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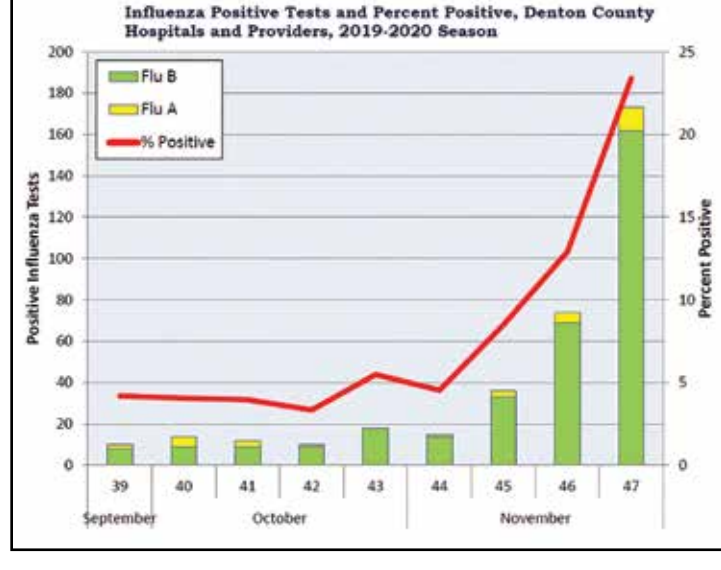
Downtown Restaurant Association Holds Fundraiser to Pay Off School Lunch Balances

**SPIRITUAL A7**



Oak Grove United Methodist Church

## Denton County Public Health Urges Residents to Get Flu Vaccination Soon



**DENTON COUNTY, TX** – Denton County Public Health (DCPH) is recognizing National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW) by urging community members to get their flu vaccine to protect themselves and others this week. DCPH conducts flu surveillance in Denton County and has already noted increases in cases locally this flu season. NIVW serves as an annual reminder that even though flu season has arrived, it is still not too late to get a flu vaccine.

“We hope the early and quick rise of flu cases within North Texas can be used as a motivator towards protection for Denton County residents,” stated County Judge Andy Eads. “Getting vaccinated is a community effort, and vaccinating now can help protect your children, family, and friends throughout the holiday season.”

DCPH recommends a three-pronged approach to fighting the flu:

1. Get vaccinated. The best way to protect yourself and your family from the flu is to get an annual flu shot, and the flu vaccination every year is recommended for everyone 6 months and older. It takes about two weeks for the flu shot to be fully effective, so plan ahead and get your flu shot today.

2. Remember that antiviral medications are a second-line defense against the flu. If you are experiencing fever, runny or stuffy nose, sore throat, cough, muscle aches and headaches, visit your doctor immediately, and take antivirals if prescribed. These remedies can help you recover quicker, and can potentially prevent you from being hospitalized with flu complications.

3. Take everyday preventive actions to help stop the spread of germs. Cover your cough and sneeze, avoid people experiencing flu symptoms, stay home when you feel sick and wash your hands often. These steps

*Continued on A3*

## From the Desk of Hough Coleman



### DENTON COUNTY, TX – Updated abatement policy possible boon for county

The Dallas-Fort Worth area, which includes Denton County, continues to attract companies large and small. DFW has the third highest number of Fortune 500 headquarters in the U.S., behind New York City and Chicago.

With no state income tax,

a lower cost of living and a low county property tax rate, we have positioned Denton County to be a key player in attracting these companies.

In 2017, Toyota Motor North America relocated its headquarters from California to Denton County, bringing 3,000 jobs. Recently, Charles Schwab announced it would move its headquarters to its campus in southern Denton County.

In October, PGA of America officially broke ground on its new headquarters near U.S. 380 and the Dallas North Tollway where the 600-acre project will open in mid-2022.

In light of the fast-paced

growth we are seeing across the county and, in particular, along the 380 Corridor, the Denton County Commissioners Court in December approved an updated tax abatement policy to potentially offer incentives for smaller companies to move into our region. Prior to the changes, a company had to offer more than 500 jobs with an investment in excess of \$10 million to be considered for a tax abatement. Under the new policy, a company could be eligible for an abatement if it is adding 10 jobs with an investment minimum of \$1 million.

*Continued on A2*

## Denton County 4-H Youth Learn Life Skills at Local Food Challenge Contest



### DENTON COUNTY, TX – Denton County 4-H

Members recently competed in a local Food Challenge contest that helps students learn multiple life skills while participating. The Denton County Food Challenge was held at the Lake Dallas Middle School Cafeteria Saturday, December 7th. The 66

participants competed on 18 teams. From those 18 teams, four 4-H Junior Teams, four 4-H Intermediate Teams, and two 4-H Senior Teams advanced to the District 4-H contest which will be held on March 27, 2020 at Fair Park in Dallas, TX.

*Continued on A5*

## Denton Enterprise Airport Opens Second Runway

West Parallel Runway to Improve Safety and Efficiency at 8th Busiest Airport in Texas  
 Amy Cunningham



**DENTON, TX** – The Denton City Council, City officials, and special guests celebrated the opening of the Denton Enterprise Airport’s (DTO) newly constructed second runway at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Tuesday, Dec. 17.

5,002 feet in length and 75 feet wide, will handle smaller training aircraft and mid-size aircraft. Along with the Airport’s existing 7,002-foot by 150-foot primary runway, the second runway will significantly enhance safety by separating smaller planes from larger corporate aircraft.

“The new runway is a significant accomplishment that will increase our overall operational capacity into the foreseeable future, as well as enhance our effi-

*Continued on A6*

## Veterans Coalition Donates \$3K to Remove Barriers to End Homelessness

Donation doubled by City of Denton match grant to the Denton County Homelessness Barriers Fund.



(Denton County Veterans Coalition Board Member Raymond Holder presents United Way of Denton County CEO Gary Henderson with \$3,000 check to Denton County Barriers Fund.)

**DENTON, TX** – The Denton County Veterans Coalition (DCVC) presented United Way of Denton County (UWDC) with a \$3,000 check for the Denton County Homelessness Barriers Fund to join the collaborative effort to make homelessness rare,

brief and nonrecurring for everyone in the Denton County community.

“We have appreciated our partnership with United Way of Denton County and what you do, not only for Veterans to combat veteran homelessness, but non-veteran homelessness as well,” said DCVC Board member Raymond Holder. “On behalf of our President Chris Martin and every member of the board, we would like to present to United Way a check for the Barriers Fund in the amount of \$3,000.”

The DCVC donation was instantly doubled thanks to a \$40,000 challenge grant the City of Denton issued in October.

