi Rogers. Most notably, Leah Remini and John Stamos actively advocate against the organization.

Scientology boasts having members in 184 countries, and yet at least five nations have outlawed it completely.

Another five have refused to recognize it as a legitimate religion.

The concept was founded by Hubbard in 1953, as a religious movement combining technology and spirituality based on the belief that humans are immortal, spiritual beings – known as “thetans” – who have forgotten their true nature and are trapped in the material universe.

The faithful believe that human souls are the remnants of a genocidal space war that occurred in ancient pre-history. These souls have become trapped on Earth, and have been bound to material bodies through reincarnation cycles by their own pain and suffering.

These inhibitions are “stored” in the mind/spirit in something called “engrams.” Scientology offers to rehabilitate the thetan through a process called “auditing” to remove past traumas and reach a state of “clear” to regain full

spiritual power.

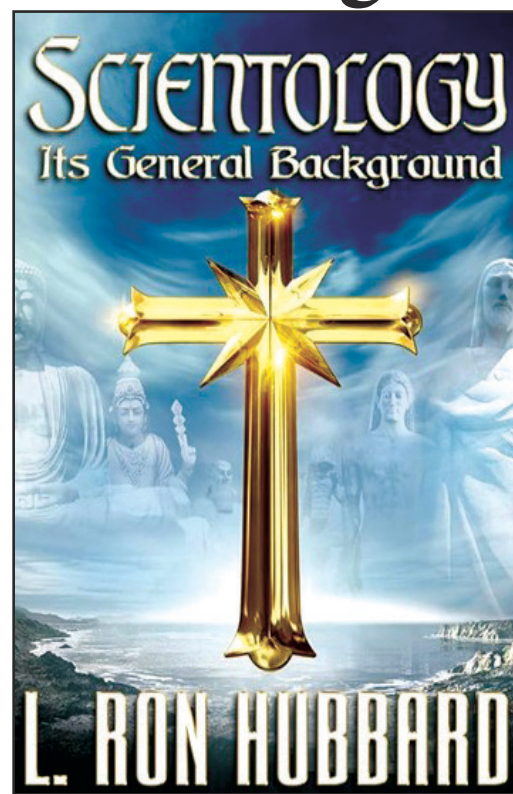
Hubbard first introduced the concept in a book entitled *Dianetics*. He promoted it as a form of lay psychotherapy. The book became an immediate best-seller, had a large appeal, and informal groups sprang up around the United States to put his ideas into practice.

He subsequently broke with those leading the Dianetics movement apparently over issues of control. In 1956, he introduced a revised movement which incorporated ideas from *Dianetics*, but also added a number of new elements.

According to Hubbard, the new movement had a much more spiritual dimension, and he officially established it as the Church of Scientology.

After almost 40 years of legal battles, the Internal Revenue Service formally recognized Scientology as a religious and charitable organization in 1993.

Ral Aars has been teaching *Religiosity classes for 35 years and invites everyone to attend free and open to the public every Sunday at 10 a.m. in the Parish Hall at Our Savior's Lutheran Church at Norse. Write to Ral Aars at: raars.sxc@gmail.com.*



FILE PHOTO

The Church Of Scientology uses a cross as a part of its imagery, but it has no connection to Christianity.



PEN & PORCH

Bryan Davis
Columnist

One man's mortal sacrifice for our country's freedom

Eighty-two years ago this August, a young man died near Malone, France, fighting for lives unknown and those yet to be born. He was four months shy of his 30th birthday. He was never married or had children of his own. But he was a kind and generous man who influenced the lives of untold others back home in the rural farmlands of Erath County, Texas.

His name was James Boyd Slade, called J.B. by family and friends. While J.B. died many years before I was born, I'd heard spoken of reverently by various family members throughout my life. My father admired him so much that when my parents' first child was born in 1951 – he lived only a few hours – he was named in honor of my father's boyhood mentor.

J.B. Slade was born in 1914, the only son in a family of nine daughters. His father died in 1916 when J.B. was 17 months old and his mother was pregnant with the last of her ten children.

Hattie Slade struggled to raise her large family alone during the hard years of the Great Depression. The Slades rented the old farmhouse on the banks of Scarborough Creek where my paternal grandfather was born in 1901 and located on his farm. There, Hattie and her children managed to survive by working hard with the help of kind family and neighbors. Two of the Slade sisters would marry my grandfather's

