

WHITESBORO

City Council OKs software to streamline permit process

BELMARY MUNIZ
Correspondent

On Tuesday, Dec. 19, City Council members approved the purchase of new software to help streamline the process of submitting and paying for permits in the city.

Building Inspector Dalton Fallaw reported over 250 open permits that have never been entered into the database. Fallaw said he and City Administrator Julie Arrington will be going through all the permits and inputting the correct infor-

mation into the system manually so they can determine the correct numbers.

He said some may have been charged accidentally while a lot of the permits have been emailed and never reported into the database.

In an effort to streamline this process, Arrington introduced the council to Incode Permitting Modules, a software created by Tyler Technologies. These modules are meant to track the permit and management process from initial submission and document storage to inspection and permit approval.

Arrington said the purchase of this software would allow for better communications and customer service in the Inspection Department.

Fallaw pointed out the flaws in the current software and explained how this new software would allow the Inspection Department to enter things electronically rather than manually. This would also allow people to make payments online rather than having to come into City Hall. Fallaw said this system would make things more convenient and efficient for the customer and the city.

After meeting in executive session, the council also approved funds for EDC projects. They granted \$69,200 for an industrial project and \$138,400 for an economic project. This funding is to pay for fees, labor, employment and construction for the projects in Whitesboro.

In addition to these approvals, the council received updates from city department heads. Municipal Court Judge Rachael Dockery reported the amount of violations for 2023 to be 1,536 compared to 2022 with only



News-Record photo by Sherrie Nelson

Whether it's a residential build or a commercial repair, a permit is required from the city before work can be completed.

907 violations. She said this year's costs were collected through cases, violations, fines and bonds.

The Whitesboro Fire De-

partment (WFD) reported they assisted the Tioga Fire Department with a two-story

See PERMITS page 2

*What goes
up must
come
down...*

Two days into the new year, Whitesboro city workers packed up the downtown Christmas decorations Tuesday morning. Holiday lights, garland-wrapped snowmen and, most noticeably, the pre-lit Christmas tree were all deconstructed and moved into storage until December.

Photo courtesy of Laura Filip



WEATHER

Prepare now for projected polar weather

JOSH VELTEN
Contributing writer

While its intensity is debatable, most long-term weather forecasts are predicting a polar vortex returning to the area toward the end of the month. Now is the time to prepare homes and vehicles for winter weather.

A polar vortex is an area of low pressure surrounding the Earth's poles.

During the winter, the pressure builds, sending cold air further south. At times, the cold air dips all the way into Texas and results in uncharacteristically low temperatures for the area. The memorable polar vortex that occurred in February 2021 included precipi-

tation and resulted in blackouts and caused a of damage and inconvenience for North Texas.

Locally, much of the town was without power for several days and damage from frozen pipes followed as the area warmed back up. Total blackouts turned to rolling blackouts as the storm moved off and travel impacts slowly went away. The State of Texas faced a major backlash because of the power outages and the state's inability to keep up with demand. While the state has made many changes to prepare for future events, the new improvements remain relatively untested.

Now is the time to prepare for the potential return

of similar weather. Preparations should include having heaters and fireplaces serviced. Make sure you have several days of reserve water, groceries, and medications on hand. Come up with a plan for taking care of household residents and pets in the event of a prolonged power outage or winter storm event.

More in-depth plans for your residence might include winterizing your home, seeking a back-up power source such as a generator and collecting the supplies needed to winterize outdoor plumbing.

Vehicles should not be left out of any preparation plans. Keep extra blankets in the trunk as well as a winter

travel kit that includes water and snacks, cell phone charger, spare winter clothes, jumper cables, flashlight and first aid kit. The National weather Service has great resources at www.weather.gov for your vehicle preparation.

Jeff Patterson, the City of Whitesboro's Emergency Manager, reinforced that the city closely monitors winter weather patterns and has worked to prepare for winter weather.

"Extreme cold can pose a significant danger to people, pets, and those exposed to the elements," Patterson said. "Look out for your neighbors, stay warm and, if you have to travel, be very cautious."

PRIMARY ELECTION

Taylor challenges incumbent Booher for Constable spot

Pct. 3 will get a new commissioner next year

AUSTIN LEWTER
Publisher

The deadline has passed to file to run in the March Primary Election and few countywide seats will be contested once again this election cycle.