Launched in 2018 by the Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team with direction from UWDC, the Homelessness Barriers Fund is an effort to make homelessness rare,

*Continued on A4*

## Town Council and Prosper ISD Agree on Fishtrap Work

Interlocal agreement sets stage for widening and improvements

**PROSPER, TX** – An agreement has been reached between the Town of Prosper and the Prosper Independent School District to jointly widen and improve a critical portion of Fishtrap Road on the Town’s west side.

construction, called an interlocal agreement, involves widening and improving a portion of Fishtrap Road from Teel Parkway westward to a point just passed Stuber Elementary. Specifically, the proposed improvements are divided

The joint arrangement for the

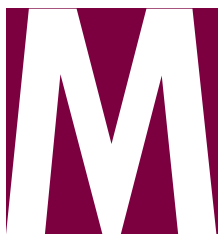
*Continued on A7*

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# METRO

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**Advertising and Editorial Submission Deadlines**

The publication deadline for advertising, editorial submissions, guest editorials, and letters to the editor is the 20th day of the preceding month for each issue. Letters to the editor must be 400 words or less and include a name, address, and phone number (only name and city will be published). Content may be submitted via email to info@380news.com.

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## What to do About Leaves and Acorns

Janet Laminack



It's not just your imagination; the sky is falling. We are having a bumper crop of acorns this year. Nature likes to keep us on our toes: have you noticed how some years we seem to be overrun with armyworms, crickets, grasshoppers, etc., but the next year they don't bug as at all? Plants like to get into this unpredictability action as well. Pecan trees have long been known as alternate bearing which means some years you can make a lot of pies and other years the chocolate chip cookies have to go pecan-free. This season it seems that all the oak trees got together and decided it was their time for mast-fruiting. Scientists believe this variable and coordinated effort is a process to create "predator satiation." In short, the squirrels can't eat all the acorns and therefore more acorns go on to become oak trees. In a "non-mast" year, the low production has impacts throughout the ecosystem with less food availability for the little acorn



gobblers all the way up to those predator animals who eat those critters. Along with the abundance of acorns, we have our usual amount of leaf drop. Driving around neighborhoods, I notice that some people seem to find the leaves untidy and offensive. I don't know how these folks remove every leaf from their lawn as soon as it drops. While other people take a more laissez faire attitude. And then you have the gardeners, scurrying around like squirrels, grabbing up bags of leaves from the curb to take back to their yards. Keeping the leaves in our landscapes improves the fertility, organic matter content and structure of our soils. My recommendation is to mow your leaves into little bits and leave them on your lawn or put them in your flowerbeds. If the leaves have fallen into your flowerbeds, your work is done. For those that must remove the leaves from the premises, you also have some ecologi-



cally beneficial options. The city of Denton rolled out a new yard waste program on October 1. For active gardeners, I recommend subscribing to the yard cart service. Leaves, weeds, grass clippings and even raw fruits and vegetables can be tossed into your cart and picked up weekly. If that seems excessive, you can use paper kraft bags for your leaves and yard waste for a minimal fee. What about plastic bags? Here are your options: hope that you have a gardener-neighbor that will snatch them all up. Or, schedule a leaf pick-up from the city. All customers can schedule two free leaf pickups per year. Of note is that the plastic bagged leaves will go to the landfill while yard waste in the cart or kraft bag will be used to make Dyno Dirt and other beneficial reuse products. To schedule a leaf pick up, opt-in to the yard waste services or other questions regarding these changes contact customer service at 940-349-8700.

## Volunteers Needed at The Denton County Office of History and Culture

The Denton County Office of History and Culture is currently looking for volunteers to participate as museum docents, tour guides, traveling museum presenters, at special events and behind the scenes. If you enjoy history, meeting new people and working with

others, there are many opportunities available. You can find the volunteer application under "Get Involved" on our website: www.dentoncounty/chos/. For more information, e-mail Gretel L'Heureux, Volunteer Coordinator, at Gretel.L'Heureux@denton-county.com or call 940-349-2854.

*'From the Desk of Hugh Coleman...' continued from front page*

For all of our Precinct One communities in northern Denton County, the new policy could provide just the right incentive to attract new companies with high paying positions – continuing our mission to make Denton County the best place to pursue a career and raise your family.

### Corinth planning 20-acre mixed-use project

At the southwest corner of Corinth Parkway and Interstate 35E in Corinth, concept plans call for a mixed-use development with restaurants, hotel and high-end multi-family residences.

The project, proposed by Irving-based Realty Capital Management, LLC, will be one of the largest early contributors to the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone for

the I-35E corridor. Realty Capital has also set up a Chapter 380 Economic Development Incentive Agreement with the City of Corinth and the Corinth Economic Development Corporation.

The project will be designed to create a walkable community with public amenities and entertainment options not currently available in Corinth.

Denton County Precinct One Commissioner Hugh Coleman can be reached at (940) 349-2810. The main office is located at 1175 Union Hill Road in Sanger. He is also available by appointment only at the Steven E. Copeland Government Center at 1400 FM 424, Suite 139 in Cross Roads or the Denton County Courthouse-on-the-Square at 110 W. Hickory St., Suite 323 in Denton.

## More Children Leaving Foster Care than Entering

Adoptions Break 6,000 Ceiling for First Time

AUSTIN, TX- New state figures show more children are leaving foster care for safe, permanent homes than are entering the child welfare system, as adoptions surged past 6,000 for the first time, according to Child Protective Services (CPS). "Additional resources combined with a tenacious work ethic have led to unprecedented success for the DFPS this year," said Governor Greg Abbott. "Texas is better because a record number of children have been adopted in 2019 and are experiencing the joy of a loving home this Christmas season. Equally impressive is the increase in the number of children who are reunited with family. The marked improvements demonstrated by DFPS are the result of the passion and commitment by DFPS staff."

More than 20,000 children left Texas foster care, including more than 6,000 who were adopted, fiscal year 2019 data shows. More than half of the adoptions – 3,095 – were by relatives, also a new record for CPS.

The number of children

leaving foster care outnumbered the number entering care by more than 1,700 children, a trend the state hopes will continue.

"This is certainly great news, and affirmation that our year-round adoption efforts are paying off," said Kristene Blackstone, CPS associate commissioner. "And in many cases we are reunifying these children with their families."

While the number of children entering the state's care has dropped in recent years, to 18,615 in FY 2019, the number of adoptions has steadily increased, up by 25 percent in the last decade.

Also, Texas has expanded support for kinship caregivers who commit to caring for young family members and, as a result, more children are being adopted by relatives than ever.

As National Adoption Month wrapped up Thanksgiving weekend, more than 400 children and youth in Texas found permanent homes during Texas' busiest month for adoptions.

But as Associate Commissioner Blackstone said,

the need for permanent homes is year-round, and with Christmas only a few weeks away she hopes more foster children will benefit from the season's good will.

"November is our busiest adoption month, by far, but there is nothing more joyful than an adoption at Christmas time," she said.