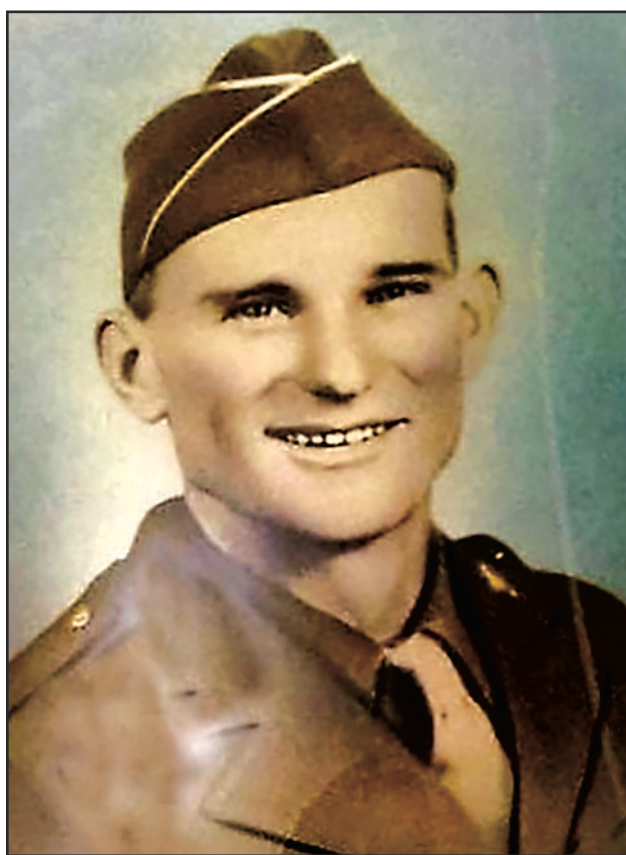
brothers, Bill and Carter, so there was a family connection as well.

The old house where they lived was less than a mile from where my father grew up. J.B. was 13 years Dad's senior and taught dad and his brothers to swim, fish, and drive their first car. When they were teenagers, J.B. would occasionally load the Davis boys into his car and treat them to a “picture show” at the Majestic Theater in downtown Stephenville, some ten miles away.

Dad shared many stories about J.B. and how he admired him. In 1941, the war came home to Huckabay, and the following year J.B. left his mother, sisters, and the cotton fields of Erath County for the U.S. Army. He was designated a Private First Class with the 330th Regiment, 83rd Infantry Division, during the Invasion of Normandy in June of 1944. He died in combat there on Aug. 7 in the final days of the liberation of Europe by Allied forces. He was 29 years old.

Initially, J.B. Slade was buried alongside thousands more who perished in those final days of the war in Europe. His family was first told he was injured and that details would follow as they became known. It wasn't until more than two months later in October, with the help of the American Red Cross, that family learned he had died in combat.

In 1948, his body was exhumed and returned



BRYAN DAVIS | CLIFTON RECORD TRIBUNE

This Memorial Day, honoring James Boyd Slade, one of the many, many men that died in Europe during World War II, doing their duty for their country and democracy worldwide.

home to Texas for burial. My father, then newly married, would attend the ceremony. Today, J.B. Slade rests in the serene and picturesque Indian Gap Cemetery, nestled among ancient oaks several miles down a winding dirt road not far from where he spent his childhood.

In June 2019, to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the D-Day Invasion, President Trump said something that spoke to the sacrifice of J.B. Slade, and the thousands more who met a similar fate while fighting for liberty.

“Americans who fought on Normandy beaches in 1944 came from the farms of a vast and beautiful land,” Trump said. “Before the war, many had never ventured beyond their own communities. Now, they had come to offer their lives half a world away from home. They were united by duty to their compatriots and to millions yet unborn.”

Each Memorial Day, and many other days in between, I think of J.B.

Slade, a man I never knew. The namesake for the brother I never knew. I think about who he might have become, had he been given the chance.

Today, all who knew him are long gone. But J.B. Slade lives in our hearts once more, as we remember his sacrifice, and the untold lives he touched during his brief time on earth. May we never forget him, and the thousands more brave men and women who have given their lives through the generations for 250 years. May they live in our hearts this day and always.

Bryan Davis is an Erath County native who has called Bosque County home for six decades. He holds a journalism degree from the University of Texas and worked as an award-winning writer for area newspapers before becoming a postmaster for 33 years. He's an active community volunteer who enjoys history, gardening, writing, and sharing good food and good times with family and friends.

CAPITOL

From page 6

and not “worth printing.”

Lottery's ex-director face criminal charges

Former Texas lottery director Gary Grief and the Texas Lottery Commission have been charged with misusing their positions in a 2023 Lotto Texas drawing worth \$95 million, the *Austin American-Statesman* reported. The criminal charges assert the agency helped international gamblers engineer a guaranteed win.

Agency officials helped professional bettors purchase nearly every possible six-number combination — more than 25 million tickets — assuring they would win the \$95 million jackpot, according to the charges. However, Grief's attorney issued a statement saying, in part, “When all facts are revealed in court, the public will see that Gary's leadership at the Lottery Commission generated millions of dollars for Texas schools and veterans and there was no crime.”

Grief and the commission are charged with abuse of official capacity, a broadly worded offense alleging “intent to harm or defraud another” by misusing “government property, services, personnel or any other thing of value belonging to the government,” the *Statesman* reported.

Texas' migrant deportation law likely to be blocked

A new law allowing state officials to arrest and deport undocumented immigrants took effect last week, but it appears likely a federal judge will soon move to block it, according to the *Houston Chronicle*. U.S. District Judge David A. Ezra has previously called the law “patently unconstitutional,” but delayed making a ruling.

