

QUARTERLY ISSUES

January 2022

- 1. JUDGE CAMPOS ORDERS FREE TESTING FOR ALL (January 4, 2022, 8am-:30)** Due to the rise of new positive test results for Covid-19 in the area, Erath County Judge Alfonso Campos has issued an order for residents to receive free rapid Covid testing at the Erath County Courthouse. Testing is available Monday through Friday, but appointments are necessary, and can be made by calling emergency management coordinator Cyndi Smith at 254-965-1326. You must have a driver's license, email address and cell phone number to receive your test report.
- 2. NEW LIQUOR STORE OPENS IN STEPHENVILLE THIS WEEK: (January 7, 2021, 8am-:30)** Lots of locals are celebrating... or will be soon anyway... when the first liquor store in Erath County opens this week. The opening of Discount Liquor at 1660 West Lingleville Road in Stephenville, comes just two months after voters overwhelmingly passed a measure to approve local alcohol sales. Discount Liquor will open this Friday at 11:30, and the owners say the store will be fully stocked for the big grand opening. The Mayor of Stephenville is expected to speak at Friday's grand opening celebration, and of course, the public is invited to attend.
- 3. ERATH LIVESTOCK SHOW CONTINUES TODAY WITH BROILERS AND RABBITS: (January 5, 2021, 8am-:30)** The Erath County Junior Livestock Show presented by Next Era Energy, runs this week with shows through Saturday. Taking place at the Erath County Livestock Arena, the schedule of events includes... today at 10am... broilers followed by Market & Breeding Rabbits. On Thursday starting at 8am, it's Ag Mechanics followed at 9am by Market Swine. On Friday morning starting at 9, it's the market steers and beef heifers. Saturday morning at 8 is for dairy heifers and then Saturday at 11am it's horses. On Saturday evening, beginning at 5:30, the Sale of Champions Auction will take place at "City Hall at City Limits" For more information and all the daily details, visit www.ecjls.com
- 4. NEW SR CENTER APPROVED: (January 16, 2021, 8am-:30)** Senior Citizens in Stephenville will have a new place to gather now that city council has approved construction of a new senior center along the Bosque River Trail. The planned 4,700 square-foot facility will include a kitchen, offices, and three rooms with movable partitions. It will also have 1,000 square feet of public meeting space... all with no added tax burden to the citizens of Stephenville. After Stephenville residents voted down a package containing a new senior center back in May of 2020, city leaders went back to the drawing board, and now the plan is to use about one million dollars in unexpected sales tax revenue and savings to fund the project. Rocky Creek Builders was awarded the bid for the now \$1.08 million senior center, plus and additional \$180,000 for the meeting space. Work is now expected to begin within the next 30 days and it should be completed in about six months.

- 5. MOO-LA RENOVATIONS UNDERWAY THANKS TO GENEROUS LOCAL BUSINESSES: (January 20, 2021, 8am-:30)** Stephenville's iconic Moo-La has been temporarily removed from the Erath County courthouse square. The big cow has been taken to Hunter Body Works where she will get a makeover for her 50th birthday... at no cost to the city. The statue will be sanded, and repainted in advance of her 50th birthday thanks to Signs Express Plus and Hunter Body Works, which are doing the work pro bono. The work is expected to take a few weeks, after which she will be brought back home.

February 2022

- 1. NEW PHYSICAL THERAPY CLINIC: (Feb 2, 2022, 8am-:30)** A new physical therapist has opened up in Stephenville, and with the new clinic comes the offer of free consultations. Jeffrey Bierman grew up in Stephenville, and he says he spent a lot of time in the training room, where he also got to see many of his friends suffer injuries while playing sports... so Bierman is no stranger to sports related injuries. He now has a new clinic in Stephenville, which all dates back to when his older brother John became a physical therapist, and then encouraged Jeffrey to follow suit. Jeffrey graduated from Texas State University with a degree in exercise and sports science in 2010. He was then accepted into the university's physical therapy program, and he went on to graduate with a doctorate in 2015. Since that time, Jeffrey has worked in Stephenville as a physical therapist. Last month, he opened his own clinic.... SOAR Physical Therapy which is at 2187 W. South Loop. The clinic offers personalized care for orthopedic conditions like post-surgical rehab, back pain, sports injuries, joint pain, concussion rehab and more, including sports injury prevention screenings, and fall risk screenings for the elderly. SOAR Physical Therapy is open Monday thru Friday from 1 to 5pm. For an appointment, call 254-918-0724.
- 2. LOCAL ARTIST FROM MORGAN MILL GETS WIDE RECOGNITION: (Feb 7, 2022, 8am-:30)** – Today, we recognize a young Morgan Mill artist, who is also being recognized across the state for her creativity and talent. 15 year old Corinne Buchanan first began creating art after discovering a passion for finger painting when she was just a toddler. Now, as a sophomore at Stephenville High School, Corinne... who is the daughter of Charlie and Shannon Buchanan... enjoys all aspects of art from drawing and sketching to sculpting and painting – and it's earned her a lot of attention far beyond Stephenville. Corinne won Best of Show for her painting, "Guardian of the Forest," at the Youth Fair during this year's Erath County Junior Livestock Show. She was also the first youth to have an art exhibit at the Cross Timbers Fine Arts Council and she was also featured in the 2018 Texas General Land Office Treasures of the Texas Gulf Coast Calendar. Her artwork has been recognized at the Heart of Texas Art Show in Waco and it has even been displayed at the Texas State Capital. She comes from a good line of creativity.... Her mother Shannon is an artist who designs unique cakes, cookies and cupcakes at her bakery – Wild Thymes Designs. As for her future, Corinne says she is considering art school after graduation and a

career in graphic design. Right now, she offers prints and notecards of her artwork and takes requests for commissions.