Learn more at Adopt-Children.org

Foster Care and Adoption Numbers				
	2019	2018	2017	2016
Children exiting foster care	20,343	19,961	18,851	18,524
Children entering foster care	18,615	20,685	19,864	19,079
Total children adopted	6,107	5,678	5,413	5,703
Adoptions by relatives	3,095	2,789	2,720	2,753
Adoptions by non-relatives	3,012	2,889	2,693	2,950

# TAXES

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# HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

## Healthy Changes for a Healthy New Year!

Julie Wright, Master Wellness Volunteer, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (Family & Community Health).



**DENTON COUNTY, TX-** It is Holiday Season, which means we are bombarded with treats from every angle. This can derail even the healthiest eater. But there are ways to have our cake and eat it too, without adding too much extra salt, fat, or sugar to our diets.

Whether we are trying to eat healthier or managing a chronic disease such as diabetes, the following tips should help us enjoy the holidays without having to deny ourselves the treats we are accustomed to eating this time of year.

Most of us consume more salt than we need. Some people with high blood pressure find that managing their sodium intake can help lower their pressure, which reduces the risk of kidney disease. Ideal intake for most Americans is 1 teaspoon per day. The National Kidney Foundation recommends the following:

1. Use fresh meats, rather than packaged meats like cold cuts, bacon, or ham.
2. Choose fresh fruits and vegetables if possible. Most canned and frozen fruits are low in sodium.



3. Buy "fresh frozen" vegetables without added seasoning or sauces.

4. Check your Nutrition Facts Label. Sodium is always listed on food packages.

5. Give your self 6-8 weeks to get used to less salty tasting foods. Salt preference is an acquired taste, that can be unlearned.

When cooking, you can reduce salt by using herbs and spices that do not contain added salt. Another tip is to not salt the food until it reaches the table. You can also choose to cook with salt and remove the shaker from the table. Replacing table salt with sodium free alternative seasonings can be helpful. When baking, it may be possible to reduce the amount of salt, but is usually not recommended to eliminate it entirely.

Holiday menus are often full of rich, fatty foods. Combine that with bite-sized servings, distracting conversation, and multiple special events and we can over-indulge before we realize it.

There are lots of myths and facts about fat in our diets, so we'll follow tips from the Arizona Extension Service for choosing healthy fats for our favorite holiday recipes.

There are three basic types of fats: saturated, monounsaturated and polyunsaturated. The fats that occur naturally in our foods usually contain some of all three types, so we categorized them by the type of fat that is most abundant. Monounsaturated fats have the best effect on our cholesterol because they lower our LDL (think L for Lousy) and raise our HDL (H for Happy or good cholesterol). The following tips will help you choose the best fats for your diet.

1. Choose olive, canola, or vegetable oils for cooking. These products are highest in monounsaturated fats.
2. Eat less saturated fat. Saturated fat is usually solid at room temperature and comes from animal sources, for example butter, lard, tallow. Coconut oil also contains a large percentage of Saturated fats.
3. Try to consume fatty fish and fish oils
4. Try to avoid trans-fats (found in processed foods)
5. Try to eat about 20-35% of your calories from fat.

Reducing fat in recipes can be done by substituting applesauce or other pureed fruit or vegetables (depending on the type of recipe), using a leaner cut of meat (round or loin is usually leanest), or using a leaner type of meat. I use turkey sausage to make sausage balls with a lower fat content. Choose lower-fat cheeses or leave the cheese off, if you can.

Sweets are a specialty for many holiday bakers, and eaters. When you are trying to manage diabetes, or your weight, or just want to limit the amount of added sugar in your diet, navigating the holiday table can be like walking through a mine field.

If you are going to indulge in holiday sweets, trying to limit sugar in your "regular" life can help you plan for those treats. The following recommendations come from the Mayo clinic and are very user friendly:

1. Opt for low-calorie or sugar free drinks (or just drink water—maybe add a few pieces of fruit for flavor).
2. Use applesauce or fruit puree (unsweetened) for some of the sugar in your recipes
3. Read those labels! Lots of foods have hidden sugars
4. Use honey or agave nectar instead of sugar. They are sweeter, and you will need less.
5. If you choose to drink alcohol, remember that many mixers are loaded with as much sugar as sodas.

## Meet Mary Brown

At Tim Holland's State Farm Insurance Group



Meet Mary Brown at Tim Holland's Insurance Group in Aubrey, TX. She has worked with State Farm Agents for 27 years. What makes Mary so easy to get to know is she is incredibly friendly and helpful. Tim Holland struck gold when he hired Mary. Her sharpness and efficiency coupled with a get the job done kind of attitude makes for a perfect office manager.

Mary moved to Texas from Arizona nine years ago and she is loving every minute of living in the Lone Star State. She has a close relationship with her two genius daughters, four beautiful grandchildren, and her beloved dog, Ranger who is a Havanese. "Family and friends are utmost in my life," says Mary, "In my free time, I enjoy reading

books, running, going to farmers markets, attending concerts, sipping on wine and creating succulent gardens." She also loves travel and adventure. One of her favorite places to visit is Canada because she has family that lives there.

Things that are endearing about Mary on a personal level is her kindness and modesty. As the office manager, you will find she is the adhesive keeping everything running flawlessly. She also assists Tim in charitable events and out of the office community events. Their office contributes to several local charities and recently made many area families holiday's brighter with their donations. They sent several boxes of food and toys to Polo on the Midway's food drive and more of toys and food directly to HOPE Food and Clothing Bank. The office also adopted a local family to provide Christmas toys and meals for to ensure that they had a Merry Christmas.

If you want to meet an amazing person in our community drop in anytime during business hours at 5315 US Highway 377, Building 1 Suite A in Aubrey and say "Hello."

'Denton County Public...' continued from front page

will help prevent respiratory viruses, including influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and rhinovirus.

DCPH reminds residents that as long as flu viruses are spreading and causing illness, vaccination should continue throughout the flu season in order to protect as many people as possible against flu. Vaccinating also helps safeguard those who are at highest risk of complications or death from the flu, including:

- Pregnant women and women up to two weeks postpartum
- Children younger than five
- Adults 65 years of age and older
- People living in long-term care facilities
- American Indians and Alaskan Natives

• People with chronic health conditions such as asthma, neurological and neurodevelopmental conditions, chronic lung disease, heart disease, diabetes, weakened immune system due to disease or medication, kidney and liver disorders, and people with extreme obesity

Weekly Denton County flu surveillance reports and additional information can be found at [www.dentoncounty.com/flu](http://www.dentoncounty.com/flu). Visit [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu) for details about symptoms, treatment, and prevention, and search [www.vaccinefinder.org](http://www.vaccinefinder.org) to find the vaccine in your neighborhood.