Notably, incumbent Precinct 3 Constable Todd Booher, a Republican, has drawn a primary challenge from former Whitesboro Police Chief Scott Taylor.

Taylor was recently terminated from the City of Whitesboro after more than 30 years of service due to a lack of no confidence from the City Council.

Booher has held the office for more than a decade. He is a former police officer and a real estate agent.

No Democrat filed for this office, so the winner of the March primary will be the next Constable in Western Grayson County.

Longtime Precinct 3 County Commissioner Phyllis James will not seek another term in office. Republican Lindsay Wright, of Collinsville, has filed for her seat on the primary ballot. No Democrat has filed for the seat, so Wright will run unopposed in November.

Across the County, Commissioner Precinct 1 Jeff Whitmire did not file for re-election.

Josh Marr, Scott Renfro and Terry Thomas have all filed as Republicans to replace Whitmire.

The winner of that primary will face Democrat Andre



Scott Taylor



Todd Booher

Luper in the November General Election.

Other primary contests across the county have shaped up as well.

Grayson County District Attorney Brett Smith, a Republican, has filed for re-election.

Republican John Hill has filed to run against Smith in the March primary.

The winner of that contest will face Democrat Brandy

See PRIMARY page 2

News



NTMC welcomes first baby of 2024

At left, Hallie Grey Martin was Cooke County's first newborn of 2024. Hallie was born at North Texas Medical Center (NTMC) on Monday, Jan. 1, 2024 at 1:08 p.m. She weighed 7 lbs. 5.5 oz. and measured 19.5" long. She was born to proud parents Mackenzie Sicking and Caleb Martin of Muenster.

Photo courtesy of NTMC



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Primary

From page 1

Douglas in the November General Election.

Current Grayson County Sheriff Tom Watt did not file for re-election and has endorsed Chief Deputy Tony Bennie who has registered for the office as a Republican.

With no Democrat challenger, Bennie will likely be the next sheriff.

Grayson County Tax Assessor Collector Bruce Stidham, a Republican, did not draw a challenger for the primary.

No Democrat filed for the office so Stidham will likely retain the office in November.

Judge of the 59th state District Court Larry Phillips, a Republican, has not drawn

a challenger in that primary. No Democrat filed for that office for the primary.

Jim Fallon, judge of the 15th state District Court, also failed to draw a challenger for the Republican primary.

He, too, will run unopposed in November.

Ginny Hampton, Justice of the Peace Precinct 1, didn't draw an opponent for the Republican primary for that office.

No Democrat has filed for that office either.

Republican incumbent Thomas Carter didn't draw an opponent for the post of Constable in Precinct 1. No Democrat filed for this office.

In the Precinct 2 spot,

Cody Michael Putnam has filed to run for Constable as a Republican along Shannon Thomas.

No Democrat filed for this office, so the winner of the March Primary will get the job next year.

Precinct 4 Constable Bob Douglas, a Republican, did not draw an opponent in the primary.

No Democrat filed for that primary as well.

Election day for state primaries will be Tuesday, March 5.

Last day to register to vote is April 4. The first day of early voting in person is April 22 and the last day is April 30.

Permits

From page 1

residential structure fire in downtown Tioga.

Regarding personnel, on Nov. 6, Firefighter/EMT Kevin Walton and Firefighter/Paramedic Chase Stanford began work as firefighters on the day shift. Seth Knight and Brett Ferguson began full-time employment with the EMS division, filling vacancies created by Walton and Stanford.

Stephen Wilcox's EMS Captain position was reclassified to Division Chief to better fit his responsibilities and duties. Paramedic Rustin Reedy passed the Critical Care Paramedic exam. The department reports this is a huge accomplishment that very few paramedics are able to do.

Fire Chief Steve Pinkston, Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Patterson and Lieutenant Ferguson recently visited Wise County's EMS department in Decatur to see how

that department has constructed and manufactured a heavy brush truck. WFD has received a Texas Forest Service Grant to help them build such a truck, and Pinkston said WFD has taken the opportunity to visit other locations to gain a better idea of what to consider when building their own truck.

Then, after much discussion, council members approved the purchase of a UTV EMS cart.

According to the agenda, this cart would serve several roles within the organization, including the rescue and movement of patients that are not easily accessible by normal means. The total amount asked for approval was \$40,091.40. This is a budgeted item.

In other news, Arrington addressed the water pump directly behind the Whitesboro Police Department, whose motor blew the afternoon of Dec. 18.

