# LULING NEWSBO





Thursday, June 22, 2023 VOLUME 144, NO. 15



& SIGNAL

## McCrary, long-time editor and publisher, dies

**BY BOBBY HORECKA MANAGING EDITOR** 

Luling lost one of its most tireless volunteers, a champion for Luling civic improvements, and a dedicated yet selfless newswoman last week when she passed away peacefully at her home on Wednesday, June

Karen McCrary, longtime

writer, photographer, and former editor and publisher at the Luling Newsboy, would have celebrated her 70th birthday on those who knew her best say Saturday, July 1. She leaves behind her four younger siblings, nine nieces, three nephews, and scores more family members and friends.

While her many decades of dedicated community service

and willingness to help almost anyone is what many say they remember most about her, it was Karen's razor wit which stood out most.

It's why we're almost certain that Karen's having the last laugh, even now. You see, rather than a birthday party next Saturday, July 1, friends

and family are asked to gather from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Zedler Mill in Luling to celebrate the remarkable life she led.

That way she had you com-

ing or going, she would've no doubt quipped.

Karen's pointed humor was already well recognized before she crossed the stage

at graduation as a member of the Luling Class of 1971. In addition to getting chosen for the school's basketball and volleyball teams, the pep squad, yearbook and student council, she was also picked the wittiest of her class. For three years running, in fact.

It was something even her **SEE "MCCRARY," PAGE 4** 



## lumpin' gooa

Be like Paul Mikesh, whose family has won the Luling Watermelon thump largest melon contest a couple of times, with grand-son, and get ready for a thumping weekend. Turn to Section B of this issue to find out more!

## \$1M federal grant to support business growth

Luling City received \$1M federal grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) to bolster business growth. In a press release, it was announced that the grant aims to facilitate business expansion and job creation through infrastructure enhancements at the city's industrial park.

The funding will be utilized to improve broadband connectivity, roadways, and water systems, ultimately supporting the growth of various industries, including aerospace manufacturing and meat/ poultry processing. Complemented by \$666,667 in local funds, the EDA grant is projected to create and sustain approximately 400 jobs while stimulating \$25.5 million in private investments, as estimated by the grantee.

"The Biden-Harris Administration's Investing in America agenda is jumpstarting our infrastructure and domestic manufacturing, creating hundreds of thousands of jobs across Texas and the entire country," U.S. Secretary of

Commerce Gina Raimondo said. "In particular, this EDA investment in Luling's manufacturing sector will help create new, high-paying jobs in the community and grow economic opportunity across the region."

"This grant to help support growth in aerospace manufacturing and other important industries will bring hundreds of good-paying jobs to Texans and the city of Luling," Gov. Greg Abbott said. "This \$1 million investment in Luling's industrial park

**SEE "GRANT," PAGE 5** 

## LISD **Board** approves budget

The 2023-2024 Luling Independent School District budget and tax rate were adopted at the Monday night board meeting.

The total appraised value of all property in the Luling ISD for 2023-24 is \$1,227,712,005 up from \$1,098,445,681 in 2022-23. That property has a taxable value of \$954,132,461 for the 2023-24 FY, compared to \$851,983,909 for 2022-23.

The report also estimates that there will be an unencumbered balance of \$5,000,000 in the M&O fund at the end of the 2023-24 fiscal period.

The proposed district budget for 2023-24 is \$18,813,743. For the upcoming fiscal year, expenses are estimated as: Instruction at \$8,835,282 (up from the costs for 2022-23 of \$8,820,450), Instructional Support at \$2,690,444 (\$2,612,863), Central Administration at \$747,780 (\$797,623), District Operations at 3,747,825 (down from \$3,528,285), Debt Service at \$2,080,412 (up from \$2,067,137), and Other Expenses at \$685,000 (down from \$908,212).

Other action items included:

- Approval to purchase GJHS chromebooks with Esser
- Approval of TASB Update Regarding Update 121
- Approval of 3rd year contracts to Math/Science and Reading Consultants

The July meeting date will be released later this month.



## **Band members embrace camp experience**

**NICOLE SMITH STAFF WRITER** 

Seven LHS Eagle Band members attended the Howard Payne University Leadership Camp where they learned valuable experiences and opportunities to develop their leadership abilities.

Leadership skills are essential for personal growth and success in various aspects of life, including music and teamwork. Participating in such camps can provide valuable experiences and opportunities for individuals to develop their leadership abilities.

The band members attending were drum majors Abbigail Royal and Christian Reyes, Color Guard members Janaya James and Ilzabella Pinault, and student leaders Pablo Lara,



Band members Abbigail Royal, Christian Reyes, Janaya James, Izabella Pinault, Pablo Lara, Natalie Reyes and Cecilio Lara enjoyed their experience at the Howard Payne leadership band camp with their director Nathan Rolfe.

Natalie Reyes and Cecilio Lara. "I learned that leadership is about leading by example," said drum major Christian Reyes. "We engaged with other

students in activities, and will

take the things we learned back to our band."

During their time at the Howard Payne University Leadership Camp, the band

members participated in a

variety of activities and workshops designed to enhance their leadership skills. These activities included teambuilding exercises, communication workshops, developing a marching show, and discussions on effective leadership styles and strategies.

The band members learned from experienced leaders, interacted with band members from other schools, and gained insights into leadership practices and techniques. T

hey will have the opportunity to apply their newfound knowledge and skills in practical scenarios, such as leading sections of the band or organizing group activities as summer band rehearsal is just around the corner.

SEE "BAND," PAGE 5

# CHURCH DIRECTOR

#### REAL ESTATE TEAM 808 E. Pierce St./P.O. Box 325 LULING, TEXAS 78648

OFFICE: 830.875.5866 FAX: 830.875.9636 MOBILE: 830.832.9405 WWW.LLOYDBARNES.COM € B<sub>MLS</sub>





Short term or long term stay Providing Service to Luling Since 1969 (830) 875-5219



#### ROYALL'S WINDMILL & PUMP

WE SELL & SERVICE WINDMILLS & PUMPS 512-844-4960

PAUL ROYALL CHARLES ROYALL Lic. #54745

Lic. #54976

100 ton 701 Luling



# 205 N. CYPRESS, LULING

OIL FIELD & AG EQUIPMENT REPAIR GENERAL MACHINING & WELDING

KENNETH ZUMWALT CELL: 830.857.3173 OFFICE: 830.875.2319



#### THE WAREHOUSE

For events worth celebrating! 110 N. Walnut Luling, Texas

Fied us on Facebook 512,304,0691 AFTER HOUR 830.875.9081



#### **AARON CLIFFORD** Agency Owner Clifford Insurance Agency 522 E PIERCE ST

LULING, TX 78648 Tel 830-875-3546 aclifford1@farmersagent.com TX Producer LIC #2660901

### Sage Capital Bank Financial Wisdom, Texas Roots.

121 S. Magnolia Avenue

830.875.0200

800.552.3642

FDIC DIE

## **Texas Trusted** √Insurance Agency

Auto Home 610 E. CROCKETT

Farm Commercial

(830) 875-3164 Luling, Texas 78648 www.texastrustedins.com

'Bannon Funeral Home

210 S. Laurel 830-875-5713

WWW.OBANNONFUNERALHOME.COM



Here!

Harwood, Texas 78632

#### TURES FROM THE B Zedekiah King of Judah II Kings 24 & 25; II Chronicles 36 Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem eleven years. He did evil in the eyes of the LORD and did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet, who spoke the word of the LORD. He also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him take an oath in God's name. He became stiff-necked and hardened his heart and would not turn to the LORD, the God of Israel The leaders of the priests and the people became more and more unfaithful, following the sinful practices of the nations and defiling the temple of the LORD.

This directory and devotional is made possible by these businesses who encourage all of us to attend worship service:

#### BAPTIST

ANTIOCH BAPTIST 125 E. Newton, Luling 830-875-5444

BETHEL PRIMITIVE BAPTIST 5544 FM 713, Lockhart

CENTRAL BAPTIST 515 S. Magnolia Ave., Luling 830-875-2662

461 Clearfork Rd., Lockhart 512-398-6501

CLEARFORK BAPTIST

COMMUNITY BAPTIST 7265 HWY 183 N., Lockhart 512-398-2889

EBBON MISSIONARY BAPTIST 1114 Rolling Oaks Dr., Luling 830-875-3009

FIRST BAPTIST 218 N. Magnolia Ave., Luling 830-875-2227

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST 125 Cosey St., Luling 830- 875-9325

KINGSBURY BAPTIST 6901 FM 2438, Kingsbury 830-639-4671

LEESVILLE BAPTIST 6055 FM 1682, Leesville 830-660-3168

**LULING PRIMITIVE BAPTIST** 395 Elm St., Luling

830-875-3618 LYTTON SPRINGS BAPTIST 8511 FM 1854, Dale

512-559-2369 MCNEIL BAPTIST 14304 FM 1322, Luling

830-875-5946 MT. MACEDONIA BAPTIST

408 Lamar St., Luling MARTINDALE BAPTIST

103 Main St., Martindale 512-357-6780 MINERAL SPRING BAPTIST

Lockhart 512-703-0861 **NEW BEGINNINGS BAPTIST** 

1386 Mineral Springs Rd.,

125 Blossom Ct., Dale, 512-398-2967

PRAIRIE LEA BAPTIST 6825 San Marcos Hwy, Prairie Lea 512-488-2274

BAUTISTA 221 N. Laurel, Luling 830-875-3300

PRIMERA IGLESIA

ST. JOHN'S REGULAR BAPTIST 110 St. John's Rd, Dale 512-601-2128

SAN MARCOS PRIMITIVE BAPTIST 1/2 mile West of San

Marcos River Bridge on

Hwy 90

SWEET CANAAN BAPTIST 41410 Prairie Lea Rd., Kingsbury 830-639-4604 "HOME OF THE SWEETEST DEALS IN TEXAS"

1088 EAST PIERCE

LULING

CHEVROLET

(830) 875-5425

#### CATHOLIC

ST. JOHN THE **EVANGELIST CATHOLIC** 500 E. Travis, Luling 830-875-5354

**IMMACULATE HEART** OF MARY 312 Lockhart St., Martindale 512-357-6573

### CHRISTIAN

FIRST CHRISTIAN 712 E. Crockett, Luling 830-875-3769

IGLESIA LIBERTAD CRISTIANA 305 Blanco St., Luling 830-875-6122

**LULING COWBOY BIBLE** 127 Blanco St., Luling MARANATHA

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP 2356 Hwy 80, Luling 830-875-9465

#### CHURCH OF CHRIST

LULING CHURCH OF CHRIST 1840 E. Pierce St., Luling 830-494-4011

#### EPISCOPAL

CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

S. Walnut St., Luling 830-875-5155

#### JEHOVAH'S WITNESS

KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESS Hwy183 N., Luling 830-875-5180

KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES 18262 Hwy 80, Martindále 512-357-6566

#### LUTHERAN TRINITY LUTHERAN

1104 N. Magnolia Ave., Luling 830-875-3041

### METHODIST

BETHEL A.M.E. 401 S. Pine St., Luling 830-875-5504

FENTRESS COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST 13481 State Park Rd.,

512-488-2902 FIRST UNITED METHODIST

Fentress

703 E. Bowie, Luling 830-875-2711 HARWOOD UNITED

METHODIST 321 E. Jones St., Luling 830-875-5446

KINGSBURY UNITED

METHODIST 7035 FM 2438, Kingsbury 830-639-4395

METHODIST Corner of Bowie & Jennings, Martindale 512-376-0164

MARTINDALE UNITED

### METHODIST

#### PRAIRIE LEA UNITED METHODIST 6725 Hwy 80, Prairie Lea 512-488-2380

WILLIAM TAYLOR UNITED METHODIST

321 E. Jones St., Luling 830-875-5546 PENTECOSTAL

IGLESIA NUEVA VIDA UPC 860 S. Magnolia Ave., Luling 830-875-6301

**IGLESIA PENTECOSTES** FILADELFIA 893 S. Magnolia Ave., Luling 830-305-7484

PRESBYTERIAN FIRST PRESBYTERIAN 201 S. Pecan Ave., Luling

830-875-3456

#### OTHER ARISE CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

415 S. Commerce St., Lockhart 512-227-1429

CASA DE ORACION -**NUEVA VIDA** 860 S. Magnolia Ave.,

830-875-8301

EMMAUS ROADS Interdenominational 108 N. Pecan St., Luling

FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER 1155 N. Magnolia Ave., Luling 830-351-7095

**GOD'S LITTLE ACRE** 23734 State Hwy 80 N., Gonzales 830-424-3526

HARVEST COMMUNITY 12351 Hwy 142, Martindale 512-695-8583

LA LUZ DEL MUNDO THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD 125 E. Austin St., Luling

830-351-5064 MARTIN MEMORIAL

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST 415 Goliad St., Luling 830-875-9120

NEW LIFE TEMPLE FOR JESUS CHRIST 16214 Hwy 90 W., Harwood

830-203-1190 REDEEMED OUTREACH

CENTER 102 E. Crocket St., Luling 512-718-4120 THREE RIVERS

COMMUNITY 103 Main St., Martindale 512-353-3332

THE BREAD OF LIFE 280 Tenney Creek Rd., Dale 512-227-5389

THE WAY 596 Boulder Ln., Dale 512-398-3811

artlett **Denise Bartlett** usiness ervices

1501 E Pierce St 830-875-9479 Call or Text 830-351-5151 FAX Luling, TX 78648 http://www.bartlettbusinessservices.com

thetaxlady@bartlettbusinessservices.com

### THE HEIGHTS OF GONZALES

www.touchstone-communties.com

701 N. Sarah DeWitt GONZALES, TEXAS 78629

go.admissions@theheightsgonzales.com 830.672.4530

# REAL ESTATE

830.875.6017 GINGER ROBBINS - OWNER 946 E. PIERCE ST. - PO BOX 489 LULING, TEXAS

CELL 512 284 0801 WWW.RIATAREALESTATE.COM



Hildebrand Branch 210-785-2300

830-875-2472 WWW.CSBSA.COM FDIC 🖺

200 S. Magnolia Ave.

Reliable, dependable service for over 25 years. 830.660.3876

OWNER: RANDY MARTIN



Working with People and Cemeterics Through Care, Service and Quality

راااء CAPITOL MONUMENT COMPANY

Office and Display 5233 N. US Hwy. 183 Gonzales, TX 78629 CANDIS KLESEL Office 830-672-7929 Cell 979-224-5599 Email: info@capitolmonument.com

## James E. 'Sonny' ROUGEOU

- \*

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

830.875.3592 210 E. Crockett

#### SMITH SUPPLY - COMPANY -

Home • Farm • Ranch Supplies

1150 N. Magnolia Avenue 830.875.3043

#### Ci SUPERIOR DISPOSAL

Because You Deserve Superior Service Buying

Ferrous and 512-256-4520 Non-Ferrous Metals www.SuperiorDisposal.com

## **Luling Tire Service** New Tires • Repairs • Batteries€

615 S. Magnolia 830-875-2407 Rusty Horne, Owner

Luling's Original Farmers Market Since 1945



700 E. Davis 830-857-6468 Doug Holcomb OWNER

LIVESTOCK MARKET INC. 830.672.2845 HWY. 90A . GONZALES, TEXAS

SALE EVERY SATURDAY AT 10 A.M.





