

**PROGRAMS PROVIDING MOST SIGNIFICANT
TREATMENT OF COMMUNITY ISSUES
On KWTX 2nd QUARTER 2019**

KWTX News 10 This Morning 5A Monday thru Friday 5:00-6:00am

KWTX News 10 This Morning 6A Monday thru Friday 6:00-7:00am

COMMUNITY /HUMAN INTEREST

Morning Buzz: Caritas Feast of Caring

Apr. 16, 6am-7am, Live-interview in studio, Pete Sousa & Taina Maya (4-minutes)
Save the date for Caritas of Waco "Soup Cook-off" event happening next week. The "Soup Cook-Off" is Caritas biggest fundraiser event filled with silent and audible auctions, the Souper Spoons game, and a fun evening to support the work of Caritas. Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased at www.caritas-waco.org or by calling 254-753-4593 ext. 213. When: Apr. 23. Time: 6 p.m. Where: Brazos Room of the Waco Convention Center.

Morning Buzz: Attic Treasures

Apr. 17, 6am-7am. Recorded look-live interview segments, Taina Maya (4-minutes)
This Morning on The Buzz, we talked about the Attic Treasures sale happening in Waco. The Attic Treasures sale features gently used, vintage, and antique one of a kind finds. This is a cash only sale. Funds will benefit the Historic Waco Foundation. When: May 3 - May 5. Time: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Where: Brazos Place Shopping Center, 4328 W Waco Dr. Waco, TX 76710

Morning Buzz: Salvation Army Charity Luncheon

Apr. 29, 6am-7am. Live-Interviews, Pete Sousa & Taina Maya (5-minutes)
Major Taylor stops by The Morning Buzz to tell us about their up-coming luncheon featuring a guest appearance from a Dallas Cowboy superstar Drew Pearson.

Businesses are concerned as I-35 construction project begins

Apr. 30, 5am-7am, Live-VOSOTS, Christy Soto (4-minutes)
Work on the \$341 million expansion of Interstate 35 from South 12th Street to North Loop 340 through Waco is underway and some business owners are concerned as the Texas Department of Transportation begins to close lanes and ramps. Businesses in the area say they noticed traffic changes as work started on Monday morning. "Customers are complaining about backed up traffic down the interstate which we experienced this morning for the first time," says Cupp's Drive Inn Owner Freddie Johnson. Johnson isn't the only one who says the project will affect business, Sierra Van Winkle who manages 1102 Bubble Tea and Coffee says the 8th Street pedestrian bridge planned demolition will decrease attendance. "I think it might be a bit more difficult to get over here," says Van Winkle, "Especially Baylor students that would use the pedestrian bridge to get to the other side of the highway." TxDOT says the project is aiming for completion by late 2023. While residents like Johnson are happy for the

changes, that length of time will impact business.

Morning Buzz: Drowning Dangers

June 10, 6a.m., Live-Interviews, 2-segments, Pete Sousa & Taina Maya (4-minutes)

This morning on The Buzz, Kim Hodges with the National Injury Prevention Council stopped by to educate us on the dangers around water especially during the hot months.

KWTX Foster Care Project: Selena's looking for a family to foster her dreams (Regular series of reports)

June 19, 6:00 a.m., PKG, Pete Sousa (3-minutes)

Selena is a little guarded, but that's what happens when you've been removed from two homes by the age of 11. And when she was in those homes, with her nine brothers and sisters, she was spending a lot of time taking care of them. She's wise beyond her years and wants to work with challenged children when she grows up. That's because she's spent a lot of time helping-out her brother, who is special needs himself. For now she's looking for a family to help her foster that growth. If you have any interest in getting involved or learning more about her call the Texas Adoption Resource Center at 800-233-3405.

Gatesville hospital marks anniversary of deadly blast

June 26, 5-7 a.m., Live-VOSOTs, Christy Soto (6-minutes)

Nearly 100 hospital employees and members of the public gathered Wednesday on the front lawn of the Coryell Memorial Hospital in Gatesville to mark a year since the tragic explosion that claimed the lives of three men and injured 13 others. On June 16, 2018, shortly after 2:15 p.m., an explosion rocked a central utilities plant that was under construction at the hospital. The explosion caused massive damage to the building at the rear of the Coryell Memorial Healthcare System. "It's been a tough year," hospital administrator David Byrom said, "It's been a defining moment for the organization. "I don't think the definition of the explosion is it. It's the actions of the community and the staff following that explosion that were defining moments in our organization," said Byrom. Coryell Memorial Health System EMS Director Jeffrey Mincy said they still feel the impact a year later. "It's been a trying year, for many of us, my EMTs and paramedics that were there struggled with it and I struggle with it," he said. "It still was a positive moment with how our people reacted and how the community came together." Michael Bruggman of Rogers, died in the blast. Bruggman, 43, was a Temple native who graduated in 1992 from Academy High School and went on to attend Sam Houston State University. Filiberto Morales, 36, of Round Rock, died two days later at Scott & White Medical Center in Temple. Wilber Dimas died on July 15 at Dell Seton Medical Center in Austin.

Morning Buzz: Community Day of Caring

June 26, 6a.m.-7a.m., Live-Interview, Pete Sousa & Taina Maya (5-minutes)

Anderson Chapel in conjunction with Richard Allen Community Development Corporation is having the 3rd Annual Community Day of Caring. Free haircuts, styles, manicures, clothes, shoes, and food are offered. In addition, job preparedness and

placement service consultants and dental hygiene professionals will be on hand. When: July 1 Time: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Where: Douse Community Center Jefferies Avenue, Killeen

GOVERNMENT/POLITICS

Texas Tribune – live interview

Apr. 4, 6a.m., Live-Interview, Pete Sousa (3-minutes)

Every Thursday morning we're joined by political reporter Alana Roacha from the Texas Tribune. This week Pete talked with Alana about Texas education reform, including proposed raises for our state's teachers. The two also discussed a return of the controversial bathroom bill, which is unlikely to happen during the current state legislative session, since introducing the bill would violate the Texas Constitution.

Texas Tribune – live interview

Apr. 11, 6a.m., Live-Interview, Pete Sousa (3-minutes)

Every Thursday morning we're joined by political reporter Alana Roacha from the Texas Tribune. This week Pete talked with Alana about the sales tax swap, a proposal to raise sales tax to lower state property taxes. Neither chamber has passed HB 2 or SB 2, which would require voter approval of property tax increases over 2.5%. But the House is taking up its tax proposal today. The Senate passed a measure this week that would raise the legal purchasing age for tobacco products from 18 to 21. The two also discussed some unflattering headlines regarding presidential contender Bet O'Rourke. A Tribune piece about two former O'Rourke staffers who now say they're with presidential candidate Bernie Sanders.

Congressman Bill Flores live interview

Apr. 25, 6:00a.m., Live-Interview, Pete Sousa (3-minutes)

KWTX morning anchor Pete Sousa talks with our local Congressman Bill Flores about the release of the redacted Mueller report and efforts underway by some democratic leaders to move forward with another investigation and the possible impeachment of President Trump. The two also discussed the other latest national topics and much needed aid for local areas affected by recent tornadoes and storms. These segments air almost weekly in our am show.

Texas Tribune – live interview

Apr. 11, 6a.m., Live-Interview, Pete Sousa (3-minutes)

Every Thursday morning we're joined by political reporter Alana Roacha from the Texas Tribune. This week Pete talked with Alana about property tax and school finance reform measures, as well as, proposed teacher raises across the board for all TX teachers. A lot of measures are coming down to the wire as the session begins to wrap up. A bill to lower the penalties for getting caught using marijuana will likely be dead on arrival to the state senate.

Texas Tribune – live interview

May 9, 6a.m., Live-Interview, Pete Sousa (3-minutes)

Every Thursday morning we're joined by political reporter Alana Roacha from the Texas

Tribune. This week Pete talked with Alana about the proposed tax swap that would increase sales taxes in exchange for not increasing state property taxes. The proposal is not likely to become reality. The two also discussed a measure unlikely to pass that would change the penalties and legalities for those caught using cannabis. And, finally, red light cameras could be removed from around the state. Those are the cameras that take pictures of motorists running red lights who later receive tickets in the mail.

Anchor Taina Maya travels to DC with Waco Chamber on their annual lobbying trip May 8 & 9, 6 am, Look-Lives, Taina Maya (4-minutes)
Taina Maya is in Washington, D.C. with the Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce as part of the annual Fly-In event.

Taina Maya in D.C. with Waco Chamber
May 10, 6:00 a.m., Live-shot, Taina Maya (3-minutes)
Taina Maya is in Washington, D.C. with the Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce as part of the annual Fly-In event. She along with other local leaders are meeting with lawmakers to discuss key points

Waco City Council prepares to swear-in new members.
May 14, 5:00 a.m.-7:00 a.m., Live-VOSOTs, Christy Soto (6-minutes)
Waco City Council Election Reception -- Swearing in District II, IV and V. VOSOT with Alice Rodriguez council woman who is retiring after 24 years.

Texas Tribune – live interview
May 23, 6a.m., Live-Interview, Pete Sousa (3-minutes)
Every Thursday morning we're joined by political reporter Alana Roacha from the Texas Tribune. This week Pete talked with Alana about the last few remaining days of the state legislative session and efforts to provide property tax relief and approve a plan for school funding. Also, the governor is likely to sign a bill into law removing red light cameras around the state. Those are the cameras that take pictures of motorists running red lights who later receive tickets in the mail.

Texas Tribune – live interview
May 30, 6a.m., Live-Interview, Pete Sousa (3-minutes)
Every Thursday morning we're joined by political reporter Alana Roacha from the Texas Tribune. This week Pete talked with Alana about the end of the state legislative session and a variety of measures that were passed and/or awaiting the governor's signature. Among the final topics were property tax reform and school funding.

US Congressman Bill Flores Live interview from DC
June 19, 6:00 a.m., Live-Interview, Pete Sousa (4-minutes)
Time to talk Texas politics... Congressman Bill Flores joins us now. We got to Washington DC to pick him up. In a Texas Tribune story this morning nearly half of Texas voters and more than two-thirds of republicans would support the kind of ban on abortions in the early stages of pregnancy that lawmakers in Mississippi, Ohio and Georgia recently passed where are we on this in the state? The house has already

started the appropriations process for the next fiscal year, how do you see some of that shaking out for us here in Central Texas? Last week, you voted on a resolution related to the Muller report, what was that about? The Congressman can also give an update on providing emergency funding to help with the crisis at our southern border

Democratic Presidential Debates, Nights 1 & 2, Political commentary with Greta Van Susteren

June 27 & 28, 6:30 a.m., live-Interviews Thursday & Friday, Taina Maya & Pete Sousa (7-minutes)

Gray Television's Chief Political Analyst Greta Van Susteren joins us live from our Washington DC Bureau to recap the first debates, the winners and what comes next in the 202 race for the White House.

Ten Democrats railed against a national economy and Republican administration they argued exist only for the rich as presidential candidates debated onstage for the first time in the young 2020 season, embracing inequality as a defining theme in their fight to deny President Donald Trump a second term in office. Health care and immigration, more than any other issues, led the debate. And Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, more than anyone else, stood out — on her own at times — in calling for "fundamental change" across the nation's economy and government to address a widening gap between the rich and the middle class. "I think of it this way. Who is this economy really working for? It's doing great for a thinner and thinner slice at the top," Warren declared shortly before raising her hand as one of the only Democrats on stage willing to abolish her own private health insurance in favor of a government-run plan. "Health care is a basic human right, and I will fight for basic human rights."

They represent two different factions of the Democratic Party. On Thursday night, we'll hear why Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders think they're the best candidate to oust President Donald Trump. They won't be alone. They'll be joined on stage by eight other Democratic hopefuls in the second of two primary debates: Sen. Michael Bennet (D-Colo.), South Bend, Ind. Mayor Pete Buttigieg, Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif), Andrew Yang, Marianne Williamson, Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-Calif.), and former Gov. John Hickenlooper (D-Colo.). "[Sanders'] ideas that may have seemed very radical back in 2016 now tend to be more mainstream Democratic, so he has got to try to take credit for that," said Gray Television Chief National Political Analyst Greta Van Susteren. "Biden, I think, has a tougher road ahead than people realize, even though he is the front runner. And if he makes a gaffe on debate night, I think that's going to hurt him." Other candidates will try to take the spotlight — Senator Michael Bennet and former Governor John Hickenlooper are both from Colorado. There are also candidates without any political experience -- writer Marianne Williamson and businessman Andrew Yang.

EDUCATION

LGBTQ community at Baylor continues to speak out

June 28, 5am-7am, Live-VOSOTS,, Christy Soto (5-minutes)

With changes in society continuing, especially in regard to how the LGBTQ+ community is viewed, some students are wondering if Baylor University will change some of its

more controversial policies. Although summer can be considered a quiet time on campus at Baylor University one group is making some noise, Gamma Alpha Upsilon an LGBTQ+ organization is asking for more to be done. Baylor University student and officer of Gamma Alpha Upsilon, Hayden Evans wrote a letter to the Board of Regents addressing the LGBTQ+ issues on campus and why the student organization should be chartered. In the letter, the group asks the Board of Regents to adopt policies to ensure that LGBTQ+ students can assemble like student organizations. They are also asking that the Board prohibit Baylor staff members from engaging in any “conversion therapy” methods. Evans wants to ensure the Baylor administration that this organization is not meant to be an advocacy group but a support group. “We are trying to be a community for the LGBTQ+ students here at Baylor so that we can talk to them, help them with life in general but especially the integration of faith and LGBTQ+ and just higher education,” Evans said. In a letter previously sent to the Board of Regents more than 3,200 students, faculty, staff and alumni signed in support for Gamma Alpha Upsilon to be recognized as an organization. Evans says the process to become chartered has been nothing but difficult. “I feel like we’ve been playing a game of pinball...Student Activities refers to us to Board of Regents and the Board of Regents refers to us to Student Activities,” Evans said. When asked about LGBTQ+ issues on campus and if Gamma Alpha Upsilon would be able to address the board of regents, Baylor responded with this statement: “There is robust discussion around this topic, which is what universities are about, and we acknowledge and appreciate the feedback. We are focused on how we love and care for all our students so they have a healthy, safe and nurturing learning environment in which to be successful at Baylor. We believe this can be done both inside and outside of officially recognized student organizations. We will continue to work with students as we make decisions consistent with our mission and existing policies.”

WEATHER AWARENESS

Robertson, TX Continuing Coverage

Apr. 13-15, 2019,, Saturday morning, 6:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m. coverage, Live Wall to wall and newscasts, LIVE Shots, etc. (4-hours)

Meteorologists Brady Taylor, Sean Bellafore, reporters Christy Soto,, Brandon Hamilton and Drake Lawson.

Robertson County officials say 55 homes, one church, four businesses, a duplex and part of the local housing authority were destroyed by Saturday's EF3 tornado. The church was believed to be a Church of Christ facility still under construction. The county is asking residents returning to their homes today to be mindful of wires on the ground and to still consider any power lines as "active." Billy Huggins, the county's emergency management coordinator, said the county's primary goals today were restoring water and power. There are currently about 140 crews working to restore power to Robertson County, though it may still take up to 72 hours before power is restored because of the damage. A curfew was in place for the area of Franklin south of Highway 79 from 8 p.m. - 7 a.m. Saturday night following the direct hit from a tornado Saturday morning.

Weather awareness Day

Apr. 17, 5-7 a.m. Extended weather hits, plus 7a.m.-12p.m. cut-ins, Brady Taylor & Sean Bellafore (45-minutes)

Central Texas residents were again keeping an anxious watch on the weather Wednesday, just days after a storm that produced a powerful and destructive tornado on Saturday that destroyed homes, churches and businesses in Franklin. Wednesday's threats include golf ball to tennis ball size hail, strong winds as high as 60 to 70 miles per hour, isolated tornadoes and localized flooding, forecasters say. An upper level trough could play a role in the development of the first round of storms Wednesday afternoon. They'll be isolated and concentrated primarily in the area east of Interstate 35. An approaching cold front, however, should spark a new line of thunderstorms Wednesday night into the early morning hours on Thursday, the primary threat from which will be straight-line winds. Hail and isolated tornadoes are also possible, and flooding is a concern.

