

## First Quarter 2024 Quarterly Issues

### JANUARY 2024

1. 10 finalists, 1 competition. Who will become the next Voice for Habitat?: (January 3, 2024, 8:30am) Ten stellar finalists vying for the title of A Voice for Habitat will take the stage at Tarleton State University ballrooms on Saturday, Jan. 13. Stacy Morrison, president of Erath County Habitat for Humanity, told Beneath the Surface News that not only are this year's finalists full of talent, they are full of heart.
2. Pickers & Poets kicks off new series this Sunday with performance by Courtney Patton: (January 8, 2024, 8:30am) The new season of Pickers & Poets kicks off with a performance by Courtney Patton from 4-6:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 14, in the Chapel on the Bosque on the grounds of the Stephenville Historical House Museum. There is no cover charge, but there will be free snacks and refreshments, including craft beer provided by the Thirsty Armadillos.
3. 4th annual Better Beginnings Brunch moving to Tarleton ballroom. Tickets, sponsorships still available: (January 10, 2024, 8:30am) Cross Timbers Family Services is hosting its fourth annual Better Beginnings Brunch from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 27, at the Thompson Center Ballroom at Tarleton State University. Proceeds from the event benefit CTFS, which assists victims of violent crime. The brunch will include mimosas, a photo booth, silent auction, shopping and guest speakers.
4. Tarleton breaks ground on \$80 million Health Professions Building: (January 17, 2024, 8:30am) Tarleton State broke ground Wednesday on an \$80 million Health Professions Building that will further establish the university as the leader of rural healthcare throughout the state. The project was approved by The Texas A&M System Board of Regents last November, with move-in planned for summer 2025. Three new degree programs are set to be added in conjunction with the new facility, including physical therapy, occupational therapy and physician assistant studies.
5. Mayor Doug Svien files for re-election: 'There's never been a better time to live in Stephenville.': (January 22, 2024, 8:30am) Stephenville Mayor Doug Svien is ready to serve another term. He wasted no time filing for May's re-election, saying "It's been my privilege to serve Stephenville as mayor over the past 5 1/2 years. I look forward to another two years of working with our citizens, city council, county commissioners, SISD, TSU and SEDA for continued quality growth for our city.

## FEBRUARY 2024

1. Helping Stephenville sparkle and shine for more than 80 years; Swindle's Jewelry recognized as 'Texas Treasure: (February 1, 2024, 8:30am) Swindle's Jewelry has been designated as a Texas Treasure Business by the Texas Historical Commission. Founded in 1942 by Grady and Gracie Swindle in Dublin, Swindle's Jewelry continues to be a family-owned and operated business. During WWII, Grady and Gracie founded a watchmaking school in the back of their store in Dublin to provide disabled veterans returning home from war an opportunity to learn the trade.
2. Registration underway for Pinecone Dash, a 5K, 10K and 1-mile fun benefiting Ranger College's EMS students: (February 6, 2024, 8:30am) The Pinecone Dash Foundation and Ranger College's EMS program are partnering to host the second annual Pinecone Dash on Saturday, April 6, at the Bosque River Trail in Stephenville. Proceeds from the 5K, 10K and 1-mile fun go towards scholarships for EMT students. You must be registered by March 1 to guarantee a race day T-shirt and goody bag.
3. Interstate Inn, Stephenville's new boutique hotel, and the Seeker restaurant set to open this summer: (February 9, 2024, 8:30am) Building on Texas' current motel renaissance, Mod Motels is a new venture converting cherished roadside motels into modern destinations. The Dallas-based company is led by siblings Lisa Lennox, Cathy Bonner and Kirk Bonner. Mod Motels' inaugural project, the 33-room Interstate Inn, is set to make its debut in Stephenville, Texas this summer.
4. Candidate forum to give voters chance to meet those running for Erath County commissioner, tax assessor: (February 12, 2024, 8:30am) Voters will get the chance to hear from candidates running for county commissioner and tax assessor when the Erath County Republican Party hosts a forum on Thursday, Feb. 15, at City Hall at City Limits in Stephenville. A meet-and-greet will begin at 6 p.m. then candidates will begin introducing themselves at 7. The Primary Election is March 5. Early voting begins Feb. 20.
5. Knights of Columbus kick off annual Lenten fish fry this week at Newman Hall: (February 14, 2024, 8:30am) The Stephenville Knights of Columbus will kick off its annual Lenten fish fry on Friday, Feb. 16, at Newman Hall. The weekly event will run from 5 p.m. until the fish is sold out every Friday through March 15. The meal will consist of fried catfish, coleslaw, hushpuppies, French fries, dessert and tea for \$20 per plate. The cost for veterans, first responders, senior citizens and Tarleton students is \$15.

## MARCH 2024

1. Election 2024: Candidates in race for Erath County tax assessor, commissioner face May runoff: (March 5, 2024, 8:30am) A runoff is in the works in Erath County after candidates in the race for tax assessor and commissioner of precinct 3 failed to clinch the Republican nomination Tuesday by getting 51 percent of the vote. Valerie Stephen with 1,956 votes (36.11%) and Niki McInroe-Cogburn with 1,426 votes (26.32%) will face-off in the runoff for tax assessor on Tuesday, May 28.
2. Top Stephenville ISD students earn automatic admission into Tarleton with renewed pact: (March 10, 2024, 8:30am) Stephenville Independent School District seniors in the top 50 percent of their graduating class will continue to earn automatic admission to Tarleton State University, thanks to a three-year renewal of the district's Distinguished High School Partners pact. The President's Guaranteed Scholarship Program assures first-time-in-college students graduating in the top half of their high school class between \$500 and \$4,000 in scholarships.
3. The Big Cheese is coming to Stephenville and you're invited to enter your best mac and cheese recipe: (March 18, 2024, 8:30am) Mac and cheese. It's one of the purest forms of comfort food, and if you have an affinity for it, you're going to love what I'm about to tell you: The Big Cheese is coming to Stephenville. The mac and cheese cookoff benefiting Big Brothers Big Sisters of Erath County is happening at 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 20, at the Bosque River TapHouse, and amateur and professional cooks are invited to enter. Meanwhile, if you have any questions, email Sarah at [smcneal@bbbstx.org](mailto:smcneal@bbbstx.org).
4. CASA for the Cross Timbers Area celebrates National Social Work Month: (March 19, 2024, 8:30am) As part of March's National Social Work Month celebration, CASA for the Cross Timbers Area is recognizing social workers and advocates who devote their careers to bettering the lives of others. Social workers strive to build a stronger community for all people, and CASA is a proud partner in the effort to create a brighter future for all children and families involved in the child welfare system. For more information about CASA, call the Stephenville office at 254-965-6610.
5. More than 10,000 FFA members taking part in Tarleton's statewide invitational this week: (March 20, 2024, 8:30am) More than 10,100 FFA members from across the state converge at Tarleton State University on Thursday for Invitational Career Development Event judging contests. This marks the 52nd year for Tarleton State's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources to host the statewide FFA invitational, which is the largest in the United States. The event is organized by Dr. Ted Ford, agriculture education and communication professor, and Michelle Damerau, contest coordinator.