Senate Bill 4 has been stymied since its passage by legal challenges arguing that immigration enforcement is under the purview of the federal government, not state governments.

“Gov. Abbott is the sovereign governor of the state of Texas. He is not the president of the United States,” Ezra said. “DPS officers are not ICE agents.”

The GOP majority in the Texas Legislature passed the law during an immigration surge during the Biden administration. That surge has since receded, and few GOP lawmakers have been pushing for the law to be implemented, according to the *Chronicle*.

Grimes County questions proposed chip facility

Elon Musk's bid to build what he calls the world's largest computer chip manufacturing facility in Grimes County, southeast of College Station, is drawing opposition from some residents, according to the *San Antonio Express-News*. Musk is seeking tax breaks to build the facility, dubbed Terafab.

Supporters say the initial \$55 billion investment would later double in subsequent phases, which is too good to pass up. Opponents question the track record of Musk's businesses, such as SpaceX, and whether the huge company needs tax breaks.

“I believe it would be immoral to give this company tax abatement when we have serious concerns about health issues and safety issues,” county resident Jacqueline Ross told Grimes County commissioners.

SpaceX was fined nearly \$150,000 in 2024 for breaking clean water laws after a fuel spill at its South Texas launch site. It also was cited for illegally discharging wastewater into wetlands near its Boca Chica facilities.

The company is seeking a \$1.75 trillion valuation when it goes public in a few months, prompting some residents to question why it needs a tax break.

Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches, Lufkin and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com.

LOWRY

From page 6

dates, Democrat Raphael Warnock and Republican Herschel Walker, ran against each other? Were the voting rights of Christians in New York City crimped in 2025 because a Muslim man won the mayoral election?

All indications are that a commitment to some version of court-packing will be orthodoxy among 2028 Democratic

presidential candidates. They will seek to make the highly isolated and wholly unpersuasive Justice Jackson part of a new court majority imposed by political fiat.

Rich Lowry is the former editor and now editor-in-chief of National Review, an American conservative news and opinion magazine. Lowry became editor of National Review in 1997 when selected by its founder, William F. Buckley Jr., to lead the magazine.

DIEBENOW

From page 6

job. Instead of complaining, it started noticing. Instead of rushing, it started playing.

That's the trick, I think. When you catch yourself in that first flash of frustration, you've got a small window – just a few seconds – where you can hand your mind something better to do.

It doesn't have to be much. A breath. A detail. A question. A made-up story.

Whatever you choose, you're still waiting on the same train. But you're not stuck in the same feeling.

It only takes a few seconds for a person to calm down after a stressful event. In the heat of a moment, six seconds might seem like an eternity, but try it.

When you're stuck in a long line at the grocery store, just take a deep breath through your nose and slowly exhale through your mouth six times.

If you need an extra trick to cool down, there's plenty of content you can pull from your public school education – you can recite everything from your multiplication tables or the alphabet to a folk song or Lewis Carroll's “Jabberwocky” poem*.

During one really long train wait, I saw a lady weave an entire wicker basket, which I figured was her way of keeping her cool.

Most of the time, what gets us worked up isn't the moment itself – it's the story we tell ourselves about it.

We don't always get to choose the delay, the noise or the interruption. But we do get a say in what

we do with those first few seconds after it hits us.

That pause is small. Easy to miss. But it's there.

And if you use it, even once, you start to notice something: the situation doesn't always have to change for the feeling to change.

Sometimes, all it takes is a different story.

When I hear that train horn shriek at night now, it doesn't upset me anymore like it used to.

Instead I think about our neighbors along the track and the stories they're telling.

Six breaths. That's all it takes.

Toot, toot!

Nathan Diebenow is managing editor of the Clifton Record Tribune. He can be reached at nathand.sxc@gmail.com. See: a liberal arts education does come in handy, especially under stress.*

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 Monday-Friday 8:30am-5pm
 Office: 254-675-3336

IN custody arrest report

Bosque County Sheriff's Office

Recent arrests of adults by various Bosque County law enforcement agencies and booked into Bosque County Jail between Monday, 12:01 a.m. May 11 to Sunday, 11:59 p.m. May 17, 2026.

Alford, Kenneth, M, possession of a controlled substance pg 1/1-B<1g, state felony, arrested 05/11/2026

Thomas, Robert Clifton, M of Killeen, theft of property >=\$100<\$750, Class B misdemeanor, arrested on 05/11/2026

Adame-Mendoza, Miguel, M of Clifton, no driver's license, Class C misdemeanor, arrested on 05/11/2026

Olivarri, Stephanie Lynn, F of Walnut Springs, possession of a controlled substance pg3 <28g in drug free zone If At Trial Enhanced, state felony; tampering with or fabricating physical evidence with the intent to impair, third degree felony, arrested on 05/12/2026

Hutson, Adam Clark, M of Woodway, driving while intoxicated, Class B misdemeanor; possession of marijuana <2oz, Class B misdemeanor; possession of a controlled substance pg2<1g, state felony, arrested on 05/12/2026