Rain causes flooding, accidents throughout the region, plus tornado warnings
May 3, 5am-7am, plus live cut-ins from studio and Weather Edge mobile vehicle, Rusty Garrett, Brady Taylor, Sean Bellafore & Elliot Wilson (30-minutes)
Heavy rainfall early Friday caused flooding and was a factor in accidents throughout Central Texas. Because of the threat of bad weather, Central Texas Airshow events scheduled for Friday night have been cancelled. The heavy rain caused wastewater overflows in both Waco and Temple. Waco reported a total discharge of 376,360 gallons at nine sites and said the discharges have been stopped at all but three of them. Spills occurred at manholes near 529 N.36th St., 916 N. Valley Mills Dr., 1916 N. 12th St., 4900 Skeet Eason Rd., 5201 Flat Rock Rd., 400 University Parks Dr., 1100 University Parks Dr., 1702 Dallas St., and 1708 Dallas St. The City of Temple reported spills totaling nearly 390,000 gallons at eight sites including 4320 Lions Park Rd., 3420 Northwood Rd., 2501 Westwood Rd., 4611 Chestnut Dr., 1601 South 57th St., 3110 FM 3117, 3010 Ira Young and 1722 South 15th St. Earlier Friday Salado Creek was swollen, and water was reported on the Main Street Bridge as well as on FM 2843 outside of Salado.

Watches, warnings issued as line of storms pushes through

May 8, 5a-7a plus live cut-ins, Brady Taylor, Elliot Wilson, Sean Bellafore, Live coverage, Live weather Edge mobile vehicle (1-hour)

A severe thunderstorm watch was in effect until 1 p.m. Wednesday for Central Texas counties along and west of Interstate 35 as a line of storms pushed through. Severe storms and flooding are possible. A severe thunderstorm warning was in effect until 12:15 p.m. for southeastern Coryell County and Bell County. Because of the threat, Killeen ISD Superintendent John Craft directed that students be kept inside buildings, including during passing periods until the storms have passed through. A flood advisory was in effect until 2:45 p.m. in poor drainage areas of Navarro County. Several thousand customers were without power late Wednesday morning in Central Texas because of the storms. The outage affected several Killeen ISD schools including Nolanville Elementary School, Cavazos Elementary School and Union Grove Middle School. The power was going on and off at Harker Heights High School, the district said. Severe thunderstorm warnings were in effect earlier for Hamilton County and

southeastern Mills County The storms could produce winds as high as 60 miles per hour and locally heavy rainfall. Storms that developed earlier Wednesday caused some street flooding in Waco and knocked out traffic signals at several intersections.

Lake levels are high, parks are closed and the water's still rising

May 15, 5a.m.-7a.m., Live-VOSOTS, Christy Soto (6-minutes)

Area lake levels are high, most lakeside parks in Central Texas are closed because of flooding, and the water is still rising. On Wednesday Lake Whitney was 22 feet above normal, Lake Waco was 16 feet above normal, Lake Belton was 11 feet above normal, Stillhouse Hollow Lake was 8 feet above normal and Lake Aquilla was almost 11 feet above normal and more rain is expected later this week. Rain chances are low through the remainder of the workweek, but on Saturday the forecast calls for thunderstorm and showers with locally heavy rainfall. Another round of showers is possible early next week. "We are a flood control lake and flood control is our primary mission," Lake Waco Park Ranger Courtney Heuring said. "So, when it rains we hold the water in the lake to prevent downstream flooding which in turn floods our own property, so when we make releases they are calculated to prevent the flooding downstream," Heuring said. The high water could put a damper on Memorial Day plans. At Lake Waco only, Bosque Park and The Waco Dam access point were fully open on Wednesday. Midway and Reynolds Creek Park are partially open. At Lake Aquilla only the Outlet Works and Fishing Platform are open. At Lake Belton the only parks that are fully open are Belton Lakeview, Miller Springs, Overlook, and White Flint. Arrowhead Point, Cedar Ridge, Iron Bridge, Leona, Live Oak Ridge, Owl Creek, Rogers and Westcliff Park are partially open. At Stillhouse Hollow Lake only the Chalk Ridge Falls Nature Area, Overlook Park and Rivers Bend Park are fully open. At Lake Whitney, only Riverside Park is open. Officials believe it will be several weeks until the water begins to go down and they can begin the cleanup process to reopen the parks.

CONSUMER & HEALTH

Downtown Waco Development

Apr. 5, 6am. Live-Interview segments, Pete Sousa & Taina Maya (4-minutes)

Pete and Taina talk with downtown development radio host and advocate Austin Meeks about the Brazos River cleanup and the need for volunteers.

Restaurant Report Card,

Apr. 5, 6am, PKG, Taina Maya (1:30)

Cici's Pizza on North Valley Mills Drive in Waco is the lowest score of the week with an 81. Everything in the salad bar had to be thrown out because it wasn't being kept cold. In the cooler next to that, they had to throw out mac and cheese and chicken nuggets. None of their employees had food certifications available, and one of the ice machines was dirty. They were re-inspected, and the salad bar was still not working properly so they were told to throw everything away every four hours, but they passed with a 97. Old Chicago Pizza & Pasta in Killeen had to throw away ground beef, chicken and turkey because they weren't being kept cold enough in the low boy cooler. The restaurant made a 91 on their inspection last month. Eight out 40 employees still need their health cards and the freezer fans need to be cleaned. The restaurant will also have

to call out a pest company due to gnats in the bar area. Peter Piper Pizza on New Road in Waco makes a 92. Their three-compartment sink wasn't dispensing sanitizer, so they had to start manually sanitizing the dishes. A sanitizer bucket was stored on a food prep table and two carts that were used to pick up plates in the dining room were covered in splattered food. Two days later all the violations had been corrected. Brody's Steakhouse in Belton is the Clean Plate winner this week.

Morning Buzz: Small Business Spotlight

May 3, 6am-7am, Live-interview segments, Pete Sousa & Taina Maya (4-minutes)

This morning on The Buzz, Austin Meeks with Waco Business News and host of Downtown Depot on KWBU stopped by to tell us more about Ruffi's Cocina authentic flavors. Ruffi's Cocina is this week's spotlight guest, you can hear more about them on Downtown Depot on KWBU 103.3.

Restaurant Report Card for week of May 2

May 3, 6a.m., Taina Maya, PKG (2-minutes)

The Express Mart gas station on West Central Texas Expressway in Killeen was recently inspected and scored an 87. The inspector found discolored pepperoni with slime on it in the lowboy cooler, which the employees quickly threw out. The soda spigots were moldy and there was no soap at the hand sink area among other things. The gas station will have a follow-up; we'll let you know how it goes. The Grape on North Valley Mills Drive in Waco is a popular wine bar. They were recently inspected by the health department and scored a 94. Inspectors found ready-to-eat and raw foods stored next to each other and produce stored next to pre-cooked meats, all of which was out of compliance and was corrected. They also found a bowl of salmon that was uncovered in the fridge; the owner opted to throw it away. Another piece of cooked salmon was also being stored in the fridge. The manager admitted he meant to throw it away. No follow-up was required. This week's Clean Plate award goes to Freddy's Frozen Custard and steak burgers in Harker Heights. Keep up the great work guys.

Restaurant Report Card for week of May 16

May 17, 6a.m., Taina Maya, PKG (2-minutes)

Los Cucos Mexican Restaurant in Waco made an 85 on their most recent inspection. Water was dripping onto bananas and other cut fruits and vegetables from the air conditioning drip pan because of a leak in the pipe. The inspector found mold in the meat prep cooler and a handwashing sink was blocked by a cart and boxes. They didn't have a certified food manager on duty or employee health cards posted. They were re-inspected three days later and were able to correct the problems. Little Caesars on West Central Texas Expressway in Killeen is having their permit withheld until they fix one violation. They need to clean all of their wire racks in the cooler because they are extremely moldy according to the inspector. We'll keep you posted on their progress. This week's Clean Plate Award winner is the Olive Branch on South 2nd Street in Waco. They offer everything from gluten-free to keto friendly meals as well as mouth-watering favorites like Bananas Foster Stuffed French Toast.

Restaurant Report Card for week of May 16

May 31, 6a.m., Taina Maya, PKG (2-minutes)

Texas Roadhouse on La Salle Avenue in Waco passes with a 91, but they will need a follow-up inspection due to some repeat violations. There was no sanitizer in the bucket, pans were being stacked wet and ice tea spoons were being stored with the handles down, so they had to be re-washed. Flies were also seen landing on the food prep table and an employee had rubber bands on the wrist, which has been a problem for the restaurant. The lowest score of the week belongs to the Starbucks on North General Bruce Drive in Temple. They made an 85. The inspector found uncovered milk containers in the fridge directly under racks that had buildup on them, and mold and mildew that had built up behind the equipment in the back storeroom. Fourteen out of 20 employees didn't have their health certifications, and there was water seeping out of the base of the toilet in the men's restroom. The permit was withheld until the violations were corrected. In Killeen at the Asian Buffet on East Central Texas Expressway, they were storing trays of squid and shrimp on the floor of the freezer rather than at least 6 inches above the ground as required. The soda spigots were moldy and there was no soap at the hand sink. The inspector also saw rodent droppings all over the storage room. They made a 92 but had a follow-up inspection showing they are working with a pest control company to stop the rodent problem. This week's Clean Plate winner: Pablo's On the River in Belton where breakfast is served starting at 6:00 a.m.

Restaurant Report Card for Week of June 6

June 7, 6a.m., PKG, Taina Maya (2-minutes)

Firehouse Subs on Franklin Ave in Waco scores a 94 on their recent inspection. The ice machine wasn't clean, the gray panel had dirt specs and their General Manager was seen handling their cell phone and money and then trying to prepare food without washing their hands. No, follow up is required. Last week we told you about Asian Buffet scoring a 92 in Killeen. They lost points for rodent droppings but called out a pest control company. This week we're told they are still dealing with the unwanted guests, but they have confined them to the kitchen and dining area. The manager said they will continue the pest control measures until they are gone. Father & Son's Soul Food in Killeen also makes an A this week. They had three boxes of shrimp and four boxes of crab on the floor, which is a no-no. They also lost points for not having paper towels at the hand sink, oil residue on the vent hood, and a leaky sink. This week's Clean Plate award goes to Mama Fu's in Killeen. Be sure to take advantage of their happy hour from 3-6 pm, when all full-size appetizers are \$2.00 off. (A "No Score" (N/S) can be given at restaurant openings, field or complaint investigations, and follow-up inspections. P/S or permit suspended happens after a restaurant scores lower than a 70 or if the Health Department deems the restaurant a health risk. A massive infestation of insects or no hot water will automatically close a restaurant down. Keep in mind, every restaurant in the county must post their most recent score near the entrance of the eatery. Look for a yellow sheet of paper in a frame next time you go into a restaurant. There, you'll see how the place you're about to eat at did on their score).

Restaurant Report Card for week of June 20

June 21, 6:00 a.m., PKG, Taina Maya (2-minutes)

This week we asked for your list of restaurants to check out and in just a few hours we

had dozens of comments on social media. Patrick McGhee asked us to look at Jodie's Temple. They recently had a complaint filed on them regarding the chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes and gravy. The health department went to check things out and said there were no obvious findings upon investigation. Jack Taylor McCarroll commented, "I love the place and I eat there... but you cannot tell me Mama Baris is passing their health inspections." The restaurant on North Valley Mills Drive in Waco has had perfect inspections since July 12th, 2016. At that time, they had eight violations, but they've had a great track record since then. This week's Clean Plate award goes to Los Cabos Seafood Bar on South Fort Hood Street in Killeen. They've got everything from traditional favorites to seafood. Above all, they promise you'll find a friend at their tequila bar.

Restaurant Report Card for week of June 27

June 28, 6a.m., PKG, Taina Maya (2-minutes)

In Belton, the Taqueria El Mexicano Grill scored an 88. There was mold on the margarita spout, ice chute, soda machine and the flap of the ice machine. Six employees need their health cards and the can opener blade needs to be replaced. They also need to clean the overhead surface area and prep tables. They will get a follow-up inspection next week. This week's lowest score is from Richland Mall food court. The Greek Grill was shut down by the health department and scored a 75. Here's what went wrong, several foods didn't have dates in the walk-in cooler, the soda fountain nozzles were caked with black grime, they didn't have a food manager on site, and paint was stored on the floor next to cases of beverages and the stove and grill was dirty. Nine days later they were able to correct all of the violations and pass the inspections to be allowed to reopen. This is the second time they've been shut down since 2016. Our Clean Plate winner is Fire Street Pizza in Belton, The health department said the kitchen was very clean. You can check them out Thursday through Sunday and be sure to bring the whole family for their theme and game nights.

KWTX NEWS 10 AT NOON

KWTX NEWS TEN AT 5PM

KWTX NEWS TEN AT 6PM

KWTX NEWS TEAN AT 10PM

COMMUNITY /HUMAN INTEREST

Fill the Boot campaign leaves local firefighters with mystery to solve

Apr. 9, 6p.m., PKG, Chelsea Edwards (2-minutes)

Copperas Cove firefighters stepped out last Friday for their annual Fill the Boot campaign to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association, but when they emptied the boots at the end of the day, they found something unexpected that they're now actually trying to return. "One of the gracious citizens who was contributing to the Fill the Boot Campaign ended up contributing a ring," says Copperas Cove Deputy Fire Chief Gary Young. And not just any ring, but a silver, decorated woman's wedding ring. "I believe it was quite accidental," Young said. Firefighters are hoping to get the word out about the ring, in case someone's spouse needs to be rescued from hot water. The department

posted a message on its Facebook page about the ring in hopes of reuniting it with the owner. I dropped in firefighter boot.

West: Fallen Heroes Memorial dedicated nearly 6 years after explosion

Apr. 13, 6:00 p.m. & 10 p.m., PKG, Drake Lawson (3-minutes)

Hundreds of people from the city of West and the surrounding area gathered at the West High School auditorium today for the Fallen Heroes Memorial ceremony. Originally scheduled to be at the memorial the event was moved indoors due to weather. The memorial was dedicated to those who lost their lives in the deadly fertilizer plant explosion nearly 6 years ago on April 17th, 2013. Photos and videos of the memorial were shown. Guest speakers including Governor Greg Abbott, admired how the city overcame the tragedy. The memorial is near Parker's Park, named in honor of Pustejovsky's grandson Parker, who was determined to see West City Park rebuilt after the explosion that claimed his father's life. Parker proposed paying for the new park by selling hot dogs, and that's what supporters did, raising \$83,000 in the first of a series of fundraisers that generated tens of thousands of dollars in donations. Organizers had hoped to dedicate the Fallen Heroes Memorial in 2018 on the fifth anniversary of the explosion, but it wasn't ready, and they wanted it to be perfect. The fire at the fertilizer plant started at 7:29 p.m. on April 17, 2013. West firefighters were dispatched to the plant at 7:32 p.m., arrived at 7:38 p.m. and requested assistance from other departments at 7:41 p.m. The plant exploded at 7:51 p.m. As much as 64 tons of ammonium nitrate was stored in the building, 28 to 34 tons of which exploded. An additional 20 to 30 tons in the building and another 100 tons in a nearby railcar did not explode. The blast affected a 37-block area and left a crater 90 feet wide and 12 feet deep. It damaged or destroyed hundreds of homes and buildings including a nursing home, a two-story apartment building and three of West's schools.

