

2nd QUARTERLY ISSUES 2020

April 2020

- 1. Erath County Reports Coronavirus Death: (April 1, 2020, 8am-:30)**
Coronavirus has turned deadly in Erath County. County Judge Alfonso Campos confirmed late Tuesday that a local resident died as a result of COVID-19. The results were returned after the patient passed away. The resident had been self-quarantined at home since being tested. The victim was screened and tested during a recent doctor's visit. The resident died at his or her home. How the resident was exposed to COVID remains unknown. County officials did not say if the patient was a man or woman. There have been a total of four COVID-19 positive tests in Erath County. The county expressed its deepest condolences to the patient's family.
- 2. Stephenville Business Cited For Staying Open: (April 6, 2020, 8am-:30)** A local business has been issued a citation for not closing down as ordered by the COVID-19 disaster declaration. Stephenville Police say they went to Lux Nail Spa at 150 North Barker Avenue on Thursday after getting an anonymous complaint from a citizen. A statement from the department says officers are also actively out in the community checking on compliance. The statement says the enforcement action will be handled in Stephenville Municipal Court. Violators of the disaster declaration face fines ranging from 50-dollars to a thousand dollars or up to 180 days in jail. The city can also revoke the business license for a second violation.
- 3. Erath County Courthouse Worker Is One of The Coronavirus Cases: (April 7, 2020, 8am-:30)** – A courthouse employee is reportedly one of the positive cases of Coronavirus in Erath County. According to the resolution that was signed yesterday by the local American Legion, it says that an Erath County Courthouse employee tested positive for coronavirus, leading to the decontamination of the entire building. The resolution does not say who the employee is.
- 4. Stephenville Now Has 13 Positive Coronavirus Cases: (April 10, 2020, 8am-:30)** The City of Stephenville now has two more COVID-19 positive patients. That brings the city's total to 13 patients in all after the latest test results were returned on Thursday by Stephenville Medical Surgical Clinic. Both victims are county residents but the thirteenth patient will self-quarantine in Stephenville. In a statement from the city, everyone is advised to stay at home, unless it is necessary to get out. The mayor reminding us that we are only seeing the beginning of this outbreak in our community and the numbers will continue to rise as testing becomes more widespread. City Manager Allen Barnes confirmed that there have been about 275 tests done in Stephenville, so our positive rate is about five percent.

May 2020

- 5. Erath County Records 14th COVID-19 Case: (May 5, 2020, 8am-:30)** Erath County Judge Alfonso Campos and Local Public Health Authority, Dr. Jeffery Moore have confirmed positive test results for the fourteenth case of COVID19 in Erath County. A statement from the county says that the newest positive patient lives in rural Erath County and has not been hospitalized. The patient has been in self-isolation at home since onset of symptoms. Whether the case is travel related or community spread is under investigation at this time. Erath County Emergency Management Coordinator Susan Driskill, along with her counterparts from Stephenville, Dublin and Tarleton State University continue to assess the situation in Erath County minute-by-minute. The main concern of the Emergency Managers, Local Officials and the Local Health Authorities is for the public health and safety of our residents..
- 6. 15th Case Of COVID-19 Discovered In Erath County: (May 12, 2020, 8am-:30)** Erath County Judge Alfonso Campos and Local Public Health Authority, Dr. Jeffery Moore have confirmed positive test results for the fifteenth case of COVID19 in Erath County. The patient resides in rural Erath County. The patient has not been hospitalized and has been in isolation at home since onset of symptoms. Whether the case is travel related or community spread is under investigation at this time.
- 7. Local Ceremony To Honor Peace Officers: (May 15, 2020, 8am-:30)** – Today is recognized as Peace Officers Memorial Day and a local ceremony will take place this morning. A flag at the Erath County Annex Building will be lowered to half staff, which will be followed by a moment of silence and a prayer. Taps will be played in honor of law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. Five law enforcement officers in Erath County have given the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. The last was Tarleton State University Patrolman WA Hall, who suffered a fatal heart attack at the age of 56 after chasing down suspects on foot. He died in December of 1978. Before that, it's been since 1897 since an Erath County law enforcement officer has died in the line of duty.
- 8. Battle of the Badges Blood Donor Event Friday: (May 21, 2020, 8am-:30)** A new Battle of the Badges blood drive is set for Friday in Stephenville, where firefighters and police will battle for the most blood donations. The event begins at 10am Friday at the Cowboy Plaza right across from Stephenville city hall on West Washington Street. Each donor gets a vote as to who they want to win the battle of the badges. At the end of the day, the department that gets the most votes wins the contest.
- 9. Road Rage Shooting Leaves One Man Injured; No Arrests Yet: (May 27, 8am-:30)** New information regarding a holiday weekend road rage shooting in Stephenville. Police said Tuesday that the incident happened in the 1500

