

LULING
NEWSBOY
& SIGNAL



\$1.00

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Burn ban extended as drought worsens

County Commissioners voted to extend the burn ban for an additional two weeks in light of the worsening drought conditions. Chief Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) Hector Rangel strongly recommended the extension due to the ongoing lack of rainfall and the deteriorating situation. With no rain in the forecast for the next few weeks, concerns over fire hazards continue to grow.

The implementation of Red Flag Warnings, a precautionary measure used when the risk of wildfires is elevated, has become a near daily routine. The heightened fire risk has led authorities to exercise vigilance and caution in preventing any potential fire outbreaks.

The Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI), a widely recognized measurement of drought levels, reached a concerning value of 688 as of Tuesday morning. This value significantly surpasses the drought threshold of 575, indicating the severity of the ongoing drought situation.

Over the first two weeks of August, many fires broke out within the county, Chief Rangel expressed gratitude for the effective response of the Texas Forest Service to these incidents, highlighting their crucial role in managing and containing wildfires in Caldwell County.

As the drought conditions persist and the risk of wildfires remains high, authorities are urging residents to remain cautious and adhere to the burn ban regulations.

► See **BURN BAN** page 3



Before the first school bell rings

NICOLE SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Last Wednesday, the LISD property burst with activity as Back to School support encompassed the Lion’s Club “Stuff the Bus” campaign, a community Business Expo, the Meet the Teacher event, and the distribution of GJHS football equipment.

The local Lions Club offered essential back-to-school support to students in the area. The initiative included the distribution of free school supplies. With their sponsorship, 200 school supply kits were handed out to eager students, ensuring that they have the tools they need to thrive. Additionally, students had the opportunity to choose from a selection of backpacks, further enhancing their excitement for the upcoming school year.

The local Business Expo also joined forces with the community effort, providing a platform for various organizations to engage with parents and offer invaluable assistance. Attendees were not only treated to a variety of services as they gathered information from different community resources.

All three campuses opened their doors for the highly anticipated Meet the Teacher night. From Pre-K to 12th grade, students were able to explore their new classrooms, meet their teachers, and gain insight into the expectations for the upcoming year. This exciting event not only alleviated first-day jitters but also fostered a sense of connection and anticipation among both students and parents.

The 7th and 8th grade football teams eagerly checked out equipment on Wednesday evening and received their locker assignments. The distribution of equipment marks the beginning of the GJHS football

► See **SCHOOL** page 4



Aly, LISD’s new-est student, is heading to PreK with her new purple backpack which is almost as big as her smile.



The scorched cab and trailer were removed by D&T wrecker service after the fire was contained. (Photo courtesy of Tina Zumwalt)

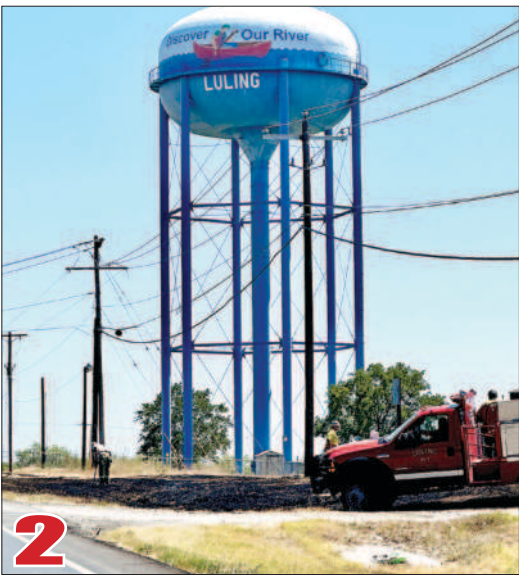
Boggy Creek fire consumes 228 acres

A large grass fire ignited on the 11th near SH 130 and Boggy Creek, rapidly spreading over 228 acres due to an 18-wheeler catching fire. The blaze led to road closures in the vicinity, causing traffic disruptions, and county authorities urged motorists to seek alternative routes to avoid the area.

As the fire swiftly expanded, residents living in the proximity were evacuated from their homes to ensure their safety. Two evacuation centers were set up at Lockhart Junior High School and the First Baptist Connections Center to provide shelter and assistance to those displaced by the fire.

Firefighting crews worked tirelessly to contain the inferno, battling the flames as they spread across the dry, grassy terrain.

