

# QUARTERLY ISSUES

OCTOBER 2022

- 1. Sexual Abuse Case: (October 5, 2022, 8:30am)** On September 13, 2022, Erath County Sheriff's Investigators were notified of an outcry of sexual abuse. ECSO Investigator Rosye Holland began working the case and learned that a 20 year old female had been sexually abused by her adoptive father since the age of 12. On September 16, 2022, Erath County CID along with Erath County District Attorney Office, U.S. Marshals Task Force and other Federal agencies executed a search warrant at a residence in the 200 block of N. Barker in Stephenville. Numerous pieces of evidence were located and sent to Federal labs for analysis. As a result, Erath County CID sought an arrest warrant for 46 year old Arran James Spoede of Stephenville for the charge of Possession or Promotion of Child Pornography a 3rd Degree Felony. On Thursday, September 29, 2022, Arran James Spoede was arrested by U.S. Marshals at a motel in Conway, Arkansas. Spoede is in custody and awaiting extradition back to Texas. Spoede is facing potential charges in Arkansas as well.
- 2. Loretta Lynn Dies: (October 6, 2022, 8:30am)** Loretta Lynn, the Kentucky coal miner's daughter whose frank songs about life and love as a woman in Appalachia pulled her out of poverty and made her a pillar of country music, has died. She was 90.
- 3. JOB FAIR: (October 14, 2022, 8:30am)** Tarleton State University's Career Services Center will host a job fair at the Fort Worth campus from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 18, in rooms 121 and 122 in Building 1, 10850 Texan Rider Drive. Current students, alumni and the community will have an opportunity to network with select businesses in various industries. Participants are encouraged to bring their résumé and other applicable materials. Business casual or professional attire is preferred but not required.
- 4. TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING WEEK: (October 20, 2022)** Tarleton State University Homecoming traditions take center stage Oct. 23-29, beginning with the Memorial Homecoming 5K run at 5 p.m. Sunday. Festivities continue each night, with Sunday's Lighting of the Smokestack and culminating in the Texans' football matchup with Sam Houston State. The Silver Bugle Hunt, a university-wide scavenger hunt that harkens back more than 70 years, is Monday; Launching of the Ducks and Purple Pancakes are Tuesday, and Wednesday features the Yell Contest, Snake Dance and Beating of the Drum. The Purple Out Picnic and concert are on the menu for Thursday. The weekend kicks off Friday with a full slate of activities, capped by the L.V. Risinger Memorial Bonfire. The Homecoming parade and tailgate party take place Saturday.

- 5. TSU OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS: (October 21, 2022)** Beginning with the Class of 2023, Tarleton State University will provide annual scholarships and guarantee admission to select Judson Independent School District high school seniors. JISD and Tarleton leaders finalized the agreement recently. As part of the Distinguished High School Partnership, Tarleton will waive ACT (American College Test) or SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) requirements for students in the top 50 percent of their class and application fees for students who demonstrate financial need. The university will offer scholarships of at least \$1,000 each year to Judson's top graduates.

## NOVEMBER 2022

- 1. STADIUM BOND VOTE TODAY: (November 7, 2022, 8:30am)** Stephenville residents will vote today to approve the request for a \$39.9 million bond to cover the expenses for a new district football stadium and soccer field. The improved stadium will include a football and soccer turf field, an estimated 7,500 stadium seats, a press box, lighting, a scoreboard, AV equipment and additional improvements. The contract between Stephenville high school and Tarleton State University is expiring on July 31, 2025.
- 2. SUSPECT ARRESTED IN BOMB THREAT: (November 8, 2022, 8:30am)** Last week, an anonymous handwritten bomb threat was placed at Henderson Jr High and the school was evacuated and cleared by bomb squad before classes could resume. Now a juvenile male has been taken into custody, according to the Stephenville Police Department and the Flash Today. Since that time, SPD officials said, "officers with the Stephenville Police Department and personnel with the Stephenville Independent School District (SISD) have worked tirelessly to identify the perpetrator." Today, officers made an arrest and charged the juvenile with Terroristic Threat, is a third degree felony.
- 3. STADIUM BOND WINS: (November 10, 2022, 8:30am)** Stephenville ISD's \$39.9 million bond election has passed by a vote of 3,878 for and 3,731 against. This bond is so the district can build a new football/soccer stadium with competition turf and seating for 7,500 at the corner of Frey Street and Wolfe Nursery Road (land already owned by the district).
- 4. TARLETON ADDS SIX NEW ACADEMIC DEGREES: (November 11, 2022)** Authorization to seek approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for six new academic degrees, additional funding for a parking garage and Research Administration Building, and tenure for three faculty members topped Tarleton action items at today's Board of Regents meeting. Regents voted to increase funding \$10 million (from \$31 million to \$41 million) to add a fourth level and 180 spaces to our first parking garage, at North Saint Felix and Washington streets. Set to open in fall 2024, the facility will increase parking for students and employees and make it easier for visitors to attend campus event.

- 5. STREET CONSTRUCTION: (November 28, 2022)** Street construction on Long Street is anticipated to start today (11/28). Due to the street closure, we have had to make some adjustments for drop-off and pick-up procedures. Some procedures remain the same and some required adjustments. The city has made McNeill Street a two way street between Baxter and Alexander. Please note that McNeill Street is ONLY A ONE WAY in front of the building.

DECEMBER 2022

- 6. MISSING GIRL: (December 2, 2022, 8:30am)** Athena Presley Monroe Strand is missing and was last seen at her fathers house in Paradise, TX at approximately 5:30pm 11/30/2022.
- 7. STEPHENVILLE MAN SENTENCED: (December 14, 2022, 8:30am)** Judge sentences Stephenville man to 140 years in prison for sexually assaulting teenage girl. A 17-year-old victim gave graphic and disturbing testimony in the 266th Judicial District Court on Tuesday when she described years of sexual abuse she endured by a family member, 38-year-old Fortino Puerta. The victim testified that Puerta sexually assaulted her more than 100 times over the course of 11 years, beginning when she was only four years old. Puerta had already pleaded guilty to three counts of sexual assault of a child and waived a jury trial; Tuesday's proceeding was for the sentencing phase of the case.
- 8. TORNADO TUESDAY MORNING: (December 14, 2022, 8:30am)** Tornado confirmed near Eastland, Erath counties in Texas. It was reported southeast of Ranger and moving northeast at about 40 mph Tuesday morning.
- 9. TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY GRADUATION: (December 8, 2022)** Tarleton State University will celebrate fall 2022 graduates with two commencement ceremonies Friday, Dec. 9, at Memorial Stadium. Tarleton President James Hurley will preside over the ceremonies. Both will include graduate and undergraduate students. Times: 10 a.m. — College of Business, College of Liberal and Fine Arts, Mayfield College of Engineering, College of Science and Mathematics 3 p.m. — College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, College of Education, College of Health Sciences
- 10. TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY ECONOMIC GROWTH: (December 2, 2022)** Tarleton State University is turbocharging economic growth, generating an estimated \$1.2 Billion for North Central Texas and \$2 Billion total for the state. An independent study by the global research firm Lightcast (formerly Emsi) confirms that Tarleton's impact extends far beyond its main campus in Stephenville and the counties it serves. Released today, the report draws from university financial figures and from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and U.S. Census Bureau for fiscal year 2020-21. As a result of their education, Tarleton Texans receive higher earnings and increase the productivity of the businesses that employ them. Alumni generated \$1.7

Billion in added income for the state economy in FY 2020-21, equivalent to supporting almost 24,000 jobs.