Arrington is working with

Distribution and Collections Superintendent Bradley Williams to obtain estimates for the repair. Williams assured City Council that the city will be okay with the amount of water pumps that are currently working with this one down.

Next, the approval of a zoning classification change was made from industrial to residential for lots 1R-7R located at Church and Kelly Streets. The property owner asked to rezone from Industrial (I) district to Residential (R) and has agreed on R4.

In current projects, Arrington said the food trucks in the food truck park were using the incorrect sewer to get rid of grease. This has caused pipes and sewer lines to clog. The city has already spoken with each food truck owner individually and given letters so they are aware of the correct sewer to use to dispose of grease moving forward.

The water tower project

is moving along, and the Request for Proposal (RFP) process is underway for the Texoma Drive project. A contractor should be chosen the second week in January (early February at the latest). Arrington said that when this project begins, Street Superintendent Kyle Maynard and Williams will be on-site monitoring the project and keeping in daily communication with each other and the city.

Arrington also said once she has a start date on this project, she plans on sending a letter to citizens and holding a Town Hall meeting to inform the community on what to expect and answer questions.

At the end of the meeting, City Council members retired to executive session for over two hours to discuss and review the City Administrator. After returning into open session, no action was taken.

WPD Arrests

phernalia.

December 20

At 2:53 p.m., Mickey Dewayne Call III, 25, of Gordonville, was arrested at 701 Park Place on a warrant from another agency.

December 24

At 8:53 a.m., Colby Malachi Ellis, 37, of Whitesboro, was arrested at 301 Collinsville St. on charges of failure to signal turn, no motorcycle endorsement and expired registration.

December 27

At 12:43 p.m., Katy Renee Alvarado, 56, of Whites-

boro, was arrested at 31434 Hwy. 82 on charges of criminal trespassing.

December 29

At 11:37 a.m., Larry Wayne Wood, 58, of Whitesboro, was arrested at 1001 Hwy. 82 on charges of criminal trespassing.

December 30

At 7:07 p.m., Larry Wayne Wood, 58, of Whitesboro, was arrested at 1001 Hwy. 82 on charges of criminal trespassing, resisting arrest, assault of a police officer and assault of a public servant.



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Letters should be limited to 300 words. Letters must be signed by the author and include a telephone number and address to confirm identity and clarify details. The News-Record reserves the right to reject any and all letters, edit letters for style, grammar, spelling and content, and limit the number of letters from authors (generally once a month) or on a given subject. Letters to the editor are a free service. We believe a healthy dialogue on issues that concern you is necessary in a democracy whether we agree with the positions taken by the editor@ntin.net.

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Obituaries

Glen Allen Graham 1938- 2023

Glen Allen Graham, 85, of Collinsville, Texas was called to his heavenly home on Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023.

Glen was born on Oct. 22, 1938 in Collinsville, Texas to J.L. "Bill" and Evorie (King) Graham. He married Ruby Ann Walker in Collinsville on Feb. 25, 1967 and they were married for 56 years prior to her passing earlier this year.

Glen worked for Texas Instruments and MEMC for over 40 years. He also owned and operated his own auctioneering business and made and sold leather goods. He enjoyed rodeos, bull riding, crappie fishing and hunting, as well as attending baseball and football games.

Glen was a loving father and grandfather.

He is survived by his son, Kendall Clark and wife, Susan of Weatherford; daughter, Shauna Harendt and husband, Jason of Whitesboro; sister, Cherry Woolsey and husband, Rodgers of Gainesville; grandson, Kalen Clark as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Glen was preceded in death by his parents, Bill



and Evorie Graham, wife, Ruby Graham, daughter, Glenita Graham and grandson, Fletcher Harendt.

Pallbearers will be Jason Harendt, Kendall Clark, Kalen Clark, Kelly Ford, Heath Roland and Nathan Watson.

Funeral services honoring Glen will be held at 10 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 8, 2024 at Meador Funeral Home in Whitesboro, officiated by the Rev. Rick Carney. Interment will follow at Collinsville Cemetery. A time of visitation for family and friends will be held on Sunday, Jan. 7, 2024 from 6- 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

To sign the online registry, please go to www.meadorfuneral.com.

Patrick Jones 1987- 2023

Patrick Roy Jones, 36, of Whitesboro, Texas, was called to his eternal home on Tuesday, December 26, 2023.