► See **FIRE** page 4



Fighting fires

Photo 1 - The Superior Disposal fire required several trucks to battle the blaze. **Photo 2** - A roadside fire on hwy 183 was quickly contained by the VFD the afternoon of the 11th. **Photo 3** - The Luling VFD and Mid County ESD#4 were called out to extinguish the burning baled cardboard of the Plum Hopper Fire.

lookingahead

- 8/18

LHS Football Scrimmage hosting Hempstead 6:30 p.m.
PLHS Volleyball @ Seguin
PLHS Football @ home (scrimmage)
- 8/19

Cross Country at Floresville
American Legion golf tournament to support LHS golf teams. To-Go Meals available at golf course by Athletic Boosters to support LHS golf teams
Caldwell County River Appreciation Day
Youth Volleyball Games @ 9 a.m., 12 p.m., 3 p.m.
Mini Cheer Camp 8 a.m.
- 8/22

County Commissioners Court 9am
Deadline for Night in Old Luling grant request
PLHS Volleyball @ home
- 8/24

LHS 9th and JV Volleyball @ Flatonia Tournament
LHS Tennis at San Marcos
LHS JV football @ Rice Consolidated
- 8/25

LHS Var Football hosting Rice Consolidated
PLHS Football @ home vs NB Calvary Baptist
- 8/26

LHS Cross Country @ Medina Valley
PLHS Volleyball @ Nordheim Tournament
Youth Volleyball Games @ 9 a.m., 12 p.m., 3 p.m.
- 8/28

Prairie Lea First Day of School
Luling Foundation Youth Grill-Off and Tractor Pull registration deadline
- 9/1

LHS Football @ Victoria St Joe
PLHS Football @ SA Winston
LHS Volleyball @ Smithville
PLHS Volleyball hosting Matagorda
- 9/5

LHS Volleyball hosting Natalia
PLHS Volleyball hosting San Marcos Academy
- 9/7

Public Hearing on proposed tax rate 5:30 p.m. City Hall
GJHS football hosting Randolph
LHS JV football hosting Austin Eastside
- 9/8

LHS Var football @ Austin Eastside
PLHS Football hosting vs Hill Country Christian
- 9/9

LHS Foundation Youth Grill-Off and Tractor Pull
Youth Volleyball Games @ 9 a.m., 12 p.m., 3 p.m.

Burn ban FROM PAGE 1

The community’s collective effort in preventing fires and supporting emergency responders continues to be of paramount importance during these challenging times.

Other action included:
Approval of a motion to schedule a public hearing for August 22 to set and approve the proposed tax rate for Fiscal Year 2024 of 46.06 cents per \$100 valuation. The voter approval tax rate is 46.92 cents per \$100 valuation. Caldwell County can legally set the tax rate as high as 46.93 cents per \$100 valuation without triggering an election due to a provision in Senate Bill 2. During discussion, the county judge indicated commissioners would consider the voter approval rate for FY 2024.

Commissioners tabled consideration of an order that would send the potential creation of Caldwell County Emergency Services District No. 5 to voters. Commissioners are seeking support from all taxing entities in Caldwell County. The county desires formal approval from the cities of Lockhart, Mustang Ridge, Martindale, Maxwell, Uhland, Staples, Luling and San Marcos. The item will be considered at a special meeting at 9 a.m. August 16 to give San Marcos time to consider formal approval at a public meeting.

Commissioners approved a proclamation designating Aug. 19 as River Appreciation Day, commemorating local commitment to San Marcos River cleanup and preservation efforts.

Commissioners approved a scope of work for engineering services for Capital Improvements Plans and Programs (CIPP) and bond support services with American Structurepoint Inc which will work with the county to identify and rank improvement needs on county infrastructure over the next 20 years and will pinpoint the highest priority projects for a five- year period. The company will also work with the county to build consensus for potential bond elections to pay for those projects, as well as identifying other funding sources.

obituaries

John Hendershot

August 5, 2023

In Loving Memory of John

John Hendershot died in Luling, Texas on August 5, 2023. He was 82. John was born in Luling and graduated from Luling High School, then later obtained his degree from Sam Houston State University. John taught school in Conroe and then moved to Katy, where he worked for Exxon Mobil in Gas Chromatography. When John retired from Exxon, he moved back to Luling.

John never met a stranger; he would strike up a conversation with just about anyone. He was kind and gentle-hearted. When John saw a need, he was always willing to help. He was generous with his time and money, whether you were family, friend or a neighbor. He always had a smile on his face and a toothpick in his mouth. He loved eating out at restaurants, and was a beloved patron at El Ranchito and Blake’s. John attended Mineral Springs Baptist Church for many years.

John is survived by his brother Virgil Hendershot, Jr., his nephew James Benner, and James’ wife Dena and their three children, Parker, Matison and Mackenzie.

Pallbearers are James Benner, Parker O’Bannon, Leroy Elam, Gene Nethery, Floyd Trench, and Dean Huff.