Martinez, Noe Mendoza, M of Valley Mills, aggravated assault causing serious bodily injury, second degree felony, arrested on 05/13/2026

Washington, Jesse, M of Houston, driving while license invalid/suspended with prior convictions, Class B misdemeanor; failure to maintain financial responsibility, Class C misdemeanor, arrested on 05/13/2026

Bollin, James Rankin, M of Alvarado, engaging in organized criminal activity – bench warrant, second degree felony, arrested on 05/14/2026

Fahle, Brandon, M of Austin, public intoxication, arrested on 05/15/2026

Robison, Mikel Patrick, M of Florence, driving while intoxicated/probation violation/warrant, arrested on 05/15/2026

Harkcom, Harlon Howard, M of Walnut Springs, assault causing bodily injury, Class A misdemeanor, arrested on 05/15/2026

Jones, William Wayne, M, two counts harassment/Belton, Class B misdemeanor; harassment/probation violation – attest/Bell County, Class B misdemeanor, arrested on 05/15/2026

Peterson, Steven Timothy, M of Garland, aggravated assault causing serious bodily injury, second degree felony, arrested on 05/16/2026

NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND MEETING TO CONSIDER THE REAUTHORIZATION OF GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA GOVERNING TAX ABATEMENT FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROSPECTS IN BOSQUE COUNTY SCHEDULED FOR MAY 26th, 2026.

Pursuant to Local Government Code 111.007, notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held at the Bosque County Courthouse, in the County Courtroom, located at 110 South Main Street, Meridian, Texas on May 26th, 2026, at 9:00 am. The Bosque County Commissioners Court will consider the proposed Tax Abatement Guidelines and Criteria. Any person may attend and participate in the hearing, and all citizens are encouraged to attend. At the conclusion of the public hearing, the Commissioners Court may take action on the proposed Tax Abatement Guidelines and Criteria. A copy of the proposed Tax Abatement Guidelines and Criteria will be available as of May 1st, 2026, for public inspection at the office of the Honorable Cindy Vanlandingham, County Judge, located at 110 South Main Street, Room 100, Meridian, Texas.

BOSQUE COUNTY, TEXAS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS GROUP MEDICAL & RELATED INSURANCE BENEFITS

From:
Bosque County Commissioners Court & Human Resources
110 S. Main St.
PO Box 647
Meridian, TX 76665
Phone: 254-435-6612

SECTION I: Request for Proposal

Proposals are solicited for furnishing Bosque County with a Group Medical Insurance \$40 PEPM or 5%. Centro Benefits will be quoting all ancillary lines on behalf of Anco Insurance: Dental, Vision, Base Life & AD&D, Voluntary Life & AD&D, Short-Term Disability, Long-Term Disability, Critical Illness, Accident, Cancer, Hospital Indemnity. Emergency Transportation, Whole Life, MERP, Premium Saver, legal & Protections, Tele Med will also be quoted for employees and dependents as set forth in this proposal request for a period of October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027, in accordance with the following conditions. Proposals are also solicited to include a COBRA Administration program. Please bid each coverage separately. You may request additional copies of this packet from the Human Resource's office or make copies for each product for which you are sending a proposal. This Request for Proposals (RFP) is for the purpose of soliciting insurance proposals in accordance with Texas Local Government Code Chapter 262.030 Alternative Competitive Proposal Procedure for Certain Goods and Services.

Proposals must be submitted to the County Clerk's Office, 110 S. Main St., PO Box 617, Meridian, TX 76665, no later than 4:00 P.M., Thursday, June 11th, 2026. Proposals must be sealed and clearly marked "Group Medical Insurance Proposal". The County has requested proposals be submitted with one paper copy and 7 copies on thumb drives, if this is not possible, a total of 8 paper copies is required. Proposals will be publicly opened in the Commissioner's Courtroom of the Bosque County Courthouse on Monday, June 15th, 2026 at 9:00 am. Proposals are scheduled to be awarded no later than Monday, July 13th, 2026. Anco Insurance Managers LTD will be negotiating the premiums with all bidders. If you have any questions regarding the RFP, please contact Anco Insurance, a HUB International Company, at 979-776-6506.


MEETINGS

CELEBRATE RECOVERY

Christ-centered
12-Step ministry.
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First Baptist Church
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 **Call Chris**
254-694-7935 or
254-337-1055

WANTED

Wanted - Deer Lease
Michael Cornelius.
281-932-6656.
corneliusclearing@
gmail.com



EMPLOYMENT

JOB OPENING - DEPUTY CLERK

BOSQUE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE is now taking applications for a full-time Deputy Clerk. The position requires a well-organized, detail-oriented individual with good typing and computer skills. The applicant must be able to lift and/or move heavy books and boxes up to twenty five (25) pounds.

Applicants should maintain a positive, professional attitude, interact effectively with the public and perform well in a demanding environment while meeting deadlines. High School diploma and at least two years office experience preferred.

Resumes should be submitted to Bosque County Human Resources, PO Box 647, Meridian, Tx 76665 or d.ragsdale@bosquecounty.gov. Position will remain open until filled.