Patrick was born on April 30, 1987 in Sherman, Texas. He was a graduate of Whitesboro High School and was self employed as a landscaper.

Patrick loved to sketch, enjoyed music and collecting his favorite things, including Jurassic Park figures and Batman cars.

He loved watching horror movies and Texas Rangers baseball.

He also loved spending time with his family, especially his nieces and nephews.

He is survived by his mother, Lisa Malone (Jon Richardson) of Whitesboro; siblings, Mark Malone Jr., Toby Malone, Randal Jones and Stormy Malone; aunts and uncles, Donna and Steve Williams, Jacky and Lori Huntsman, David and Virginia Hall, Joe and Katie Hall, Karen and Gary Lynch; grandfather, Claudell Malone and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.



Patrick was preceded in death by his dad, Mark Malone; grandparents, Hubert and Kathrine Huntsman; and grandmother, Maurice Malone.

Funeral services honoring Patrick were held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, December 30, 2023 at First Baptist Church of Collinsville, officiated by Bro. Trent Hodgkinson.

Interment followed at Oakwood Cemetery in Whitesboro.

A time of visitation for family and friends was held from 6-8 p.m. at Meador Funeral Home on Friday, December 29, 2023.

To sign the online registry, please go to www.meadorfuneral.com.

Paul Stowe 1937- 2023

Paul David Stowe, 86, of Sadler, Texas, was called to his eternal home on Friday, December 29, 2023.

Paul was born on December 15, 1937 in Houston, Texas, to Samuel Calvin and Hazle (Jackson) Stowe.

He served proudly in the United States Army. Paul was a member of the Cowboy Church in Whitesboro and was very involved with the church and his church family.

He had a bachelor's degree in chemistry and worked as a control chemist for over 27 years.

Paul had a love for flying everything from planes to helicopters, to gliders.

He loved being with his family and was very close to his brother and sister.

He enjoyed going out to eat and just food in general,

he was up for trying anything. Paul's sense of humor was great, he was a genuinely funny man.

He is survived by his children, Nancy Hazel Rhea, Eric Paul Stowe, Chris Coulston, Rusty Renfroe, Sandy Thiems and Dusty Renfroe, as well as numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Paul was preceded in death by his parents, Samuel and Hazle Stowe, and his wife, Wanda Stowe.

Cremation arrangements are under the direction of Meador Funeral Home of Whitesboro.

To sign the online registry, please go to www.meadorfuneral.com.

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From the Archives

20 years ago...

January 8, 2004

Nasal spray flu vaccine now available

The Grayson County Health Department has received a supply of FluMist nasal spray flu vaccines.

This vaccine is approved only for healthy children and adults ages 5 to 49 years old and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has arranged for special pricing from the manufacturer, so the Health Department is able to provide it for \$30 (cash only) per dose.

"The FluMist vaccine is an excellent way for healthy people to reduce their chances of catching influenza," Grayson County Health Department Director Dr. Carolyn Fruthaler said. "...in addition to protecting themselves from this disease, people who get the FluMist vaccine will also be protecting their loved ones who are not eligible for the nasal spray vaccine but didn't get the flu shot before we ran out."

30 years ago...

January 6, 1994

Area schools prioritize educational facilities

The improvement of educational facilities for local school districts appears to be a top priority for the upcoming year.

Whitesboro, having passed a \$3.5 million bond election during April 1993, is completing the final building plan phase for a junior high school.

The Whitesboro Board of Trustees will meet with architect Jim Kirkpatrick on Jan. 11 to scrutinize schematic drawings.

Although some budgetary items are still being discussed, the project is scheduled for completion in the

fall of 1995.

Meanwhile, the Collinsville ISD Board of Trustees unanimously approved the same option.

A community-wide survey indicated that a junior-senior high school facility was preferred.

Preliminary drawings have been completed for the proposed 44,000-square-foot structure, slated to house pupils in grades 7-12.

Currently, plans are being finalized by school administration to schedule a \$2.4 million bond election.

Completion of the facility is being set for spring of 1996.

40 years ago...

January 5, 1984

New codes added to driver licenses

Beginning Jan. 1, 1984, those persons who renew their driver license, qualify for their first license, or apply for a duplicate permit will receive licenses bearing new codes signifying class of license.

