

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter QUARTERLY ISSUES

July 2022

- 1. Fireworks Ban Continues In Erath County: (July 3, 2022)** The Drought Disaster Declaration for Erath County banning the sale and use of fireworks is been extended by the Office of the Governor until the Erath County Burn Ban is lifted or expires. The sale or use of fireworks in Erath County while this Declaration is in place is a Class C Misdemeanor and punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500.00. Deputies will be responding to calls and issuing citations. Erath County Emergency Management encourages people to attend the professional fireworks show and displays.
- 2. No Significant Fires In Erath County Over Independence Day Weekend: (July 7, 2022)** The Dublin Citizen is reporting there were no significant fires in Erath County over the July 4 holiday weekend. Late last month Erath County Commissioners shut down all firework sales and use, then asked the office of the Governor to extend the fireworks ban for the length of the county burn ban. A designated safe space was set up Sunday off County Road 417 outside Stephenville where those who had purchased fireworks could have their fireworks lit by professional pyrotechnic personnel.
- 3. Erath County Humane Society Shelter Over Capacity: (July 12, 2022)** he Erath County Humane Society announced it has stopped taking in animals due to overcrowding conditions. Officials ask those finding a stray to send them a picture along with contact information and where the animal was found. You can send an e-mail to [erathcountyhumesociety@gmail.com](mailto:erathcountyhumesociety@gmail.com) or send a message on the Humane Society's Facebook page. The shelter is also in need of fosters for at least 15 dogs.
- 4. Davis Warns Of Increasing Drought Levels: (July 19, 2022)** Comanche County Judge Stephanie L. Davis announced the drought index is quickly approaching levels not seen since 2011. Davis says she fully expects the level will move from "extreme" to "exceptional" this week. The county still has a Disaster Declaration/Burn Ban Order in place and Davis says you could be held criminally and civilly liable for violations. The fire danger will continue to increase due to heat, low humidity, breezy winds, and ongoing drought conditions..
- 5. Negotiations Underway To Name King As City Manager: (July 25, 2022)** The City of Stephenville is taking with Interim City Manager Jason King about taking the job on a permanent basis. The Empire-Tribune reports the City Council unanimously agreed to enter into contract negotiations with King to succeed Allen Barnes who retired earlier this year. King has served as Stephenville's Assistant City Manager since 2019 and previously was Stephenville's Police Chief for five years.

- 1. Sheriff Makes Arrests: (August 1, 2022)** Erath County Sheriff's Department has made four arrests in connection to numerous burglaries and identity theft cases in the county today. According to ECSO Captain Ben Moore, "The Erath County Sheriff's Office investigators and SWAT team, executed a search warrant in the 500 block of Mesquite Street in Ranger. The search yielded heroin, cocaine, methamphetamines and close to 100 stolen pieces of property." The team of area law enforcement were able to make four arrests. All four were booked into the Eastland County Jail on numerous charges.
- 2. Fair Awards: (August 2, 2022)** Stephenville FAA students recently attended the 2022 Texas FFA Agriscience Fair at the 94th Texas FFA Convention in Fort Worth, bringing home six championship titles and numerous other honors. Brayson Burch and Charlie Rumsey were named the Animal Systems Division IV State Champions for their project, which examined the cost of poultry feed.
- 3. Man Arrested After Admitting To Starting Fires: (August 3, 2022)** A Texas man has been arrested after admitting to igniting 20 different grass fires. the Fort Worth Fire Department's Arson Unit responded to a grass fire near Buck Sansom Park on Thursday (July 28). That fire marked the 20th fire in the area in just a seven-day period. Two of those 20 fires were multi-alarm responses. When the department arrived, investigators saw a man who matched the person of interest in the previous fires. The man was leaving the area when they arrived. He was taken into custody less than two miles away from the scene of the fire. The suspect stood out because he was riding a red bicycle. The department says that 32-year-old Julio Frausto confessed to starting not only Thursday's fire, but the others in the area as well. Frausto is facing charges for second-degree felony arson as well as second-degree fraudulent use or possession of identifying information. He is also facing charges of evading arrest or detention..
- 4. Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller Visits Stephenville: (August 12, 2022)** The Bandera County Republican Women hosted Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller at the Silver Sage on Thursday night. Miller is a Stephenville resident and a business owner. He has earned nine world championship titles as a rodeo cowboy. He started his career as an agriculture teacher and served on the local school board. Miller did state that the duties of the Agriculture Department is "so much more." He remarked his budget is six billion dollars and larger than 31 state budgets. "Even since the cattle drives, agriculture is the glue that holds our state together," stated Miller. He says that Texas leads the nation in exports of cattle, cotton, wool, mohair, hay, horses, sheep, and goats. In other areas of export, Miller reported that Texas is second or third in the nation..

**Stephenville Native Among Texas A&M Students To Receive Scholarships: (August 12, 2022)** Stephenville native among Texas A&M students to receive SMA scholarships. Blair Fannin Texas AgriLife Extension Service Scholarships were given to 22 students in the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences totaling \$47,500 from the Southwest Meat Association Foundation during this year's convention held in Galveston July 27-30. Thirteen undergraduate and eight graduate students received the awards relating to animal science and food science and technology majors, as well as other areas. Bonnie McKinzie, Stephenville, a junior animal science major. After graduation, McKinzie plans to pursue a master's degree in meat science

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5. **Burn Ban Continues: (September 6, 2022, 8:30am)** Due to current conditions, Erath County Judge Alfonso Campos and the Commissioner's Court have reinstated the burn ban effective immediately for all Erath County until further notice. Violation of this ordinance restricting any outdoor burning is a Class C Misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500.00.
6. **James Hurley Receives Award: (September 14, 2022, 8:30am)** Tarleton State University President James Hurley today received the North Texas Commission 2022 Education Leadership Award. He was one of nine individuals and organizations the commission recognized at its annual membership lunch for their lasting impact on the region. A public-private partnership established in 1971, the NTC works to ensure that state and federal policies promote strong local governments, support excellence in public schools, increase the skilled workforce pipeline and safeguard a thriving business environment.
7. **Suspect accused of shooting local businessman is back behind bars after violating bond conditions: (September 16, 2022, 8:30am)** Ronald Oddo, a 75-year-old Erath County man accused of shooting Stephenville businessman Jeff Collins in June, is back behind bars after violating a bond order. Oddo was charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon in connection with the shooting and released from the Erath County Jail after posting a \$500,000 bond. He is now back in jail following a second arrest on Sept. 9 for violating his bond conditions after donating a long gun to a fundraiser for a private school in Granbury. Oddo's bond conditions prohibited him from possessing a firearm or going within 1,000 feet of a school.
8. **Free class at Senior Center focuses on the 10 warnings signs of Alzheimer's: (September 20, 2022)** The class will focus on how to recognize signs of the disease, how to approach someone about memory concerns, the importance of early detection, benefits of a diagnosis, tests and assessments and resources. There is no cost to participate in the event, which is sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association, Texas A&M AgriLife and Erath Engaged. Call 817-500-9823 for more information.

**The Stephenville Lions Club is turning 100 years old: (September 21, 2022)** The Stephenville Lions Club is turning 100 years old on Oct. 13 and the organization is celebrating with an anniversary dinner at 6 p.m. at City Hall at City Limits. “We would like to invite past members and those who have a family member in the Lions Club to attend our 100-year celebration,” Lions Club treasurer Cindy Watson told Beneath the Surface News. “Our Lions International director T.J. Tijerina will speak at the event and there will be numerous scrapbooks and memorabilia on display.”