Bosque County is an equal opportunity employer. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or disability. Ad paid for by Bosque County.

LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Malt Beverage Retailer's Off-Premise Permit by Gap Ranch Supply and Mercantile LLC, to be located at 201 N 2nd Street, Cranfills Gap, Bosque County, Texas. Member of said limited liability company is owner, Charles Todd McMann.

REQUEST FOR BIDS

The Bosque County Commissioners Court will be accepting proposals for IT Support Services. For more information regarding the details of the bid please contact the County Judge's Office at 254-435-6621.

Bids or Proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope plainly marked "**IT SUPPORT**" and shall be submitted to Bosque County Clerk, P.O. Box 617, Meridian, TX 76665 no later than 11:00 a.m. on Friday, May 29, 2026. Bids submitted after the above mentioned time will be returned unopened. Proposals will be opened Tuesday, June 1, 2026 in the Bosque County Commissioners Courtroom, 110 S Main St., Meridian, TX. Bosque County reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

REQUEST FOR BIDS

The City of Morgan, Texas, will be taking sealed bids for the sale of a non-working 2008 Ford Crown Victoria 4DR police vehicle. The police equipment has been removed.

Sealed bids will be received until Wednesday, June 10, 2026. The City Hall hours are 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to submit bids. The vehicle may be viewed during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and Noon each workday.

For questions, contact Ben Rodriguez, Code Enforcement Officer, at 254-635-2106.

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SALE DATE: MAY 13, 2026 HEAD COUNT: 825

No. 1 Steers:	Slaughter Cows:
Under 300 lbs 625-695	High Yield 170 to 190
300-400 lbs 560-675	Low Yield 140 to 150
400-500 lbs 480-580	Fats 140 to 155
500-600 lbs 425-495	Thin / Shelly 120 to 135
600-700 lbs 385-425	Packer Bulls (1250-2075 lbs.):
700-800 lbs 340-390	Yield Grade 1 & 2 190 to 225
No. 1 Heifers:	Cow & Calf Pairs:
Under 300 lbs 550-650	Young Choice 4000 to 4850
300-400 lbs 530-650	Young Fair 3000 to 3950
400-500 lbs 460-515	Aged Pairs Split & Weighed
500-600 lbs 400-465	Young Pregnancy Test Stocker
600-700 lbs 360-435	Replacement Cows: 2000-4000
700-800 lbs 320-340	SALE EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 12 NOON

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 Cattle Hauling & Cattle Working Available CALL ZACH THOMAS 254-206-1100

THE SPORTS BUZZ



WENDY OROZCO | CLIFTON RECORD TRIBUNE
Clifton Lady Cub junior Brystel Wise celebrates after clearing a new school record five feet, six inches on her first attempt at the Class 3A Track & Field State Meet in Austin last Friday (left); Making her second straight trip to the state meet, sophomore Taliyha Davenport lands fifth place in triple jump (above); Senior Alexa Lane qualified for the state meet in pole vault for the fourth consecutive time (right).

STATE

From page 1

to the competition.

At the District 17-3A Championships hosted at Cub Stadium, Wise settled for the silver medal with by clearing 5-2 as Lady Cub junior Natalia Cathcart captured the gold medal with an identical jump of 5-2 with fewer misses along the way.

To earn her third straight trip to regionals, Wise won the gold medal at the Area 17 & 18 Track and Field Championships at Keene High School by once again clearing 5-2 to slip past Grandview senior Emma Bartosh (5-2), who had more misses.

Then, Wise settled for a silver medal with a jump of 5-3 at the Class 3A, Region III Championships in Huntsville, finishing just behind Anderson-Shiro freshman Maycee Myers (5-4), who could not repeat her performance at state.

“We had an outstanding season,” Hunt said. “You always hope to perform your

best this time of year, and that happened for us. I’m proud of how our kids competed. The level of competition was high, and our athletes rose to the challenge.”

Advancing to state for the second straight season, Lady Cub sophomore Taliyha Davenport improved on her Class 3A, Region III meet silver medal performance by almost a foot, leaping 38 feet, 5.75 inches to easily beat regional gold medalist Londyn Marshall of New Waverly (37-1).

But battling in a highly-competitive field, it wasn’t enough to get her on the medal stand as Davenport settled for fifth place. Yoakum senior Jayla Hessler leaped well beyond the field by nearly two feet, claiming the gold medal with a jump of 41-7.50, just 7.75 inches short of the Class 3A state record.

“Taliyha continued with her strong performances in the triple jump,” Hunt said. “It was a very competitive group she was jumping against, and she was able to come away with a fifth-place finish. She

had a couple of her top jumps of the year that were better than when she competed in Austin last year. We look forward to her continued success the next couple of years.”

As the Lady Cub mainstay in pole vault throughout her high school career, Clifton senior Alexa Lane advanced to the State Meet for the fourth consecutive season. Along the way, Lane set a new school record by clearing 12 feet to win the gold medal at the District 17-3A Championships.

