



► **BORDERS** From Page 3

rather than exact property valuations. Paxton is the Republican nominee for U.S. Senate in November. His Democratic opponent, James Talarico, reported considerably smaller financial holdings. Abbott pushes three-year college degrees Gov. Greg Abbott is pushing legislation that would require Texas public universities to offer three-year bachelor's degree programs as part of an effort to reduce the cost of earning a degree. The proposal would require universities to offer at least 10 degrees that students could complete with 90 credit hours rather than the 120 hours generally required for a four-year

bachelor's degree. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has formed working groups to identify degree programs and high-demand occupations that could be suitable for accelerated programs. The Legislature would have to approve the proposal before it could take effect. State to end funding for Flock cameras Abbott has ordered state agencies to stop funding Flock cameras, the AI-powered license plate readers used by law enforcement agencies across Texas. The state has devoted at least \$30 million from a \$1 auto insurance fee paid by Texans to fund cameras along streets and highways.

The technology has faced increased scrutiny over privacy and potential misuse. A Lufkin police officer has been charged with 100 felony counts involving alleged misuse of Flock information, and other investigations are underway. Abbott spokesperson Andrew Mahaleris said state agencies are clarifying that Texas funds cannot be used to purchase Flock cameras. Gary Borders is a veteran award-winning Texas journalist. He published a number of community newspapers in Texas during a 30-year span, including in Longview, Fort Stockton, Nacogdoches, Lufkin and Cedar Park. Email: gborders@texaspress.com

► **JNEC** From Page 1

not indicate that all of JNEC's more than 24,000 meters or members were affected. Several details remain unclear, including when the incident occurred, when it was discovered, how systems were accessed and whether billing, meter-reading or other operational systems were affected. Separately, JNEC issued a statement explaining higher-than-normal summer bills and estimated billing. According to the cooperative, some July bills were estimated after the network used to transmit meter readings temporarily went out

of service. Estimates were calculated using historical usage. When actual readings became available in August, accounts were reconciled, with differences appearing on August bills. Some members also had shorter-than-normal July billing periods followed by longer August cycles. JNEC said hotter weather was the primary contributor to increased summer bills, with greater electricity consumption needed to cool homes and businesses. The cooperative did not indicate in its billing statement that the meter-reading network outage was

related to the reported data security incident. Members concerned about their bills can contact JNEC Member Services at 409-423-2241 or 800-231-9340. Those who received data breach notifications should carefully review the letter and consider monitoring their credit. Federal consumer protection guidance recommends credit freezes or fraud alerts when sensitive identifying information may have been compromised. JNEC is headquartered at 812 S. Margaret Ave. in Kirbyville and provides electric service across five counties.

► **TEENS** From Page 1

lowing the loss. Students, staff and community members are being encouraged to wear purple Tuesday, Sept. 1, in memory of the students. Newton High School will also host Fields of Faith at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 2, at Singletary Stadium. The program will include a special remembrance honoring Beau and Kinden. Community efforts are also underway to assist their families. Individual donation accounts have been

established in each boy's name at First Financial Bank in Newton, and a benefit bake sale is scheduled for Sept. 12 at 10 a.m. on the Newton County Courthouse square. Funeral arrangements have also been announced. A joint visitation for Beau and Kinden is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 5, beginning at 10 a.m. at First Baptist Church in Newton. Beau's funeral service is scheduled for 4 p.m. Saturday at Smith Funeral Home, 305

Houston St. in Newton, followed by burial at Ford Cemetery. Arrangements shared for Kinden also include services Saturday followed by burial at Hughes Cemetery in Bon Wier. Newton ISD said the support shown to its students and staff has meant more than words can express as the community grieves. "Students, staff, and the Newton community are encouraged to wear purple," the district said, "as we remember our students."

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TexSCAN Week of Aug. 30-Sept. 5, 2026

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**CITY OF KIRBYVILLE
PUBLIC NOTICE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT**

The City of Kirbyville invites all citizens to a Public Hearing at 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 08, 2026, to review the performance and obtain comments regarding its 2023 Texas CDBG Program Community Development Contract No.- CDV23-0285.

Disabled persons, or those who require auxiliary aids or services, who wish to participate in this meeting should contact the City Secretary at: (409)-423-6191, at least two days before the meeting to make arrangements. Written comments may be submitted or mailed to City Hall, 107 S. Elizabeth Ave., Kirbyville, Texas 75956, and will be accepted by the City of Kirbyville until this Public Hearing is concluded.

For more information concerning the City of Kirbyville's TxCDBG Project and/or this Final Public Hearing, please contact Erica Rogers, GrantWorks Inc., at (830) 237-8715.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Jasper County, Texas

Notice is hereby given that the Jasper County Commissioners Court will hold a **Public Hearing** to receive comments from the public regarding a proposal to conduct **countywide voting** for elections beginning in **2027**.



The purpose of this hearing is to allow citizens the opportunity to express their views on adopting the **Countywide Polling Place Program**, which would allow registered voters to vote at **any Vote Center** within Jasper County on Election Day, rather than being assigned to a specific polling location.



DATE:



TIME:



LOCATION:

September 28, 2026

10:00 A.M.

Jasper County Courthouse
121 N Austin St. Rm. 112
Jasper, Texas 75951



All interested citizens are invited to attend and provide comments.

★ **By order of the Jasper County Commissioners Court.** ★



JASPER COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE
tel: 409-384-2632

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS FROM PAGE 4

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