BU professor remembers playing Notre Dame organ with students

Apr. 15, 10:00 p.m. Live-PKG, Drake Lawson (3-minutes)

Millions were shocked as the historical Notre Dame church caught fire Monday, destroying nearly all the interior. Connections to the historic church expand back to Central Texas, as a Baylor professor remembers her trip to the famous church. "Two years ago I took my students to Europe to play and see historical organs," Dr. Isabelle Demers, who is the Associate Professor of Organ at Baylor, recalls her visit to Paris. "One of the stops was actually in Notre Dame... we went on a Monday evening at about 11 pm, everybody was out there was no tourists, nobody around. We got a chance to play the organ for a good 2-3 hours so it was an incredible experience." Even at the time understanding how rare the opportunity was. "Wow, this is the organ that the composer played in this building and this is how it sounded. There is really nothing like that in the world," says Demers. The opportunity is now even more valuable as she watches the church go up in flames. "Just for my students it was so great they were able to experience it, now that it's lost that is at least a memory they'll have for the rest of their lives," she said.

West church holds Easter service outdoors six years after explosion

Apr. 21, 10 p.m., PKG, Drake Lawson (2-minutes)

First Baptist Church in West held their Easter service outdoors Sunday, as a celebration to not only the resurrection of Jesus but the restoration of the city. Six years ago, on April 17, 2013 a fertilizer explosion killed 15 people and left many more without their home. A portion of the city was closed off in the coming days and left First Baptist with no building to hold church services come Sunday. "The Sunday after the explosion in April, 2013... we couldn't get to the church," says Pastor John Crowder, "The north part of town was cornered off and they were doing all the investigating make sure everyone was safe and all that." The church decided to find a way to hold church services no matter what, and with help from various members in the community a service was held in a field next to railroad tracks.

Kittens rescued from dumpster outside local store

Apr. 22, 9p.m. & 10p.m., Live-VOSOT, Live-PKG, Drake Lawson (4-minutes)

Four 3-week-old kittens have been rescued from a trash container outside of a local convenience store. Last Friday Brenda Franklin and the staff at Fuzzy Friends in Waco were heading home for the weekend when they received a phone call about the kittens. "The phone rang, and a citizen had actually witnessed kittens being thrown into a dumpster," says Franklin. The resident heard crying from a trash container outside a Dollar General in Bellmead. When he looked inside he saw four 3-week-old kittens inside. "The man brought them up here and we assessed them," says Franklin, "They were lethargic, wet, and we were concerned about heat stress." All the cats were treated for fleas and eye infections before being taken to a foster home. Franklin says she and the staff were shaken up and scared for the kitten's well-being. "You don't want to see any living thing thrown into a dumpster, it goes against the natural order of things," she said. In the days since, the kittens have begun to recover. "They are doing well and eating like little kittens are supposed to do, I'm very hopeful for them," says Franklin, who believes the kittens will make a full recovery. Fuzzy Friends says Bellmead police are investigating the incident, but they don't have any more details at this-time.

Barbara Bush recites vows for 2nd time in surprise Central Texas ceremony

Apr. 23, 9p.m. & 10p.m. VOSOT & Live-PKG, Rissa Shaw (3-minutes)

It's "I do" number two for Barbara Pierce Bush. The former first-daughter had her second wedding celebration in Central Texas this month, sources confirm. After she tied the knot with screenwriter Craig Coyne in a small ceremony in Maine in October so her grandfather, the late President George H.W. Bush, could attend, Bush, 37, got married again with a big party in Crawford April 13-15. About 200 guests attended the Texas-themed nuptials which, sources said, was "hush hush" with some involved in the planning asked to sign confidentiality agreements so the wedding, and photos of it, wouldn't be leaked. Despite efforts, photos of the country-chic festivities surfaced on social media. Celebrities including fashion designers and actors from New York to Los Angeles shared pictures from the wedding weekend in Crawford and jaunts around Waco. The first night was a rehearsal dinner 'hoedown' at The Amsler: a historic, story-story brick building which switched ownership in February. The current owners, Yvette and Phillip Helberg, said they knew a 'high profile' wedding had been planned under the

previous owner, but they didn't know who it was for. They were thrilled when they found out it was the Bush family.

Killeen: Uber, Lyft drivers reject rides for minors

Apr. 29, 6:00 p.m., Live-PKG, Chelsea Edwards (2-minutes)

How young is too young for a child to catch an Uber or Lyft ride alone? A New Orleans mother was arrested and charged with child desertion for putting her 5-year-old in a rideshare vehicle alone, and now parents are talking about what's okay when it comes to ridesharing for kids. Local Uber and Lyft drivers tell News 10 that they get regular requests from nearby schools. "During the day when school lets out, I guarantee you people are telling Uber or Lyft to pick up their kids," says Pete who drives for both services. "Some of the drivers may not report it because that's their income," he adds. He says he's even had to call a mom at three in the morning when her 13-year-old requested a ride.

Businesses are concerned as I-35 construction project begins

Apr. 29, 10p.m., Live-PKG, Drake Lawson (2-minutes)

Work on the \$341 million expansion of Interstate 35 from South 12th Street to North Loop 340 through Waco is underway and some business owners are concerned as the Texas Department of Transportation begins to close lanes and ramps. Businesses in the area say they noticed traffic changes as work started on Monday morning.

"Customers are complaining about backed up traffic down the interstate which we experienced this morning for the first time," says Cupp's Drive Inn Owner Freddie Johnson. Johnson isn't the only one who says the project will affect business, Sierra Van Winkle who manages 1102 Bubble Tea and Coffee says the 8th Street pedestrian bridge planned demolition will decrease attendance. "I think it might be a bit more difficult to get over here," says Van Winkle, "Especially Baylor students that would use the pedestrian bridge to get to the other side of the highway." TxDOT says the project is aiming for completion by late 2023. While residents like Johnson are happy for the changes, that length of time will impact business.

Belton: Student leads drive to help Franklin tornado victims

Apr. 29, 10:00 p.m., Live-PKG, Brandon Hamilton (2-minutes)

With recovery efforts ongoing in Franklin, a Belton High School student is helping to send more much-needed donations to the city. Senior Marcus Ake says he saw the devastation after this month's tornado and was moved to help residents in need. "I saw the damage that was there. The only thing that could go through my mind was, 'Oh, my God, are these people okay? What do they need? How can I help?'" Ake said. He brought the idea to take donations to student council and high school administrators. "Anytime students come to me with wanting to make the world a little bit better place, I'm all about supporting their goals and ideas however I can," said Rebecca Kidder, social studies teacher and student council sponsor. Donations were taken at a recent softball game and a drop-off area now sits near the cafeteria. Each grade level competes against each other to see who will bring in the most donations and toiletries. Donations are being taken until Friday at the school.

Landmark Central Texas pavilion deemed dangerous is reduced to rubble

May 1, 9p.m., Live-VOSOT, Rissa Shaw (2-minutes)

A more than 100-year-old community landmark has been reduced to rubble. The City of Teague started tearing down its historic 8th Avenue Park Pavilion this week. "I'm heartbroken to see this icon of Teague being torn down," said longtime resident and business owner Debbie Runnels Sanoja. Constructed by citizens at the turn of the 20th Century, the wooden pavilion has not withstood the test of time, and in the Fall of 2018, was deemed structurally unsound. While the pavilion may be leveled, the controversy surrounding it is certainly not; A classic case of preservation versus progress, the decision to demolish the landmark has created divisions within the community. Many residents who fought for the pavilion to be saved and restored expressed their heartbreak on social media. "Yep. Never going to forgive them (the city) for this one," one citizen said on Facebook. In contrast, others said the structure was dangerous and a change was needed. "It's a hazard people! Tear it down, build again. Not the end of the world," another citizen said in the same thread.

Local school district's first-ever wheelchair athlete headed to state meet

May 6, 10pm, Live-PKG, Rissa Shaw (3-minutes)

A disabled student is breaking new ground in the Midway Independent School District and proving it takes heart, not full use of your legs, to be a true athlete. Josh Parrish, 17, a junior at Midway High School, is the district's first student-athlete to compete in a wheelchair, and now he's headed to state. "You see everybody else doing soccer, doing track, and you know most of this stuff other kids can do but you want to do it close to their way," said Parrish. "Sometimes, you have to find ways to do it the way that 'you' can do it." Parrish has level three Spina bifida. "For me, it affects my ankles down," said Parrish. It's difficult for him to walk, so he uses a wheelchair at school, and, for the last two years, he's been using it after school to participate in track and field. At first, he says, some of his teammates and competitors thought having a machine made it easier for him. "You seem a lot faster when they see you on there with the motion, but it's not like that, you have to put in work," said Parrish. Parrish says it's most difficult at the starting line, with the chair always putting him a few seconds behind. However, he says being in the chair motivates him to meet his competitors at the finish line.

Robinson: Residents riled over rain-related sewage overflows

May 3, 10p.m., Live-PKG, Rissa Shaw (2-minutes)

Some Robinson residents are upset over an ongoing issue they say has left their neighborhood in the toilet. Recent rains have resurrected a problem many living in the area off Old Robinson Rd. and Karen Dr. say they've had to put up with for years: the city's sewage. "Every time it rains, we just have a lot of the city's sewage start to backup through our shower stall, our bathtub, our toilets start to over flow and they won't flush," said resident Carole Fergusson. They've lived in the neighborhood for less than 18 months, but Fergusson says it's happened six times already, most recently Thursday night. "We had, literally, a geyser of the city's sewage coming out from our shower stall, it smells terrible, I have a toddler and I couldn't even bathe her," said Fergusson. "Had

we not been home scooping out the water for an hour and a half - sorry, sewage - it would have literally overflowed into our bedroom and destroyed everything." Neighbors said the sewage and drainage problems are nothing new for them - one man said he even had to install a \$2,100 system in his front yard to stop it from happening. When they've complained to the city, Fergusson said she, and several of her neighbors, feel their concerns fallen on deaf ears. "I think if they've known about an issue that's been destroying people's homes for years that they aren't in any rush to fix...it seems like they keep brushing them (her neighbors) off, which I think it really inappropriate and not handling the issue well," said Fergusson. City leaders admit there are some drainage issues around the city, Fergusson's area being one of them.

Forgotten by spouses ravaged by Alzheimer's, area couple finds love again May 7, 10pm, PKG, Christy Soto (3-minutes)

Marilyn Rohrer and Leroy McGowan fell in love in 2013 while caring for their spouses, both of whom were slowly losing their memories to the ravages of Alzheimer's disease. "It's wonderful to have someone to love again, to take care of and to know you are loved and taken care of," Rohrer said. Rohrer and McGowan met at the nursing home where McGowan's wife, Daphne and Rohrer's husband, Tim were cared for as the disease progressed. "I feel that God saw a situation where there were two people who were going through the same situation and they both needed someone and they both need help," McGowan said. As the disease worsened, Rohrer and McGowan realized the people they loved and with whom they had vowed to spend their lives had forgotten who they were. "I was the first person he forgot. I became girl and I think he thought I was home health care worker, Rohrer said. "He would ask me off and on 'are we married,'" Rohrer said. Tears streamed down McGowan's face as he remembered how he felt the day Daphne, his high school sweetheart and woman he has loved since he was 15, forgot who he was. "To see that person, you loved all these years and watch them slowly go away, and they don't have a clue who you are...I didn't leave her, she left me in 2013," McGowan said. Rohrer's husband Tim passed away several years ago, but McGowan's wife is still in a nursing home in Austin. Some have struggled to accept McGowan's and Rohrer's decision to move on.

Bush's Chicken co-founder dies after battle with cancer May 7, 5pm & 6pm, Live-VOSOT, Live-PKG, John Carroll (4-minutes)

Charlene Bush, 63, the co-founder of the popular Bush's Chicken restaurant chain, died Monday after a five-year battle with cancer. Bush and her husband Keith opened the first Bush's Chicken in 1995 on Hewitt Drive and in 2005 started franchising, expanding the business into a chain of more than 85 restaurants throughout the state. "She was probably the best person I know and my soulmate," her husband of 45 years said through tears Tuesday. "The last near five years have been hard," he said. "We haven't worked as much at the business because of her illness but now I'm ready to get going again." Bush was responsible for creating one of the restaurant's most popular menu items, her son, Corey, said. "My mom created the sweet tea. She came up with how much love and sugar to put into it," he said. "She was a hard-working woman and that's what she would want us to continue to do," he said. Bush was an active supporter of local charities including Fuzzy Friends and of hundreds of schools and churches. She

and her husband donated thousands of meals to Fort Hood soldiers and their families. Visitation is from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday at Wilkerson-Hatch-Bailey Funeral Home at 6101 Bosque Blvd. in Waco. The funeral service is at 2 p.m. at the funeral home, followed by burial at Oakwood Cemetery.

Little River-Academy: Mayor, firefighters feud

May 8, 6p.m. & 10p.m., PKG & VOSOT, Megan Vanselow (3-minutes)

Communication problems have divided the city of Little River Academy and its fire department, despite sharing a building. The problems began last year, when the ex-fire chief was charged in connection with the theft of thousands of dollars from the department. Now, the city says it wants to make sure that never happens again. Mayor Drew Lanham is asking the fire department to be transparent about its finances. "I'm not against them, as a mayor I'm all for them but I want transparency." Lanham says. But the department says the faults of the ex-chief do not reflect those remaining in the department. "I don't like the turmoil that's here we're being blamed and ostracized for things that happened in the past." Current fire chief Dennis Fastzkie says "We've got nothing to hide. [The mayor] can come and ask us what our financial statements are, and we'll give them to [him]" Thursday's city council meeting was heavily attended. The city passed an ordinance preventing campaign signs from being posted on city or public property. After its passing, Lanham asked the fire department to remove a campaign sign from its window. Lanham was re-elected just last week his running mate is a member of the fire department.

Students honored for saving area chemistry teacher who caught fire

May 13, 10 p.m., Live-PKG, Rissa Shaw (2-minutes)

Three quick-thinking students who helped save their chemistry teacher when he caught fire during a science experiment, were honored by the City of Frost Monday. "They don't realize how serious this could have been for the teacher, I mean, he's had second, maybe third-degree burns," said Frost Police Chief Scott Sykora. "They saved his life." The accident happened Dec. 6, 2017, as the teacher, Mr. Charles Hanson, was demonstrating the flammability of alcohol to a class of about 15 chemistry students when something went terribly wrong. "I heard kids screaming," said Caleb Curl. "I look up and the teacher - the front of his shirt was on fire." Curl, who was a senior at Frost High School at the time, was sitting in the back of the class and jumped into action as his teacher ran by him in flames (presumably on the way to the fire extinguisher which was located in the back of the room). "I ripped (off) the back of his shirt to try to release something because he had a tie on and everything," said Curl. "At that time, his shirt fell off and the fire was out." "There was still pieces of the shirt stuck to his arms." As Curl was helping his teacher, Austin Anderson and Colton Ward, both juniors at Frost High at the time, also kept their cool: Anderson called 911 as Ward moved the other students out of the classroom to safety.

Killeen: With closing of homeless shelter, some return to the streets

May 20, 10:00 p.m., Live-PKG, Brandon Hamilton (2-minutes)

With the temporary closing of the Friends in Crisis shelter, some who depend on its services have had to resort to the only thing they know: back to living on the streets.

The shelter for many in the Killeen area was a place to restart their life, get a hot meal, take a shower and stay at night. "When you're homeless without a little bit of help or somebody helping you back up, it's really hard to get back on your feet," Joe Salinas said. Salinas lived at the shelter for almost two months. He says he had a home, car and family while living in the Dallas-Fort Worth area – then life hit. He lost everything and was left living on the streets. Coming to Killeen, he says, was a chance for a new start. "It's easy to look down on homeless people because I myself did it in years gone by. I never thought it would happen to me, but once it happens to you, your whole view on life changes," he said. With the doors of the Friends in Crisis shelter closing Saturday because of financial problems, his life changed again. The shelter was being kept open by mostly private donations and small funding from Killeen's Community Development Block Grant. As of Monday night, with a Facebook fundraiser and GoFundMe account, \$3,713 has been raised. The goal is \$200,000.