The lawn of the Nickells Library becomes a sea of suds allowing kids an opportunity to dive into a fun experi-

## Nickells library offers fun activities

The Nickells Library provided an interactive and visually stimulating experience for library visitors in June by offering a mountain of bubbles and a dome of stars encouraging laughter and engagement.

The library lawn transformed into a recreational space with the addition of bubbles. Visitors dove in and pop the bubbles, enjoying physical activity and outdoor play. It offered a refreshing change of pace and promotes active participation.

Bubbles floating over the library lawn provided a tranquil and serene experience, allowing library visitors to unwind and momentarily escape from their daily stresses and served as a peaceful oasis amidst the hustle and bustle of the summer.

Library visitors also immersed themselves in a realistic representation of the night sky inside the Discovery Dome. Children learned about different constellations, planets, and other celestial objects from the trained astronomy educator pointing out interesting features and sharing fascinating facts about the universe.

This type of experience can be particularly beneficial for students and those with a general interest in astronomy. It offers a unique opportunity to learn about the cosmos in an engaging and interactive way. Children asked questions, deepened their understanding of astronomy concepts, and developed a greater appreciation for the vastness and beauty of the universe.

The Nickells Library will bring memorable and educational experiences that sparks curiosity all summer long. Check out their calendar www.cityofluling. net/calendar.aspx?CID=25&Keywords=&startDate=&

## How do you plan to stay hydrated?

**Drink plenty of water:** Carry a reusable water bottle with you to ensure easy access to water.

Eat hydrating foods: Including foods with high water content in your diet can contribute to your overall hydration.

Dress appropriately: Wear lightweight, loosefitting, and breathable clothing made of natural fibers like cotton.

Stay indoors during peak heat: Plan your outdoor activities for the cooler morning or evening

Seek shade or create shade: When outside, find shaded areas to rest and cool down or use an umbrella or set up a temporary canopy or tent to create your own shade.

Use cooling measures:

### **New hours for Luling Food Bank**

Luling Food Bank is open for general food distribution on the second Tuesday of each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

In addition, all other Tuesdays are open from 10am to noon for distribution of fresh produce sponsored by Common Market.

## **OBITUARIES**

#### KAREN GAIL MCCRARY

Karen Gail McCrary, 69, was called home to the Lord on June 14th, 2023, leaving behind a legacy of a life lived in His service with impact on many. Karen was born on July 1st, 1953, in Luling, TX to Bettie and Wayne McCrary, Sr.

The eldest of five children, Karen was always available to help keep her younger siblings in line as they moved to various areas of the state while Wayne, Sr. worked in the oil industry. Eventually, the family landed back in Luling where Karen finished out the remainder of her school years. In high school Karen was an athlete, a diligent student, and an active participant in any number of extracurricular activities. She played volleyball and basketball, served on the pep squad and student council, was part of the yearbook staff and one act play, and was Miss FTA and Homecoming Queen nominee her senior year just to give a small sampling of the many goings on in her teenage years. Most in keeping with her personality, Karen was voted wittiest in high school in her sophomore, junior, and senior years. Karen graduated from Luling High School in 1971, and her quick wit and love of both reading and writing would prove to be instrumental as she began her

Family was extremely important to Karen. While no one could ever best her in a game of Scrabble, many a loud and boisterous debate happened around the McCrary table while eating a meal or playing dominoes. Karen was a daughter, a sister, and a beloved friend to so many, but perhaps her most important and cherished role was that of aunt. Although Karen never had any children of her own, she loved

career at the Luling Newsboy.

and spoiled her nieces and nephews as if they were hers, and they loved and adored her equally as much. She was happy to train those little people in



the skill of sarcasm and wit, and they provided her with endless entertainment and reasons to chuckle. Times were never more fun than when Aunt Karen was around. Whether it was baking and decorating Christmas cookies, hosting slumber parties, taking dozens upon dozens of candid photos, writing about their latest accomplishments or mischievous shenanigans, as the case may have been, in Karen's Column, or letting them help stuff papers at the Newsboy, she was an ever-present presence in their lives from the moment they were born, and she carried on that tradition of love and fun with her great nieces and nephews.

Karen left her mark on the City of Luling, not only as its journalistic voice, but as a leader and champion of many civic programs and improvements. Karen was the editor of the Luling Newsboy and Signal from 1980 to her retirement in 2018. She was still covering local news up until the time of her death.

She started work at the Luling Newsboy just out of high school, embarking on a career that would last five decades and would enable her to support and champion the community she loved. An avid firefighter, informed reporter and an exemplary model of the community volunteer, Karen was involved in all facets of Luling's development. Over the years she served dutifully

Watermelon Thump Association, Kiwanis Club, Luling Volunteer Fire Department, Luling Stock Show Committee, Luling Oil Museum, Zedler Mill Foundation, Night in Old Luling, Luling Main Street, and the Church of the Annunciation. She covered city and county news and politics as a keen and objective observer and informant. If it was a notable event, Karen would be there, usually with a camera around her neck and would be the first to lend a hand to make sure of success. A true visionary, Karen was instrumental in the planning and execution of many community development exercises and programs. She used the power of the pen as well as good old fashioned elbow grease

to advocate for positive change.

Through all of this, Karen developed

deep and enduring friendships and

was always ready to expand the role

of "Aunt Karen" to the youngsters of

the community.

with the Chamber of Commerce,

Karen will be deeply missed by her many friends and family members. Karen was preceded in death by her parents, Bettie and Wayne McCrary, Sr. She is survived by her brothers, A.W. McCrary, Jr. and wife, Kathy, of Luling, and Johnny R. McCrary and wife, Darla, of Seguin; sisters Vickie Walker and husband, Dan, of Burns, Kansas, and Bonnie Phillips, and husband, James, of Kingsbury; her nine nieces, three nephews, and 19 great nieces and nephews.

Please join Karen's family for a Memorial Service Celebrating her life, Saturday, July 1st, 2023, from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the Zedler Mill in Luling.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Luling Oil Museum or the Luling Fire Department.

## LAWS unleashes fun and fitness

Pet owners and sponsors came together in a display of camaraderie and philanthropy to participate in the Luling Animal Welfare Society (LAWS) 10th annual Thumpin' 5K and 1 mile fun run/walk at Zedler Park on Saturday morning.

"We had our best turnout of runners/walkers and sponsor participation said a LAWS volun

LAWS works in partnership with the City of Luling Animal Control to make a difference in the lives of lost, seized, and abandoned animals. Together these organizations provide better care, support, and opportunities for these animals to find loving homes.

Daniel Cashillo was the first to complete the 5K course followed by Dennis Lopez and José Reyes Jr. Earning top finishes in their divisions were: Keith Russell, Everett Sebourn, Jerry Milton, Rick Holroyd, Jenny Saad, Sonia Hille,



The mini-superhero joined other four legged friends in the LAWS Thumpin' Walk.

Faces in the crowd included a handful of LHS cross country runners, a couple of Thump Queen candidates and moms as well as 4 legged participants like Jett and Libby, Bentley the superhero and the Hill family's Charlotte and Belmont.

This event provided a platform for animal lovers to make a difference in the community as it serves as

The funds raised assist in providing medical care, shelter, food, and other vital services to animals waiting for their forever homes.

**LULING** 

If you have questions or would like more information about their adoption program check out lawsluing.org or call 512-749-





Take advantage of cooling

methods like using fans,

Remember, staying

misting sprays, or wet

towels on your neck.

hydrated is crucial for

your overall well-being,

By following these tips,

you can help maintain

especially in hot weather.



NEW '23 SILVERADO 1500

Crew Cab 4x4 RST #23036 \$64,365 MSRP - \$2250 RB - \$7750 LCD

#### COME MEET OUR PROFESSIONAL SALES TEAM:



JOSH MENDOZA



FREE DELIVERY WITHIN 200 MILES





weddings/anniversary announcements, club and organization news, school and/or churchaffiliated items, and photos for publication-is · Just because you meet deadline does not

· Deadlines for both advertising and editorial-which includes sports/game reports reader submitted letters, engagements/

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

Payable in advance.

Digital Only, \$35 per year

In County, \$41 per year

Outside Area, \$46 per year

Outside State, \$53 per year

STAFF:

Managing Editor: Bobby Horecka

Accounts Manager: Anita Zak

Graphics: Michelle Price

Staff Writers: Nicole Smith, Mark Lube

Karen McCrary, Murray Montgomery

Distribution: Frank Carter

CONTACT INFORMATION:

P.O. Box 427, Hallettsville, Texas 77964

Phone: (361) 798-2481

Fax: (361) 798-9902

Email: lulingnewsboy@gmail.com

Website: lulingnewsboy.com

**AFFILIATIONS** 

Texas Press Association

**DEADLINES** 

Items are placed at the editor's discretion, as space and time allow If something needs to appear in a particular week's edition, speak with the editor when it

· If you require proof copies, your ad should be completed by 1 p.m. Friday, the week prior to publication

Send changes of address to: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR LULING NEWSBOY, · We encourage lively discussion of timely P.O. Box 427 civic issues. Please limit letters to 400 or Hallettsville, Texas 77964

fewer words. Objectionable language will not be published, nor any letter deemed an attack on a private individual. · Writers may only submit one letter per month. Expect that all letters, like any item received for publication, will be vetted for accuracy and edited for brevity, clarity and

 Endorsements of a candidate are political advertisements, not letters, and we will gladly help you set that up. Do know, however, all political ads must: 1) Adhere to all local, state and/or federal guidelines pertaining to political ad reporting; 2) Lay no direct/indirect blame or make accusations against a candidate and/or his opponent;

3) Contain any libelous, skewed or otherwise false statements · All letters must be signed by the author and include daytime/evening phone numbers for verification. Plagiarism is

not tolerated. · We will neither accept nor publish any reader-submitted letters during an election period, from the first day of early voting until after election results have

**ERRORS AND OMISSIONS** · If we make an error, let us know and,

once vetted, we will correct it promptly.

• The newspaper shall not be liable for any errors made, nor does it claim any responsibility for omissions, print quality variances or consequential damages stemming from. Adjustment claims must be made within 30 days of publication.



From those simple pleasures like framing up picture just so you have it as proof later when you tell someone. "You won't believe the tramp stamp I saw on the back of this roughneck today," or just sharing a good hard laugh with those you're were closest to, Karen wasn't one to hold back. Ever. A true genuine article if ever there were. Photo by Gretchen Moore

**MCCRARY** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

nieces commented on while crafting the words to her obituary, which appears on Page A3 of today's newspaper.

"Perhaps her most cherished role was that of aunt," they wrote. "Although Karen never had any children of her own, she loved and spoiled her nieces and nephews as if they were hers. Times were never more fun than when Aunt Karen was around, and she was always happy to train those little people in the skill of sarcasm and

That, combined with her love of reading and writing made her a natural for the news business, and by most accounts, the Luling Newsboy is straight where she headed, right out of high school.

Even though Karen cut her teeth working at the Newsboy, she left the newspaper to work as a legal assistant for a number of years before Buddy Preuss, owner of the newspaper, was able to convince her to return to her real love.

When she finally made that move in 1979, however, Preuss said he quickly came to know another fact about her as well.

"Karen was one of the most loyal employees at any of our newspapers," he said. "She offered that same loyalty to the Watermelon Thump and the entire city of Luling. She never complained, no matter how tough the going would get, and I never had to worry about anything at the Newsboy as long as Karen was at the helm. I will dearly miss her."

Trey Bailey may be the executive director of the Luling Economic Development Corp. today, but he still remembers well his time spent with Karen over at the news office. His parents, you see, owned the place before Preuss bought it from them in the 1970s.

After he graduated and spent some time away in East Texas, Bailey said he was more than happy to return to the familiarity of the news office, a place he'd grown up around. Having Karen there just made it all the better.

"I learned much from her and had great fun working long late hours with her, putting out the weekly Newsboy," he said. "She was exceptional at her job, objective in her reporting and opinionated in her editorials. Karen never skipped a beat, keeping the tradition of objective and reliable journalism done with community pride." Still, her sense of humor never

strayed far, Bailey added.

He recalled a fine athlete named Willis Mackey, who attended school in Luling in the mid-1980s. Mackey, it seemed, had bounced back and forth with recruiters before finally signing on with the University of Washington.



But not before he switched his commitment between schools a few times already, so Karen decided to write about it.

All these years later, Bailey said he still remembers the headline she wrote: "Willie go or Willie

Another time, in the wee hours of some random press day, Bailey said he remembered Karen opting to fill an open spot on the classifieds page with: "Meeting of all interested people at 7 p.m."

Which only begs for a followup, of course, Bailey said. So, the next week, Karen wrote: "Due to a lack of interest, meeting was canceled."

Karen worked at the Newsboy until her retirement in 2018. Even then, she continued to supply the occasional news story or photograph for publication, whenever she was out and about.

Which must have been right next to always, as best we can tell, for she volunteered with everyone in town: The Chamber of Commerce, Watermelon Thump Association, Kiwanis Club, Luling Stock Show Committee, Luling Oil Museum, Zedler Mill Foundation, Night in Old Luling, Luling Main Street, and the Church of the Annunciation, to name a few.

"We served on several boards together, and I can tell you she always had her community at heart," Luling Mayor CJ Watts said. "Karen was always there to volunteer any way she could. She was a true asset to our community in so many ways. She was always there to ask questions and give you her opinion, whether that was the answer you wanted to hear or not."

When Watts joined the city council and, later, became mayor, she said she came to expect seeing

Karen, "out there in the audience in her chair," busily taking her Luling school district superin-

tendent Erin Warren agreed.

"Karen was a voice of reason and a steadfast presence in school board meetings, Warren said. "Her just being there was both reassuring and comforting. She frequently kept our board members on their toes, and she had no problem correcting any inaccuracies that happened. Plus, she did an amazing job of being pleasant and no nonsense at the same time.