DCPH Clinic Locations: Denton: 535 S. Loop 288, Suite 1003, (940) 349-2900, Lewisville: 190 N. Valley

Pkwy, Inside Lee Walker Government Center, (972) 434-4700, [www.dentoncounty.com/immunizations](http://www.dentoncounty.com/immunizations)

Qualifications: Children are eligible for free flu vaccines if they are enrolled in Children's Medicaid or CHIP. \$10 flu vaccines are available for children who are uninsured or have private insurance that does not cover the flu shot. Adults are eligible for \$10 flu vaccines if they are uninsured. Those with private insurance will be charged \$40, or \$60 for the high-dose flu shot. If you have any questions about DCPH qualifications or pricing, please call your nearest DCPH clinic location.

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# HOME & GARDEN

## Transporting Hay in Texas

Zach Davis



**DENTON, TX**—Hay is being transported by semi-truck and goose-neck trailer loads across the State of Texas. Hay bales are a primary roughage used to feed cattle in Texas during winter months. Texas has the largest population of cattle in the country and harvested the most acres in Hay production in the country as reported by the USDA-National Agricultural Statistics Service. Luckily for farmers and ranchers the Texas Department of Transportation issues an annual permit to authorize a vehicle to carry round hay bales, side-by-side, that come out below the maximum width of 12 feet allowed for travel. All other dimensions and weight must be legal according to state laws.

In March 2017, Governor Greg Abbott suspended permitting requirements and legal height restrictions for carriers delivering hay to Texas panhandle counties that were in a disaster declaration due to destructive wildfires. Those counties were in a shortage of hay and forage and the governor suspended the requirements to facilitate transportation.

The standard width permitted under law is 102 inches or 8.5 feet without a wide load

permit. Most hay balers produce a bale that is between 46 inches and 61 inches in width. This would allow these bales to travel down the highway in a side-by-side fashion in the State of Texas. Most haulers stack bales side by side all the way down the length of the trailer and add another row on top depending on weight and the size of the trailer. For travel out of the state, a permit must be acquired from the state in question.

The Texas permit can be acquired via phone with an operator at the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Their number is 1.800.299.1700. Press “2” on the main menu, “1” on the sub-menu and “2” on the next sub-menu. Call center hours for the DMV are 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

If you are interested in more agriculture transportation laws and regulations, come out to our February program presented by Staff Sergeant Mark Tackett with the Texas Highway Patrol, sponsored by American National Insurance. This program will give a broad overview of Texas highway laws pertaining to the agriculture industry. More information can be found on the Denton County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension website <https://denton.agrilife.org/agriculture-natural-resources/> in the coming weeks.

Sources: “A Texas Guide to Farm Vehicle Compliance” <https://www.dps.texas.gov/internetforms/Forms/CVE-13.pdf>

## Cross Roads Resident to Judge Terrier Group and Denton Resident to Judge Toy Group

at 144th Annual Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show



**New York, NY**—Cross Roads, Texas resident, Norman B. Kenney, and Denton, Texas resident, Doris Cozart, are among seven group judges at the 144th Annual Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in New York City on February 9-11, 2020. Kenney will officiate over the Terrier Group during the evening competition held at Madison Square Garden on Tuesday night. Cozart will officiate over the Toy Group during the evening competition held at Madison Square Garden on Monday night. The three-day, all-breed dog show, a highlight of Westminster Week, will feature daytime judging at Pier 94 in Manhattan.

Kenney has been involved in the sport of purebred dogs for more than 50 years since 1967. His initial breed was Doberman Pinschers. He later bred, owned, and showed a number of other breeds, including German Shepherd Dogs, Wire-haired Dachshunds, Lakeland Terriers, Norwich Terriers, Wire Fox Terriers, Belgian Malinois, Boxers, and Bulldogs.

An American Kennel Club judge for 40 years, Kenney is approved to judge all Sporting, Working, Terrier, Toy, Non-Sporting, and Herding groups, several Hounds breeds, Junior Showmanship, and Best in Show. He has judged extensively throughout the United States, Japan, Australia, Canada, Italy, Philippines, Jamaica, Trinidad, Brazil, Columbia, and Argentina. Kenney previously judged the Westminster Working Group in 2005 and 2016. This is his ninth judging assignment at the Westminster.

Cozart has been involved in

the world of purebred dogs for more than 50 years. A family affair from the beginning, Cozart, her husband Gene, and children attended dogs shows together. She has bred and exhibited Poodles, primarily the Toy variety but also Standards. Cozart’s breeding program — under the Cotian Kennel prefix — has produced multiple Best in Show Poodles, top producers, and numerous AKC champions.

Cozart has served as president of the Poodle Club of America and president of the Dallas/Fort Worth Judges Group. In 1990, she became an AKC licensed judge and is approved to judge the Working, Toy, and Non-Sporting groups, both varieties of Manchester Terriers, Junior Showmanship, and Best in Show. She has judged in Finland, Italy, Slovenia, Canada, Philippines, Australia, Norway, South Africa, Korea, Brazil, China, Thailand, and Taiwan. This is her fourth Westminster judging assignment.

All daytime preliminary breed and junior showmanship judging, and the Masters Obedience Championship at Westminster competitions will be held at Pier 94 on the West Side of Manhattan. The Group, Best in Show and Junior Showmanship Finals judging will be held at Madison Square Garden in the evening. The dog show is preceded on Saturday, Feb. 8, by the 7th Annual Masters Agility Championship at Westminster on Pier 94.

All Westminster Week events are presented by Purina Pro Plan®.

For the full Westminster Week schedule and ticket information, visit [www.westminsterkennelclub.org](http://www.westminsterkennelclub.org)

## City of Denton Issues \$40K Challenge Grant to UWDC for Housing Stability

Public Asked to Donate and Double their Impact with Matching Grant to Denton County Homelessness Barriers Fund

The City of Denton has issued a challenge to United Way of Denton County and the Denton County community as part of the continuing effort to make homelessness rare, brief and nonrecurring with a \$40,000 matching grant to the Denton County Homelessness Barriers Fund.

Launched in 2018 by the Denton County Homelessness Leadership Team with direction from United Way of Denton County, the Barriers Fund is an innovative, collaborative fund of last resort that strengthens nonprofits working with families and individuals across Denton County to promote housing stability and self-sufficiency.

A close up of a signDescription automatically generatedLocal nonprofit agencies working to alleviate homelessness can submit applications on behalf of clients experiencing homelessness or on the brink of crisis. Funds can be used for expenses like fixing a car tire or covering a housing application fee, security deposit, and first month’s rent. To date, just \$24,735 in funds have averted homelessness for 72 households in Denton County.

Agencies like Salvation Army Denton, Salvation Army Lewisville, Giving Hope, Our Daily Bread, Denton County Friends of the Family, and Grace Like Rain may apply for Barriers Fund funding through United Way of Denton County after all other existing federal, state, and local resources have been exhausted. But the Barriers Fund isn’t always an option.

“Unfortunately, the Fund has been forced to close four times due to lack of funding, and then, agencies have to turn away people in need,” said Court-

ney Cross, Director of Mental Health and Housing Initiatives for United Way of Denton County. “That’s why this funding provided by the City of Denton and the public is so critical.”