Women accused of providing alcohol to teenagers before deadly crash
May 22, 5pm, 6pm & 10pm, Live-VOSOTS, Live-PKG (John Carroll (6-minutes)
A Gatesville woman and her adult daughter turned themselves in late Wednesday afternoon after they were named in multi-count indictments charging providing alcohol to a minor following a crash in April that left two local high school students dead. Brittany Hallman, 47, and her daughter Morgan Hallman, 25, were booked into the Coryell County jail early Wednesday evening. They were later released after posting bond. Brittany Hallman, whose bonds totaled \$32,000, was named in an indictment handed up Tuesday charging one count of tampering with evidence, one count of making a false statement to police and 10 counts of providing alcohol to a minor. She's accused of "contributing alcohol to a minor, (and) intentionally or knowingly (destroying or concealing) alcoholic containers with (the) intent to impair its availability as evidence in the investigation or official proceeding," according to the indictments. She's also accused of making a false statement when she told an investigator "she was not present at 408 Cedar Ridge during the time persons under the age of 21 were consuming alcohol on April 26 or April 27" at the residence, according to the indictments. Her daughter, whose bonds totaled \$25,000, was named in a 10-count indictment that charges providing alcohol to a minor. Kyle Tennison and Ethan Sandell, both 16, died shortly after 1 a.m. on April 27 after the driver of the 2003 Chevrolet pickup in which they were riding lost control of the truck, which left the roadway and crashed into a tree on Cedar Ridge Road approximately one-half mile north of Old Osage Road outside of Gatesville. The two were sophomores at Gatesville High School. A third teenager who survived the crash, whose name has not been released, is recovering from the injuries. Sources say the teenagers were at a party at Brittany Hallman's home before the deadly crash.

Authorities find 200 cats in 'deplorable' conditions in local home
Jun. 14, 5:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m., Live-VOSOTS, Live-PKG, Drake Lawson (17-minutes)

Animal control officers were in the process of removing about 200 cats and kittens found living in "deplorable" conditions Friday in an 1,800-square-foot home in a Killeen neighborhood whose residents were apparently operating a cat rescue. In a Facebook

post, the Spark of Life Kitten Foster and Rescue said it was named in the search and seizure warrant because of “the recent number of kitten deaths we experienced” after dead kittens were taken to the Killeen Animal Shelter for cremation. “We do not believe in throwing kittens in trash cans and it is illegal to bury pets in the city limits,” the post said. “While we admit to being overcrowded, we have never intentionally put an animal in harm’s way.” Complaints from residents led to the discovery of the cats Friday morning in the home in the 3600 block of Foxglove Lane where clean water for the animals was lacking and litter boxes were overflowing, officials said. Search and seizure warrants were served at around 7 a.m. Friday at the home. With help from Humane Society of the United States representatives, the cats, which were found living in stacked crates and cages, were being removed to a temporary emergency shelter where veterinarians were examining them.

Tent city takes shape outside shuttered homeless shelter

June 18, 5p.m. & 6p.m., Live-VOSOT, Live-PKG, Chelsea Edwards (4-minutes)

A tent city is growing on the front lawn of the temporarily shuttered Friends in Crisis Shelter in Killeen. The four-year-old shelter at 412 East Sprott St. in downtown Killeen, which closed its doors on May 18 while officials looked for additional sources of funding to cover the \$1,000-a-day cost of operations, housed about 75 homeless residents. The first tents began to appear earlier this month, but the population is growing as the temperature rises. “They’ve already endured several nights in the rain in the storms we recently had,” said Mercedes Wesley, creator of the Facebook group Helping the Homeless. “You’re looking at health conditions declining. You’re looking at the food that’s actually being provided by some other entities that’s going to go to waste in this heat.” Residents have been dropping off food and toiletries to help out, but it’s only a temporary fix to a major problem. “Both of my children looked at me and said, ‘mom we have stuff,’” said resident Donna Gibson, who was homeless herself at one time. Shelter director William Hall told the Central Texas Homeless Coalition Tuesday morning that \$180,000 is needed to reopen the shelter. He says so far, \$70,000 has been raised. Hall says he’s hoping for grant funding, but if it’s awarded it won’t come until Oct. 1.

Battle on Our Border special 3-part Series, Migrant surge strains resources along the border

June 17, 18 & 19, 10:00 p.m., Series of special reports PKGS, Tara Mergener (15-minutes)

Along the Southwest Border, U.S. Customs and Border Protection took 133,000 migrants into custody in May. More than 11,000 more were deemed inadmissible at ports of entry. That’s a spike of about 32 percent from the month before. Agents, including Carlos Ruiz of the Rio Grande Valley Sector say they do not have enough resources, manpower and technology to keep up with the growing influx of people entering the U.S. illegally. Ruiz says the surge is taking agents away from the border to handle the growing humanitarian crisis and leaving less time to make arrests. Last month, nearly 50,000 migrants crossed the border in the Rio Grande Valley, most from Central America. “We do not know the people trying to avoid apprehension, we do catch a lot of them, but we do not know what’s getting away because our resources are

strained," said Ruiz. Border Patrol stations, which are built to handle far fewer people for only a short time, are bursting at the seams. Temporary facilities have had to be put up to hold the growing masses. Enormous 500-person tent facilities have opened in both the Rio Grande Valley and in El Paso. Officials say it is still not enough space and that they will need to build more.

KWTX Foster Care Project: Selena's looking for a family to foster her dreams (Regular series of reports)

June 19, 12:00 p.m., PKG, Pete Sousa (3-minutes)

Selena is a little guarded, but that's what happens when you've been removed from two homes by the age of 11. And when she was in those homes, with her nine brothers and sisters, she was spending a lot of time taking care of them. She's wise beyond her years and wants to work with challenged children when she grows up. That's because she's spent a lot of time helping her brother, who is special needs himself. For now, she's looking for a family to help her foster that growth. If you have any interest in getting involved or learning more about her call the Texas Adoption Resource Center at 800-233-3405.

Harker Heights: Pride Month event planned Saturday (Pre & Day-of coverage)

June 21 & 22, 5pm, 6pm Friday, 6pm & 10pm Saturday, Friday Live-VOSOT & Live PKG, Saturday VOSOT, Chelsea Edwards & Chris Shadrock (6-minutes)

June is Pride Month, a time to celebrate the LGBTQ community and recognize its struggles to achieve equal rights. Central Texas students have planned their own pride event Saturday, and they're opening it to the public for the first time. A dog by his side and a video game in-hand, Greyson Rodriguez is a typical teenage boy. But Greyson was born a girl who started protesting wearing dresses before he could read. "I refused to wear dresses," he says. "I started ripping them off. It was impossible to keep me in one." Years passed, and his discomfort with his body grew until he heard the word "transgender". "This makes sense. This is what I am," says the 15-year-old. Before turning 13, Greyson came out to his mom. His only birthday wish was to be recognized as a boy. "What if you were born a dog, and you knew you were human, but everyone around you told you 'no, you're a dog'." "Even if you looked human, even if you acted human- you were a dog," he explains. He has used the analogy to detail his situation to others. Greyson now takes classes online but is working to build community support. He plans to find it at a Central Texas pride event from noon to 6 p.m. Saturday at Carl Levin Park in Harker Heights. It's organized by local students and open to those wanting to learn more about the LGBTQ community.

Gatesville hospital marks anniversary of deadly blast

June 26, 12pm, 5pm, 6pm & 10pm, Live-VOSOTs & Live-PKGs, John Carroll, Chelsea Edwards, Julie Hays (15-minutes)

Nearly 100 hospital employees and members of the public gathered Wednesday on the front lawn of the Coryell Memorial Hospital in Gatesville to mark a year since the tragic explosion that claimed the lives of three men and injured 13 others. On June 16, 2018, shortly after 2:15 p.m., an explosion rocked a central utilities plant that was under construction at the hospital. The explosion caused massive damage to the building at

the rear of the Coryell Memorial Healthcare System. "It's been a tough year," hospital administrator David Byrom said, "It's been a defining moment for the organization. "I don't think the definition of the explosion is it. It's the actions of the community and the staff following that explosion that were defining moments in our organization," said Byrom. Coryell Memorial Health System EMS Director Jeffrey Mincy said they still feel the impact a year later. "It's been a trying year, for many of us, my EMTs and paramedics that were there struggled with it and I struggle with it," he said. "It still was a positive moment with how our people reacted and how the community came together." Michael Bruggman of Rogers, died in the blast. Bruggman, 43, was a Temple native who graduated in 1992 from Academy High School and went on to attend Sam Houston State University. Filiberto Morales, 36, of Round Rock, died two days later at Scott & White Medical Center in Temple. Wilber Dimas died on July 15 at Dell Seton Medical Center in Austin.

GOVERNMENT/POLITICS

State leaders propose one-cent sales tax increase

Apr. 10, 6p.m., PKG, Chelsea Edwards (2-minutes)

State leaders Wednesday proposed a one-cent sales tax they say could provide billions in revenue to help offset property taxes. The current state sales tax rate is 6.25 percent and local jurisdictions such as cities and counties may add as much as 2 percent more for a maximum combined rate of 8.25 percent. The state rate hasn't been increased in 30 years. Central Texas cities and counties charge the full combined 2 percent local rate. The announcement was made in a joint statement issued by Gov. Greg Abbott, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and House Speaker Dennis Bonnen. "Texans are fed up with skyrocketing property taxes," they said. They said they're introducing a sales tax proposal to buy down property tax rates once either Senate Bill 2 or House Bill 2, which call for a limit on property tax growth, is passed and agreed to by both chambers. "If the one-cent increase in the sales tax passes, it will result in billions of dollars in revenue to help drive down property taxes in the short and long term," they said. "It's a 1 percent increase, so technically it is a penny out of every dollar purchase, but they market it that way because a penny sounds trivial."

Waco VA not targeted for closure, congressman says

April 10 & 11, 6:00 p.m. both days, Packages,, John Carroll (6-minutes)

Despite a warning from a former congressman who fought to save the Doris Miller VA Medical Center more than 15 years ago, Waco's current U.S. representative says he's unaware of any effort to close the campus. "In my opinion, the Waco community needs to be prepared to defend the Waco VA as it did when Kay Bailey (Texas Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison) and I were fighting that fight years ago," former U.S. Rep. Chet Edwards, D-Waco, told KWTX earlier this week. But the congressman who now represents Waco, U.S. Rep. Bill Flores-R, Bryan, says the facility has not been targeted for closure. "We are not aware of any current effort to try to close down the Doris Miller campus in Waco." "There is a heightened level of sensitivity because of it was targeted for closure in the last decade and because of some activities that transferred away from

the campus even though there were other activities were transferred to the campus," adds Flores. The Central Texas Veterans Health Care System based in Temple, which oversees the Waco facility and the Olin E. Teague VA Medical Center in Temple, echoed Flores' comments in a statement. "The Waco VA is not targeted for closure. We are in fact adding new additions to the campus for VA care such as a 35-unit housing project and a 15 bed women's recovery unit to treat veterans who experienced military sexual trauma." "Other VA support services are also located on the Waco grounds; i.e., Finance Service Center (headquartered in Austin), one of the Health Resources Center's Pharmacy Customer Call Centers, and the VISN 17 Center of Excellence for Research on Returning War Veterans," the statement said. McLennan County Veteran's Service Officer Steve Hernandez, however, disagrees. "They're systematically trying to eliminate the need for a Waco facility," Hernandez told KWTX. Edwards' and Hernandez's concerns are prompted in part by a law Congress passed in 2017 to establish the VA Asset and Infrastructure Review Commission, which has yet to be formed, that is tasked with identifying VA facilities nationwide that could be closed. The nine-member commission is supposed to review VA facilities, consult with veteran's organizations and make realignment recommendations to the president. "The Waco VA is not targeted for closure. We are in fact adding new additions to the campus for VA care such as a 35-unit housing project and a 15 bed women's recovery unit to treat veterans who experienced military sexual trauma." "Other VA support services are also located on the Waco grounds; i.e., Finance Service Center (headquartered in Austin), one of the Health Resources Center's Pharmacy Customer Call Centers, and the VISN 17 Center of Excellence for Research on Returning War Veterans," the statement said. McLennan County Veteran's Service Officer Steve Hernandez, however, disagrees. "They're systematically trying to eliminate the need for a Waco facility," Hernandez told KWTX. Edwards' and Hernandez's concerns are prompted in part by a law Congress passed in 2017 to establish the VA Asset and Infrastructure Review Commission, which has yet to be formed, that is tasked with identifying VA facilities nationwide that could be closed. The nine-member commission is supposed to review VA facilities, consult with veteran's organizations and make realignment recommendations to the president.

May 4, Election Coverage, Turnout generally light in area council, school board elections

May 4, on-air crawls beginning at 7:30 p.m., Live coverage in 10 p.m., Kesha Lopez, Brandon Hamilton & Drake Lawson

Some Central Texas voters headed to the polls Saturday to decide dozens of city council and school board races, three school bond elections, and a handful of city propositions and proposed charter amendments. [RESULTS](#) Waco and Waco ISD elections were cancelled because no races were contested, but Killeen voters decided three contested city council races. Dist. 2 incumbent Debbie Nash-King easily turned back a challenge from Will Baumgartner and Melissa Brown; Dist. 3 incumbent Jim Kilpatrick defeated challengers Tolly James, Jr., and Sandra Blankenship; and Dist. 4 incumbent Steve Harris defeated challenger Brockley King-Moore. There were also three contested races for the Killeen School Board. PI. 1 incumbent Shelley Hargus-Wells defeated challenger Lan Carter; PI. 2 incumbent Susan Jones defeated challenger D. Michael Jones; and PI. 3 incumbent Corbett Lawler survived a challenge

from Robert People and Stanley Earl Golaboff. Temple voters decided two city council races. Dist. 1 incumbent Jessica Walter easily defeated challenger Jeffrey Ware. Wendell Williams defeated Joe Agee and Gussie L. Daniels III for the Dist. 4 seat, which has been vacant since former Dist. 4 Temple City Councilman Michael Pilkington resigned abruptly on Jan. 14, days after he pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor deadly conduct charge in Corpus Christi. Hewitt voters decided two of three contentious city council races, but one will require a runoff. Challenger Charles D. "Charlie" Turner defeated Ward 1 incumbent Travis Bailey, and Ward 3 incumbent easily defeated challenger A.C. "Tony" Martinez. But in the race for the at large council seat, no one claimed a majority of the vote. Michael S. Bancale and Mike Field will face off again in a runoff election. The other three candidates were former Hewitt City Manager Adam Miles former Councilman Kurt Krakowian and Betty Orton. Midway ISD voters decided one school board race. Andrew Popejoy defeated Pl. 6 incumbent Ivan Green. Robinson ISD residents, in a 1,219-535 vote, rejected a \$31.5 million bond issue to improve and repurpose the district's junior high campus and to expand the high school's Ag facility. In 2011, the district sought approval of a \$39 million bond package and in 2013 a \$21 million bond package, but both failed at the ballot box. In 2014, voters approved a \$19.5 million bond issue for a new intermediate school. Crawford ISD voters approved a \$1.895 million bond issue to fund equipment as well as construction, improvement and renovation of buildings. Troy ISD voters approved an \$18.25 million bond issue to fund improvements at Troy High School, Raymond Mays Middle School, Troy Elementary School and Mays Elementary School.

Killeen: City holds first public hearing on annexation of properties

May 7, 10pm, Live-PKG, Brandon Hamilton (2-minutes)

There is a hot topic in the city of Killeen: should two properties currently not in city limits be annexed? Inside a packed City Council chambers, Killeen's growth and annexation of two properties – one on Clear Creek Road and the other on Chapparral Road – were up for discussion. Tolly James Jr., who has lived in Killeen for nearly 25 years, says the answer is to wait. "I just want the council to look at the whole picture. Let's not just look at a quick dollar but the whole picture as we look at developments," he said. He isn't the only one pumping the brakes. Councilwoman Shirley Fleming says she's against the annexation of both properties. "The infrastructure, everything is going to have to be paid by the city of Killeen. We don't have the money to do this. It's going to fall back on the constituents; we're going to have to start paying taxes and it's going to fall back on us," she said. An annexation would provide both properties access to city services, including first responders. "What kinds of stress are we going to put on our first responders, we already got them stretched out? Our police department puts about \$1.4 million in overtime, so we don't want to stress things out. We just need to look at the whole picture," he said. The Clear Creek Road property is within distance of Fort Hood and directly in its flight path for training. "If they do build those residential homes out there, it's going to be dangerous. Planes are going to be flying over those homes," Fleming said. On Monday, Mayor Jose Segarra talked to KWTX about how the city is growing and new developments are needed. He also talked about how filling new homes adds money to the city and keeping property taxes from rising. He also doesn't think finding buyers will be a problem. Builder Gary Purser Jr. told city council members \$400,000

could potentially be collected a year on property taxes with nearly 250 homes going up on the property. But is that enough? "If we annex this and if everybody votes for this, I think they don't care anything about Killeen. They don't care about our constituents," Fleming added. Killeen residents will have one more chance to have their voices heard on May 21. City council members could have a decision by June 11.