But at state, it wasn’t meant to be as Lane finished in eighth place, while Class 3A, Region III gold medalist junior Kyla Shoppach of West claimed the state title with a vault of 12-9.

“Alexa has been a varsity competitor since her first day of track and field her freshman year,” Hunt said. “She finished as a four-year state qualifier and school record holder in pole vault. She’s also been a huge part of our relays and running events over the last four years. She has meant a

lot to our program, and we are going to miss her.”

But with both Wise and Davenport coming back, along with a host of underclassmen who produced strong, just-miss performances at the regional level this year, the Lady Cub track and field team has a lot to look forward to next season and beyond.

“Our girls had an awesome experience at the state meet,” said Hunt, who has assistant coaches Imilda Olsen, Mario Villalpando, Brent Finney and Trevor Ernst for field events. “It’s a special atmosphere there, and our kids made the most of it.

“I can’t say enough about what our field event coaches have done with these athletes throughout the year. Coach Olsen in high jump, Coach V in triple jump, Coach Finney and Coach Ernst in pole vault have all helped these kids perform to the best of their abilities. They all really care about the success of our athletes and we are lucky to have such a strong track and field coaching staff.”

NOTICES

NOTICE TO BIDDERS CITY OF Meridian

The City of Meridian is accepting sealed bids for sanitation services within the city limits. Interested companies may obtain bid packets at City Hall during normal business hours.

Sealed bids must be submitted to Meridian City Hall no later than 4:00 p.m. on June 10, 2026. Bids received after the deadline will not be considered.

The City of Meridian reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities or irregularities in the bidding process.

Submit sealed bids to:
City of Meridian
201 N Main St
Meridian, Texas 76665

For questions or additional information, please contact City Hall at 254-435-2381.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING JUNE 8, 2026 at 6:30 PM

Meridian Housing Authority Office
205 NORTH FIRST STREET

The Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 requires the Housing Authority of the City of Meridian to prepare a Five-Year Plan and an Annual Plan covering operations of the Public Housing Program.

On June 8, 2026 at 6:30 p.m., the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority will hold a public meeting to receive comments on The Housing Authority’s Five-Year Plan and Annual Plan.

The meeting will take place at the Authority’s office located at 205 North 1st Street, Meridian, Texas.

The “draft” Plans and all supporting documents are available to the Public for viewing at the administration office of the Housing Authority, Located at 205 North 1st Street, Meridian, Texas weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

EMPLOYMENT

JOB OPENING - DEPUTY CLERK

Bosque County Tax Assessor Collector’s Office is now taking applications for a full-time Deputy Clerk. Applicant must be proficient in general office and advanced computer skills as well as good customer service skills. Applicant should maintain a positive, professional attitude, interact effectively with the public and perform well in a demanding environment while meeting deadlines. Selected Applicants will be subject to drug testing and background check.

Application can be filled out online or downloaded from the Bosque County Website <https://www.bosquecounty.gov/jobs.aspx> and mailed to Bosque County HR, P.O. Box 647, Meridian, TX. 76665 or emailed with attached resume to hr@bosquecounty.gov. Position will remain open until filled.

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Public Service Announcement: Fair Housing, It’s the Law

To promote fair housing practices, the City of Meridian encourages potential homeowners and renters to be aware of their rights under the National Fair Housing Law. Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended, prohibits discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status or national origin in the sale or rental of units in the housing market. For more information on fair housing or to report possible fair housing discrimination, call the Texas Workforce Commission at (888) 452-4778 or (512) 463-2642 TTY: 512-371-7473.

Policy of Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability

The City of Meridian does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or employment in, its federally assisted programs or activities. The Mayor has been designated to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements contained in the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) regulations implementing Section 504 (24 CFR Part 8).

Citizen Participation & Grievance Procedures Notice

The City of Meridian has adopted complaint and grievance procedures regarding its Community Development Block Grant Mitigation program (CDBG-MIT). Citizens may obtain a copy of these written procedures at PO Box 306, Meridian, TX 76665 during regular business hours. Citizens may also request the procedures be mailed to them by calling the Mayor, Civil Rights Officer at (254) 435-2381. These procedures outline the steps for a citizen to follow if s/he wishes to file a complaint or grievance about CDBG-MIT activities. A person who has a complaint or grievance about any services or activities with respect to the CDBG-MIT project, may during regular business hours submit such complaint or grievance, in writing to the City Secretary, at PO Box 306, Meridian, TX 76665 or may call (254) 435-2381. The City of Meridian will make every effort to respond fully to such complaints within fifteen (15) working days where practicable.

Equal Employment Opportunity Statement

The City of Meridian does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin.