I will miss her greatly." In addition to those other roles, Karen even served as a firefighter with the Luling Volunteer Fire Department. And not just some administrative or clerical role, either. While visiting City Hall not long ago, awaiting the arrival of city manager Mark Mayo, this writer happened into a conversation with a Luling man who brought up

that very subject. "It wasn't that long ago we had a grass fire out near our place that was getting dangerously close to our house and outbuildings, so I called the fire department, you know," he said. "Then I stayed there with it to keep an eye on things and await their arrival. A few minutes later, and here they come. I turned to wave them through. And who do I see hanging on the back of the firetruck, just waving right back? It's Karen. I couldn't believe it."

When asked about it, about an hour after that conversation, not only did Karen figure out who it was we talked to, but she simply shrugged and said, "Yeah, it's what I do." It seems her father was once an active fireman, too, she told us then. She was just keeping the family tradition alive and well.

Such sights were hardly uncommon with Karen, said Kirby Crowell with the Luling Fire

Department. "Karen was an active member of our volunteer fire department," Crowell said. "She eagerly responded to every call, and she was

always willing to ride out to a fire.

We'd pull up, and she would say

'Let's put some water on it.' " Her being both reporter and firefighter is how Luling ISD board president Jeff Ferry, a detective with the Caldwell County Sheriff's Office, said he first came to know Karen. Ferry would later serve on volunteer boards alongside Karen, and like his superintendent, he said he came to expect Karen at

their school board meetings. But their first encounter was a whole other matter entirely, Ferry recalled.

"I actually met Karen my first day of work as a cop, 20 years ago," he said, and it was anything but pleasant.

It seems that several runners from a cross country team had stopped on the shoulder of the road to pray during a run. It's about 7 a.m. and this old timer happens along. Never seeing them, he ran the kids over, killing one and injuring several more. Then here comes Karen, the firefighter and newspaper editor.

"She got very upset with me that I wouldn't let her in," Ferry said. "I'd been told, 'Don't let anyone on the scene,' however, and by God, she was anyone."

He chuckled then, but soon quieted, adding, "We may have had plenty of run-ins over the years, but I'm going to miss her dearly."

When the city council met June 8 and Karen wasn't there to cover it, Mayor Watts said she figured Karen finally had gotten around to putting down her pen and paper, something she'd been saying she'd do for years already.

Karen was still backing away slowly, it turns out, right up to the very end, assisting some of our newer staff learn the ropes. In fact, she still turned in stories as late as last week, even though she'd be gone before anyone ever got to read them. And because she adamantly refused to allow her byline in print, much of what she

The black border around this week's front page is a very old tradition, often used to honor the death of the publisher of a newspaper,

wrote in her final months here went unrecognized as hers.

Still, her absence earlier this month at the city council meeting, was definitely noticed by Mayor Watts and the rest of the city's aldermen.

"It was my first feeling of missing her at the city meetings," Watts said. "Little did I know that it would only be a few weeks later that I wouldn't see her smiling face

City Manager Mark Mayo was

equally shocked. "Karen was such a wonderful servant to our community," he said. "You saw her helping in the background at every event. I will miss seeing her at every council meeting. I will miss seeing her out picking up trash in the mornings out at the information center. I'll miss seeing her put on her rubber boots to go on a fire call. I'll just miss her. She was a very special lady, and she will be missed."

Karen was also a fixture in commissioners court meetings for many years. "She was devoted to her community and was well respected by those of us who were lucky enough to know her," County Judge Hoppy Haden said. "She will be missed."

Karen truly left her mark on Luling, not only its journalistic voice as a keen and informed observer but as a leader and champion for the city. She used the power of her pen, and when that fell short, she relied on good old-fashioned elbow grease to get the job done, for more than half a century.

She did it all for the community she loved, and all without expectation of praise of any sort.

Because it simply needed to be done, she would have no doubt said. Then that spark would flicker in her eyes, and she'd probably toss out something like she got tired of waiting on you to do it, a big smile spread across her lips.

Because that's how she was, too. And we loved her for it.

Mayor Watts said it best: "Karen was a friend to many and I considered her a special friend of mine. I know we'll miss her greatly, both myself and the community, but I know we'll see her again one day. Until then, we know she'll be watching over us."

-30-

## **Soccer coming to Luling next year**

The Luling ISD athletics program will be starting a high-school soccer program next school year.

"I think it is great to be adding soccer because more kids will now have the opportunity to compete in athletics," athletic director Nate Langford said. "It will help the school as more kids will now be motivated to take care of their academics."

Several other schools in the area have added soccer to their athletic program in the last seven or eight years.4A Gonzales added girls and boys starting with the 2014-15 school year; 3A Yoakum began their programs in 2015-16 and this past school year (2022-23), the 3A Hallettsville Brahmas also started their girls and boys teams.

A Luling student asked Langford

BAND

GRANT

Natalie Reyes and

as band member MVPs

Cecilio Lara were chosen

while Christian Reyes and

Abigail Royall were named

Outstanding Drum Majors.

The band is under the di-

will help make criti-

cal roadway, water,

and broadband ser-

vice improvements to

spur business growth

Officers with the Luling

Police Department made

two arrests during the sec-

• Kimberly Rae Lan-

arrested Monday, June 12,

Kavolya Ajhuanae Ellis,

19, of Houston, was arrest-

ed Thursday, June 15, in the 100-block of Blanco Avenue

on two counts of controlled

Luling Police also an-

swered 214 calls for service

during the week of Mon-

day, June 12, to Sunday,

911 Hang Up/Abuse 2

Assist Other Agency 4

Close/Foot Patrol 4

Criminal Trespass 2

City Ordinance Violation 2

Follow Up Investigation 1

ACO/Animal Call 21

They were:

substance possession.

caster, 45, of Cuero, was

in the 600-block of East Pierce Street for controlled substance possession and an outstanding local arrest

warrant.

June 18.

Accident 8

Alarm 4

Assault 1

Civil Matter 4

Control Burn 2

Disturbance 5

EMS Call 44

Fire 5

ond week of June 2023.

They included:

if the district would consider fielding soccer.

Langford then put out some informal surveys to see who would be interested in playing soccer.

Langford said he reached out to coaches at Gonzales and few other area schools.

He said around 40 high-school females and 20 males were interested while there was around 40 juniorhigh students interested.

Langford then took his findings to Superintendent Erin Warren and began working out the details.

Luling ISD teacher and former collegiate soccer player Riley Blok will be the girls' head coach while Eagles cross-country head coach Jose Campos will coach the boys team.

rection of Mr Nathan Rolfe

and Mr Adam Garcia.

Attending a leader-

ship camp like the one at

Howard Payne University

can be a transformative

experience, fostering

and development in

the region. I thank the

**Economic Development** 

Administration for this

**LULING POLICE REPORTS** 

Suspicious Vehicle 1

Traffic Control 1

stance 5

Theft 5

Threat 2

investment in Central

Langford said he consulted with the Gonzales Apaches coaches and few other coaches to get insight on starting soccer.

He is very enthused to be adding the sport.

"I am excited for us to get soccer going," Langford said. "Our students that come out for soccer will start gaining experience and hopefully we will develop into a powerhouse, sooner than later."

UIL teams can start practice on Nov. 27 for the 2023-24 season; they can play their first scrimmage on December 28.

The district certification date is March 23, 202, followed by the start of the playoffs on March 25-26.

The state tournament is scheduled for April 10-13, 2024.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

personal growth, building

tools they need to become

effective leaders within the

band and the high school

Texas that will help

ing leader."

Traffic Stop 41

Utility Department Call 5

Vehicle Lockouts 3

Warrant Service 1

Welfare Check 16

We ARE ONLINE

Iulingnéwsboy.com

Come enroll at Prairie Lea ISD!!

We just added a brand new, state of the art

We are nestled in the heart of BBQ

**Luling and San Marcos!** 

country, right off Highway 80, between

strengthen our state's

position as a national

aerospace manufactur-

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

campus.

confidence, and equip-

ping students with the



Cal-Maine Foods, Inc.

### **INCLUDING**

## **SUPERVISORS**

Applicants must have their own

Competitive pay, vacation, sick leave, health, dental & vision insurance, 401K & ESOP

Cal-Maine Foods is an

For more information, please call 830-540-3970 Monday-Friday (8 a.m. - 4 p.m.) 256 Smith Farm Rd.

# CLASSIFIEDS!



IN HARWOOD is seeking applicants for:

### **ALL POSITIONS**

#### MANAGERS & (NO DEGREE REQUIRED)

Applicants must have their own

transportation to and from work.

transportation to and from work

**Equal Opportunity Employer** 

Luling, Texas 78648

## **NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Haroldean Lucas Watts (also known as Haroldean Brewer Watts and Haroldean B. Lucas), Deceased, were issued on June 13, 2023, in Cause No. 10878, pending in the County Courtat-Law of Caldwell County, Texas, to: Worth Owen Lucas, Jr.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: M. Elizabeth Raxter Attorney at Law P.O. Box 281 Lockhart, TX 78644

**NOTICES** 

**DATED** the 14th day of June, 2023.

/s/ M. Elizabeth Raxter M. Elizabeth Raxter Attorney for Worth Owen Lucas, Jr. State Bar No.: 24050084 705 State Park Rd. Lockhart, Texas 78644 Telephone: (512) 398-6996 Facsimile: (512) 668-4501 E-mail: eraxter@tx-elderlaw.com

#### **NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Gladys Sexton (also known as Gladys Irene Sexton), Deceased, were issued on June 13, 2023, in Cause No. 10857, pending in the County Court-at-Law of Caldwell County, Texas, to:

Margaret C. Hlavaty.
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: M. Elizabeth Raxter Attorney at Law 705 State Park Rd. Lockhart, Texas 78644

**DATED** the 14th day of June, 2023.

/s/ M. Elizabeth Raxter M. Elizabeth Raxter Attorney for Margaret C. Hlavaty State Bar No.: 24050084 705 State Park Rd. Lockhart, Texas 78644 Telephone: (512) 398-6996 Facsimile: (512) 668-4501 E-mail: eraxter@tx-elderlaw.com

HELP WANTED HELP WANTED

#### EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

The City of Luling is now accepting applications for the following positions:

Job applications are available at City Hall, 509 W. Crockett St., and may be picked up Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or (for some positions) printed directly from the City website. Applications will be accepted at City Hall until these jobs are filled.

#### **ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT**

LINEMAN - Full City benefits. Requires documentation of High School Diploma or GED, driver's license and current DPS certified driving record. Will be subject to 24-hour call. Starting salary is \$21.08 through \$23.16

LINEMAN APPRENTICE - Full City benefits. Requires documentation of High School Diploma or GED, driver's license & current DPS certified driving record. Will be subject to 24-hour call relocate to within a 15-minute response time. This is an Electric Helper position. Starting salary is \$15.21 an hour.

#### WASTE WATER DEPARTMENT

ONE WORKER - Full City benefits. Requirements include, but are not limited to documentation of High School diploma or GED, Class A CDL license and a current Texas DPS certified copy of driving record. Will be subject to 24 hour call, must be willing to relocate to within a 15 minute response time. Ability to work in a variety of weather conditions, and the ability to obtain a state license within one (1) year. Starting salary is \$14.29 an hour.

ONE WORKER. Full City benefits. Applicant must have a current Texas DPS license.Abilty to work in a variety of weather conditions. Starting salary is \$14.29 an hour. Position open until filled.

#### - FIRE DEPT - (3) FIRE FIGHTERS

Qualifications include: a) High school diploma or equivalent; (b) Must have Basic Structure Fire Suppression Certification; (c) Must have a Valid Class B Texas Driver's License and furnish copy of driving record; (d) Must furnish a copy of criminal history record. Both driving and criminal history records should not be more than 30 days old from date of application. Applicant will be required to pass a physical exam and pre-hire drug test. Starting salary is \$14.85 an hour. Applications may be returned or mailed to City Hall, 509 E. Crockett, Luling, Texas 78648.

### **ACCOUNTING CLERK**

Successful applicants must have a current and valid Texas driver's license and knowledge of Fund Accounting. Working knowledge/experience with Tyler Technologies-Incode (ERP), or similar software system is preferred. Applicants will be subject to a criminal history and background check.

Full City benefits. Full- time, Monday- Friday, 8 am - 5 pm (8 hour shift), Non-Exempt. Will report to the Finance Director as a direct Supervisor.

Salary is based on qualifications.

Some of the job requirements include but not limited to: processing vendor invoices into the accounting system, obtaining approval for vendor payments, supporting the payment of invoices and accurate record keeping.

Prepare bi-weekly payroll for the City of Luling. This includes reviewing timesheets, fixing errors, entering overtime adjustments, entering appropriate deductions related to payroll, entering data into payroll software, transmitting payroll, receiving payrolls. Other duties as assigned.

#### **LPD** - PATROL OFFICERS

Qualifications include: (a) High School diploma or equivalent; (b) Basic Certification from TCOLE and (c) must have valid Class C Texas Driver's License.

Applicants are subject to pre-employment screening/testing, including, but not limited to thorough background investigation, and psychological, physical and drug testing. Salary will be based on qualifications and experience. Includes excellent benefits.

The application consists of two separate documents, which must be notarized to be accepted. Completed documents are to be returned to the Luling Police Dept., 1800 E. Pierce St. Luling, TX 78648. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The City of Luling is an equal opportunity employer.

For more information, please call 830-875-5407 or contact Chief Bill Sala at: policechief@cityofluling.net

#### **EMS - FT and PRN POSITIONS**

Must have either EMT, AEMT, Licensed Paramedic or EMT-P certification from Texas Dept of State Health Services. A minimum of one year experience working for a 911 system is preferred. Luling operates on a 48/96 hour schedule. FT positions - Paid vacation; sick time; paid Health Dental, and Life insurance; annual uniform allowance; seasonal bonus, paid CE Program; Holiday pay; paid retirement with a 2:1 match; paid tuition for advancement to Paramedic.

The City of Luling is an equal opportunity employer.

#### Fraud 1 building for high school and junior high Harassment 2 Information Request Only 1 students! Lost Property 1 Motorist/Citizen Assist 7 Prairie Lea is growing, come be a part of Noise Disturbance 1 our district and experience the excitement! Open Door/Window 1 Parking Complaint 3 Registration is now open! We are accepting ALL students from Pre-K to 12<sup>th</sup> Reckless Driving 7 grade! All registration is done online, through our website – making it super Road Hazard 1 easy to get your child(ren) enrolled for the 2023-2024 school year! Suspicious Person/Circum-2-in, by 1½-in. 17/2-in. PVC Y-fitting and turndown

Kitchen-sink tailpiece 17-in. PVC slip nut and hob Wein. PVC trap assembly with standard cleanout 830-875-3043

www.smithsupplycompany.com

1150 N. Magnolia, Hwy 183 North LULING, TX

# CLASSIFIED

**CLASSIFED DEADLINE** NOON MONDAY

All Classified Word Ads Must Be Paid in Advance

Word Ads: 38¢ per word for first insertion: 36¢ per word for each consecutive insertion.