Trump claims China tariffs help US, trade talks 'congenial'

May 10, 5p.m. & 6p.m., Live-VOSOT & Live-PKG, John Carroll (4-minutes)

John Carroll talks with a central Texas expert who has advised four U.S. Presidents on trade and tariffs. President Donald Trump says trade talks between China and the U.S. are continuing in a "very congenial manner" despite new tariffs the U.S. imposed Friday on \$200 billion in Chinese imports. Mr. Trump tweeted Friday that the increased tariffs will bring "FAR MORE wealth" to the United States, although a study by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and Columbia and Princeton universities says the burden of tariffs falls on U.S. consumers and businesses that buy imports. Some lawmakers have recently expressed concern about the effect of the tariffs on farmers. Mr. Trump suggested on Twitter Friday that money from the additional tariffs would allow the U.S. to buy more agricultural goods from U.S. farmers and ship it to "poor & starving" countries. Talks between the U.S. and China continue Friday.

Consumer beware: Texas lawmakers vote to eliminate oversight of plumbers

May 28, 5p.m. & 6p.m., Live-VOSOT, Live-PKG, John Carroll (5-minutes)

In the waning hours of the legislative session Sunday, state lawmakers failed to pass a measure extending the life of the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners, which is responsible for licensing plumbers and enforcing state law governing plumbers. The board has until Sept. 1, 2020 to end operations. Lawmakers also voted to eliminate the law that gives Texas the power to regulate the profession effective on Sept. 1, if Gov. Greg Abbott signs the measure. "Basically, our plumbing licenses will be gone September of this year and that's what it boils down to unless Gov. Abbott intervenes and does something about it," said Chris Sproles, the owner of Central Texas Plumbing Solutions. "It makes it worse for us for somebody that's put in years of schooling and on the job training for that to not mean anything anymore. It's just a big deal to us," Sproles' son, John Crawson, said. As plumbers we look at ourselves to protect the health and the welfare of the nation. I mean getting the sewage away from your house, getting water and gas into your house without any incidents or bodily harm or damage it's a big deal to us." The failure to extend the life of the Board of Plumbing Examiners was the result of disagreement on the timing of a proposed transfer of the board's authority to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, a move, supporters said would speed up the licensing of plumbers at a time when they're in short supply. State Rep. Chris Paddie, R-Marshall, told the Texas Tribune that municipalities could regulate plumbers through local ordinances. Sproles says he will be asking the City of Waco to consider setting up its own regulations if the governor does not step in.

Waco: City council approves \$4 million in street improvements

June 9, 10:00 p.m., PKG, Drake Lawson (2-minutes)

The 2019 Mill and Overlay project has been green lit to start work soon. Waco City

Council approved a \$4 million contract to Texas Materials Group Inc. for the work in several neighborhoods around the city. This is all part of the Better Streets in Waco Project. "It touches on about 20 roadway segments in the Waco city limits," says the city of Waco Capital Improvement Program Manager Jim Reed. The project includes work from Chapel Rd all the way to Mahalia Drive. Reed says the city chose the streets based on public outcry. "A lot of what we do as far as identifying which project should become first, second, or third is based on community input," says Reed. Reed expects the project to start in mid-July and finish by October. He also added that there will not be any road closures and that the work will not affect the community.

Proposed State Law would allow breweries to sell beer to-go

June 8, 6p.m. & 10p.m., VOSOT & PKG, Drake Lawson (4-minutes)

Local craft beer is becoming more popular in the Central Texas area, but it's the difference in the type of brewery that prevents you from being able to take that cold beverage home. A new bill that's made its way to the Governor's desk would change that. "If someone comes to town drinks our beer and wants to take it home, we can't legally sell them it," says Brotherwell Brewing Owner David Stoneking. Brotherwell Brewing is licensed as a manufacturing brewery which under current state law doesn't allow beer to be sold to-go. However Bare Arms Brewing who's celebrating their 4th anniversary is considered a retail brewery. Under that license they have been allowed to sell beer to-go. "Our idea of a good time is just making fun beer," says Bare Arms Owner Andy Soukup. "The growth will come naturally we just want to make beer that's fun to drink." Soukup and Stoneking agree that craft beer is on the rise in cities like Waco, and the new bill would be another move towards growth in the brewing industry. The House Bill 1545 has been sent to the Governor's desk for approval, and if signed would go into place September 1st of this year.

Economist, farmers agree tariffs will hurt everyone

June 6, 6p.m., LIVE-PKG, John Carroll (3-minutes)

A top Central Texas economist and the Texas Farm Bureau are warning that damage to farmers and manufacturers could be catastrophic if the president imposes tariffs against Mexico this next week. "We need a trade win and I certainly hope that this new tariff does not get in the way of getting a trade win," Texas Farm Bureau spokesman Gene Hall said. Waco based, and nationally renowned economist Dr. Ray Perryman of the Perryman Group agrees, "These are just bad politics bad economic policies." President Trump's proposed five percent tariffs on Mexico on June 10 will impact Central Texas farmers who are already reeling from the China tariffs earlier this year. "We see no way for a healthy farm economy without robust and free trade and tariffs are hanging over that," Hall said. "Almost every time you have a trade war you end up with retaliation and our farmers sell a lot of products to Mexico as well so if you start having this sort of thing happen it can be a very difficult situation," Perryman said. Hall said he wants to make it clear, the Texas Farm Bureau believes there must be something done to secure the border but not with tariffs, "We really need to probably back off these tariffs and encourage Mexico to deal with illegal immigration in other ways."

Waco: Metropolitan Planning Organization holds public information meeting

June 17, 10:00 p.m. Live-PKG, Drake Lawson (2-minutes)

Public meetings over the 2020 to 2021 fiscal year budget for the Waco MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization) were held Monday. The MPO says its goal for the upcoming year, and future years, is to improve active transportation across the Waco area. Active transportation being routes such as sidewalks and bike paths, that allow residents to move through the city easier. MPO discussed a desire to eventually do a joint study with Waco Transit over where money needs to be put by late 2020. People who use active transportation routes such as Peter Kulaba say they want to see sidewalk safety increase, "I would want to make it possible for me to walk with my children all the time," says Kulaba. "There are places I go take walks that it might not be that safe (for children to walk with me)." A public hearing and policy adoption over the budget will take place July 18 at the Waco Transit Center at 301 South 8th Street.

Central Texas gears up for 2020 Census

June 25, 5p.m. & 6p.m., Live-VOSOT, Live-PKG, Kesha Lopez (4-minutes)

The 2020 Census Complete Count Committee has a tough job as it explores ways to make sure everyone in McLennan County is counted as part of next year's census. It will target historically under-counted areas such as the homeless community, black community, and Hispanic community, some members of which may be reluctant to participate in light of the ongoing border crisis and the fight over immigration and whether to include a citizenship question on the census survey. Luis Garcia was born and raised in Waco. He is a member of Mutualista Hall, an organization created by Mexican immigrants in the early 1900's to provide support and networking for Hispanics in the community. He said Tuesday, he believes citizenship status should not matter. But he understands how families can get rattled when this topic comes up and how it's going to be hard to convince some people to be counted in spite of. "To try to overcome that fear how I don't know how to do it. It would be hard because in their minds once their name is down somebody's going to come after them one time or another," he said. Waco City Councilman Hector Sabido and others are part of a committee that's creating the "Yes, I Count" campaign to combat disinformation and educate residents about the Census. "We want you to be counted and we have to assure them that if they fill out the documentation of the census that it's not going to be used against them in the future (and) that ICE is not going to show up on their doorstep to deport them." The "Yes, I Count" campaign will also highlight the United States Census Bureau's "72-Year Rule" which states: "The U.S. government will not release personally identifiable information about an individual to any other individual or agency until 72 years after it was collected for the decennial census." The campaign aims to use pillars of the Hispanic community to get the message out and to address the language barrier. Sabido said, some people don't participate because they don't understand or can read the paperwork. The City of Waco estimates a \$10 million dollar loss over a 10-year-period if just 1 percent of the population is not counted. Sabido said that money could be used for public housing, street and infrastructure, and healthcare.

Federal workers rally outside local VA hospital

June 26, 5p.m. & 6p.m., VOSOT & PKG, Kesha Lopez (4-minutes)

Just a few feet from the rows of American flags waving at the Doris Miller Veteran

Affairs Hospital campus in Waco a group of federal employees sent a message loud and clear. They were looking for a better collective bargaining agreement between the American Federation of Government Employees and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The two are in the process of renegotiating the terms. While holding signs and chanting outside the VA gates, the group said they want fair pay, a system that allows them to be able to use their "leave" time when they need to take it, and a better grievance process. The one currently proposed, according to the group, would eliminate grievances being filed locally and force employees to file them in Washington. Others are concerned that there will be instances that the employee and union representative would be forced to appear for a face-to-face meeting or hearing, which would cost time and money on behalf of the employee. Union officials said rallies like the one held in Waco are planned for other locations across the country until an agreement is reached.

Fort Hood: Town hall held to further address housing concerns
June 25, 10:00 p.m., Live-PKG, Brandon Hamilton (2-minutes)

A town hall was held on Fort Hood Tuesday to further address housing concerns from families living on post. The first town hall was held in late February and part of ongoing effort across the Army to inform soldiers and their families of current policies and to make sure "obligations are being met to provide them safe and quality housing." For the Chunn family, staying on-base is their only option. Shortly after moving in last year, they say problems started. "Our house...the power goes off constantly. Our daughter can't get hot, if she does, she can stop breathing and it can kill her because she has brain cancer. It's suppose to be fully compliant, but it's not," Kimberly Chunn said. Chunn requires a wheelchair after having surgery on her spine. She says mold is contributing to health issues and by speaking out during the town hall was about keeping her daughter alive. "When your only housing option is full of mold, electrical issues and can cost your daughter her life, what's that saying to her?" Chunn said.

EDUCATION

Belton: New school to open in months with security upgrades

Apr. 8, 11:00 p.m. (late due to NCAA Final 4), PKG, Brandon Hamilton (2-minutes)

At Belton ISD's new school – which is set to open for students in the fall – the finishing touches are going up. Charter Oak Elementary School is set to be a campus that features the first of many. "It's an exciting time for Belton ISD as a fast-growth school district," Belton ISD Superintendent Dr. Susan Kincannon said. An exciting time as the calendar moves closer to the fall. In just a few month, students and staff will walk the halls for the first time – a building more secure than any other in the district. "We worked closely with the Belton and Temple police departments. They actually reviewed the architectural plans and made some suggestions," Kincannon said. Security measures including magnetic card readers and the ability for administrators to lock hallway doors from the front office. "It's just outstanding to walk in the halls to see the building. I can't think of anything more exciting other than getting to see the students come in," Kincannon said. When students come in, they'll be able to shoot hoops inside the new gym and learn in state-of-the-art classrooms, computer lab and library. There are also

provisions made on the playgrounds for students with special needs.

'Thank God no one died,' Franklin High School principal says

Apr. 16, 5:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m., VOSOT & PKG., Christy Soto (3-minutes)

Franklin ISD students returned to class Tuesday following an unexpected day off Monday after an EF-3 tornado struck the town of just more than 1,500 residents Saturday. Water bottles and hand sanitizers were available because a boil order is still in effect for the community. The day started with a morning assembly. The tornado Saturday morning hit the south side of town, destroying 55 homes, two churches, four businesses and heavily damaging the community's food pantry. Ten of the 55 homes were ones in which students lived, Franklin High School Principal Russell White said. More than a dozen people were injured, but only two were hospitalized. "The first thing I said was just want to thank God that no one died," White said Tuesday. "You see the devastation over there and that was my first thought driving into town was that there is going to be a loss of life everywhere but the loss of material things, of course, is a loss but they can overcome that at least no one lost their life," White said. "The students are going to grieve in different ways even if they weren't directly affected, they are going to know somebody who's effected. So, we have a counseling team, the counselor myself, my assistant principal they can meet with us and we are going to walk with them through anything they need," White said. Students stepped up to help in the aftermath of the tornado, embracing the motto "Franklin Strong."

Belton: 17 graduating seniors enlist in military during ceremony Graduating seniors enlist in military during ceremony

May 1, 10p.m., Live-PKG, Brandon Hamilton (2-minutes)

For a group of graduating Belton ISD seniors, their next step in life has already been decided. On Wednesday, a celebration was held at Pittenger Fine Arts Center to honor the 17 seniors enlisting in the United States Armed Forces. For some of the teens, they were also continuing a family legacy. "My granddad was in the Army; my cousin was in the Army. I just felt like this is the best opportunity for me to pursue my goals and dreams," Sean Williams said. Williams wants to get a degree in information technology and travel the world. From the Army, Air Force, National Guard, Marine Corps to the Navy – all were represented on the stage. Tristen Bland is the first in his family enlisting in the Marines. He wants to focus on supply and logistics and, also work on his degree. "It's an interesting experience. I'm not a Marine yet, I still have to go through boot camp, get my EGA, but I'm definitely on the path there and I'm real excited," he said. Phoenix Hawk is enlisting in the Navy. "It's definitely inspired me to shape up, try to get my act together before I go in. Make sure I'm not doing anything I'm not supposed to. I want to be able to serve my country to the fullest, the best I can," Hawk said. These graduating seniors set to serve and protect the freedoms of our country in just a couple of months. "I'm pretty excited. It's like counting down the days until I go to basic. It's just more realistic and saying, 'Hey I'm actually going in,'" Christen Paslay said. With the enlistment ceremony Wednesday night, the countdown is on to graduation. After graduation, the teens will start their military careers, which includes basic training and other prior responsibilities.

Portion of record \$100M BU donation will go toward new basketball arena

May 7, 6pm, PKG, Troy Hein (3-minutes)

Baylor University will use a portion of a record \$100 million donation to help fund a new basketball arena, the school announced Tuesday. "Baylor Athletics is thrilled to announce a lead gift for the Baylor Basketball Pavilion," the university said in a tweet just after 1 p.m. Tuesday. "This new facility will be made possible thanks to recently publicized \$100 million anonymous gift as a part of Baylor University's Give Light Campaign." In a subsequent press release, Athletic Director Mack Rhoades said with the lead gift in place, Baylor is in a position to secure additional funding and proceed with a formal plan for design and construction. "Today is an exciting day for Baylor Athletics," he said. "We are incredibly grateful to this Baylor Family, their vision and their generosity in enabling this incredible concept to come to life on our campus," Rhoades said. "This marks a tremendous step forward in our effort to create the nation's best home-court advantage for each of our 19 intercollegiate sport programs." The pavilion, with a projected capacity of 7,000 to 7,500, will be built on the south side of the Brazos River between the Baylor Ballpark and the Ferrell Center at an estimated cost of \$105 million. The men's and women's basketball programs would move into the new arena and the Ferrell Center would be renovated to accommodate the school's volleyball and acrobatics and tumbling programs.