Emergency Solutions Grant funding from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs for the Denton County community dropped from \$600,000 in 2018 to \$150,000 in 2019, making the need for alternative resources to support families in crisis that much more significant. In a year, approximately 1,200 people experience homelessness in Denton County, with thousands more living paycheck to paycheck — one unexpected expense away from crisis.

“The data shows the best way to help homelessness is to prevent it, and the Barriers Fund is an effective tool to keep at-risk persons from experiencing homelessness,” said Denton Mayor Chris Watts. “We’re not just working to solve a problem; we’re working to help people.”

The City of Denton presented their funds as a challenge grant to encourage the public to join the effort to keep families housed with a donation that will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$40,000. Donations can be made at [www.UnitedWayDenton.org/barriers-fund](http://www.UnitedWayDenton.org/barriers-fund). To date, \$14,525 has been donated towards the match, 36% to the goal.

Solving complex problems like homelessness and housing insecurity requires a diverse set of solutions. To learn more about the collaborative work being done and to make a donation to the Denton County Homelessness Barriers Fund, visit [www.UnitedWayDenton.org/homelessness](http://www.UnitedWayDenton.org/homelessness).

‘Veterans Coalition...’ continued from front page

novative, collaborative fund of last resort that strengthens nonprofits working with families and individuals across Denton County to promote housing stability and self-sufficiency. Local nonprofit agencies working to alleviate homelessness can submit applications on behalf of clients experiencing homelessness or on the brink of crisis. Funds can be used for expenses like fixing a car tire or covering a housing application fee, security deposit, and first month’s rent.

“The amazing men and women of the Denton County Veterans Coalition understand the need to remove barriers to

housing to prevent or resolve homelessness for Veterans and others in our community,” said Gary Henderson, President & CEO of United Way of Denton County. “We are thrilled to have their support to make homelessness rare, brief, and nonrecurring in Denton County.”

To date, \$17,630 has been contributed to the Denton County Homelessness Barriers Fund toward the \$40,000 match from the City of Denton. To make a donation and double your impact, visit [www.unitedwaydenton.org/barriersfund](http://www.unitedwaydenton.org/barriersfund).

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# EDUCATION

## Seven New Year Resolutions for Parents and Kids *Zach Davis*



DENTON, TX – Normally I contribute to the newspaper current agriculture information or update the community on our 4-H program and how our members are doing. In the spirit of the New Year this week I decided to list a few things parents and kids can do to be healthier and happier in 2020.

1. Have a family night  
It's only one evening a week! Everybody can put their phones and other devices down and do a puzzle, make a meal together or play a physically active game. As a parent, my mindset is "everything goes" for snacks. Enjoy some candy and have fun! We usually finish this night off with a classic movie and some popcorn.
2. Eat one meal healthier

The past year my lunch has usually included a hamburger and french-fries. For 2020 I plan to work on improving my lunch choices. My body is in pretty good shape, I don't have a resounding health issue for this resolution, but if I can get in a rhythm to do one meal better I will be even healthier in 2020.

3. Put the focus on you, not others

It's hard to do sometimes, not comparing to others. Watching to see how many "likes" a person gets on a social media post compared to yours. Social media is awesome for displaying a lot of great things people are doing and I enjoy seeing it, but sometimes it doesn't show a whole picture of someone's life. It's just the snap shots! Don't compare yourself to those snap shots. Be You!

4. Learn a new skill

I am currently reading a book about a CEO of a Fortune 500 Company who decided to learn Mandarin so he could communicate directly during a single

presentation. As the leader of this company he has plenty of resources to have someone handle this, but he took the challenge. It feels great to find a challenge and conquer it! Find your challenge for 2020.

5. "Outside... Outside, everybody outside"

As my son's tv show says, Its time for everybody to go outside. If you are a secluded introvert like me, don't worry, I'm not talking about a three-day camping trip with your extended family! Spend an hour or two doing some chores and having some fun, build a campfire, roast marshmallows, and jump on a trampoline. Get that vitamin D.

6. Take Care Yourself

Go get that checkup you've been putting off. A lot of times your mind can talk you into thinking things are going to be worse than they actually are. Get your smile right at the dentist. Get your hair right at the barber shop. Shine those shoes. As one nfl player put it. "If you look good, you feel good!"

7. Let Go of Something

If you're like me there's always a habit that needs to go, or maybe a bad investment that needs to come to closure. Maybe it's just unsubscribing from 20 emails that you delete every day. Who knows? I'm sure you do. Whatever was weighing you down and holding you back in 2019 just let that thing go in 2020!

'Denton County 4-H...' continued from front page



The results of the 2019 Denton County Food Challenge are as follows:

Junior Division: 1st Place – Baking Buddies (Riley McBride, Coriana Cooksey, Keeley Blocker, and Grace McGraw)

2nd Place – Flavor Doctors (Scott Avenshine, Avery Avenshine, Rachael Talley, and Camryn Green)

3rd Place – Cooking Queens (Lillian Gann, Alessandra Bosquez, and Madison Rew)

4th Place – Dancing Chefs (Daniela Anaya, Annabelle Murray, Sophia McMahon, and Presley Clark)

Intermediate Division: 1st Place – Cooks of the Cauldron (Cade Scott, Daniel Paradise, and Audrey Smith)

2nd Place – Skillet Sensation (Sierra McCarty, Emma Rew, and Jill Crump)

3rd Place – Sanger Sassy Chefs (Hayla Howland, Lily Boydston, and Emma Finely)

4th Place – Shooting

Stars (Tori Jackson, Violet McNulty, Lalah Brewer, and Daphne Dodson)

Senior Division: 1st Place – Denton County Cooks (Grace Real, Angel Stewart, Bryce Borchardt, and Haley Howell)

2nd Place – Whisking Wizards (Jacob Mayfield, Erik Dieterich, Lila Griffith, and Emma Rooney)

Food Challenge is a food contest that allows members to form teams of three-four participants. Teams were creative with their team names and matching attire during the contest. Participants follow food safety guidelines by doing things such as wearing aprons and sanitizing their workspace. Each team brings their supply box to cook with. The supply boxes must contain only what is listed by Texas 4-H as equipment eligible for the contest.

During the contest each team was given a category for their dish. The four category options were: Main Dish, Fruits and Vegetables, Bread and Cereal and Nutritious Snacks. Participants were then given a key ingredient and had access to pantry items, but they were not given a recipe. It was up to the team to make their

own dish using the 40 minutes allotted to each group. Each team was given \$5.00 of "contest currency" to use to purchase needed items from the pantry. After the preparation and cooking time, the team gave a five minute presentation to volunteer judges. Team presentations focused on knowledge of MyPlate dietary guidelines, as well as general nutrition and health. Additionally, they discussed how they prepared their dish and what the focus of their team was during the process. Each member of the team must be involved in the presentation.