Minimum Charge - \$7.60; Consecutive Insertion - \$7.20

CLASSIFIED DISPLAY: \$7.00 per column inch.

#### **SERVICES**

#### **SERVICES**

LEO MILLER & SONS ROOFING 512-398-6961

·Free Estimates· **30 YEARS EXPERIENCE** 



SALE EVERY SATURDAY AT 10 A.M. P.O. Box 565 - Gonzales, TX 78629

David Shelton Office: 830.672.2845 Mobile: 830.857.5394 Fax: 830.672.6087

#### **FOR RENT**

FOR RENT 2 BEDROOM house for rent in Kings-Contact Joan if sted at 512-750interested at 5301(15-2-PD)



**HELP WANTED** 

#### HELP WANTED

#### The Division of Allied Health IS HIRING PART-TIME ADJUNCT INSTRUCTORS

FOR THE CLINICAL SETTING OF THE ADN & VN NURSING PROGRAMS.



Adjunct Instructors are needed at our Victoria campus as well as in the

For more information and to apply go to www.victoriacollege.edu and click on Jobs@VC

VICTORIA COLLEGE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION

#### **Hiring Property Manager Luling TX**

Milam Creek Senior Village Phase I and II is currently looking for a new property manager.

Milam I has 22 apartments. Milam II has 29 apartments. These 2 properties are low income and specified for the elderly.

Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

Applications, new leases, renewal leases, following TDHCA rental guidelines, State Inspections, apartment make ready, collecting rent, manage a waiting list, work orders, communicating with Director and Accounting at all times, answering the phone, etc.

If interested please contact Melissa Cadena 830-875-5400

#### **HELP WANTED**

#### HELP WANTED



Prairie Lea ISD is now hiring for the following positions:

Certified Part-Time Bus Driver

Junior High Math Teacher

Secondary Science Teacher

Secondary Social Studies Teacher

Girls Athletic Coach/ Teacher

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 512-488-2328, EXT. 5001 WWW.PLISD.NET KRAUSA@PLISD.NET

#### **NOTICES**

#### **NOTICES**

Probate Cause No: 10,880 THE STATE OF TEXAS CITATION BY PUBLICATION

The State of Texas: To all persons interested in the estate of ANTHONY DEWAYNE POLVADO, DE-CEASED, Probate Cause No. 10,880, County Court At Law of Caldwell County, Texas

Jessica Marie Hays, in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Application for Determination of Heirship and Letters of Independent Administration, Pursuant to Section 401.003 of the Texas Estate Code, of the ANTHONY DEWAYNE POLVADO, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in the said estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10 o'clock A.M. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of application of this citation at the Justice Center, 1703 S. Colorado, Lockhart, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire

The officer executing this writ shall promptly serve the same according to requirements of law, and the mandates hereof, and make due return as the law

ISSUED UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID, COURT at office in Lockhart, Texas, this the 16th day of June, 2023

TERESA RODRIGUEZ, COUNTY CLERK Caldwell County, Texas

#### **NOTICES**

lulingnewsboy@gmail.com

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF CALDWELL **CAUSE NO. 23-0237** 

TO: ALL PERSONS CLAIMING ANY TITLE OR INTEREST IN LAND BY AND THROUGH EVA NAVARRO AND ISABEL **NAVRRO JR** 

Notice to Defendant: You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10 o' clock a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of 42 days from the date this citation was issued, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file our answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org.

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to he Plaintiff's Probation at or before 10 o'clock a.m. of the first Monday after the expiration of 42 days from the date of the issuance of this citation, the same being, Monday, AUGUST 14TH, 2023 before the District Court of Caldwell County, located at the Caldwell Co. Justice Center, 1703 S. Colorado St., Lockhart, Texas. Said Plaintiff's Petition was filed in said court on the 30th day of May, 2023, in the case styled: CARLOS MARTINEZ JR. vs. EVA NAVARRO AND ISABEL NAVARRO

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to wit: Suit involving land, in Caldwell County, Texas, as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit.

Attorney for Plaintiff's (or Plaintiff): whose address is 705 State Park Rd., P.O. Box 281, Lockhart, Texas 78644.

The officer executing this return shall promptly serve the same according to the requirements of law and mandates hereof and make due return as the law directs.

according to requirements of law, and the mandates hereof, and make due return as the law directs:

Issued and given under my hand and seal of the District Court at Lockhart, Texas, this 15 day of June, 2023

Juanita Allen, District Clerk 421st, 22nd, 207th Judicial District Courts Caldwell County, Texas 1703 S. Colorado St., Box 3 Lockhart, Texas 786443

#### REAL ESTATE REAL ESTATE

#### **REAL ESTATE**

#### REAL ESTATE REAL ESTATE

**REAL ESTATE** 



JACKSON RANCH SALES TOMMY JACKSON

AGENT 512.217.5049

TOMMY@JACKSONRANCHSALES.COM SPECIALIZING IN CENTRAL & SOUTH TEXAS RANCHES



403 E. DAVIS STREET - LULING

830.875.9081



KAREN L. BEL BROKER



KAREN@KARENBELLREALESTATE.COM

#### RESIDENTIAL



NEW LISTING: 3480 CHUCKWAGON RD. LULING-CALDWELL COUNTY, Very nice DWMH built 2016 with 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, & approx.. 1736SF. There is a nice covered front porch looking out over the pond and front yard. A large covered back deck is fenced and leads out to the back yard with a 936 SF equipment shed. Septic and water well in place and /bluebonnet electric service. This property has end-of-the road privacy. If you are looking for quiet and peaceful, you must come view!!!! ASKING \$449,000.00.

#### LOTS & ACREAGE

22 STATE HIGHWAY 80 SOUTH LIII ING - Approx. +/- 1 acre outside city limits. ASKING \$65.000. city limits. ASKING \$65,000.

101 KING AVE. - Nice Corner Lot. Approx. 0.2295 +/- acres. Located in Luling City Limits with utilities available. ASKING \$39,500.

000 Roosevelt Rd. - Approx. 20+/acres, Guadalupe County, Located outside of Luling on Roosevelt Rd., at Woodlands Trail. There are two (2) 10-acre parcels being sold together. Minor restrictions. Fenced. Electric at property. 2 sides road frontage. **ASKING \$499,900** 



1106 AUSTIN RD - 0.65 to be cut into 2 residential lots. Tons of potential for residential building sites. REDUCED TO \$150,000.

**NEW LISTING:** 75+/- acres on the beautiful San Marcos River. Located in Guadalupe County on Gander Slough Rd. No oil wells. One small stock tank and lovely pecan bottom leading down to river. Nice "low bank" with gravel bar at river access. ASKING 2,200,000. REDUCED TO \$1,990,000



## SOLD

1228 HOOVER ST. -3 Bedroom 2 bath home read Din. Approx. 1320 +/- SF. **ASKING \$260,000** REDUCED TO \$250,000



AVAILABLE: 151 +/- Acres, I-10 Frontage Road in Luling, TX. Road frontage or **SOLD** and I-10 access road. Water and electric in place. Just minutes to the country's largest Buc-ee's. ASKING \$2,685,000



**1012/1014 E. FANNIN DUPLEX** - T**SOLO III** is 3313+/- SF, Unit A = 1,564+/- SF, Unit B = 1,576+/- SF. Seach unit has 2 bdms, 2 ½ bath w/ fenced yard & garage. ASKING \$589,900. REDUCED TO \$525,000

219 LAMAR STREET- Nice level lot Signature Diling City Limits. Approx. 0121 +/- acres. **ASKING: \$44,900** 

1054 COUNTRY OAKS DRIVE - SOLED oom, 3ASKING \$365,000. 216 CIELA VISTA, SEGUIN - SOLD REDUCED TO \$450,000. 149 EAGLE. 3 bedroom, 2 bath hos @ Le D d yard. ASKING \$259,900

110 W. JONES – Beautiful 3 b (\$ 0) [2] Th home. ASKING \$299,900. 9850 STATE HWY 97 E. - Apr Significant of the control of the contr

1460 RIVER GROVE, FENTRESS—SS (6) Les (5) /e ASKING \$399,500. 6262 SODA SPRINGS, LULING - 47+/5 (2) LILID ASKING: \$710,025.

116.680 +/- ACRES: 6495 GANDER SLOUGH, KINGSBURY - This ranch has a great shape with Social prontage, 2 1/2 sides paved. Nice, Large Trees with stock talik. Several great building sites. **ASKING** \$1,750,200.

#### COMMERCIAL LEASES



FOR LEASE. Two buildings conjoined by interior archway. Space is a combined 4168 +/-SF. Perfect setup for Restaurant/ Sports Bar. Lease is \$1/SF NNN.

411 E. DAVIS ST., LULING - New LEASED +/- SF building for Lease ing for Lease.

411 S. MAGNOLIA, LULING FOR LEASE Cute commercial building with great location

#### RESIDENTIAL LEASES

**1008/1010 E. FANNIN DUPLEX** – Brand new 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath. Each side is approx. 1,570+/- SF. Fenced yard and garage. Ready early June MONTHLY RENT \$1,800



1014 E. FANNIN STREET, LULING - Brand new 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath. ArEASEDSF. . MONTHLY RENT \$1,850.

322 W. AUSTIN, LULING - 3/2LAETASED'- SF. MONTHLY RENT \$1,400.

**4811 GANDER SLOUGH, KINGSBURY** – 3/2, Approx. 1,258 +/- SF. Fenced bac FASED ig. MONTHLY RENT \$1,350.

136 W. AUSTIN STREET LULING — Cute 2/1 in Luling City Limits.. Approx. 798+/- SF. CLEFASED and restaurants. MONTHLY

WWW.KARENBELLREALESTATE.COM

RESIDENTIAL • FARM & RANCH • LOTS • PROPERTY MANAGEMENT • COMMERCIAL • ACREAGE • DEVELOPMENT



946 E. PIERCE STREET \* LULING

830.875.6017





**Ginger Robbins** 



**Brett Patton** 512.557.7020



**Tracy Chavez** FICE MANAGER

512.227.4203



**Ginny Janak** 512.963.8344



GROBBINS@RIATAREALESTATE.COM WWW.RIATAREALESTATE.COM

210.884.1363

830.263.2552

REALTO

Bridget Hajovsky 361.772.0907

#### WE SELL: RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL RANCH AND MANAGE PROPE

#### RESIDENTIA 123 PARKVIEW DRIVE LULING

Well maintained, brick home! Shaded lot with mature trees and alley access in the back Beautiful 2 bed/1 bath waterfront yard. Three bedrooms and two full baths with a spacious kitchen that is open to the dining



also a storage building! Nestled in a quiet, friendly neighborhood close to the golf course getaway, or investment property and walking park! Luling is a great commute, 40 minutes to New Braunfels, 30 minutes to with potential for rental, Airbnb, San Marcos, 45 minutes to Austin and 50 minutes to San Antonio! This is a great home VRBO...The kitchen has beautiful priced to sell!

#### 4904 FM 2984 LULING

1 acre of land just on the outskirt of town! Cute little fixer upper! This could be a commercial spot, a rental investment property or make it your home! Two bedroom and one bath. Definitely a fixer upper. Being sold "as is". \$125,000



#### 139 CLUB DRIVE LULING

Golf Course View located on a beautiful corner lot with beautiful trees! This home has 3 bedrooms and 2 full baths. Nice kitchen with pantry and a breakfast areal



There are two living areas in this home with multiple dining areas as well! The family room has vaulted ceilings and a beautiful wood burning fireplace! The primary bedroom has an attached bath with a large shower, double sinks and a large walk in closet! Lots of storage! Attached garage! Carport! Nice fenced in back yard with a storage building in back! Enjoy the views and just steps from your next Golf Game! Luling is a great community to live in and an easy commute to Austin or San Antonio!

#### \$295,000

Brick home with 3 bedrooms/2 full baths and an office in a great neighborhood located close to the golf course! NEW ROOF April 2023! CHEFS KITCHEN! This kitchen is above and beyond! Beautiful granite and backsplash, chef appliances



double ovens, built in microwave, pot filler, gas stove top, large island with a beautiful travertine stone tile floor! Two newly remodeled bathrooms! Gas tankless hot water heater! The primary bedroom has an attached remodeled bath with a walk-in shower (glass shower door to be installed before closing), beautiful tile, flooring and vanity! Guest bathroom just remodeled with beautiful tile and new tile floor! This home has a bonus room which can be a great office! Family room has wood burning fireplace and is open to dining and kitchen! Attached one car carport and attached laundry room! Storage building in back. Large patio! Great yard! Alley access! Back yard is fenced with privacy fence! Easy commute to Austin or San Antonio! \$295,000One is a workshop with electricity! Privacy fence! Located on a great street! Easy commute to Austin and San Antonio

#### \$295,000

#### 309 W AUSTIN LULING

Updated and very well cared for home! 3 bedrooms and 2 full baths! Spacious kitchen, white cabinets, beautiful black splash with stainless steel appliances! Kitchen is open to a nice dining room! Beautiful flooring! New carpet in the bedrooms! Crown molding throughout home! Double



pained windows and a metal roof! This home has a living area in the front and an additional family room in the back! The primary bedroom has an attached full bath. Very nice guest bath with a beautiful tile shower! Nice yard with a covered patio in the back! Book a showing, its beautiful! \$299,500flooring is engineered wood and stone. The back yard is fully fenced with a wooden privacy fence. \$299,500

#### **123 S PINE LULING**

This one is cute as a bug! Three bedrooms and two full baths! Remodeled and ready to go! Taken down to the studs, new sheetrock, wiring, plumbing, roof and appliances! Beautiful kitchen with granite counter tops and white cabinets! Island in kitchen! Wine



refrigerator! New appliances! The primary bedroom has an attached bath with beautiful tile work and double sinks. Walk in closet and laundry room! The guest bedrooms and bath are on opposite side of primary bedroom for privacy! Beautiful hardwood floors! New double pane windows, new insulation in attic! One car garage attached ranging cattle securing the ag-exwith an awning. Great back yard with lots of room and new wood privacy fence! Enjoy the covered front porch for relaxation!