A Visitation was held Friday August 11, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at O’Bannon Funeral Home. Services were held at 10:00 a.m. Saturday August 12, 2023 at O’Bannon Funeral Home, 210 S. Laurel, Luling, Texas. Buria followed at the Harwood Cemetery.

In Loving Memory of
John Gonzales (Gampa)

September 2, 1957 – July 27, 2023

John Gonzales passed away in his home surrounded by his loving family on July 27, 2023, he was 65. John was born in Uvalde, TX and found his way to Apolonio Polo Gonzales and Theodora Lola Martinez who took him in and raised him to be the fun-loving family guy we all knew. John was a long-time resident of Luling, TX where he met the love of his life Sylvia Montana, the two were inseparable. They then married on August 15, 1974. Several years later their family grew with the births of their children John Conrad Gonzales and Andrea Magdalena Gonzales. He was a man of many trades from frying chicken to melting metal and ending his work career as a fuel tech in Austin.

Outside of work John enjoyed BBQing and family gatherings, where he got to spend time with the people he loved. John loved to drink his beer, listen to his Tejano music, playing horseshoes or throwing washers. But all the time hyping up his Washington Redskins and laughing at any cowboy fan he came across.

John was preceded in death by his parents Polo and Lola Gonzales, grandson John A. Gonzales, brother Marcos Lopez, brother Emilio Gonzales and sister Isabel Sanchez.

He is survived by his loving wife Sylvia of 47 years, son Conrad Gonzales & (Jacquelyn), daughter Andrea Gonzales, grandkids Rene Hernandez, Jack and Victoria Gonzales and Mateo Rodriguez. Brothers Jesse Gonzales, Paul Gonzales, Johnny Gonzales, and sisters Janie Gonzales, Thencha Cardenas and Mary Herbert. Goddaughters Laura Patterson, Celina Hernandez and Brittany Herbert. He had an extended family and a wide circle of friends and colleagues who will miss him dearly.

A viewing took place at O’Bannon Funeral Home in Luling, Tx on Monday, July 31, 2023, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. followed by a Rosary at 7:00 p.m.. Service was held on Tuesday, August 1, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at St John’s Catholic Church with Father Kurtis Wiedenfeld officiating. Burial followed in the St. John’s Catholic Cemetery followed by fellowship at St Johns Parish hall.



Dr. Howard King Wilson

April 11, 1949 - August 9, 2023

Dr. Howard King Wilson, age 74 of Kingsbury and Houston, passed away on August 9, 2023.

Howard was born on April 11, 1949, in Ann Arbor, Michigan to Patricia (King) and Richard Wilson.

After graduating from high school, he attended Denison University. After leaving Denison, he went to medical school at the University of Cincinnati for four years. He continued his training at Baylor College of Medicine for the next five years.

He trained in internal medicine for three years and did a fellowship in endocrinology for two years. He joined Baylor College of Medicine as a staff attending for two years. He continued to teach for the next 20 years at Baylor but was in his own private practice. He was chosen as outstanding clinical faculty in 1996. He continued private practice until 2017 with great satisfaction both professionally and personally.

He retired in June 2017 and after watching cows, reading books, and being bored he decided to go back to work. In March 2018, he became a country doctor in an outpatient clinic in Luling, Texas.

Upon retirement, he and his wife Suzy moved to Kingsbury, Texas and she became a rancher and he was a country doc. They enjoyed central Texas and he especially enjoyed Suzy’s two daughters and their three grandchildren. Other than being a doctor, he enjoyed country life and multiple golf courses in the area.

Howard is preceded in death by his parents, his sister Ann Wilson Schneider, mother-in-law Leonora Schmidt Kuhn, father-in-law Woodrow W. Semmler, and sister-in-law Frances Hartenstein Finch.

Survivors include his wife, Margaret “Suzy” Wilson; daughters, Shannon Underwood and husband Joe, and Lauren Fowler; grandchildren, Forrest Fowler, Jacqueline Underwood, and Cameron Fowler; nephew, Jay Johnston and wife Michelle and their children Mia, Ava, and Hunter; brothers-in-law, John Semmler and wife Judy, and Stephen Finch and wife Kathryn; aunts-in-law, Margaret Taylor, Jackie Ball, and ViVi Pennington; numerous other nieces, nephews, cousins, other loving family members, and many friends.

Visitation was held on Friday, August 11, 2023, at Tres Hewell Mortuary from 5 to 7 p.m. Funeral services were held on Saturday, August 12, 2023, at 10 a.m. at Tres Hewell Mortuary Chapel with the Rev. Jeremy Roy officiating. Interment followed in the Kingsbury Cemetery.