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Texas Department of Transportation



PHOTOS BY NATHAN DIEBENOW & SIMONE WICHERS-VOSS

Families, friends, and neighbors gather for some high-octane entertainment at the Bosque Valley Antique Tractor Club's tractor pull outside Clifton on Mother's Day Eve May 9 (top left), Spectators watch Chaos from Hico on the track at the Bosque Valley Antique Tractor Club's tractor pull (top right), Bosque County's Don Whitney goes the distance in his green Oliver Super 88 tractor (above left), Shannon Birchum sets up her table for the SILO Project Diner en Blanc fundraiser May 9 (below right), Dr. Deb Tolman hosts the SILO Project Diner en Blanc fundraiser (below left), Phillip Wildman performs at the SILO Project Diner en Blanc fundraiser (below center).





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For information, call:

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Focusing on cattle foraging

Area cattle producers learn grazing, nutritional tips at Cattle Short Course Workshop in Clifton

By Nathan Diebenow
 MANAGING EDITOR

Continuing to learn gives people of all skill levels a fair chance to adapt and compete in a world that is constantly changing.

The Clifton Feed & Service Center brought over 20 local cattle producers together May 15 for a Cattle Short Course Workshop at the Home Economics Building on the Clifton Fair Grounds, offering practical ranching advice at a time when beef prices and pressures on the cattle industry continue to rise nationwide.

The workshop featured presentations from ranch manager and grazing specialist Chris Farley, Purina representative Madison Strief and Clifton Feed & Service Center co-owner Steve Conrad. Throughout the two-hour afternoon session, the speakers shared reliable information that helps neighboring producers succeed, strengthening both ranching operations and rural communities.

The event comes as cattle producers face mounting challenges from aging ranch populations, years of drought across Texas and the Midwest and wildfire losses that have reduced herd sizes nationwide. At the same time, beef prices have climbed sharply.

According to new federal data released last week by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average price of ground beef in the United States has reached a record \$6.90 per pound, while non-seasonally adjusted prices surpassed \$7 per pound for the first time in history. Ground beef prices have risen 77 percent since January 2020, when prices averaged \$3.89 per pound. Meanwhile, uncooked beef steaks now average a record \$13.02 per pound, up 70 percent since January 2020.

Against that backdrop, workshop speakers focused on helping producers improve forage quality, grazing efficiency and cattle nutrition in order to remain profitable while preserving their land for future generations. Farley, who formerly taught at the Texas Christian University



NATHAN DIEBENOW | CLIFTON RECORD TRIBUNE
 Dr. Mark Brandenberger holds up a native grass hosted by the Clifton Feed & Service Center at the Home Economics Building on the Clifton Fair Grounds May 15.

ty Ranch Management Program, spent much of his presentation discussing the importance of rotational grazing and understanding native grasses.

“As your cows go through there, they’re going to select what they want in a more desirable grass first to a least desirable,” Farley told attendees while comparing high-desirable grasses to “banana pudding” and low-desirable grasses to “lettuce.”

Farley encouraged producers to become more familiar with the grasses growing on their own land and to view healthy pastures as diverse ecosystems rather than simple monocultures.

“God has a purpose for every one of those plants,” Farley said.

Using comparisons to a buffet meal, Farley explained how cattle performance can often be monitored through grazing

patterns and even manure consistency.

“When [manure] looks like a pecan pie, your cow is getting all of [the nutrients] and the banana pudding that it needs,” Farley said while describing ideal forage digestion.

Farley said his larger goal was helping ranchers improve both forage production and profitability.

“My goal for you is two things: to have more grass at the end of the year, and you wean more pounds of meat,” Farley said.

Farley also highlighted the advantages of rotational grazing systems, which train cattle to move efficiently between pastures.

“When you start a rotation and you put cattle into a rotation, and you train them that the next time you open that gate, it’s going to go into a newer pasture, they’ll meet you at the gate,” Farley said.

Strief, who works with cattle operations across North Texas, focused on mineral supplementation and seasonal nutrition programs.

“It’s a good time to be in the cow business,” Strief said, acknowledging the current unique state of cattle markets.

Strief emphasized that producers must take advantage of the limited spring growing season when forage quality is highest.

“How can we capitalize on those two months to help our cattle?” Strief asked while discussing forage growth before and after the mid-April through mid-June grass growing season.

Strief said mineral supplementation remains one of the most affordable investments producers can make in herd health and reproduction.

“To feed one cow mineral for the whole year, 365 days, it’s about \$60,” Strief said. “I think we’re making that profit back at the sale barn.”

Conrad tied the workshop themes together by emphasizing that even the best forage systems still require nutritional balance throughout the year.

“Ninety percent of the year forages don’t have everything in it that the cattle need,” Conrad said, adding, “Grass is going to be deficient in mineral environment. That’s a proven thing.”

Conrad explained that supplements can help producers maintain cattle performance during periods when pasture quality declines.

“If you can’t rotate or don’t want to, that’s when our supplement programs come into play,” Conrad said.

“There’s not a right or wrong answer, it’s what fits you, what you’re trying to do,” Conrad said, emphasizing flexibility and practicality for individual ranch operations.

Throughout the workshop, it was clear that local knowledge-sharing and cooperation can help cattle producers survive difficult conditions while strengthening the region’s food supply and rural economy for the future.