## 145 KIRKS CORNER - HARWOOD

Gorgeous, one of a kind, custom built home located on 29.56 acres! Enjoy the cool breezes, peace and tranquility from the beautiful patio and balcony! The acreage has beautiful, mature trees and a spring fed creek! This beautiful, hill country style rock home has two mas-



ters, one upstairs and one on first floor! Gourmet kitchen with beautiful granite! Large kitchen island! Sub zero refrigerator, gourmet stove-gas! Custom built Alder cabinets! The kitchen and dining room are open to the spacious family room. Beautiful fireplace! Gorgeous cypress wood ceiling in family room and porches! Spacious office on first floor/could be that 5th bedroom! The utility room is large and has a sink, icemaker and full bath! This is a must see! No restrictions. Hunting allowed. Located just an hour from Austin and San Antonio!

#### 201 PLUM LULING

New brick home in a new subdivision with a cul-de-sac! Three bedrooms and two full baths. Beautiful granite in kitchen and bathrooms! Real thround Districts Steel
The kitchen is open

to the family room! Vaulted ceiling! The primary bedroom has a con-



\$1,475,000

necting bath with 2 walk-in closets double vanity and a beautiful tile shower! Bathrooms have tile baths! Large walk in closet! Nice laundry room with extra storage! No carpet! All tile flooring! Covered patio in the back yard! Attached 2 car garage! Corner lot! Close to the walking park and golf course! Easy commute to San Antonio, New Braunfels, San Marcos and Austin!

**420 COTTONWOOD LULING** 

#### \$294.800.

Rare find! Country home with 4.34 acres located in the city! This adorable country home is private and nestled at the end of the road within the trees. Very nice kitchen with tile counter tops and custom cabinets. Lots of space to cook, chop and



entertain! Nice pantry! The kitchen opens to the dining area! Nice laundry room off the kitchen! Separate dining room! Nice family room! 4.34 acres, plenty of acreage to build another home or just enjoy the land

#### 3400 SAN MARCOS HWY LULING

Beautiful home nestled among live oaks and sits on 1.5 acres! Bright and inviting; Large living area with stoned fireplace and built-in shelving on each side; Spacious kitchen with stainless steel appliances; Large kitchen island and breakfast bar has plenty of room to cook and visit with quests; Built-in microwave and



beverage fridge;Open concept living, dining and kitchen;Large laundry/pantry room off the kitchen;Master and one other bedroom have an ensuite; Walk-in showers; Sitting area and walk-in closet off the master bedroom; Multi-level decks in the fenced-in backyal and have a cookout on;Smart thermostats; Ring doorbell;Storage Building;RV Hookup; MAKE THIS YOUR NEW HOME OR INVESTMENT PROPERTY!Great Airbnb or VRBO opportunity!Less than 5 miles from the river and Zedler Mill Park & Pavilion Venue!Close to Luling, San Marcos, SH 130 and easy commute to Austin and San Antonio!Large screen television in the living area, refrigerator, washer, and dryer convey with sale

#### \$450,000

133 COUNTY ROAD 4691 GONZALES property on the Guadalupe River on 4 acres! This cozy home offers such peace, privacy & gorgeous views! Experience nature and lots of wildlife, enjoy hunting, paddleboarding, kayaking, fishing, swim-ming, & so much more! It's perfect \$269,000 custom cabinetry, a large pantry, center island, stainless steel ap-

pliances & pass-through window to the Florida room, which offers lots of natural light! There is lifeproof vinyl plank flooring throughout. The attic fan moves a lot of air throughout the home and cools it nicely! The workshop has a laundry area and room to work on projects! The basement & workshop offer lots of storage space! There is a RV hookup with 50 amp service. Furniture negotiable. Centrally located between Gonzales, Luling & Seguin and approximately 15 min from IH 10, 1 hr from San Antonio and 1 hr 15 min from Austin

#### 114 ELM LULING

Beautiful home with tons of character and charm! Farmhouse style home located on 1.24 acres! This home has high ceilings and beautiful hardwood floors! Freshly painted! 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths! Spacious rooms! You are going to love the kitchen! Lots of cabinet and counter space, open to dining and living area! Plenty



#### 4902 EAGLE VALLEY STREET SCHERTZ, TX

Stunning home in nice, quiet Fairway Ridge subdivision! Inside, you find an office, curved archways spacious, bright living, dining and kitchen area. The kitchen is a chef's dream with stainless steel appliances, large island with breakfast bar, lots of cabinet and counter space, and walk-in pantry! It's open concept layout is great for entertaining! Upstairs



#### 193 EAGLE DRIVE LULING

This beautiful 4 bedroom, 2 bath home offers amazing views and opportunities for lots of fun and memories made! Inside, there are several living and dining areas, kitchen with an island, walk-in pantry, nice sized laundry room, a master walk-in closet, and pretty wood burning fireplace that has never been used There is a nice yard with gates on 3



and multiple outside faucets. In the backyard, sit on the covered deck and view the beautifulings. Building 1- 22,273 sq foot, pool with mature palm trees and overlooking pasture land. The exterior of the home wasBuilding 2- 14,989 sq ft. Located selected on the properties of the home was Building 2- 14,989 sq ft. pool with mature palm trees and overlooking pasture land. The exterior of the home wasouring 2-14,000 sq ft. Coated painted and privacy fence built in 2022, had new shingles put on the roof in 2020. Thison Hwy 183 in Luling with approx home is in a nice subdivision close to downtown Luling and Interstate 10 and offers easy347 ft of highway frontage. Several commutes to Austin and San Antonio. and close to IH 10. East commute to a commute to a commutation of the coated and the coate home is in a nice subdivision close to downtown Lamby and indicate to offices, restrooms and warenouse commutes to Austin and San Antonio. and close to IH 10. East commute to \$350,000 space. Room for expansion if

#### ★FARM & RANCH★

**LOT 243 CROCKETT LANE PATRIOT RANCH** on a hill with lots of Oak Trees! Quiet country living in a gated community. This beautiful lot is nestled in the rolling hills of The Settlement Patriot Ranch. The ranch has free other wildlife roam freely. There



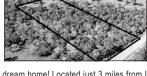
picnic area and a pond for catch-release fishing. Beautiful, gated ranch to build your dream home! Lo-cated just 3 miles from IH 10, one hour from San Antonio, Austin and 2 hours to Houston! Luling is just 10 minutes away. The ranch has high speed internet service

#### 439 BURNS ROAD LULING

Beautiful 9.637 Acres. This property has a nice pond and mature oaks. The Ranch Style brick home is a 2 bedroom/2 bath home and is approximately 1876 sq ft. Nice kitchen open to dining and family room. Lots of cabinet space and nice tile flooring. Mud/laundry room with tile flooring is personal to the flooring and the flooring is personal to the flooring in the state of the flooring is personal to the flooring in the state of the flooring is personal to the flooring in the state of the flooring is personal to the flooring in the state of the flooring is personal to the flooring in the state of the flooring is personal to the flooring in the state of the flooring is personal to the flooring in the state of the flooring is personal to the flooring in the state of the flooring is personal to the flooring in the state of the flooring is personal to the flooring in the state of the flooring is personal to the flooring in the flooring in the flooring is personal to the flooring in the flooring in the flooring is personal to the flooring in the flooring in the flooring is personal to the flooring in th privacy. Don't miss the opportunity to own a beautiful piece of land. Easy access to IH 10 and Hwy 80. Just 3 hours from Houston, 1 1/2 hours from San Antonio and Austin

#### **LOT 257 FLASH CIRCLE PATRIOT RANCH**

5 Acres! Quiet country living in gated community. This beautiful lot is nestled in the rolling hills of The Settlement Patriot Ranch The ranch has free ranging cattle st Dr. The ranch has free r There is community park that includes a



\$399,000

\$407.000

place to scotling years and a pond for catch-release rooms, kitchen opens to separate dining area and famfishing. Beautiful, gated ranch to build your dream home! Located just 3 miles from IH ily room. Large kitchen with tile countertops and lots of 10, one hour from San Antonio, Austin and 2 hours to Houston! Luling is just 10 minutes away. The ranch has high speed internet service. \$100,000

#### FM 466 GONZALES

1093 Acres of improved , lucious grass! This working cattle ranch has 10 Carrizo

wells, 3 Queen City Aquifer water wells, 20 ponds, (10 have piped water). 2 wet weather creeks which feed into the Guadalupe river, 2 sets of cattle pens. 10 pastures for rotation and a beautiful canyon Hunting consists mostly of whitetail deer, hogs, turkey, dove and quail There is a cute little cabin with one bedroom and one bath for weekend visits. One mo-

bile home 3/2 and a metal barn, 40 x 60 with about 2400 sq feet of shop area, concrete floor, office and a small apartment upstairs. This could be a ranchers dream or investor's vision \$18,000,000

#### **TBD FM 2984**

.HORSE PROPERTY! 20.766 acres! Two ponds! Fully fenced. Improved grasses! Enclosed Arena (40 X 60), Covered Walker and Round Pen. Wash stall, Horse barn with 7 stalls and pend, Horse barn with 11 stalls, Workshop, Office with full bath. Office and workshop could be made into apartment. Hay barn. Beautiful property just minutes



#### from Luling. The buildings are very well maintained. Great for training and boarding horses. Great spot to build a new home as well! Ag exempt! \$749,000

7373 CR 224 ROAD CALDWELL, TX 26.031 ACRES! Water Well and Septic Included. Mobile home! Pond! Fully fence! Great weekend getaway or build your dream home here! \$545,000

#### **TBD FM 487 ROCKDALE** An opportunity to own 13+ acres of GREAT FM 487 road frontage! Great location at the

intersection of FM 487 and FM 2116. This unique property has A LOT of potential with AWESOME exposure. This area of Texas is experiencing phenomenal growth from the Austin and Tech industries. This property is minutes from down-town Rockdale. Get in on the forefront of this growth! \$675,000

#### TBD FM 671 LULING

Welcome to your country get away! Secluded 7 acres with mature trees and small pond! Perfect for hunting, a weekend getaway or build your dream home. There are trails that run around the property that make easy to get around. Conveniently located in Stairtown and within 15 minutes of San Marcos, Lockhart



and Luling. There are two working oil pump jacks on the property. Motivated Seller \$194,000

#### COMMERCIAI 8501 US HWY 90 HARWOOD

#### 2.24 acres with two metal buildings. Both buildings have cement floors, 26 ft high ceilings and approx 4000 sq ft each. There are 6 below grade loading docs. This property is located just off IH 10. One hour from San Antonio and Austin. 2

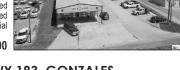
**610 E HOUSTON LULING** Location, Location, Location! This is a great opportunity to build a business on a corner lot! These lots dont come up often! Zoned commercial. Just minutes from IH 10 and located on Hwy 183! There are city utilities and water set up on the lot. There

#### \$150,000 1505 N. SARA DE WITT DR. - GONZALES

Great location! Currently operating as a Vehicle Dealership! Great opportunity! 3200 sq ft metal building! Nice lobby and offices in front of building! Shop in the back! Covered overhangs in front and back! Located on 1.272 acres in great commercial ocation!This buildng has endless \$499,000 opportunities!

was a house located on this lot previously.

hours from Houston.



#### **TBD HWY 183 GONZALES**

.524 acres on Hwy 183! This property has road frontage on Hwy 183! Just a few minutes from IH 10 and Buccees, located just a few miles out of Gonzales! Would be great for commercial business or build your home here! \$549,000



#### 1615 E PIERCE ST LULING

is a Metal workshop, approx 1541 sq ft. A small office on property as well. Currently used as an oil field service business. City water, sewer and



of two major international airports and three regional airports, an hour from Austin and San Antonio. The City of Luling is able to meet the corporate needs for sustainable resources at reasonable costs to prospective companies. A community welcoming new business. So many possibilities! \$325,000

#### **600 N MAGNOLIA LULING**

7.28 acres with two metal buildneeded. High traffic count! Situated less than an hour from both Austin



and San Antonio. Minutes from IH 10 and I30. Luling offers the advantage of reasonable land and labor within an hour of two major international airports and three regional airports. Luling is able to meet the corporate needs for sustainable resources at reasonable costs to prospective compa nies. A community welcoming new business.

\$2,900,000

#### RENTALS

725 LAMAR LULING This rental is freshly painted with a covered porch, 3 bedrooms and 1 bath. New cabinets in kitchen, gas cook stove. Central AC and Heat. No carpet. Laundry room! Nice fenced yard! combo and a walk-in closet Located in cul-de-sac!

\$1,200 MONTHLY



#### 213 E. CROCKETT LULING

3 bedroom-2 full baths. Remodeled - Hardwood floors-Nice kitchen with granite countertops and stainless steel appliances. Fenced \$750 MONTHLY back vard.

#### 202 HICKORY LULING

Cute craftsman home with white picket fence! 3 bedrooms and 1 pat 1/2 See 5 amily room! Newly remodeled un 2/4 See 5 b. Great kitchen with lots of cabinet s pace. Central AC and Heat. No carpet. Laminate flooring throughout. Nice laundry room. Covered porch. Nice, spacious yard! \$1,400 MONTHLY



#### 202 S MESQUITE LULING

Cute blue and white craftsman close to schools! 3 bedprimary bedroom has an attached bathroom! Large laundry room! Central AC and Heat. Back yard has privacy fence and a nice size yard with a deck. Storage building in back.



**\$1600 MONTHLY** 

**KINGSBURY** \$700,000 SOLD

**550 CHEYENE LANE** 

LULING \$277,000 SOLD

128 RIVER PARK

109 HUFF LULING \$225,000



LULING \$289,500

**1624 AQUARENA SPRINGS UNIT 185 B** \$185,000

SOLD









## 648 W AUSTIN

SOLD

#### **TEXAS TRIBUNE**

## Farmers worry a precious water resource is running dry

JAYME LOZANO
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

LUBBOCK — The Ogallala Aquifer is buried deep throughout the High Plains. The water flowing underneath is as good as gold for farmers in the region, serving as a lifeline in years when the drought and Texas heat wither crops.

It is a critical resource for the agricultural industry — not just in Texas, but in the other seven states that it lies beneath.

"At the end of the day, the Ogallala is propping us all up," said Eric Simpson, the farm manager at At'l Do Farms on the outskirts of Lubbock. "No matter what, I'll probably have to use water from it this summer because, without that, I don't think we could grow much in West Texas unless it's a cactus or a mesquite tree."

Following several years of dry land and hardly any rainfall, farmers like Simpson in the High Plains are depending more on the aquifer. And that has consequences that are coming into focus.

On the heels of Texas' worst drought in a decade, a report from the High Plains Underground Water **Conservation District** shows water levels in the Ogallala Aquifer, also known as the High Plains Aquifer, have dropped consistently in the region over the last five years. More than 1,300 wells were measured earlier this year, including ones from the smaller Edwards-Trinity Aquifer, all of which show varying degrees of decline. The biggest decrease was in Parmer County, which sits on the New Mexico border in between Lubbock and Amarillo, where there was a decline of 1.30 feet in the water levels.

