



## Ticketing policies

Kemp, Malakoff  
ISD release sports  
ticketing policies for  
2020-21 seasons.

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The  
Monitor...  
YOUR  
LOCAL  
source for  
current  
events  
through  
print,  
website  
and  
social  
media

## NEWS IN BRIEF

Note: As of press time these events are still occurring to the best of our knowledge. Please refer to CDC Guidelines and call ahead.

### COVID-19 TENANT BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE

The North Texas Behavioral Health Authority (NTBHA) is accepting applications for Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) for households which have been financially impacted by COVID-19. Approved households may receive up to three months of rental assistance and utility assistance. This is for Kaufman and Navarro Counties. For more information visit [www.ntbha.org/services/](http://www.ntbha.org/services/) or call (469) 840-4553.

### FOOD BANK

Payne Springs United Methodist Church sponsors a food bank 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. every Saturday. Located at 9667 S. Highway 198, across from the old fire department building. Drive thru service available. For more information call (903) 451-2978.

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## Governor extends Disaster Declaration

Special to The Monitor

TEXAS—Governor Greg Abbott extended his Disaster Declaration Aug. 8 for all Texas counties in response to COVID-19. Originally issued on March 13, the Disaster Declaration provides the state a variety of resources to effectively serve Texans as the Lone Star State continues to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

“Renewing this Disaster Declaration

will provide communities with the resources they need to respond to COVID-19,” said Governor Abbott. “I urge Texans to remain vigilant in our fight against this virus. Everyone must do their part to slow the spread of COVID-19 by wearing a mask, practicing social distancing and washing your hands frequently and thoroughly. We will overcome this challenge by working together.”

## Deputies arrest dealer

Special to The Monitor

ATHENS—Jeffery Glenn Stokes, 57, faces a felony charge for manufacturing and delivery of a substantial amount of a controlled substance - methamphetamines. In an early morning traffic stop Aug. 10, in the 1200 block of West Corsicana Street of Athens, patrolling Deputy Jonathan Barrios noticed the suspect’s vehicle had some defective equipment.

When Stokes was stopped, he was nervous and refused to make eye-contact with the deputy. His

hands were shaking as he reached for his proof of insurance card. Stokes then exited the vehicle and refused to allow it to be searched.

Deputy Barrios then called for assistance. K-9 Deputy Kan was brought to the scene by Deputy David Robertson. The dog alerted on a scent of contraband in the backseat. There, a large blue cigarette carton hid a plastic, see-through baggie which contained the meth.

Stokes was taken to the Henderson County Jail.

## Fatal accident claims teen lives

Monitor Staff Reports

HENDERSON COUNTY—A fatal car accident for two teens, Maggie Groom, 18, of Eustace and Zane Taylor, 19, of Grand Saline, occurred Aug. 8.

Texas Department of Public Safety Troopers were called to a two-vehicle crash on State Highway (SH) 31 approximately one mile east of Brownsboro in Henderson County.

A preliminary investigation shows that Groom and Taylor were traveling west in a 2013 Honda Accord and 2016 Nissan Rogue was traveling east on SH 31. For an undetermined reason, the Honda drove off the right side of the roadway and the driver over corrected to the left, causing the vehicle to drive back across the westbound lanes of traffic and into the eastbound lanes of traffic hitting Rachel Patterson, 30, of Eustace.



Facebook Photos

LABELING FOR MM 8/13/20

Patterson was taken to UT Health in Tyler with unknown injuries.

Groom and Taylor were pronounced dead at the scene by Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3, Tony Duncan. DPS confirmed that those involved were wearing seat belts.

GoFundMe accounts have been set up for

## Rotarians hear from new EDC Executive Director

Great things coming to Gun Barrel City



Monitor Photo/Denise York

Gun Barrel City EDC Executive Director Gayle Cooper (right) receives a Commemorative Rotary mug from Rotary Club of Cedar Creek Lake President-elect Tonya Chapman at the club’s meeting July 17. Cooper was the featured guest speaker.

By Denise York  
Special to The Monitor

CEDAR CREEK LAKE—Newly appointed Gun Barrel City Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Gayle Cooper addressed the Rotary Club of Cedar Creek Lake at their regular meeting July 17. Cooper has been a Rotarian for many years, most recently with the Palestine Rotary Club. She is also a proud Paul Harris Fellow, signifying her support of the Rotary Foundation and its work.

