

# QUARTERLY ISSUES

JULY 2023

- 1. Governor's Small Business Summit at Tarleton: (July 6, 2023, 8:30am)** If you're an aspiring entrepreneur, you'll want to register for the Governor's Small Business Summit aimed at helping local business owners reach new heights by connecting them with resources they need to strengthen and grow their business. The event will be held from 8 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Thursday, July 27, in the Barry B. Thompson Student Center Ballroom at Tarleton State University.
- 2. A slice of American Pie: Don McLean is heading to Stephenville to perform Thursday at City Park: (July 10, 2023, 8:30am)** If you find yourself humming "Bye-bye, Miss American Pie/Drove my Chevy to the levee/But the levee was dry/Them good old boys were drinking whiskey and rye Singing 'This'll be the day that I die,'" there's good reason. Don McLean, the man who wrote and sings the catchy tune, will be performing in Stephenville Thursday as part of the Concerts in the Park series.
- 3. Stephenville resident receives Quilt of Valor honoring his 22 years of military service: (July 11, 2023, 8:30am)** Retired SFC Rusty Jennings was presented last week with the Quilt of Valor by the Granbury Quilts of Valor Foundation. The ceremony honoring Jennings for his 22 years of service in the United States Army as a military policeman took place at the Erath County Courthouse alongside his wife Joleane and daughters Tressie Taylor and Cassie Tarvin.
- 4. Take a flying leap and apply for the Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Stephenville program: (July 12, 2023, 8:30am)** Leadership Stephenville is a program sponsored by the Stephenville Chamber of Commerce which challenges participants to make a difference in the community while preparing them to become the leaders of tomorrow. Participants take part in nine full-day sessions focused on developing leadership skills and gaining a better understanding of local infrastructure, city government and volunteer associations
- 5. Virtual Summit aimed at helping Texas veterans navigate mental health and other issues: (July 12, 2023, 8:30am)** Tarleton State University's Rural Communications Institute and Texas Social Media Research Institute will host a Virtual Summit for Texas veterans at 3 p.m. Thursday, July 13, via Zoom. Area military service members, veterans, their families and caregivers may register for the event. Each registrant will receive a box of Girl Scout cookies. For more information, email [eclay@tarleton.edu](mailto:eclay@tarleton.edu).

AUGUST 2023

- 1. Musicians invited to take part in Voices of Change Music Fest to support victims of domestic abuse: (August 1, 2023, 8:30am)** If you're a talented musician looking for a venue to showcase your skills, sign up to participate in Voices of Change Music Festival happening Saturday, Oct. 14, at Stephenville City Park. Solo artists and bands are invited to take part in the inaugural event, which raises money for Restoration Advocates, a non-profit organization in Erath County that helps women and children escape domestic violence and get a fresh start by providing them with shelter, food, counseling, transportation and help finding a job.
- 2. Attorney investigating drowning of a 4-year-old child at Splashville says he is being stonewalled: (August 2, 2023, 8:30am)** An attorney that has been hired by the family of Colt Williams, the four-year-old child who drowned at Splashville in June, says the law firm representing the city of Stephenville is stonewalling his investigation. Attorney Dustin Burrows with the Liggett Law Group in Lubbock told Beneath the Surface News that he has been retained by the Williams family to investigate what transpired at the water park on the night of June 24 when the child drowned during a private party.
- 3. After 6 long years, woman accused of stealing \$79K from elderly Stephenville woman goes on trial: (August 8, 2023, 8:30am)** After six long years, Andrea Holt is finally facing the accusation that she stole \$79,000 from an elderly Stephenville woman while working as her caregiver. Her trial began Tuesday in the 266th Judicial District Court. The scheme was discovered by officials with Citizens National Bank who called Mrs. Riggs after finding irregularities in her checking account, triggering an investigation. Testimony is expected to resume on Wednesday.
- 4. Erath County jury finds Andrea Holt guilty of exploiting an elderly person, not guilty of theft: (August 9, 2023, 8:30am)** In a stunning decision by an Erath County jury on Wednesday, Andrea Holt was found not guilty of theft by check, but guilty of exploitation of an elderly individual. Sentencing will take place on Thursday. Jurors deliberated for more than six hours Wednesday before finally reaching their decision shortly after 9 p.m
- 5. Public invited to Stephenville's open house this week to discuss city's 2050 comprehensive plan: (August 15, 2023, 8:30am)** The city of Stephenville is hosting an open house to discuss the 2050 Comprehensive Plan at 6 p.m. Thursday at SISD's Bond Auditorium. The public is invited to attend. The city is updating its comprehensive plan, a document used by city leaders, developers, business owners and citizens to make decisions about how the community will grow and develop over the next 20–30 years. The current comprehensive plan was adopted in 2008 and Stephenville has seen a lot of growth during that time.

SEPTEMBER 2023

- 6. All races, faces and paces.' Stephenville Running Club prepares for annual Poker Run: (September 4, 2023, 8:30am)** Since April 2021, the Stephenville

Running Club has grown to more than 600 Facebook members, with almost 110 runners active in the club's official 2023 Distance Challenge, logging more than 46,000 miles since Jan. 1 and over 100 competitors on their 2023 Cowtown Marathon team. From eight-year-olds to 82-year-olds, from long-time marathoners to trail runners to never-ran-a-step-in-my-life beginners, anyone can find a place in the group.

- 7. These Girl Scouts erected bus stop to keep fellow SISD students safe: (September 7, 2023, 8:30am)** Recently, Prime Metal Buildings & Components had the opportunity to help three Stephenville Girl Scouts carry on the legacy of the wartime Rosies. Three years ago, Girl Scouts Abigail Collins, Kaidance Boyles and Marinna Medina discovered the largest SISD bus stop in town. It is the drop-off and pick-up location for an entire busload of children and lacked proper lighting and shelter from the weather. A ribbon cutting for the new and improved bus stop will be held at 9 a.m. Sept. 9 in front of the Riverwalk Townhomes, located at 1001 E Washington Street.
- 8. Lawmen: Bass Reeves, the movie partially filmed in Stephenville, gets premier date, official teaser: (September 11, 2023, 8:30am)** A portion of Bass Reeves was filmed in downtown Stephenville in May with several residents like Lori Bramlett Mayfield and Dr. Dwayne Shaffer scoring parts as extras. The official description states that it "follows the journey of Reeves (David Oyelowo) and his rise from enslavement to law enforcement as the first Black U.S. Marshal west of the Mississippi. The new series also stars Dennis Quaid. It was created by Chad Feehan and executive produced by Yellowstone co-creator Taylor Sheridan.
- 9. Owner of The Ville Towing loses the right to operate in Stephenville: (September 13, 2023, 8:30am)** Trucks at The Ville Towing & Recovery won't be firing up in Stephenville any time soon after the company lost its rights to operate in the city. The company's owner Susan Skipworth was arrested Monday and charged with a Class B misdemeanor for violating local towing laws. Skipworth was released from the Erath County Jail after posting a \$500 bond.
- 10. Up 8.6 percent from last year, Tarleton State University shatters enrollment record: (September 15, 2023, 8:30am)** Tarleton State University has scored all-time-high enrollment yet again. Based on 12th class day numbers, the university begins fall 2023 up 8.6 percent from a year ago, serving 16,230 students and outpacing many institutions nationwide. In addition, more than 1,550 high school students are participating in the university's new dual enrollment program. Launched just this fall, Tarleton Today enables students to earn university credit in agricultural and STEM areas while completing graduation requirements at Texas high schools.