block of Lingleville Road. When the officers arrived at the scene, they found one victim who had been shot in the arm. That man is doing fine and has been released from the hospital. Meanwhile, officers determined that the shooting was the result of a road rage incident that took place between two men in separate cars. At this point, no arrest has been made in the case, but police do know who the other person is. The Empire Tribune reports police also have a cell phone video recording of the incident made by one of the men that is being used in the investigation.

June 2020

- 10. 18th Case of COVID-19 In Erath County: (June 2, 2020, 8am-:30)** A new case of COVID-19 in Erath County. That brings the total number of cases in the county and around Stephenville to 18, according to a Monday statement from County Judge Alfonso Campos and Local Public Health Authority Dr. Jeffrey Moore. The latest patient is said to live in rural Erath County and has not been hospitalized, but has been in isolation at home since the onset of symptoms. Whether the case is travel related or community spread is under investigation at this time. Campos says there are currently just two active cases in Erath County today. All of the other patients who tested positive have fully recovered and there have been no deaths of Erath County residents due to complications from coronavirus. As a reminder, if you feel sick, you should call Stephenville TeleHealth at 254-968-6051.

- 11. Stephenville Murder Case To Be Featured On Cable Crime Show: (June 10, 2020, 8am-:30)** One of Stephenville's biggest murder cases is the focus of a documentary that will air on the IDTV channel this Sunday. The show is called On The Case With Paula Zahn. The show features the murder of Susan Woods. Woods was discovered dead in her bathtub by her father back in July of 1987 in Stephenville. Woods was 30 years old at the time of her death and the case went unsolved for two decades. However, the Stephenville Police Department had hoped that new DNA and fingerprint technology would help solve the case after 20 years in 2007. It did and the new evidence led to the arrest and conviction of a man named Scott Hatley. However, the Empire Tribune reports that Hatley was released from prison in 2018 after serving only 11 years of his sentence. He remains free to this day. Woods family and friends, as well as the local police officers don't believe Hatley served enough time for what he did. The show airs at 9pm on Sunday on IDTV, which is channel 192 on Dish Network, 285 on DirectTV and 113 on Northland Cable.

- 12. Credit Card Skimmer Discovered In Stephenville: (June 16, 2020, 8am-:30) –** We begin on the crime beat today, as local authorities are warning the public about a credit card skimming device that was recently found on a gas pump. Skimmers are the little hidden devices that crooks attach on credit card readers to capture your card info so they can authorize false charges later.

Stephenville Police say the device was discovered at College Stop gas station at 1350 West Washington on June 9th. A statement on the police department's Facebook page says that there have been no reports of false charges from consumers yet. Investigators are reviewing store surveillance system footage to see if they can glean any information. Back in April, a similar card skimmer was found at Junction gas station.

13. Man Arrested For Threatening To Kill Erath County Woman: (June 22, 2020, 8am-:30) A man accused of threatening an Erath County woman back in February – has been indicted by a grand jury. Justin Dwayne Drake, whom authorities have previously said is connected to the Irish mafia, was arrested in Oklahoma by a federal task force. A felony warrant had been issued by Drake's arrest by the Erath County Sheriff. Drake's girlfriend, Chelsea Wolfe, was already arrested for her role in the case that stemmed from last November. Drake was apparently upset that Wolfe's mother refused to drop the charges against her daughter. Detectives said they recorded a phone call in which Drake could be heard telling Wolfe that he would "go bury your mom. You know that, right?"

14. Erath County COVID-19 Cases Total 143; 11 New Since The Weekend: (June 30, 8am-:30) More positive coronavirus cases are surfacing in Erath County. Multiple statements from County Judge Alfonso Campos show as many as 11 new cases since the weekend. The latest cases are from residents in Stephenville, Dublin and rural Erath County. The county says there have now been a total of 143 positive test results since the outbreak began in March. However, there are currently 112 cases considered active. Campos says the trend continues to show many of the newest cases in patients in the 20-to-29 age range.