Pallbearers are Gray Mosier, Kevin Rieger, Bob Paredes, Charles Dwyer, Stephen Finch, and Jesse Rodriguez. Honorary pallbearers are Joe Underwood, Joseph Fowler, Mitch Fussell.

Memorial contributions may be given to the Guadalupe County Humane Society, P.O. Box 1593, Seguin, Texas 78155, or to the Starcke Park Golf Course for the Seguin First Tee Program, 650 River Drive West, Seguin, Texas 78155.

You are invited to sign the guest book at www.treshewell.com. Arrangements are under the direction of Tres Hewell Mortuary, 165 Tor Dr., Seguin, Texas, 78155, 830-549-5912.

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7

Thank you from all of DJ Cubit’s family.

With our greatest gratitude, we would like to thank each and everyone who helped us in our saddest time. Unfortunately, we are not able to name everyone who so kindly responded to this tragedy. Your help made this tragic time less difficult for our families. We were overwhelmed by the outpouring of support from the local community as well as from all the surrounding communities. We welcome the words of comfort at DJ’S service. Knowing how DJ touched so many lives brings us such comfort in this time of sorrow. We would like to recognize the teachers and entire staff of the Prairie Lea School District. The Prairie Lea PTO did an outstanding job providing a dinner for everyone. We would like to also recognize City Market Barbecue for their generous help with providing barbecue for the meal. I apologize because I know I am leaving a lot of people out of this thank you letter, because if I could include everyone, it would go on for pages and pages.

*With the greatest gratitude
The Nevill Family and the Cubit Family*

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Fire FROM PAGE 1

By 8 p.m. on the same night, the teams managed to secure 40% containment of the fire, preventing further escalation and offering hope for its eventual control.

Throughout the weekend, the relentless efforts of firefighters paid off. The combined determination and dedication of emergency responders played a pivotal role in quelling the flames and safeguarding the affected county communities.

The incident serves as a reminder of the unpredictable nature of wildfires in this historical drought and the critical role of swift response and collaboration among emergency services in minimizing damage and protecting lives and property.



The Business Expo was attended by more than 15 organizations offering supportive services to the Luling community.

School FROM PAGE 1

season.

The collective efforts of the Lions Club, local organizations, and LISD staff have undoubtedly made a significant impact on the community.

By providing essential supplies, valuable information, and opportunities for connection, they have ensured that students and families are well-equipped for a successful school year.

subscribe today

Statements required in notice if the proposed tax rate exceeds the no-new-revenue tax rate but does not exceed the voter-approval tax rate, as prescribed by Tax Code §26.06(b-2).

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

This notice only applies to a taxing unit other than a special taxing unit or municipality with a population of less than 30,000, regardless of whether it is a special taxing unit.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.4692 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.4606 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.4693 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the rate for the 2023 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for Caldwell County from the same properties in both the 2022 tax year and the 2023 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that Caldwell County may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that Caldwell County is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2023 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON August 22, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. at Caldwell County Courthouse, 2nd Floor Court Room, 110 South Main St., Lockhart, TX.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, Caldwell County is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the Elections Administrator of Caldwell County at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE TAX RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

Property tax amount = (tax rate) x (taxable value of your property) / 100

(List names of all members of the governing body below, showing how each voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase or, if one or more were absent, indicating absences.)

FOR the proposal: Precinct 1-B.J Westmoreland, Precinct 2- Rusty Horne, Precinct 3-Ed Theriot, Precinct 4-Dyral Thomas, County Judge Hoppy Haden
AGAINST the proposal:
PRESENT and not voting:
ABSENT:

Visit [Texas.gov/Property Taxes](https://www.texas.gov/Property-Taxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearing of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by Caldwell County last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by Caldwell County this year.

	2022	2023	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.5531	\$0.4692	15.16% decrease
Average homestead taxable value	\$192,348	\$219,362	14.04% increase
Tax on average homestead	\$1,063	\$1,029	3.19% decrease
Total tax levy on all properties	\$21,227,169	\$22,474,398	5.87% increase

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for Caldwell County at 512-398-5550 or shannar@caldwellcad.org.

Indigent Health Care Compensation Expenditures (counties)

The Caldwell County spent \$647,468 from July 1 2022 to June 30 2023 on indigent health care compensation procedures at the increased minimum eligibility standards, less the amount of state assistance. For the current tax year, the amount of increase above last year's enhanced indigent health care expenditures is \$-701,171
This increased the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate by 0.0000/\$100.