The creative and competitive environment of Food Challenge allows youth to learn life skills including time management, communication, teamwork, budgeting, and healthy meal planning. It is an event where youth are active and engaged in the learning process, not sitting in a lecture. Food Challenge is one of 4-H's most popular contest for boys and girls.

Sources: "Texas 4-H Food Challenge Rules and Guidelines" [http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/roundup\\_food\\_challenge\\_2020\\_rules\\_guidelines.pdf](http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/roundup_food_challenge_2020_rules_guidelines.pdf)

## Aubrey FFA Senior Quiz Team Placed Second *Amy Ruggini*



AUBREY ISD, TX- For the second year in a row, the Aubrey FFA senior quiz team placed second in the Area 5 Leadership Development Contest and advanced to the state competition. Heather Hough, Sydney Blankenship, Maddy Hill and Grant Beaty were part of the senior quiz team at the area competition.

## Aubrey High School Band Named to the Association of Texas Small School Bands *Amy Ruggini*



for an opportunity to earn a spot in the all-state band.

\*Erin Lim, Flute, 5th Chair Symphonic Band. Kaegan Reynolds, Flute, 8th Chair Concert Band. Joy Pesebre, Clarinet, 4th Chair Concert Band. \*Megan Wright, Bass Clarinet, 3rd Chair Symphonic Band. Josue Lopez, Bass Clarinet, 1st Chair Concert Band. \*Rachel Black, Alto Saxophone, 1st Chair Symphonic Band. \*Ashlynn Reynolds, Trombone, 2nd Chair Concert Band. Dylan Boatwright, Euphonium, 4th Chair Concert Band. \*Aaron Cajilema, Tuba, 2nd Chair Symphonic Band. Ellee Basham, Percussion, 1st Chair Concert Band. Lucas Copeland, Percussion, 2nd Chair Concert Band. Charlie Cole, Percussion, 4th Chair Concert Band. Xander Rouk, Percussion, 5th Chair Concert Band

Thirteen Aubrey High School band members were named to the Association of Texas Small School Bands All-Region Band. Five Chaparrals advanced to the ATSSA area audition.

This group of students were selected through a rigorous process of playing scales and etudes. They will participate in an upcoming region band clinic and concert

Erin Lim, Megan Wright, Rachel Black, Ashlynn Reynolds and Aaron Cajilema qualified for area and will audition

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# COMMUNITY

## Downtown Restaurant Association Holds Fundraiser to Pay Off School Lunch Balances

Photos By Denton ISD



Two Denton ISD graduates and local restaurant owners, John Williams (Oak Street) and Corey Bobbitt (Komodo Loco), created a one-day festival in 2018 to address the concern over students not being able to pay off their school lunch balances.

Recently, year two of the Denton Mac and Cheese Festival was held with the help of district signature sponsor, AccessBank Texas. The event benefitted the Denton ISD Child Nutrition Department. Tickets to the event sold out within 24 hours.

This year's event took place

on Sunday, November 3rd, as thousands of Dentonites lined the closed Oakland Street near the square to sample macaroni and cheese prepared by 26 local restaurants and organizations. The event raised more than \$8,100 with proceeds used to clear delinquent student lunch balances across the district.

"Our hard-working Child Nutrition staff works diligently with families to reconcile negative balances and it is important to know that our children are always provided a meal regardless of their lunch account balance," says Chris Bomberger, Denton ISD Executive Direc-

tor of Child Nutrition and Benefits. "We cannot thank the organizers of this event enough because their generous donation goes a long way towards giving students the peace of mind, they often need to focus on their classwork daily when they are at school."

Mac and Cheese Festival winners included Po-K Loco, first place; The Bearded Monk, second place; and Hannah's Off the Square, third place.

Special thanks to participants that included: Komodo Loco, Caskey's Bar & Grill, Riprocks Bar & Grill, Mulberry Street Cantina, Access-

Bank Texas, Guaranty Bank & Trust, Sweetwater Grill, Mellow Mushroom, East Side, Juicy Pig Barbecue, 940's Kitchen, The Loophole, Local Pint, The Chestnut Tree, Ten: One Artisan Cheese, Queenie's Steakhouse, 2 Charlies, Armadillo Ale Works, Denton Co. Brewing Company, The Bearded Monk, Andy's, Paschall's, Angeline's, Hannah's Off the Square, Po-K Loco, and Golden Boy Coffee.

If you or your organization are interested in paying off the overdue lunch balances for students in need, click here <http://bit.ly/LunchBalanceDonation>.

## Nine Reasons Why Stay-at-Home Parents Need Life Insurance



You're probably already aware that a parent with a job outside the house most likely needs life insurance to protect their loved ones in case something were to happen. But it's not just breadwinners who need coverage—stay-at-home parents do, too. Here are nine reasons why.

1. To replace the value of their labor. Stay-at-home parents are caretakers, tutors, cooks, housekeepers, chauffeurs, and so much more, 365 days a year. And all that work comes with a price tag. That stay-at-home-parent contributes the equivalent of about \$162,581 in annual salary to their household. If the unthinkable were to happen, a surviving partner would be on the hook for a slew of new expenses that the stay-at-home parent previously shouldered. Term Life Insurance is generally a quick and affordable way to get a substantial amount of coverage like this for a specific period of time, such as 10 or 20 years—often until you pay off your mortgage or the kids are grown and out of the home.

2. To factor in the contributions of any future income. Many stay-at-home parents return to the workforce once their kids are older. Life insurance could help bridge the gap that their future earnings would have contributed to the household.

3. To pay off any debt. From student loans to credit card debt to an informal loan from a family member, there are lots of ways to owe money. Life insurance can help settle any debts left behind so they don't create stress for grieving loved ones.

4. To cover funeral expenses. Would you believe that the average funeral runs between \$7,000 and \$10,000, and that may not cover all of the cost of the burial, headstone and other expenses. Many families

want to honor a loved one's memory, but have trouble finding the funds to cover all the costs. Fortunately, the payout from a life insurance policy can help cover final wishes.

5. To leave a legacy. If a stay-at-home spouse has a passion for a place of worship, an alma mater, or other nonprofit organization, life insurance can be used to leave a meaningful charitable gift.

6. To boost savings. Whole Life Insurance which offers lifelong protection as long as you pay your premiums, may offer additional living benefits such as the ability to build cash value. This can be used in the future for any purpose you wish, from making a down payment on a house to paying for college tuition. Keep in mind, though, that withdrawing or borrowing funds will reduce your policy's cash value and death benefit if not repaid.

7. To guarantee insurability. Your health can change in an instant. Getting a permanent life insurance policy when you're young and healthy means you'll have lifelong coverage. Then you won't have to worry if later on you develop a health condition that would make it hard or even impossible to get life insurance. Remember, life insurance is more affordable today vs. tomorrow.

8. To receive tax-free benefits. Life insurance is one of the few ways to leave loved ones money that is generally income-tax free.