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ACROSS

1 This Mahalia was first female Texas Secretary of State
5 Milwaukee's county seat of Jackson County
7 TX Charley Pride tune: "Just Me"
8 money machine
9 TXGen: "swelling as a fire at office"
15 TXGen: "pro-sweller" (performer)
16 TXGen: "hot enough" A hasty load
18 a blimp, e.g.
21 TX Jimmy Webb wrote "By the _ Girl to Phoenix"
22 In Anderson County on U.S. 287
27 _ would come to U.S. thru Texas
28 TXGen: "out _ eland"
29 married women in Mexico
30 1990's protests
32 This Palmer won the Texas Open three times (full)
33 TXGen: "The _ with the hole" (bar)
36 Gulf shrimp catchers
37 This cornet was in Houston in 1929
38 a _ pizza to a small one
39 Fair Park is on the _ of Dallas

41 "Let the _ settle"
42 Odessa's county
45 long koppel in cards
46 Cowboy Jane Ferguson pos. (abbr.)
47 needed in a drought
48 TXGen: "just a _" (small amount)
49 more intelligent
52 Cheryl of Ron "Wilson" with TX Hamilton

DOWN

1 female sheep
2 a car modification, e.g. (abbr.)
3 Wood County newspaper
4 TX Robert _ was U.S. Secretary of Commerce (1988-92)
6 Corey Seager got this to end a no-hitter in game 3 of the 2023 World Series (2 wds.)
9 TXGen: "plain as the _ _ _ _ _ sheet"
10 TX Simmons who developed the "leveraged buyout" (abbr.)
11 org. in Europe
12 1-20 that runs across Texas
13 Texas Ranger Corey Seager had 5 of these in the 2023 World Series
14 Japanese wrestling
15 _ A World Side are built in Pinview
17 return a once to a lower court
18 UT has that photo ever, taken by this French inventor
20 cheapen, the style
22 former Cowboy running back star, Emmitt (abbr.)
23 modern light
24 "hell high," e.g.
25 did 20-down
26 avid painting collector? (2 wds.)
28 welcome rug
31 "don't _ out your welcome"
34 Texas singing poet: the _

35 This Nellie, and husband John, were in Reno with JFK in 1966 (full.)
37 TXGen: "headed for the last roundup"
40 round reminder
43 TXGen: " _ on the barrel head" (immediate payment required)
44 TXGen: " _ _ a whipped pup"
49 Texans have to _ our registration annually
51 TXGen: "dol the Pe and cross the _" (brilliant)

These businesses encourage you to attend your chosen place of worship.

Local

Fun learning opportunities at Loy Lake's Frontier Village

For the News-Record

Frontier Village & Museum at Loy Lake Park in Denison is kicking off the new year with fun educational opportunities for the community.

All ages are welcome to see a free blacksmith demonstration from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Jan. 6. Frontier Village & Museum will have a blacksmith on hand working on projects and answering questions. Bring the family and learn about this important livelihood that impacted everyone's lives during frontier times. This event is dependent upon the weather, so stay tuned to Frontier Village's website and social media pages for updates.

Also on Jan. 6, children can take a class to learn how to make biscuits and butter from scratch. In frontier days, these items were

mainstays that no settler went without. From 11 a.m.-1 p.m., children can participate in this hands-on (and likely messy) learning opportunity. Tickets are \$3 for Village members and \$5 for the general public. Please call 903-463-2487 and register ahead of time to ensure there are plenty of supplies for all participants.

Frontier Village & Museum is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving historic homes that make a pioneer village and museum filled with artifacts and Grayson County historical information.

This historical treasure is located at 111 RC Vaughan Dr. on the south end of Denison.

Learn more about upcoming events at www.graysoncofrontiervillage.us or at the Frontier Village facebook page.



Photo courtesy of Whitesboro Fire Department

Ongoing education for WFD members

Lt. Kevin Walton and Firefighter/Paramedic Chase Stanford recently taught a class to WFD members regarding the new Rescue 42 vehicle stabilization struts. These struts will better assist rescue teams with safe stabilization of vehicles before removing patients after a motor vehicle accident.

Whitesboro EMS wellness checks move to library

JOSH VELTEN
Contributing writer

Towards the end of last year, Whitesboro Fire Department's EMS Division began offering wellness checks for the senior community. The checks included taking a set of vital signs and interacting with the citizens and answering any questions they may have about the results and their health in general.