Indigent Defense Compensation Expenditures (counties)

The Caldwell County spent \$522,498 from July 1 2022 to June 30 2023 to provide appointed counsel for indigent individuals in criminal or civil proceedings in accordance with the schedule of fees adopted under Article 26.05, Code of Criminal Procedure, and to fund the operations of a public defender's office under Article 26.0444, Code of Criminal Procedure, less the amount of any state grants received. For current tax year, the amount of increase above last year's enhanced indigent defense compensation expenditures is \$63,436.
This increased the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate by 0.0004/\$100.

Eligible County Hospital Expenditures (cities and counties)

The Caldwell County spent \$320,000 from July 1 2022 to June 30 2023 on expenditures to maintain and operate an eligible county hospital.
For current tax year, the amount of increase above last year's eligible county hospital expenditures is \$0.
This increased the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate by 0.0000/\$100.

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact tax assessor for Caldwell County at 512-398-5550 or general@caldwellcad.org, or visit www.caldwellcad.org

High school football hysteria returns

It's all about the kids

BY MURRAY MONTGOMERY

It's that time again and football is on the menu!

There's absolutely no telling how many folks wait for football every year. I'd guess that it has to be in the millions or billions. At the college and professional levels, the revenue is enormous – that's why you see, in the professional realm, more teams being added and the idea of having more pre-season exhibition games.

It certainly doesn't seem like the weather is appropriate for the upcoming pigskin follies. As I write this, it's 100 degrees outside and not much cooler inside. But we know that the weather will change at some point and fall sports will seem normal once again. However, the practice sessions and scrimmages are grueling under these hot conditions – the players, coaches, and support personnel must stay hydrated.

When it comes to football, my first love is for high school and college. I still watch the NFL from time to time, but when they decided to get into politics, I decided to move on. When the game is played by kids in high school, it's just more fun – they are out there because they love the sport. At this point in their young lives, it's not about the money; it's more about representing their school and the community that supports them.

History tells us that Texas high school football dates back to the late 19th century. According to the website Texas High School Football.com, the first high school to play football in Texas is believed to be Galveston Ball High School, established in 1884.

There's nothing like a Friday night here in the Lone Star state, and that scene is played out in stadiums all across America. It's not only about the team, there is so much more. Kids take pride in playing in the band



Pixabay stock Image by Brigitte Werner

– then there are the cheerleaders, flag-corps members, twirlers, and some schools have rifle-corps members. Regardless of group titles, it must be remembered that these kids also practice hard to put on those half-time shows that the fans enjoy.

High school football is more than just a sport; it is deeply rooted in community pride and tradition. Friday nights are dedicated to football games, bringing together communities and fostering a sense of camaraderie and support for local teams.

Over the years, there have been some high school football dynasties arising. I included a few of them here and there are many more. Schools like Allen High School, Katy High School, and Southlake Carroll High School have become synonymous with success, winning numerous state championships and setting records.

There have been some high school coaches in Texas who have gained fame in their profession. Some of the best include G.A. Moore who is considered one of the greatest high school football coaches in Texas history. He won

eight state championships during his career; Art Briles achieved great success as a high school coach winning four state championships; Phil Danaher is the winningest high school football coach in Texas history. He has spent his entire coaching career at Calallen High School, where he has won numerous district championships and led his team to multiple deep playoff runs.

Todd Dodge is known for his success at Southlake Carroll High School, where he won four state championships. He also had successful coaching stints at Marble Falls High School and Westlake High School; Randy Allen has had a highly successful coaching career, primarily at Highland Park High School. He has won multiple state championships and has consistently produced winning teams throughout his tenure. This is not a complete list of exceptional coaches in Texas – there are many more.

And finally, coaches and dynasties may come and go, but it will always be the mystique surrounding high school football that will remain. You see, it's truly all about the kids.

NIOL Directors now accepting requests from non-profits

Directors are gearing up for the 37th Annual Night in Old Luling celebration, which will be held Saturday, Oct. 14. They are inviting organizations to apply for receipt of this year's NIOL funds. Requests must be received no later than Tuesday, Aug. 22.

Applicants will be informed when their requests will be heard on Thursday, Aug. 24. To be eligible for funding, a group must have documentation of the following: non-profit status, other funding sources,

a history of the organization, and past projects of the group.

Groups must also provide a list of members, available volunteer workers and a brief description of how the funds will be used.

More information can be obtained by asking for an application from Carrie Gray at Sage Capital Bank or contacting Rick Carter at 830-857-0348 or Carolyn Grim at 210-884-0033.



New community housing project shared at the City Council meeting is proposed to be established just north of town on Bridal Path Road.