9. To give loved ones peace of mind. Losing a parent and partner before their time is already hard enough without having to worry about unsettled debts, childcare costs, funeral bills, and other expenses.

As you can see, life insurance for stay-at-home parents is just as important as it is for parents who work outside the home. Call or visit my office to schedule a time to talk, to learn about your options and get coverage that fits your lifestyle and budget.

Jeffrey Clarke, Farmers Insurance, 202 S Coleman St Ste 200 in Prosper, TX 75078-2722/ 469-525-7407 (Office) /214-425-6903 (Mobile), <http://www.farmersagent.com/jclarke2>.

'Denton Enterprise...' continued from front page



ciency and reduce operating delays," said Airport Manager Scott Gray.

Construction of the west parallel runway began in

November 2018. The \$6.3 million project was completed in November 2019, with Mayor Chris Watts aboard for the first takeoff and landing.

A Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) lighting project is scheduled to begin in spring 2020 and

be completed in the summer. In addition to lighting for the new runway, signage will be replaced on the existing runway. After the project, Denton Enterprise Airport will have two full-service, all-weather runways.

Denton Enterprise Airport is the eighth busiest airport in the State of Texas,

facilitating approximately 140,000 takeoffs and landings each year. With an annual economic impact of nearly \$156.3 million, the Airport is poised for continued growth and development.

To learn more, visit the Denton Enterprise Airport's new website at [www.dentonairport.com](http://www.dentonairport.com).

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www.midwaychurch.org  
**Mustang Baptist Church**  
Corner of I-385 & Mustang Rd. in Aubrey  
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www.newhopeaubrey.com  
**Prestonwood Baptist Church**  
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972-796-6700  
**Providence Village Church**  
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www.providencevillagechurch.com  
**Rhea's Mill Baptist Church**  
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**Christian**  
**First Christian Church in Aubrey**  
410 N. Main St.  
mtccsw.org/pages/minisite\_fc Aubrey\_home  
**Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
**First Christian Church**  
410 N. Main St. in Aubrey  
**First Christian Church of Denton**  
1203 Fulton Street  
Denton, Texas 76210  
www.fcddenton.org  
**Grace Christian Church**  
Baker Elementary School  
Prosper ISD (Heatherwood Subdivision)  
www.graceprosper.org  
**Church of Christ**  
**Aubrey Church of Christ**  
910 S. Hwy. 377  
**Lake Dallas Church of Christ**  
504 Carlisle Dr.  
Lake Dallas, TX 75065  
940-497-5510  
**Rock Hill Church of Christ**  
9426 Rock Hill Road  
Frisco, Texas  
972-347-1919  
**Episcopal**  
**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**  
420 South Coit Road  
Prosper, TX 75078  
972-347-9700  
www.stpaulsprosper.org  
**Lutheran**  
**Rejoice Lutheran Church (ELCA)**  
12000 Independence Pkwy, Frisco, Texas 75035  
972-569-8185  
www.RejoiceLutheran.com  
**Methodist**  
**Aubrey First United Methodist**  
113 West Plum, Aubrey  
www.aubreyfumc.com  
**Bethel Methodist Church of Denton County**  
3126 FM 2931, Aubrey Texas  
409-543-8444  
www.betheldenton.com

**Button Memorial United Methodist Church**  
101 W. Eldorado Pkwy., Little Elm, TX. 75068  
www.bumc.org, 972-292-1465  
**Cross Way United Methodist**  
14632 Fishtrap Road, Aubrey, Texas 76227  
www.crosswayumc.org  
**First United Methodist Church**  
217 S. Church St.  
Pilot Point, TX 76258  
(940) 686-2338  
**Harvest Bible Fellowship, CMC**  
3121 FM 2931  
church.netministries.org/ch30630  
**New Leaf Church at Children's Lighthouse**  
3100 Woodlake Pkwy, Little Elm, Texas  
972-325-8939, www.newleafnow.org  
**Oak Grove United Methodist**  
4725 FM 720 W.  
(940) 365-3027  
www.oakgroveunitedmethodist.org  
**Prosper United Methodist Church**  
205 S. Church St., Prosper  
www.prosperumc.org, 972-347-2372  
**Mormon**  
**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**  
8801 Martop Road, Aubrey Texas 76227  
www.churchofjesuschrist.org  
**Non-Denominational**  
**The Alabaster Box Ministries**  
1728 Flamingo Dr., Little Elm, TX 75068  
www.thealabasterboxministries.com  
817-262-9640  
**Bold Cross Cowboy Church**  
Sunday "Church in the Dirt"  
3612 FM 1385, Aubrey, TX 76227  
**The Bridge Church**  
4582 Fishtrap Road, Denton, TX, 76208.  
findthebridge.com,(940)735-2080  
**Grace Point Nazarene Church**  
611 East Liberty  
Pilot Point, Texas  
760-516-6732  
**Church of Celebration Metro**  
www.cometro.com  
Worship at Navo Middle School

**Sponsored by PointBank-Free Listing includes: Church Name, Address, Phone Number and Website. To include your church, please contact 380News at admin@380News.com.**

**Circle of Love Fellowship Church**  
16611 FM 428 W., Celina, TX 75009  
972-816-6445  
**City of Transformation Church**  
Lakeside Manor Theater  
902 W. Eldorado Pkwy, Little Elm, TX 75068  
469-247-1863  
www.cityoftransformation.org  
**Covenant Church**  
**Cross Roads Campus**  
8690 Liberty Road  
Cross Roads, TX 76227  
940-365-1395  
www.covenantcrossroads.org  
**Covenant Word Ministries Church**  
1501 Bluebird Dr.  
(Paloma Creek South Clubhouse)  
Little Elm, TX 75068  
www.covenantwordministrieschurch.org  
**Faith Assembly Church**  
700 N. Harmon Road, Aubrey, TX 76227  
(940) 365-9360  
aubreyfaithassembly.weebly.com  
**Gateway Church**  
7125 Legacy Drive  
Frisco, 75034  
Frs.GatewayPeople.com  
469.238.1000  
**Grace Village Community Church**  
5325-B Highway 377  
Krugerville, TX 76227  
gracevillagechurch.org  
**Lighthouse Christian Fellowship**  
4331 E. Prosper Tr.  
Prosper, TX 75078  
972-662-2500  
www.lighthousecnx.com  
**New Leaf Church**  
meets at Children's Lighthouse  
3100 Woodlake Pkwy, Little Elm  
www.newleafnow.org  
972-325-8939  
**North Texas Trinity Cowboy Church**  
9901 FM 2164  
Sanger, TX. 76266  
www.northtexascowboy.org  
**The Summit Church**  
910 S Hwy 377, Aubrey, TX 76227  
www.oursummitchurch.com  
940-453-4152