Water marks are seen on the dam gates and concrete at the Falcon Dam in Starr County on Aug. 18, 2022. This area of the reservoir is normally under water, but because of an extended drought, water levels have been below 20% full since earlier this year. The Falcon Dam was dedicated by U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Mexican President Adolfo Ruiz Cortines in 1953.

This has caused concern for the future of agriculture in the High Plains. Scientists have found that climate change has pushed average temperatures higher in Texas, making heat waves and droughts worse. And with the warm temperatures continuing at night — and offering less relief — it's harder to get the bountiful crops of cotton, grapes and corn the region is known for.

"Out here in West
Texas, the one thing that
they're so dependent on to
grow crops is water," said
Melanie Barnes, a senior
research associate in
geosciences for Texas Tech
University. "That's the one
thing that really controls
whether you can economically survive out here."

With only a finite amount of water to be shared throughout the U.S. High Plains region — Texas, Colorado, New Mexico, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Wyoming and South Dakota — the Ogallala running dry could have devastating consequences nationwide. The aquifer provides water for about 30% of the nation's irrigation systems, boosting up

the farms and ranches that supply a quarter of the nation's agricultural production. And for 82% of the people who live within the aquifer's boundaries, it supplies their drinking water too.

With agriculture and domestic use, the aquifer is not naturally refilling from precipitation nearly as fast as the water is being taken out. According to the National Climate Assessment, the groundwater is being pumped for irrigation 10 times faster than it can be refilled from rain or snow.

Without rainfall in the Texas High Plains, the chances the aquifer can recharge are low.

"Some areas of the aquifer, you have a lot of water because of the Rocky Mountains, or you don't have very much because you're up on the banks of the river instead of the middle of it," Barnes explained. "We do not get that recharge from runoff."

The region was hit with rainfall for weeks, particularly in the Panhandle, where the national weather service reported between 10-20 inches of rain, which has caused flooding. But that doesn't mean the ground is suddenly moisturized and ready for a good growing season — extremely dry, cracked soil can't retain water and instead causes runoff.

In recent years, Simpson's family has started incorporating regenerative agriculture techniques at At'l Do Farms, such as growing various crops year-round, that help the soil hold the water when it does rain.

es rain. "The rain can be like a



Field Technician Supervisor Billy Barron uses e-line water level meter to check the level of a water well in a pecan orchard in Lubbock County. Barron was checking water levels near the at the High Plains Underground Water Conservation office Friday, Dec. 13, 2023. Photo by Mark Rogers for The Texas Tribune

silver bullet for our problems as farmers if we're ready for it," Simpson said. "But most of the time, we're not ready for a big rain because we're thinking about how to make one crop work really well."

Simpson's family grows corn, a crop known for needing a lot of water to grow, and runs the At'l Do Farms Corn Maze, an annual attraction near Shallowater, just 12 miles outside of Lubbock, that brings in visitors from around the state. It's become a huge part of their business, so they notice when there's a change, like stunted corn that can't fill the maze.

"My dad and I kept talking about how, year after year, our corn is getting shorter," Simpson recalled. "We're having to overwater it, and the Ogallala is depleting to such an extent

that the quality is becoming poor and making the soil more unhealthy. The soil just turns into a brick."

The family decided to experiment last year, using cover crops to put various nutrients back into the soil. They planted sorghum-sudangrass, a substitute that looks like corn but doesn't need as much water and can survive the drought.

It wasn't easy, Simpson said, but those changes turned their parched land into a vibrant mix of plants and vegetables.

"Even with the one good rain we got that summer, our crop grew taller, greener and denser than any corn we've grown," Simpson said. "Seeing that made me realize this can be done."

"We're having to overwater it, and the Ogallala is Because of the declining aquifer levels, the depleting to such an extent mindset in the plains has as business and real estate developers, hasn't been an easy task.

"It's important for everyone to promote awareness of this," said Jason Coleman, manager for the HPWD. "If you're building a new shop for your business or whatever it is, you're going to rely on groundwater. You need to have some understanding of the water resources."

At'l Do Farms has already planted some crops this year. Simpson plans on growing cotton, broomcorn and pumpkins to prepare for the visitors this fall. He's confident his family can keep the business going in a sustainable manner, even if the drought amps back up.

"Hopefully as farmers, we just pay attention to what our environment is telling us," Simpson said. "Look for patterns and how the plants are responding to what we're doing, and then make changes the next year as best we can."

The Texas Tribune is a non-profit, digital -only news organization focused on statewide legislative and policy issues.



become more focused on

Plains Underground Water

publishes information on

groundwater availability

regularly, and most of its

audience is connected

way. Informing people

with agriculture in some

outside of agriculture, such

conservation. The High

**Conservation District** 

401k employer match



# Hiring Event

Kitchen Pride Mushroom Farms, Inc.

**ALL POSITIONS** 

When: June 28 & 29, 2023

Where: Southside Clubhouse

1035 S. Magnolia, Luling, TX 78648

Time: 9 am to 5 pm

For more information, call 830.540.4516



401k coincidencia del empleador

vendedor de alimenoto

food vender

Evento de contratación

Kitchen Pride Mushroom Farms, Inc.

**TODAS LAS POSICIONES** 

Cuándo: 28 y 29 de Junio, 2023

Dónde: Southside Clubhouse

1035 S. Magnolia, Luling, TX 78648

Hora: 9 am to 5 pm

Para obtener más información, llame al 830.540.4516

www.kitchenpride.com



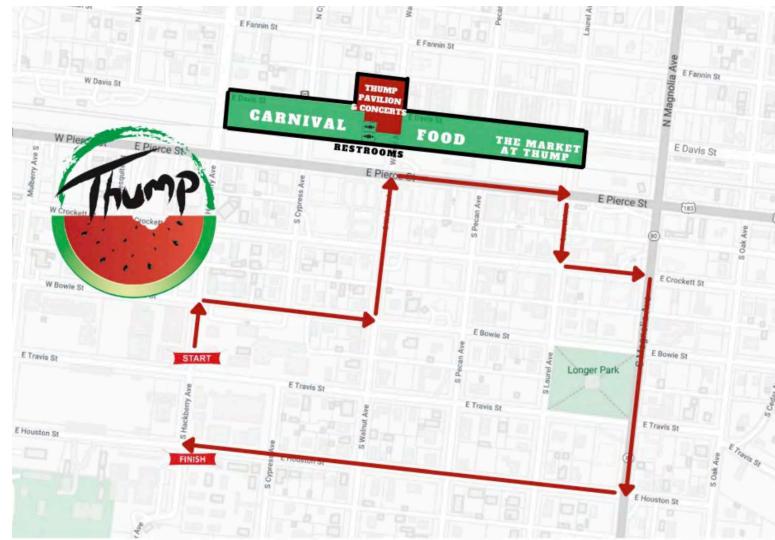




## **GET READY FOR THE WATERMELON THUMP PARADE**

The 2023 parade will begin at 10:00 a.m.and travel from the LISD property to Pierce, down to Magnolia and end on Houston street.

- 1. LINE-UP TIME 7:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.
- 2. CHECK-IN This is not required, but if you need information or assistance please report to the intersection of Hackberry & Bowie Streets.
- 3. JUDGING Begins promptly at 9:00 a.m. sharp! All entries must be in place, set-up, and ready to go with riders in position by 9:00 a.m. Participants MUST remain in place until all judging is complete to qualify for an award.
- 4. PARADE TIME Begins promptly at 10:00 a.m. sharp RAIN OR SHINE!
- 5. PARADE WINNERS Will be presented with their awards(s) before the parade begins.
- 6. SAFETY As a safety precaution for our young spectators, we ask that no candy, gum, flowers, or samples of anything be thrown from your entry during the parade. This rule will be strictly enforced and any items thrown from
- your entry will be removed.
  7. ENTRY SAFETY Please try to maintain a safe distance between your entry and the preceding entry along the entire parade route. We suggest a 2-3 car length distance. YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO STOP AND PERFORM ALONG THE PARADE POLITE!
- THE PARADE ROUTE!
  8. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES consumed by drivers
  before, or during, the parade is
  expressly forbidden. If a driver
  is seen consuming alcohol
  while driving the parade route,
  it will result in removal from
  the parade formation.
  - 9. EACH YOUTH GROUP



shall be represented by an adult supervisor who will be responsible for his/her group following all parade rules.

10. AUTOS AND VEHICLES must be driven by a licensed driver.

11. NO EXTENDED BLAR-ING of loud air horns and sirens; intermittent please. Train horns are not allowed.

12. WATER GUNS OR WATER BALLOONS may not spray or be thrown into the crowd.

13. THE LULING WATER-MELON THUMP & parade committee assumes NO responsibility for accidents or loss of any kind.







Office: 512-392-1773

morenocastillo12@yahoo.com





#### This is how you eat a watermelon

Plan to participate in the melon eating contest held at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday where contestants attempt to be the first to devour their way through melon slices entertaining the spectators as Trey Pollock did last year.

**Seed Spitting Schedule** 

Fri 5:30 pm: Children Individual & Children Team

Sat 4:30 pm: World Championship

Sun 3:00 pm: Adult Team



# Watermelon seed spitting returns to the street

This year's Seed Spitting competition can be viewed under the sun on Davis street beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Friday with the individual contest for children five and under, followed by those 6-11 years, then those aged 12-17 and concluding with the youth team division.

Adults 18 and older will compete in The World Championship Seed Spitting Contest on Saturday at 4:30pm with the Adult Team event closing the Watermelon Thump at 3 p.m. Sunday.

A.C Garza of Beeville spit a seed 54' 5 ½" winning the 2022 event after a two year hiatus due to the COVID Pandemic.

Prominent seed spitters from the past include Lee Wheelis who in 1989 set the current spitting record of 68', 9 1/8', and John Wildonson who owned the championship title a record setting nine times in '78, '79, '80, '82, '83, '84, '92, '93, and '95.

The sole woman to own the championship title is Tammy Cox-Whitaker for her efforts in 2002, 2007, 2009, 2011, and 2013. Her longest distance was 46'8".

Paul Flores is a three time champion winning in 1998,1999 and 2000 with an overall best spit of 45' 2".

Wheelis ('81 and '89), Allen ('86 and '87), Egleston ('88, '94), Robbins ('04 and '10) and White '05 and '08) won two championships each.

Other winners have included Russel Hendricks (1971), Mike Morris (1972), Tino Esquivel (1973), Karl Ebert (1976), Walter Nickells (1990), G.C. Searcy (1991), Mike Easterlling (1996), Mike Whitehead (1997), John Borjas (2000), Aaron Nickells (2003), Justin Miller (2006), Davis Camacho (2012), Josh Segura (2014), Ryan Robertson (2015), James Beberman (2016), Justin Pearson (2017), Juan Camacho (2018) and Javier Trevino (2019).



Stroll down memory lane on Sunday morning. Top photo by Bonnie Dredla. Bottom photo by Bobby Horeka.



# Revving up the Past

Mark your calendars for this Sunday's much-anticipated Thump Car Show. The event promises to be a haven for automotive enthusiasts, showcasing an impressive collection of classic cars that will transport attendees back in time.

The annual Thump Car Show has gained a reputation as a must-visit event for vintage vehicle aficionados.

as a must-visit event for vintage vehicle aficionados. Whether you're a die-hard collector or simply appreciate the beauty and history of classic automobiles, this show offers an opportunity to revel

in the nostalgia and immerse

yourself in the world of by-

gone automotive eras.

At 10am, the 400 block of E Davis Street will include competition in the following classes: Originally/Restored, Custom Cars, Chevys, Mustangs, Corvettes, Mopar, Restored Trucks, Custom Trucks, Rat Rods, and Motorcycles.

Whether you're an automotive history buff, a dedicated collector, or simply looking for a nostalgic day out, the Thump Car Show promises an unforgettable experience.

Mark your calendars, gather your fellow vintage vehicle fans, and join the excitement this Sunday as the event revs up the past and celebrates the timeless allure of classic automobiles.

## 2023 Thump Schedule

## Thursday 5:00pm Gates open

5:00pm Carnival, Food Court, Beer Garden, and Market at Thump open

5:30pm Champion Melon Judging

7:00pm Queen's Coronation

After Coronation there will be live music on the Thump Pavilion Main Stage **12am Closing** 

#### Friday 23rd

5:00pm Gates open \$5 per person

5:30 pm Children's Individual and Team Seed Spitting Contest

8:30pm -12am Music on beer garden stage (free with gate charge)

8:00pm - 12am Live music on Thump Pavilion Main Stage (tickets available at gate and online)

**12am Closing** 

#### Saturday 24th

10:00am Thump Parade

12:30pm Melon Eating Contest

1:00pm Live music in Pavilion

1 pm Music on the Beer Garden Stage on Davis - music will be all day and evening

2pm Gates \$5 per person

3:00pm Adult Cornhole tournament

3:00pm Champion Watermelon Auction

4:30pm World Championship Seed Spitting Contest

6:00pm-1am Live music on Thump Pavilion Main Stage (tickets will be available at gate and online)

**1am Closing** 

10:00am Car Show

12pm Lil Growers Check In

1:00pm Lil Growers Watermelon Weight In

2:00pm Music on Main Stage

2:30pm Salute to Veterans

3:00 pm Adult Team Seed Spitting Contest

6:00 pm Festival Closing







6/25 Sunday 2pm



#### Beer Garden Stage- Free With Gate Admission Saturday Friday

The 671 Band 4:30pm - 6:00pm **Bobby Marlar** 6pm - 7:30pm

**Red River Trucking Company** 8:00pm - 9:30pm **Wyatt Ellis Band** 10:00pm - 11:30pm

Bryan Rader, Dean Willeford, **Bryan Rader (Acoustic)** 1pm - 2:30pm Logan Ryan, Travis Gibson, RI Palacious (Acoustic)

> The 671 Band 4:30pm - 6:00pm

2:30pm - 4:00pm

Jamie Krueger Group 6:30pm - 8:00pm 183 South Band 8:30pm - 10:00pm

**Kyle Lee & Citta tha Fat** Mac with guests Hip **Hop Entertainment** 11:00pm - 12:30pm



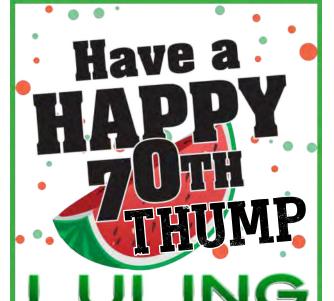


#### **GONZALES** LIVESTOCK MARKET

830-672-2845 HWY 90A · GONZALES TEXAS







607 S. MAGNOLIA - LULING (830) 875-2407

24-HOUR ROAD SERVICE (830) 875-3928



Suzanne's Designs FLORALS • GIFTS

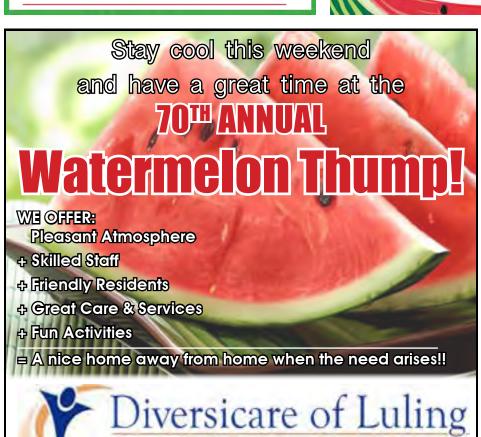
529 E. Davis St., Luling 830.875.5988







621 E. Davis \* 830.875.6086



Healthcare & Rehabilitaion Center

208 Maple St., Luling | (830) 875-5219



# Melon competition sets Thump in motion

Local farmers cultivate their fields each year striving to nurture colossal watermelons for the annual Luling Watermelon Thump in order to be named the grower of the Grand Champion.