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IN THE ELEMENTS

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78	82	80	80	82	84	84
65	66	65	66	68	69	70
90% SE 5 MPH	40% S 5 MPH	50% SE 6 MPH	50% SE 7 MPH	40% SE 7 MPH	60% S 8 MPH	55% S 10 MPH

SOURCES: National Weather Service & Weather Underground

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MEIXNER'S MOTHERLY MELODIES

Accordion virtuoso turns Mother's Day into community celebration

By Nathan Diebenow
MANAGING EDITOR

What better way to celebrate Mother's Day than with waltz and wonder, Gypsy folklore and toe-tapping polka music?

About 30 people spent Mother's Day afternoon laughing, clapping, dancing and listening to accordionist Alex Meixner transform Bosque Arts Center's Frazier Performance Hall into a lively celebration of heritage music, humor and shared community spirit May 10.

The hour-and-a-half-long performance mixed polka, jazz, rock, classical music and folk traditions into a fast-moving show that often felt part-concert, part-comedy routine and part-cultural history lesson.

Opening the Mother's Day concert, Meixner reminded the audience of a simple shared value.

"Happy Mother's Day," Meixner said. "We're celebrating for all the mothers that are here and for all of our mothers, because if it wasn't for our mothers, none of us would be here."

That common thread of family, heritage and togetherness ran throughout the afternoon as Meixner — a Grammy-nominated mu-

sician, International Polka Association Hall of Fame inductee and longtime ambassador for polka music — guided the audience through stories from his career and roots.

Meixner joked about the exhausting touring schedule that brought him to Clifton after performances across multiple states.

"Well, you know my favorite state is confusion," Meixner said after rattling off his recent travel itinerary across Texas, Pennsylvania, Ohio, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee.

Earlier this spring Meixner visited numerous school district campuses in Bosque County, sharing his music and skills through a Texas Commission on the Arts grant.

Known nationally for his energetic performances, Meixner became a regular act at Wursthfest beginning in 1999 and recently relocated to New Braunfels through an agreement connected with a biergarten and restaurant there. In 2022, he was inducted into the International Polka Association Hall of Fame with a Lifetime Achievement honor. His 2007 album Polka Freak Out — recorded with Brave Combo founder

Bubba Hernandez — earned a Grammy nomination. Meixner also recorded music with comedic actor Jack Black for the 2017 film The Polka King, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival.

Meixner was recently honored for his influence on polka culture through the launch of the "Alex Meixner Polka Pilsner" at Faust Brewing Company.

Yet despite his Oktoberfest reputation, Meixner repeatedly told the Clifton audience he appreciated the chance to perform for a crowd without the alcohol typically associated with polka culture.

"I promise you, I like performing for sober people too," Meixner joked.

Throughout the show, Meixner argued that music can bridge divides between people and cultures.

"Music has an amazing way of bringing all of that together," Meixner said while discussing Texas' blend of Czech, German, Mexican and other immigrant traditions. "A pretty song can really take over any difficulties."

The concert itself reflected that philosophy. Meixner jumped seamlessly between Croatian folk tunes, Czech polkas, jazz improvisation,

classical piano passages and rock music medleys.

At one point, Meixner warned the audience before launching into a musical mashup combining Ozzy Osbourne, The Monkees, Glenn Miller and other artists.

"In approximately five minutes, there will probably be a section of the song that somebody here doesn't like," Meixner joked before adding, "How can anybody get offended by Glenn Miller?"

Another recurring theme was Meixner's affection for the accordion itself.

"When you play an accordion, you have an instrument that has the ability to play melody and has the ability to play bass and has the ability to give harmony," Meixner said.

"There's just something about this instrument," Meixner later added. "It's pretty. It makes you happy. It's hard to be sad."

That sense of joy reached its peak during "The Chicken Dance," when six audience members rose to dance after Meixner jokingly claimed Texas law required at least six dancers. A couple wearing matching "Polka" and "Waltz" shirts enthusiastically helped lead the group.



NATHAN DIEBENOW | CLIFTON RECORD TRIBUNE
Accordionist Alex Meixner plays his brand of public happiness music during a free Mother's Day show at Bosque Arts Center's Frazier Performance Hall May 10.

"Look at what happened when I played the Chicken Dance," Meixner told the audience afterward. "People lose their inhibitions."

Meixner later expanded the thought into a broader reflection on modern division and shared humanity.

"We can all be angry at each other, or we can find out that even though you two might not agree on everything, there's a few things you'll agree on," Meixner said.

The concert closed gently with renditions of the "Sesame Street" theme and "Amazing Grace," bringing the lively afternoon to a softer, reflective ending.

Beneath the humor and

musical experimentation, Meixner repeatedly returned to a larger vision — preserving and reviving what might be called "public happiness music" in contemporary America.

"My main goal as a band leader, as a leader of any organization, hire people who work better than you, because when you do that, you have the ability to work together, and it brings everybody up," Meixner said.

By the end of the afternoon, the audience at the Bosque Arts Center seemed to understand exactly what he meant as they mingled and mixed for cookies and refreshments in the Atrium Gallery downstairs.

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