Cooper, who is a native of Canada, was

raised in Arizona. She was Palestine EDC Director for several years and is one of 1,500 Certified Economic Developers nationwide. Cooper proclaimed that she loves what she does and cannot imagine retiring. She said, “It is the responsibility of everyone in the community to improve the economics of their city,” and added that as Rotarians and members of the business community, it is imperative that everyone get involved to make the community better for all residents.

After she had applied for the position and

subsequently withdrew her application, she was impressed by GBC Mayor David Skains, who asked her to reconsider the withdrawal. “We need someone like you who will stand up for the community, do what’s right and not let politics interfere,” Skains said.

Cooper took the position, impressed with the potential of Gun Barrel City which she said is, “poised to take off.”

Cooper told the club that the city is dominated by retail and restaurants, and as a resort destina-

EDC ■ See page 2

# Eustace ISD releases plans to return to school



By Ashlee Sawyer  
Monitor Staff Writer

EUSTACE—The Eustace ISD Board of Trustees met Aug. 3 to discuss and consider district schools reopening. A plan was developed for the 2020-2021 school year that the Board released to parents Aug. 6. Additionally, EISD states that it will develop a plan for on-campus activities and instruction and provide it to parents and the public no later than one week prior to the start of on-campus activities and instruction.

School Board President Ashley McKee said that this was a fluid plan that the board can come back and address in a later date if the situation changes. “At this time, we are planning for the start of the 2020-2021 school year to take place on Wednesday, Aug. 19 for both in person learning and remote learning,” the district’s plan states.

For the first 13 days of instruction, from Aug. 19 through Sept. 4 Eustace ISD will be operating on an early release schedule releasing at 1:30 p.m. This is to help students get back into a school schedule as they have been out since the middle of March. Eustace ISD is planning on resuming full day instruction Tuesday, Sept. 8.

## Remote Learning Plan

Eustace ISD will be offering Remote Asynchronous Instruction as defined by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). (Instruction

that does not require having the instructor and student engaged at the same time.) This method allows Eustace ISD the flexibility to earn daily attendance through an approved plan. Depending on grade level, students may have one teacher that provides all their remote learning, however in higher levels such as middle school and high school students will be receiving instruction from multiple teachers. The grading scale for remote learning will be the same as in-person learning.

The middle school and high school have designated certain classes for in-person learning only. These are classes that will require multiple activities that can only be accomplished by in-person learning. A complete list of these classes is provided on page 12 of their learning plan.

## Attendance and Enrollment

Per the Texas Education Code, students must attend 90% of the days a course is offered in order to be awarded credit for the course and/or be promoted to the next grade. Student attendance may be earned through the delivery of virtual instruction.

## Staff Considerations

All staff members are required to complete the training provided by Texas Agri-Life Extension for Special Considerations for Infection Control during COVID-19. Staff is also required to wear face masks and face

shields throughout the instructional day, self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming to campus each day and must report if they have come into close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19.

## Visitors on Campus

EISD is not allowing visitors on campus. However maintenance personnel or outside contractors that may be required entry to perform a repair function, EISD will require they be screened and have their temperature measured. Those individuals will be required to wear a mask, face shield and asked about any close contact that may have occurred.

## Students/Parents Considerations

All students in grades third through 12th will be required to wear a mask unless they meet one of the exceptions in Governor Abbot’s order. This will include some students that are younger than 10 when school starts. Unlike many districts, EISD is allowing students that are doing remote learning to participate in extracurricular activities if they are present for all practices and required activities.

## Transportation

Parents are encouraged to bring their students to school and pick them up in the afternoon however Eustace ISD is planning on running all bus routes and students will be required to have a mask and/or face shield to ride the bus. You can find more details on the transportation and the drop off and pick up for car riders on page seven of the districts plan.

For more information on Eustace ISD’s district plan or to read it in its entirety, visit the district’s Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/EustaceISD](http://www.facebook.com/EustaceISD).