The melon competition serves as the inaugural event for the 70th Luling Watermelon Thump, commencing on Thursday at 5:30 p.m., with the anticipated auction scheduled for Saturday at 3:00

The 2022 melon contest was conducted in honor of the late Allen Watts, a longstanding grower and Potsy Watts a devoted supporter of the competition. Joey Mikesh claimed the title of Grand Champion with an entry weighing 102 pounds and 8 ounces. The Reserve Grand Champion weighed 48 pounds and 4 ounces, while the third-place melon tipped the scales at 42 pounds.

The ultimate outcome remains consistent through the years though the individuals behind the growth of these magnificent melons may have changed. Melons are nurtured, harvested, and assessed, leading to the proclamation of a Grand Champion for the annual Watermelon Thump continuing a long-standing tradi-

The honor of growing the first Grand Champion melon, in 1954 went to A.M. "Pat" Fuqua. His 88 pound Granger variety melon sold at auction that year to Ara Brothers, for \$350.

Following the first contest, rules for melon growers were changed, and the contest was then restricted to only melons of the Black Diamond variety, until the recent years.

#### **CLAIMING GRAND CHAMPION MELON HONORS OVER THE YEARS WERE:**

- 1955, Albert Lewis, 77 lb. melon, purchased by Jimmy Ara for \$550. - 1956, Preston Bricsoe, 76 lb., 8 oz. melon, purchased by Lone Star
- Brewing \$610. - 1957, Jeff Neeley, 55 lb., 8 oz. melon, purchased by Longhorn Oil Company for \$400.
- 1958, Marlin Moore, 76 lb. melon, purchased by First National Bank, Citizens State Bank, and Longhorn Oil Company for \$400.
- 1959, F.C. Hinds, 59 lb. 8 oz. melon, purchased by First National Bank and Citizens State Bank for
- 1960, J.D. Watts, 71 lb., 9.5 ounces, purchased by Jimmy Ara for \$450.
- 1961, Melborn Moore, 66 lb., 2 oz melon, purchased by First National Bank, Citizens State Bank and Longhorn Oil Company for \$400.
- 1962, E.A. Watts, 80 lb., 8 oz. melon, purchased by First National Bank, Citizens State Bank and Longhorn Oil Company for \$400.
- 1963, Preston Briscoe, 78 lb., 12 oz. melon, purchased by Piggly Wiggly for \$450.
- 1964, Louis Moore, 72 lb., 15 oz. melon, purchased by H.M. Ainsworth Sr. and Jr. and A.G. Ainsworth Sr. and Jr. for \$625.
- 1965, Gary Collins, 56 lb., 9 oz. melon, purchased by H.M. Ainsworth of First National Bank for
- 1966, Marlin Moore, 75 lb., 13 oz. melon, purchased by H.M. Ainsworth of First National Bank for \$450
- 1967, W.H. "Shorty" Anderson, 73 lb. 10 oz. melon, purchased by First National Bank for \$400.
- 1968, J.D. Cain, 52 lb., 4 oz. melon, purchased by E.J. Wiley for
- 1969, F.C. Hinds, 63 lb., 10 oz. melon, purchased by Chambers



- 1970, F.C. Hinds, 54 lb., 4 oz. melon, purchased by Citizens State Bank for \$700.

- 1971 - Roy Williams, 40 lb., 4 oz. melon, purchased by Cox Well Ser-

vice and Marie's Cafe for \$500. - 1972, Guy Kelly, 66 lb., 4 oz. melon, purchased by Caldwell County

Beer Distributors for \$425. - 1973, F.C. Hinds, 60 lb. melon, purchased by Chambers' Funeral

Home for \$450. - 1974, Preston Briscoe, 77 lb., 3 oz. melon, purchased by Cox Well

Service for \$1,025. - 1975, Billy Watts, 47 lb. melon, purchased by Herb Ramzinsky of R&B Bulldozing for \$1,000.

- 1976, F.C. Hinds, 44 lb., 4 oz. melon, purchased by the Friends of Willie Nelson for \$1,500.

- 1977, H.C. Fairchild, 60 lb., 4 oz. melon, purchased by Luling Machine & Iron Works, ABC Royalty and Luling Livestock Auction for \$2,000.

- 1978, Glen "Sleepy" Johnson, 68 lb., 9 oz. melon, purchased by John, William and Woodson Cox of 3C Oil Company for \$3,000.

- 1979, Allen Wundt, 53 lb., 9.5 oz. melon, purchased by 3C Oil Company for \$2,500.

- 1980, Allen Wundt, 48 lb., 9 oz. melon, purchased by John Short Drilling Company and Wilbur Woods for \$3,200.

- 1981, Preston Briscoe, 69 lb., 2 oz. melon, purchased by J&J Lease Service for \$3,300.

- 1982, Fairchild Brothers, 64 lb., 4 oz. melon, purchased by T.W. Matthews, for \$3,350.

- 1983, R.D. Watts, 43 lb. melon, purchased by First Federal Savings

- 1984, F.C. Hinds, 62 lb., 9 oz. melon, purchased by First Federal Savings & Loan for \$3,500.

- 1985, Allen Wundt, 65 lb., 13 oz. melon, purchased by H.E.B. Food Stores for \$2,100.

- 1986, Preston Briscoe, 59 lb., 12 oz. melon, purchased by Citizens State Bank for \$1,000.

- 1987, Carl Glass and Marlin Moore, 36 lb. melon, purchased by H.E.B. Food Stores for \$1,200.

- 1988, H.C. Fairchild & Sons, 56 lb., 13 oz. melon, purchased by Interstate Exxon and Interstate Gulf for \$1,400.

- 1989, W.H. Cox, 55 lb., 5 oz. melon, purchased for \$4,000 by John Moore's Exxon and Gasoline Alley Garage, Salt Flat Pipe & Supply, Luling Livestock Auction, Inc., Jamo's Vacuum, City Market, John Short, Dr. Tom Matthews, H.C. Fairchild, Ben's R.V. Park, Ehrig's Scrap Metal, Johnson Oil/Tiger Tote. Discount Pharmacy, Eagle Special Ts, Tommy Blackwell and Son Watts. - 1990, Floyd C. Hinds, 60 lb., 14 oz. melon, purchased by First National Bank for \$2,000.

- 1991, Floyd C. Hinds, 59 lb., 8 oz. melon, purchased by H-E-B Food Store for \$950.

- 1992, Rusty Martin and Johnny Johnson, 54 lb., 13 oz. melon, purchased by Luling Machine & Iron Works in memory of Frank Otto, for \$1,500.

- 1993, Brownie Webb, 43 lb. melon, purchased by Citizens State Bank of Luling and H-E-B Food Store for

- 1994, Joe and Judy Williams, 48 lb., 2 oz. melon, purchased by H-

Bank of Luling for \$1,700.

- 1995, Preston Briscoe, 47 lb., 4 oz. melon, purchased by First National Bank in Luling for \$2,400.

- 1996, Gary White, 51 lb., 9 oz. melon, purchased by Citizens State Bank and First National Bank for

- 1997, Frank Hinds, 39 lb. melon, purchased by Coleman Company Insurance for \$3,300.

- 1998, Shane Watts and Robert Watts, 70 lb., 9 oz. melon, purchased by American National Bank, Johnson Oil Company and Tiger Tote for \$2,500.

- 1999, David Johnson and James Hutcheson, 68 lb., 5 oz. melon, purchased by American National Bank, Callahan's General Store of Austin and Johnson Oil Company/Tiger Tote for \$2,700.

- 2000, Frank C. Hinds, 73 lb., 9 oz. melon, purchased by American National Bank and Johnson Oil/Tiger Tote for \$2,150.

- 2001, Buck Holcomb, 61 lb., 8 oz. melon, purchased by International Services, Inc., Apple Ace Lumber, Luling Tire, Luling's Original Farmers' Market - Doug Holcomb, Debra and Stan Fikes, Douglas Jewelers, Pat and Janie Durban, Luling Feed & Supply, New Braunfels Veterinary Clinic and Steve and Sharon Talbot. - 2002, Brownie Webb, 79 lb., 12 oz. melon, purchased by American National Bank, Apple Ace Lumber, Luling Feed Supply, Luling Tire & Automotive, and Johnson Oil Company/Tiger Tote for a record price of

- 2003, Brandon Collins, 61 lb., 12 oz. melon, sold to Citizens State

Bank, Wallace Lundgren, Johnson Oil and Tiger Tote, and American National Bank for \$2,500.

- 2004, Robert Watts, 62 lb., 6 oz. melon, purchased by Citizens State Bank, American National Bank, Johnson Oil/Tiger Tote, and Luling Feed Supply for \$4,200.

- 2005, Allen Watts and son, Shane, 81 lb. melon, sold to Citizens State Bank, American national Bank, Johnson Oil/Tiger Tote, Luling Tire Service, Luling Feed Supply, AW Oil and Luling Machine & Iron Works for

- 2006, Allen Watts and son, Shane, 75 lb., 5 oz. melon, sold to Carroll Barron's Luling Chevrolet and IBC Bank for \$8,200.

- 2007, Norris Freeman, 69 lbs., 7 oz. melon, sold to IBC Bank, Carroll Barron's Luling Chevrolet, Progress Drilling, and International Services,

- 2008, Travis Robinson, 67 lb., 4 oz. melon, sold for \$10,000, to IBC Bank, Carroll Barron's Luling Cherolet, AWM Oil Tools, watermelonshop. com, and the Allen Trust in memory of James Powell, Fundy Burris, and Lem Allen.

2009, Joey Mikesh grew the top melon, which weighed 69 lbs., 2 ozs. The melon sold at the auction to North South Oil Company, for

2010, Lester Henry, Sr. had the winning melon, weighing in at 63 lbs, 4 oz. The watermelon sold for a record \$22,500. North South Oil Co. and Centex Equipment paid \$20,000 of that purchase price, and Lembo and Kelly Allen added \$2,500 for the melon.

2011, Willie J. Watts and Bubba Watts grew the champion. The melon weighed 74 pounds, and sold at auction to North South Oil Co., for \$7,100. Add-ons from Progress Drilling Co. (\$400), the family of James Watts - Jackie, Jim, Jill, and Richard - (\$600), Brazos Valley Service of Sealy (\$2,000), and Home Care Services (\$200) brought the total sales price to \$10,300.

2012, Robert Watts, Cody Watts, and Louis Malagarie, grew a 79 lb., 04 oz. first place melon, which sold at auction for \$10,000, to Eighty-Six

2013, J.D. Rice grew a 65 lb., 9 oz. melon, which sold for \$8,500, with NorthSouth Oil Company and Progress Drilling, Inc. winning the bid, at \$5,000, H-E-B Food Store adding \$500, and Rice Melons add-

ing \$3,000. -2014, Mike Donoho grew the top melon, a 59 lb., 9oz. entry, which sold to NorthSouth Oil and Centex Pipe & Equipment for \$12,500. -2015, Stanley White grew a 52 lb., 5 oz. melon, which sold to Progress Drilling, North-South Oil Co., and

IBC Bank for \$5,000, and Scott's Fishing and Rental added \$500. - 2016, Rusty and Amanda Martin, 65 lb., 1oz. sold for \$5,000 to North South Oil Co., IBC Bank, Progress Drilling and Luling Tire, plus \$100 add on by Rusty and Donna Martin.

- 2017, Rusty and Amanda Martin, 106 lb., 2 oz. melon, sold for \$6,250 to North South Oil Co., Luling Tire, \$100 added by Scotty and Donna - 2018, Allen Watts, 86 lb. 2 oz. sold

for \$6,500 to Family and Friends in Memory of Tom Wright with IBC Bank adding \$1,000. - 2019, Mike Donaho, 141 lb., 1

oz. melon, sold for \$3,100 to North South Oil, Bair's Lease Service, Luling Tire Service, and Big Iron Trucking. - 2020, Mike Donaho, 102 lb., 8 oz.

melon. There was no auction held in 2020, due to the COVID Pandemic. - 2021, Paul Mikesh & Sons, 71 lb. 5 oz. melon, sold for \$6,000, to GenH2, Cody Bateman - Chairman. - 2022, Joey Mikesh grew the top melon, which weighed 102 lbs., 8 ozs. The melon sold at the auction for \$5,800 to Luling Tire Service, Bair's Lease Service, Luling Machine & Welding, R&R Contracting, and Big Iron Trucking with add-ons including \$500 from Mikesh's Oilfield Service, \$500 from Collins Trucking, \$300 by Post Oak Construction in Memory of Potsy Watts and \$1,500 by R&R Contracting.



Info@Lulingcc.org; (830)875-0123





**Thump Board** 

Special thank you to our Board Members that

continue to volunteer their time and effort to main-

Members

and visitors alike

Ray Bailey

2023-2024

Chairman: Cody Halliburton

Executive Director: Teresa Jo Rudolph

Vice Chair: Matt Callihan

Kristen Cappleman

Michael Crow

RaVanna Curry

Kevin Gibson

Sharon Gibson

Rafael Lozano

**Cindy Martinez** 

**Shelly Moore** 

R.J. Palacios

Seth Powell

Jose Reyna

Cathy Rowan

Peggy Ussery

Gilbert Gonzales

Mark Gonzales Michael Johnson

## Thump volunteers prep for festival

Organizers and volunteers worked tirelessly to ensure that everything was in place for the muchanticipated Thump Festival which begins today.