**Relate Church**  
1400 FM 424  
Cross Roads, Tx, 76227  
www.relatechurch.com  
**Restoration Cowboy Church**  
910 South Hwy 377  
Aubrey, Texas 76227  
Restorationcowboychurch.org  
940-343-5377  
**Ridin' for the Brand Cowboy Church**  
5926 FM 455  
Sanger, Texas 76266  
www.ridinforthibrand.org  
940-458-3076  
**Savannah Life Fellowship**  
1440 FM 2931 Suites B, D & E  
Aubrey, TX 76227  
940-453-3953  
www.savannahlifechurch.com  
**Unity Spiritual Center of Denton**  
6071 New Hope Road  
Krugerville, TX 76227  
214-453-0218  
www.unitydenton.com  
**Tabernacle Church**  
601 South Church Street  
Prosper Texas 75087  
Phone: 940-300-5310  
www.tabernacle-church.com  
**Orthodox Churches**  
**St. Maximus Orthodox Church**  
2026 W. Oak Street  
Denton, TX 76201  
**Pentecostal**  
**Cornerstone Church of Aubrey**  
7850 FM 2931  
Aubrey, TX 76227  
940-365-2238  
www.ccaubrey.com  
**Seventh-day Adventist**  
**Pilot Point Seventh-day Adventist**  
990 W. Walcott Rd.  
Pilot Point, TX 76258  
214-794-9610  
**Denton First Seventh Day Adventist Church**  
11010 Hwy 377  
Pilot Point TX 76258  
Tel: 940 484 4889  
dentonfirst22.adventistchurchconnect.org

## Oak Grove United Methodist Church

By Robert Kessler



These words are found on the bronze plaque fronting a picturesque country church on FM720. Organized in 1880, the Oak Grove United Methodist Church was the first church in the area. More than a century and a quarter later, this church still is going strong.

The first Oak Grove services were held outdoors under an arbor on a parcel of land donated by Reverend William Bates, a retired circuit rider and minister. At the same time

plans were being made for a permanent structure. Local men hauled in lumber from east Texas sawmills. Congregants and friends provided the resources and labor. The structure went up. Indoor services began in 1881 and, with few interruptions, Sunday services continue to this day.

Many attendees feel that Oak Grove is more than just a spiritual focal point. Over the years the Oak Grove campus has added a playground, donated by a member as a memorial to a loved one. Additional buildings have been added, which now serve Bible study groups, Sunday Schools, home schoolers, and Girls Scout and Boy Scout meetings. Behind the campus sits the

Oak Grove Cemetery, final resting place for many of Oak Grove's members.

Pastor Don Kirsch believes that the location of the church reflects the community's rural roots, and that the modest size provides an intimacy among the congregation that fosters friendship and mutual support. The mission of the church is to facilitate the connection between the individual and God. How better to do that than to offer God's house not just as a place of worship but also a gathering place for the community? A place where the Pastor knows every parishioner and every parishioner knows the Pastor. A place where joys and sorrows can be shared and where one feels at home



whether at worship, being baptized, married, or sharing the monthly potluck lunch. Pastor Don calls this Soul Care, and feels that this church serves its congregation well.

The congregation appreciates the church's history. The November Potluck lunch featured a Victorian fashion show to honor the church's past. The fashion show organizers hoped the November event would get church members into the 'dress up' mood for December's Victorian Christmas Eve service, the attendees were encouraged to join the choir and other members in wearing period attire. The old FM720 two-lane road has now been replaced by a busy divided thoroughfare. The church's original dirt parking lot has been paved. But the namesake grove of oaks still provides a welcoming backdrop for this vibrant little church and for community events, such as pet vaccinations and bake sales. The church is conveniently located just a quarter mile south of 380. Sunday service starts at 10 am and all are welcome. Allow time to read the entire bronze plaque - it contains colorful local history. One member pointed out that the plaque is dated 1973. If it were done today, he remarked, it would say that this church has served SEVEN generations.

## Adopt-A-Nest Box at Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge Center

Nest boxes are available now through January 31, 2020 or while supplies last.



Eastern Bluebirds make their homes in Texas during certain times of the year. Their populations have been steadily declining over the years. You can help the plight of the Eastern Bluebird while learning all about their nesting habits! For a small donation to The Friends of the Hagerman, your adopted nest box will have your name on it and you'll receive an email every week with a picture of the inside and an explanation of everything happening in the nest box. This not only helps out nature but makes a great

Christmas gift, especially for children.

For more information call (903)786-2826 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday or 1:00 and 5:00 p.m. on Sunday.

For more information about this and other events, please email: Friends-of-hagerman@gmail.com. or call Patricia Crain (940) 391-5135. All events are sponsored by the Friends of Hagerman and occur at the Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, located at 6465 Refuge Road, Sherman, TX 75092.

'Town Council...' continued from front page

into four segments, providing improved access to Stuber Elementary School as well as the proposed middle school scheduled to be constructed in that general vicinity in the near future.

The interlocal agreement not only outlines the specific responsibilities for overseeing the work, but also how the construction will be financed. It was passed unanimously by the Town Council, and addresses the pledge made by the Council to focus on the growing need for street improvements on the Town's west side.

Three of the four segments will begin construction next month and are expected to be completed by August of next year. The construction will convert the section of Fishtrap Road from Teel Parkway to the middle school into a four-lane thoroughfare with turn lanes. The remaining segment, currently under design, will extend the

four-lane thoroughfare past Stuber Elementary. That segment is expected to go to construction in 2021 for a completion by August 2021. While Stuber Elementary is already open, the school district is expected to open the middle school, its third, in the fall of 2020. Cost of the entire project is \$6.2 million.

In addition to this project, the intersection of Fishtrap Road and Teel Parkway will be expanded, and a traffic signal will be installed at a cost of approximately \$1.6 million. The expansion of the intersection is estimated to be completed by August of next year as well.

Further, the Town Council has approved the expenditure of \$900 thousand to start the design work on expanding Fishtrap Road to four lanes from Stuber Elementary to the Dallas North Tollway, all with an eye toward planning for the expected growth of the Town's west side.

2020 is here! Another year, a new decade is before us, we can only Thank God, for His Watch-care, His Protection, and His Love for us all! Feel free to join us for worship, on Saturdays, at 10:00am for small groups, or 11:10am for worship! From Pastor & Mrs. Derek Lazarus and our DFSDA family, we wish you all a Blessed 2020! Let's get ready, Jesus is coming soon!

**Denton First Seventh Day Adventist Church**  
11010 Hwy 377, Pilot Point TX 76258  
Cell: 940 484 4889



You don't

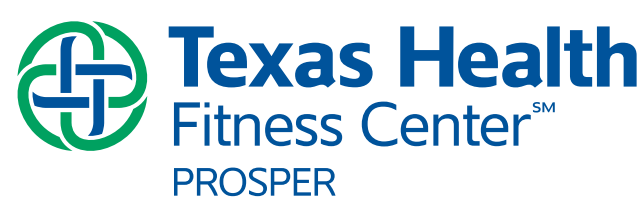
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