- 3. EARLY VOTING STARTS TODAY: (Feb 14, 2022, 8am-:30)** Early voting gets underway in Erath County this week. Early voting for the March 1 Primary Election will be held beginning today and running through Friday, February 25. Polls will be open from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Erath County Courthouse and Patrick Street Church of Christ in Dublin. Extended hours will be held from noon to 4 p.m. this coming Saturday, February 19. There are four locally contested races on the ballot including the race for Erath County Judge between incumbent Alfonso Campos and challenger Brandon Huckabee. Kim Barrier is running for re-election as county treasurer... and facing a challenge from Angie Shawver. Four candidates including Jocelyn Perez, Greg Evans, Chili Alexander and Lisa Williams are running for Justice of the Peace for Precinct 1. Right now, that position is held by Judge Shawnee Bass who is not seeking another term. Meanwhile, Darrell Curry, Chance Garrett, Chris Evans and David Martin are running for Justice of the Peace for precinct 2, for the seat formerly held by the late Judge Bart Greenway. Election day itself is march 1st.
 - 4. BURN BAN IN EFFECT: (Feb 18, 2022, 8am-:30)** The Erath County Office of Emergency Management continues to remind everyone that the county and most surrounding counties remain under a burn ban. It means no outdoor burning is allowed due to the dry grass and low humidity. The reminders comes after Erath County Volunteer Fire Departments have been called out for a number of grass fires over just the past week. They say welding sparks have started many of those fires, so they add this reminder... if you must do welding, you must also have fire suppression available. County officials say if a fire does start, call 9-1-1 immediately, even if you think you can put it out. Don't risk it! For more information on the burn ban, visit the county website at www.co.erath.tx.us.
- March 2022
- 5. 3 TEENS ARRESTED AFTER SHOOTING INCIDENT (March 4, 2022, 8am-:30)** Three teenagers were arrested Thursday morning, and now each of them is accused of shooting up an occupied home in Lingleville on February 24. Two of them... 19-year-old Eyli Cayden Mendez of Stephenville and 18-year-old Marcus Valle of Dublin... are being held at the Erath County Jail. The third suspect is a juvenile who has been released to his parents. Nobody was hurt in the shooting. Several firearms were seized. Both Mendez and Valle are charged with deadly conduct. They are each being held on \$150,000 bond.
 - 6. GAS KEEPS GOING UP UP UP: (March 7, 2021, 8am-:30)** Gas prices are skyrocketing... in part due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, but also according to

economists, due to the Biden administration's apparent all out war here at home against the American oil industry. Triple-A says the average price for a gallon of gas has topped four dollars. The record, set in 2008, IS \$4.11 and AAA says prices are not going to fall as quickly as they rose...

7. **GOT TALENT: (March 9, 2021, 8am-:30)** Do you have a hidden talent? If you think you have what it takes to win, you might want to consider auditioning for an upcoming talent show benefiting a local women's shelter in Erath County. Cross Timbers Got Talent is described as an America's Got Talent-style event, that will include 10 acts. It's being held to raise money for Restoration Place, a shelter for women and children who are forced to flee domestic abuse. The big show will be held on Friday, May 6, at the Cowboy Church of Erath County. Tickets to Cross Timbers Got Talent are \$20 each and can be purchased at the door. Food trucks will open at 5:30 and the show will begin at 7. But before you can just jump in and take the stage, you will have to audition. Auditions will be held at 5:30 on March 24 and 25 at the church. In the end, winners will be decided by a panel of judges and cash prizes will be awarded to the top three acts. For more information on Cross Timbers Got Talent and sponsorship opportunities, call 469-939-9987 or visit <https://www.restorationadvocates.org>.

8. **ERATH COUNTY RESIDENTS QUALIFY FOR FREE SMOKE DETECTORS: (March 10, 2021, 8am-:30)** Erath County residents can get free smoke detectors courtesy of area fire departments, who are also offering free installation. It's all part of the American Red Cross' Home Fire Campaign, and it means that local fire departments will now provide Erath County residents with up to three free Kidde smoke detectors that include 10-year lithium batteries. Firefighters will even install the smoke detectors, and then perform a quick fire safety review with residents to assist with planning an escape route in the event of a fire. To get your free smoke detectors, all you have to do is call the office of Erath County emergency management at 254-965-1326. You do not have to own the home to request smoke detectors and there is no income requirement to receive them. There are even specially designed smoke detectors available for the visually and hearing impaired.

9. **YOU WILL LOSE AN HOUR OF SLEEP THIS WEEKEND: (March 11, 2021, 8am-:30)** Just in case you forgot, you will lose an hour of sleep this weekend as we spring forward toward well... spring! A reminder today, that Daylight Saving Time officially begins at 2am this Sunday. It means you will have to get up at 2am Sunday to set your clocks ahead one hour. Or you can do what most people do... just do it before you go to bed on Saturday. It means you will lose an extra hour of sleep this weekend. But fear not... you get that hour back in the fall, so hang on.