Big Time Texas Hunts offers 27th year of unique hunting opportunities

Staff Reports

This season, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) Big Time Texas Hunts program is awarding 10 lucky winners with premium guided hunt packages, offering some of the very best hunting opportunities in Texas.

In the last 26 years, Big Time Texas Hunt (BTTH) participants have helped raise more than \$19.5 million to fund wildlife research, habitat conservation, and public hunting access. The 2022-23 hunting season was the biggest revenue-producing year for the program, raising over \$1.4 million, and the third year in a row with sales exceeding \$1 million.

Conservation efforts funded by BTTH include desert bighorn sheep restoration work in West Texas, thousands of acres of brush control work across the state for the benefit of species like mule deer, pronghorn, quail, and multiple grassland restoration projects. Public hunting efforts include the funding of numerous public hunting leases and the purchase of hunting equipment such as ADA-accessible blinds for several Wildlife Management Areas.

“Revenue generated from the sale of BTTH entries

covers the cost of next year's hunts plus provides funding for wildlife habitat work and improves the quality of public hunts across the state,” said Kevin Mote, TPWD's Private Lands and Public Hunting Program Director. “In our 27th year, we are extremely excited to continue offering hunters a chance at once-in-a-lifetime hunting opportunities and raising important wildlife conservation funding at the same time.”

Some of the most popular hunts in this year's drawing include an Exotic Safari, where the winner and a guest will have a chance to hunt gemsbok and scimitar-horned oryx at Mason Mountain Wildlife Management Area — plus receive a YETI Limited Edition Red Tundra 65 hard cooler, donated by Yeti Coolers, LLC. Another hunt, the Texas Grand Slam, offers the winner four separate hunts for desert bighorn sheep, white-tailed deer, pronghorn, and desert mule deer. The Ultimate Mule Deer Hunt offers a three-to-five-day hunt for mature mule deer in the Texas Panhandle.

Big Time Texas Hunts entries are available online for \$9 each, at license retailers or by calling 800-895-4248 for \$10 each. The deadline to purchase entries is October 15 and winners will be announced within two weeks.

Meeting Luling's housing demand

NICOLE SMITH
STAFF WRITER

The Luling City Council has greenlit the initiation of negotiations for a new residential subdivision located on Bridal Path Rd, off Highway 183, at the northern edge of the city. The project is set to be developed by Ranch Road Development, and the council has designated the City Manager and attorney to spearhead discussions with the developer.

During the presentation to the City Council, a mock layout revealed plans for 400-500 housing lots spread across an expansive 114-acre area. The subdivision's design incorporates three neighborhood parks intertwined with pedestrian walking trails that wind through the development, providing residents with ample recreational opportunities. The single story and two story homes will span a minimum of 1500 square feet, catering to a variety of housing needs.

A Homeowners Association (HOA) will oversee the maintenance of the subdivision to ensure consistent aesthetics and safeguard property values . In a bid to further integrate the new development with the city, the area is scheduled to be annexed and will be connected to essential utility services such as water and sewage.

Architectural standards have been established to govern the appearance of homes within the subdivision, facilitating both diversity and a harmonious visual theme throughout the neighborhood. This meticulous planning seeks to create a cohesive ambiance across streets and residential properties.

The development holds particular significance for Luling's housing landscape, as it aims to address the demand for entry-level homes. The additional housing options are expected to accommodate local families in search of new dwellings, as well as newcomers to the city who might be filling crucial roles as educators, first responders, and employees of establishments like X Bow and Buc-ees.

This undertaking not only enhances housing availability but also aligns with the city's growth strategy and commitment to welcoming newcomers while maintaining a strong sense of community. As negotiations proceed, the City Council remains invested in realizing a development that will enrich the city's residential landscape and contribute to its sustained progress.

Memorial golf tournament is Aug. 19

The Luling American Legion Post 177, is hosting a golf tournament August 19, 2023, at the Luling Golf Course in Memory of Duane Otto, formerly of Luling. Mr. Otto was well known for giving back to his community, especially to children and the needy.

All proceeds obtained for the golf tournament will be given to the boys and girls Luling High School Golf Programs. Golf entry fees are \$95 per player which includes 2 muligans, and a luncheon provided by the Luling High School Booster Club. The luncheon will be held in the Southside Club House adjacent to the golf course following the tournament.

Carry out plates will also be available for \$10 each.

Points of contact are Chet Robbins, email chet@chetrobbs.com or info@lulinggolf.com.