# Wings of Rescue operation soars



Courtesy Photo

Members of the Humane Society of Cedar Creek Lake prepared rescue animals for an early morning flight at the Denton Regional Airport with the ASPCA for the Wings of Rescue operation. Some of the animals went to Delaware and some went to New Jersey.



Facebook Photo

Volunteers work to remove the rescue animals from the airplane once they reached their destination as quickly and safely as possible.

# Mabank proceeds with water shutoffs

Cutoffs will resume Sept. 29 for unpaid bills

By Bodey Cooper  
Monitor Staff Writer

MABANK—The Mabank City Council stated that the city will resume water cutoffs at their regular meeting Aug. 4.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the city has been lenient on those struggling to pay their bills, including water. The city will start to collect and resume water cutoffs starting Tuesday, Sept. 29.

The last disconnect the city of Mabank did was back in March before the pandemic hit. The city has not disconnected a water line since then. People still have the late fees on their bill, but they have not cut off services to those residents.

The city supplies

about 4,000 customers with water and they have lost about \$11,000 a month in disconnect fees.

Mabank is following along the same guidelines as the city of Terrell where they will begin cutoffs around the end of September after they receive approval. Most customers that have struggled to pay have filled out extensions and paid what they could on their water bills.

Customers can also receive extensions and continue to pay what they can if they are directly affected by COVID-19 (sick, job loss, etc.).

In other business, council members:

- Approved minutes from July 7 regular session council meeting.
- Approved the

Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency to run concurrent with the Governor’s orders.

- Designated both sides of Market St. for the City’s 2020 Downtown Revitalization Grant for new railings, sidewalks, drainage and crosswalks and authorized the application for the grant.

- Approved 2020 certified tax values from the Henderson and Kaufman County Appraisal offices.

- Accepted a petition request from Tad Blankenship for annexation of Triple L Mobile Homes.

- Set a date of Tuesday, Aug. 18 at noon for their budget workshop.

- Heard reports from code enforcement, police and fire.

# sEaSCAPE hosts virtual chamber event

By Ashlee Sawyer  
Monitor Staff Writer

CEDAR CREEK LAKE—The Cedar Creek Lake Area Chamber regularly holds a Business After Hours event each month. It is an opportunity for chamber members to connect and network while sharing a drink and a meal. This month due to COVID-19, a new method of getting everyone together was hosted by sEaSCAPE Travel & Events by holding a virtual Business After Hours event via Zoom.

Tutoring for those unaccustomed to using Zoom was provided and the first 10 people who RSVP’d to the virtual event were delivered their choice of beverage

ages plus snacks the day of the meeting. What would a Business After Hours event be without some snacks and cocktails? Beer was provided by Cedar Creek Lake Brewery, compliments of Owner Jim Elliot.

During the Zoom meeting, business owners discussed the impact COVID-19 has had on their businesses and the Cedar Creek Lake area. From mask requirements, lost sales, cancellations, event postponements, travel restrictions and a change in meeting venues all things

have changed for business owners, but these Chamber members have persevered. Most have come up with new ways of conducting business either through social media, over the phone and through websites.

The Chamber will be hosting its first luncheon since March, Aug. 13 at Vetonis Italian Restaurant for Chamber members. Attendees are asked to wear a mask and follow the restaurant’s rules. For more information on the Cedar Creek Lake Area Chamber call (903) 887-3152.

# EDC

Continued from Page 1

tion, benefits from a mixed demographic of full-time residents, part-time residents and visitors which it draws from many neighboring counties as well as other states. When asked about certain businesses coming to the city, she said a lot goes into a business selecting a city and most companies have entire divisions who evaluate potential locations. “If it is not the right place for the client, it’s not going to work,” she added.

Cooper said, “We need to attract what supports our budget and it is important to gain true employment in the community to keep our young talent here.” She told the group that the area is prime for expansions in Healthcare, offices, finance, insurance and real estate, telling them that growth is going to happen.

“A city does not just sit. If it is not going forward, it is going backward. We are not going to let that hap-

pen,” she added.

Cooper said that a lot will depend on the comprehensive plan being completed now and urged citizens to get involved and let their voices be heard. The plan, originally intended to be complete in September, has been delayed due to the coronavirus and shutdowns but should be complete by the end of 2020 or very early in 2021. She is enthusiastic and excited about what the future holds