Belton: Students take trailer full of donations to Franklin

May 16, 10:00 p.m., Live-PKG, Brandon Hamilton (2-minutes)

A group of students from Belton High School traveled to the city of Franklin on Thursday, bringing a trailer full of donations. Marcus Ake started the donation drive nearly two weeks ago to help tornado victims. "Really makes me feel good that I was able to give back to a community. It was hard in the beginning just getting it out there, but once people found about it there were so many people coming and willing to help," he said. From diapers to non-perishable food items, students from Belton High School and Franklin High School unloaded the trailer. "The reoccurring help that we're getting is a super huge blessing. We're super thankful the help that Belton provided with us today. It's just a huge thank you from us to them," said Brent Buckley, a Franklin High School student. A big thank you coming from those who need the help. "Feels really good that our community and our school together could come together and donate as much as we could," said Belton High School student Phillip Guardilla. After unloading the donations at the high school, students took a trip to the hard-hit area of the city. Debris remains where homes once stood.

Local teacher resigns after video surfaces of classroom incident

May 17, 5p.m. & 6p.m., VOSOT & Live-PKG, John Carroll (3-minutes)

Waco middle school teacher Daniel Murany resigned Friday after video surfaced that shows him carrying a desk in which a student is sitting out the door of a portable classroom and dumping both on the building's porch. The boy's father said his son was injured in the incident. Murany, who taught social studies and served as a coach, according to the school's online directory, was placed on administrative leave on Thursday. "Certainly the video shows very clearly what happened and left no doubt for us that this was just unacceptable," Waco ISD spokesman Kyle DeBeer said Friday.

The video was recorded on a cellphone by another student in the teacher's class at Tennyson Middle School. Members of the boy's family say they're talking to a lawyer. "We are not happy that in a place, a school, where we thought our son was safe, he was treated this way," the family said in a statement to KWTX. "He hurt his back and ankle." The family commented on condition of anonymity to protect the student's privacy. District officials have talked with the boy's family about the incident, DeBeer said.

Midway ISD considers \$177M bond issue to support growth

May 21, 10:00p.m., Live-PKG, Rissa Shaw (2-minutes)

Higher taxes could be on the way for homeowners in the Midway Independent School District to help pay for the next decade of projected growth. At their meeting Tuesday night, Midway ISD's Board of Trustees were presented with a plan to tackle the school district's anticipated growth through 2028 by its Momentum Facility Study Committee--a diverse group of about 40 parents, educators, business leaders, retirees and community members--which recommended a bond package of \$177,000,000. "This has nothing to do with wants and luxury and fun things, this is absolutely necessary, we are at capacity," said Scott Bland, committee spokesperson. "We're educating students in portable facilities, we've got teachers that are floating around they don't have their own classrooms because we just don't have the room, and that's just not good for our students on any level." The facility committee has been meeting since October to decide how to manage future growth for the district. By 2028, Midway ISD's enrollment of almost 8,070 students is projected to spike about 32% to 10,700. However, the district currently only has capacity for about 9,200 students.

Killeen: School district celebrates retiring employees with banquet

May 22, 10:00 p.m., PKG, Brandon Hamilton (2-minutes)

With more than 50 employees getting ready to say their final goodbyes to Killeen ISD, the district held a special banquet Wednesday night. The district says 56 employees will be retiring with a collective 1,279 years of service to children -- an impressive number. Some of the retiring employees include two teachers with 35 years of service: Jayne Doxsey at Saegert Elementary School and Barbara Fitzgerald at Pathways Academic Campus. There is also a husband-wife team leaving the district with 41 years of service. Steve Cook, the district's chief human resources officer, and his wife, Montague Village Elementary Principal Renee Cook, will retire at the end of the school year. "It is our privilege to celebrate the accomplishments with those who have selflessly served the Killeen Independent School District so generously over the course of many years. Our administrators, teachers, bus drivers and district support staff alike, have all played a vital part in the success of the district," Superintendent Dr. John Craft said in a statement.

'Super Senior' took a leap of faith, landed in Central Texas

May 20, 6:00 p.m., PKG, Chelsea Edwards (2-minutes)

One of the graduating Super Seniors whom KWTX is celebrating this week took an extraordinary 1,200-mile leap of faith and landed at Belton High School. "It was a new experience," says Jaci Cauble. "I've never done that before...never moved anywhere

especially this far away.” Jaci was living with her mother in North Carolina when in 2017 she saw a path to a better life. She moved halfway across the country, settled in with her older brother who is stationed at Fort Hood and enrolled at Belton High with hopes that her mother would follow. “Most people don't do that right before they go into their last two years of high school,” she said. Her mother’s job transfer didn’t come through, however, and that dashed Jaci’s hopes of having her nearby. “It's been hard because everyone wants to have their mom around,” says Cauble. Without a permanent residence and legal guardian, Jaci was categorized as “homeless” by the district. But found a place to belong and the bump in support she needed through her volleyball team. “She's just a great kid,” says volleyball coach Jordan Petter. “She has this energy about her, this demeanor that draws people in.” Her coach has stepped into a familial role, encouraging and pushing Jaci as she took on AP and dual credit courses through Temple College, as well as certification classes. “She's very independent and I wouldn't want her to take any of that away from her,” Petter said. Once she passes exams, Jaci will be eligible to work as a pharmacy tech and pay her way through Tarleton State University. She plans to eventually become a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit nurse. “It's so hard to meet new people and make new friends in a new place and to trust people,” she said. “But I think that it's worth it in the end. I think that taking a leap of faith is something good, and it shouldn't be something that holds you back.”

‘Super Senior’ with cerebral palsy prepares for next chapter
May 21, 6:00p.m., PKG, Drake Lawson (2-minutes)

Tiana Lozano's educational journey defines what it means to be a Super Senior. The Waco High School senior has used her mild cerebral palsy not as a crutch, but as a teaching tool to encourage others with disabilities. She’s part of a program at Waco High that works with autistic students and although she sometimes must use a wheelchair, she gets up and plays sports with them. “It’s hard but I want to push them more,” Lozano said. “That way they will understand that they aren’t the only one with a disability,” she says. “It makes them stronger to see someone else in life.” Lozano plans to attend McLennan Community College after she graduates. “She’s overcome many things I wasn’t able to,” her mother, Tosha Castillo, said. “I didn’t go to college and I don’t have any disability,” Castillo said. But as one chapter closes, another is about to begin. As one chapter closes, and another begins. “It still hasn’t hit me,” Castillo said. “I’m about to cry right now.... I may be the loudest one in their (graduation).”

Super Senior overcomes hearing, vision impairments to excel
May 22, 6:00p.m., PKG, Megan Vanselow (2-minutes)

Temple High School graduating senior David Yarbrough have overcome major hearing and vision impairments on his way to fulfilling a dream of someday running a construction company. He relies on technology such as his phone to get him through the day, typing out what he wants to say, and zooming in on text from others. His vision problems began in first grade; he can see things up close, but those that are far away. He began to develop hearing problems in the third grade. “The words don't come in right. I just can't seem to figure out the sounds.” Yarbrough explains. Ten years later his mother says doctors still don’t know what caused the hearing and vision problems. But he doesn’t let them hold him back. He plans to go to college and learn about

construction and management, eventually at Texas State University. After that, he wants to run a construction company someday, build his own house and build hotels. His passion for construction surfaced when he was 14 and started working for his stepfather's construction company.

Super Senior looks to the future, cherishes Czech traditions

May 23, 6:00 p.m., PKG, Christy Soto (2-minutes)

West High School graduate Toby Cook, whom KWTX is celebrating as a Super Senior this week, went above and beyond during his high school career to excel in sports and academics and to keep his family's Czech traditions alive. The West native says he's proud of his Czech heritage. His grandmother and mother were both Czech dancers and he followed in their path, which, he says, made his grandmother extremely proud. "She just puts a smile on her face and tells me she is proud of me it's pretty fun it's a different way of kind of learning," Cook said. However, where Cook says he learned the most about life was on the football field. "The head football coach taught us integrity and how to be a family; just trying to keep us together on the football field, (he) just taught us a lot of values to work together," Cook said. And he excelled not only as a running back and linebacker, but also in the classroom, serving in president of the National Honor Society and graduating as class valedictorian, just as his sister Lily did in 2016. He says the key to his success was time management and his motivation came from his family. "One part of it is my parents, I want to make them proud and one day I want to give back to them," Cook said. "The second is probably myself to say I did something that I can be proud of and the work that I put in pays off in the end." Cook is also set to carry out another tradition in college. He's headed to Texas A&M University in the fall, again following in the footsteps of many of his family members. He plans to pursue a degree in business.

Salado: Officials break ground on new middle school opening in 2020

June 26, 10:00 p.m., PKG, Megan Vanselow (2-minutes)

The Salado School District formally broke ground Wednesday for the construction of its new middle school, set to open August 2020 for 6th, 7th and 8th graders. It is located on Williams Road, just behind Salado High School. The facility is 136,000 square feet, made possible by the \$49.4 million bond passed in 2018. It will also include varsity baseball and softball fields located between the high school and middle school. Those are set to be complete for the start of the season in January. A practice football and soccer field will also be part of the project. Officials say the new facilities will accommodate the quickly growing district.

Waco: School district releases preliminary STAAR Testing results

June 27, 10 p.m. Live-VOSOT, Drake Lawson, plus online link to results (2-minutes)

In Thursday night's school board meeting, members got their first look at the preliminary STAAR testing results. The scores from 2019 were compared to those of 2018 by Waco Independent School District, and they showed mixed results. In the attached chart, red shows a decrease from 2018, green an increase, and orange equal. At the top of each set of schools the State comparison is shown. High school results were fairly positive, showing climbs in English and Biology. Good results were also produced in Algebra and English. For Middle school eighth grade showing the most increase in passing rates. It

is more mixed results for seventh graders and for sixth graders a big increase in Math and no serious change in Reading. It is a different result at the Elementary level, right now several schools are recording some big drops. With only a handful of campuses registering an increase in passing rates, the TEA data shows the decrease in students passing is between 3% and up to 24%. There are some bright spots for fourth and fifth grade reading and writing results, but that did not extend to Math for those same kids. "When you see those places, when the state has made gains but a number of campuses across the district have had declines...that is a concern for us," says Assistant Superintendent Kyle Debeer. "That is something we are watching very closely as we move toward the accountability ratings in August," says Debeer who says final ratings will not be given until August 15.

CRIME & SAFETY

Bell County: Sheriff's Dept. rolls out new crime reporting system

Apr. 16, 6 p.m., Chelsea Edwards, PKG (2-minutes)

The Bell County Sheriff's Department wants to stop criminals in their tracks and thinks it has the way to do it; a new virtual neighborhood watch system. The site, BellCountyCrimes.org, is now up and running. "It's just going to make it a little bit more difficult for criminals out there to accomplish their tasks," Bell County Sheriff Eddy Lange said Tuesday. Residents can go online, report suspicious activity, add photos and video, and remain anonymous if they choose. Law enforcement agencies typically get calls when residents spot suspicious activity, such as a strange vehicle in a neighborhood. "We go out, and we try to find this vehicle. Sometimes we get lucky, and sometimes we find them -most of the time we don't," Lange said. That call then gets closed and usually lost in a pile of other reports, but that will change with the new reporting system. Bell County is currently under a free trial period at no cost to taxpayers. The sheriff's office and Strategic Information Services hope to extend the system throughout other counties in Texas before releasing it in other states.

Hewitt: Police department promotes first woman to sergeant

Apr. 22, 10:00 p.m., PKG, Rissa Shaw (2-minutes)

The City of Hewitt has its first-ever female police administrator. "It's about time," said Chief Jim Devlin. Kim Henderson, 47, was promoted from officer to sergeant this month. "It's a significant transition, but I have every confidence she can fulfill it," said Devlin. Two of her male co-workers also applied and tested for the position, however, after a lengthy promotions process, Henderson came out as the top-ranked candidate. "In one respect, it's a promotion, she's a female officer, she does just as much work and equal work as anybody else in this agency, but to be the first is a big deal," said Devlin. "That's why everybody's asking about it because it is the first one, it is kind of a big deal." Henderson has been with Hewitt Police Department for 11 years.

Transgender man calls attack at workplace 'hate crime'

Apr. 22, 5p.m. & 6p.m., Live-VOSOT, Live-PKG, Chelsea Edwards (4-minutes)

Accusations of a hate crime are swirling after a transgender man says he was attacked in his own workplace. Kier Rice is a transgender barber who worked at a shop in Killeen

where he says he and his LGBTQ clients were treated differently "He doesn't greet them," says Rice of the man he says attacked him. "It was mainly females- lesbians." Rice says the man who attacked him has teased him before about his orientation. He says he's been referred to as a female, called derogatory terms, and even smacked on the butt. But tension came to a head on Friday when his alleged attacker complained about his sagging his pants and later shoved him while he was cutting a little boy's hair. "His eyes just got big, and I remember him coming at me," says Rice. "The next thing I know, he had his right arm around me, had me in a headlock and was punching the back of my head." After three bruised ribs, a concussion and a shoulder injury, Rice posted about the incident online, calling it a hate crime. Within days the post has been shared hundreds of times. The man he accuses, whom KWTX is not identifying because he hasn't been charged with any crime, says he has nothing against transgender people. "We exchanged words and it was a fight," he says. He says after the Facebook post went up, he started getting threatening messages and is concerned about the well-being of his family and the shop's customers. "Keira and her friends have been texting my phone," he said. "I don't know who these people are. I just ask them to leave me alone, so I can go on with my life," he adds. Rice says he doesn't usually share his transgender status, but it was known in the shop because his birth name was on his license. He also went public after the incident hoping people can learn about how they should treat others. Killeen police say now that Rice has filed a complaint, an investigator will look-into the case. Rice, meanwhile, is also considering a civil suit for which, he says, he's seeking an attorney.

Affidavits: 3rd grade teacher fondled female students in his classroom
Apr. 23 & 24, 5p.m & 6p.m. Live-VOSOTS & Live-PKGS, John Carroll (10-minutes)
A Corsicana third grade teacher who's charged with six counts of indecency with a child/sexual contact is accused of fondling female students in his classroom over a period of more than a year, according to affidavits released Wednesday. Ramon Santuario-Mendoza, 48, who taught at Sam Houston Elementary School, remained in the Navarro County Jail Wednesday. Bonds total \$300,000 on four of the counts, but bond had not been set late Wednesday afternoon on two additional counts filed Wednesday. Mendoza was arrested late Monday afternoon near Angus in southern Navarro County. Affidavits submitted for four of the arrest warrants were based on the responses of the alleged victims during forensic interviews conducted at the Navarro County Child Advocacy Center. One girl, who made an outcry to her parents on April 17, told the interview that Mendoza "touched her breast multiple times under her shirt," during the current school year according to the affidavit. She told the interviewer, "Mr. Mendoza would tell her to come to his desk and read to him (and then) would untuck her shirt and put his hand up her shirt touching her breast," according to the affidavit.

Killeen: Police officials credit cooperation for crime reduction
May 7, 5pm & 6pm, Live-VOSOTS, Chelsea Edwards (2-minutes)
Local police chiefs talked about drops in crime with community leaders during a public safety lunch Tuesday. The event was put on by the Killeen Chamber of Commerce. Guest speakers included the Killeen police chief and Fort Hood's Deputy Director of Emergency Services. They discussed a reported 25 percent decrease in overall crime

and working together to focus on youth programs. The KISD chief of police also described the department's efforts to reduce a recent increase of terroristic threats in schools. "We're trying to make kids aware to come to us," says Chief Ralph Disher. "They're doing really well about reaching out and contacting us and letting us know when they see something on social media." He adds, "and then just making them aware of the consequences- you may end up going to Bell County Jail if you're 17, and that affects you for the rest of your life." The officials also credited regular meetings between their agencies, a DPS presence and community outreach with decreases in violent crime.