The checks are part of a greater effort to involve the department in the local community. One of the advantages of the city taking over EMS was the ability to expand non-emergency offerings for Whitesboro citizens. It is common now to see the med crews at community events, visiting with residents as they are out and about and interacting with visitors at the fire station

who have come in to ask health related questions.

The fire and EMS crews are available at the station to check vital signs and recommend treatment 24 hours a day, seven days a week at the fire station (providing they are not out on calls). The decision to make the short trip to the library was to specifically target the senior population that is not as mobile or may not have the resources to make an unscheduled trip to the fire station.

The library hosts Senior Game Days every Thursday at 1 p.m. The fire department will be there the third Thursday of each month at 2 p.m. to perform these free wellness checks which include checking blood pressure, heart rate, respiratory rate, oxygen saturation and blood sugar level.

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Did you know?

67% of small town residents read their local paper at least once a week. 78% of respondents said newspapers were their main source for local news and information, and 71% responded that newspaper inserts helped them with their buying decisions.



Photos courtesy of Jenna Agerlid

On Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2023, the Collinsville Varsity Boys Basketball team won their game against Chico High School by a score of 78-53.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Public Hearings City of Collinsville, Texas

Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting
109 North Main Street Annex Building
Date: Monday, January 15, 2024

City Council Regular Meeting
117 N Main Street Community Building
Date: Monday, February 12, 2024

On Monday, January 15, 2024, at 6:30 PM, the City of Collinsville Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider testimony and make a recommendation to the Collinsville City Council on the item listed below, and on Monday, February 12, 2024, at 6:30 PM, the Collinsville City Council will hold a public hearing to consider testimony and possibly act on the item listed below:

A Replat request for Waldo's 2nd Addition, Block 15, Lot 1 and is addressed as 312 E. Hughes Street (Collinsville United Methodist Church). The property is comprised as 4 tracts legally described as 1.124 acres partially platted within WALDOS 2ND ADDN, BLOCK PT 15, 225x25 CHURCH 87; G-0989 QUILLEN CHARLES A-G0989, 95x225x-36.59x120x60x104 CHURCH; G-0989 QUILLEN CHARLES A-G0989, 60X120 CHURCH PARKING and; G-0989 QUILLEN CHARLES A-G0989, 100x224 CHURCH GROUNDS, Grayson County, City of Collinsville, Texas. The property is generally located at the southeast corner of E. Hughes Street and Dewitt Street.

The public is invited to attend the meetings and make comments either for or against the requested item. Written comments may be submitted before the date of the meeting to the City of Collinsville at PO Box 649, Collinsville, Texas 76233. Comments may also be sent by email to dtalley@collinsvilletexas.org. Additionally, for any questions regarding the proposed item, please call 903-429-6225.

LEGAL NOTICE

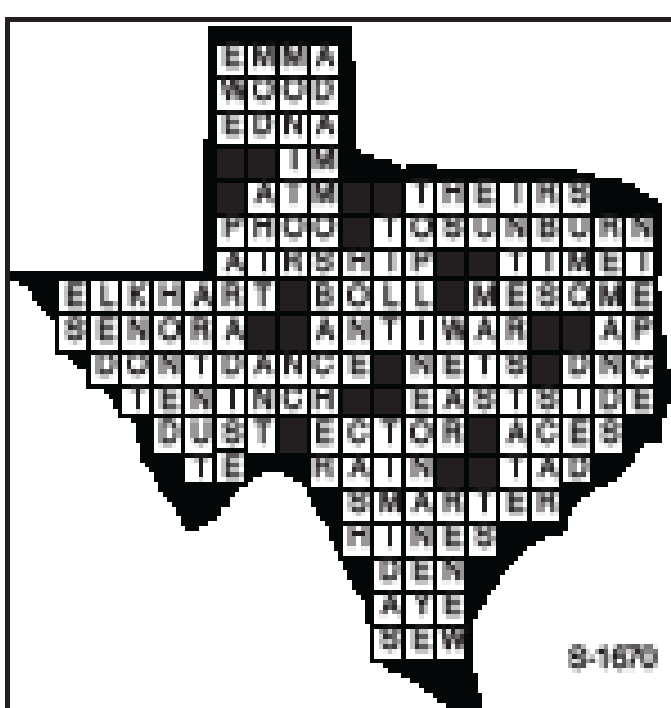
City of Whitesboro is now taking applications for street-laborer. Work will include, but not limited to, brush truck, mowing, weed eating, asphalt applications, and other duties. Starting wage is \$16.00 per hour with great benefits Package. You must be able to pass a drug screen & physical. Application may be made at City Hall, 111 W. Main Street, or mailed to City Secretary, P.O. Box 340, Whitesboro, TX 76273 or faxed to 903-564-6105. EOE.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE Pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, Whitesboro Storage at 1024 US-377, Whitesboro, TX-76273, will conduct a public auction to satisfy a landlord's lien. The unit will be sold as-is to the highest bidder online at www.storageauctions.com starting on January 15, 2024 @ 9:00 am and closing on January 20, 2024 at 9:00 am. Cash Only. Clean-up deposit and sales tax required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the close of the sale. Property being sold includes the household items of tenant Josh Knight.