Texas Day by Day

Courtesy of TSHA

Compiled by Murray Montgomery

8/12/1983: Giant sinkhole appears at Boling Dome

On this day in 1983, a sinkhole approximately 250 feet in diameter and twenty-five feet deep, formed suddenly over the crest of the Boling Dome three miles north of Boling, collapsing the roadway. Boling Dome, an underground rock structure that contains petroleum, sulfur, and salt, is on the western bank of the San Bernard River almost entirely in Wharton County. It is oval in shape and ranges five miles east-west and three miles north-south, encompassing 5,500 acres. Oil production at the site began in 1925 and sulfur wells began producing in 1929. Over 8,000 wells had been drilled to mine the sulfur reserve, and 12,000 more for oil and gas, producing a highly porous zone that affects the integrity of the dome. In addition to the 1983 sinkhole, several others have occurred over the Boling Dome, a condition that is becoming common at other salt dome sites where sulfur and oil are produced.

Group plans 38th Annual Chief's Gathering

The Randolph Chief's group is searching for all military E-9's, active, Reserve, Guard, or retired, their spouses, partners, friends, or surviving spouses from all military branches to attend the 38th Annual Chief's gathering. This reunion is planned for Saturday, September 23, 2023, 1700 hours, at the Bluebonnet Palace, Selma, Texas.

For more information contact CMSgt Ret John Talbot, 210-241-5352, ragtimewouthwest@gmail.com or CMSgt Ret Debbie Compton 210-313-4749, debcompton09@gmail.com.

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SPORTS

It's time to meet the Eagles

NICOLE SMITH
STAFF WRITER

The 2023 school year in Luling started on an enthusiastic note as the Athletic Boosters organized "Meet the Eagles." The sidelines were a display of the town's fall athletic talent and spirit showcasing the wide array of fall sports in which Luling's young athletes excel.

LISD Superintendent Erin Warren enthusiastically shared how the skills and habits cultivated through participation in various athletic programs were translating into tangible academic achievements. She highlighted the fact that qualities which are commonly nurtured on the field or court, were proving to be transferable to the classroom as well.

The CYPO football teams, consisting of passionate coaches and young players, exhibit the future potential of Luling's football program. The energy of the CYPO cheerleaders added a lively

atmosphere, cheering for the athletes while demonstrating their own skills.

The LISD athletes, participating in football, volleyball, cross country, dance, cheer, band, athletic training and tennis, illustrated the diversity of talents found in Luling ISD.

Coach Langford shared some exciting developments taking place in Luling, aimed at bolstering the future success of both male and female athletes in the community. The new volleyball coach, Sulak, who herself holds the titles of a state high school champion and college conference champion in volleyball, has already made a significant impact on the team's performance.

The positive momentum in volleyball is set to continue with the reinstatement of the Youth VBall organization, catering to 3rd to 6th-grade girls. This revival comes after a 4-year hiatus and is

► See **EAGLES** page 8



LULING NEWSBOY & SIGNAL

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Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage (MB) Permit by Vann Structures, LLC dba The Station, to be located at 102 & 106 W. Pierce St. Luling, Caldwell County, Texas 78648. Officers of said corporation are Stacy Cappleman (President) and Chase Cappleman (Vice President).

Notice of Sale
Sale of property to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale to be held at Luling Self Storage, Inc. 1401 N. Magnolia Luling, Texas 78648 on Saturday, August 12, 2023 at 9:00am. Seller reserves the right to withdraw property anytime before sale and sold as-is to highest bidder.
Property belonging to
A. Floyd, L.Barton, B. Roper.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
REGARDING THE 2023-2024 BUDGET OF CALDWELL COUNTY, TEXAS
A public hearing will be held concerning the proposed 2023-2024 budget of Caldwell County, Texas on August 22, 2023 at 9:30 A.M. at the Caldwell County Courthouse, 110 S. Main St., Lockhart, Texas.
This budget will raise more total property taxes than last year's budget by \$1,492,444 or 17% and of that amount \$843,726.13 is tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year.

Bid Notice
RFQ 23CCP01Q Subdivision Engineering Services. See bid qualifications at <https://www.co.caldwell.tx.us/page/caldwell.BidRequests> or contact Carolyn Caro-Caldwell County Purchasing Agent at carolyn.caro@co.caldwell.tx.us.

The City of Luling is accepting applications for the position of **City Emergency Management Coordinator/Director of Luling Fire Department**. Some of the responsibilities include but not limited to are Coordinates and supervises fire department personnel under the direct supervision of the City Manager and or Fire Chief. Coordinates and supervises emergency management and homeland security operations during natural or man-made emergencies and disasters, pandemics and acts of terrorism. Manages the development and maintenance of the integrated plans for emergency preparedness programs; coordinates and conducts training and training exercises to develop coordinated responses to disasters and civil emergencies. Be responsible to the City Manager and or Fire Chief to coordinate services and supervise staff of the City of Luling Fire Department.