Fort Hood: First responders unite for full scale emergency exercise

May 7, 6pm, PKG, Chelsea Edwards (2-minutes)

Police, EMTs, and firefighters flooded the Fort Hood area Tuesday to respond to an emergency exercise. The annual Force Protection Exercise gives first responders a chance to practice working together during a major catastrophe. The morning started with a call of a system malfunction of an American Airlines 737 plane. "We were on a plane, and the plane needed to land in Fort Hood because they were having engine problems," says William Meyer, a soldier from the 510th Clearance Company. He has volunteered as a crash victim in the exercise and has been made up to appear to have a severe laceration to his head. "On the way over here, the engine fell off and we crash-landed in the woods," he explains. "I flew out of the plane, so I was found in the woods." Emergency responders from Fort Hood, Acadian Ambulance Services, Darnall Army Medical Center and Killeen hustle at the practice scene to talk to victims and transport them where they need to go. "We're just out here helping them out, doing some acting, putting some fake blood on to making things look real," adds Meyer as actors cry for help in the background. "It assists us in working together," says Jeffrey Ashley, Assistant Chief of Operations of Fort Hood. "I would say today, as far as us getting the transport taken care of for the individuals immediately- we were a little slow at that." "We will have to work with our EMS personnel, Darnall and fire and work out a better system in order to get all of our people on the same page." Exercises will continue Wednesday on and off post. Residents should not be alarmed.

Copperas Cove: Parents frustrated over dirty restrooms at park

May 13, 10:00 p.m., Live-PKG, Brandon Hamilton (2-minutes)

Some parents in Copperas Cove say they are frustrated with the smell and cleanliness of restrooms at the city park. "What I see in there is mold, moss growing on the floor which is a big hazard here," Shaun Sprague said. The smell has also been an issue. "Barely, rarely any toilet paper, the sinks are dirty. The kids can walk by and actually see-in through there, there is no stalls for the toilets," he said. Zachary Calhoun says he's worried about his young daughter using the restroom. "I have concerns that she's put at risk by not having doors on the bathroom, it's just not secure," Calhoun said. The word is spreading on social media thanks to a viral Facebook post. The city says they've heard the complaints. "We hear their concerns, we understand the facilities in the city parks, restroom facilities are in much needed makeover. We are working through phase ii of the renovation project to make that happen and get those efficiencies corrected as

quickly as possible,” public information officer Kevin Keller said.

Caught on camera: Thief takes packages from porch of local home

May 14, 10:00 p.m., Live-PKG, Brandon Hamilton (2-minutes)

A local homeowner is hoping her doorbell surveillance video helps police catch the person responsible for taking packages from her home in broad daylight. “Made me so furious. I could barely drive, I was so furious,” homeowner Angela Galan said. Galan says she was on her way home last Friday to pick up her packages she had ordered online. She was alerted twice by her doorbell camera. The first time was when the UPS driver left the packages at her front door and the second about an hour after the delivery. “That’s when I saw this gentleman come to my door and he lightly knocked, and I didn’t know who he was,” Galan said. In surveillance video, you can see a man approaching the front door of her home on Clairidge Avenue. The entire theft was recorded by her doorbell camera. “He just picked up my packages and walked away,” Galan said. She says the thief walked away with almost \$300 worth of items. After the theft, she contacted Killeen police to file a report. Police are still investigating the theft. “You have working people, people working hard to get the things they want and then you have sorry people like that...that would do...it’s just angry. I’m really angry behind the situation,” she said. A situation that has broken her sense of safety at home. “I’m so...even at work; I’m so nervous that on my phone. I’m constantly looking at my house because of what has happened,” Galan said. If you’re getting anything delivered, Killeen police suggest to see if a neighbor or family member can receive your package, if offered to schedule a time for your delivery, request a signature or have the package sent to a shipping location.

New Central Texas DA disposes of thousands of cases to clear backlog

May 15, 5:00p.m. & 6:00 p.m., Live-VOSOT & Live-PKG, John Carroll (4-minutes)

McLennan County District Attorney Barry Johnson has dismissed hundreds of cases that date back more than a decade ago as he works to clear a misdemeanor backlog. "We've got some oxygen back in the courthouse where the judges both in the district courts and the county courts at law have been really good at helping us move cases," Johnson said Wednesday. "When I took office, we had about 9,000 misdemeanor cases," he said. "Now I've just been told by my staff yesterday that we are back down to where we need to be, about 4,600 cases that in the court system," he said. "I'd like to see misdemeanors ultimately move through the system in a six-month period of time that's kind of what we're looking at instead of a year and a half or more," he said. In the process, Johnson says he hopes to reduce the county jail population from more than 1,000 to 600, which he says will save taxpayers money. State District Judge Matt Johnson says he believes Johnson is doing the right thing. "I think he is tough on the cases that he needs to be tough on and then exercise discretion appropriately in places where discretion needs to be used," he said. Johnson says most all the dismissed cases involved lighter crimes and on hundreds of others, he has worked with defense attorneys to hammer out plea deals. "Other cases that should've been settled years ago or even months ago we're getting in there and working with our defense lawyers and getting those cases pleaded," he said. "Certainly, aggravated assaults, murders and sexual assaults and those really bad cases I'm still working those as aggressively as hard as I can," he said. Local police chiefs declined to comment publicly on Johnson's efforts, but some said privately they're a little concerned about some of the dismissed cases. Johnson says he works well with local law enforcement agencies as they discuss reasons why some of the cases were dropped. "I haven't heard anything from disgruntled law officers," Judge Johnson said. "I haven't seen an unusually large number of cases being dismissed." The district attorney says the dismissals and pleas allow his office to work more on new cases that continue to appear in his office weekly.

Parents seek stiffer sentence for daycare owner taped beating toddler

Jun. 12, 10:00 p.m., Live-PKG, Rissa Shaw (4-minutes)

A longtime daycare owner who admitted to hurting a baby in her care after another child she was watching filmed the abuse, won't be serving jail time and could walk away without a conviction if her sentence sticks. "Somebody has got to change the fact that you can hurt a baby and get a slap on the hand for that," said the victim's mother. The McLennan County District Attorney's Office offered Glenda Hammons, 81, of Robinson, five years deferred adjudication in exchange for pleading guilty to one count of injury to a child, a deal she accepted in court Thursday. "We get that she's got the community supervision, we get that it's five years, but the fact that it can be completely erased, in our minds, puts future kids at harm," said the victim's father. The parents of the victim, who was 21-months-old at the time of the crime, say they're devastated by the deal that was made. "It's amazing how you're out of the loop when you're the victim's parents," said the victim's father. "I felt like at some point someone was going to listen to what this did to my son and our family--we've never been consulted on any of it at all, no one's asked, ever, and it's shocking." A spokesman for the DA's office says they have victim

assistance coordinators. "They (the family) came and visited with us after the plea," said Tom Needham, spokesman for District Attorney Barry Johnson. Wishing to remain anonymous to protect their son and other children, the baby's father and mother say the justice system failed them. "They told us she won't even have to tell anybody ever, it won't be like she's a convicted felon, it won't be like anyone will ever know she hurt our baby," said the victim's mother. Needham says the DA's office stands by prosecutor Hilary LaBorde, who they believe offered a fair punishment based on the facts of the case.

Woman distracted by cell phone when pickup hit, killed local man

Jun. 13, 5:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m., Live-VOSOTS, Live-PKG, John Carroll (7-minutes)

A University of Mary Hardin-Baylor student charged in connection with a hit-and-run that left a young father of two dead told police she was trying to plug in her cell phone when the pickup truck she was driving struck a young father of two who was walking along an area highway on his way to his night shift job, according to an arrest warrant affidavit released Friday. Bailey Carlson, 23, was arrested Thursday afternoon just hours after the victim's funeral. A judge set her bond Friday afternoon at \$150,000. She's charged with failure to stop and render aid resulting in death stemming from the June 6 hit-and-run that claimed the life of Kayn Kemp, 26, of McGregor. A UMHB spokesman confirmed Friday that Carlson is a student but declined to provide additional information. She was a member of the university's soccer team during her freshman year in 2015 and her team biography says she was a two-time all-district soccer player at Temple High School and a National Honor Society member who was majoring in nursing.

Homeowner: Burglars cut through glass door in local neighborhood

June 21, 10 p.m., Live-PKG, Brandon Hamilton (2-minutes)

Surveillance video captured during a break-in at a Central Texas home shows just how easy the burglars were able to get inside. The Frantz family has been renting their home in Killeen for three years. About three weeks ago, a scary situation unfolded inside with burglars cutting through the door and making their way inside. Luckily, they were not home. "They actually cut around the door and placed the door softly on the door, so the alarm system wouldn't go off," Robert Frantz said. Surveillance video captured the burglars every step. "Apparently they tried to come through the front way and broke the screen. (The) front door was all steel, they didn't get through that. So, they went around back, and they used the back way and that door with the glass door and no screen, they came right through. They knew how to do it," Frantz said. The video, this family hopes, will help get the burglars behind bars. Frantz says his high school class ring is gone and the burglars got ahold of their master bedroom. A sense of feeling safe they've had for three years in this home -- now gone. Killeen police are still investigating this case.

Local fire department dissolves; three fire trucks missing

June 28, 5p.m. & 6 p.m., Live-VOSOT & Live-PKG, Megan Vanselow (4-minutes)

A Central Texas fire department has disbanded and there is concern that three fire trucks are missing. Bell County Commissioner Russell Schneider said the president of

the fire department's board, Karen Hoelker, informed him Wednesday night of the department's decision to dissolve. Schneider says he called Hoelker earlier in the week, letting her know the county will not continue to fund the department if their contracts and memorandums of understanding are not met. Hoelker and fire Chief Dennis Fastzkie did not respond to requests for comment. After the decision to dissolve, Mayor Drew Lanham says the department attempted to donate its equipment to the Buckholt Volunteer Department. The mayor says he and the police chief stopped the transaction, but three fire trucks are still missing. In the meantime, Schneider has asked Troy, Holland, Rogers and Salado departments to respond to fire and EMS calls in the Little River coverage area, as well as Temple and Belton as needed. Mayor Lanham says a firefighter that's been with the Holland Fire Department for more than 40 years has volunteered to be Little River's next chief. Though it will be up to the Bell County Commissioners Court to recognize a new department, should they try to re-form. That can only happen if MOUs are met and presented to the court.

WEATHER AWARENESS

Robertson, TX Continuing Coverage

Apr. 13-15, 2019,, Saturday morning, 6:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m. coverage, Live Wall to wall and newscasts, LIVE Shots, etc. (4-hours)

Meteorologists Brady Taylor, Sean Bellafiore, reporters Christy Soto,, Brandon Hamilton and Drake Lawson.

Robertson County officials say 55 homes, one church, four businesses, a duplex and part of the local housing authority were destroyed by Saturday's EF3 tornado. The church was believed to be a Church of Christ facility still under construction. The county is asking residents returning to their homes today to be mindful of wires on the ground and to still consider any power lines as "active." Billy Huggins, the county's emergency management coordinator, said the county's primary goals today were restoring water and power. There are currently about 140 crews working to restore power to Robertson County, though it may still take up to 72 hours before power is restored because of the damage. A curfew was in place for the area of Franklin south of Highway 79 from 8 p.m. - 7 a.m. Saturday night following the direct hit from a tornado Saturday morning.

Three tornadoes touched down Saturday in Central Texas

Apr. 16, 6 p.m., Live-Weather, Rusty Garrett (3-minutes)

Tornadoes touched down Saturday not only in Franklin, but also southeast of Jewett in Leon County and east of Mumford in southern Robertson County, the National Weather Service says. The EF-3 tornado that struck Franklin formed at 10:50 a.m. Saturday just west of the Brazos River in western Milam County six miles northwest of Hearne and cut an almost 33-mile-long path before dissipating after almost an hour. The tornado moved to the east-northeast, crossing U.S. Highway 6 about 4 ½ miles north of Hearne. EF-1 damaged was found at one structure near the spot where the tornado crossed the highway along with considerable tree damage. The tornado then headed east-northeast to Franklin where the most significant damage, consistent with an EF-3 storm, occurred along a two-block corridor on the south side of the town. Damage to other structures on the south side of Franklin was consistent with EF-1 and EF-2 tornadoes. The tornado

destroyed 55 homes, two churches, four businesses, a food pantry, a duplex and part of the local housing authority building on the south side of Franklin, causing an estimated \$3.8 million in damage. More than a dozen people were injured, but none of the injuries was believed to be life-threatening. Just two were hospitalized. No deaths were reported.

Weather awareness Day

Apr. 17, 12 p.m., 5 p.m., 6p.m. & 10 p.m., plus :30 cut-ins twice per hour, Sean Bellafiore, Brady Taylor, Rusty Garrett, Elliot Wilson, Live Weather cut-ins in and outside of newscasts (40-minutes)

Central Texas residents were again keeping an anxious watch on the weather Wednesday, just days after a storm that produced a powerful and destructive tornado on Saturday that destroyed homes, churches and businesses in Franklin. Wednesday's threats include golf ball to tennis ball size hail, strong winds as high as 60 to 70 miles per hour, isolated tornadoes and localized flooding, forecasters say. An upper level trough could play a role in the development of the first round of storms Wednesday afternoon. They'll be isolated and concentrated primarily in the area east of Interstate 35. An approaching cold front, however, should spark a new line of thunderstorms Wednesday night into the early morning hours on Thursday, the primary threat from which will be straight-line winds. Hail and isolated tornadoes are also possible, and flooding is a concern.

Wet weather causes crashes, prompts cancellations and delays

Apr. 24, 5pm, 6pm, Live reports from the studio and the WX Edge Mobile vehicle, Rusty Garrett & Elliot Wilson (6-minutes)

The threat of heavy rain, flooding and potentially severe thunderstorms led to cancellations and delays Wednesday while wet roads were a fact in a series of mostly minor traffic accidents. A flash flood watch is in effect for all Central Texas until midnight. Showers and thunderstorms, some of which may be severe with heavy rainfall, are possible throughout the day and into the early morning hours Thursday. Widespread rainfall totals of 2 to 4 inches are expected and as much as 6 inches of rain could fall in some areas. Temple police reported flooding in several areas Wednesday evening including Charter Oak Drive, Poison Oak Road and Kegley Road. Portions of several roads are closed, police said. Flooding was reported late Wednesday afternoon on Tower Road coming from Spring Valley Road. In Hewitt, Castleman Creek, Angelfire and Sierra Slope, South Hewitt at Ritchie, Chaparral and East Panther Way were closed Wednesday afternoon because of flooding. Water was reported over roads in Holland near FM 2268 and Fannin Street Wednesday afternoon.

First responders brace for more flooding after rash of high-water rescues

May 2, 5pm & 6pm, Live-VOSOT & Live-PKG, John Carroll (3-minutes)

Members of Texas &M Texas Task Force 1 were in Waco Friday to assist with high-water rescues as the threat of more heavy rain looms. In one hour, Thursday, Waco firefighters received 26 calls related to high water including 16 flooded vehicles and six high-water rescues Waco Deputy Fire Chief for Emergency Operations Robby Bergerson said Friday. "It takes very little water to move a vehicle or even a pedestrian,"

he said. "If you wander into it, you could get washed away and it could become very serious very quickly," he said. Waco Fire Department Lt. Bill Eary, who led most of the rescues Thursday, says the city's growth is likely a factor in the flooding that led to the emergency calls. "As the infrastructure builds, as you're taking away more of the open land and there's more concrete, more streets and there's less ground so it causes more flooding, there's no room for the water to be absorbed," he said. Authorities are urging area motorists to heed the warning to "turn around and don't drown" when they encounter water over roadways. The heavy rain Thursday caused widespread flooding. High water surrounded the Waco Family of Faith Worship Center Thursday evening at 2225 Cumberland Ave. "This evening the storm hit pretty bad at the church and flooded the surrounding streets and our church property. We are trying to stop the flood," the church said in a Facebook post. Eastbound Highway 84 at Old Lorena Road was closed because of flooding early Thursday evening. Multiple vehicles were reported to be stranded in high water just after 5 p.m. at Primrose and La Salle Avenue in Waco. Waco firefighters were dispatched to the 8800 block of old McGregor Road and to 314 West Highway 6 in response to reports of stranded motorists. Flooding was reported on Londonderry Drive near Ascension Providence Health Center and firefighters were dispatched to Londonderry and Medical Parkway in response to a report of stranded motorists. Franklin Avenue in downtown Waco was flooded and power was out in parts of the downtown area. Flooding was reported along Columbia Street in Beverly Hills, at Wooded Acres and Bosque Boulevard in Waco, in the area of North 35th Street and West Waco Drive and Central Texas Parkway in Waco.