A flurry of preparations occurred throughout this week to create an unforgettable experience for festival-goers.

One of the key aspects of preparing for the Thump Festival is revitalizing the interior of the Thump pavilion that serves as the main area for the event.

Organizers have identified areas where the paint has faded over time and are diligently repainting them to restore their original charm.

From stages and entrance gates to signage and vendor booths, every effort is being made to ensure that the festival grounds look fresh and welcoming.

To infuse the Thump
Festival with an atmosphere of celebration
and excitement, an array
of colorful decorations
was meticulously hung
throughout the venue.
These vibrant banners and
streamers to eye-catching
lighting installations will
contribute to the festive
ambiance that Thump-goers have come to expect.

The preparations for Thump Festival involve a collaborative effort between the organizing team and dedicated volunteers.

Countless individuals donated their time



Carolyn Grim and Michelle Smith have breathed new life into the oversized melon chair, transforming it into a sought-after backdrop for the 70th Thump celebration.

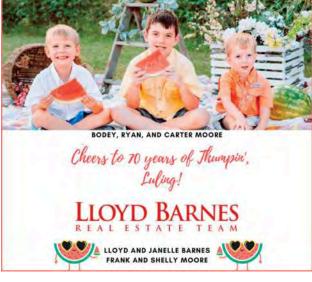
and energy to ensure that every aspect of the festival is well-prepared. Whether it's touching up faded paint, carefully hanging decorations, or arranging chairs, their hard work and enthusiasm are instrumental in creating an unforgettable experience for all who will attend.

## snap fitness 24/7

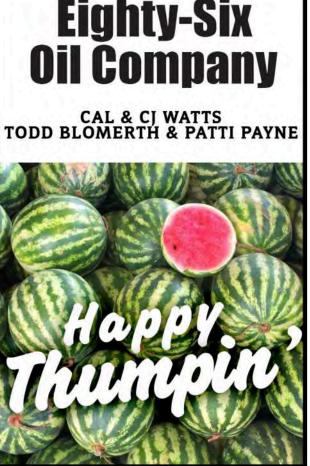
LULING

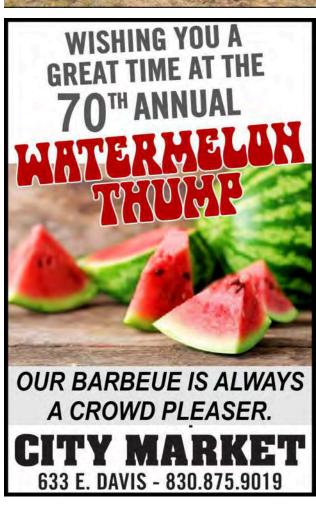
Get fit this summer at
Snap Fitness! Join us for
a high-energy workout
and then relax at the
Watermelon Thump.
Support local events
while prioritizing your
health and fitness goals!















(830) 875-5713

# Tea with the Queens

#### NICOLE SMITH STAFF WRITER

Zedler Mill played host to Luling royalty on the 11th creating a memorable gathering for this year's Thump Queen candidates and their sponsors serving as an opportunity for the candidates to meet former Thump Queens and celebrate the campaign journey.

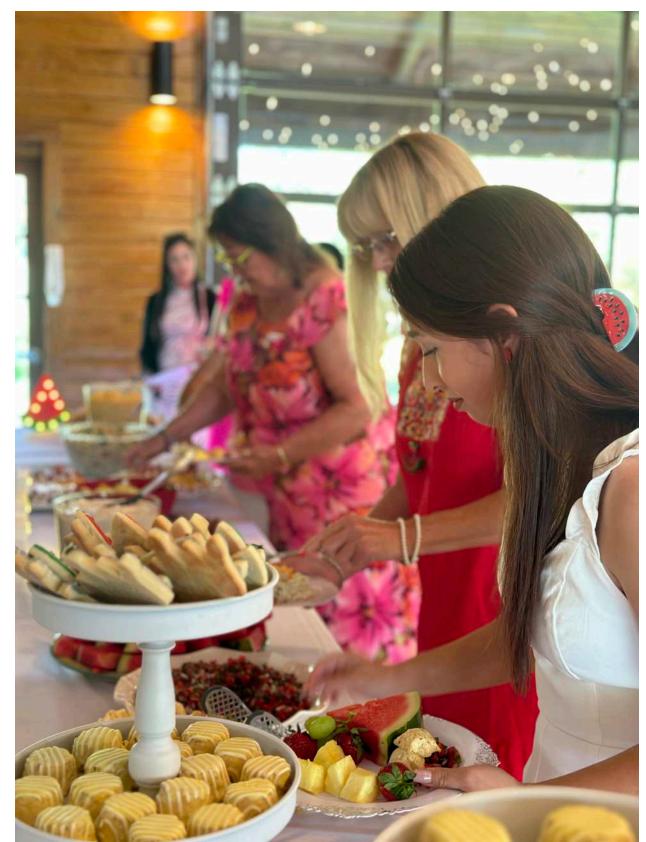
Mayor Watts, along with the reigning Queen Abby Reyes and former queen Tandra Damon, delivered speeches about the cherished Thump traditions, emphasizing the candidates' exemplary character and the fundamental pillars of success that campaigning creates.

At beautifully adorned tables, the candidates and their mothers engaged in lively conversations with representatives from the sponsoring organizations; Luling Fire Department, Kiwanis Club, Lions Club, Luling Main Street, Chamber of Commerce, and the Luling Oil Museum.

The menu was a feast for the eyes, featuring watermelon slices, cookies meticulously shaped into watermelon and crown designs, as well as a delectable assortment of fruits and finger foods.

The former queens joined in the conversation around each table sharing about their campaign and reign as well as life after graduation.

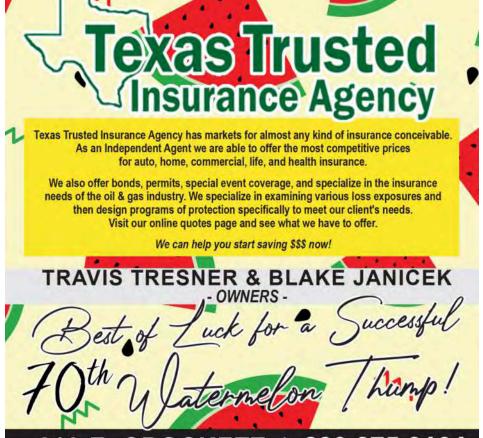
The event concluded with those in attendance posing for photographs outside, capturing the picturesque scenery of the winding river that graces the property, a great reminder for what makes Luling uniquely Luling.



Sam Ordonez along with Lion's Club representative Lisa Gaspard enjoyed the Queen's Tea buffet.

## Queens who have worn the historic crown

Year	Queen	Sponsor	1985	Kai Hendricks Schnautz	Evening Lions
1954	Bettie Sue Blackwell Towns	Lions Club	1986	Sherry Saur	Luling Fire Dept
1955	Janice O' Banion Bayern	Kiwanis Club	1987	Brandi Sue Blackwell Hayden	Chamber of Commerce
1956	Magaret Leazar Thompson	Lions Club	1988	Tandra Lewis Damon	Fairgrounds Assoc.
1957	Diane Rabon	Kiwanis Club	1989	Cathy Farmer Dunham	Chamber of Commerce
1958	Dorothy Watkins White	Lions Club	1990	Tamera Engelke	Luling Fire Dept
1959	Merilynn McGee Tullous	Junior Study Club	1991	Kelly Ward Loredo	Chamber of Commerce
1960	Phillis Webb Limscomb	Kiwanis Club	1992	Monica Kidd Knox	Chamber of Commerce
	Kakai Blackwell Walker	Lions Club	1993	Meghan Allen Holliday	Luling Fire Dept
1961	Kaye Welch Nelson	Lions Club	1994	Veronica Suarez Powell	Noon Lions
1962	Carolyn Frank Reid	Kiwanis Club	1995	Ashley Bassett Hartzog	Luling Lions Club
	Ann Colewell Lee	Luling Fire Dept	1996	Aurora Guillen- Suarez	WoC- Episcopal
1963	Mary Elizabeth Carter Olden	Lions Club	1997	Amanda Kidd	Luling Oil Museum
1964	Carmen Bassett Gidley	Luling Fire Dept	1998	Shannon Zamora	Luling Oil Museum
	Becky Seay Brownlow	None	1999	Ginny Robbins Janak	Luling Oil Museum
1965	Diane Thorp Miller	Floribunda Garden Club	2000	Kelsey Bassett	American Legion/ Auxillary
1966	Beth Vick	Lions Club	2001	Mayra Guillen Johnson	None
1967	Mollie Shelton Meyer	Luling Fire Dept	2002	Raven Robbins Spears	Luling Oil Museum
1968	Ollie Jo Montgomery Bozeman	Luling Study Club	2003	Cathi Johnson Davis	Kiwanis Club
1969	Nora Anne Webb	Luling Fire Dept	2004	Rebekah McClure Alaniz	Luling Fire Dept
1970	Debbie Miller Hees	Jr. Study Club	2005	Megan Cox Pettis	Luling Oil Museum
1971	Pam Miller Kidd	Evening Lions	2006	Ashley McFadin Rhodes	Luling Fire Dept
	Sherry Janca Grabill	Chamber of Commerce	2007	Vanessa Guerrero	Luling Lions Club
1972	Jackie Dorn Campbell	Excelsior Social Club	2008	Michelle Levesque Lopez	Luling Fire Dept
1973	Sue McBride	Beta Sigma Phi	2009	RaVana Damon Curry	Luling Oil Museum
1974	Cathy Folsom Allen	Evening Lions	2010	Paige Heller Johnson	Luling Oil Museum
1975	Karen Glenewinkel Via	Kiwanis Club	2011	Yadira Ochoa Schmidt	Luling Oil Museum
1976	Bonnie McCrary Phillips	Luling Fire Dept	2012	Victoria Bosquez	LAWS
1977	Sharon Gibson Reynolds	Kiwanis Club	2013	Carina Reyes Cubit	Chamber of Commerce
1978	Denise Gonzales Levesque	Evening Lions	2014	Kaitlin Cappleman Kranda	Luling Oil Museum
1979	Vicki Mohr Morlock	Luling Fire Dept	2015	Kyleigh Peters	Chamber of Commerce
	Cassandra Marcee Bullard	None	2016	Lexi Carter	American Legion
1980	Darla Franks	Luling Fire Dept	2017	Elizabeth Townsend	American Legion Auxiliary
1981	Susie Rollert Seay	Noon Lions	2018	Kendal Gibson	American Legion
1982	Sherry Herman Bettersworth	Noon Lions		0 Valerie Bermudez	Knights of Columbus
1983	Roxanne Ivey Schmidt	Fairgrounds Assoc.	2021	Dimi Poulos	Luling Lions Club
1984	Jennifer Otto	Luling Jaycees	2022	Abby Reyes	Luling Lions Club





SAN MARCOS LULING

NEW BRAUNFELS SPRING BRANCH

GONZALES LOCKHART

AUSTIN

SHINER



Zedler Mill hosted the 2023 Thump Queen Tea.



# Votes cast: Queen to be announced Thursday

The 70th Thump Queen campaign saw an unprecedented turnout of voters downtown on Saturday, as unofficially 3,362 voters cast their ballots for their preferred candidate.

Those vying for the title of Thump Queen are: Coco Garcia, daughter of JD and Laura Murray, sponsored by Luling Main Street; Evelyn Hicks, Daughter of Trey And Karla Hicks, sponsored by Luling Kiwanis Club; Taylor Little, daughter of Chad and Chasidy Forbes, sponsored by Luling Chamber of Commerce; Sam Ordonez, daughter of Eddie Ordonez & Aurora Lopez Ordonez sponsored by Luling Lions Club; Allyson Taylor Daughter of Bryan And Ashley Taylor sponsored by Luling Fire Department; Viv Zamora, daughter of Jessica Cardenas-Flores and Byron Zamora sponsored by The Luling Oil Museum.

The 98 day campaign, which has been a longstanding tradition in the community, reflects the immense enthusiasm and interest in the Thump royalty. The candidates campaign in stages beginning with selling raffle tickets, sharing campaign pictures, attending community functions while posting signs in windows, cars and yards.

The campaign trail is set to reach its crescendo on Thursday, as the coronation ceremony for this year's Thump Queen will take place at 7 p.m. in the Thump pavilion. Reigning Queen Abby Reyes, who has worn the crown throughout the past year, will

graciously step down from her throne, making way for the incoming Thump Queen.

Tonight's ceremony holds special significance as it not only honors the incumbent Queen but also pays tribute to the distinguished lineage of past Thump Queens, spanning back to the inaugural election in 1954. The event will serve as a celebration of the remarkable women who have led the community with poise and dedication over the years.

The coronation will shine a spotlight on the six candidates who vied for the coveted title this year. Each candidate worked tirelessly to rally support and present themselves as an ambassador for the community, encapsulating the spirit of the Thump Queen campaign.

The Thump Queen campaign has been an integral part of the community's fabric, bringing together residents and fostering a sense of unity and pride. The staggering voter turnout witnessed during this 70th edition of the campaign underscores the enduring importance of this tradition and its continued resonance among the townspeople.

Anticipation hangs in the air as the community eagerly awaits the proclamation of the 70th Thump Queen. Thursday promises to be an unforgettable evening, as the baton of responsibility is passed from one Queen to the next, symbolizing a new chapter in the Thump's history.

MORE THAN 94,000 MEMBERS AND 125,000 METERS!

# Providing power to Central Texas since 1939

Find us online at bluebonnet.coop

Member Service: 800-842-7708 Report an Outage: 800-949-4414







Home • Farm • Ranch Supplies

1150 N. Magnolia Avenue 830.875.3043





#### **CARNIVAL!**

One of the joys of the Luling Watermelon Thump is the Carnival. The Carnival runs every night of the Thump, and opens tonight at 5 p.m.







Complete Auto & Truck Repair
Diesel and Gasoline
WE NOW HAVE TIRE SERVICE AND REPAIR
901 East Davis, Luling, Texas
830-875-2277



901 East Davis Luling TX. 78648 WORK: (830) 875-2277 FAX: (830) 875-5670





946 E. PIERCE STREET \* LULING OFFICE: 830.875.6017 CELL: 512.284.0801

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

REALIES MLS

GROBBINS@RIATAREALESTATE.COM

\* WWW.RIATAREALESTATE.COM \*

ENJOY A SLICE
OF ICE COLD
WATERMELON

AND ENJOY
THUMP TIME
IN LULING!
HAPPY THUMPIN'!



CLASSIC A/C &

HEATING

RANDY MARTIN, LEIGHTON AND HAYDEN 830.660.3876