Requirement included: Five years of responsible emergency management and/or disaster response experience desired. A Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) certification from the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), or ability to obtain within 3 years is preferred. Meet Texas Commission of Fire Protection Head of Department qualifications. Job applications are available at City Hall, 509 W Crockett St, and may be picked up Monday through Friday from 8:00 to 5:00 p.m. Applications will be received until position is filled.

The City of Luling is an equal opportunity employer.

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LESPORTS



A scrimmage highlight was Alex Martinez jumping up to snatch this pass out of the air for a first down.

Friday night lights shine

NICOLE SMITH
STAFF WRITER

The 2023 Luling Eagles faced off against the Poth Pirates in a scrimmage on Friday. The purpose of the scrimmage was to assess the team's skills and strategies as they prepare for the upcoming season. The Luling Eagles' head coach, Coach Langford, expressed satisfaction with the team's performance, particularly how they settled into the game and played with composure.

Keeping penalties to a minimum was also highlighted as a positive aspect of their performance.

The coaching staff emphasized the importance of building a strong team dynamic. They praised and supported the players both on and off the field, serving as role models

for the junior varsity (JV) team observing from the sidelines. The JV team members even congratulated the players after each play, fostering a sense of camaraderie within the entire program.

The game saw a dynamic start from the Poth Pirates' offense, but the Luling Eagles' defense managed to gain control of the line of scrimmage. They showcased their defensive prowess with a goal-line stand during the Pirates' third drive, demonstrating their ability to halt the opponent's progress. Kiegan Rizer stood out with a well-timed interception and made multiple tackles in open field situations.

On the offensive front, the Luling Eagles' offensive line initially faced challenges against the aggressive

Poth Pirates' defense. However, they soon found their rhythm and began creating openings for running backs Cayden 'Tank' Lopez and Malik Leblanc. These two running backs delivered impressive runs throughout the scrimmage, showcasing their skills and potential for the upcoming season.

Coach Langford also praised the positive behavior exhibited by the players during the game, emphasizing the importance of maintaining good sportsmanship and discipline on the field.

This scrimmage game allowed the Luling Eagles to identify areas that need improvement while also highlighting their strengths, setting the stage for a promising upcoming season.



Sportsmanship

Youth VBall teaches more than skills: "Sports introduces something in you that no institution, family or friendship can. A quality that eventually will come from you, something called sportsmanship." - Sandeep Sahajpal

Eagles FROM PAGE 7

expected to contribute to the long-term success of the sport in Luling.

The Luling girls' sports program is also welcoming a new softball coach, bringing a history of winning and valuable experience to the team. This infusion of expertise is anticipated to elevate the performance and achievements of the Luling girls' softball team.

Exciting changes are also happening in other sports. This year marks the introduction of high school soccer, fall tennis, and spring junior high golf, diversifying the range of athletic opportunities available to students.

Physical improvements to the sports facilities have not been overlooked. The school board supported the update of the LHD gymnasium, as well as the junior high gym's new stadium seating. In addition, new scoreboards are slated for installation in both gyms.

Last year marked a significant step with the introduction of a Girl's Coordinator role, overseen by Coach Soler. This position aims to provide guidance and support specifically tailored to the needs of female athletes. Another significant achievement has been the increase in the number of female coaches from two to seven.

Overall, the Luling community is witnessing a transformation in its sports landscape, with a focus on inclusivity, excellence, and a supportive environment. The efforts being put into place are laying the foundation for a bright and successful future for sports in Luling.

New-found focus brings early Lady Eagles vball success

NICOLE SMITH
STAFF WRITER

The addition of Coach Peyton Sulak to the Luling Coaching Staff has already made a significant impact on the volleyball team. Despite the team only beginning official practice three weeks ago, Coach Sulak has

managed to instill a strong sense of determination and a fighting spirit within her players. This was evident in the team's performance at the challenging Ganado tournament, where they managed to secure a 2nd place finish in the consolation bracket.

What stands out is the newfound focus that the players displayed in each set they played.

This heightened level of concentration and energy undoubtedly contributed to their success in the tournament.

It will be exciting to observe how the team continues to develop under the leadership of Sulak, Weaver and Chamness. The early signs of improved focus and teamwork bode well for the Lady Eagles with the blocking ability of Dredla, serving strength of Casarez, athleticism of Mika and the consistency on the back line of Garcia and Cortez.

The Lady Eagles could make a strong run through district play and into the playoffs.

The remaining August home games are the 22nd and 29th when JV begins at 5 p.m. and Var follows.



Flying upward to redirect the path of the volleyball, Skylar Dredla earned another block.

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