Rain causes flooding, accidents throughout the region, plus tornado warnings
May 3, 5pm, 6pm & 10pm, plus live cut-ins from studio and Weather Edge mobile vehicle, Rusty Garrett, Brady Taylor, Sean Bellafiore & Elliot Wilson (30-minutes)
Heavy rainfall early Friday caused flooding and was a factor in accidents throughout Central Texas. Because of the threat of bad weather, Central Texas Airshow events scheduled for Friday night have been cancelled. The heavy rain caused wastewater overflows in both Waco and Temple. Waco reported a total discharge of 376,360 gallons at nine sites and said the discharges have been stopped at all but three of them. Spills occurred at manholes near 529 N.36th St., 916 N. Valley Mills Dr., 1916 N. 12th St., 4900 Skeet Eason Rd., 5201 Flat Rock Rd., 400 University Parks Dr., 1100 University Parks Dr., 1702 Dallas St., and 1708 Dallas St. The City of Temple reported spills totaling nearly 390,000 gallons at eight sites including 4320 Lions Park Rd., 3420 Northwood Rd., 2501 Westwood Rd., 4611 Chestnut Dr., 1601 South 57th St., 3110 FM 3117, 3010 Ira Young and 1722 South 15th St. Earlier Friday Salado Creek was swollen, and water was reported on the Main Street Bridge as well as on FM 2843 outside of Salado.

Watches, warnings issued as line of storms pushes through
May 8, 12pm, 5pm, 6pm, 10pm plus live cut-ins, Brady Taylor, Elliot Wilson, Sean Bellafiore, Live coverage, Live weather Edge mobile vehicle (2-hours)
A severe thunderstorm watch was in effect until 1 p.m. Wednesday for Central Texas counties along and west of Interstate 35 as a line of storms pushed through. Severe storms and flooding are possible. A severe thunderstorm warning was in effect until

12:15 p.m. for southeastern Coryell County and Bell County. Because of the threat, Killeen ISD Superintendent John Craft directed that students be kept inside buildings, including during passing periods until the storms have passed through. A flood advisory was in effect until 2:45 p.m. in poor drainage areas of Navarro County. Several thousand customers were without power late Wednesday morning in Central Texas because of the storms. The outage affected several Killeen ISD schools including Nolanville Elementary School, Cavazos Elementary School and Union Grove Middle School. The power was going on and off at Harker Heights High School, the district said. Severe thunderstorm warnings were in effect earlier for Hamilton County and southeastern Mills County. The storms could produce winds as high as 60 miles per hour and locally heavy rainfall. Storms that developed earlier Wednesday caused some street flooding in Waco and knocked out traffic signals at several intersections.

Temple: Sewage overflows could top total of last 3 years combined
May 8, 6 pm, PKG, Megan Vanselow (2-minutes)

The volume of wastewater overflows so far this year is on pace to exceed the total volume of sewage spilled over the last three years, but the city is installing a new lift station in hopes of resolving the problem. So far in 2019, 2.2 million gallons of untreated wastewater has spilled into Lions Park and nearby creeks and streams. From 2016 to 2018, a total of 2.8 million gallons overflowed. The city says the amount of overflow all depends on the time of day heavy rain falls. "If it's at night while everybody is asleep, you'll have a lot greater capacity because there's not so much taxation on the system, versus if it's during the day when people are actually using water and flushing their toilets and everything else that comes up that, you're going to have a lot greater chance for waste water overflow." city spokeswoman Ellen Morton says. The new lift station will replace some of the current 30-inch lines and add new ones. Morton says the system is 67 percent complete and should be fully functional by July.

Power restored to most areas after weekend storms

June 9 & 10, 5:30p.m., 10p.m. 6/9 and 5-7a.m., 12p.m., 5, 6 & 10p.m. 6/10, plus live cut-ins June 9. Brady Taylor, Sean Bellafore, Elliot Wilson, Chelsea Edwards, Megan Vanselow, Drake Lawson (1-hour 30-minutes)

Nearly 200 homes were damaged Sunday as strong storms racked the city of Copperas Cove. Copperas Cove Fire Department said the damage was on the west side of town near Big Divide Road. There were no reports of injuries. Emergency crews said a number of people were out looking at the damage and that caused congestion in the neighborhood. They've asked people who don't live in the area to stay away so crews can adequately do their jobs. HomeBase Lumber hardware store announced extended hours for residents needing supplies as residents recover from the storm. Meanwhile, sporadic downed power lines, debris and, hail were reported in several areas across the region. Trees were reported down on Bellmead Drive in Bellmead and in some residential neighborhoods. In Groesbeck, the police department reported the metal roof of the Groesbeck Independent School District Care Academy building on South Ellis Street was blown off by strong winds, but that underlying roof was still intact. After the storms, Oncor had between 3,000 and 5,000 customers without power following the storms with another 7,000 left in the dark in the Hamilton Power Company. By Monday

afternoon, the number was down to less than 275 customers in the Hamilton Power Company and less than 150 for Oncor customers.

Damage estimated at almost \$2.7 million after Copperas Cove tornado

Jun. 19, 5p.m. & 6p.m., VO, Chelsea Edwards (1-minute)

A preliminary assessment Monday by the Building Officials Association of Texas (BOAT) Disaster Response Team sets damage from an EF-2 tornado that touched down on June 9 in Copperas Cove at \$2,680,875, Deputy Fire Chief Gary Young said in a press release Wednesday. The preliminary assessment does not guarantee any reimbursement and the damage estimate is subject to change, Young said. "Information that a property owner may receive from their insurance company will prevail in all circumstances," he said. The findings of the assessment will be reported to the state, he said. The 500-yard-wide tornado with peak winds of about 115 miles per hour touched down at 5:24 p.m. near the intersection of Grimes Crossing Road and Big Divide Road three miles west-northwest of Copperas Cove and traveled almost 1.6 miles before dissipating at 5:28 p.m. two miles west of Copperas Cove, a National Weather Service report says. The tornado moved to the south-southeast, "producing significant shingle, tree and ancillary structural damage to numerous residences in the neighborhoods straddling Big Divide Road," the report says. The tornado stripped portions of the roofs off of several homes and uprooted several large trees, the report says. Most of the damage along the tornado's path was consistent with EF-0 or EF-1 intensity winds and the tornado contracted to about 100 yards in width before it moved up a wooded hillside and dissipated near the intersection of Veterans Avenue and Stewart Street, the report said.

CONSUMER & HEALTH

Restaurant Report Card for week of April 1

Apr. 4 6:00 p.m., PKG, Taina Maya (2-minutes)

Cici's Pizza on North Valley Mills Drive in Waco is the lowest score of the week with an 81. Everything in the salad bar had to be thrown out because it wasn't being kept cold. In the cooler next to that, they had to throw out mac and cheese and chicken nuggets. None of their employees had food certifications available, and one of the ice machines was dirty. They were re-inspected, and the salad bar was still not working properly so they were told to throw everything away every four hours, but they passed with a 97. Old Chicago Pizza & Pasta in Killeen had to throw away ground beef, chicken and turkey because they weren't being kept cold enough in the low boy cooler. The restaurant made a 91 on their inspection last month. Eight out 40 employees still need their health cards and the freezer fans need to be cleaned. The restaurant will also have to call out a pest company due to gnats in the bar area. Peter Piper Pizza on New Road in Waco makes a 92. Their three-compartment sink wasn't dispensing sanitizer, so they had to start manually sanitizing the dishes. A sanitizer bucket was stored on a food prep table and two carts that were used to pick up plates in the dining room were covered in splattered food. Two days later all the violations had been corrected. Brody's Steakhouse in Belton is the Clean Plate winner this week.

Restaurant Report Card for week of May 2
May 2, 6p.m., Taina Maya, PKG (2-minutes)

The Express Mart gas station on West Central Texas Expressway in Killeen was recently inspected and scored an 87. The inspector found discolored pepperoni with slime on it in the lowboy cooler, which the employees quickly threw out. The soda spigots were moldy and there was no soap at the hand sink area among other things. The gas station will have a follow-up; we'll let you know how it goes. The Grape on North Valley Mills Drive in Waco is a popular wine bar. They were recently inspected by the health department and scored a 94. Inspectors found ready-to-eat and raw foods stored next to each other and produce stored next to pre-cooked meats, all of which was out of compliance and was corrected. They also found a bowl of salmon that was uncovered in the fridge; the owner opted to throw it away. Another piece of cooked salmon was also being stored in the fridge. The manager admitted he meant to throw it away. No follow-up was required. This week's Clean Plate award goes to Freddy's Frozen Custard and steak burgers in Harker Heights. Keep up the great work guys.

Restaurant Report Card for week of May 16
May 16, 6p.m., Taina Maya, PKG (2-minutes)

Los Cucos Mexican Restaurant in Waco made an 85 on their most recent inspection. Water was dripping onto bananas and other cut fruits and vegetables from the air conditioning drip pan because of a leak in the pipe. The inspector found mold in the meat prep cooler and a handwashing sink was blocked by a cart and boxes. They didn't have a certified food manager on duty or employee health cards posted. They were re-inspected three days later and were able to correct the problems. Little Caesars on West Central Texas Expressway in Killeen is having their permit withheld until they fix one violation. They need to clean all of their wire racks in the cooler because they are extremely moldy according to the inspector. We'll keep you posted on their progress. This week's Clean Plate Award winner is the Olive Branch on South 2nd Street in Waco. They offer everything from gluten-free to keto friendly meals as well as mouth-watering favorites like Bananas Foster Stuffed French Toast.

Mold complaints leave local woman, son, living out of car
May 22, 6p.m., PKG, Chelsea Edwards (2-minutes)

A Belton woman with a 6-year-old son ended living out of her car after she complained about a mold-filled apartment with light fixtures that drip, put down a \$400 deposit on another unit, and then learned the second apartment didn't meet standards for federal rental assistance. Tracee Gooden says she moved into a unit last year at the Belle Oaks apartment complex at 1100 Shady Lane in Belton, and there have been issues ever since. "The problems aren't being fixed; they're being covered up," she said as she pointed out areas where water has leaked through the ceiling. Mold grows along the walls, making her son's breathing problems worse. Gooden pressed an area around an electrical socket to show how pliable the wallboard is, and her fingers pushed through the drywall. The moisture has even caused an electrical fire when she plugged in phone charger. As a result of our story, the woman was granted access to a new apartment with the assurance from management the deficiencies will be repaired in a timely manner.

Restaurant Report Card for week of May 16

May 30, 6p.m., Taina Maya, PKG (2-minutes)

Texas Roadhouse on La Salle Avenue in Waco passes with a 91, but they will need a follow-up inspection due to some repeat violations. There was no sanitizer in the bucket, pans were being stacked wet and ice tea spoons were being stored with the handles down, so they had to be re-washed. Flies were also seen landing on the food prep table and an employee had rubber bands on the wrist, which has been a problem for the restaurant. The lowest score of the week belongs to the Starbucks on North General Bruce Drive in Temple. They made an 85. The inspector found uncovered milk containers in the fridge directly under racks that had buildup on them, and mold and mildew that had built up behind the equipment in the back storeroom. Fourteen out of 20 employees didn't have their health certifications, and there was water seeping out of the base of the toilet in the men's restroom. The permit was withheld until the violations were corrected. In Killeen at the Asian Buffet on East Central Texas Expressway, they were storing trays of squid and shrimp on the floor of the freezer rather than at least 6 inches above the ground as required. The soda spigots were moldy and there was no soap at the hand sink. The inspector also saw rodent droppings all over the storage room. They made a 92 but had a follow-up inspection showing they are working with a pest control company to stop the rodent problem. This week's Clean Plate winner: Pablo's On the River in Belton where breakfast is served starting at 6:00 a.m.

Temple: Mall business owner finds success in creativity

June 7, 6p.m., Live-PKG, Megan Vanselow (2-minutes)

The Temple Mall is currently operating at 75% capacity, customers trickle through on a Friday afternoon, but, Robert Brandenburg, the man behind four of the mall's local businesses, says he has a secret to mall success. Brandenburg's mall ventures began in 2012 when he opened a piecing kiosk. Fast forward almost eight years later and that kiosk named, Under My Skin, has turned into Temple's first body piercing studio, and three other businesses have opened including Peggy's Coffee House, Candy and More and Big Top Pretzels. "For me and my businesses have done well we've seen them grow we seem to be able to take a business that didn't do so well just sitting around waiting for people to show up and turn it around." Brandenburg said. To find that success, he had to go beyond the old way of thinking when it came to running a business in the mall. "The thing that folks that have been in the mall for a while kind of wonder where the traffic is gone and why it's slowed down and they just expect people to just come walking in and as we know people are now shopping online and socializing online that is that is what the mall once was for." he explained.

Restaurant Report Card for Week of June 6

June 6, 6p.m., PKG, Taina Maya (2-minutes)

Firehouse Subs on Franklin Ave in Waco scores a 94 on their recent inspection. The ice machine wasn't clean, the gray panel had dirt specs and their General Manager was seen handling their cell phone and money and then trying to prepare food without washing their hands. No, follow up is required. Last week we told you about Asian Buffet scoring a 92 in Killeen. They lost points for rodent droppings but called out a pest

control company. This week we're told they are still dealing with the unwanted guests, but they have confined them to the kitchen and dining area. The manager said they will continue the pest control measures until they are gone. Father & Son's Soul Food in Killeen also makes an A this week. They had three boxes of shrimp and four boxes of crab on the floor, which is a no-no. They also lost points for not having paper towels at the hand sink, oil residue on the vent hood, and a leaky sink. This week's Clean Plate award goes to Mama Fu's in Killeen. Be sure to take advantage of their happy hour from 3-6 pm, when all full-size appetizers are \$2.00 off. (A "No Score" (N/S) can be given at restaurant openings, field or complaint investigations, and follow-up inspections. P/S or permit suspended happens after a restaurant scores lower than a 70 or if the Health Department deems the restaurant a health risk. A massive infestation of insects or no hot water will automatically close a restaurant down. Keep in mind, every restaurant in the county must post their most recent score near the entrance of the eatery. Look for a yellow sheet of paper in a frame next time you go into a restaurant. There, you'll see how the place you're about to eat at did on their score).

Restaurant Report Card for week of June 20

June 20, 6:00 p.m., PKG, Taina Maya (2-minutes)

This week we asked for your list of restaurants to check out and in just a few hours we had dozens of comments on social media. Patrick McGhee asked us to look at Jodie's Temple. They recently had a complaint filed on them regarding the chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes and gravy. The health department went to check things out and said there were no obvious findings upon investigation. Jack Taylor McCarroll commented, "I love the place and I eat there... but you cannot tell me Mama Baris is passing their health inspections." The restaurant on North Valley Mills Drive in Waco has had perfect inspections since July 12th, 2016. At that time, they had eight violations, but they've had a great track record since then. This week's Clean Plate award goes to Los Cabos Seafood Bar on South Fort Hood Street in Killeen. They've got everything from traditional favorites to seafood. Above all, they promise you'll find a friend at their tequila bar.

Restaurant Report Card for week of June 27

June 29, 6p.m., PKG, Taina Maya (2-minutes)

In Belton, the Taqueria El Mexicano Grill scored an 88. There was mold on the margarita spout, ice chute, soda machine and the flap of the ice machine. Six employees need their health cards and the can opener blade needs to be replaced. They also need to clean the overhead surface area and prep tables. They will get a follow-up inspection next week. This week's lowest score is from Richland Mall food court. The Greek Grill was shut down by the health department and scored a 75. Here's what went wrong, several foods didn't have dates in the walk-in cooler, the soda fountain nozzles were caked with black grime, they didn't have a food manager on site, and paint was stored on the floor next to cases of beverages and the stove and grill was dirty. Nine days later they were able to correct all of the violations and pass the inspections to be allowed to reopen. This is the second time they've been shut down since 2016. Our Clean Plate winner is Fire Street Pizza in Belton, The health

department said the kitchen was very clean. You can check them out Thursday through Sunday and be sure to bring the whole family for their theme and game nights.