Request for Proposals for a Comprehensive Plan for the City of Whitesboro Texas. The City of Whitesboro, Texas is seeking to enter into a professional services contract with a qualified and experienced firm to assist the city with the creation and development of a comprehensive plan. Request for Proposals should be addressed to the City of Whitesboro, Economic Development Corporation, P.O. Box 340, Whitesboro, TX 76273 and received by 11:00 A.M., Thursday, January 11, 2024, for the services detailed in the solicitation instructions and specifications found on the City of Whitesboro website <https://www.whitesboro.org>. Additional Information regarding the services may be obtained by contacting: Lynda Anderson Economic Development City of Whitesboro 111 W. Main Street Whitesboro, TX 76273 (903) 564-4000 landerson@whitesborotexas.com

FUN & GAMES



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...And much more!

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Local

Lewter

From page 4

The same thing has happened to the Fort Worth location on I-20 where my mentor and I would catch-up.

According to the Starbucks website, this is a new initiative meant to “streamline your coffee run.”

“Starbucks Pick Up is a new store exclusively designed for mobile orders and quick pick up without the wait,” the website reads.

The pandemic forced many dining rooms and coffee shops to shutter.

Business was sent to the sidewalk and the drive-thru and folks have grown accustomed.

Somewhere along the way, it seems we are losing this sense of community, and it's not just at Starbucks.

We can order a grocery delivery on an app these days. Door Dash brings the food straight to us.

Amazon is employing drones to get our packages to us faster than ever.

More and more people are beginning to rely on technology to communicate with their loved ones, friends and associates.

The lockdown that forced millions of people to work from home also accelerated online communication tools—meaning we get even less human contact than ever before.

In July 2020, 58% of customer interactions were digital.

That number has increased since the pandemic. Remote working has become the norm.

Transactional processes have become automated.

Of course, automation can theoretically be a good thing, but it also highlights how technology affects our communication negatively.

The same ease of technological-driven interactions leaves some groups behind.

The increase in the use of technology to communicate can also cause a rise in loneliness, especially among elderly people who may rely on these transactional encounters as their primary source of social contact.

Transactional encounters like picking up a morning coffee and newspaper in Gainesville.

Starbucks did away with

its newsstands a few years ago.

Transactional encounters like watching a pair of amateur improv actors make a scene on a coffee shop patio.

The University at Carroll location in Denton has been shuttered.

The building is listed at \$2.9 million and Starbucks built a new location a mile down the road equipped with a drive-thru window.

Transactional encounters like an in-person first date between a couple who met face-to-face and not on a dating app.

Transactional encounters like a mentor imparting wisdom on the next generation over coffee instead of over Zoom.

Transactional encounters like a family visiting about the movie they just watched together.

Transactional encounters like a boy waking up before sunrise to drink coffee with his grandfather.

By now, you've probably realized that this piece is not a love story about Starbucks.

Though their recent business practices illustrate a change in our society.

And I am not sure it's a change for the better.

It behooves us to seek those transactional encounters.

Technology has led us to an interesting crossroads.

In many ways, we are more “connected” than we've ever been, yet evidence shows we are more isolated.

I implore you to choose real connections. Put down the phone and play a board game with the family.

Sit at the bar the next time you dine out alone and strike up a conversation with a stranger.

Shop in-person more and try to smile while you are at it.

Check in on your elderly neighbor. Volunteer in your community.

Such transactional encounters are integral to our mental health.

Next time you're in downtown Whitesboro, stop by the newspaper office for a transactional encounter and a cup of coffee—Folgers in a red can.

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